Section 17
HIRA Summary

17.1 Summary of HIRA for Planning Area

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Sections 04 through16 of this Plan Update provide the details of the Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment for Ward County and for all incorporated municipalities within Ward County, and provides the mitigation strategy developed for each participating jurisdiction. This section provides a summary of the findings in those sections, applicable to the planning area as a whole.

- The majority of the participating jurisdictions in the Ward County Hazard Mitigation Plan are small, both in area and in population, and have limited resources for hazard mitigation. The exceptions to this are Burlington, Kenmare, Surrey, and Minot, each of whom has varying degrees of resources. All jurisdictions in Ward County, to varying degrees, utilize the resources of the county for disaster preparedness, response, and recovery, for planning, and for hazard mitigation.
- Communicable disease is an emerging concern for the jurisdictions in the planning area. As the population of the are changes and new people move into the area, and as travel in and out of the area increases, the likelihood of exposure to new pathogens and illnesses increases, and poses a greater risk to the population.
- As of this Plan update, drought is not a hazard of concern for the planning area, though this will almost certainly change at some point in the future. North Dakota is in a wet cycle, which will end at some point. Once the current cycle ends, the likelihood of drought will increase, and the vulnerabilities associated with drought will once again become an issue for this largely agricultural area with a large population base.
- Fire is always a hazard of concern, and is a constant threat to the planning area. The emergence of temporary housing areas throughout the planning area increases the vulnerability of the area, as these temporary structures may not have the same level of fire resistance that more traditional structures have. In addition, wildland fire is always a concern in largely rural areas, and Ward County is no exception to this.
- Flooding is a concern for much of the planning area, but not for all of the planning area. For those areas where it is a concern, it is often a significant concern, and the vulnerability is significant.
- Severe summer storms are frequent occurrences that typically cause little damage, though the county and its municipalities are highly vulnerable to the impacts of these storms.
- Severe winter storms are a serious and frequent hazard. Transportation and supply issues are the primary concern, as these storms often leave transportation routes compromised,

which results in inabilities to deliver supplies (such as heating fuel) to areas that are in need.

- Though not a natural hazard, hazardous materials incidents are a significant threat to most of Ward County and the majority of incorporated municipalities. Agriculture, industry, military, and oil – the predominant industries in the planning area – are all typically users of hazardous materials, and those in the planning area are no exception.
- Landslides (Ward County only) are an emerging hazard of concern. As roadways age and hydrology changes, these events are likely to continue, and will likely continue to impact travel and transportation in the impacted areas. In addition, the county must continue to allocate resources towards addressing these incidents – resources that could be allocated elsewhere.

The participating jurisdictions in this Plan Update are aware of the hazards that are most likely to impact them, and are aware of their existing vulnerabilities. They are also aware of their capabilities and capacities, and of those areas that would benefit from additional resources. The mitigation strategies developed for each participating jurisdiction are intended to aid each community with their particular vulnerabilities, and to assist them with building capability and capacity at both the local and regional levels.