AGENDA ITEM or FINAL CONTRACT REVIEW SUBMITTAL FORM

AgendaTitle:
Gunnison County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan; Comprehensive Update October 2012

Action Requested: Motion

Parties to the Agreement:

Term Begins: **Term Ends:** **Grant Contract #:**

Summary:
The Gunnison County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan was competed in Oct 2012, and after incorporating changes recommended by FEMA, FEMA approved the plan in March. Adoption of the plan makes adopting agencies eligible for a number of mitigation and recovery grants

Fiscal Impact: No immediate impact. Potential future impact if mitigation.

Submitted by: Scott Morrill **Submitter's Email Address:** smorrill@gunnisoncounty.org

Finance Review: ○ Required ◉ Not Required

Comments:

Reviewed by: Discharge Date:

County Attorney Review: ◉ Required ○ Not Required

Comments:

Reviewed by: DBaumgarten Discharge Date: 6/10/2013 Certificate of Insurance Required Yes ○ No ◉

County Manager Review:

Comments:

Reviewed by: MBirnie Discharge Date: 6/10/2013

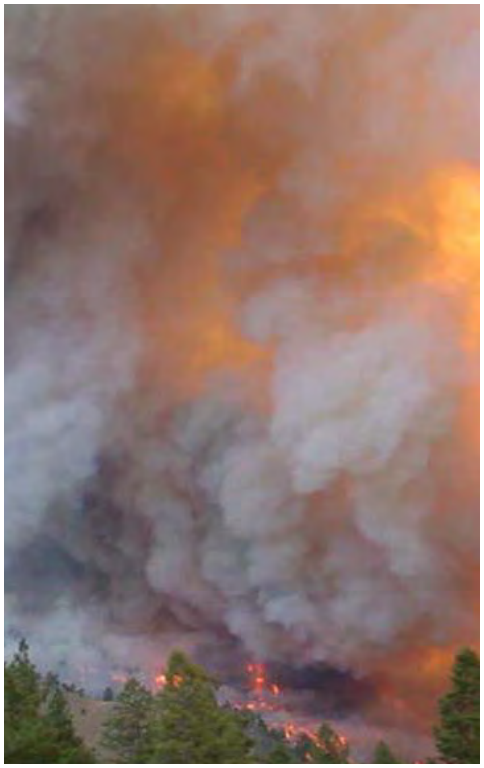
○ Consent Agenda ◉ Regular Agenda ○ Worksession Time Allotted: 5 minutes

Agenda Date: 6/18/2013 Follow Up Agenda Date: N/A

Revised April 2013

Gunnison County
Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan

Comprehensive Update
October 2012



Gunnison County
COLORADO

amec

Gunnison County
Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan

Comprehensive Update
October 2012

Developed by Gunnison County with professional planning assistance from
AMEC Environment and Infrastructure
Hazard Mitigation and Emergency Management Program

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GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose

Gunnison County, Colorado, including the participating jurisdictions and special districts of the City of Gunnison, Town of Crested Butte, Town of Mt. Crested Butte, Arrowhead Fire Protection District (FPD), Crested Butte FPD, and the Crested Butte South Metropolitan District, has prepared this natural hazard mitigation plan (HMP) update to guide hazard mitigation planning to better protect the people and property of the County from the effects of hazard events. This plan update demonstrates the community's commitment to reducing risks from hazards and serves as a tool to help decision makers direct mitigation activities and resources. This plan was also developed to make Gunnison County and participating jurisdictions eligible for certain federal disaster assistance, specifically, the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) and Pre-Disaster Mitigation program, as well as to make the County more disaster resistant. Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) and other funding opportunities may be available.

The plan update covers the Gunnison County response area, which includes the entirety of Gunnison County and the northwestern portion of neighboring Saguache County. Additionally, approximately 78% of the land in Gunnison County is owned and managed by the U.S. Forest Services (USFS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM). While the federal government ultimately has jurisdiction in these parts of the County, the Gunnison County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan update could be used to support federal hazard mitigation efforts. In particular, the hazard profiles and risk assessments in the plan update could be useful for supporting the federal government's efforts related to wildland fire and watershed protection.

1.2 Background and Scope

Each year in the United States, disasters take the lives of hundreds of people and injure thousands more. Nationwide, taxpayers pay billions of dollars annually to help communities, organizations, businesses, and individuals recover from disasters. These monies only partially reflect the true cost of disasters, because additional expenses to insurance companies and nongovernmental organizations are not reimbursed by tax dollars. Many disasters are predictable, and much of the damage caused by these events can be alleviated or even eliminated.

