

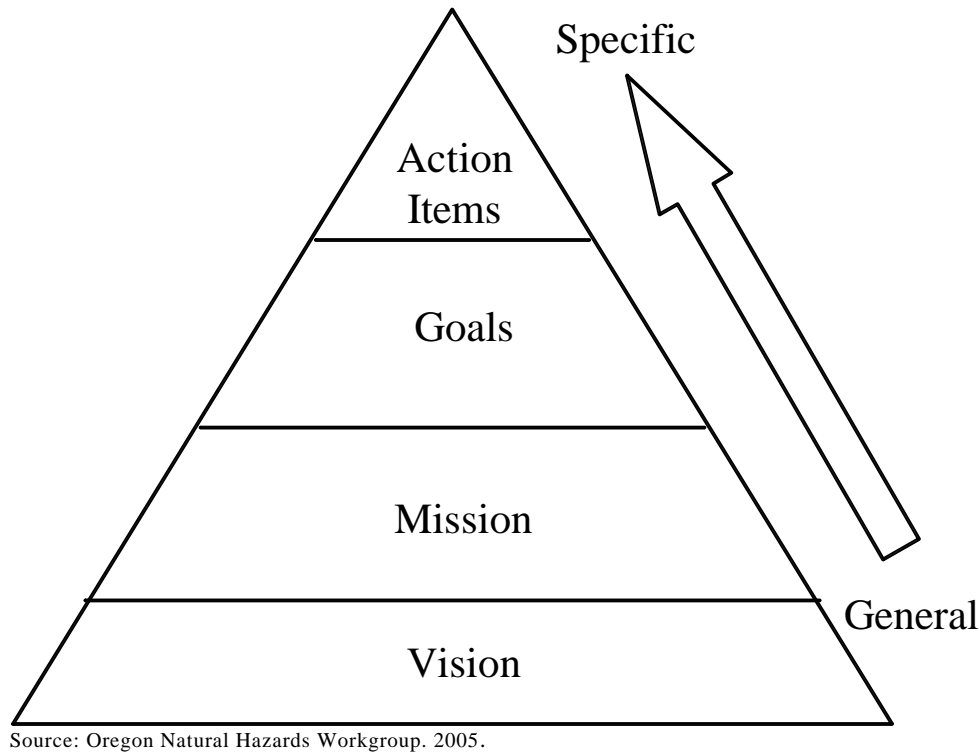
Mission, Goals, and Action Items

This section describes the components that guide the implementation of the identified mitigation strategies and is based on action plan principles. This section also provides information on the process used to develop the action plan components which include: vision, mission, goals, objectives and action items.

- **Vision**— The vision statement describes the preferred or desired future for the community with regard to natural hazards.
- **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.

Figure 4.1 illustrates the components of the action plan and depicts the level of specificity for each of the action plan components.

Figure 4.1: Action Plan Components



Natural Hazard Mitigation Vision and Mission

The vision statement was culled from the adopted vision set forth by the Wasco County Court and Wasco County Planning & Development. Input from Stakeholder Interviews, Steering Committee meetings, Wasco County Court’s mission statement, and ONHW training sessions were synthesized by NHMP Coordinator into a NHMP mission statement draft. The mission statement draft was then approved and adopted by the Wasco County NHMP Steering Committee in the course of its final Goals & Action Items Meeting on 13 July 2006.

Vision

Wasco County’s mitigation plan vision is...

“...to be the best performing rural county government in Oregon and to preserve the beauty, livability, and economy of Wasco County for future generations.”

Mission

Wasco County’s 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.”

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 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.

Soliciting community input during stakeholder interviews was a critical aspect of goal development. Armed with Stakeholder Interview input, the mitigation plan goals and goal statements were drafted by NHMP Coordinator using assistance from ONHW. The draft goals were brought before the Wasco County Steering Committee for review and approval. The goals were revised with Steering Committee input before adoption by committee.

In an effort to prioritize goals, each member of the Steering Committee was asked to (i) identify three statements that were most important to them and (ii) speak to why they chose those statements. Their statement choices were tallied and goals prioritized by the number of statements selected; goals with the most statements selected are ranked in priority from I-III. This exercise was not meant to exclude the importance of the other goals, but rather assist in the implementation of this plan by identifying which of the high priority risk reducing action items to pursue funding for first.

The outcome of the goal prioritization process is represented in Table 4.1 below. The “CHOICE” column indicates the number of times a given statement was identified as a community priority by Steering Committee members. The “PRIORITY” column tallies the number of statements selected for each goal and identifies the principal goals to serve as a starting point in the implementation of mitigation activities for Wasco County.

The primary goals identified are the Protection of Life & Property, and to Facilitate Partnerships and Coordination. Secondary and tertiary goals are to Acknowledge Responsibility for mitigating hazardous events, and the Enhancement of Emergency Services.

For more information on the public process, please refer to Appendix A: Public Process.

