City of Umatilla

Community Profile

Population  6,300
Location  Umatilla

Position Description

Sponsor  City of Umatilla
Supervisor  Linda Gettman
City Recorder

Assignment  City Planning and Downtown Development. The City of Umatilla is a municipal corporation with a population of 6,300 and thirty-five city employees. The RARE participant placed with the City of Umatilla focuses on a variety of ongoing planning projects. Specifically, the participant assists with the implementation of the Umatilla Downtown Revitalization Small Grant Program; works with the Umatilla Development Corporation to develop a strategic plan to attract economic development to the area; coordinates city staff to create a capital improvement plan; and recruits and organizes volunteers for the Umatilla and Columbia River projects.

RARE Participant  Karla Nelson was raised in Spokane, Washington. She earned a BA in Environmental and Peace Studies from Gustavus Adolphus College in Minnesota. As an undergraduate, Karla spent time in Guatemala working with small scale Mayan farmers. Recently, Karla completed her Master’s of Urban and Regional Planning at Portland State University where she specialized in Land Use Planning. As a graduate student, she interned for the Oregon chapter of the American Planning Association. She also worked for the Planning and Development Services for the City of Boise, Idaho and Idaho Smart Growth. Following her RARE year, Karla hopes to work in community and economic development.