

## CRS Activity 510

### Progress Report on Implementation of Credited Plan

Date this Report was Prepared: October 8, 2018

Name of Community: Benton County, OR

Name of Plan: Benton County Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan

Date of Adoption of Plan: July 19, 2016

*5 Year CRS Expiration Date: 10/01/2021*

1. How can a copy of the original plan or area analysis report be obtained:

A copy of the Benton County Multi-Jurisdiction Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan (2016) is available either in person at the Benton County Sheriff's Office, or from the BCSO website:

<https://www.co.benton.or.us/sheriff/page/community-emergency-plans>.

2. Describe how this evaluation report was prepared and how it was submitted to the governing body, released to the media, and made available to the public:

The 2016 Benton County NHMP was prepared in accordance with 44 CFR Part 201, and was approved by both the State Hazard Mitigation Officer and FEMA Region X. Steering committee members from the Emergency Services Division, Community Development, Public Works, and other departments collaborated to discuss the progress of each high priority action item outlined in the 2016 Benton County NHMP.

The plan was adopted by a resolution of the Benton County Board of Commissioners on 19 July 2016, and subsequently made available to the media and the public both physically at the Benton County Sheriff's Office Emergency Services Division, and electronically through the BCSO website. A press release notifying the public of this Progress Report will go out through the Benton County Board of Commissioners Office. A copy of this report will be available both physically and electronically for any member of the public to review.

3. Provide a description of the implementation of each recommendation or action item in the action plan or area analysis report, including a statement on how the project was implemented or not implemented during the previous year:

See Attached

4. Discuss why any objectives were not reached or why implementation is behind schedule:

See Attached

5. What are the recommendations for new projects or revised recommendations?

Majority of the projects outlined in the Progress Report have transitioned into the “ongoing” phase. Many projects listed are projects that will need to be on “in progress” constantly to capture any changes in infrastructure, building code, standards, planning activities, or plan updates. Possible additions to the NHMP action item list could be

1. Educate the public on natural hazard risks and encourage individual and community preparedness.
2. Engage City, County, and allied agencies in regular training and exercises focusing on response and recovery based on hazards outlined in the NHMP.

*Attachment: CRS Activity 510, Progress Report*

Implementation Status & Discussion of Action Items  
Identified in the  
Benton County Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan 2016

**Table A-I Benton County High Priority NHMP Actions**

Item ID	Action Item
<b>Priority Actions</b>	
MH #1	Enhance hazard resistant construction methods (wind, winter storm, landslide, etc.) where possible to reduce damage to utilities and critical facilities. In part, this may be accomplished by encouraging electric utility providers to convert existing overhead lines to underground lines.
MH #3	Integrate the Mitigation Plan findings into planning and regulatory documents and programs including Comprehensive Plans.
MH #6	Continue to evaluate the impacts of climate change on the characteristics and frequency of natural hazards in Benton County
MH #11	Assess vulnerability, determine, and then implement appropriate mitigation measures for Alsea area bridges and access routes.
EQ #3	Seismically retrofit the historic Benton County Courthouse, a vital public building. Consider both structural and non-structural retrofit options.
FL #1	Coordinate with FEMA and state agencies to maintain and update Benton County Flood Insurance Rate Maps as necessary. Prioritize the determination of Base Flood Elevations (BFE) for all approximate Zone A areas.
FL #2	Take steps to participate, maintain, or improve Community Rating System (CRS) rating, as applicable.
FL #6	Improve remote draft site at Daisy Drive in Marys River Estates.
FL #7	Identify all structures with floors below the Base Flood Elevation and prioritize mitigation based on flood risk and type of required mitigation.
LS #1	Utilize the updated regional landslide risk maps (DOGAMI O-16-02) to identify hazard areas and collaborate with the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries to work on landslide risk reduction efforts; determine areas and buildings at risk to landslides and propose Comprehensive Plan and land use policies accordingly.
WF #1	Implement actions identified in the Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

Source: Benton County NHMP Steering Committee (2015)

Multi-Hazard

**MH #1**

*Ongoing:* **Enhance hazard resistant construction methods where possible to reduce damage to utilities and critical facilities. In part, this may be accomplished by encouraging electric utility providers to convert existing overhead lines to underground lines.** This project is ongoing. Most new construction projects of critical infrastructure are utilizing hazard resistant construction.

**MH #3**

*Ongoing:* **Integrate the Mitigation Plan findings into planning and regulatory documents and programs including Comprehensive Plans.** This project is ongoing based on the additional creation of new disaster plans such as the Mass Care/Sheltering Plan, Volunteer/Donations Management Plan,

Evacuation Plan, Joint Information Center/PIO Plan, Pet Sheltering/Rescue Plan, and many others. Each of these plans will incorporate findings from the NHMP as part of the planning process.

#### **MH #6**

*Ongoing:* **Continue to evaluate the impacts of climate change on the characteristics and frequency of natural hazards in Benton County.** The Benton County Emergency Services is part of the County Climate Change Committee and involved with implementing climate change effects into emergency plans.

