

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

GREG GIANFORTE
GOVERNOR



KRISTEN JURAS
LT. GOVERNOR

August 14, 2024

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Through: Nancy Dragani, FEMA Region VIII Administrator

Dear Mr. President,

Under the provisions of Section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5121-5207 (Stafford Act) and 44 C.F.R § 206.36, I respectfully request a major disaster declaration for the Windstorm disaster that occurred on July 24, 2024. I am requesting the counties of Missoula and Powell to be included in this declaration.

Weather Conditions:

On the evening of July 24, 2024, long lasting thunderstorms produced strong damaging winds in west central Montana, particularly in the Missoula County area. This line of long-lasting thunderstorms pushed across north central Idaho in the early evening before moving into western Missoula County around 8:30 p.m. When these thunderstorms settled into to the Missoula area, they produced gusts of winds of 109 mph on Mt. Sentinel, 81 mph at the Missoula Airport and an estimated 90-100 mph winds throughout the city of Missoula. These wind speeds are consistent with the extensive widespread damage across the city and counties.

Summary:

This storm event involved damaging high winds which created widespread damage and debris throughout the City of Missoula, Missoula County and Powell County. Majority of the debris is vegetative, consisting of trees that had limbs ripped off, broken trunks, or were completely uprooted. The wind downed multiple powerlines throughout the counties leaving several thousand people without power for up to eight days. The factors listed above make recovery from this disaster beyond the capabilities of the local emergency fund and the Montana State Disaster fund.

Impacts:

During the event, the State Emergency Coordination Center was already activated due to critical fire danger throughout the state. This is according to the procedures and protocols outlined in our state emergency plan to assist with response and recovery efforts. I also had Montana Disaster and Emergency Services (DES) staff embedded within the county affected to provide recovery technical assistance. The windstorm knocked down thousands of trees with many of them being mature old growth trees along with extensive damage to powerlines throughout the area. The affected areas are overwhelmed with cleaning up and protecting the public from the widespread debris and powerline damage.

Debris activities and electrical cooperative facilities had the highest-dollar damages for this event, with the full joint damage assessment totaling \$3,773,508.00 in estimated damages. The per capita loss by county ranged from \$4.69 to \$30.79, which is above the FEMA \$4.60 indicator threshold. The recovery resources and staffing capacity these counties have access to are limited. The damages this event incurred to trees and electrical systems are extensive, putting a financial burden on the communities and electrical co-ops. We fully expect this damage estimate to increase as the recovery process moves forward due to unquantified damages incurred to the University of Montana's research facilities and fluctuations in debris estimates as drop off piles continue to grow daily.

Below are the emergencies and disasters that have occurred in the State of Montana in the past four years.

State Issued Emergencies and Disasters for SFY 2020, SFY 2021, SFY 2022, SFY 2023, and SFY 2024:

EO-2-2020 - Emergency - State of Emergency to exist within the State of Montana related to the Communicable Disease COVID-19 Novel Coronavirus

EO-3-2020 - Emergency -Amending Executive Order 2-2020 and providing the State of Emergency runs concurrent with the President's Emergency Declaration

EO-4-2021 –Emergency – Energy Emergency

EO-8-2021 – Emergency – June 8-10th Windstorm

EO-11-2021 – Emergency – Drought

EO-12-2021 – Wildland Fire

EO-4-2022 -Disaster -Spring Flooding

EO-1-2023 – April Flooding

EO-2-2023 – Memorial Day Flooding

EO-8-2024 – May Flooding

EO-9-2024 – July Windstorm

Federally Declared Disasters:

The State of Montana has had 12 Fire Management Assistance Grant Declarations since 2019.

