

COLUMBIA BANKING SYSTEM INC  
Form 8-K  
September 02, 2010

**UNITED STATES**  
**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

**FORM 8-K**

**CURRENT REPORT**

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of

The Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported):

September 1, 2010

**COLUMBIA BANKING SYSTEM, INC.**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

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(State or other jurisdiction  
of incorporation)

(Commission  
File Number)

(IRS Employer  
Identification No.)

1301 A Street

Tacoma, WA  
(Address of principal executive offices)

98402  
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (253) 305-1900

(Former name or former address, if changed since last report.)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (see General Instruction A.2. below):

- .. Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- .. Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- .. Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- .. Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

**Item 8.01 Other Events**

On September 1, 2010, Columbia Banking System, Inc. (the Company ) repurchased the common stock warrant issued to the U.S. Treasury pursuant to the Troubled Asset Relief Program ( TARP ) Capital Purchase Program for \$3.3 million. The warrant repurchase, together with the Company s redemption in August 2010 of the entire amount of Fixed Rate Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series A, issued to the U.S. Treasury, represents full repayment of all TARP obligations and cancellation of all equity interests in the Company held by the U.S. Treasury.

**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

Date: September 1, 2010

COLUMBIA BANKING SYSTEM, INC.

/s/ Melanie J. Dressel  
Melanie J. Dressel  
President and Chief Executive Officer