

Natural and Cultural Resources Recovery Support Function

Coordinating Agency: Cedar County Emergency Management

Primary Agencies:

Cedar County Conservation – Leads restoration of natural resources, ecosystems, parks, and conservation-managed lands; ensures ecological balance and sustainability.

- Provide subject matter expertise on natural resource protection, including parks, wildlife habitats, waterways, and conservation areas impacted by the incident.
- Coordinate and advise on debris management, erosion control, and site stabilization efforts to minimize environmental damage and support recovery of natural areas.
- Support public information efforts related to park closures, environmental impacts, and safe use of conservation areas during recovery.
- Conduct damage assessments for conservation lands, trails, waterways, and associated infrastructure.
- Coordinate with local, state, and federal partners on compliance with environmental and historic preservation requirements during recovery operations.
- Provide guidance to ensure recovery actions minimize impacts to sensitive ecosystems and align with long-term conservation goals.
- Assist with access control and operational coordination within conservation-managed properties to support safe recovery activities.
- Contribute to community recovery outcomes by restoring public access to parks and natural areas when safe and appropriate.

County Engineer/Secondary Roads - Directs recovery of transportation infrastructure impacting natural and cultural resources, including roads, bridges, and drainage systems affecting environmental stability.

- Maintain and reestablish transportation routes critical for emergency response, damage assessment, and recovery operations, including access to parks, waterways, and conservation lands.
- Support debris management operations, including clearance of roadways and coordination of debris removal in a manner that minimizes impacts to environmentally sensitive and culturally significant areas.
- Provide technical expertise and engineering support for site stabilization, erosion control, and infrastructure protection affecting natural and cultural resources.

Cedar County Historical Society Board - Provides leadership in the identification, protection, and restoration of historical and cultural assets; coordinates documentation of disaster impacts to historic properties; advises preservation practices; and

collaborates with state and federal partners to ensure culturally significant sites are incorporated into recovery planning and funding opportunities.

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach - Serves as the community-facing education and outreach lead. Provides research-based guidance to residents, landowners, and producers on recovery practices; delivers workshops, communications, and decision-support tools; and connects stakeholders to appropriate recovery programs.

Supporting Agencies:

Jurisdictional Public Works – Assist with debris removal and restoration of public spaces, parks, trails, and local infrastructure.

Local Community Organizations and Nonprofits – Support outreach, volunteer coordination, advocacy, and recovery-related grant funding.

Environmental and Cultural Experts – Share expertise in conservation, archaeology, historic preservation, and environmental science.

Chambers of Commerce and Tourism Groups – Assist with tourism recovery, public messaging, and economic revitalization tied to cultural and natural assets.

Cedar County Economic Development Commission – Support redevelopment strategies, funding alignment, and preservation-focused economic recovery initiatives.

Cemetery Boards – Assist with restoration and preservation of cemeteries as cultural resources and community assets.

Municipal Fire Departments – Provide life safety operations, hazard mitigation, and technical assistance during recovery efforts.

- Provide fire suppression and emergency response services to protect natural and cultural resources impacted by an incident.
- Identify, isolate, and mitigate hazards (e.g., fire, hazardous materials, gas leaks) that may threaten environmentally sensitive areas or culturally significant sites.
- Support debris management operations by addressing fire risk, ensuring scene safety, and assisting with safe access for recovery personnel.
- Assist with damage assessment operations by providing technical expertise related to structural integrity and site safety.
- Secure damaged or at-risk properties to prevent secondary incidents and limit further degradation of natural or cultural resources.
- Support continuity of operations for critical response infrastructure that may impact recovery of natural and cultural assets.

Local Law Enforcement Agencies – Protect impacted areas, maintain public safety, and enable coordinated recovery operations.

- Provide security for damaged natural areas, parks, and culturally or historically significant sites to prevent looting, vandalism, or unauthorized access.

