



Gallatin County

MEMO

TO: Gallatin County Commission

CC: Gallatin Media Center

FROM: Sean O'Callaghan, CFM, Gallatin County Floodplain Administrator

RE: Progress Report on Flood Portion of Hazard Mitigation Plan

DATE: July 31, 2018

Background:

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. Gallatin County is currently categorized as a Class 8 community which provides up to a 10% discount on flood insurance policies through the National Flood Insurance 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 governing body and the media. The attached matrix outlines recent activities that support the flood-related goals established in the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

GOAL	PROGRESS
Goal 3 – Reduce damages from flooding	
<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 http://gallatincomt.virtuالتownhall.net/Planning continues to include links to several publications relevant to flood insurance. • Staff from Gallatin County, City of Bozeman, and Montana DNRC conducted public mailings and an open houses March of 2018 related to the revised preliminary flood study for the West Gallatin River. Flood insurance was discussed with attendees at the open house. • Staff from Gallatin County, City of Bozeman, and Montana DNRC along with a local insurance agent held a class for area realtors in October of 2017 and flood insurance was discussed at length. • Gallatin County continues to work on designing and permitting a new bridge to replace the existing Nixon Gulch Bridge, critical infrastructure that crosses the Gallatin River. • Gallatin County applied for grant funding to replace Meridian Bridge across the Jefferson River, another important piece of transportation infrastructure. • Channel Migration Zone Studies were completed on the Gallatin, East Gallatin, Madison, and Jefferson rivers, highlighting additional hazards that residents of those areas should be made aware of as well as hazards that should be considered as part of infrastructure planning processes. • The dam inundation maps for Middle Creek Dam have been updated and published along with a study.
<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 continue to inspect and maintain culverts and other stream crossings as part of their regular operations – this includes debris removal. • A large beaver dam was identified in late summer 2017 at Mystic Lake. This structure presents a flood concern in the Bozeman Creek drainage due to the amount of water impounded behind the beaver dam. Multiple government agencies collaborated on this project to remove the hazard. • Public education related to the preliminary flood studies for the West Gallatin River and Bozeman Creek (and its tributaries) continues. These studies use current information and modern technology to identify areas that may be prone to flood risk. • LiDAR data was acquired in several areas of Gallatin County (Bear Creek, East Gallatin River, Gallatin River, Madison River, Jefferson River) to facilitate future flood studies that will take place over the next several years. • As part of these floodplain map updates, Gallatin County and the City of Bozeman have also begun to review their local floodplain management ordinances and will carefully consider whether requirements that exceed the Montana minimum standards are appropriate to enact within their communities. • Gallatin County, City of Bozeman, City of Belgrade, City of Three Forks, and the Town of Manhattan remain participants in the NFIP. • Gallatin County continues to provide a Map Information Service to help inform the public of flood related hazards that could jeopardize life and property, and continues to make floodplain-related information available through publically accessible interactive mappers.

<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 http://gallatincomt.virtualltownhall.net/Planning continues to include links to several publications relevant to flood insurance and provide floodplain-related information on publically accessible interactive mappers. • Staff from Gallatin County and Montana DNRC conducted a public open house in March of 2018 related to the revised preliminary flood study on the West Gallatin River. Information concerning flood insurance was disseminated at that open houses. • Staff from Gallatin County, City of Bozeman, and Montana DNRC along with a local insurance agent held a class for area realtors in October of 2017 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.
<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 remains available to public in several mediums, including static digital maps and interactive maps. A website http://www.floodplain.mt.gov/gallatin has been maintained to keep the public up to date on these mapping projects. • LiDAR data was acquired in several areas of Gallatin County (Bear Creek, East Gallatin River, Gallatin River, Madison River, Jefferson River) to facilitate future flood studies that will take place over the next several years. • Existing (effective) floodplain information remains 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.