

The Dalles Community Outreach Team
Community Enhancement Program
March 2023



The Dalles, Oregon

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THE DALLES OUTREACH TEAM

Community Enhancement Program

March 2023



The Dalles Community Outreach Team started in 1997 as a small team of three, comprised of The Dalles Area Chamber of Commerce, Northern Wasco People’s Utility District, and Wasco County. This initial group set the foundation for local advocacy at the Federal level. Over the years, the Community Outreach Team expanded to include the eight-member organization listed to the left.



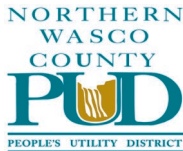
This group of community advocates meet monthly to discuss how their respective organizations can work together to support each other’s projects, provide feedback on community issues, and set a policy and funding agenda for the biannual trip to Washington, D.C.



This success of this collaboration can be seen throughout Wasco County. The City of The Dalles is vastly different from a decade ago. New businesses and private investments are refurbishing the historic downtown buildings. Our industrial area is home to over 70 diverse businesses and the affordable public power continues to attract innovative new industry. Meanwhile, Columbia Gorge Community College is welcoming more people who want to prepare for jobs in our modern economy and this past summer The Dalles Area Chamber of Commerce hosted 230 mural painters from around the world who came to our community and painted 15 murals over 4 days. All this did not happen by accident. It is the result of partnerships carefully nurtured over time, among them the organizations and the relationships forged with our state and federal government.



We have been grateful to receive federal funding in the past for local projects. Our goal is to always leverage that money for an improvement of even greater value and positive impact for our community; and when we seek funding assistance, it is the last dollar needed, not the first.



We thank you for helping us build a strong, vibrant community. Stop by The Dalles the next time you are in Oregon and let us show you what we have in mind for the future.



Sincerely,

The Dalles Community Outreach Team



Andrea Klaas, Executive Director
Port of The Dalles

Greg Weast, President
Port of The Dalles Commission

Dan Spatz, Director
Capital Projects and Community Relations
Columbia Gorge Community College

Scott Hege, Vice-Chair
Wasco County Board of
Commissioners



Darcy Long, City Councilor
City of The Dalles City Council

VISITING COMMUNITY OUTREACH TEAM MEMBERS



Andrea Klaas, Executive Director, Port of The Dalles

andrea@portofthedalles.com (541) 298-4148

Andrea has been Port of The Dalles Executive Director since 2006 and was previously its Marketing Director for seven years. Andrea is currently the Chair of the Oregon Infrastructure Finance Authority, and the Oregon Special Districts Insurance Services Trust, and served as past chair for Oregon Public Ports Association.



Darcy Long, City Councilor, City of The Dalles

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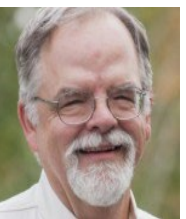
Darcy has been a City Councilor at City of The Dalles since 2016. She grew up in The Dalles and graduated from The Dalles High School prior to attending Willamette University to study political science and international studies. She is an independent financial adviser and owns Empower Financial. She has been a long-time advocate for children and adults with mental health issues and respite care for families with special needs children.



Dan Spatz, Director, Capital Projects & Community Relations
Columbia Gorge Community College

dspatz@cgcc.edu (541) 506-6034

Dan is a graduate of Columbia High School in White Salmon, Clark College and Eastern Oregon State College. He worked 30 years in regional journalism before joining the college, most recently as editor and general manager of The Dalles Chronicle. He served nine years on The Dalles City Council. Earlier in his career, he was interim director of the Port of Klickitat and economic development coordinator for Wasco County.



Greg Weast, Commission President, Port of The Dalles

gweast@portofthedalles.com (541) 980-1107

Greg was elected to the Port of The Dalles in 2011 and became Commission President in 2017. Prior to becoming a Commissioner, he served as Chair of the Port Budget Committee for many years. Greg has been an active member of The Dalles community, representing small business owners on the Urban Renewal District board, as a volunteer band director, and a downtown business owner for over 30 years. Greg is a well-known advocate of independent music stores and small business.



Scott Hege, Commission Vice-Chair, Wasco County

scotth@co.wasco.or.us (541) 288-1616

Scott Hege has been a resident of Wasco County for the past 28 years. He was born and raised in Spokane, Washington. He has a degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Idaho and earned master's in business administration from Washington State University in 1986. His family moved to The Dalles in 1991 when he took over management for the Port of The Dalles, serving in that role for almost 15 years.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH TEAM



CITY OF THE DALLES
Matthew Klebes, City Manager
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(541) 296-5481



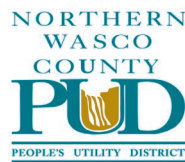
COLUMBIA GORGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
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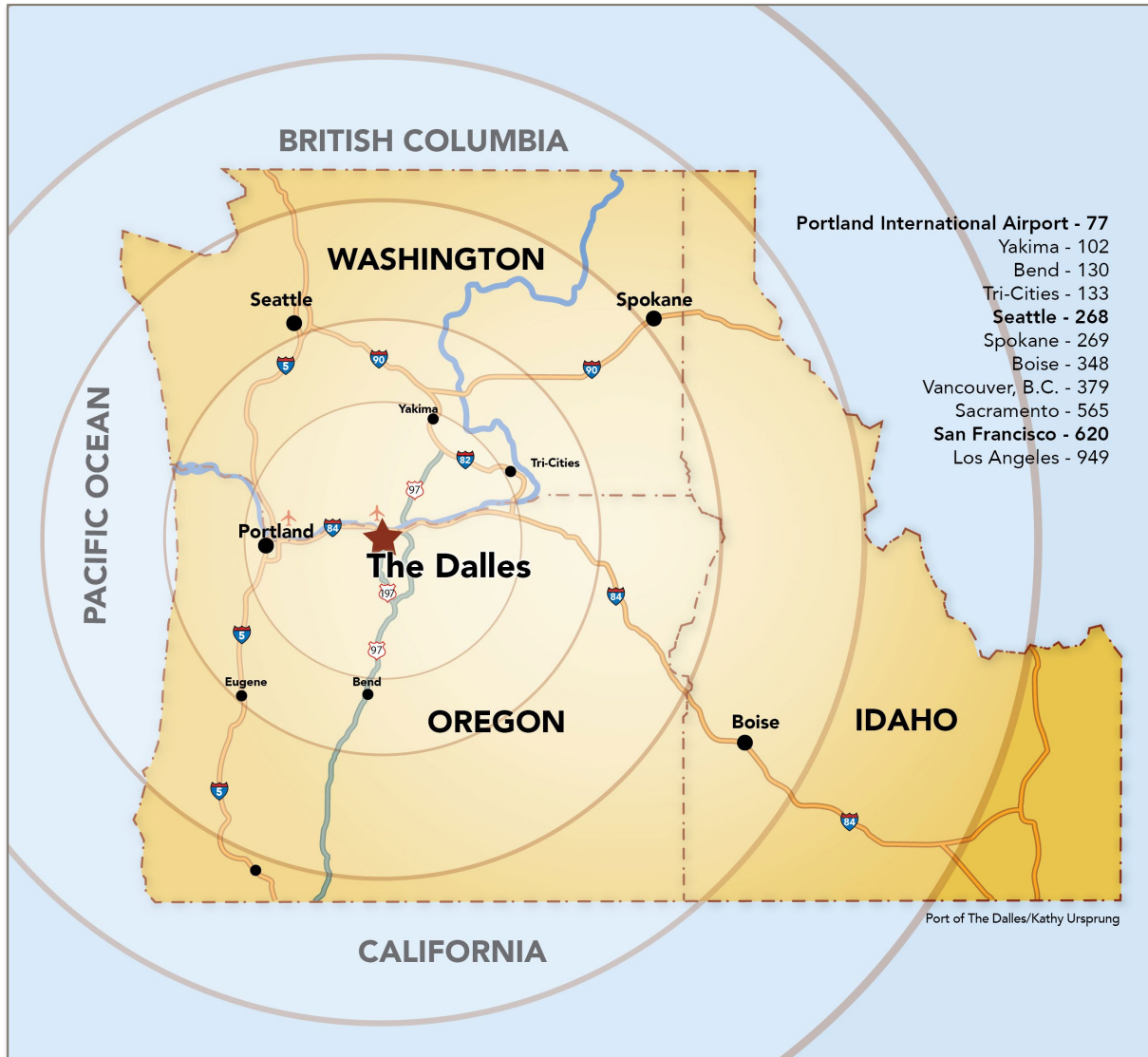


THE DALLES AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
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WASCO COUNTY
Tyler Stone, Administrative Officer
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(541) 506-2552

COME SEE US IN THE DALLES, OREGON!



