



WASCO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR SESSION  
OCTOBER 6, 2010

PRESENT: Dan Ericksen, Chair, County Commissioner  
Sherry Holliday, County Commissioner  
Bill Lennox, County Commissioner  
Kathy McBride, Executive Assistant

At 9:05 a.m. Chairman Dan Ericksen called the meeting to order.

**OPEN TO PUBLIC**

Richard Murray asked the Board of Commissioners several questions at this time. His first question was in regards to whether the Board approved a fee waiver for Tom Teven to allow him a hearing.

Commissioner Holliday informed Murray that Teven needs to make an application to the Wasco County Planning & Development Department first before the Board could consider waiving the land use application fee.

Chairman Ericksen stated that the Board needs to know what the fee is before we consider waiving any fee. We would then know what he is asking for. The County is willing to work with Teven.

Murray's other question is in regards to West Park Place located on Tenth Street. He asked if it is an incorporated entity; whether the Assessor's Office is going to waive taxes; who is the Board of Directors?

Chairman Ericksen stated that the answer to both questions is that the Board of Commissioners does not waive property taxes for anyone, which we told that to the Mid Columbia Housing Authority. That is beyond the authority of the Commissioners. The tax exemption application is made to the County Assessor. The Assessor has the authority to waive the taxes based on the type of

organization. They are changing their organization from a private entity to the Housing Authority actually taking interest in the project. That change allows them an exemption from the taxes. The Assessor makes the evaluation based on the statutes; they either qualify or they don't.

Murray asked how many illegal aliens live at West Park Place. He does not believe in subsidizing the illegal aliens.

Chairman Ericksen stated that is not something that we need to know. That is not a part of the County administration.

#### OPEN TO DEPARTMENTS

Teri Thalhofer, North Central Public Health District Director, informed the Board that the District is proposing to enter into an Agreement with North Central ESD, Early Education to do a community health assessment for their healthy communities grant. She wondered if the Board had any questions.

Thalhofer stated that the Board has a request before them for a letter of support for the North Wasco County School District #21, (Attached as Exhibit A). Her office has provided the Board with a proposed letter of support for their consideration.

Some discussion occurred regarding the request from School District #21.

**\*\*\*It was the consensus of the Board of Commissioners to send a letter of support as requested by the North Wasco County School District #21\*\*\*.**

Christa Rude, Commission on Children and Families Administrator, presented a handout in regards to the Parenting Initiative. They have received a grant for the fifth year; the grant is over in December. The Next Door, Inc. received a grant which extends this parenting project for additional years. Rude noted that The Next Door will do a facilitator training. She will be signing an Agreement today to help pay for bringing this facilitation class to The Dalles.

Rude noted that tomorrow night they are holding their third fall parenting class. Head Start and Migrant Head Start are working together. They will have child care provided; The Next Door is providing the facilitation.

Rude stated that the Commission will stay involved in the coordination when The Next Door receives this grant.

WASCO COUNTY COURT  
REGULAR SESSION  
OCTOBER 6, 2010  
PAGE 3

Commissioner Lennox asked Chip Wood if he will be attending tomorrow's Budget Committee Meeting.

Wood asked if he would be learning anything more than what he learned while visiting with County Departments prior to the annual budget process.

Stone replied that the County is taking on more of an educational process. We will be talking about mandated services, who is the beneficiary and how are the services delivered. We will need to link what services we provide with the budget deficit that we are going to have next year. It is based on feedback of the management team.

Chairman Ericksen stated it is preparing us for some process change in the budget preparation and approval process. He feels it will be valuable information.

Stone noted that the intent is to educate, not only the Budget Committee but the potential County Commissioner candidates. Not a lot of people came out of this year's budget process feeling good about the process.

Chairman Ericksen stated that this is actually a process that is being undertaken focusing internally on Department Heads and the budget process.

Other Business:

Commissioner Holliday mentioned the phone call she received from Dan Van Vactor. There is a problem with the Pine Hollow boat ramp on the north shore near the Resort. The boat ramp is falling apart and is becoming a danger. The Water District actually owns the bottom of the lake from the high water mark. Commissioner Holliday feels that the County needs to decide what we can do; maybe the Resort owner would be willing to take care of it.

Staff was directed to see if the County owns the boat ramp since there are some people that say we do.

Some discussion occurred.

Commissioner Holliday stated that she spoke to the Oregon Marine Board regarding the vault toilets at the Pine Hollow Reservoir. She is not sure if the Oregon Marine Board can work with the Wamic Rural Fire Protection District. The County cannot continue to send juveniles out there to clean the toilets once per week. The other option is to close the restrooms.

WASCO COUNTY COURT  
REGULAR SESSION  
OCTOBER 6, 2010  
PAGE 4

Commissioner Holliday suggested that we hold a meeting at Pine Hollow to address the boat ramp and the toilets.

The Board will schedule a meeting at Pine Hollow on Wednesday, October 27, 2010 at 1:30 p.m. to discuss the toilets and boat ramp at the Pine Hollow Reservoir.

The Board and Stone briefly discussed Product Tasting at the Association of Oregon Counties Annual Conference in November.

Chairman Ericksen will be responsible for arranging for the marchino cherries and wine, while Commissioner Holliday will be responsible for the table cloth, napkins and plates.

Stone will be responsible for the Salmon.

The Holiday Potluck and the decorating of the Courthouse Christmas tree will be discussed at the Senior Management Team Meeting.

**CONSIDERATION of items listed on the Discussion List of October 6, 2010, (Attached as Exhibit B).**

Item #1

Kathy McBride, Executive Assistant, informed the Board that the Oregon Revised Statutes require us to appoint a representative of the governing body by October 15<sup>th</sup> of each year. The Board can choose to appoint someone other than the governing body, if they so choose.

**{{{Commissioner Lennox moved to approve Order #10-114 in the matter of the reappointment of Dan Ericksen to the Board of Property Tax Appeals. Commissioner Holliday seconded the motion; it was then passed unanimously.}}}**

Item #3 –

The Board considered the fee waiver request from Yvonne Walton and Gary Brace, (Attached as Exhibit C).

Chairman Ericksen recommended that the Board waive the \$500 penalty fee since there was a miscommunication.

**{{{Commissioner Holliday moved to waive the \$500 penalty fee to Yvonne Walton and Gary Brace for a Scenic Area Land Use Permit to construct a driveway. Commissioner Lennox seconded the motion; it was then passed unanimously.}}}**

Item #4

The Board considered the request from Dan Sanders, Public Works Shop Supervisor, (Attached as Exhibit D).

**{{{Commissioner Holliday moved to declare as surplus the Public Works Department fuel system and to authorize the Public Works Department to dispose of the equipment as they see fit. Commissioner Lennox seconded the motion; it was then passed unanimously.}}}**

Item #5 –

**{{{Commissioner Lennox moved to approve Order #10-115 in the matter of the appointment of Patty Latham as Wasco County's Interim Treasurer. Commissioner Holliday seconded the motion; it was then passed unanimously.}}}**

**CONSIDERATION of the appointment of the Wasco County Treasurer.**

Stone informed the Board that we will not be discussing today the appointment of an individual as Wasco County Treasurer since the background check has not been completed.

**CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL of the Regular Session Consent Calendar of October 6, 2010, (Attached as Exhibit E).**

**{{{Commissioner Holliday moved to approve the Regular Session Consent Calendar of October 6, 2010 as presented. Commissioner Lennox seconded the motion; it was then passed unanimously.}}}**

At 10:00 a.m. the Board recessed.

At 10:04 a.m. the Board reconvened.

**PRESENTATION on economic development in Wasco County; *presented by Jessica Metta, Wasco County Economic Development Coordinator.***

**CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION of the Wasco County Economic Development Strategic Action Plan, presented by Jessica Metta, Wasco County Economic Development Coordinator.**

Jessica Metta, Wasco County Economic Development Coordinator, stated that the main purpose for today's meeting is for the adoption of the Wasco County Strategic Action Plan, which is updated annually. The Plan is prepared through the Needs and Issues Project Process. The information is collected in January, in February presentations of projects are made before the Economic Development Commission, and in March the projects are prioritized by the Economic Development Commission. In April the priorities of the Economic Development Commission were presented to the Board of Commissioners for their consideration and approval. She took that information and put it into the Strategic Action Plan. The other parts to the Plan are completed Needs and Issues Projects. Metta stated that the Vision Statements are updated periodically as well.

Part of her report today addresses some additional changes to the Strategic Action Plan, (Attached as Exhibit F). Some of the information collected in January is now out of date. The Plan was approved by the Economic Development Commission at their September 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. Since then Metta has heard that she needed to update some information in the Plan before the Board of Commissioners adopted the Strategic Action Plan.

Metta noted that she also received a phone call for another revision to the Plan, (Attached as Exhibit G).

Metta went over the proposed changes to the Plan at this time.

Metta presented to the Board the Strategic Action Plan as proposed to be revised as stated, (Attached as Exhibit H).

Some discussion occurred in regards to the proposed Strategic Action Plan and the projects that have been accomplished.

**{{{{Commissioner Holliday moved to adopt the Wasco County Strategic Action Plan as presented. Commissioner Lennox seconded the motion; it was then passed unanimously.}}}}**

Commissioner Lennox stated that possibly one day the Fremont Street Overpass Project will be included in the Plan.

Chairman Ericksen stated that he and Marty Matherly, Wasco County Roadmaster, will begin negotiations with the owner of the property located along Highway 197.

Metta went over the remainder of her economic development report.

Chairman Ericksen discussed the possibility of reclaiming and preserving some wetland on the Lockheed Martin property site. He is wondering if we would qualify for the EPA Brownfield Project to reclaim some of this wetland.

Metta will take a look at the Brownfield Project requirements.

**DISCUSSION on issues pertaining to the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area; presented by Jill Arens, Columbia River Gorge Commission Executive Director.**

Jill Arens, Columbia River Gorge Commission Executive Director, and Judy Davis, Columbia River Gorge Commission Chair/Wasco County Appointee, met with the Board of Commissioners.

Arens presented some handout material to the Board at this time, (Attached as Exhibit I).

Arens noted that this is their annual report to the County. She would be happy to come back more frequently if that is the desire of the Board. She stated that Davis has done an outstanding job representing Wasco County. She is always prepared and is a great asset to the Gorge Commission and Wasco County.

Arens stated that Brian Litt, Columbia River Gorge Commission Planner is leaving after 22 years. His last day is the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. They will miss him; he has done a great job mentoring their other planners. The Commission will have 1.5 planners after Litt leaves. Because of the budget uncertainties they will not be replacing Litt.

Arens stated that they are expecting further cuts during this Fiscal Year. Both states are in similar situations working on structural budget deficits. In the last two years they have received 20% in funding reductions because the funding in Oregon and Washington has to be the same. If one state lowers their allocation the other's allocation has to be lowered.

Arens noted that the last go around for the Oregon Governor's budget for the analysis report comes out early in December; another 24% cut on top of what they have already received. The Commission has already cut two full time

Planners and more. They asked what their office would look like; they will be able to turn on the lights, look at the Indicator and do the reports for the two states.

Arens mentioned during the last Oregon budget cycle the Oregon Legislature said they do not like paying for Klickitat County reviews. Some money was withheld; those monies have been reinstated. Some of the money was used by the Attorney Generals in both states for an opinion on charging fees. Both opinions just came back. They agreed on everything. Both Attorney Generals said we do not have expressed or implied to charge fees. We can recoup copying fees; we are not allowed to charge fees.

Arens stated that another interesting piece was the Interstate Compact. Both Attorney Generals felt it was a compact; nothing could be changed without consent of Congress. All three are responsible. Arens will use this to try to get it restructured on how they are funded. They are the only federally authorized scenic area that does not have federal dollars coming in for operations.

Chairman Ericksen stated that the Community Outreach Team on their recent trip to Washington, DC presented that information. The federal government needs to be putting in a third of the money since it was federally created. This places the burden on the two states.

Arens continued her report by noting that the Department of Housing and Urban Development finally released in late June in partnership with the Oregon Department of Transportation and the Environmental Protection Agency a sustainable regional planning grant opportunity. In order to apply for this grant the applicant must have multiple jurisdictions supporting this. In looking at this the group decided that none of them had the capacity to respond at this time. They are continuing to meet. The four regional groups (Columbia River Gorge Commission, Mid Columbia Economic Development District, Mid Columbia Council of Governments, and the Mid Columbia Housing Authority) will sign a Memorandum of Understanding in support of the sustainable regional entity. They will be working together for regional success.

Arens noted that they will be asking the Counties to have a proclamation of support for them working together on this. They want to show regional support for affordable housing and regional transportation system that works.

Some brief discussion occurred regarding this grant opportunity.

Arens noted that the Gorge Commission has been doing a lot of efficiency and streamlining work. It has been a good process. Despite the pain it has been

good to look at how efficient they work; redefining their office procedures, cutting costs and looking at how to make access to landowners easier.

Davis stated that the Rules Committee will be looking through the rules to see how we can streamline there. They will be looking at electronic filings, do we need to bring economic development grant certifications to the Gorge Commission, could it be done at the staff level. They will be looking at what they could do more expeditiously. In most cases they might improve access to the public.

Chairman Ericksen stated while in Washington, DC they asked for special funding for the Columbia River Gorge Commission to take on that task for the expansion of The Dalles Urban Growth Boundary. They are hoping to get an appropriation to accomplish that task.

Arens stated that the Commission was looking at a consensus base process. If we get all the stakeholders and the federal stakeholders it would be a better solution. The facilitator could bring people together. They have spoken to the Portland State National Consensus Institute; they indicated it would take \$30,000 to do a consensus process with the stakeholders. She will be bringing this to the Gorge Commission.

Discussion occurred regarding this issue.

Arens asked what the priorities of Wasco County are for the Gorge Commission over the next couple of years. What would Wasco County like to have them concentrate on?

Chairman Ericksen stated that a priority would be the urban area revision. That is Wasco County's top priority.

Todd Cornett, Wasco County Planning & Development Director, stated to get plan review. That one is the most significant that needs to be evaluated.

Chairman Ericksen stated that the second priority would be scheduling or planning for the next plan review so that it happens in a timely manner. A consistent review of where we are going. That is more long term as opposed to an immediate need.

Arens noted that was one of their big projects that they were thinking on taking to the federal government. They could not do it with their operating budget. The last plan review lasted four years. The scoping of the next one would be much more confined. Deal with issues that have not been dealt with before; look at strategies that are not working.

Arens stated that next year will be the 25 year anniversary of the National Scenic Area. The Board will be invited to their anniversary party on August 13, 2011 at the Skamania Lodge. They are sponsoring this one event.

A brief discussion occurred on the Whistling Ridge Wind Energy Project in Skamania County. Arens noted that she is familiar with the project but not the Resolution from Skamania County.

Arens stated that because of the savings clause, that there is no buffer zone outside the scenic boundary, they have not commented. They can ask the Gorge Commission for technical assistance as to their standards.

Chairman Ericksen stated that the Oregon law, a part from the scenic area rules of national scenic designation, has visual protections. They have their own rule that takes away some of that buffer wording on the Oregon side. Chairman Ericksen thinks the Gorge Commission's stand is the correct one. That is not the stand that the Forest Service took.

Commissioner Lennox feels it is timely on bringing in the federal government for funding assistance.

At 11:07 a.m. the Board recessed.

At 11:29 a.m. the Board reconvened.

**CONSIDERATION of request for Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Grant Application for Mill Creek Ridge Natural Area Acquisition, presented by Bruce Lumper.**

Bruce Lumper and Virginia Bowers, Columbia Land Trust, met with the Board to request a letter of support for their Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Grant Application for Mill Creek Ridge Natural Area Acquisition.

Also present was Todd Cornett and Tyler Stone.

Virginia Bowers stated that they are applying for funding to acquire property located along the Mill Creek Ridge between Cherry Heights and Mill Creek Roads. The grant would help to partially fund two purchases and leverage future acquisition along the ridge. They are looking at a two phase approach. They are trying to protect one area.

A map of the area was shown to the Board at this time. The two different phases were viewed and discussed.

Bowers stated that the ridge has been identified in the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Strategy Plan as a conservation opportunity area. She noted the various habitat that occupies this area as noted in her letter, (Attached as Exhibit J).

Bowers stated that there are a number of property owners who are willing to sale their property. They will be looking at conservation easements as well.

