

Appendix A:

Public Process

People tend to support what they help build. To engage public support of this plan, and to involve the residents in the process, the University of Oregon RARE participant assigned to coordinate this project reached out to the Wasco County community in three primary ways. First, a steering committee was formed to guide the NHMP Coordinator through the process of developing the plan. Secondly, The Coordinator sent out invitations to key stakeholders and an open invitation to the public for a NHMP Community Stakeholder Forum to raise awareness about natural hazard events and solicit input from community. Lastly, stakeholder interviews were conducted to retrieve local community knowledge of hazard events and how to best address the community's risk. Secondary methods of outreach were also conducted in posting the final draft of the mitigation plan for public comment on the County Planning & Development website and the printing and distribution of the International Business & Home Safety Protect Your Home From Wildfire brochure at the Wasco County Planning & Development service counter. Lastly, ONHW conducted region-wide outreach and training efforts in the form of a regional household preparedness survey and IBHS Open for Business training.

Steering Committee

The Wasco County Steering Committee was comprised of individuals best suited to guide the county through the planning process and ensure that the mitigation plan is fully implemented once adopted.

Its mission is to ensure proper development and implementation of the county natural hazards mitigation plan by:

- setting goals;
- establishing sub committee work groups to address specific needs;
- ensuring public, private and federal participation;
- distributing and presenting the plan;
- facilitating public discussion/involvement;
- developing implementation activities; and
- coordinating plan maintenance and implementation strategies.

Through raising awareness and citizen involvement, the Committee's end goal is to make hazard mitigation a part of the community's routine decision-making process.

Methodology

Three Steering Committee sessions were held over the course of the 2006 calendar year:

- 1) Introduction & Overview: 17 January 2006
- 2) Hazard Risk Assessment: 3rd March 2006
- 3) Goals & Action Items: 13 July 2006

These sessions set the tone and structure for the plan’s development. Through these meetings the NHMP Coordinator was able to collect valuable information regarding hazard events and impacts within the County, as well as contacts for additional stakeholders to involve in the process. The Steering Committee also played an integral part in the development of the mitigation plan vision, mission, goals and action items. The Committee revised the drafted vision, mission and goals, and selected and prioritized the action items documented in this plan.

Participants

The steering committee was formed by Michael Pasternak, NHMP Coordinator under the guidance of Todd Cornett, Wasco County Planning & Development. Additional input provided by the Oregon Natural Hazards Workgroup. Participants included:

Table A.1 NHMP Steering Committee

Name	Title	Organization
Dan Boldt	Director	Wasco County Public Works
Mike Davidson	Emergency Manager	Wasco County Emergency Management
Todd Cornett	Director	Wasco County Planning & Development
Jennifer Clark	Project Coordinator	Wasco County SWCD
Richard Gassman	Senior Planner	City of The Dalles
Sherry Holliday	County Commissioner	Wasco County Court
Stu Nagle	Fire Marshall	Mid-Columbia Fire & Rescue
Hannah Settje	District Manager	Red Cross

Community Stakeholder Forum

The County-wide Stakeholder Forum held was designed to solicit input from individuals and community organizations with resources or property that may be severely impacted by natural disasters. The Forums was held on April 10th 2006 at the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center in The Dalles, OR. Roughly 50 people from the County were invited to attend the Forum. The invitees consisted of business leaders, utility providers, government workers (state and county), service providers, transportation & communication workers, health providers, and representatives of vulnerable populations (e.g. elderly, migrant workers).

The purpose of the Forum was three-fold:

- 1) To spread awareness of potential disasters impacting the County by soliciting a large cross-section of the active public to participate in the hazard mitigation process;

- 2) To provide a factual basis for potential hazard mitigation measures by public input into critical County infrastructure and resources, and known hazard zones, through the critical asset and hazard identification mapping exercise; and
- 3) To plant the seeds for potential mitigation measures by introduction and discussion of action item concept and creating personal relationships (i.e. face-to-face introduction) for stakeholder interview and action item follow-ups.

