

**ASSOCIATION OF
STATE FLOODPLAIN
MANAGERS**

*Dedicated to reducing flood losses
and protecting
floodplain resources . . .*

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NEWS&VIEWS

Vol. 24, No. 6

December 2011

Year of Disasters: 2011 Floods in Review

*Chad Berginnis, CFM, Associate Director, ASFPM
Larry A. Larson, P.E., CFM, Executive Director, ASFPM*

2011 has seen its share of flooding in the United States. While it will take some time to tally the damages and data from the flooding that has occurred in 2011, the existing data suggests that 2011 will result in *at least* \$10 billion in flood damages. This figure is consistent with recent trend of the previous few decades, showing an increasing in annual flood damages. Consider how the 1990's averaged \$5.6 billion per year, whereas the 2000's jumped to approximately \$10 billion per year. Of course, compiling data on flood damage is not an exact science and there are many data sources and proxies for information that are commonly used, including but not limited to: flood insurance claims data, disaster assistance information, and crop damage information. The following are a few national level statistics, gleaned from different sources at the time of publication:

- 2011 resulted in a cumulative 58 Federal disaster declarations, specifically due to flooding or with flooding representing a major component. 33 different states, plus Puerto Rico, were all represented within that 58 figure, and Tennessee led the country with 6 separate declarations due to flooding in 2011.
(Data as of 12/7/11 Source: FEMA)
- The most recent five year average of deaths due to flooding is 80.6, however there have been 78 deaths attributed to flooding through August 31, 2011. This would indicate that 2011 was an above average year for flood related deaths.
(Data as of 8/31/11. Source: National Climatic Data Center)
- There have been four flood events in 2011 that have resulted in at least \$1 billion in damage/losses, as indicated by the following preliminary estimates:
 - Mississippi River flood (mid and lower stem)- \$3 to \$4 billion
 - Missouri River flood- \$2 billion
 - Tropical Storm Lee- at least \$1 billion
 - Hurricane Irene- \$7 to \$10 billion

Unfortunately, compiling damage estimates is a tricky business, given that there is no single comprehensive repository of this data. Additionally, given the number and timing of these events and that recovery is ongoing; these damages will continue to be tallied for months to come.

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Top Ten ASFPM HIGHLIGHTS for 2011

- + The newly formed Natural Floodplain Function Alliance (NFFA) conducted an invite-only workshop in October. See the [NFFA fact sheet](#) and [page 12](#) for more information.
- + The ASFPM library has been busy working to make more ASFPM publications accessible online for no cost. Click the following links to access these: [ASFPM Conference Proceedings](#), [Featured Publications](#), [No Adverse Impact](#), [Technical Reports](#), [Topical Papers](#). Further publication inquiries may be directed to katrien@floods.org
- + The [ASFPM Foundation](#) published the reports from the 2010 Gilbert F. White Forum on managing flood risk. These are available at: <http://www.asfpmfoundation.org/Reports-Publications.htm>
- + ASFPM has grown to [32 Chapters](#), welcoming in three new additions from 2011: West Virginia, Iowa, and Kansas.
- + Membership held steady at over 4,500 active members for 2011. [Don't forget to renew your membership!](#) For those of you that are not yet members - now is the perfect time to join!
- + As 2011 marks 30 years with the Association for staff member Diane Brown, [six new staff](#) have joined, including the addition of three new positions.
- + Despite the tough economic times Floodplain Managers continue to become certified, with present certifications standing strong at 7500. Additionally, the [CFM](#) exam continues to set the bar high, as is reflected in exam updates to incorporate new information and criteria.
- + Our Science Services had a very busy year! For a review of some of their 2011 projects, see [page 13](#).
- + [ASFPM](#) continues to be recognized as a leader on floodplain issues, as evidenced by requests for our expertise and presence on committees and testimony input - see [Washington Report](#) for recent contributions.
- + In moving forward, ASFPM is launching broader use of [social media](#) through sites such as [LinkedIn](#) and [Facebook](#), providing additional forums for keeping our members informed.

Please look for Executive Director Larry Larson's upcoming blog in 2012 - as well as the coming launch of a floodplain issues aggregate news feed!

Note: These highlights were listed in no particular order.

Become an ASFPM Member in 2012: A Message from your Associate Director

Chad Berginnis, CFM, Associate Director, ASFPM

For those of you who are members of ASFPM renewing your membership, thank you for your continued support! For those of you who are thinking of becoming a member or who are thinking about not renewing your membership -- what is holding you back?

Undoubtedly the economic issues of the past several years have resulted in everybody needing to re-evaluate their memberships in organizations and donations to causes. I have talked to many ASFPM members whose employers are cutting "to the bone" if not beyond it. And, while there are many worthy causes seeking your contributions, please consider ASFPM among those that are important to you.

ASFPM continues to be the leading professional voice representing floodplain practitioners since its formation in 1977. In fact, our formation was prompted by the need to have a dialog with FEMA on floodplain mapping issues as the first major production of Flood Insurance Rate Maps was underway (funny how that issue is still big today). While we represent our members concerns well, we are also a *mission* driven organization. *ASFPM's mission is based on our members need for reducing flood losses and protecting the natural functions of floodplains.* This means that we are also continually striving for policies, programs and activities that meet our mission. So we not only work with FEMA and the National Flood Insurance Program, but also a whole host of other Federal agencies and organizations involved in water resources and floodplain management.

Continued on page 3

So what is in it for you, as either an individual or business?

- **ASFPM is your voice: representing floodplain managers 24/7** on a range of policy issues. While you may be busy issuing floodplain, building or other permits, working on flood maps, mitigation plans or implementing mitigation measures, you can be confident that ASFPM is working at the national level on policies and programs that affect your day-to-day work even if you don't have time to express your concerns personally. Given the uncertain budget and policy climate this representation is more important than ever. For example, one of our recent successes was providing input that resulted in changes to FEMA's Special Flood Hazard Determination Form. While it may seem small, this form is used millions of times each year!
- **ASFPM: your source for training and professional development.** With ASFPM's Certified Floodplain Manager program, technical publications, and training opportunities such as ASFPM's Annual Conference and smaller technical workshops, we provide comprehensive training opportunities for floodplain managers. We also help develop training modules that your state and local Chapter can use to train community officials and members in their state as well as guidance materials, publications such as No Adverse Impact, and webinars that help you do your day-to-day jobs. Many members I speak to indicate that the ASFPM Annual Conference is among the best technical conferences that they attend offered by any national organization.
- **ASFPM: an opportunity to network with fellow professionals.** Through ASFPM's policy committees and events sponsored by ASFPM, you can reconnect with old colleagues, meet new ones, and exchange ideas. As a member, we encourage you to let us know what your issues are, send us thoughts on needed changes in policy and programs, and what is working or not working based on your experience.

ASFPM works closely with our 32 state Chapters. Generally, your Chapter membership gives you access and exposure to local and state issues, while your ASFPM Membership gives you access to national policy and issues. Please remember that ASFPM Chapters and the ASFPM itself are different, direct membership organizations, and you must join each separately.

Your membership in the ASFPM is your backstage pass to 2012 with many issues and opportunities ahead. NFIP reform, changes in disaster assistance programs, and federal agency budgets, are all national issues that can substantially change our profession, but that also bring new and exciting opportunities. Invest wisely and become a member of ASFPM today!



ASFPM Foundation

The ASFPM Foundation wishes you all a most successful and disaster-mild 2012! Watch your inbox for the Foundation's semi-annual newsletter to see what we have achieved in 2011, thanks to the support of our many members and partners. Remember, it's not too late to still make a 2011 tax-deductible donation! Members can simply add it to their 2012 ASFPM Membership Renewal form. Or you can go to <http://www.asfpmfoundation.org> to make your secure donation in just minutes.

Questions can be directed to Diane Brown at diane@floods.org in our office.

Stay flood safe!



From the Chair

Sally McConkey, P.E., D.WRE, CFM

Greetings!

As I write we have just heard that the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) was reauthorized until December 16, 2011. These short term reauthorizations would seem to signal an interest in passing a bill that tackles reform issues, but we still await the Senate to bring its version of the NFIP reform bill to a vote. It will take some time after that for the House and Senate to conference and resolve differences in their versions. ASFPM is tracking a number of issues in each bill. Be sure to read the [Washington Report](#) by Merrie Inderfurth for more details. You can also see a side by side comparison of the bills prepared by ASFPM [here](#).

ASFPM tries to look ahead on the impact of policy actions. One of the topics of discussion at the annual ASFPM Advisory Council meeting held in November was forming a vision of where we need to be as a nation with respect to managing risk from natural disasters. In the midst of a slow economic recovery, huge debt concerns at the international, national, state and community level it is hard to focus attention on actions to reduce risk that in the short term do not show an economic benefit (and often are characterized as an economic detractor). In a [letter](#) dated November 18, 2011, to the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs, thirteen Senators resist mapping the flood hazard in areas protected by “healthy” levees; arguing in part that it would detract from development in these areas. Experience has shown that levees fail and when they do the cost of that failure is directly related to the level of development and investment in the area presumed protected. Failure to communicate the need for flood insurance, and instead encouraging growth in floodplains, increases our flood risk as a nation because the cost of flood damages is paid by the federal tax payer who for the most part did not benefit from the unwise development. We must keep the full court press on to educate the general public and specifically political leaders that we must reduce our nations flood risk.

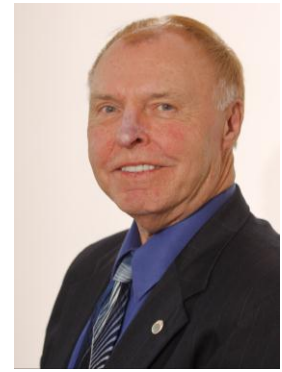
A counter point to the purported benefit of development in floodplains are the natural and beneficial functions that floodplain provide. ASFPM was one of the sponsors of a two day workshop organized by the Natural Floodplain Functions Alliance and held in Washington D.C. A stellar compliment of presenters, panelist and attendees reviewed the wide range of benefits to preserving floodplains and giving the river room. To learn more on the NFFA workshop, turn to [page 12](#) of this issue.

On a very positive note, I would like to welcome ASFPMs 32nd Chapter, Kansas!!!!!!!

