Oregon Community Food Systems Network

Community Profile

County: Hood River and Gilliam
City: Hood River
Population: 25,232

Assignment

Organization: Oregon Department of Land Conservation & Development
Supervisor: Tricia Sears
RARE Member: Nicholia Mehrling

About the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development
The Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) is the chief land-use planning and regulatory agency of the government of the U.S. state of Oregon. The DLCD administers the statewide land use planning program. Oregon's statewide land use planning program – originated in 1973 under Senate Bill 100 – provides protection of farm and forest lands, conservation of natural resources, orderly and efficient development, coordination among local governments, and citizen involvement. One of the primary objectives of the program is to create a predictable and sustainable development process by allocating land for industrial, commercial and housing needs within urban growth boundaries.

In this position, Nicholia will review and update the Hood River County and Gilliam County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plans (NHMPs). She will handle public outreach and meeting logistics, perform administrative functions to track time and local expenditures, gather and analyze data for the NHMP, assist with writing, editing and after FEMA approval, finalizing the NHMP. Additionally, Nicholia will facilitate website updates on the process and, overall, serve as the main contact throughout the process.

Meet Nicholia Mehrling

• B.S. in Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems – University of California, Davis
• People may be surprised when they learn that I am an avid dancer (specializing in salsa, country two-step, and blues), that I was raised without television, pop music or caffeine (and have wildly diverse musical tastes as result), and that I occasionally read Winnie the Pooh before going to sleep (in which I strongly identify with Piglet).
• My most powerful achievement to date is developing the skill of systems thinking. Being able to make connections between ideas and see relevance between groups or projects makes me a better problem solver. In today’s complex and interdependent world, this skill is needed and infinitely useful.