Union County Community Sensitivity and Resilience

This section documents the community's sensitivity factors, or those community assets and characteristics that may be impacted by natural hazards, (e.g., special populations, economic factors, and historic and cultural resources). It also identifies the community's resilience factors, or the community's ability to manage risk and adapt to hazard event impacts (e.g., governmental structure, agency missions and directives, and plans, policies, and programs). The information in this section represents a snapshot in time of the current sensitivity and resilience factors in the community when the plan was developed. The information documented below, along with the findings of the risk assessment, should be used as the local level rationale for the risk reduction actions identified in Section 6 – Mission, Goals, and Action Items. The identification of actions that reduce a community's sensitivity and increase its resilience assist in reducing the community's overall risk, or the area of overlap in Figure G.1 below.

≊USGS Understanding Risk Natural Hazard Vulnerable System Knowledge of Potential Catastrophic Exposure, Sensitivity and Resilience of: and Chronic Physical Events Risk Population Economy Past Recurrence Intervals of • Land Use and Development Future Probability Speed of Onset Infrastructure and Critical Facilities Disaster Magnitude Cultural Assets Natural Resources Duration Spatial Extent Ability, Resources and/or Willingness to: Mitigate Prepare Respond Recover Source: USGS-ONHW Research Collaboration, 2006

Figure G.1 Understanding Risk

Source: Oregon Natural Hazards Workgroup, 2006.

Community Sensitivity Factors

The following list documents the key community sensitivity factors in Union County.

Population

- Union County has minimal population growth (1.7% between 2000 and 2005), and an increasing number of persons aged 65 and above (16% in 2005 and an expected 20% in 2025). Elderly individuals require special consideration due to their sensitivities to heat and cold, their reliance upon transportation for medications, and their comparative difficulty in making home modifications that reduce risk to hazards.
- Community organizations that serve vulnerable populations are concerned with the lack of emergency transportation and services available to persons with special needs.
- Winter storms can cause freeway closure both east and west, stranding motorists and disrupting supply chains. Air Ambulance transports are not possible during severe winter weather.
- 2% of the total population over age five in Union County speaks English less than "very well."
- La Grande, population 13,000, is Union County's largest incorporated city; Residents of nearby towns rely on La Grande for employment, health services, and shopping needs. Resultantly, La Grande's population is higher during workday hours.
- The community organization, Head Start, has two concerns regarding natural hazards in Region 7: 1) children are left at Head Start centers for extended periods of time for weather-related hazards; 2) Head Start centers have inadequate food and water supplies on hand for emergencies. Head Start would like to have a better understanding of emergency services in the region.
- Union County has seven incorporated cities within its boundaries: Cove, Elgin, Imbler, Island City, La Grande, North Powder, Summerville, and Union. Depending on road closures and distances from La Grande, these cities are at risk of isolation (from transport, medical care, emergency services, etc.) during a disaster event.
- Northeast Oregon attracts tourists and hunters in both the summer and fall. A
 temporary increase in population places heightened demands on emergency response
 systems; additionally, uninformed hikers and campers may increase the
 community's risk to wildfire.
- Homeowners adjacent to or within floodplains are particularly susceptible to flood; In the County, forty persons hold National Flood Insurance Policies. Two policy-holders have experienced flood-related losses, and two policy-holders have experienced repetitive losses.
- Residents of Union County are relatively isolated from highly populated urban areas and services. La Grande, the largest incorporated city in Northeast Oregon, is 260 miles from Portland.

• All buildings and homes within Union County, and particularly those on the valley floor, are subject to severe weather, including ice and snow storms, lightning storms, hail, heavy rain, and fast winds.

Economic Assets

- Eastern Oregon University provides the County with employment opportunities, infrastructure that can support cultural and educational offerings, and on-line business-related programs. Additionally, several student organizations provide services to the community.
- Major employers include Boise Cascade Mills, Fleetwood Travel Trailers, Nash Trailers, Borden Chemical Company, Blue Mountain Caskets, government agencies and/or departments, and schools.
- Currently, municipalities in the Region 7 do not maintain continuity of operations plans. COOPs can help communities plan for the continuation of critical services in the event of disaster.
- Union County supports a variety of small, locally-owned businesses through which a
 number of workers are employed. Small businesses are particularly susceptible to
 economic losses created by power outages and structural damages.
- Transportation systems (i.e., interstates, Union Pacific Railroad, airports) are vital to the region's economic stability and pursuits.
- The City of Cove maintains a hydroelectric power-plant. Although not dependent on the plant for power needs, Cove is required to produce a certain amount of power per year. Should drought or power-outages frequently occur, Cove may financially struggle.
- Recreational opportunities and annual fairs / events bring tourism and economic benefits to the County.
- Future renewable energy endeavors (i.e., wind farms and biomass productions) may bring additional growth and financial stability to Union County.
- Three mills in Union County have closed or reduced employment levels following timber harvesting reductions on public lands.
- According to the Northeast Oregon Economic Development District's
 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, "The quality of life in the [region]
 has been identified by residents as one of the major assets of the area and is expected
 to help attract new businesses."

Cultural and Historic Assets

• The National Register of Historic Places lists twenty buildings in Union County. Additional cultural assets include outdoor recreational opportunities (see Natural Resources), the new La Grande library, the Oregon Trail, five museums, the Union brick foundry, Hells Canyon Scenic Route / All-American Road, and the Grande Ronde Symphony Orchestra.

 Eastern Oregon University offers both cultural and historic assets: Pierce library and Inlow Hall hold historic documents, and the theater and athletic buildings provide for numerous cultural opportunities including symphonies, plays, and athletic events.

