

Ada County

# Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

## Volume 1: Planning-Area-Wide Elements

July 2011





**Ada County**  
**HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE**  
**VOLUME 1: PLANNING-AREA-WIDE ELEMENTS**

JULY 2011

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# Ada County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update; Volume 1—Planning-Area-Wide Elements

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# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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## ***Special Acknowledgments***

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Ada County and a partnership of local governments within the county have developed a hazard mitigation plan to reduce future losses resulting from disasters. Hazard mitigation is the use of long- and short-term strategies to reduce the loss of life, personal injury, and property damage that can result from a disaster. It involves planning efforts, policy changes, programs, capital projects, and other activities that can mitigate the impacts of hazards.

The federal Disaster Mitigation Act (DMA) requires proactive pre-disaster planning as a condition of receiving certain financial assistance under the Robert T. Stafford Act. The DMA encourages state and local authorities to work together on pre-disaster planning, and it promotes “sustainable hazard mitigation,” which includes the sound management of natural resources, local economic and social resiliency, and the recognition that hazards and mitigation must be understood in the largest possible social and economic context. The enhanced planning network called for by the DMA helps local governments accurately assess mitigation needs, resulting in faster allocation of funding and more cost-effective risk reduction projects.

The responsibility for hazard mitigation lies with private property owners; business and industry; and local, state and federal government. It is impossible to predict exactly when and where disasters will occur or the extent to which they will impact an area; but with careful planning and collaboration among public agencies, stakeholders and citizens, it is possible to minimize losses that disasters can cause.

## PLAN UPDATE

Federal regulations require hazard mitigation plans to include a plan for monitoring, evaluating, and updating the hazard mitigation plan. An update provides an opportunity to reevaluate recommendations, monitor the impacts of actions that have been accomplished, and determine if there is a need to change the focus of mitigation strategies. DMA compliance requires that plans be updated. A jurisdiction covered by a plan that has expired is not able to pursue funding under the Robert T. Stafford Act for which a current hazard mitigation plan is a prerequisite.

## Initial Response to the DMA in Ada County

In 2006, Ada City-County Emergency Management (ACCEM) was awarded a federal Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant and a Wildfire Mitigation Assistance Grant to prepare the *Ada County All Hazards Mitigation Plan*. ACCEM hired a consultant to prepare the plan with oversight from a planning committee made up of stakeholders within the Ada County. The County Commissioner’s Office contacted stakeholders directly to invite their participation and schedule meetings of the planning committee. The planning process included five phases:

- **1. Collection of Data** about the extent and periodicity of hazards in and around Ada County. This included an area encompassing Ada, Canyon, Owyhee, Boise and Canyon Counties to ensure a robust dataset for making inferences about hazards in Ada County specifically.
- **2. Field Observations and Estimations** about risks and locations of structures and infrastructure relative to risk areas.
- **3. Mapping** of data relevant to pre-disaster mitigation control and treatments, structures, resource values, infrastructure, risk assessments, and related data.

- **4. Facilitation of Public Involvement** from the formation of the planning committee to a public mail survey, news releases, public meetings, public review of draft documents and acknowledgement of the final plan by the signatory representatives.
- **5. Analysis and Drafting of the Report** to integrate the results of the planning process, providing ample review and integration of committee and public input, followed by signature of the final document.

A principal objective of the planning process was the integration of the National Fire Plan, the Idaho Statewide Implementation Strategy, the Healthy Forests Restoration Act, the Idaho State Hazard Mitigation Plan 2004, the Ada County Comprehensive Plan, and FEMA requirements for a countywide all hazards mitigation plan. The effort used the best and most appropriate science from all partners, integrating local and regional knowledge about hazards while meeting the needs of local citizens, the regional economy and the significance of this region to the rest of Idaho and the Inland West.

The plan was published in three volumes: Volume I addressed flood, landslide, earthquake and severe weather; Volume II was the wildfire mitigation plan; and Volume III contained appendices. The plan identified and prioritized 37 strategies to address flood, landslide, earthquake and severe weather and 44 strategies addressing wildfire mitigation.

## **The Ada County Plan Update Effort**

Recognizing limitations in the initial plan, ACCEM utilized the plan update requirements to significantly enhance the Ada County All Hazards Mitigation Plan in scope and content. The updated plan differs from the initial plan for a variety of reasons:

- Better guidance now exists on what is required to meet the intent of the DMA.
- The scope of the plan has been expanded by including Special Purpose District planning partners not involved in the initial planning effort. These district planning partners are true stakeholders in mitigation within the planning area.
- Newly available data and tools provide for a more detailed and accurate risk assessment. The initial plan did not use tools such as FEMA’s Hazards U.S. Multi-Hazard (HAZUS-MH) computer model or new data such as FEMA’s countywide Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMs).
- The risk assessment has been prepared to better support future grant applications by providing risk and vulnerability information that will directly support the measurement of “cost-effectiveness” required under FEMA mitigation grant programs.
- Science and technology have improved since the development of the initial plan.
- The plan meets program requirements of the federal Community Rating System, thus reducing flood insurance premiums in participating jurisdictions.
- There was a strong desire on the part of ACCEM for this plan to be a user-friendly document that is understandable to the general public and not overly technical.
- The plan identifies actions rather than strategies. Strategies provide direction, but actions are fundable under grant programs. This plan replaces strategies with a guiding principal, goals and objectives. The identified actions meet multiple objectives that are measurable, so that each planning partner can measure the effectiveness of their mitigation actions.

## PLAN UPDATE METHODOLOGY

A partnership of local governments in the defined planning area collaborated on the development of this hazard mitigation plan update. This partnership followed a five-phase planning process over 14 months that resulted in a document that will provide a blueprint for hazard risk reduction in the Ada County planning area for the next five years.

### Phase 1—Organize and Review

A planning team was assembled to provide technical support for the plan update, consisting of key County staff and ACCEM, as well as a technical consultant. The first step in developing the plan update was to organize the planning partnership. The County and six municipal governments committed to this update process. With special-purpose districts included, plan coverage was expanded to include 22 planning partners as shown in Table ES-1 and Table ES-2. All planning partners committed to the process by providing letters of intent to participate and agreeing to partner expectations.

<b>TABLE ES-1. MUNICIPAL PLANNING PARTNERS</b>			
Boise	Eagle	Garden City	Kuna
Meridian	Star	Ada County	

<b>TABLE ES-2. SPECIAL PURPOSE DISTRICT PLANNING PARTNERS</b>	
Ada County Paramedics	Eagle Fire District
Kuna Rural Fire District	Meridian Rural Fire Protection District
North Ada County Fire and Rescue	Star Joint Fire Protection District
Whitney Fire Protection District	Boise Warm Springs Water District
Drainage District #4	Eagle Sewer District
Joint School District #2	Independent School District of Boise
Greater Boise Auditorium District	Ada County Highway District
Flood Control District #10	

A 17-member steering committee was assembled to oversee the development of the plan, consisting of planning partner staff, citizens, and other stakeholders in the planning area. A key function of the Steering Committee was to confirm a guiding principal, goals and objectives for this updated plan. Full coordination with other county, state and federal agencies involved in hazard mitigation occurred from the onset of the plan update process.

A multi-media public involvement strategy centered on a hazard preparedness questionnaire was also implemented under this phase, as well as a comprehensive review of the previous plan and the State of Idaho Hazard Mitigation Plan. Additionally, a comprehensive review was performed of existing programs that may support or enhance hazard mitigation actions.

## **Phase 2—Update the Risk Assessment**

Risk assessment is the process of measuring the potential loss of life, personal injury, economic injury, and property damage resulting from natural hazards. This process assesses the vulnerability of people, buildings and infrastructure to natural hazards. It focuses on the following parameters:

- Hazard identification and profiling
- The impact of hazards on physical, social and economic assets
- Vulnerability identification
- Estimates of the cost of potential damage or costs that can be avoided through mitigation.

The risk assessment for this hazard mitigation plan meets requirements outlined in Chapter 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations (44CFR). Phase 2 occurred simultaneously with Phase 1, with the two efforts using information generated by one another to create the best possible risk assessment. This was the most comprehensive phase of the plan update process. All facets of the risk assessment of the plan were visited by the planning team and updated with the best available data and technology.

## **Phase 3—Engage the Public**

A public involvement strategy was developed by the Steering Committee that maximized the capabilities of the planning partnership. This strategy was implemented by the planning team and included three public meetings early in the plan update process, one public meeting to review the draft plan, distribution of a hazard mitigation survey, a County-sponsored website dedicated to the plan update, and multiple media releases throughout the process.

## **Phase 4—Assemble the Updated Plan**

The planning team and Steering Committee assembled key information from Phases 1, 2 and 3 into a document to meet the DMA requirements for all planning partners. Under 44CFR, a local hazard mitigation plan must include the following:

- A description of the planning process
- Risk assessment
- Mitigation strategy
  - Goals
  - Review of alternatives
  - Prioritized “action plan”
- Plan maintenance section
- Documentation of adoption.

The updated plan contains two volumes. Volume 1 contains all components that apply to all partners and the broader planning area (plan process, outreach strategy, plan maintenance, risk assessment, goals, objectives and countywide initiatives). Volume 2 contains all components that are jurisdiction-specific (ranking of risk, capability assessment, an action plan, prioritization of that action plan and a status report on prior actions). Each planning partner has a dedicated chapter in Volume 2.

## Phase 5—Plan Adoption/Implementation

The final adoption phase will begin once pre-adoption approval is granted by Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security (IBHS) and FEMA. Each partner will adopt the updated plan individually.

A plan implementation and maintenance section included in this document details the formal process for ensuring that the plan remains active and relevant. The plan maintenance process includes a schedule for monitoring and evaluating the plan's progress annually and producing a plan revision every five years. Throughout the life of this plan, a steering committee representative of the original committee will provide a consistent source of guidance and oversight.

The plan adoption phase includes strategies for continued public involvement and incorporation of the recommendations of this plan into other planning mechanisms within the planning area, such as general plans, capital improvement plans, building codes, and emergency management plans.

## MISSION STATEMENT, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The following mission statement guided the Steering Committee and the planning partnership in selecting the initiatives contained in this plan update:

*To reduce the vulnerability to natural hazards in order to protect the health, safety, welfare and economy of the Ada County community.*

The Steering Committee and the planning partnership established the following goals for the plan update:

1. Protect lives and reduce hazard-related injuries.
2. Minimize or reduce damage from natural hazards to property, including critical facilities.
3. Encourage the development and implementation of long-term, cost-effective mitigation projects.
4. Maintain, enhance and restore the natural environment's capacity to deal with the impacts of natural hazard events.
5. Improve emergency management preparedness, collaboration, and outreach within the planning area.

Plan objectives were developed through a facilitated exercise that focused on finding objectives that meet multiple goals. The objectives are listed in Table ES-3.

