

Appendix C Capital Facilities Plan

Introduction to Capital Facilities Plan

The Capital Facilities Plan is a six-year planning document showcasing existing conditions of the county’s capital facilities, levels of service of each facility, and financing for new or expanding capital facilities that is updated annually. The Capital Facilities Plan is divided into county and non-county facilities and then grouped by type of facility within each division. Each grouping includes an inventory, forecast of future needs over the 20-year planning period, and financing plan for projects within the next six years. Goals and policies specific to the Capital Facilities and Utilities element are within the County’s Comprehensive Plan document.

Acronyms

RCW: Revised Code of Washington

WAC: Washington Administrative Code

CFP: Capital Facilities Plan

Planning Context

Growth Management Act

This document, along with the County’s Capital Facilities and Utilities Element, implements Goal 12 of the Washington State Growth Management Act (“GMA”), which provides that the County must “[e]nsure 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 GMA ([RCW 36.70A.070](#)) specifically requires that the county’s Comprehensive Plan include a Capital Facilities Plan Element consisting of the following:

- a) *An inventory of existing capital facilities owned by public entities, including green infrastructure, showing the locations and capacities of the capital facilities;*
- b) *a forecast of the future needs for such capital facilities;*
- c) *the proposed locations and capacities of expanded or new capital facilities;*
- d) *at least a six-year plan that will finance such capital facilities within projected funding capacities and clearly identifies sources of public money for such purposes; and*

- e) *a requirement to reassess the land use element if probable funding falls short of meeting existing needs and to ensure that the land use element, capital facilities plan element, and financing plan within the capital facilities plan element are coordinated and consistent.*

This Capital Facilities Plan will cover most of the requirements in a) through d) while other comprehensive plan elements (transportation element, parks and recreation element, land use element, and the economic development element) will cover the rest of d) and e).

This Capital Facilities Plan incorporates the County's 6-year Capital Improvement Plan by reference to satisfy the requirement of RCW 36.70A.070(3)(d).

Limitations of the Capital Facilities Plan

This CFP covers all County owned facilities to our best knowledge and the financing plan is updated annually in collaboration with the Department of Public Works. Lewis County is a largely rural county with some facilities (schools, fire, private utilities) serving large portions of the county with very little population. Non-County owned facilities may be difficult to collect due to the size and frequency of communication.

The GMA states that,

“The county or city shall identify all public entities that own capital facilities/utility systems and endeavor in good faith to work with other public entities, such as special purpose districts, to gather and include within its capital facilities element the information required by this subsection. If, after a good faith effort, the county or city is unable to gather the information required by this subsection from the other public entities, the failure to include such information in its capital facilities element cannot be grounds for a finding of noncompliance or invalidity under chapter 228, Laws of 2023. A good faith effort must, at a minimum, include consulting the public entity's capital facility or system plans and emailing and calling the staff of the public entity.”

Pursuant to this requirement, the information gathered and displayed within this document is the information that was able to be gathered after a good faith effort in communication with each public entity that owns either capital facilities or utility systems.

Capital Facilities and Utility System Ownership Summary

County Owned	Non-County Owned
Government Services	Schools
Parks and Recreation	Fire Protection
Solid Waste Management	Electricity
Storm Drainage systems	Natural Gas
Transportation	Telecommunications
Wastewater Systems	Water Systems (all other major systems)
Water Systems (Only Vader)	

County Owned Capital Facilities

Government Services

Overview

The government of Lewis County operates several facilities including court buildings, law enforcement, health services, shelters, and storage facilities.

General government buildings are primarily located in downtown Chehalis, while specialized services such as Senior Centers are spread more throughout the county. Each of the facilities operated by the county are listed in **Table CF- 1** and shown in Figure 11.

