



In 1958, the Port of Benton was one of nine ports created by the voters in Washington state. Governed by three elected Commissioners, the Port of Benton covers two-thirds of Benton County. The port provides property for businesses, airport operations in Richland and Prosser, and 16 miles of rail and barge facilities. The Port of Benton has a strong focus on small business and industrial development. Current Port of Benton Commissioners are Jane Hagerty, Robert Larson and Roy Keck.

The Port of Benton was created mainly from property received by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Richland. The first parcel was 290 acres known as Camp Hanford was transferred to the port in 1959, is now known as the Technology and Business Campus. The Port of Benton was officially declared a "Nuclear Port" in 1965 and is only one of five ports in the nation authorized to handle radioactive materials. The Port's public dock is primarily used by the U.S. Navy to offload decommissioned nuclear materials for long-term disposal at the Hanford Site.

The dock is located near the port's USS Triton Submarine Sail Park, a 23-foot tall sail and a key feature in north Richland. The Port recently received 760 acres of land for industrial development focused on clean energy manufacturers. Currently, the Port of Benton owns more than 2,500 acres of land and manages over \$80 million in assets.

The Port of Benton was one of the first ports in the State of Washington to start an incubator building to support small businesses. The Port also works closely with the agricultural community, primarily in Prosser, beginning in 1963 with Seneca juice company a facility now owned by Tree Top along with shipping facilities destined for Asia are owned by Zirkle Fruit. A dominant presence in the wine industry beginning in 1982 working with Hogue Cellars that has led to numerous other wineries starting or expanding their tasting rooms and production facilities within port properties.

This partnership includes higher education with 21 acres being donated by the Port in 1988 in Richland to the Washington State University Tri-Cities campus. This was followed by an additional 3.5 acres for the development of the Wine Science Center facility that serves wineries throughout the Pacific Northwest.

The Port of Benton also manages the 270 acres of Crow Butte Island for a camping, hiking and day use park facility located on the south end of Benton County along the Columbia River.

More information available at [www.portofbenton.com](http://www.portofbenton.com) or [historylink.org](http://historylink.org).