

Section II:

Community Profile

This section provides information on the characteristics of Wasco County in terms of demographic, economic, and development trends as well as geography and environment, housing and transportation. Many of these community characteristics can affect how natural hazards impact communities, and can affect how communities choose to plan for natural hazard mitigation. Considering these characteristics during the planning process can assist in identifying appropriate measures for natural hazard mitigation.

Why Plan for Hazards in Wasco County?

Natural hazards cut across all aspects of the community: citizens and their property, business and the economy, recreational resources and the natural environment. Current trends indicate a continued influx of people, business and tourists into Wasco County. This continued influx of people and business places further strain on an already overburdened emergency services operation. In order to appropriately combat the risk that natural disasters pose, it is most pertinent to plan in advance and reduce risk through mitigation efforts.

By identifying and assessing hazard risk and county vulnerability, relevant mitigation strategies can be developed to reduce the impact of natural disasters. This effort requires fine tuned coordination amongst residents, businesses, non-profit agencies, and federal, state and local governments. A successful mitigation plan is one that pools resources from these parties in developing mitigation strategies and actions that reduce risk while also guaranteeing continued public awareness and involvement.

Geography & Environment

Wasco County lies east of the Cascade Range along the Columbia River. It is bounded on the west by the forests of Mt. Hood National Forest, on the north by the Columbia River, and on the east by the Deschutes and John Day Rivers.

Steep rolling hills and sharp cliffs and canyons are characteristic landforms in Wasco County. Elevations vary from 5,700 feet at Flag Point in the western part of the county to 150 feet on the Columbia River. From the higher elevations of the Cascade Range, a general slope occurs to the north and east. Tributary streams dissect steep canyons as they make their way to the Columbia, Deschutes and John Day Rivers.

A large portion of the southern half of the county is comprised of the Warm Springs Indian Reservation.

Source: Wasco County Comprehensive Land Use Plan

Climate

Wasco County lies in a transitional zone between western and eastern Oregon climates. Maritime air patterns are characteristic of western Oregon, while the drier continental air patterns dominate eastern Oregon. The Cascade Mountain Range forms a barrier which creates the climatic difference. The transition between these two major climates can be evidenced within the county.

Over-all, the climate in Wasco County is temperate and semi-arid. Low annual precipitation, low winter temperatures, and high summer temperatures are typical. Seasonal differences in temperature are greater than daily changes. Extremes of temperature most often occur when a continental air mass dominates the area with an east wind.

Source: Wasco County Comprehensive Land Use Plan

Month	Temperature Range (F)			Precipitation
	Min	Max	Mean	Inches
January	29	41	35	2.62
March	37	57	47	1.2
May	49	73	61	0.54
July	60	87	74	0.18
September	51	80	65	0.48
November	35	50	43	2.03

Source: National Weather Service

Topography

The county's rolling topography makes local differences in wind patterns. Highly unstable climatic conditions are found in the Columbia Gorge and nearby areas. The contact between continental and maritime air masses produces strong wind patterns. Prevailing winds are north-westerly in summer and northeasterly in winter. Winds are less dominant away from the Columbia Gorge. Western Wasco County is generally protected from winds by mountains in the west.

The topography of the county forms microclimates. The higher portions of rolling hills have higher soil temperatures because they are exposed to the sun and drying winds. The creek bottoms and canyons have lower soil temperatures and retain a greater amount of moisture. Differences in microclimates can be seen in the changes of vegetation. Trees and bushes are found in the canyons, while bunchgrass dominates the tops of rolling hills.

Source: Wasco County Comprehensive Land Use Plan

Rivers

Wasco County lies within three major drainage basins, the Hood, Deschutes River and John Day River Basins. The major rivers which drain these areas include the Columbia, Deschutes and John Day Rivers.

Stream flows are rapid during early winter rain-storms, before the heavy snowfall and freezing conditions prevail. This is the case with all streams in the county. Spring run-off due to snow melt greatly increases stream flow.

The Deschutes and John Day Rivers, as with most streams that drain arid basins, are subject to extreme flow variations. The John Day River has had periods when no flow was recorded. Seasonal variations are quite pronounced. The high water months normally are March, April, May, and June during snow melt.

