

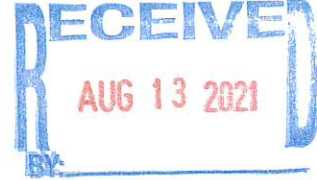
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Region VIII
Denver Federal Center, Building 710
P.O. Box 25267
Denver, CO 80225-0267



FEMA

R8-MT

July 23, 2021



Grand County Board of County Commissioners
P.O. Box 264
Hot Sulphur Springs, CO 80451

Dear Grand County Commissioners:

We are pleased to announce the approval of the Grand County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan as meeting the requirements of the Stafford Act and Title 44 Code of Federal Regulations 201.6 for a local hazard mitigation plan. The plan approval extends to Grand County, the Municipality of Winter Park, the Towns of Fraser, Granby, Grand lake, Hot Sulphur Springs, and Kremmling, the Fire Protection Districts of East Grand, Grand, Grand Lake, Hot Sulphur Springs/Parshall, and Kremmling, Denver Water District, and the Norther Water Conservancy District.

The jurisdictions are hereby eligible for FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant programs. All requests for funding will be evaluated individually according to the specific eligibility and other requirements of the particular programs under which the application is submitted. Approved mitigation plans may be eligible for points under the National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System.

The plan is approved through July 22, 2026. A local jurisdiction must revise its plan and resubmit it for approval within five years to continue to be eligible for mitigation project grant funding. We have provided recommendations for the next plan update on the enclosed Plan Review Tool.

We wish to thank the jurisdictions for participating in the process and commend your continued commitment to mitigation planning. Please contact Mark Thompson, State Hazard Mitigation Officer, Colorado Department of Emergency Services, at markw.thompson@state.co.us or (720) 852-6600 with any questions on the plan approval or mitigation grant programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeanine D. Petterson". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Jeanine D. Petterson
Mitigation Division Director

Enclosure

cc: Mark Thompson, State Hazard Mitigation Officer, Colorado Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management

LOCAL MITIGATION PLAN REVIEW TOOL

The *Local Mitigation Plan Review Tool* demonstrates how the Local Mitigation Plan meets the regulation in 44 CFR §201.6 and offers States and FEMA Mitigation Planners an opportunity to provide feedback to the community.

- The Regulation Checklist provides a summary of FEMA’s evaluation of whether the Plan has addressed all requirements.
- The Plan Assessment identifies the plan’s strengths as well as documents areas for future improvement.
- The Multi-jurisdiction Summary Sheet is an optional worksheet that can be used to document how each jurisdiction met the requirements of the each Element of the Plan (Planning Process; Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment; Mitigation Strategy; Plan Review, Evaluation, and Implementation; and Plan Adoption).

The FEMA Mitigation Planner must reference this *Local Mitigation Plan Review Guide* when completing the *Local Mitigation Plan Review Tool*.

Jurisdiction: Grand County	Title of Plan: Grand County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan	Date of Plan: 2020 Submitted 1/15/2021
Local Point of Contact: Alexis Kimbrough	Address: 350 CR 5103 Fraser, CO 80442 PO Box 2578	E-Mail: akimbrough@co.grand.co.us
Title: Deputy Director		
Agency: Grand County OEM		
Phone Number: (970) 531-2674		
State Reviewer: Patricia L. Gavelda	Title: DHSEM Local Hazard Mitigation Planning Program Manager;	Date: 10/8/2020; 12/23/2020; 1/16/2021
Mark W. Thompson	Mitigation Planning Specialist	

FEMA Reviewer: Laura Weinstein, IR Emily Alvarez, QC	Title: CERC Mitigation Champion Community Planner	Date: 02/08/2021 02/18/2021
Date Received in FEMA Region VIII	01/19/2021	
Plan Not Approved		
Plan Approvable Pending Adoption	02/18/2021	
Plan Approved	7/23/2021	

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SECTION 1: MULTI-JURISDICTION SUMMARY SHEET

MULTI-JURISDICTION SUMMARY SHEET									
#	Jurisdiction Name	Jurisdiction Type	Jurisdiction Contact	Email	Requirements Met (Y/N)				
					A. Planning Process	B. HIRA	C. Mitigation Strategy	D. Update Rqmts.	E. Adoption Resolution
1	Grand	County	Alexis Kimbrough	akimbrough@co.grand.co.us	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
2	Winter Park	Home Rule Municipality	Gerry Vernon	gvernon@wpgov.com	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
3	Fraser	Statutory Town	Jeff Durbin	jdurbin@town.fraser.co.us	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
4	Granby	Statutory Town	Dough Bellatty	dbellatty@townofgranby.com	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
5	Grand Lake	Statutory Town	Joel Crone	jcrone@toglco.com	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
6	Hot Sulphur Springs	Statutory Town	Christine Lee	stephenchris@rkymtnhi.com	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
7	Kremmling	Statutory Town	Dan Stoltman	dstoltman@townofkremmling.org	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
8	East Grand FPD	Fire Protection District	Todd Holzwarth	toddh@eastgrandfire.com	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
9	Grand FPD	Fire Protection District	Brad White	bwhite@grandfire.org	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
10	Grand Lake FPD	Fire Protection District	Kevin Ratzmann	kratzmann@grandlakefire.org	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
11	Hot Sulphur Springs/Parshall FPD	Fire Protection District	Tom Baumgarten	tomb@hotsulphurfire.com	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
12	Kremmling FPD	Fire Protection District	Tony Tucker	tony.tucker@kremmlingfire.org	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

