



# Gallatin County

## MEMO

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**TO:** Gallatin County Commission  
**FROM:** Sean O'Callaghan, CFM, Gallatin County Floodplain Administrator  
**RE:** Progress Report on Flood Portion of Hazard Mitigation Plan  
**DATE:** November 6, 2017

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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 County Commission and the media. A progress report was completed in October of 2016, so this progress report covers activities completed over the last year.

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The attached progress report was approved by the All Hazards All Disciplines (AHAD) Group at its October 26, 2017 meeting.

## **2017 Progress Report on Flood Hazards 2012 Gallatin County Hazard Mitigation Plan**

### **General**

- A consultant was selected to update the Gallatin County Hazard Mitigation Plan and Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Various meetings have been held and will continue over the course of the next year.

### **Mapping**

- Public Open Houses were held in January 2017 concerning the preliminary flood insurance rate maps for the re-studies of the West Gallatin River (56 stream miles) and Bozeman Creek and its tributaries (approximately 20 stream miles). Preliminary information remains available for public review; however, the formal public comment and appeal period for both projects has been delayed as some technical issues with the preliminary maps are being further investigated in response to public and agency comment.

### **Goals**

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

GOAL	PROGRESS
<b>Goal 3 – Reduce damages from flooding</b>	
<p><i>Objective 3.1 Reduce losses to private property from flooding</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Implement security measures at the dams to include early warning systems</i></li> <li>• <i>Educate the public on flood insurance</i></li> <li>• <i>Mitigate damages to critical infrastructure in the 100-year flood plain</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gallatin County Planning Department website <a href="http://gallatincomt.virtualltownhall.net/Planning">http://gallatincomt.virtualltownhall.net/Planning</a> continues to include links to several publications relevant to flood insurance.</li> <li>• Staff from Gallatin County, City of Bozeman, and Montana DNRC conducted public open houses in January of 2017 related to flood studies on the West Gallatin River and Bozeman Creek. Information concerning flood insurance was disseminated at those open houses.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Gallatin County received grant funding and is in the process of designing a new bridge to replace the existing Nixon Gulch Bridge, critical infrastructure that crosses the Gallatin River.</li> </ul>
<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"> <li>• <i>Remove woody debris, as needed to protect public safety, but not excessively as such debris is important to ecological health.</i></li> <li>• <i>Consider where more restrictive regulations or prohibition of development in the floodplain may be necessary</i></li> <li>• <i>Map floodplain areas and join the National Flood Insurance Program in the City of Belgrade, Town of Manhattan, City of Three Forks</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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. Work is currently underway to remove this hazard. Multiple government agencies are collaborating on this project.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• As part of these floodplain map updates, Gallatin County and the City of Bozeman have also begun to review their local floodplain management ordinances. County staff met with representatives from DNRC and FEMA in January to discuss regulatory requirements.</li> <li>• Gallatin County, City of Bozeman, City of Belgrade, City of Three Forks, and the Town of Manhattan remain participants in the NFIP.</li> </ul>
<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"> <li>• <i>Establish financial incentives for landowners to remove, modify, or replace obsolete and non-functioning flood control and bank stabilization measures</i></li> <li>• <i>Conduct an analysis on the feasibility of a floodplain and floodway buyout and/or relocation program.</i></li> <li>• <i>Educate the public on flood insurance.</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gallatin County Planning Department website <a href="http://gallatincomt.virtualltownhall.net/Planning">http://gallatincomt.virtualltownhall.net/Planning</a> continues to include links to several publications relevant to flood insurance.</li> <li>• Staff from Gallatin County, City of Bozeman, and Montana DNRC conducted public open houses in January of 2017 related to flood studies on the West Gallatin River and Bozeman Creek. Information concerning flood insurance was disseminated at those open houses.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Annual notification of Gallatin County’s Map Information Service was provided to area realtors, lenders, and insurance agents.</li> <li>• Yellowstone Pipeline Company worked to remove obsolete bank stabilization features on the East Gallatin River.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Objective 3.4 Improve understanding of the flood hazard and mitigation measures.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Secure digital flood plain mapping for all substantial rivers and streams in Gallatin County.</i></li> <li>• <i>Study alternative flood mitigation measures.</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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 <a href="http://www.floodplain.mt.gov/gallatin">http://www.floodplain.mt.gov/gallatin</a> has been maintained to keep the public up to date on these mapping projects.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Annual outreach to repetitive loss properties in Gallatin County has occurred.</li> </ul>