

# Walla Walla County

## MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN 2024 UPDATE



2020 MILL CREEK FLOOD

### Walla Walla County - Emergency Management



Prepared By:

Northwest Management Inc.



Draft October 1, 2024

## FORWARD

Each year in the United States, disasters take the lives of hundreds of people and injure thousands more. Nationwide, taxpayers pay billions of dollars annually to help communities, organizations, businesses, and individuals recover from disasters. These monies only partially reflect the true cost of disasters because additional expenses to insurance companies and nongovernmental organizations are not reimbursed by tax dollars. Many disasters are predictable, response and recovery costs can be lessened when attention is turned to mitigating the effects and impacts of hazards before they occur or re-occur.

“Hazard mitigation is any sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk to human life and property from hazards. Mitigation activities may be implemented prior to, during, or after an incident. However, it has been demonstrated that hazard mitigation is most effective when based on an inclusive, comprehensive, long-term plan that is developed before a disaster occurs.”<sup>1</sup>

The 2024 Walla Walla County, Washington Multi-Jurisdiction All Hazard Mitigation Plan serves as the five-year update of the 2018 Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Walla Walla County, Washington and the incorporated cities that lie within the county are vulnerable to natural, technological, and human-caused hazards that have the potential to cause serious harm to the health, welfare, and security of its residents.

This plan seeks to identify the hazards in the county, understand the vulnerabilities to those hazards, and craft solutions that, if implemented, will significantly reduce threats to life and property. This is not an emergency response or management plan. The focus of this plan is to support better decision making directed toward avoidance of future risk and to implement activities or projects that will identify and reduce current risks. This Plan satisfies the requirements for a local multi-hazard mitigation plan and flood mitigation plan under 44 CFR Part 201.6 and 79.6.

---

<sup>1</sup> Federal Emergency Management Agency. “Local Multi-Hazard Mitigation planning Guidance.” July 1, 2008.

## APPROVAL OF ADOPTING JURISDICTIONS



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Forward.....	i
Approval of Adopting Jurisdictions.....	ii
FEMA APPROVAL.....	iii
Table of Contents.....	iv
1 Overview of the Planning Process .....	1
Goals and Guiding Principles.....	2
Walla Walla County Planning Philosophy.....	3
Mission Statement.....	3
Jurisdictional Planning and Mitigation Goals .....	4
Integration with Other Local Planning Mechanisms.....	5
Walla Walla County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) 2017.....	5
Walla Walla County Flood Response Plan, 2022.....	6
Walla Walla County Comprehensive Plan, 2019.....	6
Other Planning Mechanisms .....	6
2 Documenting the Update Process .....	7
The Planning Team .....	7
Meetings.....	8
Multi-Jurisdictional Participation .....	9
Public Involvement .....	9
Plan Maintenance and Monitoring.....	11
3 Community Profile .....	13
Walla Walla County Characteristics .....	13
Unincorporated Communities.....	13
Population.....	16
Development Trends .....	17
Transportation.....	18
Critical Infrastructure.....	18
Land Use .....	20

Climate.....	21
Climate Change.....	21
Topography.....	22
Economy .....	22
Soils.....	23
Geology and Mineral Resources.....	24
Hydrology and Water Resources.....	24
Geohydrology .....	25
Vegetation Resources.....	25
Fish and Wildlife Resources.....	25
Recreation.....	26
Scenic and Aesthetic Resources .....	26
Historic and Cultural Resources.....	26
Hazard Management Capabilities .....	27
Socially Vulnerable Communities .....	27
4 Hazard Risk Assessment.....	29
Changes in Priority.....	29
Hazard Risk Summaries & Selection .....	30
Disaster Declarations.....	34
5 Natural Hazards.....	37
Earthquake Hazard Overview.....	37
Landslide Hazard Overview .....	38
Intensity .....	39
Recent Event History .....	40
Probability of Occurrence.....	41
Earthquake Vulnerability.....	42
Impacts .....	43
Resources at Risk .....	45
Changes in Land Use and Development .....	47

Climate Change.....	47
Social Vulnerability .....	48
Severe Weather Hazard Overview .....	50
FEMA Severe Weather Natural Hazards.....	52
Additional Severe Weather Definitions.....	52
Recent Event History .....	53
Probability of Occurrence.....	56
Severe Weather Vulnerability .....	57
Impacts .....	57
Resources at Risk.....	59
Changes in Land Use and Development.....	60
Climate Change.....	61
Wildland fire Hazard Overview .....	63
Recent Event History .....	64
Probability of Occurrence.....	67
Wildland fire Vulnerability.....	68
Flooding Hazard Overview .....	78
Federal Dams.....	81
Recent Event History .....	81
Probability of Occurrence.....	83
Flooding Vulnerability.....	86
Impacts .....	87
Resources at Risk.....	89
Changes in Land Use and Development.....	92
Climate Change.....	92
Social Vulnerability .....	93
6 Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Strategy.....	94
Walla Walla County.....	94
Current Policies, Codes and Ordinances.....	94

Jurisdiction-Specific Mitigation Strategies and Action Items .....	95
City of College Place .....	107
Current Policies, Codes and Ordinances.....	107
Jurisdiction-Specific Mitigation Strategies and Action Items .....	107
City of Prescott .....	116
Current Policies, Codes and Ordinances.....	116
Jurisdiction-Specific Mitigation Strategies and Action Items .....	116
City of Waitsburg.....	121
Current Policies, Codes and Ordinances.....	122
Jurisdiction-Specific Mitigation Strategies and Action Items .....	122
City of Walla Walla .....	128
Current Policies, Codes and Ordinances.....	129
Jurisdiction-Specific Mitigation Strategies and Action Items .....	129
Walla Walla Public School District.....	141
Current Policies, Codes and Ordinances.....	141
Jurisdiction-Specific Mitigation Strategies and Action Items .....	141
Walla Walla County Conservation District .....	146
Current Policies, Codes and Ordinances.....	146
Jurisdiction-Specific Mitigation Strategies and Action Items .....	146
7 Appendix A: News Releases and Media Posts .....	151
8 Appendix B: Record Of Planning Team Meetings .....	158
Kick-Off Meeting.....	158
Meeting #2.....	161
Meeting #3.....	164
Meeting 4.....	166
Meeting 5.....	168
9 Appendix C: Public Input Documentation.....	170
Online Survey Data .....	170
Public Comment Record .....	171



10 Appendix D: Capabilities Assessments .....	172
11 Appendix E: Community Wildfire Protection Plan.....	173

# 1 OVERVIEW OF THE PLANNING PROCESS

This Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP), 2024 update, is the result of analyses, professional cooperation and collaboration, assessments of hazard risks and other factors considered with the intent to reduce the potential for hazards to threaten people, structures, infrastructure, and unique ecosystems in Walla Walla County, Washington. This collaborative effort was led by Walla Walla County Emergency Management.

In January 2024, Walla Walla County Office of Emergency Management contracted services to update the HMP to Northwest Management, Inc. (NMI) of Moscow, Idaho. The plan update process kicked off in February 2024.

Throughout the update process the planning team reached out to several stakeholders, government agencies, private industries, non-governmental organizations, and other groups to invite them to participate by either providing input on certain components of the plan or by serving as a regular planning team member. Most groups and individuals were invited through an email invitation and by sending meeting invites to join the planning team meetings in person or virtually. Some groups did not participate via planning meetings but provided information or reviewed parts of the plan. Below is a brief list of some of the organizations and groups that were invited to participate in the plan in some way.

- |                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Washington DNR                     | Oregon Department of Forestry                 |
| U.S. Forest Service                | U.S. Army Corps of Engineers                  |
| Washington State Patrol            | NOAA  |
| Walla Walla County departments     | Incorporated cities                           |
| Washington Military Department     | Walla Walla Conservation District             |
| Washington State DOT               | Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife    |
| Public school districts            | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service                |
| Franklin County, WA                | Columbia County, WA                           |
| Providence St. Mary Medical Center | Umatilla County, OR                           |
| Local colleges and universities    | Senior living communities and veterans' homes |
| BNSF Railway                       | Union Pacific                                 |
| Agriculture production groups      | Local utilities                               |

## GOALS AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Local hazard mitigation plans form the foundation of a community's long-term strategy to reduce disaster losses and break the cycle of disaster damage, reconstruction, and repetitive damage. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) supports local mitigation planning to achieve the following:

- Foster partnerships among all levels of government.
- Develop and strengthen non-governmental and private partnerships.
- Promote more disaster-resilient and sustainable communities.
- Reduce the costs associated with disaster response and recovery by promoting mitigation activities.

The following guiding principles should be considered in advance of developing or updating a local mitigation plan:

**Plan and Invest for the Future:** The plan is based on the experiences of the past and present and on projections for the future, including long-term climate change considerations and changes in development. The planning process sets the direction for years and decades into the future, using the best available information, tools and resources from partners and stakeholders to make a strong case for mitigation investments and implementing actions. Consider all possible types of mitigation actions (land use regulations, building codes, nature-based solutions, etc.) to address current and future risks.

**Collaborate and Engage Early:** The planning process brings together diverse community-based partners representing the interests of the whole community. It includes those able to implement mitigation actions using a wide range of resources, and leaders from underserved communities and socially vulnerable populations. Meaningful representation from and conscious collaboration with underserved and vulnerable populations are critical for equitable outcomes. federal, state, and local engagement is also critical for successful mitigation planning, as partners from all levels of government bring additional resources including, but not limited to, data, funding, and technical expertise.

**Integrate Community Planning:** Design the planning process to fit the unique needs of each community. Integrating hazard risk with the most appropriate planning scale and processes, such as land use, economic development, housing, infrastructure, resilience planning and/or natural resource planning, will minimize conflicting initiatives, such as development in hazard prone areas. Prepare a single-jurisdiction plan or participate in a multi-jurisdictional one, based on local capabilities.

The plan development process and each five-year update are opportunities to advance the previous and ongoing mitigation efforts, integrate the plan with other community planning initiatives, improve engagement with community-based organizations that represent underserved communities, accurately reflect changes in risk and recalibrate the mitigation strategy and priorities.

FEMA makes funding available for planning through the Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) grant programs: the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP); the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Program; and the Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Program. Approved mitigation plans are a requirement for local governments, including special districts, to be eligible for the projects funded under the HMA and other FEMA programs, including the Rehabilitation of High Hazard Potential Dams (HHPD). Additionally, Public Assistance funding is available to implement mitigation measures for damaged eligible facilities to protect against future damages, so long as the recipient has an approved state mitigation plan. Mitigation plans must be reviewed and updated every five years and formally adopted by each participating jurisdiction’s governing body as part of receiving approval.

FEMA will only review a local Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan submitted through the appropriate State Hazard Mitigation Officer (SHMO). Draft versions of local Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plans will not be reviewed by FEMA. FEMA will review the final version of a plan prior to local adoption to determine if the plan meets the criteria, but FEMA will be unable to approve it prior to adoption.

In Washington the SHMO is:

Washington State Military Department – Emergency Management Division  
20 Aviation Dr. Bldg. 20  
Camp Murray, WA 98438-5122

---

## **WALLA WALLA COUNTY PLANNING PHILOSOPHY**

This effort will utilize the best and most appropriate science from all partners and will integrate local and regional knowledge about natural hazards while meeting the needs of local citizens and the regional economy.

---

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

To make Walla Walla County residents, communities, state agencies, local governments, and businesses less vulnerable to the effects of natural hazards through the effective administration of hazard mitigation grant programs, hazard risk assessments, wise and efficient infrastructure hardening, and a coordinated approach to mitigation through federal, state, regional, and local planning efforts. Our combined prioritization will be the protection of people, structures,

infrastructure, and unique ecosystems that contribute to our way of life and the sustainability of the local and regional economy.

---

## **JURISDICTIONAL PLANNING AND MITIGATION GOALS**

As part of the 2024 revision process, the planning team reviewed the planning and mitigation goals from the 2018 plan and discussed how the goals may need to be edited or reworded to better reflect current priorities and other planning efforts.

Walla Walla County County-wide Hazard Mitigation Goals:

1. This planning process will involve planning for the natural hazards of Flood, Earthquake, Wildland Fire (excerpted from existing Mill Creek and Walla Walla County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)), and Severe Weather;
2. Prioritize the protection of people, structures, infrastructure, and unique ecosystems that contribute to our way of life and the sustainability of the local and regional economy;
3. Educate communities about the unique challenges of natural hazard preparedness in the county, especially regarding flood, earthquake, wildfire, and severe weather;
4. Reduce the impact of hazard events and potential losses incurred by both public and private residents and entities;
5. Consider land use policies to alleviate potential hazard risks and impacts for future development;
6. Improve enrollment in the National Flood Insurance Program within communities that are at risk to floods through increased outreach and education;
7. Establish mitigation priorities and develop mitigation strategies in Walla Walla County;
8. Strategically locate and plan infrastructure projects that take into consideration the impacts of natural hazards.
9. Reduce the area of wildland-urban interface (WUI) land burned and losses experienced because of wildland fires;
10. Provide recommendations for fuels reduction projects and alternative treatment methods to mitigate wildland fire potential;
11. Emphasize structure hardening and other practices landowners can utilize to increase wildfire resilience;
12. Meet or exceed the requirements of the National Fire Plan, FEMA Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan and Community Wildfire Protection Plan;
13. Utilize regional expertise and resources for collaborative training exercises; and
14. Integrate climate change impacts into predictive models and account for these impacts when proposing mitigation efforts.

## INTEGRATION WITH OTHER LOCAL PLANNING MECHANISMS

During the development of this HMP several planning and management documents were reviewed in order to avoid conflicting goals and objectives. Existing programs and policies were reviewed in order to identify those that may weaken or enhance the hazard mitigation objectives outlined in this document. The following narratives help identify and briefly describe some of the existing planning documents and ordinances considered and list other planning resources that may be of additional interest to residents. This list does not necessarily reflect every plan, ordinance, or other guidance document within each jurisdiction; but rather a summary of guidance documents available and recommended for review, by members of the Planning Team. Many of these documents are available on the Walla Walla County Emergency Management webpage located at:

[https://www.co.walla-walla.wa.us/residents/emergency\\_management/index.php](https://www.co.walla-walla.wa.us/residents/emergency_management/index.php)

---

### **WALLA WALLA COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN (CEMP) 2017**

The CEMP has been promulgated by the Walla Walla County Board of Commissioners and City Mayors of Walla Walla, College Place, Prescott and Waitsburg. The plan establishes the framework for an effective system to ensure that Walla Walla County and its municipalities will be adequately prepared to respond to the occurrence of natural, manmade and/or technological related emergencies or disasters. The plan outlines the roles and responsibilities of local government, State and Federal agencies and volunteer organizations.

The intention of this plan is to unite the efforts of these groups under each of the Emergency Support Function (ESF) and Annex formats listed throughout the document. Each of these ESFs has a designated lead agency for a comprehensive approach to mitigation, planning, response and recovery activities set forth in the “State of Washington Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan” and the “National Response Framework”. The plan helps to guide interested parties in how State, Federal and other outside resources will be coordinated to supplement county resources and response. There are 20 ESF sections and two Annex in the CEMP.

---

## **WALLA WALLA COUNTY FLOOD RESPONSE PLAN, 2022**

The purpose of this flood response plan is to prepare Walla Walla County to respond to the numerous flooding hazards that exist locally and provide officials with procedures for managing and implementing flood response and recovery in accordance with the Walla Walla County Flood Response Policy and the Walla Walla County Mutual Aid Agreements.

This plan defines what, when, where, how, and who will implement flood response actions and activities in accordance with current policies. It is divided into two major components – the General Plan and the more specific, Implementing Procedures. The General Plan addresses assumptions, responsibilities, and relationships while the Implementing Procedures consist of checklists, procedures, and maps. The checklists are intended to help users remember specific items that may be applicable to the situation at hand. By training on, and following this plan, emergency responders can reduce the danger to themselves and the public and lessen the likelihood and extent of damage to property and the environment. This plan follows the principles of the Incident Command System and is compliant with the National Incident Management System, as required by Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5. Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5 (HSPD-5) established a single, comprehensive approach to incident management, with the objective of ensuring that all levels of government across the nation have the capability to work together efficiently and effectively.

---

## **WALLA WALLA COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, 2019**

The official document, adopted by the Board of County Commissioners, that serves as a guide in decision making regarding future development of Walla Walla County. This plan is a legal document that establishes goals and policies with the aim of both supporting the financial ability of the community to support growth while also protecting the environment and natural resources of the county. The 2019 update references the county's HMP in several places and attempts to dovetail its goals and policies with past hazard mitigation planning efforts.

---

## **OTHER PLANNING MECHANISMS**

- ❖ Walla Walla County Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan – 2018
- ❖ Walla Walla County Continuity of Operations Plan – 2018
- ❖ City of College Place Continuity of Operation Plan and Evacuation Map – 2018
- ❖ City of Walla Walla Evacuation Plan – 2004; currently under review/revision
- ❖ City of Walla Walla Continuity of Operations Plan – 2017
- ❖ City of Waitsburg Flood Response Plan – 2022
- ❖ Walla Walla Regional Airport Emergency Contingency Plan – 2022

## 2 DOCUMENTING THE UPDATE PROCESS

Documentation of the planning process, including public involvement, is required to meet FEMA’s DMA 2000 (44CFR§201.6(b) and §201.6(c)(1)) for an updated local mitigation plan. This section includes a description of the planning process used to update this plan, including how it was prepared, who was involved in the process, and how all of the involved agencies participated.

### THE PLANNING TEAM

This update to the Walla Walla County HMP was developed through a collaborative process involving several organizations and agencies. The planning effort began by organizing and convening a countywide Planning Team. The Walla Walla County Emergency Management Director utilized the Planning Team to begin the update process. Once the meetings began in February 2024, the Team identified other individuals/agencies that should be invited to participate and continually worked to keep them and others engaged throughout the process through regular meetings, phone calls, and emails. Throughout the process several individuals participated in some way. Many attended meetings and some collaborated behind the scenes with other members of the Planning Team. Table 1 shows the documented involvement.

**Table 1: Specific Individuals from the adopting jurisdictions, stakeholder groups, and agencies who participated in the development and updates of the 2024 Walla Walla County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan.**

Chris Lee, Walla Walla County Emergency Management, Director	Gunner Fulmer, Walla Walla County, Commissioner
Patrick Purcell, Walla Walla County Emergency Management, Coordinator	John Knowles, Walla Walla Fire Department, Chief
Tammy Johnson, City of Prescott Clerk/Treasurer	Annie Byerley, Walla Walla County Conservation District, Conservation Scientist
Mark Higgins, Walla Walla Public Schools	Mike Rizzitiello, City of College Place, City Administrator
Chris Buttice, City of Walla Walla, Police Chief	Randy Hinchliffe, City of Waitsburg, City Administrator
Charlie Landsman, WA DNR, Community Wildfire Resilience Coordinator	Rocky Eastman, Walla Walla County Fire District 4, Chief
Jacob LeBaron, WA DNR, Assistant Fire Management Officer	John Golden, Walla Walla County Fire District 4, Deputy Chief
Justin Lauer, Oregon Department of Forestry, Unit Forester	David Winter, City of College Place, Fire Chief
Heather Lee, Walla Walla County EMS, Director	Mike Smith, Providence St. Mary Medical Center
Angie Peters, Valley Transit, General Manager	Susan Leathers, Providence St. Mary Medical Center
Greg Lybeck, Walla Walla Fairgrounds, Manager	Troy Tomaras, City of College Place, Police Chief
Tony Garcia-Morales, Walla Walla County Public Works, Director	Lonna Leno, Walla Walla Veterans Home, Administrator



Mike Moore, USFS, Fire Management Officer	Darran Maestretti, Walla Walla Veterans Home, Facilities
Esther Click, WESCOM, Manager	Alan Harlan, Walla Walla Veterans Home, Facilities
Kendall Corn, Walla Walla County GIS, Coordinator	Jodi Ferguson, Walla Walla County Department of Community Health, Manager
Melissa Shumake, Walla Walla County Community Development, Deputy Director	Rick Dawson, Walla Walla County Department of Community Health, Environmental Health Director
Mark Crider, Walla Walla County Sheriff	Bob Carson, Whitman College, Emeritus Professor
Jennifer Ballard, Walla Walla Community Development, Associate Planner	Alyssa Wells, Walla Walla County EMS, Administrative Assistant/Coroner
Robert McAndrews, City of College Place, Public Works Director	Dan Mack, Walla Walla County Public Works, Road Operations Chief
Jon Rickard, City of College Place, Community Development Director	Renee Hadley, Walla Walla County Conservation District, District Manager
Tracy Klem, Walla Walla Community College	Scott Tucker, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Emergency Management Specialist
Shane Clark, Regency at the Park, Maintenance Director	Don Schwerin, Walla Walla County Conservation District, Commissioner
Randall Son, homeowner on Mill Creek	Tina Babbitt, Columbia County EM, Director
Sean Davis, Franklin County, Emergency Manager	Nancy Berentsen, Columbia County EM, Programs Manager
Natalie Atkins, Northwest Management, Inc.	Adam Herrenbruck, Northwest Management, Inc.
Erica Wimme, Northwest Management, Inc.	Tanner Paulson, Northwest Management, Inc.

---

## MEETINGS

Five planning team meetings were held from February to June, where all aspects of the plan were covered. Topics discussed at these meetings include, but are not limited to, the following:

- The goals and objectives of the plan update
- Recent hazard occurrences
- High-risk areas
- Conditions that lead to increased hazard risk
- Resources at risk to hazard events
- Vulnerable populations in the county
- The role of climate change in hazard mitigation and recovery
- Changes in the landscape, development, or land use that also change vulnerability
- Possible mitigation activities and solutions to hazard “problems”
- Other planning partners to involve now and in the future
- Current and desired hazard management capabilities
- Other planning mechanisms to consider
- Potential funding opportunities

Meeting agendas and sign-in sheets are located in the Appendices for documentation purposes. While the meetings served as the primary venue for discussion, brainstorming, and collaboration from a diverse group, much of the update process was also conducted outside of meetings. Some planning team members served as the representative of a larger group and would bring the planning process back to others in their respective department or organization.

---

## **MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL PARTICIPATION**

44 CFR §201.6(a)(4) allows for multi-jurisdictional planning in the development of Hazard Mitigation Plans that impact multiple jurisdictions. To be included as an adopting jurisdiction in the Walla Walla County HMP representatives from each adopting jurisdiction regularly attended planning meetings, communicated consistently with the contractor (NMI) and the planning team, provided information necessary to update the plan, and offered feedback to drafts and suggestions produced by NMI and the planning team. Records have been retained that show this participation in the following forms:

- FEMA worksheets
- Questionnaires
- Meeting notes
- Meeting sign-in sheets
- Email correspondence. A non-exhaustive sample of this record is retained in the Appendices.

The following is a list of jurisdictions that have met the requirements for an adopting jurisdiction and are thereby included in this update of the 2024 Walla Walla HMP. The Walla Walla Conservation District has been included as an adopting jurisdiction in the 2024 planning cycle.

Walla Walla County	City of College Place
Walla Walla Public Schools	City of Prescott
Walla Walla County Conservation District	City of Waitsburg
	City of Walla Walla

---

## **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

Walla Walla County and the 2024 planning team sought public involvement through multiple means during the update process including via news releases, social media postings, attendance at public events, a series of surveys on social media, and a public review and comment period of the near-final draft of the HMP.

## **NEWS RELEASES AND POSTINGS**

A news release was distributed to local news outlets in early March to announce the initiation of the planning process and to report the success of the kickoff meeting. This announcement was also posted on social media sites, including the Walla Walla County Emergency Management Facebook page.

Progress on the plan update process was tracked through postings on the Walla Walla County Emergency Management Facebook page on February 14, March 6, and April 17, 2024. These postings summarized the discussion topics from planning team meetings on February 13, March 5, and April 9 and also featured photos of the roundtable collaboration from those meetings.

A second news release was issued on October 1, 2024 to announce the posting of the first review draft of the Hazard Mitigation Plan. The news release was distributed to local news outlets and was also posted to the Walla Walla County Emergency Management Facebook page and web page. This news release detailed the comment period duration, the location of plans for review, and instructions on how to submit comments.

Records of all postings, news releases, and published articles are documented in the appendices.

## PUBLIC EVENTS

Members of the planning team attended several public events throughout the life of the planning process. During these events the HMP update process was introduced to attendees, information was given about the HMP and CWPP, and the public was asked to participate in the process through the surveys and the forthcoming public comment period. Below is a list of the events that were attended by at least one member of the planning team where the HMP update was discussed, and public input was requested.

Waitsburg Community Health and Protection Committee – May 14, 2024

Return the River Salmon Festival – May 18, 2024

City of College Place Spring Block Party – May 19, 2024

Walla Walla County Fire District 4 Firewise Meeting – June 20, 2024

Prescott City Council Meeting – August 12, 2024

Walla Walla County Fair – August 28, 2024

## PUBLIC SURVEY SERIES

A series of short surveys created by Walla Walla GIS and the planning team was distributed throughout the plan update process. These surveys sought to learn about public perception and knowledge of hazard risk and mitigation solutions. The surveys also asked questions about how people prefer to receive information and give feedback. Some questions were also intended to generate interest in the HMP and the update process and encourage the public to participate in

the future. The surveys are recorded in the appendices along with documentation of their postings and responses.

The surveys were posted in several places, including on the main page of the county's website, the Emergency Management Facebook page, and were shared by the Conservation District and other community partners. Links to the surveys were shared during several public events.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

A public comment period was conducted from October 2 through October 25, 2024, to allow members of the general public an opportunity to view the full review draft of the plan and submit comments and any other input to the planning team for consideration. An emailed .PDF and paper copy drafts were made available for any interested participant upon request. Each paper copy was accompanied by a letter of instruction for submitting comments to the planning team. The draft plan was also posted for public review on the Walla Walla County Emergency Management website and a link to the plan was posted on the Walla Walla County Emergency Management Facebook page. A synopsis of the comments received is included in the appendices and all records of comments received are housed with Walla Walla Emergency Management.

---

#### **PLAN MAINTANACE AND MONITORING**

This entire Hazard Mitigation Plan should be reviewed annually, from the date of adoption, at a special meeting of a joint planning committee, open to the public and involving all jurisdictions, where action items, priorities, budgets, and modifications can be made or confirmed. Walla Walla Emergency Management (or an official designee of the joint committee) is responsible for the scheduling, publicizing, and leadership of the annual review meeting. During this meeting, participating jurisdictions will report on their respective projects and identify needed changes and updates to the existing plan. Maintenance of the plan should be detailed at this meeting, documented, and attached to the formal plan as an amendment. A re-evaluation of this plan should be made on the 5th anniversary of its acceptance, and every 5-year period after.

#### **ANNUAL REVIEW AGENDA**

The focus of the joint planning committee at the annual review meeting should include at least the following topics:

- Update historical events record based on any events in the past year.
- Review county profile and individual community assessments for each hazard and note any major changes or mitigation projects that have altered the vulnerability of each entity.
- Add a section to note accomplishments or current mitigation projects.

- All action items will need to be updated as projects are completed, and as new needs or issues are identified.
- Incorporate additional hazard chapters as funding allows.
- All meeting notes, news releases, and other documentation of revisions should be kept on record by Walla Walla Emergency Management.

#### FIVE YEAR RE-EVALUATION AGENDA

The focus of the planning committee at the five-year re-evaluation should include all the topics suggested for the annual review in addition to the following items:

- Update demographic and socioeconomic data.
- Address any new planning documents, ordinances, codes, etc. that have been developed by the county or cities.
- Review municipal water sources, particularly those in the floodplain or landslide impact areas.
- Redo all risk analysis models incorporating new information such as an updated county parcel master database, new construction projects, development trends, population vulnerabilities, changing risk potential, etc.
- Update county risk profiles and individual community assessments based on new information reflected in the updated models.
- All meeting notes, press releases, and other documentation of revisions should be kept on record by Walla Walla County Office of Emergency Management.

#### CONTINUED PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Walla Walla County is dedicated to keeping the public informed of reviews and updates of the All-Hazard Mitigation Plan. A public announcement will go out as part of each annual evaluation or when deemed necessary by the planning team. The public will have the opportunity to provide feedback about the plan annually on the anniversary of the adoption at a meeting of the County Board of Commissioners. Copies of the Plan will be kept at the Walla Walla County Emergency Management office. A public meeting will also be held as part of each annual evaluation or when deemed necessary by the planning team. The meetings will provide the public with a forum for which they can express concerns, opinions, or ideas about the plan. The County Commissioners will be responsible for using county resources to publicize the annual meetings and maintain public involvement through the county's webpage and local newspapers.

## 3 COMMUNITY PROFILE

---

### WALLA WALLA COUNTY CHARACTERISTICS

Walla Walla County is located in southeastern Washington along the Oregon border. The counties that border Walla Walla County are Benton County to the west, Franklin County to the north, Columbia County to the east and Umatilla County in Oregon to the south. The border of the county is also made up in the west by the Columbia River and the north by the Snake River. Walla Walla County is home to three colleges: Walla Walla University, Whitman College, and Walla Walla Community College. The county has a strong agriculture presence with 86% of its 1,270 square miles being used for agriculture.

---

### UNINCORPORATED COMMUNITIES

Unincorporated communities in Walla Walla County include Burbank, Dixie, Eureka, Lowden, Touchet, and Wallula. The US Census Bureau also identifies two additional Census Designated Places in the greater Walla Walla urban area – Walla Walla East, and Garrett – though these CDPs are not generally considered communities by local residents.

Burbank is a fast-growing unincorporated community in far west Walla Walla County and is heavily influenced and supported by Franklin County. Burbank, about a 5-mile drive from Pasco, Washington, is considered part of the Tri-Cities urban area and has limited services. Burbank is serviced by irrigation districts for potable water. Burbank has some sewer service via a trunk line that goes under the Snake River from the city of Pasco.

Dixie, Lowden, and Touchet are small agricultural communities located just northeast and west of Walla Walla, respectively. These communities are located along US-12 and have few services. Dixie and Touchet have school districts while Lowden students attend school in either Touchet or Walla Walla. Wallula is a community located along the Columbia River in southwest Walla Walla County. Industries in the nearby Attalia Urban Growth Area (UGA) include fruit production, meat processing, and a paper packaging plant.

Other important areas within the county of note include the Mill Creek Watershed, Blue Mountain Foothills, northern Walla Walla County, and areas with concentrations of residences such as southeast facing draws like Coppei Creek.

### CITY OF COLLEGE PLACE

The city of College Place is located in the southern part of the county on the west side of the city of Walla Walla. The population of College Place was 9,902 in 2020 which is a 12% increase from

the 2010 census of 8,765. The prominent economic drivers in College Place are Walla Walla University, health care services, and retail trade.

#### *RECENT CHANGES AND DEVELOPMENT*

The city of College Place has several infill development projects and is seeing new growth in several areas. Industrial cluster growth is planned around Martin Airfield and some residential development. The Lakeside development in the southwest is being planned during the summer of 2024 and includes 700 new residential units. There is a proposal for 80 single-family units and is expected to go through the entitlement process within two years. The Martin Airfield area was annexed into the city in November 2023. Part of this area is zoned for light industrial use and part is zoned for single-family residential use.

Several projects have been completed recently to improve the city's drinking water system, including replacing two wells and drilling for another new well. There have also been projects to improve the wastewater treatment facilities in the city. Expansion of Martin Airfield will support more local airplane visitors and the new aerospace employer will bring more jobs. Walla Walla University continues to grow and is seeing more diversification in degree programs offered. College Avenue is becoming more of a mixed-use, traditional downtown area in College Place.

#### *CITY OF PRESCOTT*

The City of Prescott is located in the central part of the county along WA-124. The population of Prescott in 2020 was 372 which is an increase from 318 people in 2010. The railroad runs through the city which allows access to the grain elevator for transporting grains.

#### *CITY OF WAITSBURG*

The City of Waitsburg is located in the central part of the county near the eastern border of the county. The city is at the intersection of WA-124 and US-12. City records show that the population of Waitsburg is about 1,370 which is an increase from 2010 when the US Census reported the population at 1,217. Waitsburg is the only city in Washington that operates under a territorial charter. The Touchet River and Coppei Creek runs through the city and poses flood risks. Both Coppei Creek and the Touchet River now have seasonal flow gauges that were installed by the USGS through a cooperative agreement with the city a few years ago.

#### *RECENT CHANGES AND DEVELOPMENT*

The city has seen little development in recent years. Some development has occurred on existing infill lots around the city. On average, this consists of around two new homes per year. Land use in and around the city has not changed recently. The city has made improvements to its infrastructure over the past five years, including projects to improve the water system, sewer system, and streets. A backup generator was obtained to support city hall and the post office.

## CITY OF WALLA WALLA

The City of Walla is located in the south-central part of the county near the Oregon border. Walla Walla is the largest city in Walla Walla County with a population of 34,060 which is an increase from 31,731 in 2010. Both of the county's hospitals reside in Walla Walla which includes the VA Medical Center and Providence St. Mary Medical Center, though the VA hospital is currently outpatient only. There are two colleges in Walla Walla as well – Walla Walla Community College and Whitman College.

### *RECENT CHANGES AND DEVELOPMENT*

The city has recently seen an increase in downtown restoration projects that include upgrading and modernizing some of the older downtown buildings. The industrial sector in the city of Walla Walla has experienced limited expansion over the past five years. The housing sector in the city continues to grow noticeably. Major developments that have been approved contain a combined total of more than 440 new units. There are also close to 30 minor developments throughout the city that have been approved, averaging a few units each.

In 2018 the city made changes to its residential zoning districts. The changes allow for and create greater density within the new Neighborhood Residential zone. This has led to greater infill development and density.

## WALLA WALLA PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Walla Walla School District is made up of 9 physical schools, an online program, a skills center, a contract-learning program (opportunity program), and HomeLink to support homeschool families. There are five elementary schools, two middle schools, and two high schools. In the 2023-2024 school year there were 5,556 students and 791 total staff. Of that, 900 of the students were special education and 788 were a part of the bilingual services.

### *RECENT CHANGES AND DEVELOPMENT*

The number of students enrolled in the district has decreased over time from 6,333 students in the 2014-2015 school year. The graduation rate has increased in the same time period from 80.4% with the lowest rate of 75.1% in the 2016-2017 school year to 95.8% in 2022-23<sup>2</sup>.

---

<sup>2</sup> Report Card - Washington State Report Card

<https://washingtonstatereportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us/ReportCard/ViewSchoolOrDistrict/100283>



## WALLA WALLA COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Walla Walla County Conservation District (WWCCD) works to conserve and enhance natural resources in the county through voluntary participation and education. WWCCD is overseen by a 5-person board of supervisors and maintains roughly 8 employees. The district consists of 762,151 acres of privately owned land and approximately 45,000 acres of publicly managed lands totaling 807,315 acres. These lands drain into the Walla Walla, Snake, and Columbia Rivers, all of which host populations of ESA listed as threatened bull trout and steelhead. The majority of the acreage of the district is cropland with approximately 312,000 acres of non-irrigated land and 91,000 acres under irrigation. Native forest and rangelands make up the balance of the district.

---

## POPULATION

The 2020 Census established the Walla Walla County population at 62,584, which shows a 6.5% increase from a population of 58,781 in 2010. There are four incorporated cities within Walla Walla County: College Place, Prescott, Waitsburg, and Walla Walla. Since 1890 the population of Walla Walla County has been steadily increasing with the only decrease in population occurring between 1910 and 1920. Walla Walla County's increase in population is largely within the urban areas, the City of Walla Walla, and other outlying communities.

The Census Bureau also reported 22,971 households with an owner-occupied rate of 66.2% in 2020. The median income for a household in Walla Walla County is \$66,635, which is less than the statewide median of \$91,306<sup>3</sup>.

Table 2: Populations of cities and CDPs in Walla Walla County in 2020 and the percent-change from 2016 to 2020 according to the U.S. Census.

City/Census Designated Place	Population	Percentage Change
Walla Walla	34,060	+7%
College Place	9,902	+11%
Burbank	3499	+6%
Waitsburg	1370	+1%
Touchet	425	+1%
Prescott	372	+15%

---

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. State & Quick Facts:

[https://data.census.gov/profile/Walla\\_Walla\\_County,\\_Washington?g=050XX00US53071#income-and-poverty](https://data.census.gov/profile/Walla_Walla_County,_Washington?g=050XX00US53071#income-and-poverty)

City/Census Designated Place	Population	Percentage Change
Dixie	225	+12%
Wallula	140	-28%
Walla Walla East	2,286	
Garrett	1,771	

---

## DEVELOPMENT TRENDS

Development in Walla Walla County is increasing in unincorporated rural areas and in parts of the county attached to urban areas. The next several years are expected to also contain more growth and development outside of incorporated cities, especially in areas adjacent to currently inhabited parts of the county. As of spring 2024, multiple housing developments have been proposed in the Burbank area, totaling 500 new units.

There have also been development and expansion trends in industrial sectors. In March 2024 the Port of Walla Walla announced that Rockwool North America signed an agreement to acquire 250 acres at the Wallula Gap Business Park to build a manufacturing facility for stone wool insulation products.<sup>4</sup> Also in the same area there is a proposal for Sky NRG to build a sustainable aviation fuel production facility. The Port of Walla Walla’s Burbank Business and Industrial Park has experienced continued development, including in retail, manufacturing, and a 100,000+ square foot food distribution warehouse.

A noticeable trend observed by some members of the planning team is the tendency to build homes closer together in urban areas and cities. This practice causes some concern among fire responders. There are many areas, especially near the southern end of the county, north of US-12 where agricultural lands are being converted into residential uses. Agricultural lands, especially in the vicinity of the city of Walla Walla, have been repurposed for residential or clustered development within the designated urban growth area and parts of unincorporated Walla Walla County surrounding the city.

There has been an increase in development in rural and/or remote, sometimes mountainous areas throughout the county, especially in the Blue Mountain foothills, in areas such as Lewis Peak, the south fork and north fork of Coppei Creek, and the Kooskooskie area. In some cases, these are small cabin sites in areas where infrastructure like roads and utilities were never meant

---

<sup>4</sup>[https://www.portwallawalla.com/images/pdf/Tax\\_Increment/Port\\_of\\_Walla\\_Walla\\_Wallula\\_Gap\\_Business\\_Park\\_Project\\_Announcement\\_03072024.pdf](https://www.portwallawalla.com/images/pdf/Tax_Increment/Port_of_Walla_Walla_Wallula_Gap_Business_Park_Project_Announcement_03072024.pdf)

for larger, full-time residency structures. This is part of a trend toward increased homes in the wildland-urban interface, especially in the foothills of the Blue Mountains.

There are plans to increase the capacity of a natural gas pipeline that currently runs through western Walla Walla County. This project has been approved but some state and federal officials have requested that the approval be removed on the grounds that the pipeline is potentially hazardous.

---

## **TRANSPORTATION**

The transportation system within Walla Walla County includes roads, bridges, and a bus system. The county contains 960 miles of county roads which are maintained by the county Public Works department. Public Works also maintains 180 bridges throughout the county<sup>5</sup>. The road system allows access to remote parts of the county for personal use, emergency services and access to farms and agriculture product transportation. There are also two State Highways and two U.S. Highways: WA-124, WA-125, US-12 and US-730. The county has a six-year Transportation Program set in place for 2024-2029 that lists all planned road and bridge improvements. This plan is broken down into outside funded, county funded and unfunded projects by year<sup>6</sup>.