Source: Wasco County Comprehensive Land Use Plan

Minerals & Soils

The soils in Wasco County have formed in a variety of parent materials. In the northeastern part of the county, soils have developed from loess deposits. These deposits range from a few inches to more than fifteen feet in thickness. In a southerly direction, the deposits become finer textured and thinner. Where a thin deposit of loess occurs, the soils developed from a mixture of loess and basalt. In the western part of the area, soils have developed from volcanic ash deposited over sediments. Soils in the southern part of the area have developed in fine textured sediments. These soils are predominantly fine textured with high percentages of coarse fragments. Water deposited soils formed in recent alluvium also occur along the major drainages in the county. Small amounts of volcanic ash occur throughout the county.

Source: Wasco County Comprehensive Land Use Plan

Population & Demographics

The county of Wasco was organized by the territorial legislature in 1854. This 250,000 square mile county, the largest ever established in the United States, has since been pared to its current size of 2,387 sq. miles. Wasco County is home to 23,791 residents, an increase of 2,108 residents since the 1990 census.

Wasco County residents have historically lived close to their place of employment. Areas in the south of the county have traditionally relied upon agriculture and natural resources, leading to a creation of a number of small cities and unincorporated communities. The city of the Dalles along the Columbia River in the north part of the county has remained the historical seat of county government as well as the county's transportation and economic hub. The Dalles is Wasco County's largest and highest density population center.

Wasco County Population Trends

In 2000, the population of Wasco County was 23,791 representing an increase of 8% since 1990. This growth pattern in the county, according to the Oregon Office of Economic Analysis, is projected to continue to grow at a moderate rate over the next 20 years.

Table 2.1 Wasco County Population, Incorporated & Unincorporated

Year	Incorporated	Unincorporated	Total
1990	12,308	9,375	21,683
2000	13,650	10,141	23,791

Source: US Census Bureau

Roughly 51% of Wasco County's population resides in the City of the Dalles. Since 1990 the city has seen population increase of 9%. Mosier, population 410, is the county's fastest growing city with a 68% increase in population since 1990. Dufur is the county's second largest city, but has seen little growth over the last decade

Table 2.2 Wasco County Incorporated Cities

City	2000 Population	1990 Population	% Change
Antelope	59	34	73.5
City of The Dalles	12,156	11,060	10.3
Dufur	588	527	11.5
Maupin	411	456	-9.8
Mosier	410	244	68.0
Shaniko	26	26	0.0

Source: US Census Bureau

Table 2.3 Wasco County Unincorporated Areas

City	2000 Population	1990 Population	% Change
Chenoweth CDP	3,412	3,246	9.5
Pine Grove CDP	162	N/A	N/A
Pine Hollow CDP	424	N/A	N/A
Rowena CDP	148	N/A	N/A
Tygh Valley CDP	224	N/A	N/A
Wamic CDP	36	N/A	N/A

Source: US Census Bureau

Recent increases in population have put pressures on emergency management agencies to increase their services without a parallel increase in human resources. This widening gap between the ratio of residents to responders can affect response times and overall quality of service provided. In addition, population increase has created a segment of the population that may be uninformed of hazards in the county and unprepared in the event of emergency.

Population growth in smaller unincorporated areas also presents challenges in communication and location logistics, as well as ensuring that areas without established full-time or volunteer emergency service agencies can respond.

More generally, population growth county-wide increases the risk of hazards due to human activity which, for example, may ignite wildfire. Likewise, vulnerability increases with new and higher density developments, in Maupin for example, that can impact runoff, drainage and changes in vegetation culminating in an increased risk to floods and landslides.

Vulnerable Populations

Vulnerable populations are those groups that possess specific characteristics that inhibit their ability to prepare for, respond to, or recover from a disaster. These characteristics include physical and developmental disabilities, mental illness, poverty, old age, or an inability to speak or understand English. These groups are more heavily impacted because they may lack the necessary knowledge, skills, social support structures, or the mental and physical abilities necessary to take care of themselves. Historically, vulnerable populations present a special challenge to emergency managers and response agencies and they are more likely to be victims of a disaster.

Source: Wasco County HIVA

The impact in terms of loss and the ability to recover vary among population groups following a disaster. Historically, 80% of the disaster burden falls on the public. Of this number, a disproportionate burden is placed upon special needs groups, particularly minorities, and the poor.

