

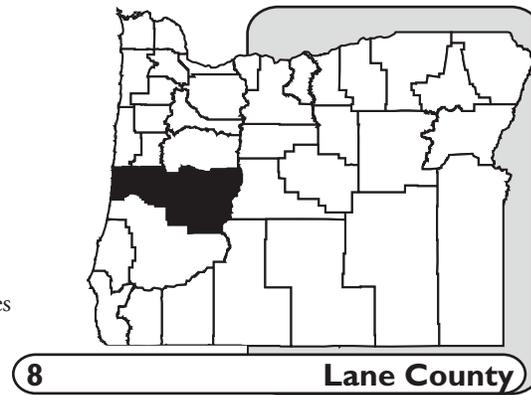
Rural Development Initiatives

Community Profile

- Population** Statewide
- Location** Rural Communities
in the State of Oregon

Position Description

- Sponsor** Rural Development Initiatives
- Supervisor** Heidi Clark,
Midwestern Oregon
Regional Community
Development Coordinator



Assignment The RARE participant will work on several different initiatives during the course of their time with RDI. The first project will be to collaborate on the design and implementation of the expansion of the Community Trainer Program. The RARE participant will facilitate workshops and support the trainers. The RARE participant will work with the CORE Collaborative and present the CORE project to local leaders. This will include work with other RARE participants across the state, sharing best practices and furthering the goals of each target area and the overall goals of the collaborative. The second focus will be to aid in the design of the RIPPLE website. This will include phone conversations and site visits to small communities to talk with individuals and groups about what they would like to see on the RIPPLE website. The participant will also visit rural communities and talk with people about the processes and projects that have worked in their communities. Finally, the RARE member will assist the RDI lead with the design of the agency-wide planning process, coordinate with the local contacts in small communities, assist with facilitation of planning meetings, and conduct research and report findings.

Required Skills The ideal RARE participant would have strong communication skills and should be comfortable working with diverse stakeholders. The participant should have interest in, and some experience with, community development, regional planning, public administration, and environmental studies or recreation.

RARE Participant



Beth Gilden

Beth Gilden was raised in Dundee, OR, a small town in the Willamette Valley known for its Pinot Noir. She earned her undergraduate degree from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, PA, where she studied Decision Science and Professional Writing. At Carnegie Mellon, she worked with the Engineering and Public Policy Department to advise the Pittsburgh City Council on municipal wireless networks. She is also a published author of a paper about Wireless Metropolitan Area Networks. Beth is motivated in her work and life by her passions for social justice and sustainability and interest in post-structuralism. She knows that access to information and good education are inherently linked with these values and she is grateful for all of her teachers.