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County Profile

Gunnison County

Gunnison County Hazard Mitigation Plan 2026

County Fact Sheet

Community Summary Fact Sheet

Gunnison County Gunnison County Hazard Mitigation Plan 2026

17,579

Total Population

38.5

Median Age

7,498

Total Households

2.21

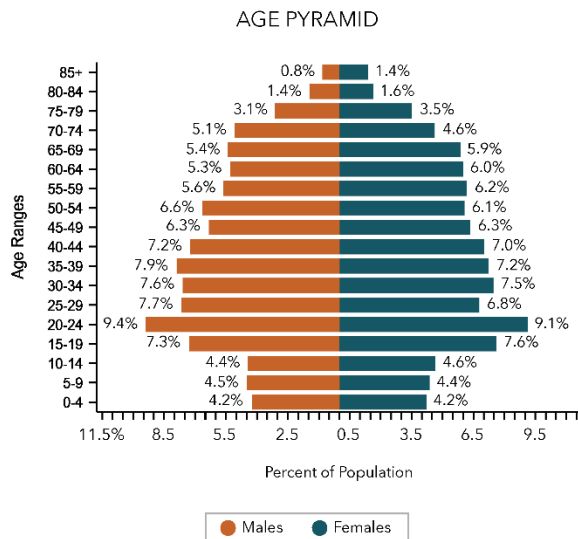
Average
Household Size

\$679,048

Median Home
Value

\$74,349

Median Household
Income



TOTAL POPULATION

2024 Total Population (Estimate) 17,579

2020 Total Population (U.S. Census) 16,918

2010 Total Population (U.S. Census) 15,324

2000 Total Population (U.S. Census) 13,956

AT RISK POPULATIONS



1,189

Households With
Disability



2,883

Population 65+



160

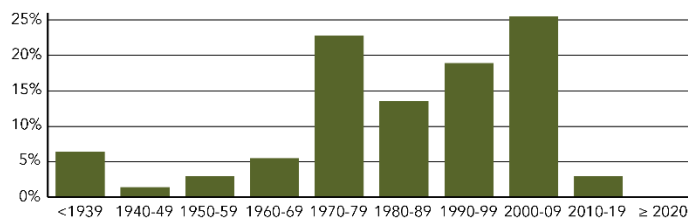
Households
Without Vehicle



12%

Households
Below the
Poverty Level

HOUSING: YEAR BUILT



EMPLOYMENT



1,397

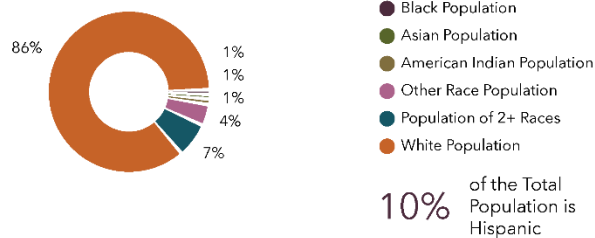
Total Businesses



2.3%

Unemployment Rate

POPULATION BY RACE



HOUSING



4,406

Vacant Housing
Units



5%

Mobile Homes



Source: Esri, U.S. Census, Esri-Data Axle, ACS, Esri forecasts for 2024, 2020, 2010, 2000, 2018-2022.

Local Planning Team

Gunnison County Local Planning Team

Name	Title	Jurisdiction, Department	Engagement
Lisa Bickford	Emergency Manager	Gunnison County, Emergency Management	Attended Meetings, Reviewed Documents, Provided Input
Ryan White	Deputy Emergency Manager	Gunnison County, Emergency Management	Attended Meetings, Reviewed Documents, Provided Input
Adam Murdie	Sheriff	Gunnison County, Sheriff's Office	Attended Meetings, Reviewed Documents, Provided Input
Sarah Elzay	Cheatgrass Coordinator	Gunnison County, Public Works	Attended Meetings
Martin Schmidt	Assistant County Manager	Gunnison County, Public Works	Attended Meetings, Provided Input
Rebecca Ricord	Building/Environmental Health Inspector & Plans Examiner & NFIP/CRS Coordinator	Gunnison County, Community and Economic Development	Attended Meetings, Reviewed Documents, Provided Input
Rachael Blondy	Planner II	Gunnison County, Community and Economic Development	Attended Meetings, Reviewed Documents, Provided Input
Hillary Seminick	Planning Director	Gunnison County, Community and Economic Development	Attended Meetings
Crystal Lambert	Building/Environmental Health Official	Gunnison County, Community and Economic Development	Attended Meetings
Nicole Stone	Public Information Officer	Gunnison County, Communications	Attended Meetings, Provided Input
Patty Dowd Schmitz	Communications Director	Gunnison County, Communications	Attended Meetings, Provided Input
Shonna Gray	Clinical Services Manager	Gunnison County, Health and Human Services	Attended Meetings, Provided Input
Scott Morrill	Chief Operations Officer	Gunnison Regional Communications Center, West Region Wildfire Council	Attended Meetings, Provided Input
Jodie Chinn	Executive Director	Gunnison Regional Communication Center	Attended Meetings, Provided Input
Nathan Hooper	Emergency Communications Specialist	Gunnison Regional Communication Center	Attended Meetings, Provided Input
Jack Starkebaum	Fuels Planner	U.S. Forest Service	Attended Meetings
Michael Salazar	Fuels Planner	U.S. Forest Service	Attended Meetings
David Carr	Forestry Technician	U.S. Forest Service	Attended Meetings, Provided Input
Dayle Funka	District Ranger	U.S. Forest Service	Attended Meetings, Provided Input

Name	Title	Jurisdiction, Department	Engagement
Nick Gallowich	Assistant Area Wildlife Manager	Colorado Parks and Wildlife	Attended Meetings
Branden Diamond	-	Colorado Parks and Wildlife	Attended Meetings, Provided Input
Jason Humble	Mitigation Planning Specialist	Colorado Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management	Attended Meetings
Melissa Geatz	Emergency Management Coordinator	Bureau of Reclamation	Attended Meetings, Provided Input
Sonja Chavez	General Manager	Upper Gunnison Rural Water Conservancy District	Attended Meetings, Provided Input
Beverly Richards	Wildlife Manager	Upper Gunnison Rural Water Conservancy District	Attended Meetings, Provided Input
Matt Da Silva	Director of Security	Western Colorado University	Attended Meetings, Provided Input
Seth Mensing	Media and Communications Manager	Western Colorado University	Attended Meetings
Leigh Robertson	Wildfire Outreach Coordinator	West Region Wildfire Council	Attended Meetings
Krystal Brown	Teacher	Gunnison High School	Attended Meetings
Jon Hare	Advocacy Director	High Country Conservation Advocates	Attended Meetings
Matt Scribner	Legal Intern	High Country Conservation Advocates	Attended Meetings
Erin Walter	Service Hydrologist	National Weather Service	Attended Meetings, Provided Input
Sandra Mabry	Emergency Manager	Gunnison Watershed School District	Attended Meetings, Provided Input
Joe Duensing	Battalion Chief	Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control	Attended Meetings, Provided Input
TJ Blake	Program Manager	Colorado Department of Transportation	Attended Meetings, Provided Input
Eliya Sorensen	Deputy Emergency Manager	Gunnison Valley Hospital	Attended Meetings, Provided Input

The following table describes meeting dates and times for Gunnison County throughout the HMP update for CRS credit.

Meeting Dates and Times

Meeting Type	Date and Time	Goal or Outcome
HMP Project Kick-off	Tuesday, May 6, 2025 Virtual	Set Goals
Hazard Assessment Meeting (Round 1 Meeting)	Thursday, June 26, 2025 In Person and Virtual	Assess the Hazard
Problem Assessment Meeting (Round 2 Meeting)	Tuesday, September 9, 2025 In Person and Virtual	Assess the Problem
Flood Mitigation Strategy Meeting	Tuesday, March 17, 2026 In Person	Review Possible Activities
Action Planning Strategy Session	Tuesday, March 17, 2026 In Person	Draft an Action Plan

Plan Maintenance

Hazard Mitigation Plans are living documents and should be updated regularly to ensure effectiveness and reflect changes in hazard events, priorities, and mitigation actions. These updates are encouraged to occur after every major disaster event, alongside planning document updates, before the Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants cycle begins, and/or before other funding opportunity cycles begin.

The Emergency Management Office and Community Development Department are responsible for reviewing and updating this participant profile outside of the five-year update. These two departments will review the plan at least annually, particularly after major events and when CRS updates are required. The Emergency Management Office will lead the full update of the hazard mitigation plan every five years.

Twice a year, the local planning team will meet to review CRS-related mitigation actions and create an annual evaluation report on progress. The report and any updates to the plan will be submitted to the county board, released to the media, and made available via social media and the Gunnison County website.

Capability Assessment

The planning team assessed Gunnison County's hazard mitigation capabilities by reviewing planning, regulatory, administrative, technical, fiscal, education, warning, and outreach capabilities. The county does not anticipate any significant changes to its capabilities in the near future.

Capability Assessment

Capability/Planning Mechanism		Yes/No
Planning & Regulatory Capability	Comprehensive Plan	No
	Capital Improvements Plan	Yes
	Economic Development Plan	Yes
	Emergency Operations Plan	Yes
	Floodplain Management Plan	No
	Stormwater Management Plan	No
	Zoning Ordinance	Yes
	Subdivision Regulation/Ordinance	Yes
	Floodplain Ordinance	Yes
	Building Codes	Yes
	Water System Emergency Response Plan	No
	Source Water Protection Plan	No
	National Flood Insurance Program	Yes
	Community Rating System	Yes
	Community Wildfire Protection Plan	Yes
	Growth Management Ordinance	Yes
	Hazard Specific Ordinances	Yes
	Erosion/Sediment Control Plan	Yes
	Flood Insurance Study	Yes

Capability/Planning Mechanism		Yes/No
	Elevation Certificates	Yes
	BCEGS Rating	4 Residential, 3 Commercial & Industrial
	Other (if any)	Gunnison Area Plan, Continuity of Operations Plan, Disaster Recovery Plan, Fire Operating Plan, Strategic Plan, Resiliency Roadmap, Crested Butte South Special Area Regulations, Gold Basin Special Area Regulations, Gunnison Area Special Area Regulations
Administrative & Technical Capability	Planning Commission	Yes
	Planner/Engineer (Land Development)	Yes
	Planner/Engineer/Scientist (Natural Hazards)	Yes
	Resilience Planner	No
	Transportation Planner	Yes
	Floodplain Administrator	Yes
	GIS Capabilities	Yes
	Chief Building Official	Yes
	Engineering (Construction)	Yes
	Emergency Manager	Yes
	Grant Manager	Yes
	Mutual Aid Agreement	Yes
	Site Plan Review Requirements	Yes
	Other (if any)	NEPA Planner
Fiscal Capability	1- & 6-Year Plan	No
	Applied for Grants in the Past	Yes
	Awarded a Grant in the Past	Yes
	Authority to Levy Taxes for Specific Purposes, such as Mitigation Projects	Yes
	Gas/Electric/Water/Sewer Service Fees	Yes
	Stormwater Service Fees	No
	Development Impact Fees	Yes
	General Obligation Revenue or Special Tax Bonds	No
	Withheld Spending in Hazard-Prone Areas	No
	Other (if any)	-
Education & Outreach Capability	Local Citizen Groups or Non-Profit Organizations Focused on Environmental Protection, Emergency Preparedness, Access and Functional Needs Populations, etc.	Yes
	Ongoing Public Education or Information Program (e.g., Responsible Water Use, Fire Safety,	Yes

Capability/Planning Mechanism		Yes/No
	Household Preparedness, Environmental Education)	
	Natural Disaster or Safety-Related School Programs	Yes
	StormReady Certification	No
	Firewise Communities Certification	No
	Tree City USA	No
	Other (if any)	-
Warning Systems / Services	General	Yes
	Flood	Yes
	Wildfire	Yes
	Tornado	Yes
	Geological Hazards	Yes
	Other (if any)	-

Overall Capability

Capability	Limited/Moderate/High
Financial Resources to Implement Mitigation Projects	Limited
Staff/Expertise to Implement Projects	Moderate
Public Support to Implement Projects	Moderate
Time to Devote to Hazard Mitigation	Moderate
Ability to Expand and Improve the Identified Capabilities to Achieve Mitigation	Moderate

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

Gunnison County is a member of the NFIP, having joined on 9/29/1989, and the county's Floodplain Administrator oversees the NFIP commitments and requirements, as well as Colorado Rules and Regulations for Regulatory Floodplain (2 CCR 408-1). The Floodplain Administrator uses the National Flood Hazard Layer, ArcGIS Pro, USGS Topo Quads, and CalTopo to determine if a development is in the floodplain. Any new development or substantial improvement within the Special Flood Hazard Area must receive a Flood Development Permit. Gunnison County's Land Use Regulations (Section 11-103) outline floodplain and Flood Development Permit regulations. Applications are reviewed to ensure all criteria are met before approval. Additional information for the public regarding Floodplain Development standards is available online: <https://www.gunnisoncounty.org/1011/Floodplain-Development>.

Substantially improved or damaged structures in the floodplain are identified through onsite inspections by county staff. The county also uses Crisis Track to track and implement damage assessments. The floodplain regulations do not exceed the State of Colorado or FEMA requirements. The county maintains Letters of Map Change with the corresponding Flood Development Permit. The letters are publicly available on: <https://permitdb.gunnisoncounty.org/citizenaccess/>.

Gunnison County is on a five-year NFIP and CRS compliance schedule, with the last visit in 2022. The next compliance audit is scheduled for 2027. The local planning team has stated that Gunnison County will remain in good standing and be involved with the NFIP and the CRS. Gunnison County has no barriers to running the NFIP program, and there are no known areas

with limited NFIP coverage. NFIP education consists of yearly construction meetings. The county is working on additional outreach and plans to update the county website and start outreach on Facebook and Instagram in both English and Spanish.

Gunnison County NFIP Information

NFIP Overview	
Date of NFIP Participation:	9/29/1989
Floodplain Administrator:	Yes
Is the Floodplain Administrator a Certified Floodplain Manager?	No
Is Floodplain Management an Auxiliary Function?	Yes
Number of NFIP Policies In-Force:	92
Total NFIP Premium (\$):	\$145,035
Total NFIP Coverage (\$):	\$27,511,000
Number of Claims Paid Out:	36
Total Amount of Claims Paid Out (\$):	\$113,168
Number of Repetitive Loss Structures:	0
Number of Severe Repetitive Loss Structures:	0
Is the County Currently Suspended from the NFIP?	No
Any Outstanding Compliance Issues?	No
FIRMs Digital or Paper?	Both
Located in a RISK Map Area?	No
CRS Status	Active – Class 9

Gunnison County has an effective Flood Insurance Rate Map (5/16/2013), and numerous structures have been removed from the floodplain via Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA). Gunnison County has 29 filed LOMAs with FEMA. A comprehensive list of available reports for the county is available online through FEMA's Flood Map Service Center (<https://msc.fema.gov/portal/advanceSearch>).

LOMA Overview

Product ID	Effective Date	Applicable Outcome	Flood Zone
13-08-0302A-080078	05/16/2013	Structure removed from SFHA	X
13-08-1041A-080078	09/19/2013	Structure removed from SFHA	X
13-08-1140A-080078	11/19/2013	Structure (residence) removed from SFHA	X
14-08-0208A-080078	01/02/2014	Structure removed from SFHA	X
14-08-0212A-080078	01/07/2014	Structure removed from SFHA	X
14-08-0391A-080078	01/30/2014	Structure (residence) removed from SFHA	X
14-08-1357A-080078	10/08/2014	Structure removed from SFHA	X
14-08-1359A-080078	10/02/2014	Structure removed from SFHA	X
15-08-0863A-080078	04/29/2015	Structure removed from SFHA	X
15-08-0990A-080078	05/20/2015	Structure (house) removed from SFHA	X
15-08-1178A-080078	08/18/2015	Portion of Property removed from SFHA	X
15-08-1312A-080078	09/16/2015	Structure (residence) removed from SFHA	X
16-08-0580A-080078	04/26/2016	Portion of Property removed from SFHA	X
16-08-0849A-080078	06/22/2016	Structure removed from SFHA	X
16-08-1000A-080078	07/20/2016	Structure (residence) removed from SFHA	X
17-08-0327A-080078	02/02/2017	Portion of Property removed from SFHA	X
17-08-0493A-080078	03/17/2017	Portion of Property removed from SFHA	X

Product ID	Effective Date	Applicable Outcome	Flood Zone
18-08-1111A-080078	08/17/2018	Structure (residence) removed from SFHA	X
19-08-0603A-080078	05/23/2019	Structure (residence) removed from SFHA	X
20-08-0181A-080078	01/10/2020	Structure (residence) removed from SFHA	AE
21-08-0864A-080078	07/13/2021	Structure removed from SFHA	X
22-08-0069A-080078	11/02/2021	Structure removed from SFHA	X
22-08-0100A-080078	11/16/2021	Structure (Barn) removed from SFHA	X
22-08-0132A-080078	12/13/2021	Portion of Property removed from SFHA	X
22-08-0290A-080078	03/15/2022	Structure (residence) removed from SFHA	X
22-08-0355A-080078	03/24/2022	Structure (residence) removed from SFHA	X
23-08-0774A-080078	10/12/2023	Structure removed from SFHA	X
24-08-0098A-080078	01/11/2024	Portion of Property removed from SFHA	X
25-08-0264A-080078	03/12/2025	Structure (Barn) removed from SFHA	X

Plans and Studies

Gunnison County has several planning documents that discuss or relate to hazard mitigation. Each plan is listed below, along with a description of how it is integrated with the hazard mitigation plan or contains hazard mitigation principles. When the county updates these planning mechanisms, the local planning team will review the hazard mitigation plan for opportunities to incorporate the goals and objectives, risk and vulnerability data, and mitigation actions into the update. Unless otherwise specified below, the hazard mitigation plan has not been integrated into these or other planning mechanisms.

Building Code and Wildland-Urban Interface Code (2021)

The building regulations set standards for the construction of buildings and structures. Gunnison County has adopted the 2021 International Building Code. The county also adopted the 2021 International Wildland-Urban Interface Code. This code establishes minimum regulations for new construction and significant remodels in designated wildland-urban interface zones.

Capital Improvement Plan (2021)

The purpose of the Capital Improvement Plan is to establish a logical implementation process for capital projects. Central goals include identifying the county's capital needs over the next five years, broadening public participation in the budget process, aligning capital budgets with adopted policies and plans, linking expenditures to budgets, and researching alternative financing sources for projects. Due to the age of the capital improvements plan, it has not been integrated into this hazard mitigation plan.

Flood Insurance Study (2013)

The purpose of the flood insurance study (FIS) is to develop flood risk data for various areas of the county that will be used to establish actuarial flood insurance rates. It is also used to help update floodplain regulations and promote sound land use and floodplain development. It includes information on flood problems, flood protection measures, flood history, flood sources, hydrologic analyses, flood boundaries, and floodway data. Information from the FIS was incorporated into the flooding write-up later on in this profile.

Floodplain Ordinance

The ordinance requires that all new construction, cumulative substantial improvements, or substantial improvements of residential structures have the lowest floor elevated to or above one foot above the base flood elevation. For waterways with Base Flood Elevations for which a regulatory Floodway has not been designated, no new construction, substantial improvements, or other development (including fill) shall be permitted within Zones A1-30 and AE on the community's FIRM, unless it is demonstrated that the cumulative effect of the proposed development, when combined with all other existing and anticipated development, will not increase the water surface elevation of the base flood more than one-half foot at any point within the community. Additionally, the following are prohibited within the floodplain:

- **Lowest Flood** - Any residential structure in which the lowest floor, including the basement, is lower than one foot above the base elevation of the 100-year flood.
- **Sanitary Landfill** - A sanitary landfill or other site used for the storage or disposal of garbage, trash, debris, or similar materials, regardless of whether such storage or disposal is for commercial, governmental, or private purposes.
- **Lumber Storage** - Any use involving the storage of lumber, trees, logs, or similar materials that, if flooded, could result in substantial solid debris being carried downstream by floodwaters.
- **Storage of Materials that May Create a Hazard During a Flood** - The commercial or private storage or processing of materials that are flammable, explosive, or otherwise potentially injurious to human, animal, or plant life during floods. However, this limitation shall not prohibit private storage of motor fuel in containers that are anchored to protect and prevent flotation during flooding, nor shall motor fuel or heating fuel be prohibited from being stored underground, provided the storage tank is constructed to prevent floodwater contamination by the fuel, regardless of the damage done to above-ground structures.
- **Storage or Stockpiling of Manure** - Storage or stockpiling of manure that could result in the inundation of manure piles or manure piles being carried downstream by floodwaters

Additionally, all new construction and substantial improvements shall be constructed with materials and utility equipment resistant to flood damage and built using methods and practices that minimize flood damage.

Gunnison Area Plan (2025)

The Gunnison Area Plan is a collaboration between Gunnison County and the City of Gunnison to support affordable and attainable housing, streamline the development process, coordinate infrastructure and utility planning, and align land use with the county's strategic plan. The plan also calls for protecting lands with natural hazards by limiting development in these areas. The county developed Special Area Regulations as part of the plan to facilitate its goals and protect environmental resources.

Gunnison County Community Planning Assistance for Wildfire (2019)

The Community Planning Assistance for Wildfire program works with communities to reduce wildfire risks through improved land use planning. Community planning documents were reviewed during the planning process to identify gaps and opportunities for strengthening wildfire policies and regulations. The plan includes three planning and policy recommendations for Gunnison County.

1. Define the Wildland-Urban Interface and Implement a WUI Risk Assessment Program

2. Adopt the WUI Code and Update Land Use Regulations to Create a Resilient Approach to Development in the WUI
3. Leverage Existing Plans to Support Wildfire Hazard and Regulatory Priorities Across Gunnison County

Gunnison County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (2025)

The Crested Butte Fire Protection District is part of the Gunnison County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). The Gunnison County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) identifies wildfire risks and outlines strategies to reduce them and enhance preparedness. It also defines the wildland-urban interface, identifies locations where vegetation management should occur first, and discusses possible wildfire mitigation actions. Wildfire projects from the previous hazard mitigation plan were incorporated into the CWPP. Projects identified in the Gunnison County CWPP have been included as mitigation actions in this profile.

Gunnison County Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (2025)

The Gunnison County Comprehensive Safety Action Plan aims to improve traffic safety outcomes on all roads in the county. In addition to making countywide recommendations, the plan provides more detailed analysis and recommendations for Colorado State Highway 135 between U.S. Highway 50 in the City of Gunnison and Elk Avenue in Crested Butte. The safety action plan serves as a guide for the county's infrastructure investment to address location-specific and systemic safety issues. The previous hazard mitigation plan did not address human-caused hazards, so it was not integrated into the safety action plan.

Gunnison County Continuity of Operations Plan

Each department under Gunnison County has created a continuity of operations plan. These plans outline a strategy for how the department will continue to perform essential functions during disruptions or emergencies, ensuring minimal impact on operations and service delivery. The hazard mitigation plan has not been integrated into the continuity of operations plan.

Gunnison County Disaster Recovery Plan (2018)

The Gunnison County Disaster Recovery Plan provides an overview of how the county will prepare for and coordinate recovery efforts following a disaster, in collaboration with partner jurisdictions and agencies. This plan ensures that an affected area is ready to undertake an effective, efficient, and organized recovery process and does not miss opportunities to rebuild in a fiscally responsible, sustainable, and resilient way. This plan covers recovery management structure, roles and responsibilities, emergency support functions, and recovery support functions. After a wildfire disaster in the county, the disaster recovery plan would help communities recover in an organized manner. The hazard mitigation plan has not been integrated into the disaster recovery plan.

Gunnison County Emergency Operations Plan (2024)

The Gunnison County Emergency Operation Plan outlines information for preparing, responding, recovering, and mitigating an all-hazards emergency management approach. It provides a flexible blueprint for the overall coordination of major hazard emergencies. The plan covers plan activation, emergency declaration process, roles and responsibilities, direction and control, incident management, information sharing, communications, resource logistics, and continuity of operations. The hazard mitigation plan has not been integrated into this plan because its primary focus is response.

Gunnison County Fire Operating Plan (2025)

The Gunnison County Operating Plan sets forth standard operating procedures, agreed-upon policies, and responsibilities for implementing cooperative wildfire protection across all lands within Gunnison County. It contains information about interagency cooperation, preparedness, operations, state of emergency fire fund, and interagency fire resource use and reimbursement. During a wildfire event, the operating plan will help with interagency coordination. The hazard mitigation plan has not been integrated into this plan because its primary focus is response.

Gunnison County Strategic Plan (2024)

The Gunnison County Strategic Plan is a tool that helps focus time, attention, and resources on the goals most important to the county. Goals include ensuring sound infrastructure, protecting the environment, promoting healthy communities, and delivering high-quality services. Drought is discussed in the plan with an action to protect water quantity. The plan is updated every two years, and the hazard mitigation plan will be reviewed for any potential inclusion.

Land Use Regulations (2023)

Gunnison County's floodplain regulations, zoning requirements, and subdivision regulations are all included in the county's Land Use Regulations. This document outlines where and how future development should occur. In addition to the floodplain, there are also standards for development in areas subject to geologic hazards, on land beyond snowplowed access, and in areas subject to wildfire hazards. These standards make it more difficult to develop in these areas and require that development mitigate risks.

One Valley Resiliency Roadmap (2023)

The One Valley Resilience Roadmap provides shared goals and strategies to help regional partners work together to improve housing affordability, coordinate land-use, transportation, and infrastructure planning, and increase civic capacity. Partners in the plan include Gunnison County, City of Gunnison, Town of Crested Butte, and Mt. Crested Butte. One of the priorities is advancing climate action and environmental stewardship. The plan also calls for avoiding growth in hazard areas such as landslide areas and floodplains. The hazard mitigation plan has not been integrated into the roadmap.

Future Development Trends

Over the past five years, the county has developed several new workforce housing projects. These include Lazy K, Sawtooth, and the Whetstone project, which is still under construction. Lazy K is on the western edge of Gunnison, Sawtooth is adjacent to the county fairgrounds, and Whetstone will be just south of the Town of Crested Butte. All new developments in the county go through Gunnison County Community and Economic Development and must be developed in accordance with the Land Use Regulations, which guide development in hazard-prone areas.

The new housing construction increases the county's risk and vulnerability to drought, earthquakes, hailstorms, high winds, and severe winter storms, as more buildings are affected. Lazy K and Whetstone are in the WUI, so wildfire risk and vulnerability are increased. However, both developments require some level of wildfire mitigation under the county's WUI Code. No recent developments are located in mapped flood-prone areas.

While the county is not planning additional housing developments at this time, the Gunnison Area Plan will streamline development adjacent to utilities and transportation infrastructure and direct development outside of hazard areas. The county developed Special Area Regulations as part of the plan to facilitate its goals and protect environmental resources.

In 2026, Gunnison County and other jurisdictional stakeholders will develop a corridor plan for the areas between Highway 135 and the Gunnison River intersection, and between Mt. Crested Butte and the Gunnison River. The plan will be consistent with the recommendations of the Gunnison Area Plan and avoid natural hazards, especially flood-prone areas, and resources, while focusing development opportunities adjacent to existing population centers, water and sewer infrastructure, and transportation infrastructure, including existing evacuation routes.

Since 2000, Gunnison County has gained approximately 3,500 people, a 20% increase in population. Increasing populations are associated with more robust hazard mitigation and emergency planning requirements for development. Growing populations can also increase tax revenues, allowing communities to pursue additional mitigation projects. Nearly a fourth of the population is between the ages of 20 and 35. This population group is likely very active and may face increased risk from hazards affecting popular recreation areas or activities. The county's minority population is around 14%. Minorities may face increased vulnerability, as they tend to have access to fewer financial and systemic resources that would enable them to implement hazard mitigation projects and respond to and recover from hazard events. The high vacancy rate is likely due to short-term rentals and second homes. This increases risk and vulnerability to all hazards, as individuals living in these homes may not be aware of local risks or be signed up for emergency alerts.

Community Lifelines

As listed in the following table, each participating jurisdiction identified community lifelines vital for disaster response and essential for returning the jurisdiction's functions to normal during and after a disaster, per the FEMA Community Lifelines guidance. The FEMA lifeline categories include Safety and Security; Food, Hydration, and Shelter; Health and Medical; Energy; Communications; Transportation; Hazardous Materials; and Water Systems.

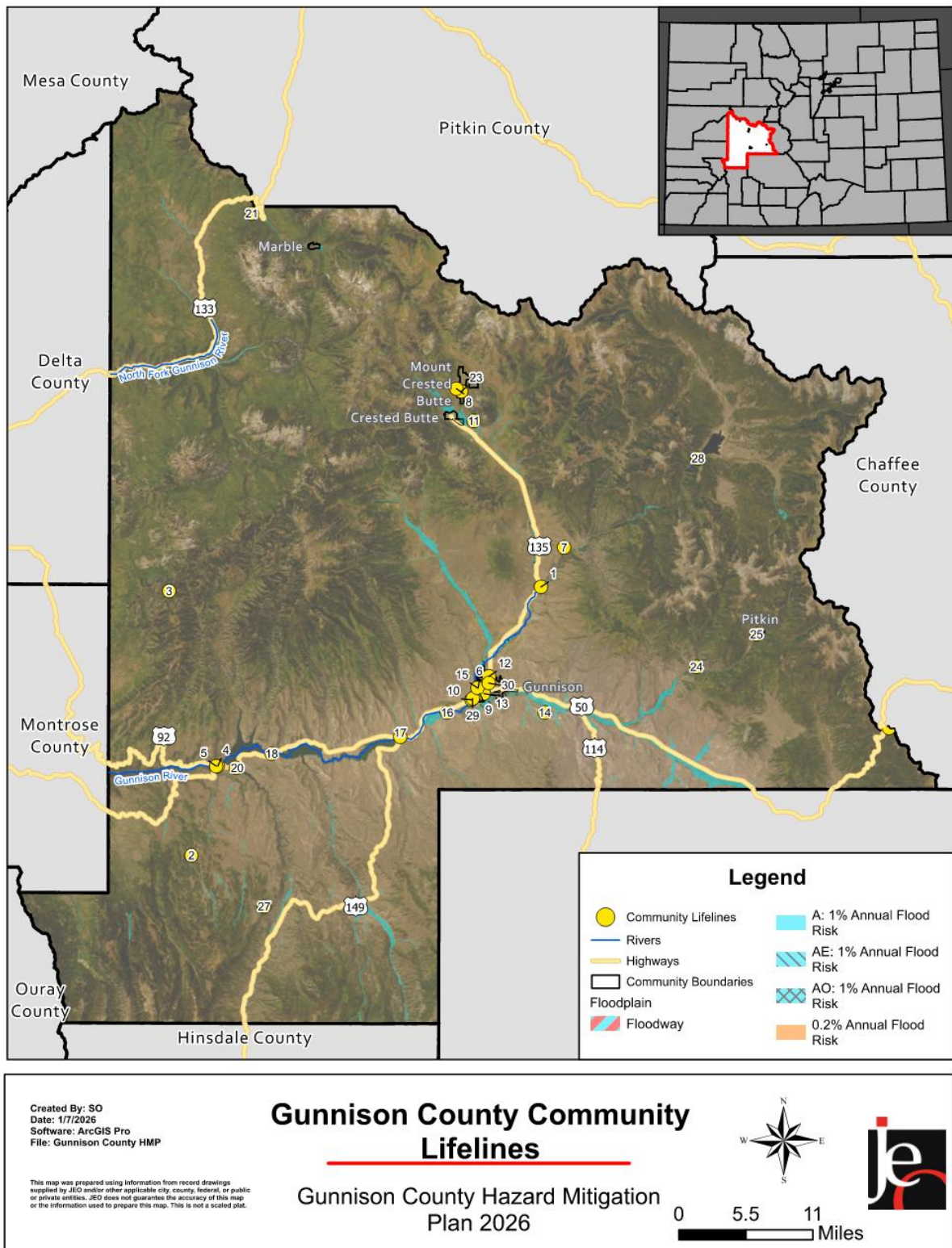


Gunnison County Community Lifelines

CL Number	Name	Community Lifeline Type	Generator (Y/N)	Floodplain (Y/N)
1	Almont Fire Station	Safety & Security	No	No
2	Arrowhead Fire Station	Safety & Security	No	No
3	Bald Mountain Communication Tower	Communications	Yes	No
4	Blue Mesa Dam	Water Systems	No	No
5	Blue Mesa Power Station	Energy	No	No
6	City of Gunnison Public Works/Electric Substation	Safety & Security / Energy	No	Yes
7	Comstock Communication Tower	Communications	Yes	No
8	Crested Butte Communication Tower*	Communications	Yes	No
9	Dispatch Center	Communications	No	Yes
10	Dos Rios Water Treatment Plant	Water Systems	Unknown	No

CL Number	Name	Community Lifeline Type	Generator (Y/N)	Floodplain (Y/N)
11	East River Regional Sanitation Plant	Water Systems	Unknown	No
12	Electric Station	Energy	No	No
13	Emergency Operation Center	Safety & Security	Yes	No
14	Gunnison County Landfill	Safety & Security	No	No
15	Gunnison Power Substation	Energy	No	Yes
16	Gunnison Sanitation Plant	Water Systems	Unknown	No
17	Hill 71 Communication Tower	Communications	Yes	No
18	Highway 149 Bridge	Transportation	No	No
19	Highway 50 Bridge	Transportation	No	No
20	Lake Fork Bridge	Transportation	No	No
21	McClure Pass Communication Tower	Communications	Yes	No
22	Monarch Pass Communication Tower	Communications	Yes	No
23	Mt. CB Medical Facility	Health & Medical	Unknown	No
24	Ohio City Fire Station	Safety & Security	No	No
25	Pitkin Fire Station	Safety & Security	No	No
26	Razor Dome Communication Tower	Communications	Yes	No
27	Rose Ridge Communication Tower	Communications	Yes	No
28	Taylor Dam	Water Systems	No	No
29	Twin Bridges	Transportation	No	Yes
30	Gunnison Valley Hospital	Health & Medical	Yes	No

Gunnison County Community Lifelines Map



Hazard Historical Occurrences

Hazard Type		Number of Events	Property Damage ¹	Crop Damage ²
Avalanche¹⁴		3,826	N/A	N/A
Communication Disruption / Failure⁷		2	N/A	N/A
Dam Failure³		0	\$0	\$0
Drought⁵		1,192 out of 3,136 Months	\$0	\$943,396
Earthquake¹³		123	\$0	\$0
Extreme Cold¹²		Average 19 Days a Year	N/A	N/A
Flooding & Ice Jams¹	Flash Flood	7	\$62,000	\$173,414
	Flood	13	\$561,500	
Ground Subsidence & Expansive Soils²	Expansive Soils	0	\$0	\$0
	Ground Subsidence	0	\$0	\$0
Hailstorm¹		1	\$0	\$455
Hazardous Materials Release	Fixed Site ¹¹	20	\$0	N/A
	Transportation ¹⁰	9	\$192,906	N/A
High Wind¹	High Wind	66	\$210,500	\$9,604
	Strong Wind	13	\$64,500	
	Thunderstorm Wind	3	\$0	
Landslide / Rockfall / Debris Flow^{2,7}	Debris Flow	2	\$0	\$0
	Landslide	11	\$71,083	
	Rockfall	0	\$0	
Lightning²		12	\$51,661	\$0
Mass Casualty Events	Auto ⁷	1	N/A	N/A
	Aviation ⁸	1	N/A	N/A
Pandemic⁹		5	N/A	N/A
Severe Winter Storm¹	Blizzard	13	\$1,043,544	\$3,558,759
	Heavy Snow	245		
	Winter Storm	492		
	Winter Weather	905		
Terrorism & Cyber-Attack^{4,7}		2	\$1,025,379	\$0
Wildfire⁶		392	\$12,065,000	\$5,000
Total		6,164	\$15,348,073	\$4,690,628

1 – NCEI, 1996 – May 2025¹

2 – SHELUDUS, 1960 – 2023²

1 National Centers for Environmental Information. May 2025. "Storm Events Database". [NCEI Storm Events Database](https://www.ncdc.gov/data-access/storm-reports/data-reports).

2 Arizona State University. 2023. "SHELUDUS". <https://cemhs.asu.edu/sheldus>.

3 – Stanford University, 1890 – September 2025³

4 – University of Maryland, 1970-2017.⁴

5 – NCEI, 1895 – May 2025⁵

6 – U.S. Forest Service, 1992 – 2020⁶

7 – County Personnel

8 – National Transportation Safety Board, 1962 – September 2025⁷

9 – CDPHE & CDC, 1993 – 2025⁸

10 – Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, 1971 – 2025⁹

11 – U.S. Coast Guard National Response Center, 1990 – July 2025¹⁰

12 – NOAA, 1947 – 2025¹¹

13 – U.S. Geological Survey, 1889 – July 2025¹²

14 – Crested Butte Avalanche Center, 2014 – 2023¹³

Hazard Vulnerabilities and Mitigation Strategy

The Gunnison County Hazard Mitigation Plan evaluates a range of natural and human-caused hazards that pose risks to the county, communities, and other participants. During the planning process, the local planning team outlined the county's vulnerabilities to each hazard and rated the level of concern for each. Mitigation actions were also identified for each hazard that could impact the county. The following section summarizes this information. For additional information about each hazard, see *Section Five and Appendix A*.

Avalanche

Level of Concern: Moderate

Gunnison County experiences avalanches every winter season. Backcountry recreation is very popular, and there is the potential for events to cause injuries and death. Avalanches can occur in very remote locations, which poses a challenge for search-and-rescue resources. Avalanches near roadways can cause road closures for extended periods. Areas where avalanches are most likely to occur include the northern half of the county, particularly steep-sloped areas. Additionally, the county experiences roof avalanches that can cause casualties. These are most likely to occur in high-snow areas with buildings with steep roofs.

Gunnison County has limited road access in and out of the county during the winter, and historically, avalanches have occurred on primary travel routes (east Highway 50, Monarch Pass). These transportation routes would be directly affected if an avalanche occurs along Highway 50. Avalanche mitigation is conducted regularly on Monarch Pass, but significant snowfall can slow progress. Highway 50 is the primary route for commercial and agricultural transport, as well as community transport; closures affect travelers seeking medical care in the area. None of Gunnison County's identified community lifelines are located in mapped avalanche areas.

3 Stanford University. September 2025. "National Performance of Dams Program". <http://npdp.stanford.edu/>.

4 University of Maryland and National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Response to Terrorism. 1970-2017. "Global Terrorism Database". <https://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/>.

5 National Centers for Environmental Information. 1895-May 2025. "County Time Series". [NCEI County Time Series](https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/data/county-time-series/).

6 U.S. Forest Service. 2022. "Spatial Wildfire Occurrence Data for the United States, 1992-2020".

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/rds/archive/catalog/RDS-2013-0009.6>.

7 National Transportation Safety Board. 1962-September 2025. "Aviation Accident Database".

<https://www.ntsb.gov/Pages/AviationQueryV2.aspx>.

8 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. October 2025. "Trends in United States COVID-19 Deaths, Emergency Department Visits, and Test Positivity by Geographic Area". https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#trends_totaldeaths_select_00.

9 U.S. Department of Transportation - Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration. 1971-2025. "Incident Statistics". <https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/hazmat-program-management-data-and-statistics/data-operations/incident-statistics>.

10 U.S. Coast Guard National Response Center. July 2024. "Chemical Pollution and Railroad Incidents, 1990-2025." <https://nrc.uscg.mil/>.

11 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ACIS. November 2024. "SC ACIS". 1947-2025. <https://scacis.rcc-acis.org/>.

12 U.S. Geological Survey. July 2024. "Search Earthquake Catalog". <https://earthquake.usgs.gov/earthquakes/search/>.

13 Crested Butte Avalanche Center. 2025. "View Avalanches". <https://cbavalanchecenter.org/view-observations/#/view/avalanches>.

New and Kept Mitigation and Strategic Actions

Action	GIS Web Map
Description & Location	Develop a GIS web map that consolidates relevant data in one place, including community lifelines, tier 2 facilities, floodplains, land ownership, wildfire risks, geologic risks, etc.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Avalanche, Dam Failure, Earthquake, Flooding & Ice Jams, Ground Subsidence & Expansive Soils, Hazardous Materials Release, Landslide / Rockfall / Debris Flow, Wildfire
Estimated Cost	Staff Time
Local Funding	Emergency Management Budget
Timeline	2-5 Years
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	Gunnison County Emergency Management
Status	Created Gunnison OEM AGOL account. Staff will import and organize data as available.

Communications Disruption/Failure*Level of Concern: Moderate*

Many of the hazards discussed in this plan, such as wildfire, high wind, winter storms, extreme cold, lightning, and terrorism and cyber-attack, have the potential to cause outages. Accidental damage to fiber and other communication lines can also cause outages. Gunnison County has a limited communications infrastructure. If one tower goes down, it could impact a significant geographic area. There are two fiber lines in the county, offering some redundancy.

Identified county-owned community lifelines that could be impacted include the county public works department, dispatch center, and emergency operations center. Loss of radio communication would render 911 communications impossible, posing a major public safety threat. Loss of cell service or internet makes day-to-day tasks nearly impossible. The county and many first response organizations have Starlink systems to deploy if internet is needed in a small area.

Completed Mitigation and Strategic Actions

Action	THIRA for Human-Caused Hazards
Description & Location	Perform a Threat Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment for human-caused hazards in the county.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Communication Disruption Failure, Hazardous Materials Release, Mass Casualty Incident, Pandemic, Terrorism & Cyber Attack
Status	Completed

New and Kept Mitigation and Strategic Actions

Action	Marble Cell/Radio Tower
Description & Location	Improve cell and radio coverage in Marble by adding a new cell/radio tower.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Avalanche, Communication Disruption / Failure, Dam Failure, Earthquake, Extreme Cold, Flooding & Ice Jams, Ground Subsidence & Expansive Soils, Hazard Materials Release, High Wind, Land/Rockfall/Debris Flow, Lightning, Mass Casualty Incident, Severe Winter Storm, Terrorism & Cyber-Attack, Wildfire
Estimated Cost	\$100,000+
Local Funding	County Budget, HMGP, BRIC
Timeline	2-5 Years
Priority	High
Lead Agency	Gunnison County Emergency Management (Lead), Town of Marble
Status	New Action. Not Started.

Action	Satellite-Based Backup Communication
Description & Location	Improve satellite-based communications and internet backup for first-response agencies and the Emergency Operations Center.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Communication Disruption Failure
Estimated Cost	\$10,000
Local Funding	Grants, including Homeland Security Grants and Local Budgets
Timeline	Ongoing
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	Gunnison County Emergency Management
Status	The West All Hazards Region has used Homeland Security Grant funds to purchase both deployable and agency-specific Starlink systems for first responders and County agencies. Other funding sources have also helped secure Starlink systems. However, there is still a need for additional satellite-based systems to help create redundancy in the county. Additionally, radio-over-IP systems can improve radio coverage during outages.

Dam Failure*Level of Concern: Moderate*

There are nine high-hazard dams in Gunnison County. One of these dams, Spring Creek Dam, needs infrastructure improvements and has an unsatisfactory condition assessment rating. Since the last plan update, one new dam has been designated as high hazard: the Coal Creek Dam, owned by the Town of Crested Butte. Communities downstream of the high-hazard dams include Paonia, Delta, and Gunnison. During a dam failure event, impacts would likely be limited to the mapped dam inundation zone. Flooding would likely cause damage to private property and transportation infrastructure. People may need to evacuate with little notice, and life safety would be at risk. Each high-hazard dam provides an Emergency Action Plan (EAP) that outlines inundation zones for failure scenarios. Six of Gunnison County's identified community lifelines are located in dam inundation zones. These include City of Gunnison Public Works/Electric Substation, Dos Rios Water Treatment Plant, Gunnison Power Substation, Gunnison Sanitation Plant, and Twin Bridges. These lifelines could be damaged by flood waters, leading to temporary service disruptions.

New and Kept Mitigation and Strategic Actions

Action	Dam Emergency Exercises
Description & Location	Perform organized individual dam or regional Emergency Action Plan exercises; drill, tabletop, and/or functional. Identify and establish contingency plans for communications and transportation.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Dam Failure
Estimated Cost	Staff Time
Local Funding	Staff Time
Timeline	1 Year
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	Dam Owners (Lead), Gunnison County Emergency Management
Status	The dam owners put on annual exercises. Staff attended functional exercises at Silver Jack Dam and Taylor Park Dam. Staff has integrated inundation maps into Gunnison Regional Alerts for Spring Creek Dam, Taylor Park Dam, and Silver Jack Dam.

Action	Spring Creek Dam Rehabilitation
Project Description	Colorado Parks and Wildlife is currently in the preliminary planning phase (alternatives analysis) of the Spring Creek Dam Rehabilitation Project. An alternatives analysis for the Spring Creek Dam will be conducted from October 2025 to June 2026. After the conclusion of the alternatives analysis and selection of the preferred alternative, the project will move into the design phase, which will be completed in 2027. Depending on the scope of the rehabilitation, construction will begin in spring 2027 or 2028.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Dam Failure
Estimated Cost	\$2,000,000 - \$10,000,000
Local Funding	CPW Budget, FEMA HMA Grants, FEMA HHPD Grant
Timeline	2-5 Years
Priority	High
Lead Agency	Colorado Parks & Wildlife (Lead), Gunnison County Emergency Management
Status	New Action. In the preliminary planning and design phase. Colorado Parks and Wildlife has the capability to implement this project.

Drought*Level of Concern: High*

Drought impacts are far-reaching and include economic, environmental, and life-safety impacts across the entire county. Drought can have economic impacts on the agriculture, recreation, and tourism sectors. It can lead to a decline in habitat for aquatic species and to the need for water restrictions on municipal users. During drought years, the risk of wildfire is higher, and water availability for firefighters may be lower. As a rural county, the communities rely on locally sourced water for everyday use. Drought affects many sectors of the community, as detailed in the Upper Gunnison Drought Plan. Drought would not directly impact any of the identified Gunnison County community lifelines.

