

PRESS RELEASE

**FEMA MITIGATION GRANT AWARDS
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PRE-DISASTER MITIGATION GRANT INFORMATION FROM:

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**FEMA AWARDS MITIGATION GRANTS
TO MONTANA**

HELENA-Montana's Disaster and Emergency Services (DES) announced they have been notified by FEMA Headquarters that four Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Grants totaling over \$3.6 million have been selected for further review and funding pending environmental review.

FEMA funds 75% of the total project cost and 25% is a local or state matching fund. The grants selected were:

Park County Fleshman Creek Flood Mitigation Project with a Federal Share \$2,280,000 and local match of \$760,000;

Custer County Harris Creek Flood Mitigation Project with a Federal Share \$139,870 and local match of \$62,330;

Yellowstone County PDM Plan Update with a Federal Share \$229,467 and local match of \$76,489;

State of Montana PDM Plan Update with a Federal Share \$45,000 and local match of \$15,000; and State of Montana Technical Assistance Grant with a Federal Share \$23,688 and local match of \$7,896.

A total of six PDM Grant applications from the State and local jurisdictions were submitted by Montana DES last December for the Fiscal Year 2009 Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program which includes Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Grants. Congress appropriated just over \$100 million to the annual PDM fund last year and close to half of that was set aside for "Legislative PDM" or earmark projects. The four Montana grants selected were not Legislative PDM projects and competed nationally with 481 other applications from 45 states, 5 territories and 6 Indian Tribes. Over \$310 million of project applications were submitted competing for just over \$50 million of effective funding. "Montana did very well considering how stiff the competition was" according to Kent Atwood, State Hazard Mitigation Officer. Atwood added "It is gratifying that these jurisdictions that worked so hard on the applications with us are being rewarded and we can look forward to mitigating their natural hazards". Atwood works with and assists all fifty Montana Counties, seven Tribal Nations and multiple cities and towns that have or adopted FEMA approved PDM Plans and are eligible to apply for these grants to mitigate natural hazards, save lives and protect property.

Independent studies have proven that every dollar spent on mitigating natural hazards such as flooding, wildfire in the urban interface, earthquake retrofits, or severe summer or winter weather saves four dollars in future disaster recovery costs for the nation as a whole.

NOTE TO MEDIA: Additional information on these Mitigation grants can be found at http://www.fema.gov/government/grant/fs_mit_grant_prog.shtml

Please refer any questions to Kent Atwood at 406-841-3960