

Regions Connecting  
for Rural Innovation



**Western Region**



Implementation Plan and  
Management Chart

<i>Work Area: Energy</i>			
Strategic Outcome	Action Steps	Who is working on it?	Benchmarks
Develop a demonstration project for how to bring parties to the table regarding western energy issues.	<p>Create a multi-county regional partnership in southeast Wyoming and northern Colorado. The partnership will focus on bringing diverse groups together to address the challenges related to regional energy issues including, transmission, wind energy, and development of the Niobrara Formation.</p> <p>Leverage partner networks to bring parties together and facilitate discussions to determine what core issues or challenges must be addressed. Establish what role SRDC's and RC&amp;D can play in the process. Utilize stakeholder input to develop demonstration project in the southeast Wyoming/northern Colorado corridor.</p> <p>Results from the demonstration project will be shared with other western states and Rural Development Council's as a model for how to facilitate discussions. The project is not meant to replace federal agency requirements for obtaining public input, but rather to spur discussions at the grassroots and regional levels.</p>	<p>Mary Randolph, Wyoming Rural Development Council</p> <p>Scott Aker, Colorado Rural Development Council</p> <p>Grant Stumbough, Resource Conservation &amp; Development districts</p> <p>Derrell Carruth, USDA Rural Development</p> <p>landowner organizations</p> <p>energy companies</p> <p>federal agencies (NRCS, Forest Service, BLM)</p>	<p><b>9/1/10 – 10/1/10:</b> Brainstorm plan development between WRDC, CRDC, RC&amp;D's and USDA Rural Development</p> <p><b>9/1/10 – 10/1/10:</b> Inventory current efforts on transmission, renewables, energy development, conferences, etc</p> <p><b>9/1/10:</b> Invite speaker to address energy issues from a regional perspective at the Intermountain States Summit</p> <p><b>10/13/10 – 10/15/10:</b> Utilize Intermountain States Summit as a springboard to begin discussions, identify potential stakeholders, generate interest</p> <p><b>11/1/10 – 1/1/11:</b> Hold listening sessions to develop list of issues/topics to address in the demonstration project</p> <p><b>1/1/11 – 2/1/11:</b> Analyze input from listening sessions, develop parameters of demonstration project, determine appropriate roles</p> <p><b>2/1/11 – 9/1/11:</b> Implement demonstration project</p> <p><b>9/1/11 – 9/30/11:</b> Summarize results</p> <p><b>9/30/11:</b> Feedback provided to USDA</p>

**Work Area: Local Foods**

Strategic Outcome	Action Steps	Who is working on it?	Benchmarks
<p>Convene a Western Summit to focus on food systems</p>	<p>Given the limited time to implement this action and the broad nature of food systems, the project will focus on the aspect of organic food systems. Issues to address include how to :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• develop a market for “secondary products”</li> <li>• reconnect urban to rural: farm to city</li> <li>• capitalize on national interest in local foods</li> <li>• provide fresh food to more markets and consumers</li> </ul> <p>Create a partnership between Partners for Rural America, the State Rural Development Councils, and the National Good Food Network to address opportunities and challenges identified from the Intermountain States Summit.</p> <p>Utilize established local food efforts in New Mexico, California and Oregon as pilot areas to test ideas and solutions generated from the Western States Summit</p>	<p>Western States Summit participants</p> <p>State Rural Development Councils</p> <p>State Directors of Agriculture</p> <p>National Good Food Network</p> <p>USDA Rural Development</p> <p>farmers markets</p> <p>organic producers and markets</p> <p>consumer organizations</p>	<p><b>7/26/10:</b> Mary Randolph (WRDC), Kathy Keith (NMRDRC) conference call with Marty Gerencer (National Good Food Network) to explore partnership opportunities</p> <p><b>8/2/10:</b> Marty Gerencer webinar presentation to PRA</p> <p><b>9/1/10:</b> Speaker on organic foods identified for Intermountain States Summit</p> <p><b>10/13/10 – 10/15/10:</b> Intermountain States Summit</p> <p><b>10/15/10 – 10/31/10:</b> Review session notes from Intermountain States Summit, identify tangible ideas and solutions for pilot project</p> <p><b>11/1/10 – 12/31/10:</b> Conference calls, meetings with local food organizations and National Good Food Network to select pilot project areas in New Mexico, California and Oregon</p> <p><b>1/1/11 – 9/1/11:</b> Assist local food pilot projects with Plan implementation</p> <p><b>9/1/11 – 9/30/11:</b> Analyze success of pilot efforts</p>

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<i>Work Area: Rural Economic Development</i>			
Strategic Outcome	Action Steps	Who is working on it?	Benchmarks
Addressing financial issues in rural communities	<p>Leverage partnership networks to increase community understanding of available resources and programs that can aid individuals and businesses both to improve credit and to gain access to capital.</p> <p>Address top challenges facing small businesses and entrepreneurs. Utilize the information gained from the forums to facilitate entrepreneurship development in rural areas.</p> <p>The Federal Reserve Bank in San Francisco will Work with partner entities in Washington, Hawaii, Oregon and Idaho to facilitate forums in each State focusing on the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How to increase lending locally</li> <li>• Providing assistance and resources to help small businesses become credit worthy</li> <li>• Federal programs and assistance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- USDA Rural Development</li> <li>- Small Business Administration</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Craig Nolte, San Francisco Federal Reserve Bank</p> <p>Matt Johnson, Hawaii Rural Development Council</p> <p>Chris Marko and Megan Smith, Oregon Rural Development Council</p> <p>Mike Field, Idaho Rural Partnership</p> <p>community bankers</p> <p>USDA Rural Development</p> <p>Small Business Administration</p>	<p><b>7/1/10 – 12/1/10:</b> Federal Reserve Bank forums in Washington, Oregon, Hawaii and Idaho addressing financial challenges of small businesses and entrepreneurs</p> <p><b>8/11/10:</b> Bonners Ferry Community Review, sponsored by Federal Reserve Bank in partnership with Wyoming Rural Development Council – Mary Randolph to discuss the value of community assessments in determining economic health</p> <p><b>12/1/10 – 2/1/10:</b> Analyze information from Federal Reserve Bank forums on challenges faced by small businesses and entrepreneurs; catalog information on available lending products and technical assistance</p> <p><b>2/1/10 – 3/1/10:</b> Post information on PRA's website</p> <p><b>3/1/10:</b> Send update to Western Summit participants encouraging that they share the information with their partner networks</p> <p><b>3/1/10 – 8/1/10:</b> Develop strategy with Federal Reserve Bank on how State Rural Development Councils can aid entrepreneurial and small business growth</p> <p><b>9/30/11:</b> Provide feedback to USDA</p>