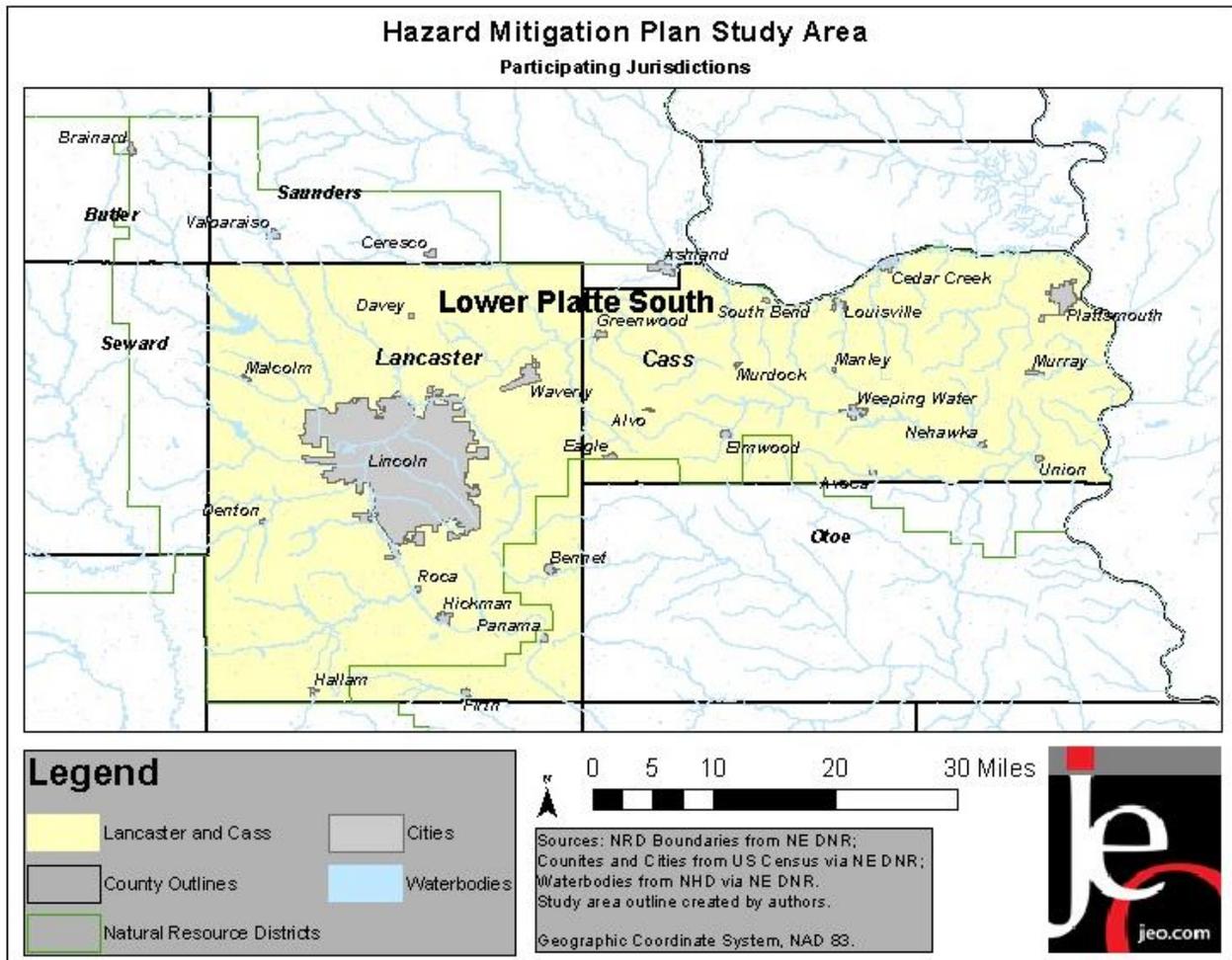


Executive Summary

In April, 2012, the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District (LPSNRD) decided to update their hazard mitigation plan (HMP) in compliance with the 5-year update requirement established by the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA2000). This updated plan was prepared in order to reduce the participating communities' vulnerability to natural hazards and maintain their eligibility for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) pre-disaster grant opportunities. This LPSNRD Advanced Hazard Mitigation Plan Update is a multi-jurisdictional plan which covers the following local governments that participated in the planning process.