Critical Facilities and Infrastructure

- The Grande Ronde Hospital, small clinics, and drug stores provide vital services and medicines for all of Union County. Elgin and Union residents have access to one local clinic each, and La Grande offers three. The Grande Ronde Hospital sits on a slope where previous landslides have occurred; it is also in the wildland-urban interface where potential fires may occur.
- Eastern Oregon University is a tremendous asset to the surrounding community.
 The University offers a variety of human expertise, medical support personnel
 (OHSU Nursing and CERT teams), multiple local and state-wide partnerships, water supplies (swimming pool), construction equipment, snow-removal equipment, monitoring equipment, earthquake-resistant buildings on high ground, a steam plant generator, and building space for trainings, shelter, food preparation and sanitation.
- Pierce Library and Inlow Hall at Eastern Oregon University contain a number of historic documents. The library additionally maintains the communication systems through which the university connects with distance education students. Floods and earthquakes pose concerns for the secured content within these buildings.
- Badgley Hall at Eastern Oregon University contains a number of hazardous materials. The building has been secured by deep footings, but should a highmagnitude earthquake occur, these materials may be released.
- Interstate 84, the Union-Pacific Railroad, bridges, the airport, and minor roads are
 all vital for the transportation of persons, goods, and services within Union County.
 Residents of the smaller cities in Union County rely on roads for access to La
 Grande's medical services, employment, and resources that are otherwise locally
 unavailable.
- Government buildings and emergency dispatch centers/facilities are vital to the economy and coordinated safety for the region.
- Industries, mills, and small businesses are critical to the region's sustained economy. Likewise, strong schools, social, and service organizations are vital for the long-term successes of small communities. (See below for a listing of programs and organizations within Union County).
- Emergency responders, including the American Red Cross and police and fire departments, provide critical services within the County's populated areas. With the exception of Island City and Summerville, each city has its own paid or volunteer fire department. Local police departments, however, are present only within the cities of Elgin, La Grande, and Union.
- Fuel and oil pipelines, as well as electricity, natural gas, telephone, internet, and cable companies are essential resources to Union County residents. Each community relies on ground and well-water sources, and with the exception of Imbler and Summerville, wastewater treatment systems are in place. Communication systems (i.e., the Mt. Emily repeater site, radio, and internet

services) support businesses and emergency service operations. Infrastructural redundancy does not exist, unless particular entities maintain on-site generators.

Natural Resources

- 48.1% of Union County is publicly-owned and includes the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, Umatilla National Forest, and areas of the Eagle Cap Wilderness. Recreational opportunities are abundant.
- A combination of climate, fuels and terrain make Union County prone to wildfire.
 Unmanaged wildfires can lead to floods, landslides, and loss of habitat. Floods have the potential to change the drainage channel, cause erosion and sedimentation, and impact fisheries habitats.
- The Grande Ronde Model Watershed manages and coordinates habitat restoration
 on both private and public lands within the Grande Ronde Basin. Watersheds, wells,
 and reservoir sites are particularly vulnerable to both drought and wildfire.
- The region's wildlife populations are critical for habitat stability as well as for tourism and hunting opportunities.
- Landslides have the potential to block streams; areas in Union County where landslide damming may occur include a spot 28 km south of La Grande along Wolf Creek, a point 24 km southwest of La Grande along Beaver Creek, and along Pearson Creek 17 km southeast of Pilot Rock. Channels at the mouths of both Mill Creek and Deal Creek are cut into Holocene mudflow deposits on the west side of the La Grande. Both channels contain remnants of younger mudflows.

Land Use and Development

- Union County wildland-urban interface areas include: Morgan, Cove, Mt. Emily, Palmer, Perry/Hillgard, Stubblefield, Beaver Creek Watershed, Catherine Creek, Blue Springs, Medical Springs, Kamela, Pumpkin Ridge/Ruckle, Elkanah, Clark, Rysdam, and Starkey (as listed in the Union County Community Wildfire Protection Plan).
- The City of Union expects to see local growth; global online distributors have recently purchased large portions of land for warehousing sites and a new windmill facility is slated for construction in the near future. The majority of the City of Union resides in a 100-500 year floodplain.
- The valley floor supports agricultural activities; surrounding slopes support livestock grazing and timber resources. Current and future development trends are minimal in most areas of the county. The average annual growth rate is projected at 0.7% over the next 18 years, and most of the growth will occur inside incorporated areas. La Grande and Island City will receive 75% of the County's future growth.
- The Grande Ronde Hospital sits on a slope where previous landslides have occurred; it is also in the wildland-urban interface where potential fires may occur.
- Many of the landslides in the immediate vicinity of La Grande are slow moving, unstable wedges of soil and rock along the West La Grande fault zone. Structures

constructed on these unstable surfaces are susceptible to damage from slope movement.

Community Resilience Factors

The following documents the key community resilience factors in Union County including a description of the local government's structure, existing plans and policies, and community organizations and programs.

Government Structure

Union County employs a county clerk, District Attorney, Sheriff, Treasurer, and three commissioners, along with the following departments:

Emergency Services

The Emergency Services Program serves to aid the citizens of Union County by managing all types of emergencies. The Emergency Operations Plan, the Program's all-hazard approach to emergency management, is used to mitigate, prepare, respond, and recover from the effects of war, natural disaster, technological accidents, and other major incidents.

Economic Development

The Department of Economic Development links citizens to four opportunities: The Northeast Oregon economic Development District (NEOEDD), Union County Economic Development Corporation (UCEDC), Oregon Economic & Community Development Department (OECDD), and Oregon Small Business Development Center (OSBDC). NEOEDD is a public organization established in 1985 to serve Baker, Union, and Wallowa Counties. Their services include training and technical assistance, business assistance, strategic planning, and program administration/staffing. UCEDC is a non-profit organization comprised of leaders from the private sector, cities and county who work as a team to maintain and enhance the quality of life found in Union County. UCEDC networks with other economic development organizations to help businesses and individuals in Union County. The Union County Economic Development Corporation is a partner with a number of community, regional and statewide organizations to promote economic development in the area. OECDD provides economic and community development and cultural enhancement throughout the state, and administers programs that assist businesses, communities and people. OSBDC services include financial, marketing, production, organization, international trade and feasibility studies. The group assists in developing business plans, assessing markets, creating cash flow projections, or controlling costs.

Planning

The Union County Planning Department is responsible for the preparation and maintenance of the county's land use plan and zoning ordinances, administration and implementation of the regulations, processing public requests for special district annexations, and road creations and vacations. The county land use plan is periodically reviewed and updated through a public review process. Department staff provides information, application assistance and documentation on the

regulations to the general public. The department also provides assistance to the County Planning Commission and Board of Commissioners when they are involved in land use regulation decisions.

