Southwest Arkansas Planning and Development District

NEVADA COUNTY

Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan

2026 Update

Draft for Public Review and Comment: October 16 through November 15, 2026

Prepared to meet the FEMA Local Mitigation Planning Policy Guide (FP-206-21-0002, effective April 11, 2025)

Participating Jurisdictions

Nevada County (Unincorporated) | Bluff City | Bodcaw | Cale | Emmet | Prescott | Rosston | Willisville
Nevada County School District | Prescott School District

SECTION 1: PLANNING PROCESS

Plan Introduction

Hazards are a part of everyday life. Floods, tornadoes, severe storms, winter storms, and other events are largely beyond human control, and they can damage the environment, the economy, and the people of a community. While the natural environment tends to recover from these events, the homes, businesses, roads, and infrastructure that people depend on do not recover so easily, and the cost in time and money can be enormous.

There is no way to prevent these events from happening, but there are many ways to reduce the risks they pose. Hazard mitigation is any sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk to life and property from a hazard event. It is the foundation of emergency management, because it works to lessen vulnerability before a disaster rather than only responding after one. This plan identifies the hazards that threaten Nevada County, assesses the risk each one poses to each jurisdiction, and sets out a strategy of mitigation actions to reduce those risks over time.

Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000

The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 created a pre-disaster mitigation program and new requirements for the national post-disaster Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). It requires states and communities to have a FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plan in place before they can receive certain post-disaster HMGP funds. Adopting this plan increases Nevada County's eligibility for assistance from FEMA's Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) program and earns participating jurisdictions credit under FEMA's Community Rating System, which lowers National Flood Insurance Program premiums for residents. Most importantly, by identifying problems and solutions before a disaster strikes, the participating jurisdictions will be in a stronger position to recover quickly and wisely.

The goals of this Nevada County Hazard Mitigation Plan are to:

- Goal 1: Decrease the amount of fatalities and injuries due to hazards.
- Goal 2: Provide a framework and coordination to encourage all levels of government and public and private organizations to undertake mitigation, and to employ mitigation in the recovery following disasters.
- Goal 3: Ensure the continuity of State and Federal government grants for mitigation projects.
- Goal 4: Protect existing and future properties from natural disasters.

Purpose

Nevada County initiated this hazard mitigation planning process by securing FEMA HMGP grant funding to complete the plan, and contracted with the Southwest Arkansas Planning and Development District (Southwest Arkansas PDD) to author it. The Nevada County Office of Emergency Management and Southwest Arkansas PDD, assisted by the Prescott-Nevada County Partnership, worked together to engage the county, the cities, the school districts, and the public throughout the process.

Parts of the Plan

The Nevada County Hazard Mitigation Plan is divided into sections that address FEMA's requirements for a local multi-jurisdictional plan:

- Planning Process
- Planning Area and Resources
- Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment
- Mitigation Strategy
- Acronyms
- Plan Adoption

This plan is multi-jurisdictional. The planning area includes all of unincorporated Nevada County and the cities of Bluff City, Bodcaw, Cale, Emmet, Prescott, Rosston, and Willisville, along with the Nevada County School District and the Prescott School District. All of these jurisdictions participated in the planning process from the beginning.

The Planning Committee

The planning committee is made up of representatives from each incorporated city, both school districts, and the county's emergency services and local government. The Nevada County Office of Emergency Management Coordinator led the planning effort, with Southwest Arkansas PDD serving as facilitator and author and the Prescott-Nevada County Partnership assisting with local coordination. The committee members for this update are listed below.

Name	Title / Role
Mark Glass; Mike Otwell (current)	Nevada County Judge
Danny Martin	Nevada County Sheriff
Ann Jordan	Chief, Prescott Police Department
Jim Cross; David Gummeson (current)	Office of Emergency Services Coordinator
Regina Izzard	Nevada County Quorum Court
Terry Oliver	Mayor, City of Prescott
Dale Booker; Ottis Otwell (current)	Mayor of Emmet / County 911 Coordinator
Pamela Purifoy	Mayor of Bluff City
James Pennington; Cristy Burney (current)	Mayor of Willisville
Dale Quarles	Mayor of Rosston
Kim Hernandez	Mayor of Bodcaw
William Warlow	Mayor of Cale
David Gummeson	Prescott Fire Chief
Jake Cornelius	Prescott Electrical Superintendent
Perry Nelson	Prescott Water & Sewer Superintendent
Chris Hopper	Prescott Streets Superintendent
Jacob Russel	River & Water Plant Manager
Russ Ghormley	Nevada County Road Foreman

Jeff Loe	Nevada County Rock Quarry Manager
Stacey Stone	Nevada County Extension Agent
Austin Beavers	Nevada County Rescue
Clay Hobbs	Chief Operating Officer, Pafford EMS (Hope)
Robert Hauger	White Oak Lake State Park Superintendent
Larry Smith	Superintendent, Prescott School District
Roy McCoy	Superintendent, Nevada County School District

Names shown with "(current)" reflect changes in office since the committee was first seated in 2022; the roster was reconfirmed with the Office of Emergency Management in July 2026. Local officials change with each election cycle, and the committee will be reconstituted at the start of each update.

Involvement of Local Governments

The planning committee was made up of representatives from each incorporated city, both school districts, and members of emergency services and local government in Nevada County. Because Nevada County is a small, rural planning area, participation for this update was coordinated primarily through the Nevada County Office of Emergency Management and Southwest Arkansas PDD rather than through large group meetings. The OEM Coordinator and Southwest Arkansas PDD worked individually with each participating jurisdiction and school district by phone, email, and one-on-one meetings between June and September 2026. Each jurisdiction documented its participation by completing a capabilities and hazard questionnaire, and each mayor and superintendent reviewed the draft plan for its own community.

The OEM Coordinator, who also serves as the county Fire Service Coordinator and as floodplain administrator for the county and its cities, provided critical-facility locations, fire department staffing, the list of county roads that flood, and the status of each mitigation action from the previous plan. The Prescott-Nevada County Partnership, the county's economic development organization, assisted Southwest Arkansas PDD in coordinating with local officials and in identifying new development in the county. The original risk-assessment and mitigation-strategy meeting of the committee was held on April 20, 2022, and the sign-in sheet is retained in Appendix B; the 2026 one-on-one coordination built on that work.

Public Involvement

Public participation was sought throughout the process. A public notice inviting citizen input on the plan and its mitigation strategies was published through SWARK Today in April 2023, and a community mitigation survey was promoted through the county's Facebook page; completed survey packets were returned from Emmet, Rosston, Prescott and Nevada County, and the Nevada County School Board. The planning process was presented to the Emmet City Council on February 16, 2023, and to the Prescott City Council on March 20, 2023, with questions taken after each presentation.

For this update, the draft plan is made available for a 30-day public review and comment period from October 16, 2026 through November 15, 2026, online at https://southwestar.org/hazard and through a link on the Prescott-Nevada County Partnership website at pnpartnership.org, where the full draft is posted for the entire period. Notice of the comment period is posted on both websites and shared through the county's, the cities', and the school districts' social media pages, and residents without internet access may request a copy from the Nevada County Office of Emergency Management. Comments received and how each was addressed are documented in Appendix B, along with the notices, survey materials, and sign-in sheet.

Neighboring Community Involvement

Neighboring jurisdictions and counties were invited to participate during the public comment period and were notified of the review. Nevada County is bordered by Pike and Clark counties to the north, Ouachita County to the east, Columbia and Lafayette counties to the south, and Hempstead County to the west, and coordination with these neighbors is built into the plan maintenance process.

The planning process also sought input from private-sector and institutional stakeholders whose facilities and workforce are significant assets at risk in the county. The county's major employers, Pafford EMS, the two long-term care facilities in Prescott, the electric and water utilities serving the county, and the Prescott-Nevada County Partnership were invited to review the draft plan and comment through the public review process, and their facilities are reflected in the critical-infrastructure and vulnerability analyses.

The planning committee used several technical documents as guidance:

- The 2023 State of Arkansas Hazard Mitigation Plan, as a guidance tool in developing this plan.
- The Nevada County Emergency Operations Plan, to understand how the county responds to emergencies and to identify critical facilities.
- The Southwest Arkansas PDD Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, to incorporate disaster and resiliency considerations into the mitigation actions.

Review and incorporation of existing plans, studies, and reports (Element A4). Beyond listing the sources consulted, the committee documented how each was incorporated. The 2023 Arkansas State Hazard Mitigation Plan informed the hazard list, the landslide screen-out, and the goal structure in the mitigation strategy. The Nevada County Emergency Operations Plan informed the capability assessment and the warning, evacuation, and response actions in the strategy. The FEMA National Risk Index and the county data pulls (FEMA disaster declarations, NOAA Storm Events, the USACE National Inventory of Dams, and the effective FIRM flood mapping) were incorporated directly into the hazard profiles, loss estimates, and risk-assessment tables in the planning-area and hazard sections. The Southwest Arkansas PDD Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy informed the development-trend and capability discussion and the plan-integration commitments. The previous Nevada County Hazard Mitigation Plan was reviewed for its jurisdiction list, prior mitigation actions and their status, and capabilities, all carried forward into this update.

Plan Maintenance Process

Monitoring, Evaluating, and Updating the Plan

Nevada County has established a process to monitor, evaluate, and update this plan annually, with a full re-evaluation every five years. The Office of Emergency Management Coordinator serves as the leader of the planning committee, which is composed of the mayors, the county judge, law enforcement and fire officials, the school superintendents, the tax assessor, and the OEM Coordinator. The coordinator is responsible for convening the committee, assigning meeting dates, and ensuring each jurisdiction is represented. Monitoring is carried out by collecting updates from each jurisdiction on the progress and effectiveness of mitigation actions.

Annual Review Meeting

During the annual review meeting, the committee will:

- Amend the plan by adding any events or disasters that occurred in the previous year.
- Discuss events that may have changed the vulnerability of each jurisdiction, and review those hazards.
- Receive a report from one representative of each jurisdiction on local changes and the status of mitigation actions.
- Reevaluate mitigation actions to determine the effectiveness of each strategy.
- Update mitigation strategies based on the reevaluation and on any projects completed.

After the annual meeting, the Nevada County Office of Emergency Management has three months to update the plan before sending it to the planning committee and the State Hazard Mitigation Officer. All documentation from the meetings and revisions is kept by the Office of Emergency Management.

Five-Year Re-evaluation Meeting

At the five-year re-evaluation, the committee will address all the topics of the annual meeting and also:

- Renew demographic information and data.
- Add any new ordinances and codes that have been created.
- Update the risk analysis.
- Include new mitigation strategies chosen by each jurisdiction.
- Review changes in each jurisdiction's priorities.
- Account for conditions that may change risk, such as population change or climate trends.

After the five-year meeting, the Office of Emergency Management updates the plan and sends it to the planning committee and the State Hazard Mitigation Officer for review by ADEM and FEMA.

Continued Public Participation

Nevada County is committed to involving the public in the ongoing maintenance of this plan. Copies of the approved plan will be kept at the cities of Bluff City, Bodcaw, Cale, Emmet, Prescott, Rosston, and Willisville, at the Nevada County School District and Prescott School District, at the public library, and at the Nevada County Courthouse and OEM and County Judge's offices in Prescott. The plan includes the contact information for the OEM Coordinator, the primary point of contact for any questions. Before each public hearing where the committee reviews the full plan, a public invitation is issued to all interested parties so residents can share concerns, opinions, and ideas. A copy of the

FEMA-approved plan will be made available on the Southwest Arkansas PDD hazard mitigation website (https://southwestar.org/hazard) and the Nevada County website (https://pnpartnership.org).

Incorporation into Existing Planning Mechanisms

Each participating jurisdiction will integrate this plan through the following process: at the next scheduled update of each mechanism identified in the table below, the responsible party will incorporate this plan's hazard data, vulnerability findings, and mitigation actions, and will report progress to the Office of Emergency Management at the annual review. The mechanisms and responsible parties for each participant are:

Participant	Planning mechanism(s)	Responsible party	Integration process and timing
Nevada County	County Emergency Operations Plan; annual county budget and road-department work plan; floodplain development permitting; grant applications (HMGP, BRIC, FMA, state programs)	County Judge; OEM Coordinator (also floodplain administrator)	OEM incorporates hazard data and actions at the next EOP revision; the Quorum Court considers funded actions at each annual budget; reviewed at the annual plan meeting.
City of Bluff City	Annual city budget; council resolutions; future NFIP enrollment	Mayor and City Council	Council reviews the plan's actions for Bluff City at budget time each year; NFIP enrollment considered as a council action; progress reported to OEM annually.
City of Bodcaw	Annual city budget; floodplain development permitting; council resolutions	Mayor (with the county floodplain administrator)	Actions reviewed at the annual budget; floodplain permits reviewed against the effective map; progress reported to OEM annually.

City of Cale	Annual city budget; council resolutions; future NFIP enrollment	Mayor and City Council	Council reviews Cale's actions at budget time; NFIP enrollment considered as a council action; progress reported to OEM annually.
City of Emmet	Annual city budget; floodplain development permitting; water and sewer capital planning; council resolutions	Mayor (with the county floodplain administrator)	Actions and utility hardening reviewed at the annual budget; floodplain permits reviewed against the effective map; progress reported to OEM annually.
City of Prescott	Annual city budget; building code enforcement; floodplain development permitting; Prescott Water & Light capital planning; street and drainage work plan	Mayor, City Council, and department superintendents	Drainage, utility, and safe-room actions carried into the city budget and utility capital plans; permits reviewed against the effective map and building code; progress reported to OEM annually.
City of Rosston	Annual city budget; floodplain development permitting; Rosston Water capital planning; council resolutions	Mayor (with the county floodplain administrator)	Actions reviewed at the annual budget; water-system hardening carried in utility planning; progress reported to OEM annually.
City of Willisville	Annual city budget; City of Willisville water-system planning; council	Mayor and City Council	Actions reviewed at the annual budget; NFIP enrollment considered as a

	resolutions; future NFIP enrollment		council action; progress reported to OEM annually.
Nevada County School District	District Crisis Plan (tornado, severe storm, flood, fire, lockdown, evacuation); facilities planning; annual district budget; school board resolutions	Superintendent and School Board	Board adopts the plan; safe-room, generator, and drill actions carried into the Crisis Plan review and facilities planning; progress reported to OEM annually.
Prescott School District	Campus emergency and drill plans (fire, tornado, earthquake, lockdown, evacuation); facilities planning; annual district budget; school board resolutions	Superintendent and School Board	Board adopts the plan; safe-room and generator actions carried into facilities planning and the annual budget; drill plans updated each school year; progress reported to OEM annually.

Once approved and adopted, each participant will also use the plan when preparing grant applications, when reviewing development in mapped flood zones, and when budgeting for the mitigation actions it selected in Section 4. The Office of Emergency Management tracks each participant's integration progress at the annual review and reports it in the next five-year update.

Overall Update

This update reflects the disasters and conditions that have affected the planning area since the previous plan, including the federal disaster declarations and recorded events documented in Section 3. The hazard profiles, risk assessment, and loss estimate have been updated with current data through 2026, the dam inventory and National Flood Insurance Program information have been corrected and verified, and the mitigation actions from the previous plan have been carried forward with the status reported by the Office of Emergency Management in July 2026. The previous plan had expired and was not being actively implemented; the jurisdictions intend to integrate this updated plan into their planning mechanisms once it is approved and adopted.

Changes in Development (Element E1)

Nevada County's population declined from 8,997 at the 2010 Census to 8,310 at the 2020 Census, and no significant residential growth has occurred in hazard-prone areas since the previous plan. Public investment since 2016, compiled by the Prescott-Nevada County Partnership, totals about $55 million and is concentrated on the Prescott School District's Martin Street campuses (a new junior high in 2016, agriculture and vocational buildings in 2017 and 2018, a 562-kilowatt solar field in 2022, a new 45,381-square-foot elementary school in 2022, and a 25,311-square-foot health and physical education center in 2023, together about $30 million), the combined Nevada County Sheriff's Office and 80-bed Detention Center opened in June 2016 (28,000 square feet, $6.9 million), countywide fiber broadband built largely in 2023 and 2024 ($14 million), the Prairie D'Ane (838 acres, 2017) and Elkins Ferry (441 acres, 2016) Civil War battlefield parks, a 240-foot AT&T cell tower on Moores Highway (2021), a Prescott water line improvement on Highway 37 West (2024), the Greenlawn, West Olive, and Whiteside street overlay in Prescott (2022), and a rabbit barn at the Nevada County Fairgrounds (2021). The most significant private development is along the Interstate 30 corridor at Prescott, where a second Love's Travel Stop opened on September 21, 2023 at Interstate 30 and Highway 19 North (more than 13,000 square feet, 84 truck parking spaces, a truck wash, and 112 jobs). Other changes since the previous plan include the closure of the former McRae Middle School campus, with Prescott students consolidated on Martin Street, and the 2024 transfer of the nearest hospital, at Hope in Hempstead County, to Pafford Health Systems as Southwest Arkansas Regional Medical Center, a 25-bed critical access hospital. None of these projects placed a new critical facility inside the mapped Special Flood Hazard Area; the school campuses, jail, and travel stop all sit on upland ground. The county's vulnerability has therefore not increased through construction in flood zones, but the concentration of new high-value public buildings on the Martin Street campuses and of commercial traffic at the I-30 interchanges raises the consequence of a tornado or ice storm in Prescott, which is why the safe-room and generator actions for Prescott and the Prescott School District carry High priority. The two battlefield parks add 1,279 acres of managed grassland and timber at the wildland-urban interface north of Prescott.

Year	Project	Location	Size and investment
2016	Nevada County Sheriff's Office and Detention Center	209 East 3rd Street, Prescott	28,000 sq ft; $6,900,000; 20 jobs
2016	Prescott Junior High School	736 Martin Street, Prescott	$9,579,240; 33 jobs
2016	Elkins Ferry Civil War Battlefield	Nevada County Road 37	441 acres; $1,013,007
2017	Prairie D'Ane Battlefield	2243 Highway 19 North, Prescott	838 acres; $1,313,240
2017	Prescott School District agricultural building	Martin Avenue, Prescott	9,038 sq ft; $2,223,348
2018	Prescott School District agriculture/vocational	Martin Street, Prescott	3,200 sq ft; $43,686

	building		
2021	AT&T cell tower	Moores Highway, Prescott	240 feet; $700,000
2021	Nevada County Fair rabbit barn	Highway 67 South, Prescott	625 sq ft; $30,000
2022	Prescott Elementary School (new building)	Martin Avenue, Prescott	45,381 sq ft; $12,549,825; 36 jobs
2022	Prescott School District solar field	Garland Street, Prescott	562 kW; $2,000,000
2022	Prescott street overlay (Greenlawn, West Olive, Whiteside)	Prescott	1 mile; $300,000
2023	Prescott School District Health and PE Center	Martin Street, Prescott	25,311 sq ft; $3,735,906; 10 jobs
2023	Love's Travel Stop (second Prescott location)	I-30 and Highway 19 North, Prescott	13,000+ sq ft; 84 truck spaces; 112 jobs
2024	Prescott water line improvement (AEDC)	Highway 37 West, Prescott	1 mile; $698,845
2016-2025	Nevada County fiber broadband (most built 2023-2024)	Countywide	$14,000,000

Public and major private facilities opened in Nevada County since the previous plan, 2016-2025. Source: Prescott-Nevada County Partnership, October 2026; Love's Travel Stops.

Changes in Community Priorities (Element E2)

Community priorities shifted in three ways during this update. First, extreme heat and earthquake, which the previous plan did not profile, are now profiled: extreme heat because of the county's Very High social vulnerability and the National Risk Index heat-wave loss estimate, and earthquake because the Prescott School District conducts earthquake drills and the county's older masonry buildings in Prescott warrant a low-cost check. Second, eight of the fourteen previous actions were completed during the last cycle, so the strategy now emphasizes the remaining structural needs: a countywide flood-zone and inundation study, stormwater drainage ordinances, public safe rooms, and NFIP enrollment for the three cities that do not participate. Third, the ice storms of 2023 and 2026 and the 2025 flooding reinforced backup power and road access as the county's most pressing continuity concerns, which is reflected in the priority given to generators and to the flooded-road inventory in Section 3.

SECTION 2: PLANNING AREA AND RESOURCES

This section describes the Nevada County planning area, the participation of each jurisdiction in the National Flood Insurance Program, and the capabilities each jurisdiction has to carry out hazard mitigation. The planning area includes all of unincorporated Nevada County and the cities of Bluff City, Bodcaw, Cale, Emmet, Prescott (the county seat), Rosston, and Willisville, along with two school districts: the Nevada County School District and the Prescott School District. As of the 2020 Census, the county population is 8,310.

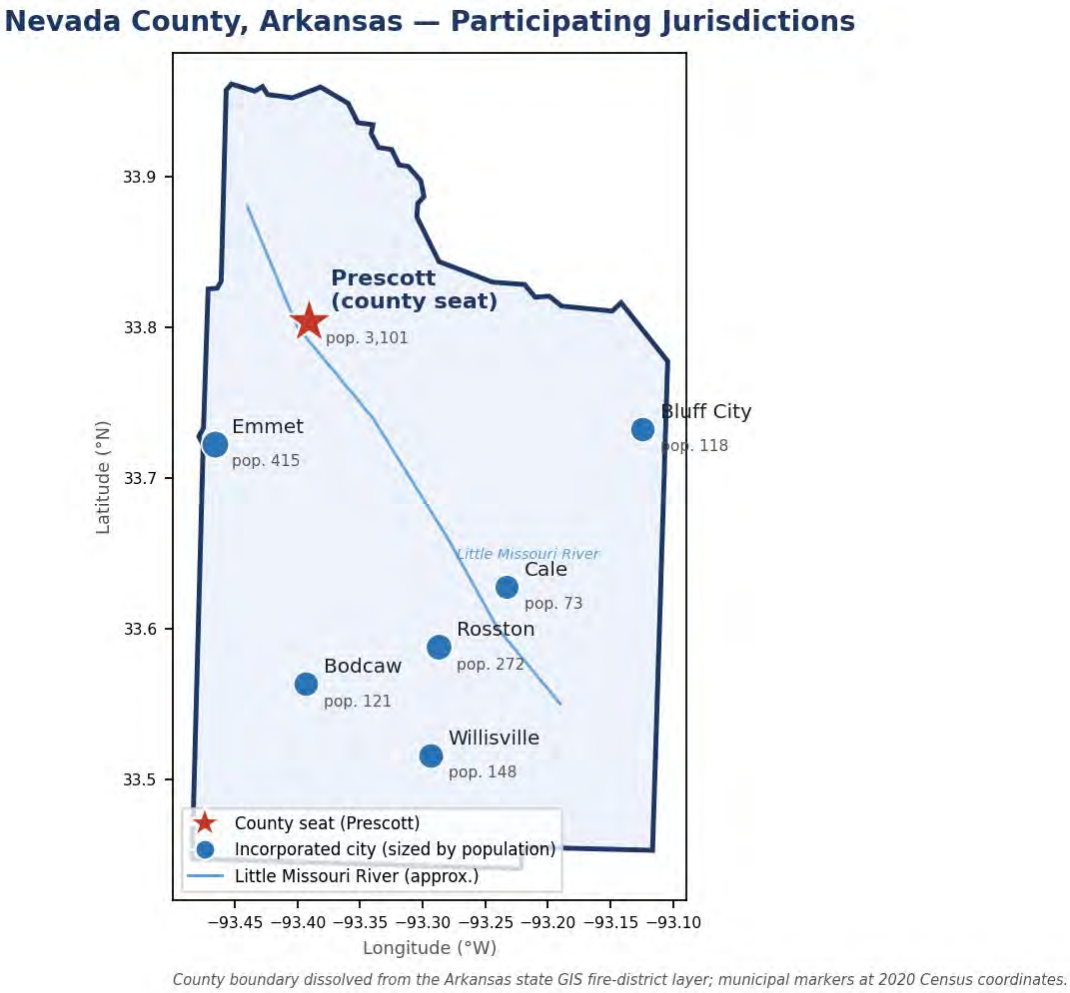


Figure 1. Participating jurisdictions of Nevada County. Prescott (county seat) anchors the north-central county; the other six incorporated cities are distributed across the county.

