

# Chapter 1 - Introduction

Local hazard mitigation planning is the foundation of a long-term strategy to reduce losses from severe natural disasters and break cycles of repeated effects from natural disasters. This plan creates a framework for risk-based decision-making to reduce future loss of life and impacts to people, property, natural systems and the economy.

## 1.1 What is Hazard Mitigation?

Hazard mitigation is any *sustainable* action that reduces or eliminates long-term risk from *future* disasters<sup>1</sup>. Mitigation is taking action now to reduce the severity of those predictable future events. Acting on mitigation strategies over time is the best way to ensure that communities will be physically, socially, and economically resilient to future natural disasters.

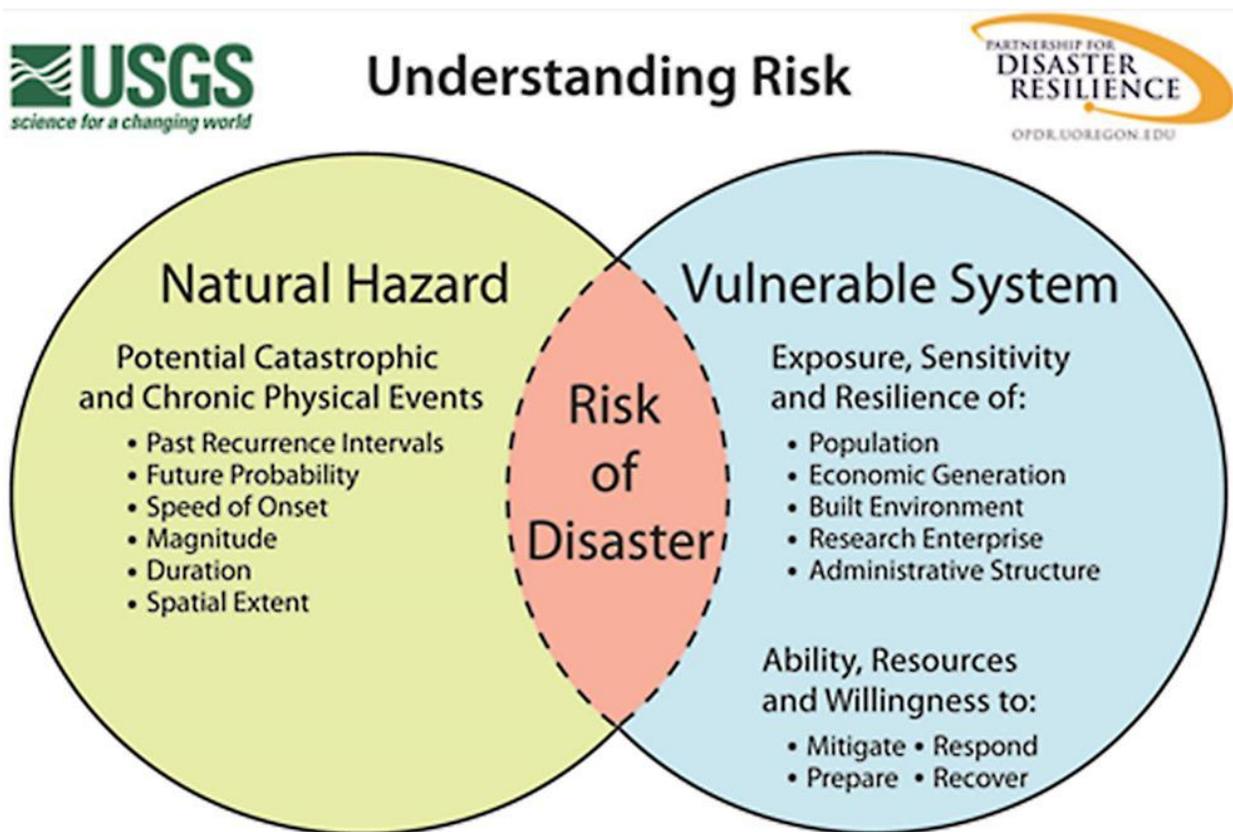


Figure 1 Natural hazard risk exists where there is an intersection between where hazards occur and who and what is located in those places. Diagram from the [Oregon Partnership for Disaster Resilience](#) and [United States Geological Survey](#).

