

Natural Hazard Action Item Proposal Form

Proposed Action Item:		Alignment with Plan Goals:	
Complete Continuity of Operations Plans (COOPs) within all interested municipalities		Strengthen Organizational and Community Capacity	
Rationale for Proposed Action Item:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Government is the largest employer in NE Oregon ○ As of yet, no municipality in Eastern Oregon has identified a back-up plan in case of disaster. ○ City and County services in Region 7 are typically relegated to one central building; should earthquake or any other natural disaster interrupt the functioning of these buildings, municipal operations would cease to function. ○ Economic resilience to natural disasters is particularly important for the major employment sectors in the region. If these sectors are negatively impacted by a natural hazard, such that employment is affected, the impact will be felt throughout the regional economy. Thus, understanding and addressing the sensitivities of these sectors is a strategic way to increase the resiliency of the entire regional economy. The three sectors in the Northeast region with the most employees in 2004 were Government (18%), Retail Trade (11%), and Farm (11%). ○ Percent of County employment working for government by county: Baker: 14%; Grant: 23%; Union: 18%; Wallowa: 15%. ○ A Continuity of Operations Plan establishes policy and guidance to ensure the execution of the organization's most essential functions in any event that requires the relocation of selected personnel and functions to an alternate facility. Source: Oregon Natural Hazards Workgroup (ONHW). Cannon Beach Case Study Report. July 2006. Community Service Center, University of Oregon. Eugene, OR. ○ Research has shown that staff turnover is likely to occur after a disaster, and veteran staff is critical after a disaster. Developing a continuity of operations plan will help prevent turnover so that existing personnel do not have to take on extra responsibilities during an already stressful time. In addition, continuity planning can help lesson turnover by ensuring competitive salaries and benefits and by reducing the amount of stress that staff will have to endure. Source: Oregon Natural Hazards Workgroup (ONHW). Cannon Beach Case Study Report. July 2006. Community Service Center, University of Oregon. Eugene, OR. 			
Ideas for Implementation:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Require public sector employees to take the FEMA Independent Study Program: Continuity of Operations Course (online). The course provides a fundamental understanding of continuity of operations plans, terms, objectives, and benefits to public sector departments and agencies. It also provides information on how a COOP event might affect employees, the department/agency and an employee's family. ○ Distribute the FEMA continuity of operations self-assessment tool to cities throughout the region. ○ Review existing COOP plans and begin to establish county benchmarks for increasing recovery potential. 			
Coordinating Organization:		City Managers and/or Mayors; County Clerks/Administrators	
Internal Partners:		External Partners:	
Relevant Public Works and Emergency Services / Emergency Management, City of Halfway		Department of Homeland Security, County Roads Departments, ODOT, relevant private industries	
Timeline:		If available, estimated cost:	
<u>Short Term</u> (0-2 years)	<u>Long Term</u> (2-4 or more years)		
Short Term			

Form Submitted by:

RARE Participant