



Chapter 7 Plan Implementation and Maintenance

Requirement §201.6(c)(4) and §201.7(c)(4): [The plan maintenance process shall include a] section describing the method and schedule of monitoring, evaluating, and updating the mitigation plan within a five-year cycle.

Implementation and maintenance of this LHMP Update is critical to the overall success of hazard mitigation planning. This is Planning Step 10 of the 10-step planning process. This chapter provides an overview of the overall strategy for plan implementation and maintenance and outlines the method and schedule for monitoring, updating, and evaluating this LHMP Update. This chapter also discusses incorporating the 2020 LHMP Update into existing planning mechanisms and how to address continued public involvement.

Chapter 3 Planning Process includes information on the implementation and maintenance process since the 2014 Plumas County LHMP was adopted. This section includes information on the implementation and maintenance process for this 2020 LHMP Update.

7.1 Implementation

Once adopted, this LHMP Update faces the truest test of its worth: implementation. While this Plan contains many worthwhile actions, the County will need to decide which action(s) to undertake first. Two factors will help with making that decision: the priority assigned to the actions during the planning process and funding availability. Low or no-cost actions most easily demonstrate progress toward successful Plan implementation.

An important implementation mechanism that is highly effective and low-cost is incorporation of the hazard mitigation plan recommendations and their underlying principles into other plans and mechanisms, such as general plans, stormwater plans, Fire Plans, Emergency Operations Plans (EOP), evacuation plans, and other hazard and emergency management planning efforts for Plumas County. The County already implements policies and programs to reduce losses to life and property from hazards. This LHMP Update builds upon the momentum developed through previous and related planning efforts and mitigation programs and recommends implementing actions, where possible, through these other program mechanisms.

Mitigation is most successful when it is incorporated into the day-to-day functions and priorities of government and development. Implementation can be accomplished by adhering to the schedules identified for each action and through constant, pervasive, and energetic efforts to network and highlight the multi-objective, win-win benefits to each program and the Plumas County community and its stakeholders. This effort is achieved through the routine actions of monitoring agendas, attending meetings, and promoting a safe, sustainable community. Additional mitigation strategies could include consistent and ongoing enforcement of existing policies and vigilant review of programs for coordination and multi-objective opportunities.

Simultaneous to these efforts, it is important to maintain a constant monitoring of funding opportunities that can be leveraged to implement some of the more costly recommended actions. This could include creating and maintaining a bank of ideas on how to meet local match or participation requirements. When funding does become available, the County will be in a position to capitalize on the opportunity. Funding opportunities to be monitored include special pre- and post-disaster funds, state and federal programs and earmarked funds, benefit assessments, and other grant programs, including those that can serve or support multi-objective applications.

Responsibility for Implementation of Goals and Activities

The County's elected officials and department staff are charged with implementation of various activities in this LHMP Update. During the annual review as described later in this section, an assessment of progress on each of the goals and actions in the LHMP should be determined and noted. At that time, recommendations should be made to modify timeframes for completion of activities, funding resources, and responsible entities. On an annual basis, the priority standing of various activities may also be changed. Some activities that are found not to be doable may be deleted from the LHMP entirely and activities addressing problems unforeseen during Plan development may be added.

7.1.1. Role of Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee (HMPC) in Implementation and Maintenance

With adoption of this 2020 LHMP Update, the County will be responsible for the LHMP Update implementation and maintenance. The HMPC identified in Appendix A (or similar committee), led by Plumas County OES, County Administrator, and the Planning Department, will reconvene each year to ensure mitigation strategies are being implemented and to record the implementation status of each mitigation action. As such, Plumas County will continue its relationship with the HMPC, and:

- Act as a forum for hazard mitigation issues;
- Disseminate hazard mitigation ideas and activities to all participants;
- Pursue the implementation of high-priority, low/no-cost recommended actions;
- Ensure hazard mitigation remains a consideration for community decision makers;
- Maintain a vigilant monitoring of multi-objective cost-share opportunities to help the community implement the LHMP's recommended actions for which no current funding exists;
- Monitor and assist in implementation and update of this Plan;
- Report on Plan progress and recommended changes to the County Board of Supervisors (BOS); and
- Inform and solicit input from the public.

The primary duty of the County is to see this LHMP Update successfully carried out and to report to the Plumas County BOS and the public on the status of LHMP implementation and mitigation opportunities. Other duties include reviewing and promoting mitigation proposals, considering stakeholder concerns about hazard mitigation, passing concerns on to appropriate entities, and posting relevant information on the County website (and others as appropriate).