Existing Inventory

Table CF- 1. Government Services Inventory

Building Name	Address	Location	Ownership*	Built	Square Feet
GENERAL GOVERNMENT					
Courthouse	351 NW North Street	Chehalis	OO	1927	57,166
Health Service Building	360 NW North Street	Chehalis	OO	1953	17,524
Law & Justice Center/Annex	345 W Main	Chehalis	OO	1978	67,054
Motor Pool	476 W Main	Chehalis	OO	1956	10,714
Jail	28 SW Chehalis Ave.	Chehalis	OO	1986	66,964
Evidence/Coroner Building	585 Center Street	Chehalis	OO	1950	18,312
Facilities Building	571 NW Prindle St.	Chehalis	OO	1950	14,000
Public Works/Community Dev.	2025 NE Kresky	Chehalis	OO	1987	12,650
Brick House	19 SW Cascade Ave	Chehalis	OO	1935	2,745
LCSO East County Substation	8901 US Hwy 12	Glenoma	OO	2024	2,232
Unused Building	185 NW Chehalis Ave.	Chehalis	OO	2020	6,000
Community Development	123 NW Chehalis Ave.	Chehalis	OO	2020	11,000
Public Works	57 W Main St	Chehalis	OO	2021	10,055
Night by Night Shelter	2015 Kresky Ave	Chehalis	OO	2022	6,780
Extension Office	17 Cascade	Chehalis	OO	1954	2,269
Lewis County Animal Shelter (Including Storage)	560 Centralia - Alpha Road	Centralia	OO	1980	2,688
Youth Service Center	1255 SW Pacific	Chehalis	OO	1979	18,576
Drug Court House	1258 SE Washington Ave	Chehalis	OO	2022	3,422
SENIOR CENTERS					
Twin Cities Senior Center, Outside Office, and Storage Building	2545 N National Ave	Chehalis	OL	1983	9,788
Morton Senior Citizen Center	103 Westlake Ave (At 1st Ave)	Morton	OL	1983	4,616
Olequa Senior Center	119 SW Kerron	Winlock	OL	1987	4,944
Packwood Senior Center and Storage Building	12931 US Hwy 12	Packwood	OL	1983	4,068

Building Name	Address	Location	Ownership*	Built	Square Feet
Toledo Senior Citizen Center	150 Coal Street	Toledo	OL	1981	4,376

*OO – Owned and Occupied by County, OL – Owned by County and Leased, LH – Not Owned by County and Leased

Levels of Service

Text.

Future Needs

Government services needs are outlined within the 6-year financial plan in **Table CF- 6**.

Park and Recreation Facilities

Overview

Lewis County contains several parks and recreation facilities (see **Figure 19**). These facilities include parks operated by the federal government, Washington State Parks, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Tacoma Power, Lewis County Public Utility District #1 (PUD), the incorporated cities of the county, and a variety of other agencies.

Existing Inventory

Lewis County owns and operates four parks, two historic museums, and a parks maintenance shop (shown in **Table CF- 2**). The county does not coordinate with other agencies, beyond the general review of permits, on their plans for parks and open space.

Table CF- 2. Parks and Recreations Inventory

Facility Name	Acreage	Address	Location	Facilities
COUNTY PARKS				
South County Park	43.0	212 Ray Road	Toledo	Swimming, fishing, boating, playground and picnic area
Schaefer Park	14.0	822 SR 507	Centralia	River swimming, fishing, group use, playground, picnic area

Facility Name	Acreage	Address	Location	Facilities
Rose Park	20.9	263 Penning Road	Chehalis	Covered picnic/kitchen area, picnic area, playground, volleyball area, horseshoe pit, trail with exercise stations
Back Memorial Park	5.0	146 Dieckman Road	Chehalis	Track, ball fields, playground, and picnic area
Cowlitz River Park	3.5	105 Alta Dr	Packwood	Picnic area, swimming, walking trail, and river access for hand-carried boats
HISTORIC BUILDINGS				
Claquato Church	600 sf	125 Water Street	Chehalis	Historic place museum
St Urban Church	1,656 sf	Military Road	Winlock	Historic building
PARKS MAINTENANCE AND STORAGE				
Onalaska Parks Shop	5,544 sf	951 Hwy 508	Onalaska	Storage and maintenance building

Levels of Service

Text.

Future Needs

The Packwood Park System was identified in the 6-Year capital plan for improvements. The cost, funding source, and expected timing of improvements can be found in **Table CF-2**.

Solid Waste Management Facilities

Overview

Lewis County provides municipal and household solid waste disposal for area residents. The County's Solid Waste Services operates two transfer stations (one in Centralia and the other just east of the City of Morton). Businesses and residential customers may haul their solid waste or recycling to one of the transfer stations, or have their trash collected by private companies as part of a curbside pickup program.