Unfortunately attendance for the Forum was quite poor. Though nearly 50% RSVP'd, roughly 10% of invitees actually attended. Factors attributing to poor attendance were:

- 1) Forum was scheduled in the middle of government budget season;
- 2) Methods of outreach- emails, phone calls- proved inadequate;
- 3) General attitudes to hazards in the community and mitigation in particular (the floods of 1996 were the last major disaster) gave the Forum an air of little importance.

Those that participated in the Forum were actively responsive to the mapping exercise and the concepts and importance of hazard mitigation. The identification of critical assets and infrastructure re-enforced much of what had already been identified in steering committee meetings and coordinator research, and also provided some previously overlooked assets. All Forum participants have been willing participants in the stakeholder interview follow-ups.

Methodology & Outcomes

The method and outcomes of the Community Stakeholder Forum are described below:

(1) DOGAMI Hazard Impact Overview

Bill Burns, DOGAMI Engineering Geologist presented and dissected local and state natural hazards data, and informed participants on how communities are impacted by natural hazard events.

Outcome: Documented community stakeholder knowledge/input with respect to local hazard events.

(2) Community Asset Identification Exercise

Participants were asked to fill out a worksheet identifying the County's critical infrastructure and assets.

Outcome: (a) Identified and discussed key elements of the region and individual communities within it; and (b) Identified main assets, resources and functions of region within the themes of People, Dollars (economy, cultural & historic assets, environmental assets), and Infrastructure (critical physical facilities).

- Participants identified many of the same critical assets identified in the Steering Committee meeting and NHMP Coordinator research. This that assured that data collected for mitigation plan purposes was relevant.

