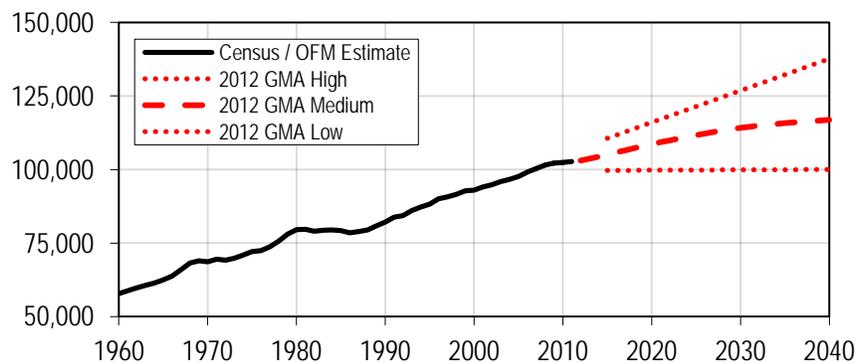


Monday, April 23, 2012

Dear Cowlitz 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)		102,410	
2015	99,690	105,130	110,570
2020	99,750	108,588	115,985
2025	99,810	111,706	121,400
2030	99,870	114,158	126,815
2035	99,930	115,798	132,230
2040	99,990	116,897	137,645



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 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