COLORADO
Governor Jared Polis

REQUEST FOR PRESIDENTIAL MAJOR DISASTER DECLARATION
COVER LETTER

November 20, 2026

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
The President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Through: Katherine Fox
Acting Regional Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency Region VIII
Denver Federal Center
Building 710, Box 25267
Denver, CO 80225-0267

Dear Mr. President:

For the second time in less than two weeks, severe storms sent floodwater and debris through the communities of southwest Colorado and the San Luis Valley destroying hundreds of homes and many roads and businesses. Residents and local governments were only days into recovering from the October 22 to 25, 2026 flooding when this enormous storm came. I request an expedited Major Disaster Declaration for the State of Colorado for the Severe Storms, Flooding, Landslides, Mudslides, and Debris Flows that began on October 31, 2026, and continued through November 5, 2026, pursuant to Section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5121-5207 (Stafford Act), and as implemented by 44 CFR § 206.36. This request is in addition to the request I made on October 31, 2026 for a Major Disaster Declaration for the flood that began on October 22, 2026. Unfortunately, because the National Weather Service has designated these storms as two distinct events, FEMA Region VIII has advised the state that we are required to submit two separate requests for disaster relief and emergency assistance. I request that you approve both Major Disaster Declaration requests. It is essential that both requests are expeditiously reviewed and approved to ensure the devastated regions of Southwest Colorado can recover without delay.

I humbly request Individual Assistance for Archuleta, Conejos, La Plata, and Rio Grande Counties, including the Individuals and Households Program, Crisis Counseling Assistance and Training, Disaster Case Management, Disaster Unemployment Assistance, and Disaster Legal Services. I request Public Assistance Categories A through G for Archuleta, Conejos, La Plata,



flooding failed. At the height of the flooding, 6,321 residents were under mandatory evacuation orders and more than 3,300 homes were cut off. As of November 17, counties had reported 155 homes with major damage and 116 destroyed. Nearly 1,200 residents were in temporary lodging, approximately 457 homes remained inaccessible, and over 3,000 residents were under boil water advisories. Some families have now been forced from their homes twice in two weeks and many have no home to return to.

These are some of the most rural and remote communities in Colorado. Towns are small and distances are long, and a single damaged road or bridge can cut a community off from groceries, medical care, employment and schools. The only open road into Archuleta County runs north from New Mexico, and the main route from the San Luis Valley to Pagosa Springs crosses Wolf Creek Pass, one of the snowiest passes in the state. Archuleta County estimates that 12 of its public bridges are damaged beyond use, with many more private bridges damaged or destroyed, and some households will likely have no road access until next spring. Winter will make every part of this recovery harder. Snow and freezing temperatures will slow deliveries of firewood, food, and water to isolated residents and limit when crews can reach damaged



Mineral, Montezuma, and Rio Grande Counties. Assessments of that threat are ongoing. Finally, I request the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program statewide.

The second storm struck communities that had hardly begun to recover from the first. Rain fell on saturated ground and into rivers already choked with debris, and many of the temporary repairs made after the October





homes and roads. In this high-elevation region the construction season is effectively over, so families who lost their homes face months of displacement before rebuilding can begin.

Many of the people most affected have the fewest resources to recover. Nearly one-third of Archuleta County residents are 65 or older, poverty rates in Conejos and Rio Grande Counties exceed the statewide average, and many of the hardest-hit homes are manufactured homes. Few of these households carry flood insurance, in an area that just saw two back to back storms bring floodwaters to heights that have nearly no precedent in recorded history. Standard homeowners policies do not cover flood damage; less than 4% of homes in the four counties had flood insurance in force, and nearly half of the households in temporary lodging reported having no insurance of any kind. Their recovery will depend on the Individuals and Households Program, SBA disaster loans, and disaster case managers who can help them rebuild over the months and years ahead.



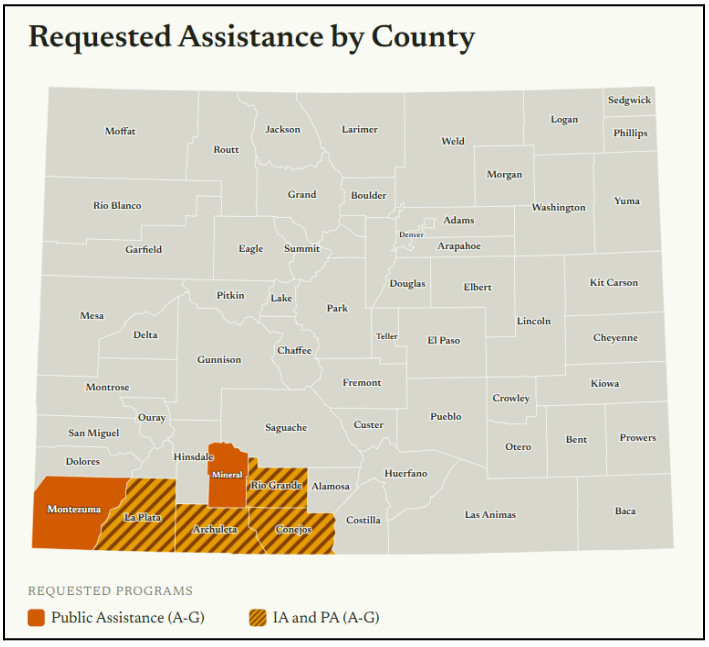
The State and our partners have stretched every available resource, and those resources are running out. Voluntary organizations have supported survivors since late October, yet 244 of the 261 cleanup work orders in the Individual Assistance counties remain unassigned. Donated lodging through 211 Colorado and Airbnb.org ends after 28 nights, with the first stays expiring around November 20. County human services agencies have already exceeded their capacity to follow up with survivors. Colorado does not have a state program that can provide housing assistance, repair grants, case management, and crisis counseling at the scale this disaster requires, and without those programs many of these families will have no realistic way to rebuild.

Timely assistance will shape whether these communities recover at all. A study of severe tornadoes in the United States found that federal disaster assistance resulted in about 9 percent more business establishments and 14 percent more employees in the average damaged neighborhood, with the largest effects among small businesses that depend on local customers (Gallagher, Hartley, and Rohlin, 2023). Research following Hurricane Katrina documented lasting changes in where affected residents lived (Deryugina, Kawano, and Levitt,

2018). In small mountain towns like Pagosa Springs, Mancos, and Antonito, each household or business that cannot return weakens the community's ability to recover and restore their economies. Prolonged housing instability, inaccessible homes, interrupted services, and lost income through the winter could make it increasingly difficult for residents and businesses to stay. Prompt federal assistance would help them remain in their communities while permanent housing, infrastructure, and economic recovery solutions are implemented. This assistance would provide the foundation needed for a robust economic recovery that allows these communities to thrive once again.



Public Assistance is needed to restore access and essential services to these communities. Washed-out roads and bridges still cut residents off from their homes, damaged water systems have left thousands under boil water advisories, and flood damage disrupted cellphone, phone, internet, and power service across much of Archuleta County. Joint teams have already identified more than $28 million in Public Assistance costs, and that figure will grow as engineers reach sites that continue to remain inaccessible weeks after the floods. These small jurisdictions were still making repairs from the October flooding when the second storm hit.



