



**Cowlitz County** was organized in 1854 from Lewis County and was one of the first counties created by Washington's First Territorial Legislature. It is named after the river that Lewis and Clark called Cow-e-liske or "river of the shifting sand." It is located in the southwestern part of the state and is bounded on the south by the Columbia River. The Cowlitz River was an early avenue of transportation to the Puget Sound region and on each end of the river there took place one of the two conventions that petitioned the U.S.

government for Washington's territorial status, the Cowlitz Convention in 1851 and the Monticello Convention in 1852. Today the county produces and ships timber products, meals and agricultural products. Its port facilities on the Columbia River are continually growing in capacity.

**Bounded by:** Lewis County (N), Skamania County(E), Clark County (S) and Wahkiakum County (W)

**County Seat:** Monticello (1854-1865), Freeport (1865-1872), Kalama (1872-1922) and Kelso (1922-present).

**Chamber(s) of Commerce:**

Castle Rock Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 721, Castle Rock, WA 98611. Phone 360-274-6603.

Cowlitz County Dept. of Tourism, 207 4th Ave N, Kelso, WA 98626. Phone 360-577-3137.

Kalama Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 824, Kalama, WA 98625. Phone 360-673-6299.

Kelso-Longview Chamber of Commerce, 1563 Olympia Way, Longview, WA 98632. Phone 360-423-8400. Fax 360-423-0432 Website [www.kelsolongviewchamber.org](http://www.kelsolongviewchamber.org) email:

[info@kelsolongviewchamber.org](mailto:info@kelsolongviewchamber.org)

Woodland Tourist Information Center, 900 Goerig, PO Box 1012, Woodland, WA 98674. Phone 360-225-9552. Fax 360-225-3490.

Yale Information Center, West of Cougar on Hwy 503, Amboy, WA 98601.

**Courthouse:** County Administration Building, 207 Fourth Ave N, Kelso, WA 98626. Courthouse hours: Monday through Friday 8:30am to 5:00pm.

**Assessor:** Phone 360-577-3010. Fax 360-423-9987. *Need owner's name or address to locate on a map. Busy the last half of October and all of April and June. Phone calls acceptable.*

**Auditor:** Phone 360-577-3002. Fax 360-414-5552. *The best way to use records in this office is to know approximately what year the event was recorded and grantor and grantee names.*

**Clerk:** Hall of Justice, 312 SW 1st Ave. Phone 360-577-3016. Fax 360-577-2323. *Records through 1983 are available on film and accessed through reader/printer in our office. If interested in records from 1984-1992, it is suggested that a phone call to our Records Management Clerk ahead of time would assure the availability of the files when the party comes in - if they know exactly while file they need. Hours: 8:30am - 4:30pm.*

**Treasurer:** Phone 360-577-3059. Fax 360-548-2071.

**Genealogical Society:**

Lower Columbia Genealogical Society, PO Box 472, Longview, WA 98632-0472. *Membership available. Website: [www.rootsweb.com/~walcolgs](http://www.rootsweb.com/~walcolgs) E-Mail: [locoges472@yahoo.com](mailto:locoges472@yahoo.com) Involved in ongoing collection and publication of local records. Purchases materials that available for use at the Longview Public Library.*

**Health Department:** Cowlitz County Health Department, 1516 Hudson, PO Box 458, Longview, WA 98632-2158. Phone 360-425-7400. Fax 360-425-7531.

**Historical Society:**

Cowlitz County Historical Society, 405 Allen St, Kelso, WA 98626

**Libraries - Academic:**

Alan Thompson Library, Lower Columbia College, 1600 Maple, PO Box 3010, Longview, WA 98632-0310. Phone 360-577-2310. Fax 360-578-1400.

**Libraries - Public:**

Castle Rock Public Library, 137 Cowlitz St W, PO Box 1350, Castle Rock, WA 98611-1350. Phone 360-274-6961. Fax 360-274-6994.

Cowlitz County Rural Library District, 1339 Commerce Ave, Suite 311-B, Longview, WA 98632.

Kalama Public Library, 312 N First, PO Box 576, Kalama, WA 98625-0576. Phone 360-673-4568.

*Collection includes Pacific Northwest history materials, old framed photographs, and listing of Kalama school alumni since about 1927.*

Kelso Public Library, 314 Academy St, Kelso, WA 98626-4101. Phone 360-423-8110. Fax 360-425-5195.

Longview Public Library, 1600 Louisiana St, Longview, WA 98632-2993. Phone 360-577-3380. Fax 360-577-2037. *Collection includes genealogical materials purchased by the Lower Columbia Genealogical Society. The Longview Room Collection includes photographs, scrapbooks, original city plans, and manuscripts regarding the founding and growth of the city. Obituary file from 1923 on.*

Woodland Public Library, 770 Park St, PO Box 1480, Woodland, WA 98674-1480. Phone 360-225-2115.

**Libraries - Special:**

Cowlitz County Law Library, Hall of Justice, 312 SW First Ave, Kelso, WA 98626. Phone 360-577-3085.

The Daily News Library, 770 11th Ave, PO Box 189, Longview, WA 98632-0017. Phone 360-577-2511. Fax 360-577-2536. *Over 70 years of newspapers on microfilm. Records (births) computerized format since 1991.*

Longview Family History Center, 1721 30th Ave, Longview, WA 98632. Phone 360-577-8234.

**Museums and Historical Sites:**

Castle Rock Exhibit Hall, 147 Front Ave, Castle Rock, WA 98611. Phone 360-274-6603. *Featuring exhibits that convey the impact of the Mount St. Helens eruptions on the area. Recordings offer oral histories from eyewitnesses. Other exhibits include logging equipment and historical photographs.*

Cowlitz County Historical Museum, 405 Allen St, Kelso, WA 98626. Phone 360-577-3119.

*Membership available. Exhibits of 1884 log cabin, Native American artifacts, and photography collection tell the story of the many centuries of life in the Cowlitz Valley.*

**State Archive Branch:** Southwest Region (Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Skamania, Thurston and Wahkiakum counties). 1120 Washington St. SE, PO Box 40238, Olympia, WA 98504-0238. Phone 360-753-1684. Fax 360-664-8814. Research Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon and 1:30 p.m.- 4:30 p.m.

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