



## Chapter 3 Planning Process

**Requirements §201.6(b), §201.6(c)(1), §201.7(c)(1), and §201.7(c)(1)(ii), (iii) and (iv): An open public involvement process is essential to the development of an effective plan. In order to develop a more comprehensive approach to reducing the effects of natural disasters, the planning process shall include:**

- 1) An opportunity for the public to comment on the plan during the drafting stage and prior to plan approval;**
- 2) An opportunity for neighboring communities, local and regional agencies involved in hazard mitigation activities, and agencies that have the authority to regulate development, as well as businesses, academia, and other private and nonprofit interests to be involved in the planning process; and**
- 3) Review and incorporation, if appropriate, of existing plans, studies, reports, and technical information.**

**[The plan shall document] the planning process used to develop the plan, including how it was prepared, who was involved in the process, and how the public was involved.**

Plumas County, in conjunction with a Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee (HMPC), prepared this Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) Update to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)-approved 2014 Plumas County LHMP.

The Plumas County Office of Emergency Services (County OES) and the Planning Department recognized the importance and need of the update process for their 2014 LHMP and initiated the development of this 2020 LHMP Update. Utilizing Cal OES Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funds, which served as the primary funding source for this Plan, the County contracted with Foster Morrison Consulting, Ltd. (Foster Morrison) to facilitate and develop the Plan. Jeanine Foster, a professional planner with Foster Morrison, was the project manager in charge of overseeing the planning process and the development of this LHMP Update. Chris Morrison, also a professional planner with Foster Morrison, was the lead planner for the development of this Update. Brenna Howell, of Howell Consulting also supported this effort as a subcontractor to Foster Morrison. The Foster Morrison's team's role was to:

- Assist in establishing the Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee (HMPC) as defined by the Disaster Mitigation Act (DMA);
- Meet the DMA requirements as established by federal regulations and following FEMA's planning guidance;
- Support objectives under the National Flood Insurance Program's (NFIP) and the Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) program;
- Facilitate the entire planning process;
- Identify the data requirements that HMPC participants could provide and conduct the research and documentation necessary to augment that data;
- Assist in facilitating the public input process;
- Produce the draft and final plan documents; and
- Coordinate with the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) and FEMA Region IX plan reviews.

### 3.1 Local Government Participation

Plumas County made a commitment to this 2020 LHMP Update, as the single participating jurisdiction. The DMA planning regulations and guidance stress that each local government (participating jurisdiction) seeking FEMA approval of their mitigation plan must participate in the planning effort in the following ways:

- Participate in the process as part of the HMPC;
- Detail where within the Planning Area the risk differs from that facing the entire area;
- Identify potential mitigation actions; and
- Formally adopt the plan.

For this Plumas County LHMP Update, “participation” included the following:

- Providing facilities and printed materials for meetings;
- Attending and participating in the HMPC meetings;
- Completing and returning the Data Collection Worksheets;
- Collecting and providing other requested data (as available);
- Coordinating information sharing between internal and external agencies;
- Managing administrative details;
- Making decisions on Plan process and content;
- Identifying mitigation actions for the Plan;
- Reviewing and providing comments on Plan drafts;
- Coordinating, and participating in the public input process; and
- Coordinating the formal adoption of the Plan by the County Board of Supervisors (BOS).

Plumas County, as the single participating jurisdiction to this LHMP Update seeking FEMA approval of this Plan, met all of these participation requirements. Multiple representatives from the County attended the HMPC meetings described in Table 3-3, identified and provided hazard data, identified mitigation actions and implementation strategies, and reviewed and provided input on Plan drafts. Other jurisdictions and public and private stakeholders supported the planning process through representation on the HMPC, providing data and input for the risk assessment and mitigation strategy, and reviewing and providing input on Plan drafts prior to finalization and submittal to Cal OES and FEMA.

As described, numerous individuals representing Plumas County were actively involved throughout this planning process as identified in Appendix A in the sign-in sheets for the meetings and as evident through the data, information and input provided by HMPC representatives for the development of this LHMP Update. This Chapter 3 and Appendix A provides additional information and documentation of the planning process and participants to this 2020 LHMP Update.