7.2 Maintenance

Plan maintenance implies an ongoing effort to monitor and evaluate LHMP implementation and to update the Plan as progress, roadblocks, or changing circumstances are recognized.

7.2.1. Maintenance Schedule

The Plumas County OES Emergency Services Coordinator, County Administrator, and Planning Department Director, as the HMPC leads, are responsible for initiating LHMP reviews and consulting with the other stakeholders. In order to monitor progress and update the mitigation strategies identified in the action plan, at a minimum, Plumas County will revisit this Plan annually and following a hazard event. The HMPC will meet annually to review progress on LHMP implementation and will provide annual evaluation reports. The HMPC will also submit a five-year written update to the State and FEMA Region IX, unless disaster or other circumstances (e.g., changing regulations) require a change to this schedule. With this LHMP Update anticipated to be fully approved and adopted in early 2021, the next LHMP Update for the Plumas County Planning Area will occur in 2026.

7.2.2. Maintenance Evaluation Process

Evaluation of progress can be achieved by monitoring changes in vulnerabilities identified in this Plan. Changes in vulnerability can be identified by noting:

- Decreased vulnerability as a result of implementing recommended actions;
- Increased vulnerability as a result of failed or ineffective mitigation actions;
- Increased vulnerability as a result of new development (and/or annexation); and
- Increased vulnerability resulting from unforeseen or new circumstances.

Updates to this Plan will:

- Consider changes in vulnerability due to action implementation;
- Document success stories where mitigation efforts have proven effective;
- Document areas where mitigation actions were not effective;
- Document any new hazards that may arise or were previously overlooked;
- Incorporate new data or studies on hazards and risks;
- Incorporate new capabilities or changes in capabilities;
- Incorporate growth and development-related changes to infrastructure inventories; and
- Incorporate new action recommendations or changes in action prioritization.

Changes will be made to the Plan to accommodate for actions that have failed or are not considered feasible after a review of their consistency with established criteria, time frame, community priorities, and/or funding resources. All mitigation actions will be reviewed as well during the monitoring and update of this Plan to determine feasibility of future implementation. Updating of the Plan will be by written changes and submissions, as the HMPC deems appropriate and necessary, and as approved by the County Board of Supervisors. In keeping with the five-year update process, the HMPC will convene public meetings to solicit public input on the Plan and its routine maintenance and the final product will be adopted by the governing boards or councils of all participating jurisdictions, as appropriate.

Annual Review Process

For the LHMP Update review process, the Plumas County OES, County Administrator, and Planning Department will be responsible for coordinating, scheduling, and facilitating reviews and maintenance of this Plan. The LHMP Update is intended to be a living document. Review of the LHMP Update will normally occur on an annual basis each year and will be conducted by the HMPC as follows:

- Plumas County will place an advertisement in the local newspaper advising the public of the date, time, and place for each annual review of the Plan and will be responsible for leading the meeting to review the Plan.
- Notices will be emailed to the members of the HMPC, federal, state, and local agencies, non-profit groups, local planning agencies, representatives of business interests, neighboring communities, and others advising them of the date, time, and place for the review.
- County/City/District/Tribal officials will be noticed by email and telephone or personal visit and urged to participate.
- Members of the Plumas County Planning Commission and other appointed commissions and groups will also be noticed by email and either by telephone or personal visit.
- Prior to the review, department heads and others tasked with implementation of the various activities will be queried concerning progress on each activity in their area of responsibility and asked to present a report at the review meeting.
- The local news media will be contacted, and a copy of the current Plan will be available for public comment at select Plumas County locations.
- After the review meeting, minutes of the meeting and an annual report will be prepared by the HMPC and provided to the public and other interested stakeholders. The report will also be presented to the County BOS and a request will be made that the Board take action to recognize and adopt any changes resulting from the review.

Criteria for Annual Reviews

The criteria recommended in 44 CFR 201 and 206 will be utilized in reviewing and updating this LHMP Update. More specifically, the reviews should include the following information:

- Community growth or change in the past year.
- The number of substantially damaged or substantially improved structures by flood zone.
- The renovations to public infrastructure including water, sewer, drainage, roads, bridges, gas lines, and buildings.
- Natural hazard occurrences that required activation of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and whether the event resulted in a presidential disaster declaration.
- Natural hazard occurrences that were not of a magnitude to warrant activation of the EOC or a federal disaster declaration but were severe enough to cause damage in the community or closure of businesses, schools, or public services.
- The dates of hazard events descriptions.
- Documented damages due to the event.
- Closures of places of employment or schools and the number of days closed.
- Road or bridge closures due to the hazard and the length of time closed.
- Assessment of the number of private and public buildings damaged and whether the damage was minor, substantial, major, or if buildings were destroyed. The assessment will include residences, mobile homes, commercial structures, industrial structures, and public buildings, such as schools and public safety buildings.

