

City of Gold Hill Addendum to the Jackson County NHMP



Photos courtesy of Oregon State Archives

Effective:

February 12, 2024 through February 11, 2029

Prepared for
City of Gold Hill
420 6th Avenue
Gold Hill, OR 97525

Prepared by
The University of Oregon
Institute for Policy Research & Engagement
School of Planning, Public Policy, and Management



**Institute for Policy
Research and Engagement**

Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION.....	1
<i>Purpose</i>	1
<i>NHMP Process, Participation and Adoption</i>	1
NHMP IMPLEMENTATION AND MAINTENANCE.....	2
<i>Implementation through Existing Programs</i>	3
<i>Capabilities Assessment</i>	3
Existing Authorities.....	3
Policies and Programs.....	5
Capital Projects.....	7
Funding.....	7
Findings.....	7
MITIGATION STRATEGY.....	8
<i>Mitigation Successes</i>	8
<i>Action Items</i>	8
RISK ASSESSMENT.....	13
<i>Hazard Analysis</i>	14
<i>Community Characteristics</i>	14
Economy.....	16
<i>Community Assets</i>	18
Infrastructure:.....	19
Critical Facilities.....	20
Essential Facilities.....	20
<i>Hazard Profiles</i>	21
Air Quality.....	21
Drought.....	21
Earthquake (Cascadia).....	22
Earthquake (Crustal).....	24
Emerging Infectious Disease.....	26
Flood.....	27
Landslide.....	29
Severe Weather.....	31
Extreme Heat Event.....	31
Windstorm.....	32
Winter Storm (Snow/Ice).....	32
Volcanic Event.....	33
Wildfire.....	34
ATTACHMENT A: PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT SUMMARY.....	36
<i>Website Posting</i>	37
<i>Gold Hill Steering Committee</i>	38

List of Tables

TABLE GA-1 GOLD HILL PRIORITY ACTION ITEMS	9
TABLE GA-2 HAZARD ANALYSIS MATRIX – GOLD HILL	14
TABLE GA-3 COMMUNITY CHARACTERISTICS	17
TABLE GA-4 GOLD HILL COMMUNITY LIFELINES	19
TABLE GA-5 RAPID VISUAL SURVEY SCORES	24

List of Figures

FIGURE GA-1 UNDERSTANDING RISK	13
FIGURE GA-2 GOLD HILL COMMUNITY LIFELINES AND HISTORIC STRUCTURES	18
FIGURE GA-3 CASCADIA SUBDUCTION ZONE PERCEIVED SHAKING.....	23
FIGURE GA-4 LIQUEFACTION SUSCEPTIBILITY	25
FIGURE GA-5 FEMA FLOOD ZONES	27
FIGURE GA-6 LANDSLIDE SUSCEPTIBILITY EXPOSURE	30
FIGURE GA-7 BURN PROBABILITY IN GOLD HILL AND COMMUNITY LIFELINES	34



FEMA

April 10, 2024

The Honorable Rick Dyer, Chair
Jackson County Board of Commissioners
10 South Oakland Ave.
Medford, Oregon 97501

Reference: Approval of the Jackson County Multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan

Dear Chair Dyer:

In accordance with applicable¹ laws, regulations, and policy, the United States Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region 10 has approved the Jackson County multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plan for the following jurisdictions:

City of Butte Falls	City of Phoenix	Jackson County
City of Talent	City of Gold Hill	City of Shady Cove
City of Rogue River	City of Eagle Point	Jackson County Fire District #3
Medford Water Commission	City of Ashland	City of Jacksonville
City of Central Point		

The approval period for this plan is from February 12, 2024 through February 11, 2029.

In addition, Jackson County met the requirements for addressing all dam risks listed in the multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plan.

An approved hazard mitigation plan is one of the conditions for applying for and receiving FEMA mitigation grants from the following programs:

- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)
- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Post-Fire (HMGP-PF)
- Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)
- Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA)
- High Hazard Potential Dams Grants Program (HHPD)

To avoid a lapsed plan, the next plan update must be approved before the end of the approval period, including adoption by the participating jurisdiction(s). Before the end of the approval period, please allow sufficient time to secure funding for the update, including the review and approval process. Please include time for any revisions, if needed, and for participating jurisdictions to formally adopt

¹ Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended; the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, as amended; and National Dam Safety Program Act, as amended; Title 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 201, Mitigation Planning; and Local Mitigation Planning Policy Guide (FP-206-21-0002).

Chair Dyer
April 10, 2024
Page 2

the plan after the review, if not adopted prior to submission. This will enable each jurisdiction to remain eligible to apply for and receive funding from FEMA's mitigation grant programs with a hazard mitigation plan requirement. Local governments, including special districts, with a plan status of "Approvable Pending Adoption" are not eligible for FEMA's mitigation grant programs with a hazard mitigation plan requirement.

If you have questions regarding your plan's approval or FEMA's mitigation program, please contact Joseph Murray, Mitigation Planner with the Oregon Department of Emergency Management at (503) 378-2911 or joseph.murray@oem.oregon.gov, who coordinates these efforts for local entities.

Sincerely,

Wendy Shaw, P.E.
Risk Analysis Branch Chief
Mitigation Division

Enclosures

cc: Stephen Richardson, Oregon Department of Emergency Management

JF:JG:ws

RESOLUTION No. 24-R-06

City of Gold Hill

A Resolution Adopting the City of Gold Hill Representation in the Updates to the Jackson County Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan

WHEREAS, the City of Gold Hill recognizes the threat that natural hazards pose to people, property and infrastructure within our community; and

WHEREAS, undertaking hazard mitigation actions will reduce the potential for harm to people, property and infrastructure from future hazard occurrences; and

WHEREAS, an adopted Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan is required as a condition of future funding for mitigation projects under multiple FEMA pre- and post-disaster mitigation grant programs; and

WHEREAS, the City of Gold Hill has fully participated in the FEMA prescribed mitigation planning process to prepare the *Jackson County, Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan*, which has established a comprehensive, coordinated planning process to eliminate or minimize these vulnerabilities; and

WHEREAS, the City of Gold Hill has identified natural hazard risks and prioritized a number of proposed actions and programs needed to mitigate the vulnerabilities of they City of Gold Hill to the impacts of future disasters within the *Jackson County, Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan*; and

WHEREAS, these proposed projects and programs have been incorporated into the *Jackson County, Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan* that has been prepared and promulgated for consideration and implementation by the participating cities and special districts of Jackson County; and

WHEREAS, the Oregon Office of Emergency Management and Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region X officials have reviewed the *Jackson County, Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan* and pre-approved it (dated, January 9, 2024) contingent upon this official adoption of the participating governments and entities;

WHEREAS, the NHMP is comprised of comprised of three volumes: Volume I -Basic Plan, Volume II – Appendices, and Volume III – Jurisdictional Addenda, collectively referred to herein as the NHMP; and

WHEREAS, the NHMP is in an on-going cycle of development and revision to improve it's effectiveness; and

WHEREAS, City of Gold Hill adopts the NHMP and directs the City Manager to develop, approve, and implement the mitigation strategies and any administrative changes to the NHMP.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Gold Hill adopts *the Jackson County Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan* as an official plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Gold Hill will submit this Adoption Resolution to the Oregon Office of Emergency Management and Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region X officials to enable final approval of the *Jackson County Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan*.


ADOPTED by the City Council this 6th day of January, 2024

ATTEST:



D. Larez, City Recorder

SIGNED and APPROVED this 6th day of January, 2024



Ronald A. Palmer, Mayor

Introduction

Purpose

This is the first iteration of the Gold Hill addendum to the Jackson County Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan (MNHMP, NHMP). This addendum supplements information contained in Volume I (Basic Plan), which serves as the NHMP foundation and Volume II (Appendices), which provide additional information. This addendum meets the following requirements:

- Multi-Jurisdictional **Plan Adoption** §201.6(c)(5),
- Multi-Jurisdictional **Participation** §201.6(a)(3),
- Multi-Jurisdictional **Mitigation Strategy** §201.6(c)(3)(iv) and
- Multi-Jurisdictional **Risk Assessment** §201.6(c)(2)(iii).

Gold Hill adopted their addendum to the Jackson County Multi-jurisdictional NHMP on January 6, 2024. FEMA Region X approved the Jackson County NHMP and the City's addendum on February 12, 2024. With approval of this NHMP, the City is now eligible for non-disaster and disaster mitigation project grants through February 11, 2029.

NHMP Process, Participation and Adoption

This section of the NHMP addendum addresses 44 CFR 201.6(c)(5), *Plan Adoption* and 44 CFR 201.6(a)(3), *Participation*.

In addition to establishing a comprehensive city level mitigation strategy, the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA2K), and the regulations contained in Title 44 CFR Part 201, require that jurisdictions maintain an approved NHMP to receive federal funds for mitigation projects. Local adoption, and federal approval of this NHMP ensures that the city will gain eligibility for non-disaster and disaster mitigation project grants.

The Oregon Partnership for Disaster Resilience (OPDR) at the University of Oregon's Institute for Policy Research and Engagement (IPRE) partnered with the Oregon Department of Emergency Management (OEM), Jackson County, and Gold Hill to develop this NHMP. This project is funded through the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. Members of the Gold Hill NHMP steering committee also participated in the County NHMP update process (Volume II, Appendix B).

By creating a NHMP, locally adopting it, and having it approved by FEMA, Gold Hill will gain eligibility for FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant program funds.

The Jackson County NHMP and Gold Hill addendum are the result of a collaborative effort between residents, public agencies, non-profit organizations, the private sector, and regional organizations. A project steering committee guided the process of developing the NHMP.

Convener and Committee

The City Manager served as the designated convener of the NHMP development and will take the lead in implementing, maintaining, and updating the addendum to the Jackson County NHMP in collaboration with the designated convener of the Jackson County NHMP (Emergency Manager).

Representatives from the City of Gold Hill steering committee met formally and informally, to discuss development of their addendum (Volume II, Appendix B). The steering committee reviewed and developed the City's addendum, with particular focus on the NHMP's risk assessment (hazards, community vulnerabilities, and capabilities) and mitigation strategy (action items).

The addendum reflects decisions made at the designated meetings and during subsequent work and communication with Jackson County Emergency Management and the OPDR.

The Gold Hill Steering Committee was comprised of the following representatives:

- Convener, Bill Landis, City Manager
- Ronald Palmer, Mayor
- Janet Wilson, Council President

The steering committee was closely involved throughout the development of the NHMP and served as the local oversight body for the NHMP's development.

NHMP Implementation and Maintenance

The City Council will be responsible for adopting the Gold Hill addendum to the Jackson County NHMP. This addendum designates a Steering Committee and a convener to oversee the development and implementation of action items. Because the City addendum is part of the County's multi-jurisdictional NHMP, the City will look for opportunities to partner with the County. The City's steering committee will convene after adoption of the Gold Hill NHMP addendum on an annual schedule. The County is meeting on a semi-annual basis and will provide opportunities for the cities to report on NHMP implementation and maintenance during their meetings. The City Manager will serve as the convener and will be responsible for assembling the steering committee.

The steering committee will be responsible for:

- Reviewing existing action items to determine suitability of funding;
- Reviewing existing and new risk assessment data to identify issues that may not have been identified at NHMP creation;
- Educating and training new steering committee members on the NHMP and mitigation actions in general;
- Assisting in the development of funding proposals for priority action items;
- Discussing methods for continued public involvement;

- Evaluating effectiveness of the NHMP at achieving its purpose and goals (use Table 4-1, Volume I, Section 4, as one tool to help measure effectiveness); and
- Documenting successes and lessons learned during the year.

The convener will also remain active in the County’s implementation and maintenance process (Volume I, Section 4).

The steering committee will be responsible for activities outlined in Volume I, Section 4.

The City will utilize the same action item prioritization process as the County (Volume I, Section 4 and Volume II, Appendix D).

Implementation through Existing Programs

Many of the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan’s recommendations are consistent with the goals and objectives of the City’s existing plans and policies. Where possible, Gold Hill will implement the NHMP’s recommended actions through existing plans and policies. Plans and policies already in existence have support from residents, businesses, and policy makers. Many land-use, comprehensive, and strategic plans get updated regularly, allowing them to adapt to changing conditions and needs. Implementing the NHMP’s action items through such plans and policies increases their likelihood of being supported and implemented.

Gold Hill’ acknowledged comprehensive plan is the City of Gold Hill Comprehensive Plan. The City implements the plan through the Community Development Code.

Gold Hill currently has the following plans that relate to natural hazard mitigation. For a complete list visit the City’s [website](#).

- Comprehensive Plan
- Community Development Code
- Water System Master Plan
- [Building Codes and Standards: Oregon Structural Specialty Code](#) (Commercial) and [Oregon Residential Specialty Code](#).