---

## **CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE**

There are several types of critical infrastructure in Walla Walla County including the flood control levee system, railroad, airports, hospitals, water system, emergency services, utilities, and dams.

The levee system in Walla Walla protects 21,700 people and 9,600 structures from floods. There is a left bank and right bank system that goes along the river for 1.7 miles. There is also 0.3 miles cut-and-cover tunnel that goes through downtown and 4.8 miles of earth-fill levees<sup>7</sup>. Irrigation is an important part of Walla Walla County's economy since it is used to irrigate many of the crops within the county. Some of the irrigation canals have been converted to pipeline to reduce water loss to protect sensitive fish species<sup>8</sup>.

---

<sup>5</sup> [https://www.co.walla-walla.wa.us/government/public\\_works/index.php](https://www.co.walla-walla.wa.us/government/public_works/index.php)

<sup>6</sup> [STIP 2024-2029.pdf \(revize.com\)](#)

<sup>7</sup> [https://cms7files.revize.com/wallawallacounty/document\\_center/Public%20Works/Projects/Mill%20Creek%20Channel/Mill%20Creek%20LB-Levee%20System%20Summary\\_20210903.pdf](https://cms7files.revize.com/wallawallacounty/document_center/Public%20Works/Projects/Mill%20Creek%20Channel/Mill%20Creek%20LB-Levee%20System%20Summary_20210903.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> [Irrigation in the Walla Walla River Valley - HistoryLink.org](#)

The railroad that goes through Walla Walla County is called the Columbia Walla Walla Railroad. This railroad is used primarily for the transportation of agricultural products, especially wheat and vegetables.

The airports in Walla Walla County include the Walla Walla Regional Airport, Martin Field-S95, Page Airport, and Weller Canyon Airport. The Walla Walla Regional Airport is the only airport meant for passenger planes. The other three airports are used for agriculture and general aviation. Life Flight Network now has a base at the Walla Walla Regional Airport for rotor-wing services.

Walla Walla County has one inpatient hospital, Providence St. Mary Medical Center. Additionally, the county has an outpatient Department of Veterans Affairs medical center, several urgent care centers, an express care, and many outpatient clinics. Adventist Health Walla Walla General Hospital, a small inpatient hospital, closed in 2017. Providence St. Mary hired many of its physicians and staff members and purchased the building to try to preserve health care access in the community. Nationwide shortages of specialists, primary care providers, nurses and some other medical professionals are presenting challenges in recruiting here, just like in other rural communities. Providence St. Mary has built closer ties and is sharing resources with sister hospitals in the Providence system such as Kadlec Regional Medical Center in Richland to further build health care access for Walla Walla residents.

The city of Walla Walla has two sources of water. The first is water supplied by the Mill Creek Watershed and supplies 88-90% of the city's water. The rest of the water is from wells that are used when the water level is too low or water quality changes. The water that feeds the treatment plant goes through a hydropower generator that provides power to roughly 1,500 homes<sup>9</sup>. Other utilities include electricity which is provided by Pacific Power throughout most of the county. Trash is collected from about 9,500 households in Walla Walla and taken to Sudbury Landfill. The city also has a Compost Facility and Household Hazardous Waste Facility<sup>10</sup>. Wastewater goes to the Wastewater Treatment Plant where it can treat up to 9.6 million gallons of water a day but generally treats around 4 to 8 million gallons of water a day<sup>11</sup>.

The city of College Place water supplies come from a deep aquifer (about 900 feet deep). Roughly 75% of the city is served via the city water utility. The area from NE Rose, Myra, NE C to College

---

<sup>9</sup> [Water | City of Walla Walla \(wallawallawa.gov\)](https://www.wallawallawa.gov/water)

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.wallawallawa.gov/government/public-works/solid-waste/garbage-collection-sanitation>

<sup>11</sup> [Wastewater | City of Walla Walla \(wallawallawa.gov\)](https://www.wallawallawa.gov/wastewater)

is served by Green Tank Irrigation District. The section NW of College/Whitman intersection is served via Irrigation District 14. College Place has active agreements with Irrigation 14, Walla Walla University, and City of Walla Walla. Walla Walla University and College Place High School also have their own drinking water systems.

A large portion of the county's power is supplied by Pacific Power and Columbia REA. The power that comes from the Columbia River Basin is administered by the Bonneville Power Administration.

Emergency services include dispatch, firefighting, and ambulance services. Dispatch in Walla Walla is controlled by Walla Walla Emergency Services Communications and is staffed by 12 dispatchers, 3 supervisors, 1 administrative secretary, and 1 dispatch manager who take around 111,000 calls every year and of those, 24,000 are 911 calls<sup>12</sup>. The Walla Walla Fire department has two stations serving 33,680 people as of 2021 and staffs one command vehicle, two Type 1 Engines and two Advanced Life Support ambulances daily which are staffed by 11 personnel and at least three certified Advanced Life Support Paramedics<sup>13</sup>. The county has a total of 8 fire districts and 29 fire stations.

---

## LAND USE

The predominant land use in Walla Walla County is agriculture, in the form of dryland and irrigated fruits, berries, grain crops, federal Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and livestock grazing. As of 2017 Walla Walla County had 903 farms covering 702,537 acres which represented 86% of the total land area in the county. The average farm size is 778 acres. The 2017 Agriculture Census found that irrigation occurs on 14% of the farmland or on approximately 101,678 acres while dryland agriculture occurs on the remaining 600,859 acres. The 2017 Agriculture Census ranked Walla Walla County fifth in Washington State for volume of agriculture sales, with a total of \$526.2 million in 2017 and an average of total of \$582,765 in annual sales per farm. Recently there has been an increase of vineyards in the area leading to increased tourism. The largest urban population is located in the County seat of Walla Walla with roughly 34,000 people or 54% of the total County population. The City of Walla Walla is also the home of two higher education establishments, Whitman College and Walla Walla Community College. The City of College Place is the home of Walla Walla University.

---

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.wallawallawa.gov/government/police/dispatch>

<sup>13</sup> [Firefighting/Rescue | City of Walla Walla \(wallawallawa.gov\)](#)

Table 3: Land ownership breakdown for Walla Walla County, Washington as of 2012.

Landowner	Acreage	Percentage of County
Private	1,249,949	89%
US Forest Service	101,197	7%
State	20,607	2%
Water	2,317	<1%
Bureau of Land Management	3,547	<1%
US Fish and Wildlife Service	610	<1%

---

## CLIMATE

According to the Koppen-Geiger classification system Walla Walla, Washington is a hot Mediterranean, dry-summer climate. The average monthly temperature varies from a low of 34 degrees Fahrenheit to a high of 75 degrees in July, averaging 53 degrees. There is an average of 205 frost-free days in the growing season with annual precipitation averaging 20 inches<sup>14</sup>. Rainfall in Walla Walla County averages around 16.5 inches a year, with an additional 12 inches of snowfall a year on average, and 107 days of precipitation. Winters are generally moderated by prevailing westerly winds from the Pacific Ocean; however, extreme cold temperatures periodically occur during inflows of arctic air masses. The county has one of the longest growing seasons in Eastern Washington. A milder winter is usually experienced in the lower elevations, with colder temperatures and higher precipitation in the Blue Mountains and the surrounding foothills. Precipitation varies widely in the county, ranging from less than 10 inches in lower drier areas to over 40 inches in the higher reaches of the Walla Walla River basin.

---

## CLIMATE CHANGE

According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)<sup>15</sup>, most of the state of Washington has seen a 1-2 degree (F) increase in temperatures over the past century. Some of the significant concerns regarding climate change in the region are changes in snowpack and stream flows, less water availability, drought, and wildfires. There is an observed trend of earlier

---

<sup>15</sup> <https://19january2017snapshot.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-09/documents/climate-change-wa.pdf>

spring snowmelt, resulting in more stream flow in late winter and early spring but less stream flow in summer. Warmer winters are resulting in a reduced average snowpack in the state of Washington and the EPA states that “by 2050 the snow is likely to melt three to four weeks earlier”. Rising temperatures can also increase evaporation rates, also leading to less water draining into rivers and streams. The EPA also states that the area in the state burned by wildfire on average each year is likely to double by the end of the century.

---

## **TOPOGRAPHY**

The topography of the county varies from wide, low elevation river valleys (350 to 500 feet) and rolling foothills, to steep canyons (about 4,300 feet) leading into the high elevations (6,000 feet) of the Blue Mountains. Topography varies from the Blue Mountains at the East end of the county to the Snake and Columbia Rivers on the West end as most major creeks and rivers generally flow toward the West. Nearly all of the land in the county lies below 4,300 feet. Approximately 90% of the county lies between about 450 feet and 1,600 feet in elevation. However, the watersheds of Mill Creek and the Touchet and Walla Walla Rivers originate outside of the county at elevations of about 6,000 feet in the Blue Mountains.

In general, the upper portions of the Walla Walla River basin flow from steep, narrow, well-defined mountainous canyons. Many of the lower reaches of the creeks and rivers are incised in narrow steep-sided shallow canyons formed in easily erodible soils. The shallow canyons are inset into wide floodplains bounded on either side by gently rolling hills or steep walled bluffs. (Stalzer and Associates, 2009)

Located on the western edge of the Blue Mountains, the highest peak in Walla Walla County is Lewis Peak at 4,888 ft above sea level. The lowest point in the county lies along the Columbia River at 340 ft elevation<sup>16</sup>.

---

## **ECONOMY**

The agriculture industry remains the main driver of the economy of Walla Walla County. The largest employer in the county is FirstFruits Farms, previously Broetje Orchards, an apple orchard which employs over 2,800 people. FirstFruits Farms is located in northwest Walla Walla County on more than 4,300 acres along the Snake River and grows over 15 varieties of apples, pears and cherries. Other major employers include the Washington State Penitentiary, Tyson Fresh Meats,

---

<sup>16</sup> Carson et al. 2008, Where the Great River Bends.

Inc., area healthcare facilities, schools, and college/universities, Packaging Corporation of America, city and county government, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and retail companies.

Recent trends in consumer activity include increased online retail sales and movement away from brick-and-mortar retail sales. The number of residents in the county who telecommute has increased recently. In many cases, this is due to individuals who moved to the county while continuing to work for companies located where they previously resided. Many of these trends can be attributed to fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Western Walla Walla County tends to be home to industrial uses due to railroads, land, and infrastructure. The Walla Walla metro economy is more based on wine, tourism, government, healthcare, higher education, etc.

---

## **SOILS**

Most soils in the county are composed of highly erodible loess and Missoula Flood outwash deposits. Loess is composed of wind-blown loamy deposits and Missoula Flood outwash is composed of deposits of gravel and cobbles. Loams are friable (crumbly) mixtures of sand, clay, silt, and organic matter, and are well suited to various types of irrigated or dryland agriculture. Contributing to their erodibility is the fact that in some of the foothill areas there are shallow deposits with sparse vegetation overlying basalt bedrock. Generally, the soils along the Southeastern most portion of the county are derived from the local parent material, which includes basalt.

This leads to landslide hazards on steeper slopes during wet periods, particularly if there is an earthquake. Areas susceptible to landslide hazard areas are located in the Southeast, and intermittently on steeper slopes in Southwest, corners of the county away from urban areas. When the county reviewed the best available science, including soil and slope data, in 2008 with the county's critical areas ordinance update, these landslide hazard areas were mapped. Development regulations are in place to ensure that any new development in these areas is done in such a way as to protect public health and safety.

The loess soil deposits, known as the Palouse Formation, cover most of the county. The action of wind over many millennia eroded the bedrock into the characteristic gently rolling hills and deposited the loess throughout the region. River valley portions of the western area of the county are covered with the Touchet Beds. These are water-deposited soils composed of fine sands and silts with lenses of gravel. Lower river valley soils are often composed of recent alluvium deposits.

The potential for wind and water erosion varies greatly depending on the physical properties of individual soil associations. Erosion potential attributed to stormwater runoff and other water



runoff generally increases with slope. According to the county's critical areas regulations, slopes over 15% are considered to be "erosion hazard areas."

Another geologically hazardous area regulated under the county's critical areas ordinance are areas with a moderate to high liquefaction susceptibility rating. Liquefaction is a significant impact that can be caused by earthquakes. A summary of County liquefaction potential is included in this hazard analysis.

---

## **GEOLOGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES**

The region is composed of an irregularly shaped portion of the Columbia River basin bounded on the south and east by the Blue Mountains, on the north and northwest by the Touchet Highlands, and on the west by the Columbia and Snake Rivers.

The majority of the county is part of the Walla Walla River basin. The Walla Walla River flows into the Columbia River near Wallula. The Walla Walla River basin (and the county) is located between the physiographic regions of the Blue Mountains and the Columbia River Plateau. Geologic folding and faults in the region formed the Walla Walla River basin. The county is underlain by the Columbia River Basalt Group that was formed by successive lava flows during the Miocene Age (15-20 million years ago). The basalt is over 6,000 feet thick in some areas. Individual lava flows tend to be on the order of 50 to 150 feet thick. Gravel and clays overlie the basalt. Soils overlie gravel and clay materials (HDR, 2008) (Stalzer and Associates, 2009).

The Columbia Plateau is made up of loess covered basalt plains, modified by glacial action and scoured by repeated floods during the Miocene and Pliocene eras. This includes features such as plateaus, buttes, and channels. Channels are made up of outwash terraces, bars, loess islands and basins. The plateaus contain circular mounds of loess (biscuits) surrounded by cobble-size fragments of basalt.

---

## **HYDROLOGY AND WATER RESOURCES**

The main waterways in the county are:

- Columbia River (forms entire western boundary of the county)
- Snake River (forms entire northern boundary of the county)
- Walla Walla River (tributary of the Columbia River)
- Touchet River (including Coppei Creek, tributary of the Walla Walla River)
- Dry Creek (tributary of the Walla Walla River)
- Mill Creek (including Blue Creek, tributary of the Walla Walla River)
- Miscellaneous small creeks (some partially regulated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Mill Creek Project)

---

## **GEOHYDROLOGY**

The county is underlain by two subsurface aquifers, which supply approximately 60% of total water rights in the Walla Walla River basin. A deep basalt aquifer, covering approximately 2,500 square miles, lies beneath a smaller and shallower gravel aquifer. The gravel aquifer covers about 190 square miles. While the basalt aquifer underlies the entire river basin, the gravel aquifer is located only in the central lowlands, near the Cities of Walla Walla and College Place and rural areas surrounding Touchet and Lowden.

The gravel aquifer may receive recharge from surface water which is hydraulically connected. Due to its porous nature, the gravel aquifer is susceptible to contamination from surface pollutants, such as urban runoff, agricultural chemicals or leaking septic systems.

---

## **VEGETATION RESOURCES**

The two primary habitat types in the county are agricultural/pasture and shrub-steppe. The Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) lists shrub-steppe as a Priority Habitat under its Priority Habitats and Species program due to its high habitat value and because of the unique plant and wildlife species associated with it.

Shrub-steppe habitat was historically dominant in the county; however, much of it has been converted to the agricultural habitat type, which now dominates the central portion of the county. Evergreen forests, dominated by Douglas fir and Grand fir, occur in the higher elevations near the Blue Mountains, and a riparian vegetation community dominated by cottonwood, white alder, willow, and various shrubs occurs along streams and rivers throughout the Walla Walla River basin.

---

## **FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES**

Wildlife habitat, as a result of vegetation conditions, is of relatively high quality in the upper reaches of the main rivers and tributaries (Walla Walla River, Touchet River, and Mill Creek). The mountain and foothill forests and associated habitats provide essential benefits to large mammals such as elk, mule and white-tailed deer, black bear, coyote, mountain lion, bobcat, and occasionally moose. Furbearers such as beaver, river otter, mink, and raccoon are also common. Ruffed grouse, woodpeckers, a variety of aquatic species, hummingbirds, and dozens of other songbirds inhabit the upper drainages. Habitat complexity and quality in the lowland valleys is influenced by the presence of highly cultivated agricultural lands and remnant riparian strips and pockets. These lowland valleys are inhabited by white tailed and mule deer, ring necked pheasant, quail, mourning dove, and a variety of raptors, songbirds, and small mammals.

Historically, the Walla Walla River and the Touchet River are reported to have supported Chinook. Currently, the watershed supports bull trout and steelhead, which are considered threatened species under the Federal Endangered Species Act.

A large expanse of riparian habitat exists on the 1,896-acre Wallula Habitat Management Unit that is managed by the USACE. This unit is located at the mouth of the Walla Walla River and offers a mixture of cottonwood forest, various shrubs, wetlands, sagebrush, and agricultural lands used by many species of waterfowl, shorebirds and songbirds, raptors, upland game birds, mule and white-tailed deer, furbearers, and small mammals.

The McNary National Wildlife Refuge, managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFW), near Burbank in Western Walla Walla County hosts more than 15,000 acres of habitat for migratory birds and developing fall Chinook salmon. Rare and endangered birds, including bald eagles and peregrine falcons, and thousands of nesting water birds can be found in the refuge.

---

## **RECREATION**

There are various places for recreation within Walla Walla County. One of the most popular forms of recreation in the county is golfing. There are four golf courses in the county which are Veterans memorial Golf Course, Divots Golf course, Wine Valley golf course, and Walla Walla County Country Club. The Wine Valley Golf Course has been recognized nationally. The county also has 21 public parks in the four incorporated cities. 15 of those are in Walla Walla. Parks are owned or operated by the Port, Army Corps, City of Walla Walla, College Place, Prescott, and Waitsburg. The county does not have direct park operations. There are several recreation areas and parks including Wallula State Park, South Shore Recreation Area, Charbonneau Park, Fishhook Park, and Bennington Lake. Other common recreation activities known to the county are hiking, road and mountain biking.

---

## **SCENIC AND AESTHETIC RESOURCES**

The main scenic area of the county is found in the Blue Mountains. Other scenic areas are found along the rivers and creeks, particularly along the Columbia and Snake Rivers and the upper Mill Creek area. U.S. Highway 12 and State Highway 124 are part of the Lewis and Clark Trail Scenic Byway. There are also scenic areas along the Touchet and Walla Walla Rivers and Bennington Lake.

---

## **HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES**

The county has the benefit of historic and cultural resources that reflect the unique heritage of the area. Native Americans (Umatilla, Walla Walla, and Cayuse Tribes) were the first people in recorded history to live in Walla Walla County. Lewis and Clark explored the area between 1804

and 1806 and missionary settlements followed around 1836. The City of Walla Walla was settled in 1859 and became the county Seat on November 7, 1859.

---

## **HAZARD MANAGEMENT CAPABILITIES**

Walla Walla Emergency Management is responsible for the administration and overall coordination of the disaster management program for Walla Walla County and the incorporated cities. The Incident Command System (ICS) is the basis for all direction, control and coordination of emergency response and recovery efforts. Emergency response and supporting agencies and organizations have agreed to carry out their objectives in support of the incident command structure to the fullest extent possible.

Walla Walla Emergency Management oversees emergency management personnel trained and dedicated to mitigating the negative impacts of natural and man-made disasters within the county. City offices throughout the county are equally dedicated to reducing catastrophic losses from disasters despite limited budgets.

Many states, counties, and communities in the nation believe they are prepared for disasters; however, many have not been tested. Too often, resources are required beyond the ability of counties and communities to match the response need. The Washington Bureau of Homeland Security and FEMA work with counties through desktop exercises and preparedness drills to increase preparation and abilities of first responders.

---

## **SOCIALLY VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES**

The FEMA National Risk Index<sup>17</sup> reports that social groups in Walla Walla County have a “Relatively High susceptibility to the adverse impacts of natural hazards when compared to the rest of the U.S.” The index also reports that communities in the county have a “Relatively Moderate ability to prepare for anticipated natural hazards, adapt to changing conditions, and withstand and recover rapidly from disruptions when compared to the rest of the U.S.”

Some communities in Walla Walla County that the planning team has identified as among the vulnerable include non-English speakers, the homeless, those with disabilities, and those living in poverty. The U.S. Census Bureau estimated that in 2022, about 19.5% of the county’s population spoke something other than English at home and 16% spoke Spanish at home. The Census Bureau also estimated that in 2022, 11.1% of the people in Walla Walla County lived in poverty, this is

---

<sup>17</sup> <https://hazards.fema.gov/nri/map>

slightly higher than the state average (10%). The 2022 census estimates found that 15.6% of the population is disabled, higher than the 13.5% state average for Washington.

Members of the planning team have noticed an increase in homelessness locally. The 2023 Annual Homelessness Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress<sup>18</sup> produced by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) found that the state of Washington saw a 19.9% increase in experiences of homelessness between 2007 and 2023, a total of 4,657 people. The growing homeless population seems to be primarily located in the downtown area of Walla Walla city. There are challenges in how to communicate with these people and how to serve them during a disaster or some other emergency.

work with counties through desktop exercises and preparedness drills to increase preparation and abilities of first responders.

---

18 <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sites/default/files/pdf/2023-AHAR-Part-1.pdf>

## 4 HAZARD RISK ASSESSMENT

The 2018 Walla Walla County HMP identified several hazards deemed significant for the county. Those same hazards were retained and examined for the 2024 update. This section lists the hazards addressed in this plan as well as an explanation for how they were addressed and why other hazards were omitted.

---

### CHANGES IN PRIORITY

To select hazards for the 2024 plan update, the hazards from the previous plan were re-evaluated for relevance and whether they adequately addressed risk from natural hazards, collectively, in the county.

The following hazards have been selected by the Planning Team for the 2024 HMP update:

- Earthquake
- Flooding
- Severe Weather
- Wildland Fire

---

### OMITTED HAZARDS

The hazards of “Avalanche” and “Landslide” have had no significant historical impacts and are not expected to have any significant future potential impacts. Any discussion of these hazards in the 2024 update has been limited to avalanche and landslide impacts as secondary hazards. These hazards were not included in previous versions of the Walla Walla County HMP.

*Avalanche:* This hazard has been excluded from the risk analysis as there are no incidents of avalanche on record for the county (1950 to 2024; NOAA Storm Events Database). Additionally, the planning team did not identify any avalanche hazard areas or areas of concern, so mitigation strategies or efforts are not necessary at this time.

*Landslide:* Based on the frequency at which landslides or mudslides occur in the county and the minimal impact such events have on people and infrastructure; landslides have not been addressed in a separate annex in the plan update. Historically, heavy rains and flooding served as triggers for landslides and mudslides in the county. It is expected that landslides would, potentially, be associated with seismic activity as well. Because of these associations with other hazards, landslides have been included as a secondary hazard in the Earthquake, Flooding, and Severe Weather Hazard annexes.

## HAZARD RISK SUMMARIES & SELECTION

This section includes an overview of the hazards that will be addressed for each adopting jurisdiction. Each adopting jurisdiction assigned a significance ranking to the selected hazards using a modified version of FEMA worksheet 5.1 from the 2013 version of the Local Mitigation Planning Handbook. Hazards were evaluated using these descriptions and scores.

Table 4: Hazard ranking criteria, developed using FEMA worksheet 5.1 from the 2013 version of the Local Mitigation Planning Handbook.

<b>Location (Geographic Area Affected)</b>		
Negligible	1	Less than 10% of planning area or isolated single-point occurrences
Limited	2	10 to 25% of the planning area or limited single-point occurrences
Significant	3	25 to 75% of the planning area or frequent single-point occurrences
Extensive	4	75 to 100% of the planning area or consistent single-point occurrences
<b>Maximum Probable Impact (Magnitude/Strength based on historic events or future probability)</b>		
Weak	1	Limited classification on scientific scale, moderate speed of onset or moderate duration, resulting in little to no damage
Moderate	2	Moderate classification on scientific scale, moderate speed of onset or moderate duration, resulting in some damage and loss of services for days
Severe	3	Severe classification on scientific scale, fast speed of onset or long duration, resulting in devastating damage and loss of services for weeks or months
Extreme	4	Extreme classification on scientific scale, immediate onset or extended duration, resulting in catastrophic damage and uninhabitable conditions
<b>Probability of Future Events (Occurrence in the next 50 years)</b>		
Unlikely	1	Less than 1% probability of occurrence in the next year or a recurrence interval of greater than every 100 years
Occasional	2	1 to 10% probability of occurrence in the next year or a recurrence interval of 11 to 100 years
Likely	3	10 to 90% probability of occurrence in the next year or a recurrence interval of 1 to 10 years
Highly Likely	4	90 to 100% probability of occurrence in the next year or a recurrence interval of less than 1 year
<b>Overall Significance</b>		
Low	3 to 5	Two or more criteria fall in lower classifications or the event has a minimal impact on the planning area.
Medium	6 to 8	The criteria fall mostly in the middle ranges of classifications and the event's impacts on the planning area are noticeable but not devastating
High	9 to 12	The criteria consistently fall in the high classifications and the event is likely/highly likely to occur with severe strength over a significant to extensive portion of the planning area

.....  
**WALLA WALLA COUNTY**

Hazard	Location (Geographic Area Affected)	Maximum Probable Extent (Magnitude/Strength)	Probability of Future Events	Total Score
Severe Weather	4	2.5	4	10.5 – High
Flooding	3	3.5	3	9.5 – High
Earthquake	3.5	3	2	8.5 – Medium
Wildland Fire	3	3	3	9 – High
Ranking Value	1 – Negligible 2 – Limited 3 – Significant 4 – Extensive	1 – Weak 2 – Moderate 3 – Severe 4 – Extreme	1 – Unlikely 2 – Occasional 3 – Likely 4 – Highly Likely	3 to 5 – Low 6 to 8 – Medium 9 to 12 – High

.....  
**CITY OF COLLEGE PLACE**

Hazard	Location (Geographic Area Affected)	Maximum Probable Extent (Magnitude/Strength)	Probability of Future Events	Total Score
Severe Weather	3	3	4	10 – High
Flooding	3	3	2	8 – Medium
Earthquake	4	2	2	8 – Medium
Wildland Fire	4	2	3	9 – High
Ranking Value	1 – Negligible 2 – Limited 3 – Significant 4 – Extensive	1 – Weak 2 – Moderate 3 – Severe 4 – Extreme	1 – Unlikely 2 – Occasional 3 – Likely 4 – Highly Likely	3 to 5 – Low 6 to 8 – Medium 9 to 12 – High



*CITY OF PRESCOTT*

Hazard	Location (Geographic Area Affected)	Maximum Probable Extent (Magnitude/Strength)	Probability of Future Events	Total Score
Severe Weather				
Flooding				
Earthquake				
Wildland Fire				
Ranking Value	1 – Negligible 2 – Limited 3 – Significant 4 – Extensive	1 – Weak 2 – Moderate 3 – Severe 4 – Extreme	1 – Unlikely 2 – Occasional 3 – Likely 4 – Highly Likely	3 to 5 – Low 6 to 8 – Medium 9 to 12 – High

*CITY OF WAITSBURG*

Hazard	Location (Geographic Area Affected)	Maximum Probable Extent (Magnitude/Strength)	Probability of Future Events	Total Score
Severe Weather	2	2	2	6 - Medium
Flooding	3	3	4	10 – High
Earthquake	1	1	2	4 - Low
Wildland Fire	2	1	1	4 – Low
Ranking Value	1 – Negligible 2 – Limited 3 – Significant 4 – Extensive	1 – Weak 2 – Moderate 3 – Severe 4 – Extreme	1 – Unlikely 2 – Occasional 3 – Likely 4 – Highly Likely	3 to 5 – Low 6 to 8 – Medium 9 to 12 – High

*CITY OF WALLA WALLA*

Hazard	Location (Geographic Area Affected)	Maximum Probable Extent (Magnitude/Strength)	Probability of Future Events	Total Score
Severe Weather	4	2	4	10 - High
Flooding	4	3	4	11 - High
Earthquake	1	1	1	3 - Low
Wildland Fire	3	3	4	10 - High
Ranking Value	1 – Negligible 2 – Limited 3 – Significant 4 – Extensive	1 – Weak 2 – Moderate 3 – Severe 4 – Extreme	1 – Unlikely 2 – Occasional 3 – Likely 4 – Highly Likely	3 to 5 – Low 6 to 8 – Medium 9 to 12 – High

*WALLA WALLA PUBLIC SCHOOLS*

Hazard	Location (Geographic Area Affected)	Maximum Probable Extent (Magnitude/Strength)	Probability of Future Events	Total Score
Severe Weather	2	1	2	5 – Low
Flooding	1	1	1	3 – Low
Earthquake	1	1	1	3 – Low
Wildland Fire	1	1	1	3 – Low
Ranking Value	1 – Negligible 2 – Limited 3 – Significant 4 – Extensive	1 – Weak 2 – Moderate 3 – Severe 4 – Extreme	1 – Unlikely 2 – Occasional 3 – Likely 4 – Highly Likely	3 to 5 – Low 6 to 8 – Medium 9 to 12 – High

WALLA WALLA COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Hazard	Location (Geographic Area Affected)	Maximum Probable Extent (Magnitude/Strength)	Probability of Future Events	Total Score
Severe Weather	4	3	4	11 - High
Flooding	2	3	4	9 - High
Earthquake	2	3	2	7 - Medium
Wildland Fire	4	3	3	10 - High
Ranking Value	1 – Negligible 2 – Limited 3 – Significant 4 – Extensive	1 – Weak 2 – Moderate 3 – Severe 4 – Extreme	1 – Unlikely 2 – Occasional 3 – Likely 4 – Highly Likely	3 to 5 – Low 6 to 8 – Medium 9 to 12 – High

**DISASTER DECLARATIONS**

The following disaster declarations are all those that are on record for Walla Walla County. Declarations made since the previous plan update are highlighted below.

Table 5: Presidential Disaster Declarations for Walla Walla County.

Declaration Date	Incident Subcategory	Disaster Number	Declaration Title
04/23/2020	Flood	4539	Severe Storms, Flooding, Landslides, And Mudslides
03/22/2020	Biological	4481	Covid-19 Pandemic
03/13/2020	Biological	3427	Covid-19
04/21/2017	Flood	4309	Severe Winter Storms, Flooding, Landslides, Mudslides
07/21/2015	Fire	5090	Blue Creek Fire
2/3/2009	Severe Storm	1825	Severe Winter Storm and Record and Near Record Snow
08/22/2006	Fire	2668	Columbia Fire Complex
7/9/2005	Coastal Storm	3227	Hurricane Katrina Evacuation
1/3/2001	Earthquake	1361	Earthquake
17/01/1997	Severe Storm	1159	Severe Winter Storms, Land & Muds Slides, Flooding
9/2/1996	Flood	1100	High Winds, Severe Storms and Flooding
21/05/1980	Volcanic Eruption	623	Volcanic Eruption, Mt. St. Helens
29/12/1964	Flood	185	Heavy Rains & Flooding

*DECLARATION 4539 – FLOOD (APRIL 23, 2020)*

On March 25, 2020, Governor Jay Inslee requested a major disaster declaration due to severe storms, flooding, landslides, and mudslides during the period January 20 to February 10, 2020.

The Governor requested a declaration for Individual Assistance for 6 counties, Public Assistance for 15 counties, and Hazard Mitigation statewide. During the period of February 24 to March 6, 2020, joint federal, state, and local government Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDAs) were conducted in the requested areas and are summarized below. PDAs estimate damages immediately after an event and are considered, along with several other factors, in determining whether a disaster is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the state and the affected local governments, and that Federal assistance is necessary.

On April 23, 2020, President Trump declared that a major disaster exists in the State of Washington. This declaration made Public Assistance requested by the Governor available to state and eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations on a cost-sharing basis for emergency work and the repair or replacement of facilities damaged by the severe storms, flooding, landslides, and mudslides in Columbia, Garfield, Grays Harbor, Island, King, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, Thurston, Wahkiakum, Walla Walla, and Whatcom Counties. This declaration also made Hazard Mitigation Grant Program assistance requested by the Governor available for hazard mitigation measures statewide.

*DECLARATION 4481 – BIOLOGICAL (MARCH 22, 2020)*

On March 20, 2020, Governor Jay Inslee requested a major disaster declaration due to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic beginning on January 20, 2020, and continuing. The Governor requested a declaration for Individual Assistance, including the Individuals and Households Program, Crisis Counseling Program, Disaster Unemployment Assistance, Disaster Case Management, and Disaster Legal Services statewide and emergency protective measures (Category B), including direct Federal assistance under the Public Assistance program statewide. This event was of the severity and magnitude that the need for supplemental Federal assistance was determined to be necessary prior to the completion of joint Federal, State, and local government Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDAs). Per 44 C.F.R. § 206.33(d) and § 206.36(d), the requirement for a joint PDA may be waived for those incidents of such unusual severity and magnitude that formal field damage assessments are not required to establish the need for supplemental Federal assistance under the Stafford Act.

On March 22, 2020, President Trump declared that a major disaster exists in the State of Washington. This declaration made Individual Assistance limited to the Crisis Counseling Program requested by the Governor available in all areas in the State of Washington. This declaration also made emergency protective measures (Category B) not authorized under other Federal statutes, including direct federal assistance, under the Public Assistance program requested by the Governor available to state and eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations on a cost-sharing basis for all areas in the State of Washington.

- Primary Impact: Damage to roads and bridges
- Total Public Assistance cost estimate: \$4,883,715 (all affected counties)
- Walla Walla Countywide per capita impact: \$98.50

*DECLARATION 3427 – BIOLOGICAL (MARCH 13, 2020)*

No Preliminary Damage Assessment Report is available for this declaration.

## 5 NATURAL HAZARDS

### EARTHQUAKE HAZARD OVERVIEW

The planning team collectively examined earthquake hazard risk at the county and adopting jurisdiction level using FEMA worksheet 5.1. The worksheet definitions for classifications are located in the appendices. The summary conducted by the planning team is here compared to FEMA’s National Risk Index.<sup>19</sup> The planning team summarized Walla Walla County’s overall significance rating for earthquake as Medium (8.5) while FEMA rates it as “Relatively Moderate”.

Table 6: FEMA Hazard Summary Rating Worksheet for Earthquake

Adopting Jurisdiction	Location (Geographic Area Affected)	Maximum Probable Extent (Magnitude/Strength)	Probability of Future Events	Overall Significance Ranking
Walla Walla County	3.5	3	2	8.5
City of College Place	4	2	2	8
City of Prescott				
City of Waitsburg	1	1	2	4
City of Walla Walla	1	1	1	3
Walla Walla Public Schools	1	1	1	3
Walla Walla County Conservation District	2	3	2	7
Ranking Value	1 – Negligible 2 – Limited 3 – Significant 4 – Extensive	1 – Weak 2 – Moderate 3 – Severe 4 – Extreme	1 – Unlikely 2 – Occasional 3 – Likely 4 – Highly Likely	3 to 5 – Low 6 to 8 – Medium 9 to 12 – High

<sup>19</sup> <https://hazards.fema.gov/nri/>

Table 7: FEMA National Risk Index Report for Walla Walla County, Washington.

Hazard Type	Expected Annual Loss Rating	Social Vulnerability	Community Resilience	Risk Value	Risk Index Score	Risk Index Rating
Earthquake	Relatively Moderate	Relatively High	Relatively Moderate	\$6,800,269	93.8	Relatively Moderate
<p><b>“Hazard type Risk Index scores are calculated using data for only a single hazard type, and reflect a community's Expected Annual Loss value, community risk factors, and the adjustment factor used to calculate the risk value.”</b></p> <p><b>“Expected Annual Loss scores for hazard types are calculated using data for only a single hazard type and reflect a community's relative expected annual loss for only that hazard type.”</b></p> <p><b>“Social Vulnerability is measured using the Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).”</b></p> <p><b>“Community Resilience is measured at the County level using the Baseline Resilience Indicators for Communities (HVRI BRIC) published by the University of South Carolina's Hazards and Vulnerability Research Institute (HVRI).”</b></p>						

An earthquake is a sudden release of stored energy generally caused by a sudden slip along a fault. Forces in the earth's crust push the sides of the fault together and when a plate slips suddenly it releases energy in waves causing the shaking felt during an earthquake. A fault is a fracture or zone of fractures between two “blocks” of rock allowing for a certain degree of movement. This movement may occur rapidly, in the form of an earthquake - or may occur slowly, in the form of creep over geologic time frames.

Earthquake magnitude is a logarithmic measure of the force released when plates move. Seismic monitors exist throughout the region to alert us when an earthquake is occurring and measure its magnitude. The effects from earthquakes are caused by ground shaking, surface faulting, and ground failure.

A geological system called the Olympic-Wallowa Lineament (OWL) stretches from the Olympic Mountains to the Wallowa Mountains through Walla Walla County. The OWL is a series of geological features that indicate a history of earthquake action.

Two fault systems are located in Walla Walla County. The Hite Fault System is located along the foothills of the Blue Mountains stretching generally north and south. The Wallula Fault Zone stretches from the Wallula Gap on the Columbia River toward Touchet.

## LANDSLIDE HAZARD OVERVIEW

Only a small portion of unincorporated Walla Walla County is likely to experience landslides; none of the other jurisdictions would be susceptible. The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (WADNR) has stated that landslides are generally confined to areas with slopes that exceed 40%. This generally confines the risk of this hazard to the southeastern portion of the County in the foothills of the Blue Mountains.

There are several types of landslides that can take place in conjunction with earthquakes. The most abundant are earthquake-induced rock falls and slides of rock fragments that form on steep slopes. Shallow debris slides on steep slopes, soil and rock slumps, and block slides on moderate to steep slopes can also occur and lower frequencies. Significant landslides are most likely to occur during a significant earthquake event, which is why landslide hazards were not addressed separately in this hazard plan update.

---

## INTENSITY

The USGS notes the following: “Whereas the magnitude of an earthquake is one value that describes the size, there are many intensity values for each earthquake that are distributed across the geographic area around the earthquake epicenter.” In the United States, the Modified Mercalli Intensity Scale is commonly used to measure intensity of earthquakes.<sup>20</sup>

### 1936 MILTON-FREEWATER EARTHQUAKE

The July 16, 1936, Milton-Freewater earthquake (sometimes called the State Line earthquake) had an estimated magnitude of 6.1 and a maximum reported Modified Mercalli Intensity (MMI) of VII (very strong). It is unclear where exactly the epicenter was – somewhere near the Oregon/Washington border northwest of Milton-Freewater, Oregon and southeast of Walla Walla. Depending on which fault caused the earthquake there are different implications for hazard vulnerability because the Hite fault lies mostly east of the Milton-Freewater area in a largely remote area, while the Wallula fault runs northwest and lies near the large population of the Tri-Cities (Pasco, Richland, Kennewick, Washington).<sup>21</sup>

---

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.usgs.gov/programs/earthquake-hazards/earthquake-magnitude-energy-release-and-shaking-intensity>

<sup>21</sup> Brocher, T. M.; Sherrod, B. L. (2018), "Intensities, Aftershock Sequences, and the Location of the 1936 Milton-Freewater Earthquake near the Oregon–Washington Border, U.S.A", *Bulletin of the Seismological Society of America*, **108** (5A): 2594–2613.



