Rural Oregon

Developed by RARE Program and partially adapted from RDI
Classification of Counties

- Oregon
  - 11 MSA
  - 14 Micropolitan
  - 11 Non core
Metro and Nonmetro Counties in Oregon, 2000

Source: US Census Bureau
Map prepared by RUPRI
What’s different about rural?

A. Demographics

☐ Graying of the population, less youth
  ■ Mixed impact

☐ Few counties with net loss in population

☐ Increased diversity
  ■ Native American population increasing on reservation
  ■ Hispanic/Latino population increasing
What’s different about rural?

B. Scale of organizations

- Role of volunteers
- Regionalization of services
- Changes within traditional institutions
What’s different about rural?

C. Economy

- High degree of self-employment
- Natural resources
  - Grieving cycle
  - Increased interest in “sustainability”
  - Tourism
Gaps (a short list)

- Transfer of leadership to new generation, new population
- Knowledge and pride in place, in culture
- Opportunities for working age people
- Creative revenue for public and non-profit sectors

What are others that you see?
Filling the Gaps

Key skills include

- Outreach to diverse, disconnected populations, identifying unifying interests
- Collaboration among organizations that rely heavily on volunteers
- Asset based analysis of opportunities
- Facilitation to help groups move from idea to action