FEMA-5286-FM-MT -North Hills Fire

FEMA-5324-FM-MT -Falling Star Fire

FEMA-5343-FM-MT -Huff Fire

FEMA-5344-FM-MT -Bobcat Fire

FEMA-5345-FM-MT -Snider/Rice Complex Fire
FEMA-5346-FM-MT -Bridger Foothills Fire
FEMA-5392-FM-MT -Robinson Draw Fire
FEMA-5399-FM-MT -Buffalo Fire
FEMA-5403-FM-MT -PF Fire
FEMA-5406-FM-MT -Richard Spring Fire
FEMA-5480-FM-MT -River Road East Fire
FEMA-5507-FM-MT -Horse Gulch Fire

The State of Montana is still in the recovery phase for seven Presidential declarations that remain open and have liabilities against the state general fund.

FEMA-4508-DR-MT -2020 Covid-19 Pandemic -56 Counties
FEMA-4608-DR-MT -2021 Northeast Windstorm - Five Counties
FEMA-4623-DR-MT -2021 Richard Spring Fire - One County, One Tribe
FEMA-4655-DR-MT -2022 Severe Storms and Flooding – Seven Counties
FEMA-4726-DR-MT -2023 Spring Flooding -Seven Counties, One Tribe
FEMA-4745-DR-MT -2023 Spring Flooding -Ten Counties
FEMA-4801-DR-MT -2024 Spring Flooding- Ten Counties, Two Tribes

Should this request for a Major Disaster Declaration be approved, I certify that the state and local governments will assume all applicable non-federal shared costs as required by the Stafford Act. I have designated the Recovery and Mitigation Bureau Chief for Montana's Disaster and Emergency Services Division, Jake Ganieany, as the State Coordinating Officer for this request.

I look forward to your response. Please do not hesitate to contact me or my staff with any questions.

Sincerely,



Greg Gianforte
Governor

Enc – Enclosure “B”- Montana Preliminary Damage Assessment
OMB No. 1660-0009/ FEMA Form 010-0-13



