

WYOMING RISK MAP NEWSLETTER

Welcome to Wyoming's spring 2022 Risk Mapping, Assessment, and Planning (Risk MAP) newsletter! This newsletter gives quarterly updates on the state's Risk MAP projects, as well as other flood-related information.

For questions or feedback, please email Madi Pluss, FEMA Risk MAP Program Manager, at madeleine.pluss@fema.dhs.gov.

If you require an accommodation or an alternative format of information, please submit your request to:
Region8AccommodationRequest@fema.dhs.gov.

RISK MAP PROCESS IN FULL BLOOM

Goshen and Carbon Counties are moving through the Risk MAP process, a FEMA program that gives communities flood information and tools to protect lives and property.

GOSHEN COUNTY

Goshen County flood maps will be effective on June 1, 2022. They will provide Goshen County's local officials and residents with flood risk information to better protect land and property. The maps will identify the floodway and floodplain, areas at greatest risk for flooding and subject to local floodplain management ordinances.

If you are in a high-risk flood area in Goshen County and have a federally backed mortgage, you will be required to have flood insurance. Flood insurance is available and encouraged for property owners in low- or moderate-risk areas. In fact, more than 20 percent of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) claims come from low to moderate risk areas. Talk to your local insurance agent and review your options.

Visit FloodSmart.gov for more information on flood insurance.



CARBON COUNTY

Carbon County flood maps have been delayed due to a technical omission of data in an area with no structures. This error was caught during the final quality review check.

To ensure the most accurate flood maps, FEMA is using this time to revise the affected portions of the map. Revised preliminary maps are expected at the end of summer 2022. Once they are revised, FEMA will work with Carbon County to review the updated panels and discuss next steps in the mapping process. There will be another opportunity for comment and appeal.

After this review, FEMA expects that Letters of Final Determination (LFD) for Carbon County will be available in mid-2023. These letters start a new 6-month period for communities to create, amend and approve the necessary ordinances. The effective maps are expected early 2024.

The graphic at the end of this newsletter shows the Risk MAP process. Every newsletter will include this graphic, so you can track your community's progress.



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MITIGATION MATTERS: PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR COMMUNITY

WHAT IS HAZARD MITIGATION?

The goal of hazard mitigation is to save lives and avoid property losses by minimizing the impact of disasters. Mitigation simply means actions taken that reduce or eliminate long-term risk from hazards. Mitigation helps stop hazards from turning into disasters.

Natural disasters have become more frequent and severe in recent years. The United States saw the largest number of billion-dollar disasters in history in 2020. There were 22 incidents (including hurricanes, floods, wildfires, and the COVID-19 outbreak). They cost the U.S. \$95 billion in damages.

Mitigation pays off in the long run, even if it has a higher initial expenditure. According to research by the National Institute of Building Sciences, for every \$1 spent on mitigation, \$6 is saved from future losses.

TAKING ACTION

There are many ways to safeguard your home from flooding and other hazards. Before making any structural changes, talk to a professional contractor and the local building department. They will help you understand the requirements and acquire any necessary permissions.

Here are some flood mitigation actions you can take:

- Where it rains, it can flood. Even if you do not live in a high-risk flood zone, buy flood insurance to protect your home and belongings.
- Raise the lowest floor of your house above the Base Flood Elevation (BFE). Elevating your home can save you money on flood insurance and reduce the risk of future flooding.
- Elevate or floodproof HVAC units, ductwork, electrical systems and other utilities above the BFE. This can protect against flood damage and lower repair costs.
- Install flood vents in foundation walls, garages and other enclosed spaces. Flood vents let water flow through and drain out, reducing flood damage.
- Use flood-resistant materials in areas of your home below the BFE. This will prevent water from doing severe damage.
- Secure any gas tanks to the floor. Make sure that vents and fill line openings are higher than the BFE. In a flood, a fuel tank might tip, spilling fuel and posing a fire hazard.
- Install a backflow valve on your sewer system. This will prevent sewage backup in your home.
- Install a waterproof veneer on external walls to protect your property from shallow floods. Use waterproofing materials to seal the walls of your basement.

Benefits of Mitigation Planning

- Identifies cost-effective actions for risk reduction.
- Raises awareness of hazards and risk.
- Promotes partnership building.
- Offers support in risk reduction activities.
- Provides a long-term solution to problems and eliminates the impact of future events.
- Improves resiliency and helps avoid repetitive damage from disasters.
- Focuses resources on the greatest risk.



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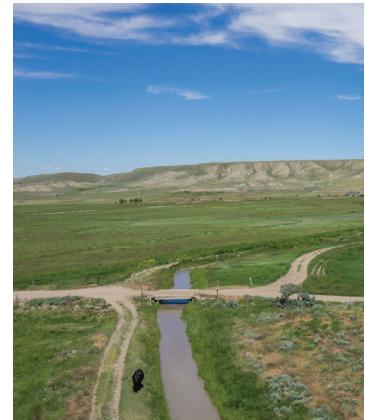
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Your community can also act to reduce flood risk. These actions can include:

- Updating and adopting building codes.
- Nature-based solutions, such as tree canopies, stormwater retention parks, or green ways. These are mitigation actions that are part of a community's landscape.
- Larger infrastructure projects such as levees, canals, or culverts. Assistance with researching funding opportunities can be provided by the state and federal government.
- Education and outreach programs to increase risk awareness.
- Partnerships between local, state, and nongovernmental organizations to expand resources.
- Joining the NFIP.



