

Answers for the .09 Application Lewis County Public Works Middlefork Water & Sewer System WSP update.

What is your Public Facilities project?

Description:

Lewis County is initiating a comprehensive update of the Middle Fork Water System Plan (WSP) to comply with Washington State Department of Health (DOH) planning requirements. The existing WSP was last updated in 2005 and is now outdated, making the system ineligible for many infrastructure funding opportunities. This project will deliver a complete WSP that meets DOH standards and provides the foundation for long-term system planning, capital investment, and operational sustainability. The scope includes condition assessments of existing infrastructure, demand forecasting, water use efficiency evaluation, capital improvement planning, regulatory and policy updates, mapping, and stakeholder coordination. The Middle Fork system is currently operating at a financial deficit and is prohibited from implementing rate adjustments until the WSP is brought into compliance. Completion of this plan is critical to unlocking rate restructuring, funding eligibility, and future investment in system resiliency and reliability.

How Will This Project Create Or Retain Business Or Jobs?

Description:

While this project is focused on planning rather than construction, its economic impact is significant. A current and DOH-approved Water System Plan (WSP) is a prerequisite for securing future infrastructure funding, adjusting rate structures, and supporting system expansion. Without this plan, the Middle Fork system cannot apply for most state or federal funding or make critical upgrades needed to maintain reliable service. The WSP will directly support job retention and economic stability by enabling Lewis County to pursue capital investments in water infrastructure—such as reservoir upgrades, mainline replacements, and treatment system improvements—that are necessary for sustaining existing development and accommodating future growth. Reliable water infrastructure is a foundational requirement for business attraction and retention, especially in rural communities. This plan will help ensure that local employers and residential users continue to receive consistent service, while also enabling economic development by reducing barriers to new housing and commercial expansion. Additionally, by bringing the

system into financial and regulatory alignment, this effort will support long-term operational sustainability for County staff, consultants, and contractors engaged in implementing plan recommendations

Businesses:

Created (1 yr.) - Name/Number

businesses, home-based enterprises, and service providers, Allowing future economic growth in the region by eliminating infrastructure constraints

Retained (1 yr.) - Name/Number

Middlefork water system. Current number of active connections retained: 63

Direct full time jobs, Direct part time jobs, indirect jobs

Created (1 yr.) - Name/Number

While no new permanent positions will be created as a direct result of this planning effort, the project will involve contracted professional services (engineering, financial analysis, GIS) which will temporarily engage consultants, potentially supporting several short-term professional service jobs.

Retained (1 yr.) - Name/Number

Will directly affect retention of current residential users of the Middlefork water system. Current number of active connections retained: 63

What Is The Timeline To Completion?

Estimated WSP Timeline

June 25, 2025 – Pre-Planning Meeting with DOH

July 2, 2025 – Pre-Plan Agreement Executed

August–October 2025 – Consultant Procurement & Contract Execution

November 2025–December 2026 – Plan Development & Internal Review

January 2027 – Submit Draft WSP to DOH & Ecology

April 2027 – Receive First Round of DOH Review Comments (90-day review window)

May–June 2027 – Revise WSP per DOH Feedback

July 2027 – Final Submittal to DOH

October 2027 – Final DOH Review & Approval

Post-Approval – Plan adopted by BOCC; implementation begins