The Dalles is centrally located on major transportation routes through the heart of Oregon, Washington, and Idaho, as well as beyond to Canada, California, and the western United States.

PROJECTS OVERVIEW

Aviation Maintenance Technician Training.....Page 9

Request: Following approval by the Federal Aviation Administration in 2022, Columbia Gorge Community College offers an aviation maintenance technician training program (CFR Part 147 Airframe and Power Plant), helping address a critical national skills gap. The program operates in temporary space of limited capacity. The college wishes to relocate and expand at Columbia Gorge Regional Airport.

Columbia Gorge Career-Tech Jobs Investment.....Page 10

Request: FY 2023-24 \$1 million request for career-tech training and equipment (National Institute of Standards and Technology/US Department of Commerce) in agricultural technology and advanced manufacturing. \$2.3 million (T-HUD) for training hangar completion and airport business park expansion.

Port of The Dalles Industrial Land Acquisition.....Page 12

Request: The Port of The Dalles seeks \$3.1 million to assist with industrial land purchase and real estate redevelopment.

The Port of The Dalles has been advocating for the expansion of the Urban Growth Boundary so Wasco County and The Dalles can continue to prosper. In the meantime, the Port needs additional resources to acquire industrial land outside of the City of The Dalles and to work on in-fill within the City limits so there is adequate space for existing businesses to expand, and new businesses to grow.

Q-Life Collocation Facility for Disaster Recovery.....Page 14

Request: QLife requires \$1,041,120 million to construct a new collocation facility. QLife would also appreciate assistance in identifying potential grant programs to support this project, and a Letter of Support from your office for the project.

QLife seeks to construct a new, more robust carrier-neutral collocation facility accessible for diverse telecommunications providers that serve communities across Oregon to enhance network resilience. Development of a new collocation facility would also have statewide benefits to first responders and community and economic recovery after a potential Cascadia event.

Wasco County Kramer Field Redevelopment Project.....Page 17

Request: \$525,000 for the initial planning phases, design and permitting.

This project is the domino that provides the real estate for several critically important projects for the region, including a new hospital, new youth recreational facilities, land for housing, economic development opportunities, and the addition of three critical behavioral health facilities. Relocating Kramer Field to a new site that the County has just acquired will free up the current Kramer Field ground for a new hospital to be built and the current hospital repurposed for housing needs.

POLICIES OVERVIEW

Bi-State Brownfield Coalition Assessment Grant.....Page 20

Mid-Columbia Economic Development District (MCEDD) submitted a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfield Coalition Assessment Grant request in the Fall 2022 round. This funding would build on implementation of a successful Coalition Assessment Grant led by the City of The Dalles, the Port of The Dalles, and Wasco County, that has supported at least 15 property owners in moving forward with better understanding of brownfield challenges at their sites and exploring redevelopment opportunities. The work these funds supports has already been leveraged to for additional or committed investment in redeveloping key properties in Wasco County. There is more interest and opportunity to support projects in The Dalles and Wasco County if additional resources are provided through award of this next Brownfield Coalition Assessment Grant request.

Columbia Gorge Early Learning Center.....Page 21

The Dalles Community Outreach Team and Columbia Gorge Education Service District are exploring feasibility of renovating a former middle school as the Columbia Gorge Early Learning Center.

Federal Forest Fire Fuels Reduction for Improved Watershed Management.....Page 22

Request: Support sensible forest management and fuels reduction.

On September 2, 2017, a catastrophic wildfire broke out in the Columbia River Gorge near Cascade Locks. This fire closed I-84 for three weeks, decimated the Historic Columbia River Highway, produced unhealthy levels of smoke, and caused economic hardship for many businesses in The Dalles, Wasco County, and the Gorge, which saw business shrivel as the fire burned for more than three months. The 2018 fire season started early and kept local communities covered with unhealthy smoke through much of the summer.

All of this could have been prevented with adequate forest management and fuels reduction. The Community Outreach Team has been asking for additional funding for the USFS to help with forest management, and a path for expedited permitting to address salvage timber after a storm or fire to remove deadfall. In 2017 alone, \$2 billion were spent fighting forest fires. Watersheds, local economies, and air quality continue to be negatively impacted.

Payment in Lieu of Taxes and Secure Rural Schools.....Page 24

Request: Restore adequate federal PILT and SRS funding to timber counties.

Imagine that you own a building, and your tenant decides to stop paying rent. Then imagine that the tenant decides to stay in the building, so you cannot rent it out for income. This is in fact what the Federal government is doing to Wasco County. They promised payments to reimburse the County for lost tax receipts, but annually choose not to make those payments, at the same time they have restricted timber harvest that could have made up for some of that lost revenue. Wasco County's Road department is very reliant on Federal payments, which make up about 60% of its budget.

U.S. Economic Development Administration Support.....Page 30

Request: We request support for ongoing investment into the U.S. Economic Development Administration, an agency which has been instrumental in helping us invest in our communities and plan for our future. We request support for EDA reauthorization.

The U.S. Economic Development Administration provides vital funding to help the Columbia Gorge economy move forward.

U.S. Economic Development Administration funding supports efforts crucial to the prosperity of the bi-state Columbia River Gorge region. Local examples include the Columbia Gorge Regional Airport Flex Building, development of a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for the region, and revolving loan funds that support expansion of the rural business base.

PROJECTS

AVIATION MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN TRAINING

Following approval by the Federal Aviation Administration in 2022, Columbia Gorge Community College offers an aviation maintenance technician training program (CFR Part 147 Airframe and Power Plant), helping address a critical national skills gap. The program operates in temporary space of limited capacity. The college wishes to relocate and expand at Columbia Gorge Regional Airport.

Requested Assistance

- Support a budget amendment by U.S. Economic Development Administration to resolve the \$2.3 million construction shortfall. Local partners are seeking additional non-federal match to bolster the \$700,000 local match already committed and leverage a budget amendment.
- Alternately, support City of The Dalles appropriations request (T-HUD) for \$2.3 million to resolve the hangar and business park expansion shortfall.

Community Benefit

Airframe & Power Plant (A&P) mechanics earn \$50,000 to \$80,000 or more. There is a critical shortage. Aviation training will occur in a dedicated hangar to be constructed with EDA funding at Columbia Gorge Regional Airport in Dallesport, Wash., owned by City of The Dalles and Klickitat County. City of The Dalles and Klickitat County committed \$700,000 as local match for the EDA grant. Associated infrastructure will leverage private investment and jobs creation. Aviation tech training is supported by on-campus student housing that opened in September 2021, part of a \$16.1 million public investment which also included the Columbia Gorge Regional Skills Center.

Location

Columbia Gorge Community College District, Columbia Gorge Regional Airport

Lead Sponsor

Organization: Columbia Gorge Community College
Contact: Dan Spatz, Director, Capital Projects & Community Relations
Address: 400 E. Scenic Drive, The Dalles, Oregon 97058
Phone, Email: o: (541) 506-6034 c: (541) 340-9883 dspatz@cgcc.edu

Background

The college is a training partner of Horizon Air. The college is leasing interim space and has received two donated airplanes as well as other used equipment. This space is inadequate for a full training program, requiring the college to limit enrollment to 15 students. With a larger space, the college could expand enrollment to as many as 50 students. FAA encourages airport proximity for training. In 2020, Klickitat County submitted an EDA proposal to build a dedicated training hangar and expand airport business park capacity. This would construct a 14,000 square-foot hangar, large enough for the college to expand its training program and provide short-term private aircraft storage, which would increase airport operational revenue. The EDA grant was awarded in 2022 (almost two years after grant submission), by which time costs had escalated significantly from Covid-related disruptions. Total project cost increased from \$3.5 million to \$5.8 million, leaving a \$2.3 million shortfall.

