

# Appendix G

## Community Profiles

### **Baker**

- Community Sensitivity and Resilience
- Existing Plans and Policies
- Community Organizations
- Baker County Fact Sheet

### **Grant**

- Community Sensitivity and Resilience
- Existing Plans and Policies
- Community Organizations
- Grant County Fact Sheet

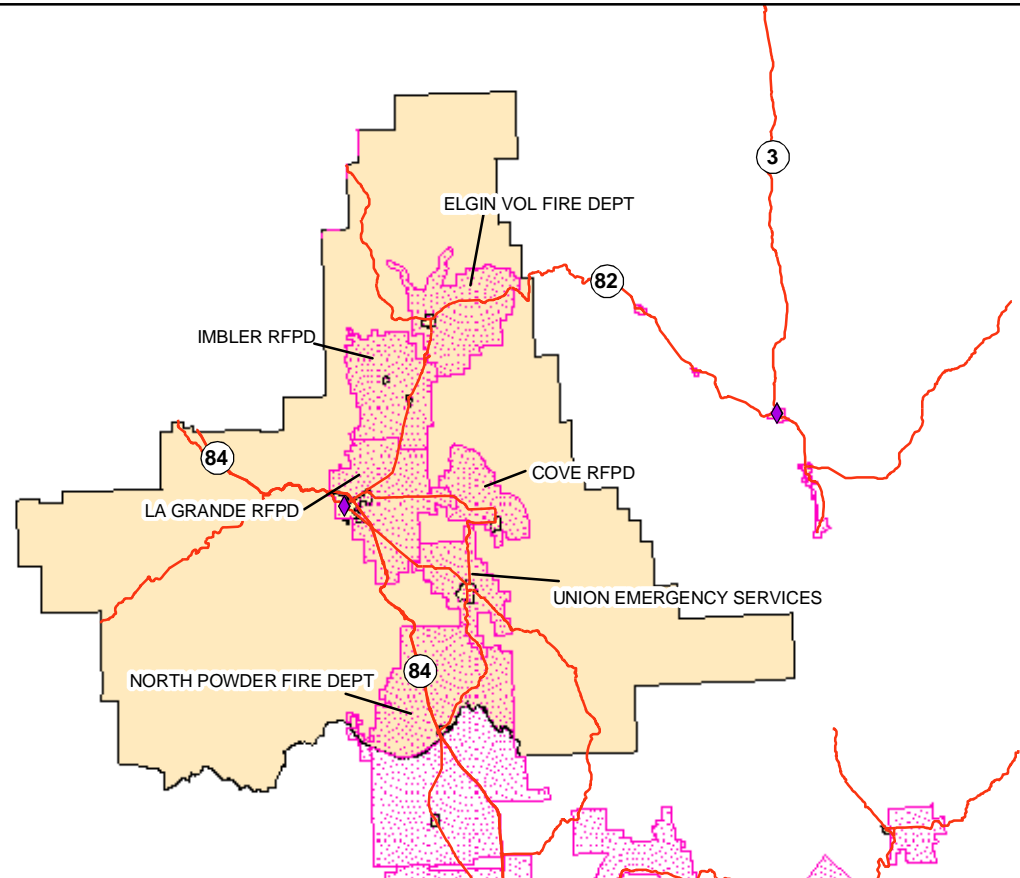
### **Union**

- Community Sensitivity and Resilience
- Existing Plans and Policies
- Community Organizations
- Union County Fact Sheet

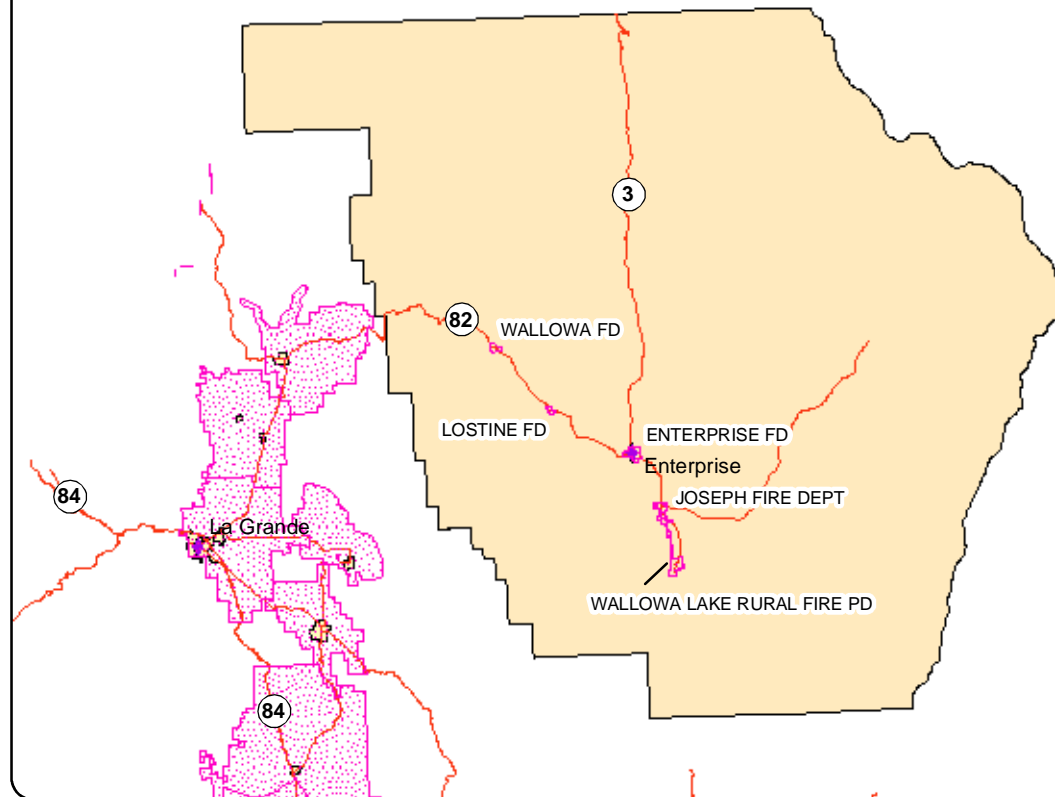
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- Community Sensitivity and Resilience
- Existing Plans and Policies
- Community Organizations
- Wallowa County Fact Sheet

## Union



## Wallowa



# Northeast Oregon Natural Hazard Risk Reduction Plan

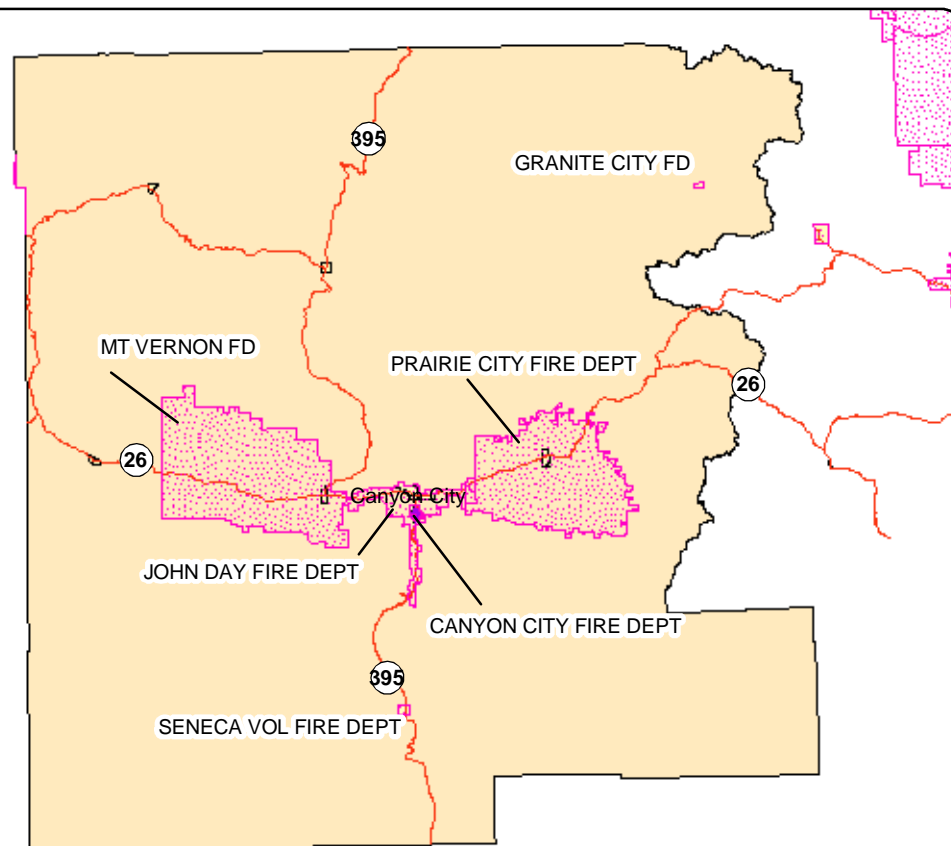
## Rural Fire Protection Districts

### Legend

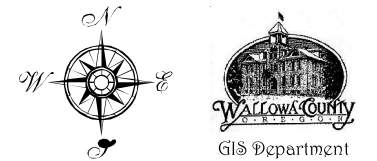
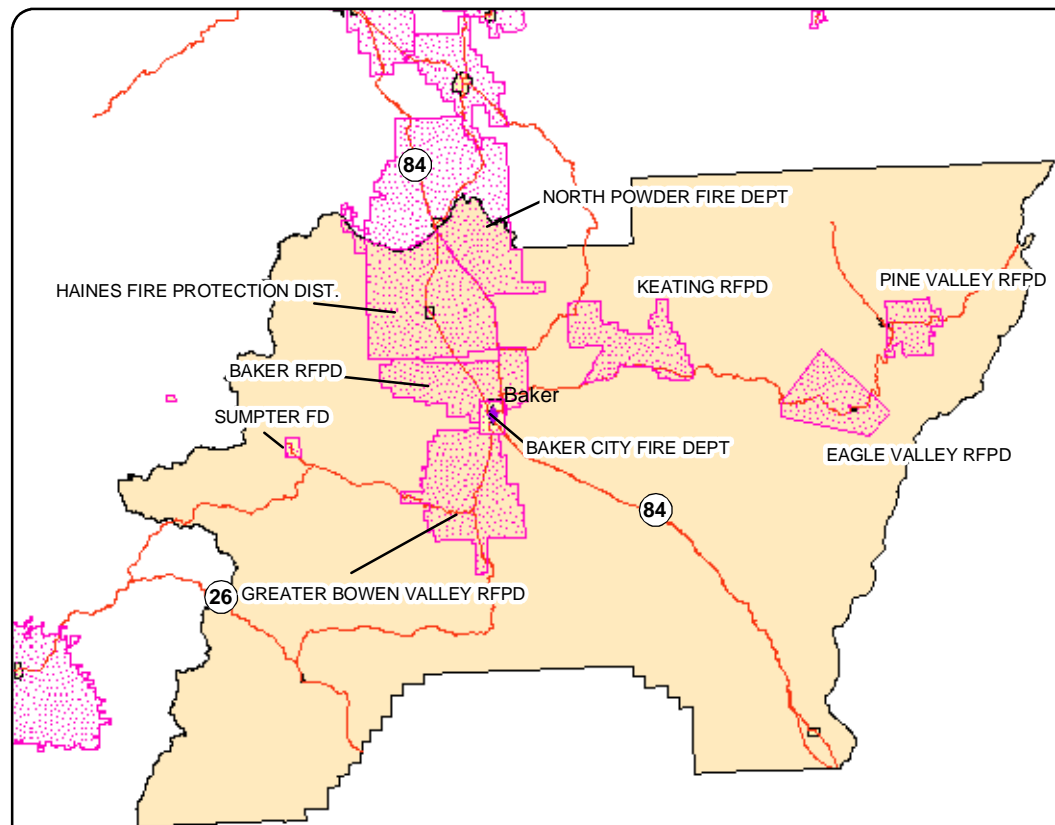
- County Seats
- Roads
- Fire Districts
- City Boundary
- County Area

0 3.75 7.5 15 22.5 30 Miles

## Grant



## Baker



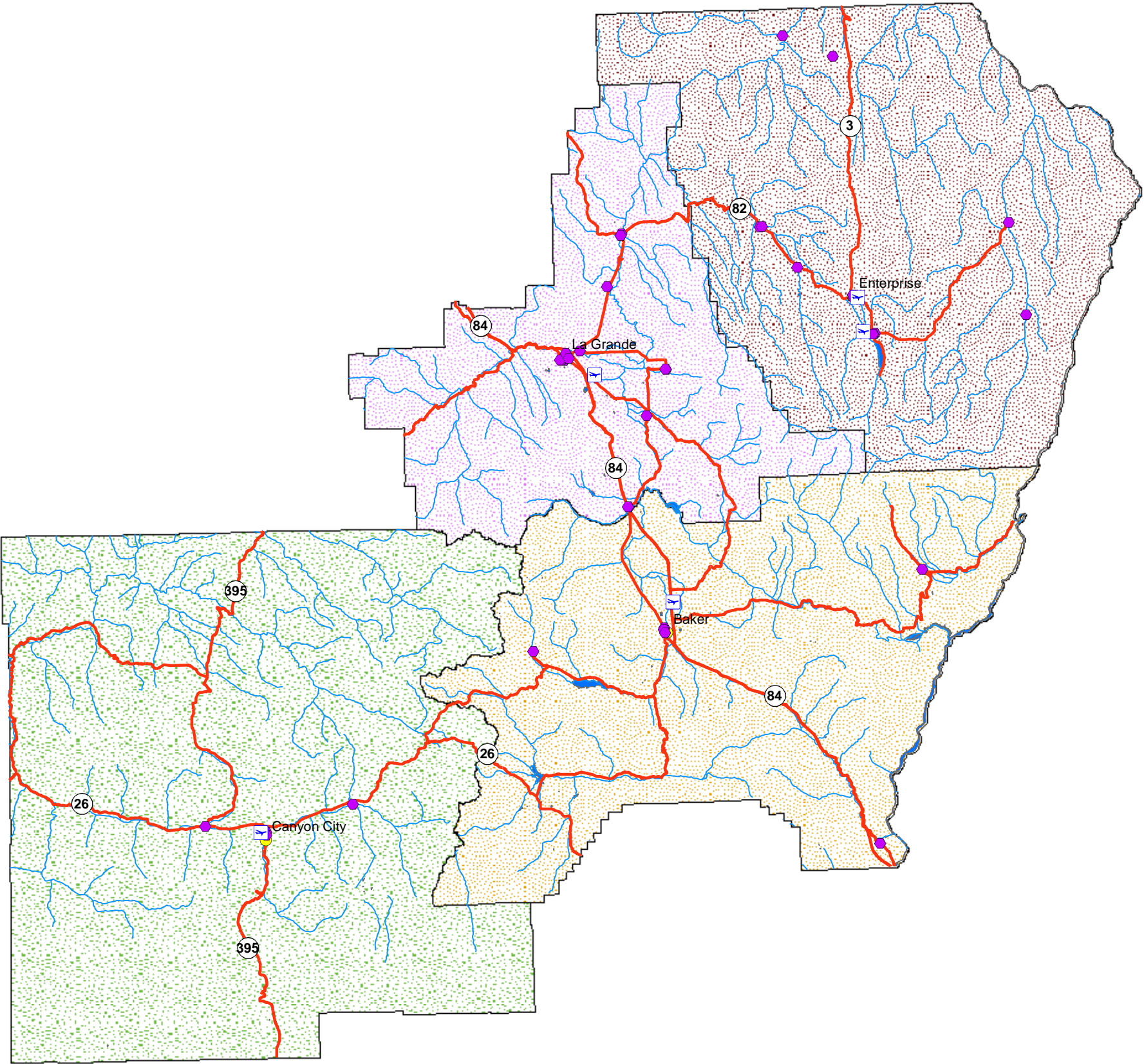
Data Sources: County and City boundaries and county seats are from the Oregon Geospatial Data Clearinghouse. Rural fire protection districts are maintained by Oregon Department of Forestry. Roads are from Oregon Department of Transportation.

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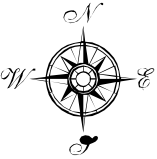
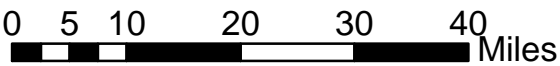
# Northeast Oregon Natural Hazard Risk Reduction Plan

## Essential Facilities



**Legend**

- Airstrips
- Schools
- County Seats
- Roads
- Streams
- Lakes
- Baker
- Grant
- Union
- Wallowa

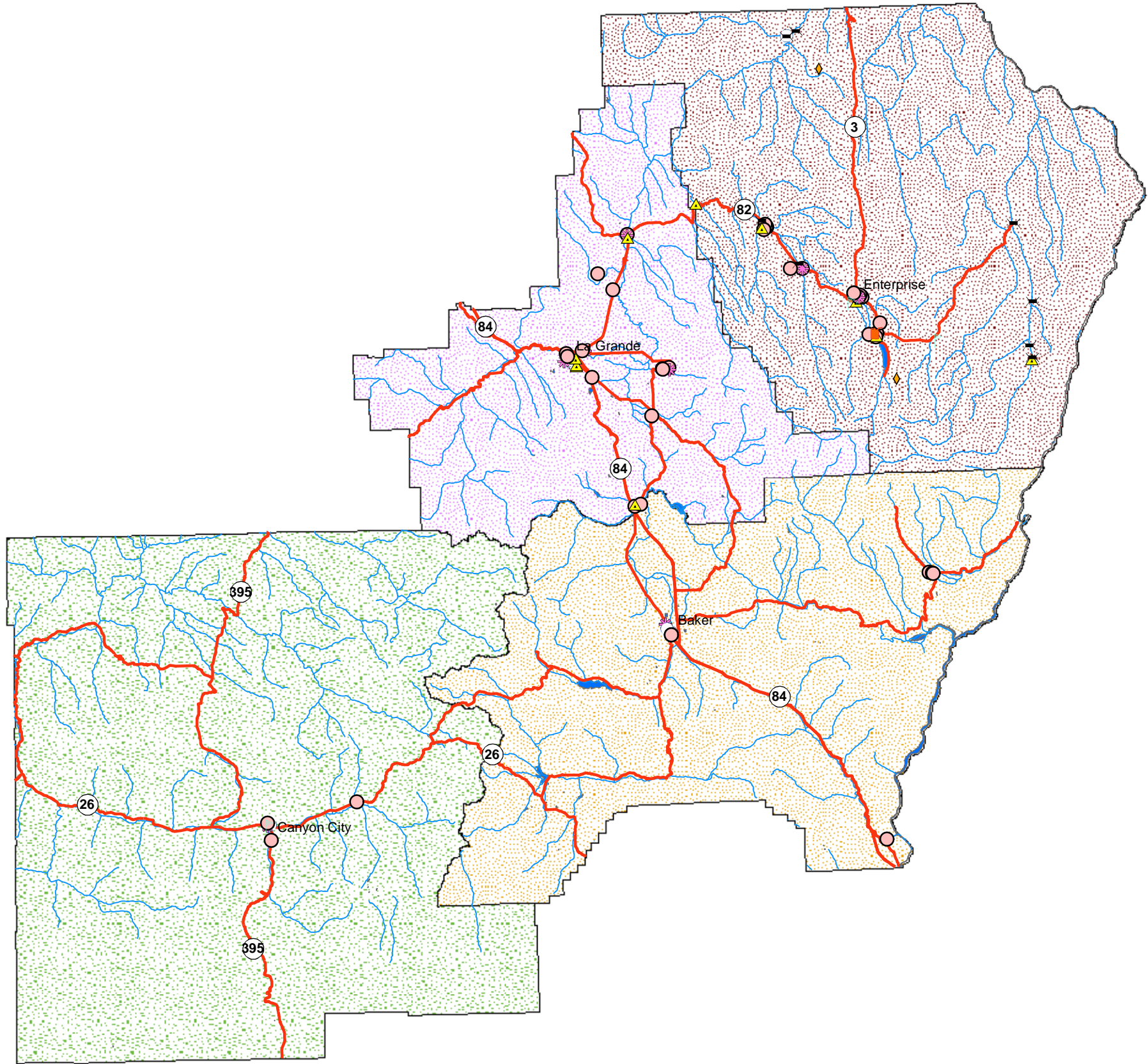


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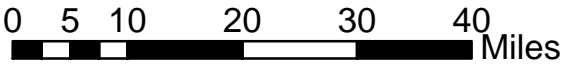
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# Northeast Oregon Natural Hazard Risk Reduction Plan Critical Facilities



**Legend**

- Bridge
- City Facility
- Communications
- County Facility
- Emergency
- Fuel
- Law Enforcement
- Power
- County Seats
- Roads
- Streams
- Lakes
- Baker
- Grant
- Union
- Wallowa

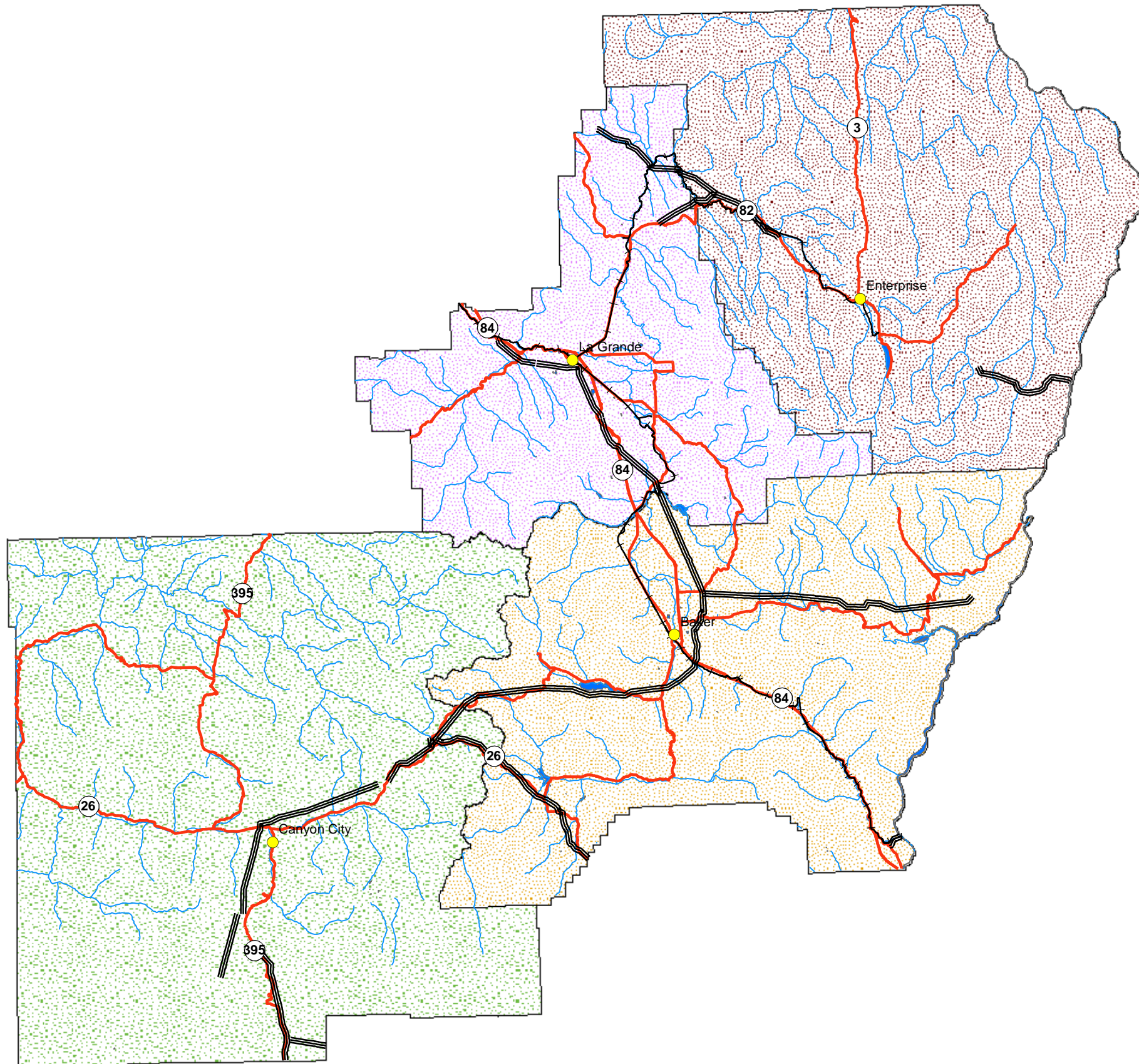


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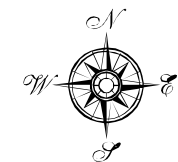
# Northeast Oregon Natural Hazard Risk Reduction Plan Infrastructure



## Legend

- County Seats
- Utility Lines
- Railroads
- Roads
- Streams
- Lakes
- Baker
- Grant
- Union
- Wallowa

0 5 10 20 30 40 Miles

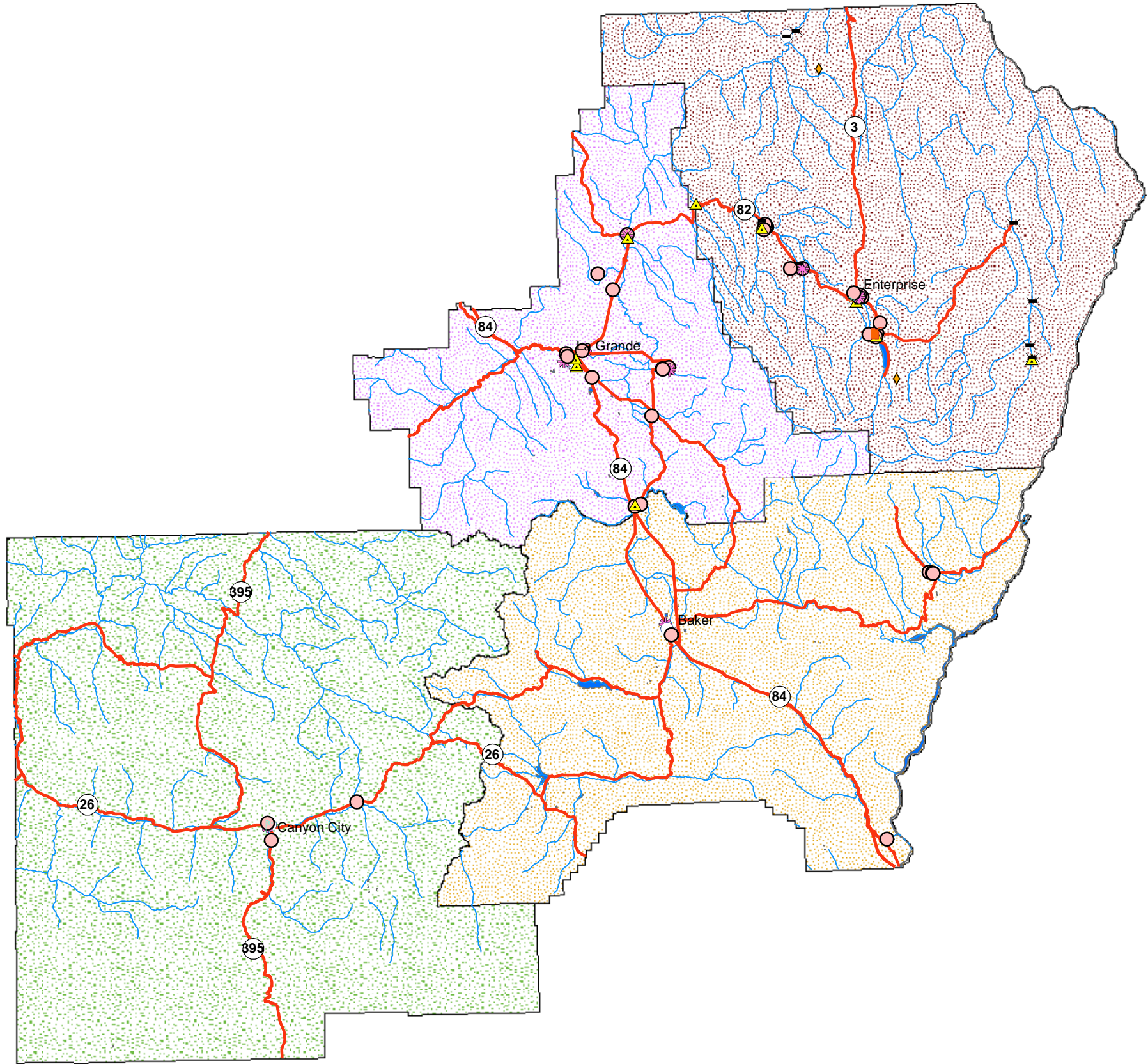


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# Northeast Oregon Natural Hazard Risk Reduction Plan Critical Facilities



- Legend**
- ✕ Bridge
  - City Facility
  - ◆ Communications
  - County Facility
  - ✿ Emergency
  - Fuel
  - ⚡ Law Enforcement
  - ⚡ Power
  - County Seats
  - Roads
  - Streams
  - Lakes
  - Baker
  - Grant
  - Union
  - Wallowa

