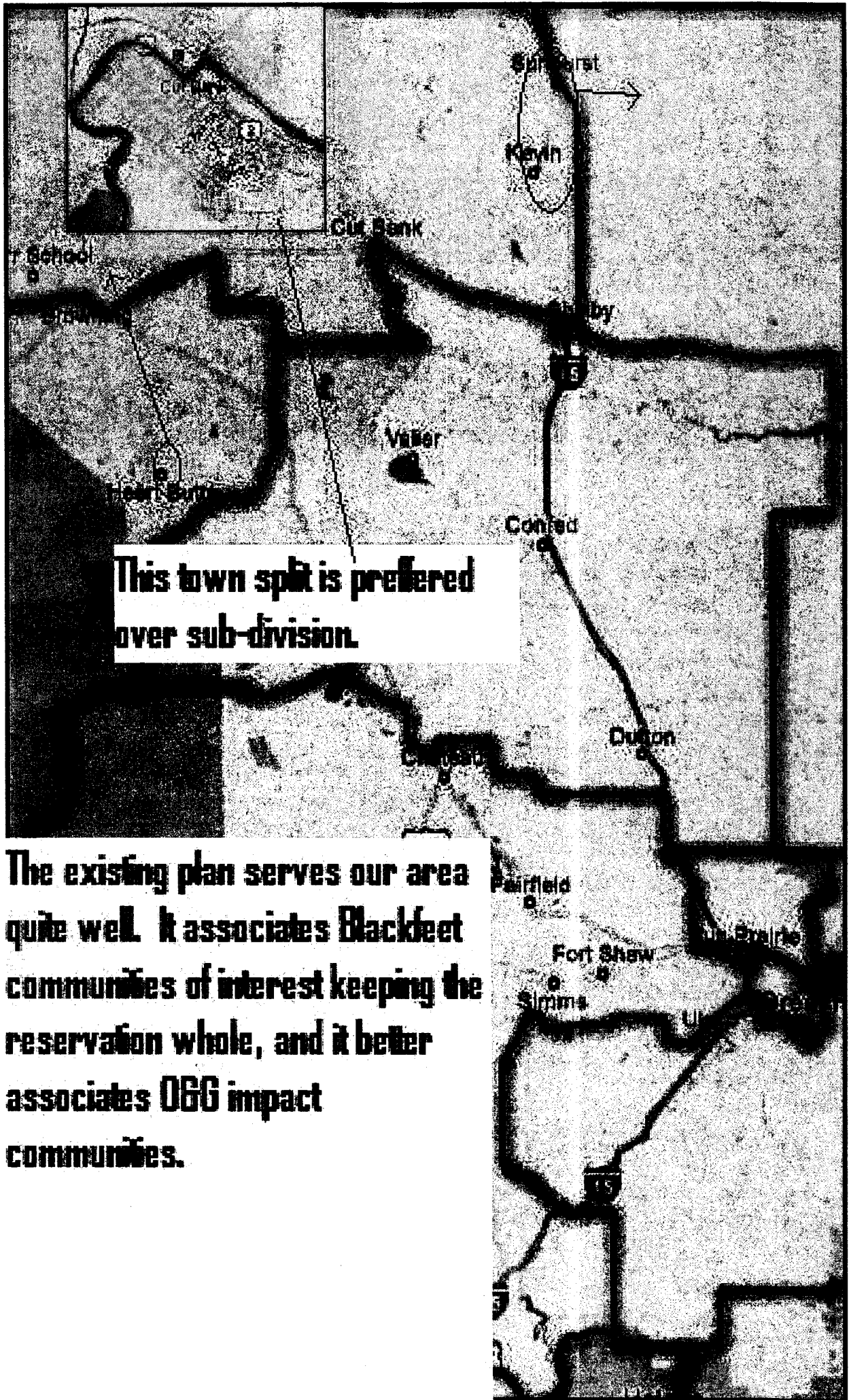


North Central Montana Communities

1. The preference of these communities is that, to the extent possible they are not split apart within community borders, and that they remain associated with like socio economic groups. The association caused by the existing districts has worked favorably in this area, and still is viewed favorably. The Existing map works well for the area generally. With adjustments, variations of others do O.K.
2. There is an impending oil boom that is just beginning in this region of the state and it needs to be factored into the equation. Shelby Montana, with its large rail hub, private prison, and rail port operations is one of the largest area employers, in particular for the Cut Bank, Conrad, Valier, and Chester communities. To the extent possible, these communities have very similar concerns and socio economic bases. It is also the current epicenter for development. Their representation requirements are similar.
3. At a large meeting via the Cut Bank Chamber, it was noted that **the preference of CTB is that their community not be linked to the west** across the Federal Blackfeet Indian Reservation border as this would be akin to linking the community to the north across the Canadian Border and would not give them effective representation. The issues, challenges, and funding sources are very different from one side of a federal border to another. Cut Bank's issues and representation needs are very much aligned with Shelby and Conrad. **Urban-Rural does put CTB east as preferred; Existing is a similar split as of today and thus preferred** as it tends to be a split that better represents the cultural division. Subdivision, on the other hand, splits Cut bank exactly opposite of representation needs.
4. Valier has a similar argument as CTB, in particular with Urban-Rural as it links Valier west across the federal border. One of the significant upcoming issues of the future will be the Blackfeet Water Compact, and thus making sure that both the Blackfeet area and the Valier-Pondera Canal Irrigation area have effective representation voice will be crucial. **Valier's preference is to go East or South.** As part of Pondera County, Valier is best represented via the Existing map, whereas, Urban Rural links Valier across the Federal Boundary.
