**Briefing Paper—October 2010**

**Converse County**

**Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan Update**

**What is a multi-hazard mitigation plan (MHMP)?**

An MHMP looks at natural hazards that the county and its local jurisdictions may be susceptible to and ways to lessen the vulnerability of disasters caused by those hazards. The county has worked on a draft MHMP, but not yet had a plan approved. The plan is being completed to make sure the county, its unincorporated areas and communities of Douglas, Glenrock, Lost Springs, and Rolling Hills remain disaster-resistant and less vulnerable to property damage and loss of life from a natural disaster. Once the plan is approved the county will be eligible to compete for project funds. The county will also be eligible for post-disaster assistance from the state and/or Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), in the event of a major disaster. Adoption of the plan is voluntary, but each jurisdiction--the county and the incorporated communities--will need to adopt the plan if they wish to qualify for the funding and assistance. To remain current, the plan will need to be updated every five years.

**What is in the plan?**

The plan will contain profiles of natural hazards such as flooding or wildfires, vulnerability to each hazard, and a history of past disasters. Potential losses from future disasters will be estimated. Goals, objectives and mitigation actions (projects) identified by the LEPC, citizens, and local governments will be listed and prioritized. The plan will also have an explanation of how it was developed, a review of other related plans, an explanation of how it will be kept current, and copies of news articles and notes from meetings held to discuss the plan. The plan is different from a response plan. The county has a separate Emergency Response Plan.

**How will the plan be revised?**

Using funds from the state, the county has contracted for the plan update with Barb Beck, of Beck Consulting located in Red Lodge, MT. Working with the Converse County Office of Homeland Security, the county, and the communities over the next six months, Ms. Beck and a subcontractor will update the hazard profiles, work with the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), hold public meetings and develop any needed additional goals and projects. A draft plan will be made available for public review and any comments received will be incorporated. The county will submit the plan to the state and FEMA for technical review. Finally, Converse County and its incorporated communities will have the opportunity to adopt the plan.

**How do we offer input?**

Input is encouraged any time until adoption by the governing bodies in the spring of 2011. Input from the public and knowledgeable individuals will help make the plan the highest quality possible. Public meetings will be designed to offer opportunity for input and all meetings will be noticed and open to the public. The Douglas Budget and the Glenrock Bird will be provided with the meeting information and periodic updates. The Converse County website will contain up-to-date information about the project. Comments can be submitted by phone, in writing, or by e-mail to Russ Dalgarn, Converse Office of Homeland Security, (307) 358-6880, [rdalgarn@conversecountyem.com](mailto:rdalgarn@conversecountyem.com), or Barb Beck at 406 446-3628, [barbbeck@cablemt.net](mailto:barbbeck@cablemt.net), P.O. Box 870 Red Lodge, MT. 59068.