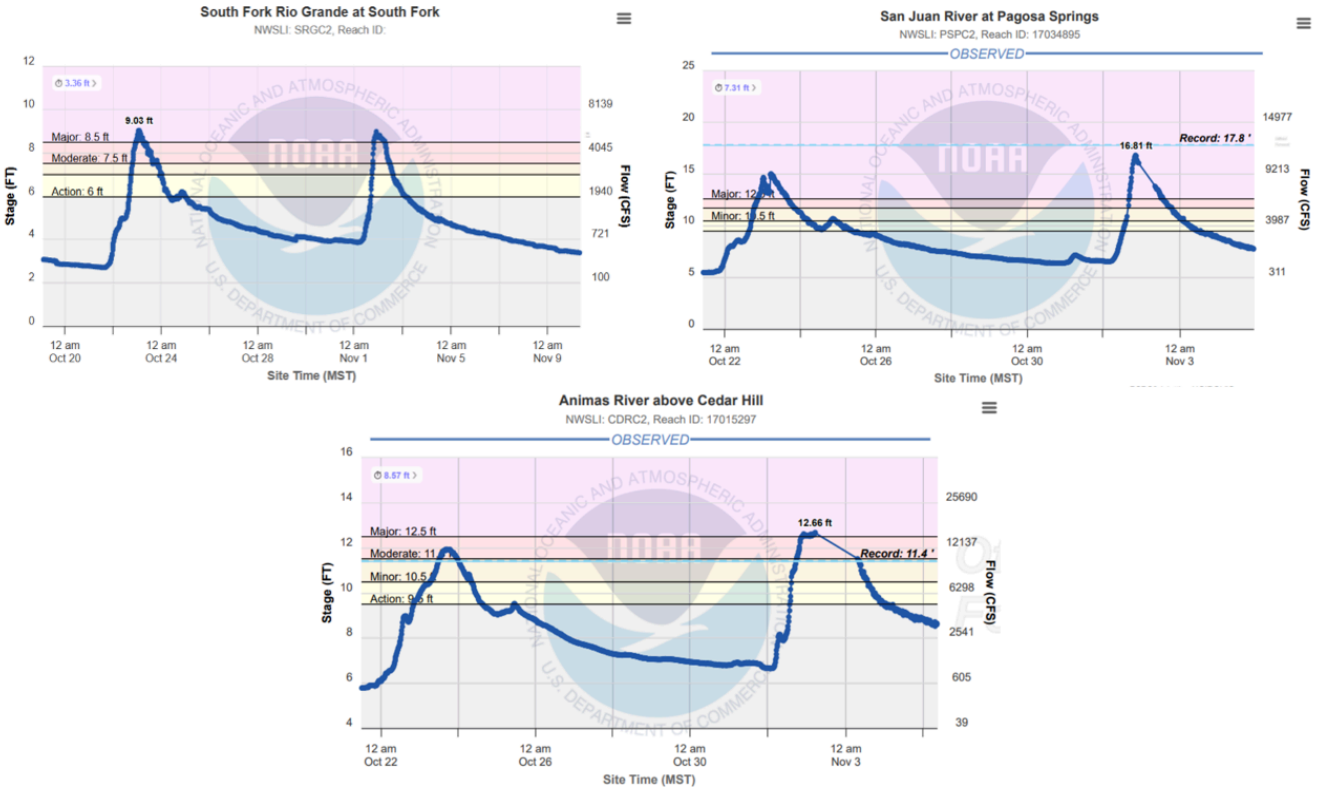
On October 22, 2026, at 8:36 p.m., I verbally declared a state disaster emergency for flooding and debris flows in southwest Colorado and amended it to include Conejos County the next day. That declaration remains in effect and covers both the flooding incident when initially declared and this second incident that began on October 31. It activated the State Emergency Operations Plan and directed the Colorado Office of Emergency Management (OEM) to take all necessary and appropriate State actions to assist affected jurisdictions. The State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) has remained at Level 1 for both response and recovery throughout the November incident. Due to the severity of the event

and the urgent community needs, I authorized use of the Colorado National Guard, which supported immediate life and safety missions, including evacuating at least 65 people.

This request is submitted on an expedited basis. The State requested a Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment (JPDA) with FEMA on November 5, and field assessments began on November 10, as soon as teams could safely reach the hardest-hit areas. Public Assistance assessments concluded on November 12. Individual Assistance teams remained in Archuleta County through November 13 after finding damaged neighborhoods that had not been previously reported. These figures are a preliminary baseline, and the true footprint of this disaster will prove larger as additional areas are able to be assessed. I am making this request now so that assistance can begin before winter sets in and to quickly provide communities the resources and support they need to recover. The State will update these estimates as assessments continue.

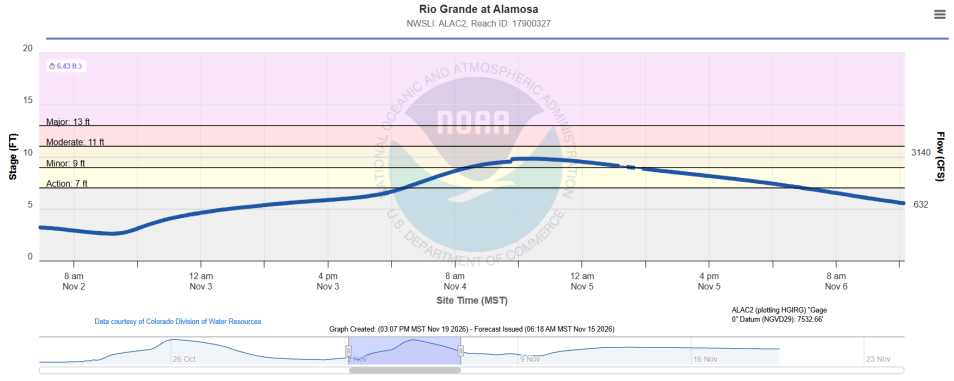
1. FLOOD AND METEOROLOGICAL SITUATION

The November storm arrived on ground that could not absorb it. Between October 21 and 24, a slow-moving Pacific storm dropped 3 to more than 6 inches of rain across the southern San Juan Mountains and the Four Corners region. Rivers receded during a brief lull from October 25 to 28, but soils remained near 100 percent saturation and streamflows in the San Juan, Animas, Dolores, La Plata, upper Rio Grande, and Conejos basins were still running unseasonably high. Snow from the October storm covered terrain above 9,000 feet and held an estimated 1 to 4 inches of water that new rain could release. The National Weather Service (NWS) assessed that any additional moderate to heavy precipitation would run off almost immediately.



NWS offices in Grand Junction and Pueblo began briefing state and local partners on October 29, and forecast totals rose with each update. By late October 30, an upper-level atmospheric low had stalled along the California and Nevada coast before moving east across the desert Southwest, drawing a subtropical atmospheric river into the Four Corners. Moisture levels reached roughly 200 to 250 percent of normal for late autumn. Lift along the south- and southwest-facing slopes of the San Juan Mountains intensified the rainfall. The NOAA Weather Prediction Center placed much of southwest Colorado, including Cortez, Durango, Pagosa Springs, and South Fork, under a Moderate Risk of excessive rainfall for November 1.

From October 31 through November 2, the storm produced 1.5 to 3.5 inches of rain in lower valleys and more than 4 to 5 inches along high-elevation ridges of the San Juan Mountains. Freezing levels held between 10,500 and 11,500 feet through November 1, so nearly all of it fell as rain, including on the snow left by the October storm, which it melted. With no capacity left in the soil, the rain became runoff almost immediately. It sent rapid crests down the San Juan, Animas, La Plata, Piedra, Mancos, and Navajo Rivers and through the upper Rio Grande and Conejos basins. The precipitation ended late on November 2 as a cold front crossed western Colorado. The flood wave continued downstream through the San Luis Valley, where the Rio Grande at Alamosa crested near 9.8 feet on November 4 and floodwater lingered near Manassa into November 5.



