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February 14, 2024

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**PEND OREILLE COUNTY AND ITS PLANNING PARTNERS TO UPDATE THE  
COUNTY'S MULTI-JURISDICTION HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN**

Pend Oreille County, its jurisdictions, special purpose districts, and the Kalispel Tribe are embarking on a planning process to prepare for impacts of natural disasters. Responding to federal mandates in the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-390), Pend Oreille County Department of Emergency Management will update its 2019 Hazard Mitigation Plan to enhance resilience throughout the County.

This planning process is being led by JoAnn Boggs, Deputy Director of Pend Oreille County's Department of Emergency Management, with support from Beverly O'Dea of Bridgeview Consulting, LLC, the hired technical consultant. This project is funded by a planning grant from FEMA. The planning process will take approximately nine to twelve months to complete.

During this process, local citizens will be asked to contribute by sharing knowledge of the area's vulnerability to hazards based on past occurrences. Public involvement will be solicited via a multi-media campaign that will include public meetings, web-based information, questionnaires, maps, and updates on the plan's progress via a website. This process will be directed by a Planning Team made up of representatives from local jurisdictions, special purpose districts, Kalispel Tribal members, citizens, and other stakeholders from within the planning area. This Hazard Mitigation Planning Team will meet as needed throughout the process. Notice of the date and time of these meetings will be posted on the County's website.

An informational website on the plan and purposes for planning has been established at: <https://www.pendoreilleco.org/emergency-management>. This website will serve as the primary means for the public to gain information on the plan and ways that they can participate in the planning process. The public is highly encouraged to provide input on all phases of this plan's development to JoAnn Boggs, Pend Oreille County Emergency Manager, Joann Boggs, at [JBoggs@pendoreille.org](mailto:JBoggs@pendoreille.org) or via phone at (509) 447-3731, or the consultant providing assistance during development of this plan, Bev O'Dea at [Bevodea@Bridgeviewconsulting.org](mailto:Bevodea@Bridgeviewconsulting.org) (253) 301-1330.

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