

**SWOT Analysis for SLC (July, 2004)**

– Prioritized by K. Zimmerman, Director, SLC Planning Office (November, 2004)

SWOT conducted by SLC Planning Office with 12 members of the North Country Symposium Steering Committee.

**Strengths**

- **THE NATURAL RESOURCE BASE
  - **WATER RESOURCES**
  - **SCENIC BEAUTY**
  - **WORKING LANDSCAPES****
- **THE EDUCATIONAL BASE (PARTICULARLY HIGHER EDUCATION) AND LOCAL BRAIN TRUST**
- **THE STRONG COMMUNITIES (GEOGRAPHIC AND/OR INTEREST BASED)**
- **THE STRONG CULTURAL OPPORTUNITIES**

**Weaknesses**

- **POOR GOVERNMENTAL LEADERSHIP**
- **RESOURCE LEAKAGE / LACK OF ACCESS TO CAPITAL**
- **LACK OF “VISION”**
- **BLIGHTED IMAGE / GENERAL APATHY**
- **POOR HOUSING QUALITY**
- **UNEMPLOYMENT LEVELS AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT LEVELS**

**Opportunities**

- **TOURISM**
- **NICHE MARKETING / EXTENDING THE “COME FARM WITH US” CONCEPT**
- **OWNERSHIP OF THE LOCAL ELECTRIC POWER GENERATION / DISTRIBUTION GRID**
- **BETTER GOVERNANCE**
- **LOCAL INVESTMENT POOLS**
- **TECHNOLOGY ACCESS**

**Threats**

- **FRACTIOUS BUREAUCRACY**
- **LOSS OF LOCAL EQUITY / DEPENDENCE UPON OR PREFERENCE FOR “OUTSIDE” BUSINESS**
- **LACK OF CONTROL OF LOCAL HYDROPOWER**
- **LACK OF PLANNING**