## MITIGATION INITIATIVES

Mitigation initiatives are activities to reduce or eliminate losses resulting from natural hazards. Mitigation initiatives are the key element of the hazard mitigation plan update. By implementing these initiatives, the planning partnership will strive to become disaster-resistant through sustainable hazard mitigation. The Ada County planning partnership has identified over 200 initiatives that will strive to reduce risk to the hazards of concern identified in this plan.

Although adoption of this plan makes the planning partners eligible for FEMA grant funding, the purposes of the plan go beyond grant eligibility. It was important to the planning partnership and the Steering Committee to look at initiatives that will work through all phases of emergency management. Some of the initiatives outlined in this plan are not grant eligible but were chosen for their effectiveness in achieving the goals of the plan. A series of countywide initiatives were identified, as summarized in Table ES-4. Jurisdiction-specific initiatives are listed in Volume 2 of this plan.

<b>TABLE ES-3. OBJECTIVES FOR NATURAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE</b>	
Objective Number	Objective Statement
1	Minimize disruption of local government and commerce operations caused by natural hazards
2	Using best available data and science, continually improve understanding of the location and potential impacts of natural hazards, vulnerability of building types and community development patterns; based on this analysis, identify and implement the measures needed to enhance life safety.
3	Retrofit, purchase or relocate structures based on one or more of the following criteria: level of exposure, repetitive loss history, and previous damage from natural hazards.
4	Prevent or discourage new development in hazardous areas; if building occurs in high-risk areas, ensure that it is done in such a way as to minimize risk.
5	Integrate hazard mitigation policies into community land use plans that not only protect the built up environment but also maintain or enhance the natural environment's ability to withstand and recover from natural disasters, with an emphasis on the promotion of regional consistency in policy.
6	Strengthen codes and code enforcement to ensure that new construction of property and infrastructure can withstand the impacts of natural hazards.
7	Develop new and improve existing early warning emergency notification protocol, systems and evacuation procedures.
8	Educate the public on the area's potential natural hazards and ways to personally prepare for, respond to, recover from and mitigate the impacts of these events.
9	Establish a partnership among all levels of government and the business community to improve and implement methods to protect property.
10	Increase resilience and the continuity of operations of identified critical facilities and infrastructure within the planning area.

## IMPLEMENTATION

Full implementation of the recommendations of this plan will require time and resources. Specific recommendations and plan review protocols are provided to evaluate changes in vulnerability and action plan prioritization after the plan is adopted. The true measure of the plan's success will be its ability to adapt to the changing climate of hazard mitigation. Funding resources are always evolving, as are state and federal mandates. Ada County and its planning partners have a long-standing tradition of proactive response to issues that may impact local citizens. Each local government will assume responsibility for adopting the recommendations of this plan and committing resources toward implementation. The framework established by this plan identifies a strategy that maximizes the potential for implementation based on available and potential resources. It commits all planning partners to pursue initiatives when the benefits of a project exceed its costs. The planning partnership developed this plan with extensive public input, and public support of the actions identified in this plan will help ensure the plan's success.

**TABLE ES-4.  
ACTION PLAN—COUNTYWIDE MITIGATION INITIATIVES**

Hazards Addressed	Lead Agency	Possible Funding Sources or Resources	Time Line <sup>a</sup>	Objectives
<b>CW-1</b> —Sponsor and maintain a natural-hazard informational website to include the following types of information:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hazard-specific information such as warning, private property mitigation alternatives, important facts on risk and vulnerability</li> <li>• Pre- and post-disaster information such as notices of grant funding availability</li> <li>• CRS creditable information</li> <li>• Links to planning partners’ pages, FEMA and Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security</li> <li>• Natural hazard mitigation plan information such as progress reports, mitigation success stories, update strategies, Steering Committee meetings.</li> </ul>				
All	ACCEM	ACCEM Operation Budget	Short term, ongoing	2,8,9
<b>CW-2</b> —The Steering Committee will remain as a viable body over time to monitor progress of the plan, provide technical assistance to planning partners and oversee the update of the plan according to schedule. This body will continue to operate under the ground rules established at its inception.				
All	ACCEM	Can be funded under existing programs	Short term, ongoing	5,8,9
<b>CW-3</b> —All planning partners that committed to the update effort will formally adopt this plan when pre-adoption approval has been granted by IBHS and FEMA Region X. Each planning partner will adhere to the plan maintenance protocol identified in this plan. All actions under this initiative will be coordinated by ACCEM				
All	ACCEM/ Each planning partner	Can be funded under existing programs	Short term	All
<b>CW-4</b> —Continue to implement ongoing public outreach programs administered by ACCEM. Seek opportunities to promote the mitigation of natural hazards within the planning area, utilizing information contained within this plan.				
All	ACCEM	Can be funded under existing programs	Short term, ongoing	2,8,9
<b>CW-5</b> —Seek the use of the best available data, science and technology to update the risk assessment to this plan as that data, science, technology and funding resources become available.				
All	ACCEM	FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant funding, RiskMAP, federal hazard analysis funding	Long-Term, depends on funding	2,9
<b>CW-6</b> —Continue to support and coordinate with the Idaho Silver Jackets program.				
All	ACCEM	Can be funded under existing programs	Short term, ongoing	2,6,8,9
<b>CW-7</b> — Provide technical support and coordination for available grant funding opportunities to the planning partnership				
All	ACCEM	Can be funded under existing programs. This technical assistance is a reimbursable activity under FEMA Hazard Mitigation Gran Programs	Short term	2,9
<b>CW-8</b> —Participate as a cooperating partners with FEMA and other stakeholders in FEMA’s RiskMAP initiative				
All	ACCEM	Can be funded under existing programs. Could be subsidized with funding under the RiskMAP initiative	Short term	2,9

<b>TABLE ES-4. ACTION PLAN—COUNTYWIDE MITIGATION INITIATIVES</b>				
Hazards Addressed	Lead Agency	Possible Funding Sources or Resources	Time Line <sup>a</sup>	Objectives
<b>CW-9</b> — Leverage public outreach partnering capabilities (such as CERT) within the planning area to promote a uniform and consistent message on the importance of proactive hazard mitigation.				
All	ACCEM	ACCEM Operation Budget	Short Term, ongoing	All
<b>CW-10</b> — Coordinate mitigation planning and project efforts within the planning area to leverage all resources available to the planning partnership.				
All	ACCEM	ACCEM Operation Budget	Short Term, ongoing	1,9,10
<b>CW-11</b> — Where appropriate, support retrofitting, purchase, or relocation of structures located in hazard-prone areas to protect structures from future damage, with repetitive and severe repetitive loss properties as a priority. Seek opportunities to leverage partnerships within the planning area in these pursuits.				
All	Planning Partners	Hazard Mitigation Grant funding	Long-term, depends on funding	3,9
<b>CW-12</b> — Utilize information contained within the Ada County Hazard Mitigation Plan to support updates to other emergency management plans in effect within the planning area.				
All	ACCEM	Can be funded under existing programs	Short term, ongoing	1,2,5,10
<b>CW-13</b> —Using the most current HAZUS model and other data available, examine exposure and level of risk to the known hazards of concern for first responder facilities and identified potential sheltering sites.				
All	ACCEM, all first responder planning partners	Can be funded under existing programs	Long-Term, depends on funding	2,9
<b>CW-14</b> — Based on identified risks, relocate or structurally harden first responder facilities as needed. Relocation may not be an option based on response requirements of the organization.				
All	ACCEM, all 1 <sup>st</sup> Responder Planning Partners	Hazard Mitigation or Emergency management grant funding	Long-Term, depends on funding	3,9
<b>CW-15</b> — Using the most current HAZUS model and other data available, categorize potential sheltering sites from lowest to highest exposure to the known hazards of concern. Identify partners that own the sheltering sites and encourage building enhancements at those sites that would allow for operations during a major disaster event.				
All	ACCEM, all Planning Partners	Can be funded under existing programs, to be augmented by Mitigation Planning grant funding at next plan update.	Long-Term, depends on funding	2,9

## **PART 1—THE PLANNING PROCESS**



# CHAPTER 1.

## INTRODUCTION TO THE PLANNING PROCESS

### 1.1 WHY PREPARE THIS PLAN?

#### 1.1.1 Overview

Hazard mitigation is defined as a way to reduce or alleviate the loss of life, personal injury and property damage that can result from a disaster through long- and short-term strategies. It involves strategies such as planning, policy changes, programs, projects and other activities that can mitigate the impacts of hazards. The responsibility for hazard mitigation lies with many, including private property owners; business and industry; and local, state and federal government.

The federal Disaster Mitigation Act (DMA) of 2000 (Public Law 106-390) required state and local governments to develop hazard mitigation plans as a condition for federal disaster grant assistance. Prior to 2000, federal disaster funding focused on disaster relief and recovery, with limited funding for hazard mitigation planning. The DMA increased the emphasis on planning for disasters before they occur.

The DMA encourages state and local authorities to work together on pre-disaster planning, and it promotes sustainability for disaster resistance. “Sustainable hazard mitigation” includes the sound management of natural resources and the recognition that hazards and mitigation must be understood in the largest possible social and economic context. The enhanced planning network called for by the DMA helps local governments articulate accurate needs for mitigation, resulting in faster allocation of funding and more cost-effective risk reduction projects.

#### 1.1.2 Local Response to the DMA

Following its tradition of proactive planning and preparedness for all phases of emergency management, Ada City-County Emergency Management (ACCEM) led a multi-jurisdictional planning effort pursuant to the requirements of the DMA in 2005. The *Ada County All Hazards Mitigation Plan* was adopted by the County and 10 planning partners in October 2006. It received FEMA approval in November 2006, establishing compliance with the DMA for the County and its planning partners. The plan addressed five identified hazards: flood, landslide, earthquake, severe weather and wildfire.

#### 1.1.3 Purposes for Planning

This hazard mitigation plan identifies resources, information and strategies for reducing risk from natural hazards. Elements in the plan were selected to meet a program requirement as well as the needs of the planning partners and their citizens. A benefit of multi-jurisdictional planning is the ability to pool resources and eliminate redundant activities within a planning area that has uniform risk exposure and vulnerabilities. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) encourages multi-jurisdictional planning under its guidance for the DMA. The plan will help guide and coordinate mitigation activities throughout Ada County. The plan was developed to meet the following objectives:

- Meet or exceed requirements of the DMA.
- Enable all planning partners to continue using federal grant funding to mitigate risk.
- Meet the needs of each planning partner as well as state and federal requirements.
- Create a risk assessment that focuses on Ada County hazards of concern.

- Create a single planning document that integrates all planning partners into a framework that supports partnerships within the County, and puts all partners on the same planning cycle for future updates.
- Meet the planning requirements of FEMA’s Community Rating System (CRS), allowing planning partners that participate in the CRS program to maintain or enhance their CRS classifications.
- Coordinate existing plans and programs so that high-priority initiatives and projects to mitigate possible disaster impacts are funded and implemented.

## **1.2 WHO WILL BENEFIT FROM THIS PLAN?**

All citizens and businesses of Ada County are the ultimate beneficiaries of this hazard mitigation plan. The plan reduces risk for those who live in, work in and visit the County. It provides a viable planning framework for all foreseeable natural hazards that may impact the County. Participation in development of the plan by key stakeholders in the County helped ensure that outcomes will be mutually beneficial. The resources and background information in the plan are applicable countywide, and the plan’s goals and recommendations can lay groundwork for the development and implementation of local mitigation activities and partnerships.

## **1.3 HOW TO USE THIS PLAN**

This plan has been set up in two volumes so that elements that are jurisdiction-specific can easily be distinguished from those that apply to the whole planning area:

- **Volume 1**—Volume 1 meets the requirements of Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations (44CFR; Section 201.6) that apply to the entire planning area. This includes the description of the planning process, public involvement strategy, goals and objectives, countywide hazard risk assessment, countywide mitigation initiatives, and a plan maintenance strategy.
- **Volume 2**—Volume 2 includes all jurisdiction-specific elements required by Section 201.6 of 44CFR. Jurisdictions that make up the planning partnership include cities, the County and special purpose districts. Jurisdiction-specific elements are included in annexes for each planning partner adopting this plan. Volume 2 also includes a description of the participation requirements established by the Steering Committee, as well as instructions and templates that the partners used to complete their annexes. Volume 2 also includes “linkage” procedures for eligible jurisdictions that did not participate in development of this plan but wish to adopt it in the future.

All planning partners will adopt Volume 1 in its entirety and at least the following parts of Volume 2: Part 1; each partner’s jurisdiction-specific annex; and the appendices.

The following appendices provided at the end of Volume 1 include information or explanations to support the main content of the plan:

- Appendix A—A glossary of acronyms and definitions
- Appendix B—Public outreach information, including the hazard mitigation questionnaire and summary and documentation of public meetings.
- Appendix C—A template for progress reports to be completed as this plan is implemented
- Appendix D—Plan Adoption Resolutions from Planning Partners
- Appendix E— Prior Plan Mitigation Strategies

## CHAPTER 2. PLAN UPDATE—WHAT HAS CHANGED

### 2.1 THE 2006 PLAN

ACCEM was awarded a federal Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant and a Wildfire Mitigation Assistance Grant to prepare the *Ada County All Hazards Mitigation Plan* and hired a consultant to prepare the plan with oversight from a planning committee made up of stakeholders within the Ada County. The County Commissioner's Office contacted stakeholders directly to invite their participation and schedule meetings of the planning committee. The planning process included five phases:

- **1. Collection of Data** about the extent and periodicity of hazards in and around Ada County. This included an area encompassing Ada, Canyon, Owyhee, Boise and Canyon Counties to ensure a robust dataset for making inferences about hazards in Ada County specifically.
- **2. Field Observations and Estimations** about risks and locations of structures and infrastructure relative to risk areas.
- **3. Mapping** of data relevant to pre-disaster mitigation control and treatments, structures, resource values, infrastructure, risk assessments, and related data.
- **4. Facilitation of Public Involvement** from the formation of the planning committee to a public mail survey, news releases, public meetings, public review of draft documents and acknowledgement of the final plan by the signatory representatives.
- **5. Analysis and Drafting of the Report** to integrate the results of the planning process, providing ample review and integration of committee and public input, followed by signature of the final document.

A principal objective of the planning process was the integration of the National Fire Plan, the Idaho Statewide Implementation Strategy, the Healthy Forests Restoration Act, the Idaho State Hazard Mitigation Plan 2004, the Ada County Comprehensive Plan, and FEMA requirements of for a countywide all hazards mitigation plan. The effort used the best and most appropriate science from all partners, integrating local and regional knowledge about hazards while meeting the needs of local citizens, the regional economy and the significance of this region to the rest of Idaho and the Inland West.

The plan was published in three volumes: Volume I addressed flood, landslide, earthquake and severe weather; Volume II was the wildfire mitigation plan; and Volume III contained appendices. The plan identified and prioritized 37 strategies to address flood, landslide, earthquake and severe weather and 44 strategies addressing wildfire mitigation. These strategies can be viewed in Appendix E of this volume.

### 2.2 WHY UPDATE?

44CFR stipulates that hazard mitigation plans must present a schedule for monitoring, evaluating and updating the plan. This provides an opportunity to reevaluate recommendations, monitor the impacts of actions that have been accomplished, and determine if there is a need to change the focus of mitigation strategies. A jurisdiction covered by a plan that has expired is not able to pursue elements of federal funding under the Robert T. Stafford Act for which a current hazard mitigation plan is a prerequisite.

## **2.3 THE UPDATED PLAN—WHAT IS DIFFERENT?**

ACCEM used the plan update process to comprehensively revise the original hazard mitigation plan. The updated plan differs from the initial plan for a variety of reasons:

- Better guidance now exists on what is required to meet the intent of the DMA.
- The scope of the plan has been expanded by including Special Purpose District planning partners not involved in the initial planning effort. These district planning partners are true stakeholders in mitigation within the planning area.
- Newly available data and tools provide for a more detailed and accurate risk assessment. The initial plan did not use tools such as FEMA’s Hazards U.S. Multi-Hazard (HAZUS-MH) computer model or new data such as FEMA’s countywide Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMs).
- The risk assessment has been prepared to better support future grant applications by providing risk and vulnerability information that will directly support the measurement of “cost-effectiveness” required under FEMA mitigation grant programs.
- Science and technology have improved since the development of the initial plan.
- The plan meets program requirements of the Community Rating System, thus reducing flood insurance premiums in participating jurisdictions.
- There was a strong desire on the part of ACCEM for this plan to be a user-friendly document that is understandable to the general public and not overly technical.
- The plan identifies actions rather than strategies. Strategies provide direction, but actions are fundable under grant programs. This plan replaces strategies with a guiding principal, goals and objectives. The identified actions meet multiple objectives that are measurable, so that each planning partner can measure the effectiveness of their mitigation actions.

Given the extent of changes in this update, reviewers should consider this as a new plan, with a new process and a new direction. The chapters of this plan describing the plan update process and the tools and techniques that were utilized address these topics as if they were being completed for the first time. When relevant, the update discusses correlations with the initial plan, especially when data or information is being carried over to this update.

Table 2-1 indicates the major changes between the two plans as they relate to 44CFR planning requirements.

**TABLE 2-1.  
PLAN CHANGES CROSSWALK**

44CFR Requirement	2006 Plan	Updated Plan
<p>Requirement §201.6(b): In order to develop a more comprehensive approach to reducing the effects of natural disasters, the planning process shall include:</p> <p>(1) An opportunity for the public to comment on the plan during the drafting stage and prior to plan approval;</p> <p>(2) An opportunity for neighboring communities, local and regional agencies involved in hazard mitigation activities, and agencies that have the authority to regulate development, as well as businesses, academia and other private and non-profit interests to be involved in the planning process; and</p> <p>(3) Review and incorporation, if appropriate, of existing plans, studies, reports and technical information.</p>	<p>The initial planning effort invoked an public outreach strategy built around:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Press releases</li> <li>• Newspaper articles</li> <li>• A survey</li> <li>• Planning committee meetings</li> <li>• Public meetings</li> </ul> <p>This strategy was deployed throughout the planning process</p>	<p>Many of the outreach techniques that were successful on the initial planning effort were utilized again on the plan update. These techniques were enhanced using available science and technology, as well as better tools to support their implementation. A key change in the plan update process was the use of a Steering Committee that included citizens as well as other stakeholders from within the planning area. This approach was different from the planning committee concept used for the initial planning effort.</p>
<p>§201.6(c)(2): The plan shall include a risk assessment that provides the factual basis for activities proposed in the strategy to reduce losses from identified hazards. Local risk assessments must provide sufficient information to enable the jurisdiction to identify and prioritize appropriate mitigation actions to reduce losses from identified hazards.</p>	<p>The initial plan provides a characteristic assessment of five identified hazards of concern. This assessment looks at the history of past occurrences, areas susceptible to the hazard, identifies assets at risk, and a range of possible mitigation activities by hazard.</p>	<p>The updated plan includes a comprehensive risk assessment eight hazards of concern. Risk has been defined as (probability x impact), where impact is the impact on people, property and economy of the planning area. All planning partners ranked risk as it pertains to their jurisdiction. The potential impacts of climate change are discussed for each hazard.</p>
<p>§201.6(c)(2)(i): [The risk assessment shall include a] description of the ... location and extent of all natural hazards that can affect the jurisdiction. The plan shall include information on previous occurrences of hazard events and on the probability of future hazard events.</p>	<p>The characterization discussion of each hazard includes mapping that illustrates extent and location of the hazard of concern, as well as discussion on past occurrences.</p>	<p>This update presents a risk assessment of each hazard of concern. Each chapter includes the following components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hazard profile, including maps of extent and location, historical occurrences, frequency, severity and warning time.</li> <li>• Secondary hazards</li> <li>• Climate change impacts</li> <li>• Exposure of people, property, critical facilities and environment</li> <li>• Vulnerability of people, property, critical facilities and environment.</li> <li>• Future trends in development</li> <li>• Scenarios</li> <li>• Issues</li> </ul>

**TABLE 2-1.  
PLAN CHANGES CROSSWALK**

44CFR Requirement	2006 Plan	Updated Plan
<p>§201.6(c)(2)(ii): [The risk assessment shall include a] description of the jurisdiction’s vulnerability to the hazards described in paragraph (c)(2)(i). This description shall include an overall summary of each hazard and its impact on the community</p>	<p>In the characterization discussion of each hazard, vulnerability is discussed in terms of assets at risk.</p>	<p>Vulnerability was assessed for all hazards of concern. The HAZUS-MH computer model was used for the dam failure, earthquake and flood hazards. These were Level 2 analyses using city and county data. Site-specific data on County-identified critical facilities were entered into the HAZUS model. HAZUS outputs were generated for other hazards by applying an estimated damage function to an asset inventory extracted from HAZUS-MH.</p>
<p>§201.6(c)(2)(ii): [The risk assessment] must also address National Flood Insurance Program insured structures that have been repetitively damaged floods</p>	<p>The initial plan includes no discussion on this subject because it was not a requirement during the initial effort.</p>	<p>There are currently no repetitive loss properties identified in the Ada County planning area. However, a comprehensive flood insurance analysis that looks at policy coverage and claims history was performed as part of the flood hazard risk assessment.</p>
<p>Requirement §201.6(c)(2)(ii)(A): The plan should describe vulnerability in terms of the types and numbers of existing and future buildings, infrastructure and critical facilities located in the identified hazard area.</p>	<p>The initial plan looks at area exposed to each hazard of concern and the assessed valuation of that area. The initial plan does not attempt to define or inventory “critical/essential” facilities.</p>	<p>A complete inventory of the numbers and types of buildings exposed was generated for each hazard of concern. The Steering Committee defined “critical facilities” for the planning area, and these were inventoried by exposure. Each hazard chapter provides a discussion on future development trends.</p>
<p>Requirement §201.6(c)(2)(ii)(B): [The plan should describe vulnerability in terms of an] estimate of the potential dollar losses to vulnerable structures identified in paragraph (c)(2)(i)(A) and a description of the methodology used to prepare the estimate.</p>	<p>The characterization discussion of each hazard does not attempt to estimate damage to new and /or existing property. It focuses primarily on assets exposed, and makes no attempt to estimate losses.</p>	<p>Loss estimates were generated for all hazards of concern. These were generated by HAZUS-MH for the dam failure, earthquake and flood hazards. For the other hazards, loss estimates were generated by applying a regionally relevant damage function to the exposed inventory. In all cases, a damage function was applied to an asset inventory. The asset inventory was the same for all hazards and was generated in HAZUS.</p>

**TABLE 2-1.  
PLAN CHANGES CROSSWALK**

44CFR Requirement	2006 Plan	Updated Plan
<p>Requirement §201.6(c)(2)(ii)(C): [The plan should describe vulnerability in terms of] providing a general description of land uses and development trends within the community so that mitigation options can be considered in future land use decisions.</p>	<p>Current and future land use are not addressed in the initial plan.</p>	<p>There is a discussion of future development trends as they pertain to each hazard of concern. This discussion looks predominantly at the existing land use and the current regulatory environment that dictates this land use.</p>
<p>§201.6(c)(3): The plan shall include a mitigation strategy that provides the jurisdiction’s blueprint for reducing the potential losses identified in the risk assessment, based on existing authorities, policies, programs and resources, and its ability to expand on and improve these existing tools.</p>	<p>The plan identifies 37 natural hazard and 44 wildfire mitigation strategies applied countywide. These strategies are not jurisdiction-specific, and were adopted as part of the plan by all planning partners.</p>	<p>The plan contains a guiding principal, goals, objectives and actions. The guiding principal, goals and objectives are regional and cover all planning partners. Each planning partner identified actions that can be implemented within their capabilities. The actions are jurisdiction-specific and strive to meet multiple objectives. All objectives meet multiple goals and stand alone as components of the plan. Each planning partner completed an assessment of its regulatory, technical and financial capabilities.</p>
<p>Requirement §201.6(c)(3)(i): [The hazard mitigation strategy shall include a] description of mitigation goals to reduce or avoid long-term vulnerabilities to the identified hazards.</p>	<p>The initial plan includes a vision statement, a mission statement and six goals.</p>	<p>The Steering Committee identified a mission statement, five goals and ten objectives. These are completely new goals and objectives targeted specifically for this hazard mitigation plan. They were not carried over from any other planning document and were identified based upon the capabilities of the planning partnership. These planning components support the actions identified in the plan.</p>
<p>Requirement §201.6(c)(3)(ii): [The mitigation strategy shall include a] section that identifies and analyzes a comprehensive range of specific mitigation actions and projects being considered to reduce the effects of each hazard, with particular emphasis on new and existing buildings and infrastructure.</p>	<p>Each hazard characterization chapter includes discussion of possible mitigation activities as they pertain to the hazard.</p>	<p>Chapter 19 includes a hazard mitigation catalog that was developed through a facilitated process. This catalog identifies actions that manipulate the hazard, reduce exposure to the hazard, reduce vulnerability, or increase mitigation capability. The catalog further segregates actions by scale of implementation. A table in the action plan section analyzes each action by mitigation type to illustrate the range of actions selected.</p>

**TABLE 2-1.  
PLAN CHANGES CROSSWALK**

44CFR Requirement	2006 Plan	Updated Plan
Requirement: §201.6(c)(3)(ii): [The mitigation strategy] must also address the jurisdiction’s participation in the National Flood Insurance Program, and continued compliance with the program’s requirements, as appropriate.	The initial plan includes no discussion on this subject because it was not a requirement during the initial effort.	All municipal planning partners that participate in the National Flood Insurance Program have identified an action stating their commitment to maintain compliance and good standing under the program. Communities that participate in the Community Rating System have identified actions to maintain or enhance their standing under the CRS.
Requirement: §201.6(c)(3)(iii): [The mitigation strategy shall describe] how the actions identified in section (c)(3)(ii) will be prioritized, implemented and administered by the local jurisdiction. Prioritization shall include a special emphasis on the extent to which benefits are maximized according to a cost benefit review of the proposed projects and their associated costs.	The initial plan identifies a strategy prioritization scheme that includes an emphasis on benefits of the project versus costs.	Each recommended action is prioritized using a qualitative methodology based on the objectives the project will meet, the timeline for completion, how the project will be funded, the impact of the project, the benefits of the project and the costs of the project.
Requirement §201.6(c)(4)(i): [The plan maintenance process shall include a] section describing the method and schedule of monitoring, evaluating, and updating the mitigation plan within a five-year cycle.	The initial plan identifies a maintenance strategy that involves annual review of the plan, with a comprehensive update to the plan upon its fifth anniversary.	This update details a plan maintenance strategy similar to that of the initial plan. There is additional detail addressing deficiencies observed during the initial performance period of the plan. This includes a more defined role for the Steering Committee in annual plan review.
Requirement §201.6(c)(4)(ii): [The plan shall include a] process by which local governments incorporate the requirements of the mitigation plan into other planning mechanisms such as comprehensive or capital improvement plans, when appropriate.	The initial plan contains no discussion on this component.	This update details recommendations for incorporating the plan into other planning mechanisms such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comprehensive Plan</li> <li>• Emergency response plan</li> <li>• Capital Improvement Programs</li> <li>• Municipal Code</li> <li>• Continuity of Operations Plan</li> </ul>
Requirement §201.6(c)(4)(iii): [The plan maintenance process shall include a] discussion on how the community will continue public participation in the plan maintenance process.	The initial plan includes a strategy for continuing public involvement.	This update details a strategy for continuing public involvement
Requirement §201.6(c)(5): [The local hazard mitigation plan shall include] documentation that the plan has been formally adopted by the governing body of the jurisdiction requesting approval of the plan (e.g., City Council, County Commissioner, Tribal Council).	Volume III of the plan contained resolutions by the 10 jurisdictions covered by the plan.	21 planning partners will seek DMA compliance for this plan. Appendix D will present the resolutions of all planning partners that adopted this plan

## **CHAPTER 3. PLAN UPDATE METHODOLOGY**

To develop the Ada County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, the County followed a process that had the following primary objectives:

- Secure grant funding
- Form a planning team
- Establish a planning partnership
- Define the planning area
- Establish a steering committee
- Coordinate with other agencies
- Review existing programs
- Engage the public.

Chapter 4 describes the public involvement. The other objectives are discussed in the following sections.

### **3.1 GRANT FUNDING**

This planning effort was supplemented by two FEMA grants from the Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Program (FMA) and the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program (PDM). ACCEM was the applicant agent for both grants. The grants were applied for in 2008, and funding was appropriated in 2009. These grants covered 75 percent of the cost for development of this plan update. The County and its planning partners covered the balance through in-kind contributions.

### **3.2 FORMATION OF THE PLANNING TEAM**

Ada County hired Tetra Tech, Inc. to assist with development and implementation of the plan update. The Tetra Tech project manager assumed the role of the lead planner, reporting directly to a County-designated project manager. A planning team was formed to lead the planning effort, made up of the following members:

- Doug Hardman (ACCCEM) — Director
- Paul Marusich (ACCCEM) — Public Information/Mitigation Specialist
- Rob Flaner (Tetra Tech) — Lead project Planner
- Laura Hendrix (Tetra Tech)—Public policy lead
- Ed Whitford (Tetra Tech)—HAZUS/GIS lead
- Cara Murphy (Tetra Tech)—HAZUS/GIS support

### **3.3 ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PLANNING PARTNERSHIP**

Ada County opened this planning effort to all eligible local governments in the County. The planning team made a presentation at a stakeholder meeting on October 14, 2009 to introduce the mitigation planning process and solicit planning partners. Key meeting objectives were as follows:

- Provide an overview of the Disaster Mitigation Act.
- Provide an overview of the previous disaster mitigation plan.
- Describe the reasons for a plan update.
- Outline the County work plan.
- Outline planning partner expectations.
- Seek commitment to the planning partnership.
- Seek volunteers for the Steering Committee.

Jurisdictions wishing to join the planning partnership were asked to provide a “letter of intent to participate” and designate a point of contact. The municipal planning partners and their contacts are as follows:

- Ada County—Paul Marusich, Public Information/Mitigation Specialist
- City of Boise—Mark Senteno, Fire Marshall
- City of Eagle—Michael Echeita, Director of Public Works
- City of Garden City—Tina Fenske, GIS Administrator
- City of Kuna—Jerry Coulter, Building Official
- City of Meridian—Kyle Radak, City Engineer
- City of Star—Nathan Mitchell, Mayor

Special purpose district planning partners are listed in Table 3-1. Linkage procedures were established for any jurisdiction wishing to link to the Ada County plan in the future (see Volume 2).

### **3.4 DEFINING THE PLANNING AREA**

The planning area consists of all of Ada County plus the portion of the Flood Control District #10 jurisdictional boundary that extends into Canyon County. All partners to this plan have jurisdictional authority within this planning area. The area is shown in Figure 3-1.

### **3.5 THE STEERING COMMITTEE**

Hazard mitigation planning enhances collaboration and support among diverse parties whose interests can be affected by hazard losses. A steering committee was formed to oversee all phases of the plan update. The members of this committee included key planning partner staff, citizens and other stakeholders from within the planning area. The planning team assembled a list of candidates representing interests within the planning area that could have recommendations for the plan or be impacted by its recommendations. The partnership confirmed a committee of 17 members at the kickoff meeting. Table 3-2 lists the committee members.

Leadership roles and ground rules were established during the Steering Committee’s initial meeting on March 10, 2010. The Steering Committee agreed to meet monthly as needed throughout the course of the plan’s development. The planning team facilitated each Steering Committee meeting, which addressed a set of objectives based on the work plan established for the update. The Steering Committee met 10 times from March 2010 through August of 2011. Meeting agendas, notes and attendance logs are available for review upon request. All Steering Committee meetings were open to the public, and agendas and meeting notes were posted to the hazard mitigation plan website (see Chapter 4).

**TABLE 3-1.  
SPECIAL PURPOSE DISTRICT PLANNING PARTNERS**

District	Point of Contact	Title
Ada County Paramedics	Harry Eccard	Deputy Director
Eagle Fire District	Dan Friend	Fire Chief
Kuna Rural Fire Protection District	Douglas Rosin	Fire Chief
Meridian Rural Fire Protection District	Mark Niemeyer	Fire Chief
North Ada County Fire and Rescue	Margaret Dimmick	Commissioner
Star Joint Fire Protection District	Kevin Courtney	Fire Chief
Whitney Fire Protection District	Renn Ross	Fire Chief
Boise Warm Springs Water District	Patrick Frischmuth	Board Member
Drainage District #4	Mike Dimmick	Board Chair
Eagle Sewer District	Lynn Moser	General Manager
Joint School District #2	LeAnn Carlson	Safety Coordinator
Independent School District of Boise	Mike Munger	Safety and Security Specialist
Greater Boise Auditorium District	Patrick Rice	Executive Director
Ada County Highway District	Darrin Carroll	Stormwater Supervisor
Flood Control District #10	Steve Sweet	District Engineer

### 3.6 COORDINATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES

44CFR requires that opportunities for involvement in the planning be provided to neighboring communities, agencies involved in hazard mitigation, agencies that regulate development, businesses, academia and other private interests (Section 201.6.b.2). Coordination was accomplished as follows:

- **Steering Committee Involvement**—Agency representatives were invited to participate on the Steering Committee.
- **Agency Notification**—The following agencies were invited to participate in the update process from the beginning and were kept apprised of plan development milestones:
  - Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security (IBHS)
  - Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR)
  - Canyon County
  - Ada County Irrigation Districts
  - Community Planning Association of SW Idaho (COMPASS)

These agencies received meeting announcements, meeting agendas, and meeting minutes by e-mail throughout the plan update process. These agencies supported the effort by attending meetings or providing feedback on issues.

- **Pre-Adoption Review**—All the agencies listed above were provided an opportunity to comment on this plan update, primarily through the hazard mitigation plan website. Each was sent an e-mail message informing them that draft portions of the plan were available for

review. In addition, the complete draft plan was sent to FEMA Region X, IBHS and the Insurance Service Office (ISO) for a pre-adoption review to ensure program compliance.

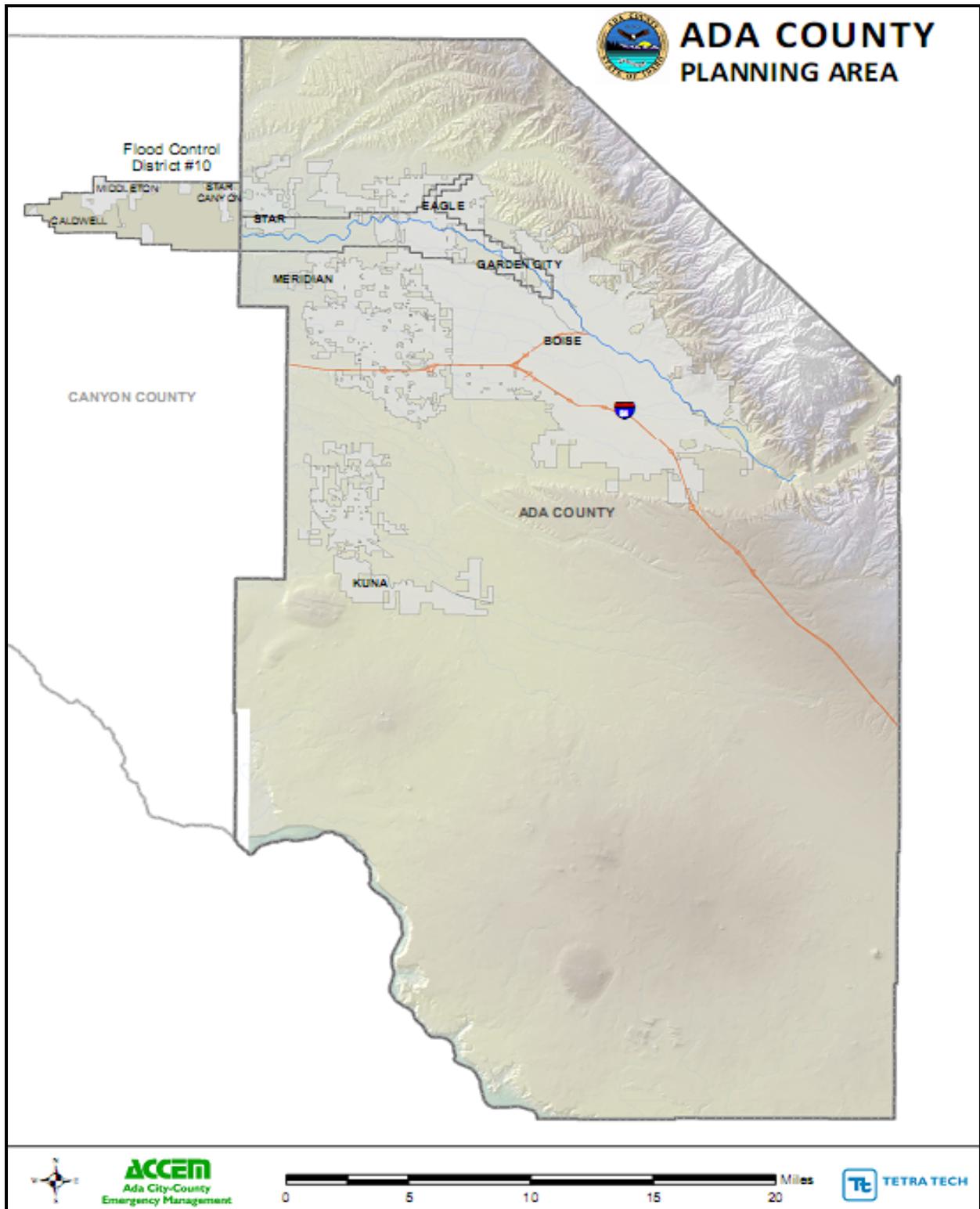


Figure 3-1. Main Features of Ada County

**TABLE 3-2.  
STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Name	Title	Jurisdiction/Agency	Representing
Sharon Ullman (Chair)	Ada County Commissioner	Ada County	Planning Partner
Steve Sweet (Vice-Chair)	District Engineer	Flood Control District #10	Planning Partner
Channing Bryant	Safety Manager	Micron Technology	Stakeholder
Harry Eccard	Deputy Director	Ada County Paramedics	Planning Partner
LeAnn Carlsen	Director of Operations	Meridian School District	Planning Partner
Darrin Carroll	Stormwater Supervisor	Ada County Highway District	Planning Partner
Margaret Dimmick	Owner	Incident Concepts	Stakeholder
Jan Egge	Chairperson	Ada County CERT	Citizen
Jim Farrens	County Engineer	Ada County Development Services	Planning Partner
Cal Gillis	Environmental Health Officer	Boise State University	Stakeholder
Paul Marusich	Public Information Mitigation Specialist	ACCEM	Stakeholder
Jody Orr	President	Central Foothills Neighborhood Homeowners Association	Citizen
Gary Pagel	Business Continuity and Emergency Management	Idaho Power	Stakeholder
Kyle Radak	City Engineer	City of Meridian	Planning Partner
Mark Senteno	Fire Marshall	City of Boise	Planning Partner
Mark Stephenson	Mitigation Officer	ID Bureau of Homeland Security	Stakeholder
Mike Winkle	Battalion Chief	Eagle Fire District	Planning Partner

### 3.7 REVIEW OF EXISTING PROGRAMS

44CFR states that hazard mitigation planning must include review and incorporation, if appropriate, of existing plans, studies, reports and technical information (Section 201.6.b(3)). Chapter 9 of this plan provides a review of laws and ordinances in effect within the planning area that can affect hazard mitigation initiatives. In addition, the following programs can affect mitigation within the planning area:

- Ada County Comprehensive Plan (2007)
- The comprehensive plans for each of the incorporated city planning partners
- Idaho State Hazard Mitigation Plan (November 2010)
- The Ada County Hazard Inventory and Vulnerability Analysis (HIVA)
- Ada County Flood Response Plan (January 2006)
- Ada County Wildfire Response Plan (May 2010).

An assessment of all planning partners’ regulatory, technical and financial capabilities to implement hazard mitigation initiatives is presented in the individual jurisdiction-specific annexes in Volume 2. Many of these relevant plans, studies and regulations are cited in the capability assessment.

One of the Steering Committee’s first action items was to review the Idaho State Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Steering Committee identified hazards listed in the state plan to which the Ada County planning area is susceptible, in order to determine if there was a need to expand the scope of the risk assessment. The committee also reviewed the goals, objectives and strategies of the state plan in order to select goals, objectives and actions for the plan that are consistent with those of the state.

### 3.8 PLAN DEVELOPMENT CHRONOLOGY/MILESTONES

Table 3-3 summarizes important milestones in the development of the plan update.

<b>TABLE 3-3. PLAN DEVELOPMENT MILESTONES</b>			
Date	Event	Description	Attendance
<b>2008</b>			
3/26	County submits FMA grant application	Seek funding for flood portion of plan update process	N/A
11/17	County submits PDM grant application	Seek funding for plan update process	N/A
10/1	County receives notice of FMA grant award	Funding secured	N/A
<b>2009</b>			
6/8	County initiates contractor procurement	Seek technical assistance to facilitate plan update process	N/A
6/18	County selects Tetra Tech to facilitate plan development	Facilitation contractor secured	N/A
7/20	Planning team identified	Formation of the planning team	N/A
9/21	County receives notice of PDM grant award	Funding secured	N/A
9/22	Eligible local governments identified	Identification of potential planning partners	N/A
10/14	Planning partner kickoff meeting	Meeting with potential planning partners. Attendees were advised of planning partner expectations and asked to formally commit to the process. Steering Committee volunteers were solicited.	23
12/4	Deadline for submittal of letter of intent	Formation of planning partnership. Confirmation of planning partners.	N/A
<b>2010</b>			
1/7	Steering Committee formed	Planning partners nominated potential committee members. The planning team received commitments from 17 members, finalizing the formation of the Steering Committee.	N/A
3/10	Steering Committee Meeting #1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review purposes for update</li> <li>• Organize Steering Committee</li> <li>• Plan review</li> <li>• Public involvement strategy</li> </ul>	17
3/16	Public Outreach	Hazard mitigation plan website established on the ACCEM web page at: <a href="http://www.accem.org/hmpu.html">http://www.accem.org/hmpu.html</a>	N/A

**TABLE 3-3.  
PLAN DEVELOPMENT MILESTONES**

Date	Event	Description	Attendance
4/14	Steering Committee Meeting #2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review/approve Steering Committee ground rules</li> <li>• Risk assessment update</li> <li>• Plan review observations</li> <li>• Critical facilities</li> <li>• Public outreach</li> </ul>	18
5/7	Public Outreach	Initial press release on plan update disseminated to all media outlets within the planning area.	N/A
5/12	Steering Committee Meeting #3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Define hazards of concern</li> <li>• Define critical facilities</li> <li>• Public outreach-questionnaire</li> </ul>	17
6/9	Steering Committee Meeting #4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approve critical facilities definition</li> <li>• Approve questionnaire</li> <li>• Public meeting timeline</li> <li>• Guiding principal/mission statement</li> </ul>	16
6/10	Public Outreach	A hazard mitigation questionnaire deployed on-line via the hazard mitigation plan website.	N/A
7/14	Steering Committee Meeting #5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Critical facilities inventory</li> <li>• Review initial survey results</li> <li>• Revise public meeting schedule</li> <li>• Goal setting exercise</li> </ul>	16
7/15	Public Outreach	Press release # 2 disseminated to all media outlets, advertising the hazard mitigation survey.	N/A
8/18	Steering Committee Meeting #6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preview risk assessment results</li> <li>• Questionnaire status report</li> <li>• Goal setting exercise results</li> </ul>	13
8/20	Public Outreach	Western Idaho Fair. Signboards advertising the survey were posted at the public information booth. Cards with information on the survey were handed out to fair-goers.	N/A
9/11	Public Outreach	Third press release, announcing public meetings disseminated to all media outlets.	N/A
9/14	Public Outreach	Public open house held at Eagle Fire Station #1. TV coverage from channels 2 and 6.	41
9/15	Public Outreach	Public open house held at the Meridian City Hall.	35
9/16	Public Outreach	A public open house was held at the Ada County Courthouse in Boise.	29
10/13	Steering Committee Meeting #7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risk assessment update</li> <li>• Review public meetings</li> <li>• Finalize goal statements</li> <li>• Objectives exercise</li> </ul>	11

**TABLE 3-3.  
PLAN DEVELOPMENT MILESTONES**

Date	Event	Description	Attendance
<b>2011</b>			
1/25	Jurisdictional Annex Workshops (Round 1)	Mandatory session for planning partners. Workshop focused on how to complete the jurisdictional annex template. Two sessions were held. One for municipal governments and one for special purpose districts.	13
1/27	Jurisdictional Annex Workshops (Round 2)	Mandatory session for planning partners. Workshop focused on how to complete the jurisdictional annex template. Two sessions were held. One for municipal governments and one for special purpose districts.	23
3/9	Steering Committee Meeting #8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workshop review</li> <li>• Template status</li> <li>• Prior action plan review</li> <li>• County-wide initiatives</li> <li>• Plan maintenance strategy</li> </ul>	13
6/6	Steering Committee Meeting #9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internal review draft of the plan</li> <li>• Final public outreach process</li> <li>• Lose ends</li> </ul>	7
6/20	Public Comment Period	Initial public comment period of draft plan opens. Draft plan posted on plan website with press release notifying public of plan availability	N/A
6/23	Public Outreach	Commissioner Sharon Ullman discusses plan update and public comment process on call-in radio show on KBOI radio. Press release #3 on public comment period disseminated by ACCEM to all media outlets.	N/A
7/12	Public Outreach	Final public meeting on Draft Plan held during a special Executive Council meeting at the Ada County Courthouse.	31
7/25	Plan Review	Pre-adoption review draft of the plan submitted to the ID. Bureau of Homeland Security (IBHS)	N/A
X/X	Adoption	Adoption window of final plan b opens	N/A
X/X	Plan Approval	Final plan approved by FEMA	N/A

## **CHAPTER 4. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

Broad public participation in the planning process helps ensure that diverse points of view about the planning area's needs are considered and addressed. 44CFR requires that the public have opportunities to comment on disaster mitigation plans during the drafting stages and prior to plan approval (Section 201.6.b.1). The CRS expands on these requirements by making credits available for optional public involvement activities.

### **4.1 STRATEGY**

The strategy for involving the public in this plan update emphasized the following elements:

- Include members of the public on the Steering Committee.
- Use a questionnaire to determine if the public's perception of risk and support of hazard mitigation has changed since the initial planning process.
- Attempt to reach as many planning area citizens as possible using multiple media.
- Identify and involve planning area stakeholders.

#### **4.1.1 Stakeholders and the Steering Committee**

Stakeholders are the individuals, agencies and jurisdictions that have a vested interest in the recommendations of the hazard mitigation plan, including planning partners. All planning partners are stakeholders in the process. The diversity brought to the table by special purpose districts and private non-profit entities creates an opportunity to leverage partnerships between entities that typically do not work together in the field of hazard mitigation.

The effort to include stakeholders in this plan update included stakeholder participation on the Steering Committee. All members of the Steering Committee live or work within the planning area. Two members of the committee represented Ada County citizen and property owner interests, and five members represented private sector interests. Boise State University also provided a representative to the committee to represent the academic interests of this planning effort. This proved to be a valuable resource during public meetings. The Steering Committee met throughout the course of the plan's development, and all meetings were open to the public. Protocols for handling public comments were established in the ground rules developed by the Steering Committee.

#### **4.1.2 Questionnaire**

A questionnaire (see Figure 4-1) developed by the planning team, with guidance from the Steering Committee, was used to gauge household preparedness for natural hazards and the level of knowledge of tools and techniques that assist in reducing risk and loss from natural hazards. This questionnaire was designed to help identify areas vulnerable to one or more natural hazards. Responses helped guide the Steering Committee in selecting goals, objectives and mitigation strategies. A web-based survey tool was used to develop and track the results of the survey. The survey was disseminated by electronic means, principally via the hazard mitigation plan website. The survey and the website were advertised via multiple means during the survey period. Business cards with information on the survey were handed out at public forums such as open houses and the Western Idaho Fair. Over 380 questionnaires were completed. The complete questionnaire and a summary of its findings can be found in Appendix B.

**Copy of Ada County Survey: Natural Hazards & Mitigation Planning**

**Survey Introduction**

A partnership of local governments and other stakeholders in Ada County are working together to update the Ada County All Hazards Mitigation Plan. This is in response to Federal programs that will enable the partnership to use pre-disaster and post-disaster financial assistance to reduce the exposure of County residents to risks associated with natural hazards.

In order to identify and plan for future natural disasters, we need your assistance. This questionnaire is designed to help us gauge the level of knowledge local citizens already have about natural disaster issues and to find out from local residents about areas vulnerable to various types of natural disasters. The information you provide will help us coordinate activities to reduce the risk of injury or property damage in the future.

The survey consists of 28 questions and provides an opportunity for your comments at the end. The survey should only take a few minutes to complete. When you have finished the survey, please click "Done" on the final page.

The Ada County Partnership thanks you for taking the time to participate in this information-gathering process.

**\* 1. Where in Ada County do you live?**

Boise                       Kuna                       Unincorporated County-East  
 Eagle                       Meridian                       Unincorporated County-North  
 Garden City                       Unincorporated County-West                       Unincorporated County-South  
 Other (please specify)  
\_\_\_\_\_

**\* 2. Do you work in Ada County?**

Yes                       No

**3. Which of the following natural hazard events have you or has anyone in your household experienced in the past 20 years within Ada County? (Check all that apply)**

Dam/Levee Failure                       Household Fire  
 Drought                       Landslide  
 Earthquake                       Severe Weather (wind, lightning, winter storm, etc.)  
 Flood                       Wildland Fire  
 Hazardous Materials                       None  
 Other (please specify)  
\_\_\_\_\_

Page 1

Figure 4-1. Sample Page from Questionnaire Distributed to the Public

### 4.1.3 Opportunity for Public Comment

#### Public Meetings

Open-house format public meetings were held on September 14, 2010 in Eagle, on September 15, 2010 in Meridian, and on September 16, 2010 in Boise, (see Figure 4-2, Figure 4-3, Figure 4-4 and Figure 4-5). Each ran from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. The meeting format allowed attendees to examine maps and handouts and have conversations with project staff. Reasons for planning and information generated for the risk assessment were shared with attendees via a PowerPoint presentation. Tables were set up for each of the primary hazards to which the County is most vulnerable. A HAZUS-MH workstation allowed citizens to see information on their property, including exposure and damage estimates for dam failure, earthquake and flood hazard events. Participating property owners were provided printouts of this information for their properties. This tool was effective in illustrating risk to the public.



Figure 4-2. Public Meeting #1- Planning Team Being Interviewed by Channel 6 News

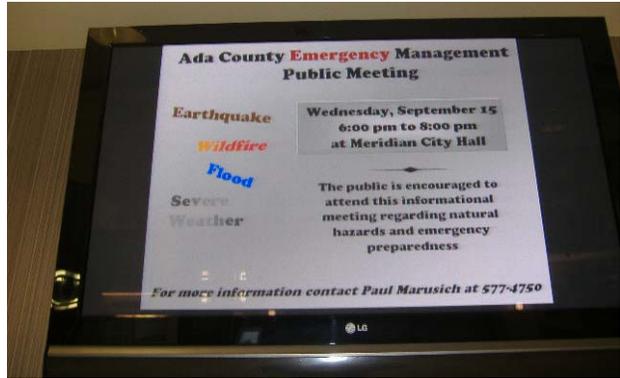


Figure 4-3. Advertisement of Public Meeting # 2 in Meridian



Figure 4-4. National Weather Service Table at Public Meeting #2

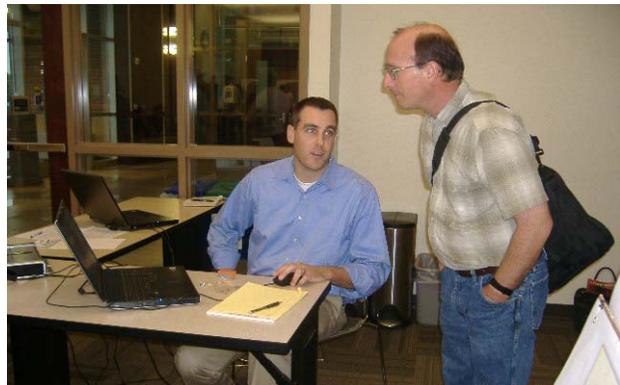


Figure 4-5. Getting Property Information from a HAZUS Workstation During Public Open House

Subject matter expertise was made available at the public meetings from the following agencies:

- Citizen Emergency Response team (CERT)
- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- The National Weather Services
- Firewise (a fire-safety program of the National Fire Protection Association)
- Boise State University Geology Department
- Idaho State Department of Insurance
- Ada City-County Emergency Management

Planning partners and the planning team were present to answer questions. Each citizen attending the open houses was asked to complete a questionnaire, and each was given an opportunity to provide written comments to the Steering Committee. Local media outlets were informed of the open houses by a press release from the County.

Additionally, one traditional format public meeting was held on July 12, 2011 during a special Executive Council meeting at the Ada County Courthouse. This meeting was held following the advertised public comment period for the draft plan, and provided the public an additional opportunity to comment on the

draft plan prior to initiation of the plan adoption process. Television news coverage of the meeting was provided by KIVI TV, Channel 6 on the day of the meeting.