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Participation

The National Flood Insurance Program provides affordable flood insurance to property owners in flood zones and, in exchange, asks participating communities to adopt and enforce floodplain

management regulations that reduce flood damage to new and existing structures. Participation lowers the long-term cost of flooding and gives residents access to subsidized flood insurance.

Nevada County and four of its seven cities participate in the NFIP. Bluff City, Cale, and Willisville do not currently participate. None of the school districts participate, because school districts are not eligible for the NFIP.

Jurisdiction	NFIP Member	CID Number	Date Joined	Floodplain Administrator
Nevada County	Yes	050454	June 1, 2009 (Regular Program; FHBM August 9, 1977)	David Gummeson, OEM Coordinator
City of Bluff City	No	Not applicable	Not a member	Not applicable
City of Bodcaw	Yes	050474	June 1, 2012	David Gummeson, OEM Coordinator
City of Cale	No	Not applicable	Not a member	Not applicable
City of Emmet	Yes	050411	June 25, 1976	David Gummeson, OEM Coordinator
City of Prescott	Yes	050159	May 1, 1988	David Gummeson, OEM Coordinator
City of Rosston	Yes	050475	August 1, 2009	David Gummeson, OEM Coordinator
City of Willisville	No	Not applicable	Not a member	Not applicable

Continued NFIP compliance (five-point summary). Each NFIP-participating jurisdiction in Nevada County (the county and the participating cities of Bodcaw, Emmet, Prescott, and Rosston) maintains compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program on the five points reviewed in a local plan: (1) it enforces an adopted flood damage prevention ordinance that meets the minimum standards of 44 CFR 60.3; (2) it uses its current effective flood map as the regulatory map of record: for unincorporated Nevada County the 1977 Flood Hazard Boundary Map converted to the Regular Program effective June 1, 2009, and for Bodcaw, Emmet, Prescott, and Rosston the effective community panels reproduced in Appendix C; (3) it requires and reviews floodplain development permits for all development within the mapped Special Flood Hazard Area; (4) it has a designated Floodplain Administrator: the Nevada County OEM Coordinator, David Gummeson, serves as floodplain administrator for the county and for each participating city under an arrangement with the cities, so permitting is handled by one office countywide; and (5) it applies the substantial-improvement and substantial-damage provisions, under which any structure improved or repaired at a cost equal to or greater than 50 percent of its pre-event market value must be brought into compliance with current floodplain standards, including elevation to or above the base flood elevation. Continued NFIP compliance is a standing mitigation commitment of this plan. Bluff City, Cale, and Willisville do not participate in the NFIP; because the county floodplain administrator already serves the participating cities, the staffing barrier the smaller cities once cited no longer applies, and NFIP enrollment for these three cities is carried as a mitigation action in Section 4.

The participating jurisdictions report no repetitive-loss properties and no outstanding NFIP compliance issues; the county floodplain administrator confirmed the no-repetitive-loss status in July

2026, and it will be reconfirmed with the state NFIP coordinator at the Arkansas Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Division at submission. The county seeks technical assistance from the Arkansas Floodplain Management Association when needed.

NFIP claims history. FEMA records a single paid National Flood Insurance Program claim in Nevada County, about $5,200 from a September 2010 flood (a Zone X property outside the mapped Special Flood Hazard Area), and no Repetitive Loss properties. The very small claims history reflects the county's low flood-insurance policy base and its approximate flood-study mapping rather than an absence of flood risk. Most flooding in Nevada County affects unincorporated and uninsured rural property, so paid NFIP claims understate actual flood losses countywide. (Source: FEMA OpenFEMA FIMA NFIP Redacted Claims, retrieved July 2026.)

Capability Assessment

Each jurisdiction was asked about its planning and regulatory tools, administrative and technical staff, and the utilities serving its residents. The assessment below carries forward the documented capabilities from the previously approved plan, reconfirmed with the Office of Emergency Management and the jurisdictions during the 2026 one-on-one coordination, and adds for each jurisdiction how it can expand and improve its capabilities.

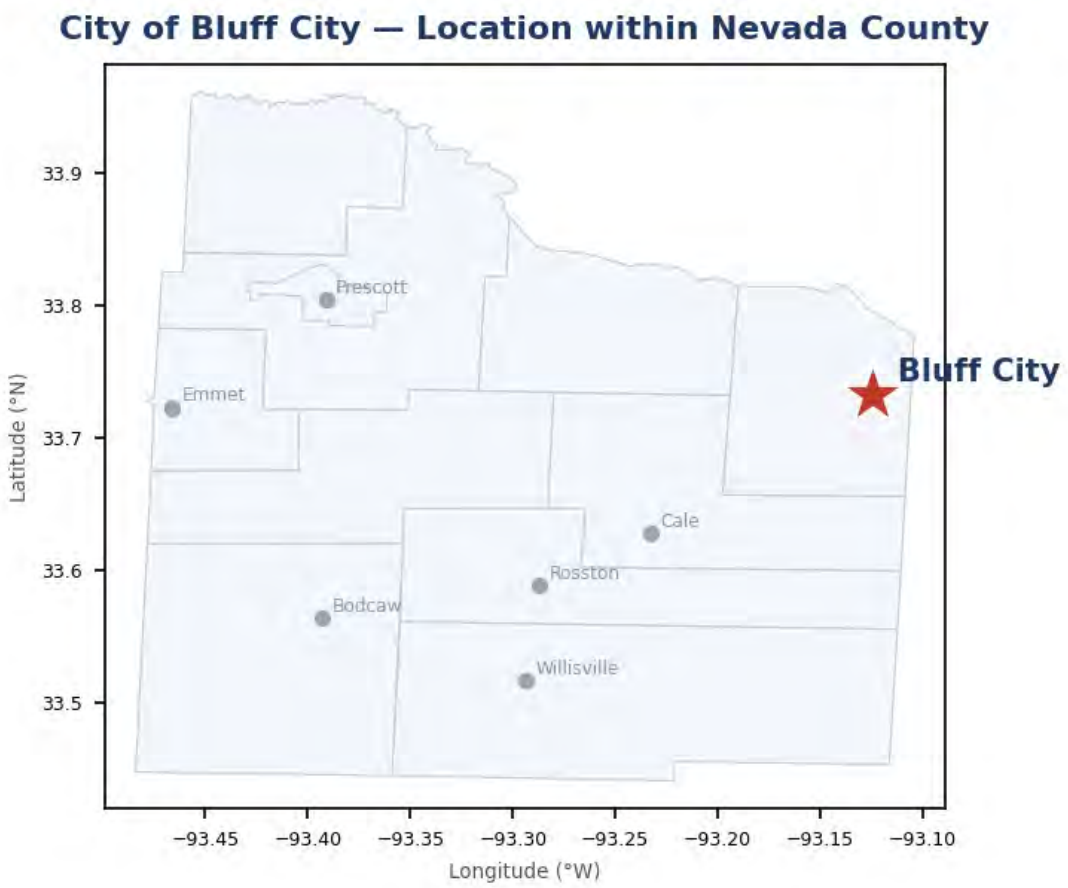
Nevada County

Nevada County (2020 population 8,310) is the largest jurisdiction and the seat of county government in Prescott. The county is an NFIP member (CID 050454; Regular Program effective June 1, 2009; initial FHBM August 9, 1977) with no repetitive-loss properties and no compliance issues. The OEM Coordinator serves as the county floodplain administrator and, by arrangement, as floodplain administrator for the participating cities, with support from the Arkansas Floodplain Management Association.

The county maintains stormwater management capability and issues elevation certificates and flood insurance claims. It does not currently have erosion, stream, or floodplain-specific management programs, zoning, building codes, subdivision regulations, or a land use plan. The county's tax base, OEM staff, courthouse staff, road department, and access to Southwest Arkansas PDD grant-writing services are its principal administrative and financial resources. The county can expand its capability by adopting a countywide stormwater drainage ordinance (a carried-forward action), by completing the flood-zone and inundation study that would give the floodplain administrator a modern regulatory map, and by using HMGP, BRIC, and state grant programs through Southwest Arkansas PDD to fund generators, safe rooms, and drainage projects it cannot fund locally.

Utilities serving the county include electricity from Prescott Water & Light, South Central Arkansas Electric, Entergy, and Ouachita Electric; water from the Willisville, Rosston, Bodcaw, Emmet, and Prescott systems; wastewater treatment at the Nevada County School District campus, the City of Emmet, the City of Prescott, and White Oak State Park; natural gas from Summit; and telephone service from South Arkansas Connect and Walnut Hill. Cellular service is provided through towers at twelve mapped sites across the county.

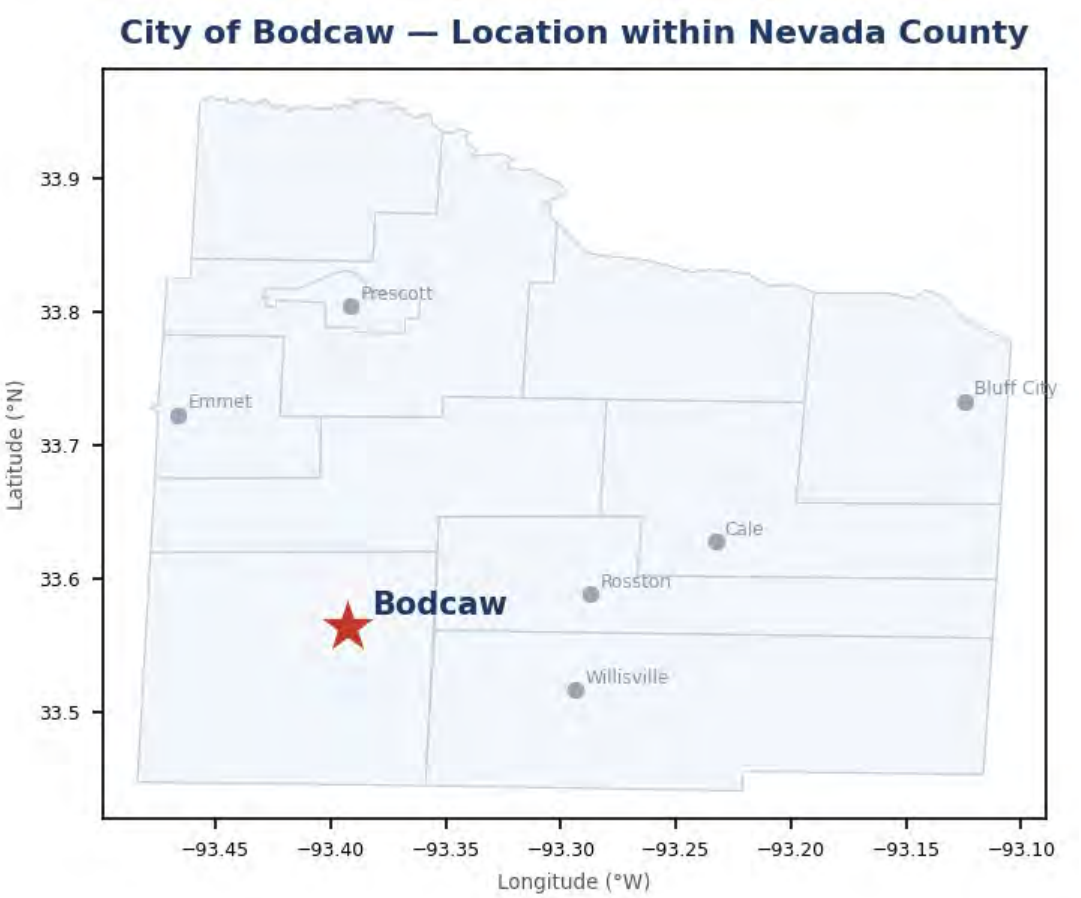
City of Bluff City



City of Bluff City, location within Nevada County. Marker at the municipal coordinates on the county outline.

Bluff City (2020 population 118) is located in the northeast of the county. It is not an NFIP member. The city previously cited a lack of city personnel to serve as floodplain manager; because the county OEM Coordinator now serves as floodplain administrator for the participating cities, that barrier no longer applies, and NFIP enrollment is carried as a mitigation action for Bluff City in Section 4. The city reports no planning or regulatory capabilities in place (no stormwater, erosion, stream, floodplain, or zoning management; no building codes, subdivision regulations, or land use plan) and does not issue elevation certificates or flood insurance claims. Electricity is provided by Entergy and South Central Arkansas Electric, water by the Highway 4 and 24 Water Association, and telephone and internet service by AT&T, South Central Connect, and Walnut-Hill; there is no municipal wastewater treatment, and natural gas (Summit) reaches only part of the city. Bluff City can expand its capability by enrolling in the NFIP with county floodplain administration, by adopting a basic flood damage prevention ordinance, and by relying on the Southwest Arkansas PDD CEDS plan and grant-writing services for generator and safe-room funding.

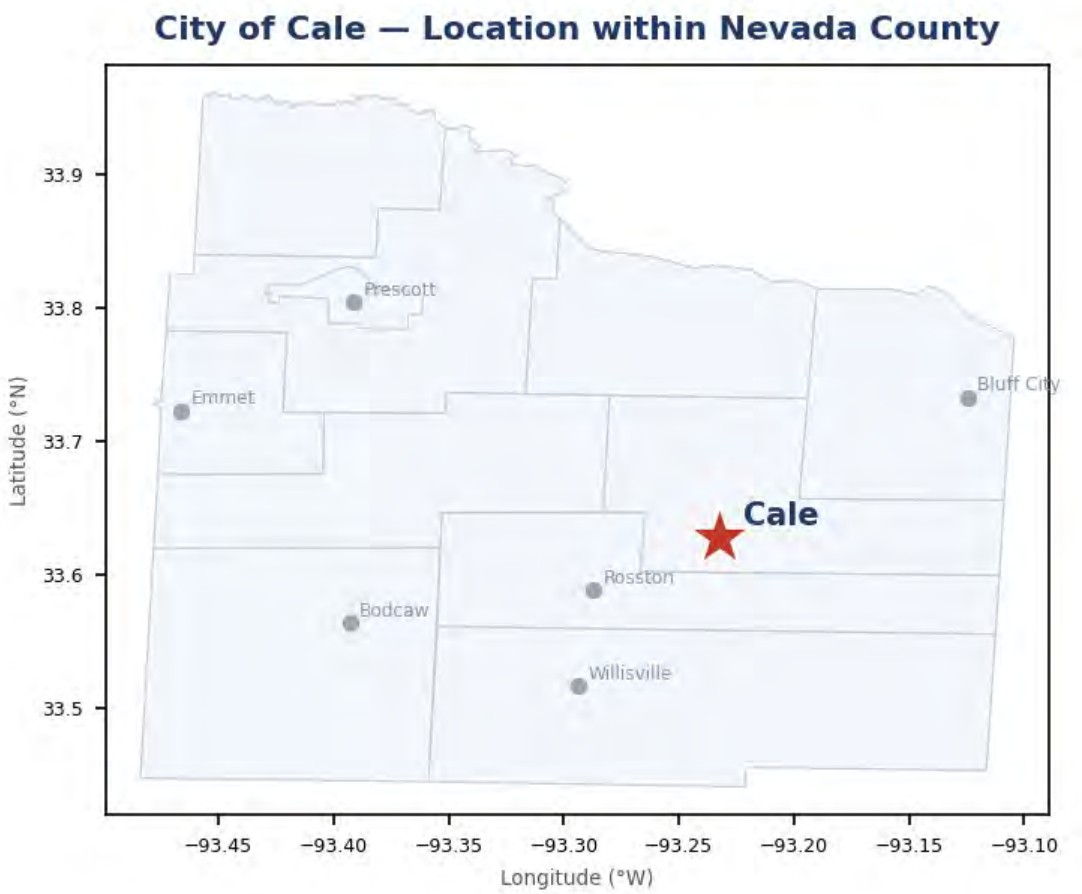
City of Bodcaw



City of Bodcaw, location within Nevada County. Marker at the municipal coordinates on the county outline.

Bodcaw (2020 population 121) is an NFIP member (CID 050474; joined June 1, 2012) with floodplain management capability in place; the county OEM Coordinator serves as floodplain administrator for the city, and it reports no repetitive-loss properties. The city has no other planning or regulatory programs and does not issue elevation certificates. Electricity is provided by South Central Arkansas Electric, water by Bodcaw Water Systems, wastewater by individual septic systems, natural gas by Summit, and telephone and internet service by AT&T, South Central Connect and Walnut-Hill. Bodcaw can expand its capability by adopting a drainage ordinance, by hardening Bodcaw Water Systems against drought and outage with backup power, and by using grant assistance through Southwest Arkansas PDD for its siren and generator actions.

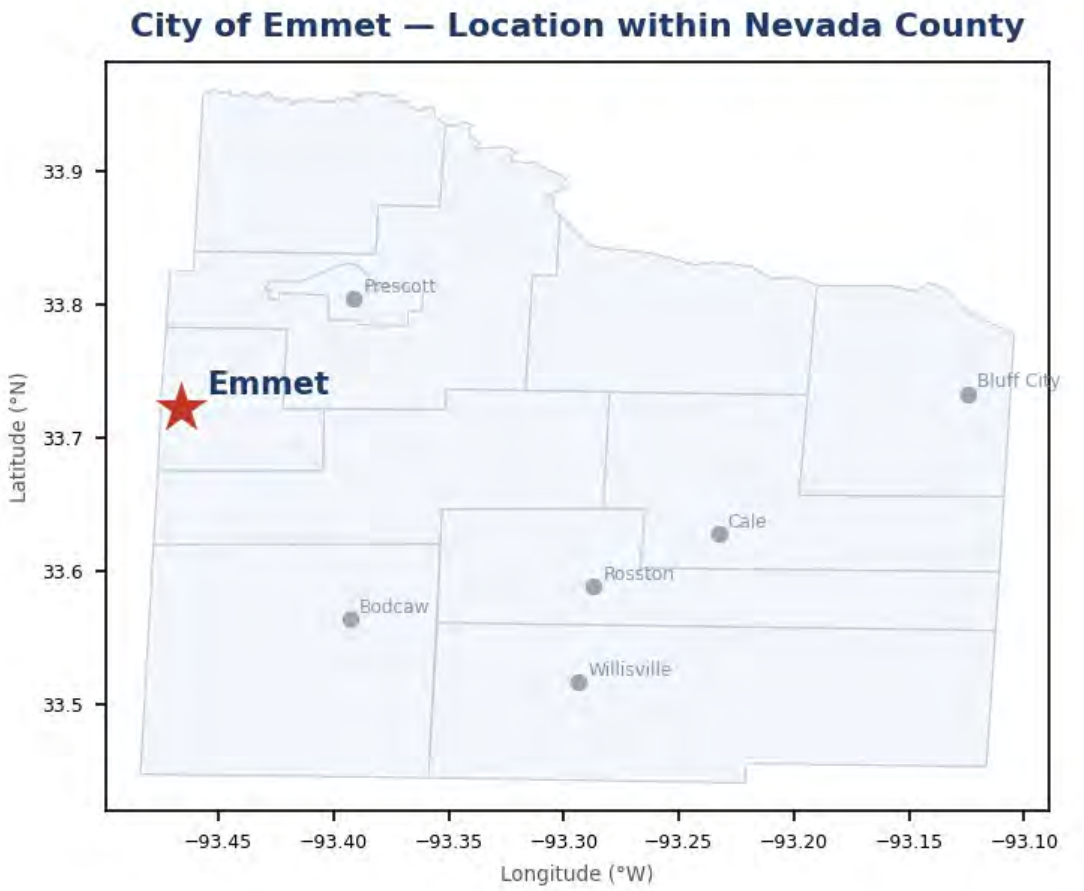
City of Cale



City of Cale, location within Nevada County. Marker at the municipal coordinates on the county outline.

Cale (2020 population 73) is not an NFIP member; NFIP enrollment with county floodplain administration is carried as a mitigation action in Section 4. It reports no planning or regulatory capabilities in place. Electricity is provided by South Central Arkansas Electric, water by the Rosston Water Department, wastewater by individual septic systems, natural gas by Summit, and telephone and internet service by South Arkansas Connect and Walnut Hill. Cale can expand its capability by enrolling in the NFIP, by participating in the county storm-spotter and awareness programs, and by using Southwest Arkansas PDD grant assistance for generator and safe-room needs.

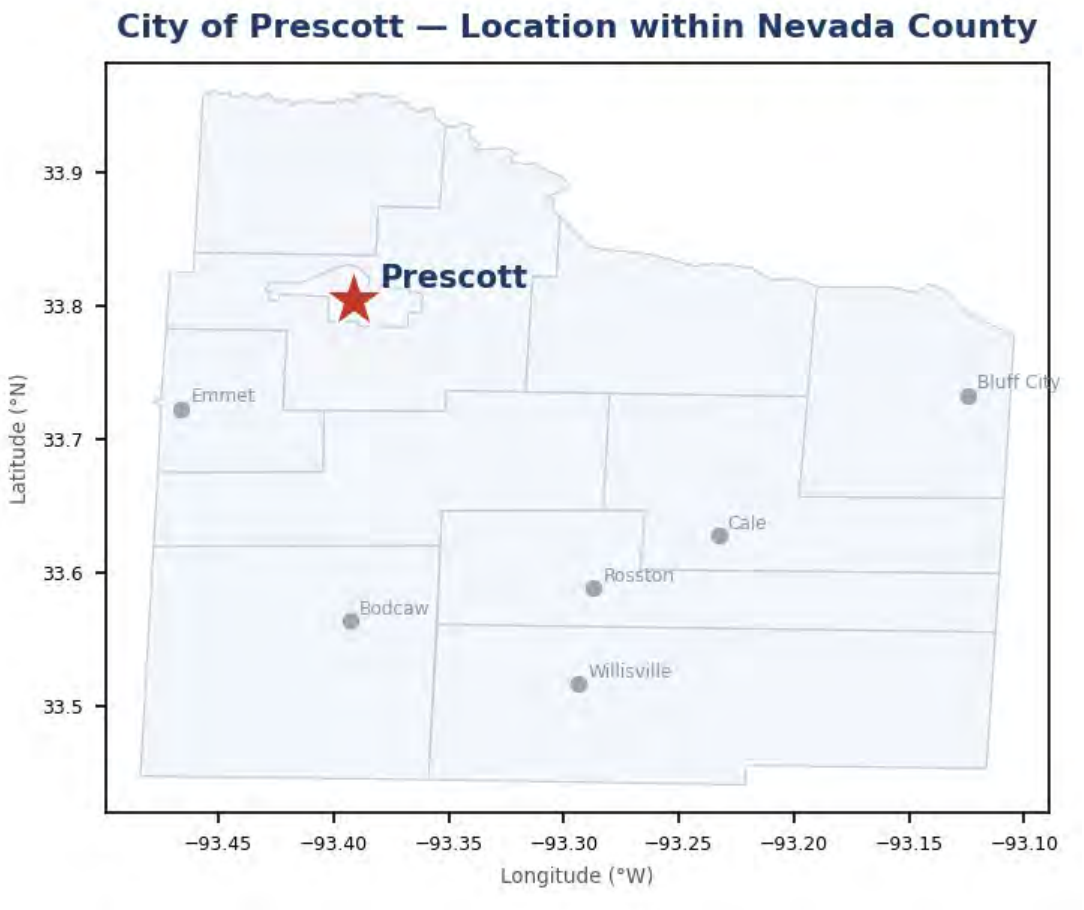
City of Emmet



City of Emmet, location within Nevada County. Marker at the municipal coordinates on the county outline.

Emmet (2020 population 415; the city straddles the Nevada and Hempstead County line) is an NFIP member (CID 050411; joined June 25, 1976) with floodplain management capability in place; the county OEM Coordinator serves as floodplain administrator for the city, and it reports no repetitive-loss properties. The city has no other planning or regulatory programs. Electricity is provided by Entergy, water and wastewater by the City of Emmet Water and Sewage, natural gas by Summit, and telephone and internet service by South Arkansas Connect and Walnut Hill. Emmet can expand its capability by adopting a stormwater drainage ordinance (a carried-forward action), by adding backup power to its water and sewer system, and by coordinating with Hempstead County on the portion of the city that lies across the county line.

