



MITIGATION Minute

JULY 2026

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Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Funding Resumes

FEMA has reopened the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program, restoring a key funding source for pre-disaster mitigation projects nationwide. The program supports efforts to reduce long-term risk from hazards such as flooding, wildfire, and severe weather.

BRIC funding offers an opportunity to advance local mitigation priorities, including flood risk reduction, infrastructure improvements, and community resilience planning. The program also includes support for capacity-building, which can help smaller or rural communities strengthen future applications.

Montana, like other states, should expect FEMA to move ahead with awarding and obligating BRIC funds for already-selected projects and to reopen the BRIC pipeline for new mitigation applications.

Montana Disaster and Emergency Services encourages eligible applicants to begin early engagement, strong benefit-cost analysis, and alignment with local hazard mitigation plans which remain critical for successful applications. With tighter application timelines anticipated, communities are encouraged to prioritize shovel-ready projects.

Additional information on BRIC funding and resources can be found on MT DES' website at <https://des.mt.gov/Mitigation/Mitigation-Grants>. Contact the MT DES mitigation coordinators with additional questions.



WEBSITE: [DES.MT.GOV](https://des.mt.gov)

FEMA Funding Opportunity to Help Communities Reduce Flood Risk and Save Lives

On April 30, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced \$1.1 billion in new funding opportunities for states, territories and Tribal Nations to make their communities safer from flooding. The two funding opportunities will enable states to protect their communities from the devastating impact of floods, which are the most common and costly type of natural disaster. At the same time, they will limit future National Flood Insurance Program expenses.

FEMA's [Flood Mitigation Assistance](#) program funds community-led projects to reduce or eliminate the risk of repetitive flood damage to structures and buildings insured by the National Flood Insurance Program. Also, as a part of Flood Mitigation Assistance, in 2022 FEMA implemented its [Swift Current](#) grant opportunities which are made available after Presidentially declared flood disasters to expedite the delivery of mitigation awards. Funding for these opportunities comes from the National Flood Insurance Fund and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

Both grants prioritize projects that reduce future disaster recovery costs and enhance community resilience. State, local, tribal and territorial governments are reimbursed for the completion of flood mitigation activities and projects, with a federal cost share of 75-100%.

Grant program information, eligibility criteria, application deadlines, and other essential details are available online at [Grants.gov](#). The **Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)** and **Notice of Intent (NOI)** documents can be found on the MT DES website at <https://des.mt.gov/Mitigation/Mitigation-Grants>.



Above: Image of river flooding and bridge wash out in Lincoln County, MT following December winter storm and atmospheric river rain.

State & Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan Updates

State Plan Update:

- Next meeting TBD.

Regional Plan

- All Regional plans are FEMA approved and locally adopted.

To obtain updates on HMP status, please view the [MT Regions HMP Status Tracker](#).

Forest, Community, and Working Landscapes Climate Resiliency Project Awarded \$49M EPA Grant

Montana has secured a nearly 50 million-dollar federal investment to launch the Forest, Community and Working Landscapes Climate Resiliency Project, aimed at strengthening the state’s forests, farms, and rural communities. The project is funded through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Climate Pollution Reduction Grants program and was selected as one of just 25 awards nationwide.

The initiative will be led by the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation in partnership with the Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Agriculture. Together, these agencies will implement the following seven major measures:

- Forest management and wildfire mitigation;
- Expansion of urban and community forests;
- Mitigation of coal seam fires;
- Reduction of nonpoint-source water pollution;
- Innovation in fertilizer use to improve soil health;
- Ranchland stewardship;
- Innovation in the cattle and beef industry.

Planned outcomes include planting about 2.5 million trees, expanding active forest management to roughly 8,000 acres, and increasing tree canopy in up to 70 Montana communities, with a focus on underserved and disadvantaged areas. The project will also create seasonal jobs—particularly in Tribal communities—for forest management and wildfire mitigation, while investing in practices that reduce agricultural runoff and air pollution from coal seam fires.

State officials describe the grant as a major, incentive-based investment that builds on Montana’s conservation work to date, relying on voluntary and market-driven approaches instead of adding new regulations. By tying environmental goals to on-the-ground work in forests, farms, and small towns, the Forest, Community and Working Landscapes Climate Resiliency Project is intended to both cut climate pollution and make Montana’s working lands more resilient to wildfire, drought, and other natural disasters.

Mitigation Funding Opportunities for 2026

Funding Opportunity	Funds Available	Application Deadline
BRIC	*Varies: See NOFO	July 3, 2026
FMA	*Varies: See NOFO	July 17, 2026

If you are interested in any open mitigation funding opportunity, please complete a NOI (Notice of Intent) located on the [Mitigation Grants page](#) on the MT DES website and submit it to the Mitigation team. Once we receive your NOI, we will reach out to you to further discuss project eligibility and the application process.

**Current Estimated Amounts*

Montana DES, Local and State Partners, and DNRC Engage in Advanced Floodplain Recovery Workshops

In the month of May, the Montana DES Mitigation team attended several Advanced Floodplain Recovery workshops in Stillwater and Yellowstone counties. The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) Floodplain hosted the workshops to facilitate discussions on the intricacies of floodplain work after a disaster.

Meetings with state and local partners included discussions concerning Substantial Damage Assessments, tools and resources, MOUs, and permitting. The workshops provided an opportunity for floodplain managers and emergency managers to learn more about the recovery process. If you are interested in having a workshop hosted in your jurisdiction, please reach out to Traci Sears at DNRC: Tsears@mt.gov.

Montana Silverjackets Hold Annual Meeting



The Montana Silver Jackets held their annual meeting on May 6, 2026 in Red Lodge, Montana.

The meeting priorities included discussions regarding ongoing and future Silver Jacket projects, updates from state partners on their ongoing projects, and discussions on collaboration on future projects. Part of the meeting agenda included site visits to the Bastion Acquisition project area and a stream gage site outside of Red Lodge.

The MT DES Mitigation team, along with multiple partners from both federal and state agencies, and local jurisdictions, participated in the meeting.

Left, top: Stream gage visit outside of Red Lodge (USGS). *Left, bottom:* Bastion Acquisition project site.

Training Opportunities

2026 DNRC FLOODPLAIN ANNUAL RESOURCE SEMINAR. Save the Dates: November 17-19, 2026. *Virtual.* Tuesday, Nov. 17 (1 - 5 p.m.); Wednesday, Nov. 18 (1 - 5 p.m.) and Friday, Nov. 19 (8 a.m. - 12 p.m.). More details will be sent via email. For more information, contact: shylea.wingard@mt.gov.

Advanced Recovery Training for Floodplain Management. This training helps communities streamline and coordinate recovery efforts after a disaster. Learn about the challenges to local resources and personnel, how to conduct substantial damage estimates (SDEs), and what resources are available to assist. To schedule a training event, contact: Traci Sears, tsears@mt.gov.

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