Northeast Oregon Economic Development District

Community Profile
Population 7,008
Location Enterprise

Position Description
Sponsor Northeast Oregon Economic Development District
Supervisor Sara Miller
Economic Development Specialist

Assignment
The Northeast Oregon Economic Development District (NEOEDD) is a public organization established in 1985. Baker, Union and Wallowa Counties established the District by Intergovernmental Agreement as a way to enhance community and economic development services in the region. Services include: business assistance, training and technical assistance, strategic planning, and program administration/staffing. Northeast Oregon Economic Development District strives to provide resources and facilitate quality decision making for the benefit of entrepreneurs, businesses and communities in Northeast Ore.

The RARE participant placed with the Northeast Oregon Economic Development District (NOEDD) will primarily focus on further development of projects identified during the 2011 Wallowa County Community Food-Education-Agriculture-Solutions-Together (FEAST) workshop. Such projects include increasing local farmer and rancher involvement with the Wallowa County Food Bank, increasing Wallowa County Farmer’s Market vendor participation with the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and improving the ability of local farmers and ranchers to collectively or individually process and market farm fresh products. Additionally, the participant will update and implement a community food assessment report in order to support increased food access in Wallowa County.

RARE Participant
Joshua Russell received his Bachelor of Science in Anthropology from the University of Tennessee. After graduation, Joshua served in Peace Corps in Ghana where he facilitated nearly 50 stakeholder meetings and capacity building workshops on topics ranging from responsible resource management to conflict resolution. While in Peace Corps, Joshua also initiated the construction of tree nurseries in each four communities, assisted in developing a constitution for the Ghana Nungua-Cocoatown Community Resource Management Area (CREMA), helped to conduct primate awareness/sensitivity campaigns with field officers from the West African Primate Conservation Action (WAPCA), and organized a series of three Village Bicycle Project Workshops. Joshua is also a founding member of the successful Knoxville Jazz for Justice Project. Following his year with the RARE Program, Joshua hopes to engage with a graduate school program where he will study issues surrounding domestic food security.