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15 2.1 Overview

16 On October 30, 2000, the President signed into law the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, also known as  
17 DMA 2000. Among its other features, DMA 2000 established a requirement that to remain eligible for  
18 federal disaster assistance and mitigation grant funds, local and state governments must develop,  
19 adopt, and adopt hazard mitigation plans. On February 26, 2002, the Federal Emergency  
20 Management Agency (FEMA) published an Interim Final Rule (IFR) that set forth the guidance and  
21 regulations under which such plans are supposed to be developed. The IFR provides detailed  
22 descriptions of both the planning process that states and localities are required to observe and the  
23 contents of the plan that emerges. The IFR was later codified into the Code of Federal Regulations, at  
24 44 CFR, §201.6. This Ward County Hazard Mitigation Plan (the Plan) responds to those requirements.

25

26 The primary point of contact for this Plan is:  
27 Amanda Schooling  
28 Ward County Emergency Management Director  
29 225 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Southeast  
30 Minot, ND 58701  
31 701.857.6534  
32 [amanda.schooling@wardnd.com](mailto:amanda.schooling@wardnd.com)

33

34 The primary point of contact for all participating jurisdictions can be found in Section 18 (*Plan Monitoring  
35 and Maintenance*).

36

37 Hazard mitigation is often defined as actions taken to reduce the effects of natural hazards on a place  
38 and its population. Ward County and its incorporated municipalities developed this Plan because of  
39 increasing awareness that natural hazards have the potential to affect people, physical assets, and  
40 operations throughout the County and Municipalities.

41  
42 The purpose of a hazard mitigation plan is to rationalize the process of determining appropriate  
43 hazard mitigation actions. The document includes a detailed characterization of natural hazards that  
44 can affect the planning area; a risk assessment that describes potential losses to physical assets,  
45 people, and operations; a set of goals and actions that will guide mitigation activities throughout the  
46 planning area; and a detailed plan for implementing and monitoring the Plan.

47  
48 This Plan focuses on seven hazards with potential for damaging physical assets, people, and  
49 operations in the planning area, and an additional hazard that is specific to Ward County. These  
50 hazards are:

- 51
- 52 • Communicable disease
  - 53 • Drought
  - 54 • Fire
  - 55 • Flood
  - 56 • Severe summer storms
  - 57 • Severe winter storms
  - 58 • Hazardous materials incident
  - 59 • Landslides (Ward County only)
- 60

## 61 2.2 Organization of the Plan

62 The Plan is organized to parallel the structure provided in the CFR, and to reflect the changes in the  
63 review process that were implemented in October 2012, with the enactment of the *Local Mitigation Plan*  
64 *Review Guide*. For the ease of review and use, the Plan was significantly reformatted during the 2013  
65 update. That reformat has been maintained in this update. The Plan has 18 sections and several  
66 appendices.

- 67
- 68 Section 01: Table of Contents
  - 69 Section 02: Executive Summary
  - 70 Section 03: Planning Process
  - 71 Section 04: City of Berthold: Profile, HIRA, Capability Assessment, & Mitigation Strategy
  - 72 Section 05: City of Burlington: Profile, HIRA, Capability Assessment, & Mitigation Strategy
  - 73 Section 06: City of Carpio: Profile, HIRA, Capability Assessment, & Mitigation Strategy
  - 74 Section 07: City of Des Lacs: Profile, HIRA, Capability Assessment, & Mitigation Strategy
  - 75 Section 08: City of Donnybrook: Profile, HIRA, Capability Assessment, & Mitigation Strategy
  - 76 Section 09: City of Douglas: Profile, HIRA, Capability Assessment, & Mitigation Strategy
  - 77 Section 10: City of Kenmare: Profile, HIRA, Capability Assessment, & Mitigation Strategy

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78 Section 11: City of Makoti: Profile, HIRA, Capability Assessment, & Mitigation Strategy  
79 Section 12: City of Minot: Profile, HIRA, Capability Assessment, & Mitigation Strategy  
80 Section 13: City of Ryder: Profile, HIRA, Capability Assessment, & Mitigation Strategy  
81 Section 14: City of Sawyer: Profile, HIRA, Capability Assessment, & Mitigation Strategy  
82 Section 15: City of Surrey: Profile, HIRA, Capability Assessment, & Mitigation Strategy  
83 Section 16: Ward County: Profile, HIRA, Capability Assessment, & Mitigation Strategy  
84 Section 17: HIRA Summary  
85 Section 18: Plan Monitoring and Maintenance  
86 Appendices

87  
88 There are references to the CFR requirements throughout the Plan. Where possible, these provide  
89 specific section and subsection notations to aid the review process. A completed Plan Review Tool (PRT) is  
90 included in Appendix E to this Plan.