The NWS has documented *five* all-time record crests from this storm. This occurred even after protective measures were put in place to redirect and mitigate the peak crest, meaning these observations do not account for the full inundation of water to the impacted area. The Animas River above Cedar Hill reached 12.66 feet on November 2, and the Rio Grande at Monte Vista reached 9.41 feet on November 3. Each broke a record set during the October flooding only a week earlier. The Piedra River near Arboles reached 10.66 feet, the La Plata River at Hesperus reached 5.89 feet, and the Mancos River near Mancos reached 8.77 feet, more than three feet above its previous record. The San Juan River at Pagosa Springs crested at 16.81 feet on November 1, its second-highest stage in more than 115 years and nearly two feet above its October crest. The Animas River at Durango reached its third-highest crest in nearly a century, and flooding on the Animas and La Plata Rivers led La Plata County to close all county roads.

The flooding reached homes and businesses across the region. Water inundated downtown Pagosa Springs and rose past the clearance of the US 160 bridge. Mandatory evacuations were ordered along the Piedra River and in South Fork, where numerous homes and businesses



flooded and US 160 closed for an extended period. Homes flooded on the north sides of Del Norte and Monte Vista, along the Conejos River from Horca through Mogote, and downstream in Conejos, Guadalupe, and Manassa, where water delivery and treatment systems were also damaged. In Mancos, high water inundated the wastewater treatment plant. Because the rain fell on saturated ground, on snow, and into rivers that had only just dropped below flood stage, this storm produced major flooding on multiple river systems within about a week of the previous event.

2. DISASTER-CAUSED IMPACTS AND REQUESTED ASSISTANCE

The flooding damaged homes, small businesses, roads, bridges, culverts, water and wastewater systems, electric distribution lines, and parks and recreation facilities across six counties. For many residents, the disaster continues even as floodwaters recede. Damaged bridges, failed access routes, compromised wells and septic systems, and disrupted utilities continue to keep households from safely occupying their homes, workers from getting to their jobs, and businesses from reaching their clients . The summaries below describe the most significant impacts in each county.

Impacts by County



Archuleta County. Floodwater reached Pagosa Springs and the surrounding county for the second time in two weeks. The San Juan River's near-record crest inundated downtown Pagosa Springs, and record flooding on the Piedra River forced mandatory evacuations along its banks. On November 5, the county estimated that 2,000 homes were cut off. Damage to the Pagosa Springs wastewater system outpaced the town's capacity to respond, and schools stayed closed until November 10 while the town's water system was restored. A cut fiber line left much of the county with limited phone and internet service, and cell service was disrupted for several days, including during times when critical information such as evacuations and emergency road closure were announced. Homes were confirmed destroyed in

downtown Pagosa Springs, along County Road 500, and in the Red Ryder Circle area. Residents in some of the damaged neighborhoods found during assessments are still sheltering in place.



La Plata County. Record and near-record crests on the Animas and La Plata Rivers forced the evacuation of an estimated 2,209 residents from 941 households on November 5. At the peak, as many as 1,300 homes were inaccessible and every county road was closed. Mobile home parks north of Durango sustained some of the heaviest residential damage, and as of November 12, mandatory evacuation orders remained in place for 134 mobile homes and 290 residents. Multiple drinking water and wastewater systems were damaged, including the Hermosa sanitation district, and 412 homes and buildings were still inaccessible. La Plata County accounts for the largest share of households in temporary lodging.

Rio Grande County. Major flooding on the South Fork of the Rio Grande inundated numerous homes and businesses in South Fork and forced mandatory evacuations there until November 7. US 160 through South Fork closed for an extended period, and the Escondida Drive Bridge was limited to one lane after inspection. Downstream, floodwater reached homes on the north side of Del Norte and north of Monte Vista, where the Rio Grande set an all-time record for the second time in two weeks. Road and bridge closures continue around Del Norte, flood damage to canals and irrigation ditches extends downstream toward Alamosa, and the county continues to monitor water contamination and potable water needs.



Conejos County. Major flooding on the Conejos River inundated homes from Horca through Mogote and downstream in Conejos, Guadalupe, and Manassa, where water delivery and treatment systems were also damaged. The San Antonio River also flooded areas around Antonito. On November 4, mandatory evacuation orders covered an estimated 2,909 residents in 1,169 households. State Highway 17 was closed until November 7, and bridges and county roads sustained extensive damage, including major losses on County Roads G, J, and 16. The county

has opened a community flood support line and reports that long-term housing and immediate financial relief for survivors are its highest concerns.

Montezuma County. The Mancos River set an all-time record and inundated the Town of Mancos wastewater treatment plant. Four wastewater holding ponds failed and released approximately 55,545 barrels of wastewater into the river. The town's drinking water supply was contaminated and residents were placed under a boil water advisory, and the State monitored an assisted living facility with 55 residents for water needs. A main line break left 653 Mancos Rural Water customers without water. In Dolores, flooding along State Highway 145 reached mobile home parks and forced evacuations. More than a dozen county roads closed, the South Spruce Street bridge in Mancos closed, and a section of County Road M will require long-term repair.

Mineral County. Mineral County sits at the headwaters of the Rio Grande. Local officials reported 4 destroyed homes and 6 with major damage in a county of fewer than 1,000 residents, and about 15 homes were inaccessible at the peak. The county is validating approximately $300,000 in damage to San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative facilities and $140,000 in county costs.

Request for Individual Assistance - Archuleta, Conejos, La Plata, and Rio Grande Counties

The State requests all available programs of Individual Assistance for Archuleta, Conejos, La Plata, and Rio Grande Counties. The following addresses each of the six factors FEMA evaluates under 44 CFR § 206.48(b).

Impacts to Homes and Households

Damages to housing and the impacts to households from this disaster are acute. This flooding occurred as winter is setting in across southwest Colorado. The JPDA data demonstrates the damages primarily impact primary homes, with 271 homes damaged or destroyed, leaving people no home to return to for the winter. These damages create immediate displacement and long-term housing needs. Winter poses an urgent risk to households that must have reliable heat, water, electricity, and safe shelter through the winter. Delays to recovery efforts present immediate health and safety risks, not simply longer-term recovery challenges.

Lack of flood insurance resulting from the flooding for which there is no precedence in recent memory leaves many households without additional living expense coverage and other assistance to help them through this disaster. Many affected households will be unable to absorb higher replacement rents, deposits, and relocation costs. Additionally, damage to manufactured homes and park infrastructure creates concentrated displacement among residents who have limited alternative housing options and fewer financial resources.



Impacted households face damages to their homes, as well as their personal property and vehicles. Due to disruptions in transportation and the local economy, employment and income has been disrupted for some, exacerbating their ability to withstand and recover from this shock.

Table 1. Individual Assistance JPDA Summary:

County	Destroyed	Major	Minor	Affected	Total
Archuleta	57	66	27	3	153
La Plata	56	84	41	42	223
Rio Grande	0	4	4	12	20
Conejos	3	1	3	4	11
Total	**116**	**155**	**75**	**61**	**407**

Source: Joint FEMA and State IA JPDA, November 10 to 13, 2026.

State Fiscal Capacity and Resource Availability

Colorado entered this disaster with its emergency resources already committed. Over the past twelve months, the State set aside more than $128.2 million in state disaster funding for twelve declared disasters, most of them wildfires. The southwest floods are the thirteenth, and as of November 12 the SEOC reported $4,490,267.10 in state financial allocations to the flood response.

The State has mobilized significant resources in support of affected communities. State agencies, the Colorado National Guard, mutual aid partners, local governments, voluntary organizations, housing partners, public health agencies, and community-based organizations continue to provide sheltering, housing coordination, transportation, food distribution, debris management, public health support, and recovery services. State, local, and voluntary partners operated Disaster Assistance Centers in four counties, and 211 Colorado and Airbnb.org have provided free temporary lodging to displaced households since October 23. These efforts have reduced immediate hardship. They cannot meet the housing, financial, behavioral health, and case management needs now emerging across the region.