Public Works

A myriad of internal departments comprise the Union County Public Works Department (UCPWD). Among these are the Road Department, Equipment Maintenance Department, Traffic Control and Vegetation Management. Current funding is received from timber receipts and gasoline taxes exclusively.

Road Department

The Road Department's goal is to ensure that the traveling public has a safe and efficient roadway system. The maintenance duties include, but are not limited to, asphalt and gravel road maintenance, snow removal, bridge maintenance and general right-of-way maintenance.

Traffic Control Department

The Traffic Control Department installs and maintains the signs, signals, and pavement markings that provide information and guidance to commuters. The Department additionally regularly inspects bridges.

Existing Plan & Policies

Communities often have existing plans and policies that guide and influence land use, land development, and population growth. Such existing plans and policies can include comprehensive plans, zoning ordinances, and technical reports or studies. Plans and policies already in existence have support from local residents, businesses and policy makers. Many land-use, comprehensive, and strategic plans get updated regularly, and can adapt easily to changing conditions and needs. i

The Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan includes a range of recommended action items that, when implemented, will reduce the county's vulnerability to natural hazards. Many of these recommendations are consistent with the goals and objectives of the county's existing plans and policies. Linking existing plans and policies to the Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan helps identify what resources already exist that can be used to implement the action items identified in the Plan. Implementing the natural hazards mitigation plan's action items through existing plans and policies increases their likelihood of being supported and getting updated, and maximizes the county's resources.

The following are existing plans and policies already in place within the community. A table further defining each of these plans and policies has been included at the end of this section.

- Union County Community Wildfire Protection Plan
- Union County Zoning, Partition and Subdivision Ordinance
- Union County Transportation System Plan
- Union County Comprehensive Land Use Plan
- Union County Flood Insurance Study
- Grande Ronde Subbasin Plan

Community Organizations and Programs

Social systems can be defined as community organizations and programs that provide social and community-based services, such as health care or housing assistance, to the public. In planning for natural hazard mitigation, it is important to know what social systems exist within the community because of their existing connections to the public. Often, actions identified by the plan involve communicating with the public or specific subgroups within the population (e.g. elderly, children, low income). The County can use existing social systems as resources for implementing such communication-related activities because these service providers already work directly with the public on a number of issues, one of which could be natural hazard preparedness and mitigation.

The following organizations are active within the community and may be potential partners for implementing mitigation actions:

- Air Life of Oregon
- American Red Cross Eastern Oregon Chapter
- Boy Scouts of America
- Child Care Resource & Referral
- Community Connection
- Cove Community Association
- Eastern Oregon Head Start
- Elgin Chamber of Commerce
- Elks Lodge No 433
- Fourth Street Medical Clinic
- Grande Ronde Child Center
- Grande Ronde Hospital, Inc.
- Grande Ronde Retirement Residence
- Habitat for Humanity
- Head Start Union Program
- Jodi's Adult Foster Care
- La Grande Downtown Development Association
- La Grande ONLINE.com, Online Community Resources, Inc.
- New Day Enterprises
- Oregon Rural Action
- Training & Employment Consortium
- Union County Chamber of Commerce
- Union County Extension Service
- Union Family Health Center
- Wildflower Lodge

A table including information on each organization or program's service area, types of services offered, populations served, and how the organization or program could be involved in natural hazard mitigation is included at the end of this section. The three involvement methods are defined below.

- Education and outreach organization could partner with the community to educate the public or provide outreach assistance on natural hazard preparedness and mitigation.
- Information dissemination organization could partner with the community to provide hazard-related information to target audiences.

 Plan/project implementation – organization may have plans and/or policies that may be used to implement mitigation activities or the organization could serve as the coordinating or partner organization to implement mitigation actions.

Existing Mitigation Activities

Existing mitigation activities include current mitigation programs and activities that are being implemented by the community in an effort to reduce the community's overall risk to natural hazards. Documenting these efforts can assist the community in better understanding its risk and can assist in documenting successes.

<u>DR-1510.0012</u> - Summerville Ice Loading Project – Oregon Trail Electric Co-op. Located along Courtney Lane near Summerville, OTEC installed new poles to support 21 spans of high voltage transmission lines against wind and ice storms. New poles were positioned between existing poles; shortening the span lengths greatly reduces line failures during icing conditions. The final project report and field inspection were completed on May 13, 2005 by Dara Decker from Union County, Robin Stone from OTEC, and Dennis Sigrist and Julie Slevin from OEM. Total cost: \$26,734.17

<u>March 3, 2001:</u> The La Grande Observer published an article on earthquake safety preparedness. The Red Cross supplied the following list of essential items and activities:

Necessary Items:

- A flashlight with extra batteries
- A battery-operated radio with extra batteries
- A one- to three- day supply of bottled water
- Non-perishable food
- An extra supply of prescription medication and a list of those medications
- A wrench to turn off gas and water supply if necessary
- A family evacuation plan

Activities

- Know where to shut off gas and water to the house
- Prepare a kit with items listed above. A duffel bag can hold the items
- Assess your house for earthquake danger such as heavy pictures and art
 with glass, and display cases with breakable collectibles that could pose a
 hazard should they fall. In most cases pictures and display cases can be
 secured to minimize the hazard
- Take a first aid/CPR class

2005: Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) spent \$1.1 million to bury copper wires under the eastbound right lane of I-84 from the Ladd Creek Bridge to near the top of the 6-percent grade. ODOT additionally installed wires in the left lane of the Ladd Creek Bridge. The wires are intended to help prevent the formation of ice, and to slow the accumulation of snow on one lane traffic in Ladd Canyon. The wires are not, however, capable of keeping the pavement bare during heavy snowstorms or weather below 24 degrees Fahrenheit. Between 1998 and 2002, police responded to an average of 31 wrecks per year on the nine-mile

section of freeway that includes this steep spot on Ladd Canyon – four times higher than the statewide average for rural freeways. (Baker City Herald, November 9, 2005).

