



**Stevensville Town Council Meeting
Agenda for
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2025
6:30 PM
206 Buck Street, Town Hall**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Public Comments (Public comment from citizens on items that are not on the agenda)
4. Approval of Minutes
 - [a.](#) Town Council Meeting Minutes 09/25/2025
 - [b.](#) Town Council Meeting Minutes 10/23/2025
5. Approval of Bi-Weekly Claims
6. Administrative Reports
 - a. Airport
 - [b.](#) Building Department
 - c. Finance
 - [d.](#) Fire Department
 - [e.](#) Police Department
 - [f.](#) Public Works
7. Guests
 - [a.](#) Montana Department of Transportation, Speed Study
8. New Business
 - [a.](#) Discussion/Decision: Resolution No. 575 a Resolution Adopting the 2024 Western Montana Region Hazard Mitigation Plan and Ravalli County/Town of Stevensville Annex
9. Board Reports
10. Town Council Comments
11. Executive Report
12. Adjournment

Welcome to Stevensville Town Council Chambers

We consider it a privilege to present, and listen to, diverse views.

It is essential that we treat each other with respect.

We expect that participants will:

- ✓ Engage in active listening
- ✓ Make concise statements
- ✓ Observe any applicable time limit

We further expect that participants will refrain from disrespectful displays:

- ✗ Profanity
- ✗ Personal Attacks
- ✗ Signs
- ✗ Heckling and applause

Guidelines for Public Comment

Public Comment ensures an opportunity for citizens to meaningfully participate in the decisions of its elected officials. It is one of several ways your voice is heard by your local government. During public comment we ask that all participants respect the right of others to make their comment uninterrupted. The council's goal is to receive as much comment as time reasonably allows. All public comment should be directed to the chair (Mayor or designee). Comment made to the audience or individual council members may be ruled out of order. Public comment must remain on topic, and free from abusive language or unsupported allegations.

During any council meeting you have two opportunities to comment:

1. During the public comment period near the beginning of a meeting.
2. Before any decision-making vote of the council on an agenda item.

Comment made outside of these times may not be allowed.

Citizens wishing to speak during any public comment period should come forward to the podium and state their name and address for the record. Comment may be time limited, as determined by the chair, to allow as many people as possible to comment. Comment prior to a decision-making vote must remain on the motion before the council.

Thank you for observing these guidelines.

File Attachments for Item:

a. Town Council Meeting Minutes 09/25/2025

Stevensville Town Council Meeting Minutes

for THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2025, 6:30 PM 206 Buck Street, Town Hall

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Mayor Michalson called the meeting to order, Councilmembers Bragg, Barker, Brown and Smith were all present.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Public Comments (Public comment from citizens on items that are not on the agenda)

Airel Leaster, 318 Spring Street, an update from Tuesdays comment to a situation on Spring Street we still have some questions on the sheet, but I we are very pleased by all of the work that has been done it is back up to the standards that I saw previously and expect moving forward, very pleased with that and everything looks wonderful. Everyone did a good job, and I was also pleased to have Councilmember Brown come out to our street and looked at everything and spoke to me and others in the community. Chief Boe came out and is it my understanding that he wanted to make sure that everything was good, so we did get some calls, but we missed them because we thought they were spam calls and he did not leave any messages, but he came out and chat with us, got a lot of our questions answered. It was exactly what we were hoping for and what we expect. Thank you so much for doing that. All the gentleman that came out were fantastic and worked hard as they generally do. I still do have some questions from the previous meeting; we want to thank you.

Mayor Michalson: I will address those in my executive report.

Jeff Motley, Fire Chief: we were successful in our radio grant. When it all comes together I will make sure that I bring that back to you.

4. Approval of Minutes

a. Town Council Meeting Minutes 09/11/2025

Mayor Michalson: introduced town council meeting minutes 09/11/2025.

Councilmember Barker: I make a motion to approve town council meeting minutes of 09/11/2025.

Councilmember Smith: 2nd.

Mayor Michalson: motion and a 2nd. Discussion from the council? Public comment?

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sue Devlin: 9/11/2025, condensed minutes?

Jenelle Berthoud: I put condensed minutes to the top of the minutes if I am adding anything that was left as comment, or I have taken in there admin reports. Chief Boe police department was included in the packet and then I will just add in anything extra, I don't have to type in what he just read that was provided in the packet. That is when I condense those minutes.

Sue Devlin: there may be some people that would not have access how would they know what was actually said.

Jenelle Berthoud: they read the report, Chief Boe read word for word or number for number I am not going to retype that if it is part of that agenda packet.

Sharon Gee: why are there five weeks' worth of minutes in this packet? I am just wondering why there are so many weeks.

Jenelle Berthoud: there are only two weeks. Town Council meeting minutes for 9/11/25 and the closed meeting minutes for 9/11/25.

Sharon Gee: the agenda is showing four.

Mayor Michalson: any other comments? Seeing none, Jenelle please take the vote.

Councilmember Bragg: aye.

Councilmember Barker: aye.

Councilmember Brown: abstain.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Mayor Michalson: passes 3-0

b. Closed Meeting Minutes 09/11/2025

Mayor Michalson: introduced closed meeting minutes 09/11/2025. Can't discuss that because of the closed meeting; public can't read those.

Councilmember barker: I make a motion to approve closed meeting minutes for 09/11/2025.

Councilmember Bragg: 2nd.

Mayor Michalson: motion and a 2nd. Closed meeting so no discussion. Jenelle, please take the vote.

Councilmember Bragg: aye.

Councilmember Smith: abstain

Councilmember Barker: aye.

Councilmember Brown: abstain.

Mayor Michalson: motion passes 2 for and 2 abstain.

5. Approval of Bi-Weekly Claims

a. Claims #19928-#19946

Mayor Michalson: introduced approval of Bi-weekly claims #19928-#19946.

Councilmember Smith: I move that we consider claims #19928-#19946

Councilmember Barker: 2nd.

Mayor Michalson: motion and a 2nd. Discussion from the council?

Councilmember Brown: claim #1993 for the sludge pumps repair kit, I see that was purchased on 8/5 did we get our two bids per the purchasing policy.

Stephen Lassiter: not in writing, but there is only one company that makes that pump in Germany.

Councilmember Brown: are we going to get our two quotes, what is the brand can you spell the name of that pump.

Stephen Lassiter: (unclear audio) nitzhe?

Councilmember Brown: claim #1994, tire repair for the airport seemed a little bit high is there an explanation for that.

Brian Germane: there are two claims associated with that. One claim was \$143.00, and the other was a credit. The actual price was \$124.98.

Mayor Michalson: any other comments on the claims? Public comments? Seeing, none Jenelle please take the vote.

Councilmember Brown: no.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Councilmember Bragg: aye.

Councilmember Barker: aye.

Mayor Michalson: passes 3-1

Mayor Michalson: I would like to ask the council to move item number 7 in front of number 6.

Councilmember Barker: I make a motion to move items a and b of new business number 7 in front of number 6 the guest.

Councilmember Brown: 2nd

Mayor Michalson: motion and a 2nd. Discussion from the council? Public comment? Seeing, none Jenelle please take the vote.

Councilmember Bragg: aye.

Councilmember Barker: aye.

Councilmember Brown: aye.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Mayor Michalson: passes 4-0

7. New Business

a. Discussion/Decision: Special Event Permit for Brews & Boos Brewfest

Mayor Michalson: introduced new business item a. Special Event Permit for Brews & Boo Brewfest. For the Scarecrow Festival.

Councilmember Brown: I move that we approve special event permit for Brews & Boos Brewfest.

Councilmember Smith: 2nd.

Mayor Michalson: motion and a 2nd. Discussion from the council?

Councilmember Barker: a quick little note that this is associated with the Scarecrow Festival, this is not associated with the Scarecrow Festival.

Mayor Michalson: with the councils permission, Sean Doyle.

Sean Doyle: Stevensville Civic Club. It is not associated with the Scarecrow Festival. Due to changes in properties. We will not have it this year with the Scarecrow Festival and moving forward probably not. A few changes with it, we want to move it over to Lewis & Clark Park a 21 and over event, same as Creamery, coordinate with Chief Boe and the staff, wrist bands and ID checks, those that are manning it are SAFE certified same thing as signing off on the check list, we do not expect it to be as big a Creamery so just a couple of hundred people. Costume contest, and this will be the first of many to come.

Mayor Michalson: any discussion from the council? Public comment? Seeing none, Jenelle please take the vote.

Councilmember Barker: aye.

Councilmember Brown: aye.

Councilmember Bragg: aye.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Mayor Michalson: passes 4-0

b. Discussion/Decision: Twin Creeks Phase 3 Extension Request

Mayor Michalson: introduced new business item b, Twin Creeks Phase 3 Extension Request. (read the letter from Twin Creeks, provided in the packet).

Councilmember Bragg: I move to accept Twin Creeks Phase 3 Extension Request.

Councilmember Smith: 2nd.

Mayor Michalson: motion and a 2nd. Council discussion?

Councilmember Brown: I will need to abstain due to me conflict of working for a title company.

Max Wolf: thank you, it has been a pleasure working with the mayor and the town so far we look forward to working on phase 3 with you guys.

Mayor Michalson: any further comments from the council or the public, seeing none, Jenelle please take the vote.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Councilmember Barker: aye.

Councilmember Brown: abstain.

Councilmember Bragg: aye.

Mayor Michalson: passes 3-0, 1 abstain.

6. Guests

a. Bobbie Shular, Montana Rural Water Systems

Mayor Michalson: introduced Bobbie Shular with Montana Rural Water Systems. We have had a lot of misconceptions and a lot of concerned citizens since we raised the water rates last August. There has been a lot of things flying around as

you are aware and I am going to come out and say it; the other candidate is running on lowering the water rates. So, we are going to get the facts out here and let the public decide for themselves.

Bobbie Shular: thank you for inviting me back to your system. Once again I am impressed by the team that Stevensville has put together, both in your administration and public works department. You have some excellent people working with your system. To reiterate the rate analysis that we did about a year ago. When we do that analysis we break out the loans on the system both water and sewer, we make sure that there is enough money set aside in reserves to service those loans in case of a catastrophic emergency events, we look at the total costs of operations and maintenance, everything from salaries to paperclips we look at the total number of services and put that into the spreadsheet. That spreadsheet then will tell us down to the service each equivalent dwelling unit, what each service needs to be collected per month to be able to continue to operate that system and pay the bills. MCA codes 7-13-4301 specify that municipalities (1) the rates have to be fair and equitable (2) there has to be enough revenue coming in to be able to pay the bills. The councils are required to review their finances at a minimum once a year up to once a quarter and it also says that they have the authority to change those rates to ensure that the expenses that are generated are being paid for. The analysis ensures that the rates being raised to, shortly before the meeting I was speaking with Mr. Underwood and the two things that I always like to pay attention to are power and chemicals. I asked Mr. Underwood about those expenses and how much they have changed since last year since the last rate analysis. Did you want to share some of those figures?

Robert Underwood: the three highest salaries, utilities and chemicals. The analysis that we did, sewer had gone up \$34,000.00 and the water had gone up \$32,109.00 in two years and in those three areas. Those are our biggest expenses in the system right now, that is a total of \$80,800 increase in those three categories.

Bobbie Shular: I also spoke with DNRC earlier today, and one of the things that concerns me is the cost of power and it just keeps going up and up. Speaking with DNRC it was a subject that came up and there is a rumor on the horizon it has not been fully developed yet, but there is talk about putting together a program that may possibly help finance solar panels for certain processes that are using power to help systems lower the amount of power that they have to pull off of the grid and also help them lower their overall costs or at least keeping it from skyrocketing costs. Those are the things that I have in addition to. Does anyone have any questions.

Councilmember Barker: so, I am seeing across the board several towns that are having the same issues that we have had with the increased water and sewer rates.

Bobby Shular: it is a very hard thing to deal with right now. I think that you need to keep in mind that we had 16% inflation four years ago, 18% inflation three years ago, I did not see the last breakdown, but it is a total of 40% inflation over all costs throughout the nation, that \$70,000.00 raise that you are seeing in those areas is that inflation kicking in. Unfortunately, we have to continue to bring in that revenue to continue to pay the vendors. So that services can continue to be provided. One of the standards that the united state has set is when the water comes out of your tap is that it is safe to drink. There are some places that have water coming out of your tap, but you will not drink it because it is not safe. With that there is a cost associated with that.

Councilmember Barker: what would be the chances that we would be lowering our water and sewer bills.

Bobbie Shular: in order to lower them your expenses would have to go down, and there is always research going on and there may be an avenue in the future that may help, I don't want to be too optimistic and say lower the power bills but maybe keep them from skyrocketing like they are. That is an avenue, one of the things that is contributing is the cost of chemicals going up is the expense of producing chlorine is the number one chemical is the disinfection of water. The cost of that skyrocketed there were changes in the way that chlorine can be produced there are restrictions on the way that chlorine can be produced that contributed to the cost of production going up and that is part of what is going on with that. If there is a way to help produce chlorine at a lower rate or cost that could possibly translate into lower costs. As far as, those are the two specific things that I can think of, your people are constantly looking at and following up on anything that could help the system lower costs, and we did discuss some of that before this meeting.

Mayor Michalson: could you answer about the bond debt and when you reach a certain threshold.

Bobbie Shular: so, I do not recall when is the bond, payoff is still far out in the future it had to be calculated in the rate analysis. That is something that I ask in the analysis and the payoff date. And for this system there is going to be a bond that is going to be paid off.

Gina Crowe: the closets one is 2040, then 2051 and 2054 and 2056.

Bobbie Shular: so, the organizations that work on grants and loans work hand in hand, it does not matter if you are going with SRF or Rural Development all that language says that the system has a responsibility to ensure that there is enough revenue collected in order to service those bonds and loans. We also have to set aside a certain amount to address emergencies and also to anticipate future capital costs; equipment, replacement, infrastructure replacement and from what I understand you brought up the fact that Stevensville is one of the oldest communities in Montana and your infrastructure is one of the oldest in the state. Unfortunately, infrastructure has a life span, and yours is coming close to being at the end of its life span. That means that there is going to be additional repairs I do believe while doing leak detection we have a few leaks down, one of the things that your public works department has been working on fixing those, and every leak fixed that translates into power and chemical savings. That is water that is being delivered to the customer treated and then being lost. They are still doing an investigation, and it looks like the reservoir may have some issues under the cement and that is something that they are going to look at and move forward. Whether you choose to replace the reservoir or fix that issue neither option is a cheap option. They are going to be expensive; the discussion will be what option is best for the system.

Councilmember Brown: so, I don't know if you drove around town and say how many yards are bone dry are brown, and people can't afford their water bills and sewer bills. Mine was \$200 more all summer long and I had terrible dry burnt spots here the grass is dead, it is to a point that you have to resod. The other thing is, isn't there a way that we could work with you to try to figure out a way to help with the cost for the people to pay their bills so that they can actually afford them.

Bobbie Shular: that goes back to your expenses and when we did the analysis we knew how much was being spent until some of these power costs take effect that is the only way for you to lower your expenses. What you are going up against is the MCA code that stipulates that water and sewer has to be self-supporting. That means that your revenues coming in have to be sufficient to pay the bills. And with that issue it is tough issue, and this is not an easy issue, there are laws and stipulations in that paperwork and different financials that you have to show, in reserve accounts and with the budget that you are being financially responsible. If those institutions feel like the system is not taking it seriously they may have to look at ways for the system to take it seriously. Your team has done a great job maintaining that paperwork to show that the system is taking that responsibility seriously and it is very unfortunate that people are not able to water their lawns because of the expense.

Councilmember Brown: we have influx of people moving out of town because they can't afford the water and sewer bills in town anymore. We are losing population, which cuts our taxes down. We have to come up with something it is going to have to be a discussion point. The other question that I have is what is the black stuff that is coming through our water system it is in our sinks and toilets, and you scrub, and you can't get rid of it, like an oily substance to the point that my sister from Wyoming won't even drink our water in town.

Bobbie Shular: that sound like manganese, that is the exact characteristics of manganese. It is the geology of your water. You can add polyphosphate to it, but that is another expense, and it is not cheap. Going back to the loss in population because people can't afford the water bills we can actually expand that into a larger question and people can't afford their homes right now, their property taxes, living expenses in this state, no matter what area you look at, the expenses have exploded. I was looking at an article the other day that said housing costs in Montana have gone up by 1,310% what we are seeing in the water bills it is effecting everything across the board.

Councilmember Brown: one more question, I am not sure how we calculate our sewer during the summertime, is it calculated on the number of gallons the people are using.

Andrena Case, Deputy Clerk: the sewer is a base rate, based on the size of the water line.

Councilmember Brown: so, it is not calculated on the number of gallons use in the summertime, thank you and that was one question that I needed answered.

Mayor Michalson: any other questions from the council? I have a question, Andrena could you please let the public know the last time that we had a rate increase before this last one.

Andrena Case: in 2019. November 1, 2019.

Mayor Michalson: and what was that.

Andrena Case: \$31.14 for water and \$51.90 for sewer.

Mayor Michalson: I think that it boils down to the town has to make a decision, I pay the same rate like everybody else, we are homeowners. We have to make a decision, do we want to build for the future of Stevensville or do we want to have green lawns. We can have green lawns but when you are leaking 11 million gallons of treated water a month chemicals going into the ground and the oldest aging infrastructure in Stevensville then we have to make a choice and I think that it is very important, all we have been doing is playing catchup. The water

and sewer rate increased last August we were just playing catchup. That is all that we were doing, and now we have a capital asset fund so that we can start fixing our leaks and building our grant to do a new storage tank and it is all going to cost. I really think that the town should think about building for its future, along with Cindy Brown right now there are a lot of people asking if there is a way to lower the rates, we have to do something. My only answer to them is you have a choice in Stevensville we can buckle down and live with the current rate and build for the future, fix our leaks and put a storage tank in, keep our employees trained and moving forward or we can just have green lawns, that is the choice of the town. We want to build for the future or look good for the people that are here. Any questions from the public for Bobbie?

Pat Groniger: kind of funny that I hear on the streets, and it has to be true if you hear it on the street. There are a lot of threats, accusations, concerns about this and that, the bottom line is no one person is going to fix it, not one of us can fix it, but there is a way to understand it, inflation, cost of living, health, labor decisions. Green grass, neat paint it. It is a tough situation, and it all lies on you folks, and you sir and this team. They are not lying to you. Some of these questions could have been asked two days ago, two years ago, two years ago, you are a newcomer here. The thing is look on your own don't listen to nobody who don't understand it, I am telling you they are full of it, you deal with a lot of people all of the time. . Our police force, maintance, parks, sewer everyone is doing the best that they can, I watch them, and I know them personally. We have heard this before, have we not sir. It is a record that just keep on going, it is about the money, expansion, cost of living, growth, people have babies, and they want to raise them in Stevensville. You do what you can the best that you can. If the rates were going to be raised so be it, the fact is if you want to drink the water pay the bill. You don't want to drink the water don't come to Stevensville. This guy right here will know if the functions drop. (referring to Sean Doyle) We have had a fight as to what town is first, if you have don't have the guts to come to this meeting don't run your mouth cause you folks do what you got to do. I hear though the grape vine it is hearsay, but I am going to say it, that there is going to be a lot of people being fired from the Town of Stevensville, I am not an attorney, that is a class action lawsuit, yes. I am not an attorney, quit threatening people, quit holding crap over peoples heads, stay at the meeting, listen to meeting, you people are awesome, you put up with shit, you listen. If you get the council meeting minutes a couple of days earlier, read it, don't read it here, research them at home. Do your homework, get out of the seat and let someone else do it, or stay in the seat and help fix it as a team. I consider you a friend, all of you folks. All I am saying is all these questions are great all these answers are great. Wake up and get along, don't listen to some knuckle head that is saying I am

going to fix that, I am going to fix that. If it can't be fixed by the professionals who does he think he is or she, it is team work not an individual, team work. If you do not have a team you know what you got.

Mayor Michalson: thank you Pat, anybody else.

Bobbie Shular: here is a point that I wanted to make earlier, and thank you for saying what you did, and it brought it back to my mind. When we were talking about whether we are talking about a town a water and sewer district it is classified as a non-profit business. When we say non-profit they get stuck on the word non-profit many people assume non-profit means that the account has to zero out, when we are talking about for-profit business the objective is for profit they are building their profits in their accounts and their business. When we are talking about the non-profit business the agenda is to sustain ability and that is what this system is working on and one of the reasons why I complimented your team, you have a great team, and they understand sustainability. Sustainability means that you have enough money in the bank to make the repairs, and you do not have to take out a loan to do the repair, and it means that you are setting money aside for the future. In this case you have older infrastructure and your team is starting to address that issue and trying to get ahead of that tissue before it results in no service because that pipe has failed and can no longer deliver that water or sewer.

Melissa Bailey: what is the end goal in site and what is our plan for what we are saving up for. Is it replacement if just fix it? is there any plan to be replacing the water system, like when you are in high school and you are saving up for your first car and you have a little rubber ducky thing and how do we know if we are getting closer.

Mayor Michalson: we are just getting started as you know we just raised our rates last August and we are a year in now and we are in the process of building up our capital assets in water and sewer and we will be able to start fixing our leaks. The leak detection service came through, one of the leaks that they were working on was Spring Street, I mentioned the storage tank, and I am being told that costs between three and four million dollars. No way to afford that, maybe a grant but I am sure that there will be a match. They have been talking for 30 years about a storage tank. I went all the way back to 2002 and it was part of our 2016 growth policy, and we have one of the oldest dying plants at the wastewater treatment plant. Like Steve said, we are on year 25 of a 20-year life span and we are in bad shape. We were so close to losing our sewer down there and thanks to passing the budget and getting Gina on it to get the SCADA system so we should be able to get a head of this. We still don't know where all of the leaks are

at. We just did Mission Street last year, \$1.8 million dollars. That was federal money with a \$780,000 match.

Melissa Bailey: for future replacements or is it all going to current repairs.

Mayor Michalson: current and future.

Melissa Bailey: is there an account that we are not spending out of.

Mayor Michalson: that is what the capital asset account is about, pays for all of the ongoing and future repairs.

Melissa Bailey: so that is one piggy bank so to speak.

Mayor Michalson: yes. I would like to add that we have a water rights issue going on and the town has invested already \$124,000.00 in water rights that we have to have. We cannot grow as you know; we have a lawsuit over our heads called Burnt Fork Estates and it is because of water rights. We have to have our water rights to bring BFE on and that means more revenue as well.

Pat Groniger: are we raising the rates on those impact fees.

Mayor Michalson: that is a complicated thing, you have to do an impact fee study you have to have commissions and you have to have a study and that takes about a year. It has been about 20 years; it is very in-depth process.

Councilmember Brown: yes, Pat that is one of the things that I asked about when I started four years ago, and we need to look at our fees. They need to be looked out and need a game plan to get some of those fees increased.

Mayor Michalson: any other questions, this is the time, thank you Bobbie.

8. Board Reports

Councilmember Brown: Park Board, they are looking, and we gave them an okay to get some more information and bring it before the council on the community garden. They have some sponsors for the garden beds, and we will have to figure out the water for the garden, it would cost the town for the water. Going to get some more information on sponsors for the park like an adopt a park. The most important with be the unveiling of the statue at Creamery Park.

9. Town Council Comments

Councilmember Bragg: I just had a thought about some rain collection barrels for the garden.

Councilmember Brown: since we have some new people coming to council meeting can we get the cash and actual reports we have some interested people.

10. Executive Report

Mayor Michalson: I will answer some questions that came up at the last meeting. Mission Street, low water pressure issues when we did that, drainage issues. We did a walk through and found nothing else. Spring Street, we think the paving may have done some shaking and the old water lines underneath. We just did a leak detection and there were some leaks, not a lot, a couple at Creekside

Stephen Lassiter: Creekside is fine we had just flushed hydrants, a couple on Pine and College.

Mayor Michalson: we think that the ones on College and Pine could be pretty big ones. Active leaks in need of repairs, yes the amount that we are leaking tells us that we have some leaks. Repairs no, we have to reschedule. Expected repairs and costs, no because we do not know the leaks and until we find them we will not know the cost. was the leak on Spring Street an emergency repair, yes. does the town of Stevensville require 24-hour notice to do a non-emergency repair that may interrupt utilities.

Stephen Lassiter: I am not sure about that.

Mayor Michalson: enter private properties, no. Will the shoulder damage be repaired by the end of the year.

Stephen Lassiter: yes, by next week.

Mayor Michalson: is the town of Stevensville in compliance of all audits, yes. I did a walkthrough of Berta's Farm with Council President Brown, Chief Boe, Sarah Urfer and Tom Orr, and I will say that it looks worse than it did before. The next step is Greg to file a motion to take to the judge, we think that we have enough gathered evidence to take to the judge. Of all the things of being a mayor it is the most distressing thing; it just keeps dragging on.

11. Adjournment

Councilmember Smith: make a motion.

Pat Groniger: I want to thank Chief Boe. Great asset to this town. Great guy gifted to have him.

Councilmember Brown: 2nd.

APPROVE:

ATTEST:

Bob Michalson, Mayor
Clerk

Jenelle S. Berthoud, Town

File Attachments for Item:

b. Town Council Meeting Minutes 10/23/2025

Stevensville Town Council Meeting Minutes
for THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2025, 6:30 PM 206 Buck Street, Town Hall

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Mayor Michalson called the meeting to order. Councilmembers Bragg, Barker, Brown and Smith were all present.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Public Comments (Public comment from citizens on items that are not on the agenda)

NONE

4. Approval of Minutes

a. Town Council Meeting Minutes 10/09/2025

Mayor Michalson: introduced town council meeting minutes of 10/09/2025.

Councilmember Smith: I move to accept minutes of 10/09/2025.

Councilmember Barker: 2nd.

Mayor Michalson: motion and a 2nd. Discussion from the Council? Public Comment?
Seeing none, Jenelle please take the vote.

Councilmember Bragg: aye.

Councilmember Barker: aye.

Councilmember Brown: aye.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Mayor Michalson: passes 4-0

Councilmember Smith: while we are talking about minutes I have a move I would like to move that we bring up the minutes of 9/25/25, we did not approve those so we would like to get them approved so we need to bring it back for correction and bring it back before the next meeting.

Jenelle Berthoud: I can put that on the November 13th meeting to bring them back for a vote.

Mayor Michalson: we need a 2nd here.

Councilmember Brown: 2nd.

Mayor Michalson: we have a motion and a 2nd. to current those minutes and bring them back on the 13th. Discussion from the council? Public comment?

Jenelle Berthoud: can I ask a question. It is not on the agenda so I am confused, I think that I explained in the email the best-case scenario for that is that it comes back for a vote to bring it back and then I would relisten and add in those pieces that we missing or omitted and then it would come back for approval, I just don't know how to do that tonight.

Mayor Michalson: I see, you can bring it up in council comments, under council rules.

Jenelle Berthoud: that makes sense, thank you.

5. Approval of Bi-Weekly Claims

a. Claims #19982-#20000

Mayor Michalson: introduced claims #19982-#20000

Councilmember Smith: I move that we approve claims #19982-#20000.

Councilmember Bragg: 2nd.

Mayor Michalson: motion and a 2nd. Discussion from the Council? I would like to say on the Pavilion side of it those were disaster money, Gina did put these out and we only had one bid. Fence work and pavilion were part of the disaster.

Gina Crowe: we have to submit the fencing and the pavilion fixes to MMIA and that is a requirement of the state and then the state will pick up the deductible. MMIA charges us the \$1,500.00 deductible and then reimbursed by the state. You will see that coming forward.

Mayor Michalson: on the pool privacy fabric came out of donation from First Security Bank.

Mayor Michalson: any comments from the council on the claims. Public comments? Seeing none, Jenelle please take the vote.

Councilmember Barker: aye.

Councilmember Brown: aye.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Councilmember Bragg: aye.

Mayor Michalson: passes 4-0

6. New Business

Councilmember Smith: I would like to move that we take item c about item a, and we can take a and b together.

Mayor Michalson: we will start out with motion to suspend council rules to move item c, above item a.

Councilmember Brown: I move that we move agenda item c of new business up to a.

Councilmember Smtih: 2nd.

Mayor Michalson: discussion from the council? Public comment? Seeing none, Jenelle please take the vote.

Councilmember Bragg: aye.

Councilmember Barker: aye.

Councilmember Brown: aye.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Mayor Michalson: passes 4-0

c. Discussion/Decision: Special Event Permit for Country Christmas & Parade of Lights

Mayor Michalson: introduced special event permit for Country Christmas & Parade of Lights.

Councilmember Barker: make a motion to approve special event permit for Country Christmas & Parade of Lights

Councilmember Bragg: 2nd.

Mayor Michalson: motion and a 2nd. Discussion from the Council?

Councilmember Brown: my general every time question is have your plans be given or are you going to give you plans to Chief Motley and Chief Boe prior.

Sean Doyle: yes, it has been submitted, no alcohol event, traffic plan has been submitted and everything through the town clerk. Same one as last year, there are two fire pits and both of those have been submitted, the only change is that one of the fire pits is going to move over by CJ's. everything else is the same. Shortened the parade route so it does not go in front of the Living Center again.

Mayor Michalson: flip the switch kid.

Sean Doyle: I do not, but the town has done a coloring contest.

Jenelle Berthoud: it has not been discussed yet, but we do have time to decide.

Mayor Michalson: any further questions for Sean? Public Comment? Seeing none, Jenelle please take the vote.

Councilmember Bragg: aye.

Councilmember Barker: aye.

Councilmember Brown: aye.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Mayor Michalson: passes 4-0

Councilmember Smith: I move that we suspend council rules and make a and b one action.

a. Discussion/Decision: Suspension of Town Council Rules to Cancel the November 27, 2025, Town Council Meeting in Observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday and Authorizing Claims to be Paid out of Cycle

b. Discussion/Decision: Suspension of Town Council Rules to Cancel the December 25, 2025, Town Council Meeting in Observance of the Christmas Holiday and Authorizing Claims to be Paid out of Cycle

Councilmember Brown: 2nd.

Mayor Michalson: motion and a 2nd. Discussion from the council? Public comment? Seeing none, Jenelle please take the vote.

Councilmember Brown: aye.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Councilmember Bragg: aye

Councilmember Barker: aye.

Mayor Michalson: passes 4-0

d. Discussion/Decision: Final Plat Approval of Twin Creeks Phase II

Mayor Michalson: introduced new business item d, final plat approval of Twin Creek Phase II.

Councilmember Brown: I am going to have to abstain from the discussion because I work for a title company.

Mayor Michalson: before we go on, Max Wolf would like to be on the phone, just incase you have some questions, Ron Ewart is here from PCI.

Jenelle Berthoud: (dialed the phone to call Max Wolf). Hi Max, this is the town clerk we are calling you into the meeting on agenda item d, final plat approval for Twin Creeks Phase II.

Max Wolf: thank you so much for calling, mayor and councilmembers I will let you proceed.

Councilmember Barker: I make a motion for final plat approval of Twin Creeks Phase II.

Councilmember Bragg: 2nd.

Mayor Michalson: motion and a 2nd. Discussion from the Council?

Councilmember Smith: I would like to in the 200 some pages of this plat here I discovered a hiccup. If we were to look at page 26 and it is stated June 13, 2022, and then on page 36 and 37 the DEQ approval letter and on the second page it says in the first paragraph it is further understood that construction of this project will be completed within three years of this approval date which is June 13, 2022. If more than three years elapse before completing plans and specifications must be resubmitted and approved before construction begins, that seems rather clear and on page 148 we have a town council meeting minutes were a two-year extension was granted which brought it up to 2025. But the date is in June of 2025, and this has

relapsed, and it looks like they need to resubmit it. Unless something else has happened that we do not have record of here.

Jenelle Berthoud: I have nothing to comment on, this has been in the packet for an entire week, and these guys are just tonight, I have no comment.

Mayor Michalson: you had all week.

Jenelle Berthoud: possibly Max or Ron have an answer to these things.

Ron Ewart: I am with PCI, we do have an approval that does go until January 15, 2026, so that June 13th deadline we have been in contact with DEQ on it. All of the specification were developed to this.

Councilmember Smith: so, this has been resubmitted to DEQ, and they have extended it to 2026.

Ron Ewart: I can't say that they have extended it, but when we work with DEQ the storm water plan, we made contact with them on this, we do have plat approval until mid-January.

Mayor Michalson: how would the council like to proceed?

Councilmember Barker: can I ask what pages those were.

Councilmember Smith: packet page, 36, 26, and 37 is the main page that had that paragraph that I read for you.

Max Wolf: if I may, whenever I can speak please let me know. It is my understanding that we did get a DEQ extension, they have been working with us through this whole process, and they came at the beginning when all of this process started, we do have a report from them on what they wanted us to change on the site and DEQ has been aware. It was my understanding that we had those taken care of and we can get those to you if need be. As well to reiterate what Ron said it was that January 16, 2026, is our extension date.

Mayor Michalson: that was January 16, 2026.

Councilmember Barker: that was the one that we just passed correct, no that was the 2027 for phase III. You guys were here and passed the 2026 for the extension.

Mayor Michalson: I believe that you were on the council then it was 2023. I was on the council it was when Gibson was mayor.

Councilmember Smith: it was Brown, Lowell and Michalson and Brown abstained.

Mayor Michalson: Max, did you have something to say?

Max Wolf: all of the days that we are concerned about and that we have to show proof of that extension I can try to find those looking on my end, and if there are other issues, we can talk about that and maybe a condition of proof of this for plat approval, on my end January 16, 2026, and DEQ has been aware of the construction.

Mayor Michalson: any further comments from the council?

Councilmember Barker: I believe that those should be in this packet I believe that they should be in there, yes please.

Max Wolf: it should be, but I am not exactly aware of anything from you. Ron is it in there or not.

Ron Ewart: it is not in there because everything that is in the packet had to do with construction, plans, meeting all of the conditions of approval and that was not part of either of those two, I can check with our engineers on that.

Mayor Michalson: would the council be willing to table this and bring it back at a special meeting.

Jenelle Berthoud: do keep in mind that Mr. Wolf has paid his filing fee October 16th his 20-day clock did start, so please keep that in mind.

Mayor Michalson: we are on a 20-day clock.

Jenelle Berthoud: what Max just brought up was that contingent piece that they are looking for you guys to approval their final plat with those conditions of these being turned in. Keep in mind that he has paid his filing fees.

Councilmember Bragg: so, based on that time frame would we be able to table this and have a special meeting so that he can get this done in his 20 days.

Mayor Michalson: we could do it next week if they get the DEQ paperwork.

Councilmember Smith: it does sound like it could be found fairly quickly.

Jenelle Berthoud: I am looking for the meeting minutes of that meeting but is taking longer than I expected.

Max Wolf: is the town not aware, in your records of that. On our end I have always been told it was 2026. As long as the DEQ thing goes, DEQ has been aware of this,

and it should not be an issue because we have been in contact with them through this whole process.

Mayor Michalson: I think that the council would like this in writing.

Councilmember Barker: yes, to show that these are put together I believe that those should be there as well.

Councilmember Smith: I guess the best thing to do is table it.

Mayor Michalson: can I get a motion to table this.

Councilmember Smith: I move that we table this discussion until the proof of the January 16, 2026, is provided to us and then have a special meeting or whatever it would take.

Max Wolf: may I make a comment before. I would just like to say that if there is a possibility and this is the only issue that we have is we could do something with approval once received so we do not have to hold a special meeting for this again. if we get you the documents tomorrow and upon receipt of the documents we can get approval.

Councilmember Smith: is that allowable?

Mayor Michalson: yes.

Jenelle Berthoud: you can put a condition with in that. The same way that you approve minutes and you have me change something and then you vote on it and the minutes pass, and it is a condition of me putting in the comment or adding something.

Councilmember Smith: I move that we approve this plat approval for Twin Creeks on the condition that we receive the written documentation from the DEQ for the extension to January 16, 2026.

Councilmember Barker: 2nd.

Mayor Michalson: motion and a 2nd to approve Twin Creeks Phase II final plat upon conditions that the DEQ provide paperwork that extended it to January.

Councilmember Bragg: I don't think that the public ever got to talk about this.

Mayor Michalson: they will in a second.

