



**Columbia County, WA**

**PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR/  
COUNTY ENGINEER**

**\$95,000 - \$115,000**

*Plus Excellent Benefits*

*Apply by*

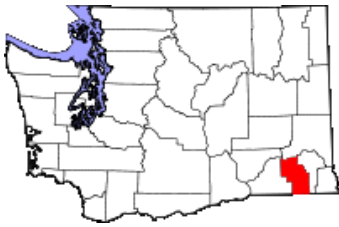
**July 8, 2018**

*(First Review, Open Until Filled)*

***PROTHMAN***



**WHY APPLY?**



Nestled at the base of the Blue Mountains, Columbia County is located in southeastern Washington, bordered by the Oregon state line to the south, the Snake River to the north, Walla Walla County to the west and Garfield County to the east. The County is mostly agricultural land that’s specialized in farming winter and spring wheat, barley, and dry beans as well as ranching and logging.

If you are an experienced engineering professional looking to lead a team of dedicated staff to provide excellent services to a close-knit small community in an area abundant with amenities, this is the right position for you!



**THE COMMUNITY**

With a population of roughly 4,000, Columbia County covers an area of just under 870 square miles and is the perfect place to experience all four seasons with its warm sunny summers, crisp yet moderate winters and spectacular springs and falls that fill the area with color. The area has picturesque landscapes with rolling hills, bountiful crops, and pristine rivers, along with private and national forest lands.

Columbia County has long been known as one of the most fertile agricultural areas in the nation, producing crops including winter and spring wheat, barley, and dry beans. Building on its original foundation of agriculture, Columbia County has encouraged economic diversification in order to remain vital and healthy while retaining its rural charm.



Dayton (pop. 2,500) is the county seat and largest city in the county, located just 30 miles northeast of Walla Walla and 60 miles east of the Tri Cities on Highway 12. Dayton is home to three national historic districts, including the oldest train depot and oldest working courthouse in the State of Washington and over 120 buildings on the National Historic Register. The City’s Main Street underwent a major revitalization in the early 1990’s and is now home to essential business services, unique shops, Victorian lodging, and some of the best restaurants and breweries in the state.

The second largest town within Columbia County is Starbuck; a small community of 125 that was once a booming railroad town, located near the Snake River at the north end of the county.

The Touchet Valley 9-hole golf course, nearby world class wineries, recreational trails, swimming pool, and local rivers allow for residents of all ages to enjoy a variety of recreational opportunities including picnicking, recreational sports, cycling, fishing, hunting, golf, and winter sports in the Blue Mountains. Just 30 minutes to the south, Ski Bluewood is an important source of tourism and seasonal employment for residents across the region, offering 400 skiable acres, clear skies and more than 300 inches of snow annually.

**THE COUNTY**

Columbia County is led by a three-member Board of Commissioners elected from three districts to staggered four-year terms. The County operates with 100 full-time equivalent employees spread over more than 13 departments, and has a 2018 operating budget of \$18 million.



The County departments include Assessor, Auditor, County Clerk, County Commissioners, Courthouse Maintenance, Emergency Management, Planning and Building, Prosecuting Attorney, Public Health, Public Transportation, Public Works, Sheriff, and Treasurer.

## THE DEPARTMENT

The Columbia County Department of Public Works consists of a diverse staff of 16 crew members, an operations supervisor, two engineering techs, two administrative specialists, an engineering intern, and two temporary summer field employees.

The Public Works Department is responsible for the planning, engineering, design, construction, operation and maintenance of approximately 535 miles of county roadways, and 63 bridges. Currently the department has 6 major projects being plan or underway including two road projects, three bridge replacements, and one grade project.

The Department's overall 2018 budget is nearly \$6.8 million broken out across six separate funds including \$5.1 million for county roads, \$1.9 million for equipment rental & revolving, \$267,000 for solid waste, \$178,000 for capital improvement, \$432,000 for rural excise, and \$24,000 for special paths.

## THE POSITION

Under the direction of the Board of County Commissioners, the Public Works Director/County Engineer is a professional engineer responsible for the planning, administrating, and coordinating of all engineering and associated activities related to construction and maintenance of county roads, bridges, solid waste activities, and other operations of the County Road Department. The Public Works Director/County Engineer directly supervises administration staff, engineering technicians, and maintenance superintendents.

