

2009-10 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

For counties
Klickitat and Skamania, Washington
Hood River, Wasco, and Sherman, Oregon

Prepared by

Mid-Columbia



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

June 2009

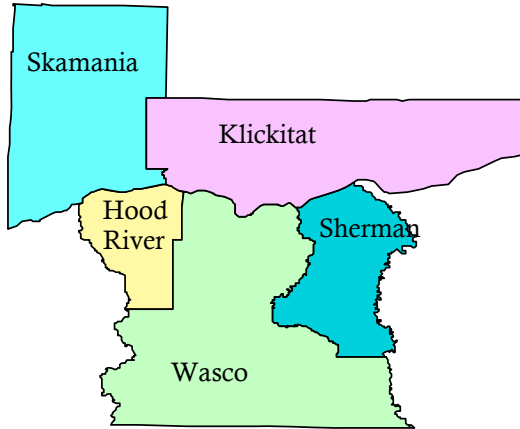
2009-10 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

Table of Contents	Page
ABOUT MCEEDD	4
Coordination	5
Columbia Gorge Bi-State Renewable Energy Zone (CGBREZ)	5
Gorge Translink	5
Oregon Investment Board (OIB)	6
Gorge Technology Alliance	7
Columbia Gorge Future Forum	8
Columbia Gorge Economic Development Association (CGEDA)	8
County Economic Development	8
Facilitation Services	9
Broadband	9
Oregon Association of Economic Development Districts	9
Technical Assistance	9
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Administration	9
Coordinated Human Services Transportation Planning	9
Business Assistance	10
THE ECONOMIC VISION, GOALS, AND OBJECTIVES FOR 2009	11
Vision	11
Regional Goals and Objectives	11
ABOUT THE MID-COLUMBIA REGION	14
Geology	14
<i>The Cascades</i>	14
<i>The Columbia Plateau and River Plain</i>	15
Climate	16
<i>The Cascades</i>	16
<i>The Mid-Columbia River Plain</i>	17
Natural Resources-Political Geography	17
<i>Land Use and Zoning</i>	17
<i>Prime or Unique Farmland</i>	18
<i>Floodplains and Wetlands</i>	18
<i>Political Geography</i>	18
Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area	18
<i>Economic Development in the National Scenic Area</i>	21
<i>Indian Tribes</i>	22
DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION AND ANALYSIS	23
Population	23
Employment and Income	26
Education	30
Housing	31
Transportation	34
ECONOMY	35

Economic Profile	35
<i>Klickitat County</i>	35
<i>Skamania County</i>	36
<i>Hood River County</i>	37
<i>Wasco County</i>	40
<i>Sherman County</i>	41
Regional Industry Cluster Development	43
Arts Cluster –	44
Columbia Gorge Natural Healthcare Network –	44
Columbia River Gorge Technology Alliance –	44
Wine Cluster –	44
Mid-Columbia Renewable Energy Cluster –	45
Emerging Clusters	45
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES AND PARTNERS	47
Federal	47
State.....	48
Regional.....	48
County Economic Development.....	49
Tourism.....	50
Workforce Training.....	51
Public Transportation.....	51
Business Financing and Counseling.....	51
Other Entities Involved in Economic Development	52
MCEDD ACTION PLAN FOR 2009-2010	54
PERFORMANCE MEASURES	55
EVALUATION OF MCEDD’S ACTION PLAN FOR 2008-09	56
APPENDICES A-D	58
<i>Appendix A – Regional Project Priority List</i>	58
<i>Appendix B – Regional Project List</i>	60
<i>Appendix C – MCEDD Board of Directors 2009 Roster/CEDS Committee</i>	73
<i>Appendix D – Composition of the MCEDD Board of Directors</i>	75

ABOUT MCEDD

The Mid-Columbia Economic Development District (MCEDD) is made up of five counties bordering the Columbia River—Hood River, Wasco and Sherman counties in Oregon and Skamania and Klickitat counties in Washington.



MCEDD was established in 1969 by its five member counties who realized by sharing a common workforce, a common geography, and common demographics, their economic fates were tied together. They realized by joining together they would benefit from better access to economic development loans and grants, and pooled technical assistance, marketing, and administrative resources. Most importantly, they would be able to bring a regional approach to their economic development efforts. Over the years MCEDD’s membership has grown to include cities, ports and chambers of commerce within the region.

Today we retain the distinction of being the only regionally focused economic development agency in the Mid-Columbia and therefore the agency most appropriate to serve as lead agency for the Economic Development Administration (EDA). MCEDD is organized as a government non-profit in Oregon as an ORS-190 and in Washington as an RCW 39.34.010.

MCEDD is governed by a twenty-member Board of Directors with a representative from each of the five counties of the district, a representative of the cities of each county, representatives of the Ports and Chambers of Commerce in the region, as well as five private sector representatives from any of these areas: agriculture, business, industry, labor, finance, utilities, healthcare, telecommunications, or minorities and a representative from higher education. A complete listing of board members, who doubled as the CEDS committee, is included in Appendix C.

MCEDD staff is comprised of an Executive Director, Finance and Operations Manager, Project Managers, an Assistant Project Manager, Loan Fund Manager and an Office Administrator.

MCEDD’s mission –

“To promote the creation of family-wage jobs, the diversification of the economic base, and the growth, development and retention of business and industry within the five-county district.”

What we do –

The strategic activities MCEDD uses to accomplish this mission are:

- *Coordination*
- *Technical Assistance*
- *Business Assistance*

Coordination

Coordination activities emphasize MCEDD's leadership role in the regional economy. This is important because our economic region is split between two states, five counties and numerous funding districts. More can be accomplished by working together to fulfill goals. In many cases, the counties and cities of the region cooperate and compete as one. The CEDS process gives MCEDD an opportunity to coordinate with these entities across the region to establish a strong, widely held set of regional goals and objectives and an action plan for achieving them. See section IX for the regional goals and objectives updated for 2009, and Appendix B for this year's regional priority project list.

Coordination activities led by MCEDD in the region include the following:

Columbia Gorge Bi-State Renewable Energy Zone (CGBREZ)



MCEDD worked with members of the five counties to establish the Columbia Gorge Bi-State Renewable Energy Zone (CGBREZ). This self-declared zone was created to reduce the region's dependency on federal subsidies, bring economic vitality to the region, establish a national model for energy self-sufficiency, and provide a model of self-reliance for other rural economies in the 21st Century. CGBREZ resolutions have been passed by all five counties, a logo has been developed, and the group has established priorities which have been passed by each participating county. Monthly CGBREZ meetings provide a forum for county leaders to discuss potential collaborations in renewable energy projects and developments. This year, CGBREZ also engaged in a regional marketing effort to attract manufacturing and small scale wind development to the region. The effort focused on the development of a regional booth, pooling technical and financial resources. The first show was at the American Wind Energy Association Windpower 2009 conference which had approximately 1,200 exhibitors and 23,000 attendees.

Gorge Translink



The public transportation providers of the region's five counties invited MCEDD as a bi-state agency to join them in working to increase inter-city connectivity in 2001. That relationship has continued and Translink has successfully sought funding sources to increase MCEDD's involvement as their mobility manager for the next biennium. MCEDD has helped the group receive grants from

both Oregon and Washington Departments of Transportation as well as the Community Transit Association of America. The first major project created a regional needs assessment study and a marketing plan. In 2008, MCEDD assisted the group in completing a project providing the technical support of CTAA and a consultant. The project helped the group move forward with regional, bi-state intercity transportation goals and identified both mobility management and vanpooling as key focus areas. One of the tangible outcomes from this coordination has been the purchase of radios that all five providers can utilize to communicate with one another. It is a step forward in having the tools to collectively facilitate rides throughout the region. Funding for the Mobility Manager position will ensure that connectivity throughout the region increases.

Oregon Investment Board (OIB)



Since 1988, MCEDD has coordinated Oregon Investment Board's grant and loan program for Oregon counties lying in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area: Multnomah, Hood River, and Wasco. Project funding awarded through OIB helps to strengthen and diversify the economy of the region. A seven-member board approves projects and the Gorge Commission certifies that OIB projects are consistent with the National Scenic Act, the management plan, and land-use ordinances. MCEDD also hosts and maintains OIB's Web site (<http://www.mcedd.org/oib.htm>). In addition,

MCEDD works with the Washington Investment Board (WIB) staff to coordinate bi-state advisory council meetings between the OIB and WIB

Since its inception, the Oregon Investment Board has awarded over \$1.4 million in grants and over \$4.6 million in loans (using revolved funds). These projects have resulted in businesses creating or retaining at least 298 jobs. OIB funds have leveraged more than \$10,000,000 in private investment and \$11,000,000 in public investment. All OIB funds have been fully revolved and the Board currently makes loans and grants from the revolved principle and interest from previous projects. A sampling of projects funded by the OIB includes:

- Developing a shared use commercial kitchen facility. This facility established a business incubator for the development of specialty food companies and for use as a training center.
- Expanding a dental clinic at La Clinica del Carino to serve low income and uninsured individuals.
- Constructing a fiber optic loop by Quality Life Intergovernmental Agency to bring high speed broadband telecommunication services to The Dalles.
- Providing start-up costs for a new child care center.
- Funding Gorge Grown Food Network's Mobile Farmer's Market to provide fresh produce to rural communities and an opportunity for local farmers to sell produce on consignment.
- Supporting development of the Gorge Artists Open Studios.

- Providing working capital to upgrade equipment and machinery for a canning business.
- Leveraging funds to promote the Mt. Hood Cycling Classic Marketing Project
- Developing a web portal for promoting technology based businesses in the Columbia River Gorge Technology through the Gorge Technology Alliance.
- Purchasing technology for Farmers Conservation Alliance to maximize sales of the Farmers Fish Screen, a fish screen designed not to capture debris or harm fish.
- Providing equipment for a pre-engineering program at North Wasco County School District to support a growing technology workforce need.
- Building an integrated economic development plan for the emerging wine industry to address three immediate needs: 1) identify viable markets and ways to move the product, 2) overcome barriers to wine distribution into Washington, and 3) develop a sustainable funding plan for the Association.

Gorge Technology Alliance



MCEDD continues to support the Columbia River Gorge Technology Alliance (GTA) by providing project management coordination for this emerging association. Members of the alliance include technology business entrepreneurs and businesses and organizations providing support services to high tech businesses. The group works to jointly market the Gorge region for high tech, provide networking opportunities, and offer educational growth. GTA formed in 2005 with only a handful of members. Now over 50 members and 200 participants make up the alliance, which continues to grow. During the past two years, the GTA partnered with the Software Association of Oregon (SAO) to cooperate on educational programming and connect to larger statewide networks. This year, the GTA was able to offer healthcare options to its Oregon members through GTA's partnership with the SAO, including coverage for sole-proprietors.

MCEDD has worked with the association over the past year to help the organization receive its federal 501(c)6 designation and to begin a process for developing a sustainability plan with two new sources of funding contributing to the effort (USDA and Oregon Investment Board). MCEDD continues to provide staffing to the GTA to compile aggregate information about the Gorge high-tech sector, host monthly membership meetings and produce monthly newsletters, create opportunities for connecting employers and employees through the website, host innovative shows such as "Green on the Go" and distribute GTA videos and marketing materials. MCEDD has also improved the GTA website <http://www.crgta.org>, and participated with Columbia Gorge Community College in the development of a needs assessment for a FACT (fundamentals of applied core technologies) course of study to respond to the workforce needs of the growing technology cluster.

Regional GIS Discussions

Under the leadership of the contracted City planner for the City of Cascade Locks, MCEDD worked with local jurisdictions to discuss means to share geographical

information regionally. Leaders and businesses involved with successful implementation of statewide GIS projects were invited to speak to the regional group of GIS users. A local GIS users group has been established to provide support services to local jurisdictions.

Columbia Gorge Future Forum

MCEDD participated on the planning committee for the twenty year visioning process led by the Columbia Gorge Commission called the “Gorge Future Forum.” This effort engaged organizations, individuals and communities through a one-day conference, multiple community meetings, and online surveys. The effort won the Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association’s Professional Achievement in Planning award for 2009.

Columbia Gorge Economic Development Association (CGEDA)



MCEDD provides staff support and financial management for the CGEDA. Port districts, counties, Embarq, Northwest Natural and regional economic development groups created this cooperative organization to promote the Columbia River Gorge region as a cost-effective location for business development. With the quickly diminishing amount of available industrial land in the region, CGEDA is now beginning to focus on how to provide additional assistance to existing businesses to promote growth and retention. In defining its vision and goals for 2009, the group noted that a major value to CGEDA is the regional coordination that occurs at CGEDA meetings. They allow the members to attend fewer meetings while remaining connected to the region, provide members with the ability to understand impacts of their actions and how it will affect the region, help develop an understanding of what is occurring regionally and identify potential means for coordination. CGEDA meetings involve the staff for the member organizations to ensure that coordination goes beyond the top level.

County Economic Development

MCEDD has engaged in multiple contracts this year to support our counties by providing economic development services. This pooled resource allows for greater

Since 2005, Sherman County has contracted with MCEDD to provide economic development services to the County. This year, MCEDD worked with the County on developing a housing survey. Over 1,000 surveys were mailed, contacting every unique property owner and major business in the County. Approximately 300 responses were returned and the final report was published in January 2009. The report is available online at <http://www.sherman-county.com/>.

Since 2008, Wasco County has contracted with MCEDD to provide economic development services to the County. MCEDD staff has worked with the County Economic Development Commission to redesign their website, achieve funding for an Oregon Solutions process for the Discovery Center, develop a Needs and Issues

inventory, and begin an infrastructure inventory of available lands in South Wasco County.

Facilitation Services

MCEDD has worked with Oregon Solutions to facilitate and participate in projects for the Lower John Day Watershed and the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center.

Broadband

MCEDD acts as fiscal agent to coordinate the Oregon Broadband Cooperative's initiative to develop a statewide broadband network. In the initial planning phases, the Cooperative has received funding to begin a feasibility analysis for deployment of Wi-Max statewide with a small test pilot in Phase 2.

Oregon Association of Economic Development Districts

MCEDD staff initially facilitated communication of this informal association in 2007 and has continued active participation over the past two years. It is a way for the Oregon federally designated economic development districts' staff to keep in touch with each other and tap into resources from across the state. In 2008-2009 we assisted the Association with development of a website and continuation of electronic communication.

Technical Assistance

MCEDD's technical assistance services emphasize its role as the "go to" organization in the region to get projects moving. MCEDD's specialization in grant writing and grant administration allows our stakeholders to outsource that duty to us and allows them to keep focused on what they do best. MCEDD is also the central compiler for economic and demographic information in the Gorge. Because the Mid-Columbia region spans two states, providing this regional data is especially important since it's not available elsewhere. This data helps our members and stakeholders move their projects forward. Some important projects made possible this year through MCEDD's provision of technical assistance include:

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Administration

MCEDD administers two CDBG grant projects: an emergency services building in Cascade Locks, Oregon and a fire hall/community center in the High Prairie community outside of Lyle, Washington. Both projects require a large amount of community involvement as well as record keeping and accountability to insure all state and federal requirements are being met. The Cascade Locks Fire Station is successfully completing construction. The High Prairie Fire Hall and Community Center was rebid with MCEDD's assistance in securing additional funding and is currently under construction.

Coordinated Human Services Transportation Planning

MCEDD completed updates to Special Transportation Fund plans for Hood River, Wasco and Sherman counties. The aim of the coordinated plans is to improve transportation services for individuals with disabilities, individuals who are senior, and individuals with lower incomes by providing a strategy to guide the investment of

available funds and guide the acquisition of future grants. The project work involved creating an inventory of current resources and comparing them to the forecasted demographics to create a prioritized project list to meet future needs effectively and efficiently. The work involved holding public meetings to gather information as well as quantitative study and report writing.

As a result of the plan prioritization, Hood River Transportation District was able to continue to obtain funding to begin regular daily bus service between The Dalles (in Wasco County) and Hood River (in Hood River County). In addition, a monthly route is now available between Hood River and Portland.

Business Assistance

This is a major area of our economic development strategy where MCEDD is out in the region directly helping businesses to retain and create the jobs that expand our economy. This is done primarily through the operation of several Revolving Loan Funds (RLFs) that provide long-term, low interest financing for business expansion or start-up needs. Specializing in gap financing, our loans are added to other financing and often provide the critical missing piece in the total financing package that makes these deals possible. MCEDD also provides loan packaging assistance to help businesses access other State, Regional and/or Federal finance programs, as well financing from banks and other commercial lenders.

The total loans and grants obtained by MCEDD to capitalize our loan funds since beginning the programs has been over \$4.4 million. This year we have been busy loaning out the balance of these funds along with repaid funds from existing loans.

MCEDD Outlook for the Future – In the future, MCEDD looks to build more relationships with entrepreneurs in the region; to take advantage of the businesses already present in the region and work with them to improve their ability to prosper here. After severe economic downturns from the loss of timber industry and other natural resource-based jobs, MCEDD has concentrated on working with local governments and entrepreneurs to benefit our region's economy together. The result: lower unemployment rates region wide, more jobs, and an improved quality of life.

THE ECONOMIC VISION, GOALS, AND OBJECTIVES FOR 2009

In its 30 year history, MCEDD has demonstrated the ability to bring collaboration to its five county region that spans two states. The considerable difference in each state's funding and legislation has raised challenges, but our feedback process indicates that the stakeholders are uniting around the concept of regionality and the benefit that it brings to our economic stability. Defined industry clusters participate in unifying and strengthening the economy of the region. The desirability of the area has brought growth challenges due to constraints from substantially high federal land ownership and control within the region and the National Scenic Area. The Mid-Columbia district continues to attract additional residents and key businesses, which indicates the desirability of locating to this area and a high level of success in the region's growth management. These concepts will drive our efforts and those of our region partners, as we work to improve the Mid-Columbia economy.

