GOAL 9: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Goal: To provide adequate opportunities throughout the state for a variety of economic activities vital to the health, welfare, and prosperity of Oregon's citizens.

FINDINGS:

1. Historically, the primary economic base and the growth in Gilliam County has been tied to agriculture. Although agriculture remains as the primary economic base, there is a need to expand that base through diversification, both within the agricultural sector and within the economic sectors outside agriculture. Particularly, even though recognized and protected for the importance thereof, there is a distinct need and it is in the best interests of the County to diversify the economic base, particularly in relation to the need for providing employment for County residents.

Table - 1

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Source: Compiled from State of Oregon Division of Employment information.

POLICIES:

1. Adequate land in appropriate areas should be provided for industrial development.

2. When possible and appropriate, industrial lands should be located adjacent to or near existing industrial uses or an urban growth boundary.

3. Industrial uses may be appropriate in unincorporated areas of the County when necessary to be near a resource utilized by the industry, when a location adjacent to rail lines is important for shipping needs, or when warranted because of space needs or probable impacts from the use.

4. “Clean” or light industrial uses are preferable near city limits.
5. When considering whether land should be rezoned for industrial use, preference should be given to lands that are not irrigated, that have adequate sanitation and water, and that have adequate road access.

6. The permitting and approval process for new industrial development should be streamlined if possible.

7. When considering whether an industrial use should be permitted, the potential social, economic, environmental and energy impacts on the local area should be taken into account.

8. The development of high-speed communication and technology is encouraged within the County.

9. The County should allow commercial zoning in appropriate areas.

10. Commercial uses may be appropriate in unincorporated areas of the County when needed to support recreation, to allow the expansion of existing businesses, and to serve the needs of local residents.

11. The permitting and approval process for new commercial development should be streamlined if possible.

12. Provisions should be made for tourism and recreational development.

13. The County should consider the adoption of provisions to allow destination resorts in appropriate areas, in accordance with state statutory requirements.

14. A variety of types of tourist accommodations should be allowed in rural areas near recreational sites.

**Findings in Support of Goal 9:**

1. Gilliam County provides, to the greatest extent possible, opportunities for a variety of economic activities which are important to the economic health, welfare and prosperity of its citizens.