0 5 10 20 30 40 Miles



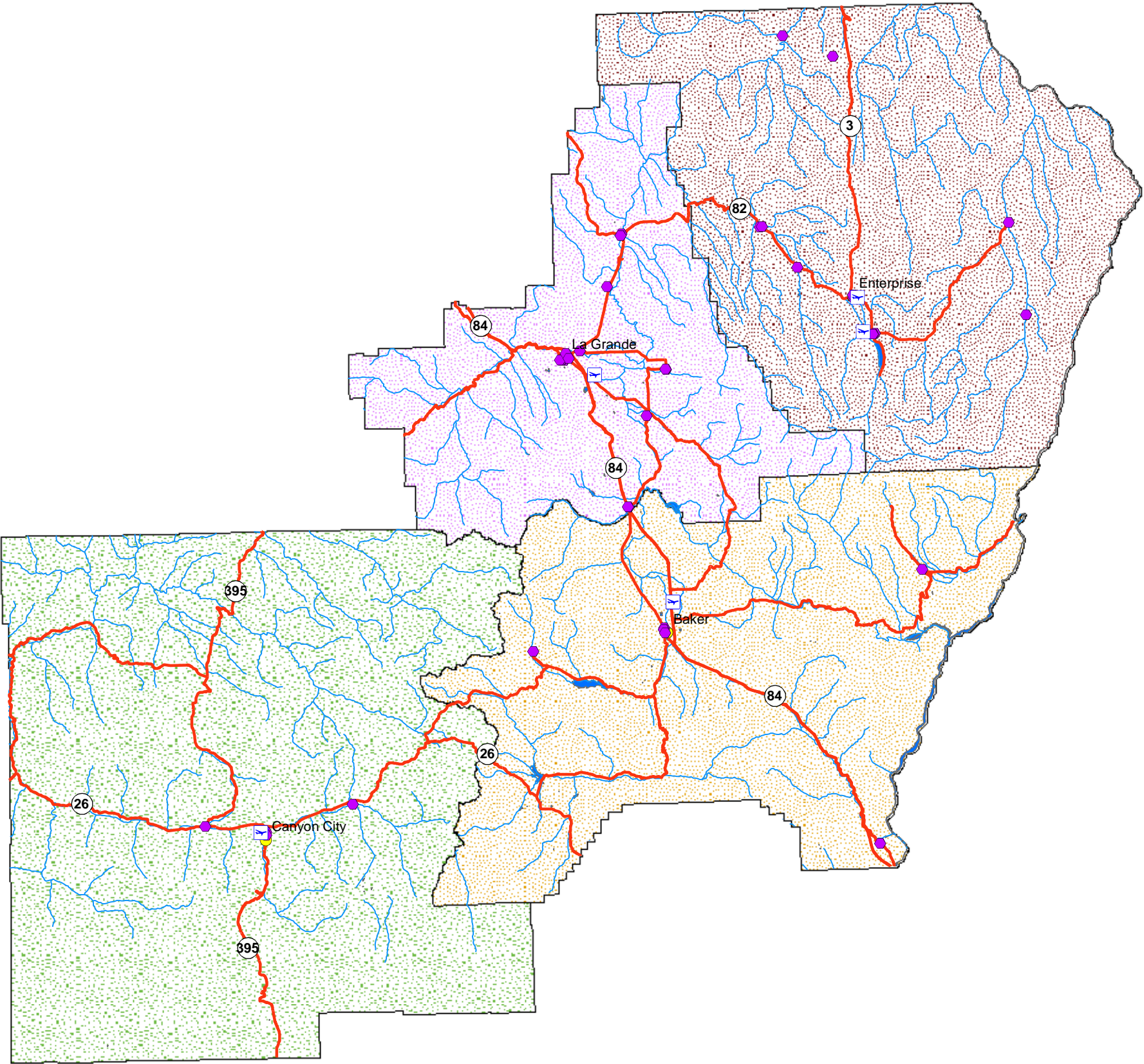
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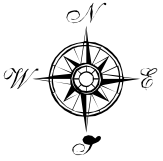
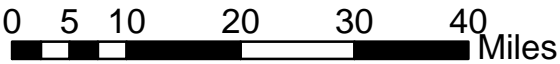
# Northeast Oregon Natural Hazard Risk Reduction Plan

## Essential Facilities



**Legend**

- Airports
- Schools
- County Seats
- Roads
- Streams
- Lakes
- Baker
- Grant
- Union
- Wallowa

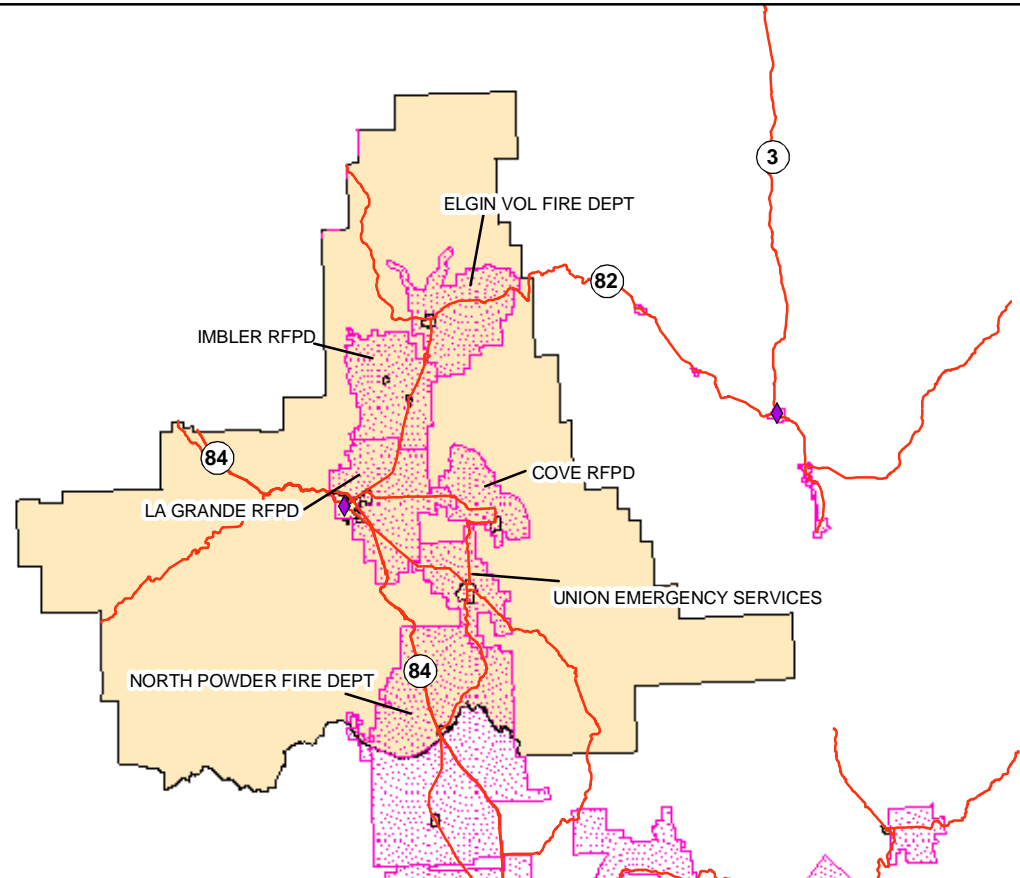


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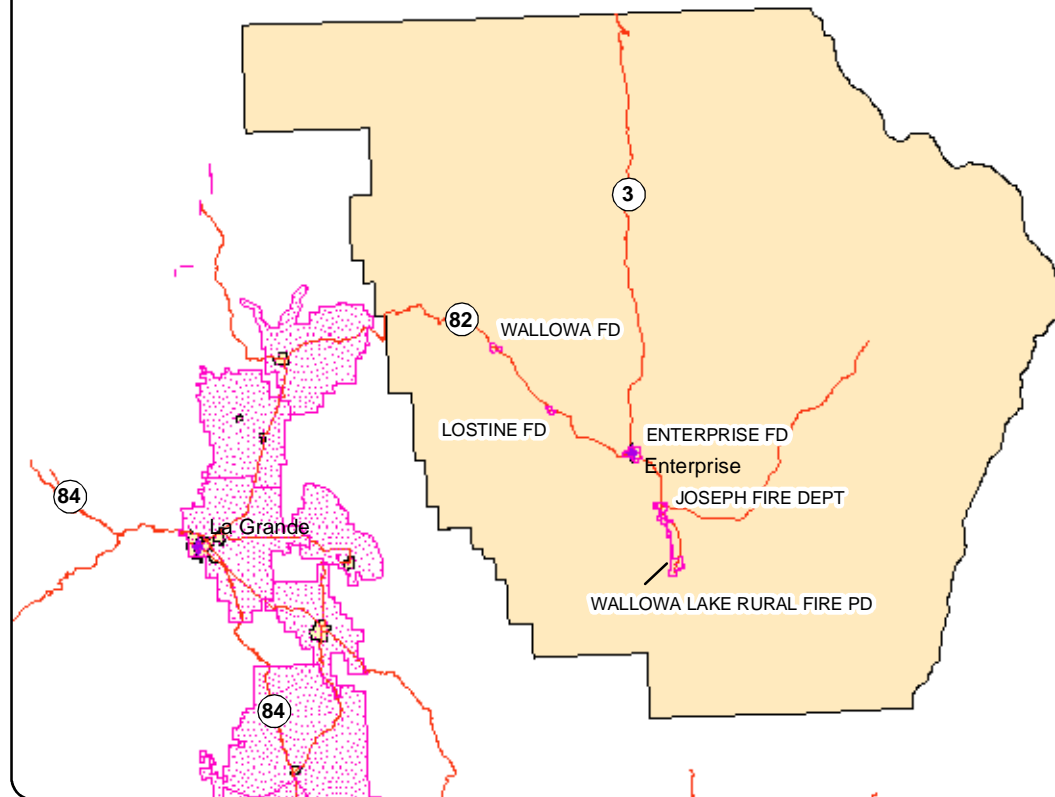
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## Union



## Wallowa



# Northeast Oregon Natural Hazard Risk Reduction Plan

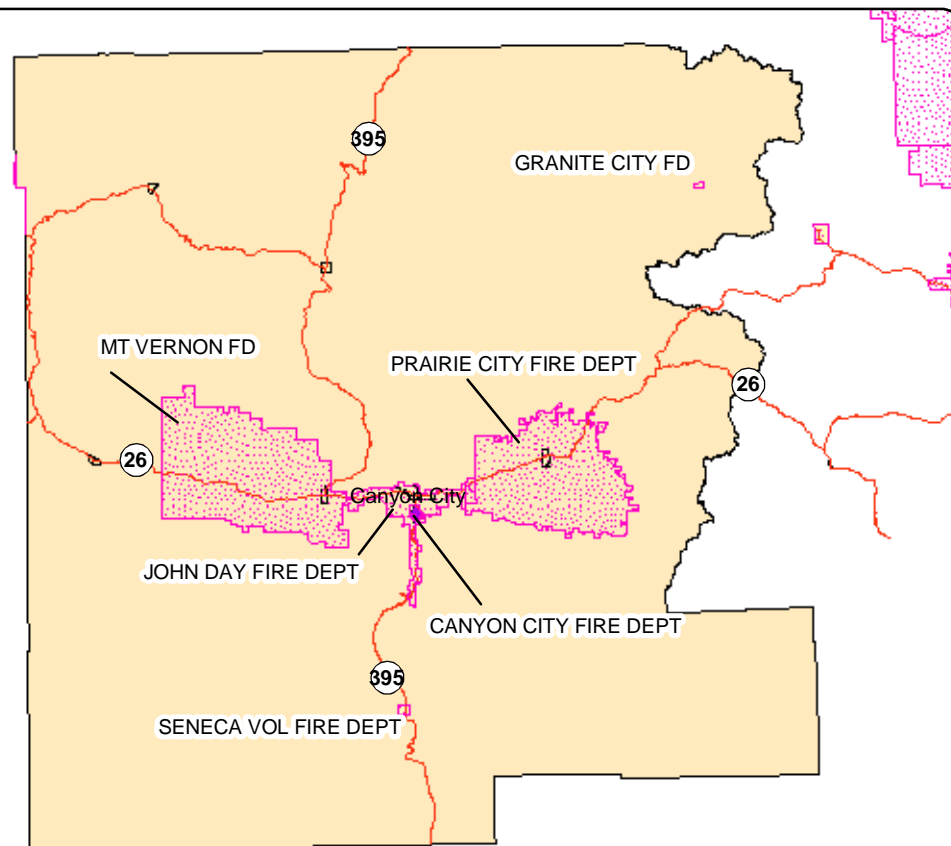
## Rural Fire Protection Districts

### Legend

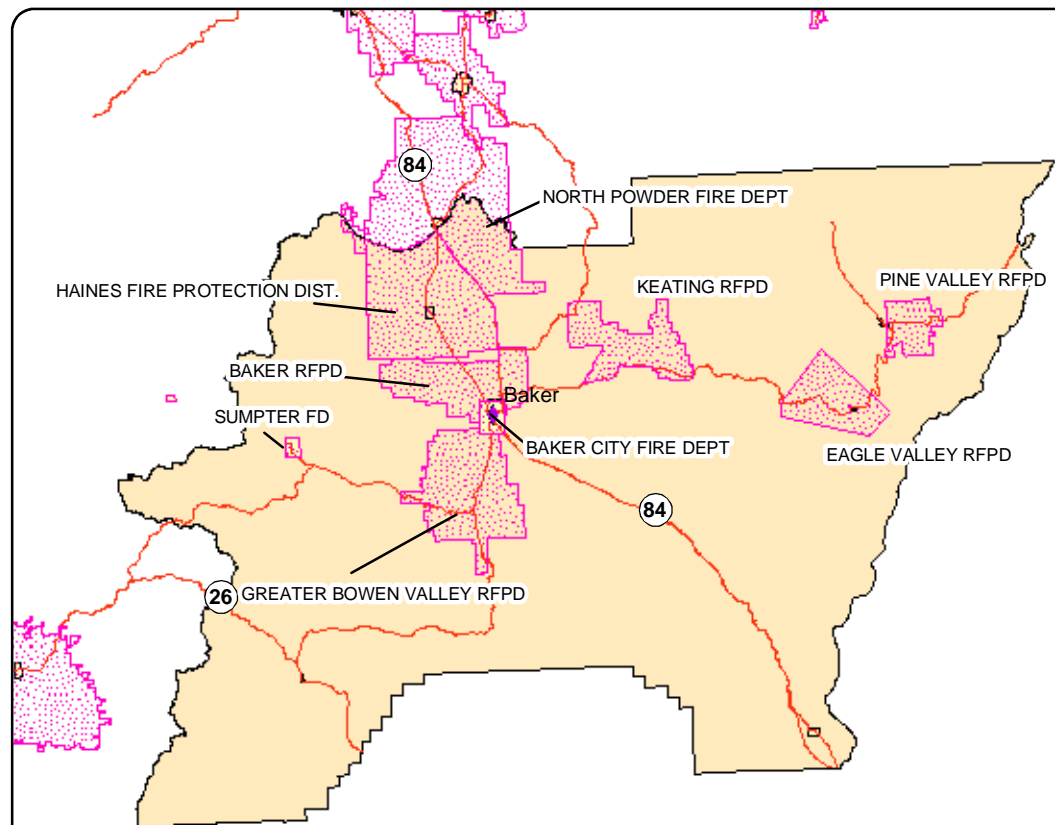
- County Seats
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- Fire Districts
- City Boundary
- County Area

0 3.75 7.5 15 22.5 30 Miles

## Grant



## Baker

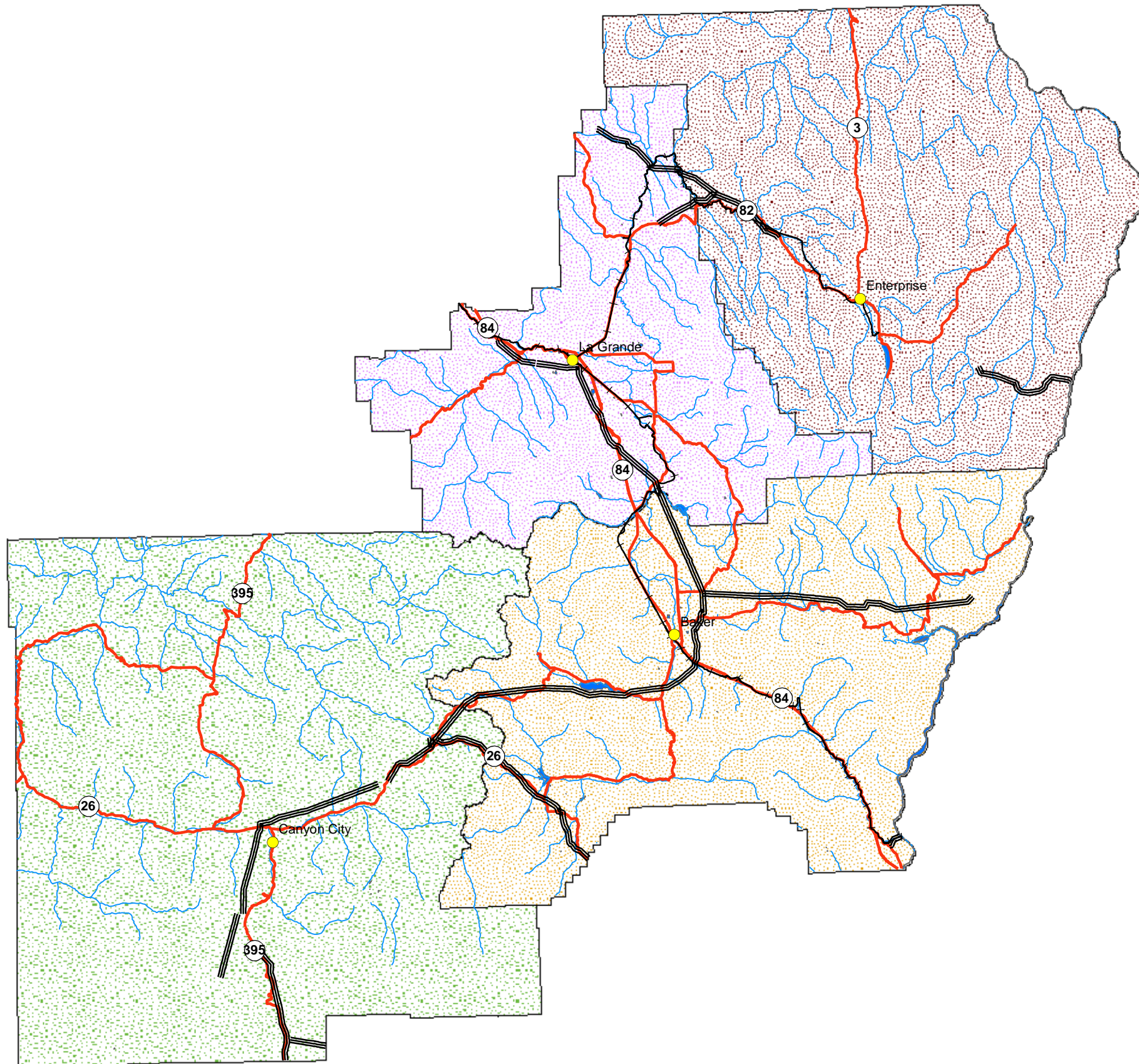


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# Northeast Oregon Natural Hazard Risk Reduction Plan Infrastructure



## Legend

- County Seats
- Utility Lines
- Railroads
- Roads
- Streams
- Lakes
- Baker
- Grant
- Union
- Wallowa

0 5 10 20 30 40 Miles



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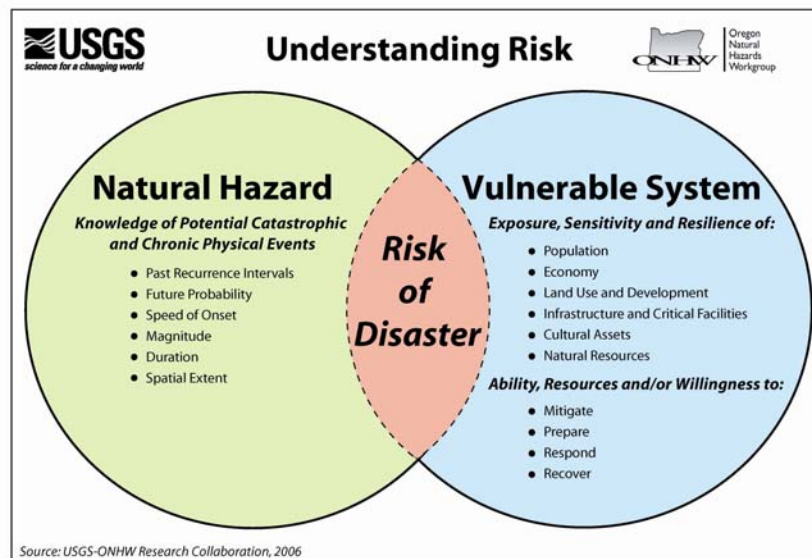
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# Baker County

## Community Sensitivity and Resilience

This section documents the community's sensitivity factors, or those community assets and characteristics that may be impacted by natural hazards, (e.g., special populations, economic factors, and historic and cultural resources). It also identifies the community's resilience factors, or the community's ability to manage risk and adapt to hazard event impacts (e.g., governmental structure, agency missions and directives, and plans, policies, and programs). The information in this section represents a snapshot in time of the current sensitivity and resilience factors in the community when the plan was developed. The information documented below, along with the findings of the risk assessment, should be used as the local level rationale for the risk reduction actions identified in Section 6 – Mission, Goals, and Action Items. The identification of actions that reduce a community's sensitivity and increase its resilience assists in reducing the community's overall risk, or the area of overlap in Figure G.1 below.

**Figure G.1 Understanding Risk**



Source: Oregon Natural Hazards Workgroup, 2006.

# Community Sensitivity Factors

The following table documents the key community sensitivity factors in Baker County.

## Population

- Baker County has eight distinct geographic populations, as well as eight unincorporated communities. Incorporated cities are: Baker City, Greenhorn, Haines, Halfway, Huntington, Richland, Sumpter, and Unity. Unincorporated communities include: Durkee, Hereford, Pinetown, McEwen, Keating, Sparta, New Bridge, and Oxbow. Communities are geographically dispersed with little communication or interconnection. If communities need to be warned of an event, or require disaster assistance, distance and dispersal will be communication barriers. There are no County radio or TV stations for alert or warning.
- 2% of the total population over age five in Baker County speaks English less than “very well.”
- Head Start, a community organization in Northeast Oregon, has two concerns regarding natural hazards in Region 7: 1) children are left at Head Start centers for extended periods of time for weather-related hazards; 2) Head Start centers have inadequate food and water supplies on hand for emergencies. Head Start would like to have better communication with county emergency services.
- Residents of Northeast Oregon have historically been very self-reliant and self-sufficient. Although true for the majority of homeowners who live away from the larger incorporated cities, there is a growing population of new residents who instead rely on, and would like expand upon, existing public services.
- Several of Baker County’s communities have limited evacuation routes; typically, with the exception of Baker City, cities have one central route that crosses its boundaries. If road closures occur due to severe weather, landslide, or otherwise, populations may be isolated from emergency services.
- Baker City is home to the State’s Powder River Correctional Facility (PRCF). PRCF is a 286-bed adult male minimum-security facility. Inmates serve on community work crews in support of the Oregon Department of Corrections.
- Baker County has minimal population growth and an aging population; in 2005, 20% of the population was 65 years or older; in 2025, 25% of the population is expected to be 65 years or older. Elderly individuals require special consideration due to their sensitivities to heat and cold, their reliance upon transportation for medications, and their comparative difficulty in making home modifications that reduce risk to hazards.
- Baker County has limited public transportation. Community Connection and Step Forward offer transportation options for elderly and disabled populations only. From Richland, a Community Connections bus transports seniors to Baker City once a week. Additionally, Community Connections provides meals for seniors one day a week in both Halfway and Richland (with transportation included). Community organizations that serve vulnerable populations are concerned with lack of emergency transportation and services available to persons with special needs.
- The Red Cross maintains emergency shelters at various locations, including the fair grounds, YMCA, and schools.

- Baker County is home to several organizations that provide services to vulnerable populations. As such, these organizations are ideally suited as partners for mitigation projects concerning senior and/or vulnerable populations in the county.

#### Economic Assets

- The County's economy is principally based on agriculture with support from tourism. Impacts to either of these industries, via natural hazard, will hurt Baker County's economy. Fires, flooding, drought, volcanic or seismic activity can severely interrupt agriculture and damage the environmental resources that Baker County relies on to attract tourism.
- Baker County's major employers include School Districts, St. Elizabeth Health Care Services, the USDA Forest Service, Baker County Government, Balen Manufacturing, Marvin Wood Products, the Ash Grove Cement Plant, and a myriad of small businesses. All would be significantly impacted by the temporary loss of utilities.
- Recreational opportunities, such as hunting, skiing, fishing, boating, and camping, attract tourism dollars to the County.
- The mining potential in Baker County is potentially an untapped economic development resource.
- Landslides can potentially block highways, isolating the County's towns and cities from essential resources in Baker City, including health care, employment, and disaster warning, response, or recovery. See 'Landslides' in Appendix C for a map of debris flow areas.
- Interruptions to natural gas pipelines, as a result of seismic activity, flooding, fires, or landslides, will result in the city's inability to heat homes and businesses.
- Baker County supports a variety of small, locally-owned businesses through which a number of workers are employed. Small businesses are particularly susceptible to economic losses created by power outages and structural damages.
- According to the Northeast Oregon Economic Development District's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, "tourism continues to be one of the primary diversifications of an otherwise resource-dependent economy. Tourism jobs grew at a much faster rate for the last half of the 1990s compared to the early 1990s. Second home development has increased as a component of the tourist industry." Additionally, "the quality of life in the [region] has been identified by residents as one of the major assets of the area and is expected to help attract new businesses."

#### Cultural and Historic Assets

- The following cultural and historic features and assets make Baker County unique: the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center, the Sumpter Dredge and Railroad, mining ghost towns, the Oregon Trail, Museums, the Geiser Grande Historic Hotel, Historic Baker City, Chinese Cemetery, Rock Creek Power Plant, Phillips Park, Elkhorn Wilderness, Cornucopia, Brownlee Reservoir, Eagle Cap Wilderness, Sumpter Dredge, Phillips Reservoir, McCulley Forks Watershed, Unity Dam, Monument Rock Wilderness, St. Francis Cathedral, El Dorado Ditch, archeological sites

(Holcomb River and Hell's Canyon), Denny Flat, the Hell's Canyon Scenic Byway and All-American Road, and historic buildings throughout the county.

#### Critical Facilities and Infrastructure

- Interstate 84, Highways 86, 7, 203, 285, 245, the Union-Pacific Railroad, bridges, the airport, and minor roads are all vital for the transportation of persons, goods, and services in Baker County.
- Utilities, such as Idaho Power, OTEC, Williams Natural Gas Pipelines, Chevron Pipelines, communication links, and/or fuel and oil pipelines are vital resources; additionally, functioning water and wastewater systems as well as dams are necessary to the community's enduring success.
- Nearly every city's water treatment facility (with the exception of Richland and Haines) is adjacent to rivers and susceptible to flooding hazards.
- Many businesses and individuals rely on internet, cellular communications, and public safety repeater sites for emergency communications.
- Schools, fairground facilities, and churches can provide emergency food distributions and can serve as connection points for personal services.
- Government buildings and emergency dispatch centers/facilities are vital to the economy and coordinated safety for the region.

#### Natural Resources

- Agriculture and timber resources provide for the County's largest source of revenue.
- Fifty percent of Baker County is federally owned; the region depends on public lands for tourism, hunting, wildlife, watersheds, and grazing.
- Mining remains an active venture in Baker County; it is a source of economic development, and it draws tourism as well.
- Baker City has an anadromous fish population that could be weakened by natural and man-made hazards.
- Communities rely on the following water resources: Eagle Creek, Pine Creek, Burnt River Watershed, Wolf Creek, North Powder Watershed, Powder Watershed, Mason Dam, Unity Dam, Phillips Reservoir, Brownlee Reservoir, McCulley Forks Watershed, Wolf Creek Reservoir, Pilcher Creek Reservoir, Thief Valley Reservoir, and the Hells Canyon Complex. The Baker City Watershed is unfiltered and thus particularly susceptible to contamination from wildfire.
- The Hells Canyon National Recreational Area is a regional environmental attraction.
- Regularly occurring droughts and unknown capacities within the Baker Valley aquifers may limit future development.

#### Land Use and Development

- There are existing developments subject to wildfire in the wildland/urban interface. They are: Woodtick Village/Rattlesnake Estates, Stices Gulch, Bourne, Surprise

Springs, Greenhorn, Auburn Gulch, Huntington, Oxbow, Rock Creek/Bulger Flats, Face of the Elkhorns, Sumpter/McCully Forks WS, Sparta, Elkhorn Estates/Deer Creek, Cornucopia, East Eagle/Main Eagle, Eagle Creek, Tamarack CG, Black Mountain, Anthony Lake, Whitney, Brownlee, and Carson/Pine Valley.

- Current and future development trends are minimal; the population is expected to stay level until at least 2025.
- The City of Halfway has identified Pine Creek as a continual flooding hazard.

## Community Resilience Factors

The following documents the key community resilience factors in Baker County including a description of the local government's structure, existing plans and policies, and community organizations and programs.

### Government Structure

Baker County employs a County Clerk, District Attorney, Sheriff, Treasurer, Assessor, Justice of the Peace, Surveyor, and three County Commissioners, along with the following departments:

#### Economic Development

The Department of Economic Development is a joint venture between Baker County and Baker City, and provides a variety of services to existing and prospective businesses. The Department maintains demographic data, and labor/property information for both the city and county. In partnership with Leo Alder Memorial Parkway, Inc., the Department of Economic Development has undertaken the Downtown Jobs Initiative – Resort Street Area Improvement Project. A combination of several short and long-term plans, the initiative is working to improve streetscapes, establish a plaza at Court Street, and create a centrally located public park.

#### Emergency Management

The Baker County Department of Emergency Management assists in maintaining community well-being through disaster mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery activities. The Department: 1) Serves as the point of contact for emergency and disaster questions or issues; 2) Provides hazard education and loss reduction program information; 3) Facilitates emergency and disaster planning efforts; 4) Promotes community disaster preparedness; 5) Coordinates and responds to emergency and disaster situations; 6) Assists in community disaster recovery opportunities; 7) Coordinates homeland security and county fire operations.

#### Health Department

The Baker County Health Department is responsible for providing community wide health promotion and disease prevention services to Baker County. Services offered by the department include vaccinations, pre- and post-natal care, immunizations, information on water and food safety, health insurance, and family health and nutritional programs.

#### Planning

The Baker County Planning Department provides planning and zoning information to the public and other government agencies. Additional responsibilities include reviewing development proposals, administering and enforcing land use laws, regulations, and ordinances, reviewing applications for land use actions, and conducting comprehensive planning studies and research.

#### Road Department

The Baker County Road Department works to provide roadways that are safe, efficient, and economical to maintain.

## Existing Plan & Policies

Communities often have existing plans and policies that guide and influence land use, land development, and population growth. Such existing plans and policies can include comprehensive plans, zoning ordinances, and technical reports or studies. Plans and policies already in existence have support from local residents, businesses and policy makers. Many land-use, comprehensive, and strategic plans get updated regularly, and can adapt easily to changing conditions and needs.<sup>i</sup>

The Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan includes a range of recommended action items that, when implemented, will reduce the county's vulnerability to natural hazards. Many of these recommendations are consistent with the goals and objectives of the county's existing plans and policies. Linking existing plans and policies to the Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan helps identify what resources already exist that can be used to implement the action items identified in the Plan. Implementing the natural hazards mitigation plan's action items through existing plans and policies increases their likelihood of being supported and getting updated, and maximizes the county's resources.

The following are existing plans and policies already in place within the community. A table further defining each of these plans and policies has been included at the end of this section.

