

# **Pend Oreille County, Washington**

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## *Comprehensive Plan*

**On Monday October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2005 the Pend Oreille County Board of County Commissioners approved Resolution No. 2005-33 adopting the Pend Oreille County Comprehensive Plan and Future Land Use Map. This document does not contain a copy of the final maps or the documents adopted by reference. For a copy of these items or to receive a copy of the official document please contact Mike Lithgow at the Pend Oreille County Community Development Department 509-447-6457.**



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# Preface

## Statement of Values: Why We Live Here

The customs and culture of Pend Oreille County are woven with the threads of an independent people, who have extracted their livelihoods from the natural resources of the area for the past one hundred years or more. The peace and tranquility of a sparsely populated area, affordable land, reasonable taxes, and the economic and lifestyle prospects of timber, farming, ranching, and mining have attracted hard-working people who value the self-sufficiency gained by living and working on the land.

Pend Oreille County residents value the rare opportunity of raising our families in an affordable rural environment, with friendly neighbors; where people still wave as they drive by and shopkeepers know us by name; where the lifestyle is still relaxed; where lifestyle and livelihood are connected to the land; where problems can be solved on a local level; and where the ethic of hard work brings the highest respect. We appreciate the distinct changes in the four seasons and are undaunted by the hardships the seasons may bring. We realize the benefits of the open spaces maintained by agriculture and the timber industry, and value the quality of life that results from being in close proximity to the County's mountains, valleys, lakes, rivers, and wildlife. We appreciate the clean water in the area's streams, rivers, and lakes, the clear air quality, and the abundant wildlife habitat.

As our population increases, we want to ensure that new development is compatible with the surrounding uses, sensitive to the surrounding natural areas, and retains the rural character of the community. The people of the County want to see their land use governed by local regulations that will protect their property rights, and ensure that they may continue to use their land for timber production, ranching, farming, and mining. We recognize that these rights exist provided that they do not jeopardize the health and safety of the residents of Pend Oreille County and with these rights come the responsibilities of citizenship, stewardship, and being a good neighbor. The people in our community strive to be good stewards of our own lands, to be active members of our community, and share responsibility for the community's well being.

The people of Pend Oreille County have a clear vision of the kind of community we wish to live in, now and in the future. The purpose of this plan is to translate that vision and our values into goals and policies to guide future growth and development, to protect private property rights, preserve the quality of the natural environment and rural lifestyle that we enjoy, strengthen our local economy, and to provide direction for the allocation of our limited financial resources.

# 1.0 Introduction

The purpose of this comprehensive plan is to present the goal and policy statements that will guide future growth and development in Pend Oreille County. Although written according to the requirements of the Washington State Growth Management Act, the goals and policies of this comprehensive plan reflect the customs and culture of Pend Oreille County. With an increasing percentage of the County's residents living in the unincorporated areas of the County, land use planning is increasingly necessary to protect water and air quality, wildlife habitat, and the timber and agricultural resource-based occupations dependent on the open spaces in the County. In order to take responsibility for the future of our County, the comprehensive plan protects our property rights while directing the writing of ordinances that will help to ensure the use of land for timber production, ranching, farming, and mining. In other words, this comprehensive plan applies to everyone who works and resides in the County.

Some change is inevitable in the life of any society, no matter how isolated that society. Many new residents and businesses come here with an expectation of maintaining the rural quality of the life that attracted them to this place. Regulations help neighbors treat each other equally, whether they have lived here for a year or have had family here for 100 years. Regulations administered in a fair and predictable way help ensure that all residents in the community of this county will share in the future of this rural county.

## 1.1 Comprehensive Plan Development

This plan has been adopted as authorized and required by the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA). The decision to participate in the GMA was formalized by County Resolution #90-113 on December 28, 1990. The GMA is a complex piece of legislation that was adopted by the State Legislature in an effort to protect natural resource lands and environmentally sensitive areas from the adverse affects of suburban sprawl by directing new growth and development to urban areas where necessary public services exist or can reasonably be provided. The fourteen goals of the Growth Management Act (RCW 36.70A.020) are to be given equal consideration and include:

- **Urban Growth.** *Encourage development in urban areas where adequate public facilities and services exist or can be provided in an efficient manner;*
- **Reduce Sprawl.** *Reduce the inappropriate conversion of undeveloped land into sprawling, low-density development;*
- **Transportation.** *Encourage efficient multimodal transportation systems that are based on regional priorities and coordinated with county and city comprehensive plans;*

- **Housing.** Encourage the availability of affordable housing to all economic segments of the population of this state, promote a variety of residential densities and housing types, and encourage preservation of existing housing stock;
- **Economic Development.** Encourage economic development throughout the state that is consistent with adopted comprehensive plans, promote economic opportunity for all citizens of this state, especially for unemployed and for disadvantaged persons, promote the retention and expansion of existing businesses and recruitment of new businesses, recognize regional differences impacting economic development opportunities, and encourage growth in areas experiencing insufficient economic growth, all within the capacities of the state's natural resources, public services, and public facilities;
- **Property Rights.** Private property shall not be taken for public use without just compensation having been made. The property rights of landowners shall be protected from arbitrary and discriminatory actions;
- **Permits.** Applications for both state and local government permits should be processed in a timely and fair manner to ensure predictability;
- **Natural Resource Industries.** Maintain and enhance natural resource-based industries, including productive timber, agricultural, and fisheries industries. Encourage the conservation of productive forest lands and productive agricultural lands, and discourage incompatible uses;
- **Open Space and Recreation.** Retain open space, enhance recreational opportunities, conserve fish and wildlife habitat, increase access to natural resource lands and water, and develop parks and recreation facilities;
- **Environment.** Protect the environment and enhance the state's high quality of life, including air and water quality, and the availability of water;
- **Citizen Participation and Coordination.** Encourage the involvement of citizens in the planning process and ensure coordination between communities and jurisdictions to reconcile conflicts;
- **Public Facilities and Services.** Ensure that those public facilities and services necessary to support development shall be adequate to serve the development at the time the development is available for occupancy and use without decreasing current service levels below locally established minimum standards;
- **Historic Preservation.** Identify and encourage the preservation of lands, sites, and structures that have historical or archaeological significance; and

- ***Shoreline Master Plans.*** *The shorelines of the State are among the most valuable and fragile of its natural resources and that there is great concern throughout the State relating to their utilization, protection, restoration and preservation. It is policy to provide for the management of the shorelines by planning for and fostering all reasonable and appropriate uses.*

## 1.2 Pend Oreille County Planning Principles

In addition to the Goals of the Washington State Growth Management Act, this Comprehensive Plan was developed and shall be implemented in accordance with the following locally-determined planning principals:

- a. Maintain natural resource assets and preserve the rural character of the area;
- b. Regulations should be kept a minimum, utilizing education and incentives to the greatest extent possible to promote compatible and responsible land uses;
- c. New developments should be of a suitable scale and compatible with the rural character of our community, while providing adequate facilities;
- d. Planning in Pend Oreille County should be a partnership. The partnership should consist of landowners, local, tribal, state, and federal agencies working together to achieve common goals; and
- e. The Pend Oreille County Board of Commissioners should support and encourage partnerships that contribute to the coordination and conservation of natural resources.

## 1.3 The Pend Oreille County Plan Development Process

The Pend Oreille County Board of Commissioners adopted a resolution on December 28, 1990 indicating its decision to comply with the requirements of the Washington State Growth Management Act. The planning effort that led to the preparation and adoption of this Comprehensive Plan included was guided by the Pend Oreille County Planning Commission and included:

- Pend Oreille County Board of Commissioners adopted Resolution 90-113 on December 28, 1990;
- A Technical Advisory Committee of 64 people began work on the Interim Resource Lands and Critical Areas Ordinance in December 1991. Ordinance #92-4 was adopted on December 28, 1992, and subsequently revised on April 29, 1996;
- Countywide Planning Policies were developed by a nine-member Growth Management Council that included representatives from each city and town, the Kalispel Tribe of Indians,

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and Pend Oreille County. The Board of County Commissioners adopted these policies, contained in Ordinance #93-2, after a public hearing on October 25, 1993;

- The Pend Oreille County Planning Commission conducted an informal countywide survey in March and April of 1994. The purpose of the survey was to obtain a sense of the community's vision of a desirable future land use pattern;
- The designation of interim Urban Growth Area Boundaries (UGA's) was completed by adoption of County Ordinance # 94-2 in June 1994. The interim urban growth boundaries were agreed to by each of the five cities;
- The eighteen-member Housing Committee assisted Northwest Regional Facilitators in writing the Pend Oreille County Housing Needs Assessment, which was begun in January 1994 and completed one year later. The Housing Committee also worked on the housing policies adopted in this plan;
- Highlands Associates began developing the Capital Facilities and Utilities Element of this plan in July 1994. The Consultants worked closely with each of the five cities, fire protection districts, and county officials. Highlands Associates also prepared the Transportation Element;
- Ordinance 94-3 was adopted on October 17, 1994 establishing a moratorium on dividing land into less than 5 acre parcels in rural areas and less than one acre along lakes and the Pend Oreille River;
- Work on the Land Use and Rural Lands Elements of this plan began in October 1994, when the Planning Commission appointed advisory committees to help it address issues raised by development along the Pend Oreille River and the County's lakeshores. These 15 member committees held bi-weekly, advertised public meetings for three months, then submitted draft policy recommendations to the Planning Commission in February 1995;
- Work on the Transportation Element was initiated in March 1995;
- The Planning Commission appointed two more advisory committees in February 1995, one from the southern part of the County (south of Dalkena Road) and the other from the northern part of the County. These committees were asked to address "rural" land use issues. The committee for the southern part of the County had 30 members and the committee for the northern part of the County had 28 members. The committees met bi-weekly for three months, and then submitted draft policy recommendations to the planning commission in June 1995;
- The first draft of this plan was presented to the public on July 25, 1995;
- Revisions to the Economic Development were initiated in September 1998;

- Jones & Stokes was retained by the County to work with the Planning Commission to revise and update the draft plan, conduct an appropriate level of environmental review, and to present the revised draft plan to the public for final review and comment before adoption by the Board of County Commissioners;
- The Planning Commission met at least once a month from June 1998 to review and revise the draft plan;
- Intergovernmental Coordinating Meetings were held in July 2004 and January 2005 to identify and further discuss regional planning issues of mutual concern and to review the revised draft Comprehensive Plan and the schedule for adoption;
- The draft plan was presented for public review and comment at a series of three public meetings on February 22, 23, and 24<sup>th</sup> 2005. In addition, written comments were accepted by the County. The Planning Commission reviewed the comments received and made revisions to the draft plan;
- A non- project or programmatic environmental review of the draft Comprehensive Plan was prepared and was published concurrently with the draft plan for public review and comment;
- A second round of public meetings was conducted on July 19, 20, and 21, 2005. The Planning Commission reviewed the comments received and made revisions to the draft plan;
- State Agencies were provided an opportunity to review and comment on the draft plan in July and August, 2005. The Department of Community Trade and Economic Development provided written comments that were reviewed by the planning Commission and several revisions were made to the draft plan to address the concerns of the State;
- A Declaration of Non-Significance for the draft Comprehensive Plan was issued on August 8, 2005;
- The Pend Oreille County Planning Commission approved the draft Comprehensive Plan at their August 19, 2005 meeting and forwarded it to the Board of County Commissioners with a recommendation of approval;
- The Board of County Commissioners conducted public hearings in Newport and Ione on Monday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2005 to receive public comments on the final draft of the Comprehensive Plan; and
- The final review and approval by the Board of County Commissioners occurred on October 17, 2005.



## 1.4 Goal and Policy Development

The goals and policy statements in this plan are based on the efforts of dozens of Pend Oreille County citizens. The “general guiding principles” that have been presented are an attempt to capture the spirit of their work in just a few words. Those principles emphasize the difficult balance the people of the county are trying to strike between proactively managing growth to sustain a healthy rural environment and protecting individual property rights. The guiding principles also reflect the local desire for an effective voice in the management of land and water resources by state and federal agencies.

Goals and Policies are presented in each “element” or chapter of this plan. Each element contains:

- A brief overview, which establishes the context and factual background for that particular element or chapter;
- Growth Management Act Requirements;
- One or more goals;
- One or more specific policies designed to implement the goals; and
- Background information that describes the existing conditions on which the Goals and Policies are based.

## 1.5 The Plan Is a Beginning, Not an End

This plan is an agenda for taking responsibility for our future. Accomplishing the tasks we have identified will require a continuing commitment to the local planning process. Public participation will be essential to the success of this plan, and must involve a representative cross-section of county residents, with active participation by county officials. This includes not only the adoption of regulations and standards necessary to implement the plan, but also in monitoring our progress to make sure we are achieving the desired results. We realize that the experience gained in the early stages of the administration of this plan will likely lead to the need for amendments. These amendments may be minor and serve to clarify our intentions or may be more significant and reflect changes in conditions or circumstances. Either way, any revisions should be consistent with our Statement of Values and should honor the commitment of the local residents who helped create this plan.

Implementing the goals and policies adopted in this plan can give the people of Pend Oreille County tools to help channel growth into a pattern that is consistent with their values, and help them assert local interests in public lands management. Implementation will only occur, however, if the process of community learning and discussion by which the plan was developed continues. As a result, the County has established the following Goals and Policies to recognize

the importance of and to guide the ongoing involvement of the community in the implementation of this plan:

## 1.6 Public Involvement Goals

**Public Involvement Goal #1:** Actively encourage all residents to participate in a continuing citizen-driven planning process.

**Public Involvement Goal #2:** Actively work to inform people of the responsibilities of land ownership.

## 1.7 Public Involvement Policies

In support of the Public Involvement Goals, Pend Oreille County will implement the following Public Involvement Policies:

**Public Involvement Policy #1:** The Pend Oreille County Planning Commission will dedicate at least one meeting each year to a review of Comprehensive Plan the Future Land Use Map, and the accompanying development code. Ample notice of that meeting will be provided, and citizen participation actively encouraged.

**Public Involvement Policy #2:** The Pend Oreille County Development Code will include a procedure for accepting and processing proposed Comprehensive Plan text and map amendments and development code revisions on an annual basis.

**Public Involvement Policy #3:** Pend Oreille County will seek and make available studies to be used for comprehensive planning purposes.

**Public Involvement Policy #4:** Pend Oreille County will cooperate with other agencies, such as the Pend Oreille Conservation District, the Pend Oreille County Weed Board, local Fire Districts, and the Washington State University Extension Service, to prepare educational materials for distribution to present and prospective landowners. The topics covered should include the following:

- a. The importance of farm and forest resource lands in the local and national economies;
- b. An explanation of the State's noxious weed, open range, fencing, right-to-farm, and trespass laws;
- c. How the policies and future development code can protect ongoing agricultural and forestry operations;
- d. The limits on emergency services response time--45 minutes in some rural areas--and that some parts of the County are not in a fire protection district;

- e. Other level-of-service limitations, including snow removal policies for county roads, that should be expected in rural Pend Oreille County;
- f. Snow loads, wildfire hazards, and other potentially unfamiliar constraints on building;
- g. Forestry practices for small woodlots and grazing practices for pastures;
- h. Water supply and water quality issues, including on-site sewage disposal; and
- i. River and stream bank stabilization methods.

**Public Involvement Policy #5:** Pend Oreille County will make copies of this Comprehensive Plan and the Appendices available at the four libraries and other sites throughout the County and through the County web site.

**Public Involvement Policy #6:** A summary of the Pend Oreille County Comprehensive Plan, the Appendices, and key provisions of the subsequent revised Development Code should be presented to every person who records a deed with the County Auditor and/or who applies for a building permit.

**Public Involvement Policy #7:** The County shall establish an administrative procedure to identify and correct errors in the Future Land Use Map. This procedure shall be limited to those parcels that were erroneously mapped in accordance with the provisions of the Rural Lands Density Criteria Matrix, Table 2.1. Potential revisions due to changes in circumstances or to otherwise change a land use designation shall only be considered during the annual update process.

## 2.0 Land Use Element

### 2.1 Overview

Land and the various uses of the land is an elemental feature of our society. We grow food on land, borrow water from it, harvest trees and extract minerals from it, build roads and homes upon it, and enjoy its beauty. Some lands should remain open for natural, aesthetic, and recreational uses, while some lands should be developed and used in a more intensive manner. How land is used and regarded is an important part of Pend Oreille County's character.

Once land is developed, the entire taxpaying public generally assumes an ongoing financial responsibility to provide services for that development. For example, land development means additional demand on services such as roads, police and fire protection, water and sewer, and other services. Since financial resources (public and private) and the supply of land are both limited, careful consideration of the effects of our land use decisions will help to ensure the long term viability of the land, preserve the unique qualities of the County, focus on wise public and private investments, and provide greater predictability to property owners.

The purpose of this Land Use element is to help Pend Oreille County respond to land use changes while maintaining and preserving its rural character and way of life. Each of the other elements of the Comprehensive Plan is interrelated with the Land Use Element. All the Comprehensive Plan elements work together in a consistent and coordinated manner to help provide for orderly growth. The goals and policies in this Land Use element promote careful and well-informed use of lands within the County and provide guidance regarding land use designations, urban growth areas, open space preservation, natural resource protection, wildlife migration corridor preservation, fish and wildlife habitat protection, wetland protection, and overall protection of the natural features in the County. These land use goals and policies will help to protect and conserve unique, fragile, irreplaceable, and valuable elements of the natural environment in the County for the enjoyment of present and future generations.

This element is organized by first identifying the land use goals and policies according to: general land use, urban lands, rural lands, natural resource lands, and critical areas. Following the goals and policies is an overview of the existing land use conditions, including land use patterns, land use inventory and distribution, and future land use. The existing conditions analysis is also broken down according to general land use, urban lands, rural lands, natural resource lands, and critical areas.

## 2.2 Growth Management Act Requirements

The Growth Management Act (GMA) at RCW 36.70A.070 includes specific requirements for the Land Use Element of a Comprehensive Plan. A land use element should include the following:

- *Distribution of general location and extent of the uses of land, where appropriate, for agriculture, timber production, housing, commerce, industry, recreation, open spaces, general aviation airports, public utilities, public facilities, education facilities, and other land uses;*
- *Population densities, building intensities, and estimates of future population growth;*
- *Provide for the protection of the quality and quantity of groundwater used for public water supplies; and*
- *Where applicable, the land use element shall review drainage, flooding, and storm water run-off in the area and nearby jurisdictions and provide guidance for corrective actions to mitigate or cleanse those discharges that pollute waters of the state.*

Specific requirements for rural lands and natural resource lands are identified below.

### Rural Lands

The Growth Management Act (GMA) in RCW 36.70A.070 (5) states: “Counties shall include a rural element including lands that are not designated for urban growth, agriculture, forest, or mineral resources.” Rural elements typically include the following basic components:

- Definition and protection of rural character;
- Defining and planning for rural services; and
- Developing land use designations.

The GMA focuses attention on how these rural, non-urban, non-resource lands, may be developed and on their relationship to resource lands. According to the Growth Management Act, rural character is defined as:

*“The patterns of land use and development established by a county in the rural element of its comprehensive plan:*

- *In which open space, the natural landscape, and vegetation predominate over the built environment;*

- *That foster traditional rural lifestyles, rural-based economies, and opportunities to both live and work in rural areas;*
- *That provide visual landscapes that are traditionally found in rural areas and communities;*
- *That are compatible with the use of the land by wildlife and for fish and wildlife habitat;*
- *That reduce the inappropriate conversion of undeveloped land into sprawling, low-density development;*
- *That generally do not require the extension of urban governmental services; and*
- *That are consistent with the protection of natural surface water flows and groundwater and surface water recharge and discharge areas.”*

#### Natural Resource Lands

One of the key planning goals of the Growth Management Act is to “*maintain and enhance natural resource-based industries, including productive timber, agricultural, and fisheries industries. Encourage the conservation of productive forestlands and productive agricultural lands, and discourage incompatible uses.*” The Growth Management Act further states that:

*“. . .use of lands adjacent to agricultural, forest, or mineral resource land shall not interfere with the continued use, in the accustomed manner and in accordance with best management practices, of these designated lands for the production of food, agricultural products, or timber, or for the extraction of minerals.” (RCW 36.70A.060 (1))*

Each County planning under the Growth Management Act shall designate where appropriate:

- *Agricultural lands that are not already characterized by urban growth and that have long-term significance for the commercial production of food or other agricultural products;*
- *Forest lands that are not already characterized by urban growth and that have long-term significance for the commercial production of timber;*
- *Mineral resource lands that are not already characterized by urban growth and that have long-term significance for the extraction of minerals; and*
- *Critical Areas. (RCW 36.70A.170).*

## 2.3 Land Use Goals

**Land Use Goal # 1:** Support new growth and development that is consistent with the approved Statement of Values and General Planning Principals.

**Land Use Goal # 2:** Maintain the rural character of Pend Oreille County, including: forest lands, agricultural lands, mining and natural resource based industries, home-based businesses, and recreational properties.

**Land Use Goal # 3:** Protect the traditional rural ways of making a living farming and ranching, timber harvesting, and mining-from conflict with rural residential development.

**Land Use Goal # 4:** Encourage urban type development to be concentrated in urban growth areas where existing facilities either have adequate capacity or where appropriate levels of service can be reasonably be provided.

**Land Use Goal #5:** Retain sufficient flexibility in plans and regulations in order to support a wide range of economic development opportunities throughout the County.

**Land Use Goal #6:** Support new development that is consistent with a realistic assessment of the availability of water and that does not adversely affect the rights of existing water users.

**Land Use Goal #7:** Establish and maintain regulations that are consistent with the Statement of Values and General Planning Principals, that respect private property rights and that do not unduly affect the private use and enjoyment of ones property.

**Land Use Goal #8:** Protect environmentally sensitive areas to reduce cumulative adverse environmental impacts to water availability, water quality, wetlands, aquatic and wildlife habitat conservation areas, frequently flooded areas, and geologically hazardous areas.

**Land Use Goal #9:** Protect groundwater recharge areas and prevent the contamination of vulnerable groundwater resources to ensure water quality and quantity for public and private uses and critical area function.

**Land Use Goal #10:** Effectively involve the people of Pend Oreille County in the management of local lakes, rivers, and streams.

## 2.4 Land Use Policies

In support of the Land Use Goals, Pend Oreille County will implement the following Land Use Policies:

### 2.4.1 General Land Use Policies

**General Land Use Policy # 1:** Pend Oreille County shall require that necessary public facilities (i.e. streets, water, sewer, and power) be in place, or be put in place, to serve new development. Project Sponsors shall provide all required on-site facilities, and provide, or make a fair contribution to the provision of, off-site facilities significantly impacted by their activities.

**General Land Use Policy # 2:** Pend Oreille County should encourage property tax structures that will help prevent increasing land values from driving long-time residents off the land, and accelerating the development of resource lands and open space.

**General Land Use Policy #3:** Pend Oreille County, in consultation with the incorporated cities and towns, shall designate and periodically review Urban Growth Areas that identify the logical outer boundary of urban services and establish a protocol for reviewing and approving development proposals in each UGA.

**General Land Use Policy #4:** The Pend Oreille County Development Code shall include provisions to guide the designation of land uses inside the Urban Growth Areas (UGAs) of the County and shall establish a procedure for the review and approval of annexations in the approved Urban Growth Areas.

**General Land Use Policy #5:** Pend Oreille County shall engage in a collaborative process with the cities and towns to establish criteria for the siting of major industrial developments (MIDs).

**General Land Use Policy #6:** The Pend Oreille Development Code shall include regulations that set standards for the type, number, location, and size of signage.

**General Land Use Policy #7:** Pend Oreille County shall establish appropriate standards to prevent runoff and erosion from new developments. The County will also encourage community efforts to control runoff from existing developments.

**General Land Use Policy #8:** Pend Oreille County should support the preservation of the Newport to Metaline Falls railroad corridor.

**General Land Use Policy #9:** Pend Oreille County shall identify and preserve existing railroad crossings and promote the shared use of crossings in an effort to minimize the need to approve new crossings.

Intent: The railroad is an important community economic development asset that must be preserved. However, the County does not want to limit other development opportunities because of limited access across the tracks. By preserving and making more effective use of existing crossings and promoting the shared use of crossings, both objectives can be met.



**General Land Use Policy #10:** Pend Oreille County shall, when updating its development regulations, give special consideration to:

- a. RV Park standards;
- b. Floodplain standards;
- c. Planned Unit Development standards;
- d. Shoreline Master Plan; and
- e. Critical Area Ordinance.

**General Land Use Policy #11:** Pend Oreille County shall actively involve the local Fire District's and other public service providers in both long-range and current planning activities.

#### **2.4.2 Rural Land Use Policies**

**Rural Land Use Policy #1:** Pend Oreille County shall establish a Future Land Use Map and Zoning Map consistent with the land use designations in the attached Rural Lands Density Criteria Matrix.

**Rural Land Use Policy #2:** The Pend Oreille County Development Code shall permit residential development, forestry, agricultural, mining, and other industrial activities in all rural areas of the County in accordance with the provisions of this Comprehensive Plan. Provided that:

- a. New industrial or mining uses shall be permitted as Conditional Uses.

**Rural Land Use Policy #3:** Pend Oreille County shall encourage land use compatibility by considering performance standards that address noise, traffic generation, illumination, solid waste, operating hours, signs, and similar aspects of new development.

**Rural Land Use Policy #4:** Pend Oreille County should allow cluster development techniques in order to retain the rural character of the rural lands and to allow for a variety of residential densities.

**Rural Land Use Policy #5:** The Pend Oreille County Development Code shall specify performance standards that eliminate or mitigate the potentially adverse effects of industrial or commercial uses on neighboring lands. The code shall also require that new industrial and commercial uses be separated from residential areas by adequate buffers.

**Rural Land Use Policy #6:** Pend Oreille County shall prepare revisions to County regulations to create special overlay districts or other techniques to guide infill and redevelopment of the densely populated lakeshores.

**Rural Land Use Policy #7:** Pend Oreille County shall review and evaluate standards for new large-scale resorts and large-scale developments in accordance with the provisions of this Comprehensive Plan.

**Rural Land Use Policy #8:** Pend Oreille County should permit small-scale commercial uses including, but not limited to; neighborhood stores, cafes, taverns, and resorts in rural areas on non-designated Natural Resource Lands, provided that:

- a. Performance standards that address noise, light and glare, solid waste handling, odors, traffic and similar sources of conflict are established that avoid, minimize, landscape buffers or mitigate potential nuisances that could affect other properties; and
- b. Standards are established that require adequate off-road parking and safe access to public roads, with the number of points of access to arterial roads being minimized.

**Rural Land Use Policy #9:** Pend Oreille County should adopt guidelines to limit or direct commercial uses to designated Rural Activity Centers or Limited Areas of More Intensive Rural Development.

**Rural Land Use Policy #10:** Pend Oreille County may, in consultation with affected property owners, prepare sub-area plans to identify properties suitable for more intensive levels of residential development and/or rural scale commercial uses, including those uses identified in Rural Land Use Policy #8. This may also include, but is not limited to the designation of Limited Areas of More Intensive Rural Development (LAMIRDs) or Rural Activity Centers. Potential sub-areas may include:

- a. Highway 2 Corridor from the intersection with Highway 211 to the Newport UGA;
- b. Highway 2 Corridor from the intersection with Highway 211 to the Spokane County line;
- c. Sacheen Lake (more intensive residential densities only);
- d. Diamond Lake;
- e. Highway 211 Corridor from Deer Valley Road to Fertile Valley Road;
- f. LeClerc Road Corridor from the Pend Oreille River Bridge at Usk south to the Idaho State line;

- g. Highway 20 Corridor from the Cusick UGA south to the intersection with Highway 211;
- h. Highway 20 Corridor from Outpost to Blueslide; and
- i. Highway 20 and Highway 31 intersection (Tiger).

**Rural Land Use Policy #11:** Home based businesses and isolated cottage industries are a traditional form of economic development in rural communities and may be permitted by Pend Oreille County as an accessory use to any residence.

**Rural Land Use Policy #12:** The County shall establish a process to monitor and evaluate, on a yearly basis, the number of requests for more intensive land use designations and shall, as a part of the annual review cycle, prepare additional criteria to further ensure that a mix of densities is maintained and that Rural and designated Natural Resource Lands are protected.

**Table 2.1 Rural Lands Density Criteria Matrix**

Factors	Rural-5	Rural-10	Rural-20	Rural-40
Density	1 dwelling unit/5 acres	1 dwelling unit/10 acres	1 dwelling unit/20 acres	1 dwelling unit/40 acres
Relation to road system	Located along U.S. highways, state routes, designated arterials, and County Major (07) and Minor (08) collectors (see list).	Parcels with frontage on maintained County roads with adequate access.	Adequate access required.	Beyond the existing all-weather county road system or private access network.
Relation to fire districts	There are no fire district or fire station location requirements for these designations.			

Factors	Natural Resource Lands 20	Natural Resource Lands 40	Public Lands	Tribal Lands
Density	1 dwelling unit/20 acres	1 dwelling unit/40 acres	N/A	N/A
Relation to road system	Must have approved road access.	No road access.	N/A	N/A
Tax Status	Designated as Timber, or Agricultural Lands, or currently in use as a mine.	Designated as Timber, or Agricultural Lands, or currently in use as a mine.	Must be publicly owned.	Located within the boundaries of the Kalispel Reservation.

**Major County Collectors:**

LeClerc Road North and South;

Flowery Trail Rd from Hwy 20 to County Line;

Deer Valley Road; and

Kings Lake Road from Hwy 20 to LeClerc Road.