Intensity	Shaking	Description/Damage
I	Not felt	Not felt except by a very few under especially favorable conditions.
II	Weak	Felt only by a few persons at rest, especially on upper floors of buildings.
III	Weak	Felt quite noticeably by persons indoors, especially on upper floors of buildings. Many people do not recognize it as an earthquake. Standing motor cars may rock slightly. Vibrations similar to the passing of a truck. Duration estimated.
IV	Light	Felt indoors by many, outdoors by few during the day. At night, some awakened. Dishes, windows, doors disturbed; walls make cracking sound. Sensation like heavy truck striking building. Standing motor cars rocked noticeably.
V	Moderate	Felt by nearly everyone; many awakened. Some dishes, windows broken. Unstable objects overturned. Pendulum clocks may stop.
VI	Strong	Felt by all, many frightened. Some heavy furniture moved; a few instances of fallen plaster. Damage slight.
VII	Very strong	Damage negligible in buildings of good design and construction; slight to moderate in well-built ordinary structures; considerable damage in poorly built or badly designed structures; some chimneys broken.
VIII	Severe	Damage slight in specially designed structures; considerable damage in ordinary substantial buildings with partial collapse. Damage great in poorly built structures. Fall of chimneys, factory stacks, columns, monuments, walls. Heavy furniture overturned.
IX	Violent	Damage considerable in specially designed structures; well-designed frame structures thrown out of plumb. Damage great in substantial buildings, with partial collapse. Buildings shifted off foundations.
X	Extreme	Some well-built wooden structures destroyed; most masonry and frame structures destroyed with foundations. Rails bent.

Figure 1: Modified Mercalli Intensity Scale<sup>22</sup>

## RECENT EVENT HISTORY

The USGS Earthquake Catalog<sup>23</sup> was used to analyze recent earthquakes in Walla Walla County and earthquakes that occurred outside the county that were reported as “felt” inside the county through the Did You Feel It?<sup>24</sup> program. Since 2018, no earthquakes have been recorded inside Walla Walla County with the closest being a 2.9 Magnitude event just south of Richland in April of 2024. This earthquake was not reported as “felt” inside Walla Walla County. Going back 40 years, there were only 14 recorded earthquakes inside the county with a magnitude greater than 2.5, the most significant being a 3.4 Magnitude earthquake west of Walla Walla in 2006. Since 2018, all the “felt” earthquakes in Walla Walla County in recent history had epicenters outside of the county. The MMI responses have been recorded at III or less.

22 <https://www.usgs.gov/media/images/modified-mercalli-intensity-scale>

23 <https://earthquake.usgs.gov/earthquakes/search/>

24 <https://earthquake.usgs.gov/data/dyfi/>

*11/20/2018 – STITES, IDAHO – 4.1 MAGNITUDE EARTHQUAKE*

Location Felt	MMI	Number of Responses
Walla Walla	II	1

*3/31/2020 – STANLEY, IDAHO – 6.5 MAGNITUDE EARTHQUAKE*

Location Felt	MMI	Number of Responses
Walla Walla	II	17
Waitsburg	II	1
Waitsburg	III	3
Prescott	II	1
Touchet	I	1
Eureka	III	1

*4/1/2020 – CHALLIS, IDAHO – 5.0 MAGNITUDE EARTHQUAKE*

Location Felt	MMI	Number of Responses
Prescott	II	1

---

**PROBABILITY OF OCCURRENCE**

It is not possible to predict when an earthquake might occur, only measure the frequency of small seismic events and estimate the probability of a larger, potentially damaging, event. Given the history of Walla Walla County it is reasonable that the county is over-due for a larger seismic event.

History has recorded earthquakes that would be considered “strong” and “very strong” on the MMI scale which implies intensity up to 6.5 magnitudes on the Richter Scale. Since those earthquakes recorded in Walla Walla County are generally shallow earthquakes, significant damage would be expected.

*“It is not a question of if; it is question of when a 6.5 magnitude earthquake strikes Walla Walla County.” John Winter, Ph.D. - Professor of Geology, Whitman College*

Frequency is one metric FEMA uses in the Expected Annual Loss calculation. They report an “Annualized Frequency” of 0.145% chance per year.”<sup>25</sup>

---

## **EARTHQUAKE VULNERABILITY**

### **LIQUEFACTION**

According to the USGS: “Liquefaction takes place when loosely packed, water-logged sediments at or near the ground surface lose their strength in response to strong ground shaking. Liquefaction occurring beneath buildings and other structures can cause major damage during earthquakes.”<sup>26</sup>

Much of the County’s infrastructure and buildings are located in areas of moderate to high liquefaction risk. Although the County has adopted new standards for construction in areas of significant geologic hazards, these protections do not apply to existing development. The map below shows that the cities predominantly sit in these more susceptible areas as do some of the highway corridors.

---

25 <https://hazards.fema.gov/nri/report/viewer?dataLOD=Counties&dataIDs=C53071#SectionExpectedAnnualLoss>

26 <https://www.usgs.gov/faqs/what-liquefaction>

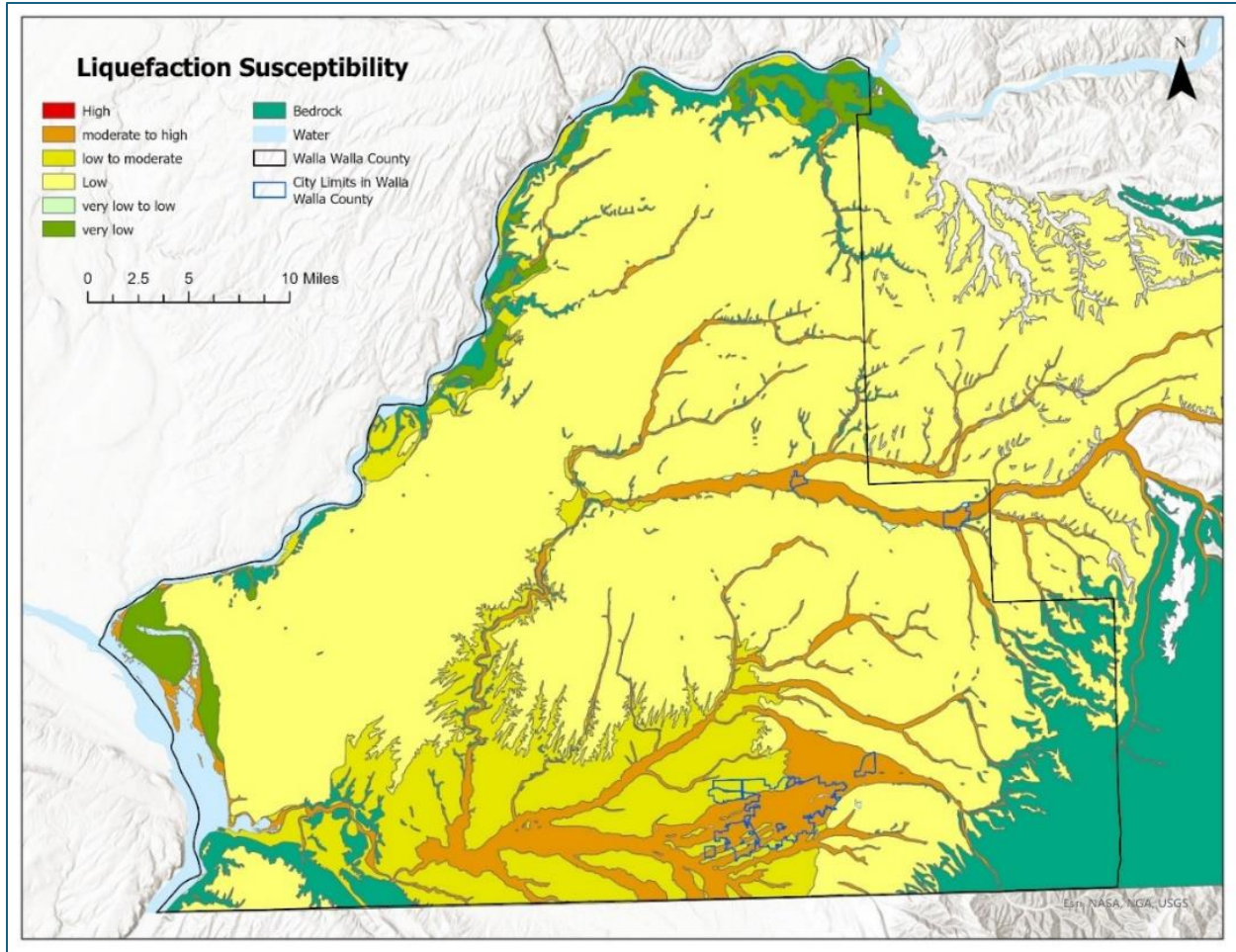


Figure 2: Walla Walla County soil liquefaction-susceptibility risk map<sup>27</sup>

## IMPACTS

The population, property, economy, and infrastructure of Walla Walla County are all vulnerable to the impacts of an earthquake. The scope of damage is a function of the event magnitude and level of preparedness. Damage could range from minimal to high, with a large event resulting in loss of life and significant destruction of property. Beyond property damage and endangering the safety of people, earthquakes can impact the county through short- or long-term disruptions in emergency services, communications, transportation routes, and commerce.

<sup>27</sup> [https://geologyportal.dnr.wa.gov/2d-view#natural\\_hazards?-13369985,-13174306,5770607,5870357](https://geologyportal.dnr.wa.gov/2d-view#natural_hazards?-13369985,-13174306,5770607,5870357)

A major regional earthquake event within the state could potentially require EMS and Fire responders in Walla Walla County to provide assistance to other areas outside the county that are impacted by the event.

#### CITY OF COLLEGE PLACE

The impacts to the city of College Place are similar to overall impacts to Walla Walla County. Specifically, an earthquake has potential to impact emergency services and residents of College Place if damage occurs. Minor damage to buildings, property, and infrastructure is possible in a smaller seismic event, while a larger event similar to the 1936 earthquake could make that damage more significant. The city lies in a moderate-to-high liquefaction susceptibility area, theoretically increasing the vulnerability for the buildings in College Place.

#### CITY OF PRESCOTT

Potential impacts to the city of Prescott from an earthquake would be similar to those in Walla Walla County, including temporary disruptions in services, communications, and commerce. Minor damage to buildings, property, and infrastructure is possible in a smaller seismic event, while a larger event similar to the 1936 earthquake could make that damage more significant. The city lies in a moderate-to-high liquefaction susceptibility area, as does SR 124, increasing the vulnerability for the buildings in Prescott and local transportation routes.

#### CITY OF WAITSBURG

Potential impacts to the city of Waitsburg from an earthquake would be similar to those in Walla Walla County, including temporary disruptions in services, communications, and commerce. Minor damage to buildings, property, and infrastructure is possible in a smaller seismic event, while a larger event similar to the 1936 earthquake could make that damage more significant. The city lies in a moderate-to-high liquefaction susceptibility area, as does SR 124 and parts of US 12, increasing the vulnerability for the buildings in Waitsburg and the transportation routes.

#### CITY OF WALLA WALLA

A large earthquake would have major impacts on the City of Walla Walla, especially historic buildings downtown since they were built on high liquification soil. While many are reinforced, they are still at risk of damage. Minor damage to buildings, property, and infrastructure is possible in a smaller seismic event. Potential impacts to the city of Walla Walla from an earthquake would be similar to those in Walla Walla County, including temporary disruptions in services, communications, and commerce.

## WALLA WALLA SCHOOL DISTRICT

The impacts to the Walla Walla School District are similar to overall impacts to Walla Walla County and to the impacts to the city of Walla Walla. Building damage could impact schools as could temporary disruptions in communications, transportation routes, and emergency services. Getting students evacuated from buildings during an earthquake, communicating with parents and guardians, and organizing the logistics of getting students home if necessary are some of the considerations and secondary impacts of an earthquake event.

## WALLA WALLA CONSERVATION DISTRICT

The impacts to the Walla Walla Conservation District are similar to overall impacts to Walla Walla County. In the event of an earthquake, the ecosystem would experience significant disruption, particularly affecting the Walla Walla, Snake, and Columbia Rivers due to heavy sedimentation. This sedimentation would negatively impact overall stream health, including critical habitats for ESA-listed species found in these waters.

---

## RESOURCES AT RISK

Critical infrastructure located in the moderate-to-high liquefaction susceptibility areas include the Providence St. Mary Medical Center campus. Utilities and communications are also at risk of disruption in the event of an earthquake. Using county tax parcels, there is a total value in the county of more than \$4.9 billion. FEMA calculates the Expected Annual Loss (EAL) value for Walla Walla County for earthquake at \$4.9 million, or roughly .001% of the total parcel value. EAL is calculated by multiplying Exposure, Annualized Frequency, and Historic Loss Ratio.<sup>28</sup>

FEMA calculates the total Exposure value for earthquake in Walla Walla County at \$737,212,116,000. “Exposure is defined as the representative value of buildings (in dollars), population (in both people and population equivalence dollars), or agriculture (in dollars) potentially exposed to a natural hazard occurrence.”<sup>29</sup>

“Annualized frequency is defined as the expected frequency or probability of a hazard occurrence per year. Annualized frequency is derived from either the number of recorded hazard

---

<sup>28</sup> <https://hazards.fema.gov/nri/expected-annual-loss>

<sup>29</sup> <https://hazards.fema.gov/nri/exposure>

occurrences each year over a given period or the modeled probability of a hazard occurrence each year.”<sup>30</sup>

FEMA calculates the Historic Loss Ratio of Walla Walla County as Very High. “The historic loss ratio (HLR) is defined as a hazard- and county-specific estimate of the percentage of the exposed consequence type (building value, population, or agriculture value) expected to be lost due to a hazard occurrence. For example, building historic loss ratio is the estimated percentage of the exposed building value expected to be damaged by a hazard occurrence.”<sup>31</sup>

#### CITY OF COLLEGE PLACE

Reservoir #1, a water tower at the Public Works Yard needs a seismic retrofit. The fire station and City Hall are also vulnerable to seismic activity. Since the Public Works Yard and Police Department are being used differently from what they were built for, upgrades or replacement may be required. Parcel values that intersect the city limits total more than \$1.33 billion.

#### CITY OF PRESCOTT

The city of Prescott has mostly private property exposed to damage from earthquakes but there are municipal buildings also. Parcel values that intersect the city limits of Prescott total \$29,870,900.

#### CITY OF WAITSBURG

The city of Waitsburg consists mostly of privately owned buildings, some municipal buildings, and a school at risk to earthquake. Parcel values that intersect the city limits of Waitsburg total \$152,919,514.

#### CITY OF WALLA WALLA

The Providence St Mary Medical Center is at risk from an earthquake because of the high liquification. There would also likely be impacts to communications and utilities. Important infrastructure such as Walla Walla Emergency Management which is located downtown is at risk because of the age and vulnerability in this location. The city of Walla Walla contains many buildings used for critical functions such as hospitals, emergency services, communications, and utilities, as well as government buildings, industrial facilities, education facilities, and centers of

---

30 <https://hazards.fema.gov/nri/annualized-frequency>

31 <https://hazards.fema.gov/nri/historic-loss-ratio>



commerce and trade. Parcel values that intersect the city limits of Walla Walla total more than \$4.5 billion.

#### WALLA WALLA SCHOOL DISTRICT

The biggest resource at risk to earthquake throughout the school district is the many buildings across the campuses of the district's nine schools. The school district also owns sports facilities, buses, and technology that could be exposed to damage in an earthquake event. Parcel values owned by the school district total more than \$104 million.

#### WALLA WALLA CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Lands managed by the District are the primary resources at risk, as they actively work to improve ecosystem health and land function. Waterways and private land holdings, including agricultural lands, are also vulnerable to the impacts of an earthquake.

---

### CHANGES IN LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT

Since 1984 when building codes placed Walla Walla County in Seismic Zone 2-B, additional seismic reinforcement was required, but buildings built before that were not subject to seismic reinforcement. Building codes have seen increased requirements for seismic planning for all new construction associated with hospitals over the last 25+ years. Infill development within the cities increases the population density and density of structures in a given area which can, over time, increase exposure to earthquake damage if the event is significant.

---

### CLIMATE CHANGE

According to a 2019 article<sup>32</sup> by Alan Buis from NASA, currently there are no verified correlations between weather and earthquakes. Earthquake occurrences are statistically distributed equally across all weather conditions. However, there are some climate change-related factors that could contribute to earthquake activity.

Buis discusses how stress changes due to climate change might be affecting seismicity at a micro level as some studies have found correlations between micro seismicity and climate-related changes. However, scientists are not at a point where they understand these relationships and cannot definitively say that climate processes could cause large earthquakes. Drought seems to contribute to changes in stress loads on the Earth's crust and over time the changes can be

---

32 <https://science.nasa.gov/earth/climate-change/can-climate-affect-earthquakes-or-are-the-connections-shaky/>



significant. Recent studies have focused on drought causing stress changes and not their impact on faults. Studies have shown that pumping groundwater from underground aquifers alters stress patterns. Over time continually pumping groundwater, especially heightened in times of drought, could change seismicity.

Climate change and its effects on water is a big factor in considering impacts to earthquake activity. Buis says, “In addition to climate-related impacts of water on seismicity, human management and applications of water can also affect earthquakes through a phenomenon known as induced seismicity. For example, water stored in large dams has been linked to earthquake activity in various locations around the world, though the impact is localized in nature.” Buis cites historical earthquake occurrences that studies have linked to fluctuations in the reservoir level and changes in the stress loads on a local fault.<sup>33</sup>

Seasonal variations and precipitation can influence liquefaction. A seismic event in July would have a different impact on an area compared to one in March. A notable instance of this occurred during the 2011 Japan earthquake in March, when soil and groundwater saturation levels were at their peak.<sup>34</sup>

---

## **SOCIAL VULNERABILITY**

Social Vulnerability refers to the demographic and socioeconomic factors (such as poverty, lack of access to transportation, and crowded housing) that adversely affect communities that encounter hazards and other community-level stressors.<sup>35</sup>

The FEMA National Risk Index reports that Social Vulnerability in Walla Walla County is “Relatively High”. This is based on social groups in Walla Walla County having a “Relatively High susceptibility to the adverse impacts of natural hazards when compared to the rest of the U.S.”<sup>36</sup> This calculation is not specific to any one hazard. One significant factor found in Walla Walla County that might contribute to earthquake vulnerability is the population of people with disabilities. Surveys indicate that Walla Walla County has a higher-than-average percentage of the population with disabilities.

---

33 <https://science.nasa.gov/earth/climate-change/can-climate-affect-earthquakes-or-are-the-connections-shaky/>

34 <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2011/04/110418135537.htm> <https://www.npr.org/2011/04/07/135181474/in-japan-shaken-soil-turned-soft-after-quake>

35 <https://hazards.fema.gov/social-vulnerability>

36 <https://hazards.fema.gov/nri/map>

A 2020 fact sheet<sup>37</sup> released by FEMA presents earthquake information for people with disabilities. The document highlights some of the aspects of earthquake safety that might prove challenging to individuals with decreased mobility, hearing impairment, and those who require medical devices in everyday life. Anxiety caused by the experience of a natural disaster like an earthquake is another challenge that individuals with intellectual disabilities and anyone else might face.

---

37 <https://www.fema.gov/press-release/20230425/fact-sheet-earthquake-information-people-disabilities>

## SEVERE WEATHER HAZARD OVERVIEW

The planning team collectively examined the hazard risk of severe weather at the county- and adopting jurisdiction- level using FEMA worksheet 5.1. The worksheet definitions for classifications are located in the appendices. The summary conducted by the planning team is here compared to FEMA’s National Risk Index<sup>38</sup> for various components of severe weather. The planning team summarized Walla Walla County’s overall significance rating for severe weather as High.

Table 8: FEMA Hazard Summary Rating Worksheet for Severe Weather

Adopting Jurisdiction	Location (Geographic Area Affected)	Maximum Probable Extent (Magnitude/Strength)	Probability of Future Events	Overall Significance Ranking
Walla Walla County	4	2.5	4	10.5
City of College Place	3	3	4	10
City of Prescott				
City of Waitsburg	2	2	2	6
City of Walla Walla	4	2	4	10
Walla Walla Public Schools	2	1	2	5
Walla Walla County Conservation District	4	3	4	11
Ranking Value	1 – Negligible 2 – Limited 3 – Significant 4 – Extensive	1 – Weak 2 – Moderate 3 – Severe 4 – Extreme	1 – Unlikely 2 – Occasional 3 – Likely 4 – Highly Likely	3 to 5 – Low 6 to 8 – Medium 9 to 12 – High

The FEMA National Risk Index breaks down separate components of the category into the various types of severe weather. These hazard breakdowns are included here to show how FEMA reports severe weather hazard risk for Walla Walla County.

---

<sup>38</sup> <https://hazards.fema.gov/nri/>

Table 9: FEMA National Risk Index Report by Natural Hazard for Walla Walla County, Washington

Hazard Type	Expected Annual Loss Rating	Social Vulnerability	Community Resilience	Risk Value	Risk Index Score	Risk Index Rating
<b>Cold Wave</b>	Relatively High	Relatively High	Relatively Moderate	\$6,800,269	93.8	Relatively High
<b>Drought</b>	Relatively Low	Relatively High	Relatively Moderate	\$124,655	69.1	Relatively Low
<b>Hail</b>	Very Low	Relatively High	Relatively Moderate	\$16,341	14.8	Very Low
<b>Heat Wave</b>	Relatively High	Relatively High	Relatively Moderate	\$3,133,722	96	Relatively High
<b>Ice Storm</b>	Relatively Moderate	Relatively High	Relatively Moderate	\$421,355	85.2	Relatively High
<b>Lightning</b>	Very Low	Relatively High	Relatively Moderate	\$23,405	13.6	Very Low
<b>Strong Wind</b>	Relatively Low	Relatively High	Relatively Moderate	\$199,795	30.8	Relatively Low
<b>Tornado</b>	Very Low	Relatively High	Relatively Moderate	\$91,047	12.3	Very Low
<b>Winter Weather</b>	Relatively Low	Relatively High	Relatively Moderate	\$36,176	37.8	Relatively Low

“Hazard type Risk Index scores are calculated using data for only a single hazard type, and reflect a community's Expected Annual Loss value, community risk factors, and the adjustment factor used to calculate the risk value.”

“Expected Annual Loss scores for hazard types are calculated using data for only a single hazard type and reflect a community's relative expected annual loss for only that hazard type.”

“Social Vulnerability is measured using the Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).”

“Community Resilience is measured at the County level using the Baseline Resilience Indicators for Communities (HVRI BRIC) published by the University of South Carolina's Hazards and Vulnerability Research Institute (HVRI).”

Severe Weather comes in many forms. This plan uses the descriptions taken from the FEMA National Risk Index website<sup>39</sup> as the basic subcategories of severe weather for this hazard assessment. Some additional severe weather definitions from the previous plan are also included in this section to help explain what can be meant by severe weather.

<sup>39</sup> <https://hazards.fema.gov/nri/natural-hazards>

---

## FEMA SEVERE WEATHER NATURAL HAZARDS

**Cold Wave:** A Cold Wave is a rapid fall in temperature within 24 hours and extreme low temperatures for an extended period. The temperatures classified as a cold wave are dependent on the location and defined by the local National Weather Service (NWS) weather forecast office.

**Drought:** A Drought is a deficiency of precipitation over an extended period of time resulting in a water shortage.

**Hail:** Hail is a form of precipitation that occurs during thunderstorms when raindrops, in extremely cold areas of the atmosphere, freeze into balls of ice before falling towards the earth's surface.

**Heat Wave:** A Heat Wave is a period of abnormally and uncomfortably hot and unusually humid weather typically lasting two or more days with temperatures outside the historical averages for a given area.

**Ice Storm:** An Ice Storm is a freezing rain situation (rain that freezes on surface contact) with significant ice accumulations of 0.25 inches or greater.

**Lightning:** Lightning is a visible electrical discharge or spark of electricity in the atmosphere between clouds, the air and/or the ground often produced by a thunderstorm.

**Strong Wind:** Strong Wind consists of damaging winds, often originating from thunderstorms, that are classified as exceeding 58 mph.

**Tornado:** A Tornado is a narrow, violently rotating column of air that extends from the base of a thunderstorm to the ground and is visible only if it forms a condensation funnel made up of water droplets, dust, and debris.

**Winter Weather:** Winter Weather consists of winter storm events in which the main types of precipitation are snow, sleet, or freezing rain.

---

## ADDITIONAL SEVERE WEATHER DEFINITIONS

**Heavy Snow:** Generally, a snowfall accumulating to 6 inches or more in depth in 12 hours or less or a snowfall accumulating 6 inches or more in depth in 24 hours or less.

**Funnel Cloud:** Funnel clouds are twisting clusters of air and clouds that form the beginning of a tornado. They may lower slightly below the cloud line, but do not make contact with the ground.

**Dust Storm:** Dust storms occur when wind, following dry periods, blows dirt and light debris aloft. In worst case scenarios, blowing dust clouds can result in zero visibility.

**Severe Thunderstorm:** A thunderstorm that produces a tornado, winds of at least 58 mph (50 knots), and/or hail at least 1 inch in diameter. A thunderstorm with wind equal to or greater than 40 mph (35 knots) and/or hail at least ½ inches in diameter is defined as approaching severe.

---

## RECENT EVENT HISTORY

The NOAA Storm Events Database<sup>40</sup>, tracks hazardous weather-related events and has records that can be filtered by county. Many types of severe weather and disasters caused by weather are contained within the dataset. Event history in Walla Walla County was examined for this plan update for the time period since the previous plan was adopted. The period of January 2018 through April 2024 was selected for this exercise and wildfire was excluded from the dataset. More than 100 events were recorded for weather events (including flood) for this timeframe. Many of these events were regional in nature and the event recorded was not observed in Walla Walla County. The table below highlights some significant selected severe weather events during the time period in the county. These events are then described below the table.

Table 10: Selected Severe Weather Events in Walla Walla County January 2018 through April 2024

Location	Date	Event Type	Magnitude	Property Damage	Crop Damage
Kooskooskie	4/9/2019	Flood, caused by heavy rain		\$150,000	\$2,000
Waitsburg	8/10/2019	Hail	1"		
Touchet	2/6/2020	Flood, caused by snow and rain		\$8,770,000	
Prescott	5/30/2020	Thunderstorm Wind	61 mph		
Walla Walla Regional Airport, College Place	1/12/2021	High Wind	61 mph		
5 miles ENE of Walla Walla	2/12/2021	Heavy Snow			
Martin Airport	6/15/2021	Thunderstorm Wind	52 mph		
Kooskooskie, Langdon	6/13/2022	Flood			
Waitsburg	2/20/2023	High Wind	56 mph		

---

<sup>40</sup> <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/stormevents/>

## RECENT SEVERE WEATHER EVENTS

The dated descriptions below are taken from the episode narratives and event narratives collected in the NOAA Storm Events Database.<sup>41</sup>

### *8/10/2019 – WAITSBURG HAIL*

A strong cutoff low drifted eastward into Oregon and Washington on the 10th. Modest instability and adequate moisture lead to afternoon thunderstorm development, resulting in a few severe reports and at least one cold air funnel.

### *2/6/2020 – FLOOD, CAUSED BY SNOW AND RAIN*

Heavy snow on February 4-5, 2020, was followed by a period of heavy rain, February 5-7. Snow levels rose to near 5000 feet. There was record flooding on several rivers, including the Walla Walla and Touchet rivers with widespread flooding of numerous other creeks and streams and rivers across the county. Across the northern Blue Mountains of Oregon and northern Blue Mountains of Washington the snowpack was near normal. A weather system brought heavy snow to this region on February 4th and the first part of the day on February 5th with snow amounts from around 10 to 20 inches for locations between 2000 to 4000 feet. During the afternoon of the 5th, snow changed to rain at elevations below 5000 feet. The rain continued over through February 6 and 7th. Precipitation amounts in the form of rain at the headwaters of the rivers, ranged from 3 to 5 inches. There was 1.98 inches over 72 hours at 1.1 NE Walla Walla. In addition, the snowpack from the preceding day was melted, contributing to the runoff. Satellite snowpack images show 1-3 inches of snow water equivalent (or water held in the snowpack) melted out along both the east and west sides of the northern Blue Mountains.

Record high water levels were seen on Upper Mill Creek with extensive damage along upper Mill Creek to homes as well as roads and bridges. A number of residents had to be evacuated via helicopter or 4-wheeler. There was minimal damage along Mill Creek through Walla Walla as water was diverted through the Mill Creek Flood Project. Downstream of Walla Walla, there was damaging flooding in College Place with a bridge being washed out near Wallula Road. In Waitsburg, flood waters from both the Touchet River and Coppei Creek inundated the town as levees were damaged. 60 homes were damaged as well as numerous roads and bridges. Damage countywide is estimated at 8.77 million dollars.

---

<sup>41</sup> <https://www1.ncdc.noaa.gov/pub/data/swdi/stormevents/csvfiles/Storm-Data-Export-Format.pdf>

#### *5/30/2020 – PRESCOTT THUNDERSTORM WINDS*

A major severe weather event by Pacific Northwest standards occurred over central and northeast Oregon and southeast Washington on May 30. A powerful upper-level storm system moved across the area during the afternoon and evening helping to trigger severe thunderstorms. The airmass was unusually unstable for this area of the country with surface dewpoints well into the 60s. With strong upper-level winds in place the stage was set for numerous fast-moving intense storms through the afternoon and early evening. Numerous reports of damaging winds were received across southeast Washington as the storms moved through causing roof damage.

#### *1/12/2021 – WALLA WALLA REGIONAL AIRPORT AND COLLEGE PLACE HIGH WIND*

A non-thunderstorm wind gust of 70mph was measured by the ASOS at the Walla Walla Regional Airport at 12:53am PST on Jan. 13th. A non- thunderstorm wind gust of 60mph was measured 4 miles WSW of College Place, WA at 2:47am PST on Jan. 13.

#### *2/12/2021 – WALLA WALLA HEAVY SNOW*

A social media report originating 5 miles ENE of Walla Walla, WA estimated 8.5 inches of snowfall over a 48-hour period ending at 10:21am PST on Feb. 13th. A local newspaper from Walla Walla, WA estimated 5 inches of snowfall in a 24-hour period ending at 2:00pm PST on Feb. 12th.

#### *6/15/2021 – MARTIN AIRPORT THUNDERSTORM WIND*

The Walla Walla County Sheriff confirmed that a thunderstorm producing gusty winds had uprooted several trees, downed power lines, and had flipped a small plane that was not tied down at Martin Airfield. An upper-level trough with mid to high level jet support moved northeast across Oregon and Washington, producing showers with embedded strong thunderstorms during the early morning hours and in the afternoon.

#### *6/13/2022 – KOOSKOOSKIE AND LANGDON FLOOD, CAUSED BY HEAVY RAIN*

A persistent upper trough pushed several shortwave troughs supported by a moderate plume of moisture in the middle of June. Persistent rain showers that develop as a result of each shortwave trough produced enough rainfall for area rivers to swell, with minor flooding being observed along portions of Mill Creek.

**Kooskooskie:** Emergency Manager relayed reports of flooding along Mill Creek between Thomas and Kooskooskie, WA. There were reports of water over roadways as well as pictures showing minor flooding on a property adjacent to Mill Creek. The creek and flood waters receded on June 14th.



**Langdon:** Emergency Manager for Walla Walla County relayed several reports of flooding within the area. Near Lanette Cir and Old Milton Hwy reports indicated that there was water over the roadway and that a property had flooding up to the house. Near Powerline Road further east, reports of water over the roadways were also reported.

*2/20/2023 – WAITSBURG HIGH WIND*

The Washington State University reported via social media that a weather station in Waitsburg, WA recorded a wind gust of 64mph at 2300 PST on Feb. 20. The ASOS at the Walla Walla Regional Airport recorded a wind gust of 59mph at 0222 PST on Feb. 21.

**OTHER EVENTS**

Other occurrences of note include several incidences of mid-April frost/freeze events in 2023 and 2024 which endangered fruit crops. Extreme heat events in June and July 2021 saw calculated heat risk values recorded for several consecutive days that met or exceeded excessive heat warning criteria. Heat-related fatalities were recorded in the region, near Walla Walla County. Late July and August 2022 also saw several days of extreme heat in Walla Walla County and the region.

---

**PROBABILITY OF OCCURRENCE**

Severe Weather events in Walla Walla County can and do occur every year and at any time of year. Tornadoes are extremely rare. High wind and severe storms occur annually but do not always cause significant damage. Drought is the most frequent according to the FEMA National Risk Index, however, drought events do not always cause measurable losses in agricultural or other environmental damages. The biggest hazard associated with lightning is wildfire, addressed in another section. Large hail, ice storms, and cold waves are relatively infrequent events in the county but when they occur property and crops are exposed to significant damage. Heat waves are an annual concern, especially affecting socially vulnerable populations.

Table 11: FEMA Reported Annualized Frequency Values by Hazard in Walla Walla County<sup>42</sup>

Hazard Type	Annualized Frequency	Events on Record	Period of Record
<b>Cold Wave</b>	0.2 events per year	3	2005-2021 (16 years)
<b>Drought</b>	20.7 events per year	455	2000-2021 (22 years)
<b>Hail</b>	0.3 events per year	12	1986-2021 (34 years)
<b>Heat Wave</b>	1.3 events per year	21	2005-2021 (16 years)
<b>Ice Storm</b>	0.5 events per year	37	1946-2014 (67 years)

---

<sup>42</sup> <https://hazards.fema.gov/nri/report/viewer?dataLOD=Counties&dataIDs=C53071>

Hazard Type	Annualized Frequency	Events on Record	Period of Record
Lightning	1.9 events per year	41	1991-2012 (22 years)
Strong Wind	0.4 events per year	13	1986-2021 (34 years)
Tornado	0 events per year	2	1950-2021 (72 years)
Winter Weather	2.3 events per year	37	2005-2021 (16 years)

---

**SEVERE WEATHER VULNERABILITY**

Although extreme damage as a result of storms is usually isolated to a relatively small area or set of areas, various types of severe weather occur everywhere in Walla Walla County and the entire county is vulnerable to impacts from severe weather.

The [National Weather Service Forecast Office in Pendleton, Oregon](#) provides weather advisories, watches, and warnings for Walla Walla County.

In addition, Walla Walla County has achieved the StormReady designation through the National Weather Service Program to be better prepared to respond to weather and water threats to the community (<https://www.weather.gov/StormReady>). Notice is provided to residents of severe storms well in advance if possible.

---

**IMPACTS**

Severe Weather events can cause significant damage to trees and power lines and interrupt transportation, commerce, communications, and power distribution. Storms can damage crops and cause hazardous conditions that can result in the perpetuation of additional incidents such as a hazardous material spill along a transportation route or the start of a lightning-caused wildfire. Storm events impact the ability of first responders to provide emergency assistance. Accidents are more likely to occur for travelers and others working outside during storms.

Extreme heat and extreme cold events can endanger vulnerable populations, such as the homeless and those in poverty. Cold waves, hail, and drought can negatively affect the agriculture industry and lead to economic losses. Extended cold snaps can also have effects on pipes, especially in older buildings. Drought also impacts the regional drinking water supply. Lightning is a major ignition source for wildfires. Heavy snow accumulations can damage buildings by collapsing roofs and awnings

**CITY OF COLLEGE PLACE**

The impacts of severe weather that affect Walla Walla County can and do also impact the city of College Place. The city has especially dealt with tree damage from storms over the past several years, resulting in public safety concerns, damage to property, cleanup costs, and landscaping expenses. Other effects from severe weather have included loss of power for extended periods of time. When this occurs, the city has experienced problems with their well system.

## CITY OF PRESCOTT

The impacts of severe weather that affect Walla Walla County can and do also impact the city of Prescott.

## CITY OF WAITSBURG

The impacts of severe weather that affect Walla Walla County can and do also impact the city of Waitsburg, especially high wind events that cause downed trees and powerlines.

## CITY OF WALLA WALLA

The impacts of severe weather that affect Walla Walla County can and do also impact the city of Walla Walla. Wind events cause downed trees and downed power lines. This is a safety hazard for residents, destroys personal property, and leaves them without power. Residents sometimes become trapped because of these events. In some areas of the city's emergency response zone, first responders have found response difficult during weather events. Severe storms have presented challenges for emergency responders because access is cut off or response times are delayed.

Lightning and high winds, sometimes exacerbated by heat waves and/or drought, causes wildfires in the area around the city. This puts residents in the area at direct risk from wildfires, but it also could impact the Mill Creek Watershed – the city's main source of water.

Extreme heat and extreme cold episodes are occurring more often, creating issues with vulnerable people, especially the homeless population.

## WALLA WALLA SCHOOL DISTRICT

The impacts of severe weather that affect Walla Walla County can and do also impact the Walla Walla School District. The school district must plan for and react to travel hazards, power outages, and other unsafe weather conditions that might impact the students and teachers at their schools.

## WALLA WALLA CONSERVATION DISTRICT

The impacts of severe weather that affect Walla Walla County can and do also impact the Walla Walla Conservation District. Heavy rainfall can introduce sedimentation and pollution into local waterways, degrading water quality and negatively affecting critical aquatic habitats for ESA species. Additionally, prolonged drought conditions could stress overall water supplies, impacting both conservation efforts and local agriculture. Combined, the effects of severe weather could hinder the district's initiatives aimed at promoting ecosystem health and effective land management.

---

## RESOURCES AT RISK

Table 12: Expected Annual Loss Ratings and Values for Severe Weather as Reported by FEMA<sup>43</sup>

Hazard Type	Expected Annual Loss Rating	EAL Value	Score
Heat Wave	Relatively High	\$2,443,370	95.8
Cold Wave	Relatively High	\$724,432	90.9
Ice Storm	Relatively Moderate	\$325,376	83.5
Strong Wind	Relatively Low	\$153,628	31.1
Drought	Relatively Low	\$100,359	68.3
Tornado	Very Low	\$71,704	13.9
Winter Weather	Relatively Low	\$28,361	38.4
Lightning	Very Low	\$18,450	12.2
Hail	Very Low	\$12,998	16.4

### CITY OF COLLEGE PLACE

Parcel values that intersect the College Place city limits total more than \$1.33 billion. If the power grid is impacted during a wind event or another storm, several city resources could be impacted including Drinking Water Well #3, City Hall, the Public Works yard, and the police station. The technology room at Municipal Complex is vulnerable to extreme temperatures and could be damaged. Wind events could damage many trees throughout the city, including trees that have become unhealthy such as the trees along SE Lamperti Street, in Kiwanis Park, and in Lions Park.

### CITY OF PRESCOTT

Parcel values that intersect the city limits of Prescott total \$29,870,900. The agricultural resources in the Prescott area are at risk from extreme weather events such as hail, winds, and drought, and agricultural losses would impact the economy of the area. Transportation routes, like SR 124, are local resources at risk of disruption or damage from various storm events or other disasters (fire, flood) that might be caused by severe weather like severe storms or lightning.

### CITY OF WAITSBURG

Parcel values that intersect the city limits of Waitsburg total \$152,919,514. The local water supply is a resource that is at risk during drought conditions as residents use more water and put a strain on the aquifer. The agricultural resources in the Waitsburg area are at risk from extreme weather events such as hail, winds, and drought, and agricultural losses would impact the economy of the area. Transportation routes, like US 12 and SR 124, are local resources at risk to disruption or

---

<sup>43</sup> <https://hazards.fema.gov/nri/report/viewer?dataLOD=Counties&dataIDs=C53071#SectionExpectedAnnualLoss>

damage from various storm events or other disasters (fire, flood) that might be caused by severe weather like severe storms or lightning.

