LINCOLN COUNTY MONTANA

Floodplain Permitting

Planning Department
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https://lincolncountymt.us/planning-homepage/

Why is a Floodplain Permit Needed?

If you live in or near a Regulatory Flood Hazard Area (RFHA), a floodplain permit may be required before you start any manmade construction or development activity. Examples include excavation, streambank repairs, home improvements, building new structures or fences, culvert, bridge or irrigation improvements. Other projects may also trigger a permit.

Prior to starting any project, it is recommended you **contact the Lincoln County Floodplain Administrator (FPA)** or check the Lincoln County Floodplain Hazard Management Regulations (ordinance) at: https://lincolncountymt.us/planning-homepage/floodplains.

Lincoln County's floodplain ordinance was originally adopted in 1978 and updated on August 10, 2022.

Submitting a floodplain application allows the Lincoln County FPA to review your project to ensure it is built in compliance with local, state and federal regulations and won't have an adverse impact on neighbors, upstream or downstream users.

Permit Application Process

- Determine if your project is located in or near the RFHA.
- Fill out the joint stream permit application describing your project. The application can be downloaded from the Lincoln County website or https://dnrc.mt.gov/licenses-and-permits/stream-permitting/
- Contact the Lincoln County Planning Office to discuss your plans. Early conversations with our Floodplain Administrator and County staff will help the process move forward.
- You may be required to obtain additional permits from other agencies. The joint stream permit application can be copied and submitted to multiple agencies, easing the burden on you. More information is available at the DNRC website: www.https://dnrc.mt.gov/Water-Resources/Floodplains/Permitting-and-Regulations.
- Your application may require supporting data which may involve hiring a surveyor or engineer.
- Submit the complete application, with applicable fee, to Lincoln County Planning Department.
- Once you have submitted a complete application, it will be reviewed according to County Regulations. When a permit is issued, it will detail the conditions of the permit and timeline for the work.

How can I tell if I am located in or near a mapped floodplain?



Check online at FEMA's Map Service Center at: *https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home*

You can type in your property address and view a digital map. If you live in an area without recent maps or need help, please contact the Lincoln County FPA.

Why are floodplain regulations necessary?

Lincoln County participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) which allows renters, property and business owners access to flood insurance, disaster and mitigation assistance, and federally backed mortgages. The goal of the NFIP and local floodplain programs is to reduce flood losses, damages, and life and business interruptions.

Developing or building in a regulatory flood hazard area without a floodplain permit may result in compliance or enforcement issues and the costly removal or reconstruction of unpermitted development. Unpermitted structures may be subject to higher flood insurance rates.

Lincoln County regularly inspects the regulatory floodplain. Property owners with unpermitted development will be notified and must work with the County to bring their property into compliance.

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is managed by the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) and administered and managed locally by Lincoln County. .