



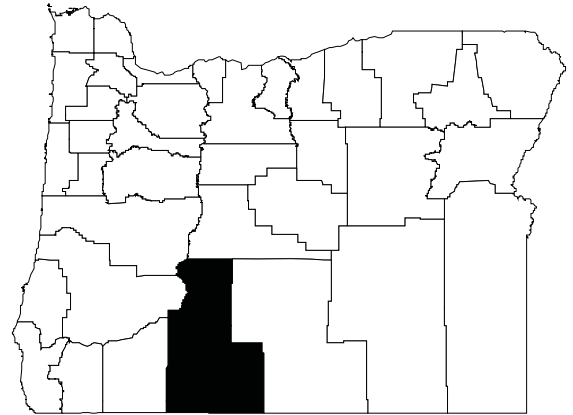
## Healthy Klamath (Sky Lakes Medical Center)

### Community Profile

County Klamath  
 City Klamath Falls  
 Population 44,000 (including surrounding towns)

### Assignment

Organization Healthy Klamath  
 Supervisor Jennifer Little  
 RARE Member Kimberly Thomson



### About Healthy Klamath (Sky Lakes Medical Center)

Sky Lakes Medical Center is the only full-service hospital in a 75-mile radius, serving an estimated 100,000 people in a 10,000-square-mile predominantly rural area of southern Oregon and northern California. Built by the community in 1965, it is a full-service, non-profit community hospital licensed for 176 beds that became a teaching hospital in 1994. It is not affiliated with any large healthcare system, nor does it receive direct financial support from taxes. SLMC, its medical staff, and its employees partner with the community in social and economic issues, healthcare matters and public health endeavors. They have a talented staff that engages in community health initiatives in partnership with the Klamath County Public Health Department. Sky Lakes is committed to the wellbeing of Klamath County and is constantly looking for innovative ways to engage the community and help improve health outcomes.

The RARE participant placed with Healthy Klamath will help create a Strategic Plan by synthesizing all of the information collected in previous projects, and will present their findings and final report to Healthy Klamath, decision makers, and community members. The RARE participant will also work on a gap analysis/community recreations needs assessment through conducting key informant interviews, focus groups, surveys, and community meetings to gather input on what recreational opportunities people are aware of and what gaps and needs exist in the community, and to gauge their support for a unified recreation district. In addition, the RARE participant will inventory and gather information on existing recreation opportunities for all ages including free, fee-based, club, and public activities. Finally, the RARE participant will create an events calendar on Healthy Klamath’s website and work with various media to promote participation in activities listed on the calendar.

### Meet Kimberly Thomson



Kim received her bachelor’s degree in Human Development and Family Studies with a minor in Spanish from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and her Master of Social Work from the George Warren Brown School of Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis. After attaining her degrees, Kim volunteered with the Yantalo Foundation in Peru where she researched, designed programs, and created programming to address topics such as family violence, drug and alcohol abuse, sexual health, eating disorders, depression, and suicide. She then became a Family Case Manager for the Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin, coordinating assistance provided to children and families. Now with the RARE Program, Kim hopes to expand her skills in program development in rural communities while working in a region she wants to continue to live in and work in while sharpening her direction in life.