

Chapter 1

1 Overview of this Plan and its Development

This Multi - Hazard Mitigation Plan for Stevens County, Washington, is the result of analyses, professional cooperation and collaboration, assessments of hazard risks and other factors considered with the intent to reduce the potential for hazards to threaten people, structures, infrastructure, and unique ecosystems in Stevens County, Washington. The planning team responsible for implementing this project was led by the Stevens County Commissioners. Agencies and organizations that participated in the planning process included:

- Stevens County Commissioners and County Departments
- Stevens County Fire Districts
- City of Colville Fire Department
- City of Chewelah Fire Department
- Town of Northport Fire Department
- City of Kettle Falls Fire Department
- City of Colville
- City of Chewelah
- City of Kettle Falls
- Town of Marcus
- Town of Springdale
- Town of Northport
- Washington Department of Natural Resources
- Washington Military Department, Emergency Management Division
- U.S. Border Patrol
- Washington Department of Ecology
- Stevens County Conservation District
- Avista Utilities
- National Forest Foundation
- Northeast Washington Forestry Coalition
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- USDA Forest Service
- 49° North Ski Resort
- Northwest Management, Inc.

In March of 2007, Stevens County solicited competitive bids from companies to provide the service of leading the assessment, developing the data, and writing the **Stevens County Multi - Hazard Mitigation Plan** as well as the completion of the **Stevens County Community Wildfire Protection Plan**. Northwest Management, Inc. was selected to provide this service to the County. Northwest Management, Inc. is a professional natural resources consulting firm located in Moscow, Idaho. Established in 1984 NMI provides natural resource management services across the USA. The Project Co-Managers from Northwest Management, Inc. were Mr. Vaiden Bloch and Mrs. Tera R. King.

1.1 *Phase I Hazard Assessment for Stevens County*

The Multi - Hazards Mitigation Plan is developed in accordance with the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) guidelines for a county level pre-disaster mitigation plan and the Washington Military Department, Emergency Management Division.

The Phase I Assessment for Stevens County was conducted to determine the relative likelihood of a hazard's occurrence and the potential damage to people, property, infrastructure, and the economy. This assessment is summarized in Table 1.1.

Table 1.1. Phase I Hazard Assessment of Stevens County.

| | | | | |
|--|---------------|----------------------|---|--|
| Probability of Occurrence | High | | Severe Weather Flood Hazardous Materials | Wildland Fire |
| | Medium | | | |
| | Low | Volcano Avalanche | Terrorism/Civil Unrest Landslide | Earthquake Pandemic Dam Failure |
| | | Low | Medium | High |
| Potential to Impact People, Structures, Infrastructure, and the Economy | | | | |

1.1.1 Hazards Addressed in this Plan

This Multi - Hazard Mitigation Plan will include assessment of a variety of hazards including:

- Flood
- Landslide
- Earthquake
- Severe Weather
- Wildland Fire
- Terrorism & Civil Unrest

1.1.2 Other Hazards Not Addressed in this Plan

Due to funding limitations and the results of the Phase I Hazard Profile, Stevens County and participating jurisdictions have decided not to assess the following hazards until additional funding has become available. At such a time, the Multi - Hazard Mitigation Plan will be revised to include the additional hazards, and others as may become evident.

- Avalanche
- Volcano
- Hazardous Materials
- Pandemic
- Dam Failure

1.2 Goals and Guiding Principles

1.2.1 Federal Emergency Management Agency Philosophy

Effective November 1, 2004, an Multi - Hazard Mitigation Plan approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is required for Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) and Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program (PDM) eligibility. The HMGP and PDM program provide funding, through state emergency management agencies, to support local mitigation planning and projects to reduce potential disaster damages.

The new local Multi - Hazard Mitigation Plan requirements for HMGP and PDM eligibility is based on the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, which amended the Stafford Disaster Relief Act to promote an integrated, cost effective approach to mitigation. Local Multi - Hazard Mitigation

Plans must meet the minimum requirements of the Stafford Act-Section 322, as outlined in the criteria contained in 44 CFR Part 201. The plan criteria cover the planning process, risk assessment, mitigation strategy, plan maintenance, and adoption requirements.

