



The Custer County Miles City (CCMC) Flood Protection project is a cooperative effort between the City of Miles City and surrounding Custer County to reduce flood risk and the burden of ever increasing flood insurance costs with the completion of a new levee structure.



## CURRENT CONDITION:

- Almost 80% of residences and businesses in Miles City are located within the natural floodplain or floodway at the confluence of the Yellowstone and Tongue Rivers.
- In addition to the obvious flood risk and the potential for large scale property and critical infrastructure damage, citizens of Miles City pay substantial flood insurance premiums, representing approximately 23% of ALL flood insurance policies in Montana, a total of just over \$625,000 annually (2015). It is anticipated that by the year 2020, the total amount leaving Miles City annually in flood insurance premiums will exceed 1.2 million dollars.
- Miles City is the business, educational, and medical hub of eastern Montana. A flood event in Miles City would be catastrophic not just to the town, but to the entire region.

## ACTIONS TAKEN OR ONGOING:

- After careful consideration and discussion with the USACE, work on the Section 205 is being temporarily discontinued for FY2019-2020. The two primary reasons for this decision are related to fiscal priorities for the City and staff availability within USACE. As is the case in many small Montana municipalities, there are not adequate infrastructure funding resources to address all community needs, forcing communities to prioritize infrastructure improvements regularly. Miles City fire facilities are in need of immediate repair/rebuilding. Public safety is of utmost importance to Miles City officials, and, as a result, in order to address these needs, funds that would otherwise be allocated to meet match requirements for the Section 205, will be utilized to address fire station and other immediate infrastructure needs. The decision to postpone completion of the Section 205 was met with agreement from USACE, both because the agency fully understands the struggle of communities to meet matching fund requirements, but also because the hydrologist assigned to the Miles City project has been temporarily re-assigned to several areas in which there has been a disaster declaration requiring immediate USACE response. The CCMC Regional Flood Protection Project continues to be of critical importance. It is the sincere hope of CCMC Steering Committee, the community and USACE that work will resume in the summer of 2020.

## WHAT'S NEXT?

- Despite the temporary discontinuation of work on the Section 205, work on the Miles City slough continues this summer and fall. The City of Miles City was awarded a pre-disaster mitigation grant from FEMA that will allow for continued work on assessment of the slough for rehabilitation and use in storm water management and internal drainage. This is a critical piece of the overall flood mitigation strategy and will allow the City to determine the full rehabilitation needs and a plan for implementation.