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**Coos economic plan to be unveiled**

LANCASTER – Economic development officials will unveil a plan this month they say will help revitalize the economy in the northernmost county in New Hampshire.

Over the next month, listening sessions will be held in Berlin, Colebrook and Lancaster, detailing the Coos Economic Action Plan, which has been developed over the past several months.

"With the release of this five-year action plan, Coos County is speaking with one voice about what needs to be done to revitalize our economy," said Peter Riviere of the Coos Economic Development Corp., which is spearheading the project with the North County Council in Bethlehem.

In developing the action plan, several committees developed recommendations and action steps relating to energy, wood, creative economy, tourism and health care.

"This plan is transformative," said Jeff Hayes of the North Country Council. "It recognizes that the next generation of economic development in Coos County will be lead by smaller, locally grown businesses and civic organizations and fueled by creative and entrepreneurial people."

Recommendations include deploying wireless broadband throughout the county, developing marketing plans for all county business sectors, and uniting revitalization efforts with like-minded groups across the four-state Northern Forest Region.

At the three listening sessions, the action plan will be outlined in detail and comments on the plan can be made at that time.

The Berlin session is from 4 to 6 p.m. Tuesday at the Twitchell House conference room, across the street from the main campus of White Mountains Community College on Route 16.

The Colebrook session is at 5 p.m., June 25, at Colebrook Town Hall.

The final session, in Lancaster, is from 4 to 6 p.m., June 26, at Lancaster Town Hall.

"This action plan focuses on what we need to do to encourage jobs here that are high growth, high skill, high tech and high pay," Riviere said. "It's not going to sit on a shelf. Everyone's behind it and we're going to be working hard to get results."