Supporting Partners

Horizon Air, City of The Dalles, Klickitat County, Columbia Gorge Regional Airport, Columbia Gorge Community College.

COLUMBIA GORGE CAREER-TECH JOBS INVESTMENT

Columbia Gorge Community College is investing federal, state, local and private dollars to build a 21st Century workforce. Examples of investments include: September 2021 the college, with support from the City of The Dalles, Wasco County, Port of The Dalles and State of Oregon, completed a \$16.1 million workforce training center and student residential hall on The Dalles Campus; in 2022 the Aviation maintenance training began; and in 2023 the college is expanding its nursing simulation center and starting Emergency Medical Technician paramedic training. Opportunities for this upcoming year include advanced manufacturing, agricultural technology training, and continued expansion of the Aviation Tech program.

Requested Assistance

- FY 2023-24 \$1 million request for career-tech training and equipment (National Institute of Standards and Technology/US Department of Commerce) in agricultural technology and advanced manufacturing.
- \$2.3 million (T-HUD) for training hangar completion and airport business park expansion.

Community Benefit

CGCC expands access to education and skills training for constituents in the bi-state Columbia River Gorge and beyond. The college's goal is to drive the creation of secure, high-demand jobs in the region, leading to increased economic opportunities and quality of life.

Location

Columbia Gorge Community College District, Columbia Gorge Regional Airport

Lead Sponsor

Organization: Columbia Gorge Community College
Contact: Dan Spatz, Director, Capital Projects & Community Relations
Address: 400 E. Scenic Drive, The Dalles, Oregon 97058
Phone, Email: (541) 506-6034 c: (541) 340-9883 dspatz@cgcc.edu

Background

Federal funding supports up-skilling through targeted specialized education, workforce training and equipment, creating high-demand, family-wage jobs in advanced manufacturing, construction trades, aviation maintenance and emergency medical services.

- Advanced Manufacturing: Now in its second year. 2022-23 NIST appropriation approved; this will secure additive manufacturing for small business prototyping access starting Fall Term 2023. FY 2023-24 request will expand 3D and CNC capacity.
- Agricultural Technologies: Slated to begin Fall Term 2024, this will focus on advanced technology aspects of modern agriculture (robotics, remote sensing, and autonomous systems) while encouraging a new generation to keep small farms in the family. Based in Hood River, the program is pertinent across Mid-Columbia agricultural sectors.
- Construction trades: Under way. Partnership with Mid-Columbia Community Action for "tiny homes" to replace interim pallet shelters at "navigation center," a statewide pilot that has received \$6 million from Oregon Legislature, City of The Dalles and Wasco County. CGCC students will acquire skills through "tiny home" construction.

THE DALLES OUTREACH TEAM

Community Enhancement Program

- Aviation Maintenance Technician: “Airframe and Powerplant” training helps meet urgent national demand for technicians. Program is under way in temporary space. EDA grant awarded 2022 for dedicated hangar and industrial park expansion with \$700,000 match from Klickitat County and City of The Dalles. Delay in grant award (proposal submitted in 2020) resulted in \$2.3 million shortfall from cost escalation.
- Emergency Medical Services: Oregon Employment Department forecasts job growth of 14.5 percent annually. EMT Certificate and Paramedic degree are nine-month hands-on, skills-based programs. Facility renovation to be completed winter 2023.

Supporting Partners

Oregon Legislature, Horizon Air, Wasco and Klickitat counties, Northern Wasco County School District, City of The Dalles, Port of The Dalles, Mid-Columbia Columbia Action, Columbia Gorge Regional Airport.

PORT OF THE DALLES INDUSTRIAL LAND ACQUISITION

We seek your assistance to help the Port of The Dalles purchase 44.72 acres of undeveloped industrially zoned land within The Dalles city limits. This purchase will allow the Port to continue its mission of diversifying the economy, creating jobs, and bringing investment to The Dalles and Wasco County Oregon. A Congressionally Directing Spending request was submitted through the THUD EDI account.

Requested Assistance

Total (est.): \$4,100,000
Port Contribution: \$1,000,000
Funding Request: \$3,100,000

Community Benefit

The Port of The Dalles is the primary economic development engine in The Dalles, Oregon and Wasco County. Historically, the Port has been able to acquire undeveloped industrial land, and then invest in the infrastructure, and site preparation to make this land suitable for business development and expansion. The Port estimates that there are 32 acres of buildable lands and based on the Port's employment target of 10 jobs per acre, this would equate to 320.

Location

Port of The Dalles, The Dalles, Oregon

Lead Sponsor

Organization: Port of The Dalles
Contact: Andrea Klaas, Executive Director
Address: 3636 Klindt Drive, The Dalles, OR 97058
Phone, Email: (541) 298-4148, andrea@portofthedalles.com

Background

The Port of The Dalles has been very successful managing its financial resources and diversifying the economy of The Dalles and Wasco County. Today there are more than 70 businesses of various sizes and industries located in the Port of The Dalles, but the Port has run out of available industrial land. The Port now has the opportunity to acquire 44.72 acres of undeveloped industrial land located within the City of The Dalles city limits. This will help address the need for available industrial land for continued business growth while the Urban Growth Boundary expansion process continues to be debated.

The Port has previously looked at this site and had developed a preliminary concept plan. This plan needs to be updated to meet a smaller parcel configuration, but the basic layout will stay the same. The Port will also be working with the adjacent property owner on a shared road and utility easement on the north edge, which may allow for some additional development.

Once the Port has control of the land, we will be able to seek additional funds to assist with planning and development. These may include grants, low-interest loans, or bonds.

44.72-Acre Project Site



2011 Concept Plan for Development



QLIFE COLLOCATION FACILITY FOR DISASTER RECOVERY

We seek your support for funding to construct a new, more robust carrier-neutral collocation facility accessible for diverse telecommunications providers that serve communities across Oregon to enhance network resilience. Functioning high-speed Internet networks are a key component of any disaster resiliency strategy. Loss of access to the internet after a Cascadia level earthquake event will significantly hamper rescue, relief and recovery efforts in the Pacific Northwest region and reduce the ability of areas impacted less by disaster to provide effective staging and recovery efforts. Lack of these services will also hinder the ability of individuals to connect with loved ones to assure that they are safe. Furthermore, the Covid-19 pandemic has further stressed the need for resilient communication networks as part of our recovery, resiliency and continued economic growth in Wasco County.

Requested Assistance

- QLife is requesting assistance in identifying potential grant programs to support this project. QLife is also requesting a Letter of Support from your office for the project.
- Funding Request: \$1,041,120

Community Benefit

QLife seeks to construct a new, more robust carrier-neutral collocation facility available to all telecommunications providers that serve communities across Oregon to enhance network resilience. Development of this facility would also have statewide benefits to first responders and community and economic recovery after a potential Cascadia event. The Dalles area is an ideal location for this facility for several reasons beyond its location outside of the major impact zone. It is along a critical response corridor for staging and recovery after a Cascadia subduction earthquake (I-84, Columbia River, 2 railroads, regional airport) and already serves as a key crossing point for several long-haul broadband networks.

Location

The Dalles, Oregon, Wasco County, and State of Oregon

Lead Sponsor

Organization: QLife
Contact: Matthew Klebes, Q-Life Administrator
Address: The Dalles, OR 97058
Phone, Email: (541) 296-5481, mklebes@ci.the-dalles.or.us

Background

QLife, an Intergovernmental Agency formed between the City of The Dalles, Wasco County, and other local partners, currently has a collocation facility located in the basement of The Dalles City Hall, which serves a key role in providing internet access to community institutions, businesses, and residents. This facility is at capacity; it lacks robust power, cooling, access routes, and has been under the threat of potential flooding; this facility needs to be replaced.

