



HURRICANE



TORNADO



WILDFIRE



FLOOD

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The 2010 Gulf County Local Mitigation Strategy was prepared by the Gulf County LMS Task Force with support from the Disaster Resistant Communities Group.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Gulf County is threatened by a number of different types of natural, technological, and societal or man-made hazards. These hazards endanger the health and safety of the population of the county, jeopardize its economic vitality, and imperil the quality of its environment. Because of the importance of averting or minimizing the vulnerabilities to these hazards, the public and private sector interests of Port St. Joe, Wewahitchka, and Gulf County have joined together to create a task force to undertake a comprehensive planning process that has culminated in the publication of this document: “Gulf County Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS).”

This task force, entitled the Gulf County LMS Task Force, has conducted detailed studies to identify the hazards threatening the jurisdictions of Port St. Joe, Wewahitchka, and unincorporated Gulf County and to estimate the relative risks posed to the community by those hazards. This information has been used by the Task Force to assess the vulnerabilities of the facilities and jurisdictions of the county to the impacts of future disasters involving those hazards. With these identified, the Task Force has worked to identify proposed projects and programs that will avoid or minimize these vulnerabilities to make the communities of the county much more resistant to the impacts of future disasters.

These proposed projects and programs aimed at reducing the impacts of future disasters are termed “mitigation initiatives” in this document. Mitigation initiatives have been developed and will continue to be proposed by the Task Force for implementation whenever the resources to do so become available. It is important to note that this mitigation list is not finalized. The list of mitigation initiatives will and should evolve as projects are undertaken and completed, as future disasters affect the county and new needs are identified, and as local priorities change. As the mitigation initiatives identified in this plan are implemented, step-by-step, the county will become a more “disaster resistant” community.

This document details the work of the Gulf County LMS Task Force to develop and maintain the planning organization, to undertake technical analyses and to coordinate the mitigation initiatives that have been proposed by the participating jurisdictions and organizations.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Florida Department of Community Affairs (DCA) require that this document be adopted by the governing bodies of Port St. Joe, Wewahitchka, and Gulf County. Adoption of the Gulf County LMS by the City and County Commissions will not have any legal effect on the Comprehensive Plan or any other legally binding documents. However, adoption of the LMS will give the county and its jurisdictions priority with respect to funding for disaster recovery and hazard mitigation from state and federal sources. Through publication of this local mitigation strategy, the Task Force continues to solicit the involvement of the



entire community to make the people, neighborhoods, businesses, and institutions of Gulf County safer from the impacts of future disasters.



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