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Date: August 8, 2008
Timeline: For immediate release
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World's First..... Organic Food Processing Eco-Industrial Park!!!

"The world's first eco-industrial park dedicated to the recruitment and marketing of organic, artisan food processing companies will be located in Dayton, Washington," announced Jennie Dickinson, Manager, Port of Columbia. Dayton, located within the Port's economic development jurisdiction in Southeastern Washington, has a long and illustrious entrepreneurial history in agriculture and food processing. The eco-industrial park, named "Blue Mountain Station", is a natural evolution of that history and the changing nature of the food processing industry.

Washington has become a leader in the organic industry. Washington State University in Pullman, less than a two-hour drive from Dayton, created the first organic farming degree and online certificate in organic agriculture program in the United States. The Port of Columbia is taking the next logical step, partnering with food specialists in a number of disciplines to develop a fully integrated certified organic food chain from the farmer to the processor to the wholesaler and, finally, to the retailer. "Blue Mountain Station" will create an "umbrella brand" where organic, artisan food processing companies can participate in the many advantages of locating in Blue Mountain Station, as well as local, regional, national and international marketing programs.

Small farmers and artisan food processors not currently certified as organic but desiring to participate in the program will be provided professional assistance to successfully achieve the transition. "Blue Mountain Station creates a new model in industrial park development," Dickinson said. "We believe that organic food processing is the right industry, Dayton is the right place and now is the right time." After initial research confirmed that such a project was viable, the State of Washington provided grant funding to the Port of Columbia for continued project development.

For more information contact Jennie Dickinson, Manager, Port of Columbia, at phone 509-382-2577 or email at jennie@columbiainet.com.



The Port of Columbia's mission is to maximize public resources and private investment to create jobs, provide infrastructure, and maintain and improve the economic vitality of Columbia County and its communities.