**Minor County Collectors:**

Boundary Dam Road;

Cusick Meadow Road;

Westside Calispel Road;

Bead Lake Road;

McCloud Creek Road;

Coyote Trail Road;

Spring Valley Road;

North Shore Diamond Lake Road;

South Shore Diamond Lake Road;

Fertile Valley Road;

Camden Road;

Scotia Road;

Tweedie Road; and

Allen Road.

### 2.4.3 Natural Resource Policies

**Natural Resource Policy #1:** Pend Oreille County shall encourage land management techniques that will conserve and protect designated natural resource lands and critical areas.

**Natural Resource Policy #2:** Pend Oreille County shall periodically review and update its resource lands regulations, critical areas ordinance, and Shorelines Master Program to maintain consistency with the provisions of this comprehensive plan and Washington State Law as appropriate.

**Natural Resource Policy #3:** The Pend Oreille County Development Code should require Project Sponsors to provide buffers between residential development and agricultural and timber lands, and even larger buffers between residential development and mining, industrial, and commercial uses.

**Natural Resource Policy #4:** Pend Oreille County shall use established guidelines to classify agriculture, forest, mineral lands, and critical areas, and to guide the evaluation of its critical areas designations and related development regulations.

**Natural Resource Policy #5:** Pend Oreille County should support and encourage the maintenance of agricultural lands in open space and current use property tax classifications. Owners who agree to keep resource lands in production or leave open space undeveloped should be granted tax incentives, with penalties for withdrawal.

**Natural Resource Policy #6:** Pend Oreille County shall include a notice within the dedicatory language of each new short subdivision and subdivision which states that the use of any residential lot therein will not interfere with any nearby, lawful natural resource operation.

**Natural Resource Policy #7:** Pend Oreille County shall require that all plats, short plats, development permits, and building permits issued for development activities on, or within five hundred feet of, lands designated as agricultural lands, open range lands, forest lands, or mineral resource lands, contain a notice that the subject property is within or near designated agricultural lands, open range lands, forest lands, or mineral resource lands on which a variety of commercial activities may occur that are not compatible with residential development.

**Natural Resource Policy #8:** The Pend Oreille County Development Code should require that developers prepare and implement a site-specific weed control plan, assisted by the Pend Oreille County Weed Board.

#### 2.4.4 Critical Area Policies

**Critical Area Policy #1:** Pend Oreille County shall maintain regulations to protect environmentally sensitive areas utilizing Best Available Science.

**Critical Area Policy #2:** Pend Oreille County shall evaluate its critical areas designations and related development regulations after adopting this Comprehensive Plan, and may alter such designations and regulations to insure consistency.

**Critical Area Policy #3:** For each critical area, Pend Oreille County shall define the classification system and prepare development regulations that govern changes in land uses and new activities.

**Critical Area Policy #4:** In circumstances where critical areas are not mapped, Pend Oreille County will establish performance standards or definitions, so these critical areas are identified during the processing of a permit or development authorization. This may require that Project Sponsors retain in most, if not all cases, a qualified specialist at their expense to assist in the identification and delineation of environmentally sensitive areas.

**Critical Area Policy #5:** Pend Oreille County shall participate in the open space taxation program established in State Law.

**Critical Area Policy #6:** The Pend Oreille County Development Code shall include provisions to require Project Sponsors to document water availability, and to insure that the proposed method of sewage disposal will not pollute ground or surface water. This may require that Project Sponsors, conduct at their expense, hydro geologic tests and/or retain a qualified specialist in order to provide adequate documentation.

**Critical Area Policy #7:** Pend Oreille County shall establish standards so that the use, storage, and disposal of hazardous materials and generation of hazardous wastes do not adversely affect water and air quality.

**Critical Area Policy #8:** Pend Oreille County shall incorporate the recommendations of the approved WRIA 55 and WRIA 62 watershed plans into the County Development Codes and permit review procedures.

**Critical Area Policy #9:** The Pend Oreille County Development Code shall require all proposed developments to show that local and state health department approval has been obtained for the proposed sewage disposal system.

**Critical Area Policy #10:** Pend Oreille County shall require developments that are expected to use hazardous materials or generate hazardous wastes to:

- a. Demonstrate that all necessary state and federal approvals have been obtained, or are being actively sought; and

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- b. Comply with the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (42 USC 1101-11050), which provide emergency services personnel with essential information about the kind and quantities of materials they may encounter on the site.

**Critical Area Policy #11:** Pend Oreille County may require that development in or adjoining designated priority habitat area, prepare and implement a habitat plan.

**Critical Area Policy #12:** The Pend Oreille County Development Code shall require that bank stabilization be accomplished in accordance with federal and state requirements.

**Critical Area Policy #13:** Pend Oreille County shall require that muck and silt removal operations along shorelines be performed by licensed professional operators in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local regulations.

**Critical Area Policy #14:** Pend Oreille County shall require that effective buffers are maintained between all development and wetlands, lakes, rivers, and streams.

**Critical Area Policy #15:** Pend Oreille County should direct new development, with the exception of water-dependent, away from areas that are subject to flooding.

**Critical Area Policy #16:** Pend Oreille County, in cooperation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Public Utility District, Seattle City Light, and other entities and other agencies and entities, should support the management of the level and flow of the Pend Oreille River to enhance recreational opportunities, wildlife, the fishery, water quality and flood control, while recognizing power generation requirements.

**Critical Area Policy #17:** Pend Oreille County should work with the Army Corps of Engineers, Public Utility District and Seattle City Light to develop a program for the regular identification and/or removal of hazardous objects from the river. Also, signs warning boaters of the dangers of deadheads and floating debris should be placed at every public boat launch.

**Critical Area Policy #18:** Pend Oreille County should continue its efforts to control milfoil, an exotic weed that adversely impacts the Pend Oreille River. The County should also aggressively pursue new methods of controlling milfoil.

**Critical Area Policy #19:** Pend Oreille County may require that lighting along lakes, rivers, and streams should be shielded and produce the minimum amount of illumination necessary for safety.

**Critical Area Policy #20:** The Pend Oreille County Development Code may require that future development include elements of undisturbed or restored shoreline corridor.

**Critical Area Policy #21:** New development shall leave a shoreline buffer in which existing or restored riparian vegetation, or other acceptable means of filtration, provide an effective filter for surface runoff, while allowing continued use of the shoreline for water-dependent uses.

**Critical Area Policy #22:** The type and density of development permitted along the county's lakes and streams shall be compatible with high water quality and other river and lakeshore riparian zone policies.

**Critical Area Policy #23:** Pend Oreille County shall establish a minimum setback from the ordinary high water mark for any new structure except stairways to the water and docks. Additional setback requirements should be determined on a site-by-site basis, based on slope, vegetative cover, wildlife habitat value, existing land use, and compatibility with the County Shoreline Master Plan. The width required should reflect the purpose of this strategy, which is to keep a fully functional riparian zone.

**Critical Area Policy #24:** Pend Oreille County shall work with other agencies to provide public access to lakes, rivers, and streams where such access is needed.

**Critical Area Policy #25:** Pend Oreille County should seek funding for the acquisition and development of points of access to those lakes, rivers, and streams where more public access is needed.

**Critical Area Policy #26:** Pend Oreille County shall establish criteria to govern the size and location of new docks.

**Critical Area Policy #27:** Pend Oreille County should not permit the construction of private boat ramps if alternate public facilities are available year round. All boat ramps must be engineered to prevent runoff from entering lakes, rivers, and streams and shall be designed with grades and foundations sufficient to accommodate fire fighting equipment and tanker trucks.

## 2.5 Land Use Existing Conditions

### 2.5.1 Population Statistics and Projections

#### Existing Population

According to the 2000 Census, the total population in Pend Oreille County is 11,732 persons. This is an increase of 2,817 persons, or a 32% population increase from the 1990 population of 8,915 persons. This equals an average growth rate of more than three percent per year. Since 2000, the population in cities has slightly declined or remained unchanged between 2000 and 2004. Between 2000-2004, the County experienced an overall 1% population increase. Table 2.2 presents an overview of population in the County.



The Office of Financial Management (OFM) prepares population estimates for each city and county to adjust the Census data to present day conditions. According to OFM, the County's population in 2004 is estimated at 11,900 persons (*Office of Financial Management, April 1, 2004 Population Estimates*). Currently, approximately 75% of the total population lives in unincorporated Pend Oreille County and 25% reside in incorporated cities and towns (*Census 2000*).

**Table 2.2 Population Data-Pend Oreille County**

Municipality	1990 Population	2000 Population <sup>1</sup>	% Change 1990-2000	2004 Population Estimate <sup>2</sup>	% Change 2000-2004
Pend Oreille County Total	8,915	11,732	31.6%	11,900	1%
Unincorporated	6,114	8,735	42.9%	8,920	2%
Incorporated Cities	2,801	2,997	6.5%	2,980	-1%
Cusick	195	212	8.7%	210	-1%
Ione	507	479	-5.5%	425	-13%
Metaline	198	162	-18%	160	-1%
Metaline Falls	210	223	6%	220	-1%
Newport	1,691	1,921	13.6%	1,965	2%

Source: <sup>1</sup>Census 2000; <sup>2</sup>Office of Financial Management, April 1, 2004 Population Estimate.

Population in the County has become increasingly concentrated in the area south of Cusick, as evidenced by the redrawing of the County Commissioner District #1 after the 2000 Census. The three commissioner districts are configured to each contain an equal population base. After the 2000 Census, Commissioner District boundaries were modified such that Commissioner District #3 extends further south and Commissioner Districts #2 and #1 are now smaller in area, representing the part of the County containing most of the privately owned rural residential land (not designated as Agricultural Open Space or Assessor Timber).

## Population Density

Pend Oreille County is approximately 1,400 square miles in size. The population density in the County is 8.4 persons per square mile, or an average of 1 person for every 76 acres of land (*Office of Financial Management*).

## Projected Population

Projected population growth is a principal determinant in estimating future land use needs. The Office of Financial Management has prepared high, intermediate, and low population projections for the County through the year 2025. Table 2.3 depicts the range in population projected for the County between 2005 and 2025.

**Table 2.3 Population Projections-Pend Oreille County**

Population Projections	2005 Projected Population <sup>1</sup>	2005 Projected Households <sup>2</sup>	2025 Projected Population <sup>1</sup>	2025 Projected Households <sup>2</sup>
Low	11,868	4,729	13,996	5,577
Intermediate	12,679	5,052	16,662	6,639
High	13,554	5,400	19,411	7,734

<sup>1</sup>Source: Office of Financial Management Population Projections, 2002. (Note: These population projections were developed in 2002. As shown, the 2005 low population projection for Pend Oreille County is lower than the actual population of 11,900 persons in 2004). <sup>2</sup>Based on an average household size of 2.51 persons/household.

The County has determined that a realistic growth rate is in the intermediate range (between 1.2 to 1.6% population growth annually), taking into account the history of population growth, recent trends, and available land. Under this scenario, the County's 2004 population of 11,900 people would expand to 16,662 by 2025 (*Office of Financial Management*). This represents a population increase of 4,762 persons between 2004-2025 or roughly 230 persons or 92 new households per year.

## Urban Lands Population-Existing and Projected

According to the Office of Financial Management, the estimated 2004 population within incorporated areas is 2,980 persons, accounting for roughly 25% of the County's existing population. Population estimates range from 160 people in the town of Metaline to 1,965 in the City of Newport. Table 2.4 shows Pend Oreille County's five incorporated areas' existing and projected populations.

**Table 2.4 Population in Pend Oreille Urban Areas**

Municipality	1990 Population	2000 Population	% Change 1990-2000	2004 Population Estimate	% Change 2000-2004	Projected Population 2015 <sup>1</sup>	% Change 2004-2015	Projected Population 2025 <sup>2</sup>

<b>Cusick</b>	195	212	8.7%	210	-1%	346	65%	570
<b>Ione</b>	507	479	-5.5%	425	-13%	583	37%	799
<b>Metaline</b>	198	162	-18%	160	-1%	239	49%	356
<b>Metaline Falls</b>	198	162	6%	220	-1%	290	32%	383
<b>Newport</b>	1,691	1,921	13.6%	1,965	2%	2,652 <sup>3</sup>	35% <sup>3</sup>	2,964 <sup>4</sup>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,789</b>	<b>2,936</b>	<b>5.3%</b>	<b>2,980</b>	<b>-1%</b>	<b>4,110</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>5,072</b>

<sup>1</sup>Project Population derived from each municipality's Comprehensive Plans forecast to 2015. <sup>2</sup>Projections developed using the growth rate assumptions from each municipality's Comprehensive Plans; <sup>3</sup>Newport's projected population is for the year 2020; <sup>4</sup>2025 population was estimated by calculating the average annual increase between 2004 to 2020 and using that average annual population increase to do a straight-line projection for 2025.

Projected populations are derived from each municipality's Comprehensive Plan through the year 2015. If the population growth assumptions from these Comprehensive Plans remain valid, it is estimated that a total of 4,110 persons will live in the incorporated areas by 2015, for a net increase of 1,130 persons over current conditions. If the growth rate assumptions from the cities and towns' comprehensive plans remain constant through 2025, then the estimated population is approximately 5,075 persons in 2025 for a net increase of 2,100 persons over current conditions or roughly 100 persons per year or roughly 40 households in incorporated areas.

Current trends indicate a slower rate of growth in incorporated areas than projected within their comprehensive plans. For example, the towns of Ione and Metaline have actually experienced a net loss of population between 2000 and 2004. However, to determine whether adequate land area is available to accommodate future growth, the projected 2025 population for cities and towns is generally consistent with OFM's intermediate growth projections for the County.

## 2.5.2 Existing Land Use Patterns

The land use pattern in Pend Oreille County is typical of the rural areas of the Northern Rocky Mountains and Columbia Forest Province. Mountains cloaked in a coniferous forest surround a river valley. Most of the forestland is in public ownership as national forests. Small towns that have, or had, resource-based economies are situated along the Pend Oreille River valley with hay meadows and pastures filling the level land in between those towns. There are second-home and retirement-home subdivisions along the river and lakeshores, and a scattering of large-lot subdivisions in the parts of the County nearest the cities and towns. The current land use map, Figure XX (Please contact the Pend Oreille County Planning Department to view a copy of this map) shows the existing land use pattern, reflecting the interaction of people and the land in Pend Oreille County to date.

This land use pattern is much like that found a decade ago or more in many of the rapidly growing rural communities in the West. While this similarity of land use patterns does not guarantee that Pend Oreille County will experience the same dynamics of population growth and land development, the County and its residents must be prepared to proactively manage land use

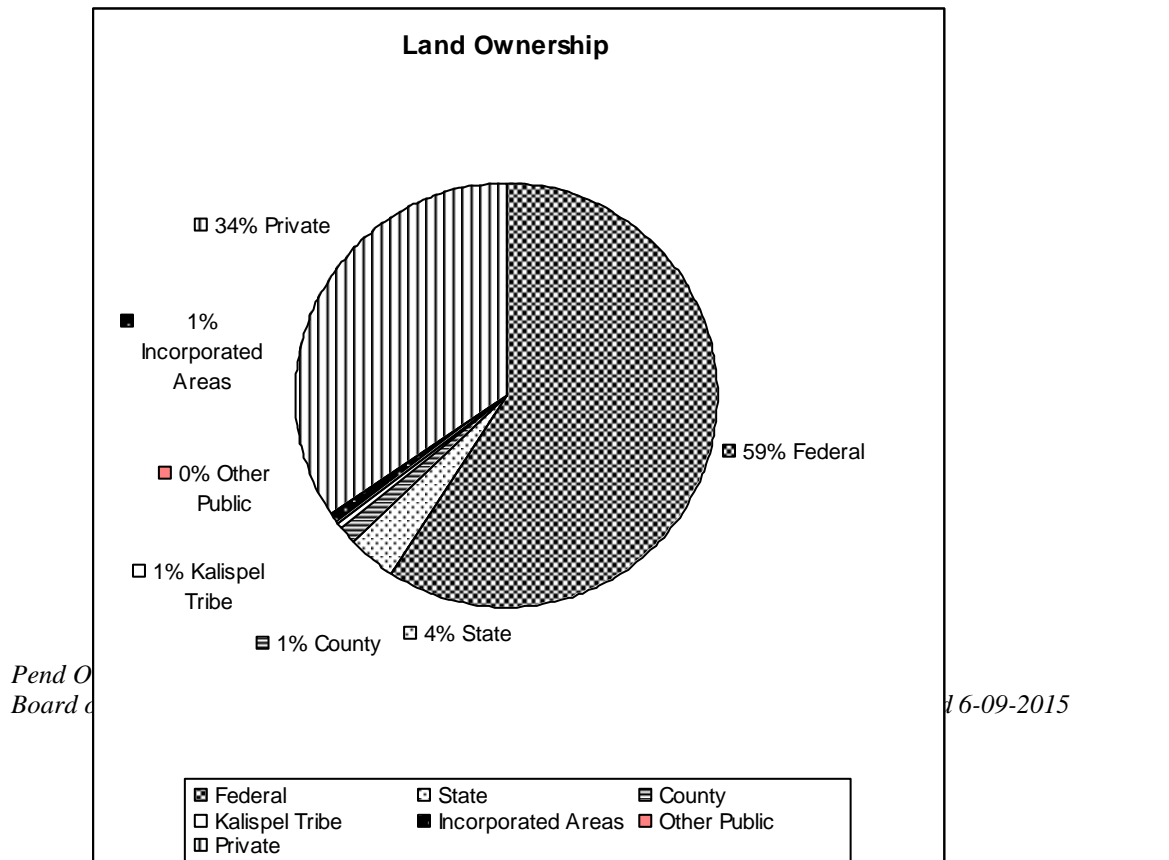
change, or watch the rural landscape they cherish be gradually transformed into a suburban landscape.

### 2.5.3 Land Use Inventory and Distribution-General

Pend Oreille County contains approximately 896,000 acres of land, or 1,400 square miles. Roughly 65% is publicly owned and approximately 35% is held in private ownership. Figure 2.1 and Table 2.5 summarizes land ownership in Pend Oreille County according to six general land ownership and/or use categories: Federal, State, Tribal, County, Incorporated Areas and their Interim Urban Growth Areas (UGAs), and private land.

**Figure 2.1 Land Ownership**

Source: Pend Oreille County. Note: County lands include Port of Pend Oreille Lands and Pend Oreille Utility District.



**Table 2.5 Estimated Pend Oreille County Land Ownership, Use, and Area**

<b>Land Ownership, Use, and/or Designation</b>	<b>Number of Acres</b>	<b>% of Total Acres</b>
<b>Federal</b>	<b>529,319</b>	<b>59.2%</b>
<i>U.S. Forest Service</i>	527,725	58.9
<i>Bureau of Land Management</i>	1,594	0.2
<b>State of Washington</b>	<b>34,251</b>	<b>3.8</b>
<b>County</b>	<b>10,937</b>	<b>1.2%</b>
<i>Pend Oreille County</i>	8,011	0.9
<i>Public Utility District</i>	2,022	0.2
<i>Port of Pend Oreille</i>	904	0.1
<b>Kalispel Tribe of Indians</b>	<b>6,040</b>	<b>0.7</b>
<b>Incorporated Cities and Towns [incorporated areas + interim UGA]</b>	<b>5,159</b>	<b>0.6</b>
<i>Cusick UGA [2,090 + 405]</i>	2,495	
<i>Ione UGA [383 + 442]</i>	825	
<i>Metaline UGA [195 + 0]</i>	195	
<i>Metaline Falls UGA [143 + 0]</i>	143	
<i>Newport UGA [712 + 789]</i>	1,501	
<b>Other Public: City of Seattle</b>	<b>859</b>	<b>0.1</b>
<b>Private</b>	<b>308,797</b>	
Agricultural Open Space	28,280	3.1
Designated Timber	223,341	24.9
Improved Parcels This figure incl. incorporated areas	4640	0.6
Unimproved Parcels (This figure includes incorporated areas)	10,722	1.2
Rural Lands	41,162	4.6
<b>TOTAL [1,400.5 sq. mi.]</b>	<b>895,362</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*See An Open Space Framework for Pend Oreille County, page 13. Note: The total area of water coverage in the county has not yet been calculated. Sources: 1) Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation. 1999 Public Lands Inventory: Final Review Draft, July 6, 2001; 2) Pend Oreille County Assessor; and 3) Kalispel Tribe of Indians

Total Tax parcels including incorporated areas = 15362

## Public Lands

Public lands are owned and managed by public entities such as the County, State, Federal, and Tribal governments. Public ownership accounts for roughly 65% (or 580,000 acres) of the land in the County, including over 500,000 acres in federal lands. U.S. Forest Service land and wilderness areas occupy much of the County north of Newport, both east and west of the Pend Oreille River valley. State land equals approximately 35,000 acres, primarily managed by the Department of Natural Resources and Department of Fish and Wildlife. Roughly 6,000 acres belong to the Kalispel Tribe of Indians, primarily located along the Pend Oreille River near Usk and Cusick. The County, Public Utility District #1, and Port of Pend Oreille manage roughly 10,000 acres of land.

## Urban Areas

Incorporated cities and towns, including their interim Urban Growth Areas (UGA's) comprise less than 1% of the land area in the County. (The total area of the County's five cities and towns, including their interim Urban Growth Areas (UGA's) totals approximately 5,159 acres, of which 1,838 acres are within incorporated cities and towns and 3,321 acres are located within the UGA's. The interim UGA's are the areas adjacent to the cities and towns that have been designated as the land where future urban growth will take place. These interim UGA's were adopted by the Board of County Commissioners in June 1994. Table 2.5 provides a breakdown of land area for each of the cities and towns. The towns of Metaline and Metaline Falls did not designate any additional land beyond their present corporate boundaries. The City of Newport revised its interim UGA in 2000 as part of its comprehensive plan update. Upon adoption of this County Comprehensive Plan, the interim UGA's will become permanent designations, subject to future refinements through future Comprehensive Plan updates by each city and town and the County. Urban Areas are described in greater detail in Section 2.5.4.

## Private Property

Within unincorporated Pend Oreille County, privately owned property comprises roughly 310,000 acres of land or approximately 35% of the total land area in the County. Of privately owned land, almost 72% is Assessor Designated Timber land. Approximately 9% of the private land is held in the Agricultural Open Space program, and just over 5% is platted in short or long subdivisions. Approximately 14% of the private land consists of rural lands-land outside the Urban Growth Areas; outside designated agricultural, forest, and mineral resource lands, and not already platted. Privately owned land is concentrated in the very south part of the County, in the Cusick Flats area, and north along the Pend Oreille River, with some private checkerboard timber holdings in the central part of the County east of the river. Subdivided land is concentrated along the Pend Oreille River, in the Highway 2 corridor from the Highway 211 junction to Newport, along the south half of the Highway 211 corridor, and around Sacheen and Diamond Lakes. Smaller private Assessor designated timber holdings abound in the southeast part of the County east of Highway 211 south of Highway 20. Industrial activity is centered near the junction of Highways 20 and 211, and near Metaline Falls.

## Subdivision Activity and Trends

Table 2.6 shows the number of short subdivisions and subdivisions approved from 1990 through the year 2004, and the total number of residential lots contained in those approved short subdivisions and subdivisions. Subdivision activity appears to have subsided, perhaps in response to the large number of vacant approved residential parcels in the County.

**Table 2.6 Approved short subdivisions and subdivisions 1990-2004**

Year	Applications	Total approved lots
1990	3	5
1991	5	22
1992	19	141
1993	5	13
1994	13	56
1995	8	25
1996	9	30
1997	7	13
1998	8	21
1999	1	2
2000	3	7
2001	14	43 (32 pending)
2002	8	19 (3 pending)
2003	5	12
2004 <sup>1</sup>	9	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>413</b>

<sup>1</sup> Through August 2004. Source: Pend Oreille County, 2004.

### 2.5.4 Urban Lands

#### Overview

One of the Growth Management Act's primary planning goals is to "encourage development in urban areas where adequate public facilities and services exist or can be provided in an efficient manner" (RCW 36.70A.020). The purpose of this Urban Lands section is to address the land within the Urban Growth Areas of Pend Oreille County's five incorporated areas, Cusick, Ione, Metaline, Metaline Falls, and Newport.

Urban lands are generally characterized by growth patterns that have made or may result in an intensive use of land for buildings, structures, and impervious surfaces. Concentration of urban lands is desirable so that other uses, such as the production of timber, hay, or food crops, which are incompatible with urban growth patterns, can be maintained and encouraged in more rural areas of the County. This will help to maintain the rural character of the County while also helping to ensure that future population growth can be accommodated in proximity to services.

### Urban Growth Areas

The Urban Growth Area (UGA) designation establishes the area within which incorporated cities and towns may grow and annex over a 20-year planning period. The UGA designation is meant to include land, which is already distinguished by urban patterns of growth, or to identify land that will be required for future urban development. Forecasted population growth, land capacity, and the ability to extend urban services are some of the key factors that are considered when UGA boundaries are defined. The specific land use designations for each of the towns in the County may be found in their respective comprehensive plans.

The Pend Oreille Countywide Planning Policies (CWPPs), adopted in 1993 and revised in April 1996, address Urban Growth Areas and provides direction on the general process to:

- Determine UGA boundaries;
- Designate UGA boundaries;
- Locate industrial and commercial development within each UGA;
- Establish buffers between industrial, commercial and residential development; and
- Review and amend UGA boundaries.

The city and towns of Pend Oreille County are situated in the Pend Oreille River valley and, with the exception of Cusick, generally above the 100-year floodplain. The predominant land use is urban-density residential in the incorporated areas, with large-lot residential and small-scale agricultural pursuits within the Ione and Newport Urban Growth Areas. With the exception of the City of Newport, there is a relatively small amount of industrial and commercial land use in urban areas.

Each of the municipalities in the County developed their own Comprehensive Plans in 1996. At that time, Interim UGAs were developed, based on population figures from 1995. Since then, the City of Newport updated their comprehensive plan and UGA boundaries in 2001. An overview of the land use inventory and distribution in each municipality is described below. Urban standards should be developed for UGAs and administered by jurisdictions within their respective UGAs.



## Town of Cusick

- **Land Use Pattern:** Built on a resource-based economy, Cusick is sited in a river valley surrounded to the west by the Cusick Flats, a relatively large area of hay meadows and pastures west of the Pend Oreille River.
- **Land Use Distribution:** Residential development is the predominant land use in Cusick. Public lands are located in the northeast portion of the town and the county fairgrounds west of Highway 20. There is a small amount of industrial land north of the Calispell Creek, east of and adjacent to Highway 20, between the railroad tracks and Highway 20 north of Kings Lake Road, and south of Kings Lake Road adjacent to the railroad.
- **Future Land Use:** Future land uses include open space along the river, highway commercial uses along Highway 20, industrial areas near the rail line, and residential throughout. In the core of the town, the ‘Village Center’ designation includes a mix of commercial, institutional, and residential uses.
- **Urban Growth Area:** Cusick’s Urban Growth Area includes the existing city limits, an area southwest of city limits, Osprey Landing and the community of Usk. The City and its UGA is approximately 2,495 acres in size

Population projections from the Cusick Comprehensive Plan show 346 residents in the year 2015. Projected to 2025, the population is estimated to grow to approximately 570 people. See Table 2.4.

## Town of Ione

- **Land Use Pattern:** The town of Ione is built on a resource-based economy, sited in a river valley with scattered hay meadows and pastures in the area to the south of the town and west of the river.
- **Land Use Distribution:** Current land use primarily consists of residential, with a village center at its core and two industrial areas-the old mill site in the southern portion of town and a small area in the northeast part of town adjacent to the east side of Highway 31.
- **Future Land Use:** Future land uses include residential along the river and in the west part of town, Village Center in the core of town and in the southwest, southeast, and northeast corners of town. Light Industrial uses are anticipated adjacent to both sides of the railroad tracks. Two small areas of Open Space are designated, along the river and in the north part of town adjacent to the eastside of Highway 31.
- **Urban Growth Area:** Ione’s UGA is approximately 825 acres. Population projections from the Ione Comprehensive Plan show 583 residents in the year 2015. Projected to 2025, the population is estimated to grow to approximately 800 people.

## Town of Metaline

- **Land Use Pattern:** Metaline is a small town built on a resource-based economy whose land use pattern is defined by a very narrow river valley with mountains framing the western boundary and forestlands surrounding the town.
- **Existing Land Use:** The current land use consists mostly of residential in the northwest and southeast parts of town, public land in the northeast and southwest, and a mix of commercial, institutional, and residential uses in the Village Center located in the south half of town along Highway 31. The rest of the town is considered vacant.
- **Future Land Use:** Future Land Use is predominantly residential with Open Space in the middle of town between the river and Highway 31, in the southwest corner of town, and a small piece along the western boundary of town. The Village Center occupies an L-shaped portion of the southwest part of town and there is a small piece of Highway Commercial use along the north boundary of town adjacent to the west side of Highway 31.
- **Urban Growth Area:** Metaline's Urban Growth Area is its existing corporate boundaries and comprises roughly 294 acres of land.

In recent years there have been no new subdivisions in and around Metaline. Population projections from the Metaline Comprehensive Plan show 239 residents in the year 2015. Projected to 2025, the population is estimated to grow to approximately 350 people.

## Town of Metaline Falls

- **Land Use Pattern:** Metaline Falls is a small town built on a resource-based economy located in a very narrow valley overlooking the Pend Oreille River. The river defines the western boundary of the town, while mountains and forestlands surround the remainder of the town's perimeter. Metaline Falls is the northern terminus of the railroad in the Pend Oreille River valley.
- **Existing Land Use:** The predominant land use is residential with open space located along the river. The Central Business District is generally located in the center of town. A mix of commercial, institutional, and residential uses is located in the western, south-central, and east-central parts of town.
- **Future Land Use:** Future land uses in Metaline Falls will likely be similar to what is present today, predominantly residential with a mix of uses in the Village Center and Central Business District. Open space areas will be concentrated near existing parks and areas with severe natural limitations on development such as steep slopes and floodplain areas.
- **Urban Growth Area:** The Urban Growth Area of the town coincides with the town's corporate limits and comprises approximately 143 acres. Population projections from the Metaline Falls Comprehensive Plan show 290 residents in the year 2015. Projected to 2025,

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the population is estimated to grow to approximately 383 people, however the mine is slated for closure in 2012.