Bowers stated that Columbia Land Trust has an active land stewardship program. This would be the first acquisition in Wasco County. The habitat is there; they would want to reduce fuels on the property. They have tossed around public access. They have thought about having a trail on the ridge to allow people to see what is up there. That would not happen until they have a large chunk of land.

A lengthy discussion occurred.

Lumper stated that there is no opposition from neighbors. A number of folks has contributed money to the project and want to contribute in-kind services.

Bowers noted that the first phase consists of 150 acres. Lumper stated that the entire project would consist of 1,000 acres.

The Board expressed the concern with taking the property off the tax roll.

Bowers stated that they have a procedure on how to apply for tax exemption, or pay the taxes at a lower tax value.

Chairman Ericksen asked if they know what taxes are currently being paid.

Lumper stated that there are some properties paying at the farm value. He does not have the taxing information in front of him.

Todd Cornett stated if you look at the zoning map it would give you some information as to what the taxes would be.

Cornett went over the development opportunities of the properties located in Phase I as outlined in his handout, (Attached as Exhibit K). He noted that the 43.82 acres is zoned F-F(10) which could be broken down to four properties. The 203.31 acres has the potential for 20 properties. The 39.58 acre parcel could have four, while the 120.36 acres parcel could add another 12 properties and dwellings. There is a lot of development potential on these properties.

WASCO COUNTY COURT  
REGULAR SESSION  
OCTOBER 6, 2010  
PAGE 12

Cornett stated that these properties are very steep. He is not sure if the County would allow much division to take place. Ultimately they could get a dwelling; whether they would get a land division because of fire issues, major run off and slope issues. The development capabilities are very challenging.

Cornett summarized that we are talking about 35 to 40 properties and dwellings. The properties are zoned for development; he does not know if they are currently being taxed for that potential development.

Further discussion occurred.

Cornett noted that there is already development in the foot hills. That is where it was physically able to be developed. The fire challenge would be significant.

Chairman Ericksen would like to discuss this matter with Tim Lynn, Wasco County Assessor, to find out about how the property is valued and what they are worth.

The Board will discuss this matter further at their October 13<sup>th</sup> meeting at 9 a.m.

Chairman Ericksen left at 12:01 p.m.

The Board briefly discussed next week's Work Session Agenda. The Board will make a decision on the request from Columbia Land Trust for a letter of support, as well as discussing roads and other issues relating to The Dalles Urban Growth Boundary.

The Board signed:

- Regular Session Minutes of June 16, 2010.
- Special Session Minutes of July 14, 2010.
- Special Session Minutes of July 26, 2010.
- Regular Session Minutes of August 18, 2010.
- Special Session Minutes of September 9, 2010.
- Special Session Minutes of September 22, 2010.
- Resolution #10-040 in the matter of supporting the Skamania County Board of Commissioners' request that inappropriate Federal Agencies' comments be retracted from the public record in regards to the Whistling Ridge Wind Project.
- Order #10-114 in the matter of the reappointment of Dan Ericksen to the Wasco County Board of Property Tax Appeals.
- Order #10-115 in the matter of the appointment of Patty Latham as Wasco County's Interim Treasurer.
- Wasco County Strategic Action Plan.

WASCO COUNTY COURT  
REGULAR SESSION  
OCTOBER 6, 2010  
PAGE 13

- Contract Agreement between Wasco County Community Corrections and Anne Webber.

At 12:08 p.m. the Board adjourned.

WASCO COUNTY BOARD OF  
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dan Ericksen, Chair of Commission

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sherry Holliday, County Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Bill Lennox, County Commissioner



North Wasco County School District 21  
*Office of Grants and Special Programs*  
 3632 West 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
 The Dalles, OR 97058  
 (541) 506-3420 ~ (541) 288-6861 (Cell)  
[www.nwasco.k12.or.us](http://www.nwasco.k12.or.us)

September 29, 2010

Dear Community Partner,

North Wasco County School District #21 is working on an application to the National Science Foundation for a Math and Science Partnership grant program which is due October 14, 2010. The purpose of the Math and Science Partnership (MSP) program is "a major research and development effort that supports innovative partnerships to improve K-12 student achievement in mathematics and science." We will be seeking approximately \$1 million per year for the 5-year project period. Eastern Oregon University has agreed to be the lead university in this endeavor.

We are seeking to create a satellite STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) program for The Dalles Wahtonka High School, hopefully to be located downtown. The program will have the feel of a Research and Development lab, using Oregon State Content Standards and student interest as ingredients for authentic learning for up to 100 ninth and tenth graders. Three teachers will help students (50 in the morning, 50 in the afternoon) in developing research questions and in completing research studies in the STEM field. Staff backgrounds are in Physical and Biological Sciences, Mathematics, Engineering, and Computer Modeling/System Dynamics. Student work will be linked to real-world challenges and will be applied to solve those challenges in our community, region, nation or world. Partners from industry, academia, government and the public will assist staff and students in their work and learning, and in making post-secondary plans to continue their learning. Sustainability and Service Learning will be strongly infused in student projects. The physical location on our main street will allow us to showcase our work to the public and our stakeholders on a routine basis.

We are asking for your organization's support for this endeavor, which would commence Fall 2011 if we are successful in one of our many grant proposals that will be forthcoming. A letter of support would be the first step in this process. Some of the possibilities for support that would benefit the project include: Mentors (to assist staff and students in creating and presenting hands-on science and engineering projects), advisors (to staff as we refine our plan and prepare to launch), equipment, supplies, software, sponsorships, help with publicity (for the project as a whole and student projects as well), social networking, recruitment of volunteer mentors (engineers, scientists, machinists, etc), and help in building links between high school and post-secondary education/training in STEM.

If you are able to provide a letter of support, please detail what types of support you feel could be offered, what unique things your organization could bring to the table, and what benefit a well-prepared STEM workforce would be. Please address same to National Science Foundation – Math and Science Partnership Grant Review Committee.

Please contact me if you have any questions. Letters of support need to be in to us by October 8<sup>th</sup>. In advance, thank you for your support in this worthwhile endeavor.

Brian Goodwin  
 Director of Grants and Special Programs  
 541.288.6861

**WASCO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR SESSION  
October 6, 2010**

**DISCUSSION LIST**

**ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

1. Discussion on the appointment of a member of the Board of Commissioners to the Board of Property Tax Appeals.
2. Discussion on a Personal Services Contract for the Healthy Communities Assessment Work.
3. Fee Waiver Request from Yvonne Walton/Gary Brace.
4. Consideration of the request from Dan Sanders, Public Works Shop Supervisor, to declare as surplus the old fuel card lock system, (Tech 21) at the Public Works Department.
5. Appointment of Interim Treasurer.

WASCO COUNTY PLANNING  
AND DEVELOPMENT  
Todd R. Cornett, Director  
2705 East Second Street  
The Dalles, Oregon 97058



Phone: (541) 506-2560  
Fax: (541) 506-2561  
WWW.CO.WASCO.OR.US

## REQUEST FOR FEE WAIVER

Date Submitted:

Applicant/Owner Information:

Applicant(s) YVONNE Walton/Gary Brace Property Owner(s) YVONNE Walton

Mailing Address 4900 Serenmile Hill Rd Mailing Address 4900 Serenmile Hill Rd  
The Dalles, OR 97058 The Dalles, OR 97058

Phone (H) 541 993 1417 (W) 541 296 1901 Phone (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Explanation For Fee Waiver Request (Please give complete detailed explanation):

I asked the road dept if I needed ~~any~~ ~~for~~ to take any further action from planning and was told I didn't. After receiving a Road Approach Permit from the road dept, ~~I came to Planning & Development to ask about per stamp removal~~ I began constructing a road, but was contacted and told I needed a site plan.

I am now \_\_\_\_\_ (To be completed by Planning and Development Office)

Fee Structure: working to be in full compliance. I appreciate your consideration.

### WAIVABLE PLANNING FEES

APPLICATION TYPE	PLANNING FEE	PENALTY FEE	OTHER FEES	TOTAL FEE
Scenic Area Review	\$1071.00	\$500.00	—	\$1571.00

Other Information:

I am asking to have the \$500<sup>00</sup> penalty fee waived.

Fees Verified by: \_\_\_\_\_

Planners Signature

(To be completed by Executive Assistant to the Board of County Commissioners)

TOTAL WAIVED FEES: \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL FEES NOT WAIVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Board of County Commissioners Authority signature \_\_\_\_\_

Exhibit D

September 28, 2010

To the County Commission

Re: Fuel System surplus



Dear County Commission:

2705 EAST 2ND STREET  
THE DALLES, OR 97058-4097

541-506-2640  
FAX-506-2641

In some recent item audits with Karen Coats, it has come to our attention that the fuel card lock system replaced in 2009 by the Road Dept. (Tech 21) is still being inventoried as an asset. It has not been in service for most of a year now and should be disposed of through auction, or other means.

I request the Commissions agreement to declare this equipment surplus and to OK the disposal of it by appropriate action so it can be removed from our asset list.

Thank you for your time and consideration!

Dan Sanders  
Shop Supervisor  
Wasco County Public Works  
541-506-2642

Cc: Marty Matherly

**WASCO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR SESSION  
October 6, 2010**

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

1. Regular Session Minutes of June 16, 2010.
2. Special Session Minutes of July 14, 2010.
3. Special Session Minutes of July 26, 2010.
4. Regular Session Minutes of August 18, 2010.
5. Special Session Minutes of September 9, 2010.
6. Special Session Minutes of September 22, 2010.
7. Resolution in the matter of supporting the Skamania County Board of Commissioners' request that inappropriate Federal Agencies' comments be retracted from the public record in regards to the Whistling Ridge Wind Project.
8. Contract Agreement between Wasco County Community Corrections and Anne Webber.

## Wasco County Board of Commissioners

### Economic Development Commission Update: October 6, 2010

#### Action Item: Strategic Action Plan Approval

At the September 16, 2010 meeting of the Wasco County Economic Development Commission (EDC), the EDC voted to approve the draft 2010 Wasco County Economic Development Strategic Action Plan as presented and submit it to the Wasco County Board of Commissioners for final approval. This plan reflects the Needs and Issues projects that were submitted in January 2010 for prioritization and includes several vision statements updated for 2010.

After the EDC meeting, staff realized that project language in the plan as it referred to the City of The Dalles Granada Theater Revitalization project required an update. Staff worked with Nolan Young, the project contact, to update the language as presented below with additions underlined and deletions struck through. Staff also recommends adding a statement to the plan to clarify that the project descriptions are generally taken from the Needs and Issues forms submitted by project proponents in January of the plan year. It is recommended that the Board of Commissioners replace the language in the plan approved by the EDC with the language below prior to final adoption:

#### *Wasco County Economic Development Strategic Action Plan, September 2010, Page 8-9:*

Following are the top ten needs identified in 2010 in two categories: technical assistance and infrastructure. Technical assistance refers to projects for which additional information is necessary prior to development, such as engineering or design studies. Infrastructure refers to projects which are ready for development or would be ready quickly. Each project item is accompanied by the key contact point, contact information, cost projections when available and timeline for completion. These are only the top ten priorities in each category; the complete list appears as Appendix I of this document. Please note that the costs and project descriptions are generally taken from the Needs and Issues forms submitted by each project contact in January of the plan year.

#### *Wasco County Economic Development Strategic Action Plan, September 2010, Page 11:*

### 7. Granada Theater Revitalization, City of The Dalles

**Contact:** Nolan Young, 541-296-5481, nyoung@ci.the-dalles.or.us

**Cost:** \$200,000 ~~\$700,000~~ (requesting ~~\$450,000~~ includes cost of purchasing the building which has since been completed)

**Timeline:** The Granada has been purchased by the City. The HVAC and sprinkler system improvements have been identified. Work on improvements can begin soon.

**Project Description:** This project ~~purchased will purchase~~ the historic Granada Theater. The City now needs to install a sprinkler system required by the fire marshal and replace the HVAC system. The City will identify a private developer for additional restoration and operation of the Granada. This would be accomplished through a partnership between the City of The Dalles, Columbia Gorge Community College, Urban Renewal District, and The Dalles Area Chamber of Commerce. The facility would then be turned over to a non-profit organization with Board representation from each of those organizations. A business plan would be developed focused on preservation of the structure while fully utilizing it for a variety of activities for the benefit of the community.

### Other EDC News

- **Unincorporated Community Assistance:** The EDC is exploring working with several unincorporated communities in the County in the development of grassroots Strategic Action Plans for their communities. Jessica is making community contacts to determine the level of interest in this project. Outreach might replace the regular November EDC meeting.
- **Grant Writing Assistance:** Jessica worked with the Fort Dalles Museum to submit an application for the Transportation Enhancement Program grant from the Oregon Department of Transportation. The final request was for \$1,294,443 for construction of a building to store and display the historic vehicle collection. A final decision on the grant is expected in May 2011 for funding in 2012.
- **Trainings and Workshops:** Jessica attended the Economic Vitality Forum hosted by the Ford Family Foundation in Pendleton on September 30. This event provided networking opportunities and workshops on buy local programs, business retention and expansion programs and entrepreneurship development. Jessica also attended the Solar Now! University in Pendleton for her work with Sherman County. The workshop provided her with a foundation in residential, commercial and public solar projects.

### Other Economic News

- **Oregon Connections Telecommunications Conference:** On October 21 and 22, this conference will be hosted by MCEDD at the Hood River Inn as an opportunity to learn about policy and issues statewide in broadband, wireless and other areas of telecommunications. Registration is \$75 and can be done online at [oregonconnections.info](http://oregonconnections.info).
- **Columbia Gorge Arts and Culture Alliance:** Arts and culture organizations from around the Gorge have begun coming together under the name Columbia Gorge Arts and Culture Alliance with support from economic development agencies. This group is seeking to promote the Gorge as an arts and culture destination through joint marketing efforts including promotion of May 2011 as Gorge Arts and Culture Month. MCEDD has assisted this group with grant applications with Oregon and Washington State Arts Commissions that would support their joint marketing.

### Funding Opportunities

- **EPA Brownfields Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund and Cleanup Grants:** Deadline Oct 15, 2010. These grants may be used to address sites contaminated by petroleum and hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants (including hazardous substances co-mingled with petroleum). Opportunities for funding are as follows: Brownfields Assessment Grants (each funded up to \$200,000 over three years; coalitions are funded up to \$1,000,000 over three years), Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Grants (each funded up to \$1,000,000 over five years) and Brownfields Cleanup Grants (each funded up to \$200,000 over three years).

### Employment:

*Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates (Source: Oregon Employment Department)*

	August 2010	July 2010	August 2009
Oregon	10.6%	10.6%	11.2%
Wasco County	9.3%	9.2%	8.8%

*-respectfully submitted by Jessica Metta, EDC Staff*

**Wasco County Board of Commissioners**  
**Economic Development Commission Update: October 6, 2010**

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**Additional Strategic Action Plan Language Revision**

Staff was informed that language in the vision statements related to the Port of The Dalles incorrectly stated that the Port would be managing the marine terminal. Prior to final approval of the 2010 Wasco County Economic Development Strategic Action Plan, staff requests that the language on page 6 of the plan be changed as follows (additions underlined and deletions struck through):

***Wasco County Economic Development Strategic Action Plan, September 2010, Page 6:***

- The Port of The Dalles has taken in new properties, developed them and most are sold. All the property existing in 2010 is full, including the former aluminum plant property which has been sold. The Port ~~manages the~~ city-owned marine terminal at Union Street; is a major arrival point for visitors. This development has attracted new businesses with family-wage jobs that have provided for a more diverse and stable economy.

