

**SOUTHEAST WASHINGTON
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
ASSOCIATION'S**

**COMPREHENSIVE
ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
STRATEGY**

**FOR THE SOUTHEAST WASHINGTON
COUNTIES OF
ASOTIN, COLUMBIA, GARFIELD, AND
WHITMAN**

2011 SUPPLEMENTAL UPDATE

For more information please contact:

Southeast Washington Economic Development Association

**845 Port Way
Clarkston, WA 99403**

(509) 751-9144

www.seweda.org

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SUMMARY

The purpose of this document is to serve as a supplement to the 2008 Southeast Washington Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) and the 2009 Supplemental Update. Community projects lists and unemployment statistics have been updated since the 2009 Update. Accomplishments have also been identified.

LABOR FORCE

The Washington State Employment Security Department revises its calculation formulas every year for Labor Market Information. The numbers contained in this table are not comparable to similar tables contained in prior versions of the District's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy document.

Since the last supplemental update in 2009, the labor force decreased in Asotin and Columbia counties, but increased in Garfield and Whitman counties. The unemployment rate increased in Columbia, Garfield, and Whitman counties. It decreased in Asotin County. This supplemental update includes the 2010 Annual Average.

TABLE 9 - Civilian Labor Force and Unemployment Rate 1980-2010

County, WA	1980	1990	2000	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	FEB. 2009	2010
Asotin										
Labor Force	8,630	9,370	11,720	10,120	10,370	9,870	10,340	10,520	11,190	10,410
Unemp. Rate	9.3	5.0	4.6	6.6	7.3	4.0	3.8	6.1	10.5	8.9
Columbia										
Labor Force	2,130	1,480	1,510	1,690	1,870	1,460	1,510	1,580	1,740	1,550
Unemp. Rate	10.7	12.2	11.1	8.3	7.1	7.7	5.9	7.1	7.1	11.2
Garfield										
Labor Force	1,190	1,060	1,140	1,160	1,120	1,050	1,030	1,010	970	1,050
Unemp. Rate	7.7	3.0	4.2	5.2	5.8	4.7	4.5	4.6	7.8	7.9
Whitman										
Labor Force	15,640	17,420	19,220	20,570	21,050	21,140	21,570	21,000	21,810	21,980
Unemp. Rate	2.9	1.5	2.2	4.4	4.4	3.7	3.5	4.1	4.9	6.1
WA State										
Labor Force	1,984,000	2,538,000	3,050,500	3,233,600	3,264,600	3,357,500	3,457,400	3,476,770	3,551,620	3,531,630
Unemp. Rate	7.9	4.9	5.2	6.2	5.5	5.0	4.2	5.3	9.1	9.6

Source: www.workforceexplorer.com, Rev. 06-11

COUNTY PROJECTS

Asotin County

Education & Training

5 year

Delete:

- Prepare a plan and design for a Student Services Building at Walla Walla Community College – Clarkston Campus.
- Support Walla Walla Community College in establishing a vocational education program including a culinary arts program, and construct a building for the programs in Asotin County.

Modify:

- Encourage further development of the healthcare industry through a broader array of education and training programs, *including the addition of medical assisting a one-year program intended to serve the health care community with highly trained individuals capable of working in the front office as well as providing direct patient care.*
- Develop worker training programs for alternative energy projects, *particularly for the wind industry.*
- Partner with all neighboring colleges and universities to develop workforce development training opportunities, *and transfer educational programs that ensure students are able to complete baccalaureate degrees in a timely manner.*

Add:

- Serve the region's citizens with high quality educational programs and services, partnering with community based organizations and agencies to ensure that citizens needing education from adult basic instruction through associate's degrees are accommodated through local in-classroom instruction, as well as distance education opportunities.
- Utilize state and federal job skills grants, partner with local business and manufacturers to provide training and skills upgrades to employees.