### City of Newport

- **Land Use Patterns:** Newport is the largest city in the County, serving as the distribution center for the County's natural resources industries and is the County seat. Newport is situated on the west bank of the Pend Oreille River where the river enters the County and bends generally to the north. To the southwest of the city is the Little Spokane River drainage. To the north and to the south the land rises fairly rapidly into forestland.
- **Existing Land Use:** The current land use consists of residential west of Highways 2 and 20. Commercial uses are located in the downtown area and north side of Highway 2 in the southwest part of town. Industrial uses are also located in the Central Business District near the railroad tracks. Public uses are located in the west of southwest portion of town, west of downtown. The City's current area is approximately 452 acres.
- **Future Land Use:** According to the Comprehensive Plan, demand for commercial uses in Newport is anticipated to increase in the planning horizon, with an overall decrease in the amount of land dedicated to residential and industrial uses. Open space designations include city parks, Kelly Island, and the headwaters of the Little Spokane River.
- **Urban Growth Area:** Newport's Urban Growth Area was revised in 2001 to align with the City's water system constraints. The current water system cannot support development above the 2,250' contour line without considerable infrastructure investment. The Urban Growth Area boundary was thus revised to align with the topographic contours that delineate water pressure zones. The total area of Newport's UGA is approximately 789 acres, of which approximately 400 acres is considered developable. The total area of Newport's city limits and UGA is approximately 1,501 acres. Population projections from the City of Newport Comprehensive Plan show 2,652 residents in the year 2020. Projected to 2025, the population is estimated to grow to approximately 2,964 people. The Newport Comprehensive Plan used an average residential density of 3.3 dwelling units/acre and 2.3 persons per household to calculate the total area required to accommodate population growth. Approximately 322 acres (residential-210 acres, commercial, industrial, open space-119 acres, right of way-64 acres) would be necessary to accommodate their 2020 population projection (2,652 persons).

### Land Capacity-Urban Lands

For the incorporated areas and their Urban Growth Areas (UGAs), future land use needs can be forecasted by comparing projected population growth with current land consumption patterns. The breakdown of land uses and the amount of vacant land as a percentage of the UGA can be used to calculate the amount of additional land necessary for the future urban population.

The total area of the incorporated areas and their interim UGAs is 5,159 acres. Of this area, approximately 70% of the land is vacant. A net increase of 4762 persons (approximately 1900 households) is projected in the County by 2025 (230 persons/year), of which an estimated 2,100 persons or 840 households may occur in cities and towns.

### 2.5.5 Rural Lands

#### Overview

‘Rural lands’ means different things to different people. Rural lands could mean broad expanses of undeveloped land, sparsely populated areas, open space, the presence of agricultural fields, large single family lots, and limited development in general. Typically, Rural Lands are those areas in the county outside the UGA boundaries and among the resource areas, neither intended for urban-type development nor well suited for agricultural, forest, or mineral resource extraction. These rural areas contain: single-family homes on various-sized lots and parcels, including recorded surveys; subdivisions and short plats; small-scale agricultural and timber operations; and commercial and industrial operations. Industrial and commercial uses in rural areas do not require urban levels of service provided they are compatible with the surrounding rural land uses. The rural areas serve as transition areas between Urban Lands and Resource Lands, and retain the rural or agrarian character of the County while also providing for a diversity of lifestyle choices to residents.

The primary purpose of this Rural Lands sub-element is to describe the existing conditions and character of the rural areas in the County, in part through an inventory of existing parcels and uses of the land.

#### Land Use Inventory and Distribution-Rural Lands

Pend Oreille County’s rural character is based upon traditional rural landscapes, activities, lifestyles, and aesthetic values. The rural character of Pend Oreille is best described in the Preface: A Statement of Values: Why We Live Here.

The existing rural areas of Pend Oreille County are characterized by a variety of development patterns. The predominant uses in the County’s Rural Lands are small-scale timber and agriculture activity, and large-lot residential. Residential land use patterns range from areas of dispersed very large acreage residential parcels, to single residences on 2.5 acres with private wells and septic systems, to more densely settled rural subdivisions served by community water and/or sewer. Existing platted and improved residential use covers over 5,000 acres and is predominantly single-family. Approximately 11,000 platted acres are vacant and considered potentially developable.

The most populated rural residential areas in the County are: Diamond Lake; Sacheen Lake; and along the Pend Oreille River between Newport and Usk, in the vicinity of Blueslide, and from south of Tiger to Ione. Other rural residential settlement can be found around or near other

smaller lakes and along or near major roads. The southern portion of the County is the most populous and continues to develop more rapidly than the rest of the County, in part due to its proximity to Spokane's jobs and retail attractions which are more readily accessible by good automobile transportation on Highways 2 and 211.

Small-scale timber and agricultural uses, and limited commercial and industrial areas comprise the remainder of land uses in rural areas. Rural lands comprise roughly 41,000 acres of land, or

less than 5% of the County's total land area. Including the 5,100 platted acres in residential use and approximately 11,000 acres as unimproved platted lots, the total acreage in rural areas is approximately 57,200 acres. This is land that is neither within an Urban Growth Area nor a Resource Land area. Table 2.7 provides a breakdown of rural lands in the County.

**Table 2.7 Rural Lands Inventory**

<b>Rural Land Use Types</b>	<b>Total Acres</b>	<b>% Distribution</b>
Residential-Improved Parcels*	4,640	9%
Unimproved Parcels*	10,722	19%
Rural Lands	41,162	72%
<b>Total</b>	<b>57,176</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*Note: Source: Pend Oreille County Assessor, January 2005.

### Land Capacity-Rural Lands

This analysis examines the supply of vacant parcels, assumes that all lots are buildable, and does not account for the additional development potential of existing, developed and occupied lots. The vacant buildable lots have been compared to land capacity to determine if there is sufficient rural land available to meet future projected rural growth. According to 2000 Census data, approximately 75% of Pend Oreille County's population lives outside the incorporated areas of the County. As previously discussed, the projected net population increase from 2004-2025 is 4,762 persons, or roughly 230 persons per year. If roughly 75% of this population increase is accommodated in rural areas, then approximately 3,570 new rural residents would need to be accommodated in unincorporated Pend Oreille County or roughly 1,425 households by 2025. There are approximately 4,000 unimproved lots in the rural areas of the County today totaling almost 11,000 acres. While the land capacity is available to accommodate growth in the rural areas of the County, the Countywide Planning Policies direct that the bulk of the growth in the County should be planned within urban areas, in proximity to services as discussed in the Section 2.5.4 Urban Lands. Rural lands policies (Section 2.4.2) and the Future Land Use Map direct the nature of future development in rural areas to ensure that the rural character is protected, to reduce the inappropriate conversion of undeveloped land into sprawling, low-density development, and to minimize land use conflicts. Thus, it is likely that the percentage distribution of population in unincorporated versus incorporated areas will likely change to reflect increased growth in urban areas by 2025.

## 2.5.6 Natural Resource Lands

### Overview

Logging, ranching, farming, and mining have shaped the character of Pend Oreille County. People who are not involved in these traditional rural industries are attracted to the landscape these industries have helped create, but may not understand the realities of living in a community where people work the land.

Natural Resource products are a strong component of the economy, providing jobs, tax revenue, and valuable products and materials for local use and export. Farmlands and forests also provide aesthetic, recreational, and environmental benefits to the public while contributing to the diverse character of the County. Mining lands provide materials for development and construction purposes. The resource land designations are tailored to each of the resources and address the guidelines provided by state law. A brief description of the state minimum guidelines and methodology used in designating forestry, agriculture, and mineral resource lands follows.

### Land Use Inventory and Distribution-Natural Resource Lands

Approximately 815,000 acres are designated as public or privately owned Natural Resource Lands in the County including forest lands, agricultural lands, and mineral resource lands. The majority of these lands (70%) are held in public ownership, however roughly 251,000 acres of private land are designated as Natural Resource Timberlands or Agricultural lands. Table 2.8 summarizes the land use breakdown of Natural Resource Lands in the County.

**Table 2.8 Natural Resource Lands**

<b>Natural Resource Lands</b>	<b>Acreage</b>
<b>Public Lands</b>	
US Forest Service	527,725
Bureau of Land Management	1,594
State of Washington (Departments of Natural Resources and Fish and Wildlife)	34,251
<b>Private Lands</b>	
Designated Timber	223,341
Designated Agricultural	28,280
Designated Mining	unknown

Source: Pend Oreille County.

## Forest Lands

The most prevalent types of trees located in the County are Douglas fir, lodgepole pine, ponderosa pine, and larch. Commercial timber in the county is found from approximately 2,500 feet to over 4,500 feet above sea level. Almost all of the timber resource in the north half of the County is contained within the Colville and Panhandle National Forests, and therefore outside the jurisdiction of the County. Several large timber companies own much of the checkerboard timberland in the center area and west edge of the County and the southwest area of the County. The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) owns approximately 34,000 acres of forest land in scattered locations throughout the County. Much of the non-industrial

assessor designated timberland is located within the bounds of Highways 2, 20, and 211 in the south part of the County.

## Agricultural Lands

Current Assessor Agricultural Open Space designation totals over 28,000 acres, or approximately 3.2% of the land in the County. There are fewer than ten self-supporting farming operations in the County, mostly in the Cusick Flats area. Generally, grazing lands are located in the National Forest lands on summer range allotments and on smaller part-time farms. Annually tilled crops, such as oats, barley, and spring wheat, total fewer than 2,000 acres. Total cropland totals more than 33,000 acres predominantly in hay production.

## Mineral Lands

The mining industry has a long-standing history in Pend Oreille County. The zinc and lead mine near Metaline Falls is currently in operation and is scheduled for closure in 2012. In addition, the County owns several rock and gravel sites.

## 2.6 Future Land Use

Based on the estimated population growth, Pend Oreille County needs to plan for 230 persons per year or approximately 92 new households a year over the next 20 years.

Of the approximate 896,000 acres in the County, 93% or 833,000 acres is in large-block ownerships that are unlikely to change from their current undeveloped or relatively undeveloped state. These lands include federal and state timberlands, forests and parks, timber and agricultural resource lands and also include wetlands, streams and critical areas.

Of the remaining 7% of land, or approximately 63,000 acres:

- 3,041 acres comprise the urban growth areas (UGAs);
- Rural settlement areas, crossroad commercial centers, and highway commercial areas occupy about 27,000 acres;

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- Existing developments in rural areas (suburban enclaves) occupy about 17,000 acres;
- Existing rural industrial areas occupy about 500 acres; and
- Shoreline and existing resort developments occupy less than 15,000 acres.

### **2.6.1 Future Land Use Designations**

#### Future Land Use Map

Pend Oreille County has prepared a Future Land Use Map that highlights land use designations and will be the basis for the preparation of a zoning map to guide future development. This map is based on the matrix included in the Goals and Policies section of this element. In accordance with the provisions of this Comprehensive Plan, all parcels in unincorporated Pend Oreille County have received one of the following Future Land Use Designations:

- Public Lands;
- Tribal Lands;
- Natural Resource 40;
- Natural Resource 20;
- Rural 40;
- Rural 20;
- Rural 10;
- Rural 5; or
- Rural 2.5.

### **2.7 Critical Areas**

This section provides an overview of critical areas in the County including wetlands, aquifer recharge areas, fish and wildlife habitat, conservation areas, frequently flooded areas, and geologically hazardous areas. The current Resource Lands and Critical Areas Ordinance, 92-04, was adopted in 1992 and will be updated to be consistent with this plan.



## Water Quality

Wetlands, streams, rivers, lakes, and groundwater are among Pend Oreille County's most valuable natural assets. The quality of these resources may be threatened by land use change, including dense development served by on-site sewage disposal systems, the accelerated runoff and erosion that can result from road construction and other development activities, hazardous waste spills, and the destruction of the riparian vegetation that provides natural filters along lakeshores and streams.

Geologic history suggests that Diamond Lake and the other lakes of southern Pend Oreille County are groundwater-regime lakes that could be affected by nearby groundwater pumping.

## Rivers and Streams

The Pend Oreille River flows from the Idaho border near Newport northward through the County for approximately 71.5 river miles. The Pend Oreille River is the County's single most prominent landscape feature and an important economic, recreational, and scenic resource for local people and visitors. Further development along the County's rivers and their tributaries may result in the loss of scenic, recreational, and habitat values, and the economic activity those values generate. Development in stream corridors can also adversely affect water quality, and that development may be exposed to a flood hazard. Development along the Pend Oreille River may also be exposed to a bank erosion hazard. Poorly designed efforts to control bank erosion and loss of riparian areas can result in the loss of real estate and deterioration of water quality and wildlife habitat.

## Watersheds

Pend Oreille County includes parts of two major watersheds: the Pend Oreille and the Little Spokane. Water Resource Inventory Areas (WRIAs) are the administrative boundaries for watersheds in the state of Washington. The state's 62 WRIAs were authorized under the Water Resources Act of 1971, codified as RCW 90.54, and formalized under Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 173-500-040. Enhanced Special House Bill (ESHB) 2514, the Watershed Management Act, was passed by the 1998 legislature and codified as RCW 90.58. This legislation provides a framework for locally based watershed planning and resource management efforts. The four components of watershed planning include water quantity, water quality, habitat, and in stream flows. The primary goals of local watershed planning are to:

- Assess the status of water resources within Washington's 62 WRIAs; and
- To determine how to balance competing demands for water within the WRIA.

Pend Oreille County is an initiating government of and participant in the ESHB 2514 Watershed Planning Units for WRIAs 55/57 and for WRIA 62. A brief description of each WRIA and its watershed planning process follow.

### Water Resource Inventory Area-55

WRIA 55, the Little Spokane River Basin, encompasses about 432,000 acres, mostly in Spokane County. The headwaters of the Little Spokane River and its West Branch drain the southern portion of the County. This watershed includes many of the County's recreational lakes. The main stem of the Little Spokane River begins in the County just west of the City of Newport on the north side of Highway 2. The WRIA 55 Watershed Planning Unit (WPU) was formed in 1999. The WPU tasks include: to develop estimates of current water use, in stream flow, and future water needs; to determine the amount of water allocated for use in the basin; and evaluate water quality data as related to flow. Spokane County is the lead agency for the WPU.

### Water Resource Inventory Area-62

WRIA 62, the Pend Oreille River Basin, encompasses about 795,000 acres, mostly in Pend Oreille County. The WRIA 62 Watershed Planning Unit (WPU) was formed in 1998. The WPU will address water quantity, water quality, and habitat. The Pend Oreille Conservation District is the lead agency for the WRIA 62 WPU.

### Shoreline and Floodplain Management

The Pend Oreille River is designated as a Shoreline of Statewide Significance in the Washington State Shoreline Management Act (see RCW 90.58.030). The current shoreline master plan was adopted in 1974. It follows a model provided by the Washington Department of Ecology at that time, and will be updated to be consistent with this plan. Recent amendments to the GMA and the Shoreline Management Act require that the County Shoreline Master plan be incorporated into the County Comprehensive Plan and the County Shoreline Regulations be incorporated into the County Development Regulations..

Additionally, Pend Oreille County's 55 lakes are important economic, recreational, and scenic resources for local people and visitors. Increasing development pressure around the lakes may compromise these valued resources. Subsequent development regulations and updated Shoreline Master Program will address this as a primary concern.

Management of the Pend Oreille River affects the County's economy by impacting water quality, the fishery, wildlife habitat, recreation, shoreline erosion, property values, and power generation. Despite these impacts, decisions about river flows are made at the state and federal levels, without effective participation by the people of Pend Oreille County. Current watershed planning efforts in the Pend Oreille River watershed and in the Little Spokane River watershed are two such examples of implementing this proposed strategy.

### Flooding

There have been three major floods along the Pend Oreille River during the past 100 years, the most recent in 1997. The flood of 1997 was designated by the Federal Emergency Management

Agency as a major flood, with river flows over 140,000 cubic feet per second (cfs)-36,000 cfs above the official flood flow of 100,000 cfs. Three dams-Albeni Falls, Box Canyon, and Boundary-have been built since 1948, however those structures are not capable of controlling a major flood such as the flood of 1997. A detailed flood insurance study updating flood-rise data for the Pend Oreille River was published by the Federal Emergency Management Agency in March 2002 and adopted by the Board of County Commissioners in 2002. The River Advisory Committee, involved in the policy development of this Comprehensive Plan, strongly recommended that future development in shoreline areas take into account flood hazards. Pend Oreille County reviews the FIRM maps for developments within the floodplain. Due to the potential loss of life and property associated with flooding, it is important that flood hazards are considered as a part of this Land Use Element.

### Wildlife Habitat

The quality life in Pend Oreille County would be sadly diminished if sights (and sounds) like the flight of tundra swans and bald eagles over Calispell Lake were lost. Wildlife is also an economic asset, attracting fishermen, hunters, photographers, and visitors who simply enjoy seeing wild animals. Washington State Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Priority Habitats and Species maps show the priority habitat areas this plan and the Critical Areas Ordinance strives to protect.

## 3.0 Economic Development Element

### 3.1 Overview

The Economic Development element includes a range of economic goals, policies, and implementation strategies, that when implemented will promote the economic wellbeing of Pend Oreille County. Economic wellbeing can be described as job retention, creation, and training; public and private capital investment; and business and community capacity-building. The region's economic wellbeing is an important determinant affecting the overall condition and quality of life in our community. This element also summarizes basic economic and demographic data from a variety of sources, most notably the work accomplished by the Economic Development Citizens Advisory Committee (ECDAC), that helped to define the priority policy issues and to refine the goals and policies contained within this plan. Economic development is accomplished with the cooperation and collaboration of the public and the private sectors in the County. This partnership is essential to ensure that commitment of County and other resources will implement the vision for the County, which will benefit current and future residents of Pend Oreille County.

The goals and policies contained within the Economic Development element, is consistent with and furthers the County's vision as expressed in the Statement of Values: Why We Live Here, as well as the vision identified by the EDCAC, which states:

“We envision a future that enhances our rural lifestyle, strengthens our sense of community, respects our diversity and natural environment, and increases opportunities for cultural, intellectual, and economic growth.”

Much of the background information contained within this Economic Development Element is based on the hard work and research of the EDCAC. The Goals, Investments, and Strategies from the EDCAC revision of the Pend Oreille County Economic Development Plan are the basis for this section of the Economic Development Element. The Economic Development Council has contacted each entity responsible for implementing the strategies included in this section of the Economic Development Element and modified the investments and strategies accordingly.

### 3.2 Growth Management Act Requirements

The importance of economic development is recognized in the Growth Management Act as one of the 14 goals of the Growth Management Act:

*“Encourage economic development throughout the state that is consistent with adopted comprehensive plans, promote economic opportunity for all citizens of this state, especially for Pend Oreille County Comprehensive Plan  
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*unemployed and for disadvantage persons, and encourage growth in areas experiencing insufficient economic growth, all within the capacities of the state's natural resources, public services, and public facilities.”*

Natural Resource Industries are a key component of economic development in the County. The Growth Management Act's goal for Natural Resources is:

*“Natural resource industries. Maintain and enhance natural resource-based industries, including productive timber, agricultural, and fisheries industries. Encourage the conservation of productive forest lands and productive agricultural lands, and discourage incompatible uses.”*

Where funding is available, the Growth Management Act requires the development of an economic development element that establishes local goals, policies, objectives, and provisions for economic growth and vitality and a high quality of life. The element shall include: (a) A summary of the local economy such as population, employment, payroll, sectors, businesses, sales, and other information as appropriate; (b) a summary of the strengths and weaknesses of the local economy defined as the commercial and industrial sectors and supporting factors such as land use, transportation, utilities, education, work force, housing, and natural/cultural resources; and (c) an identification of policies, programs, and projects to foster economic growth and development and to address future needs.

### **3.2.1 Regional Coordination**

In the regional context, this element is to be coordinated, cooperative, and consistent with the plans and efforts of the Pend Oreille County Economic Development Council (EDC) and the Tri-county Economic Development District (TEDD). This element presents economic development in the framework of the County's other comprehensive planning goals as contained in the Comprehensive Plan. In April 2002, the Economic Development Council signed a contract with Tri-county Economic Development District to join in economic development efforts in the County.

## **3.3 Economic Development Goals**

**Economic Development Goal #1:** Promote coordination of leadership from within our communities and within our entire county.

**Economic Development Goal #2:** Support education and training opportunities to equip Pend Oreille County residents to participate in the workforce

**Economic Development Goal #3:** Encourage employment opportunities, the retention and expansion of existing businesses, and new business development

**Economic Development Goal #4:** Promote the coordination of infrastructure development that will enhance our quality of life and attract business investment.

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### 3.4 Economic Development Policies

In support of the Economic Development Goals, Pend Oreille County will implement the following Economic Development Policies:

**Economic Development Policy #1:** Pend Oreille County shall develop land use regulations that support and encourage economic development.

**Economic Development Policy #2:** The Pend Oreille County Capital Facilities Plan should include appropriate infrastructure to serve commercial and industrial lands.

**Economic Development Policy #3:** The Pend Oreille County Economic Development Council should maintain a current list of industrial sites.

**Economic Development Policy #4:** Pend Oreille County should encourage and participate in coordinated efforts to promote tourism on a countywide basis.

**Economic Development Policy #5:** Pend Oreille County should promote and encourage basic and continuing education, on the job training, and vocational training programs that will prepare residents to fill existing and future jobs.

**Economic Development Policy #6:** Pend Oreille County should support efforts to conduct a feasibility study of establishing a marina with a fueling facility on the Pend Oreille River.

### 3.5 Existing Conditions

Historically, Pend Oreille County has had a cyclical economy dependent on the extraction of the abundant natural resources of the area, such as timber and minerals. The County unemployment rate is consistently among the highest in the State, and per capita income levels well below the state average. An important part of the background for this plan is the rapid economic change that is affecting attractive rural areas throughout the West. Traditional extractive industries are no longer the principal source of income in places like Pend Oreille County. Agriculture, forestry, and mining sectors of the local economy accounted for no more than 2% of total wages paid in the County and no more than 1.2% of total employees in 2000 (*Washington State Databook*). However, in the manufacturing sector at least 280 full-time jobs are dependent upon raw wood supplies, either in the form of logs or wood chips.

A sizable portion of the economy that is emerging in Pend Oreille County is based on commuting—mostly to Spokane County—and transfer payments. The Washington State Office of Financial Management has estimated that approximately one-third of employed county residents commute out-of-county to work. Tables 3.1-3.3 illustrate the substantial gap in income levels between Pend Oreille County and the state and nation in per capita income, average earnings per job, and median household income. Transfer payments, of which retirement and welfare are a part, are shown in more detail in Table 3.6.

### 3.5.1 Recent Economic Development Activities

The County has acknowledged the significance of economic development through its membership in the Tri-County Economic Development District (TEDD) and through its part in funding the work of the Pend Oreille County Economic Development Council (EDC). Recent economic plans include those generated by the Pend Oreille County EDC-the Pend Oreille County Economic Development Plan 2000 and TEDD-Overall Economic Development Program: June 1999.

Several significant projects included in the revision of the Pend Oreille County EDP completed in 1999 have been accomplished:

- The County website is in operation and has had extensive revision;
- The commissioners of the Port District, the PUD, and the County jointly conduct a regular series of meetings to help resolve countywide issues of concern;
- Hospital District 1 has implemented enhanced diagnostic capacity at its medical center in Newport;
- The assisted living center in Newport, River Mountain Village, with 42 residential units, began operation in June 2001;
- A new bridge over the Pend Oreille River at Usk has funding committed to replace the present structure;
- The Public Utility District completed an operational fiber optic network in February 2001;
- The Newport Shuttle has been in operation between Newport and Spokane since 2002; and
- The PUD has made its video conferencing facilities available for use by other agencies.

Other positive economic development projects not specifically addressed in the revised EDP have occurred: The Ione Community Center began operating in 2001 and is the home for the Ione branch of the Newport Community College, as well as the local branch of the library district. The EDC became a full partner with Tri-county Economic Development District in 2002.

The Newport census tract #9703 is one of five census tracts in northeast Washington that is part of the Five Star Enterprise Community (EC). The Empowerment Zone/Enterprise Community (EZ/EC) program is a U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development program that provides training and funding for community-directed advancement and economic development for a ten-year period. The EZ/EC program provides seed money for locally directed projects that are sustainable, build jobs, and help to build and maintain community partnerships. The Five Star

goals address the following issues: housing, education and training, employment opportunities, coordinated leadership, health care, and public safety.

### 3.5.2 Overview of the Local Economy

According to the 1995 Draft Comprehensive Plan, in 1993 welfare directly provided a little over two percent of all personal income in the U.S., but nearly eight percent of all personal income in Pend Oreille County. Welfare was actually an “export” industry in the County, drawing enough dollars from state and federal sources to directly and indirectly supported nearly 12% of all local incomes in 1993. Today the situation is changing-the welfare program has been reformed-and the economy is in transition from a strong reliance on the extraction of natural resources to a more diverse economy.

#### Sources of information and data

There is an array of statistics that helps to understand the nature of the local economy. At the local level, the Pend Oreille County Economic Development Council (EDC), Tri-county Economic Development District (TEDD), and Pend Oreille County can provide economic development information. The Washington Office of Financial Management (OFM) provides demographic information, while the Washington State Employment Security Department, Labor Market and Economic Analysis (LMEA) Branch publishes economic and employment reports and analyses at the state, regional, and county levels. Federal sources of this data include the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) and the Bureau of Labor.

### 3.5.3 Selected Indicators of the Economy

The indicators that are included in this section of the Economic Development Element assist the informational and analytical considerations of local economy. (See the Pend Oreille County Economic Development Plan for more a more detailed inventory of the indicators.) These indicators help to form a more complete picture of the economic situation in the county:

- Population;
- Income;
- Economic sectors;
- Employment trends-sectors;
- Unemployment trends-seasonal factors;
- Workforce profile;



- Economic trends;
- Land availability and suitability; and
- Infrastructure.

### Population

The 2000 Census counted 11,732 residents in the County. According to the Office of Financial Management (OFM), the 2004 population was 11,900 residents. OFM's intermediate series population projection for the year 2025 is 16,662, an average annual increase of approximately 230 County residents (See the Land Use Element for more detail).

### Income

In 2002, the County had a per capita income (PCI) of \$21,912. This PCI ranked 36<sup>th</sup> out of 39 counties in the State, and was 67% of the State average of \$32,661 and 71% of the national average of \$30,832. The 2002 PCI total shows an increase of 0.2% from 2001, while the increase in the State was 2.1% and 1.4% nationally (Bureau of Economic Analysis; Northwest Economic Indicators Project). These income figures are in current dollars. Table 3.1, below, shows the comparison of Pend Oreille County Per Capita Income to Washington State and to the United States.

**Table 3.1 Per Capita Income (in Current dollars)**

Year	Pend Oreille County	Washington State	United States
1990	\$12,923	\$20,017	\$19,572
1991	\$13,877	\$20,850	\$20,023
1992	\$14,608	\$21,825	\$20,960
1993	\$15,343	\$22,282	\$21,539
1994	\$15,459	\$22,946	\$22,340
1995	\$16,727	\$23,660	\$23,255
1996	\$17,677	\$25,007	\$24,286
1997	\$118,536	\$26,469	\$25,412
1998	\$18,984	\$28,285	\$26,893
1999	\$19,632	\$29,807	\$27,880
2000	\$20,763	\$31,605	\$29,760
2001	\$21,579	\$31,976	\$30,413
2002	\$21,912	\$32,661	\$30,832

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis and the Northwest Income Indicator Project; 2003 Washington State Data Book, Office of the Forecast Council, January 2004

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In 2001 the County had a total personal income (TPI) of \$231,257,000, which ranked 33<sup>rd</sup> in the state and was 0.1% of the state total. The 2001 TPI showed an increase of 3.25% from 2000. TPI includes earnings-wages and salaries, other labor income, proprietors' income; dividends, interest, and rent; and transfer payments received by county residents<sup>1</sup>. Earnings by persons employed in the County increased from \$98,860,000 in 1998 to \$109,098,000 in 1999-an increase of 10.4%. The largest industries in 1999 were state and local government, nondurable goods manufacturing, and durable goods manufacturing. Of the industries that accounted for at least 5% of earnings in 1999, the slowest growing from 1998 to 1999 was state and local government, which decreased 0.2%; the fastest growing was durable goods manufacturing, which increased 57.3%. (*Bureau of Economic Analysis*)

In 1988, Pend Oreille County had the lowest median household income in Washington. The median income was \$17,750 compared to the State average of \$28,800. The next lowest income was \$18,500 in Okanogan and Ferry Counties. 1999 figures from the Office of Financial Management show Washington median household income at \$48,020. Pend Oreille County was \$30,994, while Stevens County was \$30,769 and Ferry County was \$28,389. In 2000, Census data indicates that the median household income in Pend Oreille County was \$31,677. In 1999 Pend Oreille County was ranked 29<sup>th</sup> out of the 39 counties in the State. While not a factor that will lead to a strategy, this indicator does provide a basis for establishing goals and measuring progress in the economic development of the county. (Washington State OFM)

**Table 3.2 Average Earnings Per Job**

Year	Pend Oreille County	Washington State	United States
1989	\$17,588	\$23,021	\$25,064
1990	\$19,536	\$24,524	\$25,163
1991	\$19,432	\$25,864	\$26,000
1992	\$20,419	\$27,907	\$27,665
1993	\$21,433	\$28,611	\$28,307
1994	\$21,149	\$28,646	\$28,937
1995	\$22,092	\$29,439	\$29,540
1996	\$22,678	\$30,713	\$30,493
1997	\$23,372	\$32,234	\$31,610
1998	\$24,042	\$34,385	\$33,019
1999	\$25,828	\$36,668	\$34,384

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis and the Northwest Income Indicator Project.  
(in 1999 dollars)

<sup>1</sup> A transfer payment is defined as a payment from the government to an individual from whom no current service is required.

