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## NEWS RELEASE

August 14, 2024

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Ouray County Declares Emergency Disaster

Ouray County, Colo – At a special meeting on Wednesday, August 14, 2024, county officials ratified an emergency disaster declaration due to significant moisture received throughout the county over the past two weeks which has caused significant weather events, such as flooding, and damage to roads and infrastructure. This declaration activates the Ouray County Emergency Operations Plan, opens the Emergency Operations Center, setting forth the platform for emergency preparedness and response, including mutual aid agreements with other jurisdictions as the Incident Command Team determines necessary.

Ouray County received significant moisture due to monsoonal events which commenced August 5, 2024 that has caused and continues to cause flooding, debris flow and mudflow activities. Such activities include but are not limited to County Road 17 washout and closure affecting access and loss of an important emergency evacuation route northbound from Ouray towards Ridgway; mudslides and rockslides across County Road 23; debris removal from Amphitheater and County Road 361. Other areas of the county are experiencing saturation of agricultural fields and pastures; flooding and mudflow into homes and other structures. The City of Ouray has experienced damage at Bridal Veil Bridge, Fedel Court, Skyrocket and Oak Creek; and the Town of Ridgway has suffered damage at their headgates which feed into the reservoir.

An online portal to report private property damage has been set up to allow residents to provide damage reports that may potentially make it possible to obtain funding assistance. Ouray County residents can access this portal at:

<https://crisistrack.juware.com/SurvivorPortal/index.html?cid=ourayCO>. Information requested may include washed out driveways, structural damage, fallen trees, etc.

Questions regarding the online portal should be directed to Ouray County Emergency Management at [gboyd@ourayco.gov](mailto:gboyd@ourayco.gov). Questions regarding the Emergency Disaster Declaration should be directed to County Manager, Connie Hunt, at [chunt@ourayco.gov](mailto:chunt@ourayco.gov).

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