10 year

Modify:

- Work towards accomplishing the Walla Walla Community College Clarkston master *infrastructure* plan.

Tourism

5 year

Add:

- Support the building of a new Visitor Information / Hells Canyon Interpretive Center and Jet Boat "Capital of the World" Museum in Clarkston.

Community Development

5 year

Delete:

- Continue improvements to the public transportation system in Asotin County, including capacity and accessibility: Public Transportation Benefit Area to purchase a bus barn/office facility; purchase of and improving property for a park and ride lot; modify fixed bus routes; and installing bus stops and shelters.

PORT OF CLARKSTON

Goal #1

Maintain and expand effective, strategic leasing program:

Modify:

- Maintain effective leasing program, *and implement effective marketing strategy.*
- Expand inventory of property through –
 - *developing new sustainable business park*
 - *purchasing property/building*
 - *constructing facilities, potentially including an incubator*

Delete:

- Monitor and enforce lease terms; modify leases where needed and possible.

Goal #2

Diversify regional economy through small business development and/or implementing results of cluster analysis:

Add:

- Support growth of grape and wine industries in region.
- Assist partners in developing business plan competition and other investment support for emerging/growing businesses.

Goal #3

Seek options for future crane operations that will result in return on investment on Port crane:

Delete:

- Hire back-up crane operator and train.
- Tour other Ports' loading and unloading facilities to increase understanding of possibilities and processes.
- Procure additional equipment as needed.

Add:

- Explore options for leasing crane and dock to private entities.

Modify:

- *Study sediment build-up and invest in dredging as needed.*
- Explore needed improvements at crane dock *through engineering study.*

Goal #4

Modify:

Create, maintain and enhance assets of Port:

- Maintain *and improve* park, surrounding area, and unleased property to keep *it* clean and attractive.
- Keep Port roads and paved pathways in good condition, *and comply with stormwater requirements and needed.*
- Landscape where needed, remodel where beneficial, *and initiate plan for sidewalks and street lights.*

Add:

- Improve/enhance Port security system to achieve greater linkage to law enforcers.
- Develop/improve telecommunications infrastructure for community/business benefit.

Goal #5

Enhance transportation options for the County and Valley:

Delete:

- Explore lease options to private entity.

Add:

- Explore Options relating to creating bike/pedestrian path to Chief Timothy Park.
- Work with partners to : a) improve traffic flow; b) improve walkability of community; and c) improve other bicycle/pedestrian amenities

Goal #6 (new goal)

Modify:

Provide support in solving community challenges (stormwater, EMS, community facilities, weeds, etc.) through effective partnerships.

Goal #7

Improve public outreach to constituents, including strategic outreach on industrial park:

Add:

- Hold tenant appreciation BBQ and dock/pathway ribbon cutting.

CITY/COMMUNITY PROJECTS IN ASOTIN COUNTY

Anatone

Short Range (up to 5 years):

Delete:

1. Identify advantages and disadvantages of fire protection models: keeping fire protection in the responsibility of the Dept. of Natural Resources (as-is), or establish a fire district.

Asotin

Short Range (up to 5 years):

Delete:

- Repave 2nd Street.
- Update City's Comprehensive Plan and Park & Recreation Plan.
- Complete water upgrades for Baumeister Addition Annexation.

Clarkston

Short Range (up to 5 years):

Add:

- Improve traffic circulation throughout community
- Support community events, such as Alive After Five
- Improve lighting on 6th Street

Delete:

- Replace water distribution mains and services, as needed.
- Design for a complete update to the wastewater treatment Plant.
- Annual Street Sealcoating
- Complete sidewalk on 2nd Street adjacent to Beachview Park
- Replace sewer line on McCarroll Street

Mid Range (up to 10 years):

Delete:

- Plan and construct new public facilities (police, city hall, EMS/Fire).