**Table 3.3 Median Household Income**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Pend Oreille County</b>	<b>Washington State</b>
1989	\$20,808	\$31,183
1990	\$22,732	\$33,461
1991	\$22,892	\$34,456
1992	\$24,077	\$36,049
1993	\$25,193	\$36,781
1994	\$26,199	\$38,034
1995	\$26,772	\$39,171
1996	\$27,705	\$41,309
1997	\$29,321	\$43,553
1998	\$29,612	\$45,826
1999	\$30,994	\$48,020
2000 Preliminary Estimate	\$32,181	\$50,182
2001 Forecast	\$32,491	\$50,689

Source: Washington State Office of Financial Management (OFM).  
(in 1999 dollars)

### **Economic Sectors**

The non-agricultural employment sectors are: manufacturing; construction and mining; transportation and utilities; wholesale and retail trade; fire, insurance and real estate; services; and government. The workforce is allocated to these various sectors as a means of identifying the contributions of the different components of the economy.

Basic industries are those, which bring outside money into the County. Forest and agricultural products, minerals, and manufacturing are the foundation of the local economy. However, most of the forest, agricultural, and mineral resources are extracted or harvested here and processed elsewhere. The Ponderay Newsprint Company and Ponderay Valley Fiber are the largest resource-based employers in the County. The Pend Oreille Mine is once again in operation with an estimated peak employment of 160 workers through its scheduled closure in 2012. Non-basic industries are those generated through the spending of income that is earned by local basic industries.

**Table 3.4 Average Monthly Employment and Total Wages In Covered Employment**

Industry	% of Total Employees		% of Total Wages Paid	
	2000	1990	2000	1990
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing	1.30	0.48	0.60	0.12
Mining (see Other, below)	0	-	0	-
Construction	4.10	2.61	2.90	1.75
Manufacturing	21.1	19.12	38.80	36.60
Transportation, Communication, Utilities (TCU)	4.0	4.17	4.1	2.86
Wholesale Trade (see Other)	0	-	0	-
Retail Trade	16.6	14.50	8.30	7.02
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	2.40	2.50	1.60	2.10
Services	9.10	21.83	4.90	11.34
Government	40.70	34.55	37.9	37.42
Other	0.70	0.63	0.90	0.79
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Washington State Office of Financial Management Data Books 1991, 2001

Retail trade has decreased slightly as a percentage of countywide employment from 1990 to 2000, and has increased slightly as a percentage of countywide wage earnings in that time period. Canadian trade has diminished significantly largely due to the disparity in value between the U.S. and Canadian currencies.

Table 3.5, highlights the largest employers in the County. These employers account for 1,370 or approximately 32% of a reported civilian work force of 4,320 in the County in 2001.

**Table 3.5 Pend Oreille County Employers**

<b>Largest Employers in the County</b>	<b>Number of Full-time/Permanent Employees</b>
Newport Community Hospital	283
Ponderay Newsprint	190
Newport School District #56	173
Pend Oreille County Government	145
Tech Cominco Mines	144
Kalispel Tribe of Indians	139
Ponderay Valley Fiber	80
Public Utility District #1	73
Selkirk School District	68
Aerocell	50
Cusick School District #59	50
Safeway Store	35
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,430</b>

Source: Pend Oreille County EDC; Pend Oreille County Planning Department. February 2005.

Retirement is another non-traditional industry. Retirees receive transfer payments from their retirement funds. These transfer payments--including retirement, income maintenance, and unemployment--are spent in the county, in effect creating a retirement industry. In Pend Oreille County transfer payments comprised 26% of the non-farm personal income in 1999, an increase of 4.9% from 1998. The Washington State figure was 11.7%, an increase of 4.1% from 1998. (Bureau of Economic Analysis)

**Table 3.6 Total transfer payments**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Pend Oreille County</b>	<b>Washington State</b>	<b>United States</b>
1990	\$29,856	\$11,583,568	\$594,761,000
1991	\$36,225	\$13,135,763	\$669,815,000
1992	\$39,502	\$14,524,688	\$751,635,000
1993	\$42,408	\$15,694,117	\$798,559,000
1994	\$41,625	\$16,399,663	\$933,776,000
1995	\$48,903	\$17,602,517	\$885,840,000
1996	\$53,012	\$18,393,309	\$928,697,000

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Year	Pend Oreille County	Washington State	United States
1997	\$52,632	\$19,037,143	\$962,160,000
1998	\$54,322	\$19,628,138	\$982,965,000
1999	\$56,989	\$20,437,077	\$1,016,203,000

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis.  
(in thousands of dollars; in 1999 dollars)

### Employment Trends

Comparing 1990 to 2000 figures indicates that several employment sectors have decreased as a percentage of total employees and as a percentage of total wages paid: agriculture and forestry, mining, construction, manufacturing, wholesale trade, retail trade, and government. Only two employment sectors increased as a percentage of total employees and as a percentage of total wages paid: finance, insurance, and real estate, and services. The transportation, communication, and utilities sector increased as a percentage of total employees and decreased as a percentage of total wages paid.

### Unemployment Trends

From 1990 through 2001 Pend Oreille County had an average annual unemployment rate of 12.7%, considerably above the Washington State average of 5.9% and the 5.5% U.S. average for those years. In 2001 the county unemployment rate of 9.5% translated into an average of about 410 people unemployed out of the reported civilian work force of 4,320 (Washington State Employment Security Department). There will continue to be the need to develop and implement a more diversified economic development strategy for the County to help reduce the higher unemployment rate here

**Table 3.7 Annual Average Unemployment Rates**

Year	Pend Oreille County	State of Washington	United States
1980	15.8 %	8.6 %	7.1 %
1981	20.1 %	9.6 %	5.8 %
1982	27.6 %	12.1 %	9.5 %
1983	17.8 %	11.2 %	9.5 %
1984	13.4 %	9.5 %	7.5 %
1985	16.1 %	8.1 %	7.3 %
1986	17.5 %	8.2 %	7.0 %
1987	17.5 %	7.6 %	6.2 %
1988	11.0 %	6.2 %	5.4 %
1989	9.5 %	6.2 %	5.3 %
1990	13.9 %	4.9 %	5.6 %
1991	14.1 %	6.4 %	6.9 %

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Year	Pend Oreille County	State of Washington	United States
1992	14.4 %	7.6 %	7.5 %
1993	14.1 %	7.6 %	6.9 %
1994	11.9 %	6.4 %	6.1 %
1995	13.4 %	6.4 %	5.6 %
1996	16.4 %	6.5 %	5.4 %
1997	12.9 %	4.8 %	4.9 %
1998	12.1 %	4.8 %	4.5 %
1999	10.0 %	4.7 %	4.2 %
2000	9.6 %	5.2 %	4.0 %
2001	9.5 %	6.0 %	4.8 %

Source: Washington State Employment Security Department, 2002.

### **Workforce Profile**

There are two components of the available work force: The reported unemployed, and the people who are available for work but not classified as unemployed. A recent proposal by the EDC has pointed out the need for reliable detailed information on the workforce profile. Some of the issues related to workforce profile which are not presently known are: Percentage of county residents who work out of the County; the skills, education, and income levels of these commuters; and the skills, education, and income levels of workers employed within the County.

### **Economic Trends**

One selected indication of growth trends is the Pend Oreille PUD information on new electrical line extensions, which shows for the years 1993 through 2000. (The PUD figures show that less than 15% of its residential meters are seasonal in use.)

Another indication of growth is Pend Oreille County residential building permit figures. Table 3.8, below, shows the residential building permits issued, a figure that combines on-site construction and manufactured homes. The table shows some fluctuation in building permit activity, though fairly consistent from 1992 through 1999.

**Table 3.8 New Electrical Line Extensions and County Residential Building Permits**

Year	Number of new line extensions	Total number of residential customers	Seasonal customers	Number of residential building permits issued by the County
1989				87
1990				73
1991				99
1992				122
1993	175			138
1994	165			139
1995	203			147
1996	179	6,419	760	124
1997	134	6,558	817	108
1998	108	6,660	859	124
1999	136	6,773	877	120
2000	106	6,878	963	81
2001		6,944	1,011	96

Source: Public Utility District #1; Pend Oreille County Public Works Department.

Note: Seasonal Customers based on annual usage of less than 2,500 kwh.

Other factors in the performance of the local and regional economy are: transportation, capital facilities and other infrastructure, distance to markets, and labor skills, training, and education of the workforce.

The information available to the EDCAC stated that employment in the County is driven by the trade, services, and government sectors. The County imports the professional, sales, processing, clerical, and packaging and material handling sectors of the economy. The County is higher than the state average in transfer payments received. Over one-third of county residents who are wage earners, commute out of county for work.

### **Land availability and suitability**

Industrial site availability is affected by the high rate of public land ownership in Pend Oreille County. Approximately 60% of the land in the county is located within the Colville and Panhandle National Forests, and approximately 5% of the land is owned by the State or County Government. An additional 28% of the land is privately owned Agricultural Open Space, or

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Designated/Classified Timber. The remainder of the land is comprised mostly of incorporated areas, and private rural parcels and residences. (See Land Use Element for more information.)

Several possible commercial or light industrial sites have been identified in Pend Oreille County, generally located in the Newport area, near Ione, on Kalispel Tribal land directly north of Cusick, and at the Lafarge site at Metaline Falls. Other sites are potentially available for such development, but require a significant amount of preparation before the sites can be available as commercial or light industrial locations. The Pend Oreille EDC list and the Washington Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development have inventories of commercial and light industrial sites. The non-availability of basic infrastructure services to these sites is the most significant factor holding back their development.

#### **3.5.4 Quality of Life**

Though not a specific Economic Development Citizen Advisory Committee (EDCAC) issue, quality of life is a very important component of economic development. Quality of life involves parts of life such as earning a living wage, having adequate housing and dependable transportation, a vibrant downtown, accessing cultural activities, whether the community sees itself in a positive light, and employing community standards to ensure that unsightly land uses are not visible from scenic highways or county roads. Quality of life is term, like rural lifestyle, for which in the local context there is no single meaning. Part of that local context includes the fact that the County has been an economically distressed county, based on a consistently high unemployment rate compared to the state average unemployment figures.

## 4.0 Transportation Element

### 4.1 Overview

Pend Oreille County has experienced modest growth in the past, which is expected to continue in coming years. To effectively and efficiently accommodate this growth in an orderly fashion, Pend Oreille County and local governments have recognized the need for a transportation plan. The Transportation Element contains a plan that describes the transportation system as it exists today and addresses the transportation needs for the next 6 and 20 years.

A transportation system includes a variety of facilities and services that can all be considered part of an area's transportation system: roads and highways, sidewalks, rail facilities, bicycle and pedestrian paths, public transit, equestrian trails, airports, waterways, and utility transmission corridors. In order to realize the most benefit and limit adverse impacts, transportation systems must be thoughtfully planned and coordinated with planned land use patterns and intensities, taking into account regional and local needs in the process.

The Transportation Element describes how the transportation system in Pend Oreille County is designed to facilitate the movement of people, goods, and services now and in the future. In doing so, the Transportation Element balances the needs of the variety of users of the transportation system, such as commuters, retailers, travelers, property owners, schools, businesses, airports, and recreational facilities.

The Transportation Element reflects the goal of the Pend Oreille Countywide Planning Policy on transportation:

The existing and future land use pattern shall be supported by a balanced transportation system that promotes the mobility of people and goods with a variety of options. This system shall be cooperatively planned and constructed between the County, the State, the Kalispel Tribe, and the Municipalities.

The Transportation Policies then address the following:

- a. Balancing transportation and land use;
- b. Developing alternative transportation modes, such as bus, rail, car-pooling, and bicycles;
- c. Meeting planned land use densities and economic activities in the planning, building, managing of the roadway system.

- d. Assessing the impacts of new development on existing roads;
- e. All jurisdictions in the County will agree upon and maintain Level of Service Standards (LOS) standards for all public roads;
- f. The Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO) will determine LOS standards for major connecting roads between the County and its neighboring jurisdictions;
- g. Pursuing funding sources to provide trail corridors, and pedestrian and bicycle paths. The non-motorized section of the transportation system shall be a part of the funding component of the Capital Improvement Program;
- h. Taking into account the safety of non-motorized travelers when considering a new development; and
- i. The local government will disapprove a proposed development that will result in lowering LOS standards to an unacceptable level until such standards can be met.

## 4.2 Growth Management Act Requirements

The Growth Management Act (GMA), at RCW 36.70A.020, includes the following transportation-related goals to guide the development and adoption of comprehensive plans and development regulations for those jurisdictions planning under the GMA:

*(1) Urban growth. Encourage development in urban areas where adequate public facilities and services exist or can be provided in an efficient manner;*

*(2) Reduce sprawl. Reduce the inappropriate conversion of undeveloped land into sprawling, low-density development;*

*(3) Transportation. Encourage efficient multimodal transportation systems that are based on regional priorities and coordinated with county and city comprehensive plans; and*

*(4) Public facilities and services. Ensure that those public facilities and services necessary to support development shall be adequate to serve the development at the time the development is available for occupancy and use without decreasing current service levels below locally established minimum standards.*

The Growth Management Act (GMA) requires that comprehensive plans include a transportation element that implements, and is consistent with, the land use element. The Transportation Element shall include the following sub-elements:

- a. *Land use assumptions used in estimating travel;*
- b. *Facilities and services needs, including;*
  - (i) *An inventory of air, water, and ground transportation facilities and services, including transit alignments and general aviation airport facilities, to define existing capital facilities and travel levels as a basis for future planning;*
  - (ii) *Level of Service standards for all arterials and transit routes to serve as a gauge to judge performance of the system;*
  - (iii) *Specific actions and requirements for bringing into compliance any facilities or services that are below an established Level of Service standard;*
  - (iv) *Forecasts of traffic for at least 10 years based on the adopted land use plan to provide information on the location, timing, and capacity needs of future growth; and*
  - (v) *Identification of system expansion needs and transportation system management needs to meet current and future demands.*
- c. *Finance, including:*
  - (i) *An analysis of funding capability to judge needs against probable funding resources;*
  - (ii) *A multi-year financing plan based on the needs identified in the comprehensive plan, the appropriate parts of which shall serve as the basis for the 6-year street, road, or transit program required by RCW 35.77.010 for cities, RCW 36.81.121 for counties, and RCW 35.58.2795 for public transportation systems;*
  - (iii) *If probable funding falls short of meeting identified needs, a discussion of how additional funding will be raised, or how land use assumptions will be reassessed to ensure that Level of Service standards will be met;*
- d. *Intergovernmental coordination efforts, including an assessment of the impacts of the transportation plan and land use assumptions on the transportation systems of adjacent jurisdictions; and*
- e. *Demand-management strategies.*

The Growth Management Act also requires that Counties establish Level of Service standards and concurrency requirements, including the following:

*After adoption of the comprehensive plan by jurisdictions required to plan or who choose to plan under RCW 36.70A.040, local jurisdictions must adopt and enforce ordinances that prohibit*

*development approval if the development causes the Level of Service on a transportation facility to decline below the standards adopted in the transportation element of the comprehensive plan, unless transportation improvements or strategies to accommodate the impacts of development*

*are made concurrent with the development. These strategies may include increased public transportation service, ride sharing programs, demand management, and other transportation systems management strategies. For the purposes of this subsection “concurrent with the development” shall mean that improvements or strategies are in place at the time of development, or that a financial commitment is in place to complete the improvements or strategies within 6 years.*

### 4.3 Transportation Goals

**Transportation Goal #1:** Maintain an efficient, safe, and environmentally responsible road system that supports the *Statement of Values* and the Goals of this Comprehensive Plan.

**Transportation Goal #2:** Preserve and improve existing facilities.

**Transportation Goal #3:** Consider safety, cost effectiveness, and environmental impacts when planning to build new roads.

**Transportation Goal #4:** Construct required transportation improvements concurrent with new land development.

**Transportation Goal #5:** Keep citizens informed and involved in the planning of facility improvements and new facility construction.

**Transportation Goal #6:** Participate in regional transportation planning efforts.

### 4.4 Transportation Policies

In support of the Transportation Goals, the County shall implement the following Transportation Policies:

**Transportation Policy #1:** Pend Oreille County shall periodically review and update its standards for the design and construction of County roads, including but not limited to consideration of:

- a. Features to reduce wildlife hazards;
- b. Environmentally responsible design features;
- c. Features to minimize impacts on surface and ground water; and

- d. Standards for widened shoulders to accommodate pedestrians and bicycles on existing roadways as appropriate.

**Transportation Policy #2:** When designing and constructing new roads the State, Pend Oreille County, and private parties shall:

- a. Give priority consideration to public safety;
- b. Limit the risk of wild fires;
- c. Avoid locating roads in sensitive areas to minimize environmental disruption and construction costs;
- d. Attempt to maximize view potentials; and
- e. Consider provisions for non-motorized and pedestrian features, including separated pedestrian and bicycle paths.

**Transportation Policy #3:** Pend Oreille County should support the construction of passing lanes and turn lanes on State and County roads to address safety concerns and excessive delays.

**Transportation Policy #4:** Pend Oreille County and the State should provide safe turnouts for disabled vehicles, slow vehicles, and/or scenic viewpoints.

**Transportation Policy #5:** Pend Oreille County shall consider the restriction/elimination of access points as opportunities arise to improve safety and maintain the capacity of existing arterials.

**Transportation Policy #6:** Pend Oreille County shall in cooperation with the Port of Pend Oreille, promote the shared use of railroad crossings in an effort to minimize the need for new crossings.

**Transportation Policy #7:** Pend Oreille County should retain public road right-of-way to provide an adequate road system, access to private property, accommodate utilities, and access to and view of water bodies.

**Transportation Policy #8:** Pend Oreille County should support state and local efforts to provide trail corridors and pedestrian and bicycle paths.

**Transportation Policy #9:** Pend Oreille County should promote alternative transportation modes, such as bus, rail, car-pooling, and bicycles.

**Transportation Policy #10:** Pend Oreille County shall evaluate proposed developments for:

- a. Compliance with established Level of Service Standards;
- b. Compliance with County Road Design Standards;
- c. The safety of motorized and non-motorized travelers; and
- d. Acceptable accommodation of emergency vehicles.

**Transportation Policy #11:** The Pend Oreille County Development Code shall include provisions to discourage the siting of incompatible uses adjacent to general aviation airports operated for the benefit of the general public, whether that airport be publicly owned or privately owned for public use. Such regulations shall be adopted only after formal consultation with airport owners and managers, private airport operators, general aviation pilots, ports, and the aviation division of the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT).

**Transportation Policy #12:** In order to protect the public safety Pend Oreille County shall consider establishing a permit system for special events and activities that use or impact public rights-of-way.

**Transportation Policy # 13:** Pend Oreille County shall establish regulations to require new development to mitigate their impacts on County roads.

**Transportation Policy #14:** Pend Oreille County shall establish a Concurrency Management System to help ensure that transportation improvements, strategies, and actions needed to support new development and to achieve transportation Level of Service standards that will be in place in time to support the developments causing such needs.

**Transportation Policy #15:** Pend Oreille County shall establish a Composite LOS system with C as the Level of Service standard for County collector arterial roads in accordance with the methodology described in the Transportation Plan.

**Transportation Policy #16:** Pend Oreille County shall establish and maintain a multi-year financing plan based on the transportation needs and priorities identified in the comprehensive plan. Transportation funds shall be allocated in the following order of priority:

- a. Debt service;
- b. Maintenance of existing County transportation facilities; and
- c. Engineering and construction of improvements to the County transportation system.

**Transportation Policy #17:** Priority consideration should be given to the construction of all-weather road surfaces and improvements that will minimize seasonal road restrictions.

## 4.5 Existing Conditions

The primary objective of this section of the report is to assess existing transportation conditions within Pend Oreille County. The following categories of information are included:

### Streets and Roadways

State Highways;

Street and Road Conditions;

Bridge Condition;

Lane Configuration;

Average Daily Traffic (ADT) Volumes;

Traffic Volumes;

Heavy Vehicles;

Traffic Control Devices;

Speed Limit Designation;

Roadway Operation; and

Traffic Safety.

### Non-motorized Transportation

Bicycle Paths;

Pedestrian Paths;

Equestrian Paths; and

Trail system.



## Rail

### **4.5.1 Streets and Roadways**

The streets and roadways within the County are primarily divided between State, County, and Cities. This Section will discuss State and County facilities. Figure 4-1 depicts the State Highways and major County roads.

#### State Highways

The Pend Oreille County transportation system relies heavily on US Route 2 and State Routes (SR) 20, 31, and 211, which link the communities and towns together and to outside areas.

US 2, a roadway on the National Highway System, traverses from northern Spokane County to the City of Newport, then it turns east into the State of Idaho. Within the County, US 2 is a rural four-lane roadway from the southern County line to SR 211 and then a two-lane highway to the City of Newport. The AADT ranges from 5,000 to 10,000 vehicles per day within this 18-mile segment. Within the City of Newport, US 2 is a two-lane couplet with AADT ranging from 10,000 to 11,500 vehicles per day.

SR 20 traverses from west to east, beginning at the border with Stevens County and turns south at Tiger Junction, and then follows the Pend Oreille River to the City of Newport, where it joins US 2. SR 20 is mostly a rural two-lane highway. The AADT for the 46-mile segment between Tiger Junction and the City of Newport ranges from 1,200 to 3,200 vehicles per day.

SR 31 begins at the Canadian border and runs south for 27 miles where it terminates at Tiger Junction and joins SR 20. SR 31 is a rural two-lane highway with an AADT ranging from 190 to 2,000 vehicles per day.

SR 211 is a 14-mile roadway connecting US 2 on the south and SR 20 on the north near the community of Usk. The route bypasses the City of Newport and provides a more direct route to the northern portion of the County for those entering or leaving Spokane County. SR 211 is a rural two-lane highway with the AADT ranging from 1,400 to 2,000 vehicles per day.

In 1998, Highways of Statewide Significance (HSS) legislation was passed by the Washington State Legislature and codified as RCW 47.06.140. Highways of Statewide Significance are those facilities deemed to provide and support transportation functions that promote and maintain significant statewide travel and economic linkages. (Washington State Transportation Commission; WSTC 2004) The legislation emphasizes that these significant facilities should be planned from a statewide perspective. Local jurisdictions are to assess the effects of local land use plans upon state facilities, based on LOS standards adopted for State highways. Within the County, US 2 and SR 20 are designated as HSS.

## Street and Road Condition

Local roads generally serve as access from land uses to the collector and arterial street system. A common attribute of local roads in both urban and rural areas is their low traffic volume and low speeds. Lane widths can be 9 to 11 feet for low speeds and volumes. The basic components of the county's transportation system are sound and in reasonably good condition. This assessment is based on Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) survey data, County survey data, and windshield observation by Jones and Stokes staff. There is adequate, and in

most cases, ample capacity available, and the transportation system connects most origins and destinations well. An inventory of major County roadways and their conditions, such as functional classification, pavement type, pavement width, number of lanes, and shoulder type and width, are presented in Table A-1 included in the Appendix.

## Bridge Condition

Table 4-1 lists the State owned bridges in Pend Oreille County. This list was obtained from the WSDOT Bridge and Structure Office (WSDOT 2002a). County-owned bridges are shown in Table 4-2.

**Table 4-1 Pend Oreille County Bridge Inventory (State-Owned Bridges)**

SR #	Bridge #	Bridge Crossing Name	MP	Width (ft)	Length (ft)	Span Type
20	20/905	Lost Creek	395.80	> 20	64	TTT
20	20/908	South Fork Lost Creek	395.90	> 20	68	PCTB
20	20/911	Ruby Creek	400.19	> 20	135	PCTB
20	20/914	Pend Oreille Valley Railroad Undercrossing (CMSTPP)	405.96	> 20	120	SB TTT
20	20/917	Tacoma Creek	515.37	> 20	104	CS
20	20/918	Calispell Creek Bridge	418.93	> 20	281	PCTB
20	20/919.25	Cattle Pass	419.62	> 20	9	TCULV
20	20/924	Davis Creek	423.75	> 20	77	TTT
31	31/33	Cedar Creek	4.15	> 20	147	CTB
31	31/36	Pend Oreille River Metaline Falls	14.07	> 20	696	ST CTB
31	31/38	Sullivan Creek	14.79	> 20	182	CTB
31	31/42	Slate Creek	21.04	> 20	216	SG SB

Source: Bridge List (WSDOT 2002)

Span Type: CS = Concrete Slab; CTB = Concrete T-Beam; PCTB = Pre-Tensioned Concrete T-Beam; SB = Steel Beam;  
SG = Steel Girder; ST = Steel Truss; TCULV = Timber Culvert; TTT = Creosote Treated Timber Tres

**Table 4-2 Pend Oreille County Bridge Inventory (County-Owned Bridges)**

Road Name	Bridge #	Bridge Crossing Name	MP	Width (ft)	# of Lanes	Length (ft)
Middle Fork Rd	2022	North Fork Calispell Creek	3.15	14	1	27
Calicoma Rd	2373	Calicoma	0.08	26	2	26
Tacoma Creek Rd	2389	Tacoma Creek Bridge	4.32	14	1	23
Rocky Cr Rd	2630	Moose Drool	1.5	14	1	25
Rocky Cr Rd	2630	Scape-Goat	2.1	14	1	21
Rocky Cr Rd	2630	Mountain Mauler	2.5	14	1	15
Greenhouse Rd	2702	Big Muddy Creek Bridge	1.03	26	2	20
Cedar Creek Rd	2705	Cedar Creek Bridge	0.00	26	2	28
Smackout Pass Rd	2714	Little Muddy Creek Bridge	2.27	14	1	23
Kings Lake Rd	3389	Usk Bridge	0.70	26	2	2,281
LeClerc Creek Rd	3500	East Branch LeClerc Creek #1	0.88	28	2	38
W Branch LeClerc Creek Rd	3503	West Branch LeClerc Creek #1	1.01	28	2	79
W Branch LeClerc Creek Rd	3503	West Branch LeClerc Creek #2	3.60	14	1	31
W Branch LeClerc Creek Rd	3503	West Branch LeClerc Creek #3	5.04	14	1	31
E Branch LeClerc Creek Rd	3521	East Branch LeClerc Creek	3.37	14	1	18
Fertile Valley Rd	9111	Sacheen Lake	2.50	26	2	104
McKenzie Rd	9216	McKenzie	2.00	26	2	96
LeClerc Rd N	9325	LeClerc Creek	16.30	26	2	63
LeClerc Rd N	9325	Mill Creek	13.30	32	2	34
LeClerc Rd N	9325	CCA Creek	4.93	32	2	24
Sullivan Lake Rd	9345	Ione Bridge	0.30	26	2	830
Sullivan Lake Rd	9345	Harvey Creek Bridge	6.70	26	2	34
Sullivan Lake Rd	9345	Sullivan Lake Inlet	9.18	19	1	78
Sullivan Lake Rd	9345	Sullivan Lake Outlet	12.35	32	2	192
Sullivan Lake Rd	9345	Mill Meadow	13.00	32	2	164

Source: Pend Oreille County 2004

### Lane Configuration

The traveled way is that portion of the roadway reserved for traffic and is generally composed of two or more designated lanes. Widths of lanes and resulting traveled way are a function of design speed, vehicle classification, and safety and operational considerations. Lane widths can

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range from 9 to 13 feet, but are usually 11 or 12 feet in width. Roads within Pend Oreille County in most places contain two lanes.

#### Average Daily Traffic (ADT) Volumes

Existing Average Daily Traffic (ADT) volumes of major and minor County Collectors by roadways are summarized in Table 4-3. Most of the count data was collected during the years 1991 through 2003. The table shows the highest ADT volumes of each County Collector. The highest County Road ADT volume is on King Lake Road. The ADT volumes by roadway segments are presented in Table A-1 included in the Appendix.

**Table 4-3 Existing Average Daily Traffic on County Roads**

Road#	Road Name	Existing ADT	Year
30290	Bead Lake Rd	360	2000
29750	Boundary Rd	357	1992
91230	Camden Rd	456	2001
18890	Coyote Trail	408	2000
92360	Cusick-Meadow Rd	259	2000
91600	Deer Valley Rd	1,018	1998
16741	Farr's Lane	420	2003
91110	Fertile Valley Rd	578	1998
21100	Flowery Trail Rd	252	2000
19030	Gray Rd	267	2000
10030	Horseshoe Lake Rd	80	1992
33890	Kings Lake Rd	1,646	2000
93250	LeClerc Rd N	804	2000
93050	LeClerc Rd S	1,625	2001
18750	McCloud Creek Rd	100	1992
92160	McKenzie Rd	334	2000
26950	Meadow Rd	190	1992
91320	N Shore Diamond Lake Rd	723	2000
91440	S Shore Diamond Lake Rd	771	1999
16651	Scotia Rd E	943	1997
27140	Smackout Pass Rd	580	1992
15750	Spring Valley Rd	747	2000
93450	Sullivan Lake Rd	467	1999
92050	Westside Calispell Rd	525	1991

Source: Pend Oreille County 2004

## Heavy Vehicles

- Heavy vehicles include trucks used to transport freight and goods, and recreational vehicles. Because the study area is heavily influenced by the timber and agriculture industries, the freight and goods movements associated with those industries result in higher than normal truck percentages on some of the area's roadways. Heavy vehicles are usually slower moving and have longer and wider wheel base dimensions than the older roads were designed to accommodate. These vehicles are frequently prohibited from using the County road system during thaw conditions each spring to avoid deterioration of the roads. Table A-2 of the Appendix lists the roadways typically closed to truck traffic each spring and totals over 280 miles. The longest period of closure was 69 days on Flowery Trail Road and Nicholson Road. Recreational vehicle travel on the County's roads is seasonal but must be considered in long-range circulation planning. Primary routes for recreational vehicles include US 2, SR 20, SR 31, and SR 211.

