

Addendum: City of La Grande

### **Participation in the Northeast Oregon Regional Planning Process:**

#### Completion of the Northeast Oregon Cities Survey

Adrian Albrich, the Eastern Oregon Risk Management Consultant from City County Insurance Services, distributed a memo on behalf of Oregon Natural Hazards Workgroup (ONHW) to all Region 7 Cities (Region 7 includes Baker, Grant, Union, and Wallowa Counties). The memo provided cities with information regarding the Natural Hazards Mitigation Planning process currently occurring in each county, and asked cities to identify local risks and desired mitigation activities through the completion of a small survey. ONHW, in its memo, also informed cities of their option to adopt the regional mitigation plan. Liz Hill, Environment/Regulatory Superintendent for the City of La Grande, completed ONHW's survey.

#### City of La Grande Meeting

On July 11, 2007 Liz Hill organized a group of persons to meet and discuss La Grande's risk to natural hazards. The following persons attended the meeting:

*Facilitator:* Megan Findley, Oregon Natural Hazards Workgroup 'RARE' ("Resource Assistance for Rural Environments") Participant

*Attendees:*

Liz Hill: City of La Grande Public Works  
Mark Touhey: City of La Grande Parks Department  
Bruce Weimer: City of La Grande Fire Department  
Michael Boquist: City of La Grande Planning Department  
Eldon Slippy: City of La Grande Manager / Finance Department  
John Courtney: City of La Grande Police Department

Meeting attendees discussed three topics in their meeting: 1) community sensitivities and resilience factors; 2) hazards: how the City's risks differed from the County's; and 3) mitigation action items. Each topic is described in greater detail below:

### **Community Sensitivity and Resilience Factors**

- The City of La Grande has two wastewater treatment facilities: the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), and the Tule Lake Wetlands Facility. Both facilities are extremely vulnerable to flooding because of their location, but each was designed to withstand 100-year floods. The WWTP has berms, flood walls, and emergency back-up pumps, etc. The wetlands facility is also within the 100-year floodplain, and while the building itself may experience flooding damages, operations will continue. The major concern with the wetlands facility would be transportation to and from the building itself; in a significant flood, roadways would be impassable.
- The City of La Grande has uploaded its FEMA floodplain maps onto their GIS database. As a result, the City can locate properties in or around the floodplain. The floodplain maps have not been updated since 1996.
- The City of La Grande's water is supplied by wells. The Beaver Creek Watershed provides secondary backup, but it currently does not meet water quality standards. The City would like funding to filter the water.
- A portion of the City's business park on Gekeler Lane and Highway 30 is in the 100-year floodplain. As of yet, no buildings here have experienced flood-related damages.

- The City has designated a “Geologic Hazard Zone” within city limits. Anyone wishing to build within this zone must meet specific building permit requirements; a Geologic Hazard Waiver is also required before a building permit for new construction is issued. The Geologic Hazard Zone map is included for reference within the City of La Grande addendum.
- The City has a Water Conservation Plan that guides emergency drought policies and procedures.
- Buildings and homes of Historic Significance are listed within the City’s Comprehensive Plan.
- The City completed a renovation of City Hall in 1998-1999 to install an elevator and to improve handicap accessibility. Heating and cooling was additionally added to the building. The renovation did not include seismic retrofits.
- The City has a contingency plan for both the 9-1-1 Center and the Communications Center at Union County’s Sheriff’s Department; both services would relocate to the La Grande Rural Fire Department in case their buildings are rendered uninhabitable.

Existing Plans and Policies:

- Surface Water Master Plan
- Land Development Code Ordinance; Zoning – Land Use Regulations
- Comprehensive Plan
- Transportation System Plan
- Water Master Plan
- Waste Water Facilities Plan
- Snow Removal Policy

**Hazard Analysis**

La Grande’s risks to the following hazards were identified by the City’s work-group on July 11, 2007. The work-group reviewed Union County’s risk assessment, and identified differences, if any. The City rated its risks and vulnerabilities as follows:

Drought

- The City’s probability of experiencing drought is ‘high,’ which is the same as the County’s. The City’s vulnerability to drought is ‘low,’ which is also the same as the County’s.
- The City of La Grande is concerned about aquifer capacities, should growth continue. The amount of water within the Grande Ronde Valley is currently unknown.
- In their meeting, the City talked about altering water-supply rates, should conservation become pertinent.

Earthquake

- The City’s probability of experiencing an earthquake is ‘low,’ which is the same as the County’s. The City of La Grande rated its vulnerability to an earthquake as ‘high,’ which differs from the County’s assessment of ‘moderate.’ The County’s risk assessment otherwise adequately addresses the city’s risk.

Wildfire

- The regional plan adequately addresses the wildfire risks the City of La Grande faces. The Union County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) was completed in 2004, and will serve as Union County’s wildfire chapter within the regional natural hazards mitigation plan.

Flood

- The City’s probability of, and vulnerability to flood are high, which is the same as Union County’s risk. In addition to the information found in the regional assessment, the City’s work-group identified Deal Creek, Mill Creek, Taylor Creek, and Gekeler Slough to be additional flooding sources within the City. Storm water flows into ditches, creeks and sloughs, but some of the water will infiltrate the City’s sanitary system.

### Landslides

- The City’s probability of landslides occurring is ‘moderate,’ which is higher than Union County’s ‘low’ probability. La Grande identifies its vulnerability as ‘moderate,’ which also differs from the County’s rating of ‘low.’ There is a high risk of landslides on the west side of La Grande; the hospital, in particular, is of concern to the City, although the hospital has taken efforts to ensure its stability. La Grande’s “Geologic Hazards Zone” is specifically intended to lower the risk of homeowner’s on the City’s western slopes.

### Volcanic Activity

- La Grande’s risks to volcano-related hazards are adequately addressed in the regional risk assessment; the City does not identify any specific local issues that have not already been addressed in the regional plan.

### Wind Storms

- The City of La Grande’s probability of experiencing a wind storm is ‘high,’ which differs from the County’s ‘low’ probability. La Grande’s risks to wind storms are otherwise adequately addressed in the regional risk assessment; the City does not identify any specific local issues that have not already been addressed in the regional plan.

### Winter Storms

- La Grande’s probability of, and vulnerability to winter storms are high, which is the same as Union County’s risk. In addition to the information found in the regional assessment, the City’s work-group identified their snow removal program as in need of funding.

## **Action Items**

The City of La Grande has chosen to partner with Union County on the five mitigation actions (below) because actions will either directly benefit the city, or may be expanded to do so. Full text for action items can be viewed in Section 6, “Mission, Goals, and Action Items.”

### Drought

- Develop community drought emergency plans and policies  
La Grande is interested in conducting a ‘water and land-use needs’ analysis, which is listed under this action item’s ‘ideas for implementation.’ The amount of water within the Grande Ronde Valley’s aquifers is unknown; should growth continue, the City would like an estimate of aquifer capacities.  
Additionally, La Grande would like to seek funding to filter/clean their secondary water supply to meet water quality standards.
- Conduct an aquifer study for the Grande Ronde Valley.

### Earthquake

- Implement structural and non-structural retrofitting programs for public buildings, historically important structures, and critical facilities and infrastructure.

### Flood

- Explore flood mitigation opportunities for homes and critical facilities subject to flooding.  
La Grande is interested in exploring multi-objective stream enhancement projects, which is listed under this action item’s ‘ideas for implementation.’

### Multi-Hazard:

- Develop and implement education and outreach programs to increase public awareness of the risk associated with natural hazards. Specifically target vulnerable populations.

Every June, the City of La Grande sends out a Consumer Confidence Report on water quality; this has been identified as a possible route for a natural hazards “education and outreach” mailing.