- Baker County Land Use Ordinance
- Baker County Comprehensive Land Use Plan
- Baker County Community Wildfire Protection Plan
- Baker City / County Economic Development Strategic Plan
- Baker County Cultural Trust Plan
- Baker County Transportation System Plan

## Community Organizations and Programs

Social systems can be defined as community organizations and programs that provide social and community-based services, such as health care or housing assistance, to the public. In planning for natural hazard mitigation, it is important to know what social systems exist within the community because of their existing connections to the public. Often, actions identified by the plan involve communicating with the public or specific subgroups within the population (e.g. elderly, children, low income). The County can use existing social systems as resources for implementing such communication-related activities because these service providers already work directly with the public on a number of issues, one of which could be natural hazard preparedness and mitigation.

The following organizations are active within the community and may be potential partners for implementing mitigation actions:

- American Red Cross Eastern Oregon Chapter
- Baker Clinic
- Baker County Chamber of Commerce
- Baker County Children and Families
- Oregon State Extension Service
- Certified Personnel Service Agency
- Community Connection – Baker County Senior Center
- Eastern Oregon Head Start
- Eastern Oregon Medical Associates
- Elk's Lodge
- Grandview Care Home
- Guardian Home Care
- Head Start Baker Program
- Heart 'N' Home Hospice & Palliative Care, LLC
- Hells Canyon Chamber of Commerce
- MeadowBrook Place
- New Directions Northwest
- Northeast Oregon Housing Authority
- Oregon Education Association
- Pathway Hospice
- Settler's Park
- St. Elizabeth Health Services

A table including information on each organization or program's service area, types of services offered, populations served, and how the organization or program could be involved in natural hazard mitigation is included at the end of this section. The three involvement methods are defined below.

- Education and outreach – organization could partner with the community to educate the public or provide outreach assistance on natural hazard preparedness and mitigation.
- Information dissemination – organization could partner with the community to provide hazard-related information to target audiences.
- Plan/project implementation – organization may have plans and/or policies that may be used to implement mitigation activities or the organization could serve as the coordinating or partner organization to implement mitigation actions.

## **Existing Mitigation Activities**

Existing mitigation activities include current mitigation programs and activities that are being implemented by the community in an effort to reduce the community's overall risk to natural hazards. Documenting these efforts can assist the community in better understanding its risk and can assist in documenting successes.

Baker County has not implemented any mitigation projects that are known at this time.

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<sup>i</sup> Burby, Raymond J., ed. 1998. *Cooperating with Nature: Confronting Natural Hazards with Land-Use Planning for Sustainable Communities*.

Baker County  
Existing Plans and Policies

Name	Date of Last Revision	Author/Owner	Description	Relation to Natural Hazard Mitigation
Baker County Land Use Ordinance of 1983	1983	Baker County Planning	Outline different land uses for Baker County	Lane use ordinances may be used or developed to direct future development away from known hazard areas.
Baker County Comprehensive Land Use Plan	Apr-86	Baker County Planning	To anticipate and plan for future land use within Baker County	Section VII "Natural Disasters and Hazards Goal" outlines limitations and regulations abided by in regard to flooding, earthquakes, erosion and deposition (landslides), wildfires, and the exposure of hazardous soils and soil conditions. It concludes with the statement that developments shall not be planned in areas known to be subject to these threats without appropriate safeguards. The identification and prioritization of specific areas subject to each hazard can help in crating action items.
Baker County Community Wildfire Protection Plan	Feb-06	Baker County Board of Commission	Sets forth action plan for addressing prioritized fuel reduction, treatment of structural ignitability, and increased collaboration to reduce the impact of wildland urban interface fires.	A CWPP can serve as the wildfire hazard annex of an all-hazard mitigation plan. Actions documented in a CWPP should be included in the local mitigation plan as well.
Baker City/County Economic Development Strategic Plan	Dec-04	Baker County Economic Development Council	The purpose of this document is to guide the activities of the Baker City/County Economic Development Council for the years of 2005 to 2007. The Plan should ensure that these activities are articulated to the residents of Baker City and County.	An Economic Development Strategic Plan can be utilized to implement mitigation measures aimed at creating a disaster resilient economy.

Baker County  
Existing Plans and Policies

Name	Date of Last Revision	Author/Owner	Description	Relation to Natural Hazard Mitigation
Baker County Cultural Trust Plan	2003	Baker County Board of Commissioners	The plan identifies significant cultural assets; identifies challenges and barriers to cultural expression; and outlines priorities, strategies, benchmarks and performance measures.	A Cultural Trust plan can be utilized to implement mitigation measures aimed at protecting important cultural community assets.
Baker County Transportation System Plan	2005	Prepared by H. Lee & Associates for Baker County and Oregon Department of Transportation	The Baker County Transportation System Plan (TSP) addresses the County's anticipated transportation needs through the year 2025. It has been prepared to meet state and federal regulations that require urban areas to conduct long-range planning.... The long-range planning is intended to serve as a guide for Baker County in managing their existing transportation facilities and developing future transportation facilities.	The Transportation Plan may be a resource to identify which roads and transportation systems are most vulnerable to natural disasters. Likewise, the TSP can be utilized to implement mitigation measures aimed at protecting "transportation disadvantaged" populations in emergency situations. When updated in 2025, the TSP can also include mitigation elements in its implementation considerations.

Baker County  
Existing Community Organizations

Name and Contact Information	Description	Service Area	Populations Served							Involvement with Natural Hazard Mitigation
			Businesses	Children	Disabled	Elders	English Second Language	Families	Low Income	
<b>American Red Cross Eastern Oregon Chapter</b> PO BOX 1024 Baker City, OR 97814 Phone: 541-523-2231 Fax: 541-523-4303	Collect and provide blood and plasma to the community. Assist in emergency preparedness and response.	Baker County	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education and outreach</li> <li>• Information dissemination</li> <li>• Plan/project implementation</li> </ul>
<b>Baker Clinic</b> 3175 Pocahontas Road Baker City, OR 97814 Phone: 541-523-4415 Fax: 541-523-2399		Baker County		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information dissemination</li> </ul>
<b>Baker County Chamber of Commerce</b> 490 Campbell Street Baker City, OR 97814 Phone: 541-523-5855	Provide economic development assistance to local businesses.	Baker County	✓						✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education and outreach</li> <li>• Information dissemination</li> </ul>
<b>Baker County Children and Families</b> 1995 Third Street Baker City OR 97814 Phone: 523-8231 Fax: 523-8236	Works with children and families to promote a positive atmosphere in which children are raised.	Baker County		✓				✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education and outreach</li> <li>• Information dissemination</li> </ul>

Baker County  
Existing Community Organizations

Name and Contact Information	Description	Service Area	Populations Served							Involvement with Natural Hazard Mitigation
			Businesses	Children	Disabled	Elders	English Second Language	Families	Low Income	
<b>Baker County Extension Office</b> 2610 Grove Street Baker City, Oregon 97814 Phone: (541) 523-6418	Provides research-based knowledge and education that focus on strengthening communities and economies, sustaining natural resources, and promoting healthy families and individuals.	Baker County	✓							<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education and outreach</li> <li>• Information dissemination</li> </ul>
<b>Certified Personnel Service Agency</b> 975 Campbell St Baker City, OR 97814 - 2270	Helps provide work to individuals who would not otherwise have work	Baker County						✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information dissemination</li> </ul>
<b>Community Connection-Baker County Senior Center</b> 2810 Cedar Street Baker City , OR 97814 Phone: 541-523-6591 Fax: 541-523-6592	A home service to assist in care of the elderly, transportation services	Baker County				✓		✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information dissemination</li> </ul>
<b>Eastern Oregon Head Start</b> One University Blvd. La Grande, OR 97850 Phone: 541-962-3506	Oregon Head Start PreKindergarten	Baker and Union Counties	✓							<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education and outreach</li> <li>• Information dissemination</li> </ul>

Baker County  
Existing Community Organizations

Name and Contact Information	Description	Service Area	Populations Served							Involvement with Natural Hazard Mitigation
			Businesses	Children	Disabled	Elders	English Second Language	Families	Low Income	
<b>Eastern Oregon Medical Associates</b> 3325 Pocahontas Road Baker City, OR 97814 Phone: 541-523-1001 Fax: 541-523-1152		Baker County		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information dissemination</li> </ul>
<b>Elk's Lodge</b> 1896 2nd St Baker City, OR 97814 – 3403 Phone: 541-523-3338 Fax: 541-523-3331	Quoted from the mission statement: the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America will serve the people and communities through benevolent programs, demonstrating that Elks Care and Elks Share.	Baker County		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education and outreach</li> <li>• Information dissemination</li> </ul>
<b>Grandview Care Home</b> 3005 Grandview DR Baker City, OR 97814 Phone: 541-524-0942 Fax: 541-524-0943	Assisted Living	Baker County				✓		✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information dissemination</li> </ul>
<b>Guardian Home Care</b> PO BOX 716 Baker City, OR 97814 Phone: 208-461-1600	Hospice Care for people suffering from advanced illnesses and their families	Baker County		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information dissemination</li> </ul>

Baker County  
Existing Community Organizations

Name and Contact Information	Description	Service Area	Populations Served							Involvement with Natural Hazard Mitigation
			Businesses	Children	Disabled	Elders	English Second Language	Families	Low Income	
<b>Head Start Baker Program</b> 1925 16th Street Baker City, OR 97814 Phone: 541-523-2696	It provides comprehensive education, health, nutrition, and parent involvement services to low-income children and their families.	Baker County		✓				✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education and outreach</li> <li>• Information dissemination</li> </ul>
<b>Heart 'N' Home Hospice &amp; Palliative Care, LLC</b> 1435 Campbell Street Baker City, OR 97814 Phone: 541-524-7688 & 1-888-522-7688 Fax: 541-524-7682	Hospice Care for people suffering from advanced illnesses and their families	Baker County		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education and outreach</li> <li>• Information dissemination</li> </ul>
<b>Hells Canyon Chamber of Commerce</b> 160 S Main St. Halfway, OR 97834 Phone: 541-742-4222	Provide economic development assistance to local businesses.	Baker County	✓							<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education and outreach</li> <li>• Information dissemination</li> <li>• Plan/project implementation</li> </ul>
<b>MeadowBrook Place</b> 4000 Cedar Street Baker City, OR 97814 Phone: 541-523-6333 Fax: 541-523-9166	Assisted Living	Baker County				✓		✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information dissemination</li> </ul>
<b>New Directions Northwest</b> PO BOX 1005 Baker City, OR 97814 Phone: 541-523-7400 Fax: 541-523-4927	Addiction Recovery	Baker County		✓				✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information dissemination</li> </ul>

Baker County  
Existing Community Organizations

Name and Contact Information	Description	Service Area	Populations Served							Involvement with Natural Hazard Mitigation
			Businesses	Children	Disabled	Elders	English Second Language	Families	Low Income	
<b>Northeast Oregon Housing Authority</b> 2608 May Lane P.O. Box 3357 La Grande, Oregon 97850 Telephone (541) 963-5360 Toll Free 1-800-452-8638 (Oregon Only) Fax (541) 963-3682 Email: neoha@uwtc.net	Mission: "To Provide quality and Affordable Housing to the low income persons of Northeast Oregon"	Union, Baker, Grant, and Wallowa Counties						✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information dissemination</li> </ul>
<b>Oregon Education Association</b> 2400 Ash St Baker City, OR 97814 - 2919	The purpose of the Oregon Education Association is to assure quality public education for every student in Oregon by providing a strong, positive voice for school employees.	Baker County		✓						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education and outreach</li> <li>• Information dissemination</li> </ul>
<b>Pathway Hospice</b> 2192 Court AVE Baker City, OR 97814 Phone: 541-523-9430 Fax: 541-523-9454 Email: pthwyhospcbkr@eoni.com	Hospice Care for people suffering from advanced illnesses and their families	Baker County		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information dissemination</li> </ul>

Baker County  
Existing Community Organizations

Name and Contact Information	Description	Service Area	Populations Served							Involvement with Natural Hazard Mitigation
			Businesses	Children	Disabled	Elders	English Second Language	Families	Low Income	
<b>Settler's Park</b> 2895 17th STREET Baker City , OR 97814 Phone: 541-523-0200 Fax: 541-523-0268	Alzheimer's Care and assisted living	Baker County				✓		✓		• Information dissemination
<b>St. Elizabeth Health Services</b> 3325 Pocahontas RD Baker City, OR 97814 Phone: 541-523-6461 Fax: 541-523-8151	Emergency Care	Baker County		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	• Information dissemination

## **Baker county Fact Sheet**

### **Baker County:**

3,089 sq. miles

Percent State and Federal Ownership: 52.3%

### **Recreational Amenities**

Baker City and Hells Canyon Jr. Rodeo  
National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center  
Three scenic byways  
Hells Canyon National Recreational Area  
Oregon Trail Regional Museum  
Farewell Bend State Park  
Sumpter Valley Dredge State Park  
Wallowa Whitman National Forest  
Sumpter Valley Railroad  
Miner's Jubilee Festival  
Historic Baker City  
Adler House Museum  
Baker Sports Complex

Baker Golf Club  
Sam-O Swim Center  
Eagle Cap Wilderness  
Idaho Power Dams-Reservoir  
Unity Lake State Park  
Monument Rock Wilderness  
Snake River  
Lions Park  
Brownlee Reservoir  
Malheur Reservoir  
Spring Creek Recreation Site  
Van Orman Massacre Site  
Hewitt Park  
Baker County and Holcomb Park

Local area activities include: snowmobiling, water and snow skiing, fishing and hunting, hiking, camping, boating, golfing.

## **Economic Development and Employment**

### **Principal Industries:**

Agriculture, secondary wood products, tourism and recreation

Source: Oregon Employment Department, Covered Employment and Payroll Reports, 1998

### **Local and Regional Economic Development Organizations**

City of Baker City	City of Greenhorn
Baker City Community Development Department	Baker City/County Economic Development
Baker-Morrow Regional Partnership	City of Haines
Northeast Oregon Economic Development District	City of Halfway
Baker Enterprise Growth Initiative (BEGIN)	City of Huntington
Economic & Community Development Department	City of Richland
Regional Development Officer	City of Sumpter
	City of Unity

### **Agricultural Products of the Area (Top 3 largest gross farm sales):**

Cattle and calves, dairy products, field crops

Source: Oregon State University, Extension Economic Information Office

## Economic Indicators

	Baker County		Oregon		
	2001	2002	2000	2001	2002
<b>Population</b>	16,700	16,700	3,421,399	3,471,700	3,504,700
<b>Labor Force</b>	7,392	7,462	1,802,938	1,793,773	1,840,133
<b>Total Employment</b>			1,715,453	1,679,914	1,701,390
<b>Unemployment</b>	646	682	87,485	113,859	138,743
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>	8.8%	9.1%	4.9%	6.3%	7.5%
<b>Non-Farm Payroll Employment</b>	5,240	5,190	1,606,800	1,596,100	1,572,500
<b>Total Covered Employment</b>	5,148	5,090	1,607,944	1,596,943	1,573,083
<b>Total Covered Payroll</b> (\$ thousands county/ \$ millions state)	\$124,531	\$126,822	\$52,701	\$53,021	\$52,989
<b>Ave. Annual Payroll Per Employee</b>	\$24,190	\$24,916	\$32,776	\$33,202	\$33,684
<b>Number of Business Units</b>	614	612	108,432	111,353	113,097
<b>Total Personal Income (\$ millions)</b>	\$342,221	\$353,317	\$94,999	\$98,500	\$101,358
<b>Annual Per Capita Personal Income</b>	\$	\$21,424	\$27,649	\$28,400	28,792
<b>Assessed Value of Property (\$ millions)</b>	\$0	\$1,047	\$198,911	\$210,435	\$219,878
<b>Residential Construction</b>					
<b>Building Permits</b>	36	41	19,877	21,049	22,186
<b>Value (\$ thousands)</b>	\$5,982	\$7,575	\$2,533	\$2,985	\$3,347
<b>Travel Expenditures (\$ millions)</b>	\$0	\$42,300	\$6,133	\$6,128	\$6,208
<b>Travel-Related Employment</b>	0	810	89,800	91,100	90,200

Sources: Oregon Employment Department; Center for Population Research & Census, PSU; U.S. Census Bureau; Bureau of Economic Analysis; Oregon Tourism Commission; Oregon Department of Revenue; Oregon Economic and Community Development Department.

## Special Districts and Associations

Baker County Association of Con. Districts,  
ORS

Baker County E.S.D

Baker County Library District

Baker R.F.P.D.

Baker Valley Irrigation District

Baker Valley Vector Control District

Burnt River Irrigation District

Burnt River S.W.C.D.

Burnt River Weed Control District

Eagle Valley R.F.P.D.

Eagle Valley S.W.C.D.

Eagle Valley Water Control District

Keating S.W.C.D.

Lower Powder River Irrigation District

Malheur County E.S.D.

Pine Valley Irrigation Association

Pine Haven Cemetery District

Pine Valley R.F.P.D.

Powder River Rural Fire

Treasure Valley Community College  
District

Unity Community Hill Renovation District

Upper Lands Pumping Improvement District

Waterbury & Allen Ditch Improvement  
District

## **Communications Resources**

### Local Newspapers:

Baker City Herald  
Record-Courier  
Hells Canyon Journal

### Regional Newspapers:

The East Oregonian  
Baker Herald  
Record-Courier (Baker City, weekly)  
Argus Observer (Ontario, daily)  
The Oregonian

### Radio Stations:

4 local stations (2 AM, 2 FM)  
Unity receives 7 Boise stations

### TV Stations:

P-TV

City receives 6 area stations  
Oregon PBS  
Boise stations in parts

### Available Cable Television:

Charter Communications  
Mallard Communications

### Telephone Service Providers:

Quest  
Pine Telephone Co.  
CenturyTel  
Eagle Telephone  
Oregon Telephone Company

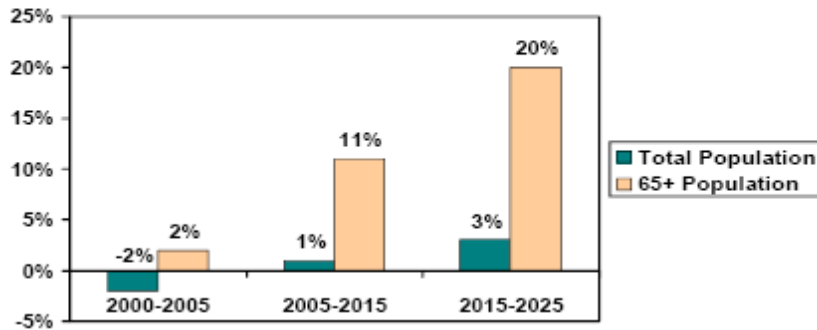
### Local Internet Service Provider: Yes

Number of Internet Service Providers: 3 (all available in all cities)

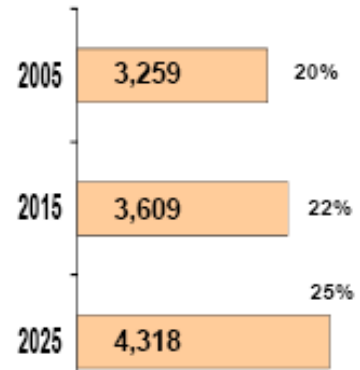
## **Historic Listings**

- Antlers Guard Station (added 1991); SE of Whitney, Wallowa-Whitman NF; Whitney
- Baker Historic District (added 1978); Irregular pattern along Main St. from Madison to Estes Sts; Baker
- Baker Municipal Natatorium (added 1977); 2470 Grove St.; Baker
- Clark, Robert F. and Elizabeth House (added 1989); 1522 Washington Ave.; Baker
- Maxwell, James O., Farmstead (added 1986); Rt.2 Box 82 on N side Muddy Creek Rd.; Haines
- Oregon Commercial Company Building (added 1992); 40—50 E. Washington St., Huntington
- Rand, Ed, House (added 1981); 1700 4<sup>th</sup> St; Baker
- St. Elizabeth Hospital (Old) (added 1989); 2365 4<sup>th</sup> St; Baker
- Sumpter Valley Gold Dredge (added 1971); SW of Sumpter near Cracker Creek; Sumpter
- Sumpter Valley Railway Historic District (added 1987); Roughly between Baker and Prairie City starting near the McEwen station site and W to the Dixie Pass area

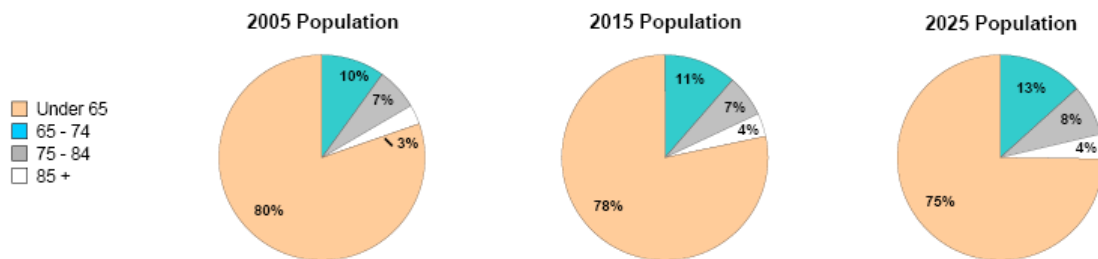
### Growth Rate Of Baker County's Aging Population



### Baker County Projected 65+ Population and % of general population



### Our population is aging in Baker County



Under 65	13,213	13,108	12,817
65-74	1,628	1,893	2,295
75-84	1,112	1,126	1,350
85 +	518	590	674

### Will our facilities meet the needs of Baker County seniors?

Facility Type	Count	Available	Occupied
Physicians per 1000 (2004 Data)	1.39	--	--
Hospitals	1	--	--
Community Facilities	11	155	147
Nursing Homes	1	50	45

<http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/spwpd/ltc/fltc/data/baker.pdf>

## BASIC INFORMATION

Basic Information	Incorporated	Distance to Baker City (miles)	Elevation	Monthly Average Low	Monthly Average High	Hottest Month	Coldest Month	Driest Month	Wettest Month
Baker City	1874	0	3471	17	85	July	January	July	June
Greenhorn	1903	60	6270	11	82	August	January	July	December
Haines	1909	10	3333	17	85	July	January	July	June
Halfway	1909	53	2663	14	88	July	January	July	December
Huntington	1891	NA	2130	20	94	July	January	July	December
Richland	1917	39	2220	21	92	July	January	Sept.	January
Sumpter	1901	26	4445	11	82	August	January	July	December
Unity	1972	49	4030	14	86	July	January	July	December

## POPULATION

Population	1980	1990	1998	1999	2000	2001
Baker City	9471	9140	10160	10155	9860	9840
Greenhorn	0	0	3	3	0	0
Haines	341	405	470	480	426	430
Halfway	380	311	350	345	337	340
Huntington	539	522	580	575	515	520
Richland	181	161	180	175	147	150
Sumpter	133	119	175	175	171	170
Unity	115	87	145	155	131	130
Baker County	11160	10745	12063	12063	11587	11580

## Number of Manufacturing Companies

Baker City	14
Greenhorn	0
Haines	0
Halfway	2
Huntington	0
Richland	0
Sumpter	0
Unity	1
Baker County	47

## Communities Participating in the National Flood Plan

Community Name	Initial FIRM Identified	Current Effective Map	Regular or Emergency Date
Baker City	4/17/1984	6/3/1988	4/17/1984
Greenhorn			
Haines		(NSFHA)	4/30/1984
Halfway	9/24/1984	9/24/1984	9/24/1984
Huntington	9/24/1984	6/3/1988	9/24/1984
Richland			
Sumpter	9/24/1984	6/3/1988	9/24/1984
Unity			
Baker County	2/28/1978	6/3/1988	6/3/1988

<b>Water Supply</b>	<b>Operator</b>	<b>Age of Water System</b>	<b>Plans for Upgrading or Expanding</b>
Baker City	City of Baker City	1876	\$500,000/year for the next 20 years
Greenhorn	City of Greenhorn	1892	
Haines	City of Haines	1981	Upgrading and/or expanding to be completed by 2005
Halfway	City of Halfway	1946	
Huntington	City of Huntington	1980	
Richland	City of Richland	1963	Will be upgraded after receiving recommendations from the Master Plan and when funds are available
Sumpter	City of Sumpter	1984	
Unity	City of Unity	1992	

<b>Community</b>	<b>Primary Employers</b>	<b>Number of Employees</b>
Baker City	Baker School District 5-J - Government	267
	St. Elizabeth Health Care Services - Medical Services	239
	Marvin Wood Products - Window & Door Frames	221
	USDA Forest Service - Government	188
	Baker County - Government	157
Halfway	Pine-Eagle School District 61 - Education	63
	Idaho Power Co. - Electricity Purveyor	40
	US Forest Service - Government / Forest Management	25
	Pine Telephone Co. - Telephone Services / Fiber Optics	8
Huntington	Ash Grove Cement - Cement and Limestone	110
	Farewell Bend Truck Shop - Service, Restaurant	54
	Huntington School District - Education	16
Richland	Shorthorn Bar & Café - Food Service, Bar	8
	Eagle Telephone System and Eagle Valley Communications - Telecommunications	8
	Hitching Post Store and Motel - Grocery Store, Motel	5
	Richland Feed & Seed - Hardware Store, Lumber Yard, Ranching Supplies	5
	Richland Elementary School - Education	35
Unity	USDA Forest Service - Government	25
	Burnt River School District - Education	23
Greenhorn	-	-
Haines	-	-
Sumpter	-	-

<b>Community Services and Resources</b>	<b>Fire Station(s) Serving Community</b>	<b># Paid and Volunteer Firefighters</b>	<b>Nearest Hospital</b>	<b>Distance to Nearest Hospital (miles)</b>	<b>Emergency Services to Community</b>	<b>General Clinic(s)</b>
Baker City	Baker City Fire Department	33	St. Elizabeth Hospital	local	Ambulance Service, Life Flight Service	
Greenhorn		0	St. Elizabeth Hospital	60	None	0
Haines	-	-	-	-	Ambulance Service	3
Halfway	-	10	St. Elizabeth Hospital	53	Ambulance Service, Life Flight Service	1
Huntington	Huntington Fire Department	7	Holy Rosary Medical Center	30	Ambulance Service, Life Flight Service	0
Richland	Richland Fire Department	0	St. Elizabeth Hospital	44	Ambulance Service, Life Flight Service	0
Sumpter	-	8	St. Elizabeth Hospital	29	Ambulance Service, Life Flight Service	0
Unity	Unity Volunteers	11	St. Elizabeth Hospital	49	Ambulance Service, Life Flight Service	0

<b>Wastewater Treatment System</b>	<b>Age of Wastewater Collection System</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Plans for Upgrade/Expansion</b>
City of Baker City	1946	City's wastewater system is in good condition, there is excess capacity and system is being upgraded; date of last facility plan is 2001	\$300,000/year for the next 20 years
City of Greenhorn		City uses a septic system	
City of Haines	1980	The system is being rehabilitated to connect infiltration and inflow and to reduce usage to .036 mgd.	
City of Halfway	1967	The lagoon and collection system were upgraded in the spring of 1997	
City of Huntington	1986	Lagoon system improvements completed in 1998	
City of Richland	1972	*\$18.00/month outside City; ** \$400 outside City, \$20 deposit required for new customers. Some infiltration problems have been identified. System will have adequate capacity through 2020 if infiltration problem is resolved. Have located and corrected some	City needs to re-vamp the pump lift station when funds are available.
City of Sumpter	1988	System has individual septic tanks at each location with gray water going into community main lines and emptying into a lagoon. Effluent is applied to land irrigation site.	-
City of Unity	1977	City uses an evaporation system. Installed Flow meter end of 1999 to enable measurement of capacity and utilization	-

<b>Transportation</b>	<b>Highways</b>
Baker City	I-84 N/S; Hwy 82 E; Hwy 30 N; Hwy 245S - all local access
Greenhorn	Hwy 7 E/W route, access 7 miles
Haines	Hwy 30 N/S route, local access
Halfway	Hwy 86 E/W route, local access
Huntington	Hwy 201 S route, local; I-84 N/S route access 5 miles; Hwy 30, Main St
Richland	Hwy 86 E/W route, local access
Sumpter	Hwy 7 NW/SE route, access 4 miles
Unity	Hwy 26 E/W route, local access; Hwy 245 NE route, local access

## Transportation

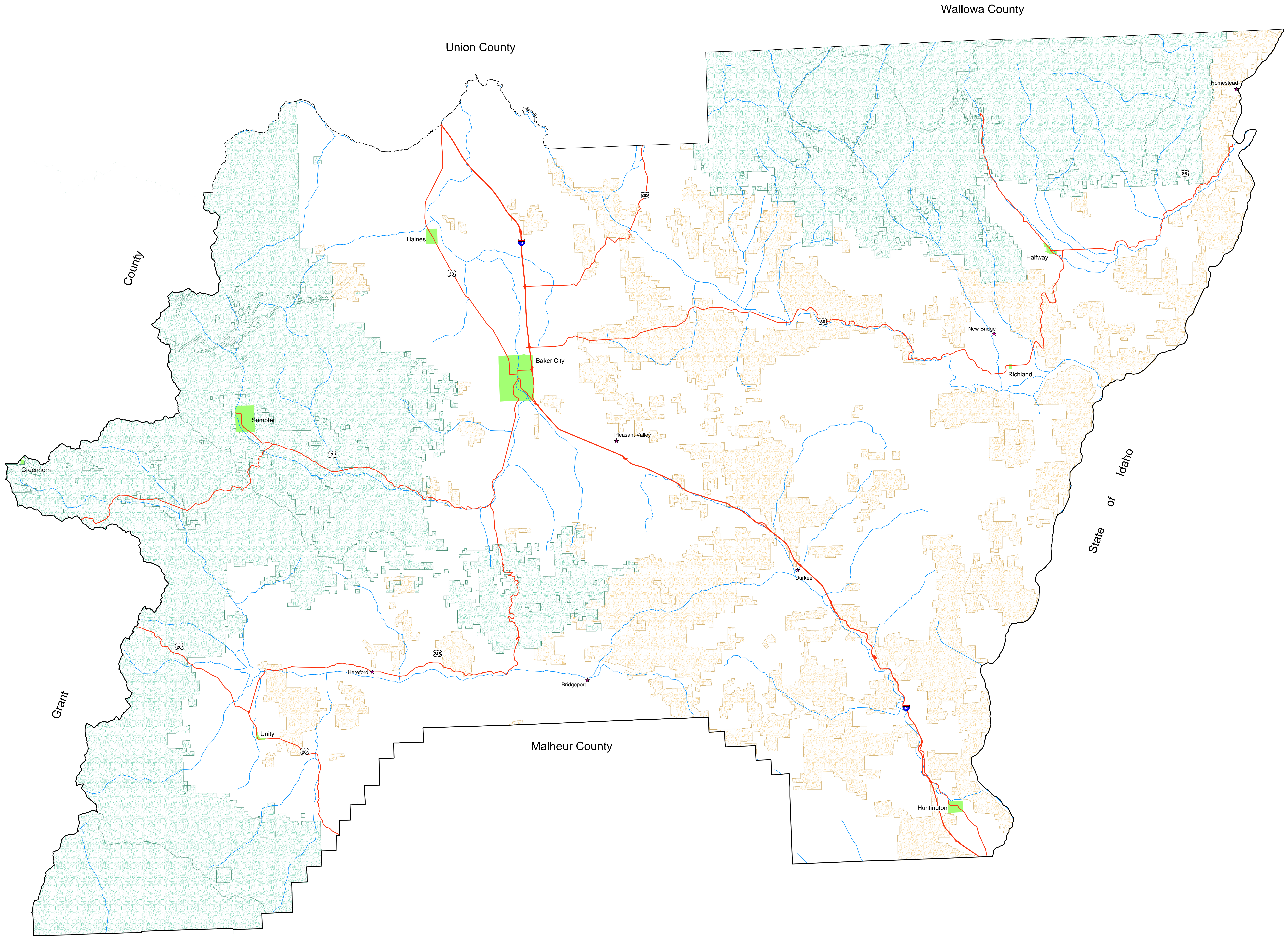
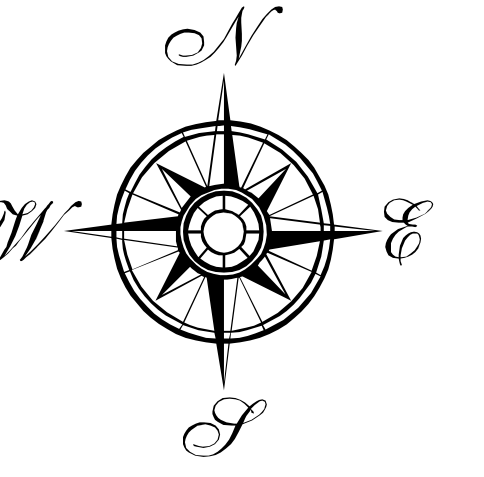
	Community Air	Air Passenger	Airport Freight	Rail Service	Freight Service
Baker City	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
Greenhorn	No	No	No	No	No
Haines	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Halfway	No	No	No	No	No
Huntington	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Richland	No			No	
Sumpter	No			No	No
Unity	No				

	Passenger Service	Bus Service Available in Community	Buses Per Day	Local Charter Services	Distance to Nearest Bus Service (miles)
Baker City	No	Yes	2	No	local
Greenhorn	No	No		No	
Haines	No	Yes	0	No	
Halfway	No	Yes	2 / week	No	53
Huntington	No	No		No	28 to Ontario
Richland		No			43
Sumpter	Yes	No		No	
Unity		No			

Information in the Community Profiles was derived from many sources, including local, state and federal sources. The Oregon Economic and Community Development Department cannot accept responsibility for errors or omissions. Questions and comments may be directed to the department by telephone 503-986-0123, by fax 503-581-5115 or by email [oodd.info@state.or.us](mailto:oodd.info@state.or.us).