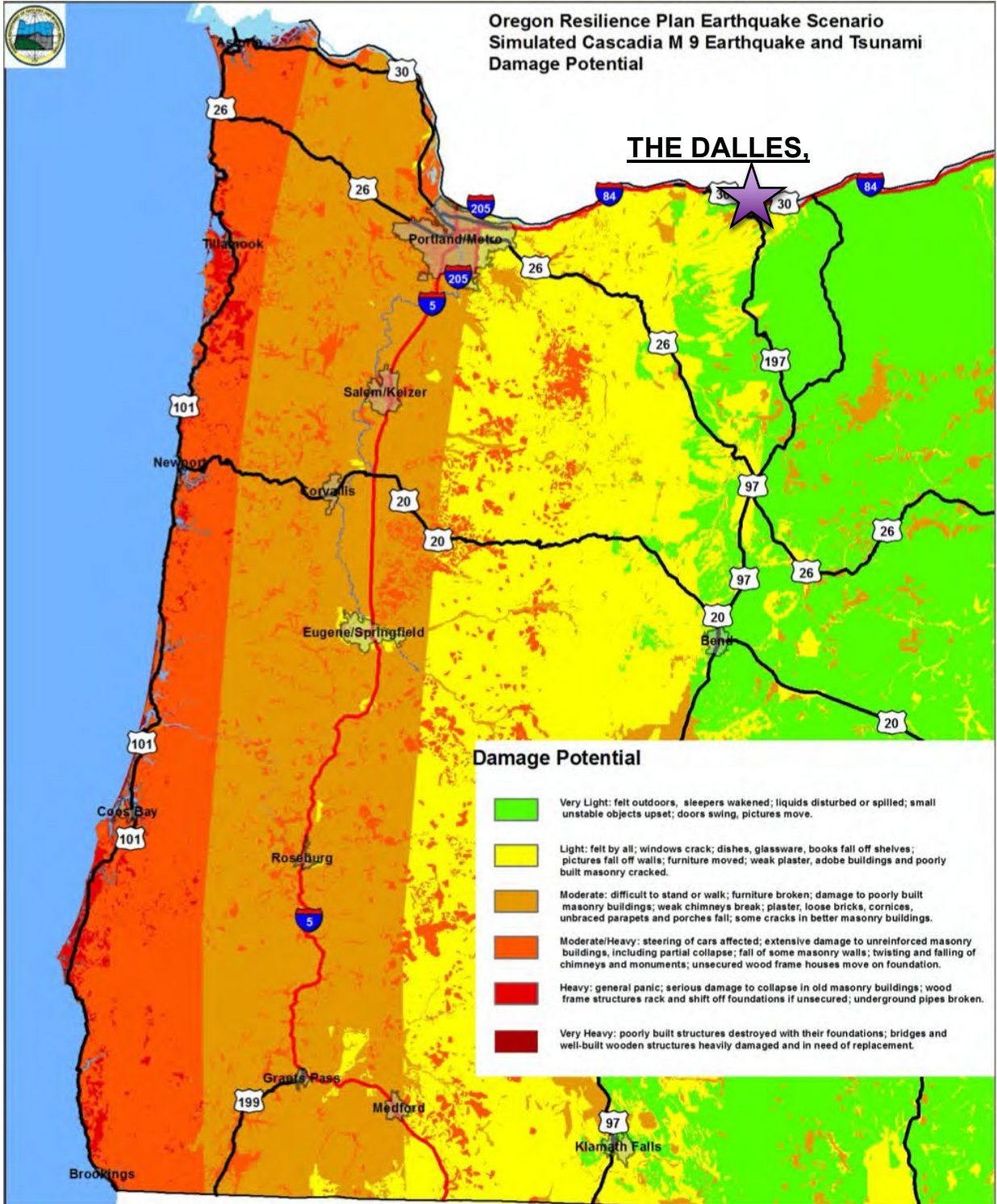
In June 2022, QLife, with the support of Mid-Columbia Economic Development District and CARES funding, completed a Collocation Final Conceptual Design report outlining construction of a dedicated internet exchange and server facility at the Wasco County Emergency Operations and 911 Center. This facility would have improved power, cooling, security, redundant fiber access routes and, in addition to providing improved services in Wasco County, would serve as a redundant collocation facility that will have a key role in reestablishing internet access after a Cascadia level event.

THE DALLES OUTREACH TEAM

Community Enhancement Program

Internet service occurs because of the interconnection of many networks at co-location and exchange facilities. Major locations of these facilities in the Pacific Northwest are all in areas west of the Cascades Range where experts anticipate devastating impacts will occur from a Cascadia subduction zone earthquake. As a result, the Internet, the cellular networks that rely on it, and many public safety communications networks, would be inoperable in the Northwest during and after a Cascadia event because carriers would no longer have access to these critical connectivity locations in their network architecture. This would not just affect the high impact zones west of the Cascades, but areas throughout Oregon and Washington.

CASCADIA EVENT SIMULATION MAP



WASCO COUNTY KRAMER FIELD REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

We seek your assistance to help Wasco County meet its mission of partnering with our citizens to proactively meet their needs and create opportunities.

Requested Assistance

Total (est.): \$525,000
County Contribution: \$80,000
Funding Request: \$445,000

Community Benefit

This funding request will provide site master planning on a 154-acre piece of land recently acquired by Wasco County. The redevelopment of Kramer Field in a new location is the domino project that provides the real estate for several critically important projects for the region including a new hospital, new youth recreational facilities, land for housing, economic development opportunities, and the addition of three critical behavioral health facilities. Relocating Kramer Field to a new site that the County has just acquired will free up the current Kramer Field ground for a new hospital to be built and the current hospital repurposed for housing needs. In addition, it provides the real estate for a 16-bed acute care inpatient facility and for the already funded Resolution Center. The Resolution Center is a secure bed residential behavioral health treatment facility collocated with a drop in residential behavioral health treatment facility. We are asking for funding to do site master planning and design work, community outreach and education and for help navigating land use requirements on this parcel as a potential site for relocation of Kramer Field.

