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6 17.1 Summary of HIRA for the Planning Area

7 Sections 04 through 16 of this Plan provide the details of the Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment
8 for Ward County and for all incorporated municipalities within Ward County, and provides the mitigation
9 strategy developed for each participating jurisdiction. This section provides a summary of the findings in
10 those sections, applicable to the planning area.

- 11
- 12 • Many participating jurisdictions in the Ward County Hazard Mitigation Plan remain small, both in
13 area and in population, and have limited resources for hazard mitigation. The exceptions to this
14 are Burlington, Kenmare, Surrey, and Minot, each of whom has varying degrees of resources. All
15 jurisdictions in Ward County, to varying degrees, utilize the resources of the county for disaster
16 preparedness, response, and recovery, for planning, and for hazard mitigation.
- 17 • Communicable disease remains an emerging concern for the jurisdictions in the planning area.
18 As the population of the area changes and new people move into the area, and as travel in and out
19 of the area increases, the likelihood of exposure to new pathogens and illnesses increases, and
20 poses a greater risk to the population.
- 21 • As of this Plan update, drought is a hazard of concern for the planning area. After years in a wet
22 cycle, North Dakota is in serious drought.
- 23 • Fire is always a hazard of concern, and is a constant threat to the planning area. The emergence
24 of temporary housing areas throughout the planning area increases the vulnerability of the area,
25 as these temporary structures may not have the same level of fire resistance that more
26 traditional structures have. In addition, wildland fire is always a concern in largely rural areas, and
27 Ward County is no exception to this.
- 28 • Flooding is a concern for much of the planning area, but not for all the planning area. For those
29 areas where it is a concern, it is often a significant concern, and the vulnerability is significant.
30 The area recently received preliminary flood hazard maps from FEMA, and will soon begin the
31 process of reviewing and adopting them.
- 32 • Severe summer storms are frequent occurrences that typically cause little damage, though the
33 county and its municipalities are highly vulnerable to the impacts of these storms.
- 34 • Severe winter storms are a serious and frequent hazard. Transportation and supply issues are the
35 primary concern, as these storms often leave transportation routes compromised, which results
36 in inability to deliver supplies (such as heating fuel) to areas that are in need.
- 37 • Though not a natural hazard, hazardous materials incidents are a significant threat to most of
38 Ward County and most incorporated municipalities. Agriculture, industry, military, and oil – the

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39 predominant industries in the planning area – are all typically users of hazardous materials, and
40 those in the planning area are no exception.

- 41 • Landslides (Ward County only) are hazard of concern. As roadways age and hydrology changes,
42 these events are likely to continue, and will likely continue to impact travel and transportation in
43 the impacted areas. In addition, the County must continue to allocate resources towards
44 addressing these incidents – resources that could be allocated elsewhere.

45

46 Development and population growth are occurring in some parts of the planning area, but not in all parts
47 of the area. The growth is heavily concentrated in Minot; other municipalities are experiencing decline in
48 both population and development.

49

50 Some jurisdictions, such as Minot, have significant planning infrastructure, and so have formalized plans
51 to guide future development. Most jurisdictions, however, do not have this infrastructure, or any
52 published guidance regarding development.

53

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

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