

Draft Flood Insurance Rate Map Database for the Town of Ridgway Available for Review and Comment

Ridgway, CO – The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is in the process of validating the draft Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) database for the Town of Ridgway, based on the ongoing Ouray County Flood Risk Mapping, Assessment and Planning (Risk MAP) Study. Completion of the draft FIRM database is a significant milestone that marks the completion of the collection and analysis of the study's initial engineering data by FEMA's mapping partner, CDM Smith. This data provides the best available calculation of where water will collect and flow in the event of a flood based on current conditions. The flooding sources that will be revised as part of this Physical Map Revision (PMR) are as follows:



- Cottonwood Creek
- Uncompahgre River

The engineering data from the Ouray County Risk MAP Study will form the basis for the proposed Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs) that will be presented on the FIRM for our community. An SFHA is an area that is subject to inundation by the 1-percent-annual-chance flood (also called the base flood). Over time, water flow and drainage patterns in our area may have changed dramatically due to surface erosion, land use, and other natural forces. Given these factors, the likelihood of flooding in certain areas may have increased or decreased over time, changing the SFHA designations.

FEMA wants to ensure that the most up-to-date and accurate technical data are used to develop the flood risk products. FEMA relies on community feedback, partnership and knowledge during this important project to determine the extent of flood risk in our community. Additional information regarding this Ouray County Risk MAP Study can be found at the Colorado Water Conservation Board's Colorado Hazard Mapping Website, located at <https://coloradohazardmapping.com/story?county=74b3c015-d858-4932-aa25-d4c96d9d392a>. **Comments or questions regarding the draft FIRM database should be directed to Christine Gaynes, FEMA Project Officer, at christine.gaynes@fema.dhs.gov by November 29, 2021. Please note that this data is considered draft/provisional and is subject to change as it has not yet been through final reviews or an appeal period.**

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