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PRESS RELEASE

Blackfoot Welcomes New District 2 Trustee, Butch Friede

February 10, 2009 Missoula, Mont – Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative (Blackfoot) announced that Butch Friede, Hall resident and ranch foreman at Johnson Tuning Fork Ranch, was appointed to Blackfoot's Board of Trustees at their meeting last week. Friede will be representing Blackfoot customers that reside in Drummond, Philipsburg, Hall, Maxville, and the Rock Creek drainage area.

"Butch will be a great addition to the board given his volunteer service in Granite County with the Valley Fire District, Drummond Kiwanis, Granite County Land Use Committee, Drummond PRCA Rodeo, just to name a few. We rely on our Trustees to represent the communities they serve, and we can't think of a better person to do the job," says Joan Mandeville, CEO of Blackfoot.

Prior to his appointment, Friede served on the Clark Fork Telecommunications board as well as the Blackfoot Communications board. With over 15 years board experience in the technology sector and a lifetime of civic service, Friede will continue his service on Blackfoot's Board of Trustees until the Cooperative's Annual Meeting in May, when this and two other board seats will be up for election.

"Blackfoot is a great company, doing great things for Western Montana. I am proud to be involved, and honored to represent my neighbors living in Granite County," said Butch Friede, who has been living in Hall, with his wife Judy, for over 27 years.

Blackfoot would also like to thank the talented people of District 2 who submitted their names as candidates. "There was a very qualified group of applicants who applied for this position and we hope to tap into their talents in other ways," says Mandeville.

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>.

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