LEARN MORE

Do you want to learn more about how to mitigate? Check out the resources below for more mitigation action ideas for yourself and your community:

- [Protect Your Home From Flooding Guide](#): A brief brochure highlighting low-cost actions you can do yourself to reduce your home's risk of flooding. This guide includes recommendations for where to learn more about flood protection measures.
- [Mitigation Ideas: A Resource for Reducing Risk to Natural Hazards](#): A resource that can help communities identify and evaluate a range of potential mitigation actions. It will help to reduce risk to natural hazards and disasters.
- [Homeowner's Guide to Retrofitting](#): A guide describing six methods that can be used by homeowners to protect their homes from flooding.
- [Protect Your Property Brochures](#): A series for homeowners and renters that lists steps to prepare for and reduce damage from natural hazard events.
- [Mitigation Action Portfolio](#): An introduction for stakeholders to Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities and a list of eligible, beneficial hazard mitigation activities.
- [Nature-Based Solutions](#): A list of sustainable planning, design, environmental management and engineering practices. They help in building an environment of promoting adaptation and resilience.
- [Mitigation Best Practices](#): Stories and case studies on how others reduced or eliminated disaster risk.
- [Guides to Expanding Mitigation](#): A series that highlights different partnerships and sectors for mitigation projects.

FUNDING MITIGATION: In our next issue, we will look at different funding opportunities for mitigation actions, such as grants, loans, and technical assistance.



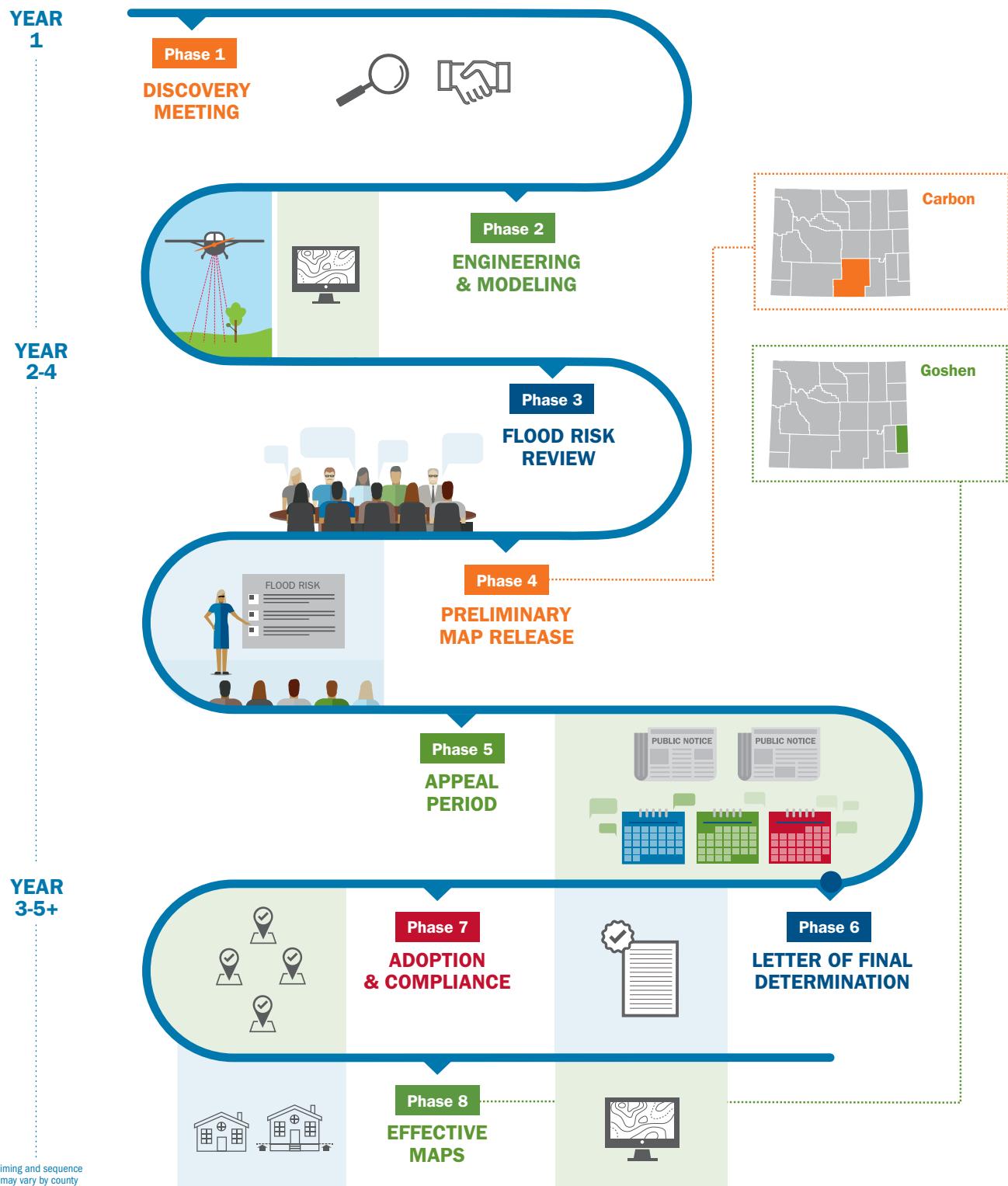
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YOUR COUNTY'S RISK MAP PROGRESS



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