Jenelle Berthoud: I want to bring it up that you guys just said DEQ approving it to 2026.

Councilmember Smith: that was what we were told.

Jenelle Berthoud: no, you asked about two things. DEQ and the final plat extension and when was that and that was 2026. Just want to clarify that if you are looking for a date of January 2026 from DEQ and a date of final plat approval being bumped out to January 2026.

Councilmember Smith: correct.

Max Wolf: I have the same question on my end. It was the town extension for January 2026 and then, I do not know the specific DEQ day, but we will find the extension letter for that.

Mayor Michalson: I have never seen that one Max, have you Jenelle.

Jenelle Berthoud: from DEQ, no. we would have only had the original one when the project started and after that it would have just been between the developer, PCI, along those lines.

Max Wolf: it is something that Jeff Cyr did when we were holding off on the project for a bit, the councilmember is correct that date had lapsed with DEQ and that hopefully is something that we can clear up tomorrow.

Mayor Michalson: motion and a 2nd. Further discussion from the council approving it with documentation from DEQ. Any other comments on this plat approval. I see that you brought in a check today (pointed at Councilmember Brown).

Councilmember Brown: yes, I did, I was asked to drop a check-off.

Mayor Michalson: and thank you so much I would like to say that this is my first plat approval, being a young mayor still, I would like to say that Max and Ron have went above and beyond to help get this thing done. I remember earlier this year we had a walk through, and Max and I had a discussion on the low water pressure at some of the houses on Phase I and he would put in pressure pumps on phase II if they needed it and it also gave us a letter to help the town up to \$50,000 for a lift station if it was needed down the road. I am very grateful of him. Thanks Max.

Max Wolf: you are welcome, it goes both ways it has been great working with you guys as well.

Mayor Michalson: last week I was not here, but Steve did a walk through with them. Steve anything to add.

Stephen Lassiter: you take that plat and go and look at the real ground, the distances match, there was a very short punch list, a couple of cracks in the sidewalks, some cleanouts. The curbs and sidewalks all looked good, I looked at all of the pressure tests, 1000 gallons per minute out of the fire hydrants, the e-coli in the main lines and it was sent to the state, and it came back good. Regarding them it all passed without fail. They have not cut any corners. Drains look good, better than some of the ones that we have around town.

Councilmember Smith: I just have one other little minor issue, it does not have to do with the approval, just informational and an opinion. They have a common area dedication and cash in lieu requirement regarding a park apparently they are going to go in lieu of, and it is going to be \$11,410.00 and I just want to say when we get that check after the final plat filing, that should go to parks not general fund.

Mayor Michalson: that check was dropped off today by her (pointed at Councilmember Brown).

Gina Crowe: Parks is in the General Fund.

Councilmember Smith: the dedication is what I am talking about.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Heidi Motley: read public comment from Vicki Motley (this is included with these minutes).

Councilmember Brown: this is from Chief Motley I pumped into him as I was walking down here; he asked me to make a comment on his behalf. It is he would like to see a fire hydrant at the end of Blacksmith Lane he says that it is over 1,000 feet from the existing fire hydrant on Blacksmith and it is a little bit long. He says that it is a concern, and he said going east west it is about 300 feet from the fire hydrant. Going south where Blacksmith runs is over 1,000 feet. There is not a fire hydrant there.

Ron Ewart: that is good to know, I will pass this along to Jeff and the others. Even though we did go through all of our approvals it is something that could be addressed.

Mayor Michalson: and I think that it should be, it would be a safety thing, I think that Jeff Motley would know better than all of us where the fire hydrants need to be placed.

Mayor Michalson: any other comments from the public? Any other comments from the council? Seeing, none, Jenelle please take the vote.

Councilmember Barker: aye.

Councilmember Brown: abstain

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Councilmember Bragg: aye.

Mayor Michalson: passes 3- 1 abstain.

7. Board Reports

Councilmember Barker: for Planning & Zoning we had our open house last night. Very well attended, they had boards lined up where our town citizens could come in and mark what was important to them and not important to them. We had Kevin with Great West and Dani to answer any questions that the public had for them. It was very well attended and a lot of great input back on that. I hope that when we are ready to bring it in front of the council, got a ways down the road yet, we have gotten a lot accomplished in a short amount of time, which is I think we have a really great Planning & Zoning Board that works well together I would like to thank those citizens that came out and spent some time here and looking at what we had.

Mayor Michalson: thank you Stacie.

8. Town Council Comments

Councilmember Brown: I wanted to clear something up from our last council meeting regarding the garden spot, I went back and checked the plat for Dickerson Track, there is 9.4-foot strip between lots 4 and 5, that strip is dedicated as part of the park. I just wanted to make that clear for everybody.

Mayor Michalson: is that on the 5th street side?

Councilmember Brown: yes.

Councilmember Smith: I would like to move to bring up the minutes of 9/25/25 as corrected and bring back to the council for approval.

Councilmember Brown: 2nd.

Mayor Michalson: motion and a 2nd. Discussion from the council? Public comment? Seeing, none, Jenelle would you please take the vote.

Councilmember Bragg: aye.

Councilmember Barker: aye.

Councilmember Brown: aye.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Mayor Michalson: passes 4-0

9. Executive Report

Mayor Michalson: I attended Montana League of Cities and Towns Conference last week in Billings, the only thing that I have to report is there is a lot of stuff going on, we were told again to be very, very diligent on the property taxes when they come in, revenue stream is going to be down from that. Also, the MMIA will no longer cover workmen's comp, they could no longer compete with the state fund anymore, so they are phasing that out by July 1, 2026. They will work with all of the towns and cities on finding coverage for workmen's comp which will probably be the state fund. Also, last night we had a successful meeting with our Planning & Zoning, and I want to say if it is okay with the council. Steve can you come up and speak about the cellular meters that we just learned about.

Stephen Lassiter: we just went through this big water meter change out which is good. The company is now coming out with a cellular meter that transmits a different type of signal that Cody uses from his truck, it is like 100% effective. A person doesn't have to ride around in the truck anymore, it is just like your phone, Andrena could check it on her computer without any one or gas money. The cost of them is around the same as the meters that we are currently using. The cellular data and included in this is the ability for each water customer to keep up with their own water usage. It is an app on their phone or computer, how much water did I use last month, each month has a graph, shows peak uses, sprinklers coming on. It could answer some questions when our meters are not reading, sometimes we have to go back and reread. Example is on a leak detect, we go to check it and sometimes we can't get that data and it won't work, no one can tell us why it is not working. We have to be able to tell them when it is happening, have to be able to be more in-depth with it. (referenced a citizen in the audience and her meter) they are going to give us five trial meters for free, program and this would be a good test one (referred to citizen).

Councilmember Smith: so, you are saying that we are going to have to replace all of the meters.

Stephen Lassiter: no, that is the thing, as our current meters go bad we can replace them with the cellular ones for about the same cost as the current ones. Alberton switched over and they had 100% reading. This is a cellphone; each individual customer will have the ability to check.

Councilmember Smith: is it true that we coming to an end with our current meters.

Stephen Lassiter: pretty close, we have been able to identify most of the ones that have gone bad. We just did a 200 meter replacements in the past year. I think that we see if these work, I let them know that I cannot do all at once so they are going to put together some packages for what we might want, they are going to give us five and if they fail we won't talk about it anymore.

Gina Crowe: there is a charge, they are going to give us the five meters for free but there is a charge of .91 cents per meter a month and that is for the cellular data, part of the package.

10. Adjournment

Councilmember Smith: motion to adjourn.

Councilmember Brown: 2nd.

APPROVE:

ATTEST:

Bob Michalson, Mayor

Jenelle S. Berthoud, Town Clerk

Town of Stevensville Council

October 23, 2025

Dear members of the Town of Stevensville Council and Mayor Michelson,

I apologize for not being able to give my comments in person, but I am not feeling well.

New Business:

D. Discussion/Decision: Final Plat Approval of Twin Creeks Phase 2

I would like to address section 5 of the agreement. It states the following:

5. Common/Park Area:

It states that:

1. 11% of the land proposed to be subdivided is required for a park dedication. 5% of that shall be in land donation and 6% shall be in a cash-in-lieu of land donation. The side notes on the page sets an amount of \$11,410 that would go to the Town.

I am requesting as a member of the Park Board Advisory Committee and resident of the Town of Stevensville, that this money be placed in a Park line item, or C.D., and that it not go directly into the General Fund. I feel that this way we will have money to make repairs on park equipment and the pool. I feel that if it just goes into the General Fund and it's not earmarked, there will be no money for repairs, it will be spent on other things other than the Parks.

Thank you,



Vicki Motley

Park Board Member and Resident

318 9th St.,

File Attachments for Item:

b. Building Department

MONTHLY REPORT

Building Department

October 2025

Permits Issued

Fees Collected

Building (2 permits)

1. NSFR	\$0
2. New/Remodel Commercial Building	\$0
3. Renovation/Remodel	\$100.00
4. Demo re-roof, commercial.....	\$0

Electrical (2 permits)

1. NSFR	\$0
2. New/Remodel Commercial Building	\$0
3. Renovation/Remodel	\$150.00
4. Demo	\$0

Mechanical (1 permits)

1. NSFR	\$0
2. New/Remodel Commercial Building	\$0
3. Renovation/Remodel	\$108.45
4. Demo	\$0

Plumbing (0 permit)

1. NSFR	\$0
2. New/Remodel Commercial Building	\$0
3. Renovation/Remodel	\$0
4. Demo	\$0

Total permits issued: 5 Total fees collected: \$358.45

Activities

1. Inspections and consultations.
2. Active clearing or archiving old and expired permits, depending on age of activity.
3. Implement uniform strategies to increase records retention and accessibility thereof.

Items of Interest

1. Continued exploration of best ways to universally digitize records and day-to-day functions to be accessible across pertinent staff for greater efficiency.

Prepared by Jenelle Berthoud, Town Clerk

File Attachments for Item:

d. Fire Department



STEVENSVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

206 BUCK STREET

Activity Report – October 2025

Calls for the Month of October: 64

Calls for Stevensville Town: 20

Calls for Stevensville Rural: 44

Mutual Aid: 0

Medical Response: 48

Fire Calls: 8

Motor Vehicle Crash: 8

Total Calls: 64

Missed calls: 1

Calls for the Year to Date: 590

Calls for Stevensville Town: 213

Calls for Stevensville Rural: 344

Mutual Aid: 33

Medical Response: 437

Fire Calls: 118

Motor Vehicle Crash: 35

Total Calls: 590

Missed calls: 36

File Attachments for Item:

e. Police Department

Stevensville Police Department Monthly Activity Report 2025

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
CALLS FOR SERVICE	57	76	71	43	56	61	85	83	71	61		
1ARRESTS ADULT/JUV	3	4	4	3	2	2	1	3	1	6		
TRAFFIC CITATIONS	8	12	5	8	14	7	8	9	7	6		
TRAFFIC STOPS	15	19	25	9	12	9	18	18	13	12		
TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS	1	5	2	2	1	1	4	9	6	8		
VEH TOWS	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1		
HOMICIDES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
ROBBERIES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
BURGLARIES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
THEFTS	2	2	4	0	2	1	1	2	3	1		
ASSAULTS OR PFMA	2	0	0	2	1	3	0	1	1	1		
SEX CRIMES	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0		
FRAUD CRIMES	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	1		
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	0		
PRIVACY COMMUNICAT	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4		
THREATS OR INTIMIDATION	2	5	2	1	2	1	6	0	1	2		
SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY	3	1	2	2	2	1	5	0	0	2		
DISTURBANCE	1	1	1	1	1	3	2	0	0	0		
UNATTENDED DEATHS	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
WELFARE CHECKS	3	6	2	0	3	4	2	3	3	4		
LOST/FOUND PROPERTY	3	2	1	1	3	3	1	3	2	1		
BURG ALARMS 911 HANGUPS	2	7	2	3	6	3	7	10	4	3		
VICTIM NOTIFICATION	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0		

File Attachments for Item:

f. Public Works

**TOWN OF STEVENSVILLE
PUBLIC WORKS ACTIVITY REPORT
October 2025**

UTILITIES REPORT

Domestic Water Treatment

	<i>This Month</i>	<i>Last Month</i>
<i>Gallons Produced</i>	20,005,000	29,749,000

- 💧 Monthly, weekly and Annual reports to the state
- 💧 Monthly Meter Readings

Waste Water Treatment

	<i>This Month</i>	<i>Last Month</i>
<i>Gallons Treated</i>	5,353,381	4,910,650

- 💧 State Reports and EPA, weekly monthly and Annual samples taken and reports submitted.
- 💧 Satisfied Permit reporting, testing and regulatory requirements
- 💧 Wasting to drying beds

○

OTHER

- 💧 Meter reads and billing cycle
- 💧 Daily road grid inspections
- 💧 Street maintenance, potholes, sign installation and replacement
- 💧 Water and Waste water plants rounds
- 💧 Preventive maintenance at WWTP buildings
- 💧 Vehicle Maintenance
- 💧 Alley maintenance (Charlos in particular)
- 💧 Downtown risk management inspections
- 💧 Mowing, trimming, spraying all parks and cemeteries
- 💧 Irrigation in parks and cemeteries
- 💧 Training new Parks Manager
- 💧 3 urn burials
- 💧 1 Niche wall burial
- 💧 New roofs on Lewis and Clark Park pavilions
- 💧 Fence repaired at pool from last year’s wind damage

- 💧 Blew out all sprinklers
- 💧 Winterized all parks, pool, and splash pad
- 💧 Camered sewer near 98 North avenue
- 💧 Refurbished flower beds and added mulch to Creamery park
- 💧 Used street sweeper on Main street
- 💧 ***See Q-Ware Report for more detailed operations***

WO Number	Type	Status	Description	Locations	Assigned To	Requester
004636	SCHEDULED	Closed	Influent and effluent DEQ sampling	23-Headworks Bldg / Wastewater / Town of Stevensville 39-UV Bldg / Wastewater / Town of Stevensville	Cody Anderson	Steve Kruse
004635	SCHEDULED	Closed	Monday empty all garbage	Mobile / Town of Stevensville		Cody Anderson
004633	SCHEDULED	Closed	Garbage removal and bag replacement	Town of Stevensville	Gerald Gaylor Jeff Wilkinson	Steve Kruse
004631	SCHEDULED	Closed	Wednesday Manhole Inspection and degrease	Wastewater / Town of Stevensville		Cody Anderson
004630	SCHEDULED	Closed	weekly/biweekly cleaning of channels, clarifiers and bar screen brush	19-Final Clarifier 1 / Wastewater / Town of Stevensville 20-Final Clarifier 2 / Wastewater / Town of Stevensville 23-Headworks Bldg / Wastewater / Town of Stevensville 24-Influent Channel / Wastewater / Town of Stevensville	Kevin McGinley	Steve Kruse
004628	SCHEDULED	Closed	Calibrate sensor at wellhouse monthly	Water / Town of Stevensville	Cody Anderson Steve Kruse	Steve Kruse
004627	SCHEDULED	Closed	Influent and effluent DEQ sampling	23-Headworks Bldg / Wastewater / Town of Stevensville 39-UV Bldg / Wastewater / Town of Stevensville	Cody Anderson	Steve Kruse
004626	SCHEDULED	Closed	Monday empty all garbage	Mobile / Town of Stevensville		Cody Anderson
004625	SCHEDULED	Closed	Hose brush on headworks perforated plate screen		Kevin McGinley	Steve Kruse

WO Number	Type	Status	Description	Locations	Assigned To	Requester
004624	SCHEDULED	Closed	Garbage removal and bag replacement	Town of Stevensville	Gerald Gaylor Jeff Wilkinson	Steve Kruse
004623	SCHEDULED	Closed	Check oil level on influent pumps	Wastewater / Town of Stevensville	Cody Anderson Kevin McGinley	Steve Kruse
004621	CORRECTIVE	Closed	Niche wall burial 10/23 1:00 pm	Town of Stevensville		Stephen Lassiter
004620	CORRECTIVE	Closed	Urn burial Riverside 2:00 pm	Town of Stevensville		Stephen Lassiter
004619	SCHEDULED	Closed	Wednesday Manhole Inspection and degrease	Wastewater / Town of Stevensville		Cody Anderson
004618	SCHEDULED	Closed	weekly/biweekly cleaning of channels, clarifiers and bar screen brush	19-Final Clarifier 1 / Wastewater / Town of Stevensville 20-Final Clarifier 2 / Wastewater / Town of Stevensville 23-Headworks Bldg / Wastewater / Town of Stevensville 24-Influent Channel / Wastewater / Town of Stevensville	Kevin McGinley	Steve Kruse
004616	SCHEDULED	Closed	Influent and effluent DEQ sampling	23-Headworks Bldg / Wastewater / Town of Stevensville 39-UV Bldg / Wastewater / Town of Stevensville	Cody Anderson	Steve Kruse
004615	SCHEDULED	Closed	Run eyewash station until clear	Town of Stevensville	Cody Anderson Glenn Bies Stephen Lassiter Steve Kruse	Steve Kruse
004614	SCHEDULED	Closed	Monday empty all garbage	Mobile / Town of Stevensville		Cody Anderson
004613	CORRECTIVE	Closed	Inspect new pavilion roofs and newly repaired pool	Town of Stevensville		Stephen Lass

WO Number	Type	Status	Description	Locations	Assigned To	Requester
			fence			
004612	CORRECTIVE	Closed	Blow out all sprinkler systems for winter	Town of Stevensville		Stephen Lassiter
004610	CORRECTIVE	Closed	Repair fire hydrant lock	Town of Stevensville		Stephen Lassiter
004608	CORRECTIVE	Closed	Pull meters from Father Ravalli, Veteran's, and Creamery Parks	Town of Stevensville		Stephen Lassiter
004607	CORRECTIVE	Closed	Urn burial on 10/18	Town of Stevensville		Stephen Lassiter
004606	CORRECTIVE	Closed	Pick up flower pots on main street	Town of Stevensville		Stephen Lassiter
004605	CORRECTIVE	Closed	Turn off all programmed irrigation boxes	Town of Stevensville		Stephen Lassiter
004604	CORRECTIVE	Closed	Winterize splash pad	Town of Stevensville		Stephen Lassiter
004603	CORRECTIVE	Closed	Winterize pool	Town of Stevensville		Stephen Lassiter
004602	CORRECTIVE	Closed	Camera sewer for North Ave. along Eastside Hwy	Town of Stevensville		Stephen Lassiter
004598	SCHEDULED	Closed	Wednesday Manhole Inspection and degrease	Wastewater / Town of Stevensville		Cody Anderson
004597	SCHEDULED	Closed	weekly/biweekly cleaning of channels, clarifiers and bar screen brush	19-Final Clarifier 1 / Wastewater / Town of Stevensville 20-Final Clarifier 2 / Wastewater / Town of Stevensville 23-Headworks Bldg / Wastewater / Town of Stevensville 24-Influent Channel / Wastewater / Town of Stevensville	Kevin McGinley	Steve Kruse
004596	SCHEDULED	Closed	Influent and effluent DEQ sampling	23-Headworks Bldg / Wastewater / Town of Stevensville	Cody Anderson	Steve Kruse

WO Number	Type	Status	Description	Locations	Assigned To	Requester
				39-UV Bldg / Wastewater / Town of Stevensville		
004595	SCHEDULED	Closed	Monday empty all garbage	Mobile / Town of Stevensville		Cody Anderson
004594	SCHEDULED	Closed	Hose brush on headworks perforated plate screen		Kevin McGinley	Steve Kruse
004593	SCHEDULED	Closed	Garbage removal and bag replacement	Town of Stevensville	Gerald Gaylor Jeff Wilkinson	Steve Kruse
004592	SCHEDULED	Closed	Check oil level on influent pumps	Wastewater / Town of Stevensville	Cody Anderson Kevin McGinley	Steve Kruse
004591	CORRECTIVE	Closed	I got a call 10/1 and 10/2 from the resident at 98 North with concerns that his sump pump line will not drain due to the sewer main being clogged. He demanded we Jet the main line or he will take action. Stephen is investigating. On 10/3/25 Stephen jetted the main sewer line and found no issues. There is good flow. Called resident and let him know and he is admit that we give him video proof that there is no issue in the main. We cannot camera the line because we cannot get the video truck into the neighbors back yard and the other one has a camper and deck platform on top of it. Gave resident Stephens work phone number.	Mobile / Town of Stevensville	Stephen Lassiter	Andrena Case
004590	SCHEDULED	Closed	Wednesday Manhole Inspection and degrease	Wastewater / Town of Stevensville		Cody Anderson

WO Number	Type	Status	Description	Locations	Assigned To	Requester
004589	SCHEDULED	Closed	weekly/biweekly cleaning of channels, clarifiers and bar screen brush	19-Final Clarifier 1 / Wastewater / Town of Stevensville 20-Final Clarifier 2 / Wastewater / Town of Stevensville 23-Headworks Bldg / Wastewater / Town of Stevensville 24-Influent Channel / Wastewater / Town of Stevensville	Kevin McGinley	Steve Kruse
004588	SCHEDULED	Closed	Email monthly CL2 residual sheet to DEQ. Directions at Wellhouse	Water / Town of Stevensville	Cody Anderson Glenn Bies Steve Kruse	Steve Kruse
004586	SCHEDULED	Closed	Grrease perf screen and influent pumps		Kevin McGinley	Steve Kruse
004584	SCHEDULED	Closed	Submit monthly DMR	Wastewater / Town of Stevensville	Cody Anderson Stephen Lassiter	Stephen Lassiter
004576	SCHEDULED	Closed	Hose brush on headworks perforated plate screen		Kevin McGinley	Steve Kruse
004574	SCHEDULED	Closed	Check oil level on influent pumps	Wastewater / Town of Stevensville	Cody Anderson Kevin McGinley	Steve Kruse
004570	SCHEDULED	Closed	Influent and effluent DEQ sampling	23-Headworks Bldg / Wastewater / Town of Stevensville 39-UV Bldg / Wastewater / Town of Stevensville	Cody Anderson	Steve Kruse
004548	CORRECTIVE	Closed	Weed flower beds at Creamery Park. Stain the wood and add mulch in preparation for Scarecrow statue.	Town of Stevensville		Stephen Lassiter
004506	CORRECTIVE	Closed	Replace curbstop at 427 Pine	Town of Stevensville		Stephen Lassiter

File Attachments for Item:

a. Montana Department of Transportation, Speed Study

October 22, 2025

Town of Stevensville
206 Buck St
Stevensville, MT 59870

Subject: Stevensville North and South - Speed Study

On Jan 26th 2023, the Town of Stevensville's Council voted (4-0) to have the Dept. of Transportation do a Traffic Study on Eastside Highway through Stevensville. MDT decided the study should begin at milepost 17 and continue north to the intersection with US93.

MDT recommends the following speed limit changes:

- A 35-mph speed limit beginning approximately 100-ft south of the intersection with Mystic River Road (straight-line station 393+00) and continuing north for an approximate distance of 1,600-ft, approximately 100-ft south of the intersection with South Avenue (straight-line station 409+00)
- A 25-mph speed limit beginning approximately 100-ft south of the intersection with South Avenue (straight-line station 409+00) and continuing north for an approximate distance of 0.65-miles, approximately 500-ft north of the intersection with Buck Street/Eastside Highway (straight-line station 442+00)
- A 35-mph speed limit beginning approximately 400-ft north of the intersection with Buck Street/Eastside Highway (straight-line station 442+00) and continuing north for an approximate distance of 1,600-ft, approximately 100-ft south of the intersection with Fort Owen Ranch Road (straight-line station 458+00)
- A 45-mph speed limit beginning approximately 100-ft south of the intersection with Fort Owen Ranch Road (straight-line station 458+00) and continuing north for an approximate distance of 0.93-miles, approximately at the intersection with US-93 (straight-line station 507+00)

Please review the attached Speed Limit Recommendation and return any comments, in writing, within 60 days of this letter.

Aldo Videa

Aldo Videa
Missoula District Traffic Engineer

Attached: Speed Study Recommendations Study Areas 1 and 2. These correspond to the Missoula County. Lolo to Missoula, and Florence to Lolo, respectively.

copies: Bob Vosen, P.E., Missoula District Administrator
Joel Boucher, P.E., Missoula District Preconstruction Engineer
Brenden Borges, P.E., Investigations Lead Worker



Montana Department of Transportation

PO Box 201001
Helena, MT 59620-1001

Memorandum

To: Bob Vosen, P.E. – Missoula District Administrator

From: Gabe Priebe, P.E. – Traffic & Safety Bureau Chief **Gabe Priebe** Digitally signed by Gabe Priebe
Date: 2025.10.09 15:24:45 -06'00'

Date: October 6, 2025

Subject: Speed Limit Recommendation
Eastside Highway/Main Street/Stevensville Road (S-269) – Stevensville

Please present the following report to the Town of Stevensville and Ravalli County for review and comment. Inform them that we would prefer to receive all comments in writing within the next 60 days. Comments not received within 120 days will be regarded as concurrence with the findings of this report. Their comments along with the Department's final recommendation will be presented to the Montana Transportation Commission for action.

Introduction

On January 26 of 2023, the Stevensville Town Council approved a motion to request the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) conduct a traffic study on the Eastside Highway also known as Main Street through Stevensville. The requested was championed by the Stevensville Chief of Police and included a review of the speed limit changes between Middle Burnt Fork Road and South Avenue, as well as reviewing the intersections of 6th Street, 2nd Street, and the Eastside Highway with Main Street for pedestrian improvements and possible higher forms of traffic control. The public's main concern is the speed limit transition directly south of South Avenue, pedestrians crossing Main Street, and the gaps available for vehicles turning at the intersections with 2nd Street and the Eastside Highway. After reviewing the area MDT decided the study should begin at milepost 17 and continue north to the intersection with US 93 to include all the intersections and transition zones. This report will review the speed limits through the Stevensville area. Pedestrians at the intersections of 6th Street, 2nd Street, and Eastside Highway, and the possibility of a higher form of traffic control at the intersections of 2nd Street and Eastside Highway will be covered in a separate traffic control study.

Site Characteristics

This segment of the Eastside Highway and Stevensville Road, also known as Main Street through Stevensville, was constructed in 1939 and 1952 with the exception to a half mile of Main Street constructed prior. The right of way for Main Street was addressed in 1982 and resurfaced in 1984. Most recently improvements were made in 2012 and 2016. In 2012 there was a micro-surfacing project, STPS 269-1(39)17, and in 2016 there was a right turn lane installed at the intersection with US 93 with HSIP 269-1(42)21. Within this speed study, the Eastside Highway and Stevensville Road are part of the secondary state highway system (S-269) and classified as major collectors.

Typical sections are primarily comprised of two 12-foot travel lanes with no shoulder. Around Middle Burnt Fork Road there is a shoulder on either the east or west side of the road around 10-feet to accommodate some on street parking. Once in Stevensville, north of Valley View Street there is an 11-foot shoulder on the west side of the roadway continuing until 4th Street for street parking. On the east side of the highway within Stevensville the 11-foot shoulder for on-street parking doesn't begin until Barbara Street and then continues to 4th Street. North of 4th Street there is an 8-foot shoulder and angle parking until the intersection with the Eastside Highway. The 8-foot shoulders then neck down to no shoulder before increasing back up to 4-feet just south of the Bitterroot River bridge until the intersection with US 93. Auxiliary turn lanes are present at the intersections of Eastside Highway, from Almost Home Drive to the intersection with US 93, at Super One Foods, and at US 93 in the form of a left turn lane, a two-way-left-turn lane transitioning to a through-left lane, a right-turn lane, and another right-turn lane respectively. There is adequate sight distance both on and along the roadway as the alignment is primarily both tangent and flat in this area. There are no centerline or shoulder rumble strips present throughout the entire study area. Passing zones are only found for the first half mile of the study. In total passing is prohibited for 88-percent of the study.

Pedestrian and bicycle facilities exist in different areas of the study. Sidewalks are present on both sides of the road in Stevensville from the Farmers State Bank north of Valley View Street to the Bitterroot Valley Living Center north of Eastside Highway. The west sidewalk extends to Valley View Street. There are sidewalks farther south for the Stevensville Medical Center on the east side of the roadway, but these do not connect to the sidewalks within Stevensville. North of Stevensville on the east side of the roadway there is a multiuse path that extends from the intersection with the Eastside Highway to the intersection with US 93. There is also a sidewalk that runs on the west side of the roadway from US 93 to the Super One Foods Shopping Center. There are no facilities solely designated for bicycles. Crosswalks are located at the intersections with 6th Street (south side), Central Avenue (south side), 4th Street (north side), 3rd Street (both sides), 2nd Street (both sides), the Eastside Highway (south side), and US 93. The crossings at 6th Street and Central Avenue are designated as school crossings.

Average annual daily traffic volume from 2022 ranged from almost 4,800 vehicles near the beginning of the study about 8,000 vehicles nearing the intersection with US 93. The average traffic volume recorded within the town of Stevensville was around 6,000 vehicles. Peak AADT was primarily observed in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic with an average increase of about 1.4-percent from the prior year. The only segment that had a different peak year was from

the intersection with the Eastside Highway to the intersection with US 93 which peaked in 2021 at around 8,250 vehicles. Since 2021 there has been a -3.2-percent decrease in traffic throughout the study. Over the past 5-years there has been a decrease in traffic volumes south of Stevensville (1.8%), an increase within Stevensville (7.3%), and an increase north of Stevensville (13.8%). It should be noted that traffic volumes on average were 33-percent higher within the town of Stevensville and 22-percent higher outside of Stevensville during the summer months.

The roadside environment starts out as rural and then transitions to a rural town environment. Land use in the beginning of the study is primarily agricultural with a mix of residential single-family homes until about Mossy Lane. North of Mossy Lane the land use becomes primarily rural residential development. The urbanized area of Stevensville resembles a rural town and begins north of Middle Burnt Fork Road continuing until just north of the Eastside Highway. The southern portion of Stevensville is a mix of residential, commercial, and institutional development with a medical center, church, post office, museum, bank, some stores, storage, restaurants, and residential homes. From approximately 4th Street to the Eastside Highway is the main downtown area of Stevensville, which is primarily commercial businesses consisting of multiple restaurants, stores, gas stations, banks, a park, and a library. The north end of Stevensville has a small institutional section just north of the Eastside Highway consisting of a senior living center and US Forest Service Ranger Station. North of Stevensville the development reverts back to agricultural land use until north of the Bitterroot River Bridge. Between the Bitterroot River and US 93 there is primarily commercial development in the form of storage, an RV park, grocery store, bank, gym, and a tax company.

Speed Zone History

The Speed Zone from milepost 17 to the existing 45/35-mph transition 650-feet north of Cemetery Road was last reviewed in 2019. Extension of the 45-mph and 55-mph speed zones was approved by the Transportation Commission. The southern 35-mph speed zone was last reviewed and approved by the Transportation Commission in 2004. In 1999 the Transportation Commission approved the existing 45-55-45-35-mph speed zones north of Stevensville. The 25-mph speed limit was approved prior to 1999 with both ends being updated with subsequent speed studies addressing the 35-mph speed zones. The existing Transportation Commission approved speed limits are as follows and for the most part match the posted speed limits:

A 55-mph speed limit beginning about 400-feet south of Higgins Lane and continuing to a point approximately 1,100-feet south of the intersection with Beaver Lane, an approximate distance of 4,300-feet.

A 45-mph speed limit beginning about 1,100-feet south of Beaver Lane and continuing north to a point approximately 300-feet south of the intersection with Middle Burnt Fork Road, an approximate distance of 1.37-miles.

A 35-mph speed limit beginning about 300-feet south of the intersection with Middle Burnt Fork Road and continuing to a point approximately 1,000-feet north of the intersection with Valley View Street, an approximate distance of 1,500-feet.

A 25-mph speed limit beginning about 1,000-feet north of the intersection with Valley View Street and continuing north to a point approximately 250-feet north of S-203, an approximate distance of

A 35-mph speed limit beginning about 250-feet north of the intersection with S-203 and continuing north to a point approximately 950-feet north of the intersection with S-203, an approximate distance of 700-feet.

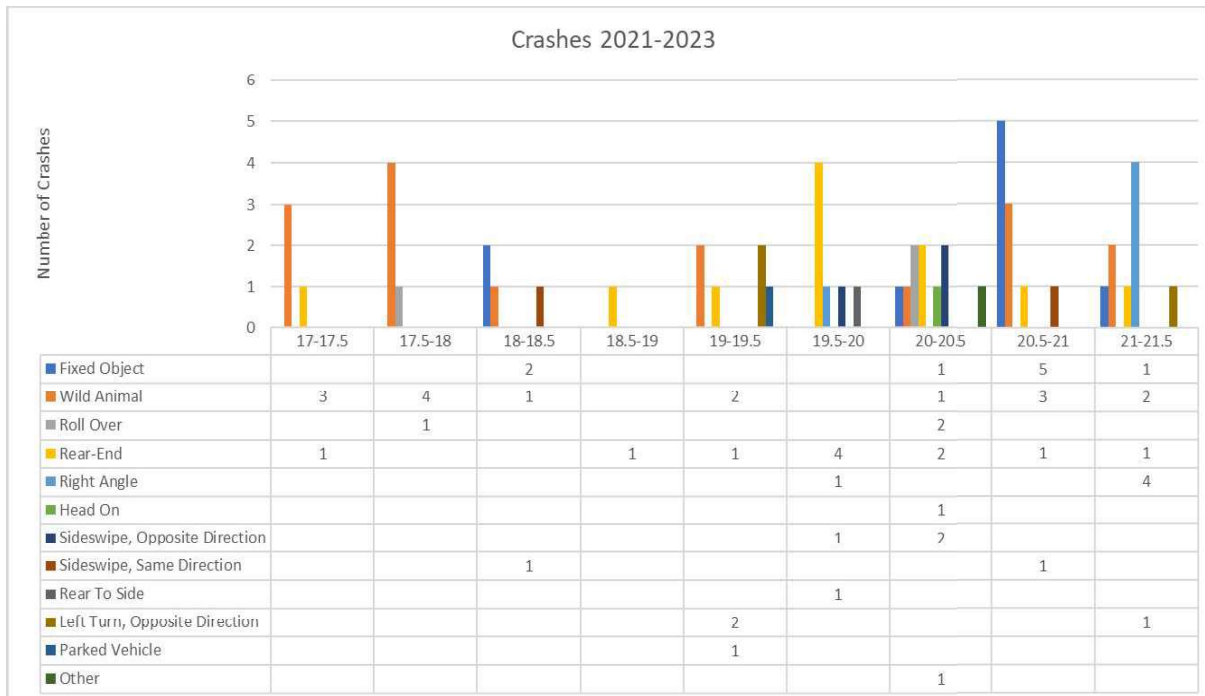
A 45-mph speed limit beginning about 950-feet north of the intersection with S-203 and continuing north to a point approximately 1,750-feet north of the intersection with S-203, an approximate distance of 800-feet.

A 55-mph speed limit beginning about 1,750-feet north of the intersection with S-203 and continuing to a point approximately 2,150-feet south of the intersection with US 93, an approximate distance of 2,900-feet.