Trash collected in Lewis County is ultimately disposed in Wasco County Landfill in Wasco County, Oregon.

Existing Inventory

Each transfer stations have various accessory buildings to support the stations including office buildings, employee buildings, and storage sheds. Capacity, levels of service, and waste generation rates are analyzed within the County's [Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Plan](#), which is incorporated by reference. **Table CF- 3** gives a summary of existing County owned solid waste facilities.

Table CF- 3. Solid Waste Facility Inventory

Facility Name	Address	Location	Site Area (Acres)	Building size (Square Feet)
SOLID WASTE TRANSFER STATIONS				
Centralia	1411 South Tower Avenue	Centralia	88.50	12,280
Morton	6745 U.S. Hwy 12	Morton	6.98	8,600
ACCESSORY BUILDINGS				
Centralia	1411 South Tower Avenue	Centralia	88.50	6,648
Morton	6745 U.S. Hwy 12	Morton	6.98	399

Levels of Service

See [Lewis County Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Plan](#).

Future Needs

A new transfer station is proposed to be built within the planning period to serve the growing needs of the population in the south part of the County. Estimated funding needs and source of the funding to complete the construction of the new transfer station is still under analysis.

The new transfer station is mentioned in **Table CF-3** as "South County Transfer Station".

Transportation Facilities

Overview

Lewis County operates a variety of facilities that are utilized to maintain existing county transportation infrastructure. These facilities include shop buildings, sand sheds, and pits and quarries, which help to provide materials for area roads. A complete list of these facilities is provided in **Table CF- 4**.

Existing Inventory

Roads, airports, rail, transit and non-motorized transportation are not included in this CFP because the County's Transportation Element includes an inventory and level of service analysis, and the [six-year Transportation Improvement](#) Program ("TIP") includes a financing plan. These plans are incorporated by reference.

Table CF- 4. Transportation Facilities Inventory

Building Name	Address	Location	Ownership*	Built	Square Feet
Road Shops, Pits and Quarries, and Sand Sheds					
Central Shop	109 Forest Napavine Road	Chehalis	OO	1955	17,664
Central Shop - Welding Shop	109 Forest Napavine Road	Chehalis	OO	1980	2,200
Equipment Storage - Truck Garage	109 Forest Napavine Road	Chehalis	OO	1957	7,200
Traffic Control	109 Forest Napavine Road	Chehalis	OO	1980	8,300
Bridge Shop	109 Forest Napavine Road	Chehalis	OO	1970	7,764
Wash Rack	109 Forest Napavine Road	Chehalis	OO	1998	1,400
Area Shop 1	148 Big Hanaford Road	Centralia	OO	1970	8,750
Bunker Garage and Shop #2	307 Spooner Road (SR-6)	Chehalis	OO	1961	6,870
Sand/Rock Shed	307 Spooner Road (SR-6)	Chehalis	OO	1999	2,400
Vehicle Wash Building	307 Spooner Road (SR-6)	Chehalis	OO	2010	90
Area Shop # 3	111 Pleasant Valley Road	Winlock	OO	1987	10,222
Area # 5 Road Shop - Vegetation	162 Brim Road	Ethel	OO	1992	2,952
Area #5 Road Shop	162 Brim Road	Ethel	OO	2016	20,060
Area 7 Administration/Shop Building	8911 US Highway 12	Randle	OO	2015	9,828
Vehicle Storage/Wash Rack Building	8911 US Highway 12	Randle	OO	1986	4,040
Sand Shed	8911 US Highway 12	Randle	OO	2004	2,400
Sheriff Storage	187 Kirkland Road	Chehalis	OO	1967	6,346
Toledo Sand Shed	134 Collins Road 125	Toledo	OO	1964	1,300
South County Airport Board Room	5235 Jackson Hwy	Toledo	OO	1960	1,002
South County Airport Hangar #5 50x160 Metal Building	5235 Jackson Hwy	Toledo	OO	1960	7,680
Airport Admin Building and MBR Building	5239 Jackson Hwy	Toledo	OO	2011	3,456
Lighting Control Building	5239 Jackson Hwy	Toledo	OO	2011	192
Packwood Airport	0 Main St W	Packwood	OO	1994	2,400

*OO – Owned and Occupied by County, OL – Owned by County and Leased, LH – Not Owned by County and Leased

Levels of Service

Transportation-related facilities are built and leased on an as-needed basis to maintain the county's more specific road levels of service (details and methodology can be found in the transportation element of the comprehensive plan).