<sup>1</sup> FEMA, [Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants](#)

What sets mitigation apart from preparedness, recovery, and response in the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) disaster cycle is the focus on starting and completing actions *before* something happens. Mitigation actions are designed to reduce future harm and response needs, instead of simply being reactive to events.

This approach saves money—on average six dollars saved for every dollar spent<sup>2</sup> according to FEMA research—and keeps people safer. Preparedness and response plans are initiated when disaster strikes, but those efforts can become more efficient because a successful mitigation plan has already reduced the risk of loss by addressing the most significant vulnerability to residents, critical infrastructure, businesses, homes and natural resources.

Many natural disasters have relationships to natural landscapes, such as steep slopes, floodplains, and forests.

This means that natural hazards often happen in the same locations and repeatedly cause danger, damage, and health impacts in those locations. Therefore, hazard mitigation action is often focused in these areas, and can work to break these cycles of disaster and loss. Some disasters occur on countywide or regional scales, and harm is more determined by built environments, and are most likely to continually impact those with existing health conditions, lack of resources, having been underserved by past mitigation planning work, facing historical discrimination and disinvestment in their communities, or other factors. In this case, people in widely different locations can be the most harmed by repeating disaster cycles, so mitigation strategies should identify and attempt to address cycles of loss caused by these social and economic disparities.

Hazard mitigation strategies can reduce existing risk through very different approaches. For example, relocating a specific building out of a frequently flooded area or helping to ensure that



Figure 2 - FEMA Disaster Cycle showing the different timelines of emergency management.

<sup>2</sup> According to analysis performed by the National Institute of Building Sciences – see [FEMA Fact Sheet](#) for the analysis for different specific hazards.

everyone with existing respiratory health conditions have the ability to access clean air spaces during smoke events.

Strategies may also seek to make development less vulnerable to hazards before it is built or during construction. Examples would be requiring new structures to be elevated above predicted flood levels or by building structures to better withstand future earthquakes or forest fires.

Hazard mitigation plans are designed to involve the input of stakeholders from different perspectives to ensure plans use the best available data, are aligned with the needs of the entire community, and are in alignment with other plans, such as comprehensive plans, capital improvement plans, and climate action plans.

## 1.2 Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan (NHMP) Purpose

The purpose of this NHMP is to:

- Document the known risks from natural hazards and the extent to which communities and other entities will suffer loss in future events.
- Establish an action plan for participating communities and special districts, by identifying priorities and indicating their commitment to implementing strategies that will increase community resilience.
- Maintain eligibility for FEMA mitigation grants and identify other funding sources, which will increase the chance of successfully implementing identified risk reduction priorities.

Hazard mitigation plans are evaluated by State and Federal partners to ensure they meet statutory requirements set forth in Code of Federal Regulations ([44 CFR §201.6](#)). The code sets minimum standards that all hazard mitigation plans in the United States must meet, and FEMA approval is required before they can be locally adopted.

## 1.3 Participating Jurisdictions/Districts

Local governments and special districts within a county may develop a plan by themselves, or may join into a multi-jurisdictional plan. In the 2017 version of this plan, the Cities of Fairview, Gresham, Troutdale, and Wood Village, and Multnomah County came together to produce a combined plan for the first time. This update continues this collaborative approach among city and county jurisdictions, and also adds seven Special District partners.

This update adds the six entities making up the Columbia Corridor Drainage Districts - four current districts, a combined joint contracting authority (the Columbia Corridor Drainage Districts Joint Contracting Authority (CCDDJCA)), and the future combined organization of the four current districts (Urban Flood Safety and Water Quality District (UFSWQD)). The CCDDJCA and UFSWQD are recognized so that at a future date when the districts are officially joined, the full organization will already be a participating partner in this plan. The four current districts in this plan are:

- [Multnomah County Drainage District #1](#) (MCDD)
- [Peninsula Drainage District #1](#) (PEN 1)

- Peninsula Drainage District #2 (PEN 2)
- Sandy Drainage Improvement Company (SDIC)

As special districts of Oregon, the Columbia Corridor Drainage Districts are limited purpose units of government, and the hazard mitigation strategies identified herein are subject to their flood safety statutory authorities. The term Columbia Corridor Drainage Districts (Districts) will be used for the remainder of the plan and will refer to all six entities.

The [Port of Portland](#), which operates the Portland International Airport (PDX), Troutdale Airport, and marine terminals in Multnomah County, is also a participating Special District in this plan.

