Eastern Washington On-Farm and Commercial Grain Storage

EWITS Research Report #20
January 1998

by

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EWITS Research Report: 
Background and Purpose

This is the twentieth of a series of reports prepared from the Eastern Washington Intermodal Transportation Study (EWITS). The reports prepared as a part of this study provide information to help shape the multimodal network necessary for the efficient movement of both freight and people into the next century.

EWITS is a six-year study funded jointly by the Federal government and the Washington State Department of Transportation as a part of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991. Dr. Ken Casavant of Washington State University is Director of the study. A state-level Steering Committee provides overall direction pertaining to the design and implementation of the project. The Steering Committee includes Jerry Lenzi, Chair and Regional Administrator (WSDOT, Eastern Region); Richard Larson, Regional Administrator (WSDOT, South Central Region); Don Senn, Regional Administrator (WSDOT, North Central Region); Charles Howard (WSDOT, Planning Manager), and Eric Berger, Executive Director, County Road Administration Board. Pat Patterson represents the Washington State Transportation Commission on the Steering Committee. An Advisory Committee with representation from a broad range of transportation interest groups also provides guidance to the study. The following are key goals and objectives for the Eastern Washington Intermodal Transportation Study:

- **Facilitate existing regional and state-wide transportation planning efforts.**
- **Forecast future freight and passenger transportation service needs for eastern Washington.**
- **Identify gaps in eastern Washington’s current transportation infrastructure.**
- **Pinpoint transportation system improvement options critical to economic competitiveness and mobility within eastern Washington.**

For additional information about the Eastern Washington Intermodal Transportation Study or this report, please contact Ken Casavant at the following address:

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Introduction

A database containing information on the size and location of all commercial grain elevator storage facilities and private, on-farm grain storage sites in twenty eastern Washington counties has been compiled from a number of different sources. The information on the commercial sites was obtained through the Eastern Washington Grain Elevator Survey. Data on the private facilities was collected from the Agricultural Soil and Conservation Service (ASCS) office. Also, information on these sites was obtained from the various county tax assessors’ offices and, where data were incomplete, telephone surveys were conducted. The highway and road networks were developed by combining Washington State Department of Transportation highway files with Topologically Integrated Geographic Encoding and Referencing system (TIGER) files from the U.S. Census Bureau. The Washington State Department of Transportation no longer differentiates between state and U.S. highways since both are maintained by the state. The “state highways” represented here are consistent with the TIGER road classification system.

Eastern Washington has a unique combination of soils, climate, and supporting industries suitable for dry-land grain production. Therefore, included in this report are wheat and barley production and storage amounts. The Washington Agricultural Statistics Service prepared total production figures for 1994 and 1995.

In order to organize this information in a useful format, the database was linked to a Geographic Information System (GIS). The results of this work are represented in this report by graphics showing the location of each grain storage facility within counties and the relative size of each facility. Every site has been assigned a coded symbol, according to its total grain storage capacity.

The intention of this report is to disseminate information via graphical representations of the data set. This information regarding grain storage facilities, their locations, and capacities may be useful to producers, planners, policy makers, and other interested parties in making decisions concerning transportation or other infrastructural needs. The information included here has been grouped by county and then arranged in alphabetical order. For each county, the group of graphics includes a representation of the cities, towns, highways and roads located in the particular county. The second graphic shows the location of rail lines, in those counties where rail is present. The final two graphics show the location and size of on-farm grain storage sites and commercial elevator facilities, respectively.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report was partially funded by a grant from the Washington State Wheat Commission.
Adams County

Population

Adams County is basically a grain producing area, with a total population of 15,200 spread evenly across the entire county in accordance with the distribution of the farms. There are no real large towns, with Ritzville and Othello being the largest of the numerous small towns.

Infrastructure

Rail lines run through nearly every sector of Adams County, generally in a north-south direction. Many of the storage facilities have access to rail. The highway and road systems form the checkerboard pattern observed in a number of the larger grain producing counties in eastern Washington, although the eastern border does not follow this same model. This is due to some lakes and other recreational areas with rougher terrain on that side of the county.