**Wasco County**

**Economic Development**

**Strategic Action Plan**

**September 2010**

**Presented for adoption by the Wasco County Board of Commissioners:**

Daniel Ericksen, Chair  
Sherry Holliday, Commissioner  
William Lennox, Commissioner

**Wasco County Economic Development Commission:**

Position 1 -Northern: Dan Spatz  
Position 2 -Central: Gay Melvin  
Position 3 -Southern: Frank Kay  
Position 4: Andrea Klaas, Vice Chair  
Position 5: Dan Durow  
Position 6: Carina Schmidt  
Position 7: Mark Cherniack  
Position 8: Donella Polehn  
Position 9: Keith Mobley  
Position 10: Joan Silver, Chair

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# Table of Contents

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<b>Introduction .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Vision.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Strategic Action Plan Goals and 2010-2011 Priority Projects.....</b>	<b>8</b>
Technical Assistance.....	9
Infrastructure .....	12
<b>Completed Projects.....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Appendix I: Needs and Issues Project Summary, April 2010 .....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Appendix II: Strategic Planning History .....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Appendix III: Wasco County Profile .....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Appendix IV: Wasco County Community Profiles .....</b>	<b>20</b>

# **Introduction**

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This Economic Development Strategic Action Plan defines the role of the Wasco County Economic Development Commission (Commission) in bringing the long-term economic goals of the county to fruition. It provides insight into the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats that exist in Wasco County and looks at how to proceed with economic development in a positive manner. This plan also serves as an action document for economic activity in Wasco County and presents a vision for the future for the county.

## **Role of the Commission**

Commission staff and members are dedicated to furthering the economic well-being of the entire county. One of the primary ways this is accomplished by the Commission is through an annual inventory of all county needs. This inventory, called the "Needs and Issues Inventory," forms the basis for economic action in the county. An important function of the Commission is to keep Commission members and Wasco County government informed of the activities taking place in the county and to be a resource for those activities. Commission members, staff and potential contractors are available to give whatever assistance is requested, particularly as funding is needed.

## **Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT)**

The Wasco County Economic Development Commission completed their last SWOT analysis in 1999. This analysis is now substantially out of date and has therefore been left out of this document. The Commission will conduct a new SWOT analysis or some similar type of economic analysis for Wasco County in the future to update and replace the 1999 SWOT study.

## **County Overview**

Wasco County is located in north-central Oregon, bordered to the north by the Columbia River, to the east by Sherman, Gilliam and Wheeler counties, to the west by Hood River, Clackamas and Marion counties, and to the south by Jefferson County. Wasco County is one of Oregon's oldest counties, established in 1854 by the Oregon Territorial Legislature, at which time it included all of Eastern Oregon and parts of Idaho, Montana and Wyoming. Its county seat is The Dalles. Its incorporated cities in addition to The Dalles are Antelope, Dufur, Maupin, Mosier and Shaniko. Wasco County's estimated population in 2009 was 24,230 (Population Research Center, Portland State University). The county comprises 2,381.05 square miles.

## Vision

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In this year of 2020, it is timely to review the vision of Wasco County from the past ten years and look forward to a renewed promise of economic growth during the coming years. Much has been accomplished, our planning has paid off and continued efforts will enhance the strengths of our county:

- In what is known as South County, the communities of Antelope, Shaniko, Maupin, Pine Grove, Pine Hollow, Wamic and Tygh Valley have formed a South County Economic Development Alliance and work well together and with the Wasco County Economic Development Commission to coordinate their efforts. Because of this, considerable infrastructure has been developed in the past few years, and essential services, centralized in Maupin, are better able to deliver fire and other emergency services to all residents. A strong core of volunteers is supported by paid staff. The communities publicize their special events and ongoing opportunities well, and have joined marketing efforts with the entire county in partnership with active chambers of commerce in The Dalles, Dufur, Maupin and Shaniko. The visitor count rises each year and available visitor lodging continues to grow. Two new small manufacturing businesses have located in the area and brought stable, family wage jobs for thirty people. High-speed wireless networks serve all of South County, in partnership with the Q-Life Network based in The Dalles.
- Dufur has continued to develop as a great place to live and continues to add services. The city is a growing residential area for the Columbia Gorge region, with a current year-round population of 770 people, and its residents have built on their proud history. New events bring a steady number of visitors, many of whom choose to settle in this thriving community.
- Mosier is a vibrant, sustainable and economically-viable community focused on honoring its history, natural beauty, rich agricultural economy, and abundant recreational opportunities. A lively, functional downtown serves residents and visitors alike. With a strong K-12 charter school and an active community development group, the city now boasts a population of 920 year-round residents.
- Maupin is a safe, progressive community that cares for its citizens and visitors while protecting its natural resources and maintaining its rural heritage. By expanding into bicycle tourism, the tourist season has lengthened to run from April through October and includes a number of successful events in addition to the very popular RiverFest. Commercial areas in town have expanded with the opening of new businesses that are supported by a strong Maupin Area Chamber of Commerce. The school has a stabilized K-12 population of 225 students which add to the vitality of the community.
- As the commercial and industrial hub of Wasco County, The Dalles has successfully expanded its urban growth boundary and added several new businesses in the past ten years. Employment is at an all-time high, and the job market stays steady. The city's population stands at 19,400 while intense residential development across the Columbia River in Dallesport (Klickitat County, Washington State) adds another 5,000 people to the suburban region.
- Basic infrastructure needs in The Dalles continue to increase while costs escalate. The Dalles has all streets paved, all structures within the urban growth boundary on city services and is ready for new development that will occur in the next five to seven years. It is a large task, but the pace of development continues to grow with the

expansion of technology-based manufacturing firms at the Port of The Dalles and in Dallesport. These are supported by the Q-Life Network and wireless cloud, which offers high-speed digital telecommunications throughout the city. The city offers extensive green spaces and recreational opportunities: Riverfront Trail extends from The Dalles Dam to Rowena, connecting with a local trail network through the Mill Creek Greenway. The city's newly-established 14<sup>th</sup> Street Reservoir Park features a tramway to Kelly Viewpoint at Sorosis Park.

- The Columbia River Indians and Celilo Village are thriving, with a bank account that covers the annual operations and maintenance of Celilo Village, excellent local leadership, and several small businesses that employ the residents of Celilo Village and other Columbia River tribal members.
- The Port of The Dalles has taken in new properties, developed them and most are sold. All the property existing in 2010 is full, including the former aluminum plant property which has been sold. The city-owned marine terminal at Union Street is a major arrival point for visitors. This development has attracted new businesses with family-wage jobs that have provided for a more diverse and stable economy.
- The Dalles/Klickitat airport at Dallesport has now finished its first industrial building, which is fully leased. The new golf course is open. Landings have increased annually, and the airport is a regional commuter hub with daily flights to Seattle and Bend-Redmond. Port development has brought additional family-wage jobs to the community and helped diversify the economy.
- Columbia Gorge Community College has developed five of the six new construction sites identified in its 2006 revised master plan, including its workforce innovation center. The college is now independently accredited and has expanded its relationships with four-year institutions. The college conducts satellite classes in communities throughout its 10,000-square-mile service area. The college is a full partner in economic development through workforce development, helping drive expansion of the region's economy through its workforce programs in renewable energy, healthcare, and information technologies. The city, park district and college have developed a multi-sports complex at Kramer Field in The Dalles for soccer, softball and baseball.
- Wasco County has joined with other Oregon counties in an effort to stabilize the funding that will allow them to fulfill their requirements for State and Federal programs as well as maintain a healthy and productive atmosphere in which the citizens of the County flourish. While funding remains difficult, the County now has a full-time economic development officer, increased planning and enforcement staffing, and its tax base has improved each year for the past several years through the growth of new retail, manufacturing and light industrial employers.
- The county has continued to participate in the Columbia Gorge Bi-State Renewable Energy Zone, which is now a nationally-recognized leader in renewable energy entrepreneurship, advanced research, and conservation. Wind, solar and hydroelectric energy, together with bio fuel production and conservation, allow the county to contribute a net average annual output of energy into the grid. Pumped hydropower, high-capacity batteries, compressed air storage and high-speed flywheels allow efficient integration of renewable energy into the regional "smart grid." Electric car refueling stations are at strategic locations across the county. The region is a supply chain logistical center for wind and solar farms west of the Rockies, linking Pacific Rim ocean-bound commerce with regional warehousing and repair centers.

- High-speed, affordable mass transit links the county's rural communities with the regional mass transit system serving the Pacific Northwest.
- Tourism to the county has grown. Visitors travel around the county with ease, enjoying its unique communities and offerings that reflect its heritage, protect its resources and honor its residents. Historical attractions have banded together to promote The Dalles so that visitors have much to appreciate and enjoy from historic downtown to the Fort Dalles Museum, the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center and at other stops along the way.
- The Columbia Gorge Discovery Center is a self-sustaining regional visitor information hub, helping attract and inform guests from across North America and the Pacific Rim. It's also a focal point of the Ice Age Floods National Interpretive Trail.
- The Wasco County Fair has developed into the place to be in the third week of August, as the number of exhibitors and vendors continues to grow and showcase Wasco County agriculture and tourism. Fort Dalles Days & Rodeo, recognizing the county's historic and pre-historic legacy, draws visitors from far away each July to The Dalles, Dufur, Shaniko and Wamic.
- Agriculture remains a major industry in the County. Acreage devoted to cherries, grapes and other high-value crops has expanded into both traditional wheat land and previously unfarmed land. Cherry orchards have diversified to include early and late varieties and the percentage of pedestrian and mechanical orchards has increased. These improvements, along with a spray-on product that eliminates rain cracking, have smoothed out the demand in pickers and increased productivity.

## **Strategic Action Plan Goals and 2010-2011 Priority Projects**

### **Strategic Action Plan Goals**

The Wasco County Economic Development Commission establishes these continuing goals:

1. Complete full county survey of needs and issues each year during January - February, and begin implementation by mid-March.
2. Be a resource for the communities and work towards completion of one project per community per year.
3. Be aware of ongoing projects, expand the needs list as new projects surface during the year and support business recruitment as it occurs in the county.
4. Be a resource for demographic and economic information about the county and support organizations that collect that information, such as the Oregon Progress Board.

### **Needs, Issues, Strategies and Actions**

The Commission annually develops listings of the needs and issues necessary for present and future development as one of its primary goals. Based on this annual assessment, strategies and actions are instituted by the appropriate groups to focus resources where they can achieve the best results. Because this listing is done annually, projects move on and off of the lists in an orderly fashion, and much coordination and cooperation is achieved.

This document complements and incorporates priority project documents compiled by most of the incorporated cities of Wasco County and other local and regional organizations. These documents include the "Future Long-Range Planning Work Program" compiled by the county planning department, which includes but is not limited to projects having economic implications; the "Projects, Plans and Pipe Dreams" summary compiled by the City of Maupin; and the annual Community Enhancement Program compiled by the City of The Dalles for presentation by the Community Outreach Team. Outreach Team members represent the City of The Dalles, Wasco County, Port of The Dalles, Columbia Gorge Community College, Mid-Columbia Council of Governments, Mid-Columbia Economic Development District, Northern Wasco County PUD and The Dalles Area Chamber of Commerce. In addition, county projects identified as having the highest local priority are submitted annually to Mid-Columbia Economic Development District, which reviews them annually in conjunction with its Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.

This Strategic Action Plan is subject to regular review and updating by the Commission. Amendments to the annual plan may include the addition of new goals, strategies and projects, or changes in priorities. Proposals for additions to the Strategic Action Plan should be submitted to the Wasco County Economic Development Coordinator, who will present the proposals to the Commission. The Commission considers proposed amendments as part of the annual review. If at any time circumstances develop that increase the importance or feasibility of a strategy or project, the Commission may prioritize such a strategy or project for immediate action. Proposals to bring a strategy or project up for immediate action should be made to the Economic Development Commission or the Wasco County Board of Commissioners.

Following are the top ten needs identified in 2010 in two categories: technical assistance and infrastructure. Technical assistance refers to projects for which additional information is necessary prior to development, such as engineering or design studies. Infrastructure refers to

projects which are ready for development or would be ready quickly. Each project item is accompanied by the key contact point, contact information, cost projections when available and timeline for completion. These are only the top ten priorities in each category: the complete list appears as Appendix I of this document. Please note that the costs and project descriptions are generally taken from the Needs and Issues forms submitted by each project contact in January of the plan year.

### **Technical Assistance**

#### **1. Airport Water Distribution System Engineering and Design, Columbia Gorge Regional Airport**

**Contact:** Chuck Covert, 541-296-9103, [napatd@gorge.net](mailto:napatd@gorge.net)

**Cost:** \$150,000 (requesting \$100,000)

**Timeline:** Well has been drilled. Engineering plan for water delivery is being developed in 2010.

**Project Description:** Businesses cannot locate on airport property until the water distribution system is completed. Construction of a water distribution system will involve creation of a water facility and system in conjunction with a multi-jurisdictional water plan, re-drilling of the existing well, water distribution, utilities, grading and roads, sewer and storm drainage throughout the airport property. Water will also be used for fire control. 50% to be completed in this first phase.

#### **2. Runway Strengthening Engineering and Design, Columbia Gorge Regional Airport**

**Contact:** Chuck Covert, 541-296-9103, [napatd@gorge.net](mailto:napatd@gorge.net)

**Cost:** \$450,000 (requesting \$0 –recently received \$3.5M in ConnectOregon III funds for design and construction)

**Timeline:** Design and engineering is being completed at present. Construction should occur in 2011.

**Project Description:** The existing pavement strength does not meet the rating shown on the Airport Master Plan and is below the strength needed for use of the runway for some users. An overlay of approximately 4-5 inches would bring the runway up to strength. It is advisable to improve taxiway strength at the same time to provide a safe environment for larger aircraft operations to the airport.

#### **3. Workforce Innovations Center Engineering and Design, Columbia Gorge Community College**

**Contact:** Dan Spatz, 541-506-6110, [dspatz@cgcc.cc.or.us](mailto:dspatz@cgcc.cc.or.us)

**Cost:** \$16M (requesting \$8M)

**Timeline:** Project can proceed in 2010 contingent upon matching requirement for Article XIX bonds. Application for partial match (\$2 million) submitted to U.S. Dept of Commerce in October 2010.

**Project Description:** CGCC lacks sufficient long-term instructional space in which to train the 21st Century workforce. This project would design and construct a National Workforce Innovation Center with sufficient classroom and high-bay lab space to provide workforce instruction as well as space for community partners, such as K-12 career-technical classes. This facility will be constructed in three phases: 1) high-bay lab; 2) classroom annex 1; 3) classroom annex 2. A total of \$8 million in matching funds are available from State of Oregon Article XIG bond capacity for this project, contingent on 1:1 cash match.

#### **4. Rock Creek Hydroelectric Facilities Engineering and Design, Wasco County Soil and Water Conservation District**

**Contact:** Ron Graves, 541-296-6178 ext 114, ron.graves@or.nacdnet.net

**Cost:** \$40,000 (requesting \$40,000)

**Timeline:** A feasibility study will be complete in Summer 2010. Design and engineering could proceed with funding.

**Project Description:** Rock Creek Irrigation District is looking to install a hydroelectric facility to reduce costs for district users, create a revenue stream for the district, extend the irrigation season, raise levels at Rock Creek Reservoir for recreation benefits and for other benefits.

#### **5. Mosier Groundwater Sustainability Study, Mosier Watershed Council**

**Contact:** Kate Merrick, 541-296-6178 ext 119, kate.merrick@or.nacdnet.net

**Cost:** \$300,000 (requesting \$205,000)

**Timeline:** Project planning has begun. Funds are available to test and repair one comingling well in 2010. Additional funds are needed to expand the work to other wells.

**Project Description:** Water levels in Mosier-area wells have dropped up to 200 feet in the past 30 years. Irrigated agriculture is a cornerstone of the Mosier economy and depends on a reliable groundwater supply. Rural residents and Mosier city residents also obtain their water from wells. A recent study by the US Geological Survey determined that comingling wells are the primary cause of the water level declines. Further study is needed to develop a plan to address the problem.

#### **6. Mosier Comprehensive Plan/ Downtown Plan Updates, Main Street Mosier**

**Contact:** Kathy Fitzpatrick, 541-400-0124, kfitzz77@gmail.com

**Cost:** \$20,000 (requesting \$10,000)

**Timeline:** Contingent upon funding.

**Project Description:** This project would develop a Downtown Revitalization Master Plan and update the Mosier Comprehensive Plan (1978). Design schemes, preferred land development patterns and pedestrian/ bike/ and vehicular circulation plans will be developed by planning professionals. City ordinances will be updated accordingly. These plans will guide future development in Mosier.

## **7. Granada Theater Revitalization, City of The Dalles**

**Contact:** Nolan Young, 541-296-5481, nyoung@ci.the-dalles.or.us

**Cost:** \$200,000

**Timeline:** The Granada has been purchased by the City. The HVAC and sprinkler system improvements have been identified. Work on improvements can begin soon.