# Baker County



**Legend**

★

Unincorporated Areas

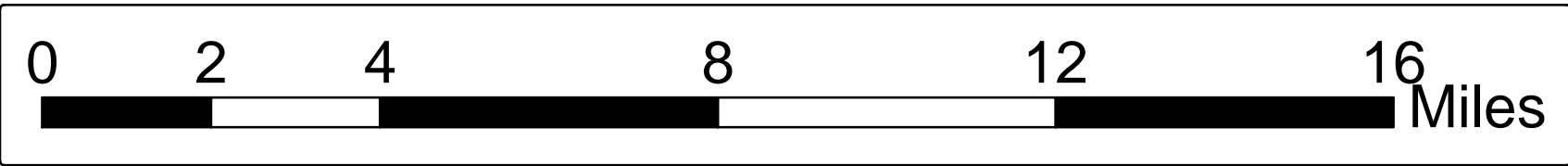
Highways

Creeks & Rivers

City Limits

Forest Service Lands

BLM Lands

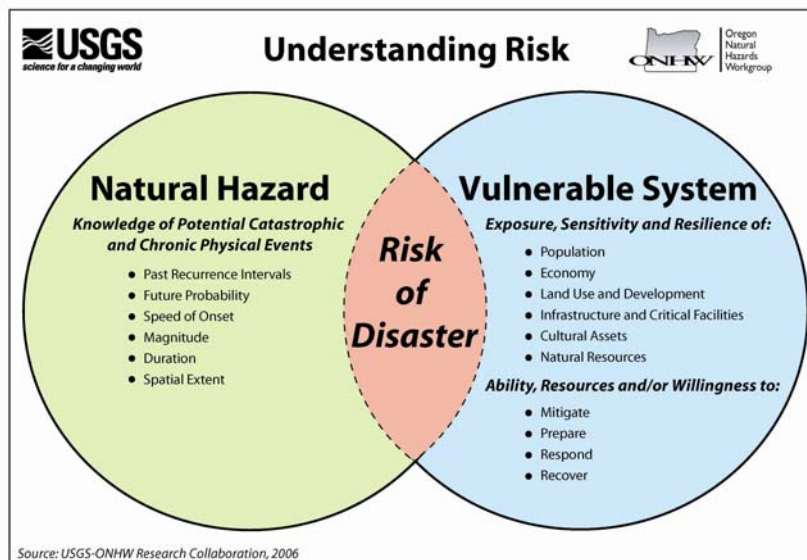


The information on this map was derived from various public data sources. Care was taken in the creation of this map but it is provided "as is". Wallowa County cannot accept any responsibility for errors, omissions, or positional accuracy in the digital data or the underlying records. There are no warranties express or implied, including the merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose, accompanying this product.

# Grant County Community Sensitivity and Resilience

This section documents the community's sensitivity factors, or those community assets and characteristics that may be impacted by natural hazards, (e.g., special populations, economic factors, and historic and cultural resources). It also identifies the community's resilience factors, or the community's ability to manage risk and adapt to hazard event impacts (e.g., governmental structure, agency missions and directives, and plans, policies, and programs). The information in this section represents a snapshot in time of the current sensitivity and resilience factors in the community when the plan was developed. The information documented below, along with the findings of the risk assessment, should be used as the local level rationale for the risk reduction actions identified in Section 6 – Mission, Goals, and Action Items. The identification of actions that reduce a community's sensitivity and increase its resilience assist in reducing the community's overall risk, or the area of overlap in Figure G.1 below.

**Figure G.1 Understanding Risk**



Source: Oregon Natural Hazards Workgroup, 2006.

# Community Sensitivity Factors

The following table documents the key community sensitivity factors in Grant County.

## Population

- Northeast Oregon attracts tourists and hunters in both the summer and fall. A temporary increase in population places heightened demands on emergency response systems; additionally, uninformed hikers and campers may increase the community's risk to wildfire.
- Residents of Grant County are relatively isolated from highly populated urban areas and services. John Day, the largest incorporated city in Grant County, is 260 miles from Portland.
- Community organizations that serve vulnerable populations are concerned with the lack of emergency transportation and services available to persons with special needs.
- 1% of the total population over age 5 in Grant County speaks English less than "very well."
- Grant County has minimal population growth (-3.2% change from 2000-2005) and an aging population; in 2005, 17% of the population was 65 years or older; in 2025, 25% of the population is expected to be 65 years or older. Elderly individuals require special consideration due to their sensitivities to heat and cold, their reliance upon transportation for medications, and their comparative difficulty in making home modifications that reduce risk to hazards.
- All buildings and homes within Grant County, and particularly those on the valley floor, are subject to severe weather, including ice and snow storms, lightning storms, and hail, heavy rain, and fast winds.
- There are three major nursing homes in the area: two in John Day and one in Prairie City (The Blue Mountain Nursing Home)
- The summer and fall months see an increase in population for tourism and hunting
- Camp Logan is a yearly event at which nearly 100 people attend.
- The 9-1-1 Center in John Day is also the John Day Police Department; city hall is attached to this building.
- Prairie City has a very popular Fourth of July parade (i.e., significant increase in population).

## Economic Assets

- Thomas Orchards, Inc. The Kimberly Fruit Company is a popular, locally attractive business in Grant County.
- Forestry, livestock, recreation and tourism are Grant County's principle industries. Grant County had 344 businesses in 2002.
- Major employers include government agencies (US Forest Service, Oregon Department of Transportation, Schools, Grant County and Oregon State Road Departments), Grayback Forestry Inc., Jackson Oil Inc., Prairie Wood Products,

Grant Western Lumber, Malheur Lumber Company, Chester's Thriftway Grocery Store, and the Blue Mountain Hospital.

- Grant County supports a variety of small, locally-owned businesses (six hotels and several restaurants) through which the majority of workers are employed. Small businesses are particularly susceptible to economic losses created by power outages and structural damages.
- Recreational opportunities and annual fairs / events bring tourism and economic benefits to the County. Forest fires may negatively affect the economic benefits that Grant County sees from tourism, camping, and hunting.
- Strawberry Mountain Natural Beef opened for business in John Day in 2005, and currently employs 12 ranchers from the John Day area.
- Corporate travelers use the airport extensively in support of the lumber mills, Les Schwab, and others.

#### Cultural and Historic Assets

- Grant County has a number of cultural and historic attractions. They include the Kam Wah Chung Museum, the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument and Painted Hills, Picture Gorge, the Grant County Museum and Cowboy Museum, the historic Joaquin Miller cabin and Greenhorn Jail, the Dewitt Museum, the North Fork John Day River, state and federal parks and campgrounds, and the Strawberry Mountain Wilderness/Recreation Area. Grant County also has a number of homes and/or buildings on the national historic register.
- Local area activities include: snowmobiling, water and snow skiing, fishing and hunting, hiking, camping, boating, golfing, horseback-riding, mushrooming, wildlife viewing, backpacking, and river-rafting. The John Day Fossil Beds National Monument is located nine miles west of Dayville. The region boasts four designated Wild and Scenic rivers, a national park, and beautiful high desert scenery popular with photographers, bird watchers and hikers. The Northside, Murderers Creek and Ochoco hunting units intersect at Dayville, and the area is popular throughout the state for deer and elk hunting, as well as upland game birds. Annual events include a cross country horse race, a parade, activities in the park, a duck race, and a dance.
- The entire state of Oregon experienced flooding in 1964, and in John Day, flooding reached the Kam Wah Chung Museum.

#### Critical Facilities & Infrastructure

- The City of John Day has six storage reservoirs of varying sizes. The City obtains its water from four ground water supply wells, and one spring source (Long Gulch Springs).
- The John Day Police Department, 9-1-1 Center, and City Hall are all part of one building on Main St, John Day. If all three were damaged or affected by an emergency event, the city may suffer in its ability to respond and recover from an event.

- The County's Sheriff's Office and jail are located in Canyon City. The jail is a 47-bed facility with 12 employees, five road officers, and an emergency manager. There is a river behind the jail that, if it rose more than five feet, could cause harm to this building.
- Each small city has an ambulance; the John Day Blue Mountain Hospital is the closest medical facility for every community in Grant County with the exception of Granite (closest hospital in Baker City).
- With the exception of Kimberly, each small community has a volunteer fire department.
- John Day, Prairie City, Seneca, Dayville, Mt. Vernon and Long Creek all have wastewater treatment plants. Canyon City uses John Day's wastewater plant by contract. The John Day wastewater plant lies within the city's floodplain.
- The bridge system in Picture Gorge, if destroyed, would cause minor hardship. Currently, the area sees occasional rock falls, but with very little traffic, the landslides have not caused any harm.
- There are four ways in and out of the county; Highways 395 and 26 intersect at John Day, and bisect the county both vertically and horizontally.
- AirLife makes over 60 trips a year to John Day for Air Ambulance. Time to St. Charles in Bend is 45 minutes versus 3 hours on the road. Should the road system be impaired aircraft are the only way to access the John Day valley.
- The airport Helibase is the USFS Northwest Training Academy for Helicopter Rappel teams and is a Single Engine Air Tanker base providing the only rapid response to wildfire on the Malheur National Forest. The base supports several million dollars a year in fire fighting suppression efforts.
- Medical specialists are flown in on a regular basis.
- The Oregon Dept of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Dept of Forestry and the USFS all use the airport in support of their missions.
- The airport supports an automated weather station broadcasting local conditions on a worldwide basis. Without this real time weather, flights into John Day in poor weather are not possible.

#### Natural Resources

- Environmental resources include the North Fork John Day Wilderness Area, Strawberry Mountain Wilderness Area, John Day Fossil Beds, the Malheur National Forest, Black Canyon Wilderness Area, and Silvies River.
- Forest fires may negatively affect the economic benefits that Grant County sees from tourism, camping, and hunting.
- Lightning storms and heavy winds increase the number of forest fires, building collapses, and power outages.

## Land Use and Development

- The Grant County wildland-urban interface areas include Austin, Bates, Canyon City, Dayville, Granite, John Day, Long Creek, Monument, Mount Vernon, Prairie City, and Seneca.
- Future growth will likely occur in the cities' growth boundaries; none of these areas are particularly subject to natural hazards.

## **Community Resilience Factors**

The following documents the key community resilience factors in Grant County including a description of the local government's structure, existing plans and policies, and community organizations and programs.

### **Government Structure**

Baker County employs a County Clerk, District Attorney, Sheriff, Treasurer, and a Judge, along with the following departments:

#### Economic Development

The Department of Economic Development provides a variety of services to existing and prospective businesses.

#### Planning:

The Grant County Planning Department provides planning and zoning information to the public and other government agencies. Additional responsibilities include reviewing development proposals, administering and enforcing land use laws, regulations, and ordinances, reviewing applications for land use actions, and conducting comprehensive planning studies and research.

#### Road Department

The Grant County Road Department works to provide roadways that are safe, efficient, and economical to maintain.

### **Existing Plan & Policies**

Communities often have existing plans and policies that guide and influence land use, land development, and population growth. Such existing plans and policies can include comprehensive plans, zoning ordinances, and technical reports or studies. Plans and policies already in existence have support from local residents, businesses and policy makers. Many land-use, comprehensive, and strategic plans get updated regularly, and can adapt easily to changing conditions and needs.<sup>1</sup>

The Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan includes a range of recommended action items that, when implemented, will reduce the county's vulnerability to natural hazards. Many of these recommendations are consistent with the goals and objectives of the county's existing plans and policies. Linking existing plans and policies to the Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan helps identify what resources already exist that can be used to implement the action items identified in the Plan. Implementing the natural hazards mitigation plan's action items through existing

plans and policies increases their likelihood of being supported and getting updated, and maximizes the county's resources.

The following are existing plans and policies already in place within the community. A table further defining each of these plans and policies has been included at the end of this section.

- Grant County Oregon Comprehensive Plan
- Grant County Community Wildfire Protection Plan
- Grant County Emergency Operations Plan
- Grant County Transportation System Plan

## **Community Organizations and Programs**

Social systems can be defined as community organizations and programs that provide social and community-based services, such as health care or housing assistance, to the public. In planning for natural hazard mitigation, it is important to know what social systems exist within the community because of their existing connections to the public. Often, actions identified by the plan involve communicating with the public or specific subgroups within the population (e.g. elderly, children, low income). The County can use existing social systems as resources for implementing such communication-related activities because these service providers already work directly with the public on a number of issues, one of which could be natural hazard preparedness and mitigation.

The following organizations are active within the community and may be potential partners for implementing mitigation actions:

- Alternative Services, Inc. (ASI)
- American Legion Auxiliary
- American Legion Post #77
- Blue Mountain Hospital
- Blue Mountain Nursing Home
- Child Care Resource and Referral
- Elks Lodge BPOE #1824
- Families First
- Girl Scouts of the USA, Silver Sage, Eastern Oregon Office
- Glenn C. Lee Scouting Service Center
- Grant and Harney County Casa
- Grant County Chamber of Commerce
- Grant County Extension Office
- Grant County Senior Citizens Assoc.
- Greater Prairie City Community Association
- Growing Tree Infant Center
- Hospice of Redmond-Sisters
- John Day Kiwanis Club
- People Mover
- Senior Citizens Community Center
- Shie Elem Golden Heritage
- Strawberry Wilderness Family Clinic
- Umatilla-Morrow Head Start, Inc.
- Valley View Retirement and Assisted Living Residence

A table including information on each organization or program's service area, types of services offered, populations served, and how the organization or program could be involved in natural hazard mitigation is included at the end of this section. The three involvement methods are defined below.

- Education and outreach – organization could partner with the community to educate the public or provide outreach assistance on natural hazard preparedness and mitigation.
- Information dissemination – organization could partner with the community to provide hazard-related information to target audiences.
- Plan/project implementation – organization may have plans and/or policies that may be used to implement mitigation activities or the organization could serve as the coordinating or partner organization to implement mitigation actions.

## Existing Mitigation Activities

Existing mitigation activities include current mitigation programs and activities that are being implemented by the community in an effort to reduce the community's overall risk to natural hazards. Documenting these efforts can assist the community in better understanding its risk and can assist in documenting successes.

Grant County has not implemented any mitigation projects that are known at this time.

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<sup>i</sup> Burby, Raymond J., ed. 1998. *Cooperating with Nature: Confronting Natural Hazards with Land-Use Planning for Sustainable Communities*.

Grant County  
Existing Plans and Policies

Name	Date of Last Revision	Author/Owner	Description	Relation to Natural Hazard Mitigation
Grant County Oregon Comprehensive Plan	1999	Grant County Planning Department	To plan for the responsible management of land use within Grant County	"Goal VII Element" titled "Areas subject to natural disasters and hazards" outlines the numerous disasters Grant County faces, as well as explaining the implications of those disasters on further development of the area.
Grant County Emergency Operations Plan		Grant County Sheriff's Office	Provides a framework through which Grant County can plan and perform emergency functions during a disaster or national emergency.	"Attempts to be all-inclusive in combining the four phases of Emergency Management;" Mitigation actions are identified for the area's natural hazards.
Grant County Transportation System Plan	1997	David Evans and Associates	The TSP planning area includes all areas inside Grant County, public and private. A large foldout map displaying the Grant County planning area is located in Appendix A. The map also shows state highways as well as county and United States Forest Service (USFS) roads. Roadways included in the TSP may fall under multiple jurisdictions: one of nine incorporated cities, Grant County, the State of Oregon, and the federal government.	The Transportation Plan may be a resource to identify which roads and transportation systems are most vulnerable to natural disasters. Likewise, the TSP can be utilized to implement mitigation measures aimed at protecting "transportation disadvantaged" populations in emergency situations. When updated in 2017, the TSP can also include mitigation elements in its implementation considerations.

Grant County  
Existing Plans and Policies

Name	Date of Last Revision	Author/Owner	Description	Relation to Natural Hazard Mitigation
Grant County Community Wildfire Protection Plan			Sets forth action plan for addressing prioritized fuel reduction, treatment of structural ignitability, and increased collaboration to reduce the impact of wildland urban interface fires.	A CWPP can serve as the wildfire hazard annex of an all-hazard mitigation plan. Actions documented in a CWPP should be included in the local mitigation plan as well.

Grant County  
Existing Community Organizations

Name and Contact Information	Description	Service Area	Populations Served							Involvement with Natural Hazard Mitigation
			Businesses	Children	Disabled	Elders	English Second Language	Families	Low Income	
<b>Alternative Services, Inc. (ASI)</b> 600 S. Canyon Blvd John Day, OR 97845 Phone: 541-575-2251 Fax: 541-575-2460	"Offers residential and vocational services in Grant County in two 24-hour residential facilities. The vocational program offers lawn care, word-working and raising beef cows and hogs."	Grant County			✓			✓		• Information dissemination
<b>American Legion Auxiliary</b> 160 Ogilvie Dr. John Day, OR Phone: 541-575-1802	A community service organization associated with United States veterans.	Grant County			✓	✓		✓	✓	• Information dissemination
<b>American Legion Auxiliary</b> Prairie City Unit #106 PO Box 48 Prairie City, OR Phone: 541-820-4384	A community service organization associated with United States veterans.	Grant County			✓	✓		✓	✓	• Information dissemination
<b>American Legion Post #77</b> PO Box 125 John Day, OR Phone: 541-575-2838	A community service organization associated with United States veterans.	Grant County			✓	✓		✓	✓	• Information dissemination

Grant County  
Existing Community Organizations

Name and Contact Information	Description	Service Area	Populations Served							Involvement with Natural Hazard Mitigation
			Businesses	Children	Disabled	Elders	English Second Language	Families	Low Income	
<b>Blue Mountain Hospital</b> 170 Ford Road John Day, Oregon 97845 Phone: 541-575-1311 Fax: 541-575-1255	Blue Mountain Hospital is a community-supported general hospital.. Provides the following services and more: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inpatient</li> <li>• Outpatient</li> <li>• Ambulance</li> <li>• Rural Clinics</li> <li>• Visiting Specialists</li> <li>• Home Health</li> <li>• Respite Care</li> </ul>	Grant County		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	• Information dissemination
<b>Blue Mountain Nursing Home</b> 112 E 5th Street, Prairie City, Oregon 97869 Phone: 541-820-3341 Fax: 541-820-3628	"We are Medicaid certified only, and are affiliated with the Blue Mountain Hospital District. We provide long-term care, day care, and respite care."	Grant County				✓				• Information dissemination
<b>Child Care Resource and Referral</b> P.O. Box 278 118 Washington St. Canyon City, OR 97820 Phone: 541-575-0210	Resource assistance for people who work in child care	Grant County	✓							• Information dissemination

Grant County  
Existing Community Organizations

Name and Contact Information	Description	Service Area	Populations Served							Involvement with Natural Hazard Mitigation
			Businesses	Children	Disabled	Elders	English Second Language	Families	Low Income	
<b>Elks Lodge BPOE #1824</b> PO Box 747 John Day, OR Phone: 541-575-9937	Quoted from the mission statement: the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America will serve the people and communities through benevolent programs, demonstrating that Elks Care and Elks Share.	Grant County		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education and outreach</li> <li>• Information dissemination</li> </ul>
<b>Families First</b> 401 S Canyon Blvd John Day, OR 97845 – 1048 Phone: 541-575-4335	Individual and family counseling. Assistance for young mothers. Foster care for children in need. Support for foster parents, and assistance to people who want to adopt. Supportive group homes for children. Transitional housing for homeless young mothers. Assists families struggling with family problems.	Grant County		✓				✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education and outreach</li> <li>• Information dissemination</li> </ul>
<b>Girl Scouts of the USA, Silver Sage, Eastern Oregon Office</b> PO Box 1368 Ontario, OR Phone: 541-889-6210	To provide numerous volunteer services to community members in addition to preparing girls and young women for active participation in community	Grant County		✓	✓	✓				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education and outreach</li> <li>• Information dissemination</li> </ul>

Grant County  
Existing Community Organizations

Name and Contact Information	Description	Service Area	Populations Served							Involvement with Natural Hazard Mitigation
			Businesses	Children	Disabled	Elders	English Second Language	Families	Low Income	
<b>Glenn C. Lee Scouting Service Center</b> 2301 Adams La Grande, OR 97850 Phone: 866-963-2858 Fax: 541-963-2858	To provide numerous volunteer services to community members in addition to preparing boys and young men for active participation in community life.	Southeast Washington and Northeast Oregon		✓	✓	✓				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education and outreach</li> <li>• Information dissemination</li> </ul>
<b>Grant and Harney County Casa</b> 835 S. Canyon Blvd. John Day, OR 97845 Phone: 541-575-5574 Fax: 541-575-1068	Social Services, Social and Welfare Services	Grant and Harney Counties		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education and outreach</li> <li>• Information dissemination</li> </ul>
<b>Grant County Chamber of Commerce</b> 281 W. Main Street John Day, Or 97845 Phone: 541-575-0547	Provide economic development assistance to local businesses.	Grant County	✓							<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education and outreach</li> <li>• Information dissemination</li> <li>• Plan/project implementation</li> </ul>
<b>Grant County Extension Office</b> Courthouse 201 S Humbolt Suite 190 Canyon City OR 97820-6186 Phone: 541-575-1911 Fax: 541-575-2248	Provides research-based knowledge and education that focus on strengthening communities and economies, sustaining natural resources, and promoting healthy families and individuals.	Grant County	✓							<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education and outreach</li> <li>• Information dissemination</li> <li>• Plan/project implementation</li> </ul>

Grant County  
Existing Community Organizations

Name and Contact Information	Description	Service Area	Populations Served							Involvement with Natural Hazard Mitigation
			Businesses	Children	Disabled	Elders	English Second Language	Families	Low Income	
<b>Grant County Senior Citizens Assoc.</b> 142 N.E. Dayton John Day, OR Phone: 541-575-1825	A senior citizens association	Grant County				✓				• Information dissemination
<b>Greater Prairie City Community Association</b> Prairie City, OR 97869 Phone: 541-820-3666	A community association	Grant County		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	• Education and outreach • Information dissemination
<b>Growing Tree Infant Ctr</b> 404 NW Canton St John Day, OR 97845 – 1165 Phone: 541-575-2371	A childcare facility for infants.	Grant County		✓						• Information dissemination
<b>Hospice of Redmond-Sisters</b> 732 SW 3rd Redmond, OR 97756 Phone: 541-548-7483 Email: hospice@bendcable.com	Hospice Care for people suffering from advanced illnesses and their families	Grant County				✓		✓		• Information dissemination
<b>John Day Kiwanis Club</b> 210 NW Canton John Day, OR Phone: 541-575-1827	A local community service organization.	Grant County		✓				✓		• Education and outreach • Information dissemination
<b>People Mover</b> 229 NE Dayton St John Day, OR 97845 – 1204 Phone: (541) 575-2370	Public transportation service	Grant County		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	• Education and outreach • Information dissemination

Grant County  
Existing Community Organizations

Name and Contact Information	Description	Service Area	Populations Served							Involvement with Natural Hazard Mitigation
			Businesses	Children	Disabled	Elders	English Second Language	Families	Low Income	
<b>Senior Citizens Community Center</b> 142 NE Dayton ST John Day, OR 97845 Phone: 541-575-1825	A senior citizens community center	Grant County				✓				• Information dissemination
<b>Shie Elem Golden Heritage</b> 200 SW Brent Dr. John Day, OR 97845 Phone: 541-575-0957	Medical care and nursing home facilities	Grant County				✓				• Information dissemination
<b>Strawberry Wilderness Family Clinic</b> Phone: (541) 575-0404	Provides healthcare service for community members	Grant County		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	• Education and outreach • Information dissemination
<b>Umatilla-Morrow Head Start, Inc.</b> 110 NE 4th Hermiston, OR 97838 Phone: 541-564-6878	Early Head Start, Oregon Head Start PreKindergarten	Grant, Gilliam, Morrow, Sherman, Umatilla, Wallowa, and Wasco Counties		✓						• Education and outreach • Information dissemination
<b>Valley View Retirement and Assisted Living Residence</b> 112 Valley View Dr, John Day, Oregon 97845 Phone: 541-575-3533 Email: hospice@bendcable.com	Independent, yet assisted living where residents are able to enjoy daily activities with assistance if needed	Grant County				✓				• Information dissemination

## **Grant County Fact Sheet**

### **Grant County**

4,528 sq miles

Percent State and Federal Ownership: 60.7%

### **Recreational Amenities**

Grant County Historic Museum

Joaquin Miller Cabin

Greenhorn Jail

St. Thomas Episcopal Church (historic)

Boot Hill

Canyon City & St. Andrews Cemeteries

F.C. Sells Brewery Site

Ox Bow Trade Co. Museum of Horse-

Drawn Vehicles

June '62 Days Celebration

John Day Fossil Beds National Monument

Strawberry Mountain Wilderness Areas

Fishing and gold panning in Canyon Creek

John Day Golf Club

Malheur National Forest

Silvies River

Bear Valley Meadows Golf Course

North Fork John Day Wilderness Area

Black Canyon Wilderness Area

Kam Wah Chung & Co. Chinese Museum

Local area activities include: snowmobiling, water and snow skiing, fishing and hunting, hiking, camping, boating, golfing, horseback-riding, mushrooming, wildlife viewing, backpacking, and river-rafting. The John Day Fossil Beds National Monument is located nine miles west of Dayville. The region boasts four designated Wild and Scenic rivers, a national park, and beautiful high desert scenery popular with photographers, bird watchers and hikers. The Northside, Murderers Creek and Ochoco hunting units intersect at Dayville, and the area is popular throughout the state for deer and elk hunting, as well as upland game birds. Annual events include a cross country horse race, a parade, activities in the park, a duck race, and a dance.

### **Local and Regional Economic Development Organizations**

Town of Canyon City

Greater Eastern Oregon Development  
Corporation (GEODC)

Grant County Economic Development  
Coordinator

Grant Resource Enhancement Action Team  
(GREAT)

SRA Southeast Regional Alliance

Economic & Community Development

Department Regional Development Officer

City of Dayville

City of Granite

Grant County Chamber of Commerce

City of Seneca

City of Prairie City

Prairie City Community Association

City of Mt. Vernon

City of Monument

City of Long Creek

City of John Day

### **Economic Development and Employment**

#### **Principal Industries:**

Forestry, livestock, recreation and tourism

Source: Oregon Employment Department, Covered Employment and Payroll Reports, 1998

#### **Agricultural Products of the Area (Top 3 largest gross farm sales):**

Cattle and calves, specialty products, hays and forage  
Source: Oregon State University, Extension Economic Information Office

## Economic Indicators

	Grant County		Oregon		
	2001	2002	2000	2001	2002
<b>Population</b>	7,800	7,750	3,421,399	3,471,700	3,504,700
<b>Labor Force</b>	3,769	3,770	1,802,938	1,793,773	1,840,133
<b>Total Employment</b>			1,715,453	1,679,914	1,701,390
<b>Unemployment</b>	387	378	87,485	113,859	138,743
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>	10.3%	10%	4.9%	6.3%	7.5%
<b>Non-Farm Payroll Employment</b>	2,670	2,640	1,606,800	1,596,100	1,572,500
<b>Total Covered Employment</b>	2,725	2,697	1,607,944	1,596,943	1,573,083
<b>Total Covered Payroll (\$ thousands county/ \$ millions state)</b>	\$66,739	\$69,603	\$52,701	\$53,021	\$52,989
<b>Ave. Annual Payroll Per Employee</b>	\$24,492	\$25,808	\$32,776	\$33,202	\$33,684
<b>Number of Business Units</b>	345	344	108,432	111,353	113,097
<b>Total Personal Income (\$ millions)</b>	\$179,195	\$185,679	\$94,999	\$98,500	\$101,358
<b>Annual Per Capita Personal Income</b>	\$	\$24,967	\$27,649	\$28,400	28,792
<b>Assessed Value of Property (\$ millions)</b>	\$0	\$420	\$198,911	\$210,435	\$219,878
<b>Residential Construction</b>					
<b>Building Permits</b>	0	0	19,877	21,049	22,186
<b>Value (\$ thousands)</b>	\$0	N/A	\$2,533	\$2,985	\$3,347
<b>Travel Expenditures (\$ millions)</b>	\$0	\$11,100	\$6,133	\$6,128	\$6,208
<b>Travel-Related Employment</b>	0	270	89,800	91,100	90,200

Sources: Oregon Employment Department; Center for Population Research & Census, PSU; U.S. Census Bureau; Bureau of Economic Analysis; Oregon Tourism Commission; Oregon Department of Revenue; Oregon Economic and Community Development Department.

