

# SECTION 1: Pend Oreille COUNTY



## DESCRIPTION OF PEND OREILLE COUNTY

Just as the Rocky Mountains plunge into the United States on their majestic march from British Columbia, a western range called the Selkirk Mountains, runs in close parallel down into Idaho and Washington. This rugged spur offers exposed segments of the North American Continent and the Kootenay Arc, tectonic plates that began colliding over a billion years ago, and provides exceptional year-round settings for a variety of recreational opportunities. This lesser range is home to bighorn sheep, elk, moose, deer, bear, cougar, bobcats, mountain caribou, and several large predatory birds such as bald eagles and osprey.

Not far from where these Selkirk Mountains end, Pend Oreille County begins its association with the Pend Oreille River. Pend Oreille County is a relatively small county that looks like the number “1” set in the northeast corner of the State of Washington. Pend Oreille County is 66 miles long and 22 miles wide. British Columbia is across the international border to the north. Spokane County and the regional trade center, the City of Spokane, lie to the south. Idaho’s Bonner and Boundary counties form the eastern border, and Stevens County, Washington forms the western border. ([For a map of Pend Oreille County, see Appendix A](#))

Encompassing more than 1400 square miles, most of Pend Oreille County takes the form of a long, forested river valley. This area, known as the Okanogan Highlands, is unique since it is the only area in the country where plant and animal species from both the Rocky Mountain Region and the Cascade Mountain region can be found. Pend Oreille County ranks 25<sup>th</sup> in size compared to Washington’s other 39 counties. There are fifty five lakes, 48 creeks and numerous wetlands dotting the natural meadows, the forested foothills and the mountains. There are seventy mountain peaks within our county borders, the highest of which is Gypsy Peak (7309’). Several of the peaks are the endpoints of interstate hiking trails and offer exceptional vistas into Idaho and Canada. Nestled within these forests and mountains are the Cusick Flats and other sections of the county with areas of specific agricultural land use.

The county is predominantly a hilly to mountainous terrain on both sides of the Pend Oreille River as it flows north through the entire county but for the very southern 10 miles of the county. This southern area is headwaters of the Little Spokane River with the watershed divide running roughly east-west from Newport to the Sacheen Lake area. The southerly regions of the county, along with the Pend Oreille River lowlands, have historically been the easily accessible, low elevation areas and are best suited for human settlement. All of the major towns in the county are located along the Pend

Oreille River and virtually all agricultural land is part of the Pend Oreille River floodplain or along creek bottoms in the southern third of the county.

The Pend Oreille River, the second largest in Washington State, flows through the county in a northerly direction for about 155 miles from its headwaters at Pend Oreille Lake in Idaho to the Columbia River in British Columbia, Canada. The northward-flowing river, fed by more than twenty-two tributaries, also supports a modest amount of farming as it courses through our rural county.

During the ice age, the Pend Oreille Lobe of the Missoula glacier formed the Pend Oreille River. The Missoula Glacier, part of the Cordillera Ice Sheet, extended south and covered the valley. During the retreat of ice, the formation of recessional lakes and the laying down of materials in still water were widespread. Alluvial sediments deposited on the wide, nearly level of undulating lakebeds, and low outwash terraces along the river, were most prevalent. As the glacier receded, tremendous overflows from lakes hundreds of feet deep carved unique features in the basin. Today, the river is the main artery in the county. It provides spectacular sanctuaries for an abundance of wildlife and buttresses pristine forests of Western Larch, Douglas Fir and Ponderosa Pine, interspersed with groves of Aspen, Maple and Poplar.

Pend Oreille River valley's sides are comprised of glacial drift, colluvium and rock outcrops. Dolomite bedrock can be seen on both sides of Box Canyon for about .75 miles south of Box Canyon Dam. Granite rocks are exposed between Lost Creek and the east branch of LeClerc Creek. From the upstream end of Box Canyon to Tiger, the river flows through predominantly glacial lake deposits of buff-colored silt, fine sand and gravel. These deposits are nearly continuous on the river up to Dalkena, where the Newport Fault is exposed along the edge of the river. On the east bank of the river, materials vary from glacial lake deposits to metavolcanic rocks of the Windermere Group. FOR A MORE SPECIFIC DESCRIPTION OF THE SOILS OF PEND OREILLE COUNTY SEE [Appendix B.](#)

Wetlands are extensive and relatively diverse in the county. Wetlands are those areas intermittently or permanently covered by shallow surface water or saturated with ground water. Jurisdictional criteria for wetlands normally entail the presence of hydrophytic vegetation, hydric soils and wetland hydrology. Wetlands within the riparian zone, including sloughs, are classified Riparian Habitat. Wetlands mapped as Priority Habitat in the county are near Calispell Lake and Calispell Flats. The designating criteria for wetlands include significant large concentrations of waterfowl; a waterfowl migration staging area; nesting waterfowl, including cavity-nesting species; winter bald eagle use and great blue Heron foraging areas. These are important habitats for migrating, wintering and breeding waterfowl. Large concentrations of waterfowl stop during spring and fall migrations on sloughs and the larger ponds and in wetlands adjacent to the river corridor, principally Calispell Lake and the Calispell Flats. Waterfowl productivity studies indicate that there are important waterfowl nesting areas near Cusick Sough, Tacoma-Trimble Slough, Everett Island and Indian Island.

All of the amphibian species in the study area breed in aquatic habitats, particularly in seasonal or persistently flooded wetlands. Two Priority species, the Columbia spotted frog (*Rana luteiventris*) and northern leopard frog (*Rana pipiens*) thrive in our wetlands.