5. Heart Butte is part of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation. It would seem logical that Heart Butte link with fellow Blackfeet, and not link with the Salish Kootenai across the continental divide over the Rocky Mountains.
6. A significant portion of the Conrad Community travels to Shelby for employment, and ships much of its Ag production base, including much of the 80,000 acres irrigated through Shelby. Shelby and Valier share a health clinic. There is a natural linkage between Shelby and Conrad via the I-15 corridor. Shelby and Conrad are further linked through the North Central Montana Regional Water System concerns and impacts. Shelby, Conrad, and Cut bank are all part of a tri-city inter-local equipment sharing agreement. **Conrad's socio economic preferences are such that it is best represented when it is linked north as a whole community, as in the Existing Map, Sub-division map, or as can be with the Urban-Rural via a slight redraw.**
7. If a community is to be split apart as in the Urban Rural Example, then the request is that the local mayor, commissioners, and representatives be spoken with in order to choose a line that best represents the communities.



This town split is preferred over sub-division.

The existing plan serves our area quite well. It associates Blackfeet communities of interest keeping the reservation whole, and it better associates OGG impact communities.

Urban Rural Overview
Community Relocations

A large portion of Conrad residents commute to Shelby for employment, plus this associates Conrad with the majority of Pondera County. In addition, from water (North Central Montana Regional) to oil and gas to ag impacts, this region is very similar in required representation.

IT School

Browning

Heart Butte is part of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation. Geographically the Rocky Mountains are an incredible barrier to linking west, plus their culture is more aligned with Browning.

The Valier Community and The Pondera Canal company, due to the Blackfeet Water Compact negotiations, are not well represented by being placed in the same House District

