

# Courthouse Journal

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Washington State Association of Counties  
Washington Association of County Officials

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## County Clerks' 96<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference Held in Walla Walla

Soaring temperatures and warm hospitality marked the 96<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Washington State Association of County Clerks (WSACC) in Walla Walla last week. President Rena Hollis, Skamania County Clerk presided over the event that was hosted by Walla Walla County Clerk Kathy Martin and Columbia County Clerk Lynn Leleman.

Twenty-nine counties were welcomed to the conference by Walla Walla County Commissioner and former county clerk Pam Ray and Prosecutor Jim Nagle. Guest speakers during the week included State Auditor Brian Sonntag; State Court Administrator Mary McQueen; Spokane County Superior Court Judge James Murphy; State Archivist Jerry Handfield; Reiko Callner of the Judicial Conduct Commission; and Ramsey Radwin Accounting Services Manager of the Division of Child Support.

Thursday was devoted to extensive discussion of the impact of recently passed legislation. The issues included the new Uniform Paternity Legislation; unlawful detainers; IRS reporting of bail in excess of \$10,000; foreign judgments; and a myriad of other troublesome topics. The agenda could not have been completed except for the firm hand of Lewis County Clerk Nettie Jungers. Jungers was charged with keeping the discussion on track and required each attendee

to bring two rolls of dimes. Each time she perceived a distraction, she ordered the perpetrator to donate to the Washington Counties' Scholarship Fund. Repeat violators were "tagged" and at the end of the day, Kitsap County Clerk Dave Peterson was named the WSACC "weakest link."

"All Things Italian" was the theme of Thursday evening. Traditional banquet fare was abandoned at the annual banquet in favor of Italian cuisine and the mood was set by local octogenarian David Venneri who entertained the group with songs of "old Italy" and tales of early Italian settlers in Walla Walla County. Familiar faces and special guests that evening were State Senator Jeri Costa, Walla Walla County Commissioner Pam Ray, and retired Kitsap County Clerk Bob Freudenstein and his wife Linda.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the "County Clerk of the Year" award to Snohomish County Clerk Pam Daniels. The coveted award is given to a county clerk by vote of the membership to a county clerk for outstanding contributions to the association.

The conference concluded at noon on Friday after an association business meeting. The two-year terms of the WSACC President and Board of Directors do not expire until June of 2003. The 2003 conference will be held in Silverdale, Kitsap County.

## County Treasurers Hold Annual Conference in Bellingham

The Washington State Association of County Treasurers met in Bellingham, June 24-28, managing both an ambitious educational agenda and some more relaxing activities. Whatcom County Treasurer Barb Cory and her staff are to be commended

for planning and executing such a well-run and enjoyable conference.

The conference began with the annual golf tournament, under sunny skies, on Monday, June 24, and all conference attendees were up

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bright and early Tuesday morning for a 7:00

a.m. breakfast and business meeting.

Luncheon speaker was Senator George Gardner (D-42<sup>nd</sup> District), who spoke about the challenges that our state and local governments are facing in a bad economy, which is seemingly getting worse. A roundtable session for treasurers and deputies was held Monday afternoon with a plethora of topics, followed by a large re-vamp of the Treasurers' Bylaws by Association members.

Wednesday had a full complement of

## The Courthouse Journal

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We welcome your suggestions and contributions. The weekly deadline is noon Thursday.

Direct inquiries and correspondence to *The Courthouse Journal*, 206 Tenth Avenue SE, Olympia, WA 98501-1131.

