

COWLITZ COUNTY

1854

COUNTY SEAT: KELSO

Named for the Cowlitz Indian people and for the Cowlitz River

Traditional home of the Lower Cowlitz American Indian people

Cowlitz County has always served as a major travel corridor. The Cowlitz River, running north-and-south through the county, was a vital transportation route for local Indians, early fur traders and American pioneer settlers headed for Puget Sound. Wagon roads and steamboat routes led through Cowlitz County, followed by the region's first major railroad and later its first major interstate highway. It was on the banks of the Cowlitz that settlers met in 1852 to petition Congress for the creation of a new territory – eventually called Washington – north of the Columbia River.

10-28-02



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1854

*NAMED FOR THE COWLITZ INDIAN PEOPLE AND FOR THE COWLITZ RIVER
TRADITIONAL HOME OF THE LOWER COWLITZ AMERICAN INDIAN PEOPLE*

COWLITZ COUNTY HAS ALWAYS SERVED AS A MAJOR TRAVEL CORRIDOR. THE COWLITZ RIVER, RUNNING NORTH-AND-SOUTH THROUGH THE COUNTY, WAS A VITAL TRANSPORTATION ROUTE FOR LOCAL INDIANS, EARLY FUR TRADERS AND AMERICAN PIONEER SETTLERS HEADED FOR PUGET SOUND. WAGON ROADS AND STEAMBOAT ROUTES LED THROUGH COWLITZ COUNTY, FOLLOWED BY THE REGION'S FIRST MAJOR RAILROAD AND LATER ITS FIRST MAJOR INTERSTATE HIGHWAY. IT WAS ON THE BANKS OF THE COWLITZ THAT SETTLERS MET IN 1852 TO PETITION CONGRESS FOR THE CREATION OF A NEW TERRITORY - EVENTUALLY CALLED WASHINGTON - NORTH OF THE COLUMBIA RIVER.