

Montana Floodplains & Their Administration

Powell County Experiences

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Montana Association of Planners | 2014 Conference

Tuesday, September 16, 2014 | 9:30 – 11:00 AM

Topics

- Location**
- Permitting Overview**
- Deer Lodge**
- Clark Fork River**
- Planning Efforts**
- Challenges**

Not Powell County!



Powell County



Photo by Jason Lindstrom MT FWP

Little Blackfoot River

POWELL COUNTY

GROWTH POLICY



Prepared by:



DEER LODGE, MONT.

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Truly the last best place

Countywide Planning & Zoning

Powell County has a strong tradition of community planning, as the County has had a Growth Policy in place since the mid-1970s.

Powell County

□ 2,335 Square Miles

□ Population of 7,200

□ County Seat: Deer Lodge

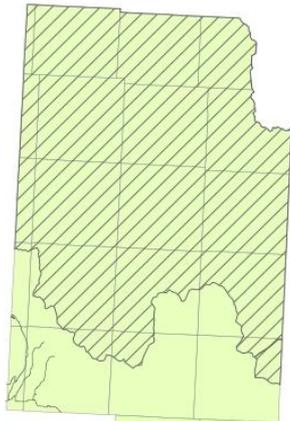
□ 2006 Growth Policy & Ordinance

□ Seasonal Flooding Threats

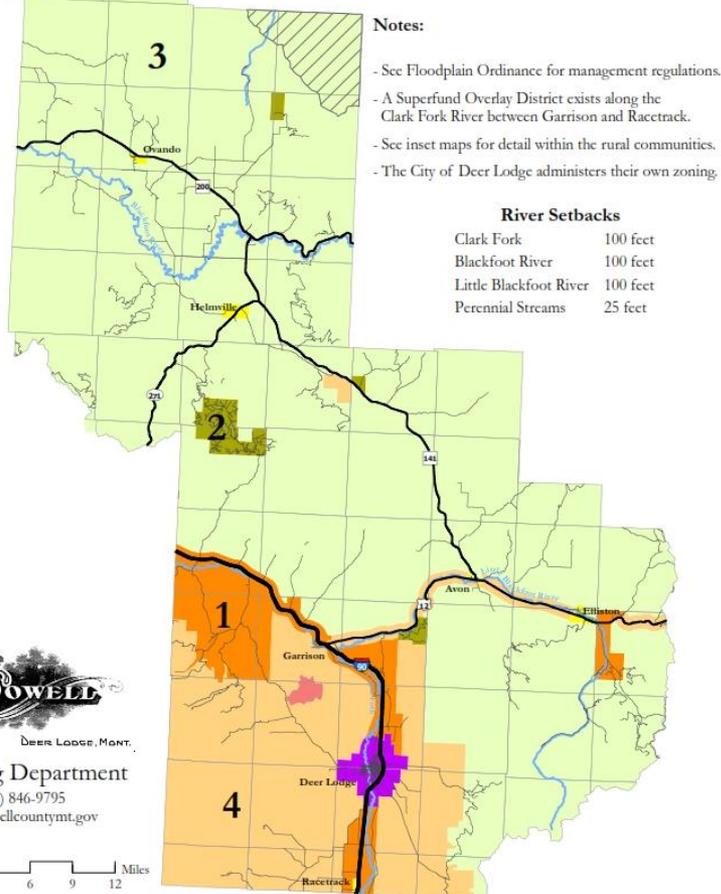
□ Clark Fork River Remediation & Overlay District