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13	Denver Water	Water District	Rob Krueger	rob.krueger@denverwater.org	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
14	Northern Water	Water Conservancy District	Bernie Lodge	blodge@northernwater.org	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

**SECTION 2:
REGULATION CHECKLIST**

REGULATION CHECKLIST		Location in Plan (section and/or page number)	Met	Not Met
Regulation (44 CFR 201.6 Local Mitigation Plans)				
ELEMENT A. PLANNING PROCESS				
A1. Does the Plan document the planning process, including how it was prepared and who was involved in the process for each jurisdiction? (Requirement §201.6(c)(1))	Pgs 2.1-2.10; appendix B & C	X		
A2. Does the Plan document an opportunity for neighboring communities, local and regional agencies involved in hazard mitigation activities, agencies that have the authority to regulate development as well as other interests to be involved in the planning process? (Requirement §)	Pgs 2.4, 2.6; appendix B & C	X		
A3. Does the Plan document how the public was involved in the planning process during the drafting stage? (Requirement §201.6(b)(1))	Pgs 2.7; appendix B	X		
A4. Does the Plan describe the review and incorporation of existing plans, studies, reports, and technical information? (Requirement §201.6(b)(3))	Pgs 2.1-2.2, 2.8-2.10, 3.5, 3.7, 3.132; appendix A Ref.	X		
A5. Is there discussion of how the community(ies) will continue public participation in the plan maintenance process? (Requirement §201.6(c)(4)(iii))	Pg 5.5	X		
A6. Is there a description of the method and schedule for keeping the plan current (monitoring, evaluating and updating the mitigation plan within a 5-year cycle)? (Requirement §201.6(c)(4)(i))	Pgs 5.2-5.5	X		
ELEMENT A: REQUIRED REVISIONS:				
ELEMENT B. HAZARD IDENTIFICATION AND RISK ASSESSMENT				
B1. Does the Plan include a description of the type, location, and extent of all natural hazards that can affect each jurisdiction(s)? (Requirement §201.6(c)(2)(i))	Pgs 3.2-3.5 Annexes A-K	X		
B2. Does the Plan include information on previous occurrences of hazard events and on the probability of future hazard events for each jurisdiction? (Requirement §201.6(c)(2)(i))	Pgs 3.3, 3.7-3.91 Annexes A-M	X		
B3. Is there a description of each identified hazard's impact on the community as well as an overall summary of the community's vulnerability for each jurisdiction? (Requirement §201.6(c)(2)(ii))	Pgs 3.7-3.91, 3.102-138, Annexes A-M	X		

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B4. Does the Plan address NFIP insured structures within the jurisdiction that have been repetitively damaged by floods? (Requirement §201.6(c)(2)(ii))	Pgs 3.113, Annexes A-M	X	
ELEMENT B: REQUIRED REVISIONS:			
ELEMENT C. MITIGATION STRATEGY			
C1. Does the plan document each jurisdiction's existing authorities, policies, programs and resources and its ability to expand on and improve these existing policies and programs? (Requirement §201.6(c)(3))	Annexes A-M	X	
C2. Does the Plan address each jurisdiction's participation in the NFIP and continued compliance with NFIP requirements, as appropriate? (Requirement §201.6(c)(3)(ii))	Pgs 3.113, 4.7-4.8, Annexes A-M	X	
C3. Does the Plan include goals to reduce/avoid long-term vulnerabilities to the identified hazards? (Requirement §201.6(c)(3)(i))	Pgs 4.1-4.3	X	
C4. Does the Plan identify and analyze a comprehensive range of specific mitigation actions and projects for each jurisdiction being considered to reduce the effects of hazards, with emphasis on new and existing buildings and infrastructure? (Requirement §201.6(c)(3)(ii))	Pgs 4.3-4.5; Appendix C	X	
C5. Does the Plan contain an action plan that describes how the actions identified will be prioritized (including cost benefit review), implemented, and administered by each jurisdiction? (Requirement §201.6(c)(3)(iv)); (Requirement §201.6(c)(3)(iii))	Pgs 4.4-4.5, 4.7-4.35, Action details in Annexes A-M & Appendix C	X	
C6. Does the Plan describe a process by which local governments will integrate the requirements of the mitigation plan into other planning mechanisms, such as comprehensive or capital improvement plans, when appropriate? (Requirement §201.6(c)(4)(ii))	Pgs 5.4-5.5	X	
ELEMENT C: REQUIRED REVISIONS:			
ELEMENT D. PLAN REVIEW, EVALUATION, AND IMPLEMENTATION			
D1. Was the plan revised to reflect changes in development? (Requirement §201.6(d)(3))	Pgs 3.93-3.101, 131-135, Annexes A-M	X	
D2. Was the plan revised to reflect progress in local mitigation efforts? (Requirement §201.6(d)(3))	Pgs 4.6-4.16, Annexes A-M	X	
D3. Was the plan revised to reflect changes in priorities? (Requirement §201.6(d)(3))	Pgs 3.2-3.4, 3.88-3.91, 4.1-4.16	X	