New and Kept Mitigation and Strategic Actions

Action	Implement Drought Plan
Description & Location	Implement the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District (UGRWCD) Drought Plan
Hazard(s) Addressed	Drought
Estimated Cost	Staff Time
Local Funding	Grants, Upper Gunnison Rural Water Conservancy District Budget, Staff Time
Timeline	Ongoing
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	Upper Gunnison Rural Water Conservancy District (Lead), Gunnison County Emergency Management
Status	The drought plan was completed in 2025. It includes both mitigation and response actions for drought in the Gunnison Valley. Projects have not been started.

Earthquake*Level of Concern: Low*

Areas in the county with older, higher building density would be the most at risk, including the City of Gunnison and the Town of Crested Butte. Drilling-induced earthquakes may be more prevalent in the northwestern portion of the county, where drilling activity is more concentrated. An earthquake could impact all identified county-owned buildings. Likely impacts include damage to buildings and infrastructure, injuries to those inside, and a temporary loss of services.

New and Kept Mitigation and Strategic Actions

Action	Backup Power for Community Lifelines
Description & Location	Ensure backup power for each identified community lifeline.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Earthquake, Extreme Cold, Ground Subsidence & Expansive Soils, High Wind, Landslide/Rockfall/Debris Flow, Lightning, Terrorism & Cyber Attack, Wildfire
Estimated Cost	\$50,000+
Local Funding	Emergency Management Department Budget, FEMA HMA Grants
Timeline	Ongoing
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	Emergency Management Department
Status	The county acquired a generator for the Gunnison Community Center. Additional lifelines still need generators. Funding is the biggest current constraint.

Extreme Cold*Level of Concern: Moderate*

Extreme cold can impact the entire county, particularly areas located in valleys such as the City of Gunnison. Gunnison County experiences some of the coldest temperatures in the state, so it is well prepared for cold weather. However, a loss of heat could pose life-safety concerns. Older homes may not have as efficient heating. Additionally, people recreating in cold weather may be at risk if they are not properly prepared. The county's identified community lifelines are likely to see minimal impact from extreme cold. Possible impacts include power outages, heat loss, and burst pipes. These would likely cause a temporary loss of services provided. The county attempts

to mitigate this hazard by providing designated warming shelters at the schools, the Gunnison Recreation Center, and the fairgrounds.

New and Kept Mitigation and Strategic Actions

Action	Improve Public Warning
Description & Location	Improve the public warning system to notify the public of emergencies.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Avalanche, Dam Failure, Earthquake, Extreme Cold, Flooding & Ice Jams, Ground Subsidence & Expansive Soils, Hailstorm, Hazardous Materials Release, High Wind, Landslide/Rockfall/Debris Flow, Lightning, Mass Casualty Incident, Severe Winter Storm, Terrorism & Cyber Attack, Wildfire
Estimated Cost	\$4,000 Annually, \$2,000 Marketing Materials
Local Funding	GHCESTA, Emergency Management Budget
Timeline	Ongoing
Priority	High
Lead Agency	Gunnison County Emergency Management (Lead), Law Enforcement, Fire Departments
Status	The county has made significant progress on alert and warning since the last HMP. The county purchased a new emergency alerting software that improves capabilities. The county has updated job aids and is currently updating Alert and Warning and Crisis Communications plans, as well as marketing materials, in 2026.

Flooding and Ice Jams

Level of Concern: High

Gunnison County has several areas in mapped floodplains or susceptible to flash flooding. The county also experiences ice jams, which can cause riverine flooding. Areas are most susceptible to flooding during peak snowmelt in spring/early summer or during the monsoon season, where localized or flash flooding can be significant. Ice jams can occur in the winter when ice is prominent in the rivers. Flooding is and will continue to be a top concern for the county, with widespread impacts. Local vulnerabilities and potential impacts have been summarized below.

Flooding History

According to the NCEI, there have been seven flash flood events and 13 riverine flood events in Gunnison County since 1996. These events have resulted in \$623,500 in property damage and \$173,414 in crop loss. Two deaths and no injuries were reported. There has been no past flood-related damage or flood insurance claim payments to county-owned buildings. Descriptions of the most damaging flood events are listed below. Large floods have also occurred in 1917, 1918, 1920, 1921, 1957, 1984, and 1985. However, detailed information about these floods is very limited.

- **January and February 2016 – Ice Jams:** Gunnison County experienced significant ice jams along the Gunnison River, causing flooding and the potential to release large volumes of water.

2016 Ice Jam Flooding



Source: Gunnison County Emergency Management

- **June 21, 2019 – Flood:** Gunnison County received significant rainfall and accelerated snowmelt due to above-normal temperatures, resulting in high, fast-flowing water on the Gunnison River. Two women died in separate recreational accidents caused by the dangerous water conditions. After both these accidented emergency personnel reiterated the importance of staying out of flood waters, as they can be fast-moving and lead to serious injuries or death.
- **April 30, 2023 – Flash Flood:** Near Paonia and Hotchkiss, accelerated snowmelt due to above-normal temperatures produced high, fast flows in the area. The runoff led to flooding near Bear Creek, where a culvert along Colorado Highway 133 failed, causing approximately \$500,000 in damage and carving a gully through the road. The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) had identified the culvert as vulnerable in 2020, but it remained low on a long list of repairs. The failure on April 29th allowed Bear Creek to wash out a 10-foot section of roadway, prompting CDOT to issue emergency bids for a temporary bridge, which was finished in June of 2023. The event caused significant travel impacts and economic losses to residents and businesses in the area. Kebler Pass Road also suffered major washouts from the same runoff, with repairs led by Gunnison County Road and Bridge. The closure led to an estimated 50% decline in tourism in the area.¹⁴

¹⁴ Aspen Daily News. October 2025. "Rushing water closes a highway in Gunnison County". https://www.aspendailynews.com/opinion/rushing-water-closes-a-highway-in-gunnison-county/article_a8add248-04f4-11ee-8bb1-57d0dc8688ff.html

Washed Out Highway 133



Source: Gunnison County Emergency Management

- **May 24, 2023 – Flood:** Accelerated snowmelt from a near-record snowpack due to above-normal temperatures and precipitation produced high and fast flow on drainages in the county. As a result, flooding produced a washout on National Forest System Road #709-Coal Creek and National Forest System Road #711-Dry Fork of the Minnesota Creek located in the Paonia Ranger District. The roads remained impassable and closed. The event caused an estimated \$35,000 in damage.
- **January 23, 2025 – Ice Dams:** On January 23, several reports of significant ice buildup and rising water levels were received along stretches of the Gunnison River near Dos Rios Island. With the potential for additional sudden increases in river levels both upstream and downstream of the ice jam, both Gunnison County Emergency Management and Public Works began surveying the ice dam and affected areas. The Dos Rios Island ice dam had formed on the main channel (east channel), diverting more water to the narrower channel and causing rising river levels on the west side of Dos Rios Island. On January 24, Gunnison County Public Works and Emergency Management worked together to mechanically break up portions of the ice dam. While not always successful, this action led to a significant, rapid drop in water levels. Surveillance of the areas on each side of the island downstream of the mitigated area has not shown any other blockages.

Ice Dam Mitigation



Source: Gunnison County Emergency Management

Flood Prone Hazard Areas

A majority of the county's flood problems are caused by rapid spring snowmelt. Rainfall runoff occurs in lower-elevation areas, but much of the higher-elevation areas have dense vegetation that captures and holds much of the rain. A combination of rapid snowmelt and long-duration rainfall creates the potential for the most severe flooding. Flooding also occurs during winter months due to ice jams, typically in the northwestern part of the county. Post-wildfire flooding is also a large concern in the county. Burn scar areas increase runoff and sediment, and cause channel instability. The map below shows the current mapped floodplain areas for the county. Most of the county's floodplain areas are not near development. However, certain areas of the county have clusters of development in floodplains. These site-specific floodplain areas of interest will be found later on in the flooding section.

Gunnison County has started the Risk Mapping, Assessment, and Planning Products (MAP) process through the Colorado Water Conservation Board. The Risk MAP provides communities and the county with flood information and additional flood risk data (e.g., flood depth grids, percent chance grids, areas of mitigation interest, etc.) that can be used to better protect their citizens. Draft floodplains have been created and are currently being reviewed by the county, communities, and stakeholders. Preliminary floodplain maps are not publicly available and are therefore not included in this planning process. Legal floodplain revisions are not expected to be finalized until sometime in 2027. While not in a mapped floodplain, the planning team identified Box Canyon as a location that floods due to narrow passages and steep terrain. This location will be included as a floodplain area when the maps are revised.

The Gunnison River and its tributaries (Clark Stream, Crystal River, East River, North Fork Gunnison River, Slate River, and Tomichi Creek) are the primary sources of flooding in the county. These rivers and creeks are highly susceptible to flooding driven by snowmelt and rainfall. The smaller channels that feed into creeks and rivers can quickly become overwhelmed and overtop their banks. Flooding is especially prevalent in the winter months due to ice jams. Areas along

Ohio Creek, Tomichi Creek, and the Gunnison River have high groundwater tables, which can lead to basement flooding.

Other sources of flooding include: Alder Creek, Alkali Cree, Anthracite Creek, Beaver Creek, Big Blue Creek, Cabin Creek, Carbonate Creek, Cebolla Creek, Cement Creek, Cimarron River, Cochetopa Creek, Crystal River, Dry Gulch, East Fork Little Blue River, East Muddy Creek, East River, East Willow Creek, Farris Creek, Gold Basin Creek, Goose Creek, Hot Springs Creek, Houston Creek, Indian Creek, Lake Gulch, Lee Creek, Little Cimaron River, Long Draw, Meridian Lake, Middle Fork Powderhorn, Milkbranch Gulch, Ohio Creek, Pine Creek, Poison Draw, Quartz Creek, Razor Creek, Sheep Creek, Slate River, South Beaver Creek, Steuben Creek, Taylor River, Tomichi Creek, Washington Gulch, West Muddy Creek, Willow Creek, Willow Creek 2, Willow Creek 3, and Yeager Creek. Below is a summary of discharges of major waterways from the Gunnison County FIS.

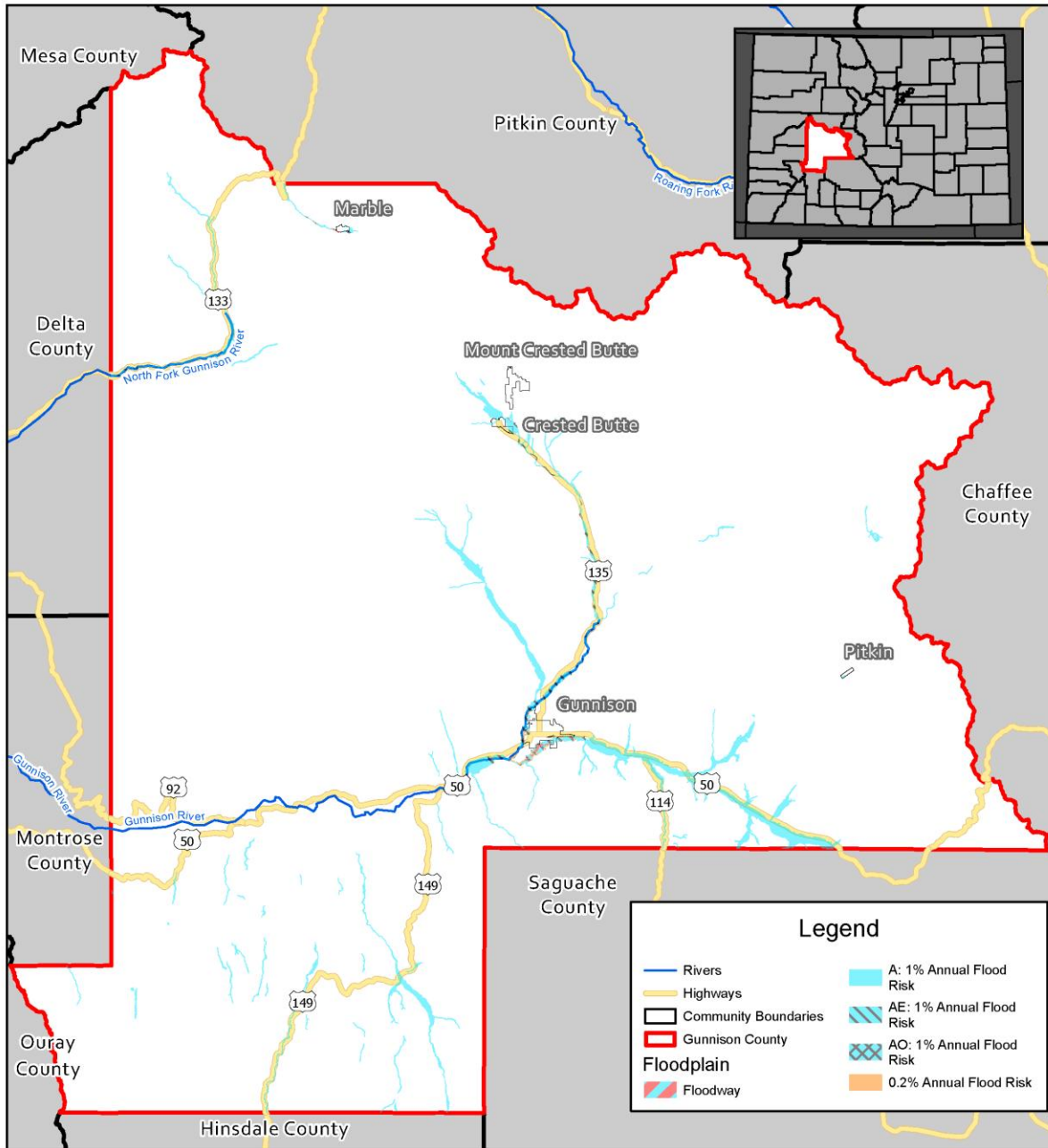
Summary of Discharges

Flooding Source & Location	Peak Discharge 1-Percent Annual Chance	Peak Discharge 0.2-Percent Annual Chance
Clark Stream		
At Confluence with Gunnison River	1,358 CFS	-
Crystal River		
At Confluence with Rapid Creek	2,625 CFS	3,028 CFS
At Confluence with Milton Creek	2,413 CFS	2,783 CFS
At Town of Marble	2,181 CFS	2,515 CFS
At Upstream Limit of Study	1,691 CFS	1,950 CFS
East River		
At Confluence with Gunnison River	4,599 CFS	-
At Confluence with Alkali Creek	4,589 CFS	-
At Confluence with Cement Creek	4,464 CFS	-
Gunnison River		
At Confluence with Antelope Creek	8,930 CFS	11,256 CFS
At Town of Almont	8,683 CFS	-
North Fork Gunnison River		
Near Somerset	9,200 CFS	11,300 CFS
Slate River		
At Confluence with the East River	1,684 CFS	-
Tomichi Creek		
At Confluence with Gunnison River	2,534 CFS	3,264 CFS
At Parlin	924 CFS	1,017 CFS

Floodway mean velocities for the Crystal River, Gunnison River, and Tomichi Creek were also provided in the Gunnison County FIS. The velocity ranges in feet per second (fps) for each are provided below. Warning times and flood depths are not yet known. However, flood depths will be available once the Risk MAP process is completed.

- Crystal River: 1.3 – 14.2 fps
- Gunnison River: 5.5 – 12.3 fps
- Tomichi Creek: 1.5 – 5.8 fps

Mapped Flood Risk Areas – Gunnison County

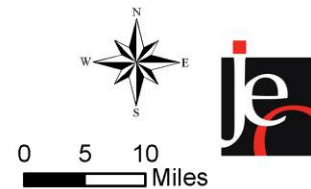


Created By: SO
Date: 07/28/2025
Software: ArcGIS Pro
File: Gunnison County HMP

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Flood Risk Areas

Gunnison County Hazard Mitigation
Plan 2026



Several reservoirs in the county help to reduce flooding and water flow. The construction of the Taylor Park Reservoir near Taylor Park, completed in September 1937, has reduced peak flows on the Gunnison River near Taylor Park by approximately 28 percent. The Paonia Dam and Reservoir, a multiple-purpose project built by the U.S. Water and Power Resources Service on Muddy Creek, became operational in 1961. It has 21,000 acre-feet of storage capacity and provides flood control during periods of high snowmelt runoff.

Additionally, there are hundreds of wetland and riparian areas throughout Gunnison County that provide natural flood protection. The county uses the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's [Wetlands Mapper](#) to map wetlands and riparian areas throughout the county. The locations can be seen in the wetland and riparian areas map below. It is unknown how many county-owned parcels are open space, green space, or wetlands. However, it is known that Parcel 3787-000-00-100 (mapped below) is county-owned and provides flood protection through wetlands near the City of Gunnison.

The Gunnison County Planning Team requested relevant flood-related data, plans, and studies from various stakeholder groups and other agencies. In total, 35 organizations were emailed a request. A copy of the request and organizations it was sent to can be found in *Appendix B: Planning Process Documentation*. The Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District submitted the Upper Gunnison River Basin Geofluvial Study, conducted in 2021. No other relevant flood-related studies or plans were received.

The Geofluvial Study found that post-wildfire flooding is a major concern in Gunnison County. Stream corridors, alluvial fans, and debris-flow paths are common areas prone to flooding. These zones respond rapidly to rainfall and snowmelt, making them especially dangerous locations for development. Critical flood risk areas include East River tributaries, Taylor River and tributaries, and the Tomichi Creek system. These areas include steep terrain, wildfire exposure, and downstream assets. The study also found that flood impacts extend beyond mapped FEMA floodplains; however, this will hopefully be rectified with some of the updated FEMA RISK Mapping that is underway. Wide, vegetated valleys and wetlands were identified as the county's most effective flood defenses. These locations trap sediment, reduce peak flows, and should be protected and expanded in the future.

Less Frequent Sources of Flooding

Coastal or Tidal Flooding - Gunnison County is not at risk of coastal or tidal flooding due to its geographic location.

Dams – There are 42 dams in Gunnison County. The table below shows the breakdown of the dams by hazard level. Additionally, the Vouga Dam, located in Saguache County, would impact Gunnison County if it were to fail. Additional information on dam failures, dam locations, and potential impacts from high-hazard dams can be found in the Dam Failure hazard section of *Appendix A: Full Risk Assessment*. Flood depths and warning times for dam inundation are provided in each dam's Emergency Action Plan.

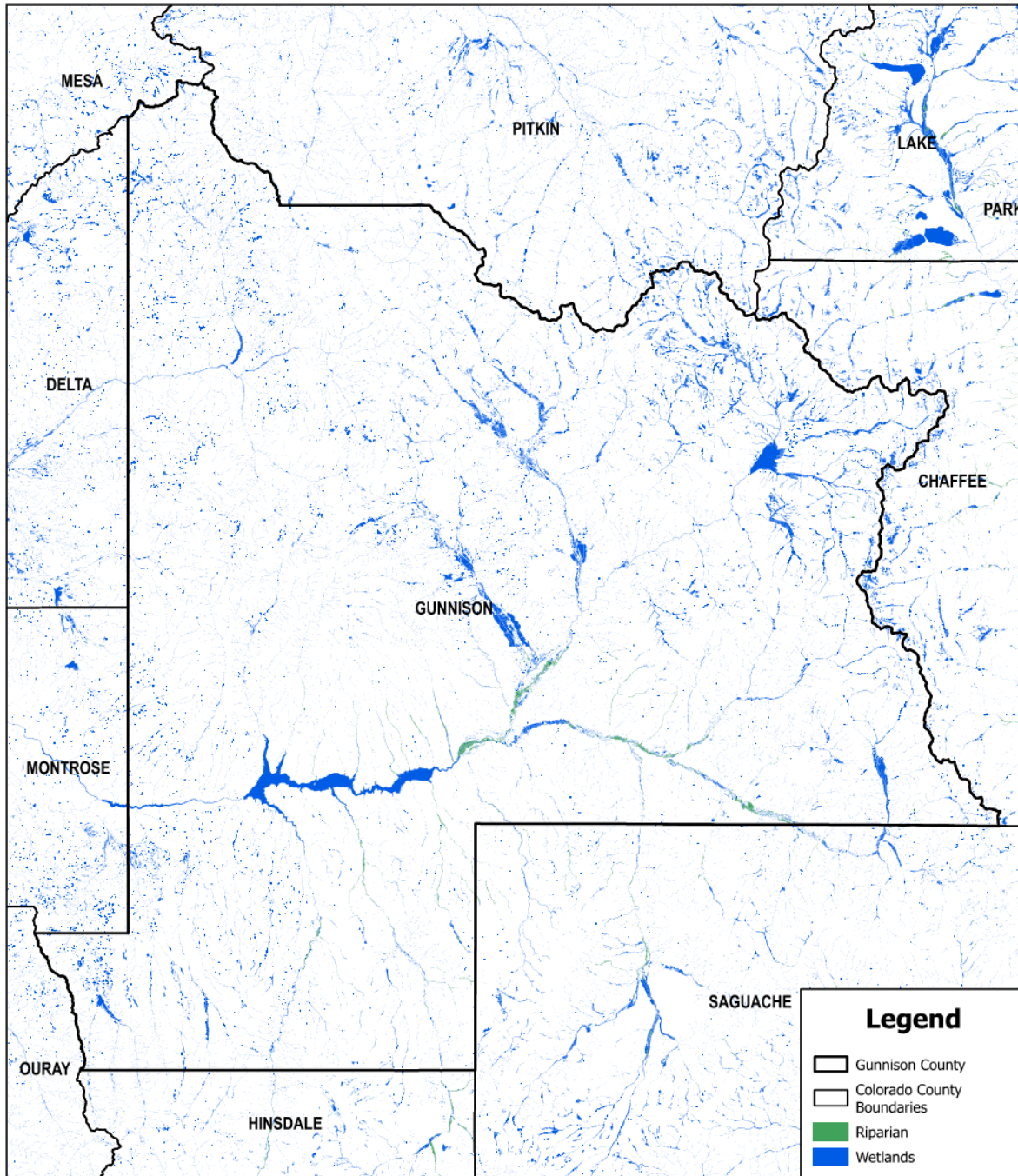
Dams in Gunnison County

Non-Jurisdictional	No Public Hazard	Low Hazard	Significant Hazard	High Hazard	Total
13	0	16	4	9	42

Source: Colorado Division of Water Resources

Levees – There are no known levees located in or upstream of Gunnison County.

Gunnison County Wetlands and Riparian Areas

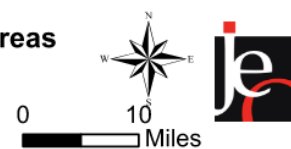


Created By: SO
Date: 4/22/2026
Software: ArcGIS Pro
File: Gunnison County HMP

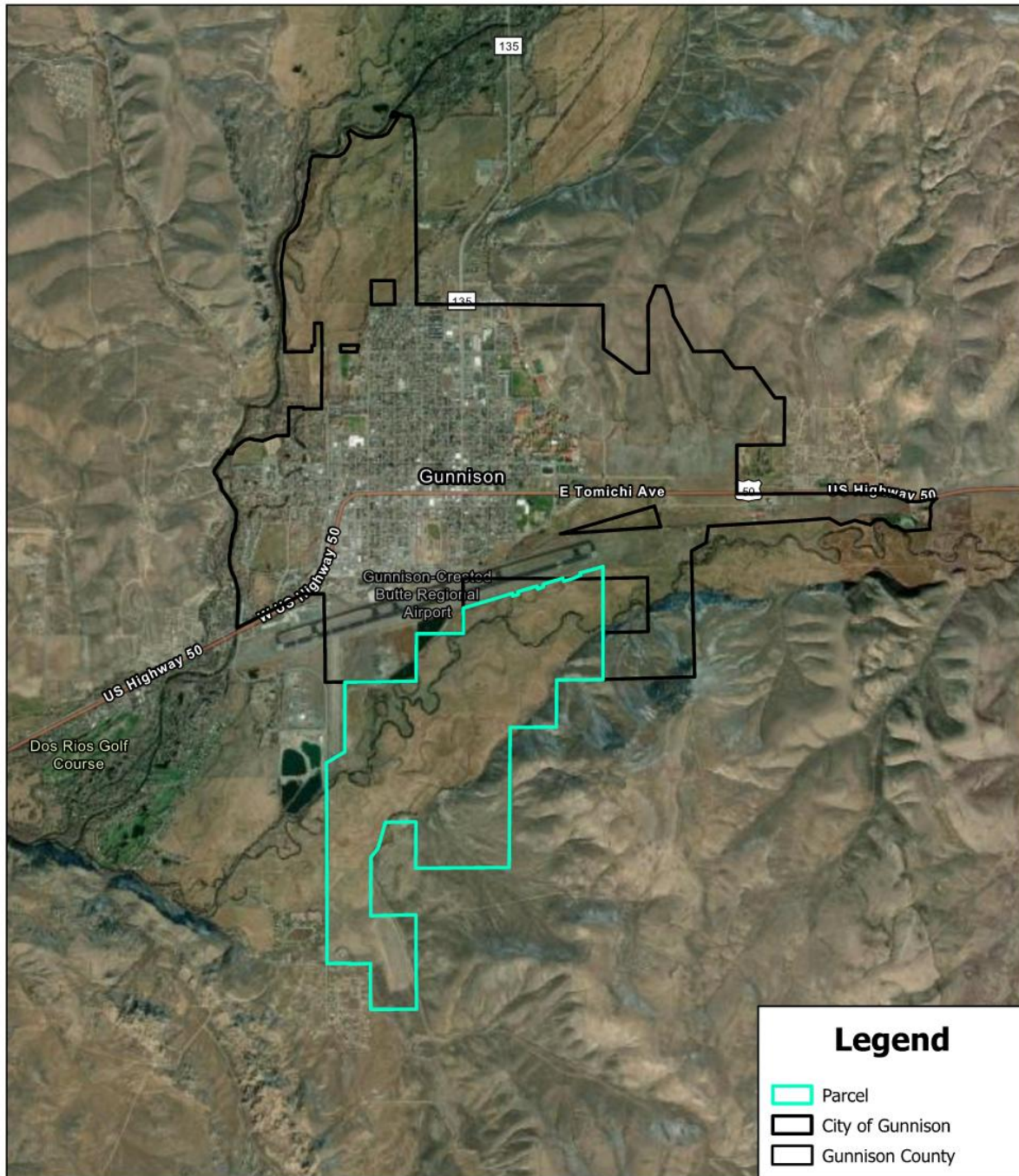
Gunnison County Wetlands and Riparian Areas

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Gunnison County Hazard Mitigation
Plan 2026



County-Owned Wetland Area



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Date: 4/22/2026
Software: ArcGIS Pro
File: Gunnison County HMP

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County Owned Wetland Area

Gunnison County Hazard Mitigation
Plan 2026



Impacts to Life

People in the county who work, live, or recreate in flood risk hazard areas are at risk during flood events. Compromised transportation networks can make evacuation extremely difficult for businesses and residents. There are many areas in the county with limited ingress and egress. Residents in these locations have an increased risk, especially if they need to be evacuated. The county does not have an evacuation plan; however, Gunnison County works with subject-matter experts to understand the flood-impact area and then issues an emergency alert through a variety of systems, depending on the incident. The county utilizes an opt-in system that can send text, phone, and email alerts; an IPAWS system can also send an alert based on cell phone location (not opt-in); social media and website notifications; and door-to-door notifications. The types of alerts used depend on the urgency and significance of the life safety impacts of the situation. Local first-response agencies assist with evacuating residents and with traffic control needs. If needed, the county would open a shelter for evacuated residents. Two fatalities have been reported in Gunnison County from past flood events.

Impacts to Health and Safety

Contact with flood waters can pose health and safety concerns, as they are commonly contaminated with bacteria and/or viruses. This contact is particularly concerning when floodwaters are present in areas where agricultural runoff, chemicals, and sewage are present. Additionally, during flood events, injuries or threats to resident health and safety can occur when people attempt to drive through floodwaters (hidden debris or washouts). Significant risks also include drowning, injury, and electrocution from being in floodwaters. Post-flood conditions often lead to mold growth and degrade indoor air quality.

Impacts to Buildings and Building Damage

Infrastructure and property damage are top concerns related to flood impacts. The planning team acquired GIS parcel data from the County Assessor and Microsoft building footprint data to analyze the location, number, type, and value of buildings in the 100-year and 500-year floodplains. A summary of the results of this analysis is provided in the following tables. The maps below show specific areas of interest for flooding in the county. These areas were identified because of the larger clusters of buildings in the floodplain.

Unincorporated Gunnison County Buildings and Value in the 100-Year Floodplain

Number of Buildings	Total Building Value	Number of Buildings in Floodplain	Value of Buildings in Floodplain	Percentage of Buildings in Floodplain
13,892	\$9,139,937,240	803	\$557,364,120	5.8%

Source: County Assessor, 2025; Microsoft, 2025

Structure Type in the 100-Year Floodplain

Agriculture	Commercial	Exempt	Mixed Use	Natural Resource	Residential	Vacant	Unknown
141	23	37	163	3	381	5	50

Source: County Assessor, 2025; Microsoft, 2025

Unincorporated Gunnison County Buildings and Value in the 500-Year Floodplain

Number of Buildings	Total Building Value	Number of Buildings in Floodplain	Value of Buildings in Floodplain	Percentage of Buildings in Floodplain
13,892	\$9,139,937,240	31	\$25,943,650	0.2%

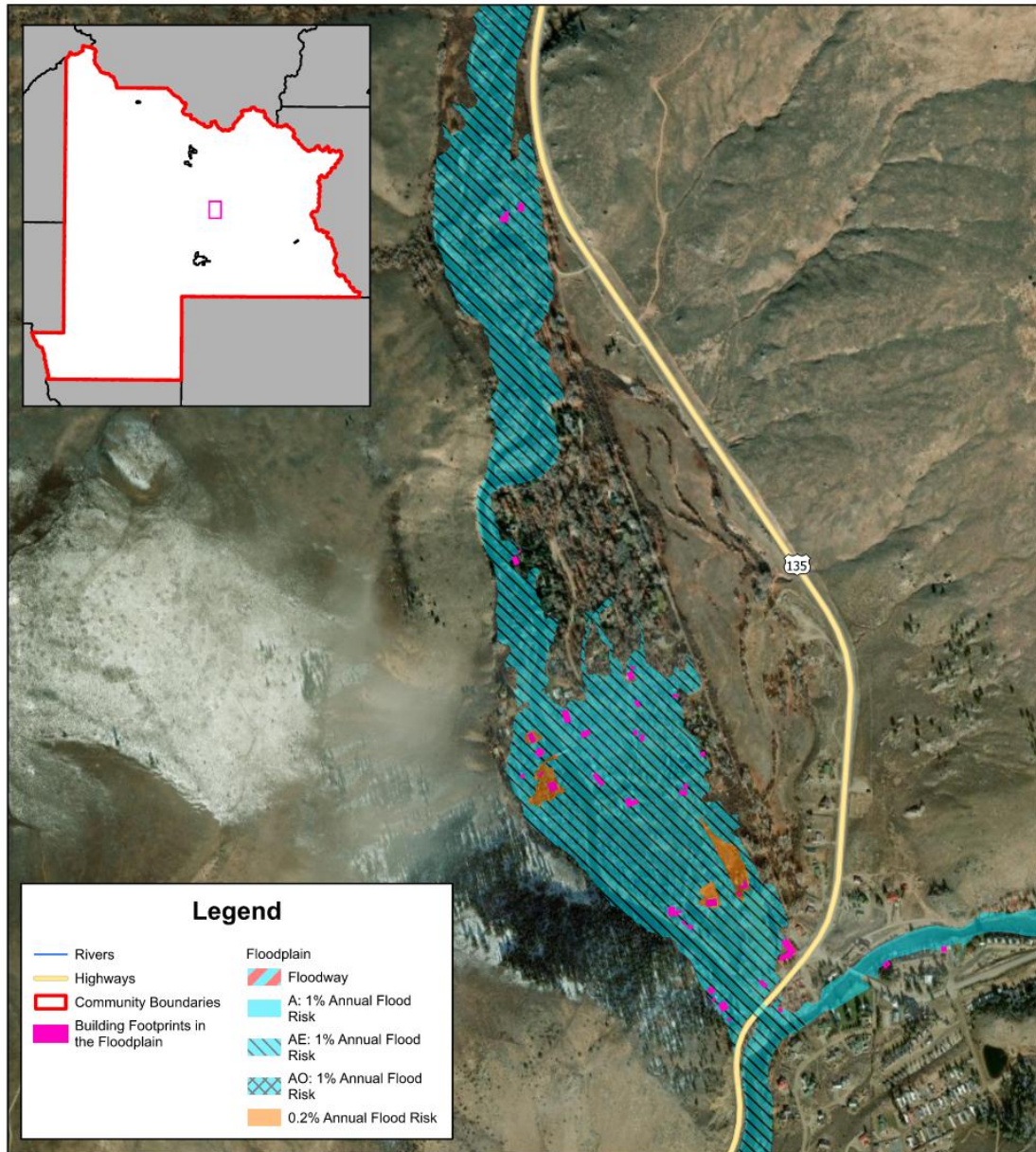
Source: County Assessor, 2025; Microsoft, 2025

Structure Type in the 500-Year Floodplain

Agriculture	Commercial	Exempt	Mixed Use	Natural Resource	Residential	Vacant	Unknown
0	0	5	4	0	18	1	3

Source: County Assessor, 2025; Microsoft, 2025

Flood Area of Interest - Almont



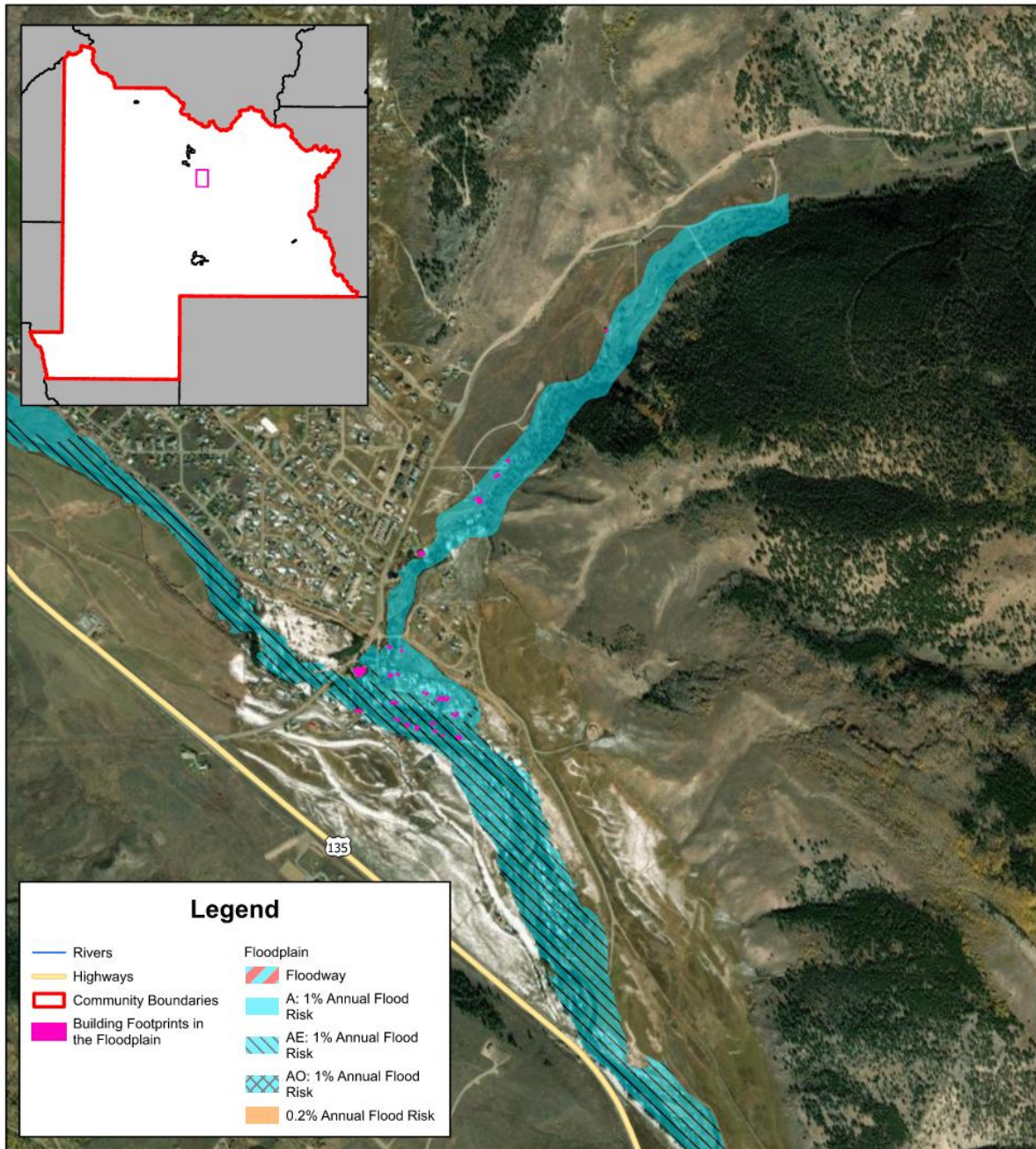
Created By: SO
Date: 1/7/2026
Software: ArcGIS Pro
File: Gunnison County HMP

This map was prepared using information from record drawings supplied by JED and/or other applicable city, county, federal, or public or private entities. JED does not guarantee the accuracy of this map or the information used to prepare this map. This is not a scaled plot.

Flooding Area of Interest - Almont

Gunnison County Hazard Mitigation
Plan 2026

Flooding Area of Interest – Cement Creek & East River



Created By: SO
Date: 1/7/2026
Software: ArcGIS Pro
File: Gunnison County HMP

This map was prepared using information from record drawings supplied by JED and/or other applicable city, county, federal, or public or private entities. JED does not guarantee the accuracy of this map or the information used to prepare this map. This is not a scaled plot.

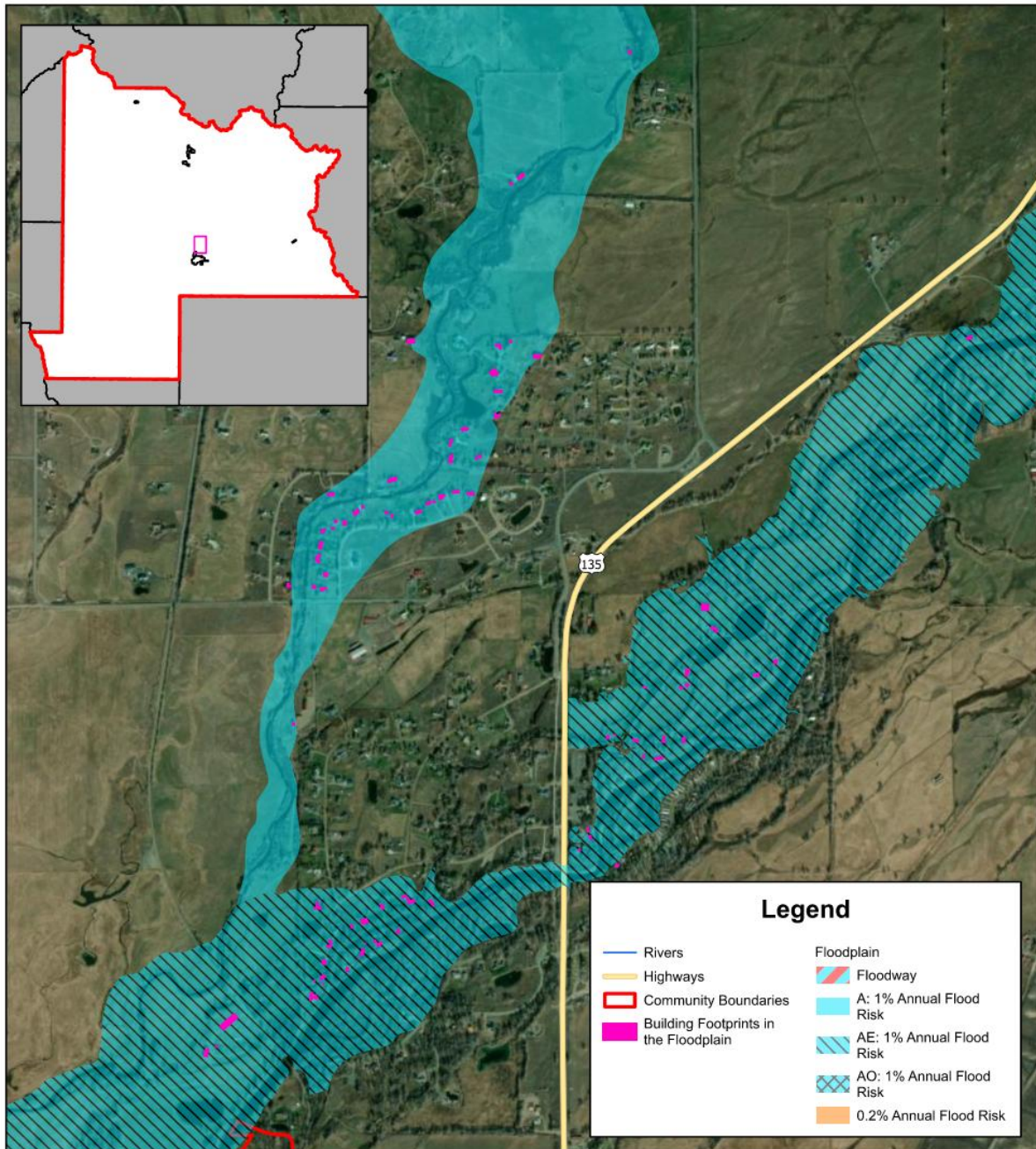
**Flooding Area of Interest -
Cement Creek & East River**

Gunnison County Hazard Mitigation
Plan 2026



0 0.1 0.2
Miles

Flooding Area of Interest – North of Gunnison



Created By: SO
Date: 1/7/2026
Software: ArcGIS Pro
File: Gunnison County HMP

Flooding Area of Interest - North of Gunnison

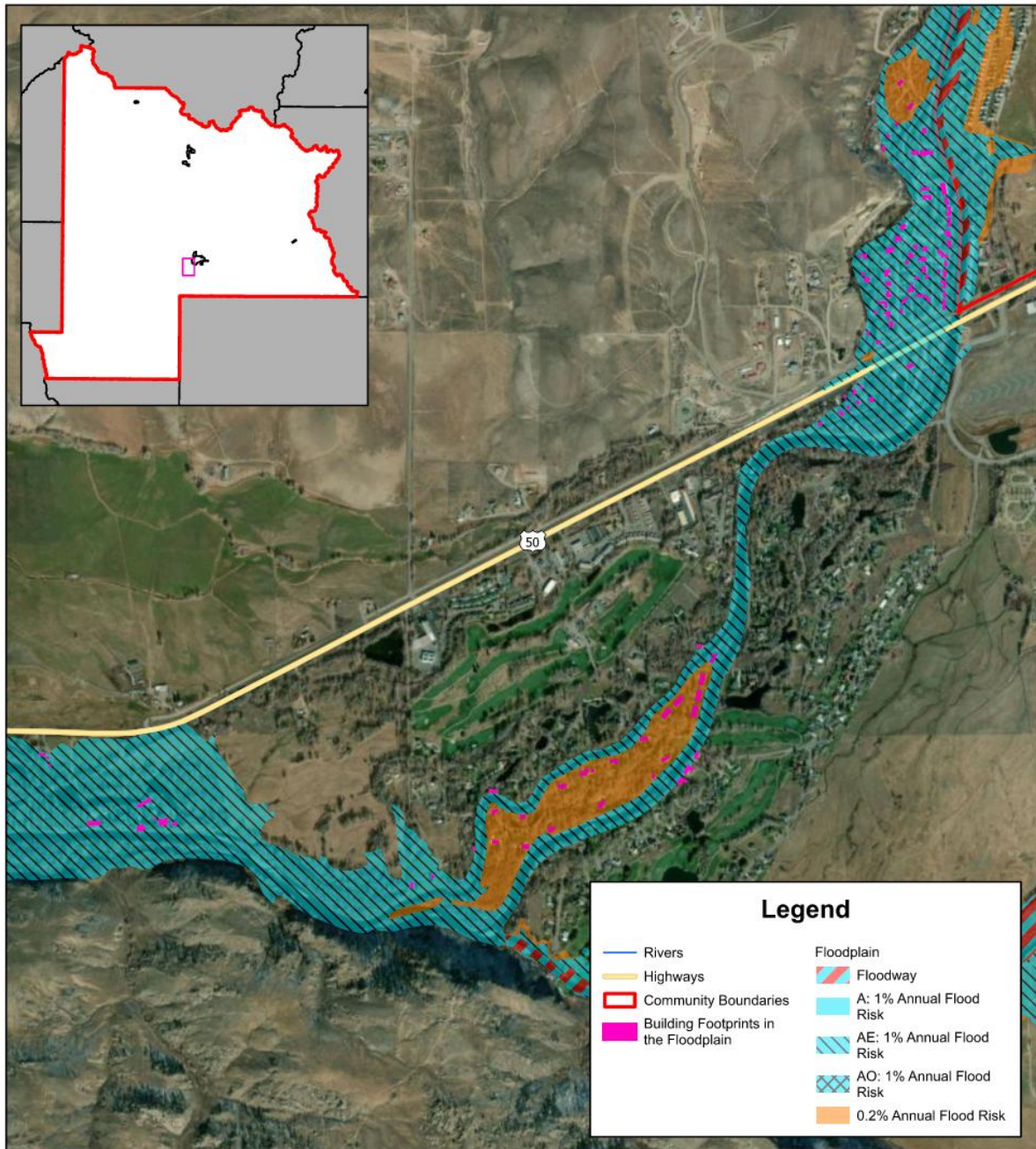
Gunnison County Hazard Mitigation Plan 2026



0 0.1 0.2 Miles

This map was prepared using information from record drawings supplied by JEO and/or other applicable city, county, federal, or public or private entities. JEO does not guarantee the accuracy of this map or the information used to prepare this map. This is not a scaled plot.

Flooding Area of Interest – Southwest of Gunnison



Created By: SO
Date: 1/7/2026
Software: ArcGIS Pro
File: Gunnison County HMP

This map was prepared using information from record drawings supplied by JED and/or other applicable city, county, federal, or public or private entities. JED does not guarantee the accuracy of this map or the information used to prepare this map. This is not a scaled plot.

