

# Gorge Grown Food Network (ARRA)

## Community Profile

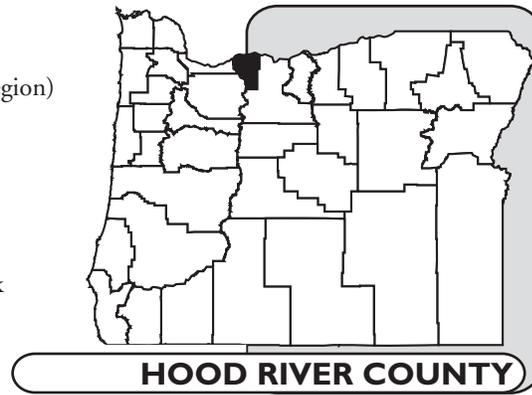
**Population** 75,000 (Columbia Gorge Region)

**Location** Hood River

## Position Description

**Sponsor** Gorge Grown Food Network

**Supervisor** Sarah Hackney,  
Executive Director



**Assignment** Through a grant from the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act, the Oregon Food Bank is sponsoring five food systems projects led by RARE participants in five counties throughout the state. While each community has identified different needs, all five food systems planning positions include the following: a two-part community foods assessment, coordination and facilitation of a community food system event, and the participant will act as a liaison between the Regional Food Bank and the local community promoting “seed to table” style discussions.

The RARE participant is working on a number of projects this year. The participant is assisting Gorge Grown with a multi-year, five county community food system assessment. This process is being used to establish a baseline of food and farm data for the region that will afford the community a more accurate, comprehensive picture of the regional food system. One identified deficiency is little to no access to emergency food sites therefore the participant is working to improve regional emergency food infrastructure. Finally, the region’s popularity as a vacation destination has priced land out of reach to many potential farmers; the participant is systematically inventorying regional farm and garden lands for would-be farmers or community gardens.

## RARE Participant



Kate Stoylich

**Kate Stoylich** is originally from Omaha, Nebraska. She graduated from the University of Nebraska- Lincoln with a BS in Biology and focus on Ecology and Environmental Studies. Kate served as a Peace Corps volunteer for three years in Paraguay. As a volunteer, she worked on agricultural issues. Upon completing the RARE program, Kate hopes to pursue graduate work and a career in international development or relations as it relates to agriculture and food security. Additionally, she hopes to live and work in Latin America.