

The Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation

Hazard Mitigation Plan 2023 Annual Progress Report

Reporting Period: 1/2023-12/2023

Background:

The Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation developed a hazard mitigation plan to reduce risk from all hazards by identifying resources, information, and strategies for risk reduction. The federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 requires state and local governments to develop hazard mitigation plans as a condition for federal disaster grant assistance. To prepare the plan, the Tribe organized resources, assessed risks from natural hazards, developed planning goals and objectives, reviewed mitigation alternatives, and developed an action plan to address probable impacts from natural hazards. By completing this process, the Tribe maintained compliance with the Disaster Mitigation Act, achieving eligibility for mitigation grant funding opportunities afforded under the Robert T. Stafford Act. The plan can be viewed on-line at:

https://www.chehalis-tribe.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Chehalis_Tribe_HMP_final_FEMA_Review_12022020.pdf

Summary Overview of the Plan's Progress:

The performance period for the Hazard Mitigation Plan became effective on January 12, 2021, with the final approval of the plan by FEMA. The initial performance period for this plan will be 5 years, with an anticipated update to the plan to occur before January, 2026. As of this reporting period, the performance period for this plan is considered to be 40% complete. The Hazard Mitigation Plan has targeted 27 hazard mitigation initiatives to be pursued during the 5-year- These were reviewed at the end of 2023 and some were updated and others are unchanged or still in the planning stages for the performance period. As of the reporting period, the following overall progress can be reported:

- 17 out of 27 initiatives (62.9%) reported ongoing action toward completion.
- 4 out of 27 initiatives (18.8%) were reported as being complete.
- 6 out of 27 initiatives (28.2%) reported no action taken.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to provide an annual update on the implementation of the action plan identified in the Tribe's Hazard Mitigation Plan. The objective is to ensure that there is a continuing and responsive planning process that will keep the Hazard Mitigation Plan dynamic and responsive to the needs and capabilities of the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation. This report discusses the following:

- Natural hazard events that have occurred within the last year
- Changes in risk exposure within the planning area
- Mitigation success stories

- Review of the action plan
- Changes in capabilities that could impact plan implementation
- Recommendations for changes/enhancement.

The Hazard Mitigation Plan Planning Team:

The Hazard Mitigation Plan Planning Team, made up of stakeholders within the planning area, reviewed and approved this progress report at its annual meeting held on March 16, 2022. It was determined through the plan's development process that a Planning Team would remain in service to oversee maintenance of the plan. At a minimum, the Planning Team will provide technical review and oversight on the development of the annual progress report. It is anticipated that there will be turnover in the membership annually, which will be documented in the progress reports. For this reporting period, the Planning Team membership is as indicated in Table 1. For the most part, this Team also functions as the Emergency Management Advisory Group (EMAG)

**TABLE 1.
PLANNING TEAM MEMBERS**

Name	Title	Jurisdiction/Agency
Kelly Edwards	Director of Public Safety	Chehalis Tribal Public Safety
Denise Ross	Director Wellness Center	Chehalis Tribal Wellness Center
Glen Connelly	Director DNR	Chehalis Tribal DNR
Misty Secena	Director Accounting Department	Chehalis Tribal Accounting Department
Miguel Santiago	Director IT Department	Chehalis Tribal IT Department
Harold Chesnin	Lead Counsel	Chehalis Tribal Trust Services
David Burnett	CEO	Chehalis Tribal Enterprises
Michael Postlewait	Facilities Director	Lucky Eagle Casino and Hotel
Calvin Bray	EM Coordinator	Chehalis Tribal Public Safety
Christina Rolfe	Quality Improvement Coordinator	Chehalis Tribal Wellness Center
Clint Davis	EM Manager	Chehalis Tribal Public Safety

Natural Hazard Events within the Planning Area:

During the reporting period, there were natural hazard events in the planning area that had a measurable impact on people or property. A summary of these events is as follows:

- Jan-Feb rain and ice affecting road conditions/travel
- Unhealthy air from wildfire in the region-Doty Fire
- Minor flooding from atmospheric rivers/rain-November/Dec

Changes in Risk Exposure in the Planning Area:

Unhealthy air from localized and regional wildfires 2023:

Early summer, 2023 and into early fall, 2023 was eventful with many localized wildfires in the State of Washington. With some minor fires in the Grays Harbor and Thurston counties, where the majority of Tribal members live, the main impact was from smoke and conditions of the "Doty" fire located in adjacent Lewis County. Advisories were issued on several occasions and with the addition of a Air Quality measurement device, our EM department was able to keep community members abreast of any hazardous conditions. There were 23 fires at one time active in Lewis County from June to September as well as 4 fires in Grays Harbor and 6 fires in Thurston County which also contributed to unhealthy air quality- Direct risk to Tribal property was minimal.