### 3.2 The 10-Step Planning Process

Foster Morrison established the planning process for updating the 2014 Plumas County LHMP using the DMA planning requirements and FEMA’s associated guidance. This guidance is structured around a four-phase process:

1. Organize Resources;
2. Assess Risks;
3. Develop the Mitigation Plan; and
4. Implement the Plan and Monitor Progress.

Into this process, Foster Morrison integrated a more detailed 10-step planning process used for FEMA’s Community Rating System (CRS) and FMA programs. Thus, the modified 10-step process used for this Plan meets the requirements of six major programs: FEMA’s Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP); Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) program; CRS program; FMA Program; Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL) program; and new flood control projects authorized by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

Table 3-1 shows how the modified 10-step process fits into FEMA’s four-phase process. The sections that follow describe each planning step in more detail.

*Table 3-1 Mitigation Planning Processes Used to Develop the Plumas County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Update*

DMA Process	Modified DMA/CRS Process
<b>1) Organize Resources</b>	
201.6(c)(1)/201.7(c)(1)	1) Organize the Planning Effort
201.6(b)(1)/201.7(c)(1)(i)	2) Involve the Public
201.6(b)(2) and (3)/ 201.7(c)(1)(ii), (iii) and (iv)	3) Coordinate with Other Departments and Agencies
<b>2) Assess Risks</b>	
201.6(c)(2)(i)/201.7(c)(2)(i)	4) Identify the Hazards
201.6(c)(2)(ii)/201.7(c)(2)(ii)	5) Assess the Risks
<b>3) Develop the Mitigation Plan</b>	
201.6(c)(3)(i)/201.7(c)(3)(i)	6) Set Goals
201.6(c)(3)(ii)/201.7(c)(3)(ii)	7) Review Possible Activities
201.6(c)(3)(iii)/201.7(c)(3)(iii)	8) Draft an Action Plan
<b>4) Implement the Plan and Monitor Progress</b>	
201.6(c)(5)/201.7(c)(5)	9) Adopt the Plan
201.6(c)(4)/201.7(c)(4)	10) Implement, Evaluate, and Revise the Plan

The process followed to update the 2014 LHMP is detailed in the above table and the sections that follow and is in conformance with the latest DMA planning guidance. This LHMP Update involved a comprehensive review and update of each section of the 2014 Plumas County LHMP to reflect new data processes, mitigation strategies, and also includes an assessment of the success of Plumas County in evaluating, monitoring and implementing the mitigation strategy outlined in the previous plan, as previously described in more detail in Chapter 2 and Chapter 4. The information and data still valid from the 2014 LHMP were carried forward as applicable into this LHMP Update.

### 3.2.1. Phase 1: Organize Resources

#### *Planning Step 1: Organize the Planning Effort*

With Plumas County’s commitment to participate in the DMA planning process, Foster Morrison worked with County OES staff and the Planning Director, as overall project leads, to establish the framework and organization for development of this LHMP Update. A conference call was held with County OES staff and the Planning Director to discuss the organizational and process aspects of this LHMP Update.

The initial kickoff meeting was held on January 29, 2020. Invitations to the kickoff meeting were extended to key County departments, the City of Portola, and special districts as well as to other federal, state, and local stakeholders that might have an interest in participating in the 2020 LHMP Update. Representatives from the County, the City, districts, and key community stakeholders participated in this LHMP project with additional invitations extended as appropriate throughout the plan development process. The full list of invitees is included in Appendix A.

The HMPC was established as a result of the initial kickoff meeting, as well as through interest generated from the initial planning and public outreach meetings conducted for this project, as detailed later in this chapter. The HMPC, comprising key County, City, special district, and other government and stakeholder representatives and the public, developed this Plan with leadership from County OES and the Planning Director and facilitation by Foster Morrison. Plumas County seeking FEMA approval of the Plan had representation from multiple departments on the HMPC. Table 3-2 gives information on who participated on the HMPC. This list includes all HMPC members that attended one or more HMPC meetings detailed in Table 3-3 or who otherwise contributed to the plan development process. A complete list of HMPC members is also included in Appendix A.

