



8.21.2024 Regular BOCC Session

Wasco County
401 E. 3rd St, The Dalles, OR 97058
2024-08-21 09:00 - 11:00 PDT

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AGENDA: REGULAR SESSION

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21, 2024

WASCO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, 401 E THIRD ST. THE DALLES or VIRTUALLY @

<https://wascocounty-org.zoom.us/j/2919733815> OR Dial 1-253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 2919733815#

While these virtual options are provided, we cannot guarantee connection or quality of the call.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Individuals wishing to address the Commission on items not already listed on the Agenda may do so during the first half-hour and at other times throughout the meeting; please wait for the current speaker to conclude and raise your hand to be recognized by the Chair for direction. Speakers are required to give their name and address. Please limit comments from three to five minutes, unless extended by the Chair.

DEPARTMENTS: Are encouraged to have their issue added to the Agenda in advance. When that is not possible the Commission will attempt to make time to fit you in during the first half-hour or between listed Agenda items.

NOTE: With the exception of Public Hearings, the Agenda is subject to last minute changes; times are approximate – please arrive early. Meetings are ADA accessible. For special accommodations please contact the Commission Office in advance, (541) 506-2520. TDD 1-800-735-2900. If you require an interpreter, please contact the Commission Office at least 7 days in advance.

Las reuniones son ADA accesibles. Por tipo de alojamiento especiales, por favor póngase en contacto con la Oficina de la Comisión de antemano, (541) 506-2520. TDD 1-800-735-2900. Si necesita un intérprete por favor, póngase en contacto con la Oficina de la Comisión por lo menos siete días de antelación.

9:00 a.m.	<p>CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE</p> <p>Items without a designated appointment may be rearranged to make the best use of time. Other matters may be discussed as deemed appropriate by the Board.</p> <p>Corrections or Additions to the Agenda</p> <p>Discussion Items: Contract for Publication of Legal Notices; Resolution Center Update & Direction (Routine Items or Items of general Commission discussion/action, not otherwise listed on the Agenda)</p> <p>Consent Agenda: 8.7.2024 Regular Session Minutes (Items of a routine nature: minutes, documents, items previously discussed.)</p> <p>Public Comment at the discretion of the Chair (3 minute limit unless extended by Chair)</p>
<i>Times are Approximate</i>	
9:30 a.m.	Hearing #1 - Ordinance Repealing Uniform Fee Schedule Ordinance – Kelly Walker
9:45 a.m.	Legislative Amendments required by FEMA in Floodplain – Kelly Howsley-Glover, Daniel Dougherty
10:05 a.m.	Wildfire Hazard Map – Dan Van Vactor, Stephen Griffith
10:25 a.m.	Kramer Field Post Season Wrap Up
10:45 a.m.	Executive Session – ORS 192.660(2)(f) and (h) To consider information or records that are exempt by law from public inspection and conferring with Legal Counsel.
	Commission Call
	NEW/OLD BUSINESS
	ADJOURN

If necessary, an Executive Session may be held in accordance with: ORS 192.660(2)(a) – Employment of Public Officers, Employees & Agents, ORS 192.660(2)(b) – Discipline of Public Officers & Employees, ORS 192.660(2)(d) – Labor Negotiator Consultations, ORS 192.660(2)(e) – Real Property Transactions, ORS 192.660(2)(f) To consider information or records exempt by law from public inspection, ORS 192.660(2)(g) – Trade Negotiations, ORS 192.660(2)(h) - Conferring with Legal Counsel regarding litigation, ORS 192.660(2)(i) – Performance Evaluations of Public Officers & Employees, ORS 192.660(2)(j) – Public Investments, ORS 192.660(2)(n) – Security Programs, ORS 192.660(2)(n) – Labor Negotiations



WASCO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION
AUGUST 21, 2024

This meeting was held in person and on Zoom

<https://wascocounty-org.zoom.us/j/2919733815>

Or call in to [1-253-215-8782](tel:1-253-215-8782) Meeting ID: 2919733815#

PRESENT: Steve Kramer, Chair
Scott Hege, Vice-Chair
Phil Brady, County Commissioner
STAFF: Kelly Walker, Executive Assistant
Tyler Stone, Administrative Officer

Chair Kramer opened the session at 9:01 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Discussion Item – Contract for Publication of Legal Notices

Ms. Walker read the memo included in the Board Packet.

Commissioner Brady asked where the small communities with no local newspaper would publish their notices. Chair Kramer replied that it would be the Columbia Gorge News or South Wasco Times.

{{{Vice-Chair Hege moved to approve the 2024-2025 Contract with Columbia Gorge News for the publication of legal notices for Wasco County. Commissioner Brady seconded the motion which passed unanimously.}}}

Discussion Item – Resolution Center Update & Direction

Mr. Stone said that they need to start utilizing the different funding sources they've received to get project management and design started for the Columbia Gorge Resolution Center (CGRC). He said he'd like to get the Board's approval to move this forward.

Mid-Columbia Center for Living (MCCFL) Executive Director Al Barton gave an update on the CGRC and gave a power point presentation (attached).

Mr. Barton explained that they currently have very few hospital and law enforcement diversion options; After the development of the CGRC, they would have a 23-hour diversion option. He said if one-fifth of the folks who go to the hospital could be diverted to a trauma-informed place, it would make a large impact

for the community.

Commissioner Brady asked if the most acute cases in behavioral health in which someone is a danger to themselves or others would be diverted. Mr. Barton replied that the most acute would not be diverted, as they would still need treatment at a hospital. He explained that a less intensive or moderate level of care would be among those who would be diverted.

Mr. Barton explained that over 1,000 beds are needed statewide for mental health residential facilities; if they had a local residential facility, it would help reduce those numbers. He gave an example that demonstrated the local need.

Chair Kramer said that there's another Statewide needs assessment page which shows the regions; in the pending capacity row, our region shows zero in each category. He said he's brought this to Oregon Health Authority's (OHA) attention to secure more funding as they move forward.

Mr. Barton pointed out that there has not been a statewide coordinated effort to identify needs, which leaves local partnerships to take the initiative to identify local needs to fill that gap and develop the services; their eastern counterparts have had to develop services themselves.

Mr. Barton said that the funding picture has changed because the state has now prioritized Phase III; they want to see the Secure Residential Treatment Facility (SRTF). He said they have to make a decision about the grants that are locally tied to Phase III.

Mr. Barton reviewed the Funding for construction picture slide. The In-hand grant amounts can serve any element of the project except for the \$4.5 million OHA grant, which is for SRTF only. He added that Hood River and Sherman Counties need to come to the table to help with funding, as well. He pointed out that the \$19,600,000 they currently have allows them to at least develop one of the phases and to move forward.

Mr. Barton discussed the need for professional staff for the CGRC, which will be a challenging next step. He stated that they've been able to fully the residential psychiatric facility in Hood River so they expect to be able to fully staff this one. This will provide some entry-level jobs in the drug and alcohol facility, as well, for those who want to start a career in behavioral health/helping professions.

Chair Kramer said he will continue to work with OHA to remove the SRTF requirement on the funds, as those beds would be used by people who live out of

the area instead of local people; he wants local folks to be served before taking others from different areas.

Vice-Chair Hege asked Chair Kramer if it's possible OHA would remove that requirement and why they have that restriction on the funds. Chair Kramer replied that the state needs the beds and that he'd keep working with OHA.

Vice-Chair Hege expressed concern that they have approximately \$20 million in committed funds, some of which are specifically earmarked for building the STRF; knowing that the state prioritizes Phase III, and if building the STRF costs about the same, they could end up having to use all the committed funds for a regional state facility instead of building facilities and developing services for the local population. He asked if it's possible to get that STRF requirement removed.

Chair Kramer said he would keep trying. He said that Multnomah, Washington, and Clackamas Counties will be getting more of the funds because of the larger population they serve, and they will be building facilities, as well. He said that he would like to use the funding they have for the local building and development first and then they can come together with the state at the end to work on the STRF.

Vice Chair Hege asked if all the other funds except that 4.5 million are not encumbered by that requirement. Chair Kramer replied affirmatively and they could start working on Phases I and II, which would be for local building and development.

Vice-Chair Hege asked who the owner of this project is. Mr. Stone replied that from a funding perspective, this is a Wasco County project, as grant dollars are awarded through the county. Wasco County would build the CGRC and MCCFL would be operating it.

Vice-Chair Hege asked what the other counties' involvement would specifically be, as this would be a regional facility. Mr. Barton replied that they need to reach out to the other counties and apprise and engage them, and help them see how this will benefit their communities. He said they've been largely focused on the OHA funding piece, so the next step is to do some outreach to Coordinated Care Organization (CCO) partners. Chair Kramer added that county partners will be involved and need to contribute to this project; it will be up to Wasco County and MCCFL to further those relationships with county commissioners and hospitals, as well. He said we have opportunities to bring them on board for their contribution to this; they like the concept but financial discussions haven't yet happened.

Vice-Chair Hege asked whether the hospitals are aware of their benefit and relief

when they are able divert some of the behavioral health patients; he hopes this awareness will inspire them to participate. Mr. Barton replied that they've met with the hospitals and let them know how this will benefit them. He said it wouldn't be a lot of diversion, but it would help some. He said they look to Deschutes County as a mentor and template, as they've had a Resolution Center for 4 years; on average they regularly divert 10-15 people who would have likely been hospitalized. He said if they could divert half locally, it would make a notable impact. He said folks at that mid-level of care need can stay up to 23 hours.

Discussion ensued regarding Deschutes County Resolution Center facility's capacity. They have 5 beds; the stay is up to 23 hours, but most stay about 10 hours. Vice-Chair Hege asked how many beds the CGRC would have. Mr. Barton said they will be starting with 2 or 3 beds at the Crisis Resolution Center. He said they'd have possibly 20 beds for the drug and alcohol program, 16 STRF beds and 16 non-secure Residential Treatment Facility (RTF) beds.

Discussion ensued regarding the cost of the Crisis Resolution piece, which shows on the slide about one-third of \$18,313,841 which totals a little more than \$6 million. Discussion continued regarding project costs within Phase I and II, which are included on the slides in the Board Packet.

Discussion ensued regarding the Crisis Resolution Center's square footage at 7600 and what would be included in that space, which is shown on slide 6 on of the Powerpoint Presentation included in the Board Packet.

Mr. Barton explained that it's entirely feasible that someone could come from the state hospital to the SRTF at the CGRC for 6-8 months to stabilize, move into the RTF and then land in Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Drop in Center as they move down the ladder of needed level of care; he said it works in the other direction, as well, which is why it's good to have those services grouped in the same campus.

Commissioner Brady asked what the request is of the Commissioners today. Mr. Stone said the request is for a commitment to make a start; they need to start to spend the funds to hire a project manager, hire a general contractor, send out bids for an architect, and start the design process. Vice-Chair Hege asked what they are specifically planning to start working on. Mr. Stone replied they would start with the RTF and SRTF at this point.

Vice-Chair Hege expressed concern regarding starting with regional state needs when we have a significant amount of funds that could be used for local needs; only \$4.5 million has been designated for the SRTF. He said he'd much rather that the efforts be focused on building and developing facilities and services for our local population needs. Mr. Stone expressed a concern over the possibility of those funds of \$4.5 million and possibility the other \$4.5 million needing to be returned to the state if they're not utilized.

Discussion ensued about varying levels of restrictions on the funding. Mr. Barton said the original \$4.5 million has a time limit in which to utilize; even though those funds can be used for residential (drug and alcohol or RTF or SRTF). He said that if we lose the \$4.5 million, he's not sure if they'd be in a position where they could use the other \$4.5 million. He said they could use both of the \$4.5 million grants to build a secure facility. He said another plus is that a SRTF typically is adequately funded and those reserves can be used to offset other program costs. He said that MCCFL purchased the old Creekside Residential Treatment Facility; they'd like to purpose that for local needs. He said that if they don't have money to proceed, one plan is to build a secure and non-secure residential facilities and then use the Creekside Facility to start to develop the Drug and Alcohol and Crisis Drop Off Center; then the residential facility on 9th Street would get repurposed for supportive housing. He said that's one way that they could build a residential regional project, but still honor the local needs in the community.

Vice-Chair Hege said that it's interesting that the state awards the county \$4.5 million to build an SRTF, but Wasco County would end up using an addition \$16 million or so that could go toward local needs to instead go toward a SRTF that would serve the state's need.

Chair Kramer asked for support to continue their efforts to which Vice-Chair Hege replied affirmatively. Chair Kramer brought up having a monthly update on the progress of this project so Vice-Chair Hege and Commissioner Brady are informed. Vice-Chair Hege said this is one of their top 3 project priorities when they go to Washington D.C.

Mr. Stone asked for more direction from the commissioners regarding moving forward. He said he needs to hire a project manager, etc. One of the \$4.5 million grants need to be expended by June 2025; they'll ask for an extension, but those are lottery dollars, and they will likely not be willing to extend. He asked the commissioners what they would like them to do.

Commissioner Brady said he thought they should proceed with starting the design and development. He said things will become clearer as they progress with the project.

Vice-Chair Hege commented that this is full of uncertainty. At this point the idea of moving into the design phase of this project does not seem like a good use of the funds they currently have. He asked what monies would they spend and how much they plan on spending. He also asked if they would use funds they've received for the project so far or money from the County. Mr. Stone replied that some of the funding they've received should be eligible to use for project management. He said he would target those funds as much as possible. He said he is not yet certain until bids are completed, but he thinks they would need about \$250,000 - \$300,000 for project management services from start to finish.

Vice-Chair Hege said he doesn't have a problem with taking a step forward, but is not ready to commit \$300,000 right now. He said it's troubling to him to commit that much money to start developing a facility for which we don't have the full funding and don't really know what we're developing. Mr. Stone said they'd pay as they go; this would be for the initial phases for project management or designing an RFP and getting that out to bid, and analyzing funding structures, etc. He said that might not take \$300,000, but it might take \$75,000; once we get the bids out, we'd know more about how much will be needed to start this. Vice-Chair Hege said that he's fine with some first steps, but he needs to know more before committing this much in funds. He said he doesn't feel comfortable making a decision about this until he has more facts.

Chair Kramer said the direction to take is to find out exactly what the DAS Lottery funds, the \$8 million legislative dollars, and the SRTF dollars can be used for. He said they need to push legislators and OHA so they can learn what they need to spend those dollars on. We also need to find and secure more resources for this project.

Vice-Chair Hege said that he agrees; the SRTF money is the issue and he knows Chair Kramer is working on that. He said he knows there's a need and wants to work on taking care of this need; he doesn't want to start with a lot of unanswered questions.

Commissioner Brady said he had some questions, as well.

Chair Kramer directed them to have an offline conversation with Mr. Barton and Mr. Stone to get some questions answered. He said the next Board Meeting would address those questions.

Chair Kramer recessed the meeting at 9:57 a.m. to open the Hearing.

Agenda Item – 1st Hearing – Ordinance Repealing Uniform Fee Schedule Ordinance

Chair Kramer said this is the first of two public meetings; no decision will be made at today's hearing. An official recording is being made of what is said at this hearing. Everyone present will be given an opportunity to be heard. Therefore, persons addressing the Commission are requested to begin by stating their name and address. Speak clearly. Only one person may speak at a time. This is the time for presentation of testimony. No debate is allowed. The order of presentation will be: Staff Presentation; Testimony from anyone wishing to speak; Questions from the Commission.

Ms. Walker read the memo included in the Board Packet.

Chair Kramer asked for public testimony and comment. There was no public testimony or comments.

Chair Kramer read the Ordinance by title only.

Chair Kramer closed the public hearing and reconvened to the regular session at 10:00 a.m.

Agenda Item – Legislative Amendments required by FEMA in Floodplain

Planning Director Daniel Dougherty reviewed the memo included in the board packet and the power point presentation attached. He said the Planning Department also received a Floodplain Habitat Assessment and Mitigation guide, which is also included in the board packet.

Mr. Dougherty said that Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) sent them a notice requiring them to adopt one of 3 Pre-implementation Compliance Measures (PICM), which is more fully explained in the memo. He said these are preliminary requirements and could potentially change in the future.

Vice-Chair Hege asked if any of the other states have the same challenges with FEMA. Mr. Dougherty replied that this is specific to Oregon; he believes that Washington has had to deal with the same issue. He said this was brought on by a lawsuit from the Portland Audubon Society.

Mr. Dougherty read to the record that FEMA does not comprehend that when a local jurisdiction in Oregon seeks to administer and enforce new land use regulations under state law, the jurisdiction has to follow very stringent procedural process requirements, which include public and impacted owner notification, public input, public hearings, and opportunities for comment and appeal. Under FEMA's current timeline, Wasco County cannot meet the deadline of implementation. This issue has been brought to FEMA's attention with little or no consideration from FEMA as to this date. Furthermore, the Planning Department did not budget for the additional public notification that will be required. In considering the implications of this issue, I recommend notification of potentially impacted properties and solicitation of public feedback, as soon as possible, and certainly before the December 1, 2024 deadline.

Mr. Dougherty went over the affected counties which are about 31 out of 36 counties and multiple urban jurisdictions. He said this applies to property in Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) and the community in National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

Commissioner Brady asked if this is in the Columbia River Watershed. Mr. Dougherty replied that this is in several watersheds including the Columbia River Watershed.

Vice-Chair Hege asked about the counties which this doesn't apply to and why they are not included in this. Mr. Dougherty replied that he thinks it has to do with the watershed; he said he can get more information for them. Chair Kramer added that

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Wasco County is in FEMA Region 10 and the other counties are in a different region. Mr. Dougherty said it could also be the water flow and various species impacted, as well.

Mr. Dougherty went over the affected Wasco County Properties slide and said this could limit or eliminate new developments on any of these properties, especially for the undeveloped properties and properties that are completely within the flood zone.

Vice-Chair Hege asked if 122 vacant properties out 384 were developed properties. Mr. Dougherty replied affirmatively.

Mr. Dougherty said existing structures would still have routine maintenance and routine agricultural practices, but anything new in the undeveloped space would either have to offset or avoid it. Commissioner Brady asked what date would be considered 'new'. Mr. Dougherty replied that "new" would be structures that are built now and December 1, 2024. He said if you were to build now, you would fall into the current flood development regulations under the current maps. After December 1, 2024, FEMA is demanding that we implement either the Model Ordinance or Permit by Permit Habitat Assessment or a Prohibition on development. He said if the direction today is to go with the Model Ordinance, it would apply December 1, 2024.

Vice-Chair Hege asked if people impacted by this have been notified already. Mr. Dougherty replied that citizens have not been notified of this yet; they just received this information on August 15th. He said they didn't know all the requirements until they received the Model Ordinance.

Mr. Dougherty pointed out that the Model Ordinance and Habit Assessment guide do not give much guidance on what a qualified professional is, which could be a source of legal action, as well. Commissioner Brady asked if legal action would involve the concept of taking. Mr. Dougherty replied that it could.

Chair Kramer asked if the county doesn't select a measure, the default would be Permit by Permit. Mr. Dougherty replied affirmatively. He explained that Permit by Permit means decisions would be made on a development-by-development basis which would run through the Planning Department. He said it's very discretionary and they don't have the trained staff to determine whether the proposal meets the no net loss requirements. He explained that a developer would have to get a Habitat Mitigation Assessment Plan which would have to demonstrate that they meet the no net loss requirements.

Mr. Dougherty said the Planning Department recommends adoption of FEMA's 2024

Model Floodplain Management Ordinance. He explained that unlike the Permit by Permit measure, the Model Ordinance gives staff a guide on what specific parameters must be met. He said it's also less discretionary than Permit by Permit.

Commissioner Brady asked what less discretionary means. Mr. Dougherty replied that less discretionary means having more clear and objective standards.

Commissioner Brady asked if it would be possible to have a change of mind and make a different measure selection down the road. Mr. Dougherty replied that the legislative amendment process is extremely complex with many timelines associated with it and a public process with options to appeal, so once they proceed down this path, it likely would be very difficult to change course down the road, but not impossible.

Vice-Chair Hege asked if the county would bear the cost if sued by the landowners, as this is a FEMA requirement; he asked if FEMA would stand behind the county if that happened. Mr. Dougherty replied that he didn't know; he said that FEMA sent out a survey asking jurisdictions what kind of assistance and support they need; he said he checked "yes" to financial assistance and expertise, but is not sure if they would provide assistance in the event of a lawsuit.

Chair Kramer referenced the 2nd page of the FEMA letter attached to the memo included in the board packet. He read, "Your community's ongoing participation in the NFIP is critical, as it provides access to flood insurance for property owners, renters, and businesses. In Wasco County there are currently 37 of NFIP policies in force representing \$7861000 in coverage for your community." He said that will all go away if we don't comply.

Commissioner Brady asked about the timeline if they approve the Model Ordinance. Mr. Dougherty explained that it's not possible to comply with the timeline, but if they'd don't make a decision, they'd have to go with the default which is the Permit by Permit measure.

Chair Kramer asked if they've requested an extension so they can make the timeline. He expressed concern that if they don't make the timeline, they'd default to the Permit by Permit measure. Mr. Dougherty clarified that they wouldn't default to a Permit by Permit measure if they aren't able to make the time requirement; they would default if a decision isn't made. He said if they choose the Model Ordinance, they would begin working on that immediately. He said they've requested more time, but it was not granted. He said it's possible that FEMA doesn't understand Oregon law pertaining to legislative amendments.

Commissioner Brady asked why they are recommending the Model Ordinance. Mr. Dougherty replied that they believe it will be less discretionary and creates a path for

the Planning Department to understand how to mitigate impacts in the floodway functions.

Chair Kramer asked if they are asking for consensus to move forward with the Model Ordinance. Ms. Howsley-Glover replied that they'd also like direction to notify and be very frank with citizens who will be impacted by this. Vice-Chair Hege asked if they would send out the standard notices. Ms. Howsley-Glover replied they'd like to send out additional notices that inform citizens that the new FEMA requirements may reduce opportunities for development.

Discussion ensued regarding notification to citizens of new Floodplain maps. Ms. Howsley-Glover said impacted citizens were notified by FEMA and Wasco County. Mr. Dougherty clarified that said citizens have not yet been notified about this new "no net loss" issue.

Chair Kramer asked if there is any process or potential for FEMA to reimburse Wasco County for the notification process. Ms. Howsley-Glover replied that it's not possible.

The Board was in consensus for the Planning Department to move forward with the Model Ordinance and to provide notification to impacted citizens.

Agenda Item – Wildfire Hazard Map

Dan Van Vactor, a Wasco County resident, a member of the Badger Improvement District (BID), and the President of the Round Prairie Improvement District (RPID) returned to give some follow up comments included in the "Comments to the ODF Wildfire Hazard Map" included in the board packet. He said that recently he read an article the Los Angeles Times indicated that the high-hazard map designation in California was being revisited by the California legislature based on the issues it has created.

Mr. Van Vactor said that he received a recent response from the Oregon Wildfire Hazard Map to the comments he filed, which stated that the Wildfire Hazard Map does not take into any account fuel reduction, defensible space, or home-hardening actions that the homeowner or neighborhood may have taken to protect themselves against the occurrence of wildfire. The response to Mr. Van Vactor also stated that roof sprinklers, yard sprinklers, and water stores in proximity to fire departments is also not proven in the environmental hazard assessments. He said the response went on to say that the law requires a wildfire hazard map to be based only on weather, climate, topography, and vegetation. He said that irrigated land should be included in the vegetation analysis; it's the only factor that can be controlled. He also mentioned that Irrmapper, a google tool, isn't able to gauge vegetation well.

Mr. Van Vactor cited a couple of points in an email drafted by Ms. Howsley-Glover sent to help provide some information; "In response to public feedback to the first map, OSU scientists adjusted the way hazard is calculated in hay and pasturelands, which often won't burn because they're either irrigated or grazed. And if they do burn, the scientists point out, it's usually later in fire season and only under severe weather conditions. The result of the changes is a reduced hazard level for about 1.7 million acres." The email also states, "Also in response to public feedback, scientists modified hazard calculations on irrigated croplands to account for irrigation reducing the likelihood and intensity of wildfires in these areas. All croplands identified as having been irrigated in at least one of the last five years were placed in the low-hazard category in the current draft map, affecting about 2.7 million acres." He said that out of the 4300 total acres of irrigated land in the Badger Improvement District (BID) and Round Prairie Improvement District (RPID), only one 40 acre parcel was designated low hazard on the Wildfire Hazard Map. He said less than half of those 4300 acres of irrigated land were designated as moderate hazard; the rest were designated high hazard. He said the information that OSU gave Ms. Howsley-Glover was incorrect and he hopes that the Commission will take a serious approach in making the state account for these inconsistencies.

Mr. Van Vactor said that the state doesn't seem to want to make any ground analysis; they just want to put out a map so they can create future Ordinances that will require home hardening and apply new Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) boundaries which are on the map. He said he didn't think the state could adopt WUI boundaries without adopting through the counties, as landowners have to be noticed first.

Mr. Van Vactor further discussed the original intent for the WUI boundaries, which was to protect the federal register from wildfire escaping from public lands onto private lands; this appears to no longer be the case. He said that the state is now imposing WUI boundaries around unincorporated communities like Pine Hollow which includes agricultural land. He said this is not where the wildfire is going to come from. He stated that the Wildfire Hazard Map has not been thought through or accurately done.

Stephen Griffith, Vice-President of the BID reviewed the Appendix included in the board packet.

Chair Kramer said that Mr. Griffith presented some great examples and data, which he will be able to take to the meeting with Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) and OSU on August 26th. He said that the legislators need to know they've made a mistake and the timeline was inappropriate. He said we still need more time with this; there are other folks asking the same questions. There will be much to discuss at the meeting on August 26th.

He said 15 counties will have a final say with this map; there will be a comment period in which these things can be addressed.

Commissioner Brady acknowledged that the presenters mentioned that the tax lot was not a good unit of designation in the previous presentation; he asked what unit of resolution would work better. Mr. Griffith suggested that since the target is defensible space, they could narrow the unit down to a perimeter around the structure. He pointed out that there are hydrants in Pine Hollow; he recommends that it be recognized when hydrants are available.

Commissioner Brady presented a map (attached) that points out some actions being taken with regard to areas in the Barlow Forest receiving forest fuel treatments which shows that work is being done to prevent fire escaping from public lands to private lands. He pointed out that this is movement in the right direction.

Vice-Chair Hege asked if Mr. Griffith sent his examples to OSU. Mr. Griffith replied that he sent them to ODF and didn't receive a response. Vice-Chair Hege thanked Mr. Griffith for his examples and said they'd bring these up on Monday's meeting.

Vice-Chair Hege asked Ms. Howsley-Glover to comment briefly on Mr. Van Vactor's comments regarding WUI boundaries (taking the WUI boundaries into private land). Ms. Howsley-Glover replied that they don't have any official or regulatory WUI boundaries. She said that when the Community Planning Assistance for Wildfires group did the Wildfire Hazard Risk Assessment, they identified areas considered to be a WUI. She said they are not using those for regulatory purposes; they are only using them for consideration for Natural Hazards Planning. The state process uses a similar approach to WUI. The purpose of the Wildfire Hazard Map WUI is significant because it will require the county to require defensible space standards and home-hardening practices within the WUI. She explained that the county already has very aggressive defensible space requirements throughout the unincorporated Wasco County so there will not likely be significant changes there; the biggest change would be the home-hardening standards.

Vice-Chair Hege asked if the county's and state's WUI boundaries match. Ms. Howsley-Glover replied that they're very similar.

Mr. Van Vactor asked Ms. Howsley-Glover if there will be an adoption of a WUI boundary in Wasco County. Ms. Howsley-Glover replied they are not planning on adopting the maps, but they will have to implement as required by state law.

Chair Kramer said that he understands that if they're in a WUI in a high hazard designation, they would have to follow the defensible space and home-hardening requirements; if they're in a moderate or low risk designated zone, they would not have to follow those standards.

Chair Kramer thanked Mr. Van Vactor and Mr. Griffith and said they will convey their concerns on the August 26th meeting with ODF and OSU.

Agenda Item – Kramer Field Post Season Wrap Up

Administrative Services Director Ali Postlewait and Facilities Manager Robert Hughes gave a power point presentation (attached) on accomplishments the Facility Department made regarding Kramer Field this year and future needs.

Ms. Postlewait pointed out The Dalles City Police supported them with regard to vandalism and houseless issues that came up this year. She said that several groups besides Little League have used Kramer Field including Mid-Columbia Center for Living, The Dalles River Hawks, 2 baseball camps, and a soccer camp. She said that Wasco County facilities did major upgrades including safety upgrades with several softball and Little League volunteers this year; the volunteer support was significant.

Commissioner Brady asked if their budget was sufficient to do what was needed. Ms. Postlewait replied that there was enough to do the maintenance including deferred maintenance. She said they had support for fertilizer and weed control. She said they could use more funds to be able to continue their efforts such as bringing in softball and fencing based on the needs of the different leagues. She said they've also had requests from Columbia Gorge Community College (CGCC) and District 21 High School to start utilizing Kramer Field for soccer.

Chair Kramer expressed appreciation to Wasco County facilities department for their work. Ms. Postlewait acknowledged and expressed appreciation for the work Vice-Chair Hege had done with mowing the fields.

The Dalles Little League (TDLL) Umpire Chief and Coach Coordinator Patrick Urain, TDLL President Katie Kelly, and TDLL Vice-President Stevie Elledge introduced themselves. Mr. Urain reviewed the power point presentation (attached).

Mr. Urain said that in the past safety standards were so problematic they couldn't host the District All-Star Tournament. He said the collaborative efforts between TDLL and Wasco County this year substantially raised safety standards at Kramer Field and was appreciated. He pointed out that the community also expressed appreciation of the collaborative efforts and results. He said that the positive impact on the community is increasing as they broaden the commitment and depth of the things they do at Kramer Field.

Mr. Urain said that while there is more work to be done, there have been

incremental improvements. He said they are looking forward to asking the District to host the All-Star Tournament this year, as Kramer Field is now safe enough for this to take place. He said a Tualatin Coach expressed to him that Kramer Field is expansive, beautiful and something to enjoy; he felt a sense of pride for what Kramer Field has become.

Mr. Urain commented that this was a great season and look forward to continued collaboration with Wasco County on Kramer Field for the upcoming year.

Ms. Kelly thanked Wasco County for the support and collaboration; it was a fantastic season working with the Wasco County facilities crew, Mr. Hughes, Ms. Postlewait, and Mr. Stone. She said she is extremely grateful for the rodent control, weed control, hazardous waste clean-up. She pointed out that families are aware of the shift this last season. She mentioned that TDLL and Wasco County participated in a Kramer Field Clean-up Day in which they had over 100 volunteers. She said she hopes to grow the collaboration and continue the good work at Kramer Field.

Chair Kramer said he's looking forward to the new season and the District All Star Tournament.

Commissioner Brady commented that the improvement brings them pride. He mentioned that Kramer Field might eventually be bigger and better in a new location. Mr. Urain acknowledged this and said they understand.

Consent Agenda – 8.7.2024 Regular Session Minutes

{{Commissioner Brady moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Vice-Chair Hege seconded the motion which passed unanimously.}}

Commission Call

Chair Kramer reported that he's been working on the Wildfire Hazard Map issues and Fair. He said he has a Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) meeting on Friday.

Commissioner Brady mentioned that Ms. Howsley-Glover participated in the Wildfire Strategic Plan Workshop and gave a presentation. The workshop was well-attended.

Vice-Chair Hege reported that he had a meeting with Urban Renewal last night. Urban Renewal will finish in 2029; however recently they've found that they will meet their cap of their maximum indebtedness (MI) in 2026. Urban Renewal has many projects including the 1st Street project. The City of The Dalles has the opportunity to increase the MI; if the MI is increased, Urban Renewal would

continue through 2029 as originally planned. He explained that the benefit would be that Urban Renewal would be able to continue after the 1st Street project, which would have taken all the funds under the current MI; Urban Renewal would be able to continue with other projects with the increased MI. Urban Renewal will meet again to discuss whether they will go to the City of The Dalles with their recommendation; ultimately City Council will make the decision. He supports them moving forward to increase the MI. He is interested in Chair Kramer and Commissioner Brady's input regarding this. He said there would be public hearings, etc.; there's a lot more to come.

Chair Kramer said if Vice-Chair Hege thinks they're headed in the right direction, he will support that.

Chair Kramer recessed from the Regular Session to go into Executive Session at 11:52 a.m.

Agenda Item – Executive Session – ORS 192.660(2)(f) and (h)

At 11:52 a.m. Chair Kramer recessed the Regular Session to open an Executive Session Pursuant to ORS 192.660 (2)(f) To consider information or records that are exempt by law from public inspection and ORS 192.660 (2)(h) To Confer with Legal Counsel concerning the legal rights and duties of a public body with regard to current litigation or litigation likely to be filed. He cautioned the media not to record or report on discussions in Executive Session, except to report the subject as announced.

Chair Kramer reconvened the Regular Session at 12:22 p.m.

Chair Kramer adjourned the meeting at 12:23 p.m.

Summary of Actions

MOTIONS


- **To approve the 2024-2025 Contract with Columbia Gorge News for the publication of legal notices for Wasco County.**
- **To approve the Consent Agenda: 8.7.2024 Regular Session Minutes**

CONSENSUS

- **For the Planning Department to move forward with the Model Ordinance and to provide notification to impacted citizens.**



Steven D. Kramer, Commission Chair



Scott C. Hege, Vice-Chair



Philip L. Brady, County Commissioner



MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Legal Notices Contract

TO: BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

FROM: KELLY WALKER

DATE: AUGUST 5, 2024

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

This is an annual contract that establishes the cost of publishing legal notices in Columbia Gorge News and the responsibilities of both parties to the contract, i.e. deadline for submissions and response to errors. The costs have increased from \$8.50 to \$9.00 for each column inch of space, representing a 5.882% increase over last year.

This Contract ends June 30, 2025 in order to correspond with Wasco County's fiscal year going forward.

Columbia Gorge News, LLC
1800 W. 6th Street
The Dalles, Oregon 97058

2024-2025
CONTRACT

FOR PUBLICATION OF LEGAL NOTICES FOR WASCO COUNTY

IN CONSIDERATION of the rates at which Retail Display Advertising is sold under this Contract, the undersigned Advertiser agrees to publish Legal Notices for Wasco County, Oregon in **Columbia Gorge News** from September 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025, as follows:

This advertising and such other Display Space as the Advertiser publishes in **Columbia Gorge News** during this period shall be billed at one of the following rates by the Publisher to the Advertiser at the end of each calendar month for each column inch of space: \$9.00 for On-Line E-Mail. This Contract rate is predicated on payment in full by the 15th of the month following billing.

The deadline for having legal notices to **Columbia Gorge News** is by 5 P.M. the Friday prior to publication, or by permission.

Errors and omissions are the responsibility of the Advertiser and **Columbia Gorge News** assumes no financial responsibility for such errors unless proof is not shown and then only to the extent of the space occupied by such error and a correction in an equal amount of space will be run in the next available issue of **Columbia Gorge News**.

Neither **Columbia Gorge News** nor Advertiser is liable for fulfillment of contract if such is made impossible through suspension of business, or through fire, flood or acts of God.

DATED this 21st day of August, 2024.

WASCO COUNTY BOARD
OF COMMISSIONERS:

Steven D. Kramer, Commission Chair

Scott C. Hege, Vice-Chair

Philip L. Brady, Commissioner

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Kristen Campbell, County Counsel

Columbia Gorge News, LLC

Chelsea Marr, Publisher

Date:



MOTION

SUBJECT: Legal Notices Contract

I move to approve the 2024-2025 Contract with Columbia Gorge News for the publication of legal notices for Wasco County.

Current budget standing:

DAS/Lottery –	\$4.50	
Leg –	\$8	
New OHA SRTF 5030–	\$4.50	
MCCFL	\$1M	
Wasco Cty		\$2.1 (in kind)
Congressional Directed	\$1.658M	
State Grant in process	2.0m	
CDGB in process	?	
total in hand	\$17.00	
total in kind		2.1M

other funding options

<i>opiod settlement?</i>	\$2M	
<i>GOBHI?</i>		
<i>PacificSource?</i>		
<i>gap funding ?</i>		
grad total		

Action item
needs extension
needs signature
needs signature

Expended by ?
6/30/2025



WASCO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION
AUGUST 7, 2024

This meeting was held in person and on Zoom

<https://wascocounty-org.zoom.us/j/2919733815>

Or call in to [1-253-215-8782](tel:1-253-215-8782) Meeting ID: 2919733815#

PRESENT: Steve Kramer, Chair
Scott Hege, Vice-Chair
Phil Brady, County Commissioner
STAFF: Kelly Walker, Executive Assistant
Tyler Stone, Administrative Officer

Chair Kramer opened the session at 9:00 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Kramer explained the new Zoom Procedure which will start at the next BOCC Meeting:

We are getting ready to implement a new process for the public to participate virtually in board meetings. Attendees will need to register for a meeting before joining. Once you click on the Zoom link, you will be prompted to complete a couple of required fields in order to join. That's all.