January -February Ice and Rain

On January 23, 2023 the Chehalis Tribe initiated a response to icy roads and rain from several winter storms and issued advisories through the CODE RED system, as well as social media and web pages. Traction sanding and warning signs aided in keeping staff and community members aware of fall hazards. While not closing any roads, there were multiple days of icy conditions that affected travel to from the Tribe.

Minor flooding in November/December 2023

An atmospheric river brought large amounts of rainfall to western Washington in late November and early December this year. The flood gage on the Chehalis River near Grand mound crept up to 143.32 hitting the minor flooding status and the Black river overflowed, affecting the western part of the Tribal lands. Roads along Howanut and Elma Gate were covered with running water and temporarily impassible for several days. Only one (1) community member was relocated, due to a medical procedure, and housing was not affected in any major way. Since this report covers only until the end of 2023, the winter weather season is just beginning and there may be more water/flood issues going into 2024.

Mitigation Success Stories: The Emergency Management staff have completed advanced training with FEMA, in ICS and Comprehensive Emergency Management Planning systems that helps with implementation of the Continuity of Operations Plan and EOC Operations. The EOC checklist has been used in tabletop exercises and discussed at EMAG meetings- Additional food, water treatment and medical supplies have been updated and radios for emergency communication deployed. Ongoing CPR/1st aid and Active Threat Training is about 65% complete for Tribal employees and will be expanded to community members in 2024. Active education and planning for flood events have been implemented and a robust 2024 Training Calendar is planned.

Review of the Action Plan:

Table 2 reviews the action plan, reporting the status of each initiative. Reviewers of this report should refer to the Hazard Mitigation Plan for more detailed descriptions of each initiative and the prioritization process.

Status (X, O, ✓)

(X) Project stopped no longer relevant

(O) Project is under current workings or waiting to be started

(✓) Project completed

Priority

(1) Is being worked on

(2) Is to be worked on

(3) Project stopped or completed

Timeline

(N/A) Timeline Unknown

(X) Project completed or no longer relevant

(~) Continuous Project

Table 2. Action Plan Matrix				
Action Taken? (Yes or No)	Timeline	Priority	Status	Status (X,O,✓)
Initiative # 1			Retrofit or move tribal facilities to better withstand impact from a natural hazard event. This includes structures within the floodplain, or areas impacted by flood events. This would include land acquisition and removal of structures to allow for open space and the return to natural environments.	
No	N/A	2	Work is ongoing, still need info regarding whether these efforts are still being pursued.	O
Initiative # 2			Evaluate and enhance the current capital improvements program for drainage projects to provide better flood control in known flood problem areas. This would include working with Grays Harbor or Thurston Counties as the Tribe deems appropriate.	
Yes	~	1	Work is ongoing, maintaining regular meetings with GH & Thurston Co. EM's, member of the Thurston County Flood Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee.	O
Initiative # 3			Working with local, county, and state agencies as appropriate, seek project funding or relocation funding for roads with histories of dangerous and unsafe driving conditions, and those with a history of flooding, instability, or lacking safety guidelines to ensure safe accessibility to the Reservation. This is particularly important during times of evacuation from impact	

			from all hazards of concern.	
No	~	2	Working with Grays Harbor and Thurston Counties currently on plans	O
Initiative # 4			Seek grant funding for acquisition of properties within high-hazard areas to help restore the natural habitat of the area/watershed.	
No	~	2	Awaiting more information regarding these efforts	O
Initiative # 5			Remove road embankment fill under Balch Road, which currently acts as a levee. This project would increase river conveyance during flooding and reduce upstream flood levels, while also enhancing fish spawning.	
Yes	X	3	According to the last update, this project apparently is no longer necessary due to this fill being washed out during the previous big flood (not one in January 2022)	✓
Initiative # 6			Conduct a needs assessment to determine logistical requirements for equipment and parts for wells, water storage facilities, purification systems, and water distribution sources to ensure for continued supply of water after a major event. This may include generators to allow wells to continue operations. Ongoing.	
Yes	3 years	1	Work on this is currently being updated	O
Initiative # 7			Replace U.S. Highway 12 bridge at Black River. The existing bridge is a multi-span, steel truss and concrete beam structure constructed in 1932 and provides important access for the Reservation between SR 8 and Interstate 5. Currently, the bridge and road prism constrict high flows. This hydraulic condition is causing bank erosion and bed scour, which prompted repairs in 2001 to protect the bridge piers and abutments. The failure of these critical components could result in loss of the bridge during a significant storm event. In addition to the possible loss of access, a joint Tribe/ WSDOT study (WSDOT 2005) found that erosive conditions resulting from the constriction likely are degrading existing Black River aquatic and riparian habitat, which is inconsistent with the Tribe's guiding principles.	
No	N/A	2	Awaiting further information regarding the status of this project, last update stated that the amount of work needed for work on the bridge was going to cost much more than the original estimate due to the way the bridge is situated at that part of the river and the erosion happening near the foundations of the bridge.	O
Initiative # 8			Continue to design and build facilities to meet or exceed seismic (or load) standards, including redundant essential equipment. Apply current IBC standards to all renovation or replacement of existing facilities, structures, and/or equipment.	
No	~	2	Currently seeking more information on tribal building codes & ordinances that directly relate to this initiative	O
Initiative # 9			Implement various activities that support mitigation efforts to	