Over ninety per cent of the original forests between the major roads east and west of the Pend Oreille River have been logged or burned at least once, or permanently cleared for agriculture or residential development. A large part of this area is in open fields (pasture, hay fields and fallow land). Seasonally flooded wetlands are extensive. Wetland types include seasonally flooded fields, scrub-shrub and forests; persistently flooded, emergent wetlands; persistently flooded, shallow riverine sloughs; old sloughs that are presently connected to the river only during flood conditions and ponds not evidently connected hydrologically to the river. There are eighteen sloughs, thirteen major tributary mouths and six major islands between Albeni Falls and Box Canyon Dam.

Today, land use in the county is mostly rural with large areas of forest, mountains, valleys and open pastures with widely dispersed homes, subdivisions and ranches. Development within the Pend Oreille River drainage area includes timber harvesting, grazing, mining, heavy industry, urban and residential development and recreation sites. Current land use in Pend Oreille County is public, private, forest, agriculture, rural, residential or industrial.

The towns and communities of Metaline, Metaline Falls, Lone, Cusick, Usk, Dalkena, Furport, Newport and Oldtown and the Kalispel Indian Reservation are located along the river. Residential developments, public recreation and public access sites are also located along the Pend Oreille River. Residential, recreation and retirement home development along the river is on the rise. Numerous subdivisions exist or are under development. Forests, agricultural and open lands along the river are being replaced by the development of residential subdivisions.

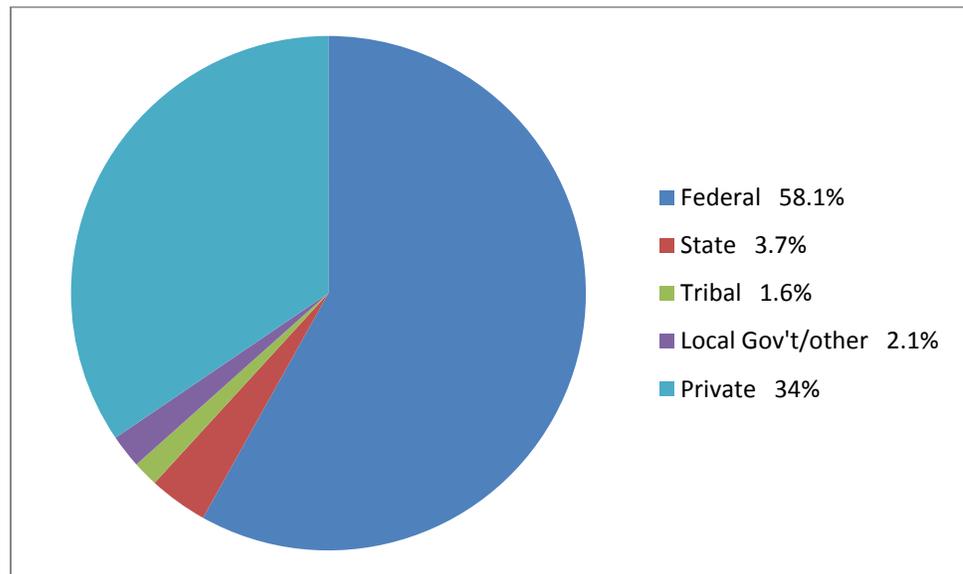
Continental and maritime air masses influence the climate of northeastern Washington. Most of the weather systems affecting the northeastern part of the state are controlled by prevailing westerly winds; winters can be rather long and are affected by cold air from the Canadian arctic moving parallel to major north-south drainage systems. Air from the Pacific Ocean has a moderating effect throughout the year. Summers are generally warm and sunny with light rainfall, although localized thunderstorms occasionally cause heavier amounts of precipitation. Due to the continental effect, summers are warmer and winters are colder than in coastal areas. Daily average temperatures range from 15 degrees F to 30 degrees F in the winter and 46 degrees F to 76 degrees F in the summer. Annual precipitation varies from 15 to 25 inches in the valleys to 40 or more inches in the mountains. In the valleys, snow generally begins in November and remains on the ground through February.

A number of developed and undeveloped recreation sites exist throughout Pend Oreille County. The U.S. Forest Service, Washington State Department of Natural Resources, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, Seattle City Light and the Pend

Oreille Public Utility (PUD), have created recreation sites, as have a handful of private enterprises. Approximately 60 percent of Pend Oreille County is in public ownership.

Pend Oreille County residents and visitors have a variety of outdoor nature opportunities and recreation use in the mountains through all seasons of the year because of public land. In the past decade, the county, especially the southern part, has experienced continued population growth, becoming a bedroom community to the nearby City of Spokane. With those changes, the Little Spokane River Watershed and the Pend Oreille River corridor, prominently private lands, have become more urban and suburban in nature, reducing opportunity for public recreation areas, open space and wildlife migration corridors.

**Figure 1: Land Ownership in Pend Oreille County**



## HISTORY OF PEND OREILLE COUNTY

Pend Oreille County, lying in the extreme northeast corner of Washington, is rich in scenic beauty, natural resources, and dispersed recreational opportunities. The Pend Oreille River (pronounced “pond o ray”), flows north through almost the entire length of the county, and has always been noteworthy for its beauty and usefulness. The first Europeans known to have canoed down the Pend Oreille River were members of David Thompson’s party in 1810. The “Great Mapmaker” and his band of explorers halted their excursion when they reached the sheer cliffs and raging waters of Metaline Falls. Well before 1810, however, Kalispel and other Native Americans fished all along the Pend Oreille River, and traveled its coursing flows with great skill. Their ancestors enjoyed fishing and river travel in what is now Pend Oreille County one thousand years before the intrepid explorers paddling with David Thompson even put an oar in the water.

