

# RURAL TOURISM MARKETING PROGRAM

## Mission Statement and Project Criteria

### MISSION STATEMENT

The Lane County Rural Tourism Marketing Program (RTMP) focuses on the business of selling, packaging, and advertising rural Lane County in a unified, well-planned program. RTMP tourism product development in rural areas will focus on the following objectives and criteria to maximize:

1. Attraction of visitors to rural communities,
2. The length of stay by visitors,
3. County-wide visitation,
4. Return visits to rural Lane County communities.

RTMP projects will define specific and varied activities and products that are widely distributed throughout the County and that will provide incentives and encouragement for visitors to choose Lane County as a leisure travel destination.

### CRITERIA FOR RTMP PROJECTS

RTMP projects will:

1. Increase transient lodging tax revenues countywide, as measured by increasing overall revenues from room tax from visitor stays, and by increasing room tax revenues during the tourism 'shoulder season', in the fall/early spring months.
2. Increase the number of visits and the amount of time spent by visitors in *rural* Lane County by improving the attractiveness of rural communities. The variety of such activities may include: expanded attractions, beautification, and property enhancement projects on public property.
3. Focus general marketing on visitors from surrounding states and "peak season" marketing to attract visitors from Oregon.
4. Continue the development of regional marketing with local, state and private agencies. This includes increased involvement of rural tourism organization in the existing network.
5. Monitor potential targets in western Canada and other international markets, maintaining flexibility for action.
6. Develop, advertise, and package rural Lane County attractions and group tour business that encourage overnight stays and extended visits by:
  - a. Developing group travel opportunities; i.e. recreational vehicle, bicycle, parks, and campground activities, and
  - b. Fostering coordination between Travel Lane County and rural tourism organizations to develop and package group travel tours, particularly as an extension of metro convention gatherings.
  - c. Providing incentives for return visits; i.e. discount on room rate for next year, mail schedule of activities for next year, mail post card with thank you and welcome note.
7. Assist with rural area tourism staffing needs, and provide training on hospitality and service excellence. The objective is to maintain a reputation for excellence in hospitality and service.