**Project Description:** This project purchased the historic Granada Theater. The City now needs to install a sprinkler system required by the fire marshal and replace the HVAC system. The City will identify a private developer for additional restoration and operation of the Granada.

## **8. West Lot Planning and Development Phase 1, Northern Oregon Regional Corrections Center**

**Contact:** Jim Weed, 541-298-1576, jweed@norcor.co.wasco.or.us

**Cost:** \$26,000 (requesting \$15,500)

**Timeline:** Contingent upon funding.

**Project Description:** NORCOR is seeking to build facilities on an adjacent lot to facilitate use of the site by interested businesses. This project would complete the permitting, site plan, utilities and wetland mitigation necessary to initiate construction. They need engineering of a cut and fill plan, access planning and site prep engineering before work can start on the ground.

## **9. Industrial Land Acquisition, Port of The Dalles**

**Contact:** Andrea Klaas, 541-298-4148, andrea@portofthedalles.com

**Cost:** \$15M (requesting \$13M)

**Timeline:** Contingent upon funding.

**Project Description:** Currently there is a very limited supply of ready-to-go industrial land in The Dalles to attract new businesses and help existing businesses expand. This project would allow the port to purchase land to have available for industrial businesses. Once the land is purchased, the Port will apply for funds to install necessary infrastructure.

## **10. Auditorium Restoration Engineering and Design, The Dalles Civic Auditorium**

**Contact:** Steve Lawrence, 541-298-8533, civic@netcnct.net

**Cost:** \$3,550,000 (requesting \$3,300,000)

**Timeline:** Contingent upon funding.

**Project Description:** This project would completely restore the auditorium portion of the Civic Building. Restoration will return the auditorium to 1921 character but with current

upgrades. It will include refinishing the ballroom floor, installing an acoustical barrier between the gymnasium and the ballroom and repair of failing gutter system.

### **Infrastructure**

#### **1. Marine Terminal Construction, City of The Dalles**

**Contact:** Nolan Young, 541-296-5481, nyoung@ci.the-dalles.or.us

**Cost:** \$4,015,000 (requesting \$0 – recently received \$2M award from EDA and \$2M from ConnectOregon III funds)

**Timeline:** Final design and permits completed early fall 2010. Construction will begin in October 2010.

**Project Description:** The existing Marine Terminal currently only provides for storage of river barges. A new multiuse Marine Terminal with parking and restrooms facilities is needed to help reconnect the downtown business district and the local economy once again to the river. This project will rehabilitate the existing terminal and build adjacent supporting infrastructure to support use of the terminal for shipping and tourism.

#### **2. Downtown Riverfront Undercrossing, City of The Dalles**

**Contact:** Nolan Young, 541-296-5481, nyoung@ci.the-dalles.or.us

**Cost:** \$9,680,000 (requesting \$2,630,000)

**Timeline:** Final design will be completed fall 2010. Construction can begin depending on final funding in early 2011.

**Project Description:** The freeway and the railroad separates The Dalles from the Columbia River, precluding river access from the downtown area and the rest of the community. This project will link the downtown core area to the river for tourism, recreational, and business uses. A pedestrian-only access tunnel will pass under the freeway and the railroad at Washington Street.

#### **3. The Dalles Skatepark, Northern Wasco County Parks and Recreation District**

**Contact:** Scott Green, 541-296-9533, scott@nwprd.org

**Cost:** \$275,000 (requesting \$0 – funding has been received from Urban Renewal)

**Timeline:** Design for the project is being donated. Construction will begin soon.

**Project Description:** Skateboarding is one of the fastest growing recreational sports for youth. Without a skatepark, kids skate where they're not supposed to, causing problems. The proposed site at upper Thompson Park is currently underutilized as an overflow parking area. The skatepark will be a 9-11,000 square foot outdoor concrete structure that will combine streetscape elements and bowls, have benches and ADA paths.

#### **4. Historic Vehicle Display and Curation Building, Fort Dalles Museum**

**Contact:** Eric Gleason, 541-296-1802, egleasonjcheung@gmail.com

**Cost:** \$550,000 (requesting \$378,400)

**Timeline:** Initial design work is complete, now starting work on permitting. Construction could begin as early as Summer 2010 with funding.

**Project Description:** The Fort Dalles Museum is the oldest historical museum in Oregon and has a varied collection of artifacts that are displayed and maintained in some of the most historical and architecturally significant buildings in the state. The museum's large and significant collection of horse-drawn vehicles is housed in less than ideal situations partially exposed to the weather. A new building with space for display, interpretation and curatorial facilities is needed in order to protect, preserve, display and interpret these vehicles and other portions of the museum collection.

#### **5. Riverfront Trail, Northern Wasco Co. Parks & Rec.**

**Contact:** Scott Green, 541-296-9533, scott@nwprd.org

**Cost:** \$307,000 (requesting \$277,000)

**Timeline:** Engineering complete, easement obtained. This project is shovel ready.

**Project Description:** The Dalles Riverfront trail is a planned 10-mile multi-use trail that will connect The Columbia Gorge Discovery Center, the Marine Terminal, Downtown The Dalles and The Dalles Dam Visitors Center. About 8.5 miles have been constructed. This project will complete 1400 feet of trail, erect a bridge and install a boardwalk to connect with the new Lone Pine Village mixed-use development.

#### **6. Fire Hall Construction, City of Dufur**

**Contact:** Glenn Miller/ Darla Clifton, 541-467-2349, dufurcity@ortelco.net

**Cost:** \$465,000 (requesting \$300,000)

**Timeline:** Blueprints ready; construction contingent upon funding.

**Project Description:** Dufur currently does not have enough space to store the fire trucks, ambulance and associated equipment. This project would build a new facility with four double bays, training and storage space.

#### **7. Wamic Grade Reconstruction, Wasco County Public Works**

**Contact:** Marty Matherly, 541-506-2640, martym@co.wasco.or.us

**Cost:** \$1,033,000 (requesting \$1,033,000)

**Timeline:** Contingent upon funding.

**Project Description:** Wamic Market Road has sub-standard curves, road shoulders and little or no recovery areas. This project would reconstruct a section of Wamic Market Road to improve roadway alignment and grade and provide wider travel lanes, wider shoulders and recovery areas. Some guardrail would also be placed in appropriate locations. The reconstruction work would consist of slope excavation, embankment

work, guardrail installation and roadway construction including new base rock and pavement.

#### **8. Industrial Park Waterline Upgrade Engineering, City of The Dalles**

**Contact:** Nolan Young, 541-296-5481, nyoung@ci.the-dalles.or.us

**Cost:** \$2,166,000 (requesting \$1,789,175)

**Timeline:** Contingent upon funding.

**Project Description:** The Port of The Dalles Industrial Park is currently served by a single water main that is too small in diameter to meet the needs of industrial water users for fire protection. This project would construct a second water main to supply the Industrial Park (approximately 12,400 feet of 18-inch diameter mainline) that is capable of providing the recommended fire flow rates, would effectively “loop” the water system serving the area, and provide redundancy to the water supply system for industrial customers.

#### **9. Planning Department Upgrade, Wasco County Administrative Office**

**Contact:** Tyler Stone, 541-506-2552, tylers@co.wasco.or.us

**Cost:** \$108,257 (requesting \$30,000)

**Timeline:** Contingent upon funding.

**Project Description:** The Wasco County Planning Department Office needs to be upgraded for better public access, energy efficiency improvements, safety and security concerns. The remodel will include installation of an insulated dropped ceiling with energy efficient lighting and an upgraded system of ducting to deliver the conditioned air from two new energy efficient HVAC units. Additional divided spaces will be created to allow for better use of the space. Temporary space for the operation of the Planning Department during the remodel will also be required.

#### **10. Bathroom/ Shower Upgrade, Dufur Recreation District**

**Contact:** Chris Highfield, 541-993-0980, chighfie@ortelco.net

**Cost:** \$50,000 (requesting \$0 –funding recently received through Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department)

**Timeline:** Construction completed fall 2010.

**Project Description:** Dufur City Park’s current restrooms are sheds with toilets and no electricity. They are not ADA-accessible and do not meet the needs of park users. The project would demolish the restrooms, prepare the site and install an ADA restroom/shower building.

## Completed Projects

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Shaniko Work Day	Completed 2010
Wasco County Planning Energy Land Use Chapter update	Scheduled for completion 2010
Wasco County Annex renovation	Scheduled for completion 2010
The Dalles East Gateway project	Completed 2010
Wasco County Fairgrounds well replacement	Completed 2010
Renewable Energy Technology program expanded, interim lab building completed	Completed 2009
Main Street Mosier community survey and vision development	Completed 2009
Columbia Gorge Bi-State Renewable Energy Zone booth and presence at Windpower Conference & Expo	Completed 2009 and 2010
Wasco County Buildable Lands Study	Completed 2009
Maupin city website development	Completed 2009
Mosier wastewater treatment plant upgrade	Completed 2009
Maupin streetscape and sewer improvements	Completed 2009
Discovery Center raptor program (initial development)	Completed 2008
Maupin reservoir building	Completed 2007
Shaniko School restoration	Completed 2007-2008
CGCC campus upgrade	Completed 2005-2008
Wamic wastewater system	Completed 2005
Commodore II renovation	Completed 2004
Q-Life fiberoptic system	Completed 2004
Second Street renovation -- The Dalles	Completed 2002
Union Street Portal	Completed 2002

## Appendix I: Needs and Issues Project Summary, April 2010

Below is the list of the Needs and Issues Projects that were submitted for prioritization but that were not ranked among the top ten in each category (Technical Assistance or Infrastructure). A (\*) indicates a project that appears on both the Technical Assistance and Infrastructure lists; these projects had both design/engineering and construction needs.

<u>Technical Assistance</u>	
Dufur Recreation District	Pool replacement engineering and design
Dufur, City of	South Basin water storage engineering and design
	Dedicated water line to reservoir engineering and design
	Stormwater system engineering and design
Maupin, City of	*American Legion Hall modernization design
	*Lions Club/ St. Vincent's food storage, distribution center engineering and design
Mosier Middle School Committee	Mosier Middle School engineering and design
Northern Wasco Co. Parks & Rec.	Thompson Park Aquatic Facility engineering and design
The Dalles, City of	Downtown parking structure engineering and design
Wamic Water & Sanitary Authority	Water system upgrade engineering and design
Wasco County, Planning Department	Coordinated Planning Task List
Wasco County, Public Works	Hood River Road Reconstruction engineering and design
<u>Infrastructure</u>	
Canyon Rim Manor	Paving George Jackson Rd
Dufur Recreation District	Basketball court
	Garbage can purchase
	Bleacher purchase
	Dufur Park landscaping & fencing
Maupin, City of	*Lions Club/ St. Vincent's food storage, distribution center construction
	*American Legion Hall modernization construction
Mid-Columbia Senior Center	Senior Center building expansion project
Shaniko, City of	Public Restroom Improvements
	Shaniko Community Hall Renovation
	Fire and Emergency Services Building
	Post Office Handicap Access
	School Park Upgrades
The Dalles, City of	The Dalles Dam Tours infrastructure
	Lewis & Clark Fountain
	Gitchell Building rehab
Tygh Valley Water District	New reservoir construction

As a new outreach effort in 2010, organizations and agencies in Wasco County were encouraged to submit information about multi-year, long-term projects they are working towards. These projects were provided for informational purposes to the Commission and not prioritized. The complete list is below.

<u>Long-Term Projects</u>	
Columbia Gorge Community College	National Guard Readiness Center construction
	Stable funding for nursing instruction program
	Stable funding for renewable energy technology program
Columbia Gorge Discovery Center	Pay off original infrastructure construction debt
	Develop capacity-building funding for long-term viability
	Endowment development
Dufur, City of	Wastewater mutual agreement & order project
Mosier, City of	UPRR land acquisition
	Mosier Creek bike/ped bridge engineering & design
	Pressure zone hydraulic modifications for a new reservoir
	Eastside water system improvements
	Third Avenue reconstruction
	City stormwater plan
Mid-Columbia Economic Development District	Revolving loan fund recapitalization
Shaniko, City of	School kitchen addition
	School park upgrades
The Dalles, City of	Downtown streetscape phase III construction
Wasco County Admin Office	Annex HVAC upgrade
	Courthouse boiler replacement
	Courthouse electrical upgrade
	Courthouse jail area remodel
	Fairground arena replacement
	Fairgrounds exhibit halls and barns replacement
	Fairgrounds water distribution system replacement
Wasco County, Planning Department	Underground fuel tank removal
	Destination resort overlay zone
Wasco County SWCD	Orchard Ridge ditch piping
	Badger ditch piping and fish screening

## **Appendix II: Strategic Planning History**

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### **Background**

In an effort to reverse economic decline caused by changes in natural resource-based industry, the nine towns and the county government of Wasco County, Oregon, initiated a strategic planning process in the fall of 1994 that was facilitated by Rural Development Initiatives, Inc. (RDI). The result was the 1995 Wasco County Strategic Action Plan. From 1995 to 1999 many projects listed in the 1995 Strategic Action Plan were implemented and were successful. In the 1999 and 2003 term, the Wasco County Economic Development Commission (EDC) convened for several meetings to update the 1995 Wasco County Strategic Action Plan. The EDC is a county advisory committee of county appointed members representing a variety of business, government and civic interests from communities across the county which is responsible for designing and implementing economic/community development strategies for the county.

Columbia Gorge Community College contracted with the county to provide economic development services from 1997 to July 2008. As of July 2008, Mid-Columbia Economic Development District assumed this responsibility.

### **Strategic Planning Process**

Communities in the southern part of Wasco County began working with Rural Development Initiatives, Inc. to develop a strategic plan for that region in 1992. Using their completed strategic plans, they were successful in their efforts to attract investments in infrastructure and facilities to enhance the tourism industry. Based on these successes, the Wasco County Economic Development Commission sought funding from the U.S. Forest Service to initiate a countywide strategic plan that would link the southern and northern communities, and tie their efforts to regional economic and workforce strategies. The county also wanted to develop benchmarks comparable to those developed by the State of Oregon as a means to measure their performance. Wasco County contracted with RDI to design and facilitate a process to create the countywide plan.

The EDC began meeting in the fall of 2002 to update the 1995 strategic plan. Agencies within the county and other members of the community participated by offering their ideas and support at various stages of this process. The strategic planning process consisted of several steps designed to explore alternative development options, define goals for the future and develop strategies to achieve these goals. The primary steps included:

1. Updating the county vision statement: this statement provides a vivid picture of the county's desired future. EDC members evaluated the results from the 1995 Strategic Action Plan, gathered new ideas for project development, prioritized projects, and then wove the common threads into an updated single vision statement for the county.
2. Establishment of measurable goals to realize this vision by concentrating on the following four building blocks of development: business development, physical infrastructure, quality of life and workforce/education development.

Current goals of the EDC are identified in the introduction to this document.

## Appendix III: Wasco County Profile

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### Recreation

In Wasco County, recreationalists find a wealth of activities to keep them busy, including walking and bike riding, wildflower viewing, bird watching, windsurfing, hiking, boating, fishing, skiing (water and snow), snowboarding, camping, golfing, hunting and sightseeing. These activities and more take place at the numerous parks and recreational areas around the County. A short list of these amenities include the Columbia River, Mt Hood National Forest, Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, Beavercreek Wilderness, the Historic Columbia River Highway, Pine Hollow Golf Course, White River State Park, Pine Hollow Lake, Rock Creek Reservoir Lake, Deschutes River, Sherar's Falls, Ka-nee-tah Resort and Casino, Shaniko museums, Columbia Gorge Discovery Center, and The Dalles Riverfront Trail.

