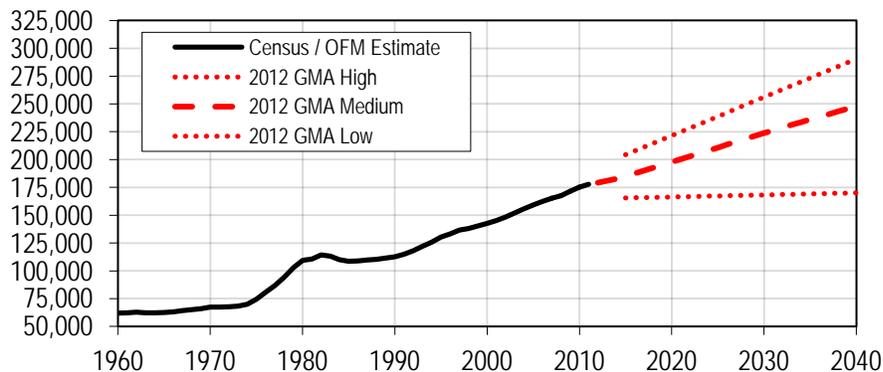


Monday, April 23, 2012

Dear Benton County Elected Officials and Planning Director,

In accord with RCW43.62.035, OFM has developed the 2012 Growth Management Act (GMA) provisional population projections for county review. Note these county projections reflect Census 2010 information and include consideration of the current recession's effect on migration and fertility behavior, which impacts many counties' projections. The preliminary county projections (low, middle, and high series) are shown in the table below, along with a graph illustrating the projections and the historical population trend.

Year	Population (Low)	Population (Medium)	Population (High)
2010 (Census)		175,177	
2015	165,472	184,882	204,292
2020	166,377	197,806	221,552
2025	167,282	210,803	238,812
2030	168,187	223,689	256,072
2035	169,092	236,007	273,332
2040	169,997	247,856	290,592



In compliance with the Paper Reduction Act (RCW 70.95.725), the complete review packet will not be mailed; instead, the relevant documents -- methodology description, provisional projections, age pyramids, and other GMA projection related demographic data -- will be posted on the OFM website at <http://www.ofm.wa.gov/pop/gma/projections2012.asp>.

Please review this preliminary population projection. If you would like to comment or have any questions, please send them to [pop.gma@ofm.wa.gov](mailto:pop.gma@ofm.wa.gov) or contact me by phone 360-902-0592. The comment period for county GMA projections will end on **Friday, May 11, 2012**.

Yours Truly,

Yi Zhao, Washington State Chief Demographer