



Whitman County Economic Development Informational Meeting

September 16, 2026
11:45 am – 1:30 pm
The Center, Colfax

Economic Development Informational Meetings (EDIMs) are updates on the Port's implementation of the ADO's economic development plan. No business or official actions will be taken by the Port Commissioners.

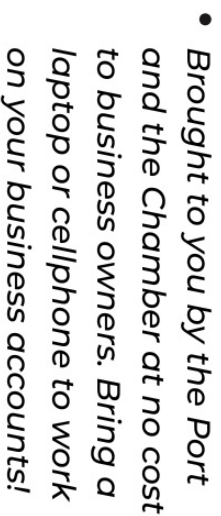
Agenda

1. **Welcome and Introductions** – 12:00 pm
2. **2026 Economic Development Plan**
 - a. **Small Business Development**
 - Update on Washington Small Business Development Center (SBDC)
 - New Businesses in Whitman County
 - b. **Existing Business Retention & Expansion**
 - Upcoming Business Trainings **(Exhibit 1)**
 - c. **Business Recruitment/Marketing & Advertising**
 - Update on Recent and/or New Business Leads **(Exhibit 2)**
 - AGPRO Facility Ribbon Cutting & Grant Award
 - d. **Economic Profiling**
 - Select Economic Indicators **(Exhibit 3)**
 - e. **Sites & Infrastructure**
 - Infrastructure Assistance Coordinating Council Conference Assistance
 - f. **Economic Development Advocacy**
 - Dark Skies for Conservation and Rural Tourism – James Fillmore, DarkSky International, Coeur d'Alene Delegate **(Exhibit 4)**
 - People for People Community Transportation Services – Craig Vantine, Transportation Coordinator
3. **Future Meeting Topics and Closing**

The next EDIM is scheduled for **November 18, 2026**. Port staff will keep EDIM participants informed if there are any changes to the meeting format.