**City-Specific Action Items**

Independent of Union County, the City of La Grande would like to implement the following actions:

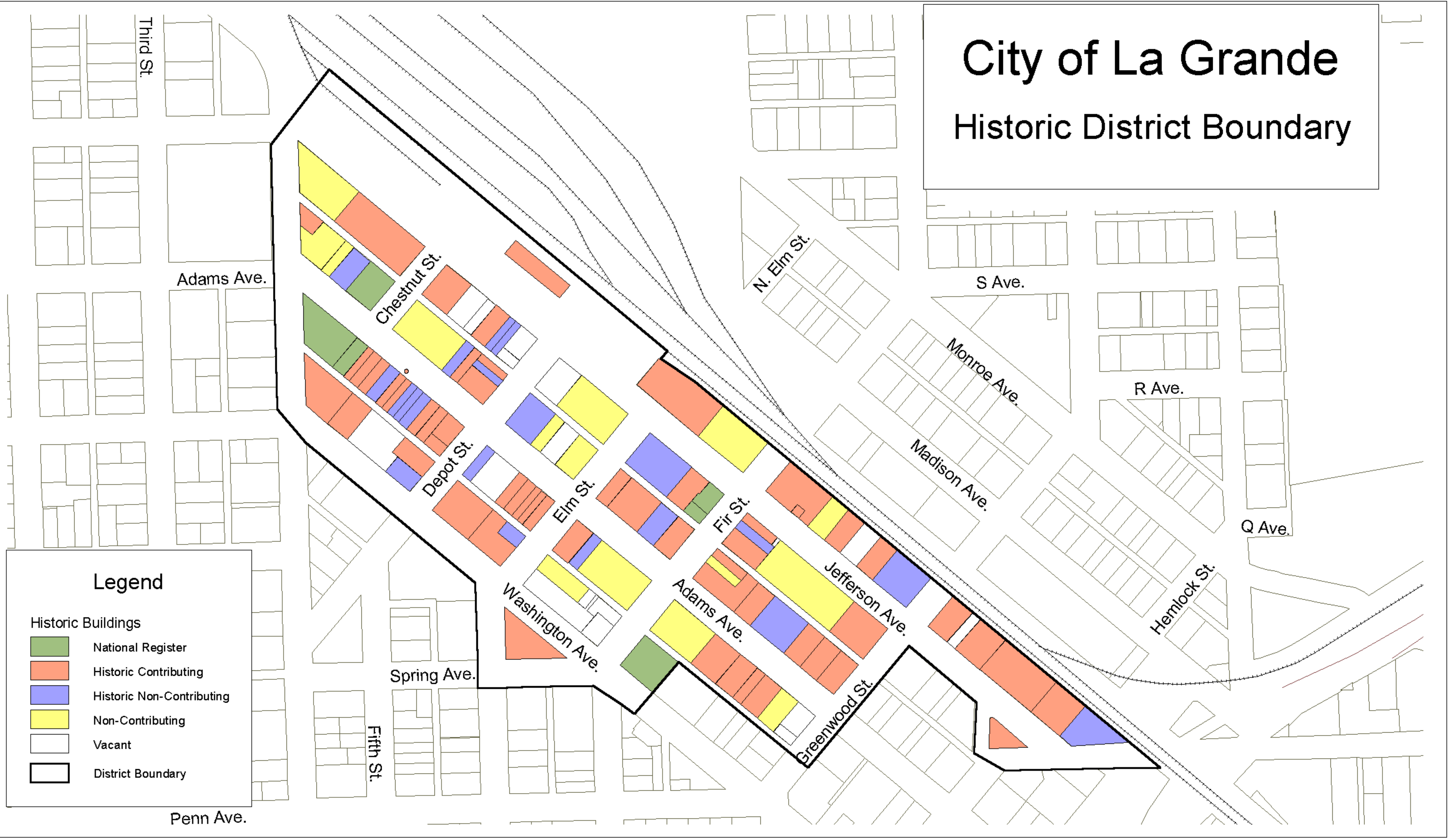
- Secure funding to filter water within the Beaver Creek Watershed, La Grande’s backup water supply

**Local Adoption**

The City of La Grande Addendum will be adopted by City Council via resolution once the regional plan and addendum have been pre-approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

# City of La Grande

## Historic District Boundary



### Legend

- Historic Buildings
  - National Register
  - Historic Contributing
  - Historic Non-Contributing
  - Non-Contributing
  - Vacant
- District Boundary

# City of La Grande

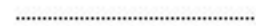
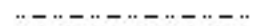
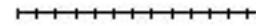




## Comprehensive Plan

### Comprehensive Plan

#### Designations

-  Hillside
-  Medium Density Residential
-  High Density Residential
-  Commercial
-  Industrial
-  Public Use

#### Legend

-  Powerline
-  Pipeline
-  Railroad
-  Highways
-  River
-  City Limits
-  UGB

0 2000 4000 Feet









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Adopted 10/2/2002 by the La Grande City Council












# City of La Grande Flood Plain Map

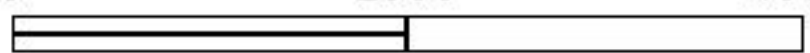
## Flood Plain Legend

FEMA Codes	
	AEFW
	AE
	A0
	X
	A
	A1
	A2
	B

## Legend

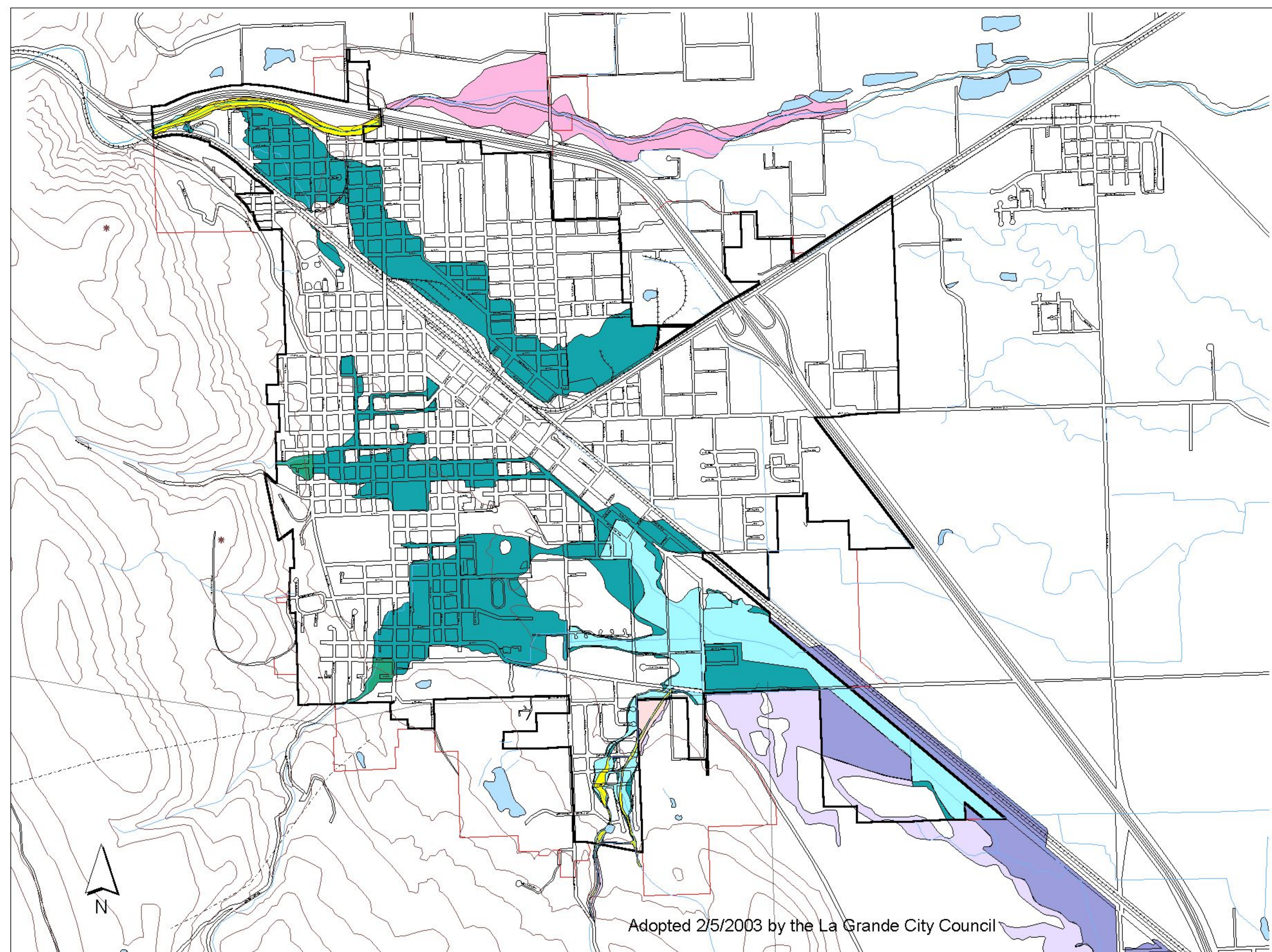
	City Limits
	UGB
	Powerline
	Pipeline
	Railroad
	Highways
	Contours
	River
	Ponds

0 2000 4000 Feet



Adopted 2/5/2003 by the La Grande City Council

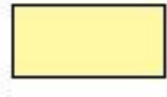


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# City of La Grande

## Geologic Hazard Zones

### Geologic Hazard





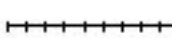






-  CR Basalt
-  Colluvium
-  Unknown

### NOTE:

A Geological Hazard Waiver is required to be signed before a Building Permit for new construction is allowed within the Geological Hazard Zone.

A Site Plan, meeting the requirements of the Land Development Code, must be submitted to the Planning Division for approval.

