

Community Economic Profile & Economic Development Strategy

FREMONT COUNTY UPDATES

Teton View Regional Consortium Meeting

November 20, 2014

Rexburg Idaho

Dr. Richard Gardner
Bootstrap Solutions

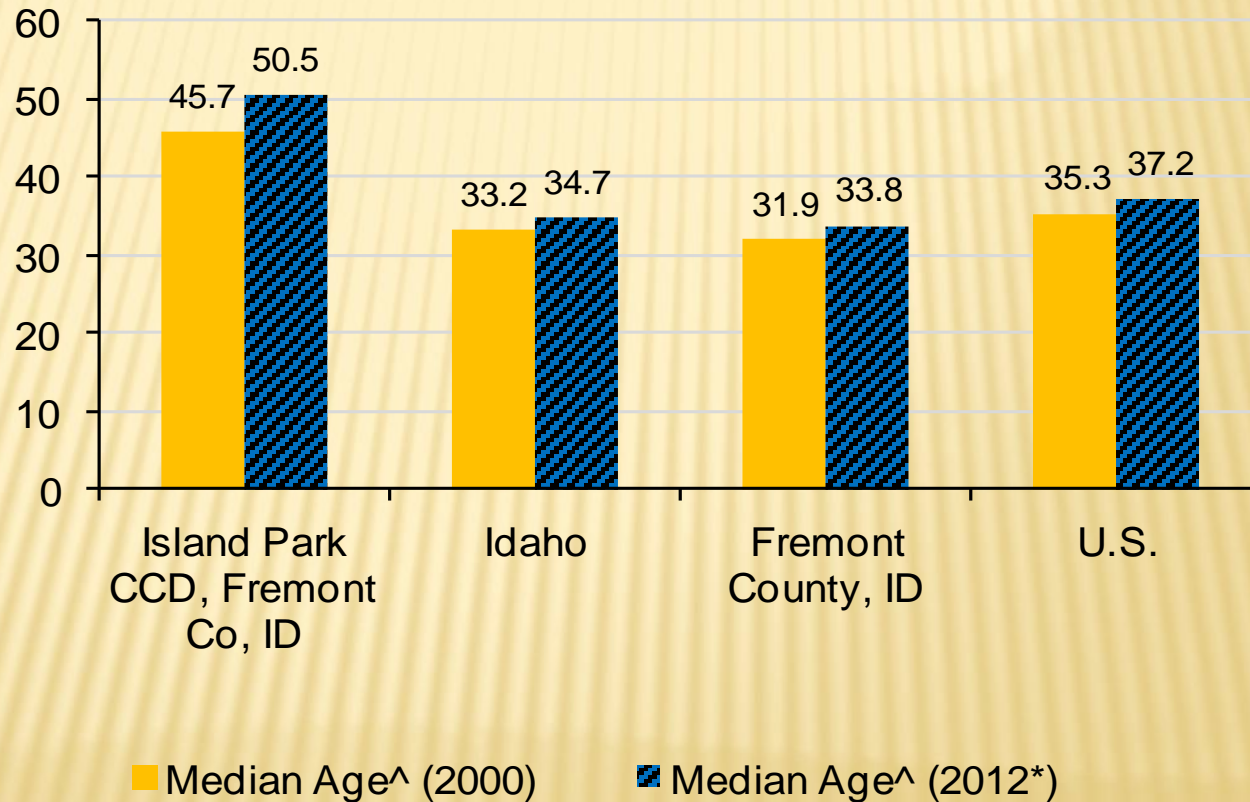


Key Point Summary

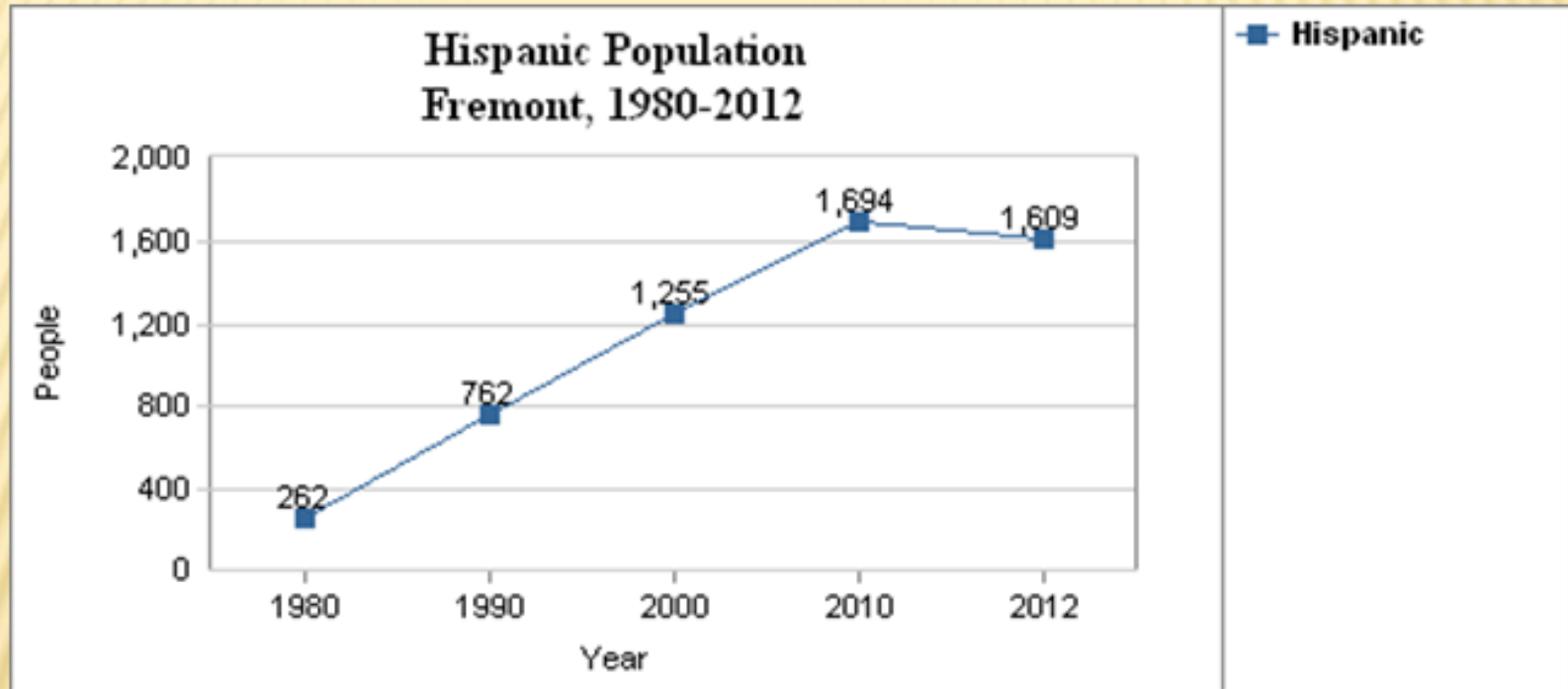
1. Senior citizens and young retirees are growing in north Fremont County.
2. The Hispanic community is growing.
3. Commuting out of Fremont County is an important mixed blessing.
4. Traditional resource industries are not engines of future growth.
5. The rise in self-employed underscores the importance of nurturing entrepreneurs.
6. Non-labor income is very important and growing steadily
7. Second home development threatens the Wildland-Urban Interface.
8. Fremont County incomes are quite low.
9. Part-year residents are a large and growing part of northern Fremont County.
10. Changes in retailing and tourist basing in West Yellowstone and Rexburg mean high retail leakage out of the county.

