

Investing Revenues to Create a Diverse and Stable Economy

The Governor and legislative leaders worked hard to make smart investments in Wyoming's future.

- ❖ **Water:** Created a \$97 million Water Development Account III to help protect farmers and ranchers from drought.
- ❖ **Education:** Created the **Hathaway Scholarship Program** and increased funding for teachers and school districts.
- ❖ **Job training:** Increased the number of workforce training slots by 556%.
- ❖ **Tourism:** Increased tourism marketing funds from \$11 million to over \$31 million to complement the Governor's re-creation of the Wyoming Tourism Board. Tourism is now a \$2 billion per year industry in Wyoming.
- ❖ **Economic development infrastructure:** Provided \$57 million to 68 projects for 43 local governments under the Business Ready Communities Program. Through the Business Ready Communities Program, nearly 1500 new jobs have been created.
- ❖ **Wildlife:** Enacted a \$44.5 million Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust Fund.
- ❖ **Building communities:** Appropriated \$206 million to assist communities dealing with rapid energy growth. Increased funding for non-energy impacted communities as well.
- ❖ **Broadband communications:** A 400% increase in the number of broadband lines in Wyoming since 2002.

Business Ready Communities - Two Success Stories

The Governor's proposal and push for a "Business Ready Communities" program and the Legislature's funding of it provide practical, effective tools for local economic development efforts. Two examples tell a story of success:

Cheyenne: State funded infrastructure improvements and the Governor's personal involvement helped land the new **Walmart distribution center**. As a result, 450 new jobs were created.

Shoshoni: Business Ready Communities dollars helped existing business BTI create a state-of-the-art paint facility and railroad car refurbishment site, with an associated **increase from 12 to 40 employees**.