



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## **USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT SELECTS TUANA L. JONES AS NEW AREA DIRECTOR FOR NORTHWEST WASHINGTON**

**Olympia, September 26, 2003**—USDA Rural Development is pleased to announce the selection of Tuana L. Jones as the new Area Director for the northwest region of Washington State. Effective September 22, Jones began administering operations from the Mount Vernon Area Office. She will oversee the loan processing and servicing activities for all programs in the region.

Ms. Jones has been employed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for the past 24 years. She began working for Farmers Home Administration and later for the successor organization, Rural Development. During her tenure with USDA she has worked in many capacities in both Idaho and Washington. For nearly five years she was the Assistant Program Director for the business and utility programs in the state office. Most recently she has served as the state's Public Affairs Specialist. She has also served on the board of directors for many organizations such as the National Association of Credit Specialists, Infrastructure Assistance Coordinating Council, YWCA, and Kitsap County Human Rights Council. Tuana, her husband, Jay and their three sons have been making their home in Shelton for the past six years and are in the process of relocating north.

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>. ###