

Press Release: December 8, 2008

### **WRDF Reaches \$2 Million Lending Mark during 5 Year Anniversary**

The Wind River Development Fund reached the \$2 million lending mark in November. In September we celebrated our five-year anniversary. Since opening in 2003, nearly 40 small businesses on or near the Wind River Indian Reservation have received these funds in the form of 57 business loans. Of these business loans, there have been 18 microloans (\$5,000 or less) and 39 small business loans (\$5,000 or more) made to start-up or expanding small businesses. These loans have resulted in 31 new businesses created and 26 existing businesses assisted. The Wind River Development Fund loan fund's default rate remains at an extremely low 0.1%.

The \$2 million we have invested into the community has been made possible through a variety of partners including the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho Business Councils, U.S. Department of Treasury, First Nations Oweesta Corporation, USDA Rural Development, Wells Fargo, the Wyoming Business Council and many others.

Over the last five years we have provided business development services and trainings to over 1,000 people. The businesses we have worked with have created or retained more than 225 jobs.

In early 2009, we will be starting the next Strengthening and Growing Entrepreneurs (SAGE) Business Planning Course. It is a 10-week course designed for entrepreneurs to help them determine if their business idea is feasible. The course is very comprehensive and covers topics such as marketing, financials, cash flow, business loans, products and services, and much more.

A big thank you to all the aspiring entrepreneurs and business owners on the Reservation – it is their hard work and success that has created our success!

If you are interested in a loan or business development assistance for your small business, please contact the Wind River Development Fund at (307) 335-7330, or visit us on the web at [www.wrdf.org](http://www.wrdf.org).

We wish everyone a happy and prosperous new year!