

## Blue Mountain Translator District

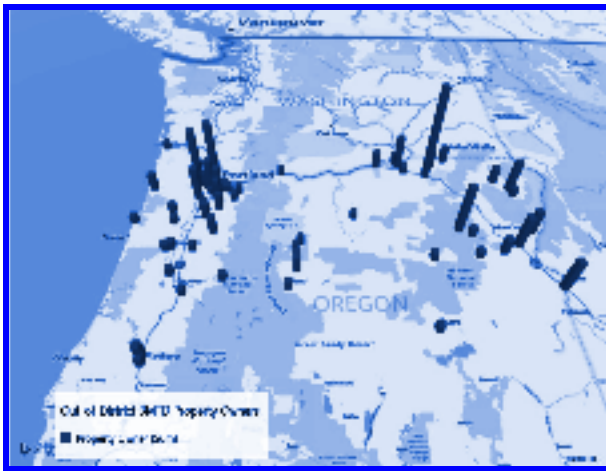
### Blue Mountain Translator District in Oregon



**Translator:** A broadcast transmitter device which repeats the signal of a radio or television station to an area not covered by the signal of the originating station.

**Translator District:** Special district that manages TV translators. Translator districts are common throughout the western United States.

**Oregon Districts:** Oregon legislature authorized translator districts in 1975. Blue Mountain Translator District has served Baker and Union Counties since 1978. Maupin Translator District closed in 2008.



#### **BMTD's Impact**

Television continues to be the great equalizer for rural Americans who lack broadband access. BMTD's work to transmit Portland and Boise TV signals into Baker and Union Counties helps tie Eastern Oregon into the community and culture of our state. Our network allows BMTD to broadcast 7 Portland channels and KTVB from Boise, exposing each station to 14,000 possible households.

Service charge statements are

annually mailed to the residents of 23 Senate Districts, many of whom own farmland or forest properties with homes and workshops where BMTD TV signals can be viewed. BMTD also owns a powerline on Mt. Fanny above the city of Cove, bringing power to several other tenants including Oregon Public Broadcasting, the US Department of Agriculture, and KUNP (Portland's Univision affiliate). The OPB transmitter on Mt. Harris serving Elgin, Imbler, and Summerville, is owned and operated by BMTD.

#### **Legislative Needs**

Despite our impact in the region, BMTD ultimately serves a niche need in Baker and Union Counties, and we need flexibility to increase revenue. SB 393 will allow all financial supporters to serve on our board, and ease the burden of collecting payments from certain viewers. SB 394 will allow BMTD to better serve viewers and compete in the area by transmitting local emergency alerts and operating a channel broadcasting hyper-local news and information.