#### CITY OF WALLA WALLA

Parcel values that intersect the city limits of Walla Walla total more than \$4.5 billion. Severe winter weather caused approximately \$1.5 million in damage from 2016-2018 from damage to roads and bridges. The city has several resources of high value to the residents of the city and the entire region, such as Providence St. Mary Medical Center, food and grocery services, public works, emergency services, large employers, education facilities, and many other resources that are at risk of damages or temporary disruptions in these services during a severe weather event like a windstorm or a winter weather event.

#### WALLA WALLA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Parcel values owned by the school district total more than \$104 million. There are many buildings across the campuses of the school district's nine schools as well as sports facilities, buses, and technology that all could be at risk during a severe weather event. A disruption in school activities and endangerment of student and teacher safety because of a severe weather event is the most likely vulnerability in terms of resources at risk from severe weather.

#### WALLA WALLA CONSERVATION DISTRICT

The Walla Walla Conservation District faces several resources at risk from damage due to severe weather events. Agricultural lands, which encompass 312,000 acres within the District, are particularly vulnerable and drain directly into vital waterways that support endangered species. Additionally, severe weather can result in the loss of vegetation, including fallen trees that provide essential wildlife habitat. These impacts not only threaten the ecological balance but also jeopardize the District's efforts in enhancing and conserving local resources.

---

### **CHANGES IN LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT**

Arguably the biggest impact new development or new land use has on severe weather vulnerability is increased resource usage. There are concerns about droughts being exacerbated by increased water usage in areas where water usage has been historically low. People moving to rural parts of the country and increased populations concentrated in urban centers both can impact water usage during drought times. Increased populations in general tends to put more strain on the infrastructure of a county also. Severe weather events like strong wind, heavy snowfall, ice storms, and storm-induced flooding can cause wear and damage to utilities, bridges, culverts, road surfaces. This is exacerbated by increased usage of this infrastructure.

Another change in land use is the number of people living in remote areas of the county in buildings not originally intended for long-term residency and using roads and other infrastructure more frequently than the infrastructure was designed for. This increases human exposure to severe weather events such as extreme winter storms and extreme cold, where people attempting to live in these situations are not prepared for some of the extreme weather conditions they might face. Also, in the event of a natural disaster caused by severe weather, such as lightning causing wildfire, first responders are now faced with a remote, sometimes unknown human population that must be assisted or evacuated.

---

## CLIMATE CHANGE

According to an article published by NASA, climate change is causing severe weather events be more frequent and more extreme. “Record-breaking heat waves on land and in the ocean, drenching rains, severe floods, years-long droughts, extreme wildfires, and widespread flooding during hurricanes are all becoming more frequent and more intense.” The article states that scientists are using climate change models along with scientific observations to help determine when and if severe weather events are linked to climate change.<sup>44</sup>

According to an article published by the United Nations, climate change is a “threat multiplier” which suggests that a changing climate will exacerbate already existing challenges for the socially vulnerable. The article states that one way this can happen is by negatively affecting food production and increasing hunger. The article also states that climate change can increase poverty and inequalities because it “disproportionately affects the poorest and most vulnerable”.<sup>45</sup>

## SOCIAL VULNERABILITY

Social Vulnerability refers to the demographic and socioeconomic factors (such as poverty, lack of access to transportation, and crowded housing) that adversely affect communities that encounter hazards and other community-level stressors.<sup>46</sup> The FEMA National Risk Index reports that Social Vulnerability in Walla Walla County is “Relatively High”. This is based on social groups in Walla Walla County having a “Relatively High susceptibility to the adverse impacts of natural

---

<sup>44</sup> <https://science.nasa.gov/climate-change/extreme-weather/>

<sup>45</sup> <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/science/climate-issues/human-security>

<sup>46</sup> <https://hazards.fema.gov/social-vulnerability>

hazards when compared to the rest of the U.S.”<sup>47</sup> This calculation is not specific to any one hazard.

Walla Walla County has a homeless population mostly residing in urban areas. Severe weather hazards may cause more significant hardship to the poor and homeless. In a 2024 article for the Texas Homeless Network, Katie Good highlights some ways that extreme heat may impact those without stable housing.

“Extreme heat can exacerbate pre-existing health conditions that are statistically more prevalent among people experiencing homelessness, including respiratory issues, cardiovascular disease, and pulmonary disease. In addition to worsening pre-existing health conditions, unhoused people are at increased risk of third-degree burns from the sun and hot surfaces, severe dehydration, heat cramps, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke.”<sup>48</sup>

Extreme cold can impact homeless people as well. When temperatures drop to unusually cold temperatures, especially when this is unexpected for the time of year, individuals without stable housing are in danger. Severe storms that cause flooding, damaging winds, or heavy snow can also endanger the lives of homeless people.

Extreme weather events affect human health generally, but some individuals may be especially vulnerable. Those impacted by poverty and those with disabilities may be disproportionately affected by severe weather hazards.<sup>49</sup>

---

<sup>47</sup> <https://hazards.fema.gov/nri/map>

<sup>48</sup> <https://www.thn.org/2024/04/03/the-disproportionate-impact-of-climate-change-on-people-experiencing-homelessness/>

<sup>49</sup> [https://www.niehs.nih.gov/research/programs/climatechange/health\\_impacts/weather\\_related\\_morbidity](https://www.niehs.nih.gov/research/programs/climatechange/health_impacts/weather_related_morbidity)

## WILDLAND FIRE HAZARD OVERVIEW

The planning team collectively examined the hazard risk of wildland fire at the county- and adopting jurisdiction- level using FEMA worksheet 5.1. The worksheet definitions for classifications are located in the appendices. The planning team summarized Walla Walla County’s overall significance rating for wildland fire as High. This is compared to USDA Forest Service analysis below.

Table 13: FEMA Hazard Summary Rating Worksheet for Wildland Fire

Adopting Jurisdiction	Location (Geographic Area Affected)	Maximum Probable Extent (Magnitude/Strength)	Probability of Future Events	Overall Significance Ranking
Walla Walla County	3	3	4	10
City of College Place	4	2	3	9
City of Prescott				
City of Waitsburg	2	1	1	4
City of Walla Walla	3	3	3	9
Walla Walla Public Schools	1	1	1	3
Walla Walla County Conservation District	4	3	3	10
Ranking Value	1 – Negligible 2 – Limited 3 – Significant 4 – Extensive	1 – Weak 2 – Moderate 3 – Severe 4 – Extreme	1 – Unlikely 2 – Occasional 3 – Likely 4 – Highly Likely	3 to 5 – Low 6 to 8 – Medium 9 to 12 – High

This section incorporates the 2024 update to the 2017 Mill Creek and Walla Walla County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). Both the 2024 updated CWPP and the updated 2024 HMP were conducted simultaneously during the same planning effort. More wildfire analysis is retained in the 2024 CWPP, which serves as an appendix to this document.

The USDA Forest Service tool, *Wildfire Risk to Communities*<sup>50</sup>, identifies wildfire risk across the United States using the best available science and data. The CWPP examines their various models

<sup>50</sup> <https://wildfirerisk.org/>



that analyze risk and vulnerability based on different criteria and factors. These models, examined throughout this section, include *Risk to Homes*, *Wildfire Likelihood*, *Risk Reduction Zones*, and *Vulnerable Populations*.

Wildfire Risk to Communities states that Walla Walla County has a high risk of wildfire, higher than 87% of counties in the United States.

---

## RECENT EVENT HISTORY

Wildfire occurrence data was analyzed for Walla Walla County dating back to the previous CWPP update. Data was sourced by The Wildland Fire Interagency Geospatial Services (WFIGS) Group, who “provides authoritative geospatial data products under the interagency Wildland Fire Data Program.”<sup>51</sup>

Several of the recent fires in Walla Walla County have occurred on private lands and in fine fuels like grasses and shrubs. These fires often grew quickly and consumed acreage rapidly but were also contained relatively quickly without damaging structures or injuring people or livestock. Because of proximity to residences, evacuation orders were given on several occasions but were usually lifted quickly. Fires that impacted parts of the county with heavy fuels like timber did not directly impact the county since the previous plan update. However, there have been fires that have consumed large amounts of timberlands to the east of Walla Walla County and have approached the Mill Creek Watershed in recent years.

Table 14: Selected Wildland Fire Events originating in Walla Walla County 2017 through September 1, 2024, sorted by size

Incident Name	Fire Discovery Date	Incident Size (acres)	Fire Cause	Estimated Cost to Date
<b>Hair Road</b>	6/21/2021	7,255	Information unavailable	\$1,500
<b>Oasis</b>	6/19/2023	4,250	Undetermined	\$500,000
<b>Touchet North</b>	6/28/2022	3,000	Undetermined	\$2,000
<b>Neff Road</b>	6/15/2024	1,435	Undetermined	\$5,000
<b>Van Ausdle</b>	7/29/2022	1,100	Human	\$2,500
<b>Joe Barker Rd</b>	6/19/2017	518	Information unavailable	\$1,000
<b>Harvey Shaw</b>	8/16/2023	>500	Human	Unavailable
<b>Weaver Pit</b>	10/28/2022	204	Undetermined	\$1,000
<b>Lambdon Road</b>	9/11/2018	200	Unknown	\$3,000
<b>Madame Dorian</b>	9/18/2023	200	Human	Unavailable

---

<sup>51</sup> <https://data-nifc.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/nifc::wildland-fire-incident-locations/about>

Incident Name	Fire Discovery Date	Incident Size (acres)	Fire Cause	Estimated Cost to Date
Jubilee	9/1/2024	200	Undetermined	Unavailable
Page Road	5/20/2024	150	Undetermined	Unavailable
Hanson Loop	6/13/2021	115	Undetermined	\$1,500

RECENT WILDLAND FIRE EVENTS

6/21/2021 – HAIR ROAD FIRE

This Type-4 incident took place about 33 miles northwest of Prescott, just south of lower monumental dam on private property. The primary fuels involved were grasses and total personnel included 69 people. The official size was calculated at 7,255 acres.<sup>52</sup> Some sources reported the fire at more than 9,000 acres.

6/19/2023 – OASIS FIRE



Figure 3: Oasis Fire burn footprint north of Oasis orchards near Nine Mile Hill<sup>53</sup>

The Oasis Fire was reported at 3:22 p.m. near Oasis Road and grew rapidly throughout the afternoon and evening of June 19 as it burned in grass and sagebrush. Evacuation order Level 2 was issued for Cameo Heights Mansion and level 1 for Touchet North Road as the fire initially threatened several structures, agriculture, and infrastructure. Washington State fire assistance was mobilized to support local firefighters to contain the fire just a few hours after it was

<sup>52</sup> [https://gacc.nifc.gov/nwcc/content/pdfs/archives/2021\\_NWCC\\_Annual\\_Fire\\_Report.pdf](https://gacc.nifc.gov/nwcc/content/pdfs/archives/2021_NWCC_Annual_Fire_Report.pdf)

<sup>53</sup> [https://www.union-bulletin.com/news/local/topics/wildfire/fire-that-threatened-touchet-contained-before-damaging-structures/article\\_ca0729e8-0fbd-11ee-841a-c3880e8f84bf.html](https://www.union-bulletin.com/news/local/topics/wildfire/fire-that-threatened-touchet-contained-before-damaging-structures/article_ca0729e8-0fbd-11ee-841a-c3880e8f84bf.html)

discovered. Fire response crews and aircraft contained the fire by that evening and as of 8:30 a.m. on June 20, all evacuations were lifted. The final size was recorded at 4,250 acres.

#### *6/28/2022 – TOUCHET NORTH FIRE*

Roughly 3,000 acres burned in a fire, starting on the 600 block of Touchet Road North and the fire was contained by the next morning. About 70 personnel were involved in suppression efforts as the fire largely burned in short and tall grass fuels. Most of the acres that were burned were farmland in CRP. The cause of the fire was not determined.

#### *6/15/2024 – NEFF ROAD FIRE*

This fire occurred SR-124 and ½ mile east of Vista Hermosa. Almost 1,500 acres of pasture and CRP fields burned quickly as high winds increased fire activity. Several local fire districts assisted the Walla Walla North County Fire District in suppressing the fire. No injuries were reported and no structures or livestock were lost.

#### *7/29/2022 – VAN AUSDLER FIRE*

A fire broke out in a standing wheat field near Van Ausdler Lane north of Walla Walla on July 29 and burned more than 1,000 acres before it was contained that evening. The fire was later determined to be human caused and the area impacted by the fire is predominantly privately-owned agricultural lands and farming infrastructure. Residences on Bergevin Springs Road, including the Eritage Resort, were issued a level 2 evacuation order.<sup>54</sup>

#### *SIGNIFICANT NEIGHBORING EVENTS*

Recent fires that occurred outside Walla Walla County but either threatened the county or came close to the Mill Creek Watershed include the following:

- Hat Rock Fire, 2023 – burned 16,816 acres in Umatilla County, Oregon and crossed the state line burning a small part of Walla Walla County.
- Three fires in 2023 that burned along the Columbia River in Benton County, just west of the Wallula area:
  - Toothtaker Fire – 189 acres
  - Hover Park Fire – 528 acres
  - Yellepit Fire – 997 acres

---

<sup>54</sup> <https://elkhornmediagroup.com/wheat-fire-near-walla-walla-contained/>

- Green Ridge Fire, 2021 – burned more than 43,000 acres about 30 miles east of Walla Walla in Columbia and Garfield Counties.
- Kahlotus Fire, 2020 – burned more than 21,000 acres along the Snake River in Franklin County just on the other side of the northwest boundary of Walla Walla County.
- Lake Wallula Fire, 2018 – burned more than 12,000 acres in Umatilla County, Oregon along the Columbia River and stopped just south of the Walla Walla County border south of Wallula Junction.
- Grizzly Bear Complex Fire, 2015 – burned more than 83,000 acres across three counties over two states just east of the Mill Creek Watershed.

The 2006 Columbia Complex Fire was a significant regional incident at more than 109,000 acres. It entered Walla Walla County just east of Dixie but mostly burned across Columbia County, just north of the Mill Creek Watershed, and into Garfield County.

---

## PROBABILITY OF OCCURRENCE

Wildland fire events in Walla Walla County can and do occur every year. The *Wildfire Likelihood*<sup>55</sup> tool estimates the probability of wildfire occurrence in any given year. This is based on fire behavior modeling across thousands of simulations of possible fire seasons. Several other factors contribute to the model including weather, topography, and ignition history. This model reports that the county has a greater wildfire likelihood than 58% of counties in Washington state and a greater wildfire likelihood than 88% of counties in the United States.

The tool also looks at communities within Walla Walla County and compares their wildfire likelihood (WL) to the rest of the county. The table below expresses how much greater wildfire likelihood each community has than the rest of the communities in the county and the rest of the counties in the state of Washington. All other communities in Walla Walla County were found to have a greater wildfire likelihood than Dixie. Wallula was found to have a greater wildfire likelihood than all other communities in the county.

---

<sup>55</sup> <https://wildfirerisk.org/explore/wildfire-likelihood/53/53071/>

Table 15: Wildfire Likelihood among Walla Walla County communities compared to the county and Washington state<sup>56</sup>

Community Name	Wildfire Likelihood compared to county	Wildfire Likelihood compared to state
College Place	22%	65%
Prescott	89%	76%
Waitsburg	33%	66%
Walla Walla	44%	68%
Burbank	78%	75%
Dixie	-	18%
Garrett	56%	70%
Touchet	67%	72%
Walla Walla East	11%	55%
Wallula	100%	81%

---

## WILDLAND FIRE VULNERABILITY

### IMPACTS

Wildfires impact the county in several ways, including via direct and indirect impacts. Wildfires threaten to damage homes, other structures, and infrastructure. Wildfire smoke causes unhealthy air quality conditions that affect health compromised individuals. Wildfire events can put major strain on emergency responders and can interrupt transportation, commerce, communications, and power distribution. Wildfires cause environmental damage, greatly impacting sensitive habitats and ecologically significant areas. In the wake of wildfires, post fire rehabilitation is a costly expense to help the landscape and recover from fire damage.

### RISK TO HOMES

The USDA's *Risk to Homes*, "... measures the relative consequence of wildfire to residential structures everywhere on the landscape, whether a home actually exists there or not." All areas are taken into consideration based on wildfire likelihood and intensity simulation models, this way future construction can be taken into account. Homes in Walla Walla County have, on average, a greater risk than 87% of counties in the US, and a greater risk than 61% of counties in Washington state.<sup>57</sup>

---

<sup>56</sup> <https://wildfirerisk.org/explore/wildfire-likelihood/53/53071/>

<sup>57</sup> <https://wildfirerisk.org/explore/risk-to-homes/53/53071/>

## RISK REDUCTION ZONES

The USDA's *Risk Reduction Zones* model expresses the "... areas where mitigation activities will be most effective at protecting homes and other buildings from wildfires." The zones are calculated using the following criteria: "Risk Reduction Zones are based on the interplay between wildfire likelihood, flammable vegetation, and populated areas. Wildfires can start in any zone and pose a risk to homes and communities. We calculate the number of buildings in each Risk Reduction Zone based on building footprints within the political boundary of the selected location." In Walla Walla County, 57% of buildings are found to be at minimal exposure to wildfire while 15% of buildings are considered at indirect exposure, and 28% of buildings are at direct exposure. The figure below shows the buildings by what exposure level they represent as well as areas where flammable vegetation may exist to expose homes to wildfire.<sup>58</sup>

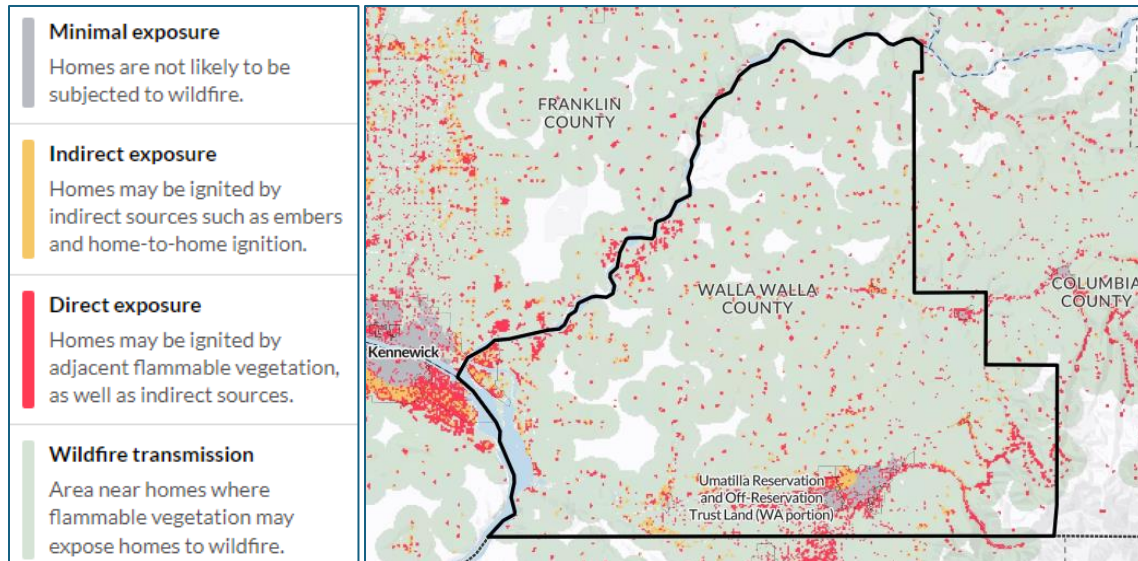


Figure 4: Risk Reduction Zones in Walla Walla County

## CITY OF COLLEGE PLACE

The impacts of wildland fire that affect Walla Walla County can also impact the city of College Place. The city has recognized some areas of wildfire vulnerability in some privately owned stream areas, including Garrison Creek, the Stone Creek area near Walmart, and wooded areas in some HOAs. Homestead Acres HOA and Villages at Garrison Creek HOA both own nature areas

<sup>58</sup> <https://wildfirerisk.org/explore/risk-reduction-zones/53/53071/>



containing old growth forest. The Homestead nature area is 8 acres, while the Villages nature area is 12 acres. These are densely wooded areas that could burn and threaten homes in a wildfire event. Based on visual analysis of the *Risk Reduction Zones* tool, both the Villages at Garrison Creek HOA and the Homestead Acres HOA fall in a “direct exposure” zone. Thus, these areas are prime candidates for locations in College Place where wildfire mitigation projects are likely to make a positive impact.

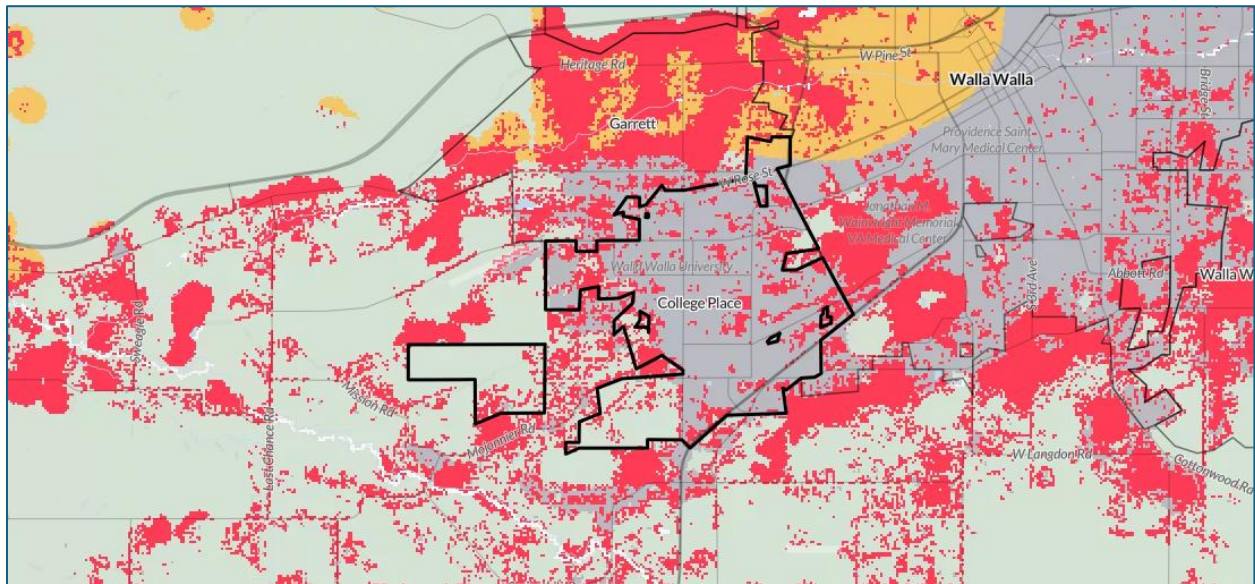


Figure 5: Risk Reduction Zones in College Place

The *Risk to Homes* model for College Place finds that the city has on average, greater risk than 63% of communities in Washington state, and greater risk than 22% of communities in the county. Despite urban areas in the city, there are areas where the model shows some risk to homes.<sup>59</sup> The *Risk Reduction Zones* model for College Place finds that 6% of all buildings are considered to be at direct exposure to wildfire (204 buildings) and 3% of all buildings are at indirect exposure (103 buildings).<sup>60</sup>

## CITY OF PRESCOTT

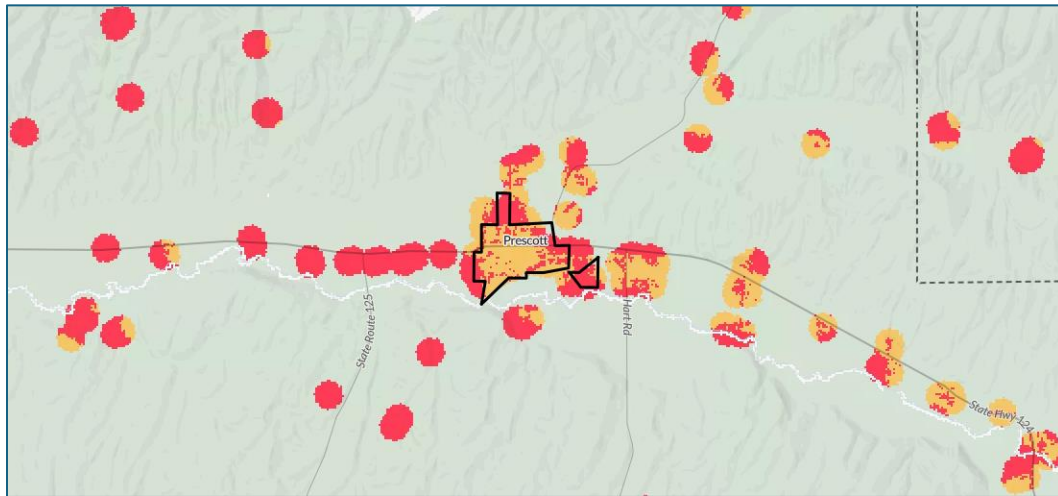
The impacts of wildland fire that affect Walla Walla County can also impact the city of Prescott. Because of the potential for intense fire behavior in the Prescott area, there is a high risk to homes. The *Risk to Homes* model reports that homes in Prescott have on average a greater risk

---

<sup>59</sup> <https://wildfirerisk.org/explore/risk-to-homes/53/53071/5300013855/>

<sup>60</sup> <https://wildfirerisk.org/explore/risk-reduction-zones/53/53071/5300013855/>

than 75% of communities in Washington state and greater risk than 78% of communities in the county.<sup>61</sup> The *Risk Reduction Zones* model for Prescott shows that most buildings in the city limits fall in the indirect exposure category (81%, 194 buildings) with 19% of all buildings (46 buildings) in the direct exposure category.<sup>62</sup>



**Figure 6: Risk Reduction Zones in Prescott**

---

<sup>61</sup> <https://wildfirerisk.org/explore/risk-to-homes/53/53071/5300056240/>

<sup>62</sup> <https://wildfirerisk.org/explore/risk-reduction-zones/53/53071/5300056240/>



## CITY OF WAITSBURG

The impacts of wildland fire that affect Walla Walla County can also impact the city of Waitsburg. The *Risk Reduction Zones* model for Waitsburg reports that many of the buildings (77%) are at minimal exposure to wildfire and thus unlikely to be subjected to wildfire. However, 23% of all buildings in Waitsburg (183 buildings) are considered at direct exposure to wildfire. These buildings are predominantly located around the edges of the city limits.<sup>63</sup>

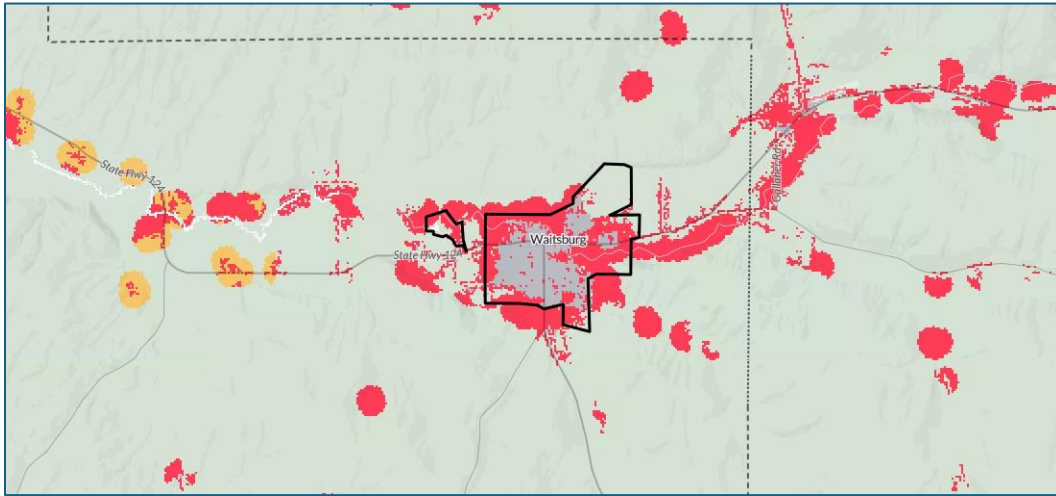


Figure 7: Risk Reduction Zones in Waitsburg

---

<sup>63</sup> <https://wildfirerisk.org/explore/risk-reduction-zones/53/53071/5300075565/>

## CITY OF WALLA WALLA

The impacts of wildland fire that affect Walla Walla County can also impact the city of Walla Walla. The *Risk Reduction Zones* model for Walla Walla reports that most buildings in the city fall in the minimal exposure zone (82%). The model also puts 11% of buildings in the indirect exposure zone. This is more than 1,400 buildings, mostly located in the northwest part of the city. The model places 7% of buildings in the direct exposure zone (978 buildings) and these are spread mostly along the less urban parts of the city and along the city limit edges.<sup>64</sup>

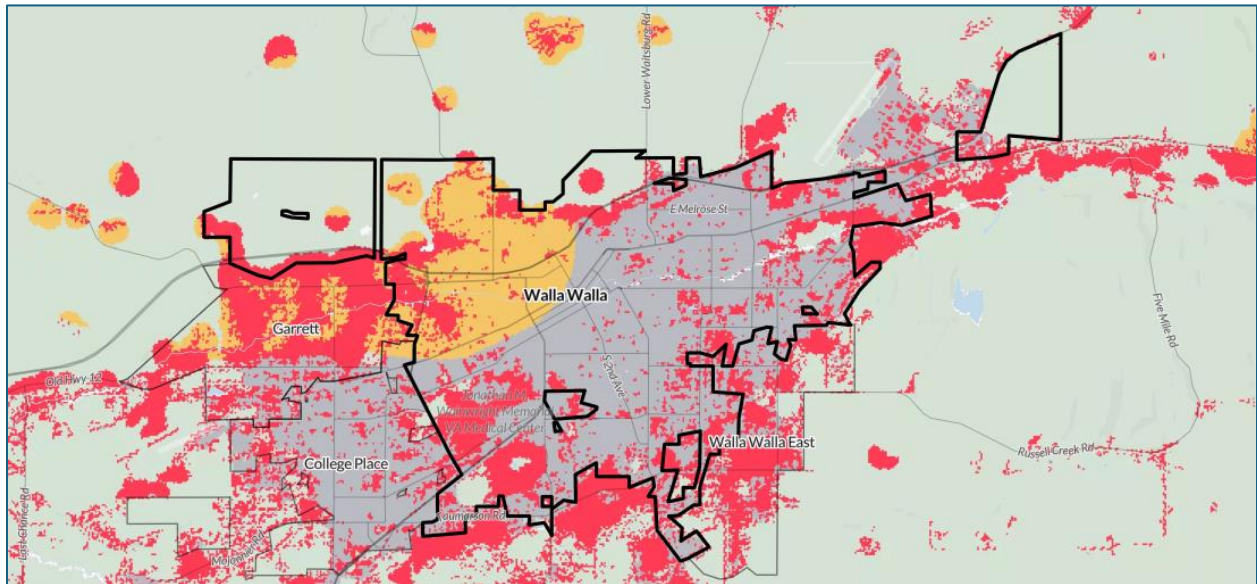


Figure 8: Risk Reduction Zones in the city of Walla Walla

## WALLA WALLA SCHOOL DISTRICT

The impacts of wildland fire that affect Walla Walla County can also impact the Walla Walla School District, especially disruptions in travel, wildfire smoke creating unhealthy air quality, and in the event of evacuations. Many school district properties fall within the indirect and direct exposure zones expressed in the *Risk Reduction Zones* model for Walla Walla County.

## WALLA WALLA CONSERVATION DISTRICT

The impacts of wildland fire that affect Walla Walla County can also impact the Walla Walla Conservation District, primarily the impacts to natural resources and the environment that are mentioned in the Walla Walla County discussion. Wildfires are capable of destroying agricultural

---

<sup>64</sup> <https://wildfirerisk.org/explore/risk-reduction-zones/53/53071/5300075775/>

lands in a short period of time, due to the fuel structure of wheat fields, CRP fields, and other agricultural lands. Many of the recent fires in Walla Walla County have directly impacted agricultural properties, often burning at vegetation-replacement severity before being contained.

---

## RESOURCES AT RISK

Table 16: Expected Annual Loss Values for Wildfire as reported by the FEMA National Risk Index<sup>65</sup>

EAL Total	Building Value	Population Equivalence	Agricultural Value
\$182,231	\$181,930	\$38	\$263

FEMA’s *Expected Annual Loss* calculation uses a multiplicative equation that factors in *Exposure*, *Annualized Frequency*, and *Historical Loss Ratio*. Building and agricultural values are measured in dollars. *Exposure* considers the representative value of buildings and agricultural potentially exposed to wildfire, *Annualized Frequency* represents the expected frequency of a wildfire event, and *Historic Loss Ratio* represents estimated percentages of building and agricultural values that are exposed and would be expected to be lost in wildfire occurrence.<sup>66</sup>

### CITY OF COLLEGE PLACE

Parcel values that intersect the College Place city limits total more than \$1.33 billion. A wildfire event could impact several city resources including water system storage (Reservoir #4 and Well #7). The city may need additional water storage, future reservoirs, and wells. Improvements could be made to increase fire hydrant capacity on the west side of town, like West Whitman Drive and SW Owens Road.

### CITY OF PRESCOTT

Parcel values that intersect the city limits of Prescott total \$29,870,900. The agricultural resources in the Prescott area are at risk from wildfire and agricultural losses would impact the economy of the area. Transportation routes, like SR 124, are local resources at risk of disruption or temporary closure during a wildfire event.

### CITY OF WAITSBURG

Parcel values that intersect the city limits of Waitsburg total \$152,919,514. The local water supply has been impacted by fire events in the past and is a valuable resource at short and long term

---

<sup>65</sup> <https://hazards.fema.gov/nri/report/viewer?dataLOD=Counties&dataIDs=C53071#SectionExpectedAnnualLoss>

<sup>66</sup> <https://hazards.fema.gov/nri/expected-annual-loss>

risk to wildfire. The agricultural resources in the Waitsburg area are at risk from wildfire and agricultural losses would impact the economy of the area. Transportation routes, like US 12 and SR 124, are local resources at risk of disruption or temporary closure during a wildfire event.

#### CITY OF WALLA WALLA

Parcel values that intersect the city limits of Walla Walla total more than \$4.5 billion. One very valuable resource to the city is the Mill Creek Watershed. About 90% of the municipal water supply comes from the watershed and many essential services, such as the hospital, depend solely on the municipal water supply. A significant wildland fire would likely threaten the city's primary water source for an extended period of time. Fire responders across multiple agencies have responded to and contained numerous fires in the watershed over the past several fire seasons.

#### WALLA WALLA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Parcel values owned by the school district total more than \$104 million. There are many buildings across the campuses of the school district's nine schools as well as sports facilities, buses, and technology that all could be at risk of wildfire damage, however, school district officials don't see wildfire as a likely direct threat to these assets. The water supply for Walla Walla is an essential resource at risk for the school district.

#### WALLA WALLA CONSERVATION DISTRICT

The primary concern of the conservation district is the natural resources in the county and therefore the main resources at risk to the conservation district are the natural features, soils, wildlife and wildlife habitat, agricultural lands, water resources, vegetation, fisheries, and other natural resources. There are land values at risk to wildfire in the county, including agricultural and non-agricultural property values. These values are noted in Table 4 in the *Expected Annual Loss* discussion for Walla Walla County.

---

#### CHANGES IN LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT

A significant shift in land use, especially as it relates to wildfire vulnerability, is the number of people living in remote areas of the county in areas surrounded by wildland fuels and far away from fire responders. This increases both human and structure exposure to wildfire. More than half of homes and buildings in the county are still located in the "minimal exposure zone" mentioned in the *Risk Reduction Zones* discussion, but areas of higher wildfire probability are seeing increasing numbers of full- and part-time residents. Also, in the event of a wildfire event, first responders are now faced with a remote, sometimes unknown human population that must be assisted or evacuated.

Another way that land use changes have impacted wildland fire vulnerability is in the trend toward agricultural lands in the vicinity of Walla Walla (city) being repurposed for residential or clustered development. These lands naturally contain fine wildland fuels when not being cultivated for agricultural purposes and more homes or other structures in these types of wildland fuel environments increase exposure and wildfire vulnerability. The area around the cities of Walla Walla and College Place are considered “wildfire transmission” zones, or areas where “... flammable vegetation may expose homes to wildfire.” As homes and structures are built in these areas there will likely be more buildings in the “direct exposure” zones that are already common around the cities as well.<sup>67</sup>

---

### *CLIMATE CHANGE*

The USDA Northwest Climate Hub website discusses how climate is inextricably related to wildfire both in the past, present, and future: “Climate and wildfire have been strongly related in the past, and changes in climate will affect future fire frequency and severity. Climate change will result in longer wildfire seasons, increased wildfire frequency, size, and total area burned, and possibly increased wildfire severity.”<sup>68</sup>

Some ways that changes in the climate might be expected to impact the wildfire hazard risk in Walla Walla County include increased temperatures, more frequent drought events, warmer springs leading to faster snowmelt, reduced winter snowpack, and drier soils and vegetation leading to lower wildland fuel moistures. Longer, hotter, and drier fire seasons are anticipated to be the general trend, though there will not necessarily be an exponential increase each year and some fluctuation is still expected. Increased wind events are a concern for Walla Walla County as wind is a major factor in rapid fire spread in the grass- and brush-type fuels that are prevalent in the county.

---

### *SOCIAL VULNERABILITY*

Social Vulnerability refers to the demographic and socioeconomic factors (such as poverty, lack of access to transportation, and crowded housing) that adversely affect communities that encounter hazards and other community-level stressors.<sup>69</sup> The FEMA National Risk Index reports that Social Vulnerability in Walla Walla County is “Relatively High”. This is based on social groups

---

<sup>67</sup> <https://wildfirerisk.org/explore/risk-reduction-zones/53/53071/5300075775/>

<sup>68</sup> <https://www.climatehubs.usda.gov/hubs/northwest/topic/climate-change-and-wildfire-idaho-oregon-and-washington>

<sup>69</sup> <https://hazards.fema.gov/social-vulnerability>

in Walla Walla County having a “Relatively High susceptibility to the adverse impacts of natural hazards when compared to the rest of the U.S.”<sup>70</sup> This calculation is not specific to any one hazard.

Walla Walla County has a homeless population mostly residing in urban areas. Wildland fire may not be a direct hazard risk to these people, but the indirect impacts of wildfire may cause more significant hardship for the poor and homeless. The most significant factor might be decreased air quality during fire season. The homeless are not always able to go indoors to escape poor air quality and if they also have compromised health this will pose even greater challenges.

The *Wildfire Risk to Communities* tool also offers a *Vulnerable Populations* model that looks at, “social and economic factors that can make it more difficult for some people to prepare for, respond to, and recover from wildfire.” These populations include people who experience some or all of a variety of social and medical challenges. In Walla Walla County, there are areas within Walla Walla County that rank above the local median in the following categories:<sup>71</sup>

Limited English	Over 65 years of age
People of color	Disabilities
No car	Mobile homes
Under 5 years old	Poverty

---

<sup>70</sup> <https://hazards.fema.gov/nri/map>

<sup>71</sup> <https://wildfirerisk.org/explore/vulnerable-populations/53/53071/>

## FLOODING HAZARD OVERVIEW

Table 17: FEMA Hazard Summary Rating Worksheet for Flood

Adopting Jurisdiction	Location (Geographic Area Affected)	Maximum Probable Extent (Magnitude/Strength)	Probability of Future Events	Overall Significance Ranking
Walla Walla County	3	3.5	3	9.5
City of College Place	3	3	2	8
City of Prescott				
City of Waitsburg	3	3	4	10
City of Walla Walla	4	3	4	11
Walla Walla Public Schools	1	1	1	3
Walla Walla County Conservation District	2	3	4	9
<b>Ranking Value</b>	1 – Negligible 2 – Limited 3 – Significant 4 – Extensive	1 – Weak 2 – Moderate 3 – Severe 4 – Extreme	1 – Unlikely 2 – Occasional 3 – Likely 4 – Highly Likely	3 to 5 – Low 6 to 8 – Medium 9 to 12 – High

Flooding occurs when an overflow of water submerges land that was previously dry. This typically occurs when the volume of water within a water body, such as a river or lake, exceeds its capacity. Walla Walla County is susceptible to riverine and flash flooding. Flooding can also occur as a result of dam failure.