			reduce the negative influence of natural hazards impacting the Tribal Planning Area and the watersheds as a whole.	
Yes	~	1	Ongoing, this includes community notices, education, social media among other outreach efforts.	O
Initiative # 10			Utilize data gathered during risk assessment to identify capital projects that, when modified, increase the resilience of the Tribal structures and conveyances to damage, or that allow a more expedited process for recovery from the impact of disaster incidents.	
Yes	3 Years	1	Research on previous flood events has found a lack in some data gathering that should be done in order to update risk assessments	O
Initiative # 11			Consider projects enhancing resistance of tribal structures to impact from hazards of concern, such as seismic bracing of equipment, piping and fixtures, removal of high hazard beams; increased load capacity from wind, snow, and volcanic ash; or access road reinforcement.	
Yes	4 years	1	Ongoing, some projects for this have already been completed (new bridge on Howanut, by Fisheries), awaiting more info on current status for other possible projects, more efforts are likely needed for securing & bracing equipment with tribal government buildings	O
Initiative # 12			Implement a recovery system to ensure maximum FEMA reimbursement for disaster response, repair, mitigation and recovery, which will capture and track damages sustained, emergency activities, associated expenses (mileage, supplies, expendables, outside vendors, etc.), employee time, and dedicated resources.	
Yes	~	2	Renewal of 2021 Hazard Mitigation Plan is in process and Training with FEMA Assistance is ongoing-Updated initiative training on FEMA's Public & Individual Assistance Program processes	O
Initiative # 13			Utilize data from the current risk assessment to update GIS capacity and capabilities.	
Yes	~	1	Ongoing, this information also is something that needs to be maintained on a regular basis	O
Initiative # 14			Identify and train Tribal staff, youth, and volunteers that will be utilized for emergency management efforts. Training to be considered includes ICS classes for NIMS compliance, ATC 20/45, Disaster Site Worker Training, Emergency Response Training, and Damage Assessment.	
Yes	2 years	1	Planning in motion for a DART and/or CERT Program	O
Initiative # 15			Work with Tribal and local transit organizations to develop an exercise related to evacuation of residents.	

Yes	16 months	1	A Tribal Evacuation Plan is currently completed and part of the CEMP annex- An exercise is planned for 2024 for to help define the roles for individual tribal members and to help them to understand the reasons for evacuating, along with their own personal emergency preparedness	O
Initiative # 16			Leverage resources and partnerships to train and exercise together to ensure continuity during real world events.	
Yes		1	Fire Drills and Active Threat Shooter Training ongoing and 35% complete for 2023 community	O
Initiative # 17			Develop (or update) plans to ensure response and recovery efforts. This includes working with the casino, counties, and local municipalities to look at communications and interoperability issues.	
Yes	~	1	Ongoing, Tribal Hazard Mitigation Plan, Emergency Management Plan, and Continuity of Operations Plans have all been recently updated and approved	O
Initiative # 18			Conduct public outreach on risk-reduction techniques for communicable diseases through public education campaigns which increase awareness of healthy behaviors, including during times when shelters are established.	
No	~	2	Ongoing, especially as it relates to the future pandemics, RSV, Flu, etc	O
Initiative # 19			Consider developing programs and public outreach efforts which support community participation in incentive-based programs, such as FireWise, StormReady Programs, and the NFIP.	
Yes	~	2	Ongoing, grant for CWPP- Community Wildfire Protection Plan in place with updated Fire Safe plans in the works	O
Initiative # 20			Adopt the Tribal Hazard Mitigation Plan as an element of any comprehensive plan that the Tribe has developed in order to ensure linkage between the various documents.	
No	~	2	Ongoing, the newly approved Hazard Mitigation Plan update will serve as a guide for future tribal-oriented exercises & training	O
Initiative # 21			Utilizing data from this HMP, update the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) to include all hazards of concern to establish management and operations during emergency or disaster situations.	
Yes	~	1	Ongoing, training in ICS is currently being done on this project	O
Initiative # 22			Develop a post-disaster action plan for all hazards of concern that addresses debris management, cultural/historical data gathering, substantial damage assessment, and grant management.	
Yes	3 years	1	Ongoing, work is being done on a Debris Management Plan -Training in process for Depts	O
Initiative # 23			Consider codes and ordinances which positively influence the resiliency of the tribe from the hazards of concern, such as land use development; landscaping ordinance for fuel reduction;	