FEMA will only review a local Multi - Hazard Mitigation Plan submitted through the appropriate State Hazard Mitigation Officer (SHMO). Draft versions of local Multi - Hazard Mitigation Plans will not be reviewed by FEMA. FEMA will review the final version of a plan prior to local adoption to determine if the plan meets the criteria, but FEMA will be unable to approve it prior to adoption.

In Washington the SHMO is:

Mark Stewart
Washington Military Department
Emergency Management Division
Building 20, M/S: TA-20
Camp Murray, WA 98430-5122

A FEMA designed plan will be evaluated on its adherence to a variety of criteria.

- Adoption by the Local Governing Body
- Multi-jurisdictional Plan Adoption
- Multi-jurisdictional Planning Participation
- Documentation of Planning Process
- Identifying Hazards
- Profiling Hazard Events
- Assessing Vulnerability: Identifying Assets
- Assessing Vulnerability: Estimating Potential Losses
- Assessing Vulnerability: Analyzing Development Trends
- Multi-jurisdictional Risk Assessment
- Local Hazard Mitigation Goals
- Identification and Analysis of Mitigation Measures
- Implementation of Mitigation Measures
- Multi-jurisdictional Mitigation Strategy
- Monitoring, Evaluating, and Updating the Plan
- Implementation Through Existing Programs
- Continued Public Involvement

1.2.2 Additional State and Federal Guidelines Adopted

The Community Wildfire Protection Plan component of this Multi - Hazard Mitigation Plan will include compatibility with FEMA requirements while also adhering to the guidelines proposed in the National Fire Plan, the Washington Statewide Implementation Plan, and the Healthy Forests Restoration Act (2004). The Community Wildfire Protection Plan has been prepared in compliance with:

- The National Fire Plan; A Collaborative Approach for Reducing Wildland Fire Risks to Communities and the Environment 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy Implementation Plan–May 2002.
- The Washington Statewide Implementation Strategy for the National Fire Plan–July 2002.
- Healthy Forests Restoration Act (2004)

- The Federal Emergency Management Agency’s Region IX guidelines for a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan as defined in 44 CFR parts 201 and 206, and as related to a fire mitigation plan chapter of a Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan.

The objective of combining these four complimentary guidelines is to facilitate an integrated wildland fire risk assessment, identify pre-hazard mitigation activities, and prioritize activities and efforts to achieve the protection of people, structures, the environment, and significant infrastructure in Stevens County while facilitating new opportunities for pre-disaster mitigation funding and cooperation.

1.2.3 Planning Philosophy and Goals

1.2.3.1 Stevens County Planning Effort and Philosophy

This effort will utilize the best and most appropriate science from all partners, the integration of local and regional knowledge about man made and natural hazards, while meeting the needs of local citizens, the regional economy, the significance of this region to the rest of Washington and the Inland West.

1.2.3.1.1 Mission Statement

To make Stevens County residents, communities, state agencies, local governments, and businesses less vulnerable to the effects of natural and man made hazards through the effective administration of hazard mitigation grant programs, hazard risk assessments, wise and efficient infrastructure hardening, and a coordinated approach to mitigation policy through federal, state, regional, and local planning efforts. Our combined prioritization will be the protection of people, structures, infrastructure, and unique ecosystems that contribute to our way of life and the sustainability of the local and regional economy.

1.2.3.1.2 Vision Statement

Promote a countywide hazard mitigation ethic through leadership, professionalism, and excellence, leading the way to a safe Stevens County.

1.2.3.1.3 Goals

- This planning process will involve planning for the natural hazards of flood, landslide, earthquake, severe weather, wildfire (incorporated from CWPP), and terrorism & civil unrest.
- Additional hazards will be added to this plan as pre-mitigation planning is completed in the future. Hazardous materials, pandemic outbreak, dam failure, volcano, and avalanche have been identified as the highest priorities.
- Prioritize the protection of people, structures, infrastructure, and unique ecosystems that contribute to our way of life and the sustainability of the local and regional economy.
- Educate communities about the unique challenges of natural hazard preparedness in the county.
- Establish mitigation priorities and develop mitigation strategies in Stevens County
- Strategically locate and plan infrastructure projects that take into consideration the impacts of natural hazards.
- Meet or exceed the requirements of a FEMA Multi - Hazard Mitigation Plan.