Vision

To create a diversified economy that enhances the opportunity for employment for citizens of the region and increases the tax base for the counties and cities by working together in leadership, planning and strategic investment while safeguarding the area's rural qualities, values and natural resources.

Regional Goals and Objectives

Goal 1. –Retain and expand existing businesses in the region to enhance the region's established economic base. Create a supportive environment that promotes entrepreneurship and business expansion.

1. Actively promote the use of revolving funds for regional businesses and economic development projects by:
 - a. Increasing the capitalization of MCEDD's revolving fund through development grants and loans.
 - b. Growing and supporting the availability of funding sources for businesses.
 - c. Continuing to establish a strong loan referral network
 - d. Increasing packaging services to access other funds.
 - e. Providing a comprehensive resource for clients to identify available lending and grant options. Providing information in a manner that encourages minority and small and emerging business applications.
2. Build and advocate for a local Business Support Network
 - a. Reference businesses to appropriate counseling resources
 - b. Support initiatives including GAIN, Gorge Angel conference, Microenterprise outreach efforts, and Small Business Development Center.

Goal 2: Attract new business and industry to the region that will provide opportunities for existing residents at family wages.

1. Actively recruit businesses that utilize existing regional job skills and that bring enhanced opportunities to our existing workforce.
2. Diversify the economy by creating economic opportunities in renewable energy by continuing coordination through the Columbia Gorge Bi-State Renewable Energy Zone.
3. Support and enhance regional high tech cluster initiatives through the Gorge Technology Alliance.

Goal 3- Create adequate public infrastructure that will serve key industrial, commercial and residential areas of the region contributing to increased opportunities for employment and expanded property tax base.

1. Identify needs and opportunities to act cooperatively to ensure and initiate development
2. Provide Technical Assistance support to community projects such as waste water, utility extensions, and other capital projects.
3. Provide information on Economic Development Administration funding. Support and act as a catalyst to support communities seeking EDA support.
4. Provide assistance to partners in support of regional public fiber optic networks; wireless clouds over major population and business centers; and availability of high-speed connectivity to our rural communities and home sites.

Goal 4- Increase region's access to resources for economic development initiatives.

1. Provide a regional clearinghouse for regional statistics and grant resources. Disseminate information at the office, through a web presence, and via monthly electronic newsletters.
2. Improve quality and understanding of regional data and information through Geographical Information Systems by working to pool existing GIS resources.
3. Provide economic development support to counties in the region, filling in gaps, and providing services for which they lack the capacity to fill.
4. As the EDA designee, provide technical support services to communities seeking technical assistance funding. Be a knowledge resource for those seeking to identify funding resources.

Goal 5- Coordinate public transportation needs to improve regional public transportation options for workers, shoppers, students, tourists, and special needs populations.

1. Host a Transportation Summit to discuss opportunities for regional utilization of transportation resources.
2. Seek resources for Mobility Manager services.
3. Provide planning and collaboration of a regional transportation network that serves the bi-state area (Translink)

4. Identify opportunities for ecologically sensitive transportation options (alternative fueled vehicles, walkable communities)
5. Promote utilization of readily available enhancements to the regional transportation needs (vanpools, rideshare, carpools, dial-a-ride)

Goal 6. - Continue to build the economic support structure to grow and sustain our region.

1. Provide support for enhancing business health through our existing business clusters.
 - Be a resource of preliminary support for newly formed clusters, with the overarching goal for them to become self supporting.
 - Enable the growth of business networks that enhance their industry sectors. Recognize and add additional clusters in areas of significant economic contribution.
2. Strive for efficient government services/procedures to promote economic and community development.
3. Seek means to address bi-state barriers for industries considering relocating to the region.
4. Partner with economic development organizations, counties, cities, port districts, and others in the region to achieve common goals.

Goal 7. - Work with industry, entrepreneurs, and public entities to ensure a qualified and available workforce and training opportunities to meet rapidly changing needs.

1. Support local educational institutions in assessing needs and expanding capacity for training.
2. Seek to assure jobs and training opportunities for our minority and low income populations.
3. Assist employers to expand their operations by hiring locally
4. Continue to arrange collaborative efforts between economic development and workforce development organizations and interests in the region.

ABOUT THE MID-COLUMBIA REGION

Geology

The region MCEDD serves spans the states of Washington and Oregon along the Columbia River from the slopes of the Cascade Range on the west to the John Day River and the Horse Heaven Hills on the east. It includes Skamania and Klickitat counties in Washington and Hood River, Wasco, and Sherman counties in Oregon. The region constitutes an area of 7,289 square miles and encompasses parts of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.

The topography and climate of the region vary greatly from east to west. Three distinct physiographic regions are in evidence: the Cascades, the high Columbia Plateaus, and the Mid-Columbia River Plain. The historical underpinnings of local economies within the region generally coincide with those geographical differences, with the preponderance of lumber production in the Cascades, agriculture on the high plateaus, and transportation, trade, and river-oriented endeavors along the Mid-Columbia River Plain. The intermountain valleys of the Cascades are noted for orchard crops, as are irrigated areas to the east, immediately adjacent to the Mid-Columbia River Plain.

Geology of the Region:

The Cascades

Skamania and Hood River counties are located in the Cascade Range uplift, a region characterized by deeply dissected mountains. Between the two counties, running east to west, the Columbia River has cut through the Cascade Mountain Range to form the Columbia River Gorge, a deep canyon lined by precipitous slopes with outcrops of basalt and anisette.

The physiographic features are rugged mountainous, river flood plains and low terraces. Elevations range from near sea level at the river's edge to towering peaks of over 4,000 feet which form the Gorge face, and mountains reaching over 12,000 feet abs. Eons of geologic history are reflected in the Gorge's walls. The history of volcanic eruptions, lava flows, and earth movements that tilted and uplifted the earth's surface, and the series of colossal and catastrophic floods that scoured cliffs and hillsides are evident.

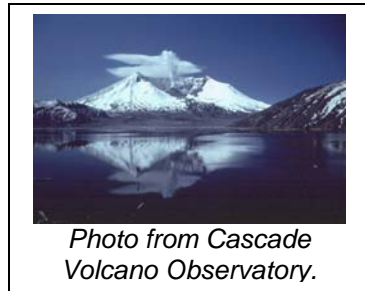


From Explore the Gorge
The Columbia River Gorge

Local landslides, some as recent as 200 years ago, have occurred in several areas along the Columbia River. The large Bonneville Landslide between the cities of Stevenson and North Bonneville, Washington, exposed the Red Bluffs. This landslide blocked the Columbia River for a short period. Another landslide, still active, lies in Skamania County

between Wind Mountain and Dog Mountain. It moves from 40 to 50 feet a year at its upper end, and five to ten feet a year at its lower end.

Geologically, the Cascade Range is the product of volcanic activities that took place until the early Pleistocene Era. This volcanic activity formed an effective transportation barrier separating the Pacific Coast from a large inland hinterland. Most passes through the mountains are above 4,000 feet, the one notable exception being the Columbia River Gorge. The river maintained its channel through the mountains during periods of uplifting, providing a water level route to the sea. Therefore, the Mid-Columbia region is located on a major east-west commerce route to Pacific Northwest population centers and beyond.



Elevations in the northern part of Skamania County vary from about 1,000 feet at Swift Creek Reservoir to approximately 8,000 feet at Mount St. Helens, an active volcano situated near the west margin of the Cascade Range.

Mount Adams rises 12,276 ft. high in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest in Skamania County. Part of this volcano lies within the Yakama Indian Nation and is considered sacred by tribal custom; use by others is prohibited. Snow melt from Mount Adams feeds creeks that help supply water to the residents of Klickitat County and the City of Goldendale, Washington.

Mount Hood rises 11,235 feet in elevation in the Mt. Hood National Forest. Multnomah and Hood River county lines actually bisect this peak. Mt. Hood is an extremely popular destination for winter sports due to the development of several skiing resorts on its slopes. Like Mount Adams, this picturesque volcano can be seen from many places in the Mid-Columbia region, including the plateaus on either side of the Columbia.

The Columbia Plateau and River Plain

The portion of the region in which Klickitat, Wasco and Sherman Counties are situated begins on the eastern slopes of the Cascade Mountains and extends eastward over a narrow transition zone to an arid plateau bordered by the Blue Mountains, the Deschutes River, and the John Day River. The Columbia Plateau is a true lava plateau weathered and bisected by streams.

The Columbia River, through a continuous process of down-cutting, established a deep gorge in a large plateau. From an elevation of 3,000 feet around the edges, the plateau slopes—gently in some places, abruptly in others—toward the Columbia River Gorge.

The plateau surface is flat to gently undulating, dissected by a network of steep-walled canyons cut by surface water systems, such as the Deschutes and Klickitat river systems.

Deep layers of basalt rock underlay the plateau and centuries-old river sediment lines its surface. Geographically, the most extensive stratigraphic unit occurring in the region is the basalt of the Columbia River group. These basalts form the high, dark brown-to-black cliffs along the sides of the Columbia River Gorge and other major canyons. Except in a few locations where the basalt flows have been deformed, the basalt underlies the area in horizontal flows. Near the town of Lyle, Wash., in Klickitat County, the Columbia River Basalt flows dip towards the southeast, deformed by the uplifting forces of the Cascade Mountains.

The Columbia River Basalts erupted from fissures or creeks, each many miles long. The flows spread almost like water for great distances. This is evident by the apparent uniformity of thickness of the flows. Overall thickness is several thousand feet and the age has been dated from early to middle Miocene.

The basalt north of the Columbia is covered with layers of sand, gravel and deposits of lacustrine silt deposited at the end of the Ice Ages when the area was a glacial outwash plain. To the south, sand and loess deposits are prevalent, seldom exceeding a thickness of 50 feet.

Climate

The Mid-Columbia Economic Development District has diverse climates within its region's borders that directly affect its agricultural economy, its forest products industry, the region's power generation system, tourism, recreational activities, and all other aspects of life. Where the growing season is short and the precipitation high, historically the region's forest products industry had been the economic foundation. Now this region is restructuring to better protect its natural resources and empower its entrepreneurs. Where the growing season is longer, with ample precipitation and good drainage, tree crops are produced. On the high, dry, plateau, grain is the major crop.

The Cascades

The Coast Range to the west shields Hood River and Skamania counties from severe winter storms moving inland from the Pacific Ocean. The Cascades also protect the area from the high summer and low winter temperatures of eastern Oregon and Washington. The Columbia River Gorge moderates the blocking effect somewhat by allowing air exchange between inland and coastal areas, creating strong winds through the Gorge.

Depending on the elevation, the winter temperature varies from a January average of 35 degrees Fahrenheit at 1,000-2,000 feet to 10 degrees F at 6,000 feet. Summer maximums are between 90 and 100 degrees F, with the normal range being 70 to 80 degrees F. Precipitation patterns are similar to the coastal areas of the Pacific Northwest. One to two inches of rain typically falls during the driest summer months. The wettest months are typically December or January. Annual totals range from 70 to 100 inches of precipitation.

The Columbia Plateau

The dominant distinction between the high plateaus and the Cascades is the much lower annual precipitation they receive. This part of the region is located within a rain shadow created by the Cascade Mountains. Most weather stations average between 10 and 20 inches of rainfall annually, increasing to 20 to 30 inches in some localized higher areas. Some eastern parts of the region receive less than six inches of precipitation a year, most falling as snow between November and February. Summers are hot and dry with July and August having little or no rainfall.

Temperatures vary according to elevation. Locations at moderate elevations have July averages of 70 to 75 degrees F. In midsummer, temperatures in the 80s and 90s are common during the daytime, dropping to the 50s at night. Extreme summer temperatures of more than 115 degrees F have occurred. Relative humidity is low, especially during summer. January mean temperatures vary between 25 and 30 degrees F, with occasional daytime high temperatures below 0 degrees Fahrenheit. Temperature extremes as low as -34 degrees F below zero have occurred. The growing season varies from 150 to 175 days.

The Mid-Columbia River Plain

The Mid-Columbia River Plain generates its own linear climatic system. Portions of the west end of the Columbia River Gorge are considered rain forest, while the east end of the region has an arid desert climate. Annual precipitation varies from over 80 inches at Cascade Locks in the west to 10 inches at its eastern edge. The length of the growing season ranges from 160 days in the Western Gorge to more than 200 days east of The Dalles. The prolonged growing season of the east end can be attributed to the protection the river plain receives from the Columbia Hills and Horse Heaven Hills to the north, and the moderating effect of the Columbia River.

Prevailing winds in the Columbia River Gorge are from west to east in the summer and from east to west in the winter. This phenomenon has helped boost the region's economy in recent years; the prevailing summer winds, which blow up river against the river current, provide ideal windsurfing conditions. Thousands of windsurfers a year come to what has become a "Mecca" of the sport—the Columbia River Gorge. This relatively new sport to the area has increased rapidly in popularity.

Natural Resources-Political Geography

Land Use and Zoning

All five counties in the Mid-Columbia region have zoning ordinances and land use comprehensive plans. Portions of four of the five counties (Wasco, Hood River, Skamania, and Klickitat) lie within the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area (NSA). Established to oversee the NSA, the Columbia Gorge Commission has assisted the counties in preparing plans and drafting ordinances complying with the NSA Management Plan and the requirements of the Scenic Act. The Gorge Commission

continues to oversee land-use decisions in those portions of the NSA where the counties have not yet adopted ordinances complying with the Management Plan. The Gorge Commission also formally approves ordinances proposed by the individual counties once they are determined to comply with the Management Plan.

State and federal forestry practices are in place in both the Oregon and Washington portions of the District's region. Overall, land-use regulation in Oregon is controlled by the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD). Washington's Growth Management Act (GMA), which became law in 1990, governs land-use requirements in that state. The GMA was enacted in 1990 to slow urban sprawl and protect forest and farmlands from development. The act affects development and growth patterns throughout the state. Both Washington counties have taken the administrative steps to "opt out" of the GMA, an option available to counties with populations of less than 50,000 and growth rates of less than 20% over the past decade.

Other state and federal regulatory agencies also affect development activities in the region, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE), the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), and the Washington Department of Ecology (DOE).

Prime or Unique Farmland

As defined by the Farmland and Preservation Act, prime farmland is land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage fiber, and oilseed crops, and is also available for these uses. In general, prime farmlands have an adequate and dependable water supply from precipitation or irrigation, a favorable temperature and growing season, acceptable acidity and few or no rocks. There is a total of approximately 130,000 acres of prime farmlands in the Mid-Columbia Economic Development District's region.

Floodplains and Wetlands

There are several identified wetland sites in the five-county region. Maps of these locations are available at county planning and U.S. Forest Service offices, and at the offices of the Columbia Gorge Commission.

Both Oregon and Washington have delegated responsibility to local governments to adopt flood plain management ordinances requiring review of and permits for development on flood plains.

Political Geography

Oregon's Hood River County and Washington's Klickitat and Skamania counties operate with county commissions. Oregon's Sherman and Wasco counties have county courts.

Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area

Environmental issues in the Columbia River Gorge have been a top item of discussion since the 1986 Congressional Act that designated it a National Scenic Area. The act

places further land-use restrictions on large portions of four of the five counties in the region. The legislation created a National Scenic Area along both banks of the Columbia River, including portions of Clark, Skamania, and Klickitat counties in Washington, and Multnomah, Hood River, and Wasco counties in Oregon. Except for small pieces of Clark and Multnomah counties, the Scenic Area lies within the confines of the Mid-Columbia Economic Development District.

The lower White Salmon and lower Klickitat Rivers were also added to the National Wild and Scenic River system through the Scenic Act. In 2005, the upper White Salmon River and one of its tributaries, Cascade Creek, were also added to the National Wild and Scenic River system. Management plans have been developed for these areas by the U.S. Forest Service.

The purposes of the National Scenic Act (NSA) are

1. To establish a national scenic area to protect and provide for the enhancement of the scenic, cultural, recreational, and natural resources of the Columbia River Gorge; and
2. To protect and support the economy of the Columbia River Gorge area by encouraging growth to occur in existing urban areas and by allowing future economic development in a manner that is consistent with paragraph (1).

The U.S. Forest Service managed the National Scenic Area initially. A 13-member Columbia Gorge Commission, with full-time staff, was established in 1987 and took over management responsibilities in early 1988. The Gorge Commission's offices are in downtown White Salmon on the west edge of Klickitat County.

The Commission's Management Plan, adopted in 1992, highlights the first objective and purpose of the act as "to establish a National Scenic Area to protect and provide for the enhancement of the scenic, cultural, recreational, and natural resources of the Columbia River Gorge."

Five of the six Scenic Area counties—Clark, Multnomah, Wasco, Hood River, and Skamania—have adopted ordinances approved by the Columbia Gorge Commission. Klickitat County has taken no steps toward preparing proposed ordinances for the Gorge Commission's approval.

The Management Plan created three land-use designations for the 292,615 acres of the National Scenic Area:

1. **Urban Areas:** The communities of Cascade Locks, Hood River, Mosier, and The Dalles in Oregon, and North Bonneville, Stevenson, Carson, Home Valley, Bingen, White Salmon, Lyle, Dallesport, and Wishram in Washington are identified as urban areas in the Management Plan. These areas, totaling 28,511 acres, are generally exempt from most of the land-use restrictions of the act, including any new county ordinances adopted to conform to the requirements of the Management Plan. The boundaries of the urban areas were established by the legislation. Urban growth boundary issues have become a primary concern for a

number of these communities. In 2008, the Gorge Commission began a process of reviewing the intent of the legislation with respect to UGB's.

