

Appendix

• Professional Sports and Urban West Cities

Most cities seek out professional sports teams as a way to promote economic development and add to the prestige and image of the city. A critical issue involving cities and professional sports teams is the construction and financing of stadiums and arenas. Opponents

and proponents of professional sports teams debate the economic value of public investment in sports arenas, though the consensus appears to be that positive economic impacts are difficult to prove. Each of the Urban West focus cities has at least one professional sports team, though sometimes the facilities are actually located in a neighboring community. The listing below describes the teams and the venues in which they play:



Boise

Idaho Steelheads: ECHL Hockey League, class AA affiliate of NHL Dallas Stars. Play at CenturyLink Arena, 5,000 seats.

Boise Hawks: Class A Northwest League baseball affiliate of Chicago Cubs. Play at Memorial Stadium, 3,500 seats (actually in Garden City).

Idaho Stampede: NBA Development League affiliated with Portland Trailblazers and Denver Nuggets. Play at CenturyLink Arena.

Eugene

Eugene Emeralds: Class A Northwest League Baseball affiliate of San Diego Padres. Play at the recently constructed PK Park (2010, \$19.2M) with seating of 4,000.

Modesto

Modesto Nuts: Class A California League affiliate of the Colorado Rockies. Play at John Thurman Field, a 4,000-seat venue constructed in 1955, renovated in 1997.

Reno

Reno Aces: Class AAA baseball affiliate of the Arizona Diamondbacks. Play at recently constructed (2009) Reno Aces Ballpark.

Reno Bighorns: NBA Development League affiliate of the Sacramento Kings and Orlando Magic. Play at the downtown Reno Events Center.

Reno Astros: Unaffiliated minor league baseball team that plays at Moana Stadium.

Reno Aces Ballpark was built with proceeds from revenue bond sales backed by a rental car tax (\$32M). This required legislative as well as city and county approval.

Reno's new \$50 million baseball stadium, built with developer financing, a rental car tax, and tax increment revenues, is a boost to the city's downtown. Opposite: Reno Aces Ballpark. Following: Memorial Park, home of the Boise Hawks.

Salem

Salem-Kaizer Volcanoes: Class A Northwest League affiliate of the San Francisco Giants. Play at Volcanoes Stadium.

Salt Lake City

Utah Jazz: NBA team that plays at EnergySolutions Arena.

Real Salt Lake: Major League Soccer team that plays at Rio Tinto Stadium, 20,000 seats in Sandy.

Utah Blaze: AFL football team that plays at EnergySolutions Arena.

Utah Grizzlies: ECHL hockey team that plays at the "E" Center in West Valley City.

Salt Lake Bees: Class AAA affiliate of the Los Angeles Angels that plays at Franklin Covey Field.

The 2007 Utah Legislature authorized \$35M from a transient room tax to help pay for development of the Rio Tinto Stadium, and the City of Sandy committed \$10M from redevelopment funding (private sources totaled more than \$70M).

Spokane

Spokane Shock: AFL football team that plays at the 12,700 seat Spokane Veterans Memorial Arena.

Spokane Chiefs: Western Hockey League team that plays at the Spokane Veterans Memorial Arena.

Spokane Indians: Class A Northwest League affiliate of the Texas Rangers. Play at the 7,162 seat Avista Stadium first opened in 1958 (\$500,000 construction cost). Avista field is owned by Spokane County.

Spokane Spiders: Premier Development League soccer team that plays at 28,646-seat Joe Albi Stadium (built 1950).

Spokane Black Widows: Premier Development League women's soccer team that plays at Joe Albi Stadium.

The Spokane Arena was built after a 1991 voter-approved measure allowed the raising of \$38M from property taxes. Another 1991 voter-approved measure created the Spokane Public Facilities District that allowed a 2 percent hotel tax in the district. These measures plus a .1 percent increase in the sales tax raised the \$48M needed to build the arena.

Tacoma

Tacoma Rainiers: Class AAA Pacific Coast League affiliate of the Seattle Mariners. Play at Cheney Stadium, built in 1957 at a cost of \$940,000. Renovations were made in 1992 and 1999.

Tacoma Tide: International Basketball League team that plays at Curtis High School Gym.

Tempe

Los Angeles Angels: Major league baseball team's spring training site is in Tempe Diablo Stadium.

Arizona Cardinals: NFL football team that plays in the almost 80,000-seat University of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale. Arizona Diamondbacks: National League baseball team that plays at Chase Field in Phoenix. Phoenix Suns: NBA team that plays at US Airways Center in Phoenix. Phoenix Coyotes: NHL team that plays at Jobing.com Arena in Glendale.

