

Contact:
Kelly Robison, Bureau Chief
Financial Institutions Bureau
Department of Finance
(208) 332-8000

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

November 29, 1996

STATE RECEIVES APPLICATION TO ESTABLISH A NEW BANK IN KETCHUM, IDAHO

FIRST BANK OF IDAHO HOPES TO OPEN IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1997

Boise, Idaho... Gavin Gee, Director of the Idaho Department of Finance, today announced the receipt of an application by First Bank of Idaho to establish a new bank in Ketchum, Idaho. The organizers of First Bank of Idaho are William E. Babcock, Dennis Lallman, Greg Lovell, Greg S. McDonald, Marcus B. Peperzak, Ronald J. Sharp, W. Clint Stennett, and Peter Van Der Meulen. Mr. Lovell will serve as chairman, president and chief executive officer and has fifteen years banking experience with West One Bank, Idaho and Bank of America, Idaho. Other officers in the proposed bank include: William H. Thomas, corporate secretary; Jeff R. Manser, senior vice president and chief financial officer; Linda K. Rowe, vice president and operations manager; and Pamela Colesworthy, marketing director. The organizers are either local residents or have business or personal ties to the Wood River Valley area.

The organizers have been working with the Department of Finance and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation since early August 1996. Subject to regulatory approval, the organizers hope to commence business toward the end of the first quarter of 1997 in banking quarters at 100 Second Street East in Ketchum. The organizers plan to operate a full-service community bank that emphasizes high quality customer service to small and medium-sized businesses, professionals and high value retail customers. Before the bank can commence business, the organizers must be granted a bank charter from the Idaho Department of Finance and receive deposit insurance from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

Director Gee stated, "the establishment of a locally owned and operated community bank will offer customers alternative financial institution services and enhance competition. The strong economic growth in the Wood River Valley the past several years and trends in the banking industry toward consolidation or reorganization have created tremendous opportunities for community oriented financial institutions." The Wood River Valley has been without a locally-owned financial institution since 1988 when Mountain States Savings Bank, FSB merged with First Federal Savings and Loan Association, headquartered in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, to form Mountain West Savings, FSB. Mountain States Savings opened as Mountain States Savings and Loan Association in 1978.

* * *