Wyoming's

Five-Year Floodplain Management Work Plan

Purpose: The purpose of this work plan is for the benefit of the Wyoming communities so that the risk and damages are minimized and environmental values are protected; thus, this outline will illustrate two primary objectives to meet this need: (1) Educate and increase community participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) by increasing public awareness, benefits of participation, and the benefits of flood insurance. (2) The State of Wyoming will fully support and participate in the Multi-Hazard Flood Map Modernization Program at the mid-level by increasing the level of participation in mapping activities.

I. State Authority:

The State of Wyoming, Office of Homeland Security/Emergency Management (WOHS/EM), recognizes the importance of floodplain management. In partnership with the federal government, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and the guidance of Code of Federal Regulations 44, this state is achieving the flood loss goals of NFIP. Additionally, Thru the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, as amended; 42 U.S.C. 4001et seq.; Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973, as amended; 42 U.S.C. 40002 et seq.; and National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994, the Community Assistance Program-State Support Services Element (CAP-SSSE) provides this state additional authority.

II. State Vision:

To reduce the risk to life and property, protect the communities and environment from flood loss through sound floodplain management

This agency is being proactive in achieving this vision. Currently, there is an ambitious Community Assistance Visit (CAV) schedule being conducted. This state also recognizes the need for training throughout the state. During the CAVs, extra time is spent with each floodplain managers to provide personal training to ensure their community is receiving the best possible guidance to meet the state's vision.

Every attempt is being made to make contact via CAV or Community Assistance Contact (CAC) with every community in the state within a four-year period. Additionally, we identify new floodplain manager and have them trained within six months after receiving the position.

To reduce the risk of flood loss, this agency along with the Geologic Hazards Section at the Wyoming State Geological Survey is identifying mapping needs, assessments, assisting with outreach, and community coordination on mapping projects (this is outlined in our state Multi-Hazard Flood Map Modernization State Business Case Plan FFY 2004-2008.) This plan identified panels by analyzing and ranking the map age, map status (mapped or unmapped panel), repetitive loss, participation in NFIP, and approximate population increase within 250', 500', and 1,000' of each side of all streams in a panel or jurisdiction. The cooperation with the local communities to ensure the

accuracy of the information on the maps is exemplary. The state has a sound plan in place. Funds to implement the plan to its fullest are not available yet.

Our relationship with the communities is also noteworthy—there is a trust growing stronger each day. The lines of communication are open and the needs of the community are always a top priority with this agency.

Strategy: With the number of communities (80) currently participating in NFIP, our objective is to conduct a CAV or CAC with those communities every four years. This agency also recognizes the need to provide additional assistance to those communities who require it. For example, a new floodplain manager being assigned to a community, or a community growing at a rapid pace, or a community that is predominantly in the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). These are some example to visit those communities in a more frequent basis.

Local ordinances provide a solid foundation to floodplain management. This agency fully supports and assists communities with their ordinances. With forward planning, we get with communities prior to them receiving new maps to ensure their local ordinance is in compliance with NFIP. To this date, this state has managed this process successfully. WOHS/EM will continue to provide samples of ordinance, provide assistance, and review their ordinance for accuracy and compliance prior to adoption. Currently, the state is in the process of remapping Laramie County and have three other proposed counties for future remapping—Albany, Fremont, and Campbell County. These counties will be notified well in advance before the remapping process is implemented to ensure the ordinance is in compliance with NFIP.

Community Information System (CIS) is a valuable tool to record information gathered in a CAV or CAC and to conduct research on a particular community. Currently, we have to input the findings of a CAV/CAC in CIS through FEMA, Region VIII. WOHS/EM and FEMA, Region VIII is working together to fix the problem so this agency can gain access to CIS without going through FEMA VIII. Until then, CIS will be update in a timely manner by continuing to send a detail report to FEMA, Region VIII on the findings of a CAV/CAC.

One forum to help increase public awareness of NFIP, benefits of participation, and benefits of flood insurance is to produce a newsletter for floodplain managers and elected officials. Currently, this office is producing a detailed newsletter, “Rising Waters”, quarterly covering an array of subjects relating to the program. Additionally, WOHS/EM Public Affairs Office produces a monthly “Coordinator’s Courier” newsletter and this newsletter periodically addresses NFIP issues. And through partnership with Wyoming State Geological Survey, a web site was developed to cross talk and assist the local communities with mapping issues. This agency feels very strongly about keeping the citizens informed on the most current information available. Additionally, we revised our state floodplain manager’s guide November 2003 and disseminated the guide to all the administrators. This office will continue to review the guide annually. Another forum used by this office to assist floodplain managers are easy to read pamphlets. We develop

and disseminate several informational pamphlets ranging from personal information about NFIP to assisting community officials with NFIP.

Training is a must to have a successful floodplain management program. Each year this agency conducted a workshop for all of the floodplain managers in the state. This training usually consists of the basic subjects needed to assist the floodplain managers with their duties and responsibilities. Additionally, when a CAV is being conducted, personal training is conducted. To receive more personal and specialized training, this agency will conduct two regional training sessions per year. The purpose of this is to have smaller workshops and to personalize the training to fit the needs of the floodplain managers. Additionally, this philosophy of training will assist those newly assigned floodplain managers to receive the training as soon as possible and achieve and maintain a 95% trained level by FY 07.

