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GROUPS ANNOUNCE THE RELEASE OF THE
CHILOQUIN AREA ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY STUDY

July 17th, 2008 (Chiloquin, OR) – Chiloquin Visions in Progress (CVIP) and the Chiloquin Area Economic Development Council (CAEDC) will host a town hall on the release of the Chiloquin Area Economic Opportunity Study on Thursday, July 24, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. at the Chiloquin Community Center (140 South 1st Street in Chiloquin).

“The study is a broad assessment of the Chiloquin Area business environment,” said Brett Fisher, Executive Director of Chiloquin Visions in Progress. Fisher added, “The study helps us identify opportunities for various types of businesses in our area and looks at the viability of the community’s economic development initiatives.”

The study focuses on the region of central Klamath County where residents might consider Chiloquin as either their primary or secondary service area for the purchase of basic services and products. The study includes the results of 2200 surveys sent to residents in the Sprague River, Chiloquin, and Fort Klamath zip codes and indicates the priority for goods and services in the Chiloquin area. In order, these are a bank, food service (such as a restaurant, coffee shop, or fast food), a full service grocery store, and a pharmacy.

“We had a 14% response rate,” said Chuck Wells, President of the CAEDC. “That’s amazing when you figure most of these kinds of surveys are lucky to get 2 or 3% response rates.”

The study was prepared with the assistance of Public Affairs Research Consultants (PARC). The study was funded in part from the Oregon State Lottery through the Regional Investment Fund program administered by the State of Oregon, Economic and Community Development Department, a grant from the US Department of Agriculture Rural Community Development Initiative, and a grant from the Ford Institute for Community Building of The Ford Family Foundation.

At the town hall, a summary of the results of the study will be presented and representatives from CVIP and CAEDC will be available to discuss their economic development projects.

The Chiloquin groups say they listened to the community and have been hard at work since the survey. In addition to completing the Economic Study, they have written a business plan for a downtown business incubator as part of their downtown Chiloquin revitalization initiative, received a grant for \$190,000 from the JELD-WEN Foundation for purchase of downtown property for the business incubator, and are in discussions with South Valley Bank & Trust who may open a branch in Chiloquin in 2009 as an anchor of the business incubator.