- Establish traffic control points, detours, and route security to ensure safe and efficient access for response and recovery personnel, including those conducting environmental and historic preservation work.
- Support situational awareness and coordination by sharing information on access issues and security concerns affecting recovery operations.
- Enforce restricted access and perimeter control in impacted or environmentally sensitive areas to protect resources and ensure public safety.
- Assist with evacuations and re-entry operations, including controlled re-entry to areas containing natural or cultural resources.
- Support evidence preservation and investigation when incidents involve damage to cultural or historic properties.
- Contribute to safe and orderly recovery operations by maintaining public order and reducing the risk of secondary incidents.

External Agencies:

US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) – Assess and restore wildlife habitats, wetlands, and ecosystems impacted by disasters.

FEMA Office of Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation (OEHP) – Ensure compliance with environmental and historic preservation laws during recovery.

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)/Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA) – Provide programs and funding support for agricultural recovery and conservation practices.

Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) – Monitor environmental impacts, enforce environmental regulations, and guide ecological recovery.

- **C.R.D. Fisheries** - Provides technical assistance related to fishery impacts resulting from environmental incidents, including fish kills.
- **Wildlife Management** - Responsible for the oversight and management of designated wildlife areas, including Mink Run WMA and Rochester Island WMA, supporting habitat protection, restoration, and post-disaster assessment activities.
- **Conservation Officers** - Enforce state laws related to fish, game, and recreational activities. Provide support for search and rescue and recovery operations on ice, waterways, and public lands. May also assist, as requested, during natural disasters or mass casualty incidents.

- **Incident Reporting Requirements** - In the event of boating or hunting-related accidents, a Conservation Officer shall be notified to assess the situation and determine whether a state report is required.

Iowa Department of Agriculture and Lands Stewardship (IDALS) – Support agricultural recovery, infrastructure repair, and emergency resource needs.

State Historical Society of Iowa/State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) – Provide guidance on protecting and restoring historic properties and cultural resources.

Department of Interior (DOI) – Assist with damage assessments and access to federal recovery funding.

Environmental Protection Agency – Provide environmental protection guidance and support sustainable recovery strategies.

National Park Service (NPS) – Assist with preservation of historic sites, cultural landmarks, and archaeological resources impacted by disasters.

Iowa State Historical Preservation – Support identification and eligibility of historic properties.

Iowa Library Association – Coordinate recovery support for libraries, including resources and technical assistance.

Iowa Museum Association – Support museum recovery, collections protection, and digital archiving.

Responding Agency Hierarchy

A variety of agencies and organizations have important roles in the implementation of the Infrastructure Recovery Support Function (RSF). Each is designated as primary, coordinating, supporting or external based on their specific authorities, resources, and capabilities.

Primary Agency: Provides direction and oversight for the efficient delivery of resources to impacted communities. They have the statutory authorities and/or established programs directly related to most of the RSF.

Coordinating Agency: Facilitates communication and technical assistance needed for the implementation of actions by the primary and supporting agencies. They may assist in the formation and activities of the working groups. May obtain resources on request.

Supporting Agency: Assists primary agencies with recovery actions consistent with their resources and capabilities.

External Agency: State or federal agency that has either legal responsibility for property located in the County or programs that could be leveraged to support infrastructure recovery efforts. State resource support may be requested via Cedar

County Emergency Management Agency through a Governor's Proclamation of Disaster Emergency, coordinated through Iowa Department of the Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEMD). Federal agency resource support, beyond their own legal responsibilities, technical assistance or advice, would need to be requested through the Cedar County Emergency Management Agency and Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEMD) and from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Purpose

The purpose of NCR RSF Plan is to provide a structured, coordinated framework for protecting, stabilizing, restoring, and enhancing the natural and cultural resources of Cedar County following a major disaster or incident. This plan ensures a sustainable, resilient, and community-supported recovery process, integrating environmental and historic preservation considerations into broader recovery efforts in Cedar County.

Scope

This RSF plan applies to all natural and cultural resources located within Cedar County, Iowa, including but not limited to park

- Natural resources (e.g., parks, forests, wetlands, wildlife habitats)
- Cultural resources (e.g., historic properties, museums, tribal sacred sites, libraries, and archives)
- State, tribal, and local jurisdictions affected by a disaster

It covers the full recovery process from immediate stabilization through long-term restoration and enhancement phases. The Plan is applicable for disasters at the county, state, or federal level, or local incidents deemed significant by the Cedar County Board of Supervisors or Emergency Management Coordinator.