### WACO STAFF

Phone (360) 753-7319  
FAX (360) 664-2812

Debbie Wilke, *Executive Director*  
Michelle Hagen, *Deputy Director*  
Christina Bridston, *Programs Coordinator*  
Brenda Bamford, *Financial Operations Manager*  
Kathie Houts, *Administrative Assistant*

### WSAC STAFF

Phone (360) 753-1886  
FAX (360) 664-2812

Bill Vogler, *Executive Director*  
Paul Parker, *Assistant Executive Director*  
Maureen Morris, *Deputy Director for Urban Counties*  
Sophia Byrd, *Policy Director, Law & Justice*  
Jean Wessman, *Policy Director, Human Services, Juvenile Justice, Housing*  
Scott Merriman, *Policy Director, Transportation and Land Use*  
Vicki Kirkpatrick, *Policy Director, WSALPHO Administrator*  
Tom King, *Associate, Research, Telecommunications*  
Jim Potts, *Housing Outreach Coordinator*  
Ginni Peppert, *Secretary, Meetings*  
Barbara Warden, *Secretary*  
Tom Robinson, *Timber Coordinator*  
Cynthia Sachs, *Policy Analyst*  
Beth Dubey, *Accounting & Business Asst.*

workshops including such topics as "Interest Arbitrage," "What You Should Know When You Buy Bonds," "Ethics," and "Public Disclosure and Records Access." Luncheon entertainment was provided by the excellent Clan Heather Dancers, ranging in age from 4 to 16 who danced to traditional Scottish and Irish music. That evening, a boat cruise and dinner was the perfect end to the last of the beautiful, sunny days during the week!

The following day, workshops included sessions on the real estate excise tax, levy calculations, an explanation of the forest fire patrol multi-parcel exemption, and presentations from Bank of New York representatives on their new fiscal agent website, as well as disaster recovery following the damage of their New York headquarters building during the September 11 terrorist attacks. Personnel worked out of other branches in Illinois, New Jersey, Florida and New York and are just now beginning to move back into the building after nearly 10 months.

A sponsor appreciation breakfast was held for the many vendors who made donations towards the conference, and meeting attendees were treated to a chance to win door prizes donated by nearly three-dozen Whatcom County businesses. Comic relief at the banquet was provided by Kermit

Apio, a comedian from Seattle, who was enjoyed by all.

Bylaws changes made during the conference were reflected in election of the officers. The president-elect position was eliminated and the association treasurer will now be elected to the chairs. Traditionally, the treasurer has been the host county treasurer. In addition, the number of executive board members was increased from two to four to represent the four regions of the state.

Those elected to lead the Treasurers' Association for the ensuing year were Benton County Treasurer Darwin Parker, president; San Juan County Treasurer Kathy Turnbull, vice president; Jefferson County Treasurer Judi Morris, secretary; and Whatcom County Treasurer Barb Cory, treasurer. Executive Board members, which serve two year staggered terms will be: Lincoln County Treasurer Linda Fisher, northeast region; Skamania County Treasurer Sandra Willing, southwest region; Island County Treasurer Maxine Sauter, northwest region; and Klickitat County Treasurer Dani Burton, southeast region.

Immediate past president Linda Wolverton, Spokane County Treasurer, will be hosting the 2003 conference, and the 2004 conference location will be decided in September.

## WSAC Rural Issues Subcommittee Will Meet July 24

The WSAC Rural Issues Subcommittee is meeting on Wednesday July 24 in Yakima to discuss the fiscal situation in rural counties and opportunities to work with state leadership on rural economic development. Subcommittee Co-Chair Mary Hunt is arranging for some legislators to participate in the discussion of fiscal issues.

The meeting will take place in the Yakima Health Center, across the street from the Yakima County Courthouse, from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Yakima Health Center is located at 104 N. 1<sup>st</sup> Street.

### **King County Voter Registration Fraud**

Someone in King County is in a heap of trouble for forging the names of existing voters onto new voter registration cards and turning them into the elections office. Election officials are trying to track down most probably a paid signature gatherer who was asking voters to sign a statewide initiative petition. At least five voters have

confirmed that their names were forged and all said they were approached by a man in the University District who asked them to sign an initiative. King County Elections Superintendent Julie Anne Kempf said she is not sure which initiative the man was requesting signatures for.

Washington initiative sponsors have hired several California businesses to hire solicitors who get paid for each signature

they get. Secretary of State Sam Reed says that getting paid for collecting signatures can be a conduit for committing fraud. "When you're basically getting a bounty for getting these signatures, it does cause some people to start fudging a bit," Reed said, "and of course this is beyond a fudge."

