



Dr. Doug Ramsey
Editor, *Journal of Rural and Community Development*
Brandon University
270-18th Street
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January 2, 2019

Dear Dr. Ramsey,

Enclosed please find the manuscript – “Shared Services in Energy Boomtowns: Resourcefulness or Overadaptation?” – for consideration in the *Journal of Rural and Community Development*.

The *Journal of Rural and Community Development* has published many important articles on the social impacts of energy booms in rural and remote communities. In our article we seek to unite the literatures on the local experiences of energy development with that on rural service production and provision in the region of the Bakken shale play.

Our research analyzes how local government and community leaders employed shared services as a strategy to mitigate against impacts associated with the Bakken oil boom. The manuscript uses five large projects that were built during the boom to investigate the motivations and the challenges of using shared services as a mitigation strategy.

The purpose of this research is twofold. First, we wish to illustrate the immense amount of innovation that can transpire within rural communities and local governments when a shock, such as an oil boom, occurs. Second, we argue that in the context of the boomtown, shared services can enable local governments to overextend themselves and build grandiose projects.

I hope you will find our research timely and relevant for the journal. Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Kristin K. Smith*, Julia H. Haggerty, David L. Kay, and Roger Coupal

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