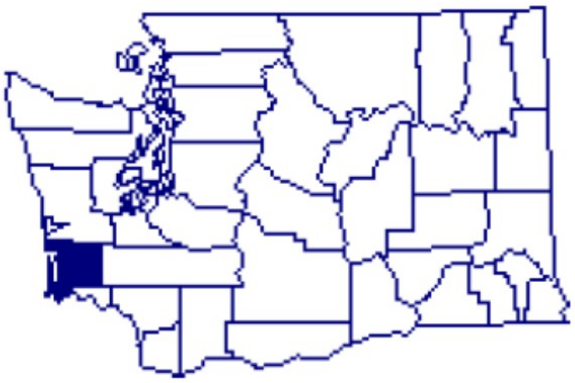

# Pacific County was organized in 1851 by the Oregon Territorial Legislature from Lewis County. It is named for the Pacific Ocean and is located on the far southwest corner of the state facing the Pacific Ocean. Lewis and Clark explored the county around Willapa Bay in 1806 and during the state's territorial days was a key point in the Washington Territory's water and stagecoach transportation system. Today, Pacific County's economy is based on wood products, agriculture and fishing.

**Bounded by:** Grays Harbor County (N), Lewis County (E), Wahkiakum County (S), and Pacific Ocean (W).

**County Seat**:

Pacific City (1851-1852), Chinook or Chinookville (1852-1855), Oysterville (1855-1893) and South Bend (1893-present).

**Chamber(s) of Commerce:**

Long Beach Peninsula Visitors Bureau, PO Box 562, Long Beach, WA 98631-0562. Phone 360-642-2400. Fax 360-642-8841.

Megler Washington State Visitor Information Center, PO Box 193, Ilwaco, WA 98642. Phone 360-777-8388.

Ocean Park Area Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 403, Ocean Park, WA 98640. Phone 360-665-4448.

Raymond Chamber of Commerce, 625 Heath, Raymond, WA 98577. Phone 360-942-5419.

South Bend Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 335, South Bend, WA 98586. Phone 360-875-5231.

**Courthouse:** 300 Memorial Ave, South Bend, WA 98586. Courthouse hours: Monday through Friday, 8:00am to 5:00pm.

**Assessor**: PO Box 86. Phone 360-875-9301, ext. 208. Fax 360-875-9402. *Records generally not available for self service searching. Searches done by staff are done on a time-available basis and billed at $8.00 per hour, with an $8.00 minimum.*

**Auditor**: PO Box 97. Phone 360-875-9309, ext. 313. Fax 360-875-9333.

**Clerk**: PO Box 67. Phone 360-875-9320, ext. 222. Fax 360-875-9321.

**Treasurer**: PO Box 98. Phone 360-875-9421. Fax 360-875-9402.

**Genealogical Society:**

**Health Department / District:**

1216 W Robert Bush Dr, PO Box 26, South Bend, WA 98586. Phone 360-875-9343. Fax 360-875-9304. Satellite office: 605 S Oregon, Long Beach, WA. Phone 360-642-9349.

**Historical Society:**

Ilwaco Heritage Foundation, 115 SE Lake St, PO Box 153, Ilwaco, WA 98624

Pacific County Historical Society, PO Box P, South Bend, WA 98586

**Libraries - Academic:**

**Libraries - Public:**

Timberland Regional Library, 415 Airdustrial Way SW, Olympia, WA 98501-5799. Phone 360-943-5001. Fax 360-586-6838. *The following are branches of this library system:*

Ilwaco Timberland Library, Box 520, 158 1st Ave N, Ilwaco, WA 98624-0520. Phone 360-642-3908. Fax 360-642-3908.

Naselle Timberland Library, PO Box 190, Parpala Rd & Rt 4010, Naselle, WA 98638-0190. Phone 360-484-3877. Fax 360-875-9305.

Ocean Park Timberland Library, Box 310, 1308 256 Place, Ocean Park, WA 98640-0310. Phone

360-665-4184. Fax 360-665-5983. *Has a genealogy special collection.*

Raymond Timberland Library, 507 Duryea St, Raymond, WA 98577-1829. Phone 360-942-2408. Fax 360-875-9307.

South Bend Timberland Library, PO Box 368, 1st & Pacific, South Bend, WA 98586-0368. Phone 360-875-5532. Fax 360-875-5532.

**Libraries – Special:**

Pacific County Law Library, 300 Memorial Ave, South Bend, WA 98586. Phone 360-875-9327. Fax 360-875-9321.

**Museums and Historical Sites:**

Fort Columbia House Museum, (Fort Columbia State Park, Hwy 101, Chinook, WA 98614), PO Box 488, Ilwaco, WA 98624. Phone 360-642-3078.

Ilwaco Heritage Museum, 115 SE Lake St, Ilwaco, WA 98624. Phone 360-642-3446. *Membership available*. *"The museum depicts frontier life in southwest Washington. Exhibits include Chinook Indian and pioneer artifacts and displays highlight the fishing, logging and cranberry industries." The museum's Research Library's resources include many local newspapers, index to all Pacific County newspapers 1889-1981, local history and genealogy periodicals, records of deaths prior to 1925, an indexed photo collection, vertical file of newspaper clippings and Ilwaco High School yearbooks.*

Knappton Cove Heritage Center, Knappton, WA.

Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center, Fort Canby State Park, PO Box 488, Ilwaco, WA 98624

Pacific County Historical Museum, 1008 W Robert Bush Drive, PO Box P, South Bend, WA 98586. Phone 360-875-5224. Membership available. *Genealogical resources available include: approximately 10,000 historic photographs, 1919-1944 Sanborn fire insurance maps for Raymond and South Bend, city and county directories and telephone books, local and Washington state reference collection, countywide cemetery records, census for 1860,1870, 1880, 1900 and 1910,school annuals and ledgers and payroll records.*

Willapa Bay Interpretive Center, Nahcotta, WA. *"Today, the oyster industry here is a shell of its former self, but a replica of an oyster station house successfully transports visitors back to the boom times. Known as the Willapa Bay Interpretive Center, the five-year old center offers walls covered with quotes, notes and anecdotes, along with a film about the oyster industry and Willapa Bay ecology."*

Willie Keil's Grave, SR 6, 4.4 miles from Menlo.

**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. Email: SWBranchArchives@sos.wa.gov Research Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon and 1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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