Voter registration fraud is a felony.

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## *Environment, Land Use and Resources*

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### **BLM Distributes PILT Payments to Local Governments**

Last week, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announced that it will send almost \$210 million to approximately 1,900 local governments in accordance with the Payments in Lieu of Taxes Act (PILT) for fiscal year 2002. Washington State's portion of that total is \$7,227,532. This year's PILT payments reflect an increase of \$10,203,715 over the payments for last year; Washington's portion last year was \$6,559,026. The PILT payments are being sent three months earlier than normal to help local governments budget for their fiscal years, many of which begin July 1.

The PILT program's funds are currently appropriated by Congress each year; this year, the program is being funded at 59.7%. To calculate payments, the BLM uses a complex formula that is based on the acreage of federal land in a local jurisdiction, population, and consumer price index. The formula also takes into consideration the previous year's federal land receipts. For those counties concerned about the effect of Public Law 106-393 (PL 106-393) on your PILT payments, this year's PILT payment is not affected by that law. The first reduction in PILT money you will see as a result of PL 106-393 will be next year. For questions on PL 106-393 and/or its effect on PILT, please contact WSAC staff Tom Robinson or Cynthia Sachs at (360) 753-1886.

### **RMAPs Update: A solution in sight**

*By Doug Sutherland, Commissioner of Public Lands*

This spring, I have heard from many people across Washington concerned with the effects of Road Maintenance and Abandonment Plans (RMAPs) on family

forest owners. These plans, which are part of the Forests & Fish law passed in 1999, are intended to improve fish habitat by repairing road culverts that block fish passage, and by preventing road sediments from entering streams.

However, it became clear that the RMAP requirements have some serious, unintended consequences. To better understand these problems, I sent DNR staff across the state to hear the concerns of family foresters and others. Additionally, Governor Locke and I asked the Forests & Fish Policy group to investigate these issues and recommend solutions.

Input from citizens, interest groups, and many legislators has been very helpful in understanding the problem and was used by the Forest & Fish Policy group to develop draft recommendations that achieve two important goals: improving fish habitat and ensuring that family foresters can continue to responsibly harvest timber and earn a living on their private property. I especially want to acknowledge the role that the Washington State Farm Bureau and its local chapters have played in organizing public meetings to share information about RMAPs and learn citizens' concerns.

On June 19, Lenny Young, DNR's Forest Practices Division Manager, presented to the Forest Practices Board a summary of the issues we have heard and draft recommendations from the Forests & Fish Policy group.

Many people have expressed concern that the RMAP rules cover landowners with only a couple of acres, whether or not they plan to harvest timber. Accordingly, we are considering exempting forest landowners with less than 80 acres across the state from filing a road maintenance plan for land parcels less than 20 acres in

size. We are also considering changing the definition of a family forest owner to those who harvest less than two million board feet per year, and greatly reducing their planning and reporting requirements.

We have also heard a great deal of frustration expressed about the cost of RMAPs. Replacing fish blockage culverts can cost from \$3000 to \$20,000, sometimes more. The University of Washington has estimated a statewide cost of \$375 million to family foresters. We are considering two solutions to this problem. First, repairing fish blockage culverts would be prioritized through local watershed assessments. Currently, one culvert may be replaced that potentially opens up large stretches of fish habitat, only to find that fish are unable to reach that culvert because of other blockages downstream that have yet to be repaired. By prioritizing repairs, we can create habitat more quickly and do it in a logical manner. Second, we are already working with the federal government and others to find funding to pay for large portions of these repairs.

Many people are also concerned that the definition of what is a "forest road," and therefore requires an RMAP, is unclear and includes driveways. Similarly, many are concerned that the definition of "forest land" can be broadly interpreted to include several types of non-forest land where trees could potentially grow, but do not currently. To address these concerns, we are considering definition changes including removing driveways from the definition of a "forest road" and clarifying the types of land covered in the law. These changes would ensure that people do not have to do RMAPs for driveways not used for forest practices, or for roads across pastures, crop fields, and other types of

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non-forest land.