During the development of this NHMP City plans including the comprehensive land use, transportation/roads, water, and stormwater plans were reviewed to identify possible natural hazard mitigation strategies (action items).

Capabilities Assessment

The Capability Assessment identifies and describes the ability of Gold Hill to implement the mitigation strategy and associated action items. Capabilities can be evaluated through an examination of broad categories, including existing authorities, policies, programs, funding, and resources.

Existing Authorities

Hazard mitigation can be executed at a local scale through three (3) methods: integrating hazard mitigation actions into other local planning documents (i.e., plan integration), adopting building

codes that account for best practices in structural hardening, and codifying land use regulations and zoning designations that prescribe mitigation into development requirements. The extent to which a municipality or multi-jurisdictional effort leverages these approaches is an indicator of that community's capabilities.

Comprehensive Plan

Oregon's Statewide Planning Goal 7 requires comprehensive planning within every jurisdiction that is designed to reduce risks to people and property from natural hazards.

Gold Hill addresses Statewide Planning Goal 7 Natural Hazards as part of their Comprehensive Plan. Gold Hill's Comprehensive Plan Section G, Natural Disasters and Hazards, was adopted in 1984. Hazards identified in this plan include wildfire, stream flooding, slope erosion, mass land movement, volcanic activity, and seismic activity.

Planned updates to the jurisdiction's Goal 7 element or its broader comprehensive plan will reflect the data and findings within this NHMP and integrate analyses of future climate and natural hazard impacts into the community's long-range plans.

Land Use Regulations

Existing land use policies that define zoning and address hazardous conditions provide another source of mitigation capability.

Contracted planning services are provided by the Rogue Valley Council of Governments, who work closely with the Gold Hill Planning Commission and City Manager to implement current and long-range planning.

The Planning Commission completed a review and suggested modifications to Title 17 of the Gold Hill Municipal Code (the Gold Hill Land Use Code), which were adopted by the City Council via Ordinance 23-01 in May 2023. The goals for the code update were to:

1. Modernize the zoning code to reflect the community's current and future needs, values, and aspirations.
2. Address modern day issues identified by Staff and the Planning Commission;
3. Align with State and Federal Laws; and,
4. Provide a user-friendly document through organization, clear and simplified language, and the use of tables and graphics.

Structural Building Codes

The Oregon Legislature recently adopted updated building codes for both residential (2021 adoption) and commercial structures (2022) since the last update of this Plan. These building codes are based on the 2021 version of the International Building Code, International Fire Code, and International Existing Building Code. Gold Hill utilizes the services of the Jackson County Building Department to administer and enforce Oregon Structural and Specialty Codes. The Jackson County Fire District 3 administers the 2022 Oregon Fire Code within Gold Hill. As a result, both new residential and commercial structures will be required to build according to the latest

seismic and wind hardening standards in addition to requiring fire resistant building materials for those structures constructed in proximity or within the WUI.

Code Enforcement

Gold Hill is in the process of formalizing a code enforcement program by the end of the 2023/2024 fiscal year to enforce violations and contracting court services through the Jackson County Municipal Court.

Public Works

Southern Oregon Water Technologies (SOTW) provides contracted services to oversee the City's municipal water system.

Sewer services will soon be provided through Rogue Valley Sewer Services, as Gold Hill annexed into the RVSS Service District in September 2023. Connection to RVSS will necessitate constructing pipelines to convey wastewater from Gold Hill to the regional collection and treatment system.

City Administration

The City Council of Gold Hill has the responsibility of developing and adopting the annual city budget. Integrating hazard mitigation goals and projects into the annual budget is key to implementing the plan. The City Council tries to broadly address resilience planning needs while it determines city and departmental priorities and looks for multiple-impact projects wherever possible. They also work with staff to apply for federal and state grant funding to pursue larger projects that are outside of general fund capacity.

Policies and Programs

This Plan directs Gold Hill and Jackson County to explore integration into other planning documents and processes. Gold Hill has made significant progress in integrating the NHMP into its portfolio of planning processes and programs over the last five years.

Oregon Health Authority (OHA) Water System Survey, 2022

OHA staff recently completed a required three year survey/assessment of the City's water system, both treatment and delivery/distribution. A number of items were included in the final report for follow-up, including public noticing for water system customer education that will be posted to the City website. Several other items relate to needed infrastructure capital projects that will be discussed as part of the FY 2023-24 budget process. An immediate corrective action to establish a tracer study was initiated in 2023. Further projects include the redesigning of intake pumps and the raw water intake.

DEQ TMDL Annual Report

The City has an approved five-year action plan with DEQ and is required to submit an annual report on implementation activities completed each fiscal year in support and furtherance of the agreed upon actions. The FY2022-23 report was submitted to DEQ on November 1, 2023. Projects include annual storm drain cleaning, street sweeping, and catch basin maintenance.

Fuels Reduction

Gold Hill was awarded an Oregon State Fire Marshal Community Wildfire Risk Reduction grant for \$140,000 of fire fuel mitigation in FY 2024-2025. This project, which is currently out for bid, will be used to remove blackberries and related brush from the Sports Park and other city properties including the Powerhouse.

Gold Hill signed a memorandum of understanding with Lomakatsi Restoration Project in 2023 in hopes of utilizing their grants team to find additional funding for riparian area fuels reduction at the Sports Park and at Beach Park.

The City also utilizes the Northwest Youth Corps to perform fuels reduction in priority locations, including, in 2022 and 2023, the area immediately around the water intake at the north end of the Sports Park, the sloped area near residential structures at Beach Park, and the immediate area around the water supply reservoir.

Community Wildfire Protection Plan

The Jackson County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) will be incorporated into this Plan as a functioning annex. The NHMP will also be integrated into the City's Capital Improvement Plan, to be adopted by March, 2024.

National Flood Insurance Program

Gold Hill participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), although few properties are within the special flood hazard area. Title 15 Buildings and Construction, Chapter 15.12 Flood Damage Prevention, was adopted in 2018 to bring the City into compliance with the NFIP. Their code section is based on the Oregon Model Flood Hazard Prevention code, which includes provisions addressing substantial improvement/substantial damage.

Personnel

The following Gold Hill personnel have assignments related to natural hazard mitigation planning and implementation:

Emergency Management: Mayor and City Manager with Jackson County Emergency Manager

Floodplain Manager: Provided by Rogue Valley Council of Governments (RVCOG)

Grant writing (for Public Works or emergency management): City Manager or RVCOG

Capital improvement planning: City Manager

Capital improvement execution: City Manager

Gold Hill does not have any employees solely designated to Emergency Management or Mitigation. These personnel integrate hazards and resilience planning into their greater work programs to the best of their abilities. However, there is limited capacity to expand upon their capabilities or workloads.

Capital Projects

Gold Hill has implemented recommendations from the last NHMP into its capital improvement projects over the last 5 years, including:

- Seismic retrofits of Gold Hill Elementary and former Jackson County Courthouse/present City Hall
- 2022 Firehouse renovation
- backup power generation at pumping stations and the Firehouse

Funding

Grant funding provides most Gold Hill's funding sources for hazard mitigation. Most of their hazard mitigation activities are wildland fuel reduction and seismic retrofit projects that have been funded through grant funds. These include two large projects: the West Bear and Gold Hill Forest Park projects (both began in 2023). The city has recently started a matching grant program via city funds that is a 50/50 split for city property owners undertaking invasive hazardous noxious vegetation (primarily Himalayan blackberry).

Other large grants are from Seismic Rehabilitation Grant Program funds used to fortify critical infrastructure and important structures.

Findings

Several important findings from this capability assessment informed the design of the Plan's mitigation strategy and aided in prioritizing action items.

Staffing Limitations and Capacity

Gold Hill staff are assigned hazard mitigation responsibilities as a (small) part of their larger job responsibilities. Limited capacity reduces the breadth of the programming the community can undertake in any year. The city relies upon its relationships with the County and other cities within its region to expand its operations.

Reliance upon outside funding streams and local match requirements

Gold Hill operates on a limited budget with a small staff. This leaves few opportunities for using local financial resources to implement hazard mitigation work. They lean heavily upon state and federal grant funds as the primary means for securing mitigation funding. Hazard mitigation grants such as HMGP and BRIC require 10-25% local funding match, as well as extra staff capacity and expertise to navigate the application process and manage the funding.

Leveraging Partnerships with Public and Nonprofit Entities

Regional planning displayed in Community Wildfire Protection Planning process demonstrates the City's ability to effectively share information and identified priority needs.

Mitigation Strategy

This section of the NHMP addendum addresses 44 CFR 201.6(c)(3(iv), *Mitigation Strategy*.

The City’s mitigation strategy (action items) was developed during the 2023 NHMP planning process. The steering committee assessed the City’s risk, identified potential issues, and developed a mitigation strategy (action items). The City developed actions specific to their community after first reviewing a list of recommended actions developed by the County or recommended by OPDR.

Mitigation Successes

Gold Hill has several examples of hazard mitigation including the following projects funded through FEMA [Hazard Mitigation Assistance](#) and the Oregon Infrastructure Finance Authority’s [Seismic Rehabilitation Grant Program](#)¹.

FEMA Funded Mitigation Successes

- None to date

Seismic Rehabilitation Grant Program Mitigation Successes

- 2020: Hanby Middle School Building A (\$2,488,920)

Other Mitigation Successes

- OSFM Grant for Wildfire Fuels mitigation with work beginning in 2024 through 2025

Action Items

Table GA-1 documents the title of each action along with, the lead organization, partners, timeline, cost, and potential funding resources.

¹ The Seismic Rehabilitation Grant Program (SRGP) is a state of Oregon competitive grant program that provides funding for the seismic rehabilitation of critical public buildings, particularly public schools, and emergency services facilities.

Table GA-1 Action Items

Action Item #	Mitigation Actions	Potential Funding Resources	Lead	Partners	Timeline	Cost
Multi-Hazard Mitigation Strategies						
1.1	Sustain a public awareness and education campaign about natural hazards through ongoing written and online communications.	General Fund, FEMA, DLCDC	City Administration	County Emergency Management, FEMA, OEM, NWS, ODOT, CERT, RVCOG Utilities	O	L
1.2	Use hazard information from the updated Jackson County Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan as a basis for City ordinances and regulations that govern site-specific land use decisions.	General Fund, FEMA, DLCDC TA	City Administration	County Emergency Management, FEMA, OEM	O	L
1.3	Encourage public and private property owners and owners of infrastructure, particularly local businesses, through written and online communications to undertake risk assessments for their facilities and implement mitigation measures when necessary.	Local Funding Sources	City Administration	Utility Partners	O	L
1.4	Consider the need for ingress and egress for evacuations during the land use process through enforcement of current Code and referrals from the Fire District and adjacent jurisdictions.	FEMA, ODOT, Local Funding Sources	City Administration	Jackson County, JaCo FD #1, JaCo FD #3	O	L
1.5	Collaborate with neighboring cities, Fire Districts #1 and #3, and other partners on efforts in addressing NHMP priorities.	FEMA, OEM, Local Funding Resources	City Administration	Jackson County, Neighboring Jurisdictions, JaCo FD #1, JaCo FD #3	O	L
1.6	Sustain an education and outreach program to local business owners to promote a disaster-resilient local economy.	Local Funding Sources	City Administration	Jackson County, JaCo FD #1, JaCo FD #3, Chamber of Commerce	O	L

Action Item #	Mitigation Actions	Potential Funding Resources	Lead	Partners	Timeline	Cost
1.7	Partner with other stakeholders to conduct analysis to determine inequitable barriers and/or effective incentives to advance resiliency of all hazard classes upon vulnerable populations.	FEMA, DLCD, HUD, Local Funding Sources	City Administration	Jackson County Emergency Management	M	L
1.8	Coordinate the establishment and publication of evacuation routes with Jackson County and other cities. Any new evacuation plan should focus on the bridges along I-5, OR-99, and OR-234 that would be key to ingress/egress during a natural hazard event.	FEMA, ODOT, Local Funding Sources	City Administration	Jackson County, JaCo FD #1, JaCo FD #3, ODOT	M	L
Air Quality Mitigation Strategies						
2.1	Explore installing envelope-sealing, air filtering, and other improvements for indoor air quality in critical facilities (e.g., schools) to function as air quality shelters.	Local Funding Sources	City Administration	School District, Churches, Chamber of Commerce	M	L
Drought Mitigation Strategies						
3.1	Improve water supply monitoring by replace outdated water meters and regularly checking for leaks to minimize water supply losses.	FEMA, USDA, Local Funding Sources	City Administration	Southern Oregon Water Technology	M	H
3.2	Develop ordinances to prioritize or control water use, particularly for emergency situations like fire fighting. Conduct relevant public education and outreach.	Local Funding Sources	City Administration	Jackson County, JaCo FD #1, JaCo FD #3	S	L
3.3	Educate residents on water-saving techniques through online and written communications.	Local Funding Sources	City Administration	Southern Oregon Water Technology	O	L
Earthquake Mitigation Strategies						
4.1	Implement structural and non-structural retrofits to Water Treatment Plant and City Hall.	General Fund, SRGP, PDM	City Administration	Building officials, Planning, Public Works	L	H
4.2	Educate residents on earthquake risks through online and written communications.	General Fund	City Administration	Building officials, Planning, Public Works	L	L