Key Point #1: Senior citizens and young retirees are growing in north Fremont County.

Median Age, 2000 & 2012*

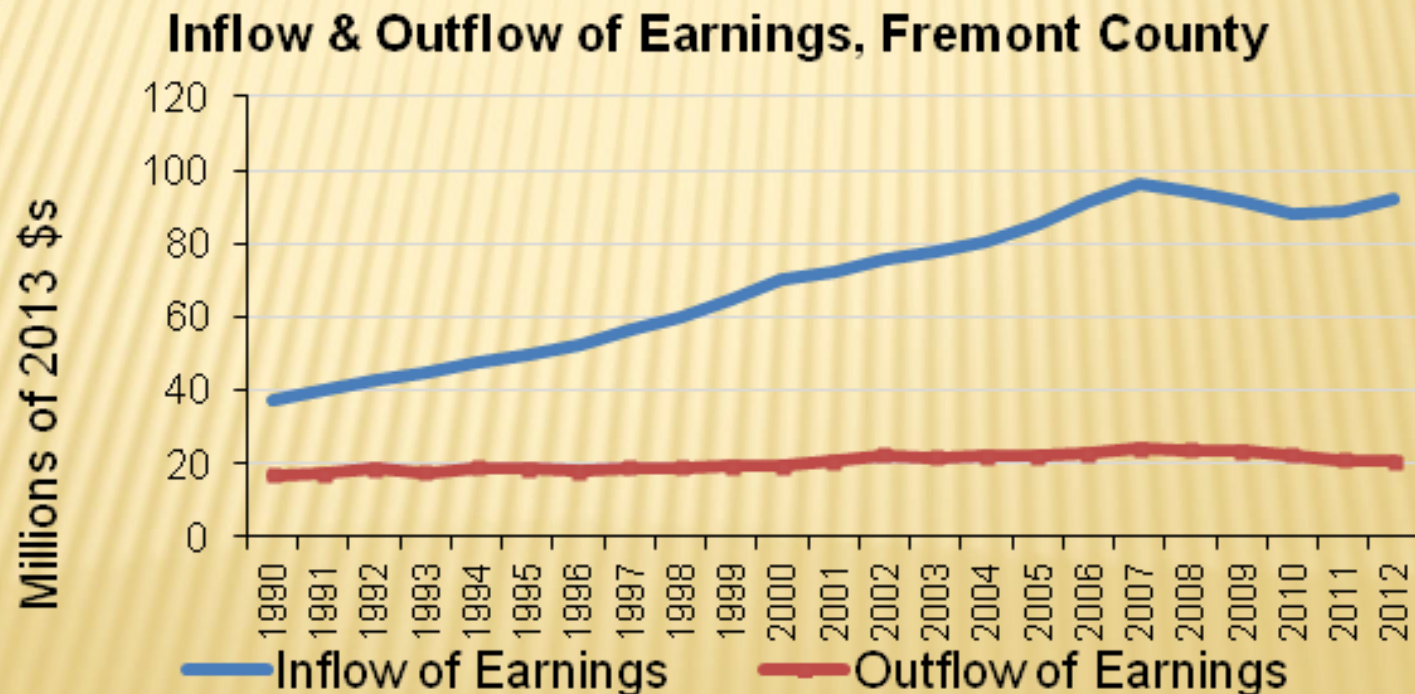


Point #2: The Hispanic community is growing.

