

2.0 Economic Development Element

The economic impact of this process was a nearly universal concern voiced by the citizens of this county. Economic development plays an essential role in maintaining the quality of life in Stevens County. A strong economy creates jobs and opportunities for the citizens. Resource based industries and activities such as timber production, agriculture, and mining are prominent and should be encouraged. Supporting recreation, industrial and commercial businesses is also vital as we develop strategies that will be instrumental in developing local sustainable businesses. It will also aid in attracting and retaining new, quality businesses and industries. Stevens County has a rich history of entrepreneurial spirit. In addition, the County does participate with the Tri-County Economic Development District (TEDD). The district plays a key role in developing strategies to assist, attract and retain businesses within Stevens County. In furthering their mission to "...sustain the highest quality of life for the people of Northeastern Washington, TEDD strives to develop a stable and diverse economy; to build partnerships between businesses, government and communities; and to assist businesses to grow, invest, create and retain jobs."

2.1 Economic Development Goal

It is the Economic Development Goal of Stevens County to:

Support the businesses and industry that exist, sustain our current economy and promote community stability while also encouraging new business and industry to develop and locate within Stevens County.

2.2 Economic Development Policies

In furtherance of this Economic Development Goal and the overall goals of the GMA, it is the Economic Development Policy of Stevens County to:

- ED-1 Support the retention and expansion of existing local businesses/industries and recruitment of new businesses/industries that provide family-wage jobs.
- ED-2 Encourage the promotion of tourism and tourist based businesses.
- ED-3 Implement flexible development regulations that recognize and further the diversity of industry and the business community in Stevens County while also promoting the sustainability of natural resource based activities.
- ED-4 Encourage economic growth while protecting the rural character of the County.
- ED-5 Ensure that development regulations do not unduly restrict diversification of the economic base of the County.

- ED-6 Encourage industrial activities to be located at existing industrial sites or within designated Urban Growth Areas, but also allowing resource based industries in rural areas.
- ED-7 Include economic development as one of the considerations in the process of land use planning, transportation planning, infrastructure planning, and the determination of urban growth areas.
- ED-8 Promote the establishment of educational, research and spin-off activities that will support existing local industries and businesses.
- ED-9 Encourage coordination and cooperation at the local and regional level to combine resources and build consistency in economic development strategies.
- ED-10 Support the development, implementation and financing of a regional public sewer system facility for economic development purposes within the Lake Spokane UGA. (Adopted pursuant to ORD 2008-06 – 12-18-08)