Production and Storage Facilities (Commercial and On-Farm)

With only 15,200 inhabitants, Adams County had a total 1995-grain production of 15,598,000 bushels. Both commercial storage facilities and on-farm storage sites of all sizes are spread evenly across the county. The previously mentioned eastern border area is the only sector in the county not involved in wheat and/or barley production. Commercial elevators in the county have a total storage capacity of 22,856,000 bushels. While the numerous on-farm storage sites hold a total of 7,261,000 bushels.
Adams County
Rail Lines, State Highways and Towns
Adams County
On-Farm Grain Storage
(Location and Capacity)
Asotin County

Population

Asotin County has a total population of 19,100, mostly concentrated in the northeastern city of Clarkston. The towns of Asotin and Anatone are the only other areas in the county with more than a few inhabitants. All three towns are located on the east side of the county.

Infrastructure

Despite the small population, almost the entire county is accessible by road. Rail lines do not run anywhere in the county. The southern third of the county is by far the most remote in terms of transportation infrastructure, especially a large section in the southeast corner.

Production and Storage Facilities (Commercial and On-Farm)

There are no commercial storage facilities located within the county of Asotin. Grain production is, however, somewhat significant in this county. There are private on-farm storage sites spread over the northern two-thirds of the county, with a total capacity of 1,377,000 bushels of grain. Although total grain production in the county in 1995 was 1,600,000 bushels.
Asotin County
On-Farm Grain Storage
(Location and Capacity)
Benton County

Population

One of the more populous counties in eastern Washington, Benton County has a total population of 131,000. Most of the inhabitants live on a strip, which stretches east and west across the center of the county. The eastern border is the most densely populated area and contains the city of Richland. The only other notably populated area in the county is along the southern border, where there are several small towns.

Infrastructure

Rail lines cover Benton County thoroughly, with the only exception being the northwestern sector. There are lines running east and west in the center and in the south of the county, and lines running all along the eastern border. Also, the only commercial storage sites are located on the western side of the county on the central rail line. Road and highway coverage is most prevalent in the central east-west strip, but the entire county is very accessible by road.

Production and Storage Facilities (Commercial and On-Farm)

Small commercial storage facilities have a total capacity of 333,800 bushels of grain. Most storage in the county seems to be handled by a large number of on-farm storage sites of all sizes. The private facilities have a total capacity of 4,845,000 bushels. This is nearly enough to accommodate the county's total 1995-grain production of 5,712,000 bushels. The northern third of the county is completely void of any storage facilities. The largest private sites are located in the southern half of the county.
Chelan County

Population

Mostly due to the city of Wenatchee, Chelan County has a total population of 60,000. The entire northern half of the county is taken up by a combination of the Lake Chelan Recreation Area, the North Cascades National Park, the Glacier Peak Wilderness, the Wenatchee National Forest, and a variety of other wilderness areas. Therefore, the population is mostly found in the southeastern section of the county.

Infrastructure

Logically, formal transportation infrastructure development has been limited to the same southeastern corner of the county as the inhabitants. There is a rail line running along the southeastern border, and another running east-west through the southern half of the county. Roads and highways are abundant within the same confines of the southern half of the county.

Production and Storage Facilities (Commercial and On-Firm)

Chelan County is not a heavy grain-producing county. Total production in 1994 was just 143,000 bushels of wheat. There is commercial storage capacity of 524,000 bushels. This is due to one facility in the city of Wenatchee. A few on-farm storage facilities have a capacity of 50,300 bushels. A few of these sites are located in the southeastern corner of the county, with the others found farther north near the town of Entiat.
Chelan County
Grain Elevators
(Location and Capacity)
Columbia County

Population

Columbia County is mostly made up of rural farming towns in the western and northern portions, and the Umatilla National Forest in the eastern and southern portions of the county. The community of Dayton would have to be considered the central hub in a county with a total population of only 4,200. There are no towns located in the half of the county taken up by national forest.

