



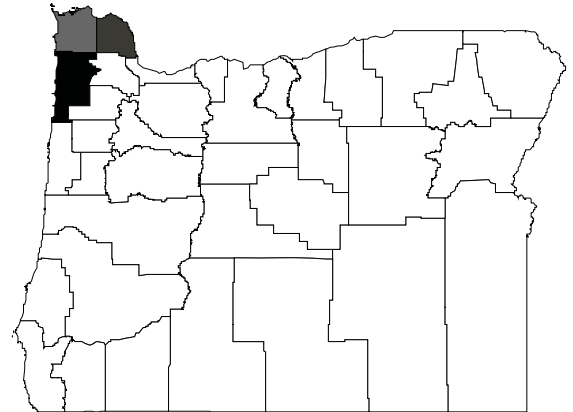
Columbia-Pacific Economic Development District

Community Profile

County Columbia, Clatsop, Tillamook
 City St. Helens
 Population 120,000 (all three counties)

Assignment

Organization Columbia-Pacific Economic Development District
 Supervisor Mary McArthur
 RARE Member Orion Stand-Gravois



About Columbia-Pacific Economic Development District

The Columbia-Pacific Economic Development District (Col-Pac) is a private non-profit organization established to assist in diversifying and strengthening the economy and livability of Northwest Oregon. The District covers all of Clatsop, Columbia, and Tillamook counties and the western part of Washington County. Certified by the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) as a recognized Economic Development District, Col-Pac offers a range of economic and community development services, technical assistance, and referrals in carrying out its mission. Col-Pac’s economic development activities focus on blending the natural resource-based industries in the region with new economic development opportunities that historically have not been part of the area’s economy. As an economic development district, Col-Pac provides capacity building, coordination and establishment of basic economic development foundation building tools for NW Oregon.

The RARE participant placed with the Columbia-Pacific Economic Development District will conduct outreach to public and private sector entities regarding the availability of the new AGORA platform, facilitate access to the platform, and follow up on projects and funding outcomes in order to connect community capital improvement projects to potential funding sources. The RARE participant will also work on updating the NW Oregon CEDS by developing current economic development data, setting up community meetings, and drafting updates. Finally, the RARE participant will work with the NW Coast Small Farmer/Fisher Supply Chain Development Initiative to continue the value chain work accomplished to date and to support the implementation of any priority development opportunities that prove feasible and achieve funding.

Meet Orion Stand-Gravois



Orion received his bachelor’s degree in Geography and his master’s degrees in Geography and Community Planning from Auburn University. Orion wrote his master’s thesis on how football spread from the northeastern part of the U.S. to the other parts of the country and how it now largely defines the Deep South’s sporting culture. After receiving his second master’s degree, Orion worked for the City of Green River, UT, as an Economic Progress Instigator and as a Planning and Zoning Commissioner through AmeriCorps VISTA. With the City of Green River, Orion worked with the local government, community groups, and other community volunteers to help steer the local planning decision-making process in the right direction. Now with the RARE Program, Orion hopes to build on the planning experience he’s gained so far while serving his community. After his year with RARE, Orion would like to pursue a career in planning or a closely-related field.