## Roadway Operations

Level of Service (LOS) is the primary measure used to determine the operating condition of a roadway segment. Highway Capacity Manual (Transportation Research Board 2000) procedures were used to measure transportation facility performance. Using the Highway Capacity Manual procedures, the quality of traffic operation is graded into one of six LOS designations: A, B, C, D, E, or F. LOS A and B represent the best traffic operation. LOS C and D represent intermediate operation, and LOS E and F represent high levels of traffic congestion.

The LOS for two-lane highway segments is calculated using average two-way volumes for the peak hour, and the LOS criteria is based on Percent Time-Spent-Following (PTSF) and the Average Travel Speed, as summarized in Table 4-4. On Class I highways, such as State Routes, efficient mobility is paramount, and LOS is defined in terms of both PTSF and average travel speed. On Class II highways, such as County roads, mobility is less critical, and LOS is defined only in terms of PTSF without consideration of average travel speed. Drivers will tolerate higher levels of PTSF on a Class II facility than on a Class I facility, because Class II facilities usually serve shorter trips and different trip purposes.

**Table 4-4 Level of Service Criteria for Two-Lane Highways**

LOS	Class I Highway		Class II Highway
	Average Time Spent Following Another Vehicle (percent)	Average Travel Speed (miles/hour)	Average Time Spent Following Another Vehicle (percent)
A	≤ 35	> 55	≤ 40
B	> 35 – 50	> 50 – 55	> 40 – 55
C	> 50 – 65	> 45 – 50	> 55 – 70
D	> 65 – 80	> 40 – 45	> 70 – 85

LOS	Class I Highway		Class II Highway
	Average Time Spent Following Another Vehicle (percent)	Average Travel Speed (miles/hour)	Average Time Spent Following Another Vehicle (percent)
E	> 80	≤ 40	> 85
F	Applies whenever the flow rate exceeds the segment capacity		

Source: Highway Capacity Manual (TRB 2000)

The posted speed on state routes, outside city limits, is 60 mph on SR 2 and 55 mph on all other state routes. The speed limit on most county roads is 25 mph to 50 mph based on the above factors.

### Traffic Safety

One of the goals of a transportation system is to move people and goods in a safe and efficient manner. Maximizing the safety of the roadway system is the primary objective of design in all cases; an important component of evaluating existing transportation conditions is traffic safety.

Within any area, certain locations have more vehicle collisions than others have due to different reasons. Traffic collision information for County roads was obtained from the Pend Oreille County Public Works Department. The collision data was collected between 1999 and 2003. The collision rates per million vehicle miles (mvm) and fatal collision rates per hundred million vehicle miles (hmvm) were calculated based on the existing AADT on these roadway segments. Table 4-5 summarizes the number of collisions on each major and minor Collector in the County. The collision rates by roadway segments are presented in Table A-3 included in the Appendix.

**Table 4-5 Traffic Collisions on County Roads**

Road#	Road Name	Length (mi)	Number of Collisions (1999 – 2003)	Fatality
30290	Bead Lake Rd	6.11	3	0
29750	Boundary Rd	9.95	4	0
91230	Camden Rd	5.18	2	0
18890	Coyote Trail	9.32	12	0
92360	Cusick-Meadow Rd	1.73	0	0
91600	Deer Valley Rd	13.23	21	0
16741	Farr's Lane	0.04	0	0
91110	Fertile Valley Rd	9.32	11	0
21100	Flowery Trail Rd	9.12	6	1
19030	Gray Rd	0.48	2	0

<b>Road#</b>	<b>Road Name</b>	<b>Length (mi)</b>	<b>Number of Collisions (1999 – 2003)</b>	<b>Fatality</b>
10030	Horseshoe Lake Rd	1.05	0	0
33890	Kings Lake Rd	0.93	4	0
93250	LeClerc Rd N	32.21	19	1
93050	LeClerc Rd S	15.54	39	2
18750	McCloud Creek Rd	2.74	8	1
92160	McKenzie Rd	2.27	1	0
26950	Meadow Rd	7.21	1	0
91320	N Shore Diamond Lake Rd	6.03	6	0
91440	S Shore Diamond Lake Rd	2.47	6	0
16651	Scotia Rd E	0.64	1	0
27140	Smackout Pass Rd	2.62	0	0
15750	Spring Valley Rd	11.46	15	0
93450	Sullivan Lake Rd	17.60	9	0
92050	Westside Calispell Rd	9.39	9	0
<b>Total Collisions (1999 – 2003)</b>			<b>179</b>	<b>5</b>

Source: Pend Oreille County 2004

The County averaged 36 collisions per year over the past 5 years with one fatality per year on the major and minor Collectors between 1999 and 2003. A large number of roadway segments were without collisions during this period of time. The highest collision rate was along McCloud Road at 13.3 mvm. Seven other roadway segments (County roads) that had collision rates exceeding 2.0 are listed below:

- Coyote Trail;
- Deer Valley Road;
- Gray Road;
- Kings Lake Road;
- Le Clerc Road S;
- S Shore Diamond Lake Road; and
- Westside Calispell Lake Road.

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State highway traffic collisions within the County are summarized in the 1996 Washington State Highway Accident Report (WSDOT 1996). The accident rate of US 2 is between 0.6 mvm to 1.3 mvm from the 58 accidents in 1996. The accident rate of SR 20 is between 1.3 mvm to 1.8 mvm from 43 accidents in 1996. SR 31 within the County had 6 accidents in 1996 with the accident rate ranging from 0.2 mvm to 0.8 mvm. The accident rate of SR 211 is the highest among these State Routes. The rate is between 2.5 mvm to 2.7 mvm from 22 accidents. The statewide accident rate for collector arterials in rural areas is 2.05 mvm. Roadways with accident rates higher than this value should be analyzed for traffic safety measures.

### Scenic Byways

The State has designated SR 31 from SR 20 to the Canadian Border as a Scenic Byways. Scenic Byway designation is based on scenic, cultural, historic, natural, recreational, and archaeological qualities. Designated roads are eligible for special grant programs to provide pullouts and other amenities. SR 31 and SR 20 are also part of a International Byway designated the Selkirk Loop. This byway loops through Pend Oreille County, northern Idaho on US 2 and US 95 and then through southern Canada.

## 4.5.2 Non-motorized Transportation

Non-motorized facilities in the County are somewhat limited. Pathways and sidewalks are provided only at limited locations within city limits and in the immediate vicinity of the larger urban areas. In recent years, the awareness of the potential for non-motorized (pedestrian, bicycle, and equestrian) transportation routes for recreational purposes and non-recreational purposes has increased throughout the nation.

### Bicycle Paths

Bicycle facilities should serve to connect attractions and resources such as schools, commercial areas, employment centers, and recreational facilities. The WSDOT bicycle map that is provided as information to the state's bicyclists indicates that bicycling is allowed on some parts of US 2 and State Routes 31, 20, and 211 within the County. Recreational bicycling is growing in popularity in Pend Oreille County. Many of the popular routes have limited or no shoulders to safely accommodate bicyclists. In addition, many of the routes also have large segments with limited sight distance. There are two exceptions within the County. The first is a bicycle/pedestrian path that starts at the Cusick Boat Launch and heads south along River Road, ending just north of King's Lake Road. The second bicycle path is a striped lane on LeClerc Road North from the Usk Bridge to the Kalispel Tribe Community Center. The second bicycle path has both separated and non-separated portions to it. Lastly a National Bikeway has been identified, the Golden Tiger Trail, along Highway 20 from Stevens County to State Highway 31 and north to Ione and then south along Le Clerc Road to the Idaho border.

## Pedestrian Paths

Improvements to enhance pedestrian mobility and safety are based on issues raised by the public. Improvements include constructing new crosswalks, pedestrian bridges, sidewalks, and paths, and widening existing shoulders. Pedestrian improvements are most effective where pedestrian concentrations are greatest, such as within commercial business areas, and around schools and recreational areas. Most walking takes place on County road shoulders. The Six Year Plan proposes the construction of a pedestrian path along Fertile Valley Road adjacent to Sacheen Lake.

## Equestrian Paths

The only designated equestrian trails outside of state and/or federal parks, are in the County Park.

## Trail System

A good deal of riding and hiking takes place throughout the County along road rights-of-way and in other areas where a trail is not guaranteed to the user. Designated trails outside federally owned land in Pend Oreille County are almost nonexistent, with the exception of a few private routes and routes along existing roads that have been so designated by tourist information but which have not been developed to provide for bicycles, horses, or pedestrians.

### **4.5.3 Rail**

The Port of Pend Oreille owns and operates the Pend Oreille Valley Railroad (POVA) and repair facilities for locomotives and rail cars. The railroad extends from Metaline Falls to Newport, approximately 61 rail miles, along which the right-of-way varies in width from 50 feet to more than 250 feet each side of the centerline. POVA operates over the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) line between Newport, Washington and Dover, Idaho and has operating rights from Dover, Idaho to Sandpoint, Idaho in order to interchange cars with the BNSF.

#### 4.5.4 Airport

The Ione Municipal Airport is in the National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems (NPIAS). Participation in the NPIAS is limited to public use airports that meet specific FAA activity criteria. NPIAS airports are eligible for federal funding of improvements through FAA programs such as the current Airport Improvement Program (AIP). Currently, there are more than 3,300 NPIAS airports, of which more than 75 percent are general aviation airports similar to Ione Municipal. Ione Municipal is the only NPIAS airport in Pend Oreille County and it is the only paved and lighted airport in the county that is open year-round.

The County and the Town of Ione have partnered in the creation of the Joint Airport Zoning Board (JAZB). The JAZB was formally created in Resolution 2013-1. The JAZB has created and adopted a zoning overlay.

### 4.6 Traffic and Level of Service

#### 4.6.1 Introduction

The adequacy of the transportation system is based on the use of established level of service measures to analyze current and future anticipated growth. The following sections describe the methodology for forecasting future growth, typical measures of level of service, and propose new measures for Pend Oreille County. The need for future roadway improvements can be quantified, in part, by examining the results of this effort.

The following categories of traffic study are discussed in this section:

- Existing traffic;
- Functional classification system;
- Existing Level of Service;
- Traffic forecasts;
- Level of Service forecasts; and
- County road priority.

#### 4.6.2 Existing Traffic

Average Daily Traffic (ADT) was furnished by the WSDOT for state routes and by Pend Oreille County for County roads. These traffic volumes are required to form the basis for the Level of Service (LOS) analysis, and traffic forecast. Traffic demand on roads in Pend Oreille County

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varies from fewer than 100 vehicles on local roads to as many as 1,700 vehicles per day for the year 2003. Traffic demand on state routes in the County varies from a low of 190 vehicles to as high as 10,000 vehicles per day. Traffic volume dictates the type of roadway to be provided. Typically roads are categorized into functional classes to aid the funding review process.

An inventory of the arterial streets, county roads, and state routes in Pend Oreille County provides a basis for the description of the existing transportation system. Existing Average Daily Traffic (ADT) on the major street network were assimilated in order to calculate the LOS of traffic operations. The assessment of existing traffic conditions and identification of planned transportation improvement projects provide the quantitative and qualitative measures used in the development of recommended transportation improvements.

Table A-4 of the Appendix shows the existing AADT on State routes and Table A-1 shows the existing 2003 ADT on County major and minor Collectors. Where traffic counts were not available for 2003 a traffic count for a previous year was used and inflated at 2% per year to 2003.

### 4.6.3 Functional Classification System

Classification of streets and highways in the State of Washington is based upon guidelines prepared by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Streets are classified based on the degree to which they provide through movement and land access functions. Specific criteria defining streets include the following:

- Character and relative length of trips;
- Anticipated or projected traffic volume; and
- Relationship of a street to the land use it serves.

Each local jurisdiction is responsible for defining its transportation system into specific functional classifications. Pend Oreille County has those functional classifications below:

**Principal Arterial:** (02 Rural Principal) – Streets and highways that contain the greatest portion of through or long distance travel. Such facilities serve the high volume travel corridors that connect the major generators of traffic. The selected routes provide an integrated system for complete circulation of traffic, including ties to the major rural highways entering the urban area. Within Pend Oreille County, only US 2 is designated a Principal Arterial.

**Minor Arterial:** (06 Rural Minor) – Streets and highways that connect principal arterials with the arterial and collector roads that extend into urban and rural areas. Minor arterial streets and highways serve less concentrated traffic generating areas such as small communities, neighborhood shopping centers, and schools. Although the predominant function of minor arterial streets is the movement of through traffic, they also provide for considerable local traffic

that originates or is destined to points along the corridor. Within Pend Oreille County, SR 211, SR 20, and SR 31 are the only designated Minor Arterials.

**Major Collector:** (07 Rural Major Collector) – These routes should provide service to the county seat if not on a state route, to larger towns not directly served by the state route systems, and to other traffic generators of equivalent inter-county importance, such as consolidated schools, shipping points, county parks, and important agricultural areas. In addition, these routes should link larger towns and/or cities with state routes, and should serve the more important inter-county travel corridors.

**Minor Collector:** (08 Rural Minor Collector) – These routes should be spaced at intervals consistent with population density, collect traffic from local roads, and bring all developed areas within a reasonable distance of a collector road. In addition, these routes should provide service to the remaining smaller communities and link the locally important traffic generators with their rural hinterlands.

**Local Access Road:** (09 Rural Unclassified) – Streets not selected for inclusion in the arterial or collector classes. They allow access to individual homes, shops, and similar traffic destinations. Direct access to abutting land is essential, because all traffic originates from or is destined to abutting land. Through traffic should be discouraged by appropriate geometric design and/or traffic control devices.

Table 4-6 summarizes the lengths of the County transportation system by functional classifications. The County roadways classified as major and minor Collectors are analyzed in this Plan.

**Table 4-6 County Transportation System Summary**

Functional Classification	Length (mi)
Principal Arterial	19
Minor Arterial	96
Major Collector	107
Minor Collector	75
Local Access Road	369
Total Length	666

Source: Pend Oreille County 2004

#### 4.6.4 Existing Level of Service

The roadway Level of Service (LOS) is the fundamental description of traffic congestion and serves as a basis for road, street, and intersection design. This descriptive role has been extended in recent years to use the concept of LOS in the development review process. Developers are required to determine the traffic impacts of their developments and mitigate additional traffic

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that may result from their development. As a result of the requirement of the Growth Management Act (GMA), LOS standards are set by regulatory agencies as a threshold measurement. If the traffic impacts of a development exceed this LOS threshold, the developer is required to mitigate those impacts by helping to provide improvements such as streets and/or other infrastructure, transportation demand management programs to reduce single occupant vehicles, and transit and non-motorized alternatives. This mitigation is the fundamental basis of the GMA concurrency requirement that links land use development and transportation facilities. It should be noted that communities could adopt revised LOS standards provided that these revised standards meet the GMA requirements.

The GMA recommends that the adopted LOS standard be regionally consistent. The LOS standard that is adopted by the County, therefore, should be consistent with those LOS standards adopted by the communities of Pend Oreille County and by the North East Washington Regional Transportation Planning Organization (NEW RTPO). As stated in the Countywide Planning Policies on transportation, the County should determine LOS standards for major connecting roads between the County and its neighboring jurisdictions.

The LOS standards established for HSS are divided into two categories, rural and urban. For rural areas, LOS C is the service standard, and for urban area, LOS D is the service standard. Highways of Regional Significance (HRS), which are those that do not have Statewide Significance designation, may be held to the locally adopted LOS standards of the jurisdictions in which they are located. However, at a minimum, the RTPO must establish LOS standards. (WSDOT 2002b)

The NEW RTPO, in cooperation with WSDOT, has adopted LOS standards for HRS and County facilities. For all State Highways, LOS C is the service standard, and for all other designated regionally significant transportation systems, LOS D is the service standard. (TEDD 2001)

LOS is a qualitative measure of the efficiency of a transportation facility such as roads or transit. Basically, LOS measures the operational condition of a transportation system. Much attention has been focused on establishing new, alternative ways to measure LOS under the GMA. The requirements of the GMA recommend that cities and counties determine LOS for roadways and set an LOS Standard for roadways, but that they should also set an LOS standard for transit facilities and services. These LOS standards have a planning function and a regulatory function. The LOS standard is used to determine the qualitative existing and future performance levels of city and county roadways-part of the planning function. The LOS standard also determines whether the GMA concurrency requirement has been met. The concurrency requirement is mandated by the GMA and requires that a regional LOS standard be set for roads and transit. All local and regional plans, and their standards, should comply with the regional adopted LOS standard.

The primary function of the arterial road system is to provide an orderly movement of traffic with reasonable mobility and capacity. The arterial road system must also be compatible with other functions of the community. The primary function is most commonly measured and rated using LOS standards as a guide. Community compatibility is less definite and requires a

subjective evaluation of community values and standards. Community values and standards are derived from the transportation policies identified in the comprehensive plan and from standards in subdivision and zoning ordinances. Comments received during the public meetings provide additional information on what the community expects of their transportation system.

The 2000 Highway Capacity Manual describes six levels of service for vehicular traffic, which range from the highest--LOS A--to the lowest--LOS F. For two-lane highway segments, the Level of Service is calculated using average two-way volumes for the peak hour, and the LOS criteria is based on Percent Time-Spent-Following (PTSF) and the Average Travel Speed, as summarized in Table 4-4. State Routes are analyzed as Class I two-lane highways and County roads are analyzed as Class II two-lane highways. The average two-way volumes for the peak hour are assumed to be 10% of ADT volumes.

Table A-5 of the Appendix summarizes the LOS for State Route segments, which operate at LOS C for US 2 and one segment of SR 31 and LOS B for all other State Routes segments. Table A-1 summarizes the LOS for County roadway segments, which all operate at LOS A under existing condition. The conventional method described in the 2000 Highway Capacity Manual suits urban areas well. However, in Pend Oreille County, where concerns for roadway conditions, geometrics, and all weather roads are more critical this LOS method may be inadequate.

#### **4.6.5 Traffic Forecasts**

There are a number of ways of providing travel forecasts. The use of travel demand models, which are based on land use, provide the greatest degree of accuracy for predicting future travel and assigning trips to specific routes. These models typically use trip generation rates for a variety of land use categories to calculate how many trips a particular site or area will generate. The trip generation rate is based on the particular measurement, such as trips per 1,000 square feet of retail space, trips per dwelling unit, or trips per person, and is provided by local knowledge or using national survey data. The model uses a four-step process of trip generation based on land use, trip distribution based on the transportation network (primarily the road system), mode split, and then trip assignment.

When forecasting models are not available, a Growth Trend Method is typically used to forecast future traffic volumes. This method uses past growth trends modified based on anticipated or planned land use changes to forecast future traffic volumes.

#### **Trend Analysis Forecasting**

The Growth Trend Method is used primarily in rural areas, but can also be used in urban areas with stable or steady growth patterns. WSDOT used the growth trend method for statewide traffic forecasting, but with average growth factors developed for each county and by functional class of each state route. Trend analysis looks at historical data and activity as the basis for the projecting future traffic activity. The growth rate used in trend analysis can vary, and it is possible to conduct projections under several scenarios using different growth rates. However

trend analysis forecasting assumes for the most part that future traffic growth will mirror and follow historical trends.

The trend analysis method is applicable where sufficient count data is available to establish a trend line for the subject streets. Average Daily Traffic (ADT) volumes are used in this case. The simplest procedure is to plot the data for each year and establish the trend line. This procedure will not necessarily produce the most reliable projection but it will result in different individuals' obtaining the same mathematical results.

Trend analysis is most applicable where extensive count data over a long period of time is available and where the streets or roads are not already at capacity. Trend analysis is based on the assumption that recent growth or growth rates in traffic volumes will continue through the study target year and that there are no capacity restraints. Use of this method should be avoided where substantial transportation system changes will alter traffic patterns within the study area.

### Forecasting Methodology

The forecasting methodology used for the Pend Oreille County Transportation Plan is Trend Analysis Forecasting. This methodology was chosen for the following reasons:

- Land use information is not readily available in sufficient detail to perform conventional transportation modeling (land use information would be needed for the entire County, both existing and design year, to perform trip generation);
- There is extensive traffic count information available on State Routes from the WSDOT;
- The existing land use, on the macro scale, is not anticipated to change significantly in the time frame covered by this study because the land use alternatives developed would have only minor deviations from the existing trend growth;
- Population forecasts for the same time period show a 1.4% growth per year; and
- Relatively minor traffic congestion is anticipated through the design year to cause traffic to shift away from the existing trend.

Based on these considerations, it was determined that trend analysis is the appropriate forecasting methodology. Where specific developments are known, trips will be added to the network and will be analyzed on a project-specific basis.

### State Route Traffic Forecasts

**Traffic volumes on State routes were analyzed using WSDOT's historical count data. This data is summarized in Table A-4 of the Appendix. Generally, traffic volumes along US 2 and SR 211 have increased by approximately 2% per year over the past 10 years. State**

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**routes in the northern portion of the County have either declined slightly or remained the same over the same period of time. Because the traffic volumes are so low along these State routes a small change, less than 100 vehicles, will result in an annual rate of 1% over a several year period. Because the County may see an increase in recreational traffic over the next 20 years and population growth is projected at over 1% per year an annual growth rate of 2% per year for all State routes will be used.**

#### County Road Traffic Forecast

The trend analysis forecasting methodology for county roads was predicated on 2003 as the base year. The County has extensive counts from 1991 through 2003. All counts were adjusted to 2003 using the 2% growth rate, which is derived from WSDOT AADT data on State Routes, to establish a common base.

A 2% growth rate was chosen as the annual growth rate for all County roads. Several factors were considered in arriving at this growth rate. The WSDOT has used approximately 2% as the growth rate on state routes in Pend Oreille County. A review of County road count history revealed modest growth along roads in the southern portion of the County, while along northern roads they have either declined slightly or remained the same. Analysis of count history and experience elsewhere in eastern Washington revealed a modest growth rate.

While travel historically increases at a greater rate than population, population is still a good indicator of overall growth in rural areas. Through trips are anticipated to grow faster than local trips, but most of the long-distance through trips would be on state routes. Population forecasts project a 1.4% annual growth rate. Overall, it was decided that a 2% per year growth is appropriate for county roads.

The calculated 2010 and 2025 average daily traffic (ADT) for County arterials is summarized in Table 4-7. The table shows the highest ADT volumes of each County Collector. The ADT volumes by roadway segments are presented in Table A-6 included in the Appendix.

**Table 4-7 2010 and 2025 Average Daily Traffic on County Roads**

Road#	Road Name	2010 ADT	2025 ADT
30290	Bead Lake Rd	440	590
29750	Boundary Rd	510	680
91230	Camden Rd	540	730
18890	Coyote Trail	490	660
92360	Cusick-Meadow Rd	310	420
91600	Deer Valley Rd	1,290	1,730
16741	Farr's Lane	480	650
91110	Fertile Valley Rd	740	990
21100	Flowery Trail Rd	310	420

Road#	Road Name	2010 ADT	2025 ADT
19030	Gray Rd	320	430
10030	Horseshoe Lake Rd	110	150
33890	Kings Lake Rd	2,010	2,710
93250	LeClerc Rd N	980	1,310
93050	LeClerc Rd S	1,940	2,610
18750	McCloud Creek Rd	140	190
92160	McKenzie Rd	400	540
26950	Meadow Rd	280	370
91320	N Shore Diamond Lake Rd	880	1,190
91440	S Shore Diamond Lake Rd	950	1,280
16651	Scotia Rd E	1,220	1,640
27140	Smackout Pass Rd	830	1,110
15750	Spring Valley Rd	930	1,250
93450	Sullivan Lake Rd	590	790
92050	Westside Calispell Rd	770	1,040

Source: Pend Oreille County 2004.

#### 4.6.6 Level of Service Forecasts

Using the conventional LOS method from the Highway Capacity Manual, the LOS for each segment of County road was calculated and listed in Table A-6 of the Appendix. This table shows that all County roads operate at LOS A for the year 2010 and LOS A with LOS B for one segment in the year 2025. The projected 2025 ADT on County roadways varies from a low of 110 vehicles to as high as 2,610 vehicles per day.

The conventional Level of Service (LOS) defined by the 2000 Highway Capacity Manual has limited value in a rural county such as Pend Oreille County. Congestion, which is an indicator that a roadway is approaching capacity, is generally not an issue in Pend Oreille County. A conventional LOS analysis of the County would conclude that there are no needs for roadway improvements, while the citizens of the County and the local government recognize the need for improvements on some sections of the roadway system. These improvement needs may take the form of street or road widening to meet standards, resurfacing to improve comfort, passing lanes to address seasonal RVs and trucks, spot safety improvements, and/or adding traffic control devices.

A composite LOS was developed to measure the overall roadway performance. The method is intended to identify and prioritize roadway improvement needs, not just relative capacity. The goal of using the composite LOS is to assist decision makers in programming limited transportation funding in an efficient and effective manner.

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The composite LOS method uses a number of criteria to evaluate and prioritize County roads. These criteria are as follows:

LOS: The conventional LOS as defined by the Highway Capacity Manual is used to allocate points. The LOS for 2025 was used to evaluate roadway segments. An LOS rating of A will receive less points than a rating of B, etc.

Pavement Condition: The pavement condition of each arterial County road segment is rated annually to determine the need for repaving and/or repair needs. This rating is based on criteria used statewide by Counties and results in an overall rating and ranking of County roads. To determine pavement conditions in the future depreciation graphs were used which evaluate traffic volumes and truck usage. Points were then assigned with the worst conditions receiving the highest number of points.

Accident Rate: The previous 5-year accident rate for each segment of roadway was calculated and the higher the rate the more points were assigned.

Fatalities: Where fatality accidents occurred during the previous 5 years, points were allocated to the particular segment of roadway.

Geometric Conditions: Each segment of roadway was rated as to its drivability and current roadway conditions as compared to adopted standards. The standards included lane width, shoulder width, geometrics, etc. Points were assigned based on the roadways rating with the roads not meeting standards or having poor drivability receiving the highest points.

Road Restrictions: The ability to move goods and provide services throughout the year is important in Pend Oreille County. Road restrictions often occur on many roads during the spring thaw because of inadequate pavement structure. To evaluate this issue, the number of restricted road days during the winter of 2003-2004 was used to assign points to roadways. The more restricted days the more points were assigned.

The final point assignment and subsequent ranking of roadway segments are shown in Table A-7 of the Appendix for the years 2010 and 2025. The table lists each roadway segment, the evaluation criteria, and the points assigned. Table A-8 of the Appendix shows the rating values used to assign points.

The resulting table may also be used to establish LOS for GMA purposes or establish a priority array for selecting capital projects. Discussions with County staff, planning commission members and citizens revealed a belief that all roadways currently are at an acceptable level of service for GMA purposes. As a result, Table 4-8 should be used to establish County road level of services with LOS C adopted as the acceptable level of service for County roads. Based on this LOS standard there are no County roads that exceed acceptable standards.

**Table 4-8 Concurrency Level of Service**

Level of service	Point Range
A	< 20
B	21 to 30
C	31 to 40
D	41 to 50
E	>51

#### 4.6.7 Conclusion

Several findings and/or conclusions can be drawn from the analysis of the development of the traffic and LOS forecasts:

- The trend analysis forecasting procedure is appropriate for Pend Oreille County. Traffic congestion is not expected to be a significant issue, and traffic diversion to alternate routes or time frames is not expected to be significant. The trend analysis forecasting process is expected to provide appropriate projections for this rural county.
- The historical average population growth rate in Pend Oreille County has been low. Traffic generated by the residents of the County can be expected to generally follow the growth of the population. Historically, however, traffic has grown somewhat faster than population, reflecting such factors as an increase in vehicle ownership, more recreational travel to the County, and longer-distance trips.
- Congestion is generally not a problem in Pend Oreille County. Within and adjacent to towns there are isolated congestion problems that should be addressed specifically. Seasonal congestion issues on recreational and through routes should also be addressed as transportation deficiencies.

## 5.0 Housing Element

### 5.1 Overview

The Pend Oreille County Housing Committee was formed in the spring of 1994 to assist in writing the Pend Oreille Housing Needs Assessment. The Housing Committee was staffed by the County planning office and included representatives from each of the five cities, the Spokane Housing Authority, Rural Resources, Pend Oreille County Public Utilities District #1, Habitat for Humanity, the Pend Oreille Economic Development Council, the Washington Department of Health and Social Services, the Family Crisis Network, Northeast Washington Regional Support Network (NEWRESN), the Pend Oreille Bank, Pend Oreille Brokers, Pend Oreille North Realty, and local residents. The needs assessment was completed in January 1995 and is available at the County Public Works Department. The committee then devoted its time to writing draft policy statements. The draft Housing Element has been further revised in the process of revising the Comprehensive Plan.

