

Call Issued: April 12, 2011
Abstracts Due: May 20, 2011

Call for Abstracts

The Western Rural Development Center is soliciting articles for its September 2011 issue of *Rural Connections*. The topic for this issue will be Place-Based Rural Development.

Overview

Creating Vibrant Rural Economies through Place-Based Rural Development

In recent decades there has been a steady decline in employment in agriculture, the natural resource extraction industries and manufacturing, which have always been the mainstays of the rural economy. Subsequently, traditional approaches to improve economic opportunities in rural areas are much less successful now than in the past. When most nonmetro jobs were in agriculture and the natural resource industries, community development efforts tended to focus on enhancing the supply of or demand for natural resources. Then with the growth of manufacturing, the most common rural development path was to entice industrial firms to build or relocate to their community.

In the 21st century economy, the opportunities for resource development are limited, and the traditional “buffalo hunt” for industrial firms is more costly, the odds of success are greatly reduced, and overall today this approach is much less effective as a community development strategy. At the same time, there are development opportunities that simply did not exist in the past. With computers, the Internet and cell phones, it is now possible for individuals and firms to be connected to the global economy while enjoying the benefits of rural living.

However, a significant obstacle to economic development in many rural communities involves infrastructure that is often significantly inferior to the infrastructure available in urban communities. Thus, it is imperative there is improved infrastructure and specifically improved telecommunication infrastructure in the rural communities of the West. Much of the rural West is inadequately served, and the obstacles for achieving better service are extensive. These obstacles include: great geographic distances between communities that increase costs; mountain ranges that make connections more challenging; and right-of-way issues on public land unique to the Western U.S.

The WRDC is interested in sharing with its stakeholders the research and community and economic development activities that are underway in the region to address these issues and how these changes are bringing economic opportunities and/or challenges to the West's rural communities.

Sub-Topics

The topic of Place-Based Rural Development offers a wide range of sub-topics including but not limited to the following topics listed in no particular order of priority:

Building Entrepreneurial-Friendly Communities

- Economic Gardening (resources, case studies, etc.)
- Engaging Millennials in Community Development
- Strategies to Retain Local Businesses and Encourage Their Growth
- New Business Development

Addressing the Need for Rural Broadband and Cellular Connectivity

- Connectivity Challenges in the Western U.S.
- Case Studies of Successful Wired Communities

Promoting Community to Potential New Residents

- Attracting work-from-home residents
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Value-Added and Regional Development

- Value-Added Markets

- Regional Clustering for Economic Development

Submission Guidelines

Please submit the following information to the WRDC by the deadline listed below. Submissions that exceed or do not follow these guidelines will not be considered for publication.

1. Abstracts should be written using MS Word and include the following information in the order listed here:
 - a. Title of Article
 - b. Author(s) Name, Job Title, University/Organization, Mailing Address, Email Address, Daytime Telephone Number
 - c. 400-600 word abstract of your article
 - d. Text should be double-spaced using a 12 point font size
 - e. Contributors should feel free to write in a manner that will be understandable to a diverse audience of researchers, practitioners, and non-scientists.
2. Submit the MS Word document as an email attachment to Betsy Newman (betsy.newman@usu.edu)

Deadline

Abstracts must be submitted **by close of business Friday, May 20, 2011.**

NOTE:

- The WRDC will contact you on or before Thursday, May 26, 2011, to inform you whether or not your submission has been selected for publication.
- At that time we will provide you with details on article guidelines such as the submission deadline, word count, charts, graphs, etc.
- The WRDC will provide you with eight weeks from the date of notification for you to write and submit your article.
- The WRDC retains all final editorial rights including the selection of artwork, graphics and pictures to accompany each article.
- The author(s) retain copyright of their article and charts and graphs.

Criteria for Judging All Abstract Submissions

1. **Relationship to publication theme:** Does the abstract relate to the theme or any of the sub-topics?
2. **Sound conceptual framework:** If appropriate, does the abstract indicate the development and implementation of a theory-based intervention or research project?
3. **Methodology:** Are objectives clearly stated? Are findings included and do they correspond to the objectives?
4. **Usefulness:** Can the research, program or plan be applied elsewhere? Is it useful to practicing agriculture educators, researchers, and/or academicians, and communities?
5. **Innovation:** Does the abstract represent research, a program, a project, or professional preparation activity that is unique, new or creative?
6. **Clarity of Content:** Does the abstract clearly outline what the article is about, such as project type, target audience, setting?
7. **Format:** Does the abstract reference objectives, methods or interventions, results or major findings, implications? Does abstract meet typing and space criteria?
8. **Overall reaction:** Considering the above criteria, what is your overall reaction?

About Rural Connections

Published two to three times each year, *Rural Connections* focuses each issues on a particular topic of interest to residents in the Western U.S. Contributors include researchers, faculty, and professionals from throughout the nation. The WRDC is especially interested in highlighting the research and programs developed and implemented through the western land-grant system.

The magazine is electronically distributed to over 1,000 WRDC stakeholders, made available on its website (<http://wrdc.usu.edu/hfm/newsletters>), announced in Twitter (westernrural), and posted to its Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=47050383042>).

The magazine is further distributed by the WRDC's partners and stakeholders and reaches a national and international audience. The WRDC also makes printed copies available for the contributors, and as requested by its stakeholders.

Questions

Please direct your questions to:

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