## Legend

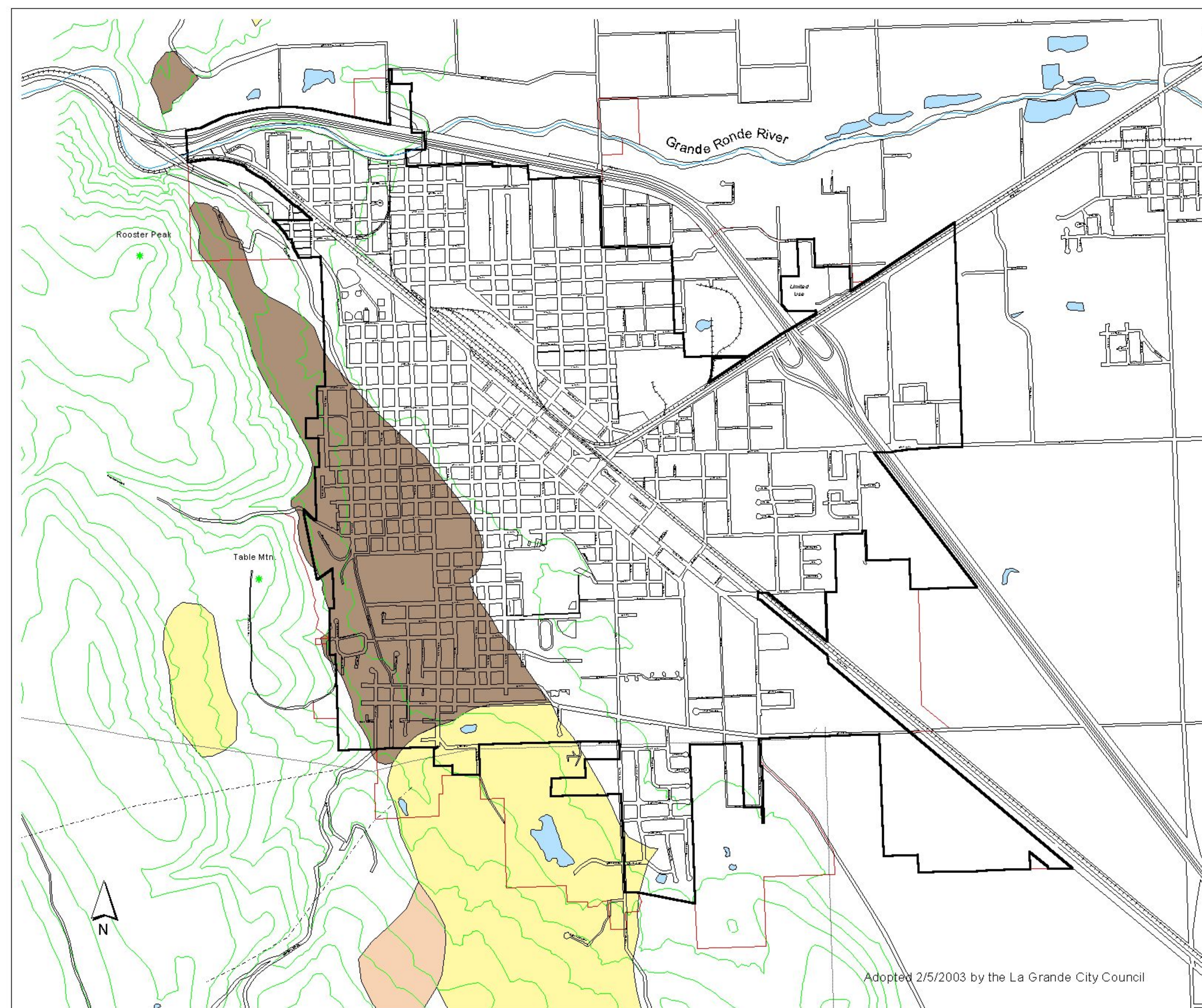
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|---|-----------|---|-------------|
|  | Powerline |  | Mountains   |
|  | Pipeline  |  | Ponds       |
|  | Railroad  |  | City Blocks |
|  | Highways  |  | City Limits |
|  | River     |  | UGB         |
|  | Contours  |   |             |

0 2000 4000 6000 Feet



Adopted 2/5/2003 by the La Grande City Council

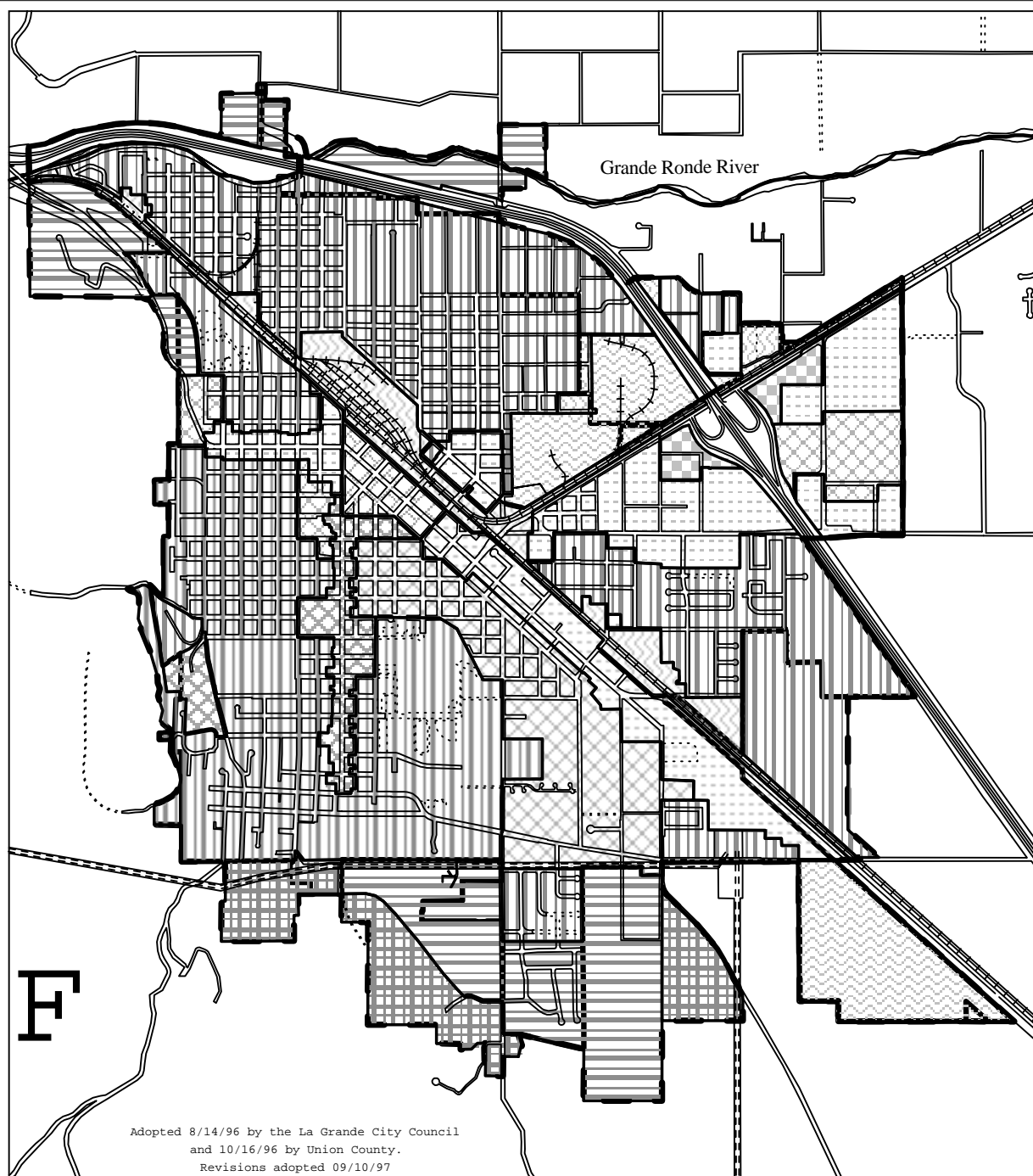
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# CITY OF LA GRANDE

## Zoning Map



Adopted 8/14/96 by the La Grande City Council  
 and 10/16/96 by Union County.  
 Revisions adopted 09/10/97

### Legend

MAP:CityLimits

MAP:UGB

MAP:Zones

MAP:Highways

MAP:RailRoad

MAP:Rivers

MAP:PowerLines

### Zones

Rural Residential (RR-1)

Low Density Residential (R-1)

Medium Density Residential (R-2)

High Density Residential (R-3)

Residential-Professional (R-P)

Central Business (CB)

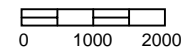
General Commercial (GC)

Interchange Commercial (IC)

Light Industrial (M-1)

Heavy Industrial (M-2)

### Feet



1" = 2600'

