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Obama Administration Names Wallace Hedrick to Serve as State Director for Rural Development in Idaho

WASHINGTON, June 30, 2009 - The Obama Administration today announced that Wallace Hedrick will serve as Idaho State Director for Rural Development at the USDA.

"Wallace Hedrick will be an important advocate on behalf of rural communities throughout the state and help administer the valuable programs and services provided by the USDA that can enhance their economic success," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack.

Hedrick most recently was the General Manager for Esco Supply and established retail stores across six western states. He started a natural resource marketing and management firm, Resources Northwest, Inc., that successfully coordinated with government and private organizations on issues of economic development. Hedrick served as the first Executive Director of the Idaho Lottery and launched it into a profitable organization. He is a third generation resident of rural Idaho and holds leadership roles on education boards in his community. Hedrick received a B.S. in resource management from the University of Nevada-Reno, and has a master's degree in marketing and management from the University of Northern Colorado.

USDA's Rural Development administers and manages over 40 housing, business, and community infrastructure and facility programs as laid out by Congress through a network of 6,100 employees located in 500 national, state and local offices. These programs are designed to improve the economic stability of rural communities, businesses, residents, farmers and ranchers and improve the quality of life in rural America. Rural Development has an existing portfolio of over \$114 billion in loans and loan guarantees.

The USDA provides leadership on food, agriculture and natural resources and touches the life of every American. Reflecting President Obama's commitment to expanding economic opportunities in rural America, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and the USDA are working to enhance availability of broadband, promote the development of renewable energy, to conserve, maintain and improve our natural resources and environment, and promote a sustainable, safe, sufficient and nutritious food supply.

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