

**SOUTHEAST WASHINGTON
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
ASSOCIATION'S**

**COMPREHENSIVE
ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
STRATEGY**

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

2009 SUPPLEMENTAL UPDATE

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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). Community projects lists and unemployment statistics have been updated since last year's official document.

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.

From 2007 to 2008, the labor force increased in Asotin and Columbia counties, but decreased in Garfield and Whitman counties. The unemployment rate increased in all counties. At the time of this supplemental update, the most recent data reflecting the 2009 economy has been included (Feb. 2009).

TABLE 9 - Civilian Labor Force and Unemployment Rate 1980-2008

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

Source: www.workforceexplorer.com
Rev. 05-09

COUNTY PROJECTS

Asotin County

Infrastructure

5 year

Add:

- Apply for and complete American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funded projects as funds become available for transportation and other infrastructure.
- Positioning other projects via use of local or other funds for future calls for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding, such as sewer/wastewater and transportation projects.

Tourism

5 year

Add:

- Support development of the Confluence Project at Chief Timothy Park.

Community Development

5 year

Add:

- 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:

- Expand inventory of property *through new industrial park* for leasing and possible sale.

Add:

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

Delete:

- Assist in creating multi-jurisdictional group to do Phase 0 EPA assessment for entire county.

Goal #2

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

Modify:

- Take leadership role in developing active, vibrant waterfront & *downtown revitalization*.
- Examine industry clusters within jurisdiction, encouraging healthy industries and identifying supporting businesses with relocation potential, *particularly with alternative energy such as wind, solar, biofuels, etc.*
- Seek opportunities to diversify the economy, *including exploring creation of incubators (regular business incubators, commercial kitchens, wine incubators, etc.)*.
- Seek renewable/sustainable energy options *with view of growing existing manufacturing and bringing new related industry*.

Add:

- Consolidate economic development efforts by assuming responsibility for ADO functions in Asotin County (*on hold*)

Goal #3 (Previously Goal #5)

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

Add:

- Explore lease options to private entity.

Goal #4

Maintain and enhance assets of Port:

Modify:

- Convene *Planning and Architectural Review* Committee and encourage recommendations.

Goal #5 (Previously Goal #3)

Enhance transportation options for the *Community*:

No changes

Goal #6 (new goal)

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

Goal #7 (previously Goal #6)

Improve public outreach to constituents:

Add:

- Publish newsletter three times per year.

Delete:

- Develop Port “Report Card” and publish.

Delete previous Goal #7 (Create organizational cohesion)

Goal #8 (Add)

Update Port’s Comprehensive Plan.

CITY/COMMUNITY PROJECTS

The following are listings from Asotin County Cities & Communities that submitted projects for the 2008 CEDS.

Anatone

Short Range (up to 5 years):

Delete:

- Refurbish welcome sign at the entrance of town with new materials, and landscape area around it.

Asotin

Short Range (up to 5 years):

Add:

- Update City’s Comprehensive Plan and Park & Recreation Plan.
- Complete water/sewer upgrades for Baumeister Addition Annexation.

Clarkston

Short Range (up to 5 years):

Add:

- New playground at Foster Park
- Replace covered picnic shelter area at Beachview Park
- Install restroom at Vernon Park and add sidewalk along Park Street
- Annual Street Sealcoating
- Complete sidewalk on 2nd Street adjacent to Beachview Park
- Replace sewer line on McCarroll Street

Columbia County

Education and Training

5 years

Add:

- Establish Information Tree
- Stem (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) in Columbia County.