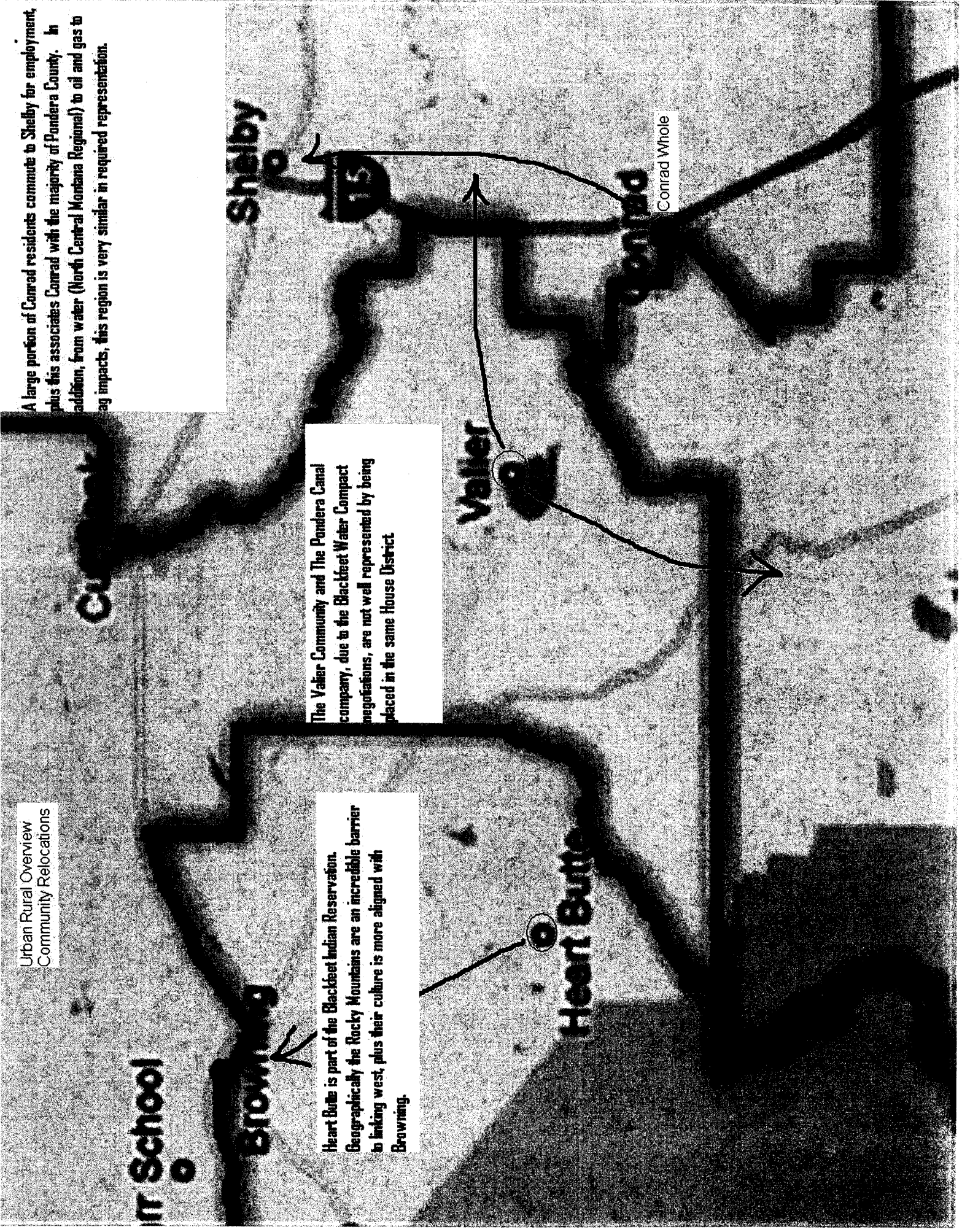
Valier

Heart Butte

Shelby

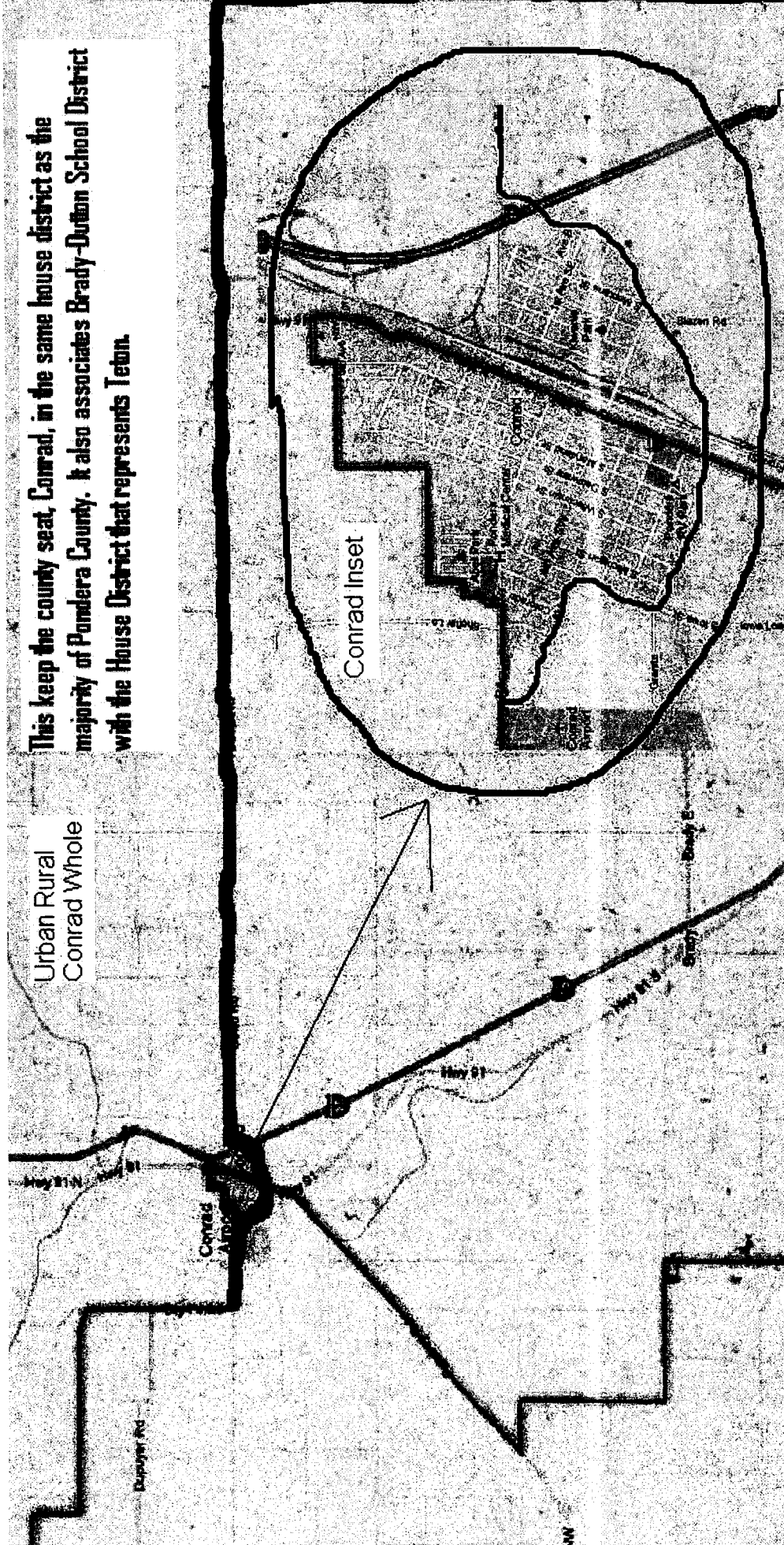
Conrad

Conrad Whole



