



Blue Mountain Region Long Term Recovery Group

Volunteer Information

First, we want to thank YOU for showing up and offering your time, skills and resources to the people impacted by this disaster. Without your help, the work would take much longer and continue the uncertainty of people impacted. YOU are helping to begin the healing.

Blue Mountain Region Long-Term Recovery Group was organized to focus on supporting individuals and families and their recovery from February 2020 flood-related damage. It is a coalition of various entities within the community, including nonprofit leadership, faith-based organizations and private sector representatives.

“Our goal is to provide coordinated management of long-term recovery to disaster survivors who do not have adequate personal resources throughout this region. We’re trying to restore their life to pre-disaster. Our goal isn’t to make their lives better, our goal is just to try to get them back to where they were before the disaster.”

“In order to empathize with someone’s experience you must be willing to believe them as they see it and not how you imagine their experience to be.”
Brené Brown

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Find us on [Facebook!](#)

<https://www.uwbluemt.org/content/flood-recovery>



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ABOUT THE AREA:

Wallowa ([/wəˈlɔʊwə/](#)) is a city in [Wallowa County, Oregon](#), United States. The population was 808 at the [2010 census](#).

The [Wallowa Valley](#) is within the traditional lands of the Nez Perce. In the late 19th century, the Wallowa band was one of more than a dozen groups who lived across the inland Northwest as members of the Nez Perce tribe. The U.S. government sent the army to force them out after they refused to sign a treaty that would have removed them from their land. [Chief Joseph](#) led tribal members more than 1,000 miles to western Montana. They repeatedly battled with the army as they fled.

Wallowa was [platted](#) in 1889. *Wallowa* is a [Nez Perce](#) word describing a triangular structure of stakes that in turn supported a network of sticks called *lacallas* to form a [fish trap](#). The [Nez Perce](#) put these traps in the [Wallowa River](#) below the outlet of [Wallowa Lake](#). The author of [Oregon Geographic Names](#), [Lewis A. McArthur](#), said that although the origin of this name is disputed, he puts great weight in [Levi Ankeny](#) who supplied this information as he was "thoroughly familiar with the early history and tradition of the Wallowa Valley" and "on intimate terms with many Indians who knew the facts of the matter".

Wikipedia

Wallowa Hail Storm, August 11

On August 11 a large hail storm pummeled Wallowa, causing significant property damage. A Wallowa resident connected with KGW to show the damage done to her home. [Read the story](#).

[Eastern Oregon town damaged by hail storm](#), OPB

[Wallowa residents plead for help after devastating damage from hailstorm](#), FOX 12

GENERAL GUIDELINES:

- Team leaders will attend Team Leader training/orientation.
- All communication from Blue Mountain Region Long Term Recovery Group (BMRLTRG) with the team will be via the team leader.
- The team leader will work with a BMRLTRG Volunteer Coordinator to schedule the trip and follow the volunteer registration process.
- The registration and skills form must be completed on-line at least two



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- weeks prior to the team's work/departure date.
- The team leader is responsible for sharing the BMRLTRG Volunteer Guidelines with all the team members prior to the team's work/departure.
 - Age requirements:
 - The minimum age is 14. 14 and 15-years of age must be accompanied by a parent and must work with the parent.
 - 16 to 18 years of age must be accompanied by an adult with a maximum ratio of 6 youth per 1 adult.
 - All team members will have:
 - approved background checks,
 - training in a Safe Sanctuaries/Safe Spaces program,
 - proof of medical insurance,
 - proof of accident insurance, and
 - provide of liability insurance.
 - Each team/group must bring their own personal safety equipment, such as gloves, safety glasses, boots, knee pads and N-95 dust masks. Other tools and equipment may be available on site. Make sure to confirm this before arriving.
 - The team leader will be notified about the team's work location five (5) to seven (7) days prior to the team's work/departure date. Please be aware that changes may occur.
 - Registration procedure (refer to Team Leader Checklist):
 - Team Leader Registration form
 - On-line registration for each member of the team; including medical information, skill assessment and liability waiver
 - Safe Sanctuary/Safe Spaces training
 - Background check
 - Proof of medical insurance.
 - Proof of team/individual accident insurance.
 - Proof of liability insurance.
 - The team leader will be in contact with the Volunteer Coordinator to assure all requirements are complete.

COVID:

As much as we wish COVID was over, it is not! Volunteers come from nearby, from another county, or from another state. One of the worst unintended effects of volunteer work throughout the ages has been the spread of infectious disease. All want to serve. All volunteers should adhere to public health and safety protocols to protect survivors and others we work beside.



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- If you don't feel well, please don't volunteer today!
- Please be mindful of the people you are working with. If they are masked, you probably should be masked. Or, at least ask if that would make them feel more comfortable.
- Go to the [CDC](#) or [CovidActNow](#) for updated information.

LEGAL/MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS:

- Everyone must have **medical** insurance and they must bring their insurance card to the work site.
- **Team/Individual Accident Insurance.**
- Liability insurance is the responsibility of the team.
- Background Checks (current within the last two years) are required for all LTR Team Members 18 years of age and older.

WORK SITE/PROJECT INFORMATION:

- A qualified and experienced construction manager/contractor will be present on site to guide the work of the group when construction is required.
- A site manager will make sure supplies, tools and equipment are on site.
- Preferably some knowledge is requested, but training will be available on-site as needed.
- It is possible that teams may find mold as building repair begins. If no one on the team has experience in mold mitigation, work will stop and the site/construction manager will be contacted.
- For construction teams, it is recommended that at least one person is skilled in construction and building.
- Work to be done will include:
 - Window repair, insulation, replacement
 - ???

LODGING:

- Wallowa:
 - [Mingo Motel](#)
 - [Wallowa River RV Park](#)
- Enterprise area:
 - [Wilderness Inn](#)
 - [Barking Mad Farm B&B](#)
- Other recommended lodging options can be found here:
 - [Wallowa County Chamber of Commerce](#)



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MEALS:

There are very few restaurants in Wallowa. Volunteers will need to bring food or travel to Enterprise for restaurant options.

FINANCES:

There is not a project fee at this time, but any donations for supplies are welcome.

Individuals/teams will need to cover costs for: insurance, background check, travel, plus food and lodging if needed.

DO's and DON'T's:

- **Do!...**

- recognize that survivors own their recovery and have all rights to decision-making regarding their residence,
- LISTEN,
- have confidence that BMRLTRG has done a thorough assessment to identify the needs and available resources,
- take time for polite conversation; don't just jump right into business,
- acknowledge in some way when greeting someone and when saying good-bye (not shaking hands!),
- Smile! Smile! Smile!

- **Don't...**

- drink alcoholic beverages on site
- smoke on site
- make judgements or promises
- proselytize
- take pictures of home owners, unless you have their permission
- take pictures of children without permission

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

BMRLTR Frequently Asked Questions
Team Leader Checklist



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United Way of the Blue Mountains



Blue Mountain Action Council



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



Oregon-Idaho Conference
of The United Methodist Church



Mennonite
Disaster
Service