



Take Care of Oregon Days
Media Release
April 23, 2009

May Kicks off Oregon's "Take Care of Oregon Days"

Statewide service projects to commemorate Oregon's sesquicentennial

PORTLAND, Ore. — The largest volunteer event in Oregon history, *Take Care of Oregon Days*, will take place throughout the month of May 2009 as part of the state's sesquicentennial celebration.

An anticipated 20,000 volunteers will work on more than 500 projects across the state to clean up and give back to Oregon as part of the state's 150th birthday. *Take Care of Oregon Days* is commissioned by Oregon 150, the gubernatorially-appointed team carrying out the sesquicentennial, and organized in collaboration with SOLV, Oregon Volunteers and Rural Development Initiatives (RDI), all teaming with Oregon cities, counties, non-profit groups, and community organizations to create unique and fun opportunities to get involved.

"Oregon has given us all so much the last 150 years. This is a great opportunity for us to come together and give something back," said Mary Oberst, Oregon's First Lady and Chair of the Board of Oregon 150. "What a great way to commemorate statehood."

There are projects planned in all 36 Oregon counties in May. Volunteers can sign up directly by visiting the Oregon 150 website (www.oregon150.org) where a comprehensive list of all *Take Care of Oregon Days* projects can be found. Projects range from Harney County's Pajama Drive for children in foster care to the University of Oregon's "University Day" campus-wide beautification event.

Take Care of Oregon Days is one of six signature projects being carried out in 2009 by Oregon 150. In addition, communities across the state are planning events and programs to commemorate this year's sesquicentennial.

Oregon 150 wishes to thank the following sponsors of the *Take Care of Oregon Days* project:

Spirit Mountain Community Fund
Maybelle Clark Macdonald Fund
Standard Insurance
PGE Foundation
CH2M HILL
Oregon Association of Realtors
and
Hotel deLuxe & Hotel Lucia

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Oregon 150 is the non-profit organization whose volunteer board of directors was appointed by the Governor to plan this year's nine-month sesquicentennial celebration. The organization receives no General Fund dollars and has been dependent on private fundraising for its signature programs and activities after receiving support from the Governor and Legislature in the 2005 and 2007 biennium in the form of Lottery dollars. These funds were used to help build the organization and cover early operating expenses.

Oregon 150's Visionaries Circle sponsors include Phil and Penny Knight, the Spirit Mountain Community Fund, Hotel deLuxe/Hotel Lucia, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, PGE, and NW Natural. For a full list of Oregon 150 sponsors, please visit the sponsor page of the website at www.oregon150.org/donate/sponsors/.

In addition, an online store was launched February 14, 2009 at www.oregon150.org to sell sesquicentennial merchandise to support its efforts.

Oregon 150 now has more than 100 Official Partners across the state that have planned sesquicentennial activities. Recent additions include Baker County, Salem's Multicultural Institute, and the Illinois Valley Community Development Organization.

About SOLV: Founded in 1969 by Governor Tom McCall and other community leaders, SOLV's mission is to build community through volunteer action to preserve this treasure called Oregon. To accomplish its mission, SOLV has implemented a dozen volunteer programs, such as the annual Great Oregon Spring and Fall Beach Cleanups, SOLV IT, and Down By The Riverside, as well as on-going programs that include Project Oregon, Oregon Adopt-A-River and Team Up for Watershed Health. These programs have enabled SOLV to establish the largest volunteer workforce in the state. Additional programs include SOLV's Volunteer Action Training and K-12 service learning. In 2006, the organization created and filled more than 76,000 volunteer opportunities that directly improved the quality of life for residents throughout Oregon. From distressed rural communities to inner cities and our magnificent natural landscape, SOLV's programs bring Oregonians together to address local community issues and develop sustainable solutions.

About Oregon Volunteers: Oregon Volunteers! Commission for Voluntary Action & Service (OV) was created in 1994 by Governor Barbara Roberts to provide Oregonians with a statewide entity that would focus service and volunteer efforts, enhance the ethic of volunteerism in the state, and provide funds for state-based AmeriCorps programs. OV is one of 52 national and community service commissions operating in the United States, its Districts, and territories.

About Rural Development Initiatives (RDI): Rural Development Initiatives, Inc., was established in 1992 as an independent, nonprofit sequel to the Oregon Department of Economic Development's "Community Initiatives" program. RDI's earliest mission was to assist rural communities affected by the downtrend in Oregon's traditional logging, fishing, and mining economies. Today, RDI is a leader in rural community capacity building and is the foremost social capital broker for people in rural communities in the Northwest.