Objectives

The key objectives of the Natural and Cultural Resources RSF Plan are:

- Assess and address impacts to natural and cultural resources following a disaster.
- To prioritize recovery actions based on public health/safety, economic impact, community identity, and environmental sustainability.
- To coordinate local, state, and federal resources to support stabilization and restoration of Cedar County's natural and cultural assets.
- Integrate NCR considerations into all phases of disaster recovery.
- Promote long-term restoration that supports environmental sustainability, cultural heritage preservation, and ecological integrity.
- Engage local stakeholders, tribal leaders, and subject matter experts.

Concept of Operations

a. Activation

- Once a disaster incident is declared, the Cedar County Emergency Management Coordinator will activate the Natural and Cultural Resources RSF.
- Initial assessments are conducted to identify affected Natural and Cultural Resources assets.
- The RSF is integrated into the Joint Field Office (JFO) or Recovery Coordination Office (RCO) structure.
- Early Phase: focus on stabilization of at-risk natural/cultural assets (e.g., securing historic buildings, temporary stabilization of ecological damage).
- Transition into the recovery phase when emergency response operations scale down and recovery operations escalate.

b. Assessment

- Rapid damage assessments in coordination with ESF 11 and ESF 10.
- Mapping and documentation of affected sites.
- Determine threats to long term preservation or environmental degradation.

c. Planning and Strategy Development

- Develop Natural and Cultural Resources Recovery Strategy in coordination with local stakeholders.
- Based on assessments outcomes, prepare short-term recovery plans (0-6 months) and long-term plans (6 months 5+ years) for natural cultural resource recovery.
- Identify required resources, budgets, responsible parties, milestones, and monitoring indicators.
- Identify funding opportunities (e.g., FEMA PA Program, NRCS programs, NEH grants).
- Ensure compliance with laws such as NEPA, NHPA, and the Endangered Species Act.

d. Implementation

- Support local partners in executing recovery projects (e.g., stabilization, conservation, ecosystem restoration).
- Promote use of local workforce and traditional ecological knowledge.
- Monitor progress and adjust recovery actions based on updated assessments.

e. Sustainability and Resilience

- Encourage climate adaptation, mitigation, and green infrastructure.
- Integrate historic preservation into hazard mitigation planning.
- Build community capacity through training and technical assistance.

Coordination and Communication

- Establish a Natural and Cultural Resources Recovery Working Group.
- Use public outreach and stakeholder meetings to maintain transparency.
- Coordinate with other RSF's (e.g., Housing, Economic, Infrastructure, Health & Social Services) to align priorities and leverage resources.

Funding and Resources

- Identify and coordinate funding from federal, state, private, and philanthropic sources.
- Examples:
 - FEMA Public Assistance & Hazard Mitigation Grant Program
 - DOI/NPS Historic Preservation Fund
 - NEA/NEH Emergency Grants
 - USDA Emergency Watershed Protection Program
 - Private Foundations

Evaluation and Reporting

- Develop performance metrics (e.g., acres restored, artifacts conserved, buildings stabilized).
- Submit regular progress reports to the State Recovery Task Force and FEMA.
- Conduct after-action reviews to identify lessons learned and improve future responses.

Authorities and References

- National Disaster Recovery Framework (NDRF)
- Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act
- National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)
- Endangered Species Act (ESA)
- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- American Indian Religious Freedom Act