### Other responsibilities include:

- Makes application for federal and state funding grants; environmental and other regulatory permits. Prepares budgets and advance programs for maintenance and construction of roads, bridges, and for equipment fleet and solid waste operations.



- Makes recommendations on engineering matters to the Board of County Commissioners and other County departments. Recommend manpower, equipment and capital improvements needs for the department's annual budget; review and approve engineering reports, estimates, and studies.
- Confer with County, State and Federal Government representatives on various road engineering needs and related activities.
- Represent the County and the road department at public hearings and meetings
- Required to maintain a current familiarity with the Revised Code of Washington (RCW's) and the Washington Administrative Code (WAC's) regarding all departmental functions.
- Prepares contracts for design and construction, or maintenance, of roads and bridges and other capital improvement projects.
- Acquires the necessary right of way for improvement projects in accordance with federal and state rules, procedures, and county policies, and serves as the Project Engineer in the design, construction, and administration of improvement projects.

## OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES

The County Engineer is in charge of every aspect of a very challenging, diverse and multi-faceted organization. Unlike many other engineering jobs, this position also involves duties as a Public Works Director. As the Public Works Director, this position has the authority and flexibility to choreograph the relationships between engineering, business/financial/budget management, asset/maintenance management, equipment management, facilities management, human resource management, public service, solid waste management and many other aspects related to the operation and management of a Washington State County Public Works/Highway Department.

This position is not only completely responsible for the organizations day to day operations, but is also responsible for long range planning, guiding the organizations path well into the future. This position is one of the most important public service jobs in the county. It is very rewarding at the end of the day to know you have done much to serve and protect the public.

**IDEAL CANDIDATE**

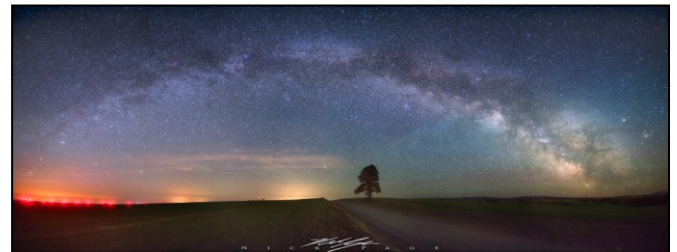
**Education and Experience:**

A Bachelor's degree in civil engineering or a related field, and three (3) years of progressively responsible professional engineering work involving a variety of assignments associated with the design, construction and maintenance of roads and bridges. Candidates must be a registered and licensed professional civil engineer in the State of Washington and have or obtain a Washington State driver's license by time of appointment.

**Necessary Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:**

- Thorough knowledge of the principles and practices of civil engineering as related to road and bridge design, construction, and maintenance; considerable knowledge of modern developments, current literature and sources of information relative to road and bridge engineering.
- Experience contacting and communication with county, state and federal agencies, public and private officials, other local governments, and the general public.
- Identify needs for consultant or outside services, approve selection, and negotiate contracts with those providers for studies, design and inspections.

- Ability to use independent judgment and discretion in the interpretation and application of laws, regulations, policies and engineering principles applicable to road and bridge design, construction, maintenance and administration activities of the Road Department.
- Working knowledge of the Washington Standard Specifications for Road, Bridge and Municipal Construction, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials Standards (AASHTO), Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), and other related standards and codes.
- Ability to control budgets with frequent review and analysis of invoices, payroll, accounting reports and other data; prepare and review projections for cash flow needs and monitor programs to ensure budgets and schedules are met.



**COMPENSATION & BENEFITS**

- **\$95,000 - \$115,000 DOQ**
- Medical, dental, and supplemental insurances \$850 per month allowance.
- Sick Leave
- Vacation
- Washington PERS Retirement Plan

**Please visit:  
www.columbiaco.com**

Columbia County is an Equal Opportunity Employer. All qualified candidates are strongly encouraged to apply by **July 8, 2018** (first review, open until filled). Applications, supplemental questions, resumes and cover letters will only be accepted electronically. To apply online, go to **www.prothman.com** and click on "submit your application" and follow the directions provided. Resumes, cover letters and supplemental questions can be uploaded once you have logged in. Photos provided by Nick Page Photography.



**www.prothman.com**

371 NE Gilman Blvd., Ste 310  
Issaquah, WA 98027  
206.368.0050