Each participating jurisdiction or district has individually met the requirements of 44 CFR §201.6, but work has been combined into a single volume to reduce duplication of effort and providing opportunities for collaboration and communication to increase hazard resilience across jurisdictional boundaries. Each participating entity has a separate chapter, which includes local information, location specific risk data, and individual mitigation strategies.

*Click to jump to jurisdictional/district chapter*

<p><a href="#">City of Fairview</a></p> 	<p><a href="#">City of Gresham</a></p> 	<p><a href="#">City of Troutdale</a></p> 
<p><a href="#">City of Wood Village</a></p> 	<p><a href="#">Multnomah County</a></p> 	<p><a href="#">Columbia Corridor Drainage Districts</a></p> 
<p><a href="#">Port of Portland</a></p> 	<p>In order to meet Federal code requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each jurisdiction/district performed public engagement to ensure their constituents had input in the revised plan.</li> <li>• Each jurisdiction/district developed individual mitigation strategies that are responsive to public input and reflect local priorities and capacity.</li> <li>• Each jurisdiction/district will formally adopt the entire plan.</li> </ul>	

Two cities in Multnomah County—the City of Portland and the City of Maywood Park—are not part of this plan. Portland has a standalone plan<sup>3</sup> that was updated in 2022. Maywood Park does not have a hazard mitigation plan. Some information in this plan overlaps with boundaries of these cities, because of Special District service areas and services provided across the entire county by Multnomah County.

There are also numerous other Special Districts<sup>4</sup> in Multnomah County that do not have an NHMP. Those districts are eligible to create plans in the future individually, or as a partnership with other communities or districts.

The Cities of Fairview, Gresham, Troutdale and Wood Village provide vulnerability data, community input and mitigation strategies within their incorporated limits. Multnomah County mitigates all natural hazard risk in unincorporated areas, and also provides or coordinates services that may span across the entire county for some hazards.

The Columbia Corridor Drainage Districts serve locations that overlap both incorporated and unincorporated areas while critical Port of Portland facilities addressed in this plan are located within the City of Portland.

## 1.4 How the Plan is Organized

The flow of information in this plan is designed to:

1. Describe the community to understand who and what are at most risk from natural hazards;
2. Describe the natural hazards faced in Multnomah County—their likelihood of happening, locations of highest risk, and vulnerability created;
3. Combine these elements of risk and consider them with the specific capacity and needs of each participating jurisdiction to determine actionable risk reduction strategies.

The hazards included in this plan are; **earthquake, flood, landslide, severe weather, volcano, and wildfire and wildfire smoke**. These are the natural hazards that are most likely to impact Multnomah County and have existing probability and vulnerability data, and are consistent with natural hazard types described by FEMA and the State of Oregon.

Mitigation actions in this plan are contained within each jurisdictional/special district chapter. Actions are defined in those tables by which hazard they are designed to mitigate, or as multi-hazard if they address more than one hazard. All jurisdictions or districts have mitigation strategies for every natural hazard that they have assessed as a risk priority. As this is a multi-jurisdictional plan, each participating entity does not have equal exposure to the included hazards.

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<sup>3</sup> Portland's plan is called a [Mitigation Action Plan](#) (MAP)

<sup>4</sup> [Special districts are defined](#) as local agencies outside of local government that deliver specific services to specific communities. Other examples of special districts are water districts, fire districts, school districts, and parks districts. According to the Special District Association of Oregon, there over 1,000 districts like this in Oregon. Districts must have a mitigation plan in order to manage their own FEMA mitigation grants.

### ***Using the Maps in this Plan***

Many of the maps used in this plan come from interactive map websites, and can therefore be used to locate risk elements down to the property level. The static maps in the plan can be used for an overall dimension and location of risk, but it is recommended plan readers use the linked sites to be able to view risk in different ways and at different scales.

Maps which have an interactive web link available to the public have a link at the top. Within the link, the layers used for that map are shown. To access this data, one should follow the link and then use the named layers to create the map. The maps in this plan typically use a layer at the second level of data organization – click the box for the first layer and then open sub-layers in that category by clicking the arrow to the left of the box.

Not all of the maps have the same interface, but are all ArcGIS Online maps and use the same symbol to open layers, shown to the right. Clicking on this icon will open a panel that will show the layers needed to recreate a map.