Action Item #	Mitigation Actions	Potential Funding Resources	Lead	Partners	Timeline	Cost
Emerging Infectious Disease Mitigation Strategies						
5.1	Partner with fire districts to support adequate PPE reserves for emerging infectious disease.	General Fund	City Administration	Jackson County Public Health	O	L
Flood Mitigation Strategies						
6.1	Expand the use of Low Impact Development (LID) best management practices (BMPs) in development codes.	ODOT, Local Funding Sources	City Administration	ODOT	O	L
6.2	Establish partnerships to help implement the surface water management program. Identify opportunities to partner with regional organizations and agencies and maintain communication with key contacts at these organizations.	Local Funding Sources	City Administration	Jackson County	M	L
6.3	Preserve and enhance native riparian vegetation along the Rogue River. Provide resources and education to private property owners.	Local Funding Sources	City Administration	Nonprofits	O	L
Landslide Mitigation Strategies						
7.1	Investigate the development and implementation of a city ordinance that restricts development on steep slopes.	Local Funding Sources, DLCDC TA	City Administration	Planning, Building	S	L
7.2	Address landslide potential in newly developed Stormwater Master Plan.	Local Funding Sources, DLCDC TA	City Administration	Utility Partners	S	L
Severe Weather (Extreme Heat, Windstorm, Winter Storm) Mitigation Strategies						
8.1	Encourage new developments to include underground power lines through the City's Development Code.	Local Funding Sources, DLCDC TA	City Administration	Utility Partners, Building, Planning	M	L
8.2	Assist vulnerable populations by exploring opening cooling shelters.	General Fund	City Administration	Nonprofits	S	L
Volcanic Event Mitigation Strategies						
9.1	Coordinate with agencies to determine risk of ash fallout.	Local Funding Sources, DLCDC TA	City Administration	Jackson County Emergency Management	M	L

Action Item #	Mitigation Actions	Potential Funding Resources	Lead	Partners	Timeline	Cost
Wildfire Mitigation Strategies						
10.1	Continue to reduce fuels across the city, with particular attention to Sports Park and Beach Park. Work with partners to continue fuel reduction efforts in the wildland-urban interface outside of city limits.	Local Funding Resources, ODF, PDM, HMGP, CWDG	City Administration	Property Owners	O	H
10.2	Continue to address vandalism and camping in the city's parks to mitigate the risk of fuel ignition and wildfire.	Local Funding Resources	City Administration	Jackson County Sherriff, JaCo FD #1, JaCo FD #3	O	L
10.3	Consider ignition-resistant materials regulations and programs for new development.	Local Funding Resources, DLCD TA	City Administration	JaCo FD #1, JaCo FD #3 ODF, OSFM	M	L

Source: Gold Hill NHMP Steering Committee, 2023

Cost: L – Low (less than \$50,000), M - Medium (\$50,000-\$100,000), H - High (more than \$100,000)

Timing: O-Ongoing (continuous), S-Short (1-2 years), M-Medium (3-5 years), L-Long (5 or more years)

Priority Actions: Identified with **bold** text and **orange** highlight

Risk Assessment

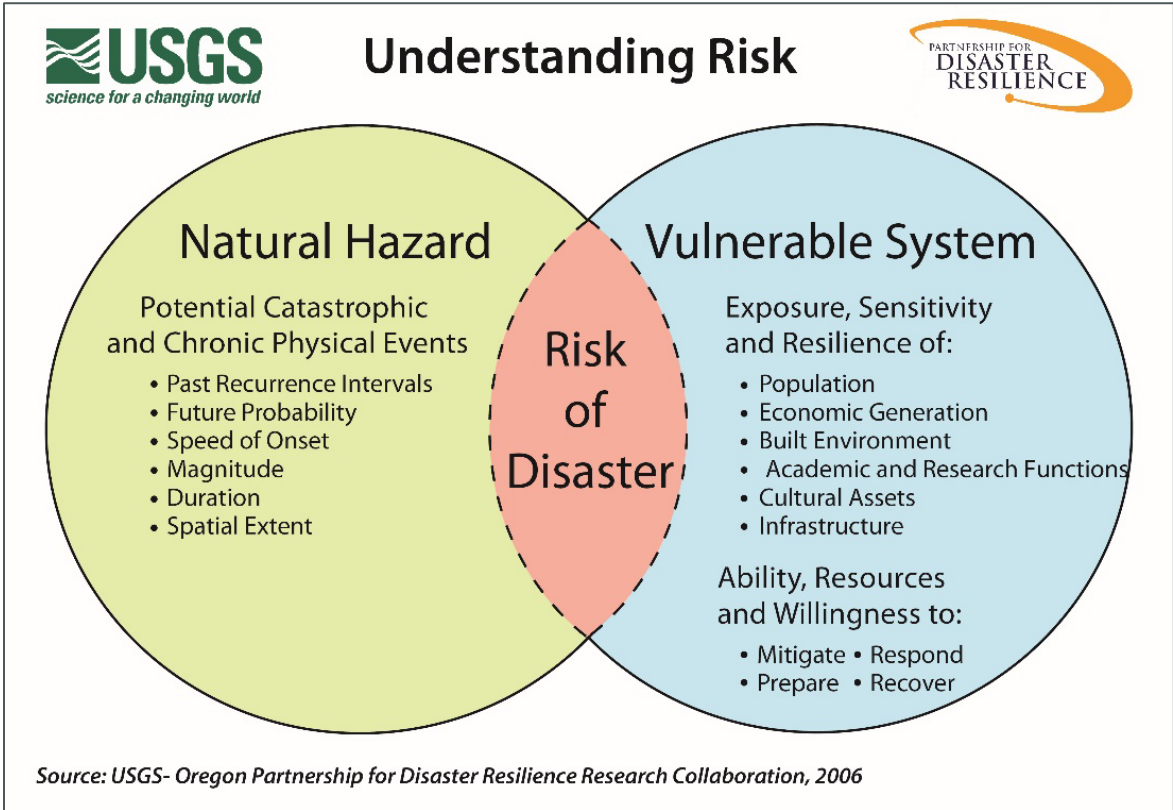
This section of the NHMP addendum addresses 44 CFR 201.6(b)(2) - Risk Assessment. In addition, this chapter can serve as the factual basis for addressing Oregon Statewide Planning Goal 7 – Areas Subject to Natural Hazards.

Assessing natural hazard risk has three phases:

- **Phase 1:** Identify hazards that can impact the jurisdiction. This includes an evaluation of potential hazard impacts – type, location, extent, etc.
- **Phase 2:** Identify important community assets and system vulnerabilities. Example vulnerabilities include people, businesses, homes, roads, historic places and drinking water sources.
- **Phase 3:** Evaluate the extent to which the identified hazards overlap with or have an impact on, the important assets identified by the community.

The local level rationale for the identified mitigation strategies (action items) is presented herein and within Volume I, Sections 2 and 3. The risk assessment process is graphically depicted in Figure GA-1. Ultimately, the goal of hazard mitigation is to reduce the area of risk, where hazards overlap vulnerable systems.

Figure GA-1 Understanding Risk



Hazard Analysis

The Gold Hill steering committee developed their hazard vulnerability assessment (HVA), using the County’s HVA (Volume II, Appendix C) as a reference. Changes from the County’s HVA were made where appropriate to reflect distinctions in vulnerability and risk from natural hazards unique to Gold Hill, which are discussed throughout this addendum.

Table GA-2 shows the HVA matrix for Gold Hill listing each hazard listed in order of rank from high to low. For local governments, conducting the hazard analysis is a useful step in planning for hazard mitigation, response, and recovery. The method provides the jurisdiction with a sense of hazard priorities but does not predict the occurrence of a particular hazard.

Three chronic hazards (wildfire, extreme heat event, and emerging infectious disease) and a catastrophic hazard (Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake) rank as the top hazard threats to the City (Top Tier). Air quality, winter storm, windstorm, landslide, and flood comprise the next highest ranked hazards (Middle Tier), while the drought, crustal earthquake, and volcanic event hazards comprise the lowest ranked hazards (Bottom Tier).

Table GA-2 Hazard Analysis Matrix

Hazard	History	Vulnerability	Maximum Threat	Probability	Total Threat Score	Hazard Rank	Hazard Tiers
Wildfire	20	40	80	70	210	#1	Top Tier
Earthquake - Cascadia	2	50	100	49	201	#2	
Emerging Infectious Disease	16	25	100	49	190	#3	
Extreme Heat Event	20	25	70	70	185	#4	
Air Quality	18	40	60	63	181	#5	Middle Tier
Winter Storm	20	20	70	70	180	#6	
Windstorm	20	20	60	70	170	#7	
Landslide	14	35	60	56	165	#8	
Flood	16	15	70	49	150	#9	
Drought	20	15	50	63	148	#10	Bottom Tier
Earthquake - Crustal	2	25	50	21	98	#11	
Volcanic Event	2	5	50	7	64	#12	

Source: Gold Hill NHMP Steering Committee, 2023.

Community Characteristics

Table GA-3 and the following section provides information on City specific demographics and characteristics. For additional information on the characteristics of Gold Hill, in terms of geography, environment, population, demographics, employment and economics, as well as housing and transportation see Volume II, Appendix C. Many of these community characteristics can affect how natural hazards impact communities and how communities choose to plan for natural hazard mitigation. Considering the City specific assets during the planning process can assist in identifying appropriate measures for natural hazard mitigation.

Gold Hill is in the northeast region of the County, about 15 miles northwest of the City of Medford and about 8 miles east of the City of Rogue River. The City and most of Jackson County are within the Rogue watershed.

Gold Hill experiences a relatively mild climate with four distinct seasons that comes from its position on the west coast of North America and within the Cascade Range mountains. The average daily high temperature in the city is between 45- and 55-degrees Fahrenheit (F) in the winter and between 80- and 95-degrees Fahrenheit (F) in the summer. The Rogue Valley has the lowest precipitation among Oregon’s western interior valleys and Gold Hill averages just under 28 inches of rain per year.² October through May are the wettest months (averaging 25.5 inches of rain during this period).

Population and Income

The City has both grown and declined in population since its incorporation in 1895. Between 2016 and 2021 the City grew by 140 people (11%). According to the State’s official coordinated population forecast, between 2021 and 2040 the City’s population is forecast to decline by 3% to 1,394. Most of the population is White/Caucasian (92%) and about 5% of the population is Hispanic or Latino. During the same period median household income declined by -5% to \$50,750. The poverty rate is 15% (7% for Seniors), 5% do not have health insurance, and 75% of renters pay more than 30% of their household income on rent (30% for owners with a mortgage). The city has an educated population with 89% of residents 25 years, and older holding a high school degree, 19% have a bachelor’s degree or higher. Approximately 19% of the population lives with a disability, and 41% are either below 18 (20%) or over 65 (21%) years of age. About 16% of the population are 65 or older and living alone and 19% are single parents.

Transportation, Housing, and Infrastructure

In the City of Gold Hill, transportation has played a major role in shaping the community. Gold Hill’ commercial areas developed along primary routes and residential development followed nearby. Today, mobility plays an important role in Gold Hill and the daily experience of its residents and businesses as they move from point A to point B. The City is primarily serviced by Interstate-5 and Sams Valley Highway. By far, motor vehicles represent the dominant mode of travel through and within Gold Hill. Almost all households have access to at least one vehicle (29% of renters and 76% of owners have two or more vehicles). Most workers commute alone in private vehicles (85%), while 8% work from home, 6% carpool, and 1% bicycle or walk to work. The current freight railroad system is serviced through the Union Pacific Railroad system and the Central Oregon and Pacific Railroad (CORP) route.

Development in the City spans a total of 0.76 square miles. The City of Gold Hill includes a diversity of land uses but is zoned primarily residential. The city’s Comprehensive Plan identifies land use needs within the city and its urban growth boundary. New development has complied with the standards of the [Oregon Building Code](#) and the city’s development code including their floodplain ordinance.

Eighty-six percent of housing units are single-family and 14% are mobile homes. Most homes (72%) were built before 1990. Newer homes are more likely to be built to current seismic,

² NOAA. National Centers for Environmental Information. Summary of Monthly Normals (1991-2010). GOLD HILL 0.2 WSW, OR, US1ORJC0029. <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/us-climate-normals/#dataset=normals-monthly&timeframe=30&location=OR&station=US1ORJC0029>

flood, wildfire, and other hazard standards. Just under three-quarters of housing units are owner occupied, 24% are renter occupied, and 5% are vacant.