## Special Districts and Associations

Blue Mountain Hospital District  
Grant County E.S.D.  
Grant County Extension Service District and 4-H  
Grant County Transportation District  
Grant S.W.C.D.  
John Day/Canyon City Parks and Recreation  
Mid-County Cemetery District  
Cummings Ditch Company

## **Communications Resources**

### Local Newspapers:

Blue Mountain Eagle

### Regional Newspapers:

East Oregonian

Oregonian

### Radio Stations:

KJDY AM and FM

KGNR FM

KOPB (Public Radio)

### TV Stations:

Blue Mountain TV Cable Co.

Boise Idaho

Satellite

### Available Cable Television:

Blue Mountain TV Cable Co.

### Telephone Service Provider(s):

CenturyTel

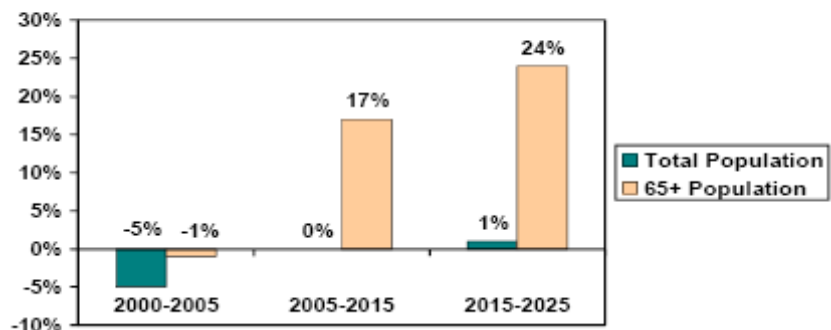
Oregon Telephone Co.

Local Internet Service Provider(s): Yes, 1

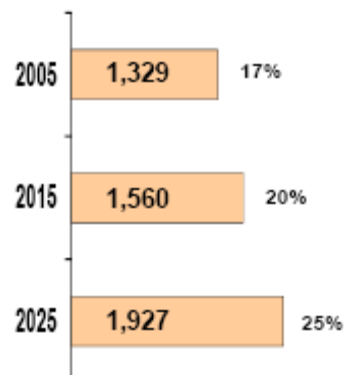
## **Historic Listings**

- Advent Christian Church (added 1992): also known as Seventh Day Adventist Church; 261 W. Main St., John Day
- Cant, James, Ranch Historic District (added 1984); Also known as Sheep Rock Unit of John Day Fossil Beds National Monument. OR 19, Dayville
- Dayville Hotel (added 1984) US 26, Dayville
- Fremont Powerhouse (added 1983); Umatilla National Forest, Granite
- John Day Compound, Supervisor's Warehouse (added 1986); Malheur National Forest, John Day
- Kam Wah Chung Company Building (added 1973); Canton St., John Day City Park, John Day
- St. Thomas' Episcopal Church (added 1974); 135 Washington St., Canyon City
- Sumpter Valley Railway Historic District (added 1987); Roughly between Baker and Prairie City starting near the McEwen station site and W to the Dixie Pass area, Bates
- Sumpter Valley Railway Passenger Station (added 1981). Also known as Sumpter Valley Railway Depot; Main and Bridge Sts., Prairie City
- Sumpter Valley Railway, Middle Fork – John Day River (added 1987). Also known as Oregon Lumber Company Railroad; Sumpter Valley Railway's Middle Fork Spur between Bates and Susanville, Bates
- Supervisor's House No. 1001 (added 1986), Malheur National Forest, John Day

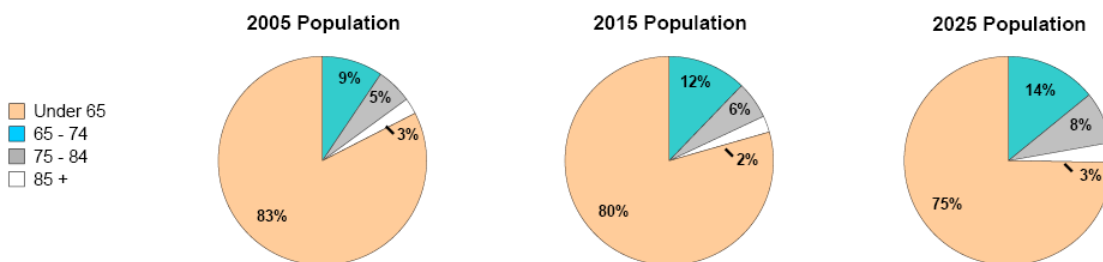
### Growth Rate Of Grant County's Aging Population



### Grant County Projected 65+ Population and % of general population



### Our population is aging in Grant County



Under 65	6,249	6,003	5,683
65-74	715	916	1,083
75-84	413	459	616
85 +	201	185	228

### Will our facilities meet the needs of Grant County seniors?

Facility Type	Count	Available	Occupied
Physicians per 1000 (2004 Data)	0.65	--	--
Hospitals	1	--	--
Community Facilities	5	73	62
Nursing Homes	1	35	21

<http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/spwpd/lrc/fltc/data/grant.pdf>

Basic Information	Incorporated	Nearest Major City	nearest major city (miles)	Elevation	Monthly Average Low	Monthly Average High	Hottest Month	Coldest Month	Driest Month	Wettest Month
Canyon City	1981	Bend	150	3194	21	88	July	January	July	November
Dayville	1914	Bend	125	2348	23	91	July	December	July	November
Granite	1901	Baker City	47	4755	21	83	July	January	July	December
John Day	1901	Bend	150	3060	21	88	July	January	July	May
Long Creek	1891	Pendleton	90	3754	21	83	July	December	July	November
Monument	1947	Pendleton	120	2000	21	90	July	December	July	December
Mt. Vernon	1948	Bend	142	2871	21	88	July	January	August	May
Prairie City	1891	Pendleton	140	3539	21	88	July	January	July	May
Seneca	1970	Bend	175	4666	8	80	July	January	July	December

Population	1980	1990	1998	1999	2000	2001
Canyon City	639	648	725	725	699	670
Dayville	199	144	185	185	138	140
Granite	17	8	25	25	24	20
John Day	2012	1857	2015	2010	1821	1831
Long Creek	252	249	260	235	228	230
Monument	192	162	165	160	151	150
Mt. Vernon	569	549	659	679	595	699
Prairie City	1106	1117	1195	1205	1080	1080
Seneca	285	191	230	215	223	220
Grant County	8210	7853	8000	8000	7935	7800

Number of Manufacturing Companies	
Canyon City	0
Dayville	0
Granite	0
John Day	5
Long Creek	0
Monument	0
Mt. Vernon	3
Prairie City	1
Seneca	0
Grant County	46

Communities Participating in the National Flood Plan			
Community Name	Initial FIRM Identified	Current Effective Map	Regular or Emergency Date
Canyon City	9/18/1987	9/18/1987	9/18/1987
Dayville	9/24/1984	9/24/1984	9/24/1984
Granite			
John Day	9/15/1977	2/23/1982	9/15/1977
Long Creek	9/24/1984	9/24/1984	9/24/1984
Monument	9/24/1984	9/24/1984	9/24/1984
Mt. Vernon	9/18/1987	9/18/1987	9/18/1987
Prairie City	10/18/1974	10/18/1974	10/18/1974
Seneca	9/24/1984	9/24/1984	9/24/1984
Grant County	2/15/1979	5/18/1982	2/15/1979

<b>Water Supply</b>	<b>Operator</b>	<b>Age of Water System</b>	<b>Plans for Upgrading or Expanding</b>
Canyon City	Town of Canyon City	1935	This is a 20 year Master Plan allowing for expansion when warranted.
Dayville	City of Dayville	1930	There are plans in the very earliest stages for upgrading and expanding the water system. 1. Renovate Chlorinator Building / Install master meter 2. Acquisition of an additional water source 3. Provide a major loop to the system to the school 4. Install n
Granite	City of Granite	1980	Master Plan to be completed by end of 2001
John Day	City of John Day	1980	Drill a new well north of the John Day river near the east end of NW 9th Ave south of reservoir No. 5. Construct a new pump house for the new well. A new well pump, motor, controls, pitless adaptor, piping, valves, and flowmeter will be required for new w
Long Creek	City of Long Creek	1979	
Monument	City of Monument	1976	Yes
Mt. Vernon	City of Mt. Vernon	1948	
Prairie City	City of Prairie City	1975	Construction of a sand filtration system & development of at least one additional well to augment water supply during peak demand.
Seneca	City of Seneca	1940	Plan in process, nearly completed

	<b>Primary Employers</b>	<b>Number of Employees</b>
Canyon City	Grant County - Courthouse, Jail, Road & Health Departments	110
	School District #3 - Humbolt Elementary School & District Office	46
	Grayback Forestry Inc. - Reforestation and Fire Suppression	40
	Jackson Oil Inc. - Texaco Station and Mini Mart and Business Office	13
	Oregon State Highway Department - Maintenance Shop	11
Dayville	Dayville School - Education	20
	Dayville Merc - Grocery/Liquor	3
	TX Lounge - Café/Lounge	3
	Dayville Café - Café	3
	Dayville South-Fork Gas & Mini Mart - Gas/Grocery	-
Granite	The Outback of Granite - Food Service, Fuel, Supplies	4
	The Lodge at Granite	1
John Day	Grant Western Lumber - Lumber	75
	Malheur Lumber Co. - Wood Products	87
	U.S. Forest Service - Malheur National Forestry	156
	Chester's Thriftway - Grocery	74
	Blue Mountain Hospital - Health Services	86
Long Creek	Long Creek School Dist. #17 - Education	17
	Grant County Road Department - Road Maintenance	3
	Oregon State Road Department - Road Maintenance	3
	City of Long Creek - Municipal	4
	Elmer Bennett Trucking - Transport	7
Monument	Columbia Power Co-op - Utility	12
	Monument School Dist. - Education	22
	Boyer Store - Gas/Fuel	4
Mt. Vernon	Oregon Telephone - Utility	-
	Grant County School Dist. #3 - Education	6
	City of Mount Vernon - Municipal	4
	Silver Spur Restaurant - Food	-
	McKern's Texaco Food Mart - Fuel/Convenience Store	-
Prairie City	Prairie Wood Products - Lumber Products	150
	U.S. Forest Service - Forestry	-
	Prairie City School Dist. - Education	-
	City of Prairie City - Municipal	7
Seneca	School District #3 - Education	8
	City of Seneca - Municipal	3

<b>Community Services and Resources</b>	<b>Fire Station(s) serving community</b>	<b># Paid and Volunteer Firefighters</b>	<b>Nearest Hospital</b>	<b>Distance to Nearest Hospital (miles)</b>	<b>Emergency Services to Community</b>	<b>General Clinic(s)</b>
Canyon City	Canyon City Fire Dept.	10	Blue Mountain Hospital	2	Grant Co. Ambulance & Air Life of Oregon	2
Dayville	Dayville Fire Dept.	6	Blue Mountain Hospital	31	Grant Co. Ambulance & Air Life of Oregon	1
Granite	Granite City Fire Dept.	5	St. Elizabeth's Hospital	47	Grant Co. Ambulance & Air Life of Oregon	0
John Day	John Day Fire Dept. and RFPD	15	Blue Mountain Hospital	local	Grant Co. Ambulance & Air Life of Oregon	2
Long Creek	Long Creek Fire Dept.	8	Blue Mountain Hospital	41	Grant Co. Ambulance & Air Life of Oregon	0
Monument	Monument Fire Dept.	6	Blue Mountain Hospital	60	Grant Co. Ambulance & Air Life of Oregon	1
Mt. Vernon	Mt. Vernon Fire Dept. and RFPD	20	Blue Mountain Hospital	8	Grant Co. Ambulance & Air Life of Oregon	0
Prairie City	Prairie City Fire Dept.	28	Blue Mountain Hospital	13	Grant Co. Ambulance & Air Life of Oregon	0
Seneca	Seneca Volunteer Fire Dept.	7	Blue Mountain Hospital	25	Grant Co. Ambulance & Air Life of Oregon	1

<b>Wastewater Treatment System</b>	<b>Operator</b>	<b>Age of System</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Plans for Upgrade/Expansion</b>
Canyon City	City of John Day	1978	Collection system only in Canyon City - Treatment plan is owned and operated by the City of John Day.	-
Dayville	City of Dayville	2001	-	-
Granite	None	-	-	-
John Day	City of John Day	1979	Last major improvement to the system occurred more than 17 years ago	-
Long Creek	City of Long Creek	1976	-	-
Monument	N/A	-	-	-
Mt. Vernon	City of Mt. Vernon	1979	-	-
Prairie City	Prairie City	1981	Collection and pumping updated 2002. Sewage lines throughout City in need of replacement	Completed 2002
Seneca	City of Seneca	1974	-	-

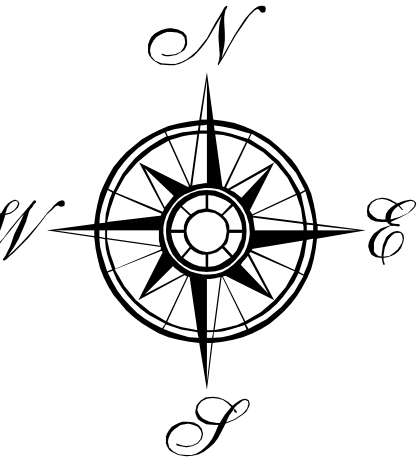
<b>Transportation</b>	<b>Highways</b>
Canyon City	Hwy 395 N/S route, local; Hwy 26 E/W route, local access
Dayville	Hwy 26E/W route, local access
Granite	Hwy 7 E/W route, access 15 miles
John Day	Hwy 26 E/W rte, local; Hwy 395 rte, local; Hwy 39 N rte, 6 mi access
Long Creek	Hwy 395 N/S route, local access
Monument	Hwy 395 N/S route, access 18 miles
Mt. Vernon	Hwy 26 E/W route, local access; Hwy 395 N/S route, local access
Prairie City	Hwy 26 E/W route, local access
Seneca	Hwy 395 N/S route, local access

<b>Transportation</b>	<b>Community Air</b>	<b>Air Passenger</b>	<b>Airport Freight</b>	<b>Rail Service</b>	<b>Freight Service</b>
Canyon City	No	No	No	No	No
Dayville	No	No	No	No	No
Granite	No	No	No	No	No
John Day	no	No	No	No	No
Long Creek	No	No	No	No	No
Monument	Yes	No	No	No	No
Mt. Vernon	No	No	No	No	No
Prairie City	No	No	No	No	-
Seneca	No	-	-	No	No

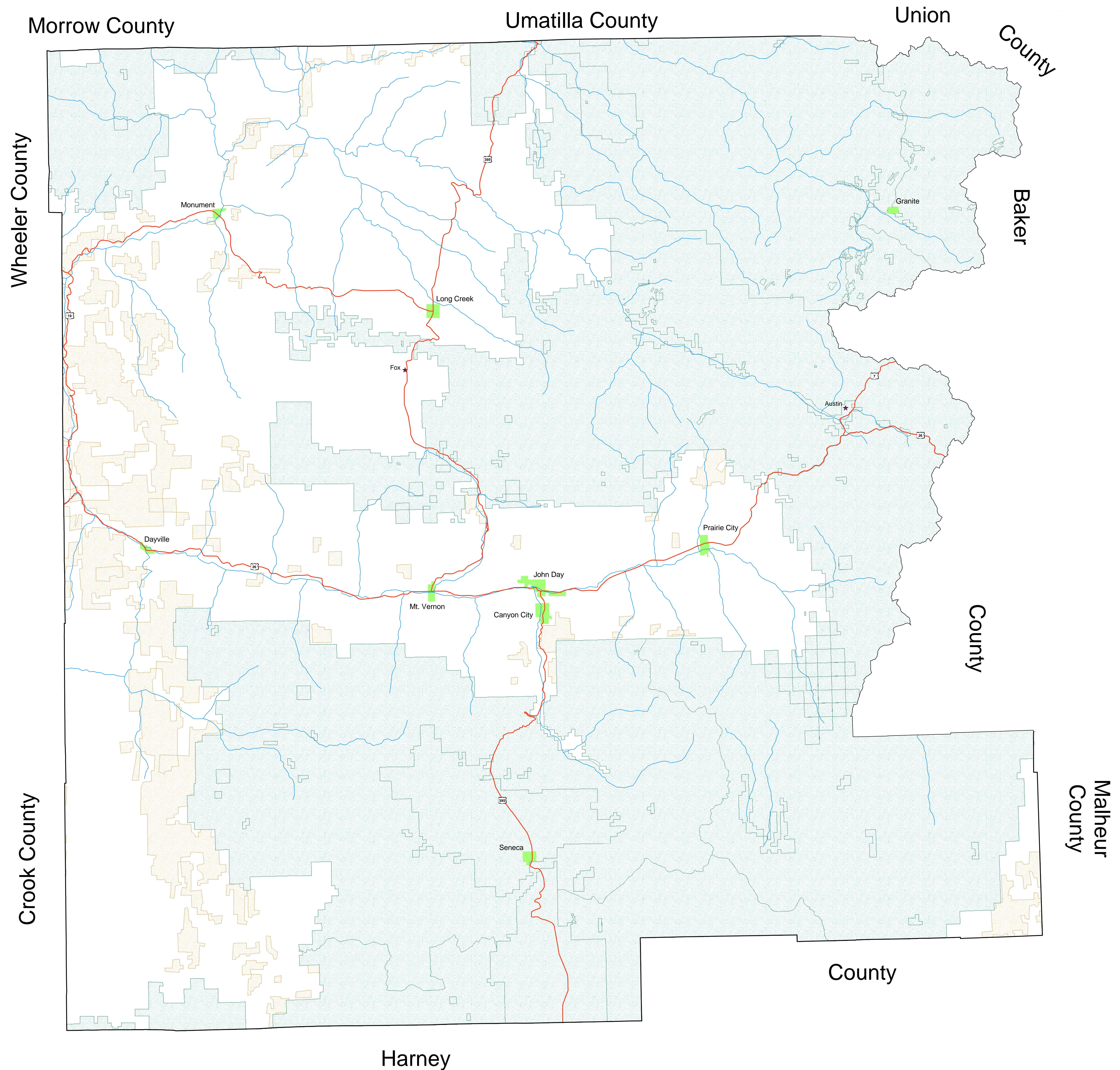
	<b>Passenger Service</b>	<b>Bus Service Available in Community</b>	<b>Buses Per Day</b>	<b>Local Charter Service</b>	<b>Distance to Nearest Bus Service (miles)</b>
Canyon City	No	Yes; People Mover	3/week	No	80
Dayville	No	Yes; People Mover	3/week	No	105
Granite	No	No	-	No	47
John Day	-	Yes; People Mover	3/week	No	80
Long Creek	No	Yes; People Mover	3/week	No	90
Monument	No	No	3/week	No	112
Mt. Vernon	No	Yes; People Mover	3/week	No	88
Prairie City	-	Yes; People Mover	3/week	No	67
Seneca	No	Yes; People Mover	3/week	No	80

\*People mover has 3 buses and can carry 26, 11, and 11 persons to Bend and John Day

Information in the Community Profiles was derived from many sources, including local, state and federal sources. The Oregon Economic and Community Development Department cannot accept responsibility for errors or omissions. Questions and comments may be directed to the department by telephone 503-986-0123, by fax 503-581-5115 or by email [oord.info@state.or.us](mailto:oord.info@state.or.us).



# Grant County



**Legend**

★

Unincorporated Areas

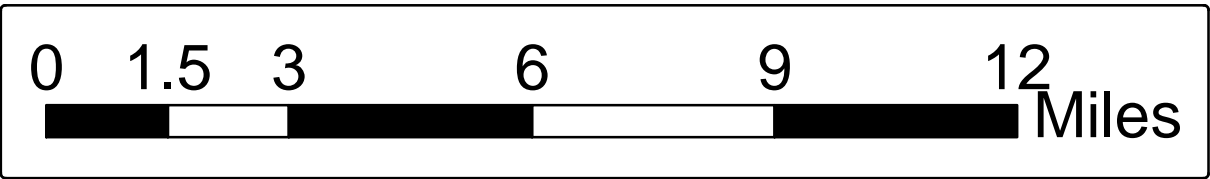
Highways

Creeks & Rivers

City Limits

Forest Service Lands

BLM Lands



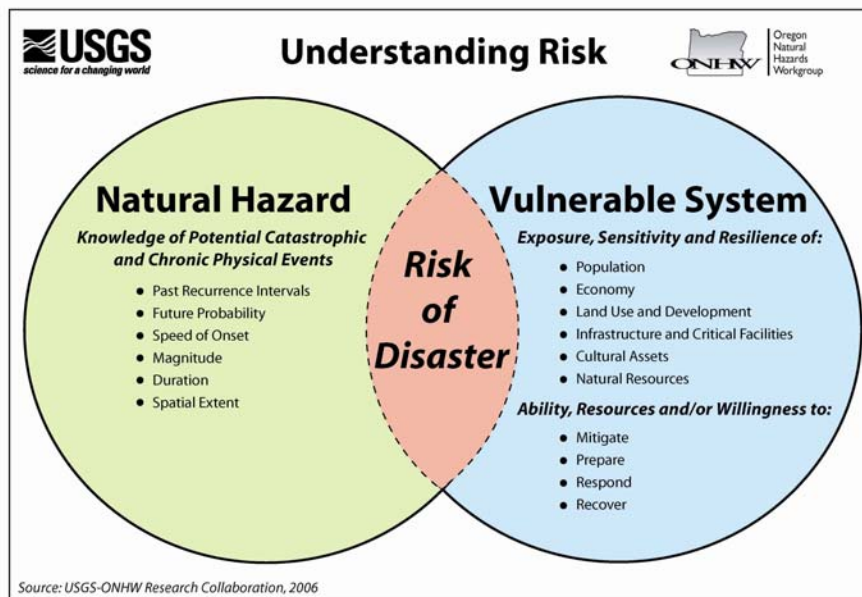
The information on this map was derived from various public data sources. Care was taken in the creation of this map but it is provided "as is". Wallowa County cannot accept any responsibility for errors, omissions, or positional accuracy in the digital data or the underlying records. There are no warranties express or implied, including the merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose, accompanying this product.

Data Sources: County Boundary, Cities, Highways, Unincorporated areas, BLM lands, and Streams are from the Geospatial Data Clearinghouse; Forest Service Boundary is maintained by Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, Umatilla National Forest and, the Malheur National Forest.

# Union County Community Sensitivity and Resilience

This section documents the community's sensitivity factors, or those community assets and characteristics that may be impacted by natural hazards, (e.g., special populations, economic factors, and historic and cultural resources). It also identifies the community's resilience factors, or the community's ability to manage risk and adapt to hazard event impacts (e.g., governmental structure, agency missions and directives, and plans, policies, and programs). The information in this section represents a snapshot in time of the current sensitivity and resilience factors in the community when the plan was developed. The information documented below, along with the findings of the risk assessment, should be used as the local level rationale for the risk reduction actions identified in Section 6 – Mission, Goals, and Action Items. The identification of actions that reduce a community's sensitivity and increase its resilience assist in reducing the community's overall risk, or the area of overlap in Figure G.1 below.

**Figure G.1 Understanding Risk**



Source: Oregon Natural Hazards Workgroup, 2006.

# Community Sensitivity Factors

The following list documents the key community sensitivity factors in Union County.

## Population

- Union County has minimal population growth (1.7% between 2000 and 2005), and an increasing number of persons aged 65 and above (16% in 2005 and an expected 20% in 2025). Elderly individuals require special consideration due to their sensitivities to heat and cold, their reliance upon transportation for medications, and their comparative difficulty in making home modifications that reduce risk to hazards.
- Community organizations that serve vulnerable populations are concerned with the lack of emergency transportation and services available to persons with special needs.
- Winter storms can cause freeway closure both east and west, stranding motorists and disrupting supply chains. Air Ambulance transports are not possible during severe winter weather.
- 2% of the total population over age five in Union County speaks English less than “very well.”
- La Grande, population 13,000, is Union County’s largest incorporated city; Residents of nearby towns rely on La Grande for employment, health services, and shopping needs. Resultantly, La Grande’s population is higher during workday hours.
- The community organization, Head Start, has two concerns regarding natural hazards in Region 7: 1) children are left at Head Start centers for extended periods of time for weather-related hazards; 2) Head Start centers have inadequate food and water supplies on hand for emergencies. Head Start would like to have a better understanding of emergency services in the region.
- Union County has seven incorporated cities within its boundaries: Cove, Elgin, Imbler, Island City, La Grande, North Powder, Summerville, and Union. Depending on road closures and distances from La Grande, these cities are at risk of isolation (from transport, medical care, emergency services, etc.) during a disaster event.
- Northeast Oregon attracts tourists and hunters in both the summer and fall. A temporary increase in population places heightened demands on emergency response systems; additionally, uninformed hikers and campers may increase the community’s risk to wildfire.
- Homeowners adjacent to or within floodplains are particularly susceptible to flood; In the County, forty persons hold National Flood Insurance Policies. Two policy-holders have experienced flood-related losses, and two policy-holders have experienced repetitive losses.
- Residents of Union County are relatively isolated from highly populated urban areas and services. La Grande, the largest incorporated city in Northeast Oregon, is 260 miles from Portland.

- All buildings and homes within Union County, and particularly those on the valley floor, are subject to severe weather, including ice and snow storms, lightning storms, hail, heavy rain, and fast winds.

### Economic Assets

- Eastern Oregon University provides the County with employment opportunities, infrastructure that can support cultural and educational offerings, and on-line business-related programs. Additionally, several student organizations provide services to the community.
- Major employers include Boise Cascade Mills, Fleetwood Travel Trailers, Nash Trailers, Borden Chemical Company, Blue Mountain Caskets, government agencies and/or departments, and schools.
- Currently, municipalities in the Region 7 do not maintain continuity of operations plans. COOPs can help communities plan for the continuation of critical services in the event of disaster.
- Union County supports a variety of small, locally-owned businesses through which a number of workers are employed. Small businesses are particularly susceptible to economic losses created by power outages and structural damages.
- Transportation systems (i.e., interstates, Union Pacific Railroad, airports) are vital to the region's economic stability and pursuits.
- The City of Cove maintains a hydroelectric power-plant. Although not dependent on the plant for power needs, Cove is required to produce a certain amount of power per year. Should drought or power-outages frequently occur, Cove may financially struggle.
- Recreational opportunities and annual fairs / events bring tourism and economic benefits to the County.
- Future renewable energy endeavors (i.e., wind farms and biomass productions) may bring additional growth and financial stability to Union County.
- Three mills in Union County have closed or reduced employment levels following timber harvesting reductions on public lands.
- According to the Northeast Oregon Economic Development District's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, "The quality of life in the [region] has been identified by residents as one of the major assets of the area and is expected to help attract new businesses."

### Cultural and Historic Assets

- The National Register of Historic Places lists twenty buildings in Union County. Additional cultural assets include outdoor recreational opportunities (see Natural Resources), the new La Grande library, the Oregon Trail, five museums, the Union brick foundry, Hells Canyon Scenic Route / All-American Road, and the Grande Ronde Symphony Orchestra.

- Eastern Oregon University offers both cultural and historic assets: Pierce library and Inlow Hall hold historic documents, and the theater and athletic buildings provide for numerous cultural opportunities including symphonies, plays, and athletic events.

#### Critical Facilities and Infrastructure

- The Grande Ronde Hospital, small clinics, and drug stores provide vital services and medicines for all of Union County. Elgin and Union residents have access to one local clinic each, and La Grande offers three. The Grande Ronde Hospital sits on a slope where previous landslides have occurred; it is also in the wildland-urban interface where potential fires may occur.
- Eastern Oregon University is a tremendous asset to the surrounding community. The University offers a variety of human expertise, medical support personnel (OHSU Nursing and CERT teams), multiple local and state-wide partnerships, water supplies (swimming pool), construction equipment, snow-removal equipment, monitoring equipment, earthquake-resistant buildings on high ground, a steam plant generator, and building space for trainings, shelter, food preparation and sanitation.
- Pierce Library and Inlow Hall at Eastern Oregon University contain a number of historic documents. The library additionally maintains the communication systems through which the university connects with distance education students. Floods and earthquakes pose concerns for the secured content within these buildings.
- Badgley Hall at Eastern Oregon University contains a number of hazardous materials. The building has been secured by deep footings, but should a high-magnitude earthquake occur, these materials may be released.
- Interstate 84, the Union-Pacific Railroad, bridges, the airport, and minor roads are all vital for the transportation of persons, goods, and services within Union County. Residents of the smaller cities in Union County rely on roads for access to La Grande's medical services, employment, and resources that are otherwise locally unavailable.
- Government buildings and emergency dispatch centers/facilities are vital to the economy and coordinated safety for the region.
- Industries, mills, and small businesses are critical to the region's sustained economy. Likewise, strong schools, social, and service organizations are vital for the long-term successes of small communities. (See below for a listing of programs and organizations within Union County).
- Emergency responders, including the American Red Cross and police and fire departments, provide critical services within the County's populated areas. With the exception of Island City and Summerville, each city has its own paid or volunteer fire department. Local police departments, however, are present only within the cities of Elgin, La Grande, and Union.
- Fuel and oil pipelines, as well as electricity, natural gas, telephone, internet, and cable companies are essential resources to Union County residents. Each community relies on ground and well-water sources, and with the exception of Imbler and Summerville, wastewater treatment systems are in place. Communication systems (i.e., the Mt. Emily repeater site, radio, and internet

services) support businesses and emergency service operations. Infrastructural redundancy does not exist, unless particular entities maintain on-site generators.