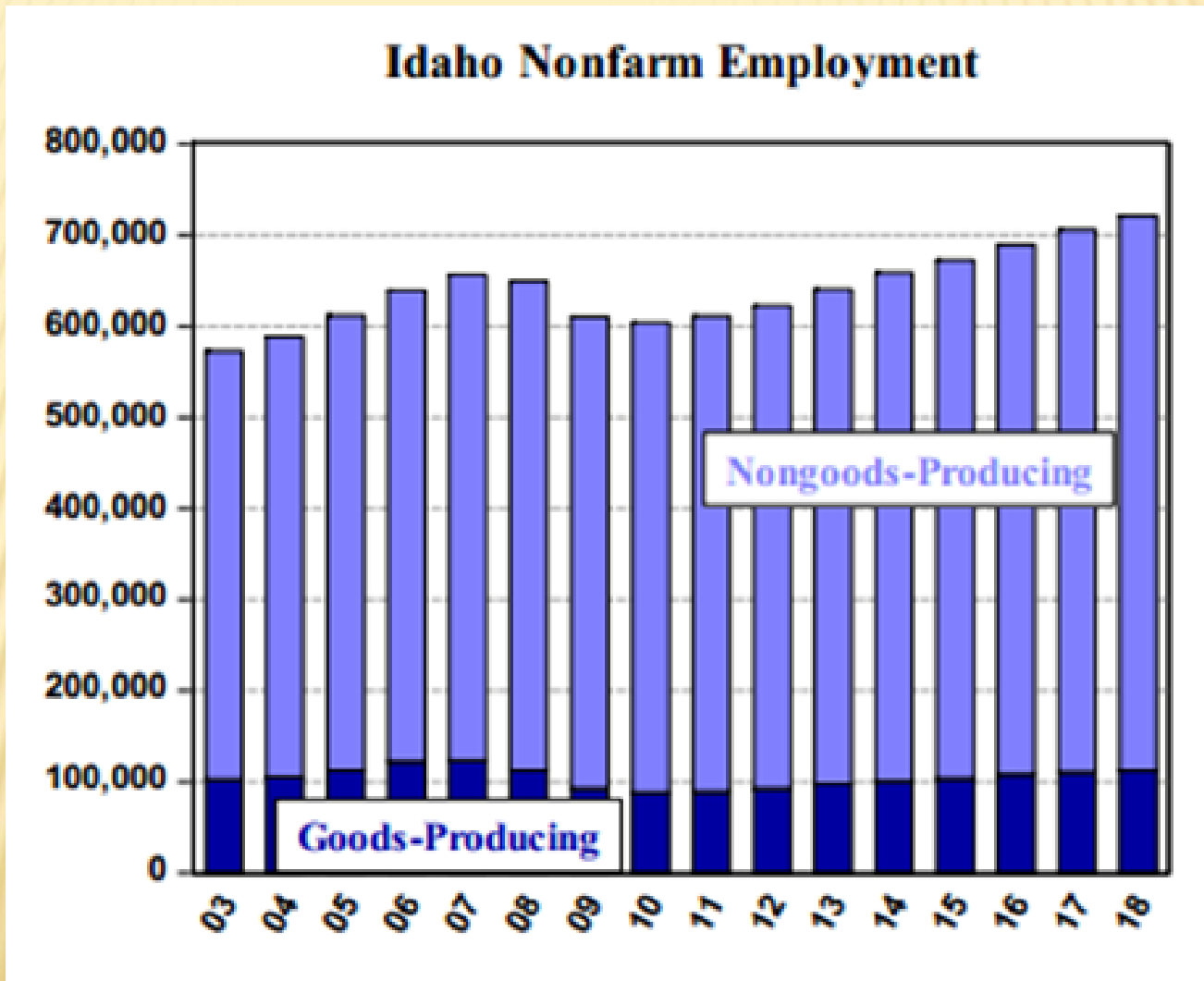


Key Point #3: Commuting out of Fremont County is an important mixed blessing.

- ❑ 3,137, or 70% of Fremont County workers, commute out of county.
- ❑ As many work in Madison County as Fremont County
- ❑ Net residential adjustment = 19.2% of county personal income
- ❑ Cause of considerable retail leakage



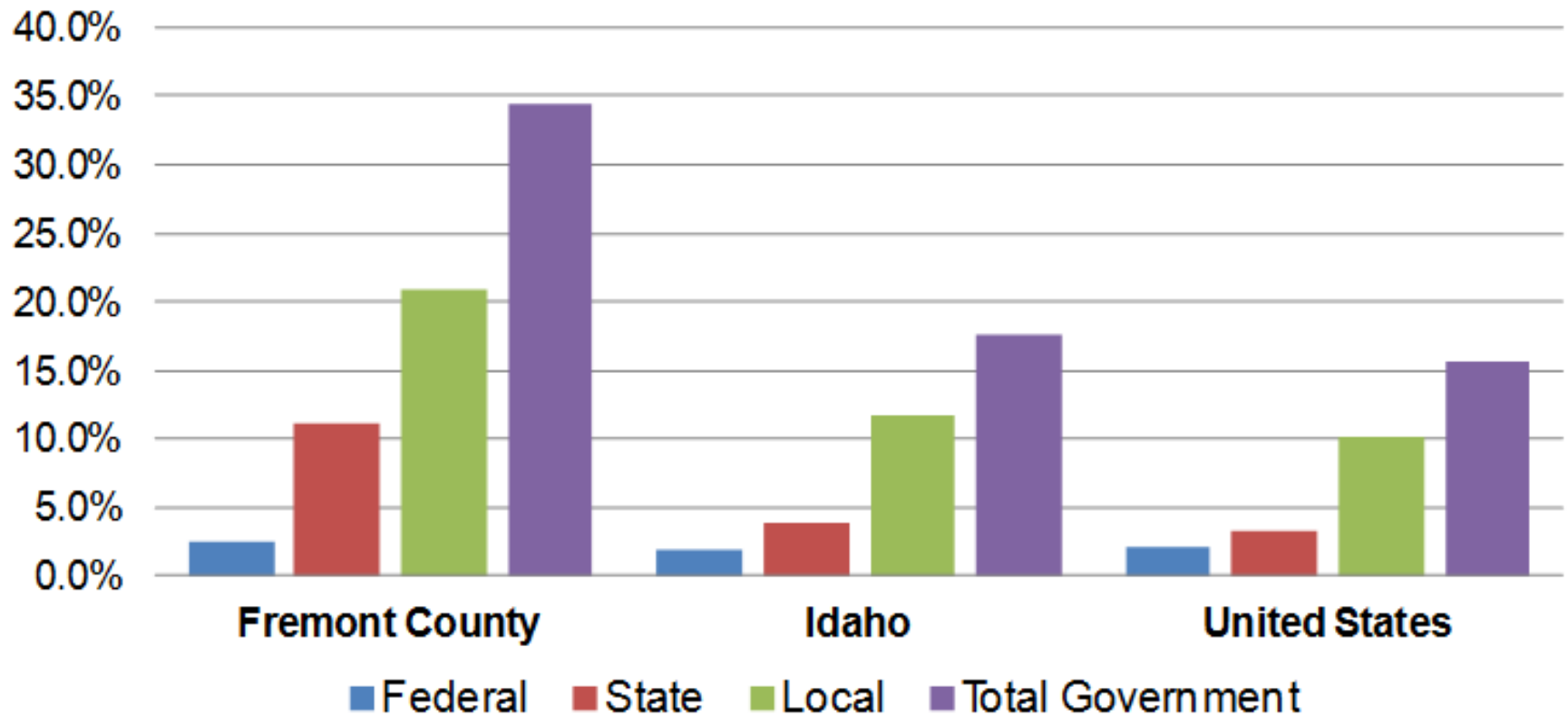
Key Point #4: Traditional resource industries are not engines of future growth.



