



Oregon

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TO: Land Conservation and Development Commission
FROM: Karen Swirsky, AICP, Central Oregon Regional Representative
SUBJECT: **Agenda Item 1, December 7-9, 2011, LCDC Meeting**

TOUR OF THE DALLES AND WASCO COUNTY

I. Columbia River Gorge Interpretive Center

The tour begins and ends at the Columbia River Gorge Interpretive Center, which has become a major tourist attraction in the Gorge. The Center's Interpretive Museum depicts the historical, cultural, and geologic development of the Columbia River Gorge. It features multiple exhibits, including a 37-foot replica of a nineteenth century fish wheel, all of which illustrate the Gorge's 40-million year long story. The interpretive center has also become an important community meeting place for the region. Please feel free to arrive early and enjoy the history and culture of the Gorge.

II. Water's Edge Wellness Center: Columbia River

This stop displays the junction of history and modern development that defines The Dalles. The Columbia River's importance to the region can be seen in the dam, bridge, and historical uses of the river, as well as the new Wellness Center that has rapidly become an important community resource and meeting place.

III. Celilo Converter Station: Wasco County Agricultural Land, Gorge Scenic Area, and Dallesport Airport and Industrial Area

The BPA Celilo Converter Station provides a vantage point for an overview of the resource lands of Wasco County. Wheat and cherries are two major components of the region's economy. High value farm land used to produce these and other agricultural commodities surrounds much of The Dalles, presenting important policy choices for continued agricultural production and future urban growth.

The overlook also provides a perspective of The Dalles' geography. It is easy to see from this viewpoint why the area has been a transportation hub since prehistoric times: the Columbia River, Interstate 84, the railroad, and the Dallesport Municipal Airport play vital roles in the regional economy. It is also clear from this vantage point that the city is constrained by topography.

IV. Sorosis Park/Columbia Gorge Community College: The Dalles Urban Growth Boundary

The City of The Dalles is evaluating the capacity of its current urban growth boundary (UGB). The city has completed Phase 1 of its evaluation, including innovative cultural and visual resource assessments. The city is now in the initial stages of Phase 2, which will include buildable lands and local wetland inventories.

The Sorosis Park overlook offers a view of industry in The Dalles. The city has worked to attract development to its Industrial Park and to the Port of The Dalles.

The Columbia Gorge Community College is a leader in technology programs, particularly in the emerging field of wind energy.

V. The Dalles Industrial Land

From large companies such as Google to a wide range of smaller companies, The Dalles has actively recruited and developed its industrial land. This stop on the tour will highlight recent industrial development and will showcase the unique opportunities and challenges for job creation in The Dalles.