Many homes that remain structurally sound cannot be safely occupied because flood water damaged wells, septic systems, driveways, private roads, and private bridges.

Local fiscal and staff capacity is exceptionally constrained. These counties had not finished responding to the October flooding when the second storm arrived, and county emergency managers, road and bridge crews, public works staff, and human services agencies have now worked continuously for three weeks across two incidents. La Plata County Human Services has reported very little capacity to follow up with survivors who registered for help, and the City of Durango has no human

services staff of its own. Counties have exceeded their capacity to contact survivors, and the State has begun routing survivor needs through the State Recovery Task Force. A disaster case management program would provide the long-term, coordinated support these households will need.

The scale of need across six counties is beyond what State, local, and NGO resources can sustain.

Uninsured and Underinsured Home and Personal Property Losses

As of November 12, local damage reports compiled through Crisis Track and the American Red Cross identified 2,015 damaged homes across the impacted region. During the Individual Assistance JPDA, which began November 10, FEMA and State teams validated 116 homes as destroyed, 155 with major damage, 75 with minor damage, and 61 as affected. These results are summarized below and detailed in Enclosure A:

Insurance will cover only a small share of these losses. Standard homeowners policies in Colorado do not cover flood or mudflow damage, and less than 4% of homes in the four impacted counties had National Flood Insurance Program policies in force at the time of the incident. Among the 333 households registered for the 211 Colorado and Airbnb.org temporary housing program through November 8, 163 reported having no insurance, 101 reported homeowners insurance that typically excludes flood, 42 reported renters insurance, and 27 were unsure of their coverage. Those households include 164 renters and 169 homeowners, so the losses fall on renters and homeowners alike.

Many of the hardest-hit homes are manufactured homes. Flooding reached mobile home parks north of Durango, in Archuleta County, and in Mancos and Dolores, and in La Plata County the remaining mandatory evacuations apply only to mobile homes. Manufactured homes are more easily destroyed by floodwater, are less often insured, and often house residents with limited means to rebuild.

The impact also extends beyond visible structural damage. Many homes that remain structurally sound cannot be safely occupied because floodwater damaged wells, septic systems, driveways, private roads, and private bridges. In Montezuma County, flooding destroyed private bridges across the Mancos River along County Road G that residents use to reach their homes. As of November 12, Crisis Cleanup, the shared intake system voluntary organizations use, held 151 cleanup requests from the four requested counties, 139 of them opened since November 1, and





41 of those households reported that they were displaced from their primary home. Of the 261 work orders on those cases, 244 remained open and unassigned, most of them for debris removal, muck-out, and mold remediation.

Displacement and Winter Housing

Housing displacement is the most urgent challenge facing affected communities. 211 Colorado and Airbnb.org launched a temporary housing program on October 23 after the first flood, and the program has continued to absorb households displaced by the second. Through November 8, it had registered 333 households representing 916 residents and 320 pets and service animals, including 158 households from La Plata County, 146 from Archuleta County, 15 from Rio Grande County, and 14 from Conejos County. Occupancy rose from 739 residents on November 6 to 984 on November 12. These figures do not include residents who are staying with family, relying on informal arrangements, or paying for lodging on their own.

The American Red Cross operated five shelters during the November flooding and provided 205 overnight stays through November 8. Livestock were sheltered at the Archuleta County Fairgrounds and small animals at the Humane Society of Pagosa Springs.

Airbnb stays are limited to 28 nights, and the first placements begin expiring around November 20, just as winter conditions intensify. The State estimates that at least 200 households will need follow-on housing when those stays end, with the largest concentrations in La Plata and Archuleta Counties and additional need in the San Luis Valley. Rural housing inventory is extremely limited, and few available units are affordable, accessible, appropriately sized, and close to the jobs, schools, healthcare, and support services households depend on. Without federal housing assistance, many families face a choice between leaving their communities for the winter and returning to homes that are not safe to occupy.



Disaster Impacted Population Profile

The requested counties are among Colorado's most rural and geographically isolated communities, and their demographic and economic characteristics create substantial barriers to recovery.



These communities include significant populations of older adults, people with disabilities, and households with limited financial resources. These residents often face greater difficulty evacuating, securing accessible temporary housing, replacing medical and mobility equipment, restoring transportation, navigating assistance programs, and absorbing uninsured costs. Nearly one-third of Archuleta County residents are 65 or older. In Conejos and Rio Grande Counties, poverty rates exceed the statewide average and median household incomes are roughly half to two-thirds of the state median.

Registrations for temporary housing reflect the same vulnerabilities. Through November 8, 46 registered households reported access and functional needs, 61 needed transportation assistance, and 157 needed help with food. 211 Colorado and partner agencies are distributing recovery information in English and Spanish.

The affected communities depend on limited transportation networks, and damage to roads and bridges has cut residents off from employment, healthcare, pharmacies, schools, and social services. Local public health officials in Archuleta County are working to arrange medication refills and supplies for isolated residents who cannot reach a pharmacy. The Southern Ute Indian Tribe and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe also have lands in the impacted area, and a separate damage assessment is being coordinated with the Southern Ute Indian Tribe.

Table 2. County Demographic Indicators:

Demographic Indicator	Colorado	La Plata	Conejos	Rio Grande	Archuleta
Population	6,012,561	56,898	7,529	11,087	14,306
Under 18 Years	20.3%	16.8%	26.0%	19.9%	16.9%
Age 65+	17.1%	23.8%	23.2%	26.1%	31.5%

Demographic Indicator	Colorado	La Plata	Conejos	Rio Grande	Archuleta
Persons with Disabilities	24.2%	10.6%	18.7%	17.3%	18.8%
Persons in Poverty	9.2%	11.7%	11.7%	18.0%	8.2%
Median Household Income	$95,470	$86,056	$50,978	$64,411	$83,065

Impacts to Community Infrastructure

Damage to community infrastructure has compounded household-level needs. In Archuleta County, residents rely on a single open highway into the county, an estimated 12 county-owned bridges are damaged beyond use, and some students have faced trips of three and a half hours to reach school. Flooding cut the county's main fiber line, disrupting phone and internet service and requiring 911 calls to be rerouted during repairs. Power outages peaked at 594 across the region on November 4, and 91 meters remained out in Archuleta County on November 12.



Drinking water and wastewater systems were damaged across the region. As of November 12, 3,476 residents were under boil water advisories, primarily in Pagosa Springs and Mancos. Mancos lost the use of four wastewater ponds and had to switch drinking water sources, and multiple drinking water and wastewater systems in La Plata County were damaged. Households on private wells and septic systems face their own losses, and local public health agencies report limited options for well testing and septic inspections in these rural areas. With nighttime temperatures now below freezing, exposed water and sewer lines are at risk of further damage.

These impacts reach households whose homes survived. Residents who cannot reliably reach work, school, or medical care, and households trying to rebuild, face repeated interruptions to the access their contractors and case managers need. Public Assistance will restore these facilities, but it does not address the household-level consequences of their loss, which is the function Individual Assistance serves.

Disaster Related Unemployment

The flooding has caused significant economic disruption across southwest Colorado and the San Luis Valley, affecting tourism, outdoor recreation, agriculture, small businesses, and service-sector employment. Pagosa Springs depends on visitors and has now flooded repeatedly over the past year. Damage to US 160 and State Highway 151 has restricted access to the town, and CDOT is working to restore round-the-clock access on US 160 over Wolf Creek Pass and west of town before winter.

