

ESF 11. Agriculture and Natural Resources

1. Purpose and Scope

Emergency Support Function (ESF) 11 provides information regarding coordinating the protection of agriculture and natural resources in Coos County in the event of an emergency. Services addressed by this ESF include:

- Protection of the local agricultural food supply.
- Response to animal and plant diseases and pests that can potentially affect animal and plant health or pose significant risk to the local economy.
- Sheltering, care, and/or evacuation of animals.
- Protection of natural and cultural resources and historic properties.

This ESF overlaps with ESF 6 in addressing some aspects of care and assistance for household pets and service animals (ESF 6, Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing, and Human Services, addresses care for household pets and service animals primarily associated with moving persons to shelters). ESFs 6 and 11 both reference EOP Support Annex 5, Animals in Disaster.

2. Policies and Agreements

There are no particular mutual aid or intergovernmental agreements related to this ESF.

3. Situation and Assumptions

See the EOP Basic Plan and the supporting documents referenced by this ESF.

4. Roles and Responsibilities

Primary Agencies

Coos County Emergency Management office
Coos Soil and Water Conservation District

Support Agencies/Entities (key)

Coos County

Coos County Animal Shelter
Coos County Forestry Department
Coos County Parks Department
Coos County Planning Department
Coos County Public Health Department

Local

Curry and Douglas County Emergency Management offices
Curry and Douglas County Public Health Departments
County Sheriff's Office Animal Control Units
School Districts

State

Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA)
ODA, Animal Health and Identification Division (AHID), State Veterinarian's Office
ODA, AHID, Veterinary Emergency Response Team
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Oregon Department of Forestry
Oregon Department of Human Services, Public Health Division
Oregon State University Extension Service

Federal

Bureau of Land Management
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Federal Emergency Management Agency
U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Forest Service

Private-Sector

Animal Shelters
Coos County Humane Society
Veterinarians
Wildlife protection societies

5. Concept of Operations

5.1 Overview

The Coos County Emergency Management office and county departments and organizations will coordinate and/or provide the agriculture and natural resources services they are equipped to and then coordinate with other emergency response partners, especially ODA and USDA, for emergencies that affect the local agricultural food supply, animal and plant health, and the well-being of animals in the county. If the provided services still are not adequate, the county can declare a state of emergency in accordance with the declaration requirements in the EOP Basic Plan.

If the county EOC is activated, agriculture and natural resources services will be coordinated through the EOC under the Incident Command System.

Each supporting agency and organization will perform their duties in accordance with their own EOPs, plans, and procedures.

5.2 Agricultural Food Supply

Food crop and food livestock (dairy, poultry, beef, etc.) industries are minimal in Coos County. The Coos County Emergency Management office will coordinate with its emergency response partners regarding the safety and viability of locally grown food (including items grown in private gardens) potentially affected by an emergency event (such as drought, flooding, a terrorist act involving hazardous or radioactive materials, etc.). This will entail coordinating with ODA, USDA, the county Public Health Departments, and others regarding the safety of the local food supply and, for a national emergency, the safety of the national food supply, in order to inform and protect persons in the county.

5.3 Animal and Plant Diseases and Health

Although there are minimal food crop and food livestock operations in the county, domestic animals, wild animals, plants, and the timber industry could be vulnerable to the spread of animal or plant diseases related to an emergency. The Coos County Public Health Department has some procedures and policies specific to managing disease control and the health of certain animals and plants affected by an emergency, which are referenced in ESF 8, Public Health and Medical Services. Support Annex 5, Animals in Disaster, also partially addresses this topic. Important elements to consider include the identification and control of animal and plant diseases associated with or exacerbated by an emergency; isolation or quarantine of animals; and the disposition of animals killed by the emergency or required to be destroyed as a result of the emergency.

The Coos County Emergency Management office and Public Health Department will coordinate with emergency response partners, especially county Public Health Departments and ODA, for related information and services. The county Public Health Department, with support from the Oregon Department of Human Services, Public Health Division, will be the principal point of contact for an outbreak of a highly infectious/contagious animal or zoonotic (capable of being transmitted from animals to people) disease posing potential impacts to human health (also see ESF 8, Public Health and Medical Services).

ODA in particular has broad expertise with animal and plant diseases and health, including the authority to:

- Declare an animal health emergency.

- Impose restrictions on importations of animals, articles, and means of conveyance.
- Quarantine animals, herds, parts of the state, and the entire state and create quarantine areas.
- Stop the movement of animals.
- Require the destruction of animals, animal products, and materials.

Animal quarantine measures will be implemented through county Public Health Departments and do not require a court order.

5.4 Care and Assistance for Animals

The County recognizes that care and concern for domestic animals might delay and affect emergency actions necessary for the well-being of humans. Support Annex 5, Animals in Disaster, addresses care and assistance for livestock, household pets, other domestic animals that are not household pets (e.g., horses), and wild animals affected by an emergency. This includes concerns such as sheltering them, evacuating them, and aiding injured or displaced animals. The County will coordinate with local emergency response partners to accomplish this, including the county Emergency Management office (which might open animal evacuation shelters, for instance, at a local school), local veterinarians, ODA (for livestock and other domestic animals that are not pets), and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (for wild animals).

Persons in the county have the primary responsibility for the health and welfare of their livestock, household pets, and other domestic animals and will be encouraged to provide for their care in an emergency to the extent possible. This is best handled by public information campaigns as part of emergency preparedness.

5.5 Natural and Cultural Resources and Historic Properties

The Coos Soil and Water Conservation District and other state and federal organizations will take the lead for assessing threats to natural resources from an emergency, including water quality, air quality, forest land, fishing, wildlife, soil quality, and others. The County will coordinate with the State Historic Preservation Office and others regarding impacts to cultural resources and historic properties owned or managed by the county.

Important emergency response entities will include county and state Forestry Departments, local soil and water conservation districts, Oregon DEQ, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and tribal organizations.

6. Supporting Plans and Procedures

ESF 8, Public Health and Medical Services

Support Annex 5, Animals in Disaster.

7. Appendices

None.