Columbia County

Capacity Building/Planning

5 years

Replace existing list with:

- City of Dayton and Columbia County to adopt ordinances (PUD, Binding Site Plan, flexible design and subdivision) to encourage in-fill development, alternative housing opportunities, and industrial/commercial mixed use development guidelines
- Establish inter-local agreement between City/County
- Downtown parking plan (public/private parking in CC district)
- Investigate use of TIF for downtown improvement
- Form legislative sub-committee of EDSC (focus on communication)
- Secure grant writer to maintain or increase funding for economic development

Education and Training

5 years

Replace existing list with:

- Drug Free Communities Grant (educating community/involving public/changing perception)
- Ongoing Workforce Training emphasis (access existing resources)
- Update technology in schools/community
- WWCC and/or WSU satellite or branch (teleconference equipment or online/video)
- Infrastructure (location for classes/educational opportunities)
- Create a "1-stop" for events and information in the county
- Continue to expand programs at Dayton High School/Skill Center with WWCC
- Youth Entrepreneurial programs
- Improve relationship with high schools and colleges
- Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math school in Columbia County

Infrastructure (Roads, river, rail, air, water, sewer, energy, telecom, solid waste, transportation, utilities, etc.)

5 years

Replace existing list with:

- Increase sanitary sewer capacity for industrial and other uses, treatment technology and wastewater reuse.
- Infrastructure for Blue Mountain Station
- Improve city street and county road infrastructure
- Downtown pedestrian and parking improvements and playground
- Fairgrounds facilities plan
- Improve safety, access, and ADA accessibility for pedestrians on Highway 12 bridge/Touchet River
- Encourage and improve west main entrance to Dayton

- Explore access and infrastructure for Ski Bluewood Resort
- Continue supporting improvements to the short line railroad
- Continue infrastructure necessary for recreation improvements to Lyons Ferry and marina

10 years

Add:

- 10 yr: Jail/law & justice facility
- Second bridge over Touchet River for automobiles

Business Development

5 years

Replace existing list with:

- Develop targeted strategy for downtown businesses, including recruitment
- Develop and implement marketing plan for Blue Mountain Station for value-added ag business
- Expand year-round opportunities at Ski Bluewood in cooperation with USFS
- Continue to improve stability of local hospital district
- Develop value-added ag, i.e. co-op grain milling facility, straw pulp; USDA certified meat processing
- Business retention and expansion
- Encourage development of wind generation
- Encourage development of energy generation plant near Starbuck

Tourism

5 years

Replace existing list with:

- Develop tourism advisory committee responsible for creating a strategic marketing plan. The committee will consist of City, County, Port, Retail, Lodging and Chamber representatives
- Develop additional opportunities for ag tourism and seasonal recreation (hunting/fishing, biking, camping, horseback riding, outfitting, skiing, snowmobiling, zip lines, etc.
- Develop a tourism promotional plan as recommended by advisory committee
- Hotel/motel with amenities, and recreational vehicle facilities
- Establish historical and general signage
- Continue to develop Smith Hollow School House, Fire Museum, and other Blue Mountain Heritage site projects
- Construct walking/biking path from river to fairgrounds plus extend bike path. Develop path from Waitsburg to Pomeroy.
- Encourage establishment of cabin rentals
- Expand interpretive center on Indian, geologic, and settlement history of county
- Maintain and enhance existing railroad depot
- Expand public art

10 years

- Build bandstand on courthouse lawn
- Improve courthouse grounds

Housing

5 years

Replace existing list with:

- Apply for CDBG Housing rehab and weatherization through joint agency application and use of BMAC
- Address and encourage affordable housing need for Seniors and Low-income in Columbia County
- Address sub-standard housing issues
- Community survey to identify areas of income levels (more detailed/targeted than Census)
- Temporary/emergency housing assistance

Community Development

5 years

Replace existing list with:

- Expand recreational opportunities at Ski Bluewood
- Develop community center
- Repair high school gym bleachers and outdoor walkways for community use
- Starbuck's City Hall maintenance
- Encourage youth activities and establishment of teen center
- Encourage development of Sports Complex for events and tournaments (baseball, soccer, track, etc.)

