



How 8 Cities and Towns Are Working Together to Address the Shortage of Certified Operators

Scott Hutsell, Lincoln County Commissioner and Public Works Board Chair
Buck Lucas, Special Projects Manager, Public Works Board

American Water Works Association
Pacific Northwest Section
Utility Management Committee

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The Challenges



- Shortage of certified operators and operator salaries lower than state average
- Stagnant regional economy
- Resource availability concerns in the Mid-Columbia Basin
- Limited proximity for physical consolidation
- Inconsistent collaboration as a result of political turnover.



Waterworks Operator Certification

**Applying and Testing for Waterworks
Operator Certification**

Countywide collaboration

Towns

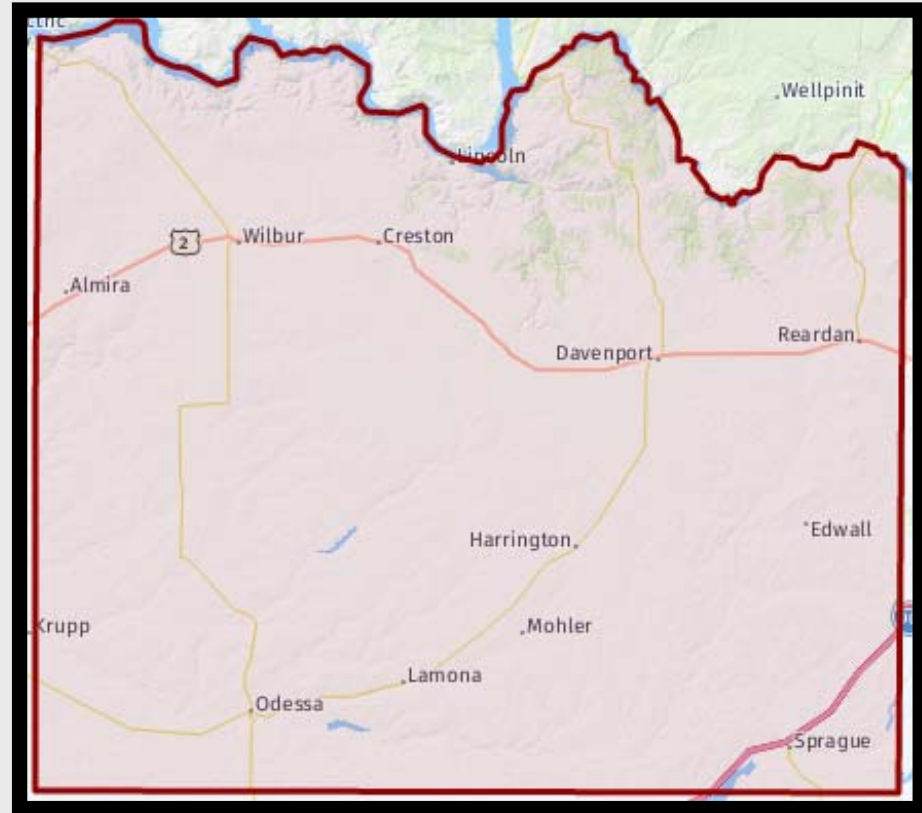
Almira
Creston
Odessa
Reardan
Wilbur

Cities

Davenport
Harrington
Sprague

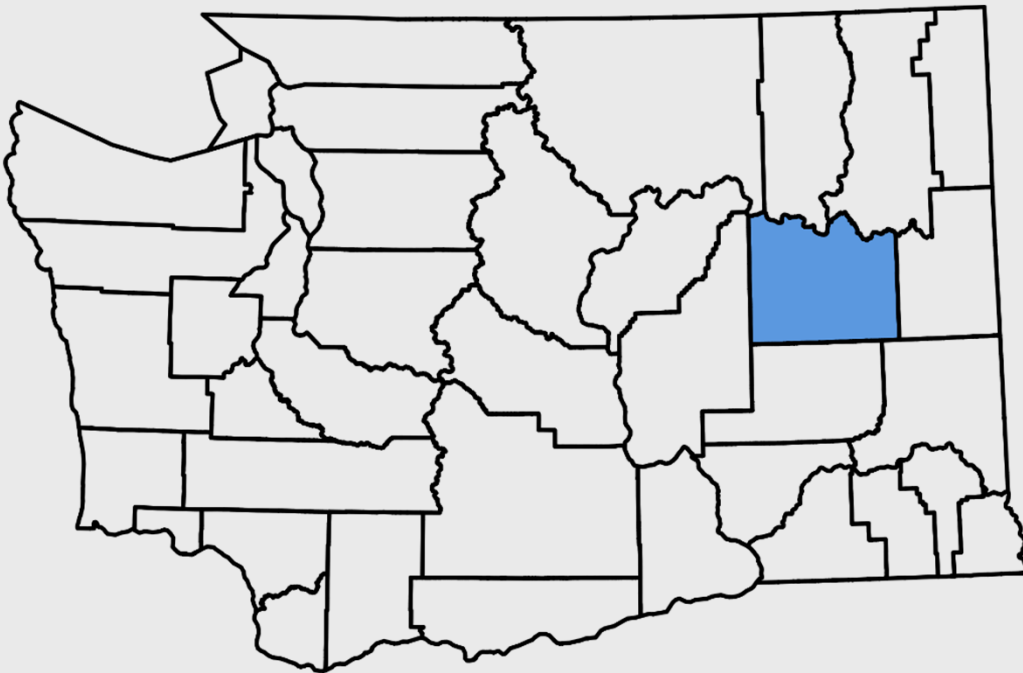
Water Systems

Seven Bays Estates Unlimited
(HOA)