This process is being implemented as an additional security measure to prevent unauthorized intrusions from disrupting public meetings.

If you are not interested in participating, but would still like to watch the meeting online, we will be live streaming on YouTube. More details about that coming soon. As always, meetings may be watched on-demand at a later date by visiting the "Agenda, Board Packet and Minutes" page on the Wasco County website.

We hope to have this process in place by the next Board meeting on August 21st, and will keep you updated.

Discussion Item – OEM Infrastructure Contract

Administrative Services Director Ali Postlewait read the memo included in the Board Packet.

Commissioner Brady asked if the repairs that need to be done are still being assessed. Ms. Postlewait replied affirmatively and that inspectors from Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will be at the Fairgrounds tomorrow to

begin assessment.

Vice-Chair Hege asked about how much money this would involve. Ms. Postlewait replied that it would be in a range from \$30,000 to \$430,000 depending on the results of the inspection and what FEMA finds to be eligible.

Vice-Chair Hege asked about how they would inspect the underground aspects of this. Ms. Postlewait confirmed discussions with FEMA and documentation efforts by photographing what they could find. Ongoing discoveries are prompting further dialogue, and FEMA is informed.

{{{Vice-Chair Hege moved to approve Department of Emergency Management Infrastructure Contract 4788-DR-OR pending finalization and legal review. I further move to authorize Wasco County's Administrative Officer to sign the agreement once it becomes final. Commissioner Brady seconded the motion which passed unanimously.}}}

Discussion Item – OEM Cybersecurity Grant Agreement

Information Services Director Andrew Burke reviewed the memo included in the Board Packet.

Vice-Chair Hege asked whether the grant amount is software-based. Mr. Burke replied affirmatively.

Vice-Chair Hege asked Mr. Burke to explain the difference between the initial cost and the ongoing cost. Mr. Burke replied that the first year license and implementation of the software is covered by this grant; he has budgeted for future costs, which will be the licensing of that software to allow installation on each device.

Vice-Chair Hege asked if we're still in the process of determining the vendor. Mr. Burke replied that they've been evaluating vendors and will bring another agreement to the Board with his recommendation soon.

Commissioner Brady asked if this system will require additional logins from users or if this software will work more in the background. Mr. Burke replied that this service sits in the background; the user can see that it's running next to the clock on their computer. He explained that the only time it would impact the user's system would be if a link is clicked, for example, and that link tries to install malware; the system would alert the user that this act has been shut down and to contact the Systems Administrator.

Commissioner Brady asked how strong the system is and if a user can override it once the virus or malware has been stopped. Mr. Burke replied that it cannot be overridden by the user. He gave an example scenario in which a user receives a fishing email; the link gets clicked in that email and the application tries to install another application on the computer, which tries to perform a malicious execution. He explained that the software would shut down that action.

Commissioner Brady said they've discussed expanding their IT Services to other entities in the area and asked if this would serve them, as well. Mr. Burke replied that this would provide a foundation for the opportunity for other entities to buy into it.

{{Commissioner Brady moved to approve Oregon Department of Emergency Management State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program Agreement CFDA #97.137, Grant No. CY22-152. Vice-Chair Hege seconded the motion which passed unanimously.}}

Discussion Item – Wildfire Strategic Plan Workshop Information

Community Development Director Kelly Howsley-Glover reviewed the information on the Wildfire Strategic Plan Workshop flyer included in the Board Packet. She said that the United States Forest Service (USFS) Mt. Hood has been conducting a series of open houses to talk to citizens about strategic partnerships and investments with respect to wildfire. The workshop in The Dalles will be at Freebridge Brewing on August 14th at 5:30 p.m. She pointed out that the Wasco County Forest Collaborative will be giving a brief presentation. Ms. Howsley-Glover will also give a brief presentation on their department's efforts in regard to wildfire. She said Mr. Dougherty and the Planning team are working on the National Hazard Mitigation Plan update. She said they just completed a revision to the Community Wildfire Protection Plan, and they've been working with Public Works and Surveyor's office to conduct a road assessment and inventory. The Forest Service has prepared a webpage at bit.ly/wildfirestrategy. She pointed out that there's an explainer video which talks about the wildfire strategy and a survey that people can take if they're not able to attend the workshop.

Chair Kramer asked if the Planning Department and USFS had the job description yet for the grant they've received. Ms. Howsley-Glover replied that they are still waiting to hear back on the grant agreement from the USFS. She said they are anticipating the grant agreement to come in any day to start September 1st, and that's when they'll recruit for the position. When they receive the grant agreement, it will come before the Board. She said they will also be bringing several Intergovernmental Agreements (IGA) to help facilitate partnerships with the various

sub-recipients.

Commissioner Brady asked Ms. Howsley-Glover to explain the difference between this workshop subject and the Wildfire Hazard Maps that will be discussed later in the Board Meeting. Ms. Howsley-Glover replied that the Wildfire Hazard Map process is a State-led initiative required by the Oregon legislature; the map efforts are being led by the Oregon Department of Forestry in conjunction with Oregon State University (OSU) and some of their map specialists. This is a separate effort from the strategic partnerships in regard to wildfire.

Vice-Chair Hege commented that if folks can't make the workshop in The Dalles on the 14th, they can go to the workshop in Hood River on the August 13th at Working Hands Fermentation. He asked about whether food is being provided. Ms. Howsley-Glover replied that at Freebridge Brewing, the customer can purchase food and drink while they're listening.

Vice-Chair Hege commented that it would be a good idea to go to the website for the survey. Ms. Howsley-Glover responded that they are looking for feedback on where we should be prioritizing and to allow the community to ask questions about local efforts.

Discussion Item – Revised Uniform Fee Schedule Policy

Executive Assistant Kathy Clark reviewed the memo included in the Board Packet. She said that this has been yearly by Ordinance; it takes two hearings and a 90 day wait for an Ordinance to take effect. She pointed out that by the time the Fee Schedule takes effect the CPI is several months old. She proposed that this be done with a Resolution saving staff time and allowing staff to pull the CPI information closer to the time when the Uniform Fee Schedule takes effect.

Commissioner Brady asked if the fees for the New Fee Schedule would still take effect in January whether by Ordinance or Resolution. Ms. Clark replied affirmatively.

Commissioner Brady asked about the Building Codes process for this. Ms. Clark replied that Building Codes has a more extended process that is regulated by the State.

Commissioner Brady asked if the Fair and Museum would still be a part of this process if it were to become a Resolution. Ms. Clark replied that they would still be in the Uniform Fee Schedule, but the CPI would not be applicable to their fees; their board would determine their fee increases.

Vice-Chair Hege commented that he's really glad that the fee schedule is done annually. He said it helps our citizens when the fees to be adjusted yearly, rather than have a large fee increase over a multiple year gap. He acknowledged that the Building Codes have a completely different process, but the same philosophy is needed; to do this on a regular basis, so there's no massive increase after so many years.

Commissioner Brady asked if they could change the fees more than once per year if they change to a Resolution. Ms. Clark replied affirmatively and that staff could make adjustments any time.

Ms. Clark added that they will need to repeal the current Ordinance in order to approve the Resolution.

{{{Vice-Chair Hege moved to approve Policy 24-001, A Revised Policy to Guide Updates to the Wasco County Uniform Fee Schedule. Commissioner Brady seconded the motion which passed unanimously.}}}

Consent Agenda – 7.17.2024 Regular Session Minutes

{{{Vice-Chair Hege moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Brady seconded the motion which passed unanimously.}}}

Agenda Item – Voters' Pamphlet Submission Fee Resolution

County Clerk Lisa Gambée reviewed the memo included in the Board Packet. Ms. Gambée explained that Wasco County doesn't make a Voters' Pamphlet; certain candidate contests, ballot measures, and arguments (for and against) the measure, qualify for inclusion in the State Voters' Pamphlet. Wasco County has an Ordinance that covers the inclusion process requirements for the Voters' Pamphlet if the county were to refer a measure; the Ordinance states that the filing fee is part of the Uniform Fee Schedule. She pointed out that the filing fee is not included in the current Wasco County Uniform Fee Schedule, which hasn't been an issue, as Wasco County has not yet referred a measure to be included in the State Voters' Pamphlet.

Ms. Gambée explained that Columbia Gorge Community College (CGCC) is going to put their bond back out to the voters this November. CGCC is one of the few entities that can be placed in the state voters' pamphlet; they have the same Ordinance and process requirements as the county. CGCC will put a measure argument in the State Voters' Pamphlet and will pay a fee of \$300, which is the typical cost (and the most that can be charged). She said that this is what brought this to their attention to adopt the \$300 fee for the county to refer future qualified submissions in the State Voters' Pamphlet. Those ballot measure arguments also get filed with the Clerk's Office.

Vice-Chair Hege asked for clarification regarding whether this also includes candidate filings. Ms. Gambée replied that this is not related to candidate filings.

Vice-Chair Hege asked for clarification on the \$300 cap on filing fees. Ms. Gambée replied that the \$300 cap is a State Statute.

Vice-Chair Hege asked about when the state increases fees how it would work for the county to make that change. Ms. Gambée replied that this would be accommodated by the Resolution process when the Uniform Fee Schedule is updated, which will be a more timely process; the voters' pamphlet fee would change in accordance with State Statute.

Commissioner Brady asked how many Oregon counties publish a voters' pamphlet. Ms. Gambée replied that it's based on county size. She said the state does a voters' pamphlet based on a certain region; for example when CGCC files their measures in the State Voters' Pamphlet, it will be specific to Hood River, Wasco, Jefferson, and Clark Counties. She explained there are variations: a county can publish their own and that would have to be sent to every single voter and translated into several languages, which would be very expensive to produce and circulate. She added that some counties do their own voters' pamphlet and print it into the state's pamphlet.

Commissioner Brady asked if \$300 covers the County's costs and if the county is assessed additional costs by the state. Ms. Gambée replied that the state charges their own fees. She said the \$300 would not cover the fees if the county was to do their own voters' pamphlet. Commissioner Brady thanked Ms. Gambée for catching this in a timely manner before it becomes an issue.

Ms. Gambée added that they did the first recount of her career and it was done in just 2 days; it reiterated that their office does the process correctly. She said the recount was an exact match to what had been originally counted.

Vice-Chair Hege asked if CGCC paid the state to put that measure into the Voters' Pamphlet. Ms. Gambée replied that they go through Wasco County, as the county will submit their final measure. She explained that Wasco County collects the fees; they have until August 23, 2024 for any measure arguments (for or against) to be filed with our office. The Clerk's Office packages the submission and sends it to the state; the state sends the final invoice to the county after the election is completed.

Vice-Chair Hege asked if the school system goes through the same process. Ms. Gambée replied that the school system does not qualify; only CGCC qualifies to go into the State Voters' Pamphlet. She said Metro-Service Districts and Community Colleges are the only ones that qualify beyond counties. She pointed out that city candidates don't qualify either unless the city has 20,000 population or higher, so City of The Dalles doesn't qualify.

{{{Commissioner Brady moved to approve Resolution 24-014 establishing and adopting a fee for submission into the Oregon State Voters' Pamphlet. Vice-Chair Hege seconded the motion which passed unanimously.}}}

Agenda Item – Road Vacation Report Order

Public Works Director Arthur Smith reviewed the memo and Petition included in the Board Packet. He explained that the proposed vacation would be a little South of Hermit's Way and right off of Cherry Heights Rd. Columbia Crest Addition is quite old and the lots are not buildable. He said a developer would like to replat this area to make it a viable development. He pointed out that this is part of a 3 step process in which there will be a replat, a dedication of public right-of-way and then possibly a road vacation if approved. He said that today, he's looking for the Board's approval to begin his report process.

Vice-Chair Hege asked if there's only one landowner involved. Mr. Smith replied affirmatively.

Discussion ensued regarding how the lots were drawn up and if it had passed Planning. Mr. Smith said that this may have pre-dated Planning; they drew up 66 lots, which wasn't possible in that area.

{{Vice-Chair Hege moved to approve Order 24-035 directing the Public Works Director to prepare his report on certain roads and portions of roads located within THE COLUMBIA CREST ADDITION, The Dalles, OR. Commissioner Brady seconded the motion which passed unanimously.}}

Agenda Item – MCEDD – The Link Presentation

Mid-Columbia Economic Development District (MCEDD) Transportation Operations Manager for the Link Jesus Mendoza reviewed the memo included in the Board Packet and the attached Power Point Presentation.

On the Weekend Service slide, Vice-Chair Hege asked if the Blue 2 is a bus stop they just finished installing. Mr. Mendoza replied affirmatively and added that it's at Foley Lakes.

On the Daily Needs Shuttle slide, Mr. Mendoza explained that they are looking to partner with Mt. Adams Transportation Service (MATS) to provide matching funds of \$30,000 so they can operate the service for 2025-2027. He explained that this is still in development, but would potentially operate weekdays with 8 trips per day. They recently provided transportation services for the 2024 Native American Culture Camp and 2024 Columbia River Indian Fishers Expo, as well as a shopping transportation service at that time while they were in The Dalles.

Commissioner Brady asked if there's a cost to take the Daily Needs Shuttle. Mr. Mendoza replied that the service is no cost for the user; this is covered with the

\$80,000 that they've received.

On the Current Projects slide, Mr. Mendoza said they now have new bus shelters at these locations: One Community Health, Foley Lakes, between 5th and Court Streets and near the Gloria Center. They will install 8 new simme seats; they've just installed one at each of these locations: The Dalles High School, 10th & Myrtle Streets, and 10th & Pomona Streets.

Mr. Mendoza said he was just informed that they are no longer operating The Dalles Youth Ride Program this year; the intention is that youth ages 6-17 would ride public transit with a punch card that could be redeemed for a prize at participating businesses in The Dalles. He said they plan to have this launched next summer.

Mr. Mendoza said they purchased 2 buses that will replace buses that are no longer usable. Commissioner Brady asked what the life expectancy is on one of their vehicles. Mr. Mendoza replied that he believes it's about 5 years or 150,000 miles before they can apply for a grant for vehicle replacement.

MCEDD Executive Director Jessica Metta went over upcoming plans and grants that will be coming before the board.

Commissioner Brady asked for more details about the Pine Hollow transportation services. Mr. Mendoza replied it goes to the lake to pick up riders twice a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays. He added that they partner with Wasco County to send out information so they're aware of the service. He said that folks can call ahead to deviate a little from the route if they need to be picked up at home.

Commissioner Brady expressed appreciation for their flexibility and for working on implementing more service in South County. He commented that it's very feasible to use the link to go to and from the airport in Portland. He added that it's an impressive service.

Commissioner Brady commented that it's great they're promoting usage of the Gorge Pass, as people can use it to ride up and down both sides of the gorge. Mr. Mendoza agreed and said the Gorge Pass can be used with all the fixed routes. Ms. Metta pointed out that City of The Dalles gives out free Gorge Passes to their employees as part of their contribution to The Link.

Vice-Chair Hege encouraged Wasco County employees to get a Gorge Pass. He commented that asked that the challenge is knowing how to effectively use it. Training will be an important component in getting more ridership.

Vice-Chair Hege asked what “all demand response” means. Mr. Mendoza replied that it’s the Dial-A-Ride service, which includes the shopping shuttle, the South County shuttle; they’re the door-to-door services.

Vice-Chair Hege asked what revenue service hours and revenue service miles are. Mr. Mendoza replied that they use software which tracks the amount of time and miles that an individual is on the vehicle. Ms. Metta added that these are Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) terms. She explained that the time/miles driving to a location to pick someone up (in which the person is not in the vehicle) is not considered revenue service hours or miles.

Vice-Chair Hege and Mr. Mendoza discussed the increased ridership between The Dalles and Hood River. Mr. Mendoza said that people ride that route to commute to work; others use it to get to the Community College.

Vice-Chair Hege commented that he’s excited about this continuing to move forward and to watch the ridership numbers grow.

Commissioner Brady asked if many people take their bicycles on the bus. Mr. Mendoza replied that a lot of riders take bicycles and electric bikes on the bus.

Commissioner Brady commented that he has felt safe while riding on the bus; he asked if there have been any incidents that would threaten safety and security. Mr. Mendoza replied that they’ve only had one recent minor issue at the Fred Meyer parking lot in which someone slowly drove into the back bumper.

Agenda Item – Columbia Gorge Early Learning Center Presentation

Dr. Pat Sublette and Project Manager Eric Wilson reviewed the Power Point Presentation included in the Board Packet. Dr. Sublette said that finding and paying for child care is a big challenge in Oregon.

Dr. Sublette explained that during their search for solutions, the Columbia Gorge Education Service District (ESD) extended opportunities to everyone they could. The old Middle School building emerged as a favorable option, not only for childcare but also as a potential resiliency center.

Dr. Sublette said that with the funding they received, they’ve been able to hire contractors like Mr. Wilson, as well as design consultants to lay the groundwork.

Mr. Wilson reviewed the Power Point Presentation from the Area Overview Program Definition slide. He explained that the project envisions significant community use, with a large space ideal for public gatherings. An onsite kitchen will be able to feed approximately 200 children. Additionally, the building incorporates a resiliency

component to serve the community during emergencies such as wildfires. Fresh air filtration will provide clean air to citizens at risk.

Mr. Wilson said that the project approach prioritizes equity and inclusion, evident in the design of a single, accessible ground floor entry point. The community area is on one side and the early learning area is on the other; this allows them to open the building during off hours when it's needed.

Mr. Wilson said that the buildings are being upgraded to be energy-efficient and safe. This includes improvements for fire department access and safe parent/bus drop-off/pick-up areas. He said they'll have community-enhancing additions: an outdoor garden, improved trail access, and west-side outdoor play area. He said they plan to increase outdoor space for outdoor learning.

Commissioner Brady asked if the old ramp in the hallway will be used. Mr. Wilson replied that all of the facility will be made accessible; the interior ramps are still under discussion.

Commissioner Brady asked if the ESD will primarily administer this program. Dr. Sublette replied affirmatively. She explained that ESD will provide the Human Resources and grant administration.

Commissioner Brady asked if they plan to increase their budget and staffing. Dr. Sublette replied they will have 200 additional child care slots; they anticipate approximately 30 more jobs will become available as a result of this project in early learning. She pointed out that ESD's growth has been steady and their budget will continue to expand.

Commissioner Brady asked if the building will have air conditioning. Mr. Wilson replied affirmatively; the heating system needs to be replaced and they'll replace that with a heating and cooling system. He said they're looking at a heat exchange system that will filter the air.

Commissioner Brady commented that this will be a great help to our community.

Vice-Chair Hege commented that he is excited about the work on this project. He said that he is excited about the space being used for the community and resiliency. He pointed out that this will re-invigorate that area and people will be excited. He said when he goes to Washington D.C., he will bring this up to possibly bring in more funding opportunities.

Vice-Chair Hege asked what location are within the ESD. Dr. Sublette replied Hood River and Wasco Counties. She said they also offer support through several "hubs" which support up to five Oregon counties, depending on the program. She added that

this new project will impact Washington, as well; families who live in Washington and work in Oregon will bring their children to the Early Learning Center.

Mr. Wilson mentioned they have a grant going into the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) this month.

Chair Kramer commented that he is looking forward to the project progressing.

Agenda Item – Wildfire Hazard Map

Chair Kramer said Dan Van Vactor, Steve Griffith, and the Forest Collaborative have had recent conversations and they'd like to include the public before the meeting with Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) and Oregon State on August 26, 2024 as dictated by Senate bill 80.

Mr. Van Vactor introduced himself as a Wasco County resident, a member of the Badger Improvement District (BID), and the President of the Round Prairie Improvement District (RPID) and introduced BID Vice-President Steve Griffith, an OSU graduate. He reviewed the Memo and Draft Resolution included in the Board Packet. The link to the map used for the presentation is <https://oregon-explorer.apps.geocortex.com/webviewer/?app=665fe61be984472da6906d7ebc9a190d>

Mr. Van Vactor explained that ODF emailed a map that included a tax lot map with private properties. He said he is concerned that this information was not widely distributed nor were the 12 regulatory impacts made clear to the public. He said these new regulations have not yet been adopted, published, or defined.

Mr. Van Vactor pointed out that his concern is that the farmland he owns was zoned as high hazard even though the land is irrigated, is near a large pond which feeds the irrigation equipment, and that he lives on the edge of a greenfield. He said he also has an irrigation system on his roof should he have to evacuate that should prevent his structure from burning.

Mr. Van Vactor said that greenfields help stop fires. He said the risk of wildfire in the Wamic, Dufur, and Mosier areas are mostly defined by the escape of wildfire on public ground and is not likely to happen on private ground due to irrigated ground. He added that the dry areas no longer have the plowed fields; as a result these fires burn down Jordan Creek, through Shady Brook, across Postage Stamp View, across Kelly Gulch and on out towards the Deschutes River. He said the private landowners have done a good job of taking care of their homes and lands; they haven't lost a structure in 40 years because of Community response.

He said that these maps were created without local analysis of the ground; there's a checkerboard effect of inconsistent fire risk zoning without explanation of distinction.

Mr. Van Vactor discussed how Wamic's greenfields protect Wamic from wildfire. He said the land on the east side of the Pine Hollow Reservoir is designated low hazard, while the land on the west side is designated high wildfire hazard. The lands in the Pine Hollow Reservoir have a water system and irrigated grounds around them to keep fires at bay. He said that greenfields and irrigated lands are the best protection from wildfires.

Mr. Van Vactor explained that the original intent of the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) was to protect the federal register from wildfire escaping from public lands onto private lands; that has now changed, as we no longer have a WUI boundary in Wasco County. He said the WUI boundary was abandoned, but now is a planning tool on a state level; for example a WUI boundary now exists around Pine Hollow. He said that these 12 regulations will impact landowners in that area; no one has received notice. He said he is not aware if the County enacted an Ordinance that authorized WUI boundaries that are different than the original WUI boundaries that was done with ODF. He said he is not saying it should be authorized, but if there are regulatory impacts, it should be thought through, understood, and documented as to be permissible. He added that people need information how they're going to be impacted by this.

Mr. Van Vactor refers to an email that Community Development Director Kelly Howsley-Glover sent to help provide some information (attached). He said he disagrees with this statement in the email, "All croplands identified as having been irrigated in at least one of the last five years were placed in the low-hazard category in the current draft map.." He said that it isn't true on behalf of the BID and RPID. He said several irrigated lands were designated as moderate or high risk; which is disturbing to the members. He said the email stated, "The state Board of Forestry will vote in September to finalize the rule on irrigated agriculture", yet they publish a map a month ago without the ability for people to comment on how their being impacted.

Van Vactor is coming before the board with the encouragement of the Forest Collaborative to ask the Board to get answers to share with them or preferably to comment to alert them to the identified problem. He also asks that the elected representatives take care of the people in Wasco County. He said he is asking that irrigated lands be treated uniformly on the map.

Mr. Griffith discussed and gave examples of inconsistencies on the map. He used the Wasco County Public Basemap which is available at this link: <https://public.co.wasco.or.us/gisportal/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=80a942ec81da4dd2bcc16032cc329459>. He reiterated that croplands are not being treated uniformly and irrigated lands are being designated as moderate or high-risk on the

map; there's only a one or two parcels designated as low-risk. He pointed out that the estimates regarding irrigation activity is from IrrMapper, which is a google product, instead of using records of deliveries of irrigation water, which the BID have available. He said using estimated data instead of the real data is part of the problem.

Chair Kramer said the map, rulemaking, and identification of irrigated land is still in draft form. He added that a lot of work still needs to be done by all parties. Senate bills 762 and 80 were valid, but the timeframe and time line was off the mark. He said we're looking at not only lands in Wasco County, but all of the State of Oregon.

Vice-Chair Hege asked what kind of crops are typically grown on the irrigated lands. Mr. Van Vactor replied that in the BID which has 3800 acres of irrigated land, about 90% is hay and about 10% is orchards.

Vice-Chair Hege mentioned that crops may not be fire-resistant at all times; even irrigated fields are not fire-resistant all the time; the irrigated fields grow a tremendous amount of material that dries out so it may not be always be a good fire break.

Vice Chair Hege commented that he has a different perspective; he wants the protection of citizens and their properties and homes from fire. He said he wants all parties to work together to create an environment in which people don't have to fear fire.

Vice-Chair Hege consulted the map to learn about its intended use, which is the safety and well-being of communities throughout Oregon, helping Oregonians grasp the wildfire risks within their own communities, and helping public agencies objectively prioritize wildfire reduction efforts, to name a few, which he mentioned are very important. He said he agrees with the intent of map.

Vice-Chair Hege said one of the intended uses of the map that might bring some discomfort is "to inform statewide defensible space codes in high hazard areas in the WUI"; he is curious what they think about that. He read that the map states it will not be used to "adjust insurance rates by insurers", to "make landowners modify their existing homes unless significant updates are planned for structures within the high hazard areas within the WUI", or to "prevent development".

Vice-Chair Hege asked them to clarify the most concerning issues about the designation and the impact. Mr. Van Vactor replied it has to do with uniformity and the "checkerboard" effect on the map; it seems inconsistent and incorrect. He added that he is most concerned about the fire hazard in the public lands around him and the embers. He said he believes in self-protection and defensible space; he's taken protective measures such as a roof irrigation system and dead tree removal. The

public lands around him have dead and dying trees all around which will spread fire. He said they need the aid of state and community resources. He said he knows how to protect his own property, but he can't control an insurance company cancelling him without disclosing why. He said he thinks that when the maps are adopted, insurance companies would have access to them. He added that if insurance is canceled for people who have mortgages, banks would have the ability to add fire insurance at any cost, which would be a horrible consequence. He said he is requesting support for uniformity on the maps for agricultural lands and that real data be used instead of the estimates from IrrMapper.

Mr. Griffith replied that they're using simulation instead of actual data; he said that he doesn't agree with doing the map by tax lot. He said he has a problem with the consistency and their evaluation approach. He said a survey was conducted on his house and property; his house was evaluated as low-risk, but property was designated high risk, which he compared to getting a failing grade.

Vice-Chair Hege asked what the alternative approach to doing this by tax lot is. Mr. Griffith said that the landowner should be responsible for their defensible space; a wise landowner has defensible space; the best way preventative measure is to take care of all the dead trees on the surrounding lands.

Vice-Chair Hege commented that the state and federal agencies don't have the resources to do everything that needs to be done, but they're putting forth the effort to do what they can to make the most impact.

Commissioner Brady thanked the presenters for bringing in facts. He made a distinction between the fire maps and insurance maps; he said he recently learned that the insurance companies create their own maps based on historical data and are very different than fire maps which are based on simulations and satellite data.

Commissioner Brady commented that at the private level one of the best things a person can do is to protect their own space, but an individual does not have control over the public lands. He said he agrees that maps should be accurate, but they have inaccuracies. He brought up the question of how accurate the data needs to be to serve the purpose of getting grants to address the problems at the public level given that the private landowners are doing a great job of taking care of their land.

Mr. Van Vactor asked the Commissioners to look at addressing the public land issue, as that is the real risk of wildfire in Wasco County.

Chair Kramer suggested that our legal counsel look at the material; they have a meeting on August 26, 2024 with ODF and Oregon State. He said they will bring forward their questions, answers, comments, concerns, etc. He said there are many

layers with this and many agencies involved including the ODF, state Fire Marshall, Dept. of Human Services, Emergency Management, DEQ, Oregon Health Authority, and other agencies. He said he wants to make sure they are not inadvertently creating issues in other areas before they decide to whether to comment. He said they can review this at the August 21st BOCC Meeting and then compile the information to be prepared for the August 26th meeting.

Commissioner Brady added that they want to make sure there are no unanticipated consequences before making a decision.

Vice-Chair Hege agreed with the suggestion and that they be prepared with the information they want to discuss at the August 26th meeting.

Chair Kramer said he will reach out to networks and resources to get more information for the August 21st meeting so they can be ready for the meeting on August 26th.

Chair Kramer said that there are funds to begin to implement the work that needs to be done on public lands as well as resources to begin to build capacity.

Commission Call

Chair Kramer reported that he's been working on the Wildfire Hazard Map and the Wasco County Fair, which is next week.

Commissioner Brady reported that Mid-Columbia Community Action Council (MCACC) released the January point in time homelessness counts for Hood River and Wasco Counties which showed fewer people in homeless situations. The count has 45 fewer homeless people in Wasco County and 55 fewer homeless people in Hood River County. He said this shows good results on the efforts they've made with the Annex and the Gloria Center on lowering homelessness and positively impacting lives.

Vice-Chair Hege commented that this the first time that the Commissioners are located in the same building as staff as they are moving to the 3rd Street building.

Commissioner Brady commented that he looks forward to more staff moving and joining them.

Chair Kramer adjourned the meeting at 12:38 p.m.

Summary of Actions

MOTIONS

- **To approve Department of Emergency Management Infrastructure Contract 4788-DR-OR pending finalization and legal review and further move to authorize Wasco County’s Administrative Officer to sign the agreement once it becomes final.**
- **To approve Oregon Department of Emergency Management State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program Agreement CFDA #97.137, Grant No. CY22-152.**
- **To approve Policy 24-001, A Revised Policy to Guide Updates to the Wasco County Uniform Fee Schedule.**
- **To approve the Consent Agenda: 7.17.2024 Regular Session Minutes**
- **To approve Resolution 24-014 establishing and adopting a fee for submission into the Oregon State Voters’ Pamphlet.**
- **To approve Order 24-035 directing the Public Works Director to prepare his report on the request to vacate certain roads and portions of roads located within the Columbia Crest Addition, The Dalles, OR.**

Wasco County
Board of Commissioners

Steven D. Kramer, Commission Chair

Scott C. Hege, Vice-Chair

Philip L. Brady, County Commissioner



MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT Revised Uniform Fee Schedule Policy

TO: BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

FROM: KELLY WALKER

DATE: 08.13.2024

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The staff has found that establishing adoption fees through an Ordinance limits flexibility and necessitates a long lead-time for implementing new fees. By the time the fees become effective in January, the CPI data used will be seven months old.

State law allows counties to adopt fees by either Ordinance or Resolution. As a Resolution does not require a 90-day waiting period, we're opting to adopt the fees by Resolution in December, which will ensure the CPI data used is much more up-to-date.

To proceed with adopting the fees by Resolution, we need to repeal the 2023 Ordinance that is currently in place.



IN THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE STATE OF OREGON

IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF WASCO

IN THE MATTER OF THE REPEAL OF THE 2023 WASCO COUNTY FEE SCHEDULE ORDINANCE

ORDINANCE 24-004

NOW ON THIS DAY, the above-entitled matter having come on regularly for consideration, said day being one duly set in term for the transaction of public business and a majority of the Board of Commissioners being present; and

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF WASCO COUNTY OREGON DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1 FINDINGS

- a) Oregon Statute ORS 294.160 allows counties to set fees through the adoption of an Ordinance approval of a resolution.
- b) Passage of an Ordinance creates a delay in implementing new fees or increasing existing fees.
- c) The County has determined that the Resolution process provides a more flexible and efficient path to annual or periodic revision of the Wasco County Fee Schedule going forward.

Section 2 REPEAL OF ORDINANCE

- a) Ordinance 23-001, dated September 20, 2023, and all other ordinances, orders, or resolutions or parts thereof, in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Section 3 Severability

- a) If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this ordinance is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or unlawful, such decision shall not affect the remaining portions of this ordinance. The Board hereby declares that it would have passed each phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more of such provisions be declared unconstitutional or unlawful.

Section 4 EFFECTIVE DATE

a) This Ordinance shall take effect on the 1st day of January, 2025.

Date of 1st Reading: August 21st, 2024

Date of 2nd Reading: September 4th, 2024.

ADOPTED this 4th day of September, 2024.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

WASCO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

Kristen Campbell, County Counsel

Steven D. Kramer, Commission Chair

Scott C. Hege, County Commissioner

Philip L. Brady, County Commissioner



MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY'S PRE-IMPLEMENTATION COMPLIANCE MEASURES FOR NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM PARTICIPATING COMMUNITIES IN WASCO COUNTY

TO: WASCO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, TYLER STONE

FROM: DANIEL DOUGHERTY, PLANNING DIRECTOR

DATE: 8/14/2024

Wasco County Planning Division requests direction on pursuing legislative amendments for our Flood Management Program administered through the Flood Hazard Overlay Zone (OZ-1).

Background

On July 15, 2024, the United States Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) submitted notice to Wasco County that Pre-Implementation Compliance Measures (PICM) for National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) participating communities in Oregon shall be required no later than January of 2025. The intent of the PICM is to ensure the continued existence of threatened or endangered species in compliance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA). These pre-implementation measures will run in parallel with FEMA's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process:¹

FEMA demands that Wasco County select a PICM (measure) no later than December 1, 2024:

1. Adopt a model ordinance that considers impacts to species and their habitat and requires mitigation to a no net loss standard; or
2. Require a habitat assessment and mitigation plan for development on a permit-by-permit basis; or
3. A prohibition on floodplain development in the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) (i.e., properties within the Flood Hazard Overlay Zone in Wasco County).

The provided time-line for compliance and measures will have significant impacts to properties within the Flood Hazard Overlay Zone. If Wasco County fails to choose one of the three measures, the County will default to the permit-by-permit measure (PICM #2). Wasco County is required to enforce the PICM and report floodplain development activities to FEMA by January 31 2025, and failure to report may result in a compliance visit. Further consequences of not

¹ The release of the Final Implementation Plan is anticipated by 2026, following the Record of Decision in the EIS process, then FEMA will fully implement the Plan in 2027.

complying can be extreme and include suspension from NFIP, loss of the availability of NFIP policies, and no consideration for disaster relief funding. Full measures are expected to be implemented in 2026 after FEMA completes its EIS.

History of the Issue

- 2009:** A lawsuit brought against FEMA by the Audubon Society of Portland² spurred the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to study how land uses in areas within the NFIP affect fish listed in the ESA in Oregon.
- 2016:** NMFS issued the Oregon NFIP Biological Opinion (BiOp)³, finding that current practices threaten 16 ESA-listed fish species (including the Orca that relies on the endangered fish). NMFS recommended that FEMA establish new requirements leading to “no net loss of floodplain function” in designated areas.
- See BiOp here: <https://media.fisheries.noaa.gov/2022-01/2016-04-14-fema-nfip-nwr-2011-3197.pdf>.
- 2021:** FEMA issued a draft implementation plan to incorporate ESA protection into its NFIP, called the “Oregon Implementation Plan for NFIP-ESA Integration”.
- The draft plan: https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_draft-oregon-implementation-plan_10052021.pdf.
- 2023:** FEMA published a Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement EIS, and opened a public scoping process to identify and evaluate potential ecological, economic, social and health effects of their proposed implementation plan. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) 92-day scoping period ended June 26, 2023.
- FEMA’s September scoping update and comment results: https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_nfip-oregon-update_092023.pdf.
- 2024:** June 2024, the Draft Environmental Impact Statement is still under review, but FEMA has issued the PICM to National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) participating communities in Oregon. (See Attachment A for July 15, 2024 FEMA PICM Notification Letter). On August 1, 2024, FEMA suspended applications for Letters and Conditional Letters of Map Revision based on Fill (C/LOMR-F).

Properties in Wasco County that are Impacted

FEMA’s jurisdiction is limited to all properties within Wasco County that are within “a Flood Hazard Boundary Map (FHBM) or a Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Zone A, AO, A1-A30, AE, A99, AH, AR, AR/A, AR/AE, AR/AH, AR/AO, AR/A1-A30, V1-V30, VE or V.

² *Audubon Society of Portland et. al. v. FEMA*. 2009. D. Ore., Case. No. 3:09-cv-729-HA

³ National Marine Fisheries Service. *Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7(a)(2) Jeopardy and Destruction or Adverse Modification of Critical Habitat Biological Opinion and Section 7(a)(2) “Not Likely to Adversely Affect” Determination for the Implementation of the National Flood Insurance Program in the State of Oregon*. (April 14, 2016) NMFS Consultation Number NWR-2011-3197.

The SFHA is the area where the National Flood Insurance Program's (NFIP's) floodplain management regulations must be enforced and the area where the mandatory purchase of flood insurance applies.”⁴ Wasco County holds and utilizes the official Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) supplied by FEMA, and administers the program through the Flood Hazard Overlay Zone (OZ-1).

Any new floodplain development on vacant Wasco County properties, modification to existing development that requires a new floodplain permit (e.g., expansion, modification, or alteration to existing development), and any other improvement that would remove floodplain (implicating FEMA’s no-net loss of floodplain requirement) is implicated.