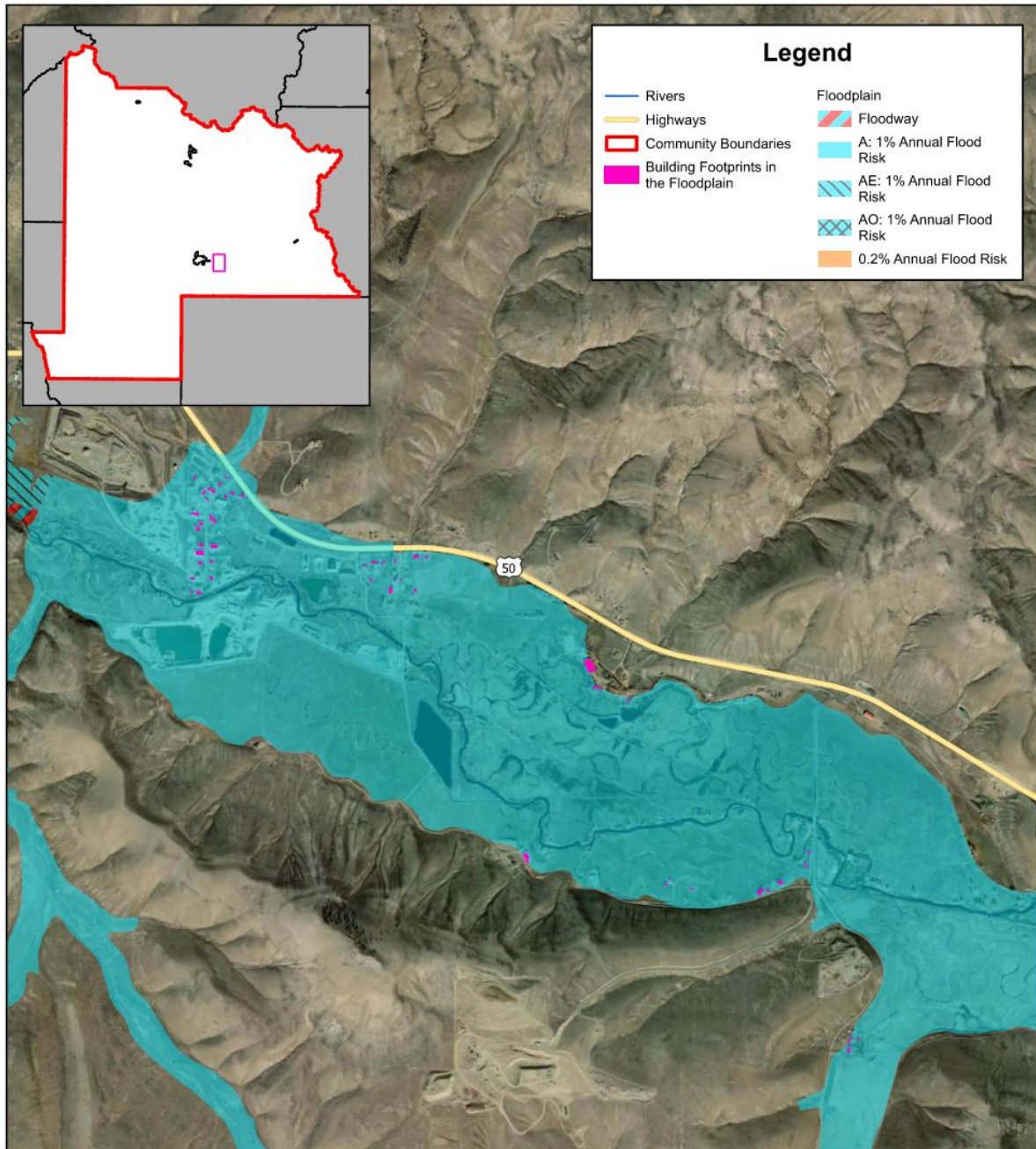
Flooding Area of Interest - Southwest of Gunnison

Gunnison County Hazard Mitigation
Plan 2026



0 0.1 0.2
Miles

Flooding Area of Interest – Southwest of Gunnison



Created By: SO
Date: 1/7/2026
Software: ArcGIS Pro
File: Gunnison County HMP

Flooding Area of Interest - East of Gunnison

Gunnison County Hazard Mitigation
Plan 2026



0 0.2 0.4
Miles

This map was prepared using information from record drawings supplied by JED and/or other applicable city, county, federal, or public or private entities. JED does not guarantee the accuracy of this map or the information used to prepare this map. This is not a scaled plot.

In 2024, Gunnison County started tracking floodplain development permits online. In 2024, the county issued nine floodplain development permits. In 2025, the county issued 20 floodplain development permits. These permits covered projects such as residential construction, streambank stabilization, habitat enhancements, river access, and headgate reconstruction.

Additionally, four of Gunnison County's identified community lifelines are located in the 100-year floodplain. The lifelines include City of Gunnison Public Works/Electric Substation, Gunnison Power Substation, Dos Rios Water Treatment Plant, and Twin Bridges. Flooding could cause major impacts for all four of these locations. While all have been either elevated above base flood elevations or mitigated, flooding can still cause damage and service interruptions.

Gunnison County has four county-owned buildings on two parcels located in the floodplain. Two of the structures are bathrooms used for recreational river users. Both bathrooms have been elevated above the base flood elevation. The other two structures are used for water treatment. Flooding could damage all of the structures or cause access issues. These buildings are insured for up to \$5,000,000 in flood losses. County-owned buildings outside of Flood Zone A carry insurance up to \$50,000,000.

Repetitive Loss

A request for repetitive loss status was submitted to FEMA via email on February 4, 2026. According to FEMA, Gunnison County falls within Category A for Repetitive Loss. Category A includes *"A community that has no repetitive loss properties, or whose repetitive loss properties have all been mitigated. A Category A community has no special requirements except to submit information to update its repetitive loss list, as needed."* Gunnison County has one Repetitive Loss property; however, FEMA noted that the structure is now listed as mitigated. A mitigated indicator means that structural improvements have been made to a property that previously suffered multiple losses, reducing its vulnerability to future damage. The Repetitive Loss property is a single-family residential structure that has experienced two losses, totaling \$39,723. Because the NFIP contains personally identifiable information, FEMA was unable to provide the location of the Repetitive Loss property.

Economic Impacts

Flooding on the Gunnison River would largely impact private property owners. Most of the impacted area is farmland. Agricultural producers and the agricultural sector could experience damage to crops, pastureland, and irrigation systems. Flooding can also erode soil or deposit mud, reducing long-term productivity.

While local businesses are unlikely to experience significant direct damage from flooding, indirect impacts from flood-related road closures are a concern. As experienced during past flood events, nearby businesses and the local economy can be severely impacted by flooding-related road closures. Due to the terrain in Gunnison County, many areas have limited access. A single road closure can cause significant delays and detours. The lack of patrons can impact nearby businesses, many of which rely on tourism.

The tourism and recreation sector is among the most vulnerable to flooding. The county's economy is heavily driven by tourism and outdoor recreation. Flooding can damage trails, campgrounds, and river access points. It can also reduce visitor numbers when activities like rafting and fishing are not possible. The hospitality and service industry is closely tied to tourism and would likely also be affected by a decline in visitor numbers.

Future Considerations

Climate trends are expected to decrease summer precipitation, reducing streamflow in Colorado's major rivers. As a result, the risk of riverine flooding may be reduced in the summer. However, a decrease in snowpack and earlier snowmelt due to warming trends will likely lead to increased riverine and flash flooding during the spring months. Extreme storms are likely to increase due to climate change. These storms may bring intense rainfall, increasing the risk of flash flooding.¹⁵

A specific tool developed and utilized in the State of Colorado to assess climate change costs associated with flooding is the Future Avoided Cost Explorer. This tool presents an in-depth look at the potential future economic impacts of flooding. The following table shows the expected consequences of flooding for the current climate and for projected "Moderate" and "More Severe Climate" impacts, along with anticipated growth in Gunnison County.

Future Avoided Cost Explorer Anticipated Damages for Flooding Matrix

Population Scenario	Climate Scenario		
	Current Climate	Moderate Climate	More Severe Climate
Current Growth Rate	\$2.9 million \$180 per person	\$6.0 million \$370 per person	\$10 million \$620 per person
Low Growth Rate	\$2.9 million \$170 per person	\$6.0 million \$350 per person	\$10 million \$580 per person
Medium Growth Rate	\$3.0 million \$130 per person	\$6.0 million \$260 per person	\$11 million \$480 per person
High Growth Rate	\$3.0 million \$100 per person	\$7.0 million \$240 per person	\$12 million \$420 per person

Source: Colorado Water Conservation Board Future Avoided Cost Explorer

Any future development that is proposed within 1% annual flood risk areas must secure a Floodplain Development Permit from the Community and Economic Development Department. Before receiving a Floodplain Development Permit, the project is reviewed to ensure it meets FEMA standards and Gunnison County regulations. This review and permit process ensures that any development in the watershed does not worsen flooding. There are currently no planned developments located in 1% annual flood risk areas.

The biggest concern related to changing demographics and flooding is education. As tourism continues to grow in the county, second homes and short-term rentals are expected to increase in unincorporated areas. These populations are likely unaware of the flooding risks present in the county. Education and emergency notification to these groups will be important in the future.

Currently, no one in Gunnison County is a certified floodplain manager. Staff is working towards certification in 2026. Gunnison County is also working to improve its NFIP and CRS programs, with the intention of advancing its CRS Class in the future. Community Development is currently working on additional flood-related outreach in English and Spanish, as well as updating the website with additional information as needed.

15 U.S. Global Change Research Program. 2023. "Fifth National Climate Assessment". <https://nca2023.globalchange.gov/>.

Key Identified Problems

Key identified flooding problems in Gunnison County include:

- Spring runoff during high snowpack years.
- Ice jams.
- Flooding and debris flows from summer monsoon storms.
- Flooding along the Gunnison River and its major tributaries.
- Climate change impacts leading to earlier and faster snowmelt events.
- Direct impacts on the agricultural sector.
- Indirect impacts on tourism and recreation.
- Closed roadways limiting access and increasing evacuation difficulties.

Mitigation Strategies and Activities

The local planning team met to discuss a wide range of potential mitigation activities the county could include in the HMP to improve flood resilience. As required for Activity 510 *Floodplain Management Planning* for consideration of CRS points, the discussion included activities that are currently implemented or ongoing and should be added to this plan, as well as activities that were not selected because they were either inappropriate for the county or not feasible. The meeting agendas, sign-in sheets, and invited organizations are available in *Appendix B: Planning Process Documentation*. As part of the CRS process, the local planning team identified mitigation strategies for the six mitigation action categories. These actions and subsequent descriptions of each are listed below:

Categories of Floodplain Management

- Preventive Measures
- Property Protection
- Natural Resource Protection
- Emergency Services
- Structural Flood Control Projects
- Public Information

Action	Agricultural / Ranching Preservation
Description & Location	Identify and use agricultural lands as floodplain management areas.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Dam Failure, Flooding & Ice Jams
Category of Floodplain Management	Natural Resource Protection
Estimated Cost	\$100,000+
Local Funding	Community Development Budget, Grants
Timeline	1 Year
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	Gunnison County Community Development
Status	New Action, Not Started

Action	Bank Stabilization for Erosion Control
Description & Location	Work with the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District to stabilize stream and river banks. This may include, but is not limited to: reducing bank slope, adding riprap, and installing erosion control materials/fabrics. Continue stream management zones for post-fire erosion.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Flooding & Ice Jams, Landslide/Rockfall/Debris Flow, Wildfire
Category of Floodplain Management	Natural Resource Protection
Estimated Cost	\$100,000
Local Funding	Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District Budget, Public Works Budget
Timeline	1 Year
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District (Lead), Gunnison County Public Works
Status	New Action
Currently Meeting Expectations?	Yes

Action	Certified Floodplain Managers Education
Description & Location	Expand the education of building inspectors or Certified Floodplain Managers.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Flooding & Ice Jams
Category of Floodplain Management	Preventative
Estimated Cost	\$1,000 - \$5,000, Staff Time
Local Funding	Community Development Budget, Staff Time
Timeline	1-2 Years
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	Gunnison County Community Development
Status	New Action
Currently Meeting Expectations?	Yes

Action	Channel and Bridge Improvements
Description & Location	Implement channel and bridge improvements to increase channel conveyance and decrease the base flood elevations. Investigate, design, and retrofit or improve bridges to increase capacity and maintain or enhance structural integrity during flood events.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Flooding & Ice Jams
Category of Floodplain Management	Structural Flood Control Projects
Estimated Cost	\$100,000+
Local Funding	Public Works Budget, Grants
Timeline	5-10 Years
Priority	Low
Lead Agency	Gunnison County Public Works
Status	New Action
Currently Meeting Expectations?	Yes

Action	Community Rating System Improvements
Description & Location	Improve overall standing as an NFIP Community Rating System (CRS) community to reduce flood insurance premiums.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Flooding & Ice Jams
Category of Floodplain Management	Preventative
Estimated Cost	\$1,000, Staff Time
Local Funding	Community Development Budget, Staff Time
Timeline	1 Year
Priority	High
Lead Agency	Gunnison County Community Development
Status	In Progress. The county is currently working to improve its CRS standing through additions to the hazard mitigation plan, regulatory improvements, and education.
Currently Meeting Expectations?	Yes

Action	Drainage Ditches
Description & Location	Deepen drainage ditches and clean out culverts.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Flooding & Ice Jams
Category of Floodplain Management	Structural Flood Control Projects
Estimated Cost	\$100,000+
Local Funding	Public Works Budget, Grants
Timeline	5-10 Years
Priority	Low
Lead Agency	Gunnison County Public Works
Status	New Action
Currently Meeting Expectations?	Yes

Action	Drainage Improvements
Description & Location	Improve drainage and road surface along specific routes for emergency access/egress. Make improvements to roadways and drainage ways to prevent damage to key transportation routes. Utilize geosynthetic products for repair and damage mitigation. Consider covering road washouts, culvert sizing and headwalls, steep banks, slides, in-road springs, roadway edge armoring, low water crossings, pothole grading, weak foundations, gravel road maintenance, ditch linings on steep grades, erosion protection, etc. Improve storm sewers and drainage patterns for rural residents.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Flooding & Ice Jams
Category of Floodplain Management	Structural Flood Control Projects
Estimated Cost	\$100,000+
Local Funding	Public Works Budget, Grants
Timeline	5-10 Years
Priority	Low
Lead Agency	Gunnison County Public Works
Status	New Action
Currently Meeting Expectations?	Yes

Action	Drainage Improvements – Alpine Plateau Road
Description & Location	Improve drainage and road surface along Section 2 of Alpine Plateau Road for emergency access/egress.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Flooding & Ice Jams
Category of Floodplain Management	Structural Flood Control Projects
Estimated Cost	\$120,000+
Local Funding	Public Works Budget
Timeline	2-5 Years
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	Gunnison County Public Works (Lead), USFS, BLM, Arrowhead Improvements Association
Status	Not Started
Currently Meeting Expectations?	Yes

Action	Floodplain Management
Description & Location	Work with the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District to preserve the natural and beneficial functions of floodplain land through measures such as retaining natural vegetation, restoring streambeds, and preserving open space in the floodplain, particularly near parks in flood-prone areas. Increase streambank stabilization, reconnect floodplains, hold back debris flows, map sediment source areas and debris-flow pathways, address post-wildfire water runoff, and redesign agricultural systems to reduce runoff.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Dam Failure, Flooding & Ice Jams
Category of Floodplain Management	Natural Resource Protection
Estimated Cost	\$100,000+
Local Funding	Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District Budget, Public Works Budget, Community Development Budget
Timeline	1 Year
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District (Lead), Gunnison County Public Works, Gunnison County Community Development
Status	New Action
Currently Meeting Expectations?	Yes

Action	Flood Preparation and Awareness
Description & Location	Increase flood preparation and raise awareness of flooding risks in the county. Early spring includes flood preparedness PSAs on social media and in the newspaper. The county will convene the spring runoff coordination group to maintain situational awareness and identify any flooding concerns.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Flooding & Ice Jams
Category of Floodplain Management	Public Information
Estimated Cost	\$1,000, Staff Time
Local Funding	Emergency Management Budget, Staff Time
Timeline	1 Year
Priority	High
Lead Agency	Gunnison County Emergency Management (Lead), Gunnison County Communications, Gunnison County Community Development
Status	The county holds annual spring runoff preparedness meetings with all stakeholders, publicizes flood preparedness on social media and in newspapers, and hosts local events.
Currently Meeting Expectations?	Yes

Action	Floodplain Regulation Enforcement Updates
Description & Location	Update enforcement strategies and tools of floodplain regulations for structures located in the 1-percent floodplain. Strict enforcement of the type of development and elevations of structures should be considered through the issuance of building permits by any community or county.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Flooding & Ice Jams
Category of Floodplain Management	Preventative
Estimated Cost	\$1,000, Staff Time
Local Funding	Community Development Budget, Staff Time
Timeline	1 Year
Priority	High
Lead Agency	Gunnison County Community Development
Status	New Action
Currently Meeting Expectations?	Yes

Action	Floodplain Regulation Updates
Description & Location	Develop and pass more restrictive floodplain regulations. Enhancements may include: limiting the types of development within the floodplain, redefining substantial loss for impacted homes, and increasing the freeboard requirement to more than 1 foot above base flood elevation.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Flooding & Ice Jams
Category of Floodplain Management	Preventative
Estimated Cost	\$1,000, Staff Time
Local Funding	Community Development Budget, Staff Time
Timeline	1 Year
Priority	High
Lead Agency	Gunnison County Community Development
Status	In Progress. Community Development is currently updating the county's floodplain regulations.
Currently Meeting Expectations?	Yes

Action	Gap Weather Radar System
Description & Location	Work with the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District to purchase and install a weather station in the Gunnison Valley. This would fill an existing coverage gap.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Drought, Extreme Cold, Hailstorm, High Wind, Lightning, Severe Winter Storm, Flooding & Ice Jams
Category of Floodplain Management	Emergency Services
Estimated Cost	\$100,000+
Local Funding	Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District Budget, Emergency Management Budget
Timeline	2-5 Years
Priority	Low
Lead Agency	Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District (Lead), Gunnison County Emergency Management
Status	New Action, Not Started

Action	Grade Control Sewer Lift Stations
Description & Location	Implement grade control projects at sewer lift stations.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Flooding & Ice Jams
Category of Floodplain Management	Structural Flood Control Projects
Estimated Cost	\$100,000+
Local Funding	Public Works Budget, Grants
Timeline	5-10 Years
Priority	Low
Lead Agency	Gunnison County Public Works
Status	New Action
Currently Meeting Expectations?	Yes

Action	Improvements to the Flood Warning System
Description & Location	Work with the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District to update equipment, ensure equipment is in a secure location, and install additional USGS stream monitoring gauges. Add more alarms/gauges in key sites that fires might impact.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Dam Failure, Flooding & Ice Jams, Wildfire
Category of Floodplain Management	Emergency Services
Estimated Cost	\$5,000-\$10,000
Local Funding	Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District Budget, Emergency Management Budget
Timeline	1 Year
Priority	High
Lead Agency	Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District (Lead), Gunnison County Emergency Management
Status	New Action
Currently Meeting Expectations?	Yes

Action	Library Resources
Description & Location	Work with the Gunnison County Library District to ensure local libraries host and maintain a roster of flood-related information, including FIRMs, local flood information, and regulatory standards.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Flooding & Ice Jams
Category of Floodplain Management	Public Information
Estimated Cost	\$1,000, Staff Time
Local Funding	Gunnison County Library District Budget, Community Development Budget, Staff Time
Timeline	1 Year
Priority	High
Lead Agency	Gunnison County Library District (Lead), Gunnison County Community Development
Status	New Action, Not Started

Action	Monitoring Snowpack
Description & Location	Increase monitoring of snowpack levels to better prepare for future drought and flooding events.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Drought, Flooding & Ice Jams
Category of Floodplain Management	Natural Resource Protection
Estimated Cost	Staff Time
Local Funding	Staff Time
Timeline	1 Year
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	Gunnison County Emergency Management
Status	New Action
Currently Meeting Expectations?	Yes

Action	Mutual Aid Agreements
Description & Location	Create mutual aid agreements or memorandums of understanding for equipment/personnel sharing during all-hazard emergencies and disasters.
Hazard(s) Addressed	All Hazards
Category of Floodplain Management	Emergency Services
Estimated Cost	Staff Time
Local Funding	Staff Time
Timeline	Ongoing
Priority	Low
Lead Agency	Gunnison County Public Works (Lead), Gunnison County Emergency Management
Status	Ongoing – The County, local, and regional agencies maintain numerous MOAs.
Currently Meeting Expectations?	Yes

Action	Mutual Aid Through the WARN Program
Description & Location	Establish mutual aid agreements through the Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (WARN) Program.
Hazard(s) Addressed	All Hazards
Category of Floodplain Management	Preventative
Estimated Cost	\$1,000, Staff Time
Local Funding	Public Works Budget
Timeline	2-5 Years
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	Gunnison County Public Works
Status	New Action, Not Started

Action	NFIP Education
Description & Location	Increase outreach on NFIP importance. Update the county website with NFIP information and start outreach on Facebook and Instagram in both English and Spanish.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Flooding & Ice Jams
Category of Floodplain Management	Public Information
Estimated Cost	Staff Time
Local Funding	Staff Time
Timeline	1-2 Years
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	Gunnison County Community Development
Status	New Action, Not Started

Action	Parcel Level Evaluation of Flood Prone Properties
Description & Location	Work with the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District to conduct a study of parcels in flood-prone areas and identify mitigation measures to reduce future impacts.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Flooding & Ice Jams
Category of Floodplain Management	Property Protection
Estimated Cost	\$1,000-\$5,000
Local Funding	Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District Budget, Community Development Budget
Timeline	1 Year
Priority	High
Lead Agency	Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District (Lead), Gunnison County Community Development
Status	New Action
Currently Meeting Expectations?	Yes

Action	Post-Disaster Mitigation Policies and Procedures
Description & Location	Develop post-disaster redevelopment and mitigation policies and procedures.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Avalanche, Dam Failure, Earthquake, Flooding & Ice Jams, Landslide / Rockfall / Debris Flow, Wildfire
Category of Floodplain Management	Emergency Services
Estimated Cost	Staff Time, \$5,000+
Local Funding	Staff Time, Emergency Management Budget, Community Development Budget
Timeline	5-10 Years
Priority	Low
Lead Agency	Gunnison County Community Development (Lead), Gunnison County Emergency Management
Status	New Action
Currently Meeting Expectations?	Yes

Action	Public Safety Website
Description & Location	Develop a public safety website that includes active emergency updates, evacuation areas, alerts and warnings, and relevant public safety information (e.g., fire restrictions and flood warnings).
Hazard(s) Addressed	Flooding & Ice Jams
Category of Floodplain Management	Public Information
Estimated Cost	\$500+, Staff Time
Local Funding	Emergency Management Budget, Staff Time
Timeline	1 Year
Priority	High
Lead Agency	Gunnison County Emergency Management (Lead), Gunnison County Communications
Status	The county has researched other jurisdiction examples, but no implementation has begun.

Action	Remove Flow Restrictions – Bridges
Description & Location	Conduct a preliminary drainage assessment and/or design bridge improvements to reduce and/or alleviate flooding. Bridges typically serve as flow restrictions along streams and rivers. Cleanout and reshaping channel segments at bridge crossings can increase conveyance, reducing the potential for flooding. Replacing or modifying bridges and other flow restrictions may be necessary to eliminate flooding threats and damage.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Flooding & Ice Jams
Category of Floodplain Management	Structural Flood Control Projects
Estimated Cost	\$100,000+
Local Funding	Public Works Budget, Grants
Timeline	5-10 Years
Priority	Low
Lead Agency	Gunnison County Public Works
Status	New Action
Currently Meeting Expectations?	Yes

Action	Sewer Infrastructure Upgrades and Improvements
Description & Location	Explore upgrading and improving storm and sanitary sewer infrastructure that has been identified as in critical condition or in a high-risk location near streams.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Dam Failure, Drought, Earthquakes, Flooding & Ice Jams, Ground Subsidence & Expansive Soils, Landslide/Rockfall/Debris Flow
Category of Floodplain Management	Property Protection
Estimated Cost	\$100,000+
Local Funding	Public Works Budget
Timeline	1 Year
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	Gunnison County Public Works
Status	New Action, Not Started

Action	Wetlands Protection
Description & Location	Work with the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District to preserve and protect wetland areas.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Dam Failure, Flooding & Ice Jams
Category of Floodplain Management	Natural Resource Protection
Estimated Cost	\$100,000+
Local Funding	Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District Budget, Community Development Budget
Timeline	1 Year
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District (Lead), Gunnison County Community Development
Status	New Action, Not Started

Removed Mitigation and Strategic Actions

Action	NFIP Compliance
Description & Location	Continue compliance with the NFIP.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Flooding & Ice Jams
Status	Removed, as continued compliance with the NFIP is not a true mitigation action.

Ground Subsidence & Expansive Soils

Level of Concern: Low

Areas with collapsible soils may become at risk for ground subsidence. In 2023, a sinkhole developed along Highway 133 between Paonia and Somerset, causing the highway to wash out when the culvert suddenly became overwhelmed. This sinkhole caused significant travel disruptions across the entire Highway 133 corridor. Collapsible soils are primarily located in the central and northwestern portions of the county. Marble, Gunnison, Mt. Crested Butte, and Crested Butte are all located in or near collapsible soil areas.

According to the Colorado Geological Survey, most of the county has a low likelihood of expansive soils. There are areas with a moderate likelihood located in the northwestern and west-central portions of the county. The Town of Marble is located in this area, but for the most part, there are few buildings or infrastructure located in moderately expensive soil areas. A map of locations for ground subsidence and expansive soils is available in the risk assessment section of the plan.

New and Kept Mitigation and Strategic Actions

See the *GIS Web Map* mitigation action under avalanche.

Hailstorm

Level of Concern: Low

Small hailstorms do occur in Gunnison County; however, they are rarely large enough to cause damage. This is due to the county's elevation. Areas most likely to see hailstorms include the lower elevations of the Gunnison Valley. All community lifeline buildings could be impacted by hail. Damage is likely to be minimal and would be concentrated on roofs, siding, and windows. Services would not be impacted by hail.

New and Kept Mitigation and Strategic Actions

See *Improve Public Warning* mitigation action under extreme cold.

Hazardous Materials Release

Level of Concern: Moderate

Transportation-related hazmat incidents are more common than fixed-facility incidents in the county. Highway 50 is a state-designated hazmat route and is the most likely location for a release. Local agencies have limited resources to manage a hazmat incident, and external resources may have to travel from several hours away to assist. Fixed chemical facilities in the county are related to light industry, water treatment, mining, and oil and gas operations. A hazardous materials release is likely to affect transportation but could also affect nearby people and waterways. Twenty of the county's community lifelines are located within a half mile of a

highway or fixed chemical site. These lifelines could be affected by service disruptions during a chemical release if evacuations are needed.

New and Kept Mitigation and Strategic Actions

Action	Emergency Evacuation Access
Description & Location	Create emergency evacuation access for Mt. Crested Butte in the event of an emergency within or outside town limits.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Dam Failure, Flooding & Ice Jams, Hazardous Materials Release, Terrorism & Cyber Attack, Wildfire
Estimated Cost	Staff Time
Local Funding	Staff Time
Timeline	2-5 Years
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	Town of Mt. Crested Butte Planning (Lead), Gunnison County Emergency Management
Status	This project was started and needs to be updated and completed in accordance with the new CWPP. The staff will model the work underway in Marble for evacuation planning.

High Wind

Level of Concern: Moderate

The entire county is susceptible to high winds. Areas in the county with higher elevations are more likely to see stronger winds. Likely impacts include damage to buildings and infrastructure, as well as injuries. Additionally, high winds during snowstorms can create blizzard conditions, disrupting transportation routes. High winds can also increase fire danger by carrying embers and making it more difficult to contain a wildfire. High winds could impact all identified community lifelines. Services are unlikely to be affected unless power outages or communication disruptions occur.

New and Kept Mitigation and Strategic Actions

See *Improve Public Warning* mitigation action under extreme cold.

Landslide/Rockfall/Debris Flow

Level of Concern: Moderate

Gunnison County has geologic hazard risk areas mapped in the Land Use Regulations. They include debris fans, landslide locations, mudflow locations, unstable slopes, and rockfall areas. Those areas would be at the highest risk. A map of these locations can be found in the risk assessment portion of the plan. Most of the locations are in lands directly surrounding the City of Gunnison and the Town of Crested Butte; in the towns of Mount Crested Butte and Marble; and in the area between the City of Gunnison and the Town of Crested Butte.

Additionally, steep slopes throughout the county are susceptible to landslides/rock fall/ debris flow. Rockfalls, landslides, and debris flows occur regularly on major roads in the county, such as Monarch Pass and McClure Pass. Debris flows can be a major concern after a wildfire during heavy rain events.

Four of Gunnison County's identified community lifelines are located in a mapped geological hazard area. The lifelines include East River Regional Sanitation Plant, Mt. Crested Butte Medical

Facility, Comstock Communication Tower, and Crested Butte Communication Tower. All of these locations are at risk of damage from landslides, rockfalls, or debris flows. Likely impacts would include damage to the building or infrastructure, and potential short- or long-term service disruptions. None of the other identified community lifelines are located in known landslide, rockfall, or debris flow areas.

New and Kept Mitigation and Strategic Actions

See the *GIS Web Map* mitigation action under avalanche.

Lightning

Level of Concern: Low

Lightning can occur throughout the county, but is more likely in higher-elevation areas. There are parts of the county above the tree line and popular for recreation, where people are exposed to lightning. Lightning can damage critical infrastructure, cause power outages, and cause injury/death. Additionally, lightning is a primary ignition source for wildfires in the county. All identified community lifelines could be impacted by lightning. Damage to lifelines is likely to be minimal, but infrastructure like power and communications could be damaged or lost. In these instances, a temporary service outage could occur.

New and Kept Mitigation and Strategic Actions

See *Improve Public Warning* mitigation action under extreme cold.

Mass Casualty Incident

Level of Concern: Moderate

A mass casualty incident separate from the other identified hazards is most likely to occur from transportation crashes involving a large number of people. Special events with large crowds also increase vulnerability to mass-casualty incidents. Locations at an increased risk of an incident include the Gunnison-Crested Butte Regional Airport, Highway 133, Highway 135, Highway 92, Highway 50, Highway 149, and Highway 114. Gunnison Valley Hospital is a level 4 trauma center with limited capabilities. A mass casualty incident would quickly overwhelm the local capacity of first responders and the hospital. The closest transfer is Montrose Regional Health, located over an hour away. A mass casualty incident is unlikely to directly damage any of the identified community lifelines; however, the dispatch center and the emergency operations center would likely be at peak capacity. Major events in the county could potentially overwhelm emergency operations. The Fourth of July in the cities of Gunnison and Crested Butte, Rodeo Days in the City of Gunnison, Grand Traverse Run, Bike and Ski Races, Growler Bike Race, and Western Colorado University Homecoming are significant events that could lead to a mass-casualty incident.

New and Kept Mitigation and Strategic Actions

See *Improve Public Warning* mitigation action under extreme cold.

Pandemic

Level of Concern: Moderate

A pandemic could quickly overwhelm the county's healthcare resources. There is only one hospital in the county, and additional resources would be needed to support it, local health clinics, and Gunnison County Health and Human Services. Larger population centers like Gunnison and Crested Butte are more vulnerable due to higher population density. Impacts would include illness, death, reduced tourism, and an economic downturn. While none of the identified community lifelines would be directly affected by a pandemic, staffing could become difficult. Many of the workers at the community lifelines would be considered essential and would need to come into work.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the county experienced a strain on local resources and personnel. Gunnison County Public Health lacked the capacity to manage the pandemic independently and needed significant assistance from other departments. Conducting testing and vaccine clinics was difficult as the county received minimal external support. To help reduce the spread of the virus, the county implemented social distancing, masking requirements, and event cancellations. The county also experienced economic impacts and business closures that have yet to rebound.

Action	Pandemic Plan Update
Description & Location	Update the Gunnison County Pandemic Plan. It was updated directly after the COVID-19 pandemic but needs a consistent update mechanism, as well as the review and establishment of critical components such as alternate care facility MOUs, and the development of a system to manage a cache of medical supplies.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Pandemic
Estimated Cost	Staff Time
Local Funding	Gunnison County Budget, Staff Time
Timeline	2-5 Years
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	Gunnison County Public Health
Status	New Action. Not Started.

New and Kept Mitigation and Strategic Actions

See *Improve Public Warning* mitigation action under extreme cold.

Severe Winter Storm

Level of Concern: Moderate

Gunnison County experiences multiple winter storms every year. Due to their high likelihood, the county is well prepared for most events. The transportation network would be most affected by hazardous driving conditions and increased accidents. Road closures on major highway corridors and along Monarch Pass are likely. All identified community lifelines could be impacted by severe winter storms. Heavy snow loads and power outages could damage lifelines. These could cause temporary service disruptions. The county emergency operations center, county public works, and dispatch center would likely see the largest impacts with increased calls and the need to keep roads cleared. During major winter storms, public works has limited resources to work around the clock.

New and Kept Mitigation and Strategic Actions

See *Improve Public Warning* mitigation action under extreme cold.

Removed Mitigation and Strategic Actions

Action	Severe Winter Storm Preparation
Description & Location	Preparation for extreme winter weather.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Severe Winter Storms
Status	Removed and replaced with more specific actions.

Terrorism & Cyber-Attack

Level of Concern: High

Cyber-attacks are becoming increasingly sophisticated and can cause widespread outages and damage to IT networks, impacting critical services and infrastructure. A cyber-attack can shut down entire government operations. Often, smaller counties are targets of these attacks because they may lack the resources or protection that larger counties and communities have. Critical infrastructure and special events may be targets of terrorist attacks, although due to the smaller scale of the county, that threat may be less likely than a cyber-attack. However, the damage caused by a terrorist attack can have devastating impacts on infrastructure, buildings, and local tourism.

All of the identified community lifelines could be targets of terrorism or cyber-attack. An attack could take lifelines offline and cut off access to the services they provide. A terrorist attack can easily cause a mass casualty event that would quickly overwhelm local resources.

To help mitigate the risks of cyberattacks, the county is continually taking preventive measures. The IT department is always applying the latest patches and blocking traffic from known threat actors. County buildings have swipe-card access and security cameras with panic buttons in strategic locations.

New and Kept Mitigation and Strategic Actions

Action	Spring Creek Evacuation Route
Description & Location	Create safer evacuation routes for Spring Creek.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Dam Failure, Flooding & Ice Jams, Hazardous Materials Release, Terrorism & Cyber Attack, Wildfire
Estimated Cost	\$50,000+, Staff Time
Local Funding	Staff Time, Emergency Management Department Budget
Timeline	5+ Years
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	Gunnison County Fire Department (Lead), Gunnison County Emergency Management, USFS, CSFS, West Region Wildfire Council
Status	Not Started.

Action	White Pine Evacuation Route
Description & Location	Create safer evacuation routes for White Pine.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Dam Failure, Flooding & Ice Jams, Hazardous Materials Release, Terrorism & Cyber Attack, Wildfire
Estimated Cost	\$50,000+, Staff Time
Local Funding	Staff Time, Emergency Management Department Budget
Timeline	5+ Years
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	Gunnison County Fire Department (Lead), Gunnison County Emergency Management, USFS, CSFS, West Region Wildfire Council
Status	Not Started.

Wildfire

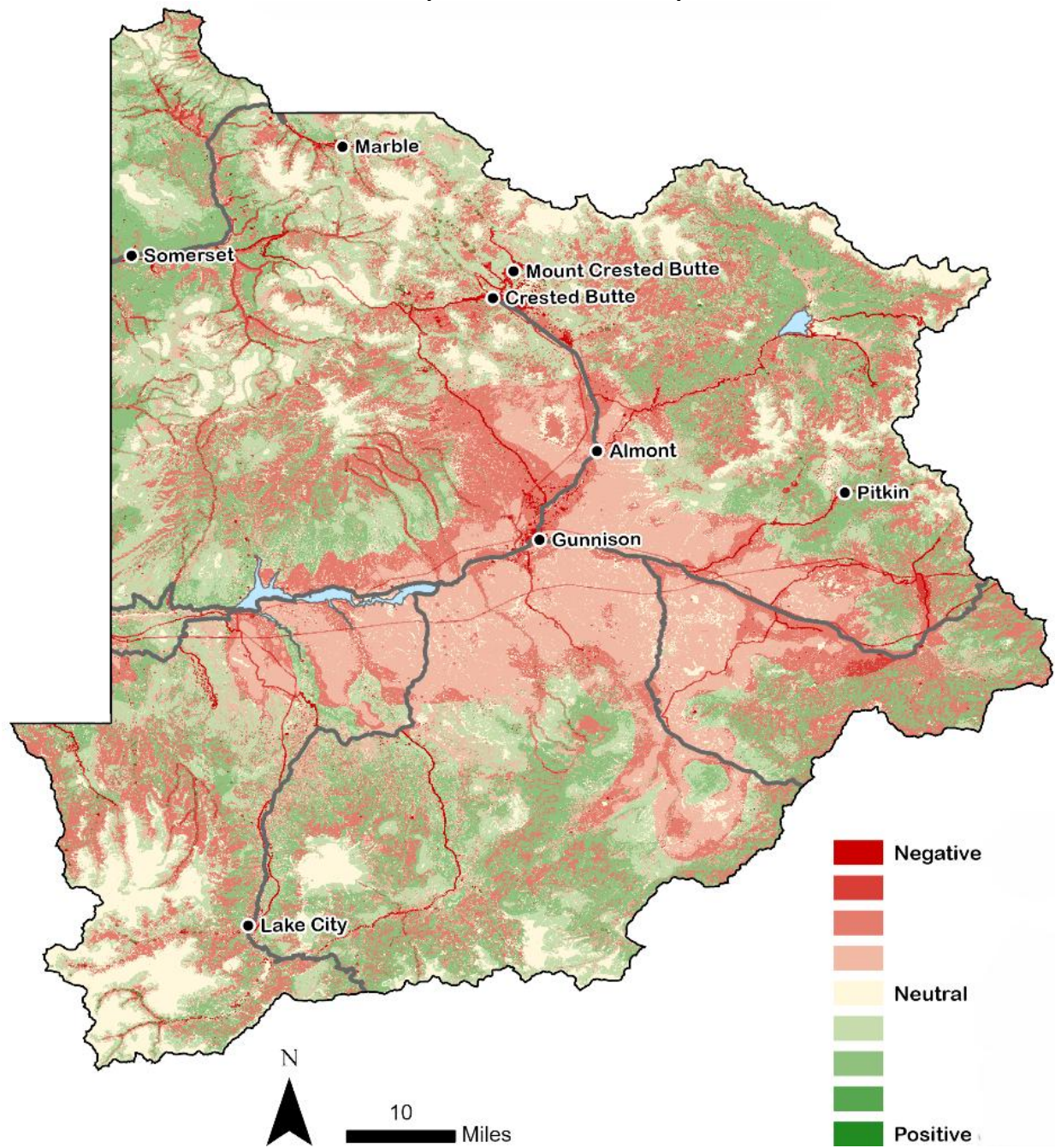
Level of Concern: High

For fire and forest management agencies in the county, it is not a matter of if a wildfire will occur, but rather when and what the impacts will be. Large wildfires in the county are increasing, with three of the five largest events occurring in the last 25 years. Wildfire has the potential to impact every identified community lifeline. These impacts can range from the closure of transportation routes to the destruction of structures, loss of services, and loss of life. However, wildfire can also be highly beneficial, as many wildlife species and vegetation rely on it for growth and habitat.

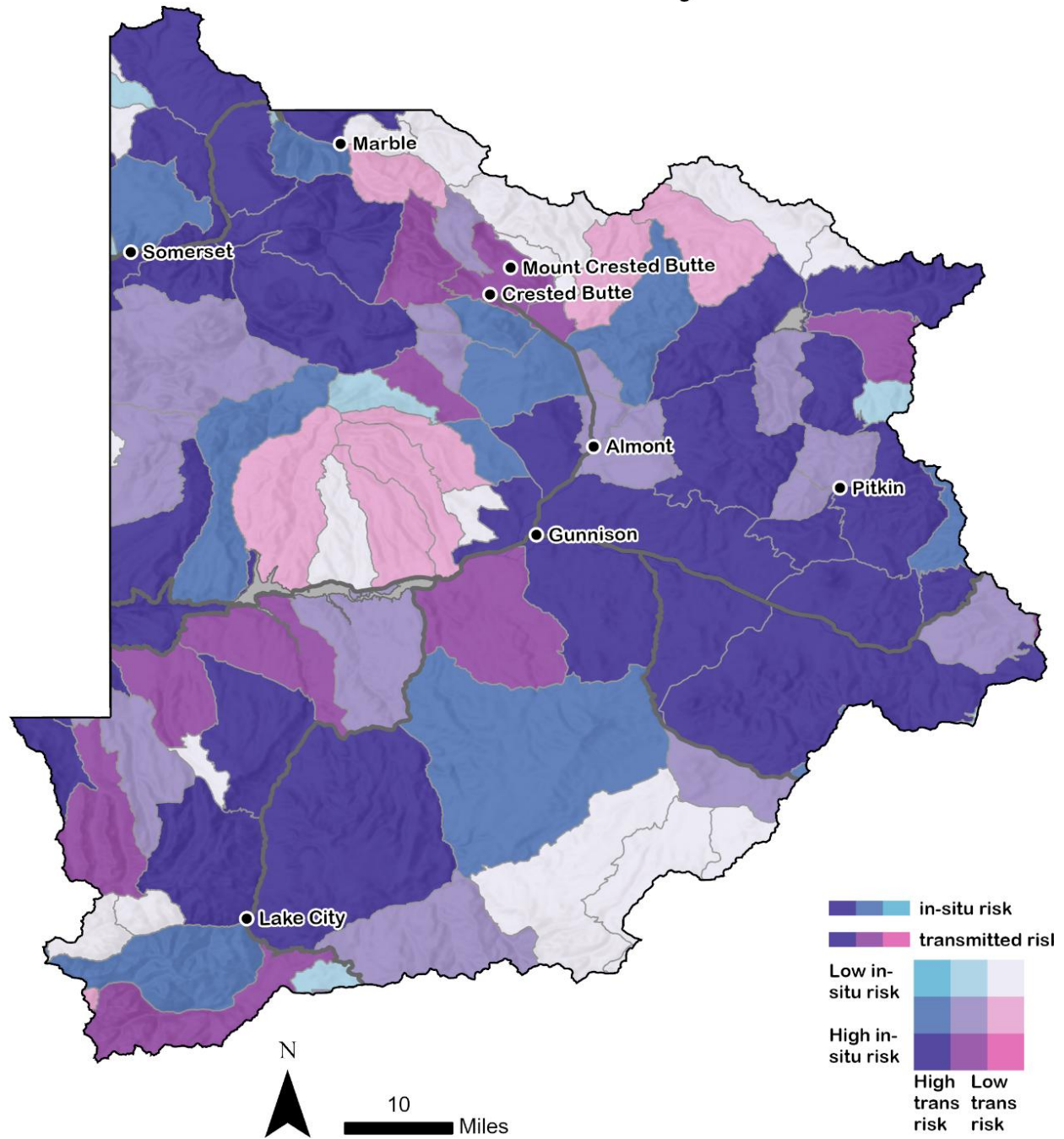
The county recently completed an update of its CWPP. This document used the latest wildfire modeling and extensive stakeholder input to create the Composite Wildfire Risk Map seen below. The map shows where negative wildfire impacts are expected (red) and where positive impacts are anticipated (green). All of the community lifelines are located in red areas. To further analyze risk, both in-situ (wildfire risk to assets within a boundary) and transmitted (wildfire risk to assets if a fire were to cross boundary lines) risks were summarized. The in-situ and transmitted risk map is shown below.

As part of the CWPP process, the county modeled locations where the greatest risk reduction per dollar spent on fuel treatments would occur. This helped the county prioritize and determine where future fuel projects should be focused.

Composite Wildfire Risk Map



In-Situ & Transmitted Risk Map PODs Risk Summary



*The CWPP planning area included an area larger than Gunnison County.

New and Kept Mitigation and Strategic Actions

Action	Colorado Wildfire Resiliency Code
Description & Location	Adopt the Colorado Wildfire Resiliency Code once it is completed.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Wildfire
Estimated Cost	Staff Time
Local Funding	Staff Time
Timeline	1 Year
Priority	High
Lead Agency	Gunnison County Community Development
Status	New Action. The State of Colorado is still developing the code.

Action	County Road 3 Vegetation Management
Description & Location	Perform vegetation management along County Road 3 leading to the Town of Marble. Vegetation along the route is very dense in some areas, with trees growing up to the roadway. This has been identified as a priority location for fuel treatment in the Gunnison County CWPP.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Wildfire
Estimated Cost	\$50,000+
Local Funding	County Budget, Fire District Budget, HMGP, BRIC
Timeline	5+ Years
Priority	High
Lead Agency	UGSSC (Lead), RFVWC, Carbondale Fire, USFS, Gunnison County Emergency Management
Status	New Action. Not Started.

Action	CWPP Assistance
Description & Location	Promote and assist with the development of community-specific CWPPs in higher wildland fire risk areas.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Wildfire
Estimated Cost	Staff Time
Local Funding	Staff Time
Timeline	5+ Years
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	Gunnison County Emergency Management (Lead), West Region Wildfire Council, Fire Districts
Status	The Gunnison County CWPP update was completed in 2025. High-risk communities are included in the county CWPP. The County will support communities that wish to develop more specific CWPPs.