2. **General Management Areas:** More than half of the Scenic Area—149,004 acres—is designated General Management Area (GMA). It covers most of the eastern Gorge and is scattered in the central and west end of the Gorge. The GMA primarily includes the expansive grazing lands of the east, orchard and other intensive agricultural lands, and the Columbia River.
3. **Special Management Areas:** The Special Management Areas (SMA) designation was applied to 115,100 acres of area determined to have special scenic qualities, significant natural resources, or important archeological and historic sites. Those lands include portions of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest in Washington, and the Mount Hood National Forest in Oregon. These lands are concentrated in the western half of the Scenic Area. The SMA also includes the sheer cliffs and dense forests of the Gorge walls, the islands of the Columbia River, and the marshy bottom lands along its banks.

In spring 2005, the Gorge Commission completed the process of reviewing the Management Plan (a process begun in 2001). Plan Review is mandated by the National Scenic Act every five to ten years. After three public drafts and input from over 250 people, agencies, and organizations, major changes to the plan include the following.

- Allowing wine tasting rooms in residential zones to be up to 1,000 square feet rather than 500 square feet.
- Allowing commercial events in rural residential, agricultural, and forest-zoned areas.
- Allowing orchard fans used for frost control to be installed without a permit in the General Management Area and under a fast-track process in the Special Management Area.
- Increasing the size of “accessory” buildings that can be built through expedited review from 120 to 200 square feet.
- Eliminating provisions that would have allowed up to 1,500 square feet of activity inside a wetland or stream buffer.
- Increasing requirements for grading plans when a project involves more than 100 cubic yards of grading or fill.
- Clarifying that new development sites inside six “developed settings” does not have to be painted a dark, earth-tone color.
- Eliminating several redundant regulations.

Later in 2005, the Gorge Commission released the long-awaited “Scenic Resources Implementation Handbook” designed to offer clear-cut guidelines for the requirement that new construction in the National Scenic Area be “visually subordinate” to the landscape if capable of being seen from “key viewing areas.” The handbook does not eliminate the need to obtain necessary permits and reviews, but will help residents through the process more quickly.

Economic Development in the National Scenic Area

The National Scenic Area Act authorized \$5 million each for Washington and Oregon to provide grants and loans to stimulate economic development within the Scenic Area. Additional monies were provided to help construct Skamania Lodge near Stevenson, and allocated for construction of the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center at Crates Point west of The Dalles. Each of the six counties that make up the Scenic Area must adopt additional land-use provisions consistent with the legislation, and win approval of those measures from the Gorge Commission, to qualify for use of the promised economic development funds.

Because they have approved ordinances meeting the requirements of the Management Plan in place, Multnomah, Hood River, Wasco, Clark and Skamania counties qualify for use of the \$10 million in economic development funding promised by the Scenic Act to mitigate for the economic impacts of designating the region a National Scenic Area. Since Klickitat County has not yet met the requirements, projects in the county are not eligible for the funds.

Both Washington and Oregon have received economic development funds from the federal government as part of this act. A Bi-State Advisory Council was established to oversee investment of those monies, and separate Investment Boards for each state were charged with making the actual decisions. MCEDD's Executive Director is an Advisory Council member. These funds are managed by the Washington Investment Board (WIB) and the Oregon Investment Board (OIB). Each Board is responsible for overseeing a grant and loan program that supports economic development projects in the scenic area. All decisions made by each Board are reviewed by the Columbia River Gorge Commission to ensure that each grant or loan is consistent with the two purposes of the act. As of June, 2003, each State had received \$4,001,750 of a \$5,000,000 authorization. No further allocations from this authorization have been made as of April, 2008, despite numerous attempts to gain the additional funds.

Oregon and Washington were each authorized \$5 million to create an economic development program in the National Scenic Area. \$744,000 was appropriated in FY 1993, \$2.5 million was appropriated in FY 1996, \$3.0 million in FY 1997 and \$1,872,000 in the FY 2001 budget. Funds are granted through the Forest Service to Washington and Oregon to implement an already prepared economic development plan. The appropriated monies were split equally between Washington and Oregon for business loans and other projects within the confines of the Scenic Area.

Separate economic development plans were prepared by the two states for use of those funds as called for in the Scenic Act. Those plans were based on a 1988 Economic Opportunity Study. That study was based on 1980 U.S. Census data and predates the impacts of federal timber harvest restrictions, measures aimed at protecting endangered salmon species, rapid growth in the Gorge's windsurfing industry and the implications of the establishment of the National Scenic Area itself.

The 1988 Economic Opportunity Study was updated in 1997 by MCEDD. The "Columbia Gorge Bi-State Economic Opportunity Study & Action Agenda, July 1997," sponsored by the Bi-State Advisory Council and the Washington and Oregon Investment Boards, and funded through the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration and the Washington State Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development, amends the 1992 Economic Development Plans for the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area of both states. The 1999 plan update for economic development was approved by both state governors.

Indian Tribes

Tribal Reservations are located in three of the region's five counties. A 387,912-acre portion of the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation is located in South Wasco County. Approximately 916 acres are located east of The Dalles in the northeast corner of Wasco County, in the community of Celilo. These two areas are home to members of the Umatilla, Nez Pearce, Warm Springs, and Yakama tribes. The community of Celilo is not a reservation, only federal lands exempt for their occupancy. Sherman County has 146 acres owned by the "Mud Head" Indian tribe. Indian tribes own 66,252 acres of land in Klickitat County – 57,452 acres make up part of the Confederated Tribes of the Yakima Nation Reservation; just 9.17 acres of the Yakima Reservation lie in Skamania County. Reservation and tribal lands comprise a total of 455,235 acres of Indian Reservation land in the Mid-Columbia Economic Development District's region.

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION AND ANALYSIS

Population

POPULATION DISTRIBUTION AND DENSITY IN THE MID-COLUMBIA, 2008

Source: U.S. Census

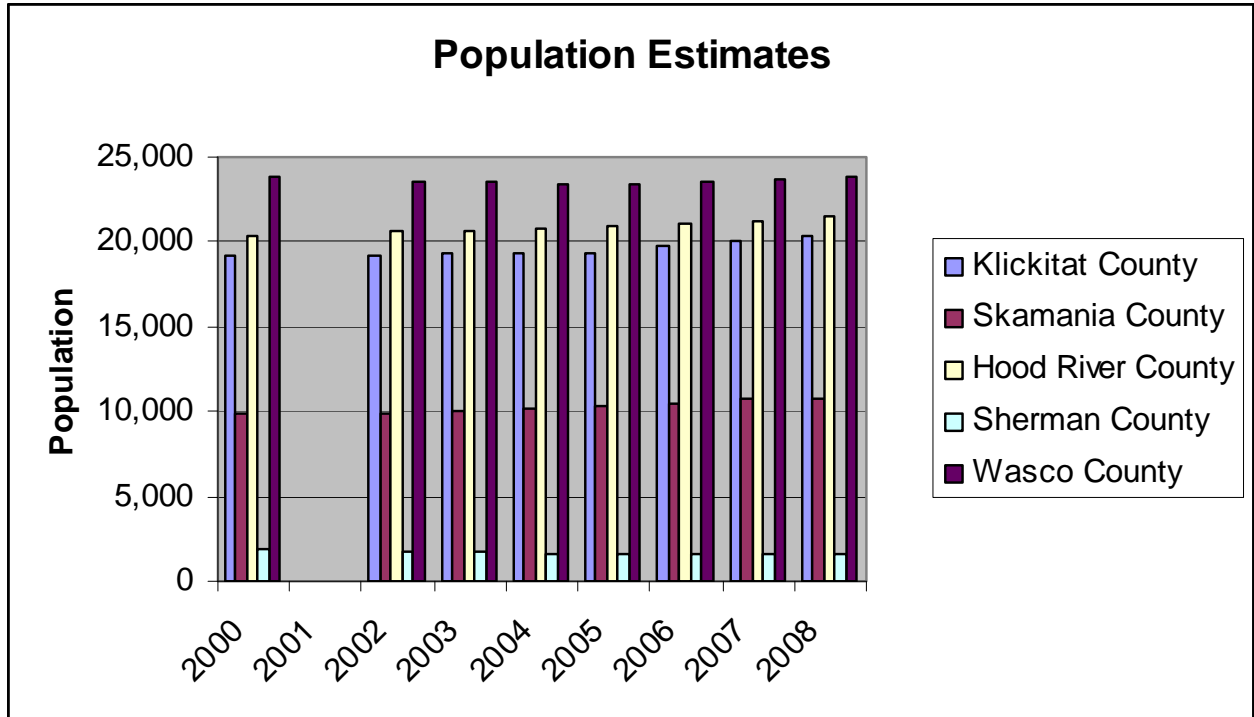
	Land Area (mi ²)	Population Estimates, 2008	Persons per square mile
Hood River	522	21,536	41.26
Wasco	2,381	23,775	9.99
Sherman	823	1,638	1.99
Skamania	1,656	10,794	6.52
Klickitat	1,872	20,377	10.89
MCEDD Region	7,254	78,120	10.677

Much of the Mid-Columbia region's population is located in three of its Counties, Hood River, Wasco, and Klickitat. Hood River is by far the most densely populated in region. It is also the smallest county in terms of land area in the region and in the State of Oregon.

COUNTY POPULATION ESTIMATES, CENSUS, APRIL 1, JULY 1, 2000 - JULY 1, 2008

Source: U.S. Census

Geographic Area	Population Estimates							Census 2000
	July 1, 2008	July 1, 2007	July 1, 2006	July 1, 2005	July 1, 2004	July 1, 2003	July 1, 2002	April 1, 2000
Klickitat County	20,377	20,054	19,780	19,401	19,341	19,329	19,139	19,161
Skamania County	10,794	10,698	10,507	10,284	10,225	10,039	9,888	9,872
Hood River County	21,536	21,200	21,120	20,984	20,812	20,604	20,609	20,411
Sherman County	1,638	1,664	1,641	1,659	1,668	1,747	1,757	1,934
Wasco County	23,775	23,705	23,552	23,401	23,393	23,560	23,491	23,791
MCEDD Region	78,120	77,321	76,600	75,729	75,439	75,279	74,884	75,169
Oregon	3,790,060	3,735,549	3,680,968	3,621,939	3,576,262	3,551,877	3,517,982	3,421,399
Washington	6,549,224	6,449,511	6,360,529	6,254,579	6,179,645	6,110,202	6,055,613	5,894,121



POPULATION CHANGE BY RACE 1990-2000

Source: U.S. Census

1990	Total	White	Hispanic	Black	American Indian	Asian & Pacific Islander
	Hood River County	16,903	16,315	2,670	52	222
Sherman County	1,918	1,880	27	0	24	14
Wasco County	21,683	20,447	967	69	924	243
Klickitat County	16,616	15,851	880	30	596	139
Skamania County	8,289	8,031	162	5	200	53
MCEDD Region	65,409	62,524	4,706	156	1,966	763
Oregon	2,842,337	2,684,559	103,288	47,017	40,522	70,239
Washington	4,866,669	4,411,387	186,092	152,569	87,259	215,454
2000	Total	White	Hispanic	Black	American Indian	Asian & Pacific Islander
	Hood River County	20,411	16,099	5,107	117	229
Sherman County	1,934	1,810	94	4	27	9
Wasco County	23,791	20,599	2,214	71	906	310
Klickitat County	19,161	16,778	1,496	51	665	180
Skamania County	9,872	9,093	398	30	217	70
MCEDD Region	75,169	64,379	9,309	273	2,044	895

Oregon	3,421,399	2,961,623	275,314	55,662	45,211	109,326
Washington	5,894,121	4,821,823	441,509	190,267	93,301	346,288
1990-2000 Percent Change	Total	White	Hispanic	Black	American Indian	Asian & Pacific Islander
Hood River County	20.80%	-1.3%	91.3%	125.0%	3.2%	3.8%
Sherman County	0.80%	-3.7%	248.1%	n/a	12.5%	-35.7%
Wasco County	9.70%	0.7%	129.0%	2.9%	-1.9%	27.6%
Klickitat County	15.30%	5.8%	70.0%	70.0%	11.6%	29.5%
Skamania County	19.10%	13.2%	145.7%	500.0%	8.5%	32.1%
MCEDD Region	14.90%	3.0%	97.8%	75.0%	4.0%	17.3%
Oregon	20.40%	10.3%	166.5%	18.4%	11.6%	55.6%
Washington	21.10%	9.3%	137.3%	24.7%	6.9%	60.7%

While the MCEDD region underwent many demographic changes during the 1990s, perhaps the most significant is the relative increase in races that have not traditionally been a significant part of the population. The biggest increase was in persons of Hispanic or Latino descent. Their population almost doubled. Even with this increase in diversity, the region remains largely white.

CHANGE IN POPULATION AND DEPENDENCY RATIO, 1990-2000

The Dependency Ratio measures the relative size of the working age population to the non-working age of the population. The higher the ratio, the better because it means there are more people working to support those that are not.

1990	0 to 19 years	20 to 64 years	65 years and more	Total	Dependency Ratio
United States	71,321,886	146,146,156	31,241,831	248,709,873	1.42
Oregon	802,516	1,648,481	391,324	2,842,321	1.38
Washington	1,398,246	2,893,158	575,288	4,866,692	1.47
MCEDD Region	19,802	35,978	9,629	65,409	1.22
Hood River County	5,016	9,522	2,365	16,903	1.29
Sherman County	564	1,031	323	1,918	1.16
Wasco County	6,321	11,576	3,786	21,683	1.15
Klickitat County	5,230	9,119	2,267	16,616	1.22
Skamania County	2,671	4,730	888	8,289	1.33
2000	0 to 19 years	20 to 64 years	65 years and more	Total	Dependency Ratio
United States	80,473,265	165,956,888	34,991,753	281,421,906	1.44
Oregon	944,004	2,039,218	438,177	3,421,399	1.48
Washington	1,683,019	3,548,954	662,148	5,894,121	1.51
MCEDD Region	21,915	42,583	10,671	75,169	1.31
Hood River County	6,219	11,569	2,623	20,411	1.31
Sherman County	555	1,026	353	1,934	1.13
Wasco County	6,609	13,217	3,965	23,791	1.25

Klickitat County	5,649	10,868	2,644	19,161	1.31
Skamania County	2,883	5,903	1,086	9,872	1.49
Change 1990 - 2000	0 to 19 years	20 to 64 years	65 years and more	Total	Dependency Ratio
United States	12.8%	13.6%	12.0%	13.2%	1.2%
Oregon	17.6%	23.7%	12.0%	20.4%	9.5%
Washington	20.4%	22.7%	15.1%	21.1%	4.7%
MCEDD Region	10.7%	18.4%	10.8%	14.9%	8.4%
Hood River County	24.0%	21.5%	10.9%	20.8%	1.8%
Sherman County	-1.6%	-0.5%	9.3%	0.8%	-3.2%
Wasco County	4.6%	14.2%	4.7%	9.7%	10.5%
Klickitat County	8.0%	19.2%	16.6%	15.3%	9.4%
Skamania County	7.9%	24.8%	22.3%	19.1%	15.8%

Between 1990 and 2000 the Dependency Ratio for the MCEDD region improved, although overall the rate remains lower than the state or national averages. Within the region, it is important to note that in only one county, Sherman, was the elderly population the fastest growing segment. In Hood River, the under 10 segment grew the fastest. However, relatively robust growth in the 20-64 year-old segment led to an improvement in the county's dependency ratio.

Employment and Income

AVERAGE WAGE AND PER CAPITA INCOME, 2000, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2007

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis

2000	Average Wage Per Job	Percent of National Average	Per Capita Personal Income	Percent of National Average
Klickitat County	27,885	80%	22,246	75%
Skamania County	25,485	73%	30,393	75%
Hood River County	22,771	66%	22,818	76%
Wasco County	26,632	77%	23,663	79%
Sherman County	21,714	63%	19,055	80%
MCEDD Region	24,897	72%	23,635	79%
Washington	37,423	108%	31,779	106%
Oregon	32,215	93%	28,097	94%
United States	34,718		29,845	
2002	Average Wage Per Job	Percent of National Average	Per Capita Personal Income	Percent of National Average
Klickitat County	26,866	74%	23,265	78%
Skamania County	25,514	71%	31,495	73%
Hood River County	23,757	66%	23,791	77%
Wasco County	27,323	76%	23,477	76%
Sherman County	23,483	65%	17,741	82%
MCEDD Region	25,389	70%	23,954	78%
Washington	38,381	106%	32,549	106%
Oregon	32,987	91%	28,924	94%
United States	36,150		30,810	
2004	Average Wage Per Job	Percent of National Average	Per Capita Personal Income	Percent of National Average

Klickitat County	28,223	73%	24,479	75%
Skamania County	28,005	72%	32,591	74%
Hood River County	24,797	64%	25,237	76%
Wasco County	28,588	74%	24,958	76%
Sherman County	26,520	68%	23,599	82%
MCEDD Region	27,227	70%	26,173	79%
Washington	40,299	104%	35,041	106%
Oregon	35,005	90%	30,561	92%
United States	38,798		33,050	
2006	Average Wage Per Job	Percent of National Average	Per Capita Personal Income	Percent of National Average
Klickitat County	31,850	76%	27,827	76%
Skamania County	28,959	69%	28,265	77%
Hood River County	26,939	64%	29,333	80%
Wasco County	31,430	75%	27,720	76%
Sherman County	29,595	70%	19,550	53%
MCEDD Region	29,755	71%	26,539	72%
Washington	43,727	104%	38,212	104%
Oregon	37,251	89%	33,299	91%
United States	41,991		36,714	
2007	Average Wage Per Job	Percent of National Average	Per Capita Personal Income	Percent of National Average
Klickitat County	33,619	76%	29,949	78%
Skamania County	30,095	69%	30,338	79%
Hood River County	28,054	64%	31,792	82%
Wasco County	32,126	73%	30,589	79%
Sherman County	36,400	83%	28,971	75%
Washington	45,975	105%	41,203	107%
Oregon	38,725	88%	35,143	91%
United States	43,889		38,615	

Per capita personal income is calculated as the personal income of the residents of a given area divided by the resident population of the area. Average wage per job is wage and salary disbursements divided by the number of wage and salary jobs.