Annex A: Natural and Cultural Resources Stakeholder Contact List

Agency/Organization	Role in NCR RSF	Primary Contact	Phone/Email
Cedar County Emergency Management	Lead Coordination	Dwayne Brown Jr.	563.886.4299 ema@cedarcountry.iowa.gov
Cedar County Conservation Board	Natural Resources Lead	Andy Petersen	563.886.6930 cedarccb@cedarcountry.iowa.gov
Cedar County Historical Society	Cultural Resources Lead	Mike Bixler** Marsha Howe	319.383.8761 cchsmus@netins.net
ISU Extension & Outreach – Cedar County	Community Outreach/Agriculture		563.886.6157 xcedar@iastate.edu
Pioneer Cemeteries Board	Cemetery Preservation Stewardship	Jeff Kaufmann** Daisy Wingert	563.357.9650
Cedar County Public Health	Environmental Health	Stefanie Wagaman	563.886.2226
Cedar County Engineer	Infrastructure/Natural Impact Support	Rob Fangmann	563.886.6102
Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR)	State Natural Resources Support (Conservation & Recreation)	Eric Wright	319.530.6121
Iowa Department of Natural Resources	State Natural Resources Support (Environmental Services)	Field Office 6	319.653.2135
State Historical Society of Iowa	State Cultural Resources Support		515.281.5111
FEMA Region VII	Federal Recovery Support		
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	Habitat/Wildlife Support		
Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)	Soil/Water Conservation		

Annex B: Inventory of Natural and Cultural Resources

As provided by ESF 11 as “*irreplaceable*” cultural and historic resources in Cedar County:

- i) Herbert Hoover National Historic Site – West Branch
- ii) Cedar County Historical Society Campus – Tipton
- iii) St. Paul’s Episcopal Church – Durant
- iv) Cedar County Sheriff’s House and Jail – Tipton
- v) Red Oak Grove Presbyterian Church and Cemetery – Rural Tipton
- vi) Floral Hall at Cedar County Fairgrounds – Tipton
- vii) Doughboy Sculpture by E.M. Viquesney at Rose Hill Cemetery – Mechanicsville
- viii) Samuel Yule Barn – Rural Cedar County
- ix) Lincoln Hotel – Lowden
- x) Rochester Cemetery – Rural Cedar County

Full Inventory of Natural and Cultural Resources:

Name	Type	Address	City
Cedar County Conservation Office	Administrative/Resource	713 E South St	Tipton
Cedar County Courthouse	Cultural/Administrative	400 Cedar St	Tipton
Cedar County Fairgrounds / Floral Hall	Cultural	1195 210th Street	Tipton
Cedar County Historical Society Museum and Prairie Village	Cultural/Museum	1094 IA-38	Tipton
Hardacre Theater	Cultural/Historic	112 E 5th St	Tipton
Tipton State Bank (Historic)	Cultural/Historic	501 Cedar St	Tipton
Cedar Valley Park	Natural/Park	Cedar Valley Park (Cedar County) - access via County Road F36 & 255th St	Cedar County (near Tipton)
Bennett Park	Natural/Park	County Road F46	Bennett
Cedar Bluff Wildlife Management	Natural/Wildlife	Cedar County, IA (river access)	Cedar County

Area			
Townsend Wildlife Area	Natural/Wildlife	Cedar County, IA	Cedar County
Norton Nature Area	Natural/Preserve	Cedar County, IA	Cedar County
Rock Creek Timber	Natural/Timberland	Cedar County, IA	Cedar County
Cedar River (major watercourse)	Natural/Waterbody	Various river crossings in Cedar County	Multiple
Wapsipinicon River (portion in Cedar County)	Natural/Waterbody	Various	Multiple
Herbert Hoover National Historic Site (Birthplace Cottage & Visitor Center)	Cultural/National Historic Site	110 Parkside Drive	West Branch
Herbert Hoover Presidential Library & Museum	Cultural/Library/Museum	210 Parkside Drive	West Branch
Gruwell and Crew General Store (West Branch)	Cultural/Historic	109 W Main St	West Branch
West Branch Commercial Historic District	Cultural/Historic District	Main & N. Downey Sts	West Branch
Downey School (Historic)	Cultural/Historic	212 Broadway St	Downey
William Green House	Cultural/Historic	1709 Madison St	Rochester
Cedar County Sheriff's House and Jail	Cultural/Historic	118 W 4th St	Tipton
Red Oak Grove Presbyterian Church and	Cultural/Historic	(Historic site) near Tipton - 751 King Ave	Tipton

Cemetery		(approx)	
Cedar County Attic Museum	Cultural/Museum	421 Cedar Street	Tipton
Rochester Park	Natural/Park	Rochester, Cedar County	Rochester
Massillon Park	Natural/Park	Massillon, Cedar County	Massillon
Hoover Nature Trail (segment)	Natural/Trail	Segments across Cedar County (West Branch area)	West Branch / Cedar County
Cedar County Libraries - Tipton Public Library	Cultural/Library	111 E 6th St (example)	Tipton
Tipton Fire Museum / historic fire station (if applicable)	Cultural/Museum	Tipton (address TBD)	Tipton
Historic Bridges (county list)	Cultural/Infrastructure	Multiple county bridges over Cedar River and tributaries	Various
Town of Lowden - local historic sites & park	Cultural/Natural	Lowden, IA (local park addresses TBD)	Lowden
Riverside Cemetery (Tipton)	Cultural/Cemetery	Tipton, IA (specific address TBD)	Tipton
Cedar County Agricultural Land (prime farmland areas)	Natural/Agricultural	Various parcels across county	Multiple
Public Art Installations (municipal)	Cultural/Art	Various (Tipton, West Branch, etc.)	Multiple
Community Centers (e.g., Tipton Community	Cultural/Facility	Tipton (address TBD)	Tipton

Center)			
Historic Cemeteries (countywide inventory)	Cultural/Cemeteries	Multiple	Multiple
Schnabel Mills (?) - local mills & industrial heritage sites	Cultural/Historic	Various - to be inventoried	Various
Public Archives / Records (County Recorder)	Cultural/Archives	Cedar County Recorder/Archive - 400 Cedar St	Tipton
Wildlife Management Areas (state parcels within county)	Natural/Wildlife	Designated WMA parcel locations (see DNR)	Various
River Access Points & Boat Ramps (Cedar River)	Natural/Infrastructure	Multiple access points across county	Various
Historic Schools & Community Buildings (list)	Cultural/Historic	Multiple - see Annex B detailed list	Multiple
Tipton Municipal Park (if separately named)	Natural/Park	Tipton municipal park addresses (TBD)	Tipton
Historic Commercial Buildings (Downtown Tipton)	Cultural/Historic	Downtown Tipton (Cedar St / 5th St blocks)	Tipton
Cedar County EMS / Ambulance Garage (critical infrastructure)	Infrastructure/Cultural	Tipton (address TBD)	Tipton
Local Churches of Historic Value	Cultural/Religious	Multiple	Multiple

(countywide)			
Agricultural Heritage Sites (barns, prairie remnants)	Cultural/Natural	Various rural locations	Multiple
Cedar County Veterans Memorials & Monuments	Cultural/Monument	Tipton / West Branch (locations TBD)	Multiple
County Arboretums / Tree Collections (municipal)	Natural/Urban Forestry	Municipal locations (TBD)	Multiple

Annex C: Pre-disaster Natural and Cultural Resources Risk Assessment

Cedar County Natural and Cultural Resources Recovery Support Function (NCR RSF)

Purpose

This Annex provides a pre-disaster risk assessment of Cedar County's natural and cultural resources. It identifies hazards, vulnerabilities, and potential impacts to support mitigation planning, enhance resilience, and inform post-disaster recovery priorities.

Scope

This assessment applies to all natural and cultural resources identified in Annex B, including:

- Natural resources (rivers, parks, wildlife areas, agricultural lands, forests)
- Cultural resources (historic buildings, museums, archives, cemeteries, monuments districts)
- Public and private assets of environmental, historical, and community significance

Methodology

This assessment is based on:

- Resource inventory data (Annex B)
- Known hazard trends for Cedar County and the State of Iowa
- Qualitative risk analysis using:

Risk = Likelihood of Hazard x Consequence of Impact

Risk levels are categorized as:

- High
- Medium
- Low

Hazard Profile

Cedar County is subject to the following hazards:

High probability Hazards

- Flooding (Cedar River, Wapsipinicon River)

- Severe thunderstorms and derecho winds
- Tornadoes
- Wildfire (localized grassland/timber fire)

Moderate Probability Hazards

- Winter storms and ice events
- Extreme Heat
- Hazardous material incidents (transportation or agricultural-related)