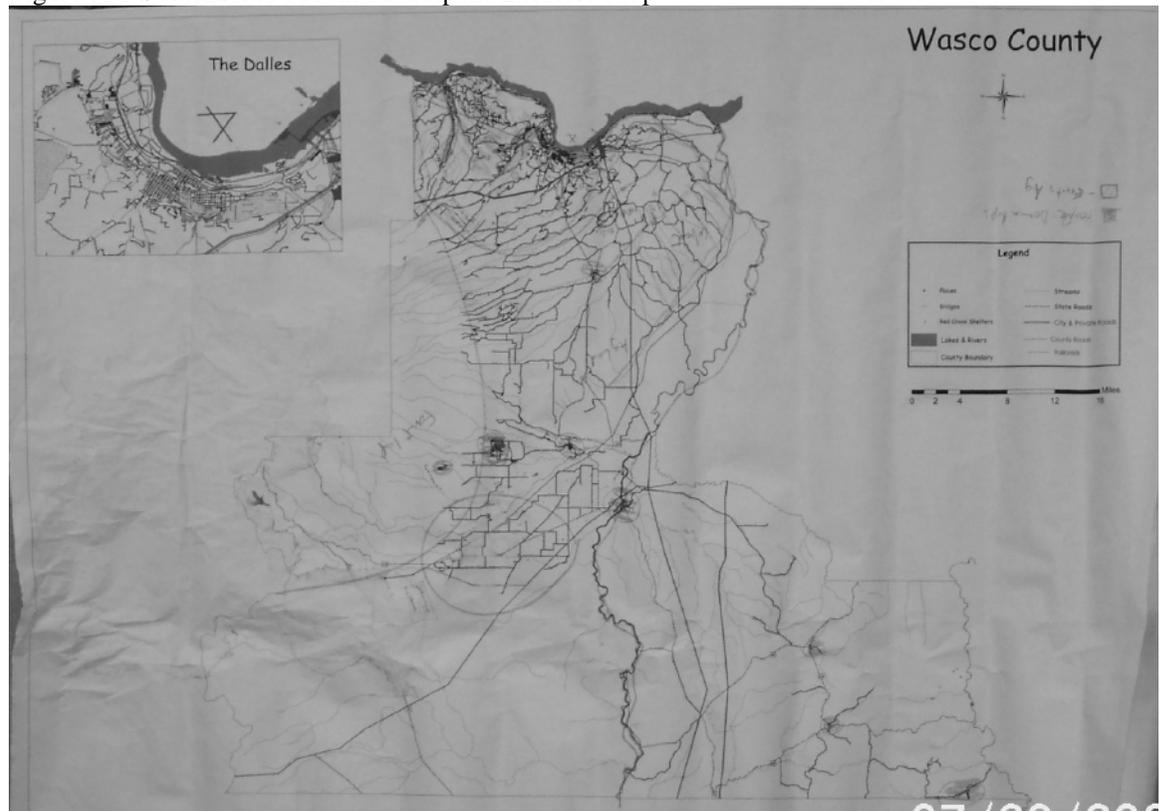
(3) Community Mapping Exercise

Participants were asked to map assets & infrastructure from previous exercise

Outcome: (a) Discussed and documented implications with regards to asset loss/damage to community; (b) Provided mechanism to focus planning efforts; (c) Provided a fact base for subsequent action item identification, and (d) Provided physical document (map) of community input.

- Participants identified previously un-documented storm water drainage issues along County Hwy 216, the main east-west access route for the southwestern portion of the County.

Figure A.1 Stakeholder Forum Participant Exercise Map



(4) Action Items & Follow-up Stakeholder Interviews

Discussed importance mitigation and the development of action items; passed out action item forms to participants

Outcome: Documented potential action items discussed in forum, and distributed action item worksheets to participants. Set up stakeholder interview.

Invitees

The following the individuals and organizations were contacted to participate in the Forum:

Table A.2 Community Stakeholder Forum Invitees

Name	Organization
Susan Huntington	Dalles Area Chamber of Commerce
Katie MacKendrick*	MCCED
Robert Durham	Oregon Cattlemen's Association
Dan Ericksen	Cherry Growers Association
Kim MucCullough	OSU Extension
Bob Cole	Economic Development Commission
David S. Meyer	Bonneville Power Association
Andrea Klass	Port of The Dalles
Mel Gard	Oregon Department of Forestry
	Oregon Department of Transportation
Tom Yates	Sprint
Roger Nichols	The Dalles Chronicle
	Mid Columbia Medical Center
	Warm Springs
	Senior Advisory Council
Eugene Walters	Juniper Flat Fire District
	Mid Columbia Association of Realtors
Ben Beseda	Tenneson Engineering
Frank Toda	Columbia Gorge Community College
	Army Corp of Engineers
Leo Sidebotham	Bureau of Land Management
Leo Segovia	USDA Forest Service
Rod French	Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife
Marty Matherly*	Wasco County Roads
	KACI Radio
	Wasco Public Health Department
Bill Burns*	DOGAMI
	Wasco County Schools
	Wasco County Building Codes
	Union Pacific Railroad
	Wasco County Public Works

*Participant

Stakeholder Interviews

Due to poor community participation in the Stakeholder Forum, the stakeholder interviews became a crucial component of the public process. Many of the Forum invitees were contacted and their input included in the plan. The individuals contacted

ranged from city, state, and federal government employees to business owners and farmers. These individuals provided insight into how hazard events have impacted the community in the past, how growth and development could collide with future hazard events, and how the community can best work together to reduce collective risk. Many of the action items documented in this plan were spawned from ideas discussed during the stakeholder interview process.

Methodology

Stakeholder interviews were conducted May through July 2006. The NHMP Coordinator telephoned stakeholders individually and asked a series of questions. The questions are as follows:

- What is the history of natural hazard events in Wasco County?
- How does growth and development in the community, both current and projected, contribute to natural hazard events?
- Does your organization/industry currently work in natural hazard mitigation? If so, how?
- How can your organization/industry contribute to strengthen regional coordination and cooperation in reducing risk from natural hazards?
- What activities will assist Wasco County in reducing risk and preventing loss from future natural hazard events? (e.g. If you had the money, how would you spend it?)
- How does your organization/industry view the County government's role in reducing risk from natural hazard events?
- What are the ways you would like to see agencies, organizations or individuals participating and coordinating to reduce risk from natural hazards?
- How does hazard mitigation fit into Wasco County's land-use, environmental, social, and economic goals?
- What goals should the County set to reduce risk from natural hazard events, and how would we measure whether our mitigation efforts are successful?
- Can you think of anyone else that should be contacted as part of this process?