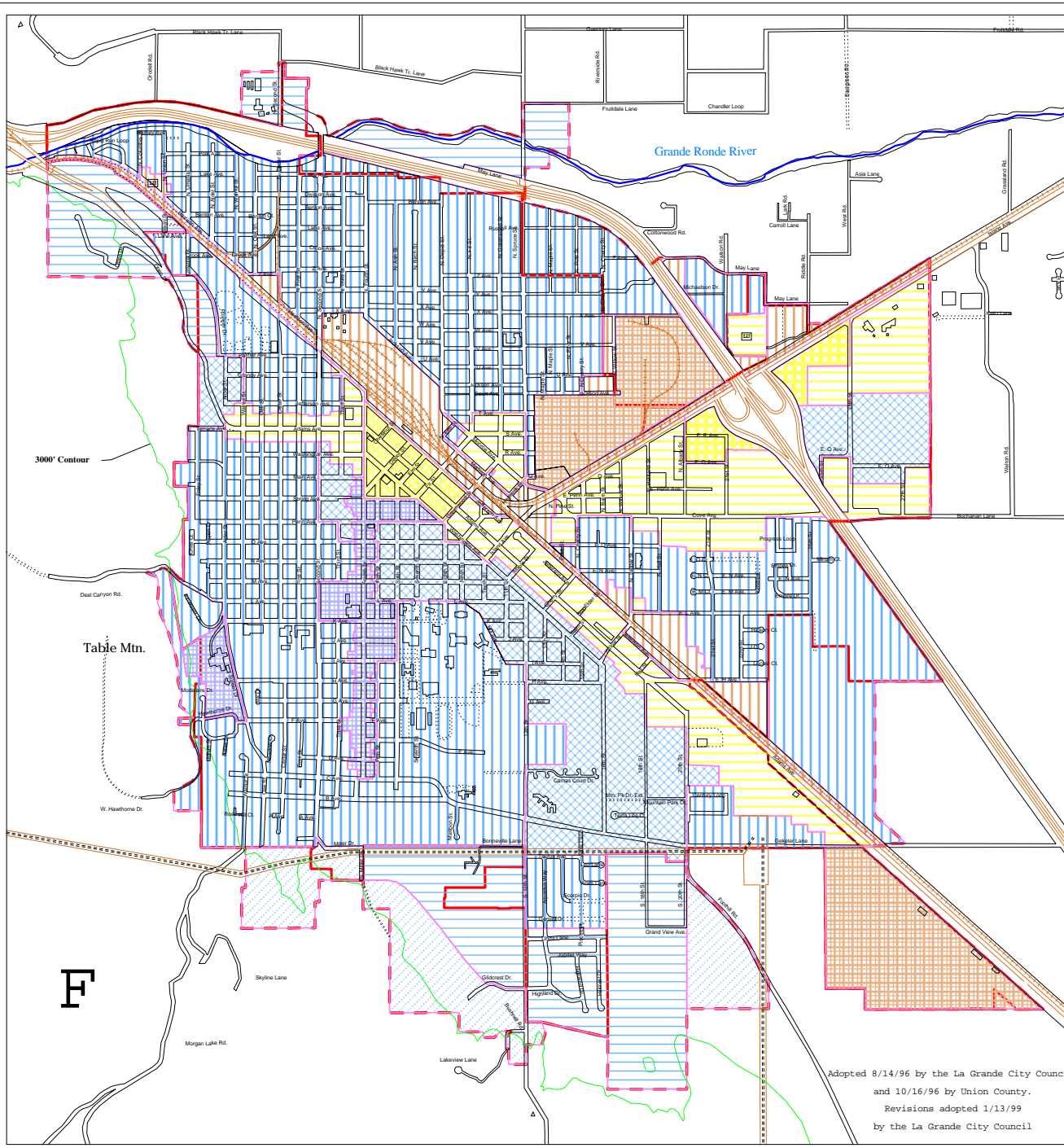
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# CITY OF LA GRANDE

## Current Zones and UGB



### Legend

MAP:CityLimits

MAP:UGB

MAP:Limited\_Use

MAP:Highways

MAP:RailRoad

MAP:Rivers

MAP:PowerLines

### Zones

Rural Residential (RR-1)

Low Density Residential (R-1)

Medium Density Residential (R-2)

High Density Residential (R-3)

Residential-Professional (R-P)

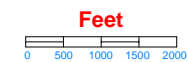
Central Business (CB)

General Commercial (GC)

Interchange Commercial (IC)

Light Industrial (M-1)

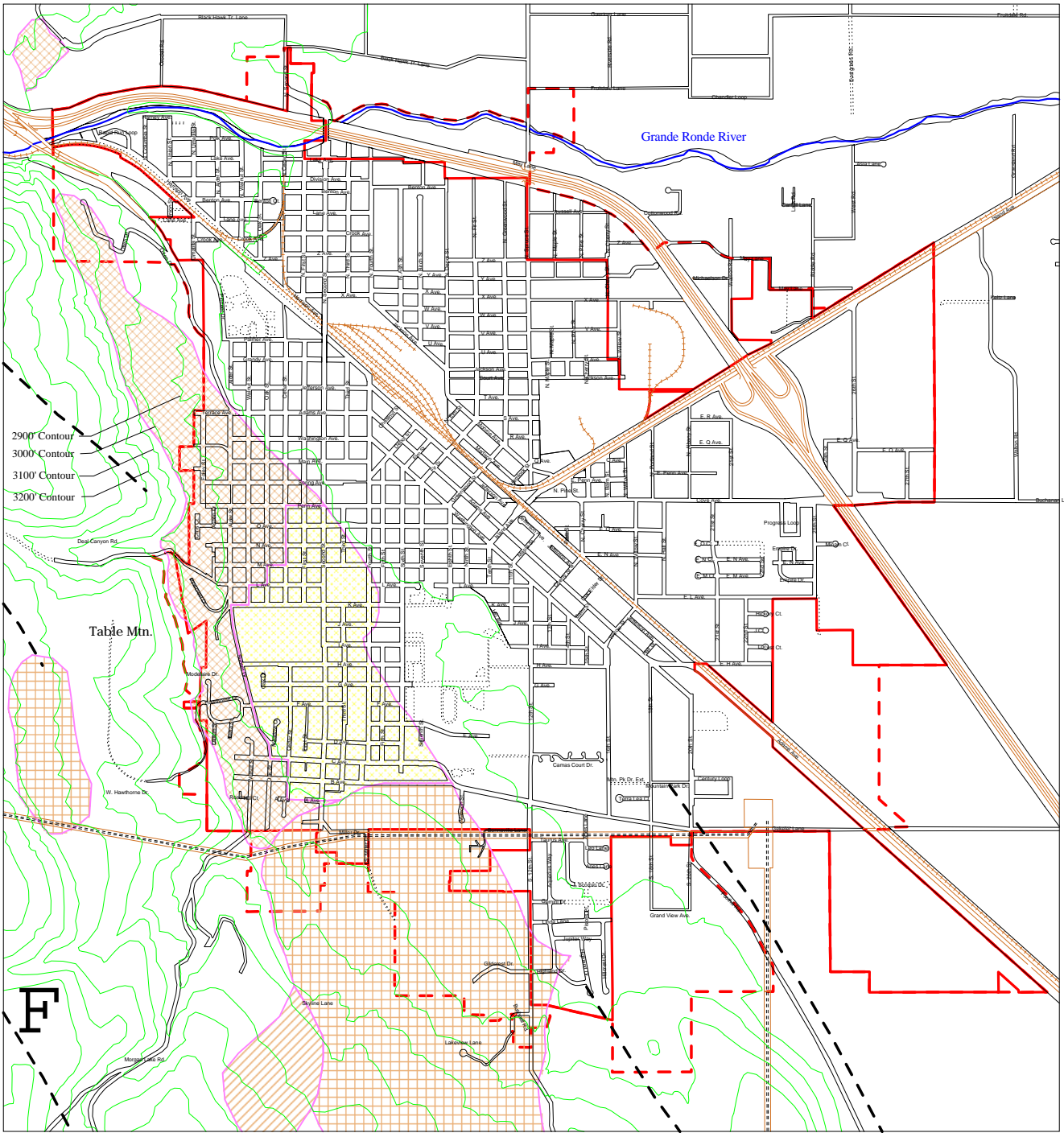
Heavy Industrial (M-2)



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# CITY OF LA GRANDE

## Geologic Hazard Zone



### Legend

- MAP:CityLimits
- MAP:UGB
- MAP:Geologic\_Hazard
- MAP:Highways
- MAP:RailRoad
- MAP:Rivers
- MAP:PowerLines
- MAP:Contours
- MAP:Fault\_Lines

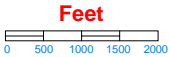
### Soil Type

- Colluvium
- CR Basalt
- Site Plan Exempt
- Unknown

NOTE:  
A geological hazard waiver notice is required to be signed before a building permit for new construction is allowed within the geological hazard zone.

A site plan, meeting the requirements of the land use development code, must be submitted to the planning department for approval unless the property is located in the area exempted from this requirement.

(This map prepared only for planning purposes.)