#### **MH #11**

*Ongoing/Deferred:* **Assess vulnerability, determine, and then implement appropriate mitigation measures for Alsea area bridges and access routes.** This project is a multi-agency endeavor and, although Benton County Public Works is listed as the coordinating agency, most of the bridges identified are under the jurisdiction of the Oregon Department of Transportation. The Public Works Department has had employee turnover for several key positions during the last two years and this project is currently not included in the list of projects for this department. However, the need is ongoing and implementation as well as possible next steps should be reevaluated at the next NHMP review meeting.

### Earthquake

#### **EQ #3**

*Deferred:* **Seismically retrofit the historic Benton County Courthouse, a vital public building. Consider both structural and non-structural retrofit options.** This project was approved years past, however, it has not been funded due to budgetary issues and high expense of retrofits to maintain historic relevance. Therefore, this project is currently deferred for at least the next budget cycle and may possibly be removed from the NHMP action item list.

### Flood

#### **FL #1**

*Ongoing:* **Coordinate with FEMA and state agencies to maintain and update Benton County Flood Insurance Rate Maps as necessary. Prioritize the determination of Base Flood Elevations (BFE) for all approximate Zone A areas.** Benton County participated in the City of Albany's Letter of Map Revision request for revision of five Flood Insurance Rate Map panels (Panel Nos. 41003C 0094G, 41003C 0111G, 41003C 0112G, 41003C 0113G, and 41003C 0114G) to correct mapping errors associated with the Willamette River and Thornton Lakes System Special Flood Hazard Areas. These corrections became effective on Dec. 9, 2016.

Benton County is continuing to search for a funding source as well as project partners in order to establish Base Flood Elevations in all approximate Zone A areas for the county. There are over 300 stream miles of waterways in Benton County that have designated Special Flood Hazard Areas with approximate Zone A designations. This designation means that, although a 1%-annual chance flood hazard has been identified, no designation of Base Flood Elevations has been provided. Benton County Community Development Department has been told that this project is not fundable through state Hazard Mitigation Grant programs because there are other projects that have a higher priority. A request for funding was submitted to the county Capital Improvement Projects committee but was denied.

Community Development staff has also spoken with staff at the Department of Geological & Mineral Industries as well as staff at STARR (an agency that FEMA contracts with to complete Flood Insurance Rate Map revisions). Although both agencies are willing to help collaborate with the county on a

project to create Base Flood Elevations for the approximate Zone A areas, neither agency has the ability to fund the project.

It was suggested by a staff member at STARR that if the county were to become a Cooperating Technical Partner, additional funding might become available. Staff is currently looking into the requirements and responsibilities associated with this process.

#### **FL #2**

*Ongoing:* **Take steps to participate, maintain, or improve Community Rating System (CRS) rating, as applicable.** Benton County continues to actively participate in the Community Rating System (CRS) and currently maintains a Class 7 rating. Meetings have been set up with the state National Flood Insurance Program Coordinator (Nov. 6, 2018) and the ISO CRS Senior Floodplain Specialist (Dec. 18, 2018) to review the importance and role of floodplain management in Benton County, the county's current CRS rating, and ways to improve this rating to a Class 6 or better.

#### **FL #6**

*Complete:* **Improve remote draft site at Daisy Drive in Marys River Estates.** Per an e-mail dated Oct. 8, 2018 from Cpt. Rich Saalsaa, Philomath Fire & Rescue Fire and Life Safety Officer, the work (identified by Cpt. Saalsaa as "better road surfaces and concrete flooring added to the pump housing") for the improvements to the draft site has been completed.

#### **FL #7**

*Deferred:* **Identify all structures with floors below the Base Flood Elevation and prioritize mitigation based on flood risk and type of required mitigation.** Funding is required to initiate this item. The project requires a complete inventory of residential and commercial buildings within 100-year and 500-year floodplains, with GIS mapping, as well as surveying each qualifying structure to determine floor elevations relative to Base Flood Elevations and completion of a FEMA elevation certificate for each structure. Benton County currently has over 700 such structures located within mapped Special Flood Hazard Areas and only a small portion of those have elevation certificates based on the current Flood Insurance Rate Maps.

### Landslide

#### **LS #1**

*Deferred:* **Utilize the updated regional landslide risk maps (DOGAMI O-16-02) to identify hazard areas and collaborate with the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries to work on landslide risk reduction efforts; determine areas and buildings at risk to landslides and propose Comprehensive Plan and land use policies accordingly.** Avenues for funding targeted studies and LiDAR analysis need to be identified before this project can be implemented.

### Wildfire

#### **WF #1**

*Ongoing:* **Implement actions identified in the Community Wildfire Protection Plan.** This CWPP is primarily implemented by Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF). Currently, many of these projects within the CWPP are completed or ongoing including but not limited to evacuation route planning/development, fire mitigation projects (e.g. chipping), community outreach workshops, and others.