

GOAL 9: COUNTY ECONOMY

General Discussion

This goal is to diversify and improve the economy of Klamath County as set forth herein; intending results that nurture a productive and growing economy so as to add to the well-being of all people who participate in Klamath County. All plans, designs, processes, ordinances, and goals shall give strong consideration to this goal, to amplify the healthiest economic impacts of Klamath County.

The County shall manifest the development of expanded tourism, of desirable new business and industry, of equitable tax assessment ratios, or revenue resources, of incentives to private enterprises, of expanded job availability for persons of varying skills, of private and government cooperation and coordination in attracting and locating industry, or the alignment of governmental regulations coordinating and developing commercial uses.

Objectives

Develop resource inventories, feasibility studies, and other technical data for local industries.

Encourage the development of innovative programs that would further enhance the County's tourist trade.

Encourage rural communities to identify, train and utilize existing local development leadership.

Encourage individuals and local development groups to identify and utilize sources for technical and financial assistance.

Encourage the development of desirable new businesses and industries in the County.

Encourage the development of education and training facilities to enable individuals improve their employment potential.

Promote equitable tax assessment ratios.

Obtain the most efficient use of tax funds.

Encourage an increase in the supply of job available to persons in varying skills.

Encourage education and training alternatives available for individual improvement of skills.

Ensure industrial areas compatible with and protected from the surrounding land uses.

Encourage easy access to and within existing and future industrial and commercial areas.

Encourage private and governmental cooperation and coordination in attracting and locating industry that would best benefit the County.

Encourage governmental cooperation, enforcement of regulations, and coordination to develop commercial uses to support the activity of the surrounding land uses and population growth.

Definitions:

- Improve the economy of Klamath County refers to the beneficial change in those business, industrial and commercial activities that generate employment, products, and services consistent with the availability of long-term human and natural resources.
- Diversify refers to increasing the variety, type, scale, and location of business, industrial and commercial activities.

1. POLICY: The County shall work with local governments to coordinate and compile appropriate industrial and commercial site availability in order to develop a common regional economic development strategy.

Rationale:

- To provide for the coordinated economic development of Klamath County.
- There is a large percentage of government owned land located in Klamath County and very small percentage of privately owned developable land. In addition, a full array of ownership choices is beneficial to a growing economy. The County shall, therefore, support individual choice regarding the dominion, use, possession and alienability of privately-owned real property.

Implementation:

- The County shall encourage economic development beneficial to the County as a whole.

2. POLICY: The County shall encourage efforts to develop a Pelican Butte Winter Sports Area, provided such development considers the carrying capacity of the air, land and water resources of the planning area.

Rationale:

- To create additional jobs.
- To increase tourism and provide more convenient outdoor recreation opportunities for local citizens (furthers Goal 8).

Implementation:

- The County shall work with the Klamath County Economic Development association (KCEDA) and the Chamber of Commerce to investigate possible sources (both private and public) of project funding. The County shall study the feasibility of designating the Pelican Butte area as non-wilderness so that private enterprise can begin development.

3. POLICY: The County shall encourage the development of a recreation area (overnight camp and rest area) along Highway 140 near Bly.

Rationale:

- To replace the area that was closed by the U.S. Forest Service.
- To restore tourist revenue that was lost by local businesses in Bly.

Implementation:

- The County shall encourage the citizens of Bly in attempting to secure funding for the recreation area from the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service (U.S. Department of Interior), and the State Highway Construction Agency.

4. POLICY: The County shall encourage efforts to increase irrigation water storage in the Upper Klamath Lake system.

Rationale:

- To provide increased storage for irrigation of agricultural lands (furthers Goal 3).
- To improve water quality (further Goal 6).
- To provide for hydroelectric power generation, thereby reducing dependence on fossil fuels (furthers Goal 13).
- To increase recreation opportunities (furthers Goal 8).

Implementation:

- The County shall cooperate with all state, federal and local agencies, districts and private interests, to develop water resources in the Upper Klamath Lake system.

5. POLICY: The County shall encourage the development of agricultural processing plants in the County.

Rationale:

- To increase demand for some farm products, which the current lack of agricultural plants in the area has limited.
- To stimulate and diversify the local economy.
- To slow or reverse the current trend of diminishing benefits from farm and agricultural sector.
- To provide jobs.
- To promote the development of local markets for local agricultural products.

Implementation:

- The County shall work with KCEDA and the agricultural industry to develop an agricultural industries promotion and advertisement program.

6. POLICY: The County shall encourage and support development of secondary and tertiary limber industries.

Rationale:

- To reduce seasonal and cyclical unemployment, which results, in part, when timber demand is low.
- To reduce or avoid reliance upon one sector of the economy.
- To promote a diversified economy.

Implementation:

- The County shall work with KCEDA to develop a processed woods industrial promotion program.
- The County shall also provide information to assist small businesses in securing loans for developing a new secondary and tertiary processing sector.