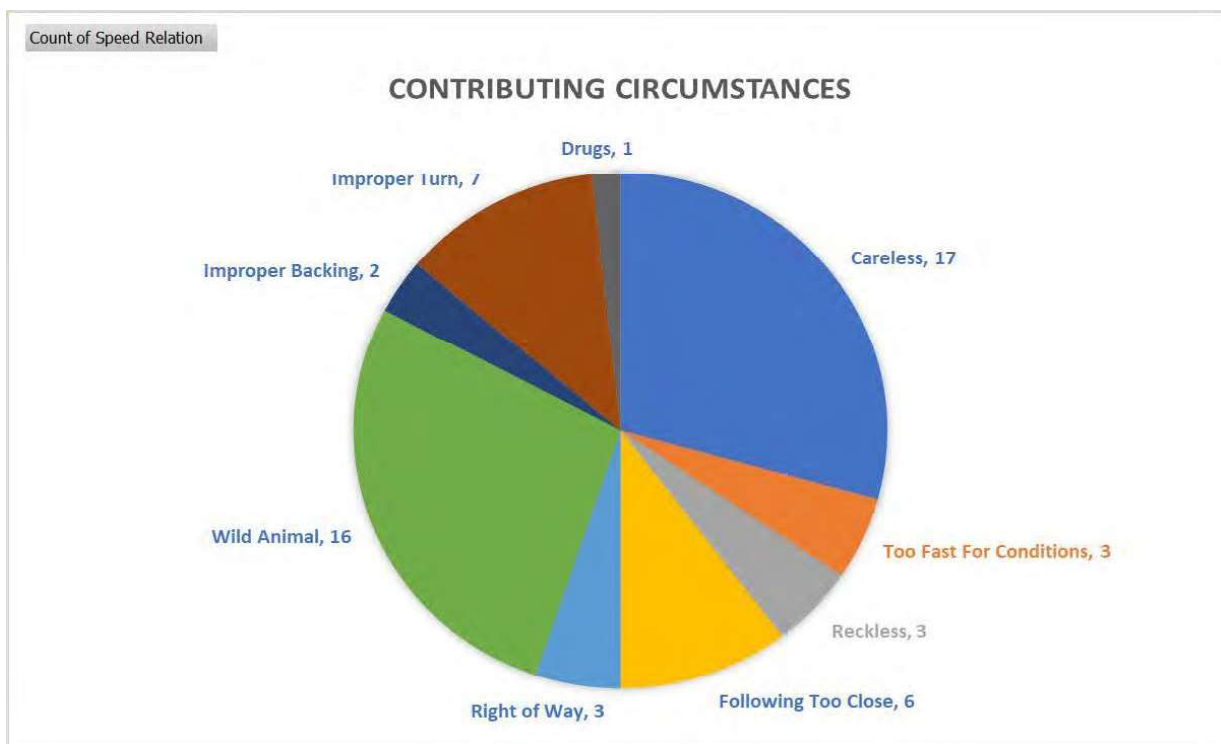
A 45-mph speed limit beginning about 2,150-feet south of the intersection with US 93 and continuing north to the intersection with US 93, an approximate distance of 2,150-feet.

Crash and Citation History

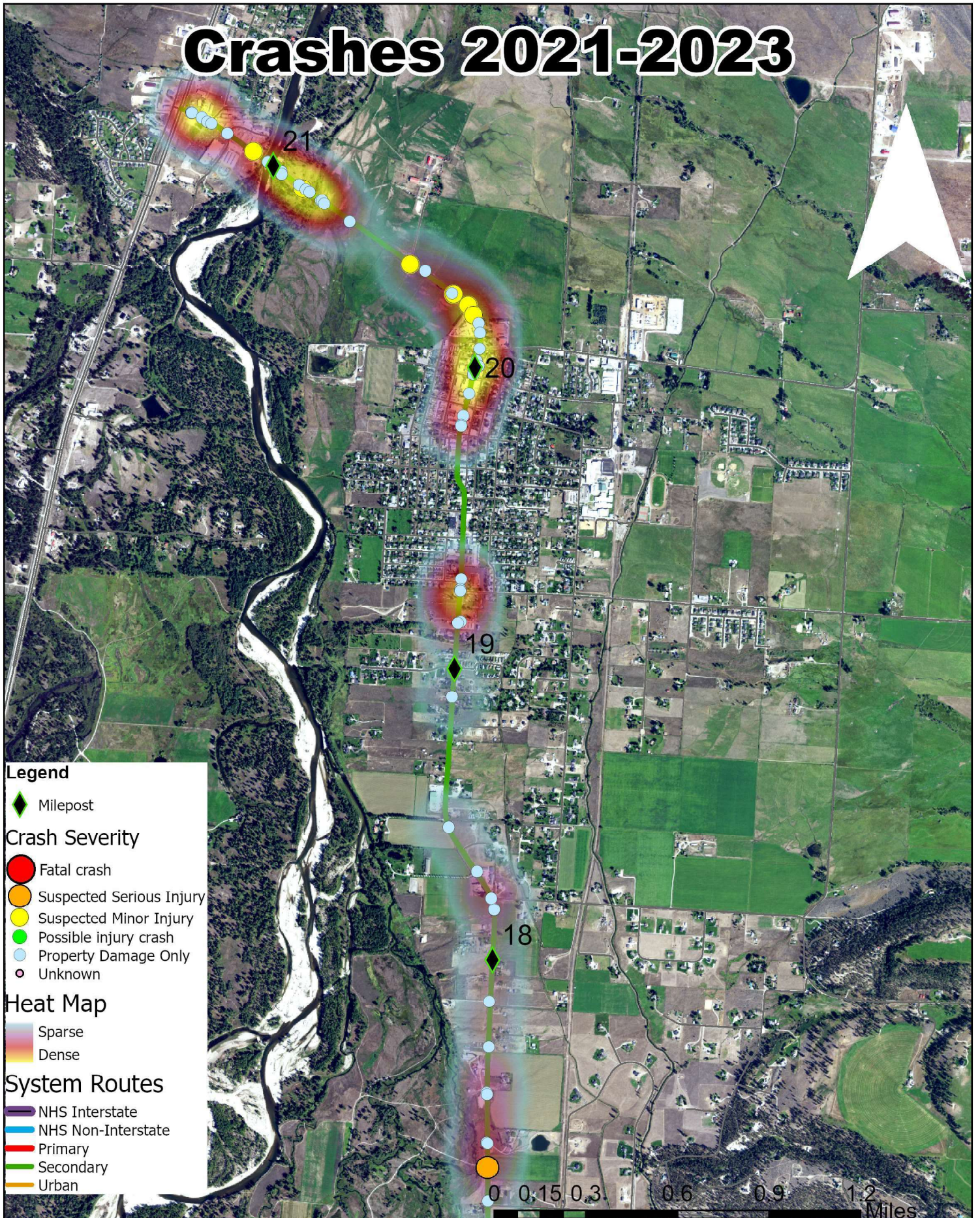
Crash history was reviewed for a three-year period from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2023. A total of 58 crashes were reported along the study segment – 1 suspected serious injury, 6 suspected minor injury, and 51 no apparent injury crashes. A majority of the crashes were recorded within the last half-mile of the study nearing the intersection with US 93. Outside of this area the crash density is generally concentrated either at the north end of Stevensville or the first mile of the study. The highest crash rate outside of the region around the intersection with US 93 was milepost 20 to milepost 20.5 at about 7.3 crashes per mile per year. Wild animal related crashes were the most common (16) followed by rear-end crashes (11) and then fixed-object crashes (9). Of these 58 crashes, 11 occurred under adverse road conditions (snow/wet). Most were also during daylight hours with only 15 occurring at night and 4 during dawn/dusk. There were 20 crashes related to intersections. Ten of the intersection crashes occurred at public intersections and ten occurred at driveways or alleyways. No public intersection showed a significant number of crashes in comparison to the others.



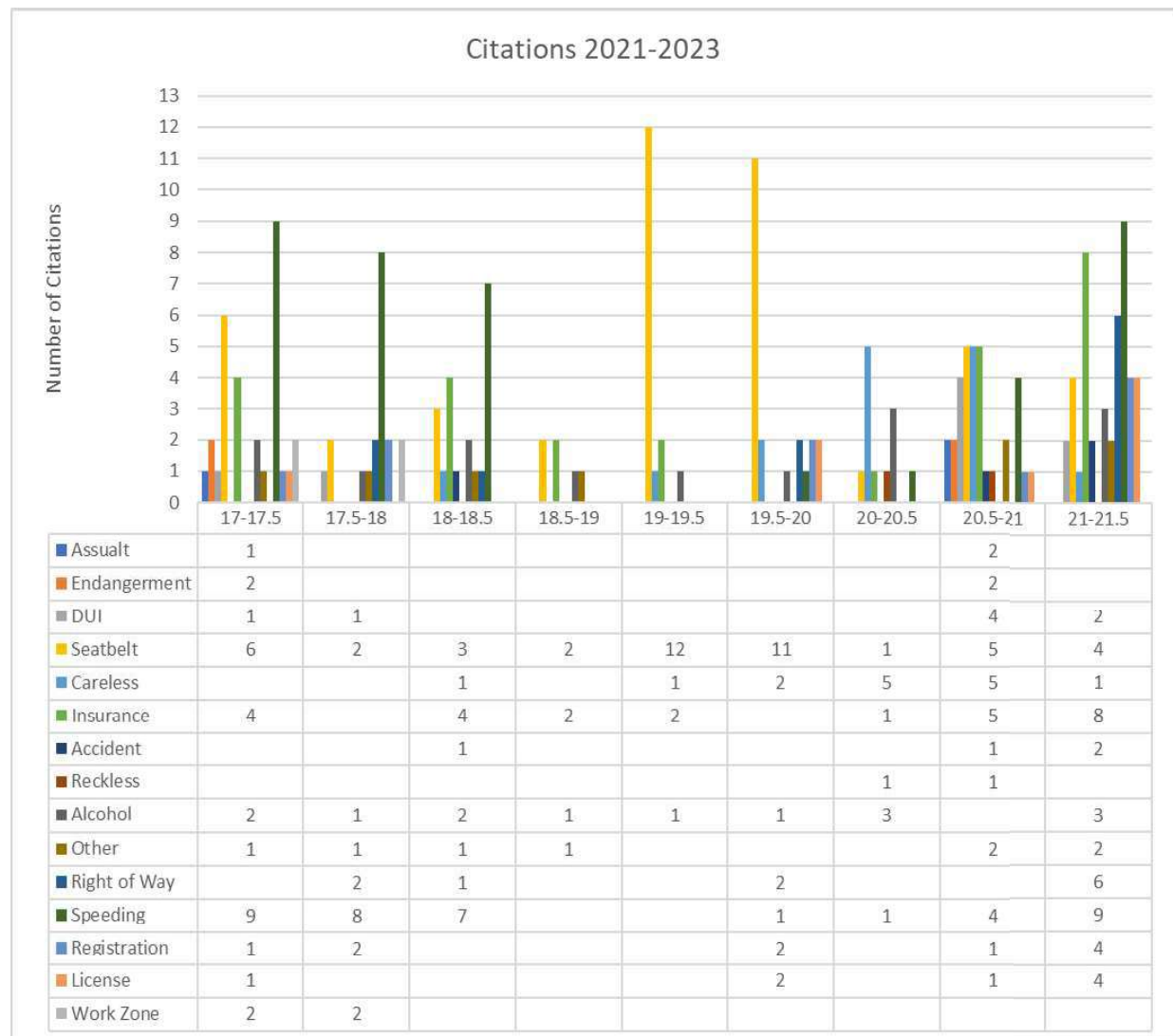
Speed played a role in at least one of the recorded crashes. The primary contributing circumstance was careless (17) followed by wild animal in the roadway (16). Although not directly related to speeding there were six crashes related to following too close. There were also three reckless driving and seven improper turn crashes.



Crashes 2021-2023



During the same period, the Montana Highway Patrol made 175 traffic stops and issued 204 citations. Approximately 21 percent (43 of 204) of the citations involved speeding throughout the study segment. Speeding citations primarily occurred in two areas, within the last half mile of the study area and the southern end of Stevensville. There was one near milepost 17 and milepost 20. On average speeding citations were written for 14-mph over the posted speed limit. The 50-mph speed zone had the highest concentration with citations for on average 15-mph above the speed limit. Most citations primarily occurred within the first half mile of the study (14.7%) and from the last half mile of the study (22.1%).



Travel Speed Characteristics

Vehicular travel speeds were sampled directionally at 14 locations to develop a speed profile of the 85th percentile speeds and the pace of the traffic stream from which to evaluate the speed limit configuration of S-269. The following spot speed sample statistics begin at Milepost 17 with a 65-mph speed limit and continue north to the 45-mph speed limit transition at the intersection with US-93. Data was collected in June.

Location	50th Percentile Speed	85th Percentile Speed	Pace of Traffic Stream
450-ft North of Milepost 17 RP (0+0.13) – STA 1 65/55-mph Speed Transition	60-mph NB 60-mph SB	66-mph NB 66-mph SB	(56-mph – 66-mph) 62% (55-mph – 65-mph) 62%
1,500-ft South of Cinnabar Ct RP (0+0.57) – STA 2 55-mph Speed Zone	56-mph NB 59-mph SB	62-mph NB 64-mph SB	(50-mph – 60-mph) 68% (53-mph – 63-mph) 71%
200-ft North of Ralls Dr RP (0+0.95) – STA 3 55/45-mph Speed Transition	52-mph NB 54-mph SB	57-mph NB 59-mph SB	(49-mph – 59-mph) 64% (46-mph – 56-mph) 69%
450-ft South of Pine Hollow Rd RP (1+0.21) – STA 4 45-mph Speed Zone	45-mph NB 45-mph SB	49-mph NB 51-mph SB	(41-mph – 51-mph) 65% (42-mph – 52-mph) 58%
150-ft South of LJK Way RP (1+0.65) – STA 5 45-mph Speed Zone	44-mph NB 46-mph SB	48-mph NB 51-mph SB	(39-mph – 49-mph) 70% (41-mph – 51-mph) 69%
400-ft South of Milepost 19 RP (2+0.12) – STA 6 45-mph Speed Zone	42-mph NB 44-mph SB	46-mph NB 49-mph SB	(37-mph – 47-mph) 75% (39-mph – 49-mph) 72%
200-ft North of Valley View St RP (2+0.46) – STA 7 45/35-mph Speed Transition	35-mph NB 36-mph SB	39-mph NB 41-mph SB	(30-mph – 40-mph) 78% (31-mph – 41-mph) 71%
200-ft North of East 5 th Steet RP (2+0.84) – STA 8 25-mph Speed Zone	28-mph NB 28-mph SB	32-mph NB 32-mph SB	(23-mph – 33-mph) 74% (23-mph – 33-mph) 80%
200-ft North of Buck Street RP (3+0.22) – STA 9 25/35-mph Speed Transition	29-mph NB 26-mph SB	33-mph NB 29-mph SB	(23-mph – 33-mph) 74% (20-mph – 30-mph) 78%
1000-ft North of Buck Street RP (3+0.37) – STA 10 35/45-mph Speed Transition	42-mph NB 40-mph SB	46-mph NB 44-mph SB	(36-mph – 46-mph) 77% (34-mph – 44-mph) 76%
550-ft South of Fort Owen RP (3+0.52) – STA 11 55-mph Speed Zone	47-mph NB 45-mph SB	52-mph NB 50-mph SB	(42-mph – 52-mph) 71% (40-mph – 50-mph) 72%
1100-ft North of Fort Owen RP (3+0.79) – STA 12	51-mph NB 51-mph SB	56-mph NB 55-mph SB	(46-mph – 56-mph) 69% (45-mph – 55-mph) 69%

55-mph Speed Zone			
750-ft South of Stevensville Rd RP (4+0.07) – STA 13 55/45-mph Speed Transition	49-mph NB 48-mph SB	54-mph NB 52-mph SB	(44-mph – 54-mph) 71% (42-mph – 52-mph) 71%
750-ft South of US 93 RP (4+0.37) – STA 14 45-mph Speed Zone	38-mph NB 37-mph SB	42-mph NB 42-mph SB	(33-mph – 43-mph) 67% (32-mph – 42-mph) 66%

Contextual Characteristics

Recently, the National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) completed new research for setting appropriate speed limits on rural and urban streets. *NCHRP report 17-76: Development of a Posted Speed Limit Setting Procedure and Tool* considers contextual aspects of the roadway environment and how it influences operating speed and safety (crashes). The procedure of the tool uses fact-based decision rules that consider both driver speed choice and general safety associated with the roadway. This means the roadway classification, speed, AADT, and other contextual aspects are accounted for when determining an appropriate speed limit.

Within the rural environment between Stevensville and the US-93 intersection, the typical section does not meet design standards. Shoulder widths nearing the US-93 intersection are approximately 4-feet, while just south of the Bitterroot River bridge, the shoulders reduce down to nothing. The entire section does not meet shoulder width guidance considering the road classification and AADT volumes. Travel lanes should be at least 12-feet in width and shoulders should at least be 8-feet in width. Additionally, the all-crash rate is considered to be high, with an all-crash rate two times higher than the national average. However, the injury crash rate is not considered to be elevated. Considering the shoulder width is not close to meeting guidance and a high crash rate, we recommend that the closest 50th percentile speed be used when determining an appropriate speed limit.

Within the rural town environment of Stevensville, the typical section meets design standards. There is on-street parking on this section, and it comprises approximately 30% of this section and is heavily utilized. Additionally, considering the downtown nature of this area, pedestrian and cyclist activity is considered high. The all-crash rate and injury crash rates are not considered to be elevated for this section. Due to the proximity and volume of vulnerable road users, it was recommended that the closest 50th percentile speed be used when determining an appropriate speed limit.

The section immediately south of Stevensville resembles a mix of rural/suburban and does not meet design standards. The shoulder width does not meet shoulder width guidance for this section as the existing shoulder width is approximately 1-foot to no shoulder. Considering this section does not meet shoulder width guidance, the use of the rounded down 85th percentile should be used when determining a speed limit.

The section from just south of Pine Hollow Road to the end of study resembles a rural environment and does not meet design standards. The shoulder width is approximately 1-foot to

no shoulder for the majority of this section. The all-crash rate for this section is considered elevated; however, the injury crash rate is not considered to be elevated. Due to an elevated crash rate and not meeting shoulder width guidance, it was recommended that the closest 50th percentile be used when determining an appropriate speed limit.

Conclusions and Recommendations

A review of the spot speed samples shows that the prevailing speeds along S-269 match the majority of the set speed limits. The 85th percentile speeds and upper limits of the pace are for the most part within +7-mph of the 25-mph and (+1 - +6-mph) of the 45-mph posted speed limits. The 85th percentile speed and upper limits of the pace for the 55-mph speed zone south of Stevensville is (+7 - +9-mph) and is considered elevated. The 55-mph speed zone north of Stevensville is the opposite with 85th speeds at or below the speed limit. Within the 25-mph speed zone about 77 percent of drivers are all within 10-mph of each other, which is the highest for the study area. The same is not true in the 45-mph speed zone south of Stevensville with only about 68 percent of drivers traveling within 10-mph of each other, which is the lowest in the study.

Although the prevailing speeds indicate appropriately set speed limits roadway context indicates these speeds are slightly elevated above what should be considered reasonable and prudent. A 55-mph speed limit north of Stevensville does fit the existing rural environment; however, the segment length is rather short and does lead to a rapid ramp-up/ramp-down behavior. This segment north of Stevensville acts as a small rural buffer between the US-93 intersection area and Stevensville and is approximately 1/2 of a mile in length. Normally, a transitional zone is a segment of medium-speed that bridges the gap between a high-speed and low-speed segment. This segment is a medium-speed transitional zone that separates two lower-speed areas. This 55-mph speed zone does meet the minimum zone length requirements of half a mile; however, speed data suggests this section is too short and vehicle traffic is high between the lower speed sections for vehicles to achieve this speed. Furthermore, if they achieve this speed, vehicles are immediately ramping down as they approach the lower speed segment and only achieve these speeds for a relatively short amount of time/distance. It should also be noted that this 55-mph speed zone was instituted in 1999, and this area has substantially changed over the past 26 years. Additionally, considering the crash rate is high for this section and it doesn't meet shoulder width guidance, we believe that the 55-mph speed zone is too high and isn't functioning as intended. We recommend a 45-mph speed zone, which better reflects the speed data and reduces the speed differential for both lower speed locations that are adjacent. A 45-mph speed zone reduces the speed differential from 10-mph to 0-mph for the transitional 45-mph speed zone near the intersection with US-93 and from 30-mph to 20-mph as you transition down to the 25-mph speed zone inside of Stevensville. Having a lower speed will help reduce the intensity of the ramp-up/ramp-down of the speed profile for this segment as well. We recommend the proposed 45-mph speed zone over the same limits as the existing 55-mph speed zone. This would create a uniform and consistent 45-mph speed zone from the US-93 intersection to the transitional area just north of Stevensville.

For the 25-mph speed zone through Stevensville, prevailing speeds would indicate that the speed limits are not appropriately set as speeds are higher than the current set speed limit. The 85th

percentile inside of the 25-mph speed zone is 32-mph and the 50th percentile is 28-mph. If utilizing the closest 50th percentile as the roadway context dictates, this would result in a recommendation of a 30-mph speed zone for Stevensville. However, considering the nature of the original request and local desires, we are not recommending an increase to the existing 25-mph speed zone inside of Stevensville. As part of the request, there is a desire to extend the 25-mph speed zone from South Avenue to Middle Burnt Fork Road which is inside of Stevensville and is currently posted as a 35-mph transitional speed zone that is 900-ft in length. Considering the speeds are also elevated in this section, we do not recommend reducing the 35-mph to 25-mph as this would substantially deviate from the speed data and would go below the 50th percentile by approximately 10.5-mph. MDT does not recommend setting the speed limit below the 50th percentile by 10-mph or more as research shows this can lead to an increase in fatal and injury crash rates. However, MDT recognizes that the existing 35-mph speed zone is very short in length and could benefit from being extended to better help drivers transition to the rural town environment. MDT recommends extending the 35-mph speed zone just south of Middle Burnt Fork Road for a total distance of 1,600-ft. The proposed 35-mph speed zone extension would meet our zone length guidance, should help reduce speeds inside of Stevensville as drivers have a longer time to properly transition into the rural town roadway environment and better matches the speed data for this section.

The rural/suburban environment mix that begins south of Middle Burnt Fork Road has prevailing speeds that matches the speed data, however, roadway context dictates that these speeds are slightly elevated from what would be considered reasonable and prudent. Roadway context for this section dictates the use of the rounded down 85th percentile, which results in a recommended of a 45-mph speed zone. The average 85th percentile for this section is 49-mph and the average 50th percentile is 44-mph. This would result in no-change to the existing speed limit for this section.

The rural environment that begins just south of Pine Hollow Road has prevailing speeds that matches the speed data, however, roadway context dictates that these speeds are slightly elevated from what would be considered reasonable and prudent. The average 85th percentile for this section is 60.5-mph and the average 50th percentile is 55.3-mph. Roadway context based on crash data and shoulder width guidance, necessitates the use of the closest 50th percentile for determining a speed limit. This would result in no-change to the small 45-mph section just south of Pine Hollow Road, no-change to the 55-mph speed zone and no-change to the 65-mph speed zone.

There are three main transitional areas for the study area. The area immediately east of the US-93 intersection, the area immediately north of Stevensville and the area south of Stevensville. The area south of Stevensville and US-93 intersection area has been discussed already. The area north of Stevensville is rural and rapidly transitions into a rural town and then rural downtown environment. The area between these two transitions is largely rural with the exception of Fort Owen State Park located in the middle of this section. We recommend a simplification of the transitional speed zones. Currently the speed limit configuration is 45-55-45-35-25-mph and has four different speed limit changes over the course of a mile. We recommend a speed limit configuration of 45-35-25-mph, which reduces and simplifies the transitional configuration significantly. Additionally, we recommend extending the 25-mph zone by 300-ft to the north as a

better reflection of the roadway environment and local desires as they state the current 25-mph sign location is crowded and hard to see.

Based upon these observations and *NCHRP report 17-76: Development of a Posted Speed Limit Setting Procedure and Tool* MDT recommends lowering the existing speed limits in both the rural/suburban mix and rural sections of the roadway. MDT recommends a 45-mph special speed zone from the US-93 intersection to just north of Stevensville. MDT recommends the 35-mph transitional speed zones south and north of Stevensville be extended to 1,600-ft in length. MDT recommends the 25-mph speed zone inside of Stevensville be extended to the north by 350-ft to meet local desires. MDT recommends no other speed zone changes to the study area. Citation data indicates law enforcement is present and targeting those motorists traveling outside the norm.

We recommend the following speed limits:

A 35-mph speed limit beginning approximately 100-ft south of the intersection with Mystic River Road (straight-line station 393+00) and continuing north for an approximate distance of 1,600-ft, approximately 100-ft south of the intersection with South Avenue (straight-line station 409+00)

A 25-mph speed limit beginning approximately 100-ft south of the intersection with South Avenue (straight-line station 409+00) and continuing north for an approximate distance of 0.65-miles, approximately 500-ft north of the intersection with Buck Street/Eastside Highway (straight-line station 442+00)

A 35-mph speed limit beginning approximately 400-ft north of the intersection with Buck Street/Eastside Highway (straight-line station 442+00) and continuing north for an approximate distance of 1,600-ft, approximately 100-ft south of the intersection with Fort Owen Ranch Road (straight-line station 458+00)

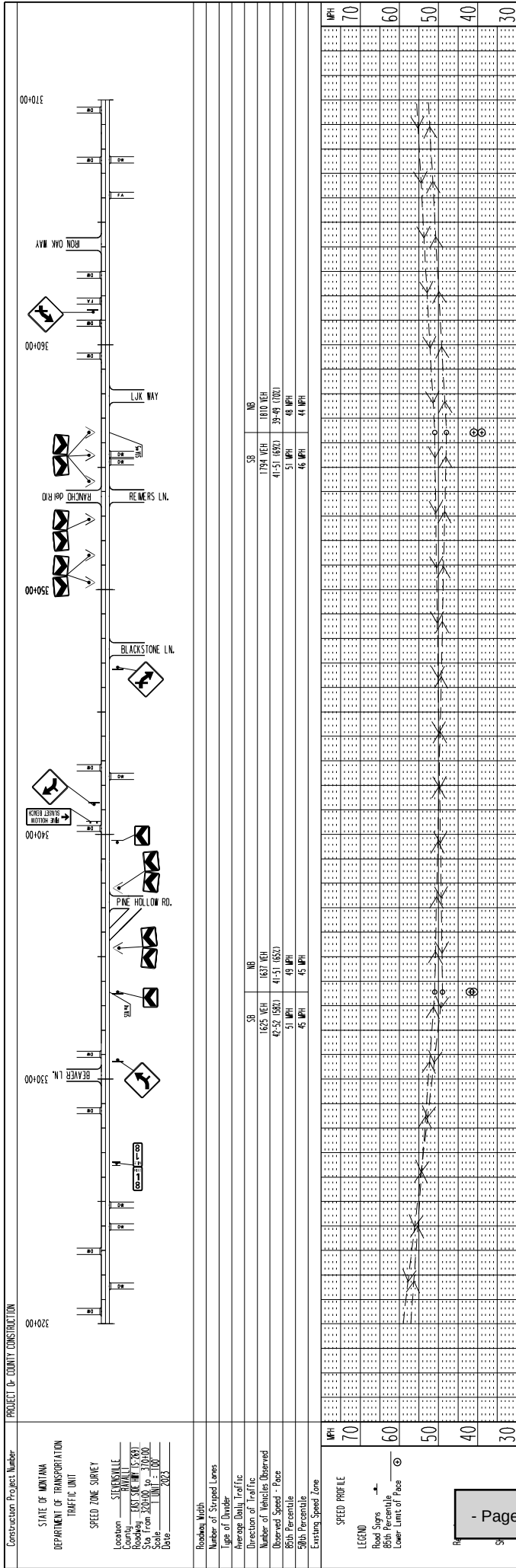
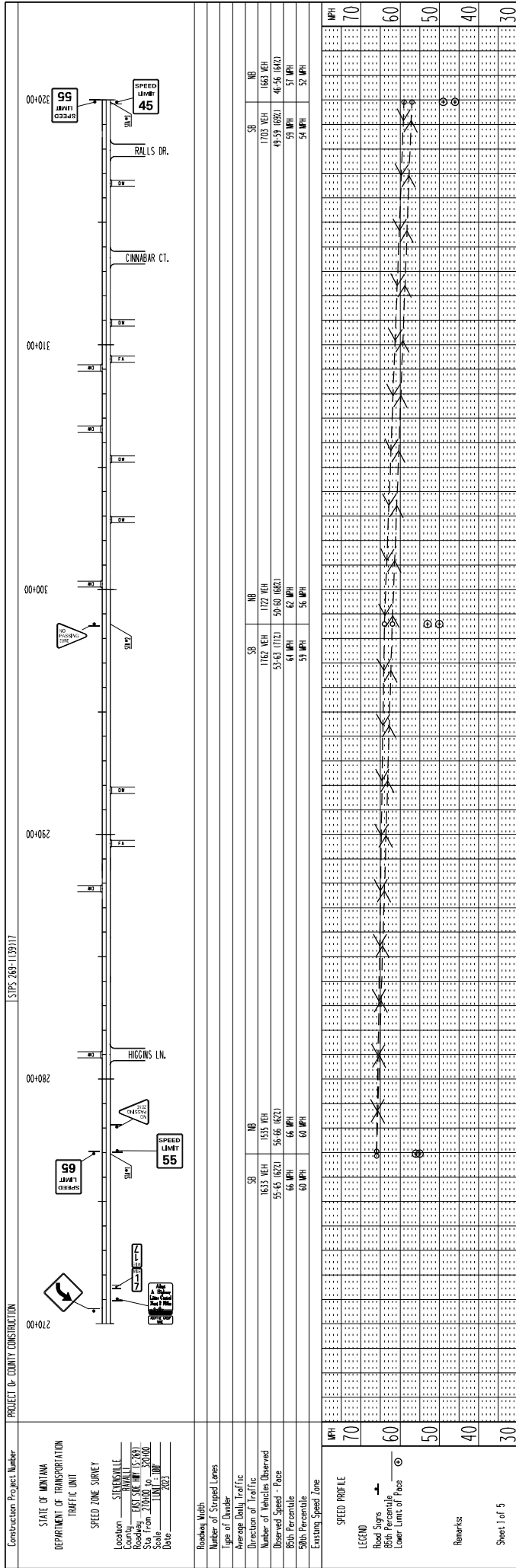
A 45-mph speed limit beginning approximately 100-ft south of the intersection with Fort Owen Ranch Road (straight-line station 458+00) and continuing north for an approximate distance of 0.93-miles, approximately at the intersection with US-93 (straight-line station 507+00)

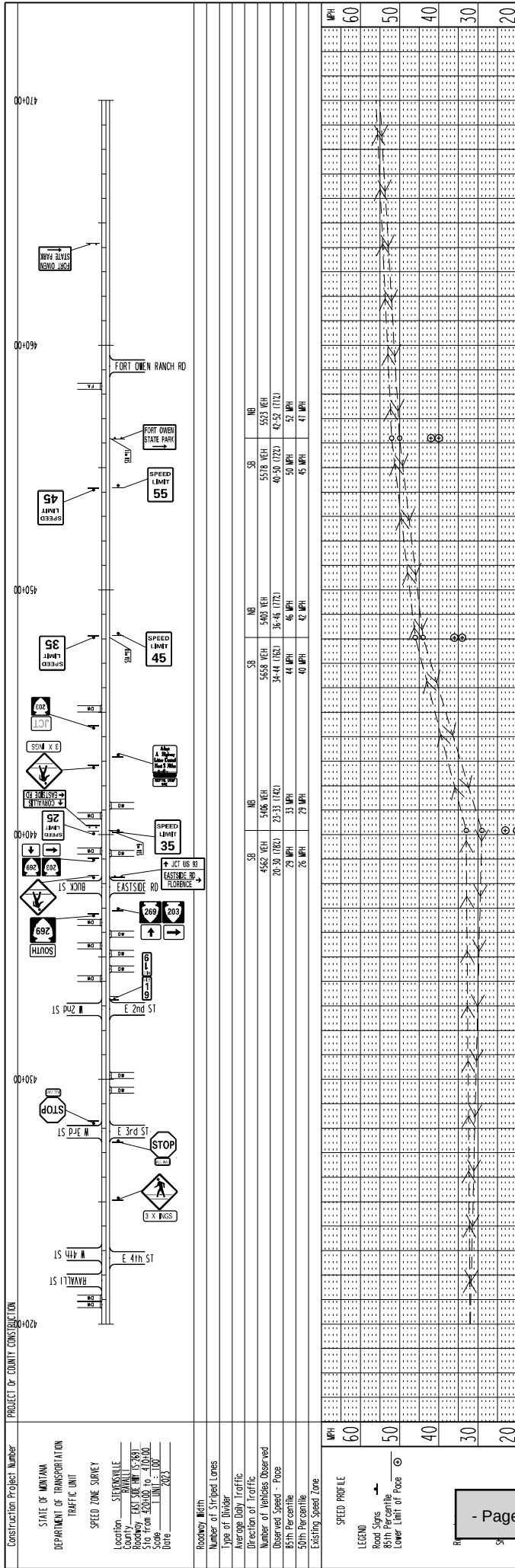
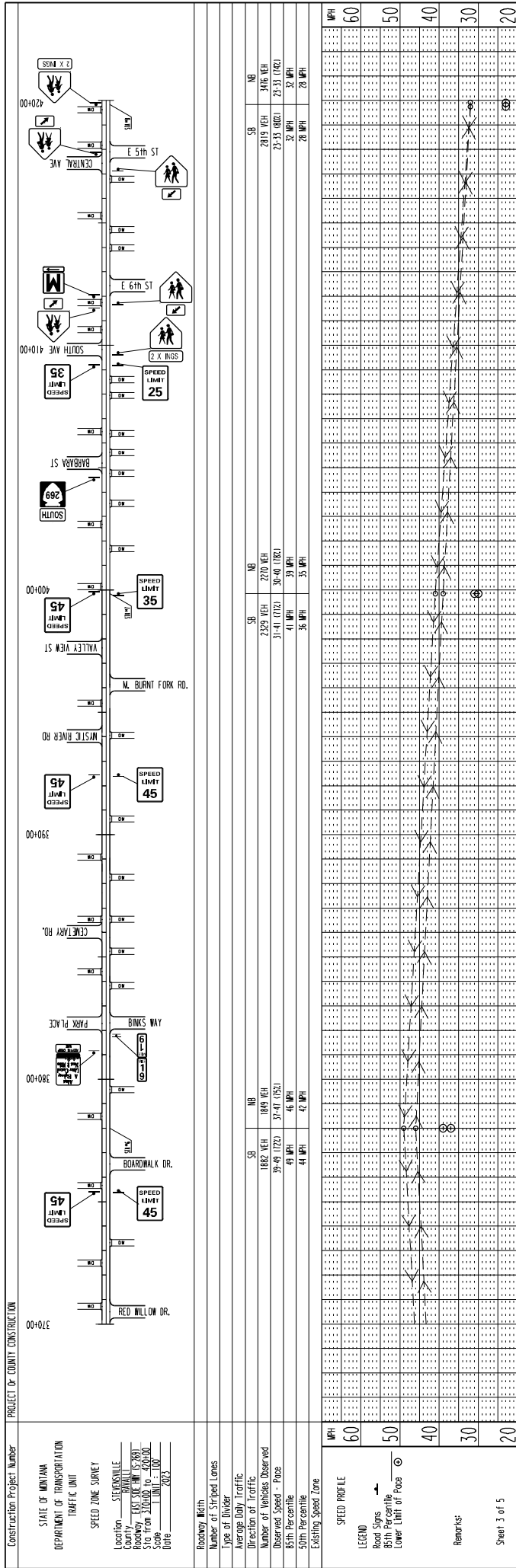
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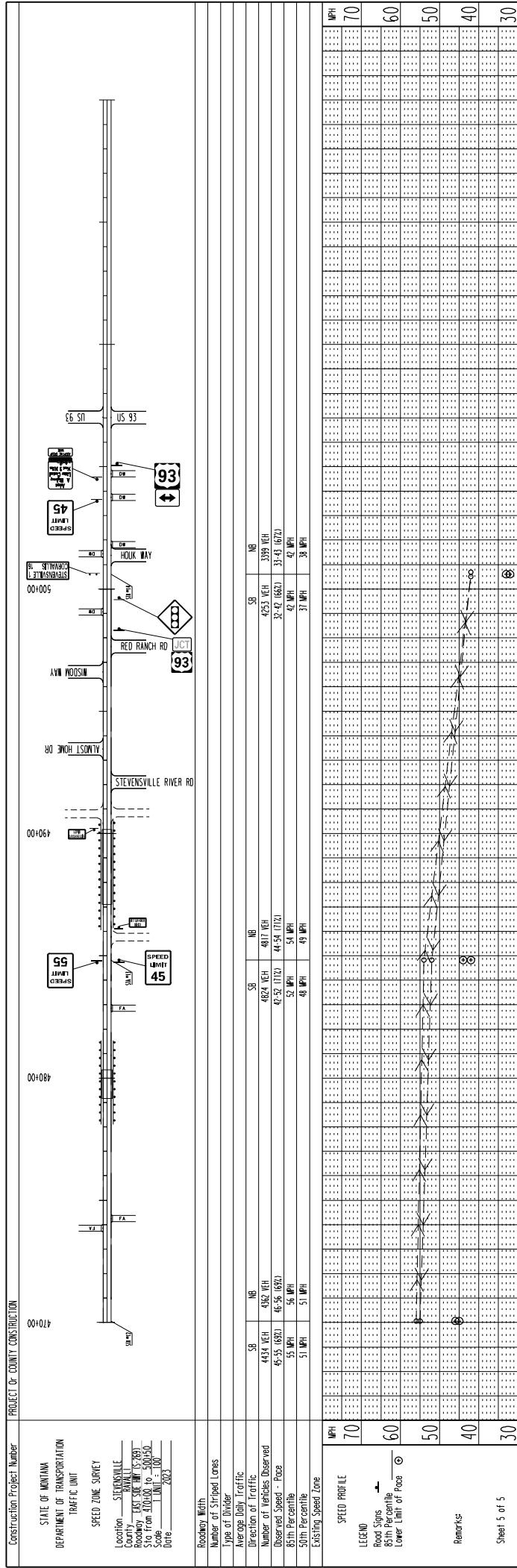
Gabe B. Priebe, P.E. – Traffic & Safety Engineer
Aldo Alejandro Videa Martinez, P.E. – Missoula District Traffic Engineer
Brenden Borges, P.E. – Investigations Lead Worker

