



MORROW COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

110 N Court St
Heppner, OR 97836
Phone: (541)676-5605

H Paul Gray
Emergency Manager

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Having been an emergency manager for three Eastern Oregon counties, I know the importance of using county fairgrounds during disasters, emergencies, or events. I have used our county's fairgrounds for wildland firefighters staging area and campsite to keep resources close to the fires, a rescue for domesticated or livestock animals during disasters, and an evacuation point and shelter for our local or regional residents in surrounding counties. During the 2020 Oregon wildfires, most Eastern Oregon counties opened their fairgrounds to anyone affected by these fires to camp and opened their facilities and grounds to bring livestock and pets at no charge.

This bill will assist counties to afford, through grant funding, a way to build up fairground infrastructure to accommodate more people, pets, and livestock during disasters or emergencies. COVID-19 affected our overall capabilities and saw fairgrounds lose funding by not being able to have events whose revenues are used to maintain these important facilities, as well as any future development in infrastructure.

I support this funding opportunity for all of Oregon.

H Paul Gray
Emergency Manager
Morrow County, Oregon