

# Section 6:

## Mission, Goals, and Action Items

This section describes the components that guide implementation of the identified mitigation strategies and is based on strategic planning principles. This section also provides information on the process used to develop the plan’s mission, goals and action items.

- *Mission*— The mission statement is a philosophical or value statement that answers the question “Why develop a plan?” In short, the mission states the purpose and defines the primary function of the County’s Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan. The mission is an action-oriented statement of the plan’s reason to exist. It is broad enough that it need not change unless the community environment changes.
- *Goals*— Goals are designed to drive actions and they are intended to represent the general end toward which the County effort is directed. Goals identify how the community intends to work toward mitigating risk from natural hazards. The goals are guiding principles for the specific recommendations that are outlined in the action items.
- *Action Items*— The action items are detailed recommendations for activities that local departments, citizens and others could engage in to reduce risk. Action items for Region 7 may be locally specific, and/or shared by two or more jurisdictions.

### Mitigation Plan Mission

The mission of the Northeast Oregon Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan is to: *Create a disaster resilient Northeast Oregon.*

This mission statement was drafted by ONHW and is based on previous successful mitigation planning efforts in the State. The mission was agreed upon by County Steering Committees during the county action item steering committee meetings held on May 16 and May 17. (See Appendix A for meeting minutes)

### Mitigation Plan Goals

The plan goals help guide the direction of future activities aimed at reducing risk and preventing loss from natural hazards. The goals and objectives listed here serve as checkpoints as agencies and organizations begin implementing mitigation action items.

The goals for the Northeast Oregon Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan are:

- Protect Human Welfare, Property, and Natural Resources
  - Develop mitigation actions to lessen the impact from natural disasters on people, infrastructure and property, and the natural resources of Northeast Oregon.
- Safeguard Economy

- Develop mitigation actions to lessen the economic impacts from natural disasters on the region's economic development and local businesses.
- Increase Education, Outreach, and Awareness
  - Promote education and outreach programs to increase public awareness of hazards and risk-reduction practices.
- Strengthen Organizational and Community Capacity
  - Sustain and build upon community partnerships, resources, and collective knowledge to implement mitigation actions.

### **How the Goals Were Developed**

Goals were developed in a collaborative effort between ONHW, the RARE Participant, and county steering committees. ONHW developed a set of draft goals that were based on goals from an existing regional economic development strategy. The economic development strategy was prepared by Northeast Oregon Economic Development District (NEOEDD), a public organization that offers business assistance, technical assistance, and planning to Baker, Union, and Wallowa Counties.

Regional economic development goals are relevant to natural hazard mitigation because they address important community assets and vulnerabilities that are susceptible to natural hazards. Further, NEOEDD's Economic Development Strategy goals have been approved by representatives from three of the four counties in the Region 7 Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan. Adopting already-agreed upon goals aligns with FEMA's requirement to implement the mitigation plan through existing plans and programs.

### **Mitigation Plan Action Items**

Short and long-term action items identified through the planning process are an important part of the mitigation plan. Action items are detailed recommendations for activities that local departments, citizens and others could engage in to reduce risk. They address multi-hazard (MH) and hazard-specific issues. Action items can be developed through a number of sources. The figure below illustrates some of these sources. A description of how the plan's mitigation actions were developed is provided below.

**Figure 4.1 Action Item Sources**



Source: Oregon Natural Hazards Workgroup, 2006

The information collected in Annex G and Sections 2-5 provides the basis and rationale for the actions identified in this section of the plan. The actions aim to reduce the vulnerabilities and risks documented in those sections. The plan contains both locally and regionally-applicative action items. Within most regionally-applicative action items, participating counties and cities list locally-specific “ideas for implementation.” This way, cities and counties may choose to work together when applying for funds to support similar projects.

At this time, communities in Region 7 have not identified any cost-effective mitigation activities that specifically address landslides/debris flows or volcano-related hazards. These hazards may, however, be addressed within the following multi-hazard actions:

- MH #2: Complete Continuity of Operations Plans (COOPs) within all interested municipalities.
- MH #4: Increase the resilience of small businesses to natural hazards.
- MH #6: Develop and implement education and outreach programs to increase public awareness of the risk associated with natural hazards. Specifically target vulnerable populations.
- MH #9: Develop a warning and emergency/evacuation protocol for vulnerable populations.

Each action has a corresponding action item worksheet that 1) describes the activity; 2) rationalizes the project; 3) lists ideas for implementation, and 4) assigns

the coordination of actions to specific departments, people, or organizations within the community. The action item worksheets can assist the community in pre-packaging potential projects for grant funding. The worksheet components are described below, and completed action item worksheets are located in Appendix I.

## **Rationale or Key Issues Addressed**

Action items should be fact-based and tied directly to issues or needs identified throughout the planning process. Actions can be developed at any time during the planning process and can come from a number of sources, including participants in the planning process, noted deficiencies in local capability, or issues identified through the risk assessment.

## **Ideas for Implementation:**

The ideas for implementation offer a transition from theory to practice and serve as a starting point for this plan. Ideas include such things as collaboration with relevant organizations, grant programs, tax incentives, human resources, education and outreach, research, and physical manipulation of buildings and infrastructure. This section should also include a description of how the mitigation activity may be implemented through existing community plans, policies and programs.

## **Coordinating Organization:**

The coordinating organization is the public agency with the regulatory responsibility to address natural hazards, or that is willing and able to organize resources, find appropriate funding, or oversee activity implementation, monitoring and evaluation. For multi-jurisdictional actions, the coordinating organization may be a regional entity, one or more participating counties acting on behalf of the region, or each individual jurisdiction acting on behalf of itself.

## **Internal and External Partners:**

The internal and external partner organizations listed in the Action Item Worksheets are potential partners recommended by the project Steering Committee but not necessarily contacted during the development of the plan. The coordinating organization should contact the identified partner organizations to see if they are capable of and interested in participation. This initial contact is also to gain a commitment of time and/or resources toward completion of the action items.

Internal partner organizations are departments within the County that may be able to assist in the implementation of action items by providing relevant resources to the coordinating organization.

External partner organizations can assist the coordinating organization in implementing the action items in various functions and may include local, regional, state, or federal agencies, as well as local and regional public and private sector organizations.

## **Plan Goals Addressed:**

The plan goals addressed by each action item are identified as a means for monitoring and evaluating how well the mitigation plan is achieving its goals, following implementation.

**Timeline:**

Action items include both short and long-term activities. Each action item includes an estimate of the timeline for implementation. *Short-term action items* (ST) are activities that may be implemented with existing resources and authorities in one to two years. *Long-term action items* (LT) may require new or additional resources and/or authorities, and may take from one to five years to implement.