Source: OR-SNHRA: (Region 5) Mid-Columbia

Low Income

Roughly 13% of the county's total population is living in poverty. Seniors over the age of 62 account for nearly one fifth (19.4%) of the total population. Nationwide, as the baby boomer generation enters their 60's the senior population is expected to dramatically increase.

Table 2.4 Wasco County Population by Poverty Status in 1999

Group	Number Below Poverty Level	Percent Below Poverty Level
Families	674	10.3
- with related children under 5 years	244	19.2
Families with female householder, no husband present	319	35.8
- with related children under 5 years	129	46.9
Individuals	3,023	12.9
- related children 5 to 17 years	754	17.1
- 65 years and over	275	7.3

Source: US Census Bureau

Not having sufficient financial resources during and after a disaster can be a great disadvantage. Lower income people are more likely to live in mobile homes or other homes that are less able to resist damage from flooding, windstorms, and severe weather. Low-income people tend to have the greatest difficulty recovering from a disaster. According to 1999 estimates, approximately 12.9% of the total population have income below the national poverty level.

Source: Wasco County HIVA

Elderly

Table 2.5 Wasco County Population by Seniors

Group	Number	Percent
55-59	1,309	5.5
62 years and over	4,604	19.4
65 years and over	3,965	16.7

Source: US Census Bureau

16.7% of Wasco County's population is comprised of seniors over the age of 65, with 7.3% are living in poverty. Seniors present a significant challenge in the event of disaster due to their large numbers and special needs. Currently there is no comprehensive, easily accessible database for locating and servicing seniors in the event of disaster. Information is scattered about hospital records, Health Department, and is generally difficult to access due to privacy issues.

Non-English Speaking & Special Cultural Characteristics

According to the 2000 census estimates, approximately 10.5% of the Wasco County population over the age of 5 speak a language other than English at home.

Table 2.6 Population by Ethnic Group

County	Hispanic/Latino	Asian	African American	Native American	Total
Wasco	9%	1%	< 1%	4%	14%

Source: US Census Bureau

A lack of ability to speak or read the English language can present a challenge to emergency managers, since instructions for self-protective action and general disaster information is usually provided only in English. The non-English speaking population would be uninformed unless they have assistance from friends or services providers who may provide them with instruction and information in English. In certain areas of Wasco County it may be advisable for emergency managers and emergency response agencies to arrange for translation of instruction and information into different languages.

Source: Wasco County HIVA

Transient Populations

The transient population includes those who do not have a permanent residence in Wasco County.

Tourists are particularly vulnerable to disasters. This is because tourists are usually unfamiliar with the hazards in the region and because they do not have the knowledge or the materials needed to take care of themselves in a disaster. For example, a typical tourist, unfamiliar with Wasco County, may have difficulty using evacuation routes, or finding shelters. A light traveling tourist would also not have their own supply of food, water, flashlights, radios, and other supplies that locals can use to take care of themselves in a disaster. And finally, tourists usually do not have a local support structure of family, friends, and neighbors that most of us rely on.

Due to its proximity to the Columbia River and the cities, rivers and mountains of central Oregon, Wasco County is considered a major Northwest tourist destination.

Source: Wasco County HIVA

Disabled

Physically Disabled - According to 2000 census, 4,299 Wasco County citizens has a mobility limitation. These disabilities may or may not be permanent.

Developmentally Disabled - According to national prevalence formulas approximately 1% of the Wasco County Population or 204 residents (2000) have a developmental disability. A developmental disability is defined as a disability that is attributable to mental retardation, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, autism, or any neurological or other condition closely related to mental retardation.

There is a wide variation in the vulnerability of the developmentally disabled population in Wasco County. Some developmentally disabled individuals may have strong support structures and a high level of care provided to them by friends, neighbors, and care providers. Others may not have such a high level of support. Some individuals may be largely self-reliant. Some may have other disabilities in addition to their developmental disabilities. 10% of the developmentally disabled population is wheelchair bound and approximately 2% of the county population or 476 residents (2000) suffer from a mental illness.

