



PROPERTY RESTORATION

Bannack State Park

Dillon, Montana

Loss Event: Flash Flood



CASE STUDY

In July, Montana’s first territorial capitol (and one of the most visited state parks), Bannack State Park, was inundated with water, mud, rocks, and artifacts from a flash flood. Most of the 80 historic structures were damaged and it was thought by some that the park would never recover. Within 48 hours, BELFOR was on site with incident management personnel, equipment, and restoration workers to assess the damage and begin the recovery process.

Through pre-established disaster recovery contracts with BELFOR, the work was completed in just six weeks (well before the winter freeze).

The magnitude of the loss, the historic nature of the properties, and the efficiency in which the park was restored garnered positive statewide attention from all major media sources, elected officials, and members of the Montana legislature. Montana Governor Steve Bullock cited BELFOR’s expertise and the cooperative efforts of the Department(s) of Administration, Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, and BELFOR as an example of “Montanan’s coming together during time of crisis.”

The scope of the recovery work included:

- Removal of debris, mud and rubble from buildings, roads and parking lots.
- Water extraction and structural drying of the Post Office, Graves House, State House, hotels and other park buildings.
- Structural inspections of park buildings.
- Completely rebuilt Assay Office building from pieces recovered downstream.
- Repaired and rebuilt bridges, boardwalks and fences.
- Cleaned and repaired an aqueduct/flume.
- Worked with archaeologists to find and preserve historic artifacts.
- Dug trenches and ditches for new fiber optic and electrical power cables.
- Repaired fire detection and suppression systems.
- Tested and repaired functionality of damaged equipment and park resources.

CHALLENGES

- Cleanup and removal of brush, debris and mud was extensive and difficult.
- Multiple historical buildings and facilities with interior and exterior damage.
- Remote area and landscape.



“We were completely blown away at how quickly BELFOR responded to a very high profile loss that devastated some of Montana’s most treasured historical properties and we couldn’t have been more pleased with the outcome.”

BRETT DAHL
State Risk Manager
MONTANA STATE GOVERNMENT

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