PORT OF COLUMBIA COUNTY

Goal #1 Develop Blue Mountain Station Eco-Industrial Park. – *No changes to objectives*

Goal #2 Maintain access to water for use by the public. - *No changes to objectives.*

Goal #3 Maintain and grow Rock Hill Industrial Park (Delete “and Seneca Business and Industrial Park”). - *No changes to objectives.*

Goal #4 Encourage a balanced and economical multi-modal transportation system.

Modify objective:

- Improve relationship with shippers and operator of PCC short-line railroad.

Goal #5 Assist Port District communities by supporting economic development projects, programs, and partnerships.

Modify objective:

- Promote tourism as a viable, *regional* industry.

Delete objective:

- Create living wage job opportunities

Add objective:

- Develop and support value-added agriculture and local foods.

Goal #6 Continue acquisition, development, and management of Port property and facilities. – *No changes to objectives.*

Garfield County (includes City of Pomeroy)

Infrastructure

5 years

Add:

- Upgrade the water system for the Sunnyside area
- Work with land developers to provide City services for single and multiple family dwellings developments.

PORT OF GARFIELD

Within 1 year

Add:

- Construct RV park on Port property
- Market the new industrial facility for business recruitment
- Continue serving on the lodging/house committee, searching for solutions to the housing problem for windmill employees

Within 5-10 years

Modify:

- Work with windmill developers to bring *off-shoot businesses* to Garfield County

Add:

- Sell nonessential properties and use proceeds for economic development
- Work with WSU Economic Development to help identify businesses that would blend in with Garfield County and continue working with the leads

GARFIELD COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT (new)

Short range (up to 5 years)

1. Long Term Care facility roof repair
2. Hospital roof replacement
3. Building exterior paint/siding
4. HVAC for Long Term Care
5. Hospital electrical system
6. Hospital facility Code Standards/Replacement

Whitman County – No Changes

Port of Whitman County – No Changes

Washington State University - No Changes

Whitman County Hospital District and Medical Center - No Changes

Whitman County Rural Library District Projects – No Changes

CITY PROJECTS

The following are listings from Whitman County Cities that submitted projects for the CEDS.

Albion – *No Changes*

Colfax – *No Changes*

Colton – *No Changes*

Endicott

Short Range (up to 5 years):

Delete:

- Complete construction of new water system

Farmington – *No Changes*

Garfield

Short Range (up to 5 years):

Add:

- I&I replacement
- Extend water/sewer/roads to Sunrise Ridge Estates
- Pour concrete floor at recycle center
- Build compost facility lean-to for chips storage
- Retrofit/build a daycare facility
- Upgrade/replace Town vehicles

Mid-range (up to 10 years):

Add:

- Enhance recreational facilities including trails and park equipment
- California/D Streets: lower and pave California East to D Streets; widen/pave D from Main to California Streets
- Retrofit existing Town Hall facility or acquire new, larger facility
- Identify location and design work for Business Incubator
- New or remodeled school facilities
- Backup power for community owned facilities
- Retrofit/build or acquire new facility for Town Shop

La Crosse – *No Changes*

Lamont – *No Changes*

Malden - *Did not participate.*

Oakesdale

Short Range (up to 5 years):

Delete:

- #1. Finish work on Willows Bldg to house recycling facility.
- #5. Look into possibilities of remodeling the area above the Library to include in Business Incubator Program.

Palouse – *No Changes*

Pullman

Short Range (up to 5 years):

Modify:

- #3. Provide *sewer service* to the Pullman-Moscow Regional Airport.