Source: Wasco County HIVA

Mentally Ill

Disaster conditions can aggravate the symptoms of those who suffer from mental illness. The mentally ill tend to be very sensitive to changes in their environment. There is case studies of this phenomenon from Clark County, Washington. During the Mt. St. Helens eruption disaster several individuals incorporated the fall of ash into their delusional symptoms. There was a marked increase in the caseload for mental health crisis services at the Columbia River Mental Health Services. During the February 1996 floods several mental health patients were hospitalized as a result of increased stress due to relocation, forgetting to take their medications when evacuated, and increased anxiety. Another important consideration is the ability of disaster conditions to cause mental illness. It is estimated that 10% of disaster victims can develop mental health problems, including depression, and substance abuse.

Source: Wasco County HIVA

Land and Development

Wasco County’s Comprehensive Land Use Plan was last formally acknowledged by Oregon’s Land Conservation and Development Commission (L.C.D.C.) in 1984, with subsequent minor additions and revisions since. The plan demonstrates knowledge of the intent of land use planning and L.C.D.C.’s Goals and Guidelines.

The intent of the plan is to establish a single, coordinated set of policies which will act to provide for orderly development of Wasco County. These policies give direction to planning, establish priorities for action, serve as a basis for future decisions, provide a standard by which progress can be measured, and promote a sense of community for an improved quality of life. It also helps all levels of government and private enterprise to understand the wants and needs of Wasco County citizens.

The south county remains steeped in its agricultural and recreational heritage, and land use is dominated by those processes. In north county, industry, commercial and residential activities are concentrated within the City of The Dalles. State law requires that cities and the county jointly manage the Urban Growth Areas, delineated by a city’s Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) which identifies lands needed to meet population and economic demands for growth within a 20-year period.

Source: Wasco County Comprehensive Land Use Plan

Table 2.7 Estimated Demand for Employment in the Dalles UGB by Land Use Type 2006-2056

Land Use Type	Growth	Employment Growth No Demand for Land	Employment Growth for Land Demand	Employment per Net Acre Assumption	Land Demand (net acres)	Land Demand (gross acres)
Retail & Services	5,257	526	4,731	18	262.8	350.4
Industrial	1,891	189	1,702	10	170.3	227.0
Government	1,247	125	1,122	12	93.5	124.7
Total	8,395	840	7,556		526.6	702.1

Source: ECONorhtwest Preliminary Employment Forecast and Land Needs

Housing and Community Development

Wasco County, favorably set along the scenic Columbia River Gorge in the north, has been able to maintain a rural character that is attractive because of its historical significance along the Oregon Trail and its outdoor recreational resources. As development has pushed eastwards from Portland, the City of The Dalles has already seen increased interest in business and residential development marked by the arrival of Google and Home Depot, and proposed mixed-use development along the river. In the next 20 years development currently centered in The Dalles is expected to push southward into the more rural core of Wasco County.

Table 2.8 Wasco County Housing Units by Type

Single Family	Multi-Family	Mobile Homes	Boat/RV/Van, etc
63%	15%	21%	1%

Source: US Census Bureau

From 1990-2000 1,480 new housing units were built, a 22% increase from the 1980s. Currently 88.8% of housing units are occupied, with 5.7% reserved for seasonal or recreational use. The number of recreational and seasonal homes is expected to rise within the next 20-year period. The median value of housing in Wasco County is \$105,500.

Table 2.9 Year Structure Built

Pre 1959	1960-1979	1980 – 2000
44%	31%	25%

Source: US Census Bureau

Housing development types and year-built dates are important factors in mitigation planning. Housing types that warrant special attention tend to be of older make or of less sturdy material (mobile homes for example). Older homes tend to be at greater risk of damage since stricter building codes were not established in the Northwest until the late 1960s. 44.2% of Wasco County structures were built before 1960.

Source: OR-SNHRA: (Region 5) Mid-Columbia

Median household income can be used as an indicator for the strength of a region’s economic stability. Median household income can be used to compare economic areas as a whole, but does not reflect how the income is divided among area residents. The median household income for Wasco County is \$35,959, which is below the national average of \$41,433 and the state’s average of \$40,916.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Profile of Economic Characteristics 2000.

The City of the Dalles and Wasco County are currently in the process of updating the Urban Growth Boundary. Though no study has yet been done, projected development in the County is likely to see higher density development in many of the incorporated cities, e.g. The Dalles and Mosier, while lower density single family dwellings in unincorporated areas with mobile home development concentrated in park facilities. The recreational areas, Sportsman’s Park for example, are likely to see concentrated high density development for seasonal populations.