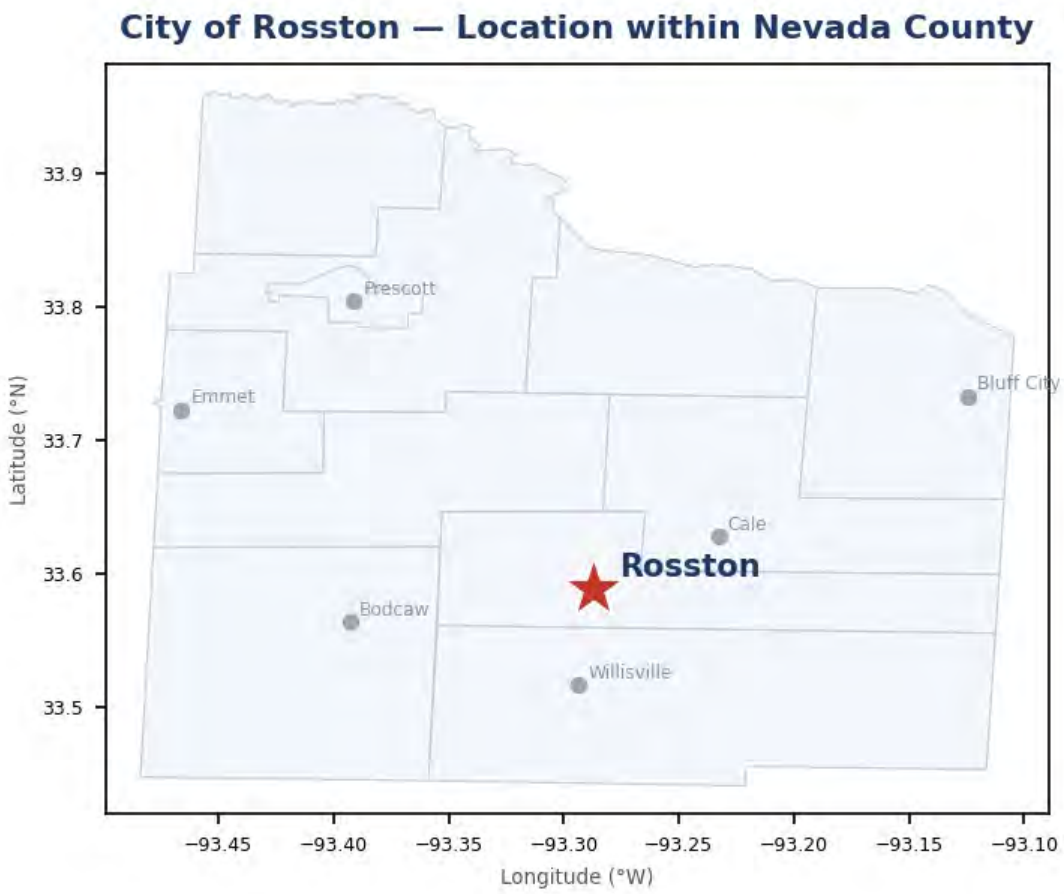
City of Prescott



City of Prescott, location within Nevada County. Marker at the municipal coordinates on the county outline.

Prescott (2020 population 3,101) is the county seat and the largest city in the planning area. It is an NFIP member (CID 050159; joined May 1, 1988); the county OEM Coordinator serves as floodplain administrator for the city, and it reports no repetitive-loss properties. Prescott has the most capability of any city in the county, with both floodplain management and building codes in place; it does not currently maintain stormwater, erosion, or stream management, zoning, subdivision regulations, or a land use plan. Electricity is provided by Prescott Water and Light, water by Prescott Rural Water Services, wastewater by the City of Prescott, natural gas by Summit, and telephone and internet service by South Arkansas Connect and Walnut Hill. As county seat, Prescott also hosts the Nevada County Courthouse, the Sheriff's Office and Detention Center, and the county's primary public safety facilities. Prescott can expand its capability by adopting a stormwater drainage ordinance and subdivision regulations, by extending its building code enforcement to wind-resistant construction standards, and by using its utility staff and Southwest Arkansas PDD grant assistance to pursue safe rooms and backup power for the courthouse, city hall, and water and wastewater plants.

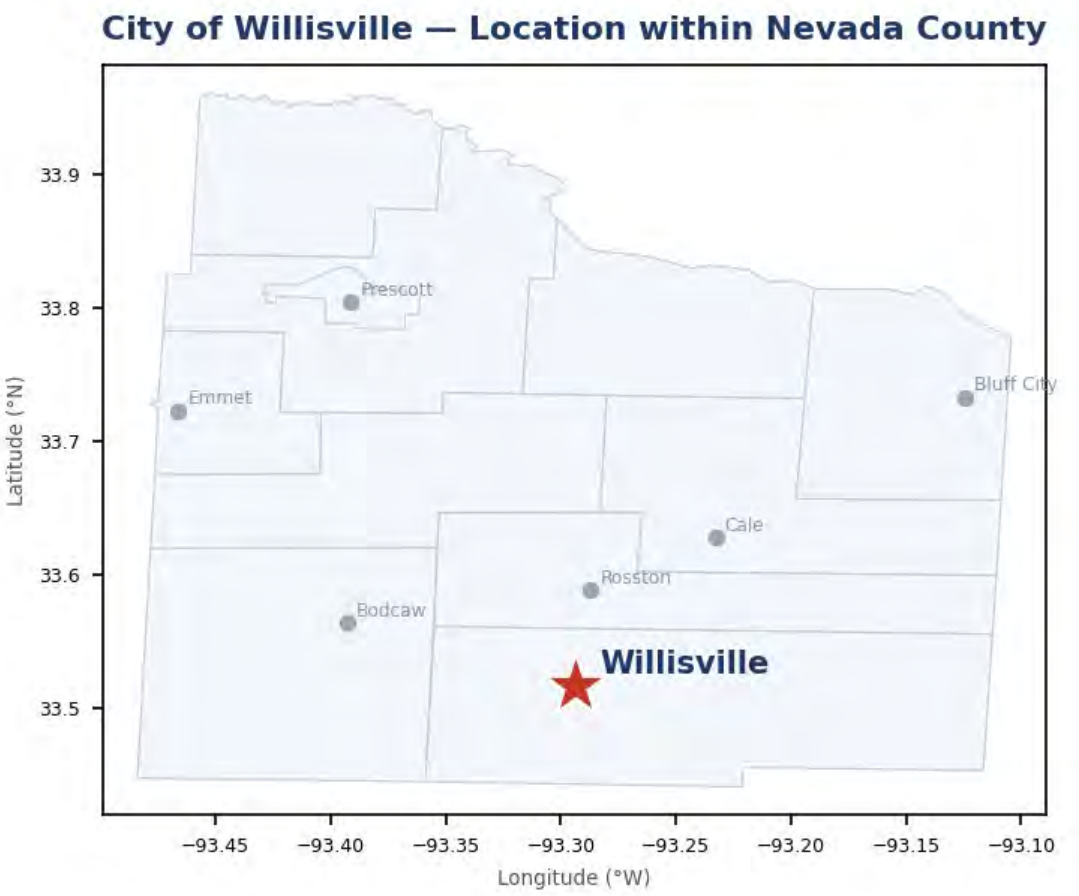
City of Rosston



City of Rosston, location within Nevada County. Marker at the municipal coordinates on the county outline.

Rosston (2020 population 272) is an NFIP member (CID 050475; joined August 1, 2009) with floodplain management capability in place; the county OEM Coordinator serves as floodplain administrator for the city, and it reports no repetitive-loss properties. The city has no other planning or regulatory programs. Electricity is provided by Entergy, water by Rosston Water, wastewater by individual septic systems, natural gas by Summit, and telephone service by South Arkansas Connect and Walnut Hill. Rosston Lake Dam, the county's one Significant Hazard dam, lies about one mile south of the city. Rosston can expand its capability by adopting a stormwater drainage ordinance (a carried-forward action), by adding backup power to the Rosston Water system, and by hosting the Nevada County School District safe-room project with Southwest Arkansas PDD grant assistance.

City of Willisville



City of Willisville, location within Nevada County. Marker at the municipal coordinates on the county outline.

Willisville (2020 population 148) is not an NFIP member; NFIP enrollment with county floodplain administration is carried as a mitigation action in Section 4. It reports no planning or regulatory capabilities in place. Electricity is provided by Entergy, water by the City of Willisville, wastewater by individual septic systems, natural gas by Summit, and telephone service by Verizon. Willisville can expand its capability by enrolling in the NFIP, by adding backup power to its water system, and by using Southwest Arkansas PDD grant assistance for its siren and generator actions.

Nevada County School District

The Nevada County School District, based in Rosston, serves students across the southern and central parts of the county on a single campus with 414 students (2026) and 93,944 square feet of buildings. As a school district, it does not participate in the NFIP. The district maintains a district Crisis Plan covering tornado, severe storm, flood, fire, lockdown, and off-campus evacuation (by bus to the Rosston baseball complex), conducts tornado, fire, and lockdown drills, and adopted a Cardiac Emergency Response Plan in October 2025. Students shelter in designated interior tornado areas; the campus has no FEMA-rated safe room and no backup power, and the district is pursuing both; the safe-room and generator actions in Section 4 name the district. The district can expand its capability by pursuing a FEMA safe room and backup power through HMGP or BRIC with Southwest Arkansas PDD assistance, and by adding severe-weather and heat provisions to its Crisis Plan review each year.

Prescott School District

The Prescott School District, based in Prescott, serves the northern part of the county including the county seat, with 892 students (May 2026) on the Martin Street campuses: Prescott Elementary (grades PK-4, 347 students, 66,104 square feet) and Prescott High School (grades 9-12, 267 students, 143,252 square feet including gyms and agriculture buildings) at 736 Martin Street, Prescott Junior High (grades 5-8, 278 students, 38,940 square feet), and the district administration building at 762 Martin Street; the former McRae Middle School at 1030 East 5th Street North is closed. As a school district, it does not participate in the NFIP. Each campus maintains 2025-2026 drill plans for fire, tornado, earthquake, lockdown, and evacuation; tornado shelter is in interior hallways, the auditorium inner wall, and classroom restrooms, since no campus has a FEMA-rated safe room; the campuses currently have no backup power, and the district is pursuing generators and a safe room through the actions in Section 4. The district can expand its capability by pursuing a FEMA safe room for the elementary and junior high campuses and backup power through HMGP or BRIC with Southwest Arkansas PDD assistance.

Social Vulnerability and Vulnerable Populations

Federal mitigation planning requires a whole-community look at who is most at risk, not just where the hazards are. Nevada County's hazard exposure is compounded by its social vulnerability, and this section satisfies the cross-hazard vulnerability analysis required under 44 CFR 201.6(c)(2).

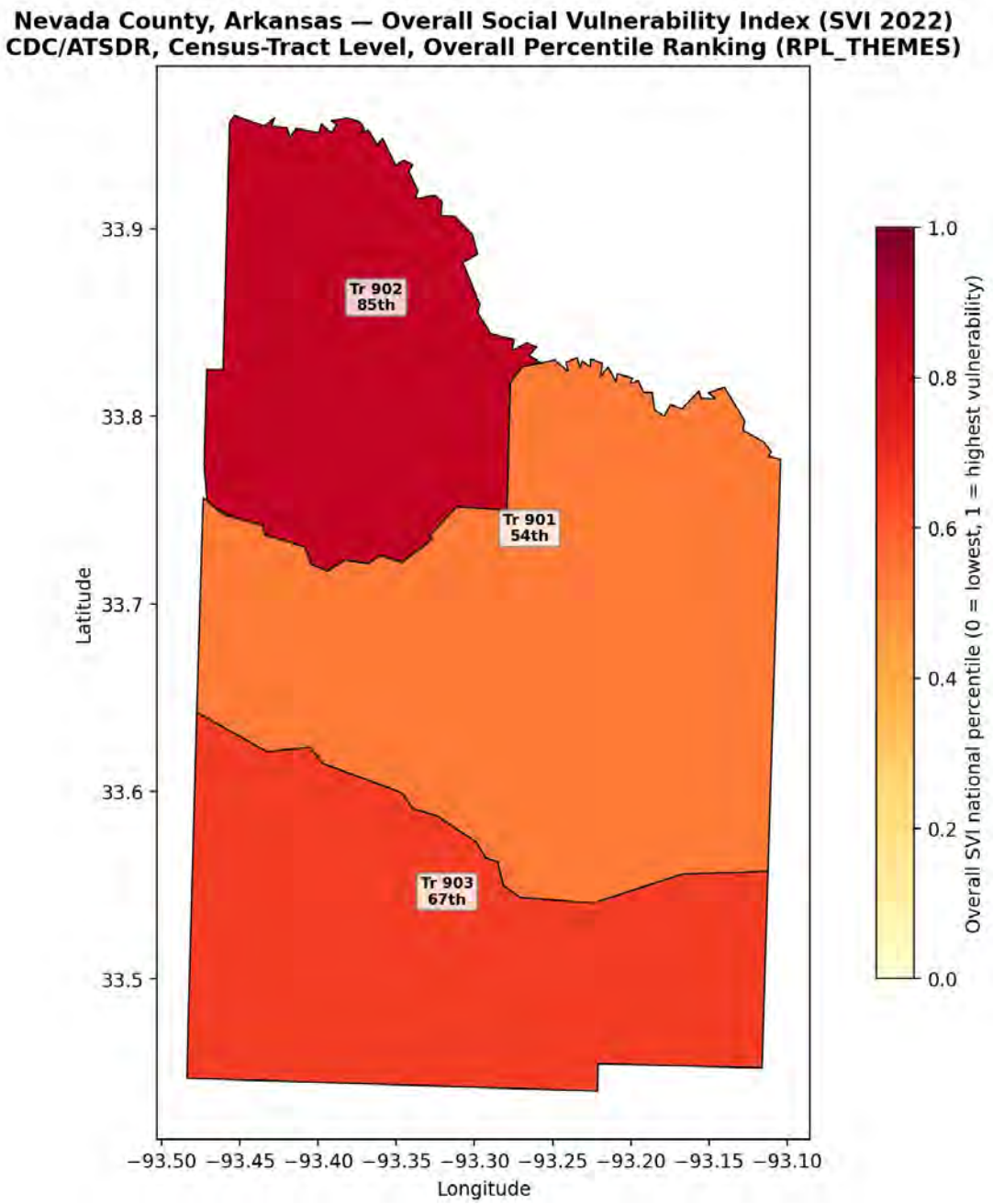
The FEMA National Risk Index rates Nevada County **Very High** for Social Vulnerability and **Very Low** for Community Resilience. In plain terms, the people of Nevada County are among the least able in the nation to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters. This is the central reason the county's Very Low overall expected-annual-loss rating understates the real human risk: the dollar losses are modest because the building stock is small, but the population is highly vulnerable.

Several characteristics drive that vulnerability and tie directly back to the hazard profiles: an older population and residents with disabilities are most at risk during the prolonged power outages that follow ice storms and severe thunderstorms; the county's many manufactured and substandard homes are the most exposed to tornado, wind, and winter-storm damage; households without a vehicle or with limited transportation face the greatest difficulty evacuating ahead of flooding; and

lower-income households have the least capacity to recover and rebuild. These groups are concentrated in the unincorporated county and the smaller cities rather than in any single area.

The CDC/ATSDR Social Vulnerability Index (SVI 2022) confirms this at the census-tract level. Nevada County's three tracts have a population-weighted overall SVI at the **72nd national percentile**, placing the county in the more-vulnerable third of U.S. counties. Every tract ranks above the national median.

Census Tract	Primary area	Population	Overall SVI (national percentile)
Tract 902	Prescott (county seat) and north county	4,298	85th
Tract 903	South county (Rosston / Bluff City area)	1,468	67th
Tract 901	East county (Bodcaw / Willisville / Cale area)	2,526	54th



CDC/ATSDR Social Vulnerability Index (2022) by census tract, Nevada County. Vulnerability is highest in Tract 902 (Prescott, 85th national percentile), which holds over half the county population. Source: CDC/ATSDR SVI 2022.

The top driver is Household Characteristics (elderly, disability, single-parent dependency), peaking at the 86th percentile in the south county, with Housing Type and Transportation close behind, peaking at the 91st percentile in Prescott where mobile-home share and housing-cost burden are highest. The indicators below show why this matters for the county's hazards.

Indicator	County	Why it matters for hazards
Overall SVI percentile	72nd	Composite recovery capacity; higher means more mitigation

		priority
Age 65 and older	21.0%	Elderly are most affected by prolonged power outages (ice, winter storm, severe wind) and are harder to evacuate
With a disability	22.2%	Raises outage risk (medical equipment) and slows evacuation; highest in the east county (33.6%)
Below 150% poverty	37.1%	Limits ability to harden homes, stock supplies, and recover after a loss
Mobile homes	24.2%	Highly vulnerable to tornado, severe wind, and ice loading; elevated in every tract
No vehicle	4.6%	Carless households cannot self-evacuate; highest in Prescott (6.2%)
Limited English (age 5+)	0.1%	Negligible; standard warning channels reach the whole community
Racial and ethnic minority	37.3%	Census/CDC composite; broadly distributed across the county

The City of Prescott (Tract 902) is the priority area for whole-community mitigation, holding the largest population and the highest overall vulnerability, while the east county (Tract 901) is the priority for elderly and disability outage and evacuation planning. These findings direct the mitigation strategy toward manufactured-housing anchoring, community safe rooms, backup power for critical facilities, and warming and cooling centers.

Critical Infrastructure

The planning area's critical infrastructure includes the facilities that government, public safety, and daily life depend on, and that are most consequential to protect during a disaster. Their locations and staffing were confirmed with the Office of Emergency Management in July 2026, and replacement values are estimated below.

Overall Vulnerability Summary by Jurisdiction

Overall Vulnerability Summary by Jurisdiction. The hazard-by-hazard vulnerability analysis in the profiles that follow is summarized here by jurisdiction, giving each participant's overall vulnerability picture across all profiled hazards. The detail and loss estimates behind each entry are in the individual hazard profiles.

Jurisdiction	Hazards of Greatest Vulnerability	Key Vulnerability Drivers
Nevada County (Unincorporated)	Winter Storm (Ice); Tornado; Drought; Riverine Flooding; Wildfire (WUI)	Broadest exposure along the Little Missouri River and Terre Noire Creek; rural roads and low-water crossings; manufactured and substandard housing exposed to wind, tornado, and ice; agricultural and

		timber economy exposed to drought; timbered wildland-urban interface tracts; Very High NRI social-vulnerability rating (older population, disability, limited transportation).
Bluff City	Flooding; Wildfire (WUI); Winter Storm	Not an NFIP member (enrollment with county floodplain administration carried as an action), which limits flood-insurance access; wooded wildland-urban interface edge; Entergy distribution exposed to ice; no planning or regulatory capability in place.
Bodcaw	Drought (water supply); Wildfire (WUI); Extreme Heat	NFIP member (CID 050474) but limited capability beyond floodplain management; Bodcaw Water Systems vulnerable to supply and quality decline during extended drought; wooded wildland-urban interface edge; east-county Tract 901 carries the county's highest 65-and-older (26.3%) and disability (33.6%) shares.
Cale	Riverine/Tributary Flooding (Bodcaw Creek); Wildfire (WUI); Extreme Heat	Not an NFIP member (enrollment carried as an action); no planning or regulatory capability in place; lies nearer Bodcaw Creek and the southern tributaries, exposing low-lying land and crossings; site of the March 2025 EF2 tornado; wooded wildland-urban interface edge; east-county Tract 901 elderly/disability concentration.
Emmet	Winter Storm (Ice); Drought (water supply); Flooding	NFIP member (CID 050411, joined 1976); city straddles the Nevada-Hempstead county line; Entergy distribution exposed to downed lines from ice; City of Emmet Water and Sewage system vulnerable to supply and quality decline during extended drought.
Prescott	Flash Flooding (urban drainage); Tornado; Extreme Heat; Earthquake (masonry downtown)	County seat and largest city (2020 population 3,101); hosts the Nevada County Courthouse and the county's primary public-safety facilities; most capability of any city in the county (floodplain management and building codes); highest SVI Housing Type/Transportation percentile (91st, Tract 902); focus of urban-drainage flash flooding; historic downtown core has older masonry/unreinforced buildings susceptible to shaking.
Rosston	Dam Failure (Rosston Lake Dam); Flooding; Extreme Heat	Rosston Lake Dam, the county's one Significant Hazard dam, lies about one mile south of the city and threatens U.S. Highway 371; NFIP member (CID 050475, joined 2009); lies nearer Bodcaw Creek and the southern tributaries; hosts the Nevada County School District campus (414 students); south-county Tract 903 carries the county's highest poverty rate (45.6%), limiting residents' ability to run or replace

		cooling equipment.
Willisville	Flooding; Wildfire (WUI); Winter Storm	Not an NFIP member (enrollment carried as an action); no planning or regulatory capability in place; wooded wildland-urban interface edge; wastewater handled by individual septic systems with no municipal treatment.
Nevada County School District	Tornado (safe-room need); Extreme Heat	Single campus in Rosston (414 students, 93,944 sq ft) represents a concentrated vulnerable population when school is in session; no FEMA-rated safe room; maintains a Crisis Plan and conducts tornado, fire, and lockdown drills; students exposed to late-summer heat during outdoor activities.
Prescott School District	Tornado (safe-room need); Extreme Heat	Three Martin Street campuses in Prescott (892 students, about 248,000 sq ft) concentrate the county's largest student population in a single tornado footprint; no FEMA-rated safe room; maintains campus drill plans for fire, tornado, earthquake, and lockdown; students exposed to late-summer heat during outdoor activities.

Critical Facilities and Estimated Replacement Values

A critical facility is a structure whose loss would seriously affect public safety, emergency response, or the delivery of essential services. To support the loss estimates in this plan and to help Nevada County prioritize protection and mitigation investments, the planning team built a replacement-cost baseline for these facilities.

Because the county does not carry an insured-value schedule for most of these buildings, replacement values were estimated using four transparent methods: building square footage multiplied by an Arkansas-adjusted RS Means unit cost; apparatus-bay count multiplied by a per-bay cost for fire stations; licensed-bed count multiplied by a per-bed cost for nursing and long-term-care facilities; and a component build-up (treatment capacity, storage tanks, wells, and lift stations) for water and wastewater systems. An Arkansas location factor of about 0.86 of the national average is applied throughout. These are planning-level estimates for mitigation prioritization, not appraisals, and each jurisdiction will confirm the values for its own facilities at adoption.

The inventory below totals about $196.7 million across the facilities that have an estimate. The largest single replacement values are the Prescott School District's Martin Street campuses ($74,297,430), the Nevada County School District campus ($32,316,736), Southern Pines (Prescott Manor Nursing Facility) ($13,975,000), and the Sheriff's Office and Detention Center ($11,438,000, based on its confirmed 28,000 square feet), which are the county's highest-value protection priorities. School square footage was confirmed by both districts in 2026 (Prescott 248,296 square feet of academic, gym, and agriculture space; Nevada County 93,944 square feet), replacing the

earlier estimates. This concentration reinforces the per-jurisdiction vulnerability findings elsewhere in this plan.