Location

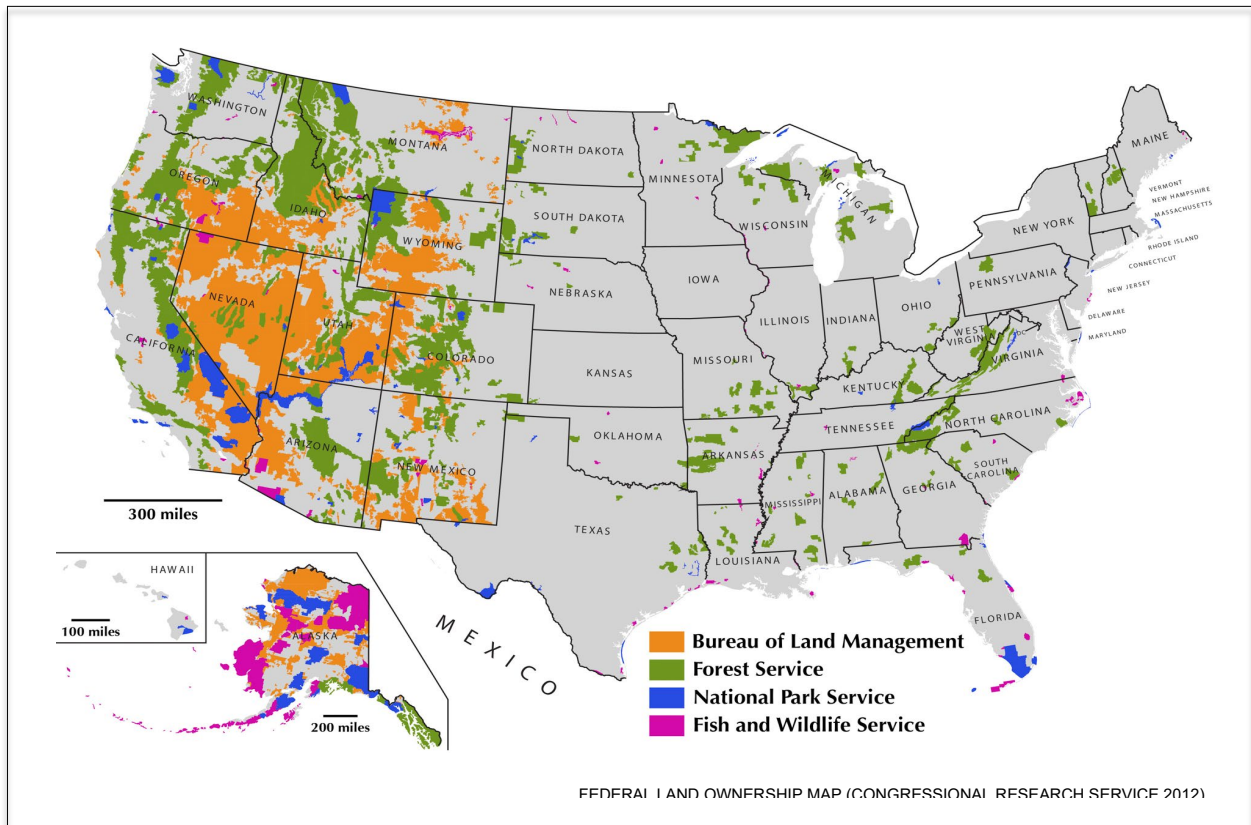
The Dalles, Oregon

Lead Sponsor

Organization: Wasco County
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POLICIES

WHO OWNS THE WEST?



The Federal Government owns 68% of Alaska, 47% of the 11 Western States, and only 4% of the remaining 38 States.

In Oregon, federal land ownership (32,000,000+ acres) accounts for almost half of all the lands of the State (63,000,000+ acres). Other public lands (state and local) mean even more land is off limits for helping fund local services.

Challenges

- Federal payments to counties based on timber receipts, and later in compensation for lost timber harvest, once funded county roads and other services, but have all but disappeared in recent years, leaving huge budget holes for counties to fill.
- Counties cannot collect property taxes on public lands within their boundaries to help fund local roads and services, risking the loss of costly public road infrastructure.
- Local taxpayers are experiencing sticker shock and rejecting large tax measures designed to replace lost federal revenues.

Solution

- Restoration of sustainable timber harvest would help restore funds to county coffers, assure healthier forest through thinning practices, and reduce the risk from catastrophic wildfire.

BI-STATE BROWNFIELD COALITION ASSESSMENT GRANT

Support Mid-Columbia Economic Development District's \$1million Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfield grant application, which will encourage redevelopment of brownfield properties within Wasco County, and the region.

Community Benefit

Mid-Columbia Economic Development District (MCEDD) has applied for a second round of EPA brownfield grant funding. This will build on the success from the currently funded program, which has supported public and private investment in redevelopment projects and enhanced the availability of developable land in our communities.

Location

Wasco County, Oregon and Skamania & Klickitat Counties, Washington

Lead Sponsor

Organization: Mid-Columbia Economic Development District
Contact: Carrie Pipinich, Deputy Director of Economic Development
Address: 802 Chenowith Loop Rd, The Dalles, OR 97058
Phone, Email: (541) 296-2266, carrie@mcedd.org

Background

In 2020, the City of The Dalles, Wasco County, and the Port of The Dalles successfully received a \$600,000 EPA Brownfield Coalition Assessment grant. These federal funds have been leveraged to support a variety of projects benefitting redevelopment in Wasco County. Projects have occurred in The Dalles, Mosier and Dufur and community priorities have been reflected in these investments including:

- Exploring upstairs housing in downtown buildings
- Supporting assessments for a potential regional childcare center
- Expanding capacity for public health services
- Employment land redevelopment

This federal investment has further been leveraged by local resources through the Urban Renewal District, Enterprise Zone funding, and others to support redevelopment in these communities. The initial grant funds have been 100% committed through the end of the program, with a waiting list of projects if funding becomes available.

In the fall of 2022, MCEDD submitted a grant application for \$1million of additional funds from the EPA Brownfield Coalition Assessment Grant to continue this work. The geographic region was expanded to include Wasco County Oregon and Klickitat and Skamania counties in Washington.

Reuse of existing buildings and property is critical to meet the region's needs for housing, community facilities, and employment land. This grant will provide property owners with resources to aid in redevelopment. These federal investments are critical to help our communities update and reuse existing facilities.

Supporting Partners

Wasco, Klickitat, and Sherman Counties all signed on to participate as coalition partners.

COLUMBIA GORGE EARLY LEARNING CENTER

In common with all rural Oregon, Wasco and Hood River Counties are a "childcare desert," as defined by Oregon's Early Learning Division. (As of November 2022, there was not a single childcare opening for any child of any age in Wasco County.) The Dalles Community Outreach Team and Columbia Gorge Education Service District are exploring feasibility of renovating a former middle school as the Columbia Gorge Early Learning Center.

Community Benefit

- There is no mixed-income, public early learning center in The Dalles. Columbia Gorge Early Learning Center would meet that need, serving at least 200 children of all ages.
- The former Chenoweth Middle School, constructed c. 1954 and owned by North Wasco County School District, has 17 classrooms, cafeteria, and gymnasium with stage, outdoor play areas and office space. Renovation will return these spaces to productive public use.
- Columbia Gorge ESD would manage and maintain the center, supporting on-site early learning through administrative services such as Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education and Pre-School. The school district would retain ownership.
- Columbia Gorge Community College would invest ARPA funding for capital renovation, while assigning its Early Childhood Education (ECE) students to practicum experience in the facility. These ECE students will help meet the need for an early learning workforce in The Dalles and throughout the Columbia Gorge region.
- The early learning center would be open to the public on a tuition basis. It would also serve families of public and private partners, who would in turn support long-term operational costs.

Location

The Dalles, Oregon

Lead Sponsor

Organization: Columbia Gorge Education Service District
Contact: Superintendent Pat Sublette
Address: 400 E. Scenic Drive, Suite 207, The Dalles, Oregon 97058
Phone, Email: (541) 298-5155, psublette@cgesd.k12.or.us

Background

- Estimated renovation cost: \$15 million
- \$2.1 million secured (ARPA allocations). Additional funding anticipated from Business Oregon, Energy Trust of Oregon, Oregon Early Learning Division, Oregon State Legislature and private foundations.
- Projected renovation shortfall: \$7 million
- Long-term operational funding will be secured through combination of existing state and federal early learning revenue streams, private pay tuition, and support from public and private partners.

Supporting Partners

Columbia Gorge Education Service District, Columbia Gorge Community College/Child Care Partners Resource & Referral, North Wasco County School District, City of The Dalles, Wasco County, One Community Health, Mid-Columbia Center for Living, Mid-Columbia Medical Center, Port of The Dalles, The Dalles Area Chamber of Commerce, Mid-Columbia Economic Development District, Northern Wasco PUD, Oregon Legislature.

FEDERAL FOREST FIRE FUELS REDUCTION FOR IMPROVED WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

We ask your help in developing practical forest management options within the Late Successional Resources (LSRs) to promote water quality and realize the mature forest values for which LSRs were originally designated. The Dalles Watershed includes LSR areas, which, under the current "no touch" option, are growing into areas with high potential for uncontrollable, high intensity fires that could have devastating effects on water quality.

Community Benefit

Better forest management would improve wildlife habitat, protect The Dalles' vital municipal water supply, and reduce tree mortality from overstocking effects. The Pacific Northwest's non-federal forests provide ample evidence that managed forests fare better in a wildfire.

Location

The Dalles, Oregon

Lead Sponsor

Organization: City of The Dalles
Contact: Matthew Klebes, City Manager
Address: 313 Court St., The Dalles, OR 97058
Phone, email: (541) 296-5481, mklebes@ci.the-dalles.or.us

Background

Catastrophic forest fires have become an ongoing economic and environmental disaster in the western United States. Of specific concern are uncontrolled wildfires in municipal watersheds. Current federal regulations, guidelines and management plans on federal lands are causing unhealthy forests susceptible to catastrophic fires. Tree mortality resulting from the combined effects of overstocking, species encroachment, drier type stands, insect infestations and disease all increase levels of accumulated fire fuels. This is particularly true in areas designated as Late Successional Resources (LSR) areas, defined as mixed conifer forests that provide a multi-layered tree canopy, including large-diameter trees, shade-tolerant tree species in the understory, and a high volume of dead wood, such as snags and logs.