Action	Defensible Space and Other Wildfire Regulations
Description & Location	Develop defensible space and other wildfire regulations as a requirement and/or limit new development in high-risk areas.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Wildfire
Estimated Cost	Staff Time
Local Funding	Staff Time
Timeline	1-2 Years
Priority	High
Lead Agency	Gunnison County Community Development (Lead), Gunnison County Emergency Management, Fire Districts
Status	The BOCC adopted the Gunnison County WUI Code, and it went into effect in 2023. The county is currently beginning updates to this code to align with the statewide WUI code. Additionally, Gunnison County, in partnership with WRWC and CRSI, hired a new staff member to help implement the WUI code and other CWPP projects. Gunnison County also has adopted the 2021 International Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) Code and requires all new development to meet defensible space and ignition-resistant construction standards. Property owners must assess wildfire hazard severity using county maps and establish defensible space in accordance with prescribed tables that factor in slope, vegetation type, and fire behavior. Structures, including detached accessory buildings within 50 feet, must use ignition-resistant materials for walls, roofs, projections, glazing, doors, and vents. Within five feet of buildings, fuels must be hardened with non-flammable surfaces, trees pruned, ground fuels removed, and trees spaced to reduce ember transmission. These regulations are enforced through building permits and land use approvals to mitigate wildfire risk.

Action	Evacuation Planning
Description & Location	Create an evacuation plan for the county or for specific areas within the county.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Dam Failure, Flooding & Ice Jams, Hazardous Materials Release, Terrorism & Cyber Attack, Wildfire
Estimated Cost	\$15,000 Annually for Software, Staff Time
Local Funding	GH CETSA, County Budget
Timeline	2-5 Years
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	Gunnison County Emergency Management (Lead), Gunnison County Manager, First Responders, Gunnison County Public Works
Status	In Progress. The county is working on evacuation modeling and planning for the Marble area.

Action	Fire Restriction Language Update
Description & Location	Update fire restriction language and public information process across multiple jurisdictions in Gunnison County.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Wildfire
Estimated Cost	Staff Time, \$1,000 for Materials
Local Funding	Staff Time, Emergency Management Budget
Timeline	1 Year
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	Gunnison County Emergency Management
Status	Not Started.

Action	Implement Projects Identified in CWPPs
Description & Location	Implementation of landscape-scale fuels-reduction projects and defensible space projects identified in the Gunnison County CWPP.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Wildfire
Estimated Cost	Varies Depending on Project
Local Funding	Emergency Management Department Budget, Public Works Budget, FEMA HMA Grants
Timeline	Ongoing
Priority	High
Lead Agency	Upper Gunnison Shared Stewardship Council (Lead), Gunnison County Emergency Management, Fire Departments
Status	Ongoing – Gunnison County projects include Quartz Creek, Trappers Crossing, the Wilder project, and coal-seam mitigation near the Somerset West Elk Mine. • Wilder-Highlands Mountain Pine Beetle Response Project (Taylor Canyon / Lost Canyon) - ~400 acres on private and National Forest land treated to mitigate beetle infestations and reduce risk in the WUI. • Forest-edged treatment zones around Gunnison, Parlin, Taylor Canyon, and Lake City - the CWPP identifies cost-effective treatment zones in forested areas surrounding these communities as high priority for fuels treatment to reduce overall wildfire risk. • Prescribed fire/vegetation management on national forest lands - for example, planned prescribed burns near Willow Creek drainage (~100-600 acres) to improve habitat, reduce fuels, and protect private property. • Taylor Park Vegetation Management Project — ~20,000 acres in lodgepole pine and Engelmann spruce forests in the Upper Taylor River / Spring Creek drainages to increase forest resilience.

Action	Increase Water Supplies & Storage
Description & Location	Increase water supplies and storage by enhancing existing infrastructure, creating redundancies, and expanding storage capacity and locations. Identify locations in the county that most need water supply or storage improvements.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Drought, Wildfire
Estimated Cost	\$100,000+
Local Funding	County Budget, Local Utility Budgets
Timeline	2-5 Years
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	Local Fire Districts (Lead), Gunnison County Emergency Management
Status	New Action. This project was identified in the Gunnison County CWPP.

Action	Marble Evacuation Route
Description & Location	Perform evacuation route work for Marble.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Dam Failure, Flooding & Ice Jams, Hazardous Materials Release, Terrorism & Cyber Attack, Wildfire
Estimated Cost	\$50,000+
Local Funding	Emergency Management Department Budget, Public Works Budget, FEMA HMA Grants, Staff Time
Timeline	1 Year
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	Carbondale Fire (Lead), Gunnison County Emergency Management
Status	Working with the Town of Marble, the Roaring Fork Valley Wildfire Collaborative, and the Carbondale Fire Protection District for evacuation planning and exercising.

Action	Wet Meadow Creation
Description & Location	Create or improve wet meadows and other landscapes that burn less intensely and can act as fire breaks. Future locations include • Red Creek, off Highway 50 by the Blue Mesa Reservoir • East Flat Top Mountain • Lost Canyon Area, off County Road 743 • Antelope Creek Drainage Area
Hazard(s) Addressed	Flooding, Wildfire
Estimated Cost	\$50,000+
Local Funding	UGRWCD Budget, County Budget, BRIC, HMGP
Timeline	2-5 Years
Priority	High
Lead Agency	UGRWCD (Lead), Gunnison County Emergency Management
Status	New Action. The project was identified in the Gunnison County CWPP. Wet meadow projects have occurred in the past, but have not yet started at the identified locations.

Action	Wildfire Education
Description & Location	Promote wildland fire awareness throughout Gunnison County through public education and outreach programs and materials.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Wildfire
Estimated Cost	\$5,000+, Staff Time
Local Funding	Emergency Management Department Budget, Staff Time
Timeline	Ongoing
Priority	High
Lead Agency	Gunnison County Emergency Management (Lead), Upper Gunnison Shared Stewardship Council, West Region Wildfire Council, CSFS, Gunnison County Community Development
Status	Ongoing – public education heightened during the Lowline Fire in 2023. Public outreach on social media, the County website, and various community presentations. Gunnison County also recently hired a communications director, which is greatly strengthening public outreach programs. Gunnison County raises wildfire awareness through a variety of programs and tools focused on prevention and education. The county provides public “Wildfire Info” webpages with resources like FireWise and NFPA handouts, Colorado State Forest Service materials on home ignition zones, risk mapping, and building guidance. The county also issues wildfire-preparedness notices, enforces stage-based fire restrictions (for example, Stage 1 fire restrictions) during times of elevated risk, and runs burn ordinances (requiring notification for controlled burns) to inform the public how to comply and reduce risk.

Action	WUI Code Update
Description & Location	Update the Gunnison County Wildland Urban Interface Code in accordance with the Colorado Wildland Interface Code.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Wildfire
Estimated Cost	Staff Time
Local Funding	Staff Time
Timeline	5+ Years
Priority	High
Lead Agency	Gunnison County Community Development
Status	Not Started

Removed Mitigation and Strategic Actions

Action	Wildfire Prevention and Preparation
Description & Location	Continued wildland fire prevention and preparation.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Wildfire
Status	Removed and replaced with more specific actions.

Action	Wildfire Regulatory Changes
Description & Location	Wildfire regulatory changes.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Wildfire
Status	Removed and combined with another action.

Community Profile

City of Gunnison

Gunnison County Hazard Mitigation Plan 2026

Community Fact Sheet

Community Summary Fact Sheet

City of Gunnison Gunnison County Hazard Mitigation Plan 2026

6,997

Total Population

29.7

Median Age

2,781

Total Households

2.16

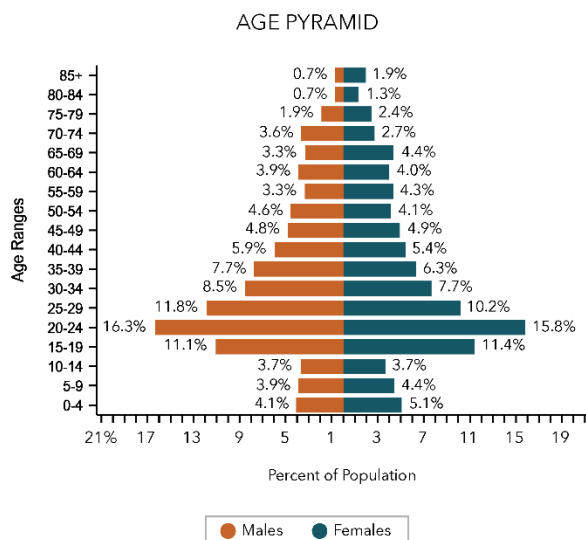
Average
Household Size

\$439,942

Median Home
Value

\$56,441

Median Household
Income



TOTAL POPULATION

2024 Total Population (Estimate) 6,997

2020 Total Population (U.S. Census) 6,560

2010 Total Population (U.S. Census) 5,879

2000 Total Population (U.S. Census) 5,453

AT RISK POPULATIONS



589

Households With
Disability



800

Population 65+



79

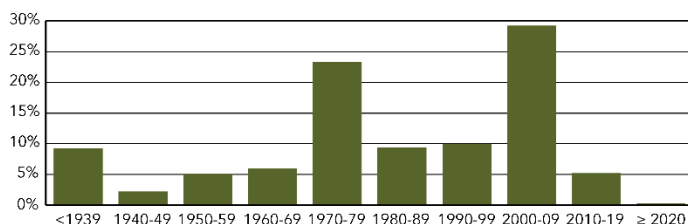
Households
Without Vehicle



21%

Households
Below the
Poverty Level

HOUSING: YEAR BUILT



EMPLOYMENT



602

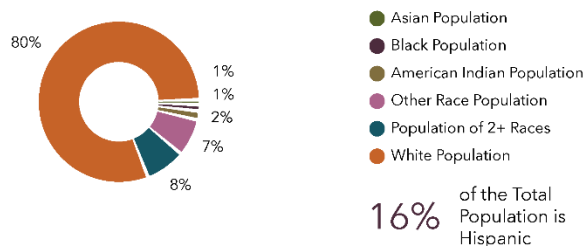
Total Businesses



2.7%

Unemployment Rate

POPULATION BY RACE



HOUSING



183

Vacant Housing
Units



6%

Mobile Homes



Source: Esri, U.S. Census, Esri-Data Axle, ACS. Esri forecasts for 2024, 2020, 2010, 2000, 2018-2022.

Local Planning Team

Gunnison Local Planning Team

Name	Title	Jurisdiction	Round 1 Meeting	Round 2 Meeting
Anton Sinkewich	Community Development Director	City of Gunnison	Attended	-
Sam Costello	Police Chief	City of Gunnison	Attended	-
Mike Lee	IT Director	City of Gunnison	Attended	Attended
Pete Rice	Public Works Director	City of Gunnison	Attended	-
Hugo Ferchau	Fire Chief	Gunnison Fire Protection District	Attended	Attended

Plan Maintenance

Hazard Mitigation Plans are living documents and should be updated regularly to ensure effectiveness and reflect changes in hazard events, priorities, and mitigation actions. These updates are encouraged to occur after every major disaster event, alongside planning document updates, before the Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants cycle begins, and/or before other funding opportunity cycles begin.

The Community Development Director, Police Chief, IT Director, and Public Works Director will be responsible for reviewing and updating this participant profile outside of the five-year update. The City of Gunnison will review the plan annually, and the public will be notified using social media. Substantial revisions will include notice through the local newspaper and social media.

Capability Assessment

The planning team assessed the City of Gunnison's hazard mitigation capabilities by reviewing planning, regulatory, administrative, technical, fiscal, education, warning, and outreach capabilities. The city does not anticipate adding any additional capabilities in the near future; however, existing capabilities may be updated.

Gunnison Capability Assessment

Capability/Planning Mechanism		Yes/No
Planning & Regulatory Capability	Comprehensive Plan	Yes
	Capital Improvements Plan	Yes
	Economic Development Plan	Yes
	Emergency Operations Plan	Yes (County)
	Floodplain Management Plan	Yes
	Stormwater Management Plan	Yes
	Zoning Ordinance	Yes
	Subdivision Regulation/Ordinance	Yes
	Floodplain Ordinance	Yes
	Building Codes	Yes
	Water System Emergency Response Plan	No
	Source Water Protection Plan	No

Capability/Planning Mechanism		Yes/No
	National Flood Insurance Program	Yes
	Community Rating System	Yes
	Community Wildfire Protection Plan	Yes (County)
	Growth Management Ordinance	No
	Hazard Specific Ordinances	Yes
	Erosion/Sediment Control Plan	No
	Flood Insurance Study	Yes
	Elevation Certificates	Yes
	BCEGS Rating	Yes
	Other (if any)	Resiliency Roadmap
Administrative & Technical Capability	Planning Commission	Yes
	Planner/Engineer (Land Development)	Yes
	Planner/Engineer/Scientist (Natural Hazards)	Yes
	Resilience Planner	No
	Transportation Planner	Yes
	Floodplain Administrator	Yes
	GIS Capabilities	Yes
	Chief Building Official	Yes
	Engineering (Construction)	Yes
	Emergency Manager	Yes
	Grant Manager	Yes
	Mutual Aid Agreement	Yes
	Site Plan Review Requirements	Yes
	Other (if any)	-
Fiscal Capability	1- & 6-Year Plan	Yes
	Applied for Grants in the Past	Yes
	Awarded a Grant in the Past	Yes
	Authority to Levy Taxes for Specific Purposes, such as Mitigation Projects	Yes
	Gas/Electric/Water/Sewer Service Fees	Yes
	Stormwater Service Fees	No
	Development Impact Fees	No
	General Obligation Revenue or Special Tax Bonds	No
	Withheld Spending in Hazard-Prone Areas	No
	Other (if any)	-
Education & Outreach Capability	Local Citizen Groups or Non-Profit Organizations Focused on Environmental Protection, Emergency Preparedness, Access and Functional Needs Populations, etc.	Yes

Capability/Planning Mechanism		Yes/No
	Ongoing Public Education or Information Program (e.g., Responsible Water Use, Fire Safety, Household Preparedness, Environmental Education)	Yes
	Natural Disaster or Safety-Related School Programs	Yes
	StormReady Certification	No
	Firewise Communities Certification	No
	Tree City USA	Yes
	Other (if any)	-
Warning Systems / Services	General	Yes
	Flood	No
	Wildfire	No
	Tornado	No
	Geological Hazards	No
	Other (if any)	-

Gunnison Overall Capability

Capability	Limited/Moderate/High
Financial Resources to Implement Mitigation Projects	Moderate
Staff/Expertise to Implement Projects	Moderate
Public Support to Implement Projects	High
Time to Devote to Hazard Mitigation	Limited
Ability to Expand and Improve the Identified Capabilities to Achieve Mitigation	Moderate

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

The City of Gunnison is a member of the NFIP, having joined on 4/18/1983, and has participated in the CRS since 10/1/1995. The community's Floodplain Administrator oversees compliance with the NFIP and Colorado Rules and Regulations for Regulatory Floodplain (2 CCR 408-1). The Floodplain Administrator uses the FEMA Map Service Center, National Flood Hazard Layer, GIS, and historical property data to determine if a development is in the floodplain. Any new development or substantial improvement within the regulated floodplains must submit an application that the city reviews and either approves or denies based on the city's floodplain regulations. Substantially improved or damaged structures in the floodplain are identified through onsite inspections by a structural engineer. The floodplain regulations do not exceed state and FEMA requirements. The city maintains LOMCs and LOMAs on file with the property address in the archive database.

The local planning team has stated that Gunnison will remain in good standing and will continue to be involved with the NFIP and CRS. The city faces no barriers in running the NFIP and CRS programs. The last CAV visit was completed in 2023. NFIP education and outreach efforts are in accordance with activities required to maintain a CRS rating of 7.

Gunnison NFIP Information

NFIP Overview	
Date of NFIP Participation:	4/18/1983
Floodplain Administrator:	Eric Jansen
Is the Floodplain Administrator a Certified Floodplain Manager?	Yes
Is Floodplain Management an Auxiliary Function?	Yes
Number of NFIP Policies In-Force:	44
Total NFIP Premium (\$):	\$39,592
Total NFIP Coverage (\$):	\$11,199,000
Number of Claims Paid Out:	3
Total Amount of Claims Paid Out (\$):	\$6,331
Number of Repetitive Loss Structures:	0
Number of Severe Repetitive Loss Structures:	0
Is the Community Currently Suspended from the NFIP?	No
Any Outstanding Compliance Issues?	No
FIRMs: Digital or Paper?	Both
Located in a RISK Map Area?	No

Buildings and Valuation in the Floodplain

The planning team acquired GIS parcel data from the County Assessor and Microsoft building footprint data to analyze the location, number, and value of buildings in the 100-year and 500-year floodplains. A summary of the results of this analysis is provided in the following tables.

Gunnison Buildings and Value in the 100-Year Floodplain

Number of Buildings	Total Building Value	Number of Buildings in Floodplain	Value of Buildings in Floodplain	Percentage of Buildings in Floodplain
2,524	\$657,838,680	198	\$45,371,230	7.8%

Source: County Assessor, 2025; Microsoft, 2025

Gunnison Buildings and Value in the 500-Year Floodplain

Number of Buildings	Total Building Value	Number of Buildings in Floodplain	Value of Buildings in Floodplain	Percentage of Buildings in Floodplain
2,524	\$657,838,680	78	\$10,312,920	3.1%

Source: County Assessor, 2025; Microsoft, 2025

Plans and Studies

The City of Gunnison has several planning documents that discuss or relate to hazard mitigation. Each plan is listed below, along with a description of how it is integrated with the hazard mitigation plan or contains hazard mitigation principles. When the City updates these planning mechanisms, the local planning team will review the hazard mitigation plan for opportunities to incorporate the goals and objectives, risk and vulnerability data, and mitigation actions into the update. Unless otherwise specified below, the hazard mitigation plan has not been integrated into these or other planning mechanisms.

Building Code (2021)

The building code establishes standards for the construction of buildings and structures. The City of Gunnison's building codes are based on the 2021 International Building Code. Codes regulate and govern the conditions and maintenance of all property, buildings, and structures by providing

standards for supplied utilities, facilities, and other physical elements essential to ensuring that structures are safe, sanitary, and fit for occupation and use.

Capital Improvement Plan (2025)

The purpose of the capital improvement plan is to help the city strategize how to budget for nonrecurring physical or digital purchases. A capital improvement plan typically spans five or more years and includes financing plans. The plan includes the following: installing water meters for residential structures, updating the electrical distribution system, burying power lines, installing emergency generators in critical facilities, constructing a new fire hall, and constructing a new water treatment facility. Recommendations from past, all-hazards planning have been built into the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

Comprehensive Plan (2020)

The comprehensive plan is designed to guide the city's future actions and growth. It has chapters on land use and development, environment, and infrastructure, with sustainability and resiliency woven throughout. Drought is indirectly discussed by setting a goal of growing the population without a net increase in water consumption. The floodplain is also discussed with a recommendation to prevent development in flood-prone areas. The local planning team is anticipating an update to this plan in 2026.

Floodplain Regulations/Ordinance (2014), Subdivision Regulations (2014), and Zoning Ordinance (2014)

The city's floodplain regulations, subdivision regulations, and zoning ordinance outline where and how future development should occur. The documents include the following: they require more than one foot of elevation above Base Flood Elevation in the floodplain and consider wildfire and the wildland-urban interface. The city's timeline to update these documents is anticipated for the fall of 2025.

Gunnison County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (2025)

The City of Gunnison is part of the Gunnison County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). The Gunnison County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) identifies wildfire risks and outlines strategies to reduce them and enhance preparedness. It also defines the wildland-urban interface, identifies areas where vegetation management should be prioritized, and discusses potential wildfire mitigation actions. Wildfire projects from the previous hazard mitigation plan were incorporated into the CWPP. Projects identified in the Gunnison County CWPP have been included as mitigation actions in this profile.

One Valley Resiliency Roadmap (2023)

The One Valley Resilience Roadmap provides shared goals and strategies to help regional partners work together to improve housing affordability, coordinate land-use, transportation, and infrastructure planning, and increase civic capacity. Partners in the plan include Gunnison County, City of Gunnison, Town of Crested Butte, and Mt. Crested Butte. One of the priorities is advancing climate action and environmental stewardship. The plan also calls for avoiding growth in hazard areas such as landslide areas and floodplains. The hazard mitigation plan has not been integrated into the roadmap.

Stormwater Management Manual (2012)

The City of Gunnison's Stormwater Management Manual sets the criteria and design standards for stormwater management during development. It includes minimum standards, guidelines, hydrology, street drainage, outlet structures, detention, stormwater quality, and best management

practices. The hazard mitigation plan has not been integrated into the Stormwater Management Manual.

Future Development Trends

Since 2020, new developments have occurred on the east, west, and north sides of the city, along with several higher-density infill housing and institutional projects within the existing city fabric.

On the city's eastern edge, a new Bureau of Land Management headquarters building and FedEx distribution facility have been completed, and access roads and electrical, water, and sewer infrastructure have been installed on the south side of HWY 50. Additional new road access and infrastructure improvements have been completed north of HWY 50, extending College Avenue eastward. Additional housing units are anticipated in this area in the near future.

On the west side of the city, the Lazy K Housing development created 65 housing units and park improvements on a 4-acre site. FEMA flood map updates are anticipated to include portions of this development area. In response, the city implemented a 1-foot freeboard requirement based on Flood Damage Prevention Regulations.

On the north side of the city, the city's north electrical substation was expanded to serve potential new development.

Significant institutional and infill projects have also been implemented within the city, including:

- New Gunnison County Public Library
- Renovation of the Gunnison / Crested Butte Regional Airport
- Paintbrush Apartments, including 76 housing units
- Garden Walk Apartments, including 36 housing units
- Sawtooth Housing Development: Phases 1 (18 units) and 2 (32 units).

In the near future, development is anticipated in West Gunnison, which may accommodate 500+ units, potential new businesses, and community amenities. The east side of Gunnison (Gunnison Rising) is anticipating 64+ new housing units soon, and infrastructure planning underway seeks to facilitate additional housing units and businesses in the area. The city and county are also engaged in cooperative planning to facilitate potential development to the north of the city limits; no specific projects are currently underway or immediately anticipated. These new units and development areas are not located in known hazard areas.

The new and planned developments increase the city's risk and vulnerability to drought, earthquakes, hailstorms, high winds, and severe winter storms, as more buildings could be affected. The Lazy K housing increases risk and vulnerability to flooding and wildfire; however, that risk is reduced as those homes have been mitigated.

Since 2000, the City of Gunnison has grown by approximately 1,500 people, a 28% increase. Increasing populations are associated with more robust hazard mitigation and emergency planning requirements for development. Growing populations can also increase tax revenues, allowing communities to pursue additional mitigation projects. Over 35% the population is between the ages of 20 and 35. This population group is likely very active and may face increased risk from hazards affecting popular recreation areas or activities. The county's minority population is around 20%. Minorities may face increased vulnerability, as they tend to have access to fewer financial and systemic resources that would enable them to implement hazard mitigation projects and respond to and recover from hazard events.

Community Lifelines

As listed in the following table, each participating jurisdiction identified community lifelines vital for disaster response and essential for returning the jurisdiction's functions to normal during and after a disaster, per the FEMA Community Lifelines guidance. The FEMA lifeline categories include Safety and Security; Food, Hydration, and Shelter; Health and Medical; Energy; Communications; Transportation; Hazardous Materials; and Water Systems.



Gunnison Community Lifelines

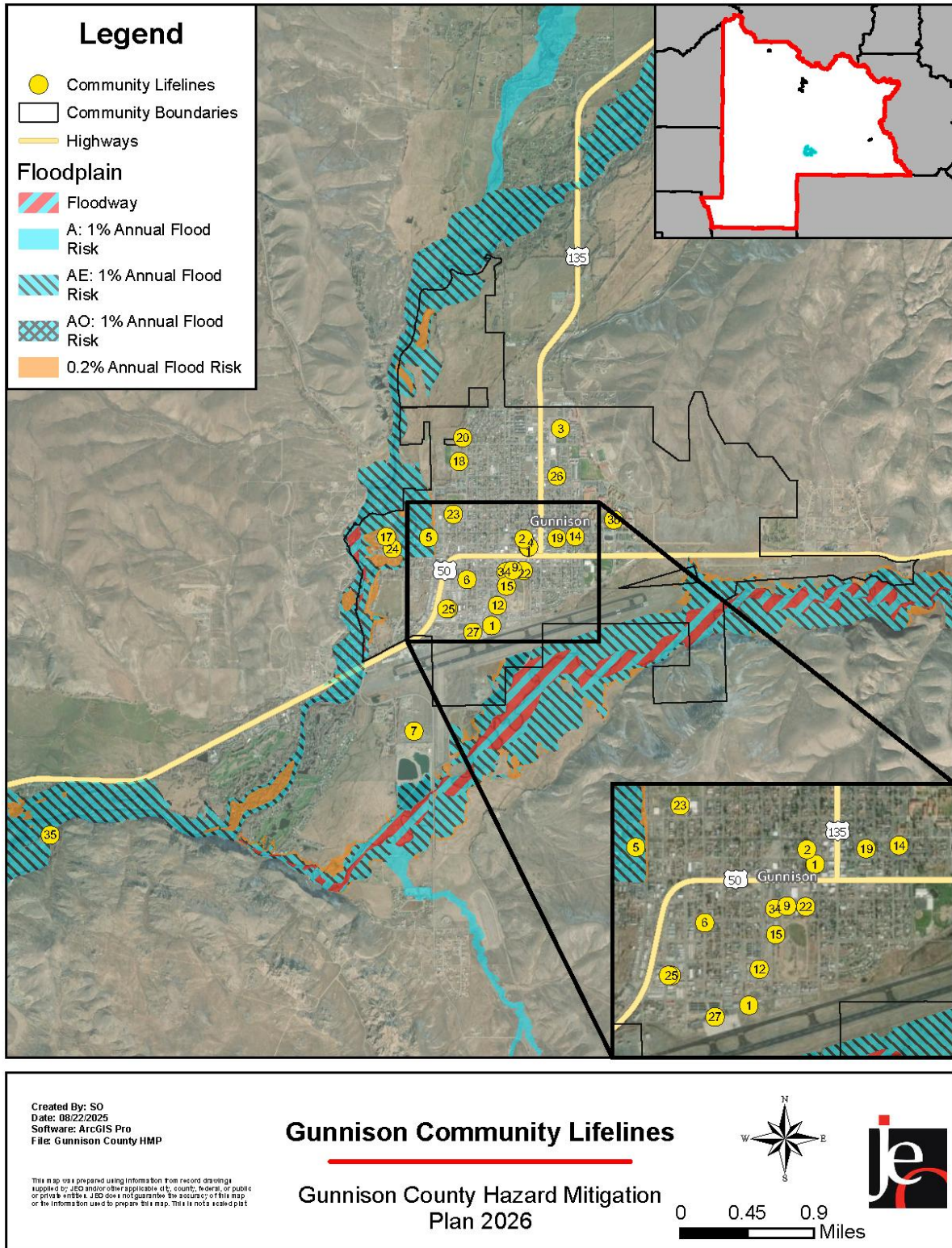
CL Number	Name	Community Lifeline Type	Generator (Y/N)	Floodplain (Y/N)
1	Airport Administration	Transportation	Unknown	No
2	Blackstocks Government Center	Safety and Security	Unknown	No
3	City Community Recreation Center	Safety and Security	Yes	No
4	City Hall	Safety and Security	Yes	No
5	City Public Works Shop Facilities	Transportation	No	Yes
6	Commercial Business Zones*	Food, Hydration Shelter	Unknown	No
7	County Public Works	Safety and Security	No	No
8	Cupola Hill 44	Safety and Security	Unknown	No
9	Division of Wildlife	Safety and Security	Unknown	No
10	Domestic Water Well Facilities (9 well houses)*	Water Systems	Varies	N/A
11	Electrical Sub-Station on Wilson Road	Energy	No	No
12	Emergency Operations Center	Safety and Security	Yes	No
13	Forest Service Gunnison Basin Field Office Garage	Safety and Security	No	No
14	Forest Service/BLM/NRCS Office Building	Safety and Security	No	No
15	Fred Field Western Heritage Center	Safety and Security	Unknown	No
16	Fuel Farm (Lifeline)	Transportation	Unknown	No
17	Gunnison Assisted Living Community	Health and Medical	Unknown	No
18	Gunnison Community School	Safety and Security	Unknown	No
19	Gunnison County Courthouse	Safety and Security	Yes	No
20	Gunnison County Library	Safety and Security	Unknown	No
21	Gunnison County Public Safety Center	Safety and Security	Unknown	No
22	Gunnison Fire Station	Safety and Security	Portable	No
23	Gunnison High School	Safety and Security	Unknown	No
24	Gunnison Nursing Home	Health and Medical	Unknown	No
25	Gunnison Police Station/Communication Center	Safety and Security	Yes	No

Section Seven | City of Gunnison Community Profile

CL Number	Name	Community Lifeline Type	Generator (Y/N)	Floodplain (Y/N)
26	Gunnison Valley Hospital	Health and Medical	Yes	No
27	Gunnison/Crested Butte Regional Airport	Transportation	Unknown	No
28	Housing Authority and Tourism	Safety and Security	Unknown	No
29	IC Office (Communications – I.C. Wireless)	Communications	Unknown	No
30	Mountain Meadow Research Center/CSFS	Safety and Security	Unknown	No
31	Office (Communications – Television)	Communications	Unknown	No
32	Oleary Building	Safety and Security	Unknown	No
33	Power Station	Energy	Unknown	No
34	Rodeo Grounds and Extension Office	Safety and Security	Unknown	No
35	Sewer Treatment Plant	Water Systems	Unknown	Yes
36	Western State College	Safety and Security	Yes	No

**Not mapped as there is no physical location or for security purposes.*

Gunnison Community Lifelines Map



Hazard Vulnerabilities and Mitigation Strategy

The Gunnison County Hazard Mitigation Plan evaluates a range of natural and human-caused hazards that pose risks to the county, communities, and other participants. During the planning process, the local planning team outlined community vulnerabilities to each hazard and rated the level of concern for each. Mitigation actions were also identified for each hazard that could impact the community. The following section summarizes this information. For additional information about each hazard, see *Section Five and Appendix A*.

Avalanche

Level of Concern: Low

While snowfall itself is a risk, an avalanche is less so. Most of the high-angle slopes and conditions that contribute to avalanches are situated outside the City of Gunnison. There are no mapped avalanche areas in the community. No community lifelines are likely to be affected by this hazard. However, if an avalanche were to occur, it would likely be in a neighboring jurisdiction, which would call for mutual aid emergency response. They could also occur in areas surrounding the community, potentially impacting transportation.

Kept Mitigation and Strategic Actions

Action	Communications Improvements
Description & Location	Work to establish redundancy in emergency communication lifelines, including 911 communications, emergency radio services, and other means. Establish a plan to remediate damage to existing resources quickly in the event of a break. Assess and identify repeater sites to ensure communication during hazardous events.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Avalanche, Communication Disruption / Failure, Dam Failure, Earthquake, Extreme Cold, Flooding & Ice Jams, Ground Subsidence & Expansive Soils, High Wind, Landslide/Rockfall/Debris Flow, Lightning, Severe Winter Storm, Terrorism & Cyber-Attack, Wildfire
Estimated Cost	\$10,000+
Local Funding	General Budget
Timeline	Ongoing
Priority	High
Lead Agency	IT Director, GHETSA (Lead)
Status	In Progress.

Action	Multi-Agency Agreements
Description & Location	Maintain or develop multi-agency agreements and plans with local first-response entities for initial response, mitigation, and the reunification of affected community members. Establish agreements for mutual aid specific to building inspection officials. Reliance on State and Federal resources for long-term recovery.
Hazard(s) Addressed	All Hazards
Estimated Cost	Staff Time
Local Funding	Staff Time
Timeline	Ongoing
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	Police Department (Lead), Gunnison County Fire Protection District
Status	Ongoing.

Communications Disruption / Failure

Level of Concern: Moderate

The City of Gunnison has one provider that services the area with fiber lines. With only two lines, there is limited redundancy if a line is cut during excavation, sabotage, or a terrorist threat. This could affect all community lifelines, especially telecommunications and internet services. This could result in a short- or long-term loss of services provided by the lifelines.

Kept Mitigation and Strategic Actions

See the *Communications Improvements* mitigation action under avalanche.

Dam Failure

Level of Concern: Moderate

Taylor Dam is located northwest of Almont, about 10 miles north of the City of Gunnison. The dam retains water at the Taylor Park Reservoir, which empties into the Gunnison River near Almont. The Gunnison River then flows through the City of Gunnison. If this dam were to fail, an unexpected surge of water from the Gunnison River could cause flooding in the community. This could displace residents and services, damage buildings, and overwhelm the city's emergency response resources. Six of the city's identified community lifelines would be impacted and potentially damaged by a dam failure. These include the City Public Works Shop Facilities, Gunnison Assisted Living Community, Gunnison Community School, Gunnison County Library, Gunnison Nursing Home, and Sewer Treatment Plant. Flooding and the associated damage could cause a potential loss of services for these lifelines.

Kept Mitigation and Strategic Actions

Action	Dam Emergency Exercise
Description & Location	Participate in organized individual dam or regional Emergency Action Plan exercises; drill, tabletop, and/or functional.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Dam Failure
Estimated Cost	Staff Time
Local Funding	Staff Time
Timeline	2-5 Years
Priority	Low
Lead Agency	Public Works Director, Gunnison County Emergency Management (Lead)
Status	Not Started.

Drought

Level of Concern: Moderate

Drought is a regular occurrence in the community and the surrounding area. If drought conditions become extreme, many community lifelines could be affected. Any lifeline that uses water may see reduced water use due to water restrictions. During a prolonged severe drought, the city may need to seek outside assistance for water resources. The city is currently exploring ways to diversify its water sources to create redundancy.

Kept Mitigation and Strategic Actions

Action	Drought Contingency Plan
Description & Location	Participate in the Drought Contingency Plan that primarily covers the Gunnison River Basin, which includes the Gunnison Valley and surrounding regions within the jurisdiction of the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District. The plan focuses on managing water supplies to meet municipal, agricultural, and environmental needs within this basin. The city is specifically reviewing diversifying water resources to create redundancy. The plan incorporates coordination among multiple agencies, including the UGRWCD, local municipalities, and other stakeholders.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Drought
Estimated Cost	\$50,000,000
Local Funding	Staff Time
Timeline	1 Year
Priority	High
Lead Agency	Public Works Director, Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District (Lead)
Status	In Progress. The plan is expected to be completed in 2026

Earthquake*Level of Concern: Low*

While some seismic activity has been monitored in the Gunnison region, the likelihood of a significant earthquake event is considered low. However, if an earthquake were to occur in the City, all community lifelines could be affected. Potential impacts include risks to life safety and property damage. For most earthquakes, damage is expected to be minimal, with water distribution lines being most at risk.

New Mitigation and Strategic Actions

Action	Earthquake Education
Description & Location	Provide education to the community and schools on what to do in the event of an earthquake and how to respond.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Earthquake
Estimated Cost	\$500+
Local Funding	General Budget
Timeline	2-5 Years
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	Public Works Director (Lead), Gunnison County Emergency Management
Status	New Action. Not Started.

Extreme Cold*Level of Concern: High*

The City of Gunnison and the surrounding area are routinely among the coldest areas in the country during the winter. Given this is routine, the community and city resources are well-suited and equipped for this. The potential for frozen pipes and/or heating failures would impact city buildings and temporarily cause displacement. Still, services are redundant in this regard and

could be replicated at or from alternate sites for short periods. Any identified lifeline with water service could be affected by frozen pipes due to extreme cold.

New Mitigation and Strategic Actions

Action	Severe Winter Storm Education and Housing
Description & Location	Work to educate the community about the hazards posed by severe winter storms and extreme cold. Develop a plan to house affected residents in community shelters.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Extreme Cold, Severe Winter Storm
Estimated Cost	\$500+
Local Funding	General Budget
Timeline	2-5 Years
Priority	High
Lead Agency	Public Works Director (Lead), Gunnison County Emergency Management
Status	New Action. Not Started.

Flooding and Ice Jams

Level of Concern: Moderate

The City of Gunnison lies in the Gunnison Valley, through which the Gunnison River flows. Several tributary waterways of varying sizes flow into the Gunnison from higher elevations surrounding the valley. These waterways are largely fed by runoff from ice, snowmelt, and other precipitation, although groundwater sources also contribute. The city, lying in the low ground, is at risk of flooding, particularly in areas adjacent to the Gunnison River and Tomichi Creek, as flows increase and decrease with environmental events. Ice could pose a risk as well, given the climate and environmental factors in Gunnison. Areas of the community located in the 1% and 0.2% annual flood risk areas include the western, northwestern, and southern edges of the community.

According to the local planning team, most community lifelines are out of harm's way from riverine flooding or ice jams, except for emergency services, which could be affected if a jam damages critical infrastructure, such as a bridge. The City Public Works Shop and Sewer Treatment Plant are located in mapped floodplain areas. These lifelines may experience flood damage and service disruptions immediately after a flood event.

Kept Mitigation and Strategic Actions

Action	Drainage Improvements
Description & Location	Make improvements to the water to increase the capacity to handle flood waters. Improve critical road sections crossing the waterway to accommodate higher water flows and ensure access for at-risk populations.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Flooding and Ice Jams
Estimated Cost	\$50,000+
Local Funding	Public Works Budget
Timeline	Ongoing
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	Public Works Director
Status	Completed the Stormwater Master Plan in 2025. Incorporating future projects into CIP plans.

Removed Mitigation and Strategic Actions

Action	NFIP Compliance
Description & Location	Continue compliance with the NFIP.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Flooding
Status	Removed, as continued compliance with the NFIP is not a true mitigation action.

Ground Subsidence & Expansive Soils*Level of Concern: Moderate*

The vast majority of Gunnison sits on Type B soil, which consists of well-drained materials like silts, sand, and gravels with moderate stability, allowing for reasonable water movement and being less prone to expansive qualities. The ground is prone to movement but has a good infiltration rate. If this hazard were to occur, infrastructure-related services could be impacted by structural shifting/movements. Minor building damage could occur at all identified community lifelines, but it is not expected to disrupt services.

New Mitigation and Strategic Actions

Action	Creation of Geologic Hazard Maps
Description & Location	Create a city GIS dataset mapping soil conditions, landslide areas, and debris-flow locations. Maps can be used in conjunction with the age of building permits to identify locations that may require additional inspections or mitigation.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Ground Subsidence & Expansive Soils, Landslide/Rockfall/Debris Flow
Estimated Cost	Staff Time
Local Funding	Staff Time
Timeline	1 Year
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	Public Works Department
Status	New Action. Currently under development.

Hailstorm*Level of Concern: Moderate*

The Gunnison area, like most alpine environments, experiences extreme and unpredictable weather. One of these occurrences can be hail of varying sizes, although snow is more likely. According to the local planning team, hail is unlikely to cause significant damage or disrupt services from any of the community lifelines. However, there is potential for infrastructure damage during a severe hailstorm.

New Mitigation and Strategic Actions

Action	Public Education - Hail
Description & Location	Create a public education campaign aimed at the dangers hail poses to people and property. Identify ways the public can protect private property from hail damage.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Hailstorm
Estimated Cost	\$500+
Local Funding	General Budget
Timeline	1 Year
Priority	High
Lead Agency	Public Works Department
Status	New Action. Not Started.

Hazardous Materials Release*Level of Concern: High*

Two major highways bisect the City of Gunnison. Commercial vehicles carrying hazardous materials are common on both highways. A leak or other release of this material in or near the city is a significant risk. The most significant community lifeline risk is to the water supply due to flow or seepage into the water table and/or storm drains. This would require a significant fire/emergency response, followed by stabilization of the scene and affected water resources. All identified community lifelines are located near a highway. Evacuation of these lifelines may be necessary depending on the spilled chemical and the wind direction.

New Mitigation and Strategic Actions

Action	Evacuation Routes
Description & Location	Establish evacuation routes for the city in the event of a hazardous incident requiring evacuation.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Dam Failure, Flooding & Ice Jams, Hazardous Materials Release, Terrorism & Cyber-Attack, Wildfire
Estimated Cost	Staff Time
Local Funding	Staff Time
Timeline	2-5 Years
Priority	Low
Lead Agency	City Administrator (Lead), Gunnison County Emergency Management
Status	New Action. Not Started.

High Wind*Level of Concern: Moderate*

The Gunnison Valley experiences variable winds, which can be significant at times. Power outages from downed lines, poles, and tree limbs are the biggest concern during high winds. During most events, power outages are not expected to be long-term. Minor building damage may also occur. Only one identified community lifeline (City Public Works Shop) has a backup power generator. The rest of the community's lifelines are at risk of power outages and temporary service disruptions during a high-wind event.

Kept Mitigation and Strategic Actions

See the *Communications Improvements* mitigation action under avalanche.

Landslide/Rockfall/Debris Flow

Level of Concern: Low

As reported by the local planning team, most areas that pose a risk to this hazard are outside the City of Gunnison's jurisdictional boundary. As seen in the map below, there are some mapped potentially unstable slope areas in the northeast and southeast corners of the community. No community lifelines are anticipated to be affected by this hazard, and potential impacts are most likely to include calls for mutual aid from neighboring communities and transportation impacts from events near the city.

New Mitigation and Strategic Actions

See the *Creation of Geologic Hazard Maps* mitigation action under ground subsidence & expansive soils.

Lightning

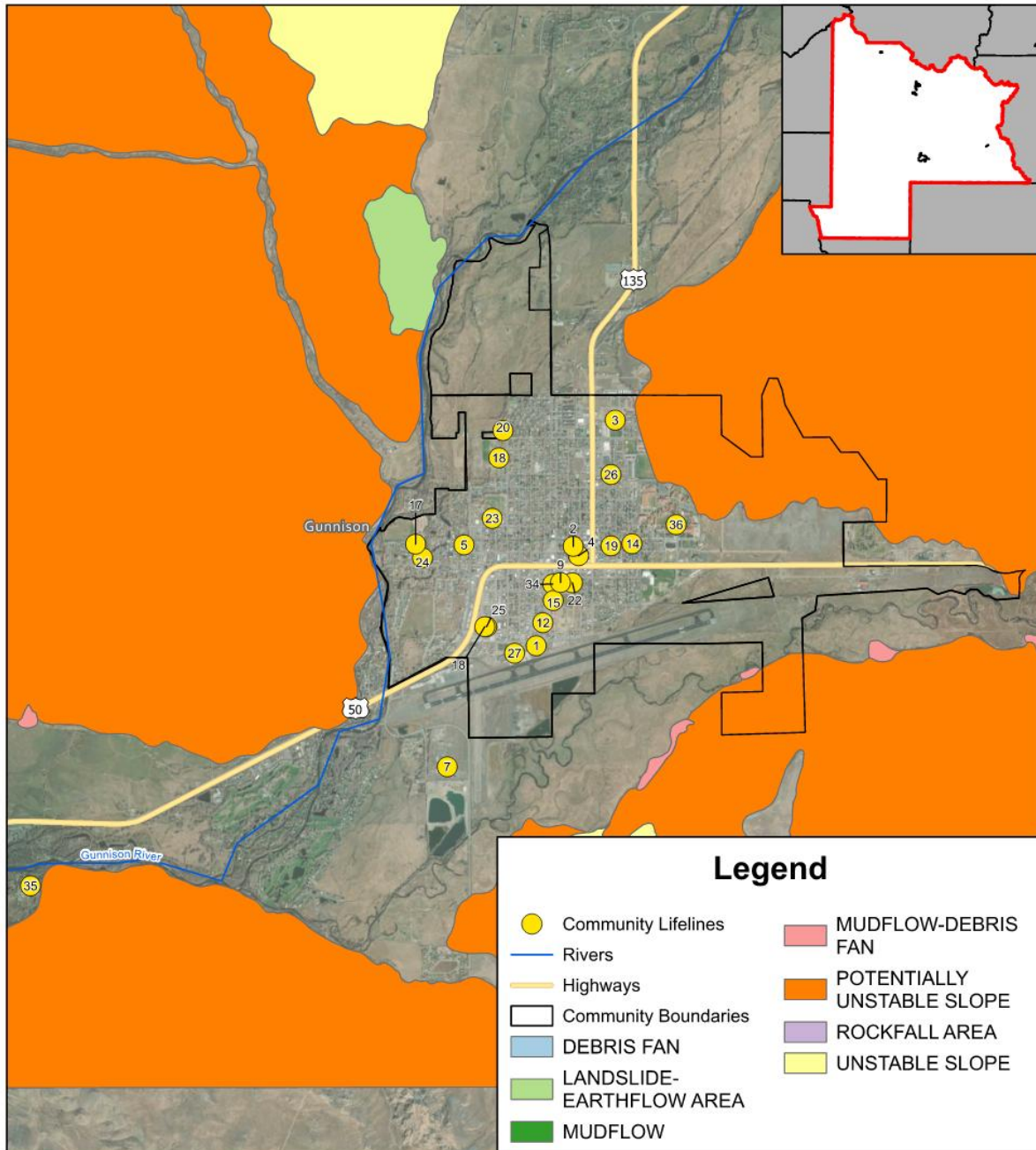
Level of Concern: Moderate

Gunnison County and the surrounding area experience all levels of thunderstorm and lightning-related events year-round. Lightning strikes are less common in the Gunnison Valley (where the city is situated) than on the surrounding high ground that encircles the community. That said, the risk remains and could affect structures that may be struck, as well as the inherent fire risk associated with lightning strikes. As reported by the local planning team, the risk of community lifelines being impacted is low, as most critical infrastructure can withstand the impact and fire suppression resources can respond relatively quickly. Potential impacts include power outages and power surges, which can damage electronic equipment. Only one identified lifeline (City Public Works Shop) has a backup generator. The rest of the lifelines are at risk of power outages and temporary service disruptions from lightning strikes.

Kept Mitigation and Strategic Actions

See the *Communications Improvements* mitigation action under avalanche.

City of Gunnison Landslide/Rockfall/Debris Flow Mapped Risk Areas



Created By: SO
Date: 1/7/2026
Software: ArcGIS Pro
File: Gunnison County HMP

Gunnison Geologic Hazard Areas

Gunnison County Hazard Mitigation
Plan 2026



0 0.4 0.8
Miles

This map was prepared using information from record drawings supplied by JED and/or other applicable city, county, federal, or public or private entities. JED does not guarantee the accuracy of this map or the information used to prepare this map. This is not a scaled plot.

Mass Casualty Incident

Level of Concern: Moderate

Gunnison is home to Western Colorado University, which has about 3,000 undergraduate and graduate students during the academic year. About 1,200 students reside in campus housing (dorms) and, as in most universities, anywhere from 10 to 1,000 students may be present at classes, university sporting events, or other university events. This makes Western Colorado University the main at-risk community lifeline. Potential impacts include the need for law enforcement, paramedic, fire, and emergency room services in response to this hazard. Most lifelines would not be affected during a mass casualty incident. The Gunnison Valley Hospital, Gunnison Police Station, Gunnison County Public Safety Center, City Hall, and Emergency Operations Center would be the most impacted because they provide response services. Likely, local resources would quickly become overwhelmed, and outside support would be necessary.