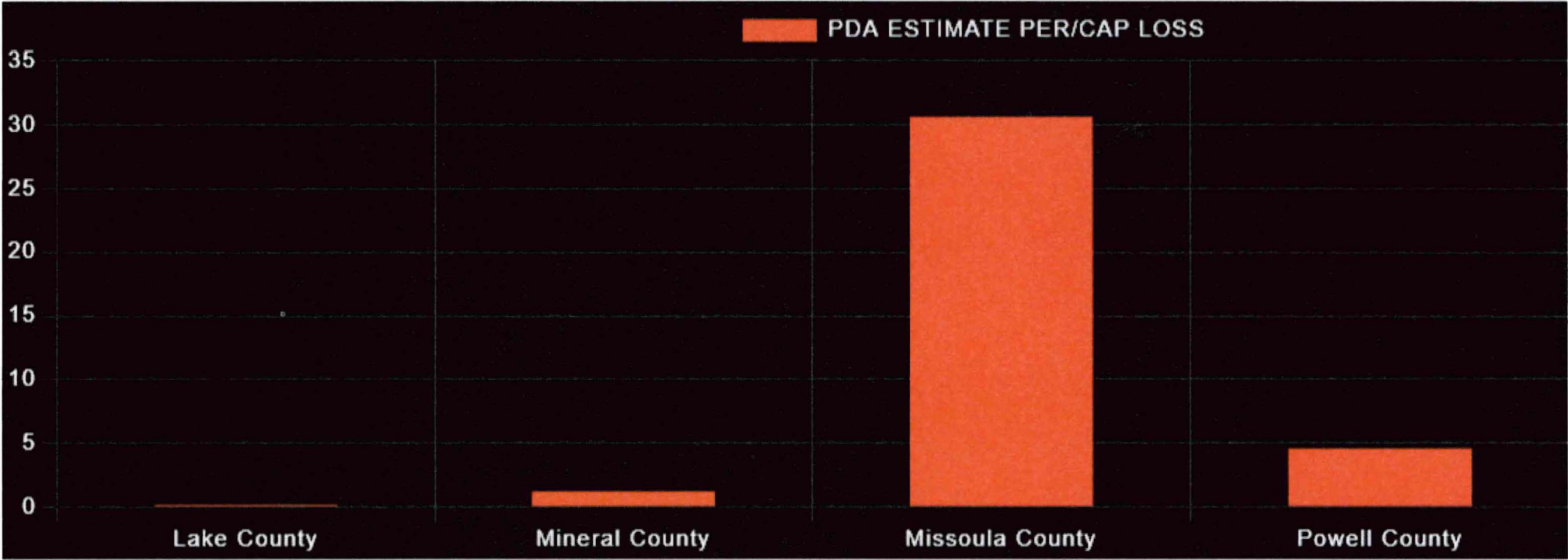
FEMA

Master Summary Report Montana

Search Results Summary

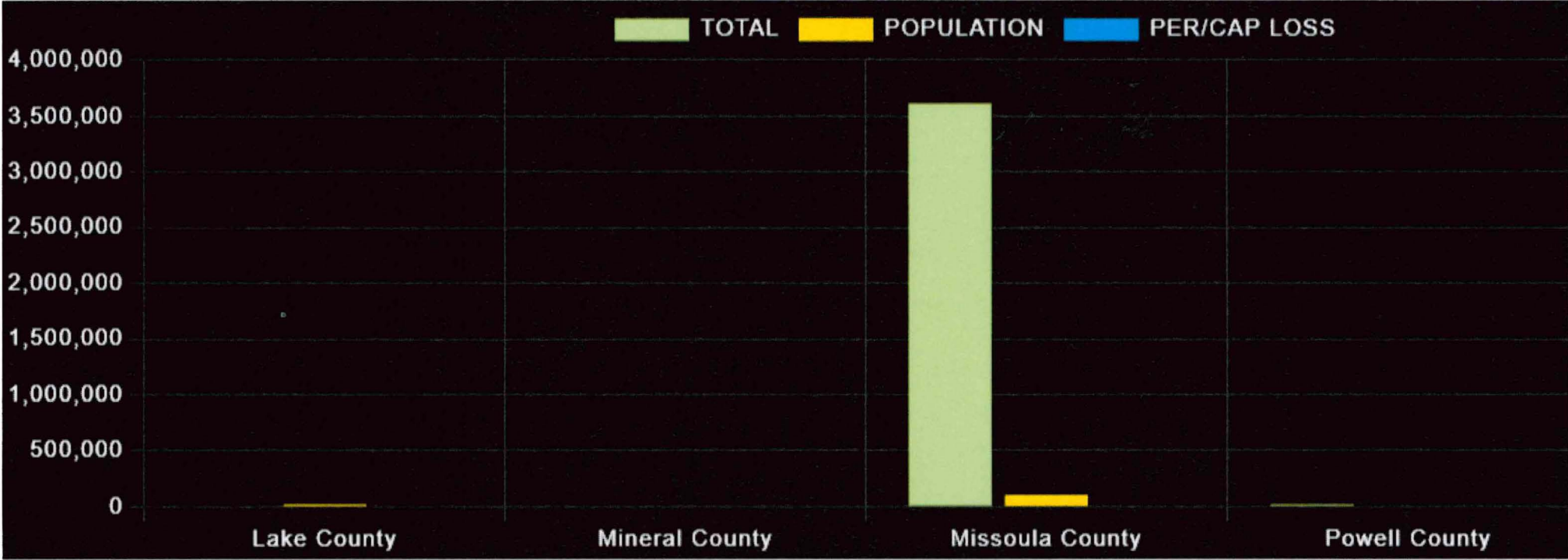
Query Results Date/Time:	Monday, August 12, 2024 at 11:49:09 AM MDT
Current IA PDA Survey Version In Use:	PA Version 4.0.4
Latest PDA Data Assessment Received:	08/12/2024
States/Territories:	Montana
PDA IDs:	R8PD187-MT
PDA Assessment Date Range:	08/07/2024 - 08/12/2024
Date of Damage Range:	07/24/2024 - 07/24/2024
PDA Operations Start Date:	Wednesday, August 7, 2024 at 12:00:00 AM MDT
Incident Types:	Straight-Line Winds/Derecho

