



## Community Connect Awards – Idaho

### 2008 Grant Awards:

**First Step Internet, LLC**

**Ferdinand, Idaho**

**Grant Amount: \$213,053**

**Contact: Kevin Owen, (208) 882-8869**

**County: Idaho; 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District**

First Step Internet, LLC will provide broadband services to Ferdinand, Idaho with Rural Development funds. Ferdinand, a community inside the Nez Perce Indian Reservation, will benefit from a Community Center outfitted with routers, computers and printers available to the public for two years free of charge. The City Hall will also benefit in the same way.

### 2006 Grant Awards:

**Elk River Free Library District**

**Elk River, Idaho**

**Grant Amount: \$162,941**

**Contact: Margaret Patterson, 208-826-3539**

**County: Clearwater**

Rural Development funds will be used to build a wireless broadband system for the residents of Elk River, Idaho. The grant will allow for the community to add an additional room onto the local library to house the computers will free Internet access. Elk River has a Sheriff's Department, Volunteer Fire Department, and a City Hall that will all benefit from the addition of high speed Internet.

### 2005 Grant Awards:

**Direct Communications Star West, Inc.**

**Oxford, ID**

**Grant Amount: \$198,292**

**Contact: Jeremy Smith, 208-548-2345**

**County: Franklin**

The goal of the Oxford Fiber to the Premises broadband project is to provide the basic infrastructure to bring many advanced telecommunications services to the residents of the area in order to improve the quality of their lives and support the long-term viability of the community. Oxford is a very small (population 53) agricultural community. The project will consist of deploying optical fiber from Star West's backbone network to a



United States Department of Agriculture  
Rural Development

point in the town of Oxford and fiber distribution throughout the town via existing and new optical fiber and electronics. FTTP service will be extended to residents, businesses and a community center. The community center will be made available for both scheduled instruction periods and open access, where any resident will have Internet access and email, community bulletin boards, web hosting features, and the capability for future services such as state educational resources, distance learning, and telemedicine.

## **2003 Grant Awards:**

### **BitSmart Corporation**

**Horseshoe Bend, Idaho**

**Grant Amount: \$104,820**

**Contact: John Serra, 208-939-4353**

**County: Boise**

The BitSmart Corporation and the Horseshoe Bend School District have been working cooperatively to provide much needed broadband services to the city government, businesses and residents in the community. Participating in the project in addition to the school district will be the City Council. The project will be a combination of standard copper transmission and microwave distribution. Bandwidth and Internet access will be provided by means of T1 service originating in Boise, Idaho. The City has designated two city-owned water towers as locations for broadcast sites. Improved educational opportunities, connection of essential public services, and improved business development opportunities will all be benefits of this project.

### **First Step Internet, LLC**

**Deary, Idaho**

**Grant Amount: \$137,358**

**Contact: Kevin Owen, 208-882-8869**

**County: Latah**

Deary, Idaho is a small, unincorporated rural community. The community faces an unemployment rate of almost 14 percent. The project will provide the citizens with access to remote learning opportunities, enhanced community building resources for entrepreneurs, and access to businesses, products and markets across the world. The project will improve the facilities and services available to the Sheriff's office and the Dreary Rural Fire District. Improved communication capabilities of both departments will improve the time-use efficiency of both public safety organizations.

### **First Step Internet, LLC**

**Potlatch, Idaho**

**Grant Amount: \$85,966**

**Contact: Kevin Owen, 208-882-8869**



United States Department of Agriculture  
Rural Development

**County: Latah**

Potlatch, Idaho is a small rural community with a population of 791. Schools, library, fire department, sheriff's department, as well as economic development organizations will cooperate and benefit from this project. Development of local jobs is a primary goal of this project.

**2002 Grant Awards:**

**Direct Communications Direct Internet**

**Paris, Idaho**

**Grant Amount: \$137,340 Grant;**

**Contact: Mr. Jeremy Smith: (208) 548-2345**

**County: Bear Lake County**

Direct Communications Direct Internet (Direct Internet), an Internet service provider, proposes to use community-oriented connectivity grant funds to provide wireless broadband telecommunication services to Paris, Idaho. Paris is a small, rural town in southeastern Idaho with a population of 576 residents. Direct Internet will donate a portion of its recently completed business office as a community center equipped with 10 computer workstations. At this center, all residents of the community will have access to high speed internet services. In addition, the proposed system will serve five critical community facilities including the Sheriff's office, the County courthouse, the Bear Lake school system district office and one classroom at Bear Lake Elementary School, and the Paris City Hall and Library. The introduction of broadband telecommunications service to Paris will promote enhanced educational opportunities and business growth in the community.

**The Coeur d'Alene Tribe**

**Plummer, Idaho**

**Grant Amount: \$2,783,581**

**Contact: Valerie Fast Horse (208) 686-5059**

**County: Benewah and Kootenai Counties**

The Coeur d'Alene Tribe (Tribe) is located in rural northern Idaho and includes over 1,800 enrolled tribal members over a 345,000 acre reservation. The Coeur d'Alene Tribe plans to construct and deploy a broadband system that will provide high-speed transmission services to community facilities and local residents within the city of Plummer, Idaho, as well as isolated farms and rural home sites on the Coeur d'Alene Reservation. In addition, the Tribe will construct a state-of-the-art Tribal Community Technology Center (Network Operations Center) in Plummer. The community-oriented connectivity grant and matching funds will be used to purchase and install DS3/Internet, furniture, and towers; construct a NOC; and cover operating costs. This broadband system will improve the quality of life for the Tribe by providing better educational, medical, and social services for residents; enhance the area for economic and job creation



United States Department of Agriculture  
Rural Development

projects; provide for a communication link within the reservation and to the outside world; and provide for better fire and police services to the reservation.

**First Step Internet LLC**

**Boville, Idaho**

**Grant Amount: \$184,835**

**Person: Mike Hall, (208) 882-8869**

**Latah County; Contact;**

First Step Internet, LLC will use RUS grant funds to provide the citizens of Bovill, Idaho, an isolated rural community located in eastern Latah County, with access to remote learning opportunities, enhanced community building resources, affordable access to online testing, economic development opportunities for entrepreneurs, access to the latest utility for businesses across the country, access to products, services, and public information, using high speed services. In addition, the project will increase the facilities and services available to the County Sheriff's office which will increase the time-use efficiency of this public safety organization. The primary technology to be utilized to bring broadband service to Bovill is via unlicensed fixed microwave, both 5.8 GHz and 2.4 GHz. The local distribution of service will be delivered via 2.4 GHz unlicensed fixed microwave. Local connectivity will be accomplished using stand Ethernet networks, Sonicwall firewalls and MS Windows XP technology opportunities.