

WSSPC Awards in Excellence 2005

Mitigation Efforts

Nez Perce County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

Nez Perce County, State of Idaho

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With the help of Dr. Terry Howard of Strata, Inc., in 1999 Nez Perce County Commissioners and the Planning Department developed a plan to apply basic geologic mapping to geotechnical characteristics and delineate geologic-hazard areas for local hazard mitigation. Priority areas of expected growth were established for new geologic mapping performed by the Idaho Geological Survey. Then, Terry Howard, the County's geotechnical contractor, interpreted the engineering properties and material characteristics of the geologic units to establish "geotechnical terrain units" that were integrated into the planning department's Geographic Information System. Each geotechnical terrain unit (Gtu) includes a description of its capabilities for the following categories: slope, ground water, erosion, soils, earthwork, roadways, foundations, septic systems, and site-specific study. The Nez Perce County Hazard Mitigation Plan promotes site-specific geotechnical studies as part of the County Planning and Building Services issuance of building permits. The plan was adopted by the County Commissioners in 2003 and is thus policy. The identification of need, the research and interpretation, and the adoption for mitigation by Nez Perce County is serving as a model for the rest of Idaho's counties and cities.