



January 27, 2012

Stew Stone
North Stone Richland
1220 20th Street SE
Salem, OR 97302

Dear Mr. Stone,

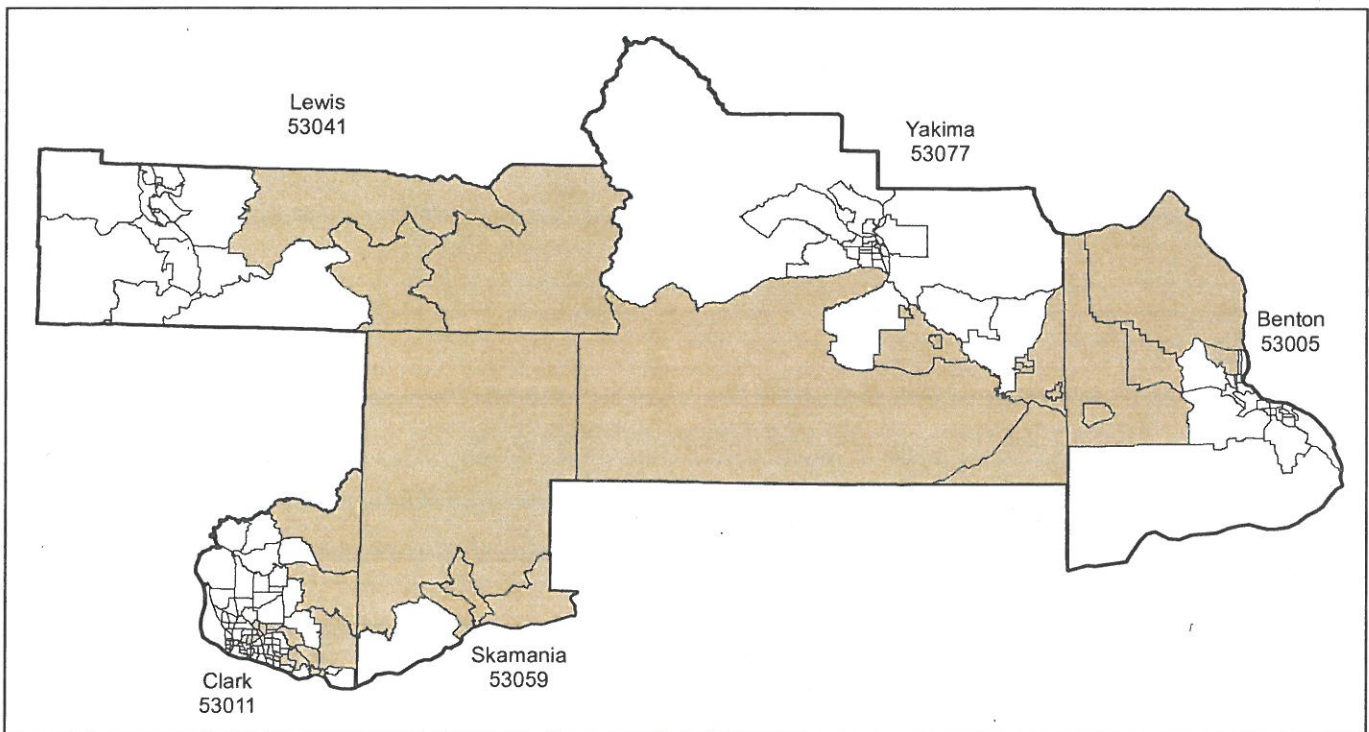
The Washington State Employment Security Department (ESD) has the delegated authority to certify areas of high unemployment, defined as unemployment of at least 150% of the national unemployment rate. To maintain consistency, the federal government has mandated that the labor force and unemployment estimates used to determine if areas meet the "high unemployment" definition should use methodology developed by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). The description of the overall methodology and the census-share method utilized by ESD to produce estimates for subareas can be found on the Internet at the BLS web site:

<http://www.bls.gov/lau/laumthd.htm>

The national unemployment rate for the most recent calendar year, 2010, is 9.6 percent. To qualify, a geographic area must have an unemployment rate of at least 14.4%. Ferry county is the only county in Washington State that has an unemployment rate for that time period that would qualify the county as a whole.

Using the official methodology for calculating the unemployment rate for sub-county areas, as identified above, the area you provided us consists of 38 census tracts. The area described is contiguous and has an unemployment rate of 15.3%, reaching the required rate and therefore meets the requirements of designating an area of high unemployment for purposes of investments under the EB-5 program of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). The tracts range from an unemployment rate of 0.0% to a high of 27.1%.

Map of Selected Census Tracts in Benton, Clark, Lewis, Skamania and Yakima Counties



Source: Washington State Employment Security Department

Definition of Customized Area and Qualifying Census Tracts, 2010 Annual Averages

Area	Unemployment Rate (2010)	Area of High Unemployment (At least 150% of National Rate)
United States	9.6%	
Washington State	9.6%	No
Benton County	7.2%	No
Clark County	13.7%	No
Lewis County	13.5%	No
Skamania County	13.2%	No
Yakima County	9.7%	No

Custom Area (provided by Jeffrey Carr)

Area	Unemp Rate (2010)	Area of High Unemployment (At least 150% of National Rate)
53005010201	3.0%	No
53005011700	9.5%	No
53005011800	9.4%	No
53005011900	11.9%	No
53005012000	0.0%	No
53011040101	13.9%	No
53011040504	17.9%	Yes
53011040506	8.8%	No
53011040509	21.0%	Yes
53011040604	10.7%	No
53011040605	21.4%	Yes
53011040606	8.4%	No
53011040703	13.1%	No

Area	Unemp Rate (2010)	Area of High Unemployment (At least 150% of National Rate)
53011040705	17.3%	Yes
53011040806	15.8%	Yes
53011041104	19.8%	Yes
53011041108	27.1%	Yes
53011041109	19.6%	Yes
53011041322	21.3%	Yes
53011041323	20.2%	Yes
53011041324	8.5%	No
53011041500	20.8%	Yes
53041971800	16.0%	Yes
53041971900	16.0%	Yes
53041972000	19.0%	Yes
53059950100	0.0%	No

Area	Unemp Rate (2010)	Area of High Unemployment (At least 150% of National Rate)
53059950300	14.3%	No
53059950400	17.3%	Yes
53059950500	16.8%	Yes
53077001800	11.0%	No
53077001900	14.7%	Yes
53077002001	18.0%	Yes
53077002002	15.5%	Yes
53077002300	15.5%	Yes
53077002400	12.9%	No
53077002500	21.0%	Yes
53077002701	15.4%	Yes
53077002702	19.8%	Yes
AREA TOTAL	15.3%	Yes

Source: Washington State Employment Security Department

Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me at 360.407.4601.

Sincerely,



Lisa Nordberg, Geographic Information Systems Specialist
 Washington State Employment Security Department
 Information Technology Services Division / Data Warehouse
 P.O. Box 9046
 Olympia, WA 98507-9046
lnordberg@esd.wa.gov