Economy

About 45% of the resident population 16 and over is in the labor force (530 people) and are employed in a variety of occupations including professional and related (24%), office and administrative (17%), construction, extraction, and maintenance (13%), production (12%), and management, business, and financial (6%).

Most workers residing in the city (97%, 441 people) travel outside of the city for work primarily to Medford, Central Point, Grants Pass, and surrounding areas.³ A significant population of people travel to the city for work, (96% of the workforce, 309 people) primarily from Medford, Central Point, Grants Pass, Eagle Point, and surrounding areas.⁴

³ U.S. Census Bureau. LEHD Origin-Destination Employment Statistics (2002-2020). Longitudinal-Employer Household Dynamics Program, accessed on August 17, 2023 at <https://onthemap.ces.census.gov>.

⁴ Ibid.

Table GA-3 Community Characteristics

Population Characteristics		
2016 Population Estimate	1,220	
2021 Population Estimate	1,360	
2040 Population Forecast*	1,394	
Race		
American Indian and Alaska Native	< 1%	
Asian	< 1%	
Black/ African American	0%	
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0%	
White	92%	
Some Other Race	1%	
Two or More Races	7%	
Hispanic or Latino/a (of any race)	5%	
Limited or No English Spoken	0	0
Vulnerable Age Groups		
Less than 5 Years	33	3%
Less than 18 Years	235	20%
65 Years and Older	250	21%
85 Years and Older	8	1%
Age Dependency Ratio		70.7
Disability Status (Percent age cohort)		
Total Disabled Population	219	19%
Children (Under 18)	23	10%
Working Age (18 to 64)	98	14%
Seniors (65 and older)	98	39%

Household Characteristics		
Housing Units		
Single-Family (includes duplexes)	434	86%
Multi-Family	0	0%
Mobile Homes (includes RV, Van, etc.)	71	14%
Household Type		
Family Household	347	72%
Married couple (w/ children)	46	10%
Single (w/ children)	92	19%
Living Alone 65+	78	16%
Year Structure Built		
Pre-1970	183	36%
1970-1989	183	36%
1990-2009	129	28%
2010 or later	10	2%
Housing Tenure and Vacancy		
Owner-occupied	363	72%
Renter-occupied	119	24%
Seasonal	0	0%
Vacant	23	5%
Vehicles Available (Occupied Units)		
No Vehicle (owner occupied)	8	2%
Two+ vehicles (owner occupied)	256	71%
No Vehicle (renter occupied)	0	0%
Two+ vehicles (renter occupied)	72	61%

Income Characteristics		
Households by Income Category		
Less than \$15,000	27	6%
\$15,000-\$29,999	83	17%
\$30,000-\$44,999	120	25%
\$45,000-\$59,999	47	10%
\$60,000-\$74,999	41	9%
\$75,000-\$99,999	76	16%
\$100,000-\$199,999	81	17%
\$200,000 or more	7	1%
Median Household Income	\$50,750	
Gini Index of Income Inequality	0.43	
Poverty Rates (Percent age cohort)		
Total Population	177	15%
Children (Under 18)	53	24%
Working Age (18 to 64)	106	16%
Seniors (65 and older)	18	7%
Housing Cost Burden (Cost > 30% of household income)		
Owners with a Mortgage	109	30%
Owners without a Mortgage	57	16%
Renters	89	75%

Employment Characteristics		
Labor Force (Population 16+)		
In labor Force (% Total Population)	530	45%
Unemployed (% Labor Force)	39	7%
Occupation (Top 5) (Employed 16+)		
Professional & Related	120	24%
Office & Administrative	84	17%
Construction, Extraction, & Maint.	64	13%
Production	57	12%
Management, Business, & Financial	31	6%
Health Insurance		
No Health Insurance	61	5%
Public Health Insurance	656	56%
Private Health Insurance	654	56%
Transportation to Work (Workers 16+)		
Drove Alone	414	85%
Carpooled	29	6%
Public Transit	0	0%
Motorcycle	0	0%
Bicycle/Walk	3	1%
Work at Home	41	8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017-2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates; Portland State University, Population Research Center, "Annual Population Estimates, Table 4", 2016 and 2021; and "Population Forecasts, Summary Tab", 2022.

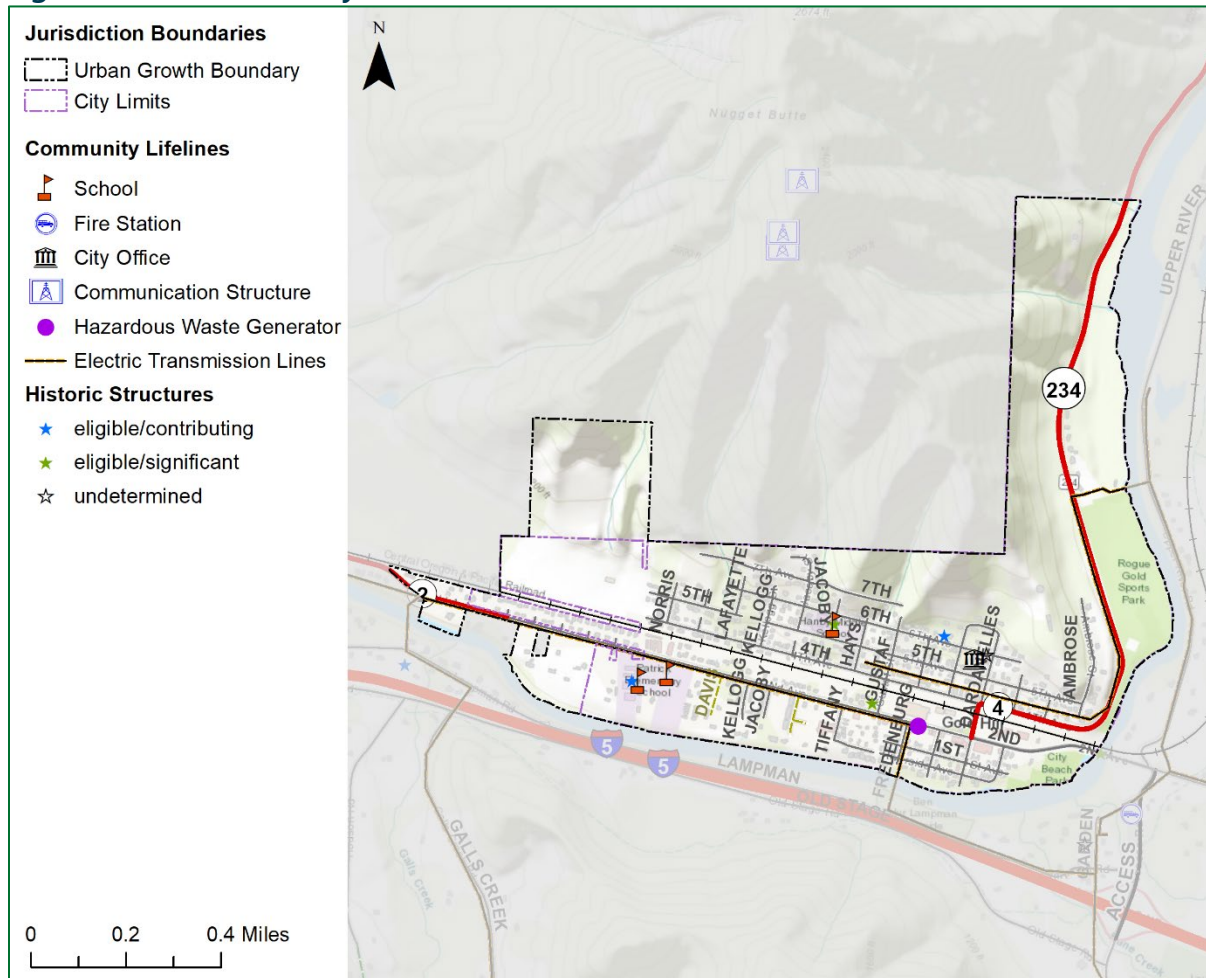
Note 1: * = Population forecast within UGB

Note 2: ACS 5-year estimates represent average characteristics from 2017-2021. Sampling error may result in low reliability of data. This information or data is provided with the understanding that conclusions drawn from such information are the responsibility of the user. Refer to the original [source](#) documentation to better understand the data sources, results, methodologies and limitations of each dataset presented.

Community Assets

This section outlines the resources, facilities, and infrastructure that, if damaged, could significantly impact the public safety, economic conditions, and environmental integrity of Gold Hill. Community lifelines and historic structures in Gold Hill are shown in Figure GA-2 and Table GA-4. Community Lifelines are fundamental services that enable all other aspects of society to function. FEMA developed the [Community Lifelines](#) construct for objective-based response to prioritize the rapid stabilization of these facilities after a disaster. Mitigating these facilities will increase the community’s resilience.

Figure GA-2 Community Lifelines and Historic Structures



Source: Oregon Partnership for Disaster Resilience. Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries.

Note: To view detail click this [link](#) to access Oregon HazVu

Table GA-4 Gold Hill Community Lifelines

Facility Name	Community Lifeline Category	Lifeline Type	Earthquake-Liquefaction Hazard	Flood Hazard	Landslide Hazard	Wildfire Hazard
Gold Hill City Hall	safety and security	city hall	low	minimal	none	urban
Hanby Middle School	safety and security	school	low	minimal	low	urban
Patrick Elementary School	safety and security	school	low	minimal	low	urban
Sweed Machinery Inc.	hazardous materials	hazardous waste producer	low	minimal	low	urban
IIOF Building	safety and security	community	low	minimal	none	urban
Water Treatment Plant	water systems	water treatment	none	500-Year	none	moderate
Wastewater Treatment Plan	water systems	waste water treatment	low to high	minimal	none	moderate

Source: Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, Gold Hill NHMP Steering Committee

Infrastructure:

Infrastructure that provides services for the City include:

Transportation Networks:

- Interstate-5
- Sams Valley Highway

Water Facilities:

- Complete potable water system
- Complete sewage treatment system

Special Service Districts:

- 911 Service District

Private Utilities:

- Pacific Power
- Avista
- Charter/Dish/Direct TV
- Rogue Valley Sewer (stormwater)

Critical Facilities

Facilities that are critical to government response and recovery activities (i.e., life, safety, property, and environmental protection). These facilities include: 911 Centers, Emergency Operations Centers, Police and Fire Stations, Public Works facilities, sewer and water facilities, hospitals, bridges, roads, shelters, and more. Facilities that, if damaged, could cause serious secondary impacts may also be considered “critical.” A hazardous material facility is one example of this type of critical facility.

City Buildings:

- Gold Hill City Hall
- Public Works Shop

Fire Stations:

- Rogue River Rural Fire District
- Jackson County Fire District #3

Law Enforcement:

- Oregon State Police/City Hall

Public Works:

- Wastewater treatment plant (converting to pump station)
- Water treatment plan
- Water Reservoir

Private:

- IOOF Lodge #129

Essential Facilities

Facilities that are essential to the continued delivery of key government services and/or that may significantly impact the public’s ability to recover from the emergency. These facilities may include: City buildings such as the Public Services Building, the City Hall, and other public facilities such as schools.

Hospitals/Immediate Medical Care Facilities:

- La Clinica in schools

Schools:

- Patrick Elementary School
- Hanby Middle School

County Buildings:

- Gold Hill Library

Potential Shelter Sites:

- All Gold Hill Schools (Red Cross designated)

Chuches

- Jehovah’s Witness
- Gold Hill United Methodist
- Gold Hill Christian Center
- Gold Hill Christian Church
- Gold Valley Fellowship

Hazard Profiles

The following sections briefly describe relevant information for each profiled hazard. More information on Jackson County Hazards can be found in Volume 1 Section 2 *Risk Assessment* and in the [Risk Assessment for Region 4, Southwest Oregon, Oregon SNHMP \(2020\)](#).

Air Quality

The steering committee determined that the City’s probability for poor air quality is **high** (which is the same as the County’s Rating) and that their vulnerability to poor air quality is also **high** (which is the same as the County’s Rating).

Volume I, Section 2 describes the characteristics of air quality hazards, their history, and how they relate to future climate projections (see [OCCRI report](#)), as well as the location, extent, and probability of a potential event. Increases in wildfire conditions have shown an increasing potential for air quality hazards.