ⁱ Burby, Raymond J., ed. 1998. *Cooperating with Nature: Confronting Natural Hazards with Land-Use Planning for Sustainable Communities*.

Name	Date of Last Revision	Author/Owner	Description	Relation to Natural Hazard Mitigation
Union County Community Wildfire Protection Plan	1-Aug-05	Union County and Oregon Department of Forestry	Sets forth action plan for addressing prioritized fuel reduction, treatment of structural ignitability, and increased collaboration to reduce the impact of wildland urban interface fires.	A CWPP can serve as the wildfire hazard annex of an all-hazard mitigation plan. Actions documented in a CWPP should be included in the local mitigation plan as well.
Union County Zoning, Partition and Subdivision Ordinance	Nov-83	Union County Planning Commission	The purpose of this ordinance is to promote public health, safety and general welfare of the citizens of Union County, encourage appropriate and orderly growth and development, implements the Union County Land Use Plan, and requires that age, gender or physical disability shall not be an adverse consideration in making a land use decision.	Article 17 reads as follows: "The Flood Plain (FP) Overlay Zone is a superimposed zone applied in combination with existing identified zones for the purpose of promoting the public health, safety, and general welfare and to minimize public and private losses due to flood conditions in specified areas." It includes many rules about design specifications while also describing where the base flood zones lie.

Name	Date of Last Revision	Author/Owner	Description	Relation to Natural Hazard Mitigation
Transportation System Plan, Union County, Oregon	1999		The Union County Transportation System Plan (TSP) identifies existing transportation facilities and provides guidelines for future planned and constructed transportation facilities until the year 2018. This TSP updates the transportation element of the Union County Land Use Plan and replaces the 1979 Union County Transportation Plan. It is intended to satisfy the requirements of the Oregon Transportation Planning Rule (TPR) and implement Statewide Planning Goal 12: Transportation, which is Oregon's transportation planning law. The TPR requires local jurisdictions to coordinate land use and transportation planning, and to consider all modes of travel.	The Transportation Plan may be a resource to identify which roads and transportation systems are most vulnerable to natural disasters. Likewise, the TSP can be utilized to implement mitigation measures aimed at protecting "transportation disadvantaged" populations in emergency situations. When updated in 2018, the TSP can also include mitigation elements in its implementation considerations.
Union County Comprehensive Land Use Plan	1978	Union County Planning Commission	"The three basic purposes of this Plan are (1) to encourage desirable growth, (2) to accommodate anticipated development, and (3) to make provisions for those uses which may be needed by a community, but which may have such undesirable characteristics as noise, smoke, or odor."	The section titled "Agricultural Grazing" on p.17 outlines flood, landslide, and forest fire hazards particular to Union County. On p.32, Union County plan policies are stated in relation to all three of Union County's major natural hazards.

Name	Date of Last Revision	Author/Owner	Description	Relation to Natural Hazard Mitigation
Union County Flood Insurance Study	3-Apr-96	Federal Emergency Management Agency, Federal Insurance Administration	"The purpose of this Flood Insurance Study is to investigate the existence and severity of flood hazards in the City of LaGrande, Union County, Oregon, and to aid in the administration of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 and the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973. Initial use of this information will be to convert LaGrande to the regular program of flood insurance by the Federal Insurance Administration. Further use of the information will be made by local and regional planners in their efforts to promote sound land use and flood plain management."	Section 2.3 "Principal Flood Problems" outlines areas in LaGrande that have been historically threatened by floods. Section 2.4 "Flood Protection Measures" outlines flood protection measures the city identifies to mitigate the flood hazard, some of which were in use at the time the study was conducted, others of which weren't.
Grande Ronde Subbasin Plan	May-04	Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program	The plan examines the subbasin from both an historical and a contemporary perspective, outlining factors such as hydroelectric dams and making other modifications (roads, rip rap, etc.) to riparian zones. The plan outlines goals for how to shape usage of the subbasin in the future.	The plan refers to wildlife habitat restoration in the flood plain as an issue to consider for future management of the subbasin. Flood mitigation may be considered in tandem with restoring the floodplain for wildlife or other purposes.

	Date of			
Name	Last	Author/Owner	Description	Relation to Natural Hazard Mitigation
	Revision			

City of Elgin Municipal Code	1996	City of Elgin	•	It outlines the flood hazard to direct building decisions so as to minimize losses to flooding
City of La Grande Comprehensive Plan	1983	City of LaGrande	To guide anticipated future land use within the City of La Grande	The section on p.29 titled, "Areas Subject to Natural Disasters and Hazards" outlines the two main hazards faced by La Grande, including landslides and flooding. It outlines which areas are subject to these hazards, which can act as a guide for future planning and development.

				Pop	oulat	ions	s Ser	ved		
Name and Contact Information	Description	Service Area	Businesses	Children	Disabled	Elders	English Second Language	Families	Low Income	Involvement with Natural Hazard Mitigation
Air Life of Oregon 60191 Pierce Rd. La Grande, OR 97850 Phone: 541-663-8657 Fax: 541-963-0199	Every second counts in a medical emergency. No one knows that better than the flight crew at Air Life of Oregon, an emergency air ambulance service that covers 100,000 square miles in Oregon. With bases in Bend and La Grande, Air Life is ready to respond at a moment's notice—24 hours a day, every day.	Union County		√	✓	✓		<	√	Information dissemination
American Red Cross Eastern Oregon Chapter 1806 Cove Ave La Grande, OR 97850 Phone: 541-962-0952	Blood gathering and donation services and first aid education	Union County		✓	√	✓		✓	✓	Information dissemination Education and outreach Plan/project implementation
Boy Scouts of America 2301 Adams Avenue La Grande, OR 97850 Phone: 541-963-2858 Fax: 541-963-2858	To provide numerous volunteer services to community members in addition to preparing boys and young men for active participation in community life.	Union County		√	✓	✓		✓	✓	Education and outreach Information dissemination