Facility	Jurisdiction	Facility Type	Estimated Replacement Value
Nevada County Courthouse	Prescott	Government / office	$9,675,000
Nevada County Sheriff's Office & Detention	Prescott	Police / detention	$11,438,000
Prescott Police Department	Prescott	Police / detention	$2,042,500
Prescott City Hall	Prescott	Government / office	$2,580,000
Emmet City Hall	Emmet	Government / office	$967,500
Rosston City Hall	Rosston	Government / office	$806,250
Bodcaw City Hall	Bodcaw	Government / office	$645,000
Bluff City City Hall	Bluff City	Government / office	$645,000
Cale City Hall	Cale	Government / office	$580,500
Willisville City Hall	Willisville	Government / office	$645,000
Prescott School District (all campuses)	Prescott	Public school (K-12)	$74,297,430
Nevada County School District (all campuses)	Rosston	Public school (K-12)	$32,316,736
Prescott Fire Department	Prescott	Fire station	$712,080
Nevada County Rescue & Fire	Prescott	Fire station	$474,720
Fairhills Volunteer Fire Department	Prescott	Fire station	$474,720
Redland Fire Department	Prescott	Fire station	$474,720
Laneburg VFD Station 1	Prescott	Fire station	$474,720
Laneburg VFD Station 2	Prescott	Fire station	$474,720
Reader Volunteer Fire Department	Bluff City area	Fire station	$474,720
Emmet Fire Station	Emmet	Fire station	$474,720
Bluff City Volunteer Fire Department	Bluff City	Fire station	$474,720
Cale Fire Department	Cale	Fire station	$474,720
Rosston Fire Station	Rosston	Fire station	$474,720
Bodcaw Volunteer Fire Department	Bodcaw	Fire station	$474,720
Willisville Volunteer Fire Department	Willisville	Fire station	$474,720

City of Prescott Water/Wastewater	Prescott	Water / wastewater	$11,950,000
Rosston Water	Rosston	Water / wastewater	$4,000,000
Bodcaw Water Systems	Bodcaw	Water / wastewater	$4,000,000
City of Emmet Water & Sewage	Emmet	Water / wastewater	$4,000,000
City of Willisville Water	Willisville	Water / wastewater	$2,500,000
Highway 4 & 24 Water Association	Bluff City	Water / wastewater	$2,000,000
Southern Pines (Prescott Manor Nursing Facility)	Prescott	Long-term care / nursing	$13,975,000
The Springs of Hillcrest Health & Rehabilitation	Prescott	Long-term care / nursing	$11,180,000
Total (facilities with an estimate)			$196,652,636

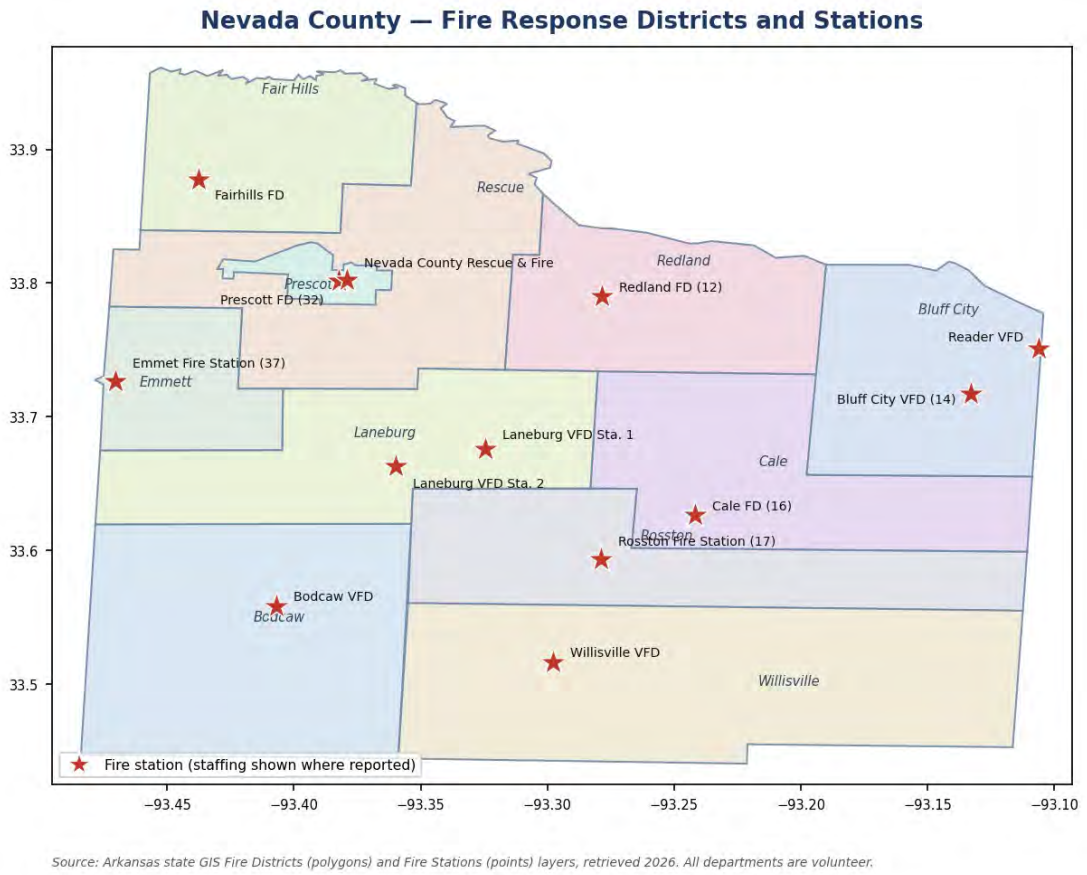
Basis: RS Means unit costs adjusted to Arkansas (location factor about 0.86); fire stations by apparatus-bay count; nursing and long-term care by licensed bed count; water and wastewater by component build-up. School campuses use confirmed district square footage at the K-12 rate, with the Prescott High School gyms, agriculture buildings, and barns valued at a lower ancillary rate. Full assumptions are in the Nevada County Critical Facility Replacement Values workbook. Values should be reconfirmed by each jurisdiction at adoption.

Fire Protection

Fire protection across the county is provided entirely by volunteer fire departments. This all-volunteer structure means longer response times to remote incidents than a paid department would have, and it is itself a capability limitation that carries into the wildfire, tornado, and severe-storm vulnerability profiles. The Nevada County Office of Emergency Management, which also serves as the county Fire Service Coordinator, reported the following departments, apparatus, and personnel in July 2026; response districts and station locations are from the Arkansas state GIS fire layers:

Fire Department	Community Served	Type	Apparatus	Firefighters
Prescott Fire Department	Prescott	Volunteer	3	16
Nevada County Rescue & Fire	Prescott (county-wide rescue)	Volunteer	3	6
Fairhills Volunteer Fire Department	Prescott (rural)	Volunteer	5	12
Redland Fire Department	Prescott (rural)	Volunteer	3	13
Laneburg Volunteer Fire Department (Stations 1 & 2)	Prescott (rural southwest)	Volunteer	6	10
Reader Volunteer Fire Department	Northeast county	Volunteer	Not reported	Not reported
Emmet Fire Station	Emmet	Volunteer	3	11
Bluff City Volunteer	Bluff City	Volunteer	3	14

Fire Department				
Cale Fire Department	Cale	Volunteer	2	7
Rosston Fire Station	Rosston	Volunteer	3	13
Bodcaw Volunteer Fire Department	Bodcaw	Volunteer	2	13
Willisville Volunteer Fire Department	Willisville	Volunteer	2	5



Nevada County fire response districts (shaded) and fire-station locations (stars), from the Arkansas state GIS Fire Districts and Fire Stations layers (retrieved 2026). The county is divided into 11 volunteer fire response districts; station staffing is shown where the state registry reports it.

The eleven departments reported by the Office of Emergency Management field 35 pieces of apparatus and 120 volunteer firefighters countywide (July 2026); the Reader Volunteer Fire Department appears in the state registry without a reported count. Source: Nevada County OEM fire department count, July 2026; Arkansas state GIS fire-station and fire-district layers, retrieved 2026.

Schools

The county's two school districts are among the largest employers in the planning area and concentrate a vulnerable student population when school is in session. The Nevada County School

District operates a single campus in Rosston (414 students; 93,944 square feet). The Prescott School District operates Prescott Elementary and Prescott High School at 736 Martin Street, Prescott Junior High, and its administration building at 762 Martin Street in Prescott (892 students; 248,296 square feet of academic, gym, and agriculture space); the former McRae Middle School is closed. Neither district has a FEMA-rated safe room, so students shelter in interior hallways and restrooms during tornado warnings. School campuses are profiled as critical facilities for tornado, severe thunderstorm, winter storm, and extreme heat exposure, and the safe-room and generator actions in Section 4 name both districts.

Public Safety and Government

The Nevada County Courthouse and the county's primary law enforcement and detention facilities are located in Prescott, the county seat. The Nevada County Sheriff's Office and Detention Center are housed in a combined 28,000-square-foot facility at 209 East 3rd Street in Prescott, opened in June 2016 at a cost of $6.9 million, with the Sheriff's offices in the front and an 80-bed detention facility (44 male and 36 female beds) in the back. The jail holds county detainees, inmates sentenced by the municipal courts in the county, and inmates held for other agencies, and it replaced an outdated older jail. As a 24-hour occupied facility that cannot be evacuated quickly, it depends on continuous power, water, and road access; loss of any of these during an ice storm, tornado, or flood would require sheltering inmates in place or a coordinated transfer to a neighboring county. The Prescott Police Department is the only municipal police facility in the county; the other six cities are served by the Sheriff's Office. A loss of these facilities would affect county government and emergency response countywide. The detention center does not currently have backup power; the county is pursuing a generator for it under the critical-infrastructure generator action in Section 4, and it is the county's highest-priority site for that action because it is continuously occupied.

Medical Facilities

The nearest full-service hospital is Wadley Regional Medical Center at Hope (2001 South Main, Hope, in neighboring Hempstead County; following the 2024 transfer of operations to Pafford Health Systems it now operates as Southwest Arkansas Regional Medical Center, a 25-bed Critical Access Hospital), roughly 20 miles from Prescott. Emergency medical service is provided by Pafford EMS, based in Prescott. Outpatient care in Prescott is available at the Baptist Health Family Clinic, the Prescott Family Clinic, and Collom and Carney of Prescott, with Express RX of Prescott as the local pharmacy. Long-term and residential care is provided by Southern Pines (Prescott Manor Nursing Facility) and The Springs of Hillcrest Health and Rehabilitation, both in Prescott. Because the nearest hospital is out of county, prolonged road closures or power outages during ice storms, tornadoes, or floods lengthen emergency-transport times, a medical-care vulnerability for the county's large elderly and disabled population.

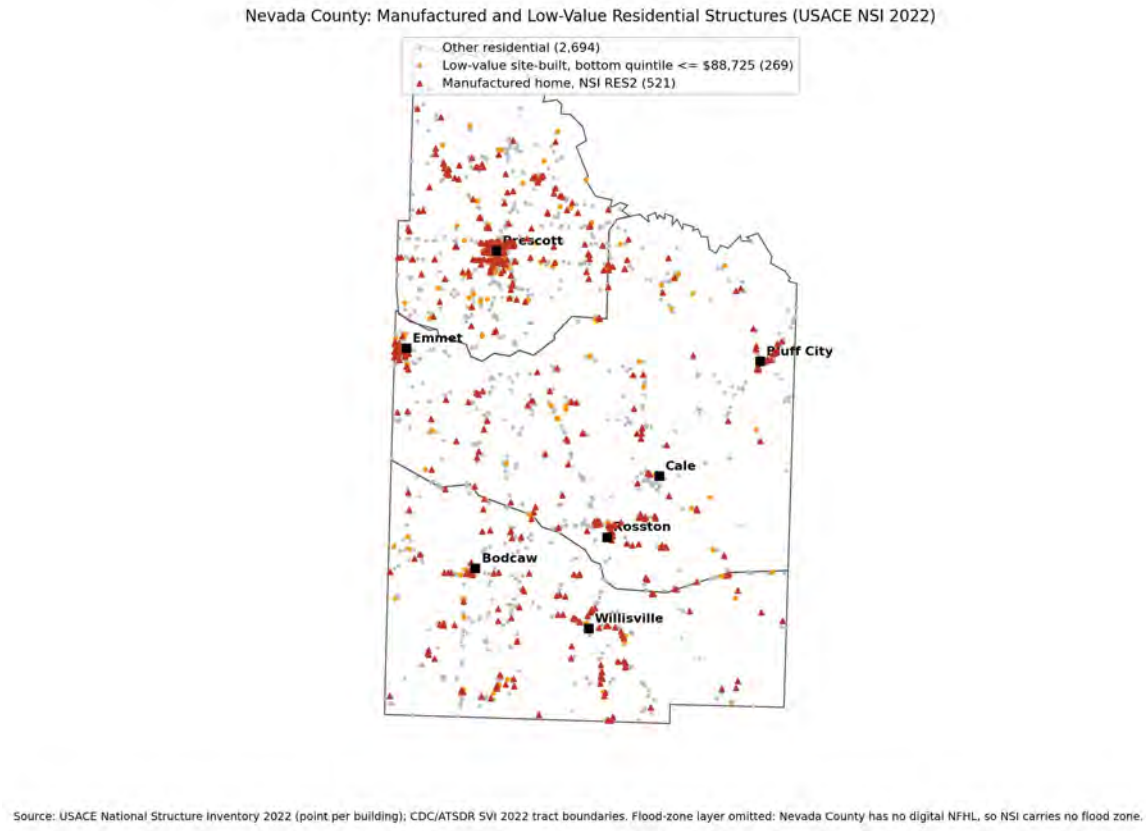
Utilities

Critical utility systems across the planning area include the municipal water systems (Prescott Rural Water, Rosston Water, Bodcaw Water Systems, City of Emmet, City of Willisville, and the Highway 4 and 24 Water Association), the electric distributors (Prescott Water and Light, Entergy, South Central Arkansas Electric, and Ouachita Electric), natural gas (Summit), and communications (South Arkansas

Connect and Walnut Hill, AT&T, Verizon, and twelve cellular tower sites). These systems are most exposed to winter storms, severe thunderstorm winds, and tornadoes.

Vulnerable Housing

Pockets of manufactured homes and other substandard housing are scattered throughout the unincorporated county and the smaller cities. The American Community Survey (2018-2022) counts 1,048 mobile homes in Nevada County, 24.2 percent of the county's 4,323 housing units, and 1,522 units (35.2 percent) built before 1970. The USACE National Structure Inventory (2022) locates 521 manufactured-home structures (15.0 percent of 3,472 residential structures) with a combined replacement exposure of about $34.6 million, plus 269 low-value site-built homes (structure value at or below $88,725) that serve as a proxy for older, less wind-resistant construction; together these 790 structures, about 23 percent of the county's residential buildings, form the county's most vulnerable housing stock. These structures, which often lack proper foundations or anchoring, are more vulnerable to wind, tornado, and winter-storm damage, and their residents are at higher risk of injury. This vulnerability is compounded by the county's Very High social vulnerability rating in the FEMA National Risk Index. A structure-level housing vulnerability analysis, with tract tables and a map of manufactured and low-value homes, is provided in Appendix D.



Manufactured and low-value residential structures in Nevada County, from the USACE National Structure Inventory (2022). Red triangles are manufactured homes (521); orange points are low-value site-built homes (269); municipal centers are approximate. No flood layer is shown because the county has no digital flood hazard data. Full analysis in Appendix D.

SECTION 3: HAZARD IDENTIFICATION AND RISK ASSESSMENT

Hazard Identification and Prioritization

The first step in the risk assessment is hazard identification: determining which natural hazards pose a credible threat to Nevada County and its jurisdictions. The planning committee identified the hazards profiled in this section by reviewing the federal disaster-declaration history, the FEMA National Risk Index, the NOAA Storm Events record, the USACE National Inventory of Dams, and the USGS earthquake catalog, all current to 2026.

Coordination with the State Hazard Mitigation Plan. This plan was developed in coordination with the 2023 State of Arkansas Hazard Mitigation Plan, approved by FEMA on September 6, 2023 and maintained by the Arkansas Division of Emergency Management (ADEM). The planning committee reviewed the State plan's hazard identification, risk assessment, and mitigation-goal structure, and confirmed that the hazards profiled in this plan align with the State's natural hazard set. This coordination satisfies 44 CFR 201.6(c)(4) and the requirement in the Federal Hazard Mitigation Grant Memorandum of Understanding between the County and ADEM that the natural hazards assessed by a local plan be coordinated with the current FEMA-approved State Hazard Mitigation Plan.

The planning area includes unincorporated Nevada County and the cities of Bluff City, Bodcaw, Cale, Emmet, Prescott (the county seat), Rosston, and Willisville, plus the Nevada County School District in Rosston and the Prescott School District in Prescott. As of the FEMA National Risk Index, the county population is approximately 8,255 (the NRI uses an earlier Census vintage than the 8,310 reported for 2020 in Section 2), with a total building value near $1.97 billion and agricultural value near $71.7 million.

Nevada County's overall National Risk Index rating is Very Low, but that rating mainly reflects the county's small population and building stock, not a low frequency of hazards. The county rates **Very High for Social Vulnerability** and **Very Low for Community Resilience**. In plain terms, the hazards are real and the people here are among the least able to prepare for and recover from them. That combination is the core reason mitigation investment matters in Nevada County, and it is stated plainly throughout this assessment.

Hazards were prioritized by blending three independent signals: the National Risk Index modeled expected annual loss (EAL) and rating, the federal disaster-declaration history (26 declarations since 1979), and the NOAA Storm Events record (343 events, 2000-2026).

Hazard	NRI EAL ($/yr)	NRI Rating	Priority and Basis
Winter Storm (Ice)	1,990,776	Very High	High. Highest modeled loss in the county; four federal winter declarations including the December 2000 ice storm and January 2026.
Flooding (Riverine + Flash)	1,631,377	Very Low*	High. Second-highest modeled loss; 42 NOAA flood events; recent

			flood declaration DR-4873 (2025). *Low rating reflects small exposure, not low frequency.
Severe Thunderstorm	746,149**	Rel. Low	High. Most frequent and most federally declared (14 severe-storm declarations). **Wind, hail, and lightning combined.
Tornado	646,300	Rel. Low	High. 10 recorded tornadoes including a March 2025 EF2; two tornado declarations.
Extreme Heat	276,219	Rel. Low	Moderate. About 300 recorded heat events; profiled given the county's Very High social vulnerability and large elderly and disabled population.
Drought	45,412	Rel. Low	Moderate. Frequent; low structural loss but real agricultural impact (NRI under-counts agricultural drought).
Dam Failure	n/a	n/a	Low. NID shows one Significant Hazard dam (Rosston Lake) and nine Low Hazard dams; no recorded failures.
Wildfire	7,828	Very Low	Low. Under-recorded in NOAA; supplement with Arkansas Forestry Division data.
Earthquake	226,626	Very Low	Very Low. No recorded local seismicity; distant New Madrid is the only large scenario.

Hazards considered but not profiled. Drawing on the 2023 State of Arkansas Hazard Mitigation Plan and the FEMA National Risk Index, the committee reviewed the full list of commonly recognized natural hazards and documented why certain hazards are not profiled. Landslide is not profiled: the National Risk Index reports no meaningful modeled landslide expected annual loss for Nevada County, the county's flat to gently rolling Gulf Coastal Plain terrain lies well outside the Ouachita and Ozark landslide-susceptibility belts, and the 2023 State Plan screens landslide out as a low-significance hazard for this part of Arkansas. Land subsidence and expansive soils are likewise not profiled; the county has no karst or documented subsidence features and no recorded damage of

this type. Coastal hazards, hurricane storm surge, and tsunami do not apply to this inland county. The committee will revisit these determinations at the five-year update if new susceptibility data becomes available.

> Citation for all hazard descriptions in this section: SCIPP, 2024: Simple Planning Tool for Climate Hazards, v 2.0. Southern Climate Impacts Planning Program, University of Oklahoma. Available online at https://scipp.ncdc.noaa.gov/

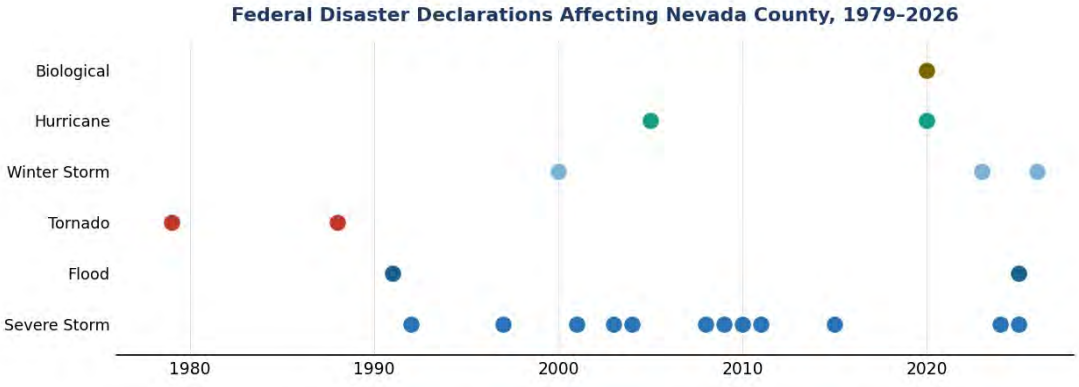


Figure 2. Federal disaster declarations affecting Nevada County, 1979-2026. Severe storms, winter storms, tornadoes, and flooding dominate the federal record.



Figure 3. FEMA National Risk Index modeled Expected Annual Loss by hazard for Nevada County. Ice storm, riverine flooding, and tornado are the largest modeled dollar losses.



Figure 4. Recorded property damage by hazard from the NOAA Storm Events Database, 2000-2026. The December 2000 ice storm (a county-zone regional estimate) dominates the recorded total.

Dam Failure

Description

Catastrophic type of failure characterized by the sudden, rapid, and uncontrolled release of impounded water or the likelihood of such an uncontrolled release. It is recognized that there are lesser degrees of failure and that any malfunction or abnormality outside the design assumptions and parameters that adversely affect a dam's primary function of impounding water is properly considered a failure (USSD 2018).

Dams help address the complex challenge of controlling and distributing water, conserving it in reservoirs for energy, drinking water, and irrigation, and protecting downstream areas through flood control. Two factors influence the potential severity of a dam failure: the amount of water impounded, and the density, type, and value of development and infrastructure located downstream. Dam safety and maintenance standards have increased over time.

In Nevada County, the USACE National Inventory of Dams lists 10 dams (2026): one Significant Hazard structure and nine Low Hazard structures, with no High Hazard dam. This reconciles with the county's previously approved plan, which profiled Rosston Lake Dam as the single high-consequence structure; the current NID classification for that structure is Significant Hazard.

Location of Events

The one Significant Hazard dam is **Rosston Lake Dam (NID ID AR00618)**, a privately owned earthen dam 17 feet high and 439 feet long, completed in 1941, impounding a tributary of Brushy Creek about one mile from the City of Rosston near U.S. Highway 371. It stores about 364 acre-feet across a 24.2-acre surface, on a 0.8-square-mile drainage, and its primary use is recreation. The nine Low Hazard dams (No Name 68 A.F.C., Barham Lake No. 1 and No. 2, Bee Bee Lake, Hale Lake, Harler 3 Lake, Heathlake, Lake Bradshaw, and Wilson Lake) are scattered through the unincorporated county, generally surrounded by pasture with no significant downstream structures.

Dam	NID ID	Hazard Class	Setting
Rosston Lake Dam	AR00618	Significant	About 1 mile south of Rosston, beside U.S. Hwy

			371
No Name 68 A.F.C.	AR00623	Low	Unincorporated pasture
Barham Lake Dam No. 1	AR00619	Low	Unincorporated pasture
Barham Lake Dam No. 2	AR00620	Low	Unincorporated pasture
Bee Bee Lake Dam	AR00607	Low	Unincorporated pasture
Hale Lake Dam	AR00608	Low	Unincorporated pasture
Harler 3 Lake Dam	AR00616	Low	Unincorporated pasture
Heathlake Dam	AR00610	Low	Unincorporated pasture
Lake Bradshaw Dam	AR00612	Low	Unincorporated pasture
Wilson Lake Dam	AR01159	Low	Unincorporated pasture

Extent, Magnitude, or Severity

Extent is measured by a dam's hazard-potential classification and by the volume of water it impounds. Rosston Lake Dam is classified Significant Hazard, meaning a failure is expected to cause economic or environmental loss but not loss of life; it is 17 feet high and 439 feet long and impounds 364 acre-feet on a 24.2-acre pool with a 0.8-square-mile drainage area. The most severe event the county should plan for is a full breach of Rosston Lake Dam during or after heavy rain, releasing the impounded water down the Brushy Creek tributary toward U.S. Highway 371 about one mile from Rosston. Because no inundation study exists, the depth and extent of the resulting flooding cannot be stated more precisely (see Data Deficiency). The nine Low Hazard dams are small ponds whose failure would affect only adjacent pasture.

Previous Occurrences

There are no recorded dam failures in Nevada County. The Association of State Dam Safety Officials shows zero documented dam-failure incidents for the county across its period of record.