- Review of any changes in federal, state, and local policies to determine the impact of these policies on the community and how and if the policy changes can or should be incorporated into the Hazard Mitigation Plan. Review of the status of implementation of projects (mitigation strategies) including projects completed will be noted. Projects behind schedule will include a reason for delay of implementation.

7.2.3. Incorporation into Existing Planning Mechanisms

Another important implementation mechanism that is highly effective is incorporation of the hazard mitigation plan recommendations and their underlying principles into other County plans and mechanisms. Where possible, Plan participants will use existing plans and/or programs to implement hazard mitigation actions. As previously stated in Section 7.1 of this LHMP Update, mitigation is most successful when it is incorporated into the day-to-day functions and priorities of government and development. The point is re-emphasized here. As described in this LHMP’s capability assessment, the County already implements policies and programs to reduce losses to life and property from hazards. This LHMP Update builds upon the momentum developed through previous and related planning efforts and mitigation programs and recommends implementing actions, where possible, through these other program mechanisms. These existing mechanisms include:

- County general plan
- County Emergency Operations Plans and other emergency management efforts
- County ordinances
- Flood/stormwater management/master plans
- Fire Plans/Community Wildfire Protection plans
- Capital improvement plans and budgets
- Other plans and policies outlined in the capability assessments in the jurisdictional annexes
- Other plans, regulations, and practices with a mitigation focus

HMPC members involved in these other planning mechanisms will be responsible for integrating the findings and recommendations of this LHMP Update with these other plans, programs, etc., as appropriate. As described in Section 7.1 Implementation, incorporation into existing planning mechanisms will be done through the routine actions of:

- monitoring other planning/program agendas;
- attending other planning/program meetings;
- participating in other planning processes; and
- monitoring community budget meetings for other community program opportunities.

The successful implementation of this mitigation strategy will require constant and vigilant review of existing plans and programs for coordination and multi-objective opportunities that promote a safe, sustainable community.

Examples of incorporation of the LHMP into existing planning mechanisms include:

1. As recommended by Assembly Bill 2140, the County should adopt (by reference or incorporation) this LHMP into the Public Health & Safety Element of the General Plan. Evidence of such adoption shall be provided to Cal OES and FEMA.

2. Integration of flood actions identified in this mitigation strategy with the actions and implementation priorities established in existing and new Watershed and Stormwater Drainage Plans.
3. Integration of wildfire actions identified in this mitigation strategy with the actions and implementation priorities established in existing Fire Plans, including local CWPPs.
4. Integration of many of the infrastructure, roads, and facility improvement projects with the County Capital Improvement Program.
5. Using the risk assessment information to update the hazard analysis and other data, such as Critical Facility locations, in local Emergency Operations Plans and other emergency management planning documents.

Efforts should continuously be made to monitor the progress of mitigation actions implemented through these other planning mechanisms and, where appropriate, their priority actions should be incorporated into updates of this LHMP Update.

7.2.4. Continued Public Involvement

Continued public involvement is imperative to the overall success of this Plan's implementation. The update process provides an opportunity to solicit participation from new and existing stakeholders and to publicize success stories from the Plan implementation and seek additional public comment. The LHMP maintenance and update process will include continued public and stakeholder involvement and input through attendance at designated committee meetings, web postings, newspaper articles, and through public hearings.

Public Involvement Process for Annual Reviews

The public will be noticed by placing an advertisement in local newspapers and on County's OES webpage specifying the date and time for the review and inviting public participation. The HMPC, local, state, and regional agencies will be notified and invited to attend and participate.

Public Involvement for Five-year Update

When the HMPC reconvenes for the next LHMP Update, they will coordinate with all stakeholders participating in the planning process—including those that joined the committee since the planning process began—to update and revise the Plan. In reconvening, the HMPC will be responsible for coordinating the activities necessary to involve the greater public. The HMPC will develop a plan for public involvement and will be responsible for disseminating information through a variety of media channels detailing the Plan update process. As part of this effort, public meetings will be held and public comments will be solicited on the next LHMP Update process.