Figure 1: Participating Jurisdictions



Participating Counties, Cities, & Villages		
Cass County	Village of Cedar Creek	Village of Malcolm
Lancaster County	Village of Ceresco	Village of Manley
City of Ashland	Village of Davey	Village of Murdock
City of Lincoln	Village of Denton	Village of Murray
City of Louisville	Village of Eagle	Village of Brainard
City of Plattsmouth	Village of Elmwood	Village of Panama
City of Waverly	Village of Firth	Village of Roca

Participating Counties, Cities, & Villages		
City of Weeping Water	Village of Greenwood	Village of South Bend
Village of Avoca	Village of Hallam	Village of Union
Village of Bennet	Village of Hickman	Village of Valparaiso
Other Participating Districts		
Contestoga Public Schools	Cass Rural Water District #2	Cass County SID 5
Weeping Water Public Schools	Cass County Rural Water District #1	Cass County SID #1 (Lake WanConDa)
Lower Platte South Natural Resources District		

The purpose of this plan update is to identify hazards; assess the vulnerability of each participant to the various hazards; determine potential losses associated with the hazards; examine the capabilities in place and develop sound mitigation alternatives to reduce these vulnerabilities. The potential for substantial damages as a result of natural or manmade disasters presents a large likelihood for impacts to the health, safety, and welfare of all citizens in the planning area. The risk assessment process led to the development of specific goals and objectives which helped to identify a wide range of mitigation strategies and projects for participating jurisdictions. This update builds upon the prior HMP developed by LPSNRD in 2009, some of the most significant changes in this update are: the inclusion of manmade hazards based on the threats addressed in the State of Nebraska’s HMP; greater efforts to reach out to and include stakeholder groups; an expanded risk assessment for both the entire planning area as well as for each participating jurisdiction; and, the inclusion of both generalized mitigation strategies as well as specific projects that will help build stronger, more resilient communities.

This update also works to unify the various planning mechanisms in place throughout the planning area to ensure that the goals and objectives identified in those planning mechanisms are consistent with what is identified in this plan. To achieve this, the “Safe Growth Audit” developed by FEMA and the American Planning Association (APA) was employed to evaluate the documents currently in place and to guide the growth of participating jurisdictions in the future. This plan identifies specific goals and objectives based on the risk assessment process. These goals are to:

Goal 1: Protect the Health and Safety of Residents

Objective 1.1: Reduce or prevent damage to property or prevent loss of life or serious injury (overall intent of the plan).

Goal 2: Reduce Future Losses from Hazard Events

Objective 2.1: Provide protection for existing structures, future development, critical facilities (CF), services, utilities, and trees to the extent possible.

Objective 2.2: Develop hazard specific plans, conduct studies or assessments, and retrofit buildings and facilities to mitigate for hazards and minimize their impact.

Objective 2.3: Minimize and control the impact of hazard events through enacting or updating ordinances, permits, laws, or regulations.

Goal 3: Increase Public Awareness and Education Regarding Vulnerabilities to Hazards

Objective 3.1: Develop and provide information to residents and businesses about the types of hazards they are exposed to, what the effects may be, where they occur, and what they can do to be better prepared.

Goal 4: Improve Emergency Management Capabilities

Objective 4.1: Develop or improve Emergency Response Plans and procedures and abilities.

Objective 4.2: Develop or improve Evacuation Plans and procedures.

Objective 4.3: Improve warning systems and ability to communicate to residents and businesses during and following a disaster or emergency.

Goal 5: Pursue Multi-Objective Opportunities (whenever possible)

Objective 5.1: When possible, use existing resources, agencies, and programs to implement the projects.

Objective 5.2: When possible implement projects that achieve several goals.

This plan is comprised of seven sections and their coverage is discussed as follows:

Section One – Introduction: This section introduces hazard mitigation planning, including an overview of DMA2000, benefits of utilizing the multi-jurisdictional approach, and plan financing and preparation.

Section Two – Planning Process: This section outlines the hazard mitigation planning process used for development of the plan, including hazard identification; resource organization; risk assessment; structural inventory; mitigation strategy; and plan implementation and maintenance. The members of the planning team; public involvement and participation; participating jurisdictions; as well as general plans, documents, and additional information used throughout the planning process are also listed in this section.

Section Three – Community Profile & Capability Assessment: This section provides an overall profile of the planning area including geography, climate, demographics, assets, and direct and indirect participant profiles, as well as local capabilities to ensure implementation.

Section Four – Risk Assessment: This section contains the risk assessment for the planning area including hazard identification, hazard background, historical occurrences, vulnerability assessment, potential losses, and future development and vulnerability for all participants.

Section Five – Mitigation Strategy: This section discusses the establishment of goals and objectives for all participants. The goals and objectives provide the framework for identifying mitigation alternatives or ‘action items’, the on-the-ground activities to reduce the effects of natural hazards. All action items were evaluated by the participants using the FEMA recommended ‘STAPLEE’ process.

Section Six – Plan Implementation and Maintenance: This section contains recommendations for plan implementation and maintenance, including the monitoring of hazards, establishment of a panel for the annual plan review, and an outline of the process for updating the plan in the future.

Section Seven – Participant Sections: Participant sections provide information specific to each individual plan participant, which was not covered in the ‘Upfront Section’. The risk assessment includes a participant specific hazard identification summary and description of structural inventory and valuation. Also, maps specific to each participant can be found in their respective sections.

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