Long before the Poles, Germans and Norwegians toppled trees, before the fur traders and the “Black Robes,” Salish-speaking tribes lived in harmony with the treasures of the Pend Oreille Basin. Change came from the east and cultures one with the land fell victim to the musket and blade. Soon there were plows, draft horses, and the dreams of pilgrims and immigrants coming for this land and its uncommon diversity of natural wonders.

Although white settlement was well underway in the Inland Northwest by 1885, it was just beginning in Pend Oreille River Basin. Many of the first trailblazers to arrive in the region of the Pend Oreille built homes and worked farms in the Calispell Valley. This area was attractive to cattlemen because it held the finest natural meadows in the territory. By late 1888, the Calispell Valley was home to about 200 white settlers, 1000 head of stock, a cheese factory, a sawmill, two stores, a post office and a weekly mail route. By 1891, a number of homesteads flourished near the present site of Newport. In 1889 Washington became a state.

The Great Northern Railroad reached Newport in 1892, and the following year the railroad built its main line through Newport to the Puget Sound. In 1907, the Idaho & Washington Northern Railroad came into the Pend Oreille Basin. With the coming of the railroad, the down-river country to the north developed rapidly. From 1896 to 1910, a host of pioneers came to the Pend Oreille Valley because Newport was a convenient location for transfers between the steamboats on the Pend Oreille River and the railroad. After the settlers began to arrive, the occupational mainstays of the county were logging, mining, farming and other natural resource related-industries. All seemed to be going well until the Great Fire in 1910. Lives were lost. Hundreds were without homes. In eight hours, the inferno scorched nearly one hundred sections of land, and, if valued at today’s prices, caused the loss of over fifty million dollars’ worth of timber. However, the undaunted and industrious residents rebuilt their communities, and in June of 1911, Pend Oreille County became a county in its own right. There were fires in

1953 and 1973 and devastating floods in 1948 and 1997. The last of the once booming lumber mills closed in 1960 leaving only thirty dairy farms providing most of the income to the county. As milk supports fell through the floor, the number of dairies dwindled and the last dairy operation in the county closed in 1996. Nonetheless, in the 1980s, timber-related industries returned in the form of a whole log chip mill and the Ponderay Newsprint Company. The population of Pend Oreille County grew fifty percent in the period from 1970 to 1991. Population increases were reduced somewhat by out migration, but that trend reversed in the 1990s. In the late 1990s, due to economic downturn and welfare reform, growth in the County slowed and has been climbing, but at a more gradual rate.

Towns and communities along the west side of the Pend Oreille River, from the Canadian border to the Albeni Falls Dam, include Metaline Falls, Metaline, Lone, Tiger, Cusick, Usk, Dalkena, Newport and Oldtown. The community of Furport is located on the east side of the river. All of these towns have populations of less than 500 with the exception of Newport, which has a population of 2140. The second largest populated town is Lone, with a population of 445. The population in Pend Oreille County is 13,100 with seventy two percent of the population living in unincorporated areas.

The current population of Metaline Falls is 240. The community suffered financial hardships after the closing of the primary employers of the town; the mines in 1975 and the cement plant in 1990. The mine has since reopened but only temporarily. The town's scenic beauty and nearby U.S. Forest Service (USFS) campgrounds attract many visitors to the area. The Cutter Theater is the focal point of the community, drawing people to the region. The historic Washington Hotel still operates and the town has two restaurants, a bakery and an art gallery.

The town of Metaline currently has a population of around 175 with about 70 homes, two restaurants, post office, gas station/convenience store and a scenic town park. In 1995, the town of Lone had a population of over 500 residents. After the town's sawmill, the primary employer, closed in 1995, the population decreased. Several business and services are still located in the downtown area of Lone and a scenic park is located along the Pend Oreille River. Several USFS campgrounds and other recreational activities attract people to the area.

As mentioned earlier, Lone is the second largest town in Pend Oreille County. Its location right on the Pend Oreille River surrounded by Forest Service make it a scenic destination point popular with outdoor recreationists. Lone has a grocery store, a newer community building and library, a large community riverfront park and a fairly good-sized downtown business area. It also hosts the starting point of the popular Lion's Club train rides that take place throughout the summer and fall.

Little remains of the community of Tiger, south of Lone. The area is sparsely populated, with a general store and a real estate company. The old Tiger Store is now the Tiger Historical Center, open during the summer only. Nothing remains of the former community of Lost Creek along the Pend Oreille River, and the Blueslide area is now

occupied by Blue Slide Resort. A boat launch and several homes occupy the site of the old town of Ruby. A David Thompson memorial marker and viewpoint are located about one mile north of Ruby.

The former site of the settlement of Jared was purchased by the Fourth Memorial Church in Spokane and is now the home of the Riverview Bible Conference, which is a retreat and conference facility for the church. The buildings that once housed the tavern and restaurant still exist at the site, along with the original motel units and a number of new buildings.

Cusick has a population of about 210. Cusick has many historic structures, evidence of the former booming community. In the mid-1980s, new sidewalks, and a community center including a library and city hall were built. A new boat launch facility was built in 1997. The Pend Oreille County Fairgrounds are located west of Cusick.