Low Probability/High Impact Hazards

- Drought

Resource Vulnerability Assessment

Natural Resources

Primary Assets:

- Cedar River and Wapsipinicon River corridors
- County parks and conservation areas
- Wildlife management areas
- Timberlands and prairies
- Agricultural lands

Key Vulnerabilities:

- Floodplain exposure and erosion
- Water contamination from runoff or hazardous materials
- Soil degradation and loss of productivity
- Habitat disruption and invasive species introduction
- Wind damage to trees and ecosystems

Cultural Resources

Primary Assets:

- Historic Sites and districts
- Museums, libraries, and archives
- Cemeteries and monuments
- Government and community historic buildings
- Agricultural heritage structures

Key Vulnerabilities:

- Structural damage from wind and tornadoes
- Flood damage to foundations and basements
- Loss of irreplaceable artifacts and records

- Aging infrastructure increasing susceptibility
- Limited redundancy or backup systems

Hazard-Specific Risk Analysis

Flooding

Impacts:

- Erosion and sedimentation
- Structural damage to historic properties
- Damage or loss of archives and collections
- Ecosystem disruption

At-Risk Resources:

- River corridors
- Parks and wildlife areas
- Flood-prone historic structures
- Agricultural lands

Risk Level: HIGH

Severe Storms and Derecho Winds

Impacts:

- Roof and façade damage
- Tree loss and ecological imbalance
- Debris damage to structures

At Risk Resources:

- Historic downtown areas
- Parks and conservation lands
- Agricultural buildings and barns

Risk Level: HIGH

Tornadoes

Impacts:

- Complete structural destruction
- Loss of historic buildings and cultural landmarks
- Debris contamination of natural areas

At-Risk Resources:

- Rural historic structures
- Communities with historic districts
- Public buildings and cultural sites

Risk Level: HIGH (Localized)

Wildfire (Localized Grassland/Timber Fire)

Impacts:

- Loss of timber, prairie, and wildlife habitat
- Damage to conservation lands, parks, and recreational areas
- Threats to historic structures, rural cultural sites, and cemeteries located in or near wildland areas
- Soil degradation and increased erosion following burn events
- Smoke impacts affecting air quality and public health
- Increased risk of invasive species establishment during recovery

At-Risk Resources:

- Agricultural lands and pasture areas
- Rural Historic structures (barns, churches, cemeteries)
- Parks and trail systems adjacent to vegetated areas
- Prairie and conservation areas
- Wildlife management areas
- Timberlands

Considerations:

- Wildfire risk may increase during drought and extreme heat conditions, requiring coordinated mitigation, fuel management, and post-fire restoration strategies to support long-term ecological recovery.

Risk Level: HIGH

Winter Storms/Ice Events

Impacts:

- Roof collapse due to snow load
- Tree and vegetation damage
- Power outages impacting climate-controlled facilities

At-Risk Resources:

- Historic buildings
- Museums and archives
- Parks and tree canopies

Risk Level: MEDIUM

Hazardous Material Incidents

Impacts:

- Soil and water contamination
- Long-term ecological damage

- Threats to public health and agriculture

At-Risk Resources:

- Rivers and Waterways
- Agricultural lands
- Sensitive ecosystems

Risk Level: MEDIUM-HIGH (Event Dependent)

Drought

Impacts:

- Habitat degradation
- Reduced agricultural productivity
- Increased vulnerability

At-Risk Resources:

- Agricultural lands
- Wetlands and wildlife habitats
- Forested areas

Risk Level: LOW/MEDIUM

Critical Resource Prioritization

Tier 1 – Highest Priority

- Major river ecosystem (Cedar River corridor)
- Key wildlife and conservation areas
- Primary museums and archives
- Nationally and regionally significant historic sites
- Critical historic infrastructure

Tier 2 – Moderate Priority

- Historic districts and downtown areas
- County parks and trail systems
- Libraries and community cultural facilities
- Agricultural heritage sites

Tier 3 – Lower Priority

- Recreational facilities

- Non-historic structures
- Secondary natural areas

Capability and Gap Analysis

Strengths

- Established NCR RSF framework
- Strong local, state, and federal partnerships
- Identified stakeholder network
- Existing inventory of resources