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# CITY OF LA GRANDE

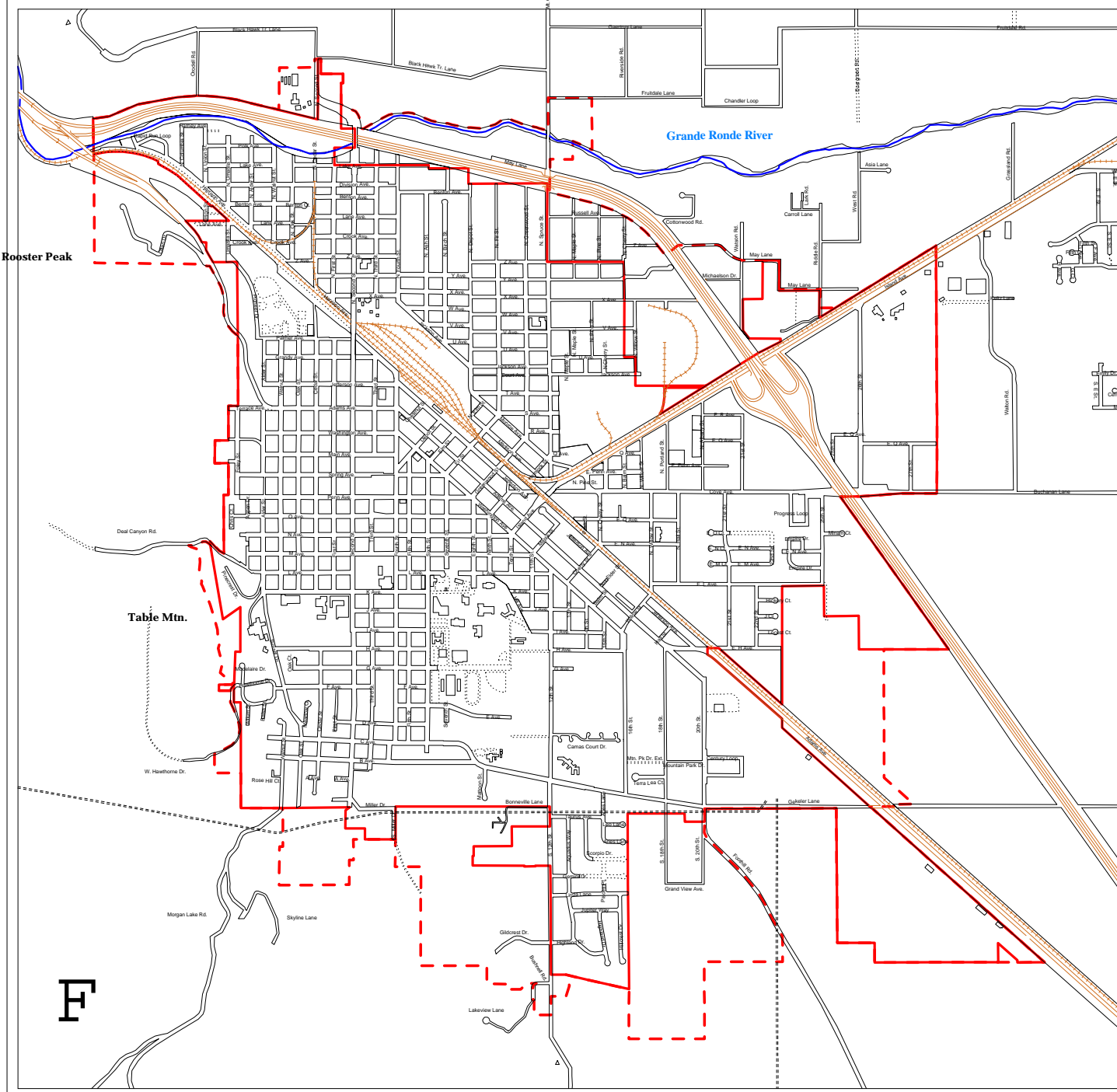
## Riparian Zones

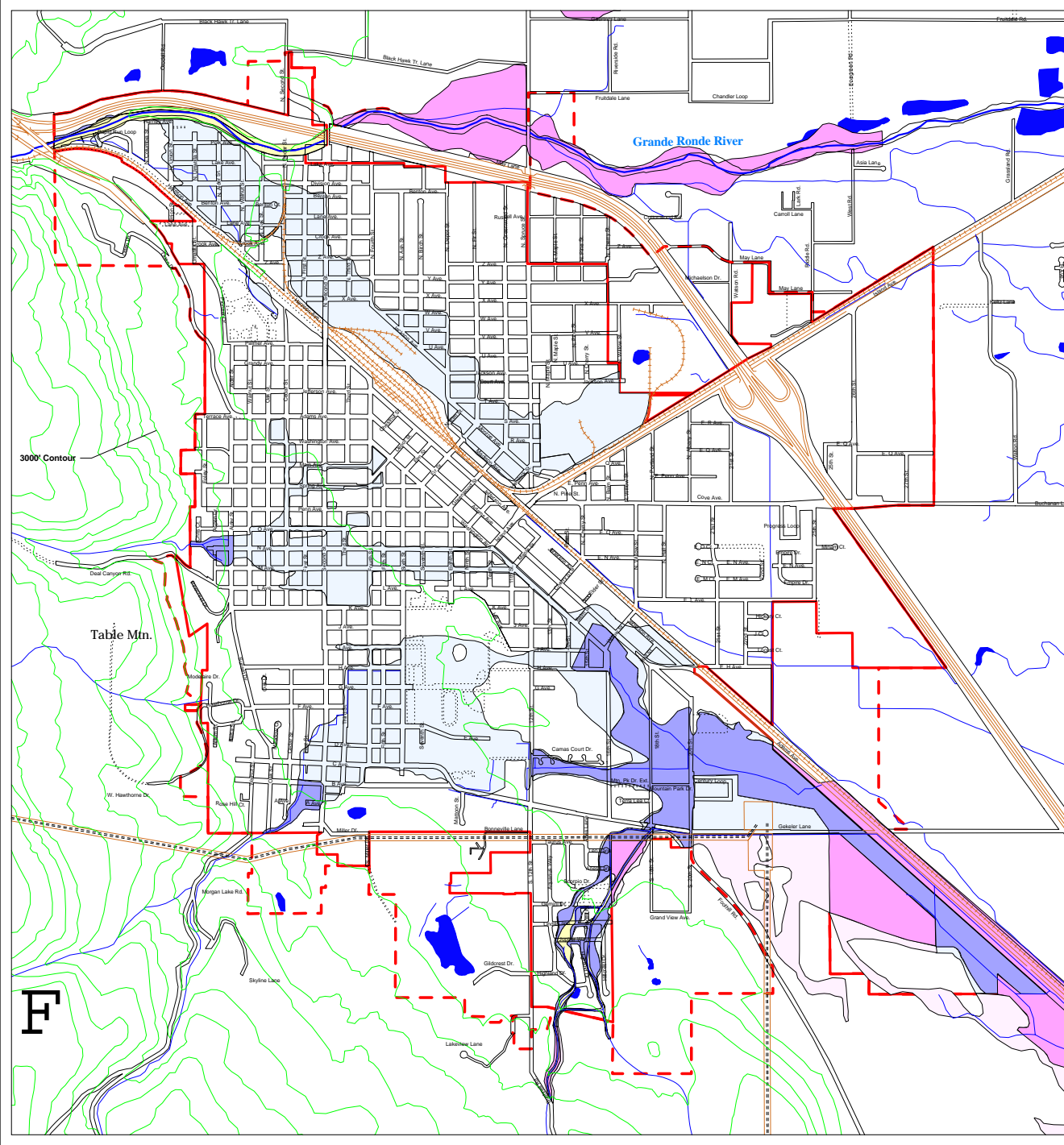
### Legend

- MAP:CityLimits
- MAP:UGB
- MAP:Highways
- MAP:RailRoad
- MAP:Rivers
- MAP:PowerLines



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# CITY OF LA GRANDE

## Flood Plain Zones

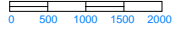
### Legend

-  MAP:CityLimits
-  MAP:UGB
-  MAP:Ponds
-  MAP:Highways
-  MAP:RailRoad
-  MAP:Rivers
-  MAP:Waterways
-  MAP:PowerLines
-  MAP:Contours