### Natural Resources

- 48.1% of Union County is publicly-owned and includes the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, Umatilla National Forest, and areas of the Eagle Cap Wilderness. Recreational opportunities are abundant.
- A combination of climate, fuels and terrain make Union County prone to wildfire. Unmanaged wildfires can lead to floods, landslides, and loss of habitat. Floods have the potential to change the drainage channel, cause erosion and sedimentation, and impact fisheries habitats.
- The Grande Ronde Model Watershed manages and coordinates habitat restoration on both private and public lands within the Grande Ronde Basin. Watersheds, wells, and reservoir sites are particularly vulnerable to both drought and wildfire.
- The region's wildlife populations are critical for habitat stability as well as for tourism and hunting opportunities.
- Landslides have the potential to block streams; areas in Union County where landslide damming may occur include a spot 28 km south of La Grande along Wolf Creek, a point 24 km southwest of La Grande along Beaver Creek, and along Pearson Creek 17 km southeast of Pilot Rock. Channels at the mouths of both Mill Creek and Deal Creek are cut into Holocene mudflow deposits on the west side of the La Grande. Both channels contain remnants of younger mudflows.

### Land Use and Development

- Union County wildland-urban interface areas include: Morgan, Cove, Mt. Emily, Palmer, Perry/Hillgard, Stubblefield, Beaver Creek Watershed, Catherine Creek, Blue Springs, Medical Springs, Kamela, Pumpkin Ridge/Ruckle, Elkanah, Clark, Rysdam, and Starkey (as listed in the Union County Community Wildfire Protection Plan).
- The City of Union expects to see local growth; global online distributors have recently purchased large portions of land for warehousing sites and a new windmill facility is slated for construction in the near future. The majority of the City of Union resides in a 100-500 year floodplain.
- The valley floor supports agricultural activities; surrounding slopes support livestock grazing and timber resources. Current and future development trends are minimal in most areas of the county. The average annual growth rate is projected at 0.7% over the next 18 years, and most of the growth will occur inside incorporated areas. La Grande and Island City will receive 75% of the County's future growth.
- The Grande Ronde Hospital sits on a slope where previous landslides have occurred; it is also in the wildland-urban interface where potential fires may occur.
- Many of the landslides in the immediate vicinity of La Grande are slow moving, unstable wedges of soil and rock along the West La Grande fault zone. Structures

constructed on these unstable surfaces are susceptible to damage from slope movement.

## **Community Resilience Factors**

The following documents the key community resilience factors in Union County including a description of the local government's structure, existing plans and policies, and community organizations and programs.

### **Government Structure**

Union County employs a county clerk, District Attorney, Sheriff, Treasurer, and three commissioners, along with the following departments:

#### **Emergency Services**

The Emergency Services Program serves to aid the citizens of Union County by managing all types of emergencies. The Emergency Operations Plan, the Program's all-hazard approach to emergency management, is used to mitigate, prepare, respond, and recover from the effects of war, natural disaster, technological accidents, and other major incidents.

#### **Economic Development**

The Department of Economic Development links citizens to four opportunities: The Northeast Oregon economic Development District (NEOEDD), Union County Economic Development Corporation (UCEDC), Oregon Economic & Community Development Department (OECDD), and Oregon Small Business Development Center (OSBDC). NEOEDD is a public organization established in 1985 to serve Baker, Union, and Wallowa Counties. Their services include training and technical assistance, business assistance, strategic planning, and program administration/staffing. UCEDC is a non-profit organization comprised of leaders from the private sector, cities and county who work as a team to maintain and enhance the quality of life found in Union County. UCEDC networks with other economic development organizations to help businesses and individuals in Union County. The Union County Economic Development Corporation is a partner with a number of community, regional and statewide organizations to promote economic development in the area. OECDD provides economic and community development and cultural enhancement throughout the state, and administers programs that assist businesses, communities and people. OSBDC services include financial, marketing, production, organization, international trade and feasibility studies. The group assists in developing business plans, assessing markets, creating cash flow projections, or controlling costs.

#### **Planning**

The Union County Planning Department is responsible for the preparation and maintenance of the county's land use plan and zoning ordinances, administration and implementation of the regulations, processing public requests for special district annexations, and road creations and vacations. The county land use plan is periodically reviewed and updated through a public review process. Department staff provides information, application assistance and documentation on the

regulations to the general public. The department also provides assistance to the County Planning Commission and Board of Commissioners when they are involved in land use regulation decisions.

#### Public Works

A myriad of internal departments comprise the Union County Public Works Department (UCPWD). Among these are the Road Department, Equipment Maintenance Department, Traffic Control and Vegetation Management. Current funding is received from timber receipts and gasoline taxes exclusively.

#### Road Department

The Road Department's goal is to ensure that the traveling public has a safe and efficient roadway system. The maintenance duties include, but are not limited to, asphalt and gravel road maintenance, snow removal, bridge maintenance and general right-of-way maintenance.

#### Traffic Control Department

The Traffic Control Department installs and maintains the signs, signals, and pavement markings that provide information and guidance to commuters. The Department additionally regularly inspects bridges.

## Existing Plan & Policies

Communities often have existing plans and policies that guide and influence land use, land development, and population growth. Such existing plans and policies can include comprehensive plans, zoning ordinances, and technical reports or studies. Plans and policies already in existence have support from local residents, businesses and policy makers. Many land-use, comprehensive, and strategic plans get updated regularly, and can adapt easily to changing conditions and needs.

The Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan includes a range of recommended action items that, when implemented, will reduce the county's vulnerability to natural hazards. Many of these recommendations are consistent with the goals and objectives of the county's existing plans and policies. Linking existing plans and policies to the Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan helps identify what resources already exist that can be used to implement the action items identified in the Plan. Implementing the natural hazards mitigation plan's action items through existing plans and policies increases their likelihood of being supported and getting updated, and maximizes the county's resources.

The following are existing plans and policies already in place within the community. A table further defining each of these plans and policies has been included at the end of this section.

- Union County Community Wildfire Protection Plan
- Union County Zoning, Partition and Subdivision Ordinance
- Union County Transportation System Plan
- Union County Comprehensive Land Use Plan
- Union County Flood Insurance Study
- Grande Ronde Subbasin Plan

## Community Organizations and Programs

Social systems can be defined as community organizations and programs that provide social and community-based services, such as health care or housing assistance, to the public. In planning for natural hazard mitigation, it is important to know what social systems exist within the community because of their existing connections to the public. Often, actions identified by the plan involve communicating with the public or specific subgroups within the population (e.g. elderly, children, low income). The County can use existing social systems as resources for implementing such communication-related activities because these service providers already work directly with the public on a number of issues, one of which could be natural hazard preparedness and mitigation.

The following organizations are active within the community and may be potential partners for implementing mitigation actions:

- Air Life of Oregon
- American Red Cross Eastern Oregon Chapter
- Boy Scouts of America
- Child Care Resource & Referral
- Community Connection
- Cove Community Association
- Eastern Oregon Head Start
- Elgin Chamber of Commerce
- Elks Lodge No 433
- Fourth Street Medical Clinic
- Grande Ronde Child Center
- Grande Ronde Hospital, Inc.
- Grande Ronde Retirement Residence
- Habitat for Humanity
- Head Start Union Program
- Jodi's Adult Foster Care
- La Grande Downtown Development Association
- La Grande ONLINE.com, Online Community Resources, Inc.
- New Day Enterprises
- Oregon Rural Action
- Training & Employment Consortium
- Union County Chamber of Commerce
- Union County Extension Service
- Union Family Health Center
- Wildflower Lodge

A table including information on each organization or program's service area, types of services offered, populations served, and how the organization or program could be involved in natural hazard mitigation is included at the end of this section. The three involvement methods are defined below.

- Education and outreach – organization could partner with the community to educate the public or provide outreach assistance on natural hazard preparedness and mitigation.
- Information dissemination – organization could partner with the community to provide hazard-related information to target audiences.

- Plan/project implementation – organization may have plans and/or policies that may be used to implement mitigation activities or the organization could serve as the coordinating or partner organization to implement mitigation actions.

## Existing Mitigation Activities

Existing mitigation activities include current mitigation programs and activities that are being implemented by the community in an effort to reduce the community's overall risk to natural hazards. Documenting these efforts can assist the community in better understanding its risk and can assist in documenting successes.

### DR-1510.0012 - Summerville Ice Loading Project – Oregon Trail Electric Co-op.

Located along Courtney Lane near Summerville, OTEC installed new poles to support 21 spans of high voltage transmission lines against wind and ice storms. New poles were positioned between existing poles; shortening the span lengths greatly reduces line failures during icing conditions. The final project report and field inspection were completed on May 13, 2005 by Dara Decker from Union County, Robin Stone from OTEC, and Dennis Sigrist and Julie Slevin from OEM. Total cost: \$26,734.17

March 3, 2001: The La Grande Observer published an article on earthquake safety preparedness. The Red Cross supplied the following list of essential items and activities:

#### Necessary Items:

- A flashlight with extra batteries
- A battery-operated radio with extra batteries
- A one- to three- day supply of bottled water
- Non-perishable food
- An extra supply of prescription medication and a list of those medications
- A wrench to turn off gas and water supply if necessary
- A family evacuation plan

#### Activities

- Know where to shut off gas and water to the house
- Prepare a kit with items listed above. A duffel bag can hold the items
- Assess your house for earthquake danger such as heavy pictures and art with glass, and display cases with breakable collectibles that could pose a hazard should they fall. In most cases pictures and display cases can be secured to minimize the hazard
- Take a first aid/CPR class

2005: Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) spent \$1.1 million to bury copper wires under the eastbound right lane of I-84 from the Ladd Creek Bridge to near the top of the 6-percent grade. ODOT additionally installed wires in the left lane of the Ladd Creek Bridge. The wires are intended to help prevent the formation of ice, and to slow the accumulation of snow on one lane traffic in Ladd Canyon. The wires are not, however, capable of keeping the pavement bare during heavy snowstorms or weather below 24 degrees Fahrenheit. Between 1998 and 2002, police responded to an average of 31 wrecks per year on the nine-mile

section of freeway that includes this steep spot on Ladd Canyon – four times higher than the statewide average for rural freeways. (Baker City Herald, November 9, 2005).

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<sup>i</sup> Burby, Raymond J., ed. 1998. *Cooperating with Nature: Confronting Natural Hazards with Land-Use Planning for Sustainable Communities*.

Name	Date of Last Revision	Author/Owner	Description	Relation to Natural Hazard Mitigation
Union County Community Wildfire Protection Plan	1-Aug-05	Union County and Oregon Department of Forestry	Sets forth action plan for addressing prioritized fuel reduction, treatment of structural ignitability, and increased collaboration to reduce the impact of wildland urban interface fires.	A CWPP can serve as the wildfire hazard annex of an all-hazard mitigation plan. Actions documented in a CWPP should be included in the local mitigation plan as well.
Union County Zoning, Partition and Subdivision Ordinance	Nov-83	Union County Planning Commission	The purpose of this ordinance is to promote public health, safety and general welfare of the citizens of Union County, encourage appropriate and orderly growth and development, implements the Union County Land Use Plan, and requires that age, gender or physical disability shall not be an adverse consideration in making a land use decision.	Article 17 reads as follows: "The Flood Plain (FP) Overlay Zone is a superimposed zone applied in combination with existing identified zones for the purpose of promoting the public health, safety, and general welfare and to minimize public and private losses due to flood conditions in specified areas." It includes many rules about design specifications while also describing where the base flood zones lie.

Name	Date of Last Revision	Author/Owner	Description	Relation to Natural Hazard Mitigation
Transportation System Plan, Union County, Oregon	1999	Union County Planning Commission	The Union County Transportation System Plan (TSP) identifies existing transportation facilities and provides guidelines for future planned and constructed transportation facilities until the year 2018. This TSP updates the transportation element of the Union County Land Use Plan and replaces the 1979 Union County Transportation Plan. It is intended to satisfy the requirements of the Oregon Transportation Planning Rule (TPR) and implement Statewide Planning Goal 12: Transportation, which is Oregon's transportation planning law. The TPR requires local jurisdictions to coordinate land use and transportation planning, and to consider all modes of travel.	The Transportation Plan may be a resource to identify which roads and transportation systems are most vulnerable to natural disasters. Likewise, the TSP can be utilized to implement mitigation measures aimed at protecting "transportation disadvantaged" populations in emergency situations. When updated in 2018, the TSP can also include mitigation elements in its implementation considerations.
Union County Comprehensive Land Use Plan	1978	Union County Planning Commission	"The three basic purposes of this Plan are (1) to encourage desirable growth, (2) to accommodate anticipated development, and (3) to make provisions for those uses which may be needed by a community, but which may have such undesirable characteristics as noise, smoke, or odor."	The section titled "Agricultural Grazing" on p.17 outlines flood, landslide, and forest fire hazards particular to Union County. On p.32, Union County plan policies are stated in relation to all three of Union County's major natural hazards.

Name	Date of Last Revision	Author/Owner	Description	Relation to Natural Hazard Mitigation
Union County Flood Insurance Study	3-Apr-96	Federal Emergency Management Agency, Federal Insurance Administration	"The purpose of this Flood Insurance Study is to investigate the existence and severity of flood hazards in the City of LaGrande, Union County, Oregon, and to aid in the administration of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 and the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973. Initial use of this information will be to convert LaGrande to the regular program of flood insurance by the Federal Insurance Administration. Further use of the information will be made by local and regional planners in their efforts to promote sound land use and flood plain management."	Section 2.3 "Principal Flood Problems" outlines areas in LaGrande that have been historically threatened by floods. Section 2.4 "Flood Protection Measures" outlines flood protection measures the city identifies to mitigate the flood hazard, some of which were in use at the time the study was conducted, others of which weren't.
Grande Ronde Subbasin Plan	May-04	Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program	The plan examines the subbasin from both an historical and a contemporary perspective, outlining factors such as hydroelectric dams and making other modifications (roads, rip rap, etc.) to riparian zones. The plan outlines goals for how to shape usage of the subbasin in the future.	The plan refers to wildlife habitat restoration in the flood plain as an issue to consider for future management of the subbasin. Flood mitigation may be considered in tandem with restoring the floodplain for wildlife or other purposes.

Name	Date of Last Revision	Author/Owner	Description	Relation to Natural Hazard Mitigation
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City of Elgin Municipal Code	1996	City of Elgin	Chapter 17.48 concerns the floodplain overlay zone, which is a superimposed zone applied in combination with existing identified zones for the purpose of promoting the public health, safety and general welfare and to minimize public and private losses due to floods	It outlines the flood hazard to direct building decisions so as to minimize losses to flooding
City of La Grande Comprehensive Plan	1983	City of LaGrande	To guide anticipated future land use within the City of La Grande	The section on p.29 titled, "Areas Subject to Natural Disasters and Hazards" outlines the two main hazards faced by La Grande, including landslides and flooding. It outlines which areas are subject to these hazards, which can act as a guide for future planning and development.

Union County  
Existing Community Organizations

Name and Contact Information	Description	Service Area	Populations Served							Involvement with Natural Hazard Mitigation
			Businesses	Children	Disabled	Elders	English Second Language	Families	Low Income	
<b>Air Life of Oregon</b> 60191 Pierce Rd. La Grande, OR 97850 Phone: 541-663-8657 Fax: 541-963-0199	Every second counts in a medical emergency. No one knows that better than the flight crew at Air Life of Oregon, an emergency air ambulance service that covers 100,000 square miles in Oregon. With bases in Bend and La Grande, Air Life is ready to respond at a moment's notice—24 hours a day, every day.	Union County		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information dissemination</li> </ul>
<b>American Red Cross Eastern Oregon Chapter</b> 1806 Cove Ave La Grande, OR 97850 Phone: 541-962-0952	Blood gathering and donation services and first aid education	Union County		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information dissemination</li> <li>• Education and outreach</li> <li>• Plan/project implementation</li> </ul>
<b>Boy Scouts of America</b> 2301 Adams Avenue La Grande, OR 97850 Phone: 541-963-2858 Fax: 541-963-2858	To provide numerous volunteer services to community members in addition to preparing boys and young men for active participation in community life.	Union County		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education and outreach</li> <li>• Information dissemination</li> </ul>

Union County  
Existing Community Organizations

Name and Contact Information	Description	Service Area	Populations Served							Involvement with Natural Hazard Mitigation
			Businesses	Children	Disabled	Elders	English Second Language	Families	Low Income	
<b>Child Care Resource &amp; Referral</b> 1916 Island Ave. La Grande, OR 97850 Phone: 541-963-7942 Fax: 541-963-8458	The Oregon Child Care Resource and Referral Network (OCCRRN) is a statewide network of 17 community based child care resource and referral agencies that work to improve the quality, accessibility, and affordability of child care for all Oregon families.	Union County		✓						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information dissemination</li> </ul>
<b>Community Connection</b> 104 Elm Street La Grande, OR 97850 Phone: 541-963-3186 Fax: 541-963-3187	An advocate for and assist senior citizens, low income persons and persons with disabilities in attaining basic human needs and becoming more self sufficient. This will be accomplished by providing direct client services, stimulating more efficient use of existing resources, broadening the available resource base and providing decent, safe, sanitary and affordable housing for low and moderate income persons. Provides shuttle transportation around La Grande.	Union County			✓	✓			✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information dissemination</li> </ul>

Union County  
Existing Community Organizations

Name and Contact Information	Description	Service Area	Populations Served							Involvement with Natural Hazard Mitigation
			Businesses	Children	Disabled	Elders	English Second Language	Families	Low Income	
<b>Cove Community Association</b>	Community volunteer association; assists in maintaining and updating the community's Emergency Response Plan.	Cove		✓				✓	✓	• Information dissemination
<b>Eastern Oregon Head Start</b> 180 N 10th Av Elgin, OR 97827 Phone: 541-437-5757	Head Start Program	Union County		✓				✓	✓	• Information dissemination
<b>Eastern Oregon Head Start</b> One University Blvd. La Grande, OR 97850 Phone: 541-962-3506	Oregon Head Start PreKindergarten	Baker and Union Counties	✓							• Education and outreach • Information dissemination
<b>Elgin Chamber of Commerce</b> 104 N. 8th St. Elgin, OR 97827 Phone: 541-437-3456	Provide economic development assistance to local businesses.	Elgin	✓							• Education and outreach • Information dissemination • Plan/project implementation
<b>Elks Lodge No 433</b> 1124 Washington Av La Grande, OR 97850 – 2534 Phone: 541-963-2023	The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America will serve the people and communities through benevolent programs, demonstrating that <i>Elks Care and Elks Share</i> .	Union County		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	• Information dissemination

Union County  
Existing Community Organizations

Name and Contact Information	Description	Service Area	Populations Served							Involvement with Natural Hazard Mitigation
			Businesses	Children	Disabled	Elders	English Second Language	Families	Low Income	
<b>Fourth Street Medical Clinic</b> PO Box 869 Elgin, OR 97827 Phone: 541-437-6321 Fax:541-437-8585	Medical Clinic	Union County		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	• Information dissemination
<b>Grande Ronde Child Center</b> 902 D Ave La Grande, OR 97850 Phone: 541-963-8666	Benefits and cares for emotionally disturbed children	Union County		✓						• Information dissemination
<b>Grande Ronde Hospital, Inc.</b> PO Box 3290 La Grande, OR 97850 Phone: 1-541-963-8421	Grande Ronde Hospital is a private, not for profit, Critical Access Hospital (CAH). It is comprised of 25 beds, a Family Birthing Center, Home Care Services covering Home Health and Hospice, and a broad range of diagnostic, surgical and therapeutic outpatient services.	Union County		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	• Information dissemination

Union County  
Existing Community Organizations

Name and Contact Information	Description	Service Area	Populations Served							Involvement with Natural Hazard Mitigation
			Businesses	Children	Disabled	Elders	English Second Language	Families	Low Income	
<b>Grande Ronde Retirement Residence</b> 1809 Gekeler Ln. La Grande, OR 97850 Phone: 541-963-4700 Fax: 541-963-6519 Email: granderonde@frontiermgmt.com	Frontier Management, LLC manages quality retirement, assisted living, and Alzheimer's Care communities	Union County				✓				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information dissemination</li> </ul>
<b>Habitat for Humanity</b> PO Box 111 La Grande, OR 97850 Phone: 541-663-9515	Habitat for Humanity International is a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry. Through volunteer labor and donations of money and materials, Habitat builds and rehabilitates simple, decent houses with the help of the homeowner (partner) families. Habitat houses are sold to partner families at no profit, financed with affordable, no-interest loans.	Union County						✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plan/project implementation</li> </ul>
<b>Headstart Union Program</b> 541 S Main Union, OR 97883 Phone: 541-562-6057	Headstart Program	Union County		✓						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information dissemination</li> </ul>

Union County  
Existing Community Organizations

Name and Contact Information	Description	Service Area	Populations Served							Involvement with Natural Hazard Mitigation
			Businesses	Children	Disabled	Elders	English Second Language	Families	Low Income	
<b>Jodi's Adult Foster Care</b> 460 E Fulton St Union, OR 97883 – 9102 Phone: 541-562-5419	Nursing home	Union County			✓	✓				• Information dissemination
<b>La Grande Downtown Development Association</b> PO Box 3321 La Grande, OR 97840	A mosaic of businesses seeking to develop a viable downtown that attracts business.	Union County	✓							• Education and outreach • Information dissemination • Plan/project implementation
<b>La GrandeONLINE.com, ONLINE Community Resources, Inc.</b> 1211 Washington Ave. La Grande, OR 97850 Phone: 541-963-3700 Fax: 541-963-8593	Community information source	Union County	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	• Information dissemination
<b>New Day Enterprises</b> PO Box 3296 La Grande, OR 97850 Phone: 541-963-2348 Fax: 541-962-7230	New Day Enterprises is a private, non-profit community mental health facility. We serve adults with developmental disabilities. We employ 90 staff and have 58 clients for whom we provide a place to live, work and interact within our community	Union County			✓					• Information dissemination

Union County  
Existing Community Organizations

Name and Contact Information	Description	Service Area	Populations Served							Involvement with Natural Hazard Mitigation
			Businesses	Children	Disabled	Elders	English Second Language	Families	Low Income	
<b>Oregon Rural Action</b> 105 Fir #327 La Grande, OR 97850 Phone: 541-975-2411	Oregon Rural Action is a long term, multi-ethnic organization whose mission is to support and encourage community organizing around locally-identified issues, with a shared vision of creating a healthy, democratic, and just society. ORA's members and community groups work to promote social justice, agricultural and economic sustainability, and stewardship of the region's land, air and water.	Union County						✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education and outreach</li> <li>• Information dissemination</li> <li>• Plan/project implementation</li> </ul>

Union County  
Existing Community Organizations

Name and Contact Information	Description	Service Area	Populations Served							Involvement with Natural Hazard Mitigation
			Businesses	Children	Disabled	Elders	English Second Language	Families	Low Income	
<b>Training &amp; Employment Consortium</b> 1916 Island Avenue or PO Box 2979 La Grande, OR 97850 Phone: 541-963-7942 Fax: 541-963-8458	To contribute to the economic vitality of the regions by being a valuable resource for education, vocational training. Offers employment and child care. Training partner for Workforce Oregon. Programs available include: Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth: Workforce Investment Act (WIA), Job Opportunity & Basic Skills (JOBS), Independent Living, Senior Community Service Employment Program (Title V), Youth Conservation Corp, Child Care Resources & Referral, Provides services for businesses.	Union County	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information dissemination</li> </ul>
<b>Union County Chamber of Commerce</b> 102 Elm St. LaGrande, Oregon 97850 Phone: 541-963-8588 Fax: 541-963-3936 email: info@unioncountychamber.org	Provide economic development assistance to local businesses.	Union County	✓							<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education and outreach</li> <li>• Information dissemination</li> <li>• Plan/project implementation</li> </ul>

Union County  
Existing Community Organizations

Name and Contact Information	Description	Service Area	Populations Served							Involvement with Natural Hazard Mitigation
			Businesses	Children	Disabled	Elders	English Second Language	Families	Low Income	
<b>Union County Extension Service</b> Oregon State University Agricultural Service Center 10507 N. McAlister Road, Room 9 La Grande, OR 97850 Phone: 541-963-1010 Fax: 541-963-1036	Provides research-based knowledge and education that focus on strengthening communities and economies, sustaining natural resources, and promoting healthy families and individuals.	Union County	✓							<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education and outreach</li> <li>• Information dissemination</li> <li>• Plan/project implementation</li> </ul>
<b>Union Family Health Center</b> PO Box 986 Union, OR 97883	Medical Clinic	Union County		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information dissemination</li> </ul>
<b>Wildflower Lodge</b> 508 16th St. La Grande, OR 97850 Phone: 541-663-1200	Assisted Living facility	Union County				✓				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information dissemination</li> </ul>

## **Union County Fact Sheet**

### **Union County:**

2,038 sq miles

Percent State and Federal Ownership: 48.1%

### **Recreational Amenities:**

Oregon Trail Interpretive Center

Catherine Creek State Park

Hilgard Junction State Park

Red Bridge State Park

Umatilla National Forest

Wallowa National Forest

Wallowa-Whitman National Forest

Cove Hot Springs Pool

Umatilla National Forest

Jubilee Lake

Miami State Park

Hells Canyon

Wallowa Lake

Blue Mountain Crossing

Starkey Elk Project

Morgan Lake

Ladd Marsh Nature Trail

Wildhorse Gaming Resort

Oregon Trail Days

Anthony Lakes Ski Area

Sprout Springs Ski Area

Grande Ronde Symphony Orchestra

Union County Fair

Eastern Oregon Livestock Show

Wolf Creek Dam

Pilcher Creek Dam

Thief Valley Reservoir

Local area activities include: snowmobiling, water and snow skiing, fishing and hunting, hiking, camping, boating, golfing.

## **Economic Development and Employment**

### **Principle Industries:**

Agriculture, lumber, education

Source: Oregon Employment Department, Covered Employment and Payroll Reports, 1998

### **Local and Regional Economic Development Organizations:**

Union County

Union County Economic Development

Corporation

Northeast Oregon Economic Development

District

Economic & Community Development

Department Regional Development Officer

City of La Grande

Union County Chamber of Commerce

City of North Powder

City of Summerville

City of Union

Cove Community Association

City of Elgin

City of Imbler

City of Island City

Greater Eastern Oregon Economic  
Development Corporation

### **Agricultural Products of the Area (Top 3 largest gross farm sales)**

Field crops, cattle and calves, specialty products

Source: Oregon State University, Extension Economic Information Office

## Economic Indicators

	Union County		Oregon		
	2001	2002	2000	2001	2002
<b>Population</b>	24,550	24,600	3,421,399	3,471,700	3,504,700
<b>Labor Force</b>	12,435	12,658	1,802,938	1,793,773	1,840,133
<b>Total Employment</b>			1,715,453	1,679,914	1,701,390
<b>Unemployment</b>	727	712	87,485	113,859	138,743
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>	5.8%	5.6%	4.9%	6.3%	7.5%
<b>Non-Farm Payroll Employment</b>	10,100	10,220	1,606,800	1,596,100	1,572,500
<b>Total Covered Employment</b>	9,644	9,632	1,607,944	1,596,943	1,573,083
<b>Total Covered Payroll (\$ thousands county/ \$ millions state)</b>	\$238,809	\$250,751	\$52,701	\$53,021	\$52,989
<b>Ave. Annual Payroll Per Employee</b>	\$24,762	\$26,033	\$32,776	\$33,202	\$33,684
<b>Number of Business Units</b>	822	832	108,432	111,353	113,097
<b>Total Personal Income (\$ millions)</b>	\$563,824	\$586,607	\$94,999	\$98,500	\$101,358
<b>Annual Per Capita Personal Income</b>	\$	\$24,007	\$27,649	\$28,400	28,792
<b>Assessed Value of Property (\$ millions)</b>	\$0	\$1,285	\$198,911	\$210,435	\$219,878
<b>Residential Construction</b>					
<b>Building Permits</b>	30	35	19,877	21,049	22,186
<b>Value (\$ thousands)</b>	\$4,059	\$5,435	\$2,533	\$2,985	\$3,347
<b>Travel Expenditures (\$ millions)</b>	\$0	\$31,000	\$6,133	\$6,128	\$6,208
<b>Travel-Related Employment</b>	0	530	89,800	91,100	90,200

Sources: Oregon Employment Department; Center for Population Research & Census, PSU; U.S. Census Bureau; Bureau of Economic Analysis; Oregon Tourism Commission; Oregon Department of Revenue; Oregon Economic and Community Development Department.