				Pop	oulat	ions	Ser	ved		
Name and Contact Information	Description	Service Area	Businesses	Children	Disabled	Elders	English Second Language	Families	Low Income	Involvement with Natural Hazard Mitigation
Child Care Resource & Referral 1916 Island Ave. La Grande, OR 97850 Phone: 541-963-7942 Fax: 541-963-8458	The Oregon Child Care Resource and Referral Network (OCCRRN) is a statewide network of 17 community based child care resource and referral agencies that work to improve the quality, accessibility, and affordability of child care for all Oregon families.	Union County		✓						Information dissemination
Community Connection 104 Elm Street La Grande, OR 97850 Phone: 541-963-3186 Fax: 541-963-3187	An advocate for and assist senior citizens, low income persons and persons with disabilities in attaining basic human needs and becoming more self sufficient. This will be accomplished by providing direct client services, stimulating more efficient use of existing resources, broadening the available resource base and providing decent, safe, sanitary and affordable housing for low and moderate income persons. Provides shuttle transportation around La Grande.	Union County			√	1			√	• Information dissemination

				Pop	oulat	ions	s Ser	ved		
Name and Contact Information	Description	Service Area	Businesses	Children	Disabled	Elders	English Second Language	Families	Low Income	Involvement with Natural Hazard Mitigation
Cove Community Association	Community volunteer association; assists in maintaining and updating the community's Emergency Response Plan.	Cove		✓				✓	√	Information dissemination
Eastern Oregon Head Start 180 N 10th Av Elgin, OR 97827 Phone: 541-437-5757	Head Start Program	Union County		✓				√	✓	Information dissemination
Eastern Oregon Head Start One University Blvd. La Grande, OR 97850 Phone: 541-962-3506	Oregon Head Start PreKindergarten	Baker and Union Counties	√							Education and outreach Information dissemination
Elgin Chamber of Commerce 104 N. 8th St. Elgin, OR 97827 Phone: 541-437-3456	Provide economic development assistance to local businesses.	Elgin	✓							 Education and outreach Information dissemination Plan/project implementation
Elks Lodge No 433 1124 Washington Av La Grande, OR 97850 – 2534 Phone: 541-963-2023	The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America will serve the people and communities through benevolent programs, demonstrating that <i>Elks Care and Elks Share</i> .	Union County		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	Information dissemination

				Pop	oulat	ions	s Ser	ved		
Name and Contact Information	Description	Service Area	Businesses	Children	Disabled	Elders	English Second Language	Families	Low Income	Involvement with Natural Hazard Mitigation
Fourth Street Medical Clinic PO Box 869 Elgin, OR 97827 Phone: 541-437-6321 Fax:541-437-8585	Medical Clinic	Union County		√	√	~		✓	√	Information dissemination
Grande Ronde Child Center 902 D Ave La Grande, OR 97850 Phone: 541-963-8666	Benefits and cares for emotionally disturbed children	Union County		✓						Information dissemination
Grande Ronde Hospital, Inc. PO Box 3290 La Grande, OR 97850 Phone: 1-541-963-8421	Grande Ronde Hospital is a private, not for profit, Critical Access Hospital (CAH). It is comprised of 25 beds, a Family Birthing Center, Home Care Services covering Home Health and Hospice, and a broad range of diagnostic, surgical and therapeutic outpatient services.	Union County		✓	~	✓		✓	✓	• Information dissemination

				Pop	oulat	ions	s Ser	ved		
Name and Contact Information	Description	Service Area	Businesses	Children	Disabled	Elders	English Second Language	Families	Low Income	Involvement with Natural Hazard Mitigation
Grande Ronde Retirement Residence 1809 Gekeler Ln. La Grande, OR 97850 Phone: 541-963-4700 Fax: 541-963-6519 Email: granderonde@frontiermgmt.co m	Frontier Management, LLC manages quality retirement, assisted living, and Alzheimer's Care communities	Union County				✓				• Information dissemination
Habitat for Humanity PO Box 111 La Grande, OR 97850 Phone: 541-663-9515	Habitat for Humanity International is a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry. Through volunteer labor and donations of money and materials, Habitat builds and rehabilitates simple, decent houses with the help of the homeowner (partner) families. Habitat houses are sold to partner families at no profit, financed with affordable, no- interest loans.	Union County						\		Plan/project implementation
Headstart Union Program 541 S Main Union, OR 97883 Phone: 541-562-6057	Headstart Program	Union County		✓						Information dissemination

				Pop	oulat	ions	s Ser	ved		
Name and Contact Information	Description	Service Area	Businesses	Children	Disabled	Elders	English Second Language	Families	Low Income	Involvement with Natural Hazard Mitigation
Jodi's Adult Foster Care 460 E Fulton St Union, OR 97883 – 9102 Phone: 541-562-5419	Nursing home	Union County			>	√				Information dissemination
La Grande Downtown Development Association PO Box 3321 La Grande, OR 97840	A mosaic of businesses seeking to develop a viable downtown that attracts business.	Union County	✓							Education and outreach Information dissemination Plan/project implementation
La GrandeONLINE.com, ONLINE Community Resources, Inc. 1211 Washington Ave. La Grande, OR 97850 Phone: 541-963-3700 Fax: 541-963-8593	Community information source	Union County	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	Information dissemination
New Day Enterprises PO Box 3296 La Grande, OR 97850 Phone: 541-963-2348 Fax: 541-962-7230	New Day Enterprises is a private, non-profit community mental health facility. We serve adults with developmental disabilities. We employ 90 staff and have 58 clients for whom we provide a place to live, work and interact within our community	Union County			✓					Information dissemination

	·		Populations Served							
Name and Contact Information		Service Area	Businesses	Children	Disabled	Elders	English Second Language	Families	Low Income	Involvement with Natural Hazard Mitigation
Oregon Rural Action 105 Fir #327 La Grande, OR 97850 Phone: 541-975-2411	Oregon Rural Action is a long term, multi-ethnic organization whose mission is to support and encourage community organizing around locally-identified issues, with a shared vision of creating a healthy, democratic, and just society. ORA's members and community groups work to promote social justice, agricultural and economic sustainability, and stewardship of the region's land, air and water.	Union County						>		Education and outreach Information dissemination Plan/project implementation