The information recorded from the stakeholder interviews was primarily incorporated into three sections of this plan: Community Profile, Risk Assessment, and Goals & Action items.

Contacts

The following the individuals and organizations were contacted to participate in the stakeholder interview process:

Table A.3 Community Stakeholder Interview Contacts

Name	Organization
Susan Huntington*	Dalles Area Chamber of Commerce
Katie MacKendrick	MCCED
Robert Durham*	Oregon Cattlemen's Association
Dan Ericksen*	Cherry Growers Association
	OSU Extension
Bob Cole*	Economic Development Commission
David S. Meyer*	BPA
Andrea Klass*	Port of The Dalles
Mel Gard*	ODF
	ODOT
Tom Yates*	Sprint
Roger Nichols*	The Dalles Chronicle
	Mid Columbia Medical Center
	Warm Springs
	Senior Advisory Council
Eugene Walters*	Juniper Flat Fire District
John Helquist*	Maupin Fire
Marty Matherly*	Wasco County Public Works
Bill Burns*	DOGAMI

*Participant

Secondary Outreach Methods

Additional methods of outreach involved in the public process included:

Public Comment of Wasco County NHMP Draft

The mitigation plan draft was sent to steering committee members for review, comment, and approval before the final draft was shipped off the OEM for State review. Additionally, the plan was posted on the Wasco County Planning & Development website for public review and comment.

IBHS Wildfire Brochure

While the final draft of the NHMP was under review by the Steering Committee and public, the NHMP Coordinator oversaw the printing and distribution of the International Business & Home Safety Protect Your Home From Wildfire brochure at the Wasco County Planning & Development service counter.

ONHW Region-wide Outreach

The Oregon Natural Hazards Workgroup conducted region-wide outreach activities which included:

Household Preparedness Survey

As part of the regional PDM grant, ONHW implemented a region wide household preparedness survey. The survey gauged household knowledge of mitigation tools and techniques and assessed household disaster preparedness. The survey results improve public/private coordination of mitigation and preparedness for natural hazards by obtaining more accurate information on household understanding and needs. The results of the survey are documented in the plan's Appendix C: Regional Household Survey.

IBHS Open for Business Training

ONHW, with commitment from the Institute for Business & Home Safety (IBHS), provided individuals in the Mid-Columbia region with access to, and use of, the IBHS interactive, web-based Open for Business property protection and disaster recovery planning tool. The access was provided in two classes, one located in Hermiston, Oregon on May 24th, 2006 and the second in The Dalles, Oregon on May 25th, 2006.

The following agencies and organizations were invited to attend: agencies providing start-up and ongoing counseling services to micro and small businesses in low-income areas, such as the Statewide Small Business Development Center; agencies providing housing services to hundreds of low-income residents, such as County Housing Authorities, which also employs low-income people; and disaster assistance agencies serving at-risk populations, such as food banks and the American Red Cross. Any remaining spaces were made available to: micro- or small business start-up companies; and established micro- or small businesses.

The classes were organized as train-the-trainer classes, so that the agency personnel and the business people could: 1. Understand the importance of disaster planning; 2. Learn how to navigate the interactive, web-based Open for Business property protection and disaster recovery planning tool; 3. Start to develop their own plans during the training; 4. Learn how to communicate the importance of developing and utilizing plans for property protection and recovery from business interruption to their constituencies and/or colleagues, in order to institutionalize disaster safety into every day decision making.

Recruitment Process

The Oregon Natural Hazards Workgroup assembled a list of social service providers from basic internet searches and representative small businesses from Chamber of Commerce Membership databases for the seven counties in the region. E-mail and/or mailed invitations were sent to over 200 agencies, organizations and businesses in the region. Recruitment materials can be found on the following page. The following agencies and organizations attended the workshop:

- Umatilla/Morrow County Housing Authority
- Irrigon Chamber of Commerce

- Pendleton Chamber of Commerce
- Small Business Development Center – Blue Mountain Community College
- Small Business Development Center – Columbia Gorge Community College
- Wasco County Human Services Department