The best of the season to you and a Happy New Year,
Sally

From the Director's Desk

Larry A. Larson, P.E., CFM
Executive Director, ASFPM



A number of ASFPM members and affiliates recently attended the 5th National Floodproofing Conference in Sacramento. Here, we engaged in a lively discussion of policy and practice in non-structural flood risk management (there will be further discussion to come, on the pros and cons of using the term “non-structural”, in the next edition of *News & Views*). One of the reasons for choosing the Sacramento venue was that there exist a variety of examples of good and not-so-good flood mitigation efforts in the area. On one field trip, we went to Napa, which has spent over 10 years moving from a levee-only mitigation option to a multi-faceted approach. This multi-faceted approach has included opening the river to allow more flow, setting control structures back from the river to allow citizens to connect with the river, opening bridges which were blocking flow and increasing flood levels, and importantly, opening up some levees and allowing wetlands to be re-established for flood storage and sorely needed habitat. They are partnering with the Corps of Engineers (USACE), Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) and many others in that “best-practice” endeavor.

One of the other site visits was to the well-known “Natomas levee” area. Natomas is a large section of land, some 55,000 acres, on the north side of Sacramento. Until a decade or so ago, this was farm land with typical old time levees surrounding it. At that time FEMA maps showed the area as protected by the levee, and so no regulation or flood insurance was required. After Katrina, the USACE, in their nationwide effort to review all levees, indicated that the recent re-examination showed the Natomas levee was not adequate to provide protection to the 100 year standard required by the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). As such, FEMA has had to map the area as a Special Flood Hazard Area, subject to flooding during the 100 year flood, making flood insurance and regulation a requirement.

In the meantime, about 25,000 homes (mostly large 2 story homes and some multi-family) have been built in this area that now has a population of over 100,000. This is a deep floodplain, so when the levee fails or overtops, floodwater will be up to 28 feet deep in some areas. There is essentially no provision for pumping out the floodwater from overtopping, although there are pumps to provide for pumping internal rainfall from inside the levees.

How does national policy work with Corps projects as they attempt to help Sacramento City and County reduce their flood risk? There are approximately 42 miles of levees surrounding the entire basin. Only about 30% of the basin is urbanized, with the remainder in farming and the airport. The State of California passed a nearly \$5 billion bond issue in 2007, recognizing they could not wait for federal resources. The flood mitigation approach in Natomas is a levees only approach, with no other measures behind the levee to provide flood mitigation, although response is addressed by some warning and evacuation planning. Using State money, 18 miles of levees have been rebuilt to provide 100 year protection, and the state hopes to be able to provide 200 year protection by 2025. The plan is to use the money spent by the state on the 18 miles to provide the non-federal match for the entire 42 miles of levee work. Money for the USACE levee work would need to come through Congress, and the entire project will cost hundreds of millions of dollars.

The policy dilemma is that the majority of the Natomas basin is not currently developed, and federal policy is that the Corps will not build levees to protect undeveloped land. When asked how the Corps could proceed with a levee to protect tens of thousands of acres of undeveloped land, the reply was that a levee cutting across the basin to protect only the developed land was not the alternative under the Corps planning guidelines that provided the greatest economic return. While the Corps must look at other alternative plans, such as those maximizing environmental factors or other social effects, it is the plan maximizing economic development that the guidelines say should be selected. Ironically, the economic plan must be selected by the Corps, even if another alternative costs less or may be more sustainable.

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Somehow, this solution doesn't pass the basic sniff test. For some of us, it does not seem planning guidelines should trump the mandate to not build levees around undeveloped land. Because we all know that sooner or later two things will happen: the presence of the levee will spur further development behind it, adding to the consequence side of the risk equation; and secondly, all levees will overtop or fail which will now be catastrophic because the structures behind it will be totally destroyed. This suggests that current policy is helping create tomorrow's disaster, which has happened in the past but is something we must strive to change. A good starting point could be getting the nation's policy to require federal participation in only the least-cost alternative for projects, which often happen to be the most sustainable over the long-term.

During 2012, the ASFPM is going to examine a variety of policy topics, using Natomas as a case study. These might include: (1) comparing Natomas—its size and risk with similar areas of the world (2) Residual risk areas and the need for multiple flood risk approaches including insurance, land use, etc. (3) The level of protection {100 year, 200 year or standard project flood} for highly urbanized and/or deep floodplains (4) how can the non-federal cost share encourage flood risk reduction v. increasing risk. For those interested, please let us know your thoughts.

LAL

For additional information on the Natomas Levee Area and Flood Risk, and to hear from local, state, and Corps experts on why the risk is so high and what remains to be done to reduce it, please watch the following [Natomas Flood Risk Video](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GRYdVyUVkSs) as was posted by the Sacramento District on October 17, 2011:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GRYdVyUVkSs>



CALL FOR 2012 NATIONAL AWARDS NOMINATIONS

The following are the 2011 national floodplain management award recipients, conferred at the ASFPM National Conference in Louisville, KY last May. Please see the [ASFPM Awards page](#) for more detail.

- **Media Award – Indiana's News Center**
- **LRJ Local Floodplain Manager of the Year – Bruce Funk**, Longport Borough, NJ
- **Sheaffer Floodproofing Award – Wallace A. Wilson**
- **Ivey Certification Award – Texas FPM Association**
- **Tom Lee State Award – Florida DEM-Floodplain Management Program**
- **Honorary Membership – Ken Zwickl**
- **Louthain Award for Distinguished Service – Steve McMaster**
- **Meritorious Achievement Award – Bill DeGroot**
- **Goddard-White National Leadership Excellence Award – Edward J. Hecker**

YOU too can join the stars who have received national recognition over the years for doing the right thing and doing it well. Our conference theme for 2012 in San Antonio is "MISSION MITIGATION". Help us showcase the many successes across the country. Simply go to the ASFPM awards nomination page at www.floods.org/awards/nomination.asp and submit your program, project, or person online. Make sure you get it in by the **March 1 deadline** because it will not be extended as the conference is in mid-May this year. It is highly recommended that you provide applicable letters of support for your nomination, send those to Outreach & Events Manager Diane Brown in the ASFPM office at diane@floods.org. She is happy to answer questions about the process or categories and can be reached at 608-441-3003. Winners will be notified in early April to allow time to make travel arrangements.

Lessons Learned

So what did 2011 teach us? Below are some lessons learned from the 2011 'big four' flood events.

Mississippi River Flood

This event showed that engineered structural flood control like the Mississippi River and Tributary (MR&T) system can work for a flood within the appropriate design parameters. But, within the last 85 years the Lower Mississippi has seen four large flood events of similar magnitude. These floods were rated between 100-year and 500-year levels, approaching or reaching the design flow and occurred in: 1927, 1937, 1997, and 2011. What does that tell us about flood frequencies and the system design we historically believed sufficient for handling very extreme events? Another interesting aspect of the Mississippi River flood event was the use of designated "floodways", also referred to as "by-passes" or "diversions". These floodways serve to reconnect the river with parts of its natural floodplain during extreme events and are necessary per the millions of acres of natural floodplain, previously serving to store and convey flood water, having since been cut off by thousands of miles of levees. The significant push back by the public and politicians in regards to the use of these floodways continues to reinforce the need for better outreach and education, particularly in areas that may have eluded mapping as Special Flood Hazard Areas but are nonetheless flood prone. One may wonder why, given the frequency of flooding, these areas are not mapped as 100 year floodplains. To eliminate the arguments about flooding private land (including that which is compensated with easements) should the federal government consider buying the land in fee title, rather than investing in permanent flood easements, and then lease the land back for farming?

Missouri River Flood

This event has several fascinating aspects. It's interesting to note that the flood of record along much of the Missouri occurred in 1952. In the 1952 event, while the discharges were higher, flood stages were significantly lower than they were in 2011 where the opposite occurred: lower flow resulted in higher flood stages. What was the cause of this? Could it have been development in the watershed including the areas people now thought were protected? Or perhaps it was a result of the flood protection structures themselves (including 7 major dams and thousands of miles of levees restricting the flow area)? If there was a lesson learned it was that residual risk areas *can and will* flood. Whether downstream of a flood control dam, or behind an accredited levee, the Mighty Mo reclaimed much of its existing floodplain. Let it be stressed, there remains risk and potentially catastrophic risk, outside of the Special Flood Hazard Area.

Next, many blame the Corps for trying to hold back too much water for navigation, irrigation and recreation, instead of making flood control primary in managing the dams. As in many places reservoir based systems often are managed with multiple purposes, flood control being but one. In the case of the Missouri, the "master manual" identifies eight primary purposes, including conflicting ones like flood control and water supply. It is simply impossible to think that all eight purposes can be met 100% of the time without adverse impacts. The failure in this case may not be the Corps of engineers operation; rather, it may be more a byproduct of the willful ignorance of those occupying these areas where such an extreme event cannot be managed without negative effects. While big rivers can be operated for multiple purposes the design must be for very large events or it will not work, and it must be managed as a system not a set of dams and separate levees with no common plan. Perhaps one of the most significant costs in this event was the damage done to infrastructure. Miles of road and other infrastructure were under water for over 4 months, and as the water only recently receded significant damages are being revealed.

Our history of choosing to battle floods and maintain flood control structures, as opposed to working more in accordance with the natural processes is proving to be a very costly endeavor. In fact, the US Army Corps of Engineers estimates damages in excess of \$3 billion to the Mississippi and Missouri river flood control systems themselves (including levees and control structures). Because Congress has not allocated money for repairs the Corps must essentially turn to 'robbing' funds from active construction and USACE Operations and Management (O&M) projects in order to perform emergency repairs.

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Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee

Irene and Lee occurred within two weeks of each other. Lee trekked up through the Gulf Coast with remnants affecting the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast, while Irene marched up the East Coast. While damage from tropical systems can be a combination of flood and wind, the overwhelming damage from these two storms was the flooding. In fact despite making landfall as a Category 1 hurricane, Irene may eventually prove to be one of the ten most costly disasters in the history of the United States! The lessons learned from these two storms are several. For starters, the Saffir-Simpson category system for hurricanes is not a reliable predictor of potential flood threat or damage, given that the scale only measures wind without indicating how fast or slow the storm is moving and without considering how much rain might be expected. Additionally, while statistically rare, some areas had multiple 100+ year rainfall events within two weeks of each other, a fact that is often challenging for the general public to understand and is seldom used in predicting flood flows for flood maps. In planning for future disasters, back-to-back events *cannot* be ruled out. While some states in the Northeast had recent significant flooding (Rhode Island saw record flooding in 2010) from a Northeast regional standpoint floods have been less frequent.