The primary interactive mapping applications used in this volume are:

- [DOGAMI HazVu](#) – Statewide geohazards viewer, with risk mapping for most of the hazards included in this plan, and includes LIDAR terrain mapping.
- [DOGAMI SLIDO](#) – Statewide landslide information layer with a number of different risk dimensions related to landslides, including LIDAR terrain mapping.
- [Metro Map](#) – Metro government public map with layers for the metro region, including outdoor recreation areas, city and district boundaries, and habitat and natural hazards. Also includes tax lots for the entire metro planning area.
- [Multnomah County Land Use Planning Reference Map](#) – Includes planning and zoning maps, regulatory layers, natural hazard overlays, and aerial photos.
- [Oregon Wildfire Risk Explorer \(Planning Tool\)](#) – Statewide wildfire risk mapping layers, hosted by the Oregon Department of Forestry and Oregon State University. To access layers, first click on the ‘Go To Layers’ button.

The [FEMA National Flood Hazard Layer](#) is a FEMA site with national flood insurance rate maps. These maps are not used in this plan, because of difficulty scaling them to large areas, but they are the best reference for homeowners or local governments to review regulatory flood risk information.

## **1.5 Updates to the 2017 NHMP**

The previous version of the Multnomah County Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan became effective on November 29, 2017. FEMA requires NHMPs be updated every five years to capture new risk data and demographic changes, and reflect recent natural hazard events, revised local priorities, and changes to federal, state and local policies.

Between 2017 and the official start of the new update process of the plan, all of the participants joined together in a maintenance phase, meeting twice in 2018 and 2019 and once in 2020 to discuss the mitigation planning progress. The formal update to the plan began in early 2021. The COVID-19 pandemic caused a significant delay in the kickoff to the update process and

continued to limit the ability to perform outreach and participant coordination through 2022. Plan participants met online through 2022 to develop shared plan elements and coordinate local strategies.

This version of the plan intends to build on the success of the 2017 multi-jurisdictional process, by maintaining coordination between jurisdictions and adding new partners with crucial resilience roles. The overall format of the plan has not changed significantly—most of the changes in this version come from new data and studies that have refined risk awareness, and by significant natural hazard events that have occurred over the last five years that have shaped mitigation priorities. However, there are some changes that have been made to the plan format and to hazard definitions that should be noted.

- In this version, each participating entity has a breakout chapter which lists specific vulnerability information and action strategies. Unlike in the 2017 plan, mitigation actions are not shared between entities. While some actions put forth by different participants may be very similar, each one is collected separately to best reflect specific populations served and differing resources and priorities among participants.
- The natural hazards included in the plan are unchanged from 2017, but there are important expansions of two chapters. The Severe Weather chapter is now organized into four sub-hazards—Extreme Heat, Winter Storm, Wind Storm and Drought. The Wildfire chapter now includes expanded information about Wildfire Smoke.
- Mitigation strategies have been revised because of the completion of previous actions and changing priorities based on recent hazard events, new risk data, and a continuing effort to ensure actions are equitable for those facing the most severe risks from future events.

## 1.6 Equitable Natural Hazard Mitigation Planning

This NHMP continues to recognize that all members of the community are not impacted equally by natural disasters. Some community members are at more risk and face greater barriers to resilience and recovery, for a number of possible reasons. A hazard mitigation approach which uses a ‘one size fits all’ approach and does not recognize these different levels of risk will not adequately or efficiently support historically underserved populations, will fail to build full community resilience, and will make social and economic disparities worse after a disaster.

Natural hazard mitigation is closely linked with environmental justice<sup>5</sup> principles, which are the work to prevent environmental benefits and burdens from being distributed unfairly. There is a common perception that because natural hazards are so wide ranging in impact, they harm everyone and act as an ‘equalizer’<sup>6</sup>. Yet research shows this is not the case, and that natural hazards around the world cause the most harm to those who have the least means and resources to recover. Impacts of climate change are only making the severity of events more severe and frequent, heightening unequal impacts.

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<sup>5</sup> [EPA Environmental Justice factsheet](#)

<sup>6</sup> [Incorporating Environmental Justice Into Hazard Mitigation Plans](#), *Environmental Law Institute*, Rebecca Kihlsinger and Fiona Osborn; October 4, 2021

The 2017 version of this plan already highlighted equity as a part of the plan vision, working to ensure that equity was a key consideration in identifying and implementing mitigation and disaster recovery actions. This plan update seeks to continue to develop a shared understanding among participants of how hazard mitigation can become more inclusive and be proactive in creating strategies that reduce existing disparities in risk and hazard recovery.

