

# WYOMING RISK MAP NEWSLETTER

PHOTO CREDITS: (L) Bearpaw Forest, Mount Moran / GETTY; (R) Flaming Gorge Reservoir in Wyoming / GETTY

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



For questions or feedback, please email FEMA Risk MAP Program Manager, Madi Pluss at [madeleine.pluss@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:madeleine.pluss@fema.dhs.gov).

If you need accommodation or an alternative format of information, please send your request to: [Region8AccommodationRequest@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:Region8AccommodationRequest@fema.dhs.gov).

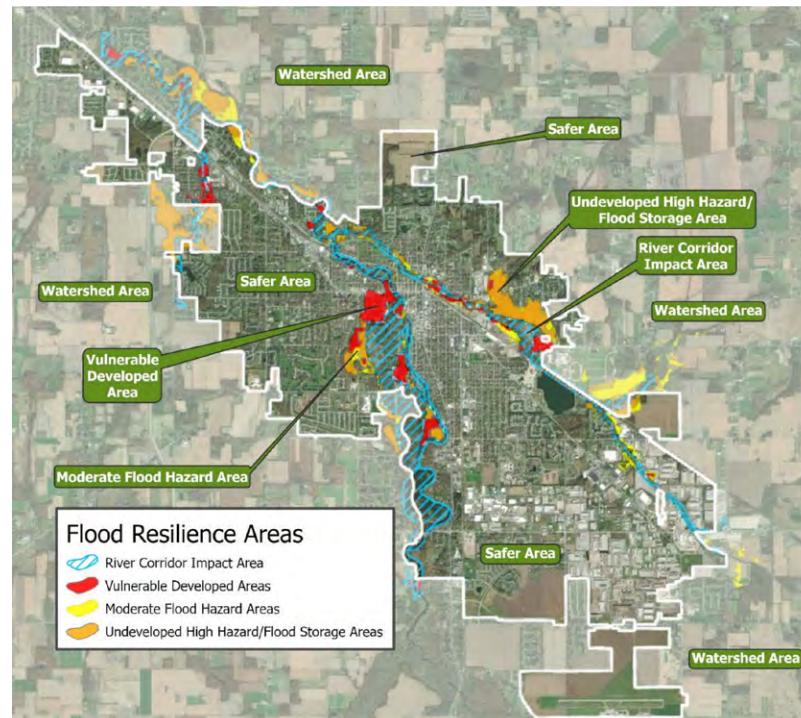
## WHAT IS NEXT IN THE RISK MAP PROCESS?

Goshen County flood maps went effective on June 1, 2022.

The revised preliminary maps for Carbon County are expected to be issued in August 2022. The revised maps reflect changes made to panels in the County/Saratoga area. Updates to the preliminary map are not expected to impact any structures. FEMA will partner with community officials to work together to review the maps with stakeholders and the public. A comment and appeal period will be offered as an opportunity to submit new or improved data for the revised areas.

FEMA will then send out Letters of Final Determination (LFD) for Carbon County mid-2023, starting a new six-month period for communities to make, change and approve the needed ordinances. The effective maps are expected in 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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## FUNDING MITIGATION

In our summer newsletter, we talked about the importance of mitigation. In this issue, we will take a closer look at how projects are funded.

Hazard mitigation is any long-term action that lowers or eliminates risk from natural disasters. These disasters can affect people or property. However, some actions can be large or costly. Many funding programs can help communities with mitigation projects and reduce costs.

**The most common assistance types are:**

- **Grants:** Financial assistance that may require cost-sharing
- **Loans:** Offers early financial assistance, sometimes with little or no interest
- **Technical Assistance:** Resources that provide guidance or data

We have provided a few FEMA grant programs that aid mitigation efforts on the following pages.

## BUILDING RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNITIES (BRIC)

BRIC is a grant program from FEMA. It invests in mitigation to reduce the costs of recovery. BRIC launched in 2021. It helps states, local communities, tribes, and territories.

**BRIC goes beyond project funding. It also looks at key areas to help communities plan ahead to reduce losses from disasters:**

- **Technical Assistance:** BRIC can give non-financial technical aid. This help can promote a program, identify projects, make, and review applications and mitigation plans, and give training on grant management.
- **Capability and Capacity Building:** Communities can get funding to grow their ability to reduce risk. The funding can also help move mitigation projects forward. BRIC can give applicants financial aid. This aid helps expand or improve their program, create, and support partnerships that reduce risk, develop mitigation actions, and more.
- **Mitigation Projects:** BRIC will fund cost-effective projects that increase resilience and public safety.
- **Management Costs:** BRIC can give financial aid for managing projects.