Infrastructure

A small rail line runs between Dayton and the western county line. Three of the largest commercial storage facilities in the county have access to this line. However, most commercial and on-farm facilities are accessible by road only. The highway and road infrastructure is limited, even for such a rural setting. No main roads and very few rural roads enter the national forest.

Production and Storage Facilities (Commercial and On-Farm)

Overall grain production in Columbia County was 7,290,000 bushels in 1995, making it one of the higher per capita producing counties in eastern Washington. Commercial storage facilities in the county have a total capacity of 5,077,000 bushels. On-farm grain storage facilities hold a total of 754,000 bushels. Of course, all of these facilities are located in the western and northern sectors of the county, with most of the largest sites in the west.
Columbia County
On-Farm Grain Storage
(Location and Capacity)
Columbia County
Grain Elevators
(Location and Capacity)
Douglas County

Population

Douglas County has a total population of 29,600, with a large portion of those people living in East Wenatchee, which is located in the southwestern section of the county. Also, a number of small towns can be found along the northern border and in the central sector of the county.

Infrastructure

A single rail line enters the southern tip of the county, with little effect on the transportation of grain. A fairly intricate road system blankets most of the county, except for a conspicuously barren area in the south. The middle two-thirds of the county are covered with the checkerboard road system of a typical grain farming area. The northern and southern sections have less predictable road patterns.

Production and Storage Facilities (Commercial and On-Farm)

Commercial storage sites in the county are located in the central section mentioned above. Total capacity of commercial facilities in the county is 6,997,000 bushels. There are an extremely large number of small to medium-sized on-farm storage sites scattered all over the county. A few larger private facilities are mostly concentrated in the north. Total on-farm storage capacity is 4,284,000 bushels, which is a higher ratio of on-farm to commercial capacity than is normally found in eastern Washington. Total wheat and barley production in the county was 8,963,000 bushels in 1995.
Douglas County
Rail Lines, State Highways and Towns
Douglas County
On-Farm Grain Storage
(Location and Capacity)
Ferry County

Population

Ferry County is almost completely covered by the huge Colville Indian Reservation and, in the north, the Colville National Forest. The county’s total population is 7,100. Most of the towns can be found along two strips running north and south. One is along the eastern border and the other begins along the north-central border and meanders down the western half of the county.

Infrastructure

There is a horseshoe shaped rail line with one end near the town of Republic, running up and along the Canadian border, then down again to near the town of Harter on the eastern county line. Rural roads make almost the entire county accessible, though highways are obviously scarce in such a wilderness area.

Production and Storage Facilities (Commercial and On-Farm)

Total grain production in this county with very little land, which lends itself to any type of large-scale production activities, is minimal, with only 43,000 bushels in 1995. There are no commercial storage facilities in the county. On-farm grain storage facilities are all small, with a total capacity of 84,500 bushels. The on-farm sites are located in the north, near the rail lines, with the only exceptions being a few very small facilities in the southeastern quadrant of the county.
Franklin County

Population

As home of Pasco, one of the Tri-Cities, Franklin County has a total population of 44,000. Most of this number is predictably located in the southeastern corner of the county, where Pasco is found. However, there are many towns located along the eastern border of the county. This is explained by the fact that the eastern border is also the Snake River. A number of other communities are set across the county, avoiding several nearly unpopulated wilderness and recreation areas.

Infrastructure

Rail lines are fairly prevalent in the county. There is a network with a general north and south direction, along with a short span serving the most northeastern sector. Compared to other counties, this rail system does not seem to have had a great influence on the location of commercial or on-farm grain storage facilities. Roads and highways are spaced relatively far apart throughout the county, with the notable exception of the city of Pasco. The Juniper Dunes Wilderness Area in the southeastern section is especially inaccessible.