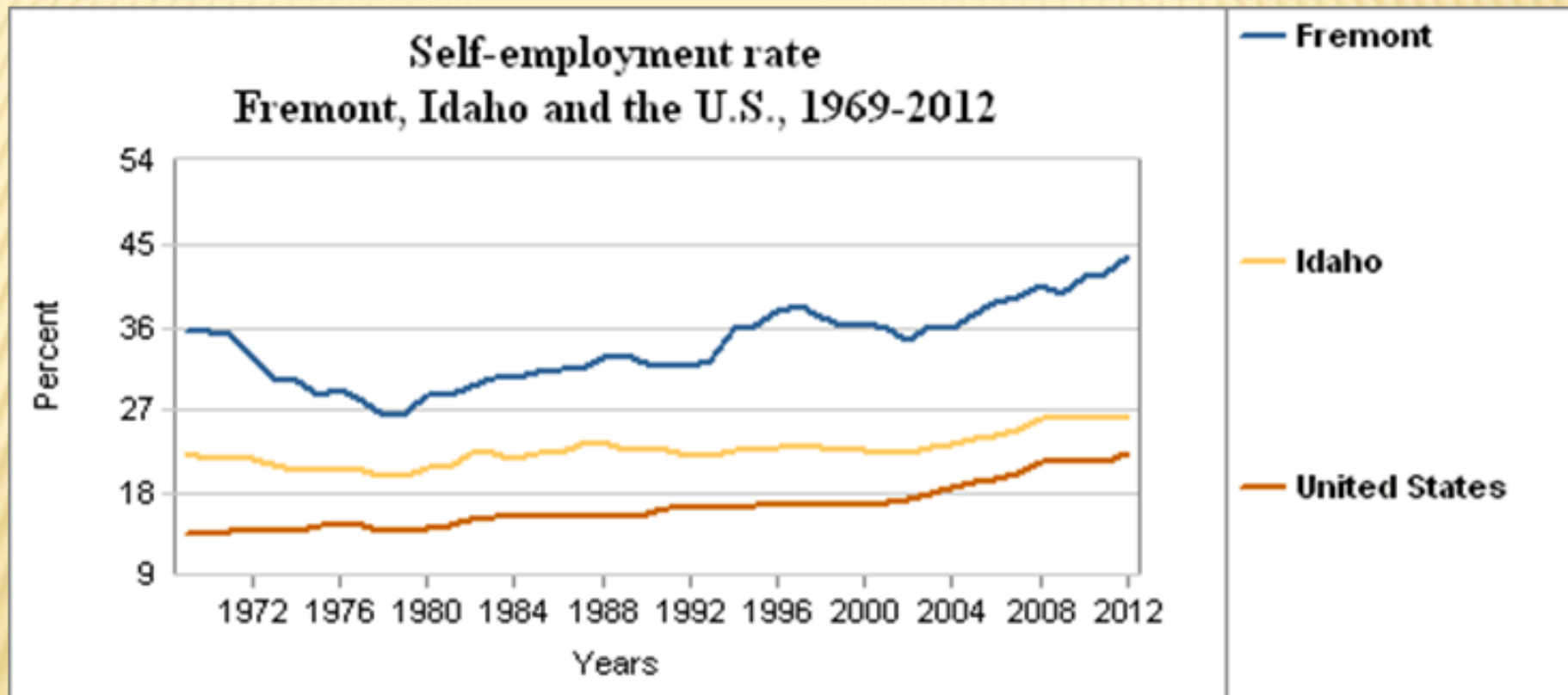
Source: Idaho Economic Forecast, DFM, October 2014

Key Point #5: Government is an important stabilizing economic sector for Fremont County.