Thanks to everyone who has contributed to this discussion. We still have a lot of work to do, but with the help of citizens and local legislators, we can address the concerns that have been expressed by so many while we continue to protect our state's aquatic resources.

Forests & Fish and the RMAP rules were never intended to put family foresters out of business, force them to harvest to pay for culvert replacement, or to convert forestland to strip malls. I am confident that we will soon make changes that address these serious, unintended consequences that might have occurred. We can achieve both our goals of

improving fish habitat and keeping family forestry an important part of Washington's economy, heritage, and way of life.

### **Comment Period extended on Model Critical Areas Ordinance**

The Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development is extending the public comment period for its draft "Model Code Recommendations for Designating and Protecting Critical Areas" until **July 12, 2002**. After negotiations with the state AFW caucus, DCTED revised its draft Model and delayed publication to allow additional public review and comment.

The Growth Management Act requires local governments to designate and protect the functions of critical areas and to

include best available science in that process. The Model CAO was designed to offer local governments a guide to effective regulatory and non-regulatory options for protecting critical areas, and was intended to provide consistent statewide review of all critical areas. The next draft of the Model will be distributed later this summer.

Copies of the Model can be obtained at: <http://www.oed.wa.gov/info/lgd/growth/>. Comments can be mailed to: Chris Parsons, AICP, Washington State Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development, P.O. Box 48350, Olympia, WA 98504-8350.

### **Washington Tapped for National Leadership – Again**

Long-time Thurston County department director and public health leader Pat Libbey will be leaving as Director of the Thurston County Health and Social Services Department to become the Executive Director of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) in September. Pat Libbey is currently serving as President of NACCHO – his term expiring at the annual conference this month in New Orleans. He will be succeeding Tom Milne as the Executive Director of NACCHO. Tom previously served as the Executive Director of the Southwest Washington Health District before becoming NACCHO's Executive Director.

NACCHO represents about 3,000 local health departments across the United States and works with congressional representatives and agencies such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Department of Health and Human Services. NACCHO provides national public health policy development and advocacy. NACCHO has been and continues to be

very involved in the national bioterrorism preparedness efforts. NACCHO takes an active role in helping health departments across the country get prepared for bioterrorism and other disasters. Part of Pat's job at NACCHO will be to help establish what the level of preparedness should be, to create tools to help departments get up to speed, and to create tests to make sure the new systems work.

Pat Libbey said that he is "enthused about continuing in this new role to work in support of local public health throughout the country". He stated that he is "excited because I am going to a wonderful new opportunity. I am saddened because I am leaving a great organization with a continuing future to do great work." He further complimented his staff by saying "This is a tremendous department with excellent staff throughout the organization. The people of Thurston (and Mason) are extremely well served....There's no doubt in my mind that this will continue to be the case."

Pat has provided strong public health leadership in Washington during his tenure as the Director of the Thurston County

Health and Social Services Department. He has served as President of the Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials (WSALPHO), on the Health Committee of the National Association of Counties, and on the Board of Directors and through the chairs to presidency of NACCHO. Pat has been a leader in shaping public health policy in Washington and nationally. His leadership and expertise in Washington will be missed, but as he takes that leadership and expertise nationally, public health will continue to be well served!

Sherri McDonald, Deputy Director, Thurston County Health and Social Services Department, has been named Acting Director upon Pat's departure. Sherri will bring with her strong public health experience, expertise and leadership as she takes on this new role.

Congratulations and best wishes to Pat Libbey.

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## *Transportation and Public Works*

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### **Senate Transportation Committee to Discuss Statewide Freight Planning**

The Senate Transportation committee will be holding a work session on Historical Perspective of Airport Siting, Update on Federal Amtrak Funding and Statewide

Freight Planning. The work session will be held at the Wenatchee Valley Community College on July 18, at 1:30 P.M.

The majority of the work session will focus on freight planning. The Department of Transportation's Office of Freight Strategy and Policy and the Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board will make for-

mal presentations. After the formal presentations, the committee is inviting stakeholders to react to the formal presentation. WSAC staff is working with committee staff to ensure a county perspective will be provided.

