

brownfields



EPA-560-F-08-305
October 2008

at-a-glance

COASTAL RANGE FOOD BANK

Coastal Range Food Bank, Inc., OR
Cleanup Grant

Former Post Office in Blodgett Delivering Hope to Local Residents

ADDRESS:	11663 Nashville Road, Blodgett, OR 97326
PROPERTY SIZE:	0.54 acres
FORMER USES:	Nashville Store, Gas Station, and Post Office
CURRENT USE:	Food Bank Operations Center and Thrift Store
EPA GRANT RECIPIENT:	PROJECT PARTNERS:
Coastal Range Food Bank, Inc. received a \$100,000 EPA Brownfields Cleanup grant in 2004.	Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ); Oregon Economic and Community Development Department; Green and White Rock Products, Inc.



For additional data and geographic information for this and other Brownfields Grants, please visit EPA's:
Envirofacts - www.epa.gov/enviro/html/bms/bms_query.html
Enviromapper - www.epa.gov/enviro/bf

PROJECT BACKGROUND:

The 0.54 acre property once housed an old-time general store that sold meat, milk, bread and other staples, and served as the local gathering place for children to purchase ice cream. Located in a logging community, the store offered oil, chainsaw chains, spark plugs and other necessities to loggers. The store had an outside island with two gasoline pumps and an outbuilding for dairy production. It also maintained a separate room for use as a US Post Office. The property was abandoned following foreclosure in the 1970s and remained abandoned for more than 23 years. In 2004, Coastal Range Food Bank, Inc. received a \$100,000 EPA Brownfields Cleanup grant for the property. Coastal Range Food Bank, Inc. used its Brownfields grant to remove two substandard underground storage tanks and associated piping, excavate approximately 100 tons of petroleum-contaminated soil, and install ground water monitoring wells. This cleanup allowed Coastal Range Food Bank, Inc. to convert the site into a food bank and thrift store in order to serve the sparsely populated nearby forest communities, which experience a disproportionately high poverty rate.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Created a plan to redevelop the general store and gas station into a food bank and thrift store.
- Removed 100 tons of petroleum-contaminated soil; removed two underground storage tanks and piping; and installed ground water monitoring wells.
- Leveraged nearly \$25,000 toward cleanup and redevelopment efforts.
- Provided a needed food and clothing service to the surrounding community.

OUTCOME:

This former brownfields site has new life as the Coastal Range Food Bank which, unlike most food banks that distribute only boxed food allotments, provides the same services as a regular market and serves more than 400 people monthly. Shelves are stocked with food, and clients are able to browse the aisles with shopping carts to choose the items that best suit their needs. Clothing for babies, children, men and women is available in the Unique Boutique Thrift Store and there is no charge for any of the food or clothing offered. The grantee leveraged nearly \$25,000 for cleanup and redevelopment from the state of Oregon and local business, and provides a much needed service to the surrounding logging community. As a result of public meetings held to fulfill the EPA Brownfields grant requirement, the community began a positive dialogue with the Toledo, Oregon Fire Chief toward the development of a local volunteer fire department on a portion of the unused land. In addition to community safety, the presence of a local fire department will make prospective homebuyers eligible for homeowners' insurance, allowing them to finance the purchase of a home. This will provide a potential boost to the local economy, as well as attract and retain younger residents to the area who often cannot finance the purchase of a home independently.



The Coastal Range Food Bank, open for business.