



FEMA



Joint News Release

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Teton County Awarded \$1 Million for Teton Creek Project

Teton County has been awarded \$1 million to reduce flood risk along Teton Creek. Brigadier General Bill Shawver, director of the Idaho Bureau of Homeland (BHS) Security, will present the Teton County Board of Commissioners with a check on Monday, June 25, at 1:45 p.m. at the Teton County Courthouse Commission Chambers.

This project is funded through the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Flood Mitigation Assistance program. The project will stabilize 5,600 linear feet of eroding stream banks, reduce flooding risk by decreasing erosion, and re-establish riparian vegetation to stabilize the floodplain. Associated benefits will include improved water quality, and will enhance fish and wildlife habitat.

Currently the eroding banks cause significant property loss every spring run-off and the banks along The Aspens and Aspen Pointe Subdivisions are eroding up to 30 feet per year. Additionally the creek is eroding the Teton County landfill property and is within 30 feet of exposing buried landfill waste.

"Previous stream bank alteration has caused extensive damage that this project will resolve," said Greg Adams the Teton County Emergency Management Coordinator. "We are grateful for the assistance of each of our project partners in working together to overcome this situation."

Teton County applied for the competitive grant, and upon approval by the State of Idaho's Bureau of Homeland Security (BHS), the application was forwarded for federal review. That competitive process ranks projects that have been submitted from across the nation, and the county's application scored well. The grant will pass to the county through BHS which functions as the State Administrative Agency in Idaho for FEMA grants.

"Teton County has shown its dedication to preventing disasters, and this project will have a direct impact on reducing its vulnerability from flooding," said BHS Director Brig. Gen. Bill Shawver. "The teamwork between the Friends of the Teton River, the City of

Driggs, Teton County, the state and FEMA is what made this project come to fruition. We at the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security are pleased to be able to assist Teton County in obtaining the Flood Mitigation Assistance grant funds.”

"I commend the county and city for taking these proactive measures to avert future damages and property loss," said FEMA Region 10 Acting Regional Administrator Sharon Loper. "This hazard mitigation grant will help make this community safer."

The project costs total \$1,334,001, with the federal share at \$1,000,000.00 and the remaining \$334,001 coming from Teton County, Friends of the Teton River and other partner organizations and individuals through cash, labor and material contributions.

Note to reporters: media representatives are welcome to attend the ceremony. We will be meeting at the courthouse at 1:45 p.m. then travelling the short distance to the project site location.

For more project details copy or type the following link into your internet browser.
http://www.tetoncountyidaho.gov/pdf/forms/EM_TetonCreekRestorationProjectSummary2-18-10.pdf

Additional note to reporters: The Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security is the State of Idaho's emergency management agency. Please note that Idaho BHS is an Idaho-specific agency, and it is not the same thing as the federal Department of Homeland Security. Within the State of Idaho organizational chart, Idaho BHS is aligned under the State of Idaho Military Division.

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