Cost Threshold Summary



COUNTY NAME	POPULATION	PER CAPITA IMPACT INDICATOR	COST	PDA ESTIMATE	PDA ESTIMATE PER/CAP LOSS
Lake County	31,134	\$4.60	\$143,216.40	\$8,400.00	\$0.27
Mineral County	4,535	\$4.60	\$20,861.00	\$6,030.00	\$1.33
Missoula County	117,922	\$4.60	\$542,441.20	\$3,630,598.00	\$30.79
Powell County	6,946	\$4.60	\$31,951.60	\$32,606.00	\$4.69
Ravalli County	44,174	\$4.60	\$203,200.40	\$95,874.00	\$2.17
Statewide per capita	1,084,225	\$1.84	\$1,994,974.00	\$3,773,508.00	\$3.48

State Summary



COUNTY NAME	CATEGORY A	CATEGORY B	CATEGORY C	CATEGORY D	CATEGORY E	CATEGORY F	CATEGORY G	TOTAL	POP.	PER/ CAP LOSS
Lake County	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8,400.00	\$0.00	\$8,400.00	31,134	\$0.27
Mineral County	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,030.00	\$0.00	\$6,030.00	4,535	\$1.33
Missoula County	\$1,559,725.00	\$170,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,500.00	\$1,897,373.00	\$0.00	\$3,630,598.00	117,922	\$30.79
Powell County	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$32,606.00	\$0.00	\$32,606.00	6,946	\$4.69
Ravalli County	\$17,925.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$77,949.00	\$0.00	\$95,874.00	44,174	\$2.17
Statewide Total	\$1,577,650.00	\$170,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,500.00	\$2,022,358.00	\$0.00	\$3,773,508.00	1,084,225	\$3.48

APPLICANT	CATEGORY A	CATEGORY B	CATEGORY C	CATEGORY D	CATEGORY E	CATEGORY F	CATEGORY G	TOTAL	POPULATION	PER/CAP LOSS
DEPARTMENT										
MISSOULA PARKS AND RECREATION	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	117,922	\$0.00
MISSOULA PUBLIC WORKS	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	117,922	\$0.00
UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA	\$30,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$51,000.00	117,922	\$0.43
TOTAL:	\$1,559,725.00	\$170,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,500.00	\$1,897,373.00	\$0.00	\$3,630,598.00	117,922	\$30.79

PDA Conducted	County of				County Population			State/Territory		
1723054680 - 1723483200	Powell County				6,946			Montana		

APPLICANT	CATEGORY A	CATEGORY B	CATEGORY C	CATEGORY D	CATEGORY E	CATEGORY F	CATEGORY G	TOTAL	POPULATION	PER/CAP LOSS
MISSOULA ELECTRIC COOP	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$32,606.00	\$0.00	\$32,606.00	6,946	\$4.69
TOTAL:	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$32,606.00	\$0.00	\$32,606.00	6,946	\$4.69

PDA Conducted	County of				County Population			State/Territory		
1723054680 - 1723483200	Ravalli County				44,174			Montana		

APPLICANT	CATEGORY A	CATEGORY B	CATEGORY C	CATEGORY D	CATEGORY E	CATEGORY F	CATEGORY G	TOTAL	POPULATION	PER/CAP LOSS
MISSOULA ELECTRIC COOP	\$17,925.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$77,949.00	\$0.00	\$95,874.00	44,174	\$2.17
TOTAL:	\$17,925.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$77,949.00	\$0.00	\$95,874.00	44,174	\$2.17

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
Federal Emergency Management Agency
REQUEST FOR PRESIDENTIAL DISASTER DECLARATION
MAJOR DISASTER OR EMERGENCY

OMB Control Number 1660-0009

Expires 06/30/2026

1. Request Date 8/14/2024

Burden Disclosure Notice

Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 9 hours per response. The burden estimate includes the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and submitting the form. This collection of information is required to obtain a benefit. You are not required to respond to this collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. Send comments regarding the accuracy of the burden estimate and any suggestions for reducing the burden to: Information Collections Management, Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency, 500 C Street SW, Washington, DC 20472, Paperwork Reduction Project (1660-0009). **NOTE: Do not send your completed form to this address.**

Completion of this form including applicable attachments satisfies legal requirements for emergency and major disaster declaration requests under 42 U.S.C. §§ 5170 and 5191, respectively, as implemented at 44 C.F.R. §§ 206.35 and 206.36. Failure to use this form may result in a failure to meet these requirements and/or a delay in processing the request.