Usk has several businesses including the Inn at Usk (the historic Usk Hotel), the Usk Bar and Grill and Keo's Corner, which has been in business since 1934. Keo's Corner offers a boat launch, camping, RV hookups and a general store. The Ponderay Newsprint Company, just south of Usk, began operating in 1989 and is the largest private employer in Pend Oreille County. The wooden pilings, which were built in the river at Usk in the early 1920s are historic remnants of past logging and sawmill operations in the area. The Kalispel Tribal offices are also maintained on the Kalispel Indian Reservation just north of Usk on the east side of the river. The Kalispel Indian Reservation is also home to a large Pow-Wow Grounds and the beautiful, newly built Camas Wellness Center, which boasts indoor recreational and wellness facilities (exercise equipment, weight room, gymnasium, several swimming pools, meeting rooms and medical and dental offices).

The once-thriving sawmill town of Dalkena now consists of a church, fire station, a few homes west of the railroad tracks, and scattered farms along the Pend Oreille River. The old horse barn and remains of the foundations of the burner, planer and the well house by the river are the only remains of the former lumber mill in Dalkena. The community church along the highway was originally a bunkhouse with a saloon below.

The quiet little community of Furport has several homes situated on both sides of LeClerc Road and a number of farms in the vicinity. The community also hosts a volunteer fire district and the Skookum Grange Hall.

Newport has remained the most stable community in Pend Oreille County. Businesses have come and gone, but the population within the incorporated city limits of nearly 2200 has gradually grown since 1910's. Newport has a variety of businesses and services, many of which have been in the community for 50 years or more. Newport is the County Seat and home to the Hall of Justice, the County Courthouse, Sheriff's Office and Jail. Newport has the County's only hospital, nursing home, assisted living center and funeral home. **THE NEWPORT MINER** newspaper started in Newport in 1897. The Great Northern depot, built in 1920, is now the office of Stimson Lumber Company. The Idaho and Washington Northern Railroad (I&WNRR) depot, built in 1907, now houses the Pend Oreille County Historical Museum.

Oldtown's (Idaho) population is approximately 180 residents. The population rises to about 500 when one includes the nearby, unincorporated residential area. The town has about 30 small businesses and a City Hall. The closure of the Crown Pacific Mill in 1996 along with several other mills in the area, has depressed Oldtown's economy. Tri-Pro Cedar bought the Crown Pacific Mill around the year 2000.

Between the towns, on level land in the river valley, are hay meadows and pastures. There are many private residential subdivisions along the Pend Oreille River as well as the lakeshores in Pend Oreille County. 4600 acres of Kalispel Indian Reservation lands stretch for 10 miles along the east side of the Pend Oreille River. These lands support isolated residential development, grazing, some timber harvesting, hay production and collection of the camas plant.

North of the Kalispel Indian Reservation, along the east side of the river, is land known as the Flying Goose Ranch. Bonneville Power Administration purchased the Flying Goose Ranch in 1992 for transfer to the Tribe. The Tribe is implementing a 10-year restoration plan to reproduce lost riparian forest and wetlands, and enhance existing uplands. A small section of Reservation land is located on the west side of the river just north of Cusick. This area supports small light-industrial development; a new rest stop/visitor center has been built, future plans include a café inside the visitor center building.

The current economy of Pend Oreille County depends upon a variety of economic sectors including forest products, agriculture, tourism, and government agencies. Ponderay Newsprint and Ponderay Valley Fiber in Usk are the larger, private employers in Pend Oreille County. The main crops raised on agricultural lands along the river are small grains and hay. Recent downturns in the economy and timber prices have greatly influenced the population of the County.



PEND OREILLE RIVER AND USK BRIDGE

*“Pend Oreille County is the 8<sup>th</sup> fastest growing county in the State of Washington.”*

## THE PEOPLE OF PEND OREILLE COUNTY

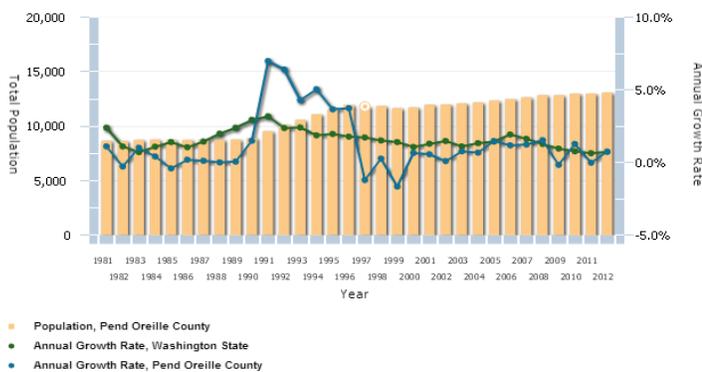
A large percentage of the following information was taken directly from the Northeastern Washington Trends website. This web site produces and compiles information for the Tri-County area which includes Pend Oreille County, Stevens County and Ferry County; three counties that have very similar economies and natural resources. Whenever possible, information specific to Pend Oreille County is referenced in this plan. In some instances, however, the only information available pertains to all three counties in the Tri-County area and this is noted in the text.

