

15. Boise to Pocatello
16. Pocatello down to Salt Lake City, Utah
17. Pocatello up to Butte, Montana

Energy and Communications

- Eastern Idaho has potential renewable energy resources, including geothermal, solar and wind that could create opportunities for clean energy production. Idaho ranks sixth in the U.S. for installed capacity by geothermal sources and eighth for hydropower, with some wind in the mix as well. The University of Utah is studying the potential for geothermal in nearby Raft River, Idaho.

Financial

- Gaming revenue provides millions of dollars in annual revenue to the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes and tribal members in the form of programs, services and payouts.

Weaknesses

Human

Health and Wellness

- Health disparities for reservation residents/tribal members including higher than average rates of chronic diseases such as diabetes, obesity, high blood pressure and high cholesterol.
- Higher than average tobacco use for reservation residents/tribal members.
- Higher than average rates of chronic alcohol consumption for reservation residents/tribal members.
- Tribal members' access to benefits depends on location of residency.
- Lack of emergency services.
- Lack of awareness of public safety needs and plans.
- Loss of understanding and practice of traditional activities and ways to make spiritual connections.

Education and Workforce Development

- Many barriers to higher education: no junior college on the Reservation, or good distance learning access. Continuing education is often very expensive. Absence of training/certificates from high school to vocational training.
- There are proportionally fewer reservation residents age 20 to 40, suggesting an outmigration of young workers and limited opportunities for young adults to remain on the Reservation.¹⁹
- Low educational attainment, overall – low high school graduation rates/high drop-out rates and low numbers of college graduates. Low social expectations for educational attainment levels.

¹⁹ Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2000, 2010 data).