Probability of Future Events

With no historical occurrences, there is insufficient data to compute a historic frequency, and the probability of a dam failure in any given year is less than 1 percent. The Significant Hazard classification of Rosston Lake Dam reflects potential downstream consequences, not an elevated likelihood of failure.

Jurisdiction Vulnerability

Dam-failure risk is not uniform across the county; it concentrates around Rosston Lake Dam and its downstream path. A failure of Rosston Lake Dam would threaten the recreational areas around the lake and, most importantly, U.S. Highway 371, a primary north-south route. The nearest incorporated community, the City of Rosston, lies about one mile north of the dam; the immediate downstream area is low-density unincorporated land with little housing or penned livestock. Bluff City, Bodcaw, Cale, Emmet, Prescott, and Willisville lie outside any plausible inundation path from this or any other county dam. The nine Low Hazard dams threaten only surrounding pasture in unincorporated Nevada County and, by definition, carry no probable loss of life on failure. No school facilities lie within the inundation area of any county dam, so the Nevada County School District campus in Rosston and the Prescott School District campuses are not directly exposed to this hazard.

Loss Estimate

A failure of Rosston Lake Dam could cause loss of life depending on the presence of habitable structures, damage to transportation systems (principally U.S. Highway 371), and disruption of services. Because no updated inundation study exists, a precise dollar loss cannot be modeled. The nine Low Hazard dams would produce only minor, localized pasture flooding.

Data Deficiency

Updated inundation-zone studies have not been completed for Nevada County dams due to a lack of funding, and were further postponed during the COVID-19 pandemic. The USACE National Inventory of Dams record for Rosston Lake Dam records Condition Assessment as Not Rated, no last inspection date on file, Emergency Action Plan Not Required, and no inundation maps in the NID; these are carried as documented data limitations rather than estimated. Completing an inundation study and confirming the dam's condition are carried forward as mitigation actions.

Dam Safety Assessment: Rosston Lake Dam (Significant Hazard)

Classification note. The USACE National Inventory of Dams record (last updated January 29, 2025) classifies Rosston Lake Dam as **Significant Hazard**, and shows the dam is not a state-regulated or state-jurisdictional dam. This supersedes the previously approved plan's 2016 reference to a High Hazard designation by the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission. Because the dam is Significant rather than High Hazard, the FEMA High Hazard Potential Dam (HHPD) planning element is not formally triggered; this plan nonetheless characterizes the dam with HHPD-level rigor, following the district standard.

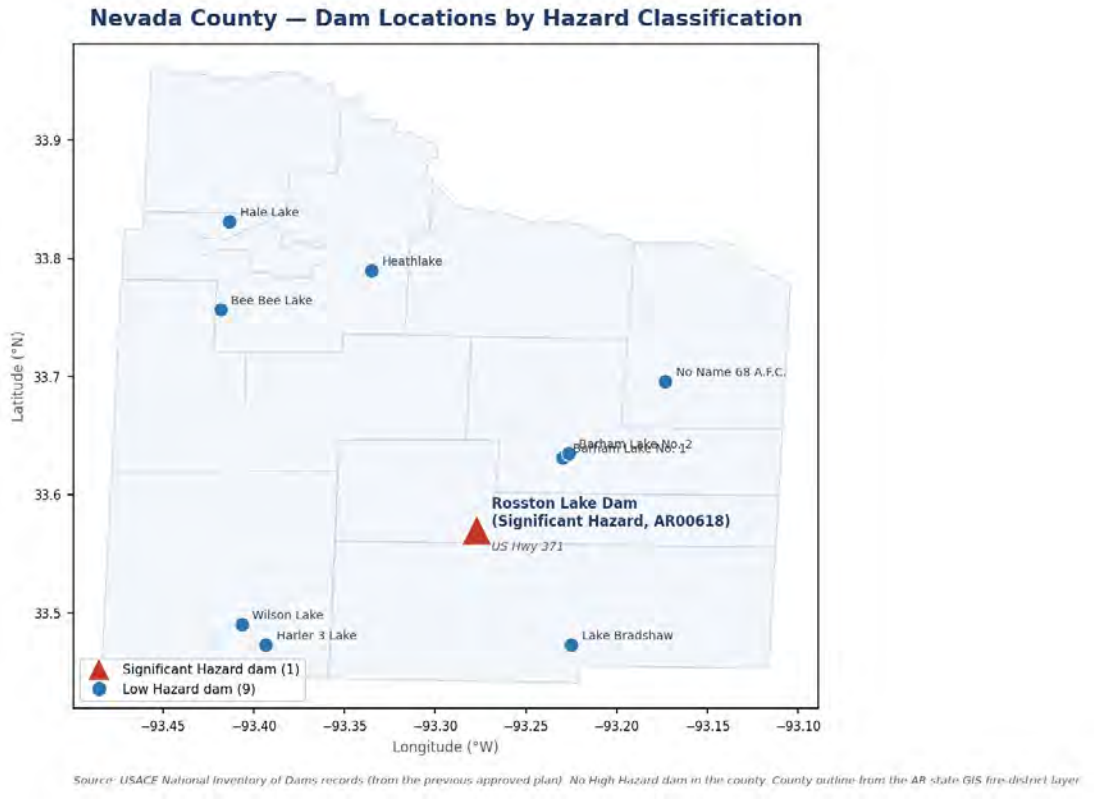
HHPD-1, Incorporation of existing information. The planning committee obtained the full NID record for Rosston Lake Dam (NID ID AR00618, 2025 export): private owners (Frank V. Bailey, Donny Hue, and A. Duke); recreation use; earthen dam; 17 feet high; 439 feet long; completed 1941; 364 acre-feet of storage; 24.2-acre surface area; 0.8-square-mile drainage; impounding a tributary of Brushy Creek about one mile from Rosston.

HHPD-2, Risk and vulnerability. As a Significant Hazard structure, a failure is expected to cause economic or environmental loss but is not expected to cause loss of life. The downstream exposure of concern is U.S. Highway 371 and the low-density unincorporated area between the dam and the City of Rosston. Methodology and limitations: no inundation study has been performed and the NID holds no inundation maps, so the precise downstream flood extent is not modeled; this assessment relies on the NID record and the downstream description.

HHPD-3, Goal. Reducing the risk from Rosston Lake Dam is tied to Goal 1 (decrease fatalities and injuries) and Goal 4 (protect existing and future properties) in the mitigation strategy.

HHPD-4, Actions. The mitigation action matrix carries the flood-zone and inundation-study action ("Flood-zone / inundation study of at-risk buildings and infrastructure"), which includes completing an inundation study for the county's Significant Hazard dam and confirming its condition; the responsible parties are the OEM and the county floodplain administrator, over a five-year horizon. The OEM Coordinator will share this plan's dam findings with the dam's private owners and with the Arkansas Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Division dam-safety

program, which has confirmed the dam is not state-regulated, and will request that an inspection and emergency action plan be considered given the highway exposure downstream.



Nevada County dam locations by hazard classification. Rosston Lake Dam (Significant Hazard) sits beside US Highway 371 south of Rosston; the nine Low Hazard dams are scattered through the unincorporated county. There is no High Hazard dam in the county. Source: USACE National Inventory of Dams.

Drought

Description

A deficiency of moisture that results in adverse impacts on people, animals, or vegetation over a sizeable area (NWS 2009).

Drought impacts vary based on the duration and intensity of the event. A few dry weeks may affect crops and lawns, while droughts lasting months or years may significantly impact large water resources. Drought is rated by the weekly U.S. Drought Monitor on a scale from D0 (abnormally dry) to D4 (exceptional drought). D0 occurs, on average, about 21 to 30 percent of the time; D2 (severe) about every 10 to 20 years; and D4 (exceptional) about every 50 years. Droughts are more frequent in areas where annual evaporation may exceed annual precipitation, and impacts become severe more quickly for summer drought, when evaporative loss is high.

In Nevada County, drought develops slowly but stresses agriculture, livestock, water supply, and timber, and raises wildfire risk. The county can experience D0 through D4, though D0 to D2 is most common.

Location of Events

Drought has no geographic boundary; it develops across the entire planning area at once. Its consequences, however, fall hardest on the county's agricultural and timber lands and on its most vulnerable residents.

Extent, Magnitude, or Severity

Drought extent is measured on the U.S. Drought Monitor scale from D0 (abnormally dry) to D4 (exceptional). Figure 5 shows that D3 (extreme) drought covered the entire county in 2005-2006 and again in 2011, when conditions briefly reached D4 (exceptional), and that D2 to D3 conditions returned in 2018, 2022, and 2025-2026. The most severe drought the county should plan for is a multi-season D3 to D4 event of the 2011 type, with agricultural, livestock, timber, and water-supply losses countywide and sharply elevated wildfire danger.

Previous Occurrences

The NOAA Storm Events record logs 29 drought periods for Nevada County (2000-2026). Storm Events records drought as monthly periods rather than full agricultural loss, so the true economic impact is understated.

Probability of Future Events

The National Risk Index annualized frequency for drought is about 17.2 per year (drought is logged in overlapping monthly periods), indicating recurrent drought conditions. A drought of at least D0 intensity should be expected in most years.

Jurisdiction Vulnerability

Drought's burden falls unevenly. The farms and timber operations of unincorporated Nevada County carry the largest economic exposure, since the regional economy depends on agricultural resources. The smaller water systems serving Bodcaw (Bodcaw Water Systems), Cale and Rosston (Rosston Water), Willisville (City of Willisville), and Emmet (City of Emmet Water and Sewage) are more vulnerable to supply and water-quality decline during extended drought than the larger Prescott system. Across all jurisdictions, the residents most at risk are the elderly, those with health conditions, and people without stable housing. The Nevada County School District and Prescott School District do not anticipate significant operational impact from drought.

Loss Estimate

The National Risk Index models drought expected annual loss at about $45,412 per year, but this under-represents agricultural loss. Drought has no proven effect on building structures; its losses are concentrated in agriculture, livestock, water supply, and timber.

Data Deficiency

NOAA Storm Events and NRI both under-count agricultural drought loss. Supplement with USDA crop-loss data and Arkansas Department of Agriculture records for a complete picture of the county's drought losses.

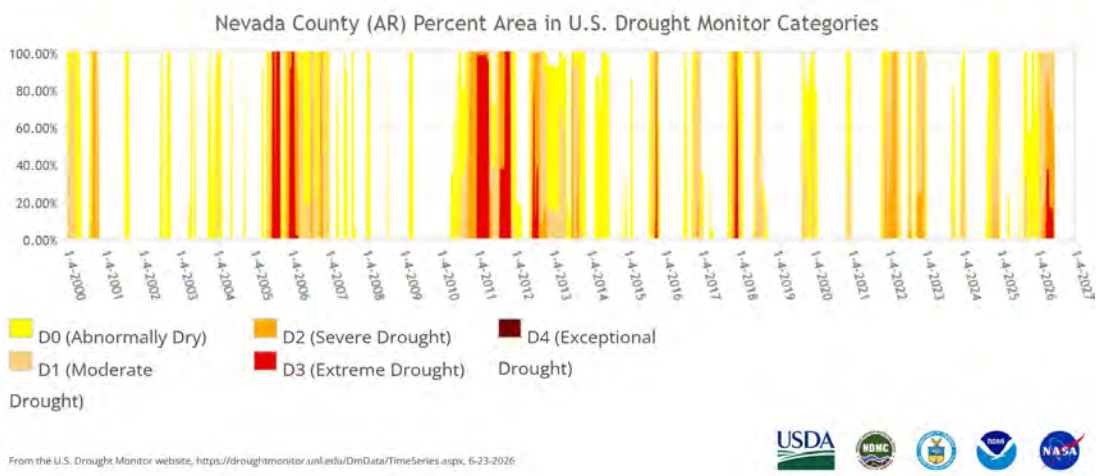


Figure 5. Percent of Nevada County in each U.S. Drought Monitor category, 2000-2025. Abnormally dry (D0) to moderate (D1) conditions recur most years. Source: U.S. Drought Monitor / SCIPP.

Heavy Rainfall and Flooding

Description

Heavy rainfall is rain with a rate of accumulation exceeding a specific value that is geographically dependent (AMS 2012). Flooding is any high flow, overflow, or inundation by water which causes or threatens damage (NWS 2009).

Heavy rainfall is rain falling faster than the underlying surface can absorb, causing runoff and inundation of low-lying areas. Flooding is most likely in low-lying areas, along the edges of water bodies, and over impermeable surfaces such as streets and parking lots. Flash flooding may occur with intense thunderstorms, while river (riverine) flooding usually requires rainfall accumulated over a longer duration. Rainfall rates and accumulations are usually greatest during spring, summer, and fall, and tropical systems can produce among the highest rainfall rates in the state.

In Nevada County, flooding occurs in two distinct forms that affect different places and behave differently, and this plan profiles them separately.

Location of Events

Riverine (slow-rise) flooding centers on the county's main waterways: the Little Missouri River along the northern and northwestern county line, Terre Noire Creek in the northeast, and Bodcaw Creek and its tributaries in the south. Caney Creek and Cypress Creek, which drain the central county toward the Little Missouri, and Wilson Creek and the West Fork of Caney Creek carry the county's most flood-prone bridges: the Federal Highway Administration National Bridge Inventory (2024) rates six county bridges in poor condition (State Highway 24 over Caney Creek, State Highway 53 over the Little Missouri River, State Highway 76 over West Fork Caney Creek, State Highway 387 at White Oak Lake, County Road 290 over Caney Creek, and County Road 35 over Wilson Creek) and three State Highway 299 bridges over Caney and Cypress creeks as scour-critical. Flash flooding affects urban drainage in Prescott, low-water crossings, and small tributaries throughout the county, responding in minutes to heavy rain and reaching locations that riverine flooding does not. The Office of Emergency Management reports that the following county roads

sustained flooding and flood damage during the federally declared events of 2024 through 2026: Nevada County Roads 16, 18, 26, 34, 40, 50, 63, 225, 227, 229, 240, 244, 250, 260, and 291. In preparing this plan, the committee reviewed the Nevada County Flood Insurance Rate Maps and worked with the county floodplain administrator to profile flooding for the planning area.

Extent, Magnitude, or Severity

Flood extent is measured by the depth and area of inundation and, for riverine flooding, by gauge stage against the National Weather Service flood categories. The gauge for the Little Missouri River in the county is at Boughton (NWS BHTA4, USGS 07361600, on the Nevada-Clark county line), with an action stage of 19 feet and minor, moderate, and major flood stages of 20, 23, and 25 feet. The record crest is 27.2 feet on March 31, 1945 (111,100 cubic feet per second), and the April 6, 2025 crest of 24.01 feet (moderate flood stage, during the DR-4873 event) is the most severe recent flood. Flash flooding in Prescott and at rural low-water crossings typically puts one to three feet of water over roads for a few hours after three to five inches of rain. The most severe event the county should plan for is major flooding at or above 25 feet at Boughton coinciding with flash flooding on Terre Noire, Caney, Cypress, and Bodcaw creeks, closing the county roads named under Location of Events and isolating rural residents for several days.

Previous Occurrences

The NOAA Storm Events record shows 1 riverine flood and 41 flash floods for Nevada County (2000-2026), with combined property damage near $162,000. Notable flash-flood events include October 2009 near Bodcaw and Dian ($100,000 and $40,000) and October 2001 at Prescott ($12,000). On the Little Missouri River at Boughton, the record crest is 27.2 feet (March 31, 1945) and the April 6, 2025 crest reached 24.01 feet, above moderate flood stage. Two federal flood declarations affected the county: DR-907 (1991) and DR-4873 (2025), the latter covering the April 2025 event that damaged the county roads listed above.

Probability of Future Events

The National Risk Index annualized inland (riverine) flood frequency is about 0.71 per year; flash flooding is more frequent, with 41 events in 26 years. Taken together, a flood event in some form is close to an annual expectation. On the Little Missouri River at Boughton, minor flooding (20 feet) is expected in most years and moderate flooding (23 feet) every few years; the April 2025 crest shows that moderate-to-major stages remain realistic. Major flash flooding in Prescott requires roughly four or more inches of rain in a one-hour period.

Jurisdiction Vulnerability

Flood exposure is not uniform. Prescott, the county's largest community and the focus of urban drainage, is most exposed to flash flooding of streets and developed areas along the creeks that cross the city; the Prescott School District's Martin Street campuses sit on upland ground outside the mapped Zone A corridors on the Prescott panel, and no campus building is reported to have flooded. Rosston, Cale, and Willisville, which lie nearer Bodcaw Creek and the southern tributaries, face riverine and tributary flooding of low-lying land and crossings; Rosston Water and the Rosston Water Department service to Cale depend on those crossings for access. Bodcaw and Emmet carry lower flood exposure but each has mapped Zone A along local creeks, and Emmet's water and sewer system is the utility most exposed. Unincorporated Nevada County carries the broadest exposure:

the fifteen county roads named above flooded in the 2024-2026 declared events, the six poor-condition and three scour-critical bridges on Caney, Cypress, Wilson, and West Fork Caney creeks and the Little Missouri River are the county's most likely points of failure, and rural residents cut off by high water face delayed emergency response. Bluff City, Cale, and Willisville are not members of the NFIP, which limits floodplain regulation and leaves their residents without access to federal flood insurance; enrollment is carried as a mitigation action for all three. The Nevada County School District reports no campus buildings in a flood zone, though its buses use county roads that flood.

Loss Estimate

The National Risk Index models inland (riverine) flood expected annual loss at about $1,631,377 per year, the second-highest dollar loss among all hazards in the county. Historical NOAA property damage totals about $162,000 (riverine plus flash) for 2000-2026, which understates losses to county roads and bridges that are repaired with disaster assistance rather than reported as property damage.

Data Deficiency

The county road list above records roads damaged in declared events but not the depth or frequency of flooding at each crossing; a crossing-by-crossing inventory with high-water marks is a data need for the next update. Nevada County's flood mapping is an approximate study: the unincorporated county's effective product is the 1977 Flood Hazard Boundary Map (FHBM, converted by letter to the NFIP Regular Program effective June 1, 2009), which shows only the approximate Special Flood Hazard Area (Zone A) and carries no base flood elevations. No modern digital FIRM or National Flood Hazard Layer (NFHL) dataset exists for the county, so a digital county flood-zone map, a per-jurisdiction Special Flood Hazard Area acreage table, and a point-in-polygon screen of critical facilities cannot be produced; the scanned FHBM index and detail panels are the source of record and are reproduced in Appendix C, and critical-facility flood exposure is assigned at the jurisdiction level in this profile. A modern flood study or Base Level Engineering for the county is a mitigation need. The Special Flood Hazard Area follows the Little Missouri River, Terre Noire Creek, Bodcaw Creek, and the creeks through the incorporated cities, while the remainder of the county is Zone X (minimal flood hazard). The county floodplain administrator confirmed in July 2026 that there are no repetitive-loss properties in the planning area.

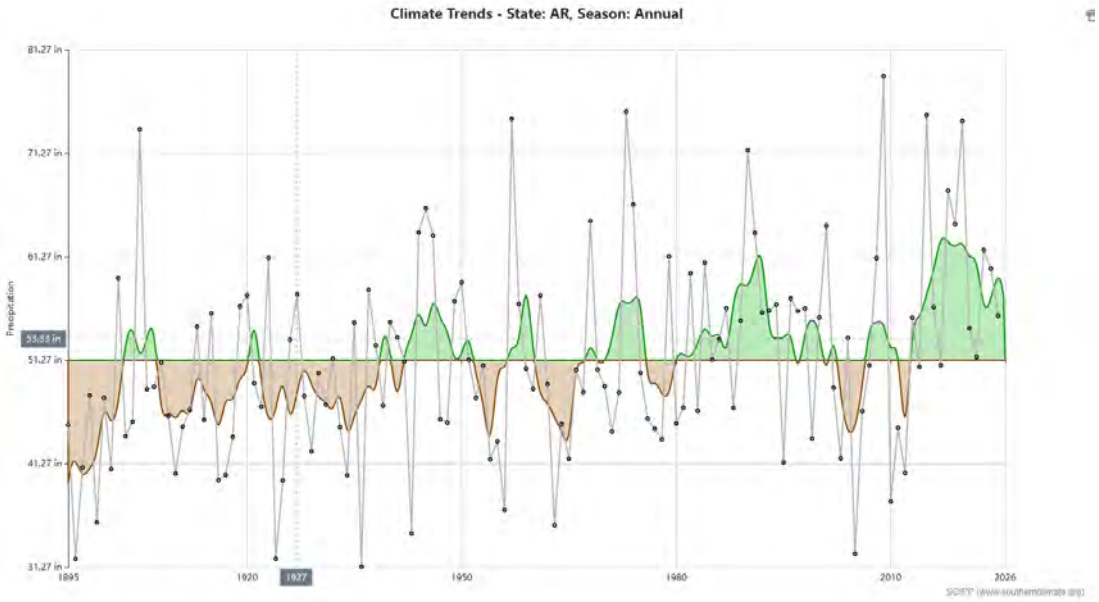


Figure 6. Annual precipitation for Southwest Arkansas. Wet years drive riverine and flash flooding. Source: SCIPP / Southern Climate Impacts Planning Program.

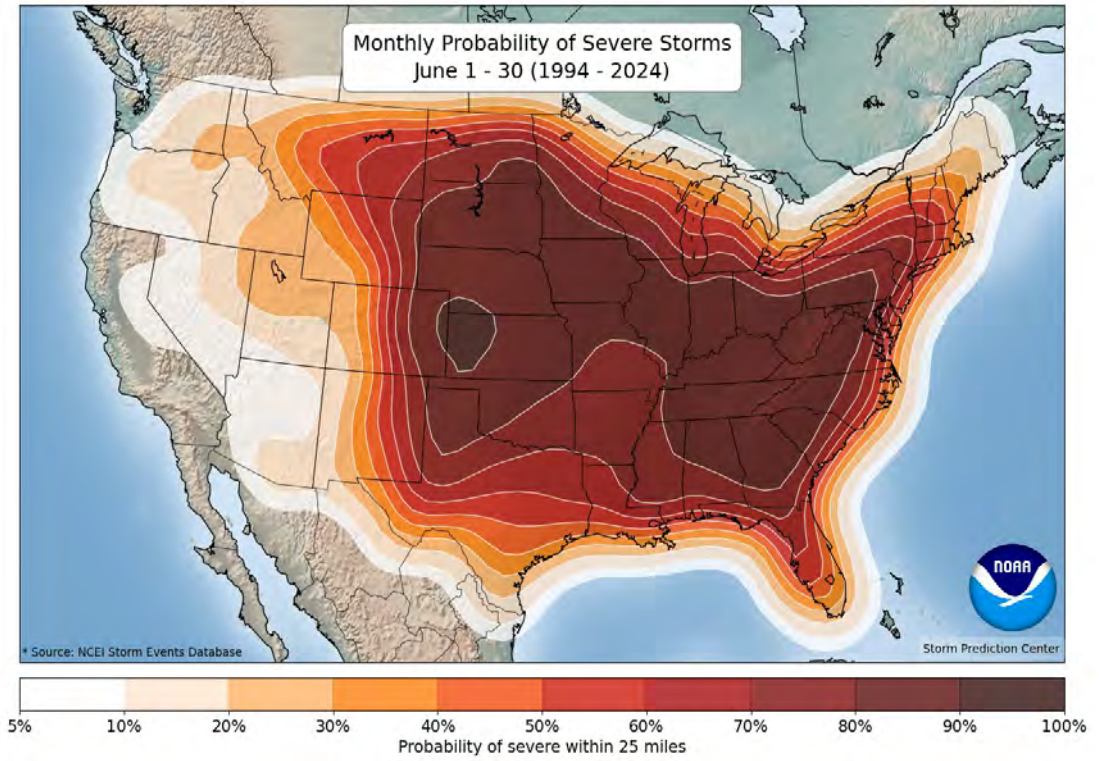


Figure 7. Storm Prediction Center climatological probability of severe weather within 25 miles, by month. Source: NOAA/NWS Storm Prediction Center.

Severe Thunderstorm (Lightning, Hail, and Winds)

Thunderstorms are profiled across three components: lightning, hail, and severe (straight-line) winds. Together they form the county's most frequent severe-weather hazard and the most common basis for its federal disaster declarations.