Table 4.1 Wasco County Goals, Statements, and Priority
WASCO COUNTY NHMP GOALS

GOAL	STATEMENT	CHOICE	PRIORITY
Education & Outreach	Develop and implement education programs to increase awareness among citizens, local, county, and regional agencies, non-profit organizations, businesses, and industry	1	
	Develop and conduct outreach programs to increase the number of local activities implemented by public and private sector organizations		
	Build community consensus through outreach, education and activities		
Disaster Resilient Economy	Foster a diverse economy to reduce the debilitating impacts of a hazard event on any one sector		
	Create the conditions for a transitional economy that welcomes new industry and innovative ideas that are sensitive to potential hazard risks faced by the County		
	Protect recreation and tourist industries by raising awareness of potential hazard impacts		
	Provide support for agricultural industries to help them prepare for hazardous events		
Protection of Life & Property	Develop and implement activities to protect human life, commerce, property and natural resource systems	2	I*
	Reduce insurance losses and repetitive claims for chronic hazard events while promoting insurance for catastrophic hazards	1	
	Evaluate county guideline/codes, and permitting processes in addressing hazard mitigation; emphasize non-structural means of mitigating hazard impact	3	
	When applicable, utilize structural mitigation activities to minimize risks associated with hazard events		
Intergenerational Equity	Encourage growth and development that meets the needs of the present without compromising future generations		
	Preserve the "small town" character of the County	1	
Acknowledge Responsibility	Coordinate programs to increase natural hazard knowledge base and use technology to better record events and model vulnerability	4	II
	Actively acknowledge amount of loss the County is susceptible to and develop efforts to overcome that loss without significant reliance on outside resources		
	Incorporate hazard mitigation as part of County leadership's routine decision making process	1	
Facilitate Partnerships & Coordination	Strengthen communication and coordination of public/private partnerships and emergency services among local, county and regional governments and the private sector	6	I*
	Incorporate hazard mitigation into the greater social, economic and natural resource goal framework		
Natural Resource Systems Protection	Link watershed planning, natural resource management, and land use planning with natural hazard mitigation activities to protect vital habitat and water quality		
	Preserve and rehabilitate natural systems to serve natural hazard mitigation functions and protect recreation and tourist resources		
Emergency Services Enhancement	Evaluate performance of critical facilities during a natural hazard event	2	III
	Minimize life safety issues		
	Ensure resources, staffing and volunteer base keeps pace with County growth	2	

*Tie

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 both multi-hazard (MH) and hazard specific issues.

Action Item Development

The NHMP Coordinator led the effort to collect and document action item ideas, disperse action worksheets to government agencies and community stakeholders, and ultimately draft action item worksheets to present to the Steering Committee. Action item input was gathered through the NHMP Community Stakeholder Forum, stakeholder interviews, and Steering Committee meetings. The Steering Committee was charged with the selection of draft action items to document in the plan and prioritization (high or low) of action items to help guide implementation.

Selection and prioritization of action items was accomplished during the NHMP Steering Committee Goals & Action Items meeting on 13 July 2006. The method of selection and prioritization was as follows:

(1) First pass review (selection):

Each action item was reviewed individually by the Steering Committee with the question posed: “is this an action item worth pursuing, i.e. will it effectively reduce the county’s risk from natural hazards?” The action items were placed in “Yes” or “No” piles accordingly.

(2) Second pass review (prioritization):

Of those action items in the “Yes” pile, each item was reviewed individually by the Steering Committee and given a “High” or “Low” priority rating based on potential impact and feasibility.

(3) Third pass review (detail):

The details of the selected action items were discussed and debated with emphasis on rationale for the action, ideas for implementation, and the coordinating organization.

The Action Item Worksheet

Each action item has a corresponding action item worksheet describing the activity, identifying the rationale for the project, identifying potential ideas for implementation, and assigning coordinating and partner organizations. The action item worksheets can assist the community to pre-package potential projects for grant funding. The worksheet components are described below. These action item worksheets are located at the end of this section following the Action Plan Matrix which displays all the plan’s action items.

- **Rationale or Key Issues Addressed**

Action items should be fact based and tied directly to issues or needs identified throughout the planning process. Action items can be developed from a number of sources including participants of 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. The ideas for implementation serve as a starting point for this plan. This component of the action item is dynamic as some ideas may be not feasible and new ideas can be added during the plan maintenance process. Ideas for implementation include things such 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 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.

- **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 towards 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 within one to two years. Long-term action items (LT) may require new or additional resources and/or authorities, and may take between one and five years to implement.

Action Plan Matrix

The Action Plan matrix portrays the overall action plan framework and identifies linkages between the plan goals, partnerships (coordination and partner organizations), and actions. The matrix documents a description of the action, Steering Committee identified priority, the coordinating organization, partner organizations, timeline, and the plan goals addressed.

**NOTE: ACTION ITEM MATRIX & ACTION ITEM WORKSHEETS
ATTACHED SEPARATELY (LOCATED IN SECTION IV FOLDER)**