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## PRESS RELEASE

### Blackfoot Gives Back Over \$1 Million to Customers in Western Montana

**April 15, 2008 Missoula, Mont** - Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative recently returned more than \$1 million to their Cooperative owner members as part of their 2007 distribution of Capital Credit checks. Capital Credits are ownership accounts created by allocating the difference between Blackfoot's operating costs and revenue to members. Because Blackfoot is a non-profit Cooperative, it returns revenues left over after expenses to customers who buy services from the company as members.

"We are proud to once again increase the return of distributions to our owners" said Joan Mandeville, Blackfoot CEO. "When our members spend money on our services, they build an investment in their Cooperative. The longer they are with the Cooperative and the more they purchase, the more money is paid to them each year. Communities like St. Ignatius that have been served by the Cooperative for years have a very substantial financial return this month. New members like Thompson Falls were immediately vested when they joined in 2003 but are still building their equity. Capital Credits are a great way to recognize members' investment in Blackfoot and a great way for Blackfoot to say thank you for their loyalty."

Last Friday, Blackfoot mailed more than 19,500 checks to its members in 22 communities. The average Cooperative member will see a 3% increase in Capital Credit distributions over last year which resulted in a combined total of \$1,071,087 for 2007. Blackfoot seeks to provide members with the highest quality service at the most affordable rates. Each member builds an ownership interest by purchasing services from Blackfoot, and each year the Cooperative returns part of this investment back to each member based on how much they've purchased from their Cooperative.

All 22 of Blackfoot's Cooperative communities will receive the following distributions for 2007:

Alberton (\$15,951.33), Alberton South(\$11,243.10), Alta (\$9,659.22), Arlee (\$104,716.15), Avon (\$30,024.60), Charlo (\$83,204.23), Clinton (\$75,547.96), Condon (\$64,403.11), Dixon (\$15,574.17), Drummond (\$18,858.48), Haugan (\$5,413.63), Noxon (\$32,311.19), Ovando (\$45,067.53), Philipsburg (\$31,973.05), Plains (\$55,824.83), Potomac (\$54,625.02), Powell (ID) (\$6,754.60), St. Ignatius (\$137,890.86), St. Regis (\$9,863.06), Seeley Lake (\$110,455.62), Superior (\$37,654.00), and Thompson Falls (\$85,902.43).

Mandeville noted: "We believe these amounts make a real impact on our local communities. Especially in these turbulent financial times, it is important to come through for our members".

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#### About Blackfoot Telecommunications Group

Named after the Blackfoot River running through much of the territory it serves, the Blackfoot (Blackfoot) Telecommunications Group was originally established in 1954 as Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative. Blackfoot offers state-of-the-art

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telecommunications, Internet and data solutions to customers in Missoula and throughout Montana and Idaho. Headquartered in Missoula, Montana, Blackfoot employs more than 165 Montanans. Blackfoot can be reached at 406-541-5000 or through its web site at <http://www.blackfoot.com>.