One of WOHS/EM quests is provide assistance to communities after a disaster. This agency has processes in place to assist communities after a flood. During the last flood in Wyoming, the community of Kaycee, we had several representatives from WOHS/EM in Kaycee within hours. With the assistance of FEMA, Region VIII, we conducted a Preliminary Damage Assessment on the community. An in-depth checklist was followed to ensure all critical tasks were addressed. Additionally, the agency has a traveling kit/equipment to assist the team—Advance Wyoming Assessment and Recovery Team (AWAY Team). After each event the AWAY Team is deployed out to the disaster, a "hot wash" is conducted to learn, pass-on, and improve the process. This procedure has worked well in the past and WOHS/EM will continue with this process.

Flexibility is a key to success. Over the next two years, this agency is going to make every attempt possible to conduct a CAV with all the communities in the State of Wyoming. This is a priority. During these CAVs, additional briefings, review of possible new ordinance, and training will be conducted as needed. Also, WOHS/EM will communicate to those communities who are not in NFIP and Community Rating System and promote these programs—this will be discussed more in section IV. Years 2006-8 we will be focusing on promoting programs associated with NFIP. The state NFIP coordinator is constantly traveling throughout the state. During the coordinator's travels, short visits will be made to solicit the needs of the communities.

IV. Needs Analysis and Gap Assessments:

As mentioned on the State's Business Plan, FEMA, Region VIII, and their subcontractors have initiated or will soon initiate a number of mapping projects in Wyoming, as shown in the table 1. The projects are listed by the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) project initiation date.

FFY Project Initiation Date	Mapping Area
2001	Sundance (Sundance Creek)
2002	Laramie County (Allison Draw)
2003	Worland (Mary River) Worland (Sage Creek) Teton County (Flat Creek, Snake River)
2004	Kaycee (power River)
2004 (Proposed)	Albany County Fremont County Campbell County

Table 1 (On-Going Projects)

Listed in table 2 below is the State Business Plan County Mapping Priorities/Cost for the next 4 years:

County	FFY	Category	FEMA Cost
Uinta	2005	High	$526,850
Park	2005	High	$656,550
Converse	2005	Medium	$206,100
Lincoln	2005	Medium	$381,700
Big Horn	2006	Medium	$717,750
Sweetwater	2006	Medium	$267,200
Sheridan	2006	Medium	$91,600
Sublette	2006	Medium	$664,350
Johnson	2007	Medium	$45,800
Platte	2007	Medium	$206,100
Goshen	2007	Low	$68,700
Carbon	2007	Low	$206,150
Washakie	2008	Low	$68,700
Crook	2008	Low	$68,700
Niobrara	2008	Low	$45,800
Hot Springs	2008	Low	$91,600

Table 2 (County Mapping Priority)

Additionally, FEMA, Region VIII, has developed a list of probable future mapping projects for the State of Wyoming. The probable mapping projects are as follows:

Cheyenne/Laramie County (Currently being remapped)
Kemmerer-Lincoln County*
Douglas-North Platte River-Converse County*
Hulett-Crook County*
Thermopolis Area-Hot Springs County*

* (Currently recognized that these communities need to be remapped and most likely be done during the county mapping projects. However, special circumstances may necessitate the need to accelerate the mapping process in these communities.)
This state has a sound business plan in effect. Priorities in mapping are identified; thus, as monies come available, to include additional funds, WOHS/EM has a plan to spend those funds.

Map Modernization Activities: Joining forces with Wyoming State Geological Survey team, we are assisting the communities throughout the state at a mid-level participation. We are performing a majority of the mapping needs assessment and assist with outreach, and community coordination on mapping projects. Again, as funds become available, the State of Wyoming through the Wyoming State Geological Survey, will assist in the following activities:

- Seek out and acquire, when feasible, flood data, new digital contour base maps, digital photography, and community profile information
- Generate a digital base map inventory
- Utilize HAZUS MH to generate flood maps using available data
- Coordinate with all communities in Wyoming in regards to Map Modernization and flood data, and determine community mapping needs
- Coordinate with FEMA on mapping needs
- Continue to maintain a website and database of available flood and base map data
- Organize and participate in outreach activities, to include mailing, meeting, and multi-media promotional activities

The State Business Plan and this plan are flexible, a living document, to meet the needs of the communities. These plan will be reviewed and a minimum on an annual basis. This agency will continue to maintain close communication with those communities who are about to receive new maps and provide the necessary guidance to adopt the new maps. The state floodplain management program will also support the plans by continuing with educating and increasing community participation in NFIP by increasing public awareness benefits of participation, and the benefits of flood insurance.

VI. Performance Measures:

TASK	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
25% of the Communities Receiving CAV/CAC	20	20	20	20	20
County maps upgraded based on state business plan/available funds	4	4	4	4	0
CIS Input/Update entries	20	20	20	20	20
Produce quarterly NFIP newsletter	4	4	4	4	4

Conduct regional training	2	2	2	2	2
Maintain a 100% community map adoption	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Increase community participation in the CRS program	1	1	1	1	1
Increase certified floodplain managers in the state	1	1	1	1	1