



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: June 20, 2019

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. This annual progress report was adopted by the Gallatin County All Hazards All Disciplines (AHAD) Group on June 20, 2019. Please contact me with any questions.

Sean O'Callaghan, CFM, Floodplain Administrator
Gallatin County Department of Planning & Community Development
(406) 582-3130
sean.ocallaghan@gallatin.mt.gov

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"> • The Gallatin County Planning Department website continues to include links to several publications relevant to flood hazards and flood insurance http://gallatincomt.virtualtownhall.net/Public_Documents/gallatincomt_plandept/1FLOODPLAIN/FP_Pub • Gallatin County Emergency Management and the National Weather Service co-sponsored a training in May of 2019 for members of the local media to increase their understanding of flood hazards and ability to convey that information to the public. • The Gallatin County Floodplain Administrator held a Floodplain Basics for Realtors class in June of 2019 that covered local flood hazards, protecting people and property from flood hazards, and flood insurance, among other topics. • Gallatin County is working on permitting a new bridge to replace the existing Nixon Gulch Bridge, critical infrastructure that crosses the Gallatin River. Construction will commence in summer of 2019. • Gallatin County secured funding to replace Meridian Bridge across the Jefferson River, another important piece of transportation infrastructure. • The Planning Department continues to use the Channel Migration Zone Studies for the Gallatin, East Gallatin, Madison, and Jefferson rivers, as education tools to highlight 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 updated dam inundation maps for Middle Creek Dam continue to be used by the Planning Department as part of development review.
<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. • Gallatin County Emergency management worked with a local media outlet to produce a video on “Keep it Flowing” available online at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z_LtMhhyiqo&feature=youtu.be • 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 that was acquired in several areas of Gallatin County (Bear Creek, East Gallatin River, Gallatin River, Madison River, Jefferson River) continues to be used to make better informed land use decisions where flood studies don’t exist or don’t provide sufficient detail. • Gallatin County continues to review its local floodplain management ordinances and carefully consider whether requirements that exceed the Montana minimum standards are appropriate to enact. • 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 - http://gis.gallatin.mt.gov/webmaps/?map=planning .

<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"> • The Gallatin County Planning Department website continues to include links to several publications relevant to flood hazards and flood insurance http://gallatincomt.virtualtownhall.net/Public_Documents/gallatincomt_plandept/1FLOODPLAIN/FP_Pub and provide floodplain-related information on publically accessible interactive mappers at http://gis.gallatin.mt.gov/webmaps/?map=planning. • The Floodplain Basics for Realtors class provided by the Floodplain Administrator in June of 2019 included dissemination of information about flood insurance. • 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"> • Gallatin County continues to work with DNRC and FEMA to update the Flood Insurance Rate Maps for approximately 76 stream miles that 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. Even though those flood studies have not yet commenced, the LiDAR data is utilized to make better informed decisions about flood hazards in those areas. • 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.