Ruidoso: Recovery, Housing & Economic Revitalization

Lynn D. Crawford Mayor

Agenda

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01	Disaster Timeline	
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03	Housing Recovery	
04	Economic Development Recovery	
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Disaster Timeline

•Wildfires and flooding: June 17, 2024

•South Fork Fire 17,569 acres

•Salt Fire 7,939 acres

Evacuations

•6:40 pm the village or Ruidoso issues Village wide evacuation notice

•15,000 people were evacuated

•Emergency declarations issued

•Village and Lincoln County Issue local declarations

•State issues Declaration

•Presidential Declaration is issued

•Rapid mobilization of village, state, and federal agencies

•HIS,DHSEM, FEMA respond to disaster

•Burn Scar Flooding

•June-July 7 flash flood emergencies were issues and 11 flash flood warnings

1200 total structures lost

•700 + fire •400 + flood

Disaster Response and Recovery

Disaster Response – Multi agency response

Village or Ruidoso

Flood Plain and H&H Study
Emergency Work on Roads and Bridges
Emergency Work on Water and Sewer Systems

NRCS

- Diversion Projects
- Hesco Baskets, Trash Racks, Flood Gates
- River Desilting

DHSEM

- PPDR
- ROW
- Shelter Operations

Lincoln County

- ROW
- Emergency Repair Work

FEMA Deployment

Village or Ruidoso: Damage Assessment and Project Formulation

- 498 FEMA-eligible sites assessed
- Organized into 27 projects based on facility type and location
- 2 flood plain studies completed and implemented mapping
- H&H study completed
- FEMA estimate utilized at \$29M
- Estimated actuals likely 3-5X higher
- Projects are paid on actuals

Facility Type	Count
Roads & Bridges	196
Culverts	128
Wastewater Sites	53
Street Signs & Hydrants	46
Parks	19
Water Systems	19
Emergency Sites	37

FEMA project Summary

219 sites scoped and costed for 17 obligated projects 279 sites under final FEMA review obligation expected September 2025

Estimated FEMA cost: \$29M

Obligated to date: \$4.9M

Actual costs projected to be 3–5× higher, with reimbursement anticipated

HB1 funds can be utilized once approved by FEMA review

Expected approval-2026

DHSEM progress

- •DRC is the conducting PPDR and ROW activities as the contractor for DHSEM
- •1194 assessments have been completed by DRC
- •239 applicants have opted out (mainly insurance reasons)
- •27 on hold
- •1106 cleanups complete
- •Debris removal 99% complete

NRCS progress

- \$50M of funds spent
- 350 tons of sediment removed
- 15,592 of Hesco Barriers installed
- 38 trash racks installed
- 25,000 acres of reseeding
- 1,170 acres of mulching
- Pending \$12M approval for silting pits and ponds. State has already committed to \$4M match

Housing

Housing Development – Mechem Meadows

•McBride Fire June of 2022

•18 manufactured homes purchased using donations, grants, and local funds

•Mechem Meadow homes are held permanently in the Vilage of Ruidoso Housing Trust Funl as long-term rentals

•Highest priority for residents was to provide housing for those that lost homes in McBride Fire

•The remainder of the unites are dedicated to workforce housing and those that meet the income threshold of 140% low-to-moderate guidelines for Lincoln County

Source and Use of Funds	Amount
Village of Ruidoso Local Funds	\$1,000,000
NMMFA	\$400,000
Donation- Federal Home Loan Bank of Dallas	\$200,000
Donation-PNM	\$20,000
Donation- Presbyterian	\$10,000
Donation- Ride Ruidoso	\$18,265.40
NMDFA	\$1,000,000
Leg. Appropriations	\$980,000
Total	\$3,628,265.40

Housing- 603 Mechem

- 603 Mechem: December 2023 Village receives \$3M for workforce housing
- Funds were to be expended by June 2024
- March 2024 10 modular units purchased
- May 2024 homes were delivered and placed at location
- June 2024 project delayed due to fires and flooding
- October 2024 project continues with utilities and remaining work
- July 2024 completion of project



Elk Meadows

- Low Income Housing Tax Credit (9% LIHTC project)
- 72 Units- all units are for workforce housing
- Anticipated completion- Fall 2026
- Federal Low Income Housing Tax Credit Equity/ R4 Capital \$12,868,000
- First Mortgage Permanent Loan / R4 Capital Funding \$2,200,000
- National Housing Trust Fund/ New Mexico Housing Finance Authority \$400,000
- New Mexico Housing Trust Fund/ New Mexico Housing Finance Authority \$2,489,300
- HOME HUD Loan/ New Mexico Housing Finance Authority \$2,000,000
- New Mexico State Tax Credits/ Leadership Development Council \$820,000
- Village of Ruidoso \$1,000,000
- Total Investment in Community for Elk Meadows Development \$21,777,300



Housing-New Opportunities

- 1110 Mechem Dr.- 25-unit project. \$13.4M budget that includes land purchase, homes and infrastructure.
- 262 US HWY E. #70 Ruidoso Downs- 50- 60-unit Regional workforce housing project.
 \$32.9M budget that includes land purchase, homes, and infrastructure



Economic Recovery

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Economic Recovery

- Retail trade is down but hold harmless is keeping the sector growth positive
- Unclassified establishments is not clearly defined, the Village believes it is the receipts of debris removal from the disaster

• Accommodations is down due to many lodgers renting rooms by month to contractors assisting with the floods and fire recovery and leads to lack of rooms for tourists. This is also evident in the decline in Lodgers Tax which is 29.28 lower year over year or \$878,672 short last year.





XTERRA

Gold Event - August 15-17, 2025

XTERRA is a series of cross triathlon races, i.e. three-sport races which include swimming, mountain biking, and trail running.

- Attendance: 800+ athletes and 4,500 spectators 70% of which are from outside the community
- Time Spent in Town: 4 days 3 nights with attendee's paying for lodging, food, and other daily expenses.
- Broadcast Viewership: 20 million
 worldwide
- Estimated Economic Impact: \$11,951,000



IRONMAN 70.3 - July 12-13, 2026

The Ironman 70.3 is a grueling triathlon race that is comprised of a 1.2-mile swim in Grindstone, 53mile biking section down to Hondo, NM, and a 13.1-mile foot race around Ruidoso.

- Attendance: 1,200+ Athletes and 6,300 spectators.
- Time Spent in Town: 5 days, 4 nights
- Broadcast Viewership: 30 million combined viewers
- Estimated Economic Impact: \$16,236,000

Racetrack Redevelopment



Ruidoso Downs Racetrack \$150M+ impact



Private-public redevelopment initiative



Job creation, tourism infusion, regional spending catalyst



Long-term revenue growth through hospitality and sports

Outstanding Concerns-Monsoon Flooding

•Persistent flooding disrupts daily operations

- Infrastructure solutions pending funding
- •Undermines private-sector investments in redevelopment
- •Cascading events impact tourism and daily life

Current Flooding at Track 7/6/25

- Cascading events leads to weekly flooding of the region
- Even with current emergency projects, infrastructure is still vulnerable and can be lost if rains are extensive
- Permanent work for temporary projects must be completed with updated engineering to be able to sustain new normal weather impacts
- Racetrack denied cleanup because PPDR is no longer available, contract expired
- The state must fund an extension to be able to continue to clean the region



Outstanding Concerns- funding barriers



Policy Flexibility Request

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Closing- call to action

Recap:

Proactive disaster assessment

Housing projects in motion

Economic initiatives driving recovery

But **barriers remain**: infrastructure, flood mitigation, access to funds

Help us unlock the final 20% of recovery