



NEWS RELEASE

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ACTING ALASKA STATE DIRECTOR ANNOUNCES PROMOTION OF MISTY HULL AND TASHA DEARDORFF TO LOAN SPECIALIST POSITIONS

Contact: Chad Padgett: (907) 761-7705

PALMER, Alaska, July 2, 2008 - Chad Padgett, acting Alaska state director for USDA Rural Development announced today that Misty Hull and Tasha Deardorff have been promoted by the Agency to program specialist positions. They will be responsible for underwriting loans made through Rural Development's Community Facilities (CF) and Water and Environmental (WEP) programs. Hull and Deardorff both formerly served as technicians for USDA Rural Development. Ms. Deardorff was promoted to loan specialist in the housing department prior to accepting the position of loan specialist in community programs. Misty and Tasha continue to serve rural Alaska from the Palmer State Office.

"Misty Hull and Tasha Deardorff have been with our agency for a number of years and during that time they have accepted increasing levels of responsibility. At USDA we are pleased by their service to our clients and the community. They will do a great job with our community facilities and water loan programs," Padgett said.

Ms. Hull began working for USDA in 2002. She and her husband reside in Palmer. Ms. Deardorff started with the Agency as an intern in 2003 and later became a technician and then a loan specialist. She and her husband live in Palmer.

In 2007, USDA Rural Development invested almost \$176 million in Alaska through its loan and grant programs. That includes over \$6 million in Community Facilities activity and almost \$93 million in utilities program activity, including funding for water and sewer projects across the State.

USDA Rural Development has its state office in Palmer with area offices in Sitka, Kenai, Fairbanks, Dillingham, Bethel and Nome. Further information on rural programs is available at any of these USDA Rural Development offices or by visiting the web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ak/>

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