STATE OF MONTANA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 1-2023

EXECUTIVE ORDER DECLARING A DISASTER TO EXIST IN THE STATE OF MONTANA

WHEREAS, beginning on April 10, 2023, moderate to major flooding occurred along the Milk River and its tributaries in Northeast Montana as the snow began to melt on frozen ground leading to near 100% runoff into area waterways; and

WHEREAS, rainfall of 1-4" across Western and South Central Montana caused rivers, streams, and tributaries to rise out of their banks, as well as rapid snowmelt at mid-level and high elevations; and

WHEREAS, while temperatures in March were well below normal statewide, a rapid warmup occurred in the first two weeks of April, with widespread highs near 80 degrees occurring, representing near record highs for that period of time in many parts of the state; and

WHEREAS, Meagher, Valley, Hill, Liberty, Blaine, Daniels, and Park Counties, the Fort Belknap Indian Community, the Fort Peck Indian Reservation, and the towns of Glasgow and Nashua have enacted emergency or disaster declarations, and activated applicable portions of jurisdictional emergency plans and programs; and

WHEREAS, several counties, cities, towns, have reported emergency costs and extensive damage to critical infrastructure to include roads, bridges, and culverts; and

WHEREAS, the State Emergency Coordination Center is at a level-four activation, and is coordinating with local, state and federal agencies; and

WHEREAS, the availability and utilization of all necessary State government services, equipment, and suppliers under this proclamation will further the efforts to protect health and safety and to preserve the lives, property, and resources of the people of the State of Montana; and

WHEREAS, a proclamation of disaster authorizes the Governor under Section 10-3-311, MCA, to expend funds from the general fund to meet contingencies and needs arising from these conditions.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GREG GIANFORTE, Governor of the State of Montana, pursuant to the authority vested in me under the Constitution, and the laws of the State of Montana, Title 10, Chapter 3, MCA, and other applicable statutes, do hereby declare

under § 10-3-103 and § 10-3-303, MCA, that a flooding disaster exists in the State of Montana.

This Order is effective April 10, 2023.

GIVEN under my hand and the GREAT SEAL of the State of Montana this 16th day of May, 2023.

GREG GIANFORTE, Governor

ATTEST:

CHRISTI JACOBSEN, Secretary of State