

1 Executive Summary

The 2027–2032 Five County Association of Governments (AOG) Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan provides a coordinated framework for reducing long-term natural hazard risk across Beaver, Garfield, Iron, Kane, and Washington Counties in southwestern Utah. The plan combines a regional base plan with county- and community-specific annexes to address shared hazards, methods, goals, and maintenance procedures consistently while allowing each participating jurisdiction to document its own risks, capabilities, mitigation priorities, integration approach, and adoption. The plan is intended to support practical, risk-informed decisions by local officials, emergency managers, planners, public works and utility providers, partner agencies, property owners, and the public.

Purpose and Planning Approach

Hazard mitigation is sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property. This plan establishes a systematic process for identifying hazards, assessing vulnerability and community capabilities, evaluating changes since the previous plan, and selecting actions that can reduce future losses. It also supports continued eligibility for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) mitigation assistance for jurisdictions that satisfy applicable participation and adoption requirements. The update was developed through a multi-jurisdictional planning process that organized local and regional resources, engaged participating governments and stakeholders, provided opportunities for public involvement, and used available plans, studies, mapping, records, and local knowledge to inform the plan.

Regional Risk and Community Context

The Five County region includes rapidly growing cities, rural and agricultural communities, high-elevation recreation destinations, major transportation corridors, public lands, and dispersed infrastructure. The plan evaluates natural hazards that can affect people, property, critical facilities, community lifelines, natural and cultural resources, local economies, and future development. The regional risk assessment documents hazard location, extent, previous occurrences, probability, vulnerability, impacts, and cascading effects. County and community annexes then explain how those risks differ by participant, including exposure associated with floodplains and drainage corridors, wildland-urban interface areas, drought and water-supply constraints, seismic and geologic conditions, severe weather, extreme temperatures, transportation access, and the needs of residents, visitors, businesses, agriculture, and essential services.

Mitigation Strategy

The mitigation strategy translates the risk and capability assessments into an implementable program of action. Participating jurisdictions reviewed a regional mitigation action catalog and selected actions

appropriate to their hazards, vulnerabilities, development trends, and available capabilities. The catalog includes regulatory and planning measures, structural and infrastructure projects, natural-systems protection, education and awareness, and capability-building activities. Actions address needs such as floodplain and drainage management, wildfire risk reduction, water conservation and drought resilience, seismic and geologic risk, severe-weather protection, protection of critical facilities and utilities, emergency communications, public outreach, and integration of hazard information into plans, budgets, development review, and capital programs. Each action is linked to implementation information in the regional strategy, including the hazards and vulnerabilities addressed, responsible entities, potential partners and funding sources, anticipated timeframe, planning-level cost, and priority.

Implementation and Plan Maintenance

FCAOG and participating jurisdictions will use the plan as a living framework rather than a one-time compliance document. Implementation will occur through local plans and ordinances, capital and infrastructure programs, annual budgets, grant development, routine operations, public information, and coordination with county, state, federal, special-district, nonprofit, and private-sector partners. The plan maintenance process establishes procedures to monitor action progress, evaluate changing hazards and development conditions, document integration into other planning mechanisms, consider amendments, continue public involvement, and complete the next five-year update. Progress will depend on local priorities, available funding, technical feasibility, partnership opportunities, and continued coordination among participating jurisdictions.

Using the Plan

Readers seeking regional information should begin with the planning process, risk assessment, mitigation strategy, and plan maintenance sections. Readers interested in a specific county or community should also review the applicable annex for participant-specific vulnerability, capabilities, prior-action status, selected mitigation actions, plan integration, and continued public involvement commitments. Together, the regional sections and jurisdictional annexes provide the basis for coordinated implementation during the 2027–2032 planning period and for sustained investment in a safer and more resilient Five County region.

2 Introduction

What Is Mitigation Planning?

Hazard mitigation is sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property from hazards. Mitigation planning provides a systematic process for identifying hazards, assessing risks and capabilities, and developing actions that can reduce future losses and strengthen community