Flooding in Walla Walla County is most likely to occur in winter and spring when localized rainstorms, snowmelt, and/or rain-on-snow events can overwhelm channels with rapid runoff. Frozen soil conditions are often present during these periods and help to increase the volume and rate of runoff by preventing infiltration. With deeper snowpack conditions or spring snowfall events large volumes of water can result in flood events that can last several days.

There have been four severe floods in Walla Walla County since about 1925. These floods took place in March 1931, December 1964, February 1996 and February 2020. Primary flood hazard areas include Mill Creek, the Touchet River, and Coppei Creek.

---

### FLOODPLAIN

Most flood damage occurs in floodplains. Much of the development within Walla Walla County occurs near streams in low-lying areas and often times floodplains which increases the risk of damage by rising water. The floodway and 100-year floodplain are the two areas most likely to experience flooding. The floodway experiences frequent inundation and within Walla Walla County construction is not permitted within this zone.

A 100-year floodplain is defined as a 1% annual probability of flooding. Recent studies suggest an increased risk to infrastructure can be anticipated during the 21<sup>st</sup> century as a result of climate change. The floodway and the 100-yr floodplain have been mapped for Walla Walla County by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). However, with a few exceptions, floodplain and floodway boundaries have not been reassessed since their initial mapping in 1983.



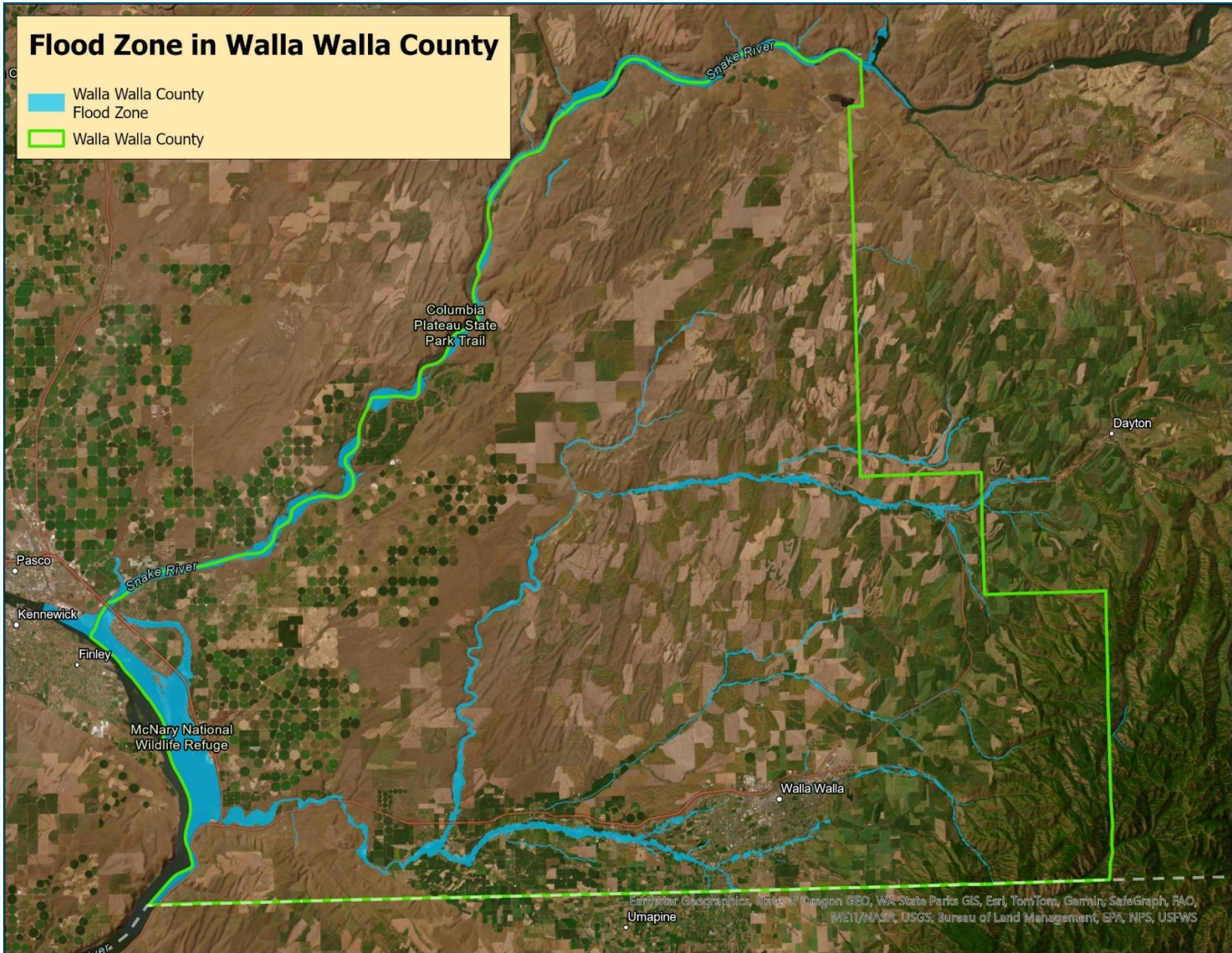


Figure 9: National Flood Hazard Layer (Flood Zone) in Walla Walla County

---

## FEDERAL DAMS

Mill Creek Dam is currently classified as Low Risk by the National Inventory of Dams.<sup>72</sup> The Hazard Potential Classification is High due to the potential hazard to the downstream area resulting from failure or mis-operation of the dam or facilities – not because of the condition of the dam or the risk of the dam failing. The last inspection date was conducted on 10/22/2022 and the last Emergency Action Plan was revised on 07/07/2022; it meets FEMA guidelines.

Ice Harbor Lock and Dam on the Snake River is currently classified as Low Risk by the National Inventory of Dams. The Hazard Potential Classification is High due to the potential hazard to the downstream area resulting from failure or mis-operation of the dam or facilities – not because of the condition of the dam or the risk of the dam failing. The last inspection date is 05/08/2024 and the last Emergency Action Plan was revised on 07/07/2022; it meets FEMA guidelines.

---

## RECENT EVENT HISTORY

### *12/30/17 – TOUCHET*

On December 29 and 30 a weather system brought 3 to 4 inches of heavy rain to the Blue Mountains. This resulted in a swift increase in flows in streams and creeks, with the Walla Walla River near Touchet rising to 14.2 feet, exceeding the flood stage of 13 feet on December 30. A FEMA Disaster Declaration was made for this flood event which caused damage in 15 counties across Washington. Walla Walla County was given \$21.63 per capita to repair or replace facilities damaged by the flood.

### *2/5/2018 – TOUCHET*

On February 1 through February 4, two to three inches of rain fell in the Blue Mountains causing the Walla Walla River to briefly hit the flood stage of 13 feet on February 5. There were no property damage, injuries, or deaths associated with this event.

### *4/9/2019 – KOOSKOOSKIE*

On April 9, minor flooding was reported on Titus Creek after the above-normal snowpack in the Blue Mountains began melting in warm weather. On the same day the Touchet River changed course and began eroding nearby buildings. This event caused the flooding of a tractor and two

---

<sup>72</sup> <https://nid.sec.usace.army.mil/#/>



buildings to fall into the river. This amounted to \$150,000 in property damage and \$2000 of crop damage.

*2/6/2020 – TOUCHET*

On February 4 and 5 there was heavy snow followed by over 8 inches of heavy rain on February 5 through 7. This caused extensive flooding throughout the region especially on Mill Creek, the Walla Walla River, and the Touchet River. The Kooskooskie gage in Mill Creek recorded a new record flow of 7,050 cfs (cubic feet per second). Extensive damage occurred on upper Mill Creek to homes, roads, and bridges. There were no direct injuries or deaths associated with this event, but many residents had to be rescued from homes. In Waitsburg, the Touchet River and Coppei Creek flooded because the levees became damaged which led to the damage of 60 homes along with many roads and bridges. At its peak, the Walla Walla River reached 20.26 feet, over 7 feet above the flood stage of 13 feet. The total damage from this event is estimated at 8.77 million dollars. A FEMA Disaster Declaration was made for this flood event which caused damage in 15 counties across Washington. Walla Walla County was given \$98.50 per capita for damage repair.



Figure 10: Images of 2020 flood damage

### *6/14/2022 – KOOSKOOSKIE*

On June 14, after a persistent rain, flooding occurred near Langdon. There were no property damage, injuries, or deaths associated with this event but reports of flooding along roadways were reported.

### *JUNE 2022 – COTTONWOOD CREEK*

Record-breaking rains in June of 2022 caused flooding of Cottonwood Creek along Old Milton Highway, south of College Place. Flooding led to erosion and minor damage to private property, requiring cleanup of pastures, yards, and basements.<sup>73</sup>

---

## **PROBABILITY OF OCCURRENCE**

Flood hazard probabilities were assessed for the 2018 MHMP and this analysis was reaffirmed for the 2022 Walla Walla Flood Response Plan and the probability of flood damage occurring within Walla Walla County within the next 25 years is reported as HIGH. During the 2024 MHMP update, the probability of future flood events was rated as “Likely” for Walla Walla County overall. The cities of Walla Walla and Waitsburg were rated as “Highly Likely”. This is consistent with past hazard assessments and planning efforts.

---

### *WALLA WALLA RIVER FLOODING*

The largest recorded flood on the Walla Walla River occurred in February 1996 and had a stage of 20.58 ft. Flooding of the Walla Walla River also occurred in January of 1965, as well as 1906, 1931, 1949, 1951, 1972, 1997, and 2020. Most flood damage on the lower Walla Walla River are related to various types of road and bridge impacts, bank and field erosion, and sediment deposition. The 2022 Walla Walla Flood Response Plan lists the probability of occurrence as MEDIUM.

### **TOUCHET RIVER**

In Walla Walla County, flooding of the Touchet River has mainly caused damage in the communities of Prescott and Waitsburg. Flooding also causes various types of roads and bridge damage, bank and field erosion, and sediment deposition along the Touchet River to the Walla Walla River. Widespread severe damage and disruptions occurred in Waitsburg during the flood

---

73 [https://www.union-bulletin.com/news/local/governments/old-milton-highway-residents-want-solutions-after-walla-walla-creeks-flooded-in-mid-june/article\\_c54e0862-f36d-11ec-a047-8b157c0245c7.html](https://www.union-bulletin.com/news/local/governments/old-milton-highway-residents-want-solutions-after-walla-walla-creeks-flooded-in-mid-june/article_c54e0862-f36d-11ec-a047-8b157c0245c7.html)

of February 1996. The 2022 Walla Walla Flood Response Plan lists the probability of occurrence as MEDIUM.

---

### *COPPEI CREEK*

Coppei Creek has experienced significant flooding several times. The flows and levels on Coppei Creek are not gauged. However, it is known that Coppei Creek contributed to the severe level of damage in Waitsburg during the floods of February 1996 and February 2020. The creek left its channel and was diverted down Coppei Avenue where it collected behind the existing levee along the Touchet River causing damages to local structures. Other Coppei flood problems were related to road and bridge damage, bank and field erosion, and sediment deposition. Using high water marks, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has estimated the February 1996 peak flood discharge on Coppei Creek to have been about 1,700 cfs. The 2022 Walla Walla Flood Response Plan lists the probability of occurrence as MEDIUM.

---

### *MILL CREEK*

Due to the topography of its watershed, Mill Creek tends to have short duration, high volume-flood events. The largest of these floods are usually caused by prolonged intense rainfall on saturated soils, or rapid snowmelt in conjunction with rain and warming temperatures. The FEMA Flood Insurance Study reported in 1983 stated Mill Creek flow exceeded the bank-full capacity (600 cfs) 29 times out of 36 years of records. The 1931 flood that impacted the City of Walla Walla and spurred the construction of the Mill Creek Reservoir was partially in response to the hydrology of the Mill Creek Watershed. The USACE completed the Mill Creek flood control project in 1942 diverting a portion of Mill Creek floodwaters to Bennington Lake reservoir and successfully decreasing discharges through the City of Walla Walla. Flows in Garrison, Russell, and Yellowhawk Creeks are also controlled by this project. The project consists primarily of a constructed concrete floodwater conveyance channel with a 5,400 csf capacity through the City of Walla Walla. This channel is now aging and in many areas of the city it needs significant repairs or reconstruction to remain functional.

Major flood events on Mill Creek have occurred in 1931, 1964, 1996, and 2020. The City of Walla Walla sustained only minor damages during the February 1996 and February 2020 flood due to the operation of the diversion and detention system. Mill Creek has regularly caused damaging impacts in the Kooskooskie area due to infrastructure and private dwellings occurring within flood zones. Mill Creek flooding has also consistently led to bank undercutting and erosion downstream of the City of Walla Walla. The 2022 Walla Walla Flood Response Plan lists the probability of occurrence as HIGH.

---

### *YELLOWHAWK, COTTONWOOD, RUSSELL, GARRISON, AND RESER CREEKS*

There is little flooding data available regarding flows on Garrison, Yellowhawk, Cottonwood, Russell, and Reser Creeks. Flows in Russell, Garrison, and Yellowhawk Creeks are partially regulated by the Mill Creek Diversion and Reservoir project. In the absence of the USACE project the causes and frequency of flooding on these creeks would be expected to be similar to Mill Creek. The 1983 FEMA FIS reported that there was evidence of at least five floods in the last 50 years. These were in 1926, 1927, 1931, 1949, and 1964. The largest flood may have occurred in 1949. Only nuisance flooding was reported in these drainages during 1996. The 2022 Walla Walla Flood Response Plan lists the probability of occurrence as LOW. However, repeated spring creek flooding has increased as recently as 2022 and resulted in erosion and some damage to private properties, especially in the Cottonwood Creek area.

---

### *FLASH FLOODING*

Flash floods are characterized by a rapid rise in water level that exceeds bank-full capacity of any measurable water course (i.e., stream, river, dry ravine). In an extreme case, a flash flood could be a wall of water moving down a steep canyon or ravine. Flash floods are common in areas of steep terrain and alluvial fans. Flash floods are distinguished from other types of flooding by the short time frame in which they can develop and intensify. They can occur within a short time ( $\leq$  six hours) of a rain event or following a sudden release of water held by an ice or debris dam. There is often little warning of a flash flood.

The brief, intense rainfall from a thunderstorm is usually the cause of a flash flood. Inadequate urban drainage systems increase the likelihood of flash food. In urban environments where vegetation has been removed, where bridges and culverts constrict flow, or where buildings and paving have greatly expanded impermeable surfaces, there is an increased flash flood risk. Several factors contribute to flash flooding. Two key elements are rainfall intensity and duration. As discussed above, other factors include topography, soil conditions, and ground cover.

Currently, development regulations are in place which limit impervious surface, plan for flooding, and require that storm-water run-off is contained within property boundaries and not allowed to flow onto adjacent roadways and properties. These regulations are enforced by local public works and planning departments under a general stormwater permit and implementing guidance from Washington State Department of Ecology.

Damage from localized flash flooding would most likely be contained to a relatively small area or drainage and vulnerability has been significantly reduced for many areas due to state and local flooding and storm water regulations.

The National Weather Service has reported three flash flood events since the year 2000: April 23, 2005, in the Waitsburg area, May 8, 2005, in the City of Walla Walla area, and July 16, 2012, near Touchet. No damage was reported in the Waitsburg incident, and the City of Walla Walla reported approximately \$20,000 in damages. The Touchet incident was caused by thunderstorms that produced 1-2 inches of rain suddenly in isolated areas. Flash floods and mudslides caused damage to several county roads and completely submerged a parked pickup. The 2022 Walla Walla Flood Response Plan lists the overall probability of a flash flood event as MEDIUM.

## FLOODING VULNERABILITY

Local, state, and federal agencies have taken steps to reduce the vulnerability of flooding for both municipal and rural jurisdictions. These jurisdictions can regulate development within the floodplain through construction standards and critical-area regulations, increase the communities’ flood disaster preparedness, plan response, conduct mitigation projects, encourage participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and educate the public. All these activities reduce vulnerability.

## NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

Walla Walla County and the four cities listed in the table below participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). As defined by the NFIP, there are no “repetitive loss”, or “severe repetitive loss” properties located within Walla Walla County’s planning area.

Table 18: Summary of National Flood Insurance Program Participation

Community Name	Policies in Force	Total Coverage	Total Written Premium + FPF	Total Annual Payment
Walla Walla County	115	\$32,343,000	\$105,039	\$128,994
City of College Place	6	\$1,535,000	\$3,457	\$4,178
City of Prescott	4	\$670,000	\$4,371	\$5,450
City of Waitsburg	39	\$7,741,000	\$48,489	\$60,111
City of Walla Walla	13	\$5,150,000	\$8,870	\$11,132
Description	Definition			
Policies in Force	The number of policies in force for a given state and combination of attributes.			
Total Annual Payment	This represents the sum of submitted written premium, discounts, fees, assessments and surcharges.			
Total Coverage	The total building and contents coverage for the policies in force.			

<b>Total Written Premium + FPF</b>	This represents the sum of the premium and FPF (federal policy fee) for the policies in force.
------------------------------------	--

For Walla Walla County, in response to the flood events of 1996, the County worked with other agencies to develop the *Walla Walla County Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan (CFHMP)*, completed in 1999. This plan presents a comprehensive floodplain management strategy regarding flood hazards and providing guidance for mitigation actions. Additionally, in June 2009 the first phase of the Walla Walla County Flood Response plan (FRP) was adopted. The first phase focused on Mill Creek but additional phases addressing the Walla Walla, Touchet, and Coppei Rivers are planned. The FRP provides a plan for response to a flood event on Mill Creek but also supports efforts to “develop community awareness and understanding of flood hazards” which is a key component in mitigating flood hazards and reducing vulnerability.

The Walla Walla County Flood Response Plan was written in 2022 with the stated purpose to “... provide a framework for the effective utilization of government and private sector resources to mitigate, respond to, and recover from flooding events; protect lives, property, and preserve the environment.” This plan addresses both flood response and flood mitigation and integrated the analysis done for the 2018 MHMP.

---

**IMPACTS**

**WALLA WALLA COUNTY**

Future floods may threaten lives, damage property, and impact transportation infrastructure located in floodways and within 100- and 500-year floodplain zones. Although the total population of the county is not directly exposed to this hazard, the effect of the hazard will affect all residents indirectly.

Flooding has both immediate and short-term impacts as well as long-term impacts throughout the county. For example, flooding in 2020 cut off roadways which had multiple layers of impact:

- disrupting daily life and regular travel patterns,
- affecting commerce and impacting economic functions, and
- preventing or delaying emergency response.

Long-term impacts include damage to roads, bridges, structures, and to the landscape through erosion. The 2020 floods damaged a bridge and washed out a hiking trail at Harris Park. The bridge was repaired but the bank where the trails were located has eroded and the trails have not been replaced. Flooding has had other environmental impacts. Work had been completed



along Mill Creek to improve roads and build fish conservation infrastructure. Soon after, 2020 flood events destroyed much of that work.

Over the last decade, residents have reported to the Walla Walla County Conservation District incidents of damage due to high flow events or “flashier” flood events. Most often these events occur during or shortly after a significant amount of precipitation coupled with rapid warm winds, called Chinook winds. The events seem to be more volatile and their frequency increasing. In spring 2017, one of these events resulted in damage to existing infrastructure and loss of economic land with an estimated cost of \$1.3 million to repair the damage; acres of land lost to rapid erosion cannot be replaced.

Waterways naturally move but a concern is that movement is impacting private property, residences, and undermining roads and bridge abutments. Levees, armored banks, and channelization of waterways send river energy downstream and can exacerbate erosion and damage from these events. For example, the levee system that protects the town of Waitsburg from flooding has been implicated in the rapid erosion occurring on the reach between the town and the Bolles Bridge.

There is a common expectation that Dixie could experience significant flooding resulting from a heavy rain event.

#### CITY OF COLLEGE PLACE

Flooding can have impacts on employee availability especially for emergency and medical service workers who are vital for first response after a disaster.

Flooding has also been seen to close sections of roads throughout the city which disrupts transportation and can strand residents in their houses. Some roads such as NW Evans, NW Destito Court, NW Earl Lane, and SW Puff Lane have seen repetitive flooding. The Public Works yard where equipment is located is in a low part of town and at risk to flooding.

#### CITY OF PRESCOTT

The Touchet River which runs just south of Prescott occasionally floods which mostly causes damage to roads, bridges, and causes erosion.

#### CITY OF WAITSBURG

The eastern section of Waitsburg is vulnerable as seen during the 2020 flood as well as erosion caused by the flood water as it goes through the town’s levee system.

#### CITY OF WALLA WALLA

The hospital has seen employee and patient transportation issues during flood events and employees needing time off work to recover and sheltering for some. Modeling suggests that a Mill Creek Dam failure would significantly increase the risk to the hospital campus.

#### WALLA WALLA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Flooding can have impacts on the school buildings and facilities but most of the impacts will be disruptions to students from canceled school. School could be canceled due to disrupted transportation infrastructure, which could result in teachers unable to report to work.

#### WALLA WALLA CONSERVATION DISTRICT

A flood event can lead to a significant influx of sedimentation, and both point and non-point source pollution, including harmful chemicals such as herbicides and pesticides used by nearby crop growers. Additionally, flooding can result in culvert failure, disrupting fish passage and affecting their sensitive habitat requirements. Severe flooding may also cause substantial damage to crops, potentially leading to total loss.

---

### RESOURCES AT RISK

#### WALLA WALLA COUNTY

Official county parcel data and the National Flood Hazard Layer (commonly referred to as the “flood zone”) were used to analyze values of resources at risk to flood. The analysis showed that as of 2024, Walla Walla County recorded 2,737 parcels with an assessed value that intersected with the flood zone. The value of these parcels totaled more than \$1.1 billion county wide. Some of these properties are owned by major industrial companies, colleges, and governmental authorities. Not all properties that intersect with the flood zone have the same risk of flood damage or vulnerability in the event of a flood, despite their proximity in the flood zone.

A structure data layer was updated in 2024 that represents all structures 450 sq. ft. or larger in Walla Walla County. Using this layer, analysis shows that 1,000 structures in the county intersect with the flood zone. Not all these structures are located completely or even primarily in the flood zone, as some are only partially touching the flood zone. The table below summarizes the structures located in the flood zone based on how they are classified by the County Assessor.

Table 19: Structures in Flood Zone in Walla Walla County by Classification

Structure Classification	Number of Structures
Agriculture	199
Commercial	33
Education	4
Government	11
Industrial	43

Structure Classification	Number of Structures
Residential	677
Unclassified	33
All	1000

### CITY OF COLLEGE PLACE

The Public Works Yard, where equipment is stored is located in a low-lying part of town. There are 24 parcels that intersect both the city of College Place and the flood zone that have assessed values. These property values combine to almost \$13.4 million.

### CITY OF PRESCOTT

Flooding impacts to roads and bridges can create issues with transportation if there is significant enough damage. Sedimentation from the river can also affect water quality as it drains into the Walla Walla River. There are 46 parcels that intersect both the city of Prescott and the flood zone that have assessed values. These property values combine to more than \$7 million.

### CITY OF WAITSBURG

Flooding impacts private residences and the transportation systems, such as in 2020 when 1/3 of the city was inundated. Property values in the flood zone within the city limits of Waitsburg total more than \$96.5 million according to county parcel data. However, it is not likely that all of these properties would be put at risk during any one flood event.

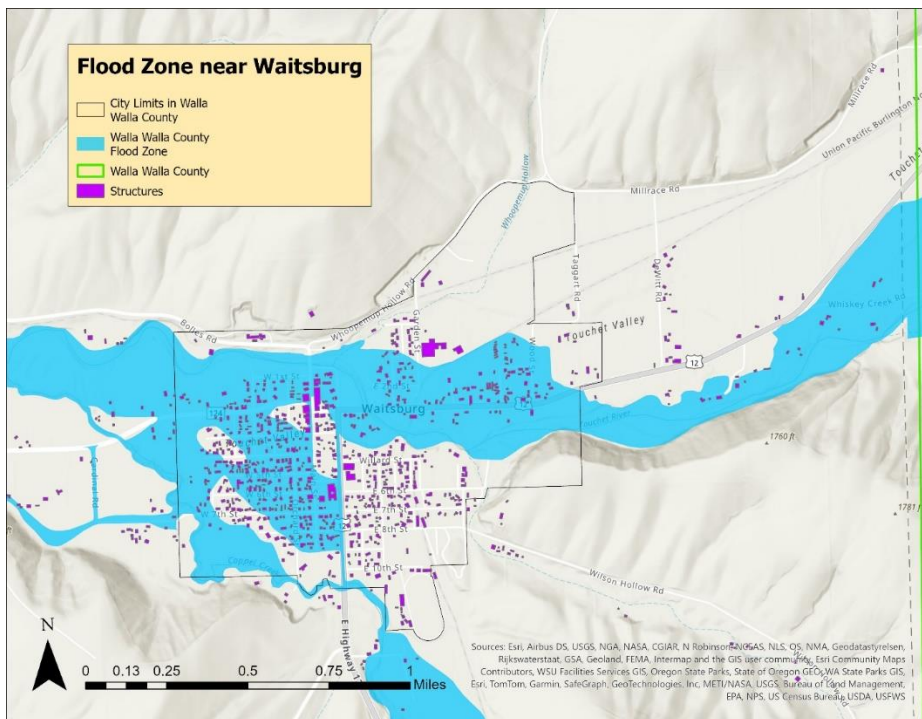


Figure 11: Flood Zone in Waitsburg Area

## CITY OF WALLA WALLA

When the water transmission line is damaged, as it was in 2020, the city must switch to well water. The hospital has generators on the bottom level which are vulnerable to a flood if it breaches the levees. Transportation systems such as roads and bridges are the main resources at risk as they are likely to be affected by floods. There are 38 parcels that intersect both the city of Walla Walla and the flood zone that have assessed values. These property values combine for more than \$44.8 million. However, four of those parcels account for almost \$34.7 million. These four properties appear to have minimal exposure to the flood zone.

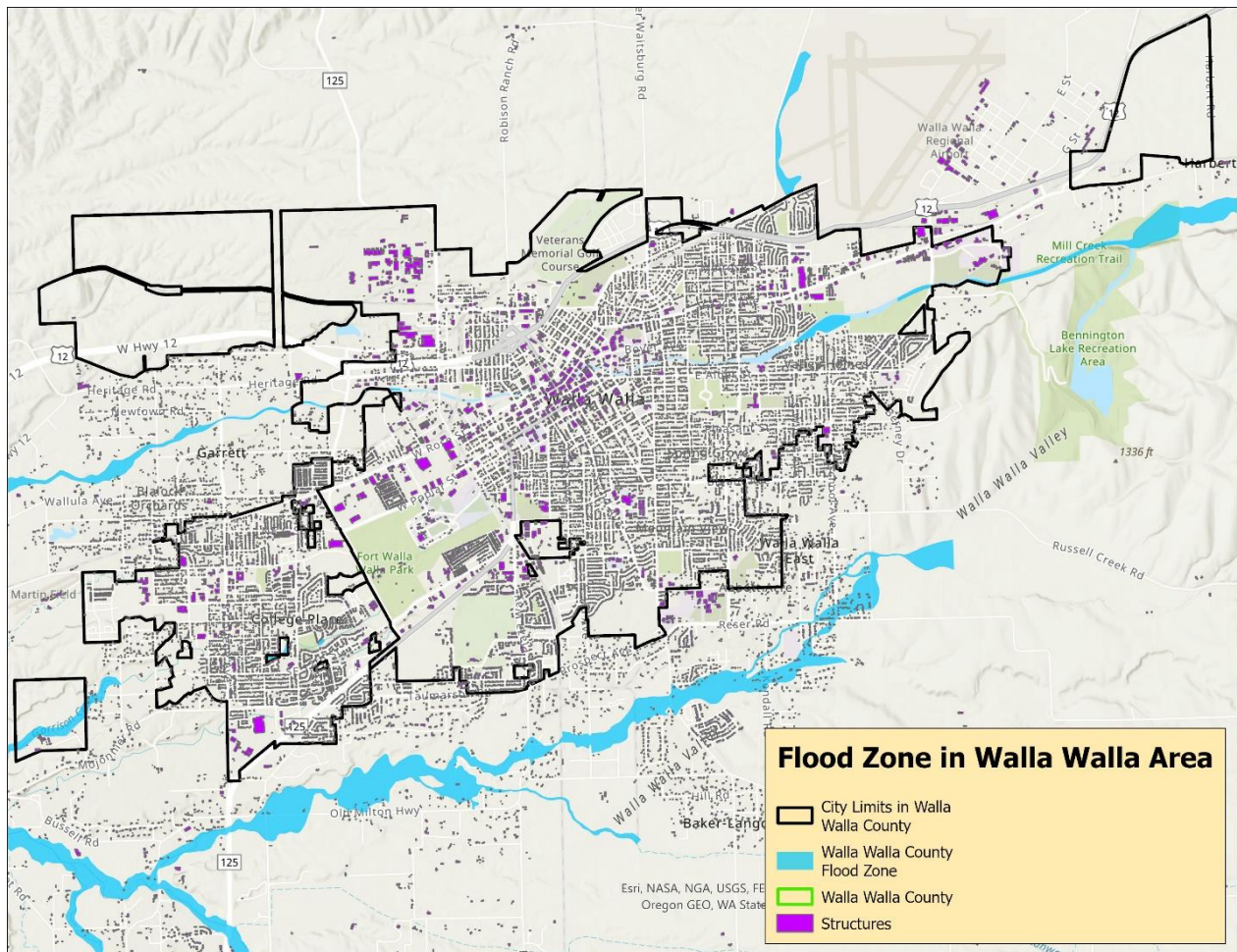


Figure 12: Flood Zone in Walla Walla Area

## WALLA WALLA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Parcel values owned by the school district total more than \$104 million, however, few of these properties are likely to be impacted by flooding. Edison Elementary is one school located nearby the FEMA flood zone along Mill Creek. A larger concern would be a disruption in services or transportation from flooding.

## WALLA WALLA CONSERVATION DISTRICT

A key resource at risk from flooding is the agricultural land that the district helps conserve. In Walla Walla County, flooding can significantly affect agricultural growers by causing direct crop damage and total loss, leading to increased costs for repairs, replacement seeds, and potentially higher insurance premiums. Additionally, flooding directly impacts waterways and overall ecosystem health.

---

### CHANGES IN LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT

A worst-case scenario of flooding could occur within Walla Walla County and is likely to have moderate to major impacts given the aging flood control infrastructure, increasing population and increased urban and rural development. Infill projects in some cities have increased the urban density, thus theoretically increasing flood exposure. However, this is only true if flood hazards were present in these areas already. Much of Waitsburg is located in the 100-year flood zone but the infill development is minimal in Waitsburg.

Some of the cities have improved a variety of infrastructure over the recent past, some in part to mitigate flood damage. Wastewater treatment facilities, drinking water treatment facilities, backup generators in key facilities, and streets are some examples of improvements that have been hardened against flood potential. Bridges in the county have been repaired and improved since damage from the 2020 flooding, including the Mill Creek Bridge near Kooskooskie and the Del Sharpe Bridge near Prescott. The Bennington Lake and Mill Creek projects overseen by the US Army Corps of Engineers are some examples of flood risk mitigation projects in the county.

---

### CLIMATE CHANGE

The Washington Department of Ecology discusses climate change and flooding on their website regarding planning for flood hazards. “Increased temperatures driven by climate change are influencing variables that contribute to flooding. Storm surges, sudden snowmelt, and atmospheric rivers can exacerbate flooding.”<sup>74</sup> Overall, increases in flood events or increases in severity of flood events due to climate change could result in more damage and higher costs of recovery. This would also necessitate greater need for pre-disaster mitigation.

---

<sup>74</sup> <https://ecology.wa.gov/air-climate/responding-to-climate-change/flood-impacts>



---

## **SOCIAL VULNERABILITY**

Social Vulnerability refers to the demographic and socioeconomic factors (such as poverty, lack of access to transportation, and crowded housing) that adversely affect communities that encounter hazards and other community-level stressors.<sup>75</sup> The FEMA National Risk Index reports that Social Vulnerability in Walla Walla County is “Relatively High”. This is based on social groups in Walla Walla County having a “Relatively High susceptibility to the adverse impacts of natural hazards when compared to the rest of the U.S.”<sup>76</sup> This calculation is not specific to any one hazard.

Areas of Walla Walla County that are subject to flooding have a strong possibility of disproportionately impacting socially vulnerable populations, including those experiencing poverty, those with compromised health, and the disabled. Flooding events in the county impact everyone, however, those who are not financially stable might experience greater challenges in recovering from flood damage to their homes and properties. Disruptions in services, utilities, and transportation due to flooding might compromise the safety of people who rely on those services for medical supplies, food and water, and healthcare. Those who do not have the means or physical ability to evacuate quickly from a flooded area are at risk to injury or death during a serious flood event.

---

<sup>75</sup> <https://hazards.fema.gov/social-vulnerability>

<sup>76</sup> <https://hazards.fema.gov/nri/map>

## 6 MULTI-JURISDICTION HAZARD MITIGATION STRATEGY

Mitigation Action Items (MAIs) are central to the overall purpose of the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan (MHMP). As these MAIs are developed, implemented, and reviewed, Walla Walla County will build disaster resistance into everyday operations and become more protected from potential losses. For the purposes of this document, mitigation action items are defined as activities designed to reduce or eliminate losses resulting from natural hazards. Losses can include life, physical property, and monetary value.

### WALLA WALLA COUNTY

This section focuses on jurisdiction-specific mitigation action items for unincorporated Walla Walla County. Action items from the 2018 HMP were reviewed by the planning team and were either updated for the 2024 plan update or they were removed if they had been completed or are no longer relevant. New action items were also considered and included when appropriate.

---

#### **CURRENT POLICIES, CODES AND ORDINANCES**

Walla Walla County has adopted the most current state-adopted versions of the International Building Code (IBC) and International Fire Code (IFC) (Walla Walla County Code Title 15.04). The purpose of this is to provide minimum standards to protect public health and safety. The IBC provides general standards for seismic design, high wind design and high snow load design based on local characteristics. Both the building and fire codes are enforced through the County's Community Development Department.

Listed below are other applicable codes, plans, ordinances, and programs:

- Walla Walla County Comprehensive plan
- Countywide planning Policies (CPPs)
- Title 8, Health and Safety
- Title 11, Stormwater
- Title 15, Buildings and Construction
- Title 16, Subdivisions
- Title 17, Zoning
- Chapter 18.08, Critical Areas
- Chapter 18.12, Flood Damage Prevention
- Participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

---

## JURISDICTION-SPECIFIC MITIGATION STRATEGIES AND ACTION ITEMS

Although the various mitigation strategies and/or projects listed on the following pages are contained in the Unincorporated Walla Walla County portion of this plan, many of these strategies and/or projects would most likely benefit multiple jurisdictions, special purpose districts or agencies, and may ultimately be funded by a variety of sources.

While these mitigation strategies and/or projects have been suggested by various county officials and staff through the planning process, they have not been officially approved by the Walla Walla County Board of Commissioners and funding has not been allocated. In many cases, funding for these is dependent upon Walla Walla County receiving future federal and/or state hazard mitigation grant funding.

Walla Walla County also supports and recommends the multi-jurisdictional mitigation measures contained in this plan.

---

### MULTIPLE HAZARDS

#### OTHER PLANS, POLICIES, MITIGATION AND DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

One of Walla Walla County's top mitigation priorities is increasing public awareness regarding all hazards within the County. The Walla Walla County Emergency Management Department (EMD) is the lead, working closely with other County departments, as well as local, state and federal agencies. Throughout the year EMD provides information through the County website, informational meetings, educational presentations, and written materials.

Walla Walla County also participates in annual Building Safety Month, which is organized by the International Code Council, every May. The Walla Walla County Community Development Department provides information to the public regarding building and fire safety. Information on creating disaster supply kits, developing a family action/evacuation plan, and where to get up-to-date information regarding hazards and events was provided to members of the public. Tips for easy non-structural hazard mitigation were also provided.

#### MITIGATION OBJECTIVES AND ACTION ITEMS

Project ID: CO-1			
Hazard	Priority	Cost	Timeline
Multi-Hazard	Medium		Ongoing
Relocate the Emergency Management Department and Walla Walla Emergency Services Communications Center (WESCOM/911 dispatch) offices to a seismically sound building. Additional office space and communication facility space are needed to continue to support			



the growing needs of the County. Therefore, this mitigation goal will continue to further support Walla Walla County hazard risk mitigation efforts.

<b>Lead Agency</b>	Emergency Management Department
<b>Potential Resources</b>	County budget

**Project ID: CO-2**

<b>Hazard</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
Multi-Hazard	High		Partially Funded, long term from funding

Conduct structural mitigation projects to protect public roadways and bridges from flooding and earthquake hazards and ensure that critical transportation routes are intact, including, but not limited to the following projects:

- McEntrye Bridge
- Gardena Bridge – Touchet Gardena Road
- Cottonwood Road MP 0.47 – 0.81
- Reser Road MP 0.00 – 0.50
- Lewis Peak Road MP 0.00 – 9.24
- Sudbury Road MP 11.6 – 17.0
- Touchet Gardena Road – MP 0.00 – 1.53
- Goble Bridge MP 0.62 – 1.40
- Harvey Shaw Road MP 3.40 – 3.50
- Hart Road at Walter Bridge
- Paxton Bridge
- Lower Whetstone Road MP 0.00 – 2.20
- CM Rice Road MP 6.40 – 6.80
- Depping Culvert on Depping Road
- Substation Bridge on Lower Hogeeye Road

This mitigation measure incorporates several measures from the 2018 plan. The list of road and bridge projects included above is based on current knowledge from the County Public Works Department. The Department has procedures in place to conduct assessments of roads and bridges and maintains an internal list of projects. This mitigation measure was modified during the 2018 planning cycle to incorporate several different measures including upgrades to transportation facilities to reduce possible damage from multiple hazards. This mitigation objective has been re-affirmed for the 2025-2029 planning cycle.

<b>Lead Agency</b>	Emergency Management Department
<b>Potential Resources</b>	Local, State, and Federal

---

### *FLOOD HAZARDS*

A significant portion of the County is located within the 100-year floodplain and there are also parts of the County located within the floodway and the 500-year floodplain. The most significant losses due to flooding occurred in 1996, 2012, and 2020.