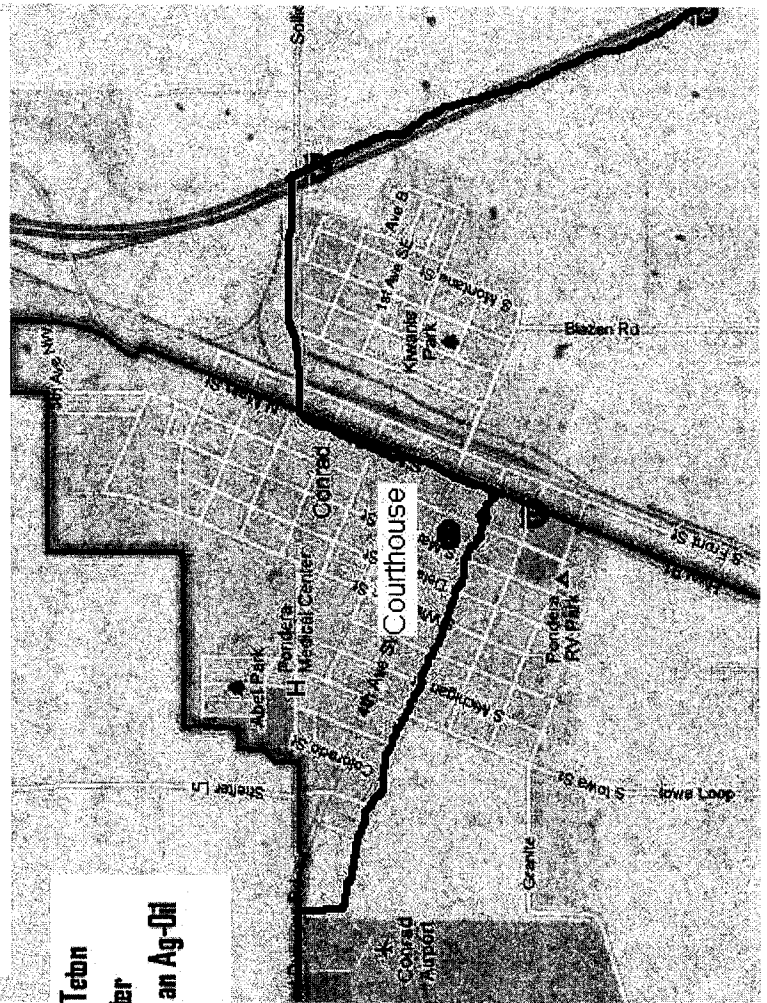
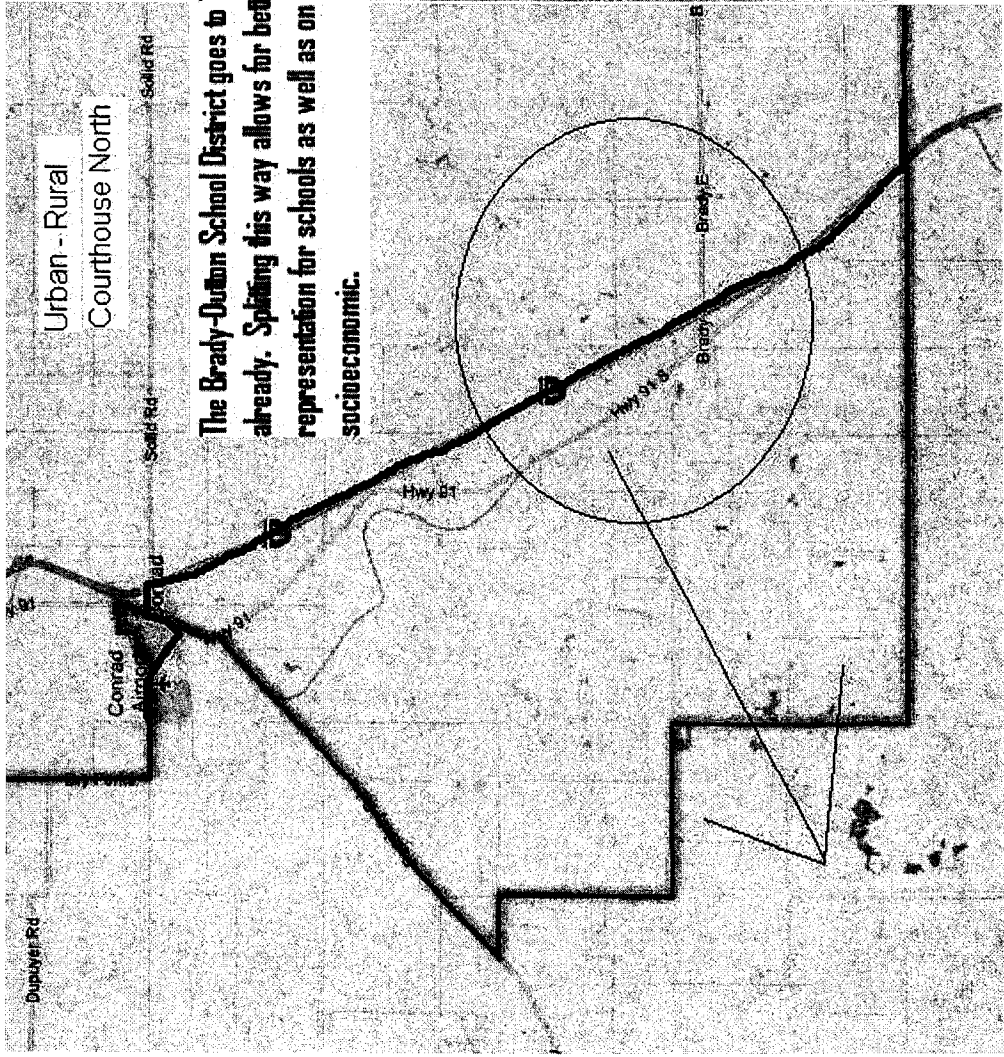
This keep the county seat, Conrad, in the same house district as the majority of Pondera County. It also associates Brady-Dutton School District with the House District that represents Teton.