FEMA’s PICM will impact 15.7% of vacant residentially zoned property within OZ-1.⁵ Additional data is provided below:

Total Wasco County Properties Impacted*	
Current 1984 FEMA Maps	598 Properties (Tax Lots)
Updated FEMA Maps (Preliminary)	848 Properties (Tax Lots)
* Data provided by Wasco County GIS	

Wasco County Residential Properties Impacted*	
Residential 1984 FEMA Maps	290 Properties (Tax Lots)
Residential Updated FEMA Maps (Preliminary)	384 Properties (Tax Lots)
* Data provided by Wasco County GIS	

Other Issues and Required Time-Lines for Implementation

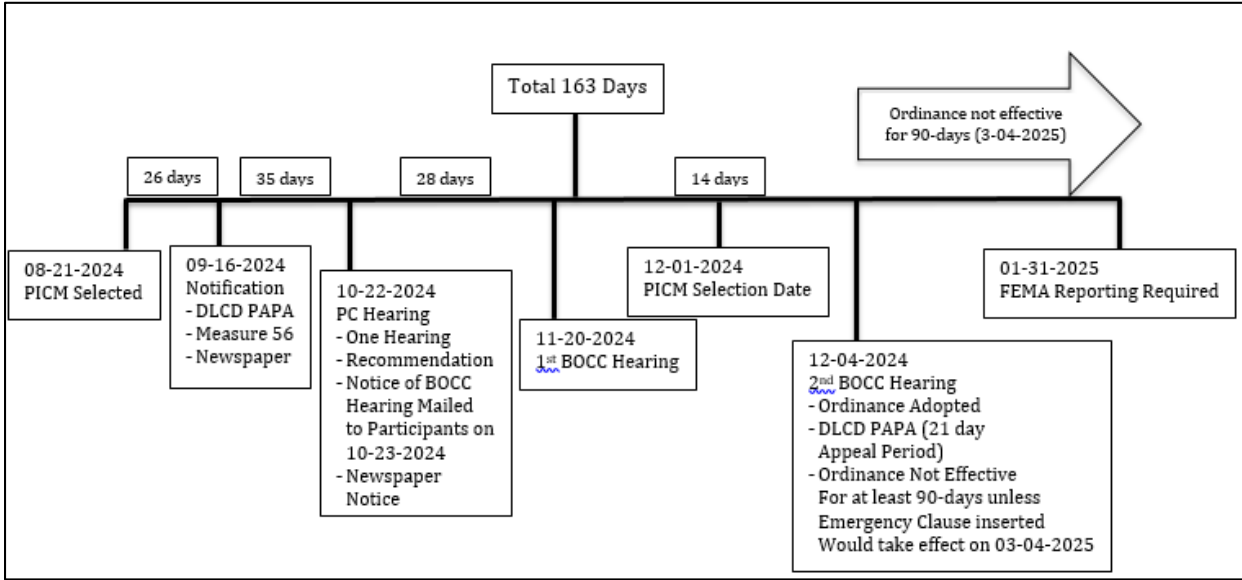
As of August 13, 2024, FEMA has not released a Model Code or policy guidance for the Permit-by-Permit option for conducting the Habitat Assessment and Mitigation Plan.

Any one of the three PICMs will require an amendment to the Wasco County Land Use and Development Ordinance (WC-LUDO), which implicates Oregon law pertaining to procedure and process. Public participation and notification are required and follow strict timelines that provided below:

Considering the current lack of information from FEMA, estimated staff work, and required notice time-lines involved, Wasco County cannot meet FEMA’s January 31, 2025 reporting date without a moratorium on floodplain development beginning on January 31, 2025. Below is a best-case time-line to FEMA’s January 31, 2025 reporting deadline for all three PICMs.

⁴ Federal Emergency Management Agency. (July 7, 2020). *Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA)*. <https://www.fema.gov/glossary/special-flood-hazard-area-sfha>.

⁵ Wasco County GIS provides that 777 total vacant residentially zoned properties, 122 of them are in OZ-1 (are within the SFHA).



Attachments:

- A. FEMA Pre-Implementation Compliance Measure Letter



FEMA

July 15, 2024

Steve Kramer
Wasco County Court House
511 Washington Street, Suite 302
The Dalles, Oregon 97058

Dear Steve Kramer:

The purpose of this letter is to announce the start of the United States Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Pre-Implementation Compliance Measures (PICM) for National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) participating communities in Oregon. The intent of PICM is to ensure the continued existence of threatened or endangered species in compliance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA). These measures include coordination with communities to provide appropriate technical assistance, help identify available resources, deliver trainings, and facilitate workshops to ensure on-going community participation in the NFIP. These pre-implementation compliance measures will assist communities in preparing for the Final NFIP-ESA Implementation Plan by helping them develop short and long-term solutions to ensure their on-going participation in the NFIP.

FEMA is currently conducting a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) evaluation of impacts associated with the Oregon NFIP-ESA Implementation Plan. FEMA developed this plan, in part, due to a Biological Opinion in 2016 from National Marine Fisheries Services. The Biological Opinion recommended specific measures for FEMA to take to avoid jeopardizing endangered species, including interim compliance measures. The release of the Final Implementation Plan (Plan) is anticipated by 2026, following the Record of Decision in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process, then FEMA will fully implement the Plan in 2027.

FEMA has heard concerns from several communities regarding challenges they are facing to meet the expectations of this Plan. To provide communities with the support needed to incorporate ESA considerations to their permitting of development in the floodplain, FEMA will inform, educate, and support our Oregon NFIP participating communities through the PICM before the Final Implementation Plan is released.

NFIP participating communities in Oregon must select one of the PICM pathways which include the following: (1) adopt a model ordinance that considers impacts to species and their habitat and requires mitigation to a no net loss standard; (2) choose to require a habitat assessment and mitigation plan for development on a permit-by-permit basis; or (3) putting in place a prohibition on floodplain development in the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). Communities must pick a PICM pathway by December 1, 2024. If a community fails to inform FEMA of its selection, they will default to the permit-by-permit PICM pathway. Communities will be required to report their floodplain development activities to FEMA beginning in January of 2025. Failure to report may result in a

compliance visit.

As a part of the PICM, FEMA will implement a delay in the processing of two types of Letters of Map Changes in the Oregon NFIP-ESA Implementation Plan area, specifically Letters of Map Changes associated with the placement of fill in the floodplain: Conditional Letter of Map Revision Based on Fill (CLOMR-F) and Letter of Map Revision Based on Fill (LOMR-F) requests. This action was specifically requested by NMFS in their 2016 Biological Opinion and serves to remove any perceived programmatic incentive of using fill in the floodplain. This delay in processing will begin on August 1, 2024, and will be in place until the Final Implementation Plan is released.

Your community's ongoing participation in the NFIP is critical, as it provides access to flood insurance for property owners, renters, and businesses. In Wasco County there are currently 37 of NFIP policies in force representing \$7861000 in coverage for your community.

FEMA will be conducting informational virtual webinars this summer to provide an overview and status update for the Oregon NFIP-ESA integration, introduce the Pre-Implementation Compliance Measures, and provide an opportunity for Oregon NFIP floodplain managers to ask questions of FEMA staff. In the fall, FEMA will hold workshops to provide in-depth opportunities for local technical staff to work with FEMA technical staff, to understand and discuss issues relating to the PICM.

The webinars will be held virtually over Zoom. The information at each webinar is the same so your jurisdiction only needs to attend one. You can register for a webinar using the links below.

- Wednesday, July 31 at 3-5pm PT: <https://kearnswest.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEkc-murjstGdPJiFioethjRk-id8N-k0hj>
- Tuesday, August 13 at 9:30-11:30am PT: <https://kearnswest.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAod-isrTsqGN0KqckRLPPeaZuu4rv96lcR>
- Thursday, August 15 at 2-4pm PT: https://kearnswest.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlqcOGpqDojHtTXaa946aI9dMpCTcJIH_zt
- Wednesday, August 21 at 12:30-2:30pm PT: <https://kearnswest.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYqcuGsrD8rH9DZO22vG0v9KrNzVeUZA9gY>

FEMA will also develop a questionnaire to allow communities to identify how they currently incorporate or plan to incorporate ESA considerations, both in the short-term and long-term. To assist communities in making this determination, FEMA will be offering guidance on the potential pathways that help ensure current compliance. Communities will also be asked to help identify what technical assistance and training would be most beneficial. Feedback from this questionnaire will drive FEMA's engagement and outreach.

Upon completion of the Environmental Impact Statement review and determination, the Final Implementation Plan will be distributed along with several guidance documents and a series of Frequently Asked Questions. FEMA will also be starting NFIP Compliance Audits, in which we will be reviewing permits issued by communities for development in the floodplain and will expect the community to be able to demonstrate what actions are being taken to address ESA considerations.

If you have any questions, please contact us through our project email address fema-r10-mit-

Kramer
July 15 2024
Page 3

PICM@fema.dhs.gov. Thank you for your community's on-going efforts to reduce flood risk in your community and for your support as we worked toward these milestones.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Willie G. Nunn", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Willie G. Nunn
Regional Administrator
FEMA Region 10

cc: KellyHowsley-Glover, Wasco County
John Graves, Floodplain Management and Insurance Branch Chief
Deanna Wright, Oregon State National Flood Insurance Program Coordinator

Enclosure: Pre-Implementation Compliance Measures Fact Sheet

Pre-Implementation Compliance Measures Overview

Beginning this summer, FEMA will assist communities with coming changes to the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) in Oregon.

Why are the changes needed?

As the result of a Biological Opinion issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service, communities are required to demonstrate how floodplain development is compliant with the Endangered Species Act in Special Flood Hazard Areas. Changes are needed to protect the habitat of several species of fish and the Southern Resident killer whales to comply with the Endangered Species Act (ESA). FEMA outlined these changes in the [draft Oregon NFIP-ESA Implementation Plan](#).

Current status

FEMA is evaluating proposed changes to the NFIP outlined in the Implementation Plan through an environmental impact statement (EIS), in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).



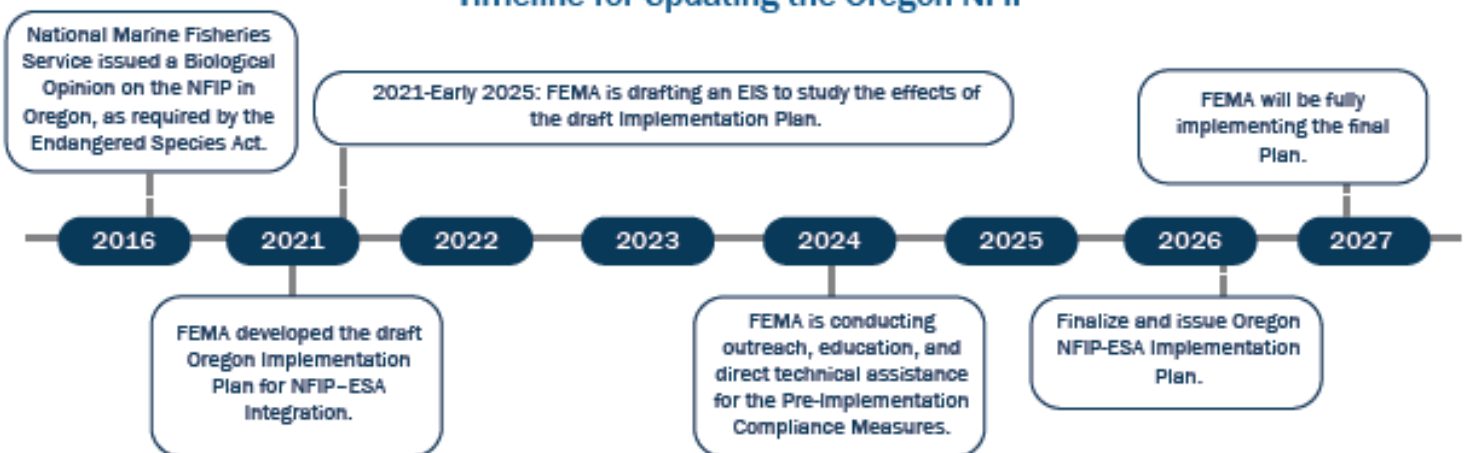
The National Flood Insurance Program serves to protect lives and property, while reducing costs to taxpayers due to flooding loss.

What is “no net loss”?

Any development action resulting in negative impacts to one or more key floodplain functions that are then mitigated or avoided to offset said impacts.

The Final Implementation Plan is anticipated by 2026 following the Record of Decision in the EIS process, then FEMA will fully implement the plan in 2027. Until then, communities need to begin taking action to protect habitat and achieve “no net loss.” FEMA is offering several resources for communities to learn more and implement interim measures, called Pre-Implementation Compliance Measures (PICMs).

Timeline for Updating the Oregon NFIP



What can communities do to comply with these changes?

Oregon communities participating in the NFIP can take short-term measures to comply with ESA requirements, known as PICMs. FEMA developed these measures in response to concerns from communities about the time and resources needed to meet requirements and ensure their future good standing in the NFIP. By implementing these measures now, communities will be better prepared for compliance audits, which will begin when the Final Implementation Plan is in place.

Communities can select one of the following three PICMs:

- Prohibit all new development in the floodplain.
- Incorporate the ESA into local floodplain ordinances.
- Require permit applicants to develop a Floodplain Habitat Assessment documenting that their proposed development in the Special Flood Hazard Area will achieve “no net loss.”

Communities must report to FEMA on their implementation of interim measures.

In addition to the above measures, as of August 1, 2024, FEMA is temporarily suspending processing applications for Letters of Map Revision based on Fill (LOMR-Fs) and Conditional Letters of Map Revision based on Fill (CLOMR-Fs) in NFIP communities to avoid potentially negative effects on ESA-listed species.

FEMA is here to support your community.

FEMA is offering several resources to assist communities in preparing for the Oregon NFIP-ESA Implementation Plan.

- **Informational Webinars (Summer 2024):** Learn about what FEMA is doing to revise the Implementation Plan and receive an introduction to the PICMs.
- **Questionnaire (Summer 2024):** Share what floodplain management measures your community is currently implementing to comply with the ESA, which PICMs you’re most interested in, and what support you need. Your feedback will help us plan the fall workshops and identify needs for technical assistance.
- **Workshops (Fall 2024):** Get an in-depth look at PICMs and talk through questions and concerns with FEMA staff.
- **Technical Assistance (Begins in Fall 2024):** Get support from FEMA to begin implementing PICMs.

Learn more and participate

Visit www.fema.gov/about/organization/region-10/oregon/nfip-esa-integration to read the latest information about NFIP-ESA Integration in Oregon.

You can also contact us at FEMA-R10-MIT-PICM@fema.dhs.gov



Floodplain Habitat Assessment and Mitigation

Regional Guidance for Oregon

August 2024



FEMA Region 10

Regional Guidance For Floodplain Habitat Assessments and Mitigation in Oregon

**Produced by FEMA - Region 10
August 2024**



FEMA
Region 10

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This guidance document was developed by Region 10 of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, as part of its continuing effort to improve floodplain management practices and assist communities in meeting the requirements of the Endangered Species Act.

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The 2018 Update was prepared by CDM Smith and FEMA Region 10.

The 2024 Update was prepared by FEMA Region 10 to address the interim measures for implementing the Oregon Biological Opinion.

Acronyms

BA	Biological Assessment
BE	Biological Evaluation
BiOp	Biological Opinion
CMZ	Channel Migration Zone
DLCD	Oregon Department of Land Conservation
EFH	Essential Fish Habitat
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FIRM	Flood Insurance Rate Map
FWHCA	Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas
HA	Habitat Assessment
HPA	Hydraulic Project Approval
IPaC	Information for Planning and Consultation tool
JARPA	Joint Aquatic Resources Permit Application
JPA	Joint Permit Application
NFIP	National Flood Insurance Program
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
ODEQ	Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
ODSL	Oregon Department of State Lands
RBZ	Riparian buffer zone
RPA	Reasonable and Prudent Alternative
SFHA	Special Flood Hazard Area
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background

This Regional Guidance is written to assist communities in meeting the requirements and criteria of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) regarding the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Those requirements are described in Biological Opinions (BiOp) issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) April 14, 2016, and the January 2017 errata document that supplements the BiOp for most of the State of Oregon.

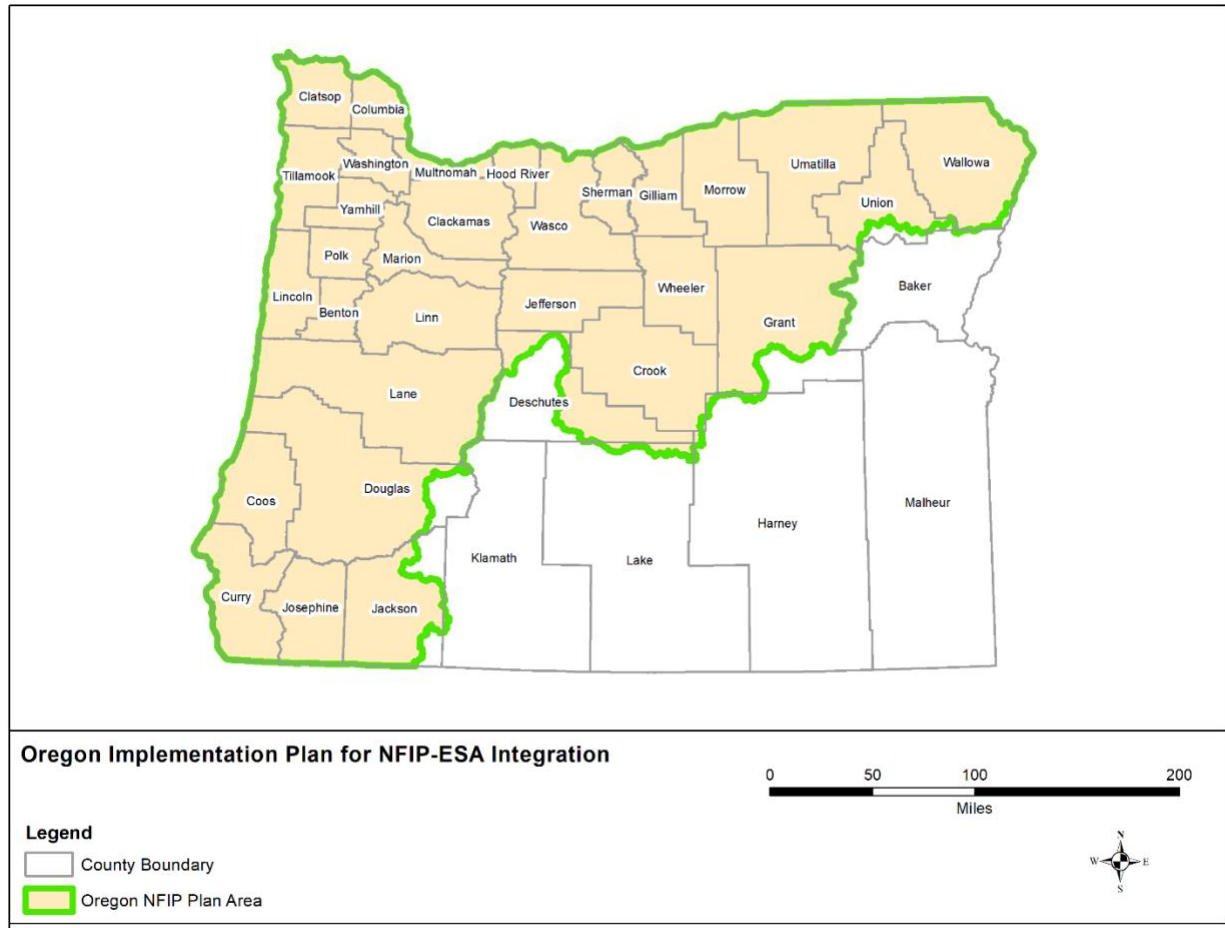


Figure 1 Oregon National Flood Insurance Program Plan Area for Endangered Species Act Integration

This guide is a companion to the BiOp for Oregon and the ESA Consultation Handbook (NMFS and USFWS 1998). It is intended to assist environmental planners, fisheries biologists, and other qualified floodplain and river management professionals who may potentially write or review habitat assessments (HAs). This document focuses on requirements specific to Oregon. It provides information on methods that communities may utilize to assess the impacts of land

management actions on ESA-listed species and their designated critical habitats within the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA).

This document is also designed to support the NFIP-ESA 2024 Draft Model Ordinance prepared by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region 10. This guidance is offered to help communities comply with the interim measures in the Reasonable and Prudent Alternative (RPA) element 2 while FEMA works towards full implementation of the NMFS BiOp.

For further details on the BiOp's requirements, see the [BiOp and RPA for Oregon](#). The Model Ordinance and additional guidance documents are also available from FEMA Region 10.

Communities in Oregon have two options to implement the interim measures of the BiOp: adopting the Model Ordinance under a hybrid programmatic habitat assessment approach or using a permit-by-permit approach. Sections of the Model Ordinance are referenced in this guidance to help the reader match the requirements of the BiOp with NFIP regulations. Additional references included in this guidebook are listed at the end of the document.

The RPAs set forth for Oregon under the BiOp include an expanded timeframe for implementation to account for state-wide implementation and potential changes in FEMA policy and guidance. The RPAs also allow for compensatory mitigation of adverse effects within the SFHA.

This revised 2024 habitat assessment guidance will help jurisdictions assess and document ESA compliance reviews. It is intended to be useful to those jurisdictions who are complying with the requirements of the interim elements of the RPA in Oregon through adoption of the model ordinance.

Regardless of which compliance option is selected, the objective is to avoid adverse effects and ensure no net loss to ESA-listed species and their designated critical habitats by protecting those species and the natural functions of their designated critical habitats.

The preparation of this guidance was informed by technical input from local officials, engineers, natural resource scientists, and planners. It is designed to assist qualified habitat professionals, representing both permit applicants and permit officials, in ensuring that any adverse impacts from actions occurring anywhere within the Oregon Special Flood Hazard Area will be mitigated to a no net loss standard. This guidance is focused on ESA-listed species utilizing habitats in flood-prone areas, including those areas associated with streams, lakes, and marine waters.

The 2016 BiOp and 2017 errata for the NFIP in Oregon apply to 16 ESA-listed fish species and the Southern Resident killer whale. However, the Model Ordinance and this guidance may also help guide assessment of potential impacts from project actions on bull trout (administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [USFWS]), which are currently listed as threatened or endangered. In Oregon, bull trout are found in the Columbia River and many of its tributaries. The

assessment of impacts on other fish species that may become candidates for ESA listing may also be warranted, to ensure that project proposals adequately address their needs if they become formally listed while a project is still underway. This assessment guidance does not, however, provide details on possible methods of how to assess impacts to any ESA-listed wildlife, invertebrate, or plant species that may be present, nor impacts to their habitats.

1.2 Definitions

Three terms are used in this guidance and the Model Ordinance, that may not be the same terms used in a community's regulations: "Riparian Buffer Zone" and "development." These terms are defined in the Definitions section of the Model Ordinance Language (Section 2.0).

The **SFHA** is the land in the floodplain within a community subject to a 1% or greater chance of flooding in any given year. It is shown on the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) as Zone A, AO, AH, A1-30, AE, A99, AR (V, V1-30, VE).

The **Riparian Buffer Zone** is measured from the ordinary high water line of a fresh waterbody (lake; pond; ephemeral, intermittent, or perennial stream) or mean higher-high water (MHHW) line of a marine shoreline or tidally influenced river reach to 170 feet horizontally on each side of the stream or 170 feet inland from the MHHW. The riparian buffer zone includes the area between these outer boundaries on each side of the stream, including the stream channel. Where the RBZ is larger than the special flood hazard area, the no net loss standards shall only apply to the area within the special flood hazard area. The RBZ-fringe is the remainder of the SFHA that is outside of the RBZ.

Development is any man-made change to improved or unimproved real estate, including but not limited to buildings or other structures, mining, dredging, filling, grading, paving, excavation or drilling operations or storage of equipment or materials. The Oregon BiOp extends that definition to include subdivision of land, removal of vegetation, other alteration of natural site characteristics (including any remnant natural characteristics existing in a degraded site), substantial repairs and improvements, and the maintenance, repair, or remodel of existing buildings, facilities, and utilities when their existing footprint is expanded.

1.3 When to Conduct a Habitat Assessment

Whenever a development project is proposed in the SFHA, the property owner must obtain a floodplain development permit from the community. Certain types of projects can be permitted relatively quickly (see “Allowed Activities” below). Unless a community’s floodplain management ordinance lists a project action type as exempt from the requirement to complete an HA (see Section 1.3.1), the project applicant must complete an HA that describes the impact of the proposed development on existing floodplain and instream habitat functions and processes. The scope and detail of that assessment may vary as needed to portray possible impacts for each project. If the anticipated project effects are clearly limited in nature and extent, it may be possible to describe them in a relatively short assessment. The greater the complexity, scope, and/or risk of possible impacts to ESA-listed species or their habitats, the more likely it will be that the HA will need to be an in-depth analysis, to portray impacts and describe planned mitigation, if needed.

1.3.1 No Habitat Assessment Required

There are four general circumstances where an HA would not be required:

1. Projects that are listed as exempt from conducting a habitat assessment in the BiOp for the NFIP in Oregon. These exemptions should be listed in the community’s ordinance (exempt situations are listed below).
2. Project actions that are covered under separate consultations under Section 4(d), 7, or 10 of the ESA.
3. Projects under consideration that have already been covered by a full programmatic habitat assessment of all current and reasonably foreseeable future conditions throughout a jurisdiction. (When such an assessment already exists, and the project clearly fits within the nature and scope of those project types that were addressed by it, then the jurisdiction need only document and track how they evaluated its eligibility for coverage by that assessment).

1.3.1.1 No HA Required and No Floodplain Permit Required:

Communities may allow the following activities in the floodplain without requiring a floodplain development permit, provided all applicable federal, state, and local requirements are met. A floodplain permit is not required because these activities do not meet the NFIP definition of “development.” Note: local community regulations may be more restrictive than the minimum standards (44 CFR 59).

- Routine maintenance of existing landscaping that does not involve grading, excavation, or filling.
- Removal of noxious weeds, hazard trees, and replacement of non-native vegetation with native vegetation.
- Normal maintenance of above and below ground utilities and facilities, such as replacing power lines and utility poles.

- Normal road maintenance, such as filling potholes, repaving, installing signs and traffic signals, but not including any expansion.
- Normal maintenance of a levee or other flood control facility, as prescribed in the operations and maintenance plan for the facility. Normal maintenance does not include repair from flood damage, any expansion of the prism, face or toe expansion, or the addition of material for protection or armor.
- Plowing and other normal farm practices (other than new structures or filling) on legally existing agricultural areas. Clearing additional land for agriculture will likely require a floodplain development permit and an HA.

1.3.1.2 Floodplain Permit Required and No HA Required

Communities may allow the following activities in the floodplain without an HA, provided a floodplain development permit is obtained and all applicable federal, state, and local requirements are met.

- Normal maintenance, repairs, or remodeling of structures, such as re-roofing and replacing siding, provided such work does not constitute a substantial improvement or repair of substantial damage. To comply, the cost of such work must be less than 50 percent of the market value of the structure(s).
- Activities with the sole purpose of creating, restoring, or enhancing natural functions associated with floodplains, streams, lakes, estuaries, marine areas, habitat, and riparian areas, provided the activities meet federal and state standards and do not include structures, grading, fill, or impervious surfaces.
- Development of open space and recreational facilities, such as parks, trails, and hunting grounds, that do not include structures, fill, impervious surfaces, or removal of more than 5 percent of the native vegetation on the portion of the property located in the SFHA.
- Repair to onsite septic systems, provided ground disturbance is the minimal necessary and best management practices (BMP) are utilized to prevent stormwater runoff and soil erosion.
- Projects that have already received concurrence under another permit or other consultation with the Services, either through Section 7, Section 4d, or Section 10 of the ESA, that addresses the entirety of the project in the floodplain. Examples of other such permits include but are not limited to a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) 404 permit.
- Repair of an existing, functional bulkhead in the same location and footprint with the same materials when the Ordinary High-Water Mark (OHWM) is still outside of the face of the bulkhead.

Projects that require a federal permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act would likely need to go through an ESA consultation process led by the USACE Regulatory Branch. The Section 404 permit process includes consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS),

and/or NMFS when a project may influence a federally listed species. Such consultation is required under Section 7 of the ESA. If a project has gone through this Section 7 process with USACE then a local HA would not be required.

A project is deemed to comply with the ESA if a permit applicant has prepared a Biological Evaluation (BE) or a Biological Assessment (BA) and has received concurrence from USFWS and/or NMFS as applicable for the species potentially present (via either a Letter of Concurrence or a BiOp) that covers the full scope of the proposed action. In such cases the additional HA requirements of this guidance are not required (see Section 7.7 of either of the Model Ordinances).

1.4 Habitat Assessment Overview

The habitat assessment needs to describe any impacts to habitat functions due to actions occurring within any part of the SFHA in the BiOps action area communities. The assessment must demonstrate that there will be no net loss to habitat functions in the SFHA.

The impact of a project on habitat functions and processes may be complicated to determine because there is often little or no information on the site's baseline (pre-project) natural features. A habitat assessment is needed to identify those natural functions and to complete an analysis that estimates what effects the proposed action will have on ESA-listed species and their critical habitats.

If the assessment finds that an adverse effect may occur due to impacts from the proposed action on ESA-listed fish species, Southern Resident killer whales, or their designated critical habitats, then the permit applicant must prepare a plan identifying the steps that the applicant will take to modify the proposed action to avoid adverse effects. Avoidance measures should be applied as the first priority. Then, measures to minimize or fully mitigate any unavoidable adverse impacts must be developed and applied to the project. Jurisdictions must be able to document the details of the mitigation plan and identify which mitigation measures are required rather than recommended. They must also be able to monitor and document the implementation and measure the effectiveness of the plan, track any enforcement actions taken, and provide that information to FEMA, if requested.

Any actions that would adversely affect ESA-listed species or their critical habitats within the BiOps action area SFHA must be fully mitigated. In the required descending order of preference, the mitigation sequence is avoidance, minimization, and mitigation. Applicants must explain and document why all preferable forms of mitigation were not practicable before proposing less preferable forms (e.g., mitigation over avoidance).

1.5 Preparing and Reviewing a Habitat Assessment

This guidance provides a step-by-step approach to complete a HA when an assessment is needed. The approach described in the following sections should provide sufficient information to assess

and document the likely effects of a proposed project, but it does not have to be followed exactly as described. However, if a different approach is followed, it must provide sufficient data and analysis to describe baseline conditions and likely effects on ESA-listed species and their designated critical habitat. It must conclude with an effects determination that is well supported by that analysis.

This guidebook is not intended to represent comprehensive instructions for how a jurisdiction should complete a comprehensive “programmatic” HA of existing conditions and impacts of community’s regulations across its entire jurisdiction (e.g., conditions within all watersheds in a jurisdiction). However, it helps describe the information that would be needed to complete such an extensive and inclusive programmatic assessment. Communities may conduct programmatic assessments with differing approaches based on their unique land uses, regulatory structure, available maps and data, and community goals. Communities may request technical assistance from FEMA when they draft programmatic habitat assessments or review assessments prepared by others for projects within their jurisdictions.

The guidance is also not intended to provide complete instructions for documentation and justification of how a jurisdiction’s existing regulations (and any planned changes to those regulations) comply with all the terms and conditions within the RPAs of the BiOp. It will be the responsibility of the jurisdiction to explain and document that information. This guidance is primarily intended to assist applicants in preparing an HA under the permit-by-permit approach listed in the Pre-Implementation Compliance Measures (PICM). Applicants may seek assistance from their local jurisdiction in preparation of the HA. If the project is complex, it is recommended that applicants begin with conceptual development plans and conduct a preliminary assessment before investing in detailed project plans and specifications. Continued communication with community staff will also help identify issues before significant time and/or money is spent on a project that may require additional mitigation measures or needs to be redesigned or abandoned. It may be appropriate for some communities with limited staff to request assistance from their neighboring jurisdictions, Tribes, or other partners to help assess the adequacy of draft HAs written on their behalf. This guidance document allows for flexibility in the format of many aspects of the HA. Reviewers of draft HAs should be familiar with the range of formats that adequately portray and interpret fisheries population and habitat survey data.

A permit applicant should weigh the cost of preparing an assessment and mitigation plan, should one be needed, against the cost of locating the project outside the SFHA. It may cost less in time and money to simply avoid the SFHA

2.0 Conducting the Assessment

The process to adequately identify and address the impacts a proposed project may have on habitat within the floodplain is described in the following sections. In circumstances where an approved habitat assessment (Steps 1 through 4) determines that if no impacts on habitat functions

associated with ESA-listed species will occur, development of a mitigation plan is not necessary. However, most activities within the SFHA that require a HA are highly likely to have impacts on habitats associated with ESA-listed species. The first few steps are to describe the project area, area of potential effects (which may be larger), and whether any listed species potentially occur in that area. If ESA-listed species potentially occur within the area where project effects may occur, then the potential impacts on those species must be determined. When habitat impacts are identified, a mitigation plan must be prepared for the project, in accordance with Steps 5 and 6.

2.1 Step 1. Describe the Project Area

The project area is generally the parcel or parcels being developed. In some cases, the project may extend to a larger area, such as when a road to the parcel is to be built or improved, or when the effects of several interrelated or interdependent proposed land development actions are considered together. Step 1 should produce two documents – the project area description and a project area map.

2.1.1 Project Area Description

If an Oregon State Joint Permit Application (JPA) form has been prepared for the project, it will include the general project area description information that would be included as part of the habitat assessment. An approval under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act is required from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) and/or a removal-fill permit is required from the Oregon Department of State Lands (DSL). However, the JPA may not adequately describe all the natural functions, and habitat support processes, species distribution characteristics, hydrologic variables, and/or water quality effects that need to be addressed in a habitat assessment. At a minimum, an Oregon State JPA form would include the following information:

- **Location information:**
 - Street address
 - City and County
 - Township, section, and range
 - Latitude and longitude
 - Tax parcel number(s) of the project location
 - Type of ownership of the project (Federal, State, or locally owned public lands; tribal lands; privately owned lands)
- **Water resource information:**
 - Watershed name
Watershed Assessment Unit or HUC12 codes. Information on Oregon's Watershed

Assessment Units can be found at the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) [Oregon 2024 Integrated Report Frequently Asked Questions](#) and the mapping webpage at:

[Oregon Explorer](#) HUC codes for the Pacific Northwest region can be found at the U.S. Geological Survey site: https://water.usgs.gov/GIS/wbd_huc8.pdf.

- Names and descriptions of the water bodies in which work will occur, including water type. For more information on water type and a map that designates the types for major water bodies, see the Oregon State Water Resources Department water typing page:
<http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/Documents/WorkingForests/WaterClassificationTechNotes1.pdf>
- Coastal Management Areas are associated with the coasts of Oregon, as managed by the Oregon Coastal Zone Management Program.
- Critical Areas associated with streams, designated by the local jurisdiction pursuant to the Transportation and Growth Act in Oregon. Critical areas management information should include the critical areas designation and a description of the extent of jurisdiction.
- **Fish and Wildlife Habitat Areas**
 - Designated Goal 5 resources include riparian areas, wetlands, wildlife habitat, and natural areas in or near the project area.

2.1.2 Project Area Map

The second item needed for Step 1 is a map, drawn to scale that shows the following:

- Parcel(s) boundaries
- Full analysis area
- Area of the finished project (including roads)
- Any additional area(s) that will be disrupted during construction (including access routes, staging areas, and areas to be re-graded or filled)
- All water bodies
- Site topography, soils, and geology
- Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas/Goal 5 resources
- Existing native vegetation by vegetation community zones. For example, a map could distinguish areas with existing coniferous forest cover from areas with shrub cover and areas with grass cover.
- Boundaries of the following regulatory areas (see Section 3 of the Model Ordinance)
 - Special Flood Hazard Area

- Floodway (if available)
- Riparian buffer zone (RBZ)
- Channel Migration Zone (CMZ) (where available)
- Depths of the 10- and 100-year floods at representative locations. These only need to be provided when flood data is available from existing studies for the community.

2.2 Step 2. Describe the Project Area's Habitat

In Step 2 of the habitat assessment, the applicant describes the existing habitat conditions of the project area. Tasks 2.2.1 and 2.2.2 of Step 2 are largely based on existing scientific information regarding species use and current habitat functions in the project area.