*Table 3-2 Plumas County Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee*

Name	Agency/Organization	Title
<b>Agencies and Stakeholders</b>		
Carlos Espana	Almanor Recreation and Park District	Trails Coordinator
Shane Vargas	CAL FIRE	Pre-Fire Planning and Engineering
Kelly Riley	Cal OES	Mitigation Planning Division
Erik Egide	California Highway Patrol Quincy	Commander CHP
Marcelino "Marci " Gonzalez	Caltrans	Local Development Review, Regional Transportation Planner
Lauren Knox	City of Portola City Manager's Office	City Manager
Levi Warr	DWR	Water Resource Engineer
Sami Nall	DWR	Floodplain Management
Remy Gill	DWR	Floodplain Management
Rhonda Williams	Eastern Plumas Rural Fire Protection District	Board of Directors
Kevin Trutna	Feather River College	President

Name	Agency/Organization	Title
Brad Graevs	Feather River Resource Conservation District	District Manager
Kathy Kogge	Gold Mountain	Firewise Community Representative
Cary Curtis	Gold Mountain CSD	President
Chuck Bowman	Graeagle	Firewise Community Representative
John Reynolds	Grizzly Ranch	Firewise Community Representative
Chris Gallagher	Indian Valley CSD	Manager
Tony Balbiani	Indian Valley Fire Protection District	Chief
Jim Gibson	La Porte Fire Protection District	Chief
Russell Nickerson	Lassen National Forest	Almanor Ranger District, District Ranger
Mike Flanigan	Leavitt Group	Co-Owner
Steve Peters	Long Valley Fire Protection District	Past Chief
Warren Grandall	Meadow Valley FD	Weather spotter PU-28
Trina Cunningham	Native American Tribal consultant	Tribal Forest & Fire
Melissa Klundby	Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District	Field Office Rep
Sally McGowan	Old Highway Rd. Quincy	Firewise Community Representative
Marty Walters	PCIRC	Board Chair
Andrew Courtright	Peninsula Fire Protection District	Battalion Chief
Jim Wilcox	Plumas Corporation	Executive Director
Jeff Engle	Plumas County Board of Supervisors	District 5
Lori Simpson	Plumas County Board of Supervisors	District 4
Sherrie Thrall	Plumas County Board of Supervisors	District 3
Chuck White	Plumas County Building Department	Building Official
Jennifer Langston	Plumas County Code Enforcement	Code Enforcement Officer
Jerry Sipe	Plumas County Environmental Health	Director
Kevin Correira	Plumas County Facility Services	Director
John Steffanic	Plumas County Fair	Director
Hannah Hepner	Plumas County Fire Safe Council	Coordinator
Lindsay Fuchs	Plumas County Libraries	County Librarian
Sue McCourt	Plumas County OES	Fire Prevention Specialist
Larry Williams	Plumas County Planning Commission	Commissioner District 4
John Olofson	Plumas County Planning Commission	Past Commissioner District 5
Tracey Ferguson	Plumas County Planning Department	Director
Erin Metcalf	Plumas County Probation	Director
Andrew Woodruff	Plumas County Public Health	Director
Rob Thorman	Plumas County Public Works - alternate	Associate Engineer

Name	Agency/Organization	Title
Joe Blackwell	Plumas County Public Works - LHMP Lead	Deputy Director
Gabriel Hydrick	Plumas County Risk Management / County Administrator	Risk Manager
Carson Wingfield	Plumas County Sheriff's Office/OES	Special Operations / OES
Steve Allen	Plumas County Special District Association	President
Darren Beatty	Plumas District Hospital	COO
Zoe Stancer	Plumas District Hospital	Safety Officer
John Rowden	Plumas Eureka Community Services District	General Manager
Ray Bakker	Plumas Unified School District	Maintenance and Operations Supervisor
Frank Carey	Plumas Unified School District	Safety Officer
Tim Gibson	Plumas-Sierra Department of Agriculture	Agricultural Commissioner
Willo Vieira	Plumas-Sierra Department of Agriculture	Staff
Emily Compton	Plumas-Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative	Community Relations Manager
Bob Frank	Portola City Fire Department (under contract with EPPFD)	Chief
Lori Beatley	Public Health / OES	Health Education Specialist
Frank Carey	Quincy Fire Protection District	Assist. Chief
Michael Rodriguez	Red Cross	Northeastern California Chapter
Kyle Rodgers	Sierra Institute	Watershed Coordinator
Andrea Irving	Smith Creek Ranch	Firewise Community Representative
Jason Moghaddas	Spatial Informatics Group	Natural Hazards Team
Ryan Tompkins	UC Cooperative Extension	Forestry Manager
Tracy Schohr	UC Cooperative Extension	Livestock and Natural Resources Advisor
Michael Battles	DOT	–
Chris Morrison	Foster Morrison	Lead Planner
Jeanine Foster	Foster Morrison	Project Lead
Brenna Howell	Howell Consulting	Owner
<b>Public</b>		
Matt Hacsche	Citizen	Citizen
Ken Donnell	Donnell Microphones	

