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Group proposes moratorium on Boise mobile home community sales

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By Adam Rodriguez

BOISE - Mobile home are disappearing in Boise. The Catholic Charities of Idaho says 12 communities are for sale, putting about 800 people in risk of being evicted.

Angie Griser lives in Homemaker Village in Boise. Griser says her mobile community isn't for sale, but a new complex going up across the has her worried.

"It's scary," Griser said. "... we're afraid we'll be one of the parks that will be sold out from underneath us."

Todd Shallat, the Director of the Center for Idaho History and Politics at Boise State, helped conduct a study that showed the extent of Boise's mobile problem.

"They don't build mobile homes parks anymore in the city of Boise," Shallat said.

Shallat said there are dozens of women like Angie Griser living in Boise: women over 60 who live on about \$20,000 a year. He said as land values go up, developers are buying the land right out from under those renters, displacing 900 Boiseans since 2004.

"It's a real affordable housing crisis. And it's a crisis that hits the elderly harder than anybody else," Shallat said.

Will Rainford says it's a crisis that can be prevented. His group, the Catholic Charities of Idaho, wants the city to put a moratorium on all mobile home park sales. He says, with time, the tenants can get the funding they need to buy the land from owners, and put their rent towards a mortgage.

"We don't want to take the land from landowners, we want to buy the land for landowners," Rainford said.

Griser's lot isn't on the marker, but she's keeping a wary eye on her new neighbors.

"Progress, we can't stop it all. Wait and see what's going to happen," she said.