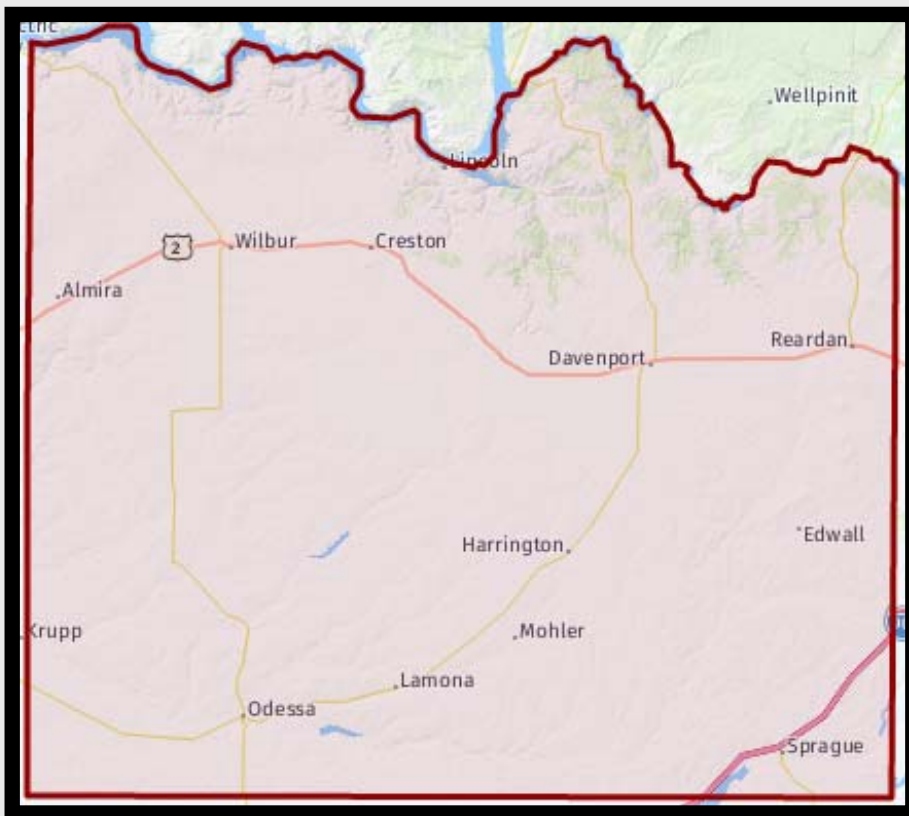
14 Water Systems and 3,262 total connections represented

Lincoln County Regionalization Pilot Project



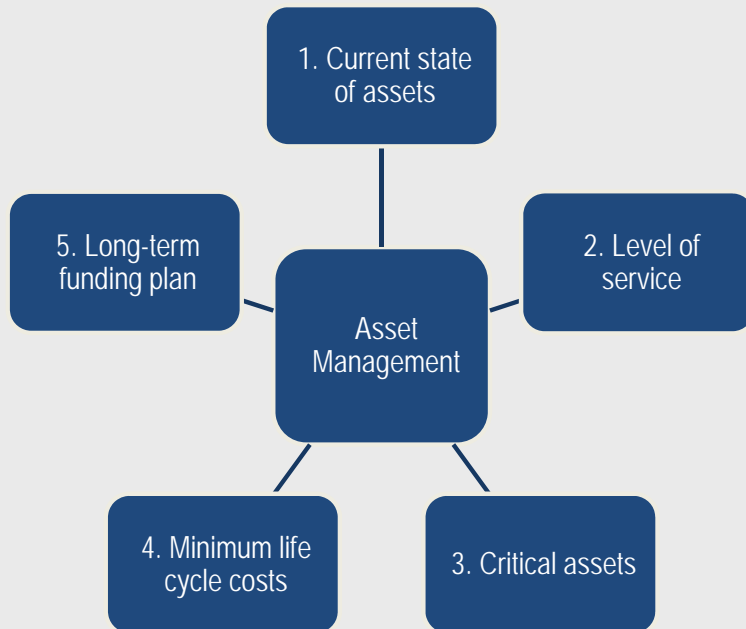
- **Approach:** Facilitate regional collaboration by convening decision makers and operators
- **Identify:** A shared history
- **Identify:** A process of collaboration
- **Outcome:** Momentum to address challenges collaboratively

Lincoln County Regionalization Pilot Project



- **Vision:** Lincoln County advocates for and prioritizes resources in a collaborative manner to share infrastructure for the common gain of all residents
- **Outcome:** Mutual Aid Agreement
- **Benefit:** Economies of Scale

Asset Management Process



- **Approach:** Technical Assistance Support from Eastern Washington University and RCAC
- **Outcome:** Communities received training on GIS software, equipment, and on basic asset management principles
- **Next Steps:** Continue to develop asset management footprint

Lessons Learned



- Collaboration and communication are non-linear.
- Know your neighbor and what their system challenges are.
- Political challenges can be overcome if you make a forum to do so.
- Operators are the greatest assets for their systems.



How you can get involved?

Questions?

Buck Lucas
Sync Project Manager
(360) 725-3180
buck.lucas@commerce.wa.gov



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