Future Projections

According to the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute “Future Climate Projections, Jackson County,”⁵ climate change is expected to reduce outdoor air quality. Warmer temperatures may increase ground-level ozone concentrations, while increases in the number and size of wildfires may increase concentrations of smoke and fine particulate matter. Moreover, increases in pollen abundance and the duration of the pollen season may increase aeroallergens. Such poor air quality is expected to exacerbate allergy and asthma conditions and increase the incidence of respiratory and cardiovascular illnesses and death. In Jackson County, the number of smoke wave days is projected to decrease by 20%, but the intensity of smoke on those days is projected to increase by 81%.

Increasingly poor outdoor air quality will have exponentially high impacts upon those living in older homes, manufactured housing, RVs, and campgrounds, or the unhoused. The need to install new or upgraded air conditioning systems or HVAC filtration systems will impact the cost of housing.

Additional information on air quality can be found in Volume I, Section 2.

Drought

The steering committee determined that the City’s probability for drought is **high** (which is the same as the County’s rating) and that their vulnerability to drought is **low** (which is lower than the County’s rating).

Volume I, Section 2 describes the characteristics of drought hazards, their history, and how they relate to future climate projections (see [OCCRI report](#)), as well as the location, extent, and

⁵ Oregon Climate Change Research Institute, *Future Climate Projections, Jackson County, Oregon*. February 2023.

probability of a potential event. Due to the climate of Jackson County, past and present weather conditions have shown an increasing potential for drought.

The City receives its main water supply from the Rogue River. The City has an adequate supply have high quality surface water from the Rogue River. The city's water treatment plant produces 3.96 to 11.9 million gallons per month (mgm). For more information on the future of Gold Hill's water supply visit their [website](#).

Future Projections

According to the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute "Future Climate Projections, Jackson County,"⁶ drought, as represented by low summer soil moisture, low spring snowpack, low summer runoff, and low summer precipitation, is projected to become more frequent in Jackson County by the 2050s.

Increasingly frequent droughts will have economic and social impacts upon those who depend upon predictable growing periods (ranches, farms, vineyards, gardeners) as well as upon the price and availability of fresh vegetables. It may also stress local jurisdiction's ability to provide water for irrigation or commercial and household use.

Please review Volume I, Section 2 for additional information on this hazard.

Earthquake (Cascadia)

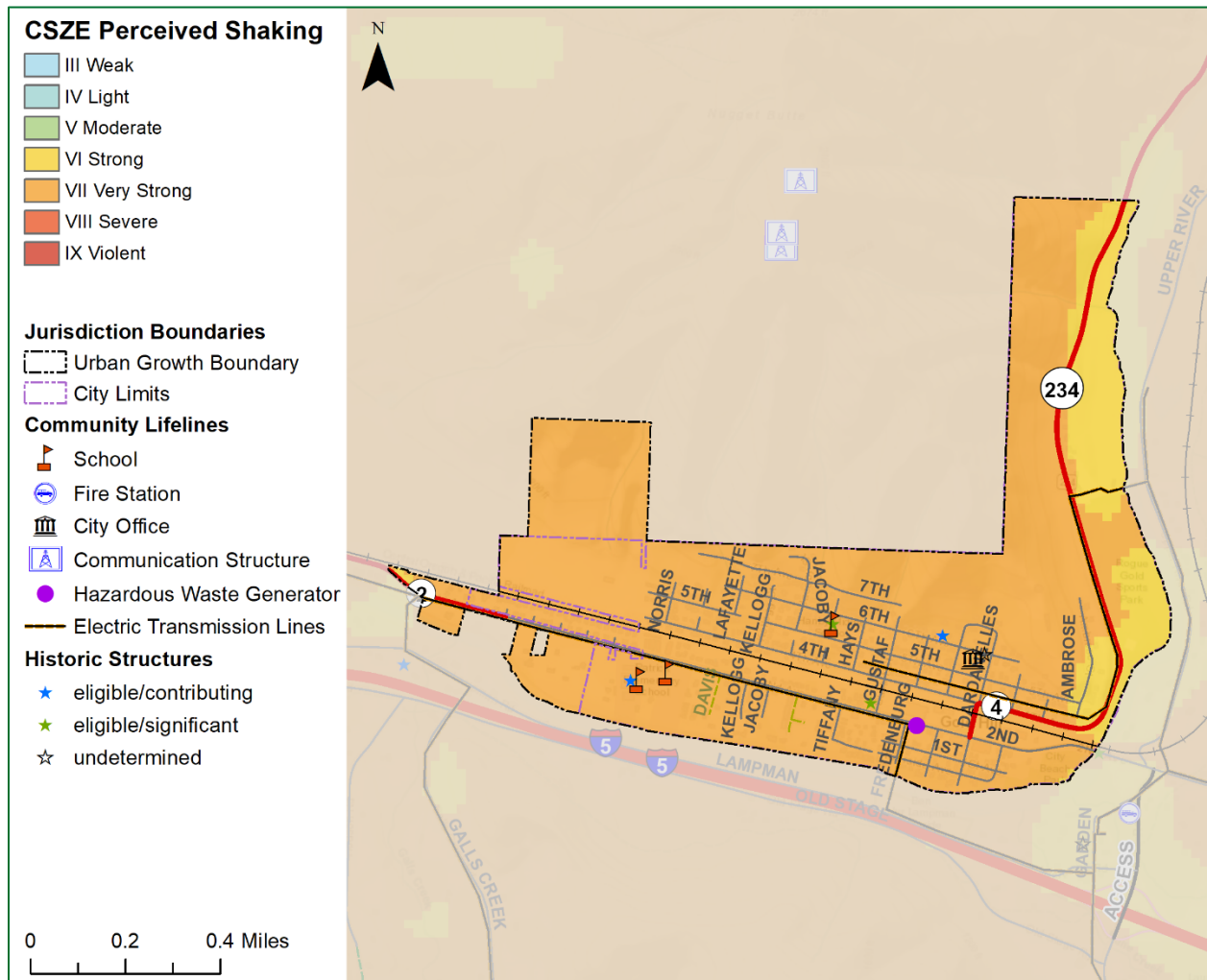
The steering committee determined that the City's probability for a Cascadia Subduction Zone (CSZ) earthquake is **moderate** (which is the same as the County's rating) and that their vulnerability to a CSZ earthquake is **high** (which is the same as the County's rating).

Volume I, Section 2 describes the characteristics of earthquake hazards and their history, as well as the location, extent, and probability of a potential event. Generally, an event that affects the County is likely to affect Gold Hill as well. The causes and characteristics of an earthquake event are appropriately described within Volume I, Section 2, as well as the location and extent of potential hazards. Previous occurrences are well documented within Volume I, Section 2 and the community impacts described by the County would generally be the same for Gold Hill as well.

Figure GA-3 displays perceived shaking hazards from a Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake event. As shown in the figure below, the area of greatest concern within the City of Gold Hill are to the south/southeast of the community (darker areas).

⁶ Oregon Climate Change Research Institute, *Future Climate Projections, Jackson County, Oregon*. February 2023.

Figure GA-3 Cascadia Subduction Zone Perceived Shaking



Source: Oregon Partnership for Disaster Resilience. Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries.
 Note: To view detail click this [link](#) to access Oregon HazVu.

The local faults, the County’s proximity to the Cascadia Subduction Zone, potential slope instability, and the prevalence of certain soils subject to liquefaction and amplification combine to give the County a high-risk profile. Due to the expected pattern of damage resulting from a CSZ event, the Oregon Resilience Plan divides the State into four distinct zones and places Jackson County predominately within the “Valley Zone” (Valley Zone, from the summit of the Coast Range to the summit of the Cascades). Within the Southwest Oregon region, damage and shaking is expected to be strong and widespread - an event will be disruptive to daily life and commerce and the main priority is expected to be restoring services to business and residents.

As noted in the community profile, approximately 72% of residential buildings were built prior to 1990, which increases the City’s vulnerability to the earthquake hazard. Information on specific public buildings’ (schools and public safety) estimated seismic resistance, determined by DOGAMI in 2007, is shown in Table GA-5; each “X” represents one building within that ranking

category. Of the facilities evaluated by DOGAMI using a Rapid Visual Survey (RVS), three (3) have a high (>10% chance) collapse potential.

In addition to building damages, utility (electric power, water, wastewater, natural gas) and transportation systems (bridges, pipelines) are also likely to experience significant damage.

Utility systems will be significantly damaged, including damaged buildings and damage to utility infrastructure, including water and wastewater treatment plants and equipment at high voltage substations (especially 230 kV or higher which are more vulnerable than lower voltage substations). Buried pipe systems will suffer extensive damage with approximately one break per mile in soft soil areas. There would be a much lower rate of pipe breaks in other areas. Restoration of utility services will require substantial mutual aid from utilities outside of the affected area.

Table GA-5 Rapid Visual Survey Scores

Facility	Site ID*	Level of Collapse Potential			
		Low (< 1%)	Moderate (>1%)	High (>10%)	Very High (100%)
Schools					
Hanby Middle School (Central Point SD 6) (806 6th Ave)	Jack_sch13	X,X		X	
Patrick Elementary School (Central Point SD 6) (1500 2nd Ave)	Jack_sch10	X,X,X		X	
Public Safety					
Rogue River Rural Fire District (Rogue River RFPD) (5474 N River Rd)	Jack_fir06			X	

Source: DOGAMI 2007. Open File Report 0-07-02. Statewide Seismic Needs Assessment Using Rapid Visual Assessment.
 “*” – Site ID is referenced on the [RVS Jackson County Map](#)

Please review Volume 1, Section 2 for additional information on this hazard.

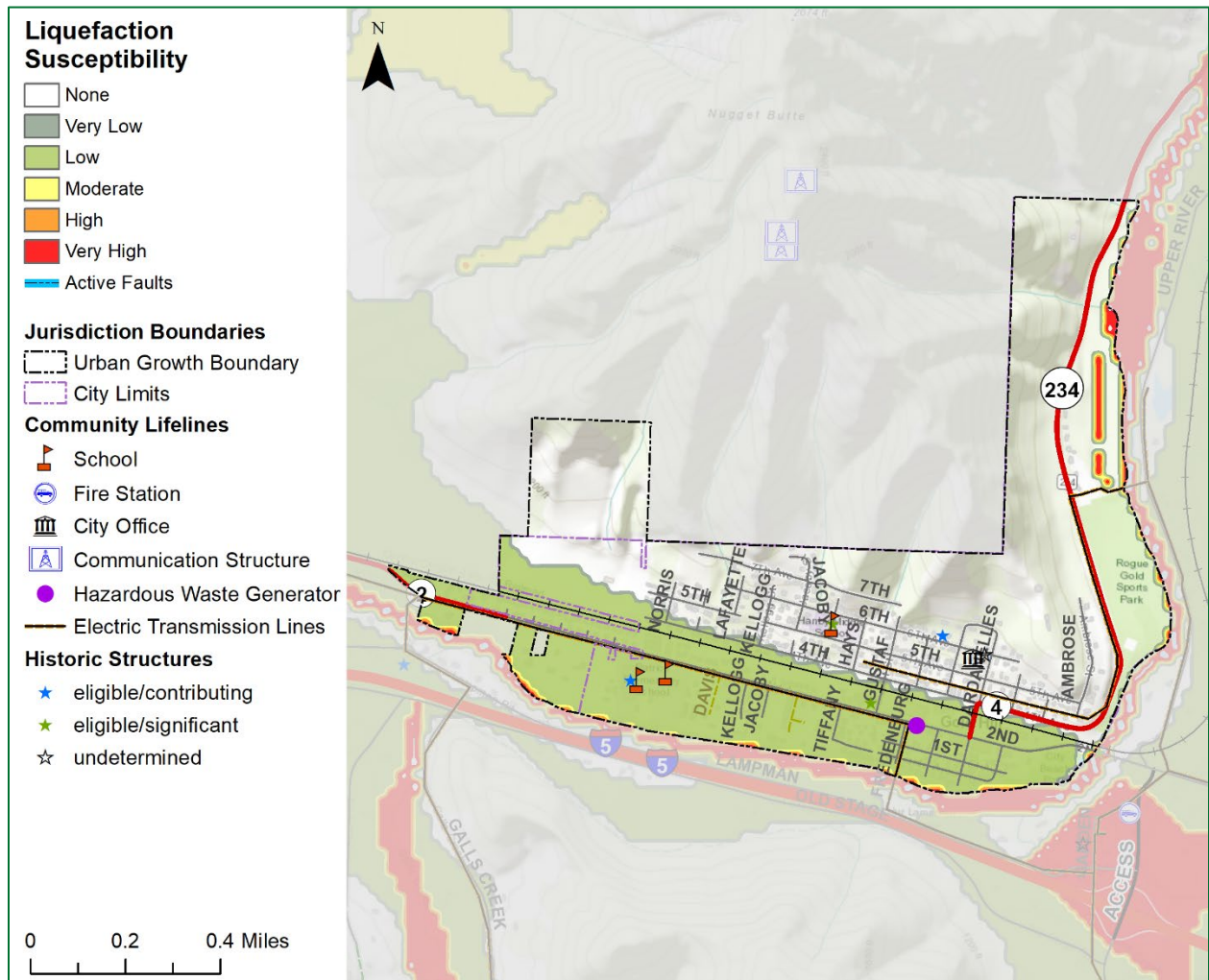
Earthquake (Crustal)

The steering committee determined that the City’s probability for a crustal earthquake is **low** (which is the same as the County’s rating) and that their vulnerability to crustal earthquake is **moderate** (which is higher than County’s rating).