Agricultural producers in the San Luis Valley, Archuleta County, and La Plata County have reported damage to irrigation ditches, headgates, fencing, fields, and access roads, and farm and ranch damage assessments are ongoing. Many residents cannot work because their workplaces were damaged or closed, roads to those workplaces remain impassable, or displacement has moved them far from their jobs. Alternative employment is limited in these rural communities, and many households depend on seasonal work, agriculture, tourism, construction, hospitality, or self-employment.

Economic and business impact assessments are ongoing and will document additional losses as businesses report physical damage, revenue interruption, canceled reservations, and employment impacts. The State therefore requests Disaster Unemployment Assistance for eligible individuals whose employment or self-employment was interrupted as a direct result of this disaster and who are not covered by regular unemployment insurance.

Request for Public Assistance



Within the areas impacted by flooding and debris flows, numerous critical facilities were damaged or destroyed. These facilities serve community needs for transportation, drinking water and wastewater treatment, electric distribution, flood warning, and recreation. Heavy impacts to roads, bridges, and culverts were reported across La Plata and Archuleta Counties, and every requested county has areas where access remains limited. The State coordinated with the Colorado National Guard to deliver life-sustaining supplies to residents in those areas. In Montezuma County, damage to the Town of Mancos water and wastewater systems required the State and local partners to coordinate drinking water distribution.

Local, State, and federal partners conducted the Public Assistance JPDA through in-person field assessments supported by virtual validation, and field work concluded on November 12. Jointly, the State and FEMA validated $28,531,989 in PA-eligible damages across the six requested counties from the storm that began October 31.

Table 3. Public Assistance JPDA Summary:

County	Validated PA Damages	Countywide Indicator
Archuleta	$14,100,266.00	$67,195.77
Conejos	$594,820.20	$37,528.83
La Plata	$7,393,000.00	$279,859.14
Mineral	$235,636.00	$4,350.95
Montezuma	$1,205,000.00	$130,020.47
Rio Grande	$513,000.00	$58,041.17
State of Colorado	$4,490,267.00	—
Total	**$28,531,989.00**	

Category A: Debris Clearance
Description of Damage
Debris across the six counties includes woody debris, construction and demolition debris, mud, and silt. At the peak of the flooding, structures were pushed into rivers and washed ashore in public areas, creating a threat to public health and safety. In La Plata County, a large mudflow affected roadways and watersheds, a debris field formed around Coon Creek and Stevens Creek near Elkhorn Ranch, and a log jam on Junction Creek became entangled in a sewer line and a pedestrian bridge. The City of Durango positioned roll-off containers as residents pushed flood debris to the curb. In Montezuma County, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is working with a local water conservancy district to remove debris from the river. In Conejos County, joint teams validated $16,000 in mud, silt, and woody debris that threatens infrastructure and public health. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) has issued regulatory relief and guidance to speed the safe disposal of flood debris across the affected counties.

In La Plata County the County itself experienced severe flooding that brought a mixed debris flow of silt and woody items into the jurisdiction. The effort within the jurisdiction to restore their facilities back to pre-event function totals $370,000. The widespread impacts of the debris were felt across all jurisdictions, over in Montezuma County the Town of Mancos has estimated $50,000 of labor and equipment will be needed to remove the public threat.

Debris on private property is extensive. Voluntary organizations have logged 90 debris removal requests and 88 muck-out requests through Crisis Cleanup, and many homes sit beside rivers and roads where flood debris and sediment now threaten drainage, water quality, and access.

Cost Estimate: $502,666.00

Category B: Emergency Protective Measures
Description of Damage
With mandatory evacuations in place, jurisdictions across the impacted area reopened or extended Emergency Operations Center (EOC) operations, sandbagged, barricaded roads, supported evacuations, and opened shelters. Responders completed 14 rescues, and at its peak

the Colorado National Guard deployed 104 personnel, 49 high-clearance vehicles, and three aircraft, including two hoist-capable helicopters, for search and rescue, welfare checks, and delivery of supplies to isolated residents. The SEOC has remained at Level 1, staffed with State personnel, Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) resources, and contracted support. The operation of the SEOC is estimated to be $4,490,267.00, in support of the impacted counties.

In Conejos County, the EOC was activated through the peak of the flooding, and the county spent approximately $65,000 on sandbagging and traffic control. In Archuleta County, the Town of Pagosa Springs brought in replacement pumps to keep its wastewater system operating, and in Montezuma County, local partners opened a water distribution site for 653 rural water customers who lost service.

The three Counties in the southwest portion of the impacted area, Montezuma, La Plata, and Archuleta, all made concerted efforts to perform emergency protective measures in their jurisdictions. The County EOCs were also running at high levels as they worked through the event. Archuleta and Montezuma County each estimate $100,000, while La Plata County's cost is estimated at $200,000.

Cost Estimate: $5,278,767.00

Category C: Roads and Bridges

Description of Damage

Major roadways across the six counties were damaged by flooding and debris flows, isolating residents and communities at the peak. CDOT is working with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to repair state highways, but many county roads, municipal streets, culverts, and bridges were destroyed. Archuleta County estimates that 12 county-owned bridges are damaged beyond use.

In Conejos County, joint teams validated approximately $513,820.20 in damage, with County Roads G, J, and 16 identified as major losses. In Montezuma County, more than a dozen county roads are closed, and a sinkhole on County Road M will require long-term repair.

In Rio Grande County, the Escondida Drive Bridge in South Fork was damaged and reopened to one lane after inspection. Estimates to make roadway repairs within Rio Grande County total $149,000 across three separate jurisdictions.

Archuleta County and the Town of Pagosa Springs had major impacts to their roadways. During this event multiple culverts, roadways, and bridges were lost. For Archuleta County the road infrastructure is estimated to need $6,392,600; while the Town of Pagosa estimates their impacts to be $4,350,000.

In La Plata County similar impacts occurred to the roadway infrastructure. Multiple county maintained roads, culverts, and bridges were severely damaged. The estimation for repairs

within the county is $5,586,00 with the County's infrastructure making up $5,255,000 of that total.

Cost Estimate: $18,086,420.20

Category D: Water Control Facilities
Description of Damage
Flooding damaged water control facilities across the six counties, including headgates, overflow ditches, basins, and stormwater retention facilities. The Town of Mancos validated $180,000 of impacts to their facilities impacting drinking water. The Town of Ignacio and the Forest Lake Metropolitan District also experienced impacts to each jurisdiction's water control facilities. Validating $10,000 and $25,000 respectfully.

Cost Estimate: $215,000.00

Category E: Public Buildings and Contents
Description of Damage
Floodwater severely undermined the foundation of the Pagosa Springs Museum and Historical Site in the Town of Pagosa Springs, a historic and cultural facility. Operators rescued some of the museum's artifacts, but the building may need to be relocated, which could also affect the nearby historic water treatment facility. Preliminary damage is estimated at $200,000.

Archuleta County experienced impacts to their facilities throughout their jurisdiction. This includes multiple buildings and civic sites, totally $400,000.

Mineral County saw impacts to the mining museum, this underground facility ties the county's past to its present. It captures the locality's mining and firefighting history and operates as a civic center. Estimated repair to fix the facility is $135,636.

Cost Estimate: $795,636.00

Category F: Public Utilities
Description of Damage
Flooding damaged water and sewer systems throughout the impacted area. In the Town of Mancos, floodwater inundated wastewater pumps, aerators, ponds, and electrical systems, and four wastewater ponds failed. The cost to return these facilities to service is estimated at $125,000.

The Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation systems were damaged. The increased water flow and inundation led to $700,000. The Town of Pagosa also had damages to its publicly owned facilities. The Town estimates their systems require $1,000,000 in repair cost.

San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative reported approximately $200,000 in damage in Mineral County. They experienced loss of poles and lines in rural areas.

Cost Estimate: $2,225,000.00

Category G: Parks, Recreational, and Other Facilities

Description of Damage

Multiple publicly owned recreation facilities were impacted by the flood and debris flows. In the Town of Pagosa $770,000 of parks and recreation facilities were damaged by the flood. This includes publicly maintained infrastructure being washed down the river.

The City of Durango also experienced loss throughout their recreational facilities. Parks and trails were washed away by the flood while floating debris impacted buildings in the parks. The estimated total to complete repairs is $612,500.

Cost Estimate: $1,428,500.00

Additional entities and costs are anticipated to be added as further assessments take place in the impacted jurisdictions.

Request for Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

The State also requests the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) statewide. The communities in this request have flooded again and again. In October 2025, remnants of a tropical storm brought historic flooding to the San Juan basin and damaged roads, culverts, river recreation structures, and wastewater lines in and around Pagosa Springs. Almost exactly one year later, before those repairs were complete, the October 2026 storm sent the San Juan River at Pagosa Springs to 15.02 feet, more than two feet above the 2025 crest. Nine days later, on November 1, the river crested at 16.81 feet, its second-highest stage in more than 115 years of record. One week after that flooding ended, the November storm struck the same watersheds and the same neighborhoods. In many cases it hit the same roads, bridges, and utilities that crews had patched only days before. Pagosa Springs and the San Juan basin have now flooded three times in just over a year, and communities in the San Luis Valley and Montezuma County have flooded twice in two weeks.

Each of these floods has required local governments and the State to repair the same infrastructure and to shelter, house, and support residents of the same neighborhoods. Those neighborhoods include mobile home parks along the Animas River and low-lying areas of Pagosa Springs, Mancos, and Dolores. Repairing these facilities to their pre-disaster condition without reducing the hazard leaves them exposed to the next flood. The watersheds also remain primed for another event. Destabilized streambanks, sediment-filled channels, and debris lodged against bridges and culverts will keep flood and debris flow risk high for several seasons. DNR's Watershed Emergency Response Team expects that elevated risk to continue into future runoff seasons. Public Assistance, including Section 406 hazard mitigation, is essential for repairing damaged facilities, but it is limited to the facilities that were damaged. HMGP allows the State and its local partners to reduce risk across entire watersheds and to protect homes and neighborhoods that will otherwise flood again.

With HMGP funding, the State and its local partners will start with projects in the counties impacted by this disaster. Joint assessment teams identified mitigation needs at many damaged sites during the October assessments, including larger culverts at 5th Street, McCabe Creek, and

North Pagosa Boulevard in Pagosa Springs. They also identified bank stabilization along the San Juan River at 6th Street, Cotton Hole Park, and the River Walk, and replacement of aging corrugated metal sewer pipe. Other candidate projects include protecting the Mancos wastewater ponds from future flooding, hardening the river gauges that support flood warning, and reducing flood risk to mobile home parks along the Animas River and its tributaries through elevation, relocation, or acquisition.

Investing in mitigation now is the most effective way to reduce the need for federal assistance after the next flood. The National Institute of Building Sciences has found that mitigation funded through federal grants saves an average of $6 for every $1 invested. In southwest Colorado, each culvert that is upsized, each streambank that is stabilized, and each household moved out of harm's way lowers the likelihood of another Public Assistance project or Individual Assistance registration the next time these rivers rise. Without HMGP, these communities will keep repairing the same infrastructure and recovering the same households after each flood, and the federal government will keep sharing in that cost. HMGP is needed to break this cycle and carry mitigation to the scale the hazard demands.

3. LOCAL, STATE, AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL RESPONSE

My declaration for the southwest flooding and debris flows activated the State Emergency Operations Plan and triggered coordination through the SEOC. I authorized the Colorado National Guard to provide air, ground, and engineering assets and personnel for flood and debris flow response, evacuation, and search and rescue. At the peak of the November flooding, the Guard had 104 personnel, 49 high-clearance vehicles, and three aircraft in the field. Through November 13, it continued to support Archuleta County with high-clearance vehicles, welfare checks, delivery of food, water, and supplies to isolated residents, and transportation for assessment teams. Incident Management Teams supported county operations in Archuleta and La Plata Counties, and a Type 3 team continues to support Archuleta County as it shifts to recovery.

Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM) Field Operations staff deployed to the impacted counties to support each county's EOC operations and resource requests, and they remained in the counties through the JPDA. Recovery Liaisons deployed through EMAC were assigned to Archuleta, Conejos, La Plata, and Rio Grande Counties to support Disaster Assistance Centers, damage assessments, and local recovery planning. DHSEM staff worked closely with county staff to assess disaster-caused impacts and identify opportunities for assistance, including the following.

- Providing technical assistance and personnel for onsite and virtual damage assessments and community needs assessments.
- Conducting state verification reviews to validate information collected during initial damage assessments.
- Building local damage assessment capacity, including Crisis Track training for local teams, Division of Fire Prevention and Control helicopter support for aerial assessments, and Public Assistance technical assistance for counties, municipalities, and special districts on documentation and eligibility.

- Guiding counties and field teams in separating damage from the October and November incidents so that each is documented and reported under the correct incident.
- Mobilizing the State Recovery Task Force (SRTF), which C.R.S. § 24-33.5-705.1 makes a standing body and the State's lead clearinghouse for recovery operations. On November 11, 2026, the Director of the Office of Emergency Management mobilized the SRTF for the Southwest Colorado flooding and appointed leads for all six Recovery Support Functions (RSFs). The SRTF brings local, state, tribal, federal, and nongovernmental partners together across both flood events and routes survivor needs to the right agencies. Current lines of effort, and the gaps each one faces, are summarized below.
    - **Housing.** The Housing RSF, led by DOLA, is working toward my goal of stable winter housing for every displaced household by Thanksgiving. The tools available are limited. Donated stays through 211 Colorado and Airbnb.org end after 28 nights, local hotels and voluntary organizations can offer only short-term options, and rental housing in these rural counties was scarce before the floods. The State does not have a program that can provide rental assistance, home repair, or replacement housing at the scale this disaster requires. Without the Individuals and Households Program, many displaced families will have no stable place to live this winter.
    - **Health and Human Services.** The Health and Human Services RSF, co-led by CDPHE and CDHS, is working to keep survivors supplied with heat, food, water, and essential supplies through the winter. That includes firewood for the many Archuleta County homes that rely on wood as their primary heat source. Much of that support depends on donations and voluntary organizations that are already stretched. CDPHE is helping local public health agencies give residents consistent information on drinking water safety, particularly in Mancos, where residents were unsure whether their water was safe to drink or use for bathing. Rural public health agencies have limited capacity for private well testing and septic inspections, and county human services agencies have already exceeded their capacity to follow up with survivors. The State cannot provide crisis counseling or disaster case management at the scale this disaster requires, and survivors and responders facing their second recovery in a month need both.
    - **Infrastructure Systems.** The Infrastructure RSF is working to restore access to homes and essential services. CDOT is repairing state highways, but many residents remain cut off by damaged county roads and destroyed private roads and bridges, and a shortage of gravel and aggregate is slowing repairs. The RSF is working with DNR on that shortage, and the State has asked CDPHE to lead a Water and Wastewater Working Group focused on Mancos and Pagosa Springs. A Debris Working Group is coordinating debris removal and disposal across the impacted counties. These small jurisdictions cannot carry the cost of rebuilding their roads, bridges, and water systems on their own, and Public Assistance is needed to restore them. Private roads and bridges generally fall outside Public Assistance, and the Individuals and Households Program is one of the few resources that can help homeowners restore access to their homes.

