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PRESS RELEASE

Doris Stinson Retires from Blackfoot Board of Trustees after 20 Years of Service

January 15, 2009 Missoula, Mont - After faithfully serving the Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative (Blackfoot) as Trustee of District 2 representing Alta, Avon, Drummond, and Ovando for more than 20 years, Doris Stinson of Elliston retired from the Board of Trustees effective December 29, 2008. Stinson played an integral role in guiding Blackfoot through many changes over her two-decade tenure, including such milestones as positioning Blackfoot in their role as the first rural Montana company to introduce an all VoIP telephone and broadband network in Montana, implementation of equal access to all long-distance carriers, complete conversion to digital switching, as well as the acquisition of telephone service areas from both Continental Telephone and US West.

"I have seen a lot of growth and technology advancement in the last twenty years at Blackfoot. It has been a pleasure representing the members in District 2 and I will miss the many people I have met on my journey," commented Stinson.

On January 8, 2009, the Blackfoot Board of Trustees voted to reorganize District 2 to include Drummond and Philipsburg. "The vacancy position for District 2 has created a unique opportunity for Blackfoot to better serve its members in Granite County. Effective immediately, the new Trustee of District 2 will represent Drummond, Philipsburg, Hall, Maxville, and the Rock Creek drainage," noted Bill Squires, Senior Vice President-General Counsel. If you are interested in being considered to fill the unexpired term as District 2 Trustee, please send a letter of interest to: Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative, Attn: Board of Trustees, 1221 North Russell, Missoula, MT 59808. All applications to fill the vacant trustee position must be received by January 27, 2009.

On behalf of the Members, Board of Trustees, and Staff, we wish Doris every continued success, and sincerely thank her for her unfaltering service to Blackfoot and its ideals.

About Blackfoot Telecommunications Group

Named after the Blackfoot River running through much of the territory it serves, the Blackfoot Telecommunications Group(Blackfoot) 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 150 Montanans. Blackfoot can be reached at 406-541-5000 or through its web site at <http://www.blackfoot.com>.

2009 Blackfoot Board of Trustee Representation and Districts

District 1: Cindy Lewis - Condon and Seeley Lake
District 2: Vacancy - Drummond, Phillipsburg, Hall, Maxville and the Rock Creek drainage
District 3: Les Iverson - Potomac, Ovando, Avon and Elliston
District 4: Jim Newberg - Arlee and Dixon
District 5: Stuart Morton - St. Ignatius
District 6: Bill Teague - Alberton, Clinton and Powell, ID
District 7: Jim Blush - Charlo and Plains
District 8: Tom Eggensperger - Noxon and Thompson Falls
District 9: Geof Wilson - Haugan, St. Regis and Superior

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE