

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

State and local governments must continue to improve their ability to respond to natural hazards. To that end, it is imperative that different levels of government be able to cooperate with one another in developing approaches and responses that mitigate hazards. In Colorado, many state departments are responsible for mitigating the effects of hazards.

Many federal agencies provide funding for mitigation projects. The USDA Forest Service (USFS) and USDI (BLM), through the National Fire Plan and other sources, provide funding for fire mitigation. The USDA Farm Services Agency provides assistance after disaster declarations. The Natural Resources Conservation Service, through the Emergency Watershed Protection Program provide funds for recovery. The Small Business Administration (SBA) provides grants and loans after disaster and drought declarations. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) provides financial and technical assistance to state and local governments following presidential disaster and emergency declarations. Local governments are the driving force in mitigation planning and project implementation because the majority of natural hazard mitigation occurs at the local government level.

In October 2000, the United States Congress passed the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, now referred to as DMA 2000. The Act amended the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act of 1989 (Public Law 93-288, as amended) which serves as the mechanism through which the federal government delivers financial and technical assistance to state and local governments following presidential disaster and emergency declarations. DMA 2000 addresses our country's continuing need to reduce or eliminate the effects of natural hazards. Section 322 of DMA 2000 requires that all state hazard mitigation plans be updated to reflect the changes set forth in the Act. In Colorado, the mitigation plans are Part III of the state emergency operations plan. By amending the current Colorado natural hazards mitigation planning documents, Colorado state agencies and local governments remain eligible to receive pre- and post-disaster assistance from the federal government. The Colorado Division of Emergency Management (CDEM) has the statutory responsibility to update and revise the Colorado Natural Hazards

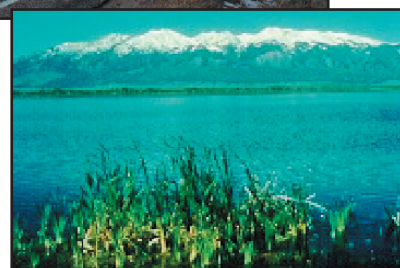
Mitigation Plan umbrella document. Other state departments carry the responsibility and mechanisms for updating the annexes. The State assures that it will comply with all applicable Federal statutes and regulations in effect with respect to the periods for which it receives grant funding in compliance with 44 CFR part 13.11(c). The State will amend its plan whenever necessary to reflect changes in State or Federal laws and statutes as required in 13.11(d).

In order to complete the revision process, a state hazard mitigation team was convened, several group meetings were held, input was collected from various sources, and concurrent assessment projects were completed. State agency issues and potential projects are addressed in the umbrella plan and annexes.

Separate mitigation plans are not required from state departments that participated in the process because they are subgrantees to CDEM.

Local mitigation planning efforts were integrated into the state plan. The results of the plan were based on best available data from the state departments and local governments that participated in the process. In some cases, information from state and federal departments did not exist in a usable format. Nonetheless, all available and current data was utilized to meet the requirements.

Each city and county in Colorado can use the results of its data collection efforts to develop goals and prioritize actions. The priorities will differ from jurisdiction to jurisdiction.



The following goals and objectives were identified through the process. Actions are listed in an appendix, under Goals, Objectives, and Actions.

**Goal: Reduce the loss of life and personal injuries from natural hazard events.**

- Obj: Strengthen early notification and warning systems at the federal, state, regional, and local levels of government.
- Obj: Strengthen communications systems at the state, regional, and local government levels.
- Obj: Ensure people have safe places to remain and/or appropriate supplies during a natural hazard event.
- Obj: Assist communities interested in adopting or revising building codes, design standards, and land development regulations.
- Obj: Identify dangerous locations for natural hazards.
- Obj: Identify zones of vulnerabilities and capacities.
- Obj: Continue to develop and expand public awareness and information programs.
- Obj: Develop projects with safety components aimed at preventing loss of life and injuries from natural hazards.

**Goal: Reduce damage to state critical, essential, and necessary assets.**

- Obj: Identify state critical assets.
- Obj: Implement projects to protect state critical assets in natural hazard risk areas.
- Obj: Identify and prioritize state essential and necessary assets.
- Obj: Implement projects to protect state essential and necessary assets in natural hazard areas.
- Obj: Improve state and local government monitoring and decision-making tools.

**Goal: Reduce damage to local government assets.**

- Obj: Assist local government officials with nonconstruction activities.
- Obj: Assist local government officials with construction activities.

**Goal: Reduce state and local costs of disaster response and recovery.**

- Obj: Improve monitoring and decisionmaking tools.
- Obj: Support multihazard mitigation projects and initiatives to reduce costs for separate projects.

**Goal: Minimize economic losses.**

- Obj: Reduce down time to the state.
- Obj: Reduce revenue losses to the state.
- Obj: Reduce down time for local governments.
- Obj: Reduce revenue losses for local governments.
- Obj: Reduce losses to private nonprofit organizations.

**Goal: Reduce damage to personal property.**

- Obj: Distribute information on and promote involvement in existing programs.
- Obj: Continue to partner with local governments on developing projects.
- Obj: Reduce losses to residences and businesses.

Throughout this planning effort, other planning activities were reviewed for consistency. Another very dynamic planning effort going on concurrent to this one includes developing community wildfire protection plans. Colorado State Forest Service is the lead agency for the state and has set up an inclusive process with representatives with public, nonprofit and private interests. DEM will encourage communities to use the CWPPs when developing their natural hazard plans for FEMA. DEM also encouraged communities to develop plans that would serve as flood mitigation plans for the National Flood Insurance Program and the Flood Mitigation Assistance program. The state flood, dam and levee, and wildfire annexes, drought update and this umbrella document were completed concurrently to provide for consistency. These combined documents, along with the landslide annex and update report, serve as part three of the state emergency operations plan (EOP); therefore they are always coordinated with the EOP for program consistency. Other planning efforts will continue to be identified and coordinated as appropriate. Annex plan development is a coordinated effort among agencies.

Outstanding progress continues to be made by federal land management agencies, state departments and local governments. Many private property and business owners are proactive and take prevention actions very seriously. Comparable to other states and territories, very few deaths or damages occur each year from natural hazards in Colorado, despite the severe weather and distinct topography. Many state and local governments aggressively pursue funding options, especially in these difficult financial times. Many agencies continue to do more or maintain existing preparedness and prevention programs with less or more competitive funding. This document applauds those efforts and identifies opportunities to continue or break new ground.