    - **Natural and Cultural Resources.** The Natural and Cultural Resources RSF is organized through three working groups. The Agriculture Working Group, led by CDA and Colorado State University Extension, is assessing flooded fields and damaged irrigation ditches and headgates. The Watershed Emergency Response Team, led by DNR with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, is evaluating streambank erosion, sediment-filled channels, and the elevated flood and debris flow risk that will persist into future runoff seasons. The Cultural and Historic Resources Working Group, led by the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, is working to protect historic properties, archaeological sites, and community collections. This damage now spans two floods across several watersheds, and much of the repair work will depend on federal programs, including Emergency Watershed Protection and the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.
    - **Economic Recovery.** The Economic RSF, led by OEDIT with the Department of Labor and Employment and DOLA, is focused on business and tourism recovery. It is starting in Pagosa Springs, a tourism-dependent community that has flooded repeatedly over the past year. The RSF is coordinating small business support, workforce and reemployment assistance, and consumer protection for survivors at risk of contractor fraud and insurance underpayment. State programs cannot replace the income lost by workers whose jobs were interrupted. Many of them, including self-employed residents and seasonal workers, do not qualify for regular unemployment insurance. Disaster Unemployment Assistance and SBA disaster loans are needed to keep these households and businesses afloat until visitors and normal commerce return.
    - **Community Assistance.** The Community Assistance RSF, led by DOLA, is working to build survivor services capacity, develop philanthropic partnerships, and support the formation of Long-Term Recovery Groups with Colorado VOAD. Those groups are only beginning to form, and they will take months to build the case management and rebuilding capacity survivors need. Philanthropic support can fill some gaps, but it cannot replace a coordinated case management program across these communities. Disaster Case Management is needed to connect survivors with assistance now, while local recovery groups are being formed.
- Coordinating with federal partners on technical and financial solutions to disaster-caused impacts, including the following agencies and programs.
    - **U.S. Department of Agriculture.** Evaluating Emergency Watershed Protection assistance through the Natural Resources Conservation Service for streambank erosion and sediment-filled channels, Farm Service Agency disaster programs for producers with flooded fields and damaged irrigation infrastructure, and assistance through Rural Development.
    - **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.** Flew Archuleta County on November 9 to assess damage to critical infrastructure, supporting damage assessments of waterways and government infrastructure, and working with local partners to remove debris from the river in Montezuma County.

- **U.S. Small Business Administration.** SBA representatives joined each Individual Assistance JPDA team, and the State is sharing verified damage information with SBA to evaluate whether the impacted counties meet the criteria for an administrative declaration.
- **Federal Highway Administration.** Joined CDOT in assessing damage to federal-aid highways beginning November 10. Emergency Relief estimates for this incident are $40,000,000.

Voluntary organizations have been central to this response. Colorado VOAD has coordinated its member agencies across six counties, directing volunteers, donations, and cleanup teams to where they are needed most. 211 Colorado, operated by Mile High United Way, runs the temporary lodging partnership with Airbnb.org. Its staff followed up with households that reported access and functional needs and joined the Individual Assistance assessment teams in the field. During the November flooding alone, the American Red Cross operated five shelters, served more than 900 meals and 2,300 snacks, and distributed cleanup kits and supplies. It also began damage assessments so it can provide financial assistance to households whose homes were destroyed or heavily damaged. The Salvation Army provided a Voluntary Agency Liaison to the SEOC, and Team Rubicon and other cleanup organizations are mucking out and clearing homes. State, local, and voluntary partners staffed Disaster Assistance Centers in Archuleta, Conejos, La Plata, and Rio Grande Counties before they closed on November 11. The Archuleta County center recorded 368 visits, and the Conejos County center served 136 households and 332 people. La Plata and Rio Grande saw over 440 visitors seeking aid. Distribution points remain open in all four counties.

These organizations are stretched thin. Many of the same agencies spent the summer supporting survivors of this year's wildfires, including the Aspen Acres Fire, and they are now serving survivors of two floods at once. Volunteer cleanup teams cannot keep up with the number of requests. Colorado VOAD has warned that operating conditions will worsen and unmet needs will intensify as winter arrives. It has also asked volunteers not to self-deploy, because uncoordinated arrivals strain local resources that are already overextended. Voluntary and philanthropic support cannot fill this gap alone.

Local and State capacity was also committed before this incident began. County emergency managers have led the local response to both floods, working with DHSEM and county leaders to protect residents, report damage, and keep the public informed. To support them, Colorado has brought in EMAC personnel from at least five states, including Montana, New York, Pennsylvania, Utah, and Virginia, for a total of X personnel. Through EMAC, 18 Incident Management Team members have supported 70 local personnel since October 24 and are scheduled to demobilize on November 18. DHSEM has also exercised multiple contracts to support local and State operations. It requested aerial imagery support from FEMA Region 8, which the Region was unable to provide because of the extent of the impacts.

The State, local governments, and our voluntary partners have done everything within their means to protect lives and begin recovery, and we will continue to do so. We cannot sustain that effort at the level this disaster requires. The State has drawn on its emergency reserves, the

Colorado National Guard, mutual aid from other states, and contracted support, and it has organized all six Recovery Support Functions around the most urgent needs for the winter. Restoring roads, bridges, water systems, and homes across six rural counties is beyond what the State and these communities can absorb on their own. Federal assistance is essential to stabilize survivors through the winter and to help Archuleta, Conejos, La Plata, Mineral, Montezuma, and Rio Grande Counties through a recovery that will take years.

COLORADO'S DISASTER HISTORY

Since October 2025, Colorado has declared thirteen state disaster emergencies, including the declaration for the southwest flooding. Managing this continuous cycle has depleted state mutual aid reserves, strained rural volunteer emergency services, and drawn down state reserves.

The 2026 summer season placed significant demands on the State. Beginning in late June, more than a dozen fires ignited across Colorado. The Aspen Acres Fire, which grew to more than 102,000 acres, the Gold Mountain Fire, which reached more than 39,000 acres, and the Ferris Fire, which reached more than 64,000 acres, were among the fires that pulled resources from around the State through the summer. Those three fires alone required more than $110 million in state emergency funds. Over the past twelve months, the State has set aside $128,188,861 in state disaster funding to help communities respond to and recover from these events, before accounting for the southwest floods.

Table 4. State Funds Utilized For Disasters Since October 2025

Incident Name	Requested Assistance Date	Funds Transferred to the DEF
D 2025 021 - Western Colorado Flooding	10/12/2025	$6,000,000.00
D 2026 001 - Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Weld County	1/29/26	$200,000
D 2026 002 - Schwachheim Fire in Las Animas County	4/13/26	$3,759,000
D 2026 005 - Poitrey Canyon Fire in Las Animas County	4/25/26	$2,779,000
D 2026 007 - Sharpe Fire in Baca County	5/17/26	$259,000
D 2026 009 - Multiple fires in Mesa, Ouray, Lake, Custer, and Pueblo counties	6/27/26 - 6/29/26	$103,772,861
D 2026 010 - Sheep Head Fire in Huerfano County	6/29/26	$1,260,000
D 2026 011 - Ferris Fire in Dolores and Montezuma counties	7/8/26	$958,000