## Special Districts and Associations

La Grande Rural Fire Protection District  
Union County 4-H and Extension Service District  
Union County Emergency Services District  
Union County Vector Control District  
Union Rural Fire Protection District  
Union Soil and Water Conservation District  
Cove Rural Fire Protection District  
Irrigation District

Elgin Rural Fire Protection District  
Island City Area Sanitation District  
May Park Water Company  
Blue Mountain Translator  
Powder Valley Water Control District  
Powder Rural Fire Protection District  
Union Cemetery Maintenance District  
Blue Mountain Transfer District  
Imbler Rural Fire Protection District

## **Communications Resources**

### Local Newspapers:

The Valley News  
The Observer  
Nickel Ads  
Record Courier

### Available Cable Television:

Mallard Cable, LLC  
Elgin TV Association  
TCI Cable  
Charter Cable

### Regional Newspapers:

The Observer  
East Oregonian  
Baker City Herald

### Telephone Service Provider(s):

Verizon  
Union-Wallowa Telephone Company  
Priority One Communications  
US West  
Centurytel  
Qwest  
Unicom

### Radio Stations:

Several from Union County, Umatilla  
County, Oregon and Washington  
Union County area has 5 stations  
5 local stations in La Grande

### TV Stations:

None

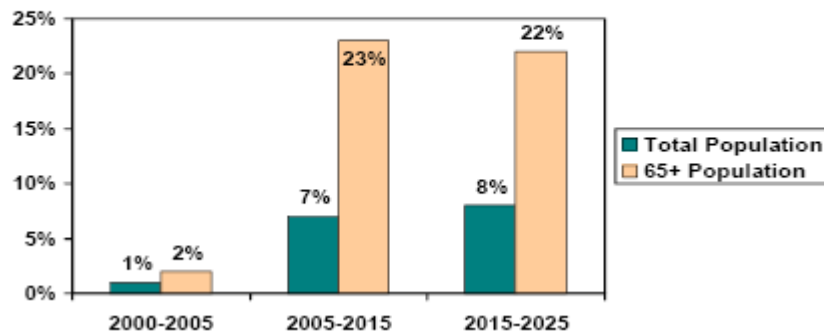
### Number of Internet Service Providers: 3

## **Historic Listings**

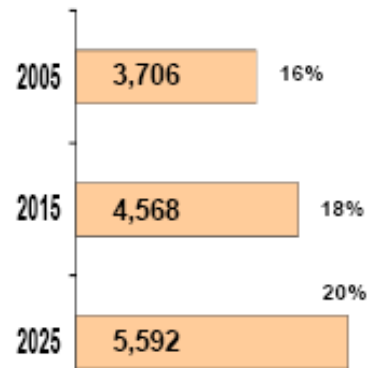
- Administration Building at Eastern Oregon University (added 1980)
- Anthony, John, House (added 1988); Also known as Anson, William, Youse; 1606 6<sup>th</sup> St., La Grande
- Anthony-Buckley House (added 1985); 1602 6<sup>th</sup> St., La Grande
- Ascension Episcopal Church and Rectory (added 1974); Church St., Cove
- Dry Creek School (added 2000); 69281 Summerville Rd., Summerville
- Eaton, Abel E., House (added 1977); 464 N. Main St., Union
- Elgin City Hall and Opera House (added 1980); Also known as Elgin City Hall; Albany and N. 8<sup>th</sup> Sts., Elgin
- Foley Building (added 1985); Also known as Foley – Bouvy Building; 206 Chestnut St., La Grande
- Hot Lake Resort (added 1979); SE of La Grande on OR 203, La Grande
- Hudelson, A.B. and Son, Building (added 1999); Also known as Shaw Mercantile; 200 E St., North Powder
- La Grande Commercial Historic District (added 2001); Roughly bounded by UP RR tracts along Jefferson St., Greenwood and Cove Sts., Washington St., & Fourth St., La Grande
- La Grande Neighborhood Club (added 1988); Also known as Oregon Railway and Navigation Company Employees Dispensary; 1108 N Ave., La Grande
- Liberty Theater (added 1999); Also known as Orpheum Theater; Arcade Theater; 1008 and 1010 Adams Ave., La Grande
- Roesch Building (added 1996); Also known as Sacagawea Annex; 105 Fir St., La Grande
- Slater Building (added 1983); 216-224 Fir St., La Grande

- Stange, August J., House (added 1996); Also known as Stange Manor; 1612 Walnut St., La Grande
- Townley, W.J., House (added 1980); 782 N. 5<sup>th</sup> St., Union
- U.S. Post Office and Federal Building (added 1979); Also known as the Federal Building; 1010 Adams St., La Grande.
- Union County Alliance Flouring Mill (added 1986); Also known as La Grande Milling Co; Willow St. and E. M Ave., La Grande
- Union Main Street Historic District (added 1997); Also known as Eaton, Abel, House; Along Main St., between Birch and Fulton Sts., Union

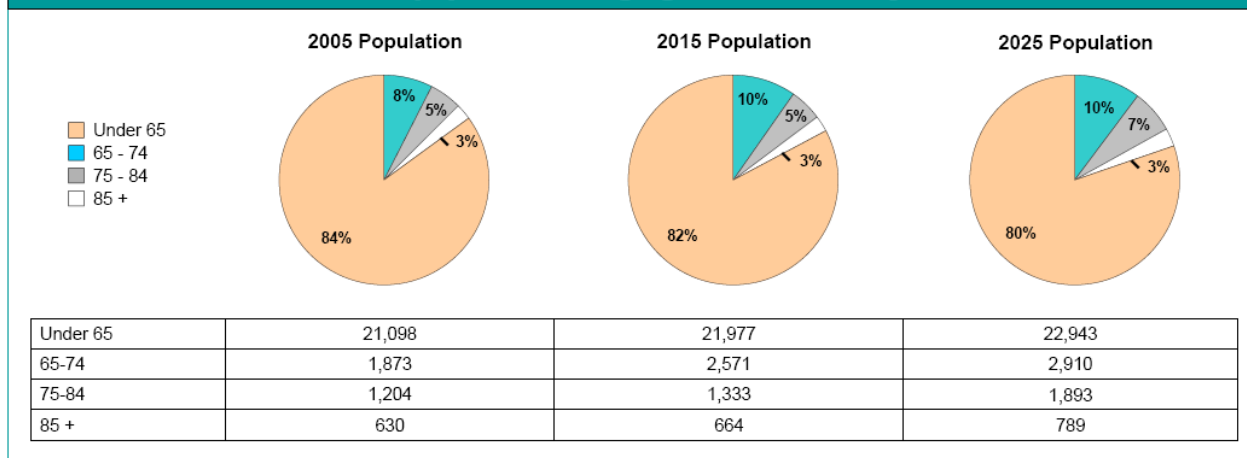
**Growth Rate Of Union County's Aging Population**



**Union County Projected 65+ Population and % of general population**



### Our population is aging in Union County



### Will our facilities meet the needs of Union County seniors?

Facility Type	Count	Available	Occupied
Physicians per 1000 (2004 Data)	1.81	--	--
Hospitals	2	--	--
Community Facilities	20	226	190
Nursing Homes	2	126	78

<b>Basic Information</b>	<b>Incorporated</b>	<b>Distance to La Grande (miles)</b>	<b>Elevation</b>	<b>Monthly Average Low</b>	<b>Monthly Average High</b>	<b>Hottest Month</b>	<b>Coldest Month</b>	<b>Driest Month</b>	<b>Wettest Month</b>
Cove	1904	14	2,893	24	86	July	January	July	January
Elgin	1891	20	2,660	22	88	August	January	July	December
Imbler	1922	11	2732	24	85	July	January	July	January
Island City	1904	2	2743	24	86	July	January	July	January
La Grande	1865	0	2760	24	86	July	January	July	January
North Powder	1902	23	3256	24	84	August	January	July	May
Summerville	1903	13	2705	22	88	August	January	July	December
Union	1878	12	2770	24	84	August	January	July	May

<b>Population</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>
Cove	451	507	625	675	594	590
Elgin	1701	1586	1770	1785	1654	1660
Imbler	292	299	325	330	284	280
Island City	477	696	920	940	916	920
La Grande	11,354	11,766	12,795	12,885	12,327	12,420
North Powder	430	448	560	560	489	490
Summerville	132	142	150	150	117	120
Union	2,062	1847	1990	2025	1926	1960
Union County	23,921	23,598	24,400	24,500	24,530	24,550

<b>Number of Manufacturing Companies:</b>	
Cove	0
Elgin	4
Imbler	0
Island City	0
La Grande	20
North Powder	0
Summerville	0
Union	3
Union County	52

<b>Communities Participating in the National Flood Plan</b>			
<b>Community Name</b>	<b>Initial FIRM Identified</b>	<b>Current Effective Map</b>	<b>Regular or Emergency Date</b>
Cove			
Elgin	11/15/1978	11/15/1978	11/15/1978
Imbler			
Island City	9/29/1978	9/30/1987	9/29/1978
La Grande	9/30/1980	4/3/1996	9/30/1980
North Powder	9/29/1978	9/29/1978	9/29/1978
Summerville	1/15/1980	1/15/1980	1/15/1980
Union	12/15/1978	12/15/1978	12/15/1978
Union County	5/15/1980	4/3/1996	5/15/1980

<b>Water Supply</b>	<b>Operator</b>	<b>Age of Water System</b>	<b>Plans for Upgrading or Expanding</b>
Cove	City of Cove	1981	The system will be upgraded in 2003-2004. A new well, reservoir and pipeline improvements will be made. A high pressure area will be created to solve low pressure issues in some areas of the delivery system.
Elgin	City of Elgin	1966	Water storage and updated controls completed in 2001
Imbler	Stacey A Feik	1988	
Island City	City of Island City	1995	None at present time
La Grande	City of La Grande	1990	Plans are developed and available from the City
North Powder	City of North Powder	1984	
Summerville			
Union	City of Union	1989	Water Master Plan to be completed in 2003. Any plans for upgrading will be identified at that time.

	<b>Primary Employers</b>	<b>Number of Employees</b>
Cove	Cove Public School - Education	NA
	Ascension School, Camp & Conference Center - Tourism	25
	Artesian Blue Water - Water	11
Elgin	Boise Cascade - Stud Mill & Plywood Plant	300
	Elgin School District - Education	45
Imbler	Boise Cascade (La Grande) - Particle Board	500
	Blue Mountain Caskets (La Grande) - Wood Caskets	90
	The Observer (La Grande) - Newspaper	31
	GTE Telephone (La Grande) - Telecommunications	30
	Border WW Packaging & Ind. Products (La Grande) - Industrial Adhesives	18
Island City	Boise Cascade (Elgin) - Studmill and Plywood Plant	360
	Boise Cascade (La Grande) - Lumber & Logging	300
	Wal-Mart - Retail	190
	Blue Mountain Caskets (La Grande) - Wood Caskets	90
	The Observer (La Grande) - Newspaper	31
La Grande	Crop Production/Columbia Basin - Crop	900
	Boise Cascade - Lumber, Particle Board, Plywood	800
	Fleetwood Travel Trailers - Travel Trailers	300
	Nash Trailers - Travel Trailers	200
	Borden Chemical Co. - Wood Product Adhesives	100
North		
Powder	North Powder School District - Education	19
Summerville	Boise Cascade (La Grande) - Lumber	500
	Nash Trailers - Trailers	100
	Terry Trailers - Trailers	100
	Blue Mountain Caskets (La Grande) - Caskets	90
	Barreto Manufacturing - Tillers, Welding	33
	Union School District - Education	58
	EOU Agricultural Center - Ag Research	17
Union	Union Market - Groceries	12
	City of Union - Government	11
	Spa Warehouse - Spas	10

<b>Community Services and Resources</b>	<b>Fire Station(s) Serving Community</b>	<b># Paid and Volunteer Firefighters</b>	<b>Nearest Hospital</b>	<b>Distance to Nearest Hospital</b>	<b>Emergency Services to Community</b>	<b>General Clinic(s)</b>
Cove	Cove Rural Fire Dept.	18	Grande Ronde Hospital	14	none	0
Elgin	Elgin Volunteer Fire Dept; Elgin Rural Fire Dept.	23	Grande Ronde Hospital	20	Ambulance Service	1
Imbler	Imbler Rural Fire Department	17	Grande Ronde Hospital	10	Ambulance Service	0
Island City	NA		Grande Ronde Hospital	1	Ambulance Service	0
La Grande	La Grande Fire Dept., Rural Fire Dept.	33	Grande Ronde Hospital	0	Ambulance Service, Life Flight Service	3
North Powder	North Powder Fire dept.; North Powder RFPD	14	Grande Ronde Hospital	24	Ambulance Service, Life Flight Service	0
Summerville	NA	NA	Grande Ronde Hospital	13	Ambulance Service	0
Union	Union Emergency Services, RFPD	26	Grande Ronde Hospital	11	Ambulance Service	1

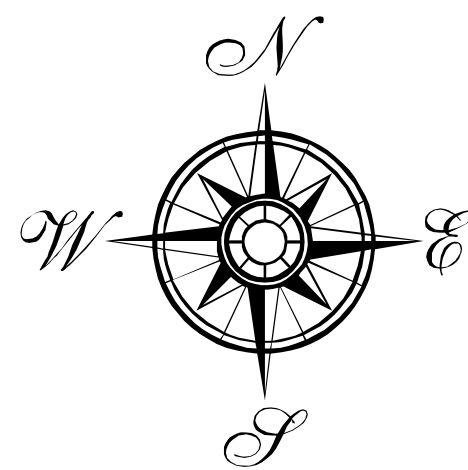
<b>Wastewater Treatment System</b>	<b>Age of Wastewater Collection System</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Date of Last Facility Plan</b>	<b>Plans for Upgrade/Expansion</b>
Cove		In the future, Inflow and Infiltration work needs to be done to prevent run-off water from entering the wastewater system.	2002	System improvements to solve inflow and infiltration problems needs to be completed
Elgin	1966			Last upgrade was 1993
Imbler		Septic system		
Island City	1981	City has a collection only system	2000	Requested additional capacity from City of La Grande
La Grande	1915	Sanitary sewer system is very old and is in need of reconstruction	1998	Upgrade and expansion plans are available at the City
North Powder	1974	System is out of capacity		Improvements to the wastewater system will be out to bid in March, 2003. Construction should commence in June, 2003
Summerville	NA	NA	NA	NA
Union	1977	Upgrade completed in 2002. Adequate capacity		

<b>Transportation</b>	<b>Highways</b>
Cove	237 W/S route
Elgin	82 E/W route
Imbler	82 N/S route
Island City	237 E/S; 82 NE; 84 N/W
La Grande	I-84 NW/S route, local; Hwy 82 NE route, local
North Powder	I-84 N/S route, local access
Summerville	Hwy 82 E/W route, access 4 miles
Union	Hwy 237 N/S route, local access; Hwy 203 NW/SE route, local

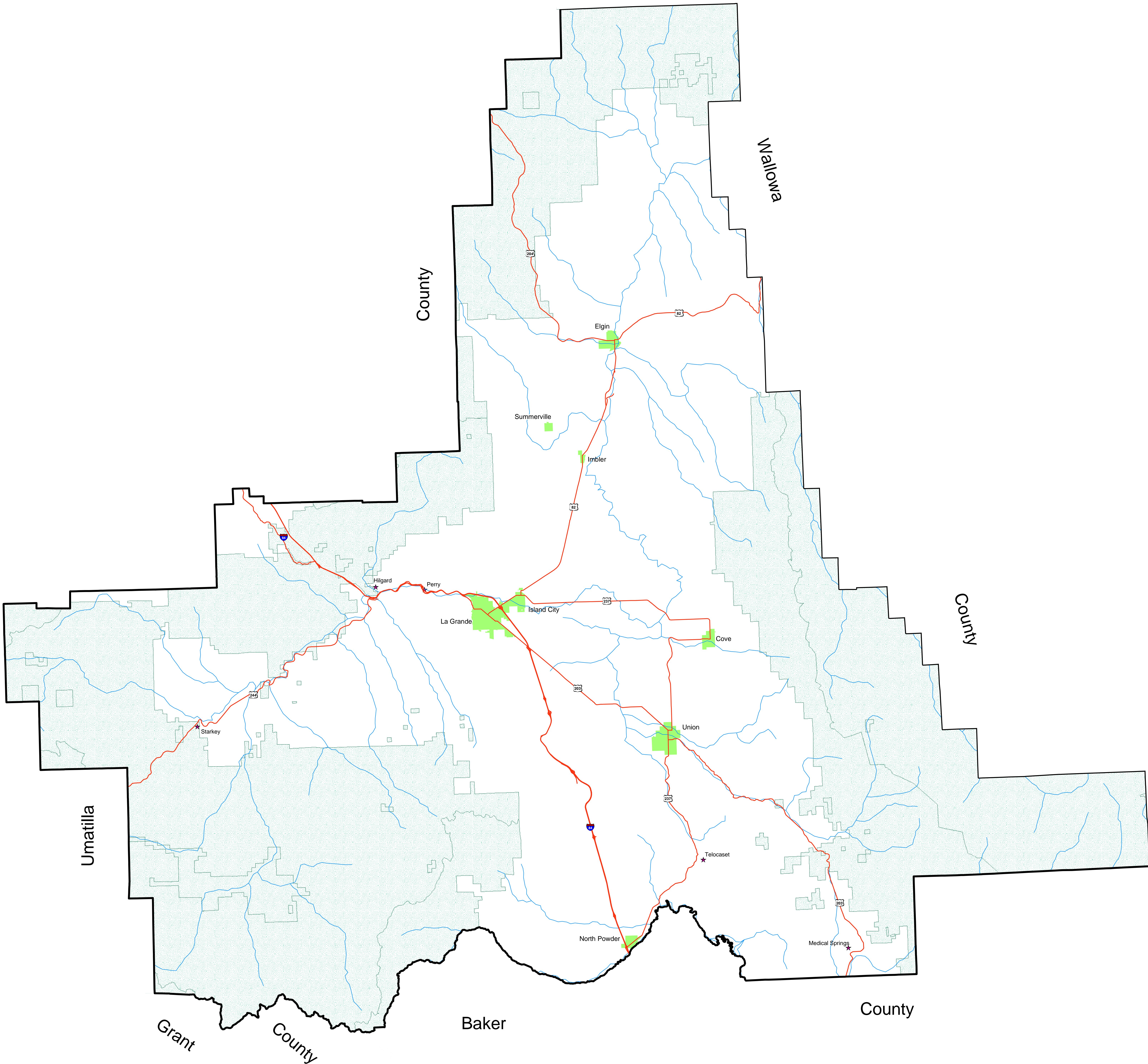
<b>Transportation</b>	<b>Commercial Air</b>	<b>Air Passenger</b>	<b>Airport Freight</b>	<b>Rail Service</b>	<b>Freight Service</b>
Cove	No	No	No	No	No
Elgin	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Imbler	No	No	No	No	
Island City	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
La Grande	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
North Powder	No	No	No	No	
Summerville	NA	NA	NA	No	No
Union	No	NA	NA	Yes	No

	<b>Passenger Service</b>	<b>Bus Service Available in Community</b>	<b>Scheduled Bus Service Available</b>	<b>Local Charter Services</b>	<b>Distance to Nearest Bus Service (miles)</b>
Cove	No	Yes	Yes	No	15
Elgin	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	0
Imbler		Yes	Yes	No	11
Island City	No	Yes			
La Grande	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	
North Powder		No			
Summerville	No	Yes	No	No	
Union	No	No		No	

Information in the Community Profiles was derived from many sources, including local, state and federal sources. The Oregon Economic and Community Development Department cannot accept responsibility for errors or omissions. Questions and comments may be directed to the department by telephone 503-986-0123, by fax 503-581-5115 or by email [oord.info@state.or.us](mailto:oord.info@state.or.us).



# Union County



**Legend**

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Unincorporated Areas

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Highways

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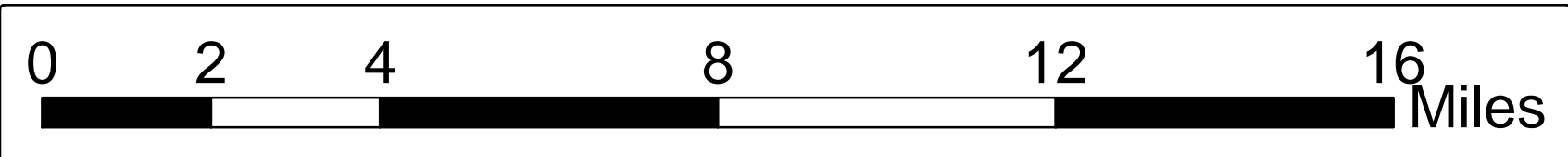
Creeks & Rivers

+

City Limits

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Forest Service Lands



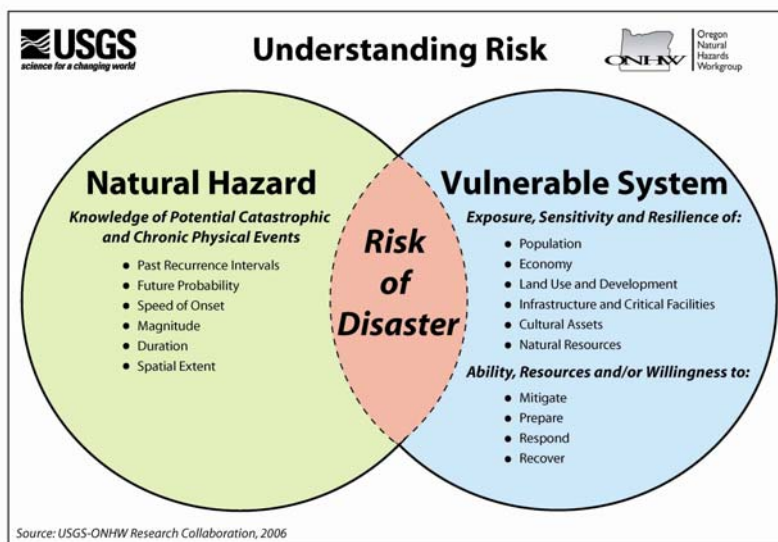
The information on this map was derived from various public data sources. Care was taken in the creation of this map but it is provided "as is". Wallowa County cannot accept any responsibility for errors, omissions, or positional accuracy in the digital data or the underlying records. There are no warranties express or implied, including the merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose, accompanying this product.

# Wallowa County

## Community Sensitivity and Resilience

This section documents the community's sensitivity factors, or those community assets and characteristics that may be impacted by natural hazards, (e.g., special populations, economic factors, and historic and cultural resources). It also identifies the community's resilience factors, or the community's ability to manage risk and adapt to hazard event impacts (e.g., governmental structure, agency missions and directives, and plans, policies, and programs). The information in this section represents a snapshot in time of the current sensitivity and resilience factors in the community when the plan was developed. The information documented below, along with the findings of the risk assessment, should be used as the local level rationale for the risk reduction actions identified in Section 4 – Mission, Goals, and Action Items. The identification of actions that reduce a community's sensitivity and increase its resilience assist in reducing the community's overall risk, or the area of overlap in Figure G.1 below.

**Figure G.1 Understanding Risk**



Source: Oregon Natural Hazards Workgroup, 2006.

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# Community Sensitivity Factors

The following table documents the key community sensitivity factors in Wallowa County.

## Population

- Wallowa County has negative population growth (-1.3% change from 2000-2005) and an increasing number of persons aged 65 and above. In 2005, 20% of the population was 65 years or older; in 2025, 25% of the population is expected to be 65 years or older. Elderly individuals require special consideration due to their sensitivities to heat and cold, their reliance upon transportation for medications, and their comparative difficulty in making home modifications that reduce risk to hazards.
- 1% of the total population over age five in Wallowa County speaks English less than “very well.”
- Community organizations that serve vulnerable populations are concerned with the lack of emergency transportation and services available to persons with special needs.
- Wallowa Lake attracts tourists in both the summer and fall. Populations in Joseph and Enterprise temporarily increase during these seasons. Temporary increases in populations place heightened demands on emergency response systems; additionally, uninformed hikers and campers may increase the community’s risk to wildfire.
- Homeowners adjacent to or within floodplains are particularly susceptible to flood; Wallowa County’s Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMS) have not been updated since 1988. The County is concerned that areas technically “outside” of the floodplain are now within it.
- All buildings and homes within Wallowa County, and particularly those on the valley floor, are subject to severe weather, including ice and snow storms, lightning storms, and hail, heavy rain, and fast winds. Information pertaining to weather-related hazards and mitigation techniques would be helpful for new home-owners and developers in the area.

## Economic Assets

- According to the Northeast Oregon Economic Development District’s Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, “the overall social and economic impact of timber harvest reductions has been more pronounced in Wallowa County than in Baker and Union counties due to Wallowa County’s smaller and less diversified economy.” None of Wallowa County’s three mills are currently in operation. An economy that is heavily dependant on a few key industries may have a more difficult time recovering after a natural disaster than one with a more diverse economic base.
- According to the Northeast Oregon Economic Development District’s Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, “tourism continues to be one of the primary diversifications of an otherwise resource-dependent economy. Tourism jobs grew at a much faster rate for the last half of the 1990s compared to the early 1990s. Second home development has increased as a component of the tourist

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industry.” Many Wallowa Lake businesses profit from and rely on tourism to stay in businesses; both floods and wildfire threaten their ability to remain open. The area at the south end of the lake has not seen wildfire for 30-40 years, and the build-up of fuels will eventually ignite.

- “The quality of life in the [region] has been identified by residents as one of the major assets of the area and is expected to help attract new businesses.” – Northeast Oregon Economic Development District
- Major employers include the city school districts, VEMCO (fabricated plate metal products), the Wallowa County Chieftan, the Manual Museum and Valley Bronze of Joseph, Wallowa Forest Products, and the Alpine House Center for Assisted Living, as well as the Hospital, USFS, and County and State Government.
- Wallowa County supports a variety of small, locally-owned businesses through which a number of workers are employed. Small businesses are more susceptible to financial uncertainty than their larger counterparts. Natural disasters will thus have a bigger impact on smaller businesses, unless they preemptively and proactively increase resilience.

#### Cultural and Historic Assets

- The National Register of Historic Places lists ten buildings in Wallowa County. Additional cultural and recreational attractions include Chief Joseph Days (annual rodeo in July), Alpenfest, Car Cruise, Arts Festival, Fishtrap Writers Gathering (July and February), a golf course, Wallowa Mountain Quilt Show (June), Joseph Fly-in and Blues Concert, Wallowa Lake State Park, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, Eagle Cap Wilderness Area, and the Hells Canyon National Recreational Area.

#### Critical Facilities & Infrastructure

- Wallowa Lake State Park has not seen wildfire for 30-40 years. The Forest Service is working on fuels reductions, but under the right conditions, the build-up of fuels will eventually ignite. Access to this area is extremely limited and presents a major vulnerability; with only one access road, summer tourists and residents may have difficulty evacuating in an emergency event.
- The Dam at Wallowa Lake is nearly 100 years old, and is in dire need of renovation. If the dam fails, the community of Joseph will flood, and farmers/ranchers within the county will lose a valuable irrigation source.
- As of January 2007, Wallowa County has a new hospital in Enterprise. The old hospital will become a nursing home and may house Alzheimer’s patients.
- In the unincorporated community of Troy, there’s an old truss bridge that was originally built for vehicular traffic, but can currently sustain no more than foot traffic. This bridge connects the community to the school. Further south is a bridge that’s suitable for traffic. Should the truss bridge fail (from wear and tear or flooding), which it soon will, then residents will have to travel a fair distance to get to the school (i.e., drive south for a few miles, and then back north to the same latitude across the river).

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- The subdivision of Imnaha River Woods (25 miles upriver of Imnaha with 10-15 homes) has a 60ft flat bridge (made from a flat railroad-car) that residents must cross when entering or leaving their development. Should the Imnaha River flood, the bridge will likely fail.
- There are high schools in Joseph, Enterprise, and Wallowa and elementary schools in each of the cities, plus Troy and Imnaha. Lostine has the Providence Academy (religious school), which is where the old public school was located. Students from Imnaha attend Joseph's schools; students from Troy attend Enterprise's high school, and students from Lostine are split between Wallowa and Enterprise's school systems.
- There are frequent rock slides at Wallowa Lake on its west side; the county has done exploratory work to create an access route / right of way from the west for evacuation purposes (landslide, fire, etc.), but private landowners have successfully prevented this from happening.
- Minor rock slides along the Imnaha River occur daily. Roads tend to be sited at the bottom of canyons for ease of construction.
- Transmission lines run from the Hell's Canyon and Oxbow Dam to the Imnaha Valley; a new fiber optic line will come up through the canyon from the town of Minam.
- A number of areas in Wallowa County do not accommodate cell phones. These areas include the unincorporated communities of both Imnaha and Troy.
- Wallowa County has two airports: one in Enterprise (city airport), and one in Joseph (state airport).
- Enterprise, Wallowa, and Joseph have water treatment facilities; Enterprise is in the process of upgrading its facility; Lostine is working on building a new water system.
- Highway connections between Baker and Wallowa Counties have closed due to wildfires. Closures have lasted long enough that Wallowa County has resultantly seen decreases in tourism and negative effects to both counties' economies.
- In Wallowa County, wildland fire protection is provided by the Oregon Department of Forestry, US Forest Service – Wallowa Fire Zone. Structural fire protection is offered by two rural fire departments and three city fire departments: Wallowa Lake RFPD, Wallowa RFPD, City of Joseph, City of Lostine, and the City of Enterprise.

#### Natural Resources

- Water issues, in both quality and quantity, are of concern. These issues include potential dam failure, increased demand, and regulations that could have a disproportionate effect on agricultural versus urban uses.
- Wallowa County includes parts of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, the Eagle Cap Wilderness Area, and Hells Canyon Recreational Area. Wallowa Lake is a major tourist destination during late spring and summer months.
- Wallowa Resources, a non-profit organization in Wallowa County, has identified forest health as a concern for wildfire – particularly the increase in standing and downed dead wood within the county's forests. According to the organization, Wallowa County has experience recurring large-scale wildfire events since 1986 that

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post threats to the area’s natural resources, community, public health and safety, and economic development opportunities.

### Land Use and Development

- “A lack of affordable housing is seen as a weakness in Baker, Union [and Wallowa] counties. Rents are increasing quickly in Wallowa County making rental housing difficult to afford for lower wage workers. Run-down areas in some communities are not being addressed through clean-up or improvement programs” – NEOEDD.
- Personal homes at the head of Wallowa Lake (south end) have been destroyed by flooding from the Wallowa River.
- The City of Enterprise has experienced flooding issues with both the Wallowa River and Prairie Creek. The city is concerned about potential damages to sewer lines.
- The Grande Ronde River has caused flooding damage in the unincorporated town of Troy.
- The Imnaha River has damaged homes (several in 1997) and roads. Some homes have resultantly been moved to higher ground.

## Community Resilience Factors

The following documents the key community resilience factors in Wallowa County including a description of the local government’s structure, existing plans and policies, and community organizations and programs.

### Government Structure

Wallowa County employs a county clerk, District Attorney, Sheriff, Treasurer, and three commissioners, along with the following departments:

#### Emergency Services

The Wallowa County Department of Emergency Services assists in maintaining community well-being through disaster mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery activities. The Department: 1) Serves as the point of contact for emergency and disaster questions or issues; 2) Provides hazard education and loss reduction program information; 3) Facilitates emergency and disaster planning efforts; 4) Promotes community disaster preparedness; 5) Coordinates and responds to emergency and disaster situations; 6) Assists in community disaster recovery opportunities.

#### Public Works

The Wallowa County Public Works Department includes the Roads Department, Solid Waste Department, Parks Department, and Vegetation Department.

#### Road Department

The Road Department's goal is to ensure that the traveling public has a safe and efficient roadway system. The maintenance duties include, but are not limited to, asphalt and gravel road maintenance, snow removal, bridge maintenance and general right-of-way maintenance. The Solid Waste Department maintains the

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County’s landfills; the Parks Department maintains Wallowa County Park and the north end of Wallowa Lake; The Vegetation Department serves to protect and conserve the County’s agricultural lands, natural resources, wildlife habitat and wilderness areas from the invasion and proliferation of exotic noxious weeds.

#### Planning

The Wallowa County Planning Department is responsible for preparation and maintenance of the county's land use plan and zoning ordinances, administration and implementation of the regulations, processing public requests for special district annexations, and road creations and vacations. The county land use plan is periodically reviewed and updated through a public review process. Department staff provides information, application assistance and documentation on the regulations to the general public. The department also provides assistance to the County Planning Commission and Board of Commissioners when they are involved in land use regulation decisions.