Government Shares of Total Employment, 2013

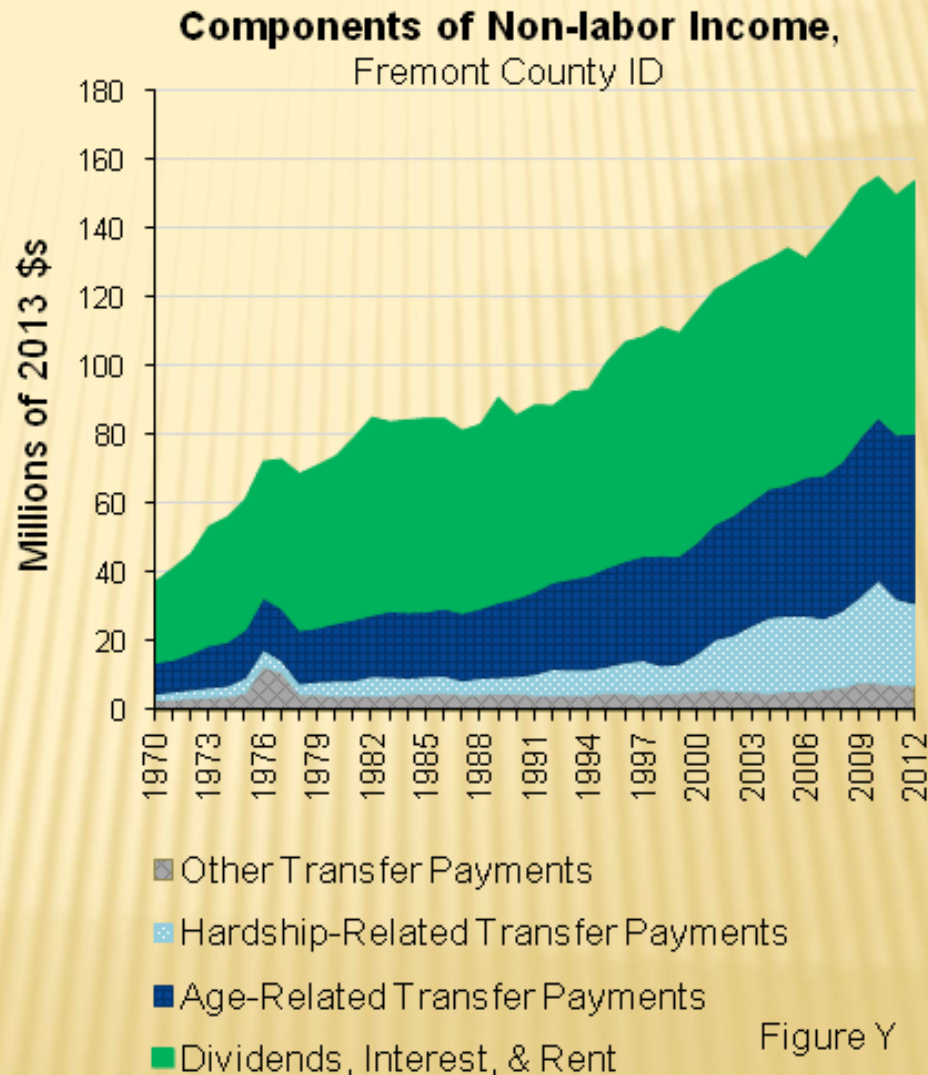


Key Point #6: The rise in self-employed underscores the importance of nurturing entrepreneurs.



Fremont County self-employment = 46.3%, compared to 26.5% for Idaho

Key Point #7: Non-labor income is very important and growing steadily.

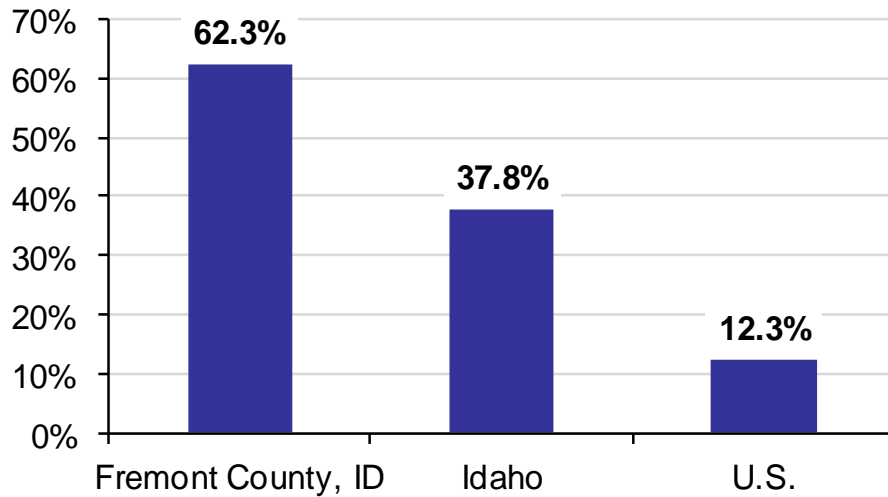


Non-labor income = **41.2%**
of Fremont County's
personal income

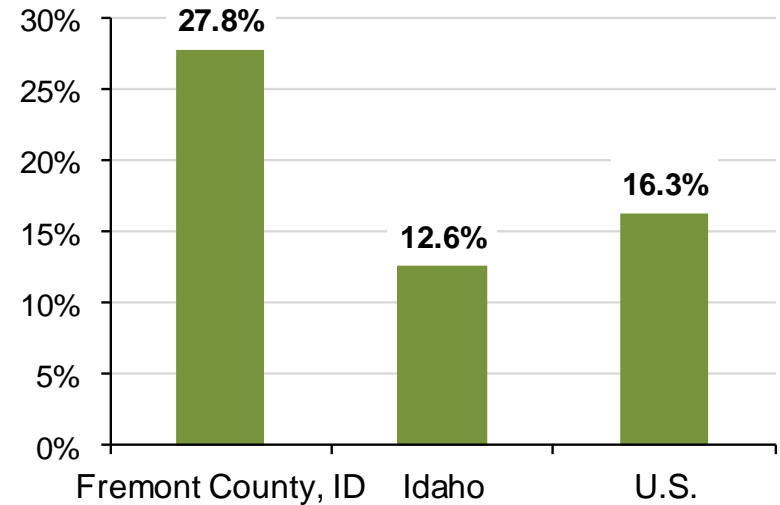
Figure Y

Key Point #8: Second home development increases chances for conflict within the Wildland-Urban Interface.