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ELEMENT D: REQUIRED REVISIONS			
ELEMENT E. PLAN ADOPTION			
E1. Does the Plan include documentation that the plan has been formally adopted by the governing body of the jurisdiction requesting approval? (Requirement §201.6(c)(5))	NA	N/A	
E2. For multi-jurisdictional plans, has each jurisdiction requesting approval of the plan documented formal plan adoption? (Requirement §201.6(c)(5))	Pending	Y	
ELEMENT E: REQUIRED REVISIONS			
OPTIONAL: HIGH HAZARD POTENTIAL DAM RISKS			
HHPD1. Did Element A4 (planning process) describe the incorporation of existing plans, studies, reports, and technical information for high hazard potential dams?	Pgs 3.17 – 3.18; Pg K.3		N
HHPD2. Did Element B3 (risk assessment) address HHPDs?	Pgs 3.13 – 3.18		N
HHPD3. Did Element C3 (mitigation goals) include mitigation goals to reduce long-term vulnerabilities from high hazard potential dams that pose an unacceptable risk to the public?	Pgs 4.1 – 4.3	X	
HHPD4. Did Element C4-C5 (mitigation actions) address HHPDs prioritize mitigation actions to reduce vulnerabilities from high hazard potential dams that pose an unacceptable risk to the public?			N
REQUIRED REVISIONS			
<p>HHPD1. There is not an extensive discussion about these publications for the high hazard dams in the County. Examples could include how EAPs and inundation maps are/were used in risk assessments and mitigation strategies.</p> <p>HHPD2. There was insufficient discussion of the exposure and vulnerabilities related to HHPDs in the County. This doesn't require including the actual maps but does need a discussion.</p> <p>HHPD4. There are no mitigation actions that reduce the long-term risk from HHPDs in the County.</p>			
ELEMENT F. ADDITIONAL STATE REQUIREMENTS (OPTIONAL FOR STATE REVIEWERS ONLY; NOT TO BE COMPLETED BY FEMA)			
F1.			
F2.			
ELEMENT F: REQUIRED REVISIONS			

SECTION 3: PLAN ASSESSMENT

A. Plan Strengths and Opportunities for Improvement

This section provides a discussion of the strengths of the plan document and identifies areas where these could be improved beyond minimum requirements.

Element A: Planning Process

Strengths

State

- Grand County and its participating jurisdictions went to commendable lengths to complete this update during the COVID-19 pandemic and one of the largest fires in Colorado history- the East Troublesome fire. Despite those challenges, the plan did a good job of incorporating and integrating other plans, policies, regulations, etc., and bringing a broad planning team together.

FEMA

- The Planning Team should be applauded for keeping the planning process on track despite local disruptions and other adverse impacts associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, which began shortly after initiating the planning process, and the East Troublesome fire, which took blaze only weeks prior to submitting for State and Federal approval. Noteworthy modifications included pivoting from in-person meetings to web-based alternatives and taking other strategies to remotely engage Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee members, other stakeholders, and the public at large. Plan contributors also quickly responded to the East Troublesome fire and Williams Fork fire by adding several new actions focused on mitigating post wildfire risk into the Plan.
- The overall mitigation planning process was thoughtful to integrate and align (1) FEMA's 4-Phase process with that of the (2) Modified 10-Step CRS process. Table 2-2 provides clarity on the overlap between the two processes that were used to update this HMP - even though neither the County nor adopting jurisdictions participate in CRS. The Plan also clearly articulates the roles and responsibilities for participation as members of the Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee (HMPC). There is also a very nice level of detail and direction about the role of the HMPC to implement and maintain the Plan.

Opportunities for Improvement

State

- Although the first draft of the plan was missing several requirements from Element A, they were generally easy to correct. However, the planning team did not invite neighboring counties to participate until the final draft was done. This met the letter of the requirement but not the intent. Future plan updates need to involve neighboring communities early in the process to create a more holistic and useful plan.