Employment and Industry

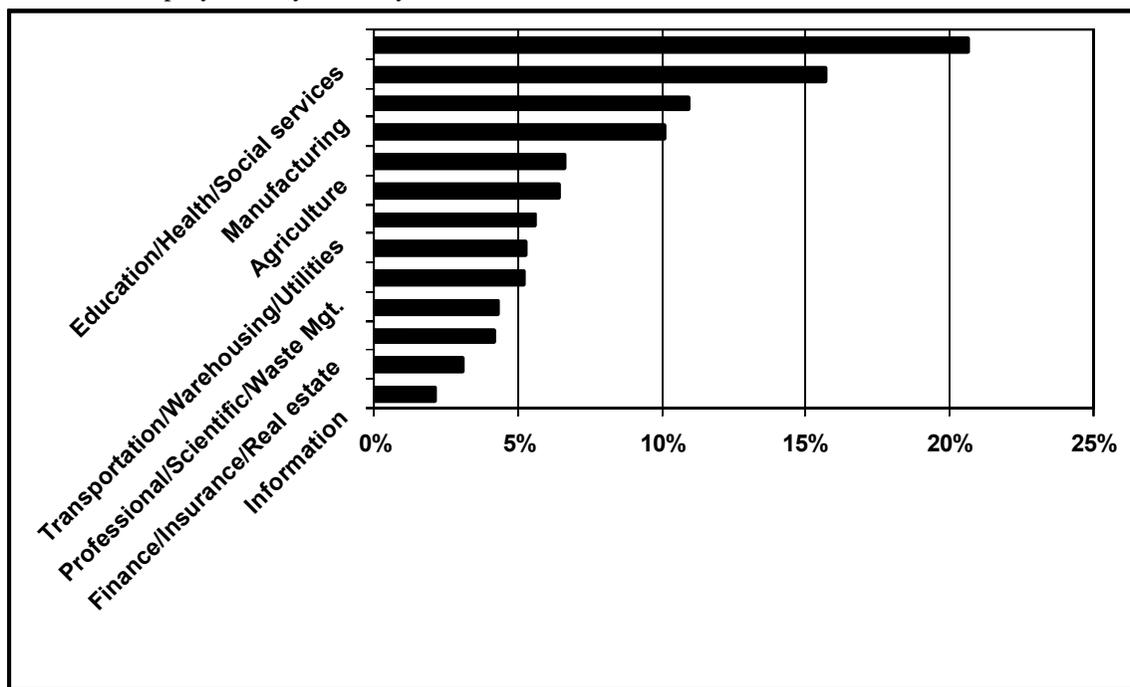
The county's economy is based upon agriculture (orchards, wheat farming, livestock ranching), lumber, manufacturing, electric power, transportation, and tourism. Aluminum production was once a major support of the local economy, but electrical price fluctuations over the past two decades and a slump in global aluminum prices has forced the closing of a number of local aluminum factories. Recent trends indicate a shift towards a more service oriented economy anchored by small business, tourism and recreation. Retail trade and services are concentrated in the City of The Dalles.

Table 2.10 Wasco County Labor Force

Wasco County	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Population	22,600	22,650	23,791	24,150	23,750	23,550
Labor Force	12,258	12,334	12,643	12,813	12,780	12,887
Total Employment	11,308	11,381	11,807	11,527	11,522	11,510
Unemployment	950	953	836	1,286	1,258	1,377
Unemployment Rate (%)	7.8	7.7	6.6	10.1	9.8	10.7
Annual Per Capita Personal Income (\$)	22,514	22,779	23,656	23,499	24,008	N/A
Number of Business Units	812	830	837	835	833	N/A

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

Table 2.11 Employment by Industry



Source: US Census Bureau 2000

According to the Oregon Employment Department, the region has experienced economic problems due to the downturn in the lumber, wood products and aluminum industries during the 1990s.

The County's proximity to the Portland area, the Southern Pacific, Union Pacific and Burlington Northern railroad lines that run across the western edge of the region and Interstate 84 provide good opportunities for the transportation of manufactured and agricultural goods. In addition, the region's proximity to the Columbia River, the Cascade Mountains and the high desert terrain provide year-round sporting and tourism activities. Looking towards the future, healthcare, services, manufacturing, retail trade, tourism, agriculture and food products, construction, lumber and wood products will

continue to grow and develop to provide goods, services and work opportunities for area residents.