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT BY MONTH FOR MCEDD REGION, 2008

Source: Oregon Employment Department and Washington Employment Security Department

Time Period	Klickitat	Skamania	Hood River	Wasco	Sherman
January	8,640	4,770	11,735	11,455	890
February	8,760	4,760	12,121	11,620	859
March	8,950	4,760	12,375	11,689	887
April	9,060	4,760	12,102	11,875	885
May	9,220	4,730	11,636	11,978	908
June	9,950	4,710	12,664	13,275	929
July	10,230	4,730	13,608	18,465	910
August	9,820	4,750	13,520	13,610	955
September	10,160	4,740	13,996	12,116	933
October	9,640	4,780	12,916	11,975	929
November	9,290	4,810	12,074	11,712	916
December	9,070	4,800	11,978	11,444	919

Although employment continues to increase in the MCEDD region, it continues to be quite seasonal. Agriculture and tourism are most responsible for seasonal employment fluctuations. Employment increases during summer months strain local housing markets and unemployment services. Economic development strategies must continue to address this issue and support opportunities to provide year-round or counter-cyclical employment.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES FOR MCEDD REGION, APRIL 2007, 2008, 2009

	Apr-07	Apr-08	Apr-09
	Unemployment Rate	Unemployment Rate	Unemployment Rate
Oregon	5.10%	5.60%	12.00%
Washington	4.3	4.5	9
United States	4.5	5	8.9
Hood River County	4.6	4.8	10.2
Sherman County	4.9	4.9	11.2
Wasco County	4.9	5.3	10.5
Klickitat County	6.8	7	12.3
Skamania County	5.8	7.8	13.7

MCEDD region and county unemployment rates have increased as have the state and national rates. In addition, wage rates are significantly below the national average.

MCEDD REGION LABOR MARKET SUMMARY

Hood River, Klickitat, Sherman, Skamania, and Wasco Counties

	APR	MAR	APR	MONTHLY	ANNUAL	ANNUAL
BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE:	2009	2009	2008	CHANGE	CHANGE	GROWTH
Civilian Labor Force	42,717	42,812	41,029	-95	1,688	4.1%
Resident Employment	38,076	37,871	38,682	205	-606	-1.6%
Unemployment	4,641	4,941	2,337	-300	2,304	98.6%
Unemployment Rate	10.9	11.5	5.7	-0.6	5.2	
NONFARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT (BY PLACE OF WORK):						
TOTAL	27,670	27,505	28,060	165	-390	-1.4%
Total private	20,810	20,685	21,310	125	-500	-2.3%
Mining, Logging and Construction	1,310	1,240	1,510	70	-200	-13.2%
Manufacturing	2,530	2,540	2,750	-10	-220	-8.0%
Trade, transportation, and utilities	4,800	4,735	5,025	65	-225	-4.5%
Educational and health services	3,740	3,720	3,610	20	130	3.6%
Leisure and hospitality	3,910	4,005	4,120	-95	-210	-5.1%
Other private sector	4,520	4,445	4,295	75	225	5.2%
Government	6,860	6,820	6,750	40	110	1.6%
Federal government	760	750	755	10	5	0.7%
State government	720	735	730	-15	-10	-1.4%
Local government	5,380	5,335	5,265	45	115	2.2%

Source: Oregon and Washington Employment Departments

Education

Educational Attainment for Persons 25 Years and Older, 2000				
<i>Source: U.S. Census</i>				
	United States	Oregon	Washington	MCEDD
Less than 9th grade	7.5%	5.0%	4.3%	7.3%
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	12.1%	9.9%	8.6%	11.1%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	28.6%	26.3%	24.9%	32.1%
Some college, no degree	21.0%	27.1%	26.4%	25.5%
Associate degree	6.3%	6.6%	8.0%	5.9%
Bachelor's degree	15.5%	16.4%	18.4%	12.2%
Graduate or professional degree	8.9%	8.7%	9.3%	5.9%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

	MCEDD	Hood River County	Sherman County	Wasco County	Klickitat County	Skamania County
Less than 9th grade	7.3%	11.5%	3.5%	6.1%	6.7%	4.1%
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	11.1%	10.4%	12.2%	11.8%	11.6%	10.1%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	32.1%	26.6%	32.9%	34.0%	34.3%	33.4%
Some college, no degree	25.5%	23.8%	25.8%	26.0%	24.8%	29.1%
Associate degree	5.9%	4.6%	6.5%	6.5%	6.2%	6.5%
Bachelor's degree	12.2%	15.2%	15.0%	10.5%	11.1%	11.7%
Graduate or professional degree	5.9%	7.8%	4.0%	5.2%	5.3%	5.1%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Source: EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT FOR THE POPULATION 25 YEARS AND OVER [35] - Universe: Population 25 years and over, for comparison to 1990 Data. Data Set: Census 2000 Summary File 3 (SF 3) - Sample Data

While educational attainment in the Mid-Columbia region for those above 25 doesn't vary drastically from state and national averages, there are however, a few items worth pointing out. As the highlighted areas above show, while the MCEDD region as a whole has fewer individuals with graduate or professional degrees than state and national averages, it does have a higher percentage of individuals with a High School diploma. This is an indication of a capable blue collar workforce.

Educational attainment is not evenly spread throughout the five MCEDD region counties. Hood River County, for example, has both the highest rate of individuals with less than a 9th grade education, a result of a large, immigrant workforce, but it also has the highest rate for individuals with graduate or professional degrees. From these findings one can infer that the region has appeal to high-level workers, but also relies on agriculture for a large portion of its rural economy.

Housing

HOUSING GROWTH AND VACANCY, 1990-2000

Source: U.S. Census

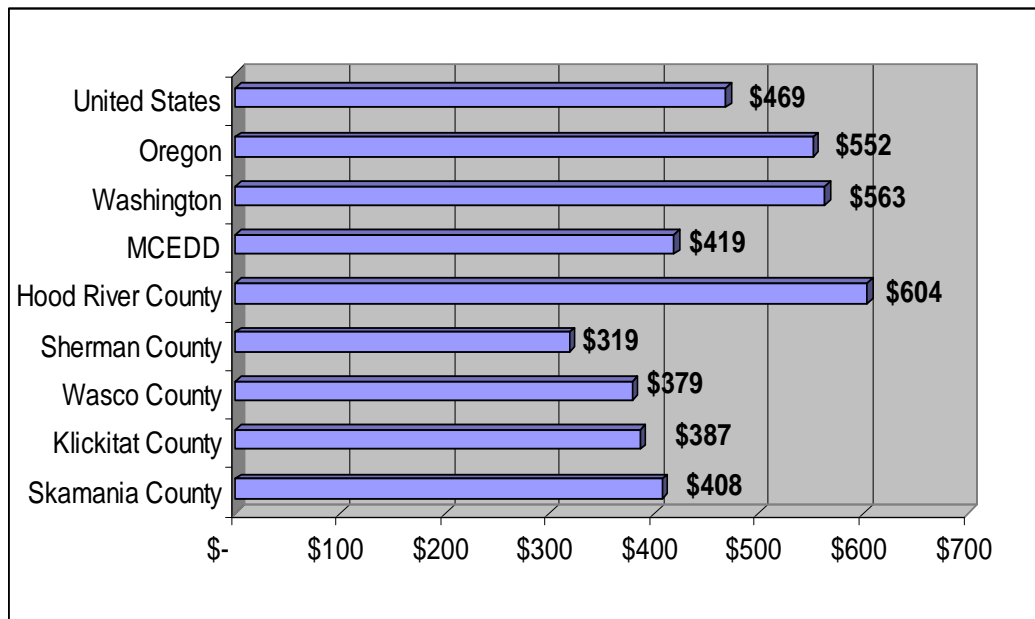
1990	Total Housing Units	Occupied Housing Units	Vacant Housing Units	Homeowner Vacancy Rate%	Rental Vacancy Rate %
Hood River County	7,569	6,425	1,144	1.5%	9.7%
Sherman County	900	784	116	1.9%	11.0%
Wasco County	10,476	8,607	1,869	1.9%	9.3%
Klickitat County	7,213	6,210	1,003	2.1%	6.5%
Skamania County	3,922	3,066	856	1.7%	7.9%
MCEDD Region	30,080	25,092	4,988		
Oregon	1,193,567	1,103,313	90,254	1.4%	5.3%
Washington	2,032,378	1,872,431	159,947	1.3%	5.8%
United States	102,263,678	91,947,410	10,316,268	2.1%	8.5%
2000	Total Housing Units	Occupied Housing Units	Vacant Housing Units	Homeowner Vacancy Rate%	Rental Vacancy Rate %
Hood River County	7,818	7,248	570	1.4%	3.7%
Sherman County	935	797	138	1.7%	8.6%
Wasco County	10,651	9,401	1,250	2.6%	7.2%
Klickitat County	8,633	7,473	1,160	2.6%	8.1%
Skamania County	4,576	3,755	821	2.2%	6.8%
MCEDD Region	32,613	28,674	3,939		
Oregon	1,452,709	1,333,723	118,986	2.3%	7.3%
Washington	2,451,075	2,271,398	179,677	1.8%	5.9%
United States	115,904,641	105,480,101	10,424,540	1.7%	6.8%
1990-2000 Percent Change	Total Housing Units	Occupied Housing Units	Vacant Housing Units	Vacancy Rate% Change	Vacancy Rate % Change
Hood River County	3.3%	12.8%	-50.2%	0.1%	6.0%
Sherman County	3.9%	1.7%	19.0%	0.2%	2.4%
Wasco County	1.7%	9.2%	-33.1%	-0.7%	2.1%
Klickitat County	19.7%	20.3%	15.7%	-0.5%	-1.6%
Skamania County	16.7%	22.5%	-4.1%	-0.5%	1.1%
MCEDD Region	8.4%	14.3%	-21.0%		
Oregon	21.7%	20.9%	31.8%	-0.9%	-2.0%
Washington	20.6%	21.3%	12.3%	-0.5%	-0.1%
United States	13.3%	14.7%	1.0%	0.4%	1.7%

While the MCEDD region experienced less growth in total housing units between 1990 and 2000, the number of vacant units declined. This can be partly attributed to the impact of the Scenic Act restricting housing growth and to the upturn in the economy during the 90s; these effects were most pronounced in Hood River County. Klickitat and Sherman counties experienced the biggest jump in vacancy rates from '90 to 2000. This can be attributed to growth in housing units over the decade and the economic downturn experienced during the late 90's.

AGE OF HOUSING STOCK									
<i>Source: U.S. Census</i>									
	United States	Oregon	Wash	MCEDD	Hood River County	Sherman County	Wasco County	Klickitat County	Skamania County
Built 1999 to March 2000	2.4%	2.8%	2.6%	2.4%	2.0%	1.1%	1.6%	3.6%	2.5%
Built 1995 to 1998	7.3%	10.3%	9.1%	8.6%	7.5%	3.9%	7.3%	11.1%	9.9%
Built 1990 to 1994	7.3%	8.8%	10.0%	6.4%	8.1%	4.1%	5.0%	6.4%	7.3%
Built 1980 to 1989	15.8%	12.2%	16.2%	12.8%	13.6%	8.6%	10.8%	12.5%	17.7%
Built 1970 to 1979	18.5%	23.0%	20.2%	20.9%	21.0%	19.8%	18.7%	22.3%	23.1%
Built 1960 to 1969	13.7%	12.2%	12.5%	10.7%	8.6%	11.0%	12.4%	9.0%	13.4%
Built 1950 to 1959	12.7%	10.2%	10.1%	12.2%	11.3%	11.3%	16.2%	11.0%	6.9%
Built 1940 to 1949	7.3%	7.2%	6.9%	8.2%	7.7%	5.2%	9.3%	7.3%	8.6%
Built 1939 or earlier	15.0%	13.4%	12.5%	17.9%	20.2%	35.1%	18.8%	16.6%	10.7%
Total:	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Source: H34. YEAR STRUCTURE BUILT [10] - Universe: Housing units Data Set: Census 2000 Summary File 3 (SF 3) - Sample Data									

PRESENCE OF COMPLETE PLUMBING FACILITIES, 2000									
<i>Source: U.S. Census</i>									
	United States	Oregon	Wash	MCEDD	Hood River County	Sherman County	Wasco County	Klickitat County	Skamania County
Complete plumbing facilities	98.8%	99.1%	99.0%	97.9%	98.9%	98.9%	98.9%	97.2%	94.9%
Lacking complete plumbing facilities	1.2%	0.9%	1.0%	2.1%	1.1%	1.1%	1.1%	2.8%	5.1%
Source: H47. PLUMBING FACILITIES [3] - Universe: Housing units									
Data Set: Census 2000 Summary File 3 (SF 3) - Sample Data									
Overall, the housing stock in the Mid-Columbia region was older than either that of the US or Oregon and Washington. This is common for most rural areas. The slow housing growth during the 1990s is an indication of the economic struggles this region faced. More troubling than slow housing growth, however, was the high number of homes that lack complete plumbing facilities. The MCEDD region is more than twice as likely to have a home that lacks these basic facilities. The situation is particularly acute in Skamania County, where the rate is over five-times that of the state average.									

MEDIAN RENT ASKED, 2000



Overall, rent in the Mid-Columbia is relatively inexpensive compared to National, Oregon and Washington levels. Hood River is the great exception among Mid-Columbia counties. In Hood River County, rents are anywhere between 50% and 90% higher on average than the other counties. This high rent may be responsible for Hood River having the highest rate of renter-occupied housing of any county in the region.

RENTER VS. OWNER-OCCUPIED HOUSING, 2000

Source: U.S. Census

	United States	Oregon	Wash	MCEDD	Hood River County	Sherman County	Wasco County	Klickitat County	Skamania County
Owner occupied	66.2%	64.2%	64.6%	69.3%	64.9%	70.4%	68.4%	68.8%	73.9%
Renter occupied	33.8%	35.8%	35.4%	30.7%	35.1%	29.6%	31.6%	31.2%	26.1%

H7. TENURE [3] - Universe: Occupied housing units
Data Set: Census 2000 Summary File 3 (SF 3) - Sample Data

Transportation

COMMUTING IN THE MID-COLUMBIA BY PLACE OF WORK; 2000

Source: U.S. Census

	United States		Oregon		Washington		MCEDD	
Worked in state of residence:	123,643,704	96.4%	1,568,739	98.0%	2,693,574	96.7%	28,479	88.9%
Worked in county of residence	94,042,863	76.1%	1,240,563	79.1%	2,278,641	84.6%	24,195	85.0%
Worked outside county of residence	29,600,841	23.9%	328,176	20.9%	414,933	15.4%	4,284	15.0%
Worked outside state of residence	4,635,524	3.6%	32,639	2.0%	91,905	3.3%	3,568	11.1%
Total:	128,279,228	100%	1,601,378	100%	2,785,479	100%	32,047	100%

	MCEDD		Hood River County		Sherman County		Wasco County		Klickitat County		Skamania County	
Worked in state of residence:	28,479	88.9%	8,890	96.2%	767	94.8%	9,562	95.0%	6,064	79.1%	3,196	75.0%
Worked in county of residence	24,195	85.0%	7,743	87.1%	606	79.0%	8,182	85.6%	5,632	92.9%	2,032	63.6%
Worked outside county of residence	4,284	15.0%	1,147	12.9%	161	21.0%	1,380	14.4%	432	7.1%	1,164	36.4%
Worked outside state of residence	3,568	11.1%	355	3.8%	42	5.2%	506	5.0%	1,600	20.9%	1,065	25.0%
Total:	32,047	100%	9,245	100%	809	100%	10,068	100%	7,664	100%	4,261	100%

P26. PLACE OF WORK FOR WORKERS 16 YEARS AND OVER--STATE AND COUNTY LEVEL [5] - Universe: Workers 16 years and over
Data Set: Census 2000 Summary File 3 (SF 3) - Sample Data

The tables above show how workers in the Mid-Columbia region are likely to travel outside their county and state of residence to work. This demonstrates that current and prospective employers should consider the entire region as a resource for workers.

ECONOMY

Economic Profile

Klickitat County

Klickitat County has at least three distinct economic regions. The western third of the county is dependent upon orchards, fruit packing, and wood products. The central third includes the county seat, the closed aluminum smelter, Maryhill Museum and windsurfing and kite boarding beaches. The eastern third includes vegetable farming and a growing number of wineries, along with the regional landfill, Rabanco.

County Commissioners continue to aggressively fund efforts designed to reduce the long-standing unemployment created by reductions in forest products and aluminum smelter employment as well as the general downturn in agriculture. Central to Klickitat County's economic development strategy is strengthening the financial base of the county, including the agricultural sector. As one of the top wind resource areas in the Pacific Northwest, and with the adoption of a first-in-the-nation Energy Overlay Zone for wind and solar facilities, the county is working to become a recognized center for renewable energy projects, which will help the county's ranching families and school and fire districts.

Klickitat County is open for business, especially renewable energy businesses. Iberdrola recently developed the Big Horn wind project, an expansive project near Bickleton in Eastern Klickitat County and further new development is occurring along US-97. The Klickitat County Economic Development Agency has been actively participating in marketing efforts to attract renewable energy companies, including publications in Xpansion magazine, membership in the World Economic Development Association, and participation in the Columbia Gorge Bi-State Renewable Energy Zone. A specific area targeted is the Goldendale Aluminum facility, which has approximately 1 million square feet of space under roof that would be ideal for a component manufacturer. With more than 8,000 components going into each wind turbine and international business involvement, Klickitat County has focused on this area as a potential for significant new economic development and growth.

