

# Section 4:

## Mission, Goals, and Action Items

This section introduces the goal and action item framework for the Eastern Oregon University Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan. The framework consists of three parts – Mission, Goals and Action Items:

### Mission

The Eastern Oregon University is a community of scholars dedicated to the highest standards of academic inquiry, learning, and service. To carry out its missions, the university must be able to provide a safe environment for students, staff, faculty and visitors, and must be able to recover quickly from any disaster that might jeopardize its functioning. The mission statement is a philosophical or value statement that answers the question “Why develop a plan?” The mission statement for the Eastern Oregon University Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan is:

*Creating a disaster resilient Eastern Oregon University through partnerships and sustainable mitigation efforts to prevent loss, protect life, property and the environment from natural hazards.*

In doing so, the university will be better prepared to protect lives, essential functions, and the physical campus, and to withstand, respond and recover from a disaster.

### Goals

Goals are designed to drive actions and are intended to represent the general end toward which the university’s effort is directed. Goals also identify how the university intends to work toward mitigating risk from natural hazards. The goals are guiding principles for the specific recommendations that are outlined in the action items. The Steering Committee chose to align the campus plan goals with those in the Union County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan.

**GOAL 1: Protect human welfare, property, and natural resources**

**GOAL 2: Safeguard the campus’ economic footprint**

**GOAL 3: Increase education, outreach and awareness**

**GOAL 4: Strengthen organizational capacity**

**GOAL 5: Document and evaluate the university’s progress in achieving hazard mitigation.**

# Action Items

The action items are detailed recommendations for activities that the university and its partners could engage in to reduce risk to natural hazards. The action items address the issues identified in the risk assessment and the values identified in the planning process.

Eastern Oregon University identified the following action items:

1. Evaluate the vulnerability of campus utilities
2. Assess the structural vulnerability of building stock by qualified engineers
3. Develop a campus-wide storm water management plan
4. Develop a campus-wide strategy to implement non-structural mitigation practices
5. Evaluate wildfire risks to EOU campus facilities
6. Maintain campus tree inventory
7. Explore opportunities to incorporate more drought resistant landscaping on campus
8. Identify funding to conduct a detailed landslide risk assessment.
9. Develop public awareness information campaigns for incoming and current students, focusing on pertinent information regarding natural hazards, the campus and what students can do to reduce their own risk
10. Develop outreach strategies for educating faculty and staff about ways they can reduce risk to personal space and intellectual property (i.e., non-structural mitigation practices for offices, data back-up practices)
11. Strengthen campus preparedness and response through partnerships with local first responders
12. When possible, incorporate mitigation into daily operations, plans and policies

Each action item has an action item worksheet (Appendix E) describing the activity, identifying the rationale for the project, identifying potential ideas for implementation, and assigning coordinating and partner organizations. The action item worksheets can assist the Eastern Oregon University in pre-packaging potential projects for grant funding. The worksheet components are described below.

## **Alignment with Plan Goals**

Each action item has to be tied to a plan goal. The plan goals addressed by each action item are identified as a means for monitoring and evaluating how well the mitigation plan is achieving its goals in the implementation phase.

## **Alignment with Existing Plans and Policies**

Incorporating mitigation action items into existing plans and policies, such as capital improvement plans, will increase the likelihood that it will be implemented.

## **Rationale**

Action items should be fact-based and tied directly to issues or needs identified throughout the planning process. Each action item includes a summary of the critical issues that the item will address. Issues were identified from a number of sources, including participants of the planning process, noted deficiencies in campus capability, and the risk assessment.

## **Ideas for Implementation**

The ideas for implementation offer a transition from theory to practice. This component of the action items is dynamic, as some ideas may be not feasible and new ideas can be added during the plan maintenance process (for more information on how this plan will be implemented and evaluated, refer to Section 5: Maintenance and Implementation).

The university has existing plans and policies that guide and influence business and academic practices, facility use and safety procedures. Plans and policies already in existence have support from the various departments across campus as well as students and faculty and are an effective means of implementing emergency management activities. These plans and policies get updated regularly, and can adapt easily to changing conditions and needs.

## **Coordinating Organization**

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

## **Internal Partners**

Internal partners are groups within the university 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, outside EOU, can assist the coordinating organization in implementing the action items in various functions and

may include local, regional, state, or federal agencies, as well as local and regional public and private sector organizations.

## **Timeline**

Action items include both short and long-term activities. Each action item includes an estimate of the timeline for implementation. *Short-term action items* are activities that may be implemented with existing resources and authorities within one to two years. *Long-term action items* may require new or additional resources and/or authorities, and may take between two and five years to implement. Ongoing actions are actions that do not necessarily end at a given point in time.

## **Status**

As action items are implemented or new ones are created during the plan maintenance process, it is important to indicate the status of the action item – whether it is new, ongoing, or complete. Documenting the status of the action, whether completed, ongoing or new will make reviewing and updating mitigation plan easier during the plan’s next update, and can be used as a benchmark for progress.