Volume I, Section 2 describes the characteristics of earthquake hazards, history, as well as the location, extent, and probability of a potential event. Generally, an event that affects the County is likely to affect Gold Hill as well. The causes and characteristics of an earthquake event are appropriately described within Volume I, Section 2, as well as the location and extent of potential hazards. Previous occurrences are well-documented within Volume I, Section 2 and the community impacts described by the County would generally be the same for Gold Hill as well.

Figure GA-4 shows the liquefaction risk to the community lifelines that are identified in more detail in Table GA-4 and historic structures. As shown in the figure, the area of greatest concern near the City of Gold Hill (liquefaction hazard orange to red areas) is to the southeast of the City.

Figure GA-4 Liquefaction Susceptibility



Source: Oregon Partnership for Disaster Resilience. Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries.
 Note: To view detail click this [link](#) to access Oregon HazVu.

Earthquake-induced damages are difficult to predict and depend on the size, type, and location of the earthquake, as well as site-specific building and soil characteristics. Presently, it is not possible to accurately forecast the location or size of earthquakes, but it is possible to predict the behavior of soil at any site. In many major earthquakes, damages have primarily been caused by the behavior of the soil.

Vulnerability Assessment

Due to insufficient data and resources, Gold Hill is currently unable to perform a quantitative risk assessment, or exposure analysis, for the earthquake (Cascadia subduction zone and crustal) hazards. Identified Community Lifelines that are exposed to this hazard are shown in Table GA-4. Note that even if a facility has exposure, *it does not mean there is a high risk (vulnerability)*.

Future Projections

Future development (residential, commercial, or industrial) within Jackson County will be at risk to earthquake impacts, although this risk can be mitigated by the adoption and enforcement of high development and building standards. Reducing risks to vulnerable populations should be considered during the redevelopment of existing properties.

Please review Volume I, Section 2 for additional information on this hazard.

Emerging Infectious Disease

The steering committee determined that the City's probability for emerging infectious disease is **moderate** (which is the same as the County's rating) and that their vulnerability is **moderate** (which is lower than the County's rating).

Emerging infectious diseases are those that have recently appeared in a population or those whose incidence or geographic range is rapidly increasing or threatens to increase. Emerging infections may be caused by biological pathogens (e.g., virus, parasite, fungus, or bacterium) and may be: previously unknown or undetected biological pathogens, biological pathogens that have spread to new geographic areas or populations, previously known biological pathogens whose role in specific diseases was previously undetected, and biological pathogens whose incidence of disease was previously declining but whose incidence of disease has reappeared (re-emerging infectious disease).⁷

Volume I, Section 2 describes the characteristics of emerging infectious disease and their history, as well as the location, extent, and probability of a potential event within the region. Generally, an event that affects the County is likely to affect the City as well.

Future Projections

Vulnerable populations within Jackson County, including children, elderly, those living with disabilities, and unhoused individuals, will be a greater risk to emerging infectious diseases in the future.

Please review Volume I, Section 2 for additional information on this hazard.

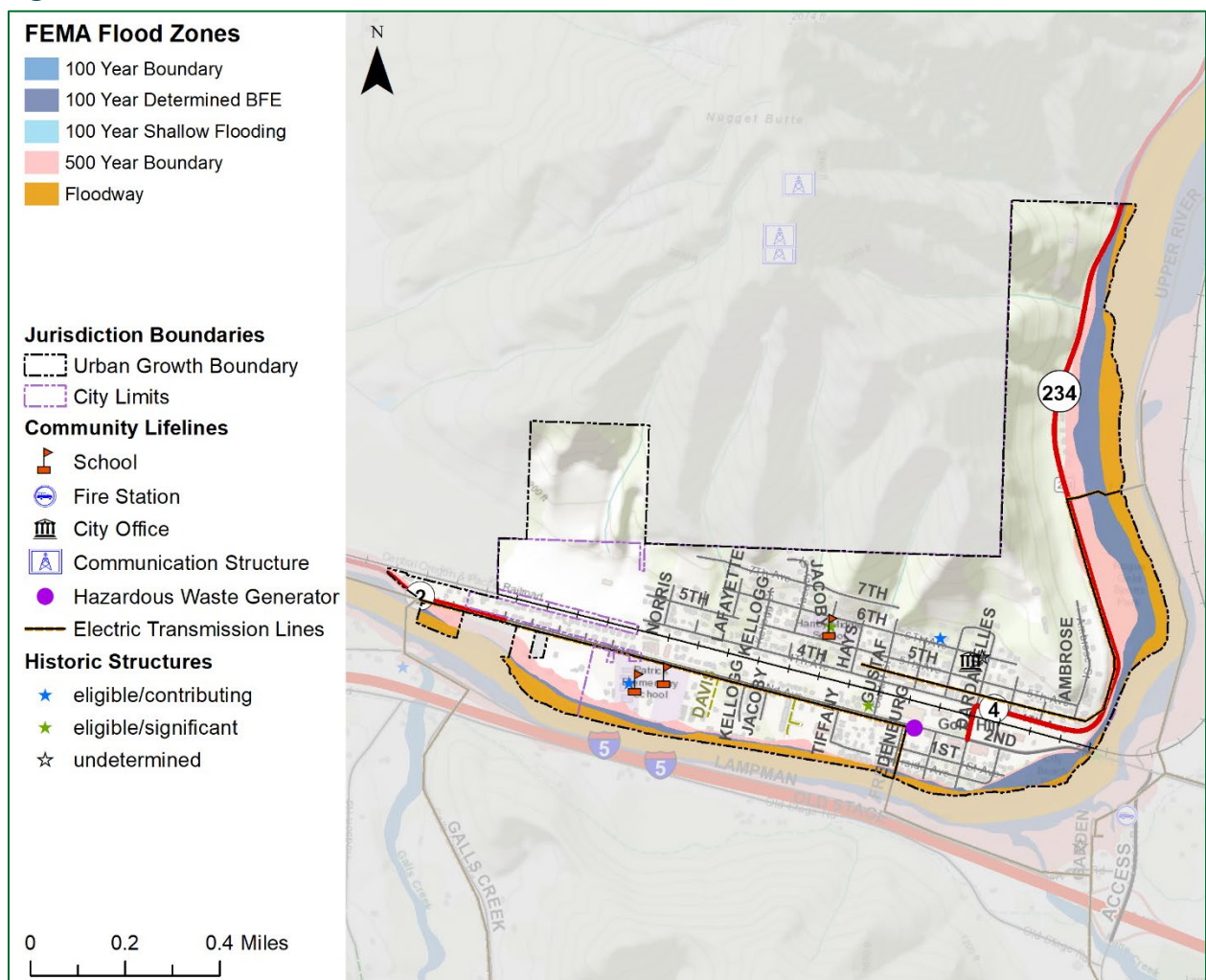
⁷ Baylor College of Medicine, Emerging Infectious Disease, URL: <https://www.bcm.edu/departments/molecular-virology-and-microbiology/emerging-infections-and-biodefense/emerging-infectious-diseases>, accessed September 17, 2017.

Flood

The steering committee determined that the City’s probability for flood is **moderate** (which is lower than the County’s rating) and that their vulnerability to flood is **low** (which is lower than the County’s rating).

Volume I, Section 2 describes the characteristics of flood hazards, their history, and how they relate to future climate projections (see [OCCRI report](#)), as well as the location, extent, and probability of a potential event. Portions of Gold Hill have mapped FEMA flood zones (Figure GA-5). Other portions of Gold Hill could be subject to flooding from local storm water drainage; however, areas of known flood hazard do not impact development or infrastructure.

Figure GA-5 FEMA Flood Zones



Source: Oregon Partnership for Disaster Resilience. Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries.

Note: To view detail click this [link](#) to access Oregon HazVu.

The Rogue River is the chief source of flooding in the Gold Hill area, however, the city is above the river and has had minimal recorded flood damage. There is a low potential for flood from

this water source. The major flood concern for the city is the condition of the two bridges over the Rogue River that supply transportation access to the city.

The City is at low to minor risk from two types of flooding: riverine and urban. Riverine flooding occurs when streams overflow their banks and inundate low-lying areas. This is a natural process that adds sediment and nutrients to fertile floodplain areas. It usually results from prolonged periods of precipitation over a wide geographic area. Most areas are generally flooded by low velocity sheets of water. Urban flooding occurs as land is converted to impervious surfaces and hydrologic systems are changed. Precipitation is collected and transmitted to streams at a much faster rate, causing floodwaters that rise rapidly and peak with violent force. During urban flooding, storm drains can back up and cause localized flooding of streets and basements.

Vulnerability Assessment

Due to insufficient data and resources, Gold Hill is currently unable to perform a quantitative risk assessment, or exposure analysis, for this hazard. Identified community lifelines that are exposed to this hazard are shown in Table GA-4. Note that even if a facility has exposure, *it does not mean there is a high risk (vulnerability)*.

Floods can have a devastating impact on almost every aspect of the community, including private property damage, public infrastructure damage, and economic loss from business interruption. It is important for the City to be aware of flooding impacts and assess its level of risk.

The economic losses due to business closures often total more than the initial property losses that result from flood events. Business owners and their employees are significantly impacted by flood events. Direct damages from flooding are the most common impacts, but indirect damages, such as diminished clientele, can be just as debilitating to a business.

The FEMA Flood Insurance Study (January 19, 2018) has a brief history of flooding in Jackson County (Volume I, Section 2). Portions of the city' water treatment plan are in the 500-year chance flood zone near the northeast section of the city.

Floodwaters can affect building foundations, seep into basements or cause damage to the interior, exterior, and contents of buildings, dependent upon the velocity and depth of the water and by the presence of floating debris. The City sewer system can overflow during flood events and cause further property damage.

Future Projections

According to the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute ([OCCRI report](#)) "Future Climate Projections, Jackson County,"⁸ winter flood risk at mid-elevations in Jackson County, where temperatures are near freezing during winter and precipitation is a mix of rain and snow, is projected to increase as winter temperatures increase. The temperature increase will lead to an increase in the percentage of precipitation falling as rain rather than snow. The projected increases in total precipitation, and in rain relative to snow, likely will increase flood magnitudes

⁸ Oregon Climate Change Research Institute, *Future Climate Projections, Jackson County, Oregon*. February 2023.

in the region. Vulnerable populations adjacent to floodways (including the unhoused, manufactured home communities, and campground occupants) will be more at risk as the winter flood risk increases.

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

FEMA updated the Flood Insurance Study (FIS) and Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) in 2018 (effective January 19, 2018). The City complies with the NFIP through enforcement of their flood damage prevention ordinance and their floodplain management program. Their code section is based on the Oregon Model Flood Hazard Prevention code, which includes provisions addressing substantial improvement/substantial damage.

The Community Repetitive Loss record for Gold Hill identifies zero (0) Repetitive Loss Properties⁹ and zero (0) Severe Repetitive Loss Properties¹⁰.

Please review Volume I, Section 2 for additional information on this hazard.

Landslide

The steering committee determined that the City's probability for landslide is **high** (which is the same as the County's rating) and that their vulnerability to landslide is **moderate** (which is higher than the County's rating).

Volume I, Section 2 describes the characteristics of landslide hazards, history, how they relate to future climate projections (see [OCCRI report](#)), as well as the location, extent, and probability of a potential event within the region.

Landslide susceptibility exposure for Gold Hill is shown in Figure GA-6. Most of Gold Hill demonstrates a low susceptibility to landslide exposure, with corridors of moderate and high susceptibility concentrated around the edges of the City. Approximately 21% of Gold Hill has high and approximately 28% moderate landslide susceptibility exposure.¹¹ The chief concern for landslide is along city's northern edge where sparse residential development exists.

Vulnerability Assessment

Due to insufficient data and resources, Gold Hill is currently unable to perform a quantitative risk assessment, or exposure analysis, for this hazard. Identified community lifelines that are exposed to this hazard are shown in Table GA-4. *Note that even if an area has a high percentage of land in*

⁹ A Repetitive Loss (RL) property is any insurable building for which two or more claims of more than \$1,000 were paid by the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) within any rolling ten-year period, since 1978. A RL property may or may not be currently insured by the NFIP.