Production and Storage Facilities (Commercial and On-Farm)

With total rain production of 7,218,000 bushels, Franklin County has an unusual situation in eastern Washington of having much less storage capacity than production. This includes both commercial and on-farm storage capacities. Commercial storage facility capacity is 3,558,000 bushels, while on-farm sites hold 1,191,000. The commercial facilities are located entirely in the northern half of the county. In contrast, on-farm sites can be found in the county’s eastern two-thirds.
Garfield County

Population

Garfield County has an extremely sparse total population of 2,350. Very small communities are scattered somewhat evenly around the northern and central areas of the county. The southern portion is completely covered by the Umatilla National Forest. Obviously, with so few inhabitants there is no area, which could be labeled a population center, although Pomeroy is a center of activity.

Infrastructure

Highways and roads loosely connect the bulk of the county, which is the northern portion of this ice cream cone shaped county. This is, by far, the main form of transporting grain within the county since there are no rail lines. Several roads serve the accessible northern area of the Umatilla National Forest. Much of the southern part of the national forest is not accessible by road.

Production and Storage Facilities (Commercial and On-Farm)

In 1995, total grain production in this thinly populated county was 6,692,000 bushels. This indicates that the vast majority of the inhabitants of Garfield County are involved in grain production. There are a few small commercial storage facilities in the central and western parts of the county. These elevators have a total storage capacity of 1,997,000 bushels. There is a surprisingly large number of on-farm storage sites throughout the entire area north of the Umatilla National Forest, especially when comparing this number to the county's population. Total capacity for these facilities is 3,154,000 bushels.
Garfield County
Grain Elevators
(Location and Capacity)
Grant County

Population

Grant County has the uniform population distribution characteristic of the higher grain producing counties. The only exception to this uniformity is in the central portion of the county where a large number of lakes and reservoirs make up part of the Columbia Basin. On the northeastern border of this area is Moses Lake, the most populous town in a county, which has a total population of 64,500.

Infrastructure

There are rail lines in nearly every sector of the county, giving access to most towns in the county, save those located in the southwestern corner. There is an especially complete system in the southeastern corner of the county, in and around Moses Lake. The grid-type pattern of most rural roads and many of the more heavily traveled highways in the county follows the standard expectation of those found where large-scale grain production exists. This pattern is most prevalent in the four areas of the county, which also have the highest concentrations of on-farm storage sites.

Production and Storage Facilities (Commercial and On-Farm)

The extremely large commercial grain storage capacity is located almost entirely in the eastern half of the county. There are some commercial elevators in the western half, but nearly all the largest facilities are in the east. Total capacity for all commercial facilities is 21,051,000 bushels. As should be expected in a county with total grain production of approximately 16,892,000 bushels, there are also many on-farm storage sites. The on-farm facilities, with a capacity of 8,807,000, are much more evenly distributed throughout the county than the commercial sites. Again, they can be found in nearly all sectors of the county except the central area, which is mostly covered by water.
Grant County
Rail Lines, State Highways and Towns

- Towns and Communities
- Rail
- State Highways
Kittitas County

Population

Much of the 30,100 people living in Kittitas County reside in the south-centrally located town of Ellensburg. Most of the rest of the inhabitants are distributed in a row of towns, which stretches from the northwestern to the southeastern corners of the county.

Infrastructure

The Wenatchee National Forest in the north and west, and several different wildlife areas in the east, has kept development hemmed in to the above-mentioned northwest to southeast trek. Interstate 90, the Yakima River and the population infrastructure all follow along this common path fairly closely. A rail line is found running parallel to the Yakima River and even breaks south with the river near Ellensburg instead of following the course of development eastward.