### *OTHER PLANS, POLICIES, MITIGATION AND DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS*

Walla Walla County has adopted floodplain development standards under **Walla Walla County Code Chapter 18.12, Flood Damage Prevention**, which is enforced by the Community Development Department and contains methods and provisions to minimize the potential public and private losses from flooding. It also promotes the public health, safety and welfare of all citizens through:

- Restricting or prohibiting uses which are dangerous to health, safety and property due to water or erosion hazards, or which result in damaging increases in erosion or in flood heights or velocities;
- Requiring that uses vulnerable to floods, including facilities which serve such uses, be protected against flood damage at the time of initial construction;
- Controlling the alteration of natural floodplains, stream channels and natural protective barriers, which help accommodate or channel floodwaters;
- Controlling filling, grading, dredging and other development which may increase flood damage; and
- Preventing or regulating the construction of flood barriers which will unnaturally divert floodwaters, or which increase flood hazards in other areas.

In 2008-2009 the County completed a mandatory update of the Walla Walla County Critical Area Ordinance (CAO) which was based on a review of best available science (BAS). This review recommended a few minor updates to conduct in order to meet FEMA and Department of Ecology minimum requirements for the NFIP program. Primary recommendations were to:

1. Update Chapter 18.12 to incorporate the most recent revisions to the Ecology requirements contained in Chapter 173-158 WAC, Floodplain Management; and
2. Check cross references to other sections.

The County employs the following specific food hazard mitigation policies, standards and planning mechanisms:

- The **Walla Walla County County-wide Planning Policies (CPPs)**, adopted in 1993, form a basis for planning and multi-jurisdictional coordination within the County and have been adopted by Walla Walla County as well as each of the cities within the County who are all planning partners in this plan. The following CPPs directly address flood hazard mitigation:

CPP 11.3 Priority should be given to preserving and protecting resource and critical lands. Development that is permitted that is associated or adjacent to these areas should be properly managed.

CPP 11.5 The County will continue to utilize the Federal Emergency Management Agency program for floodplain management.

- The **Walla Walla County Comprehensive Plan** serves as a guide to make decisions about future development within unincorporated Walla Walla County. In addition to the annual amendment process, since the Hazard Mitigation plan was adopted in 2018 the County completed the update to the Comprehensive Plan in 2019. As required by the Washington State Growth Management Act, in addition to providing a land use policy framework for accommodating growth in the County, the Comprehensive Plan also provides policies for critical areas, including flood hazard areas, and serves as the basis for the County development standards. Past planning efforts, including the 2018 HMP were considered during the update to the Comprehensive Plan. The following goals and policies related to flood hazards are included in the Comprehensive Plan:

Goal CA-1 Promote public health, safety, welfare, economic and environmental well-being in the County for present and future citizens by identifying and protecting critical areas.

Policy CA-1.2 Update studies on a regular basis to identify critical areas and make the information available to the public.

Policy CA-1.7 Convert, update, and maintain critical area/flood mapping in a digital format whenever possible. Make this data available to the public via the Internet if feasible.

Policy CA-1.8 Promote public health and welfare by instituting local measures to protect, preserve and enhance where applicable, wetlands for their associated values that exist in this county. Wetlands serve a variety of vital functions, including, but not limited to: flood storage and conveyance, water quality protection, recharge and discharge areas for groundwater, erosion control, sediment control, fish and wildlife habitat, recreation, education, and scientific research.

- Policy CA-2.1 Minimize construction of structural shoreline stabilization and flood control works in favor of methods utilizing setback levees and bioengineering.
- Policy CA-2.2 Provide suitable wildlife corridors to prevent isolation of populations by utilizing land features such as riparian zones/floodplains and ridges which provide natural connecting corridors.
- Goal CA-3 Utilize floodplain planning to protect human life and health as well as the riparian ecosystem in order to minimize public and private economic losses and expenditures related to flood control and to protect and preserve wildlife habitat.
  - Policy CA-3.1 Use the FEMA supplied Flood Insurance Rate Maps and Floodway maps to determine areas of special flood hazard and manage these areas through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).
  - Policy CA-3.2 Refine and improve upon FEMA flood mapping whenever possible by working with the Corps of Engineers, FEMA, individual agencies, and landowners.
- Walla Walla County has adopted and implemented **Flood Damage Prevention Standards**, at Walla Walla County Code Chapter 18.12. These standards guide new development and growth within unincorporated Walla Walla County in such a way as to reduce potential damage. Included below is a summary of the key components of these development standards.
  - All new construction and substantial improvements shall be anchored to prevent flotation, collapse or lateral movement of the structure (WWCC 18.12.190A).
  - All new construction and substantial improvements shall be constructed with materials and utility equipment resistant to flood damage and using methods and practices that minimize flood damage (WWCC 18.12.200A-B).
  - Electrical heating, ventilation, plumbing and/or air-conditioning equipment or other service facilities shall be designed and/or otherwise elevated or located so as to prevent water from entering or accumulating within the components during conditions of flooding (WWCC 18.12.200C).
  - All new and replacement water supply systems, sanitary sewage systems, and on-site waste disposal systems shall be located and designed to minimize infiltration of floodwaters and avoid impairment and contamination (WWCC 18.12.210A-C).
  - All subdivision proposals shall be consistent with the need to minimize flood damage (WWCC 18.12.220A-E).

- Within the 100-year floodplain, new construction and substantial improvement of any residential structure shall have the lowest floor, including basements, elevated to one foot above base flood elevation. Additionally, fully enclosed areas below the lowest floor that are subject to flooding are prohibited or must be flood proofed and accommodate the entrance and exit of flood waters (WWCC 18.12.250).
  - Within the 100-year floodplain, new construction and substantial improvement of any commercial, industrial or other nonresidential structure shall have either the lowest floor, including basements, elevated to the level of one foot above the base flood elevation or be flood proofed so that below the base flood level the structure is watertight and has structural components capable of resisting hydrostatic and hydrodynamic loads and effects of buoyancy (WWCC 18.12.260).
  - Encroachments and obstructions, including fill, new construction, substantial improvement and other uses are generally prohibited. Construction and reconstruction within the designated floodway is generally limited to only projects where it has been certified by a registered professional engineer or architect that the construction will not result in any increase in flood levels and where all applicable flood hazard reduction provisions are met. Minor repairs and reconstruction if the structure has been damaged and if the ground floor area will not increase are permitted (WWCC 18.12.290).
- Walla Walla County completed a mandatory update of **Walla Walla County Chapter 18.08, Critical Areas**, which satisfies the Growth Management Act requirement to have a Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO). All areas within the County meeting the frequently flooded designation criteria –in the Identification and Delineation Manual, regardless of any formal identification, are designated critical areas. Both the floodway and floodplain are subject to regulation under Chapter 18.12. These frequently flooded areas are the same areas regulated by Chapter 18.12 and Title 15 and no additional development standards are provided in Chapter 18.08.
  - The plan rewrite of the **Walla Walla County Flood Response Plan (FRP)** was completed in 2022 and builds on tprevious **Walla Walla Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan (CFHMP)** completed in 1999. The FRP primarily focuses on areas within the County that have been determined to be at risk of flooding due to either seasonal hydrological fluctuations or flash flooding resulting from storm-water run-off. The current FRP provides valuable information regarding flood hazards within Walla Walla County and, as part of the implementation component, provides guidance on mitigation measures. The plan incorporates planning efforts conducted during the 2018 HMP update.

The Walla Walla County Public Works Department administers the **Mill Creek Flood Control Zone District**, working closely with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and other local, state and federal agencies to manage flood risk.

**MITIGATION OBJECTIVES AND ACTION ITEMS**

<b>Project ID: CO-3</b>			
Hazard	Priority	Cost	Timeline
Flood	High		Unfunded, Long term based on funding
Conduct embankment enhancement to alleviate Mill Creek Flooding near the intersection of Wallula Avenue and Highway 12. This mitigation measure was new in the 2010 plan and this area along with three others have been identified as needing additional flood mitigation work. The additional three priority areas for the 2018-2022 planning period are: The Touchet River between Hwy 125 and Donnelly Rd; Mill Creek from Blue Creek Road extending upstream approximately three (3) miles between Gose Street and the Walla Walla River (which includes the Wallula Avenue flooding concern location), and; Coppei Creek throughout the majority of its length. These three areas have a direct impact on adjacent infrastructure and residences.			
Lead Agency	County Public Works Department and City of Walla Walla		
Potential Resources	Local, State, and Federal		

<b>Project ID: CO-4</b>			
Hazard	Priority	Cost	Timeline
Flood	Medium		Partially funded, long term from funding
Make physical dam safety modifications and conduct non-structural maintenance to Mill Creek Storage Dam. This mitigation measure is on-going for the 2018-2022 planning cycle.			
Lead Agency	US Army Corps of Engineers		
Potential Resources	Federal		

<b>Project ID: CO-5</b>			
Hazard	Priority	Cost	Timeline
Flood	High		Partially funded, long term from funding

Plan and conduct mitigation projects to protect critical bridges and roadways threatened by flooding based on semi-annual inspections and evaluations. This mitigation measure has been re-worded based on discussions with the County Public Works Department and is re-affirmed for the 2018-2022 planning cycle.	
Lead Agency	County Public Works Department
Potential Resources	Local, State, and Federal

Project ID: CO-6			
Hazard	Priority	Cost	Timeline
Flood	Medium		Current and ongoing
Conduct public outreach to increase the awareness of the State-provided system for identification of culverts in need of maintenance. This mitigation measure has been modified from the 2010 plan to focus on public outreach and increasing awareness of this tool for the 2018-2022 planning cycle. Better use of this system will ensure the County has more up-to-date information and enable the more efficient dispatching of resources.			
Lead Agency	County Public Works Department		
Potential Resources	Local		
Project ID: CO-7			
Hazard	Priority	Cost	Timeline
Flood	Medium		Current and ongoing
Improve and maintain the capacity of storm water ditches and drainages as part of on-going maintenance program. This mitigation measure is on-going for the 2018-2022 planning cycle.			
Lead Agency	County Public Works Department		
Potential Resources	Local budgets		

---

### WILDFIRE HAZARDS

In Walla Walla County the highest wildfire hazard area is in the wildland urban interface (WUI) in the eastern part of the County. This area has been the primary focus of wildfire hazard mitigation in the past. There are, however, dry-land portions of the County which also have an elevated wildfire risk. Recognizing this fact, the Planning Team added a mitigation measure during the

2010 update to prepare a wildfire protection plan addressing risk throughout the rest of the County. This mitigation measure was completed in 2017.

#### OTHER PLANS, POLICIES, MITIGATION AND DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

The County has participated in wildfire hazard mitigation through a variety of different mechanisms:

- The City of Walla Walla receives 90% of its municipal water supply from the Mill Creek Municipal Watershed which is located adjacent to the wildland urban interface (WUI). The watershed is characterized by forest conditions with heavy fuel loads and is vulnerable to wildfire. A destructive wildfire could have serious negative effects on water quality. The city completed a **County-wide Community Wildfire Protection Plan in 2017** that included a reassessment of the Mill Creek watershed and associated fire risk ratings. During the 2024 update to the HMP, the 2017 CWPP was also updated and serves as an appendix to this plan. This plan contains many mitigation measures to be implemented within the WUI which will reduce wildfire vulnerability within the unincorporated areas of Walla Walla County.
- Walla Walla County works closely with the Washington State Department of Ecology, local fire districts, and the Walla Walla County Conservation District to implement the local **burn program**. The Community Development Department issues residential burn permits and works with other agencies to conduct enforcement and provide valuable information to property owners regarding alternatives to burning and recommendations on safe practices that can reduce risk. A daily burn decision is issued by the Department of Ecology Eastern Regional Office.
- Walla Walla County has adopted the International Code Council family of codes through Walla Walla County Code Title 15. The County has incorporated the most current state-adopted version of the **International Fire Code (IFC)** into Chapter 15.04 of its Code. The IFC provides regulations to protect life and property from all types of fire and explosion hazards. The regulations include general precautions against fire, emergency planning and preparedness, fire department access, hydrants, sprinkler and alarm systems, hazardous materials storage and use, etc. The fire code applies to all new construction and land development and some modifications to existing buildings.
- In addition to access requirements in the fire code, the County has also adopted standards in **Walla Walla County Code (WWCC)** Title 12 for access and road/address marking which are enforced through the County Public Works Department. The Community Development Department ensures through **Title 16, Subdivisions**, that all lots in new land divisions have necessary ingress/egress and meet fire protection and access standards.



- In 2010 the County adopted new **development standards** to reduce wildfire vulnerability for new construction in the Wildland-urban Interface and additionally adopted wildfire protection standards later that year that apply to the Mill Creek area. The County has also adopted access standards, road standards, and address marking requirements and is continuing to adapt and apply them.
- The 2019 Comprehensive Plan contains the following goals and policies that pertain to wildfire:
  - Goal RL-6
    - Protect the environmentally sensitive features that are present in Rural Remote lands and reduce the threat of hazards such as flooding, slope failure, and wildfire.
  - Policy RL 6.1
    - Implement the Community Wildfire Protection Plan to reduce the risk of wildfire and mitigate the impacts if a fire occurs.

#### MITIGATION OBJECTIVES AND ACTION ITEMS

Project ID: CO-8			
Hazard	Priority	Cost	Timeline
Wildfire	High		Unfunded, long term reoccurring funding need
Walla Walla County will continue working on implementation of fire mitigation measures following the updated recommendations of the Mill Creek and Walla Walla County Community Wildfire Protection Plan updated in 2024, that includes a reassessment of the fire risks in the Mill Creek Municipal Watershed. This mitigation measure is renewed for the 2024-2029 planning period.			
Lead Agency	Emergency Management Department and Fire Districts		
Potential Resources	Local, State, and Federal		

---

#### EARTHQUAKE HAZARDS

There are several indicators which suggest that Walla Walla County could experience a large earthquake: proximity to large faults, evidence of large earthquakes in the recent geologic past and historical seismicity. Although it is very difficult to predict when an earthquake will occur, we do have valuable information regarding vulnerability which helps focus hazard mitigation efforts. Although Walla Walla County has significant geologic hazard, damage and loss from an earthquake has not occurred recently.

## OTHER PLANS, POLICIES, MITIGATION AND DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

Other plans, policies, and development standards relevant to mitigation of earthquake and other geologic hazards include the following:

- As part of the 2008 **Critical Areas Ordinance** update completed by the County in 2009 the County adopted new standards and background information related to various geologic hazards including landslide, erosion, and seismic hazard areas. In areas with steep or unstable slopes or with soil characteristics prone to liquefaction, geotechnical reports are required as part of development permits. When design and construction methods cannot reduce the risk to acceptable levels development may be prohibited.
- Walla Walla County has adopted the **International Building Code** which classifies the County as seismic zone D0. The IBC also provides design/construction requirements for geologic hazard areas including areas with steep slope which are landslide and erosion hazards which could be exacerbated by an earthquake.
- The 2019 Comprehensive Plan contains the following goals and policies that pertain to earthquake hazards:
  - Goal CA-4 Reduce the threat posed to the health and safety of citizens that could occur when development is sited in areas of significant geologic hazard.
  - Policy CA-4.1 Implement development regulations that minimize risk to the public health, safety, and welfare in areas of significant geologic hazard.

## MITIGATION OBJECTIVES AND ACTION ITEMS

Project ID: CO-9			
Hazard	Priority	Cost	Timeline
Earthquake	High		Unfunded, Long term from funding
Conduct non-structural mitigation in County-owned buildings. This mitigation action is current and on-going and has been re-affirmed for the 2018-2022 planning cycle.			
Lead Agency	Walla Walla County		
Potential Resources	Local, State, and Federal (Defined by entity in Section 3.5 on Page 25)		

Project ID: CO-10			
Hazard	Priority	Cost	Timeline
Earthquake	High		Partially funded, Current and on-going

Plan and conduct mitigation projects to protect critical roadways threatened by earthquakes based on semi-annual inspections and evaluations. This mitigation action is current and on-going and has been re-affirmed for the 2018-2022 planning cycle.	
Lead Agency	County Public Works Department
Potential Resources	Local, State, and Federal (Defined by entity in Section 3.5 on Page 25)

Project ID: CO-11			
Hazard	Priority	Cost	Timeline
Earthquake	High		Partially funded, Current and on-going
Plan and conduct mitigation projects to protect critical bridges threatened by earthquakes based on semi-annual inspections and evaluations. This mitigation action is current and on-going and has been re-affirmed for the 2018-2022 planning cycle.			
Lead Agency	County Public Works Department		
Potential Resources	Local, State, and Federal (Defined by entity in Section 3.5 on Page 25)		

**SEVERE WEATHER HAZARDS**

Walla Walla County experienced notable damage and loss from severe weather events that have caused millions of dollars in damage because of high winds, flooding, ice, cold waves, and other severe weather events. *Expected Annual Loss* values calculated by FEMA have the potential to reach hundreds of thousands or millions.

**OTHER PLANS, POLICIES, MITIGATION AND DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS**

Walla Walla County implements the following mitigation measures through other planning and enforcement mechanisms:

- Through adoption of the International Building Code (IBC) Walla Walla County requires structures to be built to resist wind speeds up to 110 mph and allows installation of wind-resistant roofing. The building code also provides snow load, winter design, and severe weathering design requirements.

**MITIGATION OBJECTIVES AND ACTION ITEMS**

Walla Walla County does not have any jurisdiction specific mitigation projects but does commit to all the severe weather multi-jurisdictional mitigation measures.

## CITY OF COLLEGE PLACE

This plan is an update of the 2018 Walla Walla County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP). This section has been updated through Planning Team efforts and collaboration by city staff. All previous mitigation action items from the 2018 plan were removed because they are outdated and no longer a priority. New action items are listed by identified natural hazard category.

---

### **CURRENT POLICIES, CODES AND ORDINANCES**

The City of College Place has adopted the 2009 editions of the International Building Code (IBC) as adopted by Washington State with the Washington State Amendments, effective July 1, 2018 and International Fire Code (IFC). The purpose of these codes is to provide minimum standards to protect public health and safety. The IBC provides general standards for seismic design, wind design and snow load design based on local characteristics. As a city, College Place enforces all building and fire codes as adopted by the State of Washington.

Listed below are other applicable codes, plans, ordinances, and programs:

- City of College Place Comprehensive Plan
- Countywide Planning Policies (CPPs)
- Title 15, Buildings and Construction
- Chapter 18.10, Critical Area Protection
- Ordinance No. 867, Flood Protection Measures

---

### **JURISDICTION-SPECIFIC MITIGATION STRATEGIES AND ACTION ITEMS**

It should be noted that although the various mitigation strategies and/or projects listed on the following pages are contained in the City of College Place portion of this plan, many of these strategies and/or projects would most likely benefit multiple jurisdictions, special purpose districts or agencies and may ultimately be paid for through a variety of sources.

While these mitigation strategies and/or projects have been recommended by various city officials and staff through the planning process, these strategies and/or projects have not been officially approved by the city of College Place City Council and funding for these strategies and/or projects has not been allocated. In many cases, funding for these mitigation strategies and/or projects is dependent upon the city receiving future federal and/or state hazard mitigation grant funding.

The city also supports and recommends the multi-jurisdictional mitigation measures contained in this plan that cover the extent of Walla Walla County.

*MULTIPLE HAZARDS*

MITIGATION OBJECTIVES AND ACTION ITEMS

<b>Project ID: CP-1</b>			
<b>Hazard</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
Severe Weather/ Wildfire	High	\$2,899,000	Unfunded, Short term from funded
Reservoir #4 improvement. Add a 1-million-gallon water storage tank to increase water supplies and support community resiliency.			
<b>Lead Agency</b>	City of College Place		
<b>Potential Resources</b>	Local, State, and Federal		

<b>Project ID: CP-2</b>			
<b>Hazard</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
Earthquake/ Flooding/ Severe Weather	High	\$9,000,000	Unfunded, Short term from funded
Public works yard relocation. The Public Works yard has issues and concerns related to water as it is situated in a surface depression and a creek runs through it (the lot was originally used for chicken coops). The yard needs to be relocated and upgraded.			
<b>Lead Agency</b>	City of College Place		
<b>Potential Resources</b>	Local, State, and Federal		

<b>Project ID: CP-3</b>			
<b>Hazard</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
Multi-Hazard	High	\$8,054,051	Unfunded, Short term from funded
SE 12th Street (College to Myra). SE12th street needs to be rebuilt as it is a designated evacuation route. Utilities should be buried so they are better protected and less likely to be interrupted or compromised due to a natural disaster.			
<b>Lead Agency</b>	City of College Place		

<b>Potential Resources</b>	Local, State, and Federal
----------------------------	---------------------------

<b>Project ID: CP-4</b>			
<b>Hazard</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
Multi-Hazard	High	\$1,048,617	Unfunded, Short term from funded
West Whitman Drive (Academy Way west to City Limits). Reconstruct West Whitman Drive so it is fully in appropriate condition since it is a designated evacuation route.			
<b>Lead Agency</b>	City of College Place		
<b>Potential Resources</b>	Local, State, and Federal		

---

### *FLOOD HAZARDS*

No frequently flooded areas are located within the City of College Place at this time, although the city still has potential to experience losses due to flood events, including flash flooding.

### *OTHER PLANS, POLICIES, MITIGATION AND DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS*

- As mentioned above, Ordinance No. 867 provides **flood protection measures** for the City of College Place. This ordinance provides standards which regulate all new development in the 100-year floodplain in an effort to reduce potential damage. These regulations were adopted as an element of the requirements for the City’s participation in FEMA’s NFIP Program.
- The city adheres to the **Walla Walla County Flood Response Plan (FRP), 2022**. See the section under Walla Walla County above.
- The **Walla Walla County County-wide Planning Policies (CPPs)**, adopted in 1993, form a basis for planning and multi-jurisdictional coordination within Walla Walla County and have been adopted by the City of College Place. The following CPP directly addresses flood hazard mitigation:

CPP 11.5 – The County will continue to utilize the Federal Emergency Management Agency program, FRIMs and NFIP requirements for guidance and floodplain management.

## MITIGATION OBJECTIVES AND PROJECTS

In addition to the objectives identified below there are action items that address flooding under the *Multiple Hazards* heading. The City of College Place additionally commits to participating in the countywide flood mitigation measures where applicable.

Project ID: CP-5			
Hazard	Priority	Cost	Timeline
Flood	Medium	\$2,000,000	Unfunded, Short-term type of funding
Outfall replacements. Reconstruct outfalls to correctly pass and filter stormwater. Replacement priorities include Garrison Creek, Stone Creek, and Military Springs Watersheds.			
Lead Agency	Public Works		
Potential Resources	Local, State, and Federal		

Project ID: CP-6			
Hazard	Priority	Cost	Timeline
Flood	Medium	\$1,998,600	Unfunded, Short-term type of funding
Drywell installations. Install drywells in flood prone areas surrounded by Date, Academy, 11th, and Rose.			
Lead Agency	Public Works		
Potential Resources	Local, State, and Federal		

---

## WILDFIRE HAZARDS

Due to thick vegetation in some places within the city and proximity to wildland fuels on the outskirts of the city, there are properties within College Place at some risk to damage from a wildfire event.

## OTHER PLANS, POLICIES, MITIGATION AND DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

- The **Walla Walla County and Mill Creek Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)**, updated in **2024**. This Plan contains wildfire mitigation action items that are supported by the city of College Place, where appropriate.

## MITIGATION OBJECTIVES AND PROJECTS

The City of College Place does not house any jurisdiction specific mitigation projects specific only to wildfire here but does include a multi-hazard action item (CP-1) that addresses wildfire hazards. College Place also commits to all the wildfire multi-jurisdictional mitigation measures of the County and is in support of the recently completed Mill Creek and Walla Walla County Community Wildfire Protection Plan as it includes recommendations for the Mill Creek Watershed that could influence the City's municipal water.

---

### *EARTHQUAKE HAZARDS*

There are indicators which suggest that the city of College Place could experience a large earthquake: proximity to large faults, evidence of large earthquakes in recent geologic past, and historical seismicity. Although it is very difficult to predict when an earthquake will occur, we do have valuable information regarding vulnerability which helps focus hazard mitigation efforts. Although the area has significant geologic hazards, damage and loss from an earthquake has not occurred recently.

### OTHER PLANS, POLICIES, MITIGATION AND DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

Other plans, policies, and development standards relevant to mitigation of earthquake and other geologic hazards include the following:

- As part of the 2008 **Critical Areas Ordinance** update completed in 2008 the city adopted new standards and background information related to various geologic hazards including landslide, erosion, and seismic hazard areas. In areas with steep or unstable slopes or with soil characteristics prone to liquefaction, geotechnical reports are required as part of development permits. When design and construction methods cannot reduce the risk to acceptable levels development may be prohibited.
- Walla Walla County has adopted the **International Building Code** which classifies the city as seismic zone D0. The IBC also provides design/construction requirements for geologic hazard areas including areas with steep slope which are landslide and erosion hazards which could be exacerbated by an earthquake.

### MITIGATION OBJECTIVES AND ACTION ITEMS

Project ID: CP-7			
Hazard	Priority	Cost	Timeline
Earthquake	High	\$960,000	Unfunded, Short term from funding



Establish information technology room. There is a need for a temperature controlled fanned room for Information Technology infrastructure in City Hall. Security also needs to be upgraded.	
<b>Lead Agency</b>	Administration
<b>Potential Resources</b>	Local, State, and Federal

Project ID: CP-8			
Hazard	Priority	Cost	Timeline
Earthquake	Medium	\$15 million	Unfunded, Short term from funding
Replace building for the police department. A new facility with proper security would increase the resiliency of the city. The current building is a former apartment building that is highly susceptible to natural hazards, particularly earthquake, flooding, and fire.			
<b>Lead Agency</b>	Police		
<b>Potential Resources</b>	Local, State, and Federal		

Project ID: CP-9			
Hazard	Priority	Cost	Timeline
Earthquake	Medium	\$1,532,720	Unfunded, Short term from funding
Fire station renovation. Upgrade Fire Department with improvements that address issues related to natural hazard resiliency. Upgrade cooling tower, heat exchanger, lighting, and boiler.			
<b>Lead Agency</b>	Fire		
<b>Potential Resources</b>	Local, State, and Federal		

Project ID: CP-10			
Hazard	Priority	Cost	Timeline
Earthquake	Medium	\$3,049,361	Unfunded, Short term from funding
Elevated water tank #1 seismic retrofit and upgrade. The tank dates from 1947. It needs cross bracing and additional work to address stabilization concerns.			
Lead Agency	Public Works		
Potential Resources	Local, State, and Federal		

### SEVERE WEATHER HAZARDS

The City of College Place last experienced significant damage and loss from a severe storm event on January 4, 2008, when central Oregon and the foothills of the Blue Mountains experienced a windstorm. The strongest gust speed at the Walla Walla airport was 78 mph and the strongest sustained wind speed was 55 mph. Estimates were that 4.9 million dollars in damage was experienced within Walla Walla County (not just unincorporated). In the Walla Walla Valley approximately 4 in 10 homes received damage from the storm. Much of the damage was due to falling trees.

### OTHER PLANS, POLICIES, MITIGATION AND DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

The City of College Place implements the following mitigation measures through other planning and enforcement mechanisms:

Through adoption of the **International Building Code (IBC)** the City of College Place requires structures to be built to resist wind speeds up to 110 mph and allows installation of wind-resistant roofing. The building code also provides snow load, winter design, and severe weathering design requirements.

The City of College Place ensures that trees and vegetation are pruned and trimmed as necessary to protect roads, bridges and other infrastructure from damage. In past years the City has conducted a semi-annual **“Yard Debris Collection”** to work with citizens to prune and trim trees and reduce other yard debris which might result in damage during a severe storm event.

The City of College Place encourages the installation of **underground utilities** in all areas and included the policy outlined in item CP-5 in the Comprehensive plan regarding the City’s primary commercial area.

## MITIGATION OBJECTIVES AND ACTION ITEMS

Project ID: CP-11			
Hazard	Priority	Cost	Timeline
Severe Weather	Medium	\$373,680	Unfunded, Short to Long-term from funding
Well #3 generator. The most reliable drinking water well is in need of an electricity generator.			
Lead Agency	Public Works		
Potential Resources	Local, State, and Federal		

Project ID: CP-12			
Hazard	Priority	Cost	Timeline
Severe Weather	High	\$4,036,000	Unfunded, Short term from funding
Well #7. An additional well is needed to provide water to parts of the city that currently lack or have inadequate service. An additional well would also increase the natural hazard resiliency of the water system.			
Lead Agency	Public Works		
Potential Resources	Local, State, and Federal		

Project ID: CP-13			
Hazard	Priority	Cost	Timeline
Severe Weather	Low	\$1,000,000	Unfunded, long range planning project
Aquifer Storage and Feasibility Study. Declining aquifers are a potential concern, especially if persistent drought occurs. This study could investigate solutions, such as taking water from the Walla Walla system in the winter and injecting existing groundwater wells for underground storage to be pumped out during the summer. This would require water purchase from Walla Walla and an agreement.			
Lead Agency	Public Works		
Potential Resources	Local, State, and Federal		

Project ID: CP-14			
Hazard	Priority	Cost	Timeline
Severe Weather	Low	\$100,000,000	Unfunded, long range planning project
Irrigation System (Class A) Upgrade at Wastewater Treatment Plant. Upgrades at the WWTP to produce Class A Reuse effluent to send to Gardena. That water could someday be used to irrigate areas in the city instead (depending on if any agreement with Gardena has a sunset). This would require building a second water distribution system to convey the water where it is needed. The benefit of this is reducing demand on the potable water system.			
Lead Agency	Public Works		
Potential Resources	Local, State, and Federal		

Project ID: CP-15			
Hazard	Priority	Cost	Timeline
Severe Weather	Medium	\$20,000,000	Unfunded, mid-range planning project
Wastewater Treatment Plant Solids. City currently dewater solids and stores on a drying pad where they are annually hauled off and land applied. This is a large source of odors and pending regulations may make land application of biosolids less feasible in the future. At the very least, adding a cover for the biosolids storage area to prevent re-wetting of the dried solids would be a good idea to minimize odors and reduce haul cost for disposal. Even better would be adding some further treatment/processing (digestion) to reduce odors and potentially create Class A solids that can be used as fertilizer.			
Lead Agency	Public Works		
Potential Resources	Local, State, and Federal		

## CITY OF PRESCOTT

This plan is an update of the 2018 Walla Walla County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP). Although it is only an update, the plan has been redesigned and reorganized so it is easier to use. This section has been updated through Planning Team efforts to include new and reconfirmed mitigation measures by identified natural hazard category.

---

### **CURRENT POLICIES, CODES AND ORDINANCES**

The City of Prescott has adopted the most recent editions of the International Building Code (IBC) and International Fire Code (IFC). The purpose of these codes is to provide minimum standards to protect public health and safety. The IBC provides general standards for seismic design, high wind design and high snow load design based on local characteristics.

Listed below are other applicable codes, plans, ordinances, and programs applicable to the City of Prescott jurisdiction:

- City of Prescott Comprehensive plan
- Countywide planning Policies (CPPs)
- International Building Code (IBC)
- International Fire Code (IFC)
- Critical Areas Regulations
- Floodplain Development Standards

---

### **JURISDICTION-SPECIFIC MITIGATION STRATEGIES AND ACTION ITEMS**

It should be noted that although the various mitigation strategies and/or projects listed on the following pages are contained in the City of Prescott portion of this plan, many of these strategies and/or projects would most likely benefit multiple jurisdictions, special purpose districts or agencies and may ultimately be paid for from a variety of sources.

While these mitigation strategies and/or projects have been recommended by various city officials and staff through the planning process, these strategies and/or projects have not been officially approved by the City of Prescott City Council and funding for these strategies and/or projects has not been allocated. In many cases, funding for these mitigation strategies and/or projects is dependent upon the City receiving future federal and/or state hazard mitigation grant funding.

The city also supports and recommends the multi-jurisdictional mitigation measures contained in this plan that cover the extent of Walla Walla County.

*MULTIPLE HAZARDS*

MITIGATION OBJECTIVES AND ACTION ITEMS

Project ID: PR-1			
Hazard	Priority	Cost	Timeline
Earthquake/ Severe Weather	High		Unfunded, 2025-2029
Evaluate structural integrity of City Hall and conduct structural mitigation to ensure the building meets current seismic design standards and is wind resistant. During the update process in 2024 the Planning Team did not feel this project was completed to satisfaction and so the project was re-affirmed in the 2024 plan.			
Lead Agency	City of Prescott		
Potential Resources	Local, State, and Federal		

Project ID: PR-2			
Hazard	Priority	Cost	Timeline
Multi-Hazard	High		Unfunded, 2025-2029
Acquire emergency power to serve fire station and public water system. The 2010 and 2018 plans sought to provide an emergency power source for critical facilities. During the update process in 2024 the Planning Team did not feel this project was completed to satisfaction and so the project was re-affirmed in the 2024 plan.			
Lead Agency	City of Prescott		
Potential Resources	Local, State, and Federal		

*FLOOD HAZARDS*

A few properties on the north side of the city are located within the 100-year floodplain for Whetstone Creek on a portion of the city on the south side is in the 100-year floodplain for the Touchet River. The last time there were significant losses due to flooding was in 1996.

OTHER PLANS, POLICIES, MITIGATION AND DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

- The city adheres to the **Walla Walla County Flood Response Plan (FRP), 2022**. See the section under Walla Walla County above.

- The **Walla Walla County County-wide Planning Policies (CPPs)**, adopted in 1993, form a basis for planning and multi-jurisdictional coordination within Walla Walla County and have been adopted by the City of Prescott. The following CPPs directly address flood hazard mitigation:

CPP 11.5 The County will continue to utilize the Federal Emergency Management Agency program for floodplain management.

#### MITIGATION OBJECTIVES AND ACTION ITEMS

Project ID: PR-3			
Hazard	Priority	Cost	Timeline
Flood	High		2025-2029
Improve culverts on the north side of the City to accommodate a 100-year flood event from Whetstone Creek. This mitigation measure was carried over from the 2018 plan. Planning team members did not deem this project to be completed as of the 2024 planning effort.			
Lead Agency	City of Prescott		
Potential Resources	Local, State, and Federal		

#### WILDFIRE HAZARDS

Direct damage to properties within the City of Prescott is not likely to result from a wildfire event. Participation in a joint effort to develop a community wildfire protection plan will help the city reduce vulnerability.

#### OTHER PLANS, POLICIES, MITIGATION AND DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

- The City of Prescott has adopted the International Code Council family of codes. This includes the **International Fire Code (IFC)**. The IFC provides regulations to protect life and property from all types of fire and explosion hazards. The regulations include general precautions against fire, emergency planning and preparedness, fire department access, hydrants, sprinkler and alarm systems, hazardous materials storage and use, etc. The fire code applies to all new construction and land development and some modifications to existing buildings.

## MITIGATION OBJECTIVES AND ACTION ITEMS

Project ID: PR-4			
Hazard	Priority	Cost	Timeline
Wildfire	Medium		Some funding from CWPP, 2025-2029
The City of Prescott will work toward implementation of the Mill Creek and Walla Walla County Community Wildfire Protection Plan recommendations from the 2017 update to reduce wildfire vulnerability. This mitigation measure is new for the 2018-2022 planning period.			
Lead Agency	City of Prescott		
Potential Resources	Local, State, and Federal		

## EARTHQUAKE HAZARDS

There are indicators which suggest that the city of Prescott could experience a large earthquake: proximity to large faults, evidence of large earthquakes in the recent geologic past, and historical seismicity. Although it is very difficult to predict when an earthquake will occur, we do have valuable information regarding vulnerability which helps focus hazard mitigation efforts. Although the area has significant geologic hazards, damages and losses from an earthquake have not occurred recently.

## OTHER PLANS, POLICIES, MITIGATION AND DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

Other plans, policies, and development standards relevant to mitigation of earthquake and other geologic hazards include the following:

- The City of Prescott has adopted a **Critical Areas Ordinance** which includes standards and information related to various geologic hazards including areas that could be prone to landslides and erosion during earthquakes.
- The City of Prescott has adopted the **International Building Code** which classifies the City as seismic zone D0. The IBC also provides design/construction requirements for geologic hazard areas including areas with steep slope which are landslide and erosion hazards which could be exacerbated by an earthquake.

## MITIGATION OBJECTIVES AND ACTION ITEMS

Project ID: PR-5			
Hazard	Priority	Cost	Timeline
Earthquake	High		Short term and ongoing



Conduct structural assessment of water system to ensure that there are no leaks or weak sections which might be vulnerable to damage during an earthquake event. This mitigation measure has been carried over from the 2018 plan.	
Lead Agency	City of Prescott
Potential Resources	Local, State, and Federal

*SEVERE WEATHER HAZARDS*

Like the rest of the county, Prescott is likely to experience severe storms and other types of severe weather, although vulnerability is low.

**OTHER PLANS, POLICIES, MITIGATION AND DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS**

The City of Prescott implements the following mitigation measures through other planning and enforcement mechanisms:

- Through adoption of the **International Building Code (IBC)** the City of Prescott requires structures to be built to resist wind speeds up to 110 mph and allows installation of wind-resistant roofing. The building code also provides snow load, winter design, and severe weathering design requirements.
- The City of Prescott trims trees and other vegetation as necessary to protect roads and other infrastructure as part of an on-going maintenance program. The City also works with private property owners to ensure that trees and other vegetation do not increase vulnerability to severe storm damage.

**MITIGATION OBJECTIVES AND ACTION ITEMS**

Project ID: PR-6			
Hazard	Priority	Cost	Timeline
Severe Weather	Medium		Unfunded, Long term mitigation project
Install vegetative wind break surrounding the city. This was a new mitigation measure in the 2010 plan and was reaffirmed for the 2018-2022 planning period but was not completed. The planning team reaffirmed this project for the 2024 plan update.			
Lead Agency	City of Prescott		
Potential Resources	Local, State, and Federal		

## CITY OF WAITSBURG

This plan is an update of the 2018 Walla Walla County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP). Although it is only an update, the plan has been redesigned and reorganized so it is easier to use. This section has been updated through Planning Team efforts to include new and reconfirmed mitigation measures by identified natural hazard category.

Some action items from the 2018 plan were completed and one (previously WG-4) was removed because it is unattainable and no longer a priority. The remaining projects have all been carried over into the 2024 plan because they are ongoing or still needed. The new list of projects has been renumbered to reflect the new order and completed projects are listed below.

### COMPLETED PROJECTS

Project ID: WG-3 (COMPLETED)			
Hazard	Priority	Cost	Timeline
Flood	High		Unfunded, Long term from funding
Participate in the 2018-2022 planning period update (Phase II) of the 2009 Flood Response Plan for the County. This mitigation measure is new for the 2018 update.			
<b>Lead Agency</b>	City of Waitsburg		
<b>Potential Resources</b>	Local, State, and Federal (Defined by entity in Section 3.5 on Page 25)		
Project ID: WG-6 (COMPLETED)			
Hazard	Priority	Cost	Timeline
Flood	High		Partially funded, Short term from funding
Reconstruct and improve road behind fairgrounds. This elevated road is critical during flood events because it allows equipment access necessary for flood protection and response. The road needs to be widened and armored.			
<b>Lead Agency</b>	City of Waitsburg and the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)		
<b>Potential Resources</b>	Local, State, and Federal (Defined by entity in Section 3.5 on Page 25)		
Project ID: WG-7 (COMPLETED)			
Hazard	Priority	Cost	Timeline
Flood	High		Unfunded, Short term from funding
Improve flood monitoring and warning systems for Coppei Creek and the Touchet River, support installation of river gauge near Dayton on Coppei Creek, south of the city limits. This measure is continued in the 2018 plan. The 2010 plan contained a general project to "improve flood monitoring and warning systems." The Planning Team identified this mitigation measure as a specific project during the update and refined it to specify a particular location.			