¹⁰ A Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL) property is a single family property (consisting of 1 to 4 residences) that is covered under flood insurance by the NFIP and has incurred flood-related damage for which 4 or more separate claims payments have been paid under flood insurance coverage, with the amount of each claim payment exceeding \$5,000 and with cumulative amount of such claims payments exceeding \$20,000; or for which at least 2 separate claims payments have been made with the cumulative amount of such claims exceeding the reported value of the property.

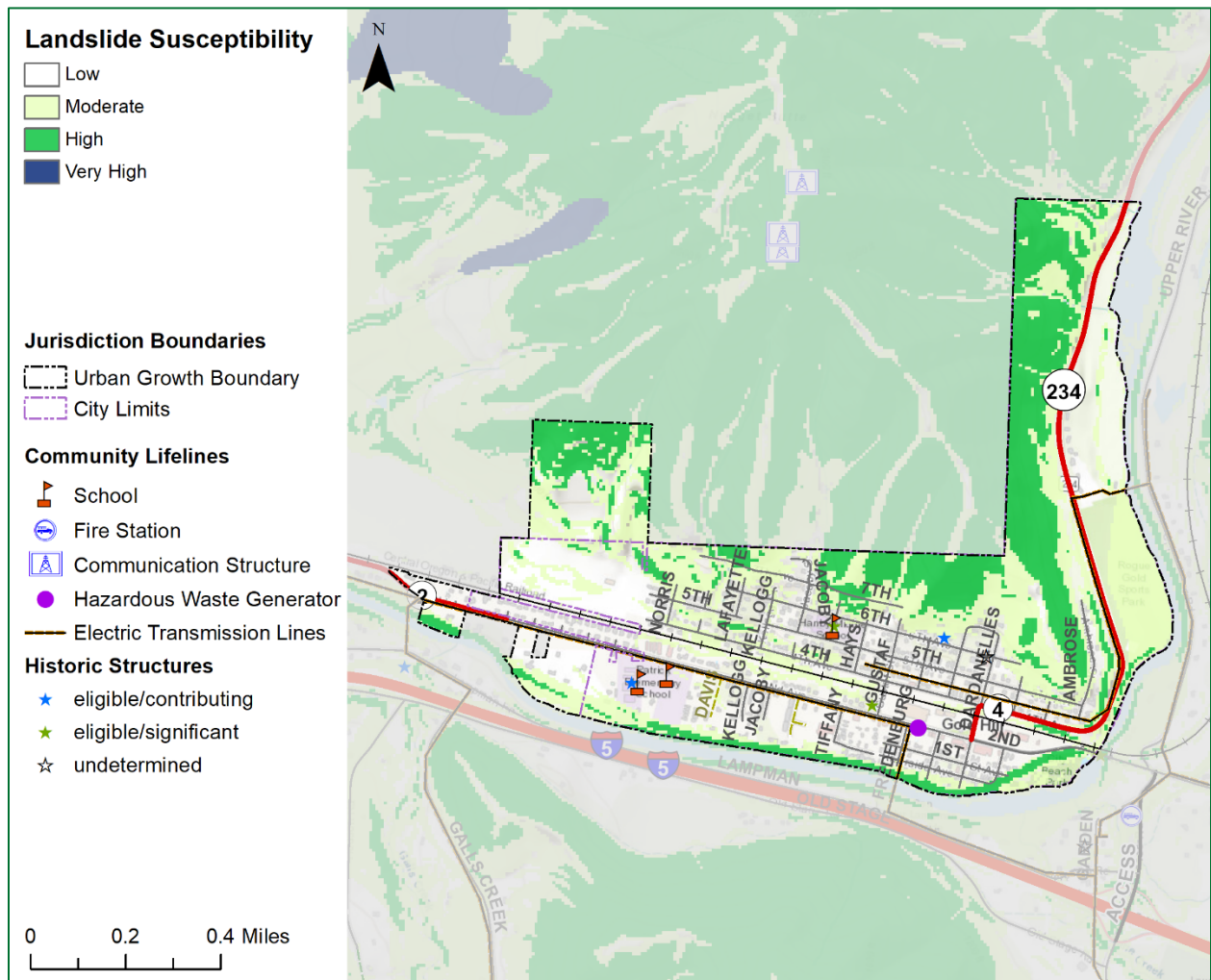
¹¹ DOGAMI Open-File Report, O-16-02, Landslide Susceptibility Overview Map of Oregon (2016)

a high or very high landslide exposure susceptibility zone, that does not mean there is a high risk (vulnerability), because risk is the intersection of a hazard and assets.

Future Projections

Landslides are often triggered by rainfall when the soil becomes saturated. As a surrogate measure of landslide risk, the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute ([OCCRI report](#)) report presents a threshold based on recent precipitation (cumulative precipitation over the previous 3 days) and antecedent precipitation (cumulative precipitation on the 15 days prior to the previous 3 days). By the 2050s under the higher emissions scenario, the average number of days per year in Jackson County on which the landslide risk threshold is exceeded is projected to remain about the same, with an increase of 0.2 days. However, landslide risk depends on multiple factors, and this metric, which is based on precipitation, does not reflect all aspects of the hazard. Additional triggers, such as earthquakes, wildfires, or development, can increase risks of landslides. Future development along slopes or adjacent to riverbanks will be a greater risk of impact from this hazard.

Figure GA-6 Landslide Susceptibility Exposure



Source: Oregon Partnership for Disaster Resilience. Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries.

Note: To view detail click this [link](#) to access Oregon HazVu.

Severe Weather

Severe weather can account for a variety of intense and potentially damaging weather events. These events include windstorms and winter storms. The following section describes the unique probability and vulnerability of each identified weather hazard. Other more abrupt or irregular events such as hail are also described in this section.

Extreme Heat Event

The steering committee determined that the City’s probability for extreme heat event is **high** (which is the same as the County’s Rating) and that their vulnerability to an extreme heat event is **moderate** (which is the same as the County’s Rating).

Jackson County’s NHMP Volume I, Section 2, adequately describes the causes and characteristics of extreme heat, as well as the history, location, extent, and probability of a potential event and how it relates to future climate projections (see [OCCRI report](#)). Generally, an event that affects the County is likely to affect the City as well. A severe heat episode or “heat wave” occurs about every two to three years, and typically lasting two to three days but can last as many as five days. A severe heat episode can be defined as consecutive days of temperatures in the high 90s and above 100. Severe heat hazard in Southern Oregon can be described as the average number of days with temperatures greater than or equal to 90-degrees Fahrenheit.¹²

Extreme heat events can and have occurred in the City, and while they typically do not cause loss of life, they are becoming more frequent and have the potential to impact economic activity as well as quality of life and have caused threat to life in some cases.

Future Projections

According to the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute ([OCCRI report](#)) “Future Climate Projections, Jackson County,”¹³ average temperature is expected to continue increasing during the twenty-first century if global emissions of greenhouse gases continue. The number, duration, and intensity of extreme heat events will increase as temperatures continue to warm. In Jackson County, the number of extremely hot days (days on which the temperature is 90°F or higher) and the temperature on the hottest day of the year are projected to increase by the 2020s and 2050s. The number of days per year with temperatures 90°F or higher is projected to increase by an average of 28 days (range 12–38 days) by the 2050s, relative to the 1971–2000 historical baselines. The temperature on the hottest day of the year is projected to increase by an average of about 7°F (range 3–8°F) by the 2050s. Higher temperatures and longer/more extreme heat events will have negative impacts upon vulnerable populations such as those over 65+, children, those living in older or temporary housing, and field workers.

See the Risk Assessment (Volume I, Section 2) for additional information on this hazard.

¹² DLCD. Oregon State Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan. 2020.

¹³ Oregon Climate Change Research Institute, *Future Climate Projections, Jackson County, Oregon*. February 2023.

Windstorm

The steering committee determined that the City's probability for windstorm is **high** (which is the same as the County's rating) and that their vulnerability to windstorm is **moderate** (which is the same as the County's rating).

Volume I, Section 2 describes the characteristics of windstorm hazards, their history, and how they relate to future climate projections (see [OCCRI report](#)), as well as the location, extent, and probability of a potential event within the region. Because windstorms typically occur during winter months, they are sometimes accompanied by ice, freezing rain, flooding, and snow. Other severe weather events that may accompany windstorms, including thunderstorms, hail, and lightning strikes are standard for Gold Hill.

Volume I, Section 2 describes the impacts caused by windstorms, including power outages, downed trees, heavy precipitation, building damages, and storm-related debris. Additionally, transportation and economic disruptions result as well. Gold Hill regularly experiences high winds. Pacific Power has mitigated the risk of power loss by trimming trees near their above ground infrastructure. The city also requires undergrounding of utilities for new construction.

Damage from high winds generally has resulted in downed utility lines and trees. Electrical power can be out anywhere from a few hours to several days. Outdoor signs have also suffered damage. If the high winds are accompanied by rain (which they often are), blowing leaves, and debris clog drainage-ways, which in turn causes localized urban flooding.

Future Projections

Limited research suggests little if any change in the frequency and intensity of windstorms in the Northwest as a result of climate change. Those impacted by windstorms at present, including older residential or commercial developments with above-ground utilities, poor insulation or older construction, heavy tree canopies, or poor storm drainage, will continue to be impacted by windstorms in the future.

Please review Volume I, Section 2 for additional information on this hazard.

Winter Storm (Snow/Ice)

The steering committee determined that the City's probability for winter storm is **high** (which is the same as the County's rating) and that their vulnerability to winter storm is **moderate** (which is the same as the County's rating).

Volume I, Section 2 describes the characteristics of winter storm hazards, their history, and how they relate to future climate projections (see [OCCRI report](#)), as well as the location, extent, and probability of a potential event within the region. Severe winter storms can consist of rain, freezing rain, ice, snow, cold temperatures, and wind. They originate from troughs of low pressure offshore that ride along the jet stream during fall, winter, and early spring months. Severe winter storms affecting the City typically originate in the Gulf of Alaska or in the central Pacific Ocean. These storms are most common from November through March.

Major winter storms can and have occurred in the Gold Hill area and while they typically do not cause significant damage, they are frequent and have the potential to impact economic activity. Road closures due to winter weather are an uncommon occurrence but can interrupt commuter and commercial traffic.

Future Projections

According to the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute ([OCCRI report](#)) “Future Climate Projections, Jackson County,”¹⁴ cold extremes will become less frequent and intense as the climate warms. In Jackson County, the number of cold days (maximum temperature 32°F or lower) per year is projected to decrease by an average of 3 days (range -2– -5 days) by the 2050s, relative to the 1971–2000 historical baselines, under the higher emissions scenario. The temperature on the coldest night of the year is projected to increase by an average of 6°F (range 3–9°F) by the 2050s. The intensity of extreme precipitation is expected to increase as the atmosphere warms and holds more water vapor. In Jackson County, the number of days per year with at least 0.75 inches of precipitation is not projected to change substantially. However, by the 2050s, the amount of precipitation on the wettest day and wettest consecutive five days per year is projected to increase by an average of 15% (range -3–32%) and 11% (range -3–34%), respectively. If these precipitation events occur in the winter, heavier winter storms with larger impacts upon transportation routes, vulnerable populations, and economic activity can be expected.

Please review Volume I, Section 2 for additional information on this hazard.

Volcanic Event

The steering committee determined that the City’s probability for a volcanic event is **low** (which is the same as the County’s rating) and that their vulnerability to a volcanic event is **low** (which is the same as the County’s rating).

Volume I, Section 2 describes the characteristics of volcanic hazards and their history, as well as the location, extent, and probability of a potential event within the region. Generally, an event that affects the County is likely to affect Gold Hill as well. Gold Hill is very unlikely to experience anything more than volcanic ash during a volcanic event.

Future Projections

Although the science of volcano predictions is improving, it remains challenging to predict a potential volcanic event. Ash fall, which will be the greatest impact, will impact the entire County. Impacts will be felt hardest by property managers (ranches, farmers, etc.) and by those relying upon clean surface water (for drinking water production and irrigation).

Please review Volume I, Section 2 for additional information on this hazard.

¹⁴ Oregon Climate Change Research Institute, *Future Climate Projections, Jackson County, Oregon*. February 2023.