### POPULATION GROWTH

Population growth reveals much about a community. Popular communities experience high rates of growth, bringing wanted economic benefits. In many cases, however, growth can also lead to concerns over traffic, the environment, and essential services such as education. Locations experiencing slow rates of population growth, or even

depopulation, may face fiscal difficulties and a downward spiral of further population loss, especially of their youth. In 2011 the population of Pend Oreille County was 13,100. Since

**Figure 2: Total Population and Annual Growth Rate**



1981, the county has grown by 4,424 people. The State of Washington had a population of 6,817,770 in 2012 and has grown by 2,588,492 people (61%) since 1981. Over the entire time period measured by this indicator, Pend Oreille County has experienced wider fluctuations in its growth rate than the State of Washington. In 2012, Pend Oreille County grew at a faster rate than the State of Washington (.77) and faster than Spokane (.62). It is the 8<sup>th</sup> fastest growing county in the State.

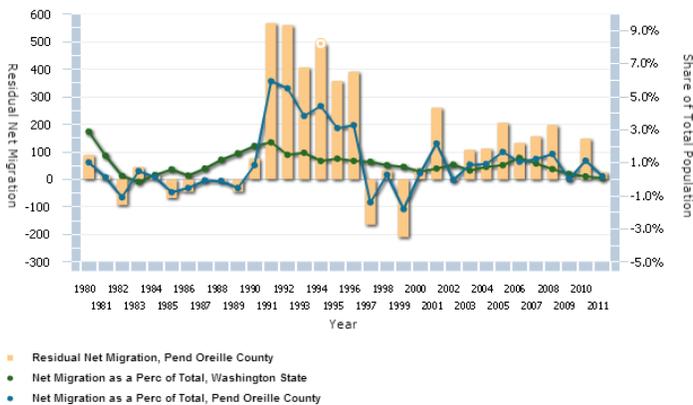
### RESIDUAL NET MIGRATION AND RESIDUAL NET MIGRATION AS A SHARE OF TOTAL POPULATION

There is more to the Pend Oreille County population than a simple tally of its numbers. Net migration offers a deeper look at the number of residents by examining the flow of people who have moved into or out of the county. To understand migration, one must first understand its calculation. Population change is the amount by which the population grows or shrinks from one year to the next. Natural increase is calculated by subtracting the number of deaths from the number of births.

So, residual net migration is essentially the number left over when the natural increase is removed. In other words, residual net migration = (population in latter year - population in earlier year) - (births - deaths). In a sense, net migration is a measure of the popularity of a community or region. In rapidly growing communities, net migration contributes more to population growth than the natural increase component. In communities losing population, it will likely be negative. The trend of net migration is an important one for Pend Oreille County because it helps businesses, planners,

developers, and local leaders have a deeper understanding of the composition of their county's population. Often, population growth stemming from in-migration will bring different demands for goods and services than that from natural increase. Take, for example, public education. Population growth due to natural increase will ultimately bring a demand for public school seats. The same demand may not happen with population growth from net migration. Knowing this composition should give community leaders a better tool in predicting and meeting the community's needs. This indicator measures population gain or loss due to migration in and out of Pend Oreille County. WA State is offered as a benchmark. Data come from Washington's Office of Financial Management.

**Figure 3: Residual Net Migration and Residual Net Migration as a Share of Total Population**



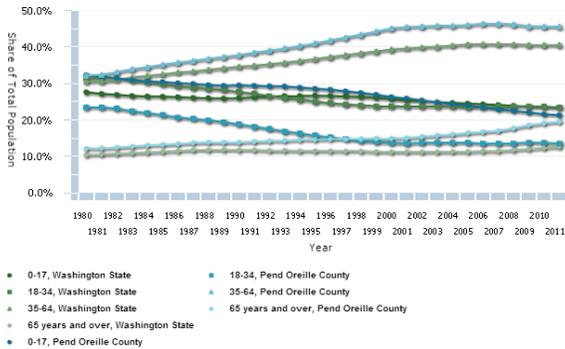
Over time, residual net migration as a share of total population for Pend Oreille County area and Washington have not followed the same trend. In 2011, the share of residual net migration for Pend Oreille County equaled 0.19%, a 80% decrease from 1980. The highest level of residual net migration occurred in 1991, at 5.9%.

In 2011, Washington's level of residual net migration as a share of total population equaled .07%, an 97% decrease from 1980's value of 2.8%. 1980 also had the highest level of residual net migration for the 30 year time period.

## POPULATION OF AGE GROUPS

Age distribution can indicate a lot about a population, such as birth and death rates, emigration or immigration, and how developed the area is. Population size distributed by age group also offers more precise information about these three counties than does the median age of the population. This trend presents four age groups: 0-17, 18-34, 35-64, and 65 and up. Sometimes, these data are presented in what is known as a population pyramid.

**Figure 4: Share of Population by Age Groups**



Different age groups express different preferences about goods and services that are important to the private sector. The size of different age groups, especially of the young and the old, holds consequences for government programs. The size of the young adult population (18-34) is viewed by many as important for the cultural life and innovation of a community. Since the size of the age groups is largely predictable, a trend analysis of age cohorts carries great interest for many parties.

In 2011, the largest age group in Pend Oreille County was in the 35-64 category, with about 45.6% of the population. The share of this group has increased from 32.2% in 1980. The second largest share is youth (0-17), at 21.3%, down from 32.3% since 1980.

The third largest share consists of those aged 65+, at 19.5%. The share of this group has increased since 1980, when it stood at 12.1%. The smallest group consists of those aged 18-34, with 13.6% of the 2011 population.

The age divisions of Pend Oreille County show significant departures from those of the state. However, the county's youth category has been fairly close to Washington's. The 65 and over age group in the county is about 6 percentage points larger of a share than in the state. The 18-34 age category is about 10 percentage points smaller in the county than in the state, and the 35-64 category is 5 percentage points larger in the county than in the state.