Source: OR-SNHRA: (Region 5) Mid-Columbia

Tourism and recreation are becoming increasingly popular in Wasco County. The City of the Dalles is situated along the Oregon’s main east-west corridor (I-84) which runs through the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area, and is only 83.4 miles from the Portland metropolitan area. Heading southbound along US- 197, The Dalles is only 130 miles from the recreational hotspot of Bend.

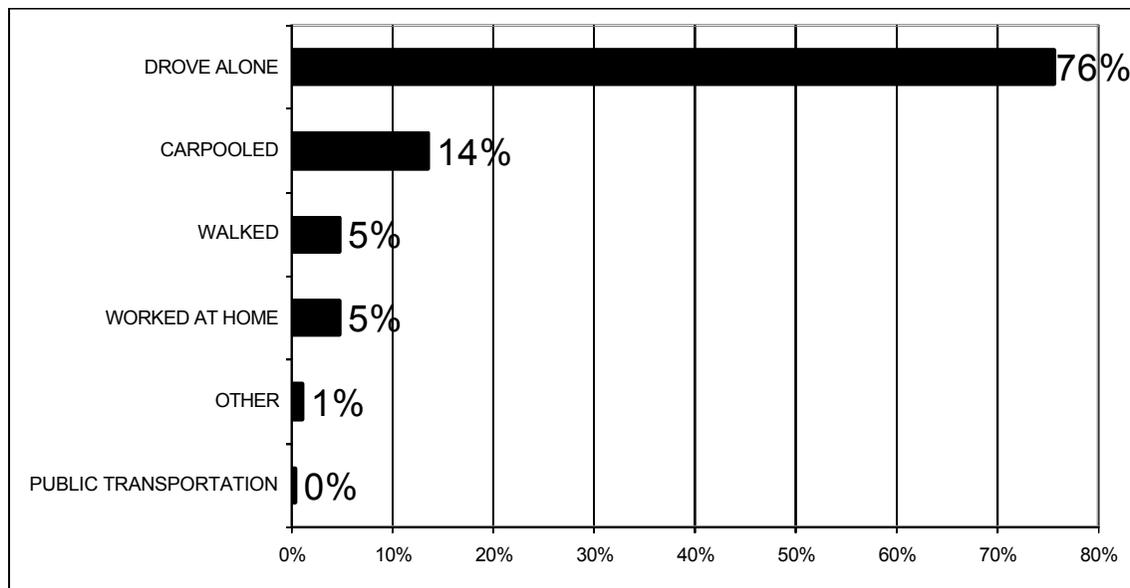
Transportation and Commuting Patterns

The automobile continues to dominate personal transportation within the county. Meanwhile, commercial products that are shipped to and from the County generally depend on truck, rail and water transport. Industry depends most heavily on rail transportation; forest products utilize trucks, while agricultural commodities depend on all three transportation modes.

Other transportation means in use in the County are commercial buses, Amtrak trains, The Dalles Municipal Airport located just across the Columbia River in Dallesport, and Senior Citizens buses. As populations and fuel prices increase, bicycles, mini-buses and commuter water travel may become more common forms of transportation.

Source: Wasco County Comprehensive Land Use Plan

Table 2.12 Commuting Patterns



Source: US Census Bureau 2000

The recent population growth in the area resulted in an increase of workers and automobiles and trucks on the roads. A high percentage of workers driving alone to work can cause traffic congestion, and accidents. The large increase of automobiles can place stress on roads, bridges and infrastructure within the cities, and also in rural areas where there are fewer transit roads. The impact of an emergency can disrupt automobile traffic

and shut down local transit systems across the area or region and make evacuations difficult. This is particularly important in this region, where hazardous materials are being transported along Interstate 84 and nearby railroad lines. In addition, weather related hazards, such as localized flooding can render roads unusable. A severe winter storm has the potential to disrupt the daily driving routine of thousands of people.

Source: OR-SNHRA: (Region 5) Mid-Columbia

Public Bridges, Highways and Roads

Most bridges are not seismically retrofitted, creating significant risk to the commuting population, particularly in an area that may be at risk for earthquakes. Incapacitated bridges can disrupt traffic and exacerbate economic losses because of the inability of industries to transport services and products to clients. The bridges in the region are part of the state and interstate highway and maintained by the Oregon Department of Transportation (see Table 2-13).

