Press Release

Harney County
Pre-Disaster Mitigation Planning
PRESS RELEASE

DATE: March 19, 2013
TO: Linc Reed-Nickerson (KBNH/KORC), Jennifer Jenks (Burns Times-Herald), Barbara Cannady (Fizzle Flat)
FROM: Tom Sharp, Harney County Emergency Management and Preparedness
SUBJECT: Press Release for Harney County Natural Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update – Notice and Opportunity for Public Comment

For Immediate Release

Harney County seeks additional public input on update to Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan

(Burns, OR) – Harney County is currently in the process of updating the existing Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan. This work is being performed in cooperation with the Oregon Partnership for Disaster Resilience, Resource Assistance to Rural Environments and Oregon Emergency Management utilizing funds obtained from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program. With re-adoption of the plan, Harney County will maintain its eligibility to apply for federal funding towards natural hazard mitigation projects. This local planning process includes a wide range of representatives from city and county government, Federal agencies, public health, public utilities and emergency management personnel. This NHMP also affects the City of Burns, the City of Hines and the Harney Electric Cooperative.

A natural hazards mitigation plan provides communities with a set of goals, action items, and resources designed to reduce risk from future natural disaster events. Engaging in mitigation activities provides jurisdictions with a number of benefits, including reduced loss of life, property, essential services, critical facilities and economic hardship; reduced short-term and long-term recovery and reconstruction costs; increased cooperation and communication within the community through the planning process; and increased potential for state and federal funding for recovery and reconstruction projects.

To comment on hazard mitigation planning in Harney County, please visit http://csc.uoregon.edu/opdr/current/easternoregon/harney. A draft version of the updated Harney County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan will be available for formal public comment from March 25, 2013 through April 5, 2013. Electronic copies of the draft plan will be available on the OPDR and County websites.

If you have any questions regarding the Harney County Multi-jurisdictional Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan or the update process in general, please contact: Tom Sharp, Harney County Emergency Management and Preparedness at (541) 589-2423 or tom.sharp@co.harney.or.us; or Michael Howard, Project Specialist for the Oregon Partnership for Disaster Resilience at (541) 346-8413 or mrhoward@uoregon.edu.