

For Immediate Release | August 15, 2024

Town of Ridgway Declares Local Disaster

Ridgway, CO – A large rain event on the evening of August 12, 2024 severely impacted Beaver Creek above the Town of Ridgway’s diversion point. Water diverted from Beaver Creek goes to the Ridgway Ditch and then makes its way to Lake Otonowanda, which serves as raw water storage for the Town of Ridgway. The Town’s diversion infrastructure has been damaged from monsoonal flooding, mud, rocks and other debris.

As a result, the Town of Ridgway has issued an *Order Declaring a Local Disaster* pursuant to C.R.S. 24-33.5-709. The declaration of local disaster is needed to activate the response and recovery aspects of all applicable local disaster and emergency plans and to authorize the furnishing of aid and assistance under such plans. The Ridgway Town Manager and Ridgway Town Council found the Disaster Declaration necessary for the public health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the Town of Ridgway. The Declaration will remain in effect until September 12, 2024, unless further extended or amended by action of the Ridgway Town Council.

As Ouray County and the City of Ouray have also experienced significant flooding and damage from recent weather events, an online portal to report private property damage has been set up to allow residents to provide damage reports that may potentially make it possible to obtain funding assistance. Ouray County residents can access this portal at: <https://crisistrack.juware.com/SurvivorPortal/index.html?cid=ourayCO>. Information requested may include washed-out driveways, structural damage, fallen trees, etc.

Questions regarding the Local Disaster Declaration should be directed to Preston Neill, Town Manager, at pneill@town.ridgway.co.us.

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