Future Needs

There are renovations identified and planned for the Central Shop. The cost, funding source, and expected timing of improvements can be found in table CF-X. A full list of planned transportation improvements, extensions, and rehabilitations can be found in the Transportation Improvement Program (separate cover).

Water Systems

Overview

Lewis County is served by several public and private water utilities (see Map CF-4). Of these utilities, Group A water systems are the largest and:

- Have 15 or more service connections, or
- Serve 25 or more people 60 or more days per year.

These Group A water systems are required to prepare a Water System or Small Water System Management Plan to assist in the future planning for their facilities.

Lewis County only directly provides water service to the City of Vader (as a result of a Superior Court decision in 2010) but does review the water plans of each of the Group A systems to ensure consistency with the County's Comprehensive Plan and Countywide Planning Policies.

Due to the volume and complexity of information contained within these various plans, an inventory of existing facilities, necessary improvements, and financing information is not repeated within this Capital Facilities Plan. Instead, a list of basic information about the non-municipal major water systems is provided in **Table CF- 5**.

Copies of the Water System Plans for Group A systems are kept on file with the Lewis County Community Development Department and considered a key component of the background data that has been reviewed in the development of this Comprehensive Plan.

Existing Inventory

Table CF- 5. Large Water System Inventory

System	General Information		Connections		Source
	Plan Date	Governance	Existing	Approved	Water Source
Boistfort Valley Water	2024	Private	850	1,210	Little Mill Creek, Chehalis River, groundwater well
LCWD #1 – Randle	2024	Special District	116	142	Groundwater wells
LCWD #2 – Onalaska	2017	Special District	220	435	Groundwater wells
LCWD #3 – Packwood	2018	Special District	320	486	Groundwater wells
LCWD #5 - Middle Fork Water Sewer System	2020	County	17	100	Groundwater wells
LCWD #6 – Lake Mayfield Village	2006*	Special District	262	270	Groundwater wells
Vader-Enchanted Valley	2016	County	365	369	Cowlitz River

**Updated water system plans were not available, but updated information was obtained from direct communication with District Operator.*

Levels of Service

Each water system plan has detailed methodologies for levels of service specific to each district. These methodologies can be found in specific water system plans.

Future Needs

Regular water pipe maintenance and flushing is planned in the 6-year finance plan. Each specific water district has a detailed list of planned projects to maintain levels of service within their water system plan.

Packwood Water and Sewer systems are in the process of being improved in two phases to establish infrastructure to accommodate the Packwood UGA future growth established in the Land Use and Housing Element. The first phase of the improvements are funding, Lewis County will need to acquire.

Lewis County is working with Onalaska Water and Sewer to make infrastructure improvements in order to provide adequate capacity for growth. These improvements are part of the 20-year capital facilities plan.

Wastewater Systems

Overview

Lewis County reviews the sewer plans of jurisdictions and districts within the county. Review of these plans considers the growth forecasts used to project future wastewater flows and the management of areas that are outside incorporated communities and their urban growth areas. The sewer plans are specifically reviewed to ensure that: the district's planning area boundaries are consistent with UGA boundaries and to make sure that urban areas are adequately planned for future service.

Existing Inventory

Beyond the wastewater treatment facilities located in incorporated jurisdictions, six water/sewer districts operate in Lewis County.

Lewis County Water/Sewer District 1 – Randle

District 1 serves the Randle area. At present, the district does not have any facilities to treat wastewater.

Lewis County Water/Sewer District 2 – Onalaska

District 2 serves the Onalaska area. The district operates a wastewater treatment facility with an annual average capacity of 107,000 gallons per day (gpd). The system is detailed further in the subarea plan for Onalaska.

Lewis County Water/Sewer District 3 – Packwood

District 3 serves the Packwood community. The district adopted a Wastewater Facility Plan in 2013 and is in the process of developing a sewer treatment system.

Lewis County Water/Sewer District 4 – Chehalis

District 4 serves the south Chehalis area. Wastewater from the system is treated at the Chehalis Regional Water Reclamation Facility.

