



News Release

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USDA awards 31 economic development grants across rural Oregon

PENDLETON, May 16, 2006-- Dozens of local groups across rural Oregon today received word that they will receive grants from USDA Rural Development to support small business development and economic growth in their communities.

USDA Rural Development's State Director Mark Simmons announced today that USDA will extend 31 separate "Rural Business Enterprise Grants" – totaling \$356,000 – to Oregon nonprofit groups, towns, and counties. The announcement was made today following lunch during the second day of the Oregon Rural Policy Forum in Pendleton.

"Rural Oregonians are nothing if they are not creative and innovative. That is reflected in the high quality of applications that we had to choose from," said Simmons. "In the end, we were able to assist communities across the length and breadth of rural because of the economic development partnership amongst the organizations represented at the Oregon Rural Policy Forum. The list of grants reads like a catalog of innovative rural ideas."

Projects funded include everything from business counseling for underserved areas and groups to feasibility studies for biofuels, from helping farmers and fishermen in developing

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value-added projects to formulating main street revitalization efforts, from key workforce development to the guided business planning of a USDA slaughter facility for small livestock producers, from organizing farm trails to developing tourist destination programs. Among the most unique projects is funding to help the community of Fossil to acquire a woolly mammoth statue as a landmark attraction.

“The woolly mammoth statue is an example of how public art can be used as an icon for business development,” said Lyn Craig, secretary of the Wheeler County Cultural Heritage Foundation. “The statue helps inspire a community’s creativeness,” she said.

“Like our creative rural partners, USDA has been looking at new ways to increase the impact of its Federal grant authorities. By awarding many of small grants rather than a few larger ones, we’ve found we can assist more communities, and local groups are often able to use the USDA funds a key leverage for other funds to achieve their visions,” said Simmons.

USDA Rural Development is a federal agency committed to serving the housing, infrastructure, and business needs of rural communities. It has offices in Portland, Pendleton, Redmond, Medford, Roseburg, Eugene, and Salem. For more information, see www.rurdev.usda.gov/or

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List of USDA Oregon grant awards:

Applicant	Amount	Project
Baker Enterprise Growth Initiative (BEGIN)	\$10,000	Continuing enterprise facilitation
Blue Mountain Community College	\$3,000	Biodiesel demonstration project
Cascade Pacific RC&D	\$10,000	Oregon Country Trails website marketing
Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council	\$10,000	Western Juniper commercialization feasibility study
Chemeketa Community College	\$20,000	Mid-Willamette Valley Ag Workforce Literacy Education
City of Burns	\$10,000	Burns Municipal Airport marketing plan
City of John Day	\$15,000	John Day Fire Department feasibility study
City of Molalla	\$8,000	Downtown marketing analysis & business recruitment plan
City of Silverton	\$8,000	Downtown marketing analysis & business recruitment plan
Community Seafood Initiative	\$12,000	Developing new value-added markets & products
Ecotrust	\$15,000	Farmer-chef connection
Food Innovation Center/Oregon State University	\$15,000	Rural food business development service grants
Food Innovation Center/Oregon State University	\$20,000	Statewide study of feasibility for USDA kill & processing facility
Grant County Economic Development	\$8,000	Marketing the Grant County Airport Industrial Park
Greater Eastern Oregon Development Corporation	\$15,000	Hispanic business development & recruitment
Harney County	\$6,000	Pre-feasibility study for biomass energy systems - Burns HS & EOU
Hood River County	\$8,000	Online network connecting value-added ag producers & buyers
Illinois Valley Medical Center, Inc.	\$6,000	Alternative & specialized health care resources & job creation
Lane MicroBusiness	\$15,000	Business development services (IDA's for Spanish speaking)
Lincoln City Visitor & Convention Bureau	\$7,000	Pacific Coast Center for Culinary Arts
Mid-Columbia Economic Development District	\$10,000	Integrated wine & economic development plan
Northeast Oregon Economic Development District	\$7,500	Targeted entrepreneurial support
Oregon Aquaculture Association	\$9,500	Market research for Oregon freshwater aquaculture
Oregon Downtown Development Association	\$8,000	Alsea Valley Highway project
Oregon Paleo Lands Institute	\$10,000	Oregon Paleo Lands Gateways business network
TBEC The Business Enterprise Center, Inc.	\$15,000	Business incubator
Wallowa County Chamber of Commerce	\$15,000	Wallowa Co rural design assistance team
Wallowa Resources	\$10,000	Woody biomass utilization preliminary feasibility study
Wheat Marketing Center, Inc.	\$15,000	Grain elevator operator training project
Wheeler County Cultural & Heritage Coalition	\$10,000	Statue as business anchor (Woolly mammoth project)
Wy-East RC&D	\$25,000	Microenterprise facilitation

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