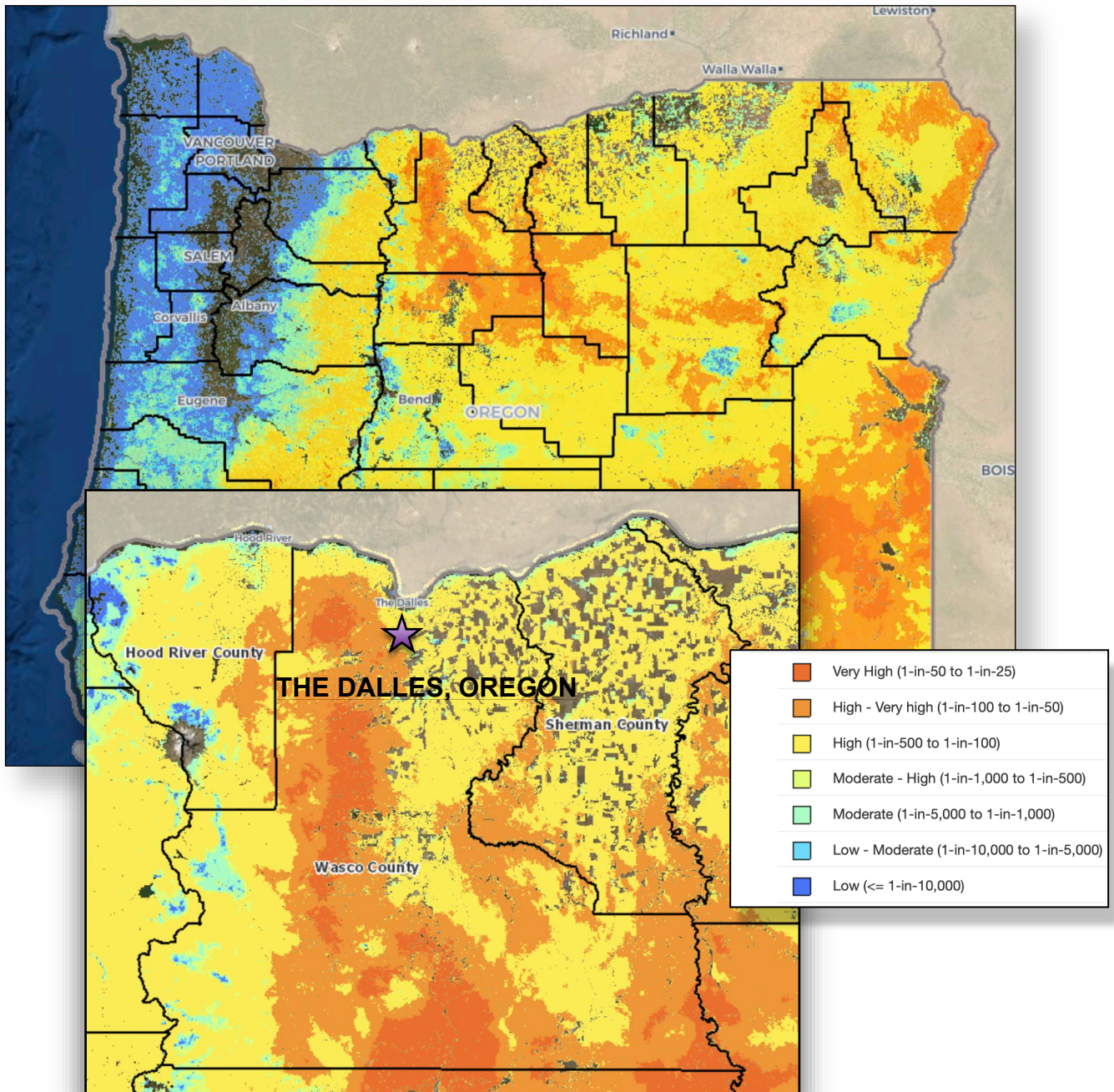
The City of The Dalles, Oregon (population 15,000) receives 90 percent of its annual water supply from The Dalles Municipal Watershed. Approximately 2/3 of the Watershed is owned and managed by the US Forest Service. The Forest Service and the City have been working together in recent years, often through public collaborative processes, to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire within the Watershed through forest fire fuels reduction and forest health improvement projects. Both the Mill Creek Buttes and the Dog River drainage have been identified in two separate Forest Service analyses as high to extreme risk of experiencing a catastrophic stand-replacing fire.

Creating practical forest management options will greatly improve public safety and protect our water supply.

THE DALLES OUTREACH TEAM

Community Enhancement Program

OREGON BURN PROBABILITY MAP



PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES AND SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS

Support efforts to ensure permanent and full mandatory funding for Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (SRS) and Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) programs, and reform forest management practices.

Community Benefit

Continuing Payment in Lieu of Taxes and Secure Rural Schools program funding helps replace tax dollars Wasco County and other local taxing districts forfeit on federally owned lands, which are needed to provide county and school services.

Location

Wasco County, Oregon

Lead Sponsor

Organization: Wasco County
Contact: Scott Hege, Commissioner
Address: 511 Washington Street, The Dalles, OR 97058
Phone, Email: (541) 506-2522, scotth@co.wasco.or.us

Background

Federal Secure Rural Schools (SRS) and Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) programs have historically provided close to \$3 million annually to Wasco County and our local schools (e.g., \$2.73 million SRS in 2005). Current payments are much lower. They have been reduced more than 90% from prior years prior because of federal policy and federal funding decisions.

220,000 acres, or 14.4%, of Wasco County's land mass is publicly held by the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and other federal agencies. No tax dollars are generated to support services from any of this federally owned land.

We need a solid and long-term funding approach to both SRS and PILT to eliminate the yoyo effect they have on local budgets. Action is needed to stabilize support for both programs. Like many federal programs, they have been on the chopping block numerous times and significant legislative effort is required each time Congress moves to defund the programs.

We urge you to support mandatory full funding for the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program as well as to enact a long-term legislative solution for continued revenue sharing payments to forest counties through the U.S. Forest Service's Secure Rural Schools (SRS) program.

Further, Congress should reform forest management practices to improve forest health, increase production, reduce the potential for catastrophic wildfires and ensure robust revenue sharing to all forest counties. This is a long-term solution that we all want for our forests to provide both long-term sustainable resources as well as forest health.

In the 115th Congress, Senators Ron Wyden and Mike Crapo sponsored SB3753, the Forest Management for Rural Stability Act, to develop permanent funding for the program. We advocate similar efforts in the future and stand ready to collaborate with you on stable funding mechanisms in the future.

Supporting Sponsors

National Association of Counties (NACo), Association of Oregon Counties (AOC)



WASCO COUNTY, OR 2022 PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES (PILT)

PILT RECEIVED FY 2022	PERCENT OF PILT ENTITLEMENT LAND	PILT ENTITLEMENT ACRES	PILT AMOUNT PER ENTITLEMENT ACRE
\$110,512	14.4%	220,074	\$0.50

FEDERAL LAND, LOCAL COMMUNITIES



62% of counties have federal land within their boundaries. Even though they are not able to collect property taxes on federal land, county governments must still provide essential services for their residents and those who visit these public lands each year. Such services include road and bridge maintenance, law enforcement, search and rescue, emergency medical, fire protection, solid waste disposal and environmental compliance.

Our ask: Counties urge Congress to provide full funding for PILT in FY 2023 and to support a sustainable long-term approach to financing essential local services in America's public lands counties.