2a. Name of State (as defined in Stafford Act 102, 42 U.S.C. § 5122) or Indian tribal government requesting declaration. Montana	2b. Population (as reported by 2020 Census) or estimated population of Indian tribal government's damaged area(s). <u>1,084,225</u>
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3. Governor's or Tribal Chief Executive's Name Greg Gianforte	4. Designation of State or Tribal Coordinating Officer upon declaration (if available) and phone number Jake Ganieany (406) 417- 9234
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5. Designation of Governor's Authorized Representative or Tribal Chief Executive Representative upon declaration (if available) and phone number

6. Declaration Request For: ☒ Major Disaster (Stafford Act Sec. 401) ☐ Emergency (Stafford Act Sec. 501 (a))

7. Incident Period: Beginning Date Jul 24, 2024 End Date Jul 24, 2024 or ☐ Continuing *If requesting a "continuing" incident period, enclose an official statement from a qualified Federal Government agency acknowledged as a national authority in a specific incident field (e.g., United States Geological Survey for seismic incidents, the National Weather Service for flooding).*

7b. Type of Incident (Check all that apply)

☐ Drought ☐ Earthquake ☐ Explosion ☐ Fire ☐ Flood ☐ Hurricane ☐ Landslide ☐ Mudslide
☐ Severe Storm ☐ Snowstorm
☐ (rain, high water, wind-driven, rain, hail, lightning) ☐ (Must include Enclosure D: Historic and Current Snowfall Data) ☒ Straight-Line Winds
☐ Tidal Wave ☐ Tornado ☐ Tropical Depression ☐ Tropical Storm ☐ Tsunami ☐ Volcanic Eruption ☐ Winter Storm
☐ Other (please specify) _____

8. Description of damages (Short description of impacts of disaster on affected area and population). Include additional details in enclosed Governor's or Tribal Chief Executive's cover letter.
Thousands of trees and limbs knocked down along with extensive damage to power lines. Both of these impacts required quick action to mitigate the hazard to the general public.

9. Description of the nature and amount of State and local or Indian tribal government resources which have been or will be committed. Include additional details in enclosed Governor's or Tribal Chief Executive's cover letter.
Local governments have been assisting with debris removal and emergency protective measures along with coordinating with affected RECs to perform repairs to damaged power lines.

10. Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment*

☐ Individual Assistance Dates Performed Requested Start End

Individual Assistance Accessibility Problems (Areas that could not be accessed, and why)

☒ Public Assistance Dates Performed Requested Aug 1, 2024 Start Aug 7, 2024 End Aug 12, 2024

Public Assistance Accessibility Problems (Areas that could not be accessed, and why)
Debris is extensive and final quantities are unknown at the moment. Also, the local university incurred research facility damages due to the power outage caused by the event, but the full extent of the damage was unknown at the time of the JPDA.

11. Programs and Areas Requested

Individual Assistance ☒ N/A ☐ Individuals and Households Program ☐ Crisis Counseling Program ☐ Disaster Unemployment Assistance
☐ All ☐ Disaster Case Management ☐ Disaster Legal Services ☐ Small Business Administration (SBA) Disaster Assistance

For the following jurisdictions, specify programs and areas (counties, parishes, independent cities; for Indian tribal government, list tribe(s) and/or tribal area(s)) If additional space is needed, please enclose additional documentation).

For States, identify Federally-recognized Tribes in the requested counties (if applicable).

Please see **Enclosure A: Supplemental Information for Individual Assistance** for additional information in support of this request*.

