

VII: AREAS SUBJECT TO NATURAL DISASTERS AND HAZARDS

Goal: To protect life and property from natural disasters and hazards.

Findings: The findings below are the basis of decisions made with respect to natural disasters and hazards:

1. That all major county drainages, including the Imnaha, Wallowa, Minam, Grande Ronde, Lostine and Wenaha Rivers, and Little Sheep, Big Sheep, Bear and Hurricane Creeks are subject to periodic flooding.
2. That residents of the County and Cities within are qualified to obtain Federal Flood Insurance Assistance as provided by Public Law 90-448 (Appendix 7-1).
3. That as many as 25 percent of the County residents may live in areas subject to flooding by a 100-year flood.
4. That primary flood damage has been due to deposit of gravel and debris on productive agricultural lands.
5. That the cost of reclaiming land where gravel and debris have been deposited is often greater than land owners can afford without assistance.
6. That a program of gravel removal and streambank protection needs to be continued indefinitely to minimize potential flood losses.
7. That present flood plain maps are inadequate in detail to be used for zoning or other regulatory purposes, but are sufficient for recommendatory provisions.
8. That the primary cause of flooding is due to spring run-off of snow pack in the Wallowa Mountains.

Policies: The following statements of policy are related to satisfying the above goal.

1. That developments not be planned nor located in areas likely subject to major damage or that could result in loss of life.
2. That flood proofing construction of utilities and structures be utilized in areas of likely inundation.
3. That flood-plains be used primarily for non-structural and non-residential purposes, e.g. recreation or

agricultural operations which will not suffer major damage by periodic inundation.

4. That the National Flood Insurance Program and amendments thereto be used as the guide for future development in flood-plain areas.

Implementation: The following are implementation measures identified in the process of preparing the Plan.

1. That when more detailed mapping is available, provisions be added to the County zoning ordinance and maps to discourage development which might likely result in property damage or loss of life, and that the degree of hazard determine the level of regulation.
2. That an effort be initiated to acquaint all flood-plain property owners with the availability of the National Flood Insurance Program.
3. That areas be identified where gravel removal from streams is desirable, and that provisions be made therefore in the Plan and related implementing ordinances.
4. That all related local, State and Federal agencies coordinate efforts to reduce potential flood hazards and destruction or loss of property or life.