2.2.1 Background Research

In order to adequately describe current population and habitat conditions, Step 2 starts with a review of existing sources of information relevant to threatened or endangered species and their habitats in or near the project area. There may be thorough inventories already available. The following sources should be checked, and appropriate sections referenced as needed:

- Critical areas inventory maps, best available science consistency studies, flood control and floodplain management plans, watershed analyses, and habitat studies that may be available from the community's planning or environmental protection department.
 - The following sources may be helpful: Conservation Strategy Areas; Coastal Zone Management Program
- Natural area studies that may be available from the community's parks and/or natural resources departments.
- NMFS distribution of threatened and endangered Species (www.nwr.noaa.gov)
- NMFS designated critical habitat maps (www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/species/criticalhabitat.htm)
- USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation tool (IPaC) at <https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/location/index>
- USFWS critical habitat maps (<http://criticalhabitat.fws.gov/> and www.fws.gov/pacific/bulltrout/)
- USFWS National Wetland Inventory mapper (<https://www.fws.gov/wetlands/data/Mapper.html>)
- USFWS and NMFS habitat recovery plans, when published for ESA listed species in the project vicinity
 - USFWS: (www.fws.gov/pacific)

- NMFS: (www.nwr.noaa.gov)
- U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service soil survey maps (<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/>)
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife threatened and endangered species list (http://www.dfw.state.or.us/wildlife/diversity/species/threatened_endangered_candidate_list.asp)
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Crucial Habitat Database (<http://dfw.state.or.us/maps/compass/data.asp>)
- Oregon State Department of Environmental Quality Water Quality Assessment (<http://www.oregon.gov/deq/wq/Pages/WQ-Assessment.aspx>)
- Oregon Native Fish Conservation and Recovery Plans
- Stream surveys conducted by tribes or federal, state, or local agencies. Such surveys may contain detailed information on habitat conditions and fish species presence from redd surveys or from snorkeling or electroshocking surveys. Other recent projects near the project area may also have collected stream survey or other habitat data.

2.2.2 Protected Species Identification

The review of the existing research should identify all federally listed species, designated critical habitats, Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) as defined by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, affected EFH species, and Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas or Conservation Strategy Areas, that occur in or near the project area. Species or habitats that have the potential to be negatively impacted on a direct, indirect, or cumulative basis by proposed ground-disturbing actions need to be described. The appropriate spatial and temporal scales for each form of potential impact must also be identified and briefly explained. Further discussion of potentially measurable or observable impacts, and the appropriate spatial and temporal scales for an effects analysis is presented later in this guidebook.

The table below is an example of how species presence and ESA status of populations and Critical Habitat could be presented. Additional columns could also be inserted to list the status of EFH and other categories when present and convenient to describe in a tabular format.

Occurrence of Listed Species and Critical Habitat in or Near the Project Area. (Sample Display)				
Common Name	Scientific Name	ESA Status	Jurisdiction	Critical Habitat
Lower Columbia River Chinook salmon	<i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>	Threatened	NMFS	Yes
Lower Columbia River coho salmon	<i>O. kisutch</i>	Threatened	NMFS	Yes
Lower Columbia River steelhead	<i>O. Mykiss</i>	Threatened	NMFS	Yes
Southern Resident killer whale	<i>Orcinus orca</i>	Endangered	NMFS	Yes

Table 1. Sample Species Status Table for a Habitat Assessment

Check with the NMFS and USFWS data sources described in Section 2.1 of this document to obtain general maps of the distribution of ESA-listed or proposed species, listed critical habitats, and any areas designated Essential Fish Habitat. Please note that the maps of potential fish distribution at these websites are not necessarily the most detailed or accurate maps that exist. The regional or local offices of NMFS, USFWS, tribes, or local land management agencies may be able to provide more accurate maps based on recent fish and habitat surveys, including known migration barriers.

EFH species are managed by NMFS. On the west coast of the United States there are three EFH salmon species that potentially occur in freshwater systems, namely pink, coho, and Chinook salmon. If project actions may potentially negatively impact estuarine and marine systems, numerous species of ground fish and coastal pelagic fishes that are listed under EFH may also need to be considered.

This task should summarize the biological and ecological information that will be needed for the habitat assessment. Appropriate information on species life histories, habitat, and distributions, as well as other data necessary for species survival or possible recovery, must be included to provide sufficient background for the analyses in later sections. It is important to note that even though the 2016 BiOp for Oregon focuses on salmon and EFH species managed by NMFS, all threatened or endangered plant and animal species in or near the project area need to be addressed. If other ESA-listed species are present or are potentially present, it may be necessary to conduct additional surveys and assessments beyond those described in this guidance.

Several sources of existing information are listed above in Section 2.2.1. When a document contains relevant information, that information can simply be cited by page-specific reference. Other sources include the locally developed Best Available Science (BAS) documentation reports; the state’s Growth Management Act that requires each community to prepare such

reports for their critical area standards. Additional references are provided below as examples of the general format and guidance on how some agencies conduct biological assessments.

- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' *ESA Consultation Initiation Template* (USACE 2007)
[\[http://www.spk.usace.army.mil/Portals/12/documents/regulatory/pdf/ESA_Template_Guidance.pdf\]](http://www.spk.usace.army.mil/Portals/12/documents/regulatory/pdf/ESA_Template_Guidance.pdf)
- *Making Endangered Species Act Determinations of Effect for Individual or Grouped Actions at the Watershed Scale* (NMFS 1996).
[\[http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/Publications/Reference-Documents/upload/matrix_1996.pdf\]](http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/Publications/Reference-Documents/upload/matrix_1996.pdf)
- Oregon Department of Transportation *Biological Assessment and Guidance Document* (ODOT 2005).
[\[http://cms.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/GEOENVIRONMENTAL/docs/BAWritingDocument.pdf\]](http://cms.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/GEOENVIRONMENTAL/docs/BAWritingDocument.pdf)

Currently, the Northwest Region of NMFS does not formally recommend use of any specific template for Biological Assessments (other than the 'Analytical Process' for some specific land management actions like timber sales on Federal lands). The Region instead allows the potential use of a variety of formats.

HAs must describe existing habitat and species population conditions for each ESA-listed species that may occur in the area of potential effects. The HA should describe the habitat functions that potentially support ESA-listed species in or near the action area. It must then describe the potential impacts of the proposed actions on individuals of each species, populations of those species, and their habitats. The detail and extent of each assessment will vary by the nature and scope of the proposal and the potential for negative impacts.

This section's narrative should include, but not necessarily be limited to, descriptions and discussions of the following topics:

- i. Factors of decline
 - a. Historical pressures on the species
 - b. Current pressures on the species
 - c. Limiting factors for recovery of the species
- ii. Local empirical information (if available)
 - a. Current local population information
 - b. Ongoing monitoring programs (if any)
 - c. Population trend of the species

A summary of the habitat needs for each protected species should follow its description. This section of the narrative should identify and describe the key factors that are important to each

protected species. These factors include the Primary Constituent Elements (PCEs) for those species with designated critical habitat. PCEs are the key habitat components that an ESA-listed species needs to survive in an area (see example in the box). For each listed species, PCEs are described in the corresponding Federal Register publication for its designated critical habitat. The PCEs must be described when critical habitat may potentially be affected. In those cases where designated critical habitat is not present near the project action area, describing the available habitat in terms of the PCE components is still a recommended means to concisely describe existing habitat features. Not all PCEs for a species may apply to a project. In the example below, PCEs related to the ocean environment would not apply to the project if the project area is on a freshwater stream.

Example Primary Constituent Elements

(Chinook salmon and steelhead trout, 50 CFR Part 226, Federal Register / Vol. 70, No. 170 / Friday, September 2, 2005)

1. Freshwater spawning sites with water quantity and quality conditions and substrate supporting spawning, incubation and larval development.
2. Freshwater rearing sites with water quantity and floodplain connectivity
3. Freshwater migration corridors free of obstruction
4. Estuarine areas free of obstruction
5. Nearshore marine areas free of obstruction
6. Offshore marine areas with water quality conditions and forage, including aquatic invertebrates and fishes, supporting growth and maturation.

2.2.3 Site Investigation

Tasks 2.2.1 and 2.2.2 give the applicant guidance on where to look and what to look for regarding species potentially present at the site. Following completion of the first parts of Step 2, a site visit is usually needed to determine if there are habitat areas in the project area with which identified species have a “primary association.” “Habitats of primary association” include critical habitat components (which could be PCEs), which, if altered, may reduce the likelihood that the listed species will be able to continue to live and reproduce in the area over the long term. A site visit and determination of site-specific conditions is generally necessary to determine what actual impacts on ESA-listed species, EFH, and associated habitats may occur from a proposed project.

For example, identification of Chinook salmon habitat areas of primary association should look for those PCEs listed in the box. A description of the riparian and instream habitat conditions that exist both upstream and downstream of the project action area would also be needed.

This description of existing baseline habitat functions must, at a minimum, include those habitat functions that are listed in the BiOp on the NFIP in Oregon. These functions are described in the next section on the habitat narrative. In addition, it is especially important to note the locations

and distances from the proposed project area relative to any stream reaches that may potentially support ESA-listed species or contain designated critical habitat.

The description of habitat and general conditions in the project area should also identify existing modifications to the project site within the floodplain, including existing structures, roads, impervious areas, and graded or filled areas. Any existing modification that has impaired habitat functions and/or habitats of primary association should be described (as discussed in the next section). If the project includes activities to restore the habitat in these modified areas, it could help the assessment conclude that there will be no adverse effects on habitat due to the project (see also Task 2.3.3 of Step 3).

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, through its conservation strategy includes additional actions that have the potential to result in impaired habitats. The site investigation should look for and describe these modifications when they are present. In general, actions that have the potential to result in impaired habitats involve one or more of the following:

- coastal development and associated construction
- shoreline armoring
- alteration of hydraulic regimes
- dredging and dredged materials disposal
- aquaculture
- global climate change
- habitat isolation
- the removal of riparian vegetation (except for the removal of noxious plants)

Furthermore, RPA element 2 identified in the Oregon BiOp requires communities within the implementation plan area to identify a riparian buffer zone (RBZ) that is measured 170 feet horizontally from the ordinary high-water mark of perennial or intermittent streams, including the area between these outer boundaries on each side of the stream, including the stream channel or 170 feet inland from a MHHW. Development in the RBZ must adhere to additional performance standards to comply with NFIP-ESA integration efforts as outlined in section 2.5.3.

2.2.4 Habitat Narrative

The findings of the field investigation are used to prepare a description of the habitat areas of primary association that will need to be protected. The narrative for this part of the assessment report needs to describe the presence and existing quality of the natural features that relate to the PCEs for all the species and habitat areas that were identified in Tasks 2.2.2 and 2.2.3. The habitat narrative must include descriptions of the site's floodplain storage capabilities, water quality, and riparian vegetation. As described in the final paragraph of Task 2.2.2, PCEs are the key habitat components required for an ESA-listed species, as identified in the final rules that were published in the Federal Register when a species was listed. The narrative must identify what habitat

functions are still relatively intact and which are impaired by previous site and/or area (e.g., sub-watershed, watershed, or basin scale) modifications.

The BiOp for the NFIP in Oregon states that within the SFHA all development impacts on natural floodplain functions must be mitigated. The mitigation standards should identify the specific development activities that require mitigation including the following activities.

- 1) The addition of fill, structures, levees, or dikes, which reduces flood storage and fish refugia, impedes habitat forming processes, and increases flow volume and velocity. The latter erodes stream banks and beds and alters peak flow timing, which increases the risk of injury to redds, fry, and alevin.
- 2) The addition of impervious surfaces, which reduces hyporheic function and stream recharge, increases stormwater runoff, pollutant loading, water temperature, velocity, and scour, and modifies peak and base flows.
- 3) Vegetation removal, which reduces shade, detrital input, velocity refuge, and habitat complexity, and increases stormwater runoff and erosion.
- 4) Bank armoring, which reduces instream habitat values and impedes habitat forming processes.

The site investigation and resulting habitat narrative must also include a description of the proposed action and existing habitat conditions even when the action is outside of the High Hazard Area.

It is possible that there may be limited information available from the sources identified in Tasks 2.2.2 and 2.2.3. The habitat narrative must note the sources of data and information, and clarify which statements are based on scientific reports and data, and which statements are based on the professional opinion of the author. This is one of the most vital aspects of the assessment, and is required for reviewers to evaluate the basis and relative confidence of statements, related to current conditions and estimated environmental effects.

The variables listed below should be considered to ensure that the assessment covers all the required factors. In most cases, the analysis scale will be small and only address a small contiguous action area. However, some projects may include multiple sites in multiple watersheds. The extent and detail needed for the assessment will vary by the nature, scope, and scale of the proposed action. In many cases, the project will not have the potential to affect many (or any) of the habitat functions listed below. When that is the case, the assessment simply needs to clarify why the project does not have any significant potential to degrade some or all variables. The list below is intended to assist jurisdictions in considering all possible impacts on aquatic habitat and ESA-listed fish species, due to major land management actions. The list includes questions that should be answered in the HA with additional guidance on how to address them.

Primary Constituent Elements (PCEs)

These are identified in the final rules that designate critical habitat for listed threatened and endangered species (see the NMFS and USFWS critical habitat map links within the References and Resources section to access final rules for ESA listed species). For example, for an inland site with Chinook salmon habitat (see box on page 18), the first three sections of the habitat narrative would cover freshwater spawning sites, freshwater rearing sites, and freshwater migration corridors. In those cases where designated critical habitat is not present near the project action area, describing available habitat in terms of the PCE variables is still recommended to concisely depict key habitat features. Even if designated critical habitat is not present on a site, there still may be suitable habitat for the species and the species may be present. If suitable habitat is present, then the potential for impacts to the species from project activities needs to be evaluated. The distance and locations of the nearest designated critical habitat, relative to the project area also need to be listed, so that the potential for projects to impact these mapped areas can be evaluated (e.g. via sediment transport). Water quality, floodplain connectivity and storage, and riparian vegetative community are three PCEs of particular importance within the Oregon implementation plan area, as they have been identified as key floodplain functions by the 2016 BiOp.

Water Quality

- Does the proposed action include any activities (e.g. grading, stormwater, or road construction) that may have any potential to cause measurable degradation to water quality variables within the action area, and how was this assessed?
- If so, which water quality variables would be affected? Water quality variables that should be considered include: turbidity, pH, total dissolved gas (percent of saturation), bacteria, toxics, and pollutants. In Oregon, the numeric standards for turbidity, pH, total dissolved gas, and bacteria vary by location depending on the state's designated uses for salmon and charr fish species listed for the river reach in question (i.e., spawning, rearing, and/or migration). These states have also adopted narrative criteria to supplement the numeric criteria for some variables. The narrative criteria are statements that describe the desired water quality goal, such as waters being "free from" pollutants including oil and scum, color and odor, and other substances that can harm people and fish.
- Is there any potential for the project to result in not meeting state water quality standards for any water quality variables (over any temporal scale) within the defined action area? If so, which variables? How was the action area selected, and how was the assessment conducted?

Reaches of streams that are known to be impaired and to not meet water quality criteria for one or more variables are required to be listed under section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act (CWA). If a river reach is not included on one of these lists, it does

not necessarily ensure that it meets all water quality standards for all variables. It may simply mean that no sampling (if any has occurred) has demonstrated that it does not meet standards. Data on water quality variables may be extremely limited or non-existent for many streams and river reaches. Water body segments only become listed via documented and repeated violations that are estimated to have likely been human-caused.

Jurisdictions in Oregon should advise the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality regarding any water quality data that they are aware of, in addition to what is cited in the current 303(d) list for a specific river reach. Information on the 303(d) list is found at: [Department of Environmental Quality : EPA Approved Integrated Report : Water Quality : State of Oregon](#).

Water body segments (i.e., stream reaches, lakes, marine waters) that appear on the 303(d) list require the preparation of a plan to restore water quality, which often takes the form of a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) study. Habitat assessments should include consideration of the status of water quality in the project action area and evaluate whether the project proposal has any potential to further degrade any variables, including any that are already listed as not meeting State standards.

- If there is any potential for degradation of any water quality variables, what are the estimated effects on ESA-listed fish species and/or their designated critical habitats within the action area, and how was this assessed? In addition, what is the maximum estimated spatial scale, and maximum time period when any possible impacts on ESA-listed fish species and/or their designated critical habitats might occur?

Water Temperature and Dissolved Oxygen

- Does the proposed action include any actions or regulations that may cause measurable changes in water temperature or changes in levels of dissolved oxygen (DO) in any locations, and how was this assessed?
- If there is any potential for measurable impacts, is there any potential for water temperature or DO (over any temporal scale) to not meet State water quality standards within the action area(s)? [see Water Quality section above for hyperlinks to standards in Washington and Oregon].
- If there is any potential for measurable impacts, what is the estimated effect (at all temporal scales) on ESA-listed fish species, and how was this assessed?
- If there is the potential for measurable impacts, what is the maximum estimated spatial scale and locations (including any downstream effects) and maximum time period when impacts on ESA-listed fish species may occur?

Low Flow Hydrologic Regimes (including hyporheic flows)

- Does the proposed action include any actions that could potentially cause changes to the magnitude, duration, or recurrence intervals of low summer baseflows at any locations, over any temporal scale, and how was this assessed?
- If there is any potential for changes, what impact would those changes have on ESA-listed fish species or their designated critical habitats in the project action area, and what is the maximum estimated spatial and temporal scale of those effects?

High Flow (flood) Hydrologic Regimes

- Does the proposed action include any actions that could potentially cause changes to the magnitude, duration, or recurrence intervals of the 10-, 50-, or 100-year flood flows in any location, and how was this assessed?
- If there is any potential for changes in flood flows, what effect would those changes have on ESA-listed fish species and/or their designated critical habitats in the project action area, and what is the maximum estimated spatial and temporal scale of those effects?

Site flood dynamics and hydrology must be assessed to varying degrees, to ensure that the analysis is adequate and appropriate, for the nature of the proposed action and the habitat resources potentially at risk. Flood flow depths, volumes, velocities, and flow paths have an important effect on the way habitat is formed. The habitat assessment narrative should describe these factors with an emphasis placed on the effects of flood events on habitats. Tributary streams, seeps, stormwater outfalls, waterways that pass through the project site, and other water sources should be identified and described. This discussion may rely on and reference other flood and site hydrology studies prepared for the project and should be focused on how flood dynamics and hydrology impact local habitat areas.

A semi-quantitative or qualitative assessment of water quantity should usually be sufficient for projects limited in scope, scale, and overall potential to result in negative impacts on ESA-listed fish populations and their critical habitats. Projects with more potential for measurable or observable negative impacts will sometimes require more rigorous examination of hydrologic or sediment regimes, based on best available data, including correlations to existing gage stations. They may also require more intensive field surveys and possibly 1- or 2- dimensional flow modeling to describe water velocities, likely extents of inundation, and possible changes to instream and riparian habitat due to future flood events.

Flood Velocities

- Does the proposed action include any actions that could potentially cause increases in water velocities in streams or rivers during high flow events, and how was this assessed?

- If there are any potential for increases in high flow velocities, is there also any potential for measurable increases in streambed or stream bank shear or velocities in fish habitat units (e.g., pools, glides, side-channels) that provide refugia for ESA-listed species from high velocities within the channel over any temporal scale at any locations? How was this estimated?
- If there is any potential for changes in flood velocities, what impact would those changes have upon ESA-listed fish species and/or their designated critical habitats in the project action area, and what is the maximum estimated spatial and temporal scale of effects?

Sediment Delivery (erosion) and Sediment Regime (in-stream transport)

- Does the proposed action include any actions that could potentially increase rates of surface erosion, delivery of sediments to water bodies, or total loading (volumes) of sediment transported in rivers that provide habitat for ESA-listed species? How was this assessed?
- If there is any potential for sediment increases, what impact would those changes have on ESA-listed fish species and/or their designated critical habitats in the project action area, and what is the maximum estimated spatial and temporal scale of those effects?

Stream Substrate

The quality, quantity, and general distribution of substrate particle size needs to be described in those cases where there is the potential for spawning, rearing, feeding, or refugia substrate habitat to be degraded by project actions. In some cases, this may include impacts from transport of sediments downstream from the project site.

If the proposed action has the potential to deliver significant quantities of fine-sediments to stream reaches in designated critical habitat or in those areas that may otherwise provide potential habitat to ESA-listed species, the percent fines (e.g. per %) would need to be estimated and the analysis methods described. This information is required to describe current habitat conditions and estimate how (if) any additional inputs of fine sediments may degrade the current quality of stream substrate habitat.

In those cases where sediment impacts may be a significant concern, it may also be necessary to fully describe current substrate conditions in those stream reaches that could be impacted. If this is the case, the description should include the general range of substrate types that currently exist across each different channel type in potentially affected stream reaches.

The specific questions that need to be addressed are:

- Does the proposed action include any actions that could potentially cause increased rates of aggradation of fine or coarse sediments on potential substrates

for spawning, feeding, rearing, or migration? How was this assessed?

- If there is any potential for increased sedimentation, what impact would those changes have on ESA-listed fish species and/or their designated critical habitats in the project action area, and what is the maximum estimated spatial and temporal scale of effects?

Floodplain Connectivity and Storage

Disconnecting a river from its floodplain impacts several other functions that directly affect the quality and quantity of habitat that supports ESA-listed species. Disconnection affects the potential for natural lateral migration and hydrologic connectivity between the stream and its floodplain. It also affects groundwater systems and the production and utilization of organic matter by riparian and aquatic communities.

Hydrologic connections provide temporary storage of floodwaters, while also providing key off-channel habitats and a source of water during dry summer base-flow periods. Many urbanized watersheds have lost these functions to varying degrees. If the stream is largely disconnected from its floodplain, the stream ecosystem cannot maintain its biological diversity, nor can it recover from major episodic disturbances. Some of these diverse habitat types also provide refuge from high velocity flows during flood events (see discussion below).

The habitat assessment needs to describe the current condition of floodplain connections and processes. This can usually be accomplished in a brief narrative via a combination of a site visit and examination of aerial photography and FIRM maps (if they exist). Some of the conditions that should be noted include, but are not necessarily limited to, the extent of the channel migration zone, general channel geometry in potentially affected stream reaches, including the distribution and size of riffles and pools, and identification of any side-channels and tributaries. Specific questions that need to be addressed include:

- Does the proposed action include any actions that could potentially affect the extent and level of the connection of stream channels to their floodplain? How was this assessed?
- If there is any potential for changing the extent or level of floodplain connectivity, what impact would those changes have upon ESA-listed fish species and/or their designated critical habitats in the project action area, and what is the maximum estimated spatial and temporal scale of effects?

Refugia for ESA-listed Fish Species from High Velocity Flows

- Does the proposed action include any actions that could potentially affect the location, extent, or quality of refugia from high velocity flows available for ESA-listed fish

species in side channels and other areas across the floodplain when over-bank flows occur? How was this assessed?

- If there is any potential for changes in the extent or quality of refugia, what impact would those changes have upon ESA-listed fish species and/or their designated critical habitats in the project action area, and what is the maximum estimated spatial and temporal scale of those effects?

Riparian Vegetative Community

The riparian vegetation along a stream provides many functions including bank stability, food input to streams, nutrient cycling, potential for recruitment of large woody debris to streams, shade, buffering of sediment and pollutants. The habitat assessment should include, but not necessarily be limited to, a description of existing conditions throughout any mapped channel migration area. Freshwater riparian conditions should be characterized by describing conditions as they relate to the riparian habitat functions. The habitat functions affected by riparian communities include water temperature control, recruitment of large woody debris, filtering of sediment and pollutants, erosion control, bank stability, and influence on microclimatology.

Characterization of marine shoreline conditions should be consistent with guidance from state agencies, such as the Oregon's Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCDC) Coastal Management Program. Questions that should be addressed include:

- Does the proposed action include any actions that could potentially degrade the quantity or quality of the riparian vegetative community? How was this assessed?
- If the project has any potential to affect riparian vegetation, describe the general species, sizes, areas, and percent cover of the existing levels of riparian vegetation as well as the percent cover resulting from the proposed action.
- If there is any potential for degradation of the riparian vegetative community, how would:
 - The extent, rate, and quality of nutrient cycling, buffering, food input from terrestrial sources to streams (i.e. allochthonous food), and recruitment of large woody debris be impacted?
 - The extent and quality of bank stability and stream shading to be impacted?
- If there is any potential for degradation of some of the functions that the riparian community provides, what impact would those changes have on ESA-listed fish species and/or their designated critical habitat in the project action area, and what

is the maximum estimated spatial and temporal scale of those effects?

2.2.5. Habitat Area Map

Once all habitat areas of primary association are identified and described, they should be delineated on a map. The map should be at the same scale as the project area map (Task 2.1.2) to facilitate comparison of the habitat to be protected with the extent of the Special Flood Hazard Area, Floodway, the riparian buffer zone, and other relevant features such as watercourses and wetlands.

2.3 Step 3. Describe the Project

There are two key parts of the project that need to be described at this stage of the assessment report: 1) the final project, i.e., what the area will look like and how it will be used when the project is completed; and 2) the construction process that will be followed to get there. The description of the final project should be covered first. Measures taken by the proponent to avoid, minimize, replace, or compensate (the descending order of preference of the mitigation sequence) for degradation to the habitat functions must be described in enough detail to allow assessment of all the effects of the proposed action. It needs to be clear whether each measure is required, or if it is only recommended. It can't be assumed that recommended actions will occur, so their potential positive impacts should not be part of the assured result.

As described for Task 2.1.1, if an Oregon State JPA form has been prepared for the project, it will include general project description information, but usually additional information will be needed for the habitat assessment. More information regarding the Oregon application process and JPA form template can be found at the Oregon Department of State Lands website at: <http://www.oregon.gov/DSL/WW/Pages/Permits.aspx>.

If the information that is already being provided in the JPA includes the level of detail described in this guidance, then the community may accept the application form as sufficient for the project description. If a JPA has not been prepared for the project, the project area description should, at a minimum, include the information included in Tasks 2.3.1 and 2.3.2 of this section.

2.3.1 Final Project

All features of the proposed completed project must be described. This includes, but is not necessarily limited to:

- A summary of the project, including all features that will be present when construction is finished
- Project category (industrial, commercial, residential, institutional, transportation, recreational, maintenance, agriculture, or environmental restoration)
- A description of the general design, location relative to nearest water bodies, and general dimensions of the footprints of any structures and facilities including, but not

- necessarily limited to: buildings, boat launches, docks, pilings, fences, roads, bridges, culverts, trails, roads, or paved areas
- Detailed descriptions of all structures or facilities that would potentially impact water bodies or wetlands including, but not necessarily limited to: aquaculture, buoys, mining, bank stabilization, channel modifications, culverts, dams, levees, ditches, fishways, moorage, or outfall structures
- Above and underground utilities
- Water supply
- Wastewater disposal
- Stormwater management facilities
- Non-native landscaping

The level of detail needed for these descriptions will vary according to the nature, scope, and scale of the project, and its location relative to ESA-listed species and their potential habitats. Assessments should include as much information as is needed to adequately describe and estimate potential environmental effects. In some cases, there may be little or no potential for adverse effects; therefore, in those cases, it may require relatively less information and discussion to document potential effects.

Project details, nearby stream courses, and any key floodplain features need to be mapped, and those features should be shown on the project area map(s) (Task 2.1.2). Maps should show how project details relate to stream conditions appearing on the habitat area map(s) (Task 2.2.5).

There should also be a description of:

- Any ongoing activities that will be conducted at the site after construction is complete.
- Any ongoing activities that will affect adjacent areas, including, but not necessarily limited to, increases in traffic, stormwater runoff from the site, and noise, and changes air quality.

2.3.2 Construction Process

At a minimum, the description of the construction methods should cover the following points:

- Land clearance (areas to be cleared and native vegetation that will be removed)
- Any work in-water, including a description of the methods and materials used
- Grading and filling
- Stormwater management measures to be taken during construction
- Utility installation (including any on-site wastewater treatment)
- Methods and techniques for construction of structures, including buildings, roads,

bridges, paved areas, retaining walls, shoreline modifications, and types of equipment to be used

- Construction phasing and anticipated construction timing
- Mobilization and staging plans
- Temporary construction access and staging areas

Maps and a timeline should be included to show where and when each activity will occur.

2.3.3 Protection Measures

There are several federal, state, and local regulatory requirements that require development projects to include measures that avoid, minimize, replace, or compensate for negative effects on populations or habitat functions due to project impacts. The applicant may propose additional measures. The habitat assessment must list the protective measures that will be implemented and clarify which are required and which are recommended. All required and recommended measures should be described. They could include, but are not necessarily limited to, the examples below:

- Preserving a setback area from any disturbances, or any other measures that avoid negative impacts on ESA-listed species or their habitats.
- Drainage/erosion control plans to be implemented during construction.
- Post-construction stormwater and erosion control plans.
- Use of low impact development techniques (which may eliminate or reduce runoff from areas to be developed).
- Any other measures that minimize negative impacts on ESA-listed species or their habitats.
- Actions to implement wetland mitigation plans.
- Any other measures proposed to reduce potential negative impacts during or after construction is complete, such as sedimentation basins, should be included and described as part of the project design and included in the project timeline.
- Compensatory storage provisions to replace lost floodplain storage¹ that demonstrate that they will not potentially strand fish.
- Any other forms of on-site or off-site compensation for degradation of habitat functions that support ESA-listed species.
- A description of any adaptive management program that will be utilized. This should

¹ Compensatory floodplain storage requirements are included in Section 7.6 of the Model Ordinance. This section requires that compensatory storage areas must be graded and vegetated to allow fish passage during flood events without creating fish stranding sites. Areas of compensatory flood storage should be designed to create floodplain habitat whenever feasible. Compensatory storage should not be used in areas prone to avulsions because lowering floodplain elevations or digging pits in these areas may increase the probability of an avulsion.

include, but not necessarily be limited to, a description of what monitoring would be conducted to track both implementation and effectiveness of mitigation measures, what would trigger adaptive measures, what those measures would be, and what method will be used to determine if they are sufficient and successful.

Adaptive management refers to a structured, iterative process intended to enable decision-making under conditions that include some uncertainty. The goal is to reduce that uncertainty over time by monitoring project site conditions before, during, and after construction, as well as the effectiveness of project design elements and mitigation measures. Possible components of an adaptive management plan include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following topics.

- How monitoring and resultant possible changes in project management (e.g., variations in mitigation measures) are based on spatial and temporal scales of analysis that are appropriate for the project in question, and how the basis for those scales is explained. This includes the location(s), duration, and frequency of monitoring.
- Why the variables selected for monitoring are appropriate and practical to track project impacts and the effectiveness of best management practices and mitigation measures.
- How monitoring results can and will be used in a direct way to decide what, if any, changes need to be made to achieve the desired future condition for the project. For many projects the desired future condition is obvious and can be easily stated. For more complex projects, the minimum parameters needed to adequately define the desired future condition will need to be determined and clearly described.
- How adaptive changes to the project would be based on existing best management practices and best available science to the greatest extent possible.

2.4 Step 4. Assess the Environmental Effects

The habitat assessment must analyze the direct and indirect effects of the proposed action on ESA-listed species and their aquatic, riparian, and floodplain habitat areas identified in Step 2, as well as the cumulative effects of future actions that are reasonably certain to occur. Primary factors to be considered in the assessment include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following considerations:

- The proximity of the action to individuals of the species present, habitat management units, or designated critical habitat units. This includes assessing the likelihood of measurable or observable impacts on fish or their designated critical habitats based on the relative location(s) of the action and nearby populations and habitats. For example, habitats located well downstream of an action that is expected to deliver significant volumes of sediment to a stream near the project site may still be measurably impacted

if those sediments may be routed (transported) downstream to areas of concern. The appropriate temporal and spatial scales of analysis will vary by the variables of concern and nature of the project and must be described in the assessment.

- The spatial distribution of an action over one or more action areas or sub-watersheds. The analysis should consider the accumulated effects of impacts in multiple locations and/or cumulative effects due to the combination of project effects added to the effects of other nearby, reasonably foreseeable future, non-federal actions.
- The timing of the proposed action relative to sensitive periods of the lifecycles of any potentially impacted ESA-listed species, and how that timing may result in negative impacts.
- The nature, scale, scope, and duration of the effects of the proposed action on the sub-population size, growth and survival, life cycle, diversity, isolation, and genetic integrity of ESA-listed species that could potentially be affected. Assessments should include as much information as is needed to adequately describe these population variables. In some cases, there may be little or no potential for adverse effects with respect to these variables, so relatively little discussion will be needed.
- The nature, scale, scope, and duration of the effects of the proposed action on the PCEs of any designated critical habitat, including any direct, indirect, interdependent, interrelated, or cumulative effects. In freshwater systems, PCEs generally include adequate water quality, water quantity, and substrate (free of fine sediments) for spawning, incubation, and larval development, floodplain connectivity for rearing, and stream channels free of man-made obstructions (obstructions may include physical, water temperature, or chemical barriers). The habitat assessments should include as much information as is needed to adequately estimate potential effects on these habitat variables. In some cases, there may be little or no potential for adverse effects on these variables, so relatively little discussion will be needed.
- There are three potential categories of effect on designated critical habitat that relate to the duration of the effect: 1) a short-term events where effects reduce to negligible levels soon after construction activities cease; 2) actions that may result in sustained long-term negative effects that are measurable or observable after the proposed action is completed; and 3) actions that cause permanent changes, resulting in a new threshold (condition) for some population or habitat functions of an a ESA-listed species and/or its critical habitat. Note that ‘Short-term’ effects will never persist more than one year beyond the duration of construction duration (e.g., removal of native vegetation due to construction that is replaced within one year), and in the case of significant inputs of sediment or pollutants, may not persist for more than a few hours to a few days at most.
- The frequency of any negative impacts due to the proposed action, described as the mean number of events per an appropriate time basis for the proposed action. This rate must then be compared against best available data on the estimated recovery rates of

any potentially affected species to assess how those species would likely be impacted by multiple disturbances (if such occurs). The duration of each event may vary. A recurring event of short duration will in some cases result in a smaller net impact than a single event of a much longer duration, but the opposite may also be true depending on the nature of the disturbance.

- The severity of any negative effects on ESA-listed fish or their designated critical habitats that may potentially occur due to the actions of the proposed project. In this context severity is not analogous to intensity or scale, but it is closely related. With a “severe disturbance,” affected fish would take a longer time to recover, due to both the intensity of effects as well as the cumulative effects of the other variables described above.

2.4.1 Types of Environmental Effects

The References and Resources section at the end of this document lists resources that have additional guidance for the assessment of environmental effects. The habitat assessment should assess direct, indirect, and cumulative effects.

Direct effects: According to ESA rules and regulations, direct effects occur at or very close to the time of the action itself. Examples include, but are not limited to: construction noise disturbance, loss of habitat, or sedimentation that results from the construction activity. Direct effects include the effects of interrelated actions. Such actions are part of the proposed action and depend on the proposed action for their justification. Direct effects also include interdependent actions, which are activities that have no independent utility apart from the action under consideration. Neither interdependent nor interrelated actions would occur ‘but for’ the implementation of the proposed action.

The discussion of direct effects must include information on the temporal and spatial limits of the effects, species tolerances, severity of effect, mortality, and other forms of take (including harm) and expected habitat loss as a result of the proposed action. Identification of the appropriate estimated temporal and spatial scales of potential impacts are key to assessing environmental consequences. It is recommended that a table or list of appropriate scales for each pertinent issue (e.g., possible erosion and delivery of sediments to stream channels, water pollutants, changes in instream or riparian habitat, changes in hydraulics, etc.) be created to document appropriate scales of analysis for the nature and location of the proposed action. Habitat assessments only need to address those habitat functions and processes that the project has the potential to affect, while also explaining (as briefly as is practicable) why those are the only functions that may be impacted.

The direct impacts a project might have on a habitat area include, but are not limited to:

- Permanent clearing and grading of any habitat area
- Temporary clearing and grading of any habitat area during construction
- Permanent structures, pavements, etc., constructed within or placed within a habitat

area

- Modification of a stream channel or side channel, including bank stabilization measures and removal or changes to large woody debris (other than stream restoration efforts)
- Diversion of water that will change the hydrologic or sediment regime in the project action area

Indirect effects: Indirect effects are also caused by or result from the proposed action; however, they are likely to occur later in time. They may occur outside of the area directly affected by the action. Indirect impacts include, but are not limited to:

- Disrupting high or low stream flows, including impacts from stormwater runoff
- Contributing to sedimentation that fills in substrate
- Blocking a corridor that connects habitat areas
- Increases in water temperature or degradation of chemical or biologic water quality parameters through removal of riparian vegetation or other actions
- Disturbance of riparian vegetation (for example, clearing vegetation to the edge of a forested riparian area)
- Moving or removing large woody debris
- Destabilizing banks or altering natural lateral or vertical channel migration or channel forming processes
- Degrading wetland areas through disturbance of adjacent vegetation or modification of hydrology

Cumulative effects: Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) cumulative effects include the lingering effects of past and current actions (as depicted in the environmental baseline) that overlap in time and space with the proposed action, as well as estimates of the effects of future state, federal, tribal, local, or private actions that are reasonably certain to occur in the action area. However, under the ESA's distinct definition, cumulative effects include the effects of foreseeable future state, tribal, local, or private actions that are reasonably certain to occur in the project action area, but federal actions (i.e. actions permitted or partially funded by one or more federal agencies) are not part of the assessment nor are any past projects.