In addition to support for renewable energy projects, the county continues to actively support the growing wine industry in the county and throughout the Gorge. The County has actively supported the efforts of the Columbia Gorge Winegrowers to promote the grapes and wines of the area and produced an additional wine map covering the entire county, including parts of the Columbia Gorge AVA and Horse Heaven Hills AVA.

Paralleling support for agriculture, the County, the Port of Klickitat, and the City of Goldendale have been engaging in numerous industrial park infrastructure projects and related marketing efforts designed to expand the number of light manufacturing jobs

available. These industrial areas have been a major focus for economic development activities as reflected in the CEDS projects.

The Port's primary purpose is to create economic opportunities and enhance the quality of life for local residents. Businesses leasing or purchasing Port property range from heavy industrial to high technology and range in number of employees from one to more than 250.

The neighboring cities of Bingen and White Salmon are attracting more residents as housing prices soar across the river and new companies move into and expand in the cities. The result has been a squeeze on affordable and workforce housing options for both areas. Klickitat County is in the process of conducting a housing study to assess options for alleviating and defining the issue, particularly in these two cities.

Both cities suffer from a lack of water to service growing needs. Expansion of local companies and housing has begun to strain the existing supply, which has led the cities to look for creative solutions. The City of White Salmon submitted a grant to the Department of Ecology for nearly \$1 million to fund proposed improvements for Buck Creek. If received, the grant would fund a project to take the excess Buck Creek water filtered in the winter (which will be in the range of 500 gallons per minute) and put it back into the aquifer. No electrical power would be used as the Buck Creek water will be received by gravity flow. Bingen and White Salmon have welcomed news of Insitu, the local creator and producer of ScanEagle Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), becoming a part of Boeing.

As Klickitat County works to restructure and strengthen its economy, it continues to support efforts to utilize the Goldendale Aluminum facility in new and innovative ways (including options for wind and solar manufacturing). While it is not anticipated that this facility will reopen for aluminum production, the county's economic development team seeks to identify other sources that can utilize the existing infrastructure.

Rabanco, the regional waste facility, opened in 1991. It recently began methane gas production. Leachate and methane gases are collected throughout the landfill by a system of pipes. The leachate is re-circulated through the landfill prompting rapid decomposition of waste and accelerating methane production. The methane gas is used to create electrical power. Current methane production supports the generation of 10 megawatts of electrical power. The landfill may eventually generate 52 megawatts of electricity; enough power for roughly 30,000 homes.

Skamania County

With a majority of its land owned and managed by the U.S. Forest Service or in the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area, economic development in Skamania County requires cognizant planning. Foreseeing a loss of timber revenues from County payments, Skamania County commissioners were active in getting the payments temporarily renewed. The Skamania Economic Development Commission has been simultaneously working to utilize available sites.

One such site, the Broughton Landing project, received a favorable vote last year by the Gorge Commission for an amendment to the Management Plan. Then in October, the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture formally concurred with the Gorge Commission's Plan Amendment authorizing recreation resorts on commercial recreation-zoned former industrial sites. This amendment would allow the Broughton Lumber Company to redevelop the former Broughton lumber mill site into the Broughton Landing resort. The project's proponents project that at full build-out, Broughton Landing will contain approximately 570 bedrooms plus 36 campsites. Average annual occupancy will fluctuate seasonally between about 150 occupants in the winter to 490 resort guests and 50-75 campers during the summer. At maximum peak occupancy which will likely be limited to summer holiday weekends, the resort could be occupied by up to 855 resort guests plus an additional 90 campers. The economic impact analysis estimated that average annual occupancy would be approximately 270 guests staying at Broughton Landing. Despite approvals, it is still anticipated to take additional time for this project to resolve all legal issues with appeals.

Skamania County has been forward thinking in means to diversify the economy. This year, Skamania County is engaging in a new effort with both public and private partners to look at a "Ring of Fire" concept promoting tourism. The County was also a leader in signing the resolution to create the Columbia Gorge Bi-State Renewable Energy Zone and has been initiating its own projects to utilize its natural renewable resource base. One proposal is the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, an approximate 75 megawatt wind generation project which would cover 1,152 acres.

The Port of Skamania County is also a key partner in developing industrial and commercial zoned properties and attracting economic development opportunities. As with the rest of the county, however, the port is constrained by the taxable land base in its ability to borrow and access funding for infrastructure development. Less than 2% of the county is on taxable land, which the Port draws from. Without capacity for additional debt, though, the Port cannot borrow to construct the infrastructure needed to build that tax base. With support from the Washington Investment Fund, however, the Port has been able to move forward on some of its projects.

Hood River County

Hood River County continues to capitalize on new opportunities, including innovative work in community renewable projects and support for entrepreneurs. With its proximity to the Portland metropolitan market, natural beauty, and rural communities, Hood River continues to advance its economy. Incorporated cities include the City of Hood River and the City of Cascade Locks, but smaller unincorporated communities such as Odell and Parkdale are also vital with a strong agricultural focus.

Hood River County Economic Development continued to support the Gorge Angel conference and PubTalks this year to encourage entrepreneurial investment in the region. In its second year, the Gorge Angel conference and PubTalks connect local entrepreneurs with local angel investors. At the 2009 Gorge Angel conference, eProduce

Sales was awarded a \$105,000 investment from GAIN2 LLC (Gorge Angel Investor Network). eProduce Sales is an open internet marketplace for the wholesale Fresh Produce Industry. Nine Gorge area businesses submitted applications to be considered for the investment award. PubTalks continue to provide additional support beyond the conclusion of the Angel conference.

Hood River County also continued its movement to generate income for the county through renewable energy projects. In an effort to create sustainable revenue sources to offset the county's operating expenses, the county has continue to explore the potential to develop micro-hydro, biomass, and community-scale (10 megawatts or less) wind projects. The Wind Resource Status Report for Middle Mountain was completed in November 2008.

Despite these advances, Hood River faces struggles with affordable housing issues and declining timber sales. Housing is particularly an issue for addressing the needs of one-in-three households. Median home prices vary widely across the Mid-Columbia, with the least affordable markets concentrated in Hood River County. The affordable markets for the vast majority of first-time buyers are located in the Mid-Columbia's eastern-end.

The City of Hood River continues to receive a variety of positive rankings noting the quality of life and outdoor lifestyle characteristics of the community. The quality of life in Hood River is attracting many of its new residents. With innumerable recreation opportunities, the Pacific Northwest's climatic and visual attributes, multi-modal transportation options, and proximity to a major metropolitan area, more companies and families want to move to Hood River. Phase 1 Development of the Waterfront Park in Hood River has been completed and provides access for all age groups to connect with the Columbia River.

Providence Memorial Hospital expanded its facilities to enhance patient care and provide new services and state of the art equipment. This project has created other smaller business opportunities in the area that support the hospital. In addition to the physical expansion, the hospital also developed a new outreach tool: the Mobile Health Unit. The mobile unit brings health care to residents who are otherwise unable to access these services. It makes stops in Parkdale, Odell, Cascade Locks and Pine Grove.

The Port of Hood River is active with new construction projects planned this year including:

- development of Anchor Way, a new industrial road on the waterfront
- sidewalk and streetscape improvements to Portway Avenue
- possible construction of a new 20,000 sf light industrial building
- construction of two new waterfront trail segments
- launch ramp improvements at the Hook
- Expansion of the C-Dock in the Marina

The Port of Hood River also operates the Bridge and recently replaced its tollhouse facility, upgraded approaches, and added BreezeBy- a new electronic tolling collection

system- for frequent commuters. These modifications improve traffic flow, decrease congestion, and allow the Port to handle additional traffic across the bridge. The Port, Hood River Valley Residents Committee, and the City of Hood River partnered to host an intern for the summer of 2009, who will be responsible for developing a report that will be used to investigate and decide upon a course of action related to enabling bicyclist and possibly pedestrians to cross the Hood River Bridge.

The City of Cascade Locks received funding from DLCD to conduct an Economic Opportunity Analysis, which will support future decisions for the community. The community has seen a recent flurry of interest by a water bottling company to locate in Cascade Locks. The location in the Pacific Northwest, combined with access to a natural spring makes Cascade Locks a natural candidate for the bottling company to explore their expansion plans. The South Bank project moved forward with undergrounding utility lines. This effort lowers maintenance costs for the municipal utility and provides enhanced reliability for the electric users along the route. The above ground lines have been difficult to maintain and service in the National Scenic Area, especially in wetlands areas.

A new Fire Station to serve the community has been completed. This major community goal has taken more than 20 years to reach this point, but is finally becoming a reality with the assistance of a Community Development Block Grant, the City of Cascade Locks and citizen groups, the Ford Family Foundation, and the Oregon Investment Board. The new facility houses the fire department in a quality and modern facility, replacing a structure that was structurally unsound. The City also received funding for a new fire truck.

The Port of Cascade Locks continues to work in conjunction with the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs to build a world class resort and casino in an industrial park in Cascade Locks. The project would provide economic self sufficiency to tribal members, supply 1,400 full-time jobs and provide revenue sharing of 17% of casino profits. The tribe has been working on this proposal since 1998 when a tribal referendum supported moving gaming operations from Kah- Nee-Ta to tribal lands in Hood River County. In 2004, Warm Springs agreed to protect/convey their Hood River Lands and formally requested that new compact negotiations begin with Governor Kulongoski and the State negotiating team for a Cascade Locks site. On April 6, 2005 the tribe and Governor Kulongoski signed a new compact for Cascade Locks casino. In February 2008, the draft EIS was released for the project. BIA is currently preparing a Final EIS which will include responses to substantive comments received on the Draft EIS. The Final EIS is scheduled for completion in Spring 2009.

The Port is also actively working on the Marine Park with proposals for the Marine Park entrance (included in the Hood River County public works list in this document). Improvements have been made to one of the Historic Lock Tender Homes and a new conference room at the Port allows for additional use. To better accommodate the Columbia Gorge Racing Association and the desirable sailing climate, the Port continues

development of the Marine Park, to allow sailboat racing in Cascade Locks to be able to expand and grow tourism in the community.

Public transportation throughout the County was improved with funding from Oregon Department of Transportation that allows for once a week trips to Portland and three times a day trips between the communities of The Dalles and Hood River. This year, the Hood River County Transportation District was also successful in receiving funds for a new facility and bids were opened in 2009.

Wasco County

Agriculture plays a significant role in Wasco County from cherries to wheat to cattle. Orchardists in Wasco County are looking at a bumper crop for cherries this year. Many brine cherry trees are being pulled from production as they provide a lesser return to the grower. Oregon Cherry Growers fruit drying facility has been a profitable venture and has included drying of both cherries and blueberries. It will be negatively affected, however, by some of the brine cherries being pulled from production. Wheat farmers again benefited from high values for wheat in the last year, but inputs continue to rise dramatically over the same time period, mainly due to the rising cost of fuel, fertilizers and chemicals.

The scenic beauty of agriculture areas combined with the National Scenic Area and varied geography have increased recreational opportunities, especially for cyclists. The Mt Hood Cycling Classic, an Olympic qualifying event, once again was hosted in Wasco County. This year, The Dalles also hosted the Cherry Blossom Cycling Classic. The Dalles Area Chamber of Commerce and local cycling groups have developed tour guides for cyclists to take advantage of the multitude of potential rides. Bicycle-related tourism has increased through these efforts.

The Discovery Center, serving the entire National Scenic Area has struggled with its debt service and introduced a raptor program which they hope will draw additional tourists to the area. They were also supported through an Oregon Solutions process that engaged community leaders in developing a business plan for the Center. New businesses catering to tourists including a potential cruise ship dock would also assist the Discovery Center. Currently they serve approximately 50,000 visitors per year.

Like most other counties in the region, Wasco County is seeking to benefit from renewable energy projects. Although the 7 mile hill/UPC project was pulled, there are new met towers in the County for future wind projects that do not have as close a proximity to residential neighborhoods. Wasco County actively participates in the Bi-state Renewable Energy Zone development and works with Mid-Columbia Council of Governments and the Community Renewable Energy Association on community renewable projects.

The City of Maupin is completing stage 1 of their downtown street and sidewalk project which included tree removal, building a retaining wall, beginning the curb-sidewalk pavers installation and building a storm detention system. They were also successful in

receiving funding for their partnership effort for the microenterprise facilitation project. The City has established the first Maupin Farmer's Market with the Gorge Grown Food Network Mobile market participating as a vendor.

In the City of Mosier, the wastewater treatment plant upgrade is completing construction. It supports current residents and future development. The community also engaged in a visioning process with Main Street Mosier. Responding to changes in the community, MainStreet Mosier formed to ensure consideration of the growth of Mosier for those living in Mosier and those who call Mosier their home. Mosier will also be engaging in an Oregon Solutions process in 2009.

City of The Dalles, with funding commitment through funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, is moving forward on the East Gateway project which will install a roundabout on the east side of the City at Brewery Grade, mitigate traffic issues, and open new properties for development. The City continues to actively pursue development of a cruise ship dock at the foot of Union Street. A central part of the City's Downtown Renaissance Project is to reconnect the Downtown to its historic Columbia River frontage. The primary project in this effort is construction of a Cruise Ship Dock and Pier that will allow the expanding Columbia River cruise ship industry to make The Dalles one of its primary stops. The continued viability of the downtown area relies heavily on the possibility of additional customers from the cruise ship industry. In addition, the city makes progress toward redevelopment of the historic First Street corridor, with a Washington Street pedestrian undercrossing beneath the railroad tracks, linking to the Union Street portal, and development of an adjacent events site.

Construction began on the Lone Pine development on the east end of The Dalles. Lone Pine Village will comprise 60 acres of mixed-use residential and commercial space with 248 homes – single-family, townhomes, and condominiums with an additional 175,000 square feet of commercial spaces. The project also helps to accelerate completion of the 10-mile Riverfront trail and pieces of the trail have already been constructed in 2008. In conjunction with this development, Mid-Columbia Medical Center will be breaking ground on a facility at the site.

Port of The Dalles moved forward with its partners on the Chenoweth Creek Bridge. The bridge realignment improves access to the North Chenoweth subdivision of the Port of The Dalles Industrial area, which could allow for future industrial development. This year the Northwest Aluminum site was leveled. While privately owned, the Port continues to work with potential options for the site. The Port continues to actively work on a number of leads and respond to state inquiries. With a RARE volunteer this year, the Port is working on creating a new strategic plan.

Celilo Village development continued with the construction of new homes. Celilo Village is unique in that it belongs to the U.S. government and is held in trust by the Bureau of Indian Affairs for the Nez Perce, Umatilla, Warm Springs and Yakama tribal groups along with the Columbia River Indians.

Sherman County

Sherman County is frequently referred to as the "Land Between the Rivers." Located in north central Oregon, the Columbia River forms the northern border, while the east and west boundaries are marked by the steep, deep canyons of the John Day River on the east and the Deschutes River on the west. The rugged canyons of Buck Hollow, a tributary of the Deschutes, mark the southwest border.¹

The twentieth century saw Sherman County's population decline from over 5000 in 1900 to about 1700 in 2000 and the closing of many local businesses, consolidation of farms and out-migration of the younger generations. This is beginning to reverse as people are moving back into the county, building new homes and opening new businesses.

Sherman County has the highest percentage of tilled farmland out of any county in Oregon. Sherman County's most important crop is winter wheat. Of the county's 531,200 acres, 304,138 are tillable. Farms average 3,500 acres and the average yield is 42 bushels per acre. Dry-land wheat has proven a reliable crop for decades in Sherman County². However, some of those acres in the community of Grass Valley are now catering to racing fans with the development of the Sherman County Race Track. This project brings the second racetrack for sports cars in the state of Oregon to a county in great need of economic diversification.

Wind energy, particularly in the northeast section of the County, continues to be a great source of economic development for Sherman County. Currently, wind fuels the 321-megawatt Klondike Wind Farm located four miles southeast of Wasco, as well as the 450-megawatt Biglow Canyon Wind Farm just to the north. The first three phases of the Klondike project, owned by Iberdrola Renewables, Inc., use 44 Siemens 2.3 MW wind turbines and 146 GE 1.5 MW wind turbines. These wind farms supply clean, renewable electricity to Portland General Electric, Bonneville Power Administration, the Eugene Water & Electric Board and others.³

Sherman County is on the verge of an economic turn-around and substantial energy and resources must be invested to ensure the full benefits of this opportunity are captured for the residents and businesses of Sherman County and the region.

Regional

Columbia Gorge Community College (CGCC)

CGCC is currently seeking independent accreditation. Focus remains on its core competencies and particularly on its signature programs: nursing and renewable energy technology (RET). With the RET program, close contact remains with industry partners to shape the curriculum and with increasing funding, the college will be able to handle more than 100 students in the program. The College also initiated a process with local business partners to explore the creation of a Fundamentals of Applied Core Technologies course of study and have conducted a needs assessment for that program.

¹ Sherman County Extension website: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/sherman/index.php>

² Sherman County website

³ Sherman County website

Finally, the College has benefited the community through construction of a new campus in Hood River and building expansions in The Dalles.

Columbia Gorge Regional Airport, Dallesport—Managers of the Columbia Gorge Regional Airport in Dallesport, Wash. are ready for major growth in the coming five to ten years. Plans include Sundoon, a 300-acre championship golf course, a 50-acre mix of retail and industrial development, business offices, a hotel, an airplane distributor, aviation research and development, additional hangars and an on-site fire station. Last year Life Flight moved into the facility, creating additional jobs and opportunities. The emergency medical helicopter's 24-7 staff includes a critical care nurse, paramedic and pilot. The helicopter can be off the ground in as little as 5-minutes. The new helicopter can respond to emergencies from Bend to Portland and to Yakima, the Tri-Cities and Seattle in Washington. Previously, Life Flight helicopters from the Portland area could take more than 30 minutes to travel to the Gorge. Key focus areas for the airport in supporting the region include runway strengthening and lengthening to allow larger aircraft and construction of an airport water distribution system.