Rosalia – *No Changes*

Saint John – *No Changes*

Tekoa – *No Changes*

Uniontown – *No Changes*

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The following is a listing, by county, of a sampling of the accomplishments of the last year:

Asotin County

- Prepare a plan and design for a Student Services Building at Walla Walla Community College-Clarkston.
- Support Walla Walla Community College in establishing a vocational education program including a culinary arts program, and construct a building for the programs in Asotin County.
- Continue improvements to the public transportation system in Asotin County, including capacity and accessibility; Public Transportation Benefit Area to purchase a bus barn/office facility; purchase of and improving property for a park and ride lot; modify fixed bus routes; and installing bus stops and shelters.
- 14th Street Main Water Distribution Replacement
- 21st Street Sewer Main Installation

- Appleside Boulevard Sewer Main Installation
- 13th & Peaslee Infrastructure
- Fleshman Way Interchange Infrastructure Design
- Scenic Way Infrastructure

Port of Clarkston

- Completed dock, pathway, lighting and amphitheater Granite Lake Park Improvements
- Completed water and sewer connections to Sustainable Business Park
- Obtained funding for Phase I Sustainable Business park and leveraging it for Phase II
- Entered into agreement with WSDOT for Transportation Enhancement Sidewalk Project/Riverfront Connectivity Project
- Developed Phase I plan Fiber Optic Network
- Enhanced security of Port through FEMA funding
- Retain Firm with adequate accommodations for expansion to satellite farm
- Administered funding for Boat builders export program
- Provided support to emerging American Manufacturing Network
- Participated in Regional Collaborative Cluster
- Completed and making strides on implementing Riverfront Master Plan
- Completed Visitor Center Feasibility Study
- Completed Phase I of Wayfinding strategy

City of Anatone

- Identify advantages and disadvantages of fire protection models: keeping fire protection in the responsibility of the Dept. of Natural Resources (as-is), or establish a fire district.

City of Asotin

- Repave 2nd Street.
- Update City's Comprehensive Plan and Park & Recreation Plan.
- Complete Water upgrades for Baumeister Addition Annexation.

City of Clarkston

- Replacement of water distribution mains are in progress.
- Support is continuing for the Aquatic Center through City budgeting.
- Community cleanup is an ongoing process.
- Design for a complete update to the Waste Water Treatment Plant is nearing completion and funding is being secured to around 12.5 million dollars.
- Annual street seal coating is an ongoing process.
- Sidewalk adjacent to Beachview Park along 2nd Street has been installed.
- The replacement of a substandard sanitary sewer main on McCarroll Street has begun.
- Remodeling is in progress for the updates to the Police and Fire Stations.
- Plan and construct new public facilities (police, city hall, EMS/Fire).

Regional:

- Snake River Boat Builders Export Program
- SEWRED – South East Washington Renewable Energy District
- AMN – American Manufacturing Network
- Telecommunications infrastructure support

Columbia County

- Port created Master Plan for Blue Mountain Station (included Marketing plan, pre-engineering study, and 5 potential start ups)
- Permit for LSRW - wind development
- West Entrance beautification
- Public art - statue of station master at depot
- Progress in establishing broadband to Library (other areas/facilities by 2012)
- Hospital installed electronic health records
- Regional ag-tourism map/brochure
- Spot on NW Backroads
- Improvements to 2nd Street
- New event: "Mule Mania"
- Timber tours - successful for land owner management goals
- Developed skate park & "teen scene" program
- Secured funding for improvements to park for youth
- Relocation of Smith Hollow School
- Improvements to Lyons Ferry marina, store, walkways
- Retained Bluewood ski resort

Whitman County Rural Library District

- (under #7 capital projects): Extensively updated the Colfax building, including ADA standards.

Saint John

- (#2) Well/water improvements in progress.

Endicott

- Completed construction of new water system

Garfield

- New compliant fire and ambulance facility is in construction phase.

Oakesdale

- Completed Willows Building to house recycling facility.
- Finished remodeling for Business Incubator Program.

Pullman

- Completed fire flow water improvements to the Pullman-Moscow Regional Airport.