7. POLICY: The County shall encourage the development of locals markets for agricultural produce.

Rationale:

- To reduce shipping costs, which will reduce product cost to both agricultural producer and consumer.
- To stimulate and diversify the local economy.
- To conserve energy by reducing shipping (furthers Goal 13).
- To provide local jobs.
- To preserve farm lands and uses (furthers Goal 3).
- To attempt to offset continued diminishing economic benefits from the farm and agricultural sector.

Implementation:

- The County shall cooperate with and assist the agricultural industry to develop new local markets.

8. POLICY: The County shall continue to support efforts to secure state supported industrial revenue bonds for new industrial enterprises and expansion of current industry.

Rationale:

- To allow expedited local assistance to industrial prospects.
- To increase job opportunities and tax base.
- To provide initial front-end capital for industrial site development.

Implementation:

- The County will support, where appropriate, requests to the State of Oregon for industrial revenue bonds.

9. POLICY: The County shall encourage plans and methods that emphasize expansion of and increase productivity from existing industries and firms as a means to strengthen local and regional development.

Rationale:

- To utilize existing infrastructure capacities, thereby reducing costs associated with extensions and buildouts.

Implementation:

- The County shall work with representatives of County industry and commerce to study ways of increasing productivity.

10.POLICY: The County shall support efforts to develop tourist and economic development promotional programs.

Rationale:

- To provide information to interested individuals outside the community concerning recreation, commercial, and industrial opportunities within the County.

Implementations:

- The County shall provide technical information and support aggressive County economic development and tourist promotional programs.

11.POLICY: The County shall encourage (in appropriate locations and in accordance with the plan) the development of resort and summer homes, and other needed accommodations, attractions, activities, and facilities that will encourage tourists to make Klamath County a destination point rather than a pass through point.

Rationale:

- To retain a large percentage of tourist dollars in local County communities.
- To promote both part-time and full-time job opportunities.

Implementation:

- The County shall coordinate County and local land use plans to accomplish this task.

12.POLICY: The County shall support efforts to establish technical industries that will utilize trained graduates of Oregon Institute of Technology.

Rationale:

- To provide for a diverse County economy.

- To provide employment opportunities within occupational groups that appear matched to emerging needs.

Implementation:

- The County will cooperate with Oregon Institute of Technology, KCEDA, local governments, and Chambers of Commerce to produce a technical industries promotional program.
- The KCEDA, with expertise in this County's economy, shall assist person proposing projects that include changes in land use that may benefit the County economy and to act as a liaison between those persons and decisions makers.
- The County shall permit individuals, business and governmental utilization of geothermal resources. The Land Development Code shall allow for full utilization of this resource, including specific zones allowing full utilization where known geothermal potential exists.

13.POLICY: The County shall maintain a sufficient amount of industrial land in large parcels in order to encourage economic diversity and development in the community.

Rationale:

- To insure that large industrial parcels will not be randomly parcelized.
- To insure economic stability through diversification of the County economy.

Implementation:

- Industrial parcels 20-80 acres in size cannot be partitioned unless a specific industrial use is established within one year of the date of final partition approval proposed.

14.POLICY: The County shall provide appropriate land, facilities and resources to those economic activities that represent the most efficient use of resources, relative to other geographic areas.

Rationale:

- To provide emerging industries which consume large amounts of low-grade energy, the opportunity to locate and utilize county geothermal resources (subject to all applicable plan guidelines).
- To provide access to existing inter-regional transportation networks.
- To recognize appropriate uses on non-resource lands.

Implementation:

- The County shall designate appropriate sites that will provide manufacturers the opportunity to utilize geothermal resources, existing inter-regional transportation networks, and large tracts of reasonably priced land.
- Where the Significant Resource Overlay is situated over non-resource lands, residential development at a 20 acre density is not considered a conflicting use.

15.Policy: The County shall encourage commercial/industrial development and maintain a sufficient amount of land surrounding Klamath Falls/Kingsley Field Airport as identified on attached map, in order to encourage economic diversity in the community.

Rationale:

- In the interest of public health and safety, it is the desire of Klamath County to limit the encroachment of residential development into critical areas, defined on the attached map, and flight patterns and pathways necessary for continual economic viability of the Klamath Falls International Airport. Therefore, any request for a CLUP/ZC, within the area delineated on the attached map, shall be limited to the Air/Rail Transportation Zone, Article 53.5.

Implementation:

- The County will develop an Airport/Railroad Transportation Development Zone, which will include lands surrounding the Klamath Falls/Kingsley Field Airport.

- Lands proposed for rezoning that lay within the Airport/Transportation Development Zone will be restricted to the commercial/industrial uses. If land proposed for application of this zone is designated for agricultural/forestry use, an exception to the applicable Statewide Planning Goals, through the plan amendment process, will be required.

Goal 9 Policy 15 Map

