

# Section 1: Introduction

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## Plan Purpose

Natural hazard mitigation is defined as permanently reducing or alleviating the losses of life, property and injuries resulting from natural hazards through long and short-term strategies.

The mission of the Eastern Oregon University Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan is to create a disaster resilient Eastern Oregon University through partnerships and sustainable mitigation efforts to prevent loss, protect life, property and the environment from natural hazards.

Broadly there are three reasons to write a natural hazard mitigation plan:

- By identifying natural hazard issues now and mitigating them, the campus becomes better prepared and is impacted less when an event does occur.
- With a FEMA-approved natural hazard mitigation plan, the campus is eligible to receive FEMA mitigation grant funding.
- The plan forms the framework the campus can use to collectively deal with the natural hazard issues identified.

## Mitigation Policy Background

The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) addressing mitigation planning and reinforces the importance of mitigation planning and emphasizes planning for natural hazards before they occur. As such, this Act established the Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) grant program and new requirements for the national post-disaster Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). These grant programs are only offered to entities with FEMA-approved and adopted natural hazard mitigation plans. PDM funds mitigation projects prior to a disaster event, and the HMGP provides mitigation funding after a federally declared natural disaster.

In the early 2000's FEMA also introduced the Disaster Resistant University (DRU) program. The DRU program funded university planning efforts to create disaster mitigation plans. The DRU program merged with the PDM program in 2006.

If a campus has a FEMA-approved natural hazard mitigation plan, it is eligible for both PDM and HMGP funding. These funding streams provide

an opportunity for campuses to implement natural hazard mitigation projects such as seismically retrofitting high risk campus buildings, implementing non-structural retrofits at university owned or operated child care facilities, or maintaining tree maintenance program to prevent trees from becoming hazards during wind or winter storms.

## Plan Development

The Oregon Partnership for Disaster Resilience (OPDR) at the University of Oregon's Community Service Center received a HMGP grant (DR-1733-HMGP-0010-P) to fund OUS schools' natural hazard mitigation planning processes. The planning effort for the OUS campuses was organized under OPDR's new Disaster Resilient University program area, which is based on FEMA's initial DRU program. Eastern Oregon University worked with OPDR in developing this natural hazard mitigation plan.

Eastern Oregon University took the lead to develop the first sections of the NHMP. OPDR provided the campus staff with print and web-based resources. Then, in 2012, due to staff changes Eastern Oregon University requested that OPDR and UO Emergency Management and Continuity take a project management role to support the development of the NHMP.

The planning process was designed to: (1) result in a plan that is DMA 2000 compliant; (2) coordinate with the state of Oregon's Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan; (3) build a campus network that can play an active role in plan implementation, and (4) build upon the Disaster Resistant University initiative. The following is a summary of major activities included in the planning process.

## Steering Committee

Eastern Oregon University convened a steering committee to oversee the NHMP development process. The steering committee had the following representatives:

- David Lageson, Director of Facilities and Planning
- Lon Whitaker, Vice President for Finance and Administration
- Laura Hancock, University Advancement
- Colleen Dunne-Cascio, Student Affairs
- Bryon Pearson, IT
- Ken Watson, Perce Library
- Stephen Jenkins Housing and Student Involvement
- Linda Overlock, Housing
- Pat Arnson, Disability Services
- Lara Moore, Finance and Administration
- Teresa Mastrude, Finance and Administration, Risk Management
- Bill Benson, Facilities and Planning
- Don Adams, Facilities and Planning

- Tim Seydel, Vice President for Admission and Advancement
- Tim Wilson, Director of Enterprise Systems

Several meetings were held to facilitate the development of this NHMP.

August 11, 2011, Campus Convener meeting

- Review the NHMP requirements and the role of the Steering Committee with campus convener.

August 20, 2012, Steering Committee

- Review the NHMP requirements and the role of the Steering Committee.
- Review campus profile
- Risk Assessment work-session to discuss specific and relevant hazards
- Determine NHMP Mission and Goals
- Preliminary action item discussion

Documentation of Steering Committee meetings provided in Appendix B.

## How is the Plan Organized?

### Section 1: Introduction

The Introduction briefly describes the mitigation planning efforts and the methodology used to develop the plan.

### Section 2: Campus Profile

This section provides an overall description of the campus. The section includes a brief campus profile, discussion of the administrative structure, listing of existing plans and policies, and a summary of existing mitigation actions. This section allows readers to gain an understanding of the campus's sensitivities – those assets and characteristics that may be impacted by natural hazards, as well as the campus's resilience – the ability to manage risk and adapt to hazard event impacts.

### Section 3: Risk Assessment

This section identifies and characterizes the natural hazards that might impact the campus and assesses the risk those natural hazards pose. The risk assessment forms the rationale for the mitigation strategies.

The following hazards are addressed in this portion of the plan: 1) Earthquake; 2) Wildfire; 3) Severe weather (windstorm and winter storm).

### Section 4: Mission, Goals and Action Items

This section documents the plan mission, goals, and actions and also describes the components that guide implementation of the identified mitigation strategies. Actions are based on campus sensitivity and resilience factors and the hazard assessments in the Hazard Annexes.

## **Section 5: Plan Implementation and Maintenance**

This section provides information on the implementation and maintenance of the plan. It describes the process for prioritizing projects, and includes a suggested list of tasks for updating the plan to be completed at the semi-annual and 5-year review meetings.

### **Resource Appendices**

The resource appendices are designed to provide the users of the campus Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan with additional information to assist them in understanding the contents of the mitigation plan, and provide them with potential resources to assist with plan implementation.

#### **Appendix A: Action Item Forms**

This appendix contains the detailed action item forms for each of the mitigation strategies identified in the plan.

#### **Appendix B: Planning and Public Process**

This appendix includes documentation of the public processes utilized to develop the plan. It includes invitation lists, agendas, sign-in sheets, and summaries of steering committee meetings as well as any other campus involvement methods.

#### **Appendix C: Economic Analysis of Natural Hazards Mitigation Projects**

This appendix describes the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) requirements for benefit cost analysis in natural hazards mitigation, as well as various approaches for conducting economic analysis of proposed mitigation activities. This appendix was developed by OPDR. It has been reviewed and accepted by the Federal Emergency Management Agency as a means of documenting how the prioritization of actions shall include a special emphasis on the extent to which benefits are maximized according to a cost benefit review of the proposed projects and their associated costs.

#### **Appendix D: Resource Directory**

This appendix lists state and federal resources and grant programs.