New Mitigation and Strategic Actions

Action	Mass Casualty Training
Description & Location	Establish run, hide, fight training at Western Colorado University and in the public school system. Mandate ongoing certification for the training.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Mass Casualty Incident, Terrorism & Cyber-Attack
Estimated Cost	\$1,000+
Local Funding	General Budget
Timeline	Ongoing
Priority	High
Lead Agency	Police Department (Lead), Gunnison County Fire Protection District, Gunnison County Emergency Management
Status	New Action. Not Started.

Pandemic

Level of Concern: Moderate

Western Colorado University, as stated above, has a large number of students, faculty, and staff who reside and/or are in close proximity to one another during the academic year. University sporting and other events also contribute to this risk. The main potential impacts of this hazard include overwhelming hospital resources and first-response services. All community lifelines that are regularly staffed could be impacted by a pandemic. During an event, it may be difficult to staff these lifelines fully, and they may experience temporary closures.

New Mitigation and Strategic Actions

Action	Public Education - Pandemic
Description & Location	Support Gunnison County Health by spreading pandemic public awareness messages and education.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Pandemic
Estimated Cost	\$500+
Local Funding	General Budget
Timeline	Ongoing
Priority	High
Lead Agency	City Administrator, Gunnison County Health (Lead)
Status	New Action. Not Started.

Severe Winter Storm

Level of Concern: Moderate

As reported by the local planning team, the City of Gunnison experiences rather extreme winter conditions. While the community is accustomed to these events, a more severe event is a moderate risk due to climate change. All community lifelines could be affected in a severe event that strains the normal response resources. Potential impacts include reduced mobility for the entire community, loss of access to lifelines, power loss, longer response times for emergency and public works services, and minor building damage from heavy snow loads. As noted above, the City Public Works Shop is the only identified lifeline with a backup generator. The rest of the lifelines may experience short-term power outages and service interruptions.

New Mitigation and Strategic Actions

See the *Severe Winter Storm Education and Housing* mitigation action under extreme cold.

Terrorism & Cyber-Attack

Level of Concern: High

The City of Gunnison is at risk of a cyberattack on critical operating systems, including water and wastewater systems, city networks, and internet and phone systems. The most vulnerable physical infrastructure is in areas not commonly used by the public or monitored by law enforcement.

Terrorism remains a less likely but still potential vulnerability to electric, water/wastewater, communications (cell, internet), and building infrastructure (government or university buildings), community lifelines. Namely, water and wastewater management are at risk of this sort of risk. City networks could be hindered or severely limited (unusable computer systems, limited business operations, release of confidential data, including PII, CJIS, and operations). This could cause a temporary loss of operations and necessitate an emergency response.

All of the identified community lifelines could be affected by a terrorist or cyberattack. The most likely locations are government buildings, water infrastructure, and areas with large gatherings of people. Impacts include potential damage or destruction of the lifeline, loss of life, and prolonged service interruptions.

New Mitigation and Strategic Actions

Action	Data Redundancies
Description & Location	Develop redundancies that allow for continued service if a potential cyber-attack were successful.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Terrorism & Cyber-Attack
Estimated Cost	Staff Time
Local Funding	Staff Time
Timeline	2-5 Years
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	IT Department
Status	New Action. In Progress.

Wildfire

Level of Concern: Moderate

The City of Gunnison (and surrounding areas) faces a moderate wildfire risk, primarily from weather-related incidents and human-caused events in the arid environment. According to the local planning team, the City itself is well-irrigated, adequately fire protected, and situated such that the likelihood is low to moderate. The map below shows the eNVC (composite wildfire risk) for the community.

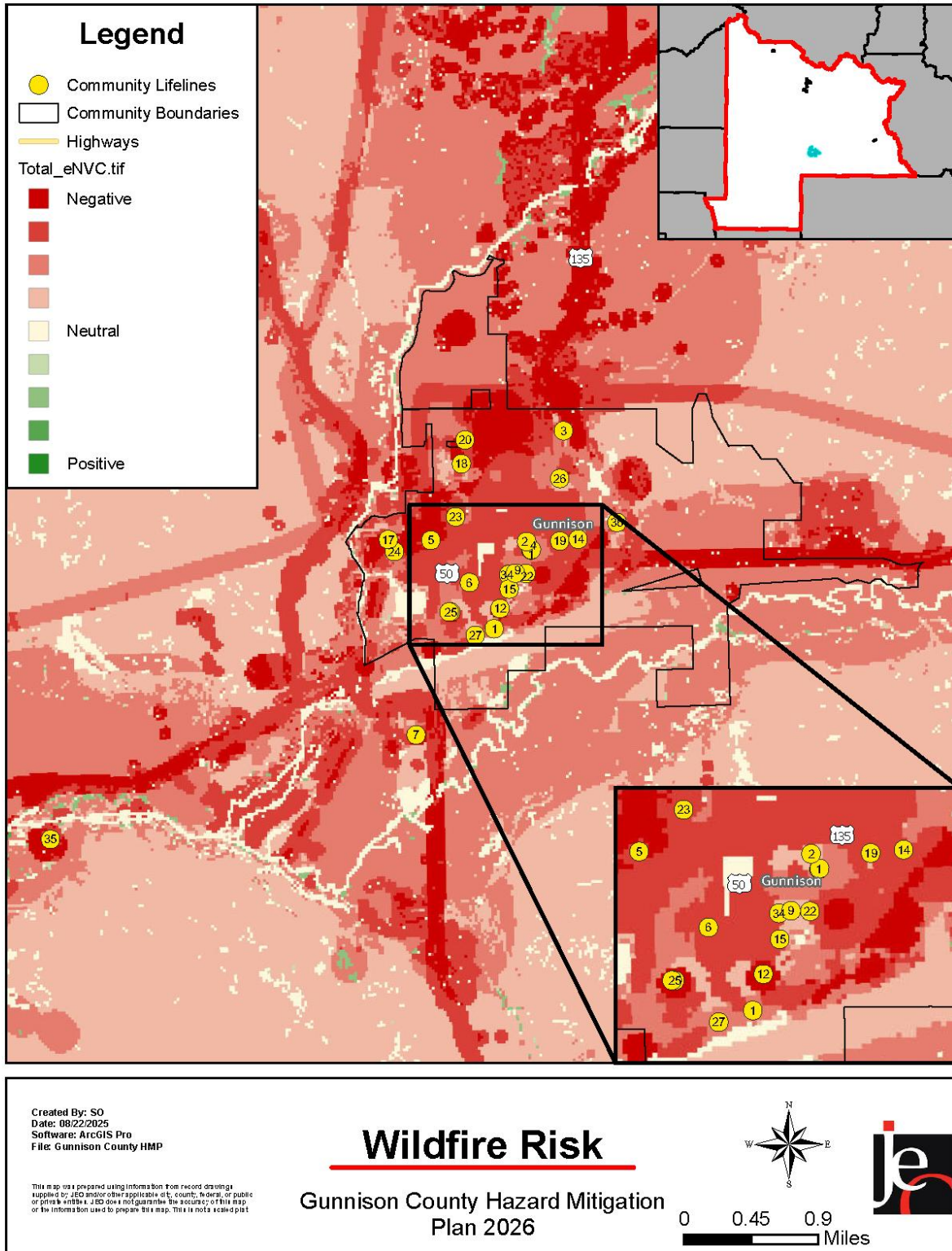
While all community lifelines are vulnerable to wildfire, fire response and suppression would almost certainly be swift and effective in protecting critical structures and infrastructure. However, potential impacts include smoke, building damage, health and quality-of-life impacts, and the commitment of significant fire resources to a potential event.

Kept Mitigation and Strategic Actions

Action	Implement Projects Identified in CWPPs
Description & Location	Implementation of landscape-scale fuel reduction projects, as well as defensible space projects, as identified in the Gunnison County CWPP.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Wildfire
Estimated Cost	Varies Depending on Project
Local Funding	General Budget
Timeline	Ongoing
Priority	High
Lead Agency	Upper Gunnison Shared Stewardship Council (Lead), Gunnison County Emergency Management, Gunnison County Fire Protection District, City Administrator
Status	The city participates in Upper Gunnison Shared Stewardship Council meetings, which are currently deciding projects to pursue.

Action	Defensible Space and Other Wildfire Regulations
Description & Location	Develop defensible space and other wildfire regulations as a requirement and/or limit new development in high-risk areas.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Wildfire
Estimated Cost	Staff Time
Local Funding	Staff Time
Timeline	5+ Years
Priority	Low
Lead Agency	City Administrator
Status	Not Started.

City of Gunnison Wildfire Risk



Community Profile

Town of Crested Butte

Gunnison County Hazard Mitigation Plan 2026

Community Fact Sheet

Community Summary Fact Sheet

Town of Crested Butte Gunnison County Hazard Mitigation Plan 2026

1,657

Total Population

42.5

Median Age

782

Total Households

2.12

Average
Household Size

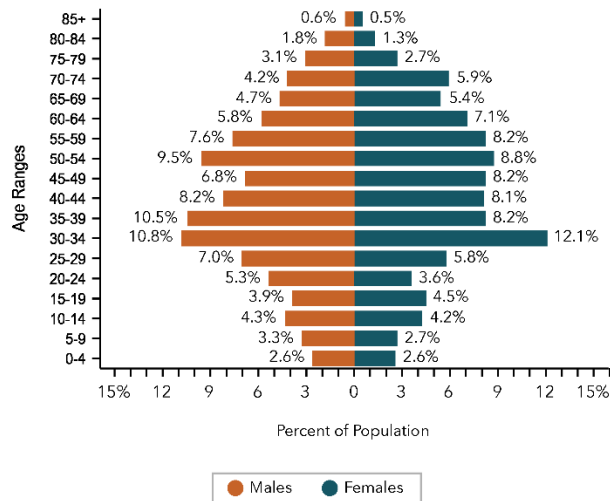
\$960,294

Median Home
Value

\$87,042

Median Household
Income

AGE PYRAMID



TOTAL POPULATION

2024 Total Population (Estimate) 1,657

2020 Total Population (U.S. Census) 1,639

2010 Total Population (U.S. Census) 1,493

2000 Total Population (U.S. Census) 1,530

AT RISK POPULATIONS



86

Households With
Disability



249

Population 65+



14

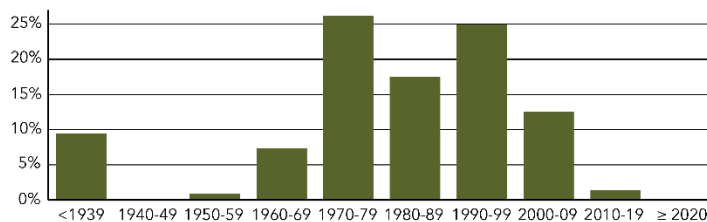
Households
Without Vehicle



10%

Households
Below the
Poverty Level

HOUSING: YEAR BUILT



EMPLOYMENT



331

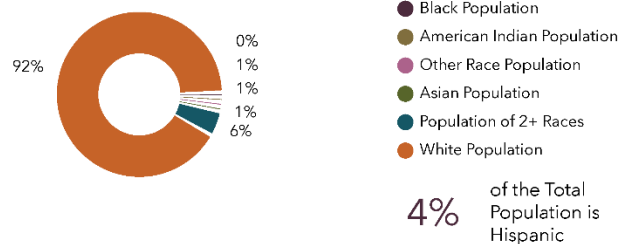
Total Businesses



2.7%

Unemployment Rate

POPULATION BY RACE



HOUSING



438

Vacant Housing
Units



3%

Mobile Homes



esri

THE
SCIENCE
OF
WHERE™

Source: Esri, U.S. Census, Esri-Data Axle, ACS. Esri forecasts for 2024, 2020, 2010, 2000, 2018-2022.

Local Planning Team

Crested Butte Local Planning Team

Name	Title	Jurisdiction	Round 1 Meeting	Round 2 Meeting
Dara MacDonald	Town Manager	Town of Crested Butte	-	-
Shea Earley	Public Works Director	Town of Crested Butte	Attended	Attended
Janna Hansen	Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Trails Director	Town of Crested Butte	-	-
Mike Reily	Chief Marshal	Town of Crested Butte	-	-
Mel Yemma	Community Development Director	Town of Crested Butte	-	-
Carolyn de Groot	Town Engineer	Town of Crested Butte	Attended	Attended
Joey Carpenter	Recreation, Open Space & Trails Supervisor	Town of Crested Butte	-	-
Kaitlyn Archambault	Planner I	Town of Crested Butte	-	-
Astrid Matison	Chief Building Official	Town of Crested Butte	-	-
Jessie Earley	Senior Planner	Town of Crested Butte	Attended	-
Sean Caffrey	Chief Executive Officer	Crested Butte Fire Protection District	-	-

Plan Maintenance

Hazard Mitigation Plans are living documents and should be updated regularly to ensure effectiveness and reflect changes in hazard events, priorities, and mitigation actions. These updates are encouraged to occur after every major disaster event, alongside planning document updates, before the Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants cycle begins, and/or before other funding opportunity cycles begin.

The Chief Marshal will be responsible for reviewing and updating this participant profile outside of the five-year update. Crested Butte will review the plan biannually, and the public will be notified using social media, website updates, flyers, and at public Town Council meetings.

Capability Assessment

The planning team assessed the Town of Crest Butte's hazard mitigation capabilities by reviewing planning, regulatory, administrative, technical, fiscal, education, warning, and outreach capabilities. The community would be able to increase capabilities in the future and plans on adopting the Colorado Wildfire Resiliency Code next year. Many of the other plans and regulations are also being updated and will be finalized in 2026.

Crested Butte Capability Assessment

Capability/Planning Mechanism		Yes/No
Planning & Regulatory Capability	Comprehensive Plan	Yes
	Capital Improvements Plan	Yes
	Economic Development Plan	No
	Emergency Operations Plan	Yes
	Floodplain Management Plan	Yes
	Stormwater Management Plan	No
	Zoning Ordinance	Yes
	Subdivision Regulation/Ordinance	Yes
	Floodplain Ordinance	Yes
	Building Codes	Yes
	Water System Emergency Response Plan	Yes
	Source Water Protection Plan	Yes
	National Flood Insurance Program	Yes
	Community Rating System	Yes (Class 6)
	Community Wildfire Protection Plan	Yes (County)
	Growth Management Ordinance	No
	Hazard Specific Ordinances	Yes
	Erosion/Sediment Control Plan	No (Developers are encouraged to use low-impact development strategies and minimize erosion)
	Flood Insurance Study	Yes
	Elevation Certificates	Yes
	BCEGS Rating	Yes
	Other (if any)	Big Mine Park Avalanche Hazard Report, Climate Action Plan, Historic Preservation Plan, One Valley Resilience Roadmap
Administrative & Technical Capability	Planning Commission	Yes
	Planner/Engineer (Land Development)	Yes
	Planner/Engineer/Scientist (Natural Hazards)	Yes
	Resilience Planner	No
	Transportation Planner	No
	Floodplain Administrator	Yes
	GIS Capabilities	Yes
	Chief Building Official	Yes
	Engineering (Construction)	Yes
	Emergency Manager	Yes
	Grant Manager	Yes
	Mutual Aid Agreement	Yes
	Site Plan Review Requirements	Yes
	Other (if any)	-

Capability/Planning Mechanism		Yes/No
Fiscal Capability	1- & 6-Year Plan	Yes
	Applied for Grants in the Past	Yes
	Awarded a Grant in the Past	Yes
	Authority to Levy Taxes for Specific Purposes, such as Mitigation Projects	Yes
	Gas/Electric/Water/Sewer Service Fees	Yes
	Stormwater Service Fees	No
	Development Impact Fees	No
	General Obligation Revenue or Special Tax Bonds	No
	Withheld Spending in Hazard-Prone Areas	No
	Other (if any)	-
Education & Outreach Capability	Local Citizen Groups or Non-Profit Organizations Focused on Environmental Protection, Emergency Preparedness, Access and Functional Needs Populations, etc.	Yes
	Ongoing Public Education or Information Program (e.g., Responsible Water Use, Fire Safety, Household Preparedness, Environmental Education)	Yes
	Natural Disaster or Safety-Related School Programs	Yes
	StormReady Certification	No
	Firewise Communities Certification	No
	Tree City USA	Yes
	Other (if any)	-
Warning Systems / Services	General	Yes
	Flood	Yes
	Wildfire	Yes
	Tornado	Yes
	Geological Hazards	Yes
	Other (if any)	-

Crested Butte Overall Capability

Capability	Limited/Moderate/High
Financial Resources to Implement Mitigation Projects	Limited
Staff/Expertise to Implement Projects	Limited
Public Support to Implement Projects	Moderate
Time to Devote to Hazard Mitigation	Limited
Ability to Expand and Improve the Identified Capabilities to Achieve Mitigation	Limited

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

Crested Butte is a member of the NFIP, having joined on 10/1/2023, and has participated in the CRS since 10/1/2023. The community's Floodplain Administrator oversees compliance with the NFIP and Colorado Rules and Regulations for Regulatory Floodplain (2 CCR 408-1). The Floodplain Administrator uses local floodplain and development maps to determine if a development is in the floodplain. Any new development or substantial improvement within the regulated floodplains must receive a Floodplain Development Permit. The town's Zone Code (Section 16-11-230) outlines floodplain and Floodplain Development Permit regulations. Applications are reviewed to ensure all criteria are met before approval. Substantially improved or damaged structures in the floodplain are identified through community on-site inspections. The floodplain regulations significantly exceed state and FEMA requirements by adding environmental, aesthetic, and land-use controls within 20 feet of Coal Creek. The town maintains Letters of Map Change and incorporates them into floodplain management decisions. Cumulative impacts of Letters of Map Revisions are reviewed regularly for changes in flood risk.

The local planning team has stated that Crested Butte will remain in good standing and be involved with the NFIP and CRS. There has recently been staff turnover, and new hires will complete the required training in 2026. Due to staff turnover, it is not known when the most recent Community Assistance Visit or Community Assistance Contact was conducted. NFIP education consists of annual letters to property owners regarding the importance of flood insurance.

Crested Butte NFIP Information

NFIP Overview	
Date of NFIP Participation:	10/01/2023
Floodplain Administrator:	Yes
Is the Floodplain Administrator a Certified Floodplain Manager?	No
Is Floodplain Management an Auxiliary Function?	Yes
Number of NFIP Policies In-Force:	12
Total NFIP Premium (\$):	\$11,501
Total NFIP Coverage (\$):	\$3,285,000
Number of Claims Paid Out:	3
Total Amount of Claims Paid Out (\$):	\$1,197
Number of Repetitive Loss Structures:	0
Number of Severe Repetitive Loss Structures:	0
Is the Community Currently Suspended from the NFIP?	No
Any Outstanding Compliance Issues?	No
FIRMs Digital or Paper?	Digital
Located in a RISK Map Area?	No

Buildings and Valuation in the Floodplain

The planning team acquired GIS parcel data from the County Assessor and Microsoft building footprint data to analyze the location, number, and value of buildings in the 100-year and 500-year floodplains. A summary of the results of this analysis is provided in the following tables.

Crested Butte Buildings and Value in the 100-Year Floodplain

Number of Buildings	Total Building Value	Number of Buildings in Floodplain	Value of Buildings in Floodplain	Percentage of Buildings in Floodplain
1,264	\$1,354,887,560	22	\$9,774,770	1.7%

Source: County Assessor, 2025; Microsoft, 2025

Crested Butte Buildings and Value in the 500-Year Floodplain

Number of Buildings	Total Building Value	Number of Buildings in Floodplain	Value of Buildings in Floodplain	Percentage of Buildings in Floodplain
2,524	\$657,838,680	0	\$0	0%

Source: County Assessor, 2025; Microsoft, 2025

Plans and Studies

Crested Butte has several planning documents that discuss or relate to hazard mitigation. Each plan is listed below, along with a description of how it is integrated with the hazard mitigation plan or contains hazard mitigation principles. When the community updates these planning mechanisms, the local planning team will review the hazard mitigation plan for opportunities to incorporate the goals and objectives, risk and vulnerability data, and mitigation actions into the update. Unless otherwise specified below, the hazard mitigation plan has not been integrated into these or other planning mechanisms.

Big Mine Park Avalanche Hazard Report (2016)

In 2016, an avalanche report was conducted for Big Mine Park, located at the south edge of Crested Butte. The report found that the area has the potential for large avalanches as well as smaller, more frequent avalanches that could impact the ice rink, warming house, and Nordic maintenance building. It also found that using some park facilities and trails poses an unacceptably high risk. Several mitigation actions were suggested, and applicable projects are included in the hazard mitigation plan.

Building Code (2025)

The building code establishes standards for the construction of buildings and structures. Crested Butte's building codes are based on the 2021 International Building Code, but the town is currently working on an update. These codes regulate and govern the conditions and maintenance of all property, buildings, and structures by providing standards for supplied utilities, facilities, and other physical elements essential to ensuring that structures are safe, sanitary, and fit for occupation and use. The Chief Building Official and the Inspector carry out enforcement.

Capital Improvements Plan (2025)

The purpose of the capital improvement plan is to help the town strategize how to budget for nonrecurring physical or digital purchases. The capital improvement plan is updated during each budget cycle and includes financing plans. Crested Butte's plan includes the following: stormwater projects; upsizing culverts and drainage structures; radio communication upgrades; bridge improvements; upsizing water distribution pipes; installing emergency generators for community lifelines; burying power lines for new projects; constructing a new police headquarters; and constructing a new water treatment facility.

Climate Action Plan (2025)

The Climate Action Plan outlines a clear path to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and reaffirms the town's commitment to mitigating climate change across the community. The plan notes that climate change is already increasing wildfire risk and altering snow and water patterns. The hazard mitigation plan has not been integrated into the plan.

Crested Butte Community Compass (2022)

The Crested Butte Community Compass is a comprehensive plan that guides the town's future actions and growth. The plan specifically mentions drought and wildfire with an action to "increase

resiliency in the Town's infrastructure and built environment, including source water protection, drought resistance, and wildfire mitigation considerations.

Floodplain Regulations (2013), Subdivision Regulations (2026), and Zoning Ordinance (2024)

The town's floodplain regulations, subdivision regulations, and zoning ordinance outline where and how future development should occur. The documents include restrictions on development in hazard-prone areas, including avalanche, flood, geologic, steep slopes, and wildfire. These regulations are currently undergoing a wholesale revision, scheduled for completion in 2026.

Gunnison County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (2025)

The Town of Crested Butte is part of the Gunnison County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). The Gunnison County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) identifies wildfire risks and outlines strategies to reduce them and enhance preparedness. It also defines the wildland-urban interface, identifies areas where vegetation management should be prioritized, and discusses potential wildfire mitigation actions. Wildfire projects from the previous hazard mitigation plan were incorporated into the CWPP. Projects identified in the Gunnison County CWPP have been included as mitigation actions in this profile.

Historic Preservation Plan (2024)

The goal of the Historic Preservation Plan is to ensure that Crested Butte's architectural identity reflects its deep sense of community and evolution over time. While hazards and hazard mitigation are not the focus of the plan, it does call for embracing alternative materials and design to support resilience while maintaining historical character. This includes mitigating the impacts of floods and fire.

One Valley Resiliency Roadmap (2023)

The One Valley Resiliency Roadmap provides shared goals and strategies to help regional partners work together to improve housing affordability, coordinate land-use, transportation, and infrastructure planning, and increase civic capacity. Partners in the plan include Gunnison County, City of Gunnison, Town of Crested Butte, and Mt. Crested Butte. One of the priorities is advancing climate action and environmental stewardship. The plan also calls for avoiding growth in hazard areas such as landslide areas and floodplains. The hazard mitigation plan has not been integrated into the roadmap.

Source Water Protection Plan (2024)

The purpose of the source water protection plan is to prevent pollution of drinking water sources. This includes identifying a source water protection area, listing potential contaminant sources, and outlining best management practices to reduce risks. Crested Butte's source water protection plan included collaboration with many stakeholders, including landowners, businesses, water operators, local governments, and agency representatives. Wildfire and flooding were analyzed for their impacts, with wildfire a top priority and flooding a lower priority. Applicable projects listed in the source water protection plan were added as mitigation actions.

Water System Emergency Response Plan (2022)

The water system emergency response plan serves as a guideline for water operators and town officials to minimize disruptions to normal services for consumers and to protect public health during an emergency. The document identifies wildfire as an event that could cause an emergency and discusses the water system's response during an event. It also includes contact information and emergency notification.

Future Development Trends

Since 2020, 48 new buildings have been constructed in the town. Residential buildings account for 36, while 12 are new commercial buildings. Three homes have been demolished since 2020. The Slate River Subdivision Annexation has also been finalized in the northern part of town. This added six new residential lots and parcels owned by the Town of Crested Butte. The Wastewater 2021 to 2025 Expansion project is currently ongoing. In the future, additional housing is likely to be built.

Since 2020, three new structures have been developed in the floodplain, and two in the excessive slope review area. This increases the risk of these hazards; however, the town code requires them to be mitigated. The new buildings also increase the town's risk and vulnerability to drought, earthquakes, hailstorms, high winds, and severe winter storms, as more buildings could be affected.

Since 2000, Crested Butte has gained approximately 100 people, an 8% increase in population. Increasing populations are associated with more robust hazard mitigation and emergency planning requirements for development. Growing populations can also increase tax revenues, allowing communities to pursue additional mitigation projects. Nearly 25% of the population is between the ages of 25 and 40. This population group is likely very active and may face an increased risk from hazards affecting popular recreation areas or activities. The town's minority population is around 8%. Minorities may face increased vulnerability, as they tend to have access to fewer financial and systemic resources that would enable them to implement hazard mitigation projects and respond to and recover from hazard events. The high vacancy rate is likely due to short-term rentals and second homes. This increases risk and vulnerability to all hazards, as individuals living in these homes may not be aware of local risks or be signed up for emergency alerts.

Community Lifelines

As listed in the following table, each participating jurisdiction identified community lifelines vital for disaster response and essential for returning the jurisdiction's functions to normal during and after a disaster, per the FEMA Community Lifelines guidance. The FEMA lifeline categories include Safety and Security; Food, Hydration, and Shelter; Health and Medical; Energy; Communications; Transportation; Hazardous Materials; and Water Systems.

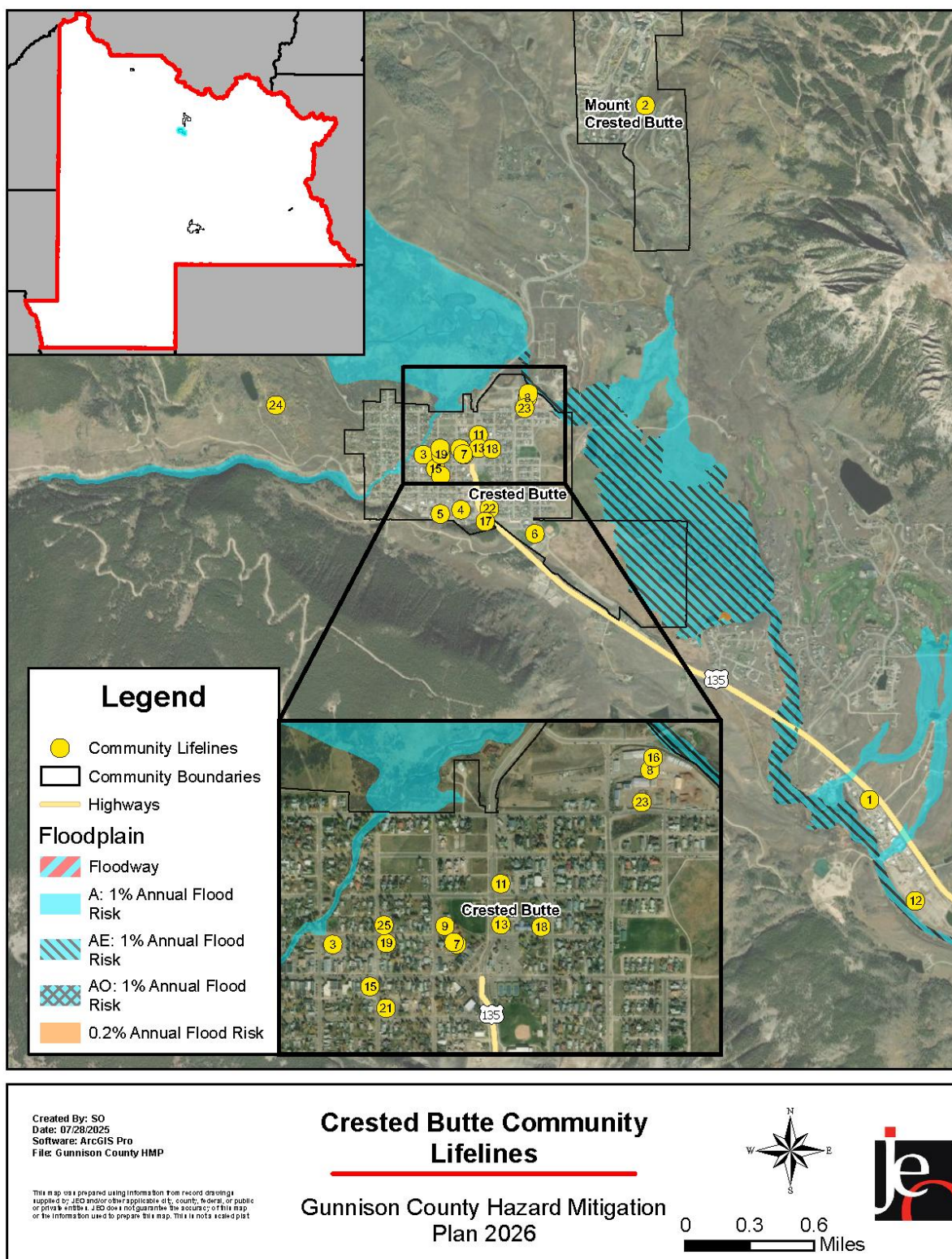


Crested Butte Community Lifelines

CL Number	Name	Lifeline Type	Generator (Y/N)	Floodplain (Y/N)
1	Alpine Express	Transportation	No	No
2	Black Canyon Limo San Moritz	Transportation	No	No
3	Crested Butte Fire/EMS Station	Health and Medical	Yes	No
4	Clark's Market	Food, Hydration, Shelter	No	No
5	Crested Butte Avalanche Center	Safety and Security	Unknown	No
6	Crested Butte Community School	Safety and Security	No	No
7	Crested Butte Police Station	Safety and Security	Yes	No
8	Crested Butte Search and Rescue	Safety and Security	Yes	No
9	Crested Butte Town Hall	Safety and Security	No	No
10	Dolly's Mountain Shuttle*	Transportation	N/A	N/A
11	Electric Infrastructure (GCEA Crested Butte Bank Building – Upstairs)	Energy	Unknown	No
12	Gunnison RTA	Transportation	No	No
13	GVH Town of Crested Butte Clinic	Health and Medical	No	No
14	Landline Phone Systems*	Communications	N/A	N/A
15	Mountain Earth Organic Grocer	Food, Hydration, Shelter	No	No
16	Mountain Express	Transportation	No	No
17	Natural Gas Infrastructure (Atmos)*	Energy	N/A	N/A
18	Oh Be Joyful Church	Food, Hydration, Shelter	No	No
19	Paradise Place Preschool	Safety and Security	No	No
20	Public Radio (KBUT)	Communications	Yes	No
21	Queen of All Saints Church	Food, Hydration, Shelter	No	No
22	Stepping Stones Preschool	Safety and Security	No	No
23	Town of Crested Butte Wastewater Treatment Plant	Water Systems	Yes	No
24	Town of Crested Butte Water Department	Water Systems	Yes	No
25	Union Congregational Church	Food, Hydration, Shelter	No	No

*No physical location

Crested Butte Community Lifelines Map



Hazard Vulnerabilities and Mitigation Strategy

The Gunnison County Hazard Mitigation Plan evaluates a range of natural and human-caused hazards that pose risks to the county, communities, and other stakeholders. During the planning process, the local planning team outlined community vulnerabilities to each hazard and rated the level of concern for each. Mitigation actions were also identified for each hazard that could impact the community. The following section summarizes this information. For additional information about each hazard, see *Section Five and Appendix A*.

Avalanche

Level of Concern: Low

The area of greatest concern regarding an avalanche event is Big Mine Park, the most active winter recreation site in the town. Regular programming occurs in the runout zone of a known avalanche slope. A report found that many of the trails, the ice rink, the warming house, and the Nordic maintenance building could be impacted. The ice rink has been mitigated against avalanches by reinforcing one wall. To mitigate this hazard, the town contracts with the Crested Butte Avalanche Center to provide avalanche mitigation services at Big Mine Park. There are known avalanche zones in the community, as shown on the map below. The Crested Butte Avalanche Center is the only identified community lifeline located in a known avalanche area. It could see building damage and service disruptions from an event.

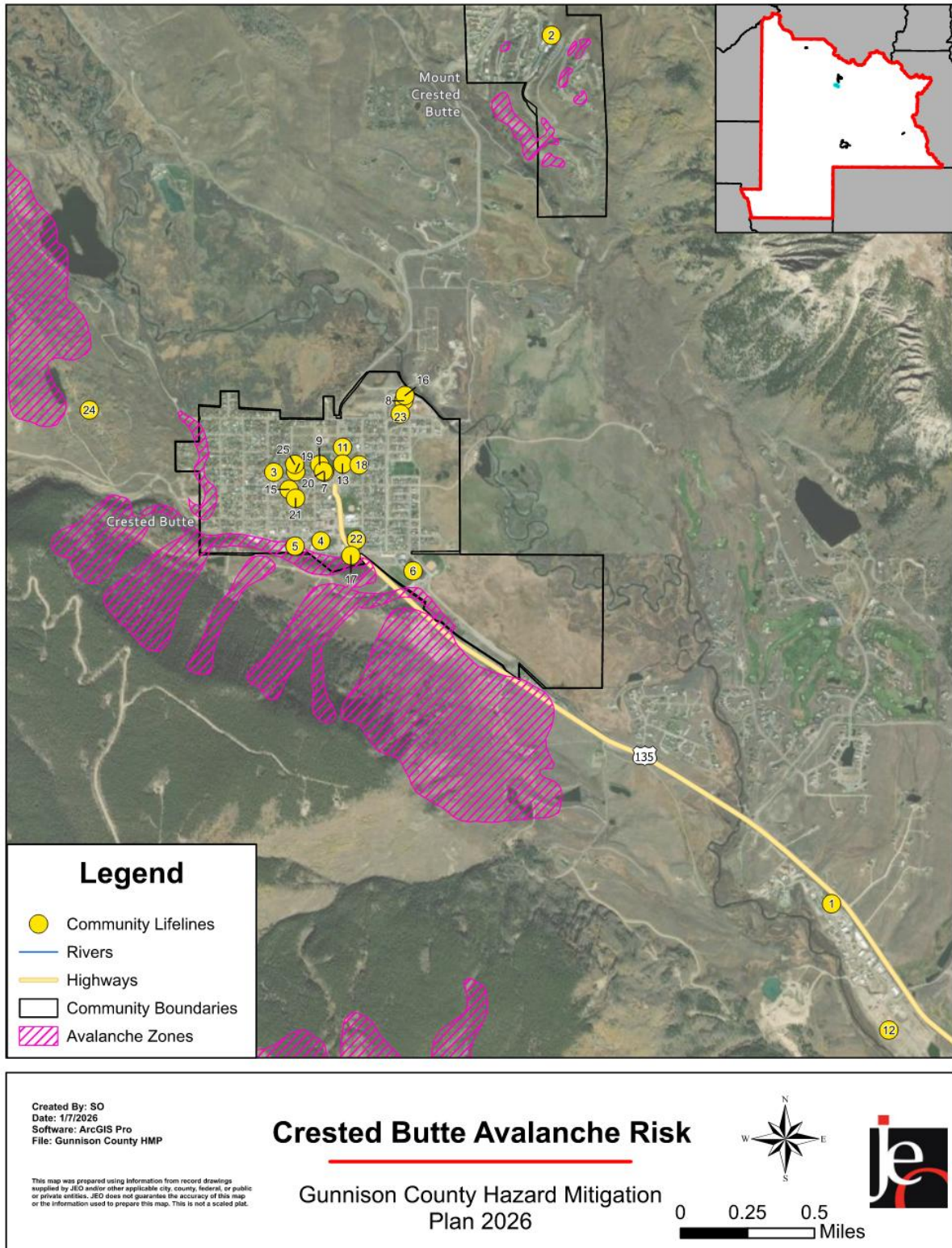
Completed Mitigation and Strategic Actions

Action	Mutual Aid Agreements
Description & Location	Create mutual aid agreements or memorandums of understanding for equipment/personnel sharing during all-hazard emergencies and disasters.
Hazard(s) Addressed	All Hazards
Status	Completed and in place.

New Mitigation and Strategic Actions

Action	Big Mine Park – Avalanche Mitigation
Description & Location	Work with the Crested Butte Avalanche Center for additional avalanche mitigation work above public property at Big Mine Park.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Avalanche
Estimated Cost	\$15,000
Local Funding	General Budget
Timeline	Ongoing
Priority	Low
Lead Agency	Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Trails Director
Status	Ongoing. Crested Butte has an ongoing annual winter contract with the Crested Butte Avalanche Center for mitigation work. The town will continue to identify possible additional mitigation work at Big Mine Park.

Crested Butte Mapped Avalanche Areas



Communications Disruption / Failure

Level of Concern: High

As reported by the town, all identified lifelines would be affected in the event of a communications disruption or failure. There is no redundancy in the fiber-optic cable infrastructure. Water and wastewater systems would be significantly more difficult to operate, and staff would need to remain on-site at all times during a communications disruption. Nearly all services provided by the lifelines would be affected or experience a temporary loss.

New Mitigation and Strategic Actions

Action	Establish Redundant Communication Systems
Description & Location	Develop and improve multiple communication systems (e.g., satellite phones, two-way radios, cellular backup networks, and internet-independent communication platforms).
Hazard(s) Addressed	Avalanche, Communication Disruption / Failure, Dam Failure, Earthquake, Extreme Cold, Flooding & Ice Jams, Ground Subsidence & Expansive Soils, Hazardous Materials Release, High Wind, Landslide/Rockfall/Debris Flow, Mass Casualty Incident, Severe Winter Storm, Terrorism & Cyber-Attack, Wildfire
Estimated Cost	Unknown
Local Funding	General Budget
Timeline	Ongoing
Priority	High
Lead Agency	Marshal's Department, Gunnison / Hinsdale Regional Communication Authority (Lead)
Status	In Progress.

Dam Failure

Level of Concern: Low

Coal Creek Dam (formerly known as Lake Irwin Valve and Piping Project) allows the Town of Crested Butte to access its 367-acre-foot of water rights storage in Lake Irwin. The State Engineers' Office requested a dam breach analysis and modeling to predict potential downstream flooding. The results predicted significant downstream flooding and debris-flow risks for the Upper Gunnison Valley, including Coal Creek, parts of Irwin, and the Town of Crested Butte. The Project was renamed the Coal Creek Dam and reclassified from no classification to a high-hazard dam on May 25, 2022.

Coal Creek Dam is aging and currently has a 1877 timber set tunnel, a 1935 valve that is difficult to operate, a deteriorating vault, and a 1980 defective pipe. The Coal Creek Dam acts as a trans-basin from Lake Irwin to Coal Creek and is currently the sole source for the Town of Crested Butte's water supply. Construction to replace the aging infrastructure will require lowering the lake level by approximately 20 feet and installing a temporary cofferdam around the existing tunnel to contain stormwater. Once the area is dewatered, the existing timber set tunnel & outlet pipe will be replaced with a new pipeline. The existing concrete valve shaft will be demolished and replaced with a new valve vault containing dual gate valves for redundancy and maintenance. The Coal Creek dam crest will be raised to contain the potential maximum precipitation events.

Lake Irwin is typically under snow for 8 months of the year, making emergency repairs extremely difficult. Consultants suggest a 1.5- to 2-month construction period due to high water flows in early

summer. Due to these constraints, it is important to secure grant funding and update the infrastructure during the short construction period in this very high-altitude mountain environment. Emergency repairs would be costly. In February 2025, the Crested Butte submitted a FEMA FMA grant application with an estimated cost of \$230,630,000.

There are 1,616 permanent residents of the Town of Crested Butte, with second homeowners and tourists increasing in the winter, and a maximum daily tourist population of 15,000. There are residents in Irwin who would also be affected by a dam failure. Bridges in Crested Butte and the inundation area would be affected, potentially reducing first responders' ability to reach the town. Two of the town's identified community lifelines are partially located in the inundation area: the Crested Butte Town Hall and the Union Congregational Church. These lifelines could experience flood damage.

The town's water system would be directly affected, as the water intake is from Coal Creek. The town has a valve, located before the Raw Water Reservoir near the Water Treatment plant, that can be manually turned off in the event of a flood or dam failure. However, there is no flood warning system in Coal Creek to notify Water Management to close this valve. If the Raw Water Reservoir is not polluted by debris, the water treatment plant has a 10-million-gallon reservoir. If residents reduce their water use, the reservoir can hold enough water for 5 to 10 days. Crested Butte is currently seeking alternative emergency water sources for 2025, with the hope of design in 2026 and construction in 2027.

New Mitigation and Strategic Actions

Action	Coal Creek Dam Upgrades
Description & Location	The Coal Creek Dam allows the Town of Crested Butte to access its 367-acre feet water rights storage in Lake Irwin. A dam breach analysis and HEC-RAS modeling predict significant downstream flooding of Coal Creek and the Town of Crested Butte if the dam were to fail, resulting in the reclassification of the dam from a low to a high hazard dam. To mitigate dam failure and flooding risks, the dam's 150-year-old inlet tunnel, pipe, and valve structure will be upgraded with new infrastructure designed to current dam outlet standards for dam protection. Construction will require lowering the lake level approximately 20 feet and installation of a temporary coffer dam around existing tunnel to contain stormwater. Once the area is dewatered, the existing timber set tunnel and outlet pipe will be replaced with a new 16" pipeline. The existing concrete valve shaft will be demolished and upgraded with a new valve vault containing dual 16" gate valves for redundancy and maintenance. The Coal Creek dam crest will also be raised to contain the PMP events.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Dam Failure
Estimated Cost	\$8,016,000
Local Funding	General Budget
Timeline	3 Years
Priority	High
Lead Agency	Public Works Department
Status	New Action. Design and Engineering Completed. Looking for Funding.

Action	Warning System
Description & Location	Install warning systems for dam break, flooding, or wildfire.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Dam Failure, Flooding & Ice Jams, Wildfire
Estimated Cost	Cost Estimates Coming Soon
Local Funding	General Budget
Timeline	2-5 Years
Priority	Low
Lead Agency	Marshal's Department
Status	Planning Stage. The town is currently working through design elements.

Drought

Level of Concern: High

A drought event would directly impact the town's water system. Reservoir storage could be depleted rapidly, forcing the town to implement water restrictions. Currently, Crested Butte has a single water source but is exploring a secondary source.

The Draft Upper Gunnison Drought Plan is currently under development, and the Town of Crested Butte was involved in the municipal resilience effort. Actions for the town include:

1. **Source Water Resiliency**, including water supply redundancy and drought resilience, 0-2 years.
2. **Drought Response Plan** – Develop a 3-5-year drought response plan.
3. **Municipal Provider Collaboration** Improving communication and education among municipal providers across the basin in 0-2 years.
4. **Native Gardens Demonstration** – Implementing garden demonstration projects that promote wise water use, native plants, manicured, high-density replacement programs, and education on water conservation & xeriscaping over 3-5 years.

The Town of Crested Butte is also concerned about the connection between drought and wildfire. The town is in the middle of creating a Wildfire-Ready Action Plan for the Coal Creek Watershed and Washington Gulch. Both have high wildfire risk and are above drinking water intakes for the town, Mt. Crested Butte Water and Sanitation, and the town's future alternative water source.

The fire station and water department would be the most affected by drought. The fire station may have difficulty finding enough water to respond to wildfire events. The water department may implement water restrictions due to low water levels.

New Mitigation and Strategic Actions

Action	Alternative Drinking Water Source
Description & Location	Explore the viability of having an alternative water source for the community.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Drought, Wildfire
Estimated Cost	\$15,000,000
Local Funding	General Budget
Timeline	2-5 Years
Priority	High
Lead Agency	Public Works Department
Status	In Progress. Currently determining feasibility and drilling test wells.

Earthquake

Level of Concern: Low

The town has a low risk of earthquake impact. This is due to the low likelihood of occurrence and low extent. If a large earthquake were to occur, it would likely impact older community lifelines built before strict code enforcement. Town Hall, Old Town Hall, 308 Third Street, and the Depot were all built before these codes. These buildings could sustain significant damage and temporary service disruptions. Most other buildings and all other community lifelines were built after the codes and would be less impacted.

New Mitigation and Strategic Actions

See the *Establish Redundant Communication Systems* mitigation action under communication disruption/failure.

Extreme Cold

Level of Concern: High

The town's vulnerability to extreme cold is the risk of losing fuel for heating and the water delivery system. If an extreme cold event occurs, utilities could be vulnerable. When utilities become unavailable, this creates a multitude of problems that hinder the proper functioning of all the identified community lifelines. Any lifelines without a backup generator could experience power outages and service interruptions. Physical damage to the identified community lifelines is unlikely.

Kept Mitigation and Strategic Actions

Action	Alternate Sources of Heat and Power
Description & Location	The Crested Butte Town Hall is a central, large space where people can go for shelter. A generator is needed to ensure heat during a power outage.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Avalanche, Dam Failure, Earthquake, Extreme Cold Flooding & Ice Jams, Ground Subsidence & Expansive Soils, High Wind, Landslide/Rockfall/Debris Flow, Lightning, Severe Winter Storm, Terrorism & Cyber-Attack, Wildfire
Estimated Cost	\$200,000
Local Funding	General Budget
Timeline	Ongoing
Priority	High
Lead Agency	Public Works Department
Status	New Action. Not Started

Flooding and Ice Jams

Level of Concern: Low

Coal Creek runs through the Town of Crested Butte. Areas of concern are primarily the main channel of Coal Creek between First Street and Second Street. This area of concern includes the First Street Bridge, five pedestrian bridge crossings, and two double concrete box culverts crossing Elk Avenue and Second Street, which cause flow out of the channels at and between these bridges.