Gaps

- Limited pre-disaster documentation (photos, GIS mapping)
- Insufficient digitization of cultural assets
- Limited floodproofing historic properties
- Lack of redundant storage for archives
- Incomplete integration with hazard mitigation planning
- Incomplete mitigation strategies for natural resources
- Incomplete mitigation strategies for cultural resources

Pre-disaster Mitigation Strategies

Natural Resources

Cultural Resources

Cross-Section Actions

- Integrate NCR into Hazard mitigation plan updates
- Develop GIS-based resource tracking
- Conduct regular vulnerability assessments
- Establish mutual aid for cultural and environmental response

Risk Summary Matrix

	<i>Hazard</i>	<i>Natural Resources</i>	<i>Cultural Resources</i>	<i>Overall Risk</i>
<i>Tornadoes and High Winds</i>		Medium	High	High

<i>Severe Winter Storms</i>	Medium	High	High
<i>Severe Storms</i>	High	High	High
<i>Flooding</i>	High	High	High
<i>Hazardous Materials</i>	High	Medium	Medium-High
<i>Grass and Wildland Fires</i>	High	Medium	Medium-High
<i>Drought</i>	High	Low	Medium

Cedar County's natural and cultural resources face significant risk from flooding and severe weather events. Many assets are irreplaceable and highly vulnerable, requiring proactive mitigation, improved documentation, and integration into countywide planning efforts.

This Annex supports:

- Risk-informed decision-making
- Resource prioritization
- Strengthened resilience and preparedness
- Efficient and coordinated recovery operations

Annex D: Sample MOUs and Funding Agreements

Sample Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Between

Cedar County Emergency Management
Cedar County Conservation Board
Cedar County History Society
Iowa State University Extension and Outreach – Cedar County

Purpose

This MOU establishes coordination for the Natural and Cultural Resources Recovery Support Function (NCR RSF) to support disaster recovery in Cedar County, Iowa.

Scope

Applies to preparedness, response support, and recovery of natural resources (parks, waterways, habitats) and cultural resources (historic structures, archives, museums).

Roles and responsibilities

Cedar County Emergency Management: Coordinate NCR RSF, integrate into EOP, manage communication, support assessments.

Cedar County Conservation Board: Lead natural resource assessment, restoration planning.

Cedar County Historical Society: Lead cultural resource identification, preservation coordination.

Extension Office: Provide community outreach, technical expertise, and recovery education.

Joint Responsibilities

Participate in planning, sharing information, support efforts, and coordinate public outreach.

Communication

Coordination will occur through the Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

Term

This agreement is effective for five (5) years unless terminated with 30 days' notice.

Signatures

Cedar County Emergency Management Agency: _____ Date: _____

Cedar County Conservation Board: _____ Date: _____

Cedar County Historical Board: _____ Date: _____

ISU Extension and Outreach: _____ Date: _____

Sample Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Natural and Cultural Resources Recovery Support Function (NCR RSF)

I. PARTIES

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is entered into by and between:

[Entity 1 Name]

Address: _____

And

[Entity 2 Name]

Address: _____

Collectively referred to as “the Parties.”

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this MOU is to establish a cooperative framework between the Parties to support the Natural and Cultural Resources Recovery Support Function (NCR RSF) following emergencies and disasters. This collaboration will facilitate the protection, restoration, and recovery of natural and cultural resources within the affected jurisdiction.

III. SCOPE

This MOU applies to preparedness, response support, recovery planning, and long-term recovery operations related to natural and cultural resources, including but not limited to:

- Parks and recreational areas
- Historic properties and landmarks
- Cultural institutions (museums, archives, libraries)
- Natural habitats and conservation lands
- Waterways, wetlands, and wildlife areas
- Tribal and culturally significant sites

IV. AUTHORITIES

This MOU is entered into under the authority of applicable federal, state, and local laws governing emergency management, disaster recovery, and interagency cooperation.

V. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A. [Entity 1 Name] Responsibilities

1. Provide subject matter expertise on natural resources and conservation areas.
2. Assist in damage assessments related to natural resources.
3. Coordinate with local environmental and conservation partners.
4. Support development of recovery strategies for natural resources restoration.
5. Provide staff participation in recovery coordination meetings.

B. [Entity 2 Name] Responsibilities

1. Provide expertise on cultural and historical resources
2. Assist with damage assessments for cultural institutions historic properties.
3. Coordinate with cultural stakeholders and preservation organizations.
4. Support documentation and recovery planning for impacted cultural assets.
5. Participate in recovery task forces and planning meetings.

C. Joint Responsibilities

1. Share information and situational awareness during recovery operations.
 2. Coordinate outreach to affected stakeholders.
 3. Identify funding opportunities for recovery and restoration.
 4. Support development of short- and long-term recovery priorities.
 5. Participate in after-action reviews and improvement planning.
-

VI. COORDINATION

The parties agree to coordinate through the established Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and /or Recovery Coordination structure. Designated points of contact will be responsible for communication and operational coordination.

Primary Point of Contact – Entity 1:

Name: _____

Title: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Primary Point of Contact – Entity 2:

Name: _____

Title: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

VII. RESOURCE COMMITMENTS

This MOU does not obligate funds. Each Party is responsible for its own personnel, equipment, and administrative costs unless otherwise agreed upon in writing.

VIII. INFORMATION SHARING

The Parties agree to share relevant information necessary for recovery operations while complying with applicable confidentiality and records management laws.

IX. LIABILITY

Each party shall be responsible for the acts and omissions of its own officers, employees, and agents provided by law.

X. TERM AND TERMINATION

This MOU shall become effective upon signature by both Parties and shall remain in effect for a period of five (5) years unless terminated earlier. Either party may terminate this MOU with thirty (30) days written notice.

XI. Amendments

This MOU may be amended at any time by mutual agreement of both Parties.

XII. SIGNATURES

[Entity 1 Name]

By: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____ Date: _____

[Entity 2 Name]

By: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____ Date: _____

Annex E: Communications and Public Engagement Strategy

Purpose

This strategy establishes a coordinated approach to internal communications, public information, and stakeholder engagement to support the protection, stabilization, and recovery of Cedar County's natural and cultural resources following a disaster.

Operational Communications Structure

Lead Agency: Cedar County Emergency Management Agency (EMA)

Primary Support: County Public Information Officer (PIO), Joint Information System (JIS)/Joint Information Center (JIC) if activated.

RSF Communications Liaison will coordinate messaging and stakeholder engagement.

Communication Objectives

- Provide clear, consistent, and actionable information to the public
- Promote awareness of impacts to natural and cultural resources
- Encourage community participation in recovery efforts
- Maintain transparency in decision-making
- Counter misinformation

Target Audiences

Primary: Residents, landowners, agricultural producers, businesses

Secondary: Nonprofits, cultural institutions, environmental groups, agencies

Special Populations: Elderly, disabled, underserved populations

Key Messaging Framework

Themes include Safety, Stewardship, Transparency, Community Role, and Resilience.

Communication Methods and Channels

Traditional: Press releases, radio, briefings

Digital: Website, social media, email

Engagement: Town halls, workshops

Outreach: Flyers, libraries, extension offices

Public Engagement Strategy

Early Phase: Awareness and guidance

Intermediate Phase: Public input and collaboration

Long-Term: Sustained engagement and education

Stakeholder Coordination

Natural and Cultural Resources Working Group will coordinate messaging and outreach efforts.

Rumor Control

Central information sources will be maintained. Social media and local feedback monitored to counter misinformation.

Accessibility

Ensure ADA-compliant messaging, plain language, and outreach to underserved populations.

Public Information Tools

Damage reporting portal, GIS maps, dashboards, FAQs, and fact sheets.

Coordination with Other RSFs

Align messaging with Housing, Economic, Infrastructure, and Health RSFs.

Evaluation

Metrics include engagement levels, participation, and feedback. After-action reviews will improve future efforts.

Integration with ICS/NIMS

Communications will follow ICS 205, JIC/JIS protocols, and situational reporting standards.