Lewis County Water/Sewer District 5 – North Onalaska

District 5 serves the Birchfield area. Wastewater from the system is proposed to be treated by Water/Sewer District 2.

Lewis County Water/Sewer District 6 – Lake Mayfield

District 6 serves the Lake Mayfield Resort and the Mayfield Village LAMIRD. Wastewater from the area is treated at a small treatment plant along the shoreline of Mayfield Lake. The wastewater treatment plant is at capacity and no new growth is allowed or expected at this time in the Lake Mayfield community.

Levels of Service

Each sewer system plan has detailed methodologies for levels of service specific to each district. These methodologies can be found in the specific system plans.

Future Needs

Each specific sewer district has a detailed list of planned projects to maintain levels of service within their system plan.

Packwood Water and Sewer systems are in the process of being improved in two phases to establish infrastructure to accommodate the Packwood UGA future growth established in the Land Use and Housing Element. The first phase of the improvements are funding, Lewis County will need to acquire. These improvements are part of the 20-year capital facilities plan.

Lewis County is working with Onalaska Water and Sewer to make infrastructure improvements in order to provide adequate capacity for growth. These improvements are part of the 20-year capital facilities plan.

6-Year Financing Plan Summary

Lewis County maintain an annually updated 6-year capital plan for county owned capital facilities and utility infrastructure. The 6-year Capital Plan and 6-year Transportation Improvement Program are supplementary to each other. **Table CF- 6** shows a snapshot of the planned projects and funding sources in the 2025-2030 Lewis County Capital Plan.

Table CF- 6. 6-Year Financing Plan Snapshot (all amounts in \$1,000s)

Project	Total Estimated Cost	Funding Source	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
GOVERNMENT SERVICES								
Courthouse campus yearly maintenance and improvements	350/yr	REET	350	350	350	350	350	350
Health building parking lot improvements	1,200	Bond/ REET	1,200					
Health Building HVAC and window improvements	2,000	Grant/ REET	650	650	700			
IT Building renovation/ conversion	1,250	Bond/ REET	300					

Project	Total Estimated Cost	Funding Source	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
and extensions		Grant						
New animal shelter	3,125	Donations	TBD					
Code revisions for Drug Court Transitional Shelter	40	Drug Court funds	TBD					
Night by Night temporary and permanent shelter renovations	2,200	State Cap budget	1,500					
PARKS AND RECREATION								
Yearly parks and fairgrounds maintenance and improvements	500/yr	REET/ Grant	500	500	500	500	500	500
Fairgrounds master plan projects	TBD	REET/ Grant	TBD					
Equestrian Center engineering plans	200	State Cap budget	200					
Packwood Park system	5,000	REET/ Grant	TBD					
OTHER								
Solid Waste: South County Transfer Station	TBD	TBD	TBD					
Waterline rehabilitation	1,250	ARPA	500					