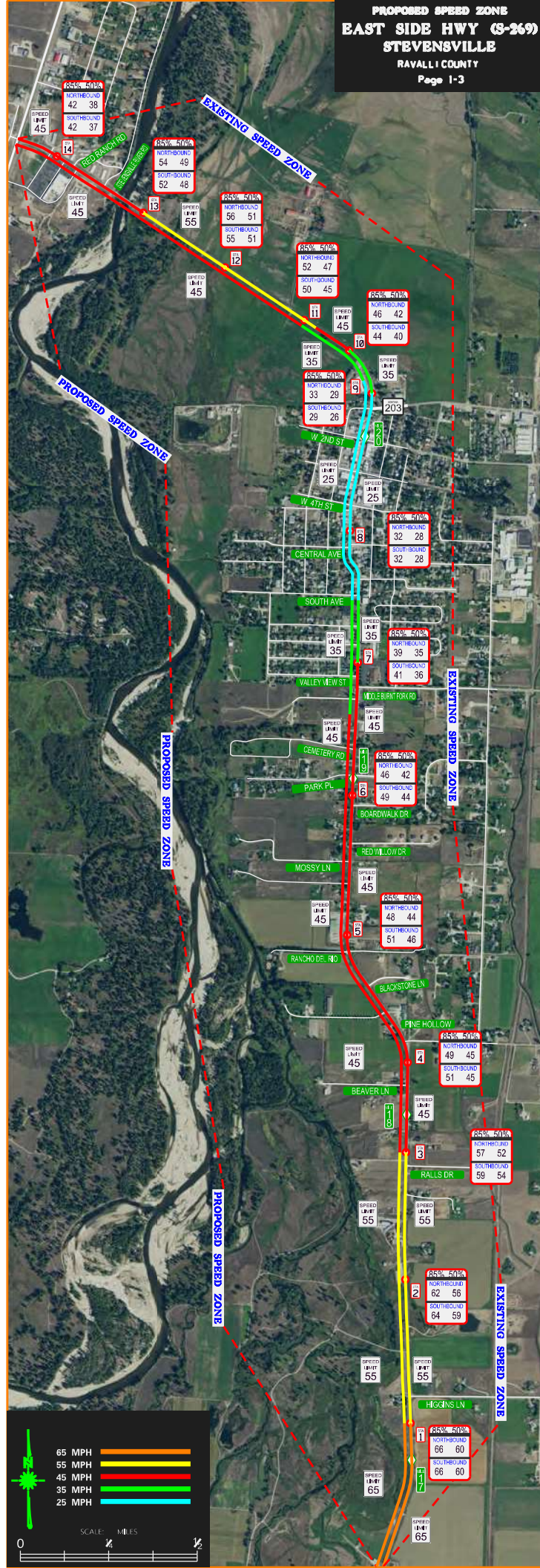
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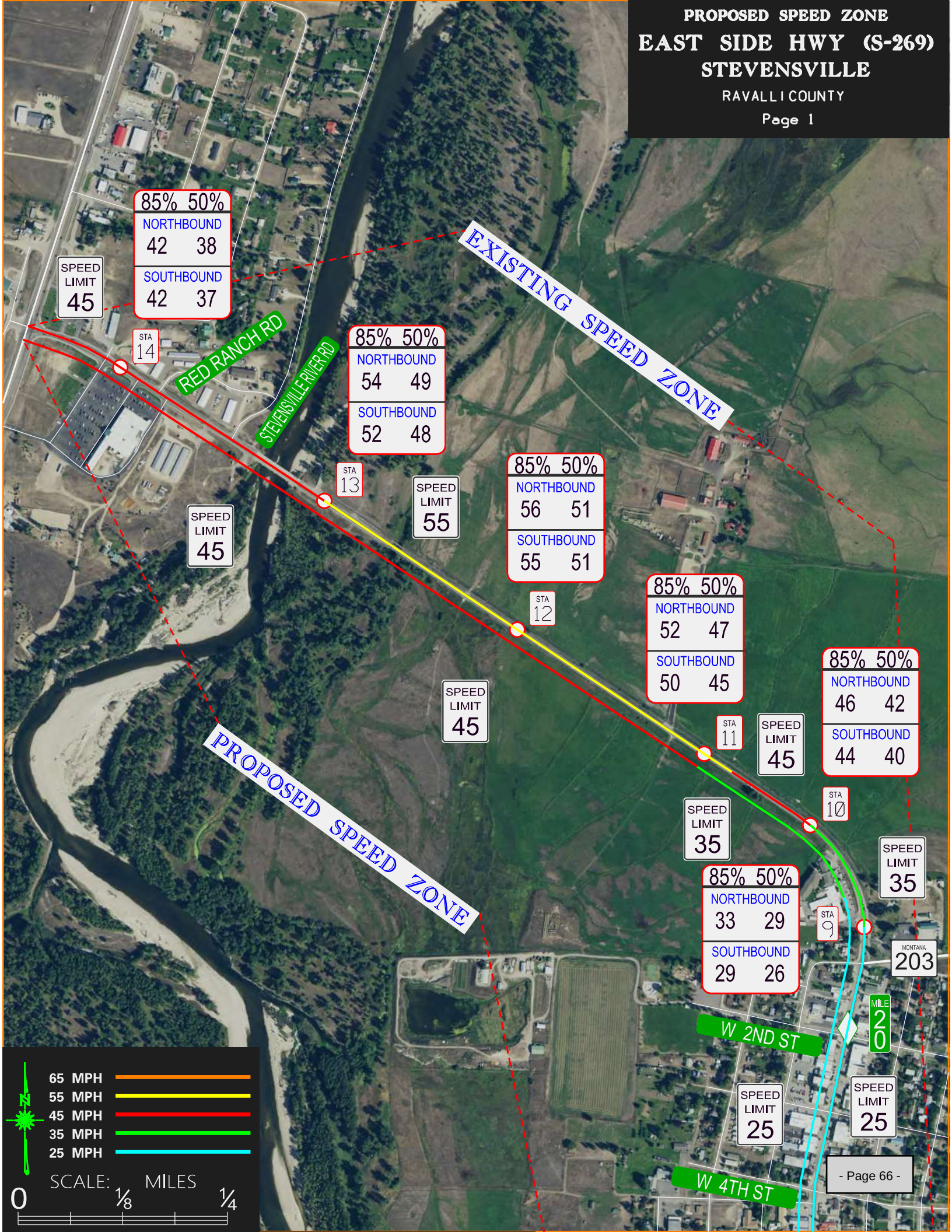




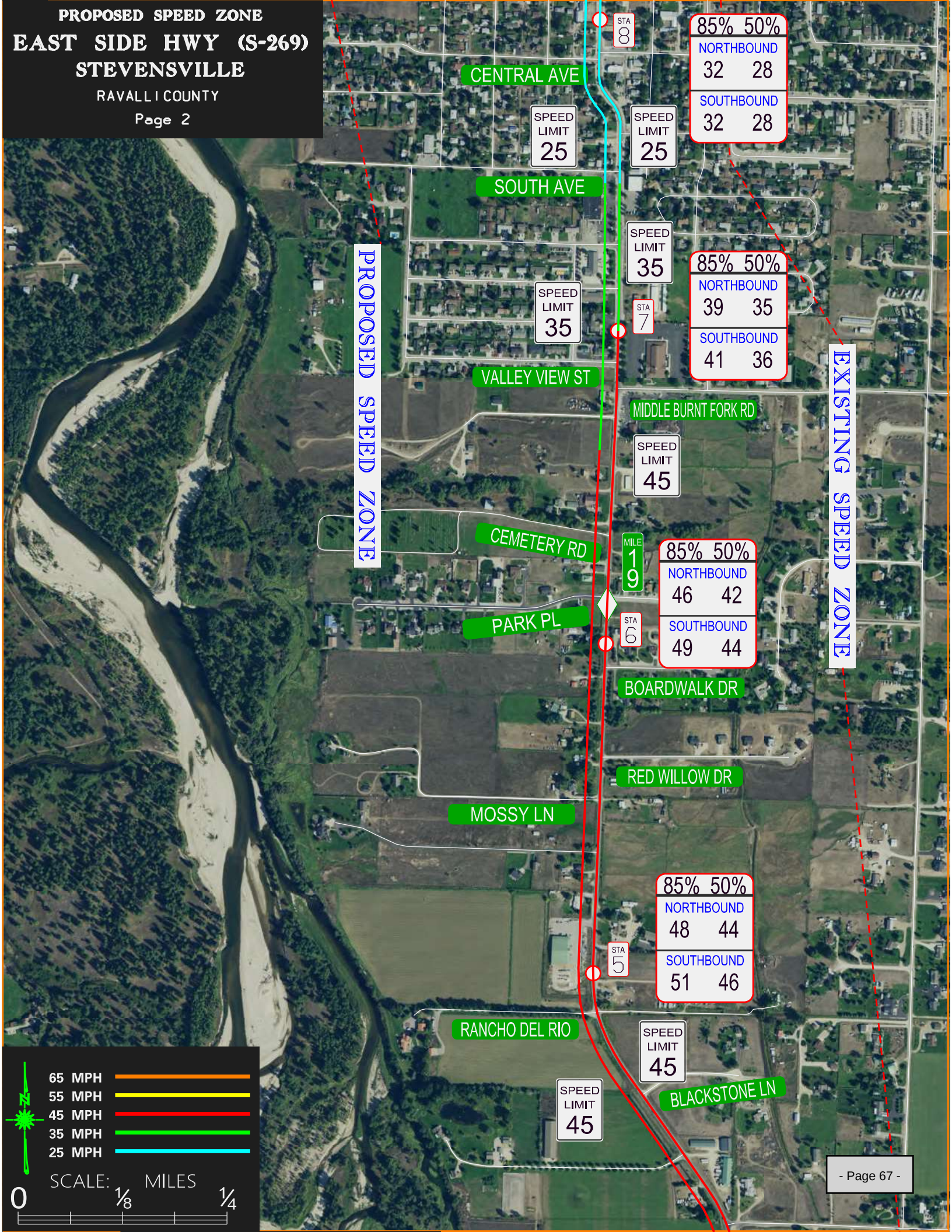




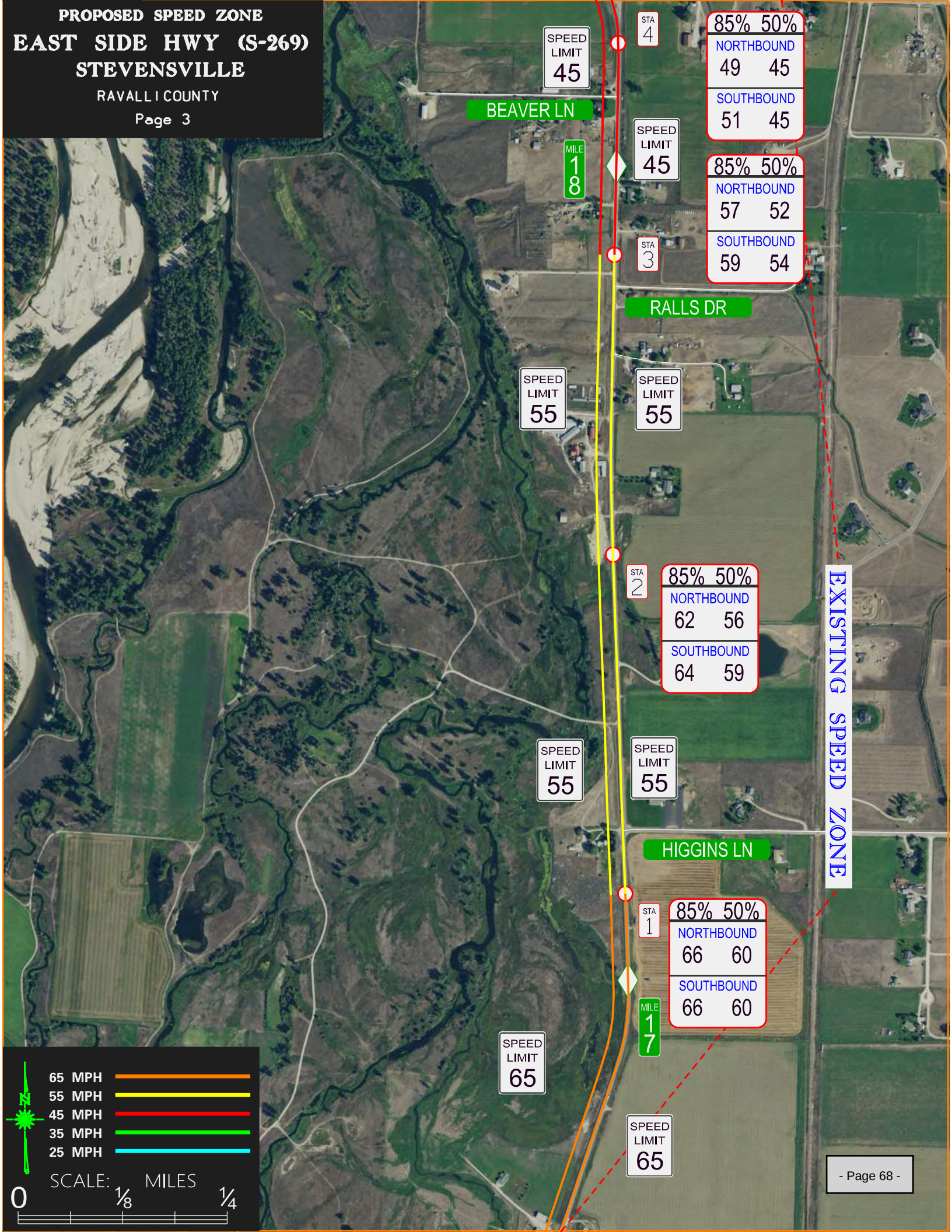
PROPOSED SPEED ZONE
EAST SIDE HWY (S-269)
STEVENSVILLE
 RAVALLI COUNTY
 Page 1



PROPOSED SPEED ZONE
EAST SIDE HWY (S-269)
STEVENSVILLE
 RAVALLI COUNTY
 Page 2



PROPOSED SPEED ZONE
EAST SIDE HWY (S-269)
STEVENSVILLE
 RAVALLI COUNTY
 Page 3



SPEED
LIMIT
45

STA
4

85%	50%
NORTHBOUND	
49	45
SOUTHBOUND	
51	45

BEAVER LN

MILE
1.8

SPEED
LIMIT
45

85%	50%
NORTHBOUND	
57	52
SOUTHBOUND	
59	54

STA
3

RALLS DR

SPEED
LIMIT
55

SPEED
LIMIT
55

STA
2

85%	50%
NORTHBOUND	
62	56
SOUTHBOUND	
64	59

SPEED
LIMIT
55

SPEED
LIMIT
55

HIGGINS LN

STA
1

85%	50%
NORTHBOUND	
66	60
SOUTHBOUND	
66	60

MILE
1.7

SPEED
LIMIT
65

SPEED
LIMIT
65

EXISTING SPEED ZONE



File Attachments for Item:

a. Discussion/Decision: Resolution No. 575 a Resolution Adopting the 2024 Western Montana Region Hazard Mitigation Plan and Ravalli County/Town of Stevensville Annex



Stevensville Town Council Meeting

Agenda Item Request

To be submitted BEFORE Noon on the Wednesday immediately preceding the Thursday agenda publishing deadline (8-days ahead of the meeting).

Agenda Item Type:	New Business
Person Submitting the Agenda Item:	Bob Michalson
Second Person Submitting the Agenda Item:	Erik Hoover, Ravalli County OEM
Submitter Title:	Mayor
Submitter Phone:	
Submitter Email:	
Requested Council Meeting Date for Item:	11/13/2025
Agenda Topic:	Discussion/Decision: Resolution No. 575 a Resolution Adopting the 2024 Western Montana Region Hazard Mitigation Plan and Ravalli County/Town of Stevensville Annex
Backup Documents Attached?	Yes
If no, why not?	
Approved/Disapproved?	Approved
If Approved, Meeting Date for Consideration:	11/13/2025
Notes:	

RESOLUTION NO. 575

**A Resolution Adopting the 2024 Western Montana Region
Hazard Mitigation Plan and Ravalli County/Town of Stevensville Annex**

WHEREAS, the Town of Stevensville recognizes the threat that natural hazards pose to people and property within our community; and

WHEREAS, undertaking hazard mitigation actions will reduce the potential for harm to people and property from future hazard occurrences; and

WHEREAS, an adopted Hazard Mitigation Plan is required as a condition of future funding for mitigation projects under multiple Federal Emergency Management Agency pre- and post- disaster mitigation grant programs; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Stevensville resides within the Planning Area, and fully participated in the mitigation planning process to prepare this Hazard Mitigation Plan; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council, hereby adopts the Western Montana Region Hazard Mitigation Plan, as an official plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town of Stevensville will submit this Adoption Resolution to the Montana Disaster & Emergency Services and Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region VIII officials to enable the Plan's final approval. While some content may require revisions to meet the plan approval requirements, changes occurring after adoption will not require the Town of Stevensville to re-adopt any further iterations of the plan.

Approved:

Attest:

Bob Michalson, Mayor

Jenelle S. Berthoud, Town Clerk



DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS
DISASTER AND EMERGENCY SERVICES DIVISION

P.O. BOX 4789
FORT HARRISON, MONTANA 59636-4789



NOTICE OF INTENT
Regional Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plans

JURISDICTIONAL NAME: Town of Stevensville

DATE: 4-15-22

POINT OF CONTACT: (Include email address & phone numbers): jenelle@townofstevensville.com
406-777-5271 ext 102

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF REGIONAL MULTI-HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN BENEFITS:

- Montana Disaster and Emergency Services will be facilitating the planning process with the hired contractor.
- The State will be responsible for the financial match requirements.
- The state will update the plan every five years as required by FEMA ensuring that all participating jurisdictions are covered by a FEMA approved plan in future years.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF JURISDICTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY:

- The jurisdiction will participate in the plan development and the lining out of the local hazards and mitigation strategies.
- It is the jurisdictions' responsibility to involve local stakeholders and participate in public outreach engagement.
- The jurisdiction will actively coordinate and participate in all planning meetings with the hired contractor and/or state mitigation personnel.

*** The Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan will provide detail down to the local jurisdictional level. This will include local hazards, values at risk, mitigation actions, etc.

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS
DISASTER AND EMERGENCY SERVICES DIVISION
P.O. BOX 4789
FORT HARRISON, MONTANA 59636-4789

☒ OPT-IN: Town of Stevensville will be participating in the Regional Multi-Hazard Planning Process.
(Jurisdictional Name)

☐ OPT-OUT: _____ will NOT be participating in the Regional Multi-Hazard Planning Process.
(Jurisdictional Name)

Signature – local Point of Contact:

Date:

James H. Burtch, Town Clerk
(Signature and Title)

4-15-22

Signature - Jurisdictional/Managerial Official:

Date:

Steve Davis, Mayor
(Signature and Title)

4-15-22

In order for the contractor to begin work, we will need to have this form completed and returned to Montana DES DESMitigation@mt.gov, or Nicole Erickson at Nicole.Erickson@mt.gov by April 15th, 2022.

Annex O Ravalli County

O.1 Mitigation Planning and County Planning Team

This County Annex builds on previous versions of the Ravalli County Hazard Mitigation Plan, originally completed in 2005 and last updated in 2017. As part of the regional planning process, the County established a County Planning Team (CPT) to develop the mitigation plan and identify potential mitigation projects. The following incorporated communities participated in the DMA planning process with the County:

- City of Hamilton
- Town of Darby
- Town of Pinesdale
- Town of Stevensville

More details on the planning process followed and how the counties, municipalities and stakeholders participated can be referenced in Chapter 3 of the base plan. A full list of local government departments and stakeholders that participated can be found in Appendix A.

O.2 Community Profile

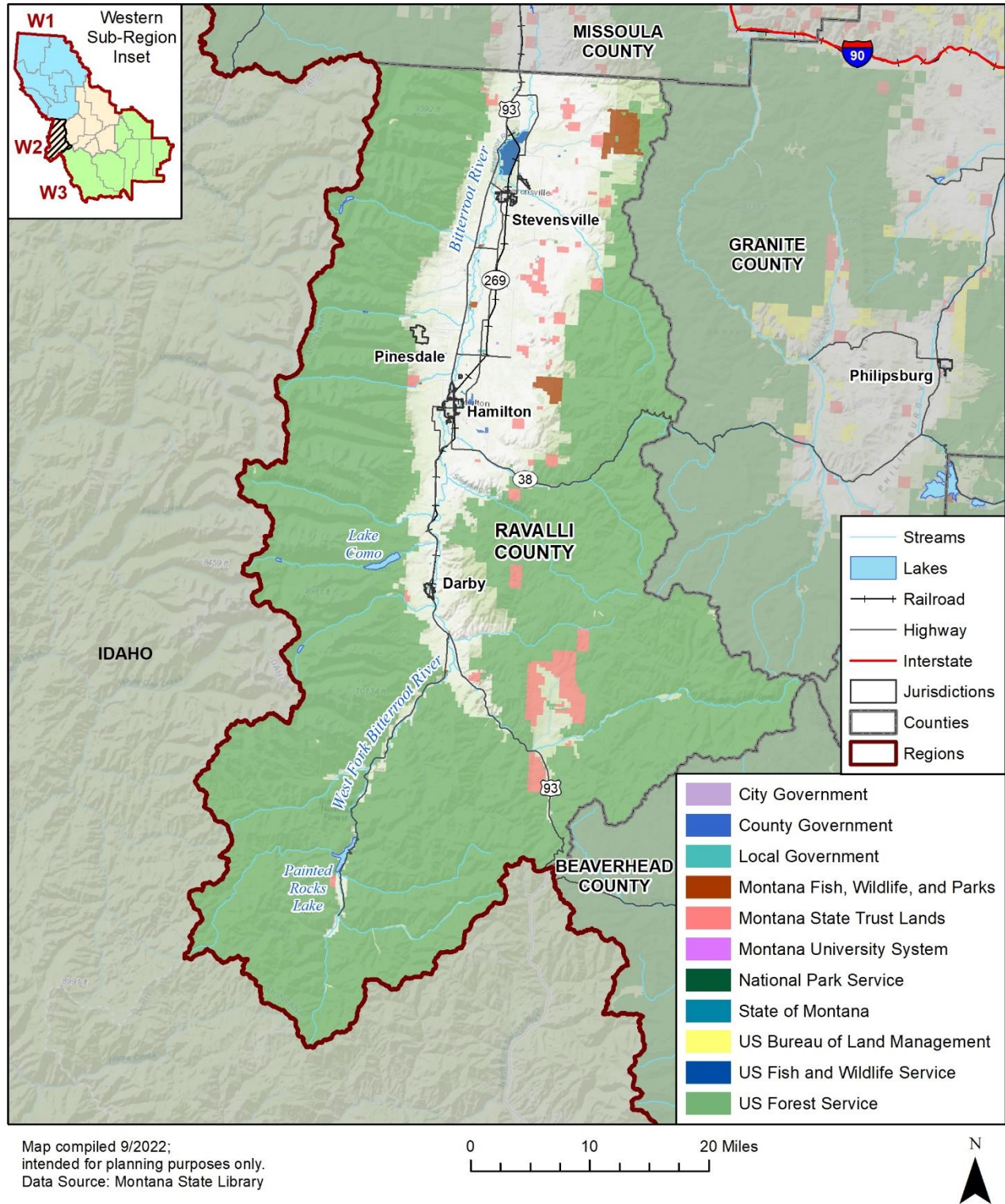
O.2.1 Geography and Climate

Ravalli County is located in southwestern Montana, bordering the U.S. State of Idaho to the west, Missoula County to the north, Granite County to the east, and Beaverhead County to the southeast. The County seat is the City of Hamilton. Incorporated towns and cities in Ravalli County include the City of Hamilton, Town of Darby, Town of Pinesdale, and Town of Stevensville. Unincorporated communities include Florence, Victor, Corvallis, Grantsdale, Conner, and Sula.

The County includes one major valley, the Bitterroot River Valley, which runs the north-south length of the county. High mountain ranges border each side of the valley with the Bitterroot Range to the west (maximum elevation 10,157 ft, Trapper Peak) the Sapphire Range to the east (highest point is Skalkaho Mountain, elevation 8,532 ft) and the Anaconda Pintlar Range to the southeast (West Pintlar Peak 9,330 ft). U.S. Highway 93 traverses the County from Lost Trail Pass on the south to the border with Missoula County on the north. The Bitterroot River headwaters are in the Bitterroot Mountains approximately 55 miles south of Hamilton. The river drains the Bitterroot Mountains on the west and the Sapphire Mountains on the east. From the junction of the East and West Forks, approximately 5 miles south of Darby, the Bitterroot River runs north past Hamilton and Stevensville. The Bitterroot River enters the Clark Fork River approximately 5 miles west of Missoula.

The climate of Ravalli County is characterized by cool summers, moderately cold winters, and typically dry conditions throughout the year. July and August are the warmest months, while December and January are the coldest. The wettest months of the year are May and June. Average air temperatures in July and August range from 80 to 85 °F maximum. During December and January, the average minimum temperatures range from 15 to 20 °F. Total annual precipitation measured at Hamilton averages 12.21 inches. The average frost-free period is from May 6 to September 27th, a period of 145 days. Approximately 50 percent of the annual precipitation occurs during the May-September growing season.

Figure O-1 Ravalli County Base Map and Land Stewardship



O.2.2 Population Trends

According to the 2020 U.S. Census, Ravalli County is the 7th most populous county in Montana with a total population of 44,966. It has also been one of the 10 fastest growing counties in Montana over the past decade, with sustained growth over the last several decades. The U.S. Census Bureau reported the County experienced a 10% increase in population between the 2010 and 2020 censuses, with the county doubling in population since 1980. Ravalli County is also one of the most densely populated counties in the state, ranked 9th overall, with an average population density of 18.8 persons per square mile, significantly greater than the state average of 7 persons per square mile.

Trends show that the population in the Town of Pinesdale has decreased relatively significantly since 2010, while the other municipalities and unincorporated areas of the county are growing faster than the state average. Approximately 81.4% of the total population resides in unincorporated areas of the county. Specific demographic variables for the County are provided in Table O-1 below.

Table O-1 Population Trends in Ravalli County 1980-2020

Incorporated Community	1980	1990	1980-1990 Change	2000	1990-2000 Change	2010	2000-2010 Change	2020	2010-2020 Change
City of Hamilton	2,661	2,737	2.9%	3,705	35.4%	4,348	17.4%	4,659	7.2%
Town of Darby	581	625	7.6%	710	13.6%	720	1.4%	783	8.8%
Town of Pinesdale	-	670	N/A	742	10.7%	917	23.6%	805	-12.2%
Town of Stevensville	1207	1221	1.2%	1,553	27.2%	1,809	16.5%	2,002	10.7%
Ravalli County	22,680	25,068	10.5%	36,301	44.8%	40,323	11.1%	44,351	10.0%

Source: US Census 2010-2020, U.S. Decennial Census 1980-2000

O.2.3 Demographics

The 2016-2020 American Community Survey (ACS) reports demographic estimates for Ravalli County, summarized in the table below Table O-2.

Table O-2 Demographic Estimates for Ravalli County (2016-2020 ACS)

Characteristic	Ravalli County	State of Montana
Percentage of persons below 150% poverty estimate	20.6%	24.1%
Unemployment Rate estimate	5.7%	4.0%
Percentage of housing cost-burdened occupied housing units with annual income less than \$75,000 (30%+ of income spent on housing costs) estimate	27.3%	21.4%
Percentage of persons with no high school diploma (age 25+) estimate	8.3%	7.5%

Characteristic	Ravalli County	State of Montana
Percentage uninsured in the total civilian noninstitutionalized population estimate	9.5%	9.6%
Percentage of persons aged 65 and older estimate	25.8%	22.1%
Percentage of persons aged 17 and younger estimate	19.1%	21.3%
Percentage of civilian noninstitutionalized population with a disability estimate	19.7%	15.6%
Percentage of single-parent households with children under 18 estimate	4.1%	3.9%
Percentage of persons (age 5+) who speak English "less than well" estimate	0.0%	0.3%
Minority (other than white non-Hispanic) estimate	8.3%	14.6%
Percentage of housing in structures with 10 or more units estimate	2.0%	3.3%
Percentage of mobile homes estimate	9.6%	13.1%
Percentage of occupied housing units with more people than rooms estimate	1.7%	2.1%
Percentage of households with no vehicle available estimate	3.5%	4.9%
Percentage of persons in group quarters estimate	0.7%	2.8%
Percentage Female estimate	50.4%	49.7%
Median Age estimate	49.3	40.1
Median Gross Rent estimate	\$790	\$836
Median House Value estimate	\$290,400	\$244,900
Percent Unoccupied Housing Units estimate	10.1%	15.3%

Source: ACS 2016-2020

O.2.4 Social Vulnerability

Social vulnerability is broadly defined as the susceptibility of social groups to the adverse impacts of natural hazards, including disproportionate death, injury, loss, or disruption of livelihood. Social vulnerability considers the social, economic, demographic, and housing characteristics of a community that influence its ability to prepare for, respond to, cope with, recover from, and adapt to environmental hazards. Additional details on social vulnerability and the NRI can be found in Section 4.1.1.5 of the Base Plan.

The SoVI-based social vulnerability score in Ravalli County is higher (more vulnerable) than 55% of Montana counties and 11 of the other 19 counties in the Western Region, earning a *relatively moderate* social vulnerability rating in the NRI. Factors that contribute to social vulnerability in Ravalli County include a considerably older population and a higher-than-typical proportion of the population living with disabilities or burdened with high cost of living (Table O-2). Refer to Section 4.1.1.5 of the Base Plan for more information on social vulnerability.

With regard to hazards, socially vulnerable populations may be disproportionately impacted by hazards that include flooding, wildfires, dam failure, wildfires and others. Severe weather hazards may result in power

outages that could have a greater impact on these populations, including those dependent on electricity for medical reasons.

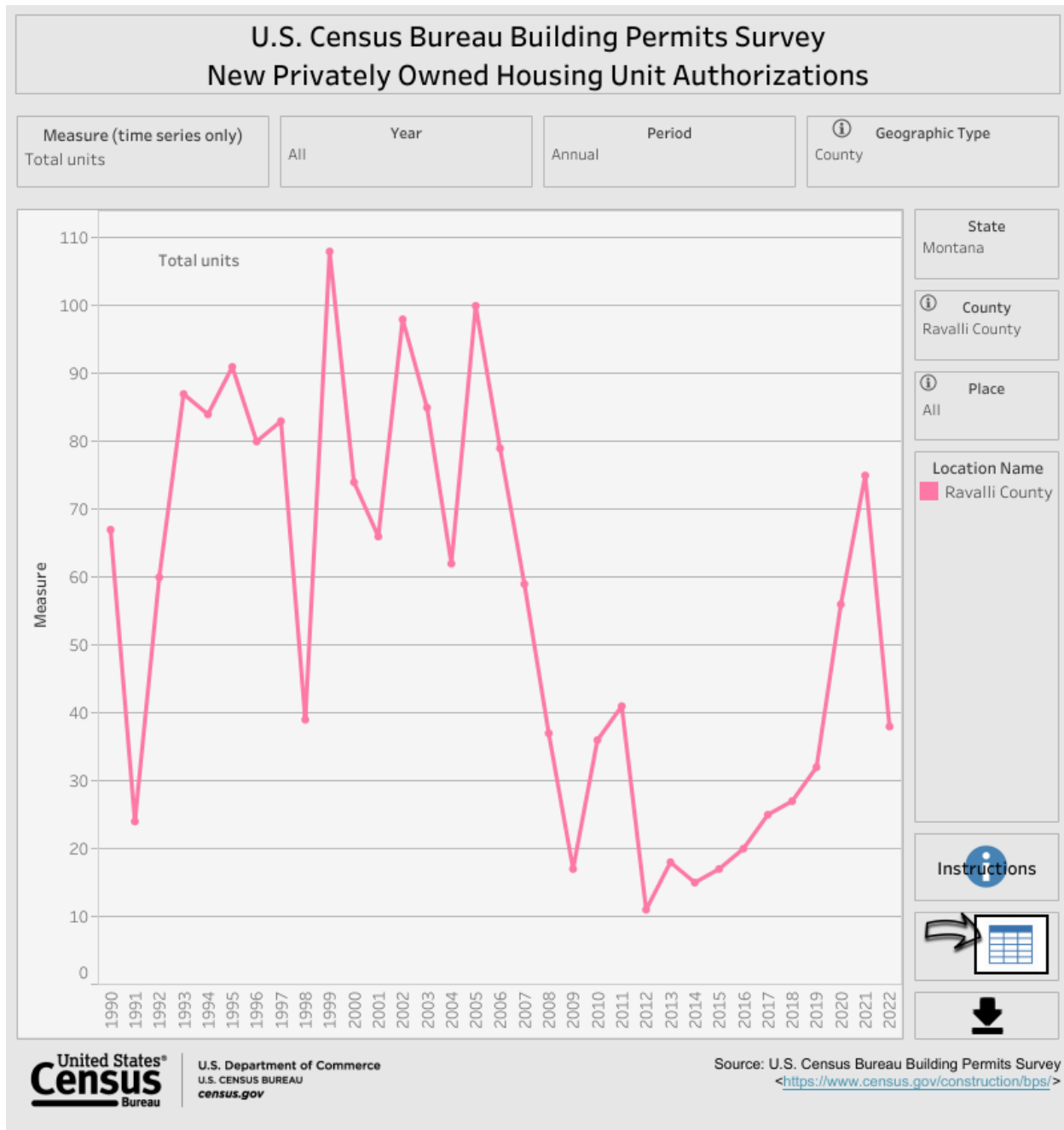
O.2.5 Development Trends

As mentioned above, Ravalli County is the 7th most populous, 9th most densely populated, and 10th fastest growing county in Montana. Current trends indicate that this population growth and associated development is likely to continue in the coming years. Much of the population growth in Ravalli County is occurring in unincorporated areas throughout the Bitterroot River Valley. However, the municipalities, particularly Hamilton and Stevensville, are also growing significantly. Specific growth trends by jurisdictions are listed below:

- **City of Hamilton:** The City of Hamilton is the largest municipality and county seat of Ravalli County. The population of Hamilton was relatively stable between 1940 and 1990 but has grown dramatically over the last 25 years. Between 1990 and 2000 there was a population increase of 35%, and from 2000 to 2015 the population increased another 23%. The City of Hamilton adopted the Hamilton Growth Policy in 2015 to help guide and manage future growth in the city and surrounding areas.

