

FEMA and Floodplain Regulations

Property owners within Flathead County receive a discount on flood insurance because the County participates in the Community Rating System Program, which FEMA administers as part of the National Flood Insurance Program. One of the program requirements is that work completed within the Regulated Flood Hazard Area must receive a Floodplain Development Permit.

The permit process requires all projects to be reviewed in accordance with Flathead County's Floodplain and Floodway Management Regulations. This aids in mitigating potential impacts on adjacent property owners, river systems, and floodplains.



2006 Flooding near Many Glacier, Glacier National Park, MT

Mission Statement:

"The Flathead County Planning & Zoning Office is committed to providing the highest level of planning services. We will accomplish this through employees who anticipate public needs, and promote a work environment that encourages creativity, communication and cooperation. The Office will also encourage professional development and training for all staff members."

Flathead County
Planning & Zoning

Floodplain Development Permit



1964 Flooding near E. Cottonwood, Evergreen, MT

EASY ACCESS

Floodplain development permit applications, and extension requests can be found in our office as well as on our website:

http://flathead.mt.gov/planning_zoning

For more information, contact:



Flathead County Planning & Zoning
40 11th Street West, Ste 220
Kalispell, MT 59901
Phone: 406-751-8200
E-mail: planning.zoning@flathead.mt.gov
Website: http://flathead.mt.gov/planning_zoning/

Information Regarding the Floodplain and
Floodway Management Regulations

When is a Permit Required?

Flathead County requires a Floodplain Development Permit for the majority of work occurring within the Regulated Flood Hazard Area. The Regulated Flood Hazard Area is comprised of the Floodway and the Flood Fringe and determined to be the area adjoining the watercourse that would be covered by the floodwater of a flood of 100 year frequency.

Many of Flathead County's rivers, lakes, and creeks have a Regulated Flood Hazard Area. Projects needing permits include: bank stabilizations, driveways, subdivision roads, bridges, ponds, docks, and agricultural or residential structures, etc.

Stop by the Flathead County Planning & Zoning Office to look up your property on the FEMA FIRM panels or head to <https://msc.fema.gov/> (FEMA Map Service Center) portal to determine if your property is located within the Regulated Flood Hazard Area.

Permit Process

Flathead County floodplain management is a coordinated effort between: the Flathead County Planning and Zoning Office, Flathead Conservation District (FCD), US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Montana Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), and Department of National Resource and Conservation (DNRC).



1964 Flooding Strip in Evergreen, MT

Permits allow property owners to construct, maintain, or place materials within the Floodway or the Flood Fringe.

In order for property owners to receive a floodplain permit, the following must be completed:

- A Joint Application is submitted with the appropriate fee to the Flathead County Planning Office and other applicable agencies.
- A Professional Engineer's certification that the proposed activity is in compliance with the regulations is attached to the application.
- The applicant must submit a Certified Adjoining Ownership list request form with the application.
- The Planning Office sends a copy of the entire application to the DNRC Regional Engineer for technical comments.

- A legal notice is prepared for the local paper and adjacent property owners.
- A site visit is conducted .
- Comments and permits are obtained from required agencies.
- The Planning Office issues the permit which is good for one year.

****Important to Note:** The floodplain permit application will only be considered complete once ALL other required permits are obtained from applicable agencies. This includes the 310 Permit, 318 Permit, 404 Permit, or 124 Permit. Applications should be submitted to each agency at the same time for the process to run smoothly.



1995 Flooding near E. Evergreen Dr., Evergreen, MT

Just a reminder...

- The more complete the application, the easier it is for the Planning Office to review. Answer **ALL** questions and submit **ALL** documents required to expedite the process!
- Once submitted, the application fee is **NON-REFUNDABLE!**
- There are **NO** guarantees of approval.