

Oregon Economic Development Department & Oregon Rural Development Council

Community Profile:

Population State-wide

Location Salem

Position Description:

Sponsor Oregon State Community Economic Revitalization Team (SCERT) and Oregon Rural Development Council

Supervisor Jane Jensen-Davis

Assignment

The SCERT was established to help provide transitional economic development assistance to rural Oregon communities most greatly impacted by decreased timber harvests on federal lands. SCERT membership includes representatives from public, private, tribal, non-profit, education and research sectors of the state who share concerns about rural development throughout Oregon. Presently, the SCERT streamlines economic development assistance funds administered by state and federal agencies to all rural and distressed communities in Oregon. The RARE participant serves to coordinate and facilitate communication and collaborative efforts and manages a database that tracks the SCERT process from application to funding disbursement. The RARE participant also assists the Oregon Rural Development Council, an equally diverse group that meets throughout rural Oregon to be educated about rural issues firsthand and to bring focus to issues that rural Oregon communities feel need to be addressed at the state and federal level.

Required Skills

Written and verbal communication skills, organizational and networking skills and computer proficiency.

RARE Member: *Thomas Endicott - 1998-1999, Year 5 Participant*

Thomas received a BA in Biology and Society from Cornell University in 1995. As an undergraduate, Thomas spent almost a year living and studying in Ecuador, where he worked with several non-governmental organizations that addressed rural community development issues. In addition, his interdisciplinary undergraduate major focussed on the effective use of collaboration, communication and consensus-based models. Thomas' background provides him with an experiential foundation that greatly contributes to his work with the SCERT and the ORDC.