□ National Flood Insurance Program Participant

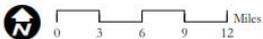
Zoning & Development Districts



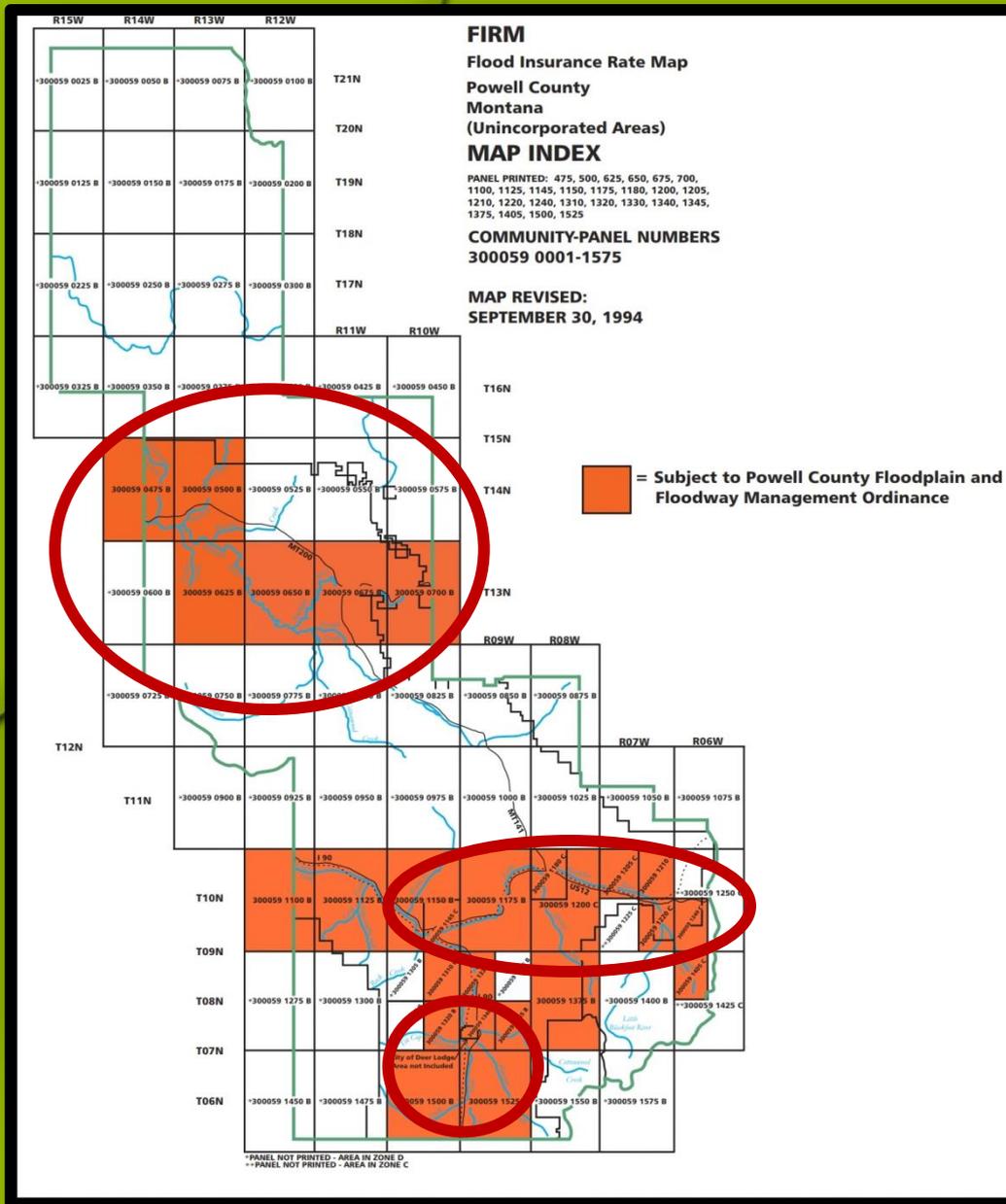
- District 1 5 Acre Minimum Lot Size
- District 2 20 Acre Minimum Lot Size
- District 3 160 Acre Minimum Lot Size
- District 4 40 Acre Minimum Lot Size
- Rural Community 1 Acre Minimum Lot Size
- Deer Lodge Planning Area Based on Sewer/Water Availability or On-Site Septic Conditions
- Rock Creek Residential PUD
- Federal Wilderness Area



Planning Department
(406) 846-9795
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Regulatory Floodplains

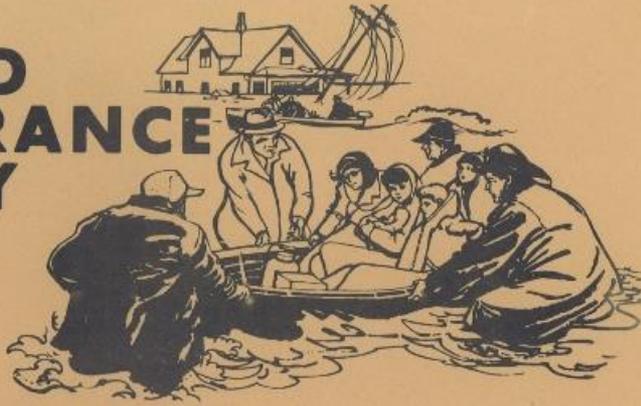


- Blackfoot, & N. Fork Blackfoot Rivers
- Douglas, Monture, Nevada, & Spring Creeks
- Little Blackfoot River, & Telegraph Creek
- Clark Fork River
- Baggs, Cottonwood, Johnson, Peterson, & Tin Cup Joe Creeks

FIS

(Flood Insurance Study)

FLOOD INSURANCE STUDY



POWELL COUNTY
MONTANA,
UNINCORPORATED AREAS



REVISED: SEPTEMBER 30, 1994



Federal Emergency Management Agency

COMMUNITY NUMBER - 300059

- 1981 Effort Focused on Deer Lodge
- 1994 Revision:
(Elliston & Little Blackfoot River)
- Approximate Study:
Ninety River Miles
- Detailed Study / Floodway:
Twenty River Miles

Permitting

Pre-Submission Consultation



Formal Submission



Internal Review



DNRC Technical Review



Deficiencies Corrected



Permit Issued

Site visits (often coordinated with the Conservation District)

Discussions with DNRC (several!)