				Pop	oulat	ions	s Ser	ved		
Name and Contact Information	Description	Service Area	Businesses	Children	Disabled	Elders	English Second Language	Families	Low Income	Involvement with Natural Hazard Mitigation
Training & Employment Consortium 1916 Island Avenue or PO Box 2979 La Grande, OR 97850 Phone: 541-963-7942 Fax: 541-963-8458	To contribute to the economic vitality of the regions by being a valuable resource for education, vocational training. Offers employment and child care. Training partner for Workforce Oregon. Programs available include: Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth: Workforce Investment Act (WIA), Job Opportunity & Basic Skills (JOBS), Independent Living, Senior Community Service Employment Program (Title V), Youth Conservation Corp, Child Care Resources & Referral, Provides services for businesses.	Union County	✓	\	✓	✓	~	✓	✓	• Information dissemination
Union County Chamber of Commerce 102 Elm St. LaGrande, Oregon 97850 Phone: 541-963-8588 Fax: 541-963-3936 email: info@unioncountychamber.org	Provide economic development assistance to local businesses.	Union County	✓							 Education and outreach Information dissemination Plan/project implementation

	Populations Served									
Name and Contact Information	Description	Service Area	Businesses	Children	Disabled	Elders	English Second Language	Families	Low Income	Involvement with Natural Hazard Mitigation
Union County Extension Service Oregon State University Agricultural Service Center 10507 N. McAlister Road, Room 9 La Grande, OR 97850 Phone: 541-963-1010 Fax: 541-963-1036	Provides research-based knowledge and education that focus on strengthening communities and economies, sustaining natural resources, and promoting healthy families and individuals.	Union County	√							 Education and outreach Information dissemination Plan/project implementation
Union Family Health Center PO Box 986 Union, OR 97883	Medical Clinic	Union County		\	\	✓		✓	√	Information dissemination
Wildflower Lodge 508 16th St. La Grande, OR 97850 Phone: 541-663-1200	Assisted Living facility	Union County				✓				Information dissemination

Union County Fact Sheet

Union County:

2,038 sq miles

Percent State and Federal Ownership: 48.1%

Recreational Amenities:

Oregon Trail Interpretive Center Starkey Elk Project Catherine Creek State Park Morgan Lake

Hilgard Junction State Park Ladd Marsh Nature Trail Red Bridge State Park Wildhorse Gaming Resort

Umatilla National ForestOregon Trail DaysWallowa National ForestAnthony Lakes Ski AreaWallowa-Whitman National ForestSprout Springs Ski Area

Cove Hot Springs Pool Grande Ronde Symphony Orchestra

Umatilla National Forest Union County Fair

Jubilee Lake Eastern Oregon Livestock Show

Miami State Park Wolf Creek Dam
Hells Canyon Pilcher Creek Dam
Wallowa Lake Thief Valley Reservoir

Blue Mountain Crossing

Local area activities include: snowmobiling, water and snow skiing, fishing and hunting, hiking, camping, boating, golfing.

Economic Development and Employment Principle Industries:

Agriculture, lumber, education

Source: Oregon Employment Department, Covered Employment and Payroll Reports, 1998

Local and Regional Economic Development Organizations:

Union County
Union County Economic Development
Corporation

City of North Powder
City of Summerville
City of Union

Northeast Oregon Economic Development Cove Community Association

District City of Elgin
Economic & Community Development City of Imbler
Department Regional Development Officer City of Island City

City of La Grande Greater Eastern Oregon Economic

Union County Chamber of Commerce Development Corporation

Agricultural Products of the Area (Top 3 largest gross farm sales)

Field crops, cattle and calves, specialty products

Source: Oregon State University, Extension Economic Information Office

Economic Indicators

	Union 0	county			
	2001	2002	2000	2001	2002
Population	24,550	24,600	3,421,399	3,471,700	3,504,700
Labor Force	12,435	12,658	1,802,938	1,793,773	1,840,133
Total Employment			1,715,453	1,679,914	1,701,390
Unemployment	727	712	87,485	113,859	138,743
Unemployment Rate	5.8%	5.6%	4.9%	6.3%	7.5%
Non-Farm Payroll Employment	10,100	10,220	1,606,800	1,596,100	1,572,500
Total Covered Employment	9,644	9,632	1,607,944	1,596,943	1,573,083
Total Covered Payroll (\$ thousands county/ \$ millions state)	\$238,809	\$250,751	\$52,701	\$53,021	\$52,989
Ave. Annual Payroll Per Employee	\$24,762	\$26,033	\$32,776	\$33,202	\$33,684
Number of Business Units	822	832	108,432	111,353	113,097
Total Personal Income (\$ millions)	\$563,824	\$586,607	\$94,999	\$98,500	\$101,358
Annual Per Capita Personal Income	\$	\$24,007	\$27,649	\$28,400	28,792
Assessed Value of Property (\$ millions)	\$0	\$1,285	\$198,911	\$210,435	\$219,878
Residential Construction Building Permits Value (\$ thousands)	30 \$4,059	35 \$5,435	19,877 \$2,533	21,049 \$2,985	22,186 \$3,347
Travel Expenditures (\$ millions)	\$0	\$31,000	\$6,133	\$6,128	\$6,208
Travel-Related Employment	0	530	89,800	91,100	90,200

Sources: Oregon Employment Department; Center for Population Research & Census, PSU; U.S. Census Bureau; Bureau of Economic Analysis; Oregon Tourism Commission; Oregon Department of Revenue; Oregon Economic and Community Development Department.

