

COUNTY COMMISSION REPORT

PRESENTED BY TILLAMOOK
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
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FEMA disaster aid

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The head of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced last week that federal disaster aid has been made available for Oregon to supplement state and local recovery efforts in the area struck by a severe winter storm and flooding during the period of Dec. 14-15, 2006.

FEMA Director David Paulison said federal funding is available to state and eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations on a cost-sharing basis for emergency work and the repair or replacement of facilities damaged by the severe winter storm and flooding in Benton, Clatsop, Columbia, Lincoln, Polk, Tillamook, Wheeler and Yamhill counties, and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians.

Federal funding is also available on a cost-sharing basis for hazard mitigation measures statewide.

FEMA manages federal response and recovery efforts following any national incident, initiates mitigation activities and manages the National Flood Insurance Program. FEMA works closely with state and local emergency managers, law enforcement personnel, firefighters and other first responders. FEMA became part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in March 2003.

Oregon Emergency Management has set up a Joint Field Office in Salem and will be working closely with Tillamook County Division of emergency Management. Its director, Tom Manning, will be coordinating the recovery process for this newly declared disaster. The Presidential Disaster Declaration is FEMA 1683. Tillamook County suffered close to \$1 million in wind- and storm-related damage. FEMA disaster assistance workers will be contacting affected agencies and qualified special district. For additional information, call Division of Emergency Management at (503) 842-3412.

Oregon Solutions update

Dick Townsend from Oregon Solutions reports that his assessment interviews have been going well. The first part of the Oregon Solutions process to address unacceptable flooding in the Tillamook Valley is the assessment phase.

Townsend received an initial list of people to interview from the commissioners. As Townsend interviewed people, he asked for additional names and is interviewing them and others who would like to talk to him.

Conducting the assessment is a critical step prior to formal designation as an Oregon Solutions project.

The next step will be framing the scope and goals and evaluating the level of community support and/or conflict, along with identifying public sector, private sector and civic partners and potential resources to implement projects on the ground. In other words, to get to solutions.