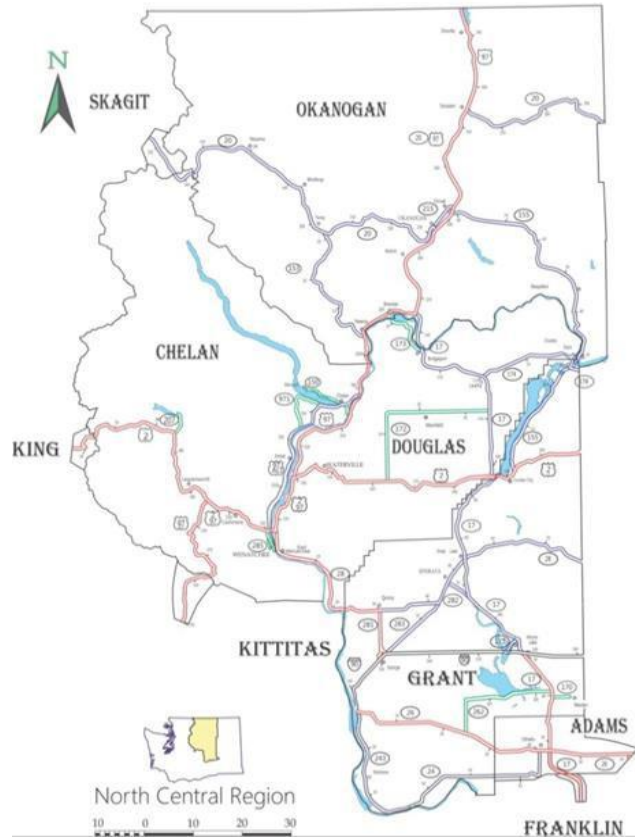


North Central Region Summary and Facts Sheet

The WSDOT North Central Region, regional headquarters is in Wenatchee. The region includes more than 13,493 square miles in Chelan, Douglas, Grant and Okanogan counties, and parts of Adams, Franklin, King, Kittitas and Skagit counties. It includes significant portions of the 4th and 8th Congressional Districts, all of the 12th Legislative District, much of the 7th and 13th and a part of the 9th and 39th Districts.

The region's state highway infrastructure includes 2,637 lane miles, one tunnel, 175 bridges, and seven mountain passes. Approximately 1,123 lanes miles are paved with hot mix asphalt (HMA) and the remaining 1,514 lane miles consist of bituminous surface treatments (BST) / chip seals.

The region serves 38 cities and towns. In 2014 the population was approximately 263,829, or just less than 4% of the state's total. The three largest cities are Wenatchee (33,261), Moses Lake (21,713), and East Wenatchee (13,505). There are three other communities with populations over 5,000.



North Central Region staff is comprised of 234 permanent, and depending on how severe winter weather is, up to 70 non-permanent, and 11 permanent seasonal employees. Our staff supports and serves the local communities in numerous ways to sustain a vibrant economy enabling growth and development in the region, while preserving and maintaining the transportation infrastructure.

Region maintenance activities are managed within three areas. They are headquartered in Wenatchee, Ephrata and Okanogan, with seventeen section sheds distributed to most efficiently provide services such as snow and ice control. Region engineering and support services are located in Wenatchee.

Economic Drivers:

Agriculture is the backbone of economic vitality throughout the region. Tree fruit, viticulture, grain harvest, and vegetable production and processing rely heavily on the transportation system to remain sustainable. All of the agriculture based products are supported by industry that processes, packages, and ships from region facilities to the greater United States and around the world. A canola oil processing plant is operating near the town of Warden, Adams County. Canola is also an effective rotation crop to wheat. Recreation and ag-tourism have developed into significant attractions and contribute to the region's economic health. Gold and other mineral extraction continues to be a significant resource in Okanogan County.

The need for access to medical facilities continues to grow with the increase in population and greater numbers in the aging population. Central Washington Hospital in Wenatchee went through an extensive remodel and has combined with the Wenatchee Valley Clinic to form Confluence Health. It has remote clinics throughout the north central region along with numerous other health care providers.

Economic Drivers (continued):

Wenatchee area sports facilities are growing exponentially with semi-professional teams in baseball, football, and hockey along with major statewide and regional soccer, baseball, softball, marathons, and fishing tournaments. Wenatchee has hosted the State Winter Special Olympics for the past 24 years.

Recreation and tourism are key attractions in the north central region; skiing, hiking, camping, fishing, biking and boating to mention a few. Themed communities of Leavenworth and Winthrop draw thousands of visitors annually, as does Chelan and the Grand Coulee Dam for their exceptional recreational opportunities and cultural history.

