

Yampa Valley Partners hosted the first part of a 2-part Regional Leadership Summit with a presentation on October 6th, 2005 in Steamboat Springs. The presentation had a common theme of regional issues and changes in growth, the need to address the changes and the need for collaboration as a method to address change. www.yampavalleypartners.com click on **Regional Leadership Summit**. Please join us Thursday, October 20, 2005 in Craig for facilitated discussion.

Jim Westkott, Senior State Demographer, Colorado Department of Local Affairs,
(www.dola.colorado.gov/demog) State Trends And Key Issues:

“PLAN FOR GROWTH”

The key design principles for planning for growth include:

- Elements of a region come in ‘bundles’ tied to a ‘driver’. Identify the major drivers and their related secondary effects. (e.g. residential industries create a need for additional services)
- Balance land uses and create effective transportation routes.
- Emphasize factors which maintain sense of community; create people interaction.

Summary of Colorado Forecast

- The Resort Counties of the Western Slope will grow strongly, in part, because of an expanding visiting tourism industry.
- “Residential Industries” are a new hidden, invisible industry which will expand during the next 20 years. Composed of second home owners (over age 50) and internet-based service businesses (many over age 55).
- Most of the resort county growth will be related to second homes, and this will be a very strong component as baby-boomers move through the related age-groups.
- Aging workforce
- Further growth will come here as active-retirees make these areas their home.

Pat Long of the Center for Sustainable Tourism, Leeds School of Business, University of Colorado at Boulder, “Change in Amenity Rich Destinations”:

“ADDRESS CHANGE”

- Change is often equated to loss, understanding "Who We Are" addresses change from a fear-based to hope-based perspective.
- Need to define the community’s “Limits of Acceptable Change?”, ‘*our caring capacity*’
 - Develop a method to identify and manage for desired conditions.
 - Determine the desired social, economic and environmental conditions
 - Determine how projected future development helps us achieve desired conditions

‘Is the downtown just for tourists?’ ‘a region of neighbors by common interests’

- NWCCOG Steamboat Springs Survey 2005 highlighted the importance of preserving the small town character, the “heart and soul” and sense of community that exists. Emphasis is on growth management; preservation of open space; traffic circulation and affordable housing.

“Sustainable tourism development contributes to a balanced and healthy economy by generating tourism-related jobs, revenues, and taxes while protecting and enhancing the destination’s socio-cultural and natural resources for the enjoyment and betterment of current and future residents and visitors alike.”

Peter Kenney, Principal, Civic Results,

“Working Across Boundaries--The Case for Regional Collaboration”

“COLLABORATION”

- Regional Collaboration is used when interdependent interests and values exist (e.g., shared infrastructure, shared workforce) for efficiencies of scale and to extend existing jurisdictional boundaries. Collaboration substitutes for missing institutions
- Regional Collaboration Needs Regional Leaders
‘What makes leadership difficult?: Control, authority, resources, revenues and often, it is not a priority’.”
- Regional Leadership crosses jurisdictions and organizations; integrates vision/goals for the region; brings diverse networks together and is committed to the place
- The Framework for Regional Collaboration brings together an innovative economy; social inclusion; a livable community and collaborative governance.
- Regional Leadership focuses on change; facilitates a shared vision and mobilizes the people ideas and resources needed to move in desired directions.
- Regional leaders are integrators, connectors and communicators of possibility
- Alliance for Regional Stewardship: <http://www.regionalstewardship.org>
- Region Link: <http://www.regionlink.org>

..... FOLLOWING THE PRESENTATION

CULTURAL INCLUSION

Regional process needs to be made culturally inclusive from the outset: talk about the values and perspectives (e.g. oil/gas/drilling industry vs. resort industries).

There is room for disparate groups to find need/reason to come together.

Find challenges we each have in common; find elements of desired futures in common.

REACTIVE VS. PRO-ACTIVE

“If you can see it coming, the crisis is here”

Easy to act in crisis vs hard to work and act with only projections.

COUNTY RESOURCE SHARING

Approximately 40% indigent care at The Memorial Hospital- often this represents workers with jobs, yet no health insurance for adequate medical care. Workers whose wages and expenses are in other counties; housing is connected to wages.

‘If Moffat County didn’t provide indigent care, workers would go elsewhere—then who fills the jobs in Routt County?’

WORKERS AND WAGES

Connection between jobs and wages—*‘we have a need for skilled nurse professionals in health care yet often resort jobs pay higher than nurse wages’.*

ENERGY / FUEL COSTS / JOB MARKET

Need to determine how energy prices and job markets will change worker patterns. “Down-valley” workers are creating a need for services in their home community.

‘Find the champions in each sector that become regional leaders.’

‘How to have the conversation about connection is ‘key’.’

www.yampavalleypartners.com to review complete presentations