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Media Advisory

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For the First Time Ever, Envision Utah Is Involved in 3 States – Simultaneously

For the first time in its history, Envision Utah has projects underway in three states. Starting on Friday, August 13th, Envision Utah will kick-off the *Bear Lake Valley Blueprint*, a visioning effort in Rich County, Utah and Bear Lake County, Idaho. (The complete schedule of first-round workshops is below.)

Envision Utah is also providing technical help to the *High Plains Initiative (HPI)* in Goshen and Platte Counties in eastern Wyoming. While staff is still gathering information as part of the technical analysis, the first Steering Committee for *HPI* will be held on August 24th in Wyoming. A kick-off summit is scheduled in October and public workshops will shortly follow.

For the *Bear Lake Valley Blueprint*, seven regional public workshops will be held to explore how residents want the valley to develop. While the year-round population for both counties is approximately 10,000 residents, during the summer months, the day-time population approaches 70,000 individuals.

Local jurisdictions are sponsoring the *Blueprint* process, and a steering committee of local community leaders and elected officials are guiding the effort. Over the next several months, citizens will shape a broad vision for how the valley can enhance its economic strength, protect its environment, accommodate summer population growth, and maintain its quality of life.

Bear Lake Valley Blueprint Workshop Schedule

(All workshops are at 7:00 p.m., except the 10:00 a.m. one in Fish Haven.)

Friday, Aug. 13 th	Lakeview Room – North Bldg. (145 W. Logan Road) - Garden City
Saturday, Aug. 14 th	The Reserve Clubhouse – Fish Haven
Tuesday, Sept. 14 th	Georgetown Elementary Gym (142 Stringtown Road) - Georgetown
Wed., Sept. 15 th	Bear Lake Middle School Gym (633 Washington St.) - Montpelier
Wed., Sept. 15 th	Paris Elementary School Gym (39 S. Fielding) - Paris
Thurs., Sept. 16 th	Senior Center (5 North Main Street) - Randolph
Thurs., Sept. 16 th	Lakeview Room – North Bldg. (145 W. Logan Road) - Garden City

Those unable to attend a workshop are asked to complete an important survey at www.bearlakevalleyblueprint.org. (The survey will be available on August 13th.)

At each workshop, the purposes of the *Blueprint* and its timeline will be described in detail. Current growth trends in the valley will also be explored. Residents can ask questions regarding the process and

anonymously answer questions about their community using key-pad polling, a cutting-edge technology that's also a lot of fun. They will also engage in an educational mapping exercise.

To RSVP for a workshop, contact Mary at (801) 303-1459 or [Mdavies@envisionutah.org](mailto:Md Davies@envisionutah.org). Light refreshments will be provided at the workshops.

The Rich County and Bear Lake County Commissioners have enlisted Envision Utah to serve as the neutral facilitator of the *Blueprint* process. Envision Utah is a private non-profit, non-partisan organization with more than 10 years of experience in civic engagement and visioning exercises. More than 80 regions around the country are using the Envision Utah approach to understand how residents want their communities to grow.

"This process will reflect the values of year-round and part-time residents. What's their vision for housing, jobs or recreation? We want to hear from them. Broad public participation and ownership is the key to a successful process," said Christie Oostema, the *Blueprint* project manager. A website with more information (www.bearlakevalleyblueprint.org) is being developed.

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