### Climate/Elevation/Land Area

Average temperature: 33.4° F in January, 73.1° F in July

Average annual precipitation: 13.17 inches

Land area: 2,381.05 square miles

Persons per square mile: 10.2, using 2009 population estimates (Population Research Center, Portland State University)

### County Population

1980	1990	2000	2009	% Change 2000-2009
21,732	21,683	23,791	24,230	1.8%

*Source: US Census and 2009 Oregon Population Report from the Population Research Center at Portland State University.*

### County Housing (Source: US Census)

Year	1990	2000	2008
Total Housing Units	10,476	10,651	10,792

Median Value of Owner-Occupied Housing in 2000: \$105,500

Median Household Income in 2008: \$40,884

### County Employment

Private non-farm establishments: 766 in 2004; 819 in 2008

	2004	May 2008	May 2009	May 2010
Private non-farm employment	6,210	7,350	6,940	7,160
Unemployment rate	8.6%	5.4%	11.3%	8.9%

*Source: Oregon Employment Department*

## **Appendix IV: Wasco County Community Profiles**

### **Antelope**

Address: PO Box 105, 97001  
Phone: (541) 489-3201

Elevation: 2,631'  
Incorporated: 1901  
Mayor: Brian Sheer

### **City Location**

Nearest Major Highway and Distance: Hwy 97 – 8 miles  
Nearest Major City and Distance: Madras – 34 miles, 40 minutes  
Distance to Portland: 143 miles

### **Recreational Amenities**

Mountain biking, proximity to the Warm Springs Indian Reservation, John Day River recreation area, John Day Fossil Beds National Monument.

### **Climate**

Monthly Ave. Low: 25°F  
Hottest Month: July  
Driest Month: July  
Average annual precipitation: 13.410"  
Monthly Ave. High: 85°F  
Coldest Month: January  
Wettest Month: November

### **Population**

1980	1990	2000	2009	% Change 2000-09
39	34	59	60	1.7%

Source: US Census and 2009 Oregon Population Report from the Population Research Center at Portland State University.

### **Community Age Profile**

	1990	2000
Under 5 years	0	3
5-19 years	5	10
20-44 years	5	12
45-64 years	24	19
65+ years	8	15
Median Age	52	50.5

### **Housing**

	1970	1980	1990	2000
Total Housing Units	10	19	33	41

Median Value of Owner-Occupied Housing, 1990: (no data)

Median Value of Owner-Occupied Housing, 2000: \$49,000

## **Dufur**

Address: PO Box 145, 97021  
Phone: (541) 467-2349  
Fax: (541) 467-2353  
Email: dufurcity@ortelco.net

Elevation: 1,300'  
Incorporated: 1893  
Mayor: Arthur Smith

### **City Location**

Nearest Major Highway and Distance: I-84 – 14 miles  
Nearest Major City and Distance: The Dalles – 14 miles, 20 minutes  
Distance to Portland: 97 miles

### **Recreational Amenities**

Barlow Ranger Station on the Mt. Hood National Forest, proximity to the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area, Beaver Creek Wilderness, Dufur Historical Society Living History Museum; Dufur Threshing Bee each August offers one of the nation's finest displays of working vintage horse-drawn and steam-driven farm machinery.

### **Climate**

Monthly Ave. Low:	24°F	Monthly Ave. High:	85°F
Hottest Month:	July	Coldest Month:	January
Driest Month:	July	Wettest Month:	December

Average annual precipitation: 12,500"

### **Population**

1980	1990	1999	2000	2009	% Change 2000-09
488	527	625	588	660	12.2%

Source: US Census and 2009 Oregon Population Report from the Population Research Center at Portland State University.

### **Community Age Profile**

	1990	2000
Under 5 years	40	21
5-19 years	105	148
20-44 years	211	142
45-64 years	117	167
65+ years	99	110
Median Age	38	42.7

### **Housing**

	1970	1980	1990	2000
Total Housing Units	206	252	266	265

Median Value of Owner-Occupied Housing, 1990: \$47,000

Median Value of Owner-Occupied Housing, 2000: \$94,700

## **Maupin**

Address: PO Box 308, 97037  
Phone: (541) 395-2698  
Fax: (541) 395-2499  
Email: maupincity@centurytel.net

Elevation: 1,021'  
Incorporated: 1922  
Mayor: Denny Ross

### **City Location**

Nearest Major Highway and Distance: I-84 – 39 miles  
Nearest Major City and Distance: The Dalles – 39 miles; 45 minutes  
Distance to Portland: 95 miles

### **Recreational Amenities**

Deschutes River Recreation Area, Maupin City Park, Sherar's Falls, White River Falls at Tygh Valley, hiking, boating, fishing, camping and sightseeing. Major rafting launch points for the Deschutes River are located in Maupin.

### **Climate**

Monthly Ave. Low: 24°F  
Hottest Month: July  
Driest Month: July  
Average annual precipitation: 18.340"  
Monthly Ave. High: 83°F  
Coldest Month: January  
Wettest Month: January

### **Population**

1980	1990	1999	2000	2009	% Change 2000-09
495	456	490	411	490	19.2%

Source: US Census and 2009 Oregon Population Report from the Population Research Center at Portland State University.

### **Community Age Profile**

	1990	2000
Under 5 years	28	22
5-19 years	86	85
20-44 years	122	108
45-64 years	108	128
65+ years	86	68
Median Age	41	43.9

### **Housing**

	1970	1980	1990	2000
Total Housing Units	168	224	253	244

Median Value of Owner-Occupied Housing, 1990: \$37,100

Median Value of Owner-Occupied Housing, 2000: \$86,000

## **Mosier**

Address: PO Box 456, 97040-0456  
Phone: (541) 478-3505  
Fax: Fax (541) 478-3810  
Email: mosiercityhall@gorge.net

Elevation: 112'  
Incorporated: 1914  
Mayor: Andrea Rogers

### **City Location**

Nearest Major Highway and Distance: I-84 – Local  
Nearest Major City and Distance: Hood River – 5 miles: 5 minutes  
Distance to Portland: 70 miles

### **Recreational Amenities**

Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, Mosier Twin Tunnels along the Historic Columbia River Highway, biking, hiking, bird-watching, windsurfing, Tom McCall State Park at Rowena Crest, Columbia River viewpoints and waterfront trail.

### **Climate**

Monthly Ave. Low: 30°F  
Hottest Month: August  
Driest Month: July  
Average annual precipitation: 13.970"  
Monthly Ave. High: 88°F  
Coldest Month: January  
Wettest Month: December

### **Population**

1980	1990	1999	2000	2009	% Change 2000-09
340	244	360	410	485	18.3%

Source: US Census and 2009 Oregon Population Report from the Population Research Center at Portland State University.

### **Community Age Profile**

	1990	2000
Under 5 years	7	30
5-19 years	33	82
20-44 years	51	151
45-64 years	35	91
65+ years	76	56
Median Age	54	37.1

### **Housing**

	1970	1980	1990	2000
Total Housing Units	72	102	112	191

Median Value of Owner-Occupied Housing, 1990: \$70,000

Median Value of Owner-Occupied Housing, 2000: \$168,800

## **Shaniko**

Address: PO Box 17, 97057  
Phone: (541) 489-3226  
Fax: (541) 489-3226  
Web: [www.shaniko.com](http://www.shaniko.com)  
[www.shaniko-oregon.com](http://www.shaniko-oregon.com)

Elevation: 3,646'  
Incorporated: 1901  
Mayor: Goldie Roberts

### **City Location**

Nearest Major Highway and Distance: Hwy 97 – Local miles  
Nearest Major City and Distance: Redmond – 69 miles: 1 1/2 hours  
Distance to Portland: 131 miles

### **Recreational Amenities**

Historic Oregon “ghost town” with restored downtown, authentic boardwalks, antique wagon collection, original school building, city hall and city jail. Shaniko was once the world’s largest inland wool shipping center.

### **Climate**

Monthly Ave. Low: 25°F      Monthly Ave. High: 85°F  
Hottest Month: July      Coldest Month: January  
Driest Month: July      Wettest Month: November  
Average annual precipitation: 13.410”

### **Population**

1980	1990	2000	2009	% Change 2000-09
30	26	26	40	53.8%

Source: US Census and 2009 Oregon Population Report from the Population Research Center at Portland State University.

### **Community Age Profile**

	1990	2000
Under 5 years	8	0
5-19 years	8	2
20-44 years	6	3
45-64 years	16	11
65+ years	0	10
Median Age	45	61.0

### **Housing**

	1970	1980	1990	2000
Total Housing Units	18	20	20	35

Median Value of Owner-Occupied Housing, 1990: \$14,999

Median Value of Owner-Occupied Housing, 2000: \$37,500

## **The Dalles**

Address: 313 Court Street, 97058  
Phone: (541) 506-6150  
Fax: (541) 506-6102  
Email: [cityinfo@ci.the-dalles.or.us](mailto:cityinfo@ci.the-dalles.or.us)

Elevation: 92'  
Incorporated: 1857  
Mayor: Jim Wilcox  
Web: [www.ci.the-dalles.or.us](http://www.ci.the-dalles.or.us)

### **City Location**

Nearest Major Highway and Distance: I-84 – Local  
Nearest Major City and Distance: Hood River – 21 miles: 21 minutes  
Distance to Portland: 83 miles

### **Recreational Amenities**

The Columbia Gorge and Cascade Mountains give The Dalles residents and visitors easy access to year-round outdoor activities. There are city, state and federal parks; water sports; the River Front Trail; The Dalles Marina; a golf course; public swimming pool; and indoor recreation facilities. Cultural attractions include historic sites, several museums, Columbia River Gorge Discovery Center and special events such as the Cherry Festival and Ft. Dalles Rodeo. Other activities include windsurfing, hiking, biking, fishing, boating, flying, Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, Beavercreek Wilderness, Mt. Hood National Recreation Area and Deschutes River Recreation Area.

### **Climate**

Monthly Ave. Low:	30°F	Monthly Ave. High:	85°F
Hottest Month:	July	Coldest Month:	January
Driest Month:	July	Wettest Month:	December

Average annual precipitation: 13.97"

### **Population**

1980	1990	2000	2009	% Change 2000-09
10,820	11,021	12,156	13,385	10.1%

Source: US Census and 2009 Oregon Population Report from the Population Research Center at Portland State University.

### **Community Age Profile**

	1990	2000
Under 5 years	757	813
5-19 years	2,457	2503
20-44 years	3,848	3789
45-64 years	1,832	2856
65+ years	2,166	2195
Median Age	37	39.3

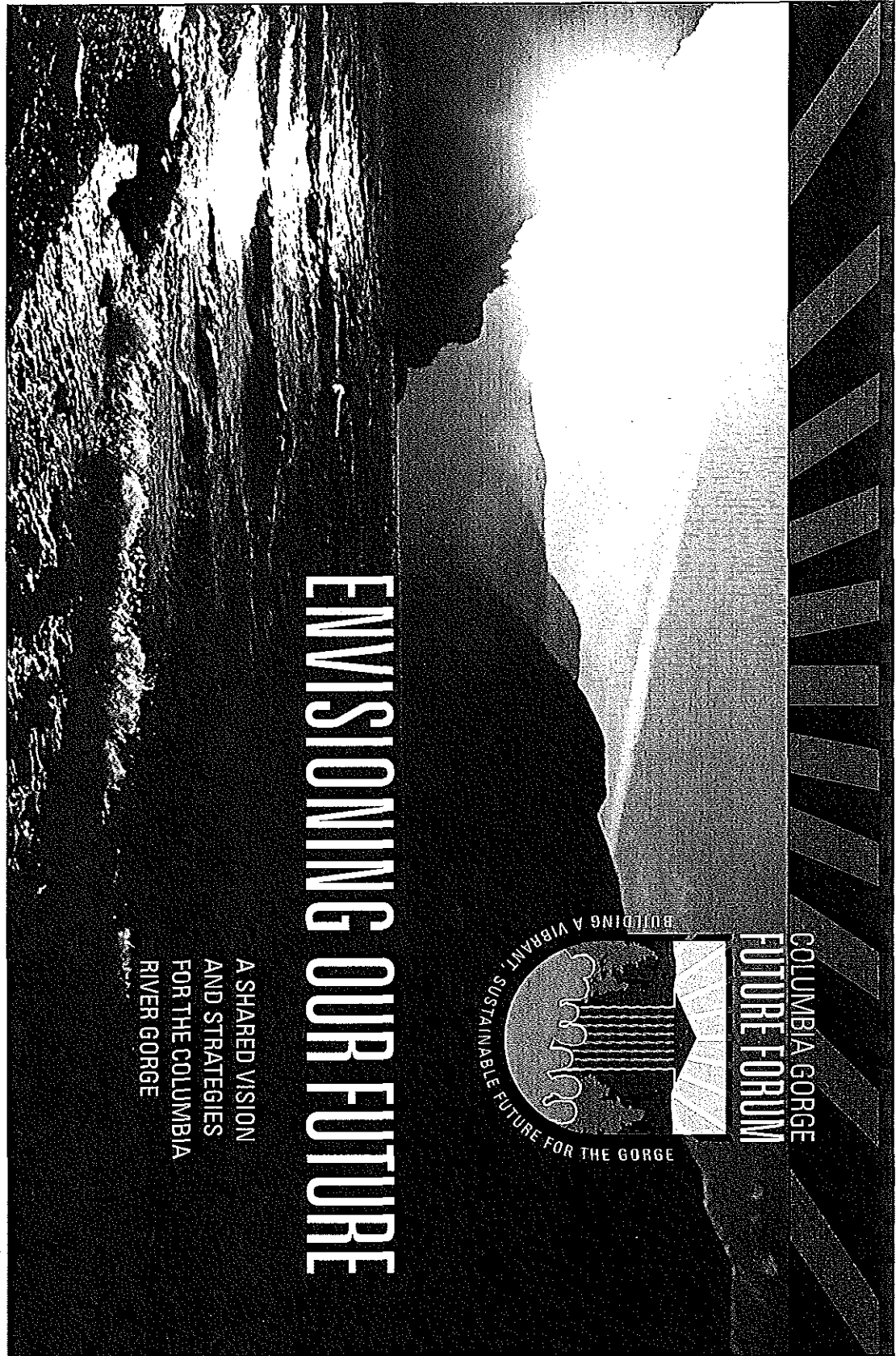
### **Housing**

	1970	1980	1990	2000
Total Housing Units	3,754	4,410	4,843	5227

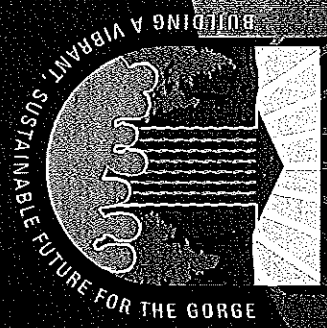
Median Value of Owner-Occupied Housing, 1990: \$50,200

Median Value of Owner-Occupied Housing, 2000: \$103,800

Exhibit I



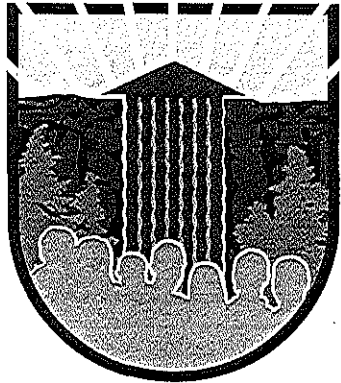
COLUMBIA GORGE  
FUTURE FORUM



# ENVISIONING OUR FUTURE

A SHARED VISION  
AND STRATEGIES  
FOR THE COLUMBIA  
RIVER GORGE

## COLUMBIA GORGE FUTURE FORUM



4. STRONG, HEALTHY  
COMMUNITIES



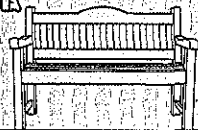
6. DYNAMIC LOCAL  
ECONOMIES



8. SUSTAINABLE  
ENVIRONMENT



10. VIBRANT, LIVABLE  
PLACES



12. BALANCED, ACCESSIBLE  
TRANSPORTATION



14. THRIVING EDUCATION  
& ARTS



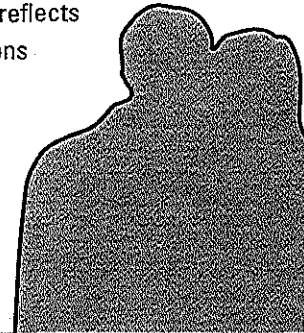
# A FORUM ON OUR FUTURE

The Columbia Gorge Future Forum is a participatory public process focused on creating a shared vision for the Columbia River Gorge. The Future Forum is reaching across city, county, state and tribal boundaries to envision the future of this magnificent region in an integrated, collaborative way.

While building on past regional conversations, the Future Forum represents the first-ever sustained visioning effort for the Gorge – backed by a broad base of public support, exploring a comprehensive range of issues of concern to citizens and designed to support local communities as they plan for the future.