Special Districts and Associations

La Grande Rural Fire Protection District
Union County 4-H and Extension Service
District
Union County Emergency Services District
Union County Vector Control District
Union Rural Fire Protection District
Union Soil and Water Conservation District
Cove Rural Fire Protection District
Irrigation District

Elgin Rural Fire Protection District
Island City Area Sanitation District
May Park Water Company
Blue Mountain Translator
Powder Valley Water Control District
Powder Rural Fire Protection District
Union Cemetery Maintenance District
Blue Mountain Transfer District
Imbler Rural Fire Protection District

Communications Resources

<u>Local Newspapers</u>:

The Valley News <u>Available Cable Television</u>:

The Observer Mallard Cable, LLC Nickel Ads Elgin TV Association

Record Courier TCI Cable
Charter Cable

Regional Newspapers:

The Observer <u>Telephone Service Provider(s)</u>:

East Oregonian Verizon

Baker City Herald Union-Wallowa Telephone Company

Priority One Communications

Radio Stations:US WestSeveral from Union County, UmatillaCenturytelCounty, Oregon and WashingtonQwestUnion County area has 5 stationsUnicom

TV Stations: Number of Internet Service Providers: 3

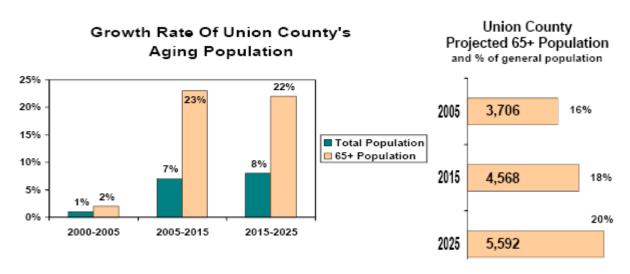
None

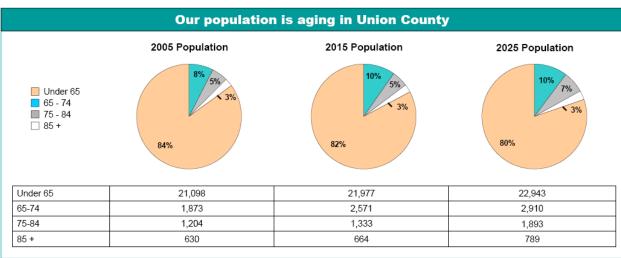
Historic Listings

5 local stations in La Grande

- Administration Building at Eastern Oregon University (added 1980)
- Anthony, John, House (added 1988); Also known as Anson, William, Youse; 1606 6th
 St., La Grande
- Anthony-Buckley House (added 1985); 1602 6th St., La Grande
- Ascension Episcopal Church and Rectory (added 1974); Church St., Cove
- Dry Creek School (added 2000); 69281 Summerville Rd., Summerville
- Eaton, Abel E., House (added 1977); 464 N. Main St., Union
- Elgin City Hall and Opera House (added 1980); Also known as Elgin City Hall; Albany and N. 8th Sts., Elgin
- Foley Building (added 1985); Also known as Foley Bouvy Building; 206 Chestnut St., La Grande
- Hot Lake Resort (added 1979); SE of La Grande on OR 203, La Grande
- Hudelson, A.B. and Son, Building (added 1999); Also known as Shaw Mercantile; 200 E St., North Powder
- La Grande Commercial Historic District (added 2001); Roughly bounded by UP RR tracts along Jefferson St., Greenwood and Cove Sts., Washington St., & Fourth St., La Grande
- La Grande Neighborhood Club (added 1988); Also known as Oregon Railway and Navigation Company Employees Dispensary; 1108 N Ave., La Grande
- Liberty Theater (added 1999); Also known as Orpheum Theater; Arcade Theater; 1008 and 1010 Adams Ave., La Grande
- Roesch Building (added 1996); Also known as Sacagawea Annex; 105 Fir St., La Grande
- Slater Building (added 1983); 216-224 Fir St., La Grande

- Stange, August J., House (added 1996); Also known as Stange Manor; 1612 Walnut St., La Grande
- Townley, W.J., House (added 1980); 782 N. 5th St., Union
- U.S. Post Office and Federal Building (added 1979); Also known as the Federal Building; 1010 Adams St., La Grande.
- Union County Alliance Flouring Mill (added 1986); Also known as La Grande Milling Co; Willow St. and E. M Ave., La Grande
- Union Main Street Historic District (added 1997); Also known as Eaton, Abel, House; Along Main St., between Birch and Fulton Sts., Union





Will our facilities meet the needs of Union County seniors?									
Facility Type Count Available Occupied									
1.81									
2									
20	226	190							
2	126	78							
	Count 1.81 2	Count Available 1.81 2 20 226							

http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/spwpd/ltc/fltc/data/union.pdf

Basic Information	Incorporat ed	Distance to La Grande (miles)	Elevation	Monthly Average Low	Monthly Average High	Hottest Month	Coldest Month	Driest Month	Wettest
Cove	1904	14	2,893	24	86	July	January	July	January
Elgin	1891	20	2,660	22	88	August	January	July	December
Imbler	1922	11	2732	24	85	July	January	July	January
Island City	1904	2	2743	24	86	July	January	July	January
La Grande	1865	0	2760	24	86	July	January	July	January
North Powder	1902	23	3256	24	84	August	January	July	May
Summerville	1903	13	2705	22	88	August	January	July	December
Union	1878	12	2770	24	84	August	January	July	May

Population	1980	1990	1998	1999	2000	2001
Cove	451	507	625	675	594	590
Elgin	1701	1586	1770	1785	1654	1660
Imbler	292	299	325	330	284	280
Island City	477	696	920	940	916	920
La Grande	11,354	11,766	12,795	12,885	12,327	12,420
North						
Powder	430	448	560	560	489	490
Summerville	132	142	150	150	117	120
Union	2,062	1847	1990	2025	1926	1960
Union						
County	23,921	23,598	24,400	24,500	24,530	24,550

Number of Manufacturing	
Companies:	
Cove	0
Elgin	4
Imbler	0
Island City	0
La Grande	20
North Powder	0
Summerville	0
Union	3
Union County	52

Communities Participating in the National Flood Plan								
Community Name	Initial FIRM Identified	Current Effective Map	Regular or Emergency Date					
Cove								
Elgin	11/15/1978	11/15/1978	11/15/1978					
Imbler								
Island City	9/29/1978	9/30/1987	9/29/1978					
La Grande	9/30/1980	4/3/1996	9/30/1980					
North Powder	9/29/1978	9/29/1978	9/29/1978					
Summerville	1/15/1980	1/15/1980	1/15/1980					
Union	12/15/1978	12/15/1978	12/15/1978					
Union County	5/15/1980	4/3/1996	5/15/1980					

Water Supply	Operator	Age of Water System	Plans for Upgrading or Expanding
Cove	City of Cove	1981	The system will be upgraded in 2003-2004. A new well, reservoir and pipeline improvements will be made. A high pressure area will be created to solve low pressure issues in some areas of the delivery system.
Elgin	City of Elgin	1966	Water storage and updated controls completed in 2001
Imbler	Stacey A Feik	1988	
Island City	City of Island City	1995	None at present time
La Grande	City of La Grande	1990	Plans are developed and available from the City
North Powder	City of North Powder	1984	
Summerville			
Union	City of Union	1989	Water Master Plan to be completed in 2003. Any plans for upgrading will be identified at that time.