If a significant flood occurred, this could cause damage to public infrastructure/utilities, flooded buildings, and road closures. There would likely be disruptions to transportation resources. An

event such as this would stress the resources and response personnel. None of the identified community lifelines is likely to be directly affected by flooding or ice jams, as they are not located in the floodplain.

New Mitigation and Strategic Actions

Action	Creek Crossing Reinforcement
Description & Location	Reinforce the water pipe crossing the creek against high flows.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Flooding & Ice Jams
Estimated Cost	Cost Estimates Coming Soon
Local Funding	General Budget
Timeline	2-5 Years
Priority	High
Lead Agency	Public Works Department
Status	Planning Stage. Cost estimates are coming at the end of 2025 or early 2026.

Action	Debris Clearing
Description & Location	Clean debris at Splains Gulch.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Flooding & Ice Jams, Landslide/Rockfall/Debris Flow
Estimated Cost	Cost Estimates Coming Soon
Local Funding	General Budget
Timeline	Ongoing
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	Public Works Department, USFS (Lead)
Status	Planning Stage. Cost estimates are coming at the end of 2025 or early 2026.

Ground Subsidence & Expansive Soils

Level of Concern: Low

Ground subsidence and expansive soils could impact roads and emergency routes in the district. However, this is not anticipated by the local planning team as there are no known previous locations of ground subsidence or expansive soils in the community. Crested Butte is located within an alluvial fan, so it can be assumed that some soils may be collapsible. However, impacts would be site-specific, and soil testing would need to be done beneath each lifeline to determine whether they would be affected.

New Mitigation and Strategic Actions

Action	Geotechnical Mapping
Description & Location	Identify and map high-risk geologic areas.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Ground Subsidence & Expansive Soils, Landslide/Rockfall/Debris Flow
Estimated Cost	Staff Time
Local Funding	Staff Time
Timeline	Ongoing
Priority	Low
Lead Agency	Public Works Department (Lead), USFS
Status	Planning Stage. Mapping will be conducted as part of the WRAP to provide the community with initial information.

Hailstorm*Level of Concern: Low*

While the town reportedly experiences frequent hail events, they do not consider them extreme. No severe impacts from hail events are expected. They could impact community life by damaging vehicles, infrastructure, and buildings, thereby reducing response times.

New Mitigation and Strategic Actions

Action	Reduce Hail Damage to Infrastructure
Description & Location	Implement hail-resistant roofing on community lifelines and public buildings.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Hailstorm
Estimated Cost	\$50,000+
Local Funding	General Budget
Timeline	Ongoing
Priority	Low
Lead Agency	Building Department (Lead), Public Works Department
Status	In Progress. Most structures have adequate roofing, but more still need it.

Hazardous Materials Release*Level of Concern: Moderate*

The main areas of concern regarding hazardous materials release are the Keystone Mine tailings and the Standard Mine. Other areas of concern are the development of Kebler Pass and Highway 135. In the event of hazardous materials release, water and wastewater utilities could be heavily impacted. This raises concerns about public health and safety, as well as short- and long-term environmental impacts. These impacts could include the need for evacuations or shelter-in-place orders. Clean-up efforts could require road closures, impacting the normal operations of community lifelines. There could also be economic impacts and disruption in public confidence due to a release. All identified community lifelines could be affected by a hazardous materials release. However, those located near Tier II facilities and highways are at greatest risk. During a spill, these facilities may need to be evacuated for safety.

New Mitigation and Strategic Actions

Action	Strengthen Hazardous Materials Response Capabilities
Description & Location	Equip local fire and hazmat response teams with specialized protective gear, detection devices, and decontamination equipment.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Hazardous Materials Release
Estimated Cost	Unknown
Local Funding	General Budget
Timeline	Ongoing
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	Marshal's Department, CBFPD (Lead)
Status	New Action. Not Started.

High Wind*Level of Concern: Low*

One main concern regarding a high-wind event in town is the cottonwood trees, which are susceptible to falling and causing damage to private and public infrastructure. All identified community lifelines are potentially affected by this hazard. Impacts would likely be minor, such as siding or roof damage, and would not affect the services provided.

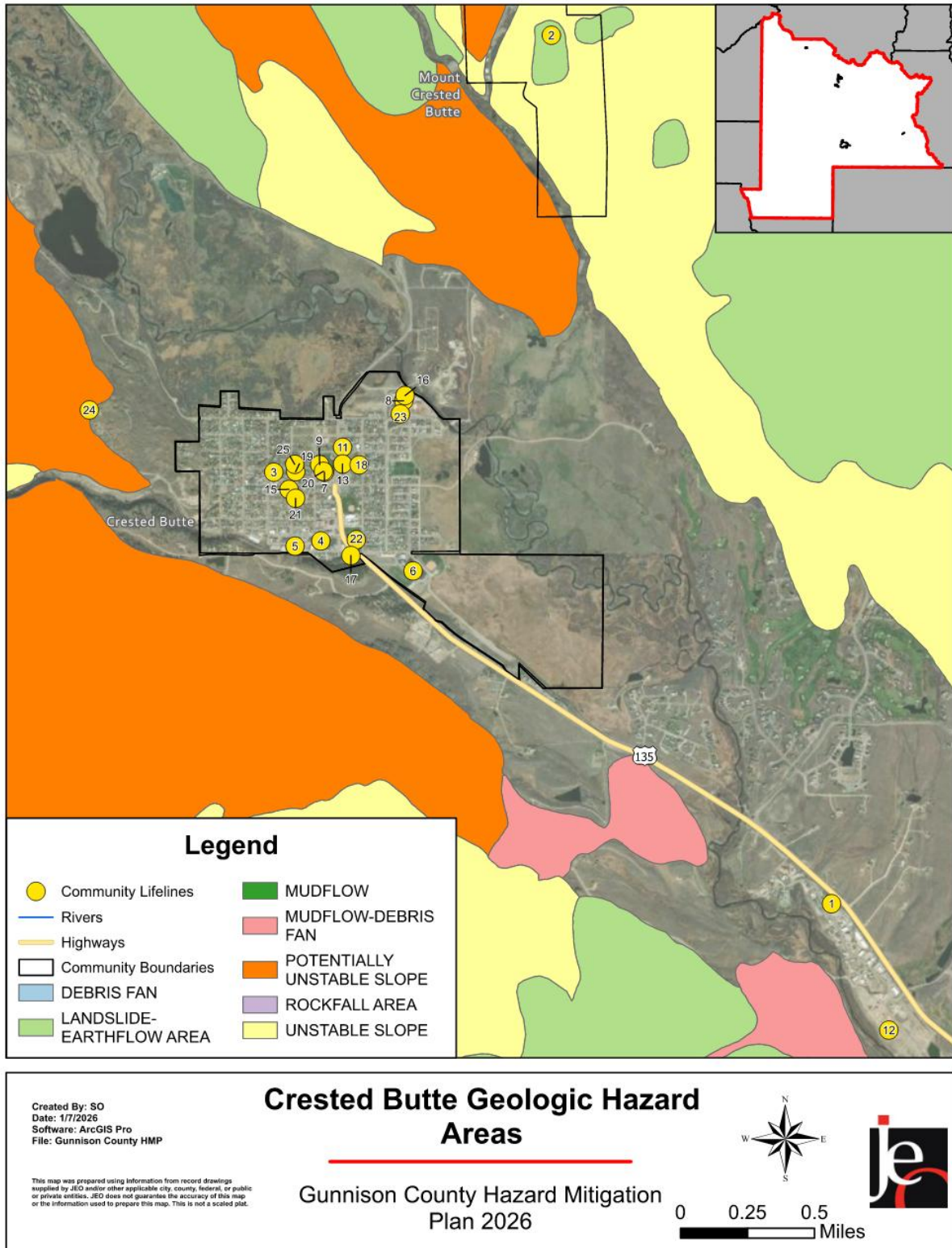
New Mitigation and Strategic Actions

See the *Alternate Sources of Heat and Power* mitigation action under extreme cold.

Landslide/Rockfall/Debris Flow*Level of Concern: Low*

While the Town of Crested Butte's landslide and rockfall vulnerabilities are low, there is a direct correlation between debris flows and wildfire events. As shown on the map below, there are no mapped debris flows, rockfalls, or landslides in the community. However, many areas nearby regularly experience these hazards. Specific potential impacts include debris flows that block rivers, potentially leading to flooding. Both landslides and rockfalls pose significant threats to key transportation routes into and out of the community. If a landslide cuts off a major roadway, it could leave people stranded, delay the delivery of essential supplies, and disrupt emergency services. Additionally, landslides endanger infrastructure such as power lines. The water department and Black Canyon Limo are located in known landslide areas. The water department could experience infrastructure and building damage due to its location on a potentially unstable slope.

Crested Butte Mapped Geologic Hazard Locations



New Mitigation and Strategic Actions

Action	Debris Flow Mitigation
Description & Location	Identify high connectivity hillslopes and mitigate by moving into deposition.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Landslide/Rockfall/Debris Flow
Estimated Cost	Cost Estimate Coming Soon
Local Funding	General Budget
Timeline	5+ Years
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	Public Works Department (Lead), USFS
Status	Cost estimates will be coming in early 2026.

Lightning*Level of Concern: Low*

The main concern with a lightning strike is the potential for wildfires and power surges that damage community lifelines within the town. If this were to occur, all lifelines could be affected by power loss and damaged electrical devices. Many of the town's electrical devices are protected by surge protectors. Lightning is the leading cause of wildfires in the county. Lightning-caused wildfires are the biggest concern related to this hazard for the community.

New Mitigation and Strategic Actions

See the *Alternate Sources of Heat and Power* mitigation action under extreme cold.

Mass Casualty Incident*Level of Concern: Low*

The concern for this hazard occurring is low; however, the potential impact could be severe if the town's response capacity is overwhelmed in the event of a mass-casualty incident. Response and medical personnel would likely become quickly overwhelmed, and there could be potential long-term impacts on mental health and public fear. Crested Butte Police Station and Crested Butte Search and Rescue are the lifelines most likely to be impacted during an event, as they would be involved in emergency response. These two lifelines would likely become quickly overwhelmed during a mass casualty incident. The town would likely need mutual aid and outside assistance during an event.

New Mitigation and Strategic Actions

Action	Perform Training and Exercises
Description & Location	Conduct multi-agency drills simulating mass casualty incidents, pandemic, and terrorism, focusing on triage, transport, hospital surge, and family reunification operations.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Mass Casualty Incident, Pandemic, Terrorism & Cyber-Attack
Estimated Cost	Staff Time
Local Funding	Staff Time
Timeline	5+ Years
Priority	Low
Lead Agency	Marshal's Department, Gunnison County Emergency Management (Lead), CBFPD
Status	New Action. Not Started.

Pandemic*Level of Concern: Low*

While the level of concern is low, the potential impacts of a pandemic would be severe for the town. As the town observed in 2020, emergency personnel's response capacity was quickly overwhelmed during the COVID-19 pandemic. All of the identified community lifelines would likely be affected during a pandemic and could experience temporary service disruptions due to individuals being out sick. Reflecting on the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic, the town will use the same resources and partnerships with other communities in the event of another pandemic.

New Mitigation and Strategic Actions

Action	Develop a Pandemic Response and Continuity Plan
Description & Location	Create a pandemic-specific annex to the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) that defines roles and responsibilities, communication protocols, and the continuity of essential services.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Pandemic
Estimated Cost	Staff Time
Local Funding	Staff Time
Timeline	2-5 Years
Priority	Low
Lead Agency	Marshal's Department, Gunnison County Emergency Management (Lead)
Status	New Action. Not Started.

Severe Winter Storm*Level of Concern: Low*

The town's ability to deal with these storms has been steady and effective. Impacts from a severe winter storm can vary depending on the storm's intensity and duration, and there is potential for accidents, road closures, and disruptions to transit systems and community lifelines. All of the identified community lifelines could experience minor damage from heavy snow loads and temporary service disruptions due to road closures and accidents.

New Mitigation and Strategic Actions

See the *Alternate Sources of Heat and Power* mitigation action under extreme cold.

Terrorism & Cyber-Attack

Level of Concern: Low

While the Town of Crested Butte does not expect this hazard to be likely, the impacts from a terrorist or cyber-attack event would be far-reaching. This hazard could affect all community lifelines, public safety, and economic stability. The most likely targets would be government buildings and events that draw large numbers of people, such as the Fourth of July Parade, Wildflower Festival, and Arts Festival. Because the community is heavily reliant on tourism, any physical terrorist attack could cause lasting economic damage and reduce tourism significantly.

New Mitigation and Strategic Actions

Action	Implement Cybersecurity Resilience Measures
Description & Location	Upgrade firewalls, intrusion detection systems, and backup servers; conduct regular vulnerability scans and penetration testing.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Terrorism & Cyber-Attack
Estimated Cost	\$1,000+
Local Funding	General Budget
Timeline	Ongoing
Priority	Low
Lead Agency	Finance/IT Department
Status	The town has been upgrading its IT systems for some time and will continue to do so.

Wildfire

Level of Concern: High

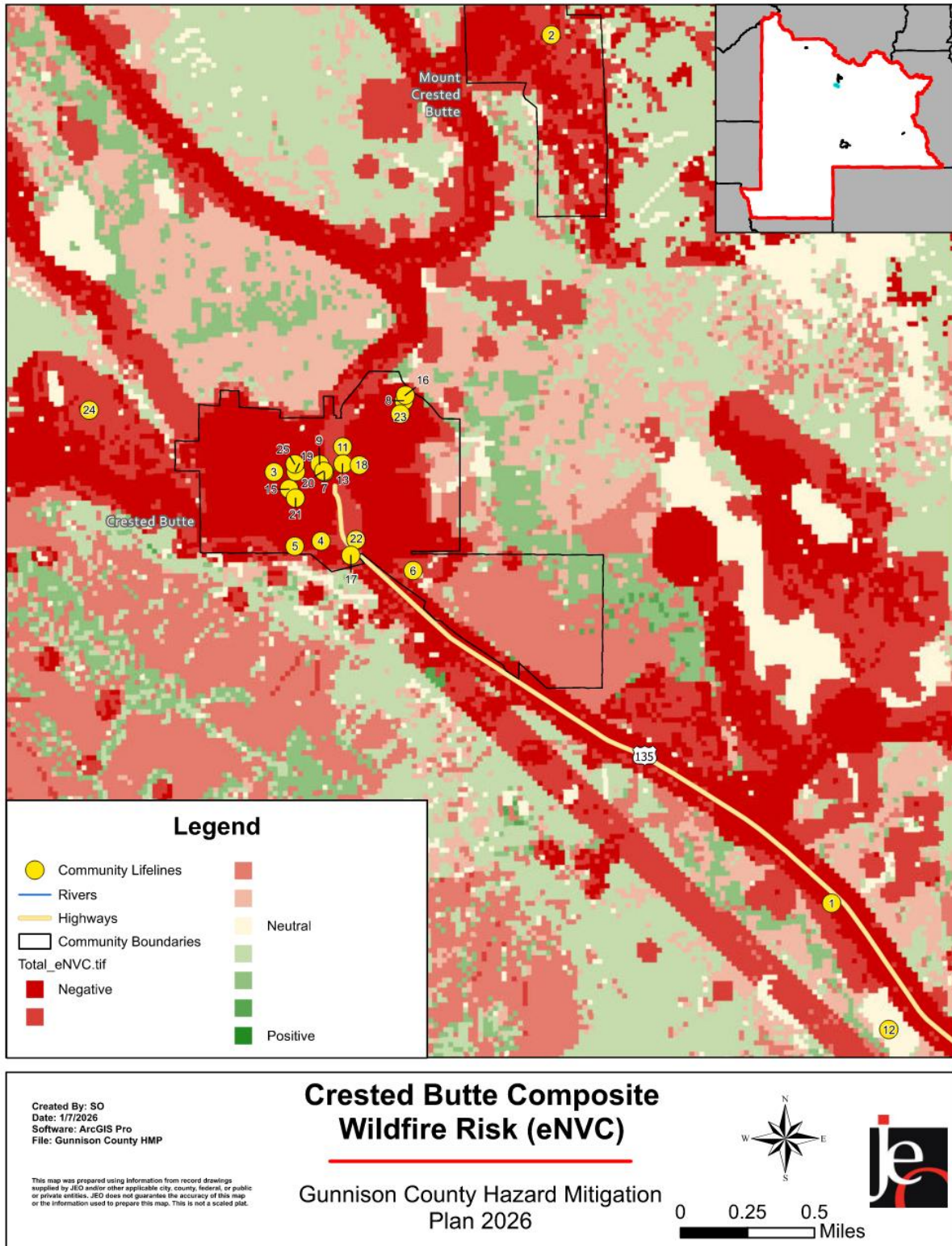
Crested Butte is surrounded by heavily forested areas to the south, north, and west, and alpine valley meadows to the east. The risk of wildfire is very high for the community, with a high probability of an event and severe impacts if it were to occur, as shown on the map below. All of the town's identified community lifelines could be affected by wildfire and would likely sustain major damage and prolonged service disruptions.

The Town's Source Water Protection Plan identified wildfire as the biggest threat to contamination of the town's water supply. If a wildfire occurred in the Coal Creek Watershed, it would disrupt the raw water conveyance system and the quality of water to the Water Treatment Plant. Post-wildfire concern about water distribution with VOCs could be long-term (months or years).

A wildfire would heavily impact the local economy. Crested Butte currently relies heavily on tourism, and rebuilding damaged structures would be costly as well. The town is on a Fluvial fan, and with Coal Creek running through town and houses and buildings right next to it, debris from a wildfire is a concern.

Evacuation during a wildfire event is also a major concern. Highway 135 is the only roadway capable of evacuating a large population. This highway only runs south out of the community. If a wildfire were to occur along Highway 135, evacuating the town to the north would be extremely difficult, if not impossible.

Crested Butte Wildfire Risk



New and Kept Mitigation and Strategic Actions

Action	Automated Valves
Description & Location	Install automated valves above the raw water storage in case the upper two intakes are inaccessible.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Wildfire
Estimated Cost	Cost Estimate Coming Soon
Local Funding	General Budget
Timeline	1 Year
Priority	High
Lead Agency	Public Works Department (Lead), USFS
Status	Cost estimate to come at the end of 2025 or early 2026.

Action	Defensible Space and Other Wildfire Regulations
Description & Location	Develop defensible space and other wildfire regulations as a requirement and/or limit new development in high-risk areas.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Wildfire
Estimated Cost	Staff Time
Local Funding	Staff Time
Timeline	2-5 Years
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	Town Manager (Lead), Gunnison County Emergency Management, Fire Districts
Status	The town is in the process of updating the zoning code and will adopt the Colorado Wildfire Resiliency Code, as required. This will be adopted by March 2026, and implementation will begin at the latest in June 2026.

Action	Fuels Mitigation Plan
Description & Location	Develop a fuels mitigation plan for public lands surrounding the town and private properties adjoining the public land, creating a “buffer” for the town. The plan will identify specific cross-boundary mitigation projects.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Wildfire
Estimated Cost	Staff Time
Local Funding	Staff Time
Timeline	5+ Years
Priority	High
Lead Agency	Town Manager, WRWC, Upper Gunnison Shared Stewardship Council, Crested Butte Fire Protection District, USFS (Lead)
Status	Not Started. The USFS dictates timing for this project.

Action	Implement Projects Identified in CWPPs
Description & Location	Implementation of landscape-scale fuels-reduction projects and defensible space projects identified in the Gunnison County CWPP.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Wildfire
Estimated Cost	Varies Depending on Project
Local Funding	General Budget
Timeline	Ongoing
Priority	High
Lead Agency	Upper Gunnison Shared Stewardship Council (Lead), Gunnison County Emergency Management, Fire Departments, Town Manager
Status	The town participates in Upper Gunnison Shared Stewardship Council meetings, which are currently deciding projects to pursue.

Action	Mining Emergency Plan/Study
Description & Location	Create an emergency plan/study that shows the exacerbating effects of Mining when combined with wildfire and flooding.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Flooding & Ice Jams, Wildfire
Estimated Cost	Cost Estimate Coming Soon
Local Funding	General Budget
Timeline	5+ Years
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	Town Manager, USFS (Lead)
Status	Cost estimate to come at the end of 2025 or early 2026.

Community Profile

Town of Mt. Crested Butte

Gunnison County Hazard Mitigation Plan 2026

Community Fact Sheet

Community Summary Fact Sheet

Town of Mount Crested Butte Gunnison County Hazard Mitigation Plan 2026

966

Total Population

43.1

Median Age

472

Total Households

2.05

Average
Household Size

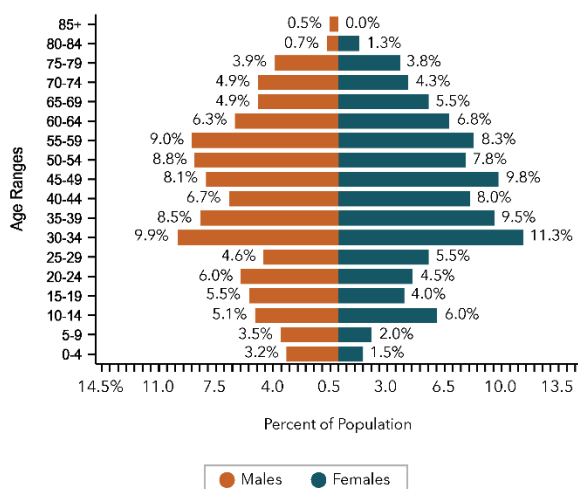
\$983,418

Median Home
Value

\$85,937

Median Household
Income

AGE PYRAMID



TOTAL POPULATION

2024 Total Population (Estimate)	966
2020 Total Population (U.S. Census)	941
2010 Total Population (U.S. Census)	814
2000 Total Population (U.S. Census)	716

AT RISK POPULATIONS



31

Households With
Disability



144

Population 65+



0

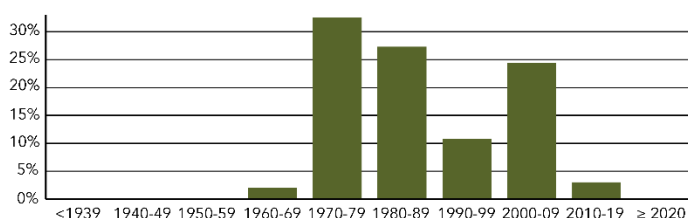
Households
Without Vehicle



9%

Households
Below the
Poverty Level

HOUSING: YEAR BUILT



EMPLOYMENT



78

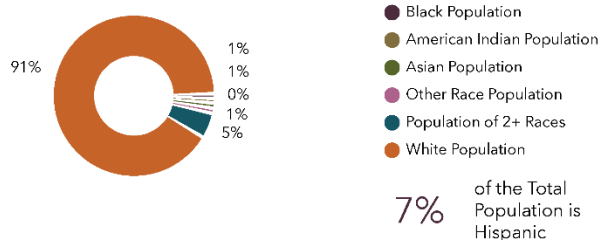
Total Businesses



4.4%

Unemployment Rate

POPULATION BY RACE



HOUSING



1,065

Vacant Housing
Units



0%

Mobile Homes



Source: Esri, U.S. Census, Esri-Data Axle, ACS, Esri forecasts for 2024, 2020, 2010, 2000, 2018-2022.

Local Planning Team

Mt. Crested Butte Local Planning Team

Name	Title	Jurisdiction	Round 1 Meeting	Round 2 Meeting
Neal Starkebaum	Community Development Director	Town of Mt. Crested Butte	Attended	-
Shannon Hessler	Planner II	Town of Mt. Crested Butte	-	Attended

Plan Maintenance

Hazard Mitigation Plans are living documents and should be updated regularly to ensure effectiveness and reflect changes in hazard events, priorities, and mitigation actions. These updates are encouraged to occur after every major disaster event, alongside planning document updates, before the Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants cycle begins, and/or before other funding opportunity cycles begin.

The Community Development Director will be responsible for reviewing and updating this participant profile outside of the five-year update. Mt Crested Butte will review the plan biannually, and the public will be notified of any major changes using social media and the newspaper.

Capability Assessment

The planning team assessed the Town of Mt. Crested Butte's hazard mitigation capabilities by reviewing planning, regulatory, administrative, technical, fiscal, education, warning, and outreach capabilities. The town does not have the current capacity to expand or improve on existing capabilities.

Mt. Crested Butte Capability Assessment

Capability/Planning Mechanism		Yes/No
Planning & Regulatory Capability	Comprehensive Plan	Yes
	Capital Improvements Plan	Yes
	Economic Development Plan	Yes
	Emergency Operations Plan	Yes
	Floodplain Management Plan	Yes
	Stormwater Management Plan	Yes
	Zoning Ordinance	Yes
	Subdivision Regulation/Ordinance	Yes
	Floodplain Ordinance	Yes
	Building Codes	Yes
	Water System Emergency Response Plan	No
	Source Water Protection Plan	Yes
	National Flood Insurance Program	Yes
	Community Rating System	No
	Community Wildfire Protection Plan	Yes (County)
	Growth Management Ordinance	No

Capability/Planning Mechanism		Yes/No
	Hazard Specific Ordinances	Yes
	Erosion/Sediment Control Plan	Yes
	Flood Insurance Study	Yes
	Elevation Certificates	No
	BCEGS Rating	No
	Other (if any)	Strategic Plan, One Valley Resilience Roadmap
Administrative & Technical Capability	Planning Commission	Yes
	Planner/Engineer (Land Development)	Yes
	Planner/Engineer/Scientist (Natural Hazards)	Yes
	Resilience Planner	Yes
	Transportation Planner	No
	Floodplain Administrator	Yes
	GIS Capabilities	Yes
	Chief Building Official	Yes
	Engineering (Construction)	Yes
	Emergency Manager	Yes
	Grant Manager	No
	Mutual Aid Agreement	No
	Site Plan Review Requirements	Yes
	Other (if any)	-
Fiscal Capability	1- & 6-Year Plan	No
	Applied for Grants in the Past	No
	Awarded a Grant in the Past	No
	Authority to Levy Taxes for Specific Purposes, such as Mitigation Projects	No
	Gas/Electric/Water/Sewer Service Fees	No
	Stormwater Service Fees	No
	Development Impact Fees	No
	General Obligation Revenue or Special Tax Bonds	No
	Withheld Spending in Hazard-Prone Areas	No
	Other (if any)	-
Education & Outreach Capability	Local Citizen Groups or Non-Profit Organizations Focused on Environmental Protection, Emergency Preparedness, Access and Functional Needs Populations, etc.	Yes
	Ongoing Public Education or Information Program (e.g., Responsible Water Use, Fire Safety,	Yes

Capability/Planning Mechanism		Yes/No
	Household Preparedness, Environmental Education)	
	Natural Disaster or Safety-Related School Programs	No
	StormReady Certification	No
	Firewise Communities Certification	No
	Tree City USA	No
	Other (if any)	-
Warning Systems / Services	General	Yes
	Flood	Yes (County)
	Wildfire	Yes (County)
	Tornado	Yes (County)
	Geological Hazards	Yes (County)
	Other (if any)	-

Mt. Crested Butte Overall Capability

Capability	Limited/Moderate/High
Financial Resources to Implement Mitigation Projects	Limited
Staff/Expertise to Implement Projects	Moderate
Public Support to Implement Projects	Moderate
Time to Devote to Hazard Mitigation	Limited
Ability to Expand and Improve the Identified Capabilities to Achieve Mitigation	Limited

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

Mt. Crested Butte is a member of the NFIP, having joined on 5/16/2013. The community's Floodplain Administrator oversees compliance with the NFIP and Colorado Rules and Regulations for Regulatory Floodplain (2 CCR 408-1). The Floodplain Administrator uses the FEMA Map Service Center to determine if a development is in the floodplain. There are no developable properties located in the floodplain. The town's floodplain regulations outline the requirements for development in the floodplain. The floodplain regulations do not exceed state and FEMA requirements. Substantially improved or damaged structures in the floodplain are identified through community on-site inspections. No Letters of Map Change have been submitted to the town.

The local planning team has stated that Mt. Crested Butte will remain in good standing with the NFIP. The town has no barriers to running its NFIP program effectively, and there are no areas in the community with limited NFIP coverage. NFIP education is available on the community's website.

Mt. Crested Butte NFIP Information

NFIP Overview	
Date of NFIP Participation:	05/16/2013
Floodplain Administrator:	Neal Starkebaum
Is the Floodplain Administrator a Certified Floodplain Manager?	No
Is Floodplain Management an Auxiliary Function?	Yes
Number of NFIP Policies In-Force:	0

NFIP Overview	
Total NFIP Premium (\$):	\$0
Total NFIP Coverage (\$):	\$0
Number of Claims Paid Out:	0
Total AMt. of Claims Paid Out (\$):	\$0
Number of Repetitive Loss Structures:	0
Number of Severe Repetitive Loss Structures:	0
Is the Community Currently Suspended from the NFIP?	No
Any Outstanding Compliance Issues?	No
FIRMs Digital or Paper?	Digital
Located in a RISK Map Area?	No

Buildings and Valuation in the Floodplain

The planning team acquired GIS parcel data from the County Assessor and Microsoft building footprint data to analyze the location, number, and value of buildings in the 100-year and 500-year floodplains. A summary of the results of this analysis is provided in the following tables.

Mt. Crested Butte Buildings and Value in the 100-Year Floodplain

Number of Buildings	Total Building Value	Number of Buildings in Floodplain	Value of Buildings in Floodplain	Percentage of Buildings in Floodplain
706	\$1,001,832,780	0	0	0%

Source: County Assessor, 2025; Microsoft, 2025

Mt. Crested Butte Buildings and Value in the 500-Year Floodplain

Number of Buildings	Total Building Value	Number of Buildings in Floodplain	Value of Buildings in Floodplain	Percentage of Buildings in Floodplain
706	\$1,001,832,780	0	0	0%

Source: County Assessor, 2025; Microsoft, 2025

Plans and Studies

Mt. Crested Butte has several planning documents that discuss or relate to hazard mitigation. Each plan is listed below, along with a description of how it is integrated with the hazard mitigation plan or contains hazard mitigation principles. When the community updates these planning mechanisms, the local planning team will review the hazard mitigation plan for opportunities to incorporate the goals and objectives, risk and vulnerability data, and mitigation actions into the update. Unless otherwise specified below, the hazard mitigation plan has not been integrated into these or other planning mechanisms.

Building Code (2025)

The building code establishes standards for the construction of buildings and structures. Mt. Crested Butte's building codes are based on the 2012 International Building Code. These codes regulate and govern the conditions and maintenance of all property, buildings, and structures by providing standards for supplied utilities, facilities, and other physical elements essential to ensuring that structures are safe, sanitary, and fit for occupation and use. County-licensed inspectors conduct inspections.

Capital Improvement Plan (2025)

The purpose of the capital improvement plan is to help the town strategize how to budget for nonrecurring physical or digital purchases. A capital improvement plan typically spans multiple

years and includes financing plans. Cinnamon Mt. Road slump stabilization is a hazard-related project included in the plan.

Master Plan (2023)

The master plan is designed to guide the town's future actions and growth. This action-oriented plan provides strategies in the form of goals, policies, and action items that help the Town achieve its vision related to future land use, recreation, placemaking and vibrancy, transportation, housing, and public services for the next 10-15 years. The plan includes a recommendation to update the land use code to incorporate best management practices for development on steep slopes. No other recommendations addressed hazard mitigation principles. The hazard mitigation plan has not been incorporated into the Master Plan.

Erosion/Sediment Control Plan (2014)

The purpose of the erosion/sediment control ordinance is to prevent mud, debris, and dirt from leaving a construction site. This helps to protect local waterways from pollution. The ordinance requires erosion control devices and planning by agencies doing work within the city. The ordinance can be found in 18-149 of the city's code of ordinances.

Floodplain Regulations (2012), Subdivision Regulations (2025), and Zoning Ordinance (2025)

The town's floodplain regulations, subdivision regulations, and zoning ordinance outline where and how future development should occur. The documents include the following: restricting development in hazard-prone areas, discouraging development in the floodplain, and considering wildfire and the wildland-urban interface. The town does not have a plan or timeline to update the documents in the near future.

Hazard Specific Ordinances (2013)

The town currently has ordinances that discuss both the floodplain and avalanches. Development within floodplains is to be avoided, and Avalanche Zone Districts have been established to help encourage the mitigation of avalanche potential. Avalanche Zone Districts must be listed during site plan design review requirements.

One Valley Resiliency Roadmap (2023)

The One Valley Resilience Roadmap provides shared goals and strategies to help regional partners work together to improve housing affordability, coordinate land-use, transportation, and infrastructure planning, and increase civic capacity. Partners in the plan include Gunnison County, City of Gunnison, Town of Crested Butte, and Mt. Crested Butte. One of the priorities is advancing climate action and environmental stewardship. The plan also calls for avoiding growth in hazard areas such as landslide areas and floodplains. The hazard mitigation plan has not been integrated into the roadmap.

Strategic Plan (2021)

Mt. Crested Butte's Strategic Plan outlines the vision for the community, identifies strategic goals, and lists action items. While infrastructure and the environment were included as goals, the Strategic Plan did not identify any hazard-mitigation-related actions. The hazard mitigation plan has not been integrated into the plan.

Future Development Trends

Over the past five years, there has been limited development in town. No new structures were developed in the floodplain or other hazardous areas, and none were mitigated for specific hazards. No new housing developments or businesses are planned in the near future. This likely keeps the town's risk and vulnerability to all hazards the same.

Since 2000, Gunnison County has gained approximately 250 people, a 35% increase in population. Increasing populations are associated with more robust hazard mitigation and emergency planning requirements for development. Growing populations can also increase tax revenues, allowing communities to pursue additional mitigation projects. The town's minority population is around 9%. Minorities may face increased vulnerability, as they tend to have access to fewer financial and systemic resources that would enable them to implement hazard mitigation projects and respond to and recover from hazard events. The high vacancy rate is likely due to short-term rentals and second homes. This increases risk and vulnerability to all hazards, as individuals living in these homes may not be aware of local risks or be signed up for emergency alerts.

Community Lifelines

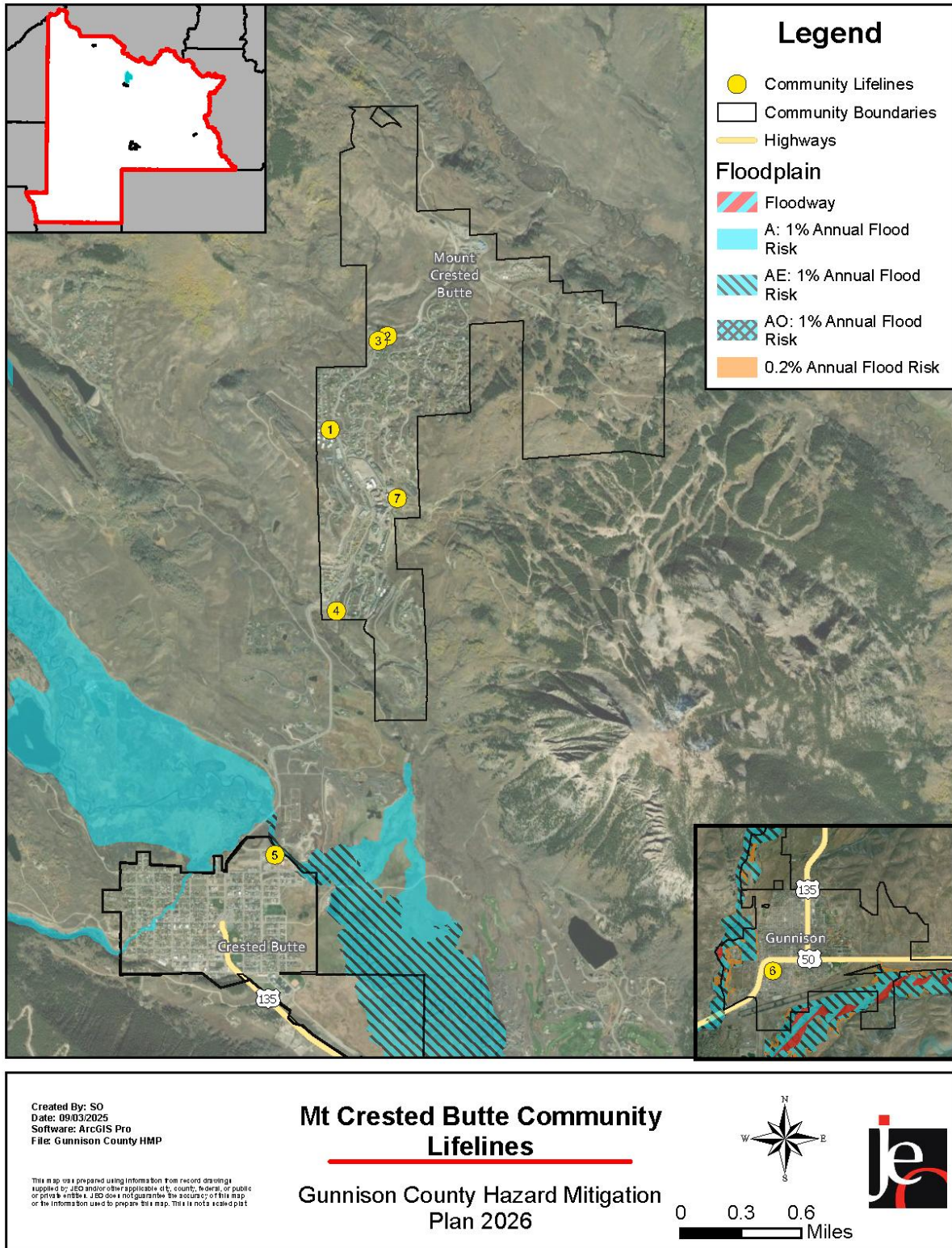
As listed in the following table, each participating jurisdiction identified community lifelines vital for disaster response and essential for returning the jurisdiction's functions to normal during and after a disaster, per the FEMA Community Lifelines guidance. The FEMA lifeline categories include Safety and Security; Food, Hydration, and Shelter; Health and Medical; Energy; Communications; Transportation; Hazardous Materials; and Water Systems.



Mt. Crested Butte Community Lifelines

CL Number	Name	Lifeline Type	Generator (Y/N)	Floodplain (Y/N)
1	Mt. Crested Butte Fire Station	Safety and Security	Yes	No
2	Mt. Crested Butte Police Station	Safety and Security	No	No
3	Mt. Crested Butte Town Hall	Safety and Security	No	No
4	Mt. Crested Butte Water/Sanitation District Facilities	Water Systems	Yes	No
5	Mountain Express Public Bus Service	Transportation	No	No
6	RTA Bus Service	Transportation	No	No
7	Ski Area Clinic	Health and Medical	Yes	No

Mt. Crested Butte Community Lifelines Map



Hazard Prioritization and Mitigation Strategy

The Gunnison County Hazard Mitigation Plan evaluates a range of natural and human-caused hazards that pose risks to the county, communities, and other stakeholders. During the planning process, the local planning team outlined community vulnerabilities to each hazard and rated the level of concern for each. Mitigation actions were also identified for each hazard that could impact the community. The following section summarizes this information. For additional information about each hazard, see *Section Five and Appendix A*.

Avalanche

Level of Concern: Low

Mt. Crested Butte reports a low likelihood of experiencing an avalanche. Likely impacts include power outages, limited mobility, damage to structures and infrastructure, and increased emergency response times. None of the identified community lifelines are located in known avalanche risk areas. There are known avalanche zones in the southern half of the community, as shown on the map below.

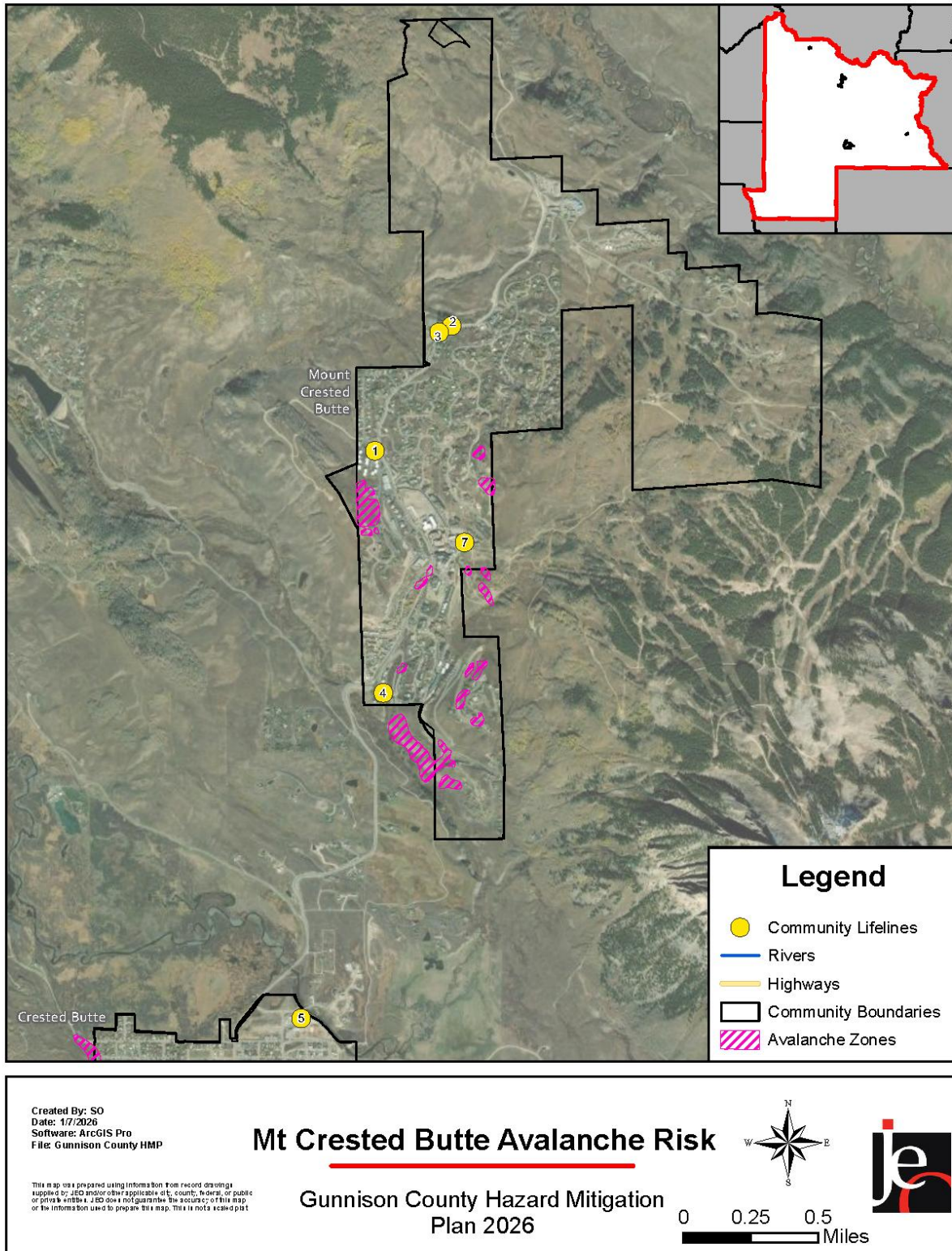
Completed Mitigation and Strategic Actions

Action	Avalanche Mitigation and Education
Description & Location	The town has a plan to improve existing signage and install new signage in our avalanche zones. Since all avalanche zones can result in loss of life, the goal is to incorporate a single, stronger message into the existing signage: "Avalanche Area Keep Out." All existing signs will be changed to display this message, and all new signs will display it as well. All signs will also be orange to signify the magnitude of the avalanche zone.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Avalanche
Status	Completed

New Mitigation and Strategic Actions

Action	Upgrade Avalanche Fencing and Signage
Description & Location	Maintain and upgrade avalanche fencing and signage in known avalanche areas in and near the community.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Avalanche
Estimated Cost	\$150,000 - \$250,000
Local Funding	Town Budget, Grants
Timeline	2-5 Years
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	Public Works Department
Status	New Action. Planning Stage.

Mt. Crested Butte Mapped Avalanche Risk



Communications Disruption / Failure

Level of Concern: Low

Specific vulnerabilities within the community to communications disruption failure include the fire station, police station, and municipal operations. The likely impacts of this event include power outages, reduced mobility, and longer emergency response times.

New Mitigation and Strategic Actions

Action	Redundant Communication Systems
Description & Location	Expand Redundant communication systems (satellite phones, radio).
Hazard(s) Addressed	Avalanche, Communications Disruption / Failure, Earthquake, Extreme Cold, Flooding & Ice Jams, High Wind, Landslide/Rockfall/Debris Flow, Lightning, Severe Winter Storm, Terrorism & Cyber-Attack, Wildfire
Estimated Cost	\$50,000 - \$100,000
Local Funding	Town Budget, Grants
Timeline	2-5 Years
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	Communications Officer (Lead), Maintenance Department
Status	New Action. Planning Stage.

Dam Failure

Level of Concern: None

This hazard would not impact Mt. Crested Butte, as there are no significant or high-hazard dams in the town or upstream.

New Mitigation and Strategic Actions

No mitigation action is identified as this hazard would not impact the town.

Drought

Level of Concern: High

Mt. Crested Butte lacks a drought ordinance or management plan, and the community relies on limited water sources. The water/sanitation facilities and the ski area are vulnerable to drought impacts. Likely impacts across the community include water restrictions and economic losses from reduced tourism and recreation. The fire station's services may also be impacted by insufficient water to respond to wildfire events.

New Mitigation and Strategic Actions

Action	Implement Drought Tolerant Landscaping Ordinance
Description & Location	The town adopted a drought-tolerant landscaping ordinance in 2024, but it has not been implemented. Implement the drought-tolerant landscaping ordinance.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Drought, Wildfire
Estimated Cost	Staff Time
Local Funding	Staff Time
Timeline	1 Year
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	Community Development Department
Status	New Action. Planning Stage.