Regional Industry Cluster Development

In spring 2005 MCEDD met, in a series of three meetings, with leaders in wine, renewable energy, natural healthcare, art, and high technology industries to create five Mid-Columbia industry clusters. During the three-meeting series, each cluster created a five-year work plan, which outlines initiatives the cluster believes imperative to improve its business environment in the region. The meetings created opportunities for entrepreneurs to network with others in the region in their cluster. The networking strengthened communication and enthusiasm within the industries. The three-meeting series within each industry created groups to work towards accomplishing goals recorded in their five-year work plans.

Yet, MCEDD and cluster leaders realized many initiatives require additional funding to move forward. In winter 2005, MCEDD partnered with the five clusters to pursue EDA assistance to fund Cluster Development Phase II: moving cluster initiatives into action. MCEDD noticed all cluster work plans identified needs in education, marketing, and market research. Therefore, MCEDD submitted an application to EDA on behalf of the arts, high technology, natural healthcare, renewable energy, and wine clusters in spring 2006 for funding assistance to develop education, marketing, and market research projects.

With EDA support, MCEDD has strengthened its relationships with the entrepreneurs and small businesses that comprise each Mid-Columbia cluster. From 2006 through 2009, MCEDD worked with each cluster to move work plan initiatives forward. The Mid-Columbia region clusters are emerging as a new economic base in the region. As entrepreneurs throughout the region have connected with others who share their frustrations and their barriers to success, they have discovered a foundation for their industry and an organization committed to their success. The paragraphs below provide descriptions of each cluster's progress, current focus, and action.

Arts Cluster –

The arts cluster has improved region-wide communication, marketing, and education for artists and art tourists to further develop the local industry. With strong arts groups including Gorge Artists, Columbia Center for the Arts, White Salmon Arts, Skamania Performing Arts, and others, the arts cluster has a number of industry leaders to contribute to its recent successes:

- Gorge Artists Open Studios (GAOS) began in 2007 with support from MCEDD and a steering committee of local artists. Now in its third year, GAOS has held three region-wide open studios tours for more than 30 artists every year. Participating Gorge artists open their studios to the public, displaying their work for sale and providing educational demonstration. Event marketing promotes the tour to community members and art patrons from the Portland metro area and communities east of the Columbia Gorge in Washington and Oregon. The event brings art councils in many communities in the region together, along with community members and businesses. It creates a new direct-marketing opportunity for the region's artists, with a built-in education component to improve the artists' business skills and marketing ability. As the event grows in future years, it will glue the arts cluster together, through communication, community building, and improved bottom lines.

Columbia Gorge Natural Healthcare Network –

Healthcare continues to be a major component of the economy of the Columbia River Gorge. Expansions to two major emergency healthcare providers: Providence Hospital in Hood River and Mid-Columbia Medical Center in The Dalles ensures that this cluster will continue to grow. This independent cluster is also supported by Columbia Gorge Community College through their innovative nursing program.

Columbia River Gorge Technology Alliance –

The high-technology cluster formed the Gorge Technology Alliance (GTA) in 2004. The CEO of Insitu acted as president of the GTA for 3 years. Recently, the owner of Custom Interface was elected president of the alliance. The GTA connects over 50 members and 200 individuals, who work to promote the Gorge as an emerging technology cluster, meet monthly to provide technology-related public education, and network and learn from speakers experienced in the industry. These monthly gatherings are used to support and promote local high tech companies and high tech education opportunities in the region. The GTA maintains a website, www.crgta.org, which has developed into a high-powered Web portal to attract more high tech businesses and employees to the Gorge.

Wine Cluster –

The wine cluster is growing through the Columbia Gorge Winegrowers Association (CGWA). This non-profit organization includes grape growers, vineyard managers, wine makers, and associate members (businesses related to the wine industry in the region). CGWA had been staffed by MCEDD but in 2008 was able to gain enough funding and support from its membership to fund one part-time coordinator. As a result of the

group's efforts, the Columbia Gorge region received recognition as American Viticulture Area (AVA). Between 2002 and 2006, the number of wineries in the region grew from eight to 26, and will continue to increase in the coming years, along with the number of vineyards, tasting rooms, and partnerships with local restaurants.

Mid-Columbia Renewable Energy Cluster –

The renewable energy cluster has focused this year on the development of the nation's first renewable energy zone, the Columbia River Gorge Bi-State Renewable Energy Zone, or CGBREZ. Formed by the five counties in MCEDD's service district, the zone was created to reduce the region's dependency on federal subsidies, bring economic vitality to the region, establish a national model for energy self-sufficiency, and provide a model of self-reliance for other rural economies in the 21st century.



The intention of this group is to provide a forum for coordination on renewable energy project and to:

- Formalize the CGBREZ Plan
 - Define areas of logical emphasis for each county
 - Launch economic development initiatives in each
- Support intensive Clean and Green Tech research in the region
 - Promote and establish our area as a thought and research leader in Renewable Energy
 - Explore application of R&D on new industries
- Leverage our strengths to position us as a national leader in Renewable Energy
 - Capitalize on our assets by utilizing our geographic advantage to attract and retain tomorrow's knowledge workers
- Support workforce development through educational initiatives, workforce housing, and public transit
 - Build on the very successful Wind Turbine Technician pilot program recently completed by the Columbia Gorge Community College
 - Launch initiatives to create adequate workforce housing and accessible public transportation throughout the region
- Support all areas of this initiative to provide assistance to public and private interests to develop renewable energy businesses including, but not limited to:
 - Loan guarantees
 - Revolving loan fund
 - Streamlining governmental permitting processes

Emerging Clusters

The five clusters developed through MCEDD continue to emerge as leading industries for the region. Renewable energy opportunities, rapid growth in the region's wine industry, development of opportunities for artists and expansion of the region's high-

tech leaders, provide a new economic base for the Mid-Columbia region. As the wind industry and green technology begins to flourish with the support of public policy and the presence of natural resources, additional related clusters are beginning to emerge including component manufacturers for the wind industry, potential biomass, and solar. Additionally, outdoor sports and recreation, manufacturing, and construction continue to create strongholds of cluster-based economic development activities for parts of the region with a growing number of businesses operating in the region.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES AND PARTNERS

As part of its responsibilities for regional planning and development, MCEDD coordinates with a variety of local, state and federal entities. It is essential to bring all of these talents and resources together in order to accomplish the economic development so critical to this area. The following is a brief description of these important organizations and some of the ways we have worked with them.

Federal

Economic Development Administration

As the agency responsible for economic development planning for the five-county district, MCEDD coordinates the process of gathering the information and building consensus for the development of the annual CEDS. This process is part of the requirement by EDA in our planning grant work plan. It is an essential part of our role as liaison between EDA and the local communities. It helps these communities to identify needs and to apply for funding for economic development projects. MCEDD can assist communities to pursue funding for projects. Some project examples include infrastructure, technical assistance, feasibility studies, business assistance and any other projects that will bring jobs and economic diversification to the area. These strategies seek to address both the long-term economic distress of the area as well as acute economic dislocations caused by downturns in specific economic sectors.

MCEDD has recognized that one of the major barriers to business growth and job creation within the district is access to capital. The strategy to address this has taken the form of a Revolving Loan Fund capitalized by grants from EDA. MCEDD utilizes these funds to assist businesses to secure adequate funding for expansion or start-up projects that will create or retain jobs.

In pursuing adequate infrastructure needed to allow for economic growth and diversification, MCEDD helps communities access EDA programs and other grant and loan sources, putting together funding packages that make these improvements possible.

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)—Rural Development

Rural Development is another federal agency which has been a partner in economic development activities in the district. In past years this agency has been a major source of financing for infrastructure and community development projects, many times combining with funding from EDA and/or state dollars. It has also been a source of support for our business activities in recapitalizing our loan funds and supporting entrepreneurial activities through Rural Business Enterprise Grants.

U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)

The SBA is a resource that has been used to a large extent in the financing of small business expansion projects in our region. MCEDD business assistance/loan staff has packaged loans under the SBA-504 program and has had numerous SBA 7-A loans as part of financing packages in conjunction with our other loan resources.

U.S. Forest Service

Communities in our district have suffered economically due to decisions in public land-use policy. Since MCEDD's inception, the Forest Service has provided grants for technical assistance and financing of projects in these affected areas.

State

Oregon Economic and Community Development Department (OECDD)

MCEDD lending staff works to assist loan applicants to access OECDD loan programs. Many times these applications are in conjunction with MCEDD RLF loans as part of an overall package. MCEDD loan staff packages the loans for OECDD and receives a packaging fee from the State of Oregon.

Washington State Office of Community Trade and Economic Development (CTED)/ Department of Commerce

MCEDD has a strong working relationship with staff in Olympia. Some of the businesses financed with our revolving loan funds also have financing with the Washington Investment Board.

Oregon Solutions

MCEDD partners with Oregon Solutions on issues relevant to our three Oregon counties. The mission of Oregon Solutions is to develop sustainable solutions to community-based problems that support economic, environmental, and community objectives and are built through the collaborative efforts of businesses, government, and non-profit organizations. Oregon Solutions provides the mechanism and the place for this type of problem-solving to occur. Using the Community Governance System model, Oregon Solutions works with communities to bring diverse partners to the table to reach an agreement. In 2008-2009, MCEDD provided support for the Oregon Solutions process with the Lower John Day Watershed and participated in the process for the Discovery Center.

Regional

Columbia Gorge Economic Development Association (CGEDA)

This organization is a partnership among ports, cities, and counties in the MCEDD region. CGEDA heads business recruitment marketing efforts for the Mid-Columbia region. The organization has created and distributed marketing materials, maintained a website, and headed other marketing and recruitment efforts.

Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area

As part of the legislation creating the National Scenic Area, each state was entrusted with funding for economic development within the Scenic Area boundaries. Each state

created appointed Investment Boards to make decisions on use of those funds for grants and loans. In addition there is a Bi-state Advisory Committee, which works on general policy and strategy for economic development.

MCEDD has been a member of the Bi-state Advisory Committee since its inception. Additionally, under contract with the State of Oregon, MCEDD has been the administrator of the Oregon program and staff for the Oregon Investment Board. MCEDD administers all of the grants and loans for the OIB. MCEDD loan staff receives applications and analyzes and presents loans to the OIB. Staff review and present all of the grant requests, as well. Staff also coordinates with the Columbia River Gorge Commission to get certification that the projects are consistent with the National Scenic Act (NSA). MCEDD provides assistance to applicants in accessing the Washington Investment Board NSA programs, which are administered by the Washington State Office of Trade and Economic Development.

Mt. Hood Economic Alliance (MHEA)

Hood River and Clackamas Counties formed a partnership to operate two lottery funded programs, Regional Investment Fund and Rural Investment Fund. As of 2004, Wasco County has joined this Alliance. Economic and community development projects located in these counties can apply for grants and loans. MCEDD staff consults with MHEA staff and attends meetings of MHEA to make sure we are aware of their vision, plans, and procedures. Due to legislative de-funding of regional rural investment boards, this organization must seek additional support.

Lower John Day Regional Partnership and Investment Board

This partnership between Sherman, Wheeler, and Gilliam Counties operates the Regional and Rural Investment Fund programs in this region. Until 2004, Wasco County was a member of this Partnership. MCEDD Staff works closely with this organization, attending meetings and coordinating with county capacity builders on development activities and activities under the state contract with OECDD. MCEDD also provides assistance to applicants for grants and loans under their programs.

County Economic Development

Klickitat County Economic Development Authority

The Klickitat EDA works to improve the economic conditions in the County. Staff work to create or retain jobs, improve infrastructure, and coordinate federal and state funding. MCEDD works closely with the Klickitat EDA on projects in Klickitat County.

Skamania County Economic Development Council (EDC)

The Skamania EDC is an integral part of economic development activities in the County. The EDC is staff for the Washington Investment Board and consequently MCEDD works closely with that agency to coordinate NSA bi-state activities. The EDC is also active in the CGEDA, the regional marketing effort started by MCEDD.

Hood River Economic Development Committee

Hood River County has an active committee of government leaders and private citizens who make economic development related recommendations to the County Commission.

Wasco County Economic Development Commission

Wasco County has an active committee of government leaders and private citizens who make economic development related recommendations to the County Court. MCEDD provides staffing for the Commission to work to improve the economic conditions within the County.

Sherman County Economic Development

MCEDD provides staffing for Sherman County economic development.

Jurisdictions

Counties: Klickitat, Skamania, Hood River, Wasco, Sherman

Cities:

Klickitat County: Bingen, Goldendale, White Salmon

Skamania County: Stevenson, North Bonneville

Hood River County: Cascade Locks, Hood River

Wasco County: The Dalles, Maupin, Mosier, Dufur, Shaniko, Antelope

Sherman County: Grass Valley, Moro, Rufus, Wasco

Ports: Cascade Locks, Hood River, The Dalles, Klickitat, Skamania

City of The Dalles Urban Renewal Agency

The Columbia Gateway/Downtown Urban Renewal Plan and Report allows for a variety of projects and activities including Property Rehabilitation Grant and Loan Programs. The City contracted with MCEDD to develop and design this grant and loan program. MCEDD staff also provides ongoing administrative support to the agency for this program.

The program provides for grants to non-profit or civic organizations for civic improvements in the Urban Renewal district. There are also grants available for design service to applicants for loans under the Historic Restoration Program. Loan interest subsidies are available for projects to restore and improve facades and other qualified work on buildings in the district. Participating private commercial banks makes these loans and the Urban Renewal Agency pays the interest. Loan interest subsidies are also available for redevelopment of unused and underused properties. Direct loans are available for demolition of blighted property. These loans can be forgiven under certain conditions.

Tourism

MCEDD is a member of all Chambers in our region:

- Goldendale Chamber of Commerce: New emphasis has been placed on the Chamber's economic development committee which is also working on a renewable energy fair for 2009

- Mt Adams Chamber of Commerce: The Chamber is beginning planning for a BALLE chapter.
- Skamania Chamber of Commerce: MCEDD is a new member to the Skamania Chamber
- The Dalles Chamber of Commerce: Active committees for The Dalles Chamber support local economic development including economic development committee, government affairs, Young Professionals, Ambassadors, and the Downtown Association
- Hood River Chamber of Commerce: Recently, the Chamber incorporated the Hood River Downtown Business Association. The Chamber continues to work with the Hood River Heights Association.

Workforce Training

Columbia Gorge Community College
 Oregon Employment Department
 Washington Employment Department
 Mid-Columbia Council of Governments
 Workforce Investment Boards

Public Transportation

Hood River Transportation District
 Transportation Network
 Mt Adams Transportation
 Skamania County Transportation
 Sherman County Transit
 Gorge TransLink

Business Financing and Counseling

Commercial Banks

Most of the business financing packages in which MCEDD has been involved include a major part by private commercial banks. Without them business development would not happen. MCEDD does not attempt to supplant bank financing. Rather, it attempts to encourage their participation by making projects possible that require their loans. This year, a new bank was formed in the region: CenterPointe Community Bank with branches in Hood River, Oregon and The Dalles, Oregon.

Columbia Gorge Community College, Small Business Development Center

The Small Business Development Center at the college provides assistance to small businesses in the region by offering counseling and training. Many of the small businesses that request loans for one of the MCEDD loan programs have received services from the SBDC.

Central Oregon Microenterprise

Central Oregon Microenterprise provides support to small businesses, following the model of the Sirolli institute and serves much of the eastern part of the Oregon geographic region of MCEDD. It was recently refunded for the next year.

Next Door

Providing intensive support to the Latino community, Next Door is a critical source for individuals to seek initial advice when starting a business venture. Next Door has the capacity to then partner with the SBDC, MCEDD, or microenterprise funds to assist their clients. They also provide translation services to MCEDD on an as-needed basis.

Gorge Angel Investor Network

The Gorge Angel Investor Network (GAIN and GAIN 2) and the Gorge Angel conference are vital partners in business financing.

Other Entities Involved in Economic Development

Mid-Columbia Housing Authority

The Housing Authority has been active in receiving funds to support low income and workforce housing. They are a critical component of the regional economy. MCEDD has provided information and letters of support to their new project in Hood River as well as advice on potential funding sources for projects.

West Columbia Gorge Economic Development

This position was newly formed in 2009. In the MCEDD region, it includes coverage to the City of Cascade Locks.

Cascade Locks Action Team (CAT)

CAT provides a forum for discussion for citizens, organizations, and government entities in the City of Cascade Locks.

Gorge Grown Food Network and Farmers Markets

Gorge Grown supports the local economy by serving “as a central source to inform, empower, and connect local Columbia River Gorge farmers, food producers, farm workers, consumers, policy-makers, educators, health promoters, and food enthusiasts.” It also provides a mobile farmer’s market to outreach to communities which was partially funded by the Oregon Investment Board. Additional farmer’s markets are supported throughout the region.

Wasco County Outreach Team

The Outreach team is composed of members from the City of The Dalles, The Dalles Chamber of Commerce, Wasco County, Mid-Columbia Council of Governments, Mid-Columbia Economic Development District, Northern Wasco PUD, Port of The Dalles, and Columbia Gorge Community College. All members work cooperatively to identify and pursue projects that will benefit the area.

Klickitat Horizons

Klickitat Horizons has been working on numerous economic development issues through volunteers, including broadband and transportation.

Utilities

Klickitat PUD, North Wasco PUD, Wasco Electric Coop, Hood River Electric Coop, Skamania PUD, City of Cascade Locks, Embarq, NW Natural, Avista, and Bonneville Power Administration are major players in the region as utility service providers.