### 5.2 Growth Management Act Requirements

The Growth Management Act (GMA), at RCW 36.70A.020, includes this specific goal:

- *Housing. Encourage the availability of affordable housing to all economic segments of the population of this state, promote a variety of residential densities and housing types, and encourage preservation of existing housing stock.*

The Growth Management Act (RCW 36.70A.070 (2)) also requires that the comprehensive plan include a housing element that addresses housing needs and sufficiency of land for all economic segments of the community. The Growth Management Act requires that the housing element contain at least the following features:

- *An inventory and analysis of existing and projected housing needs;*
- *A statement of the goals, policies, and objectives for the preservation, improvement, and development of housing;*
- *Identification of sufficient land for housing, including, but not limited to, government-assisted housing, housing for low-income families, manufactured housing, multifamily housing, and group homes and foster care facilities; and*

- *Adequate provisions for existing and projected housing needs of all economic segments of the community.*

### 5.3 Housing Goals

**Housing Goal #1:** Encourage opportunities for adequate housing for all economic segments of the County.

### 5.4 Housing Policies

In support of the Housing Goal, Pend Oreille County will implement the following Housing Policies:

**Housing Policy #1:** Pend Oreille County shall encourage a mixed housing inventory to meet the needs of all income levels in our community.

**Housing Policy #2:** Pend Oreille County, in conjunction with the incorporated cities and towns, shall encourage infill housing where infrastructure is already available and major employment centers and public services are reasonably accessible.

**Housing Policy #3:** Pend Oreille County shall regard residential structures occupied by persons with handicaps the same as a similar residential structure.

**Housing Policy #4:** Pend Oreille County shall regard residential structures occupied by group care for children the same as a similar residential structure.

**Housing Policy #5:** Pend Oreille County should encourage and assist developers seeking opportunities to build affordable housing.

**Housing Policy #6:** The Pend Oreille County Development Code shall provide for the placement of an accessory dwelling unit in areas where single-family residential use is allowed.

**Housing Policy #7:** Pend Oreille County shall adopt regulations for the conversion of cabins and vacation homes into permanent residences consistent within adopted building codes.

**Housing Policy #8:** Pend Oreille County shall, in partnership with local fire districts, make information available regarding the benefits of residential sprinkler systems.

**Housing Policy #9:** The County should support local efforts to maintain existing and provide new multi-family housing opportunities in urban areas where necessary services already exist or can reasonably be provided.

## 5.5 Existing Conditions

This section describes the existing housing, population, and employment conditions in Pend Oreille County. Population statistics, household characteristics and housing stock data is based

on Census 2000 data. While the data is a few years old, it is the most up-to-date information for the County as a whole. Information is primarily presented for the County, however some relevant data is provided for the incorporated cities within the County as well. It is important to note however, that additional data gathering and analysis will need to be done over time to assess the impact on the housing market as a result of the reopening of the mine near Metaline Falls and through the influx of retirees moving into the community.

### 5.5.1 Households

#### Existing Households

According to the 2000 Census, there are a total of 4,639 households within the County. Growth in the number of households closely parallels population growth in the County. Since 1990, the County has experienced a 32% growth in the number of households. As shown in Table 5.1, roughly 75% of those households are located within unincorporated areas and 25% within incorporated cities. The Countywide average household size is 2.51 persons per household.

**Table 5.1 Households**

Municipality	2000 Population	Total Households	Average Household Size	Percentage of Total Households
Unincorporated	8,735	3,397	-	73%
Incorporated Cities	2,997	1,242	-	27%
<i>Cusick</i>	212	87	2.44	7% <sup>1</sup>
<i>Ione</i>	479	200	2.40	16% <sup>1</sup>
<i>Metaline</i>	162	73	2.22	6% <sup>1</sup>
<i>Metaline Falls</i>	223	122	1.83	10% <sup>1</sup>
<i>Newport</i>	1,921	760	2.42	61% <sup>1</sup>
<b>Pend Oreille County Total</b>	<b>11,732</b>	<b>4,639</b>	<b>2.51</b>	<b>100%</b>

<sup>1</sup>Note: Percentage of total households in incorporated cities. Source: Census 2000.

#### Household Characteristics

An overview of existing household characteristics is provided in Table 5.2 and discussed in greater detail below.

**Table 5.2 Household Characteristics and Trends-Pend Oreille County**

Characteristics	1990	% Of Total	2000	Percent of Total	Percentage Change
<b>Number of Households</b>					
<b>Total Population</b>	8,915	100%	11,732	100%	31.6%
<b>Household Population</b>	8,837	99.1%	11,632	99.1%	31.6%
<b>Group Quarters</b>	78	0.9%	100	0.9%	29%
<b>Average Household Size</b>	2.6	-	2.51	-	-3.5%
<b>Total Households</b>	3,360	100%	4,639	100%	38%

<b>Special Needs Groups</b>					
<b>Elderly Population 65+</b>	1,242	14%	1,750	15%	41%
<b>Elderly Population 75+</b>	491	5.5%	706	6%	44%
<b>Small Households (2-4 persons)</b>	2,233	66%	3,008	65%	34.7%
<b>Large Households</b>	357	10.6%	463	10%	29.7%
<b>Single Person</b>	770	23%	1,158	25%	50%
<b>Female-Headed Households</b>	283	8.3%	391	8.4%	38%

Source: 1990 Census, 2000 Census.

### Group Quarters

According to 2000 Census data, a total of 100 people live in group quarters, or less than 1% of the County's population. Group quarters include institutional housing such as nursing homes, hospices, schools for the mentally or chronically ill, and correctional institutions; and non-institutionalized populations such as college dormitories, military quarters, group homes, religious group quarters, agricultural works dormitories, or other non-institutional group quarters.



## Special Needs Groups

Special needs groups include the elderly, female headed households, small households, and large households. Data on special needs groups is depicted in Table 5.2.

### Elderly

The elderly population in Pend Oreille County has remained relatively constant over the past decade. County residents over the age of 65 represent roughly 15% of the total County population.

### Female Headed Households

Female-headed households with children tend to have lower incomes than married couple families or single-male headed households, and oftentimes has higher demand for affordable housing units. Nationwide, this household sector is anticipated to grow dramatically over the next decade. The total number of female-headed households is 391 households, or roughly 8.5% of total households in the County. The number of female-headed households in the County has grown by almost 40% since 1990, although this percentage change is misleading due to the sample size, the total increase of female headed households is 108 households over the past decade.

### Small Family Households

Small households (2-4 persons) make up the predominant household type in the County, comprising roughly 65% of the County's households. This is reflected in the average household size of 2.51 persons per household. Since 1990, the number of small households increased by 35%, although the percentage as a total of all households has remained relatively constant (65%) since 1990.

### Large Family Households

The percentage of large family households (five or more persons) has remained constant since 1990, comprising approximately 10% of all households in the County. As of 2000, a total of 463 households in the County have five or more people living together. Larger households are often difficult to accommodate because of difficulties with financing the purchase of a house large enough to accommodate the household size. In addition, large units are often unaffordable and rental units with 4 or more bedrooms can be difficult to find.

## Projected Households

Population projections for the County can be used to determine growth in households as well. If the average household size of 2.51 persons/household is applied to the projected 2025

population, then the estimated number of households in 2025 is 6,639 households. With a population growth of roughly 230 persons per year, this equals approximately 92 new households per year.

### 5.5.2 Housing Units

This section describes the type, age, and occupancy of housing in the County.

#### Housing Stock

In the year 2000, Pend Oreille County had 6,608 housing units. Single-family residential is the primary housing type in the County, comprising roughly 72% of the housing stock. Multi-family structures (2+ units in structure) comprise almost 6% of the housing stock. Mobile homes total 20% of the housing units in the County, while recreational vehicles (boats, RVs, vans, etc.) comprise 3.2% of the residences in the County (*2000 Census*). The County also has a large share of seasonal housing, comprising over 20% of the total housing units. Table 5.3 provides background details on the available housing stock and trends in the County between 1990 and 2000.

**Table 5.3 Housing Characteristics**

Housing Type	1990	Percent of Total Housing	2000	Percent of Total Housing
<b>Total Housing Units</b>	5,404	100%	6,608	100%
<b>Housing Type</b>				
<b>Single Family (detached and attached)</b>	3,944	73%	4,739	71.7%
<b>Multifamily (2+ units)</b>	227	4.2%	389	5.8%
<b>Mobile Home</b>	1,185	22%	1,315	19.9%
<b>Recreational Vehicles</b>	48	0.9%	212	3.2%
<b>Tenure</b>				
<b>Total Occupied Housing</b>	3,395	62.8%	4,639	70.2%
<b>Owner Occupied Housing</b>	2,500	73.6%	3,590	77.4%
<b>Renter Occupied Housing</b>	895	26.4%	1,049	22.6%
<b>Vacancy Rate</b>				
<b>Vacancy Rate (owner/rental)</b>	Owner: 6.2% Rental: 12.4%	-	Owner: 4.1% Rental: 13.9%	-

Housing Type	1990	Percent of Total Housing	2000	Percent of Total Housing
Vacant Housing Units	2,009	37.2%	1,969	29.8%
Seasonal Vacant Units	1,352	25%	1,373	20.8%

Source: 1990 Census, 2000 Census.

### Housing Tenure and Vacancy Rates

According to the 2000 Census, over three-quarters of the occupied housing stock is owner occupied (See Table 5.3). The cities within the County typically have a lower ownership rate, reflecting a slightly higher ownership rate in the rural areas of the County, and a greater percentage of rental units in incorporated areas. Renter occupied units comprise roughly 23% of total occupied units in the County.

Almost 30% of housing units are considered vacant in the county, however a majority of those are seasonal housing units (70% of the vacant units are classified as seasonal). Vacancy rates in the County vary according to owner versus renter occupied housing units. Vacancy rates for owner-occupied housing units is approximately 4%, whereas renter-occupied vacancy rates are significantly higher, almost 14%. These vacancy rates are higher than the average in Washington State. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, average vacancy rates in Washington were 7.9% for rental units and 2% for homeowner units (*U.S. Census Bureau Housing Vacancy Survey, 2002*).

### Age of Housing

The majority of the housing stock, approximately 60%, was built since 1970. Roughly one-fifth of the housing stock was built since 1990 (Table 5.4). Generally, housing is older within the cities of the County, especially in Metaline Falls where 60% of the housing stock was built prior to 1939. A breakdown of the County's housing stock age is shown in Table 5.4.

**Table 5.4 Age of Housing**

Year Structure Built	Housing Units- Unincorporated County	Housing Units- Cities and Towns	Total Units- Countywide	As a Percent of Total Housing Units
Built 1990- March 2000	1,279	165	1,444	21.8%
Built 1980-1989	972	134	1,106	16.7%
Built 1970-1979	1,181	164	1,345	20.4%
Built 1960-1969	612	117	729	11%
Built 1940-1959	767	383	1,150	17.4%

Built 1939 or earlier	353	481	834	12.6%
Total	5,164	1,444	6,608	100%

Source: Census 2000.

Building permit activity can be used to estimate new residential construction between 2000 and present-day. Since 2000, there have been approximately 460 new residential units (including manufactured homes) constructed or under construction, or roughly 90 units per year. Table 5.5 shows the building permit activity between 2000 and 2004.

**Table 5.5 Pend Oreille Building Permit Activity**

Type of Construction	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004 <sup>1</sup>	Total
Residential	39	41	54	55	29	218
Manufactured Home	42	55	41	59	42	239
Industrial	3	5	10	2	0	20
Commercial	6	5	10	8	0	29
Total	90	106	115	124	71	506

\*Note: Includes unincorporated Pend Oreille County and Metaline Falls, Metaline, Ione and Cusick. Data does not include the City of Newport. <sup>1</sup>Through August 2004. Source: Pend Oreille County, August 2004.

The number of new residential units constructed each year between 2000 and 2004 closely mirrors the annual projected demand for new housing units through 2025. Future housing demand is estimated at approximately 95 dwelling units/year (based on a population increase of 230 persons per year) to accommodate future growth in population.

### 5.5.3 Housing Demand

A Housing Needs Assessment was completed for Pend Oreille County in 1994 in cooperation with the State Community, Trade & Economic Development Housing Resource Team and the County Planning Staff. While the data is out-of-date by a decade, the information from the assessment found the following existing conditions:

1. The housing stock is either in need of rehabilitation and upgrading, or is not affordable for a high percentage of the population. One of the barriers to the development of new housing is lack of or overburdened infrastructure (water and sewer systems); and

2. There is a need for a variety of housing opportunities, affordable to all segments of the county's population.

#### 5.5.4 Household Income

The median household income in Pend Oreille County is \$31,677 (Census 2000). Understanding household incomes in Pend Oreille County provides a basis for measuring whether housing in the County is affordable to residents. The Growth Management Act requires that the Housing Element of a comprehensive plan address all segments of a community's population. When considering the economic segments of the population, the following income ranges are suggested by the state (based on the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) standards):

- Extremely Low Income:  $\leq 30\%$  of median income;
- Very Low Income: Between 31-50% of median income;
- Low Income: Between 51-80% of median income;
- Moderate Income: Between 81-95% of median income; and
- Middle Income: Between 96-120% of median income.

Table 5.6 is a breakdown of household income levels in the County. Within Pend Oreille County, nearly one-quarter of the households have incomes equal to or below 50% of the County's median income, and roughly 40% of households would meet the definition of low income (80% of the median income or lower). Approximately 50% of the population is above the median income.

**Table 5.6 Income Levels as a Percentage of the County Median Income**

Household Income Level	Income Range	Number of Households <sup>1</sup>	% Of County Households
<b>County Median</b>	\$31,677	4,633	100%
<b>0-30% Extremely Low Income</b>	\$0-\$9,503	629	13.6%
<b>31-50% Very Low Income</b>	\$9,820-\$15,839	450	9.7%
<b>51-80% Low Income</b>	\$16,155-\$25,342	774	16.7%
<b>81-95% Moderate Income</b>	\$25,658-\$30,093	334	7.2%
<b>96-120% Middle Income</b>	\$30,410-\$38,012	623	13.4%

<b>121% and above</b>	\$38,329+	1,823	39.3%
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Source: Census 2000. FY 2004 HUD Income Limits Briefing Material, U.S. Department of HUD Office of Policy Development and Research, February 2003. <sup>1</sup>Number of households in each category do not exactly match the income ranges identified in the Census data. Breakdown as shown above is as follows: Less than \$10,000, 10,000-\$14,999, \$15,000-\$24,999, \$25,000-\$29,999, \$30,000-\$39,999, \$40,000+.

### 5.5.5 Housing Affordability

#### Housing Costs

##### Ownership Housing

According to the 2000 Census, the median home price within the County is \$101,100. The median home price is higher for the County as a whole than the median home price within incorporated cities and towns (median ranges from \$55,000 in Cusick to \$90,600 in Newport). Almost 80% of homeowners paid 30% or less of their income towards housing costs. About half of the homes in Pend Oreille County cost less than \$100,000 as of 1999. Nearly 95% of all owner occupied housing units were in a price range of less than \$300,000 (Census 2000). Information on more recent single family residential sales is available through the Washington Center for Real Estate Research. According to this source, the median home price in Pend Oreille County was \$113,300 in the first quarter of 2004 and \$106,700 in the second quarter of 2004.

##### Rental Housing

According to 2000 Census data there are roughly 1,050 occupied rental units. The median gross rent in the County is \$422 in 1999. In 1999, approximately 65% of all rental units cost \$500 or less per month.

Roughly half of the renters in the County pay 30% or less of their income towards gross rent each month (Census 2000). Approximately 35% of renters pay 30% or more toward gross rent.<sup>1</sup> The data for gross rent includes an estimated average monthly cost of utilities (electricity, gas, water, and sewer where applicable) and fuels (oil, coal, kerosene, wood, etc.). A majority of rental units in the County are single-family homes, manufactured homes, or mobile homes due to the fact that multifamily units comprise less than 10% of the County's housing stock.

#### Housing Affordability

The generally accepted definition of affordability is for a household to pay no more than 30% of its annual income on housing. Housing affordability is a function of income, housing costs, and

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<sup>1</sup> Note: data was not computed for 15% of the population (U.S. Census 2000).

interest rates. Housing affordability measures the burden of expenditures for housing relative to a household income. Households who pay more than 30% of their income for housing are considered cost burdened and may have difficulty affording necessities such as food, clothing, transportation, and medical care. The U.S. Census provides data on gross rent and monthly owner housing costs as a percentage of household income. For housing assistance purposes, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) income limits for families of various sizes by County and metropolitan statistical area.

According to 2000 Census data, housing in Pend Oreille County is affordable to approximately 80% of homeowners and 50% of renters (30% or less of their income towards housing costs). Roughly 20% of homeowners and 35% of renters pay greater than 30% of their income toward housing costs (371 owner occupied households and 325 renter occupied housing units respectively).

If housing affordability is measured by families and their size as opposed to households, HUD's 2004 income limits can be applied to determine housing affordability<sup>2</sup>. These income limits are used to determine eligibility for housing assistance. According to HUD's definition, families at 80% of the median income or less are considered low income. As defined, in 2004, a family of four at 80% of the County median income (low-income threshold) equals an income of approximately \$39,900 per year. This is higher than the County median household income of \$31,677 in 2000 (Census 2000). According to the U.S. Census, the median price of a single-family residence was \$101,100 in 2000. Adjusted for inflation, this equals \$111,210 in 2004 dollars. This is consistent with research on 2004 home prices in the County. According to the Washington Center for Real Estate Research, the median home price in Pend Oreille County was \$113,300 in the first quarter of 2004 and \$106,700 in the second quarter of 2004. For simplicity, a 2004 median housing price of \$110,000 was used to determine housing affordability.

As shown in Table 5.7, a family of four with an income of \$39,000 can afford to purchase a home in the County. Alternatively, a family or household would need to maintain an annual income of \$32,200 to afford Pend Oreille's median priced home and keep their housing costs at 30% of annual income given the assumptions in Table 5.7. If this annual income is compared to Census 2000 data, an annual income of less than or equal to \$32,200 represents approximately 45-50% of the County's current households and/or 45-50% of its families. Family income below 80% of median income would not be able to afford the median priced home, but would likely be able to afford rents in the County.

### **Table 5.7 Pend Oreille Housing Affordability**

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<sup>2</sup> The U.S. Census defines a family as a household with one or more other persons living in the same household who are related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption. The definition of family excludes one-person households. The median family income in 2000 was \$36,977 as opposed to the median household income of \$31,677.

<b>Housing Characteristics</b>	<b>Pend Oreille County</b>
Median Price-Single Family Home, 2000 <sup>1</sup>	\$101,100
Median Price-Single Family Home, 2004 <sup>2</sup>	\$110,000
Monthly Mortgage Payment for 95% of 2004 Median Price (7% interest rate) <sup>3</sup>	\$695.25
Annual Mortgage Costs for 95% of Median Sales Price at 7% interest <sup>4</sup>	\$8,343.00
Annual Taxes on 2004 Median Priced Single Family Home (Estimated \$11.00/1000 assessed value) <sup>5</sup>	\$1,210.00
Total Annual Mortgage and Taxes, Median Priced Home in Pend Oreille County, 2004 <sup>6</sup>	\$9,553.00
Year 2004, Family of four income level at 80% Pend Oreille County median income <sup>7</sup>	\$39,900
80% of median income x 30% of annual income, family of four <sup>8</sup>	\$11,700
Annual income necessary to afford the median single family home in 2004 ( $\leq$ 30% on housing) excluding estimated taxes	\$28,113
Annual family income necessary to afford the median single family home price in 2004 ( $\leq$ 30% on housing) including taxes	\$32,193

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Census, 2000; <sup>2</sup> Estimated median home price in 2004 based on Q1 and Q2 2004 home prices, source Washington Center for Real Estate Research; <sup>3</sup> Assumes 5% down payment, 7% interest rate, excludes County property taxes; <sup>4</sup> Monthly mortgage costs times twelve months, excludes property taxes, homeowner insurance, and other costs; <sup>5</sup> For the purposes of this analysis an \$11.00/1000 assessed value property tax rate was used to estimate property taxes. Actual property taxes may be higher or lower depending on the location. Property taxes in the County vary greatly depending on location and services provided (i.e. Fire District assessments, presence of sewer and water service, incorporated vs. unincorporated, etc). For example, the 2004 property tax rate in Metaline is \$9.60/1000 assessed value whereas in Newport the assessed value is \$11.92/1000 assessed value. In the Diamond Lake area, without sewer and water service the assessed value is \$11.82/1000 assessed value. <sup>6</sup> Sum of annual mortgage and estimated property taxes; <sup>7</sup> HUD 2004 Income Limits for a family of four at 80% of the median income; <sup>8</sup> Annual housing costs for a family of four at 80% of median income spending 30% or less of their income towards housing.

Since the County is predominantly rural in character, its ability to meet its fair share allocation of affordable housing will likely focus on home ownership opportunities. Roughly 75% of the occupied housing units in the County are owner occupied. Affordable housing is likely to be achieved through the County's existing housing stock and to a lesser extent, the construction of new multifamily housing units. Since the County currently has housing affordable to all income ranges, it is important that the existing housing stock is preserved and maintained to the greatest extent feasible. In urban areas, new multifamily units with a range of unit sizes, could also help to increase affordable housing units in the County. Alternative housing styles such as senior housing, cluster development, and accessory dwelling units may also provide additional opportunities to accommodate a range of household incomes. Affordable housing is most likely to be achieved in the urban growth areas of the cities and towns and to a lesser extent in the rural areas of the county. The County will cooperate with the cities and towns to achieve a mix of affordable housing in all urban growth areas.

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## 6.0 Parks and Recreation

### 6.1 Overview

Pend Oreille County has a comprehensive *Water Trail Concept Plan* that contains a detailed inventory of the public access sites on the Pend Oreille River and recommendations for improvements to those sites. This plan is incorporated into our Comprehensive Landuse Plan and the implementation of the *Water Trail Concept Plan* is a high priority for the community. A copy of this plan may be obtained from the Pend Oreille County Community Development Department.

A separate document, the *Pend Oreille County Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan*, was adopted by the Board of County Commissioners in December 2013. This plan contains a more detailed inventory and planning information on the County parks and recreational facilities. A copy may be obtained by contacting the Pend Oreille County Community Development Department. This Parks Element summarizes the key goals and policies from the *Pend Oreille County Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan*, and presents baseline existing conditions data for context.

### 6.2 Growth Management Act Requirements

The Growth Management Act (GMA), at RCW 36.70A.020, includes this specific goal:

*“Open Space and Recreation: Retain open space, enhance recreational opportunities, conserve fish and wildlife habitat, increase access to natural resource lands and water, and develop parks and recreation facilities.”*

The Growth Management Act requires the development of a park and recreation element that implements, and is consistent with, the capital facilities plan element as it relates to park and recreation facilities. The element shall include: (a) Estimates of park and recreation demand for at least a ten-year period; (b) an evaluation of facilities and service needs; and (c) an evaluation of intergovernmental coordination opportunities to provide regional approaches for meeting park and recreational demand.

### 6.3 Parks and Recreation Goals

**Parks and Recreation Goal #1:** Provide facilities in Pend Oreille County parks and designated public accesses that enable and enhance a fulfilling camping experience for visitors and residents, including RV Park areas designed to accommodate the largest RV’s.

**Parks and Recreation Goal #2:** Generate revenue to provide for the maintenance, future development, and use of Pend Oreille County Park as a year-round facility.

**Parks and Recreation Goal #3:** Support the establishment of a countywide river and lake, park system.

**Parks and Recreation Goal #4:** Support the identification and promotion of the full range of public and private recreational opportunities in the County for local residents and visitors.

**Parks and Recreation Goal #5:** Support the designation of the North Pend Oreille Scenic Byway and the Selkirk Loop, and the development of the Sweet Creek Recreation Area.

**Parks and Recreation Goal #6:** Establish a permanent County Parks and Recreation Department.

## 6.4 Parks and Recreation Policies

In support of the Parks and Recreation Goals, Pend Oreille County will implement the following Parks and Recreation Policies:

**Parks and Recreation Policy #1:** Pend Oreille County shall support local efforts to integrate local parks and recreation planning with economic development strategies and priorities to promote recreational tourism opportunities.

**Parks and Recreation Policy #2:** Pend Oreille County should identify a funding source(s) to support the establishment of a county parks, recreation, and tourism coordinator position to develop, maintain, and promote park, recreation, and tourism opportunities and facilities;

- a. Near term priorities should emphasize maintenance of existing facilities and activities to reduce on-going maintenance costs, improved signage, and support for volunteer cleanup and repair projects; and
- b. Development of new facilities and/or the acquisition of new property should occur only after near term priorities are met and as funding is available.

**Parks and Recreation Policy #3:** Pend Oreille County should identify and/or consider establishing funding sources to support the development of new and existing parks.

**Parks and Recreation Policy #4:** Pend Oreille County shall adopt regulations to implement National Scenic Byways requirements on designated scenic corridors.

**Parks and Recreation Policy #5:** Pend Oreille County shall continue to maintain rules and regulations to manage activities within Pend Oreille County Parks and public accesses to promote harmony between wildlife, park users, and surrounding landowners.

**Parks and Recreation Policy #6:** Pend Oreille County shall update the Boating Ordinance 97-27 as necessary.

**Parks and Recreation Policy #7:** Pend Oreille County should encourage facilities, displays, and exhibits at Pend Oreille County Park that offer a wide range of educational opportunities to individuals and program participants.

**Parks and Recreation Policy #8:** Pend Oreille County should, in cooperation with the Fair Board, review and update the plans for the Pend Oreille County Fairgrounds to provide visitors, volunteers, and staff with modern facilities to operate and support the year-round activities of the site

**Parks and Recreation Policy #9:** Pend Oreille County shall review and update its standards to guide the development of public and privately owned and operated commercial RV Parks, campgrounds, and related facilities to address water and sanitary sewer requirements, access requirements, and permitted densities and uses, etc. The standards shall apply to all commercial ventures including RV Parks and or facilities that feature individual lots, pads, hook-ups, and/or airspace for use, sale, or lease on a short-term, long-term, and/or ongoing basis, provided that such standards shall not interfere with the non-commercial personal use and enjoyment of RV's on personal property.

**Parks and Recreation Policy #10:** Pend Oreille County shall, as a part of the ongoing efforts to implement the six-year road plan;

- a. Identify priorities for designating, signing, striping, and/or constructing bike lanes, pedestrian paths or routes; and
- b. Support the design and installation of signage to identify Scenic Byways and viewpoints, boat accesses, and designated recreation areas.

**Parks and Recreation Policy #11:** Pend Oreille County should coordinate and collaborate with the U.S. Forest Service and other public resource agencies and managers to inventory recreational opportunities and promote the shared use and full enjoyment of publicly owned land in the County.

## 6.5 Existing Conditions

### Pend Oreille Park

The County owns one partially developed park, Pend Oreille Park, located just west of Highway 2 approximately two miles north of the border with Spokane County. This 440-acre park was first developed by Washington State in the 1930s to preserve one of the last stands of old growth timber in the region. Pend Oreille County acquired the property from the state in the early 1980s. The County has adopted a plan for Pend Oreille County Park. Currently the Park is operated by

a private contractor, who is responsible for minor maintenance and repair, and who receives all revenue from overnight camping fees.

### Other Park Facilities

In addition to Pend Oreille Park, the County owns twelve parcels of forest land which are currently managed for timber revenue, and some undeveloped riverfront and lake properties. Some of these properties may be appropriate for recreational development, particularly those on or near the Pend Oreille River and Diamond, Sacheen and Davis lakes.

There is some interest locally in acquiring the Gardner Caves Park and Lake Newport State Park from Washington State. Gardner Caves is located north of Metaline Falls near Boundary Dam, and is currently open from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Lake Newport State Park is an undeveloped parcel located along the west side of the Pend Oreille River four miles north of Newport.

### County Fairgrounds

The Pend Oreille County Fairground, located immediately west of the Town of Cusick on Highway 20, is owned by the County. The Fairground property is bounded on the east by Highway 20, on the north and west by Calispel Creek, and on the south by a privately-owned farm. The Fairground property is composed of approximately 18.5 acres and 25 buildings, containing 61,719 square feet of space, a rodeo arena, and a campground (see Table 6.1, below). The Pend Oreille County Fair Board contracts for the services of a caretaker, who is responsible for grounds maintenance and site security.

The Fair Board has identified a need for the following improvements at the Fairgrounds:

- a. Replacement of the Main Exhibit Building: This 6,000 square foot building, currently used for Grange Booths and commercial education displays was built in the 1940s. The building has major foundation problems, several of the main supports are deteriorated, and the electrical and lighting system requires major upgrading or replacement. Estimated cost: \$300,000;
- b. Little-Menke Campground Upgrade: Little-Menke Campground is located on the north edge of the Fairgrounds. This campground currently has limited water and electrical service. The approximately 25 camp sites require upgrading to provide water and sewer service. Estimated cost: \$100,000;
- c. Campground-Rodeo Area Restroom and Showers: There are currently no restroom facilities conveniently located for the campground and north side of the Rodeo Arena. The new restroom facilities would serve these two areas and the north side of the Fairgrounds. Estimated cost: \$75,000; and

- d. Irrigation System: Lawn areas are currently watered with hoses and hand-set sprinklers, which requires working time that could be better spent in other parts of Fairgrounds maintenance. A lawn sprinkler system would also improve the appearance of the lawn areas by providing more consistent irrigation. Estimated cost: \$30,000.

