



Petersburg Area Acquisition

Full Mitigation Best Practice Story

Grant County, West Virginia

Cabins, WV - Rapid snow melts and heavy rains caused this area of West Virginia to suffer flood damages in 1949, 1985, and three times in 1996. Each subsequent event caused damages of increasing measures to residential properties. The September 1996 flood caused a great amount of damage in this area, and one family's home was completely washed away.



The Grant County Commission acquired and demolished two, flood-prone residential structures: a two-story brick residence and a one-story wood frame home, plus the vacant land between them.

After the man-made structures were removed, the vacant land was landscaped to meet the adjacent contours, and seeds and straw were applied to retard erosion. Deed restrictions require that the land remains as open space in perpetuity to block future development in this area of the floodplain. The State Department of Natural Resources is planning to use this area for stream access, which is well within the guidelines for land use in the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Acquisition Program.

Losses from the November 1996 event totaled \$101,000 for these two residences. Additionally, one entire residence was washed away during this event, representing another \$50,000. Cost saving from not having to deploy emergency services personnel in the future, while not measured in exact dollars, is significant.

Standard Homeowner's insurance policies do not cover flood damage. The National Flood Insurance Program makes Federally backed flood insurance available to homeowners, renters, and business owners in participating communities.

Activity/Project Location

Geographical Area: **Single County (County-wide)**

FEMA Region: **Region III**

State: **West Virginia**

County: **Grant County**

Key Activity/Project Information

Sector: **Public**

Hazard Type: **Flooding**

Activity/Project Type: **Acquisition/Buyouts; Flood Control**

Activity/Project Start Date: **07/1998**

Activity/Project End Date: **12/1998**

Funding Source: **Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP); Local Sources; State sources**

Funding Recipient: **Local Government**

Funding Recipient Name: **Grant County Commission**

Activity/Project Economic Analysis

Cost: **\$196,393.00 (Estimated)**

Activity/Project Disaster Information

Mitigation Resulted From Federal
Disaster? **Yes**

Federal Disaster #: **1137 , 09/11/1996**

Value Tested By Disaster? **No**

Repetitive Loss Property? **Unknown**

Reference URLs

Reference URL 1: <http://www.fema.gov/business/nfip/>

Reference URL 2: <http://www.wvs.state.wv.us/wvoes/>

Main Points

- After the man-made structures were removed, the vacant land was landscaped to meet the adjacent contours, and seeds and straw were applied to retard erosion.
- Deed restrictions require that the land remains as open space in perpetuity to block future development in this area of the floodplain.
- Cost saving from not having to deploy emergency services personnel in the future, while not measured in exact dollars, is significant.