Description: Lightning

A visible electrical discharge produced by a thunderstorm. The discharge may occur within or between clouds, between the cloud and air, between a cloud and the ground, or between the ground and a cloud (NWS 2009).

Lightning forms from charge separation within thunderstorms and is capable of striking as far as 10 miles from a storm. Thunder is created by a shock wave from rapid heating of the air to 18,000 degrees. Lightning severity is not rated.

Description: Hail

Showery precipitation in the form of irregular pellets or balls of ice more than 5mm (0.2 inches) in diameter, falling from a cumulonimbus cloud (NWS 2009).

Hail forms by the collision of supercooled drops supported by a storm's updraft; stronger updrafts generally produce larger hail. Hail of 1-inch diameter or greater is considered severe.

Description: Severe Thunderstorm Winds

Severe thunderstorm winds are winds of 58 mph or greater when convection (a thunderstorm) is present.

Straight-line winds are thunderstorm winds without rotation, distinct from tornadic winds. Downbursts and microbursts are concentrated downdrafts that produce strong outward winds near the surface. In Nevada County, these straight-line winds are responsible for the bulk of recorded thunderstorm damage.

Location of Events

Thunderstorms occur across the entire planning area, but their effects concentrate where vulnerable structures and infrastructure are located.

Extent, Magnitude, or Severity

Severe thunderstorm winds are rated by measured or estimated gust speed, with 58 mph the severe threshold. The strongest gusts recorded in the county are 70 mph (April 4, 2011 at Emmet and Dian, and May 25, 2020 at Weaver), and five events have reached 70 mph. Hail is rated by diameter, with one inch the severe threshold; the largest hail recorded is 3.00 inches at Emmet (May 18, 2001), with 2.75-inch hail at Willisville (2003) and Rosston (2004) and five events of two inches or larger. Lightning has no severity rating; the National Risk Index models about 64 lightning events per year. The most severe event the county should plan for is a derecho-type wind event of 80 to 100 mph or baseball-size hail across the populated I-30 corridor, both of which have occurred elsewhere in southwest Arkansas.

Previous Occurrences

The NOAA Storm Events record shows 77 thunderstorm-wind events ($784,000, 2 injuries), 53 hail events, and 1 lightning event for Nevada County (2000-2026). Large hail (2 inches or greater) has

been reported 5 times. Severe storms account for 14 of the county's 26 federal declarations, including DR-4788 (2024) and EM-3627 (2025). A notable wind event on April 4, 2011 produced 70 mph winds near Dian and Emmet ($250,000 and $50,000).

Probability of Future Events

National Risk Index annualized frequencies are high: about 4.0 strong-wind, 4.7 hail, and 63.8 lightning events per year. Severe thunderstorms are an annual certainty in Nevada County.

Jurisdiction Vulnerability

Thunderstorm winds, hail, and lightning expose all structures and their contents, but the burden is heaviest where housing and infrastructure are weakest. The pockets of substandard and manufactured housing scattered through unincorporated Nevada County and the smaller cities are the most vulnerable to wind and hail. Electric distribution serving Prescott (Prescott Water & Light), Emmet, Rosston, and Bluff City (Entergy), and Bodcaw, Cale, and the rural county (South Central Arkansas Electric) is exposed to downed lines from wind and lightning, and the county's cell towers are vulnerable to wind damage that would degrade communications. Lightning threatens the volunteer fire stations and water-system controls in every jurisdiction. The Nevada County School District campus in Rosston and the Prescott School District's Martin Street campuses are exposed to roof and window damage and power loss during severe storms, and the Prescott campuses' gyms and agriculture buildings are the largest-span roofs in the county.

Loss Estimate

The National Risk Index models combined thunderstorm losses near $746,000 per year (strong wind $287,860; hail $329,117; lightning $129,172). Historical NOAA thunderstorm-wind property damage is about $784,000 for 2000-2026.

Data Deficiency

Hail property damage is frequently unestimated in the NOAA record (shown as $0 despite 53 events), so historical hail losses are understated. Use NRI for the modeled hail figure.

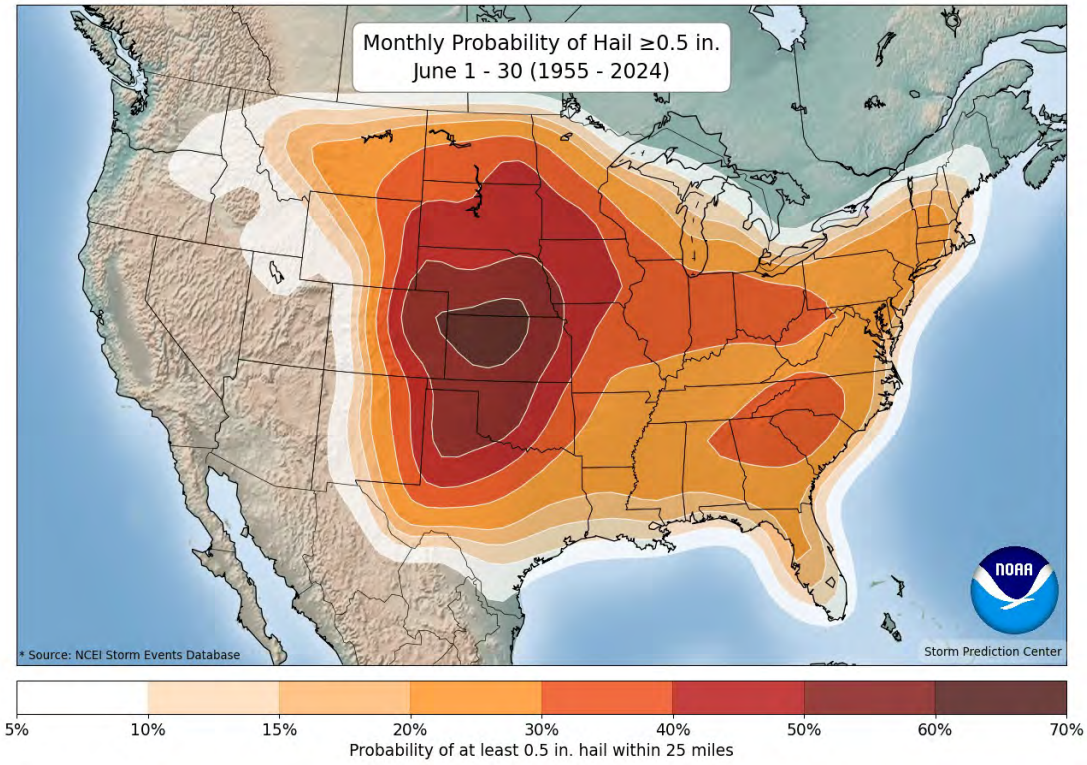


Figure 8. Storm Prediction Center climatological probability of hail (1 inch or larger) within 25 miles. Source: NOAA/NWS Storm Prediction Center.

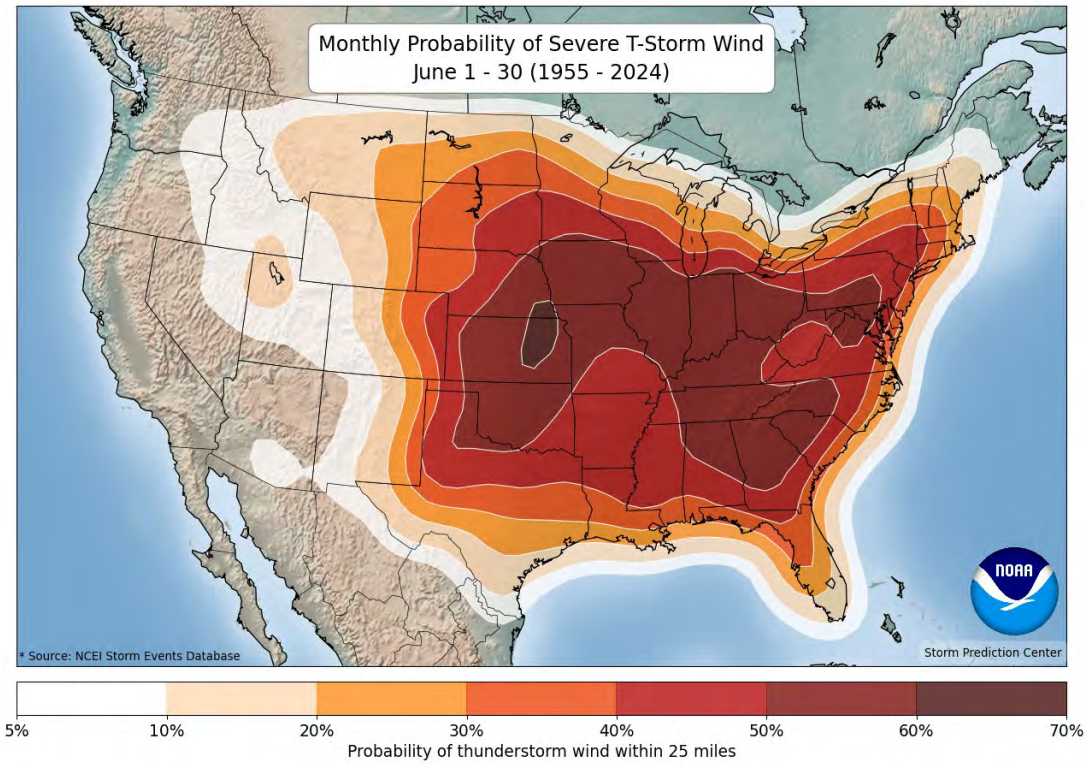


Figure 9. Storm Prediction Center climatological probability of damaging thunderstorm winds within 25 miles. Source: NOAA/NWS Storm Prediction Center.

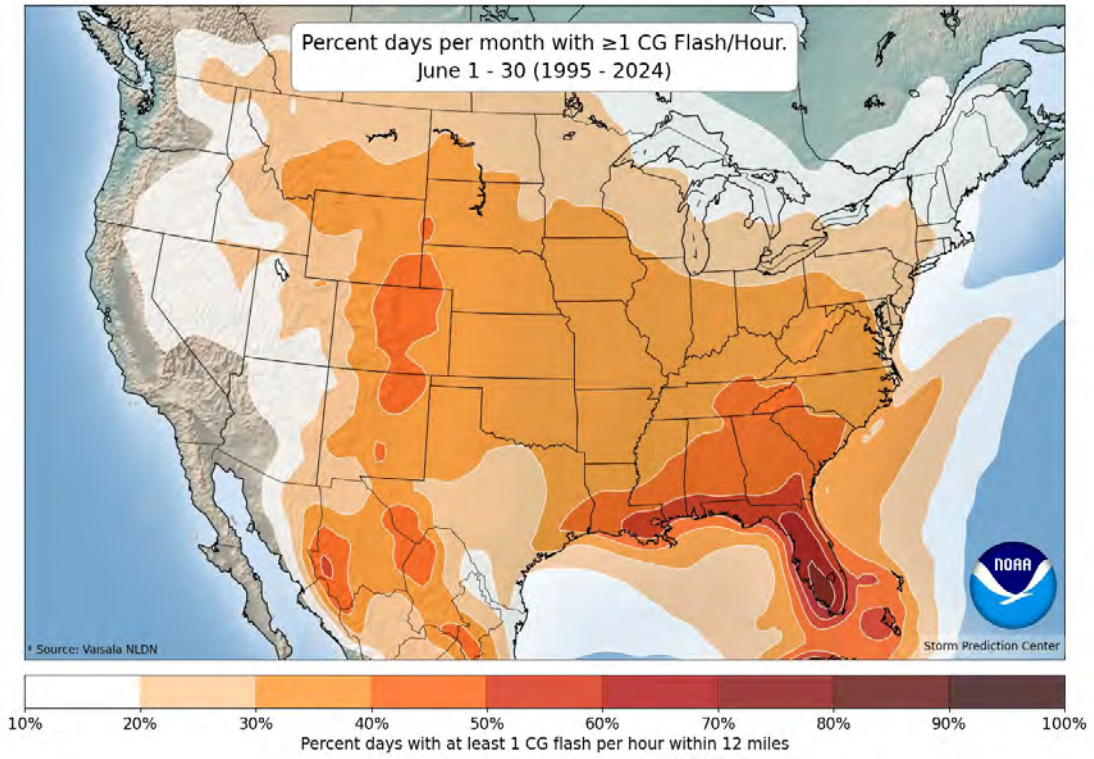


Figure 10. Storm Prediction Center climatological probability of lightning within 25 miles. Source: NOAA/NWS Storm Prediction Center.

Tornado

Description

A violently rotating column of air, usually pendant to a cumulonimbus, with circulation reaching the ground (NWS 2009).

Tornadoes generally form from severe thunderstorms, particularly supercells, and may also form along squall lines or within hurricane bands. They can occur at any time of year and any time of day; Arkansas sees an uptick in spring but also experiences fall and winter tornadoes. Tornado intensity is rated by the damage produced, on a scale from EF0 (weak) to EF5 (violent). Strong and violent tornadoes account for only about one-third of all tornadoes but the vast majority of fatalities and economic impacts.

In Nevada County, the most likely intensity is EF0 to EF1, though stronger tornadoes are possible, as the March 2025 EF2 demonstrated.

Location of Events

Tornadoes have no defined geographic boundary within the county, but their consequences concentrate among the county's many manufactured homes and its critical facilities.

Extent, Magnitude, or Severity

Tornado extent is rated on the Enhanced Fujita scale (EF0 to EF5) by observed damage. Of the ten tornadoes recorded since 2000, eight were EF0 or EF1 with paths under four miles and widths of 40

to 375 yards. The strongest was the EF2 of March 14, 2025 near Cale, which tracked nine miles with a damage path 700 yards wide, and the December 27, 2015 EF1 near Delta was 353 yards wide. The most severe event the county should plan for is an EF3 or stronger tornado tracking through Prescott or across a school campus; tornadoes of that strength have struck neighboring counties, and the county's manufactured-housing stock would sustain near-total loss inside such a path.

Previous Occurrences

The NOAA Storm Events record shows 10 tornadoes for Nevada County (2000-2026), $520,000 in property damage, with no deaths or injuries. Recent events include a March 14, 2025 EF2 near Cale ($250,000), a December 27, 2015 EF1 ($100,000), and a May 30, 2004 F1 near Laneburg ($80,000). Two tornado declarations affected the county directly (DR-574, 1979; DR-817, 1988), and tornadoes appear within many of the 14 severe-storm declarations.

Probability of Future Events

The National Risk Index annualized frequency is about 0.39 tornadoes per year, roughly one every two to three years, with EF0 to EF1 most likely and stronger events possible.

Jurisdiction Vulnerability

Tornado risk concentrates in the county's housing stock and critical facilities. Manufactured homes, which are common throughout unincorporated Nevada County and the smaller cities (521 structures in the National Structure Inventory and 1,048 units in the American Community Survey), are the most vulnerable structures and place their occupants at the highest risk of injury or death. Prescott, as the county seat and largest population center, concentrates the most people, businesses, and county facilities (the courthouse, the Sheriff's Office and Detention Center, the two long-term care facilities, and the Prescott School District's 892 students on Martin Street) in a single tornado footprint. The Nevada County School District campus in Rosston (414 students) represents a concentrated vulnerable population when school is in session, and neither district has a FEMA-rated safe room. Cale, struck by the March 2025 EF2, and the rural communities of Laneburg, Delta, and Bodcaw have each recorded a tornado since 2000. Electric and communication infrastructure (power lines and the county's cell towers) is exposed countywide, and downed lines would obstruct emergency response on rural routes.

Loss Estimate

The National Risk Index models tornado expected annual loss at about $646,300 per year. Historical NOAA property damage is $520,000 for 2000-2026.

Data Deficiency

The NOAA record includes no injuries or deaths for the county's tornadoes, so life-safety exposure is inferred from housing type and facility occupancy rather than measured. An inventory of child-care centers and the largest employers in each jurisdiction, with occupancy, is a data need for the next update; the long-term care facilities are inventoried in Section 2.

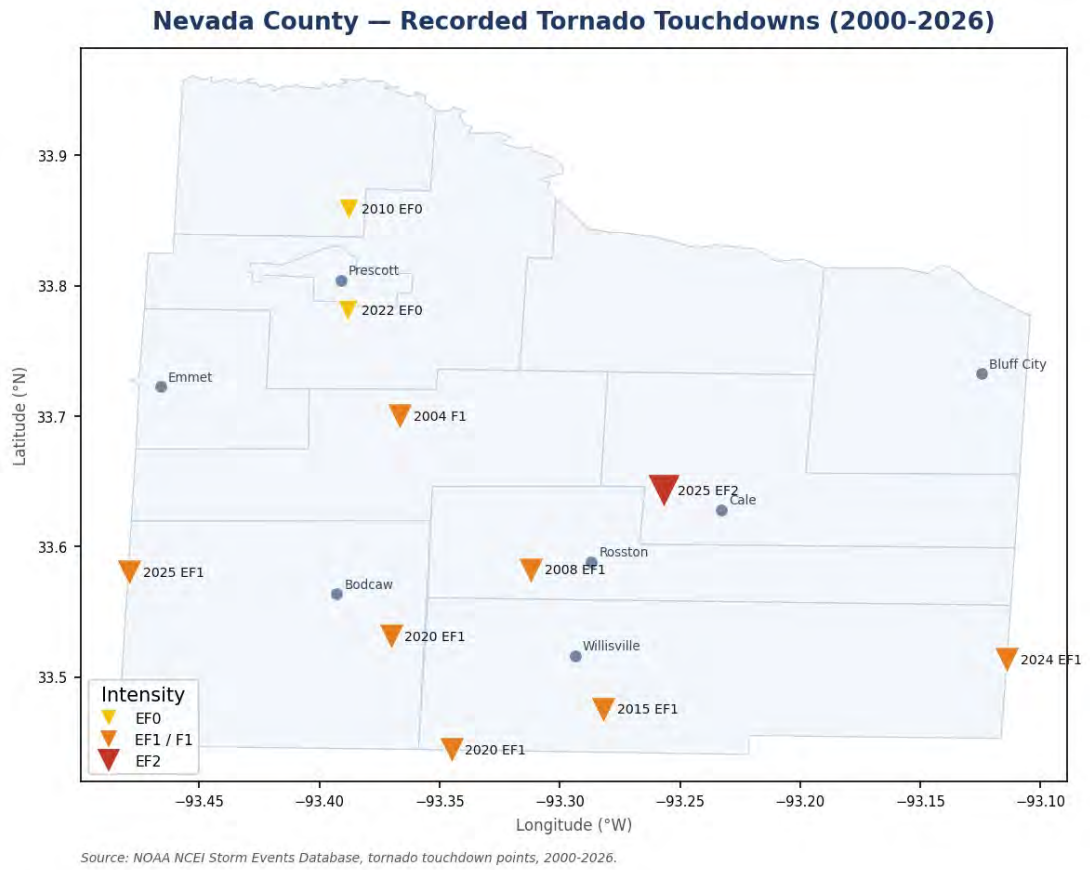


Figure 11. Recorded tornado touchdowns in Nevada County, 2000-2026, by intensity. The March 2025 EF2 near Cale is the strongest on record for the period. Source: NOAA NCEI Storm Events Database.

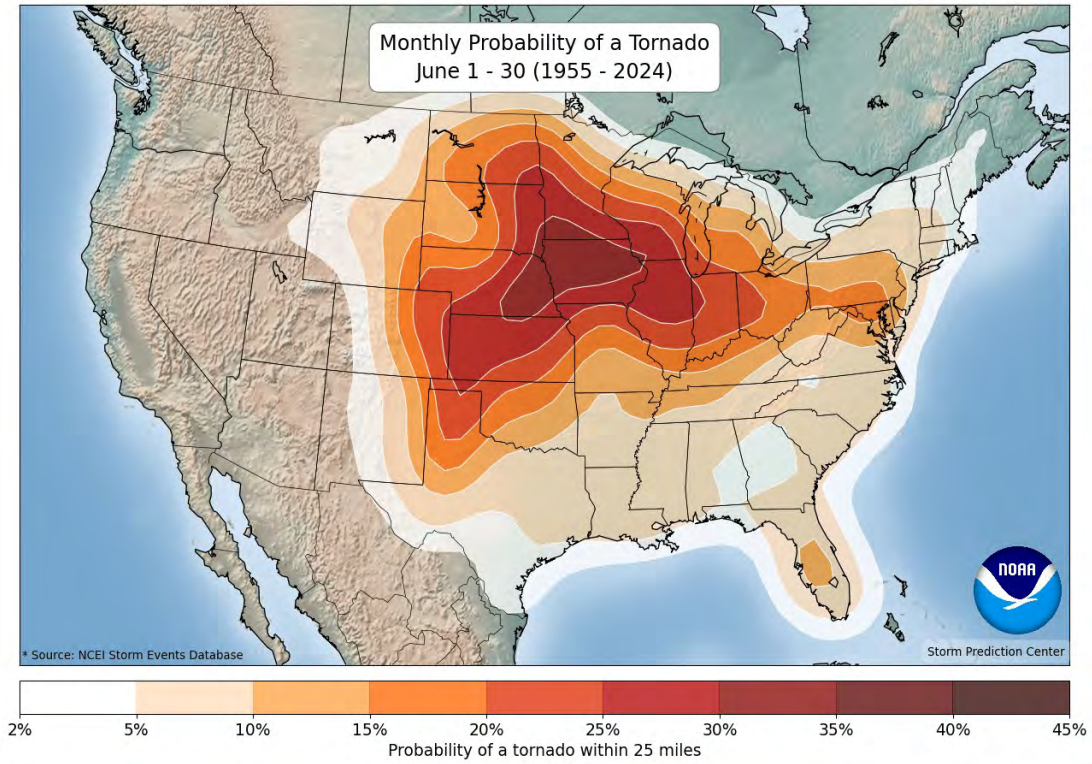


Figure 12. Storm Prediction Center climatological probability of a tornado within 25 miles, by month. Source: NOAA/NWS Storm Prediction Center.

Wildfire

Description

Any free burning uncontainable wildland fire not prescribed for the area which consumes the natural fuels and spreads in response to its environment (NWS 2009).

Wildfires occur when warm temperatures, low humidity, strong winds, and a period without precipitation meet sufficient fuel and an ignition source. Fine fuels such as grass and pine needles allow fire to start and become intense enough to ignite larger materials. Ignition may be natural (lightning) or human-caused (equipment sparks, power transformers, discarded cigarettes). Wildfires are most common during drought but can happen any time; fire danger is measured on a Burning Index scale.

In Nevada County, which is heavily rural and timbered, wildfire risk is highest where development meets wooded land, the wildland-urban interface on the edges of communities.

Location of Events

The highest-risk areas are the wooded outskirts of the incorporated cities and the timbered unincorporated county, where structures border grass, brush, and forest.

Extent, Magnitude, or Severity

Wildfire extent is measured by acres burned and by fire behavior. Across 2013 to 2019 the Arkansas Forestry Division recorded 146 wildfires burning 1,801 acres in Nevada County, an average of about

12 acres per fire; the largest annual total was 634 acres from 19 fires in 2016, and the most active year was 2017 with 44 fires. Most county fires are grass and understory fires held under 50 acres by volunteer departments and Forestry Division crews. The most severe event the county should plan for is a wind-driven fire of several hundred to more than 1,000 acres during a D3 drought and red-flag conditions, threatening homes at the wooded edges of Bluff City, Bodcaw, Cale, Rosston, and Willisville and the timbered unincorporated county.

Previous Occurrences

The NOAA Storm Events record shows only 1 wildfire for Nevada County (2000-2026) with no recorded loss, but NOAA and the National Risk Index both under-record wildfire. The Arkansas Department of Agriculture Forestry Division maintains the actual fire history. Its Fires by County table records the following for Nevada County: 2013, 22 fires and 321 acres; 2014, 18 fires and 75 acres; 2015, 15 fires and 42 acres; 2016, 19 fires and 634 acres; 2017, 44 fires and 315 acres; 2018, 15 fires and 216 acres; 2019, 13 fires and 198 acres. Over the seven years that is 146 wildfires and 1,801 acres, an average of about 21 fires and 257 acres per year. The most recent year in the published dataset is 2019; the last five years are not yet reflected, and the profile will be refreshed when the Forestry Division publishes newer county data.