Talks with FEMA (bigger problems!)

Documentation (for that all important CAV)

Permitting



Powell County generally processes seven Permits per year

Infrastructure improvements, bank stabilization, & irrigation projects

Thirty days or less to issue (unless there are problems)

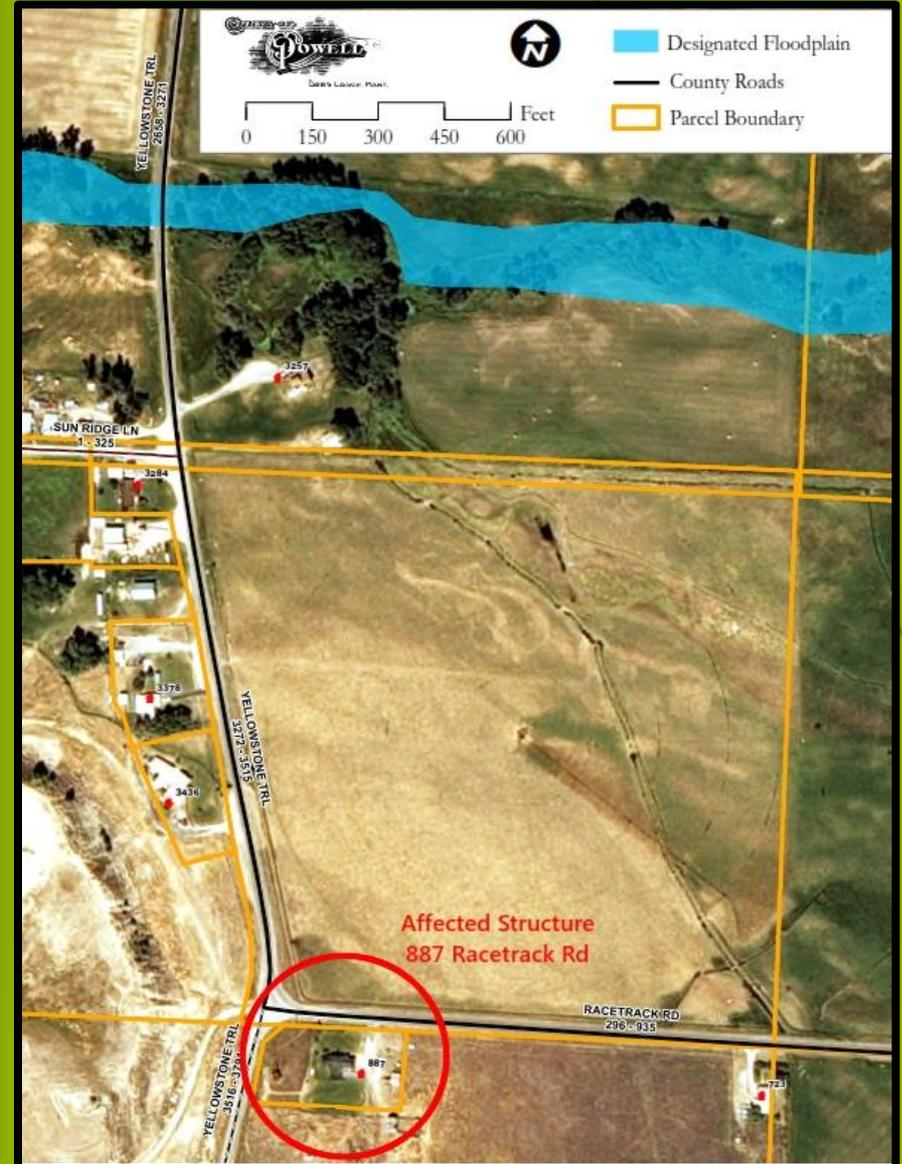


Violations



Enough Said.

