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## PRESS RELEASE

### Blackfoot Places Installation and Repair Technicians in Rural Communities

**March 29, 2002 Missoula, Mont** – Blackfoot Telephone has recently transferred four Blackfoot employees from the OSP Construction Crew to become Installation and Repair Technicians in the rural areas. Blackfoot felt there was a need to have a quicker response to our customers needs and increase the ability to handle the always-increasing work volumes. The following employees will live in and work out of their assigned communities and be available to the surrounding exchanges as well.

Jeff Baker - St Ignatius (Cover St Ignatius, Arlee, Charlo, and Dixon)  
Mitch Griffin - Seeley Lake (Cover Seeley Lake, Ovando, and Condon)  
Dave Bigart - Missoula (Cover Potomac, Clinton, Alta and Powell)  
Steve Cik - Plains (Cover Plains, Paradise, Superior, and St Regis)

These individuals will be part of the OSP Service Department, reporting to Ken Lanzel, the OSP Service Manager. The Installation and Repair Technician's job duties include installation of new services, such as Plain Old Telephone Service (POTS) lines and Digital Subscriber Lines (DSL), repair or proactive maintenance of existing services and plant. They will also assist the construction and splicing crews when they are working in the local areas. This will help Blackfoot transition customers to new fiber optics, copper plant, and digital subscriber carriers once new facilities are placed.

Bringing these technicians to the rural communities allows Blackfoot Telephone to reduce customer response time by not having to send them from Missoula and by decreasing the work volume per technician. This is to improve the level of service Blackfoot provides to these areas.

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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 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>.

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