Probability of Future Events

With an average of about 21 wildfires per year in the Forestry Division record, at least one wildfire in the county is a near certainty in any given year (probability effectively 100 percent), and a fire of 100 acres or more can be expected every few years. The probability that a wildfire damages homes or structures in a given year is much lower, and the National Risk Index models that structural loss as Very Low. The real risk rises markedly during drought and extreme heat, so wildfire is treated as a frequent, locally significant hazard rather than a negligible one.

Jurisdiction Vulnerability

Wildfire risk concentrates at the wildland-urban interface. The wooded edges of Bluff City, Bodcaw, Cale, Rosston, and Willisville, and the timbered tracts of unincorporated Nevada County, are the most exposed, where homes and outbuildings sit against continuous fuels; Emmet and Prescott have smaller interface edges on their outskirts. Because the county is rural, all eleven fire departments are volunteer (Prescott, Nevada County Rescue, Fairhills, Redland, Laneburg, Reader, Emmet, Bluff City, Cale, Rosston, Bodcaw, and Willisville, with about 120 volunteers and 35 apparatus countywide), which can lengthen response times to remote fires. Residents with respiratory conditions face elevated risk from smoke countywide. The Nevada County School District campus in Rosston and the Prescott School District campuses are not in high-interface zones but could be affected by regional smoke, and the former plan's prescribed-burn action around school grounds in Bluff City, Bodcaw, Cale, and Willisville is carried forward.

Loss Estimate

The National Risk Index models wildfire expected annual loss at about $7,828 per year (Very Low), but this figure under-counts the hazard. The Arkansas Forestry Division record of 146 fires and 1,801 acres over 2013-2019 shows a persistent fire problem whose losses fall on timber, pasture, fences, and outbuildings that neither NOAA nor the NRI captures.

Data Deficiency

NOAA Storm Events under-records wildfire, and the Arkansas Forestry Division county table ends in 2019. Structure losses and ignition causes by fire are not published at the county level; the OEM will request annual fire reports from the Forestry Division district office for the next update.

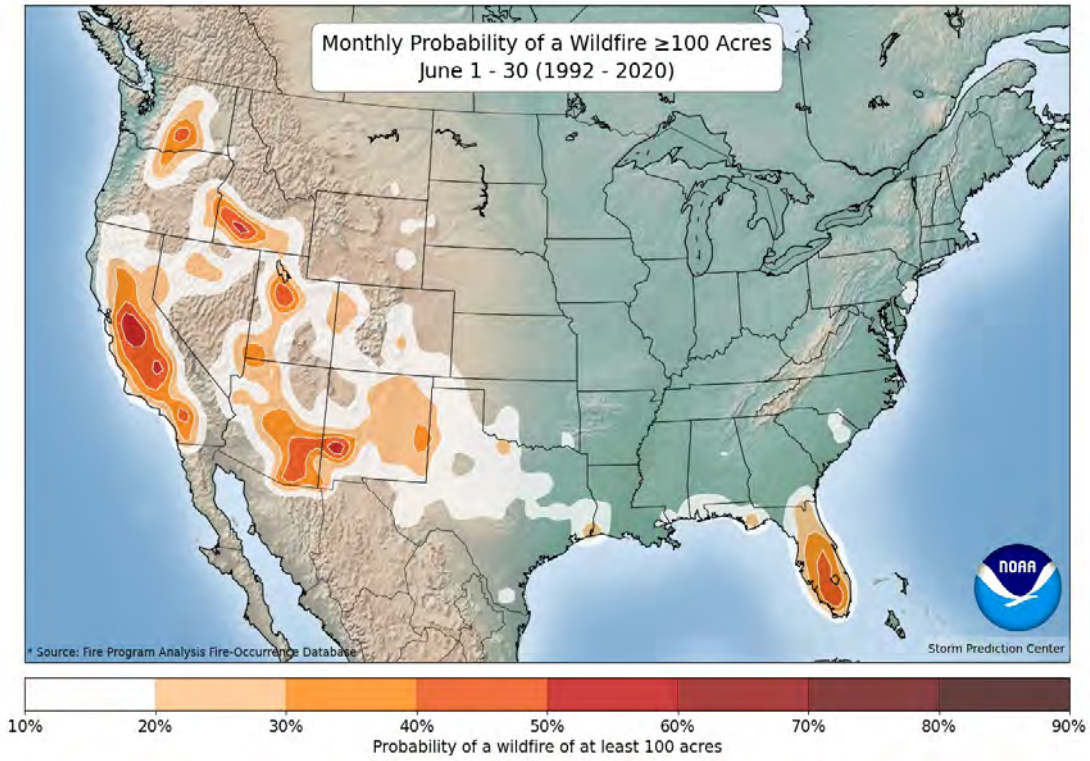


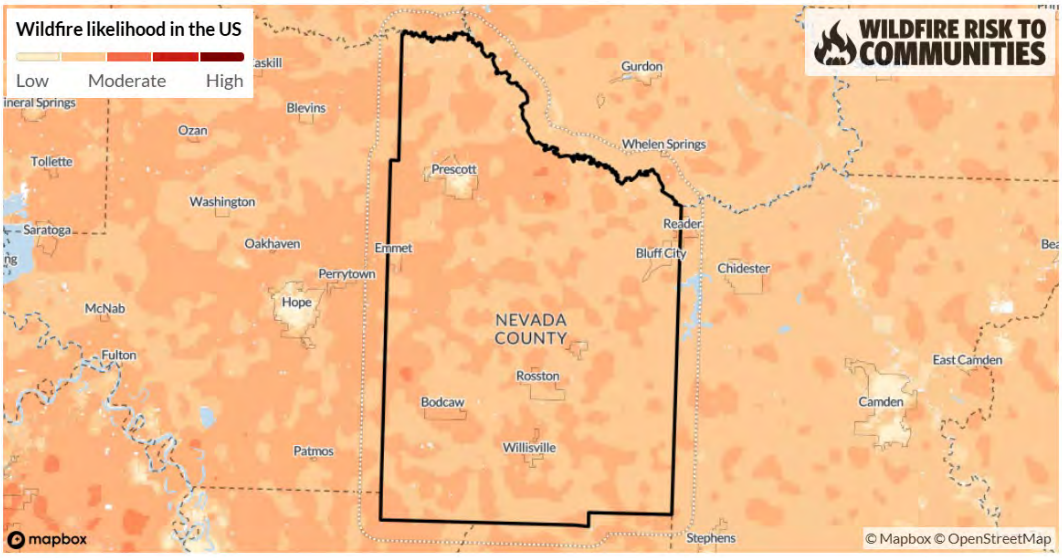
Figure 13. Storm Prediction Center climatological probability of fire-weather conditions. Source: NOAA/NWS Storm Prediction Center.

Wildfire Likelihood in Nevada County, AR

Med

Nevada County has, on average, greater wildfire likelihood than 48% of counties in the US.

Wildfire likelihood is the probability of wildfire burning in any given year.



Selected place | Risk calculation area | County line | State line

Sources: USDA Forest Service. Wildfire Risk to Communities v2. 2026.

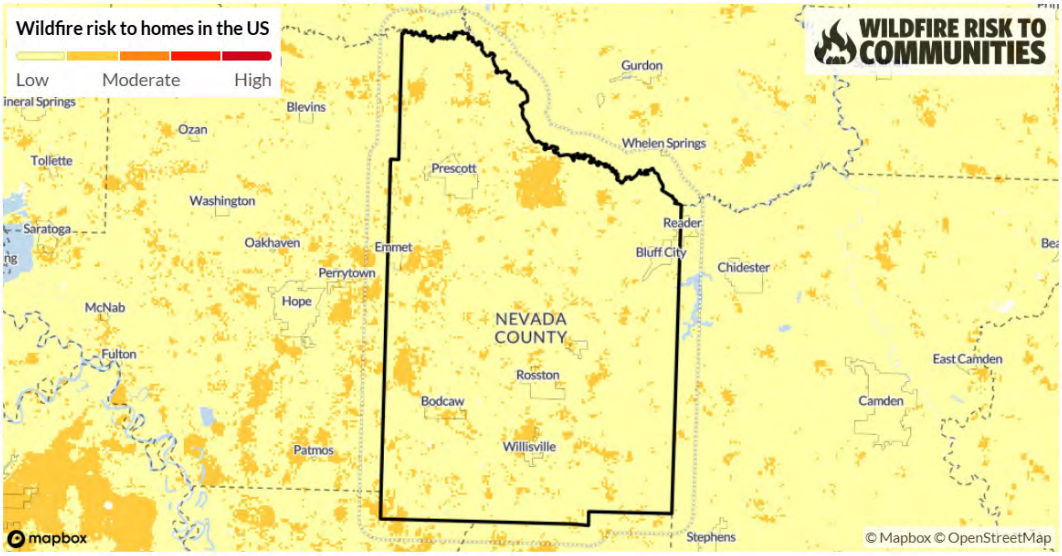
Figure 14. Wildfire likelihood across Nevada County (USDA Forest Service, Wildfire Risk to Communities).

Wildfire Risk to Homes in Nevada County, AR

Med

Homes in Nevada County have, on average, greater risk than 46% of counties in the US.

Risk to homes measures the relative consequence of wildfire to residential structures everywhere on the landscape, whether a home actually exists there or not.



Selected place | Risk calculation area | County line | State line

Sources: USDA Forest Service. Wildfire Risk to Communities v2. 2026.

Figure 15. Wildfire risk to homes in Nevada County (USDA Forest Service, Wildfire Risk to Communities).

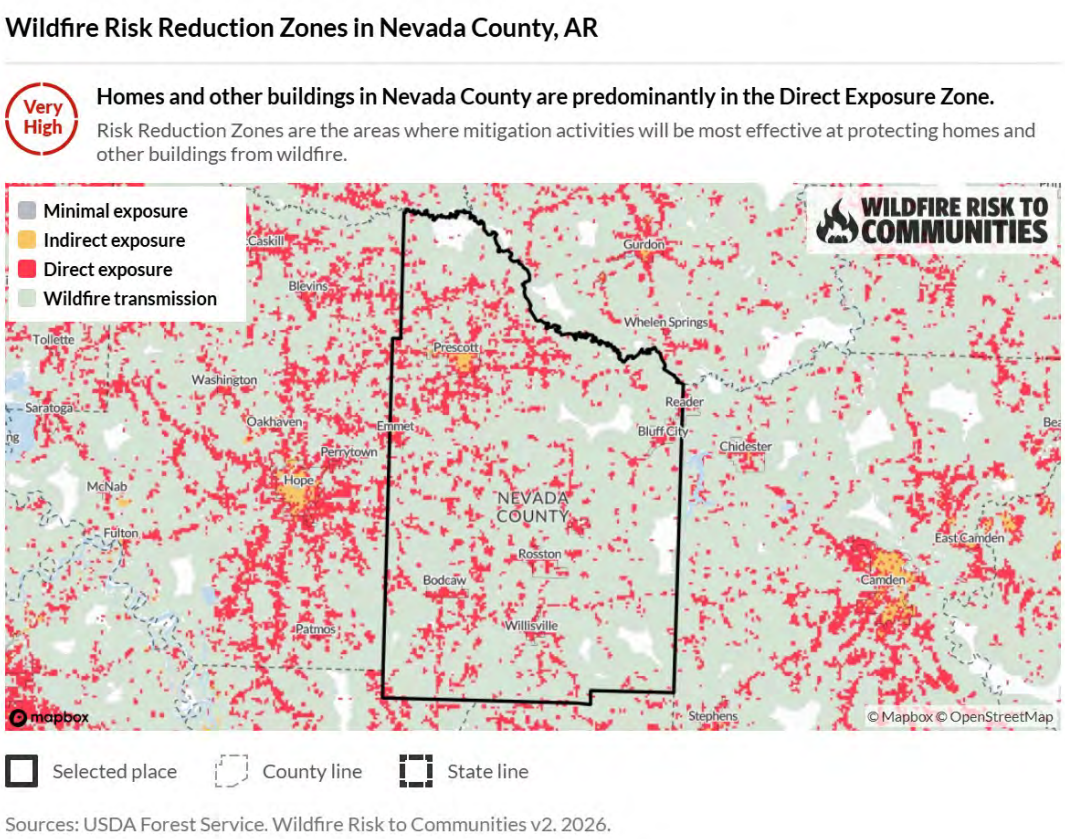


Figure 16. Wildfire risk reduction zones in Nevada County (USDA Forest Service). Most structures sit in the Direct Exposure Zone, where defensible space and home-hardening are most effective.

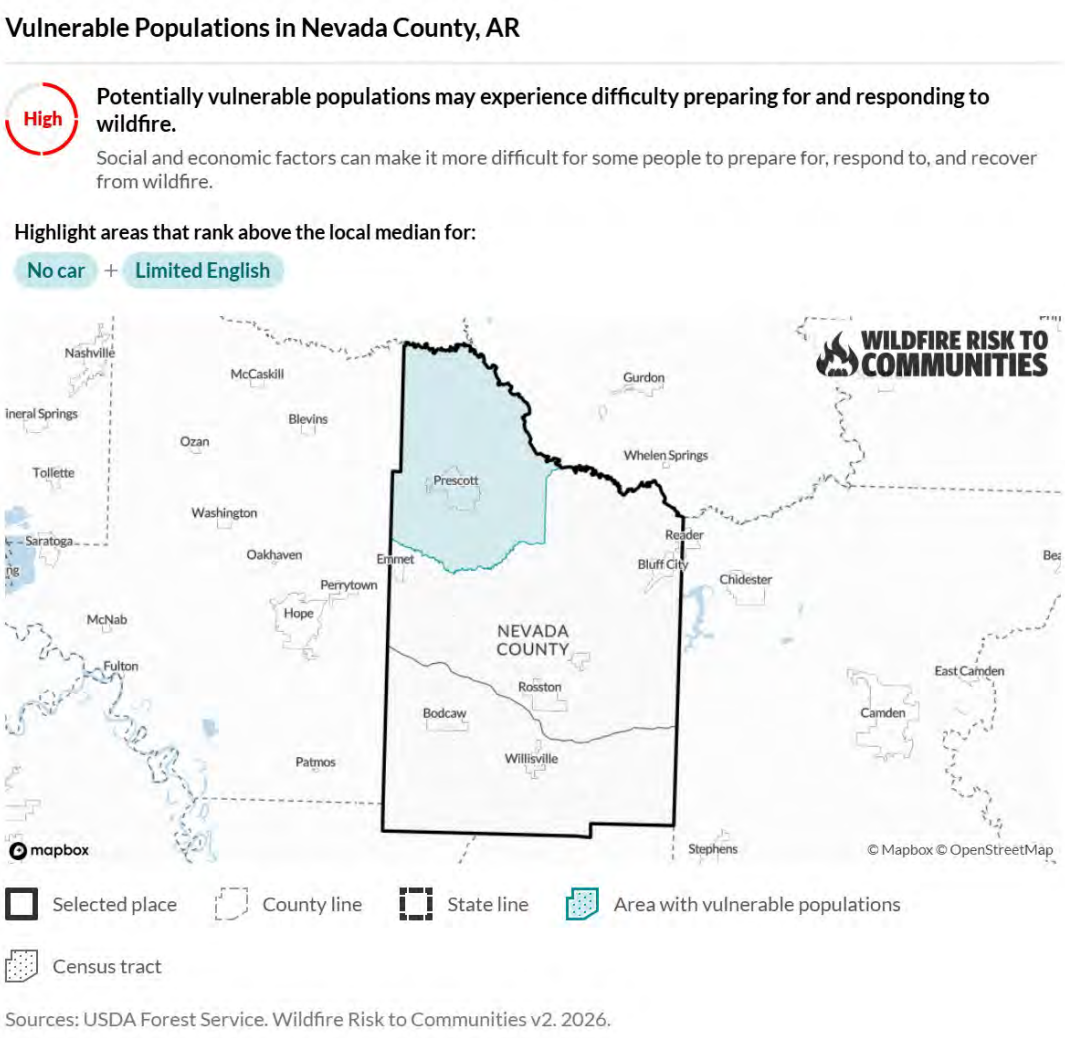


Figure 17. Populations in Nevada County potentially vulnerable to wildfire (USDA Forest Service).

Winter Storm (Ice, Sleet, Snow)

Description

A winter storm is a winter weather event that produces impactful accumulations of freezing rain (ice), sleet, and/or snow (NWS 2018).

Winter storms may include heavy snowfall, blowing and drifting snow, high winds, extreme cold, or ice storms. Among the greatest hazards are traffic accidents. Winter storms occur in Arkansas between November and March, usually created by large low-pressure systems moving rapidly across the country. In Arkansas, ice storms are a greater threat than blizzards: moisture from the Gulf of Mexico falling over shallow cold air near the surface can produce ice accumulations of two inches or greater with tremendous damage to power distribution.

In Nevada County, ice is the defining winter threat and the single highest-loss hazard in the county.

Location of Events

Winter storms affect the entire planning area, but their consequences fall hardest on the county's power distribution, rural roads, and vulnerable residents.

Extent, Magnitude, or Severity

Winter storm extent is measured by ice accumulation and snowfall depth. The National Weather Service issues an Ice Storm Warning for a quarter inch or more of ice, and the Sperry-Piltz Ice Accumulation Index rates accumulations near one inch with wind as producing widespread utility damage and outages lasting a week or more. The two December 2000 ice storms produced ice accumulations of one to two inches across southwest Arkansas and outages measured in weeks, and the January 2023 (DR-4700) and January 2026 (EM-3636) storms again brought ice and snow to the county. The most severe event the county should plan for is a repeat of December 2000: one to two inches of ice on lines and trees, countywide outages of a week or more, and rural roads impassable for days.

Previous Occurrences

The NOAA Storm Events record shows 39 winter events and 7 cold/wind-chill events for Nevada County (2000-2026). Four federal declarations involved winter storms: EM-3159 and DR-1354 (the December 2000 ice storm), DR-4700 (January 2023), and EM-3636 (January 2026). The December 12, 2000 entry carries a $40,000,000 figure, but that is an NCEI zone-level estimate covering the whole county zone and repeated across every southwest Arkansas county; it should be presented as a regional estimate, not a precise Nevada-County-only loss.

Probability of Future Events

National Risk Index annualized frequencies are about 0.70 ice-storm events and 4.58 winter-weather events per year. A damaging winter event in some form is effectively an annual expectation.

Jurisdiction Vulnerability

Winter storms threaten every jurisdiction, but the exposure is not identical. The county's electric distribution (Prescott Water & Light in Prescott; Entergy in Emmet, Rosston, and Bluff City; South Central Arkansas Electric in Bodcaw, Cale, and the rural county) is the most critical vulnerability, since ice on lines and trees causes the prolonged outages that define these events. Unincorporated Nevada County and the smaller cities depend on rural roads that the county has limited equipment to clear, isolating residents and delaying emergency response. Manufactured and wood-frame homes and poultry houses carry heavy structural risk from ice and snow loads. The most vulnerable residents are those who lose heat during outages, especially the elderly and those in substandard housing, which ties directly to the county's Very High social vulnerability. The Nevada County School District and the Prescott School District face closures, hazardous bus routes on the county roads that ice first, and possible roof damage on their large-span gyms.

Loss Estimate

The National Risk Index models ice-storm expected annual loss at about $1,990,776 per year, rated Very High and the largest modeled annual loss of any hazard in the county. Winter weather adds about $18,448 per year and cold wave about $28,272 per year.

Data Deficiency

The December 2000 zone-level damage figure should not be read as a precise county-only loss. The Office of Emergency Management reports that generators were acquired for critical infrastructure during the previous plan cycle; an inventory of which facilities now have backup power, and of the county's snow and ice removal equipment, is a data need for the next update.

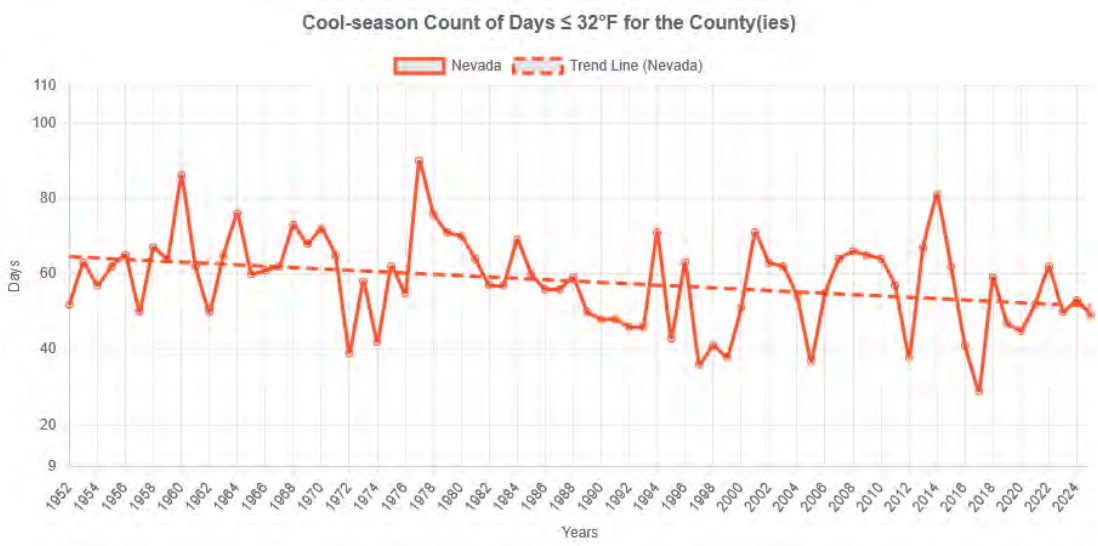


Figure 18. Cool-season count of days at or below 32 degrees F in Nevada County, with trend line. Freezing days remain frequent year to year. Source: SCIPP.

Extreme Heat

Extreme heat is profiled as a standard hazard for Nevada County. The previous plan cycle excluded it as "not a risk," but the National Risk Index models a heat-wave expected annual loss of about $276,219 per year, and the county's Very High social vulnerability, with 21.0 percent of residents age 65 or older and 22.2 percent living with a disability, makes extreme heat a genuine life-safety concern for the whole community.

Description

A heat wave is an occurrence of unusually hot weather over a region persisting at least two consecutive days during the hot period of the year based on local climatological conditions, with thermal conditions recorded above given thresholds (WMO 2016).

Heat extremes in the central United States occur when a dominant large-scale high-pressure system prevents the movement of other air masses into a region. The high pressure contributes to intense solar heating through a lack of cloud cover, and light winds prevent the dispersion of heat, producing higher than average maximum and minimum temperatures.

In Nevada County, extreme heat is most common in mid- to late summer and often overlaps drought.

Location of Events

Heat has no geographic boundary; risk concentrates among vulnerable populations rather than in particular areas.

Extent, Magnitude, or Severity

Extreme heat extent is measured by the heat index and its duration. The National Weather Service office at Shreveport, which serves Nevada County, issues a Heat Advisory when the heat index reaches 105 to 109 degrees Fahrenheit and an Excessive Heat Warning at 110 degrees or higher. The county typically sees several advisory-level days each summer, and the record shows 76 heat and excessive-heat events between 2011 and 2025, concentrated in the summers of 2011, 2012, 2022, and 2023. The most severe event the county should plan for is a multi-week heat wave with heat-index values above 110 degrees for several consecutive days, coinciding with drought and peak electric demand, as occurred in 2011.

Previous Occurrences

The NOAA Storm Events record shows 76 heat events for Nevada County (58 heat and 18 excessive-heat episodes, recorded by forecast zone, 2011-2025), with no recorded deaths or injuries in the file. The National Risk Index counts about 300 heat-wave event-days over its own period of record, consistent with an annualized frequency of about 18 per year.

Probability of Future Events

The National Risk Index annualized frequency is about 18.2 per year, making heat episodes an annual expectation.

