

Executive Summary

What is the Mitigation Plan?

Wasco County's Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan is an effort to reduce future loss of life and property resulting from natural disasters. The plan includes resources and information that will assist County agencies, residents, public and private sector organizations, and other interested people in participation in hazard mitigation. (Natural hazard mitigation involves permanently reducing or alleviating the losses of life, property, and injuries resulting from natural hazards through long and short-term strategies). The plan contains:

- 8 Goals to direct the County vision for a disaster resilient community
- 48 Recommended actions for mitigation activities
- A summarized county hazard risk assessment with detailed annex
- Plan implementation and maintenance procedures
- Documentation of County, regional, State, and Federal resources

This plan focuses on the primary natural hazards that could affect Wasco County, Oregon, which include: drought, earthquake, flood, landslide, volcano, wildfire, and severe storm (windstorm and winter-storm). Section I: Introduction provides an in-depth overview of the plan, its purpose, how it's organized, and how it was developed.

What is the Plan's Mission?

The Wasco County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan mission is...

“...to protect life, property and the environment through coordination and cooperation among public and private partners, which will reduce risk and loss, and enhance the quality of life for the people of Wasco County.”

The mission was formulated by the Steering Committee during the committee meeting focused on vision, mission, goals & action items.

Who Participated in Developing the Plan?

The mitigation plan is the result of a collaborative planning effort between Wasco County citizens, public agencies, non-profit organizations, the private sector, and state and regional organizations. The project steering committee was composed of individuals representing the following agencies:

- Wasco County Public Works
- Wasco County Emergency Management
- Wasco County Planning & Development
- Wasco County Soil & Water Conservation District
- City of The Dalles

- Wasco County Court
- Mid-Columbia Fire & Rescue
- American Red Cross

The Community Service Center (CSC) at the University of Oregon played a crucial role in the plan's development. The CSC's Oregon Natural Hazard Workgroup (ONHW) served as project advisor for mitigation plan development in the Mid-Columbia Region, while the Resource Assistance for Rural Environments (RARE) program provided staffing for Wasco County's project coordinator.

What are Plan Goals?

The plan goals help guide the direction of future activities aimed at reducing risk and preventing loss from natural hazards. The goals listed here serve as checkpoints as agencies and organizations begin implementing mitigation action items. Each goal has a series of statements which further reflect and more clearly define the goals. Wasco County's goals include:

- Education & Outreach
- Disaster Resilient Economy
- Protection of Life & Property
- Intergenerational Equity
- Acknowledge Responsibility
- Facilitate Partnerships & Coordination
- Natural Resource Systems Protection
- Emergency Services Enhancement

The goals were formulated by the Steering Committee during the committee meeting focused on vision, mission, goals & action items. For more information on plan goals, please see Section IV: Mission, Goals & Action Items.

What are 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 both multi-hazard (MH) and hazard specific issues. For more information on plan action items, please see Section IV: Mission, Goals & Action Items.