### Highlights from BRIC's first year include:

- FEMA had \$1 billion in available funding.
- FEMA got requests for more than \$4 billion.
- Fifty-six states and territories and 36 tribes submitted a total of 778 subapplications.
- In Round 1, FEMA chose 316 sub-applications from all states and territories for further examination. This included 27 tribal applications.
- A total of \$26.1 million in planning, project and management expenses was given to 38 tribes.

Applicants are encouraged to address infrastructure issues, mitigate risk to one or more lifelines (per FEMA guidance) and use nature-based solutions. BRIC applicants must have a major disaster declaration under the Stafford Act. The declaration must be within seven years of the start date of the yearly grant term. Applicants must also have a state or tribal hazard mitigation plan that has been approved by FEMA.



Applications for BRIC are expected to open in September 2022.  
For more information, visit <https://FEMA.gov/BRIC>.



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## HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM (HMGP)

HMGP is a FEMA grant program made available to states or tribes that receive a major disaster or Fire Management Assistance declaration. Funding is based on a portion of the total. It funds state, local, tribal, and territorial governments. It supports mitigation plans and actions that reduce the loss of life and property from disasters.

**Property owners cannot apply for an HMGP grant. However, their local community can apply on their behalf.**

### ELIGIBLE PROJECTS INCLUDE:

- Developing and adopting a hazard mitigation plan
- Buying out hazard-prone homes so owners can move to safer areas
- Raising structures above known flood levels
- Drainage improvement projects to reduce flooding
- Installing permanent barriers (e.g., levees, floodwalls) to prevent floodwaters from entering homes or businesses
- Structural retrofits to make a building more resistant to disasters



For more information on HMGP, visit [FEMA's HMGP webpage](#). If you are a property or business owner and would like more information on HMGP, learn more [here](#).

## FLOOD MITIGATION ASSISTANCE (FMA) GRANT

Grants offered by the FEMA [Flood Mitigation Assistance \(FMA\) program](#) help plan and execute projects. These grants help to avoid flood losses. The FMA is a competitive grant program. It funds states, local communities, federally recognized tribes, and territories. The funds can be used for projects that decrease or remove the risk of repeated flood damage to buildings. Those buildings must be insured by the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

State, territorial, and tribal governments can apply on their own or for individual homeowners and businesses. Some nonprofits can do the same. Common projects that FMA covers include home elevation costs. Those costs could be for engineering services, new foundation, sampling, utility connection and more. These techniques can help to reinforce your home. They help homes resist extreme weather, reduce the risk of further damage, lower insurance costs, and increase home values.

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

There are many funding resources for mitigation projects.

Check out FEMA's [Mitigation Resource Guide](#) for a list of opportunities from many organizations. Not sure which grant program is right for you? Contact the Wyoming State Hazard Mitigation Officer, Shamika McDonald at [Shamika.McDonald1@wyo.gov](mailto:Shamika.McDonald1@wyo.gov).



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## MEET THE WY SILVER JACKET TEAM

### Who are the Silver Jackets? What do they do?

The Silver Jackets are state-led interagency teams. The Wyoming Silver Jackets Team consists of federal and state agencies. Those agencies include the Bureau of Reclamation, Wyoming Office of Homeland Security, United States Geological Survey, Wyoming State Engineers office, National Weather Service Cheyenne and Riverton, Federal Emergency Management Agency Region 8, Wyoming Water Development Office, and U.S. Corps of Engineers Omaha District. Their goal is to create a collaborative cross-agency relationship that helps one another and decreases duplication of efforts. The team's goal is to do both while reducing flood risk in Wyoming.



### How have they helped reduce risk in Wyoming?

The Silver Jackets have helped reduce flood risk by identifying common goals between agencies. They work together to share knowledge and tools made by individual agencies. This cooperation helps improve the efficiency of other agencies in the state.

### What projects are they currently working on?

Currently, they are collaborating on a watershed analysis of the Mullen Burn Scar. This study will note inundation patterns from a predicted rain intensity. It will range through the upper North Platte, Laramie, and Little Laramie River Watersheds. This product will help county emergency managers with evacuation notification. These methods will also allow for a more flexible product that can be updated for future watershed conditions.

### What is the number one thing WY residents should know about their flood risk?

You should know that you have many floodplain resources through Silver Jackets' participating agencies. Ongoing floodplain management can be challenging for many small communities as it can be costly to take mitigative measures.

