

Oregon Rural Development Council

Community Profile:

Population Statewide

Location Statewide

Position Description:

Sponsor Oregon Rural Development Council

Supervisor Deborah Higa

Assignment

The Participant will be working with the Oregon Rural Development Council in Portland, where she will be fulfilling the role of a liaison between rural communities and the Oregon legislature. She will be conducting follow up and evaluative exercises that seek to promote sustainability, efficiency and representation of the population that the council seeks to serve. She will be attending two nation-wide seminars/conferences in the coming year, where she will be both a participant and a presenter of the ORDC and RARE programs' goals, structure, and methodology. The ORDC will also be continuing its established practice of holding monthly meetings with a rotating schedule of economically distressed communities throughout the state. She will be responsible for the processing and dispersal of the information generated at these meetings and will act as a promoter of meeting attendance and community involvement. Much of her position will entail recruitment and outreach; seeking to establish appropriate connections between rural communities and the legislature via the issues that stand to improve the economic status of Oregon's rural communities.

Required Skills

Outcome driven, have attention to detail, possess good communication skills, be able to take initiative and to be collaborative. Telecommunication knowledge desirable.

RARE Member: *Emily Johnson - 2000-2001, Year 7 Participant*

A native of central Ohio, Emily graduated from Indiana University in 1997 with a double major in Fine Arts and African Studies. Immediately following graduation, Emily entered service with the Peace Corps in Niger, West Africa as an Agroforestry extension agent. Under this assignment, Emily worked towards increasing the average Household Food Stability index in rural Nigerienne villages by demonstrating improved farming practices in her own field, and by introducing rural villagers to outside resources. A variety of side projects, such as reforestation campaigns, community and economic development, organic gardening, and wildlife monitoring gave Emily a diverse array of skills to expand upon after returning from her assignment in Niger, last year. Emily hopes to pursue a graduate degree in Human Resource Development, or a related anthropologically oriented field, after her year with RARE has been completed.