Appendix C:
Existing Hazard Data Summary

Purpose

Public and private organizations at the local, regional, state and federal levels have invested considerable time as well as financial and human resources into developing hazard related geospatial data and technology that can be extremely useful when planning for natural hazards and specifically developing risk assessments. Examples include Hood River and Wasco County's local efforts to collect structural data relating to wildfire risk and the USGS's efforts to build The National Map, a national interactive map service.

To develop a risk assessment a community must first understand what data is available to assist them in better identifying risks natural hazard pose to there jurisdiction. The Existing Hazard Data Analysis documents the hazard data currently available. Because of the fluid nature of data collection and production, this summary is intended only to be a snapshot in time.

Methods

The Oregon Natural Hazards Workgroup reviewed and analyzed the Oregon Framework Implementation Team's geospatial data database to gain an understanding of how existing data elements may be useful in the risk assessment process. This database documents all the current data elements under construction to develop uniform data standards through the FIT process. This database includes detailed information on the data's type, scale, ownership, and next steps to completion. Each data element in the database was assessed for its potential use in the risk assessment process. Elements were categorized into the following three categories: (1) not useful in a risk assessment; (2) useful in identifying the geographic extent of the hazard; or (3) useful in assessing vulnerability.

Findings

Data Elements

The analysis of the Oregon Framework Implementation Team's data element database categorized the existing data elements into three categories: (1) not useful in a risk assessment; (2) useful in identifying the geographic extent of the hazard; or (3) useful in assessing vulnerability. There are a total of 238 existing data elements documented in this database. Of those 238 data elements, the analysis found that 23% were not useful in a risk assessment, 23% were useful in identifying the geographic extent of the hazard, and 53% were useful in assessing vulnerability.

Data element ownership is spread out among a number of local, state, and federal entities. Analysis of the Oregon Framework Implementation Team's database indicated that the 238 data elements are maintained either solely or jointly between 53 different local, state, and federal entities.

A report pulled from the Oregon Framework Implementation Team's data element database illustrating the element's usefulness in the risk assessment process is included at the end of this Appendix.

Conclusions

Upon completion of this investigation of existing hazard data in terms of data elements, standards, and methodologies, a number of conclusions became apparent:

- There is a wealth of data available.
- Data ownership is spread out among a number of local, state, and federal entities.
- The majority (53%) of data elements in the FIT database were applicable to the vulnerability assessment phase of the risk assessment, while 23% were useful for hazard identification and 23% were not useful to any phase of the risk assessment.
- In most cases, the scale of the data is too large to produce accurate risk assessments or to support refined mapping of hazards.