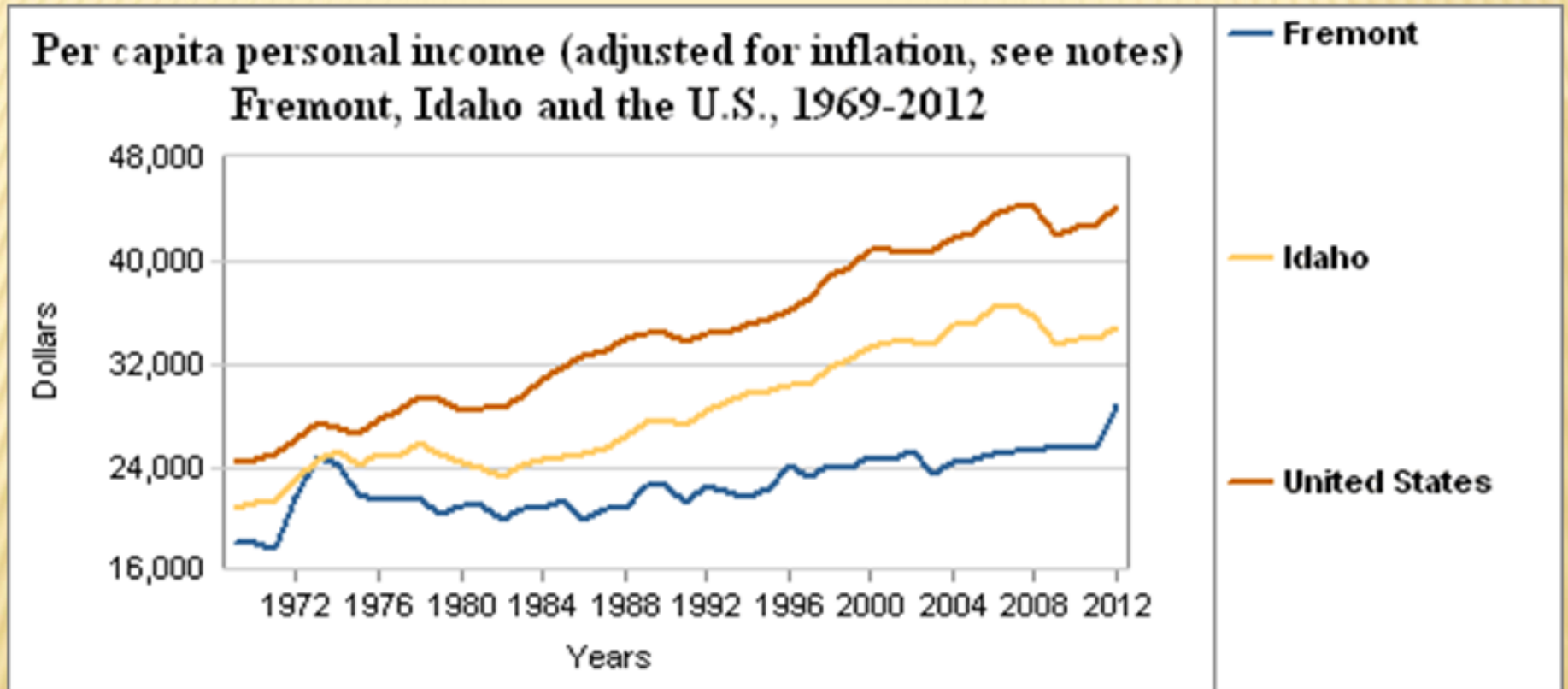
Land Area Developed with Residences, Percent Change, 2000-2010



Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI), Percent Developed, 2010



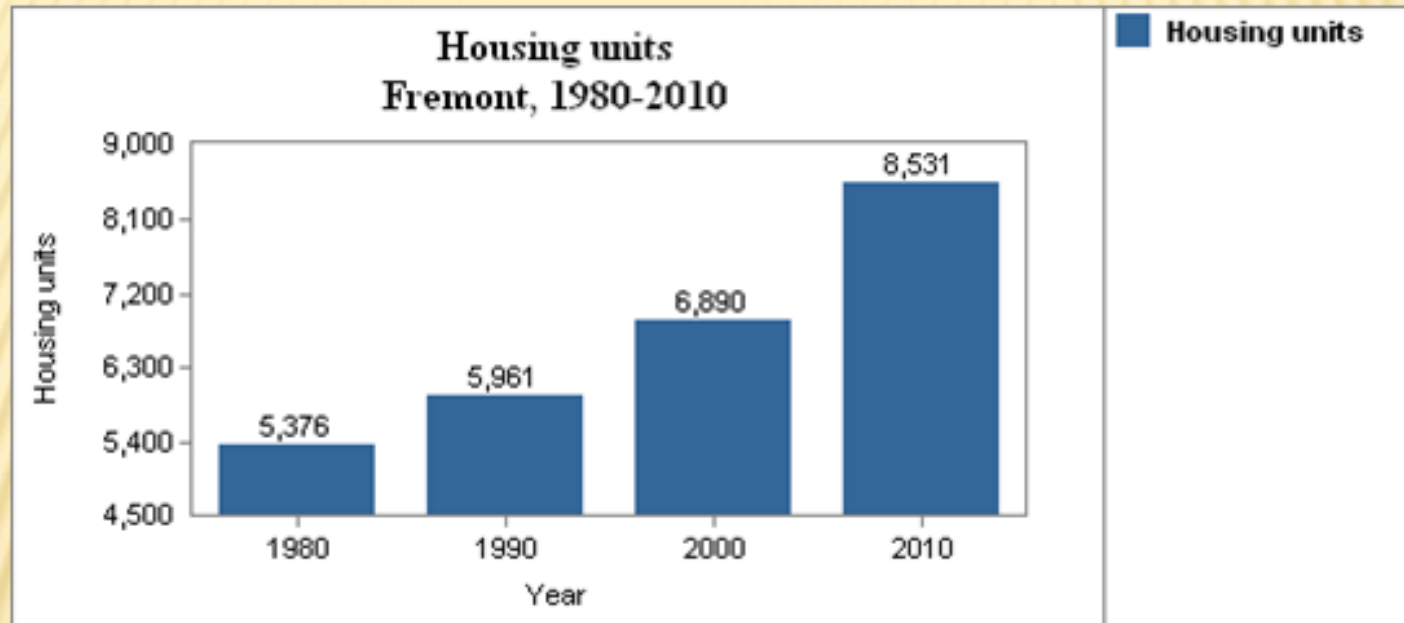
Key Point #9: Fremont County incomes are quite low.