Private Business

No economic development would take place with out the entrepreneurs and industries that invest and risk their time and money to the projects that are our economy. All of MCEDD's activities take this into consideration.

MCEDD ACTION PLAN FOR 2009-2010

1. Prepare and maintain the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.
 - Collect data relevant to the regional economy
 - Identify opportunities/issues and define vision/goals for the region
 - Create strategies to accomplish goals
 - Coordinate activities to implement these strategies
 - Create prioritized list of TA and Public Works projects
2. Provide assistance for local economic development related activities and act as a liaison between appropriate Oregon, Washington and federal interests
 - Create family-wage employment opportunities
 - Promote growth, development and retention of businesses and industry within the region
 - Support growing industry cluster initiatives, including representative groups in renewable energy (CGBREZ) and technology (Gorge Tech Alliance).
 - Continue to coordinate transportation needs to improve regional public transportation
 - Provide economic development support to counties within the region, filling in gaps and providing services for which they lack the capacity or resources to fill.
4. Provide technical assistance for grant writing and administration and access to region-wide demographic and statistical data
 - Provide monthly updates on grant resources and regional statistics via an electronic newsletter to regional partners
 - Maintain resource databases of grant sources
5. Work closely with the Economic Development Representative and EDA staff to develop future potential economic development projects

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

The performance measures for the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy include the following:

- Number of new initiatives implemented from the CEDS
- Number of jobs created or retained and cost/job
- Leverage of private funding for every \$1 of funds committed
- Leverage of public funding for every \$1 of funds committed
- Percentage of sub-state jurisdictions participating in the district who are eligible to participate

Performance will be measured annually based upon the annual action plan approved by the MCEDD Board and the performance measures listed in the approved CEDS. In addition, a full annual report will be developed describing the accomplishments of the district covering each fiscal year. Both reports will be submitted annually to the Economic Development Administration and provided to the MCEDD Board of Directors and CEDS Committee.

EVALUATION OF MCEDD'S ACTION PLAN FOR 2008-09

MCEDD is in its fourth year of a reorganization project to be more responsive to client needs and has hired project managers to provide additional assistance to businesses, organizations, and governments. With the assistance of new staff, MCEDD accomplished the following items in relation to the four work items outlined by the MCEDD board for 2008-2009:

- 1) Stabilize agency and hire key positions
 - a) Executive Director. A new Executive Director, Amanda Remington, was hired in May, 2008.
 - b) Loan Fund Manager. Eric Nerdin was hired to fill this critical position for the agency. He brings expertise from the commercial banking world and has been instrumental in reactivating the loan fund program.
 - c) Board and staff development. MCEDD staff has sought to advise MCEDD Board members of training opportunities available through the Special Districts Association of Oregon. New employees have received training for their positions including training on rural community development, branding, loan portfolio software, EDA training, local budget law and insurance options. Also, staff members have attended trainings at conferences including the Washington workforce and economic development conference, Transportation Management program, Oregon Economic Development Association, Washington Economic Development Association and Regards to Rural.
- 2) Market MCEDD and its services
 - a) Continue cooperative relationships and communication with partners. MCEDD has engaged in a significant regional marketing effort with the Columbia Gorge Bi-State Renewable Energy Zone. Also, the Executive Director has been conducting an outreach campaign, visiting chambers, county commissions, city councils, and local groups to provide an update on the MCEDD annual report.
- 3) Identify regional issues and opportunities
 - a) Identify new clusters. MCEDD participated in a wind component cluster discussion with OECDD and have continued to pursue this emerging cluster through the Columbia Gorge Bi-State Renewable Energy Zone.
 - b) Grow the revolving loan fund program. New loan fund staff has revitalized the revolving loan fund program. Applications have been submitted for additional funding requests for the loan fund program to USDA Rural Development through the Rural Business Enterprise Grant. Additional opportunities are being pursued with local county match, Community Development Block Grant, and microenterprise programs. Lending

activity has also increased, which supports the growth of the revolving loan fund program as funds are utilized and interest/fees are collected.

- c) Engage in and establish regional planning initiatives. Columbia Gorge Bi-State Renewable Energy Zone is a new planning initiative to which we provide support. We also engaged in a planning effort with Columbia Gorge Community College to conduct a Needs Assessment for the growing high tech industry. Transportation planning was supported by MCEDD with updates to the Sherman, Wasco and Hood River Coordinated Transportation Plans. Support was provided to Gorge TransLink in seeking funds for a Mobility Manager. Participation in local economic development plans and the regional Columbia Gorge Future Forum also constituted a portion of our activities.
 - d) Seek and facilitate opportunities for economic development. MCEDD provided economic development services for Wasco and Sherman counties to facilitate opportunities for economic development. This year, a Needs and Issues list was developed for Wasco County and a housing survey was conducted for Sherman County. Broadband access was also a key area of focus with funding received to work with a pilot program for wi-max deployment. MCEDD further facilitated these opportunities through grant management for Community Development Block Grants, assistance to Gorge TransLink, provision of revolving loan fund programs, and administration of Oregon Investment Board grants and loans.
- 4) Improve organizational efficiency
- a) Identify cost sharing solutions. Cost sharing solutions were sought in matching grants for: regional Mobility Management, regional renewable energy marketing, regional web development, revolving loan funds, and high tech cluster development. Operationally, MCEDD looked at cost sharing solutions for building and rent costs.

In conjunction with the action plan and the resulting initiatives, from April 1, 2008 through March 31, 2009, MCEDD was able to :

- Implement 31 initiatives from the CEDS during the 2008-2009 planning grant investment period
 - 2 of these were technology based
 - 2 were funded by EDA and 29 by other sources
- Initiatives resulted in 120 jobs created or retained
- Private sector investment from project was \$5,161,000
- Public sector investment from projects implemented was \$1,627,000
- All 19 sub-state jurisdictions eligible to participate in the districts participated by attending meetings or contributing financially.

APPENDICES A-D

Appendix A – Regional Project Priority List

OREGON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS				
Regional Priority	County	Applicant	Project	Total Project Cost
1	Regional-Oregon	<i>Mid-Columbia Council of Governments</i>	Community Based Renewable Energy Enterprise	\$ 300,000
2	Regional-Oregon and Washington**	<i>Columbia Gorge Regional Airport</i>	Airport Water Distribution System Engineering	\$ 150,000
3	Wasco	<i>City of The Dalles</i>	Marine Terminal and First Street/Washington Street Underpass Design	\$ 2,402,804
4	Hood River	<i>Hood River County</i>	Composting Facility	\$ 500,000
5	Sherman	<i>City of Grass Valley and Sherman County</i>	Wastewater Systems: Grass Valley Feasibility Study and Wasco line upgrades	\$ 75,000
OREGON PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS				
Regional Priority	County	Applicant	Project	Total Project Cost
1	Wasco	<i>City of The Dalles</i>	Marine Terminal Construction	\$ 3,000,000
2	Regional-Oregon and Washington**	<i>Columbia Gorge Regional Airport</i>	Airport Water Distribution System Construction	\$ 3,500,000
3	Hood River	<i>Port of Cascade Locks</i>	Cascade Locks Marine Park Entrance	\$ 5,000,000
4	Hood River	<i>Port of Hood River</i>	Industrial Transportation Infrastructure	\$ 1,500,000
5	Sherman	<i>City of Rufus</i>	Development of Industrial Site	\$ 700,000
WASHINGTON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS				
Regional Priority	County	Applicant	Project	Total Project Cost
1	Skamania	<i>Skamania PUD</i>	Geothermal Feasibility Study	\$ 175,000
2	Skamania	<i>City of North Bonneville</i>	Hamilton Creek Bank Stabilization/Restoration	\$ 100,000
3	Klickitat	<i>City of Goldendale/Lyle</i>	Downtown Revitalization: Goldendale and Lyle	\$ 270,000
4	Klickitat	<i>Port of Klickitat</i>	Bingen Point RR Underpass Study	\$ 125,000
5	Skamania	<i>City of Stevenson</i>	Comprehensive Plan- transportation	\$ 130,000

WASHINGTON PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS				
Regional Priority	County	Applicant	Project	Total Project Cost
1	Klickitat	<i>Port of Klickitat</i>	Bingen Point Looped Infrastructure and Grading Plan Phase II	\$ 2,575,000
2	Skamania	<i>City of North Bonneville</i>	North Bonneville Sewer Upgrade	\$ 1,500,000
3	Skamania	<i>City of Stevenson</i>	Rock Creek Cove Dredging Phase 1-3	\$ 1,300,000
4	Klickitat	<i>Dallesport</i>	Water Infrastructure Improvement Project	\$ 4,715,958
5	Klickitat	<i>City of Goldendale</i>	Goldendale Industrial Park- Incubator flex space	\$ 1,500,000

****Note:** The following projects are Bi-State projects:

Technical Assistance: Columbia Gorge Regional Airport- Airport Water Distribution System Engineering

Public Works: Columbia Gorge Regional Airport- Airport Water Distribution System Construction

Appendix B – Regional Project List

Oregon Technical Assistance Projects					
Regional Priority	County Priority	Applicant	Project	Federal/ State Assistance Needed	Total Project Cost
Hood River County Technical Assistance					
	1	Hood River County	<p>Comprehensive Transportation Plan for Hood River County Needs Analysis</p> <p>Hood River County is intent on developing a comprehensive transportation plan to include the City of Hood River and areas south and west of the City. There is not an available truck route to move business traffic to existing and future industrial sites. The plan will explore a direct connection between Highways 35 and 281 in the vicinity of the Hood River Airport to serve the industrial and farm operations in the mid valley. The study will also plan for a west side collector street system to enhance traffic patterns and include a truck route for the west end of Hood River to assist with development and population growth. This will assist residential development, allowing a throughway for trucks and long-term access to areas south of the Cascade corridor.</p>	360,000	360,000
	2	Hood River County	<p>Composting Facility</p> <p>This project includes the establishment of a countywide composting facility using a variety of waste products to provide compost material for area orchardists and homeowners. This would lessen landfill waste, truck traffic, and productively use waste streams that currently leave the County. This project includes study and creation of a pilot project.</p>	450,000	500,000
	3	Hood River	Anaerobic Digester Pilot Project	4,200,000	4,700,000

		<i>County</i>	Development of an Anaerobic Digester Pilot program to assist local businesses in resolving waste disposal issues, to create renewable energy, and to create an enterprise center for the County. The pilot will include several possible private sector partners including Full Sail Brewery, Wy'East Labs, and Diamond Fruit. This project will assist local businesses in their efforts to effectively reduce the costs of disposing of their waste products while dramatically increasing the community value of that waste. This is a green process and works well with the County's vision of renewable energy sources. There is a high cost to businesses in their waste disposal programs. There are present and future potential hazards to natural resources with the current disposal practices. The remaining waste product could provide materials to the proposed composting facility.		
	4	<i>Hood River County</i>	Renewable Energy Grid Connection The County is working to develop several renewable energy projects in the mid-valley. A 69 KV substation and line extension to meet the Pacific Power line is necessary. This will create and retain County jobs and alleviate missed opportunities to enter the renewable energy field with projects in biomass, small hydro, and wind in the area.	2,950,000	3,000,000
	5	<i>Hood River County</i>	Industrial Building Design and Construction for Hood River and Cascade Locks Both Ports in Hood River County are interested in building a speculative building to encourage either existing or new firms to locate in the County. For Cascade Locks - Development of a 50,000 sq ft industrial building to use as a catalyst for Cascade Locks including job creation. There are no vacant buildings in the community ready to accommodate industrial use. For Hood River - Development of an industrial building with office space to allow expansion of local industrial businesses and creation of local jobs. This will create and maintain County jobs and the community will not lose employment opportunities. With increasing cost of land and financing getting harder to secure, smaller firms have difficulty starting building projects.	3,710,000	6,060,000

Oregon Technical Assistance Projects

<i>Regional Priority</i>	<i>County Priority</i>	<i>Applicant</i>	<i>Project</i>	<i>Federal/State Assistance Needed</i>	<i>Total Project Cost</i>
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Sherman County Technical Assistance

	1	<i>City of Grass Valley</i>	<p>Waste Water System Feasibility Study</p> <p>The City of Grass Valley currently does not have a municipal Waste Water System. All residences and businesses rely on private septic. The City is anticipating growth due to a new race track located outside of the city limits.</p>	50,000	50,000
	2	<i>Sherman County</i>	<p>Biggs Interchange Study</p> <p>The interchange traffic from I-84 to Hwy 97 located at Biggs Junction, Oregon has increased dramatically over the years especially the truck traffic. Biggs Junction has become a major stopping area for motorists and truck traffic for fueling, lodging and food. This has created a need to redesign the off ramps and interchange area to meet this changing need. Currently the north side of the interchange heading west onto I-84 is a two way exchange because of the MCP elevators located by the River. Trucks leaving that area have to use the west bound freeway ramp which means they are heading east against traffic. This can be a confusing situation to motorists not familiar with the area. A study is needed to determine how to accommodate the growing traffic in the Biggs area.</p>	50,000	100,000
	3	<i>Sherman County</i>	<p>Workforce Housing Study</p> <p>Sherman County is in need of work force housing to meet the growing demand of jobs that are being created due to the siting of an organic warehouse in Moro and the wind farms being built in the County. Current housing is severely limited and/or substandard. A county wide survey was recently done to determine the need. The survey concluded that there is a need for new or remodeled homes for owners and renters in Sherman County. A study is needed to determine the next steps the county needs to take to move the project forward.</p>	50,000	50,000
	4	<i>Sherman County</i>	<p>Courthouse Feasibility Study</p> <p>Sherman County is exploring the possibility of expanding the courthouse to house all county departments. Currently several county departments are housed in other locations in Moro. The courthouse is not big enough to accommodate all departments. They would like to see all of the departments located in one place to better serve the public. A study and or design of the current facility is needed to move ahead with this project.</p>	30,000	30,000
	5	<i>Sherman</i>	<p>Wasco Wastewater line upgrades</p>	25,000	25,000

		<i>County</i>	The City of Wasco is seeking funds to conduct a study of the collection system to determine the condition, status and deficiencies of the system. Collection deficiencies will be catalogued as to the extent, location and type of system problem. Due to ongoing sewer problems, the City wishes to have a plan developed in order to begin the replacement of all of the sewer lines within the City.		
Oregon Technical Assistance Projects					
<i>Regional Priority</i>	<i>County Priority</i>	<i>Applicant</i>	<i>Project</i>	<i>Federal/State Assistance Needed</i>	<i>Total Project Cost</i>
Wasco County Technical Assistance					
	1	City of The Dalles	Marine Terminal and First Street / Washington Street Underpass Design Reconstruct a marine terminal on the Columbia River located between the Downtown Business District and the Port Industrial Area and add a new ADA pedestrian crossing under the railroad tracks and sidewalk along West First Street. The Terminal will provide a variety of opportunities for increased multi-modal transportation thereby supporting industrial, commercial, lodging, retail and service businesses. It would also serve as a connection to barge traffic on the Columbia River for various existing companies.	140,000	2,402,804
	2	Columbia Gorge Regional Airport	Airport Water Distribution System Engineering Engineering for a water distribution system for the Regional Airport. Involves 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 have multiple uses for facilities and fire control.	50,000	150,000
	3	Northern Wasco County Parks and Recreation	Thompson Park Pool Facility Design and Engineering Replace pool and facility with an innovative multi-use Aquatic Facility including an indoor 50m pool, therapy pool, locker rooms, concessions, child development center, rock climbing wall, indoor gym, community meeting room, tennis courts and District offices. The current facility was built in 1934 and is failing. Phase II would involve development of an outdoor aquatic facility with pool, splash park, amphitheater, picnic shelters, and skate park.	17-22 million (design and construction)	17-22 million (design and constr.)
	4	City of Dufur	South Basin Water Storage Design	25,000	25,000

			The Dufur South Basin area is the main location of future development in Dufur. This area is currently at a building moratorium because there is inadequate drinking water storage to serve the area. This project would develop design and engineering plans for a new water reservoir to serve Dufur South Basin		
	5	Main Street Mosier	Mosier Comprehensive Plan/ Downtown Plan Updates 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 rapidly-expanding Mosier.	75,000	100,000
Oregon Public Works Projects					
Regional Priority	County Priority	Applicant	Project	Federal/State Assistance Needed	Total Project Cost
Hood River County Public Works					
	1	Hood River County	City of Hood River Transmission Line Replacement Phases 1 and 2 The existing antiquated water transmission line needs to be replaced as overdue improvements are needed. The possibility of a major disruption to City water services due to seismic activity or natural disaster could be lengthy due to difficult terrain for repairs. Leaks and repairs are costly to this system that is 80 years old in places.	19,700,000	22,000,000
	2	Hood River County	Hood River County Windmaster Sewer Improvements The newly created sewer district is addressing the needs of a health hazard area. The District initially serves 98 properties. The area is a health hazard area due to failing septic systems. Construction for Phase one is underway, Without the project, the County will over time be forced to condemn current uses. The problem is 30 years old. Current uses include residential, commercial and industrial. This assistance will speed up inclusion of all necessary properties.	\$2,040,000	\$2,440,000
	3	Hood River	Cascade Locks Marine Park Entrance	\$4,200,000	\$5,000,000