Population growth and development in Ravalli County has increased net vulnerability to some hazards, most specifically wildfire. Increasing population growth and development in the county is leading to an increase in the number and value of properties in Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) areas throughout the county, as well as increased population at risk. On the other hand, new development patterns in the mapped floodplains in the county are not increasing vulnerability, with limited new residential and non-residential structures per year. The Ravalli County Wastewater Regulations prohibit new septic systems in the regulated flood hazard area (floodplain) which decreases the community's vulnerability to flooding by limiting new residential construction in these hazard prone areas.

The U.S. Census Bureau Building Permit Survey provides information and local statistics on new privately-owned residential construction. Figure O-2 below displays the new privately owned housing unit authorizations by year in Ravalli County. This data indicates that there was a significant spike in unit authorizations in 1999 which led to a housing boom through 2005. Since then, new housing unit authorizations have largely dropped off, with another spike of 75 new units in 2021. An increase in the number of housing unit authorizations in the county could indicate an increase in the total number of buildings exposed to hazard events.

Figure O-2 New Privately Owned Housing Unit Authorizations

Source: US Census Bureau, https://www.census.gov/construction/bps/data_visualizations/index.html

O.2.6 Economy

Table O-3 below provides a brief overview of economic characters in Ravalli County. The following information is provided by the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimates from 2016-2020.

Table O-3 Ravalli County Economic Profile

Economic Characteristics	Ravalli County
Families Below Poverty Level	7.1%
Individuals Below Poverty Level	12.2%
Median Home Value	\$290,400
Median Household Income	\$55,090
Per Capita Income	\$31,545
Population > 16 Years Old in Labor Force	55.6%
Population Employed	52.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau ACS 5-year estimates, 2021

Table O-4 below shows the breakdown of employment in Ravalli County by the industry sector. According to the ACS, the leading employment sectors in the County are "Educational services, and health care and social assistance," which composes nearly a quarter of the total employment in the County with 4,456 people. This is followed by "Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services" with 2,037 people. Following very closely is "Retail Trade" in third and "Construction" in fourth, with 2,007 and 1,933 respectively of the total workforce in Ravalli County employed.

Table O-4 Ravalli County Occupation by Industry Profile

Industry	Population Employed	Percent of Labor Force
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	1,140	6.00%
Construction	1,933	10.20%
Manufacturing	1,495	7.90%
Wholesale trade	551	2.90%
Retail trade	2,007	10.60%
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	914	4.80%
Information	440	2.30%
Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing	1,079	5.70%
Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services	2,037	10.70%
Educational services, and health care and social assistance	4,456	23.40%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services	1,670	8.80%
Other services, except public administration	875	4.60%
Public administration	423	2.20%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau ACS 5-year estimates, 2016-2020

O.3 Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment

O.3.1 Identified Hazards

The CPT reviewed significant hazards for inclusion in the hazard mitigation plan. Several changes were made from the 2017 Ravalli County Hazard Mitigation Plan to be consistent with the 2023 Montana Western Region Hazard Mitigation Plan. The 2017 Ravalli County Hazard Mitigation Plan profiled the following hazards:

- Wildfire
- Flooding
- Severe Weather & Drought
- Hazardous Materials Incidents & Transportation Accidents
- Communicable Disease
- Structure Fire
- Earthquake
- Dam Failure

Structure Fire is no longer profiled as a standalone hazard, however each other hazard is still profiled with some changes to the naming and organization of the chapters. Severe Weather is now profiled as Severe Summer Weather and Severe Winter Weather, with Drought receiving a separate stand-alone profile. Hazmat Incidents & Transportation Accidents are now profiled as separate chapters. Additionally, in this plan update, Avalanche, Cyber-Attack, Human Conflict, Landslide, Tornadoes & Windstorms, and Volcanic Ash were added.

Table O-5 provides a summary of the overall hazard significance for the hazards evaluated in this plan, showing variability by jurisdiction. More details on hazards can be found in Chapter 4 of the base plan.

Table O-5 Ravalli County Overall Hazard Significance by Hazard and Jurisdiction*

Hazard	Ravalli County	City of Hamilton	Town of Darby	Town of Pinesdale	Town of Stevensville
Avalanche	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Communicable Disease	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium
Cyber-Attack	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium
Dam Failure	High	High	High	N/A	High
Drought	High	High	High	High	High
Earthquake	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium
Flooding	High	High	High	Low	High
Hazardous Materials Incident	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Landslide	Medium	Low	Low	Medium	Low
Severe Summer Weather	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium
Severe Winter Weather	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium
Human Conflict	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Tornadoes & Windstorms	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium

Hazard	Ravalli County	City of Hamilton	Town of Darby	Town of Pinesdale	Town of Stevensville
Transportation Accidents	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium
Volcanic Ash	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Wildfire	High	High	High	High	High

*Significance based on a combination of Geographic Extent, Potential Magnitude/Severity and Probability as defined below.

Geographic Extent <u>Negligible:</u> Less than 10 percent of planning area or isolated single-point occurrences <u>Limited:</u> 10 to 25 percent of the planning area or limited single-point occurrences <u>Significant:</u> 25 to 75 percent of planning area or frequent single-point occurrences <u>Extensive:</u> 75 to 100 percent of planning area or consistent single-point occurrences Potential Magnitude/Severity <u>Negligible:</u> Less than 10 percent of property is severely damaged, facilities and services are unavailable for less than 24 hours, injuries and illnesses are treatable with first aid or within the response capability of the jurisdiction. <u>Limited:</u> 10 to 25 percent of property is severely damaged, facilities and services are unavailable between 1 and 7 days, injuries and illnesses require sophisticated medical support that does not strain the response capability of the jurisdiction, or results in very few permanent disabilities. <u>Critical:</u> 25 to 50 percent of property is severely damaged, facilities and services are unavailable or severely hindered for 1 to 2 weeks, injuries and illnesses overwhelm medical support for a brief period of time or result in many permanent disabilities and a few deaths. overwhelmed for an extended period of time or many deaths occur. <u>Catastrophic:</u> More than 50 percent of property is severely damaged, facilities and services are unavailable or hindered for more than 2 weeks, the medical response system is overwhelmed for an extended period of time, or many deaths occur.	Probability of Future Occurrences <u>Unlikely:</u> Less than 1 percent probability of occurrence in the next year or has a recurrence interval of greater than every 100 years. <u>Occasional:</u> Between a 1 and 10 percent probability of occurrence in the next year or has a recurrence interval of 11 to 100 years. <u>Likely:</u> Between 10 and 90 percent probability of occurrence in the next year, or has a recurrence interval of 1 to 10 years <u>Highly Likely:</u> Between 90 and 100 percent probability of occurrence in the next year or has a recurrence interval of less than 1 year. Overall Significance <u>Low:</u> Two or more of the criteria fall in the lower classifications or the event has a minimal impact on the planning area. This rating is also sometimes used for hazards with a minimal or unknown record of occurrences/impacts or for hazards with minimal mitigation potential. <u>Medium:</u> The criteria fall mostly in the middle ranges of classifications and the event's impacts on the planning area are noticeable but not devastating. This rating is also sometimes utilized for hazards with a high impact rating but an extremely low occurrence rating. <u>High:</u> The criteria consistently fall along the high ranges of the classification and the event exerts significant and frequent impacts on the planning area. This rating is also sometimes utilized for hazards with a high psychological impact or for hazards that the jurisdiction identifies as particularly relevant.
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0.3.2 Building Inventory and Assets

People, property, critical facilities/infrastructure, and other important assets in Ravalli County are exposed to the hazards identified in this plan. Table O-6 summarizes the property inventory for the County and each participating jurisdiction, based on improvement value (i.e., structures) and includes the building count and value grouped by parcel type and jurisdiction. This is an assessment of the overall property exposed within the County and by jurisdiction.

Assets inventoried to determine vulnerability include people, structures, critical facilities, and natural, historic, or cultural resources. For the regional planning process, locally available GIS databases were

utilized. Parcel and assessor data was obtained through Montana's MSDI Cadastral website. This Statewide database provided the basis for building exposure and property types. The focus of the analysis was on "improved" or developed parcels. These parcels were identified based on an improvement value greater than zero. Property Types were used to identify occupancy types as shown in the following table, which includes summations of total improved value for the various property types.

Table O-6 Ravalli County Building Inventory and Value by Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	Improved Parcels	Improved Value	Content Value	Total Value
Darby	341	\$50,877,290	\$27,031,822	\$77,909,112
Hamilton	1,840	\$454,098,195	\$284,409,528	\$738,507,723
Pinesdale	14	\$3,537,394	\$2,053,887	\$5,591,281
Stevensville	808	\$179,188,747	\$97,038,439	\$276,227,186
Ravalli County	16,132	\$4,174,651,764	\$2,408,561,696	\$6,583,213,460
Total	19,135	\$4,862,353,390	\$2,819,095,371	\$7,681,448,761

Source: MSDI Cadastral database, <https://msl.mt.gov/geoinfo/msdi/cadastral/>

Total building exposure with contents within Ravalli County based on an analysis of improved parcels is nearly \$7.7 billion, with over \$4.8 billion in improved value properties and \$2.8 billion worth of contents. Of the more than \$4.8 billion of total building exposure in Ravalli County, the unincorporated county accounts for the vast majority of the total inventory, with \$4.2 billion worth of improved value and \$2.4 billion in content value located in the unincorporated areas. Residential properties represent the greatest proportion of structures in the County, with 17,045 improved parcels accounting for nearly \$6.2 billion of the total improved property value in the county. This is shown in Table O-7 below.

Table O-7 Ravalli County Total Exposure by Jurisdiction and Property Type

Jurisdiction	Property Type	Improved Parcels	Improved Value	Content Value	Total Value
Darby	Commercial	1	\$217,623	\$217,623	\$435,246
	Exempt	12	\$2,831,030	\$2,831,030	\$5,662,060
	Residential	324	\$47,690,937	\$23,845,469	\$71,536,406
	Vacant	4	\$137,700	\$137,700	\$275,400
	Total	341	\$50,877,290	\$27,031,822	\$77,909,112
Hamilton	Commercial	16	\$2,099,192	\$2,099,192	\$4,198,384
	Exempt	72	\$54,500,519	\$54,500,519	\$109,001,038
	Industrial	2	\$28,845,180	\$43,267,770	\$72,112,950
	Residential	1,743	\$368,222,514	\$184,111,257	\$552,333,771
	Vacant	7	\$430,790	\$430,790	\$861,580
	Total	1,840	\$454,098,195	\$284,409,528	\$738,507,723
Pinesdale	Agricultural	2	\$148,310	\$148,310	\$296,620
	Exempt	1	\$422,070	\$422,070	\$844,140
	Residential	11	\$2,967,014	\$1,483,507	\$4,450,521
	Total	14	\$3,537,394	\$2,053,887	\$5,591,281
	Agricultural	4	\$118,390	\$118,390	\$236,780
	Commercial	2	\$11,060	\$11,060	\$22,120

Jurisdiction	Property Type	Improved Parcels	Improved Value	Content Value	Total Value
Stevensville	Exempt	28	\$9,958,690	\$9,958,690	\$19,917,380
	Industrial	1	\$2,016,000	\$3,024,000	\$5,040,000
	Residential	770	\$166,316,617	\$83,158,309	\$249,474,926
	Vacant	3	\$767,990	\$767,990	\$1,535,980
	Total	808	\$179,188,747	\$97,038,439	\$276,227,186
Ravalli County	Agricultural	1,653	\$545,398,037	\$545,398,037	\$1,090,796,074
	Commercial	26	\$14,860,086	\$14,860,086	\$29,720,172
	Exempt	99	\$46,848,809	\$46,848,809	\$93,697,618
	Industrial	13	\$13,003,300	\$19,504,950	\$32,508,250
	Residential	14,197	\$3,545,183,436	\$1,772,591,718	\$5,317,775,154
	Vacant	144	\$9,358,096	\$9,358,096	\$18,716,192
	Total	16,132	\$4,174,651,764	\$2,408,561,696	\$6,583,213,460
Grand Total		19,135	\$4,862,353,390	\$2,819,095,371	\$7,681,448,761

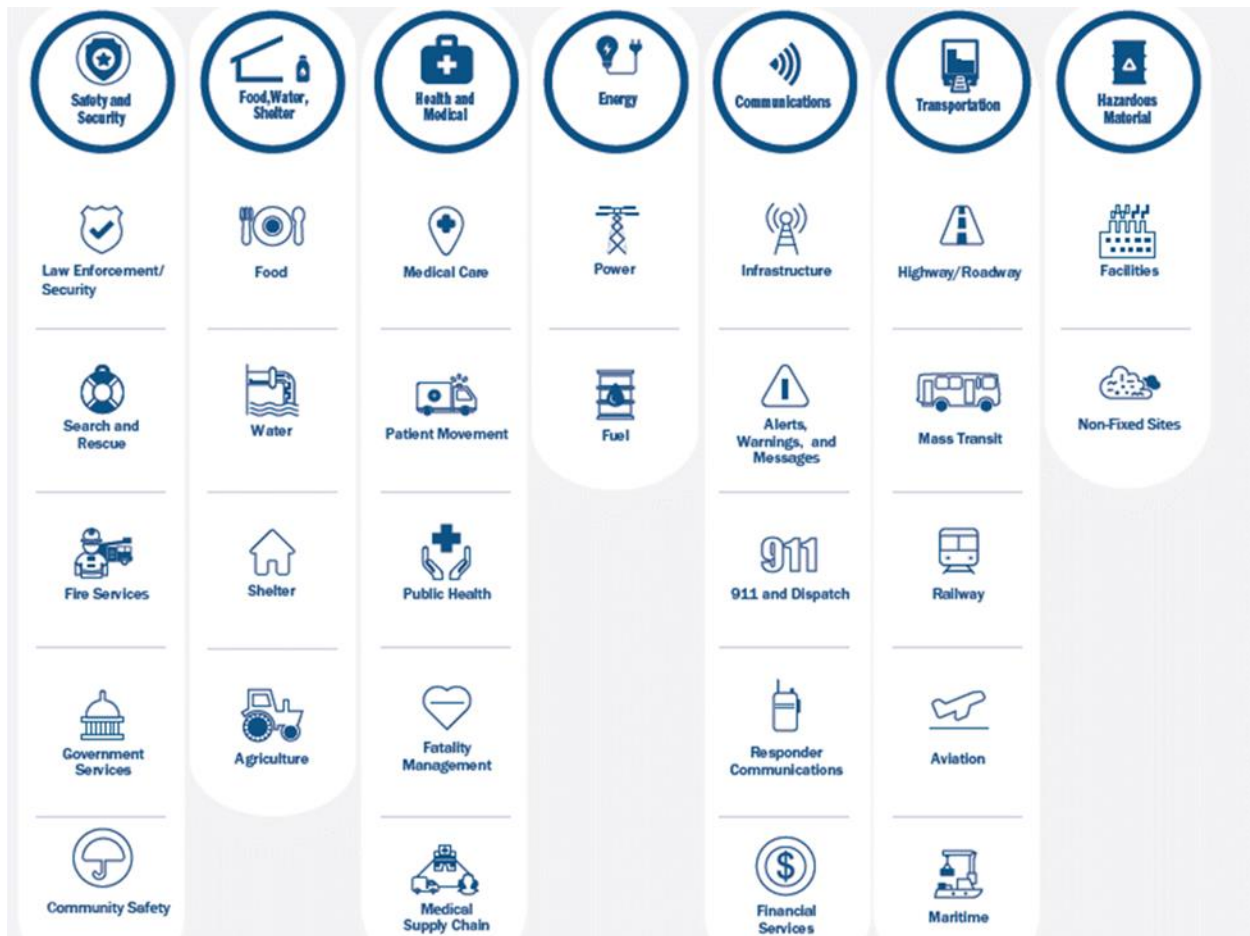
Source: MSDI Cadastral database, <https://msl.mt.gov/geoinfo/msdi/cadastral/>

Critical Facilities, Infrastructure, and Other Important Community Assets

A critical facility is defined as one that is essential in providing utility or direction either during the response to an emergency or during the recovery operation. Much of this data is based on GIS databases associated with the 2022 Homeland Infrastructure Foundation-Level Data (HIFLD). Other critical facility databases were also used, such as the National Bridge Inventory (NBI), with supplementation from the HMPC. Where applicable, this information was used in an overlay analysis for hazards such as dam failure, flood, and wildfire.

FEMA organizes critical facilities into seven lifeline categories as shown in Figure O-3. These lifeline categories standardize the classification of critical facilities and infrastructure that provide indispensable service, operation, or function to a community. A lifeline is defined as providing indispensable service that enables the continuous operation of critical business and government functions, and is critical to human health and safety, or economic security. These categorizations are particularly useful as they:

- Enable effort consolidations between government and other organizations (e.g., infrastructure owners and operators).
- Enable integration of preparedness efforts among plans; easier identification of unmet critical facility needs.
- Refine sources and products to enhance awareness, capability gaps, and progress towards stabilization.
- Enhance communication amongst critical entities, while enabling complex interdependencies between government assets.
- Highlight lifeline related priority areas regarding general operations as well as response efforts.

Figure O-3 FEMA Lifeline Categories

Source: FEMA

Table O-8 below summarizes the number of critical facilities by jurisdiction. Figure O-4 through Figure O-8 display the location of critical facilities by FEMA Lifeline in Ravalli County, the City of Hamilton, and the Towns of Darby, Pinesdale, and Stevensville.

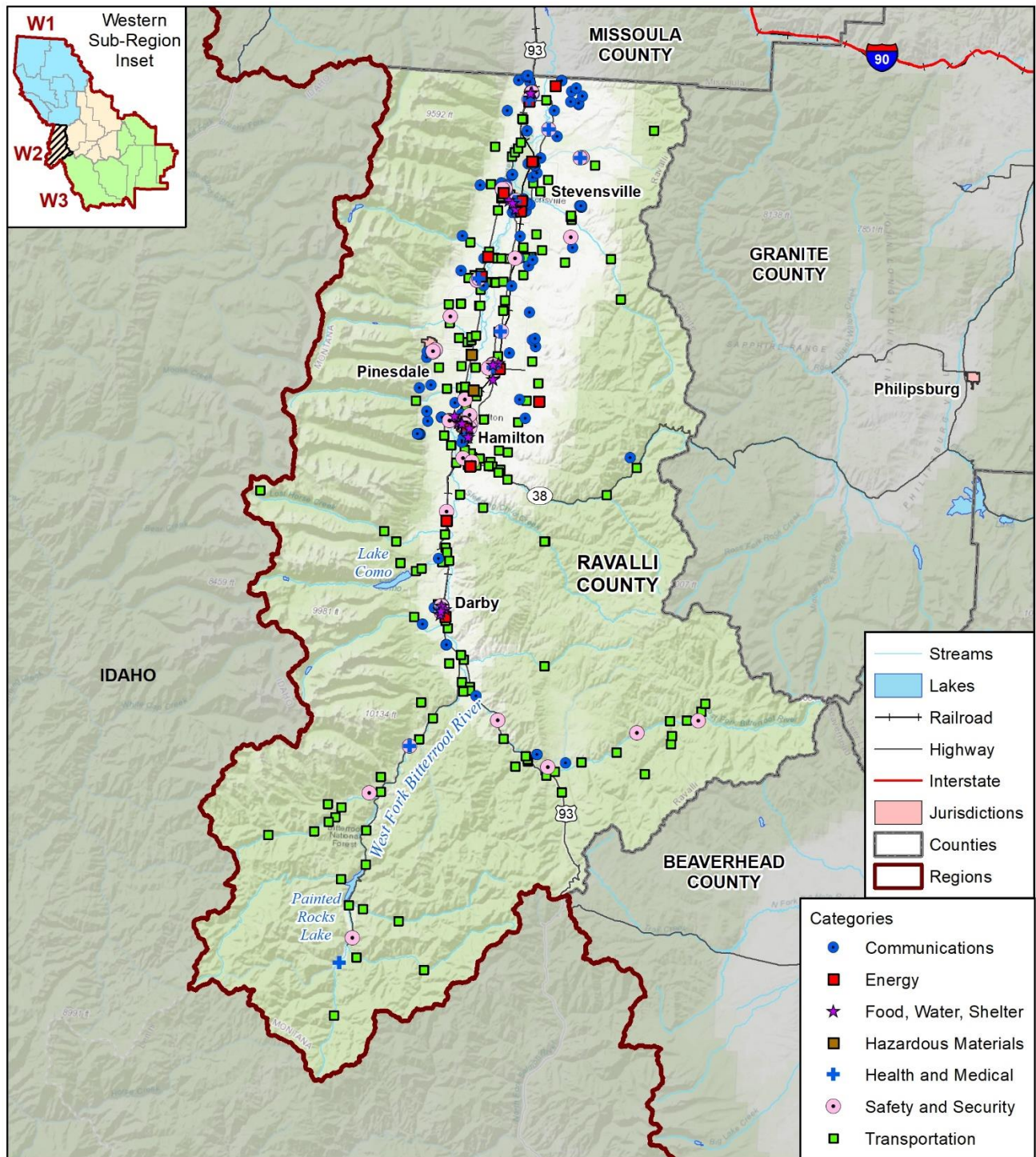
Table O-8 Ravalli County Critical Facilities by Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	Communications	Energy	Food, Water, Shelter	Hazardous Materials	Health and Medical	Safety and Security	Transportation	Total
Darby	2	-	4	-	2	6	1	15
Hamilton	6	1	5	2	-	12	1	27
Pinesdale	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	4
Stevensville	7	1	3	-	1	6	1	19

Jurisdiction	Communications	Energy	Food, Water, Shelter	Hazardous Materials	Health and Medical	Safety and Security	Transportation	Total
Ravalli County	111	20	7	1	9	38	165	351
Total	126	22	19	3	12	66	168	416

Source: HIFLD 2022, Montana DES, National Bridge Inventory

Figure O-4 Ravalli County Critical Facilities



Map compiled 10/2022;
intended for planning purposes only.
Data Source: Montana State Library,
Montana DES, NIB, HIFLD

0 10 20 Miles



Figure O-5 City of Hamilton Critical Facilities

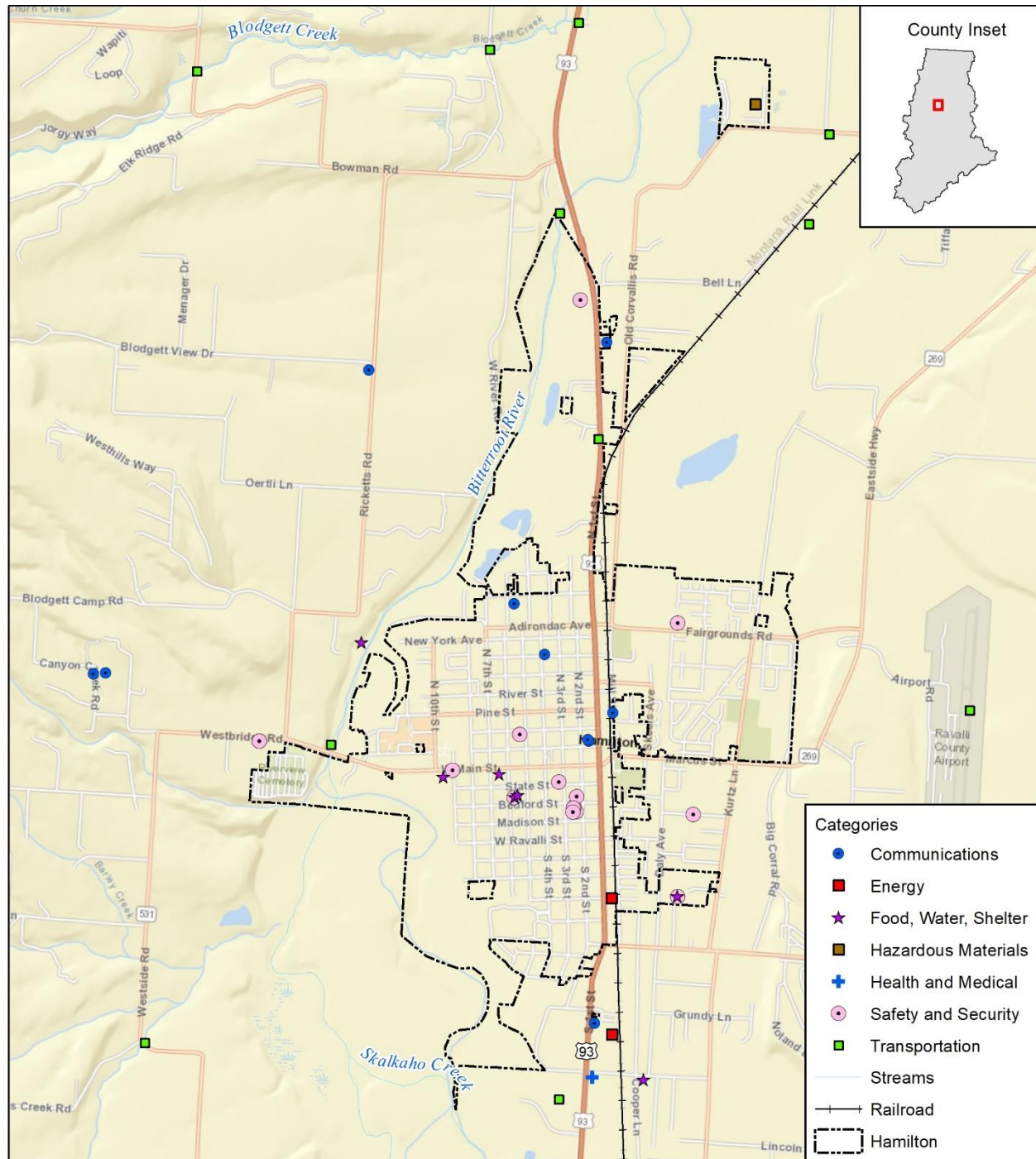
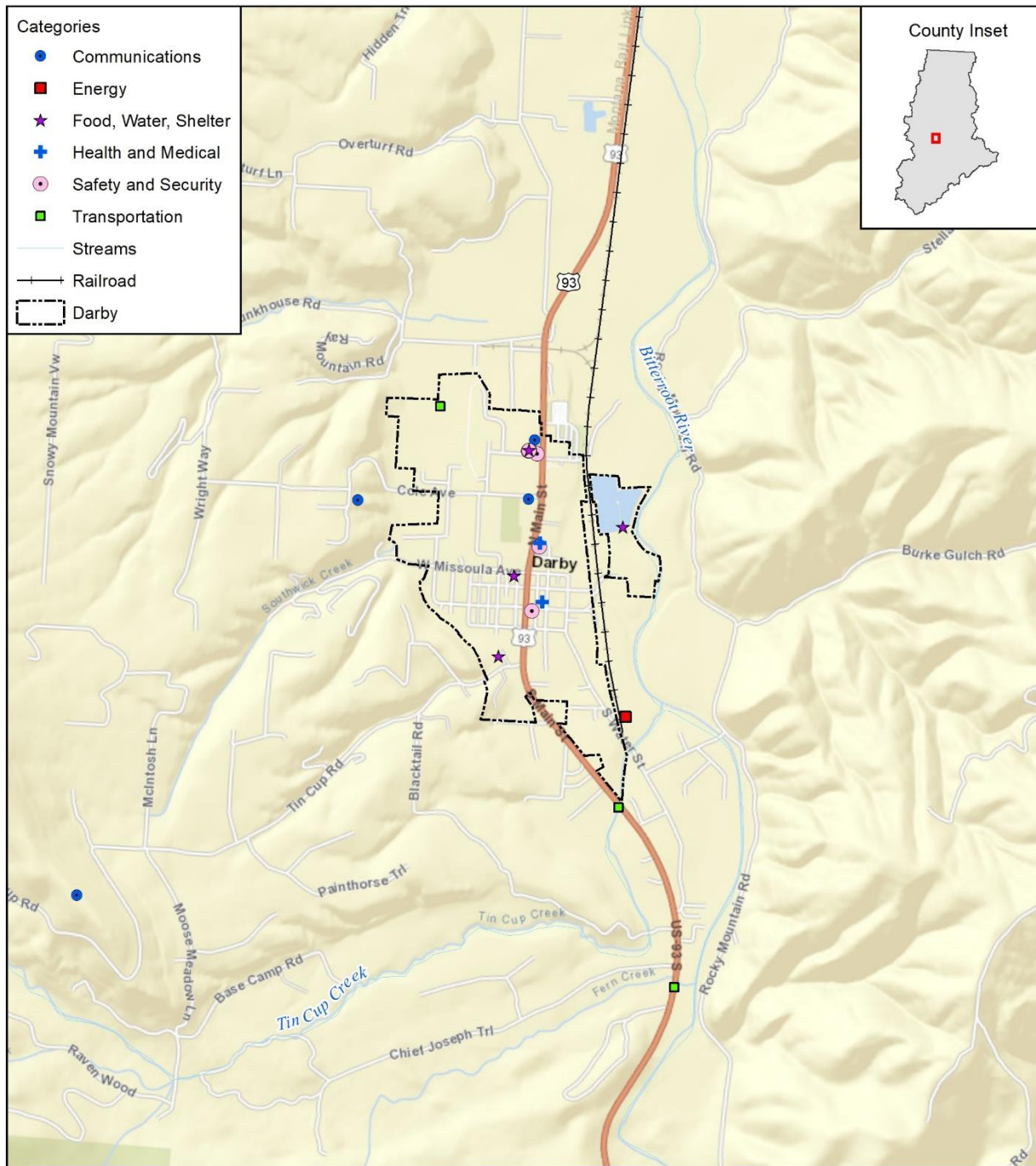


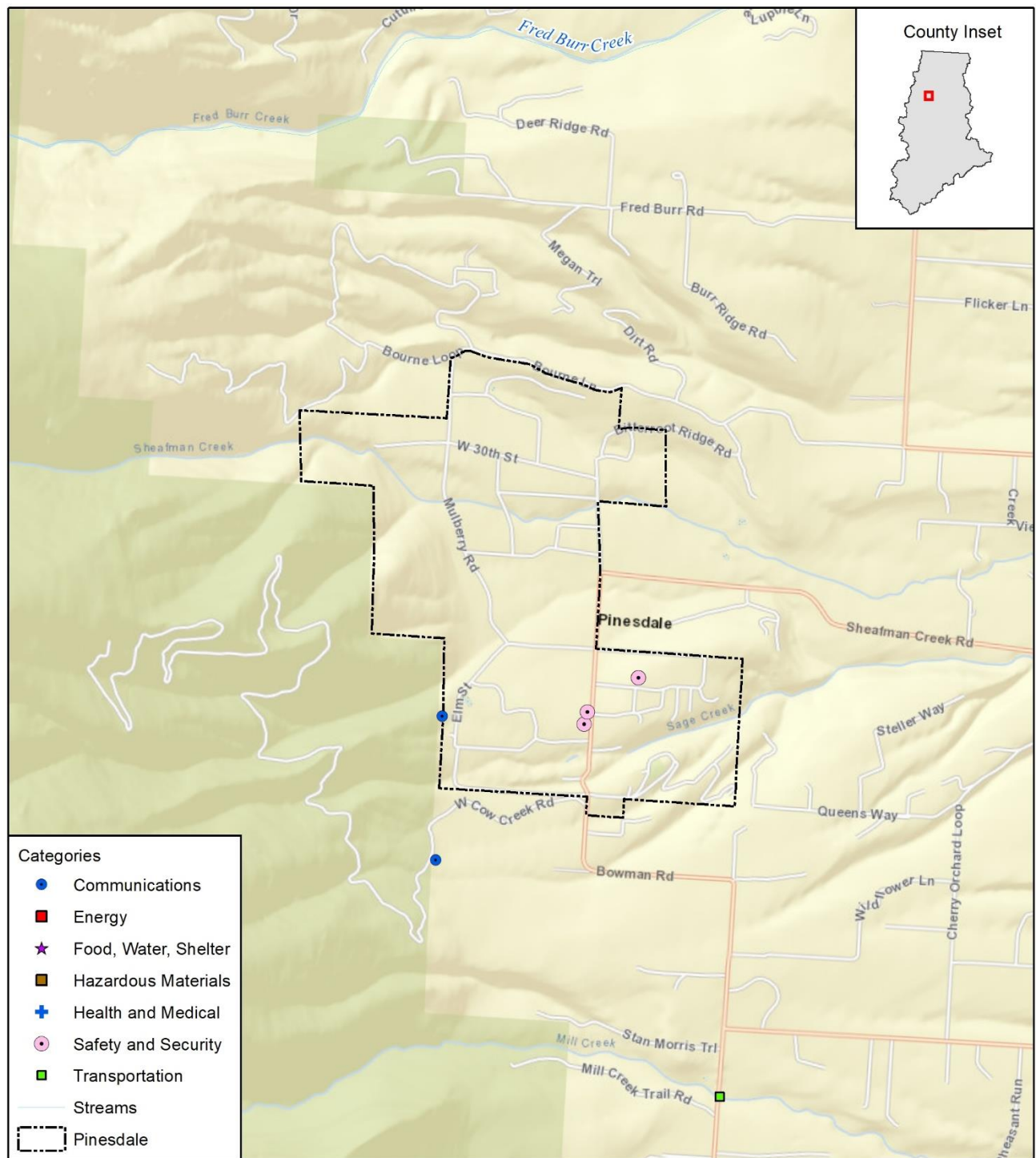
Figure O-6 Town of Darby Critical Facilities



Map compiled 10/2022;
intended for planning purposes only.
Data Source: Montana State Library,
Montana DES, NIB, HIFLD

0 0.5 1 Miles

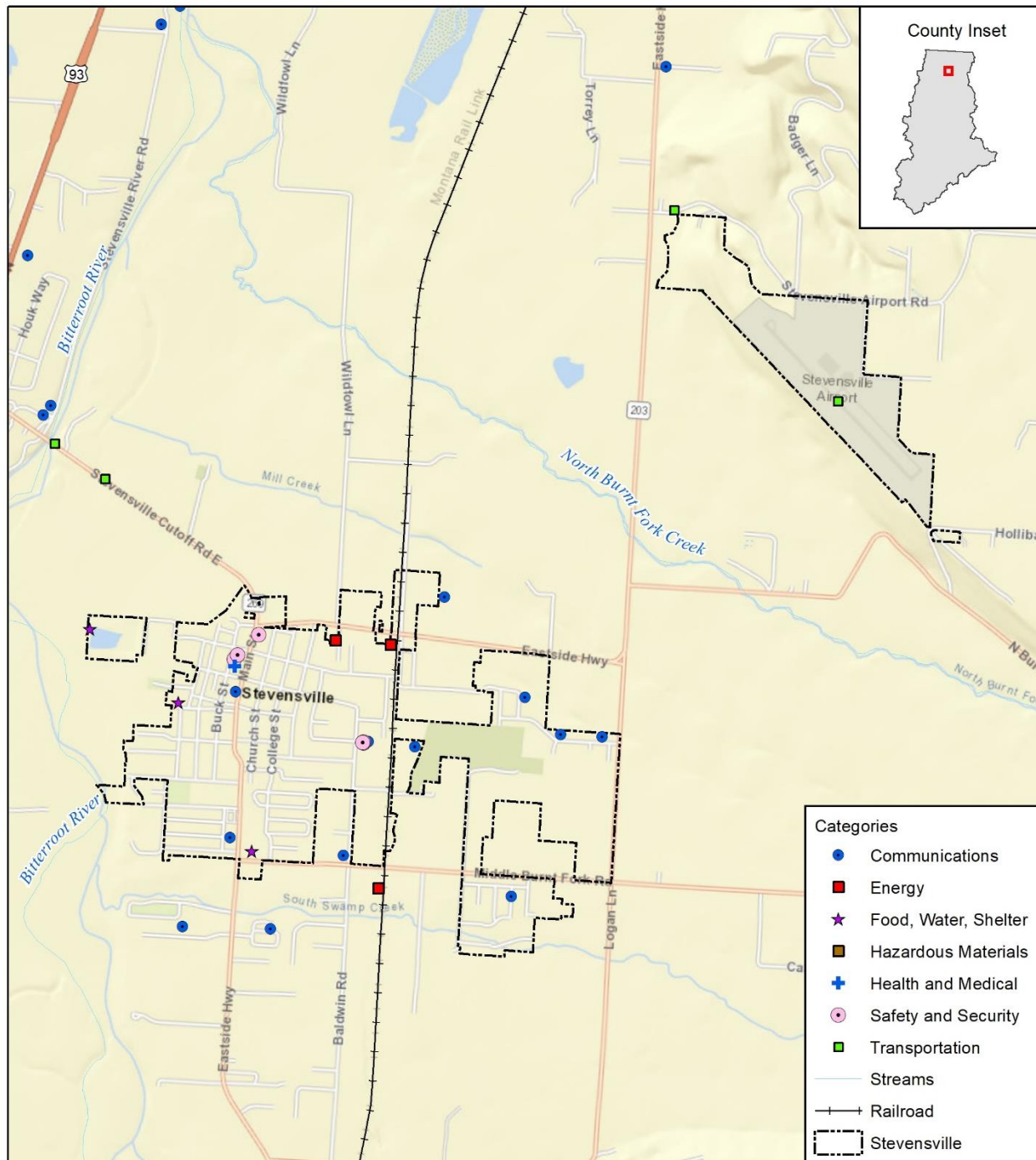
Figure O-7 Town of Pinesdale Critical Facilities



Map compiled 10/2022;
intended for planning purposes only.
Data Source: Montana State Library,
Montana DES, NIB, HIFLD

0 0.5 1 Miles

Figure O-8 Town of Stevensville Critical Facilities



Map compiled 10/2022;
intended for planning purposes only.
Data Source: Montana State Library,
Montana DES, NIB, HIFLD

Natural, Historic, and Cultural Assets

Assessing the vulnerability of Ravalli County to hazards also involves inventorying the natural, historical, and cultural assets of the area. This step is important for the following reasons:

- The community may decide that these types of resources warrant more protection due to their unique and irreplaceable nature and contribution to the overall economy.
- If these resources are impacted by a hazard, knowing so ahead of time allows for more prudent care in the immediate aftermath, when the potential for additional impacts are higher.
- The rules for reconstruction, restoration, rehabilitation, and/or replacement are often different for these types of designated resources.
- Natural resources can have beneficial functions that reduce the impacts of natural hazards, such as wetlands and riparian habitat, which help absorb and attenuate floodwaters.

