ASFPM Region 10 Annual Report

Dave Carlton, CFM, Region 10 Director
March 24, 2017
Annual Conference—Kansas City, Missouri (2017)  
2016-2017

Alaska, Idaho, Oregon & Washington

Introduction and Regional Overview
The only ASFPM chapter or floodplain management association in Region 10 is the Northwest Floodplain Management Association (NORFMA), which covers all four states and the province of British Columbia. NORFMA holds an annual conference, several state-specific mini conferences (Boise this March) and sponsors multiple training opportunities each year. The conference this year will be in Seaside, Oregon in late September.

Overview of events for the past year.
The Floodplains by Design program in Washington is currently being considered by the Legislature for another two years of funding. In the last biennium they provided $35.5 million for projects throughout the state that not only reduce the risk of flooding, but provide increased habitat for endangered salmon and other species. The Nature Conservancy and the Puget Sound Partnership partner with the State Department of Ecology to administer the program and assist in the review of grant proposals.

With the heavy snows and long winter this year, Idaho as well as the eastern portions of Oregon and Washington are closely monitoring the melting of the snowpack for the potential of flooding this spring.

Alaska has a new state NFIP coordinator who is in his second year with the floodplain management program and their coastal communities are continuing to try to deal with the impacts of climate change and sea level rise.

Idaho hired a new NFIP coordinator last year who has been very busy hosting 19 training sessions in the state, 11 CAVs and 91 CACs.


The opinion contains NOAA’s Reasonable and Prudent for modifications to the NFIP within the Oregon that are necessary to prevent harm to endangered species or their

April 30-May 5, 2017
habitat. The state has been working closely with FEMA staff over the past year providing training to many local communities on how to meet the required interim guidelines.

Region 10 Priorities

National Flood Insurance Program reform, especially given the recent Biologic Opinion for Oregon, is a topic of great interest within the region. The BiOP recommends FEMA to include erosion zones on new maps and change many of the minimum requirements of the NFIP. These are all potential issues in the coming reauthorization.

Mapping

Large parts of Region 10 do not have digital flood maps. With current funding levels and mapping metrics, those areas will remain unmapped. With the requirement in the BiOP for new maps throughout much of the state that include erosion zones, without additional money to develop maps in compliance with the BiOP, areas that have yet to be modernized or mapped in the rest of the region will suffer. Accurate flood mapping is the first and most necessary tool for managing the floodplain. Updated and accurate mapping is a priority for the region.

Training Needs

There is always need for training and topics vary. The STARRII Team is providing webinars on a variety of topics for Region 10. Another way Region 10 is meeting the needs of communities for training is to work across state lines to provide training, especially through NORFMA.

Community Rating System

CRS is alive and well within Region 10. Of the 87 communities within the region participating in CRS, three counties have achieved a Class 2 standing and another 14 communities are Class 5. Approximately 18 communities are visited each year.

Recommend Actions

Based on input from the NFIP coordinators within the region and various other floodplain management professionals, the following goals and recommendations are made for the next year:

- ASFPM should promote NFIP reform that will ensure sound floodplain management policies. ASFPM should review the actions within the BiOP and determine which actions we should support and then support FEMA if they decide to proceed with rule-making as suggested in the BiOP.
- FEMA needs to ensure it is fully staffed to meet the training and enforcement needs associated with the Puget Sound BiOP and the recent Oregon BiOP.
Additional funding should be provided to both states so they can better assist in performing CAVs and relevant training.

- Funding for flood maps in accordance with the ASFPM publication, "Flood Mapping for the Nation." Because of the multiple uses of FIRMS for planning and other uses it is unreasonable to expect just the policy holders to pay for all mapping.
- There is a trend to provide outreach and training to areas after a disaster. We need to fund more outreach and training prior to disasters so communities are better able to implement their existing ordinances and better respond to disasters.
- The availability of funding for PDM continues to be an issue within Region 10.