



**FEMA**

January 23, 2018

Mr. Chris Crew, CFM  
State Hazard Mitigation Officer  
Hazard Mitigation Branch Chief  
NC Department of Public Safety  
Division of Emergency Management  
4238 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4238

Reference: Multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan: High Country Regional

Dear Mr. Crew:

This is a follow-up to our previous correspondence of December 29, 2017 in which we approved the High Country Regional Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan and all the participating communities that submitted their resolutions at the time of plan approval. We have recently received from your office the following resolutions for inclusion within this plan and subsequently have approved the communities under the approved High Country Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan:

- Alleghany County, Unincorporated
- Watauga County, Unincorporated
- Town of Blowing Rock
- Town of Seven Devils
- Town of Sparta
- Town of West Jefferson

The approved participating communities are hereby eligible applicants through the State for the following mitigation grant programs administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA):

- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)
- Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM)
- Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA)

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) participation is required for some programs.

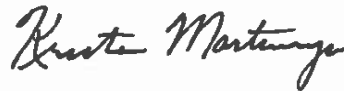
We commend the participants in High Country Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan for the development of a solid, workable plan that will guide hazard mitigation activities over the coming years. Please note that all requests for funding will be evaluated individually according to the specific eligibility and other requirements of the particular program under which the application is submitted. For example, a specific mitigation activity or project identified in the plan may not meet the eligibility requirements for FEMA funding, and even eligible mitigation activities are not automatically approved for FEMA funding under any of the aforementioned programs.

We strongly encourage each community to perform an annual review and assessment of the effectiveness of their hazard mitigation plan; however, a formal plan update is required at least every five (5) years. We also encourage each community to conduct a plan update process within one (1) year of being included within a Presidential Disaster Declaration or of the adoption of major modifications to their local Comprehensive Land Use Plan or other plans that affect hazard mitigation or land use and development.

When the Plan is amended or revised, the amendments and revisions should be incorporated into the next plan update. If the Plan is not updated prior to the required five (5) year update, please ensure that the Draft update is submitted at least six (6) months prior to expiration of this plan approval.

If you or the participants in High Country Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan have any further questions or need any additional information please do not hesitate to contact Shemeeka Hopkins, of the Hazard Mitigation Assistance Branch, at (770) 220-8788 or Darlene Booker, of my staff, at (770) 220-5404.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristen Martinenza". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kristen M. Martinenza, P.E., CFM  
Branch Chief  
Risk Analysis  
FEMA Region IV