Plans Used for County Owned Facilities

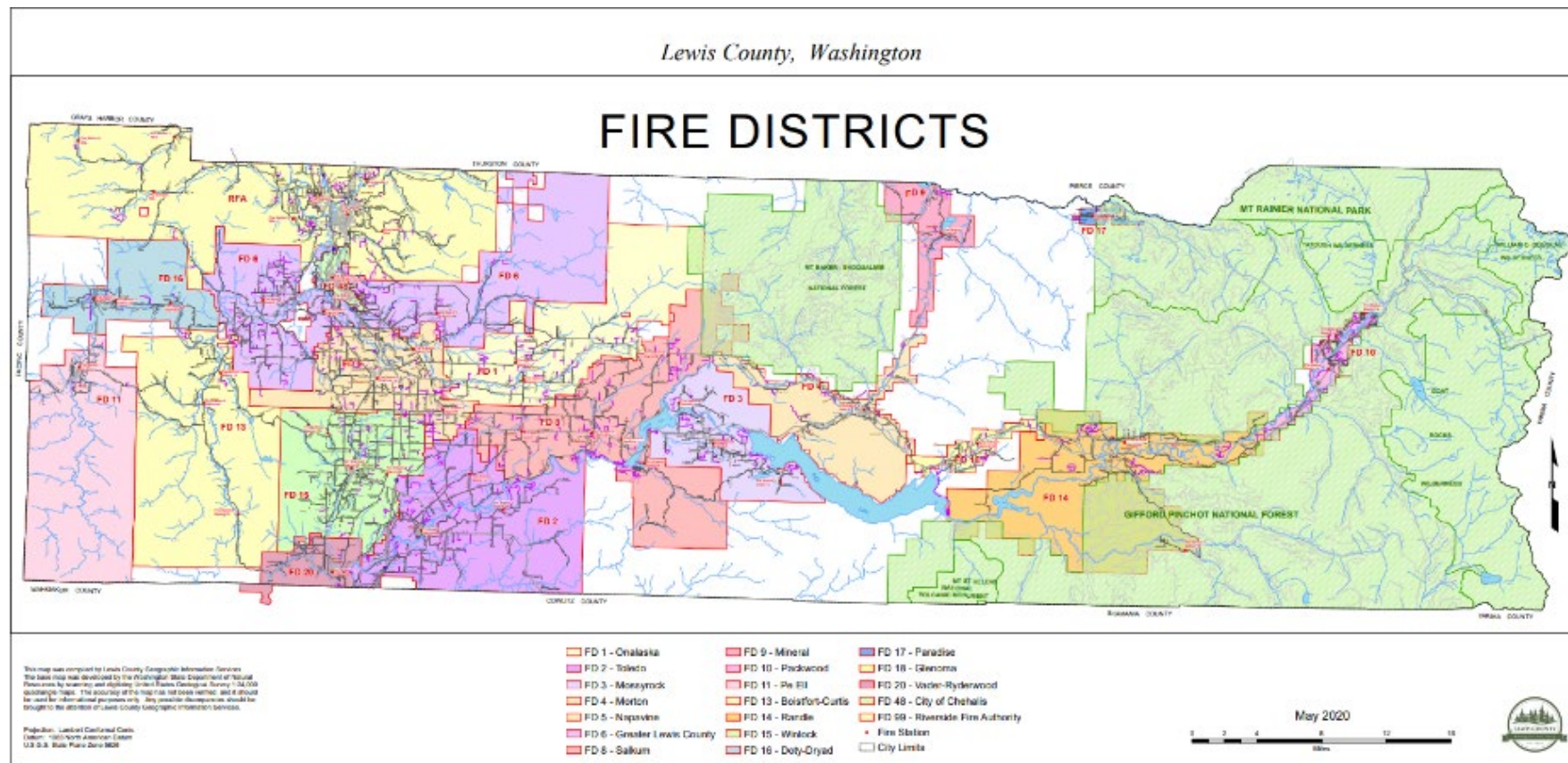
- Lewis County 6-Year Capital Plan and Inventory (excel file)
- [Lewis County 6-Year Transportation Improvement Program](#), 2024
- [Vader-Enchanted Valley Water System Plan](#), 2016
- Lewis County [Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Plan](#), 2023

Non-County Owned Capital Facilities

Fire Districts

Overview

Lewis County contains 18 fire districts. The fire districts serve both unincorporated Lewis County and incorporated cities. Fire District 17 is currently managed by Pierce County Fire District 23 which services approximately 67 square miles in Pierce County in addition to the Fire District 17 service area.



Existing Inventory

A complete inventory of each fire district serving Lewis County is in the County's [2024 Hazard Mitigation Plan](#). **Table CF- 7** below is a summary of the inventory for each fire district.

Table CF- 7. Fire District Inventory Summary

Fire District	Number of Stations	Staff		Service Area		Facility Inventory			
		Paid Staff	Volunteer	Population Served	Service Area (sq mi)	Fire Units	EMS Units	Command/Support	Other
#1	3	6	15	3,573	82	Engine-3 Brush-2 Tender-1	Ambulance-3 Rescue-1	3	Smoke trailer-1 Antique engine-1 Picnic truck-1
#2	3	10		5,400	98	Engine-3 Brush-2 Tender-2	Ambulance-1 Aid-1	2	Watercraft-1 Watercraft Trailer-1 Supply Trailer-1
#3	3	2	20	2,255 (6,500 in summer)	49	Engine-3 Tender-2 Brush-2	Ambulance-2	2	Flatbed Trailer-2 Mowers-2
#4	1	6	10	2,000	70	Engine-2 Tender-2 Brush-2	Ambulance-1 Rescue-2		
#5	3	10	10	9,500	70	Engine-4 Brush-3	Ambulance-3	Staff vehicle-1	
#6	4	13		8,572	145	Engine-5 Tender-2 Brush-1	Ambulance-2	Support/ Staff vehicle-2	Trailers-3
#8	5	10	30	4,200	188	Engines-3 Tenders-3 Engine/ Tender-2	Ambulance-3	3	
#10	3	14		4,400 (30,000 seasonally)	360	Engine-5 Brush-2	Ambulance-2	Aircraft Rescue Truck-1	
#14	2	2	18	3,500	105	Engine-4 Tender-2	Ambulance-3	Staff vehicle-2	
#15	3	14	2	5,000	42	Engine-2	Ambulance-2		