BREAKDOWN OF COUNTY PILT ENTITLEMENT ACRES BY AGENCY

Bureau of Land Management	Forest Service	Bureau of Reclamation	National Park System	U.S. Army	U.S. Army Corp of Engineers	Fish and Wildlife Service	Other Agencies*
45,477	174 K	24	0	0	160	0	0
(20.7%)	(79.3%)	(0.0%)	(0.0%)	(0.0%)	(0.1%)	(0.0%)	(0.0%)

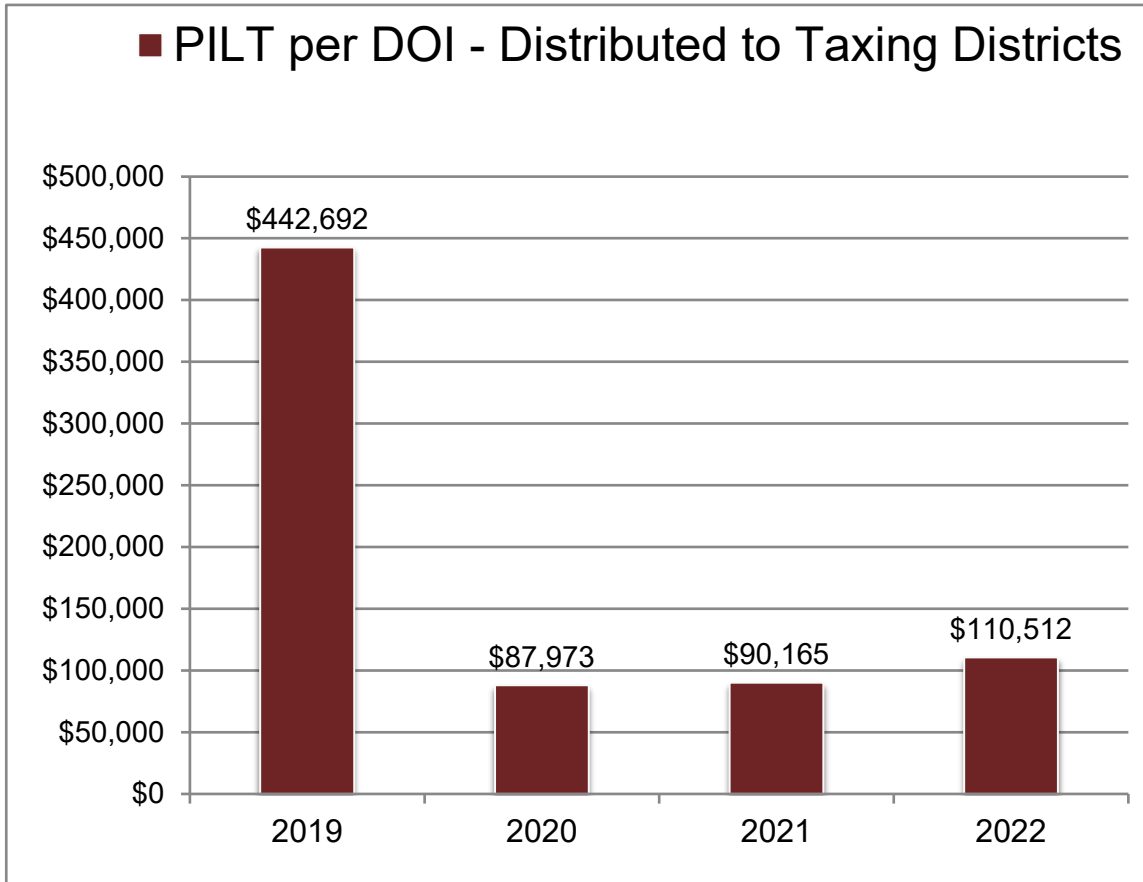
NACo Analysis of: U.S. Department of the Interior Data. PILT Received, FY 2022 represents the total PILT appropriations for fiscal year 2022. Total Number of PILT entitlement acres reflects the number of acres eligible for PILT payments. * Other Agencies includes acres managed by the Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission (URC).

PILT FUNDING CRITICAL FOR SERVICES INCLUDING:

- 
ROAD AND BRIDGE MAINTENANCE
- 
LAW ENFORCEMENT
- 
SEARCH AND RESCUE
- 
EMERGENCY MEDICAL
- 
FIRE PROTECTION
- 
SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL
- 
ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

WASCO COUNTY PILT HISTORICAL RECEIPTS

- PILT funding is collected by Wasco County and then redistributed to affected taxing districts.
- PILT is intended to offset losses in property taxes due to the existence of nontaxable Federal lands within County boundaries.





	SRS PAYMENTS FY 2021 RECEIPTS YEAR:	PROJECTED 25% PAYMENT FY2017 RECEIPTS YEAR:	PROJECTED FY2017 25% FUND PAYMENT VS. FY2021 SRS:	PERCENT OF NATIONAL FOREST SERVICE LAND:
COUNTY	896.0 K	174.9 K	-80.5%	11.5%
STATE	82.9 M	26.9 M	-67.6%	24.2%

SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS

The Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination (SRS) Act was enacted in 2000 to compensate for steep reductions in revenues from timber harvests, which resulted from national policies that substantially diminished revenue-generating activities within federal forests. For FY 2021, the SRS program provided \$274 million for roads and schools and other critical services in 656 mostly rural counties, parishes and boroughs across the United States. Congress reauthorized SRS payments for FY 2021-2023.

OUR ASK

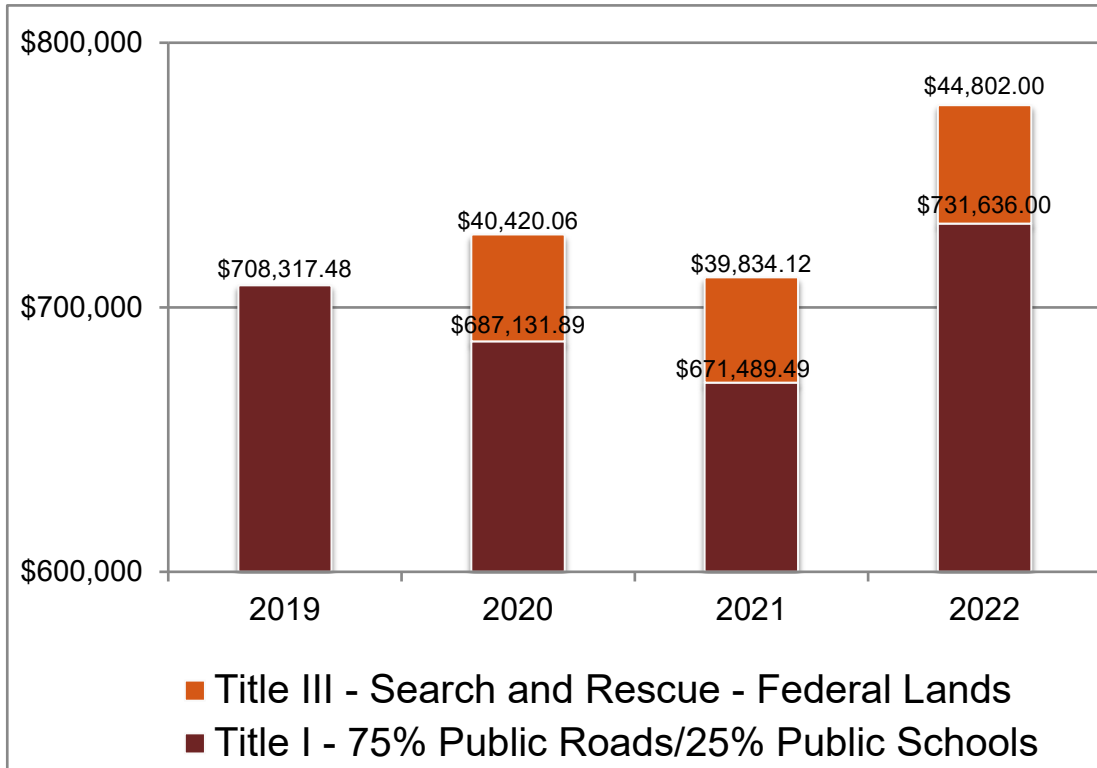
Without SRS, forest counties nationwide face dramatic budgetary shortfalls. Counties urge Congress to renew its long-standing commitment to forest counties by increasing revenue sharing through active forest management and extending SRS as critical transitional funding

