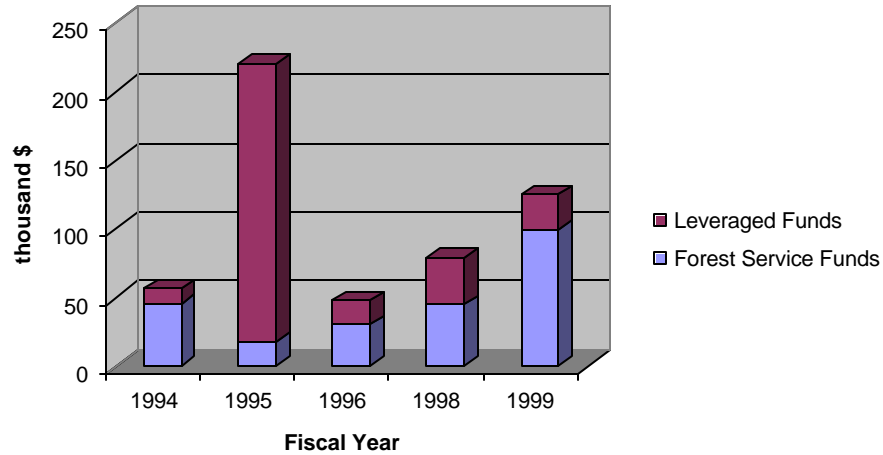
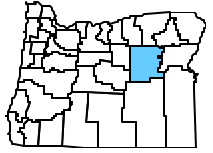




Economic Action Programs

Grant County, Oregon

Grant County is a nonmetropolitan county located in the Blue Mountains of northeastern Oregon. The county is home to the John Day Fossil Beds and the Strawberry Mountain and North Fork John Day Wilderness Areas. About 60% of the county's land base is administered by the Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management; most of the remainder is in farms. Many county residents are employed in farming, forestry and fishing, or professional specialties.



Recipient	Project Name	Federal ID	Funds		
			USFS	Leveraged	Total
Planning and Technical Assistance					
City of Granite	Water Master Plan	OREC-98-007	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$15,000
City of John Day	Kam Wah Chung Feasibility Study	OREC-95-011	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$20,000
City of John Day	Airport Industrial Park Plan	OREC-99-008	\$80,000	\$20,000	\$100,000
City of Seneca	Water Master Plan	OREC-99-005	\$10,000	\$2,500	\$12,500
Grant County	Conference Center Design	OREC-94-075	\$45,174	\$11,500	\$56,674
Upper John Day Dev. Corp.	County Strategic Planning	OREC-96-005	\$21,169	\$13,728	\$34,897
Natural Resource Related					
City of Mt. Vernon	RiverPk/Greenway Master Plan	ORRD-99-002	\$9,500	\$3,000	\$12,500
Grant Cnty ResEnhance Team	Wood Prod Market Study	ORRD-98-001	\$40,000	\$23,590	\$63,590
Town of Canyon City	Mural Project	OREC-96-008	\$9,250	\$3,750	\$13,000
Facility Construction/Environmental Improvement					
City of Prairie City	City Medical Center Remodel	OREC-95-007	\$8,555	\$192,000	\$200,555





Economic Action Programs

One success story from Grant County, Oregon



Mural Project

Some of the most beautiful country in Oregon is the Highway 395 corridor between Burns and John Day...forested mountains, pristine streams, cattle and big game country. Early Oregon pioneers and goldseekers settled in tiny hamlets like Seneca and Canyon City, farming, ranching, and harvesting tall trees. Life was good and prosperous until the 1980s when economic decline hit this natural resource-dependent area particularly hard.

Over time, historic downtowns began to decay. Communities like Canyon City recognized that timber and agriculture would always be important mainstays of their local income, but they needed to develop a third leg to ensure economic stability. Seeing hundreds of potential visitors rush by on Highway 395, community folks realized that sprucing up downtown, recruiting new retail business, and improving overall appeal might be just the tools they needed to cash in on visitor receipts. They developed a tourism strategy that identified refurbishing their tiny historic downtown as a long-term goal. Momentum and enthusiasm began to pick up steam when town folks installed replicas of historic lightposts and painted a mural depicting the goldrush of 1861 on one of the boarded-up businesses.

Wanting to capitalize on this success, Canyon City residents sought funding for another mural and an historical facade on City Hall. Jennifer Harris, Malheur National Forest Rural Community Assistance coordinator, was there to help make the connection to the Forest Service's RCA grants program. An historic 4th of July parade theme was chosen for the new mural with

community folks and school children serving as painters and models. Here's what Logan Becker wrote about his experience as a mural painter:

“Saturday afternoon Larry Kangas, Donna Becker, Marilyn DeRoy and I prepared one 10 foot wide and 2 foot high rectangle by sponging on brown, white, and light blue paint. After that Marilyn DeRoy and Donna Becker smeared brown paint over the rectangle.

Around one o'clock kids started to arrive. Among them were the “Aspiring Artists”, a local 4-H group. We painted scenes that came from our imagination. They were scenes from a parade in the 1800s. Mr. Kangas instructed us to paint using only brown and white paint. Among the paintings were pigs, wagons, dogs, children, mountains, ladies riding side saddle, ladies with fancy hats, horses, and Indians. We had lots of fun and were happy to do it. Thank you for the opportunity.”

All this community energy has increased pride in Canyon City's rich history by 100% and has even attracted a couple of new businesses. A local politician has his campaign headquarters there; Greater Eastern Oregon Development Corp offices located on Main St.; and two new retail shops opened their doors. And this summer for the first time Canyon City sponsored a “Concerts in the Park” series, just another way to draw in visitors and encourage residents to enjoy the community they are working so hard to revitalize.

Applicant: Town of Canyon City

Grant No: OREC-96-008

USDA Forest Service Funding: \$9,250

Total Project Cost: \$13,000