Hazard mitigation is defined by FEMA as "any sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to human life and property from a hazard event." The results of a three-year, congressionally mandated independent study to assess future savings from mitigation activities provides evidence that mitigation activities are highly cost-effective. On average, each dollar spent on mitigation saves society an average of $4 in avoided future losses in addition to saving lives and preventing injuries (National Institute of Building Science Multi-Hazard Mitigation Council 2005).

Hazard mitigation planning is the process through which hazards that threaten communities are identified, likely impacts of those hazards are determined, mitigation goals are set, and appropriate strategies to lessen impacts are determined, prioritized, and implemented. This plan documents Gunnison County's Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan update process, identifies relevant hazards and risks, and identifies the strategy the County and participating jurisdictions will use to decrease vulnerability and increase resiliency and sustainability.

This plan update was prepared pursuant to the requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-390) and the implementing regulations set forth by the Interim Final Rule published in the *Federal Register* on February 26, 2002 (44 CFR §201.6) and finalized on October 31, 2007. (Hereafter, these requirements and regulations will be referred to collectively as the Disaster Mitigation Act or DMA.) While the act emphasized the need for mitigation plans and more coordinated mitigation planning and implementation efforts, the regulations established the requirements that local hazard mitigation plans must meet in order for a local jurisdiction to be eligible for certain federal disaster assistance and hazard mitigation funding under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Act (Public Law 93-288). Because the Gunnison County response area is subject to many kinds of hazards, access to these programs is vital.

Gunnison County's Local Emergency Planning Committee began efforts to create the County's first hazard mitigation plan in September 2002. The first plan was adopted and approved by FEMA in 2003. During that time period, the Colorado Division of Emergency Management established a goal for all communities in the state to develop local hazard mitigation plans. Gunnison County was the first county in the state to prepare a hazard mitigation plan approved by FEMA. The plan was updated in 2012 according to the five year update requirement. Information in this plan update will be used to help guide and coordinate mitigation activities and decisions for local land use policy in the future. Proactive mitigation planning will help reduce the cost of disaster response and recovery to the community and its property owners by protecting critical community facilities, reducing liability exposure, and minimizing overall community impacts and disruption. The Gunnison County response area has been affected by hazards in the past and is thus committed to reducing future disaster impacts and maintaining eligibility for federal funding.

1.3 Multi-Jurisdictional Planning

This plan was prepared as a multi-jurisdictional plan. The planning area encompasses all of Gunnison County, the City of Gunnison, Town of Crested Butte, Town of Mt. Crested Butte, Arrowhead FPD, Crested Butte FPD, Crested Butte South Metropolitan District, and the northwestern portion of Saguache County within the Gunnison County response area. All local units of government in the County were invited to participate in the planning process. The decision whether or not to participate in this process was a local decision, based on local community needs. Local governments have the options not to prepare a plan, to prepare a stand-alone plan for their jurisdiction, or to participate in a multi-jurisdiction or county-wide plan. The

following entities meet the definition of a local government per the DMA regulations and have opted to participate in this effort and are seeking FEMA approval of the 2012 version of this plan. Entities that participated in the plan are noted below. Additional detail about participation can be referenced in Chapter 3, and Appendices B and C.

Participating entities

Gunnison County

City of Gunnison

Town of Crested Butte

Town of Mt. Crested Butte

Arrowhead FPD

Crested Butte FPD

Crested Butte South Metropolitan District

1.4 Plan Organization

The Gunnison County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan is organized as follows:

- Chapter 1: Introduction
- Chapter 2: Community Profile
- Chapter 3: Planning Process
- Chapter 4: Risk Assessment
- Chapter 5: Mitigation Strategy
- Chapter 6: Plan Adoption
- Chapter 7: Plan Implementation and Maintenance

Appendix A includes further details on the hazard mitigation action items identified in Chapter 5 and is a key aspect of this plan. Appendix B catalogs the documents used during the 2012 planning process, such as meeting sign in sheets, meeting minutes, public notices, etc. Appendix C lists the members who served on the 2012 Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee (HMPC). A list of references is provided in Appendix D, and a draft plan adoption ordinance is available for the HMPC's reference in Appendix E. Appendix F contains several maps in 11"x17" format.