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## *General Government and Miscellaneous*

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### **Local Records Grant Program**

Washington State Archivist, Jerry Handfield announced a new pilot local records grant program to preserve, protect and make more accessible the records of local government agencies in Washington State.

For the first time in the history of the state, \$100,000 in competitive grants will be awarded to local government agencies to improve the management of their public records.

The Grant Program Guidebook and application forms are attached and will

also be available online at [www.secstate.wa.gov/archives](http://www.secstate.wa.gov/archives) after June 20th. The application deadline is August 1, 2002.

For more information, contact Sherry Bays, Eastern Washington Regional Archivist at (509) 359-6900 or D. Rae Bradrick,

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## *Upcoming Events and Training*

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### **Death Scene Investigation**

The Pierce County Sheriff's office is sponsoring a Forensic Entomology Field Training Workshop at the Best Western Park Plaza, in Puyallup, July 22 and 23 or July 25 and 26. The two-day course will provide death scene investigators (coroners, medical examiners, police investigators and prosecuting attorneys) with knowledge of entomological techniques used for recovering evidence from death scenes.

Entomological evidence can provide key points of substantiation of physical or testimonial evidence and the recognition, collection, documentation, preservation, and shipment of entomological evidence handled in a proper manner is of great importance to death scene investigators when

a forensic entomologist is unavailable.

Course instructor will be Neal H. Has- kel, Ph.D, DABFCE, a private entomology consultant, forensic researcher and profes- sor of Forensic Science and Biology at Saint Joseph College in Rensselaer, Indi- ana. Day 1 will be 8:00 to 5:00 and day 2 will be from 7:30 to 5:00. Each class is limited to 30 registrants and the cost is \$275. For further information, please call the Pierce County Sheriff's office: Foren- sic Investigator Ted Schlosser at (253) 798-7737 or Deputy Bob Laughlin (253) 798-3451.

### **CPO Training Opportunity**

The Washington Counties Risk Pool (WCRP) is conducting a workshop as part of their Summer Conference. The

Conference will be held July 23-26 in Downtown Spokane. WCRP is an active partner in the development of the Certified Public Official (CPO) program. The Workshop, entitled, "**THE LEADERSHIP MOMENT:**" will be conducted on July 24. If your county is a member of WCRP the workshop is being offered at no cost. If your county is not a member of WCRP the cost is only \$50.00. Additional course and registration information is attached. Please **register now** directly with WCRP. Attendance at this workshop will give you "**4**" **Elective course credits** toward your CPO.

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# Calendar of Events

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July 9–12  
Northwest Regional Election Conference  
2002, Jantzen Beach Doubletree Hotel,  
Portland

July 12–16  
NACo Annual Conference, New Orleans  
Parish, New Orleans, LA

July 17–19  
ACHS, Clark County

July 24  
CPO *Washington Counties Risk Pool—  
Leadership Skills in Response to Current  
Issues*, Spokane—Cost: Free to Risk Pool  
Members, \$50 non-members, CPO Credits:  
4 (Elective Course)

August 22  
WCIP Board/Rate Setting Session, 9–3 pm  
SeaTac

September 4–6  
WAPA *Drug Training Program*—Icicle  
Inn, Leavenworth. 15 hrs of CLE.

September 5–6  
WSAC Western District Meeting, Bonne-  
ville Hot Springs Resort, Stevenson

September 8–10  
WAPA *Juvenile Training Program*—Icicle  
Inn, Leavenworth. 15 hrs of CLE.