		Number
		of
	Primary Employers	Employees
Cove	Cove Public School - Education	NA
	Ascension School, Camp & Conference Center - Tourism	25
	Artesian Blue Water - Water	11
Elgin	Boise Cascade - Stud Mill & Plywood Plant	300
	Elgin School District - Education	45
Imbler	Boise Cascade (La Grande) - Particle Board	500
	Blue Mountain Caskets (La Grande) - Wood Caskets	90
	The Observer (La Grande) - Newspaper	31
	GTE Telephone (La Grande) - Telecommunications	30
	Border WW Packaging & Ind. Products (La Grande) - Industrial	
	Adhesives	18
Island City	Boise Cascade (Elgin) - Studmill and Plywood Plant	360
	Boise Cascade (La Grande) - Lumber & Logging	300
	Wal-Mart - Retail	190
	Blue Mountain Caskets (La Grande) - Wood Caskets	90
	The Observer (La Grande) - Newspaper	31
La Grande	Crop Production/Columbia Basin - Crop	900
	Boise Cascade - Lumber, Particle Board, Plywood	800
	Fleetwood Travel Trailers - Travel Trailers	300
	Nash Trailers - Travel Trailers	200
North	Borden Chemical Co Wood Product Adhesives	100
Powder	North Powder School District - Education	19
Summerville	Boise Cascade (La Grande) - Lumber	500
Odminervine	Nash Trailers - Trailers	100
	Terry Trailers - Trailers	100
	Blue Mountain Caskets (La Grande) - Caskets	90
	Barreto Manufacturing - Tillers, Welding	33
Union	Union School District - Education	58
Official	EOU Agricultural Center - Ag Research	17
	Union Market - Groceries	12
	City of Union - Government	11
	Spa Warehouse - Spas	10
	al managed along	. •

Community	Fire			Distance		
Services	Station(s)	# Paid and		to	Emergency	
and	Serving	Volunteer	Nearest	Nearest	Services to	General
Resources	Community	Firefighters	Hospital	Hospital	Community	Clinic(s)
	Cove Rural	-	Grande Ronde	_		
Cove	Fire Dept.	18	Hospital	14	none	0
	Elgin					
	Volunteer					
	Fire Dept;					
	Elgin Rural		Grande Ronde		Ambulance	
Elgin	Fire Dept.	23	Hospital	20	Service	1
	Imbler Rural					
	Fire		Grande Ronde		Ambulance	
Imbler	Department	17	Hospital	10	Service	0
			Grande Ronde		Ambulance	
Island City	NA		Hospital	1	Service	0
	La Grande					
	Fire Dept.,				Ambulance	
	Rural Fire		Grande Ronde		Service, Life	
La Grande	Dept.	33	Hospital	0	Flight Service	3
	North Powder					
	Fire dept.;				Ambulance	
	North Powder		Grande Ronde		Service, Life	
North Powder	RFPD	14	Hospital	24	Flight Service	0
			Grande Ronde		Ambulance	
Summerville	NA	NA	Hospital	13	Service	0
	Union					
	Emergency					
	Services,		Grande Ronde		Ambulance	
Union	RFPD	26	Hospital	11	Service	1

Wastewater Treatment	Age of Wastewater Collection		Date of Last Facility	
System	System	Comments	Plan	Plans for Upgrade/Expansion
		In the future, Inflow and Infiltration work needs to be done to prevent run-off water from entering the		System improvements to solve inflow and infiltration problems
Cove		wastewater system.	2002	needs to be completed
Elgin	1966	•		Last upgrade was 1993
Imbler		Septic system		
Island City	1981	City has a collection only system	2000	Requested additional capacity from City of La Grande
La Grande	1915	Sanitary sewer system is very old and is in need of reconstruction	1998	Upgrade and expansion plans are available at the City
				Improvements to the wastewater system will be out to bid in March, 2003. Construction should
North Powder	1974	System is out of capacity		commence in June, 2003
Summerville	NA	NA	NA	NA
Union	1977	Upgrade completed in 2002. Adequate capacity		

Transportation	Highways		
Cove	237 W/S route		
Elgin	82 E/W route		
Imbler	82 N/S route		
Island City	237 E/S; 82 NE; 84 N/W		
La Grande	I-84 NW/S route, local; Hwy 82 NE route, local		
North Powder	I-84 N/S route, local access		
Summerville	Hwy 82 E/W route, access 4 miles		
Union	Hwy 237 N/S route, local access; Hwy 203 NW/SE route, local		

	Commercial	Air	Airport	Rail	Freight
Transportation	Air	Passenger	Freight	Service	Service
Cove	No	No	No	No	No
Elgin	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Imbler	No	No	No	No	
Island City	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
La Grande	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
North Powder	No	No	No	No	
Summerville	NA	NA	NA	No	No
Union	No	NA	NA	Yes	No

	Passenger Service	Bus Service Available in Community	Scheduled Bus Service Available	Local Charter Services	Distance to Nearest Bus Service (miles)
Cove	No	Yes	Yes	No	15
Elgin	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	0
Imbler		Yes	Yes	No	11
Island City	No	Yes			
La Grande	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	
North Powder		No			
Summerville	No	Yes	No	No	
Union	No	No		No	

Information in the Community Profiles was derived from many sources, including local, state and federal sources. The Oregon Economic and Community Development Department cannot accept responsibility for errors or omissions. Questions and comments may be directed to the department by telephone 503-986-0123, by fax 503-581-5115 or by email oedd.info@state.or.us.



Union County