While primary industries such as ALCOA in Wenatchee continue to provide high wage jobs, new high tech companies, including Microsoft, Yahoo, and Intuit, are bringing jobs and investing millions of dollars locating in the area due to low power rates, land availability and quality of life.

There are seven major hydroelectric dams on the Columbia River in the region, as well as several others on smaller rivers. The state highway system plays a key role in the maintenance, support and security of these critically important power producing facilities. Much of the land irrigated by the Columbia Basin Irrigation Project lies within the region; Grand Coulee Dam and the Columbia Basin Projects irrigate 670,000 acres producing \$1.87 billion in irrigated crops, power generated and recreation income.

As a result of the Wenatchee Valley’s attractive cost of living, clean environment, shorter commute times, good schools, low crime rate, first class medical facilities, year round tourism activities, 300 days of sunshine, plus the proximity to the Puget Sound metropolitan areas, it is consistently included on lists of the best places in the United States to retire. These same attributes attract medical and other professionals to work in the region.

Transportation Services Provided to the Communities:

Major state highways in the region include I-90, US 2, US 97, SR 26, SR 17, SR 28 and SR 20.

Pangborn Air Field is the primary regional airport serving Wenatchee. The region is also served by 21 other regional and municipal airports. The largest is the Grant County International Airport in Moses Lake which supports various industrial and commercial activities. Formerly Larson Air Force Base, Grant County International Airport has one of the longest runways west of the Mississippi.

Passenger rail is provided by Amtrak with daily stops in Wenatchee, Ephrata, and Leavenworth. BNSF Railroad provides mainline freight rail services in the region, in addition the Cascade and Columbia River Railroad operates from Wenatchee north to Oroville, near the Canadian border, and was a factor in development of the heavy haul corridor for Canadian products to Oroville. The Port of Moses Lake continues to support the development of the Northern Columbia Basin Railroad.

LINK Transit provides bus service in the Wenatchee urban and rural areas with routes to Leavenworth, Chelan, Cashmere, Rock Island, Waterville and other smaller communities in Chelan and Douglas Counties. WSDOT and Northwestern Trailways Apple Line provide daily, regularly scheduled bus service between Omak and Ellensburg, including the communities between. TRANGO provides shuttle service between Omak and Okanogan. People for People serve residents with current DSHS Provider One Medicaid in Chelan Douglas, and Okanogan counties. Grant Transit Authority operates daily routes from Grand Coulee to Othello.

North Central Demographics	
County Population	
Adams (Othello Vicinity)	15,000
Chelan	74,588
Douglas	39,804
Grant	93,147
Okanogan	41,290
Total	263,829

US 97, running through the heart of the region, is a recognized NAFTA corridor. This primarily two-lane roadway carries a significant volume of freight in addition to tourist and regional traffic.

The US 97 international border crossing at Oroville/Osoyoos is the busiest crossing on the east side of the Cascades and the fourth busiest in the State. The crossing has the largest personal vehicle count of the crossings between the Cascades and the Interstate 29 crossing on the ND/MN border, an indication of its importance to tourism. It is also the largest south bound freight crossing east of the Cascades until one reaches the crossing at US 95 in Idaho.

Seven Mountain Passes

Highway	Mountain Pass	Elevation
2	Stevens Pass	4061
20	Rainy Pass	4855
20	Washington Pass	5477
20	Loup Loup Summit	4020
20	Wauconda Summit	4310
155	Disautel Summit	3252
97	Blewett Pass	4102

Connecting Washington Projects

The 2015 legislative session provided funding for several Connecting Washington projects in North Central Washington

- SR 150 – No-See-Um Road Intersection – a \$6.5 million project located on SR 150 between Chelan and Manson that constructs and roundabout and adds a non-motorized pathway. Estimated construction in 2017.
- Relocation of WSDOT Region Office – A \$12 million facilities project that builds a new Region/ Project Engineering office. Estimated construction in 2017.
- SR 28 – East Wenatchee Corridor Improvements – a \$58.5 million project to add lanes, improve intersections, and add pedestrian bicycle improvements. Estimated Construction in 2023-2027.
- SR 2 & 285 - North Wenatchee Area Access and Safety Improvements - \$23 million for intersection improvements, modifying intersections, interconnecting signals, median and access work. Estimated Construction in 2021-2027.
- SR 155 – Omak Bridge Rehabilitation – An \$11 million project to remove bridge sidewalks to widen lanes, and add a separate bike/pedestrian bridge. Estimated construction in 2025-2027.

Roadway Safety

County	State Route	Fatalities
Chelan	625	4
Douglas	296	6
Grant	592	7
Okanogan	278	6
Total	1791	23

Collisions and Fatalities on State Routes by Count (Source: 2014 Washington State Highway Annual Collision Data Summary)