Project assessment cannot be segmented under either NEPA or ESA. It is not permitted to break the project down into small segments that may have low levels of impacts when considered separately. The entire scope of the direct, indirect, interdependent, and interrelated actions must be considered, including any possible lingering effects that may overlap with other reasonably foreseeable projects that could result in cumulative effects in the area(s) defined for analysis.

Permit officials are required to review the cumulative effects of all projects when the proposed action has the potential to produce any measurable or observable negative effects. The cumulative effects section should not simply be a list of other projects. It must in some manner describe the estimated accumulated impacts of future projects that are reasonably certain to occur, superimposed upon the baseline of current conditions and the expected impacts of the proposed action.

2.4.2 Report Format

There is no single required format for a NFIP habitat assessment, but such assessments must contain sufficient information and analysis to fully describe the impacts of the proposed action on ESA-listed species and their habitats. Similarly, neither NMFS nor USFWS (often jointly referred to as the ‘Services’) requires a specific format that biological assessments must follow. The main reference that the Services refer to and recommend applicants fully comply with is the Consultation Handbook (NMFS, USFWS 1998). [Endangered Species Consultation Handbook \(noaa.gov\)](https://www.noaa.gov)

The Handbook is a large document that includes chapters and appendices that stress the contents (versus format) needed in a biological assessment, along with examples of such assessments. However, there are also several examples of formats sometimes employed by various agencies that may be helpful for jurisdictions to reference as they can supplement the recommendations in this guidance. One format often used in the Pacific Northwest is the [Matrix of Pathways and Indicators \(NMFS 1996 and USFWS 1998\)](#). This approach assesses both the current condition and the estimated effect of the proposed action on 18 ‘indicators’ of population and habitat conditions that fall under six broader ‘pathway’ categories. This approach is useful because it breaks down the assessment into a repeatable, manageable number of specific topics.

The only significant difference between the NMFS and USFWS versions is that the suggested thresholds for when the current condition of an indicator is ‘properly functioning’, ‘at risk’, or ‘not properly functioning’ varies between the Services. The narrative for the matrices emphasizes that these specific threshold metrics do not need to be used and can be replaced by other metrics that are more appropriate for the watershed in question, if the deviation can be explained.

The outline below is a variation on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Biological Assessment Template guidance regarding how to describe the effects of a proposed action in a biological assessment. It is included in the Endangered Species Section of USACE Permit Guidebook online resource at: <http://www.nws.usace.army.mil/Missions/CivilWorks/Regulatory/PermitGuidebook.aspx>. All the components of this USACE outline must be covered in some manner, but the format may vary.

A. Direct effects

1. First PCE (e.g., freshwater spawning sites)
2. Second PCE (e.g., freshwater rearing sites)

3. Third PCE (e.g., freshwater migration corridors)
 4. Additional PCEs as appropriate
 5. Essential Fish Habitat designated by the National Marine Fisheries Service
 6. Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas
 7. Vegetation communities and habitat structures
 8. Water quality
 9. Water quantity, including flood and low flow depths, volumes, and velocities
 10. The channel's planform pattern and migration processes
 11. Spawning substrate, if applicable
 12. Floodplain refugia, if applicable
- B. Indirect effects - see the list on the previous pages of this document and include consideration of indirect effects with respect to items A.1 through A.12, above, that are applicable to the proposed project
- C. Effects from interdependent and interrelated actions
- D. Cumulative Effects
- E. Effects determinations – see following section
- F. Summary

2.4.3 No Net Loss Determination

Actions in the SFHA of the implementation plan area will have a May Affect -- Not Likely to Adversely Affect (NLAA) determination. However, the RPAs set forth in the 2016 BiOp and 2017 errata allow for compensatory mitigation of adverse effects within the SFHA through abundance with no net loss standards. No net loss is a standard where adverse impacts must be avoided or offset through mitigation so that there is no net change in function from the condition when development begins. The no net loss standards ensure that the implementation of the NFIP avoids jeopardy of listed species and adverse modification of habitat, including essential fish habitat (EFH) under the jurisdiction of NMFS within the plan area. They apply to three floodplain functions (i.e., floodplain storage, water quality, and riparian vegetation) essential to the survival of the 16 ESA-listed fish species and Southern Resident killer whale in the plan area.

2.4.4 Preparing the Mitigation Plan

The following sections (Steps 5 and 6) provide guidance on preparing a mitigation plan, including reference to any other pertinent habitat-specific restoration and mitigation guidance materials developed for the area under consideration. The final objective of floodplain habitat mitigation is to ensure that there is no adverse effect on quality or quantity of natural habitat functions and processes within the Special Flood Hazard Area through no net loss standards. Step 6, Task 2.6.1

of this guidance provides guidance on mitigation objectives to achieve no net loss, including specific requirements for mitigation within riparian buffer zones and through the remainder of the SFHA.

For many development proposals, the permit conditions and mitigation actions required to meet other local and state permit requirements may also provide sufficient mitigation for the impacts identified through Step 4 of this guidance. In such instances, permit conditions and required mitigation actions may overlap to serve as mitigation for impacts on floodplain habitats, as required by the local floodplain management ordinance. However, the conditions and mitigation proposed, must be sufficient to mitigate for all floodplain habitat impacts, in order to meet the objective of no adverse effect on habitat for ESA-listed species.

2.5 Step 5. Review Mitigation Alternatives (Mitigation Sequencing)

There are three major types of mitigation approaches to rectify an adverse effect. In descending order of preference and effectiveness they are: avoidance, minimization, and mitigation. This mitigation sequence hierarchy requires minimization of those impacts that can't be avoided and directs that any impacts remaining after taking steps to minimize shall be fully mitigated. On-site, in-kind compensation is preferred over off-site and/or out-of-kind compensation. The necessity for use of the latter must be explained and justified. Successful mitigation is dependent upon adequate monitoring of both the actual (versus planned) implementation of mitigation measures as well as the effectiveness of those measures to accomplish the stated objectives in the Mitigation Plan (see Step 6 below). The results of that monitoring may trigger adaptive management to accomplish those goals.

2.5.1 Avoidance

Avoidance of adverse effects is the preferred approach. FEMA recommends that new land development actions remain outside of the SFHA. Avoidance prevents additional adverse effects on aquatic and riparian habitats, while also precluding any risks to public safety and property from increased frequency, duration, or magnitude of flooding that would possibly result from further development in the floodplain. Avoidance also largely eliminates the expense of adhering to no net loss within the SFHA. The permit applicant should strongly consider relocating or redesigning proposed projects to minimize the impacts on floodplain habitat functions and the corresponding need for a mitigation plan.

Communities should consider disincentivizing development within the floodplain. Many communities currently use a variety of strategies to encourage conservation of sensitive areas by allowing for development at a more intense level in other areas. These measures are usually implemented through provisions of a zoning ordinance or separate development regulations. Here are three incentives for floodplain conservation that some jurisdictions use:

1. Providing density incentives to individual property owners: A density incentive or

density credit system would allow specified land uses to occur at a more intense level within the portion of a parcel outside of the floodplain as compensation for conservation of flood-prone areas within the parcel. For example, if a 20-acre parcel is zoned for one acre lots and half of the parcel is in the floodplain, the community might consider allowing the ten “dry” acres to be developed with half acre lots, allowing the developer to still construct 20 homes. This would allow for a higher density of development in a portion of the property and would require the remaining, high-habitat-value floodplain to be conserved as a dedicated tract. This strategy is similar to the approach of clustering development, which is provided as a case study in Figure 6-3 of the FEMA 480 manual “Floodplain Management Requirements” and is often used in planned unit developments. Under either the density incentive or density credit approach, the overall project does not exceed the development density allowed by the zoning district.

2. **Transfer of development rights:** Transfer of development rights (TDR) programs allow for the transfer of development density from one parcel of land (with some conservation value, such as a floodplain or wetland) to another parcel or area that is planned for higher density development. Implementation and administration of TDR systems has proven challenging in many circumstances due to the required coordination in establishing density receiving and density giving areas and the required negotiation to set density credit values. However, a community, regional, or watershed-based TDR system may be a successful strategy for floodplain avoidance.
3. **Tax relief for conservation lands:** Tax relief is a financial incentive proven to help discourage development of sensitive lands. Such systems could provide an additional venue to encourage conservation of floodplain lands. However, tax relief systems generally do not provide permanent protection for natural resources as they often are terminated when the property ownership transfers.

2.5.2 Minimization

If the entire project cannot avoid some development within the SFHA, it may be able to minimize the physical area and magnitude of impacts on the three floodplain functions. Some ideas for minimizing impacts include:

- Elevating structures in the SFHA on posts and piers to reduce the amount of fill/structure volume below the BFE.
- Reducing the amount of new impervious surface and using pervious surfaces where possible.
- Reducing the number of trees with a dbh of 6 inches or larger to be removed.

Many adverse effects result from degradation of natural processes or functions caused by actions during the construction period. Some best management practices to avoid these types of problems include, but are not necessarily limited to:

- Perform all work in dry weather and/or during the dry season.
- Incorporate erosion and sedimentation control measures.
- Use vegetable oil-based hydraulic fluids in all equipment working in water.
- Prepare and train crews on a spill prevention and pollution control plan and require that all equipment needed to contain a possible spill is available on-site before construction activities begin.
- Store, stage, and refuel equipment outside the riparian buffer zone.
- Inspect equipment daily for leaks.
- Time specific phases of work to occur during “species work windows,” when the species are not present or will not be affected.

2.5.3 Mitigation

Mitigation must be conducted for any loss to floodplain storage, water quality, and riparian vegetation in the SFHA. This is commonly measured through an increase in fill or structures below the BFE, an increase in impervious surfaces, and the removal of trees 6 inches dbh or higher. Mitigation may include both natural methods (e.g., replanting of trees) or engineered methods (e.g., green infrastructure) depending on the floodplain function impacted.

Mitigation is recommended to occur on the same site and reach as which the impact occurs. Mitigation that does not occur within the same reach as where impacts occurred is subject to higher ratios that increase mitigation required to achieve no net loss. Mitigation must occur within the same watershed (i.e., within the same 10-digit hydrologic unit code area) and the same jurisdictional boundaries as the impact. For communities within the plan area of Oregon’s BiOp, FEMA requires that all development in the SFHA to be mitigated to achieve no net loss of the natural floodplain functions of floodplain storage, water quality, and vegetation through the ratios below.

Basic Mitigate Ratios	Undeveloped Space (ft³)	Pervious Surface (ft²)	Trees (6”<dbh≤20”)	Trees (20”<dbh≤39”)	Trees (39”<dbh)
Floodway and/or RBZ	2:1	1:1	3:1	5:1	6:1
RBZ-Fringe	1.5:1	1:1	2:1	4:1	5:1
<u>Mitigation multipliers</u>					
Mitigation onsite to Mitigation offsite, same reach	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Mitigation onsite to Mitigation offsite, different reach, same watershed (5th)	200%	200%	200%	200%	200%

Table 2: Mitigation Ratios Required to Achieve No Net Loss

Mitigation multipliers of 100% result in the required mitigation occurring at the same value described by the ratios above, while multipliers of 200% result in the required mitigation being doubled.

- For example, if only 500 ft² of the total 1000 ft² of required pervious surface mitigation can be conducted onsite and in the same reach, the remaining 500 ft² of required pervious surface mitigation occurring offsite at a different reach would double as a result of the 200% multiplier.

In instances where pervious surface replacement is not possible, mitigation can be achieved through infiltration of stormwater using low impact development (LID) or green infrastructure practices (e.g., rain gardens, bioswales). Or, where pervious surface replacement is not possible, due to impermeable soils or high-water tables, then through stormwater detention, to ensure no increase in peak volume of flow, followed by treatment to minimize pollutant loading.

In addition to higher mitigation ratios established by the no net loss standards, development in the RBZ is subject to the following conditions and performance standards:

- Habitat restoration activities in the RBZ are considered self-mitigating and are not subject to the no net loss standards described above.
- Functional-dependent uses are subject to the no net loss standards for development in the RBZ. Ancillary features in the RBZ (including manufacturing support facilities) are subject to the beneficial gain standard in addition to no net loss standards.
- Any other use of the RBZ requires a greater offset to achieve no net loss of floodplain functions, on top of the no net loss standards described above, through the beneficial

gain standard.

- Under FEMA’s beneficial gain standard, an area within the same reach of the project and equivalent to 5% of the total project area within the RBZ, shall be planted with native herbaceous and shrub vegetation and designated as open space.

2.5.4 Select the Best Approach

Selecting the best mitigation approach for the proposed project is an iterative process. Avoidance should be considered first as the preferred choice. If work must be done in a sensitive area, the project proponent should consider the costs of restoration and compensation. If those costs are too high, then avoidance should be reconsidered.

Selecting the best mitigation approach should be done in conjunction with the local, state, and federal regulatory offices for technical assistance regarding the discussion of preliminary project designs and assessment of environmental effects. Assistance from these sources, as well as possible review and assistance from neighboring tribal representatives, can greatly aid in designing an appropriate sequence of mitigation of actions. Early and periodic meetings with appropriate regulatory agencies will increase the likelihood that a mitigation plan will meet all regulatory requirements and can reduce total project costs and the probability of schedule delays during the approval process.

2.6 Step 6. Prepare the Mitigation Plan

2.6.1 Objective

As noted in Step 5, the objective of the mitigation plan is to assure that actions are taken to sufficiently and appropriately mitigate for negative impacts on ESA-listed populations and the natural functions and processes that support their habitats. The mitigation plan needs to provide sufficient detail to demonstrate how this will be done, using avoidance, minimization, replacement (rectify), and/or compensatory measures.

For all mitigation, the final plan (construction level detail) should not be drafted until the local permitting office(s), in coordination with state and federal agencies, as necessary, has agreed that the conceptual mitigation plan would meet the objectives. Coordination with local permitting officers will ensure that the scope of the planned mitigation will be commensurate with the scale of the impacts and will meet the objectives identified above.

2.6.2 Format

Many communities have established formats that they have used to document mitigation plans within environmental or biological assessments. These formats are likely adequate for purposes of the NFIP. In Oregon, refer to Chapter 3 of [Wetland Mitigation Banking Guidebook for Oregon: Approval Process and Documentation](#). For detailed guidelines regarding what to include in a mitigation plan.

Here is an example mitigation plan outline:

1. Introduction, background, objectives
2. The project area, with map (taken from Step 1 of the assessment)
3. The project area's habitat, with map (taken from Step 2 of the assessment)
4. Project description (taken from Step 3 of the assessment)
5. Impact on habitat (taken from Step 4 of the assessment)
6. Alternatives considered (taken from Step 5, this should note why some alternatives, especially avoidance, were not selected)
7. Mitigation concept (an overall explanation of the measures)
8. Construction measures
 - a. Grading plan, with existing and post-construction topographical maps
 - b. Construction methods (e.g. equipment to be used)
 - c. Construction schedule
9. Permanent measures
 - a. Surface water management
 - b. Vegetation plan
 - c. Permanent buffer areas
 - d. Etc.
10. Post-construction monitoring and maintenance plan
11. Bond arrangements

2.6.3 Minimum Standards

At a minimum, the mitigation plan's components 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11 of the outline above, should be consistent with the mitigation guidance requirements of the Army Corps of Engineers, and Chapter 3 of [*Wetland Mitigation Banking Guidebook for Oregon: Approval Process and Documentation*](#). In Oregon, mitigation plans must also be consistent with the community's critical areas regulations or Goal 5 implementation plans. If there are inconsistencies between these requirements, the standards that provide the highest level of environmental protection and the greatest likelihood of mitigation success take precedence.

3.0 Reviewing Habitat Assessments and Mitigation Plans

This section provides guidance for the local permit official. The following strategies may be used to ensure that habitat assessments and mitigation plans are prepared by a qualified individual or company and meet the intent of the Model Ordinance and this guidance.

Establishing a List of Qualified Professionals: The community could provide a list of qualified professionals who have experience in the area to developers and landowners. Another strategy for ensuring that qualified professionals are used could include developing qualification criteria for authors of habitat assessments and mitigation plans; see the box below for an example of qualifying criteria.

Public Comment Period: After habitat assessments and mitigation plans are submitted, the permitting official may require a public comment period before assessment conclusions and/or mitigation plans are approved. This approach could include a requirement that a public notice be posted in a publication of record. The intent of the public comment period would be to ensure that interested third parties would have ample opportunity to review and comment on proposed projects. This could alert the local permit official to issues or impacts not adequately addressed by an assessment or mitigation plan.

Third Party Review: The community may establish a system of third-party review(s) by qualified consultants or agencies. Third party review is frequently implemented by local jurisdictions for other environmental permits and approvals. The cost of third-party review could be passed on to the applicant. This may require establishment of a third-party review system in the local ordinance. Establishing a system of third party review could augment internal review within the local jurisdiction. Another option that may work for certain jurisdictions could be formalizing a system of internal review where qualified staff would determine the adequacy of submitted materials.

Example Qualification Criteria

The following criteria could be used by a community as part (likely not all) of the minimal criteria needed to conduct habitat assessment to ensure assessments and mitigation plans are prepared by a qualified consultant:

Reports and plans shall be prepared by persons who have a minimum of a bachelor's degree in wildlife or fisheries habitat biology, or a related degree in a biological field from an accredited college or university with a minimum of four years' experience as a practicing fish or wildlife habitat biologist.

Qualifying criteria should include further specifications for all wildlife, fisheries, habitat, and environmental professionals that could be relied upon to address the broad array of habitats and conditions that occur in flood-prone areas.

3.1 Review Checklists

Permit staff could develop a review checklist for assessment and mitigation plan submittals. A checklist would likely need to be tailored to specific types of development activity due to the site

and habitat-specific nature of habitat assessments and mitigation plans. See the worksheet attached to this guidance document for an example of a review checklist.

4.0 References and Resources

4.1 Federal and State Regulations and Guidance

National Flood Insurance Program- Endangered Species Act Integration in Oregon, FEMA Region 10. <https://www.fema.gov/about/organization/region-10/oregon/nfip-esa-integration>

CRS Credit for Habitat Protection, FEMA, 2010. <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/CRS/>

Endangered Species Consultation Handbook, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1998. https://media.fisheries.noaa.gov/dam-migration/esa_section7_handbook_1998_opr5.pdf

Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7(a)(2) Jeopardy and Adverse Modification of Critical Habitat Biological Opinion, ESA Section 7(a)(2) "Not Likely to Adversely Affect" Determination, and Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Essential Fish Habitat Response for the Implementation of the National Flood Insurance Program in the State of Oregon. April 14, 2016. <https://media.fisheries.noaa.gov/2022-01/2016-04-14-fema-nfip-nwr-2011-3197.pdf>

Mitigation guidance and JPA permit information, Oregon State Department of Lands. <http://www.oregon.gov/DSL/WW/Pages/Permits.aspx>

National Flood Insurance Program Floodplain Management Requirements A Study Guide & Desk Reference for Local Officials, FEMA 480, 2005. <https://library.floods.org/cgi-bin/koha/opac-detail.pl?biblionumber=5219>

4.2 Maps and Databases

Critical habitat maps:

National Marine Fisheries Service: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/species/criticalhabitat.htm>

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: <http://criticalhabitat.fws.gov/>

Forest Water Typing System, Oregon State Water Resources Department. <http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/Documents/WorkingForests/WaterClassificationTechNote1.pdf>

Threatened and Endangered Species List, Oregon Department of fish and Wildlife. http://www.dfw.state.or.us/wildlife/diversity/species/threatened_endangered_candidate_list.asp

[Oregon Natural Heritage Program, Oregon State University Institute for Natural Resources.](http://inr.oregonstate.edu/orbic)
<http://inr.oregonstate.edu/orbic>

Washington and Oregon State Soil Survey data, see the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service maps or online *Web Soil Survey*. <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/>

Regional Guidance for Hydrologic and Hydraulic Studies in Support of the Model Ordinance for Floodplain Management under the National Flood Insurance Program and the Endangered Species Act, FEMA Region 10, 2010.

https://www.fema.gov/pdf/about/regions/regionx/draft_handh_guide.pdf

4.3 Water Quality and Quantity

Section 401 Water Quality Certification: Post-Construction Stormwater Management Plan Submission Guidelines, State of Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, 2016,
<https://www.oregon.gov/deq/wq/wqpermits/Pages/Section-401.aspx>

Standards for surface water quality in Oregon State, Department of Environmental Quality. <http://www.oregon.gov/deq/wq/Pages/WQ-Standards.aspx>

Routine Road Maintenance | Water Quality and Habitat Guide, Best Management Practices, State of Oregon Department of Transportation, 2020.

<http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/GeoEnvironmental/Pages/Stormwater.aspx>

Oregon State Water Quality Assessment, Department of Environmental Quality.

<http://www.oregon.gov/deq/wq/Pages/WQ-Standards.aspx>

Water level data:

- U.S. Geological Survey: <http://wa.water.usgs.gov/data/>

4.4 Mitigation

Engineering with Nature – Alternative Techniques to Riprap Bank Stabilization, FEMA Region 10, 2009.

https://www.fema.gov/pdf/about/regions/regionx/Engineering_With_Nature_Web.pdf

Habitat Conservation Planning Handbook, US Fish & Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service, 1996. <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/habitat-conservation-planning-handbook>

Purpose of Mitigation and Mitigation Steps in Oregon State, Oregon State Department of State Lands. <http://www.oregon.gov/dsl/WW/Pages/Mitigation.aspx>

Wetland Mitigation Banking Guidebook for Oregon: Approval Process and Documentation, Oregon Division of State Lands, 2000, http://oregonexplorer.info/data_files/OE_topic/wetlands/documents/mitbank_guidebk.pdf

A Guide to the Removal-Fill Permit Process: Compensatory Mitigation Planning, Oregon Division of State Lands, 2016, https://www.oregon.gov/dsl/wetlands-waters/Documents/Removal_Fill_Guide.pdf

Oregon Aquatic Habitat: Restoration and Enhancement Guide, Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds, 1999, <https://digital.osl.state.or.us/islandora/object/osl:16552>

4.5 Additional References

Invasive species information: Oregon Department of Agriculture. <http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/programs/Weeds/Pages/AboutWeeds.aspx>

Low Impact Development, Oregon Environmental Council. <http://www.oeconline.org/tag/low-impact-development/>



NFIP Oregon Implementation Program Guidance

Model Floodplain Management Ordinance

For Participating Communities in the
Implementation Plan Area



FEMA

Federal Emergency Management Agency
Region 10
Department of Homeland Security
130 - 228th Street SW
Bothell, WA 98021

Note to Communities: This document presents the draft model ordinance that for the Pre-Implementation Compliance Measures and is intended to closely represent most of the language that will be presented as Pathway A of the Draft Implementation Plan. It is built off the 2020 State of Oregon Model Flood Hazard Management Ordinance and the 2018 iteration of the Oregon Model ordinance for ESA Integration. It reflects the NMFS 2016 Biological Opinion (BiOp) (except where noted) and is informed by the 2023 NEPA Scoping effort.

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

BiOp	Biological Opinion
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CLOMR	Conditional Letter of Map Revision
CRS	Community Rating System
dbh	diameter breast height
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
LID	Low-Impact Development
LOMR	Letter of Map Revision
MHHW	Marine Higher-High Water line
NFIP	National Flood Insurance Program
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
OHWL	Ordinary High Water Mark
ORS	Oregon Revised Statutes
ORSC	Oregon Residential Specialty Code
OSSC	Oregon Structural Specialty Code
RBZ	Riparian buffer zone
SFHA	Special Flood Hazard Area
TB	Technical Bulletin

SECTION 1. Introduction

FEMA has developed this model flood hazard management ordinance (“2024 model ordinance”) to address the requirements outlined in the Draft Implementation Plan for National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)-Endangered Species Act (ESA) Integration in Oregon (“Oregon Implementation Plan”). The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) consulted with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on potential effects of the implementation of the NFIP in Oregon on listed species under NMFS authority. In 2016, NMFS issued a Biological Opinion (BiOp), which recommended changes to the implementation of the NFIP in Oregon within the plan area (see the 2024 Draft Oregon Implementation Plan for NFIP-ESA Integration [2024 Draft Implementation Plan] for a description of the plan area).

As a result of the BiOp issued by NMFS, communities are required to demonstrate how floodplain development is compliant with the Endangered Species Act in the SFHA while the 2024 Draft Implementation Plan undergoes an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The 2024 model ordinance provides the tools a community would need to implement “Path A” of the 2024 Draft Implementation Plan and serves as one of three actions a community can take under Pre-Implementation Compliance Measures (PICM).

The regulatory language contained within the 2024 model ordinance can be adopted verbatim and incorporated into local floodplain and land use regulations, or a community may select those sections that are missing from its current floodplain ordinance and adopt those sections. The State of Oregon’s Model Flood Hazard Management Ordinance (2020) was used as a starting point, with additions to provide compliance with the Oregon Implementation Plan. The additional sections are clearly noted with yellow highlighting to simplify implementation for Oregon communities in the plan area that have already adopted the Oregon Model Flood Hazard Management Ordinance (2020).

This 2024 model ordinance provides a set of provisions to protect the built environment from flood damage and to minimize potential impacts of construction and reconstruction on public health and safety, property, water quality, and aquatic and riparian habitats. The requirements pertain to new development in Special Flood Hazard Area (see definitions), which includes the maintenance, repair, or remodel of existing structures and utilities when the existing footprint is expanded and/or the floodplain is further encroached upon.

The Oregon Implementation Plan and this model ordinance do not change the definition of development in 44 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 59.1.

“Development” is defined as “any man-made change to improved or unimproved real estate, including, but not limited to, buildings or other structures, mining, filling, grading, paving, excavation or drilling operations, or storage of equipment or materials.” (44 C.F.R. 59.1)

The 2024 model ordinance provides compliance with federal and state statutes and with the Oregon Implementation Plan. The 2024 model ordinance conforms to the following:

- 37 1. The requirements of the NFIP, as specified in 44 CFR 59 and 60.
- 38 2. Oregon State codes to protect structures from flood damage that are specified in Oregon
39 Structural Specialty Code (OSSC), Section 1612 and Oregon Residential Specialty Code
40 (ORSC), Section R322.
- 41 3. Oregon Statewide Land Use Planning Goals
- 42 4. Provisions needed to meet the requirements of the Oregon Implementation Plan for NFIP-ESA
43 Integration. These sections are highlighted in yellow in the model ordinance.

44 This 2024 model ordinance provides communities with ordinance language that complies with the
45 NFIP-ESA Integration Implementation Plan. Adoption of the ordinance language will ensure
46 compliance with the minimum standards for participation in the NFIP in the plan area in Oregon.
47 Prior to adoption of the ordinance language, communities must have their locally proposed draft
48 language reviewed by FEMA and/or the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development.

49 The model flood hazard ordinance includes standards and provisions that encourage sound
50 floodplain management. The language is based on the minimum requirements of the NFIP found in
51 44 CFR 59 and 60, Oregon’s statewide land use planning Goal 7, and Oregon specialty codes. The
52 new language added to the state model floodplain ordinance, highlighted in yellow, provides
53 compliance with the ESA for floodplain development in the plan area.

54 Adherent to the NMFS 2016 Biological Opinion, mitigation is necessary to ensure a no net loss in
55 floodplain functions. FEMA’s 2024 Draft Oregon Implementation Plan identifies proxies that provide
56 measurable actions that can prevent the no net loss of the parent floodplain functions. These
57 proxies include undeveloped space, pervious surfaces, and trees to account for a no net loss in
58 respective floodplain functions of floodplain storage, water quality, and vegetation. Mitigation of
59 these proxies must be completed to ensure compliance with no net loss standards. No net loss
60 applies to the net change in floodplain functions as compared to existing conditions at the time of
61 proposed development and mitigation must be addressed to the floodplain function that is receiving
62 the detrimental impact.

63 **1.1. How to Use this Document**

64 This 2024 model ordinance includes a Table of Contents and a Regulatory Crosswalk that identifies
65 the federal and state standards that align to and are reflected in each section. Communities will
66 need to review their ordinances and ensure that all the required components are included.

67 Please refer to [FEMA’s website](#) for information on how to determine whether or not your community
68 is within the plan area.

69 1.1.1. ORDINANCE LANGUAGE LEGEND:

70 The colors are used in the text in the model ordinance to denote specific actions or sections with
71 specific applicability.

- 72 • Black: Represents the existing NFIP and current state minimum requirements that are found
73 in the 2020 Oregon Model Flood Hazard Management Ordinance.
- 74 • Red: Represents language that must be replaced with community specific information. Only
75 include the appropriate language for your community.
- 76 • Purple: Represents language required for communities with Coastal High Hazard Areas
77 mapped by FEMA (V Zones or Coastal A Zones). (DELETE ALL PURPLE LANGUAGE IF NOT A
78 COASTAL COMMUNITY).
- 79 • Blue: Represents hyperlinks to other sections of the document or external websites.
- 80 • Yellow highlighting: Represents new ordinance language not in the 2020 Oregon Model Flood
81 Hazard Management Ordinance. Communities that have previously adopted the state model
82 ordinance may focus on the yellow highlighted sections.

83 1.2. Changes from the 2020 Oregon Model Flood Hazard Management 84 Ordinance

85 This 2024 version of the Oregon Model Flood Hazard Ordinance (to be referred to herein as the
86 “2024 Model Ordinance”), varies from the 2020 Oregon Model Flood Hazard Management
87 Ordinance. with the addition of new content to be included for ESA compliance for NFIP-participating
88 communities in the plan area. If no part of the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) in your NFIP-
89 participating community is in the Oregon NFIP-ESA Integration plan area, your community may
90 continue to use the 2020 Oregon Model Flood Hazard Management Ordinance.

91 In general, the ordinance was revised to ensure that the implementation of the NFIP-ESA integration
92 no net loss standards avoids or offsets adverse impacts on threatened and endangered species and
93 their critical habitat. A summary of the primary changes found in the 2024 model ordinance is
94 provided below:

- 95 1. New language has been added to incorporate the following no net loss standards:
 - 96 a. No net loss of undeveloped space (see Section 6.1.1).
 - 97 b. No net loss of pervious surface. (see Section 6.1.2).
 - 98 c. No net loss of trees equal to or greater than 6 inches dbh (i.e., tree diameter
99 measured at 4.5 feet from the ground surface). (see Section 6.1.3).

- 100 2. Some definitions (see 2.0) have been added to provide context for the new no net loss
101 standards from the Oregon Implementation Plan.

- 102 3. Language has been added:
 - 103 a. (see 6.3) to address activities that may require a floodplain development permit but
104 are exempt from the no net loss requirement per the BiOp.

 - 105 b. (see 6.4) to address the specific requirements of the Riparian Buffer Zone (RBZ).

- 106 4. In general, the language in the 2024 model ordinance mirrors the language from the 2020
107 Oregon Model Flood Hazard Management Ordinance. Minor edits to the 2020 language have
108 been made for clarity, punctuation, and grammar.

109 1.3. Community Rating System

110 Implementation of the new no net loss standards related to NFIP-ESA integration may be eligible for
111 credit under the Community Rating System (CRS). The CRS is explained further in CRS Credit for
112 Habitat Protection, available online at: [https://crsresources.org/files/guides/crs-credit-for-habitat-
113 protection.pdf](https://crsresources.org/files/guides/crs-credit-for-habitat-protection.pdf), and the 2017 CRS Coordinators' Manual, available online at:
114 [https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_community-rating-system_coordinators-
115 manual_2017.pdf](https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_community-rating-system_coordinators-manual_2017.pdf), and the 2021 Addendum to the 2017 CRS Coordinator's Manual, available
116 online at: [https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_community-rating-
117 system_coordinator-manual_addendum-2021.pdf](https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_community-rating-system_coordinator-manual_addendum-2021.pdf). The Association of State Floodplain Managers'
118 Green Guide, also provides useful information on development techniques that avoid impacts on
119 natural functions and values of floodplains. This document is available at:
120 www.floodsciencecenter.org/products/crs-community-resilience/green-guide/. Communities
121 interested in CRS credits should contact their CRS specialist for additional information and review.

122 Implementation of the no net loss standards would most likely contribute to credits under the
123 following CRS activities:

- 124 • Activity 430 Higher Regulatory Standards
 - 125 ○ Development Limitations
 - 126 ■ Prohibition of all fill (DL1a): This credit is for prohibiting all filling in the regulatory
127 floodplain. To meet this standard, communities may NOT approve Conditional
128 Letters or Letters of Map Revision based on Fill (CLOMR-F or LOMR-F). If a
129 CLOMR-F or LOMR-F is issued for a property in a community, then DL1 credit will
130 be denied. This applies to CLOMRs and LOMRs that include filling as part of the
131 reason for requesting a map change. Minor filling may be allowed where needed
132 to protect or restore natural floodplain functions, such as part of a channel
133 restoration project.

- 134 ▪ The CRS manual describes a number of regulatory approaches that do not
135 warrant credit under DL1; however, because the Oregon NFIP-ESA integration no
136 net loss standards exceed the approaches described in the manual, a community
137 meeting the Oregon no net loss standards should qualify for credit under DL1.

- 138 ▪ Compensatory storage (DL1b): This credit is for regulations that require new
139 development to provide compensatory storage at hydraulically equivalent sites up
140 to a ratio of 1.5:1. Credit is not provided for:
 - 141 • Compensatory storage requirements in floodways only or in V Zones only,
142 or

 - 143 • Stormwater management regulations that require a developer to
144 compensate for any increase in runoff created by the development. This
145 is credited under Activity 450.

- 146 • Activity 450 Stormwater Management
 - 147 ○ Stormwater management regulations (SMR – 452a): This credit is the sum of four
148 sub-elements: Size of development (Section 452.a(1), SZ); design storm used (Section
149 452.a(2), DS); low-impact development (LID) regulations (Section 452.a(3), LID); and
150 public agency authority to inspect and maintain, at the owner’s expense, private
151 facilities constructed to comply with the ordinance (Section 452.a.(4), PUB).

 - 152 ▪ LID credits the community’s regulatory language that requires the
153 implementation of LID techniques to the maximum extent feasible to control
154 peak runoff when new development occurs. LID techniques can significantly
155 reduce or eliminate the increase in stormwater runoff created by traditional
156 development, encourage aquifer recharge, and promote better water quality.

157

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SECTION 2. Regulatory Crosswalk

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2 The following table presents a crosswalk of the model ordinance sections against the relevant
 3 federal and state laws, regulations, and policies. The new sections related to the Oregon NFIP-ESA
 4 integration implementation (yellow highlighted sections of the model ordinance) are not listed in this
 5 table and are related to compliance with the ESA.