## POPULATION PROJECTIONS

According to the Washington State Office of Financial Management in their 2012 projections the population of Pend Oreille County will increase by the following numbers:

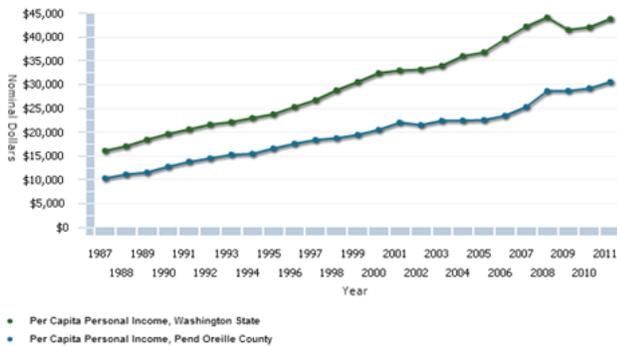
**Table 1 Population Projections**

Period	Change	Births	Deaths	Migration	Total
2010-2015	288	674	666	280	13,289
2015-2020	403	740	804	467	13,692
2020-2025	285	779	935	441	13,977
2025-2030	152	780	1065	437	14,129
2030-2035	200	779	1187	428	14,149
2035-2040	-33	791	1242	418	14,116

## PER CAPITA PERSONAL INCOME

Per capita personal income represents all sources of income - wage & salary, investments & rents, proprietors' income, pensions, transfer payments and other

Figure 5: Per Capita Personal Income



sources - divided by total population. The total per capita personal income reflected here represents income before the payment of income, estate, and gift taxes. Per capita personal income serves as a key measure of economic success of a region. As an average, however, it does not measure the distribution of income among the population.

The private sector uses this metric in firm relocation, capital allocation, and real estate decisions. Additionally, personal income can be an indicator of consumer demand, and can represent consumer purchasing power.

Rising per capita personal income can signal an improving economy. Government agencies often use the measure to establish the need for certain programs or grants. Both Washington State and the US serve as benchmarks for this measure. Data come from the Washington Regional Economic Analysis Project and are expressed in nominal terms. That is, no attempt is made to adjust for inflation.

In nominal terms, per capita personal income Pend Oreille County has grown by 171%, rising from \$10,544 in 1987 to \$28,559 in 2011. Per capita personal income at the state level has increased 172% rising from \$16,090 in 1987, to \$43,787 in 2011.

## EDUCATION LEVELS

A workforce and citizenry that has training and education beyond high school is essential for the economic progress and civic life of a community. The education provided by either two- or four-year institutions helps secure a workforce for local firms to compete globally. Instruction at the higher education level also confers added earning power to those who receive it, especially to those who go on to earn degrees. The additional knowledge acquired during this process further enriches public life by giving greater analytical tools and specialized knowledge. This participation rate is defined as those residents of Ferry, Pend Oreille, and Stevens Counties who are attending either two- or four-year public institutions, regardless of where in the state of Washington the schools are located. It is expressed as a ratio of those residents of the population ages 17 and over. The measure is shown for the three counties combined (Tri-County) as well as separately for each individual county.

**Figure 6: Share of Population Aged 17 and over Attending Washington Public Higher Education Institutions**



Among the variables that influence the participation rate are: strength of the local economy, family income levels, educational background of parents, and total costs of attendance.

In the fall of 2008, 1.2 percent of all Pend Oreille County residents, age 17 or older, were enrolled in a public, four-year institution in the State of Washington. 2.5 percent were enrolled in the State community college system. Since 2002, participation rates have decreased by 26.1% for four-year institutions and by 6.0 percent for the two-year system.

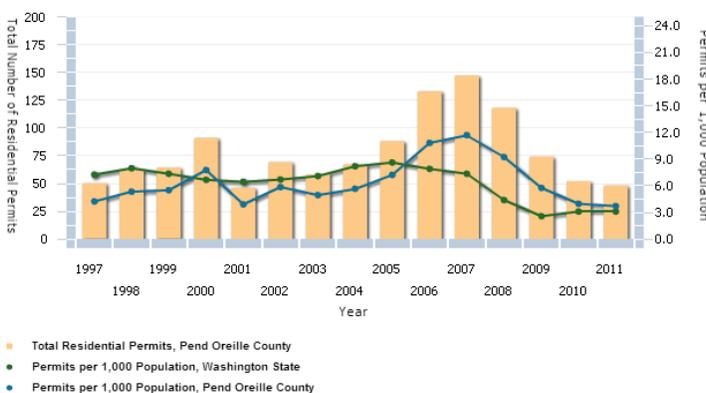
Statewide, the participation rate for four-year education was slightly higher, at 1.9%, than that of Pend Oreille County. The participation rate for two-

year education in all of Washington rose to 4.4% in 2008. Generally, participation rates for residents in Pend Oreille County in a public, four-year State institution have equaled Washington averages, while participation rates for residents attending public two-year schools have been slightly lower than Washington averages.

## RESIDENTIAL BUILDING PERMITS

Residential building permits are an important subset of total construction permits, and hence activity, in the Pend Oreille County economy. An increase in these permits reflects an increase in population growth or a desire by current residents to change their dwelling, usually the most important financial asset of a family or household.

**Figure 7: Total Number of Residential Building Permits and Number per 1,000 County Residents**



As in the case of general construction, changes in these permits signal the direction of near-term activity to the construction trades and real estate industry. The direction of building permit trends also informs local government about future sales tax revenues, since residential building leads to taxable sales.

