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## PRESS RELEASE

### Shoshone-Bannock Tribes Help Regional Economy to Thrive

**APRIL 30, 2010** – A new study shows that the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes have emerged as a significant economic force in southeastern Idaho, adding 3,900 jobs and \$310 million annually to the regional economy primarily through their governmental operations, tribal businesses and agriculture.

The preliminary results of the study were released by Shoshone-Bannock tribal leaders at a press conference today at the Tribal Business Center in Fort Hall. The tribes commissioned Steven Peterson, UI research economist and instructor, to conduct the economic impact study and then to compile the results into a collective economic impact study of the five tribes of Idaho, which will be available as a full report later this spring.

“This is the first time the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes have taken a comprehensive look at how we impact the region’s economy. We’ve always known that the impact is substantial and growing, but now we can put a dollar figure on what that impact is and what it means not only to the tribes, but to the communities around us,” said Alonzo Coby, tribal chairman.

As a point of reference for the significance of the results, Peterson noted that if the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes were one Idaho county, the tribes would rank 38th out of the 44 Idaho counties in economic activity (sales) and 36<sup>th</sup> place in terms of total jobs and earnings (payroll).

“It can truly be said that the tribes are the new entrepreneurs in rural economies. The tribal economies in Idaho are helping to soften the blow in areas hard hit by declines in the timber and mining industries,”

said Peterson, a leading regional economist who has spent the last 20 years doing similar economic studies for organizations, tribes and communities.

“Without the tribes, this part of the state would have been hit a lot harder by the recession,” noted Nathan Small, tribal vice chairman.

The study looked at the direct spending, employment and revenues of tribal government and tribal businesses as well as the multiplier effect of those dollars turning over in the local economies. The study did not look at the actual impact of spending by the tribes’ 5,400 enrolled members, the majority of whom live on or near the Fort Hall Reservation.

Last year, the actual spending by the tribal government and tribal businesses totaled \$140 million. With tribal federal programs, agriculture and tourism added, the tribes’ spending number jumps to \$252 million.

The tribes directly employ 920 workers in their government and businesses, making them the fourth largest employer in the area. An additional 104 jobs are created through federal agencies in existence because of the tribes and 1,266 direct jobs are created by the tribes through activities such as agriculture, tourism and construction. These employment numbers do not include the multiplier.

“The tribes’ economic activity not only benefits that tribes, but the outlying communities as well. Out government and businesses spend a lot of money in the area and employ a lot of non-tribal members as well,” said Tino Batt, tribal treasurer.

While gaming is a driving force behind the economic growth of nearly all tribes in Idaho, farming continues to be a mainstay of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes’ economy. The study found that farming of the 110,000 acres of tribal and individual Indian-owned lands on the Fort Hall Reservation produce \$75 million annually in crops, primarily potatoes and grain, and result in the creation of 981 jobs, which includes the multiplier.

“The study shows that the tribes truly have a diversified economy. The perception is that the only economic impact comes from gaming, but our contribution to the regional economy goes far beyond that,” said Blaine Edmo, tribal councilman.

Tribal leaders have made it a priority to offer tribal members scholarships and other educational opportunities to fill jobs within the tribes and to address chronically high unemployment and poverty rates.

“Just because we have all this positive news, many tribal members are still in poverty with a lack of homes and other issues that are concerning to us,” said LeeJuan Tyler, councilman with the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes.

Another surprising statistic uncovered by the study is that approximately 50 percent of visitor traffic to tribal casinos in southeastern Idaho comes from out of state. Peterson analyzed the zip codes provided by tribal casino customers when signing up for player’s cards and other promotional events.

“The high number of out-of-staters visiting tribal casinos represents new money to the state,” said Peterson. “These are people who likely eat in Idaho, stay in Idaho and shop in Idaho who might not otherwise.”

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# The 2009 Economic Impacts of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes on the Regional Economy: Executive Summary

## Introduction

This report summarizes the results of a study, "The Economic Impacts of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes on the Regional Economy." It was sponsored by the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes and will be fully completed later this spring. The study's principal investigator is Steven Peterson, Research Economist and Instructor, Department of Business, University of Idaho, who has more than 20 years experience in regional economic modeling.