Ordinance Section	44 CFR and Technical Bulletin (TB) Citation(s)	State of Oregon Citation(s) (Goal 7, Specialty Codes*, Oregon Revised Statutes [ORS])
1.1 Statutory Authorization	59.22(a)(2)	Goal 7; ORS 203.035 (Counties), ORS 197.175 (Cities)
1.2 Findings of Fact	59.22(a)(1)	Goal 7
1.3 Statement of Purpose	59.2; 59.22(a)(1) and (8); 60.22	Goal 7
1.4 Methods of Reducing Flood Losses	60.22	Goal 7
2.0 Definitions	59.1; 33 CFR 328.3(c)(7)	Goal 7
3.1 Lands to Which this Ordinance Applies	59.22(a)	Goal 7
3.2 Basis for Establishing the Special Flood Hazard Areas	59.22(a)(6); 60.2(h)	Goal 7
3.3 Coordination with Specialty Codes Adopted by the State of Oregon Building Codes Division		ORS 455
3.4.1 Compliance	60.1(b) – (d)	Goal 7
3.4.2 Penalties for Noncompliance	60.1(b) – (d)	Goal 7
3.5.1 Abrogation	60.1(b) – (d)	Goal 7
3.5.2 Severability		
3.6 Interpretation	60.1(b) – (d)	Goal 7
3.7.1 Warning		
3.7.2 Disclaimer of Liability		
4.1 Designation of the Floodplain Administrator	59.22(b)(1)	Goal 7
4.2.1 Permit Review	60.3(a)(1) – (3); 60.3(c)(10)	Goal 7
4.2.2 Information to be Obtained and Maintained	59.22(a)(9)(iii); 60.3(b)(5)(i) and (iii); 60.3(c)(4); 60.3(b)(3); 60.6(a)(6)	Goal 7; 105.9; 110.33; R106.1.4; R109.1.3; R109.1.6.1; R322.1.10; R322.3.6

Ordinance Section	44 CFR and Technical Bulletin (TB) Citation(s)	State of Oregon Citation(s) (Goal 7, Specialty Codes*, Oregon Revised Statutes [ORS])
4.2.3.1 Community Boundary Alterations	59.22(a)(9)(v)	Goal 7
4.2.3.2 Watercourse Alterations	60.3(b)(6) – (7), 65.6(12-13)	Goal 7
4.2.3.3 Requirement to Submit New Technical Data	65.3, 65.6, 65.7, 65.12	Goal 7
4.2.4 Substantial Improvement and Substantial Damage Assessments and Determinations	59.1; 60.3(a)(3); 60.3(b)(2); 60.3(b)(5)(i); 60.3(c)(1), (2), (3), (5) – (8), (10), (12); 60.3(d)(3); 60.3(e)(4), (5), (8)	Goal 7
4.3.1 Floodplain Development Permit Required	60.3(a)(1)	Goal 7
4.3.2 Application for Development Permit	60.3(a)(1); 60.3(b)(3); 60.3(c)(4)	Goal 7; Oregon Residential Specialty Code (R) 106.1.4; R322.3.6
4.4 Variance Procedure	60.6(a)	Goal 7
4.4.1 Conditions for Variances	60.6(a)	Goal 7
4.4.2 Variance Notification	60.6(a)(5)	Goal 7
5.1.1 Alteration of Watercourses	60.3(b)(6) and (7)	Goal 7
5.1.2 Anchoring	60.3(a)(3); 60.3(b)(1), (2), and (8)	Goal 7; R322.1.2
5.1.3 Construction Materials and Methods	60.3(a)(3), TB 2; TB 11	Goal 7; R322.1.3; R322.1.3
5.1.4.1 Water Supply, Sanitary Sewer, and On-Site Waste Disposal Systems	60.3(a)(5) and (6)	Goal 7; R322.1.7
5.1.4.2 Electrical, Mechanical, Plumbing, and Other Equipment	60.3(a)(3)	Goal 7; R322.1.6;
5.1.5 Tanks		R322.2.4; R322.3.7
5.1.6 Subdivision Proposals	60.3(a)(4)(i) – (iii); 60.3(b)(3)	Goal 7
5.1.7 Use of Other Base Flood Data	60.3(a)(3); 60.3(b)(4); 60.3(b)(3); TB 10-01	Goal 7; R322.3.2
5.1.8 Structures Located in Multiple or Partial Flood Zones		R322.1
5.2.1 Flood Openings	60.3(c)(5); TB 1; TB 11	Goal 7; R322.2.2;

Ordinance Section	44 CFR and Technical Bulletin (TB) Citation(s)	State of Oregon Citation(s) (Goal 7, Specialty Codes*, Oregon Revised Statutes [ORS])
		R322.2.2.1
5.2.2 Garages	TB 7-93	R309
5.2.3.1 Before Regulatory Floodway	60.3(c)(10)	Goal 7
5.2.3.2 Residential Construction	60.3(c)(2)	Goal 7
5.2.3.3 Non-residential Construction	60.3(c)(3) - (5); TB 3	Goal 7; R322.2.2; R322.2.2.1
5.2.3.4 Manufactured Dwellings	60.3(b)(8); 60.3(c)(6)(iv); 60.3(c)(12)(ii)	Goal 7; State of OR Manufactured Dwelling Installation Specialty Code (MDISC) and associated statewide Code Interpretation dated 1/1/2011
5.2.3.5 Recreational Vehicles	60.3(c)(14)(i) - (iii)	Goal 7
5.2.3.6 Appurtenant (Accessory) Structures	60.3(c)(5); TB 1; TB 7-93	Oregon Structural Specialty Code (S) 105.2; R105.2
5.2.4 Floodways	60.3(d); FEMA Region X Fish Enhancement Memo (Mark Riebau)	Goal 7
5.2.5 Standards for Shallow Flooding Areas	60.3(c)(7), (8), (11), and (14)	Goal 7
5.3 Specific Standards for Coastal High Hazard Flood Zones, and 5.3.1 Development Standards	60.3(e); TB 5; TB 8; TB 9	Goal 7; R322.3.1; R322.3.2; R322.3.3; R322.3.4; R322.3.5
5.3.1.1 Manufactured Dwelling Standards for Coastal High Hazard Zones	60.3(e)(8)(i) - (iii)	Goal 7; RR322.3.2; State of OR Manufactured Dwelling Installation Specialty Code (MDISC) and associated statewide Code Interpretation dated 1/1/2011

Ordinance Section	44 CFR and Technical Bulletin (TB) Citation(s)	State of Oregon Citation(s) (Goal 7, Specialty Codes*, Oregon Revised Statutes [ORS])
5.3.1.2 Recreational Vehicle Standards for Coastal High Hazard Zones	60.3(e)(9)(i)- (iii)	Goal 7
5.3.1.3 Tank Standards for Coastal High Hazard Zones		R322.2.4; R322.3.7

*[Link to Oregon Specialty Codes \(https://www.oregon.gov/bcd/codes-stand/Pages/adopted-codes.aspx\)](https://www.oregon.gov/bcd/codes-stand/Pages/adopted-codes.aspx)

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SECTION 3. Model Ordinance Language

1.0 STATUTORY AUTHORITY, FINDINGS OF FACT, PURPOSE, AND METHODS

1.1 STATUTORY AUTHORIZATION

The State of Oregon has in **ORS 203.035 (COUNTIES) OR ORS 197.175 (CITIES)** delegated the responsibility to local governmental units to adopt floodplain management regulations designed to promote the public health, safety, and general welfare of its citizenry.

Therefore, the **COMMUNITY NAME** does ordain as follows:

1.2 FINDINGS OF FACT

- A. The flood hazard areas of **COMMUNITY NAME** **preserve the natural and beneficial values served by floodplains but** are subject to periodic inundation which may result in loss of life and property, health and safety hazards, disruption of commerce and governmental services, extraordinary public expenditures for flood protection and relief, and impairment of the tax base, all of which adversely affect the public health, safety, and general welfare.
- B. These flood losses may be caused by the cumulative effect of obstructions in special flood hazard areas which increase flood heights and velocities, and when inadequately anchored, cause damage in other areas. Uses that are inadequately floodproofed, elevated, or otherwise protected from flood damage also contribute to flood loss.

1.3 STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

It is the purpose of this ordinance to promote public health, safety, and general welfare, and to minimize public and private losses due to flooding in special flood hazard areas by provisions designed to:

- A. Protect human life and health;
- B. Minimize expenditure of public money for costly flood control projects;
- C. Preserve natural and beneficial floodplain functions;**
- D. Minimize the need for rescue and relief efforts associated with flooding and generally undertaken at the expense of the general public;
- E. Minimize prolonged business interruptions;

- 31 F. Minimize damage to public facilities and utilities such as water and gas mains;
32 electric, telephone and sewer lines; and streets and bridges located in special flood
33 hazard areas;
- 34 G. Help maintain a stable tax base by providing for the sound use and development of
35 flood hazard areas so as to minimize blight areas caused by flooding;
- 36 H. Notify potential buyers that the property is in a special flood hazard area;
- 37 I. Notify those who occupy special flood hazard areas that they assume responsibility
38 for their actions;
- 39 J. Participate in and maintain eligibility for flood insurance and disaster relief.

40 **1.4 METHODS OF REDUCING FLOOD LOSSES**

41 In order to accomplish its purposes, this ordinance includes methods and provisions for:

- 42 A. Restricting or prohibiting development which is dangerous to health, safety, and
43 property due to water or erosion hazards, or which result in damaging increases in
44 erosion or in flood heights or velocities;
- 45 B. Requiring that development vulnerable to floods, including facilities which serve such
46 uses, be protected against flood damage at the time of initial construction;
- 47 C. Controlling the alteration of natural floodplains, stream channels, and natural
48 protective barriers, which help accommodate or channel flood waters;
- 49 D. Controlling filling, grading, dredging, and other development which may increase
50 flood damage;
- 51 E. Preventing or regulating the construction of flood barriers which will unnaturally divert
52 flood waters or may increase flood hazards in other areas.
- 53 F. Employing a standard of “no net loss” of natural and beneficial floodplain functions.

54 **2.0 DEFINITIONS**

55 Unless specifically defined below, words or phrases used in this ordinance shall be
56 interpreted so as to give them the meaning they have in common usage.

57 **Appeal:** A request for a review of the interpretation of any provision of this ordinance or a
58 request for a variance.

59 **Area of shallow flooding:** A designated Zone AO, AH, AR/AO or AR/AH on a community’s
60 Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) with a one percent or greater annual chance of
61 flooding to an average depth of one to three feet where a clearly defined channel

62 does not exist, where the path of flooding is unpredictable, and where velocity
63 flow may be evident. Such flooding is characterized by ponding or sheet flow.

64 **Area of special flood hazard:** The land in the floodplain within a community subject to a 1
65 percent or greater chance of flooding in any given year. It is shown on the Flood
66 Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) as Zone A, AO, AH, A1-30, AE, A99, AR (V, V1-30, VE).
67 “Special flood hazard area” is synonymous in meaning and definition with the
68 phrase “area of special flood hazard.”

69 **Base flood:** The flood having a one percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any
70 given year.

71 **Base flood elevation (BFE):** The elevation to which floodwater is anticipated to rise during
72 the base flood.

73 **Basement:** Any area of the building having its floor subgrade (below ground level) on all
74 sides.

75 **Breakaway wall:** A wall that is not part of the structural support of the building and is
76 intended through its design and construction to collapse under specific lateral
77 loading forces, without causing damage to the elevated portion of the building or
78 supporting foundation system.

79 **Coastal high hazard area:** An area of special flood hazard extending from offshore to the
80 inland limit of a primary frontal dune along an open coast and any other area
81 subject to high velocity wave action from storms or seismic sources.

82 **Development:** Any man-made change to improved or unimproved real estate, including
83 but not limited to buildings or other structures, mining, dredging, filling, grading,
84 paving, excavation or drilling operations or storage of equipment or materials.

85 **Fill:** Placement of any materials such as soil, gravel, crushed stone, or other materials
86 that change the elevation of the floodplain. The placement of fill is considered
87 “development.”

88 **Fish Accessible Space:** The volumetric space available to fish to access.

89 **Fish Egress-able Space:** The volumetric space available to fish to exit or leave from.

90 **Flood or Flooding:**

91 (a) A general and temporary condition of partial or complete inundation of normally
92 dry land areas from:

93 (1) The overflow of inland or tidal waters.

94 (2) The unusual and rapid accumulation or runoff of surface waters from any
95 source.

96 (3) Mudslides (i.e., mudflows) which are proximately caused by flooding as
97 defined in paragraph (a)(2) of this definition and are akin to a river of liquid
98 and flowing mud on the surfaces of normally dry land areas, as when earth is
99 carried by a current of water and deposited along the path of the current.

100 (b) The collapse or subsidence of land along the shore of a lake or other body of
101 water as a result of erosion or undermining caused by waves or currents of water
102 exceeding anticipated cyclical levels or suddenly caused by an unusually high
103 water level in a natural body of water, accompanied by a severe storm, or by an
104 unanticipated force of nature, such as flash flood or an abnormal tidal surge, or
105 by some similarly unusual and unforeseeable event which results in flooding as
106 defined in paragraph (a)(1) of this definition.

107 **Flood elevation study:** an examination, evaluation and determination of flood hazards
108 and, if appropriate, corresponding water surface elevations, or an examination,
109 evaluation and determination of mudslide (i.e., mudflow) and/or flood-related
110 erosion hazards.

111 **Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM):** The official map of a community, on which the Federal
112 Insurance Administrator has delineated both the special hazard areas and the
113 risk premium zones applicable to the community. A FIRM that has been made
114 available digitally is called a Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM).

115 **Flood Insurance Study (FIS):** See "Flood elevation study."

116 **Floodway:** The channel of a river or other watercourse and the adjacent land areas that
117 must be reserved in order to discharge the base flood without cumulatively
118 increasing the water surface elevation more than a designated height. Also
119 referred to as "Regulatory Floodway."

120 **Functionally Dependent Use:** A use which cannot perform its intended purpose unless it
121 is located or carried out in proximity to water. The term includes only docking
122 facilities, port facilities that are necessary for the loading and unloading of cargo
123 or passengers, and ship building and ship repair facilities, but does not include
124 long-term storage or related manufacturing facilities.

125 **Green Infrastructure:** Use of natural or human-made hydrologic features to manage
126 water and provide environmental and community benefits. Green infrastructure
127 uses management approaches and technologies that use, enhance, and/or
128 mimic the natural hydrologic cycle processes of infiltration, evapotranspiration,
129 and reuse. At a large scale, it is an interconnected network of green space that
130 conserves natural systems and provides assorted benefits to human populations.
131 At a local scale, it manages stormwater by infiltrating it into the ground where it is
132 generated using vegetation or porous surfaces, or by capturing it for later reuse.
133 Green infrastructure practices can be used to achieve no net loss of pervious
134 surface by creating infiltration of stormwater in an amount equal to or greater
135 than the infiltration lost by the placement of new impervious surface.

136 **Habitat Restoration Activities:** Activities with the sole purpose of restoring habitats that
137 have only temporary impacts and long-term benefits to habitat. Such projects
138 cannot include ancillary structures such as a storage shed for maintenance
139 equipment, must demonstrate that no rise in the BFE would occur as a result of
140 the project and obtain a CLOMR and LOMR, and have obtained any other
141 required permits (e.g., CWA Section 404 permit).

142 **Hazard Trees:** Standing dead, dying, or diseased trees or ones with a structural defect
143 that makes it likely to fail in whole or in part and that present a potential hazard
144 to a structure or as defined by the community.

145 **Highest adjacent grade:** The highest natural elevation of the ground surface prior to
146 construction next to the proposed walls of a structure.

147 **Historic structure:** Any structure that is:

148 (a) Listed individually in the National Register of Historic Places (a listing maintained
149 by the Department of Interior) or preliminarily determined by the Secretary of the
150 Interior as meeting the requirements for individual listing on the National
151 Register;

152 (b) Certified or preliminarily determined by the Secretary of the Interior as
153 contributing to the historical significance of a registered historic district or a
154 district preliminarily determined by the Secretary to qualify as a registered
155 historic district;

156 (c) Individually listed on a state inventory of historic places in states with historic
157 preservation programs which have been approved by the Secretary of Interior; or

158 (d) Individually listed on a local inventory of historic places in communities with
159 historic preservation programs that have been certified either:

160 (1) By an approved state program as determined by the Secretary of the Interior
161 or

162 (2) Directly by the Secretary of the Interior in states without approved programs.

163 **Hydraulically Equivalent Elevation:** A location (e.g., a site where no net loss standards are
164 implemented) that is approximately equivalent to another (e.g., the impacted
165 site) relative to the same 100-year water surface elevation contour or base flood
166 elevation. This may be estimated based on a point that is along the same
167 approximate line perpendicular to the direction of flow.

168 **Hydrologically Connected:** The interconnection of groundwater and surface water such
169 that they constitute one water supply and use of either results in an impact to
170 both.

171 **Impervious Surface:** A surface that cannot be penetrated by water and thereby prevents
172 infiltration and increases the amount and rate of surface water runoff, leading to
173 erosion of stream banks, degradation of habitat, and increased sediment loads
174 in streams. Such surfaces can accumulate large amounts of pollutants that are
175 then “flushed” into local water bodies during storms and can also interfere with
176 recharge of groundwater and the base flows to water bodies.

177 **Low Impact Development:** An approach to land development (or redevelopment) that
178 works with nature to manage stormwater as close to its source as possible. It
179 employs principles such as preserving and recreating natural landscape features
180 and minimizing effective imperviousness to create functional and appealing site
181 drainage that treats stormwater as a resource rather than a waste product. Low
182 Impact Development refers to designing and implementing practices that can be
183 employed at the site level to control stormwater and help replicate the
184 predevelopment hydrology of the site. Low impact development helps achieve no
185 net loss of pervious surface by infiltrating stormwater in an amount equal to or
186 greater than the infiltration lost by the placement of new impervious surface. LID
187 is a subset of green infrastructure.

188 **Lowest floor:** The lowest floor of the lowest enclosed area (including basement). An
189 unfinished or flood resistant enclosure, usable solely for parking of vehicles,
190 building access or storage in an area other than a basement area is not
191 considered a building’s lowest floor, provided that such enclosure is not built so
192 as to render the structure in violation of the applicable non-elevation design
193 requirements of this ordinance.

194 **Manufactured dwelling:** A structure, transportable in one or more sections, which is built
195 on a permanent chassis and is designed for use with or without a permanent
196 foundation when attached to the required utilities. The term "manufactured
197 dwelling" does not include a "recreational vehicle" and is synonymous with
198 “manufactured home.”

199 **Manufactured dwelling park or subdivision:** A parcel (or contiguous parcels) of land
200 divided into two or more manufactured dwelling lots for rent or sale.

201 **Mean Higher-High Water:** The average of the higher-high water height of each tidal day
202 observed over the National Tidal Datum Epoch.

203 **Mean sea level:** For purposes of the National Flood Insurance Program, the National
204 Geodetic Vertical Datum (NGVD) of 1929 or other datum, to which Base Flood
205 Elevations shown on a community's Flood Insurance Rate Map are referenced.

206 **New construction:** For floodplain management purposes, “new construction” means
207 structures for which the “start of construction” commenced on or after the effective
208 date of a floodplain management regulation adopted by **COMMUNITY NAME** and
209 includes any subsequent improvements to such structures.

210 **No Net Loss:** A standard where adverse impacts must be avoided or offset through
211 adherence to certain requirements so that there is no net change in the function

212 from the existing condition when a development application is submitted to the state,
213 tribal, or local jurisdiction. The floodplain functions of floodplain storage, water
214 quality, and vegetation must be maintained.

215 **Offsite:** Mitigation occurring outside of the project area.

216 **Onsite:** Mitigation occurring within the project area.

217 **Ordinary High Water Mark:** The line on the shore established by the fluctuations of water
218 and indicated by physical characteristics such as a clear, natural line impressed
219 on the bank; shelving; changes in the character of soil; destruction of terrestrial
220 vegetation; the presence of litter and debris; or other appropriate means that
221 consider the characteristics of the surrounding areas.

222 **Qualified Professional:** Appropriate subject matter expert that is defined by the
223 community.

224 **Reach:** A section of a stream or river along which similar hydrologic conditions exist, such
225 as discharge, depth, area, and slope. It can also be the length of a stream or river
226 (with varying conditions) between major tributaries or two stream gages, or a
227 length of river for which the characteristics are well described by readings at a
228 single stream gage.

229 **Recreational vehicle:** A vehicle which is:

- 230 (a) Built on a single chassis;
- 231 (b) 400 square feet or less when measured at the largest horizontal projection;
- 232 (c) Designed to be self-propelled or permanently towable by a light duty truck; and
- 233 (d) Designed primarily not for use as a permanent dwelling but as temporary living
234 quarters for recreational, camping, travel, or seasonal use.

235 **Riparian:** Of, adjacent to, or living on, the bank of a river, lake, pond, or other water body.

236 **Riparian Buffer Zone (RBZ):** The outer boundary of the riparian buffer zone is measured
237 from the ordinary high water line of a fresh waterbody (lake; pond; ephemeral,
238 intermittent, or perennial stream) or mean higher-high water line of a marine
239 shoreline or tidally influenced river reach to 170 feet horizontally on each side of
240 the stream or 170 feet inland from the MHHW. The riparian buffer zone includes
241 the area between these outer boundaries on each side of the stream, including
242 the stream channel. Where the RBZ is larger than the special flood hazard area,
243 the no net loss standards shall only apply to the area within the special flood
244 hazard area.

245 **Riparian Buffer Zone Fringe:** The area outside of the RBZ and floodway but still within the
246 SFHA.

247 **Silviculture:** The art and science of controlling the establishment, growth, composition,
248 health, and quality of forests and woodlands.

249 **Special flood hazard area:** See “Area of special flood hazard” for this definition.

250 **Start of construction:** Includes substantial improvement and means the date the building
251 permit was issued, provided the actual start of construction, repair,
252 reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, placement, or other improvement was
253 within 180 days from the date of the permit. The actual start means either the
254 first placement of permanent construction of a structure on a site, such as the
255 pouring of slab or footings, the installation of piles, the construction of columns,
256 or any work beyond the stage of excavation; or the placement of a manufactured
257 dwelling on a foundation. Permanent construction does not include land
258 preparation, such as clearing, grading, and filling; nor does it include the
259 installation of streets and/or walkways; nor does it include excavation for a
260 basement, footings, piers, or foundations or the erection of temporary forms; nor
261 does it include the installation on the property of accessory buildings, such as
262 garages or sheds not occupied as dwelling units or not part of the main structure.
263 For a substantial improvement, the actual start of construction means the first
264 alteration of any wall, ceiling, floor, or other structural part of a building, whether
265 or not that alteration affects the external dimensions of the building.

266 **Structure:** For floodplain management purposes, a walled and roofed building, including
267 a gas or liquid storage tank, that is principally above ground, as well as a
268 manufactured dwelling.

269 **Substantial damage:** Damage of any origin sustained by a structure whereby the cost of
270 restoring the structure to its before damaged condition would equal or exceed 50
271 percent of the market value of the structure before the damage occurred.

272 **Substantial improvement:** Any reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, or other
273 improvement of a structure, the cost of which equals or exceeds 50 percent of
274 the market value of the structure before the "start of construction" of the
275 improvement. This term includes structures which have incurred "substantial
276 damage," regardless of the actual repair work performed. The term does not,
277 however, include either:

278 (a) Any project for improvement of a structure to correct existing violations of state or
279 local health, sanitary, or safety code specifications which have been identified by
280 the local code enforcement official and which are the minimum necessary to
281 assure safe living conditions; or

282 (b) Any alteration of a "historic structure," provided that the alteration will not
283 preclude the structure's continued designation as a "historic structure."

284 **Undeveloped Space:** The volume of flood capacity and fish-accessible/egress-able
285 habitat from the existing ground to the Base Flood Elevation that is undeveloped. Any
286 form of development including, but not limited to, the addition of fill, structures, concrete

287 structures (vaults or tanks), pilings, levees and dikes, or any other development that
288 reduces flood storage volume and fish accessible/egress-able habitat must achieve no
289 net loss.

290 **Variance:** A grant of relief by **COMMUNITY NAME** from the terms of a floodplain
291 management regulation.

292 **Violation:** The failure of a structure or other development to be fully compliant with the
293 community's floodplain management regulations. A structure or other
294 development without the elevation certificate, other certifications, or other
295 evidence of compliance required in this ordinance is presumed to be in violation
296 until such time as that documentation is provided.

297 **3.0 GENERAL PROVISIONS**

298 **3.1 LANDS TO WHICH THIS ORDINANCE APPLIES**

299 This ordinance shall apply to all special flood hazard areas within the jurisdiction of
300 **COMMUNITY NAME**.

301 **3.2 BASIS FOR ESTABLISHING THE SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREAS**

302 The special flood hazard areas identified by the Federal Insurance Administrator in a
303 scientific and engineering report entitled "The Flood Insurance Study (FIS) for **EXACT**
304 **TITLE OF FLOOD INSURANCE STUDY FOR COMMUNITY**", dated **DATE (MONTH DAY, FOUR**
305 **DIGIT YEAR)**, with accompanying Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) **LIST ALL EFFECTIVE**
306 **FIRM PANELS HERE (UNLESS ALL PANELS ARE BEING REPLACED THROUGH A NEW**
307 **COUNTY_WIDE MAP THAT INCORPORATES ALL PREVIOUS PANELS/VERSIONS, IN THAT**
308 **SITUATION PANELS DO NOT NEED TO BE INDIVIDUALLY LISTED)** are hereby adopted by
309 reference and declared to be a part of this ordinance. The FIS and FIRM panels are on
310 file at **INSERT THE LOCATION (I.E. COMMUNITY PLANNING DEPARTMENT LOCATED IN**
311 **THE COMMUNITY ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING)**.

312 **3.3 COORDINATION WITH STATE OF OREGON SPECIALTY CODES**

313 Pursuant to the requirement established in ORS 455 that the **COMMUNITY NAME**
314 administers and enforces the State of Oregon Specialty Codes, the **COMMUNITY NAME**
315 does hereby acknowledge that the Oregon Specialty Codes contain certain provisions
316 that apply to the design and construction of buildings and structures located in special
317 flood hazard areas. Therefore, this ordinance is intended to be administered and
318 enforced in conjunction with the Oregon Specialty Codes.

319 **3.4 COMPLIANCE AND PENALTIES FOR NONCOMPLIANCE**

320 **3.4.1 COMPLIANCE**

321 All development within special flood hazard areas is subject to the terms of this
322 ordinance and required to comply with its provisions and all other applicable
323 regulations.

324 **3.4.2 PENALTIES FOR NONCOMPLIANCE**

325 No structure or land shall hereafter be constructed, located, extended,
326 converted, or altered without full compliance with the terms of this ordinance and
327 other applicable regulations. Violations of the provisions of this ordinance by
328 failure to comply with any of its requirements (including violations of conditions
329 and safeguards established in connection with conditions) shall constitute a
330 (INFRACTION TYPE (I.E. MISDEMEANOR) AND PENALTIES PER STATE/LOCAL LAW
331 ASSOCIATED WITH SPECIFIED INFRACTION TYPE (I.E. ANY PERSON WHO
332 VIOLATES THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS ORDINANCE SHALL UPON CONVICTION
333 THEREOF BE FINED NOT MORE THAN A SPECIFIED AMOUNT OF MONEY...)
334 Nothing contained herein shall prevent the COMMUNITY NAME from taking such
335 other lawful action as is necessary to prevent or remedy any violation.

336 **3.5 ABROGATION AND SEVERABILITY**

337 **3.5.1 ABROGATION**

338 This ordinance is not intended to repeal, abrogate, or impair any existing
339 easements, covenants, or deed restrictions. However, where this ordinance and
340 another ordinance, easement, covenant, or deed restriction conflict or overlap,
341 whichever imposes the more stringent restrictions shall prevail.

342 **3.5.2 SEVERABILITY**

343 This ordinance and the various parts thereof are hereby declared to be
344 severable. If any section clause, sentence, or phrase of the Ordinance is held to
345 be invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, then said
346 holding shall in no way effect the validity of the remaining portions of this
347 Ordinance.

348 **3.6 INTERPRETATION**

349 In the interpretation and application of this ordinance, all provisions shall be:

- 350 A. Considered as minimum requirements;
- 351 B. Liberally construed in favor of the governing body; and
- 352 C. Deemed neither to limit nor repeal any other powers granted under state statutes.

353 **3.7 WARNING AND DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY**

354 **3.7.1 WARNING**

355 The degree of flood protection required by this ordinance is considered
356 reasonable for regulatory purposes and is based on scientific and engineering
357 considerations. Larger floods can and will occur on rare occasions. Flood heights
358 may be increased by man-made or natural causes. This ordinance does not imply

359 that land outside the areas of special flood hazards or uses permitted within
360 such areas will be free from flooding or flood damages.

361 **3.7.2 DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY**

362 This ordinance shall not create liability on the part of the **COMMUNITY NAME**, any
363 officer or employee thereof, or the Federal Insurance Administrator for any flood
364 damages that result from reliance on this ordinance or any administrative
365 decision lawfully made hereunder.

366 **4.0 ADMINISTRATION**

367 **4.1 DESIGNATION OF THE FLOODPLAIN ADMINISTRATOR**

368 The **INDIVIDUAL JOB TITLE** is hereby appointed to administer, implement, and enforce
369 this ordinance by granting or denying development permits in accordance with its
370 provisions. The Floodplain Administrator may delegate authority to implement these
371 provisions.

372 [Additional Recommended Language Provided in Appendix B](#)

373 **4.2 DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE FLOODPLAIN ADMINISTRATOR**

374 Duties of the floodplain administrator, or their designee, shall include, but not be limited
375 to:

376 **4.2.1 PERMIT REVIEW**

377 Review all development permits to:

- 378 A. Determine that the permit requirements of this ordinance have been
379 satisfied;
- 380 B. Determine that all other required local, state, and federal permits have been
381 obtained and approved;
- 382 C. Determine if the proposed development is located in a floodway.
 - 383 i. If located in the floodway assure that the floodway provisions of this
384 ordinance in section **5.2.4** are met; and
 - 385 ii. Determine if the proposed development is located in an area where
386 Base Flood Elevation (BFE) data is available either through the Flood
387 Insurance Study (FIS) or from another authoritative source. If BFE data
388 is not available then ensure compliance with the provisions of sections
389 **5.1.7**; and

390 iii. Provide to building officials the Base Flood Elevation (BFE) (ADD
391 FREEBOARD IF COMMUNITY HAS HIGHER ELEVATION STANDARDS)
392 applicable to any building requiring a development permit.

393 D. Determine if the proposed development qualifies as a substantial
394 improvement as defined in section 2.0.

395 E. Determine if the proposed development activity is a watercourse alteration.
396 If a watercourse alteration is proposed, ensure compliance with the
397 provisions in section 5.1.1.

398 F. Determine if the proposed development activity includes the placement of
399 fill or excavation.

400 G. Determine whether the proposed development activity complies with the no
401 net loss standards in Section 6.0.

402 **4.2.2 INFORMATION TO BE OBTAINED AND MAINTAINED**

403 The following information shall be obtained and maintained and shall be made
404 available for public inspection as needed:

405 A. The actual elevation (in relation to mean sea level) of the lowest floor
406 (including basements) and all attendant utilities of all new or substantially
407 improved structures where Base Flood Elevation (BFE) data is provided
408 through the Flood Insurance Study (FIS), Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM),
409 or obtained in accordance with section 5.1.7.

410 B. The elevation (in relation to mean sea level) of the natural grade of the
411 building site for a structure prior to the start of construction and the
412 placement of any fill and ensure that the requirements of sections 4.2.1(B),
413 5.2.4, and 5.3.1(F), are adhered to.

414 C. Upon placement of the lowest floor of a structure (including basement) but
415 prior to further vertical construction, documentation, prepared and sealed
416 by a professional licensed surveyor or engineer, certifying the elevation (in
417 relation to mean sea level) of the lowest floor (including basement).

418 D. Where base flood elevation data are utilized, As-built certification of the
419 elevation (in relation to mean sea level) of the lowest floor (including
420 basement) prepared and sealed by a professional licensed surveyor or
421 engineer, prior to the final inspection.

422 E. Maintain all Elevation Certificates (EC) submitted to the community.

423 F. The elevation (in relation to mean sea level) to which the structure and all
424 attendant utilities were floodproofed for all new or substantially improved
425 floodproofed structures where allowed under this ordinance and where

426 Base Flood Elevation (BFE) data is provided through the FIS, FIRM, or
427 obtained in accordance with section 5.1.7.

428 G. All floodproofing certificates required under this ordinance.

429 H. All variance actions, including justification for their issuance.

430 I. All hydrologic and hydraulic analyses performed as required under section
431 5.2.4.

432 J. All Substantial Improvement and Substantial Damage calculations and
433 determinations as required under section 4.2.4.

434 K. Documentation of how no net loss standards have been met (see Section
435 6.0)

436 L. All records pertaining to the provisions of this ordinance.

437 **4.2.3 REQUIREMENT TO NOTIFY OTHER ENTITIES AND SUBMIT NEW TECHNICAL**
438 **DATA**

439 **4.2.3.1 COMMUNITY BOUNDARY ALTERATIONS**

440 The Floodplain Administrator shall notify the Federal Insurance Administrator in
441 writing whenever the boundaries of the community have been modified by
442 annexation or the community has otherwise assumed authority or no longer has
443 authority to adopt and enforce floodplain management regulations for a
444 particular area, to ensure that all Flood Hazard Boundary Maps (FHBM) and
445 Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) accurately represent the community's
446 boundaries. Include within such notification a copy of a map of the community
447 suitable for reproduction, clearly delineating the new corporate limits or new
448 area for which the community has assumed or relinquished floodplain
449 management regulatory authority.

450 **4.2.3.2 WATERCOURSE ALTERATIONS**

451 A. Notify adjacent communities, the Department of Land Conservation and
452 Development, and other appropriate state and federal agencies, prior to
453 any alteration or relocation of a watercourse, and submit evidence of
454 such notification to the Federal Insurance Administration. This
455 notification shall be provided by the applicant to the Federal Insurance
456 Administration as a Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) along with either:

457 i. A proposed maintenance plan to assure the flood carrying
458 capacity within the altered or relocated portion of the
459 watercourse is maintained; or

460 ii. Certification by a registered professional engineer that the
461 project has been designed to retain its flood carrying capacity
462 without periodic maintenance.

463 B. The applicant shall be required to submit a Conditional Letter of Map
464 Revision (CLOMR) when required under section 4.2.3.3. Ensure
465 compliance with all applicable requirements in sections 4.2.3.3 and
466 5.1.1.

467 **4.2.3.3 REQUIREMENT TO SUBMIT NEW TECHNICAL DATA**

468 A. A community's base flood elevations may increase or decrease resulting
469 from physical changes affecting flooding conditions. As soon as
470 practicable, but not later than six months after the date such
471 information becomes available, a community shall notify the Federal
472 Insurance Administrator of the changes by submitting technical or
473 scientific data in accordance with Title 44 of the Code of Federal
474 Regulations (CFR), Section 65.3. The community may require the
475 applicant to submit such data and review fees required for compliance
476 with this section through the applicable FEMA Letter of Map Change
477 (LOMC) process.

478 B. The Floodplain Administrator shall require a Conditional Letter of Map
479 Revision prior to the issuance of a floodplain development permit for:

480 i. Proposed floodway encroachments that increase the base flood
481 elevation; and

482 ii. Proposed development which increases the base flood elevation
483 by more than one foot in areas where FEMA has provided base
484 flood elevations but no floodway.

485 C. An applicant shall notify FEMA within six (6) months of project
486 completion when an applicant has obtained a Conditional Letter of Map
487 Revision (CLOMR) from FEMA. This notification to FEMA shall be
488 provided as a Letter of Map Revision (LOMR).

489 [Additional Recommended Language Provided in Appendix B](#)

490 **4.2.4 SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT AND SUBSTANTIAL DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS**
491 **AND DETERMINATIONS**

492 Conduct Substantial Improvement (SI) (as defined in section 2.0) reviews for all
493 structural development proposal applications and maintain a record of SI
494 calculations within permit files in accordance with section 4.2.2. Conduct
495 Substantial Damage (SD) (as defined in section 2.0) assessments when
496 structures are damaged due to a natural hazard event or other causes. Make SD
497 determinations whenever structures within the special flood hazard area (as
498 established in section 3.2) are damaged to the extent that the cost of restoring

499 the structure to its before damaged condition would equal or exceed 50 percent
500 of the market value of the structure before the damage occurred.

501 **4.3 ESTABLISHMENT OF DEVELOPMENT PERMIT**

502 **4.3.1 FLOODPLAIN DEVELOPMENT PERMIT REQUIRED**

503 A development permit shall be obtained before construction or development
504 begins within any area horizontally within the special flood hazard area
505 established in section 3.2. The development permit shall be required for all
506 structures, including manufactured dwellings, and for all other development, as
507 defined in section 2.0, including fill and other development activities.

508 **4.3.2 APPLICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT PERMIT**

509 Application for a development permit may be made on forms furnished by the
510 Floodplain Administrator and may include, but not be limited to, plans in
511 duplicate drawn to scale showing the nature, location, dimensions, and
512 elevations of the area in question; existing or proposed structures, fill, storage of
513 materials, drainage facilities, and the location of the foregoing. Specifically, the
514 following information is required:

- 515 A. In riverine flood zones, the proposed elevation (in relation to mean sea
516 level), of the lowest floor (including basement) and all attendant utilities of
517 all new and substantially improved structures; in accordance with the
518 requirements of section 4.2.2.
- 519 B. In coastal flood zones (V zones and coastal A zones), the proposed elevation
520 in relation to mean sea level of the bottom of the lowest structural member
521 of the lowest floor (excluding pilings and columns) of all structures, and
522 whether such structures contain a basement.
- 523 C. Proposed elevation in relation to mean sea level to which any non-
524 residential structure will be floodproofed.
- 525 D. Certification by a registered professional engineer or architect licensed in
526 the State of Oregon that the floodproofing methods proposed for any non-
527 residential structure meet the floodproofing criteria for non-residential
528 structures in section 5.2.3.3.
- 529 E. Description of the extent to which any watercourse will be altered or
530 relocated.
- 531 F. Base Flood Elevation data for subdivision proposals or other development
532 when required per sections 4.2.1 and 5.1.6.
- 533 G. Substantial improvement calculation for any improvement, addition,
534 reconstruction, renovation, or rehabilitation of an existing structure.