Addressing the whole community<sup>7</sup> requires an understanding that while an equal solution for all may initially seem fair, it does not address historical inequalities and current differences in age, financial resources, housing stability, neighborhood investment, health or ability, and access to government services.

The difference between equity and equality is illustrated in the graphic below. In the first picture, everyone has been provided the same resource, but the bicycle does not support each person successfully. An equitable solution provides a bicycle that meets the specific needs of each recipient. In mitigation planning, this means that successfully reducing risk in the most meaningful and efficient way requires understanding how the distribution of resources will actually reduce risk and for whom.

**EQUALITY:**

Everyone gets the same—regardless if it’s needed or right for them.



**EQUITY:**

Everyone gets what they need—understanding the barriers, circumstances, and conditions.



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Figure 3 - [Visualizing Equality vs Equity](#)

Equitable mitigation success should be measured by assessing who was most impacted in loss of life or financial harm in past disasters, making quantifiable reductions of vulnerability to those most at risk, and increasing engagement with historically underserved populations

<sup>7</sup> FEMA uses the term whole community in its National Preparedness Goal, as a way to define the full scope of those who must be part of inclusive mitigation planning.

and community organizations to better understand how natural hazard events and distribution of mitigation resources are affecting their communities.

Each participating entity in this plan has their own jurisdictional strategy for improving the equitable delivery of their governmental services. The mitigation actions applied by each participant reflects the specific place they are at in developing a local equity strategy and the different communities they each serve.

The Community Profile section described different demographic and economic factors in Multnomah County and touches on how different communities may be impacted differently by the natural hazard events included in this plan.

## **1.7 Multnomah County Five-Year Mitigation Report 2017-2022**

### **1.7.1 Natural Hazard Events**

Multnomah County was affected by a number of natural hazard events since the 2017 NHMP was adopted, including multiple fatal incidents. These events, in some cases, exceeded even the most extreme expectations of scope and severity of hazards, especially those most influenced by climate change. The impact of these events has most significantly altered the prioritization of hazard risk among plan participants.

Below is a selection of these events. These events, and others, are described more fully in the hazard chapters for each type of event.

#### June 2021 Heat Dome

- A record heat event that broke the all-time temperature record of 107 degrees in Multnomah County for three straight days and peaked at 116 degrees. During this extraordinary heat wave, 69 people in Multnomah County died from hyperthermia.

#### 2017 Eagle Creek Fire

- The largest wildfire in Multnomah County in over 100 years, the Eagle Creek Fire started in September and burned nearly 50,000 acres across Multnomah and Hood River Counties. No deaths occurred because of the fire, but structures were destroyed, major evacuations were required, and recreational and other natural resource areas were significantly impacted.

#### 2020 September Wildfire Smoke Event

- The 2020 wildfire season was one of the most destructive in recent Oregon history, and smoke from major fires in the region blew into Multnomah County, leading to air quality dubbed 'the worst in the world' and exceeding the top of the unhealthy air risk scale<sup>8</sup>. For three days, nearly the entire county had extremely hazardous air quality levels to health. Acute respiratory health impacts were noted, and the long term health effects are as yet unknown but expected to be significant.

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<sup>8</sup> Health risk categorization for wildfire smoke tops out at 500, [a level exceeded by a Portland air quality monitor](#) during this event.

### 2017 Winter Storms

- A number of winters over the last five years saw impacts from flooding, snow and cold temperatures, but none as severely as in the winter of 2016-2017. January 2017 was one of the coldest, snowiest months in Multnomah County in decades, and at least six deaths were caused by hypothermia.

### 2021 Dodson Landslide

- One fatality occurred due to a landslide, during a heavy rain event in January 2021, in a high-risk landslide portion of unincorporated eastern Multnomah County that had partially burned in the 2017 Eagle Creek Fire.

These were the most significant events, but other events occurred, including additional severe heat and cold events that also caused deaths. Some flooding damage occurred in the time period, and there were other wildfire smoke events, although those events were within the range of normal anticipated impacts (if more frequent).