## Highlights

- The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes have increased total regional employment by 3,890 jobs including the multiplier effects (i.e. the direct, indirect and induced impacts).
- Total sales from tribal economic activity exceed \$309.8 million annually including the multiplier effects.
- The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes have raised gross regional product (value-added) by \$174.6 million dollars, of which approximately 28% is from agriculture.
- New tourist traffic to tribal casinos is estimated at more than 100,000 people per year; an estimated 50 percent are from out of state, representing new dollars to the state economy.

## Economic Role of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes on the Regional Economy

The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes have an important, rapidly growing, economic impact on the regional economy. Indian tribes in the United States have a unique status as sovereign nations. Tribes have their own tribal governments, health and education services, police forces, judicial systems, economic development projects, gaming casinos and resorts, agricultural operations, retail trade and service businesses, cultural and social functions, and other important regulatory activities. Consequently, the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes have a significant economic and social impact on the reservation, and the region surrounding the reservation.

## Key Findings: Direct Economic Effects

Total direct tribal government revenues/expenditures from the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes were approximately \$88.6 million for 2008-2009. Tribal enterprise revenues/expenditures including the casinos, housing, and retail businesses were \$51.4 million. Other direct revenues/expenditures including the Indian Health Services clinic, Bureau of Indian Affairs operations, agriculture, and tourism were \$112.1 million. In total, the tribe's direct revenues/expenditures were approximately \$252.4 million. These numbers represent the actual spending of all tribal operations, including those federal programs in existence as a direct result of the tribes.

Direct tribal employment is the sum of the total employees of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes. The tribal government employs approximately 482 workers. The casinos and related operations employ 305 workers; tribal enterprises-94 workers; and housing operations-39 workers. In total, the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes directly employ 920 employees. In addition, the Tribes create additional outside direct employment through contracts and related operations, totaling 1,370 workers, which includes construction employment -169 workers; Indian Health Service-54 workers; agriculture -665 workers; Bureau of Indian Affairs-50 workers; tourism-309 workers; and other - 123 workers. In total, the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes are responsible for 2,290 direct employees *not* including the multiplier effects (i.e. indirect and induced impacts).

The tribal gaming facilities have approximately 900 video gaming machines. Total gross casino revenues totaled \$310.8 million (before costs and operating expenses) with more than \$262.8 million being paid out in cash and prizes. Total combined unique tourist-visitors are difficult to estimate, but they likely exceed 100,000 per year. Many patrons visit more than once yearly and total hourly visitor counts may be as high as 4.5 million visitor hours annually.

In total, the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes own over 544,000 acres and have approximately 5,000 members living in Idaho. The tribes and their members have over 109,984 acres in cultivation in Idaho producing direct revenues/expenditures of \$75 million annually.

## Key Findings: Economic Impacts

An IMPLAN input/output model was created to estimate the economic impacts of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes on the regional economy which includes the counties of Bannock, Bingham, Power, and Caribou. IMPLAN is a well-established, widely used economic modeling software. Economic impacts are calculated separately for each of the tribal functional divisions. New monies (i.e. base activities) brought into Idaho from tribal economic activities drive economic impacts. Multipliers are calculated and they determine how the direct change in exports (final demands) of a single tribal industry ripples throughout all the other industries in the regional economy.

## Economic Impacts Total Tribal Activities Including Multiplier Effects

When the estimated impacts are aggregated, the sum of all of the direct, indirect, and induced effects in 2009 for all Tribal activities (Figure 1) are:

\$309.8 million in sales

\$174.6 million in value-added (gross regional product)  
 \$115.1 million in earnings (payroll)  
 \$7.9 million in sales taxes, property taxes, and excise taxes  
 3,890 jobs

The economic impact of the tribes created approximately \$2.2 million in state income tax payments in 2009 income generated from all tribal economic activities, including the multiplier effects.