Tekoa Library

Tekoa, WA

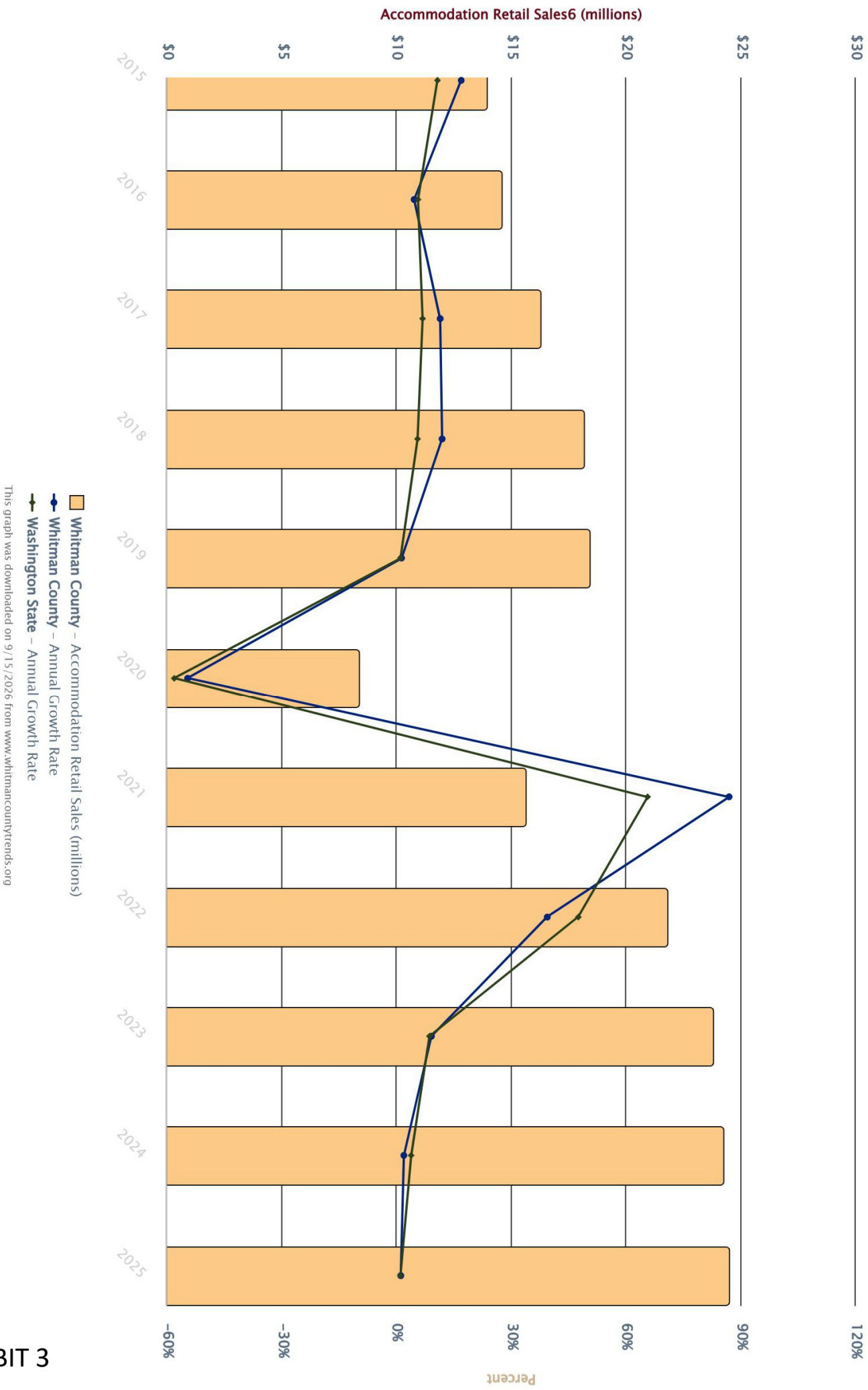


Business Leads

Project Completed or Permit Phase	New or Re-Activated Business Lead	Still Active Business Lead	Business Lead Cold or on Hold	Business Lead Closed	
Sep-25	COM	Project NOVA Manufacturing	250,000 square feet, 10-20 acres, 6M kWh power / year and 50,000 tons water / year	FTE: 100 Capital investment: \$40-50M	Commerce submitted site to client.
Dec-25	COM	Project Atlas	500,000-650,000 square feet, 24MW peak energy. Location well-served by transportation and urban amenities.	FTE: 550 Capital investment: \$229M	No sites meet preferred criteria.
Dec-25	COM	Project EquipmentsShare	5-8 acres industrial property with equipment rental / sales / service permitted use	FTE: 10-50 Capital investment: \$3M+	Port staff submitted site to client. Awaiting response.
Dec-25	COM	Project ClimateForge	50-80 acres need; 550,000–700,000 sq. ft. advanced manufacturing campus	FTE: 1000 Capital investment: Unknown	No sites meet preferred criteria.
Dec-25	COM	Project Alloyworks	Proposed facility will be approximately 120,000 sq. ft. and will house extrusion operations, heat treatment, finishing, and quality-testing functions. Need ability to support high-power metal-processing operations, with high-capacity electrical service and gas supply.	FTE: 150-200 Capital investment: Unknown	No sites meet preferred criteria.
Mar-26	COM	Project Horshoe	American aerospace company. This project is looking for three facilities: Manufacturing, Engine-Test and a Launch Facility. The Manufacturing and Launch facility would need to be within a 10-20 mile radius or access via barge.	FTE: 737 Capital investment: \$245M	No sites meet preferred criteria.
Apr-26	COM	Project Ellie	75,000 sq ft with airport access	FTE: 628 Capital investment: \$216M	Commerce submitted site to client.
Jul-26	COM	Project Coldfront ICT	Site within 1-hr of international airport, population of 500K+ within 45 minutes with depth in advanced manufacturing, engineering, and technical occupations.	FTE: 120 Capital investment: \$30M	
Aug-26	COM	Project Ivory	250 acres, 1 GW power, 5,000,000 gallons/day water	FTE / capital investment: Unknown	No sites meet preferred criteria.

Internal Information

8.2.1 Total Accommodation Retail Sales and Annual Growth Rate



Light pollution harms our health and wellbeing.



Over the past 100 years, humans have transformed the night, erasing the natural darkness with which we evolved. While artificial light at night is crucial to our modern world, it comes at a cost. Increasing scientific research indicates that artificial light at night has detrimental effects on human health and well-being.



Circadian rhythm disruption

Largely influenced by the light and dark, our circadian rhythm is our body's natural 24-hour regulating clock. Circadian disruption occurs when our internal clock is out of sync with the day-night cycle. Circadian disruption has been linked to an increased risk of obesity, diabetes, mood disorders, reproductive problems, and cancers.



Decreased melatonin production

While we are still learning about the relationship between artificial light and human health, we know that exposure to light at night—even at dim levels—can suppress the body's production of melatonin, a hormone that regulates our sleep-wake cycle, metabolism, and immune system.



Glare impairs vision

Irresponsible outdoor lighting at night can increase dangers rather than safety. Overly bright and poorly shielded lighting creates blinding glare, impairing vision, leading to dangerous missteps and accidents. Blue light, often used in newer LED streetlights, is more likely to create dangerous glare.

WHAT CAN I DO?



Live a healthy life in a world filled with artificial light.

