



**Session Title: Dealing with budget reductions: A presentation on how some County Officials have balanced public service with decreasing resources**

Beginning in mid-2008, Cowlitz County saw a serious decline in revenues as the result of a number of factors including the world-wide recession, reduction in federal and state shared revenues, reduction of timber revenues and the impact from property tax limitations. Local unemployment rates were rising, housing markets, retail sales and construction activity slowed. The Board of Commissioners took proactive steps to reduce the budget before cash flow became a crisis. Learn some of the challenges Cowlitz County faced, some of the strategies it employed and the impacts to its citizens and county agencies. The panel will share some lessons learned and tools for dealing with the “New Normal”.

- Presenters:**
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WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY OFFICIALS  
2011 ANNUAL CONFERENCE – CLARK COUNTY, WA

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