		<i>County</i>	Build a modern road and pedestrian access to the Marine Park crossing the Mainline Railroad to eliminate safety concerns and enhance accessibility for trucks and recreational vehicles. The project will create a new primary entrance replacing the antiquated underpass currently used. This project will facilitate the attraction of visitors to the park and its resources, including the Sternwheeler. It will also create and retain manufacturing and natural resource jobs.		
	4	<i>Hood River County</i>	Port of Hood River Industrial transportation Infrastructure Improve North Riverside Road to current street standards necessary to allow expansion and development of industrial businesses. This project will be an adjunct to the \$500,000 EDA grant awarded in the fall of 2008 to construct an adjacent industrial alley to serve this area. The project also includes improvements to Portway including sidewalks and utilities to allow creation of lots for industrial development.	\$1,050,000	\$1,500,000
	5	<i>Hood River County</i>	Cascade Locks Industrial Park Entrance The City of Cascade Locks is facing a significant challenge in developing a 90-acre parcel of land bound by the Columbia River, a residential area, I-84 / mainline of the UP Railroad, and the National Scenic Area. The State Fire Marshall has limited the development opportunities for the industrial area because of emergency access constraints. A new above-grade railroad crossing and I-84 interchange are necessary to allow development of the site in this struggling rural community. This project would create construction jobs for the duration of the project. It would also support the long-term job development efforts of the community, and provide better access to and from the community and to the most significant employment lands in the community. Furthermore, it would allow the community to market its land base for use at a level beyond the current capacity.	\$25,000,000	\$25,000,000
Oregon Public Works Projects					
<i>Regional Priority</i>	<i>County Priority</i>	<i>Applicant</i>	<i>Project</i>	<i>Federal/State Assistance Needed</i>	<i>Total Project Cost</i>
Sherman County Public Works					
	1	<i>City of Wasco</i>	Church Street Bridge Repair and Erosion Control	220,000	220,000

			Due to the erosion of the banks of Spanish Hollow Creek, the Church Street bridge has shifted and deteriorated to the point where only one lane of traffic is allowed on 1/2 of the bridge. The city has been working with SWCD to develop a solution to stop further erosion. The project will include the implementation of erosion control solutions and the construction of a new bridge.		
	2	<i>City of Moro</i>	Waste Water System Improvements Improvements are necessary to achieve compliance with the City's WPCF permit with DEQ. The improvements would include raising the dikes three to five feet along with increasing the surface area of the current lagoons. The City also needs to increase the irrigation area from 2 acres to 11 acres to be in compliance with DEQ. Other improvements would consist of replacing a portion of the City's collection system to meet DEQ guidelines for pipe size and manhole locations.	1,495,000	1,495,000
	3	<i>City of Rufus</i>	Development of Industrial Site The City of Rufus has a 60 acre site that is in need of final improvements for development to include the final paving of the road into the site and bring the city infrastructure to the site. The road has been engineered, graveled to grade and the entrance paved. Engineering is complete on the infrastructure needed for the site which includes city water, sewer, phone and utilities.	700,000	700,000
	4	<i>City of Grass Valley</i>	City Park Restrooms The City is in need of new ADA fully contained restrooms in the park. The current restrooms are old, small and have outlived their usefulness. Recent completion of the racetrack near town creates a need for facilities that can accommodate racers, families and fans coming through Grass Valley.	100,000	100,000
	5	<i>Sherman County Fairboard</i>	New Restrooms Replace the existing antiquated restrooms with new ADA restrooms and facilities. The fairgrounds have one set of restrooms to accommodate fairgoers or other people using the facility for other events. There is one shower facility that is adjacent to the fairgrounds which is small and only available to the RVer's. The current restrooms are a small old wooden structure that cannot be properly maintained and sealed to keep the structure airtight against the elements and other natural pests.	150,000	150,000
Oregon Public Works Projects					

Regional Priority	County Priority	Applicant	Project	Federal/State Assistance Needed	Total Project Cost
Wasco County Public Works					
	1	City of The Dalles	<p>Marine Terminal Construction</p> <p>Reconstruct a marine terminal on the Columbia River located between the Downtown Business District and the Port Industrial Area. The project will provide a variety of opportunities for increased multi-modal transportation and thereby support industrial, commercial, lodging, retail and service businesses. It would serve as a connection to barge traffic on the Columbia River for various existing companies as well as a stopping place for tour boats.</p>	1,500,000	3,000,000
	2	Columbia Gorge Regional Airport	<p>Airport Water Distribution System Construction</p> <p>Construction of a water distribution system for the Columbia Gorge Regional Airport at Dallesport. Involves 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 have multiple uses for facilities, and for fire control. 50% to be completed in this first phase.</p>	3,050,000	3,500,000
	3	City of Dufur	<p>Fire Hall Construction</p> <p>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.</p>	300,000	465,000
	4	Columbia Gorge Regional Airport	<p>Runway Strengthening</p> <p>The existing runway 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.</p>	4.5- 6 million	6 -8 million
	5	Wasco County	<p>Fairgrounds Arena Improvements & Exhibit Halls/Barns Renovation</p>	175,000	175,000

		Employee & Admin Services	Project needs in the Fairgrounds Arena include replacement of bucking shoots and pens and installing needed concrete runners and improving safety rails to increase safety and usability of nine sets of bleachers and a grandstand area. Project needs in the Exhibit Halls/ Barns include replacing or repairing two concrete floors in the exhibit halls, repainting 10 buildings of varied sizes, and engaging a design/build firm to demolish the horse barns and construct three metal barns of a similar size.		
Washington Technical Assistance Projects					
	<i>County Priority</i>	<i>Applicant</i>	<i>Project</i>	<i>Federal/State Assistance Needed</i>	<i>Total Project Cost</i>
Skamania County Technical Assistance					
	1	<i>City of Stevenson</i>	City of Stevenson Comprehensive Plan- Funding request for transportation only The City of Stevenson is updating its comprehensive plan. The City is seeking professional assistance with its review of the transportation section. Specifically, transportation engineering is needed for the review of the vehicular and pedestrian traffic flows and general plan; analysis of the City's constructions standards with reference to construction on steep slopes; and storm water management for roads.	35,000	130,000
	2	<i>PUD/Skamania County</i>	Geothermal Feasibility Study The Skamania County PUD needs to conduct a feasibility study to evaluate the locations and geography for the drilling of exploration wells. The study should also examine transmission interconnection and potential geothermal electric generation. Included in the study would also be a timeline and budget proposal for the exploration of geothermal potential in Skamania County.	150,000	175,000
	3	<i>Skamania County</i>	Master Plan Update In order to be eligible for State administered grants, the County must have prepared a plan which includes goals and objectives, inventory, demand and need analysis, and a public involvement process.	25,000	25,000
	4	<i>North</i>	Hamilton Creek Bank Stabilization/Restoration Project- Final Engineering	30,000	100,000

		<i>Bonneville/ Skamania County</i>	The City of North Bonneville needs to stabilize the banks of Hamilton Creek near the industrial park, to control flooding of the creek and nearby Greenleaf Lake.		
	5	<i>Skamania County</i>	<p>Feasibility Study- Multi-use trail Carson to Beacon Rock</p> <p>This project would evaluate options for the creation of a multi-use trail connecting the communities of Carson, Stevenson, and North Bonneville, with a connection to trail system at Beacon Rock State Park, a distance of nearly 15 miles. Ideally, the feasibility study will address route selection, signage, surface materials, and maintenance responsibilities. The completion of this study will enable the collaboration of various entities, including the State, Skamania County, the cities of Stevenson and North Bonneville, and trail enthusiasts. The realization of the trail would provide a facility for recreational and practical users alike. Recreational users benefiting from the flora, fauna and scenic beauty. Practical users, such as school children or thrifty adult cyclists, would benefit from a route between schools, services, and populations centers that is relatively protected from the perils of SR14, the only connection now available.</p>	50,000	50,000

Washington Technical Assistance Projects

	<i>County Priority</i>	<i>Applicant</i>	<i>Project</i>	<i>Federal/State Assistance Needed</i>	<i>Total Project Cost</i>
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Klickitat County Technical Assistance

	1	<i>Goldendale</i>	<p>Downtown Revitalization</p> <p>Project to determine investments appropriate to restore downtown vitality.</p>	200,000	200,000
	2	<i>Lyle</i>	<p>Lyle Revitalization</p> <p>Study to determine potential future uses</p>	50,000	70,000
	3	<i>Port of Klickitat</i>	<p>Bingen Point RR Underpass study</p> <p>Feasibility study to determine potential new access</p>	125,000	125,000
	4	<i>Port of Klickitat</i>	<p>Dallesport Industrial Water System Update</p> <p>Conduct system analysis including rate structure & update system plan</p>	170,000	170,000

Washington Public Works Projects

	<i>County Priority</i>	<i>Applicant</i>	<i>Project</i>	<i>Federal/State Assistance Needed</i>	<i>Total Project Cost</i>
Skamania County Public Works					
	1	<i>City of North Bonneville</i>	<p>North Bonneville Sewer Upgrade</p> <p>The City of North Bonneville is working on a general sewer plant for the City to ensure service for its residents and to accommodate future population growth. This plan would provide redundancy to meet Department of Ecology's requirements, and utilize the existing equalization basin and disinfecting systems. The proposed project consists of three main components.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) A new head works with a wastewater screen and flow measure element 2) A new clarifier unit including required appetencies such as return activated and waste activated sludge pumper and a flow spitter box. 3) Modifications to the existing treatment structure to upgrade and repair the existing unit 	1,300,000	1,500,000
	2	<i>City of North Bonneville</i>	<p>Rock Creek Cove Dredging Phase 1, 2, 3</p> <p>The 2006, 2007 and 2008 record rainfall caused a major landslide on the northern edge of the City of Stevenson. More than 600,000 cubic yards of material slid into Rock Creek and were transported downstream. Potential flooding of the sewer plant and critical facilities was averted by two separate dredging activities. Geologists have concluded that the final materials from the landslide have sloughed off, and a third dredging is needed to remove materials and improve conveyance and habitat, allowing Rock Creek to flow in its original channel. Failure to remove the materials would dramatically increase potential flood damage and environmental impacts. The City and County have successfully conducted two similar operations in the same channel successfully.</p>	1,200,000	1,300,000
	3	<i>Port of Skamania</i>	<p>Fort Cascade Business Park Phase 1</p> <p>The Fort Cascade Business Park is on Highway 14 at the eastern edge of the City of North Bonneville. Fort Cascades is currently undeveloped and lacks on site infrastructure, including roads, water, sewer, gas, telephone, cable TV and power systems. This 3-phase project proposes a total of 16 industrial zone lots. At build out, this Phase I includes final engineering design and construction roads, water, sewer, gas, telephone, cable TV and power systems required to establish buildable lots.</p>	1,450,000	1,450,000

	4	<i>Port of Skamania County/City of Stevenson</i>	Columbia River Shoreline Improvement/Mitigation The downtown Stevenson Columbia River shoreline of the Port's property is made up of a failing river bank (no shoreline protection), steel sheet pile, and artificial fill/rip rap. The Port wants to return the shoreline to a more natural state by creating shallow water fish habitat. The design for this shoreline Improvement/mitigation project is complete. A Joint Aquatic Permit Application has been submitted and is under review by the regulatory agencies. This project will use material (spoils) from dredging Rock Creek to be performed by Skamania County, and the City of Stevenson.	675,000	750,000
	5	<i>Port of Skamania County</i>	Cascade Avenue Half Street & Utility Improvements Planned upgrades include new utilities, travel lanes, parking, sidewalks and street trees for the unimproved northern section of this important collector street.	1,200,000	1,200,000
Washington Public Works Projects					
	<i>County Priority</i>	<i>Applicant</i>	<i>Project</i>	<i>Federal/State Assistance Needed</i>	<i>Total Project Cost</i>
Klickitat County Public Works					
	1	<i>Dallesport</i>	Dallesport Water Infrastructure Improvement Project Dallesport is the site of much anticipated public and private commercial, industrial and residential development. A single, looped system is needed to meet current and future needs.	2,215,958	4,715,958
	2	<i>Regional Airport</i>	Columbia Gorge Regional Airport Runway Extension In order to accommodate larger (potentially commuter airline) aircraft, the current runway must be both strengthened and lengthened.	4.5 to 6 million	6 to 8 million
	3	<i>Regional Airport</i>	Goldendale Industrial Park – Incubator flex space Construct 10,000 s.f. publicly owned flex-space building at City of Goldendale Industrial Park.	1,000,000	1,500,000
	4	<i>Port of</i>	Bingen Point Looped Infrastructure and Grading Plan Phase II	2,575,000	2,575,000

		<i>Klickitat</i>	Project will integrate and loop water, fire flow system and related utilities and develop shovel ready sites, including road work		
	5	<i>Port of Klickitat</i>	Dallesport site excavation Bring Dallesport industrial sites up to shovel ready status	2,700,000	2,700,000

Appendix C – MCEDD Board of Directors 2009 Roster/CEDS Committee

<p>Mr. Ken Bailey 3900 Orchard Rd. The Dalles, OR 97058 Economic Interest: Private business Constituency: Agriculture Representative Exec. Committee: No RLF Committee: No Sex: Male Disabled: No Minority: No</p>	<p>Mr. Don Stevens P.O. Box 32 North Bonneville, WA 98639 Economic Interest: Private business Constituency: Skamania County Cities Exec. Committee: No RLF Committee: No Sex: Male Disabled: No Minority: No</p>
<p>Ms. Jan Brending P. O. Box 607 Bingen, WA 98605 Economic Interest: City of Bingen Constituency: Klickitat County Cities Exec. Committee: No RLF Committee: No Sex: Female Disabled: No Minority: No</p>	<p>Mr. Cliff Jett PO Box 846 Rufus, OR 97050 Economic Interest: Rufus City Mayor Constituency: Sherman County Cities Exec. Committee: No RLF Committee: No Sex: Male Disabled: No Minority: No</p>
<p>Mr. Mike Smith P.O. Box 127 Moro, OR 97039 Economic Interest: Sherman County Commissioner Constituency: Sherman County Exec. Committee: Yes RLF Committee: Yes Sex: Male Disabled: No Minority: No</p>	<p>Mr. Martin Campos-Davis 1309 Montello Ave Hood River, OR 97031 Economic Interest: Washington Workforce Constituency: Minority Exec. Committee: No RLF Committee: No Sex: Male Disabled: No Minority: Yes</p>
<p>Ms. Barbara Briggs, Chairperson 4475 Post Canyon Drive Hood River, OR 97031 Economic Interest: Hood River County Commissioner Constituency: Hood River County Exec. Committee: Yes RLF Committee: Yes Sex: Female Disabled: No Minority: No</p>	<p>Mr. Rodger Ford 495 Fisher Hill Road Lyle, WA 98635-9519 Economic Interest: Klickitat County Port District Constituency: Port District Exec. Committee: No RLF Committee: No Sex: Male Disabled: Yes Minority: No</p>
<p>Mr. Chuck Daughtry P. O. Box 307 Cascade Locks, OR 97014 Economic Interest: Port of Cascade Locks Constituency: Oregon Ports Exec. Committee: No RLF Committee: No Sex: Male Disabled: No Minority: No</p>	<p>Mr. Randy Holmstrom P.O. Box 308 Cascade Locks, OR 97014 Economic Interest: City of Cascade Locks Constituency: Hood River County Cities Exec. Committee: No RLF Committee: No Sex: Male Disabled: No Minority: No</p>

<p>Mr. Ray LaFond 805 N Fairgrounds Rd Goldendale, WA 98620 Economic Interest: Goldendale Area Chamber of Commerce Constituency: Washington Chambers of Commerce Exec. Committee: No RLF Committee: No Sex: Male Disabled: No Minority: No</p>	<p>Dr. Susan J. Wolff, Vice-Chairperson 400 East Scenic Drive The Dalles, OR 97058 Economic Interest: Private Sector Representative Constituency: Columbia Gorge Community College Exec. Committee: Yes RLF Committee: No Sex: Female Disabled: No Minority: No</p>
<p>Mr. Dan Ericksen 511 Washington Street The Dalles, OR 97058 Economic Interest: Wasco County Commissioner Constituency: Wasco County Exec. Committee: Yes RLF Committee: Yes Sex: Male Disabled: No Minority: No</p>	<p>Mr. Paul Pearce P. O. Box 790 Stevenson, WA 98648 Economic Interest: Skamania County Commissioner Constituency: Skamania County Exec. Committee: Yes RLF Committee: Yes Sex: Male Disabled: No Minority: No</p>
<p>Mr. Bill Dick 2520 E. 14th St. The Dalles, OR 97058 Economic Interest: The Dalles City Councilor Constituency: City of The Dalles Exec. Committee: No RLF Committee: No Sex: Male Disabled: No Minority: No</p>	<p>Ms. Tonya Brumley 1125 Bargeway Rd The Dalles, OR 97058 Economic Interest: Private business Constituency: Oregon Chambers Exec. Committee: No RLF Committee: No Sex: Female Disabled: No Minority: No</p>
<p>Mr. Rex Johnston 205 S. Columbus, MS-CH-04 Goldendale, WA 98620 Economic Interest: Klickitat County Commissioner Constituency: Klickitat County Exec. Committee: Yes RLF Committee: Yes Sex: Male Disabled: No Minority: No</p>	<p>Ms. Nancy White P.O. Box 886 White Salmon, WA 98672 Economic Interest: Private business Constituency: Business Exec. Committee: No RLF Committee: No Sex: Female Disabled: No Minority: No</p>
<p>Mr. Harold Haake 2018 Steel Road The Dalles, OR 97058 Economic Interest: Private Sector Constituency: Utilities Representative Exec. Committee: No RLF Committee: No Sex: Male Disabled: No Minority: No</p>	<p>Ms. Dianne Storby Mid-Columbia Medical Center 1700 E. 19th St. The Dalles, OR 97058 Economic Interest: Private Non-profit Constituency: Healthcare Representative Exec. Committee: No RLF Committee: No Sex: Female Disabled: No Minority: No</p>

Appendix D – Composition of the MCEDD Board of Directors

		Percent
<u>Total Number of Board Members</u>	20	
Local Government Members	10	
Private Sector Members	11	55%
Public Sector Members	9	45%
Minority Members	1	
<u>Total Number of Executive Board Members</u>	7	
Minority Members	0	
Disabled Members	0	