<b>Lead Agency</b>	City of Waitsburg
<b>Potential Resources</b>	Local, State, and Federal (Defined by entity in Section 3.5 on Page 25)

---

## **CURRENT POLICIES, CODES AND ORDINANCES**

The City of Waitsburg has adopted the most recent editions of the International Building Code (IBC) and International Fire Code (IFC) (Waitsburg Municipal Code Title 15). The purpose of these codes is to provide minimum standards to protect public health and safety. The IBC provides general standards for seismic design, high wind design and high snow load design based on local characteristics. Both the building and fire codes are enforced and regulated through the City’s Development Services Department.

Listed below are other applicable codes, plans, ordinances, and programs:

- City of Waitsburg Comprehensive plan
- Countywide planning Policies (CPPs)
- Title 11, Building Codes
- Article 10.2, Critical Areas
- Article 10.7, Flood Hazard Areas

---

## **JURISDICTION-SPECIFIC MITIGATION STRATEGIES AND ACTION ITEMS**

It should be noted that although the various mitigation strategies and/or projects listed on the following pages are contained in the City of Waitsburg portion of this plan, many of these strategies and/or projects would most likely benefit multiple jurisdictions, special purpose districts or agencies and may ultimately be paid for from a variety of sources.

While these mitigation strategies and/or projects have been recommended by various city officials and staff through the planning process, these strategies and/or projects have not been officially approved by the City of Waitsburg City Council and funding for these strategies and/or projects has not been allocated. In many cases, funding for these mitigation strategies and/or projects is dependent upon the City receiving future federal and/or state hazard mitigation grant funding.

The city also supports and recommends the multi-jurisdictional mitigation measures contained in this plan that cover the extent of Walla Walla County.

*MULTIPLE HAZARDS*

MITIGATION OBJECTIVES AND ACTION ITEMS

Project ID: WG-1			
Hazard	Priority	Cost	Timeline
Multi-Hazard	Medium		Funded, Current and on-going
Protect government records and priority systems by archiving records electronically and backing-up of this system in an off-site location. This mitigation measure has been reworded and reaffirmed as a priority for the jurisdiction during the 2025-2029 planning cycle.			
Lead Agency	City of Waitsburg		
Potential Resources	City budget		

*FLOOD HAZARDS*

Significant portions of the city of Waitsburg are located within the 100-year floodplain. There are also parts of the city located within the floodway and the 500-year floodplain. Significant losses due to flooding for Waitsburg have occurred in 1996 and in 2012.

OTHER PLANS, POLICIES, MITIGATION AND DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

- As mentioned above, Article 10.7 provides **flood protection measures** for the City of Waitsburg. This ordinance provides standards which regulate all new development in the 100-year floodplain in an effort to reduce potential damage.
- The city adheres to the **Walla Walla County Flood Response Plan (FRP), 2022**. See the section under Walla Walla County above.
- The **Walla Walla County County-wide planning Policies (CPPs)**, adopted in 1993, form a basis for planning and multi-jurisdictional coordination within Walla Walla County and have been adopted by the City of Waitsburg. The following CPPs directly address flood hazard mitigation:

CPP 11.5 The County will continue to utilize the Federal Emergency Management Agency program for floodplain management.

MITIGATION OBJECTIVES AND ACTION ITEMS

Project ID: WG-2			
Hazard	Priority	Cost	Timeline
Flood	High		Unfunded, Long term from funding

Relocate City shop building outside the floodplain. This mitigation measure was identified during the 2010 update, was carried over in 2018, and is re-affirmed for the 2025-2029 planning cycle.	
<b>Lead Agency</b>	City of Waitsburg
<b>Potential Resources</b>	Local, State, and Federal

Project ID: WG-3			
Hazard	Priority	Cost	Timeline
Flood	High		Unfunded, Long term planning project
Support reactivation of the Prescott-Bolles Flood Control District and encourage public participation for continued operation. The flood control district stalled after 1996 and has not been active since. There has been no levy and, therefore, no money available. It has also been difficult to get the necessary public participation to sustain the district. The Planning Team identified this mitigation measure during the 2018 HMP update confirming that planning and implementation would be more efficient with the flood control district in place and with resources to support it. This action item was considered incomplete in 2024 and thus carried over into the 2024 plan.			
<b>Lead Agency</b>	City of Waitsburg and Walla Walla County		
<b>Potential Resources</b>	Local, State, and Federal		

### WILDFIRE HAZARDS

Direct damage to properties within the city of Waitsburg is not likely to result from a wildfire event. Vulnerability to wildfire for the city is primarily based on the location of the municipal watershed within the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). The city has conducted hazard mitigation to reduce vulnerability within the watershed in the past, and it is critical that the city continue these efforts in order to protect water quality.

Participation in a joint effort to develop a community wildfire protection plan will help the city reduce vulnerability.

### OTHER PLANS, POLICIES, MITIGATION AND DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

- The City of Waitsburg has adopted the International Code Council family of codes through Waitsburg Municipal Code Title 11. This includes the **International Fire Code**

**(IFC).** The IFC provides regulations to protect life and property from all types of fire and explosion hazards. The regulations include general precautions against fire, emergency planning and preparedness, fire department access, hydrants, sprinkler and alarm systems, hazardous materials storage and use, etc. The fire code applies to all new construction and land development and some modifications to existing buildings.

- Between 2008 and 2009 the city conducted mitigation projects within the City of Waitsburg Watershed, cutting and trimming trees to reduce wildfire hazard. It will be necessary to continue such mitigation projects within the watershed. Assessments and planning are necessary to identify a comprehensive mitigation strategy for this critical area.

#### MITIGATION OBJECTIVES AND ACTION ITEMS

Project ID: WG-4			
Hazard	Priority	Cost	Timeline
Wildfire	Medium		2025-2029
The City of Waitsburg will work toward implementation of the Mill Creek and Walla Walla County Community Wildfire Protection Plan recommendations from the 2024 update to reduce wildfire vulnerability. This mitigation measure is continued for the 2025-2029 planning period.			
Lead Agency	City of Waitsburg		
Potential Resources	Local, State, and Federal		

#### EARTHQUAKE HAZARDS

There are indicators which suggest the city of Waitsburg could experience a large earthquake: proximity to large faults, evidence of large earthquakes in the recent geologic past, and historical seismicity. Although it is very difficult to predict when an earthquake will occur, we do have valuable information regarding vulnerability which helps focus hazard mitigation efforts. Although the area has significant geologic hazards, damage and losses from an earthquake have not occurred recently.

#### OTHER PLANS, POLICIES, MITIGATION AND DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

Other plans, policies, and development standards relevant to mitigation of earthquake and other geologic hazards include the following:

- The city of Waitsburg has adopted a **Critical Areas Ordinance** via Article 10.2 which includes standards and information related to various geologic hazards including areas that could be prone to landslides and erosion during earthquakes.
- The city of Waitsburg has adopted the **International Building Code** which classifies the city as seismic zone D0. The IBC also provides design/construction requirements for geologic hazard areas including areas with steep slope which are landslide and erosion hazards which could be exacerbated by an earthquake.

#### MITIGATION OBJECTIVES AND ACTION ITEMS

Project ID: WG-5			
Hazard	Priority	Cost	Timeline
Earthquake	High		Partially funded, Current and on-going
Minimize damage to public sewer and storm water systems by making structural upgrades to systems including limning sewer lines. Although general goals to reduce vulnerability to critical facilities and infrastructure were included in the 2004, 2010, and 2018 plans, this mitigation measure has not been completed and was reaffirmed as a priority for the 2025-2029 planning period by the Planning Team.			
Lead Agency	City of Waitsburg		
Potential Resources	Local, State, and Federal		

#### SEVERE WEATHER HAZARDS

The city of Waitsburg last experienced significant damage and loss from a severe storm event on January 4, 2008, when central Oregon and the foothills of the Blue Mountains experienced a wind storm. The strongest gust speed at the Walla Walla airport was 78 mph and strongest sustained wind speed was 55 mph. Estimates were that \$4.9 million dollars in damage was experienced within Walla Walla County (not just unincorporated). In the Walla Walla Valley approximately 4 in 10 homes received damage from the storm. Much of the damage was due to falling trees.

#### OTHER PLANS, POLICIES, MITIGATION AND DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

The City of Waitsburg implements the following mitigation measures through other planning and enforcement mechanisms:

- Through adoption of the **International Building Code (IBC)** the City of Waitsburg requires structures to be built to resist wind speeds up to 110 mph and allows installation of wind-resistant roofing. The building code also provides snow load, winter design, and severe weathering design requirements.

- The City of Waitsburg trims trees and other vegetation as necessary to protect roads and other infrastructure as part of an on-going maintenance program. The City also works with private property owners to ensure that trees and other vegetation do not increase vulnerability to severe storm damage. Letters are sent to property owners where problem areas are identified.

#### MITIGATION OBJECTIVES AND ACTION ITEMS

The City of Waitsburg does not have any jurisdiction specific mitigation projects for severe weather alone but does commit to all the severe storm multi-jurisdictional mitigation measures at the county level.



CITY OF WALLA WALLA

This plan is an update of the 2018 Walla Walla County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP). Although it is only an update, the plan has been redesigned and reorganized so it is easier to use. This section has been updated through Planning Team efforts to include new and reconfirmed mitigation measures by identified natural hazard category.

Some action items from the 2018 plan were completed and two (formerly WW-1 and WW-2) were removed because they are no longer priorities. Several projects have been retained but with updated language to reflect either the progress in the project or new realities. Those action items that have been retained are listed below by their new Project ID:

WW-5, WW-7, WW-11, WW-12, WW-13, WW-14

The new projects developed for this plan update are listed below by their new Project ID:

WW-1, WW-2, WW-3, WW-4, WW-6, WW-8, WW-9, WW-10

**COMPLETED PROJECTS**

Project ID: WW-4 (COMPLETED)			
Hazard	Priority	Cost	Timeline
Flood	High		Unfunded, Short term from funding
The City of Walla Walla in cooperation with multiple stakeholders is planning to complete an update on the 2009 Flood Response Plan (FRP) that includes the addition of other jurisdictions within the County (Phase 2). This is a new mitigation goal as of the 2018 update process.			
<b>Lead Agency</b>	City of Walla Walla		
<b>Potential Resources</b>	Local, State, and Federal (Defined by entity in Section 3.5 on Page 25)		
Project ID: WW-5 (COMPLETED)			
Hazard	Priority	Cost	Timeline
Flood	High		Unfunded, Short term from funding
Conduct flood vulnerability assessment of Cottonwood Sewage Lift Station. This station is an identified critical facility. Through the 2018 risk assessment it was noted that the facility is located within the 100-year floodplain, and it was unknown what the vulnerability level for the lift station is. This project is continued from the 2018 plan.			
<b>Lead Agency</b>	City of Walla Walla		
<b>Potential Resources</b>	Local, State, and Federal (Defined by entity in Section 3.5 on Page 25)		

---

## CURRENT POLICIES, CODES AND ORDINANCES

The City of Walla Walla has adopted the 2021 editions of the International Building Code (IBC) and International Fire Code (IFC) (Walla Walla Municipal Code Title 15). The purpose of these codes is to provide minimum standards to protect public health and safety. The IBC provides general standards for seismic design, high wind design and high snow load design based on local characteristics. Both the building and fire codes are enforced and regulated through the City's Development Services Department.

Listed below are other applicable codes, plans, ordinances, and programs:

- City of Walla Walla Comprehensive plan
- Countywide planning Policies (CPPs)
- Title 15, Buildings and Construction
- Chapter 21.04, Critical Areas
- Chapter 21.08, State Environmental Policy Act
- Chapter 21.10, Floodplain Management

---

## JURISDICTION-SPECIFIC MITIGATION STRATEGIES AND ACTION ITEMS

It should be noted that although the various mitigation strategies and/or projects listed on the following pages are contained in the City of Walla Walla portion of this plan, many of these strategies and/or projects would most likely benefit multiple jurisdictions, special purpose districts or agencies and may ultimately be funded from a variety of sources.

While these mitigation strategies and/or projects have been suggested by various city officials and staff through the planning process, these strategies and/or projects have not been officially approved by the City of Walla Walla City Council and funding for these strategies and/or projects has not been allocated. In many cases, funding for these mitigation strategies and/or projects is dependent upon the City receiving future federal and/or state hazard mitigation grant funding.

The city also supports and recommends the multi-jurisdictional mitigation measures contained in this plan that cover the extent of Walla Walla County.

---

## MULTIPLE HAZARDS

### MITIGATION OBJECTIVES AND ACTION ITEMS

Project ID: WW-1			
Hazard	Priority	Cost	Timeline
Multi Hazard	High		Unfunded, Short term from funding

*Plan and construct emergency generators and automatic transfer switches at drinking water wells.*

The city requires emergency generators at two key wells to ensure a reliable water supply during power outages, floods, or earthquakes. These natural and man-made disasters can disrupt the power grid, leaving essential infrastructure, such as water wells, without electricity. In the absence of power, the city's ability to pump water from the wells would be compromised, leading to a shortage of potable water for residents and businesses. Emergency generators would provide the necessary backup power, allowing the wells to continue operating, thus maintaining a steady water supply during critical times

In addition to ensuring access to drinking water, having emergency generators at these wells is vital for fire protection. During a power outage, particularly in the aftermath of a natural disaster, the risk of fire can increase due to compromised infrastructure and emergency situations. The availability of water for firefighting efforts becomes even more crucial. By equipping the wells with backup generators, the city can ensure that firefighters have access to sufficient water pressure and volume to combat fires effectively, thereby protecting lives, property, and the overall safety of the community.

<b>Lead Agency</b>	City of Walla Walla
<b>Potential Resources</b>	Local, State, and Federal

**Project ID: WW-2**

<b>Hazard</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
Multi Hazard	High		Unfunded, Short term from funding

*Acquire emergency power generation for the city's seven deep basalt wells.*

These wells are used to supplement supply when stream levels decline in summer months. More importantly, in an emergency these wells would completely supply the city's needs for water should the Mill Creek Watershed become compromised due to a natural disaster. During the 2024 update process, the need for emergency power at these facilities was specifically identified by the City's Planning Team.

<b>Lead Agency</b>	City of Walla Walla
<b>Potential Resources</b>	Local, State, and Federal

<b>Project ID: WW-3</b>			
<b>Hazard</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
Multi Hazard	Medium		Unfunded, Short term from funding
<p><i>Develop a Disaster Debris Management Plan.</i></p> <p>Safe, proper and timely management of debris is an essential but often overlooked component of an emergency response or disaster incident. Debris management is also one of many competing priorities agencies must manage during such events. It is important that disaster debris be properly managed so as to protect human health, comply with regulations, conserve disposal capacity, reduce injuries, and minimize or prevent environmental impacts.</p>			
<b>Lead Agency</b>	City of Walla Walla		
<b>Potential Resources</b>	Local, State, and Federal		

<b>Project ID: WW-4</b>			
<b>Hazard</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
Multi Hazard	High		Unfunded, Short term from funding
<p>To ensure that the local emergency communication system remains operational and remains resilient should a disaster take place. The City of Walla Walla currently utilizes a colocation data center for its critical network and server infrastructure. The City of Walla Walla does not have a secondary datacenter or disaster recovery site.</p> <p>For business continuity, a secondary datacenter or disaster recovery site would be a critical asset in the event of a natural or manmade disaster. A secondary datacenter would reduce downtime and provide a high availability for 24/7 operations, in particular, public safety services. SaaS solutions are being explored for the public safety system.</p> <p>Although the City of Walla Walla has invested in SaaS applications, not all business systems and operational systems are cloud hosted. The City of Walla Walla continues to explore a secondary and cloud disaster recovery solution. Investment in a secondary datacenter or a cloud disaster recovery solution should be highly considered.</p>			
<b>Lead Agency</b>	City of Walla Walla		
<b>Potential Resources</b>	Local, State, and Federal		

---

## FLOOD HAZARDS

No frequently flooded areas are located within the city of Walla Walla at this time although the city still has potential to experience losses due to flood events, including flash flooding. The infrastructure associated with Mill Creek is of concern and the multiple jurisdictions controlling parts of the hydrologic control system associated with it have come together to begin a plan to address these concerns. A breakdown of the authorities involved, and the location of their stream reaches and infrastructure are included in the following.

- The **Walla Walla County County-wide planning Policies (CPPs)**, adopted in 1993, form a basis for planning and multi-jurisdictional coordination within Walla Walla County and have been adopted by the City of Walla Walla. The following CPPs directly address flood hazard mitigation:

CPP 11.5      The County will continue to utilize the Federal Emergency Management Agency program for floodplain management.

## OTHER PLANS, POLICIES, MITIGATION AND DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

- The city adheres to the **Walla Walla County Flood Response Plan (FRP), 2022**. See the section under Walla Walla County above.
- The 2020 Mill Creek flood inflicted significant damage on both the intake structures and the City's water transmission main and took the City's surface water supply offline. In February 2022, the city enlisted the services of Perteet Inc. to aid in the application process for FEMA Hazard Mitigation grants. In 2023 the city was awarded a hazard mitigation grant to evaluate strategies to improve resiliency to/from natural disasters. The Consor consultant team will prepare a ten-chapter hazard mitigation project/plan that aims to prioritize the protection of the watershed and enhance water supply resilience while safeguarding fish and wildlife habitat. To achieve these goals, the consultant will conduct a comprehensive study, encompassing the identification of problems, proposed strategies, and available funding options. The primary focus will be on fortifying critical water supply infrastructure against a spectrum of threats including wildfires, floods, earthquakes, droughts, and the impacts of climate change. The plan will entail an examination of the watershed and various drinking water system components, with the aim of identifying future projects and the corresponding grant funding requirements necessary to strengthen these vital assets against natural disasters and climate change. This project is expected to span approximately two years and will involve consultations with various local, state, and federal partners.

## MITIGATION OBJECTIVES AND ACTION ITEMS

Project ID: WW-5			
Hazard	Priority	Cost	Timeline
Flood	High		Federal funding recently acquired
<p>In 2021, the City of Walla Walla, in cooperation with local, State, and Federal Legislators, worked with the United States Corps of Engineers to complete a General Investigative Study of the Mill Creek Channel. This Study addressed structural improvement needs for the existing channel. This initiative has since been moved to the CAP 205 program with planned construction to begin on or after July 1, 2026</p>			
<b>Lead Agency</b>	Mill Creek Flood Control Zone District		
<b>Potential Resources</b>	Federal		

Project ID: WW-6			
Hazard	Priority	Cost	Timeline
Flood	High		Unfunded, Short term from funding
<p><i>Construct a large slide gate at the city water intake dam as a Water System Flood Risk Reduction project.</i></p> <p>Installing a large slide gate at the city water intake dam and reservoirs is vital for protecting the intake/fish screens and the intake building from gravel deposition and high-water damage during flood events. During floods, the force of the water can carry significant amounts of gravel, sediment, and debris downstream, which can accumulate around the intake structures. This gravel deposition can clog the intake screens, obstructing water flow, and potentially damaging the fish screens designed to protect aquatic life. Other elements of this project should include a river gaging site at the intake dam and a weather station at the site.</p> <p>A large slide gate can be opened during flood events to temporarily This helps to avoid clogging and reduces the risk of damage to both the screens and the intake infrastructure. Additionally, by controlling the flow of water into the intake, the slide gate can protect the intake building from being inundated by high water levels, which could lead to structural damage and disrupt the water supply.</p> <p>Overall, the slide gate serves as a critical defense mechanism, ensuring that the intake system remains functional and secure even during severe flood conditions, thereby safeguarding the City's water supply and infrastructure.</p>			
<b>Lead Agency</b>	City of Walla Walla		

<b>Potential Resources</b>	Local, State, and Federal
----------------------------	---------------------------

*WILDFIRE HAZARDS*

Direct damage to properties within the City of Walla Walla is not likely to result from a wildfire event. Vulnerability to wildfire for the city is primarily based on the location of the Mill Creek Municipal Watershed adjacent to the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). The municipal watershed provides approximately 90 percent of the City’s municipal water supply. Large fires in the watershed have been avoided for the past 100 years due to effective USFS fire suppression. The City has completed fire fuels reduction projects in 2008, 2015, and 2018 on areas within the watershed it has ownership. It is critical that the City continue the maintenance and progress of these efforts into the future in order to protect water quality.

**OTHER PLANS, POLICIES, MITIGATION AND DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS**

The City has participated in wildfire hazard mitigation through a variety of different mechanisms:

- The watershed is characterized by forest conditions with heavy fuel loads and is vulnerable to wildfire. A destructive wildfire could have serious negative effects on water quality. The City and Walla Walla County completed and adopted the **Mill Creek and Walla Walla County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)** in 2024. The CWPP contains many mitigation measures to be implemented within the WUI which will reduce wildfire vulnerability to the municipal watershed. Additionally, the USFS has jurisdiction over more than 90% of the Mill Creek watershed and the City is dependent on the fire protection services of that agency for those areas.
- The USFS has implemented a prescribed fuels treatment with additional treatments planned in the Tiger Creek Drainage that lies adjacent to the Mill Creek Watershed. The first phase of this project included prescribed fire treatment on USFS and City of Walla Walla lands which was conducted in the fall of 2022. The USFS is also in the planning process of the Tiger-Mill Fuels Reduction project with the intent to reduce fuels in and around the Mill Creek Watershed. Implementation of the Tiger-Mill project is anticipated to start in 2025.
- The City of Walla Walla has adopted the International Code Council family of codes through Walla Walla Municipal Code Title 15. This includes the **International Fire Code (IFC)**. The IFC provides regulations to protect life and property from all types of fire and explosion hazards. The regulations include general precautions against fire, emergency planning and preparedness, fire department access, hydrants, sprinkler and alarm systems, hazardous materials storage and use, etc. The fire code applies to

all new construction and land development and some modifications to existing buildings.

- By ordinance 2024-01 the City of Walla Walla adopted by reference the 2021 edition of the International Wildland-Urban Interface Code published by the International Code Council, Inc., and as amended by Chapter 51-55 of the Washinton Administrative Code.

#### MITIGATION OBJECTIVES AND ACTION ITEMS

Project ID: WW-7			
Hazard	Priority	Cost	Timeline
Wildfire	Medium		Partially funded, Current and on-going
Continue with implementation of the Mill Creek and Walla Walla County Community Wildfire Protection Plan recommendations from the 2024 update to reduce county and city wildfire vulnerability and risk to the Mill Creek Municipal Watershed. This mitigation measure only included Mill Creek during the 2010 HMP and has been expanded to include all of Walla Walla County and an updated assessment of the Mill Creek Municipal Watershed for the 2025-2029 planning period.			
Lead Agency	City of Walla Walla		
Potential Resources	Local, State, and Federal		

Project ID: WW-8			
Hazard	Priority	Cost	Timeline
Wildfire	High		Unfunded, Short term from funding
A helicopter hydrant located near the city watershed intake facility is essential for protecting the drinking water supply from wildfires and controlled burns. This strategic placement allows helicopters to quickly refill and make repeated water drops, which is crucial for controlling fire spread and preventing it from reaching critical zones within the watershed. The rapid response helps safeguard the area from potential contamination caused by wildfire-induced erosion and ash deposition.			
Additionally, during controlled burns, the proximity of the hydrant to the intake facility ensures that any fire remains within intended boundaries, reducing the risk of it spreading and damaging the watershed. By protecting both the area and its infrastructure, such as the intake facility and nearby water storage tanks, the hydrant plays a key role in maintaining the integrity of the City's water supply.			



<b>Lead Agency</b>	City of Walla Walla
<b>Potential Resources</b>	Local, State, and Federal

<b>Project ID: WW-9</b>			
<b>Hazard</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
Wildfire	High		Unfunded, Short term from funding
<p>An emergency coagulation station at the City’s drinking water raw water reservoirs is crucial for protecting the water treatment plant from potential contamination caused by a watershed wildfire induced erosion and ash deposition. Wildfire can significantly alter the landscape, leading to increased erosion and the release of large amounts of ash and debris into the water supply. These contaminants can overwhelm the natural filtration processes, posing a serious risk to water quality.</p> <p>The emergency coagulation station would allow for the rapid addition of coagulants to the raw water. Coagulants are chemicals that cause suspended particles, including ash and sediment, to clump together and settle out of the water more quickly. By removing these contaminants before the water reaches the treatment plant, the coagulation process helps prevent clogging, reduces the burden on filtration systems, and ensures that the plant can continue to produce safe drinking water even in the aftermath of a wildfire. This proactive measure is essential for maintaining water quality and protecting public health.</p>			
<b>Lead Agency</b>	City of Walla Walla		
<b>Potential Resources</b>	Local, State, and Federal		

<b>Project ID: WW-10</b>			
<b>Hazard</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
Wildfire	High		Unfunded, Short term from funding
<p>Installing membrane filtration at the city water plant is essential for protecting the water treatment process from potential contamination caused by wildfire-induced erosion and ash deposition. When a wildfire occurs, it can lead to significant erosion and the introduction of large amounts of ash, sediment, and other debris into the water supply. These contaminants can overwhelm traditional water treatment methods, compromising water quality.</p> <p>Membrane filtration offers a highly effective barrier against these contaminants. It uses semi-permeable membranes to physically separate fine particles, including ash and sediment, from</p>			

the water. This process ensures that only clean water passes through, while harmful particles are removed before they can reach the main treatment plant. By installing membrane filtration, the City can enhance its ability to produce safe drinking water even under challenging conditions, such as those following a wildfire. This added layer of protection is crucial for ensuring the reliability and safety of the water supply.

<b>Lead Agency</b>	City of Walla Walla
<b>Potential Resources</b>	Local, State, and Federal

### *EARTHQUAKE HAZARDS*

There are indicators which suggest that City of Walla Walla could experience a large earthquake: proximity to large faults, evidence of large earthquakes in the recent geologic past, and historical seismicity. Although it is very difficult to predict when an earthquake will occur, we do have valuable information regarding vulnerability which helps focus hazard mitigation efforts. Although the area has significant geologic hazard, damage and loss from an earthquake has not occurred recently.

### *OTHER PLANS, POLICIES, MITIGATION AND DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS*

Other plans, policies, and development standards relevant to mitigation of earthquake and other geologic hazards include the following:

- As part of the 2008 Critical Areas Ordinance update completed in 2008 the city adopted new standards and background information related to various geologic hazards including landslide, erosion, and seismic hazard areas. In areas with steep or unstable slopes or with soil characteristics prone to liquefaction, geotechnical reports are required as part of development permits. When design and construction methods cannot reduce the risk to acceptable levels development may be prohibited.
- The City of Walla Walla has adopted the International Building Code which classifies the city as seismic zone D. The IBC also provides design/construction requirements for geologic hazard areas including areas with steep slope which are landslide and erosion hazards which could be exacerbated by an earthquake.

### *MITIGATION OBJECTIVES AND ACTION ITEMS*

<b>Project ID: WW-11</b>			
<b>Hazard</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
Earthquake	Medium		Project in progress

<p>Conduct structural assessment and necessary improvements to City Hall to reduce potential earthquake damage.</p> <p><b>Update:</b> Structural assessment was completed in 2024. Areas with necessary improvements needed will be noted in that assessment when finalized. This project will be retained for the 2024 update until the assessment is finalized.</p>	
<b>Lead Agency</b>	City of Walla Walla
<b>Potential Resources</b>	Local, State, and Federal

Project ID: WW-12			
Hazard	Priority	Cost	Timeline
Earthquake	High		Unfunded, Short term from funding
<p>Conduct structural assessment and necessary improvements to city public parking infrastructure nearby and overlaying the Mill Creek diversion canal under the city to reduce potential earthquake damage has been identified as a new mitigation need. Although general goals to reduce structural vulnerability were included in 2010, this specific mitigation measure was new in the 2018 HMP.</p> <p><b>Update:</b> Since its inclusion, some actions have been taken to protect the public from accessing the most significant areas of concern, however, the fate of some of the more vulnerable areas/buildings may depend on the GI study performed by the USACE. This project has been retained for the 2024 update.</p>			
<b>Lead Agency</b>	City of Walla Walla		
<b>Potential Resources</b>	Local, State, and Federal		

Project ID: WW-13			
Hazard	Priority	Cost	Timeline
Earthquake	High		Unfunded, Short term from funding
<p>To ensure above-ground water storage tanks remain operational after an earthquake, a comprehensive seismic retrofit is necessary. This includes installing flexible earthquake joints to connect the two (2) Mill Creek water tanks and the one (1) Clinton Street tank to the pipelines, preventing disconnection due to ground movement. An earthquake anchor system with base isolators, tie-down anchors, and shear keys will secure the tanks to their foundations,</p>			

avoiding sliding or tipping. Larger tank vents will prevent vacuum collapse by allowing air to enter as water exits rapidly. Additionally, automatic shutoff valves with seismic sensors will immediately close to prevent water loss and contamination. These upgrades collectively enhance the resilience of the water storage system, ensuring it can continue providing drinking water and fire protection post-earthquake.

*This project was updated by the City Engineer and retained for the 2024 plan update.*

<b>Lead Agency</b>	City of Walla Walla
<b>Potential Resources</b>	Local, State, and Federal

Project ID: WW-14			
Hazard	Priority	Cost	Timeline
Earthquake	High		Unfunded, Short term from funding
Replace 22,000 linear feet of 24" water main. The city water system is fed with dual transmission mains from the water treatment plant. One main was constructed in 1928 the other in 1953. The former is a 1928 riveted steel water main that is highly susceptible to earthquake damage. The latter is a steel line at the end of its service life requiring frequent repairs. The project would replace both these pipelines with new earthquake resistant transmission mains. (Version 2 revision)			
<b>Lead Agency</b>	City of Walla Walla		
<b>Potential Resources</b>	Local, State, and Federal		

**SEVERE WEATHER HAZARDS**

The City of Walla Walla last experienced significant damage and loss from a severe weather event on January 4, 2008, when Central Oregon and the foothills of the Blue Mountains experienced a wind storm. The strongest gust speed at the Walla Walla airport was 78 mph and strongest sustained wind speed was 55 mph. Estimates were that 4.9 million dollars in damage was experienced within Walla Walla County (not just unincorporated). In the Walla Walla Valley approximately 4 in 10 homes received damage from the storm. Much of the damage was due to falling trees.

**OTHER PLANS, POLICIES, MITIGATION AND DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS**

The City of Walla Walla implements the following mitigation measures through other planning and enforcement mechanisms:

- Through adoption of the International Building Code (IBC) the city requires structures to be built to resist wind speeds up to 110 mph and allows installation of wind-resistant roofing. The building code also provides snow load, winter design, and severe weathering design requirements.
- The City of Walla Walla ensures that trees and vegetation are pruned and trimmed as necessary to protect roads, bridges and other infrastructure from damage.

#### MITIGATION OBJECTIVES AND ACTION ITEMS

The City of Walla Walla does not have any jurisdiction specific mitigation projects that address severe weather alone but does have four Multi-Hazard action items that address severe weather hazards as part of their mitigation objective. Walla Walla also commits to supporting all severe weather multi-jurisdictional mitigation measures at the county level, where appropriate.

## WALLA WALLA PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

This plan is an update of the 2018 Walla Walla County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP). Although it is only an update, the plan has been redesigned and reorganized so it is easier to use. This section has been updated through Planning Team efforts to include new and reconfirmed mitigation measures by each identified natural hazard category.

---

### **CURRENT POLICIES, CODES AND ORDINANCES**

The Walla Walla Public School District has adopted the 2017 editions of the International Building Code (IBC) and International Fire Code 2018 (IFC) (Walla Walla Municipal Code Title 15 2018) in alignment with the City of Walla Walla. The purpose of these codes is to provide minimum standards to protect public health and safety. The IBC provides general standards for seismic design, high wind design and high snow load design based on local characteristics. Both the building and fire codes are enforced and regulated through the City's Development Services Department.

Listed below are other applicable codes, plans, ordinances, and programs:

- The Walla Walla Municipal Code is current through Ordinance 2018-03, passed January 10, 2018
- City of Walla Walla Comprehensive plan, passed June 2018
- Title 15, Buildings and Construction
- Chapter 21.04, Critical Areas
- Walla Walla County Comprehensive plan, adopted August 2019

On February 13, 2024, voters passed a learning levy and a capital levy. The short-term, six-year capital levy is being implemented to update outdoor space for athletics and various other activities and programs.

---

### **JURISDICTION-SPECIFIC MITIGATION STRATEGIES AND ACTION ITEMS**

It should be noted that although the various mitigation strategies and/or projects listed on the following pages are contained in the Walla Walla Public School District portion of this plan, many of these strategies and/or projects would most likely benefit multiple jurisdictions, special purpose districts or agencies and may ultimately be paid for from a variety of sources.

While these mitigation strategies and/or projects have been recommended by various city officials and staff through the planning process, these strategies and/or projects have not been officially approved by the Walla Walla Public School District and funding for these strategies and/or projects has not been allocated. In many cases, funding for these mitigation strategies

and/or projects is dependent upon the district receiving future federal and/or state hazard mitigation grant funding.

Walla Walla Public School District also supports and recommends the multi-jurisdictional mitigation measures presented at the county level.

---

### *FLOOD HAZARDS*

The Walla Walla Public School District does not have any infrastructure located in frequently flooded areas at this time, although the City of Walla Walla has potential to experience losses due to flood events and this would impact the operations of the Walla Walla Public School District. The infrastructure associated with Mill Creek is of mutual concern and the multiple jurisdictions controlling parts of the hydrologic control system associated with it have come together to begin a plan to address these concerns.

### *OTHER PLANS, POLICIES, MITIGATION AND DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS*

- The Walla Walla County County-wide planning Policies (CPPs), adopted in 1993, form a basis for planning and multi-jurisdictional coordination within Walla Walla County and have been adopted by the City of Walla Walla and the Walla Walla Public School District. The following CPP directly addresses flood hazard mitigation:

CPP 11.5      The Walla Walla Public School District will continue to work with the County in their efforts to continue utilization of the Federal Emergency Management Agency program for floodplain management.

### *MITIGATION OBJECTIVES AND ACTION ITEMS*

The school district does not have any jurisdiction specific mitigation projects that address flood, but they do commit to supporting all flood related multi-jurisdictional mitigation measures at the county level, where appropriate.

---

### *WILDFIRE HAZARDS*

Direct damage to properties within the Walla Walla Public School District is not likely to result from a wildfire event. Vulnerability to wildfire for the School District is primarily based on the location of the municipal watershed within the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) and the impacts a wildfire may have on municipal water supplies. Walla Walla County has conducted hazard mitigation measures to reduce vulnerability within the watershed in the past and plans to continue these efforts into the future in order to protect water quality.

## OTHER PLANS, POLICIES, MITIGATION AND DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

- The Walla Walla Public School District has adopted the International Code Council family of codes through local Municipal Codes for Walla Walla County. This includes the **International Fire Code (IFC)**. The IFC provides regulations to protect life and property from all types of fire and explosion hazards. The regulations include general precautions against fire, emergency planning and preparedness, fire department access, hydrants, sprinkler and alarm systems, hazardous materials storage and use, etc. The fire code applies to all new construction and land development and some modifications to existing buildings.

## MITIGATION OBJECTIVES AND ACTION ITEMS

Project ID: PS-1			
Hazard	Priority	Cost	Timeline
Wildfire	Low		Unfunded, Long term from funding
The Walla Walla Public School District will work with other County jurisdictions and continue to support efforts that implement the Mill Creek and Walla Walla County Community Wildfire Protection Plan recommendations from the 2024 update to reduce wildfire vulnerability. This mitigation measure is new for the 2024-2028 planning period.			
Lead Agency	City of Walla Walla and Walla Walla County EMD		
Potential Resources	Local, State, and Federal		

## EARTHQUAKE HAZARDS

The primary hazard facing the school district is a threat from earthquakes. Walla Walla Public School District has been part of a pilot project to assess the seismic risk of all schools in the district. This project is a cooperative effort between many agencies, including: Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Washington State Emergency Management Division (EMD), the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), and the Washington State Seismic Safety Team. Seismic assessments were completed in August 2018 and at the close of the project the district will receive a study report that details the findings for each school facility (estimated to be delivered in 2019). The report will include an ordered list of structures that should be targeted for retrofitting.



## MITIGATION OBJECTIVES AND ACTION ITEMS

Project ID: PS-2			
Hazard	Priority	Cost	Timeline
Earthquake	High		2018-2019
Conduct assessment of seismic integrity for all school facilities. This mitigation project has been modified from the 2010 plan and is anticipated to be completed within 2018 and reported on in early 2019.			
<b>Lead Agency</b>	Washington State Department of Natural Resources Walla Walla Public School District		
<b>Potential Resources</b>	State		

Project ID: PS-3			
Hazard	Priority	Cost	Timeline
Earthquake	High		Current and ongoing
Conduct non-structural mitigation in all Walla Walla Public Schools buildings. This mitigation project has been modified from the 2010 plan and following the report anticipated for 2019 the District will update their mitigation targets and goals for the 2018-2022 planning period.			
<b>Lead Agency</b>	Washington State Department of Natural Resources Walla Walla Public School District		
<b>Potential Resources</b>	Local		

Project ID: PS-4			
Hazard	Priority	Cost	Timeline
Earthquake	High		Unfunded, Long term from funding
Retrofit school buildings to meet current seismic design standards based on 2018 seismic assessments using prioritization outlined in final report. The results of the seismic assessment being conducted by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources and other state, local and federal agencies will inform this project. This mitigation goal is new for the 2018 plan and has been modified from the 2010 plan.			
<b>Lead Agency</b>	Washington State Department of Natural Resources Walla Walla Public School District		

<b>Potential Resources</b>	Local, State, and Federal (Defined by entity in Section 3.5 on Page 25)
----------------------------	---

---

### *SEVERE WEATHER HAZARDS*

Walla Walla Public School District was last threatened by severe weather events on January 4, 2008, when Central Oregon and the foothills of the Blue Mountains experienced a windstorm. The strongest gust speed at the Walla Walla airport was 78 mph and the strongest sustained wind speed was 55 mph. In the Walla Walla Valley approximately 4 in 10 homes received damage from the storm. Much of the damage was due to falling trees.

### *OTHER PLANS, POLICIES, MITIGATION AND DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS*

The Walla Walla Public School District implements the following mitigation measures through City and County planning and enforcement mechanisms:

- Through adoption of the **International Building Code (IBC)** the School District complies with the requirements of structures to be built to resist wind speeds up to 110 mph and the installation of wind-resistant roofing. Local building codes also provide snow load, winter design, and severe weathering design requirements.
- Walla Walla Public School District works with other entities such as the City of Walla Walla to ensure trees and vegetation are pruned and trimmed as necessary to protect roads, bridges and other infrastructure associated with School District facilities.

### *MITIGATION OBJECTIVES AND ACTION ITEMS*

The Walla Walla Public School District does not have any jurisdiction specific mitigation projects but does commit to all severe weather multi-jurisdictional mitigation measures.

## WALLA WALLA COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

This plan is an update of the 2018 Walla Walla County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP). Although as a new adoption jurisdiction with this plan update, the conservation district developed its own new mitigation strategy and has included new and mitigation measures by each identified natural hazard category.