## Meetings

The planning process officially began with an internal project planning meeting held in December 2019 followed by an HMPC kick-off meeting held in Plumas on January 29, 2020. These kickoff meetings covered the scope of work and an introduction to the DMA requirements. During these HMPC meetings, participants were provided with data collection worksheets to facilitate the collection of information necessary to support development of the LHMP Update. Using FEMA guidance, these worksheets were designed to capture information on past hazard events, identify hazards of concern to the County, quantify values at risk to identified hazards, inventory existing capabilities, and to identify possible mitigation actions. A copy of the worksheets for this project are included in Appendix A. Plumas County completed and returned the worksheets to Foster Morrison for incorporation into this LHMP.

During the planning process, the HMPC communicated through face-to-face and virtual Zoom meetings, emails, telephone conversations, a Dropbox website, and through a County developed webpage dedicated to the LHMP development process. This later website was developed to provide information to the HMPC, the public, and all other stakeholders on the LHMP Update process. Draft documents were also posted on these websites so that the HMPC members and the public could easily access and review them. The LHMP website can be accessed at:

- Plumas County – <https://www.plumascounty.us/2218/Documents>

The HMPC met formally five times during the planning period (January 2020 – October 2020) which adequately covers the four phases of DMA and the 10-Step CRS planning process. In addition to the HMPC meetings, an additional meeting of internal County staff was held to discuss the mitigation actions identified and determine County champions for each action to be included in this LHMP Update. The meetings held and topics discussed are described in Table 3-3. Agendas and sign-in sheets for each of the meetings are included in Appendix A.

*Table 3-3 LHMP Update - HMPC Meetings*

Meeting Type	Meeting Topic	Meeting Date(s)	Meeting Location(s)
HMPC #1 Kick-off Meeting	1) Introduction to DMA and the planning process 2) Overview of current LHMP; 3) Organize Resources: the role of the HMPC, planning for public involvement, coordinating with other agencies/stakeholders 4) Introduction to Hazard Identification	1/29/2020	Plumas County Main Library
HMPC #2	1) Risk assessment overview and work session - Assess the Hazard - Assess the Problem	4/15/2020	Zoom Meeting
HMPC #3	1) Review of risk assessment summary 2) Review and update of mitigation goals 3) Intro to Mitigation Action Strategy - Set Goals - Review possible activities	5/19/2020	Zoom Meeting

Meeting Type	Meeting Topic	Meeting Date(s)	Meeting Location(s)
HMPC #4	1) Review of mitigation alternatives 2) Review and update of mitigation actions from the 2014 plan 3) Identify updated list of mitigation actions by hazard 4) Review of mitigation selection criteria 5) Update and prioritize mitigation actions 6) Mitigation Action Strategy Implementation and Draft Action Plan Development	5/20/2020	Zoom Meeting
Internal County Meeting	1) Review, refinement, and designation of mitigation action champions for actions and projects to be included in this LHMP Update.	6/4/2020	Zoom Meeting
HMPC #5	1) Review of final HMPC, agency, and public comments and input to the Plan 2) Review and documentation of changed conditions, vulnerabilities and mitigation priorities 3) Plan maintenance and Implementation Procedures	10/21/2020	Zoom Meeting