91

## 92 2.3 Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (HIRA)

93

### 94 2.3.1 Hazard Identification

95 Sections 04-16 of this Plan include detailed descriptions of the process that was used to assess,  
96 prioritize, and update the planning area’s risks from and vulnerability to hazards, qualitative risk  
97 assessments each participating jurisdiction, and more detailed assessments for certain asset classes.  
98 More than 20 hazards were considered by the Ward County Plan Update Advisory Committee (the  
99 Committee). The Committee considered such factors as the history of occurrence, the probability of a  
100 future occurrence, the potential vulnerabilities in their communities, and the availability of data  
101 regarding the hazard. After discussion and consideration, the Committee validated that seven hazards  
102 had the potential to impact the entire planning area, and that an additional hazard presented a risk to  
103 Ward County alone. In addition, the Committee determined that the profile for the flood hazard  
104 should be expanded to include erosion where applicable.

105

### 106 2.3.2 Risk Assessment

107 Risk is a numerical indication of potential future damages. All hazards profiled received a qualitative risk  
108 assessment. This assessment was completed through an exercise conducted at Meeting 2 (documented  
109 in Section 03). Details of this exercise, as well as the results, can be found in Sections 04-16.

110

111 After discussion and consideration, the Committee determined that six of the profiled hazards posed  
112 significant enough risk to warrant a quantitative risk assessment, to include estimates of future damages.

113

## 114 2.4 Mitigation Strategy

115 The Mitigation Strategy is the real-world implementation plan to address the hazards, risks, and  
116 vulnerabilities identified in the HIRA.

117

118 Since the 2013 Plan was approved, Ward County has implemented a wide array of mitigation actions.  
119 Some of these implemented actions were intended to address flooding concerns throughout the County;  
120 others addressed communications, response, and equipment needs throughout the County. Many of  
121 these actions seek or sought to acquire flood-damaged or at-risk properties throughout the County, to  
122 reduce or eliminate the risk to these structures, and the resulting need for response, recovery, and  
123 cleanup, using a variety of funding sources. Additionally, several jurisdictions were awarded funding for  
124 warning siren projects, for emergency power generators, and to design and construct flood protection for  
125 critical infrastructure.

126  
127 Sections 04-16 of this Plan describe the mitigation strategy for the participating jurisdictions. These  
128 sections present the strategy by jurisdiction and priority, and describe the funding required, sources of  
129 funding, the level of support and types of available resources, and the timing of the action.

130

### 131 2.5 Planning Process

132 Section 03 provides details about the process that was used to develop this Plan. The process closely  
133 followed the guidance in the *FEMA 386* series of planning guidance, which recommend a four-stage  
134 process for developing mitigation plans.

135

136 **Step 1: Organizing Resources** is described in Section 03. The section includes details about  
137 who was involved, the processes that were used to establish leadership and advisory groups,  
138 and public and other outreach and involvement efforts.

139

140 **Step 2: Risk Assessment** was completed by the Committee. A Hazard Identification and Risk  
141 Assessment for each participating jurisdiction is included in Sections 04-16 of the Plan.

142

143 **Step 3: Development of the Mitigation Plan** is described in Section 03 and Sections 04 - 16.  
144 Section 03 includes details about who was involved, the processes that were used, and the  
145 products that were developed. Sections 04-16 include specific details about the identification  
146 and development of mitigation goals and actions based upon the HIRA. Section 17 contains a  
147 summary of the HIRA for the planning area.

148

149 **Step 4: Implementing the Plan** is described in Section 18, which includes details about who is  
150 responsible for implementation of specific strategies and actions; and in Section 18, the  
151 Monitoring and Maintenance section, which describes long-term implementation through  
152 periodic updates and reviews.

153

### 154 2.6 Adoption and Approval

155 **Note to reviewers: this language will be updated as the process occurs.**

156 The Committee was responsible for the development and review of this Plan, and recommended that it  
157 be adopted by all participating jurisdictions. Consistent with that recommendation, each governing body  
158 approved this Hazard Mitigation Plan.

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Following approval, the Plan was submitted to the North Dakota Department of Emergency Services (NDDDES) and FEMA Region VIII. NDDDES and FEMA reviewed and approved the Plan in xx. Each jurisdiction then adopted the plan. Copies of all approval and adoption documentation can be found in Appendix B.

### 2.7 Implementation

The implementation process is described as part of the specific actions in the Mitigation Strategy in Sections 04-16, as well as in Section 18 (*Plan Monitoring and Maintenance*).

### 2.8 Monitoring and Updating the Plan

Section 18 (*Plan Monitoring and Maintenance*) describes the schedule and procedures for ensuring that the Plan stays current. The section identifies when the Plan must be updated, who is responsible for monitoring the Plan, and ensuring that the update procedures are implemented. This section provides a combination of cyclical dates (oriented toward FEMA requirements) and triggering events that will initiate amendments and updates to the Plan.

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