---

### CURRENT POLICIES, CODES AND ORDINANCES

The conservation district is a countywide organization. Listed below are some applicable codes, plans, ordinances, and programs:

- Walla Walla County Comprehensive plan, 2019
- Countywide planning Policies (CPPs)
- Chapter 18.08, Critical Areas
- Chapter 18.12, Flood Damage Prevention

---

### JURISDICTION-SPECIFIC MITIGATION STRATEGIES AND ACTION ITEMS

Many of these strategies and/or projects would most likely benefit multiple jurisdictions, agencies, and unincorporated communities in Walla Walla County. While these mitigation strategies and/or projects have been developed by district staff during the planning process, they have not been officially approved by the Walla Walla County Conservation District and funding has not been allocated. In many cases, funding for these is dependent upon the district receiving future federal and/or state hazard mitigation grant funding.

Walla Walla County Conservation District also supports and recommends the multi-jurisdictional mitigation measures contained in this plan at the county level.

---

### FLOOD HAZARDS

A significant portion of the county is located within the 100-year floodplain and there are also parts of the county located within the floodway and the 500-year floodplain. The most significant losses due to flooding occurred in 1996, 2012, and 2020.

### MITIGATION OBJECTIVES AND ACTION ITEMS

Project ID: CD-1			
Hazard	Priority	Cost	Timeline
Flood	Medium		On-going

Work with landowners on instream projects and Best Management Practices (BMPs) that increase resiliency to floods. Continue to pursue funds that allow WWCCD to complete instream restoration projects that increase floodplain availability.	
<b>Lead Agency</b>	WWCCD
<b>Potential Resources</b>	State and Federal funds

---

### *WILDFIRE HAZARDS*

In Walla Walla County the highest wildfire hazard area is in the wildland urban interface (WUI) in the eastern part of the county. This area has been the primary focus of wildfire hazard mitigation in the past. There are, however, dry-land portions of the county which also have an elevated wildfire risk. Recognizing this fact, the Planning Team added a mitigation measure during the 2010 update to prepare a wildfire protection plan addressing risk throughout the rest of the county. This mitigation measure was completed in 2017 and then updated in 2024.

### *OTHER PLANS, POLICIES, MITIGATION AND DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS*

The conservation district has participated in wildfire hazard mitigation through a variety of different mechanisms:

- The City of Walla Walla receives 90% of its municipal water supply from the Mill Creek Municipal Watershed which is located adjacent to the wildland urban interface (WUI). The watershed is characterized by forest conditions with heavy fuel loads and is vulnerable to wildfire. A destructive wildfire could have serious negative effects on water quality. The city completed a **County-wide Community Wildfire Protection Plan in 2017** that included a reassessment of the Mill Creek watershed and associated fire risk ratings. During the 2024 update to the HMP, the 2017 CWPP was also updated and serves as an appendix to this plan. This plan contains many mitigation measures to be implemented within the WUI which will reduce wildfire vulnerability within the unincorporated areas of Walla Walla County.
- Walla Walla County Conservation District works closely with the Washington State Department of Ecology, local fire districts, and the county to implement the local **burn program**. The Community Development Department issues residential burn permits and works with other agencies to conduct enforcement and provide valuable information to property owners regarding alternatives to burning and recommendations on safe practices that can reduce risk. A daily burn decision is issued by the Department of Ecology Eastern Regional Office.

- The 2019 Comprehensive Plan contains the following goals and policies that pertain to wildfire:
  - Goal RL-6
    - Protect the environmentally sensitive features that are present in Rural Remote lands and reduce the threat of hazards such as flooding, slope failure, and wildfire.
  - Policy RL 6.1
    - Implement the Community Wildfire Protection Plan to reduce the risk of wildfire and mitigate the impacts if a fire occurs.

#### MITIGATION OBJECTIVES AND ACTION ITEMS

Project ID: CD-2			
Hazard	Priority	Cost	Timeline
Wildfire	High		On-going
Work with landowners to address forest health. This includes home assessments for wildfire prone areas as well as offer cost-share programs to assist in forest thinning/forest health.			
Lead Agency	WWCCD		
Potential Resources	State and Federal funds		

---

#### EARTHQUAKE HAZARDS

There are several indicators which suggest that Walla Walla County could experience a large earthquake: proximity to large faults, evidence of large earthquakes in the recent geologic past and historical seismicity. Although it is very difficult to predict when an earthquake will occur, we do have valuable information regarding vulnerability which helps focus hazard mitigation efforts. Although Walla Walla County has significant geologic hazards, damage and losses from an earthquake has not occurred recently.

#### OTHER PLANS, POLICIES, MITIGATION AND DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

Other plans, policies, and development standards relevant to mitigation of earthquake and other geologic hazards include the following:

- As part of the 2008 **Critical Areas Ordinance** update completed by the county in 2009 the county adopted new standards and background information related to various geologic hazards including landslide, erosion, and seismic hazard areas. In areas with steep or unstable slopes or with soil characteristics prone to liquefaction, geotechnical reports are

required as part of development permits. When design and construction methods cannot reduce the risk to acceptable levels development may be prohibited.

#### MITIGATION OBJECTIVES AND ACTION ITEMS

Project ID: CD-3			
Hazard	Priority	Cost	Timeline
Earthquake	Low		On-going
Continue education and outreach surrounding liquefaction of soils associated with earthquake activity as mentioned in the VSP guide.			
Lead Agency	WWCCD		
Potential Resources	State funds		

#### SEVERE WEATHER HAZARDS

Walla Walla County experienced notable damage and loss from severe weather events that have caused millions of dollars in damage because of high winds, flooding, ice, cold waves, and other severe weather events. *Expected Annual Loss* values calculated by FEMA have the potential to reach the hundreds of thousands or millions.

#### OTHER PLANS, POLICIES, MITIGATION AND DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

Walla Walla County implements the following mitigation measures through other planning and enforcement mechanisms:

- Through adoption of the International Building Code (IBC) Walla Walla County requires structures to be built to resist wind speeds up to 110 mph and allows installation of wind-resistant roofing. The building code also provides snow load, winter design, and severe weathering design requirements.

#### MITIGATION OBJECTIVES AND ACTION ITEMS

Project ID: CD-4			
Hazard	Priority	Cost	Timeline
Severe Weather	Medium		On-going
Educate private landowners on soil and water erosion prevention Best Management Practices (BMPs).			
Lead Agency	WWCCD		

Potential Resources	State and Federal funds
---------------------	-------------------------

## 7 APPENDIX A: NEWS RELEASES AND MEDIA POSTS

 **Walla Walla County Emergency Management**  
February 14 · 🌐

Yesterday saw the "Kickoff" of the periodic update of the Walla Walla County Hazard Mitigation Plan and the Community Wildfire Protection Plan. The Meeting, hosted by Walla Walla Emergency Management and facilitated by Northwest Management INC, was very well attended by many of our County and regional stakeholders. This is the start of a year-long collaborative process to complete updates to both plans.



12   5 

 Like  Comment

Figure 13: Facebook post from February 14, 2024





## Walla Walla County Emergency Management

March 4 · 🌐

Media Release:

From: Walla Walla County Emergency Management Department

Date: March 4, 2024

RE: Walla Walla County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update and  
Community Wildfire Protection Plan Update

Walla Walla County Initiates Project for Updating Hazard Plans

WALLA WALLA, WASHINGTON – Last month Walla Walla County began the process of updating its Hazard Mitigation Plan and Community Wildfire Protection Plan. The county hosted a “kickoff” meeting on February 13, at Station 41, Walla Walla Fire District 4 in Walla Walla, to assemble the planning team assigned to work on these updates. The Hazard Mitigation Plan examines risks posed by natural hazards, including flood, earthquake, wildfire, and severe weather. The Community Wildfire Protection Plan takes a focused view of wildland fire. Both plans will also develop strategies to reduce the impacts from these respective hazards.

The planning team consists of representatives from a variety of local agencies, organizations, governments, and groups, who will meet regularly to complete the project. Northwest Management, Inc. has been retained by Walla Walla County to provide risk assessments, hazard mapping, research, and to collaborate with the planning team to update the plans. As part of the update process, the Community Wildfire Protection Plan will be incorporated into the wildfire section of the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requires counties to update the Hazard Mitigation Plan every five years to remain eligible for federal hazard funding. The incorporated cities in Walla Walla County are currently recognized as adopting jurisdictions in the plan and will also adopt this plan update, along with Walla Walla Public Schools. The Community Wildfire Protection Plan will be updated to meet state and federal requirements.

Community input will also play a key role throughout the planning process. Public meetings, reviews of the plans, and a public comment period will be announced in the future. The current version of the Walla Walla County Hazard Mitigation Plan can be accessed and viewed upon request. This update project is expected to be completed by December 2024.

Questions can be addressed to the Walla Walla County Emergency Management Department at 509-524-2900 or [emd@co.walla-walla.wa.us](mailto:emd@co.walla-walla.wa.us).

Figure 14: Facebook post from March 4, 2024



## Walla Walla County Emergency Management

March 6 · 🌐

Yesterday March 5th, we held the 2nd Planning Committee meeting for the update of the Walla Walla County Hazard Mitigation Plan and Community Wildfire Protection plan. Committee members shared and discussed local knowledge of hazards which have impacted Walla Walla County in the past and which can be expected to impact it in the future. Local knowledge of hazards is an important part of ensuring that the update reflects those hazards most impactful to the County. If you have ... See more



👍 16

2 ➡

👍 Like

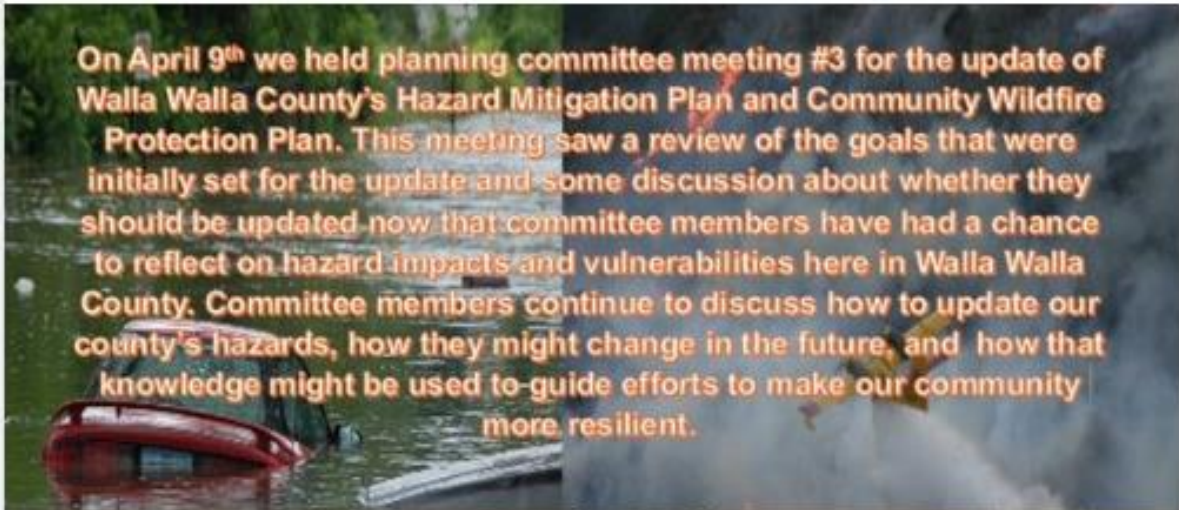
💬 Comment

Figure 15: Facebook post from March 6, 2024



## Walla Walla County Emergency Management

April 17 · 🌐



### Walla Walla County Emergency Management

Government organization

Send message

9

1

Like

Comment

Figure 16: Facebook post from April 17, 2024



## Walla Walla County Emergency Management's Post



Walla Walla County Emergency Management

June 4 · 🌐

### Walla Walla County Hazard & Preparedness Survey

As we update our local Hazard Mitigation Plan and our Community Wildfire Protection Plan, we will be sending out some simple surveys to gather the thoughts and concerns of Walla Walla County residents.

Your responses will be used to help inform planning discussions during the update process and help guide the creation of future surveys. We look forward to hearing from you.

<https://arcg.is/1nLDLj2>



Walla Walla County Emergency Management

Government organization

Send message

7

2 comments 6 shares

Like

Comment

Most relevant ▾



Author

Walla Walla County Emergency Management

<https://arcg.is/1nLDLj2>



SURVEY123.ARCGIS.COM

Walla Walla County Natural Hazard & Community Preparedness Survey

Figure 17: June 4, 2024, Facebook post advertising the survey



Walla Walla County Emergency Management

August 16 · 🌐

Here is the link. <https://arcg.is/0qyzju>

**WE NEED YOUR HELP**

**WALLA WALLA County Hazard and Preparedness Survey #2**

As we continue to update the Walla Walla County Hazard Mitigation Plan and the Community Wildfire Protection Plan, we are again asking Walla Walla County residents to take a few moments and fill out a very brief survey.

Your Responses will help inform discussions during the update process and provide input in creating a Plan that meets the needs of our community. <https://arcg.is/0qyzju>



Walla Walla County Emergency Management

Government organization

Send message

8

2 10

Like

Comment

Figure 18: Facebook post from August 16, 2024 advertising the survey

**Media Release**

**From:** Walla Walla County Emergency Management Department

**Date:** March 1, 2024

**RE:** Walla Walla County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update and Community Wildfire Protection Plan Update

***Walla Walla County Initiates Project for Updating Hazard Plans***

WALLA WALLA, WASHINGTON – Last month Walla Walla County began the process of updating its Hazard Mitigation Plan and Community Wildfire Protection Plan. The county hosted a “kickoff” meeting on February 13, at Station 41, Walla Walla Fire District 4 in Walla Walla, to assemble the planning team assigned to work on these updates. The Hazard Mitigation Plan examines risks posed by natural hazards, including flood, earthquake, wildfire, and severe weather. The Community Wildfire Protection Plan takes a focused view of wildland fire. Both plans will also develop strategies to reduce the impacts from these respective hazards.

The planning team consists of representatives from a variety of local agencies, organizations, governments, and groups, who will meet regularly to complete the project. Northwest Management, Inc. has been retained by Walla Walla County to provide risk assessments, hazard mapping, research, and to collaborate with the planning team to update the plans. As part of the update process, the Community Wildfire Protection Plan will be incorporated into the wildfire section of the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requires counties to update the Hazard Mitigation Plan every five years to remain eligible for federal hazard funding. The incorporated cities in Walla Walla County are currently recognized as adopting jurisdictions in the plan and will also adopt this plan update, along with Walla Walla Public Schools. The Community Wildfire Protection Plan will be updated to meet state and federal requirements.

Community input will also play a key role throughout the planning process. Public meetings, reviews of the plans, and a public comment period will be announced in the future. The current version of the Walla Walla County Hazard Mitigation Plan can be accessed and viewed upon request. This update project is expected to be completed by December 2024.

Questions can be addressed to the Walla Walla County Emergency Management Department at 509-524-2900 or [emd@co.walla-walla.wa.us](mailto:emd@co.walla-walla.wa.us).

Figure 19: News release announcing the kicking off of the update project

## 8 APPENDIX B: RECORD OF PLANNING TEAM MEETINGS

### KICK-OFF MEETING

<b>A G E N D A</b>	<b>Walla Walla County Update for the Hazard Mitigation Plan and Community Wildfire Protection Plan</b> <b>Kickoff Meeting</b> <b>Tuesday, February 13, 2024</b> <b>1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.</b> <b>Station 41 2251 S. Howard St.</b> <b>Walla Walla, WA 99362 (Training Room)</b> <b>*virtual option included</b>	
1:00 p.m.	<b>OPEN – Introductions and welcome</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ County Efforts To-Date</li> </ul>	Chris Lee, Patrick Purcell
1:10 p.m.	<b>GROUP MEETING</b>  <b>I. Overview</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Overview of the All-Hazard Mitigation Plan Update</li> <li>▪ Overview of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan</li> </ul> <b>II. Building the Planning Team</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Planning Team                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ Planning team responsibilities</li> <li>➢ Meeting Schedule and Format</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Stakeholders and Partners                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ Who is missing?</li> <li>➢ Who needs to be at the table?</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <b>III. Developing the Outreach Strategy</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Public Involvement</li> </ul>	Adam Herrenbruck, with Northwest Management, Inc.
1:45 p.m.	<b>IV. Exercises</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Review Planning and Mitigation Goals</li> <li>▪ Local Knowledge Questionnaire</li> <li>▪ Updated Hazard Summary Rating</li> <li>▪ Capabilities Assessment</li> </ul>	
2:45 p.m.	<b>V. Homework</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Local Knowledge Questionnaire</li> <li>▪ Data and Information Request</li> <li>▪ Hazard Summary Worksheet/Capabilities Assessment                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ Must be completed by all adopting jurisdictions</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
3:00 p.m.	<b>ADJOURNMENT</b>	
<b>Contact Info:</b>		
<b>Manager and Project Lead:</b> Adam Herrenbruck <a href="mailto:herrenbruck@northwestmanagement.com">herrenbruck@northwestmanagement.com</a>	<b>Project Support:</b> Erica Wimpe <a href="mailto:ewimpe@northwestmanagement.com">ewimpe@northwestmanagement.com</a>	<b>Other Support:</b> Tucker Flaten <a href="mailto:flaten@northwestmanagement.com">flaten@northwestmanagement.com</a>
<b>Northwest Management Office:</b> 208-883-4488	Natalie Atkins <a href="mailto:mconnell@northwestmanagement.com">mconnell@northwestmanagement.com</a>	Eric Nelson <a href="mailto:nelson@northwestmanagement.com">nelson@northwestmanagement.com</a>



## MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL PARTICIPATION

Representatives from the county, Walla Walla, College Place, Waitsburg, and the Conservation District were present at the kickoff meeting along with a wide variety of stakeholders and planning partners.

MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET				
Project: Walla Walla Kick off Meeting			Date: 02 / 13 / 24	
Facilitator: Northwest Management, Inc.			Place: Station 41 Walla Walla	
Name	Title	Organization	Phone	Email
Adam Herrenbruck	LPS Manager	Northwest Management Inc		<a href="mailto:herrenbruck@northwestmanagement.com">herrenbruck@northwestmanagement.com</a>
Erica Wimme	Environmental Planner	Northwest Management Inc		<a href="mailto:ewimme@northwestmanagement.com">ewimme@northwestmanagement.com</a>
John Knowles	Chief	WWFD	509-527-4632	<a href="mailto:jknowles@wallawalla.gov">jknowles@wallawalla.gov</a>
Craig Lybeck	GM	WWFG	509-527-3247	<a href="mailto:glybeck@co.walla-walla.wa.us">glybeck@co.walla-walla.wa.us</a>
Ricky Eastman	Chief	WWCFD4	(509)529-1282	<a href="mailto:REASTMAN@WWFIRE4.COM">REASTMAN@WWFIRE4.COM</a>
John Golden	Dep. Chief	WWCFD4	"	<a href="mailto:jgolden@wwfire4.com">jgolden@wwfire4.com</a>
Troy Tomarts	Chief	CPPD		<a href="mailto:Ttomarts@CPAUSA">Ttomarts@CPAUSA</a>
Lonna Lavo	Administrative	WW Veterans Home	509-540-0312	<a href="mailto:LONNAL@DVA.WA.GOV">LONNAL@DVA.WA.GOV</a>
Jodi Ferguson	DCT Mgr	DCT	524-2457	<a href="mailto:jferguson@co.wallawalla.wa.us">jferguson@co.wallawalla.wa.us</a>
Justin Lann Dalme		ODF		
Jennifer Ballard		City Planning		
Angie Peters	General Manager	Valley Transit	509-526-9140	<a href="mailto:angie@valleytransit.com">angie@valleytransit.com</a>
Mike Rizz	CITY ADMN	CITY CP	304-858	<a href="mailto:mike.rizz@cityofwallawalla.com">mike.rizz@cityofwallawalla.com</a>



Name	Title	Organization	Phone	Email
Melissa Shumake	Deputy Director	WV County Community Dev		mshumake@co.walla-walla.wa.us
Bob Carson	emeritus prof	Whitman College	509-520-7677	carsonrj@whitman.edu
Tina Bobbitt	Director	Columbia County	509-382-2518	tina-bobbitt@co.columbia.wa.us
Alan Harden	Facility	W DVA	502-202-3228	Alan.Harden@edu.wa.gov
DARRAN MASSETTI	Accessibility	W DVA	509-386-3110	
Tony Garcia	PW Director	Walla Walla Co.	509-242-7160	
Mark Crison	SHERIFF	WWSO	509-524-5409	mcrison@co.walla-walla.wa.us
Rick Dawson	WWDCIT		524-2669	rdawson@co.walla-walla.wa.us

### MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET

Project: Walla Walla Kick off Meeting

Date: 02 / 13 / 24

Facilitator: Northwest Management, Inc.

Place: Station 41  
Walla Walla

Name	Title	Organization	Phone	Email
Adam Herrenbruck	LPS Manager	Northwest Management Inc		herrenbruck@northwestmanagement.com
Erica Wimpe	Environmental Planner	Northwest Management Inc		ewimpe@northwestmanagement.com
Heather Lee	EMS Director	WWCD EMS	(509) 524-2701	hlee@co.walla-walla.wa.us
Chris Lee	WWEM Director	WWEM	509-524-2800	cllee@co.walla-walla.wa.us
Patrice Parcell	WWEM Coordinator Fire Mgmt Officer	WWEM	509-524-2701	pparcell@co.walla-walla.wa.us
Michelle Moore	<del>USFS Forest Service</del>	USFS Forest Service	503-312-8097	michael.moore@usda.gov
Alyssa Wells	Ems/Coroner Admin.	WWCO EMS/Coroner	509-524-2845	awells@co.walla-walla.wa.us
Susan Heathors	Safety Executive, EPA Manager	PSNMC	509-930-1746	Susan.Heathors@psnmc.org
MIKE SMITH	U U	U U	509-847-1206	MICHAEL.Smith@psnmc.org
Esther Chick	WESCOM mgr	WESCOM	509-686-1401	echick@wallawalla.wa.gov
Chris Buttrick	Chief WWPD	WWPD	509-527-4434	cbuttrick@wallawalla.wa.gov
Annie Byerley	Conservation scientist WV County	WWCCD Walla Walla County	509-956-3764	annie.byerley@wwccd.net
Kendall Corn	GIS Coordinator	Walla Walla County	509-546-6347	K.Corn@co.walla-walla.wa.us
Jacob LeBaron	AFMO	DNR	509-859-6703	Jacob.LeBaron@dnr.wa.gov

**MEETING #2**

<b>A G E N D A</b>	<p><b>Walla Walla County Update for the Hazard Mitigation Plan and Community Wildfire Protection Plan Meeting #2</b></p> <p><b>Tuesday, March 5, 2024</b> <b>1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.</b></p> <p><b>Station 41 2251 S. Howard St.</b> <b>Walla Walla, WA 99362 (Training Room)</b> <b>*virtual option included</b></p>	
1:00 p.m.	<p><b>OPEN – Introductions and Housekeeping</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ General announcements</li> </ul>	Chris Lee, Patrick Purcell
1:10 p.m.          1:45 p.m.       2:45 p.m.	<p><b>GROUP MEETING</b></p> <p><b>I. Overview of the Kickoff Meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Review of the meeting with Q and A</li> </ul> <p><b>II. The Planning Team</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Follow up on the Planning Team                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ Adopting jurisdictions</li> <li>➢ Stakeholders and Partners</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>III. The Outreach Strategy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Press Releases</li> <li>▪ Firewise meetings</li> <li>▪ Public meetings toward the end of the process</li> </ul> <p><b>IV. HW Review and Discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Planning and Mitigation Goals</li> <li>▪ Local Knowledge Questionnaire</li> <li>▪ Hazard Summary Rating</li> </ul> <p><b>V. Exercise: High-Hazard Areas</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Wildfire</li> <li>▪ Flood</li> </ul> <p><b>VI. Homework</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Previous Assignments/Requests</li> <li>▪ Local Hazard Impacts</li> <li>▪ Capabilities Assessment                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ Must be completed by all adopting jurisdictions</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Adam Herrenbruck, with Northwest Management, Inc.
3:00 p.m.	<b>ADJOURNMENT</b>	

**Contact Info:**

<p><b>Manager and Project Lead:</b> Adam Herrenbruck <a href="mailto:herrenbruck@northwestmanagement.com">herrenbruck@northwestmanagement.com</a></p>	<p><b>Project Support:</b> Erica Wimme <a href="mailto:ewimme@northwestmanagement.com">ewimme@northwestmanagement.com</a></p>	<p><b>Other Support:</b> Tucker Flaten <a href="mailto:flaten@northwestmanagement.com">flaten@northwestmanagement.com</a></p>
<p><b>Northwest Management Office:</b> 208-883-4488</p>	<p>Natalie Atkins <a href="mailto:mconnell@northwestmanagement.com">mconnell@northwestmanagement.com</a></p>	<p>Eric Nelson <a href="mailto:nelson@northwestmanagement.com">nelson@northwestmanagement.com</a></p>

MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL PARTICIPATION

Representatives from the county, the conservation district, the school district, Walla Walla, Waitsburg, and College Place were present for this meeting and participated in the discussion along with a wide variety of stakeholders and planning partners.

WALLA WALLA CO.  
HMP & CWPP MEETING SIGN IN

MARCH 5TH, 2024

STATION 41 2251 S. HOWARD ST. WALLA WALLA, WA 99362

NAME	AFFILIATION	EMAIL
Adam Herrenbruck	Northwest Mngmt Inc.	herrenbruck@nmi2.com
Erica Wimme	NMI	ewimme@nmi2.com
Natalie Atkins	NMI	mcmconnell@nmi2.com
Patrick Purcell	Walla Walla EM	ppurcell@walla-walla.wa.us
Chris Lee	Walla Walla EM	clcc@co.walla-walla.wa.us
Heather Lee	Walla Walla Co. EMS	hlee@co.walla-walla.wa.us
Annie Byrley	WW Co. Conservation Dist.	annie.byrley@wcced.net
John Knarlos	Same	Same
John Golden	WWCFD4	
Bob Carson	Whitman College	carsonrj@whitman.edu
Kendall Corn	WVCo /GIS	Kcorn@co.walla-walla.wa.us
DAVID WINTER	CPFD	dwinter@cpwa.us
Dan Mack	Walla Walla County PW	dmack@co.walla-walla.wa.us
SUSAN LEATHERS	PSMMC	susan.leathers@providence.org
Tony Garcia	Walla Walla County Public Works	



## WALLA WALLA CO. HMP & CWPP MEETING SIGN IN

MARCH 5TH, 2024  
STATION 41 2251 S. HOWARD ST. WALLA WALLA, WA 99362

NAME	AFFILIATION	EMAIL
GUNNER FELMER Melissa Shumake Randy Mandy MIKE HIGGINS	NW COUNTY NW County Planning CP WWPS	COUNTY EMAIL mshumake@co.walla-walla.wa.us rmandraws@cpwa.us mhiggins@wwps.org
TRACY TOMMERS MIKE RICE	CPPD CITY OF CP	Tommers@cpwa.us mike@cpwa.us

### Virtual Attendance

#### HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN/COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN UPDATE-MEETING 2

MARCH 5, 2024

FIRE DISTRICT 4, STATION 41

2251 S. HOWARD ST. WALLA WALLA, WA 99362

NAME (PLEASE PRINT)	ORGANIZATION	EMAIL ADDRESS
Jacob LeBaron	DNR	Jacob.LeBaron@dnr.wa.gov
Tracy Klem	Walla Walla Community College	tracy.klem@wwcc.edu
Randy Hinchliffe	City of Wartsburg	administrator@cityofwartsburg.com
Angie Peters	Valley Transit	Angie@valleytransit.com
Sean Davis	Franklin County Emergency Management	Sdavis@co.franklin.wa.us
Randalson	Home owner on Mill Creek	randalson249@gmail.com
Don Schwertin	District 8 Fire Commissioner	don.schwertin@gmail.com
Lorna Leno	WA State Veterans Home	lornal@dnr.wa.gov
Jon Rickard	College Place	Jrickard@cpwa.us
Charlie Landsman	DNR	Charles.Landsman@dnr.wa.gov
Scott Tucker	VA - Emergency Management	Scott.Tucker@va.gov
Regency at the Park	Regency at the Park Long Term Care	no period A.Morales@regency-pacific.com

**MEETING #3**

<b>A G E N D A</b>	<p><b>Walla Walla County Update for the Hazard Mitigation Plan and Community Wildfire Protection Plan</b></p> <p><b>Meeting #3</b></p> <p><b>Tuesday, April 9, 2024</b></p> <p><b>1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.</b></p> <p><b>Station 41 2251 S. Howard St.</b> <b>Walla Walla, WA 99362 (Training Room)</b></p> <p><b>*virtual option included</b></p>	
<b>1:00 p.m.</b>	<p><b>OPEN – Introductions and Housekeeping</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ General announcements</li> </ul>	Chris Lee, Patrick Purcell
<b>1:10 p.m.</b>	<p><b>GROUP MEETING</b></p> <p><b>I. Review of the Previous Meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Review of the meeting with Q and A</li> </ul> <p><b>II. Review of Assignments to Date</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Follow up on requested information                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ Local Knowledge Questionnaire</li> <li>➢ Hazard Summary Rating</li> <li>➢ Review of Goals</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Adam Herrenbruck, with Northwest Management, Inc.
<b>1:40 p.m.</b>	<p><b>III. Outline Overview</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Discuss the outline of the HMP</li> </ul>	
<b>2:00 p.m.</b>	<p><b>IV. Chapter Review</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Chapter 4. Community Profile                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Info still needed</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Chapter 5. Risk Assessment                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Earthquake</li> <li>ii. Severe Storm</li> <li>iii. Flood</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>2:45 p.m.</b>	<p><b>V. Map Review</b></p> <p><b>VI. The Next Steps</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Previous Assignments/Info Requests</li> <li>▪ Review Provided Chapters/Sections</li> <li>▪ Next Meeting: Wildfire and CWPP</li> </ul>	
<b>3:00 p.m.</b>	<b>ADJOURNMENT</b>	

**Contact Info:**

<p><b>Manager and Project Lead:</b> Adam Herrenbruck <a href="mailto:herrenbruck@northwestmanagement.com">herrenbruck@northwestmanagement.com</a></p>	<p><b>Project Support:</b> Erica Wimme <a href="mailto:ewimme@northwestmanagement.com">ewimme@northwestmanagement.com</a></p>	<p><b>Other Support:</b> Tucker Flaten <a href="mailto:flaten@northwestmanagement.com">flaten@northwestmanagement.com</a></p>
<p><b>Northwest Management Office:</b> 208-883-4488</p>	<p>Natalie Atkins <a href="mailto:mcconnell@northwestmanagement.com">mcconnell@northwestmanagement.com</a></p>	<p>Eric Nelson <a href="mailto:nelson@northwestmanagement.com">nelson@northwestmanagement.com</a></p>

## MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL PARTICIPATION

Representatives from the county, the school district, the conservation district, Waitsburg, Walla Walla, were present for this meeting and participated in the discussion along with a wide variety of stakeholders and planning partners.

MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET				
Project: Walla Walla County HMP/CWPP			Date: April 9, 2024	
Facilitator: Northwest Management, Inc.			Place: Training Room, Station 41 2251 S. Howard St. Walla Walla, WA 99362	
Name	Title	Organization	Phone	Email
John Golden	D. Chief	WWCFD#4	529-1282	
John Knowles	Chief	WWFD	524 4632	
Kendall Corn	GIS Coordinator	WW County	524 2693	
DAVID WINTER		CPFD	529-6506	dwinter@cpwa.us
Tony Garcia	Public Works Director	WW Co.	524 2760	
MARK HIGGINS	WWPS Coordinator	WWPS	526-6716	mhiggins@wups.org

MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET				
Project:			Date: April 9, 2024	
Facilitator: Northwest Management, Inc.			Place:	
Name	Title	Organization	Phone	Email
Ton Schwerin	DE Commissioner			
Randy Huchette	City Administrator	City of Waitsburg		

MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET				
Project:			Date: April 9, 2024	
Facilitator: Northwest Management, Inc.			Place:	
Name	Title	Organization	Phone	Email
Annie Byrley	Conservation Scientist	Walla Walla Co Conservation District	956-3764	annie.byrley@wcced.net
GRANGER FULMER	COMMISSIONER	WW COUNTY	301-0430	fulmer@co.walla-walla.com
Melissa Shumake	Deputy Director	WW County Community Dev	524-2617	mshumake@co.walla-walla.wa.us

April 9, 2024

Name	Title	Organization	Phone	Email
MIKE SMITH	SECURITY SUPERVISOR	PSMMC	509-897-2206	MICHAEL.SMITH@PROVIDENCE.ORG
Susan Heather	Emergency Management	PSMMC	509-499-9915	susan.heather@providence.com

**MEETING 4**

<b>A G E N D A</b>	<p><b>Walla Walla County Update for the Hazard Mitigation Plan and Community Wildfire Protection Plan Meeting #4</b></p> <p><b><u>Rescheduled from 4/30/2024</u></b></p> <p><b>Tuesday, May 21, 2024</b> <b>1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.</b></p> <p><b>Station 41 2251 S. Howard St. Walla Walla, WA 99362 (Training Room)</b> <b>*virtual option included</b></p>	
1:00 p.m.	<p><b>OPENING – Introductions and Housekeeping</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ General announcements</li> </ul>	Chris Lee, Patrick Purcell
1:05 p.m.	<p><b>GROUP MEETING</b></p> <p><b>I. Review of Timelines</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project Status Update</li> </ul> <p><b>II. MHMP Excerpt Review</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Community Profile                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. How will edits and suggested changes be implemented?</li> <li>ii. Info still needed</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>III. CWPP Excerpt Review</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Overall CWPP Outline</li> <li>▪ Mission, Goals, and Objectives</li> <li>▪ Wildland-Urban Interface Planning</li> <li>▪ Wildfire Preparedness Resources</li> <li>▪ Community At Risk Analysis and WUI-Zone Ratings</li> <li>▪ 2017 Walla Walla County CWPP Projects</li> </ul> <p><b>IV. Public Engagement Event</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Debrief/feedback</li> </ul> <p><b>V. The Next Steps</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Review Wildfire and CWPP sections</li> <li>▪ Look for/review forthcoming hazard profiles</li> </ul>	Adam Herrenbruck, with Northwest Management, Inc.
1:20 p.m.		
1:40 p.m.		
2:40 p.m.		
2:50 p.m.		
3:00 p.m.	<b>ADJOURNMENT</b>	
<b>Contact Info:</b>		
<p><b>Manager and Project Lead:</b> Adam Herrenbruck <a href="mailto:herrenbruck@northwestmanagement.com">herrenbruck@northwestmanagement.com</a></p>	<p><b>Project Support:</b> Erica Wimme <a href="mailto:ewimme@northwestmanagement.com">ewimme@northwestmanagement.com</a></p>	<p><b>Other Support:</b> Tucker Flaten <a href="mailto:flaten@northwestmanagement.com">flaten@northwestmanagement.com</a></p>
<p><b>Northwest Management Office:</b> 208-883-4488</p>	<p>Natalie Atkins <a href="mailto:mcconnell@northwestmanagement.com">mcconnell@northwestmanagement.com</a></p>	<p>Eric Nelson <a href="mailto:nelson@northwestmanagement.com">nelson@northwestmanagement.com</a></p>

## MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL PARTICIPATION

Representatives from the county plus the cities of Walla Walla, Waitsburg, and College Place were present at this meeting and participated in the discussion along with a wide variety of stakeholders and planning partners.



**MEETING 5**

<b>A G E N D A</b>	<p><b>Walla Walla County Update for the Hazard Mitigation Plan and Community Wildfire Protection Plan Meeting #5</b></p> <p><b>Tuesday, June 25, 2024</b>  <b>1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.</b></p> <p><b>Station 41 2251 S. Howard St.</b>  <b>Walla Walla, WA 99362 (Training Room)</b>  <b>*virtual option included</b></p>	
<b>1:00 p.m.</b>	<p><b>OPEN – Introductions and Housekeeping</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ General announcements</li> </ul>	Chris Lee, Patrick Purcell
<b>1:05 p.m.</b>	<p><b>GROUP MEETING</b></p> <p><b>I. Overview of Timeline</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Timeline</li> <li>▪ Remaining Tasks</li> </ul> <p><b>II. Excerpt Review</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Community Profile                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. How are edits and suggested changes implemented?</li> <li>ii. Info still needed</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>III. MHMP Excerpts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Flood Hazard Overview</li> <li>▪ Earthquake Hazard Overview</li> <li>▪ Severe Storm Hazard Overview</li> <li>▪ Jurisdiction Specific Hazard Mitigation</li> </ul> <p><b>IV. The Next Steps</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Jurisdiction-specific tasks                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Capability Assessments</li> <li>ii. Hazard Summary Worksheets</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Review remaining HMP and CWPP sections</li> <li>▪ Review Mitigation Action Items</li> </ul>	Adam Herrenbruck, with Northwest Management, Inc.
<b>1:15 p.m.</b>		
<b>1:45 p.m.</b>		
<b>2:45 p.m.</b>		
<b>3:00 p.m.</b>	<b>ADJOURNMENT</b>	

**Contact Info:**

<p><b>Manager and Project Lead:</b>                  Adam Herrenbruck  <a href="mailto:herrenbruck@northwestmanagement.com">herrenbruck@northwestmanagement.com</a></p>	<p><b>Project Support:</b>                  Erica Wimpe  <a href="mailto:ewimpe@northwestmanagement.com">ewimpe@northwestmanagement.com</a></p>	<p><b>Other Support:</b>                  Tucker Flaten  <a href="mailto:flaten@northwestmanagement.com">flaten@northwestmanagement.com</a></p>
<p><b>Northwest Management Office:</b>                  208-883-4488</p>	<p>Natalie Atkins  <a href="mailto:natkins@northwestmanagement.com">natkins@northwestmanagement.com</a></p>	<p>Eric Nelson  <a href="mailto:nelson@northwestmanagement.com">nelson@northwestmanagement.com</a></p>

## MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL PARTICIPATION

Representatives from the county were present for this meeting and participated in the discussion along with a wide variety of stakeholders and planning partners.

MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET				
Project:			Date:	
Facilitator: Northwest Management, Inc.			Place:	
Name	Title	Organization	Phone	Email
Nancy Berentsen	Programs Manager	CCEM		nancy-berentsen@co.columbia.wa.us
Heather Lee	EMS Director	WVCO EMS		hlee@co.walla-walla.wa.us
Adam Herrenbruck	Manager	Northwest Management, Inc.		herrenbruck@nmi2.com
Shane Crann	Maintenance director	Regency dt tm RUSA		scranu@regency-pacific.com
Chris Lee	EMD Director	WVOM		
Patrick Purcell	EMD Coordinator	WVOM		
Melissa Shumake	Deputy Director	NW Comm. Dev		
ESTHER CLICK	MANAGER	Wascor-911		
Natalie Atkins	Field Forester	NMI		natkins@northwestmanagement.com
Tanner Paulson	Natural Resource Planner	NMI		tpaulson@northwestmanagement.com

## 9 APPENDIX C: PUBLIC INPUT DOCUMENTATION

---

### ONLINE SURVEY DATA

---

**PUBLIC COMMENT RECORD**



