

Section 4

Lane County Action Plan

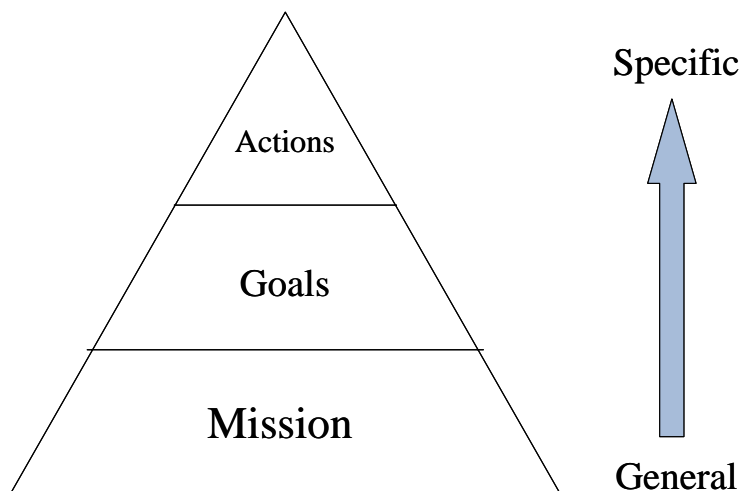
Action Plan Framework

This section provides information on the process used to develop the action plan framework for the Lane County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan. The framework consists of three parts—Mission, Goals, and Action Items:

- **Mission**— The mission statement is a philosophical or value statement that answers the question “Why develop a plan?” In short, the mission states the purpose and defines the primary function of the Lane County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan. The mission is an action-oriented statement of the plan’s reason to exist, and is broad enough that it need not change unless the community environment changes.
- **Goals**— Goals are intended to represent the general ends toward which the Lane County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan is directed. Goals identify how the County intends to work toward mitigating risk from natural hazards. They do not specify how Lane County is to achieve a given level of performance, but serve as guiding principles for the specific recommendations outlined in the action items.
- **Action Items**— Action items are detailed recommendations for activities that local departments, citizens, and others could engage in to reduce natural hazard risk in Lane County.

Figure 4-1 illustrates the framework of the action plan and depicts the level of specificity for each of the action plan components.

Figure 4.1: Framework for Mission, Goals, and Action Items



Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan Mission

A natural hazard mitigation plan's mission should consider the following three questions: 1) who does the plan serve? 2) what are the intentions of the plan? and 3) what can the plan accomplish? The mission statement for the Lane County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan is as follows:

The Lane County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan serves as an educational and technical resource to assist government agencies, community organizations, businesses, and local communities in researching, coordinating and implementing activities that eliminate or mitigate hazards for the protection of people, property, and the environment.

Mitigation Plan Goals

The plan goals help to guide the direction of future activities aimed at reducing risk and preventing losses from natural hazards. The goals listed here serve as the guiding principles for agencies and organizations as they begin implementing action items. Each goal includes a goal statement, which serves to further explain how each of the plan's goals will assist in mitigating the affects of natural hazards within Lane County.

GOAL 1: Save lives and reduce injuries.

Goal Statement: Natural hazards have the potential to cause loss of life and injury to citizens in Lane County. The plan will assist the County in saving lives and reducing injuries by improving the ability of agencies to respond to natural hazards, increasing the disaster resistance of buildings and infrastructure through structural and non-structural mitigation, and promoting awareness of the natural hazards that affect the county.

GOAL 2: Minimize and prevent damage to buildings and infrastructure.

Goal Statement: Natural hazards have the potential to cause damage to buildings and infrastructure. Structures constructed prior to modern building codes are often at the greatest risk of damage from natural hazards. Pre-planning to prioritize structural and non-structural mitigation can help minimize damage to buildings and infrastructure, saving the time, money, and resources that would be used for repairs and reconstruction after a natural hazard event. Such mitigation efforts can assist the County in recovering more effectively and efficiently after the occurrence of a natural hazard.

GOAL 3: Reduce economic loss.

Goal Statement: Local economies can be severely impacted by disasters when local businesses have to close for extended periods of time due to physical and/or infrastructure damages. The plan will assist the County in reducing economic loss by mitigating the impact of natural hazards on Lane County's economic assets, such as large, medium, and small employers, and the recreation and tourism industry. Such mitigation efforts can assist the County in recovering more effectively and efficiently after the occurrence of a natural hazard.

GOAL 4: Decrease disruption of services.

Goal Statement: Natural hazards can impair a community's ability to provide essential services by damaging public infrastructure such as roads, utility and water lines, and buildings that house social services. Minimizing the potential for service disruption will allow the County to continue to function after a disaster and may assist the community in recovering more quickly.

