



Building and Protecting Rural Communities

Oakridge EDA Grant



What is the problem and why is it important?

Oakridge Airport

- Failing runway
- Wildfire operations
- Consequences of closure



How did we get here?

Oakridge Airport

- Not eligible for federal funds
- Not enough revenue



The money problem

Funding

- EDA Grant
 - Designed to assist communities to devise and implement long-term economic development.
- The budget
 - Grant request: \$5 million
 - Cost share: \$1.25 million
 - Total project cost: \$6.25 million



Benefits to the community

Impacts to Oregon

- What will it enable?
 - Public safety
 - Continued use as a fire base.
 - Autonomous fire detection and mitigation. (NASA involvement pending a Space Act Agreement)
 - Greater situational awareness and deconfliction for traditional aviation firefighting.
 - Economic development
 - Potential cargo delivery
 - Create local jobs and opportunities to collaborate with schools.



Who supports it?

Broad based support

- Congresswomen Hoyle and Salinas
- Gov. Kotek, Rep. Conrad, Rep. Cate
- USDA Forest Service
- Eugene Airport and Port of Portland
- City of Oakridge, Oakridge School District, incoming Mayor of Oakridge, Fire Safe Council
- ODEM, ODF, OSFM, OSP
- Overwatch Aero, Erickson Aero Tanker, AUVSI
- More coming...



THANK YOU!

QUESTIONS?