


How RDI Supports Stewardship Economy Work

April, 2026

RDI  **strengthens rural
people, places, & economies
in the Pacific Northwest.**

www.rdiinc.org



RDI

**Empowering Rural
Leaders**

**Revitalizing Rural
Economies**

Elevate Rural Voices

**Connecting Rural
with Resources**

Our Values & Approach



**Build Multiple
Forms of Wealth**



**Place-based
Approach / Local
Ownership**

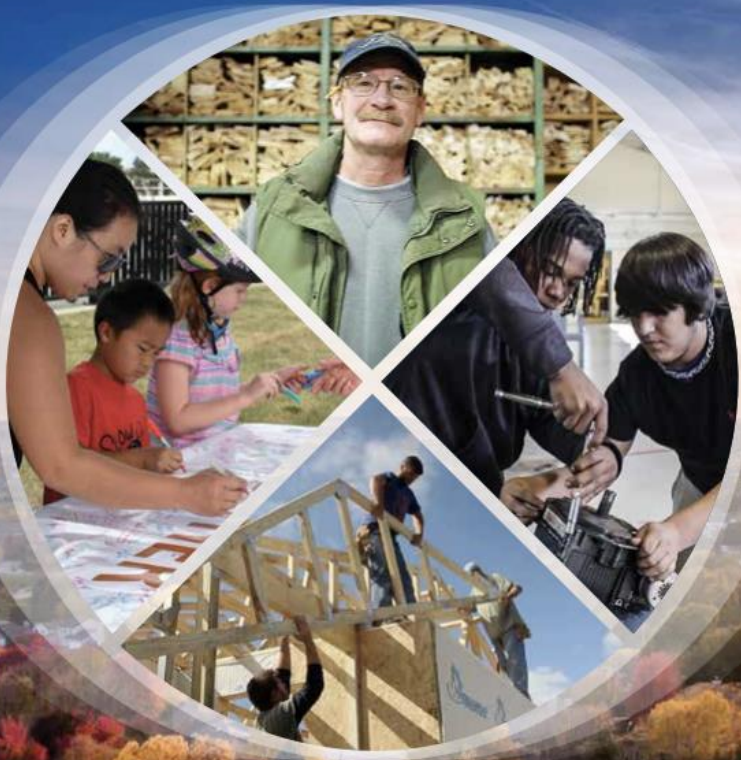


**Improve
Livelihoods for
All**

- Community Led & Empowers Local Action
- Asset based & Values Local Resources
- Increases Local Ownership and Control
- Building Economies that Work for Everyone


RURAL DEVELOPMENT HUBS

Strengthening America's
Rural Innovation Infrastructure



“Intermediaries provide an array of services [...] while simultaneously providing eyes, ears and boots on the ground that can inform state and federal agencies, foundations and others — and knit them into the action.”

Community 
Strategies Group

 THE ASPEN INSTITUTE

Our Core Strengths

- **Community Engagement**
- **Facilitation**
- **Capacity Building**
- **Moving to Action**
- **Connecting with Resources**
- ~~**Sector Expertise**~~



OPORTUNIDADES EN EL BOSQUE (OPPORTUNITIES IN THE WOODS)

**Explorando las Oportunidades para
Negocios en la Industria Forestal**

**(Exploring Business Opportunities in the
Forestry Industry)**

RDI's Wealth Building Programs in Spanish



- Financial Literacy & Small Business Development (2012)
- Starting a Food Business (2020)
- Starting a Childcare Business (2022)
- Investment Training (2023)
- Oportunidades en el Bosque (2024)
- Business Technology Trainings (2025)

Need for Greater Capacity



Plantación de árboles



Reducción de combustibles



Supresión de incendios
forestales

En colaboración con RDI, OSU, y Lomakatsi



LOMAKATSI
RESTORATION PROJECT



Oregon State University
Extension Service

Oportunidades en el Bosque

(Opportunities in the Woods in English) is a culturally responsive business and workforce development training for Latino forest workers and their communities in the Pacific Northwest. This course's goal is to support a diversity of entrepreneurs and increase equity in the forest economy.

The entrepreneurial activity this project aims to create would not only bring economic opportunity to underserved Latinx communities, but also contribute to long-term forest health and reduction of wildfire risk.



Foto: Carl Wilmsen

Training Description



Piloted in Phoenix in November 2024



2nd Delivery in Phoenix in February 2026

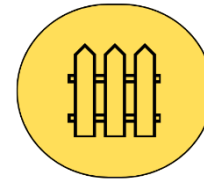
4 sessions (20 hours) of instruction in forestry business topics:

- Oregon's Forestry Industry
- Preparing Your Business for Success
- Working with Clients and Employees
- Opportunities to Grow and Expand Your Business

The Opportunities



Forestry Services



**Fence and Trail
Maintenance**



**Home Hardening and
Defensible Space**



Wildfire Work



**Urban Forestry and
Arborist Work**



Prescribed Fire

Experiential Workshops

- Prescribed Fire
- Urban Forestry
- Chainsaw Safety
- Timber Stand Improvement
- Agro-forestry
- Biochar



Foto: Carl Wilmsen

Oportunidades en el Bosque

Wrap Around Business Services

Financial Support

Stipends for participants

Food & childcare provided at sessions

Technical Assistance

One on one technical assistance and connections to other services providers

Networking Opportunities

Guest presenters share their work and explain how they can support participants

Peer learning approach

Access to Capital

Support with Kiva or other types of loans



In Summary

- Understand the Community
- Identify Demand/the Opportunity
- Work in Partnership
- Pilot and Refine Program
- Provide Wrap-Around Support
- Keep Values Front and Center



Thank You!

Be extraordinary. Take responsibility.

Honor yourself and others.

Be authentic. Embrace change.

Create and explore. Be influential.

Care and collaborate.



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