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

5 years

Add:

- Develop water, sewer, road and utility infrastructure for Blue Mountain Station Industrial Park
- Develop infrastructure necessary for recreational improvement to Lyons Ferry Park & Marina ie: full hook-ups, cabins, yurts, etc.
- Explore re-use of reclaimed sewer waste water for golf course irrigation
- Explore joint sewer treatment facilities
- Address Fairgrounds facilities issues ie; grandstands, pavilion, youth building
- Meeting Center
- Second bridge over Touchet river for automobiles
- Jail/law & justice facility
- Safeguarding our communities: Use the fuels that surround us. Biomass projects for heating and power generation

Business Development

5 years

Add:

- Develop Blue Mountain Station for value-added agricultural business cluster
- Create targeted marketing strategy for downtown business development
- Encourage development of energy generation plant near Starbuck
- Business Retention & Expansion
- Cooperative Flour Mill

Tourism

5 years

Add:

- Revisit tourism promotion strategy to attract tourist during economic downturn.
- Develop tourism advisory committee consisting of City, County, Port, Retail, Lodging and Chamber representatives.
- Continue to develop Smith Hollow School House, Veterans Memorial, and Fire Museum.
- Encourage and assist Forest Service staff to offer stewardship contract timber sales.

- Hotel/motel with amenities

Housing

5 years

Add:

- CDBG – Tri Government - BMAC

Community Development

5 years

Add:

- Master Plan for Fairgrounds/Golf Course area

PORT OF COLUMBIA COUNTY

Goal #1 (New Goal)

Develop Blue Mountain Station Eco-Industrial Park:

- Implement recommendations in CERB feasibility study, including acquisition of land, infrastructure engineering, and installation of infrastructure.
- Design Blue Mountain Station in the most ecologically-friendly manner possible at the time of construction.
- Implement recommendations in the marketing strategy for job creation through business recruitment and entrepreneurial development plans.
- Create marketing umbrella brand and program to promote business success.
- Create educational and networking opportunities for regional growers, producers, and business owners for value-added agriculture and food processing opportunities.
- Create food tourism program and related marketing materials in coordination with regional programs.
- Create capacity within Port District to implement and manage new park and programs.

Goal #2 (previously Goal #4)

Maintain access to water for use by the public.

No changes to objectives.

Goal #3 (previously Goal #1)

Maintain and grow Rock Hill Industrial Park and Seneca Business and Industrial Park.

No changes to objectives.

Goal #4 (previously Goal #3)

Encourage a balanced and economical multi-modal transportation system:

Delete:

- Facilitate Washington State Department of Transportation’s Rail Rehabilitation Project on Port-owned rail lines.

Add:

- Seek funding for rail rehabilitation projects on Port-owned rail lines.

Goal #5

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

Add:

- Identify and assist in the development of alternative products, markets, and industries.
- Create living wage job opportunities.

- Promote tourism as a viable industry.

Goal #6

Continue acquisition, development, and management of Port property and facilities.

Modify:

- Pursue acquisition of additional land *and development of infrastructure* at Port sites when *existing facility occupancy is high and development is economically feasible*.

Delete previous Goal #2 (Actively encourage economic diversification and new development).

Garfield County (includes City of Pomeroy)

Capacity Building/Planning

5 years

Add:

- Develop strategy for Courthouse Restoration

Education and Training

5 years

Add:

- Modernization of Pomeroy High School facility, including energy efficiency improvements.
- Upgrade the Track & Field facility.

PORT OF GARFIELD

Within 1 year

Delete:

- Construct a new 4,800 square foot industrial facility
- Market the new industrial facility for business recruitment

Add:

- Construct RV park on Port property to house windmill employees & tourist
- Assist in locating housing to offer to windmill employees
- Market the second unit of the industrial facility
- Continue to work with motel developers
- Sell nonessential properties and use proceeds for economic development

Within 5-10 years

Delete:

- Work with wind developers

Add:

- Continue business recruitment: new, expansion and relocation
- Work with windmill developers to bring business to Garfield County

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

Mid Range (up to 10 years)

Modify:

- Upgrade and keep pace with the most current computing and transmission technologies for library service within our 14 branch locations and for services accessed through the library's website. These include improvements to the library's computing infrastructure of hardware, software and every level of computing *including infrastructure between the Colfax Library and Neill Public Library in Pullman.*
- Provide intensive outreach and *in-house programming* for community members of all ages on a variety of topics, workshops, programs and instructional classes.

Add:

- Extensive work to digitize the historical photographs and collections from across Whitman County as part of the Whitman County Rural Heritage Project and in conjunction with the Washington State Rural Heritage Project.

