

WASHINGTON

DIRECTOR OF PLANNING

\$95,971 - \$125,236

(2024 Salary Range Effective January 1, 2024)
Plus Excellent Benefits

Apply by
December 8, 2023
(First Review, Open Until Filled)

PROTHMAN



KLICKITAT COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Located in south central Washington, Klickitat County lies at the junction where the Columbia River Gorge cuts through the eastern slopes of the Cascade Mountains with expansive farms and wheat fields, vineyards, timberland, and magnificent Mt. Adams as a backdrop. The county seat, historical Courthouse and the largest city is located in Goldendale.

Encompassing 1,908 square miles, the County’s nearly 23,150 residents reside in the cities of Goldendale, White Salmon and Bingen, and unincorporated communities of Bickleton, Centerville, Dallesport, Firwood, Glenwood, Klickitat, Lyle, Maryhill, Roosevelt, Trout Lake, and Wishram. Klickitat County offers a wide variety of geological and natural features and is well known for its miles of whitewater streams, numerous lakes, the Columbia River, and the Gifford-Pinchot National Forest. The County is also home to the Klickitat Wildlife Management Area and Conboy Lake National Wildlife Refuge.

With a mild year-round climate, the area is the perfect place to take advantage of an abundance of outdoor recreational activities from fishing and hunting to whitewater rafting, windsurfing, hiking, biking, horseback riding, cross country skiing, snowmobiling, and berry and mushroom picking. Scenic tours provide opportunities to thousands of travelers and visitors to the Columbia River Gorge and the Cascade Mountains, while an expanding winery and grape growing industry offers many award-winning wines at several tasting rooms that are open to the public. The County also offers a wide variety of accommodations, attractions, and historical landmarks including the Maryhill Museum, Stonehenge, Goldendale Observatory, numerous restaurants, and beautiful mountain views of Mt. Hood and Mt. Adams.

Visitors and residents also will find that Klickitat County's canyons and vistas, evergreen forests, scenic waterfalls, wildflowers, berry fields, ranchlands, sage-covered hillsides, river rapids, rodeos, festivals, and for those who seek it, seclusion, are among the best in the U.S. Being a rural close-knit community, Klickitat County is a glorious place to call home, raise a family, and be employed.



THE ORGANIZATION

Klickitat County is governed by a three-member Board of Commissioners serving overlapping four-year terms, with each Commissioner representing one of three districts. The Commissioners serve as the Executive Branch and perform legislative and quasi-judicial functions of the County. The Board of Commissioners is responsible for approving ordinances, adopting the County budget, setting standards for the use of County property, and appointing non-elected officials, boards, commissions, and committees. In 2021 the County moved into a new County Services Building to combine departments were housed in 4 annexes, making it more accessible to the community. The County has two other services buildings; the Pioneer Center in White Salmon, and the Courthouse in the county seat, Goldendale. Klickitat County employs approximately 250 FTEs and operates on a 2023 budget of \$59,484,698 including a General Fund Budget of \$18,796,623. County Departments and Elected Officials Offices include: Adult Probation Services, Assessor, Auditor, Building Inspection, Code Compliance, Civil Service, Commissioners, County Clerk, East and West District Courts, Economic Development, Emergency Management, IT & Budget Services, Juvenile Department, Natural Resources, HR & Administrative Services, Planning, Prosecuting Attorney, Public Health, Public Works, Senior Services, Sheriff, Solid Waste, Treasurer, Veteran Services, Weed Control, WSU Extension Services, and Superior Court.



THE POSITION

The Director of Planning manages, organizes, and directs the planning department. The director also administers the comprehensive plan, subdivision and short plotting ordinance, zoning ordinance, critical areas ordinance, RV park ordinance, mobile home park ordinance, flood plan ordinance, environmental ordinance, State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), and shoreline plan. The position performs other duties at the direction of the Board of County Commissioners.

For a full job description, please view the attachment found [here](#).

OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES

Comprehensive Plan Update

The director can influence long-term planning in Klickitat County, aligning it with the county's vision and engaging the community. It will require swift coordination of budget and consultants, and balancing diverse community interests.

Critical Areas Ordinance Update

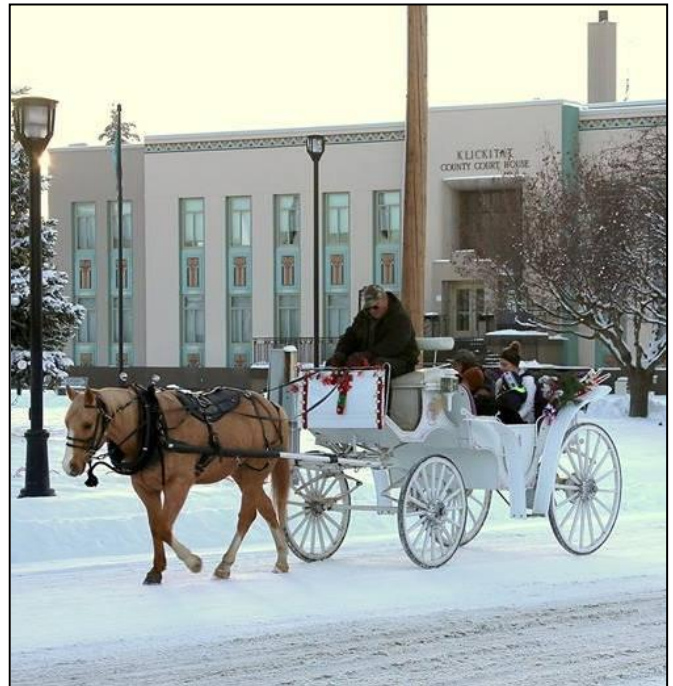
Achieving compliance with the Growth Management Act while respecting private property rights and overcoming potential resistance and implementation difficulties is essential.

Staff Development and Customer Service

Training and mentoring can enhance the planning team's performance and professionalism, but balancing it with efficient customer service can be challenging.

Sub-area Planning Groups

Collaborating with these groups on subarea plans can gather community input and engagement, though it requires effective coordination.



Leadership and Mentoring

The director can shape an energetic planning team and harness their creativity, but managing a diverse team with varying experience levels can be a leadership challenge.

EDUCATION & EXPERIENCE

- Any equivalent combination of education and experience that provides the applicant with the required knowledge, skills, and abilities to perform the job. A typical way to obtain this knowledge and abilities would be:
 - A bachelor's degree from a four (4) year college or university in a closely related field with ten (10) years of experience in a field closely related to Planning.
 - Master's degree in Planning or related field and five (5) years of directly related planning experience.
 - Experience with Washington or Oregon Growth Management planning processes, and experience working with Washington's State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) and Shoreline Master Programs is highly preferred.
 - A valid Washington State driver's license.

The ideal candidate will have experience with GIS, the ability to build a community network through outreach, and excellent communication skills. Successful experience in working with growth pressures in professional planning is desired.

COMPENSATION & BENEFITS



- **\$95,971 - \$125,236 DOQ**
- Medical, Vision and Dental with 100% employer paid contributions for employee only and 84% contributions for dependent coverage
- Health Savings Account
- Life Insurance/AD&D
- Long-term Disability Insurance
- Washington State PERS Retirement System
- Sick and Vacation Leave
- 11 Paid Holidays
- Optional Flexible Spending Account

**To learn more about Klickitat County,
please visit:**

www.klickitatcounty.org

Klickitat County is an Equal Opportunity Employer. All qualified candidates are strongly encouraged to apply by **December 8, 2023**. (First review, open until filled), Applications and materials will only be accepted electronically. To **apply online**, go to **www.prothman.com** and click on "**Open Recruitments**" followed by "**Director of Planning – Klickitat County, WA**" and follow the directions provided, visit **www.governmentjobs.com/careers/klickitatcounty**, or **[click here](#)**.



www.prothman.com

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