This measure looks at the total number of residential building permits and the number per 1,000 residents for Pend Oreille County. The data comes from the Research and Data Analysis Division of the Washington State Department of Social & Health Services. In 2011, the number of residential permits per 1,000 residents in Pend

Oreille County was approximately 3.7. In the same year the state's rate was 3.1. For the

state and county, the rates represent a decline of 58% and 68%, respectively, since 2007. In absolute terms, 48 building permits were issued in 2011; a decrease of 67% from the high of 147 in 2007.

## UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

The unemployment rate measures the portion of the population that currently does not have a job but are actively seeking work in Pend Oreille County. As one of the two components of the "misery" index, the unemployment rate measures a local economy's success (or failure) in matching jobs with the available workforce. (Inflation is the other component of the so-called "misery" index.) Contrary to popular belief, the unemployment rate is not calculated using unemployment insurance (UI) claims. There are several reasons for that, most importantly because UI claims only count those who filed for claims and who are eligible to do so. It leaves out those who are unemployed

but do not bother to file for UI or who are still unemployed after their UI runs out. Rather, the government uses information collected in the Current Population Survey (CPS), a monthly sample survey conducted by the US Census Bureau consisting of in-home and phone interviews of roughly 60,000 households across the country. The CPS has been conducted by the US government every month since 1940.

The CPS's sole purpose is to glean employment information that is used to determine the share of the population that fall into one of three categories: employed, unemployed, and not in the labor force. Those who have a job are employed. Those who do not have a job and are available and actively looking for work are considered to be unemployed. Those who do not fall into either of those two categories are not in the labor force (an example would be a retired individual or a homemaker, i.e. people not looking for work). Active duty military and institutionalized individuals are not included in these categories.

This indicator looks at the share of the population in Pend Oreille County who are unemployed as calculated by the CPS and provided by the Washington State Employment Security Department. The indicator is expressed as an annual average. Economists have generally regarded a 4-5% unemployment rate as one that reflects a fully employed workforce characterized by moderate wage growth that is matching gains in labor productivity. In light of the recent recession, some economists think that this "natural" rate of employment now lies in the 5-6% range.

The paths of Pend Oreille County and Washington's Unemployment have closely followed over time. From 1990-1999, there was a large gap (above 8-5%) between Pend

**Figure 8: Unemployment Rate**



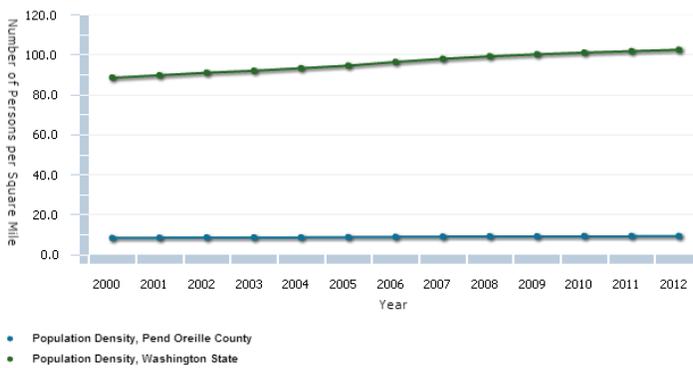
Oreille County and Washington's unemployment rate. The gap has narrowed since 2000, but Pend Oreille County has an average gap above about 3%. In 2011, Pend Oreille County Unemployment was at 12.6% and Washington's unemployment was 9.2%.

## POPULATION DENSITY

Population density for an entire county or combination of counties tells how close, on average, one is to the neighbors. This average can be misleading, however. As an average, it takes into account land which has restrictions on dwellings, such as US Forests. Counties with mountainous terrain, as in the Pend Oreille County area, also have large tracts of undevelopable land. The measure is usually of highest interest when

focused on urban or suburban areas. In urban settings minimum population density requirements must be met to financially support urban services such as public transit, grocery stores, and other commercial amenities. Indicator 4.15 measures the converse of urban density. In this indicator, population density is expressed as the number of people per square mile in Pend Oreille County. For the calculation of this indicator, total square miles of the counties excludes lakes or other water areas. Data comes from the Washington State Office of Financial Management. In 2012, there were 9.4 people per square mile in Pend Oreille County. Between 2000 and 2012 there has been a growth rate of about 12%.

**Figure 9: Number of People per Square Mile of Land**



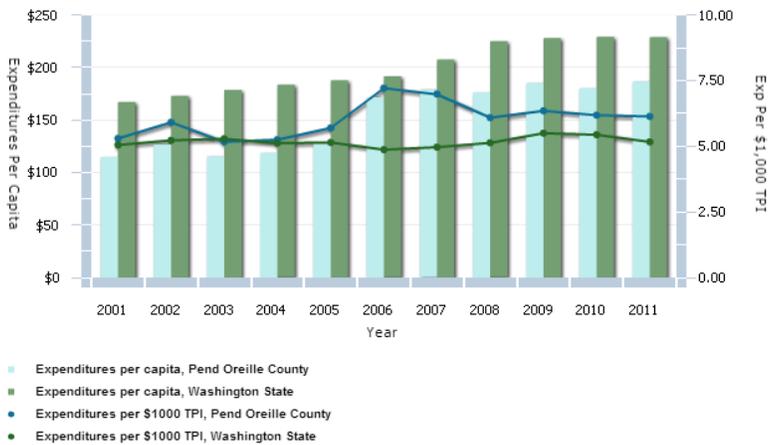
Between 2000 and 2012, Washington's number of people per square mile grew at a rate of 16%. In 2012, there were 102.6 people per square mile.