## **1.7.2 Climate Change**

The severity of climate-related natural hazard events over the last five years reflects the concern of participating entities that these types of events will become even more frequent and extreme. The plan largely uses climate change forecasts from the 2021 Oregon Fifth Climate Assessment [published by the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute \(OCCRI\)](#). How climate change has increased the potential scope and severity of each hazard described in this plan is each hazard-specific chapter.

## **1.7.3 Population and Demographics**

Multnomah County communities continued to experience population growth in the last five years, although growth has slowed to some degree, especially from the peaks of rapid suburban development through the early 2000s. Growth has occurred primarily in locations already within the Urban Growth Boundary through new development in incorporated areas and increased density and redevelopment in urban cores. Intersections of new hazard risk are especially pronounced for climate hazards that affect all residents. Because there has not been any expansion of urban growth limits, there has been a limited increase of new development into locations with high flood, wildfire or landslide risk – although there are areas within city limits that face these hazards and have seen increased development.

Continued in-migration continues to reflect the need for risk communication for those who have not experienced natural hazard events in Multnomah County and may not know of larger threats, such as earthquakes, that have not occurred for a long time.

Some specific population trends can be observed that may impact mitigation planning strategies. The population of older adults is growing very quickly across the county and communities are also continuing to become more racially and linguistically diverse. A deeper look at county demographics can be found in the Community Profile chapter.

### 1.7.4 COVID-19 Impacts

Local mitigation work was significantly hampered by COVID-19. Although the pandemic, like other disease epidemics, is not considered to be a natural hazard as defined by this plan, COVID-19 created a significant disruption in mitigation planning and project development. As of 2023, the pandemic continues to alter outreach and engagement work.

The pandemic has also provided an opportunity to test real-world applications of long-term disaster response and measure the effectiveness of mitigation planning related to public health risk. COVID-19 impacts were disproportionately harmful to those with existing health conditions, those with risks caused by housing status or employment type, and those with barriers to receiving government information and services. In both response and recovery, this incident has created a new lens to continue to evaluate how actions throughout the disaster cycle can be used to reduce health, social and economic disparities during and after all types of events.

### 1.7.5 New Studies and Regulatory Developments

A number of new risk or vulnerability studies since 2017 have refined the understanding of where natural hazard events are likely to occur in Multnomah County and what the potential losses will be from future disasters.

#### Earthquake

- The Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries ([DOGAMI](#)) published a [Regional Earthquake Impact Analysis](#) in 2018 for three area counties, including Multnomah County. The analysis provides new, more detailed vulnerability data for two earthquake scenarios, and is the primary source for describing earthquake risk in this plan.

#### Flood

- DOGAMI coordinated with the Columbia Corridor Drainage Districts to publish a [2018 Special Paper](#) to assess flood risk for the levee system. The assessment provides detailed vulnerability analysis from a major levee breach, Multnomah County's most dangerous flood scenario.
- FEMA completed a flood-map update process in 2019 for the Lower Columbia-Sandy Watershed, creating new Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) for portions of Troutdale, Gresham, and unincorporated Multnomah County. The remainder of the county has maintained FEMA flood maps issued before 2017.

#### Landslide

- DOGAMI published two reports relating to landslide risk in Multnomah County: a [detailed vulnerability assessment of the western and central parts of the county](#) in 2018 and a [historic landslide inventory of the eastern portion](#) in 2017. Because of these reports, highly localized landslide risk mapping exists throughout the entire county, and serves as the primary source for landslide hazard in this plan.

#### Wildfire

- The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) created the [Oregon Wildfire Explorer](#) to host wildfire risk data, much of it generated from the [Pacific Northwest Quantitative Wildfire Risk Assessment](#) produced via the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) in 2018. This project collected best available data into a single risk and vulnerability mapping tool with applications for planners and the general public.
- [Senate Bill 762](#), passed by the Oregon Legislature and signed into law by the Governor in summer 2021, included a directive for additional wildfire risk mapping throughout Oregon. As of mid-2022, the implementation of those maps was postponed. These maps will become the best available data when re-released, expected to be some time in 2023.

### Wildfire Smoke and Extreme Heat

- The Regional Disaster Preparedness Organization (RDPO), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and Metro joined to produce a [2021 risk reduction report for Extreme Heat and Wildfire Smoke](#), collecting risk assessment information and suggested mitigation strategies for each hazard.

