



ASFPM Region 8 Status Report 2019

Association of State Floodplain Managers

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Region 8 Priorities and Accomplishments

Mapping:

- Risk MAP should be fully funded. Transferring to NFIP policyholders is not a reasonable option.
 - Preventative risk management is more cost-effective than reactionary disaster assistance.
 - Additional funding should be provided for CAP staff to support additional mapping projects.
- All states in Region 8 need funding for LiDAR and continued funding for data maintenance.
 - This is especially necessary in and near federal lands, where state and federal collaboration is routine and necessary.
 - All Region 8 states should benefit from similar funding opportunities as Colorado, South Dakota and North Dakota.
- Rapid development is occurring, especially in natural resource-rich areas (oil, gas and coal), and in renewable energy development areas for wind and solar.
 - Would like mapping to stay ahead of development. This means mapping currently undeveloped areas that are largely rural.
 - Enforcement in rural areas is difficult. Communities lack the resources, and the program incentives aren't strong enough to drive conscious local flood-risk management programs.
- Risk MAP enhanced products do not meet states' needs.
 - Get rid of Zone C and Zone D designations = priority.
 - Detail in approximate A Zones is needed (model backed). Enhanced products are less critical.
 - FEMA should initiate an effort to eliminate all Approximate Zone A areas. Rapid developments in modeling and technology make this an achievable goal within a decade.
 - Promoting 2D modeling for national acceptance for NFIP mapping.
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 - Colorado is one of the first to use 2D to delineate effective FIRMS.
 - Concern with the models not working in conjunction with regulatory requirements.
 - There is a 2D regulatory technical working group

working with FEMA on the regulatory approach and recommendations.

- o Fear that small communities with limited staff and resources will find it difficult to administer and maintain 2D models.
- Base Level Engineering
 - o Colorado, Utah, South Dakota and North Dakota have active BLE projects
- Colorado's Fluvial Hazard Mapping Program - pilot phase will conclude at the end of June. Other states can learn from the mapping protocol that the state is producing to set the technical mapping standards as well as the model land use code that will be publicly available once the project is complete. (www.coloradohazardmapping.com)
- Flood hazard map update funding is still needed for Region 8 states.
 - o Region 8 is mostly rural and all non-coastal.
 - o Major disadvantage for acquiring funding.
 - o Support is needed for rural communities, and NFIP coordinators and SHMOs tend not to have adequate funding to assist with training and individual visits to each community participating in the NFIP in their jurisdiction.

Community Assistance:

- Congratulations to **Kathy Holder**, Utah NFIP coordinator who received the FEMA 2019 State Coordinator Spotlight Award.
- Federal support in enforcement activity.
 - o Enacting 1316 provisions.
 - o Clarification on disaster assistance and insurance provided to properties and communities with compliance issues.
- Coordination with other agencies.
 - o FEMA PA engineers -issues with NFIP requirements for bank stabilization
 - o Utah DOT – starting to use a NFIP checklist for projects in SFHAs.
 - o South Dakota works with Homeland Security office in funding projects as backup generators and outdoor warning sirens.
- Floods after fires.
 - o Additional outreach tools for impacted communities.

- o Funding or resources for inundation maps after a fire.
 - o After the Flames: Workshop and Conference held in Colorado April 1, 2019.
- CAP-SSSE Grant Areas of concern
 - o Additional funding needed for states.
 - Most states are operating with one designated person for the CAP program.
 - Additional tasks being added without compensation
 - o Clarification on the process to quantify importance of CAP program.
 - o NFIP Transformation
 - More is being required of the state CAP Coordinator's without just compensation.
 - o Continue work on grant cycle and funding opportunity.
 - o Disaster Responsibilities can divert NFIP Coordinators scheduled work tasks.
- FEMA's new ESA policy
 - o Concern that responsibility being placed on local communities, specifically on the FPA.
 - o Most FPA's have several other job duties.
 - o Most FPA's are not ESA experts or biologists and do not have resources to do what is being asked.
 - o ESA permit system needs to be developed by the appropriate entities for local FPA's and property owners to work with during floodplain application process. This effort should be led by US Fish and Wildlife.
 - o FEMA stated that they were establishing the plan and then getting US Fish and Wildlife buy-in. The seems a look backwards in the process.
 - o Concern that most FPAs will not be able to meet this requirement or choose to ignore it, or worse encouraging communities to drop out of the NFIP.

