



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## **USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT SELECTS RANDALL BAIRD AS NEW AREA DIRECTOR FOR SOUTHEAST WASHINGTON**

**Yakima, September 26, 2003**—USDA Rural Development is pleased to announce the selection of Randall Baird as the new Area Director for the southeast region of Washington State. Beginning October 6<sup>th</sup>, Baird will oversee the loan processing and servicing operations for all programs for the area.

Mr. Baird has been employed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for the past 17 years. He began working for Farmers Home Administration and later for the successor organization, Rural Development. For the past eight years, he has worked as the Senior Loan Specialist for business and cooperative development programs for Washington State. Baird received a Bachelor's Degree in Agricultural Business Management from Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. As a venture capital entity, Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>. ###