

ASFPM Region 8 Annual Report



Brian Varrella, P.E., CFM, Region 8 Director
March 31, 2017



Annual Conference—Kansas City, Missouri (2017)
2016-2017

**Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota,
 Utah and Wyoming**



Introduction and Regional Overview

The ASFPM Region 8 area includes the landlocked states of Montana, Wyoming, Utah, North Dakota, South Dakota and Colorado. Montana, Utah and Colorado each have official Association of State Floodplain Managers chapters: Utah Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association (www.ufsma.org), Association of Montana Floodplain Managers (www.mtfloods.org) and Colorado Association of Stormwater and Floodplain Managers (www.casfm.org). Each of these organizations continue to host annual meetings, provide CFM training and host general floodplain training and seminars.

Region 8 Priorities

- **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
 - 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.
 - Flood hazard map update funding, again, is in desperately short supply for Region 8 states.
 - Region 8 is mostly rural and all non-coastal
 - Major disadvantage for acquiring funding

- 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
- **ASFPM Annual 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:
 - Alluvial fan flooding, including depth and velocity issues in AO Zones
 - Wildfire and flash flood cycle mitigation and response
 - State control or influence on federal public lands
 - Energy development & 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.
- **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 90 CRS communities in Region 8 as of May 1, 2017
 - CRS classifications for the May 1, 2017 effective will show the following impacts to classifications within Region 8:
 - Three communities will experience class improvements
 - Three communities will have no change in classification
 - Eight new communities will be enrolled in CRS
 - No retrogrades in Region 8 so far this year
 - The CASFM CRS Committee continues to be active.
 - The committee prepared a letter that was sent to the CRS Task Force to provide feedback on implementation of the *2013 Coordinator's Manual* and to provide suggestions for the development of the *2017 Coordinator's Manual*.
 - 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. A point of contact is Kerry Redente, ISO/CRS Specialist for ISO at kredente@iso.com.

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:

- Promote full federal funding of Risk MAP
- Promote LiDAR acquisition for all states
 - This is currently a case of the haves and the have nots. States with money are able to get more money for Lidar because they can meet the 50% match requirements (USGS 3DEP).

- Evident on this USGS map:
https://nationalmap.gov/3DEP/images/BAA_FY17_AllOpportunitiesAwarded_03072017%20-%20large.jpg
- Modify the ASFPM Constitution to allow all members of the organization in good standing to be eligible to serve as an officer.
- Add a provision to Risk MAP funding where high-development, low-population areas can receive federal fiscal assistance to update flood hazard maps ahead of rampant development, especially in oil and gas zones.
- Provide direct technical and financial assistance from federal sources to communities for pre-disaster mitigation of the wildfire-flood damage cycle, including fuels mitigation and watershed management pre-fire.
- Promote post-wildfire flash flood and debris flow awareness and provide local and state floodplain managers with resources to share on short notice, especially in the days, weeks and months after fires.
- Promote mandatory cross training and coordination between floodplain managers and emergency managers in the five wildfire-prone states within Region 8, on an annual basis, to share information and train one another.
- Provide training for ESA and NEPA compliance.
- Add a western states track to the annual conference
 - Examples: pre-wildfire mitigation, post-burn flash flood response and planning, alluvial fan flooding, Zone A and Zone D floodplain management, inequities in Risk MAP funding created by population metrics, and fracking and oil development challenges.
- Advocate for detailed mapping in all Approximate A-Zones
 - Encourage limited detailed studies that actually produce BFEs with sparse cross section placement
 - Base Level Engineering will perpetuate approximate study challenges for local floodplain administrators and should be discouraged
- Advocate to abandon all D-Zones on all FIRMs.
- Offer a region teleconference once per quarter, organized by the executive office.