### All-Hazard Assessments

- As part of the new FEMA flood study for the Lower Columbia-Sandy watershed, DOGAMI created a [risk report](#) combining all existing natural hazard risk map data with an updated inventory of buildings and facilities. This study provides a streamlined analysis of multi-hazard risk for much of Troutdale and portions of Gresham, levee districts at the mouth of the Sandy River, and unincorporated Multnomah County.

### Climate and Health

- A [Regional Climate and Health Monitoring Report](#) was released in 2019 and updated in 2021. The report provides data on health conditions impacted by climate change, including heat and unhealthy air quality.
- The [Sixth Oregon Climate Assessment](#) was published in January 2023. This continued the release schedule of assessments, with previous versions released since the last version of the NHMP in 2021, 2019, and 2017.

### Social Vulnerability

- Metro has undertaken a [Social Vulnerability Tools](#) (SVT) project to expand census tract level data info available from the U.S. Census, through improved data tools and additional data sources. The project incorporated input through community engagement to identify what data gaps exist and how well demographic information captures needs. The tools were not ready at the time of this plan's completion, but will be integrated into future updates.

The last five-year period has also seen an increase in federal and state investment in hazard mitigation. In particular, the State of Oregon has passed legislation to address climate change and wildfire risk, and has restructured the state's Department of Emergency Management (OEM) with increases in support for local mitigation activities and grants management.

FEMA continues to be the primary external funder of local hazard mitigation, through the Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant umbrella. Pre-disaster and post-disaster grants are available, with

post-disaster funds being made available to Oregon communities because of wildfire, COVID, winter storms, and other disasters.

FEMA published its most recent [National Mitigation Investment Strategy](#) in 2021, highlighting the importance of mitigation to align national resilience-building efforts. The [2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act](#) provided FEMA with \$6.8 billion to, in part, support climate-based resilience mitigation, especially for underserved communities.

A previous pre-disaster grant funding program was revised by FEMA into the [BRIC \(Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities\)](#) program to highlight priorities in larger-scale, longer-term infrastructure mitigation and move away from reactive post-disaster spending. The grant also continues to support mitigation planning and advanced assistance projects. Flood Mitigation Assistance grants remain for flood-focused projects, including buyouts of properties suffering from repetitive flood losses.

## 1.8 Plan Adoption and Implementation

Each participating entity must individually adopt the plan in order for the plan to become effective in that jurisdiction. The adoption process may be different for each participating entity. As soon as at least one participating entity has adopted the plan and that plan has been approved by FEMA, the five-year update requirement timeline begins again.

In the years before the next update process begins, the participating entities will continue to meet twice per year to assess the mitigation strategies and identify updates and other plan improvements.

The NHMP is not required to be a static document that only changes on the five-year update cycle. The plan will be available electronically and as the Steering Committee continues to meet in a maintenance phase, continuing annual edits will be considered in order to be more responsive to new risk data and research, lessons learned from coming disasters, and ongoing community input and engagement.

## 1.9 Plan Goals, Objectives, Mission

The vision and goals of this plan are the long-term blueprint for creating a more resilient community, and reducing future losses to natural hazards indicated in the risk assessment. Community resilience to natural hazards is the ability of communities to withstand or rapidly recover from a disaster or catastrophic event.

**The vision of the participating entities in this plan is to foster a disaster-resilient community in which:**

- Risk-consciousness at all societal and economic levels is forefront in decision making;
- Efforts to reduce risk are conducted with inclusiveness and collaboration;
- Reducing disparities in impacts from natural disasters is a key consideration in identifying and implementing mitigation actions;
- The risk to health and safety of all citizens from disaster events is minimized;
- Impacts to the economy, the built and natural environment and cultural resources are reduced;

- Planning is not static but gives consideration to future conditions - especially climate change related impacts where detailed analysis of risk has not yet occurred.

**The goals identified to reach that vision:**

- Goal 1 – Strengthen the capacity of the whole community to reduce risk by increasing hazard awareness.
- Goal 2 - Create partnerships to fully leverage funding, and other implementation and policy opportunities.
- Goal 3 – Develop mitigation actions that leverage strengths and reduce vulnerabilities to community systems and lifelines.
- Goal 4 – Prioritize mitigation strategies that reduce disparities in risk to historically underserved and underrepresented communities.
- Goal 5 – Prioritize mitigation strategies with high benefit-to-cost ratios, those that reduce risk from multiple or cascading hazards, those that address problems identified in other plans, and those made more feasible by having public support.