GOAL 5: Protect natural and cultural resources.

Goal Statement: Natural and cultural resources play an important role in defining Lane County and may be irreplaceable if severely impacted by disasters. The plan will assist the County in planning to protect natural and cultural resources, such as historic structures and Native American sites, by using mitigation to minimize minimizing the potential for losses.

GOAL 6: Increase awareness and understanding of the hazards and risks in Lane County.

Goal Statement: Conducting outreach to educate and inform the public about the natural hazards that affect Lane County helps create an informed citizenry. Keeping the public aware of the effects of natural hazards and the County's efforts to mitigate those effects assists the public in understanding, preparing for, and responding to natural hazard events.

Mitigation Plan Action Items

The plan identifies action items developed through various plan inputs, data collection and research. The action items identified by the plan are intended to move the County toward achieving the plan's goals. The activities identified in the plan may be considered for funding through a number of local, state, and federal programs, including the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and Pre-Disaster Mitigation Competitive Grant Program. Action items address both multi-hazard (MH) and hazard-specific issues for the hazards addressed in this plan.

To facilitate implementation, each action item is described in a worksheet, which includes information on key issues addressed, ideas for implementation, coordinating and partner organizations, timeline, and plan goals addressed.

Rationale or Key Issues Addressed:

Each action item includes a list of the key issues or the rationale that supports the proposed activity. Action items should be fact-based and tied directly to issues or needs identified through the planning process. Input for action items can come from a number of sources, including participants in the planning process, noted deficiencies in local capabilities, or issues identified through the risk assessment.

Ideas for Implementation:

Each action item includes ideas for implementation and potential resources. This information offers a transition from theory to practice. The ideas for implementation serve as a starting point for this plan. This component is dynamic in nature, as some ideas may be not feasible, and new ideas may be added during the plan maintenance process. (For more information on how this plan will be implemented and evaluated, refer to Section 5: Plan Implementation and Maintenance).

Action items are suggestions about how to implement plan goals. These include elements such as collaboration with relevant organizations, grant programs, tax incentives, human resources, education and outreach, research, and physical manipulation of buildings and infrastructure. A list of potential resources outlines which organization or agency would be most qualified and capable of performing the implementation strategy.

Coordinating Organization:

The coordinating organization is the organization that is willing and able to organize resources, find appropriate funding, and oversee activity implementation, monitoring, and evaluation.

Internal Partners:

Internal partners are those County departments or divisions that may be able to assist in the implementation of action items by providing relevant resources to the coordinating organization.

External Partners:

External partner organizations can assist the coordinating organization in implementing the action items in various ways. Partners may include local, regional, state, or federal agencies, as well as local and regional public and private entities.

The internal and external partner organizations listed in the plan are potential partners recommended by the project steering committee, but were not necessarily contacted during the development of the plan. The

coordinating organization should contact the identified partner organizations to see if they are capable of and willing to participate. This initial contact also provides an opportunity to gain a commitment of time and/or resources toward completion of the action items.

Timeline:

Action items include either short-term, long-term, or ongoing activities. Each action item contains an estimated timeline for implementation. *Short-term action items* are activities that may be implemented with existing resources and authorities in one to two years. *Long-term action items* may require new or additional resources and/or authorities, and may take from one to five years to implement.

Planning Process

Identifying the Plan Mission, Goals, and Action Items:

In a series of meetings in July and August 2005, the Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan Steering Committee members met to identify the plan's mission, goals, and action items. To accomplish this task, Steering Committee members reviewed the work that had been completed in Phase Two of the County's natural hazards mitigation planning to determine if the work produced still offered a relevant and accurate assessment of the County's situation and levels of risk.

In addition, Steering Committee members examined the action items proposed in Phase Two (the risk assessment phase completed by Goettel & Associates in 2003) to determine if they were feasible and appropriate in assisting the County in meeting the plan's identified goals. The Steering Committee also identified several new actions based on current issues and needs. After identifying the plan's action items, coordinating agencies were assigned to each action. The Oregon Natural Hazards Workgroup worked with each assigned coordinating agency to complete worksheets for each action item.

Action Plan Matrix

The Action Plan matrix portrays the overall action plan framework and identifies links between the plan goals and action. The matrix documents a description of the action, the coordinating organization, timeline, and the plan goals addressed. Each action item has a corresponding action item worksheet describing the activity, identifying the rationale for the project, potential ideas for implementation, and assigning coordinating and partner organizations. These action item worksheets are located at the end of this section following the Action Plan Matrix.