FEMA

- While the HMPC included a diverse group of stakeholders, more involvement from community planners and those with the authority to regulate development should be encouraged. This includes representation from local planning commissions and/or the offices responsible for each jurisdiction's land use and comprehensive planning activities. This would help the Committee develop and incorporate mitigation strategies into existing planning mechanisms and programs, as suggested in the Plan, particularly non-structural mitigation strategies that can be achieved through land use policy or other regulatory measures.
- Between Appendix A, the Capability Assessment, and the planning mechanisms cited on page 2-7, it is clear that a comprehensive list of existing plans, studies, reports, and technical information was reviewed and incorporated into the Plan. For the next update, please add more narrative that explicitly states how each of these resources was used, and where information from the sources may be found in the plan. While there are some citations throughout, it is not completely clear how each item listed was used to inform the Plan.
- To reiterate comments provided by DHSEM, neighboring counties should be invited to participate in the planning process early on. Because hazard risks are shared amongst neighboring communities, there may be opportunities for collaborative mitigation action.
- The Plan indicates that the draft plan was advertised to the public with two separate postings to the GRCO Emergency Management Facebook page and one posting to their twitter feed. While this outreach is good for those that follow Grand County Emergency Management on social media, its reach is likely limited. For future updates, consider other outlets such as press releases to local news and media sources, email lists, and other agency websites to spread the word.
- In the next plan update, consider building a few more specific strategies to foster/support long-term public involvement. Are there annual events or other public-facing opportunities to keep the community informed about the HMP? This would have been great to capture in Section 5.4.

Element B: Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment

Strengths

FEMA

- The justifications for each hazard omitted from the Plan, Table 3-1, are thorough and clearly demonstrate the Planning Team's rational for omission.
- Clear statements were made throughout the Plan to indicate where data and methods were updated for the 2020 update. Additionally, locations in the Plan where stakeholder input was incorporated or used to inform the Plan was also clearly identified.
- The Plan does a great job of identifying critical facilities and other community assets that each jurisdiction deems as extremely important to protect in the event of a disaster. Tables included

in each jurisdictional annex denote asset name, type, replacement value, and hazard specific issues. It is commendable that the Planning Team not only identified facilities and infrastructure of importance, but also inventoried the historic, cultural, and natural assets of value. These resources offer innumerable benefits and it is great to see their protection considered in the mitigation discussion.

- The Plan includes excellent maps detailing hazard susceptibility for the included jurisdictions. The large scale of the wildfire, flood, and landslide maps included in the Plan annexes makes it easy to see the areas within each jurisdiction that are vulnerable to the identified hazard and helps visually communicate risk to property, infrastructure, and people. Additionally, figure 3-28 is helpful to see the WUI communities and their fire risk. This conversation could be build out by including an overlay of demographic/socio-economic data to understand the fire risk to specific populations.
- It is not often that Hazard Mitigation Plans include detailed vulnerability assessments for Special Improvement Districts. The Planning Team is praised for their efforts to capture hazard risk (specifically wildfire risk) for the participating Fire Protection Districts and Water Districts.
- It is great to see that the County is utilizing the State's Future Avoided Cost Explorer (FACE) tool.

Opportunities for Improvement

State

- The first draft of the HIRA was missing a lot of exposure data that is typically available from the County Assessor or relevant state agencies. Some of this is likely due to the pandemic but the requirement still needs to be met. Before the next update, consider adding all County offices and relevant state partners to the team that executes the Implementation and Maintenance strategy. That will help keep that strategy meaningful and will also help keep the team intact for the next five-year update.

FEMA

- As the probably of future occurrences for wildfire is "highly likely", the next update may want to consider including a discussion of the potential of burn scar area(s) increasing the likelihood and intensity of floods and other related hazards post-fire.
- The demographic data presented on page 1-7 reveals that Grand County and Winter Park have relatively large senior populations, 16.7% & 17.6%, respectively. Table 1-3 reveals that 20% of individuals in Kremmling live below poverty. There is a missed opportunity to further investigate the area's demographic data and its relationship to hazard vulnerability and risk. During disasters, populations with higher levels of social vulnerability are more likely to be adversely impacted. As such, knowing which groups are at risk and how and where these groups may be affected during a disaster will help guide allocation of resources and development of a more equitable mitigation strategy.
- Section 1.5.2 provides a thoughtful discussion detailing the impacts of climate change on hazard risk and the potential effect that a changing climate may have on hazard frequency, severity, and extent. However, those changes in long-term weather and climate patterns are not carried

through each profile and the statement of future probability. Rather than simply extrapolating future probability based on past events, consider developing a more comprehensive metric to also include consideration of climate change and/or other events that may increase or decrease hazard frequency.