*Not Required for Emergency Declaration Request

11. Programs and Areas Requested (Continued)

Public Assistance ☐ N/A ☒ Debris Removal (Category A) ☒ Emergency Protective Measures (Category B) ☒ Permanent Work (Categories C-G)* (not available for Emergency Declaration Requests)

For the following jurisdictions, specify programs and areas (counties, parishes, independent cities; for Indian tribal government, list tribe(s) and/or tribal area(s)). If additional space is needed or your request includes different categories of work for different jurisdictions; please enclose additional documentation.

Missoula County and Powell County

For States, identify Federally-recognized Tribes included in the requested counties (if applicable).

N/A

Please see **Enclosure B: Supplemental Information for Public Assistance** for additional information in support of this request*.

Indemnification for Debris Removal Activity

☐ I do not anticipate the need for debris removal.

I anticipate the need for debris removal, which poses an immediate threat to lives, public health and safety. Pursuant to Sections 403 and 407 of the Stafford Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5170b & 5173, the State or Indian tribal government agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the United States of America for any claims arising from the removal of debris or wreckage for this disaster. The State or Indian tribal government agrees that debris removal from public and private property will not occur until the landowner signs an unconditional authorization for the removal of debris.

Request for Direct Federal Assistance

☒ I do not request direct Federal assistance at this time.

☐ I request direct Federal assistance for work and services to save lives and protect property, and:

a. I request the following type(s) of assistance:

b. List of reasons why State and local or Indian tribal government cannot perform, or contract for, required work and services.

c. In accordance with 44 C.F.R. § 206.208, the State or Indian tribal government agrees that it will, with respect to direct Federal assistance: (1) Provide without cost to the United States all lands, easements, and rights-of-ways necessary to accomplish the approved work; (2) Hold and save the United States free from damages due to the requested work, and shall indemnify the Federal Government against any claims arising from such work; (3) Provide reimbursement to FEMA for the non-Federal share of the cost of such work in accordance with the provisions of the FEMA-State or FEMA-Tribe Agreement ; and (4) Assist the performing Federal agency in all support and local jurisdictional matters.

Request for Snow Assistance

☒ N/A ☐ I request snow assistance.

Snow assistance for the following jurisdictions (Specify counties, independent cities or tribes and/or tribal areas).

Please see **Enclosure D: Historic and Current Snowfall Data** for additional information in support of this request*.

*Not Required for Emergency Declaration Request

11. Programs and Areas Requested (Continued)

Hazard Mitigation* ☒ Statewide

OR

For the following specific counties, parishes, independent cities or tribes and/or tribal areas.

12. Mitigation Plan Information*

a. Mitigation Plan Expiration Date 9/27/28

b. Type of Plan

☐ Enhanced

☒ Standard

13. Other Federal Agency Programs

☒ I do not anticipate requirements from Other Federal Agencies

☐ I do anticipate requirements from Other Federal Agencies

Please see **Enclosure C**: Requirements for Other Federal Agency Programs for additional information in support of this request*.

14. Findings and Certifications

☒ I certify the following:

a. I have determined that this incident is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the State and the affected local government or Indian tribal government and that supplementary federal assistance is necessary.

b. In response to this incident, I have taken appropriate action under State or tribal law and have directed the execution of the State or Tribal Emergency Plan on Jul 24, 2024 in accordance with the Stafford Act.

c. The State and local governments, or Indian tribal government will assume all applicable non-Federal share of costs required by the Stafford Act.

15. List of Enclosures and Supporting Documentation

☒ Cover Letter ☐ Enclosure A (Individual Assistance)*

☒ Enclosure B (Public Assistance)*

☐ Enclosure C (Requirements for Other Federal Agency Programs)

☐ Enclosure D (Historic and Current Snowfall Data)

☐ Additional Supporting Documentation _____


Governor's or Tribal Chief Executive's Signature

08/14/2024
Date

If anyone except the Governor or Tribal Chief Executive signs this document, please provide the documentation that establishes that this individual has the legal authority to act on behalf of the Governor or Tribal Chief Executive.

*Not Required for Emergency Declaration Request