

For immediate release:

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Survey of Regional Transportation Needs Proposed

Bozeman, Montana – Imagine a West Yellowstone senior coming to Bozeman for a day of shopping, or an Ennis resident commuting to Bozeman Deaconess for work, all without using a car. On April 21 from 2-4 pm the Yellowstone Business Partnership's (YBP) Bozeman Subregional group will meet at the Bozeman Public Library to finalize the scope of a \$10,000 study that will survey the transportation needs of major employers and employees in the four country region of Beaverhead, Gallatin, Madison, Park counties. Participants from all four counties are encouraged to participate.

The meeting is part of the Yellowstone Business Partnership's Seasonality Project, a year-long effort to leverage social, economic, and natural assets to jump-start the region's non-summer economies. Funded by a \$150,000 USDA Rural Business Opportunity Grant, the project aims to address tri-state growth patterns and associated problems and opportunities identified in the YBP report *Turning on the Off-Season*

Six subregional groups cover the 25 counties surrounding Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks. Each subregion is selecting a topic to study and has \$10,000 to award for further research. The Bozeman Subregional group identified transportation to and from hospitals, universities, community colleges, federal agencies, major industries, ski areas, retail shopping centers, and Xanterra in Yellowstone National Park as the focus of study for the region. The proposed survey will be finalized at the April 21 meeting. Participants from all counties are welcome to help finalize the scope of the project. .

The Yellowstone Business Partnership is a business coalition dedicated to environmental stewardship and shaping sustainable economies in the Greater Yellowstone region. For more information, call Susan Higgins at 406-209-3613. To download a copy of the *Turning on the Off-Season* report or to review the mission, values, and membership of the Yellowstone Business Partnership, visit www.yellowstonebusiness.org. In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability.

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