- The Plan combines hazard profiles for landslide, mud and debris flow, and rock fall, and uses the term “landslide” to encompass all three. It is okay to couple all three in the same profile; however, because each hazard is unique in its origin, frequency, geography, severity, impact, and prevention and response efforts, they should each be discussed independently. This is particularly important as the threat of mud and debris flow is a significant for certain parts of the county due to recent wildfires. Summarizing the characteristics and risk of each individually will help with the creation of targeted mitigation strategies.
- To better link the HIRA with the Mitigation Strategy, consider establishing more direct connections between key vulnerabilities or similar problem statements in *Section 3.4 Risk Assessment Summary* with specific mitigation actions proposed in *Section 4.4.3 Updated Mitigation Action Plan*. For example, where a mitigation action will address a major issue identified for a hazard, consider adding a footnote or cross-reference to the text noting the relevant Action(s) and/or Action Number(s).
- No flood hazard areas are shown for the Town of Kremmling; however, flood is one of the three hazards chosen for a more in-depth vulnerability assessment in the Town specific annex. Why was flood selected instead of dam failure? The Plan assigns dam failure a “high” hazard ranking and indicates that Kremmling is downstream from several high hazard dams. Recognizing the Town’s vulnerability, it is great to see a new action pertaining to creation of a Dam Failure Evacuation and Communication Plan (Kremmling 2020-1).
- Page 3-144 of the Plan states that “it is impossible to identify specific winter weather hazard areas within Grand County, and data was not available to identify specific structures at risk or estimate potential losses to these structures.” While it may be difficult to identify specific locations and quantify monetary loss, it is feasible to identify, map, and/or measure attributes such as vulnerable populations, structural integrity, and landscape or road conditions that factor into vulnerability. Knowing the characteristics to look for can help the community identify actions to reduce risk.

Element C: Mitigation Strategy

Strengths

State

- The updated mitigation strategy does a good job reflecting the risks and priorities within each participating jurisdiction. If implemented, it will definitely reduce long-term risk in the community.

FEMA

- The inventory and assessment of relevant local capabilities is thorough and well organized. The brief descriptions and excerpts from applicable policies, regulations, plans, and programs for

each jurisdiction are helpful, and the tables/matrices used to summarize the inventory and analysis of existing capabilities are very effective. The comprehensive inventory demonstrates that Grand County and the participating jurisdictions are thinking holistically about what already exists within the planning area to accomplish hazard mitigation. The Plan also provides a strong assessment of gaps in existing resources and capabilities, such as staff training and storm preparedness, that should be addressed as part of the Mitigation Strategy. It is wonderful to see that several of the identified opportunities for enhancement have been incorporated into the Plan's Mitigation Strategy.

- The Mitigation Action Matrix (Table 4-3) provides a nicely catalogued summary of each proposed mitigation action/initiative with relevant attribute information. Mapping each action back to its applicable goal(s) is an excellent way to document how specific actions are designed to support a more coordinated strategy for risk reduction. The action worksheets included in each jurisdiction annex are valuable in that they are extremely detailed and present a clear path forward to implement each action.

Note - The inclusion of a '*' for mitigation actions that protect future development from hazards (per DMA 2000 regulations) is a nice technique to provide clarity to action purpose.

- It is great to see several new actions added to the mitigation strategy in response to the East Troublesome fire. New projects such as landslide mapping and risk evaluation (Grand County 2020-2), enhancing river gauge warning systems (Grand County 2020-1), debris flow mitigation (Town of Grand Lake 2020-1), and fire mitigation and fuels reduction (Grand Lake Fire Protection District 2020-8) will be instrumental in reducing risk resulting from the East Troublesome fire and any future related hazard. While several new wildfire actions were included, the hazard profiles and risk assessment summaries gave very little indication that a major fire event had taken place and did not capture the magnitude of secondary impacts that could occur as a result. Given the timing of the fire in late 2020 and submittal of this Plan for DHSEM and FEMA review in early 2021, it is understandable that additional specifics were not incorporated into the risk assessment. What is important is that appropriate steps are being taken to lessen future impacts, and it is evident that the County is seeking to do so through its mitigation strategy.

Opportunities for Improvement

State

- The first draft of this plan did not have a good mitigation strategy and seemed to emphasize the HIRA instead. The HIRA is important as a building block but the mitigation strategy is the purpose of this plan. Throughout the next update, it will be important to have the planning team understand this about the planning process.

FEMA

- A nice addition to Table 4-3 would be a column that identifies the most applicable category for the mitigation actions identified and described on page 4-2 (i.e., Prevention; Property Protection; Structural; Natural Systems Protection; Emergency Services; and Public Information/education and Awareness). This would help ensure that the team not only considers, but also selects for implementation a good variety of actions across mitigation activity types.