Delete:

- Build a new library in St. John.
- Add a public fountain or garden area outside the Colfax Library.

CITY PROJECTS

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

Albion – No Changes

Colfax – No Changes

Colton

Short Range (up to 5 years):

Delete:

- Purchase Water Rights.
- Buy/lay 8 inch water piping to improve fire flow.

Endicott – No Changes

Farmington – No Changes

Garfield

Short Range (up to 5 years):

Add:

- Decommission Well No. 1
- Upgrade Waste Water Treatment Plant to UV disinfection system from chlorine system
- Upgrade water mains in multiple locations
- Provide backup power for well generator
- Secure facility to park community van
- Expand medical clinic service (therapy pool)
- Upgrade/replace park equipment
- Inspect Well No. 4
- Extend water and sewer system into newly annexed areas (*moved from Mid-Range*)

Long Range (up to 20 years)

Add:

- Construct Business Incubator
- Inspect Well No. 3
- Inspect Reservoir
- Inspect Well No. 2

La Crosse – No Changes

Lamont – No Changes

Malden - Did not participate.

Oakesdale – No Changes

Palouse – No Changes

Pullman

Short Range (up to 5 years):

Delete:

- Construct a wading/spray pool.
- Construct a shower facility at the Recreational Vehicle Park.

Add:

- Develop Mary's Park on Johnson Rd. pending acceptance of Herb Neill gift.
- New fire stations (1 new construction, 1 complete remodel)
- Construct a traffic signal for the Bishop Boulevard/Klemgard Avenue intersection
- Widen Grand Avenue to a 5-lane section from Missouri Flat Creek to Nye Street

Mid Range (up to 10 years):

Add:

- Construct a wading/spray pool
- Pursue expansion of RV Park and construct a shower facility
- Locate a building or site for a branch library of Neill Public Library.
- Provide channelization enhancements to Bishop Boulevard; ultimately to a 5-lane section

Rosalia – No Changes

Saint John

Short Range (up to 5 years):

Delete:

- Improve fairgrounds including a horse barn and arena.
- Add pedestrian bridge on Park Street.

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

1. Zoning has been changed to allow for additional industrial area in the County.

Anatone

1. Refurbished welcome sign at the entrance of town with new materials.

Garfield County

1. Repainted and repaired exterior of Denny Ashby Library
2. Fire District: acquired additional property
3. Supported development of whiskey distillery
4. Completed enhancement of Centennial Blvd. from 12th to 18th Streets.

Port of Columbia County

- Developed a marketing strategy to identify a niche market to target for business recruitment and development: Blue Mountain Station Initiative.
- Identified and assisted in the development of alternative products, markets, and industries: Conducted feasibility study for Blue Mountain Station; starting 5-part lecture series this month called Cultivating Sustainability to explore opportunities related to value-added ag.
- Assisted tenant businesses with retention and growth requirements: Expanded Vestas' available space by building an addition and moving a tenant.
- Investigated opportunities to increase income and reduce costs while continuing maintenance of the park and marina: Signed agreements with Port of Kahlotus and Franklin County for temporary financial assistance for maintenance of Lyons Ferry Park; Terminated Lyons Ferry Park and Marina concessionaire and signed lease with new concessionaire with recreation business management experience; Converted facilities to KOA franchise.
- Facilitated Washington State Department of Transportation's Rail Rehabilitation Project on Port-owned rail lines: Secured \$270,000 for public crossing improvements to begin in June 2009.

Whitman County Rural Library District

1. Built a new library in St. John.
2. Added a public fountain/garden area outside the Colfax Library.

Colton

1. Purchased water rights.
2. Installed 1200 ft. of 8" C-900 water piping to improve fire flow.

Rosalia

1. Replaced 1800' of 4" mainline with 8" plastic. Installed all new service line & meters and replaced 4 hydrants.
2. Upgraded city airport/rehab taxiway

Saint John

1. Completed collection system investigation for the sewer lines.
2. Received a grant to replace sidewalks to link the business district to the residential.
3. Installed new fences around the horse arena and the show arena.
4. Completed a new pedestrian bridge on Park Street