



Session 5 Summary: Your Regional Assets and Challenges

The rubber really did hit the road when [Stronger Economies Together \(SET\)](#) brought **52 participants** from throughout the tri-county region to Chewelah on July 19, 2012.

Krisan LeHew, Chewelah City Council, and Mary Verner, Spokane Tribal Enterprises, welcomed everyone and Debra Hansen, WSU Extension, kicked off a day focused on regional assets and economic development.

Lorie Higgins, University of Idaho Extension, presented an excellent overview of asset-based economic development. She provided many resources and included successful examples from Washington, Idaho, and Appalachia.

The remainder of the day we worked in small groups on the following seven economic development opportunity areas prioritized earlier in our SET work:

- Business friendly regulatory climate – Debra Hansen
- Business expansion & retention – Ron O’Halloran
- Agriculture / value-added ag –Dan Fagerlie
- Regional tourism – Jamie Wyrobek
- Broadband – Krisan LeHew
- Entrepreneurism & business start-up – Barry Lamont
- Workforce development – Tom O’Brien

During the morning we identified regional assets, current successful economic development efforts, and ways to link assets to build regional strategies. In the afternoon, each participant selected the priority area they will work on during the rest of our SET program. Results from these discussions are available on the TEDD SET website.

The name listed next to each area above is the coach for that project team. If you have not have an opportunity to participate on a team, please let Krisan LeHew (krisan@wsu.edu) know which team you would like to join. Encourage others to participate too. The majority of our time during the next two SET sessions will be working in our project teams.

More details will follow soon but for now, mark your calendars and spread the word:

SET – Planning for Success will be held on **August 16th, 10-3**, Sheriffs Ambulance Training Room, 425 North Hwy, Colville.

Doing Business with the Government – Following SET on **August 16th from 3:15-5:00 pm** a special session will be held with representatives from the USDA Rural Development, US Forest Service, US Small Business Administration, and the Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC). This is a great opportunity for business owners to learn about opportunities for contracting with the government!

Visit the TEDD website: www.teddonline.com/stronger-economies-together to see all the handouts, work session results, PowerPoint presentations, and the current CEDS.



**Asset-Based
Economic
Development:
Inquire
Imagine
Innovate
Implement**