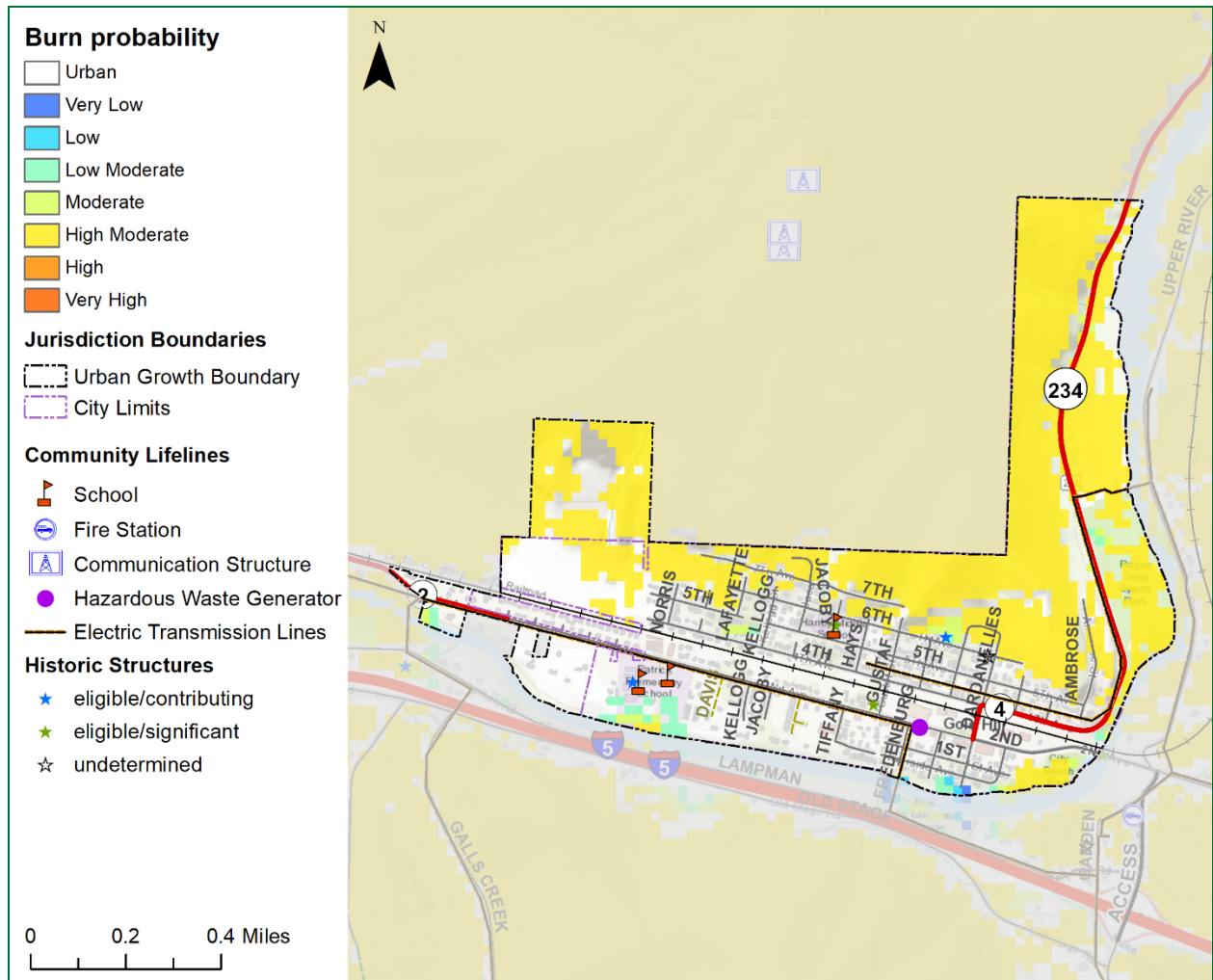
Wildfire

The steering committee determined that the City’s probability for wildfire is **high** (which is the same as the County’s rating) and that their vulnerability to wildfire is **high** (which is the same as the County’s rating).

Volume I, Section 2 describes the characteristics of wildfire hazards, their history, and how they relate to future climate projections (see [OCCRI report](#)), as well as the location, extent, and probability of a potential event within the region. The location and extent of a wildfire vary depending on fuel, topography, and weather conditions. Weather and urbanization conditions are primarily at cause for the hazard level. Wildfires near Gold Hill in recent times have included the East Evans wildfire in 1994, which approached the City from the west and the Blackwell Fire in 2010 to the east of the city.

Figure GA-7 shows burn probability in Gold Hill for community lifelines and historic buildings.

Figure GA-7 Burn Probability



Source: Oregon Partnership for Disaster Resilience. USFS Pacific Northwest Region Wildfire Risk Assessment (PNRA)

Note: To view detail click this [link](#) to access Oregon Explorer’s CWPP Planning Tool.

The potential community impacts and vulnerabilities described in Volume I, Section 2 are generally accurate for the City as well. The [Rogue Valley Integrated Community Wildfire Protection Plan](#) (RVIFP, updated 2019) assesses wildfire risk, maps wildland urban interface areas, and includes actions to mitigate wildfire risk. The City is included in the RVIFP and will update the City’s wildfire risk assessment if the RVIFP presents better data during future updates (an action item is included within Volume I, Section 4 to participate in updates to the integrated fire plan and to continue to maintain and update their RVIFP). The forest service and City are actively reducing fuels in and around City but anticipate an increase in wildfire risk with maturation of the forest near City. The City hereby incorporates the RVIFP into this addendum by reference to provide greater detail to sensitivity and exposure to the wildfire hazard.

Property can be damaged or destroyed with one fire as structures, vegetation, and other flammables easily merge to become unpredictable and hard to manage. Other factors that affect ability to effectively respond to a wildfire include access to the location and to water, response time from the fire station, availability of personnel and equipment, and weather (e.g., heat, low humidity, high winds, and drought).

Vulnerability Assessment

Due to insufficient data and resources, Gold Hill is currently unable to perform a quantitative risk assessment, or exposure analysis, for this hazard. Identified community lifelines that are exposed to this hazard are shown in Table GA-4. Note that even if a facility has exposure, *it does not mean there is a high risk (vulnerability)*.

Future Projections

According to the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute “Future Climate Projections, Jackson County,”¹⁵ wildfire frequency, intensity, and area burned are projected to continue increasing in the Northwest. Wildfire risk, expressed as the average number of days per year on which fire danger is very high, is projected to increase in Jackson County by 13 days (range -6– 29) by the 2050s, relative to the historical baseline (1971–2000), under the higher emissions scenario. Similarly, the average number of days per year on which vapor pressure deficit is extreme is projected to increase by 29 days (range 12–42) by the 2050s. Communities at risk to wildfire include those within the urban wildfire interface or along river or creek corridors, like Bear Creek, where fire can travel quickly. Communities will need to address growing wildfire risks if populations are not restricted from expanding further into higher risk areas.

Please review Volume I, Section 2 for additional information on this hazard.

¹⁵ Oregon Climate Change Research Institute, *Future Climate Projections, Jackson County, Oregon*. February 2023.

Attachment A: Public Involvement Summary

Members of the steering committee provided content and edits to the NHMP prior to the public review period as reflected in the final document. In addition, a survey was distributed that included responses from residents of Gold Hill (Volume III, Appendix F).

To provide the public information regarding the draft NHMP addendum, and provide an opportunity for comment, an announcement (see below) was provided on the County's website **October 6, 2023** and continued into the FEMA review process. There were no public comments provided. Additional opportunities for stakeholders and the public to be involved in the planning process are addressed in Volume II, Appendix B.

A diverse array of agencies and organizations were provided an opportunity to provide input to inform the plan's content through a variety of mechanisms including the opportunity for comment on the draft plan. The agencies and organizations represent local and regional agencies involved in hazard mitigation activities, those that have the authority to regulate development, neighboring communities, representatives of businesses, academia, and other private organizations, and representatives of nonprofit organizations, including community-based organizations, that work directly with and/or provide support to underserved communities and socially vulnerable populations. For more information on the engagement strategy see Volume II, Appendix B.



City Manager's Report

May 2, 2023

2. Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan

Jackson County Emergency Management is leading a process to update and renew the existing Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan (NHMP) document. This is a framework that guides decision-making and policy development for the reduction or elimination of risk resulting from natural disasters such as earthquake, flood, wildfire, winter storm events, etc.

The NHMP update will address natural hazards impacts in unincorporated areas of Jackson County as well as nine incorporated cities. Gold Hill has not previously been among those incorporated cities to participate and have its own specific addendum within the plan. Participating and being included in the NHMP makes Gold Hill eligible for grants to reduce/mitigate its own local vulnerabilities as well as be eligible for reimbursements from state and federal agencies should a natural disaster occur.

Latest Update – Staff will meet with U of O team leading the County process on May 3 and will review and finalize Gold Hill's hazard vulnerability assessment and draft action items for the City's NHMP addendum that will be a part of the overall Jackson County NHMP.

Website Posting



[Home](#) > [News List](#) > News Post

2023 Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

Public Comment Notice to Close on December 5, 2023

Jackson County is updating its multi-jurisdictional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan (NHMP). This work is being performed in cooperation with the University of Oregon's Institute for Policy Research and Engagement - Oregon Partnership for Disaster Resilience and the Oregon Department of Emergency Management, utilizing funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. With re-adoption of the plan, Jackson County will maintain its eligibility to apply for federal funding towards natural hazard mitigation projects.

PLAN OVERVIEW

The Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan is not an operational response plan. It does not describe how the County or any of the cities or towns will respond to natural disasters. Additionally, the County and each incorporated city are responsible for the planning, response, recovery, and mitigation activities within their jurisdictional boundaries. The NHMP is a framework that guides decision-making and policy development around the reduction or elimination of risk to life and property resulting from air quality, drought, earthquake, emerging infectious diseases, flood, heat, landslide, wildfire, windstorm, and winter storm events. This NHMP update will engage state and local partners to understand risks from natural hazards and develop long-term strategies to reduce the impacts of disasters on people, property, and the environment.

PUBLIC COMMENT NOTICE

To provide public comment, please describe the feedback and reference page number, table, or figure of concern:

1. Send an email to JacksonEM@jacksoncountyor.gov
2. Send a fax to 541-774-6705
3. Mail or drop-off hard copies: 10 S. Oakdale, Rm 214, Medford, OR 97501

Posted for Comment on November 21, 2023

- [Central Point](#)

Posted for Comment on October 17, 2023

- [Jackson County Fire District #3](#)
- [Jackson County Fire District #5](#)

Posted for Comment on October 6, 2023

- [Gold Hill](#)
- [Jacksonville](#)
- [Shady Cove](#)

Posted for Comment on September 28, 2023 or before

- [Eagle Point](#)
- [Medford Water](#)

Posted for Comment on September 11, 2023 or before

- [Jackson County](#)
- [Ashland](#)
- [Butte Falls](#)
- [Phoenix](#)
- [Rogue River](#)
- [Talent](#)

City of Medford has a stand-alone NHMP, which is available on the [City of Medford's website](#).

NATURAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLANNING

Natural disasters occur when natural hazard events greatly impact people, structures, and the environment. The ever-increasing costs associated with natural disasters over the past decades have heightened interest in identifying and implementing effective means of reducing these impacts.

Natural hazards mitigation planning is a process for identifying and understanding the hazards facing a jurisdiction and prioritizing actions the jurisdiction can take to reduce injuries and deaths; damage to buildings, critical facilities, and infrastructure; interruption in essential services; economic hardship; and environmental harm. Reducing impacts also speeds up recovery and lowers its cost.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) approves NHMPs that meet federal requirements at 44 CFR 201. Having a current, FEMA-approved NHMP establishes eligibility for certain FEMA grants that fund natural hazard mitigation planning and projects. Approval lasts five years. Jackson County's current NHMP is valid through July 2, 2023.

PROJECT TIMELINE

- [Kickoff Steering Committee Meeting #1 Presentation](#) - October 28, 2022
- [Steering Committee Meeting #2 Presentation](#) - November 30, 2022
- [Steering Committee Meeting #3 Presentation](#) - February 3, 2023
- Individual Meetings with Participating Jurisdictions (Cities and Special Districts) - February through June 2023
- [Steering Committee Meeting #4 Presentation](#) - April 11, 2023
- Review Copy Made Available for Public Comment - September 11, 2023
- Local Adoption - December 2023

Gold Hill Steering Committee

Steering committee members possessed familiarity with the community of Gold Hill and how it is affected by natural hazard events. The steering committee guided the development process through several steps including goal confirmation and prioritization, action item development, and information sharing, to make the NHMP as comprehensive as possible. The steering committee met formally on the following date:

Meeting #1: Gold Hill steering committee, May 3, 2023 (via Zoom)

During this meeting, the steering committee was provided information on hazard mitigation planning, the NHMP process, and project timeline. The steering committee:

- Reviewed history of hazard events in the city.
- Reviewed and confirmed the NHMP's mission and goals.
- Discussed the NHMP public outreach strategy.
- Discussed development activity and community lifelines.
- Reviewed and provided feedback on the draft risk assessment including community vulnerabilities and hazard information.
- Developed mitigation strategy (actions).
- Reviewed their implementation and maintenance program.

Meeting Attendees:

- Convener, Adam Hanks, City Manager