**Table 6.1 County Fairgrounds Buildings**

Name/ Description	Year Built	Size (sq. ft.)	Estimated Current Value	Condition	Needed Improvements
Caretaker quarters	2001	1,200	60,000	Good	
Cattle exhibit/beef	1960	4,000	80,000	Good	
Cattle exhibit/dairy	1960	3,000	60,000	Good	
Commercial Building/arts & crafts	1980	2,880	68,432	Good	
Fair Office	2001	1,344	67,200	Good	
4H Building	1978	2,800	68,432	Good	
4H Concession	1960	600	22,500	Fair	
Horse exhibit	1975	6,000	146,640	Good	
Horse exhibit	1975	6,000	146,640	Good	
Horticulture/food exhibit	1960	2,100	42,000	Good	Electrical
Hupp exhibit	1960	2,400	146,640	Fair	Ventilation
Kitchen/concession	1950	875	43,750	Fair	Electrical; cooking surfaces
Lindsey House	1985	1,200	-see note-	Good	
Main exhibit	1940	6,000	58,656	Poor	Foundation; electrical
Mobile home cover	1995	480	10,000	Fair	
Poultry exhibit	1970	2,500	60,000	Fair	Ventilation
Restroom	1960	420	50,000	Poor	Lighting fixtures
Restroom	1985	420	60,000	Good	
Rodeo grandstand	1976	4,000	180,000	Poor	Handrails, decking
Rodeo grandstand	1997	2,000	180,000	Good	Handrails, decking
Sheep exhibit	1990	4,000	36,000	Fair	Electrical

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Name/ Description	Year Built	Size (sq. ft.)	Estimated Current Value	Condition	Needed Improvements
Show ring grandstand	1989	3,600	180,000	Good	
Stage	1990	750	19,200	Good	
Swine exhibit	1970	3,000	48,000	Fair	Electrical
Ticket booth	1975	150	4,000	Good	
		61,719	\$1,838,090		

Note: 1) The Lindsey House is owned and maintained by the County Historical Society. 2) Where the exact year that a structure was built is unknown, that year has been estimated. 3) The caretaker quarters and the Fair Office are located in structures moved onto the site in the year 2001.

### Level of Service Standards

For the purposes of this plan, no standards are established for Parks and Recreation. To be effective, LOS standards for recreation and open space will need to be developed in close coordination with a future Park and Recreation Element of the Comprehensive Plan or countywide park and recreation plan, and be based on locally-defined needs. The following recommendations are made for developing these standards:

- a. LOS standards should reflect existing or planned economic development programs, since parks can be important attractions to visitors;
- b. Additional standards should be developed for planned communities outside of incorporated jurisdictions, such as Diamond Lake, and including those group domestic water supply areas administered by the Public Utility District (PUD) which may become functional communities. Future development in these areas could be linked to dedication of additional park lands to meet the needs of residents;
- c. Standards should emphasize affordability and quality rather than simply quantity of park land. Affordability should include ongoing operation and maintenance (O&M). Sources of O&M funding should be identified;
- d. Park standards should distinguish regional parks which serve a large area and include users from outside the County, from local parks which primarily serve local residents;
- e. Park standards should recognize changing patterns of recreation including the ageing of the “baby boomer” generation, the increase in two-income families and single-person households, and the increase in violent crime rates and the use of parks by a growing population of homeless people; and

- f. The County should lead and coordinate park and recreational opportunities with the incorporated communities of Newport, Cusick, Ione, Metaline and Metaline Falls; Pend Oreille County Public Utility District No.1; and other state and federal agencies.

## 7.0 Utilities

### 7.1 Overview

The Utilities Element identifies the utilities currently available and provided to County residents, the service providers for these utilities, the ability of these providers to serve County residents, and goals and policy direction. Utilities include, but are not limited to, electricity, water, sewer, solid waste disposal, telephone, telecommunications, natural gas, cable and satellite television, Internet delivery, and other utilities required in a community in accordance with generally accepted national standards.

Utilities are addressed in the Comprehensive Plan due to the need for efficient, timely, and cost-effective provision of services. As growth occurs, utilities must be extended or developed to support new development in a timely manner. Within each urban growth area, the affected jurisdictions, and/or special purpose district or association should be consulted to determine the responsible service providers and the timing of the service. Establishing common use corridors is also an important part of future utility extensions. Utility corridors often include electricity, water, fiber optics, other telecommunications medium, and potentially natural gas.

Although Pend Oreille County has a limited role as a utility service provider, the County coordinates with service providers in order to plan for and provide efficient service, anticipate and resolve utility problems, and accommodate future population growth by maintaining current information on the existing and proposed facilities of all utilities service providers. This Utilities Element is designed to support utility providers in meeting their public service obligations to provide service on demand to existing and future customers and to minimize negative impacts resulting from the provision of services on County residents, infrastructure, and the natural environment. Goals and policies will guide the development of future utilities and will help to ensure that utility extensions are concurrent with anticipated growth.

### 7.2 Growth Management Act Requirements

The Growth Management Act requires that each Comprehensive Plan include a Utilities Element which addresses, “*the general location, proposed location, and capacity of all existing and*



*proposed utilities, including but not limited to, electrical lines, telecommunications lines, and natural gas lines” (RCW 36.70A.070(4)).*

### 7.3 Utility Goals

**Utility Goal #1:** Pend Oreille County should encourage local utility providers to evaluate and correct deficiencies, as well as plan for future capital facilities needs and requirements.

**Utility Goal #2:** Pend Oreille County should require that utilities needed to accommodate growth and new development are adequate, and are provided concurrent to the need.

### 7.4 Utility Policies

In support of the Utilities Goals, Pend Oreille County will implement the following Utility Policies:

**Utility Policy #1:** Pend Oreille County shall incorporate by reference, the County Solid Waste Plan, and the PUD #1 5-year Plan, as updated, into this Comprehensive Plan

**Utility Policy #2:** The Public Utility District and other public service providers shall review and update their capital facility plans to be consistent with this comprehensive plan.

**Utility Policy #3:** Pend Oreille County shall establish standards and application requirements to verify that adequate provisions for water and sewer service, and fire suppression have been made prior to the final approval of land use or building permit applications.

**Utility Policy #4:** The Northeast Tri-County Health District should continue to monitor sanitary sewer systems, private wells, and community water systems for compliance with federal, state, and local standards.

**Utility Policy #5:** Pend Oreille County should encourage the establishment of community water and sanitary sewer systems, provided that adequate provisions have been made to insure that the systems remain financially viable and self-supporting.

**Utility Policy #6** Pend Oreille County should support the installation of fiber optic networks and services.

**Utility Policy #7:** Pend Oreille County should support improved cellular and wireless communication services and encourage the installation of facilities that are designed to blend into the surroundings.

**Utility Policy #8:** When acquiring right-of way, Pend Oreille County and the State should acquire sufficient land to accommodate desired road improvements as well as to support the coordinated installation of utilities now and in the future.

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**Utility Policy #9:** The County shall require that all right-of-way permits include provisions that do not preclude other utilities to collocate facilities in or near the same location in accordance with current applicable safety standards governing utility placement.

## 7.5 Existing Conditions

This section generally describes the location and extent of existing utilities in Pend Oreille County. The County has a limited role as a utility service provider, primarily consisting of the solid waste system. All utilities in Pend Oreille County are either operated by public utility districts, private companies, or by cities.

Several independent federal government agencies, such as the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) regulate these utilities to protect the public interest. The County cannot prohibit the placement of these utilities, but can adopt standards relating to their siting and impacts associated with these facilities.

### Solid Waste

The solid waste system is a Countywide, coordinated effort. The County retains ownership of the three solid waste transfer station sites, with recycling facilities. These include the transfer facilities near Newport, Ione, and Usk. The County completed closure of its Ione and Deer Valley landfills in 1995. Solid waste from each town is hauled to a County transfer station and transported out of the County to Spokane under private contract. See the Capital Facilities Element, the County's Solid Waste Management Plan, and County Transfer Station Operations Plan for more details.

### Sewer Systems

The County does not maintain sewage treatment facilities. The primary method of sewage treatment in the rural parts of the County is through on-site systems provided by private developers, either for individuals or for larger developments. Northeast Tri-County Health and the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) regulate on-site septic systems. From January 1, 1960 until June 30, 2001, 4,193 on-site sewage disposal systems have been inspected and approved in Pend Oreille County, according to the Northeast Tri-County Health District. The total number of on-site sewage disposal systems is not known. Washington State Department of Health regulations for on site sewer systems form the Level of Service Standards for these facilities.

There are limited areas in the County served by sewer. Most of the Diamond Lake area is served by the Diamond Lake Water and Sewer District and part of Sacheen Lake is served by the Sacheen Lake Water and Sewer District. Each city and town in the County maintains its own sewage treatment facility.

## Water Systems

Washington State defines public water systems as all systems serving more than one single-family residence. State health regulations now require that new public water systems serving three or more connections to be operated by a Satellite Management Agency (SMA), where one is available. Group A systems serve 15 or more connections, or 25 or more people per day for 60 or more days per year. Group B water systems are all of the smaller systems that serve more than one single-family residence but are not large enough to be considered a Group A system.

Pend Oreille County Public Utility District #1 owns and operates the Granite Shores; Greenridge Estates, Holiday Shores, Lazy Acres, River Bend Estates, River View Shores, Sandy Shores and Sunnyside Meadows, and Sunvale Acres 4<sup>th</sup> Addition/Abbie Acres subdivision water systems. The water system at Box Canyon Dam is for that facility, while the PUD owns, operates, and maintains the Metaline Falls water system.

The Diamond Lake area is served by the Diamond Lake Water and Sewer District. Population of the area ranges from about 415 in the winter to 1,380 in the summer. Since the area is unincorporated, building and other development permits, as well as roads, and police protection, are under the jurisdiction of Pend Oreille County. While the County does not supply sewer and water service, the County can permit development within the District only with the approval of the District. The County will need to work closely with the District regarding development within the District boundaries to ensure that any County action does not create an expectation that service will be provided which is beyond the District's capacity. The District has completed the Wellhead Protection Plan, which has been approved by the State Department of Health (DOH). Both District wells are in the same Wellhead Protection Zone. An unresolved issue for the District is to determine the effect of water withdrawals on the level of Diamond Lake.

Additional details on the Diamond Lake Water and Sewer District facilities can be found in the County's Capital Facilities Plan.

## Stormwater Management Facilities

New development often has the potential to cause erosion and flooding during major storm events. Such events can cause considerable damage to streams through increased siltation, and to adjacent property through flooding and deposition of mud. GMA requires that standards for stormwater runoff be established, and that such facilities be constructed concurrently with new development.

Each city and town in the County maintains its own drainage system within its corporate boundaries. WSDOT is responsible for the management of runoff from state highways and the effects of this runoff. There are no regional stormwater collection facilities. Technical basin studies and analyses are needed for the County to develop a storm water management plan.

Level of service standards vary depending on terrain, soil type, vulnerability of surface water to contamination, and other factors. The County has an established level of service standard for new

development, which requires that new development be designed to accommodate a 25-year, 24-hour storm.

## Electrical Utilities

### Pend Oreille Public Utility District #1

Electric service is provided to Pend Oreille County by the Pend Oreille Public Utility District #1 headquartered in Newport. The PUD owns and operates the Box Canyon Hydroelectric Project, the Calispel Project, and has Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license rights to power from the Boundary Hydroelectric Project, which is owned by the City of Seattle. Energy generated from these projects is distributed to the PUD's consumers along with energy provided from the Bonneville Power Administration and other sources. There are currently seven substations in Pend Oreille County. An eighth substation is planned in order to meet near-term energy load growth, and could be built near the intersection of Highway 2 and Highway 211 to serve the south part of the Pend Oreille County as growth occurs.

The PUD serves approximately 8,200 meters. The PUD's Box Canyon Dam can produce a maximum of approximately 80 Megawatts, and the PUD has rights for up to 48 Megawatts, at cost, from Seattle City Light's Boundary Dam. Currently, the general service load, defined as all residential, business, and industrial loads<sup>1</sup> within the County borders is approximately 50 megawatts. In addition to this demand, the PUD's largest customer, the Ponderay Newsprint Company, has an electric power demand of approximately 100 megawatts. The Ponderay Newsprint Company receives its electrical power from the PUD, and the PUD must purchase power in the market to satisfy Ponderay Newsprint Company's demand.

The general electrical service provided by the PUD, is served with the lowest cost power generation available to the PUD. Future large industrial customers with a demand greater than 2 MW will not be fully entitled to the inexpensive resources available to the general service customers since the PUD has a limit of 2 megawatts peak for new industrial users, after which such users will pay higher rates. By virtue of contracts with the Ponderay Newsprint Company, those customers will also purchase additional power resources other than those owned by the PUD.

The PUD has considered the addition of a combustion turbine (CT) to its power production. The PUD is a part of the regional power grid and therefore has access to other sources of electricity, though the way in which the grid will help to provide power and the cost of that power will be governed by the terms of deregulation in the power industry. The PUD always maintains exchange agreements with other power producers. New substations were commissioned in 1998-

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<sup>1</sup> Industrial Load is for industry in existence prior to 1987 or any new industry with loads less than 5 MW (prior to Ponderay Newsprint).

Box Canyon, Cusick, Pine Street (Newport), and Usk-all of which are under supervisory control via the PUD's new fiber optic system.

### Seattle City Light

Seattle City Light (SCL) owns and operates the Boundary Project, SCL's largest generating station, which was built in 1967. In 1986 two additional generators were declared commercially operable. This facility has a peak production of 1,051 megawatts, providing approximately 40% of SCL's power requirements. The project boundaries include over 800 acres within which the dam, powerhouse, support structures, roads, and the reservoir banks upstream of the project are located. License requirements include full power compensation for the reduction of output, called encroachment, from the Box Canyon Dam to the Boundary Project construction. This compensation includes the sale of 48 megawatts of power at cost to Pend Oreille County Public Utility District #1. Boundary Dam is operated for peak load-following and providing operating reserves, meaning water is most often released during the day and the reservoir refills at night. Bonneville Power Administration owns the Boundary Substation transmission switchyard, however, SCL owns, operates, and maintains some of the equipment in the yard. The Abercrombie Mountain and Mt. Spokane microwave towers are outside the project boundaries, but are also maintained by Boundary crews.

### Natural Gas

There is no natural gas service available in Pend Oreille County. LPG is available from several vendors in the area.

### Telecommunications

Telecommunication refers to the electronic transmission of information by means such as telephone, radio, television, optical cable, satellite, and other technologies. The telecommunications industry is constantly changing, diversifying, and redefining the way in which we exchange information.

In Pend Oreille County, telecommunication utilities include wire telephone, cellular (wireless) telephone, cable and satellite television, wire and satellite Internet, and fiber optic cable. However, these services are more readily available to those living or working close to the cities and towns. The remote and more rural areas of the County are challenged in accessing many of these telecommunication services.

### Telephone

Local telephone service is provided by Pend Oreille Telephone, Verizon (formerly General Telephone and Electric), and Qwest (formerly US West). Pend Oreille Telephone serves more than 1,800 residential and about 250 business customers in the area of the County approximately north of Dalkena and comprising the towns of Usk, Cusick, Ione, Metaline, and Metaline Falls. Pend Oreille Telephone has switching facilities in Cusick, Ione, and Metaline Falls, and provides

local-call Internet service to its telephone subscribers. Pend Oreille Telephone also provides Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) services to consumers in infrastructure capable areas, typically a few thousand feet from a central office. Pend Oreille Telephone completed a fiber optic link between Cusick and Ione in 1999, will be upgrading to digital facilities within the 6-year planning period, and will eventually connect Cusick and Newport with fiber optic cable.

Verizon serves approximately 3,000 residential lines and approximately 400 business lines in the area of the County south of Dalkena but north of Highway 2, with the 447 exchange only, which includes Newport. The Verizon switching facility is located in downtown Newport. In 1999 Verizon completed a 12-strand fiber optic link between Newport and Coeur d'Alene, Idaho along Highway 41 via Spirit Lake, Idaho. Long-term plans are to complete a fiber optic ring connecting Newport, Sandpoint, and Coeur d'Alene. Verizon also provides DSL services to consumers in infrastructure capable areas, typically in the Newport area.

Qwest provides telephone service for the 292 prefix in the south part of the County to approximately 540 households, which is about 8% of the telephones in the County.

#### Cellular Phone Service

Cellular licensees operate according to guidelines administered by the Federal Communications Commission. Cellular service allows people to utilize mobile telephone communication through wireless radios, which send and receive signals from a network of receivers located at various cellular communication sites. These sites are generally located on special towers, tall poles, or atop buildings and covers several miles, depending on the terrain and the number of customers. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the local siting review authority regulate the design and siting of cellular towers.

There are currently analog cellular antennas located near Newport on Cooks Mountain, south of the junction of Highways 2 and 211 on Bare Mountain, and on Ruby Mountain, providing service north to and including the Ione area. Both Cellular One and Air Touch operate cellular sites in the County, and both reportedly plan to convert from analog to digital equipment. Other cellular companies can reach into limited parts of Pend Oreille County using their antennae facilities located outside the County. A new digital cellular antenna is ready for activation at Sullivan Lake Road near Metaline Falls.

#### Cable Television

Cable providers generally accompany electrical and telephone lines in urban areas, utilizing a common easement. The three cable providers in the County are: Community Cable, Concept Cable TV, and USA Media.

Community Cable serves about 400 customers in the towns of Ione, Metaline, and Metaline Falls. Future plans are to utilize fiber optic facilities, expand the number of channels, and provide broadband Internet service.

Concept Cable TV serves about 800 (estimate) customers in Newport and vicinity. Concept has a fiber optic route within Newport and connecting Newport with Priest River, Idaho.

#### Internet service

There are numerous Internet providers available to the residents of Pend Oreille County. Four of these providers in the County are Pend Oreille Valley Network (POVN), Pend Oreille Telephone Company (POTC), Earthnet, and recently the Counties first Cable Modem provider, Concept Cable. POVN provides service for approximately the south half of the County, while POTC serves toll-free its customers with the 442-, 445-, and 446- prefixes. Concept Cable is located in Newport.

## 8.0 Essential Public Facilities

### 8.1 Overview

Essential public facilities (EPFs) are those facilities needed to provide public services and functions that are typically difficult to site, such as airports, education facilities, state or regional transportation facilities, state and local correctional facilities, solid waste handling facilities, and mental health facilities, group homes and secure community transition facilities. Essential public facilities are oftentimes difficult to site due to neighborhood opposition, unusual site requirements, or other features that complicate the siting process.

The purpose of this section is to identify the essential public facilities in the County and establish a cooperative, inter-jurisdictional process for siting essential public facilities. Essential public facilities goals and policies are designed to ensure fair, efficient siting of essential public facilities through coordinated and cooperative planning efforts, consistent with Pend Oreille Countywide Planning Policies.

### 8.2 Growth Management Act Requirements

The Growth Management Act (GMA) requires that the comprehensive plans of each county and city include a “process for identifying and siting essential public facilities” (RCW 36.70A.200 (1)). GMA also states “no local comprehensive plan or development regulations may preclude the siting of essential public facilities” (RCW 36.70A.200 (5)).

The Washington Administrative Code (WAC) provides further guidance and interpretation:

*“The term “essential public facilities” is a specialized term which refers to facilities that are typically difficult to site. “Essential public facilities” do not necessarily include everything with the statutory definitions of “public facilities” and “public service,” and should include additional items not listed in those definitions. Consistent with countywide planning policies, local governments should create their own lists of “essential public facilities,” guided by the examples set forth in RCW 36.70A.200, but not necessarily bound by those examples. The County and the municipalities may also identify other public facilities that are required in order to provide services necessary for development. For the purposes of identifying facilities to be subject to the “essential public facilities” siting process, it is not necessary that the facilities be publicly owned. If the services involved meet a locally accepted definition of public service, the supporting facilities for the services may be included on the list, regardless of ownership.” (WAC 365-195-070(4))*



### 8.3 Essential Public Facilities Goals

**Essential Public Facility Goal #1:** Establish and maintain a process to evaluate the need for and criteria to site Essential Public Facilities within the County that complies with: the Countywide Planning Policies; the *Statement of Values* and this Comprehensive Plan; and applicable state and federal regulations.

**Essential Public Facility Goal #2:** Provide necessary public facilities and services, in places and at levels proportionate to planned development intensity and environmental protection.

**Essential Public Facility Goal #3:** Ensure the fair and efficient siting of Essential Public Facilities in the region through cooperative and coordinated planning with other jurisdictions and the population in general within the region.

### 8.4 Essential Public Facilities Policies

In support of the Essential Public Facility Goals, Pend Oreille County will implement the following Essential Public Facility Policies:

**Essential Public Facility Policy #1:** Pend Oreille County will identify and maintain a list of the existing and planned State and local Essential Public Facilities.

**Essential Public Facility Policy #2:** Pend Oreille County Comprehensive Plan Policy and development regulations shall not preclude the siting of any Essential Public Facility.

**Essential Public Facility Policy #3:** Pend Oreille County shall provide extensive public participation in the process of siting Essential Public Facilities.

**Essential Public Facility Policy #4:** Pend Oreille County shall consult with the cities and towns in the County and the Kalispel Tribe on matters regarding the siting of Essential Public Facilities.

**Essential Public Facility Policy #5:** Pend Oreille County shall establish an Essential Public Facility Siting Review Committee, on an as needed basis, to advise the County Commissioners on the siting of new Essential Public Facilities.

**Essential Public Facility Policy #6:** Pend Oreille County shall establish standards to guide the siting and development of Essential Public Facilities in the County. These standards will acknowledge state and federal requirements and will emphasize the design, construction, and landscaping of facilities that are compatible with their surroundings.

**Essential Public Facility Policy #7:** Pend Oreille County shall require that an environmental review will be conducted for all proposed Essential Public Facilities including an assessment of economic impacts.

**Essential Public Facility Policy #8:** Pend Oreille County should include in the process for siting Essential Public Facilities a means for mitigating disproportionate financial burdens on affected jurisdictions.

**Essential Public Facility Policy #9:** Pend Oreille County should require that Essential Public Facilities be located with the least disruption of natural habitat, floodplains, wetlands, geologically hazardous areas, resource lands, and other environmentally sensitive areas.

**Essential Public Facility Policy #10:** Pend Oreille County should not approve the siting of an Essential Public Facilities outside an Urban Growth Area boundary unless the facility is self-contained and does not require the construction, maintenance, or extension of urban services.

**Essential Public Facility Policy #11:** Pend Oreille County should require that Essential Public facilities that generate substantial traffic, be sited near major transportation corridors.

## 8.5 Existing Essential Public Facilities

The following have been designated by Pend Oreille County as Essential Public Facilities:

Airports:

- Robert C. Davis Airport (Ione); and
- USFS Landing Strip (Sullivan Lake).

State education facilities:

- Newport Community College; and
- North Pend Oreille County Center (Ione).

Local education facilities:

- Selkirk School District;
- Cusick School District; and
- Newport School District.

State or regional transportation facilities:

- WSDOT shop and sanding facilities in Newport and Ione;

- Sanding facilities: Metaline Falls, Highway 20 north of the Outpost, near the junction of Highways 20 and 211, and Highway 2 north of Spokane county line;
- POVA railroad; and
- County Road Maintenance Shops: Deer Valley Road Shop, Usk Shop and Ione Shop.

State and local correctional facilities:

- County jail (Newport).

Solid Waste Facilities:

- Solid waste handling facilities;
- North County Transfer Station (Ione);
- Central County Transfer Station (Usk); and
- South County Transfer Station (Deer Valley).

Wastewater collection and treatment facilities:

- Cusick;
- Ione;
- Metaline;
- Metaline Falls;
- Newport; and
- Diamond Lake.

Inpatient facilities, including substance abuse facilities, mental health facilities, and group homes:

- Newport Community Hospital;
- Newport Community Hospital Long-term Care;

- River Mountain Village Assisted Living (Newport);
- Counseling Services Building (Newport);
- Quail Manor (Newport); and
- Family Crisis Center (Newport).

Outpatient facilities:

- Ione Clinic;
- Family Medicine Newport; and
- Family Health Center Newport.

Electrical production and transmission facilities:

- Public Utility District;
- Box Canyon Dam;
- Substations;
- Transmission lines;
- Seattle City Light;
- Boundary Dam;
- Transmission lines;
- Bonneville Power Administration;
- Substations; and
- Transmission lines.

Privately-owned public service facilities:

- Sand and gravel mines.

Public Service facilities:

- Washington Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) offices;
- Northeast Washington Rural Resources Development Association offices; and
- North East Tri-County Health.

Federal facilities:

- U.S. Border Patrol;
- Immigration and Naturalization Service (Metaline Falls);
- U.S. Geological Service;
- U.S. Air Force Survival School;
- U.S. Post Office (Cusick, Ione, Metaline, Metaline Falls, Newport, Usk);
- U.S. Forest Service facilities;
- Sullivan Lake Ranger Station; and
- Newport Ranger Station.

Telecommunication facilities:

- Cellular phone towers (various locations);
- Telephone microwave towers;
- Telephone switching stations;
- Radio and television translator towers;
- Digital Subscriber Line (DSL); and
- Fiber Optic Network.

#### Animal Control:

- Newport; and
- Cusick.

#### Fire Districts:

- #1-southwest county, including Chain Lake;
- #2-north county, including Ione, Metaline, and Metaline Falls;
- #3-south-central, including Diamond Lake and Sacheen Lake;
- #4-south-central west of river, from Newport to Cusick area including Davis Lake, Calispell Lake, and Power Lake;
- #5-central west of river, including Blueslide, Ruby, Jared, and Locke;
- #6-south county east of river, including Furport, Bead Lake, Marshall Lake;
- #7-southwest county, including Pend Oreille Park and Trout Lake area; and
- #8-southeast corner, including Lake of the Woods.

### **8.5.1 Process to Evaluate the Siting of Essential Public Facilities**

The County has outlined a general process to evaluate the siting of essential public facilities. This process includes site selection criteria, policies for the creation of an essential public facility siting committee, and the general application phase.

#### Process Overview

1. Permit application. (Note: Application form will be developed along with the revision of the Pend Oreille County Development Code.)
2. Determination of eligibility. (Note: Eligibility requirements consistent with this process will be developed with the revision of the County Development Code.)
3. Appoint an essential public facilities (EPF) siting committee to evaluate proposed facility and sites. (See Essential Public Facility Siting Review Committee below.)

4. EPF siting review committee to establish a timeline for each project review, by agreement between the applicant and the siting committee.
5. Site search consultation with adjacent and affected jurisdictions, agencies, and utilities.
6. Identify and analyze each potential site:
  - a. Local land use review; and
  - b. Application of specific review criteria for the proposed project. (See Criteria.)
7. Consultation and coordination of review of siting issues among the various affected jurisdictions, agencies, and utilities for review and comment, and in preparing recommendations.
8. Coordinate the results of the analysis with the agency that is proposing the essential public facility
9. Rank each site based on the analysis, criteria, and public comments.

#### Essential Public Facility Siting Review Committee

The following policies must be provided for the committee:

1. How the committee is chosen, such as: number of members; selection criteria; whether a standing committee;
2. Duties of the committee, such as to: Establish a timeline for each project review; evaluate each proposed essential public facility and site(s) using the adopted review criteria consistent with the Pend Oreille County Comprehensive Plan; and
3. Rules of conduct for the committee meetings.

#### General Application Phase

1. Classify the proposed essential public facility under one of the following:
  - a. A multi-county facility;

- b. A local or inter-local facility serving or potentially affecting residents or property in more than one jurisdiction within the county; and
  - c. A facility affecting only the jurisdiction in which it is located.
2. The project applicant shall provide early and adequate notice and opportunity for effective review to the public and to all affected jurisdictions according to county requirements in all phases of the process of the siting of EPFs.
3. When identifying EPFs with siting difficulties, the characteristics of the facility that make it difficult to site shall be indicated.
4. The project applicant shall provide an analysis of each alternative site considered for the proposed facility, including the following:
  - a. A description of the process used to identify and evaluate the alternative sites;
  - b. An explanation of the need for the proposed facility in the proposed location;
  - c. An evaluation of the various sites' capability to meet basic siting criteria for the proposed facility, such as size, physical characteristics, access, and availability of necessary utilities and support services;
  - d. The sites' relationship to the service area and the distribution of other similar public facilities within the service area or jurisdiction, whichever is larger;
  - e. The project applicant shall identify the primary location, and alternate locations if applicable, of the project and the approximate area within which the proposed project could have potential adverse impacts, such as increased vehicular traffic, public safety risks, noise, glare, emissions, or other environmental impacts;
  - f. The applicant shall identify potential positive and negative impacts associated with locating the proposed facility at the alternative sites which meet the applicant's basic siting criteria: environmental, traffic, social, economic, community character, compatibility with neighboring land uses, public safety, noise, odor, and fiscal impacts, such as costs of infrastructure to serve the facility and loss of tax revenue due to public ownership of land; and
  - g. The applicant shall identify proposed mitigation measures to alleviate, mitigate, or minimize significant potential adverse impacts, such as environmental, traffic, social, economic, community character, compatibility with neighboring land uses, public safety, noise, odor, and fiscal impacts, such as costs of infrastructure to serve the facility and loss of tax revenue due to public ownership of land.



5. The proposed project shall comply with the following:
  - a. All applicable provisions of the comprehensive plan, development code, and other county regulations;
  - b. Any EPF shall be required to meet existing State and Federal land use and other related regulations; and
  - c. All State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) provisions and environmental issues shall be addressed as part of any project review and approval within Pend Oreille County.
  
6. Note: The nature of the facilities' operational requirements and the siting requirements of state and federal agencies may limit the siting options of some essential public facilities. These requirements shall be taken into account prior to and during the public review process.

#### Criteria for Site Evaluation for the EPF Siting Review Committee

The Committee shall consider the effects of each potential site on:

1. Critical Areas and other natural features;
2. Forest, Agricultural, and Natural Resource Lands;
3. Designated open space corridors;
4. Sites of historic, archaeological, and cultural significance; and
5. Areas outside of the County.

The Committee shall consider the following:

1. Comprehensive Plan designations of adjacent and surrounding areas;
2. Compatibility with existing neighboring land use and development in adjacent and surrounding areas;
3. Effect on the likelihood of associated development induced or precluded by the siting of the EPF;

4. Long-term as well as the short-term costs of alternative siting criteria;
5. Secondary and indirect impacts;
6. Cumulative impacts of EPFs together with other regional development; and
7. Opportunities to minimize and/or mitigate adverse environmental impacts.

