



Wasco County Planning Department

“Service, Sustainability & Solutions”

2705 East Second St. • The Dalles, OR 97058
Phone: (541) 506-2560 • wcplanning@co.wasco.or.us
www.co.wasco.or.us/planning/planhome.html

PLANNING DEPARTMENT CORE FUNCTIONS & RESPONSIBILITIES

There are a significant number and the wide-range of responsibilities the Planning Department performs. The ten principle functions the Department performs are listed as follows:

- Administration of County Land Use and Development Ordinances (“LUDO”) and Wasco County Code Compliance and Nuisance Abatement Ordinance – Working with the public to administer and enforce: zoning, land divisions, code compliance, addressing, citizen involvement program and maintenance. This includes working with land owners regulated by both the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area and Wasco County Ordinances.
- Development Review - Reviewing and processing building permits, development applications and drafting land use decisions.
- Site Inspections and Follow-up - Conducting site inspections and field work or effectuating requirements which accompany nearly every type of land use review or approval, either as follow up based on a previous condition of approval or in conjunction with an active planning case or building permit review.
- Public Assistance - Disseminating public information on land use and development regulations, counter responses, pre-application conferences, public presentation, problem solving on land use applications and procedures required to comply with state and local laws. This usually involves varying degrees of research utilizing the County's LUDOs, applicable master plans and historic files on the topic or property.
- Long Range Planning - Preparing comprehensive plan updates and maintenance, special studies, inventories, statewide planning involvement, relations with Land Conservation and Development Commission, NSA Gorge Commission, coordination with special districts and cities, awareness of and reasonable dialogue with special interest groups active in the land use planning arena.
- Compliance With Federal and State Regulations - Managing and complying with a wide range of Federal or State agency land use organizations to certify county’s activities comply with state and local planning as required by state and local laws.
- Staff Support to Governing Bodies - Providing staff support to governing bodies (Board, Planning Commission, committees for citizen involvement), including research, development of proposals, arranging public hearings, and serving as technical advisors on development and land use matters to fulfill state and local requirements.

- Public Outreach and Extension/External Communication – Developing and sustaining contacts and participation with community civic organizations and ongoing external communications such as Department newsletter, interested parties lists, social media, press releases and public awareness campaigns. Creation and maintenance of a structured citizen involvement program that reaches beyond the valuable input of the Planning Commission.
- Special Project Support and Economic Development - Providing special project support to economic development entities, Board or county in general, in areas associated with economic development, planning or the related expertise of the Department staff in organizational issues, citizen involvement and development of legislation or policy.
- Miscellaneous Technical Functions – Preparing required compatibility statements and reports, computer data base, notices, findings, procedural and review requirements, and other technical activities related to the County’s planning programs.

Additional diverse assignments are also performed by the Planning Department. However, the Department’s major mission and functions are contained within this listing and are largely required to comply with Oregon’s planning laws. The top ten functions listed characterize the most common work responsibilities. In summary, it is felt the Planning Department serves as a resource for a lot of different projects and programs.