



Gallatin County

MEMO

TO: Gallatin County All Hazard All Discipline (AHAD) Group
FROM: Sean O'Callaghan, CFM, Gallatin County Floodplain Administrator
RE: Progress Report on Flood Portion of Hazard Mitigation Plan
DATE: September 20, 2016

Gallatin County is a participant in FEMA's Community Rating System (CRS) Program. This program offers landowners in County jurisdictional areas a discount on their flood insurance premiums dependent on an evaluation and scoring of the County's floodplain management program. One of the activities that Gallatin County is currently receiving CRS credit for is the maintenance of the Gallatin County Hazard Mitigation Plan (adopted by FEMA on September 18, 2012). To continue to receive credit for the Hazard Mitigation Plan we are required to prepare an annual progress report on the flood-related portions of the Hazard Mitigation Plan and provide copies of that update to the County Commission and the media. Since this is the first progress report since adoption of the Plan in 2012, this progress report will cover activities completed since 2012.

A Draft progress report is attached for consideration by the AHAD Group at its October 27, 2016 meeting.

2016 Progress Report on Flood Hazards 2012 Gallatin County Hazard Mitigation Plan

Description

- It should be noted that the Town of Manhattan began participating in the National Flood Insurance Program in 2015.

Mapping

- FEMA's floodplain data for Gallatin County became available as a GIS layer in 2011. The presence of this data should be reflected in the Plan in the discussions/analysis of critical facilities, and data limitations. It is expected that this will be completed as part of the comprehensive update to the Plan.
- Although the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) for Gallatin County were digitized and re-published in 2011, much of the supporting data for the FIRMs dates back to the 1970s and 1980s. DNRC secured funding from FEMA to complete much needed re-studies of the West Gallatin River (56 stream miles) and Bozeman Creek and its tributaries (approximately 20 stream miles). The draft floodplain maps for these projects were released in spring of 2016 and the adoption process is expected to continue with a public comment and appeal period expected to occur in early 2017.

Impact of Future Development

- Gallatin County's Floodplain Regulations were updated in 2011. All of the other communities within the County that participate in the NFIP - Bozeman, Belgrade, Three Forks, and Manhattan – are required to adopt their own regulations.

Goals

- The below table provides an update on recent activities that support the flood-related goals established in the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

GOAL	PROGRESS
<i>Goal 3 – Reduce damages from flooding</i>	
<p><i>Objective 3.1 Reduce losses to private property from flooding</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Implement security measures at the dams to include early warning systems</i> • <i>Educate the public on flood insurance</i> • <i>Mitigate damages to critical infrastructure in the 100-year flood plain</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gallatin County Planning Department website www.gallatincomt.virtualltownhall.net/planning has been updated to include links to several publications relevant to flood insurance. • Staff from Gallatin County, City of Bozeman, and Montana DNRC conducted open houses on April 6 & 7 related to flood studies on the West Gallatin River and Bozeman Creek. Information concerning flood insurance was disseminated at those open houses. There was considerable media coverage concerning the draft flood studies and open houses. • DNRC conducted a Floodplain 101 class for area realtors in October of 2015 and flood insurance was discussed at length. • Gallatin County has applied for grant funding to replace the Nixon Gulch Bridge, critical infrastructure that crosses the Gallatin River.
<p><i>Objective 3.2 Maximize the protection of life and property through government resources and services</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Remove woody debris, as needed to protect public safety, but not excessively as such debris is important to ecological health.</i> • <i>Consider where more restrictive regulations or prohibition of development in the floodplain may be necessary</i> • <i>Map floodplain areas and join the National Flood Insurance Program in the City of Belgrade, Town of Manhattan, City of Three Forks</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gallatin County Road and Bridge Department as well as public works staff from municipal governments inspect and maintain culverts and other stream crossings as part of their regular operations – this includes debris removal. • Draft flood studies have been completed on the West Gallatin River and Bozeman Creek (and its tributaries). These studies use current information and modern technology to identify areas that may be prone to flood risk. As part of these floodplain map updates, Gallatin County and the City of Bozeman have also begun to review their local floodplain management ordinances. • Gallatin County, City of Bozeman, City of Belgrade, and the City of Three Forks remain participants in the NFIP. The town of Manhattan recently joined the NFIP.
<p><i>Objective 3.3 Provide the public with information and means to prevent private flood losses.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Establish financial incentives for landowners to remove, modify, or replace obsolete and non-functioning flood control and bank stabilization measures</i> • <i>Conduct an analysis on the feasibility of a floodplain and floodway buyout and/or relocation program.</i> • <i>Educate the public on flood insurance.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gallatin County Planning Department website www.gallatincomt.virtualltownhall.net/planning has been updated to include links to several publications relevant to flood insurance. • Staff from Gallatin County, City of Bozeman, and Montana DNRC conducted open houses on April 6 & 7 related to flood studies on the West Gallatin River and Bozeman Creek. Information concerning flood insurance was disseminated at those open houses. There was considerable media coverage concerning the draft flood studies and open houses. • DNRC conducted a Floodplain 101 class for area realtors and flood insurance was discussed at length. • Annual notification of Gallatin County’s Map Information Service was provided to area realtors, lenders, and insurance agents. • Yellowstone Pipeline Company received permit approvals to remove obsolete bank stabilization features on the East Gallatin River.
<p><i>Objective 3.4 Improve understanding of the flood hazard and mitigation measures.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Secure digital flood plain mapping for all substantial rivers and streams in Gallatin County.</i> • <i>Study alternative flood mitigation measures.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximately 76 stream miles were re-mapped as part of the new flood studies on the West Gallatin River and Bozeman Creek (and its tributaries). Draft floodplain information is available to public in several mediums, including static digital maps and interactive maps. http://www.floodplain.mt.gov/gallatin • Existing (effective) floodplain information is available to the public via the internet and staff from local governments are available to answer questions concerning flood hazards. • Annual outreach to repetitive loss properties in Gallatin County has occurred.