

## **Executive Summary**

### **Plan Mission**

The mission of the Southeastern Utah Association of Local Governments (SEUALG) Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan (PDM) is to substantially and permanently reduce the region's vulnerability to natural hazards. The plan is intended to promote sound public policy designed to protect citizens, critical facilities, infrastructure, private property, and the natural environment. This can be achieved by increasing public awareness, documenting resources for risk reduction and loss-prevention, and identifying activities to guide the community towards the development of a safer more sustainable community.

### **Plan Organization**

The SEUALG plan was developed and organized within the rules and regulations established under CFR Title 44, Part 201.6. The plan contains a discussion on the purpose and methodology used to develop the plan, a profile on communities within SEUALG, as well as a hazard identification study and a vulnerability analysis of eight hazards. To assist in the explanation of the above-identified contents there are several appendices included which provide more detail on specific subjects. This plan is intended to improve the communities within the SEUALG planning district ability to handle disasters, and will document valuable local knowledge on the most efficient and effective ways to reduce loss.

### **Plan Financing**

The SEUALG PDM Plan has been financed and developed under the PDM Program provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Utah Department of Public Safety Division of Emergency Services and Homeland Security (DESHS). The SEUALG aided in funding by providing in-kind assistance to local governments.

### **Plan Participation**

The SEUALG PDM Plan has been completed as a result of a collaborative effort between The Wasatch Front Regional Council, Southeastern Utah Association of Local Governments, the Utah Department of Public Safety Division of Emergency Services and Homeland Security, City and County Emergency Managers, Fire Departments, Sheriff Departments, Public Works Departments, Planning Commissions, Assessor's Offices, City and County GIS Departments, Elected Officials, Public Employees, and Citizens of the cities and towns within Carbon, Emery, Grand, and San Juan Counties. Interviews were conducted with stakeholders from the communities, and a workshop was conducted during the plan development. Additionally, through public hearings, workshops, and draft plan displays ample opportunity was provided for public participation. Any comments, questions, and discussions resulting from these activities were given strong consideration in the development of this plan.

### **Hazards Identified**

It was suggested by the DESHS that, at minimum, SEUALG address the hazards of: earthquake, flood, landslide, problem soils, wildfire, dam failure, severe weather, and drought. However, there are other hazards that were identified which are not in the minimum criteria established by DESHS that were added to the discussion.

The hazard identification study recognized the following hazards as being the most prevalent and posing the most potential risk to the counties and towns within the SEUALG four county planning districts.

- Dam Failure
- Drought
- Earthquake
- Flood
- Infestation
- Landslide
- Problem Soil

- Severe Weather
- Wildfire

### **Plan Goals**

In an effort to ensure that the mission of the SEUALG PDM Plan is met, the participants in the development of this plan defined and established a list of goals, which are directly relevant to meeting the mission of the plan.

The following is a list of the goals identified by the participants of this plan:

- Protection of life before, during, and after the occurrence of a disaster
- Preventing loss of life and reducing the impact of damage where problems cannot be eliminated
- Protection of emergency response capabilities (critical infrastructure)
- Communication and warning systems
- Emergency medical services and medical facilities
- Mobile resources
- Critical facilities
- Government continuity
- Protection of developed property, homes and businesses, industry, education opportunities and the cultural fabric of a community, by combining hazard loss reduction with the community's environmental, social and economic needs
- Protection of natural resources and the environment, when considering mitigation measures
- Promoting public awareness through education of community hazards and mitigation measures
- Preserving and/or restoring natural features that provide mitigation such as floodplains
- Minimize the impacts of flooding
- Minimize the impacts of drought
- Minimize the impacts of severe weather
- Minimize the risk of wildfire

## Acknowledgements

The Southeastern Utah Association of Local Governments in conjunction with the Wasatch Front Regional Council would like to thank the employees of each jurisdiction in the SEUALG region. We would also like to extend our appreciation to the following agencies, which assisted in the development of this plan.

- Utah Division of Emergency Services and Homeland Security
- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- National Weather Service
- National Climate Data Center
- Utah Army Corps of Engineers
- Utah Geologic Survey
- Utah Division of Forestry Fire, and State Lands
- Division of Water Rights Dam Safety Section
- Utah Division of Water Resources
- Utah Department of Agriculture
- Utah Avalanche Center
- Utah Automated Geographic Resource Center
- University of Utah
- University of Utah Seismic Station
- Utah State University
- Councils of Governments
- Association of Governments
- Carbon County and municipalities including East Carbon City, City of Helper, Price City, Scofield Town, Sunnyside City, and Wellington City
- Carbon County elected officials and planners
- Carbon County GIS staff member Benjamin Clement
- Carbon County residents and other interested members
- Carbon County agencies including; public works, GIS office, assessors office, LEPC, emergency services division, fire and sheriff's office
- Emery County and municipalities including Castle Dale City, Clawson Town, Cleveland Town, Elmo Town, Emery Town, Ferron City, Green River City, Huntington City, and Orangeville City
- Emery County emergency manager Martin Wilson
- Emery County elected officials
- Emery County agencies including; GIS department, public works, and assessors office
- Emery County residents and other interested members of the public
- Grand County and municipalities including Castle Valley and Moab City
- Grand County emergency manager Mary Hofine
- Grand County elected officials
- Grand County agencies including engineering, planning, assessors office, GIS department
- Grand County public and other interested members
- San Juan County and municipalities Monticello and Blanding
- San Juan County emergency manager Rick Bailey
- San Juan County elected officials
- San Juan County agencies including GIS, engineers, planners, assessors
- San Juan County public and interested members
- In addition, we offer sincere thanks to the Town of Merrimack, Clackamas County, Dunkerton, Iowa, Dunn County North Dakota, Jefferson County West Virginia, Moab City, and Salt Lake City.