ASFPM Annual National Conference:

- A western states' issues track should be offered at all ASFPM annual conferences to discuss issues unique to the western 1/3 of the U.S., including:
 - o Alluvial fan flooding, including depth and velocity issues in AO Zones.
 - o Wildfire and flash flood cycle mitigation and response.
 - o State control or influence on federal public lands.
 - o Energy development and expansion.
- Will allow Regions 8, 9 and 10 to share resources, solutions and issues specific to intermountain areas, semi and arid regions, and western coastal issues unique to the western 1/3 of the U.S.

Legislative Issues:

- Insurance
 - o Private Insurance discussions –
 - Should include fees for CAP, Mapping and mitigation programs.
 - Flood Insurance should not be available in non-NFIP participating communities
 - o Moonshot for doubling insurance policies
 - Utah identified this as a priority task and took on a special project.
 - They teamed up with local, state and federal stakeholders to get the word out about flood insurance and stressing that IA is never guaranteed.
 - o Risk 2.0 - It appears that the insurance component of the NFIP is becoming less tied to the mapping and regulations. Proposal that insurance rates will no longer be tied to FIRMs. Concern that this will dilute the mapping and regulatory programs and increase risk around the nation.
 - o Property protection
 - o HMGP Projects
 - 10% state match – currently, the PA programs provides a 10% match for all project worksheets. HMGP state match will provide financial assistance to mitigate areas that have been impacted before.

CRS Coordinator's Manual Updates:

- There will be no major changes in the new manual. Instead there are multiple improvements, clarifications and some corrections. Communities do not need to change their preparation for the next verification visit.
- There are 92 CRS communities in Region 8 as of May 21, 2018.
- CRS classifications for the May 21, 2018 effective will show the following impacts to classifications within Region 8:
 - o Two communities will experience class improvements.
 - o Three communities will have no change in classification.
 - o Six new communities will be enrolled in CRS.

- The CASFM CRS Committee continues to be active.
 - The CRSTF considered the recommendations and responded in a letter to CASFM. A number of suggestions were already being discussed for the 2017 *Coordinator's Manual*, while other suggestions will be considered in the development of the 2020 *Coordinator's Manual*.
- ISO staff is available to assist communities with needs, questions, concerns or to help generate ideas to enter the CRS, improve scores or refine programs. Points of contact are Kerry Redente, ISO/CRS specialist for ISO at kredente@iso.com and Constance Lake, ISO/CRS specialist for ISO at clake@iso.com.

Response and Recovery

- All 66 counties in South Dakota including five of the nine tribal reservations have approved PDM plans. The 6th Tribal Government is in the final stages of their plan update.
- The 2019 update to the South Dakota State Pre-disaster Mitigation Plan has been approved as an Enhanced Plan. It is the 13th state to achieve this status. It will also allow the state to receive an additional 5% funding for our HMGP program (from 15% - 20%)

Disasters

- South Dakota indicated that the last disaster was a winter weather/ice storm in the northern part of the state in December 2016. Since 2008, they have used HMGP and PDM funds to bury 694 miles of rural electric cooperative overhead lines. In the disaster area in 2016, over 400 miles of these lines were buried, reducing the amount of damage during this incident.
- Colorado took on collaborative, grass roots effort to recover from the 2013 floods. The emphasis on natural floodplain process where possible instead of hard engineering techniques.

CFMs:

- Colorado has one of the highest amounts of CFMs statewide.

Recommended Actions

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

- Continue to promote full federal funding of Risk MAP;
- Continue to promote LiDAR acquisition for all states;
- Continue to promote funding for mitigation grants; and
- Promoting additional federal funding source for NFIP/CAP-SSSE.