- The Town of Hot Sulphur Springs has an identified Special Flood Hazard Area but does not participate in the NFIP. Flood is also identified as a “medium” hazard risk. As such, consider adding NFIP participation as an action for Hot Sulphur Springs. Further, all annexes include the statement: “The Town also needs to further evaluate the seasonal workforce to better understand their impact on the community and what needs to be done to protect them.” This would also be a valuable activity to include in the mitigation strategy.
- The next Plan update should aim to develop focused approaches/strategies (beyond ‘referencing’) to integrate the HMP into other planning mechanisms. For example, Section 5.3 - *Incorporation into Existing Planning Mechanisms* highlights several planning opportunities to integrate the HMP moving forward and goes on to state the “County intends to incorporate information from the multi-hazard mitigation plan into the Emergency Operations Plan, LEPC planning rubric, and County Planning and Zoning planning mechanisms, and to improve integration with the Community Wildfire Protection Plan and the multi-hazard mitigation plan.” Unfortunately, this type of blanket direction may not be effective. The next Plan should provide a deeper analysis about the *how*. It should tell us what HMP information will be integrated or provide a process for how it will be integrated into each community. Creating a standalone mitigation element, as this Plan does for several of its identified planning mechanisms, is a great way to ensure that hazard data is integrated into upcoming plan updates and/or programs.

Element D: Plan Review, Evaluation, and Implementation (Plan Updates Only)

Strengths

FEMA

- The Plan includes a good discussion of the processes undertaken to update the previous version of the hazard mitigation plan document and clearly describes changes that have been made.
- The updated Plan adequately reflects changes in priorities and progress in local mitigation efforts since the previous plan was adopted.
- The Plan clearly identifies and discusses the status for each 2013 HMP project. The review helped guide more specificity to several actions in the new mitigation strategy. Section 5 also does a very good job in detailing a thorough plan Maintenance/Monitoring and Evaluation Process that if followed should provide a healthy structure for tracking and updating mitigation actions.

Opportunities for Improvement

FEMA

- The jurisdiction annexes describe how changes in development from 2013-2020 has altered the risks and vulnerabilities within each jurisdiction. However, only changes in development associated with those hazards highlighted in the jurisdictional annexes are discussed, which includes wildfire, flood, and landslide. In future updates, also describe changes in development in hazard prone area associated with all hazards profiled in the Plan. If development has been minimal, or it has not impacted risk and vulnerability, clearly state that in the Plan.

B. Resources for Implementing Your Approved Plan

FEMA FUNDING SOURCES

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). The HMGP is a post-disaster mitigation program. It is made available to states by FEMA after each Federal disaster declaration. The HMGP can provide up to 75 percent funding for hazard mitigation measures. The HMGP can be used to fund cost-effective projects that will protect public or private property in an area covered by a federal disaster declaration or that will reduce the likely damage from future disasters. Examples of projects include acquisition and demolition of structures in hazard prone areas, flood-proofing or elevation to reduce future damage, minor structural improvements and development of state or local standards. Applicants who are eligible for the HMGP are state and local governments, certain nonprofit organizations or institutions that perform essential government services, and Indian tribes and authorized tribal organizations. Individuals or homeowners cannot apply directly for the HMGP; a local government must apply on their behalf. Applications are submitted to your state and placed in rank order for available funding and submitted to FEMA for final approval. Eligible projects not selected for funding are placed in an inactive status and may be considered as additional HMGP funding becomes available. More information: <https://www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-grant-program>

Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Grant Program. The BRIC program supports states, local communities, tribes and territories as they undertake hazard mitigation projects, reducing the risks they face from disasters and natural hazards. BRIC is a new FEMA pre-disaster hazard mitigation program that replaces the existing Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) program. The BRIC program guiding principles are supporting communities through capability- and capacity-building; encouraging and enabling innovation; promoting partnerships; enabling large projects; maintaining flexibility; and providing consistency: <https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/building-resilient-infrastructure-communities>

Rehabilitation of High Hazard Potential Dams (HHPD) Grant Program. This program provides technical, planning, design, and construction assistance in the form of grants for rehabilitation of eligible high hazard potential dams. For more information, please visit: <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/risk-management/dam-safety/grants#hphpd>

Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Grant Program. FMA provides funding to assist states and communities in implementing measures to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk of flood damage to buildings, manufactured homes, and other structures insurable under the NFIP. The FMA is funded annually; no federal disaster declaration is required. Only NFIP insured homes and businesses are eligible for mitigation in this program. Funding for FMA is very limited and, as with the HMGP, individuals cannot apply directly for the program. Applications must come from local governments or other eligible organizations. The federal cost share for an FMA project is 75 percent. At least 25 percent of the total eligible costs must be provided by a non-federal source. Of this 25 percent, no more than half can be provided as in-kind contributions from third parties. FMA funds are distributed from FEMA to the state. More information: <https://www.fema.gov/flood-mitigation-assistance-grant-program>

Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) Program. The FMAG program provides grants to states, tribal governments and local governments for the mitigation, management and control of any fire burning on publicly (non-federal) or privately owned forest or grassland that threatens such destruction as would constitute a major disaster. The grants are made in the form of cost sharing with the federal share being 75 percent of total eligible costs. Grant approvals are made within 1 to 72 hours from time of request. More information: <http://www.fema.gov/fire-management-assistance-grant-program>

