



McKINLEY COUNTY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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McKinley County Multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

McKinley COUNTY, NM – June 04, 2025 – The five-year update is underway for the McKinley County Multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. The planning process assists the County, City of Gallup, and Gallup-McKinley County Schools to identify the natural hazards that impact each community. In addition, the plan will analyze the risks and prioritize actions that can be taken to reduce that risk. Examples of natural hazard mitigation projects are hazardous fuels reduction (“wildfire thinning”), drainage improvements, erosion control, and public outreach.

A Planning Team, made up of representatives from the County, City of Gallup, and Gallup-McKinley County Schools, is meeting monthly to revise the 2021 version of the plan. Later this summer, the County will post a mitigation planning webpage that will be used to provide the status of the mitigation plan update process and share information related to the effort. Community members will be invited to provide feedback and input on the draft plan in the fall, after the Planning Team prepares the update. A community open house will be held at that time for in-person participation, and the draft plan will also be available online for comments to be submitted digitally. Adoption of the plan by the governing bodies is anticipated to occur after FEMA provides the ‘Approval Pending Adoption’.

Having the approved hazard mitigation plan provides each jurisdiction with a federal government-approved and locally adopted plan which will support grant applications to implement natural hazard risk reduction activities. The approved plan is a requirement for FEMA hazard mitigation grant funding and can serve as supporting documentation for other funding opportunities.

If you have questions or would like to discuss the mitigation planning effort, please contact the following:

- McKinley County: Adam Berry, Emergency Manager, adam.berry@co.mckinley.nm.us
- City of Gallup: Jon Pairett, Fire Chief/Emergency Manager, jpairett@gallupnm.gov
- Gallup-McKinley County Schools

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