## LAW ENFORCEMENT PER CAPITA

Annual, per capita law enforcement expenditures in the Pend Oreille County area have grown from \$106 in 2001 to \$133 in 2010. This represents a 26% increase. Annual expenditures on law enforcement per \$1,000 of total personal income (TPI) were \$4.76 in 2010, a decrease of 6% since 2001 when expenditures were \$5.06 per \$1,000 TPI.

Statewide, local government per capita expenditures on law enforcement have been much higher than the county's, standing at \$237 in 2010, a 37% increase since 2001. Expenditures per \$1000 of total personal income were \$5.51 in 2010, 5% higher than the 2001 figure.

**Figure 10: Local Government Expenditures for Law Enforcement per Capita and per \$1000 of Total Personal Income**



Pend Oreille County spent \$186 per capita on law enforcement in 2011. The increase from 2001 was 63%. Pend Oreille County spent \$6.13 per \$1,000 in 2010, an increase of 16% since 2001. Statewide, local government per capita expenditures on law enforcement have been much higher than the county's, standing at \$229 in 2011, a 37% increase since 2001. Expenditures per \$1,000 of total personal income were \$5.16 in 2011, 2% higher than

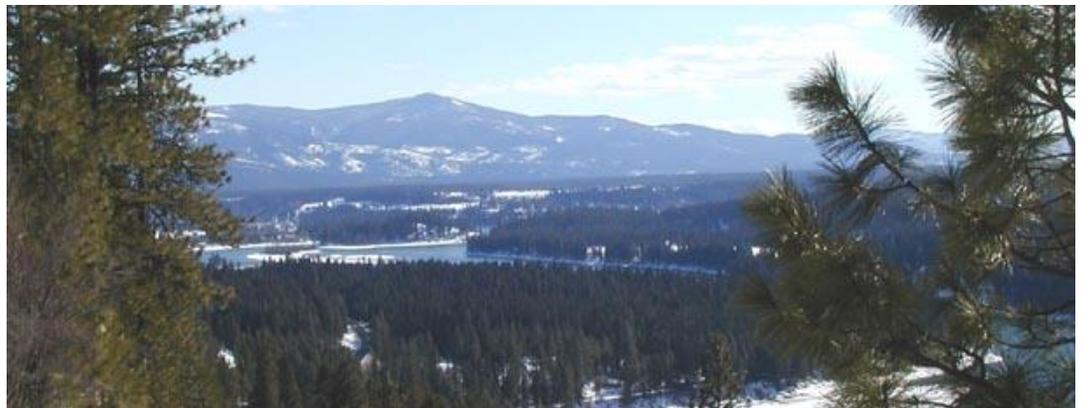


FAN LAKE

## CONCLUSIONS

- Pend Oreille County has an incredibly rich and diverse store of scenic natural resources that make it a wonderful place to live and a popular destination spot for tourists. It has a high percentage of rivers, lakes and wetlands as well as towering forests and abundant wildlife which give it great potential for attracting additional visitors and residents. Planning for parks and recreation should take full advantage of these assets.
- Because of its location in relation to surrounding regional attractions many visitors drive through Pend Oreille County on their travels. This is another opportunity to attract tourist's attention and encourage them to stay for a few additional days or even eventually locate their residences to our County.
- The climate of Pend Oreille County provides beautiful four season opportunities for recreation. More winter recreation opportunities should be promoted.
- Soils of Pend Oreille County are extremely erodible and planning for outdoor recreation areas and activities should keep this in mind. Costs for erosion control and repairs for resource damage may be higher than average.
- There are rich historical and cultural resources in the County that also provide basis for interpretive and outdoor education opportunities. Non-consumptive wildlife viewing and wildlife photography are fast growing areas of interest.
- Another popular activity is visiting historical sites. This county, and more specifically, Pend Oreille County Park, with its old growth forest would be an excellent location for a turn of the century logging camp living history facility.
- Pend Oreille County is the 8<sup>th</sup> fastest growing county in the State of Washington and this population growth is predicted to continue. Planning efforts should be made to accommodate this increasing population. With growth come problems of traffic, over-crowding and resource damage and these need to be factored into maintenance and replacement costs.
- Spokane, Spokane Valley, Post Falls and Coeur d'Alene are also growing and as recreation areas to the south become more crowded people will be driving further north into Pend Oreille County for a more natural and uncrowded recreational experience.
- The average household income levels are relatively low and poverty levels of the county are relatively high. Proper parks and recreation planning will attract the tourism dollar, entice new residents, improve the regional economy and provide jobs for local residents.

- Sixty-five percent of the population of Pend Oreille County consists of people over 35. Many people are moving to the County to retire. Activities for seniors and facilities for disabled should play a big part in planning for parks and recreational opportunities in the County.
- Population density in Pend Oreille County is low. Many people live in pristine, rural settings and have recreational opportunities on their own properties (hunting, fishing, hiking, etc.) Parks and Recreation planning must provide unique recreation opportunities and events that provide social interaction.
- The numbers of young people are low and student numbers in local schools are steadily declining. Most young people leave the county to find jobs as soon as they graduate from high school. As the economy of the county improves and more jobs are available, this part of the population will be able to stay within the county and not be forced to leave to follow the jobs.
- The crime rate in Pend Oreille County is on the rise. Planning should include adequate monies for enforcement, protection of facilities, maintenance and surveillance.



PEND OREILLE RIVER AND NEWPORT