The Northeast had poor flood insurance penetration rates and thus a lot of damage was uninsured. This is problematic given that disaster assistance can only go so far, covering just a small portion of the damage. These events also showed that the economic impacts of flooding extend far beyond direct damages. Many businesses were also impacted by lost time and customers. For example, tourism based industries were hit particularly hard by a less lucrative Labor Day weekend per coastal beaches being “washed out”, and the flooding in Vermont had a significant negative impact on the Northeast fall leaf viewing.

So what does all of this mean?

For years ASFPM has warned of the risks inherent in our nation’s floodplains – not just those that are identified – but the true, geologic floodplains. We must get a better handle on the overall flood hazards that exist in our communities including in our residual risk areas. While flood control structures and systems can be successful in reducing damages for more frequent events, does the false sense of security they provide and subsequent ensuing development in their residual risk areas (which increases the consequences of major events) offset these damages when the “big one” occurs? If property owners and businesses cannot recover quickly, does this result in less resilient communities?

There is still a “it can’t happen to me” mindset, especially in areas that haven’t flooded in a while. In those areas that have had a recent flood, the mindset changes to “it surely won’t happen again.” We must do better in bridging the gap toward helping the public understand that flood insurance is a sensible and reasonable mitigation option available for everybody at risk. ‘Everybody’ needs to include the entire floodplain and residual risk areas, not just the mapped 100 year floodplain.

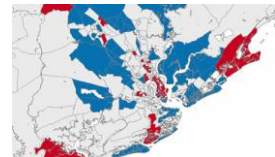
Finally, what are the true flood damages from 2011? The truth is, we really don’t know. The statistics in this article were mostly based on large, federally declared disasters. For every Federal disaster declaration, there are numerous, smaller flood events affecting communities that do not receive a declaration. We need a better system of identifying and tracking flood losses in order to achieve a better understanding of the scope of the issues each of us works with every day. Data must also help us better assess if we are making progress with fewer people and structures at risk of flooding, including those in residual risk areas.

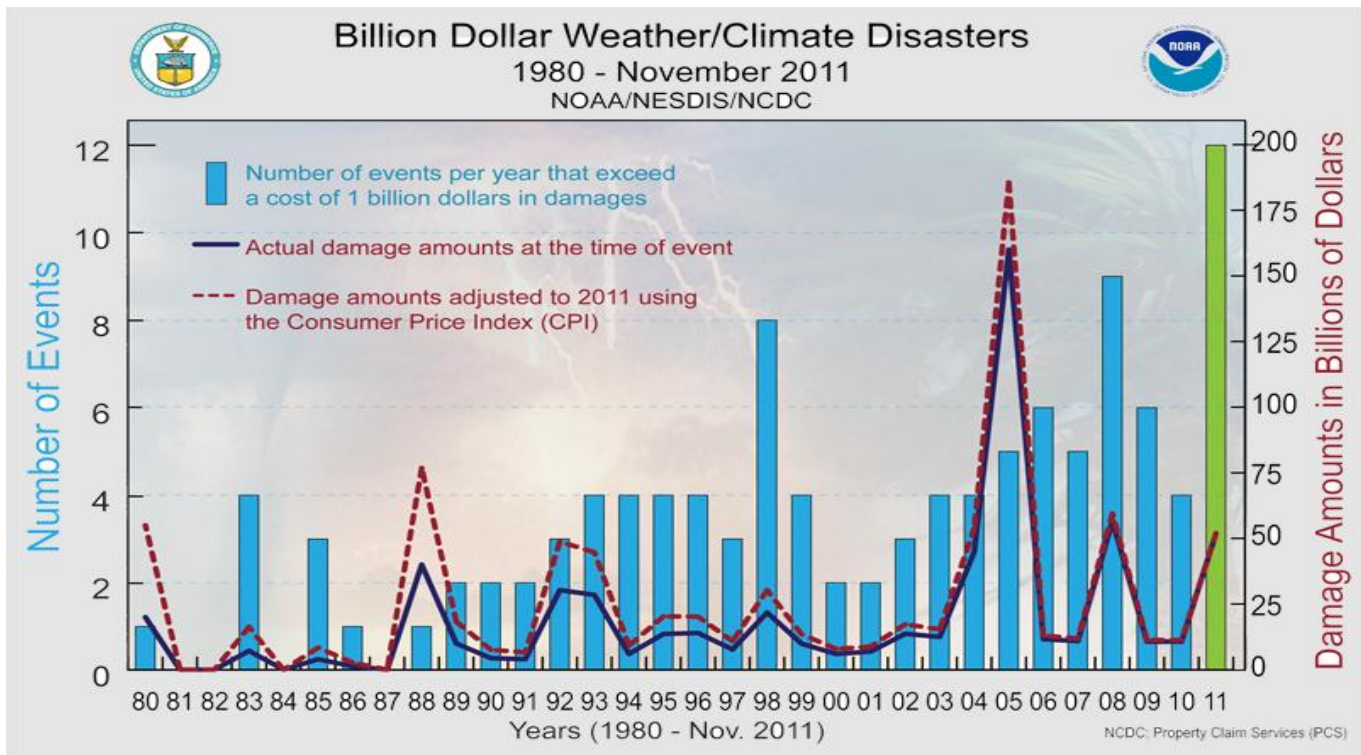
That is the real measure of success.



CSC Adds Social Vulnerability Information to Digital Coast

The NOAA Coastal Services Center (CSC) has added the [Social Vulnerability Index \(SOVI\)](#) to the Digital Coast. SOVI, developed by the University of South Carolina Hazards and Vulnerability Research Institute, measures the social vulnerability of U.S. counties to environmental hazards and graphically illustrates the geographic variation in social vulnerability among counties. It shows differences in capacity for preparedness and response and areas where resources are most needed to reduce vulnerability. Thanks to funding from South Carolina Sea Grant and CSC, social vulnerability data is available at the census-block level (2000) for all coastal states.





Engaging the Public

Presidential Innovation Award for Environmental Educators

Deadline: December 30, 2011

The Presidential Innovation Award for Environmental Educators Program, a partnership between the CEQ and the EPA, recognizes outstanding *K-12 teachers who employ innovative approaches to environmental education and use the environment as a context for learning for their students*. Two teachers from each EPA region will be selected to receive the award.

Application Website: <http://www.epa.gov/education/teacheraward/>

Grants Encourage Environmental Stewardship Programs for Youth

Deadline: January 15, 2012

The Captain Planet Foundation supports educational programs that enable youth to understand and appreciate our world through hands-on projects to improve the environment. The Foundation is interested in funding innovative programs that inspire youth to participate in community service through environmental stewardship activities. An additional priority is to fund programs that encourage environment-based education in schools. All funded projects must involve young people ages 6-18 (elementary through high school). Nonprofit organizations and public schools are eligible to apply for grants of up to \$2,500. Applications are reviewed three times per year; the first deadline for 2012 is January 15. Online application guidelines are available here:



[Captain Planet Foundation](http://www.captainplanet.org)

Middle School Students Sustainable Future Challenge

Deadline: February 14, 2012

The I-SWEEEP 3E Sustainable Future Challenge is a national contest for middle school students that aim to create a platform for young researchers in which they present their innovative projects to take on today's challenges in energy, engineering, and *environment*.

Application Website: <http://www.isweeep.org/3e-contest>

FEMA

Text PREPARE to 43362 (4FEMA) for monthly preparedness tips. <http://m.fema.gov/>

Download the @fema app for preparedness & disaster resources <http://go.usa.gov/53Q>



FEMA

Georgetown Climate Center Launches Online Adaptation Clearinghouse & Adaptation Reports

EPA State & Local Climate & Energy Program

The Georgetown Climate Center, a nonprofit organization based at Georgetown Law in Washington, DC, has launched the [Adaptation Clearinghouse](#), an online database and networking tool to assist state and local policymakers, resource managers, and others who are working to help communities adapt to climate change. The clearinghouse contains nearly 1,000 resources, including state and local adaptation plans and adaptation legislation, which are organized by geography, sector, and impact.

The Georgetown Climate Center has also released two new adaptation reports. [Adaptation Tool Kit: Sea-Level Rise and Coastal Land Use](#) explores 18 different land-use tools that can be used to respond to the threats posed by sea-level rise to coastal development and infrastructure, and strives to assist governments in determining which tools to employ to meet their unique socioeconomic and political contexts.



The second report, [Adaptation Case Studies in the Western United States](#), contains case studies that explore water shortages in the West, water rights along the Colorado River, and the protection of an endangered bird.

World Turning: Race, Class, Gender and Global Climate Change

January 31, 2012

Be part of a new edited volume addressing global climate change. This unique volume is seeking contributions from academics and activists with experience and expertise in addressing the social dimensions of global climate change in their work, with a particular focus on intersections of ethnicity, class, gender, and other social markers.

This work is intended to be a multidisciplinary reader that will introduce undergraduate and graduate students to the major issues and debates surrounding the study of intersectionality and global climate change. The volume will be broadly organized into sections on the social and natural sciences, as well as public health, art, and literature.

Specifically, we are seeking essays or articles between 15-25 pages (including notes) that address any aspect of climate change: legal, political, social, educational, agricultural, economic, religious, sexual, ideological, international, local, etc. and that incorporate an intersectional analysis.

Preference will be given to original pieces but we may also consider previously published pieces.

If you are interested in contributing, please submit a 500 word abstract of your piece (or details / examples of your work) with the title, author, and institutional or organizational affiliation (if any) to Dr. Phoebe Godfrey at phoebe.godfrey@uconn.edu or Dr. Rachel Hallum-Montes at rhallum@ufl.edu



What is i-Tree? USDA Forest Service

[i-Tree](#) is a state-of-the-art, peer-reviewed software suite from the USDA Forest Service that provides urban forestry analysis and benefits assessment tools. The i-Tree Tools help communities of all sizes to strengthen their urban forest management and advocacy efforts by quantifying the structure of community trees and the environmental services that trees provide. i-Tree is a model that answers - How do changes in: tree cover and impervious cover affect stream flow (flooding) and water quality (TMDLs)? i-Tree provides watershed based simulations of hourly changes in: stream flow and water quality.

By understanding the local, tangible ecosystem services that trees provide, i-Tree users can link urban forest management activities with environmental quality and community livability. i-Tree provides baseline data that you can use to demonstrate value and set priorities for more effective decision-making.

[i-Tree Tools](#) are in the public domain and are freely accessible. We invite you to explore this site to learn more about how i-Tree can make a difference in your community.

Conference Update

ASFPM 36th Annual National Conference

May 20-25, 2012 - San Antonio, Texas

Have you marked the world's largest and most comprehensive floodplain management conference onto your 2012 calendar? If not, what are you waiting for? For those who have not yet attended one of these, perhaps this is the year to see what you've been missing. We look forward to seeing many returning familiar faces and sincerely hope you will become one of them.

Reservations are now available at the San Antonio Marriott Rivercenter and ASFPM will be continually adding updates with links and tools to better familiarize yourself with San Antonio and the surrounding area. For more information, please visit the [ASFPM 2012 Annual National Conference Website](#).



NFPC-V Conference



The 5th triennial National FloodProofing Conference took place in Sacramento, CA, November 28 -December 1, 2011. Hosted by ASFPM, the USACE National Nonstructural Floodproofing Committee, and FEMA, the conference was a success with lots of great discussion and learning. For more information on some of what was covered, please read [From the Director's Desk](#) on page 3.

Thursday morning Plenary Session - Pictured left to right, on stage, are: Ray Alexander, USACE; Susan Gilson, NAFSMA; and Sandra Knight, FEMA



Thursday Keynote Luncheon Speaker:
Gerry Galloway

Focus on Natural & Beneficial Elements: *The Natural Floodplain Functions Alliance*

The [Natural Floodplain Function Alliance \(NFFA\)](#) is a recently formed affiliation of 80+ professional and nonprofit organizations, federal agencies, and individuals dedicated to protecting and preserving the natural functions of floodplains including coastal areas. It was established in 2010 (or rather, resurrected from the former Multi-Objective Management Kitchen Cabinet) to “promote and enhance the protection, restoration, and management of natural floodplain resources.” ASFPM is one of the founding members of this group of concerned professionals who share information about critical issues via conference call and webinars.

A two-day workshop was held in Washington, D.C. October 19-20, 2011, with a focus on informing assessment and policy efforts to preserve and restore floodplain natural functions. The event was sponsored by members of the NFFA: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Association of State Wetland Managers; Association of State Floodplain Managers; American Rivers; Natural Hazard Mitigation Association; The Nature Conservancy; National Association of Flood & Stormwater Management Agencies; Wisconsin Association for Floodplain, Stormwater, and Coastal Management; Atkins Global; Coastal States Organization; and National Wildlife Federation. A web page is currently under development which will list the NFFA activities, and relevant information such as reports and white papers that members wish to share. For a fact sheet on the NFFA goals, [click here](#).

If you are interested in learning more and/or being part of this group to address natural function issues in the nation's floodplains, please contact ASFPM's Outreach and Events Manager, Diane Brown, at diane@floods.org or ASFPM Watershed POD Facilitator, Dave Fowler, at dfowler@mmsd.com.



The Federal Panel at the October NFFA workshop - Pictured right to left are: Alex Dornstauber, USACE; Nancy Stoner, EPA; Sandra Knight, FEMA; Margaret Davidson, NOAA-CSC; Jane Lyder, DOI; Jay Jensen, CEQ; Dave White, NRCS; and Moderator Sam Riley Medlock, ASFPM. Photo courtesy of Tim Trautman, ASFPM Mitigation POD Facilitator

Science Services: 2011 Projects

Alan Lulloff, P.E. CFM, Senior Project Manager, ASFPM

Jeff Stone, CFM, Project Manager, ASFPM

The ASFPM Science Services Program had an eventful year and was engaged in a variety of projects and research development initiatives. The projects range from publishing a national assessment of State and local government floodplain management programs across the United States, to developing a web-based mapping application that allows viewing and download of coastal oblique photos used for assessing coastal hazards. Key initiatives focused on increasing ASFPM's technological capabilities and capacity, which included hiring a full-time GIS Analyst & Application Specialist along with setting up a robust IT infrastructure in support of Web and GIS application development, analysis, data storage and access aimed at creating linkages through web-based data catalogs and digital publication libraries. The projects highlighted below represent a large, but not complete, part of the overall Science Services Program that continues to look for additional opportunities.

Floodplain Management 2010: State and Local Programs

In early May of 2011, ASFPM published a national assessment of State and local government floodplain management in the United States. This 2010 update included a comparison with the last assessment (2003) and developed a supporting database for long-term use in documenting and reporting the survey results. Download the final report or use the web-based Survey Tool to view results from the [FPM 2010](#) page.

Strategies for Improving Community Acceptance of Flood Engineering Studies and Mapping

For this project ASFPM evaluated a listing of contentious appeals provided by FEMA. This evaluation included gathering materials via the internet, reviewing case files and interviewing community representatives. In May of 2011, ASFPM published a report with some options for reducing contentious appeals and disputes and improving community acceptance of flood engineering studies and maps produced by FEMA. The report includes options for improving the effectiveness of FEMA's communications with State and local officials prior to and during the floodplain study and mapping process. Download the final report at [Mapping Appeals Evaluation Project](#)

Montana Floodplain Management Assessment:

Strengthening Policies and Programs that Reduce Flood Risk and Protect Floodplains

Completed in July, the purpose of this report was to evaluate tools (laws, policies, programs, and practices) that the State of Montana and local governments could use to reduce flood damages and protect the natural and beneficial functions of floodplains. These tools were evaluated and compared to best management practices, "No Adverse Impact" floodplain management, and highly effective programs from other states and local governments. Attention was paid to existing regulations, rules, standards, and guidelines or other policies, programs, and practices that inadvertently incentivize development in floodplains or allow adverse impacts to the natural and beneficial functions of floodplains. See the final report from the [Montana Project](#).

Great Lakes Flood Hazard Mapping Outreach

FEMA is updating the Great Lakes Coastal Hazard Mapping methodology and will be revising the FIRMs for the Great Lakes coastline. FEMA has asked ASFPM to serve on the Steering Committee and contracted with the Association to develop the official program website and assist in the development of outreach materials, presentations, and the official project website for this effort. The project will enhance ASFPM's understanding of coastal hazard analysis and mapping, and will help ensure State and local governments are informed and involved throughout the mapping process. Visit the [Great Lakes Coastal Flood Mapping Program](#) page.

Continued on page 14

NOAA Digital Coast Partnership

In September the ASFPM Executive Office hosted a meeting of NOAA's Coastal Service Center Digital Coast Partnership. NOAA's CSC headquartered in Charleston, SC has developed a website called the [Digital Coast](#). The site provides the information needed by those who want to conserve and protect coastal communities and natural resources. With support of Mississippi State University, the CSC has established the Partnership with a number of the website user groups that includes ASFPM, APA, CSO, NACo, NSGIS, and TNC. Partnership feedback guides the development of this information resource and provides a means by which diverse groups can come together to address coastal issues.

EMI Course: E176 Hazus for Floodplain Managers

After fourteen months in development, ASFPM in collaboration with the Polis Center at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) in Indianapolis, conducted the pilot course *E176 "Hazus for Floodplain Managers"* in early November at FEMA's Center for Domestic Preparedness in Anniston, Alabama. This EMI-approved training course centers around HAZUS and GIS applications for Floodplain Managers. ASFPM worked to ensure that the training meets the needs of floodplain managers and objectively presents the benefits and limitations of HAZUS and GIS in flood risk reduction.

Coastal Flood Risk Reduction Course

In partnership with Bob Freitag at University of Washington and the Natural Disaster Preparedness Training Center, the curriculum was developed to provide a one-day awareness-level training course that enhances the participant's ability to reduce coastal risks and enhance coastal benefits. ASFPM has participated as a co-instructor for two workshops conducted on the west coast.

Great Lakes Shoreline Oblique Photography and Analysis of Changes

Throughout the year, ASFPM provided GIS technical support and web-mapping development in support of an online Oblique Photo Viewer and Shoreline Inventory. Funded by the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program, the project benefits coastal managers, planners, property owners and others by providing a direct resource for understanding coastal hazards by visually representing changes that have occurred between 1977 and 2008. Research and analysis was performed in collaboration with top academic researchers from the Geology Department at the University of Wisconsin. In addition to improving our understanding of coastal hazards, the project enhances our technical skills, capacity and professional relationship with the University of Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program. Explore the [Oblique Photo Viewer and Shoreline Inventory application](#).

Great Lakes Coastal Resilience Project

In September, ASFPM was selected by NOAA's Coastal Services Center to lead the Digital Coast Partnership on a Great Lakes Restoration Initiative project. The project will work with coastal communities on the Great Lakes to improve community resiliency and build NAI into community comprehensive planning efforts. The major project goals focus on developing an online technical guidebook and developing workshop curriculum that support implementing hazard reduction and community resilience methods and approaches. Coastal managers and planners will benefit from the development of real solutions and tools directed at them.

Alan Lulloff was also appointed to the **National Institute of Building Science (NIBS): Multi-Hazard Mitigation Council (MMC)**. Having an ASFPM member on this Board serves our members well and we are happy Alan will continue to represent our members on mitigation on the Council.

Jeff Stone, Project Manager, contributed to the recently published: [Assessing future risk: quantifying the effects of sea level rise on storm surge risk for the southern shores of Long Island, New York](#).

This was published in the Natural Hazards Journal on December 4, 2011, and is available [here](#).



Flood Insurance Reform and Modernization Act

The Senate Banking Committee has filed its bill "Flood Insurance Reform and Modernization Act" along with the Committee Report. The bill number is [S. 1940](#) and the report number is [S. Rept. 112-98](#). This is the bill that the Committee marked up in September, but had not formally filed. The measure could now be brought up on the Senate floor. It is anticipated that will occur in the late winter/spring.

NFIP extension through May 31, 2012 - passed the Senate, goes to the House

Since the NFIP's authority is set to expire on December 16, it now seems likely that the authority will be extended until May as part of an omnibus appropriations bill. This would "keep the pressure on" for Senate floor consideration of S. 1940, which includes a 5 year reauthorization. In fact, on December 7, 2011, the bill [S. 1958](#) extending the NFIP to May 31 passed the Senate under Unanimous Consent. The bill was introduced by Sen. David Vitter (R-LA). This is the date favored by Banking Committee Chairman Tim Johnson (D-SD) and Ranking Member Shelby (R-AL). The measure now goes to the House.