### *Zoom Meetings*

As a result of the Covid-19 Pandemic, several of the HMPC meetings were conducted virtually via the online Zoom format. This included HMPC meetings #2, #3, #4, and #5. While these Zoom meetings presented a few challenges from a collaboration standpoint, holding these meetings online also had its advantages. First, it was observed that more people were available to attend an online meeting, including those out of area agencies where travel to Plumas for a meeting was difficult due to the time involved. Another benefit was the use of the Chat function in the Zoom format. This allowed those individuals not likely to speak up in a face-to-face meeting to provide input via Chat. Further, these Chat transcripts were recorded in a written retrievable format that allowed Foster Morrison to develop comprehensive notes detailing HMPC input.

### *Planning Step 2: Involve the Public*

Public stakeholders are defined as any stakeholders not attached to the local Plumas County government, the single participating jurisdiction to this LHMP Update. Up-front coordination discussions with Plumas County OES staff and the Planning Director established the initial plan for public involvement. It was agreed that the public outreach process would focus on leveraging established public information mechanisms and resources within the community. Public involvement activities for this LHMP Update included, newspaper articles, stakeholder and public meetings, development of an LHMP County webpage and associated website postings, and the collection of public and stakeholder comments on the draft Plan through a variety of mechanisms. Information provided to the public included an overview of the mitigation status and successes resulting from implementation of the 2014 Plan as well as information on the processes, new risk assessment data, and proposed mitigation strategies for this LHMP Update.



## Early Public Meeting

Public outreach for this LHMP Update began at the beginning of the Plan development process with a newspaper article in addition to other local outreach methods and as advertised on the Plumas County LHMP webpage. This early public meeting was held to inform the public of the purpose of the DMA and the hazard mitigation planning process for the Plumas County Planning Area and to invite the public to an early public meeting to kick-off the LHMP Update project on January 29, 2020 at the Plumas County Public Library Quincy Branch.

## Final Public Meeting

The first draft of the Plan was provided to the HMPC in June 2020, with a public review draft provided in October 2020. A public meeting was held on October 20, 2020 to present the draft LHMP Update and to collect public comments on the LHMP prior to finalization and submittal to Cal OES/FEMA. The public meeting was advertised in a variety of ways to maximize outreach efforts to the public at large and included, an advertisement in a local newspaper, placement on the County website, and through other outreach mechanisms inviting the public to attend the public meetings. The public outreach efforts advertising the final public meeting included information on the date, location and time of the meeting, where the draft plan could be accessed in the community, and how to provide comments on the draft LHMP Update. In addition to a copy of the draft plan being placed on the County website in advance of these meetings, hard copies of the draft of the plan were made available to interested parties at the Plumas County Public Library Quincy Branch (see Figure 3-1), Chester Library, Portola Library, and Greenville Library. Announcements were made on the OES Facebook page, and flyers were posted on community billboards.

*Figure 3-1 Public Outreach at Plumas County Library in Quincy*



Source: Plumas County

Documentation to support the final public meeting can be found in Appendix A. In addition to advertisement for public participation, notices of meetings were sent directly to all persons on the HMPC contact list and also to other agency and key stakeholders with an interest in the Plumas County Planning Area. The majority of these people reside in Plumas County or in surrounding communities.

The formal public meetings for this project are summarized in Table 3-4.

*Table 3-4 Schedule of Public and Stakeholder Meetings*

Meeting Type	Meeting Topic	Meeting Date	Meeting Locations
Early Public Meeting	1) Intro to DMA and mitigation planning 2) 2020 LHMP Update Process	1/29/2020	Plumas County Public Library Quincy Branch
Final Public Meeting	1) Presentation of Draft LHMP and solicitation of public and stakeholder comments	10/20/2020	Zoom Meeting

As appropriate, stakeholder and public comments and recommendations were incorporated into the final Plan throughout the LHMP development process, including the sections that address mitigation goals and strategies. Public comments received and how they were addressed are included in Appendix A. All newspaper articles, website postings, and public outreach efforts are on file with the Plumas County OES and Planning Department and are included in Appendix A.

The draft Plan is currently available online on the Plumas County website at: <https://www.plumascounty.us/2218/Documents>.

