

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The effects from several natural and man-made hazards may directly impact the safety and wellbeing of residents of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) on the Flathead Reservation. Historically, CSKT residents have dealt with floods, wildfire, harsh winter storms with extreme cold and blizzards, severe summer storms with damaging thunderstorms and hazardous material incidents. While most hazards cannot be eliminated, the effects from them can be mitigated.

CSKT completed and adopted a Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Plan in 2005 to help guide and focus hazard mitigation activities. CSKT, working together with Risks & Rewards Management Group, LLC. Has prepared an update to their PDM Plan to satisfy the federal requirement that PDM Plans be updated every five years. The updated CSKT PDM Plan profiles significant hazards to the community and identifies mitigation projects that can reduce those impacts. The purpose of the updated PDM Plan is to promote sound public policy designed to protect residents, critical facilities, infrastructure, private property and the environment from natural and man-made hazards. The updated CSKT PDM Plan includes resources and information to assist residents, organizations, local government and others interested in participating in planning for natural and man-made hazards. This 2016 updated PDM Plan supersedes the 2005 PDM Plan.

### 1.1 AUTHORITY

The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) (P.L. 106-390) provides an opportunity for States, local governments and sovereign nations to take a new and revitalized approach to mitigation planning. DMA 2000 amended the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (the Act) by repealing the previous Mitigation Planning section (409) and replacing it with a new Mitigation Planning section (322). This new section emphasizes the need for State and local entities to closely coordinate mitigation planning and implementation efforts. To implement the DMA 2000 planning requirements, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) published an Interim Final Rule in the Federal Register on February 26, 2002. This rule (44 CFR Part 201) established the mitigation planning requirements for States and local communities.

The CSKT PDM Plan update has been developed pursuant to the requirements in the Interim Final Rule for hazard mitigation planning and the guidance in the State and Local Plan Interim Criteria under DMA 2000. The Plan also meets guidance developed by FEMA in June of 2008 for Multi- Jurisdictional Mitigation Planning.

The CSKT Tribal Council has adopted this PDM Plan, which includes the **council districts of Dixon, Ronan, St. Ignatius, Arlee, Polson, Hot Springs and Elmo**. This governing body has the authority to promote sound public policy regarding natural and man-made hazards in their jurisdiction. Copies of the signed resolutions are included as **Appendix A** to this plan. The PDM Plan was adopted at the

regularly scheduled CSKT Council meetings, which were open to the public and advertised through the typical process the jurisdictions use for publicizing meetings.

CSKT Disaster Emergency Services will be responsible for submitting the adopted PDM Plan to FEMA for review. Upon accepted by FEMA, CSKT will remain eligible for mitigation project grants and post-disaster hazard mitigation grant projects.

## **1.2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Many groups and individuals have contributed to development of the CSKT PDM Plan. The CSKT Disaster Emergency Services provided support for all aspects of plan development. The PDM Planning Team met on a regular basis to guide the project, identify the hazards most threatening to CSKT, develop and prioritize mitigation projects, review draft deliverables and attend the public meetings. The local communities participated in the planning process by attending public meetings and contributed to plan development by reviewing and commenting on the draft plan.

## **1.3 SCOPE AND PLAN ORGANIZATION**

The process followed to prepare the CSKT PDM Plan update included the following:

- Review and prioritize disaster events that are most probable and destructive,
- Update and identify new critical facilities,
- Review and update areas within the community that are most vulnerable,
- Update and identify new goals for reducing the effects of a disaster event,
- Review and identify new projects to be implemented for each goal,
- Review and identify new procedures for monitoring progress and updating the PDM Plan,
- Review the draft PDM Plan and
- Adopt the updated PDM Plan.

The PDM Plan is organized into sections that describe the planning process (Section 2), community profile (Section 3), risk assessment (Section 4), mitigation strategies (Section 5), a capability assessment (Section 6), and plan maintenance (Section 7). Appendices containing supporting information are included at the end of the plan.

## **1.4 PLANNING ASSUMPTIONS**

When preparing this update Risk and Rewards Management, LLC and the other contributors gathered information from a variety of sources. Many of these sources were government sponsored—like United States Census Data, Montana State Property Value Data and Montana State Cost Analysis Data,

among others. Where available the planning team used data gathered directly by CSKT. In many places throughout this plan data gathered by State and local governments is accepted, within a reasonable margin of error, for similar areas or populations on CSKT. For example, data collected for the incorporated communities of Polson, Ronan and St. Ignatius has been used to plan for Tribal Council Districts corresponding to roughly the same area and population. Data will be updated in the plan as more specific information becomes available.

Throughout the plan, references to CSKT include all Tribal Council Districts, their respective populations and all land within Flathead Reservation boundaries unless otherwise specified.

DRAFT