### Existing Plan & Policies

Communities often have existing plans and policies that guide and influence land use, land development, and population growth. Such existing plans and policies can include comprehensive plans, zoning ordinances, and technical reports or studies. Plans and policies already in existence have support from local residents, businesses and policy makers. Many land-use, comprehensive, and strategic plans get updated regularly, and can adapt easily to changing conditions and needs.<sup>1</sup>

The Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan includes a range of recommended action items that, when implemented, will reduce the county’s vulnerability to natural hazards. Many of these recommendations are consistent with the goals and objectives of the county’s existing plans and policies. Linking existing plans and policies to the Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan helps identify what resources already exist that can be used to implement the action items identified in the Plan. Implementing the natural hazards mitigation plan’s action items through existing plans and policies increases their likelihood of being supported and getting updated, and maximizes the county’s resources.

The following are existing plans and policies already in place within the community. A table further defining each of these plans and policies has been included at the end of this section.

- Wallowa Comprehensive Land Use Plan
- Wallowa County Community Wildfire Protection Plan
- Wallowa County Land Development Ordinance
- Salmon Recovery Plan
- Grande Ronde Subbasin Plan
- Imnaha Subbasin Management Plan
- Wallowa County Transportation System Plan

### Community Organizations and Programs

Social systems can be defined as community organizations and programs that provide social and community-based services, such as health care or housing assistance, to the public. In planning for natural hazard mitigation, it is important to know what social systems exist within the community because of their existing

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connections to the public. Often, actions identified by the plan involve communicating with the public or specific subgroups within the population (e.g. elderly, children, low income). The County can use existing social systems as resources for implementing such communication-related activities because these service providers already work directly with the public on a number of issues, one of which could be natural hazard preparedness and mitigation.

The following organizations are active within the community and may be potential partners for implementing mitigation actions:

- Alpine House
- Building Healthy Families
- Community Connections of Wallowa County
- Eagle Cap Resource Conservation and Development Council
- Elks Lodge
- Enterprise Hometown Improvement Group
- Ferguson Care Center
- For Man Kind
- Joseph Chamber of Commerce
- Pioneer Guest Home Facility
- Umatilla-Morrow Head Start, Inc.
- Wallowa County Business Facilitation
- Wallowa County Chamber of Commerce
- Wallowa County Extension Office
- Wallowa County Hay Growers Association
- Wallowa Family & Youth Center
- Wallowa Land Trust
- Wallowa Memorial Hospital Home Health/Hospice Wallowa County Health Care District
- Wallowa Mountain Medical Clinic
- Wallowa Resources
- Wallowa Valley Center for Wellness
- Winding Waters Clinic

A table including information on each organization or program's service area, types of services offered, populations served, and how the organization or program could be involved in natural hazard mitigation is included at the end of this section. The three involvement methods are defined below.

- Education and outreach – organization could partner with the community to educate the public or provide outreach assistance on natural hazard preparedness and mitigation.
- Information dissemination – organization could partner with the community to provide hazard-related information to target audiences.
- Plan/project implementation – organization may have plans and/or policies that may be used to implement mitigation activities or the organization could serve as the coordinating or partner organization to implement mitigation actions.

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## Existing Mitigation Activities

Existing mitigation activities include current mitigation programs and activities that are being implemented by the community in an effort to reduce the community's overall risk to natural hazards. Documenting these efforts can assist the community in better understanding its risk and can assist in documenting successes.

HMGP 1160.0016 – Flooding along the Imnaha River on January 1, 1997 damaged residences and public infrastructure, and caused river-bank erosion and debris flow. This HMGP-funded project elevated three homes and purchased two conservation easements. The final project report and field inspection were completed on June 28, 2001 by M. Marmor from Wallowa County, as well as J. Antilla, R. Carlson, and D. Sigrist from OEM.

Sept., 2002: Wallowa County received the official “Storm Ready” designation. “Storm Ready,” a program administered by the National Weather Service, helps local emergency management officials prepare their cities or counties to be ready before severe weather threatens the area. (Wallowa County Chieftain)

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<sup>i</sup> Burby, Raymond J., ed. 1998. *Cooperating with Nature: Confronting Natural Hazards with Land-Use Planning for Sustainable Communities*.

Name	Date of Last Revision	Author/Owner	Description	Relation to Natural Hazard Mitigation
Wallowa County Comprehensive Land Use Plan	2003	Wallowa County Planning Department	The basic purposes of the plan are to protect the custom, culture, and community stability of the county; maintain the agricultural and timber basis of the county, to accommodate anticipated development, to make provisions for those uses which may be needed by the county, but which may have such undesirable characteristics as noise, smoke, and odor	Article 25 titled "flood and natural hazards" outlines the following purpose: "The purpose of the flood and natural hazards article is to provide additional restrictions upon uses permitted outright or conditionally in the underlying zones in order to minimize public and private losses due to flood conditions and other natural hazards and to promote the public health, safety, and general welfare."
Wallowa County Community Wildfire Protection Plan	Apr-05	Wallowa County Board of Commissioners, Oregon Department of Forestry, Wallowa County Emergency Services, and the county's structural fire departments	The mission statement reads: "To assist in coordination of the resource management of lands within Wallowa County in a manner that protects communities and local values at risk from wildfire, enhances local economic benefit and maintains or enhances ecological condition	A CWPP can serve as the wildfire hazard annex of an all-hazard mitigation plan. Actions documented in a CWPP should be included in the local mitigation plan as well.
Wallowa County Land Development Ordinance	2003	Wallowa County Planning Department	The purpose of this ordinance is to implement the Wallowa County Land Use Plan through a comprehensive system of land use, land division and land improvement regulations designed to conserve and protect the land, air and water resources of the county and to promote the health, safety and welfare of its citizens.	Development ordinances can be used to implement regulatory mitigation actions aimed at directing future development away from known hazard areas.
Salmon Recovery Plan	Aug-93	Wallowa County - Nez Perce Tribe	The Plan sets forth a plan to restore and maintain habitat for Chinook salmon and potentially, other salmonid fish in Wallowa County	Salmon Recovery plans may be used to implement actions that provide multi-objective benefits including habitat restoration and floodplain management.

Name	Date of Last Revision	Author/Owner	Description	Relation to Natural Hazard Mitigation
Grande Ronde Subbasin Plan	May-04	Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program	The plan examines the subbasin from both an historical and a contemporary perspective, outlining factors such as hydroelectric dams and making other modifications (roads, rip rap, etc.) to riparian zones. The plan outlines goals for how to shape usage of the subbasin in the future.	The plan refers to wildlife habitat restoration in the flood plain as an issue to consider for future management of the subbasin. Flood mitigation may be considered in tandem with restoring the floodplain for wildlife or other purposes.
Imnaha Subbasin Management Plan	2004	Nez Perce Tribe, Wallowa County Natural Resources Advisory Committee	Maintain and enhance the condition of the Imnaha subbasin, providing for abundant, productive, and diverse aquatic and terrestrial species and habitats, while maintaining and enhancing local lifestyles, customs, cultures, and economic viability, including the use of natural resources.	The plan discusses the need to restore the floodplain for the purpose of preserving and restoring riparian habitat for plants and animals. Restoring the floodplain can be thought of as a multi-objective measure in which flood mitigation may also tie into other concerns like habitat restoration.

Name	Date of Last Revision	Author/Owner	Description	Relation to Natural Hazard Mitigation
<p>Wallowa County Transportation System Plan</p> <p>Wallowa County Flood Insurance Study</p> <p>Wallowa County State Parks Master Plan</p>	2001	Wallowa County Planning Department	<p>The Wallowa County Transportation System Plan (TSP) guides the management of existing transportation facilities and the design and implementation of future facilities for the next 20 years. This Transportation System Plan constitutes the transportation element of the County's Comprehensive Plan and satisfies the requirements of the Oregon Transportation Planning Rule established by the Department of Land Conservation and Development. It identifies and prioritizes transportation projects for inclusion in the Oregon Department of Transportation's (ODOT's) Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).</p>	<p>The Transportation Plan may be a resource to identify which roads and transportation systems are most vulnerable to natural disasters. Likewise, the TSP can be utilized to implement mitigation measures aimed at protecting "transportation disadvantaged" populations in emergency situations. When updated in 2021, the TSP can also include mitigation elements in its implementation considerations.</p>

Wallowa County  
Existing Community Organizations

Name and Contact Information	Description	Service Area	Populations Served							Involvement with Natural Hazard Mitigation
			Businesses	Children	Disabled	Elders	English Second Language	Families	Low Income	
<b>Alpine House</b> 204 N Park Street Joseph, OR 97846 Tel: 541-432-7402	Assisted Living Residence	Wallowa County				✓				• Information dissemination
<b>Building Healthy Families</b> 107 N River St D Enterprise, OR 97828 - 1142	Family assistance/family counseling	Wallowa County						✓		• Information dissemination
<b>Community Connections of Wallowa County</b> 702 NW First St. Enterprise, OR 97828	Supporting and assisting senior citizens, children, low income persons, and persons with disabilities in attaining basic human needs and becoming more self-sufficient.	Wallowa County		✓	✓	✓			✓	• Information dissemination
<b>Eagle Cap Resource Conservation and Development Council</b> sdlkfsj Enterprise, OR 97828 Tel:	Assists persons and organizations in Baker, Union and Wallowa counties via community based partnerships and networks for the benefit of present and future generations.	Wallowa County	✓							• Education and outreach • Information dissemination

Wallowa County  
Existing Community Organizations

Name and Contact Information	Description	Service Area	Populations Served							Involvement with Natural Hazard Mitigation
			Businesses	Children	Disabled	Elders	English Second Language	Families	Low Income	
<b>Elks Lodge</b> 211 W North St Enterprise, OR 97828 - 1038 Tel: 541-426-1829	The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America will serve the people and communities through benevolent programs, demonstrating that <i>Elks Care and Elks Share</i> .	Wallowa County		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	• Information dissemination
<b>Ferguson Care Center</b> 104 Holmes Wallowa, OR 97857 Tel: 541-886-2008	Assisted Living Residence	Wallowa County				✓				• Information dissemination
<b>For Man Kind</b>	Social and Welfare Services	Wallowa County		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	• Information dissemination
<b>Joseph Chamber of Commerce</b> 102 E 1st Joseph, OR 97846 Tel: 541-432-1015	Provide economic development assistance to local businesses.	Joseph	✓							• Education and outreach • Information dissemination • Plan/project implementation
<b>Pioneer Guest Home Facility</b> 101 E Main Enterprise, OR 97828 Tel: 541-426-4222	Adult Residential Treatment	Wallowa County				✓				• Information dissemination

Wallowa County  
Existing Community Organizations

Name and Contact Information	Description	Service Area	Populations Served							Involvement with Natural Hazard Mitigation
			Businesses	Children	Disabled	Elders	English Second Language	Families	Low Income	
<b>Umatilla-Morrow Head Start, Inc.</b> 110 NE 4th Hermiston, OR 97838 Phone: 541-564-6878	Early Head Start, Oregon Head Start PreKindergarten	Grant, Gilliam, Morrow, Sherman, Umatilla, Wallowa, and Wasco Counties		✓						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education and outreach</li> <li>• Information dissemination</li> </ul>
<b>Wallowa County Business Facilitation</b> PO Box 997 Joseph, OR 97846 Tel: 541-426-5858	Provides free and confidential business management coaching to anyone who is serious about a business idea in Wallowa County, OR . This is accomplished through a network of volunteer board members, resource people and a Business Facilitator contractor.	Wallowa County	✓							<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information dissemination</li> </ul>
<b>Wallowa County Chamber of Commerce</b> P.O. Box 427 115 Tejaka Lane Enterprise, Oregon 97828 Phone: 541-426-4622/800-585-4121 Fax: 541-426-2032 vicki@wallowacounty.org (executive director, Vicki Searles)	Provide economic development assistance to local businesses.	Wallowa County	✓							<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education and outreach</li> <li>• Information dissemination</li> <li>• Plan/project implementation</li> </ul>

Wallowa County  
Existing Community Organizations

Name and Contact Information	Description	Service Area	Populations Served							Involvement with Natural Hazard Mitigation
			Businesses	Children	Disabled	Elders	English Second Language	Families	Low Income	
<b>Wallowa County Extension Office</b> 668 NW 1st Enterprise OR 97828 Tel: 541-426-3143 Fax: 541-426-0243	Provides research-based knowledge and education that focus on strengthening communities and economies, sustaining natural resources, and promoting healthy families and individuals.	Wallowa County	✓							<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education and outreach</li> <li>• Information dissemination</li> <li>• Plan/project implementation</li> </ul>
<b>Wallowa County Hay Growers Association</b> 85381 Bicentennial Lane Joseph, OR 97846 Tel: 541-432-3735	Business Association	Wallowa County	✓							<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information dissemination</li> </ul>
<b>Wallowa Family &amp; Youth Ctr</b> 83346 Joseph Hwy Joseph, OR 97846 - 8150	Resource for children and families	Wallowa County		✓				✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information dissemination</li> </ul>
<b>Wallowa Land Trust</b> Box A Joseph, OR 97846 Tel: 541-426-8053	To work cooperatively with local landowners to protect the rural nature of the Wallowa Country.	Wallowa County	✓					✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education and outreach</li> <li>• Information dissemination</li> <li>• Plan/project implementation</li> </ul>

Wallowa County  
Existing Community Organizations

Name and Contact Information	Description	Service Area	Populations Served							Involvement with Natural Hazard Mitigation
			Businesses	Children	Disabled	Elders	English Second Language	Families	Low Income	
<b>Wallowa Memorial Hospital Home Health/Hospice Wallowa County Health Care District</b> 404 NE 1st Street Enterprise, OR 97828 Tel: 541-426-9060	Hospice Care for people suffering from advanced illnesses and their families	Wallowa County		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	• Information dissemination
<b>Wallowa Mountain Medical Clinic</b> 100 N. East Street/ PO Box 1038 Joseph, OR 97846 Tel: 541-432-7777	Medical clinic	Wallowa County		✓	✓	✓			✓	• Information dissemination

Wallowa County  
Existing Community Organizations

Name and Contact Information	Description	Service Area	Populations Served							Involvement with Natural Hazard Mitigation
			Businesses	Children	Disabled	Elders	English Second Language	Families	Low Income	
<b>Wallowa Resources</b> 200 W North St Enterprise, OR 97828 Tel: 541-426-8053	Wallowa Resources works through partnerships with a diverse group of people to design and realize a new, healthier, rural community. Wallowa Resources is an active member of the Wallowa County Natural Resources Advisory Committee and Chairs the Wallowa County Community Wildfire Protection Plan sub-committee. Wallowa Resources is also an active partner with both USFS and ODF on forest health projects, including forest condition assessments, fuel reduction and defensible space activities.		✓					✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education and outreach</li> <li>• Information dissemination</li> <li>• Plan/project implementation</li> </ul>

Wallowa County  
Existing Community Organizations

Name and Contact Information	Description	Service Area	Populations Served							Involvement with Natural Hazard Mitigation
			Businesses	Children	Disabled	Elders	English Second Language	Families	Low Income	
<b>Wallowa Valley Center for Wellness</b> 201 SW 1st St Enterprise, OR 97828 Tel: 541-426-4524	Confidential counseling services; provides a comprehensive program of community mental health services, alcohol and drug services and services to persons who have developmental disabilities or behavioral difficulties	Wallowa County		✓	✓	✓				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information dissemination</li> </ul>
<b>Winding Waters Clinic</b> 203 E Main Wallowa, OR 97885 Tel: 541-886-2431	Medical clinic	Wallowa County		✓	✓	✓			✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information dissemination</li> </ul>

## **Wallowa County Fact Sheet**

### **Wallowa County:**

3153 sq miles

Percent State and Federal Ownership: 57.6%

### **Recreational Amenities:**

Chief Joseph Days (July, annual rodeo)

Alpenfest (September)

Car Cruise (June, July)

Arts Festival (summer)

Fishtrap Writers Gathering (July and February)

Golf driving range

Wallowa Mountain Quilt Show (June)

Joseph Fly-in and Blues Concert (August)

Wallowa Lake State Park

Wallowa-Whitman National Forest

Eagle Cap Wilderness area

Hells Canyon National Recreational Area

## **Economic Development and Employment**

### **Principal Industries:**

Forestry

Source: Oregon Employment Department, Covered Employment and Payroll Reports, 1998

### **Local and Regional Economic Development Organizations**

City of Enterprise

Enterprise Hometown Improvement Group

Wallowa County Chamber of Commerce

Northeast Oregon Economic Development District

Economic & Community Development Department Regional Development Officer

City of Joseph

City of Lostine

City of Wallowa

### **Agricultural Products of the Area (Top 3 largest gross farm sales):**

Cattle and calves, hays and forage, specialty products

Source: Oregon State University, Extension Economic Information Office

## Economic Indicators

	Wallowa County		Oregon		
	2001	2002	2000	2001	2002
<b>Population</b>	7,100	7,150	3,421,399	3,471,700	3,504,700
<b>Labor Force</b>	3,374	3,467	1,802,938	1,793,773	1,840,133
<b>Total Employment</b>			1,715,453	1,679,914	1,701,390
<b>Unemployment</b>	364	324	87,485	113,859	138,743
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>	10.8%	9.3%	4.9%	6.3%	7.5%
<b>Non-Farm Payroll Employment</b>	2,250	2,340	1,606,800	1,596,100	1,572,500
<b>Total Covered Employment</b>	2,212	2,331	1,607,944	1,596,943	1,573,083
<b>Total Covered Payroll (\$ thousands county/ \$ millions state)</b>	\$50,565	\$59,835	\$52,701	\$53,021	\$52,989
<b>Ave. Annual Payroll Per Employee</b>	\$22,860	\$25,669	\$32,776	\$33,202	\$33,684
<b>Number of Business Units</b>	371	382	108,432	111,353	113,097
<b>Total Personal Income (\$ millions)</b>	\$161,750	\$177,564	\$94,999	\$98,500	\$101,358
<b>Annual Per Capita Personal Income</b>	\$	\$25,076	\$27,649	\$28,400	28,792
<b>Assessed Value of Property (\$ millions)</b>	\$0	\$608	\$198,911	\$210,435	\$219,878
<b>Residential Construction</b>					
<b>Building Permits</b>	0	0	19,877	21,049	22,186
<b>Value (\$ thousands)</b>	\$0	N/A	\$2,533	\$2,985	\$3,347
<b>Travel Expenditures (\$ millions)</b>	\$0	\$21,600	\$6,133	\$6,128	\$6,208
<b>Travel-Related Employment</b>	0	550	89,800	91,100	90,200

Sources: Oregon Employment Department; Center for Population Research & Census, PSU; U.S. Census Bureau; Bureau of Economic Analysis; Oregon Tourism Commission; Oregon Department of Revenue; Oregon Economic and Community Development Department.

## Special Districts and Associations

Wallowa Soil and Water Conservation District  
Wallowa Valley Improvement District #1  
Lower Valley Water Improvement District  
Wallowa County Emergency Services District

Wallowa County Health Care District  
Wallowa Lake County Service District  
Wallowa Rural Fire Protection District  
Evergreen Water/Sewer District

## **Communications Resources**

### Local Newspapers:

Wallowa County Chieftain  
The Observer

### Regional Newspapers:

Wallowa County Chieftan Inc  
The Oregonian  
La Grande Observer

### Radio Stations:

KWVR Enterprise  
KLBM La Grande  
1 am station, 2 public stations

Wallowa County Health Care District

### TV Stations:

Joseph receives Portland and Spokane, WA  
stations

PBS

### Available Cable Television:

Crestview Cable

### Telephone Service Provider(s):

Verizon Northwest  
Union Wallowa Telephone Company

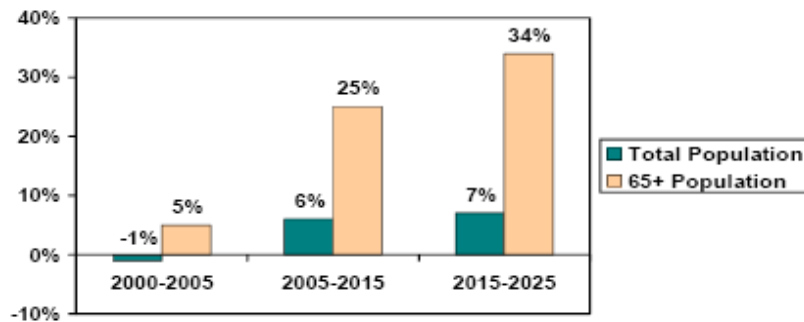
### Number of Internet Service Providers: 2

Wallowa Lake County Service District  
Wallowa Rural Fire Protection District  
Evergreen Water/Sewer District

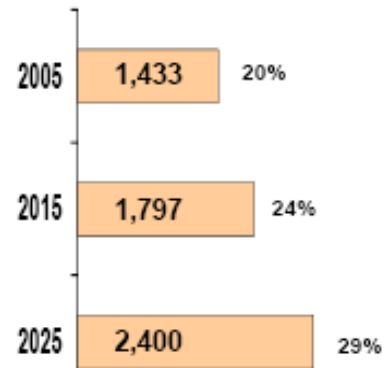
## **Historic Listings**

- Barnard, Dr. J. W., Building and First National Bank of Joseph (added 1991); 012-014 Main St.; Joseph
- Billy Meadows Guard Station (added 1991); NE of Red Hill summit, Wallowa-Whitman NF; Joseph
- Burnaugh Building (added 1993); 107 N. River St., Enterprise
- College Creek Ranger Station (added 1991); Imnaha R., Wallowa-Whitman NF; Imnaha
- First Bank of Joseph (added 1978); 2<sup>nd</sup> and Main Sts.; Joseph
- Flora School (added 1997); 82744 Church St.; Flora
- Gotter Hotel (added 1994); 301 W. Main St.; Enterprise
- Hells Canyon Archeological District (added 1984); Imnaha
- Hunter-Morelock House (added 1985); 104 Holmes St.; Wallowa
- Kirkland Lookout Ground House (Guard Station) (added 1991); E of Joseph Cr., Wallowa-Whitman NF; Joseph

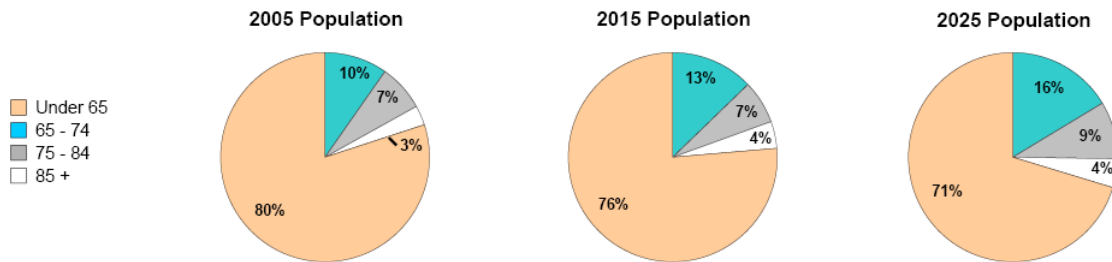
### Growth Rate Of Wallowa County's Aging Population



### Wallowa County Projected 65+ Population and % of general population



### Our population is aging in Wallowa County



Under 65	5,714	5,813	5,712
65-74	703	980	1,329
75-84	507	502	711
85 +	223	316	360

### Will our facilities meet the needs of Wallowa County seniors?

Facility Type	Count	Available	Occupied
Physicians per 1000 (2004 Data)	0.98	--	--
Hospitals	0	--	--
Community Facilities	6	46	38
Nursing Homes	1	32	28

Basic Information	Incorporated	Distance to La Grande (miles)	Elevation	Monthly Average Low	Monthly Average High	Hottest Month	Coldest Month	Driest Month	Wettest Month
Enterprise	1889	65	3880	12	78	July	December	September	May
Joseph	1887	73	4100	21	78	August	December	October	May
Lostine	1903	56	3200	18	85	July	January	July	January
Wallowa	1899	43	2923	18	85	July	January	July	December

Population	1980	1990	1998	1999	2000	2001
Enterprise	2003	1905	2050	2050	1895	1890
Joseph	999	1073	1260	1270	1054	1060
Lostine	250	231	230	230	263	260
Wallowa	847	748	745	830	869	870
Wallowa County	7273	6911	7200	7200	7226	7100

Number of Manufacturing Companies:

Enterprise	7
Joseph	1
Lostine	1
Wallowa	2
Wallowa County	31

Communities Participating in the National Flood Plan			
Community Name	Initial FIRM Identified	Current Effective Map	Regular or Emergency Date
Enterprise	1/23/1976	2/17/1988	2/17/1988
Joseph	12/5/1975	2/17/1988	2/17/1988
Lostine	11/8/1974	2/17/1988	2/17/1988
Wallowa	4/23/1976	2/17/1988	2/17/1988
Wallowa County	6/28/1977	2/17/1988	2/17/1988

Water Supply	Operator	Age of Water System	Plans for Upgrading or Expanding
Enterprise	City of Enterprise	1936	
Joseph	City of Joseph	1992	Currently being evaluated
Lostine	Shawn Young	1970	The City is doing a water feasibility study to improve the water system. Water lines in parts of the City are being replaced
Wallowa	City of Wallowa	1983	Plan to upgrade and expand in phases. No start-up date has been set for improvements

	<b>Primary Employers</b>	<b>Number of Employees</b>
Enterprise	Enterprise School District - Education	43
	VEMCO - Fabricated Plate Metal Products (horse & stock trailers)	12
	Wallowa County Chieftan Inc. - Newspaper	10
	Ten-Neb Inc - Logging	6
	Kelley Optometry Prescription Lab - Ophthalmic Goods	6
Joseph	Joseph School District - Education	45
	Manual Museum - Arts & Tourism	39
	Valley Bronze - Bronze Castings	40
	Alpine House - Assisted Living	17
Lostine	VEMCO (Enterprise) - Fabricated Plate Metal Products (horse & stock trailers)	12
	Wallowa County Chieftan Inc. (Enterprise) - Newspaper	10
	Southfork Ready Mix - Ready Mix Concrete	9
	Ten-Neb Inc (Enterprise) - Logging	6
	Kelley Optometry Prescription Lab (Enterprise)- Ophthalmic Goods	
Wallowa	Wallowa School District - Education	65
	Wallowa Forest Products - Lumber Mill	60
	Wallowa Food City - Grocery Store	6
	Shell's Mercantile - Grocery Stores	6
	Plush West Restaurant - Restaurant	5

<b>Community Services and Resources</b>	<b>Fire Station(s) serving community</b>	<b># paid and volunteer firefighters</b>	<b>Nearest Hospital</b>	<b>Distance to Nearest Hospital</b>	<b>Emergency Services to Community</b>	<b>General Clinic(s)</b>
Enterprise	Enterprise Fire Department	24	Wallowa Memorial Hospital	local	Ambulance Service, Life Flight Service	2
Joseph	Joseph Fire Department	18	Wallowa Memorial Hospital	6	Ambulance Service	3
Lostine	Lostine Rural Fire Department	6	Wallowa Memorial Hospital	12	None	0
Wallowa	Wallowa Fire Department; Wallowa RFPD	15	Wallowa Memorial Hospital	17	Ambulance Service, Life Flight Service	1

<b>Wastewater Treatment System</b>	<b>Operator</b>	<b>Age of Wastewater Collection System</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Date of Last Facility Plan</b>	<b>Plans for Upgrade / Expansion</b>
Enterprise	City of Enterprise	1916	City is in compliance with DEQ regulations	NA	NA
Joseph	City of Joseph	1975	Treatment plant upgraded in 1997	NA	NA
Lostine	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Wallowa	City of Wallowa	1972	Improvement of treatment and reduction of I and I since wastewater system improvement	NA	NA

<b>Transportation</b>	<b>Highways</b>
Enterprise	Hwy 82 N/S route, local access
Joseph	Hwy 82 N/S route, local; Hwy 3 N route, access 5 miles
Lostine	Hwy 82 NW/SE route, local access
Wallowa	Hwy 82 E/W route, local access

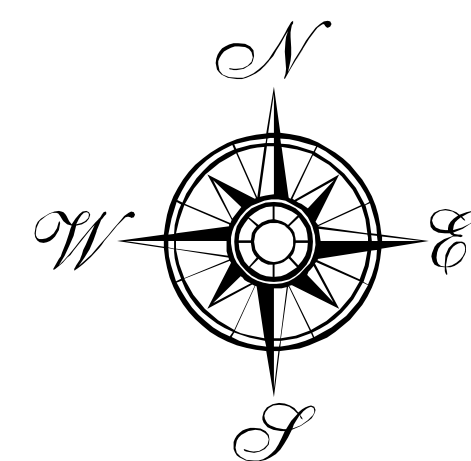
<b>Transportation</b>	<b>Community Air</b>	<b>Air Passenger</b>	<b>Airport Freight</b>	<b>Rail Service</b>	<b>Freight Service</b>
Enterprise	Yes	No	No	No	No
Joseph	Yes	No	No	No	No
Lostine	No	No	No	No	no
Wallowa	No	NA	NA	Yes	Yes

	<b>Passenger Service</b>	<b>Bus Service Available in Community</b>	<b>Buses Per Day</b>	<b>Local Charter Services</b>	<b>Distance to Nearest Bus Service</b>
Enterprise	No	Yes	NA	Yes	NA
Joseph	No	Yes	1	Yes	NA
Lostine	No	NA	NA	NA	NA
Wallowa	No	Yes	1	Yes	0

Information in the Community Profiles was derived from many sources, including local, state and federal sources. The Oregon Economic and Community Development Department cannot accept responsibility for errors or omissions. Questions and comments may be directed to the department by telephone 503-986-0123, by fax 503-581-5115 or by email [oord.info@state.or.us](mailto:oord.info@state.or.us).



# Wallowa County



Union

County

Baker

County

**Legend**

★

Unincorporated Areas

—

Highways

—

County and Forest Service Roads

—

Creeks & Rivers

—

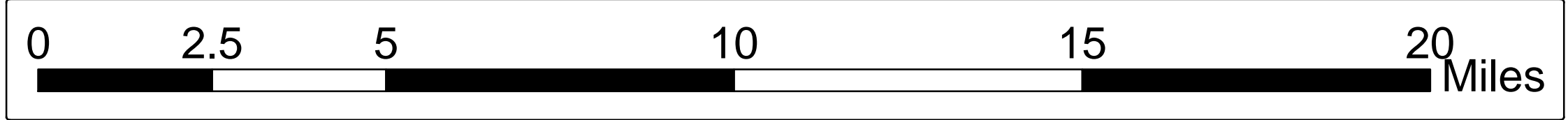
Wallowa Lake

+

City Limits

—

Forest Service Lands



The information on this map was derived from various public data sources. Care was taken in the creation of this map but it is provided "as is". Wallowa County cannot accept any responsibility for errors, omissions, or positional accuracy in the digital data or the underlying records. There are no warranties express or implied, including the merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose, accompanying this product.