535 H. The amount and location of any fill or excavation activities proposed.

536 **4.4 VARIANCE PROCEDURE**

537 The issuance of a variance is for floodplain management purposes only. Flood insurance
538 premium rates are determined by federal statute according to actuarial risk and will not
539 be modified by the granting of a variance.

540 **4.4.1 CONDITIONS FOR VARIANCES**

541 A. Generally, variances may be issued for new construction and substantial
542 improvements to be erected on a lot of one-half acre or less in size
543 contiguous to and surrounded by lots with existing structures constructed
544 below the base flood level, in conformance with the provisions of sections
545 **4.4.1 (C) and (E), and 4.4.2**. As the lot size increases beyond one-half acre,
546 the technical justification required for issuing a variance increases.

547 B. Variances shall only be issued upon a determination that the variance is the
548 minimum necessary, considering the flood hazard, to afford relief.

549 C. Variances shall not be issued within any floodway if any increase in flood
550 levels during the base flood discharge would result.

551 D. Variances shall only be issued upon:

552 i. A showing of good and sufficient cause;

553 ii. A determination that failure to grant the variance would result in
554 exceptional hardship to the applicant; and,

555 iii. A determination that the granting of a variance will not result in
556 increased flood heights, additional threats to public safety,
557 extraordinary public expense, create nuisances, cause fraud on or
558 victimization of the public, or conflict with existing laws or
559 ordinances.

560 E. Variances may be issued by a community for new construction and
561 substantial improvements and for other development necessary for the
562 conduct of a functionally dependent use provided that the criteria of section
563 **4.4.1 (B) – (D)** are met, and the structure or other development is protected
564 by methods that minimize flood damages during the base flood and create
565 no additional threats to public safety.

566 F. **Variances shall not be issued unless it is demonstrated that the**
567 **development will not result in net loss of the following proxies for the three**
568 **floodplain functions in the SFHA: undeveloped space; pervious surface; or**
569 **trees 6 inches dbh or greater (see Section 6.0 and associated options in**
570 **Table 1).**

571 [Additional Optional Language Provided in Appendix B.](#)

572 **4.4.2 VARIANCE NOTIFICATION**

573 Any applicant to whom a variance is granted shall be given written notice that the
574 issuance of a variance to construct a structure below the Base Flood Elevation
575 will result in increased premium rates for flood insurance and that such
576 construction below the base flood elevation increases risks to life and property.
577 Such notification and a record of all variance actions, including justification for
578 their issuance shall be maintained in accordance with section 4.2.2.

579 **5.0 PROVISIONS FOR FLOOD HAZARD REDUCTION**

580 **5.1 GENERAL STANDARDS**

581 In all special flood hazard areas, the **no net loss standards (see Section 6.0) and the**
582 following standards shall be adhered to:

583 **5.1.1 ALTERATION OF WATERCOURSES**

584 Require that the flood carrying capacity within the altered or relocated portion of
585 said watercourse is maintained. Require that maintenance is provided within the
586 altered or relocated portion of said watercourse to ensure that the flood carrying
587 capacity is not diminished. Require compliance with sections 4.2.3.2 and
588 4.2.3.3.

589 **5.1.2 ANCHORING**

590 A. All new construction and substantial improvements shall be anchored to
591 prevent flotation, collapse, or lateral movement of the structure resulting
592 from hydrodynamic and hydrostatic loads, including the effects of buoyancy.

593 B. All manufactured dwellings shall be anchored per section 5.2.3.4.

594 **5.1.3 CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS AND METHODS**

595 A. All new construction and substantial improvements shall be constructed
596 with materials and utility equipment resistant to flood damage.

597 B. All new construction and substantial improvements shall be constructed
598 using methods and practices that minimize flood damage.

599 **5.1.4 UTILITIES AND EQUIPMENT**

600 **5.1.4.1 WATER SUPPLY, SANITARY SEWER, AND ON-SITE WASTE**
601 **DISPOSAL SYSTEMS**

602 A. All new and replacement water supply systems shall be designed to
603 minimize or eliminate infiltration of flood waters into the system.

604 B. New and replacement sanitary sewage systems shall be designed to
605 minimize or eliminate infiltration of flood waters into the systems and
606 discharge from the systems into flood waters.

607 C. On-site waste disposal systems shall be located to avoid impairment to
608 them or contamination from them during flooding consistent with the
609 Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

610 **5.1.4.2 ELECTRICAL, MECHANICAL, PLUMBING, AND OTHER**
611 **EQUIPMENT**

612 Electrical, heating, ventilating, air-conditioning, plumbing, duct systems, and
613 other equipment and service facilities shall be elevated at or above the base
614 flood level (ANY COMMUNITY FREEBOARD REQUIREMENT) or shall be designed
615 and installed to prevent water from entering or accumulating within the
616 components and to resist hydrostatic and hydrodynamic loads and stresses,
617 including the effects of buoyancy, during conditions of flooding. In addition,
618 electrical, heating, ventilating, air- conditioning, plumbing, duct systems, and
619 other equipment and service facilities shall:

620 A. If replaced as part of a substantial improvement shall meet all the
621 requirements of this section.

622 B. Not be mounted on or penetrate through breakaway walls.

623 **5.1.5 TANKS**

624 A. Underground tanks shall be anchored to prevent flotation, collapse and
625 lateral movement under conditions of the base flood.

626 B. Above-ground tanks shall be installed at or above the base flood level
627 (COMMUNITY FREEBOARD REQUIREMENT) or shall be anchored to prevent
628 flotation, collapse, and lateral movement under conditions of the base flood.

629 C. In coastal flood zones (V Zones or coastal A Zones) when elevated on
630 platforms, the platforms shall be cantilevered from or knee braced to the
631 building or shall be supported on foundations that conform to the
632 requirements of the State of Oregon Specialty Code.

633 **5.1.6 SUBDIVISION PROPOSALS AND OTHER PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS**

634 A. All new subdivision proposals and other proposed new developments
635 (including proposals for manufactured dwelling parks and subdivisions)
636 greater than 50 lots or 5 acres, whichever is the lesser, shall include within
637 such proposals Base Flood Elevation data.

638 B. All new subdivision proposals and other proposed new developments
639 (including proposals for manufactured dwelling parks and subdivisions)
640 shall:

641 i. Be consistent with the need to minimize flood damage.

642 ii. Have public utilities and facilities such as sewer, gas, electrical, and
643 water systems located and constructed to minimize or eliminate
644 flood damage.

645 iii. Have adequate drainage provided to reduce exposure to flood
646 hazards.

647 iv. Comply with no net loss standards in section 6.0.

648 **5.1.7 USE OF OTHER BASE FLOOD ELEVATION DATA**

649 A. When Base Flood Elevation data has not been provided in accordance with
650 section 3.2 the local floodplain administrator shall obtain, review, and
651 reasonably utilize any Base Flood Elevation data available from a federal,
652 state, or other source, in order to administer section 5.0. All new subdivision
653 proposals and other proposed new developments (including proposals for
654 manufactured dwelling parks and subdivisions) must meet the requirements
655 of section 5.1.6.

656 B. Base Flood Elevations shall be determined for development proposals that
657 are 5 acres or more in size or are 50 lots or more, whichever is lesser in any
658 A zone that does not have an established base flood elevation.
659 Development proposals located within a riverine unnumbered A Zone shall
660 be reasonably safe from flooding; the test of reasonableness includes use of
661 historical data, high water marks, FEMA provided Base Level Engineering
662 data, and photographs of past flooding, etc... where available. (REFERENCE
663 TO ANY OF THIS TYPE OF INFORMATION TO BE USED FOR REGULATORY
664 PURPOSES BY YOUR COMMUNITY, I.E. BASE LEVEL ENGINEERING DATA,
665 HIGH WATER MARKS, HISTORICAL OR OTHER DATA THAT WILL BE
666 REGULATED TO. THIS MAY BE NECESSARY TO ENSURE THAT THE
667 STANDARDS APPLIED TO RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURES ARE CLEAR AND
668 OBJECTIVE. IF UNCERTAIN SEEK LEGAL ADVICE, AT A MINIMUM REQUIRE
669 THE ELEVATION OF RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURES AND NON-RESIDENTIAL
670 STRUCTURES THAT ARE NOT DRY FLOODPROOFED TO BE 2 FEET ABOVE
671 HIGHEST ADJACENT GRADE). Failure to elevate at least two feet above
672 grade in these zones may result in higher insurance rates.

673 **5.1.8 STRUCTURES LOCATED IN MULTIPLE OR PARTIAL FLOOD ZONES**

674 In coordination with the State of Oregon Specialty Codes:

- 675 A. When a structure is located in multiple flood zones on the community's
676 Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) the provisions for the more restrictive
677 flood zone shall apply.

- 678 B. When a structure is partially located in a special flood hazard area, the
679 entire structure shall meet the requirements for new construction and
680 substantial improvements.

681 [Additional Recommended Language Provided in Appendix B.](#)

682 **5.2 SPECIFIC STANDARDS FOR RIVERINE (INCLUDING ALL NON-COASTAL) FLOOD**
683 **ZONES**

684 These specific standards shall apply to all new construction and substantial
685 improvements in addition to the General Standards contained in section 5.1 of this
686 ordinance **and the no net loss standards (see Section 6.0).**

687 **5.2.1 FLOOD OPENINGS**

688 All new construction and substantial improvements with fully enclosed areas
689 below the lowest floor (excluding basements) are subject to the following
690 requirements. Enclosed areas below the Base Flood Elevation, including crawl
691 spaces shall:

- 692 A. Be designed to automatically equalize hydrostatic flood forces on walls by
693 allowing for the entry and exit of floodwaters;

- 694 B. Be used solely for parking, storage, or building access;

- 695 C. Be certified by a registered professional engineer or architect or meet or
696 exceed all of the following minimum criteria:
 - 697 i. A minimum of two openings;

 - 698 ii. The total net area of non-engineered openings shall be not less than
699 one square inch for each square foot of enclosed area, where the
700 enclosed area is measured on the exterior of the enclosure walls;

 - 701 iii. The bottom of all openings shall be no higher than one foot above
702 grade;

 - 703 iv. Openings may be equipped with screens, louvers, valves, or other
704 coverings or devices provided that they shall allow the automatic
705 flow of floodwater into and out of the enclosed areas and shall be
706 accounted for in the determination of the net open area; and,

 - 707 v. All additional higher standards for flood openings in the State of
708 Oregon Residential Specialty Codes Section R322.2.2 shall be
709 complied with when applicable.

710 **5.2.2 GARAGES**

- 711 A. Attached garages may be constructed with the garage floor slab below the
712 Base Flood Elevation (BFE) in riverine flood zones, if the following
713 requirements are met:
- 714 i. If located within a floodway the proposed garage must comply with
715 the requirements of section 5.2.4;
 - 716 ii. The floors are at or above grade on not less than one side;
 - 717 iii. The garage is used solely for parking, building access, and/or
718 storage;
 - 719 iv. The garage is constructed with flood openings in compliance with
720 section 5.2.1 to equalize hydrostatic flood forces on exterior walls by
721 allowing for the automatic entry and exit of floodwater;
 - 722 v. The portions of the garage constructed below the BFE are
723 constructed with materials resistant to flood damage;
 - 724 vi. The garage is constructed in compliance with the standards in
725 section 5.1; and,
 - 726 vii. The garage is constructed with electrical, and other service facilities
727 located and installed so as to prevent water from entering or
728 accumulating within the components during conditions of the base
729 flood.
- 730 B. Detached garages must be constructed in compliance with the standards
731 for appurtenant structures in section 5.2.3.6 or non-residential structures in
732 section 5.2.3.3 depending on the square footage of the garage.

733 **5.2.3 FOR RIVERINE (NON-COASTAL) SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREAS WITH**
734 **BASE FLOOD ELEVATIONS**

735 In addition to the general standards listed in section 5.1 the following specific
736 standards shall apply in Riverine (non-coastal) special flood hazard areas with
737 Base Flood Elevations (BFE): Zones A1-A30, AH, and AE.

738 **5.2.3.1 BEFORE REGULATORY FLOODWAY**

739 In areas where a regulatory floodway has not been designated, no new
740 construction, substantial improvement, or other development (including fill)
741 shall be permitted within Zones A1-30 and AE on the community's Flood
742 Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), unless it is demonstrated that the cumulative effect
743 of the proposed development, when combined with all other existing and
744 anticipated development, will not increase the water surface elevation of the
745 base flood more than one foot at any point within the community and will not

746 result in the net loss of flood storage volume. When determined that structural
747 elevation is not possible and where the placement of fill cannot meet the above
748 standard, impacts to undeveloped space must adhere to the no net loss
749 standards in section 6.1.C.

750 **5.2.3.2 RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION**

- 751 A. New construction, conversion to, and substantial improvement of any
752 residential structure shall have the lowest floor, including basement,
753 elevated at or above the Base Flood Elevation (BFE) (ADDITIONAL
754 FREEBOARD FOR YOUR COMMUNITY – RECOMMEND MINIMUM OF 1FT
755 ABOVE BFE).
- 756 B. Enclosed areas below the lowest floor shall comply with the flood
757 opening requirements in section 5.2.1.

758 **5.2.3.3 NON-RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION**

- 759 A. New construction, conversion to, and substantial improvement of any
760 commercial, industrial, or other non-residential structure shall:
- 761 i. Have the lowest floor, including basement elevated at or above
762 the Base Flood Elevation (BFE) (ANY ADDITIONAL FREEBOARD
763 REQUIREMENTS FOR YOUR COMMUNITY); or
- 764 ii. Together with attendant utility and sanitary facilities:
- 765 a. Be floodproofed so that below the base flood level the
766 structure is watertight with walls substantially
767 impermeable to the passage of water;
- 768 b. Have structural components capable of resisting
769 hydrostatic and hydrodynamic loads and effects of
770 buoyancy; and,
- 771 c. Be certified by a registered professional engineer or
772 architect that the design and methods of construction
773 are in accordance with accepted standards of practice
774 for meeting provisions of this section based on their
775 development and/or review of the structural design,
776 specifications and plans. Such certifications shall be
777 provided to the Floodplain Administrator as set forth
778 section 4.2.2.
- 779 B. Non-residential structures that are elevated, not floodproofed, shall
780 comply with the standards for enclosed areas below the lowest floor in
781 section 5.2.1.

- 782 C. Applicants floodproofing non-residential buildings shall be notified that
- 783 flood insurance premiums will be based on rates that are one (1) foot
- 784 below the floodproofed level (e.g. a building floodproofed to the base
- 785 flood level will be rated as one (1) foot below.

786 **5.2.3.4 MANUFACTURED DWELLINGS**

- 787 A. Manufactured dwellings to be placed (new or replacement) or
- 788 substantially improved that are supported on solid foundation walls
- 789 shall be constructed with flood openings that comply with section 5.2.1;

- 790 B. The bottom of the longitudinal chassis frame beam shall be at or above
- 791 Base Flood Elevation;

- 792 C. Manufactured dwellings to be placed (new or replacement) or
- 793 substantially improved shall be anchored to prevent flotation, collapse,
- 794 and lateral movement during the base flood. Anchoring methods may
- 795 include, but are not limited to, use of over-the-top or frame ties to
- 796 ground anchors (Reference FEMA’s “Manufactured Home Installation in
- 797 Flood Hazard Areas” guidebook for additional techniques), and;

- 798 D. Electrical crossover connections shall be a minimum of twelve (12)
- 799 inches above Base Flood Elevation (BFE).

800 **5.2.3.5 RECREATIONAL VEHICLES**

801 Recreational vehicles placed on sites are required to:

- 802 A. Be on the site for fewer than 180 consecutive days, and

- 803 B. Be fully licensed and ready for highway use, on its wheels or jacking
- 804 system, is attached to the site only by quick disconnect type utilities and
- 805 security devices, and has no permanently attached additions; or

- 806 C. Meet the requirements of section 5.2.3.4, including the anchoring and
- 807 elevation requirements for manufactured dwellings.

808 **5.2.3.6 APPURTENANT (ACCESSORY) STRUCTURES**

809 Relief from elevation or floodproofing requirements for residential and non-

810 residential structures in Riverine (Non-Coastal) flood zones may be granted for

811 appurtenant structures that meet the following requirements:

- 812 A. Appurtenant structures located partially or entirely within the floodway
- 813 must comply with requirements for development within a floodway
- 814 found in section 5.2.4;

- 815 B. Appurtenant structures must only be used for parking, access, and/or
- 816 storage and shall not be used for human habitation;

- 817 C. In compliance with State of Oregon Specialty Codes, appurtenant
818 structures on properties that are zoned residential are limited to one-
819 story structures less than 200 square feet, or 400 square feet if the
820 property is greater than two (2) acres in area and the proposed
821 appurtenant structure will be located a minimum of 20 feet from all
822 property lines. Appurtenant structures on properties that are zoned as
823 non-residential are limited in size to 120 square feet;

- 824 D. The portions of the appurtenant structure located below the Base Flood
825 Elevation must be built using flood resistant materials;

- 826 E. The appurtenant structure must be adequately anchored to prevent
827 flotation, collapse, and lateral movement of the structure resulting from
828 hydrodynamic and hydrostatic loads, including the effects of buoyancy,
829 during conditions of the base flood;

- 830 F. The appurtenant structure must be designed and constructed to
831 equalize hydrostatic flood forces on exterior walls and comply with the
832 requirements for flood openings in section 5.2.1;

- 833 G. Appurtenant structures shall be located and constructed to have low
834 damage potential;

- 835 H. Appurtenant structures shall not be used to store toxic material, oil, or
836 gasoline, or any priority persistent pollutant identified by the Oregon
837 Department of Environmental Quality unless confined in a tank installed
838 in compliance with section 5.1.5; and,

- 839 I. Appurtenant structures shall be constructed with electrical, mechanical,
840 and other service facilities located and installed so as to prevent water
841 from entering or accumulating within the components during conditions
842 of the base flood.

843 **5.2.4 FLOODWAYS**

844 Located within the special flood hazard areas established in section 3.2 are
845 areas designated as floodways. Since the floodway is an extremely hazardous
846 area due to the velocity of the floodwaters which carry debris, potential
847 projectiles, and erosion potential, the following provisions apply:

- 848 A. Prohibit encroachments, including fill, new construction, substantial
849 improvements, and other development within the adopted regulatory
850 floodway unless:
 - 851 i. Certification by a registered professional civil engineer is provided
852 demonstrating through hydrologic and hydraulic analyses performed
853 in accordance with standard engineering practice that the proposed
854 encroachment shall not result in any increase in flood levels within
855 the community during the occurrence of the base flood discharge; or

856 ii. A community may permit encroachments within the adopted
857 regulatory floodway that would result in an increase in base flood
858 elevations, provided that conditional approval has been obtained by
859 the Federal Insurance Administrator through the Conditional Letter
860 of Map Revision (CLOMR) application process, all requirements
861 established under 44 CFR 65.12 are fulfilled, and the
862 encroachment(s) comply with the no net loss standards in section
863 6.0.

864 B. If the requirements of section 5.2.4 (A) are satisfied, all new construction,
865 substantial improvements, and other development shall comply with all
866 other applicable flood hazard reduction provisions of section 5.0 and 6.0.

867 **5.2.5 STANDARDS FOR SHALLOW FLOODING AREAS**

868 Shallow flooding areas appear on FIRMs as AO zones with depth designations or
869 as AH zones with Base Flood Elevations. For AO zones the base flood depths
870 range from one (1) to three (3) feet above ground where a clearly defined
871 channel does not exist, or where the path of flooding is unpredictable and where
872 velocity flow may be evident. Such flooding is usually characterized as sheet flow.
873 For both AO and AH zones, adequate drainage paths are required around
874 structures on slopes to guide floodwaters around and away from proposed
875 structures.

876 **5.2.5.1 STANDARDS FOR AH ZONES**

877 Development within AH Zones must comply with the standards in sections 5.1,
878 5.2, and 5.2.5.

879 **5.2.5.2 STANDARDS FOR AO ZONES**

880 In AO zones, the following provisions apply in addition to the requirements in
881 sections 5.1 and 5.2.5:

882 A. New construction, conversion to, and substantial improvement of
883 residential structures and manufactured dwellings within AO zones shall
884 have the lowest floor, including basement, elevated above the highest
885 grade adjacent to the building, at minimum to or above the depth
886 number specified on the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM)
887 (COMMUNITY FREEBOARD REQUIREMENT) (at least two (2) feet if no
888 depth number is specified). For manufactured dwellings the lowest floor
889 is considered to be the bottom of the longitudinal chassis frame beam.

890 B. New construction, conversion to, and substantial improvements of non-
891 residential structures within AO zones shall either:

892 i. Have the lowest floor (including basement) elevated above the
893 highest adjacent grade of the building site, at minimum to or
894 above the depth number specified on the Flood Insurance Rate

- 895 Maps (FIRMS) (**COMMUNITY FREE BOARD REQUIREMENT**) (at
896 least two (2) feet if no depth number is specified); or
- 897 ii. Together with attendant utility and sanitary facilities, be
898 completely floodproofed to or above the depth number specified
899 on the FIRM (**COMMUNITY FREEBOARD REQUIREMENT**) or a
900 minimum of two (2) feet above the highest adjacent grade if no
901 depth number is specified, so that any space below that level is
902 watertight with walls substantially impermeable to the passage
903 of water and with structural components having the capability of
904 resisting hydrostatic and hydrodynamic loads and the effects of
905 buoyancy. If this method is used, compliance shall be certified
906 by a registered professional engineer or architect as stated in
907 section **5.2.3.3(A)(4)**.
- 908 C. Recreational vehicles placed on sites within AO Zones on the
909 community's Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) shall either:
- 910 i. Be on the site for fewer than 180 consecutive days, and
- 911 ii. Be fully licensed and ready for highway use, on its wheels or
912 jacking system, is attached to the site only by quick disconnect
913 type utilities and security devices, and has no permanently
914 attached additions; or
- 915 iii. Meet the elevation requirements of section **5.2.5.2(A)**, and the
916 anchoring and other requirements for manufactured dwellings of
917 section **5.2.3.4**.
- 918 D. In AO zones, new and substantially improved appurtenant structures
919 must comply with the standards in section **5.2.3.6**.
- 920 E. In AO zones, enclosed areas beneath elevated structures shall comply
921 with the requirements in section **5.2.1**.

922 **5.3 SPECIFIC STANDARDS FOR COASTAL HIGH HAZARD FLOOD ZONES**

923 Located within special flood hazard areas established in section **3.2** are Coastal High
924 Hazard Areas, designated as Zones V1-V30, VE, V, or coastal A zones as identified on the
925 FIRMs as the area between the Limit of Moderate Wave Action (LiMWA) and the Zone V
926 boundary. These areas have special flood hazards associated with high velocity waters
927 from surges and, therefore, in addition to meeting all provisions of this ordinance and the
928 State of Oregon Specialty Codes, the following provisions shall apply in addition to the
929 general standards provisions in section **5.1**.

930 **5.3.1 DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS**

931 A. All new construction and substantial improvements in Zones V1-V30 and VE,
932 V, and coastal A zones (where base flood elevation data is available) shall
933 be elevated on pilings and columns such that:

934 i. The bottom of the lowest horizontal structural member of the lowest
935 floor (excluding the pilings or columns) is elevated a minimum of
936 one foot above the base flood level; and

937 ii. The pile or column foundation and structure attached thereto is
938 anchored to resist flotation, collapse and lateral movement due to
939 the effects of wind and water loads acting simultaneously on all
940 building components. Water loading values used shall be those
941 associated with the base flood. Wind loading values used shall be
942 those specified by the State of Oregon Specialty Codes;

943 B. A registered professional engineer or architect shall develop or review the
944 structural design, specifications and plans for the construction, and shall
945 certify that the design and methods of construction to be used are in
946 accordance with accepted standards of practice for meeting the provisions
947 of this section.

948 C. Obtain the elevation (in relation to mean sea level) of the bottom of the
949 lowest horizontal structural member of the lowest floor (excluding pilings
950 and columns) of all new and substantially improved structures and whether
951 or not such structures contain a basement. The floodplain administrator
952 shall maintain a record of all such information in accordance with section
953 **4.2.2.**

954 D. Provide that all new construction and substantial improvements have the
955 space below the lowest floor either free of obstruction or constructed with
956 non- supporting breakaway walls, open wood lattice-work, or insect
957 screening intended to collapse under wind and water loads without causing
958 collapse, displacement, or other structural damage to the elevated portion
959 of the building or supporting foundation system.

960 For the purpose of this section, a breakaway wall shall have a design safe
961 loading resistance of not less than 10 and no more than 20 pounds per
962 square foot. Use of breakaway walls which exceed a design safe loading
963 resistance of 20 pounds per square foot (either by design or when so
964 required by local or state codes) may be permitted only if a registered
965 professional engineer or architect certifies that the designs proposed meet
966 the following conditions:

967 i. Breakaway wall collapse shall result from water load less than that
968 which would occur during the base flood; and

969 ii. Such enclosed space created by breakaway walls shall be useable
970 solely for parking of vehicles, building access, or storage. Such
971 space shall not be used for human habitation.

972 iii. Walls intended to break away under flood loads shall have flood
973 openings that meet or exceed the criteria for flood openings in
974 section **5.2.1**.

975 E. The elevated portion of the building and supporting foundation system shall
976 not be subject to collapse, displacement, or other structural damage due to
977 the effects of wind and water loads acting simultaneously on all building
978 components (structural and nonstructural). Maximum water loading values
979 to be used in this determination shall be those associated with the base
980 flood. Maximum wind loading values used shall be those specified by the
981 State of Oregon Specialty Codes.

982 F. Prohibit the use of fill for structural support of buildings.

983 G. All new construction shall be located landward of the reach of mean high
984 tide.

985 H. Prohibit man-made alteration of sand dunes which would increase potential
986 flood damage.

987 I. All structures, including but not limited to residential structures, non-
988 residential structures, appurtenant structures, and attached garages shall
989 comply with all the requirements of section **5.3.1** Floodproofing of non-
990 residential structures is prohibited.

991 **5.3.1.1 MANUFACTURED DWELLING STANDARDS FOR COASTAL HIGH**
992 **HAZARD ZONES**

993 All manufactured dwellings to be placed (new or replacement) or substantially
994 improved within Coastal High Hazard Areas (Zones V, V1-30, VE, or Coastal A)
995 shall meet the following requirements:

996 A. Comply with all of the standards within section **5.3**

997 B. The bottom of the longitudinal chassis frame beam shall be elevated to
998 a minimum of one foot above the Base Flood Elevation (BFE); and

999 C. Electrical crossover connections shall be a minimum of 12 inches above
1000 the BFE.

1001 **5.3.1.2 RECREATIONAL VEHICLE STANDARDS FOR COASTAL HIGH**
1002 **HAZARD ZONES**

1003 Recreational Vehicles within Coastal High Hazard Areas (Zones V, V1-30, VE, or
1004 Coastal A) shall either:

- 1005 A. Be on the site for fewer than 180 consecutive days, and
- 1006 B. Be fully licensed and ready for highway use, on wheels or jacking
- 1007 system, is attached to the site only by quick disconnect type utilities and
- 1008 security devices, and has no permanently attached additions.

5.3.1.3 TANK STANDARDS FOR COASTAL HIGH HAZARD ZONES

Tanks shall meet the requirements of section 5.1.5 and 6.0.

6.0 STANDARDS FOR PROTECTION OF SFHA FLOODPLAIN FUNCTIONS

The standards described below apply to all special flood hazard areas as defined in Section 2.0.

6.1 NO NET LOSS STANDARDS

A. No net loss of the three proxies for the floodplain functions mentioned in Section 1 is required for development in the special flood hazard area that would reduce undeveloped space, increase impervious surface, or result in a loss of trees that are 6-inches dbh or greater. No net loss can be achieved by first avoiding negative effects to floodplain functions to the degree possible, then minimizing remaining effects, then replacing and/or otherwise compensating for, offsetting, or rectifying the residual adverse effects to the three floodplain functions. Prior to the issuance of any development authorization, the applicant shall:

- i. Demonstrate a legal right by the project proponent to implement the proposed activities to achieve no net loss (e.g., property owner agreement);

- ii. Demonstrate that financial assurances are in place for the long-term maintenance and monitoring of all projects to achieve no net loss;

- iii. Include a management plan that identifies the responsible site manager, stipulates what activities are allowed on site, and requires the posting of signage identifying the site as a mitigation area.

B. Compliance with no net loss for undeveloped space or impervious surface is preferred to occur prior to the loss of habitat function but, at a minimum, shall occur concurrent with the loss. To offset the impacts of delay in implementing no net loss, a 25 percent increase in the required minimum area is added for each year no net loss implementation is delayed.

C. No net loss must be provided within, in order of preference: 1) the lot or parcel that floodplain functions were removed from, 2) the same reach of the waterbody where the development is proposed, or 3) the special flood hazard area within the same hydrologically connected area as the proposed development. Table 1 presents the no net loss ratios, which increase based on the preferences listed above.

1040 **6.1.1 UNDEVELOPED SPACE**

1041 A. Development proposals shall not reduce the fish-accessible and egress-able
1042 undeveloped space within the special flood hazard area.

1043 B. A development proposal with an activity that would impact undeveloped
1044 space shall achieve no net loss of fish-accessible and egress-able space.

1045 C. Lost undeveloped space must be replaced with fish-accessible and egress-
1046 able compensatory volume based on the ratio in Table 1 and at the same
1047 flood level at which the development causes an impact (i.e., plus or minus 1
1048 foot of the hydraulically equivalent elevation).

1049 i. Hydraulically equivalent sites must be found within either the
1050 equivalent 1-foot elevations or the same flood elevation bands of
1051 the development proposal. The flood elevation bands are identified
1052 as follows:

1053 (1) Ordinary High Water Mark to 10-year,

1054 (2) 10-year to 25-year,

1055 (3) 25-year to 50-year,

1056 (4) And 50-year to 100-year

1057 ii. Hydrologically connected to the waterbody that is the flooding source;

1058 iii. Designed so that there is no increase in velocity; and

1059 iv. Designed to fill and drain in a manner that minimizes anadromous
1060 fish stranding to the greatest extent possible.

1061 **6.1.2 IMPERVIOUS SURFACES**

1062 Impervious surface mitigation shall be mitigated through any of the following
1063 options:

1064 A. Development proposals shall not result in a net increase in impervious
1065 surface area within the SFHA, or

1066 B. use low impact development or green infrastructure to infiltrate and treat
1067 stormwater produced by the new impervious surface, as documented by a
1068 qualified professional, or

1069 C. If prior methods are not feasible and documented by a qualified
1070 professional stormwater retention is required to ensure no increase in peak
1071 volume or flow and to maximize infiltration, and treatment is required to

1072 minimize pollutant loading. See section 6.2.C for stormwater retention
1073 specifications.

1074 **6.1.3 TREES**

1075 A. Development proposals shall result in no net loss of trees 6-inches dbh or
1076 greater within the special flood hazard area. This requirement does not
1077 apply to silviculture where there is no development.

1078 i. Trees of or exceeding 6-inches dbh that are removed from the RBZ,
1079 Floodway, or RBZ-fringe must be replaced at the ratios in Table 1.

1080 ii. Replacement trees must be native species that would occur naturally
1081 in the Level III ecoregion of the impact area.

1082 **6.2 STORMWATER MANAGEMENT**

1083 Any development proposal that cannot mitigate as specified in 6.1.2(A)-(B) must include
1084 the following:

1085 A. Water quality (pollution reduction) treatment for post-construction
1086 stormwater runoff from any net increase in impervious area; and

1087 B. Water quantity treatment (retention facilities) unless the outfall discharges
1088 into the ocean.

1089 C. Retention facilities must:

1090 i. Limit discharge to match the pre-development peak discharge rate
1091 (i.e., the discharge rate of the site based on its natural groundcover
1092 and grade before any development occurred) for the 10-year peak
1093 flow using a continuous simulation for flows between 50 percent of
1094 the 2-year event and the 10-year flow event (annual series).

1095 ii. Treat stormwater to remove sediment and pollutants from impervious
1096 surfaces such that at least 80 percent of the suspended solids are
1097 removed from the stormwater prior to discharging to the receiving
1098 water body.

1099 iii. Be designed to not entrap fish and drain to the source of flooding.

1100 iv. Be certified by a qualified professional.

1101 D. Stormwater treatment practices for multi-parcel facilities, including
1102 subdivisions, shall have an enforceable operation and maintenance
1103 agreement to ensure the system functions as designed. This agreement will
1104 include:

- 1105 i. Access to stormwater treatment facilities at the site by the
- 1106 **COMMUNITY TYPE (e.g., city, county)** for the purpose of inspection
- 1107 and repair.

- 1108 ii. A legally binding document specifying the parties responsible for the
- 1109 proper maintenance of the stormwater treatment facilities. The
- 1110 agreement will be recorded and bind subsequent purchasers and
- 1111 sellers even if they were not party to the original agreement.

- 1112 iii. For stormwater controls that include vegetation and/or soil
- 1113 permeability, the operation and maintenance manual must include
- 1114 maintenance of these elements to maintain the functionality of the
- 1115 feature.

- 1116 iv. The responsible party for the operation and maintenance of the
- 1117 stormwater facility shall have the operation and maintenance
- 1118 manual on site and available at all times. Records of the
- 1119 maintenance and repairs shall be retained and made available for
- 1120 inspection by the **COMMUNITY TYPE (e.g., city, county)** for five years

6.3 ACTIVITIES EXEMPT FROM NO NET LOSS STANDARDS

The following activities are not subject to the no net loss standards in Section 6.1; however, they may not be exempt from floodplain development permit requirements.

- 1124 A. Normal maintenance of structures, such as re-roofing and replacing siding,
- 1125 provided there is no change in the footprint or expansion of the roof of the
- 1126 structure;

- 1127 B. Normal street, sidewalk, and road maintenance, including filling potholes,
- 1128 repaving, and installing signs and traffic signals, that does not alter
- 1129 contours, use, or alter culverts. Activities exempt do not include expansion
- 1130 of paved areas;

- 1131 C. Routine maintenance of landscaping that does not involve grading,
- 1132 excavation, or filling;

- 1133 D. Routine agricultural practices such as tilling, plowing, harvesting, soil
- 1134 amendments, and ditch cleaning that does not alter the ditch configuration
- 1135 provided the spoils are removed from special flood hazard area or tilled into
- 1136 fields as a soil amendment;

- 1137 E. Routine silviculture practices that do not meet the definition of
- 1138 development, including harvesting of trees as long as root balls are left in
- 1139 place and forest road construction or maintenance that does not alter
- 1140 contours, use, or alter culverts;

- 1141 F. Removal of noxious weeds and hazard trees, and replacement of non-native
- 1142 vegetation with native vegetation;

- 1143 G. Normal maintenance of above ground utilities and facilities, such as
- 1144 replacing downed power lines and utility poles provided there is no net
- 1145 change in footprint;

- 1146 H. Normal maintenance of a levee or other flood control facility prescribed in
- 1147 the operations and maintenance plan for the levee or flood control facility.
- 1148 Normal maintenance does not include repair from flood damage, expansion
- 1149 of the prism, expansion of the face or toe or addition of protection on the
- 1150 face or toe with rock armor.

- 1151 I. Habitat restoration activities.

6.4 RIPARIAN BUFFER ZONE (RBZ)

- 1153 A. The Riparian Buffer Zone is measured from the ordinary high-water line of a
- 1154 fresh waterbody (lake; pond; ephemeral, intermittent, or perennial stream)
- 1155 or mean higher-high water of a marine shoreline or tidally influenced river
- 1156 reach to 170 feet horizontally on each side of the stream or inland of the
- 1157 MHHW. The riparian buffer zone includes the area between these outer
- 1158 boundaries on each side of the stream, including the stream channel.

- 1159 B. Habitat restoration activities in the RBZ are considered self-mitigating and
- 1160 are not subject to the no net loss standards described above.

- 1161 C. Functionally dependent uses are only subject to the no net loss standards for
- 1162 development in the RBZ. Ancillary features that are associated with but do
- 1163 not directly impact the functionally dependent use in the RBZ (including
- 1164 manufacturing support facilities and restrooms) are subject to the beneficial
- 1165 gain standard in addition to no net loss standards.

- 1166 D. Any other use of the RBZ requires a greater offset to achieve no net loss of
- 1167 floodplain functions, on top of the no net loss standards described above,
- 1168 through the beneficial gain standard.