This publication presents the results of the Future Forum visioning process. Organized around six themes and incorporating 75 specific strategies for change, the Gorge vision reflects the input of hundreds of individuals and organizations from diverse backgrounds and perspectives.

The Gorge vision stands ready to inform, guide and motivate local communities, leaders and citizens in undertaking initiatives that will bring our vision closer to reality.



# BUILDING A VIBRANT, SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR THE GORGE

## WE ENVISION...

...**STRONG, HEALTHY COMMUNITIES** ~ each distinct in its people, places and local identity, yet sharing common qualities and values that unite our region and its hopes for the future.

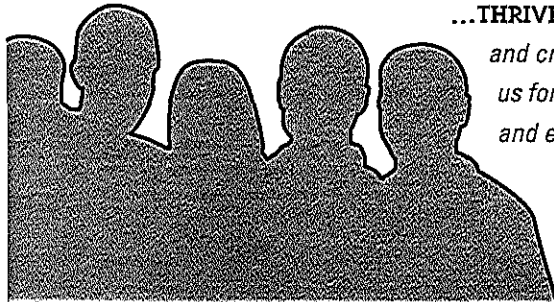
...**DYNAMIC LOCAL ECONOMIES** ~ building on our traditional strengths and resources to create new opportunities for year-round, sustainable, locally based employment.

...**A SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT** ~ where people prize our region's beauty, steward and protect its natural resources, and strive to minimize their impact on its natural systems.

...**VIBRANT, LIVABLE PLACES** ~ where growth is well managed, urban development is concentrated and local communities enjoy a rewarding quality of life.

...**BALANCED, ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION** ~ connecting our region and allowing people and goods to move safely, efficiently and conveniently with minimal environmental impacts.

...**THRIVING EDUCATION AND ARTS** ~ where learning and creative expression nurture our youth, prepare us for employment, broaden our cultural horizons and enrich our daily lives.



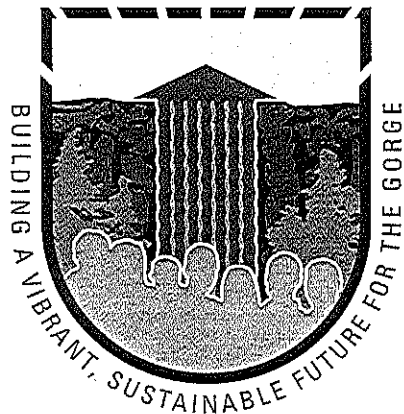
COLUMBIA GORGE FUTURE FORUM | VISION & STRATEGIES



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# THE CHALLENGE OF CHANGE

## COLUMBIA GORGE FUTURE FORUM



Today, Columbia Gorge communities are changing at a pace never before experienced. Every day, our world becomes 'smaller,' and even the most remote places are affected by far-flung global trends and forces.

Over the last 20 years, Gorge residents have seen their share of change — population growth, economic shifts, environmental stresses — and the impact on jobs, housing, transportation, public services, natural areas and our quality of life. Because change is a constant, it's more important than ever that Gorge communities learn to respond in a proactive way.

A vision can be a powerful tool for managing and directing change. While it's important for any community to focus on its day-to-day business and immediate challenges, a guiding vision enables us to see such activities from a long-term perspective, creating a more unified, strategic direction for our future.

The Columbia Gorge Future Forum seeks to support this goal through the creation of a shared, regional vision. A vision that unites our region can help inform and guide local actions — adding up to a vibrant, more sustainable Gorge that we all want to be part of.

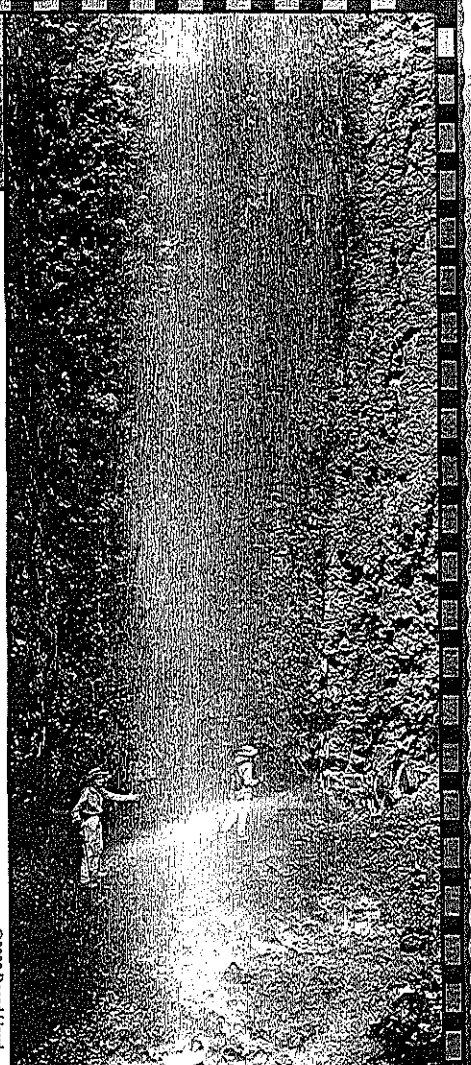
# THE VISIONING PROCESS

In 2007, the Columbia Gorge Future Forum launched a public process to create a vision for our region. In October, 150 stakeholders and sponsors gathered at the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center for a dynamic day of conversation. There, a noted futurist and panel of regional experts outlined key trends and issues facing the region. Participants discussed these challenges and shared their visions for the future.

Encouraged by citizens, the Future Forum broadened the dialogue. From February to April 2008, local meetings were conducted in the Gorge's 13 cities and unincorporated communities. Special meetings were also held for Gorge Tribal and Hispanic communities. Additionally, citizens were invited to contribute their ideas electronically – via the Future Forum Web site.

At each new juncture in the discussion, participants were asked to describe what they value most about the Gorge, challenges facing our future, their own vision for the Gorge in 20 years and local actions that could help achieve such a vision.

In the end, more than 500 individuals contributed some 1,500 comments. This input was analyzed by Portland State University's Survey Research Lab to identify common themes and ideas. The results were captured in the six thematic visions and 75 specific strategies on the pages that follow...



## COLUMBIA GORGE FUTURE FORUM



**WE ENVISION** a network of strong, healthy communities across the Columbia Gorge – each distinct in its people, places and local identity, yet sharing common values that unite our region and its hopes for the future...

**In our vision**, we work to ensure that our communities protect and enhance their identities and quality of life through good governance, sound planning and sustainable development. Gorge communities remain safe, secure, welcoming places in which to grow, thrive and age. We support our families, youth and elders through affordable housing and health care, accessible transportation and diverse recreational opportunities. Our communities are built on cooperation and mutual respect, and are inclusive of our varied cultures, ethnicities and indigenous tribes. Our citizens are actively engaged in local government and work together to create solutions to the challenges of the future. Our governments and leaders listen carefully to the needs and aspirations of their citizens, and work across boundaries to cooperate in achieving our shared regional vision and goals.

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COLUMBIA GORGE FUTURE FORUM 4 VISION & STRATEGIES

# OUR VISION FOR STRONG, HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

## STRATEGIES FOR ACHIEVING OUR VISION

### COMMUNITY IDENTITY

- ☛ Support local community-building efforts.
- ☛ Increase local volunteerism, community improvement projects and celebrations.

### COOPERATION, RESPECT & DIVERSITY

- ☛ Promote opportunities for regional cooperation and resource sharing among Gorge citizens.
- ☛ Promote understanding and respect for social and cultural diversity in Gorge communities.
- ☛ Explore ways to improve the lives of Native Americans in the Gorge, including tribal rights and ceremonies, laws affecting tribes, improved housing and tribal business development.

### HEALTH & SAFETY

- ☛ Increase funding and support for local and regional law enforcement programs.
- ☛ Improve and enhance local police and fire departments.
- ☛ Promote a more holistic, preventive health care model in the Gorge.

- ☛ Provide safe, healthy activities and opportunities for youth.
- ☛ Expand and improve essential services for elderly populations.

### CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

- ☛ Increase public involvement programs and activities throughout Gorge governance.
- ☛ Strengthen civic engagement through a permanent regional forum for citizen dialogue.
- ☛ Support and expand opportunities for volunteers in Gorge communities, including schools and parks.

### GOVERNANCE

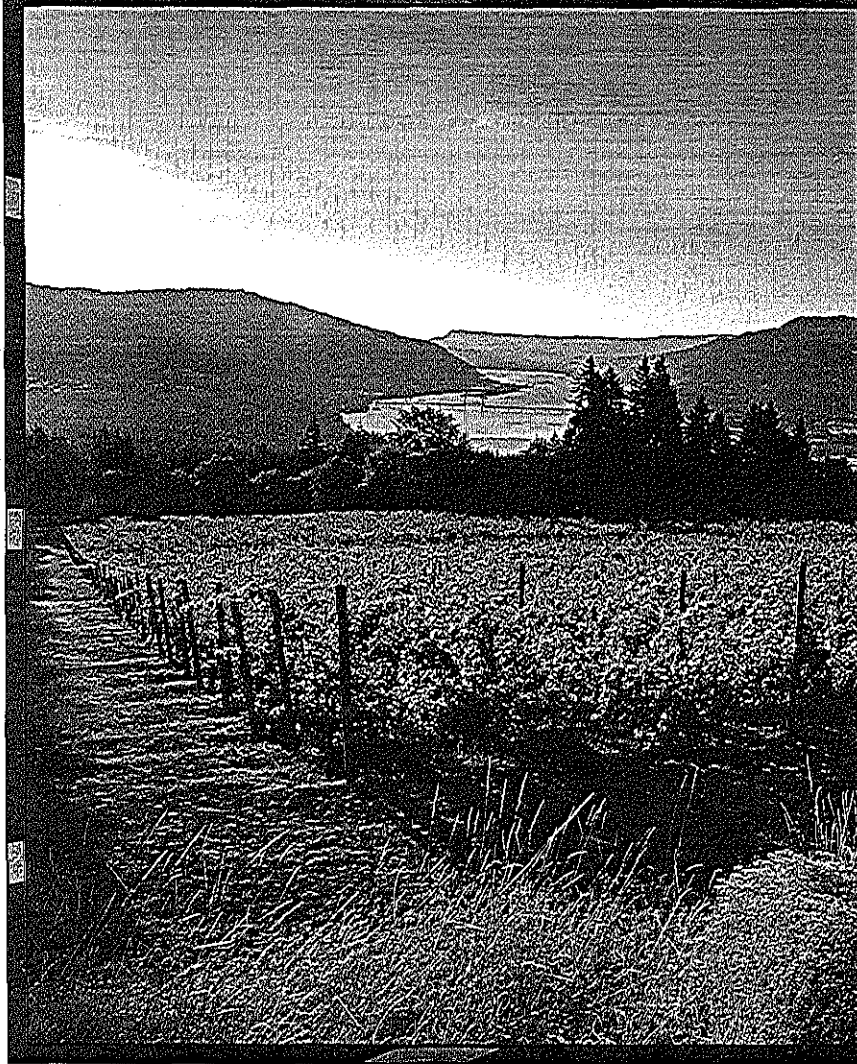
- ☛ Strengthen regional and inter-agency planning, coordination and program implementation.
- ☛ Encourage and promote regional partnerships in economic development and other government services.
- ☛ Increase local government involvement in growth management, transportation, natural resource protection and other programs.
- ☛ Institute new financial tools and incentives to support the region's vision and goals.

*"A community of individuals willing to give of themselves to preserve the passionate and diverse way of life we experience in the Gorge."*

*~ Vision of Cascade Locks Community Meeting Participant*

For more details on our vision and strategies go to [www.GorgeFutureForum.org](http://www.GorgeFutureForum.org)





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## COLUMBIA GORGE FUTURE FORUM



**WE ENVISION** dynamic local economies for Columbia Gorge communities – building on our traditional strengths and resources to create new opportunities for year-round, sustainable, locally based employment...

**In our vision,** we see increased economic diversity in the Gorge, including new business and industry based on the Internet, high technology, alternative energy and sustainable

development. While agriculture remains a major force in our economy, we have increased our emphasis on sustainable farming practices and food production for local markets. Tourism in the Gorge is sustainably managed and demonstrates a profound respect for our environment, communities and native cultures. Visitors enjoy ecological, agricultural and cultural tourism opportunities that highlight our natural environment, orchards and vineyards, and local communities. Small, local and home-based businesses, niche technology companies and cottage industries have expanded their role in the Gorge. Advances in telecommunications support our local entrepreneurs, allowing more people to earn a living wage in the communities where they live.

# OUR VISION FOR DYNAMIC LOCAL ECONOMIES

*"Communities that rely upon locally produced food and renewable energy, including wind, small scale hydro, biomass and solar." ~ Vision of Discovery Center Event Participant*

## STRATEGIES FOR ACHIEVING OUR VISION

### LOCAL & REGIONAL ECONOMIES

- Support Gorge-based networks and professional organizations, and their activities, products and services.
- Recruit new businesses that sustain local communities, including Gorge grown or made products, 'value-added' manufacturing, alternative energy and low-impact technology.
- Encourage local businesses, retailers and banks to offer discounts and financial incentives for Gorge residents.
- Promote a 'complementary currency system' – a formalized barter and trade program.

### EMPLOYMENT & SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

- Create local living wage job opportunities for Gorge residents in sustainable industry, renewable energy, home-based business and cottage industries.
- Support development of small, locally owned businesses that serve community needs.

### TECHNOLOGY

- Improve and enhance telecommunication infrastructure and services, fostering high-tech, low-impact businesses, home-based business and telecommuter-based employment.

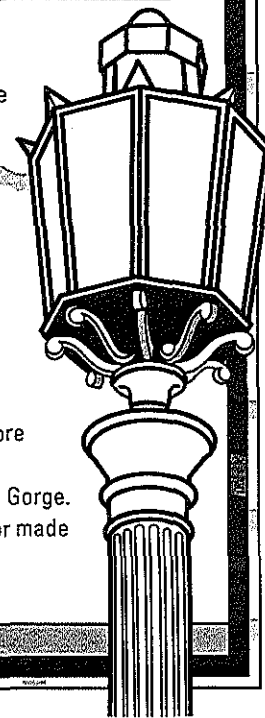
### AGRICULTURE

- Refine local land use plans and zoning codes to encourage local, small-scale farms.
- Promote increased local food production to meet the needs of Gorge communities.

### TOURISM

- Enhance the Gorge tourism experience by providing more visitor amenities.
- Promote 'ecotourism' and 'agritourism' programs in the Gorge.
- Develop a Gorge-based retail center for Gorge grown or made goods that cater to tourists.

For more details on our vision and strategies visit [www.GorgeFutureForum.org](http://www.GorgeFutureForum.org)



## COLUMBIA GORGE FUTURE FORUM

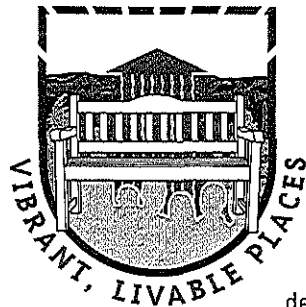


**WE ENVISION** a sustainable environment in the Columbia Gorge – where people prize our region's beauty, steward and protect its natural resources, and minimize their impact on its natural systems...

**In our vision,** we see a growing 'green ethic' in which people tread lightly on the land. Our National Scenic Area regulations are respected and enforced, development is restricted from protected areas, forests are sustainably managed and classic Gorge vistas have been preserved. We enjoy unmatched access to outdoor recreational opportunities – even as we protect some natural areas from human activity entirely. Our preservation of natural habitat helps native plants and animals thrive, while promoting recovery of endangered species. Once again, healthy salmon runs populate the Columbia River and its tributaries. We have improved our water and air quality. Our communities have greatly increased their use of small-scale alternative energy such as solar and wind. Larger alternative energy installations support our region's energy self-reliance – without compromising its scenic beauty, character or ecological integrity.

©2008 Peter Marbach

## COLUMBIA GORGE FUTURE FORUM



**WE ENVISION** vibrant, livable places in the Columbia Gorge – where growth is well managed, urban development is concentrated and local communities enjoy a rewarding quality of life...