\$28,810 per capita = 65% of the national average!

Poverty rates higher for 1) families with women head of household, 2) children, and 3) Hispanics.

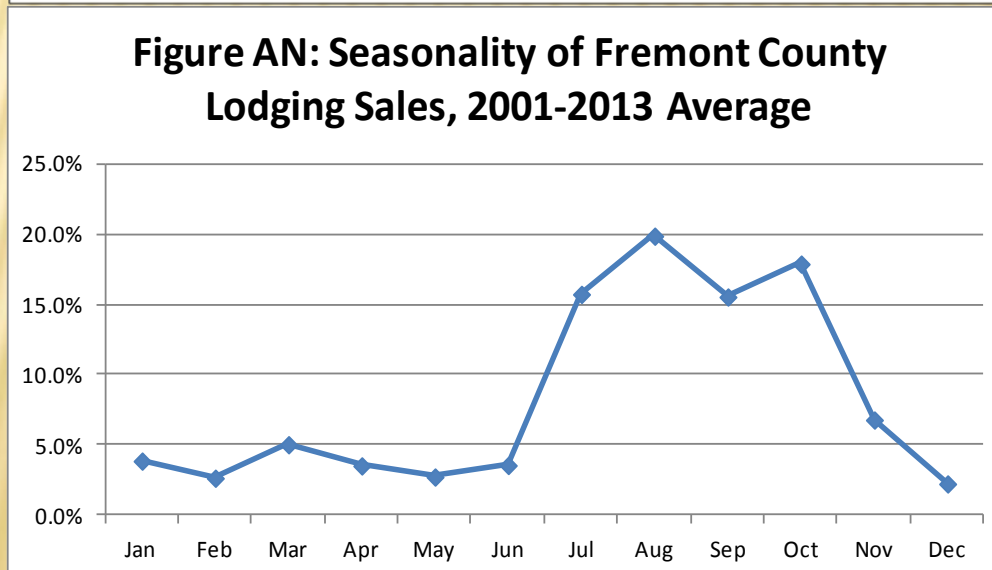
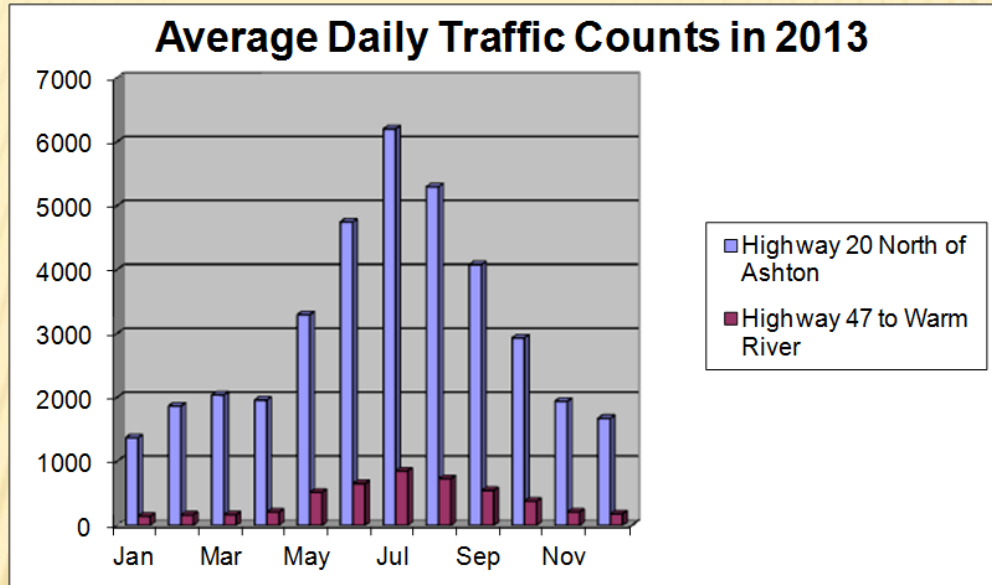
Key Point #10: Part-year residents are a large and growing part of northern Fremont County.