Historic and Cultural Assets

By definition, a historic property not only includes buildings or other types of structures, such as bridges and dams, roads, byways, historic landscapes, and many other features. The National Register of Historic Places, managed by the National Park Service and U.S. Department of Interior, is the nation's official list of cultural resources worthy of preservation. Table O-9 below lists the properties that are identified as having cultural and historic significance in Ravalli County as recorded by the National Register of Historic Places.

Table O-9 Historic Properties and Districts on National Registers

Property Name	City/Town	Location	Date Listed
Alta Ranger Station	Conner	S of Conner in Bitterroot National Forest	12/19/74
Brooks Hotel	Corvallis	Off East Side Hwy.	11/10/80
Methodist Episcopal Church South	Corvallis	Jct. of First St. and Eastside Hwy.	11/24/97
Popham Ranch	Corvallis	460 N.E. Popham Ln.	1/13/89
Summers-Quast Farmstead	Corvallis	1288 Eastside Hwy.	12/30/97
Boulder Point Lookout	Darby	2 mi. NW of West Fork Ranger Station, Boulder Point, Bitterroot National Forest.	1/25/18
Hayward Lodge	Darby	On L. Como	5/11/15
Lost Horse Fireman's Cabin (24RA197)	Darby	Off Lost Horse Rd. near Bear Creek Pass	4/17/89
Medicine Point Lookout	Darby	Medicine Pt., Sula Ranger Dist., Bitterroot NF	4/6/18
Medicine Tree Site	Darby	Address Restricted	
University Heights Historic District	Darby	469 Bunkhouse Creek Rd.	8/14/12
Allison--Reinkeh House	Hamilton	207 Adirondac Ave.	8/26/88
Bean, Daniel V., House	Hamilton	611 N. Second	8/26/88

Property Name	City/Town	Location	Date Listed
Blood, Oliver, House	Hamilton	524 S. First St.	8/26/88
Canyon Creek Laboratory of the U.S. Public Health Service	Hamilton	W of Hamilton city limits	10/15/70
Conway House	Hamilton	805 S. Fourth St.	8/26/88
Daly, Marcus, Memorial Hospital	Hamilton	211 S. 4th St.	12/15/78
Drinkenberg's, F. H., First Home	Hamilton	701 N. Second	8/26/88
El Capitan Lodge	Hamilton	Access Rd. 1111, N shore of Lake Como, Bitterroot NF	11/29/90
Ellis, E. G., House	Hamilton	801 N. Third	8/26/88
Foye Rental Houses	Hamilton	819 and 821 N. Fourth	8/26/88
Gill, Sherman, House	Hamilton	605 N. Third	8/26/88
Gird Point Lookout	Hamilton	Gird Pt., Sapphire Mts., Bitterroot NF	4/6/18
Goff House	Hamilton	115 N. Fifth	8/26/88
Gordon House	Hamilton	806 S. Fourth	8/26/88
Granke, Charles, House	Hamilton	406 S. Seventh St.	8/26/88
Hamilton Commercial Historic District	Hamilton	Main, N. Second, S. Second, S. Third, and State Streets.	9/1/88
Hamilton Southside Residential Historic District	Hamilton	S. First, S. Second, S. Third, S. Fourth, and S. Fifth Streets.	9/1/88
Hamilton Town Hall	Hamilton	175 S. 3rd St.	4/21/80
Hoffman, Charles, House	Hamilton	807 S. Third	8/26/88
Lagerquist, John, House	Hamilton	701 N. Fourth St.	8/26/88
McCrossin, James, Cabin	Hamilton	1237 MT 93 S.	12/2/19
McGlaufflin House	Hamilton	518 S. Eighth	8/26/88
Pine Apartments	Hamilton	804 S. Fourth St.	8/26/88
Ravalli County Courthouse	Hamilton	225 Bedford St.	4/20/79
Riverside	Hamilton	Eastside Hwy.	7/16/87
Rocky Mountain Laboratory Historic District	Hamilton	900 blk. of Fourth St.	9/1/88
Stout, John, House	Hamilton	1000 S. First	8/26/88

Property Name	City/Town	Location	Date Listed
Trosdahl, Erick, House	Hamilton	206 S. Seventh St.	8/26/88
VFW Club	Hamilton	930 Adirondac	8/26/88
Wallin, Frank, House	Hamilton	608 N. Seventh St.	8/26/88
Wamsley, Other C., House	Hamilton	200 N. Fifth St.	8/26/88
Indian Trees Campground Site 24-RA-61	near Sula		
Bass Mansion	Stevensville	216 N. College St.	11/14/78
Big Creek Lake Site	Stevensville	Address Restricted	5/17/76
Bitter Root Cooperative Creamery	Stevensville	3730 Eastside Hwy.	6/19/91
Buck, Charles Amos, House	Stevensville	211 Buck St.	6/18/91
Buck, Fred, House	Stevensville	217 Buck St.	6/18/91
Caple, W. T., House	Stevensville	210 Church St.	6/19/91
Clark, Jennie, House	Stevensville	423 Pine St.	6/19/91
Cochran, William, House	Stevensville	3713 East Side Hwy.	6/19/91
Cook, Calvin and Maggie, House	Stevensville	501 Main St.	6/19/91
Cook, Wilbur, House	Stevensville	3717 East Side Hwy.	6/19/91
Cramer, Martin, House	Stevensville	326 Groff La.	8/3/87
DeNayer House	Stevensville	327 Main	7/29/94
Emhoff House	Stevensville	401 Church St.	6/19/91
Etna School	Stevensville	2853 Eastside Hwy.	5/30/97
First Baptist Church	Stevensville	402 Church	9/3/91
First State Bank, Dowling and Emhoff Buildings	Stevensville	300--304, 306--308 Main St.	6/19/91
Fisher, Joseph, House	Stevensville	103 College St.	6/19/91
Fort Owen	Stevensville	About 0.5 mi. NW of Stevensville	10/6/70
Foust, Perry, House	Stevensville	401 Mission St.	6/19/91

Property Name	City/Town	Location	Date Listed
Fulton, Charles, House	Stevensville	377 Fifth St.	6/19/91
Gavin House	Stevensville	219 College St.	6/19/91
Gleason Building	Stevensville	200--202 Main St.	6/19/91
Harrington, Rose, House	Stevensville	3709 East Side Hwy.	6/19/91
Howe, John G., House	Stevensville	215 Park Ave.	6/18/91
IOOF Hall	Stevensville	217--219 Main St.	6/19/91
Lancaster House	Stevensville	407 Third St.	6/19/91
Landram, John A., House	Stevensville	113 College St.	3/14/96
Lockridge House	Stevensville	301 Mission St.	6/19/91
May, Albert, House	Stevensville	218 Church St.	6/18/91
May, Charles, House	Stevensville	109 Church St.	6/18/91
May, George, House	Stevensville	100 Park Ave.	10/25/82
May, Harry, House	Stevensville	526 Third St.	6/18/91
May, Louis, House	Stevensville	100 Church St.	6/19/91
McFarlane House	Stevensville	200 College St.	6/19/91
McLaughlin, John, House	Stevensville	105 Main St.	6/19/91
Metcalf House	Stevensville	214 Pine St.	6/19/91
Morr, Philip and Ella, House	Stevensville	502 Buck St.	6/19/91
Sharp, John, House	Stevensville	306 College St.	6/19/91
St. Mary Peak Lookout	Stevensville	St. Mary Peak, Stevensville Ranger Dist., Bitterroot NF	4/6/18
St. Mary's Church and Pharmacy	Stevensville	North Ave.	10/6/70
St. Mary's Mission Historic District (Boundary Increase)	Stevensville	W end of 4th St	8/16/10
Stevensville Feed Mill	Stevensville	407 Main St.	6/19/91
Stevensville Grade School--United Methodist Church	Stevensville	216 College St.	6/19/91

Property Name	City/Town	Location	Date Listed
Stevensville Mercantile Company Oil Storage Building	Stevensville	300 Mission St.	6/19/91
Thornton Hospital	Stevensville	107 E. Third St.	6/19/91
Whaley Homestead	Stevensville	Wildfowl Rd. W of East Side Hwy., Lee Metcalf Wildlife Refuge	3/26/92
Williams House	Stevensville	500 Fifth St.	6/19/91
Williams, John and Ann, House	Stevensville	205 Church St.	6/19/91
Young, Benjamin, House	Stevensville	523 Main St.	6/19/91
McCart Fire Lookout	Sula	Approximately 4 mi. S of E. Fork Forest Service Station, Bitterroot National Forest	6/19/96

Source: National Register of Historic Places, <https://irma.nps.gov/DataStore/Reference/Profile/2210280>

Natural Resources

Natural resources are important to include in benefit-cost analyses for future projects and may be used to leverage additional funding for projects that also contribute to community goals for protecting sensitive natural resources. Awareness of natural assets can lead to opportunities for meeting multiple objectives. For instance, protecting wetlands preserves sensitive habitats as well as attenuates and stores floodwaters.

Wetlands are a valuable natural resource for communities, due to their benefits to water quality, wildlife protection, recreation, and education, and play an important role in hazard mitigation. Numerous wetlands can be found along the Bitterroot River Valley, and the Bitterroot River watershed plays a vital role in the health and resilience of the County. Ravalli County also contains many mountain lakes, such as Lake Como and Painted Rocks Lake. Approximately 73.5% of the total land area in Ravalli County is managed by the Federal Government, including portions of the Bitterroot National Forest and U.S. Fish and Wildlife service lands.

Endangered Species

A table of endangered and threatened species in the State of Montana, as identified by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Montana Ecological Services Field Office, can be found in the Assets Summary Section in Chapter 4 of the base plan.

O.4 Vulnerability to Specific Hazards

Vulnerability to hazards that can affect the Western Region is described in Section 4.2 Hazard Profiles of the Western Region base plan. The analysis of vulnerability in the base plan includes the type, location, and extent of hazards. In addition, the base plan provides an analysis of the vulnerability of six classes of assets: (1) People, (2) Property, (3) Critical Facilities and Lifelines, (4) the Economy, (5) Historic and Cultural Resources, and (6) Natural Resources. Subsections within Section 4.2 of the Western Region base plan provide descriptions and analysis of the exposure of each asset class to each hazard, the susceptibility of each asset class to damage from exposure to each hazard, and the overall vulnerability of each class of asset to each hazard.

This section details vulnerability to specific hazards, where quantifiable, only where it differs from that of the Region as a whole. The results of detailed GIS analyses used to estimate potential for future losses are presented here, in addition to maps of hazard areas and details by jurisdiction and building type. For a discussion of the methodology used to develop the loss estimates, refer to Chapter 4 of the base plan. In many cases Chapter 4 contains information that differentiates the risk by county thus the information is not duplicated here. For most of the weather-related hazards the exposure does not vary significantly from the rest of the Region and thus the reader should refer to Chapter 4. Only unique issues or vulnerabilities are discussed, where applicable.

Hazards considered in this HMP update annex are as follows.

- Avalanche
- Communicable Disease
- Cyber-Attack
- Dam Failure
- Drought
- Earthquake
- Flooding
- Hazardous Materials Incident
- Landslide
- Severe Summer Weather
- Severe Winter Weather
- Human Conflict
- Tornadoes & Windstorms
- Transportation Accidents
- Volcanic Ash
- Wildfire

O.4.1 Avalanche

Avalanche is rated a low significance hazard for Ravalli County, the city of Hamilton, and the towns of Darby, Pinesdale, and Stevensville (Table O-5).

The FEMA NRI annualized frequency of avalanche events in the County is .05, considered “relatively low,” with 3 avalanches recorded in the SHELUS database between January 1960 and December 2019. The Risk Index Rating for avalanches in the County, which accounts for expected annual loss, social vulnerability, and community resilience, is considered “relatively moderate” with a score of 29.6. Due to the remote nature of avalanche events, risk is highest in the unincorporated County and lower in incorporated jurisdictions.

Refer to Chapter 4 for a discussion of the avalanche risk relative to Ravalli County and the Western Region.

O.4.2 Communicable Disease

All populations are vulnerable to communicable disease. Elder populations, young children, and individuals with pre-existing medical conditions are more likely to face long lasting impacts from communicable disease. While areas of high population density, such as the City of Hamilton, are likely to experience a greater number of cases due to a larger population, these larger cities also have greater access to medical resources. Communicable disease is ranked as medium for all counties in the Western Region and there were no noted differences in ranking of communicable disease by jurisdiction in Ravalli County.

Refer to Chapter 4 for a discussion of the communicable disease risk relative to Ravalli County and the Western Region.

O.4.3 Cyber-Attack

All servers, networks, and users are vulnerable to cyber-attacks in Western Montana. Ravalli County is ranked as medium, along with most other counties in the Region. There have been no recorded cyber-attack events occurring in the county or its jurisdictions, however, minor cyber-attacks such as phishing emails often go unreported. While all networks and servers are vulnerable to cyber, the City of Hamilton has a greater population and therefore more people exposed to a cyber-attack event.

Refer to Chapter 4 for a discussion of the cyber-attack risk relative to Ravalli County and the Western Region.

O.4.4 Dam Failure

Dam failure is rated a high significance hazard for Ravalli County, the city of Hamilton, and the towns of Darby, and Stevensville. The town of Pinesdale rated dam failure as not applicable, due to there not being any inundation areas which impact the town (Table O-5). In Ravalli County, 3,836 people live within flood inundation zones made available for this HMP update, 9% of the county population. This includes 508 people in the city of Hamilton, 11% of the city population, and 407 people in the town of Darby, 52% of the town population.

The SoVI-based rating of social vulnerability in Ravalli is relatively moderate (Section O.2.4 *Social Vulnerability*), largely due to an older population and a higher-than-typical proportion of the population living with disabilities or burdened with high cost of living (Table O-2). Dam failure can be devastating both financially and emotionally. Socio-economic vulnerability amplifies the financial and mental stress of dam failure hazards and often makes it difficult for people to recover. Dam failure may result in injuries or fatalities in situations with limited warning or when evacuation orders are not adhered to. Access and functional needs populations may have challenges with evacuations.

There are nine high hazard dams and one significant hazard dams located in Ravalli County (Table O-10). No high hazard dams exist upstream of Ravalli County. This level of exposure to potential dam failure flooding could result in significant property losses and loss to human life. Refer to Chapter 4 for a discussion of the dam failure risk relative to Ravalli County and the Western Region.

Table O-10 Dams in Ravalli County

Hazard Class	Dam Name	Owner	River	Nearest Downstream City	Distance to Nearest Downstream City (Miles)	Emergency Action Plans (EAP)
High	Burnt Fork Dam	Sunset Irrigation District	Burnt Fork Creek	Stevensville	22	Yes
High	High Lake	Blodgett Creek Irrigation District	TR-Blodgett reek	Victor	24	Yes
High	Little Sleeping Child Creek Dam	Meadow Lakes Estates H.O.A	Little Sleeping Child Creek	Hamilton	11	Yes
High	Mill Lake	Mill Creek Irr.	Mill Creek	Victor	21	No
High	Bass Lake	Bass Lake Reservoir Co.	Bass Creek	Florence	12	Yes
High	West Fork Bitterroot (Painted Rocks)	State Water Projects	West Fork of Bitterroot	Darby	30	Yes
High	Canyon Lake	Canyon Creek Irrigation District	Canyon Creek	Hamilton	10	Yes
High	Sharp Reservoir	Bonnie Williford	Offstream of Eight Mile Creek	Missoula	20	Yes
High	Como	Bitter Root ID; Reclamation	Rock Creek	Hamilton	16	Yes

Hazard Class	Dam Name	Owner	River	Nearest Downstream City	Distance to Nearest Downstream City (Miles)	Emergency Action Plans (EAP)
Significant	Big Creek Lake	Big Creek Lake Res Assn.	Big Creek	Stevensville	22	Yes

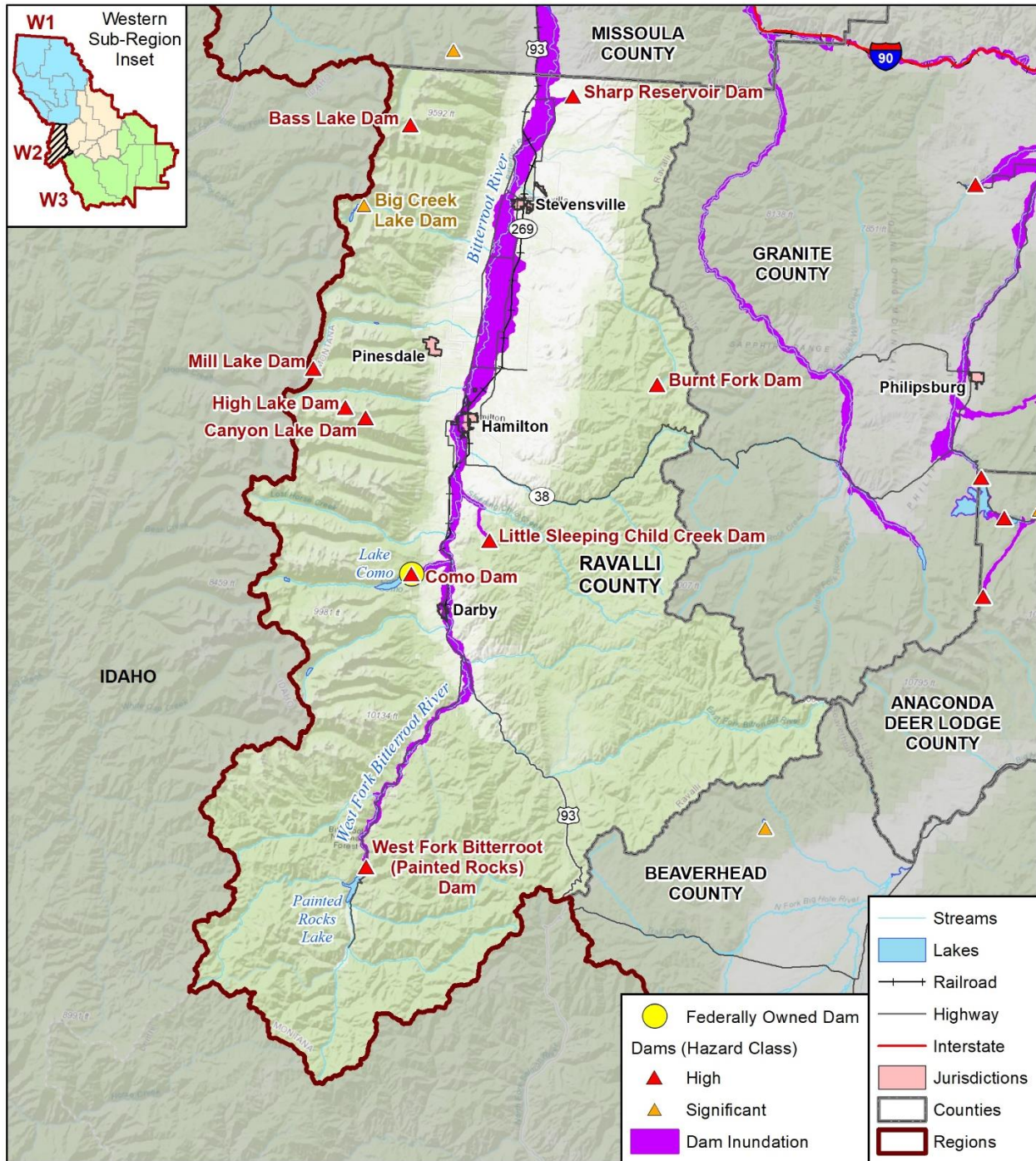
Source: National Inventory of Dams (NID)

Several Ravalli County dams are located within wilderness boundaries. These high elevation dams were constructed in the late 1800s and early 1900s by local farmers to provide water for orchards, food crops, and hay. They were built to capture spring runoff from snow melt and store it until late July and August when flows in the Bitterroot River and its tributaries are usually too low to support irrigation and water-based recreation. In 1964, 251,443 acres (101,755 ha) of the Bitterroot Range were classified as wilderness. Special provisions in the Wilderness Act allowed continued operation and maintenance of these dams for existing uses (Gunderson & Cook, 2007, *Wilderness, Water, and Quality of Life in the Bitterroot Valley*). It has been noted that continued ability by dam owners and operators to access, maintain, and operate these wilderness dams and related infrastructure, including access rights and routes, is critical to ensure the benefits and safe operation of these facilities on a long term basis.

Figure O-9 displays the location of dams in Ravalli County. Dam inundation zones were made available for only four of the nine high hazard dams in the county. These inundation areas appear in purple in Figure O-9. Opportunities to address the limitation of missing dam inundation area delineations is discussed in the base plan, Section 4.2.5.2 *Geographical Area Affected*.

Table O-11 summarizes the estimated number of improved parcels, building values, and people within the four dam inundation zones made available for this HMP update. The two poor condition, high hazard dams in the county are included in this analysis. Residential property types represent the greatest total number of improved parcels and most property value, with nearly \$549 million in total property value at risk. This analysis does not include the cost of losing dams themselves, either individually or due to cascading dam failures upstream. This and similar cascading-hazard issues are discussed further in the base plan (Sections 4.2.5.4 and 4.2.8.5).

Figure O-9 Ravalli County Dam Inundation



Map compiled 10/2022;
intended for planning purposes only.
Data Source: Montana State Library,
NID, MT DNRC Dam Safety Program

Table O-11 Ravalli County Parcels at Risk to Dam Inundation by Property Type

Jurisdiction	Property Type	Improved Parcels	Improved Value	Content Value	Total Value	Population
Darby	Commercial	1	\$217,623	\$217,623	\$435,246	
	Exempt	8	\$1,131,730	\$1,131,730	\$2,263,460	
	Residential	168	\$22,352,926	\$11,176,463	\$33,529,389	407
	Vacant	3	\$112,730	\$112,730	\$225,460	
Hamilton	Commercial	6	\$1,087,862	\$1,087,862	\$2,175,724	
	Exempt	23	\$29,405,249	\$29,405,249	\$58,810,498	
	Industrial	1	\$28,307,600	\$42,461,400	\$70,769,000	
	Residential	210	\$67,259,369	\$33,629,685	\$100,889,054	508
	Vacant	2	\$104,450	\$104,450	\$208,900	
Stevensville	Residential	1	\$289,990	\$144,995	\$434,985	2
Ravalli County	Agricultural	193	\$73,655,180	\$73,655,180	\$147,310,360	
	Commercial	6	\$1,571,250	\$1,571,250	\$3,142,500	
	Exempt	13	\$6,652,467	\$6,652,467	\$13,304,934	
	Industrial	1	\$1,107,990	\$1,661,985	\$2,769,975	
	Residential	1,206	\$276,058,907	\$138,029,454	\$414,088,361	2,919
	Vacant	15	\$4,224,720	\$4,224,720	\$8,449,440	
	Total	1,857	\$513,540,043	\$345,267,242	\$858,807,285	3,836

Source: County Assessor data, NID, MT DNRC, WSP GIS Analysis

Table Q-12 shows the critical facilities at risk of inundation due to dam failure for the four dam inundation zones made available for this HMP update. There are a total of 74 critical facilities at risk to Dam Inundation. By far, greatest potential exposure of critical facilities to dam inundation hazards is in the transportation sector.

Table Q-12 Ravalli County Critical Facilities at Risk to Dam Inundation by FEMA Lifeline

Jurisdiction	Communications	Energy	Food, Water, Shelter	Hazardous Materials	Health and Medical	Safety and Security	Transportation	Total
Darby	-	-	2	-	2	5	-	9
Hamilton	1	-	-	2	-	2	1	6
Ravalli County	5	1	1	-	2	4	46	59
Total	6	1	3	2	4	11	47	74

0.4.5 Drought

Drought is rated a high significance hazard for Ravalli County, the city of Hamilton, and the towns of Darby, Pinesdale, and Stevensville (Table O-5).

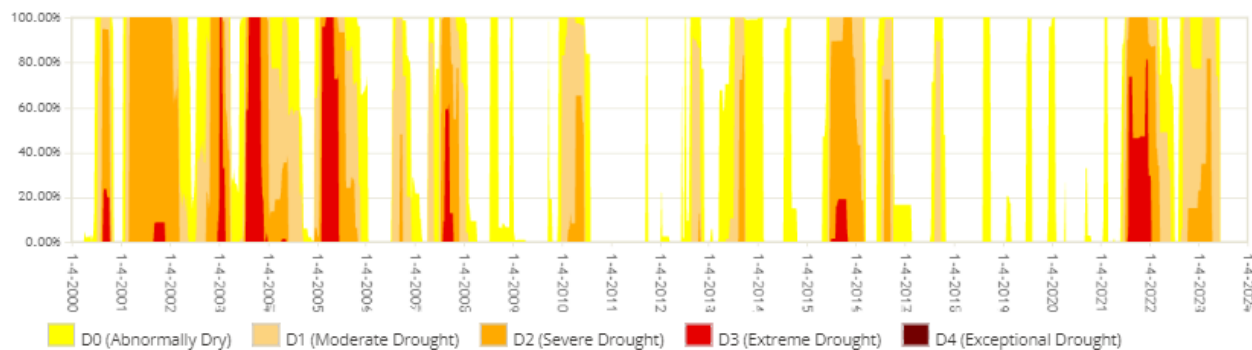
Ravalli County has experienced 15 USDA drought declarations from 2012-2021, which is slightly more than the average county in the Western Region. These drought declarations occurred in 2012, 2014, 2015, 2017, and 2021.

The Drought Impact Reporter recorded 17 drought impact reports in Ravalli County between 2000-2023, primarily in the fire and relief, response, and restrictions categories. These impacts include a "Stage II" fire restriction in the Bitterroot National Forest, fire and firework restrictions throughout the County, closure of public timberlands, and a countywide ban on open burning.

The U.S. Drought Monitor (USDM) is a national data set released weekly, showing the severity of drought in locations across the nation. Figure O-10 displays a time series showing the severity of drought in Ravalli County between 2000 and 2023. The figure indicates that the County has not experienced significant drought (D4) but has experienced extreme drought (D3) in the years 2000, 2001, 2003, 2004, 2008, 2015, and 2021.

Refer to Chapter 4 for a discussion of the drought risk relative to Ravalli County and the Western Region.

Figure O-10 Ravalli County Percent Area in USDM Categories



Source: USDM; www.drought.gov

O.4.6 Earthquake

Earthquake is rated a medium significance hazard for Ravalli County, the city of Hamilton, and the towns of Darby, Pinesdale, and Stevensville (Table O-5).

There are several known fault systems throughout the State of Montana, mostly concentrated in the Western Region. The potential severity of shaking and impacts to casualties and damage is not uniform across the Western Region and is likely to have a greater impact to counties in the northern portion of the region. While most of Ravalli County is likely to experience low losses from an earthquake event, moderate losses are likely near the City of Hamilton and Stevensville. The earthquake hazard in Ravalli County is therefore ranked as medium overall significance.

According to a Hazus probabilistic loss analysis conducted for a scenario with 2% in 50 years recurrence, Ravalli County has low to moderate economic losses when compared to the rest of the counties in the Western Region, with greatest losses predicted to occur in the Town of Stevensville and City of Hamilton. The probabilistic scenario estimated \$113,889,000 in total economic losses (2.5% of total losses in the region). Older and historic buildings will be more vulnerable to earthquake shaking.

Refer to Chapter 4 for a discussion of the earthquake risk relative to Ravalli County and the Western Region.

O.4.7 Flooding

Flooding is rated a high significance hazard for Ravalli County, the city of Hamilton, and the towns of Darby and Stevensville. The town of Pinesdale rated flooding a low significance hazard (Table O-5). 900 people live within the 1% annual chance floodplain, 2% of the county population. This includes 17 people in the city of Hamilton, less than 1% of the city population.

The SoVI-based rating of social vulnerability in Ravalli is relatively moderate (Section O.2.4 *Social Vulnerability*), largely due to an older population and a higher-than-typical proportion of the population living with disabilities or burdened with high cost of living (Table O-2). Flooding can be devastating both financially and emotionally. Socio-economic vulnerability amplifies the financial and mental stress of flood hazards and often makes it difficult for people to recover. Flooding may result in injuries or fatalities in situations with limited warning or when evacuation orders are not adhered to. Access and functional needs populations may have challenges with evacuations.

Table O-13 below summarizes the building counts and improved value of parcels in the County, broken out by jurisdiction, which fall within the 1% chance floodplains. Additionally, the table also summarizes loss estimate values, which are calculated based upon the improved value and estimated contents value and assumes a two-foot-deep flood which usually results in 25% of the total value, based on FEMA depth-damage curves. Ravalli County has FEMA NFHL flood source data available, and this was the data used for this analysis.

Table O-13 indicates the estimated flood losses in each applicable jurisdiction in Ravalli County. The majority of the properties are residential. There is a total value of \$97.4 million in improved values and \$36.5 million in estimated losses to residential properties. This is the largest amount of all property types.

Table O-13 Ravalli County Parcels at Risk to 1% Flood Hazard by Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	Property Type	Improved Parcels	Improved Value	Content Value	Total Value	Estimated Loss	Population
Hamilton	Commercial	1	\$937,932	\$937,932	\$1,875,864	\$468,966	
	Exempt	2	\$134,850	\$134,850	\$269,700	\$67,425	
	Residential	7	\$4,983,812	\$2,491,906	\$7,475,718	\$1,868,930	17
Ravalli County	Agricultural	77	\$39,300,240	\$39,300,240	\$78,600,480	\$19,650,120	
	Commercial	4	\$1,341,770	\$1,341,770	\$2,683,540	\$670,885	
	Exempt	3	\$346,487	\$346,487	\$692,974	\$173,244	
	Industrial	1	\$1,107,990	\$1,661,985	\$2,769,975	\$692,494	
	Residential	365	\$92,481,948	\$46,240,974	\$138,722,922	\$34,680,731	883
	Vacant	4	\$3,752,700	\$3,752,700	\$7,505,400	\$1,876,350	
	Total	464	\$144,387,729	\$96,208,844	\$240,596,573	\$60,149,143	900

Sources: DNRC, Hazus, FEMA NFHL

Ravalli County has a total of 34 critical facilities at risk to the annual chance of flooding. 35 are located in the transportation sector, and these can consist of scour and non-scour bridges. One is also located in the communications sector and one in the food, water and shelter sector. This is shown in Table Q-14 below.

Table Q-14 Ravalli County Critical Facilities at Risk to 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard by Facility Type

County	Jurisdiction	Communications	Energy	Food, Water, Shelter	Hazardous Materials	Health and Medical	Safety and Security	Transportation	Total
Ravalli	Ravalli County	1	-	1	-	-	-	32	34
	Total	1	0	1	0	0	0	32	34

Source: Montana DNRC, FEMA, HAZUS, HIFLD 2022, Montana DES, NBI

Hamilton is the only jurisdiction in Ravalli County that contains structures located in the floodplain, as seen in Figure O-11 through Figure O-14 below.

