



BL3 Regional Investment Board  
2001-2003 Multi-Region Investment Fund Projects



Introduction:

**PROCESS FOR SELECTING PROJECTS:**

A call for project proposals was issued via email in mid-April 2001. The deadline for project proposals was May 13, 2002. Fourteen (14) multi-region project applications were received.

On May 16<sup>th</sup>, the Multi-Region Projects Committee of the Regional Investment Board reviewed the proposals. The committee included one RIB member from each county. Project sponsors were asked to be available via phone in order to respond to any questions. The committee developed a list of seven recommended multi-region projects, which were reviewed on May 17<sup>th</sup> by the full RIB. The full RIB is now recommending that list to the Boards of Commissioners for approval.

**CRITERIA FOR SELECTING PROJECTS:**

The criteria and considerations used in reviewing the multi-region projects were consistent with those used for regular Regional and Rural Investment projects. Each project was asked to answer two additional questions, 1- Describe the benefits of the project specific to the BL3 region, and 2-have any other regions committed funds to the project. Each of the projects recommended for funding has been determined to be eligible for funding pursuant to the ORS and to advance at least one of the four goals of the *Regional Investment Strategy*.

In addition, each project was determined to contribute to one or more of the intermediate outcomes identified in the *Strategy*. The State will evaluate the success of the Regional and Rural Investment Programs in Benton, Lane, Lincoln and Linn Counties based on the extent to which the investment of funds affects these outcomes:

- Increase in jobs created or retained
- Increase in funding for infrastructure to support business development
- Number of priority projects in rural communities that move forward (these may be community development as well as economic development priorities)
- Number of people trained who gain employment or improve wages
- Number of people utilizing distance-learning opportunities

In addition to outcomes, the Regional Investment Board considered a number of other factors in selecting projects for funding, including: match and leverage (in-kind and cash), project readiness, distress of the community, severity of problem to be addressed, the extent to which the Regional/Rural Investment Funds fill a funding gap, partnerships and collaborations that support the project, number and wages of jobs created or retained, extent to which the project serves needs of minorities and disadvantaged, and the capacity of the sponsoring organization to undertake the project.

<b>Project Name/ Description</b>	<b>RIB Funds</b>	<b>Project Total</b>	<b>Project Descriptions</b>
<b>Association of Oregon Counties</b> Coordinating Telecommunications Development	\$24,087	\$310,000	Provides staff support for the OTCC (Oregon Telecommunications Coordinating Council). Will deliver technical assistance to small communities.
<b>Cascades West COG</b> ACE-Net	\$3,000	\$7,000	Provides small growing companies throughout Oregon with access to a capital investment network.
<b>Cascades West Financial Services SBA MicroLoan</b>	\$50,000	\$140,000	Provides technical assistance to 100 businesses and a loan loss reserve for the \$800,000 Microloan program working in 14 counties. 35-40 new loans will be funded.
<b>Fiber South Consortium</b> Rural Telecommunications Development	\$35,000	\$1,955,000	Provides fiber connections and necessary startup equipment to connect 3-4 communities into the primary pipeline.
<b>Oregon Economic Development Association</b> Oregon's Franchise Marketing Campaign	\$45,000	\$1,415,000	Provides four campaign areas to promote business recruitment and retention. Four areas are Advertising, Direct mail, Tradeshows, and Media Relations.
<b>Oregon Advanced Technology Consortium / Secondary Wood Products Training System</b> Training for workers in secondary wood products	\$10,000	\$930,000	Provides 30 courses delivered to 500 people in both secondary and primary wood products.

<b>Oregon Coastal Zone Management Association</b> Oregon Coast Demographic & Economic Analysis	\$25,000	\$67,300	Prepare a comprehensive study for an Oregon Coast Economic Adjustment Strategy. This Strategy will be used to leverage grant funding from other sources.
TOTAL	\$192,087	\$5,503,650	



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