### *Planning Step 3: Coordinate with Other Departments and Agencies*

Early in the planning process, the HMPC determined that data collection, mitigation strategy development, and Plan approval would be greatly enhanced by inviting other local, state, and federal agencies and organizations to participate in the process. Based on their involvement in hazard mitigation planning, their landowner status in the County, and/or their interest as a neighboring jurisdiction, representatives from the following agencies were invited to participate on the HMPC:

- American Red Cross
- Bureau of Reclamation
- California Department of Water Resources
- Cal FIRE
- California Highway Patrol
- California Office of Emergency Services
- California State Fire Marshall
- Cal Trans
- California Department of Fish and Game
- California Department of Water Resources
- City of Portola
- Community Services Districts in the County
- Feather River College
- FEMA Region IX
- Fire Protection Districts in the County
- Lassen National Forest
- Local FireWise communities
- National Weather Service/NOAA
- Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District
- Pacific Gas & Electric
- Plumas District Hospital
- Plumas National Forest
- Plumas-Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative
- Sierra Institute
- Sierra Nevada Conservancy
- University of California Cooperative Extension
- United States Corps of Engineers
- United States Department of Agriculture
- United States Forest Service

Coordination with key agencies, organizations, and groups throughout the planning process allowed the HMPC to review common problems, development policies, and mitigation strategies as well as to review

any conflicts or inconsistencies with regional mitigation policies, plans, programs and regulations. Coordination involved contacting these agencies through a variety of mechanisms and informing them on how to participate in the LHMP Update process and if they had any expertise or assistance they could lend to the planning process, risk assessment, or specific mitigation strategies. These groups and agencies were solicited asking for their assistance and input, telling them how to become involved in the LHMP Update process, and inviting them to HMPC meetings.

In addition, as part of the overall stakeholder and agency coordination effort, the HMPC coordinated with and utilized input to the LHMP update from the following agencies:

- Cal-Adapt
- Cal Atlas
- Cal OES
- CAL FIRE
- Cal Trans
- California Department of Conservation
- California Department of Finance
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- California Department of Food and Agriculture
- California Department of Parks and Recreation
- California Department of Water Resources
- California Division of Mines and Geology
- California Employment Development Department
- California Geological Survey
- California Invasive Plant Council
- California Natural Resources Agency
- City of Portola
- FEMA Region IX
- KCRA News
- Library of Congress
- National Drought Mitigation Center
- National Levee Database
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association
- National Performance of Dams Program
- National Register of Historic Places
- National Resource Conservation Service
- National Response Center
- National Weather Service
- Pacific Gas and Electric
- Public Policy Institute of California
- United States Army Corps of Engineers
- United States Bureau of Land Management
- United States Bureau of Reclamation
- United States Department of Agriculture
- US Department of Transportation
- United States Farm Service Agency
- United States Forest Service
- United States Geological Survey
- United States Occupational Health and Safety Agency

➤ Western Regional Climate Center

Several opportunities were provided for the groups listed above to participate in the planning process. At the beginning of the planning process, invitations were extended to many of these groups to actively participate on the HMPC. Specific participants from these groups are detailed in Appendix A. Others assisted in the process by providing data directly as requested in the Data Worksheets or through data contained on their websites or as maintained by their offices. Further as part of the public outreach process, these groups were invited to attend the public meetings and to review and comment on the LHMP Update prior to submittal to Cal OES and FEMA.

### Other Community Planning Efforts and Hazard Mitigation Activities

Coordination with other community planning efforts is also paramount to the success of this LHMP Update. Hazard mitigation planning involves identifying existing policies, tools, and actions that will reduce a community's risk and vulnerability to hazards. Plumas County uses a variety of comprehensive planning mechanisms, such as the County's General Plan and County Code of Ordinances, to guide growth and development. Integrating existing planning efforts and mitigation policies and action strategies into this Plan establishes a credible and comprehensive plan that ties into and supports other community programs. The development of this Plan incorporated information from the following existing plans, studies, reports, and initiatives as well as other relevant data from neighboring communities and other jurisdictions. This includes, but is not limited to:

- CAL OES plans and data
- California Department of Finance demographic documents
- California Department of Water Resources plans and information
- California Geological Survey Plans
- CAL FIRE Plans and data
- Climate Adaptation Plans
- CWPPs
- Emergency Operations Plans
- Evacuation Plans
- FEMA mitigation planning documents
- Flood Insurance Studies
- General Plans – County and Cities
- National Weather Service documents
- Stormwater Master Plans
- US Department of Agriculture Reports
- US Department of Interior Plans
- US Fish and Wildlife reports
- USGS Reports

Specific source documents are referenced at the beginning of each section of Chapter 4 and in Appendix B. These and other documents were reviewed and considered, as appropriate, during the collection of data to support Planning Steps 4 and 5, which include the hazard identification, vulnerability assessment, and capability assessment. Data from these plans and documents were incorporated into the risk assessment and hazard vulnerability sections of the Plan. Where the data from the existing studies and reports is used in this LHMP Update, the source document is referenced throughout this Plan document. The data was

also used in determining the capability of the community in being able to implement certain mitigation strategies. Appendix B, References, provides a detailed list of references used in the preparation of this LHMP Update.

### **3.2.2. Phase 2: Assess Risks**

#### ***Planning Steps 4 and 5: Identify the Hazards and Assess the Risks***

Foster Morrison led the HMPC in a research effort to identify, document, and profile all the hazards that have, or could have, an impact on the Planning Area. Starting with the 2014 LHMP, natural hazards of concern were added, deleted, and modified for this 2020 LHMP Update. Data collection worksheets were developed and used in this effort to aid in determining hazards and vulnerabilities and where the risk varies across the Planning Area. Geographic information system (GIS) was used to display, analyze, and quantify hazards and vulnerabilities.

The HMPC also conducted a capability assessment to review and document the County's current capabilities to mitigate risk from and vulnerability to hazards. By collecting information about existing government programs, policies, regulations, ordinances, and emergency plans, the HMPC could assess those activities and measures already in place that contribute to mitigating some of the risks and vulnerabilities identified.

Also addressed in the risk assessment of this 2020 LHMP is an assessment of the County's floodplain management program and participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), including a discussion of their continued compliance with NFIP requirements.

A more detailed description of the risk assessment process, methodologies, and results are included in Chapter 4 Risk Assessment.

### **3.2.3. Phase 3: Develop the Mitigation Plan**

#### ***Planning Steps 6 and 7: Set Goals and Review Possible Activities***

Foster Morrison facilitated brainstorming and discussion sessions with the HMPC that described the purpose and process of developing planning goals and objectives, a comprehensive range of mitigation alternatives, and a method of selecting and defending recommended mitigation actions using a series of selection criteria. This information is included in Chapter 5 Mitigation Strategy. Additional documentation on the process the HMPC used to develop the goals and strategy is included in Appendix C.

#### ***Planning Step 8: Draft an Action Plan***

Based on input from the HMPC regarding the draft risk assessment and the goals and activities identified in Planning Steps 6 and 7, a first draft of the Plan was developed. This complete draft was provided for HMPC review and comment via a Dropbox web link. Other agencies were invited to comment on this draft as well. HMPC and agency comments were integrated into the public review draft, which was advertised and distributed to collect public input and comments. The HMPC integrated comments and issues from the

public, as appropriate, along with additional internal review comments and produced a final draft for the Cal OES and FEMA Region IX to review and approve, contingent upon final adoption by the County BOS.

### **3.2.4. Phase 4: Implement the Plan and Monitor Progress**

#### ***Planning Step 9: Adopt the Plan***

In order to secure buy-in and officially implement this 2020 LHMP Update, the Update was adopted by the County BOS using the sample resolutions contained in Appendix D.

#### ***Planning Step 10: Implement, Evaluate, and Revise the Plan***

The true worth of any mitigation plan is in the effectiveness of its implementation. Up to this point in the planning process, most of the HMPC's efforts have been directed at researching data, coordinating input from participating entities, and developing appropriate mitigation actions. Each recommended action includes key descriptors, such as a lead manager and possible funding sources, to help initiate implementation. An overall implementation strategy is described in Chapter 7 Plan Implementation and Maintenance.

