

location

aerial



Regional Information

County and Community Profiles

Grant County

At 2,660 square miles Grant County is the fourth largest county in Washington. With 139 lakes, 13 beaches and the historical Columbia River passing through it, Grant County has more fresh water shoreline than any other county in the state. Seattle is less than 130 miles to the west on Highway 90, Spokane is only 100 miles east, and Portland is 250 miles southwest of Grant County.

Climate: Grant County is part of a temperate desert climate. The average temperature in the summer is 84 degrees F and the average in winter is 40 degrees. Average annual rainfall is 8.42 inches, and most days are sunny and bright. In fact, there are normally more than 300 sunny days each year in the county.

Population: Grant County has experienced a 29 percent increase in population since 1990, with approximately 75,900 people now residing in the area.

Workforce: While aerospace and high tech industries are found throughout the area, agriculture is the foundation of the county, which leads to wide swings in its economic base. The July unemployment rate for Grant County of 8.3 percent (the most current) was much higher than the state average of 4.6 percent.

Utilities: Grant County has among the lowest electric power rates in the country-- an average of approximately 2 cents per kilowatt-hour for industrial users! Natural gas is available

in some communities. All cities have municipal water and wastewater treatment capacity available for industrial growth.

Transportation: Interstate 90 bisects the county, running east/west through the towns of Moses Lake and George. In addition, there are five state highways throughout the county. Seven major truck lines serve most of Grant County out of Moses Lake, and overnight delivery is available with 500 miles. Greyhound and Northwest Trailways provide long distance bus service, with Grant Transit Authority providing public transportation between most cities and towns in the county.

Air: Grant County International Airport, just north of Moses Lake, has a Foreign Trade Zone with a full time customs agent. Scheduled passenger service is provided by Big Sky airlines, with three flights per day round trip to Seattle, and one round trip per day to Spokane. The airport is also the training center for Japan Airlines and a test site for Boeing. Local municipal airports are located at Ephrata, Quincy, Moses Lake, Warden, and Desert Aire.