## 9.0 Capital Facilities Element

### 9.1 Overview

The Capital Facilities element provides a functional description of the County's current infrastructure needs and a projection of those needs as population grows in the County. Capital facilities include roads, bridges, sewers, parks and open spaces, facilities for drinking water, wastewater, surface water, solid waste disposal and recycling, and the government buildings that house public services. These capital facilities are needed to support the future growth expected in the County.

Projections of infrastructure needs are based on measurable level of service (LOS) standards and population projections. Policies are adopted to guide future capital spending, and to require new infrastructure to be provided concurrently with new development. Each jurisdiction planning under the Growth Management Act (GMA) shall make its capital budget decisions in conformity with its comprehensive plan.

The Capital Facilities and the Capital Finance Plan help the community and its officials to make the sound financial decisions that will ensure that county services such as law enforcement, transportation facilities, parks, and solid waste disposal will continue to adequately support county residents today and through the year 2025. Particularly important are those facilities that the county funds or those facilities that influence the type and quality to the growth and development of the County.

### 9.2 Growth Management Act Requirements

Under the Growth Management Act (RCW 36.70A), a capital facilities element is one of the six required elements of the comprehensive plan. Under the Growth Management Act (GMA), this element must:

- *Identify public facilities that will be required during the 6-years following adoption of the comprehensive plan;*
- *Include the location and cost of the facilities, and the sources of revenue that will be used to fund the facilities; and*
- *Be financially feasible, i.e. dependable revenue sources must equal or exceed anticipated costs. If the costs exceed the revenue, the local government must reduce its level of service or*

*otherwise reduce costs, or else the land use element of the comprehensive plan must be modified to bring development into balance with available or affordable public facilities.*

Other requirements of the GMA include forecasts of future needs for capital facilities, and the use of objective Level of Service (LOS) standards as the basis for public facilities planning. The need for public facilities in the element must be based on quantifiable, objective measures of capacity, such as gallons of water per person, traffic volume capacity per mile of road, and acres of park per capita. These standards are used to predict the amount of service needed as population increases. Acceptable standards are expected to vary from one community to the next, depending on its size, financial resources, and the desires of its citizens. (see RCW 36.70A.020) Responsibility for adopting specific LOS standards rests with the Board of County Commissioners.

The GMA, at RCW 36.70A.150, also requires the identification of lands useful for public purposes. These lands needed to accommodate public facilities include utility corridors, transportation corridors, landfills, sewage treatment facilities, storm water management facilities, recreation, and schools. The GMA further requires that the County work with the state and the cities in the County “...to identify areas of shared need for public facilities.” The jurisdictions with the County are then required to “...prepare a prioritized list of lands necessary for the identified public uses including an estimated date by which the acquisition will be needed.” This coordination among the cities, the state, and the County provides the opportunity to identify the areas of shared need and allows the possibility of shared use and other efficiencies. More information on lands useful for public purposes is provided in section 9.2 of this element.

In addition, the GMA requires that comprehensive plans must contain some process for “identifying and siting” essential public facilities such as airports, correctional facilities, solid waste handling facilities, mental health facilities and group homes, and other hard to site facilities.” RCW 36.70A.200 (2) states: “No local comprehensive plan or development regulation may preclude the siting of essential public facilities.” This section does not preclude reasonable review of proposals; it merely states that local jurisdictions must not arbitrarily exclude such facilities. Section 8.0 specifically deals with Essential Public Facilities within this plan.

The Capital Facilities Plan (CFP) must be updated each year. The annual update must be completed before the county’s budget is adopted in order to incorporate the capital improvements from the updated CFP in the county’s annual budget. Counties shall perform their activities and make budget decisions in conformity with their comprehensive plan.

Several provisions of the GMA require that public facilities needed to support development shall be available at the time of such development. This “concurrency” requirement states that no development order or permit be issued if it would result in a reduction in the levels of service below the standards adopted in the comprehensive plan (see RCW 36.70A.020, 36.70A.070, 58.17.110). Policies must be developed to insure that sufficient public facility capacity is available for each proposed development, or that development applications are denied when public facilities are not sufficient. According to Growth Management procedural criteria in WAC

365-195-210, available public facilities means that facilities or services are in place or that a financial commitment is in place to provide the facilities or services within a specified time. In the case of transportation, the specified time in the GMA, at 36.70A.070 (6)(e), is 6 years from the time of development.

The CFP function in the context of GMA planning is the element that shows how the comprehensive plan guides capital facilities decisions and spending. The requirements to establish measurable level of service standards, to be financially feasible, and to provide facilities concurrent with development are intended to be a reality check for the vision of community's future as laid out in its comprehensive plan.

### 9.3 Capital Facilities Goals

**Capital Facility Goal #1:** Evaluate and plan to correct existing capital facilities system deficiencies, as well as plan for future capital facilities needs and requirements.

**Capital Facility Goal #2:** Assure that public facilities needed to accommodate growth are adequate and are provided concurrently to the need, based on the County's adopted level of service standards.

**Capital Facility Goal #3:** Inform citizens of the financial requirements for needed capital improvements.

**Capital Facility Goal #4:** Schedule capital expenditures for all infrastructure systems in a comprehensive and financially sound manner.

### 9.4 Capital Facilities Policies

In support of the Capital Facility Goals, Pend Oreille County will implement the following Capital Facility Policies:

**Capital Facility Policy #1:** The Pend Oreille County 6-year Capital Facilities Plan (CFP) shall be updated annually, in conjunction with the county budget process. When updating the Capital Facilities Plan, consideration shall be given not only to the cost-effective design, but also to maintenance and operation costs.

**Capital Facility Policy #2:** Pend Oreille County shall include capital projects that are required to carry out policies of other elements of the Comprehensive Plan in the Capital Facilities Plan.

**Capital Facility Policy #3:** Pend Oreille County shall, as projects are added to the Capital Facilities Plan, review the timing of all other projects to ensure the availability of financing and other resources.

**Capital Facility Policy #4:** Pend Oreille County shall prepare a prioritized list of lands necessary for the identified public county facilities, including an estimated date by which the land acquisition will be needed.

**Capital Facility Policy #5:** Pend Oreille County shall adopt a concurrency management plan to evaluate specific development proposals to ensure that needed capital expenditures are made concurrent with development.

**Capital Facility Policy #6:** Pend Oreille County shall periodically review forecasted staffing, facility, and equipment needs and establish target dates for the repair or replacement of County facilities.

**Capital Facility Policy #7:** Pend Oreille County should design and landscape capital facilities to blend in with the surrounding environment and to mitigate potential adverse impacts.

**Capital Facility Policy #8:** Pend Oreille County should, to the greatest extent feasible, utilize dedicated capital facility funds to leverage state and federal grant funds.

**Capital Facility Policy #9:** Pend Oreille County shall work with the State and the cities and towns within the County to identify areas of common need or the opportunities for the shared use of public facilities.

**Capital Facility Policy #10:** Pend Oreille County shall consider collecting impact fees or other means of assisting fire districts in financing needed capital improvements.

**Capital Facility Policy #11:** Pend Oreille County may designate the establishment of a County-wide GIS system as a public project to be included in the County Capital Facilities Plan and/or as a public facility necessary to serve economic development purposes in this rural County.

## 9.5 Existing Conditions

The capital facilities for which the County has direct responsibility include roads, solid waste disposal, parks and recreation, and county administrative facilities for the general government services provided by the courts, auditor, assessor, sheriff, commissioners, public works, and many other functions which take place in the Courthouse, Hall of Justice, Sheriff's Office, and other county facilities.

For each area of County responsibility, existing facilities are described and the Level of Service Standard is discussed in the Capital Facilities Background Report in Appendix B. The existing facilities are compared to the LOS standard to determine the capital expenditures, which may be needed to correct existing deficiencies and bring the facilities up to the LOS standard. The LOS standard and population projections or workload projections are then used to determine the need for additional capital facilities to accommodate expected population growth. These additional capital facilities are included in the 6-year planning period, and in the case of county

administration facilities, in the 20-year planning period as well. Finally, potential funding sources are identified.

### 9.5.1 Future Growth and Deficiencies

The Office of Financial Management (OFM) population projections are presented here. While the Growth Management Act (GMA) requires counties to use the OFM projections under most

circumstances, it was generally recognized that the OFM projections from the early 1990s for eastern Washington counties were inaccurate. By 1995, Pend Oreille County had already exceeded the 20-year population projection of 10,600 persons, released by OFM in 1992. This discrepancy was the result of a trend towards migration to rural areas that started around 1990 following a decade of relatively flat population growth in rural eastern Washington. The OFM updated low-, medium-, and high-range population projections from 1995 are shown in Table 2.2.

It is important to stress that population projections of the type presented below are inherently speculative, and do not consider three factors which may seriously affect population in the County: 1) The construction of second homes for seasonal residents; 2) the possibility of large resort development along the Pend Oreille River; and 3) the proposed opening of the Pend Oreille Mine in the Metaline Falls area. For these reasons, population projections should be reviewed annually during each update of this plan.

Population history for the County is shown in Table 2-1. This table illustrates the general trend in rural eastern Washington towards an increasingly higher percentage of population living outside of incorporated areas, a trend beginning in the 1970s that has repercussions regarding the costs of provision of services in the rural areas of the County. In 1960, 53.3% of the county population lived outside the five incorporated areas. That figure was unchanged in 1970, increased to 65.1% in 1980 and to 68.6% in 1990. The year 2000 Census showed 74.5% of the population living in the unincorporated areas, up roughly 3% since 1993.

Projected population for the County is presented in Table 2-2. Consistent with growth assumptions in the Comprehensive Plan, the County has adopted the Office of Financial Management (OFM) intermediate population projections. County population is projected by OFM to increase at a rate of slightly more than 200 residents per year for the 20-year period-2005 to 2025—from 12,679 to a 16,662.

Based on the experience of the mid- and late 1990s and using the OFM medium-series population projections, an estimate has been made of population growth outside of the incorporated areas in the County. Although historically the population has increasingly shifted outside of incorporated areas, this projection assumes that the proportion of population outside of incorporated areas will stabilize at about 75% of the total population. This stabilization could take place through a combination of disincentives to live outside of incorporated areas, such as county restrictions on subdivision or increased requirements for group water systems, and

incentives to live inside towns, such as the availability of housing existing infrastructure. Table 4.3 presents a projection on rural population increases over the next 20 years, based on the assumption that population outside the incorporated areas will stabilize at 75% of the total county population and using OFM medium-series projections. Year 2000 total population figure is from the official U.S. Census.

## 9.5.2 County Capital Facilities

### Roads

Existing Facilities (including equipment replacement situation): The County contains 807.8 miles of roads. Of these, 549 miles are County roads and 258.7 miles of roads under other jurisdictions. These figures do not include Forest Service roads. Table 4-3 lists the total miles of county roads. (See Appendix A Transportation Table A-5)

Major road improvements are scheduled through Pend Oreille County's 6-year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Improvements are described by location, cost, funding source, and year for commencement of each phase of the improvement. No improvements are currently planned other than those listed. The full 6-year Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) is available at the Public Works Department office. (See the Transportation Element of the Comprehensive Plan for the detailed information, and Goals and Strategies regarding the annual 6-year Transportation Improvement Program.)

Table B-1 contains data on county road facilities for the service and storage of equipment. (see Capital Facilities and Utilities appendix)

### Level of Service Standard(s) and Forecast of Demand

A number of alternative approaches to transportation standards exist. The traditional alternatives include the Highway Capacity Manual (HCM) Signalized Intersection Method, and the variations on it, which measure capacity at intersections. One alternative approach is to modify capacity measures to allow for greater development in dense traffic areas. This alternative is in response to the tendency of HCM standards to promote suburban sprawl under some conditions, in contradiction to the anti-sprawl goals of the Growth Management Act (GMA). A second alternative approach is to supplement HCM-type standards with standards for pedestrian travel, bicycle lanes, and mass transit. While both of these alternatives seem promising, neither seems particularly appropriate to Pend Oreille County, where county roads tend to be rural and to serve relatively low-density development.

For the purposes of this plan, the County has adopted a rural composite Level of Service methodology described in the Transportation Element of this Plan. This method assigns points for a variety of operational and road condition factors related to rural road systems. The detailed method is available at the Public Works office. For bicycle and walking lanes, the County will continue with its current program of installing extra-wide shoulders on county arterials as the



arterials are rebuilt. At this time, no formal standards are established for non-motorized transportation.

### Six Year Road Improvement Project

6-year Road Improvement Program - This program of road improvements should be adequate to correct existing roadway problems over the period of the 6-year plan. Table 9.1 lists the projects included in the 6-year plan and proposed funding sources.



**Table 9.1: Six-Year Road Transportation Improvement Program (Separate Document)**

In assessing future county growth, it is important to consider the cost of increased road maintenance. As new roads are built, developers can be required to build roads to county standards. However, ongoing maintenance will be a continuing cost. A rough calculation shows that the County spends around \$3,200 per mile of county road per year. (In 2002 the County budgeted \$2,381,117 in road maintenance expenses for 549 miles of county roads. This sum does not include administration and facilities costs.) State and federal funds can be used only for 07 and 08 roads, not for road maintenance.

Maintenance is funded primarily from the gasoline tax and property tax. In order to recover this annual maintenance cost from the road assessment, each mile of new county road would need to serve \$1.4 million in assessed value at the current assessment of \$2.25 per thousand. (Note: According to the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), “07” refers to major collector routes, such as LeClerc South and Deer Valley Roads that serve as the major feeder system to the principal and minor arterials. “08” refers to minor collector routes, such as Coyote Trail and Deer Valley Roads that provide for most of the intra-county road travel on roads with a higher use design than local access roads.)

#### Potential Road Funding Sources

Road improvements (as opposed to maintenance) listed in the 6-year Transportation Improvement Program will continue to be funded through a combination of state and federal revenues, federal Transportation Equity Act-21 (TEA-21) funds, state Rural Arterial Program (RAP) funds, and the road assessment on real property. These funds should be sufficient to fund needed projects.

#### County Equipment and Vehicles

Though they are not major county capital facilities, equipment and vehicles are discussed briefly in the following paragraphs:

#### Heavy Equipment and Vehicles

Heavy equipment and most vehicles are owned by the county’s Equipment Rental and Revolving (ER&R) Fund, which rents the vehicles to the various county departments. Accounts are maintained for each vehicle, and rental rates are adjusted to provide for replacement at the end of projected life. A few vehicles are owned outside the ER&R fund by each department. This system appears to work very well.

## Minor Equipment

Smaller equipment items are owned by individual departments, with a master inventory maintained by the county Personnel/Civil Service Department. All of these items have a projected replacement date listed in the inventory.

## County Administration Existing Facilities

The inventory of county administrative buildings and specific offices, each owned by the County, is contained in Table 9.2.

**Table 9.2 County Administrative Buildings**

<b>Buildings and Programs Housed</b>	<b>Size (sq. ft.)</b>	<b>Year Built</b>	<b>No. Full-time Employees</b>
Courthouse: Commissioners, Auditor, Assessor, Treasurer, Personnel, Public Works (Planning & Building, Roads, Solid Waste)	13,515	1915/1992	39
Courthouse Annex: County Extension, Weed Board, archives & storage	3,675	1936/1992	6
Health Center: Health District, Chief Investigator for Prosecuting Attorney's office, Director of Emergency Services	7,800	1972	8.2
Sheriff's Office: Sheriff's Office, Jail	9,240	1973	35.4
Hall of Justice: Prosecuting Attorney, County Clerk, Juvenile Office, District Court, Superior Court	12,000	1979	21.75
Counseling Services Building: Counseling Services Department	10,000	2000	20

## Level of Service Standard(s) and Forecast of Demand

A review of these facilities and future demand revealed only the Law and Justice Center as inadequate. Table 9.3 summarizes the administrative office needs by showing the existing deficit, 6-year demand, and 20-year demand of the four Hall of Justice Building offices reviewed.

**Table 9.3 Existing Deficit, 6-year Demand, and 20-year Demand**

<b>Office</b>	<b>Existing Deficit</b>	<b>6-year Demand</b>	<b>20-year Demand</b>

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Superior Court	164 sq. ft.	460 sq. ft.	Additional Courtroom, 224 sq. ft. office space
District Court	183 sq. ft.	479 sq. ft.	Additional Courtroom, 128 sq. ft. office space
Prosecutor's Office	760 sq. ft.	1,654 sq. ft.	350-800 sq. ft., depending on staffing standard
Juvenile Office	168 sq. ft.	196 sq. ft.	128 sq. ft. office space

Note: Prosecutor's Office, 6-year Demand of 1654 square feet includes the amount of space to alleviate the Existing Deficit. The numbers above include only actual office space, and do not include reception area or storage area.

### Solid Waste Handling

#### Existing Facilities

Pend Oreille County completed its first solid waste planning effort in 1978. Until that time, six landfills had been operating in the county, and all were reaching capacity or had recently been closed. Transfer station sites were being developed east of Ione on Sullivan Lake Road, and on Deer Valley Road. Upon completion of these sites, the remaining old landfills were closed. A transfer station/drop box facility was built next to the District 2 shop on Jared Road to replace the Usk landfill.

The County has closed its landfills. A solid waste transfer facility was constructed in 1994 in the Newport area, along with a household hazardous waste facility at the county's Deer Valley facility, and a transfer facility was built at a location near Ione on the Sullivan Lake Road. The Usk transfer station does not have a scale or scalehouse.

All solid waste is long-hauled outside of the county. The County retains ownership of the transfer station sites, which are operated by a contractor that provides all equipment except recycling bins. With the exception of the items listed below for enhanced recycling efforts, the County plans to continue this pattern of ownership.

#### Level of Service Standard(s) and Forecast of Demand

Since solid waste is transported outside of the County under private contract, LOS standards have been defined as "transfer stations located at Ione, Usk and Newport, adequate to handle the following total amounts of solid waste".

### **Table 9.4 Solid Waste Generation Rates**

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<b>Federal and State Solid Waste Generation Rates</b>	
•Overall Generation Rate	<b>6.5 lbs/person/day</b>
•Recycling Rate	2.3 lbs/person/day
•Waste hauled to transfer station	4.2 lbs/person/day
<b>Pend Oreille County Solid Waste Generation Rates</b>	
•Overall Generation Rate <sup>1</sup>	3.2 lbs/person/day
•Recycling Rate <sup>2</sup>	0.3 lbs/person/day

<sup>1</sup> Based on the 2003 solid waste generation and population of 11,858.

<sup>2</sup> Based on weight from mixed tin, newspaper, cardboard, aluminum cans and tin cans.

Table 9.4 reflects state and federal estimates of per/capita waste generation, and is higher than the actual amounts of waste currently being received.

Based on these generation rates, Table 9.5 shows the future demand for solid waste handling facilities.

**Table 9.5 Solid Waste Forecast Demand Estimates**

<b>Rate</b>	<b>Standard in pppd (pounds per person per day)</b>	<b>2003 Demand 11,858 population (pounds per day)</b>	<b>2005 Demand 12,679 population (pounds per day)</b>	<b>2025 Demnd 16,662 population (pounds per day)</b>
Overall Generation Rate	6.5	77,077	82,414	108,303
Recycling Rate	2.3	27,273	29,162	38,323
Waste hauled to transfer stations	4.2	49,804	53,252	69,980

#### Capital Purchases Needed to Correct Existing Deficiencies

The additional solid waste generated from the growth in population will generally be accommodated through the expansion of operating hours until facility expansion is required. The Solid Waste Management Plan contains the following 6-year capital

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implementation schedule as shown in Table 9.7. (Table 9.6 was deleted and added to table 9.7 during the 2007 update)

### 9.5.3 Facilities Not Provided by the County

There are various other capital facilities throughout the County that are maintained by private and public entities, including fire districts and other emergency services, hospital districts, school districts, the Public Utility District #1 (PUD) and other public and private utility companies, water and sewer districts, and other service providers. While the County is not the provider of these facilities, however, all of the facilities not provided by the County will be impacted by population growth. Early review during the county permitting process may avoid costly provision-of-service problems at a later date. Consequently, the County has been and will continue to communicate and coordinate with the various service providers reviewed in the Capital Facilities and Utilities element, as well as other service providers.

Private developers under county permit provide additional capital facilities. While the County does not provide these facilities directly, County Level of Service (LOS) Standards will affect the types of facilities provided. In all cases, public health and safety laws mandate establishment of such standards.

#### Emergency Services

#### Existing Conditions

The County contains two ambulance services and eight fire districts. Almost all of the five municipal fire departments and eight fire district staff are provided by volunteer personnel. The municipal fire departments have first responders and other emergency medical specialists. Emergency medical services and fire protection are funded through local assessments. Ambulance service is funded through fees for services rendered.

Special units such as search and rescue are also made up of volunteer resources and manpower. The Pend Oreille County Search and Rescue was established in 1972. RCW 38.52 assigns the responsibility of search and rescue to local law enforcement. However, this dedicated, more than 40-member group gives personal time and resources to train, search, and rescue lost and injured people. Search and Rescue also plays a major support role in responding to major disasters.

There are two hospital districts in the County. District #1 operates the 24-bed Newport Community Hospital, Pend Oreille Medical Clinic, Newport Family Medicine, and Pend Oreille Pines Long Term Care. Newport Community Hospital has five active physicians,



36 courtesy physicians, seven certified physician assistants, and five emergency department backup certified physician assistants on staff and has completed \$4 million in improvements. Hospital District #1 has a Level IV Trauma rating. District #2, in Metaline Falls, promotes health care in North Pend Oreille County. There is a medical clinic located in Ione, Selkirk Community Health, which employs one physician assistant.

While the County itself does not provide these emergency services, the County is involved in emergency services in several ways: County personnel dispatch the ambulance services and fire trucks through the countywide E911 system; and county land-use policy affects emergency services through the creation of lots in rural areas, and through subdivision design standards which may influence the ability of fire trucks to turn around or to have escape routes. The County administers the E911 Communications Center. The system is funded from public funds, user fees, and a grant from the Washington Department of Military Emergency Management E911 Grant.

#### Level of Service Standards

State standards exist for emergency response times in rural areas. Areas designated “rural” may have a response time of up to 45 minutes, and areas designated “wilderness” has no specified response time, in recognition of the difficult and unpredictable nature of access to these areas.

#### Emergency Medical Services

County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel indicate that the 45-minute state standard for rural areas is a reasonable maximum given the scattered nature of the local rural population. The problem appears not to be with the standard but with the expectations of new residents, who often expect levels of service more comparable to urban areas.

#### Fire Districts

There are approximately 426 square miles of the county, located mostly east of the Pend Oreille River, that are not part of a fire district. Increasing numbers of houses are being built in this area. Fire district personnel believe that many of the residents of this area do not realize that they have no fire protection. Fire districts are often hindered in their fire-fighting efforts due to their lack of facilities.

Potential County Actions: At present, the county Planning Department has agreed to notify applicants for subdivisions and building permits which fire district they will be in, or if they will not have fire district coverage; and about the response time they can expect

for fire, ambulance, and police protection. Note: A county map showing the boundaries of each of the fire districts is available at the county Public Works Department.

## Public Schools K-12

### Existing Situation

There are three school districts in Pend Oreille County: Selkirk, Cusick and Newport. Each school district reports their actual and projected enrollments and no significant change in student population is anticipated in the near future.

### Newport School District

The District has built a 45,399 square foot elementary school, and an addition to its high school shop. These improvements are anticipated to be sufficient for the life of this plan. In transportation, the District picks up students on many rural roads in addition to the main roads. The District is currently remodeling Sadie Halstead Middle School.

### Cusick School District

The District has recently remodeled its elementary school and gym. There are 10 classrooms in the elementary school. The middle school was built in 1980 and houses 13 classrooms, a gym, kitchen, commons area, a library, shop, and district offices. The District provides transportation service to students on rural roads in addition to main roads provided the bus has safe passage on such roads.

### Selkirk School District

The District operates three school buildings, which are being fully utilized. The Ione Primary School was built in 1953, has six classrooms, and was recently declared structurally unsound. The Lillian Bailey Elementary has six classrooms and was constructed in 1956. The Selkirk Jr/Sr High School was constructed in 1964, has twelve classrooms, and built a music room and vocational shop addition in 1986. All District school buildings are aging and in need of modernization. The District believes that eventually all district facilities will be consolidated at the high school site, where there is adequate room for new construction. The District picks up students on many rural roads in addition to the main roads.

Concerns of school districts vary with their particular situations, but all districts expressed a desire to review new development proposals within their districts. In addition to the population impacts, districts like Newport, which provide bus service off the main

roads, feel the need to review design standards for subdivisions to make sure that adequate school bus access is provided. Occasionally, subdivisions have been designed with inadequate space for busses to turn around or to leave the state highway. This has led to busses stopping for students on the highway, an unnecessarily dangerous situation, particularly in the winter.

The school districts are also concerned that county standards for such items as setbacks, and state standards for items such as septic treatment and water supply not unnecessarily hinder new school construction.

School districts personnel indicated that a dialogue on school impact fees should begin now while impacts from population growth are relatively small. This dialogue should include the school districts, the County, and the tax-paying public.

#### Level of Service Standards

Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 180-27-035 establishes the following standards for state fund-matching purposes:

##### Grade Maximum Matchable Area Per Student:

- K–6: 80 square feet;
- 7 and 8: 110 square feet;
- 9–12: 120 square feet; and
- Classrooms for handicapped students: 140 square feet.

The WAC also includes site size standards. The minimum acceptable school site acreage is five acres plus one acre for each hundred students or portion thereof, plus 5 acres if the school contains any grade above grade six.

**Potential County Actions:** The County will notify school districts of new subdivisions within their areas, and provide an opportunity for school districts to comment on road access for school busses and the effect of larger subdivisions on school population. The County may wish to meet with school districts and local citizens to begin discussions on school impact fees. Schools are an area where impact fees may provide enough revenue to be significant. The County is transferring ownership of approximately 7 acres of land contiguous to the Selkirk High School for future expansion.

## Community Colleges of Spokane

### Background

The Newport College Center was established in 1990 to meet a growing need for affordable higher education in a high poverty county. The poverty level made traveling to the campuses in Spokane difficult, and without training, the cycle of poverty would be difficult to break. The Center began as a part-time facility offering classes for: General Education Degree (GED), Program Entry Preparation, some non-credit, and a few specific credit courses. The first graduates of the Center were a class of fifteen Library Technicians, some of whom work in the Pend Oreille County Library District and for the County school districts.

Due to increasing interest in the classes offered at the Center, a full-time staff person was hired in 1995. At that time the Center was housed in the Keytronic (now Aerocel) building on Newport Avenue and served approximately 100 credit, non-credit, and adult basic education students. By the Fall Quarter 1996 that number had doubled, which made the Newport Center the fastest growing remote site of the Community Colleges of Spokane system.

In the spring of 1997, the new owners of the Keytronic building gave notice to the Community Colleges of Spokane to vacate the premises in order to remodel the building as a manufacturing site. A group of local concerned citizens and business leaders joined with the Community Colleges Foundation to plan and build a permanent home for the Newport Center. The new Center was opened to students for Winter Quarter beginning in January 1999.

### Existing Conditions

The present Newport College Center serves approximately 250 adult basic education, non-credit, and credit students per quarter in a 10,000 square foot permanent building. The number of enrolled students increased about 5% per academic quarter after January 1999 but has leveled off in 2004. The Center capacity is 265 persons at one time, but with staggered class times the Center has maximum capacity to serve between 400 and 450 students.

### Future Demand

If the student population should grow beyond maximum capacity, then it will be necessary to construct Phase II a 6,000 square foot building that will house six additional classrooms.

### Future Plans

The provision of electronic technology as well as satellite capability through Washington State University, which allows multiple methods of course delivery, making it possible to add four-year University courses to the current two-year offerings should interest be shown by any four year institution. Other future plans include increasing class and program availability by offering interactive courses from both Spokane Falls and Spokane Community Campuses.

#### Pend Oreille County Library District

The Pend Oreille County Library District was formed in 1980. In 1985, the towns of Cusick, Ione, Metaline, Metaline Falls, and Newport voted to annex their facilities to the county library system—each located inside an incorporated area in the County. The County library system receives its financing through a \$.50 per \$1,000 property tax valuation in the County. Each town owns and maintains their respective facilities. The Metaline’s Community Library maintenance is financed by agreement between Metaline and Metaline Falls. The District as of January 2005 is being requested to fund a proportional share of utility expenses at a number of facilities and this could impact services.

The Library District is divided into four service areas as follows:

- North County Service Area – includes Metaline, Metaline Falls, Ione West, Ione East, and Tiger – Dry Canyon voting precincts. It is estimated that 18.5% of the County population is in this area. There are District libraries in Ione and Metaline Falls and together they are open 46 hours/week;
- Calispell Valley Service Area – includes Ruby, Locke, Cusick, Calispell, LeClerc, and Usk voting precincts. It is estimated that 11.9% of the County population live in this area. There is one district library in Cusick open 24 hours/week;
- Newport Service Area – includes Dalkena, Diamond Lake East, Furport, Deer Valley, Newport NE, NW, SE, & SW, Noble, and Skookum voting precincts. It is estimated that 48.4% of the County population live in this area. There is one District library in Newport, open 43 hours/week; and
- Far South County Service Area – includes Camden, Sacheen, Fertile Valley, and Diamond Lake West. It is estimated that 21.2% of the County population live in this area. There is one District library in Newport, open 43 hours/week; therefore; for budget purposes Newport and the far south county areas are considered as one service area using a total percentage of 69.6%.

#### 9.5.4 Six-Year Capital Facilities Plan

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The County has produced the following 6-year Capital Facilities Plan, which is a list of proposed improvements. The 6-year Capital Facilities Plan is updated annually as part of the Pend Oreille County budget process (see Table 9.7)