Earthquake*Level of Concern: Low*

While Mt. Crested Butte's concern for earthquakes is low due to their low likelihood of occurrence, the town's specific vulnerabilities include older buildings that are not retrofitted to withstand earthquakes. If an earthquake event were to occur, communications and municipal operations would be affected. The impacts of the event would likely include structural damage and service disruptions throughout town. The fire station, police station, town hall, clinic, and water/sanitation facilities could all be damaged in an earthquake. This could cause a temporary loss of services at all of these lifelines.

New Mitigation and Strategic Actions

Action	Adopt Seismic Design Standards
Description & Location	Adopt seismic design standards for new construction in the community.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Earthquake
Estimated Cost	\$5,000 - \$10,000
Local Funding	Town Budget
Timeline	2-5 Years
Priority	Low
Lead Agency	Building Department
Status	New Action. Not Started.

Extreme Cold*Level of Concern: Moderate*

The town's vulnerabilities to extreme cold include potential heating system failures and the vulnerable elderly population. Likely impacts to the community include the risk of hypothermia, frozen pipes, and increased energy demand. The fire station, police station, town hall, clinic, and water/sanitation facilities could lose power, impacting services. The two bus services could have problems with buses not starting.

New Mitigation and Strategic Actions

Action	Emergency Warming Shelters
Description & Location	Expand the number of warming shelters in the community.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Extreme Cold
Estimated Cost	\$200,000
Local Funding	Town Budget, Grants
Timeline	2-5 Years
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	Public Works Department (Lead), Police Department, County Emergency Management
Status	New Action. Not Started Due to Staff Capacity.

Flooding and Ice Jams

Level of Concern: Moderate

There are no areas within the community located in the mapped floodplain. According to the local planning team, there are no areas with a history of flooding. If a flooding or ice-jam event were to occur due to snowmelt or very heavy rain, the potential impacts include infrastructure damage, road closures, and water service disruptions. None of the identified community lifelines is likely to be directly affected by flooding or ice jams.

New Mitigation and Strategic Actions

Action	Culvert Capacity
Description & Location	Improve culvert capacity for better drainage.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Flooding and Ice Jams
Estimated Cost	\$100,000 - \$250,000
Local Funding	Town Budget
Timeline	5+ Years
Priority	Low
Lead Agency	Maintenance Department
Status	New Action. Not Started Due to Staff Capacity.

Ground Subsidence & Expansive Soils

Level of Concern: None

Ground subsidence and expansive soils are unlikely to affect Mt. Crested Butte, as there are no areas of concern in the community.

New Mitigation and Strategic Actions

No mitigation action is identified as this hazard would not impact the town.

Hailstorm

Level of Concern: None

Hailstorms are unlikely to affect the town given its high elevation. There have been no past events of damaging hailstorms.

New Mitigation and Strategic Actions

No mitigation action is identified as this hazard would not impact the town.

Hazardous Materials Release

Level of Concern: Low

According to the local planning team, Mt. Crested Butte does not experience frequent industrial activity. However, the potential for a hazardous materials release event arises from transportation routes, which may lead to a transportation-related release. If this hazard were to occur, roads and emergency services would be affected. The fire station, police station, and town hall are all located near a transportation route that could be affected by a chemical spill. If one were to occur nearby, it could cause a service outage for that lifeline. The two bus services could also be affected by closed roadways.

New and Kept Mitigation and Strategic Actions

Action	Emergency Evacuation Access
Description & Location	Emergency evacuation access for Mt. Crested Butte is pending an emergency within or outside town limits. Currently, County Road 317 is the only available evacuation route from Mt. Crested Butte. The town needs an alternative route in case access to CR 317 is blocked north of Crested Butte.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Hazardous Materials Release, Terrorism & Cyber-Attack, Wildfire
Estimated Cost	\$2,500,000 - \$4,000,000
Local Funding	Town Budget, CDOT Joint Funding, HMGP
Timeline	5+ Years
Priority	High
Lead Agency	Planning Department, Police Department, Fire Department, County Emergency Management (Lead)
Status	Not Started

High Wind

Level of Concern: Moderate

Vulnerabilities of particular concern in high-wind events include above-ground power lines and older structures. This would primarily affect power supply and communication systems across Mt. Crested Butte, causing power outages, property damage, and communication disruption. High winds could damage all of the identified community lifelines. Additionally, power could be lost, and none have backup power generators. This could cause a temporary service outage.

New Mitigation and Strategic Actions

Action	Roofing Education
Description & Location	Promote high wind-resistant roofing for new construction and remodels.
Hazard(s) Addressed	High Wind
Estimated Cost	Staff Time
Local Funding	Staff Time
Timeline	5+ Years
Priority	Low
Lead Agency	Building Department
Status	New Action. Not Started.

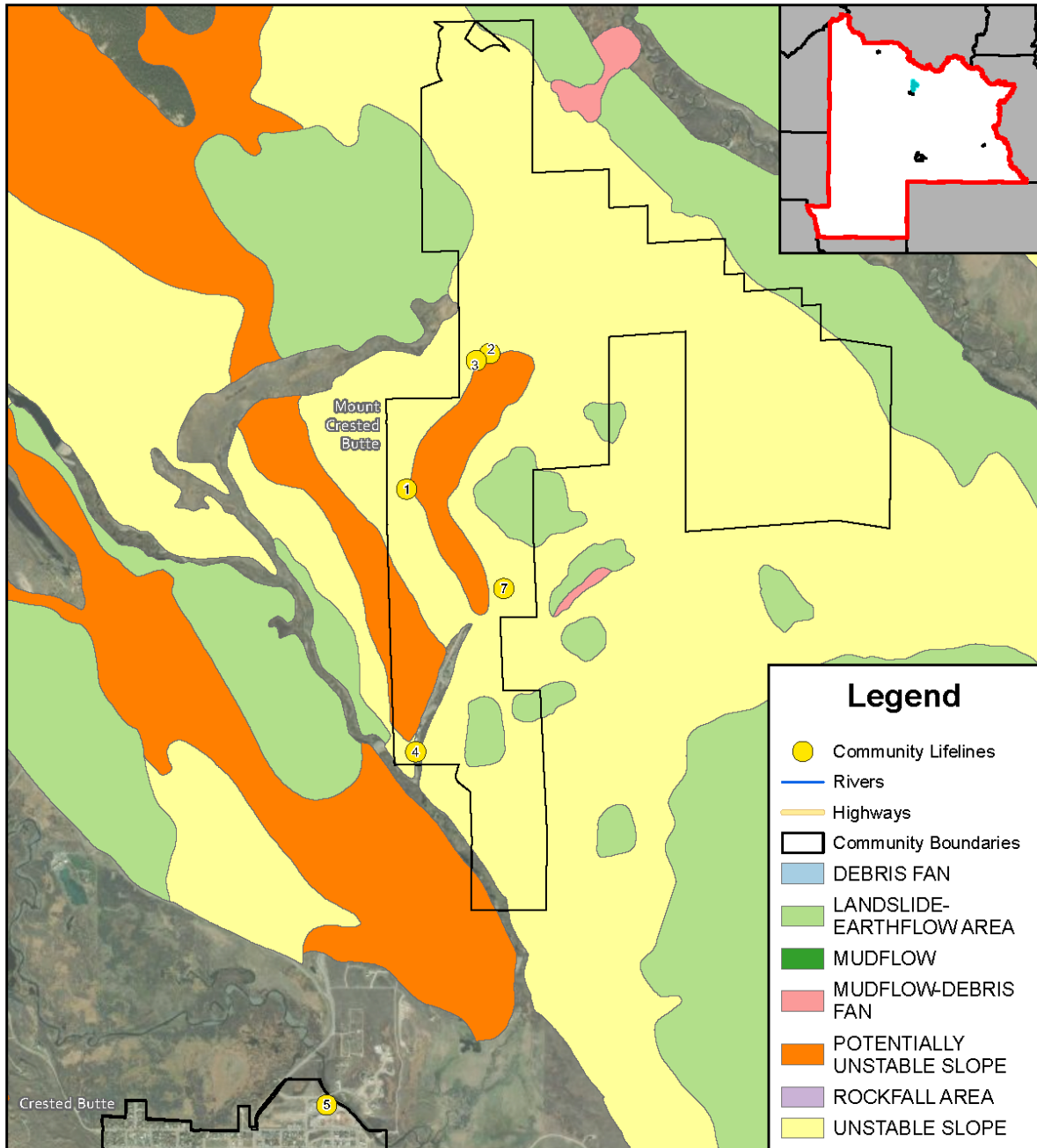
Landslide/Rockfall/Debris Flow*Level of Concern: Moderate*

According to the local planning team, specific vulnerabilities in Mt. Crested Butte to this hazard include steep terrain, freeze-thaw cycles, and road cuts. This has the potential to affect roads and emergency access routes by causing road blockages, building damage, neighborhood isolation, and infrastructure damage. Areas with known landslides, unstable slopes, rockfalls, and mudflows are shown on the map below. The fire station, police station, town hall, and ski area clinic are all located on known unstable slopes. Those community lifelines could see building damage and a temporary loss of services if a landslide were to occur.

New Mitigation and Strategic Actions

Action	Slope Stabilization
Description & Location	Stabilize slopes near critical roads and install rockfall barriers where necessary.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Landslide/Rockfall/Debris Flow
Estimated Cost	\$500,000-\$1,000,000
Local Funding	Town Budget, Grants
Timeline	5+ Years
Priority	Low
Lead Agency	Maintenance Department
Status	New Action. Not Started.

Mt. Crested Butte Mapped Landslide/Rockfall/Debris Flow Risk



Created By: SO
Date: 1/7/2026
Software: ArcGIS Pro
File: Gunnison County HMP

Mt Crested Butte Geologic Hazard Areas

Gunnison County Hazard Mitigation Plan 2026



0 0.25 0.5 Miles

This map was prepared using information from record drawings supplied by JED and/or other applicable state, county, federal, or public or private entities. JED does not guarantee the accuracy of this map or the information used to prepare this map. This is not a scaled plot.

Lightning

Level of Concern: Moderate

Within Mt. Crested Butte, lightning vulnerabilities include outdoor recreation areas, ski lifts, and communication towers. The ski area and communication systems are at risk of being impacted by equipment damage, injuries, and service disruptions. All of the identified community lifelines could be damaged by a lightning event or lose power. Without emergency backup generators, a power outage could cause a temporary loss of services.

New Mitigation and Strategic Actions

Action	Lightning Protection
Description & Location	Install lightning protection on community lifelines.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Lightning
Estimated Cost	\$75,000-\$150,000
Local Funding	Town Budget, Grants
Timeline	5+ Years
Priority	Low
Lead Agency	Maintenance Department
Status	New Action. Not Started.

Mass Casualty Incident

Level of Concern: Moderate

Within Mt. Crested Butte, specific vulnerabilities to a mass-casualty incident include tourism events and ski-area accidents. The medical clinics and other emergency services are likely to be impacted by this hazard, especially with an increased demand for medical response or mutual aid. Local capabilities are likely to become overwhelmed.

New Mitigation and Strategic Actions

Action	Incident Training
Description & Location	Perform training exercises on realistic mass-casualty incidents or pandemics that could occur in the community.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Mass Casualty Incident, Pandemic
Estimated Cost	\$5,000-\$10,000
Local Funding	Town Budget
Timeline	5+ Years
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	Police Department (Lead), Community Development, Fire Department, County Emergency Management
Status	New Action. Not Started.

Pandemic

Level of Concern: Moderate

Given Mt. Crested Butte's tourism-driven economy and limited medical facilities, this hazard could affect both medical clinics and public services. Potential impacts include service disruptions, economic decline, and a strain on public health services. While identified community lifelines are unlikely to be damaged by a pandemic, the services they provide could be affected by staff shortages.

New Mitigation and Strategic Actions

See the *Incident Training* mitigation action under mass casualty incident.

Severe Winter Storm

Level of Concern: High

According to the local planning team, vulnerabilities to severe winter storms include heavy snow accumulation, risk of roof collapse, and transportation disruption. This hazard would impact public transportation, emergency services, and ski areas. Likely impacts include power outages, limited mobility, and increased emergency response times. The identified community lifelines could be damaged by a severe winter storm or experience power outages. Damage is expected to be minimal, but power outages could cause service disruptions.

New Mitigation and Strategic Actions

Action	Backup Generators
Description & Location	Install backup generators on community lifelines.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Avalanche, Communications Disruption / Failure, Earthquake, Extreme Cold, Flooding & Ice Jams, High Wind, Landslide/Rockfall/Debris Flow, Lightning, Severe Winter Storm, Terrorism & Cyber-Attack, Wildfire
Estimated Cost	\$50,000 - \$100,000
Local Funding	Town Budget, Grants
Timeline	2-5 Years
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	Maintenance Department
Status	New Action. Planning Stage.

Terrorism & Cyber-Attack

Level of Concern: Low

With limited cybersecurity infrastructure, the local planning team recognizes the town's vulnerabilities to terrorism and cyber-attack. Communication and municipal operations are most at risk from this hazard, with potential impacts including data loss and service disruption. Additionally, any of the community lifelines could be targets of a terrorist attack. This would cause massive damage to the buildings and a prolonged disruption of services.

New Mitigation and Strategic Actions

Action	Cybersecurity Training & Firewalls
Description & Location	Implement cybersecurity training for all town employees and upgrade firewalls.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Terrorism & Cyber-Attack
Estimated Cost	Staff Time, \$15,000-\$30,000
Local Funding	Town Budget, Grant
Timeline	5+ Years
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	Communications Officer
Status	New Action. Not Started.

Wildfire

Level of Concern: High

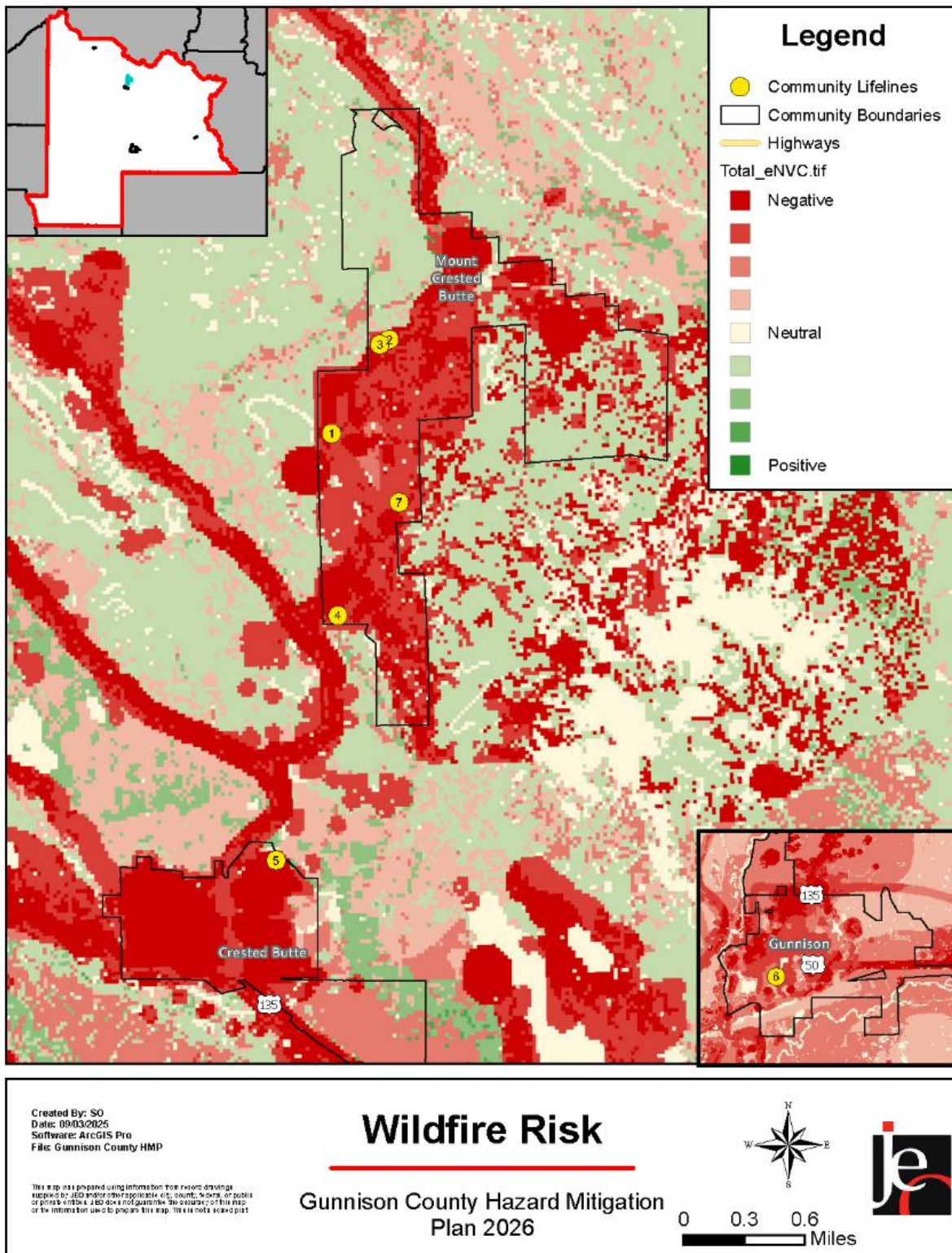
Mt. Crested Butte's proximity to the wildland-urban interface (WUI), dense vegetation, and limited evacuation routes make the local planning team's concern for wildfire high. Almost all community lifelines are at risk in a wildfire event, namely the fire Station, police station, water/sanitation facilities, and the ski area. Likely impacts include a threat to life and property, road closures, power outages, and water contamination. The map below shows the eNVC (composite wildfire risk) for different areas in the community. Community lifelines have a negative composite wildfire risk.

Kept Mitigation and Strategic Actions

Action	Implement Projects Identified in CWPPs
Description & Location	Implementation of landscape-scale fuels-reduction projects and defensible space projects, as identified in the Gunnison County CWPP and other community-specific CWPPs.
Hazard(s) Addressed	\$500,000-\$1,000,000 Over 5 Years
Estimated Cost	Varies Depending on Project
Local Funding	Town Budget, Grants, HMGP
Timeline	2-5 Years
Priority	High
Lead Agency	Upper Gunnison Shared Stewardship Council (Lead), Gunnison County Emergency Management, Fire Departments, Town Manager
Status	The town participates in Upper Gunnison Shared Stewardship Council meetings, which are currently deciding projects to pursue.

Action	Defensible Space and Other Wildfire Regulations
Description & Location	Develop defensible space and other wildfire regulations as a requirement and/or limit new development in high-risk areas.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Wildfire
Estimated Cost	Staff Time
Local Funding	Staff Time
Timeline	2-5 Years
Priority	High
Lead Agency	Community Development Director
Status	Under Development.

Mt. Crested Butte Mapped Wildfire Risk Areas



Fire District Profile

Gunnison County Fire Protection District Profile

**Gunnison County
Hazard Mitigation Plan 2026**

Local Planning Teams

Gunnison County Fire Protection District Local Planning Teams

Name	Title	Fire District	Round 1 Meeting	Round 2 Meeting
Hugo Ferchau	Chief	Gunnison County FPD	Attended	Attended
Tom McDonough	Deputy Chief	Gunnison County FPD	Attended	-
Joe Ricks	Assistant Chief	Gunnison County FPD	-	-

Plan Maintenance

Hazard Mitigation Plans are living documents and should be updated regularly to ensure effectiveness and reflect changes in hazard events, priorities, and mitigation actions. These updates are encouraged to occur after every major disaster event, alongside planning document updates, before the Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants cycle begins, and/or before other funding opportunity cycles begin.

The Fire Chief, Deputy Chief, and Assistant Chief will be responsible for reviewing and updating this participant profile outside of the five-year update. The Gunnison County Fire Protection District will review the plan biannually, and the public input will be collected during normal interactions with the public.

Demographics

Fire districts do not collect demographic information, and the U.S. Census Bureau does not recognize them as distinct units. According to the district, the area's regular population (the City of Gunnison and the Gunnison County FPD combined) is around 14,077. However, this does not include part-time residents, tourists, or motorists who pass through. Highway traffic through the district is typically between 15,000 and 22,500 people per day.

Capability Assessment

The planning team assessed the Gunnison County Fire Protection District's hazard mitigation capabilities by reviewing its planning, regulatory, administrative, technical, fiscal, education, warning, and outreach capabilities. The tables below list the district's response vehicles, special equipment, and capabilities. The district does not have the capacity to increase any of its capabilities in the near future.

Gunnison County Fire Protection District Response Vehicles & Special Equipment

Call Sign	Year	Make	Model
Fire Chief 1	2024	Ford	F-250
Fire Officer 2	2024	Ford	F-250
Fire Officer 1	2024	Ford	F-250
Rescue 20	2023	Ford/SVI	F-550
Tender 25	2025	International/SVI	HV507
Tender 26	2024	International/SVI	HV507
Ranger	2024	Polaris	Ranger

Section Eight | Gunnison County Fire Protection District Profile

Call Sign	Year	Make	Model
Trailer - Ranger	2024	TNT	RT10216XPSSBS
Trailer - Dump	2023	LoadTrail	-
Draft Commander	2022	Hillsboro/Weiss	Draft Commander
Engine 619	2022	Ford/BFX	F-550
Trailer - Swiftwater	2020	Triton	XT12-101-SQ
Brush 27	2019	Ford	F-550
Rescue 21	2019	Ford/SVI	F-550
Fire Officer 3	2018	Ford	F-150
Fire Officer 4	2018	Ford	F-150
Brush 28	2015	Ford	F-550
Brush 29	2015	Ford	F-550
Engine 23	2014	Rosenbauer	Commander
Rescue 22	2003	International/SVI	2674
Trailer - Facility	2003	CMT	-
Fire Chief 2	2000	Ford	F-250
Flatbed	1998	Ford	F-350
1948 Ford	1948	Ford	F-3
Tender 73	2007	Freightliner/Smeal	M2
Brush 36	2005	Chevrolet	Silverado 3500
Tender 33	2004	International/Welch	-
Engine 35	1995	International/Smeal	4800
Tender 36	1979	International	-
Brush 52	2009	Chevrolet	Silverado 3500
Rescue 51	2004	Ford/E-One	F-550
Brush - Fiona	1995	Chevrolet	Cheyenne 3500
Brush 71	2007	Ford	F-550
Engine 72	2006	International/E-One	SR525
Ladder 11	2019	Rosenbauer/Metz	T-Rex
Fire Marshal 1	2017	Ford	F-150
Engine 12	2016	International / Rosenbauer	7400 Timberwolf
1937 Dodge	1937	Dodge	
City 2	1984	Ford/E-One	9000
Model-T	1925	Ford/IHC	Model-T
Haz-Mat Trailer	2001	WW	Enclosed Trailer

Gunnison County Fire Protection District Capability Assessment

Capability/Planning Mechanism		Yes/No
Planning & Regulatory Capability	Strategic Plan	No
	Capital Improvements Plan	Yes
	Fuels Management Plan	No

Capability/Planning Mechanism		Yes/No
	Emergency Operations Plan	No
	Fire Building Codes	Yes
	Source Water Protection Plan	No
	Community Wildfire Protection Plan	Yes
	Hazard Specific Ordinances	No
	Erosion/Sediment Control Plan	No
	Elevation Certificates	Yes
	Response Plan	No
	Standard Operating Procedures/Guidelines	Yes
	Other (if any)	-
Administrative & Technical Capability	Training Director	Yes
	Planner/Engineer (Land Development)	No
	Planner/Engineer/Scientist (Natural Hazards)	No
	Wildfire Resilience Planner	No
	Transportation Planner	No
	Fire Inspector	Yes
	Grant Manager	No
	GIS Capabilities	No
	Mutual Aid Agreement	Yes
	Site Plan Review Requirements	Yes
	Other (if any)	-
Fiscal Capability	1- & 6-Year Plan	Yes
	Applied for Grants in the Past	Yes
	Awarded a Grant in the Past	Yes
	Authority to Levy Taxes for Specific Purposes, such as Mitigation Projects	No
	Development Impact Fees	No
	General Obligation Revenue or Special Tax Bonds	No
	Withheld Spending in Hazard-Prone Areas	No
	Other (if any)	-
Education & Outreach Capability	Local Citizen Groups or Non-Profit Organizations Focused on Environmental Protection, Emergency Preparedness, Access and Functional Needs Populations, etc.	Yes
	Ongoing Public Education or Information Program (e.g., Responsible Water Use, Fire Safety, Household Preparedness, Environmental Education)	Yes

Capability/Planning Mechanism		Yes/No
	Natural Disaster or Safety-Related School Programs	Yes
	Firewise Communities Certification	No
	Other (if any)	-
Warning Systems / Services	General	County
	Flood	County
	Wildfire	County
	Tornado	County
	Geological Hazards	County
	Other (if any)	-

Gunnison County Fire Protection District Overall Capability

Capability	Limited/Moderate/High
Financial Resources to Implement Mitigation Projects	Limited
Staff/Expertise to Implement Projects	Limited
Public Support to Implement Projects	Limited
Time to Devote to Hazard Mitigation	Limited
Ability to Expand and Improve the Identified Capabilities to Achieve Mitigation	Limited

Plans and Studies

The Gunnison County Fire Protection District has several planning documents that discuss or address hazard mitigation. Each plan is listed below, along with a description of how it is integrated with the hazard mitigation plan or contains hazard mitigation principles. When the district updates these planning mechanisms, the local planning team will review the hazard mitigation plan for opportunities to incorporate the goals and objectives, risk and vulnerability data, and mitigation actions into the update. Unless otherwise specified below, the hazard mitigation plan has not been integrated into these or other planning mechanisms.

Capital Improvements Plan

A capital improvements plan identifies, prioritizes, and schedules major capital projects and purchases needed to maintain or improve fire protection and emergency services. Applicable projects identified in the plan have been included as mitigation actions in this profile.

Gunnison County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (2025)

The Gunnison County Fire Protection District is part of the Gunnison County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). The Gunnison County CWPP identifies wildfire risks and outlines a plan to reduce them and enhance preparedness. It also defines the wildland-urban interface, identifies areas where vegetation management should be prioritized, and discusses potential wildfire mitigation actions. Projects identified in the Gunnison County CWPP have been included as mitigation actions in this profile.

Standard Operating Procedures

The standard operating procedures and response plan outline the district's response to a variety of different calls that could be received. These procedures and responses are unlikely to be further integrated into the hazard mitigation plan, as they address response efforts.

Wildland-Urban Interface Code (2022)

A wildland-urban interface code establishes minimum regulations for building construction, design, and defensible space in areas identified as the wildland-urban interface. The district collaborates with Gunnison County on public education and code enforcement. The code is unlikely to be integrated with the hazard mitigation plan, but could be integrated with the community wildfire protection plan in the future.

Future Development Trends

Within the past five years, the district acquired 12 new apparatus for training, response, and the national dispatch program. Over the next five years, the district is working on a campaign to replace the existing Gunnison Firehouse. The new apparatus decreased the district's vulnerability to wildfire as response capabilities have increased. Risk and vulnerability to all other hazards are likely unchanged since the last plan update.

Community Lifelines

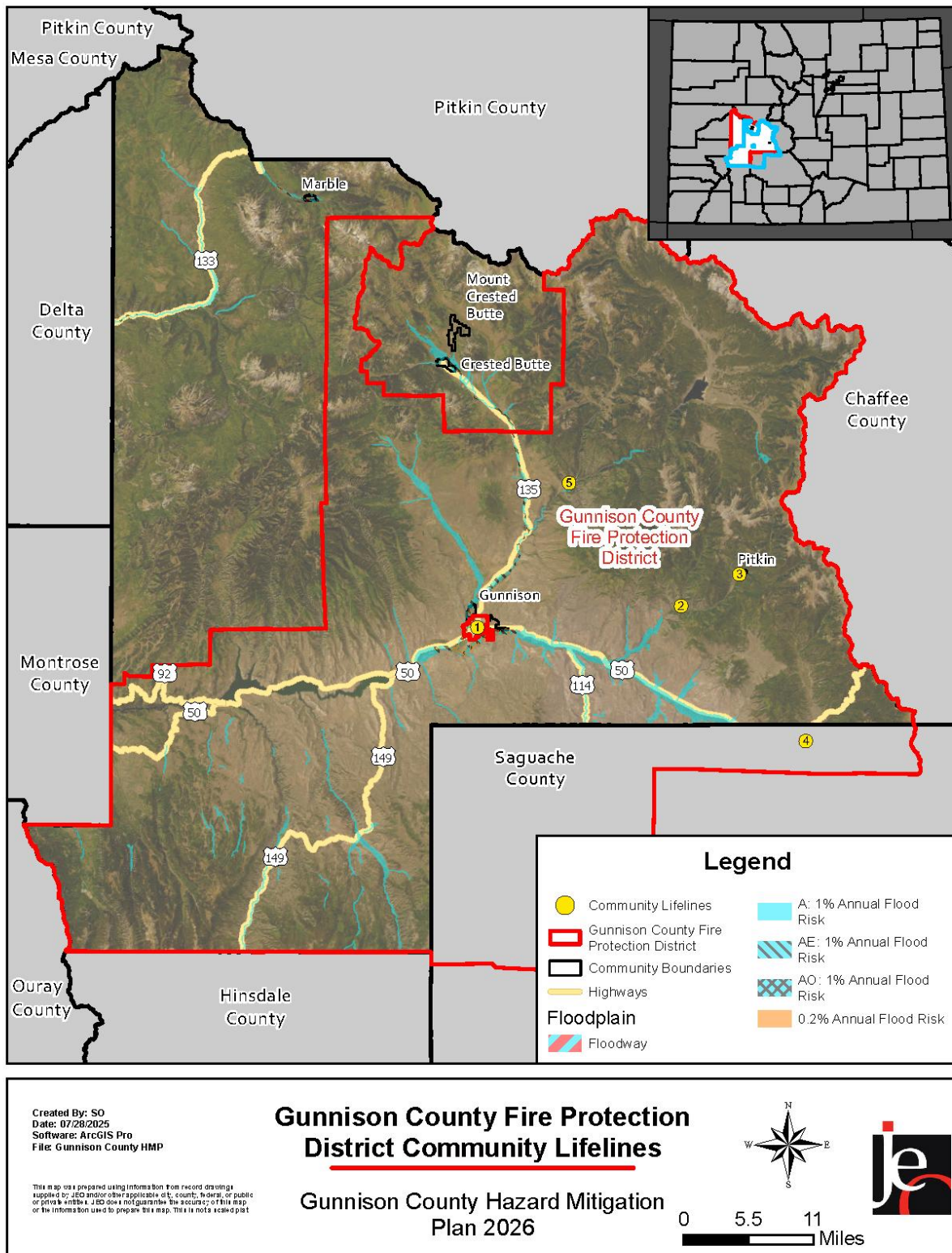
As listed in the following table, each participating jurisdiction identified community lifelines vital for disaster response and essential for returning the jurisdiction's functions to normal during and after a disaster, per the FEMA Community Lifelines guidance. The FEMA lifeline categories include Safety and Security; Food, Hydration, and Shelter; Health and Medical; Energy; Communications; Transportation; Hazardous Materials; and Water Systems.



Gunnison County Fire Protection District Community Lifelines

CL Number	Name	Community Lifeline Type	Generator (Y/N)	Floodplain (Y/N)
1	Gunnison Volunteer Fire Department	Safety and Security	Yes (Portable)	No
2	Ohio City Volunteer Fire Department	Safety and Security	No	No
3	Pitkin Volunteer Fire Department	Safety and Security	No	No
4	Sargents Fire Station	Safety and Security	No	No
5	Taylor Canyon Volunteer Fire Department	Safety and Security	No	No

Gunnison County Fire Protection District Community Lifelines Map



Hazard Vulnerabilities and Mitigation Strategy

The Gunnison County Hazard Mitigation Plan evaluates a range of natural and human-caused hazards that pose risks to the county, communities, and other participants. During the planning process, the local planning team outlined district vulnerabilities to each hazard and rated the level of concern for each. Mitigation actions were also identified for each hazard that could impact the fire district. The following section summarizes this information. For additional information about each hazard, see *Section Five and Appendix A*.

Avalanche

Level of Concern: Low

In recent history, the district has not been called to respond to an avalanche. While this doesn't mean avalanches don't occur, they typically don't require a fire response. Most avalanches in the district occur in unpopulated areas. However, as the district continues to develop, the potential for avalanche impacts will increase. This hazard is unlikely to impact the identified community lifelines, as none are located in known avalanche areas.

Kept Mitigation and Strategic Actions

Action	Radios and Radio Infrastructure
Description & Location	Additional repeater sites are needed to have coverage over the entire district response area. With four additional sites, the fire district could cover the most populated and traveled parts of the district.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Avalanche, Communication Disruption/Failure, Dam Failure, Earthquake, Extreme Cold, Flooding & Ice Jams, Ground Subsidence & Expansive Soils, High Wind, Landslide/Rockfall/Debris Flow, Lightning, Severe Winter Storm, Terrorism & Cyber-Attack, Wildfire
Estimated Cost	\$4,000,000
Local Funding	General Fund
Timeline	5+ Years
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	GHETSA (Lead), Fire Chief
Status	New Action. Not Started.

Communications Disruption / Failure

Level of Concern: High

The impact of a communications disruption will depend heavily on the mode of communication affected. For example, the district reports that, in the event of a loss of VHF radio communication, the impact will be less severe. However, if the DTR system were to fail, then the concern would be much greater. One of the greatest concerns regarding this hazard is the potential loss of internet service. This would result in the loss of all VoIP telephone resources, which is how nearly all their communication is conducted (especially for receiving emergency calls from the public). The district's last line of defense for communications is the Starlink satellite. This hazard could greatly affect all community lifelines and their ability to respond to emergencies.

Kept Mitigation and Strategic Actions

See the *Radios and Radio Infrastructure* mitigation action under avalanche.

Dam Failure

Level of Concern: Low

There are four high-hazard dams in the district, and the district and neighboring jurisdictions are potentially impacted by dam failure. The Taylor Canyon Volunteer Fire Department building would be severely impacted in the event of a failure of the Taylor Dam, as it is located in the dam's inundation area. All other identified community lifelines are located outside the dam-inundation areas. Access and response times would be impacted during a dam failure event due to closed roadways.

Kept Mitigation and Strategic Actions

See the *Radios and Radio Infrastructure* mitigation action under avalanche.

Drought

Level of Concern: High

The district's main concern regarding drought is the increased wildfire risk it creates. Wildfires will become more likely, and the district will have less water available to fight them. Water-hauling distances and turn times will increase due to lower stream flows and empty ponds/reservoirs. Generally, the lower elevations and southern portions of the district are reportedly more susceptible to drought. The identified community lifeline fire stations are unlikely to be directly impacted or damaged by drought.

Kept Mitigation and Strategic Actions

Action	Additional Water Supply
Description & Location	When opportunities arise to install dry hydrants to improve access to static water supplies, work with HOA representatives to implement the changes. Work with HOA representatives on above-ground water storage and provide pressurized water sources.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Drought
Estimated Cost	\$15,000 - \$25,000 per Dry Hydrant \$50,000+ Above Ground Water Storage
Local Funding	General Fund
Timeline	Ongoing
Priority	High
Lead Agency	Fire Chief (Lead), HOAs
Status	New Action. Not Started.

Earthquake

Level of Concern: Low

While there are several fault lines in the area and past earthquakes have occurred, the district has not experienced regular or severe earthquakes. If an earthquake were to occur, the most significant impact on the community lifelines would be on their physical structures, especially because most infrastructure is not yet built to withstand a severe earthquake. All lifelines could sustain damage to buildings, potentially causing a temporary loss of service.

Kept Mitigation and Strategic Actions

See the *Radios and Radio Infrastructure* mitigation action under avalanche.

Extreme Cold

Level of Concern: Low

The district considers the concern of extreme cold conditions to be low because low temperatures are expected each winter. Local infrastructure is resilient to the cold, and impacts are not typically significant unless they are coupled with another emergency or hazard. If an emergency call occurs during the period of extreme cold, it will limit the outside working time and will require more responders for extended operations. All identified community lifelines could experience power outages, potentially causing temporary service interruptions.

Kept Mitigation and Strategic Actions

See the *Radios and Radio Infrastructure* mitigation action under avalanche.

Flooding and Ice Jams

Level of Concern: Moderate

With the expected cold and several rivers running through the district, there is potential for flooding and ice jams each year. The low-lying areas next to the rivers are the most susceptible to impacts. While none of the community lifelines would experience direct negative impacts, the Gunnison Fire Department and Taylor Canyon Fire would be most likely to respond to flooding or an ice jam (due to their proximity to the rivers). Response times could also be affected by flooded roadways.

Kept Mitigation and Strategic Actions

See the *Radios and Radio Infrastructure* mitigation action under avalanche.

Ground Subsidence & Expansive Soils

Level of Concern: Low

As reported by the district, this has not been a specific reported hazard in the past 25 years. However, given the district's soil composition, this hazard is a possibility. The western edge of the district (near the Cimarron Valley) appears to have the greatest soil susceptibility to this hazard. The identified community lifelines are unlikely to be impacted as they are not located in any known subsidence or expansive soil areas.

Kept Mitigation and Strategic Actions

See the *Radios and Radio Infrastructure* mitigation action under avalanche.

Hailstorm

Level of Concern: None

According to the district, hail is not generally a concern in the area. Hailstones tend to be small and don't cause much damage. This hazard is unlikely to affect community lifelines.

New Mitigation and Strategic Actions

No mitigation action is identified as this hazard would not impact the district.

Hazardous Materials Release

Level of Concern: Moderate

Highway 50 is the designated hazardous materials route across Colorado. The potential for a significant release is relatively high, but only limited amounts of material can be transported by truck. There is no rail transportation through the district, and there is limited industry, so the district's main concerns regarding a hazardous materials release event are related to the highway or other smaller sources. The Sargents Fire Station and Gunnison Fire Station are located near Highway 50 and could be impacted by a hazardous materials release. In the event of this hazard, Gunnison County Fire is the only station that houses Haz-Mat Technicians.

Kept Mitigation and Strategic Actions

Action	Detection Equipment
Description & Location	Purchase detection equipment; specifically, replace Smith's Haz ID, as it has passed its end of life.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Hazardous Materials Release
Estimated Cost	\$150,000
Local Funding	General Fund
Timeline	2-5 Years
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	Fire Chief
Status	New Action. Not Started

High Wind

Level of Concern: Moderate

The district faces several potential impacts from a high wind event. Blowdown from microbursts or other isolated wind events becomes hazardous as it dies out and fuels fires. Wind-driven fires are the most difficult to fight, whether they're structure or wildland fires. All areas of the district are susceptible to high winds, and in recent years a wind event has turned a wildfire into an urban conflagration. High winds can cause damage or power outages to any of the identified community lifelines. Damage is likely to be minimal and will not affect the services provided by the district. A power outage could cause a temporary service interruption.

Kept Mitigation and Strategic Actions

See the *Radios and Radio Infrastructure* mitigation action under avalanche.

Landslide/Rockfall/Debris Flow

Level of Concern: Low

The west edge of the district tends to have the most issues with landslides, but many areas of the district can be susceptible as well. The Taylor Canyon Fire Station is the only identified community lifeline that this hazard could directly impact, as it is located in a known hazardous area. Response times could be affected by closed roadways after a landslide, rockfall, or debris flow incident.

Kept Mitigation and Strategic Actions

See the *Radios and Radio Infrastructure* mitigation action under avalanche.

Lightning

Level of Concern: Moderate

Lightning can create multiple issues within the district. A widespread power outage caused by lightning can disrupt communication. The district sees numerous lightning fires each year. Damage to the fire stations could also occur, but would likely be limited and may only cause a temporary loss of services.

Kept Mitigation and Strategic Actions

See the *Radios and Radio Infrastructure* mitigation action under avalanche.

Mass Casualty Incident

Level of Concern: Moderate

The district considers the planes and buses passing throughout the area the most likely potential for a mass casualty incident. In recent history, the largest mass-casualty incident was a natural gas leak at an ice rink during a hockey tournament. There were over 100 patients. No fatalities occurred from this incident. This hazard is unlikely to directly affect the identified community lifelines. However, the district would be the first responders to an incident, and its capabilities could quickly become overwhelmed.

Kept Mitigation and Strategic Actions

See the *Gunnison Volunteer Fire Department Station Replacement* mitigation action under wildfire.

Pandemic

Level of Concern: Moderate

There are limited local healthcare resources, so the fire district would likely be called upon to provide treatment, testing, ambulance transportation, and vaccinations in the event of a pandemic. Staffing may become difficult if individuals are sick. Identified community lifelines would not be directly affected, but response times would be impacted due to the potential for limited staff.

Kept Mitigation and Strategic Actions

See the *Gunnison Volunteer Fire Department Station Replacement* mitigation action under wildfire.

Severe Winter Storm

Level of Concern: Low

The district reports a high level of preparedness in the area to handle a large storm. There is sufficient public and private infrastructure in place to deal with this hazard. This hazard could affect community lifelines without backup power generators, potentially resulting in temporary

service interruptions during power outages. These events could also damage lifelines, but the expected damage would be minimal.

Kept Mitigation and Strategic Actions

See the *Radios and Radio Infrastructure* mitigation action under avalanche.

Terrorism & Cyber-Attack

Level of Concern: Moderate

Data for the district is stored on the City of Gunnison server, so the City would handle any cyberattack. The impacts of a terrorist or cyber-attack include the inability to respond in the usual, timely manner due to communication disruptions. The fire stations could also be targets of a terrorist event. This could cause major damage or destruction of a station.

Kept Mitigation and Strategic Actions

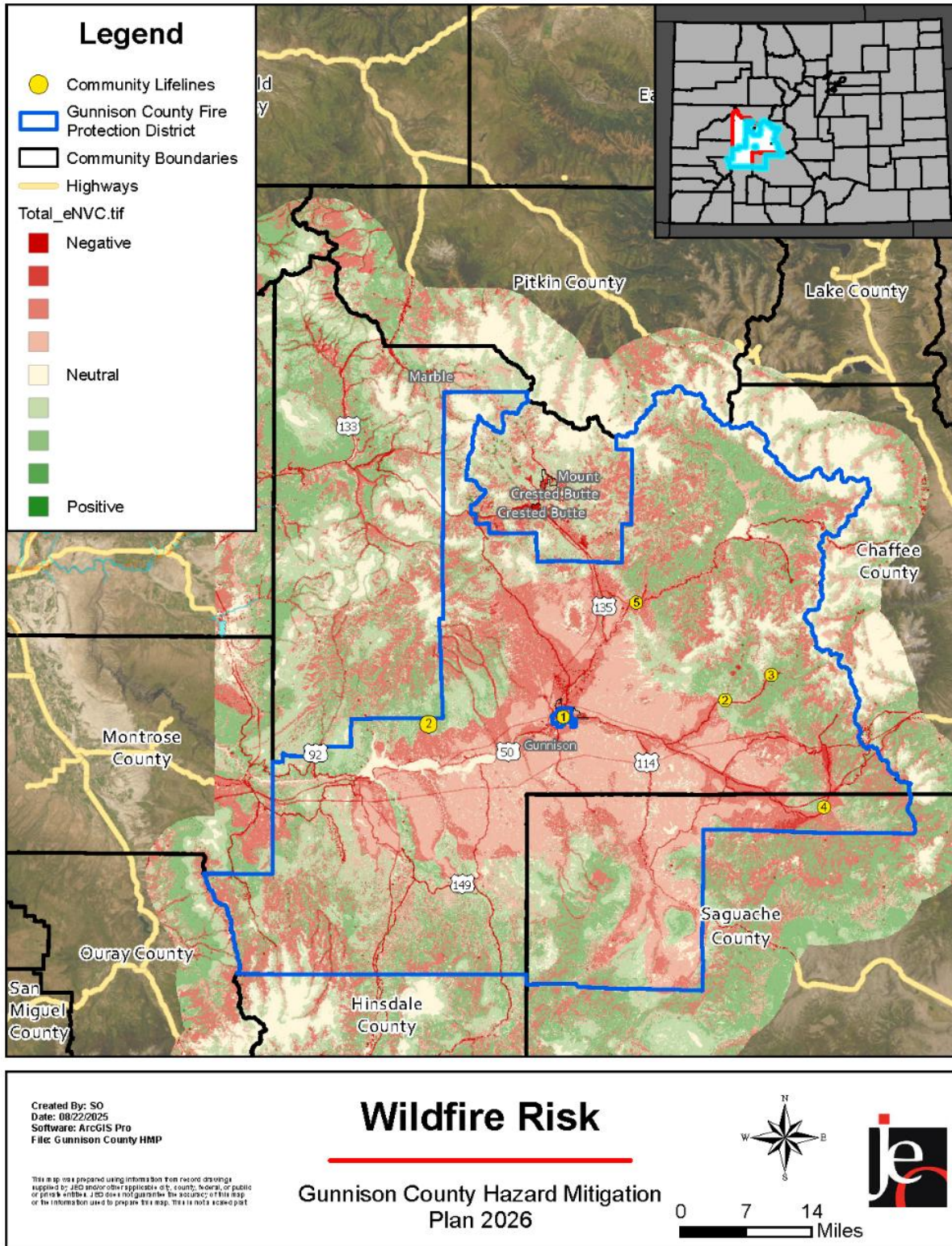
Action	IT Staff
Description & Location	Add additional IT staff. Currently, it is a department of one with no redundancy or help.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Terrorism & Cyber-Attack
Estimated Cost	\$100,000 per Year
Local Funding	General Fund
Timeline	2-5 Years
Priority	High
Lead Agency	City Administrator (Lead), Fire Chief
Status	Funding Started. Once the district's ballot measures pass, funding will be available for this position.

Wildfire

Level of Concern: Moderate

The district has 2,700 square miles of wildland exposure. There is a high probability that the district will experience a wildfire each year. The map below shows the eNVC (composite wildfire risk) for different areas in the fire district. All identified community lifelines are located in high-risk areas, with significant negative impacts anticipated if a wildfire were to occur.

