

# THE GATEWAY & NATURAL AMENITY REGION INITIATIVE

A program of the Institute of Outdoor Recreation and  
Tourism through Utah State University Extension



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INITIATIVE



# WHAT IS THE GNAR INITIATIVE?



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# ABOUT US:

- Idea born in 2017,
- Based on research by Dr. Danya Rumore and Dr. Phillip Stoker,
- Officially launched April 2020,
- Comprised of a core team, steering committee, and growing partner network



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# WHAT DO WE DO?



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# THREE MAIN FOCUS AREAS:

- **Research** – Peer-reviewed papers, community case studies,
- **Education** – Webinars, blogs, undergraduate and graduate student engagement
- **Capacity Building** – The GNAR Network, peer-to-peer learning, online toolkit,



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An aerial photograph of a town situated on a peninsula or narrow strip of land, connected to the mainland by a long, straight bridge. The town is surrounded by dense evergreen forests. In the background, a range of mountains stretches across the horizon under a sky filled with scattered clouds. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent teal banner.

# EXAMPLES OF OUR WORK



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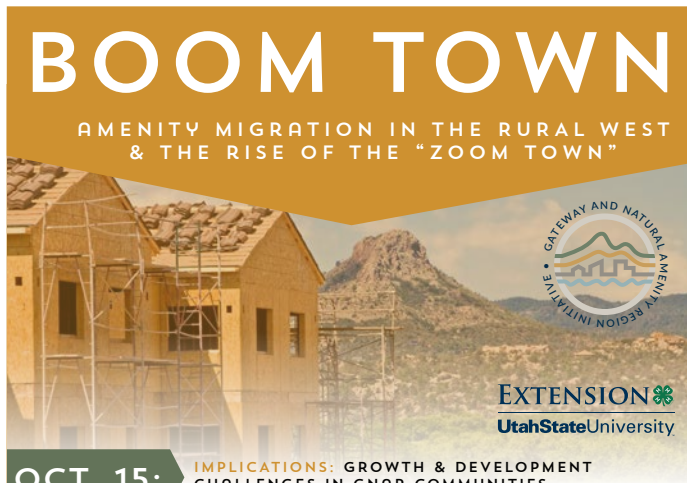
# RESEARCH EXAMPLES:

- Gateway Community Challenges Paper (2020)
- Driggs, ID: Ski Resort Expansion Impact Report (2020)
- Colorado: Bike Trails Impact Report (2020)
- Southwest UT Region: Zion Regional Collaborative (2017-ongoing)



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# EDUCATION EXAMPLE: “BOOMTOWN: RISE OF THE ZOOM TOWN” WEBINAR SERIES



**BOOM TOWN**  
AMENITY MIGRATION IN THE RURAL WEST  
& THE RISE OF THE “ZOOM TOWN”

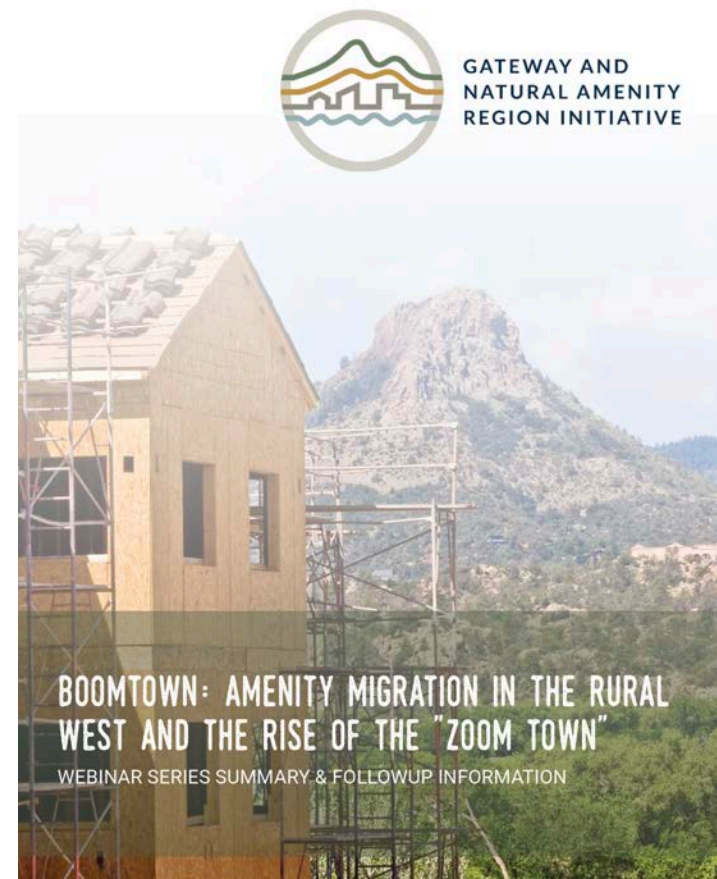
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- OCT. 15:** IMPLICATIONS: GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES IN GNAR COMMUNITIES
- OCT. 29:** EXPECTATIONS: CURRENT OUTLOOKS ON AMENITY MIGRATION IN THE INTERMOUNTAIN WEST
- NOV. 12:** ADAPTATIONS: COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVES ON AMENITY MIGRATION
- NOV. 19:** TRANSFORMATIONS: A TALE OF TWO TOWNS: THE SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITIES APPROACH IN ACTION IN GARDINER AND DEER LODGE, MT
- DEC. 3:** INNOVATIONS: COMMUNITY PEER EXCHANGE

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BOOMTOWN: AMENITY MIGRATION IN THE RURAL WEST AND THE RISE OF THE “ZOOM TOWN”  
WEBINAR SERIES SUMMARY & FOLLOWUP INFORMATION



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# CAPACITY BUILDING EXAMPLE: ONLINE TOOLKIT

- 10 focus areas
- Aggregates existing resources, example ordinances, case studies.
- Adding new pages as quickly as possible

The screenshot shows the website for the Utah State University Gateway & Natural Amenity Region (GNAR) Initiative Toolkit. The header includes the university name and navigation links. The main content area features a large 'TOOLKIT' title over a nature background, followed by a description of the toolkit's purpose and a list of topic areas.

UtahStateUniversity | Gateway & Natural Amenity Region (GNAR) Initiative

Home About Research Education GNAR Network Toolkit Services WNSC Contact

## TOOLKIT

### GNAR Toolkit

The GNAR Community Online Toolkit is designed to be a resource for planners, public officials, community members, consultants, and all others who are working in communities with access to significant natural amenities and recreation opportunities. This toolkit provides resources, case studies, model ordinances, and other tools to help GNAR communities plan for and respond to the unique planning, transportation, economic, community development, and sustainability challenges and opportunities they face. The toolkit is a living resource; it will grow and adapt in order to provide the most useful and up-to-date information possible.

Have ideas for topics we should address, thoughts about tools we should link to or develop, or suggestions for how to improve the toolkit? [Add them to our list!](#)  
You can use the toolkit to share your case studies, resources, and lessons learned, just email them to: [liz.sodja@usu.edu](mailto:liz.sodja@usu.edu)

#### Topic Areas

- Community Planning
- Regional & Interjurisdictional Planning
- Community Engagement & Collaboration
- Economic Development & Tourism

# CAPACITY BUILDING EXAMPLE: THE GNAR NETWORK

- Group of communities who participate in peer-to-peer learning opportunities
- Growing email list of 400+ individuals



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ANY QUESTIONS?



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