Source: OR-SNHRA: (Region 5) Mid-Columbia

Table 2.13 Bridges

State Hwy Bridges	County Hwy Bridges	City/Municipal	Historical	Covered	Total
104	113	4	0	0	221

Source: Oregon Department of Transportation.

The region’s major Expressway is Interstate 1-84 which runs east through Portland, on its way through the western edge of the Mid-Columbia region to eastern Oregon. Interstate 84 is the main transportation route for automobiles and trucks traveling from Oregon to the central and eastern states. Other state highways that service this region include US Routes 197 and 97 which runs south from The Dalles through Maupin in Wasco County.

Source: OR-SNHRA: (Region 5) Mid-Columbia

Critical Facilities and Infrastructure

Critical facilities are those facilities that are critical to government response and recovery activities (e.g., police and fire stations, public works facilities, sewer and water facilities, hospitals, bridges and roads, shelters, and more). Damaged facilities that could cause serious secondary impacts may also be considered critical.

Source: OR-SNHRA: (Region 5) Mid-Columbia

Table 2.14 Critical Facilities

# of Hospitals	# of Beds	Police Stations	Fire & Rescue Stations	School Districts & Colleges	Power Plants	# of Dams	Threat Potential
1	49	3	8	4 Districts; 1 Comm. College	0	9	4 high threat

Source: Oregon Department of Health, Local Sheriff Offices, Oregon Department of Education, Oregon Department of Energy, National Inventory of Dams.

Wasco County is served by the Oregon State Police Department and the Wasco County Sheriff's Office. The Dalles City Police Department provides services within the city limits.

The Wasco County Sheriff's Office has 13 deputies, one chief deputy, and a sheriff. Two of the deputies are assigned to the south part of Wasco County. The other 11 deputies are stationed in The Dalles and respond to calls any-where in the county. A majority of the Sheriff's Office work is around The Dalles area

There are six community sewer systems in the County. The Cities of Dufur, Maupin, Mosier and The Dalles each have a community sewer system. The rural unincorporated community of Wamic also has a community sewer system. The Sportsmen's Park subdivision has a community drainfield which services up to 180 lots.

The Northern Wasco County Sanitary Landfill is a privately owned facility and is the only sanitary landfill in the County. Various garbage collection services dump at the landfill.

The Dalles-Wasco County Library is the main facility in the County. Maupin, Mosier and Dufur each have small public libraries.

Source: Wasco County Comprehensive Land Use Plan

The County Courthouse located in Downtown The Dalles houses many of the administrative offices for Wasco County including the Sheriff as well as space for public hearings. The Courthouse also includes administrative offices for the State Courts. The Wasco County 911 Office is located at an undisclosed location nearby.

Historic and Cultural Resources

Historic and cultural resources such as historic structures and landmarks can help to define a community and may also be sources of tourism dollars. Because of their role in defining and supporting the community, protecting these resources from the impact of disasters is important

Environmental Assets

The major tourist attraction in the County is the Columbia River Gorge. Old Columbia River Road, Interstate 84, port dock facilities, parks and view points provide scenic and recreational facilities along the south side of the, Columbia River.

The Deschutes River provides a variety of water related recreational activities such as fishing, boating, camping and sight seeing. These major tourist attractions contribute to the local economy of Wasco County.

Source: Wasco County Comprehensive Land Use Plan

Fisheries habitats include the Columbia River, back-water ponds of the Columbia River, Fifteenmile Creek Drainage, the Deschutes River, Deschutes River Tributaries and lakes and reservoirs. The Columbia River is considered to be the single greatest fisheries

resource in the Pacific Northwest. The high quality water and stable flows provide optimum conditions for good fish populations, particularly Salmon.

The rivers of Wasco County are home to the north western most run of genetically pure Steelhead. As further development, erosion and floods contribute to a loss of habitat, Steelhead are becoming increasingly threatened. Infrastructure deficiencies in a lack of natural bottom culverts for roads along streams form a challenge to the migratory runs.

Celilo Falls, though currently underwater since the construction of the Dalles Dam, was the historically epicenter of trade for Native American Indian populations and one of the oldest continual use sites in North America.

