

Addendum: City of Halfway

Participation in the Northeast Oregon Regional Planning Process:

Completion of the Northeast Oregon Cities Survey

Adrian Albrich, the Eastern Oregon Risk Management Consultant from City County Insurance Services, distributed a memo on behalf of Oregon Natural Hazards Workgroup (ONHW) to all Region 7 Cities (Region 7 includes Baker, Grant, Union, and Wallowa Counties). The memo provided cities with information regarding the Natural Hazards Mitigation Planning process currently occurring in each county, and asked cities to identify local risks and desired mitigation activities through the completion of a small survey. ONHW, in its memo, also informed cities of their option to adopt the regional mitigation plan. Page Frederickson, City of Halfway Public Works Director, completed ONHW's survey.

City of Halfway Meeting

On August 2, 2007 Page Frederickson organized a group of persons to meet and discuss Halfway's risk to natural hazards. The following persons attended the meeting:

Facilitator: Megan Findley, Oregon Natural Hazards Workgroup 'RARE' ("Resource Assistance for Rural Environments") Participant

Attendees:

Page Frederickson, City of Halfway Public Works
Gordon Kaesemeyer, City of Halfway Mayor
James Young, Powder Basin Watershed Council
Trina Duncan, City of Halfway Administrator
Mark Bennett, Baker County Emergency Management
Aaron Ingles, Citizen Representative / Farmer

Non-Attendees to be included in future meetings:

Dr. Gordon Summers, Citizen Representative

Meeting attendees discussed two topics in their meeting: 1) hazards: how the City's risks differed from the County's; and 2) mitigation action items. Each topic is described in greater detail below:

Hazard Analysis

Halfway's risks to the following hazards were identified by the City's work-group on August 2, 2007. The work-group reviewed Baker County's risk assessment, and identified differences, if any. The City rated its risks and vulnerabilities as follows:

Drought

- The City's municipal water supply drops a couple of feet per year. In the last 10-15 years, water supply has dropped by 50 feet. Over exploitation of water resources may exceed practical sustained yield in the near future. However, a large amount of water passes through Pine Valley; future water-storage systems may be appropriately located in or near the City of Halfway.
- The City of Halfway has just completed a water system master plan.
- The City's probability and vulnerability ratings for drought are the same as the County's ratings. Both are 'high.'

Earthquake

- Baker County ranks its probability of earthquakes as ‘low,’ and its vulnerability as ‘low.’ The City of Halfway considers its probability to be ‘moderate,’ since it consistently experiences at least one earthquake within a 35-75 year period. The City also ranks its vulnerability as ‘high.’ More than 10% of the City’s assets are likely to be impacted by a major emergency or disaster in this region. Specifically, the City risks isolation from outside help should bridges collapse, or roadways become blocked.
- The City’s workgroup identified City Hall to be in need of attention and/or retrofit for seismic resilience.

Wildfire

- The regional plan adequately addresses the wildfire risks the City of Halfway faces. The Baker County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) was completed in 2006, and will serve as Baker County’s wildfire chapter within the regional natural hazards mitigation plan.

Flood

- Ice jams and heavily vegetated stream banks are not a typical problem in Pine Valley. Spring runoff, rain on snow, and summer thunderstorms contribute to flooding in Halfway.
- The movement of sediment in Pine Creek is a significant contributor to flooding in Halfway.
- There are no floodplain policy-holders in the City of Halfway.
- The Powder Basin Watershed Council is currently developing a Pine Valley Floodplain Management Plan. The Plan identifies the City’s risks, and will include both short and long-term actions to ameliorate and mitigate the flooding problems in Halfway. The plan cannot be completed until the Council obtains funding to complete technical site-specific data.
- The City’s ranks its vulnerability to flooding as ‘high,’ whereas the County ranks its vulnerability as ‘moderate.’ More than 10% of the region’s population and/or assets are likely to be affected by a major emergency or disaster. The City’s probability of flooding is ‘high,’ which is the same as the County’s.

Landslides

- Due to its topography, Halfway has never experienced a landslide. Its probability of enduring a landslide in the future is therefore ‘low,’ which differs from the County’s ‘high’ probability. The City’s vulnerability to a landslide, however, is ‘high,’ which differs from the County’s ‘moderate’ ranking. Should a landslide occur in the County and isolate Halfway (as occurred in the 1984 ‘Hole in the Wall’ landslide), the entire city would be affected.

Volcanic Activity

- The City of Halfway’s risks to volcano-related hazards are adequately addressed in the regional risk assessment; the City does not identify any specific local issues that have not already been addressed in the regional plan.

Wind Storms

- The City of Halfway’s risks to wind storms are adequately addressed in the regional risk assessment; the City does not identify any specific local issues that have not already been addressed in the regional plan.

Winter Storms

- The City of Halfway’s risks to winter storms are adequately addressed in the regional risk assessment; the City does not identify any specific local issues that have not already been addressed in the regional plan.

Action Items

The City of Halfway has chosen to partner with Baker County on nine mitigation actions (below) because actions will either directly benefit the city, or may be expanded to do so. Full text for action items can be viewed in Section 6, “Mission, Goals, and Action Items.”