Figure O-11 Ravalli County Flood Hazard and Structures

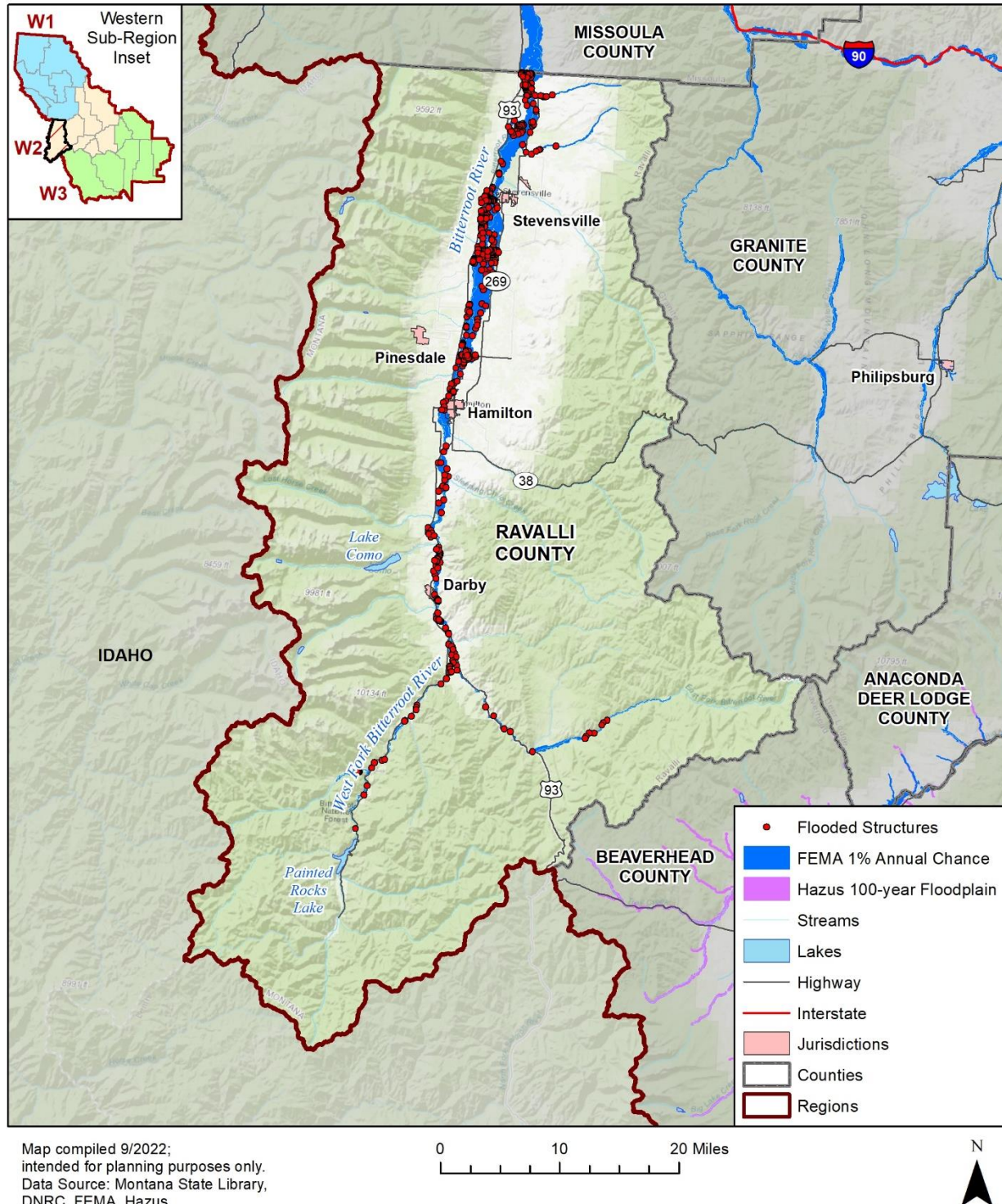
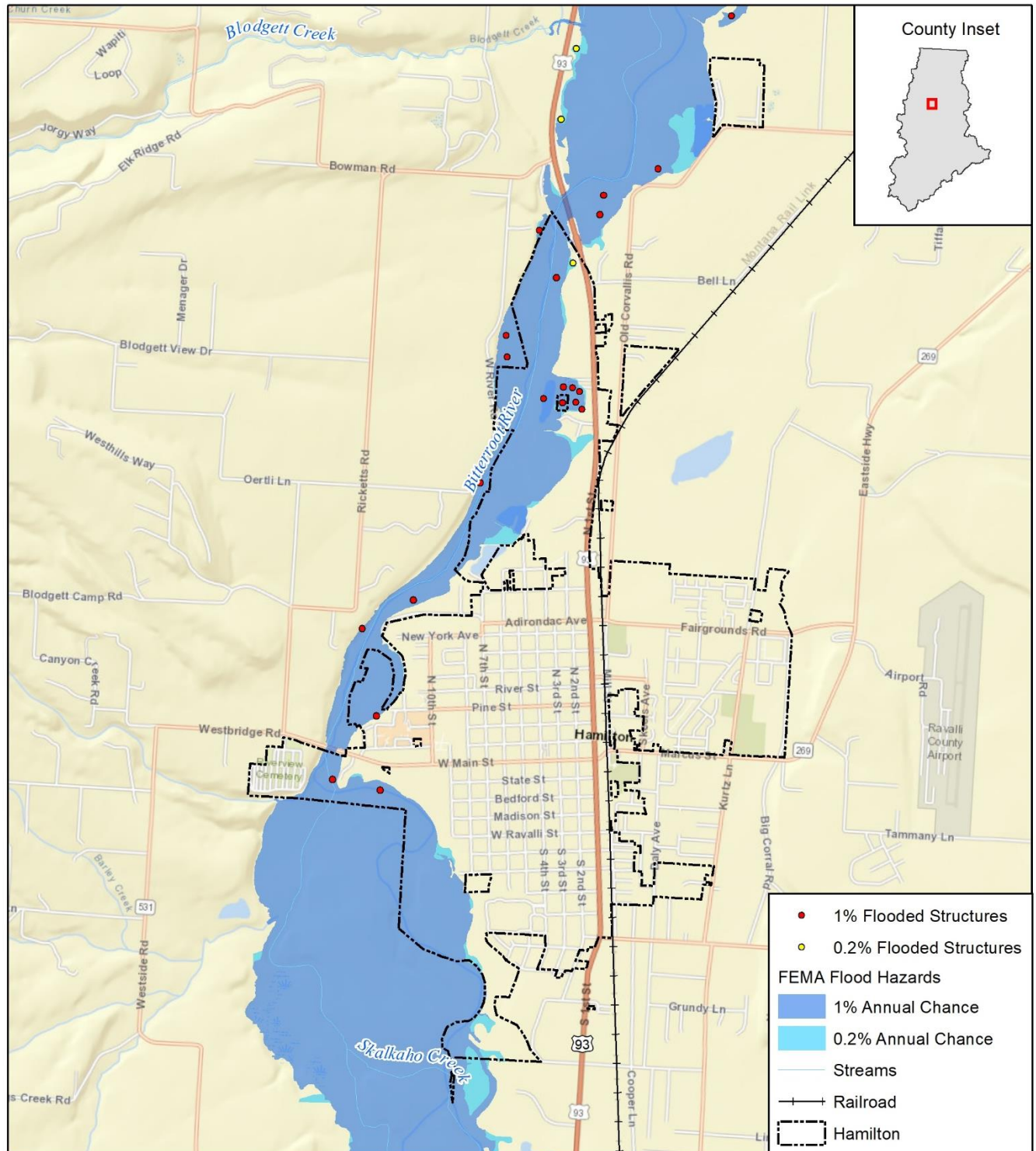
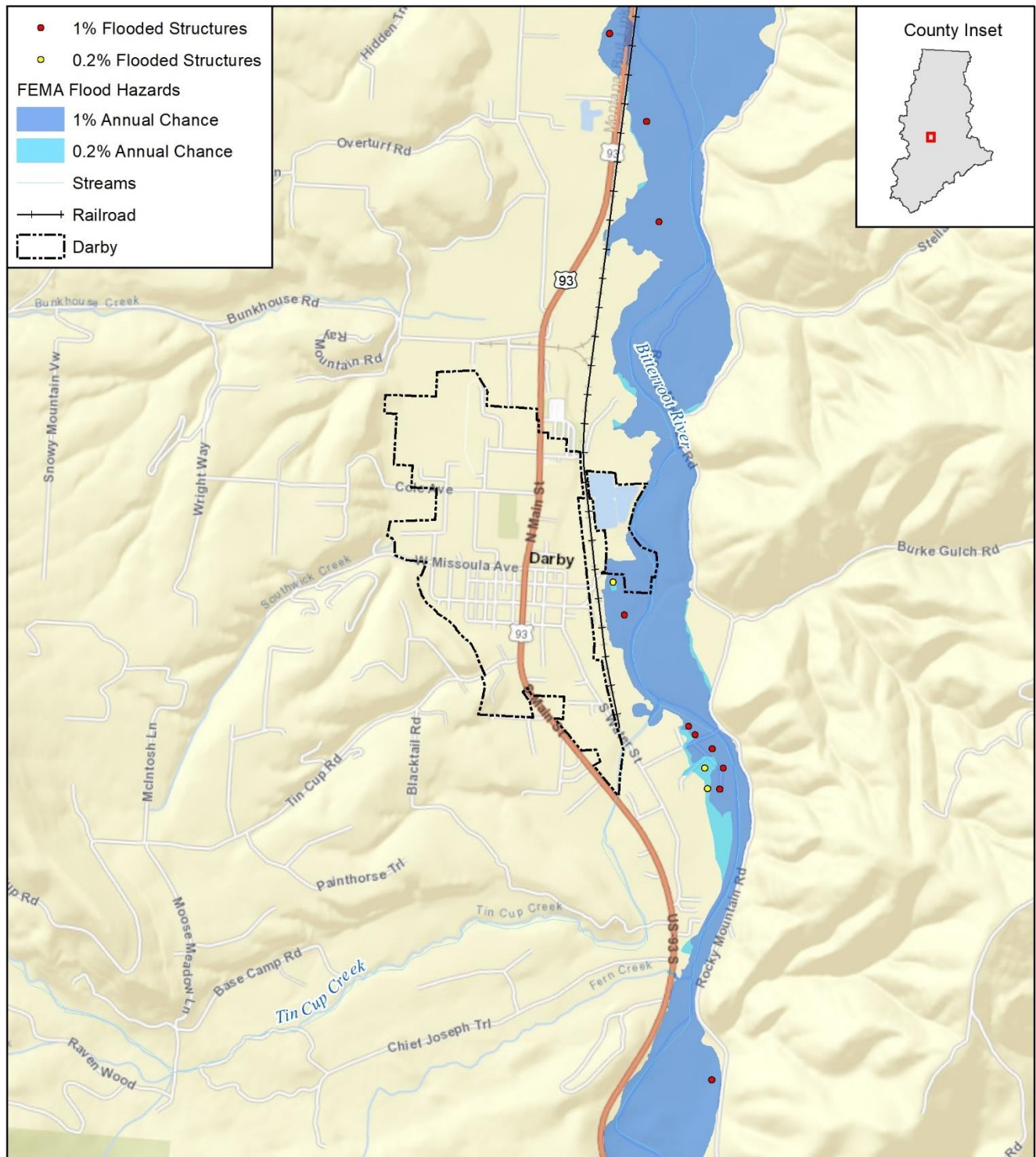


Figure O-12 City of Hamilton Flood Hazard and Structures



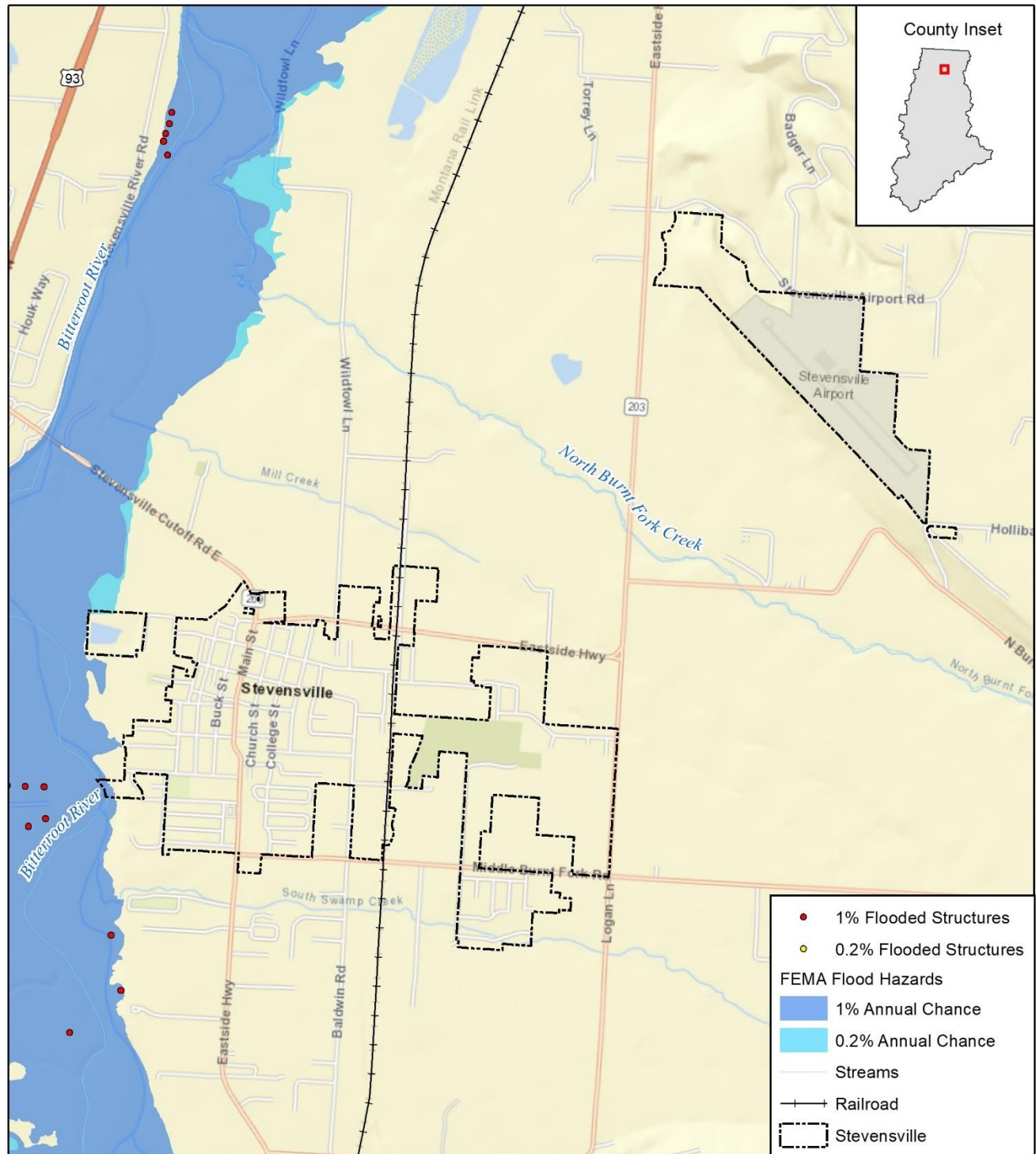
Map compiled 10/2022;
intended for planning purposes only.
Data Source: Montana State Library,
DNRC, FEMA, Hazus

Figure O-13 Town of Darby Flood Hazard and Structures



Map compiled 10/2022;
intended for planning purposes only.
Data Source: Montana State Library,
DNRC, FEMA, Hazus

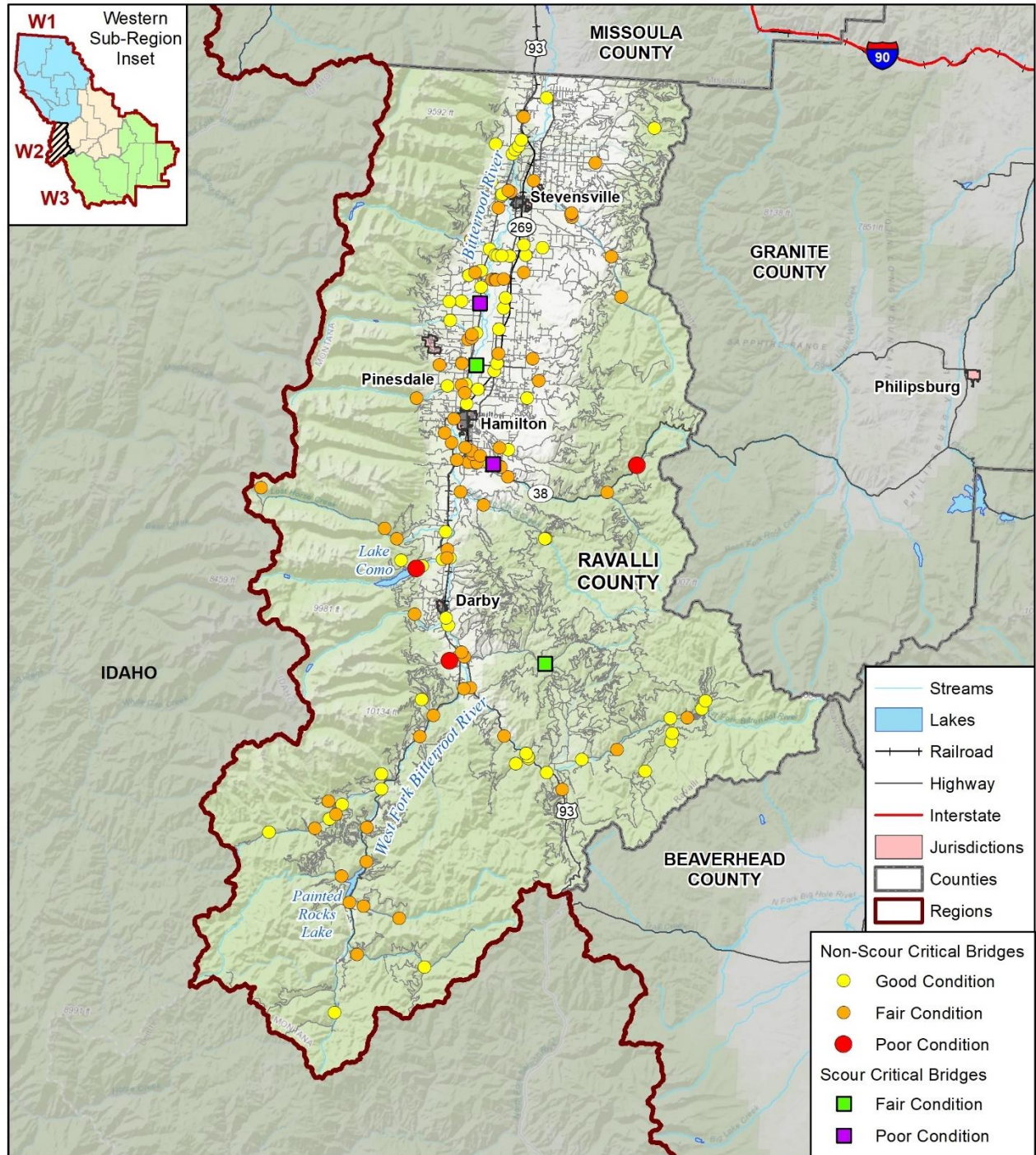
0 0.5 1 Miles

Figure O-14 Town of Stevensville Flood Hazard and Structures

Map compiled 10/2022;
intended for planning purposes only.
Data Source: Montana State Library,
DNRC, FEMA, Hazus

Figure O-15 below displays the location of bridges in Ravalli County and their condition. Refer to Chapter 4 for a discussion of the flood risk relative to Ravalli County and the Western Region.

Figure O-15 Ravalli County Bridges



Map compiled 10/2022;
intended for planning purposes only.
Data Source: Montana State Library,
National Bridge Inventory



O.4.8 Hazardous Materials Incident

Ravalli County has one Risk Management Program (RMP) facility in the City of Hamilton. Additionally, there are gas transmission pipelines in the county, primarily running north-south parallel to the Highway 93 corridor. (Source: [NPMS Public Viewer \(dot.gov\)](https://www.npms.dot.gov)) There have been 36 reported hazardous material incidents in Ravalli County since 1990, according to the NRC. Highway 93 traverses the county and passes through heavily populated areas, presenting a potential risk for hazmat incidents in transit.

Refer to Chapter 4 for a discussion of the hazardous materials incident risk relative to Ravalli County and the Western Region.

O.4.9 Landslide

Landslide is rated a medium significance hazard for Ravalli County and the town of Pinesdale. The city of Hamilton and the towns of Darby and Stevensville rated landslide a low significance hazard (Table O-5).

Ravalli County has a very rugged and mountainous terrain around its fringes, with a heavily populated valley floor in the interior of the county. Geologic data indicates a high confidence in history of at least 21 past landslides in the county, the greatest number of known events in the region. Ravalli County has an annualized landslide frequency of 0.02. Ravalli County also has an NRI overall risk rating and expected annual loss rating of relatively moderate for landslides. For more information, refer to Chapter 4 for a discussion of the landslide risk relative to Ravalli County and the Western Region.

O.4.10 Severe Summer Weather

Severe summer weather is rated a medium significance hazard for Ravalli County, the city of Hamilton, and the towns of Darby, Pinesdale, and Stevensville (Table O-5).

Ravalli County experienced the fourth greatest number of total severe summer weather events in Western Region, including 77 hail events, 8 heavy rain events, and 3 lightning events. There were no recorded excessive heat events in the county that resulted in losses, however, excessive heat events still occur in the county. As of 2023, severe summer weather events resulted in \$2,375,000 of property losses and \$100,000 of crop losses in the county. Ravalli County's property losses ranked the greatest among all the counties in the Western Region (81% of total property losses in the Western Region). Same as Powell County, Ravalli County's crop losses ranked the greatest among all the other counties in the Western Region, which make up of almost 50% of the Western Region's total crop losses. All the losses are due to a major hail event that happened on August 5, 2002. A severe thunderstorm, including extreme wind and lightning occurred on August 23, 2024, causing significant infrastructure damage throughout Ravalli County, as well as the ignition and initial spread of the Sharrott Creek Fire, Property loss estimates are not currently available for this event.

Exposure to severe summer weather is relatively uniform throughout the county. Variability in vulnerability throughout the county depends on the distribution of assets (Section O.3.2) and the susceptibility of each type of asset to severe summer weather (base plan, Section 4). The greatest property losses are likely to occur in the City of Hamilton, where people and infrastructure are concentrated. Refer to Chapter 4 for a discussion of the severe summer weather risk relative to Ravalli County and the Western Region.

O.4.11 Severe Winter Weather

Severe winter weather is rated a low significance hazard for Ravalli County, the city of Hamilton, and the towns of Darby, Pinesdale, and Stevensville (Table O-5).

The Bitterroot/Sapphire Mountains Zone experienced the third greatest number of recorded severe winter weather events in the Western Region. The NRI rated Ravalli County as "relatively low" risk index rating for winter weather. Severe winter weather events resulted in 3 deaths, 3 injuries and \$208,000 of property losses in Ravalli County.

Exposure to severe winter weather is relatively uniform throughout the county. Variability in vulnerability throughout the county depends on the distribution of assets (Section O.3.2) and the susceptibility of each type of asset to severe winter weather (base plan, Section 4). The greatest property losses are likely to occur in the City of Hamilton, where people and infrastructure are concentrated. Refer to Chapter 4 for a discussion of the severe winter weather risk relative to Ravalli County and the Western Region.

O.4.12 Human Conflict

Human conflict is ranked as an overall medium significance for Ravalli County, along with nearly all other counties in the Western Region. There have been no terrorist attacks in Ravalli County, although the City of Hamilton did experience two protest events from January of 2017 to January 2021, while no protest events were reported in the other jurisdictions in the County.

Refer to Chapter 4 for a discussion of the human conflict risk relative to Ravalli County and the Western Region.

O.4.13 Tornadoes & Windstorms

Tornadoes and windstorms are rated low significance hazards for Ravalli County, the city of Hamilton, and the towns of Darby, Pinesdale, and Stevensville (Table O-5).

The Missoula/Bitterroot Valleys Zone experienced the eighth greatest number of high wind and strong wind events in the Western Region, with 62 total events. Additionally, Ravalli County experienced the fifth greatest number of thunderstorm wind events and tornado events. Thunderstorm wind events and tornado events resulted in one injury and \$87,750 of property losses in Ravalli County. All people and property are vulnerable to tornado and windstorms in Ravalli County.

Refer to Chapter 4 for a discussion of the tornadoes and windstorms risk relative to Ravalli County and the Western Region.

O.4.14 Transportation Accidents

Ravalli County ranked transportation accidents as an overall medium significance. Ravalli County had the third greatest number of roadway crashes in the Western Region, recording 3,848 roadway crashes between 2016 and 2020. While transportation accidents can occur along any type of transportation route in the county and region, a greater frequency of accidents occur along heavily traveled roadways, such as US Highway 93 which runs through the county and is the only shipping and transportation route into and out of the county. Due to the high levels of traffic on this highway and the high population in the county dependent on this route for travel, it is likely that Ravalli County will continue at a greater rate of occurrence than much of the Region and State.

Refer to Chapter 4 for a discussion of the transportation accident risk relative to Ravalli County and the Western Region.

O.4.15 Volcanic Ash

All counties in the Western Region and all jurisdictions within Ravalli County ranked volcanic ash as an overall low significance hazard (Table O-5). Vulnerability throughout the county is largely uniform and dependent on the scale of volcanic activity impacting the region.

Refer to Chapter 4 for a discussion of the volcanic ash risk relative to Ravalli County and the Western Region.

O.4.16 Wildfire

Wildfire is rated a high significance hazard for Ravalli County, the city of Hamilton, and the towns of Darby, Pinesdale, and Stevensville (Table O-5). Ravalli County has a very high estimated population living in areas with elevated wildfire risk. An estimated 39,971 people, 90% of the county population, lives in areas rated

as a high or greater wildfire risk. 30,712 people, 69% of the population, lives in areas with extreme wildfire risk. This includes 86% of the population of Hamilton, 97% of Darby, 3% of Pinesdale, and 91% of Stevensville.

The SoVI-based rating of social vulnerability in Ravalli is relatively moderate (Section O.2.4 *Social Vulnerability*), largely due to an older population and a higher-than-typical proportion of the population living with disabilities or burdened with high cost of living (Table O-2). Wildfire can be devastating both financially and emotionally. Socio-economic vulnerability amplifies the financial and mental stress of wildfire hazards and often makes it difficult for people to recover. Wildfire may result in injuries or fatalities in situations with limited warning or when evacuation orders are not adhered to. Access and functional needs populations may have challenges with evacuations.

Figure O-16 below displays the wildfire risk in Ravalli County. While the map indicates large swaths of the county do not have wildfire risk, much of the available data shows that all areas of very high and extreme wildfire risk are heavily concentrated in the densely populated and developed Bitterroot River Valley. According to the vulnerability analysis, 95% of Ravalli County's building inventory is exposed to high, very high, or extreme wildfire risk, which is the third highest ratio of all counties in the region. Ravalli County has the highest annualized frequency rating in the region for wildfires according to the NRI.

Ravalli County has experienced five federal disaster declarations involving wildfire. Two of these occurred in the summer of 2000, and one each in 2012, 2016, and 2017. As detailed in the regional base plan, trends indicate the wildfires are becoming larger, more frequent, and more numerous in Montana. Given this, coupled with the extensive amount of Ravalli County's population, buildings, assets, and infrastructure potentially exposed to this hazard, wildfires in coming years may pose a very significant threat to the county and its municipalities. Since wildfires typically result in a total building loss including contents and 95% of the county's inventory is exposed, a large wildfire could present a devastating scenario for the county.

Table O-15 below summarizes the estimated exposed value of improvements in each wildfire risk category. As shown, approximately 18,252 buildings totaling \$7.2 billion in value are exposed to medium/low, high, very high, or extreme wildfire risk. See Chapter 4 in the base plan for details on the methodology of this analysis.

Table O-15 Ravalli County Parcels at Risk to Wildfire by Jurisdiction and Risk Rating

At Risk Rating	Jurisdiction	Improved Parcels	Improved Value	Content Value	Total Value	Population
At Risk to Extreme Wildfire Hazards	Darby	333	\$49,243,453	\$26,214,903	\$75,458,356	765
	Hamilton	1,745	\$409,008,112	\$254,695,592	\$663,703,704	4,017
	Pinesdale	13	\$3,401,384	\$1,985,882	\$5,387,266	24
	Stevensville	790	\$170,186,696	\$92,326,388	\$262,513,084	1,827
	Ravalli County	10,552	\$2,490,769,915	\$1,336,841,266	\$3,827,611,181	24,079
	Total	13,433	\$3,122,609,560	\$1,712,064,030	\$4,834,673,590	30,712
At Risk to Very High Wildfire Hazards	Ravalli County	4,787	\$1,450,607,195	\$899,516,300	\$2,350,123,495	9,213
	Total	4,787	\$1,450,607,195	\$899,516,300	\$2,350,123,495	9,213

At Risk Rating	Jurisdiction	Improved Parcels	Improved Value	Content Value	Total Value	Population
At Risk to High Wildfire Hazards	Ravalli County	27	\$9,181,237	\$5,447,324	\$14,628,561	46
	Total	27	\$9,181,237	\$5,447,324	\$14,628,561	46

Source: MSDI 2022, MWRA

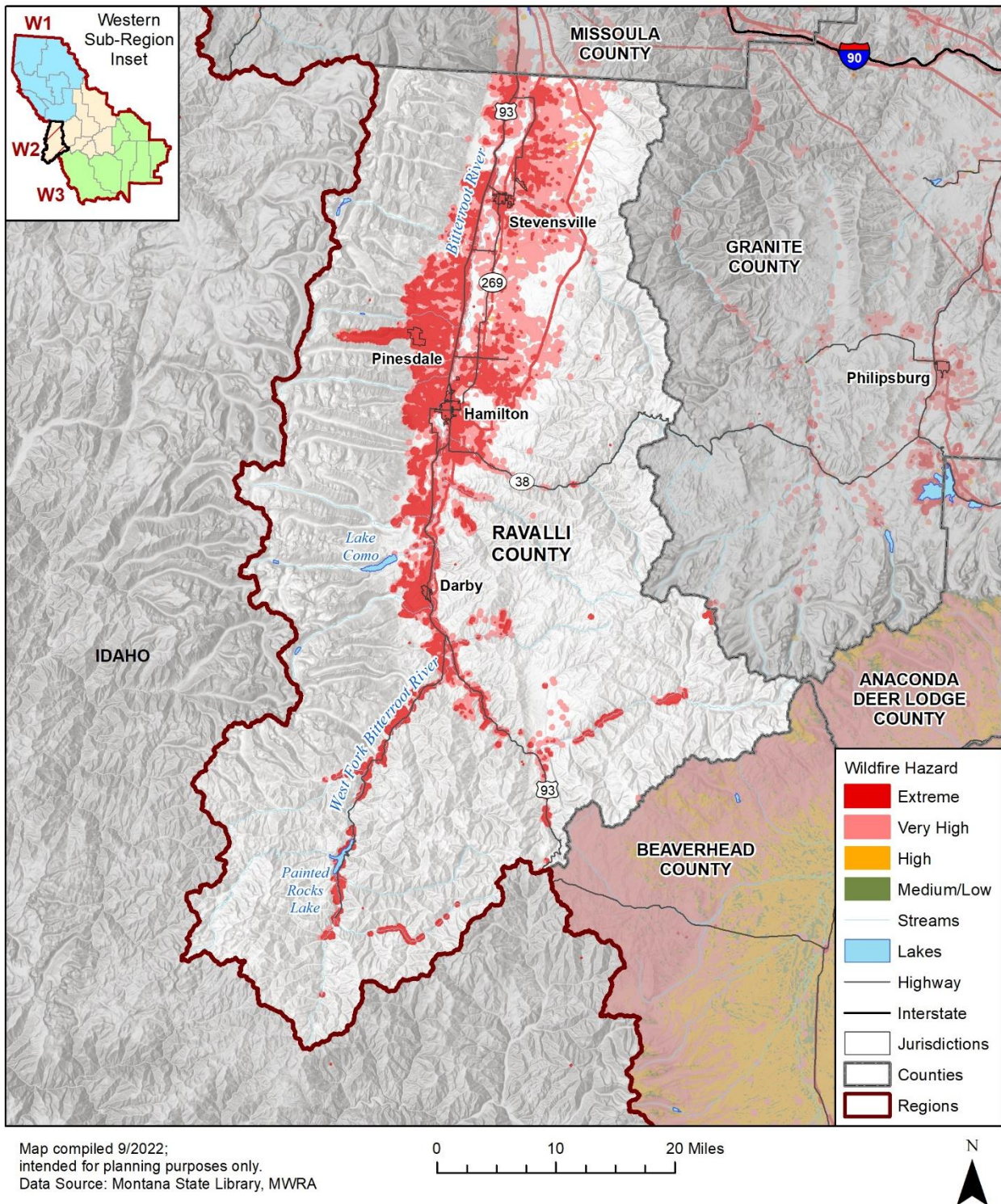
Table O-16 summarizes the potential impact of wildfire on critical facilities and lifelines in Ravalli County and its associated jurisdictions. The table highlights the type and number of facilities in each jurisdiction in the County in Wildfire risk areas. See Chapter 4 for the methodology of the critical facilities at risk analysis.

Table O-16 Critical Facilities at Risk to Wildfire Hazards by Jurisdiction, Facility Type, and Risk Rating

At Risk Rating	Jurisdiction	Communications	Energy	Food, Water, Shelter	Hazardous Materials	Health & Medical	Safety & Security	Transportation	Total
At Risk to Extreme Wildfire Hazards	Darby	2	-	3	-	2	2	1	10
	Hamilton	4	1	-	-	-	8	1	14
	Pinesdale	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
	Stevensville	5	1	2	-	1	2	1	12
	Ravalli County	77	19	3	1	9	28	69	206
	Total	88	21	8	1	12	42	72	244
At Risk to Very High Wildfire Hazards	Hamilton	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
	Stevensville	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
	Ravalli County	28	1	-	-	-	1	44	74
	Total	28	1	1	2	0	1	44	77
At Risk to High Wildfire Hazards	Ravalli County	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
	Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1

Source: HIFLD 2022, Montana DES, NBI, MWRA

Figure O-16 Ravalli County Wildfire Hazard



O.5 Mitigation Capabilities Assessment

As part of the regional plan development, the Region and participating counties and jurisdictions developed a mitigation capability assessment. Capabilities are those plans, policies and procedures that are currently in place that contribute to reducing hazard losses. Combining the risk assessment with the mitigation capability assessment results in “net vulnerability” to disasters and more accurately focuses the goals, objectives, and proposed actions of this plan. The CPT used a two-step approach to conduct this assessment. First, an inventory of common mitigation activities was made using a matrix. The purpose of this effort was to identify policies and programs that were either in place or could be undertaken, if appropriate. Second, the CPT conducted an inventory and review of existing policies, regulations, plans, projects, and programs to determine if they contribute to reducing hazard related losses.

O.5.1 Regulatory Mitigation Capabilities

Table O-17 lists planning and land management tools typically used by local jurisdictions to implement hazard mitigation activities and indicates those that are in place in Ravalli County and each participating jurisdiction.

Table O-17 Ravalli County and Jurisdictions Regulatory Mitigation Capabilities

Plans and Regulations	Ravalli County	City of Hamilton	Town of Darby	Town of Pinesdale	Town of Stevensville
Building Codes	Yes (State of MT)	Yes	Yes	Yes (State of MT)	Yes
Building Codes Year	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021
BCEGS Rating	No	No	No	N/A	No
Capital Improvements Program (CIP) or Plan	No	No	No	No	No
Community Rating System (CRS)	No	No	No	N/A	No
Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)	Yes – 2024	Yes – County Plan	Yes – County Plan	Yes – County Plan	Yes – County Plan
Comprehensive, Master, or General Plan	No	Yes - 2022	No	No	No
Economic Development Plan	Yes – Ravalli County Targeted Economic Development Plan, 2015	No	No	No	No
Elevation Certificates	No	No	No	No	No
Emergency Operations Plan	Yes - 2025	Yes – County Plan	Yes – County Plan	Yes – County Plan	Yes – County Plan
Erosion/Sediment Control Program	No	No	No	No	No
Floodplain Management Plan	Yes - 2015	No	No	No	No
Flood Insurance Study	Yes - 2015	No	No	No	No

Plans and Regulations	Ravalli County	City of Hamilton	Town of Darby	Town of Pinesdale	Town of Stevensville
Growth Management Ordinance	No	Yes - 2015	Yes - 2011	No	Yes - 2016
Hazard-Specific Ordinance or Plan (Floodplain, Steep Slope, Wildfire)	Yes, floodplain	Yes, floodplain	Yes, floodplain	No	Yes, floodplain
National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)	Yes (7/19/82)	Yes (11/10/89)	Yes (11/2/98)	No	Yes (11/16/12)
Site Plan Review Requirements	No	No	No	No	No
Stormwater Program, Plan, or Ordinance	No	No	No	No	No
Subdivision Regulations	Yes - 2012	Yes	Yes - 2000	No	Yes
Zoning Code or Ordinance	Yes – CIZD	Yes - 2022	Yes	No	Yes
Other?	N/A	Yes – City of Hamilton Urban Forestry Strategic Management Plan, 2015		N/A	

Discussion on Existing Regulatory Mitigation Capabilities

In order to manage the significant amount of growth and development in the county that is occurring in unincorporated areas, Ravalli County Planning Department created the Citizen-Initiated Zoning District (CIZD) program. The creation of a CIZD gives local landowners the opportunity to guide future development in their area. They allow neighbors to work together to make a land use plan that can enhance their neighborhood. In order to create a CIZD, at least 60% of the freeholders within the proposed district must sign a petition, which is presented to the County. The district size must be at least 40 acres. If adopted, the zoning district is enforceable by the County. Planning Department staff is available to work with landowners who are interested in establishing CIZDs. Citizen-Initiated Zoning Districts are authorized under Section 76-2-101, Montana Code Annotated.

The City of Hamilton also has a zoning code which is intended to promote the health and general welfare of the community and secure the safety of the public. The city has documented that their building/planning department oversees floodplain administration, zoning and subdivision ordinances, and building code enforcement, which all serve as capabilities in line with the goals of hazard mitigation and risk reduction. Their building codes work to address zoning, setbacks and lot coverage on new or additions. Building codes are as adopted by the State of Montana. The city also has several other plans, such as the 2015 Urban Forestry Strategic Management Plan and Growth Management Plan, which are also strong capabilities for enhancing natural resource protection and reducing risk and exposure to hazards.

Discussion on NFIP Participation and Compliance

Ravalli County is a participant of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The City of Hamilton and Towns of Darby and Stevensville are also participants in the NFIP. The County, City of Hamilton, and Towns

of Darby and Stevensville's flood insurance rate maps were adopted in 2015. The County, City of Hamilton, and Town of Darby adopted updated Floodplain Hazard Management Regulations in 2015, while the Town of Stevensville adopted updated Floodplain Hazard Management Regulations in 2014.