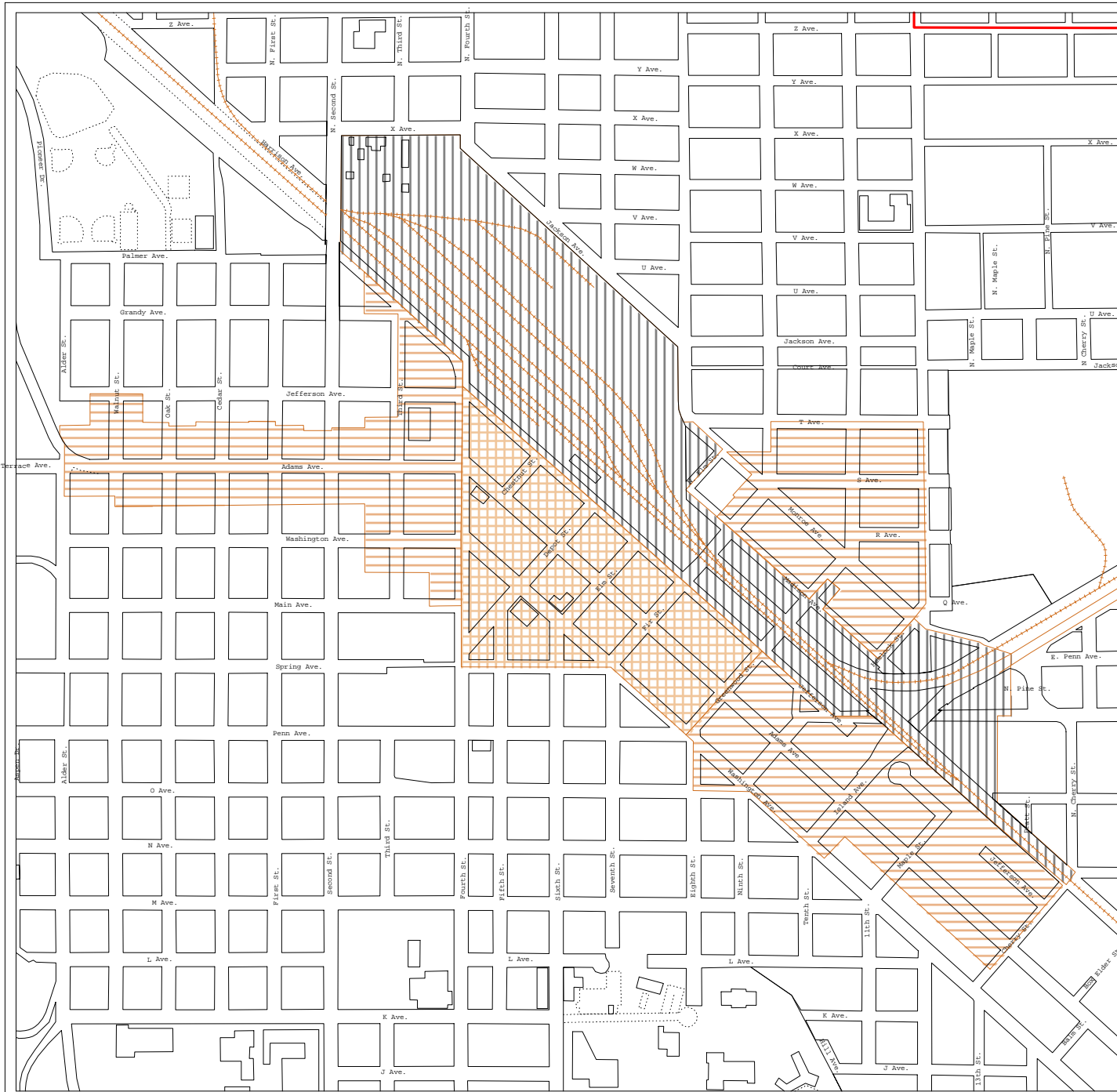
### Flood Zones

-  Floodway
-  Zone AE (100 yr)
-  Zone A0 (100 yr)
-  Zone A (100 yr)
-  Zone X (500 yr)
-  Outside CL (100 yr)
-  Outside CL (500 yr)

### Feet










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# CITY OF LA GRANDE

## Exempt Off-Street Parking

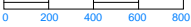
### Legend

-  MAP:CityLimits
-  MAP:UGB
-  MAP:ExemptParking
-  MAP:Highways
-  MAP:RailRoad
-  MAP:Rivers
-  MAP:PowerLines

### Zone

-  General Commercial (GC)
-  Central Business (CB)
-  Light Industrial (M-1)

### Feet









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# CITY OF LA GRANDE

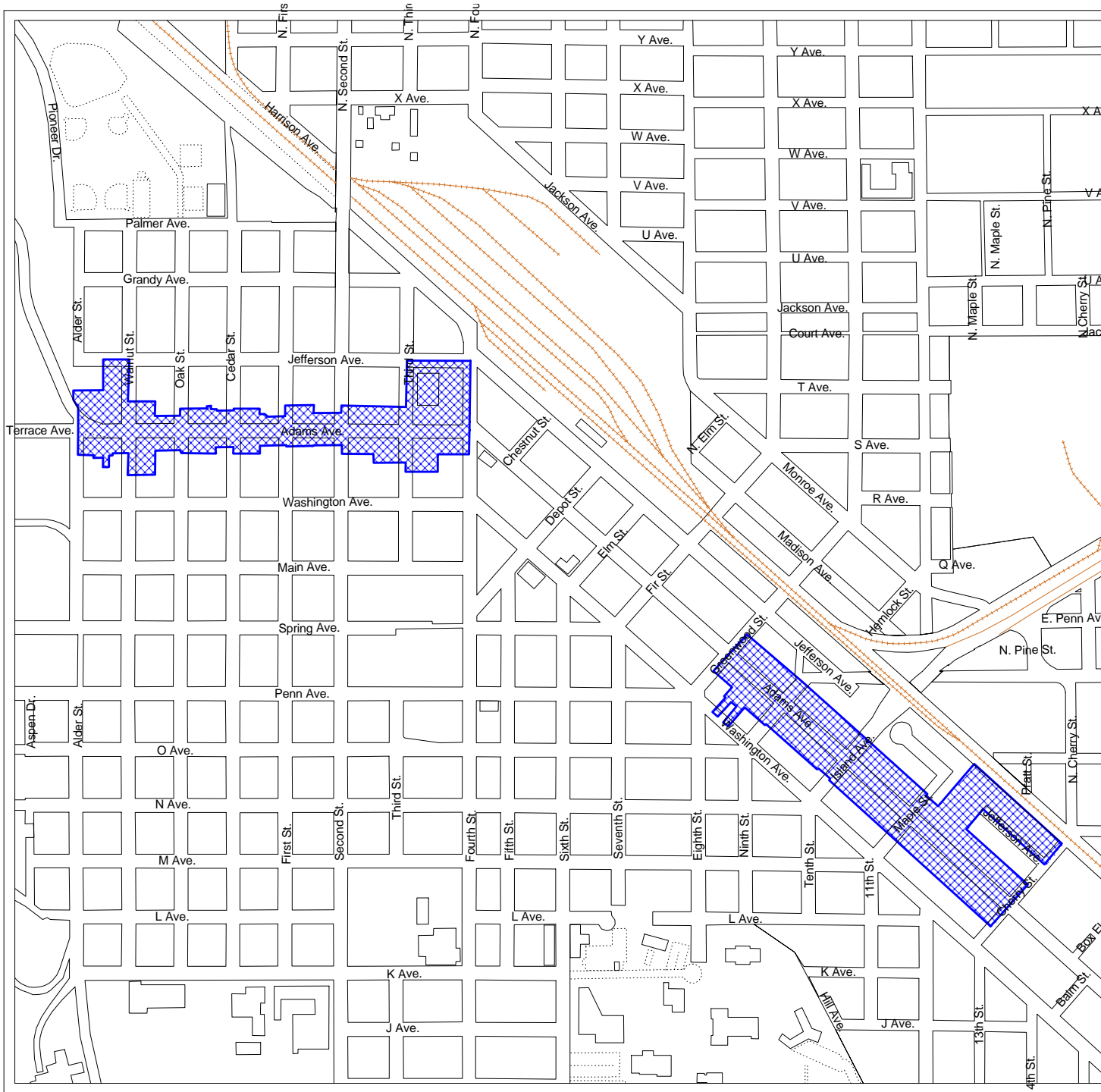
## Residential Use Overlay

### Legend

-  MAP:CityLimits
-  MAP:UGB
-  MAP:ResUseOverlay
-  MAP:Highways
-  MAP:RailRoad
-  MAP:Rivers



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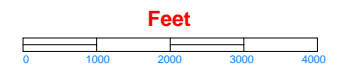