1.2.4 Integration with Other Local Planning Documents

During the development of this Multi - Hazard Mitigation Plan several planning and management documents were reviewed in order to avoid conflicting goals and objectives. Existing programs and policies were reviewed in order to identify those that may weaken or enhance the hazard mitigation objectives outlined in this document. The following narratives help identify and briefly describe some of the existing Stevens County planning documents and ordinances considered during the development of this plan.

1.2.4.1 Stevens County Comprehensive Land Use Plan 2006

The Stevens County Land Use Comprehensive Plan was developed to provide a framework of policies which will guide the development of a regulatory environment that will enhance the opportunity to realize the County's vision. It is intended to be a guide for the government of the citizens of Stevens County in identifying and respecting the customs, culture, economic viability, social stability, and quality of life, and then applying those values to growth and development as it occurs in the County.

1.2.4.2 Stevens County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP)

The purpose of the Stevens County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) is to guide organizational behavior before, during and after a disaster. The CEMP develops and describes comprehensive programs that define who does what, when, where, and how, in order to mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from the effects of all types of disasters. The CEMP is intended to minimize the impacts of emergencies and disasters on the people, property, environment, and economy of Stevens County.

1.2.4.3 Colville Border Patrol Station Continuity of Operations Plan

The Colville Border Patrol Station (BPS) Continuity of Operations Plan was developed to establish emergency management and preparation plans to ensure continuity of critical United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP) operations in response to a domestic crisis, a severe emergency that threatens to curtail or disrupt day-to-day operations, or a national security emergency as directed by the President. The Colville BPS Emergency Preparedness Committee (EPC) has formulated this plan to provide specific guidance to personnel at Colville BPS who are delegated to act for their respective organizations during emergency conditions. The Continuity of Operations Plan provides guidance for the orderly process of deploying of CBP pre-selected personnel to an emergency relocation site (during a national security emergency or other crisis (natural or technological) which renders the Colville BPS unusable.

1.2.4.4 City of Colville Comprehensive Growth Management Plan

The Colville Comprehensive Plan and implementing Zoning and Land Division Ordinances adopted in 1997 clearly states Colville's vision of the future and the process of managing growth that will be followed to achieve it and, to define a coordinated approach to growth and development that will protect the quality of life enjoyed by all residents.

The Colville Comprehensive Growth Management Plan includes information on the history of the city and a description of existing land uses, public facilities and services, housing, and natural resources. The focus of the plan; however, is the goals, standards, and plan maps that will guide the city government's actions over the next twenty years.

1.2.4.5 City of Colville Critical Resource Areas and Flood Management Ordinance

The purpose of Colville's Critical Resource Areas Ordinance is to protect and preserve critical environmental resources while allowing appropriate development activities when carried out in a responsible manner with minimal impacts on the environmental resources. In addition, the purpose is to protect the public health, welfare and safety of residents of Colville from development in hazardous areas.

The purpose of the Flood Management Ordinance is to minimize public and private losses due to flood conditions in specific areas designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Federal Insurance Administration. The Flood Management Overlay District is intended to meet the requirements of the federal government to maintain the town's eligibility for resident participation in the flood insurance program. The areas of special flood hazard are identified on the Flood Insurance Rate Maps and Flood Boundary-Floodway maps. The flood hazard area includes land within the 100-year floodplain and the floodway. The floodway area includes the channel or other watercourse and adjacent land areas that must be reserved in order to discharge the base flood without cumulatively increasing the water surface elevation more than one (1) foot. For areas of special flood hazard studied in detail, the floodway boundary is delineated upon the Flood Insurance Rate Maps.

1.2.4.6 Town of Marcus Comprehensive Growth Management Plan

The Marcus Comprehensive Growth Management Plan and implementing Unified Development Ordinance adopted in 1997 was prepared for two primary reasons:

- to clearly state Marcus' vision of the future and the process that will be followed to achieve it; and,
- to ensure a coordinated approach to growth and development in Stevens County that will protect the quality of life of both urban and rural residents.

The Marcus Comprehensive Growth Management Plan includes information on the history of the town and a description of existing conditions vis-à-vis land use, public facilities and services, housing, shorelines, and natural resources. The focus of the plan, however, is the goals, policies, standards, and plan maps that will guide the town government's actions over the next twenty years.