SRS PAYMENTS CRITICAL FOR SERVICES INCLUDING:

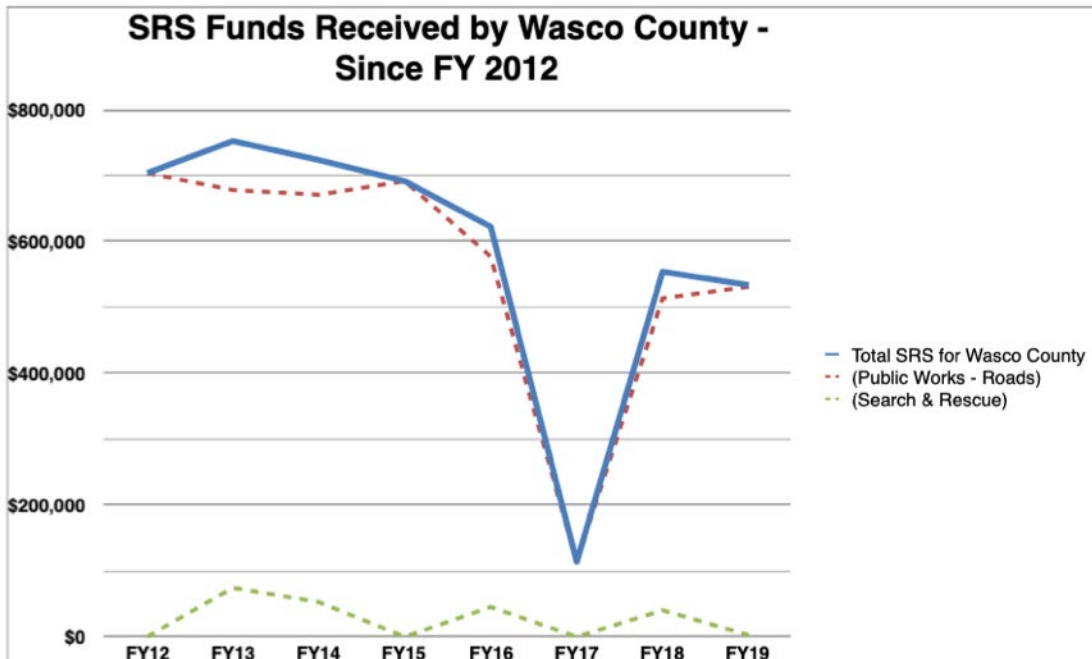
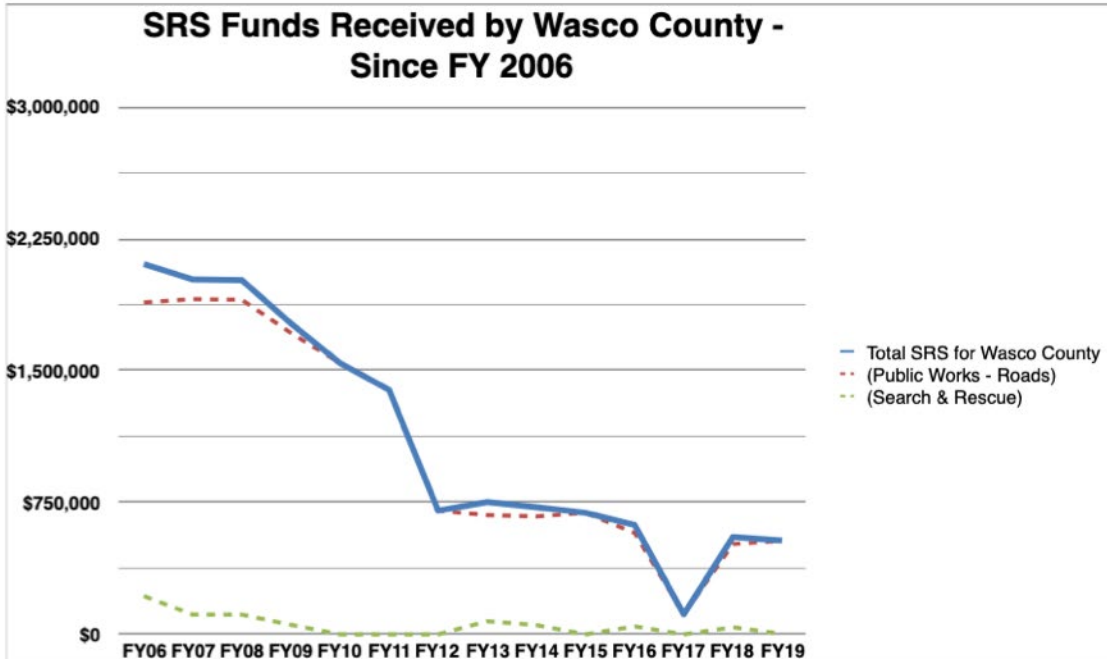
TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE	SCHOOLS	FOREST MANAGEMENT	ECOSYSTEM PROTECTION	PROTECTION FROM WILDFIRE	SEARCH AND RESCUE	EMERGENCY SERVICES

Notes: The receipts year reflects when U.S. Forest Service (USFS) collects revenues from national forest lands. Without the SRS Act reauthorization, states revert to the Payments to States Act of 1908 as amended, receiving a 25 percent payment from national forest receipts. USFS estimates FY 2017 county 25 percent payments based on county shares of the national forest receipts. These estimates reflect the application of a 6.8 percent sequester to the state payments.
Sources: NACo analysis of data from the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management and Headwaters Economics analysis of the U.S. Geological Survey, Protected Areas Database.

WASCO COUNTY SRS HISTORICAL RECEIPTS



SRS/FOREST RESERVE FUNDS



U.S. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION SUPPORT

We request support for ongoing investment into the U.S. Economic Development Administration, an agency that has been instrumental in helping us invest in our communities and plan for our future.

Community Benefit

Maintain the primary federal vehicle that supports investment into regional economic development strategy and implementation, and critical community infrastructure.

Lead Sponsor

Organization: Mid-Columbia Economic Development District
Contact: Jessica Metta, Executive Director
Address: 802 Chenoweth Loop, The Dalles, OR 97058
Phone, Email: (541) 296-2266, jessica@mcedd.org

Background

Mid-Columbia Economic Development District (MCEDD) leads regional economic and community development initiatives throughout its five-county bi-state rural region in Oregon and Washington, covering 7,289 square miles and about 85,000 people (as of 2017). By identifying and addressing local needs through planning, capacity-building and direct investment, the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) coordinates with MCEDD and similar entities to create jobs and promote entrepreneurship.

EDA invests in planning for tomorrow's opportunities. MCEDD administers the EDA-funded Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. This strategy organizes local public and private leaders to identify and assess existing assets and liabilities as well as future opportunities and challenges facing communities in the regional economy. As a result, consistent exchange and dialogue engages public and private sector leaders throughout the region on charting a path forward for economic development.

EDA invests in advancing entrepreneurship. EDA provides funding to develop and implement our regional economic development strategy and establish business funding programs. These resources have been critical to many of the services for advancing our economy, including:

- Creation of the Gorge Broadband Consortium and resulting investments into broadband to connect rural communities.
- Industry sector development, resulting in creation of, and ongoing support to, the Gorge Technology Alliance, Columbia Gorge Winegrowers Association, Columbia Gorge Bi-State Renewable Energy Zone and more.
- Support for direct business assistance and business loan programs.

EDA invests in people and places. EDA's support of locally driven projects leads to job creation and retention while generating significant private investment. A recent local (and bistate) example is the Columbia Gorge Regional Airport Flex Building, which received an EDA public works grant. This project allows the region to retain a critical employer, Life Flight, and private space for additional business growth. Without this investment, Life Flight would have moved out of the region, causing a loss in jobs important to our rural area and an anticipated loss of more than \$10 million in private investment. It is important from a health and safety standpoint, providing direct benefits to major medical providers, such as Mid-Columbia Medical Center, which indicated that service has resulted in a reduction in response time for trauma patients from 45-60 minutes to 7-8 minutes.