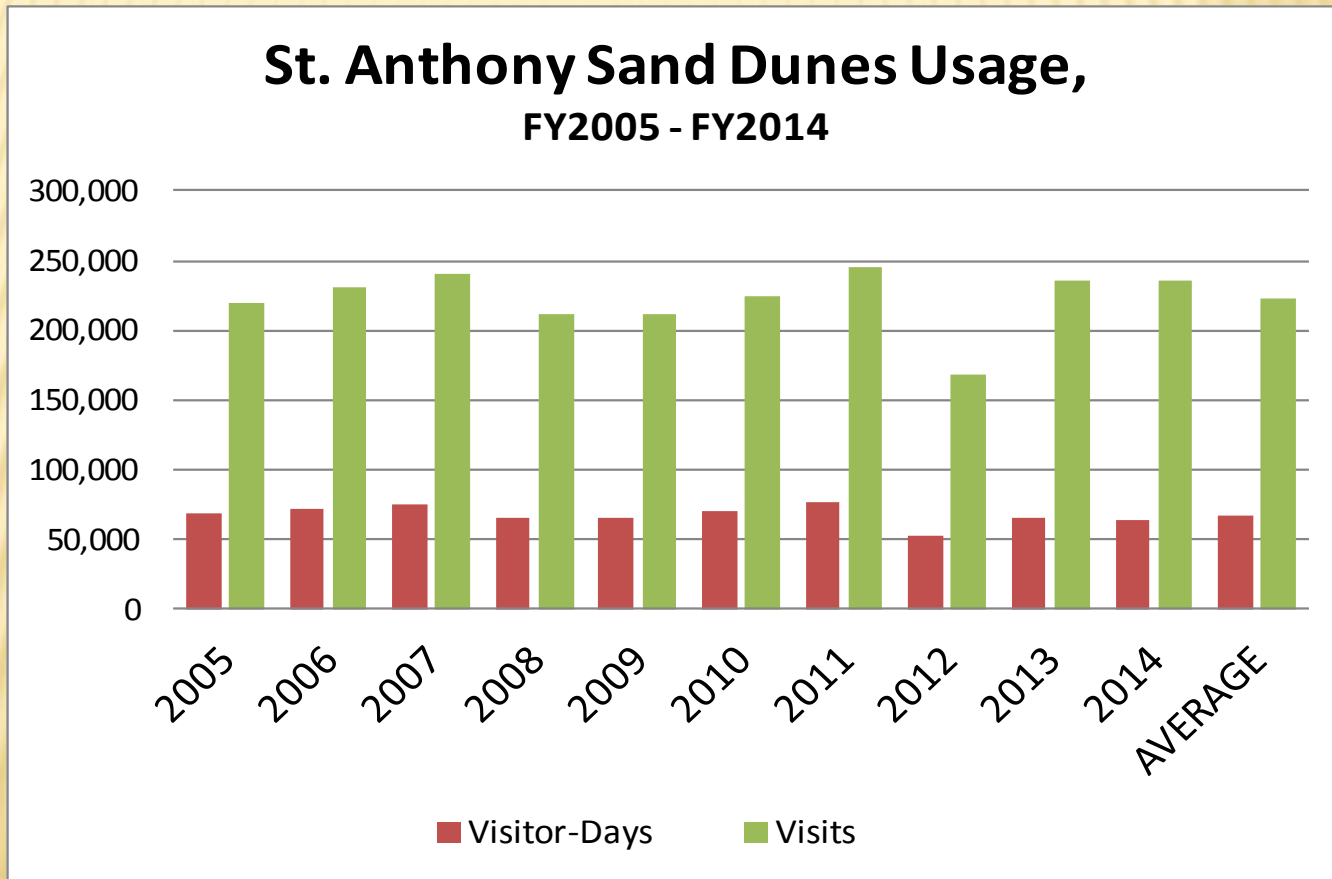
Seasonal Use in St. Anthony = < 1%

Seasonal Use in Island Park CCD = 85.4%

Seasonality in Tourism



Key Point #11: Changes in retailing and tourist basing in West Yellowstone and Rexburg mean high retail leakage out of the county.



FREMONT COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- ✘ Developed with 22 community workshops in 2006-8
- ✘ ED program ended after little use of plan
- ✘ Asked to re-visit the plan, update and make new recommendations

Fremont County Values Statement

Fremont County Stands For:

Good Neighbors – Our small communities are like extended families. Our appreciation and concern for others is demonstrated by being and having good neighbors.

Independence – As Americans, we value the freedom our country provides. As Westerners, we value freedom of choice, individuality, and self-sufficiency.

Concerned, Engaged Citizenry – We value active participation in our democracy, and we enjoy transparent government, with easy access to local officials.

Appreciation of Open Spaces and Natural Places – We value the clear air, water, and night sky of Fremont County, as well as the scenic vistas and recreation opportunities the outdoors provide.

Relaxed Pace of Life – We value the peace and quiet, and easy-going style of Fremont County.

Sense of Place – Fremont County delivers a strong sense of place to its residents, containing an appreciation of heritage and a feeling of spiritual sanctuary.

Volunteerism – We value having opportunities to make a difference as a volunteer, on causes about which we feel passionate.

Hometown Pride – Our community pride is evident in our support of community events and our attention to community appearance.

Strong Spiritual Values – We value the spiritual dimension of our lives, no matter how we define God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Could this be a values statement for the entire region?

What would need to be changed?

Island Park Vision Statement

Island Park is becoming a community where quality natural resource managers sustain the thriving wildlife, aesthetic natural beauty, healthy environment, and visitor attractions of the caldera.

Island Park is becoming a viable community of successful businesses and year-round economy, where people can earn a healthy wage and raise their families.

Island Park is becoming a community that extends across the caldera and well beyond the city limits.

Island Park is becoming a full-service community, with a school, health clinic, and quality public facilities.

Island Park is becoming a community that part-year and full-time residents view as their spiritual home and sanctuary.

Island Park is becoming a community.

Island Park is becoming...

Fremont County ED Goals

- ✘ **Tourism:** *Market a growing array of attractions and activities for visitors year-round.*
- ✘ **Entrepreneurship Development:** *Develop a system of support for all entrepreneurs in Fremont County*
- ✘ **Amenity In-Migrants:** (Retirees & Lone Eagles) – *To build and grow the stream of mobile families who appreciate Fremont County as visitors, and return as part-year and permanent residents.*
- ✘ **Value-Added Agriculture** – *Encourage diversification of local agriculture.*

Goals, Continued

- ✘ **Community Improvements** – *Develop safe, healthy, vibrant, and walkable communities in Fremont County.*
- ✘ **Organizational Capacity** – *Expand the ability of public and non-profit organizations to get things done to the betterment of Fremont County.*
- ✘ **Volunteers & Community Attitude** – *Engage more people in projects, programs, and organizations that better their community and unify the county.*

DISCUSSION QUESTION #2

*Which of the Goal areas
and action strategies
could be
better approached
as a region?*

Potential New Action Strategies

- ❖ Encourage New Technologies for Winter Recreation
- ❖ Explore Hut-to-Hut Travel Potential
- ❖ Fremont County History Museum in Ashton
- ❖ Training of Frontline Service Employees on Tourism Attractions
- ❖ Elementary School in Island Park
- ❖ Building Positive Feelings
- ❖ Target Volunteer Recruitment from Part-Year Residents and Retirees

NEXT STEPS

- ✘ Ranking action strategies by:
 - + Plausibility
 - + Feasibility
 - + Community Readiness
- ✘ Both documents will be published as Regional Study Appendices.

THANK YOU!

