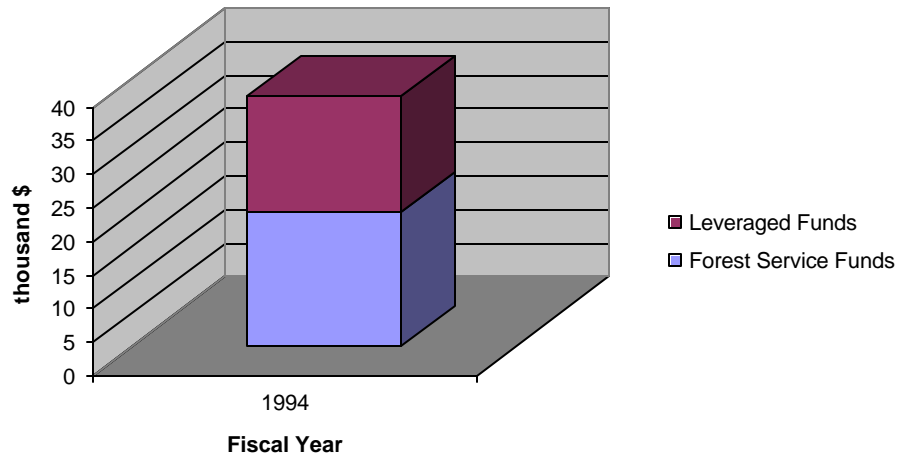
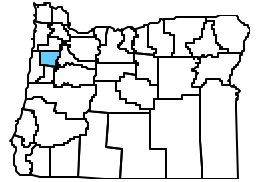




Economic Action Programs

Polk County, Oregon

Polk County is a metropolitan county located just east of Interstate 5 between the Coast Range and the Willamette Valley. Polk County's proportion of income from agriculture is almost triple the state's proportion. Almost 35% of the County's land is on farms and most of that is cropland. Over 40% of the county's land base is private timberland and 10% is administered by the BLM or the Forest Service. Most of the current harvest is from private industrial forest land.



Recipient	Project Name	Federal ID	Funds		
			USFS	Leveraged	Total
Planning and Technical Assistance					
City of Independence	Community Action Plan	OREC-94-039	\$20,000	\$17,161	\$37,161





Economic Action Programs

One success story from Polk County, Oregon



Monmouth/Independence Strategic Plan

Approaching the future in a collaborative manner, the communities of Monmouth and Independence wanted to jointly address community economic development strategies. In 1993, which turned out to be a critical year for both rural communities, a long-standing timber industry business closed in Independence putting now displaced workers on the street.

At the same time, Monmouth was struggling financially with a high proportion of state-owned, tax-exempt property. Both towns were facing significant residential and commercial growth. They wanted to coordinate development efforts and integrate local efforts with regional business development strategies.

Backed by a USDA Forest Service Rural Community Assistance grant, the communities developed a Community Response Team composed of a representative cross-section of the town's population, completed a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and

threats) analysis, and finally presented Strategic Goals for Community Economic Development to their communities.

Actions identified and implemented through the Strategy ranged from mentor programs to a community-wide motel/conference center survey. A unique feature of this two-community project was the strong effort made to pull the resident Hispanic population into the process.

The communities hired a bilingual consultant to facilitate building the strategic plan, resulting in a more valid product. The Community Response Team felt that success was achieved because all community members are working to make the Strategy happen.

Applicant: City of Independence

Grant No: OREC-94-039

USDA Forest Service Funding: \$20,000

Total Project Cost: \$36,718