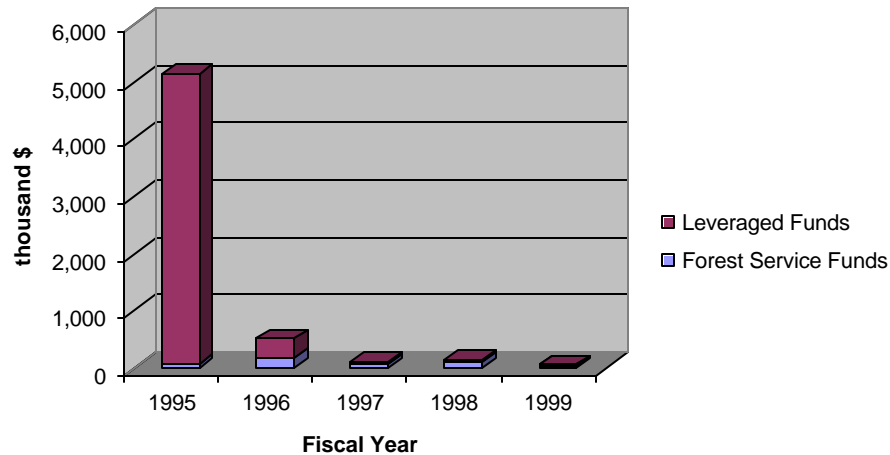
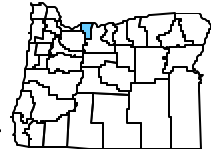




Economic Action Programs Hood River County, Oregon

Hood River County is a nonmetropolitan county located in northern Oregon where the Cascades meet the Columbia River. Beautiful Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area dominates the north county with Mt Hood and hillsides of fruit orchards filling the remainder of the landscape. The County's crops are dominated by fruits, nuts, and berries and it has the largest acreage in orchards in the state. About one-quarter of the county's population lives in the City of Hood River while about two-thirds live in unincorporated areas. Over 60% of the land base is administered by the Forest Service; about 30% of this is officially designated as wilderness.



Recipient	Project Name	Federal ID	Funds		
			USFS	Leveraged	Total
Planning and Technical Assistance					
City of Cascade Locks	Community Action Plan	OREC-94-045	\$19,370	\$5,000	\$24,370
Hood River County	Community Action Plan	ORNW-96-024	\$20,000	\$6,200	\$26,200
Hood River County	Economic Action Plan	ORNW-98-041	\$24,000	\$6,000	\$30,000
Hood River County	Towne Hall Arch&Eng Report	ORNW-98-052	\$10,000	\$2,500	\$12,500
Port of Cascade Locks	Industrial Park Improvements	ORNW-97-040	\$32,000	\$8,000	\$40,000
Port of Cascade Locks	Marina Reconstruction A&E	ORNW-97-046	\$26,500	\$6,625	\$33,125
Natural Resource Related					
City of Cascade Locks	Overlook Project	ORNW-98-019	\$50,000	\$15,000	\$65,000
Facility Construction/Environmental Improvement					
City of Cascade Locks	Wastewater Treatment Project	ORNW-95-044	\$80,000	\$5,055,000	\$5,135,000
City of Cascade Locks	Wastewater Emergency Gnrator	ORNW-97-038	\$25,752	\$6,640	\$32,392
Mid Columbia EDD	Downtown Revitalization	ORNW-98-050	\$35,000	\$9,000	\$44,000
Port of Cascade Locks	IndPark Improvement Design/Eng	ORNW-99-004	\$45,409	\$19,870	\$65,279
Port of Hood River	Business Incubator Bldg.	ORNW-96-009	\$170,000	\$323,000	\$493,000





Economic Action Programs

One success story from Hood River County, Oregon



Community Action Plan

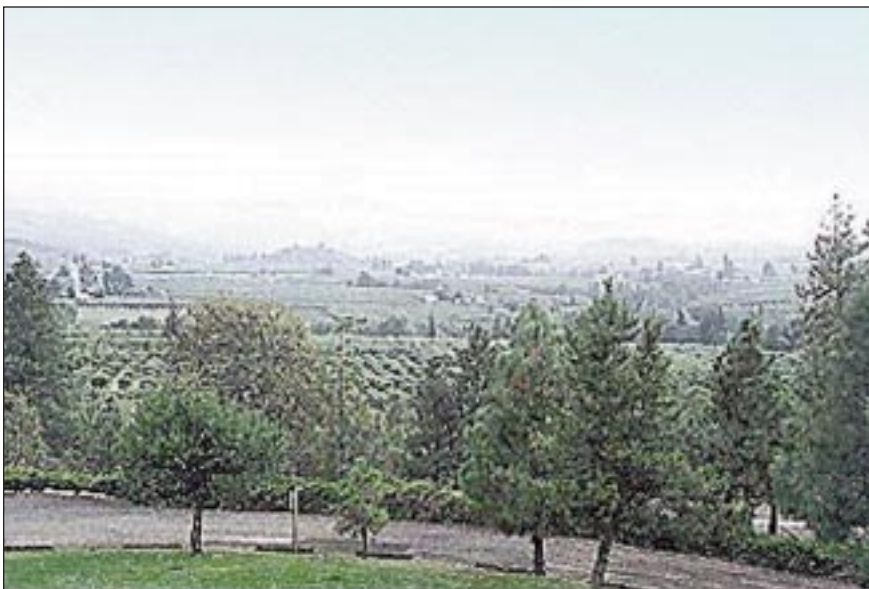
Forest Service grant funds are designed to assist natural resource-based communities support economic diversification planning and project implementation. One of the key first steps any community can make toward creating a diversified economy is to identify critical strategic directions that will ensure a healthy future.

Knowing that vital communities don't happen by accident, two upper valley population centers, Parkdale and Mt Hood, combined efforts in 1996 to create a strategic action plan. Forest Service Rural Community Assistance grant funds of \$20,000 were matched by Hood River County for a total investment in a strategic action plan of \$26,200.

Given that tourism and recreation are booming industries on Mt. Hood and along the Columbia River Gorge, everyone expected that Parkdale and Mt. Hood citizens would opt to

maximize this competitive advantage. "Tourism was a natural," says Glen Sachet, FS Rural Community Assistance coordinator for the Mt. Hood National Forest.

What a surprise when upper valley citizens rejected tourism, choosing instead to maintain their agricultural focus. Tourism was perceived as potentially damaging to traditional ways of valley farming life. "Folks figured they could hang on to a cherished way of life and reap economic benefits if they could develop niche-type agricultural products instead of visitor services," adds Sachet. "This was a difficult decisionmaking process because of the struggle between these two options." But, ask any upper valley citizen if the struggle was worth it and you will hear a resounding "yes."



Applicant: Hood River County

Grant No: ORNW-96-024

USDA Forest Service

Funding: \$ 20,000

Total Project Cost: \$26,200