

NEWS RELEASE

Whitman County

DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COUNTY DRAFT HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT

In May 2019, a coalition of Whitman County cities, towns and special purpose districts embarked on a planning process to prepare for impacts of disasters.

Responding to federal mandates in the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-390), the coalition was formed to pool resources and create a uniform hazard mitigation strategy that can be consistently applied to the defined planning area. This planning coalition has now completed that effort. The planning process was led by Whitman County Emergency Management with support from Bridgeview Consulting, LLC, the technical consultant. The project was funded by a planning grant from FEMA, and took approximately eight (8) months to complete.

During this process, citizens were asked to contribute by sharing local knowledge of the region's vulnerability to hazards based on past occurrences, as well as identify initiatives which could help reduce the level of impact of those hazards. Public involvement was solicited via a multi-media campaign that included: press releases; public council/board presentations and meetings; web-based information; questionnaires, and safety fairs.

That process has now culminated with the development of the Draft 2020 Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan, which is now available for review and comment at the informational website established for this planning effort at: <http://whitmancounty.org/Page.aspx?pn=Emergency+Management>

The public is highly encouraged to provide input on the draft plan to Robin Cocking, via email, Robin.Cocking@whitmancounty.net or via phone at (509) 397-5608. The comment period will remain open until February 11, 2020.

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