

## ***Disaster Resilience and Recovery Values for Heritage***

- We know that *[city/ region/ tribal lands]* is an incredibly historic place and an outstanding community that is worthy of protecting.
- As we've seen throughout the state, climate-related disasters are occurring more frequently, with greater intensity.
- Portions of *[city/ region/ tribal lands]* are especially vulnerable to *[disaster type]*.
- Disasters can occur without much warning and often result in costly destruction to our buildings, local businesses, the tourism economy, and our daily lives.

### **We want to protect what we cherish most—this historic place we call home**

- The damage caused by disasters is not just emotionally and economically devastating, but it also causes us to lose our sense of place; our physical connection to the places that we value in *[city/ region/ tribal lands]* and the cultural heritage they represent.
- The steps we as community advocates take now will prepare *[city/ region/ tribal lands]* for future disasters.
- The question we must ask ourselves in disaster planning for our community is, "why do I care about saving this historic place from disaster?"

### **A disaster resilient community ensures places are kept.**

- In 2020 the disastrous wildfires which swept across our State resulted in 1.2 million acres lost and more than 5,000 homes and businesses destroyed—the worst Oregon fire season in recorded history.
- From the Warm Springs Reservation to the sacred ancestral homeland of the Klamath Tribes, wildfire destroyed cultural artifacts and traditional places valued by our indigenous people.
- At a cost of \$1.5 billion in wildfire and wind damage, emergency response, and debris removal, the 2020 fires devastated not only the State's economy, but local economies as well.

# Sample: Talking Points – Elected Officials

- Businesses that employed thousands of Oregonians were wiped out, leaving some Oregonians unemployed. Restaurants, shops, grocery shops, and other businesses were destroyed.
- In/ near *[city/ region/ tribal lands]* the economy suffered [\$] in disaster-related loss.
- Historic places are important not just for their historical significance and their cultural value, but also for their economic benefit in revenues for *[city/ region/ tribal lands]*.
- Preserving historic places is a sound economic decision for our community; every \$1 invested in disaster resilience saves \$6 later.

## **Having a disaster plan for cultural heritage helps communities connect with resources.**

- Our State's natural hazards mitigation plan recognizes Oregon's cultural resources as worth of protecting from disaster.
- The State has identified as an imperative, the updating of hazard mitigation plans in partnership with local governments and Tribes.
- Plan updates call for risk assessment and prioritization for cultural resource protection and recovery.
- Resources are now available, and an opportunity for *[city/ region. Tribal lands]* leaders to work proactively with building code officials, emergency management personnel, and property owners to better prepare out historic properties for disaster.
- We are beginning the work of identifying those places most at risk, assessing their contribution to our community's cultural heritage, and learning from the community what value they hold and what places matter most to them.

## **A continuum of care for cultural heritage begins with a whole community commitment to disaster preparedness and recovery.**

- *We are committed to working with you [name of official/ tribal leader] to create a more disaster resilient [city/ region/ tribal lands]. Together we can...*
  - Make *city/ region/ tribal lands]* disaster ready by working together to identify hazards and implementing disaster adaptation actions that respect historically significant places.
  - Gather tribal knowledge of traditional practices in land management and treatment that ensures the safety of people and the protection of cultural resources at risk.

## Sample: Talking Points – Elected Officials

- Make the economic case for valuing heritage assets at risk from disaster to help make informed decisions for disaster planning and recovery.
- Engage with the community to involve and empower them to collective action in protecting local landmarks and community identity from disaster.
- Stabilize the resource, assess its integrity, and expedite design review to ensure our heritage assets survive.
- Build or rebuild a more resilient community and focus public investments and private incentives to where the impacts are greatest, equitable, and socially just.
- Protect and minimize damage to historic places and cultural heritage by adjusting our policies and regulatory systems and increasing public awareness to reduce risk to the most vulnerable—those people and places that define and determine the future of *[city/ region/ tribal lands]*.