# CITY OF LA GRANDE

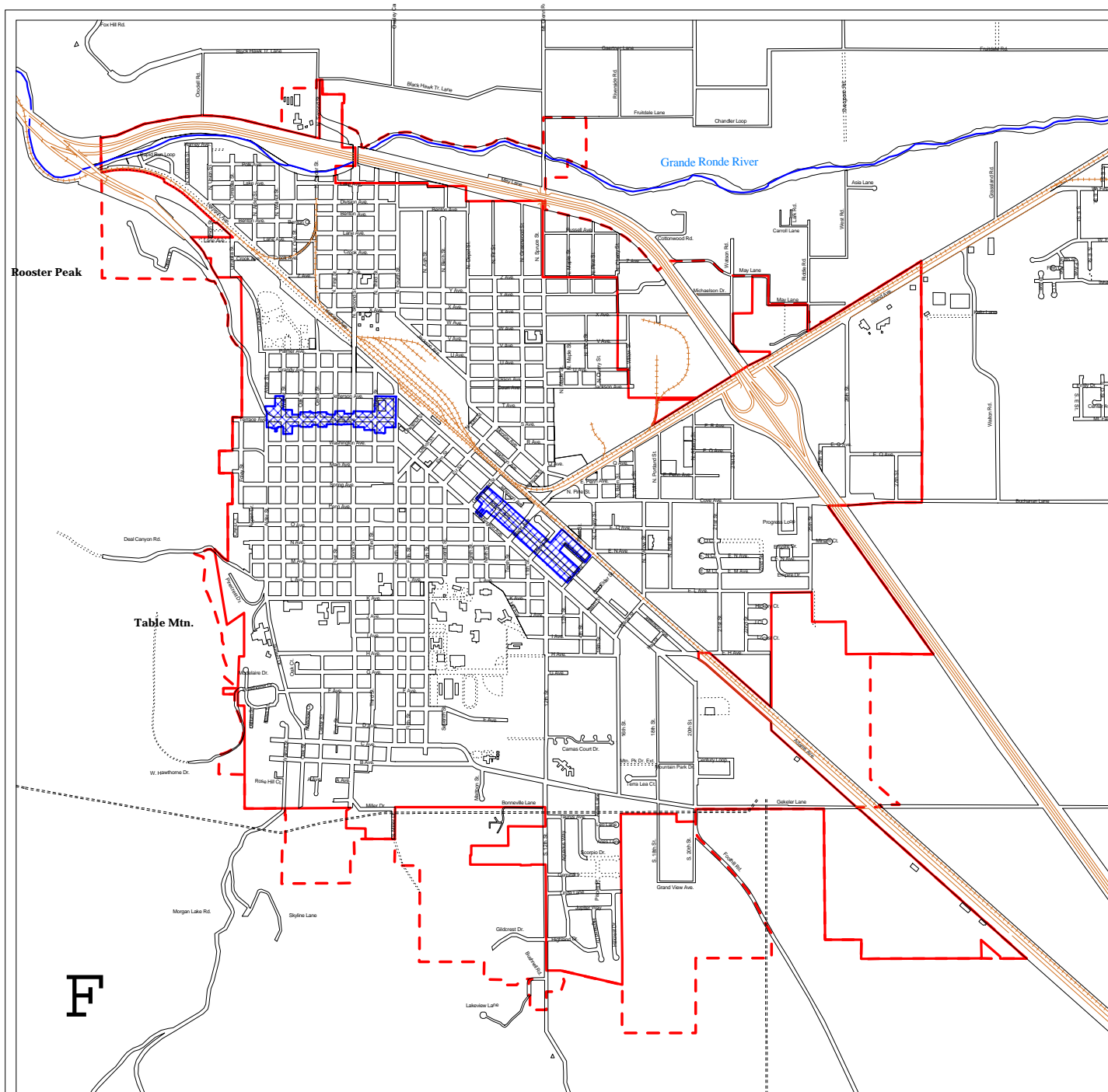
## Residential Use Overlay

### Legend

-  MAP:CityLimits
-  MAP:UGB
-  MAP:ResUseOverlay
-  MAP:Highways
-  MAP:RailRoad
-  MAP:Rivers
-  MAP:PowerLines



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# CITY OF LA GRANDE

## Diesel Impact Area

### Legend

- MAP:CityLimits
- MAP:UGB
- MAP:Diesel
- MAP:Highways
- MAP:RailRoad
- MAP:Rivers

Properties on the periphery may be only partially impacted; however, entire blocks are highlighted.