Fire District	Number of Stations	Staff		Service Area		Facility Inventory			
						Tender-1 Brush-2			
#20	2	0	8	2,000	11	Engine-2 Tender-2 Brush-2	Ambulance-2	Command Car-1 Other support vehicles-2	Trailer-1
#48 Chehalis	1	14	0	7,439	5.88	Engine-3 Ladder-1	Aid-1		
#99 RFA	8	31	65	28,000	184	Engine-12 Tender-4 Aerial apparatus-1	Ambulance-5	Support vehicles-8	

Levels of Service and Future Needs

Each fire district has their own analysis of the levels of service that work best for their service area. Each district plans improvements and new apparatus purchases as they are needed to best serve the population they serve and maintain those levels of service. See specific Fire District capital plans for specific information. That information is not repeated within this capital facilities plan but was used as guidance for land use and policy revisions.

School Districts

Overview

Lewis County contains 13 public school districts.

As part of this plan, Lewis County has reviewed each of the school district's adopted facility plans and summarized the school districts' inventories of school capacities and enrollment.

Existing Inventory

Table CF- 8. Lewis County School District Inventory Summary

School District	School Name	School Details		Year Built/Notes
	Name	Current Enrollment	Max Capacity*	
Adna	Adna Elementary	258		1980
	Adna Middle/High	362		1992
Boistfort	Boistfort	274		1936
Centralia	Centralia High	1000	1200	2019
	Centralia Middle	500	600	1906
	Edison	330	400	1889
	Jefferson Lincoln	410	550	2019
	Fords Prairie	400	550	2019
	Oakview	195	450	1978
	Washington	220	400	1950
Chehalis	Chehalis Middle	635	643	1988
	James W. Elementary	591	612	2018
	Orin C. Elementary	665	612	2019
	W.F. West High	912	1190	1950
Evaline	Evaline Elementary	50	60	1925
Mossyrock	Mossyrock Elementary	321		1938
	Mossyrock Junior/Senior High	279		1956
Napavine	Napavine High	390	395	1980
	Napavine Elementary	395	400	1951
Onalaska	Onalaska Elementary	388		1957
	Onalaska Middle	199		1987
	Onalaska High	265		1977
Pe Ell	Pe Ell	267	625	1956
Toledo	Toledo Elementary	436	363	1955
	Toledo Middle	194	223	1930

School District	School Name	School Details		Year Built/Notes
	Name	Current Enrollment	Max Capacity*	
	Toledo High	277	429	1978
White Pass	White Pass Elementary	210	265	1964
	White Pass Junior/High	148	228	2010
Winlock	Winlock Elementary	415	426	1949
	Winlock Middle/High	408	628	1974

*Max/Permanent Capacity data from some schools was not available.

Levels of Service and Future Needs

Each School District has their own facility plan which has a detailed analysis of enrollment projections, planning projects, and levels of service. That information is not repeated within this capital facilities plan but was used as guidance for land use and policy revisions.

Electricity

Overview

Lewis County Public Utility District No. 1

Lewis County Public Utility District No. 1 (LCPUD) serves all of Lewis County, except the City of Centralia and areas covered by Centralia City Light. The utility provides electricity to over 35,000 individual electric meters. Roughly 84 percent of the energy came from hydropower.

The utility district owns and operates the Cowlitz Falls Hydro Project. The facility:

- Produces an average of 260,000 Mwh of electricity annually.
- Was developed through a partnership between the PUD and the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA). Under the partnership, the district owns the dam, and the BPA purchases the annual output of the facility under a long-term contract which is set to expire in 2032. In exchange for the output of the dam, the BPA pays all costs associated with the operation and maintenance of the facility. Starting in 2032, it is assumed that the Project will be used to serve LCPUD load.

