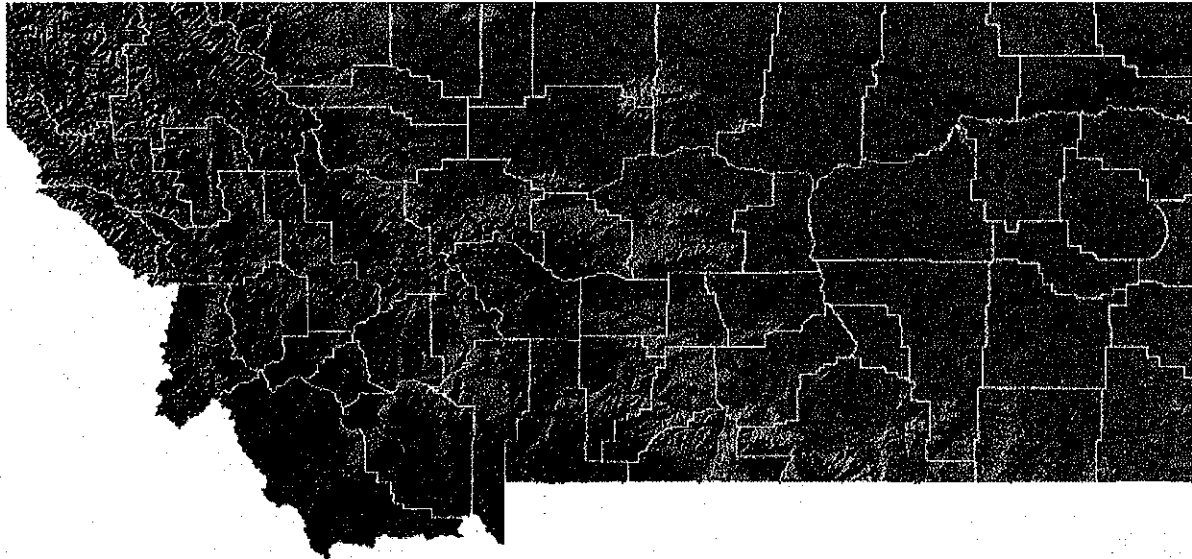




Montana Silver Jackets Charter




FEMA



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April 2012

Montana Silver Jackets Charter Members



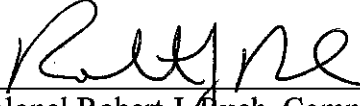
Mary Sexton, Director
Montana Department of Natural Resources
And Conservation

Date: 4/8/12




Ed Tinsley, Administrator
Montana Disaster and Emergency
Services

Date: 5/18/2012




Colonel Robert J. Ruch, Commander
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
Omaha District

Date: 2 Apr 12



Colonel Bruce A. Estok, Commander
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Seattle District

Date: 13 APR 2012



Robin Finegan, Administrator
Department of Homeland Security
FEMA, Region VIII

Date: 24 April 2012

Montana Silver Jackets Charter

Charter members will work together to establish the Silver Jackets Flood Risk Reduction/Floodplain Protection Team for the State of Montana (Montana Silver Jackets Team or the Team), and develop and carry out the Team's mission and scope.

This Charter may be revised at any time by unanimous consent of the Charter Members or their designated liaison.

VISION STATEMENT

Charter members share a vision of strengthened partnerships whereby public and private organizations and individuals work together efficiently and effectively to manage and reduce flood risk and protect the natural and beneficial functions of floodplains in Montana.

GOALS

Charter members shall participate on the Montana Silver Jackets Team to collaboratively:

- Examine and more fully develop the recommendations contained in the July 15, 2011 report entitled, Montana Floodplain Management Assessment: Strengthening Policies and Programs that Reduce Flood Risk and Protect Floodplains (<http://www.mtfloodplain.mt.gov/>), and offer guidance on their implementation;
- Identify, coordinate, and collaborate on opportunities for flood hazard mitigation, floodplain management and flood-related emergency response;
- Pool agency resources and information around the shared purpose expressed in the Vision Statement; and
- Identify and collectively pursue funding opportunities that will support implementation of the recommendations outlined in the Floodplain Management Assessment report cited above.

MONTANA SILVER JACKETS TEAM OPERATIONS

The Team will:

1. Meet semiannually to examine flood risks, identify potential flood risk management mitigation measures, and otherwise exchange information, identify information or activity gaps, minimize duplication of effort, and encourage pre- and post- flood disaster collaboration among its members.
2. Work towards a commonly held set of guiding principles for flood risk reduction and floodplain protection.
3. Support the State of Montana in establishment of interagency committees to develop recommendations for improved information, new planning tools, education and outreach, and state regulatory reforms that promote best practices designed to avoid or limit flood disasters, minimize flood risk, and maintain and restore the natural and beneficial functions of floodplains including natural flood storage.
4. Monitor Montana's progress in implementing the Floodplain Management Assessment report recommendations.
5. Develop and maintain a common information matrix of State, Federal, and other programs that may offer funding and/or technical support for implementation of the Floodplain Management Assessment report cited above.
6. Develop a unified message of how to avoid and minimize flood risk and protect the natural and beneficial functions of floodplains. Distribute this message to legislators, counties, communities, watershed groups, conservation districts, other interested groups, and the general public.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Montana Silver Jackets Team will involve interagency cooperation. Team and committee membership will vary based on available resources and team project focus. Participating entities will contribute experience and information to team efforts as necessary and appropriate.

Members of various federal and state agencies and organizations will be invited to join the Team as non-signatory members.

As flood risk reduction and floodplain protection activities evolve, the Charter Members may invite additional agencies and organizations to participate.

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation-Water Operations Bureau (DNRC) is designated the lead state office. DNRC's Water Operations Bureau Chief chairs the Montana Silver Jackets Team. The Omaha District serves as the lead US Army Corps of Engineers District. The District maintains and distributes a contact database for Team members.

The Montana Silver Jackets Team will be cognizant of the needs and desires of Native American Tribes located within the jurisdictional boundaries of the state, and will commit themselves to contributing information and available resources towards mitigation activities which will reduce the threat, vulnerability and consequences of flooding to at-risk Tribes.

MONTANA SILVER JACKETS TEAM MEETINGS

Meetings will be conducted on a schedule agreed to by Team members. The DNRC will coordinate and facilitate Team meetings. Team committees may choose their lead coordinator(s) and will also keep minutes of their meetings. Each committee will include at least one DNRC representative. Draft meeting minutes shall be distributed for review prior to the next meeting and presented for formal approval at the following meeting. The Omaha District will maintain final minutes. Committee recommendations will be passed on to the full Montana Silver Jackets Team.

DECISIONS

Decisions related to the recommendations of the Montana Silver Jackets Team or implementation of solutions to state flood risks and opportunities for floodplain protection will remain the independent prerogative of each Team and Charter member. Those decisions may be a matter for discussion by the Team, so as to coordinate actions and avoid duplications or conflicts.

All commitments and participation by each Federal or State agency or organization in the actions and activities covered by this Charter is contingent upon legal authority, the availability of appropriated funds, and budget priorities. Nothing in this Charter, or any decisions made by the Team, obligates the parties to expend appropriations or to enter into any contract, assistance agreement, interagency agreement or other financial obligation.