

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Robin Ponsness 267-0352  
Boundary Economic Development Council

### **Boundary County Continues to Grow**

With over \$1.6 million invested in community and economic development projects in Boundary County during 2004 and \$1.5 million projected for 2005, we may soon begin to see the rewards of investing in ourselves. Since 2001 the Boundary Economic Development Council (BEDC) has been working with public and private entities to make Boundary County a better place to do business, raising the funds to make improvements to transportation, pedestrian safety, and business corridors.

The economy is beginning to pick up nationally and according to regional labor analyst, Kathryn Tacke, 2004 was a year of growth for Boundary County. Boundary County's labor force grew 2.9% between 2003 and 2004. Between the first half of 2003 and the first half of 2004, Boundary County added 131 nonfarm payroll jobs, making it the second fastest percentage growth in payroll jobs of the five counties in the Idaho Panhandle.

In Boundary County, total payroll of jobs covered by unemployment insurance grew 7.5% from \$41.7 million to \$44.3 million between the first half of 2003 and the first half of 2004. Construction and Logging added the most number of jobs out of all the sectors, followed by retail, educational and health services and professional and business services. "The BEDC is pleased to see the economy picking up and we know there is still a lot of work to do," said Robin Ponsness, Economic Development Professional. "With continued funding from the state to help run our program, we intend to keep working on implementing our strategic plan for economic and community development."

Anyone looking for information or assistance with a new business start-up or expansion should contact Robin Ponsness at 208-267-0352.