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Post Fire Grant Program. FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) has Post Fire assistance available to help communities implement hazard mitigation measures after wildfire disasters. States, federally-recognized tribes and territories affected by fires resulting in an [Fire Management Assistance Grant \(FMAG\)](#) declaration on or after October 5, 2018, are eligible to apply. More information: <https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/post-fire>

Fire Prevention and Safety (FP&S) Grants. FP&S Grants support projects that enhance the safety of the public and firefighters from fire and related hazards. The primary goal is to target high-risk populations and reduce injury and prevent death. Eligibility includes fire departments, national, regional, state, and local organizations, Native American tribal organizations, and/or community organizations recognized for their experience and expertise in fire prevention and safety programs and activities. Private non-profit and public organizations are also eligible. Interested applicants are advised to check the website periodically for announcements of grant availability: <https://www.fema.gov/welcome-assistance-firefighters-grant-program>

OTHER MITIGATION FUNDING SOURCES

Grant funding is available from a variety of federal and state agencies for training, equipment, and hazard mitigation activities. Several of these programs are described below.

Program 15.228: Wildland Urban Interface Community and Rural Fire Assistance. [This program](#) is designed to implement the National Fire Plan and assist communities at risk from catastrophic wildland fires. The program provides grants, technical assistance, and training for community programs that develop local capability, including: Assessment and planning, mitigation activities, and community and homeowner education and action; hazardous fuels reduction activities, including the training, monitoring or maintenance associated with such hazardous fuels reduction activities, on federal land, or on adjacent nonfederal land for activities that mitigate the threat of catastrophic fire to communities and natural resources in high risk areas; and, enhancement of knowledge and fire protection capability of rural fire districts through assistance in education and training, protective clothing and equipment purchase, and mitigation methods on a cost share basis.

Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act - Title III- County Funds. The Self-Determination Act has recently been reauthorized and now includes specific language regarding the Firewise Communities program. Counties seeking funding under Title III must use the funds to perform work under the Firewise Communities program. Counties applying for Title III funds to implement Firewise activities can assist in all aspects of a community's recognition process, including conducting or assisting with community assessments, helping the community create an action plan, assisting with an

annual Firewise Day, assisting with local wildfire mitigation projects, and communicating with the state liaison and the national program to ensure a smooth application process. Counties that previously used Title III funds for other wildfire preparation activities such as the Fire Safe Councils or similar would be able to carry out many of the same activities as they had before. However, with the new language, counties would be required to show that funds used for these activities were carried out under the Firewise Communities program. For more information, [click here](#).

Community Planning Assistance for Wildfire. Established in 2015 by Headwaters Economics and Wildfire Planning International, Community Planning Assistance for Wildfire (CPAW) works with communities to reduce wildfire risks through improved land use planning. CPAW is a grant-funded program providing communities with professional assistance from foresters, planners, economists and wildfire risk modelers to integrate wildfire mitigation into the development planning process. All services and recommendations are site-specific and come at no cost to the community. More information: <http://planningforwildfire.org/what-we-do/>

Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) Program. A cooperative program of the U.S. Forest Service that focuses on the stewardship of urban natural resources. With 80 percent of the nation's population in urban areas, there are strong environmental, social, and economic cases to be made for the conservation of green spaces to guide growth and revitalize city centers and older suburbs. UCF responds to the needs of urban areas by maintaining, restoring, and improving urban forest ecosystems on more than 70 million acres. Through these efforts the program encourages and promotes the creation of healthier, more livable urban environments across the nation. These grant programs are focused on issues and landscapes of national importance and prioritized through state and regional assessments. Information: <http://www.fs.fed.us/managing-land/urban-forests/ucf>

Western Wildland Urban Interface Grants. The National Fire Plan (NFP) is a long-term strategy for reducing the effects of catastrophic wildfires throughout the nation. The Division of Forestry's NFP Program is implemented within the Division's Fire and Aviation Program through the existing USDA Forest Service, State & Private Forestry, State Fire Assistance Program.

Congress has provided increased funding assistance to states through the U.S. Forest Service State and Private Forestry programs since 2001. The focus of much of this additional funding was mitigating risk in WUI areas. In the West, the State Fire Assistance funding is available and awarded through a competitive process with emphasis on hazard fuel reduction, information and education, and community and homeowner action. This portion of the National Fire Plan was developed to assist interface communities manage the unique hazards they find around them. Long-term solutions to interface challenges require informing and educating people who live in these areas about what they and their local organizations can do to mitigate these hazards.