Wildfire Risk in the Gunnison County Fire Protection District



Kept Mitigation and Strategic Actions

Action	Additional Outlying Stations & Apparatus
Description & Location	In rural Colorado, homeowners are losing their insurance. To be considered insurable, there must be a fire station within five road miles of their home. Additional stations would allow for more homes to be covered. There would be a need for volunteers to respond from those stations.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Communication Disruption/Failure, Dam Failure, Flooding, Hazardous Materials Release, Mass Casualty Incident, Pandemic, Terrorism & Cyber-Attack, Wildfire
Estimated Cost	\$2,000,000 per Station
Local Funding	Ballot Measure
Timeline	5+ Years
Priority	High
Lead Agency	Fire Board (Lead), City of Gunnison
Status	New Action. Not Started.

Action	Implement Projects Identified in CWPPs
Description & Location	Implementation of landscape-scale fuel reduction projects, as well as defensible space projects, as identified in the Gunnison County CWPP.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Wildfire
Estimated Cost	Varies Depending on Project
Local Funding	General Fund
Timeline	Ongoing
Priority	High
Lead Agency	Upper Gunnison Shared Stewardship Council (Lead), Gunnison County Emergency Management, Gunnison County Fire Protection District, City Administrator
Status	The district participates in Upper Gunnison Shared Stewardship Council meetings, which are currently deciding projects to pursue.

Action	Gunnison Volunteer Fire Department Station Replacement
Description & Location	Replace the existing Gunnison Volunteer Fire Department station with a brand new location and building. Having a station with sufficient space for apparatus and training, and the ability to accommodate firefighters overnight, will improve many aspects of readiness and response.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Communication Disruption/Failure, Dam Failure, Flooding, Hazardous Materials Release, Mass Casualty Incident, Pandemic, Terrorism & Cyber-Attack, Wildfire
Estimated Cost	\$27,000,000
Local Funding	Ballot Measure
Timeline	2-5 Years
Priority	High
Lead Agency	Fire Board (Lead), City of Gunnison
Status	A feasibility and needs assessment has been completed. The city ballot measure passed, but a district measure needs to pass before any funds can be collected. Design will take place in 2026.

Water & Sanitation District Profile

Mt. Crested Butte Water & Sanitation District

**Gunnison County
Hazard Mitigation Plan 2026**

Local Planning Team

Local Planning Team

Name	Title	Jurisdiction	R1 Meeting	R2 Meeting
Nicole Bogenschuetz	District Engineer	Mt. Crested Butte Water & Sanitation District	Attended	Attended
Mike Fabbre	District Manager	Mt. Crested Butte Water & Sanitation District	Attended	-
Kyle Koelliker	Water Department Supervisor	Mt. Crested Butte Water & Sanitation District	-	-
Adam Bembenek	Wastewater Department Supervisor	Mt. Crested Butte Water & Sanitation District	-	-

Plan Maintenance

Hazard Mitigation Plans are living documents and should be updated regularly to ensure effectiveness and reflect changes in hazard events, priorities, and mitigation actions. These updates are encouraged to occur after every major disaster event, alongside planning document updates, before the Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants cycle begins, and/or before other funding opportunity cycles begin.

The District Engineer, Water Department Supervisor, and Wastewater Department Supervisor will be responsible for reviewing and updating this participant profile outside of the five-year update. The district will review the plan biannually, and the public will be notified via website updates and public board meetings.

Capability Assessment

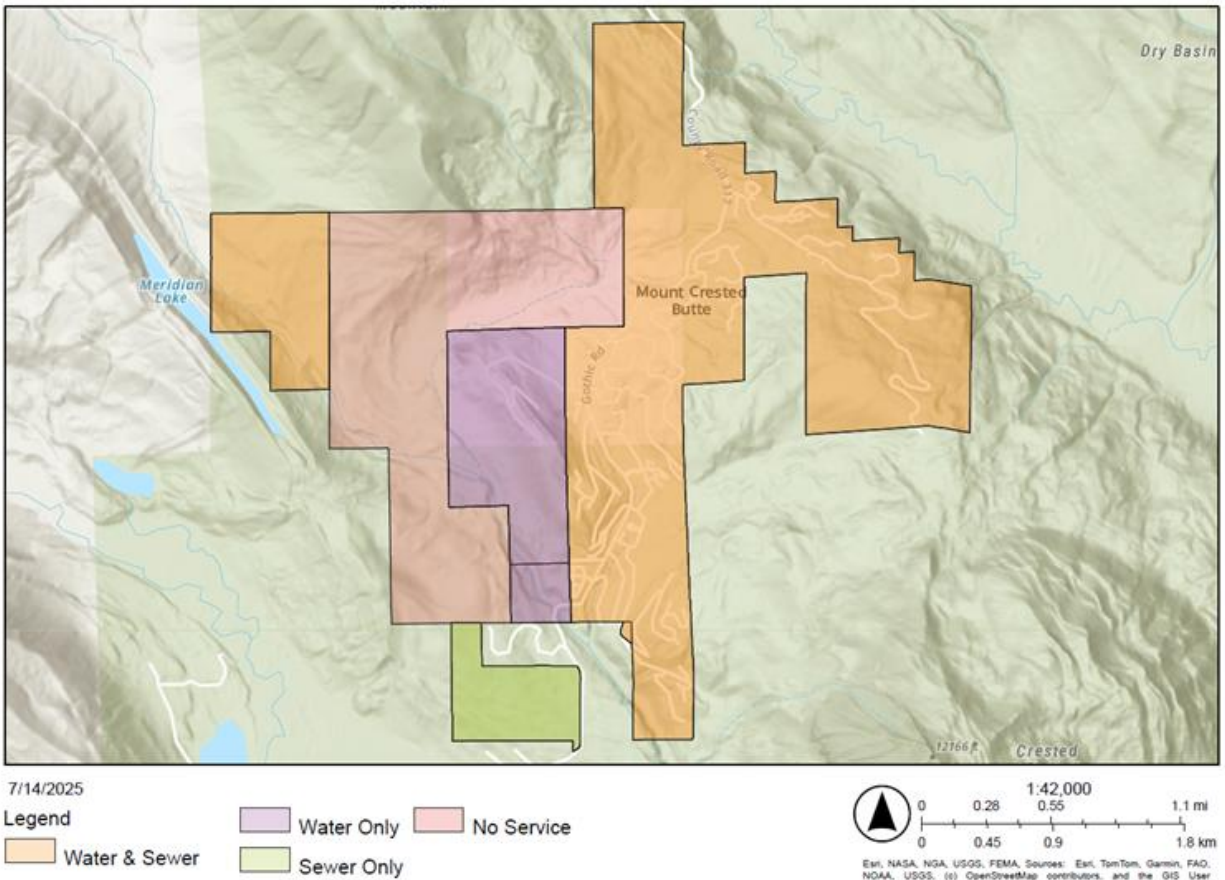
The Mt. Crested Butte Water & Sanitation District provides water and sewer services within the boundary outlined in the figure below. The service area includes Mt. Crested Butte and the surrounding areas. The district plays a crucial role in providing water and wastewater services to the town's year-round population and seasonal visitors.

The district's water distribution system is comprised of the following: two water treatment plants, four pump stations, three tanks, 220 hydrants, 389 valves, over 166,000 feet of distribution and raw water lines, and the Meridian Lake Park No. 1 Dam. The district's wastewater collection system comprises the following: one wastewater treatment plant, seven lift stations, 712 manholes, one vault, and approximately 147,000 feet of collection lines.

The planning team assessed Mt. Crested Butte Water & Sanitation District's hazard mitigation capabilities by reviewing planning, regulatory, administrative, technical, fiscal, education, warning, and outreach capabilities.

The district is striving to increase its capabilities to serve the Town of Mt. Crested Butte at full build-out (requiring approximately a 45% increase in water demand and wastewater capacity). Additionally, the District is at 30% design for the Long Lake Pipeline, which will increase storage capacity, provide redundant water sources, and improve the district's resiliency. The district is also continuing to improve and increase the capabilities of the SCADA system.

Mt. Crested Butte Water & Sanitation District Service Area



Mt. Crested Butte Water & Sanitation District Capability Assessment

Capability/Planning Mechanism		Yes/No
Planning & Regulatory Capability	Strategic Plan	Yes
	Capital Improvements Plan	Yes
	Fuels Management Plan	No
	Emergency Operations Plan	Yes
	Fire Building Codes	Yes
	Source Water Protection Plan	Yes
	Community Wildfire Protection Plan	Yes (County)
	Hazard Specific Ordinances	Yes (Mt. Crested Butte)
	Erosion/Sediment Control Plan	Yes (Mt. Crested Butte)
	Elevation Certificates	No
	Response Plan	Yes
	Standard Operating Procedures/Guidelines	Yes
	Other (if any)	Operation and Maintenance Plan, Upper Gunnison Wildfire Hazard Assessment, and Wildfire Zones of Concern
	Training Director	Yes

Capability/Planning Mechanism		Yes/No
Administrative & Technical Capability	Planner/Engineer (Land Development)	Yes
	Planner/Engineer/Scientist (Natural Hazards)	Yes
	Wildfire Resilience Planner	No
	Transportation Planner	No
	Fire Inspector	No
	Grant Manager	Yes
	GIS Capabilities	Yes
	Mutual Aid Agreement	Yes
	Site Plan Review Requirements	Yes
	Other (if any)	-
Fiscal Capability	1- & 6-Year Plan	Yes
	Applied for Grants in the Past	Yes
	Awarded a Grant in the Past	Yes
	Authority to Levy Taxes for Specific Purposes, such as Mitigation Projects	Yes
	Development Impact Fees	Yes
	General Obligation Revenue or Special Tax Bonds	Yes
	Withheld Spending in Hazard-Prone Areas	No
	Other (if any)	Water/Sewer Service Fees
Education & Outreach Capability	Local Citizen Groups or Non-Profit Organizations Focused on Environmental Protection, Emergency Preparedness, Access and Functional Needs Populations, etc.	No
	Ongoing Public Education or Information Program (e.g., Responsible Water Use, Fire Safety, Household Preparedness, Environmental Education)	Yes
	Natural Disaster or Safety-Related School Programs	No
	Firewise Communities Certification	No
	Other (if any)	-
Warning Systems / Services	General	Yes
	Flood	Yes
	Wildfire	No
	Tornado	No
	Geological Hazards	No
	Other (if any)	-

Mt. Crested Butte Water & Sanitation District Overall Capability

Overall Capability	Limited/Moderate/High
Financial resources to implement mitigation projects	Limited
Staff/expertise to implement projects	Moderate
Public support to implement projects	Moderate
Time to devote to hazard mitigation	Moderate
Ability to expand and improve the identified capabilities to achieve mitigation	Moderate

Plans and Studies

The Mt. Crested Butte Water & Sanitation District has several planning documents that discuss or relate to hazard mitigation. Each plan is listed below, along with a description of how it is integrated with the hazard mitigation plan or contains hazard mitigation principles. When the district updates these planning mechanisms, the local planning team will review the hazard mitigation plan for opportunities to incorporate the goals and objectives, risk and vulnerability data, and mitigation actions into the update. Unless otherwise specified below, the hazard mitigation plan has not been integrated into these or other planning mechanisms. The district also has several other planning mechanisms that are not listed below because they do not relate to hazard mitigation.

Emergency Action Plan - Meridian Lake Park #1 Dam (2025)

The dam Emergency Action Plan identifies potential emergency conditions at the dam and specific actions to be taken to minimize loss of life and property damage in the event of a failure or other hazardous situation. Components of the plan include emergency notification, emergency detection, roles and responsibilities, inundation maps, preparedness actions, and response actions.

Emergency Response Plan (2025)

The District's Emergency Response Plan outlines procedures for responding to water or wastewater emergencies. The plan covers all hazards that could impact operations, including natural disasters, infrastructure failure, contamination events, security incidents, and utility disruptions. It includes incident detection, emergency contacts, roles and responsibilities, response procedures, communication strategies, and recovery.

Operation and Maintenance Plan (2025)

The District's Operation and Maintenance Plan describes how the district will manage, operate, and maintain its water supply, treatment, and wastewater systems to ensure reliable service, regulatory compliance, and long-term infrastructure. It outlines both routine operations, preventative maintenance, and corrective maintenance.

Source Water Protection Plan (2012)

The source water protection plan outlines potential financial and water supply risks associated with contamination of one or more of the district's water sources. It focuses on identifying potential contamination risks, preventing pollution, and ensuring sustainable water availability. Components include water source inventory, contaminant inventory, protection strategies, public education, monitoring, and responsibilities.

Standard Operating Procedures (2024)

Standard Operating Procedures are step-by-step written instructions that guide staff in performing operations, maintenance, safety, and administrative tasks. This provides consistency, safety,

compliance, and documentation for the work that needs to be done. These procedures also include verifying that the systems can operate in an emergency.

Upper Gunnison Wildfire Hazard Assessment and Wildfire Zones of Concern (2023)

The Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District completed the Wildfire Hazard Assessment and Zones of Concern to assess, at a high level, how wildfires and hazards following wildfires (flooding, debris flows, increased sediment yield) and climate change could impact water supplies across all watersheds. The East River and Washington Gulch watersheds were both included in the assessment, which identified the district's water sources. These reports are used to characterize the district's risk and understanding of wildfire hazards to its source water.

Water Master Plan/Capital Improvement Plan (2014/2015)

The water master plan estimated future growth and designed actions to guide facility and distribution system improvements. The master plan is action-oriented and sets forth multiple goals and recommendations to achieve projected growth and improve the emergency water supply. The capital improvement plan included in the master plan provides the District with a long-range planning tool to keep up with growth and provide for expansion of the water system.

Water Resource Master Plan (2024)

The Water Resource Master Plan set forth a water rights plan for augmentation to provide the District with a dependable, year-round water supply capable of meeting existing and future demands within the District's service area. The report provides the District with the best available information to support water resource planning and guide decision-making on future development opportunities.

Wildfire Evacuation Tabletop Exercise (2025)

The Gunnison County Emergency Management Team and the district held a tabletop exercise to learn about Gunnison County Emergency Management's capabilities and to evaluate the effectiveness of the district's existing response plans. The findings from this training were documented in multiple lessons learned from walking through the steps of responding to a wildfire evacuation notice and the impact it would have on district operations.

Future Development Trends

Over the last five years, Mt. Crested Butte has completed several projects. In December 2022, the Water Treatment Expansion Project was completed. It included updates to the facility and the East River Pump Station. A new clarifier was built at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Additionally, the District continues to expand the collection and distribution system to support new developments in the Town of Mt. Crested Butte and Meridian Lake Park. None of the new projects, developments, or infrastructure was located in the floodplain or other known hazardous areas. In the next five years, the district plans to update the Gothic Road Interceptor Line, the Long Lake Pipeline, and the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The new projects and infrastructure built increase the district's risk and vulnerability to drought, earthquakes, hailstorms, high winds, and severe winter storms, as more property could be affected.

Community Lifelines

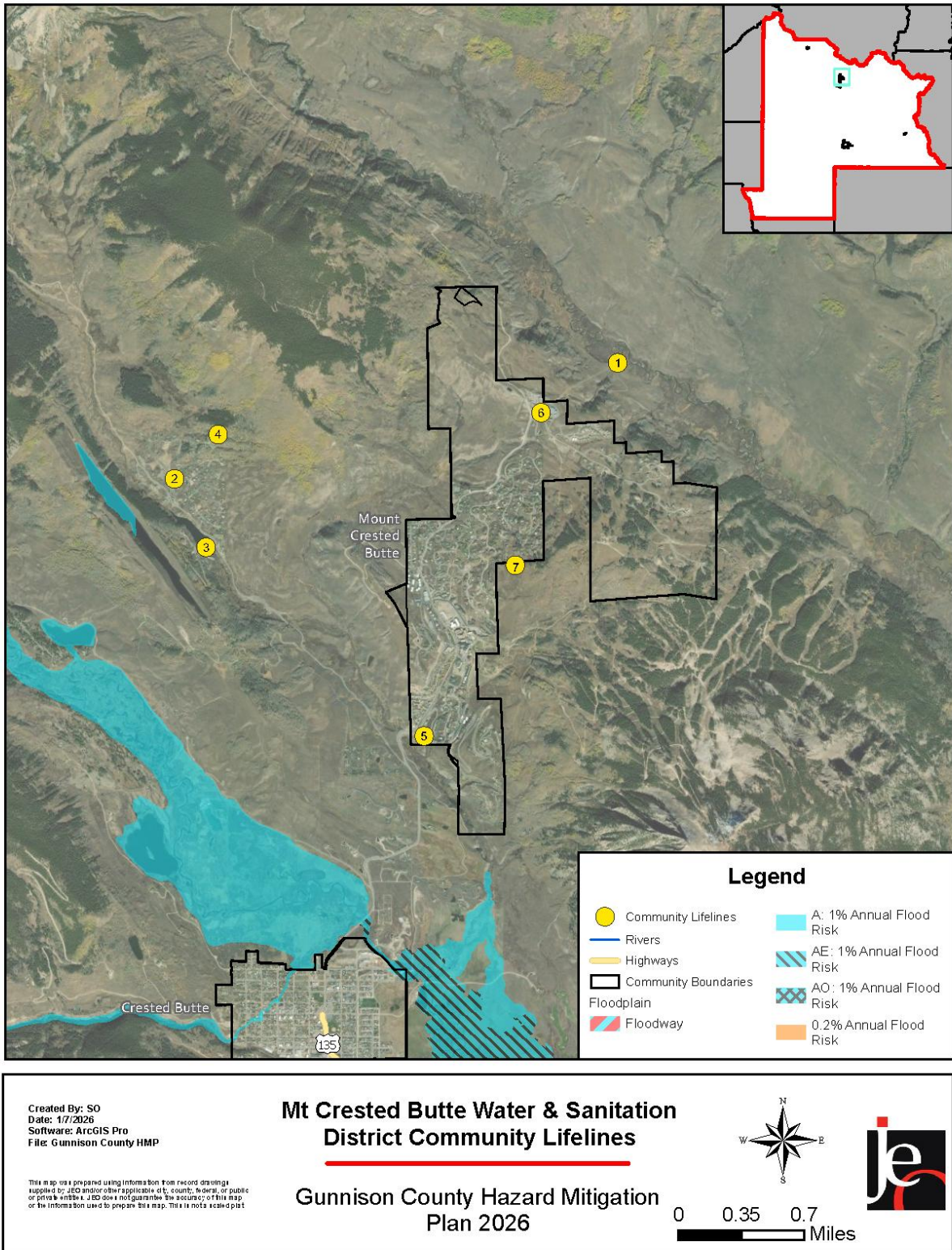
As listed in the following table, each participating jurisdiction identified community lifelines vital for disaster response and essential for returning the jurisdiction's functions to normal during and after a disaster, per the FEMA Community Lifelines guidance. The FEMA lifeline categories include Safety and Security; Food, Hydration, and Shelter; Health and Medical; Energy; Communications; Transportation; Hazardous Materials; and Water Systems.



CL Number	Name	Community Lifeline Type	Generator (Y/N)	Floodplain (Y/N)
1	East River Pump Station	Water Systems	Yes	No
2	Meridian Lake Park (MLP) Water Treatment Plant	Water Systems	Yes	No
3	MLP Pump Station	Water Systems	No	No
4	MLP Tank	Water Systems	No	No
5	Mt. Crested Butte Wastewater Treatment Plant	Water Systems	Yes	No
6	Mt. Crested Butte Water Treatment Plant	Water Systems	Yes	No
7	Timberland Tank	Water Systems	Yes	No
8	7 Lift Stations*	Water Systems	2 Yes, 5 Mobile	No
9	Booster Pump Stations*	Water Systems	Yes	No

*Locations are not mapped due to security concerns.

Mt. Crested Butte Water & Sanitation District Community Lifelines Map



Hazard Prioritization and Mitigation Strategy

The Gunnison County Hazard Mitigation Plan evaluates a range of natural and human-caused hazards that pose risks to the county, communities, and other stakeholders. During the planning process, the local planning team outlined district vulnerabilities to each hazard and rated the level of concern for each. Mitigation actions were also identified for each hazard that could impact the district. The following section summarizes this information. For additional information about each hazard, see *Section Five and Appendix A*.

The District analyzed each vulnerability as it related to its ability to provide the FEMA Lifeline “Water Systems” (which includes both Water and Wastewater Systems). The remaining vulnerabilities were outside the District's scope, although it is known that the impacts would likely be more far-reaching and affect additional lifelines within the community. See the Town of Mt. Crested Butte Community Profile for additional lifeline impacts.

Avalanche

Level of Concern: Moderate

There is known avalanche terrain in a localized area within the Mt. Crested Butte Water & Sanitation District boundary. Access to the East River Pump Station and the wastewater temperature probes are located within these known avalanche areas. In the wintertime, the East River Pump Station is the primary source of water for the Town of Mt. Crested Butte. An avalanche could make access to the pump station and/or wastewater temperature probes impossible. During normal operations, access typically waits until safe access is available. However, during an emergency, damage or a system outage may occur due to the lack of access. Additionally, collections/distribution infrastructure located in easements (not in roadways) is at risk of avalanches. Avalanches would not impact all other identified community lifelines.

The district mitigates this risk through monitoring avalanche conditions, safety training, providing safety equipment to staff, and maintaining access protocols. Additionally, Crested Butte Mountain Resort helps mitigate avalanches along the pump station access road.

New Mitigation and Strategic Actions

Action	SCADA Upgrades
Description & Location	The Water Treatment Plant and Wastewater Treatment Facilities both rely on Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) systems to support critical infrastructure operations and real-time process control. If there were a loss of electrical power, internet connectivity, communications infrastructure, or physical access to the facilities, it would be extremely difficult to maintain continuous oversight, respond to system alerts, and ensure safe and compliant operation. Both the Water Treatment Plant and Wastewater Treatment Facility should upgrade their SCADA platforms to a cloud-based architecture that enables remote access and enhanced data redundancy. Additionally, the district should pursue an internet option that is less susceptible to outages caused by local hazards and utility disruptions. This would include a satellite-based provider, such as Starlink.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Avalanche, Communication Disruption Failure, Dam Failure, Earthquake, Landslide/Rockfall/Debris Flow, Mass Casualty Incident, Pandemic, Severe Winter Storm, Wildfire
Estimated Cost	\$200,000
Local Funding	Grants, District Capital Projects Budget
Timeline	2-5 Years
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	District Manager
Status	New Action. Not Started.

Communications Disruption Failure*Level of Concern: Moderate*

Mt. Crested Butte Water & Sanitation District would be vulnerable to loss of power, cell coverage, radios, and internet systems. If the failure is due to a loss of cellular service and an emergency occurs, the on-call operator may not receive the message. Additionally, it may be challenging to communicate externally with emergency responders and the public. This could lead to delayed emergency response or reduce situational awareness. If the SCADA system were disrupted, the district would lose internal communication. However, through the programmable logic controller (PLC) and manual checks, the facilities could still operate. If all communication went down, the district would rely on signage or door-to-door notifications, depending on the urgency of the situation. Overall, the district relies on multiple communication systems, so if one goes down, there is redundancy.

New Mitigation and Strategic Actions

See the *SCADA Upgrades* mitigation action under avalanche.

Dam Failure*Level of Concern: Low*

Mt. Crested Butte Water & Sanitation District owns the Meridian Lake Park #1 Dam, which is located on Washington Gulch and ultimately flows into the Slate River. The 2010 Hazard Study identified the dam as a Significant Hazard because a dam breach would impact roads and properties along the Slate River. The 2015 Hydrology Study and inundation map outlining the inundation area if Meridian Lake Park #1 Dam were to fail includes a few new homes in Crested

Butte that were constructed near the inundation area along the Slate River, which may require evacuation. While no district community lifelines are in the dam inundation area, a dam failure could cause loss of access via Washington Gulch and Gothic Road (transportation lifeline). It could also damage the raw water source and/or the sewer force main that runs across the dam, leading to a disruption in Meridian Lake Park's water availability and sewer collection system (the water system's lifeline). The district would follow protocol for notification, action, and repair in accordance with the 2025 Emergency Action Plan. No other dams in the county would impact the district, and no upstream dam breach potential would affect the district's ability to deliver water or collect wastewater beyond Meridian Lake Park Dam, a low-hazard dam.

New Mitigation and Strategic Actions

Action	Comprehensive Review Meridian Lake Park No. 1 Dam
Description & Location	A comprehensive review provides a single resource for the dam, operations, monitoring, examination, and historical information. Additionally, the comprehensive review will outline potential failure modes and analyze how these risks can be minimized through recommendations.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Dam Failure, Flooding and Ice Jams
Estimated Cost	\$100,000
Local Funding	District Operation and Maintenance Budget
Timeline	Ongoing
Priority	High
Lead Agency	District Engineer (Lead), Water Department
Status	The District Engineer and Water Department are currently drafting the document. The district has the capability to implement this project.

Drought

Level of Concern: Moderate

Mt. Crested Butte Water & Sanitation District utilizes water primarily from surface water sources on the East River and Washington Gulch. During a drought, senior downstream agricultural water users may place an administrative call on the East River and Washington Gulch. A Firm Yield Analysis (2015) and the Water Resource Master Plan (2024) determined that, even during extreme dry years, there is likely sufficient physical and legal water supply to meet current water demand. If there is a drought, the district would implement an irrigation policy to prescribe a reduced watering schedule. In extreme cases, irrigation would not be allowed, consumption may be reduced, and limited water use and activity in commercial areas would be enforced. None of the district's identified community lifelines would be directly damaged from a drought event.

The District also promotes year-round water conservation through a tiered rate structure, participates in the Town of Mt. Crested Butte Water SMART Program, conducts annual leak detection, and contacts unusually high water users. The district provided input in the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District's Drought Plan and continues to improve its drought planning.

New Mitigation and Strategic Actions

Action	Long Lake Pipeline for Water Redundancy
Description & Location	A Firm Yield Analysis (2015) determined that during extreme dry years, there is likely insufficient physical water supply available to fill Long Lake. Phase 1 of the Long Lake Pipeline aims to refill Long Lake during drought from Washington Gulch. During a drought, senior downstream agricultural water users may place an administrative call on the East River and Washington Gulch. Phase 2 has the goal to transport water from Long Lake to Meridian Lake Park No. 1 Dam and ultimately to the Mt. Crested Butte Water Treatment Plant. Phase 2 will provide the district with additional water availability, redundant water sources, and greater resiliency in the event of a natural disaster affecting source water.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Drought, Wildfire
Estimated Cost	\$10,000,000
Local Funding	Grants, District Capital Projects Budget
Timeline	Phase 1 is currently ongoing. Phase 2 will take 5+ years.
Priority	High
Lead Agency	District Engineer (Lead), Water Department
Status	The 30% Design for Phase 1 is scheduled for completion in 2025.

Earthquake*Level of Concern: Low*

The U.S. Geological Survey rates Colorado as having a low to moderate potential for earthquake occurrence. Additionally, there are no active faults near the District, according to the Colorado Geological Survey. However, no infrastructure, including the treatment plants, is designed to withstand a major earthquake. If a large earthquake were to occur, the damage to all the district's community lifelines and infrastructure would likely be extensive. This may impact water distribution systems and wastewater collection systems. Additionally, staff in or near district structures could be a safety concern.

New Mitigation and Strategic Actions

See the *SCADA Upgrades* mitigation action under avalanche.

Extreme Cold*Level of Concern: Moderate*

Mt. Crested Butte Water & Sanitation District's geographical location makes it exposed to extreme cold. All facilities are designed for extreme cold, with sufficient burial depth to accommodate frost depth, redundant heat sources, and backup power. Additionally, low temperature alarms are integrated into SCADA. If extreme cold coincides with a power outage or fuel shortage, water and wastewater treatment facilities could be affected. The likely impact of extreme cold is that underground pipes and fittings may break. This may impact the water distribution or wastewater collection systems. Additionally, vehicles may not start in extreme cold, potentially increasing response time to emergencies.

New Mitigation and Strategic Actions

Action	Lift Station Protection
Description & Location	The District would like to properly protect these lift stations with buildings. This will help the Wastewater Department protect both the operators and equipment (especially during hazardous weather conditions) and provide system security.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Extreme Cold, Hailstorm, High Wind, Lightning, Severe Winter Storm, Terrorism & Cyber-Attack
Estimated Cost	\$150,000/lift station * 6 lift stations requiring access/protection = \$900,000
Local Funding	Grants, District Capital Projects Budget
Timeline	5+ Years
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	Water Department
Status	In Progress. One of the seven lift stations has been adequately protected with a building.

Flooding and Ice Jams*Level of Concern: Moderate*

The East River Pump Station and Meridian Lake Park #1 Dam are the two most vulnerable locations to flooding and ice jams. The rest of the district's infrastructure is above the floodplain in steep mountainous terrain. The Wastewater Treatment Plant is located on a terrace of Woods Creek. Although this location is not in a mapped floodplain, if the Town of Mt. Crested Butte storm drains outfall flow significantly increases or if Woods Creek becomes dammed in its narrow channel, the Wastewater Treatment Plant may be at risk for flooding.

The East River Pump Station has experienced flooding and ice jams in the past. The East River received increased runoff before the ice melted, causing it to back up. The high-level alarm at the pump station sounded, notifying staff of the conditions. During the winter, East River Pump Station is the primary source of water for the Town of Mt. Crested Butte. If this is impacted, the district may not be able to provide water services. During a flood or ice jam, there is concern that Meridian Lake Park #1 Dam may overtop or increase spillway flows. The impact would be similar to those identified under dam failure. If Woods Creek were to flood, the Wastewater Treatment Plant may be damaged. This would likely affect wastewater processing and may lead to a sanitary sewer overflow. The impact would not only affect the Town of Mt. Crested Butte's wastewater services but could also contaminate downstream users' water.

New Mitigation and Strategic Actions

See the *Comprehensive Review Meridian Lake Park No.1 Dam* mitigation action under dam failure.

Ground Subsidence & Expansive Soils*Level of Concern: Moderate*

Expansive soil is prevalent within the Mt. Crested Butte Water & Sanitation District service area. The identified community lifelines have been engineered to mitigate the impacts of expansive soils. However, expansive soils could impact mainlines, particularly older sections that may lack adequate bedding and/or compaction, resulting in an outage or affecting water or wastewater

services. The district prioritizes these emergencies and works to repair the break and minimize the outage as efficiently as possible.

Given the geology within the district's service area, subsidence is unlikely.

New Mitigation and Strategic Actions

Action	Collection and Distribution Line Replacement
Description & Location	The district's critical infrastructure to maintain the community lifeline of water/wastewater systems is aging, with the oldest pipelines being installed in 1962-1965. The minimum lifespan of these pipelines ranges from 40 to 60 years in corrosive soils, without adequate bedding, and when following current design standards. Thus, multiple pipelines need to be systematically and proactively replaced. If a pressurized pipe is not replaced, it could break and erode the surrounding soil. If it goes unnoticed, ground subsidence may occur, with far-reaching impacts on other community lifelines.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Ground Subsidence & Expansive Soils, Hazardous Materials Release, Landslide/Rockfall/Debris Flow
Estimated Cost	\$500,000
Local Funding	Grants, District Capital Projects Budget
Timeline	5+ Years
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	District Engineer
Status	New Action. Not Start.

Hailstorm

Level of Concern: Low

Large hailstorms that can cause damage to structures, vehicles, or injure personnel working outside are uncommon in the district's service area. Potential impacts include minor damage to structures, buildings, and potential communication systems. It is unlikely that this damage would disrupt water and wastewater services. A large percentage of the district's infrastructure is underground and is unlikely to be impacted by hailstorms.

New Mitigation and Strategic Actions

See the *Lift Station Protection* mitigation action under extreme cold.

Hazardous Materials Release

Level of Concern: Moderate

The Mt. Crested Butte Water & Sanitation District does not store large enough volumes and concentrations of chemicals to be the source of a hazardous material release. Additionally, to reduce the potential, the district utilizes secondary containment and has all the resources onsite to mitigate hazardous chemicals at the plants.

Water sources could be affected by an upstream release of hazardous materials (e.g., from historic mine tailings), leading to water-quality issues. Water quality issues could affect the district's ability to deliver water. However, there is some redundancy in the system's source water

that could reduce the overall impact. If needed, irrigation would not be allowed, consumption may be reduced, and limited water/activity in commercial areas would be enforced.

If a sanitary sewer overflow occurred, it could contaminate local land and water and/or impact the source water of downstream water users and other entities. A sanitary sewer overflow could be caused by aging infrastructure at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, such as the equalization basin, or by exceeding the capacity of the Gothic Road Interceptor Line.

New Mitigation and Strategic Actions

Action	Gothic Road Interceptor Line Capacity Expansion
Description & Location	The trunk line currently accommodates a maximum peak flow from existing customers of approximately 590 gallons per minute (gpm). Multiple developments within the collections interceptor line service area are proposed and/or approved by the Town of Mt. Crested Butte. Combined, these developments exceed the current capacity of the existing trunkline. Exceeding the trunkline's capacity could lead to a sanitary sewer overflow. The scope of this work includes expanding the capacity of the Gothic Road Interceptor Line, including survey, field investigations, design, construction, and testing.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Hazardous Material Release
Estimated Cost	\$29,500,000 (at 30% Design)
Local Funding	Developments, District Capital Projects Budget, Grants
Timeline	Ongoing
Priority	High
Lead Agency	District Engineer
Status	In Progress. HDR completed 30% Design for the District in June 2025. The District is currently under contract with HDR to complete the final design in 2026.

Action	Equalization Basin and Headworks Building Repair
Description & Location	The equalization basin is located inside the Headworks Building. The basin and building are aging, with concrete spalling and cracking, and roof interior damage. The scope of this project would include a structural assessment to determine whether the roof needs to be removed and replaced or whether the basin can be capped. If access to the equalization basin or the Headworks Building were compromised, it would pose challenges for the Wastewater Department in efficiently treating wastewater and could lead to a sanitary sewer overflow.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Hazardous Material Release
Estimated Cost	\$100,000
Local Funding	District Capital Projects Budget
Timeline	Ongoing
Priority	High
Lead Agency	District Engineer
Status	Project planning is underway.

High Wind

Level of Concern: Moderate

High winds are common within the district's service area. The Water Treatment Plant and pre-sedimentation pond are more vulnerable to high winds due to their location at the top of a hillslope. Any direct damage to district-owned community lifelines would be minimal and unlikely to impact distribution. The impact of high winds can include difficulty with travel for operations and maintenance, and may limit access to certain buildings. In a severe case, high winds may knock out power (e.g., at the pre-sedimentation pond). Loss of power without backup power may affect water deliveries.

New Mitigation and Strategic Actions

See the *Lift Station Protection* mitigation action under extreme cold.

Landslide/Rockfall/Debris Flow

Level of Concern: Moderate

The Town of Crested Butte completed a Debris Flow Hazard Technical Memorandum (2025) that encompassed the Mt. Crested Butte Water & Sanitation District service area and water sources in Washington Gulch. The hazard assessment concluded that the service area has the lowest potential for debris flow occurrence. Washington Gulch, which may impact source water, ranges from low to high potential. If a debris flow were to occur, it could impact water quality, which may ultimately affect water deliveries.

There are known, mapped landslides and colluvium located within the service area and near identified community lifelines. Some of these landslides may impact and damage district infrastructure (e.g., slope stability concerns around storage tanks). If there is a slide, creep, or landslide in the vicinity of the district's mainlines, it could impact water and wastewater systems.

New Mitigation and Strategic Actions

See the *Collection and Distribution Line Replacement* mitigation action under ground subsidence & expansive soils.

Lightning

Level of Concern: Moderate

All of Mt. Crested Butte Water & Sanitation District's facilities are susceptible to lightning strikes, specifically the Treatment Plants, lift stations, ERPS, and the presedimentation pond (located on the high point on a ridge). These facilities have lightning protection on the buildings and backup generators if power is disrupted. In extreme cases, lightning can damage electrical panels, including critical components and controls required to operate water and wastewater systems. This could disrupt water and wastewater services. Minor damage to buildings would also be expected from a lightning strike.

New Mitigation and Strategic Actions

See the *Lift Station Protection* mitigation action under extreme cold.

Mass Casualty Incident

Level of Concern: None

A mass casualty incident would likely have no impact on the Mt. Crested Butte Water & Sanitation District unless travel is impacted for an extended period of time.

New Mitigation and Strategic Actions

No mitigation action is identified as this hazard would not impact the district.

Pandemic

Level of Concern: Moderate

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the main vulnerability was the need for in-person work to ensure the successful operation and maintenance of District services. This led to personnel shortages due to illness, quarantines, and the need to maintain safety protocols. Mt. Crested Butte Water & Sanitation District also experienced challenges in having external technicians and contractors travel onsite to inspect and maintain community lifelines and infrastructure. Additionally, the supply chain was disrupted, which caused shortages, delays, and long lead times for materials and equipment that were previously readily available.

New Mitigation and Strategic Actions

See the *SCADA Upgrades* mitigation action under avalanche.

Severe Winter Storm

Level of Concern: Moderate

Mt. Crested Butte Water & Sanitation District's geographical location makes it vulnerable to severe winter storms. Because of this, the district is prepared for this hazard, and the systems are designed to be heated and winterized, as required. The main vulnerability to this hazard concerns personnel and their safety. The biggest detriment is if personnel cannot safely travel to and from work to operate the water and wastewater systems. Gunnison County and the Town of Mt. Crested Butte plow and maintain the roads to mitigate the impacts of a winter storm. Both entities are capable of operating during a severe winter storm. However, during plowing operations, the distribution and collection infrastructure can be damaged (hydrants, manhole covers, etc.). This poses a risk to the safe operation and maintenance of the systems.

Additionally, during a winter storm, access becomes limited, and staff may not be able to reach all lift stations, identified as community lifelines, that lack a maintained road. In these instances, the district would need to rely on SCADA for system monitoring.

New Mitigation and Strategic Actions

Action	Lift Station Access
Description & Location	The Wildhorse Lift Station, a community lifeline, lacks an access road. Meaning, if anything breaks, the Wastewater Department hauls equipment, parts, and tools to the lift station. If there are less-than-ideal conditions (e.g., severe winter storm, extreme cold, etc.), access can be further complicated. The District would like to install access roads to all lift stations. This will help the Wastewater Department respond to emergencies (access to and availability of specialized tools/equipment within a building), protect both operators and equipment (especially during hazardous weather conditions), and ensure system security.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Severe Winter Storm
Estimated Cost	\$150,000/lift station * 6 lift stations requiring access/protection = \$900,000
Local Funding	Grants, District Capital Projects Budget
Timeline	5+ Years
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	District Manager
Status	In Progress. Five of the lift stations have drivable access nearby.

Terrorism & Cyber-Attack*Level of Concern: Moderate*

Due to the sensitive nature of the information and the potential public health risks, Mt. Crested Butte Water & Sanitation District has chosen not to disclose specific vulnerabilities to this hazard. Internal planning and preparedness documents have analyzed terrorism and cybersecurity risks. At the system-wide level, terrorism and cyberattacks could impact, damage, and destroy all identified community lifelines and infrastructure. This could lead to a prolonged loss of services. The district has and maintains organizational cybersecurity measures. This includes implementing firewalls, utilizing antivirus software, conducting frequent data backups, and maintaining a segmented network.

New Mitigation and Strategic Actions

Action	Cybersecurity Improvements
Description & Location	The district plans to improve its cybersecurity and IT infrastructure. This effort will focus on updating existing policies, procedures, and documentation to align with current best practices and emerging threats. A key component of the project involves enhancing physical security measures for critical infrastructure, including server rooms and access-controlled areas. The district will also revise its personal device policies to better manage risks associated with personal device use, ensuring that all devices accessing district systems comply with updated security standards. To strengthen access controls, multi-factor authentication will be required for all users, and data encryption will be enforced. Improvements to server and storage backup protocols will be implemented to support data integrity and rapid recovery in the event of a breach or system failure. Additionally, the district will conduct regular security audits to identify vulnerabilities, assess compliance, and guide ongoing improvements. These efforts collectively aim to safeguard sensitive information, ensure operational continuity, and improve cybersecurity awareness among staff.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Terrorism & Cyber-Attack
Estimated Cost	\$150,000
Local Funding	Grants, District Operating Budget
Timeline	2-5 Years
Priority	High
Lead Agency	District Manager
Status	Project planning is underway.

Wildfire*Level of Concern: Moderate*

Mt. Crested Butte Water & Sanitation District primarily relies on surface water sources to provide the Town of Mt. Crested Butte and surrounding communities with potable water. Many post-wildfire studies have found consequential increases in sediment, nutrients, metals, and ions in stream water. Post-wildfire water quality degradation poses a substantial risk to water supplies and challenges in water treatment operations. There are some redundant water sources that, if a wildfire were to occur in a watershed, could meet a percentage of the water demand. Depending on the time of year and extent, the District may need to establish water restrictions.

Additionally, all of the community lifelines are located in high-risk wildfire areas. A wildfire could damage these buildings, disrupting service. If the Town of Mt. Crested Butte were evacuated due to a catastrophic wildfire, all employees would likely evacuate, and the systems would no longer be maintained.

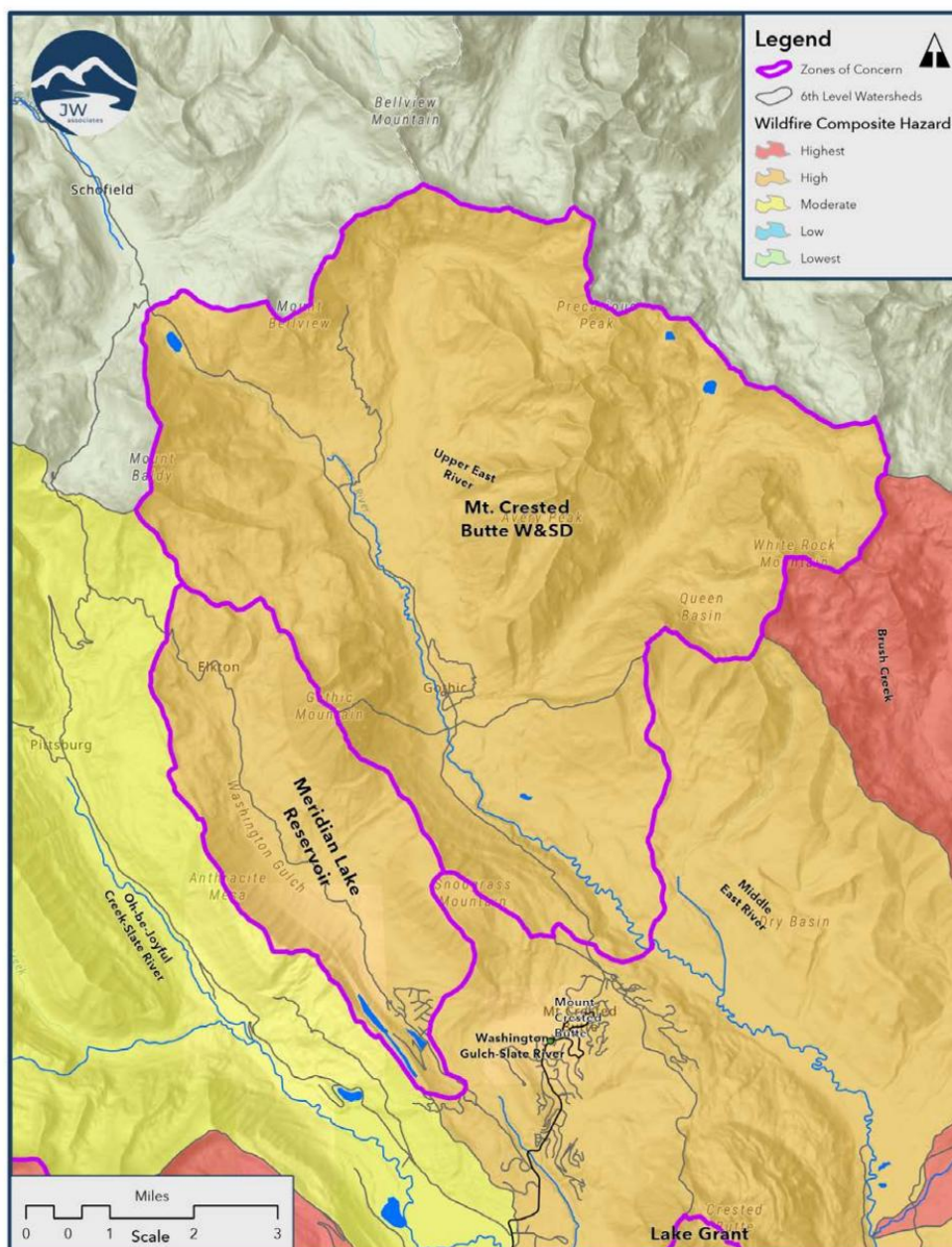
The Town of Crested Butte completed a Wildfire Ready Action Plan within Washington Gulch. Washington Gulch is the source water for Meridian Lake Park. The initial findings determined that the risk assessment matrix ranged from low to high, with an average risk of moderate.

The Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District completed a Watershed Wildfire Hazard Assessment and Zones of Concern assessment in 2023 (as shown on the map below). These

studies concluded that Washington Gulch (Meridian Lake Reservoir) and East River Watershed (Mt. Crested Butte W&SD) are designated as having a wildfire composite hazard of high.

The district maintains and supplies fire hydrants to meet the water flow requirements set by the Fire Marshal. However, the fire hydrants are designed to mitigate structural fires. In the case of a large wildfire, external sources of raw water would be required for firefighting efforts.

Meridian Lake Reservoir & Mt. Crested Butte Wildfire Composite Hazard



Map 61. Meridian Lake Reservoir & Mt. Crested Butte Wildfire Composite Hazard

Source: Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District

New Mitigation and Strategic Actions

Action	Mt. Crested Butte Water Treatment Plant Wildfire Preparation Jar Testing
Description & Location	The district primarily relies on surface water sources to provide potable water to the Town of Mt. Crested Butte and surrounding communities. Many post-wildfire studies have found consequential increases in sediment, nutrients, metals, and ions in stream water. Post-wildfire water quality degradation poses a substantial risk to water supplies and challenges in water treatment operations. A multi-panel jar test can simulate realistic post-wildfire water contamination scenarios that may enter the facility. This can help the district proactively strengthen operational readiness, optimize treatment protocols, and ensure adequate chemical dosing/availability to maintain water safety and regulatory compliance.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Wildfire
Estimated Cost	\$50,000
Local Funding	Water Department Budget, Grants
Timeline	2-5 Years
Priority	High
Lead Agency	Water Department
Status	Project planning is underway.