### What is your favorite part about the Silver Jacket Team?

The best part is the initial outreach to communities. It is always interesting and informative to hear from community floodplain managers on their management styles. The hurdles that the team sees at a federal level are different than what they see locally. This partnership and the following development of a mitigation project are rewarding.



Reach out to the Wyoming Silver Jackets team with any questions or support at: [wyoming.silverjackets@usace.army.mil](mailto:wyoming.silverjackets@usace.army.mil).



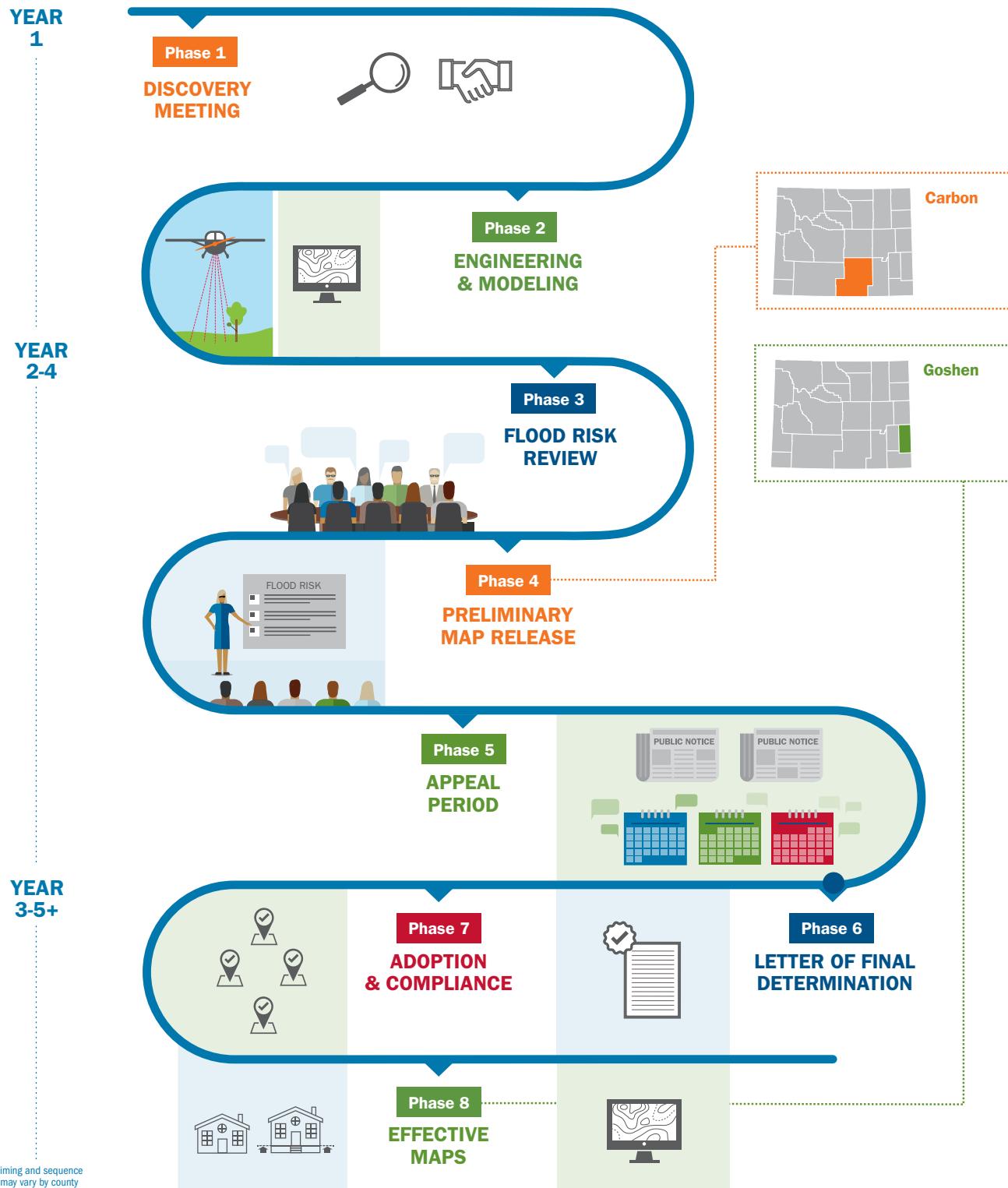
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## YOUR COUNTY'S RISK MAP PROGRESS



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