Finally, there are numerous organizations within the Plumas County Planning Area whose goals and interests' interface with hazard mitigation. Coordination with these other planning efforts, as addressed in Planning Step 3, is paramount to the implementation and ongoing success of this Plan and hazard mitigation in Plumas County, which is addressed further in Chapter 7.

#### **Implementation and Maintenance Process: 2014**

The 2014 Plumas County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Update included a process for Plan maintenance and implementation of the mitigation strategy as well as formal updates to the Plan document. The 2014 process called for annual reviews of the existing LHMP with updates made to reflect new policies, changed conditions, mitigation priorities, and the implementation of mitigation strategies. In addition, the 2014 process called for a formal Plan update as required by DMA regulations every 5 years. Although these 2014 maintenance requirements were not systematically followed, this 2020 LHMP Update, once complete, will meet the DMA formal update requirements.

While systematic annual reviews of the 2014 LHMP were not carried out, the 2014 LHMP was integrated into other planning mechanisms in the County. Table 3-5 lists the planning mechanism the 2014 LHMP was integrated in to.

*Table 3-5 Incorporation of Plumas County 2014 LHMP into Other “Planning Mechanisms”*

Planning Mechanism 2014 LHMP Was Incorporated or Implemented Through	Details
Plumas County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), July 2019	The CWPP wildfire hazard mitigation strategies serve as a complement to the County’s LHMP. Wildfire mitigation measures from the 2014 LHMP were paralleled in the CWPP update, including, but not limited to wildfire public outreach and education such as addressing PRC 4290 and PRC 4291, defensible space assistance for vulnerable populations, evacuation planning, community based fuels reduction initiatives, and roof replacement projects addressing structure ignitability.
Plumas County Living with Fire Publication (Summer 2020)	Living with Fire was produced by the Plumas County Fire Safe Council with financial support from CAL FIRE and contributions from Plumas County Office of Emergency Services and Plumas National Forest. Among a number of wildfire resources for County residents to use and take action, this publication offers wildfire evacuation information and links to the Plumas County community evacuation maps found on the County’s OES website that were developed, in-part, through implementing a 2014 LHMP wildfire mitigation strategy.
Upper Feather River Integrated Regional Water Management Plan Update, 2016	The Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Plan is an implementation plan for the management of water resources throughout the Upper Feather River (UFR) Watershed. The 2014 LHMP was incorporated through data and information from the hazard profiles. The IRWM Plan concluded that within the UFR Plan area, wildfire, flooding, drought, and infrastructure failures are the primary water-related hazards and that the highest fuel hazard is along the Feather River Canyon. For example, IRWM Plan Objective 1, restore natural hydrologic functions, discusses reducing peak flood intensities that support potential benefits of reduced costs for flood damage repair; IRWM Plan Objective 2, reduce potential for catastrophic wildland fires in the region, seeks to implement projects that reduce forest fuels; and IRWM Plan Objective 11, coordinate management of recharge areas and protect groundwater resources, supports and offers strategies for the protection and monitoring of groundwater recharge areas for improving drought control and preparedness within the watershed.
Emergency Operations Plan (adopted 2016, updated 2018, 2020)	2014 LHMP data from the hazard profiles and evacuation mapping mitigation work was incorporated into EOP annex updates.
Evacuation Planning	2014 LHMP mitigation action under the wildfire hazard (WF-8) directed the preparation of evacuation maps for high risk communities. The County’s OES website includes several wildfire evacuation maps that provide suggested emergency wildland fire evacuation routes, many of which were developed post 2014 LHMP. Maps for Eastern Plumas County communities, Mohawk Valley communities, American Valley areas, Indian Valley, Chester/Lake Almanor, and La Porte/Little Grass Valley are available at <a href="https://www.plumascounty.us/2414/Wildfire-Evacuation-Maps">https://www.plumascounty.us/2414/Wildfire-Evacuation-Maps</a> .

The Plan implementation and maintenance process as set forth in the 2014 LHMP have been updated for this LHMP Update. The revised implementation and maintenance process for this Plumas County 2020 LHMP Update is set forth in Chapter 7 of this Plan document. A strategy for continued public involvement for this LHMP Update process is also included in Chapter 7.