

South Deschutes County Conducts Workforce Development Study



The Sunriver/La Pine Economic Development (SLED) Program conducted a workforce development study to formulate a strategy for business development taking into account labor supply and demand to determine the types of businesses to attract to the community. Understanding the local labor force is critical for effective economic and workforce development. The basic pillars of economic development (retention, expansion, and recruitment) all depend on a local workforce that has the skills that businesses need to grow.

Rural communities must be more intentional when developing their economic development strategies,

focusing recruitment efforts toward businesses that best match the skills of the local workforce. It is important for workforce development efforts to be tuned into the needs of the key businesses within the community to ensure that education and training programs are in place that can provide a reliable supply of workers. Based on the results of the study, SLED will be working to align resources to advance growth in the brewing/distilling, specialty food products, building products, outdoor products and advanced manufacturing sectors. With continued population growth and a focus on strengthening these sectors, South Deschutes County is well positioned for economic growth in 2023.

Loan Fund Available to Assist Businesses in South Deschutes County from <u>Midstate Electric Cooperative (MEC)</u>

MEC plays an active role in the development of our rural communities. Through the creation of a revolving loan fund (RLF), MEC is seeking to improve the quality of life in rural areas by helping to leverage projects that:

> 1. Create and retain job opportunities for rural residents.



- 2. Provide technical assistance, education, or medical care to rural businesses or rural residents.
- 3. Further the use of advanced telecommunications services and computer networks for medical, educational and job training services.
- 4. Upgrade the public infrastructure to improve the economic development potential of rural areas and the health, safety, and medical care of rural residents.

MEC's RLF proceeds may be used for land, building, machinery/equipment, or working capital needs. Loans are available from \$25,000 to \$360,000. If interested in applying, please contact Patricia Lucas, CEcD - Executive Director of SLED at <u>sledexecutivedirector@gmail.com</u>.

La Pine Featured on Realtor.com List of 14 Affordable Ski Towns in the U.S.



The data team at <u>Realtor.com</u> found lesser known communities <u>where ski</u> <u>slopes and amenities abound, and</u> <u>home prices are still reasonable</u> when compared to neighboring communities, and La Pine ranks 10th on the list.

Finding a proper ski town means looking for three key factors.

First, a combination of snow and terrain. That part alone narrows the geography to a few regions of the U.S.

Second, access to the mountains. La Pine is a short drive to both Mt. Bachelor and Willamette Pass Resort.

Third, the community. You want to look for a town that's got a great, built-in community where most people are skiers or snowboarders.

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What's Happening in South Deschutes County

<u>Wetlands Taphouse</u>, a venue that brings amazing food, music and ambiance for all ages, has opened in La Pine. There are four food trucks offering menu items ranging from chicken, to fish, to barbeque, to pizza. The taphouse offers beer, wine, spirits, and cider.



New Mexican Restaurant, Andale Andale, is set to open in La Pine in early 2023. Andale Andale will be a different style of Mexican cuisine, offering a mix of authentic traditional recipes with new ones that incorporate the freshest ingredients possible.

<u>Postal Connections</u> has opened in Sunriver, offering 40 business services and products.

Central Oregon is a leader in manufacturing jobs in *Cascade Business News*.

The SLED Annual Luncheon is scheduled for April 11th at Sunriver Resort. Dr. Laurie Chesley, President of Central Oregon Community College will be the keynote speaker. Details will be provided in February!







Available Industrial and Commercial Property in Sunriver/La Pine

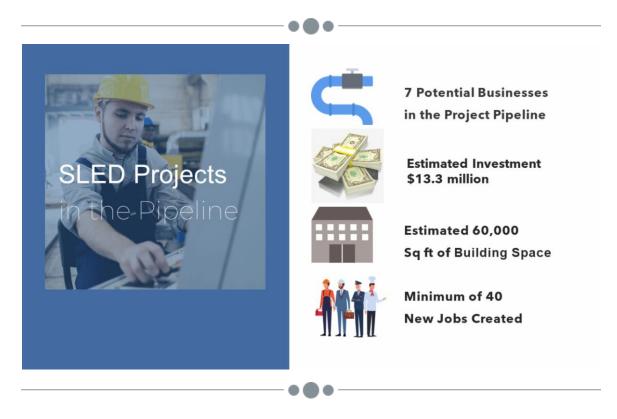
La Pine Industrial Park La Pine 984 sq ft commercial La Pine-contact Dave at 541.948.4349 3,200 sq ft commercial La Pine 2,200 sq ft commercial La Pine 2,102 sq ft commercial La Pine <u>4,890 sq ft industrial</u> La Pine 8.93 acres commercial property La Pine 7.72 acres of commercial property La Pine <u>4.7 acres commercial property</u> La Pine .98 acres commercial property La Pine .98 acres commercial property La Pine 8.4 acres industrial property La Pine 20 acres industrial La Pine The Village at Sunriver commercial 1,500 sq ft Sunriver 1,900 and 3,400 sq ft commercial in Sunriver-contact Bob at 253.223.9178

Permitting Activity in South Deschutes County

Deschutes County issued 24 building permits in La Pine for the 4th quarter of 2022. Of those, one was for a single-family dwelling, one was for a new commercial building, and one was for a commercial building alteration.



During the same period, in the rest of South Deschutes County, 541 building permits were issued. Of those, 33 were for single-family dwellings, 11 were for new commercial buildings, and five were for commercial building alterations.



Funding for the SLED program comes from both public and private members and stakeholders. The City of La Pine and Deschutes County are key partners and contributors, as well as private businesses from around the County and Central Oregon that wish to support a stronger and more vibrant economy in South Deschutes County.
Over the past eight years, SLED has assisted 13 new and existing businesses with capital investments of more than \$11.8 million, resulting in the creation of 141 jobs.

Thank You SLED Investors!















For more information on membership please contact:

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