The Ravalli County Planning Department Administrator is designated as the County Floodplain Administrator. The Hamilton Public Works Director is designated as the Floodplain Administrator. The Stevensville Floodplain administration is carried out by the Office of the Mayor. Floodplain administration in Darby, Montana is carried out by the Town Council.

Each participating jurisdiction has floodplain regulations which are actively enforced. Each jurisdiction's regulations include provisions for restricting, prohibiting, or guiding development activities in special flood hazard areas. All permit applications undergo thorough review, utilizing the best available base flood elevation and floodway data from federal, state, and local sources. This ensures that sites are reasonably safe from flooding, that all necessary permits have been obtained, and that proposed development doesn't adversely affect the flood carrying capacity of flood-prone areas.

According to each jurisdiction's floodplain regulations, after a flood the floodplain administrator enforces substantial improvement/substantial damage rules, applicable when the cost of any repair, reconstruction or improvement of a structure equals or exceeds fifty percent of the market value of the Structure. They conduct a street view survey in the flood hazard area, notify owners of permit requirements for repairs, and ensure structures meet minimum building standards for safety and resilience.

The Town of Pinesdale does not participate in the NFIP as its boundaries are not located within any mapped Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA).

Ravalli County has 1 property classified under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) as Repetitive Loss (RL) which is located in the Town of Darby and is a 2-4 unit residential building. No other communities in Ravalli County contain RL or SRL classified properties.

O.5.2 Administrative and Technical Mitigation Capabilities

Table O-18 identifies the County and participating jurisdictions personnel responsible for activities related to mitigation and loss prevention in Ravalli County.

Table O-18 Ravalli County Jurisdictions Administrative/Technical Mitigation Capabilities

Administrative and Technical	Ravalli County	City of Hamilton	Town of Darby	Town of Pinesdale	Town of Stevensville
Emergency Manager	Yes	No	No	No	No
Floodplain Administrator/ Position/ Department	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Community Planning:	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
- Planner/Engineer (Land Development)	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
- Planner/Engineer/ Scientist (Natural Hazards)	No	No	No	No	No
- Engineer/Professional (Construction)	No	Yes	No	No	No
- Resiliency Planner	No	No	No	No	No
- Transportation Planner	No	No	No	No	No
Full-Time Building Official	No	Yes	No	No	No
GIS Specialist and Capability	Yes	No	No	No	No

Administrative and Technical	Ravalli County	City of Hamilton	Town of Darby	Town of Pinesdale	Town of Stevensville
Grant Manager, Writer, or Specialist	No	Yes	No	No	No
Housing Authority	Yes	No	No	No	No
Warning Systems: (list the hazards each system is used for)	Yes	No	No	No	No
- Sirens	No	No	No	No	No
- Reverse 911	Yes – HyperReach System	Yes – Through County	Yes – Through County	Yes – Through County	Yes – Through County
- IPAWS/Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA)	Yes	Yes – Through County	Yes – Through County	Yes – Through County	Yes – Through County
- Opt-In Notifications (CodeRed, Everbridge, etc.)	Yes – HyperReach System	Yes – Through County	Yes – Through County	Yes – Through County	Yes – Through County
- Other system	No	No	No	No	No
Other?					

O.5.3 Financial Capabilities

Table O-19 identifies the County and participating jurisdictions financial tools or resources that the jurisdictions have access or are eligible to use and could potentially be used to help fund mitigation activities.

Table O-19 Ravalli County Jurisdictions Financial Capabilities

Financial Capabilities	Ravalli County	City of Hamilton	Town of Darby	Town of Pinesdale	Town of Stevensville
Ability to fund projects through Capital Improvements funding	Yes	No	No	No	No
Ability to incur debt through general obligation bonds	Yes	No	No	No	No
Ability to incur debt through private activities	Yes	No	No	No	No
Ability to incur debt through special tax bonds	Yes	No	No	No	No
Authority to levy taxes for a specific purpose with voter approval	Yes	No	No	No	No
Authority to withhold spending in hazard prone areas	Yes	No	No	No	No
Community Development Block Grants	Yes	No	No	No	No

Financial Capabilities	Ravalli County	City of Hamilton	Town of Darby	Town of Pinesdale	Town of Stevensville
FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance grants	Yes	No	No	No	No
FEMA Public Assistance funds	Yes	No	No	No	No
Stormwater Service Fees	No	No	No	No	No
System Development Fee	No	No	No	No	No
Utility fees (water, sewer, gas, electric, etc.)	Yes	No	No	No	No
Other?	N/A				

FEMA and Other Grant Funding Leveraged for Hazard Mitigation

Funding for the proposed mitigation projects may come from a variety of sources. Below is a list of funding possibilities. This list is not tied directly to each proposed project; however, these programs could work for specific projects or multiple projects.

- FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants including:
 - Flood Mitigation Assistance Program (FMA).
 - Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP).
- US Army Corp of Engineers funding
- USDA Environmental Quality Incentive Program.
- USDA Conservation Reserve and Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program.
- USDA Small Watersheds (NRCS).

There are many more potential funding opportunities available to the municipalities and county. Funding research will be done during the scoping process for each project. New funding mechanisms may be present that were not before. Ravalli County and its jurisdictions have participated in several of these hazard mitigation assistance projects, summarized in the Table O-20 below.

Table O-20 Ravalli County Hazard Mitigation Assistance Projects

Program	Date Approved	Project Type	Status	Location
HMGP	2000-12-06	402.1: Infrastructure Protective Measures (Roads and Bridges)	Closed	Ravalli County
PDM	2016-02-11	91.1: Local Multi-hazard Mitigation Plan	Closed	Missoula County

Source: FEMA Opendata

O.5.4 Education and Outreach Capabilities

Table O-21 identifies the education and outreach programs in place at the County and participating jurisdictions are or could be used to help promote mitigation activities.

Table O-21 Ravalli County Education and Outreach Capabilities

Education & Outreach Programs	Ravalli County	City of Hamilton	Town of Darby	Town of Pinesdale	Town of Stevensville
Ongoing public education programs (fire safety, responsible water use, household preparedness, etc.)	Yes	Yes	No	No	No

Education & Outreach Programs	Ravalli County	City of Hamilton	Town of Darby	Town of Pinesdale	Town of Stevensville
Local citizen groups that communicate hazard risks	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Firewise or other fire mitigation program	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
National Weather Service StormReady	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

0.5.5 Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Mitigation Partnerships

Table O-22 shows the local chapters partnered with the County and participating jurisdictions.

Table O-22 Ravalli County Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)	Ravalli County	City of Hamilton	Town of Darby	Town of Pinesdale	Town of Stevensville
American Red Cross	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Chamber of Commerce	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Community Organizations (Lions, Kiwanis, etc.)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Environmental Groups	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Homeowner Associations	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Neighborhood Associations	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Salvation Army	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Veterans Groups	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Other?					

0.5.6 Opportunities for Enhancement

Based on the capabilities assessment, Ravalli County has several existing mechanisms in place that already help to mitigate hazards. There are also opportunities for the County to expand or improve on their policies, programs and fiscal capabilities and further protect the community. Future improvements may include providing training for staff members related to hazards or hazard mitigation grant funding in partnership with the County and DES. Additional training opportunities will help to inform County and local government staff members on how best to integrate hazard information and mitigation projects into their departments. Continuing to train staff on mitigation and the hazards that pose a risk to Ravalli County will lead to more informed staff members who can better communicate this information to the public. Another opportunity for enhancement is to increase public education and outreach on hazards. Creating ongoing public education programs or becoming Firewise and StormReady communities can increase the community's preparedness for hazard events. Improved cross-jurisdictional communication on evacuation and awareness

to mitigate life safety impacts during dam incidents, floods, or wildfires including the development of brochures and using existing communication capabilities through social media or other media. Other specific opportunities for improvement include:

- Ravalli County:
 - Consider joining FEMA Community Rating System (CRS) to lower the cost of flood insurance
 - Consider adopting a Hazard Specific Ordinance or Plan
 - Consider developing a Growth Management Ordinance or Plan
 - Develop additional partnerships with area agencies to further develop hazard mitigation programs.
- City of Hamilton:
 - Consider adopting a Wildland Urban Interface Code
 - Consider developing site plan review requirements
 - Consider an Erosion/Sediment Control Program
- Town of Darby:
 - Consider adopting building codes.
 - Consider developing a capital improvements plan and tying projects to this HMP
 - Consider adopting a Hazard Specific Ordinance and or a Stormwater Program Plan or Ordinance
- Town of Pinesdale
 - Consider developing a capital improvements plan and tying projects to this HMP
- Town of Stevensville:
 - Consider adopting a zoning ordinance
 - Consider adopting relevant Jurisdictions Regulatory Mitigation Capabilities

O.6 Mitigation Strategy

This section describes the mitigation strategy and mitigation action plan for Ravalli County. See Chapter 5 of the base plan for more details on the process used to develop the mitigation strategy.

O.6.1 Goals

During the creation of the 2023 Regional Plan, the counties in the Montana Western Region decided to collaborate and develop a set of new, uniform goals, which were adopted by all counties in the Region and move away from hazard-specific goals. The adopted goals are as follows:

- Goal 1: Reduce impacts to people, property, the environment, and the economy from hazards.
- Goal 2: Protect community lifelines and critical infrastructure to ensure the continuity of essential services.
- Goal 3: Promote education and outreach to the public around hazards and mitigation.
- Goal 4: Promote regional cooperation and leverage partnerships in mitigation solutions.
- Goal 5: Sustain and enhance jurisdictional capabilities to enact mitigation activities.
- Goal 6: Integrate hazard mitigation into other plans, processes, and regulations.
- Goal 7: Ensure local mitigation programs address underrepresented groups and protect socially vulnerable populations.
- Goal 8: Incorporate the potential impacts of climate change into all mitigation activities.
-

O.6.2 Progress on Previous Actions

During the 2023 planning process, the Ravalli County Planning Team reviewed all the mitigation actions from the 2017 plan. As shown in Table O-23, of 45 actions in the previous plan, four have been completed, and ten have been deleted.

Table O-23 Completed and Deleted Actions

ID	Action Name & Description	Hazard(s) Mitigated	Jurisdiction	Status
1.4.1	Consider adopting growth policy to guide new development in wildland fire planning area.	Wildfire	Ravalli County	Delete
2.3.1	Participate in the National Weather Service's Flood Awareness Program.	Flooding	County, Darby, Hamilton, Stevensville	Delete
3.2.1	Promote the National Weather Service's Severe Weather Awareness Week.	Severe Weather & Drought	County, Darby, Hamilton, Stevensville	Delete
3.3.2	Consider feasible water storage where it will increase water supply.	Severe Weather & Drought	Ravalli County	Delete
3.4.1	Promote and improve floodplain restoration and reconnection including restoration of hydrologic functions.	Severe Weather & Drought	Ravalli County	Delete
4.1.4	Encourage MDT to inspect bridges along US93 and East-Side Highway.	Hazardous Material & Transportation Accidents	County, Darby, Hamilton, Stevensville	Delete
7.1.1	Tie down/secure objects in critical facilities and schools that could fall during an earthquake.	Earthquakes	County, Darby, Hamilton, Stevensville	Delete
8.1.2	Investigate early warning systems for residents below dams.	Dam Failure	County, Darby, Hamilton, Stevensville	Completed
8.2.1	Revise breach flow projections for Painted Rocks and Lake Como based on enhanced digital elevation models and improved flood modeling software.	Dam Failure	County, Darby, Hamilton, Stevensville	Completed
1.2.2	Support Firesafe Montana in their work educating realtors, building contractors, insurance industry, and landscaping companies to ensure they have knowledge on FIREWISE principals.	Wildfire	County, Darby	Completed
1.2.4	Support efforts of County Health Officer to provide public info and guidance when wildfire smoke conditions are unhealthy.	Wildfire	County, Darby, Hamilton, Stevensville	Deleted
1.5.1	Update and adopt map of the WUI.	Wildfire	County	Completed

ID	Action Name & Description	Hazard(s) Mitigated	Jurisdiction	Status
1.5.2	Support Bitterroot RC&D's efforts to maintain year-end and quarterly fuel treatment accomplishment reporting system.	Wildfire	County	Deleted
5.1.1	Provide immunizations and disseminate information.	Communicable Disease	County, Darby, Hamilton, Stevensville	Deleted

O.6.3 NFIP Continued Compliance.

Also important to reducing losses to future development is continued compliance with the NFIP. All the jurisdictions will continue to make every effort to remain in good standing with the program. This includes continuing to comply with the NFIP regarding adopting floodplain maps and implementing, maintaining, and updating floodplain ordinances. See Section 5.4.2 in the base plan for more discussion on NFIP compliance.

O.6.4 Mitigation Action Plan

As a part of the 2023 regional planning process, the CPT developed an updated list of hazard mitigation actions or projects specific to Ravalli County and its jurisdictions. The process used to identify, develop, and prioritize these actions is described in Chapter 5 of the base plan. Ravalli County has 31 uncompleted mitigation actions carried over from the previous plan and has developed an additional 6 new actions.

Table O-24 lists the 2023 Mitigation Action Plan for Ravalli County and its participating jurisdictions. The CPT identified and prioritized the following mitigation actions based on the risk assessment and goals, and objectives. It is grouped by hazard(s) mitigated). Background information as well as information on how the action will be implemented and administered, such as ideas for implementation, responsible office (indicated with **bold** font), partners, potential funding, estimated cost, and timeline also are described. Per the DMA requirement, actions have been identified that address reducing losses to existing development as well as future development.

The Cost Estimate column describes the estimated project costs using the following categories:

- Little to no cost
- Low: Less than \$10,000
- Moderate: \$10,000-\$100,000
- High: \$100,000-\$1,000,000
- Very High: More than \$1,000,000

The Timeline column describes the estimated time of completion for each project using the following categories:

- Short Term: 1-2 years
- Medium Term: 3-5 years
- Long Term: 5+ years
- Ongoing: action is implemented every year

The Status/Implementation Notes column describes the progress made on the actions so far using the following categories:

- Not Started: project is carried over from the previous Ravalli County Plan; little to no work has been completed.
- In Progress: project is carried over from the previous Ravalli County Plan; work has begun on the project and is proceeding.
- Annual: project is carried over from the previous Ravalli County Plan and is implemented every year on an ongoing basis.
- New in 2023: The action is new to this plan update; little to no work has been completed.

Table O-24 below lists the mitigation actions for each participating jurisdiction in Ravalli County. All jurisdictions have developed mitigation actions for each identified hazard in the HMP.

Table O-24 Mitigation Actions by Hazard and Jurisdiction Summary

ID	Action Name & Description	Hazard(s) Mitigated	Jurisdiction	Lead Agency and Partners	Cost Estimate	Potential Funding	Timeline	Priority	Status/ Implementation Notes
1	Identify, maintain, update and support high priority fuel treatment areas within the WUI for hazardous fuel treatment by private landowners	Wildfire	County	Bitter Root RC&D; Fire in the Root Council	Moderate	USFS, DNRC, County General Funds, HMGP, USDA Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG)	Annual Implementation	High	In Progress. CWPP approved Feb. 2024.
2	Support hazardous fuel treatment projects between private landowners, state, and federal land managers.	Wildfire	County	Ravalli Co. Fire Council, USFS, DNRC; Fire in the Root Council	Moderate	USFS, DNRC, County General Funds, HMGP Grants, USDA Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG)	Annual Implementation	High	In Progress. CWPP approved Feb. 2024.
3	Educate the public on wildfire mitigation, especially those at high risk from wildland urban interface fires.	Wildfire	County	Bitterroot RC&D, Ravalli Co. Fire Council, USFS, DNRC; Fire in the Root Council	Little to no cost	USFS, DNRC, County General Funds, FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grants, HMGP Grants, USDA Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG)	Annual Implementation	High	Annual Implementation. Fire in the Root
4	Continue to conduct Wildfire Home Assessments for landowners to understand actions needed to reduce the ignitability of structures in Ravalli County.	Wildfire	County	Bitter Root RC&D, Ravalli Co. VFDs; Fire in the Root Council	Little to no cost	USFS, DNRC, County General Funds, FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grants, HMGP Grants, USDA	Annual Implementation	High	Annual Implementation. Fire in the Root

ID	Action Name & Description	Hazard(s) Mitigated	Jurisdiction	Lead Agency and Partners	Cost Estimate	Potential Funding	Timeline	Priority	Status/ Implementation Notes
						Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG)			
5	Integrate GIS technology for multi-jurisdictional response and mitigation planning.	Multi: Avalanche, Dam Failure, Earthquake, Flooding, Hazmat, Landslide, Summer Weather, Winter Weather, Human Conflict, Tornado/Wind, Transportation Accidents, Volcanic Ash, Wildfire	County	Ravalli County GIS	Low	County General Funds, Staff Time	Medium Term	Medium	In Progress. Stalled at this time
6	Develop Stevi-West Wildland Fire Response Guide.	Wildfire	County, Stevensville	Ravalli Co. Fire Council , USFS; USFS / Fire Council, Stevensville Fire Dept.	Little to no cost	County General Funds, Staff Time	Short Term	Medium	In Progress. Currently being reviewed for updates
7	Assess vulnerability of the Town of Stevensville wastewater treatment plant to flooding or levee damage.	Flooding, Summer Weather, Winter Weather	Stevensville	Stevensville Public Works – Wastewater Division	Moderate	Town General Funds, CWSRF Grants, USDA Rural Development Grants, USDA Rural Utilities Service Grants	Medium Term	Medium	In Progress. On Going
8	Install culverts in areas where water runoff is problematic.	Flooding, Summer Weather, Winter Weather	County	County Road & Bridge Dept	High	County Public Works General Funds, MT DOT General Funds	Annual Implementation	Medium	In Progress. On Going

ID	Action Name & Description	Hazard(s) Mitigated	Jurisdiction	Lead Agency and Partners	Cost Estimate	Potential Funding	Timeline	Priority	Status/ Implementation Notes
9	Obtain river gauges where needed for modeling and flood prediction.	Flooding	County	County OEM, County Floodplain Administrator	Moderate	USGS, FEMA NFIP, County General Funds	Long Term	Low	Not Started. Not Started
10	Relocate Darby sewage lagoons that are currently in floodplain.	Flooding, Summer Weather, Winter Weather	Darby	Darby Public Works	Very High	Darby CIP Funds, CWSRF Grants, USDA Rural Development Grants, USDA Rural Utilities Service Grants	Medium Term	Medium	Not Started. Not Started
11	Expand storm water system in Hamilton as needed to improve drainage.	Flooding, Summer Weather, Winter Weather	Hamilton	Hamilton Public Works	Very High	Hamilton CIP Funds, CWSRF Grants, USDA Rural Development Grants, USDA Rural Utilities Service Grants	Long Term	Low	In Progress. Expanding as needed
12	Continue to educate the public on the NFIP.	Flooding	County, Darby, Hamilton, Stevensville	County Planning, Hamilton Building Dept., Stevensville Zoning Admin., Darby Town Council	Little to no cost	County and City Planning Department General Funds, Staff Time, FEMA NFIP CAP	Annual Implementation	Medium	Annual Implementation. On Going
13	Remove dead, diseased, or dying trees on public lands or rights of way that threaten safety and security, energy, communications, and transportation infrastructure.	Multi: Dam Failure, Drought, Flooding, Summer Weather, Winter Weather, Tornado/Wind,	County, Darby, Hamilton, Stevensville	Stevensville Streets & Alleys, Hamilton & Darby Public Works, County Road & Bridge	Moderate	County, City, and Town Public Works Depts. General Funds, HMGP Grants, MT DNRC Urban	Annual Implementation	Medium	Annual Implementation. On Going - Reference to updating verbiage on goal.

ID	Action Name & Description	Hazard(s) Mitigated	Jurisdiction	Lead Agency and Partners	Cost Estimate	Potential Funding	Timeline	Priority	Status/ Implementation Notes
		Volcanic Ash, Wildfire				and Community Forestry Program			
14	Maintain a National Weather Service Storm Ready Community.	Multi: Dam Failure, Drought, Flooding, Summer Weather, Winter Weather, Tornado/Wind, Volcanic Ash, Wildfire	County, Darby, Hamilton, Stevensville	OEM	Little to no cost	County General Funds, Staff Time, NWS Partnership	Annual Implementation	Medium	Annual Implementation. On Going
15	Support drought programs implemented through the Conservation District, FSA, MSU extension, and others and increase education emphasis on range management.	Drought	County	Bitterroot Conservation District, County/City Public Works, DEQ; OES, FSA, MSU Extension Office, BRWF;	Little to no cost	Conservation District General Funds, US Dept. of Interior LWCF, MSU Extension Funding, Staff Time	Annual Implementation	Low	Not Started. Not Started
16	Improve water conveyance efficiencies in agricultural, municipal, and industrial uses.	Drought	County	Bitterroot Conservation District, FSA, MSU Extension, BRWF, MT DNRC	Moderate	NRCS Conservation Programs, Bureau of Rec Water 2025 Challenge Grant Program, County General Funds, Staff Time	Long Term	Medium	In Progress. On Going
17	Ensure local emergency responders have adequate training to respond to hazardous material events consistent with local capabilities.	Hazmat, Transportation Accidents	County, Darby, Hamilton, Stevensville	County & Municipal First Responder Agencies, LEPC, OEM	Low	OEM General Funds, Staff Time, AFG Grants, Safer	Annual Implementation	Medium	Annual Implementation. In Progress

ID	Action Name & Description	Hazard(s) Mitigated	Jurisdiction	Lead Agency and Partners	Cost Estimate	Potential Funding	Timeline	Priority	Status/ Implementation Notes
						Grants, VFA Grants			
18	Continue partnering with MDT to identify and rectify areas of concern on highway systems throughout the city, Towns, and County	Hazmat, Transportation Accidents	County, Darby, Hamilton, Stevensville	County Road & Bridge , MDT, Municipal Public Works Depts.	Little to no cost	County Road and Bridges Dept. General Funds, Staff Time	Annual Implementation	Medium	In Progress. In Progress
19	Acquire appropriate equipment to enhance aviation safety.	Hazmat, Transportation Accidents	County, Stevensville	Ravalli County & Stevensville Airport Managers	Moderate	County General Funds, USDOT Airport Improvement Program	Medium Term	Medium	In Progress. In Progress
20	Support Public Health Department's public education programs on communicable disease.	Communicable Disease	County, Darby, Hamilton, Stevensville	County Public Health , DEQ, City/Town Councils	Little to no cost	CDC Grants, Public Health Dept. General Funds, Staff Time	Annual Implementation	Medium	Annual Implementation. On Going
21	Conduct or participate in exercises involving points of distribution operations or distribution management	Communicable Disease	County, Darby, Hamilton, Stevensville	County Public Health , DEQ, City/Town Councils	Little to no cost	CDC Grants, Public Health Dept. General Funds, Staff Time	Short Term	Medium	In Progress. On Going – Reference to updating verbiage on goal.
22	Increase availability of water resources for structure fire suppression by creating reliable water supplies in rural areas.	Wildfire	County	Rural Fire Depts., Fire Council , Planning Dept.	High	County General Funds, EPA Healthy Watersheds Consortium (HWC) Grant, CWSRF Grants, USDA Rural Development Grants, USDA	Long Term	Medium	In Progress. On Going

ID	Action Name & Description	Hazard(s) Mitigated	Jurisdiction	Lead Agency and Partners	Cost Estimate	Potential Funding	Timeline	Priority	Status/ Implementation Notes
						Rural Utilities Service Grants			
23	Support volunteer fire department fire prevention activities	Wildfire	County, Darby, Hamilton, Stevensville	OEM , Rural Fire Depts., Municipal Fire Depts.	Moderate	County, City, Town General Funds, Staff Time, FP&S Grants	Annual Implementation	Medium	Annual Implementation. Fire in the Root
24	Promote participation in Great Montana Shake-out earthquake preparedness programs in schools, municipal offices, businesses, and the media.	Earthquake	County, Darby, Hamilton, Stevensville	OEM , County & Municipal Dept. Heads	Little to no cost	County General Funds, Staff Time	Annual Implementation	Medium	Annual Implementation. On Going
25	Support and promote initiatives for assessment and possible rehabilitation of high hazard dams, including wilderness dams.	Dam Failure	County	MT DNRC Dam Safety , dam owners, Ravalli County, Municipalities of Hamilton, Darby, Stevensville	High	MT DNRC, FEMA HHPD, Dam owner	Mid-term	Medium	An Outlet Works Replacement project was completed on Little Sleeping Child Dam in December, 2023 & currently operating as intended in good condition.
26	Study the feasibility of including dam inundation as a criterion in sub-division reviews to potentially reduce risk when siting future development and raise risk awareness among developers and prospective buyers. Update subdivision policy as appropriate based on study outcome.	Dam Failure	County	County Planning Dept. , DNRC	Low	FEMA HHPD, City-County General Funds, Staff Time	Medium Term	Medium	New for 2024

ID	Action Name & Description	Hazard(s) Mitigated	Jurisdiction	Lead Agency and Partners	Cost Estimate	Potential Funding	Timeline	Priority	Status/ Implementation Notes
27	Obtain and install real time monitoring and/or telemetry equipment on dams.	Dam Failure	County, Darby, Hamilton, Stevensville	MT DNRC , Dam Operators, OEM, City/Town Councils	Moderate	MT DNRC Dam Safety Program Funds, Individual Dam Owners, County OEM General Funds, EMPG, Staff Time	Long Term	Medium	In Progress. In Progress
28	Participate in dam owner's tabletop exercises with emergency response partners.	Dam Failure	County	MT DNRC , Dam Operators, OEM	Moderate	MT DNRC Dam Safety Program Funds, Individual Dam Owners, County OEM General Funds, EMPG, Staff Time	Annual Implementation	Medium	Annual Implementation. On Going
29	Develop evacuation plans and evacuation routes as part of EOP update.	Dam Failure	County, Darby, Hamilton, Stevensville	OEM & Sheriff's Office, MT DNRC , Dam Operators, City/Town Councils	Moderate	MT DNRC Dam Safety Program Funds, Individual Dam Owners, County OEM General Funds, EMPG, Staff Time	Medium Term	Medium	In Progress. In Progress
30	Provide emergency back-up power to critical facilities including generators and secondary feeds.	Multi: Cyber-Attack, Dam Failure, Earthquake, Flooding, Summer Weather, Winter Weather, Human Conflict, Tornado/Wind,	County, Darby, Hamilton, Stevensville	OEM , City/Town Councils	Moderate	County General Funds, EMPG ARPA Grant, FEMA PDM Grant, FEMA HMGP Grant	Annual Implementation	Medium	Not Started. Not Started

ID	Action Name & Description	Hazard(s) Mitigated	Jurisdiction	Lead Agency and Partners	Cost Estimate	Potential Funding	Timeline	Priority	Status/ Implementation Notes
		Volcanic Ash, Wildfire							
31	Provide special needs individuals with guidelines for disaster preparedness measures, including pet needs.	Multi: Communicable Disease, Cyber-Attack, Dam Failure, Drought, Earthquake, Flooding, Hazmat, Landslide, Summer Weather, Winter Weather, Human Conflict, Tornado/Wind, Transportation Accidents, Volcanic Ash, Wildfire	County, Darby, Hamilton, Stevensville	County Public Health , City/Town Councils	Low	County General Funds, Staff Time	Short Term	Medium	In Progress. In Progress
32	Obtain additional repeaters or relocate existing repeaters to enhance radio communications.	Multi: Communicable Disease, Cyber-Attack, Dam Failure, Drought, Earthquake, Flooding, Hazmat, Landslide, Summer Weather, Winter Weather, Human Conflict, Tornado/Wind, Transportation	County	OEM , First Responder Agencies	High	Fire Dept. Operating Budgets, AFG Grants, Safer Grants, VFA Grants, FP&S Grants	Medium Term	Medium	In Progress. In Progress

ID	Action Name & Description	Hazard(s) Mitigated	Jurisdiction	Lead Agency and Partners	Cost Estimate	Potential Funding	Timeline	Priority	Status/ Implementation Notes
		Accidents, Volcanic Ash, Wildfire							
33	Publicize emergency notification system and encourage registration of cell phones.	Multi: Communicable Disease, Cyber-Attack, Dam Failure, Drought, Earthquake, Flooding, Hazmat, Landslide, Summer Weather, Winter Weather, Human Conflict, Tornado/Wind, Transportation Accidents, Volcanic Ash, Wildfire	County, Darby, Hamilton, Stevensville	OEM , First Responder Agencies, City/Town Councils	Little to no cost	Fire Dept. Operating Budgets, AFG Grants, Safer Grants, VFA Grants, FP&S Grants	Annual Implementation	Medium	Annual Implementation. On Going
34	Fuel reduction in River Park. River Park is a natural city park that has walking trails and access to the river. Humans start campfires and have had them spread. To improve safety and preserve the river parks character fuel productions and removal of hazardous trees should be done.	Drought, Wildfire	City of Hamilton	Hamilton Parks Dept., Hamilton Fire Dept. , Hamilton Public Works Dept., Federal Gov – NHID, MT DNRC	Moderate	USFS, DNRC, County General Funds, HMGP Grants, USDA Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG)	Long Term	Medium	New in 2024
35	Fuel reduction in Steve Powell Park. Steve Powell Park is a natural city park that has walking trails and access to the river. Steve Powell borders an assisted living building, a nursing home, a retirement center, the	Drought, Wildfire	City of Hamilton	Hamilton Parks Dept., Hamilton Fire Dept. , Hamilton Public Works Dept.,	Moderate	USFS, DNRC, County General Funds, HMGP Grants, USDA Community	Long Term	Medium	New in 2024

ID	Action Name & Description	Hazard(s) Mitigated	Jurisdiction	Lead Agency and Partners	Cost Estimate	Potential Funding	Timeline	Priority	Status/ Implementation Notes
	sewer plant, pine park condos, private homes, Bitterroot Health Daly Hospital, and West House. Fuel reduction of removal of hazardous trees should be done			Federal Gov – NHID, MT DNRC, Bitterroot Health, Sapphire Lutheran Homes, Discovery Care Center		Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG)			
36	Remote monitoring of weather conditions/roads. Purchase and install remote weather monitoring stations to prioritize road clearing needs in remote areas in times of winter or other sever weather	Multi: Dam Failure, Drought, Flooding, Summer Weather, Winter Weather, Tornado/Wind, Volcanic Ash, Wildfire	Ravalli County	Ravalli County OEM, Ravalli County Road Dept	High	FEMA, MDT, Ravalli Road Dept General Funds, Staff Time	Medium Term	Medium	New in 2024
37	Emergency water storage. Repair dam/spillway/infrastructure needs	Dam Failure, Flooding, Summer Weather, Winter Weather	Ravalli County, Town of Pinesdale	Town of Pinesdale, County Public Works	High	CWSRF Grants, USDA Rural Development Grants, USDA Rural Utilities Service Grants	Medium Term	High	New in 2024
38	Tree trimming near city streets. Address the issue of aging trees that are likely to fall across city streets. Many limbs overhang and could fall at any time. This is a hazard to life and property as well as a potential impediment to traffic/emergency vehicles.	Multi: Dam Failure, Drought, Flooding, Summer Weather, Winter Weather, Tornado/Wind, Volcanic Ash, Wildfire	Town of Stevensville	Stevensville Public Works	Moderate	Town Public Works Depts. General Funds, MT DNRC Urban and Community Forestry Program	Short Term	Medium	New in 2024
39	Create multi-hazard public education and awareness campaign to help residents understand what hazards are present, how to prepare, and personal accountability.	Multi: Avalanche, Communicable Disease, Cyber-Attack, Dam	Ravalli County, City of Hamilton, Town of Darby, Town	County DES, City/Town Administration, LEPC, Mayors/	Low	County & Municipal Staff Time	Medium-Term	Medium	New in 2024

ID	Action Name & Description	Hazard(s) Mitigated	Jurisdiction	Lead Agency and Partners	Cost Estimate	Potential Funding	Timeline	Priority	Status/ Implementation Notes
	Keeping residents informed about natural hazards and opportunities for mitigating risks can help protect public health, safety, and welfare. Special consideration will be given to meeting the needs of vulnerable and underserved populations. Planned activities for this program include hosting annual briefings on recent advancements in mitigation strategy, distribute topic specific brochures and mailers prior to vulnerable seasons such as promoting Firewise practices in the spring to help property owners take preventative action against summer wildfires, organize storm spotting course in partnership with local NWS office, and provide online resources for home insurance policies and details on flood insurance/NFIP.	Failure, Drought, Earthquake, Flooding, Hazmat, Landslide, Summer Weather, Winter Weather, Human Conflict, Tornado/Wind, Transportation Accidents, Volcanic Ash, Wildfire	of Stevensville, Town of Pinesdale	Commissioners, Public Health					

O.7 Plan Implementation and Maintenance

Moving forward the Ravalli County CPT will use the mitigation action table in the previous section to track progress on implementation of each project. Implementation of the plan overall is discussed in Chapter 6 of the base plan.

O.7.1 Integration into Existing Planning Mechanisms

Integrated planning is key to building community resiliency. As described in the capability assessment, the County already implements policies and programs to reduce losses to life and property from hazards. This plan 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. Where applicable, these existing mechanisms could include:

Ravalli County:

- Ravalli County Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan, 2012 (superseded by this document)
- Ravalli County Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan, 2016 (superseded by this document)
- Ravalli County Subdivision Regulation, 2012
- Ravalli County Floodplain Hazard Management Regulations, 2015
- Ravalli County Flood Insurance Study, 2015
- Ravalli County All-Hazards Emergency Operations Plan, 2025
- Ravalli County Community Wildfire Protection Plan, 2024
- Ravalli County Targeted Economic Development Plan, 2015
- Dam Emergency Action Plans

City of Hamilton:

- Hamilton Growth Policy, 2015
- City of Hamilton Zoning Ordinance, 2012
- City of Hamilton Subdivision Regulations
- City of Hamilton Downtown Master Plan, 2014
- City of Hamilton Urban Forestry Strategic Management Plan, 2015
- Hamilton Area Transportation Plan, 2012
- Hamilton Community Transportation Safety Plan, 2011

Town of Darby:

- Town of Darby Growth Policy, 2015
- Town of Darby Zoning Ordinance
- Town of Darby Subdivision Regulations
- Town of Denton Floodplain Hazard Management Regulations

Town of Stevensville:

- Town of Stevensville Growth Policy, 2016
- Town of Stevensville Zoning Ordinance
- Town of Stevensville Development Code

The jurisdictions did not meaningfully integrate the 2017 Ravalli County Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan into other planning mechanisms, which has been noted as an area of improvement for the next five years. The CPT has noted that this plan will be useful for future planning and grant opportunities for future development of county assets. When the opportunity arises, each jurisdiction will follow the process outlined in Section 6.3.3 of the base plan to integrate information from the Regional HMP into these mechanisms. This integration may encompass cross-referencing the HMP where applicable, or it may involve including data, goals, or actions from the HMP. The CPT will coordinate with the staff responsible for the above plans or programs.

O.7.2 Monitoring, Evaluation and Updating the Plan

Ravalli County will follow the procedures to review and update this plan in accordance with Montana Western Region as outlined in Chapter 6 of the Regional Plan. The County and municipalities realize that it is important to review and update this plan regularly and update it on a five-year cycle. The Ravalli County Annex to the Montana Western Region Plan will be evaluated on a regular basis to determine the effectiveness of programs, and to reflect changes in land development or programs that may affect mitigation priorities.

O.7.3 Continued Public Involvement

Ravalli County is committed to involving the public in the review and updates of the HMP. The public will have multiple opportunities to provide feedback. Hard copies of the plan will be available at government offices in Ravalli County, Hamilton, Darby, and Stevensville, with an electronic copy on the County website. The locations of the hard copies will be publicized online. The Ravalli County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) Director will track public comments on the plan.

The public will be invited to All-Hazard Coordination meetings where the HMP is discussed, providing a forum for expressing concerns, opinions, or ideas. The OEM Director will use County resources to publicize these meetings and maintain public involvement. Additionally, public notice may be listed through local newspapers, social media and internet websites, email lists, and public bulletin board postings.

The CPT will continuously observe and evaluate public outreach processes, making necessary changes during plan updates. Continued public outreach will be followed as outlined in Chapter 6 of the base plan, with an emphasis on vulnerable populations or groups that could have been missed during the 2023 process.