Production and Storage Facilities (Commercial and On-Farm)

There is only one small commercial storage facility in Kittitas County, with a capacity of 220,000 bushels, situated south of Ellensburg on the Yakima River. The county does not possess any large storage facilities, but there a number of on-farm sites, nearly all of which are located in the same northwest to southeast pathway. Total capacity for these sites is significantly higher, at 543,000 bushels, than total grain production for the county in 1995. Total production for that year was just 331,000 bushels.
Klickitat County

Population

Klickitat County, which has the Columbia River as its southern border, has a total population of 18,100. Inhabitants of the county are found mostly in the towns of White Salmon and Goldendale, and on the Yakima Indian Reservation. White Salmon is located along the Columbia River in the southwestern corner of the county. Goldendale is in the center and the Yakima Indian Reservation is in the northwestern sector. There are also numerous small towns scattered everywhere in the county, except the north-central region.

Infrastructure

Rail lines run along nearly the entire southern border of the county, adjacent to the Columbia River. There is also another shorter line running from the town of Klickitat, in the southwestern quadrant, down to meet with the line along the river. The southwestern area of the county is also where the highest concentration of towns and main roads are found. However, there is an unusually intricate network of rural roads in the northwestern and north-central portions of the county.

Production and Storage Facilities (Commercial and On-Farm)

Klickitat County does not possess any commercial grain storage facilities. Although there are other counties in eastern Washington, which do not have commercial elevators, Klickitat is unique among these in its reasonably large number of on-farm storage sites. The eastern side of the county has several large private facilities and many smaller ones. There are also a number of smaller sites through the south-central part of the county. Even without commercial storage, total grain production in the county is 2,306,000 bushels, with on-farm storage capacity of 1,839,000 bushels.
Klickitat County
On-Farm Grain Storage
(Location and Capacity)
Lincoln County

Population

Although Lincoln County is comparatively large geographically, it has a total population of just 9,700. There are a number of small towns, which are located in the northern, eastern and southern sectors of the county. The central and western areas are sparsely populated but have an abundance of lakes and streams providing recreational opportunities.

Infrastructure

There are two east-west rail lines crossing the county, with two more entering and leaving in the southeastern corner. Roads and highways blanket the entire county with fairly complete coverage. More than half the towns are on or near rail. All of the larger commercial storage facilities have rail access. The majority of on-farm storage sites with greater capacity, on the other hand, are not located near the rail lines.

Production and Storage Facilities (Commercial and On-Farm)

In Lincoln County the combined storage capacity of commercial elevators and on-farm facilities is considerably greater than the 1995 total countywide production of 29,977,000 bushels. Commercial elevators alone can accommodate 30,289,000 bushels, with on-farm sites having a 8,048,000-bushel capacity. As mentioned above, most elevators are situated close to rail lines. On-farm facilities are concentrated in the western and eastern thirds of the county. The central third, running north and south, contains far fewer on-farm storage sites.
Lincoln County
Towns and Communities, Highways and Roads

- Towns and Communities
- State Highways
- Local and Rural Roads
Lincoln County
Rail Lines, State Highways and Towns
Lincoln County
On-Farm Grain Storage
(Location and Capacity)
Lincoln County
Grain Elevators
(Location and Capacity)
Okanogan County

Population

Okanogan County is a large county, which is covered almost entirely by the nearly as large Okanogan National Forest. The only two significant sectors not taken up by national forest are the Colville Indian Reservation in the southeast and the southern area of lakes and recreation areas. The majority of the population (36,900) is centered in the towns of Omak and Okanogan, which are in close proximity to each other in the south central part of the county.

Infrastructure

As is the case in many counties in eastern Washington, there is a concentration of development around rail lines running north and south through the county. Rail passes through most of the more populated towns. Despite the abundance of park land most of the county is accessible by road, with the notable exceptions being a very significant portion of the northwestern corner and a fair amount of the western part of the county.

