Economic, Social and Environmental Policy Challenges in the Bakken Oil Field

North Central Regional Center for Rural Development Webinar
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Outline

• Part I: The Bakken
• Part II: Bakken Researchers Convening
• Part III: Bakken Challenges
• Part IV: Conclusions, An Update, & Next Steps
The Bakken

Horizontal Drilling
Bakken Researchers Convening
Organized by the Strom Center at Dickinson State University and the Minneapolis Federal Reserve
Purpose
• Highlight completed and ongoing research in the Bakken and improve future communication among researchers to better address the interdisciplinary problems faced by communities in the Bakken moving forward.
• May 18th & 19th, 2015 in Dickinson, ND.

Bakken Researchers
• North Dakota
• South Dakota
• Montana
• Minnesota
• State and Federal Government
• Local Stakeholders

ThinkTank Technologies
• thinktank 4 by GroupSystems
  – Brainstorming program
  – Multiple opinions communicated with little confusion
  – Extensive report of participant contributions
  – Remote connections from additional participants
Sample ThinkTank Output

1. What funding resources, including non-profit organizations and foundations, are available to support research on the economic and community impact of the Bakken? (Sample Output)
   - Identify potential funding sources for research projects.
   - Consider partnerships with other organizations.

Support

- Strom Center – Dickinson State University (Hosts)
- USDA
- North Dakota Department of Commerce
- NDSU (ThinkTank)
- NCRCRD (Travel)
- North Dakota Consensus Council

Bakken Challenges
Funding

- Who may be interested in funding research on the economic and community impact of the Bakken?
  - Federal and state agencies, foundations
- What challenges have you faced in securing funding for research projects?
  - Community buy-in, competition, time-consuming proposal process, funding too slow for time-sensitive topics, collaboration
- How have you overcome funding challenges?
  - Grant targeting, pre-organized teams, pre-organized literature and research
Data Resources

- What data resources have you used or plan to use as part of your projects?
  - Large scale datasets, custom data, survey data, municipal data, cell phone ping data.
- What data resources would be helpful that are currently not available? How could we get these data?
  - Well site data, spatial money transfers, rental occupancy rates, recoverable oil.

Field Work

- What surveys have participants fielded in the Bakken as part of their research? What challenges have you faced in fielding the survey?
  - Surveys about many issues conducted with Native American tribes, local residents, industrial and community leaders, migrant workers
  - Survey fatigue was the most reported issue
- Which groups or individuals have been most affected by/pursued by researchers?
  - Long-term residents, oil workers, service providers, county administrators
Research Needs

• From an academic perspective, what important research questions regarding the economic and community impact of the Bakken energy boom should be investigated?
  – Migration (in and out), transience, international workers, developmental planning, commuting, visas, wage rates, layoffs, non-oil business, who benefits, environmental degradation, emergency preparedness, long term impacts
Communication and Dissemination

• What information would researchers find helpful to share across the group?
  – News, conferences, papers, data, contacts, assistance, syllabi, funding opportunities, field work issues, previous and current research
• What mechanism would work best to share that information? How do you currently share your research?
  – Listserv, conference, journal articles, reports
• Your research is valued to local communities. What barriers exist to sharing research? How do we overcome those barriers?
  – Academic outputs need to be made relevant to contacts in the community and use community resources for dissemination

Research Conference

• What should be the goals of a public research conference? What should be the scope? Who should be the audience? Where should it be located? How should it be organized?
  – Effective communication of results to community stakeholders
  – Panel discussions with community leaders and academics
  – Dependent upon the call for papers
  – Located in Dickinson in 2016
Conclusions, An Update, & Next Steps

Conclusions
Purpose: To coordinate research in the Bakken, build toward a conference and maintain communication.

ThinkTank Technologies were useful but were not always well utilized.

An Update
Oil prices (WTI) have fallen from around $55 dollars during May 2015 when the Summit was held to $30 today.
The rig count has fallen from 84 to under 50.
Few wells are being completed.
Production has plateaued near 1.2 million barrels per day.
Next Steps
Conference being planned
Dickinson, North Dakota
Hosts:
  Strom Center
  Minneapolis Federal Reserve
October/November 2016
Practitioner oriented 150-200
local and regional leaders
Experts from around the nation
Results from summit critical

Another Round of Thanks
Support from NCRCRD was critical to bringing experts to Dickinson for the summit.

Questions?
• Please feel free to direct additional questions and comments to:
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