

## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

*May 7, 2009*

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### **Public Review of Draft Fergus County, and the Towns of Denton, Moore, and Grass Range Flood Maps Begins**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) today provided local officials with a preliminary version of an updated flood hazard map for Fergus County, the Town of Denton, the Town of Moore, and the Town of Grass Range. The updated map identifies areas of town associated with high, moderate or low risk of being impacted by a flood with a one percent chance of occurring in any year. Properties in high and moderate risk areas must be covered by the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) to be eligible for federally-insured mortgages and other federally-funded programs.

The Fergus County, the Town of Denton, the Town of Moore, and the Town of Grass Range flood hazard maps are being updated in conjunction with a nationwide effort to modernize floodplain maps for floodprone communities. Many floodplain maps have not been updated in more than 25 years. The updating project, begun by FEMA in 2004, utilizes recent research and more sophisticated computer programs to identify flood risks. Because the new flood hazard maps are digital, the more accurate flood risk information will also be more easily-accessible for individual properties.

Release of the preliminary flood hazard map marks the beginning of the community review process during which citizens and local officials can decide whether to accept or appeal the preliminary map. If appeals are filed, FEMA will have an indeterminate amount of time to respond to and resolve those issues. Upon completion of the review process and adoption of an updated floodplain management ordinance by Fergus County, the Town of Denton, the Town of Moore, and the Town of Grass Range, the new flood hazard map will go into effect.

Several opportunities exist for interested persons to obtain more information about the preliminary map and the NFIP. A Public Information Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 12, 2008, from 5:30 to 7:30 at the Snowy Mountain Development Board Room, located at 613 NE Main Street, Lewistown, MT. Staff from FEMA, the State of Montana DNRC Floodplain Program, DNRC's study contractor (PBS&J), Fergus County, the City of Lewistown, the Town of Denton, and other local jurisdictions will be on hand to answer questions, give an overview of the floodplain data and studies used to develop the preliminary DFIRM, and provide information about the countywide digital flood hazard mapping project.

To view the Preliminary DFIRM's for Fergus County at the Fergus County Planning Office, located at 712 W. Main Street Suite 210, or the Town of Moore please contact Pamela Vosen, the Fergus County and Town of Moore Floodplain Administrator at (406) 535-9046. To view the Preliminary DFIRM's for the City of Lewistown at the City of Lewistown Planning Office, located at 305 W. Watson Street, please contact Duane

Ferdinand, City of Lewistown Floodplain Administrator at (406) 535-1775. To view the Preliminary DFIRM's for the Town of Denton at the Denton Public Library, at 515 Broadway Street, please contact Lori Weinheimer, Town Clerk for the Town of Denton at (406) 567-2571. To view the Preliminary DFIRM's for the Town of Grass Range please contact Mayor Ron Ahlgren at (406) 428-2395 or Betty Deeney the Town Clerk for the Town of Grass Range at (406) 428-2367. The Revised Preliminary DFIRM's for Missoula and Missoula County are available for public viewing at the Office of Planning and Grants located at 435 Ryman, the DNRC Regional Office located at 1610 S. 3rd St (adjacent to the Good Food Store) or online at [www.montanadfirm.com](http://www.montanadfirm.com).

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