The 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy focuses on assisting people and communities in the WUI to moderate the threat of catastrophic fire through the four broad goals of improving prevention and suppression, reducing hazardous fuels, restoring fire-adapted ecosystems, and promoting community assistance. The Western States Wildland Urban Interface Grant may be used to apply for financial assistance towards hazardous fuels and educational projects within the four goals of: improved

prevention, reduction of hazardous fuels, and restoration of fire-adapted ecosystems and promotion of community assistance. More information: <https://www.westernforesters.org/wui-grants>

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Rural Fire Assistance Grants. Each year, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) provides Rural Fire Assistance (RFA) grants to neighboring community fire departments to enhance local wildfire protection, purchase equipment, and train volunteer firefighters. Service fire staff also assist directly with community projects. These efforts reduce the risk to human life and better permit FWS firefighters to interact and work with community fire organizations when fighting wildfires. The Department of the Interior (DOI) receives an appropriated budget each year for an RFA grant program. The maximum award per grant is \$20,000. The DOI assistance program targets rural and volunteer fire departments that routinely help fight fire on or near DOI lands. More information: http://www.fws.gov/fire/living_with_fire/rural_fire_assistance.shtml

U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Community Assistance Program. BLM provides funds to communities through assistance agreements to complete mitigation projects, education and planning within the WUI. More information: <https://www.blm.gov/services/financial-assistance-and-grants>

NOAA Office of Education Grants. The Office of Education supports formal, informal and non-formal education projects and programs through competitively awarded grants and cooperative agreements to a variety of educational institutions and organizations in the United States. More information: <http://www.noaa.gov/office-education/grants>

NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). The Environmental Quality Incentives Program, administered through the NRCS, is a cost-share program that provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to plan and implement conservation practices that improve soil, water, plant, animal, air and related natural resources on agricultural land and non-industrial private forestland. Owners of land in agricultural or forest production or persons who are engaged in livestock, agricultural or forest production on eligible land and that have a natural resource concern on that land may apply to participate in EQIP. Eligible land includes cropland, rangeland, pastureland, non-industrial private forestland and other farm or ranch lands. EQUIP is another funding mechanism for landowner fuel reduction projects. More information: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/eqip/>

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Community Facilities Loans and Grants. Provides grants (and loans) to cities, counties, states and other public entities to improve community facilities for essential services to rural residents. Projects can include fire and rescue services; funds have been provided to purchase fire-fighting equipment for rural areas. No match is required. More information: http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?navid=GRANTS_LOANS

General Services Administration, Sale of Federal Surplus Personal Property. This program sells property no longer needed by the federal government. The program provides individuals, businesses and organizations the opportunity to enter competitive bids for purchase of a wide variety of personal

FEMA: Building Science. The Building Science branch develops and produces multi-hazard mitigation publications, guidance materials, tools, technical bulletins, and recovery advisories that incorporate the most up-to-date building codes, floodproofing requirements, seismic design standards, and wind design requirements for new construction and the repair of existing buildings. To learn more, visit:

<https://www.fema.gov/building-science>

NOAA/NIDIS: U.S. Drought Portal. NOAA's National Integrated Drought Information System's [Drought Portal](#) provides resources for communities to understand their drought conditions, vulnerability, and impacts. The Portal includes data and maps down by city, county, state, zip code, and at watershed global scales. Communities can use this information to inform their hazard mitigation plans with update-to-date data regarding drought conditions, vulnerability, and impacts for sectors such as agriculture, water utilities, energy, and recreation.

EPA: Smart Growth in Small Towns and Rural Communities. EPA has consolidated resources just for small towns and rural communities to help them achieve their goals for growth and development while maintaining their distinctive rural character. To learn more, visit:

<https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/smart-growth-small-towns-and-rural-communities>

EPA: Hazard Mitigation for Natural Disasters: A Starter Guide for Water and Wastewater Utilities. The EPA released guidance on how to mitigate natural disasters specifically for water and wastewater utilities. For more information, visit: <https://www.epa.gov/waterutilityresponse/hazard-mitigation-natural-disasters>

National Integrated Drought Information System. The National Drought Resilience Partnership may provide some additional resources and ideas to mitigate drought hazards and increase awareness of droughts. Visit: <https://www.drought.gov/drought/what-nidis/national-drought-resilience-partnership>.

Beyond the Basics: Best Practices in Local Mitigation Planning. The product of a 5-year research study where the Coastal Hazards Center and the Center for Sustainable Community Design analyzed local mitigation plans to assess their content and quality. The website features numerous examples and best practices that were drawn from the analyzed plans. Visit: <http://mitigationguide.org/>

STAR Community Rating System. Consider measuring your mitigation success by participating in the STAR Community Rating System. Local leaders can use the STAR Community Rating System to assess how sustainable they are, set goals for moving ahead and measure progress along the way. To get started, go to <http://www.starcommunities.org/get-started>

Flood Economics. The Economist Intelligence Unit analyzed case studies and state-level mitigation data in order to gain a better understanding of the economic imperatives for investment in flood mitigation. To learn more, visit: <http://floodeconomics.com/>

Headwaters Economics. Headwaters Economics is an independent, nonprofit research group that works to improve community development and land management decisions in the West. To learn more, visit: <https://headwaterseconomics.org/>