Urban Rural
Conrad Whole



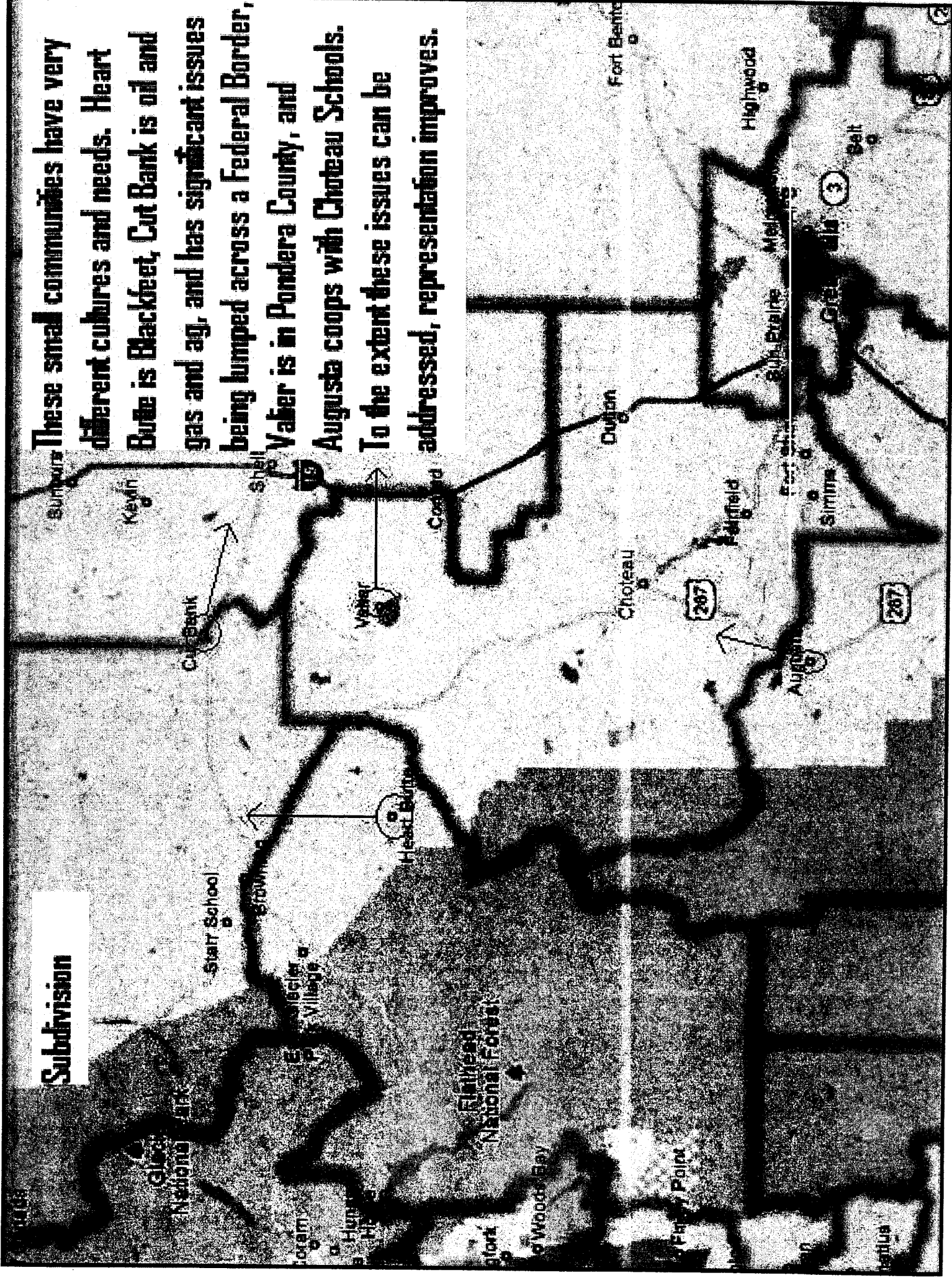
Preference is to keep Pondera Court House located in the District that encompasses the majority of Pondera County.

The Brady-Dutton School District goes to Teton already. Splitting this way allows for better representation for schools as well as on an Ag-Urban socioeconomic.



Subdivision

These small communities have very different cultures and needs. Heart Butte is Blackfeet, Cut Bank is oil and gas and ag, and has significant issues being lumped across a Federal Border, Valer is in Pondera County, and Augusta coops with Choteau Schools. To the extent these issues can be addressed, representation improves.



Sub-Div , Split is not well designed for CTB as links them across a Federal Border and does not clearly reflect socio-economic concerns in particular with upcoming oil impacts.

