

# Economic Development Report to the Chamber of Commerce

## 2/18/16

### Project Updates:

**Chamber Docs Online:** We have been working on getting past Chamber Documents on the website for those who miss the meetings and would still like to access the information shared at the meetings. Go to [www.daggettcountry.org/ChamberDocs](http://www.daggettcountry.org/ChamberDocs) to access this information. It is still a work in progress.

**TRT Board recommends a tax increase for the TRT Tax.** The Commission held a meeting on December 15 and heard comments both for and against the proposal. After discussion they approved the increase to the maximum allowed of 4.25%, which will take effect on April 1<sup>st</sup>. We are the 21<sup>st</sup> County to raise the rate to the maximum and one county raised to 3.5%. These funds will be used for additional marketing projects and personnel.

**Rural Tourism or "Rourism"** –We are still looking for article links, scenic and action pictures and/or video to help promote our area on social media, the website and through email marketing. Send or deliver them to Mark Wilson ([markw@redcanyonlodge.com](mailto:markw@redcanyonlodge.com)) or Brian Raymond ([braymond@daggettcountry.org](mailto:braymond@daggettcountry.org)).

**Dowd Mountain Trails Project** – June 4<sup>th</sup> is a National Trails Day, so that will be our next work project on trails. More info to come!

**Redevelopment Agency (RDA)** – The Town of Manila has entered into an MOU with the Daggett County Redevelopment Agency to develop a project area within the Town of Manila. We are now working on the Project Area Plan.

### Upcoming Meetings/Trainings/Events:

- March 7, 2016 – Daggett Daze Planning Meeting at Courthouse – 4 pm
- March 7, 2016 – Bridger Valley Electric Assoc. Rate Increase mtg at Courthouse – 6 pm
- March 15, 2016 – Shooting Range meeting at Courthouse for those interested
- March 31, 2016 – Love Utah Give Utah is a statewide day of giving to non-profits
- April 21, 2016 – Next Chamber Meeting to be held at the Villa Restaurant at 1 pm
- September 27-29, 2016 [Utah Tourism Conference](#) at Zermatt & Homestead in Midway

**Mav Getaways** – We have signed a one year contract with Mav Getaways. A training and introduction was held today to explain this promotion. Contact Brian to learn how you can participate at 25% of the normal cost on Mavgetaways website: <http://mavgetaways.com/flaming-gorge-country-utah-wyoming/>. We are also looking to hold a sweepstakes this coming spring as a part of this promotion. Let us know if you are interested in participating. Funds are limited so contact Brian immediately!!

**Business Incentives** – Contact Brian Raymond at [braymond@daggettcountry.org](mailto:braymond@daggettcountry.org) or 435-784-3218 ext. 134 for more information on any of the programs listed on this section.

**Co-operative Marketing Grant and Event Grants** – Thanks to the support of the Economic Development Corporation of Utah (EDC Utah) we have received money to help with Events and business marketing. Check out the website at [www.daggettcountry.org/co-op](http://www.daggettcountry.org/co-op) or [www.daggettcountry.org/eventmarketing](http://www.daggettcountry.org/eventmarketing) for more details.

**Rural Fast Track** – State Grant for up to \$50,000 with at least a 50% match for Daggett County businesses that have been in business for 2 years and have at least two full-time employees/owners for expanding, renovating their facility, purchasing new equipment or hiring new full-time employees (\$1000 to \$1500 for each job). This is a year round program with no deadline, but limited funds. For more information about this program visit: <http://business.utah.gov/programs/incentives/rural-fast-track/>. Application must be submitted prior to construction beginning.

**TODS Program Incentive –Tourist-Oriented Directional Signs** program permits eligible businesses providing tourism or motorist services to place their business name with optional business logo or symbol panel on blue UDOT signs along certain designated rural highways. Fees are involved but limited funding is available to help until Mid June. Contact Brian for more information or an application.

**Enterprise Zone** – The entire County is now in an Enterprise Zone which has Tax Credits specifically for rural manufacturing businesses, including woodworking companies, perhaps fly tying companies, to purchase equipment or buildings. It will not assist with purchase of supplies needed in manufacturing. See <http://business.utah.gov/programs/incentives/enterprise-zones/> for more information. The 50% tax credit will probably be going away in this year's legislative session.

**RCAC & RLF Loans** – Business loan programs are available through either the Uintah Basin Association of Government's Revolving Loan Fund (\$200,000 max) or the Rural Community Assistance Corporation's Small Business Loan Program.

**Geocaching Program** – The Geocaches have been generating a little bit of interest. The cache on the Green River was moved, but has been returned to the correct location. If a visitor gets to at least 3 of the 5 they can claim a patch at either Slaugh's Sinclair or Trout Creek Flies. For more info see the webpage at: <http://www.daggettcountry.org/geocache> .



**Chamber Facebook Pages:** Visit Flaming Gorge is a new page started this year as part of the Tourism effort: <https://www.facebook.com/visitflaminggorge> . The standard Flaming Gorge Chamber page can be found at: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Flaming-Gorge-Chamber-of-Commerce/325921463390>. While business information, training and meeting dates are added to this page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Flaming-Gorge-Chamber-Meetings-Trainings/393000970839411>. If you have a cool post on your page and you don't see it shared on the Chamber site, send me an email so I can go find it and share it to promote your business and the area!!

**Recycling** has been halted for the time being, but we are trying to reactivate the program. We are looking for a barn, garage or other large building where the materials can be sorted and stored. We encourage you to continue to recycle by taking your materials to other areas when you travel, while we work on funding to begin the program again. A recent grant application was denied, but we did receive a \$1000 grant from the Conservation District and the Flaming Gorge Country Community Foundation and \$500 from the Town of Manila. We are looking for a new location and volunteers to help develop the program and put these grants to work!

**Upgrading your Facility** Or adding new services?? The State Tourism Office is looking for information like this and we will add these types of news stories to the County newsletter to help get the word out. Send me your stories along with a couple of pictures!!

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