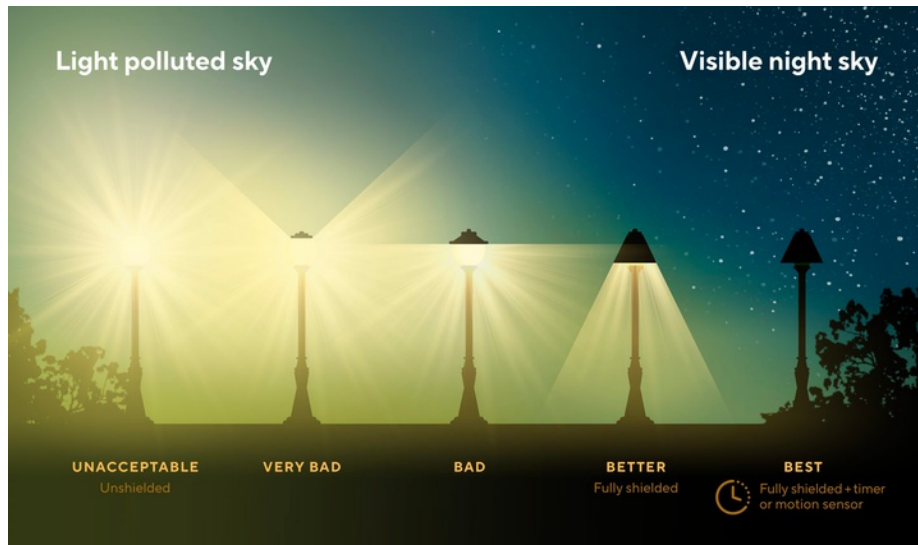
- Use fully shielded outdoor light fixtures to minimize the light that streams into your home.
- Use indoor light bulbs that emit warm white light with a color temp. of 3000K or lower.
- When it's time for bed, keep your bedroom dark by using blackout curtains and covering all light sources such as clock radios and charging stations.
- If you need a nightlight, use one with dim red or amber light. Red light is least likely to be disruptive.
- Try not to use devices with screens 30-minutes prior to sleeping. If you must use devices at night, install a color temperature app that reduces blue light levels.

YOUR LOCAL CHAPTER

What is light pollution?

Light pollution is the human-made alteration of outdoor light levels from those occurring naturally.

When we over-light, fail to use timers and sensors, or use the wrong color of light, we can negatively affect many parts of our world, including migratory birds, pollinators, sea turtles, and mammals, including humans.



What can I do about it?

The good news is that light pollution, unlike many other forms of pollution, is reversible, and each one of us can make a difference! Just being aware that light pollution is a problem is not enough — we need to take action.

- ✓ Use only fully shielded, DarkSky Approved fixtures for all outdoor lighting, so lights shine down, not up.
- ✓ Use only the right amount of light needed. Too much light is wasteful and harms wildlife.
- ✓ Install timers and dimmer switches and turn off lights when not in use. If you must have security lighting, use motion sensors.



- ✓ Turn off lights in office buildings and homes when not in use.
- ✓ Use only lighting with a color temperature of 3000 K and below to reduce the blue cool light that's more harmful to many animal species.
- ✓ Work with your neighbors and local governments to ensure outdoor lighting isn't harming the wildlife in your area.

Learn more at www.DarkSky.org

LIGHT POLLUTION FACTS

Components of light pollution

- **Glare** — excessive brightness that causes visual discomfort
- **Sky glow** — brightening of the night sky over inhabited areas
- **Light trespass** — light falling where it is not intended or needed
- **Clutter** — bright, confusing, and excessive groupings of light sources

Harmful effects of light pollution

A growing body of evidence links the brightening night sky directly to measurable negative impacts on:

- [Wildlife and ecosystems](#)
- [Human health](#)
- [Energy and climate change](#)
- [Crime and safety](#)
- [Night sky heritage](#)
- [Scientific research](#)

The problem is growing

Research indicates that light pollution is increasing at a global average rate of **ten percent** per year.

YOUR LOCAL CHAPTER

Join us!

Learn more by signing up for DarkSky e-news



A NIGHT SKY TOURISM GUIDE

FOR EXISTING TOURISM BUSINESSES

Night sky tourism is any tourism activity that happens **outdoors at night**, and is aligned with principles of ecotourism and sustainable tourism. This guide is designed to help you come up with an interesting and locally relevant night sky activity that will attract guests to your area and stimulate the local economy.

For more resources and support, visit
www.astrotourism.astro4dev.org or email
astrotourism@astro4dev.org



ABOUT THIS GUIDE

The global ecotourism industry is forecast to reach \$374.2 billion in 2028.

This guide is designed to assist individuals and businesses experienced in daytime tourism in expanding their horizons into night sky tourism.

The global ecotourism industry worldwide was estimated at \$172.4 billion in 2022, and forecast to reach \$374.2 billion in 2028. The trend of experience tourism has been steadily rising over the past years, with the personalised travel and experiences market size estimated to reach \$447.3 billion globally by 2030. As these industries grow and become more competitive, it becomes important to imagine tourism products that appeal to travellers seeking these kinds of experiences, and to explore and reimagine various forms of tourism.

Only 2 out of 10 people live under naturally dark skies.

Nighttime is a relatively untapped tourism asset so far — Astrotourism is a relatively recent industry that has capitalised on the pristine dark skies in places to sate their scientific curiosity about the night sky. While astrotourism is traditionally science-focused, this guide hopes to expand the definition of what is possible with the night sky and tourism by re-embedding our collective fascination with the night sky into a broader context that can align with ecotourism, cultural tourism, experience tourism, and sustainable tourism principles.

With an estimated 8 out of every 10 people living under light polluted skies, areas with low levels of light pollution have an incredible opportunity to offer travellers unique experiences. Nighttime activities also offer tour providers reduced competition compared to daytime activities, and almost all cultures have unique relationships to nighttime and the night sky, creating an ideal market opportunity for tourism activities at night.