September 10–13  
City/County Planning Directors, Lake Che-  
lan

September 12  
WSALPHO Meeting, Spokane

September 18–19  
County Treasurers' Legislative Confer-  
ence, Summit Inn, Snoqualmie

September 18–20  
ACHS, Leavenworth

September 19  
WCIF/WCIP Boards/Insurance Advisory  
Committee (All Day Meeting), SeaTac

September 30–October 4  
WACO/WSAC Annual Conference,  
WestCoast Hotel & Convention Center,  
Wenatchee

October 1

CPO *Personnel/Human Resources—  
Understand the Laws; Maximize Your Per-  
sonnel System*, Wenatchee—Cost: \$120,  
CPO Credits: 4 (Core Course)

October 2  
CPO *The Class-Act County Government  
Official—Building Courthouse Partner-  
ships*, Wenatchee—Cost TBD, CPO Cred-  
its: 2 (Elective Course)

November 14  
WCIF Board Meeting, 9:00 a.m.–noon,  
Eastern Washington Location

November 18–21  
WASPC Annual Fall Conference, Red  
Lion Hotel at the Quay, Vancouver

November 20–22  
ACHS, Seattle

December 3–4  
WAPA Newly Elected Prosecutor  
Course—WAPA Conference Room,  
Olympia

December 5  
WSALPHO Meeting, SeaTac

December 10–13  
CPO *Newly Elected Officials Training—  
Understanding Your New Job at the Court-  
house*, Olympia—Cost: TBD, CPO Cred-  
its: All newly elected officials **must** attend  
to become certified.

December 12–13  
WAPA Winter Meeting & Banquet  
Crowne Plaza Hotel, Seattle.

## 2003 MEETINGS

May 19–22  
WASPC Spring Conference, WestCoast  
Grand Hotel, Spokane

June 10–12  
Washington State Association of County  
Auditors' Annual Conference, Sun Moun-  
tain Lodge, Winthrop

June 16–20  
Washington State Association of County  
Treasurers' Annual Conference, Davenport  
Hotel, Spokane

June 23–27

Washington State Association of County  
Clerks' Annual Conference, Silverdale  
Hotel, Silverdale

June 24–27, 2003  
WSAC Summer Convention, Spokane

July 11–15, 2003  
NACo Annual Conference, Milwaukee  
County,  
Milwaukee, WI

September 29–October 3, 2003  
Joint WACO/WSAC Conference, Double-  
tree Hotel Seattle Airport

November 17–20  
WASPC Fall Conference, Campbell's Re-  
sort, Chelan

## 2004 MEETINGS

May 24–27  
WASPC Spring Conference, Yakima Con-  
vention Center, Yakima

June 22–25, 2004  
WSAC Summer Convention, Sheraton  
Tacoma, Pierce County

July 16–20, 2004  
NACo Annual Conference Maricopa  
County, Phoenix, AZ

October 4–8, 2004  
WACO/WSAC Joint Legislative Confer-  
ence, WestCoast Grand Hotel at the Park,  
Spokane

November 15–18  
WASPC Fall Conference, Shilo Inn, Ocean  
Shores

## 2005 MEETINGS

May 23–26  
WASPC Spring Conference, West Coast  
Wenatchee Center Hotel, Wenatchee

July 15–19, 2005  
NACo Annual Conference, City & County  
of Hawaii, Honolulu, HI

## *Employment Opportunities*

**ADAMS COUNTY – Building, Planning and Solid Waste Manager – Department of Public Works.** Adams County seeks a professional with strong leadership and team building skills to manage our Building, Planning and Solid Waste Division of the Public Works. Pay range \$37,252 - \$56,867, including benefits. Minimum qualifications: Bachelor of Arts Degree in planning or closely related field and four years of work experience with two years at supervisory level, or a combination of education and experience deemed equivalent.

A valid Washington State Driver's license is required. For additional information and an application packet, please call (509) 659-3276 or visit our website at [www.co.adams.wa.us](http://www.co.adams.wa.us) or write to: Adams County Department of Public Works, 210 W. Alder, Ritzville, WA 99169. Position open until filled.

**GIS Technician for Mason County Assessor's Office** - \$2,657 - \$3,153 month. Responsible for geographic data management, overlay, network,

topographic analysis, map and report design, composition and plotting. Minimum Qualifications: Formal training in computer-aided drafting and design or 3 years experience in survey or cadastral mapping. Experience with ESRI ArcView and AutoCAD map software preferred. Must possess valid Washington state drivers license. Closes July 15, 2002 at 5 p.m. County application required and available at Mason County Human Resources, 411 N. Fifth St., Shelton, WA 98584; or call (360) 427-7265.