Jurisdiction Vulnerability

Extreme heat falls hardest on people, not structures, and its burden is not uniform across the county. The **east county (Bodcaw, Cale, and Willisville, SVI Tract 901)** carries the highest share of residents age 65 and older (26.3 percent) and with a disability (33.6 percent), so prolonged heat and any accompanying outage are most dangerous there, especially for residents dependent on electric-powered medical equipment. **Prescott (Tract 902)** has the county's highest housing and transportation vulnerability (91st percentile), the largest concentration of people, the most manufactured and rental housing that may lack reliable air conditioning, and the most residents without a vehicle (6.2 percent) to reach relief. The **south county (Rosston and Bluff City, Tract 903)** carries the highest poverty rate (45.6 percent), which limits the ability to run or replace air conditioning. Across all jurisdictions, outdoor workers in the county's agriculture and timber economy and children at the **Nevada County and Prescott School District** campuses are exposed during late-summer heat. Heat also strains the electric grid at peak demand, compounding outage risk. The county has no designated cooling center, a gap the mitigation strategy addresses.

Loss Estimate

The National Risk Index models heat-wave expected annual loss at about $276,219 per year. The human cost, given the county's social vulnerability, is the more important measure.

Data Deficiency

NOAA records heat events but not heat-related illness or death at the county level. Supplement with Arkansas Department of Health heat-morbidity data where available.

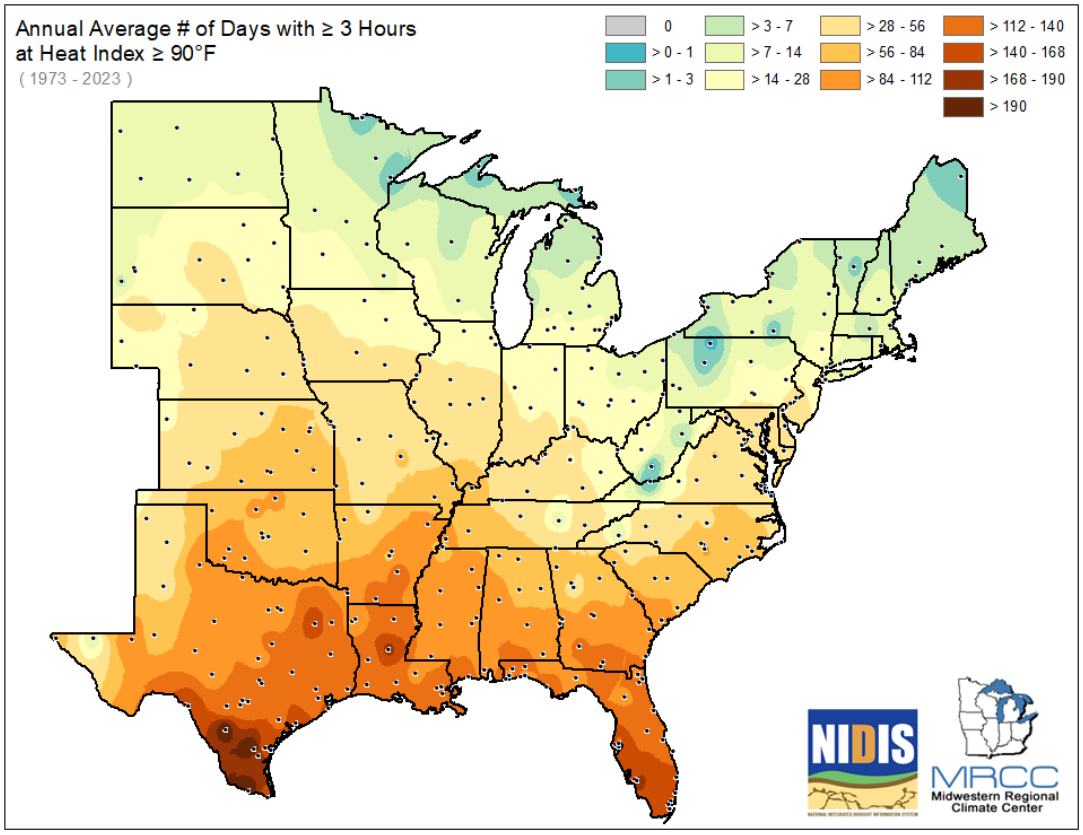


Figure 19. Average annual number of days with a high heat index across Arkansas. Source: SCIPP / Midwestern Regional Climate Center.

Earthquake

Description

A sudden slip on a fault, with resulting ground shaking and radiated seismic energy caused by the slip, or by volcanic or magmatic activity, or other sudden stress changes in the earth (USGS 2018).

Earthquakes occur from the sudden release of stress in the Earth's crust built up by the motion of tectonic plates. While strong earthquakes are not common in Arkansas, the state is positioned relative to the New Madrid fault line in the Mississippi Valley, a major earthquake on which would affect Arkansas. Earthquake intensity is measured on the Moment Magnitude Scale.

In Nevada County, located in the Gulf Coastal Plain of southwest Arkansas, local seismic risk is low, and the county lies far from any active fault.

Location of Events

The county has no local fault and no recorded epicenters; any shaking would arrive from a distant source (the New Madrid Seismic Zone) at low intensity. Where differences exist, softer alluvial soils along the Little Missouri River and creek bottoms would amplify shaking slightly more than the firmer upland sites where Prescott and most communities sit.

Extent, Magnitude, or Severity

Earthquake extent is measured by magnitude at the source and by shaking intensity (Modified Mercalli Intensity, MMI) and peak ground acceleration at the site. The USGS national seismic hazard map (2 percent probability of exceedance in 50 years, Figure 20) places Nevada County in the lowest hazard band for Arkansas, roughly 4 to 8 percent of gravity. A major New Madrid Seismic Zone earthquake of magnitude 7.0 or greater, the only credible large scenario, would be felt here at about MMI II to IV (weak to light shaking, no damage). The most severe event the county should plan for is MMI V shaking, which could crack plaster and displace unbraced contents in the older masonry buildings of downtown Prescott; the probability of that level is very low.

Previous Occurrences

The USGS earthquake catalog shows zero earthquakes of magnitude 2.0 or greater within the county for 1950 to 2025. A control query over the central Arkansas swarm zone returned a large event list over the same period, confirming the zero result for Nevada County reflects a genuine absence of recorded seismicity rather than a data error.

Probability of Future Events

The probability of a locally damaging earthquake is less than 1 percent. The New Madrid Seismic Zone, far to the northeast, is the only credible large-magnitude scenario; a major New Madrid event (M7.0 or greater) would likely produce only weak shaking here, roughly Modified Mercalli Intensity II to IV, with low likelihood of structural damage.

Jurisdiction Vulnerability

Earthquake risk is low countywide, but the limited exposure that exists is not identical across jurisdictions. The older masonry and unreinforced buildings in the historic core/downtown of Prescott (the county seat, including the courthouse and the downtown commercial block) are the structures most susceptible to the weak shaking a distant New Madrid event could produce, and Prescott also concentrates the most people and critical facilities. The manufactured homes common in unincorporated Nevada County and the smaller cities can shift off unanchored foundations even in light shaking. The rural water systems and tanks serving Bodcaw, Cale, Emmet, Rosston, and Willisville could see minor pipeline or tank effects. The Nevada County and Prescott School District campuses would need a post-event structural check; the Prescott School District already conducts earthquake drills at each campus, which is the county's only current earthquake preparedness measure. In every case the probability and expected damage are low, and there is no recorded history of earthquake damage in the county.

Loss Estimate

The National Risk Index models earthquake expected annual loss at about $226,626 per year, a figure that reflects the regional New Madrid scenario rather than local seismicity. Local historical loss is zero.

Data Deficiency

Absence of catalogued events does not prove zero hazard; very small or pre-instrumental historic events may have gone unrecorded. The M2.0 threshold and the 1950 start date are the documented limits of the USGS query.

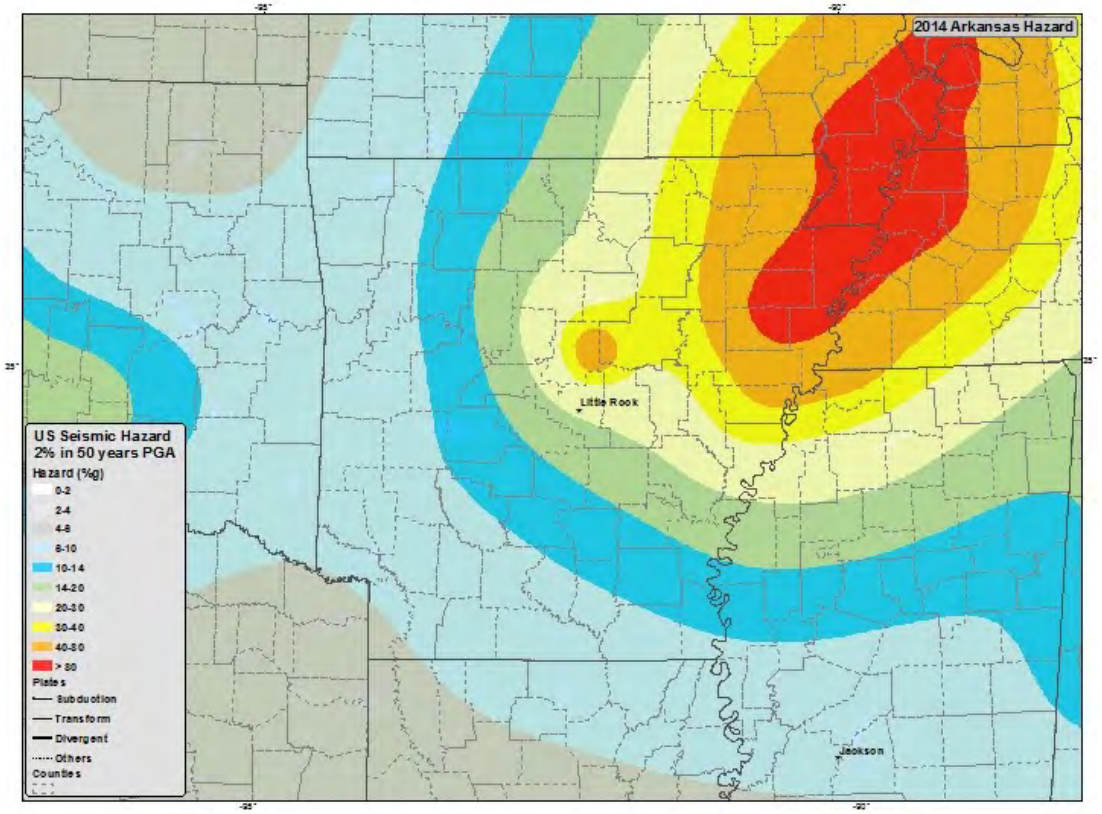


Figure 20. Arkansas seismic hazard (2 percent probability of exceedance in 50 years, peak ground acceleration). The high-hazard New Madrid zone is in the far northeast; Nevada County, in the southwest, sits in the lowest hazard band. Source: USGS / Arkansas.

SECTION 4

Mitigation Strategy

The mitigation strategy is Nevada County's guide to reducing the losses identified in the risk assessment. It is built on the county's existing programs, resources, policies, and authorities, and on the ability to grow and improve those tools. The strategy was shaped by the participating jurisdictions based on benefit to the community, total cost, community support, ease of implementation, consistency with each jurisdiction's capabilities, and availability of funding.

Range of mitigation actions considered. In building this strategy, the planning committee evaluated a comprehensive range of mitigation action types for each participating jurisdiction and each profiled hazard, drawn from the categories recognized in FEMA guidance: local plans and regulations (floodplain and building-code enforcement, ordinance updates, and plan integration); structure and infrastructure projects (drainage and culvert improvements, safe rooms, backup power, and dam and levee measures); natural systems protection (riparian-buffer and stormwater practices); education and awareness programs (NOAA Weather Radio, Firewise, and public outreach); preparedness and response actions (early-warning systems and emergency-operations coordination); and property protection (elevation, acquisition, and retrofit of at-risk structures). From this full range, each jurisdiction selected the actions best matched to its hazards, capabilities, and available funding, as shown in the action matrix that follows. Action types considered but not selected for a given jurisdiction, such as large structural projects where no cost-effective site exists, were set aside in favor of lower-cost prevention, preparedness, and property-protection measures.

Mitigation Goals

- Goal 1: Decrease the amount of fatalities and injuries due to hazards.
- Goal 2: Provide a framework and coordination to encourage all levels of government and public and private organizations to undertake mitigation, and to employ mitigation in the recovery following disasters.
- Goal 3: Ensure the continuity of State and Federal government grants for mitigation projects.
- Goal 4: Protect existing and future properties from natural disasters.

Prioritization

Each jurisdiction prioritized its mitigation actions based on benefit to the community, total cost, community support, practicality, and availability of funding. As funding becomes available, each jurisdiction weighs cost against need to decide which action to pursue next.

Priority levels in the action matrix were set by each jurisdiction in consultation with the Office of Emergency Management, using the 2026 hazard ranking and an informal benefit-cost review: for each action the committee weighed the expected reduction in loss of life and property against total cost, the availability of a funding source, and the jurisdiction's capacity to carry it out. Actions with high life-safety benefit and an identified funding path (safe rooms, generators, the flood-zone study, warming and cooling capacity, and NFIP enrollment) received High priority; ongoing low-cost

programs received Medium; and actions with modest benefit or no current funding received Low. A formal FEMA Benefit-Cost Analysis will be prepared for any structural project submitted for HMGP or BRIC funding.

Status of Previous Mitigation Actions

The Office of Emergency Management reviewed each of the fourteen actions in the previous plan in July 2026 and reported that eight were completed during the previous plan cycle (2016-2026) and six remain to be done. Completed actions are shown as mitigation successes below and, where they are continuing programs (the warming and cooling center, weather-radio distribution, siren maintenance, generator installation, and Firewise participation), they remain in the action matrix as existing actions to be continued or expanded. The actions not completed were delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic, a lack of funding, changes in committee membership, and the expiration of the plan; each is carried forward into this update. The OEM did not record completion dates, so completed actions are reported by cycle rather than by date.

#	Associated Hazard	Previous Action	Status
1	Dam Failure, Flooding	Gain reliable information on buildings and infrastructure at risk (flood-zone / inundation study)	Carried Forward (not started; funding not identified)
2	Tornado, Thunderstorm, Winter Storm	Conduct storm spotter classes for the public	Completed (classes held during the previous cycle)
3	Drought, Extreme Heat, Winter Storm	Establish a warming / cooling center	Completed (center established; continued and expanded in this plan)
4	Drought, Wildfire	Implement burn bans and water conservation; require burn permits	Completed (burn bans, burn permits, and conservation measures in place; ongoing program)
5	Flooding	Adopt stormwater drainage ordinances	Carried Forward (ordinances not yet adopted)
6	Flooding, Tornado, Thunderstorm, Winter Storm	Acquire NOAA weather radios	Completed (radios acquired and distributed; continued in this plan)
7	Thunderstorm, Tornado, Winter Storm	Create tree-pruning program	Carried Forward (pruning done as needed; program not formalized)
8	Multiple	Increase public awareness of hazard risks, safe rooms, and safe zones	Completed (awareness program conducted; continued in this plan)

9	Thunderstorm	Distribute flyers for a home/building renovation program	Carried Forward
10	Tornado	Improve current warning siren system	Completed (siren system improved; maintenance continued in this plan)
11	Thunderstorm, Tornado, Winter Storm	Acquire generators for critical infrastructure	Completed (generators acquired for critical infrastructure; additional sites carried in this plan)
12	Tornado, Thunderstorm	Build more safe rooms for the public	Carried Forward (no public safe room built; funding not secured)
13	Wildfire	Join the Firewise Program	Completed (Firewise program joined; continued in this plan)
14	Wildfire	Conduct prescribed burns to clear vegetation and fire hazards near school buildings and grounds (Bluff City, Bodcaw, Cale, Willisville)	Carried Forward (ongoing as conditions allow; retained as a wildfire action)

Integration of the previous plan (Element E2-c). During the previous planning cycle, integration of the prior Nevada County Hazard Mitigation Plan into other local planning mechanisms was limited, primarily because the previous plan had expired before this update and was not being actively implemented. Where it was used, the prior plan informed emergency-management coordination and supported mitigation-grant applications by the county and participating jurisdictions. This update strengthens that record: the integration commitments in the Incorporation into Existing Planning Mechanisms subsection of Section 2 direct the county and cities to incorporate this plan's hazard data and mitigation actions into the county Emergency Operations Plan and local budgets, and direct the school districts to bring the plan before their boards for incorporation into their planning processes, with progress on each tracked by the Office of Emergency Management at the annual review.

Mitigation Action Matrix

Potential funding sources for each action (local operating budgets, the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC), and Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) funds, and other state or federal grants) are identified together with the cost estimate in the action's cost-benefit column. Actions marked "Existing" that were completed during the previous cycle are retained because they are continuing programs or need extension to additional sites.

Action coverage by jurisdiction and hazard. Every participating jurisdiction, including both school districts, has at least one action for each hazard to which it is exposed. Dam failure actions are carried only by Nevada County and the NFIP cities nearest Rosston Lake Dam (Bodcaw, Emmet, Prescott, and Rosston, through the flood-zone and inundation study); Bluff City, Cale, Willisville, and the two school districts lie outside any plausible inundation path from the county's one Significant Hazard dam and therefore carry no dam-specific action. Earthquake exposure is very low countywide, so the earthquake action is a single low-cost inspection and drill protocol shared by all participants. Flooding actions for Bluff City, Cale, and Willisville center on NFIP enrollment and warning, because those cities have no drainage infrastructure to regulate. Extreme heat actions reach every jurisdiction through the warming and cooling center action, which now includes Bodcaw, the city in the county's most heat-vulnerable tract.

Mitigation Action / Project	Associated Hazard	Rationale for Priority	Priority	New / Existing	Cost-Benefit	Time Frame	Responsible Department	Jurisdiction
Flood-zone / inundation study of at-risk buildings and infrastructure	Dam Failure, Flooding	Rosston Lake Dam is privately owned with no inundation study, and the county has only a 1977 approximate flood map; a modern study identifies at-risk structures and roads	High	Both	Low cost; local, state, federal	5 years	OEM, County Floodplain Administrator	Nevada County, Bodcaw, Emmet, Prescott, Rosston
Conduct storm spotter classes for the public	Tornado, Thunderstorm, Winter Storm	Helps the public recognize storm signs and reduce loss of life	Medium	Existing (completed; continue)	Low cost; city funding	2 years	OEM, Floodplain Mgmt, Fire Depts	Bodcaw, Cale
Establish a warming / cooling center	Drought, Extreme Heat, Winter Storm	Protects vulnerable residents (elderly, disabled, and those without air conditioning) during extreme heat and cold	High	Existing (completed; expand)	City/county and possible grant funding	5 years	County Judge, Mayors	Nevada County, Bluff City, Bodcaw, Cale, Emmet, Prescott, Rosston, Willisville
Implement burn bans and water conservation; require burn permits	Drought, Wildfire	Helps prevent wildfires and conserve water during drought	Medium	Existing (completed; continue)	Low cost	Continual	OEM, City Administrators	Nevada County, Bluff City, Bodcaw, Cale, Prescott, Emmet, Willisville, Rosston
Adopt stormwater drainage ordinances	Flooding	Helps control flooding during storms	High	Both	Low cost; local funding	1 year	OEM, Mayors	Nevada County, Emmet, Rosston
Acquire NOAA weather radios	Flooding, Tornado, Thunderstorm, Winter Storm	Increases warning time and keeps the public informed	High	Existing (completed; continue)	Cost varies; local/county budget and grants	2 years	County/City Admins, OEM, Fire Depts, School Maintenance	Nevada County, Bluff City, Bodcaw, Cale, Emmet, Prescott, Rosston, Willisville, both School Districts

Create a tree-pruning program	Thunderstorm, Tornado, Winter Storm	Reduces potential damage to lines and structures	Medium	Existing	Cost varies; local/county budget and grants	Bi-annually	County and City Maintenance	Nevada County, Bluff City, Bodcaw, Cale, Emmet, Prescott, Rosston, Willisville
Increase public awareness of hazard risks, safe rooms, and safe zones	Drought, Extreme Heat, Flooding, Thunderstorm, Tornado, Wildfire, Winter Storm	Educates the public on what to do and where to go	Medium	Existing (completed; continue)	Low cost; local/county funding	2 years	OEM, Fire Depts, School Admin	Nevada County, both School Districts
Distribute flyers for a home and building renovation program	Thunderstorm	Helps decrease damage during thunderstorms	Low	Existing	Low cost; local/county funding	1 year	City/County Administration	Nevada County, Bluff City, Emmet, Rosston, Willisville
Improve the current warning siren system	Tornado	Keeps warning sirens in working order	High	Existing (completed; continue)	About $30,000; grant and local funding	2 years	OEM, City Administration	Bodcaw, Emmet, Willisville
Acquire generators for critical infrastructure	Thunderstorm, Tornado, Winter Storm	Provides backup power during widespread outages; priority sites are the Sheriff's Office and Detention Center, both school district campuses, water and wastewater plants, and city halls, none of which currently have backup power	High	Existing (completed; additional sites)	$25,000-$30,000 per site; HMGP, BRIC, and other grants	5 years	City/County Administration	Nevada County, Bluff City, Bodcaw, Cale, Emmet, Prescott, Rosston, Willisville, both School Districts
Build more safe rooms for the public	Tornado, Thunderstorm	Reduces loss of life during storms	High	New	$250,000-$1,000,000; FEMA HMGP/BRIC, local school funds	4 years	School Admin, City/County Officials	Nevada County, Bodcaw, Emmet, Prescott, Rosston, Willisville, both School Districts
Join the Firewise Program	Wildfire	Removes fire hazards and enhances firefighting education	Low	Existing (completed; continue)	Low cost; volunteer time and Forestry grants	4 years	OEM, Fire Departments	Nevada County, Emmet, Prescott, Rosston
Enroll in the National Flood Insurance Program and adopt a flood damage prevention ordinance, with the county floodplain administrator serving the city	Flooding	Gives residents access to federal flood insurance and brings floodplain regulation to the three cities that do not participate; the staffing barrier is removed by county administration	High	New	Low cost; staff time, with Southwest Arkansas PDD and ADEM assistance	2 years	Mayors and City Councils; County Floodplain Administrator	Bluff City, Cale, Willisville
Conduct prescribed burns and fuel reduction around school grounds and community edges	Wildfire	Reduces fuels where homes and school buildings meet timber; carried forward from the previous plan	Medium	Existing	Low cost; Forestry Division guidance and volunteer fire department time	Ongoing	School Maintenance, OEM, Fire Departments	Bluff City, Bodcaw, Cale, Willisville, both School Districts
Adopt a post-	Earthquake	Low-probability	Low	New	Low cost; staff time	2 years	OEM, County Judge,	Nevada County, Bluff

earthquake structural inspection protocol for the courthouse, detention center, school campuses, and downtown Prescott masonry buildings, and continue school earthquake drills		hazard with its only concentrated exposure in older masonry and occupied public buildings; a low-cost preparedness measure					Mayors, School Administration	City, Bodcaw, Cale, Emmet, Prescott, Rosston, Willisville, both School Districts

SECTION 5

Acronyms

Acronym	Definition	Acronym	Definition
ADEM	Arkansas Division of Emergency Management	NFIP	National Flood Insurance Program
ANRC	Arkansas Natural Resources Commission	NID	National Inventory of Dams
BCA	Benefit-Cost Analysis	NRI	FEMA National Risk Index
CDBG	Community Development Block Grant	OEM	Office of Emergency Management
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations	BRIC	Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities
CRS	Community Rating System	RL	Repetitive Loss
DMA 2000	Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000	SHMO	State Hazard Mitigation Officer
EAL	Expected Annual Loss	SCIPP	Southern Climate Impacts Planning Program
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency	SPC	NOAA Storm Prediction Center
FIRM	Flood Insurance Rate Map	SVI	Social Vulnerability Index
HMGP	Hazard Mitigation Grant Program	Southwest Arkansas PDD	Southwest Arkansas Planning and Development District
NCEI	NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information	WUI	Wildland-Urban Interface

SECTION 6

Plan Adoption

Following FEMA approval, the governing body of Nevada County and each participating jurisdiction will formally adopt the plan by resolution. Signed adoption resolutions will be attached in the appendix. Adopted resolutions for Nevada County, the seven cities, and the two school districts will be inserted here once executed; a sample resolution is provided in Appendix A.