Assistance



2011 Flood

In June, Cottonwood Creek flooded after a significant rain on snow event in the watershed



Recovery



- Agency Coordination
(Project Worksheets)
- Local Communications
- Debris Removal
- Channel Cleanup
- Re-setting Floodwalls
(greater depths)
- Map Revisions

Cottonwood Creek Flood Assessment



Flood Mitigation Efforts

To date, Powell County is proceeding with replacements for Center, Main, & Second Street Bridges

The County is responsible for preparing LOMRs for Cottonwood Creek



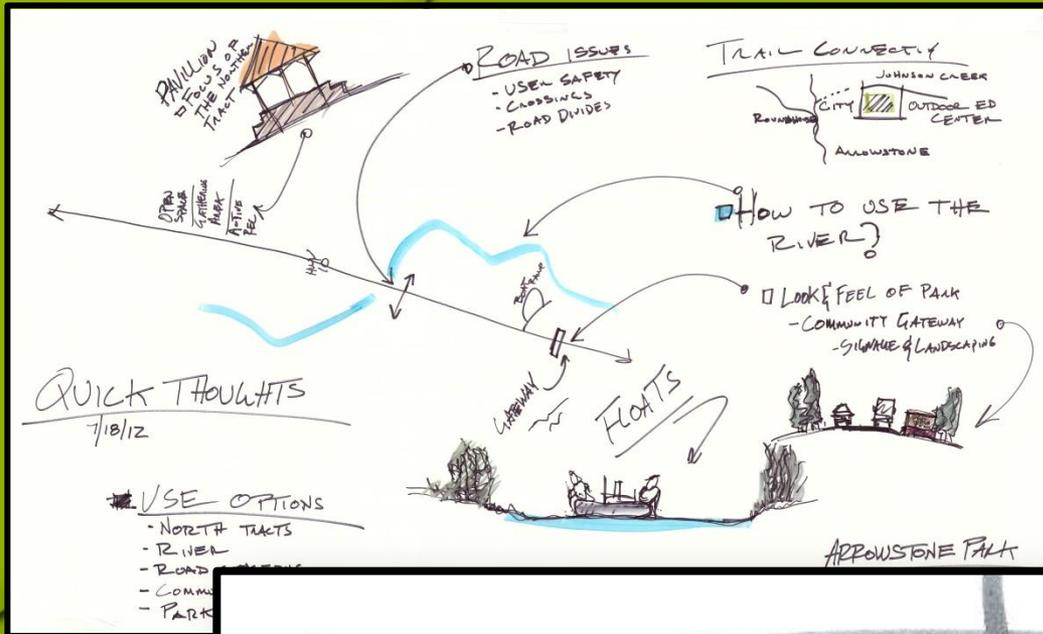
August 4, 2011

Clark Fork River Remediation

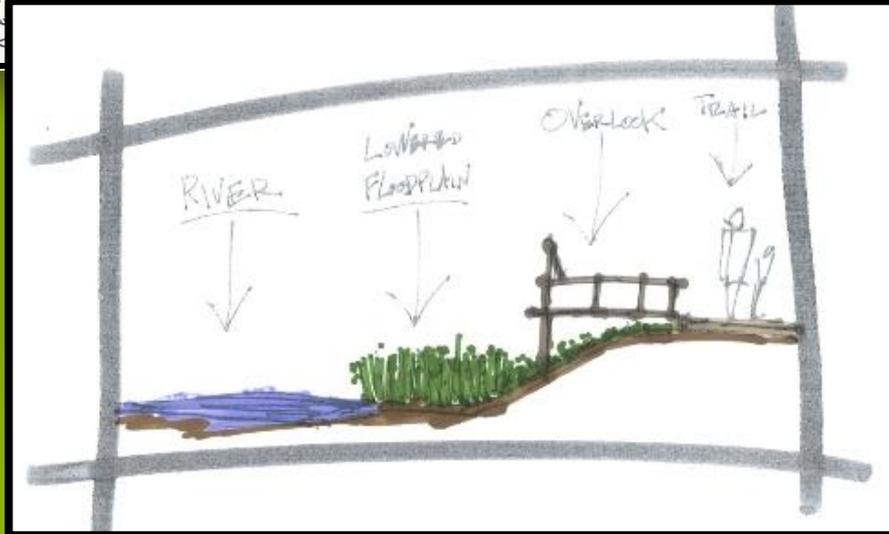


- Coordination with MT DEQ
- No Floodplain Development Permits
- Access to Surveys & Hydrologic Models
- Map Revisions

Arrowstone Park Planning



- ❑ DNRC Planning Grant to fund a Master Plan
- ❑ Reconnect CFR to floodplain
- ❑ Map Revisions



Challenges



- Old Floodplain Maps
- Educating Elected Officials
- Communication Between Deer Lodge and Powell County
- Frustrated Rural Property Owners

Questions?



Photo by Jason Lindstrom MT FWP

Gold Creek

Thank You!

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