**In our vision,** Gorge towns are 'complete communities' that enable residents to meet most of their needs locally. We have achieved greater

densities through walkable downtowns and 'mixed-use' development that blends

housing and commercial buildings with shops, restaurants and well-used public spaces. We support this density with parks, trails and access to open spaces and recreational opportunities. Many of our residents walk, bike or use local shuttles or transit for everyday needs. We have a greater diversity of affordable housing, creating opportunities for people of all incomes, backgrounds and generations to own or rent their homes. Our housing is smaller, more efficient and utilizes new technologies to reduce consumption of energy and resources. Much of our food is grown, marketed and consumed locally, through a system of small farms, farmers markets, 'community supported agriculture' and community gardens.

©2008 Jessica Menta

# OUR VISION FOR A SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT

## STRATEGIES FOR ACHIEVING OUR VISION

### NATIONAL SCENIC AREA & RESOURCE LANDS

- Improve National Scenic Area administration and management through periodic review and refinement of the NSA Management Plan.
- Develop a comprehensive regional strategy to promote sound management of the region's forest resources.

### OUTDOOR RECREATION

- Improve planning and funding for outdoor recreational facilities, programs and activities.
- Develop a diversity of new recreational trails throughout the Gorge.

### NATIVE SPECIES

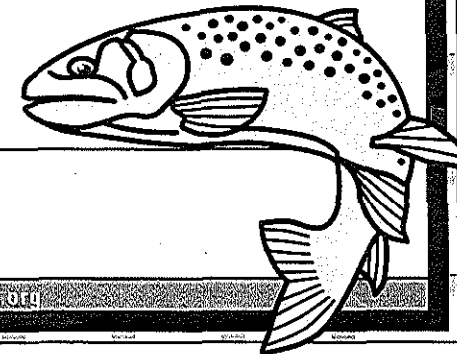
- Protect and enhance native wildlife habitat throughout the Gorge, through asset inventories, eradication of invasive species, tree-planting, wildlife corridors and land acquisition.
- Foster recovery of historical salmon runs in the Columbia River and its Gorge tributaries.

### AIR & WATER QUALITY

- Develop and implement a regional air and water quality improvement strategy for the Gorge.
- Develop a wide-ranging clean skies campaign involving Gorge businesses and residents.
- Encourage adoption of local 'night skies' ordinances that reduce light pollution and promote the return of starry nighttime vistas.

### ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

- Support increased use of small-scale alternative energy applications in the Gorge.
- Promote development of renewable energy sources that do not negatively impact National Scenic Area resources and values.



*"The most important issue for my people is the great Columbia River and our fish.  
We honor and wish to protect the river." ~ Vision of Celilo Community Meeting Participant*

For more details on our vision and strategies go to [www.GorgeFutureForum.org](http://www.GorgeFutureForum.org)

# OUR VISION FOR VIBRANT, LIVABLE PLACES

## STRATEGIES FOR ACHIEVING OUR VISION

### URBAN GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT

- Promote a region-wide dialogue on population growth and urban development in the Gorge.
- Guide future urban growth in the Gorge through careful management of existing urban areas.
- Enhance and protect the character of Gorge communities through downtown preservation, design standards and careful mixed-use development.

### LIVABILITY

- Promote mixed-use development in Gorge downtown districts, blending residential, office and small retail uses in denser developments.
- Support development of town squares and public spaces in Gorge communities.
- Facilitate increased pedestrian and bicycle activity in Gorge towns through improved sidewalks, pedestrian crossings and bicycle lanes.

- Develop a comprehensive regional strategy to promote affordable housing in all Gorge communities.

### PARKS & OPEN SPACES

- Increase public access to the Columbia River and its tributaries.
- Improve and expand community parks and access to open space in Gorge communities.

### SUSTAINABLE BUILDING

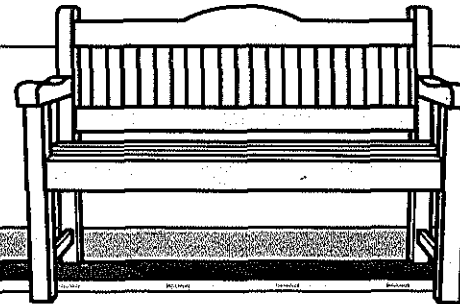
- Promote green building standards and practices in Gorge communities.

### FOOD & WATER

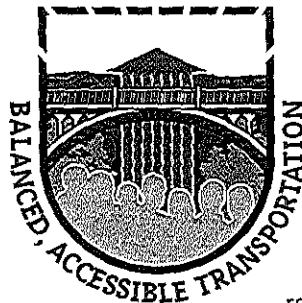
- Develop local food systems connecting small farms to local communities, through farmers' markets, 'community supported agriculture' programs, food co-ops and community gardens.
- Develop a comprehensive, regional strategy to plan for and promote sustainable usage of current and future water resources available in the Gorge.

*"A thriving downtown with a community park, a great school, public transportation, local produce and goods market, music and art all making people happy." ~ Vision of Mosier Community Meeting Participant*

For more details on our vision and strategies go to [www.GorgeFutureForum.org](http://www.GorgeFutureForum.org)



## COLUMBIA GORGE FUTURE FORUM



**WE ENVISION** a balanced, accessible transportation system in the Columbia Gorge – connecting our region and allowing people and goods to move safely, efficiently and conveniently with minimal environmental impacts...

**In our vision,** we balance traditional and alternative modes of travel – lessening our dependence on cars, reducing our 'carbon footprint' and

protecting our environment. We carefully

maintain and improve our highways, utilizing new tools to manage, facilitate and, in some cases, restrict the flow of traffic. We have enhanced our bridges to ensure better connections across the Columbia River, safely accommodating public transit, bicycles and pedestrians. Once again, we travel by train, with regular service for residents, commuters and tourists between Gorge communities and the Portland/Vancouver area. Interregional buses and ferries also serve our communities, reducing the number of private automobiles on our roads. An interconnected system of bicycle and pedestrian trails links all Gorge communities, allowing residents and tourists to travel throughout the region – entirely free of motorized vehicles.

©2008 Blue Ackerman

# OUR VISION FOR BALANCED, ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION

*"An excellent public transportation system – linking Gorge communities with each other and Portland." ~ Vision of Underwood Community Meeting Participant*

## STRATEGIES FOR ACHIEVING OUR VISION

### ALTERNATIVE MODES OF TRANSPORTATION

- Promote adoption of alternative modes of transportation that provide new options to Gorge residents for local travel and daily trips.

### TRANSPORTATION NETWORK

- Promote a comprehensive mass transit system that serves the unique geography and population centers of the Gorge.
- Establish new rail service linking Gorge communities with the Portland/Vancouver metropolitan area.
- Explore establishment of a regular river ferry service on the Columbia River.

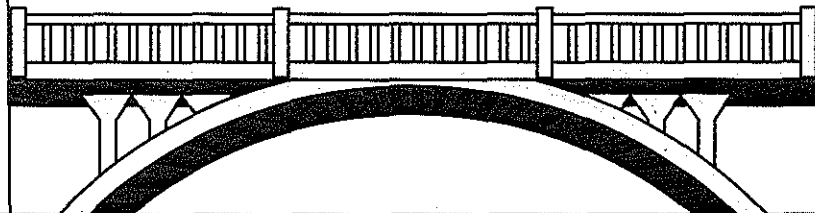
### HIGHWAYS, ROADS & BRIDGES

- Support ongoing maintenance and improvement of Gorge highways, roads and bridges.
- Establish selective restrictions on through-travel on parts of the Historic Columbia River Highway (Highway 30) and Washington State Route 14.

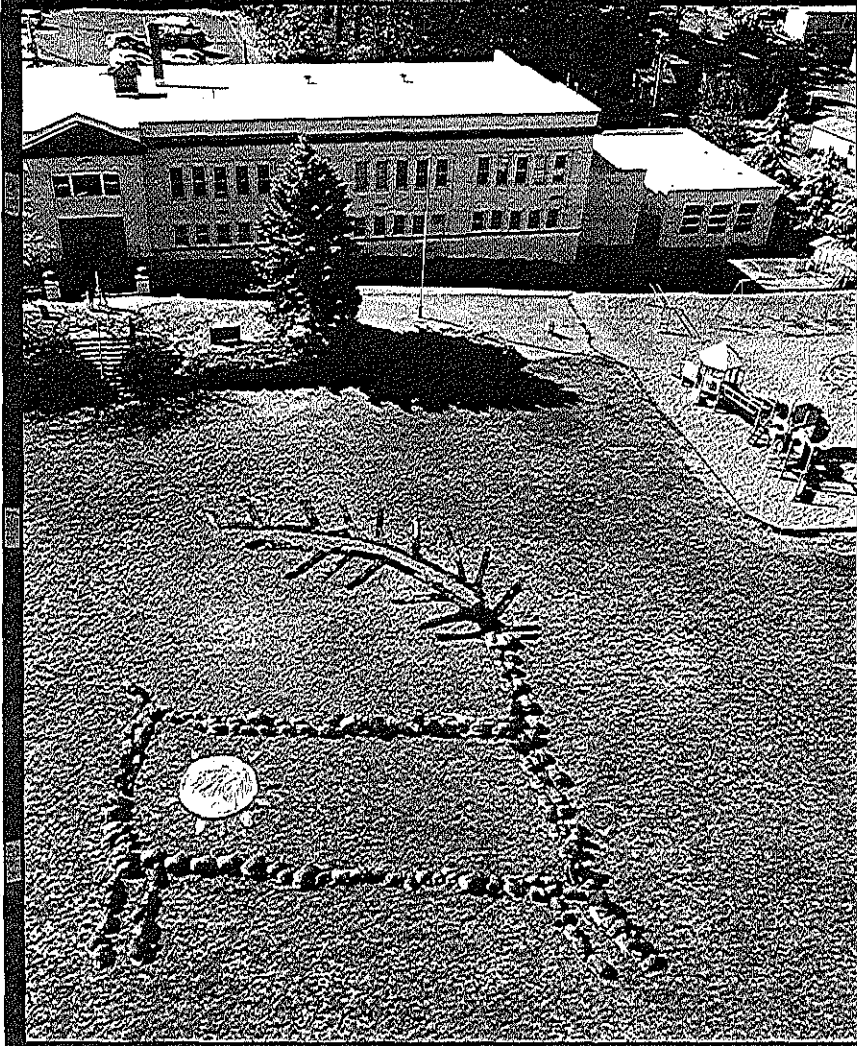
- Explore options for connections across the Columbia River that accommodate commercial and private vehicles, as well as mass transit, bicycles and pedestrians.

### BICYCLES & PEDESTRIANS

- Develop financial incentives to encourage and promote bicycle use as an alternative mode of transportation in Gorge communities.
- Promote the development of new bicycle lanes and bicycle/pedestrian trails in Gorge towns.
- Develop a regional, interconnected pedestrian and bicycle trail linking all Gorge communities on both sides of the Columbia River.



For more details on our vision and strategies go to [www.GorgeFutureForum.org](http://www.GorgeFutureForum.org)



## COLUMBIA GORGE FUTURE FORUM



**WE ENVISION** a Columbia Gorge that places a high value on thriving education and arts – where learning and creative expression nurture our youth, prepare us for employment, broaden our cultural horizons and enrich our daily lives...

**In our vision,** knowledge and creativity enable Gorge communities to adapt to a changing world, while respecting our core values, natural

environment and cultural heritage. Our schools and community colleges have expanded educational offerings and access to advanced degrees that prepare students for the workforce and a changing economy. New scientific programs, research facilities and interpretive centers offer innovative learning opportunities based on our region's unique environmental and cultural assets. We honor our cultural heritage as an integral part of the Gorge. Tribal traditions and cultures are deeply respected, while ceremonial sites and livelihoods are protected. Arts, music and cultural programs help our communities celebrate their local identity and sense of place. Flourishing arts organizations, artist communities, events and festivals bring full creative expression into the public sphere.

©2009 Daniel B. Dancer

# OUR VISION FOR THRIVING EDUCATION & ARTS

## STRATEGIES FOR ACHIEVING OUR VISION

### TEACHING SUSTAINABILITY

- Develop public education and awareness programs promoting sustainable living.
- Enhance high school and community college vocational training in emerging sustainable industries.
- Expand adult education programs and classes focused on sustainable living practices.

### SCHOOLS & EDUCATION

- Foster stronger support for local schools in the Gorge, including new funding sources, improved programs and classes, and increased involvement of parents and volunteers.
- Develop and improve programs in local schools and community colleges for Gorge minority youth.
- Expand college preparatory programs at Mt. Hood Community College and Columbia Gorge Community College.
- Promote development of new scientific programs, research facilities and interpretive centers.

### CULTURAL HERITAGE

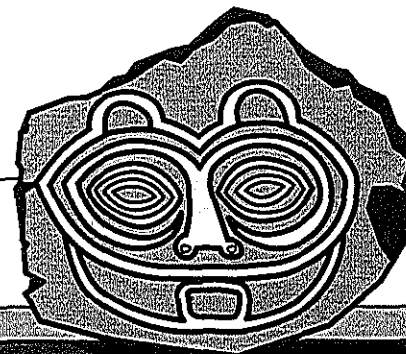
- Sustain the history, culture and traditions of the Gorge's indigenous peoples and tribes.
- Establish a permanent museum and interpretive center for Native American history, culture and stories in the Columbia Gorge.

### ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

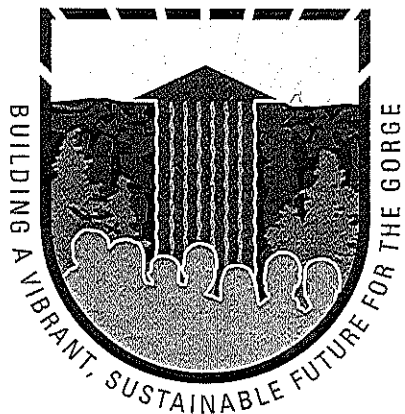
- Expand arts education in Gorge schools and community colleges.
- Support continued development and expansion of arts organizations in the Gorge.
- Promote development of new seasonal artistic events and festivals in the Gorge.
- Foster creation of new studio space for existing and emerging Gorge artists.

*"For each community to be thriving and based on art, culture, sustainability and education." ~ Vision of Discovery Center Event Participant*

For more details on our vision and strategies go to [www.ColumbiaGorgeFutureForum.org](http://www.ColumbiaGorgeFutureForum.org)



## COLUMBIA GORGE FUTURE FORUM



## NEXT STEPS GETTING INVOLVED STAYING IN TOUCH

The Columbia Gorge Future Forum seeks to inspire local communities in collaborating to build a vibrant, more sustainable Gorge. As an ongoing public process, Future Forum activities are intended to inform local discussions, decisions and actions that may affect the future of our region.

Future Forum information can be used in a variety of ways. Foremost, the Gorge vision is a tool for citizens interested in the future of the Columbia Gorge—working to move our region closer to its shared vision and monitoring our success in achieving it over time.

No action plan is attached to the Gorge vision because the Future Forum has no authority to undertake specific actions. Rather, that responsibility rests with local governments, community agencies and institutions, businesses, citizen groups and, ultimately, the people of the Gorge themselves. It is at the local level where real change can and will happen.

In 2010, the Future Forum is planning its next major regional event. There, citizens will converge to take stock of the Gorge vision and its achievement, celebrate our accomplishments, revise and update the vision as appropriate and encourage greater community participation and support.

For now, find out how you can get involved in Future Forum discussions and help move our region toward its vision by visiting us online at [www.GorgeFutureForum.org](http://www.GorgeFutureForum.org).

## WITH GREAT APPRECIATION

The Columbia Gorge Future Forum could not happen without the time and resources dedicated by many organizations and individuals. See the Future Forum Final Report online for a more complete list of our supporters and participants.