### **Press Releases**

Press releases were distributed over the course of the plan's development as key milestones were achieved and prior to each public meeting. The planning effort received the following press coverage:

- A paid advertisement publicizing the public open houses, run in the Idaho Statesman September 10 – 13, 2010. (see Figure 4-6)
- Coverage in the "Preparedness Pointer," the emergency management newsletter disseminated to Ada County residents by ACCEM
- Coverage on the public open houses was provided by Channels 2 (KBOI) and 6 (KIVI) news the week of September 13, 2010.
- A press release announcing the plan update process and the mitigation plan website was disseminated to all media outlets on May 7, 2010.
- A press release announcing the on-line survey was disseminated to all media outlets on July 15, 2010.
- A press release announcing the public comment period was disseminated to all media outlets by ACCEM on June 23, 2011.

### **Internet**

At the beginning of the update process, a website was created to keep the public posted on plan development milestones and to solicit relevant input (see Figure 4-7):

<http://www.accem.org/hmpu.html>

The site's address was publicized in all press releases, mailings, questionnaires and public meetings. Information on the plan update process, the Steering Committee, the questionnaire and phased drafts of the plan was made available to the public on the site throughout the process. The County intends to keep a website active after the plan's completion to keep the public informed about successful mitigation projects and future plan updates.

### **Other Media Outlets**

Radio and television broadcast media were contacted to inform the public about the plan update process and opportunities to provide public comment. Ada County Commissioner, Sharon Ullman is frequently a guest on radio station KBOI for an hour and a half call-in segment on issues in Ada County. As the chair of the Steering Committee, Commissioner Ullman used these opportunities to discuss the plan as well as promote the public outreach strategy identified by the Steering Committee. One of these segments, on June 23, 2011, occurred at the beginning of the final public comment period of the draft plan. Commissioner Ullman was able to discuss the draft plan as well as the public comment process established for this component of the plan update process. ACCEM sent out an e-mail notification to over 600 recipients of its "Preparedness Pointer" newsletter prior to this broadcast notifying them of this opportunity to provide comment.

KBOI television Channel 2 provided news coverage of the public open houses held September 14 –16, 2010. Prerecorded broadcasts were played during the 6:00 news each night of the public meeting schedule. Following the open houses, the station posted the prerecorded tape on its website (see Figure 4-8). These broadcasts can be viewed at:

<http://www.kivity.com/story/13154920/check-your-property-risks-for-the-next-natural-disaster?redirected=true>

KIVI TV, Channel 6, provided news coverage on the final public meeting during the 6:00 news on July 12, 2011. This broadcast advertised the public comment period as well as ways the public could provide input on the plan.

## 4.2 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT RESULTS

By engaging the public through the public involvement strategy, the concept of mitigation was introduced to the public, and the Steering Committee received feedback that was used in developing the components of the plan update. Details of attendance and comments received are summarized in Table 4-1.

<b>TABLE 4-1. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC MEETINGS</b>				
Date	Location	Number of Citizens in Attendance	Number of Comments Received	Number of Questionnaires Received
9/14/2010	Eagle	41	1	None
9/15/2010	Meridian	35	0	None
9/16	Boise	29	2	None
7/12	Ada County Courthouse	31	0	None
<b>Total</b>		<b>136</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>None</b>

## Know Disaster Before It Arrives

The Ada County Hazard Mitigation Planning Steering Committee invites all Ada County residents to participate in one of three public meetings being held September 14th – 16th, where the results of Ada County's most recent disaster analysis will be displayed.

Many people in the Treasure Valley have heard about the destructive power of earthquakes, floods, and other natural disasters, but may not have experienced them first-hand. Knowing how to prepare for these events by recognizing risks and identifying potential hazards through Hazard Mitigation planning is critical.

The Local Disaster Analysis results meetings will be held as follows:

**Tuesday, September 14, 2010 - 6:00 PM -8:30 PM**

Eagle Fire Station #1, Main Training Room/EOC  
966 E Iron Eagle Dr, Eagle 83616

**Wednesday, September 15, 2010 - 6:00 PM -8:30 PM**

Meridian City Hall, Conference Rooms A & B  
33 E Broadway Ave., Meridian, 83642

**Thursday, September 16 2010 - 6:00 PM -8:30 PM**

Ada County Courthouse, Public Hearing Room (1st Floor)  
200 W. Front St., Boise, ID 83702

Representatives from a diverse group of organizations will be available for questions:

- Earthquake
- Flood – 50 year, 100 year and 500 year events
- Dam Failure
- Wildfire
- Landslide

Staff will be available on site to input private residential addresses and print out the estimated damage results for earthquake and flood from the computer disaster model used for the study

Staff from the following organizations will be available for questions:

- National Weather Service (extreme weather, flooding)
- Army Corps of Engineers (dam and reservoir system)
- Idaho Firewise (wildfire prevention/safety)
- Geologists from Boise State University (earthquake)
- Community Emergency Response Team (personal preparedness)

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Figure 4-6. Paid Advertisement in Idaho Statesman

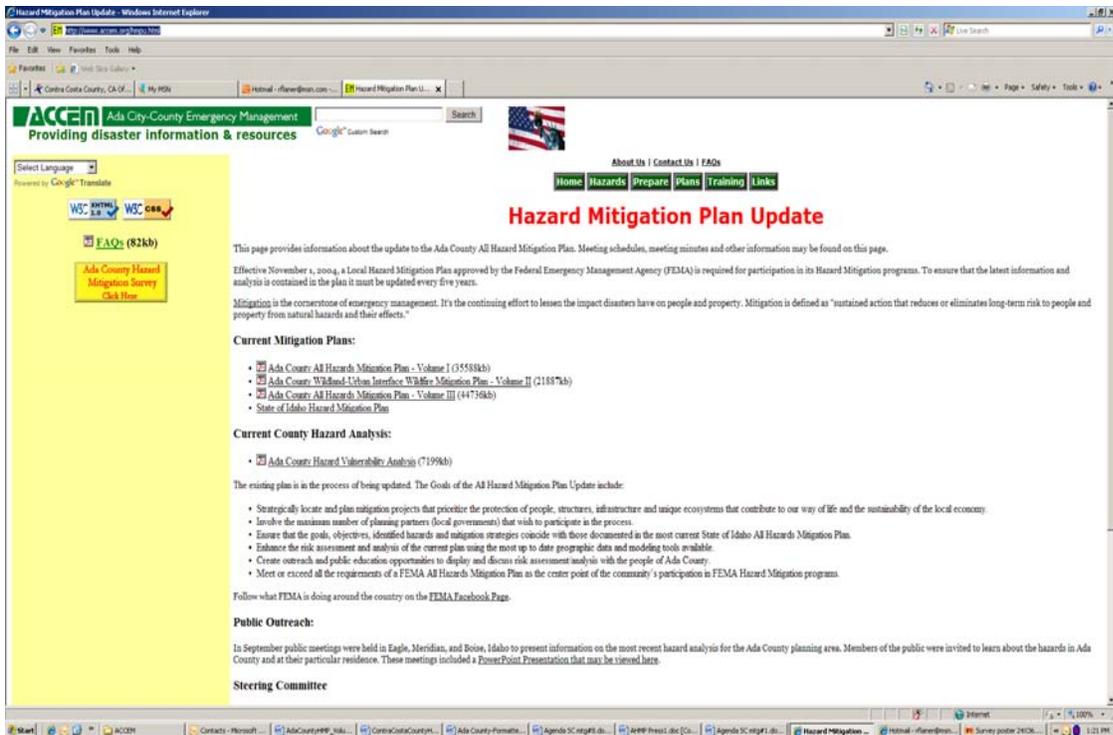


Figure 4-7. Sample Page from Hazard Mitigation Plan Web Site

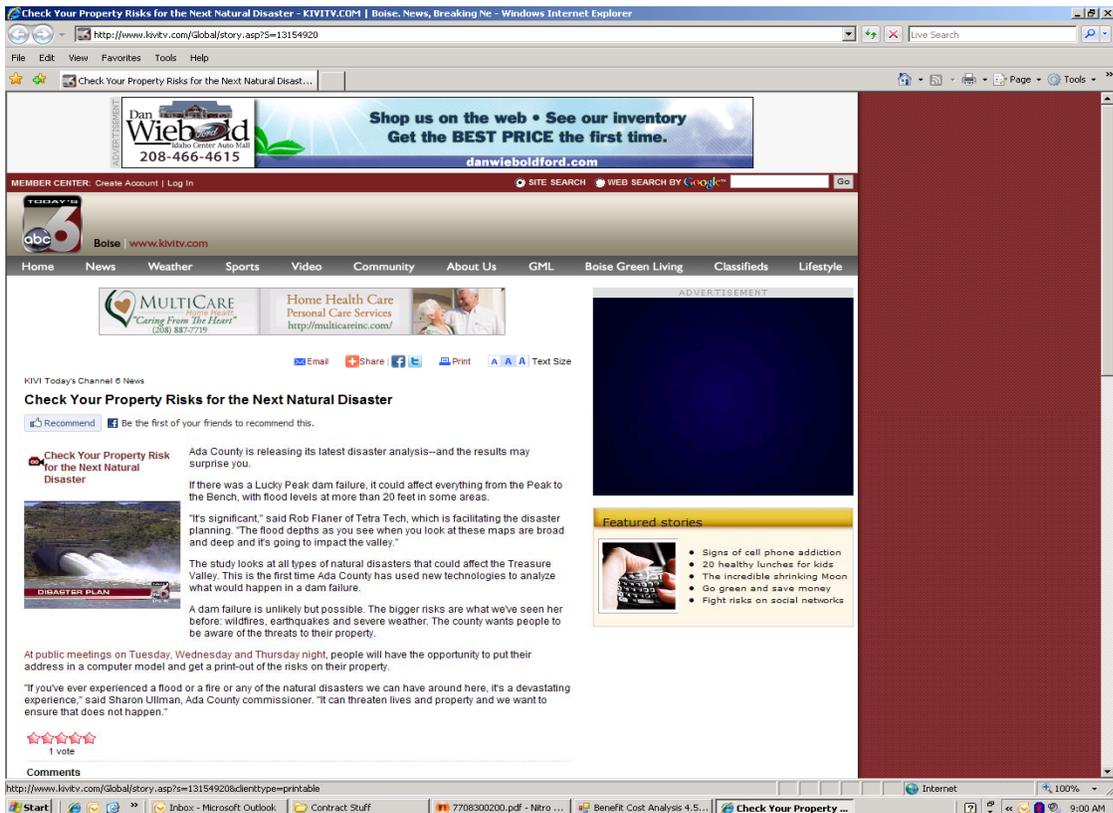


Figure 4-8. KIVI TV Coverage of Public Open Houses



## **CHAPTER 5.**

### **GUIDING PRINCIPLE, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

Hazard mitigation plans must identify goals for reducing long-term vulnerabilities to identified hazards (44CFR Section 201.6.c(3i)). The Steering Committee established a mission statement, a set of goals and measurable objectives for this update, based on data from the preliminary risk assessment and the results of the public involvement strategy. The mission statement, goals, objectives and actions in this plan all support each other. Goals were selected to support the mission statement. Objectives were selected that met multiple goals. Actions were prioritized based on the action meeting multiple objectives.