			building codes for minimum seismic stability; flood damage prevention ordinance to cumulatively track substantial improvements and damage, etc.	
Yes	4 years	1	Awaiting more info on what codes, ordinances, etc. the tribe currently has or has adopted that address some of this initiative	O
Initiative # 24			Secure funding to acquire generators to maintain critical infrastructure, including for water systems (wells).	
Yes	~	2	Awaiting updated info regarding these efforts	O
Initiative # 25			Raise Moon Road south of U.S. Highway 12 in a manner to improve emergency access during flooding and provide a second access road engineered to contemporary standards to the reservation during emergencies. This project would include smoothing the grade of the road to remove dips, providing a road shoulder, redesign of the Moon Rd/188th intersection and installation of appropriately sized culverts to allow floodwater passage.	
Yes	X	3	Since traffic access has been restricted for cars to use portions of 188 th Ave. SW, this initiative may no longer be necessary	X
Initiative # 26			Construct shelter facility for use during disaster incident. Facility can also be used as a warming, cooling, or feeding shelter during extreme weather events. Shelter should be constructed large enough to enable sheltering of citizens visiting the Tribal Planning Area, including Casino guests who may be stranded as a result of sudden-onset incident (e.g., earthquake).	
Yes	2 years	2	Currently planning and budgeting portable shelters from MVC for use as shelters, medical and IC command -Permanent shelter is currently the Community Center with 300 person capacity	O
Initiative # 27			Work with state to obtain spill response trailers to allow Tribe to respond to hazardous materials spills occurring in the Tribal Planning Area.	
Yes	2 years	2	Plans to utilize the 110 Battalion from State EMD and State Guard for spill response.	O

Changes That May Impact Implementation of the Plan:

No major changes to the planning area have occurred since drafting of the HMP.

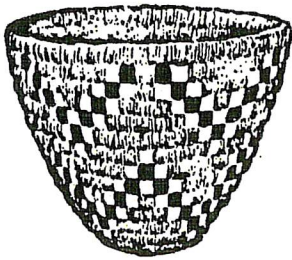
Recommendations for Changes or Enhancements:

Based on the review of this report by the Hazard Mitigation Plan Planning Team, the following recommendations will be noted for future updates or revisions to the plan:

- History and culture sections added with consulting the tribe's preservation office and adding a representative from that office to the planning team.
- _____
- _____

- _____
- _____
- *Public review notice: The contents of this report are considered to be public knowledge and have been prepared for total public disclosure. Copies of the report have been provided to the Tribe's governing board and to local media outlets and the report is posted on the Tribe's Hazard Mitigation Plan website. Any questions or comments regarding the contents of this report should be directed to:*

Clint Davis – Emergency Manager
cdavis@chehalsitribe.org (360)709-1770



CONFEDERATED TRIBES of the CHEHALIS RESERVATION

Resolution No. 2022-038

Of the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation

RE: Approving the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation Hazard Mitigation Plan Annual Report.

Whereas: The Business Committee of the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation is the duly constituted governing body of the Chehalis Tribe, in accordance with the Constitution and By-laws adopted by voting members of the Tribe and approved by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs; and

Whereas: The Business Committee is responsible for protecting and enhancing the social, health, educational and economic well-being of Tribal Members; and

Whereas: The Tribe has jurisdiction over the Reservation and all trust lands in Indian Country; and

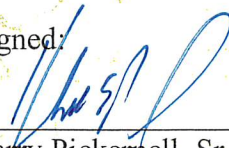
Whereas: The Tribe has adopted the 2021 Hazard Mitigation Plan a standalone plan; and

Whereas: The 2021 Hazard Mitigation Plan requires an annual report, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof, has been reviewed by the EMAG and needs to be adopted by the Tribe;

Now Therefore Let It Be Resolved: That the Business Committee of the Chehalis Tribe does hereby approve the Hazard Mitigation Annual Report for addition to the 2021 Hazard Mitigation Plan


Certification: This Resolution, Number 2022-038, was duly considered and approved at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Chehalis Business Committee held on Apr 12, 2022, at which a quorum was present. The vote being 4 For, 0 Against, with 0 Abstentions and with the Chairman not voting.

Signed:



Harry Pickernell, Sr.
Chairman

Attested:



David Burnett,
Secretary