Production and Storage Facilities (Commercial and On-Farm)

Okanogan County is not a major player in state grain production, with a total of 549,000 bushels in 1995. Commercial storage capacity is limited to 412,000 bushels at one site located on the southern edge of the county. This site is on the rail line, in contrast to the on-farm facilities, which are all found just east and northeast of the commercial site. Total capacity of these small sites is 55,000 bushels.
Okanogan County
Grain Elevators
(Location and Capacity)
Pend Oreille County

Population

Pend Oreille County, being host to both Colville National Forest and Kaniksu National Forest, as well as a number of Native American Indian reservations and wildlife areas, has a relatively small population of 10,700 people. Virtually every town is located along a main track extending from the west side of the northern border to the southeastern border of the county.

Infrastructure

The main roads and the single rail line follow the same path described above. Lesser roads provide sufficient access to the many outdoor recreational opportunities in the county. The southern half of the county has a more developed system of roads, which is more limited in the northern half due to the prevalence and remoteness of the wilderness areas in that sector.

Production and Storage Facilities (Commercial and On-Farm)

Total grain production in Pend Oreille County was limited to less than 30,000 bushels in 1995. There are no commercial storage facilities inside the county lines. Grain storage is confined to a few on-farm storage sites, which have a total capacity of 31,500 bushels. All of these are located in the southern half of the county, and all but one are situated very near the southern county border. These southern storage sites do not have any direct rail access in Pend Oreille County, or on the other side of the border in Spokane County.
Pend Oreille County
On-Farm Grain Storage
(Location and Capacity)
Spokane County

Population

Spokane County has the largest metropolitan area in eastern Washington, with a total population of 401,200. The city of Spokane itself accounts for 188,800 of the county's residents. However, there are numerous small towns spread over the county, with the north, east and central regions being the most populous. There are less developed sub-regions in the south, northwest and northeast. The Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge is located in the south, and the northwestern and northeastern areas are recreationally oriented, with lakes, rivers, mountains and parks.

Infrastructure

Logically, the county with the highest population also has the most extensive infrastructure of rail, highways and rural roads in eastern Washington. Rail lines crisscross the county, bisect each other, and run parallel in a variety of directions. Only the northwestern and northeastern sectors mentioned above are without rail access. Highways and/or local roads traverse the entire county, without exception, so that most commercial elevators have both road and rail access.

Production and Storage Facilities (Commercial and On-Farm)

At 9,657,000 bushels of grain in 1995, there is definitely significant production in Spokane County. As is to be expected, there is virtually no production in and around the Spokane metro area. Instead, storage facilities surround the city, with the greatest concentrations in the west, north and southeast sectors of the county. Both commercial facilities, with a capacity of 11,205,000 bushels, and on-farm storage sites, which can hold 3,910,000 bushels, follow the same three-sector distribution pattern. The county contains on-farm facilities of all sizes, but there is an especially large number of smaller sites.
Spokane County
On-Farm Grain Storage
(Location and Capacity)
Spokane County
Grain Elevators
(Location and Capacity)
Stevens County

Population

Stevens County is dominated by the Colville National Forest, which helps explain the limited population of 35,400 inhabitants. Small towns are scattered around the county, but notable concentrations are limited to a thin strip of land running north and south along the entire length of the county. Colville and Chewelah are two of the larger towns in this area.

Infrastructure

Rail lines run north and south following the same path as the population centers. The few elevators in the county, and a great many of the on-farm storage facilities, are served by rail. There exists an extremely intricate grid of local and rural roads serving every section of the county, even extending throughout the national forest and in the area surrounding the Coulee Dam Recreation Area in the southwestern part of the county.

Production and Storage Facilities (Commercial and On-Farm)

Considering the domination of land use by national forest and recreation areas in Stevens County, the level of grain production is somewhat significant. Total production in 1995 was 845,000 bushels. This production is concentrated along the population centers in the middle of the county, as indicated by the location of the on-farm storage sites. Total capacity of the on-farm storage sites is currently 510,000 bushels. Elevators in the county can store up to 1,538,000 bushels. The majority of the elevator capacity is due to a large facility along State Highway 25 in the town of Hunters, situated along the southeastern border of the county.
Walla Walla County

Population

Walla Walla County has a total population of 55,802. Although a large portion of the inhabitants is concentrated in or near the city of Walla Walla, there are also many small towns spread evenly throughout the county.