### Feet

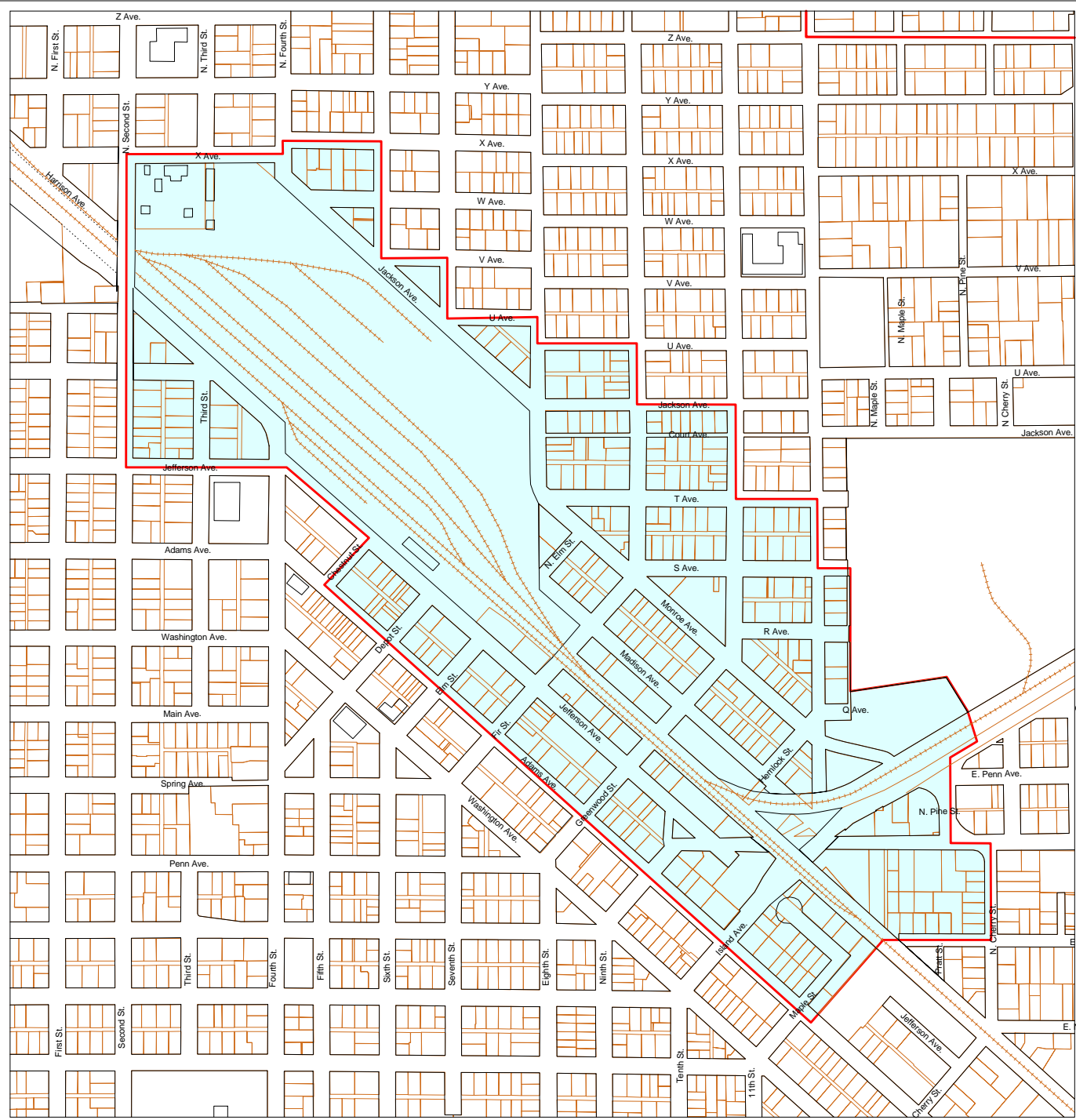


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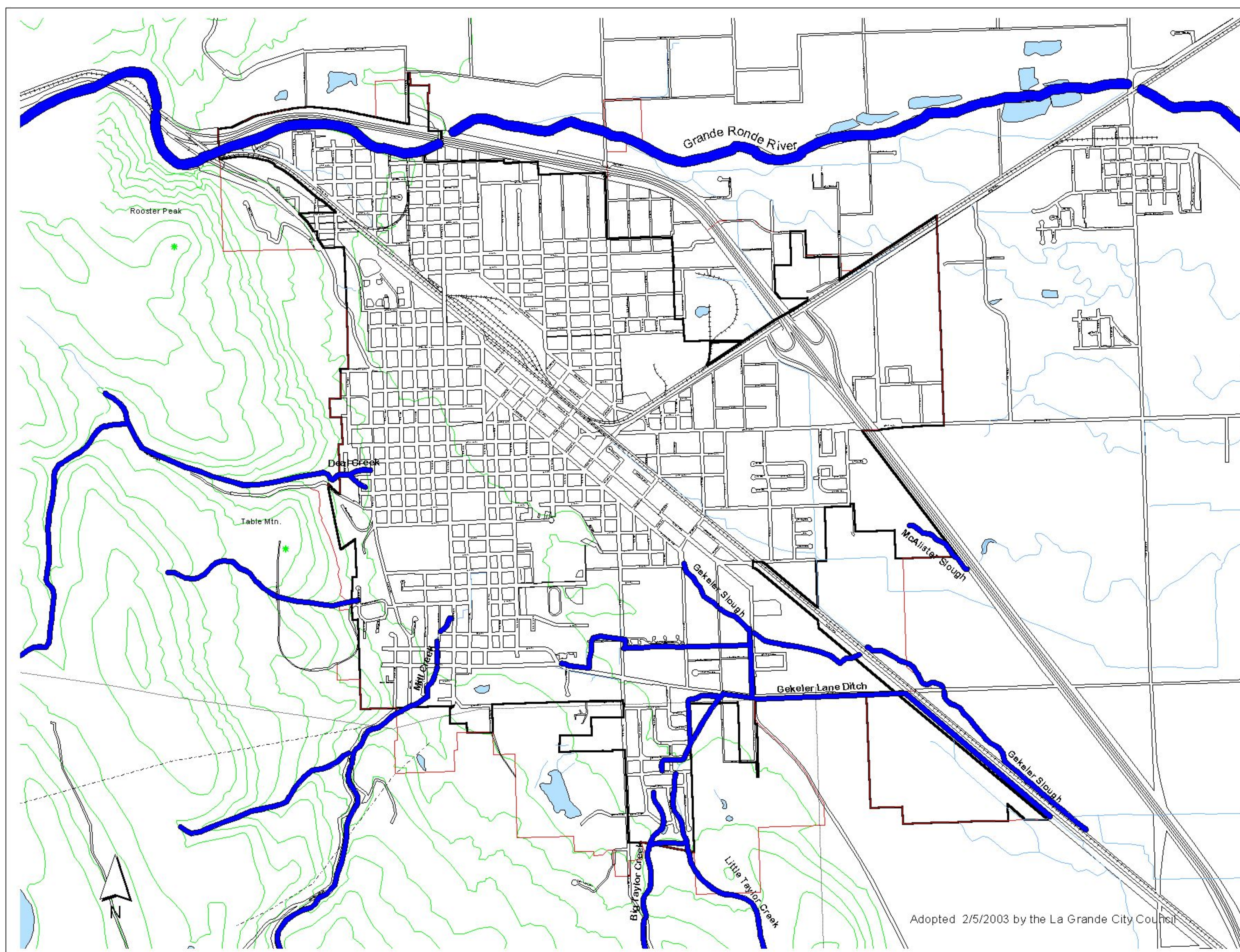
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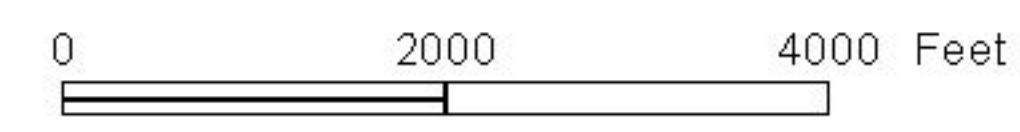
# City of La Grande

## Riparian Zones



**Legend**

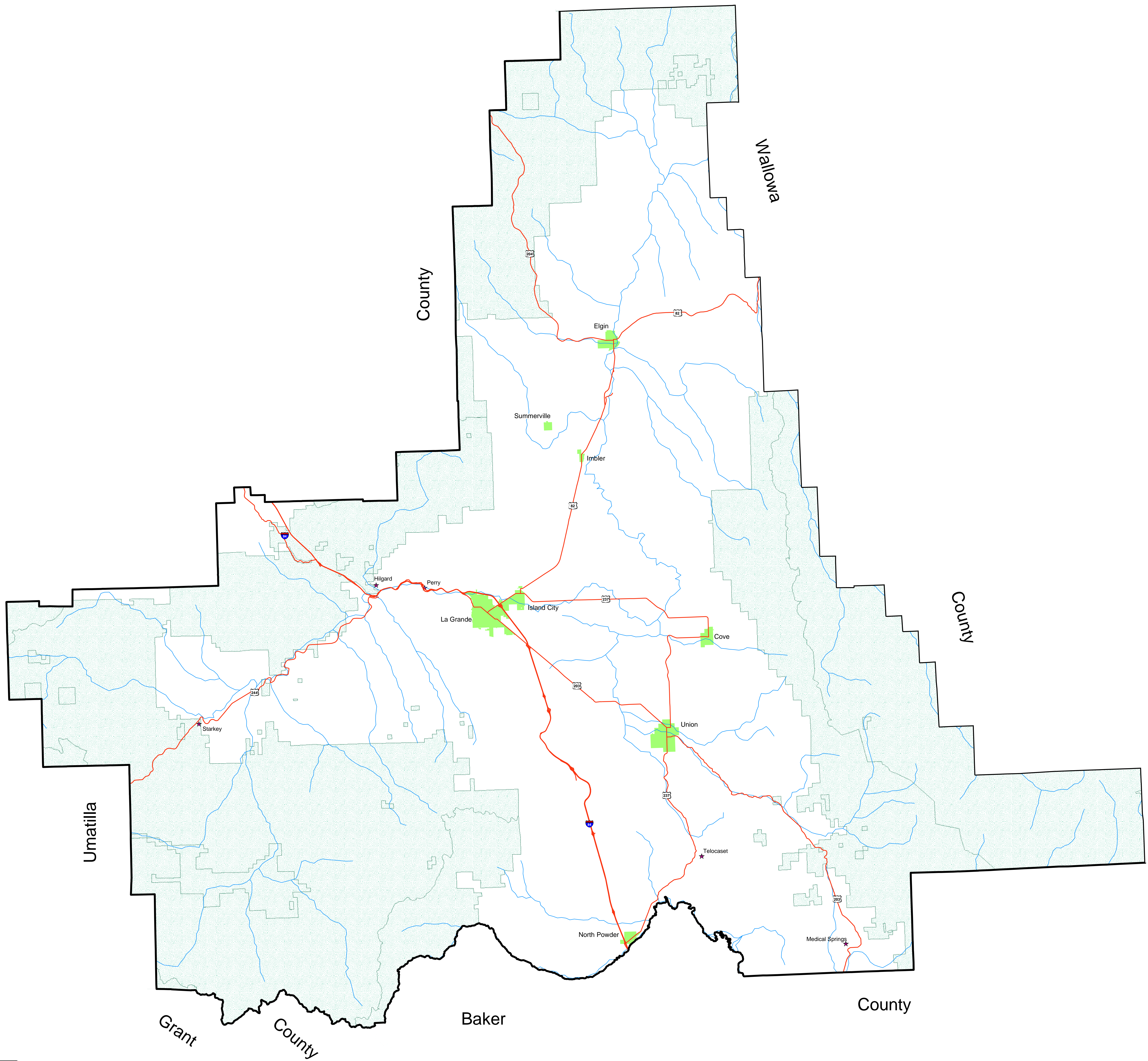
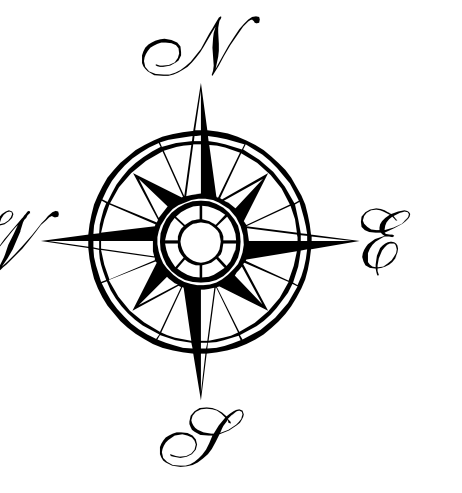
- Riparian
- Ponds
- Contours
- Powerline
- Pipeline
- Railroad
- Highways
- River
- City Limits
- UGB



Adopted 2/5/2003 by the La Grande City Council

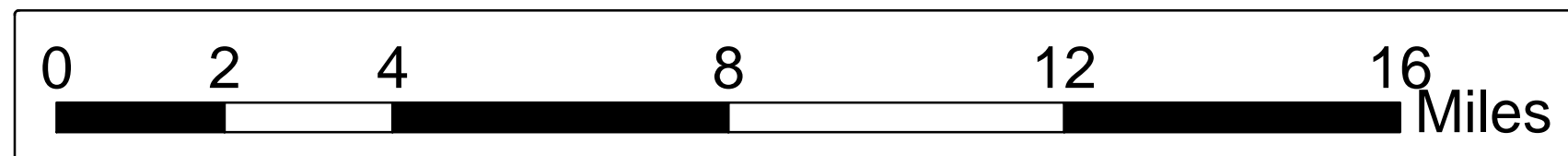
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# Union County



**Legend**

- ★ Unincorporated Areas
- Highways
- Creeks & Rivers
- City Limits
- Forest Service Lands



The information on this map was derived from various public data sources. Care was taken in the creation of this map but it is provided "as is". Wallowa County cannot accept any responsibility for errors, omissions, or positional accuracy in the digital data or the underlying records. There are no warranties express or implied, including the merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose, accompanying this product.