November 18, 2011 - ASFPM sends letter to Chairman Johnson and Ranking Member Shelby

For a copy of the letter sent to Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs, expressing concern for the future of the NFIP and urging action on the reform bill or shorter authorization, [click here](#).

Flood Insurance Committee's Corner

As we were deciding about writing this article, we almost decided to have our own hiatus since it looked like Congress might let this happen to the NFIP again! But alas, Congress has kicked the Reauthorization/Reform can down the road once again, this time until December 16. So, before the House goes on Recess for the holidays in December, we will have to see if Congress can fit time in to give us a holiday gift (at least a kick of the Reauth can again). For information about what WYO companies and agents are to do during such a period, put [this link](#) into your "Favorites" folder. Meanwhile, stay tuned!

By the way, the "You Tried" award goes out to Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) for trying to get the message out that Citrus County residents and business owners are all at risk for flooding and it is just the level of risk that varies. Sadly, the [Citrus Chronicle](#) didn't quite type it right:

"Also at Tuesday's council meeting:

■ *Larry Walker, professional engineer with the Southwest Florida Water Management District presented information regarding its watershed management program, which will identify high-risk, flood-prone areas in Citrus County. "Everybody in Florida is in a flood pain," he said. "It's just whether you're high-risk or low-risk."*

This could represent a possible new outreach opportunity...identifying the level of flood pain due to map changes!

Have a fun holiday.

—Your Humble Insurance Committee Co-Chairs
Gary Heinrichs & Bruce Bender

This column is produced by the ASFPM Insurance Committee. Send your questions about flood insurance issues to InsuranceCorner@floods.org and they will be addressed in future issues of the newsletter.



Prepare Your Community for Winter Flooding Risks

The arrival of cold weather doesn't mean that the risk of flooding is over. In fact, winter often brings severe conditions such as snow, heavy rains, melting, and ice jams, which can pose major problems for home and business owners in your community. In coastal areas, winter storms such as Nor'easters often generate high winds that can cause widespread beach erosion and coastal flooding. Some communities in western states face days and even weeks of rain during the winter months, and others face an increased risk of flooding because of wildfires that burn away vegetation and leave the ground barren and unable to absorb water. Near the end of the season, melting snow can flow into lakes, streams and rivers, causing excess water to spill over their banks or overtop levees.

Now is a good time to ensure that residents of your community are protected by flood insurance. Encourage them to visit FloodSmart.gov to learn about their flood risk and find an agent who can protect them with a flood insurance policy. In addition, visit [FloodSmart's new partner section](#) to learn about the wide variety of communications tools that are available to you, such as:

- Testimonials from home and business owners impacted by flooding.
- Shareable interactive tools that you can post on your own websites.
- A Map Updates Toolkit and links to information about map changes around the United States, which will help residents of your community better understand their flooding risks.
- A Flood Outreach Toolkit, which provides resources to help the audiences you communicate with on a regular basis (other community officials, the public and the media) understand the importance of flood preparedness and protection. The materials are designed to support your outreach to victims of flood disasters. The materials include core messages and information about flood risk and flood insurance that are appropriate for use in most areas of the country. Find this toolkit online at www.floodsmart.gov/toolkits.

Two-Year PRP Eligibility Extension Working Well - Continues to Benefit Policyholders

On January 1, 2011, FEMA launched a new rating option called the **Two-Year Preferred Risk Policy Eligibility Extension** that enables property owners who find themselves newly mapped into high-risk areas to save money on their policies. To help launch the new rating option, FEMA used the FloodSmart campaign to reach out to the public, agents, WYOs, community officials and other stakeholder groups. The purpose was to inform them about the new cost-savings option and how property owners could apply. The various stakeholder groups showed great support by sharing the information.

FEMA recently updated a WYO industry committee on its progress and reported that 40,000 PRP Extensions are currently in force (through August 2011), with up to 100,000 expected by year's-end. Make sure as your county or community goes through a mapping change that you are promoting both grandfathering and the 2-Year PRP Extension as well. For more information, go to FloodSmart.gov/prpextension.



Photos courtesy of NOAA - [Flood Safety Awareness Week](#)

Washington Report

-Meredith R. Inderfurth, Washington Liaison

Unpredictable, But Packed, Schedule Ahead

The first session of the 112th Congress is rapidly but painfully, drawing to a close. There is much speculation about just how long the session will go on until adjournment. First and foremost, there does have to be some resolution of appropriations for the government. The second session of the 112th Congress is scheduled to convene for legislative business in late January.

At the beginning of December it is not at all clear whether or not the Congress can complete appropriations for the rest of the fiscal year or other pressing tax and authorization matters before the end of this session. Talk is beginning to circulate that yet another Continuing Resolution (CR) to keep the government functioning may be necessary. The current CR is set to expire on December 16th. The talk fluctuates from day to day however, so there is also discussion about pulling together a measure (being termed a “mega-bus”) which would include the remaining 9 appropriations bills. Three have already been signed into law as part of a ‘mini-bus’.

Matters have been made more complicated by the demise of the Budget Super Committee. It had been hoped that issues associated with the payroll tax cut extension and extension of unemployment benefits would have been resolved by the Super Committee streamlining the path forward. Since the Super Committee disbanded without making recommendations the possibility of disruption of progress on appropriations bills remains - due to disagreement over which budget ceiling to use as a guide.

The short time remaining in the legislative session makes it unlikely that other significant bills will be taken up since there will not be floor time available. Although it had looked as if the Senate might consider the Flood Insurance Reform and Modernization bill, the Banking Committee is now planning to bring the bill to the floor early in the next session. At one point, it had seemed possible that a Water Resources Development Act would be developed and considered on the floor this session. That possibility has clearly slipped to the next session as well. There had been anticipation of action by the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee on Stafford Act revisions and hazard mitigation legislation. That possibility too has faded for now.

Budget and Appropriations

Possibilities for extension of funding for most of the federal government include passage of a new Continuing Resolution to cover expenses through the end of February, passage of a new CR to cover expenses through May 31st, and passage of a “mega-bus” bill which would provide funding through the remainder of the fiscal year until September 30th. In general, funding levels could be expected to be somewhat higher under a CR because they would be continued at FY '11 levels. A “mega-bus” would provide funding at agreed upon lower overall funding levels for FY '12.

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has indicated plans to reduce spending again by 10% for FY 2013. Federal departments and agencies have already submitted their funding requests for FY '13, OMB has analyzed and processed them and the departments and agencies received their “passbacks” from OMB on November 30th. This begins a period of intense activity for federal personnel involved with the budget process and for OMB leading up to release of the Administration’s budget for FY 2013 in early February.

Flood Insurance Reauthorization and Reform

Reauthorization

The form of reauthorization is still very unclear at this point. Currently, authority for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) will expire on December 16th because it is included in the current Continuing Resolution. Flood insurance reauthorization could be included in a further CR if there is one – meaning until late February or May 31st.

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If the Department of Homeland Security budget passes as part of a “mega-bus”, authority for the NFIP could be included, extending the program until September 30th. At present the House-passed DHS appropriations bill includes extension of the NFIP while the Senate bill does not.

Senator David Vitter (R-LA) introduced an authorizing bill (S. 1864) extending the program until September 30th. Unconfirmed reports indicate that the Senate Banking Committee is drafting an authorizing bill to extend the program until May 31st. It is now evident that the major reform bills will not be completed, including their authorization of the NFIP for 5 years during this session. So there are a variety of possibilities for reauthorization and the path forward will become more clear in the coming couple of weeks.

Reform

After marking up the Flood Insurance Reform and Modernization Act on September 8th, the Senate Banking Committee filed the bill and accompanying Committee Report on December 5th. The bill number is S. 1940 and the report is S. Rept. 112-98.

Levee Issues

Levee issues continue to percolate in a variety of ways. A number of bills have been introduced to address various aspects of levee concerns: levee repair funding, levee certification issues and costs, conversion of temporary levees to permanent levees, treatment of residual risk areas behind levees and accurate depiction of levees on flood maps which provide less than 100 year protection to list some of them. Some of these are stand alone bills and some have been included in the flood insurance reform bills in the House and Senate. A Congressional Levee Caucus has formed and various groupings of Representatives and Senators have sent letters on aspect of levee issues to Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, Jo-Ellen Darcy, and to FEMA Administrator, Craig Fugate.

Hearings

Hearings have been held on levee issues and on the Mississippi/Missouri/Ohio River flooding this summer as well as on the Northeast flooding after Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee. Most recently, on October 18, 2011, the US Senate Environment and Public Works Committee held a hearing entitled “A Review of the 2011 Floods and the Condition of the Nation’s Flood Control Systems”. ASFPM Executive Director Larry Larson presented testimony at that hearing.

For the written testimony, [please click HERE](#). To access additional information, including the archived webcast of the hearing and information on the participants, [please click HERE](#).

The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee’s Subcommittee on Water Resources held a hearing November 23rd entitled, “The Missouri River Flood: An Assessment of the River Management in 2011 and Operational Plans for the Future”. Witnesses included many Members of Congress from Missouri, Nebraska and South Dakota particularly. Brigadier General John McMahon, Commander of the Northwestern Division, US Army Corps of Engineers, testified along with the Mayor of Omaha, Nebraska and local drainage and levee officials from Missouri and South Dakota and a farmer from Missouri. Much of the focus was on the management of the six reservoirs along the Missouri River and the protection of farmland. There was much concern expressed about the cost of repairs to the damaged levees and about Corps management of storage and releases associated with the reservoirs as well as notice to downstream residents and landowners. Most witnesses pointed to the need for the Corps to focus on its flood control mission and not on matters like habitat restoration. Congresswoman Donna Edwards (D-MD) did ask questions about the need for a more comprehensive planning approach and consideration of non-structural ways to address flood issues. General McMahon responded very favorably to her questions.

Water Resources Development Act

While action on a WRDA bill seemed possible, it is now clear that is more likely to occur after Congress reconvenes in January (the second session of this 2 year Congress).