Infrastructure

The uniformity of the population distribution has created an infrastructure of both roads and rail, which also stretches fairly consistently across the county, outside the one urban center of Walla Walla. Although most sectors of the count contain rail lines, only those in the eastern portion are currently used by elevator operators to any significant degree, as very few storage facilities are located near the western lines.

Production and Storage Facilities (Commercial and On-Farm)

In 1995, total grain production (wheat and barley) in the county was 15,890,000 bushels. Commercial storage facilities, which are generally concentrated near the city of Walla Walla in the southeastern part of the county, have a capacity of 14,896,000 bushels. Considering the relatively high level of grain production in the county, there are fewer grain elevators than might be expected. This could be explained by the large amount of on-farm storage sites when compared to the number of elevators. Where most other counties show a closer relation between number of elevators and number and size of on-farm storage sites, in this county dependence on the on-farm alternative is seen. Total capacity of the on-farm sites is 4,529,000 bushels. For the most part, on-farm facilities follow the uniform distribution pattern of the population, production, and infrastructure.
Walla Walla County
On-Farm Grain Storage
(Location and Capacity)
Walla Walla County
Grain Elevators
(Location and Capacity)
Whitman County

Population

Apart from the semi-urban town of Pullman, Whitman County has a very uniform distribution of small towns throughout the county. With a slight emphasis on the eastern half of the county, due to sparse population on a strip that runs down the western border, the total population reaches 40,500.

Infrastructure

The distribution of the highway, road and rail is easily explained by the county's position as far and away the largest wheat producer in the state. The population and infrastructure closely follow the pattern of grain producing farmland, with large parcels distributed evenly throughout the county. There is an abundance of rail access in every sector, although several of the largest commercial storage facilities are not on rail lines. However, all of these sites are located near highways. On-farm storage sites are so numerous, the specific form of access to transportation for each one is difficult to determine.

Production and Storage Facilities (Commercial and On-Farm)

At the heart of eastern Washington grain production is Whitman County with 41,417,000 bushels of wheat and barley in 1995. Both commercial and on-farm storage facilities saturate the panorama of the entire county. Interestingly, as high as the production is, the storage capacity is actually disproportionately greater. Commercial storage facilities alone have a 37,600,000-bushel capacity. And the seemingly innumerable on-farm sites add up to an additional 23,034,000 of storage capacity. With over 60,000,000 in capacity between the two storage methods and the considerable presence of both modes of ground transportation, the county seems to be a hub for grain movement, as well as the leader in production.
Whitman County
Rail Lines, State Highways and Towns
Whitman County
Grain Elevators
(Location and Capacity)
Yakima County

Population

Yakima County is one of the most populous counties in eastern Washington with 204,100 people, located along a corridor that runs from the north-central county border down to the east-central border. The Wenatchee National Forest occupies the majority of the western side of the county and the federal government uses the northeastern sector for military purposes.

Infrastructure

Accordingly, in Yakima County the road and rail infrastructure follows the north to east population pattern. The above-mentioned corridor includes an abundance of rail lines and an intricate grid of highways and roads. The rail lines run through the majority of the towns in the county and are also accessible to the commercial grain storage sites.

Production and Storage Facilities (Commercial and On-Farm)

As should be expected, since Yakima County’s agricultural focus tends toward other commodities, grain production is not an extremely significant commercial activity in Yakima County. Total combined wheat and barley production in the county for 1995 was 2,631,000 bushels. There are very few commercial storage facilities in the county, with a total capacity of only 1,307,000 bushels. Also, a sparse number of on-farm storage sites, which have a maximum capacity of only 245,000 bushels, mean storage in the county does not even approach the amount of production. All of the commercial and private storage sites are found within the more heavily populated zone of the county.
Yakima County
On-Farm Grain Storage
(Location and Capacity)