#### **5.1 MISSION STATEMENT**

A mission statement provides a vision for a process. It is not a goal because it does not describe a hazard mitigation outcome, and it is broader than a hazard-specific objective. The mission statement for the Ada County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update is as follows:

To reduce the vulnerability to natural hazards in order to protect the health, safety, welfare and economy of the Ada County community.

#### **5.2 GOALS**

The following are the mitigation goals for this plan update:

1. Protect lives and reduce hazard-related injuries.
2. Minimize or reduce damage from natural hazards to property, including critical facilities.
3. Encourage the development and implementation of long-term, cost-effective mitigation projects.
4. Maintain, enhance and restore the natural environment's capacity to deal with the impacts of natural hazard events.
5. Improve emergency management preparedness, collaboration, and outreach within the planning area.

Achievement of these goals defines the effectiveness of a mitigation strategy.

#### **5.3 OBJECTIVES**

Each selected objective meets multiple goals, serving as a stand-alone measurement of the effectiveness of a mitigation action, rather than as a subset of a goal. The objectives also are used to help establish priorities. The objectives are as follows:

1. Minimize disruption of local government and commerce operations caused by natural hazards.
2. Using best available data and science, continually improve understanding of the location and potential impacts of natural hazards, vulnerability of building types and community development patterns; based on this analysis, identify and implement the measures needed to enhance life safety.

3. Retrofit, purchase or relocate structures based on one or more of the following criteria: level of exposure, repetitive loss history, previous damage from natural hazards.
4. Prevent or discourage new development in hazardous areas; if building occurs in high-risk areas, ensure that it is done in such a way as to minimize risk.
5. Integrate hazard mitigation policies into community land use plans that not only protect the built up environment but also maintain or enhance the natural environment's ability to withstand and recover from natural disasters, with an emphasis on the promotion of regional consistency in policy.
6. Strengthen codes and code enforcement to ensure that new construction of property and infrastructure can withstand the impacts of natural hazards.
7. Develop new and improve existing early warning emergency notification protocol, systems and evacuation procedures.
8. Educate the public on the area's potential natural hazards and ways to personally prepare for, respond to, recover from and mitigate the impacts of these events.
9. Establish a partnership among all levels of government and the business community to improve and implement methods to protect property.
10. Increase resilience and the continuity of operations of identified critical facilities and infrastructure within the planning area.

## **CHAPTER 6. PLAN ADOPTION**

A hazard mitigation plan must document formal adoption by the governing body of the jurisdiction requesting federal approval of the plan (44CFR, Section 201.6.c.5). For multi-jurisdictional plans, each jurisdiction requesting approval must document that it has been formally adopted. This plan will be submitted for a pre-adoption review to Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security (IBHS) and the Insurance Services Office (FEMA's CRS contractor) prior to adoption. Once pre-adoption approval has been provided, all planning partners will formally adopt the plan update. All partners understand that DMA compliance and its benefits cannot be achieved until the plan is adopted. Copies of the resolutions adopting this plan for all planning partners can be found in Appendix D of this volume.



## **CHAPTER 7. PLAN MAINTENANCE STRATEGY**

A hazard mitigation plan must present a plan maintenance process that includes the following (44CFR Section 201.6.c.4):

- A section describing the method and schedule of monitoring, evaluating, and updating the mitigation plan over a 5-year cycle
- A process by which local governments incorporate the requirements of the mitigation plan into other planning mechanisms, such as comprehensive or capital improvement plans, when appropriate
- A discussion on how the community will continue public participation in the plan maintenance process.

This chapter details the formal process that will ensure that the Ada County Hazard Mitigation Plan remains an active and relevant document and that the planning partners maintain their eligibility for applicable funding sources. The plan maintenance process includes a schedule for monitoring and evaluating the plan annually and producing an updated plan every five years. This chapter also describes how public participation will be integrated throughout the plan maintenance and implementation process. It explains how the mitigation strategies outlined in this Plan will be incorporated into existing planning mechanisms and programs, such as comprehensive land-use planning processes, capital improvement planning, and building code enforcement and implementation. The Plan's format allows sections to be reviewed and updated when new data become available, resulting in a plan that will remain current.

### **7.1 PLAN IMPLEMENTATION**

The effectiveness of the hazard mitigation plan depends on its implementation and incorporation of its action items into partner jurisdictions' existing plans, policies and programs. Together, the action items in the Plan provide a framework for activities that the partners can implement over the next 5 years. The planning team and the Steering Committee have established goals and objectives and have prioritized mitigation actions that will be implemented through existing plans, policies and programs.

Ada City-County Emergency Management (ACCEM) will have lead responsibility for overseeing the Plan implementation and maintenance strategy. Plan implementation and evaluation will be a shared responsibility among all planning partnership members and agencies identified as lead agencies in the mitigation action plans (see planning partner annexes in Volume 2 of this plan).

### **7.2 STEERING COMMITTEE**

The Steering Committee is a volunteer body that oversaw the development of the Plan and made recommendations on key elements of the plan, including the maintenance strategy. It was the Steering Committee's position that an oversight committee with representation similar to the initial Steering Committee should have an active role in the Plan maintenance strategy. Therefore, it is recommended that a steering committee remain a viable body involved in key elements of the Plan maintenance strategy. The new steering committee should strive to include representation from the planning partners, as well as other stakeholders in the planning area.

The principal role of the new steering committee in this plan maintenance strategy will be to review the annual progress report and provide input to ACCEM on possible enhancements to be considered at the next update. Future plan updates will be overseen by a steering committee similar to the one that participated in this update process, so keeping an interim steering committee intact will provide a head start on future updates. Completion of the progress report is the responsibility of each planning partner, not the responsibility of the steering committee. The steering committee's role will be to review the progress report in an effort to identify issues needing to be addressed by future plan updates.

### **7.3 ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT**

The minimum task of each planning partner will be the evaluation of the progress of its individual action plan during a 12-month performance period. This review will include the following:

- Summary of any hazard events that occurred during the performance period and the impact these events had on the planning area
- Review of mitigation success stories
- Review of continuing public involvement
- Brief discussion about why targeted strategies were not completed
- Re-evaluation of the action plan to determine if the timeline for identified projects needs to be amended (such as changing a long-term project to a short-term one because of new funding)
- Recommendations for new projects
- Changes in or potential for new funding options (grant opportunities)
- Impact of any other planning programs or initiatives that involve hazard mitigation.

The planning team has created a template to guide the planning partners in preparing a progress report (see Appendix C). The plan maintenance steering committee will provide feedback to the planning team on items included in the template. It is the intent of the planning team to prepare an annual report on the progress of the plan. This report should be used as follows:

- Posted on the ACCEM website page dedicated to the hazard mitigation plan
- Presented to planning partner governing bodies to inform them of the progress of actions implemented during the reporting period
- For planning partners that participate in the Community Rating System, the report can be provided as part of the CRS annual re-certification package. The CRS requires an annual recertification to be submitted by October 1 of every calendar year for which the community has not received a formal audit. To meet this recertification timeline, the planning team will strive to complete progress reports between June and September each year.

Uses of the progress report will be at the discretion of each planning partner. Annual progress reporting is not a requirement specified under 44CFR. However, it may enhance the planning partnership's opportunities for funding. While failure to implement this component of the plan maintenance strategy will not jeopardize a planning partner's compliance under the DMA, it may jeopardize its opportunity to partner and leverage funding opportunities with the other partners. Each planning partner was informed of these protocols at the beginning of this planning process, and each partner acknowledged these expectations with submittal of a letter of intent to participate in this process.

## **7.4 PLAN UPDATE**

Local hazard mitigation plans must be reviewed, revised if appropriate, and resubmitted for approval in order to remain eligible for benefits under the DMA (44CFR, Section 201.6.d.3). The Ada County partnership intends to update the hazard mitigation plan on a 5-year cycle from the date of initial plan adoption. This cycle may be accelerated to less than 5 years based on the following triggers:

- A Presidential Disaster Declaration that impacts the planning area
- A hazard event that causes loss of life
- An update of the County or participating city's comprehensive plan

It will not be the intent of future updates to develop a complete new hazard mitigation plan for the planning area. The update will, at a minimum, include the following elements:

- The update process will be convened through a steering committee.
- The hazard risk assessment will be reviewed and, if necessary, updated using best available information and technologies.
- The action plans will be reviewed and revised to account for any initiatives completed, dropped, or changed and to account for changes in the risk assessment or new partnership policies identified under other planning mechanisms (such as the comprehensive plan).
- The draft update will be sent to appropriate agencies and organizations for comment.
- The public will be given an opportunity to comment on the update prior to adoption.
- The partnership governing bodies will adopt their respective portions of the updated plan.

## **7.5 CONTINUING PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

The public will continue to be apprised of the plan's progress through the ACCEM website, including providing copies of annual progress reports on the website. Each planning partner has agreed to provide links to the County hazard mitigation plan website on their individual jurisdictional websites to increase avenues of public access to the plan. ACCEM has agreed to maintain the hazard mitigation plan website. This site will not only house the final plan, it will become the one-stop shop for information regarding the plan, the partnership and plan implementation. Copies of the plan will be distributed to the Ada County Library system. Upon initiation of future update processes, a new public involvement strategy will be initiated based on guidance from a new steering committee. This strategy will be based on the needs and capabilities of the planning partnership at the time of the update. At a minimum, this strategy will include the use of local media outlets within the planning area.

## **7.6 INCORPORATION INTO OTHER PLANNING MECHANISMS**

The information on hazard, risk, vulnerability and mitigation contained in this plan is based on the best science and technology available at the time this update was prepared. The Ada County Comprehensive Plan and the comprehensive plans of the partner cities are considered to be integral parts of this plan. The County and partner cities, through adoption of comprehensive plans and zoning ordinances, have planned for the impact of natural hazards. The Plan update process provided the County and the cities with the opportunity to review and expand on policies contained within these planning mechanisms. The planning partners used their comprehensive plans and the hazard mitigation plan as complementary documents that work together to achieve the goal of reducing risk exposure to the citizens of the Ada County. An update to a comprehensive plan may trigger an update to the hazard mitigation plan.

All municipal planning partners support the creation of a linkage between the hazard mitigation plan and their individual comprehensive plans by identifying a mitigation initiative as such and giving that initiative a high priority. Other planning processes and programs to be coordinated with the recommendations of the hazard mitigation plan may include the following:

- Partners' emergency response plans
- Capital improvement programs
- Municipal codes
- Community design guidelines
- Water-efficient landscape design guidelines
- Stormwater management programs
- Water system vulnerability assessments
- Master fire protection plans.

Some action items do not need to be implemented through regulation. Instead, they can be implemented through the creation of new educational programs, continued interagency coordination, or improved public participation. As information becomes available from other planning mechanisms that can enhance this plan, that information will be incorporated via the update process.