Historic Assets

The following appear on the National Register of Historic Places:

Barlow Road

Roughly, N of Salmon and White Rivers from Rhododendron to SW of Wamic, Mt. Hood NF, Wamic
(61940 acres)

Columbia River Highway Historic District

Roughly bounded by the Sandy River Bridge, Troutdale, Multnomah County on the West, the Chenoweth Creek Bridge, etc., Mosier
(5290 acres, 38 structures)

Trevitt's Addition Historic District

Roughly bounded by 2nd, Liberty and 6th Sts. and Mill Cr., The Dalles
(250 acres, 51 buildings, 2 structures, 1 object)

The Dalles Commercial Historic District

Roughly bounded by Columbia River, Laughlin, Fifth, and Union Sts., The Dalles
(345 acres, 45 buildings, 1 object)

Imperial Stock Ranch Headquarters Complex

Hinton Rd. 3 mi. E of jct. with Bakeoven Rd., Shaniko
(202 acres, 5 buildings, 7 structures, 4 objects)

Shaniko Historic District

US 97 and OR 218, Shaniko
(334 acres, 18 buildings, 2 structures)

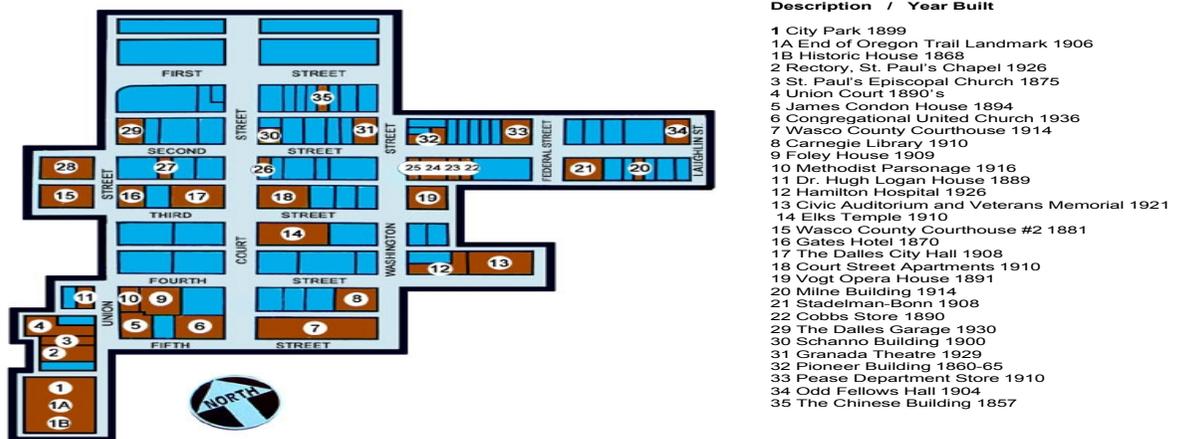
Source: National Register of Historic Places

Cultural Assets

Historic Downtown The Dalles is the current cultural and economic center of the county. Due to increased interest in the County, the downtown is expected to undergo rapid in-

fill, redevelopment and gentrification in the coming years. The downtown is also home to numerous historic and culturally relevant buildings.

Figure 2.1 Historic Downtown The Dalles



The Columbia Gorge Discovery Center is the official interpretive center for the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. Historical research at the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center touches many areas of interest, including Lewis and Clark archaeology, local land settlement, Rock Fort, historic Fort Dalles and steamboats on western rivers. Also part of the Center, The Wasco County Historical Museum is a 17,200 square foot exhibit wing which tells the stories of the people of Wasco County past and present while the Dick Library has 2,000 volumes on local and regional history. Genealogy files, including genealogic history.

Source: <http://www.gorgediscovery.org/>

Rock Fort (Fort Rock) Lewis & Clark Campsite is located on 1st Street on the Port of The Dalles. The site is northeast of Webber and 2nd Street. Here Lewis & Clark and the Corps of Discovery camped on both legs of their journey; October 1805, and again in April 1806. While in The Dalles, Lewis & Clark encountered the largest gathering of indigenous peoples anywhere along their route and also saw the first homes made of wood since they left St Louis. Memorial plaque and interpretive signage located on site.