### WORKING GROUP MEMBERS

- › Jill Arens, Brian Litt, Jessica Metta, Columbia River Gorge Commission
- › Peggy Bryan, Skamania County Economic Development Council
- › Mike Canon, Klickitat County Economic Development
- › Laura Comini, The Dalles Chamber of Commerce
- › Lee Curtis, Amanda Remington, Mid-Columbia Economic Development District
- › Chuck Daughtry, Port of Cascade Locks
- › Jessica Davenport, Nicole Hollatz, Karen Witherspoon, Skamania County Planning & Community Development
- › Bill Fashing, Hood River County Economic Development
- › Virginia Kelly, Diana Ross, US Forest Service
- › Andrea Klaas, Port of The Dalles
- › Dean Meyerson, volunteer
- › Casey Roeder, Skamania County Chamber of Commerce
- › Dan Spatz, Columbia Gorge Community College
- › Phyllis Thiemann, Cascade Locks Event Coordinator

### VISIONING CONSULTANT

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### BRAND DESIGN CONSULTANT

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- › Jessica Metta, Columbia River Gorge Commission

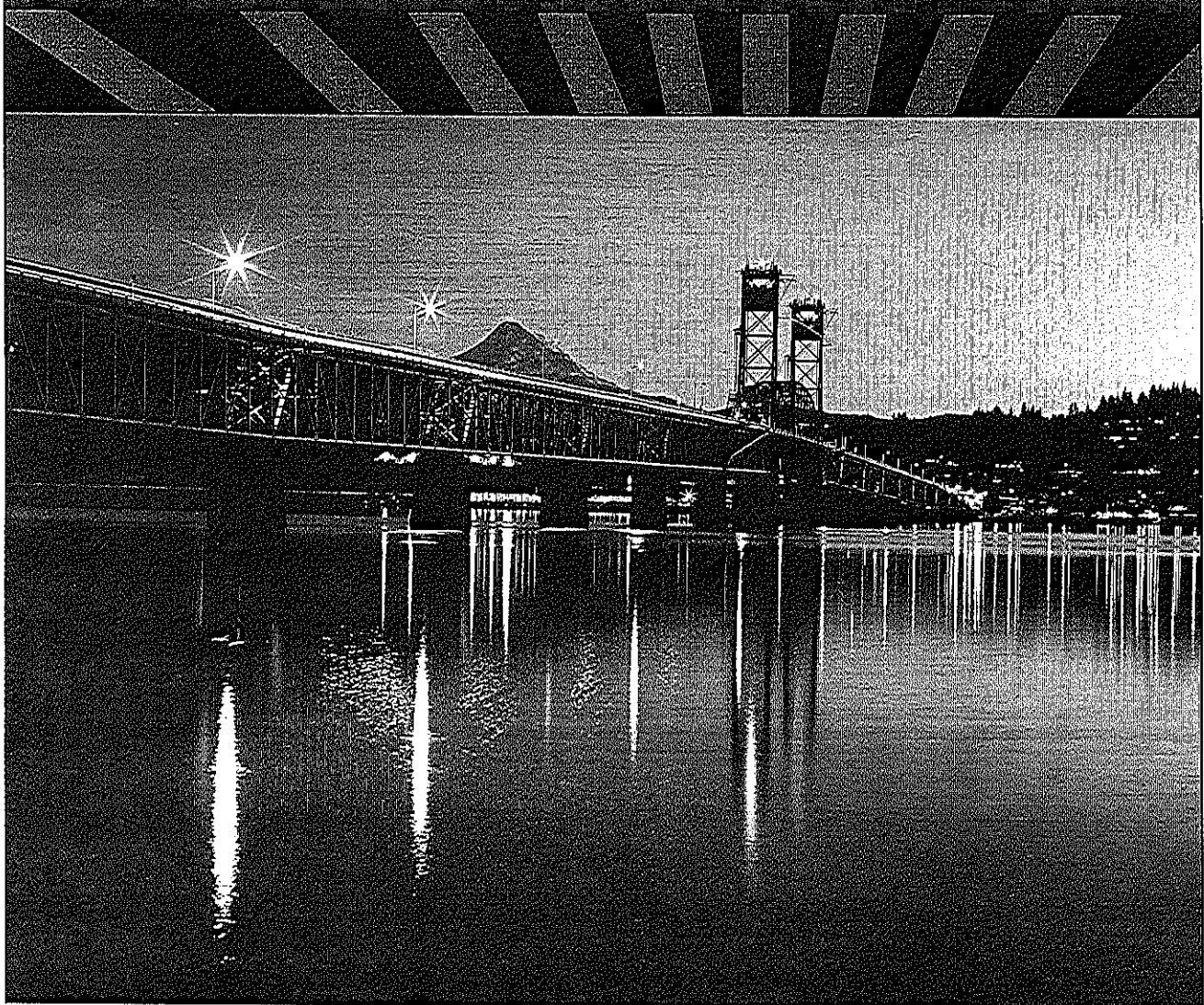
### FINANCIAL AND IN-KIND CONTRIBUTORS

- › Avis Rent-A-Car
- › Bohn's Printing, Inc.
- › Bonneville Hot Springs Resort
- › Clark County
- › Columbia River Gorge Commission
- › The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
- › Gorge Local Currency Cooperative
- › Hood River County
- › Klickitat County Economic Development
- › Metro
- › Multnomah County
- › Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
- › Oregon Parks & Recreation Department
- › Portland General Electric
- › Safeway
- › Skamania County
- › Skamania Lodge
- › Southwest Clean Air Agency
- › US Forest Service Scenic Area office
- › Wasco County
- › Washington Department of Ecology

### THE FINAL REPORT WAS PRESENTED TO THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS

- › Bingen City Council
- › Carson Home Valley Stabler Business Association
- › Cascade Locks City Council
- › Clark County Board of Commissioners
- › Dallesport Community Council
- › Hood River City Council
- › Hood River County Board of Commissioners
- › Klickitat County Board of Commissioners
- › Lyle Community Action Council
- › Mosier City Council
- › Multnomah County Board of Commissioners
- › North Bonneville City Council
- › Northeast Multnomah County Association
- › Skamania County Board of Commissioners
- › Stevenson City Council
- › The Dalles City Council
- › Underwood Community Council
- › Wasco County Court
- › Washougal City Council
- › White Salmon City Council
- › Wishram Community Council

*For more information or to get involved go to [www.GorgeFutureForum.org](http://www.GorgeFutureForum.org) or call 509-493-3323.*



## COLUMBIA GORGE FUTURE FORUM



*"The Future Forum logo was designed to provide a unifying image and brand for this signature public process. The shape of the logo subtly depicts a Gorge, embellished by such regional icons as basalt formations, conifers and a waterfall. The waterfall forms a vertical arrow that merges into a Gorge sunrise, which represents looking upward and forward into our future. The 'pool' of water at the base of the waterfall forms the silhouette of a community of people. They are both the source and recipient of the flow — our shared vision."*

Pamela Trow-Johnson,  
Creative Driver, 501 DRIVE LLC

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Printed on recycled paper

Cover ©2008 John Hardham

# COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE



**NATIONAL SCENIC AREA  
CELEBRATING 25 YEARS**

Coming Soon!

**[www.gorge25.com](http://www.gorge25.com)**

*"As it has been for thousands of years, the Columbia Gorge is a land where natural beauty is enhanced by a creative human presence: a place of balance, where environment and economy coincide with harmony." ~ Dan Spatz*

**Celebrate with us!**

2011 marks the 25th anniversary of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act.

Visit our website to learn more about the Act, how to get involved, and a list of celebratory events, contests and legacy projects.

**Mill Creek Ridge Conservation Area Project Proposal**  
**Columbia Land Trust**

**Request:**

Columbia Land Trust would like a letter of support from the Wasco County Commissioners for an OWEB grant to acquire property along the Mill Creek Ridge. The grant is due October 18, 2010. A sample letter is attached.

**Conservation Vision:**

The proposed acquisition is the first phase of a longer term vision that would build a conservation corridor from the ridge overlooking the Columbia River south to the Mt. Hood National Forest. The goal of the first phase is to protect approximately 250 acres of quality Oregon white oak/ponderosa pine woodlands and intact, native prairie located on a ridge between Mill Creek and Browns Creek near The Dalles, Oregon. The property is extremely unique in that it supports an unparalleled assortment of native flowering plants and grasses, including "old-growth" communities of balsamroot and lupine.

The proposed acquisition lies within Columbia Land Trust's Mill Creek Conservation Area. The properties are also within the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife's Conservancy Strategy opportunity area, called Wasco Oaks. Situated within Mill Creek and Chenoweth Creek watersheds, the property lies northeast of the Mt Hood National Forest and the City of The Dalles water supply. Brown and Chenoweth Creeks run on the west side of the ridge. The ridge in spring is truly a site to behold. Balsamroot, lupine, desert parsley, Indian paintbrush, and over 60 other species of flowers bloom between March and June. Prairie and oak woodlands support many birds and wildlife. Many botanists and biologists have visited this site and unilaterally leave with incredible enthusiasm for the lack of non-native species, the rich diversity of native species, and the incredible beauty this ridgeline offers.

An informal trail follows the ridgeline, allowing extensive views of both Mill Creek and the Chenoweth Creek watersheds. On a clear day one can see Mt. Hood and Mt. Adams looming in the near distance. This area could easily qualify as one of the best unprotected oak woodlands and ridge prairie habitats in Wasco County.

The Mill Creek community started as a landowner-led effort to protect the ridge top from development so the future residents of The Dalles and Wasco County could enjoy recreation, beautiful views, and a proximity to wildlife and increasingly rare plant communities that define life the east of the Cascades. These landowners are committed to seeing this beautiful area protected over the long term and have contributed many hours and funds toward this goal.

**Proposal:**

For this first phase, Columbia Land Trust is submitting a grant to OWEB (Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board) for approximately \$275,000. These funds would help purchase 150 acres located on two separate tax lots. One lot is 104 acres owned by Bruce Lumper and Marolyn Wilks-Lumper. The other is a 46-acre property currently on the market. Columbia Land Trust would then own and manage these properties in their natural condition.

A large farm and forest property is located adjacent to these but is not part of the current OWEB grant. We hope in the future that the landowner will support placing a conservation easement on this property to further the conservation goals of this area. An easement would allow the property to be managed by the landowner as an agricultural property and still protect the ridge from development or more intensive uses. This conservation easement is still in the discussion phase.

Columbia Land Trust is aware that taking property off the tax rolls can hurt rural counties. The Trust has a property tax policy with procedures to follow on a case by case basis. If the property fits into a special-use tax classification program than that is a likely course of action. In some cases, the Trust may decide to request a property tax exemption but instead offer an in-lieu payment or other appropriate compensation. Once these properties are acquired, staff will analyze the situation and meet with County officials to discuss options.

### **Management**

Columbia Land Trust has a dedicated stewardship program actively ensuring that conservation values on properties are protected and enhanced and that our work is received positively by neighbors and the community. Each property is managed according to established goals and objectives reflecting a desired future condition, and a system of monitoring is implemented as part of an adaptive approach measuring stewardship effectiveness.

A management plan would be developed once the Trust owns the properties. Management goals for these properties would likely be to control weeds, remove or control fuel levels to reduce risk of catastrophic wildfire, allow for and manage public access, and annual monitoring. The area does not require restoration to satisfy conservation goals. We would welcome input and assistance with this management plan from the Wasco County SWCD.

Columbia Land Trust owns and manages over 2,300 acres of similar habitat in both Washington and Oregon and is committed to monitoring our many restoration projects for project effectiveness. These monitoring results will continue to feedback into our restoration designs and management strategies to encourage the development of healthy ecosystems of oak/pine woodlands and prairies of the mid-Columbia region.

### **Contact Info:**

Proposing Organization:	Columbia Land Trust
Primary Contact:	Virginia Bowers
Mailing Address:	1361 Officers' Row, Vancouver, WA 98661
Phone Number:	360-696-0131
Fax:	360-696-1847
Email:	<a href="mailto:vbowers@columbialandtrust.org">vbowers@columbialandtrust.org</a>

Miriam Hulst, Program Representative  
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board  
775 Summer Street NE, Suite 360  
Salem, Oregon 97301-1290

Dear Ms. Hulst:

We are writing in support of an OWEB grant for a land acquisition project in Wasco County submitted by Columbia Land Trust. The properties are significant for the following reasons:

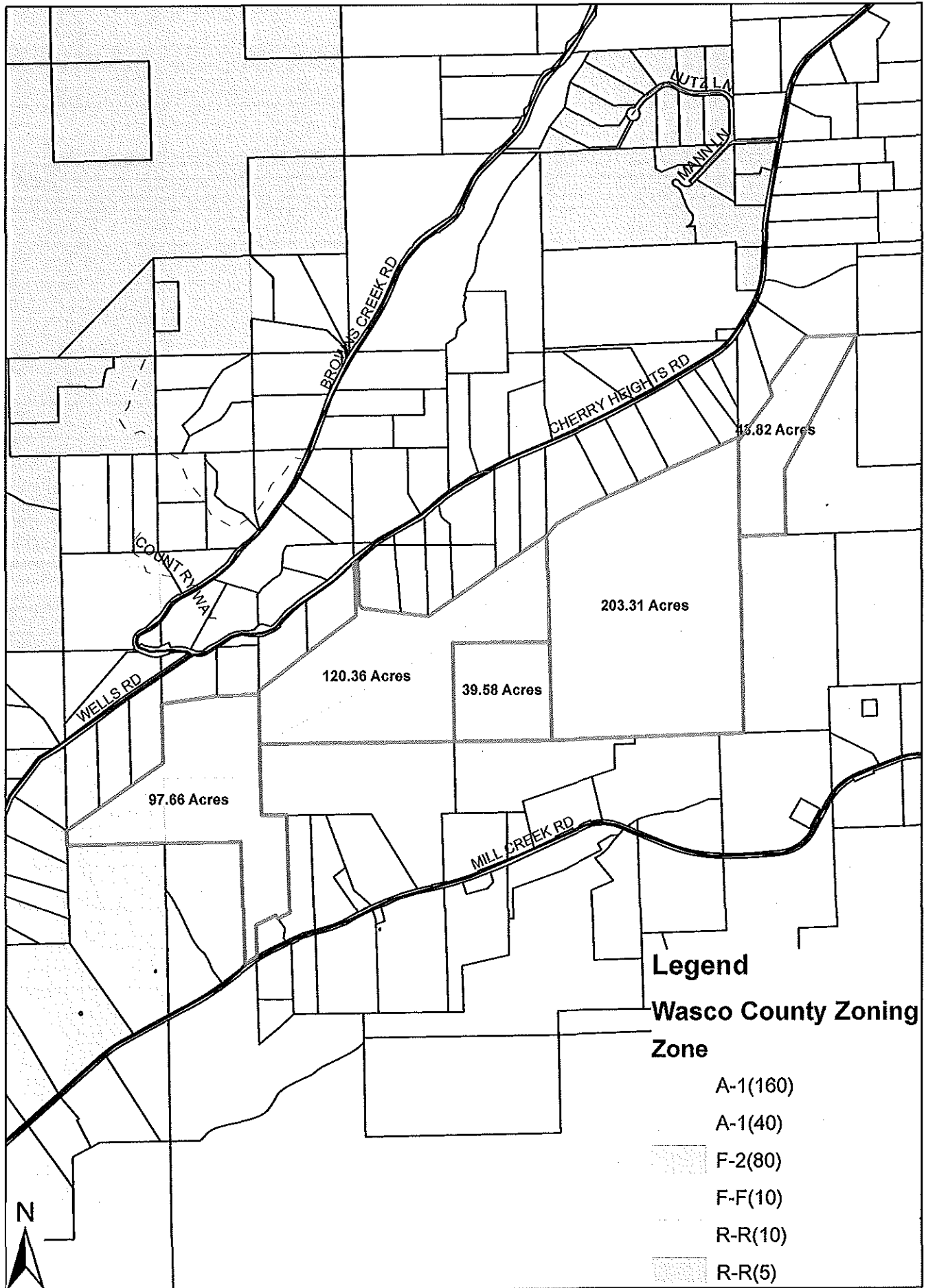
- They contain high quality extremely unique habitat including Oregon white oak and ponderosa pine.
- The properties are in excellent condition with few non-native species and a rich diversity of native flowering plants and grasses.
- This ridgeline offers incredible views both to the properties and from them.
- This area could easily qualify as one of the best unprotected oak/prairie habitats in Wasco County.
- Portions of these properties are zoned for 10-acre rural residential lots and reside just a few miles from the largest population center in Wasco County – The Dalles, Oregon

The proposed acquisition will address the priority habitats and species identified in the Basin Ecological Priorities by conserving unique habitat needed by these species, such as Lewis' woodpecker, western meadowlark and white-crowned sparrow.

It is these natural resources that give Wasco County its uniqueness and beauty. We strongly support the proposed acquisition of these properties.

Sincerely,

# Columbia Land Trust Area of Interest



0 0.125 0.25 0.5 0.75 Miles

# Columbia Land Trust Area of Interest