Continued on page 19

Washington Legislative Report..... continued from page 18

Along with discussion of a WRDA (and related earmark questions), Congressional staff had indicated an interest in inclusion of a title establishing a levee safety program. The National Committee on Levee Safety (on which ASFPM has been represented by Sam Riley Medlock) has made many recommendations in its report to Congress. ASFPM has spoken to the need for a broader levee risk management program – in testimony, in meetings, and in a recent briefing requested by Senate Environment and Public Works Committee staff.

There is a lively interest on Capitol Hill in levee related issues so the second session is likely to see some action – both on levee legislation and in conjunction with flood insurance reform legislation related to treatment of levees in flood mapping and insurance in residual risk areas.

What to Look For in the Second Session

So many of the flooding, flood insurance, flood mapping, levee risk management, levee repair and hazard mitigation issues have received active consideration in the Congress during the first session of the 112th Congress but have not come to fruition in the form of completed action on legislation. Due to the work in the first session however, many of these matters are much more ready for legislative action.

Flood Insurance

The House passed bill H.R. 1309, last July. The Senate filed its bill and report S. 1940, on December 5th. Because the bill is now ready for Senate floor consideration and subsequent House-Senate Conference Committee, it seems this is the most likely prospect for early legislative action. Staff of both House and Senate committees have indicated their views that differences between the two bills should not be exceedingly difficult to resolve.

Budget

The President's budget is usually released in early February, kicking off the season of appropriations hearings. How smoothly this process proceeds will depend significantly on whether or not action on the FY 2012 budget has been completed. If not, attention to completing that task will dominate Congressional activity.

Stafford Act and Mitigation

Senator Mary Landrieu (D-LA) and Senator Thad Cochran (R-MS) introduced the Disaster Recovery Act (S. 1630) in September. The measure makes a number of amendments to the Stafford Act and includes a section on mitigation. There is interest in the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs (HSGAC) in developing legislation to improve and enhance hazard mitigation. ASFPM representatives were invited to discuss mitigation improvement ideas. Movement during this next session on mitigation issues has some promise.

Levees/WRDA

As discussed above, percolating issues related to levees seem to be moving toward legislative action on, at least, some aspects of the problems. Whether any possible action will take the form of a levee title in a WRDA bill or stand-alone legislation dealing with levee challenges remains to be seen. ASFPM continues to urge such legislation be done in a flood risk management context, not a levees only context. Progress on these issues can be expected to continue, but perhaps slowly.

Referenced legislation can be viewed by going to: <http://thomas.loc.gov> and typing the bill number, title or subject.

UPDATE

[S.1958](#) extending the NFIP to May 31, 2012, passed the Senate on December 7, 2011, under Unanimous Consent. The bill was introduced by Senator David Vitter (R-LA). This is the date favored by Banking Committee Chairman Tim Johnson (D-SD) and Ranking Member Shelby (R-AL). The measure now goes to the House.

Publications, Video, the Web



ASFPM Social Media Update

Have you noticed the addition of the Facebook icon to the ASFPM website - directly next to the search box on the home page? As of November, ASFPM has begun posting our [Hot Topics](#), as well as [News & Views](#), to the [ASFPM Facebook page](#).

For the latest, and to participate in the discussion, please see:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Association-of-State-Floodplain-Managers-ASFPM/154357237913278>

For those using LinkedIn, you may continue to find more in-depth conversation and information here:

<http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Association-State-Floodplain-Managers-841717>

We look forward to increasing our use of social media, as yet another tool for keeping our readers better informed! General social media questions, comments, or feedback? Please contact katrien@floods.org

Restore America's Estuaries (RAE) launches Wetlands Carbon Blog

Restore America's Estuaries announced that it has launched a [Wetlands Carbon Blog](#) dedicated to exploring the role coastal wetlands play in sequestering greenhouse gases and disseminating the latest news and research behind national and international "Blue Carbon" efforts. "Coastal tidal wetlands sequester carbon dioxide at impressive rates, primarily in the soil. Preserving and restoring coastal wetlands can be part of the solution to reducing greenhouse emissions that fuel global warming and climate change," said Steve Emmett-Mattox, Restore America's Estuaries Senior Director of Strategic Planning and Programs, and principal Wetlands Carbon blogger. Restore America's Estuaries (RAE) is among the international leaders in Blue Carbon research and policy efforts, and is a national alliance of 11 regional, coastal conservation organizations with more than 250,000 volunteer-members dedicated to preserving our nation's estuaries. For more information on RAE, please visit <http://www.estuaries.org/>

Federal Geographic Data Committee Launches New Geospatial Website

The federal government and its geospatial partners recently unveiled www.geoplatform.gov, a prototype Geospatial Platform website providing an initial view of the future of user-friendly, integrated, federal data collections on common geographic maps. This state-of-the-art platform has tools for the public to create maps and share information. Please visit the site for more information on this project.

Video: FEMA Administrator, Fugate, Talks Mitigation

Federal Emergency Management Agency Administrator W. Craig Fugate addresses attendees of International Code Council's 2011 Annual Conference in Phoenix, in this keynote address discussing the importance of adopting and enforcing safe and sustainable building codes to make communities more resilient to natural disasters. [Can You Say Your Community is Resilient? See the video here.](#)

Video: Texas Flood Mitigation Success Story

The City of Arlington is in the final phase of a flood mitigation project in response to flooding resulting from Tropical Storm Hermine in September 2010. The project consists of the acquisition and demolition of 49 residential structures and a 14 building, 100-unit condominium complex, all of which were significantly flooded as a result of Tropical Storm Hermine. Three of the acquired residential structures are identified by FEMA as Severe Repetitive Loss properties and another 11 appear on the City's Repetitive Loss properties list. In order to facilitate and provide a more timely response to the flooded citizens, the \$16 million project was funded solely with local funds. The funds are part of a larger stormwater bond program and will be repaid with stormwater utility revenues. The properties segregated three City Parks, but the newly mitigated properties are being incorporated into the existing parks, resulting in nearly 23 acres of additional park lands and a contiguous park area of approximately 82 acres. [Click here for more information, including the video.](#)

Video: Closing Stream Gauges May Put People in Flood Zones at Risk

"The US Geological Survey is planning to shut down 30 stream gauges, and Senator Chuck Schumer says those gauges are critical for New York's flood warning system..." [Click here for more.](#)

For more floodplain issues videos, please visit the [ASFPM YouTube Video page](#).

Reports

USACE Release - Vegetation on Levees: Policy for Development and Implementation of System-Wide Improvement Frameworks (SWIFs)



A significant milestone has been achieved in developing the process to transition levees into compliance with federal standards. Click here for the signed copy of the [System-Wide Improvement Framework policy](#), dated November 29, 2011. This policy provides committed levee sponsors a process to transition their levees, over time, to USACE standards while remaining eligible for federal rehabilitation funding under Public Law 84-99. The policy allows deficiencies, which may include vegetation, to be addressed on a "worst first" basis as part of a larger system-wide plan that optimizes overall risk reduction and environmental, endangered species, and Native American imperatives. Additionally, a signed letter by Ms. Darcy, Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), outlining the overall strategy to reduce flood risk as it relates to transitioning levees into compliance, is [available here](#).

USACE Coastal Flood Maps White Paper

Ever wonder what the differences are between FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) and storm surge maps published through Hurricane Evacuation Studies (HESs)? The Silver Jackets partners in Region III, including USACE, FEMA, and NOAA, developed a [Coastal Flood Maps White Paper](#) that addresses this common question. The paper is aimed at local, state, and federal government staff who work with one or both of these map products. Note that while the paper is somewhat specific to work being done within FEMA Region III, the description of the differences between the two products is relevant broadly along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts. More information is available [here](#). Please direct further comments and questions about this white paper to:



Christopher Penney, USACE, at christopher.penney@usace.army.mil or 410-962-2941



Digital Coast Needs Assessment Survey

A recent American Planning Association survey of coastal community planners identified a resounding need for more GIS data, especially data related to elevation and sea level rise. More training on available GIS tools and assistance communicating with policy makers were also high on the list of coastal planners' needs. Full survey details are available online, including capacity, communication, and needs broken down by region. A project history, key findings, and overview are also included here: <http://www.planning.org/research/digitalcoast/>



Climate Change Handbook for Regional Water Planning Released

The California Department of Water Resources, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Resources Legacy Fund, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers released a publication to assist water resource managers. The Climate Change Handbook for Regional Water Planning provides resources and tools to guide water resource managers and planners as they adapt and navigate the complexities of climate change.

For more information on this resource, please [click here](#).

State Strategies to Plan for and Adapt to Climate Change

Amy Morsch & Ryan Barlett, Nicholas Institute / Duke University

Climate change is expected to pose a number of risks to communities, such as sea-level rise and an increase in storm surges. States are beginning to develop adaptation plans to reduce climate risks and vulnerabilities within the larger context of economic growth. While the process and structure of the planning efforts vary, the resulting recommendations reveal similarities. The plans include a mix of broad strategies that address the state's objectives and goals and identify supporting policies. To ensure complementary and coordinated responses to climate change, many strategies are cross-sectoral and entail integration and collaboration among multiple government agencies and economic sectors. [Access this document here](#).

Around the World



El Salvador

In November, [The Insider](#) ran a call to action for the organization, [EcoViva](#), in which they sought hydrologists, civil engineers, soil engineers, and other experts to provide advice to local leadership and members of the Salvadoran government on flood mitigation, floodplain management, and river management. This was in response to El Salvador experiencing the worst flooding in recorded history, during which some 17 kilometers of earthen levees along the banks of the Lempa River were destroyed in multiple places. More information is available on the EcoViva blog: <http://vivaecoviva.wordpress.com/>

Ireland

Insurers fear floods may threaten capacity of Irish household coverage. “The serious floods that swept through Ireland in October have brought fears of a potential capacity squeeze within the country's household insurance sector, If we keep getting these extreme weather events every few months, the amount of capacity in the market may shrink,” said Michael Horan, manager of nonlife insurance for the Irish Insurance Federation. To read more on this issue, [please click here](#).

Japan

In order to better address flooding during the typhoon season, some cities in Japan have created enormous storm sewer systems. For more information, video, and to see pictures, please click the following links: [Tokyo's Gigantic Flood Prevention System](#) and [Impressive Storm Sewer System](#).