- 1169 E. Under FEMA's beneficial gain standard, an area within the same reach of
- 1170 the project and equivalent to 5% of the total project area within the RBZ
- 1171 shall be planted with native herbaceous and shrub vegetation and
- 1172 designated as open space.
- 1173

1174 Table 1 No Net Loss Standards

Basic Mitigate Ratios	Undeveloped Space (ft³)	Impervious Surface (ft²)	Trees (6" < dbh ≤ 20")	Trees (20" < dbh ≤ 39")	Trees (39" < dbh)
RBZ and Floodway	2:1*	1:1	3:1*	5:1	6:1
RBZ-Fringe	1.5:1*	1:1	2:1*	4:1	5:1

Mitigation multipliers					
Mitigation onsite to Mitigation offsite, same reach	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Mitigation onsite to Mitigation offsite, different reach, same watershed (5th field)	200% *	200%*	200%*	200%	200%

1175 Notes:

- 1176 1. Ratios with asterisks are indicated in the BiOp
- 1177 2. Mitigation multipliers of 100% result in the required mitigation occurring at the same value
- 1178 described by the ratios above, while multipliers of 200% result in the required mitigation
- 1179 being doubled.
- 1180 a. For example, if only 500 ft² of the total 1000 ft² of required pervious surface
- 1181 mitigation can be conducted onsite and in the same reach, the remaining 500 ft² of
- 1182 required pervious surface mitigation occurring offsite at a different reach would
- 1183 double because of the 200% multiplier.
- 1184 3. RBZ impacts must be offset in the RBZ, on-site or off-site.
- 1185 4. Additional standards may apply in the RBZ (See 6.4 Riparian Buffer Zone)

COMMENTS TO THE ODF WILDFIRE HAZARD MAP

FROM BADGER IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT AND ROUND PRAIRIE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

The Badger Improvement District (BID) and the Round Prairie Improvement District (RPID) deliver adjudicated water rights annually to their 53 members and non-members (tax lot owners) in Southern Wasco County North, East, and West of Wamic and Pine Hollow Reservoir.

BID has 38 members who are annually delivered 3,708.5 acres of Adjudicated water rights from Badger Creek stream flow and store water in Pine Hollow Reservoir for delivery to members during the irrigation season (4/15 – 10/15). The Districts maintain a record of deliveries to members during the irrigation season.

RPID delivers 485.5 acres of Adjudicated water rights to 15 Members and transports 78.15 acres of Adjudicated water rights to a few non-members. The townsite of Wamic is delivered 40 acres of Adjudicated municipal water rights annually for the residents to use for yard irrigation and has a separate domestic well water right for drinking water.

The Appendix to this document includes a detailed analysis with exhibits that outline our mutual concerns about the hazard ratings expressed in the ODF Wildfire Hazard Map. The map does not uniformly recognize the annual delivery of irrigation water for hay production, orchards and pastureland by the irrigation districts to their members that aid wildfire suppression. During the recent Larch Creek fire the districts substantially increased the flow of water to aid the firefighting effort. Hundreds of thousands of gallons were provided to air tankers and helicopters as well as local firefighting trucks.

Notice of the draft ODF Wildfire Hazard Map was NOT sent to all of the affected tax lot landowner members of BID and RPID in Southern Wasco County.

Irrigated farmlands in annual hay, pasture and orchard production are a pivotal part of the ability of the Wamic and Pine Hollow Rural Communities to protect their homes from CATASTROPHIC WILDFIRE advancing on to residential tax lots from undeveloped lands.

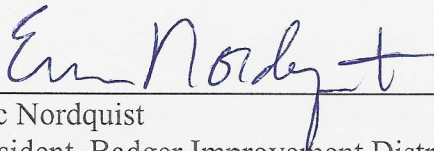
P. 1 of 2

Recognizing the above facts the Wasco County Forest Collaboration supported the designation of the irrigated tax lots East, North and West of Wamic served by BID and RPID in active hay, orchard and irrigated pastureland MODERATE on the ODF WILDFIRE HAZARD MAP.

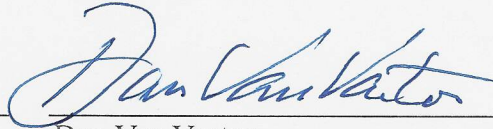
Both Districts recognize other Wasco County irrigated lands in active hay, orchard and irrigated pastureland should be designated Moderate for the same reasons recited herein.

The Board of Directors of BID and RPID ask on behalf of their members that their irrigated tax lots West, North, East of Wamic in Southern Wasco County BE UNIFORMLY MAPPED AS MODERATE as opposed to the checkerboard of high hazard and moderate hazard as reflected on the draft map as published.

Dated, August 12, 2024



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Phone: 541-544-2212



Dan Van Vactor
President, Round Prairie Improvement District
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E-mail: badgerirrigaton@hotmail.com
Phone: 541-544-2212

COMMENTS APPROVED BY THE BID BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON AUGUST 2024 AND THE ROUND PRAIRIE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON AUGUST 2024 FOR SUBMISSION TO THE DRAFT ODF WILDFIRE HAZARD MAP.

P. 2 of 2

APPENDIX

My name is Stephen Griffith. I am Vice President of the Badger Irrigation District. I farm hay near Wamic, Oregon. I earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Forestry and a Masters in Business with a Management Science emphasis at Oregon State University (OSU). I have spent most of my 40 year career designing, developing, validating and implementing mathematical models including simulation in the forest industry. I have worked for multiple clients in the United States, Canada and South America including several Fortune 500 companies.

The 2022 CPAW report labels all lands in the Wamic area as “very high” risk for wildfire. That report developed, in part by OSU, identified three hazard categories: Moderate, High, Very High. There was no attempt in that report to determine wildfire risk by tax lot. In 2024, the general approach employed by OSU was similar but the category labels were modified to Low, Moderate and High. Different simulation software was employed. OSU has attempted to determine hazard rating by tax lot.

Oregon State University coordinated with Pyrologix LLC, the Oregon Dept. of Forestry, and fire and fuels subject matter experts from around the state to create the initial draft wildfire hazard map (released in summer 2022, then called the statewide “risk map”). That initial map was rescinded in August 2022.

In 2024, after a lot of negative feedback from farmers about the treatment of irrigation in the risk map, OSU modified the Wildfire Hazard Map. They combined their simulation program with data from artificial intelligence (AI) software developed by Google to generate revised calculations. The AI (machine learning) software is named IrrMapper.

OSU repeatedly claims that they used “the best data available” to represent irrigated lands. I firmly disagree. The best data available is the records on water deliveries kept by the local irrigation districts. AI data from satellite photos can only deduce water application based on field coloration and other visual information. OSU acknowledges this data as “estimates”. In an attempt to validate the hazard ratings I requested irrigation data from OSU and they declined to provide it.

Simulation models are designed to approximate some form of reality. However, the proof of the pudding is in the eating. If a model result doesn’t taste right, the user needs to dig deeper to find out why. This step is what I refer to as “validation”. I have validated scores of models in my career. There is no question in my mind that many wildfire hazard scores found in Oregon Explorer are incorrect. These errors are systemic and not isolated to one or two tax lots.

The five examples on the next page illustrate why I don’t trust the current Wildfire Hazard Map ratings. According to OSU there are only two relevant variables:

1. Burn Probability
2. Fire intensity

According to OSU mapmaker Andy McEvoy, burn probability reflects influences of climate, weather, topography and vegetation. Fire intensity is a function of fuel (trees burn hotter and longer than grass) but also weather and climate.

Since all the properties in my analysis are in same locality on generally flat ground, I would expect the major Hazard Value (HV) difference between tax lots boils down to the quantity of trees . If you have proportionately more trees on your property, the HV will likely be higher.

This reality points out the fallacy of using the Wildfire Hazard map to determine the vulnerability of the residence based on the overall tax lot value. A landowner may own 500 acres of irrigated land and a house with dead pine trees hanging over a pine needle covered roof. The tax lot may get a low rating but the house itself may have a high risk of fire.

I created five reports out of the Oregon Wildfire Risk Explorer on 8/10/24. The results are summarized below. The tax lots are all located within 4 miles of each other in the Wamic area. All five of these tax lots are located on predominately flat ground.

Exhibit PH	Pine Hollow Reservoir	4S 12E 0 700	HC: "Moderate"	HV .004212	219.45 ac
Exhibit WC	Wasco County Yard	4S 12E 14 B 300	HC: "High"	HV .325666	7.55 ac
Exhibit D	Farm Parcel D	4S 13E 0 1100	HC: "High"	HV .163864	589.53 ac
Exhibit F	Farm Parcel F	4S 13E 7 200	HC: "Low"	HV .001	34.63 ac
Exhibit N	Farm Parcel N	4S 12E 3 500	HC: "Moderate"	HV .115573	159.86 ac

The reports rate Pine Hollow Reservoir as "Moderate". Common sense tells us this designation has to be incorrect. That label is inconsistent with the stated HV as well. Pine Hollow is basically water and mud. See the photo in the Exhibit PH. Very little vegetation is present.


The Wasco County Yard rating is very confusing (see Exhibit WC). The tax lot is labeled as High Hazard even though it is basically a gravel lot with metal buildings and a few trees. This property should not be considered "High" hazard.

Farm parcel D is nearly 600 acres and is clearly well irrigated with pivots and various sprinklers (see Exhibit D). There are some trees on the north edge of the property but percentage wise, tree cover is limited. This irrigated tax lot should be rated "Moderate" in my view. The map report incorrectly indicates that this property is in the WUI.

Farm parcel F is only about 35 acres (see Exhibit F). It is well irrigated and has no trees. It is the only significant farm parcel in the area with "Low" hazard class. This tax lot actually has a hazard value lower than Pine Hollow Reservoir. How can that be?

Farm parcel N is clearly irrigated with some clusters of trees (see Exhibit N). It is rated "Moderate". This rating seems to be correct all things considered.

The current Wildfire Hazard Map has fundamental flaws in its ratings especially when it comes to irrigated lands. My home in the Wamic area was rated by on-site firefighters who completed a green Survey 123 card this summer during the Larch Creek Fire. I was given a Low rating for my house yet the Wildfire Hazard Map rates my tax lot as High. There seems to be a real disconnect here, especially since the rating will affect building codes.





Oregon Wildfire Risk Explorer - Homeowner's Report

IMPORTANT NOTE: DRAFT DATA CURRENTLY UNDER REVIEW

Report Generated: August 11, 2024 08:34 AM

Report Location: 45.24965211796, -121.294598823559





0 2,000 4,000 ft


Wildland Urban Interface

Draft Property Wildfire Hazard Class: **Moderate**

Within Draft Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)? **Yes**

Draft Wildfire Hazard Value: 0.004212

How your property hazard value compares to hazard values across the state:



Low
 Moderate
 High

27.11% of properties in Oregon have a higher hazard value.

For more information about the mapping process see page 2 of the Homeowner's Report.

Only properties that are both in the Wildland Urban Interface and classified as high hazard may be subject to [defensible space](#) and [fire hardening](#) rules required by state law. Fire hardening rules will not apply to existing structures unless significant home updates occur.

Why is this data draft?

You are currently viewing draft wildfire hazard data. It is still considered draft until three things happen:


1. The Board of Forestry needs to vote to approve [new rules](#) that establish the data and methods OSU will use to account for irrigated agriculture when calculating hazard. The draft data you are viewing does directly account for irrigated agriculture, but the Board of Forestry will not officially approve those methods until their [meeting in September](#).
2. The Oregon Department of Forestry is hosting a public comment period on the draft hazard map from July 18th until August 18th 2024. More information about the public comment process is available at the [ODF Wildfire Hazard webpage](#). Comments can be sent to hazardmap@odf.oregon.gov.
3. OSU shared draft hazard data with county planners for them to review. The map will not be finalized until after all county planner feedback has been considered.

Once all three processes above are complete, the updated wildfire hazard map can be finalized and notification letters will be sent to affected properties. Affected properties only includes properties that are both classified as high hazard and also within the wildland-urban interface (WUI). A property must satisfy both criteria in order to be affected by either new defensible space standards or new fire hardening building codes.

Resources:

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- [Oregon Statewide Wildfire Hazard Map](#)
- [Oregon Department of Forestry](#)
- [Oregon Department of the State Fire Marshal](#)
 - [Defensible Space Program](#)
- [Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services](#)
 - [Building Codes Division](#)
 - [Division of Financial Regulation](#)
- [OSU Extension Fire Program](#)

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Oregon Wildfire Risk Explorer - Homeowner's Report

IMPORTANT NOTE: DRAFT DATA CURRENTLY UNDER REVIEW

Report Generated: August 11, 2024 08:45 AM

Report Location: 45.22518276175, -121.272152527626






Draft Property Wildfire Hazard Class: **High**

Within Draft Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)? **Yes**

Draft Wildfire Hazard Value: 0.325666

How your property hazard value compares to hazard values across the state:



Low
 Moderate
 High

4.37% of properties in Oregon have a higher hazard value.

For more information about the mapping process see page 2 of the Homeowner's Report.

Only properties that are both in the Wildland Urban Interface and classified as high hazard may be subject to [defensible space](#) and [fire hardening](#) rules required by state law. Fire hardening rules will not apply to existing structures unless significant home updates occur.

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Oregon Wildfire Risk Explorer - Homeowner's Report

IMPORTANT NOTE: DRAFT DATA CURRENTLY UNDER REVIEW

Report Generated: August 11, 2024 03:31 PM

Report Location: 45.243712233989, -121.219264225228






Draft Property Wildfire Hazard Class: **High**

Within Draft Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)? **Yes**

Draft Wildfire Hazard Value: 0.163864

How your property hazard value compares to hazard values across the state:



7.87% of properties in Oregon have a higher hazard value.

For more information about the mapping process see page 2 of the Homeowner's Report.

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Why is this data draft?

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Oregon Wildfire Risk Explorer - Homeowner's Report

IMPORTANT NOTE: DRAFT DATA CURRENTLY UNDER REVIEW

Report Generated: August 11, 2024 08:39 AM

Report Location: 45.242852450183, -121.234850198901





0 875 1,750 ft


Wildland Urban Interface

Draft Property Wildfire Hazard Class: **Low**

Within Draft Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)? **No**

Draft Wildfire Hazard Value: 0.001

How your property hazard value compares to hazard values across the state:



Low
 Moderate
 High

37.60% of properties in Oregon have a higher hazard value.

For more information about the mapping process see page 2 of the Homeowner's Report.

Only properties that are both in the Wildland Urban Interface and classified as high hazard may be subject to [defensible space](#) and [fire hardening](#) rules required by state law. Fire hardening rules will not apply to existing structures unless significant home updates occur.

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Oregon Wildfire Risk Explorer - Homeowner's Report

IMPORTANT NOTE: DRAFT DATA CURRENTLY UNDER REVIEW




Report Generated: August 11, 2024 08:32 AM

Report Location: 45.256860176865, -121.293580275048



0 1,000 2,000 ft

 Wildland Urban Interface

Draft Property Wildfire Hazard Class: **Moderate**
Within Draft Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)? **Yes**
Draft Wildfire Hazard Value: 0.115573

How your property hazard value compares to hazard values across the state:



 Low  Moderate  High

9.75% of properties in Oregon have a higher hazard value.

For more information about the mapping process see page 2 of the Homeowner's Report.

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Badger Improvement District Members

Alfred and Vera-Ellen	Mullet
Arthur and Molly	Prideaux
Barry	Kennedy
Barry	Schrimsher
Bill	Archer
Bryan and Ami	Nordquist
Camp Morrow	
D Craig	Mikkelsen
Dan	VanVactor
David and Nancy	Lauzon
Dog River Orchards, LLC	
Don and Sharon	Rowan
Ecclesia of Sinai at Dufur	
Ed and Melissa	Ing
Eric and Emily	Nordquist
FDD Ranch	
Fou & Meuy	Phan
Gloria Briggs	
H2T, LLC	
Iverson Ranch, LLC	
James	Miller
Janel	Guyette
Jim and Darlene	Nordquist
Jim and Sue	Bussard
Joe	Harvey
John	Hesla
John B Magill Trust	
Kinzey Ranch, LLC	
Lee and Deborah	Hazel
Mary Alice	Jackson
Matthew and Angie	Kemper
OR Dept Fish & Wildlife	
Martino & Marquez	
Richard and Janie	Dodge
Robert and Nancy	York
Ron	Archer
Stephen and Barbara	Griffith
Timothy and Rena	Ackley
Tom	McDowell
Wamic Recreation Co., LLC	

Columbia Gorge Resolution Center

Serving Our Most Vulnerable Populations

August 21, 2024

System of Care - What behavioral health (BH) services exist in the Columbia Gorge?

- Outpatient mental health, substance abuse and gambling treatment – *in place provided by MCCFL and the private sector*
- Intensive community BH services for seriously mentally ill adults and children – *in place provided by MCCFL*
- Crisis services – mobile crisis in place from MCCFL – *missing diversion options like crisis respite and crisis receiving centers*
- Residential services – MCCFL has the Enhanced Care Services program in Hood River – *but no BH residential for any other service.*
- Acute, inpatient or hospital BH care for either youth or adults. *None in region. Adventist and Providence EDs have transport custody*

Local Needs Assessment (MCCFL data)

- 61 local substance abuse residential referrals in 2023 (30-90 day stay)
- 509 hospital-based crisis assessments in 2023 (all 3 MCCFL counties – 2 EDs); Adventist = 301 (~60%) ; Providence = 208 (~40%)
- 159 crisis assessments in 2024*; Adventist = 89 (~56%); Providence = 70 (~44%)

Statewide needs assessment (OHA, June 2024)

Table 36. Current Facility Capacity

Facility Type	Current Capacity	Pending Capacity	Total Projected Capacity by 3rd Qtr 2025
State Psychiatric Hospital	577	0	577
Inpatient Psychiatric Beds	461	0	461
Mental Health Residential (RTF & RTH only)	810	219	1029
Mental Health Residential (AFH only)	493	5	498
Secure Residential Treatment Facility (SRTF only)	510	77	587
SUD Residential	1,374	44	1418
Withdrawal Management	301	16	317
Total	4,526	361	4,887

Columbia Gorge Resolution Center (CGRC)

- 2017 – CGRC Started and spearheaded by Wasco Sheriff Lane Magill with goal to develop crisis diversion services and missing BH services in the Gorge Region
- 2019 - Developed plan and build draft. Project is funded by OHA and Lottery funds
- 2021 – Columbia Care Services (CCS) agrees to be service provider for CGRC in The Dalles
- 2022 – Community Mental Health Program for HR, Wasco and Sherman County (MCCFL) completes fiscal and staffing turnaround – goes from 72 to 138 staff hired and fully budgeted.
- 2023 – CCS closes 20-year-old local BH residential facility in The Dalles; CCS exits CGRC project – both exits due to “staffing shortages.”
- 2023 – MCCFL steps in place to provide CGRC services, expands goal to include missing local BH services including SUD residential, drop in center and move safety net services to new campus in The Dalles on Wasco County land (10th and Walnut)
- 2024 – new BH services building draft completed and cost plan developed – see next 3 slides



Square footage needed

• 16-Bed Substance Use Disorder Facility	11,637 sf
• Crisis Receiving Center	7,662 sf
• Consumer Drop-in Center	4,530 sf
• Psychosocial Réhabilitation Services	13,320 sf
• 16-Bed Residential Treatment Facility	9,963 sf
• 16-Bed Secure Residential Treatment Facility	10,413 sf
• Total Building Area	57,925 sf

Budget Narrative

- **Phase I** is comprised of the Substance Use Disorder Treatment Facility and is estimated at \$11,623,832. . This phase includes higher costs for geotech, survey,(3) lot partitions and utilities of the entire 7.19 acre lot since it is the first phase of the development - even if future phases are not being developed at the same time.
- **Phase II** is comprised of the outpatient services, including the Consumer Drop-In Center, the Psychosocial Rehab Offices, and the Crisis Receiving Center. These programs are suggested to be combined into one building for utility and service spaces and is estimated at \$18,313,841
- **Phase III** - is comprised of the SRTF (\$10,464,102) and RTF (\$9,960,185) buildings currently estimated at a total of \$20,424,287
- By Medicare rules - SUD and MH facilities cannot be co-located in the same building. There will be separate tax lots and addresses for these facilities.
- The average cost per square foot for the residential treatment facilities is \$750/ SF, while the outpatient is \$540 / SF based on recent project estimates.
- Total of all phases in today's dollars is estimated just over \$50 million. These estimates include contingencies and do include duplication if each project is separated. This approach at this early stage provides flexibility in approach to phasing and is recommended to be re-estimated as specific projects move forward.

Funding for construction picture

In-hand

- \$ 8,000,000 2024 Legislative funds committed
- \$ 4,500,000 Lottery / DAS grant
- \$ 4,500,000 OHA grant for SRTF
- \$ 1,000,000 Mid-Columbia Center for Living
- \$ 1,600,000 *Federal grant (in discussion)*

Totals

- \$ **19,600,000** **Total committed to project**
- \$ 50,000,000 Total project projected cost
- \$ **30,400,000** **Needed funding**

Potential

- \$ 1,500,000 *CDBG (could be applied to multiple phases)*
- \$ 2,000,000 *OHA substance abuse*
- ? *CCOs, OHA, HR and Sherman Ctys, Wasco Grant Services*

Next Steps

- Behavioral health crisis – local issues and solutions to ‘un-engaged’ clients
– unhoused, substance abuse
- Workforce crisis – how do we solve / move the needle?



Wasco County
Planning



FEMA'S PRE-IMPLEMENTATION COMPLIANCE MEASURES for NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM IN WASCO COUNTY

Daniel Dougherty
Planning Director

History and Background of Issue

- (2009) FEMA* was sued for failure to implement ESA* in the SFHA*
- (2016) NMFS* issued the Oregon NFIP* Biological Opinion (BiOp)
- (2021) FEMA issued “Oregon Implementation Plan for NFIP-ESA Integration”
- (2023) FEMA published a Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS*
- July 15, 2024 FEMA PICM* Notification Letter to Wasco County

*Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

*Endangered Species Act (ESA)

*Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA)

*National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)

*National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

*Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

*Preliminary Implementation Compliance Measure (PICM)

Pre-Implementation Compliance Letter

FEMA demands that Wasco County select a PICM (measures):

1. Adopt a **Model Ordinance** that considers impacts to species and their habitat and requires mitigation to a no net loss standard; or
2. A **Permit-by-Permit Habitat Assessment and Mitigation Plan** for floodplain development¹; or
3. A **Prohibition on Floodplain Development**

*Does not consider Clear and Objective Criteria (ORS 197A.400)

1. If Wasco County fails to choose Measure by December 1, 2024, FEMA will place us into Permit-by-Permit Category

*Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

*Preliminary Implementation Compliance Measure (PICM)

*Oregon Revised Statute (ORS)

Pre-Implementation Compliance Letter

FEMA Required Timeline:

- Select PICM (Measure) no later than December 1, 2024
- Report floodplain development to FEMA beginning January 31, 2025
- Full implementation no later than July 31, 2025

*Does not consider Oregon land use law procedures & processes

*Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

*Preliminary Implementation Compliance Measure (PICM)

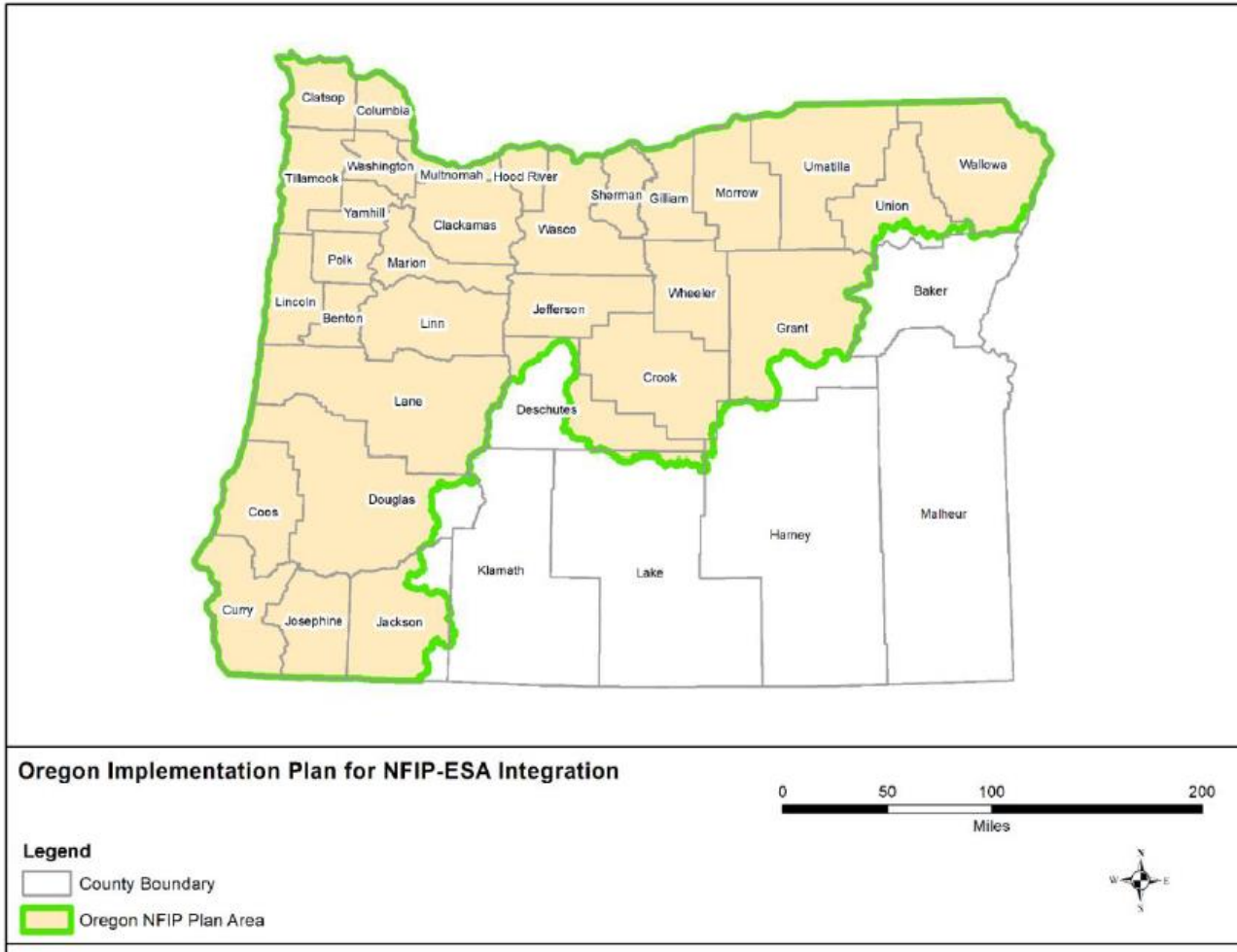
Potential Consequences for Failing to Comply

- FEMA Compliance Visit (Audit of Floodplain Development)
- Suspension from the NFIP
- Loss of the availability of NFIP Insurance Policies
- No consideration for disaster relief funding

*Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

*Preliminary Implementation Compliance Measure (PICM)

Affected Counties



Jurisdiction

- Within SFHA
- Within NFIP

*Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA)

*National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

Affected Wasco County Properties

Total Wasco County Properties Impacted*	
Current 1984 FEMA Maps	598 Properties (Tax Lots)
Updated FEMA Maps (Preliminary)	848 Properties (Tax Lots)
* Data provided by Wasco County GIS	

Wasco County Residential Properties Impacted*	
Residential 1984 FEMA Maps	290 Properties (Tax Lots)
Residential Updated FEMA Maps (Preliminary)	384 Properties (Tax Lots)
* Data provided by Wasco County GIS	

*122 vacant properties in Flood Hazard Overlay Zone (OZ-1)

Requirements for Compliance

- No Net Loss to Floodplain Functions (offset or avoided)
 1. Floodplain Storage;
 2. Water quality; and
 3. Vegetation
- No Net Loss for development projects that:
 1. Reduce Undeveloped Space;
 2. Increase Impervious Surface; or
 3. Result in a Loss of Trees that are 6-inches dbh* or greater

*Applies to all Undeveloped Space within the Floodplain

*Diameter at Breast Height (DBH)

Undeveloped Space within the Floodplain



Undeveloped Space: The volume of flood capacity and fish-accessible/egress-able habitat from the existing ground to the Base Flood Elevation that is undeveloped. Any form of **development** including, but not limited to, the addition of fill, structures, concrete structures (vaults or tanks), pilings, levees and dikes, or any other development that reduces flood storage volume and fish accessible/egress-able habitat must achieve no net loss. (2024 Model Floodplain Management Ordinance, Definitions).

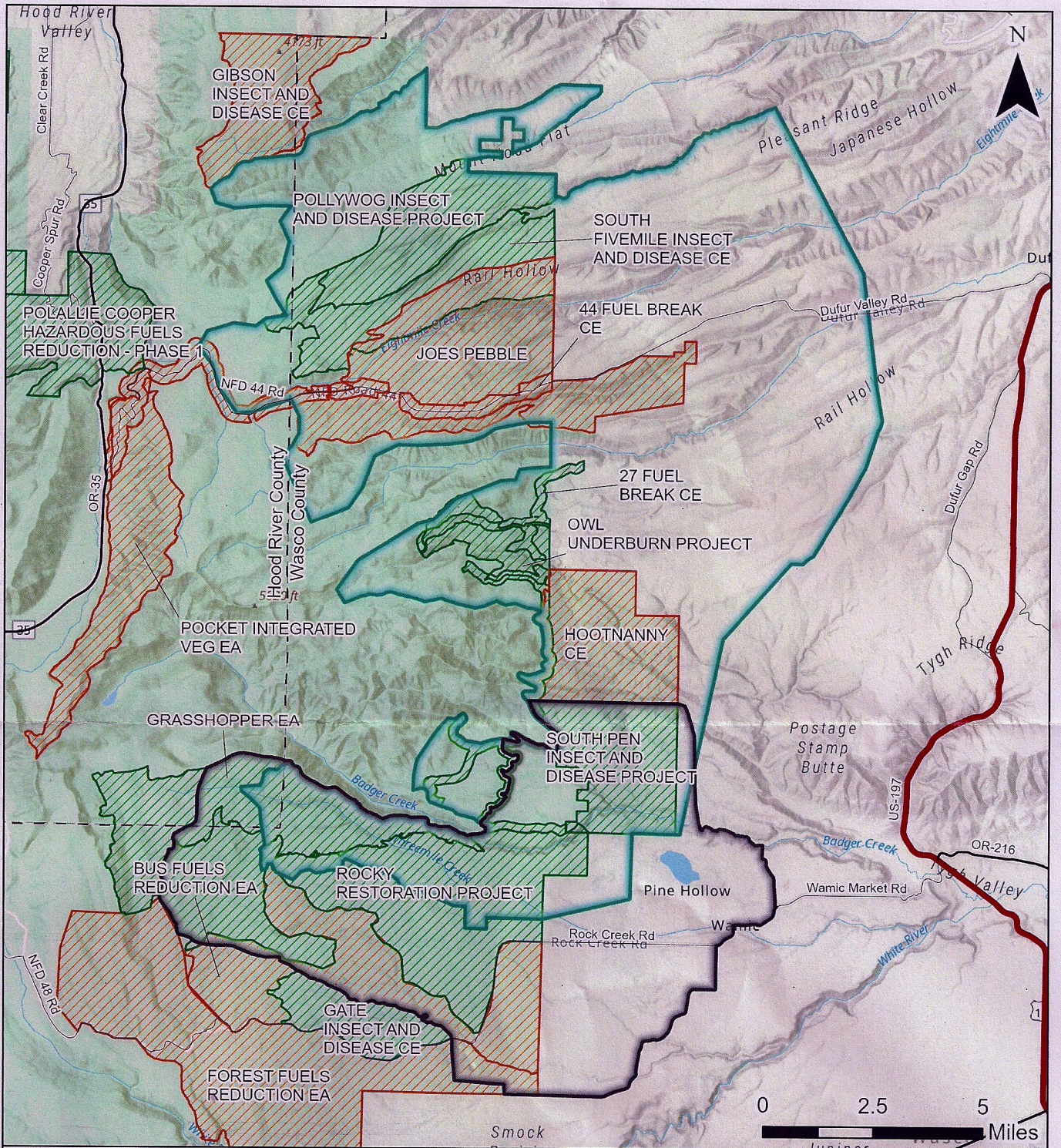
Potential Impacts to Wasco County Properties

- Increased Financial Costs for Development within the Floodplain
- Legal Action from Impacted Owners
- Increased Permitting Time-Lines for Development within the Floodplain








Staff Recommendation

FEMA's 2024 Model Floodplain Management Ordinance

Questions?



Legend

 North Wasco All Lands R6 MTH High Desert Deschutes Basin	 US Highway
 Central Wasco Joint Chief Boundary	 State Highway and Route
Project Areas	
 Implementation	 County Boundary
 Planning	

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of blue, ranging from light sky blue to deep navy blue. These shapes are primarily located on the left and right sides of the frame, creating a modern, dynamic feel. The central area is a clean white space where the text is placed.

Kramer Field

Accomplishments and Future Needs

2024 Accomplishments

Repairs / Deferred Maintenance

- ▶ Irrigation System Repairs
- ▶ Repaired fencing and gates along fields
- ▶ Repaired damaged dugout fencing throughout the complex. Fencing has been vandalized numerous times.



2024 Accomplishments

Repairs / Deferred Maintenance

- ▶ Cut baselines and added fill dirt to all fields
- ▶ Leveled fields
- ▶ Repaired electrical outlets and covers
- ▶ Painted dugouts and crows nest numerous times due to vandalism.
- ▶ The primary concession stand roof and Babe Ruth homerun fence where painted due to lack of maintenance over the years.



2024 Accomplishments

New Work and Enhancements

- ▶ Purchased and installed portable mounds.
- ▶ Replaced Metal roofing and siding where needed on dugouts and crows nest.
- ▶ Purchased the necessary small equipment to adequately maintain a facility of this type. This includes a tractor, commercial mowers, weed eaters, blowers, 2 side by sides, trash cans, and numerous hand tools.



2024 Accomplishments

New Work and Enhancements

- ▶ Implemented a fertilization, gopher control (100+ ytd), and noxious weed program.
- ▶ Created a daily maintenance schedule to address houseless issues. (requested support from the City of The Dalles Police for enhanced patrols)
- ▶ Repaired the softball fields to playable conditions.
- ▶ Updated signage.



2025 Planned Improvements / Needs

- ▶ Two soccer fields with goals which the high school and college have expressed interest in using.
- ▶ Updated fencing around the entire complex making it a lockable facility.
- ▶ Portable fencing for outfields
- ▶ Removal of in-ground dugouts and replacement with above ground fenced dugouts.



Recap of 2024
The Dalles
Little League
Baseball
Season



Wasco County and
The Dalles Little League



Wasco County & Little League collaborate to clean up Kramer Field"



- Turf Maintenance
- Fence repairs
- Irrigation system maintenance
- Rodent and weed control
- Trash cleanup and hazardous waste removal
- Basic structure maintenance
- Removed 100 yards of sod and dirt
- Spread 50 yards of dirt
- Added 60 yards of red

"This initiative underscores the power of collective action and community engagement," stated Tyler Stone, Wasco County Administrator. "By coming together, we not only improved our recreational facilities but also cultivated a sense of pride around Kramer Fields." -CCC NEWS



Season Recap



- 350 Players (ages 5-13)
- 6 Divisions
- 36 Teams
- 256 Games
- 53 Business Sponsors
- Junior Umpire Program
- Game Night with TDHS
- End of Season Play-Offs
- All-stars

"I drive by Kramer Fields almost every day and what an improvement over the past few years! We have loved playing here this year - good job to all." Nolan - NWCS

2024 In-kind donations from: Northern Wasco PUD, Pray Electric, Root Orchards, Tenneson Orchards, Papa Murphy's Pizza, Isaak & Sons Plumbing, Gorge Collision, Dave Link, Kiwi Fence, and more.





2025 – Looking Forward

- Finalize TDLL Strategic Plan
- Replace field 1 & 2 Dugouts
- Add/Maintain fencing
- Gravel Parking lot & Replace barriers (utility poles from NWCPUD/Wasco Coop)
- Level playing surface on field 1
- Add lights to field 2
- Further develop fields 5 & 6 (Webber St. fields)
- Painting

New in 2025

- Host D5 All-Star Tournament
- Adding youth softball
- Adding Baseball (Junior level)



In 2025, we expect in-kind donations from several local businesses and suppliers to help develop and maintain Kramer Fields.



NEW AT KRAMER IN
2024!
The Dalles Jr. Baseball
Association

Junior Hawks Travel
Baseball

- 8 home games in 2024
- Hosting 2 tournaments

THANK YOU!