Drought

- Identify incentive programs to install water efficient devices.
- Develop community drought emergency plans and policies.
- Conduct an aquifer study for the Pine and Baker Valleys.

Earthquake

- Implement structural and non-structural retrofitting programs for public buildings, historically important structures, and critical facilities and infrastructure.

Flood

- Continue to assess the vulnerability of all county and city bridges that are not under the state’s authority.
- Explore flood mitigation opportunities for homes and critical facilities subject to flooding.
- Increase awareness of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

Wildfire

- Advocate for implementation of the actions identified in each county’s Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

Multi-Hazard:

- Pursue funding to complete Continuity of Operations Plans (COOPs) within all interested municipalities.

Community-Specific Action Items

Independent of Baker County, the City of Halfway would like to implement the following actions:

Drought

- Implement Actions Identified in the City of Halfway’s Water System Master Plan.

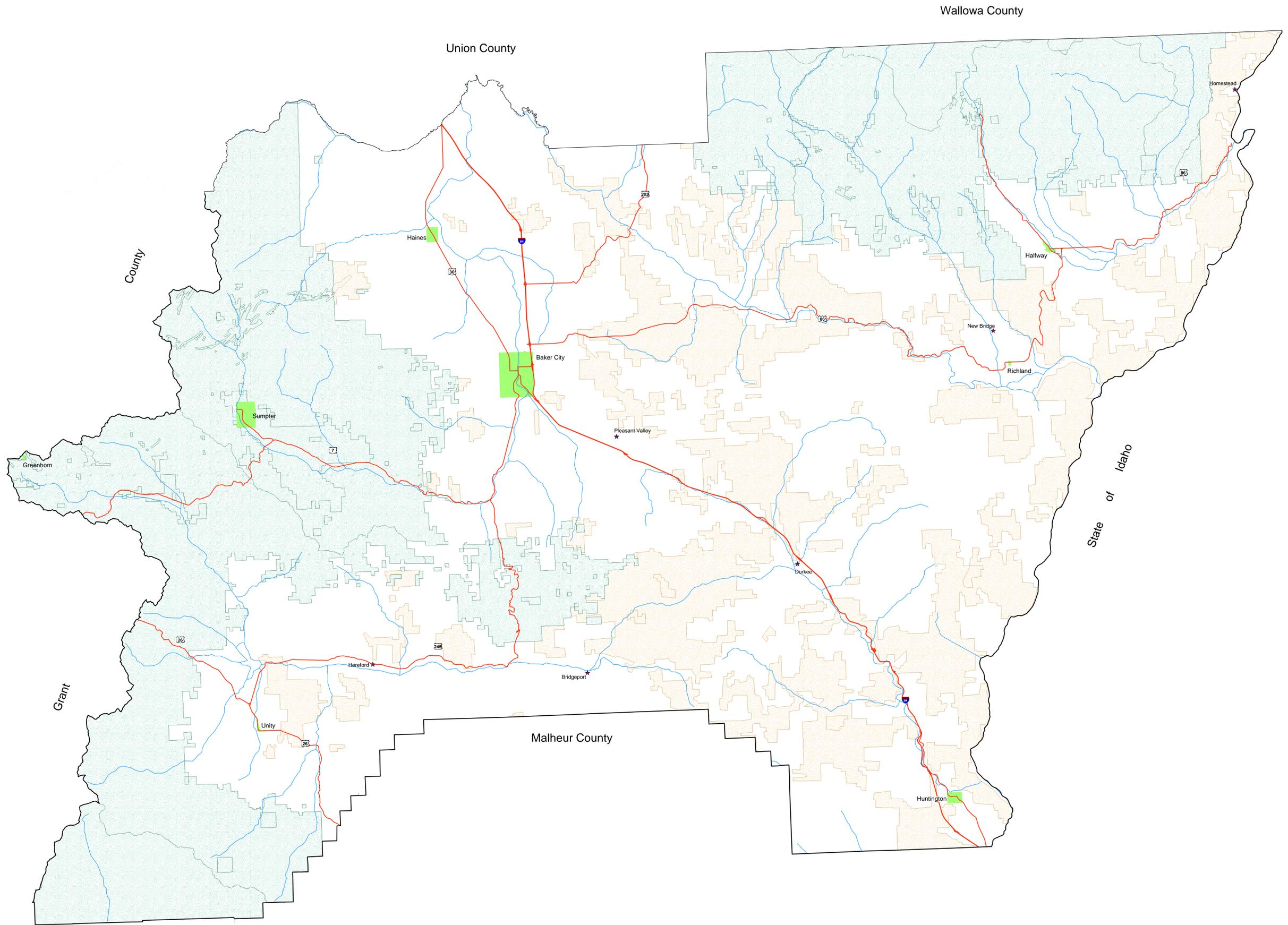
Flood

- Complete, and implement the Pine Creek Floodplain Management Plan.

Local Adoption

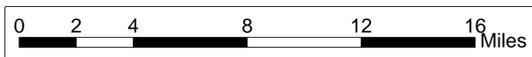
The City of Halfway Addendum will be adopted by City Council via resolution once the regional plan and addendum have been pre-approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Baker County



Legend

- ★ Unincorporated Areas
- Highways
- Creeks & Rivers
- City Limits
- Forest Service Lands
- BLM Lands



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