D 2026 012 - Green Ridge Fire in Routt County	7/12/26	$1,881,000
D 2026 016 - Indian Creek Fire in Jackson County	8/5/26	$1,094,000
D 2026 017 - 310 Fire in Garfield County	8/7/26	$1,193,000
D 2026 018 - Multiple fires in Las Animas County	8/13/26	$1,373,000
D 2026 014 - Aspen Acres and Gold Mountain Fires	8/21/26	Extends terms of D 2026 009 - no additional funds
D 2026 016 - Indian Creek Fire in Jackson County	8/5/26	$1,094,000
D 2026 017 - 310 Fire in Garfield County	8/7/26	$1,193,000
D 2026 018 - Post, Sheep Pen, High Fence, and Gotera Fires in Las Animas County	8/13/26	$1,373,000
Total spent by the State over the last twelve months: $128,188,861.00		

Compounding this statewide strain is the repeated damage sustained by communities in southwest Colorado. In October 2025, remnants of a tropical storm caused historic flooding in the San Juan basin, resulting in local declarations, a state declaration, and millions of dollars in damage to roads, culverts, river recreation structures, and wastewater lines. Almost exactly one year later, before those repairs were complete, the October 22 to 25, 2026 storm brought record flooding to the same communities. The San Juan River at Pagosa Springs crested at 15.02 feet on October 23, more than two feet above the 12.82-foot crest of October 14, 2025, and the Animas River above Cedar Hill and the Rio Grande at Monte Vista set new records. On October 31, I requested a Major Disaster Declaration for that incident, which is pending. One week after that flooding ended, the November storm broke both of those records again and sent the San Juan River to 16.81 feet, its second-highest stage in more than 115 years.

This region has been hit year after year, damaging the same communities and the same infrastructure repeatedly, and local capacity to absorb another response and recovery diminishes with each incident. A full history of state disaster declarations since July 2021 is attached.

This sequence of disasters has exhausted Colorado's emergency reserve funds, depleted local recovery budgets, and overextended mutual aid networks across the State. Our rural communities cannot absorb this disaster alone, and the State does not have the fiscal capacity to underwrite their recovery. Validated Public Assistance damage of $28.5 million already exceeds the statewide per capita indicator of $11,605,165.14, and that figure reflects only what joint teams could reach and validate. Extensive cut-off areas and tribal lands still await full assessment. For

these reasons, we urgently require federal assistance, and I respectfully request your expedited approval of a Presidential Major Disaster Declaration.

Certification and Appointments

I certify that for this major disaster, the State of Colorado and local governments will assume all applicable non-federal shared costs as required by the Stafford Act. *The State of Colorado anticipates the need for debris removal operations as well. Pursuant to sections 403 and 407 of the Stafford Act, 42 U.S.C §§ 5170b and 5173, the State agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the United States of America for any claims arising from the removal of debris or wreckage from this disaster to the extent permitted by law. The State agrees that eligible debris removal from public and private property will not occur until the landowner signs an unconditional authorization for the removal of debris.*

I designate Kevin R. Klein, Director of the Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, as the Governor's Authorized Representative, and Trevor Denney, Director of the Colorado Office of Emergency Management, as the State Coordinating Officer for this request. They will work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and provide further information or justification on my behalf.

Sincerely,



Jared Polis
Governor

Attachments

OMB No. 1660-0009/FEMA Form 010-0-13
Enclosure A: Individual Assistance
Enclosure B: Public Assistance
Enclosure C: Other Federal Agency Programs
State Declared Disaster History

State Declared Disaster History

In the past five years, Colorado has declared 54 disasters, as listed below. Full details on each declaration can be found here. Those in bold resulted in a Presidential Major Disaster Declaration.

- 2021 (July - Dec)
  - D 2021 064 - Severe Winter Weather Conditions in Colorado
  - **D 2020 003 and related amendments and extensions - Presence of Coronavirus Disease 2019 in Colorado**
  - D 2021 123 - Muddy Slide Fire in Routt County
  - D 2021 126 - Interstate 70 Disruptions from Flooding, Mudslides, and Debris Flow
  - D 2021 127 - Burn Scar Flooding, Mudslides, and Rockslides in Multiple Counties
- 2022
  - **D 2022 004 - Marshall Fire and Straight-Line Winds in Boulder County**
  - D 2022 019 - Bent's Fort and Fort Lyons Fires in Otero and Bent Counties
  - D 2022 022 - Declaring and Extending a Disaster Emergency Due to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza
  - D 2022 024 - High Park Fire in Teller County
  - D 2022 025 - Ute Pass Fire in La Plata County
  - D 2022 030 - Menkhaven Fire in Conejos County
  - D 2022 039 - Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza
- 2023
  - D 2023 002 - Extreme Cold Temperatures Throughout Colorado
  - D 2023 003 - Declaring a Disaster Emergency Due to the Fuel Supply Chain Risk
  - D 2023 010 - Gageby Creek Fire in Bent County
  - **D 2023 011/019 - June 2023 Severe Weather and Flooding in Arapahoe, Cheyenne, Douglas, El Paso, Elbert, Kit Carson, Lincoln, Logan, Baca, Jefferson, Kiowa, Prowers, Teller and Washington Counties**
  - D 2023 012 - Spring Creek Fire in Garfield County
  - D 2023 013 - Titan Fire in Las Animas County
  - D 2023 015 - Lowline Fire in Gunnison County
  - D 2023 021 - Iron Fire in Moffat County
  - D 2023 022 - Hazardous Materials Incident in Fremont County
- 2024
  - D 2024 002 - Extreme Cold Temperatures Throughout Colorado
  - D 2024 006 - U.S. 50 Blue Mesa Middle Bridge Closure in Gunnison, Hinsdale, and Montrose Counties
  - D 2024 008 - Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Weld County
  - D 2024 010 - Currant Creek Fire in Delta County
  - D 2024 011 - Alexander Mountain Fire in Larimer County
  - D 2024 012 - Stone Mountain Fire in Boulder and Larimer Counties
  - D 2024 013 - Quarry Fire in Jefferson County
  - D 2024 014 - Flooding and Debris Flow in Ouray County

    - D 2024 016 - Pearl Fire in Larimer County
    - D 2024 017 - Hurricane Milton
    - D 2024 018 - Extreme Winter Storm Throughout Colorado
- 2025
    - D 2025 010 - Declaring a Disaster Emergency Due to a Severe Weather Event Resulting in Dangerous Fire Conditions in Delta, Mesa, and Montrose Counties
    - D 2025 012 - Early Wildfire Response and Reduce Fire Risk
    - D 2025 013 - HazMat Incident in Pueblo County
    - D 2025 015 - Elk and Lee Fires in Rio Blanco and Garfield Counties
    - D 2025 016 - Leroux Fire in Delta County
    - D 2025 017 - Oak Fire in Archuleta County
    - D 2025 018 - Crosho Fire in Rio Blanco and Routt Counties
    - D 2025 021 - Western Colorado Flooding
- 2026
    - D 2026 001 - Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Weld County
    - D 2026 002 - Schwachheim Fire in Las Animas County
    - D 2026 005 - Poitrey Canyon Fire in Baca County
    - D 2026 007 - Sharpe Fire in Baca County
    - **D 2026 009 - Multiple fires in Mesa, Ouray, Lake, Custer, and Pueblo counties**
    - D 2026 010 - Sheep Head Fire in Huerfano County
    - **D 2026 011 - Ferris Fire in Dolores and Montezuma counties**
    - D 2026 012 - Green Ridge Fire in Routt County
    - **D 2026 014 - Aspen Acres and Gold Mountain Fires**
    - D 2026 016 - Indian Creek Fire in Jackson County
    - D 2026 017 - 310 Fire in Garfield County
    - D 2026 018- Multiple fires in Las Animas County
    - October Flooding in SW and SLV (executive order number to be assigned)
    - November Flooding and SLV (executive order number to be assigned)