**Terminology**

Sales: the total transactions in dollars from direct and indirect tribal economic activity. Earnings: The wage/salary and proprietors' income to individuals. Value-added (value-output): This is a measure of gross domestic product at the state level. Jobs: The total employment resulting from tribal economic activity. Indirect Taxes: All taxes generated from tribal economic activity excluding personal and corporate income taxes. Direct spending represents the actual sales, income, and jobs from tribal operations. Indirect impacts are the downstream economic impacts on sales, income, jobs, and indirect taxes in the regional economy from direct spending. Induced impacts are the downstream effects of employee and consumer spending on the economy.

**The 2008-2009 Economic Impacts of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribe  
 Including the Direct, Indirect, and Induced impacts (i.e. Multiplier Effects)**

	Sales	Value-Added	Wages/Salaries	Employment	Taxes
<b>Government</b>					
Central Government	\$ 34,697,307	\$ 27,638,320	\$ 22,605,637	589	\$ 458,285
Public Health and Welfare	\$ 15,268,322	\$ 10,640,328	\$ 8,378,912	205	\$ 239,706
Other Government	\$ 9,401,698	\$ 7,488,971	\$ 6,125,299	159	\$ 124,178
Education	\$ 6,648,046	\$ 2,867,075	\$ 1,692,109	72	\$ 181,909
Environmental Management	\$ 8,095,271	\$ 5,816,521	\$ 5,509,413	210	\$ 187,165
Public Works/Economic Dev.	\$ 7,392,363	\$ 4,427,195	\$ 3,476,332	94	\$ 110,045
Public Safety	\$ 4,655,322	\$ 3,708,221	\$ 3,032,988	71	\$ 61,488
Community Services	\$ 5,223,122	\$ 2,252,554	\$ 1,329,427	56	\$ 142,919
Culture and Recreation	\$ 486,875	\$ 250,930	\$ 170,038	11	\$ 15,103
Capital Outlay/Investment	\$ 25,551,303	\$ 11,433,793	\$ 8,126,446	220	\$ 501,721
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 117,419,629</b>	<b>\$ 76,523,910</b>	<b>\$ 60,446,601</b>	<b>1,688</b>	<b>\$ 2,022,518</b>
<b>Enterprises</b>					
Casino	\$ 35,186,383	\$ 17,637,132	\$ 11,991,266	452	\$ 1,066,184
Housing	\$ 3,093,206	\$ 1,530,259	\$ 1,061,327	49	\$ 97,580
Other Retail Enterprises	\$ 6,680,601	\$ 4,224,765	\$ 2,641,155	101	\$ 445,759
<b>Sub Total Enterprises</b>	<b>\$ 44,960,191</b>	<b>\$ 23,392,157</b>	<b>\$ 15,693,748</b>	<b>602</b>	<b>\$ 1,609,523</b>
<b>Total Primary Economic Impacts</b>	<b>\$ 162,379,819</b>	<b>\$ 99,916,068</b>	<b>\$ 76,140,350</b>	<b>2,289</b>	<b>\$ 3,632,041</b>
<b>Other Enterprises/Activities</b>					
Medical Clinic	\$ 9,182,220	\$ 5,528,741	\$ 4,141,973	117	\$ 165,911
Bureau of Indian Affairs	\$ 11,831,798	\$ 9,464,878	\$ 7,476,351	138	\$ 152,819
Agriculture	\$ 104,284,604	\$ 48,181,529	\$ 19,922,096	981	\$ 2,957,365
Tourism	\$ 22,164,330	\$ 11,526,453	\$ 7,453,330	365	\$ 938,918
<b>Sub-Total Other Enterprises</b>	<b>\$ 147,462,953</b>	<b>\$ 74,701,602</b>	<b>\$ 38,993,750</b>	<b>1,601</b>	<b>\$ 4,215,013</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$ 309,842,773</b>	<b>\$ 174,617,669</b>	<b>\$ 115,134,099</b>	<b>3,890</b>	<b>\$ 7,847,055</b>

\*Numbers may change slightly once final report is completed this spring.