

# Big Hole



Watershed Committee

BIG HOLE FLOODPLAIN MAPPING PROJECT  
County Floodplain Map Adoption

April 14, 2015

TO: Beaverhead County Commission & Planning Board

Anaconda-Deer Lodge Commission & Planning Board

Madison County Commission & Planning Board

CC: Butte-Silver Bow Commission & Planning Board

Dear County Commissioners, Staff and Board Members,

The Big Hole Watershed Committee is thankful for your support of the Big Hole floodplain mapping project. Over the past couple of years, your financial support and partnership has made this project possible. The mapping effort has truly been a collaborative effort, including; the Big Hole Watershed Committee (BHWC), county governments, state agencies and the non-profit organization Future West. Without this team approach we would not have accomplished this impressive project that brings better information to our decision makers and landowners and has pioneered a new, innovative mapping technique for the state.

The new Big Hole River floodplain mapping study offers some of the most up to date and accurate floodplain information available. The BHWC values sound science and uses the best available science to inform decision making regarding natural resource management and community planning. We hope that our county partners will also see the value of these maps to minimize risk, keep people and property safe and support the unique resources of the Big Hole Watershed. The maps not only meet State standards, they more accurately identify areas most at risk to flooding so residents, visitors and emergency workers can keep out of harms way.

The BHWC encourages our county partners to continue our collaboration by;

- ✓ Officially adopting the final maps and study products into their county floodplain ordinances so they are available to support decision making and educate property owners.
- ✓ Maintain the 4 County Inter-governmental Agreement to coordinate variance review requests along the Big Hole River corridor.
- ✓ Maintain the standards that are currently administered through the Big Hole Conservation Development Standards including a minimum setback of 150 feet from the mean high water mark.
- ✓ Consider higher standards that specifically protect property and floodplain functions found in the State Model Regulations.

We appreciate your work and dedication to the Big Hole and will support outreach efforts through our communications. If we can provide any additional support or information please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for your continued partnership.

Sincerely,



Randy Smith

Big Hole Watershed Committee Chair