In addition to the Cowlitz Falls Project, the utility has collaborated on or purchased energy shares from a variety of alternative energy projects such as the Packwood Hydro project, the Burton Creek Hydro project, and the 9 Canyon and White Creek Wind projects.

From [LCPUD's 2024 Integrated Resource Plan](#): *"LCPUD is currently meeting the energy demands of its customers with 90% carbon-free electric power, primarily sourced from the FCRPS. On an average energy basis, LCPUD's currently contracted resources are projected to meet or exceed its load throughout the 20-year IRP study horizon. However, on a capacity basis, LCPUD is already at a deficit of roughly 40 MW in winter months relative to the current requirements of the WRAP. Over the 20-year time horizon modeled in this study, load growth is forecast to grow this winter deficit to roughly 105 MW and to cause a summer deficit of up to 80 MW unless LCPUD procures additional capacity resources."*

This analysis concludes that energy storage resources, such as Lithium-Ion batteries, in combination with small additions of wind and market purchases, would be the most economical technology solution to address these deficits, given current regulatory requirements and technology costs. Energy storage resources are particularly well-suited to LCPUD's needs because the utility is deficit on capacity, but adequate on total energy."

Centralia City Light

Centralia City Light supplies power to approximately 10,000 customers in the City of Centralia and nearby areas, including Cooks Hill, Seminary Hill, and Salzer Valley. Of these customers, roughly 84 percent are residential uses, and 16 percent are commercial or industrial uses. Per the [2022 Centralia City Light Resource Plan](#), the Utility receives federal power from the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), non-federal power from Northwest Energy Management Services (NEMS), and power from its own Hydroelectric Generation plant in Yelm. In 2021, the Utility had 30.704 aMW of total resources available to serve its TRL. BPA resources provide 75 percent of the available resource to the Utility. Non-federal resources contributed 13 percent. The Utilities Yelm Hydroelectric plant provides 11 percent. The remaining 1 percent comes from Conservation and Renewables.

Natural Gas

Overview

Puget Sound Energy offers natural gas service to nearly 800,000 gas customers in six counties, including consumers in Centralia, Chehalis, Toledo and Winlock. Gas is purchased from regional suppliers and transmitted to customers through local mains and service lines.

All of the natural gas consumed by homes and businesses in the Pacific Northwest comes from western Canada and the U.S. Rocky Mountain states. The majority of this natural gas moves straight to the customer through a network of pipelines, local gas mains, and other utility infrastructure. Northwest consumers, however, also receive a significant share of their natural gas supply—mainly in winter—from underground storage reservoirs.

Puget Sound Energy co-owns and operates the Northwest’s largest natural gas storage reservoir, the Jackson Prairie Underground Natural Gas Storage Facility in Lewis County, about 10 miles south of Chehalis. The Jackson Prairie facility is able to store 25 billion cubic feet of working natural gas, with a total storage of 47 billion cubic feet, and is capable of delivering 1.15 billion cubic feet of natural gas per day – enough to meet the peak wintertime natural gas consumption of the 1.2 million households in the Northwest.

PSE and its commercial, sister company Puget LNG, co-own a Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) facility at the Port of Tacoma. Commissioned in 2022, the facility has the ability to liquefy up to 250,000 gallons of LNG a day and store the product in an 8-million gallon LNG storage tank. This stored gas supply resource can then both serve PSE’s natural gas customers and provide fuel to maritime vessels and trucks. The facility is designed to the highest safety standards, including to withstand a once-in-every-2,450-year earthquake.

Telecommunications

Overview

A variety of telecommunications providers offer service in Lewis County. Ongoing changes in cellular and fiber technology have transformed the delivery of telecommunications, and these shifts in equipment and providers have contributed to an industry that offers several options for customers. Anticipating future characteristics given these swiftly shifting conditions is near impossible.

Telecommunication providers are regulated by federal, state and local jurisdictions, and the County often reviews components of the service provision through the development review process.

Moving into the future, improvements to telecommunication infrastructure and services will play an increasingly important role in strategies for transportation demand management and rural economic development in Lewis County. These strategies will require the continued commitment to the development of telecommunications technology throughout the County, especially in underserved areas.