Thailand

Aon Benfield released a highly detailed report covering the extremely heavy rains to the widespread damage, an estimated \$6.5 billion, inflicted upon the Thai economy as a result of the ongoing floods in the region. Flood impacts extend far beyond the Thai border, given the important role Thailand plays in global commerce, industry, and agriculture. It is estimated that more than 9.4 million people were affected by the floods in at least 64 of the country's 77 provinces, and Thailand has declared a third of its provinces to be disaster zones as the country continues to battle against the rising flood waters. To access the full report, click here: [Thailand Floods: An Event Update](#)

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report

A recent release by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate change reports that as weather shifts, weather events are becoming more catastrophic, but there are ways to lower the risks. In addition to directly assessing the earth's current warming trajectory, and the weather effects resulting in more frequent and intense weather events, this report “Also underlines the complexity and the diversity of factors that are shaping human vulnerability to extremes—why for some communities and countries these can become disasters whereas for others they can be less severe,” IPCC Chair Rajendra Pachauri said in a [press release](#). While the full report will not be available until February, please see the summary for Policymakers of the SREX, [Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation](#), for more information as was released in advance of the UN Climate Change Conference held in Durban, South Africa. Jake Schmidt of Natural Resources Defense Council told the [Guardian](#), “This is a window into the future if our political response doesn't change quickly. This report should be a wake-up call to those that believe that climate change is some distant issue that might impact someone else.” The IPCC stressed that changes need to start now rather than later, and that there are a number of responses that could help guide us to more manageable outcomes than the worst-case scenarios currently of concern.

Climate Change Health Costs Add Up to One Big Bill

An element of the economic equation that is often overlooked, when calculating the costs of climate change, is that of long term health costs. Consider for example, the impact of certain vector-borne diseases such as dengue fever. In this one example of many, the most common vector for dengue, *Aedes aegypti*, thrives in collections of dirty water - such as accumulates during heavy rains and flooding.

To read more on this issue, [please click here](#).

Grant and Project Opportunities

Grants Protect Watersheds in the Mid-Atlantic Region

[Cora L. Brooks Foundation](#)

Deadline: December 19, 2011

The Cora L. Brooks Foundation supports nonprofit organizations in Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania that work to alleviate significant ecological problems within the watersheds of the Delaware and Susquehanna Rivers. The Foundation's primary focus is on environmental conservation, restoration, and education within these watersheds, with particular emphasis on environmental protection issues relating to clean water and water-related ecologies. Preference will be given to organizations whose current annual operating budgets are less than \$5 million. Grants generally range from \$1,000 to \$15,000. Visit the Foundation's website for more information on the Foundation's funding priorities.



Risk Award launched at the 3rd Global Platform for Disaster Reduction

Deadline: December 31, 2011

The first ever RISK Award was launched with the Global Risk Forum during the 3rd Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Geneva earlier this year and **offers a €100,000 award** to the first place project. It is meant to support the most promising proposal in risk reduction and disaster management and will be handed over at GRF Davos' biennial IDRC Davos conferences – for the first time on 26 August 2012 at the 4th IDRC Davos 2012. The objective of the RISK Award is to increase people's resilience to risks and disasters, especially in developing countries. A further objective is to stimulate new and innovative approaches towards improved disaster prevention.

The first 2012 award will focus on **Early Warning in Urban Areas**.

To apply to the Risk Award please download the proposal form at: www.risk-award.org

Please send complete forms before 31 December 2011 to: info@munichre-foundation.org

Click here for additional information and the [Risk Award Flyer, Press Release, and Application form](#).

Public Land Groups Funded

[National Environmental Education Foundation: Every Day Grants](#)

Deadline: January 13, 2012

The National Environmental Education Foundation works to foster environmental knowledge in all segments of the American public. The Foundation's Every Day Grants offer support to nonprofit organizations, such as "Friends Groups," whose missions are focused on the improvement and responsible use of public land sites throughout the nation. In the upcoming funding round, twenty-five grants of up to \$5,000 will be provided to increase organizational effectiveness so that grantees can better serve public lands. The application deadline is January 13, 2012. Visit the Foundation's website to learn more about the program and the online application process.



AmeriCorps State and National Planning Projects Funded

Application Due: January 18, 2012

The AmeriCorps State and National Planning Grants provide support for the development of AmeriCorps programs that will engage AmeriCorps members in evidence-based interventions to solve community problems. Proposed national service program plans will address the following areas of focus: improve academic outcomes for children, youth, and young adults; serve veterans and military families or engage veterans in service; *and increase community resiliency through disaster preparation, response, recovery, and mitigation*. For more information, please visit [Corporation for National and Community Service](#)

***Approximately \$62 Million in Federal Funding Available for State, Local, and Tribal Governments**

This message announces the availability of nearly \$62 million in current or upcoming funding opportunities for state, local, and tribal governments from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Department of Interior (DOI), the Department of Energy (DOE), and the Department of Agriculture (USDA) that can be used to support climate and energy initiatives, including energy efficiency, renewable energy, and smart grid initiatives. For full eligibility and application details, please visit the links provided below.

***FHWA Transportation, Community, and System Preservation Program – \$29 million**

Application Due: January 6, 2012

Eligible Entities: States, metropolitan planning organizations, local governments, and tribal governments

The Transportation, Community, and System Preservation Program provides funding for a comprehensive initiative including planning grants, implementation grants, and research to investigate and address the relationships among transportation, community, and system preservation plans and practices and identify private-sector-based initiatives to improve those relationships. Grants may be used to plan and implement strategies that improve the efficiency of the transportation system; reduce environmental impacts of transportation; reduce the need for costly future public infrastructure investments; ensure efficient access to jobs, services, and centers of trade; and examine development patterns and identify strategies to encourage private sector development patterns that achieve these goals.

For more information, [click here](#).

***CNCS AmeriCorps State and National Indian Tribes Planning Grants – TBD**

Application Due: January 18, 2012

Eligible Entities: Federally recognized Indian tribes

The purpose of planning grants is to support the development of AmeriCorps programs that will engage AmeriCorps members in evidence-based interventions to solve community problems. The Corporation for National and Community Service will target AmeriCorps funding in six focus areas, one of which is Environmental Stewardship. Environmental Stewardship grants will provide direct services that contribute to increased energy and water efficiency, renewable energy use, or improving at-risk ecosystems, and support increased citizen behavioral change leading to increased efficiency, renewable energy use, and ecosystem improvements, particularly for economically disadvantaged households and economically disadvantaged communities. For more information, [click here](#).

***DOI WaterSMART: Water and Energy Efficiency Grants for FY 2012 – \$18 million**

Application Due: January 19, 2012

Eligible Entities: States, Indian tribes, irrigation districts, water districts, or other organizations with water or power delivery authority. Applicants must also be located in Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, or the Virgin Islands.

The DOI WaterSMART (Sustain and Manage America's Resources for Tomorrow) Program establishes a framework to provide federal leadership and assistance on the efficient use of water, integrating water and energy policies to support the sustainable use of all natural resources, and coordinating the water conservation activities of various DOI bureaus and offices. DOI invites eligible entities to leverage their money and resources by cost sharing with the Bureau of Reclamation on projects that seek to conserve and use water more efficiently, increase the use of renewable energy and improve energy efficiency, benefit endangered and threatened species, facilitate water markets, or carry out other activities to address climate-related impacts on water or prevent any water-related crisis or conflict.

For more information, [click here](#).

***EPA Urban Waters Small Grants - \$1.8 to \$3.8 million**

Application Due: January 23, 2012

Eligible Entities: States, local governments, territories, Indian tribes, and possessions of the U.S., public and private universities and colleges, public or private nonprofit institutions, intertribal consortia, and interstate agencies

The goal of the Urban Waters Small Grants is to fund research, studies, training, and demonstration projects that will advance the restoration of urban waters by improving water quality through activities that also support community revitalization and other local priorities. In general, projects should promote a comprehensive understanding of local water quality issues; identify and support activities that address these issues at the local level; engage, educate, and empower communities surrounding the urban water body; and benefit surrounding communities, including those that have been adversely affected by the water pollution issues affecting the urban water body. A webinar to assist applicants is open for registration and will be held on January 5, 2012. For more information, visit: <http://www.epa.gov/urbanwaters/funding/>.



Matching Grants for Forest Conservation Programs
National Forest Foundation: Matching Awards Program
Deadline: January 17, 2012

The National Forest Foundation was established by Congress to support the USDA Forest Service in its management of America's National Forests and Grasslands. The Foundation's Matching Awards Program (MAP) provides support to nonprofit organizations and Native American tribes throughout the U.S. to engage in on-the-ground conservation and citizen-based monitoring projects benefiting National Forests and Grasslands. MAP funds can be used to support conservation and *restoration projects enhancing wildlife habitat, recreation, watershed health*, and community-based forestry. All grants require at least a one-to-one cash match through non-federal donations.



Water and Energy Efficiency Grants for FY 2012 – \$18 million
DOI WaterSMART

Deadline: January 19, 2012

The DOI WaterSMART (Sustain and Manage America's Resources for Tomorrow) Program establishes a framework to provide federal leadership and assistance on the efficient use of water, integrating water and energy policies to support the sustainable use of all natural resources, and coordinating the water conservation activities of various DOI bureaus and offices. DOI invites eligible entities to leverage their money and resources by cost sharing with the Bureau of Reclamation on projects that seek to conserve and use water more efficiently, increase the use of renewable energy and improve energy efficiency, benefit endangered and threatened species, facilitate water markets, or carry out other activities to address climate-related impacts on water or prevent any water-related crisis or conflict.



Urban Waters Small Grants
EPA

Deadline: January 23, 2012

EPA will award at least \$1.8 million in funding for projects across the country to *help restore urban waters by improving water quality and supporting community revitalization*. The goal of the urban waters small grants are to *fund research, studies, training, and demonstration projects that will advance the restoration of urban waters* by improving water quality through activities that also support community revitalization and other local priorities such as public health, social and economic opportunities, general livability and environmental justice for residents.

EPA's Urban Waters program supports the goals and principles of the Urban Waters Federal Partnership, a partnership of 11 federal agencies working to reconnect urban communities with their waterways. For information on the Urban Waters Federal Partnership, visit <http://urbanwaters.gov>.

Cooperative Agreements to Strengthen National Spatial Data Infrastructure
Department of the Interior

Deadline: January 24, 2012

The National Spatial Data Infrastructure Cooperative Agreement Program provides support to document, implement, and provide outreach for Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) geospatial standards including metadata; expand geographic information coordination and collaboration across and between organizational levels; promote geospatial best practices; and advance the implementation and exchange of common geospatial data, services, and applications. Award categories include metadata trainer and outreach assistance; ISO geospatial metadata standards implementation; expanding the state GIS inventory; fifty states initiative: business plan development and implementation; FGDC-endorsed standards implementation training and outreach; FGDC standards development assistance; and geospatial platform cloud service testbed. The application deadline is January 24, 2012.



FY2012 Endangered Species Grants

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Deadline: January 27, 2012

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is seeking proposals from states and U.S. territories interested in obtaining federal financial assistance to acquire land or conduct planning efforts for endangered species conservation. For fiscal year (FY) 2012, the President's budget request for the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund (CESCF) includes \$100 million in grant funding for conservation activities benefitting federally protected species. CESCF is authorized under Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and provides grants to states and territories to support participation in a wide array of voluntary conservation projects. These projects range from species status surveys, captive propagation, and public education to *habitat acquisition, restoration, and the development of conservation plans.*

The Service is seeking proposals under the following three CESCF categories:

- **Recovery Land Acquisition Grants**
- **Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance Grants**
- **HCP Land Acquisition Grants**

By law, the state or territory must have a current cooperative agreement with the Secretary of the Interior and contribute at least 25 percent of the total project costs, or ten percent when two or more states or territories undertake a joint project. For more information contact: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at 703-358-2171. The Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund is identified in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance as number 15.615.

Call for Applications - Summer Academy 2012

Deadline: January 31, 2012

United Nations University-Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS) and the Munich Re Foundation invite qualified PhD students to apply for the 2012 Summer Academy "From Social Vulnerability to Resilience: Measuring Progress toward Disaster Risk Reduction". Applicants should have an interdisciplinary focus and work on research or dissertations related to measuring social vulnerability and resilience in the context of disaster risk management. The seventh Summer Academy will take place 1-7 July 2012 in Munich, Germany.

Click the link for more information, including the official [Announcement and Application Form](#).



Restore America's Estuaries (RAE)

Call for Proposals for 6th National Conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration

Submission Deadline: February 1, 2012

Healthy coastal and estuarine habitats are critical not only to the environment and the national economy, but to regional and local economies, as well. Because human and natural systems are interdependent, restoration strengthens and reinforces the social, economic, and environmental ties that bind communities together. Healthy coastal ecosystems mean jobs, new and better economic opportunities, and the prosperity and stability important in the troubling economic times and high unemployment rates our nation faces.

For additional information, please see:

[Conference Prospectus](#) and [Call for Proposals: Dedicated Sessions, Presentations, and Posters](#)

RAE - Special Student Incentives

Students are encouraged to participate! All students taking part in the program will be entered into the student poster or student presentation contests, for which cash prizes will be awarded. Please note that students qualify for special discount rates. Limited numbers of scholarships will also be available for students with financial needs.

Grant and Project Opportunities..... continued from page 26

Funds for Environmental Programs in the Southeast and Northeast

Merck Family Fund: Sustaining Our Environment

Deadline: February 1, 2012

The goal of the Merck Family Fund's Sustaining Our Environment program is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to create policies for sustainable production practices. To meet this goal, the Fund provides grants to nonprofit organizations that address one of the following three priority areas: *Promoting Energy Efficiency*, ***Conserving Ecologically Valuable Land***, and *Making Paper Production Sustainable*. To promote energy efficiency, the Fund supports state and regional policies in the Northeast and Southeast that provide incentives and subsidies for energy efficiency implementation. To conserve ecologically valuable land, the Fund provides **grants for land conservation projects in the Southeast**. To make paper production sustainable, the Fund seeks to increase the rates of recycled paper in large paper sectors, reduce sourcing from endangered forests, and maximize clean production. Letters of inquiry may be submitted throughout the year. The upcoming deadline for invited proposals is February 1, 2012. Visit the Fund's website to learn more about the Sustaining Our Environment program.

Grant and Project Opportunities..... continued from page ##

Dissertation Fellowships in Hazards, Risk, and Disasters

National PERISHIP Awards

Deadline: February 1, 2012

Despite recent changes at the Public Entity Risk Institute, the PERISHIP Dissertation Fellowship Program is alive and well, and accepting applications. The fellowships support work in natural and human-made hazards, risk, and disasters in all disciplines. Up to six grants will be awarded in 2012 to support doctoral student dissertation work. Grants can be used for data collection, travel, software purchase, data entry assistance, statistical analysis services, or similar purposes. Eligible candidates must be "all but dissertation" and have an approved dissertation proposal at a U.S. educational institution by the application deadline. Non-U.S. citizens may apply if their degree will be granted by a U.S. institution. For complete information and application instructions, visit the [PERISHIP Web site](#).

ASFPM Staff

Please join us in welcoming Kevin Currie to the ASFPM staff!

Kevin Currie has joined the ASFPM team to fill the position of Member Services Coordinator. Kevin is a graduate of UW-Eau Claire, with a double major in Political Science and Spanish. Kevin comes to us with direct experience working with association membership databases and membership management. He has also worked with outreach, publications, and conference registrations, and we feel confident that he will bring the right mix of skills, experience, professionalism and friendly demeanor to our office and our members. Contact Kevin at kevin@floods.org or 608-274-0123. *Kevin started at ASFPM on November 1st*

A quick message from your new Member Services Coordinator:



As our member year wraps up and we prepare to enter 2012, I want to thank all of our members for their amazing response to our renewal mailing! As current members, your participation and involvement in ASFPM is truly appreciated. For those of you who are not yet members, now is a great time to join! ASFPM membership saves on CFM certification, publication, conference, and workshop fees - not to mention granting you access to our members-only newsletter, *The Insider*, and various other opportunities to get more involved. If you have any questions on becoming a new member or membership renewal, please do not hesitate to email me at kevin@floods.org. I would be happy to help!

Calendar

FEMA's Emergency Management Institute (EMI) 2011 - 2012 Continuing Education Opportunities

There are seats available for floodplain management courses at EMI that have been pre-approved for Continuing Education Credits (CECs) for CFMs. EMI courses are offered at the Emmitsburg, MD campus and are **FREE** for local and state government employees. FEMA reimburses travel expenses and provides housing for state and local government employees attending EMI courses. Attendees or their employers pay for the campus meal ticket (about \$100 per week). You can find the EMI Course Schedule and application materials on the [EMI website](#).



E273 *Managing Floodplain Development thru NFIP* **Mar. 19-22, 2012** (12 Core CECs)

E273 *Managing Floodplain Development thru NFIP* **Apr. 23-26, 2012** (12 Core CECs)

E273 *Managing Floodplain Development thru NFIP* **June 11-14, 2012** (12 Core CECs)

E194 *Adv. Floodplain Mgmt. Concepts* **Aug. 27-30, 2012** (12 Core CECs)

E273 *Managing Floodplain Development thru NFIP* **Sept. 24-27, 2012** (12 Core CECs)

Building Safe, Healthy & Livable Communities

11th Annual New Partners for Smart Growth will take place in **February 2012** in San Diego. See more at <http://www.newpartners.org/cfsp/>.

Arid LID 2012: Green Infrastructure and Low Impact Development in Arid Environments

The conference will take place on **March 27-29, 2012**, and the format of the conference will be two and a half days, primarily in a single-room setting (up to 200 attendees), with breakout sessions and a morning of field trips. Sessions will be targeted to stormwater, planning, and design professionals; researchers in water resources and urban sustainability; as well as activists and educators interested in implementing these features through grassroots, community-driven models. Participation is especially encouraged from those working in GI/LID in arid regions of the southwestern U.S. (southern California, Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada, Colorado, Utah, west Texas) and northwest Mexico. Early registration for this conference runs through **January 16, 2012**. For more information, visit AridLID.org

Hydroinformatics Conference

The next Hydroinformatics Conference will be held in Hamburg, Germany, **July 14-18, 2012**. Topics on the agenda will include disaster mitigation, hydrological modeling, hydraulic modeling, climate change impacts, developments of flood and drought early warning systems, socio-economic aspects of hydroinformatics realising active stakeholder participation, and more.

For more information go to <http://www.hic2012.org/>.

Restore America's Estuaries (RAE)

6th National Conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration

October 20-24, 2012

Healthy coastal and estuarine habitats are critical not only to the environment and the national economy, but to regional and local economies, as well. Because human and natural systems are interdependent, restoration strengthens and reinforces the social, economic, and environmental ties that bind communities together. Healthy coastal ecosystems mean jobs, new and better economic opportunities, and the prosperity and stability important in the troubling economic times and high unemployment rates our nation faces.

For additional information, please see:

[Conference Prospectus](#) and [Call for Proposals: Dedicated Sessions, Presentations, and Posters](#)

ASFPM Calendar

The events listed below are only the highlights of events of interest to floodplain managers. A complete list of flood-related training, conferences, and other meetings, including ALL the workshops and conferences of State Chapters and associations is always posted at
http://www.floods.org/n_calendar/calendar.asp

May 20–25, 2012: 36TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF STATE FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS, San Antonio, Texas. Contact (608) 274-0123 or see **<http://www.floods.org>**

June 9–14, 2013: 37TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF STATE FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS, Hartford, Connecticut. Contact (608) 274-0123 or see **<http://www.floods.org>**

June 1–6, 2014: 38TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF STATE FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS, Seattle, Washington. Contact (608) 274-0123 or see **<http://www.floods.org>**

May 31–June 5, 2015: 39TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF STATE FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS, Atlanta, Georgia. Contact (608) 274-0123 or see **<http://www.floods.org>**

Are you looking for training opportunities to earn CECs for your CFM? If so, be sure to check out our web calendar, which already has LOTS of training opportunities listed for 2012! You can search the calendar by state using the directions below. Or you can use the category drop down menu to search by category.

http://www.floods.org/n_calendar/calendar.asp

- Go to the calendar and click on the search feature icon at the top of the calendar. Type your state's initials in parenthesis (for example "(WI)") into the search field and it will pull all the events (training, conferences, etc.) that are currently listed on the calendar for your state. What a great way to find upcoming training for CECs! The only events without a state listed in the event title are EMI courses which are all held in Emmitsburg, MD.



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Deadline is the 18th day of odd-numbered months.

For address changes and member services, contact the ASFPM Executive Office
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