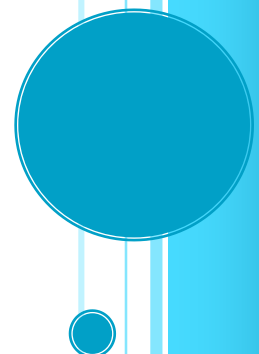


ASFPM REGION 8 ANNUAL REPORT

Annual Conference—Grand Rapids, Michigan (2016)



Brian K. Varrella, P.E., CFM, Region 8 Director
5/18/2016

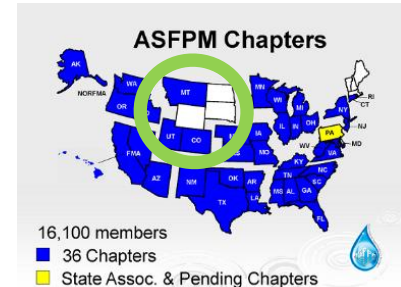


ASFPM REGION 8 ANNUAL REPORT

Annual Conference—Grand Rapids, Michigan (2016)

2015-2016

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

- **ASFPM Annual Conference;**
 - A western states' issues track should be offered at all ASFPM annual conferences
 - 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.
- **Mapping;**
 - Flood hazard map update funding, again, is in desperately short supply for Region 8 states.
 - Rapid development is occurring, especially in oil-rich areas.
 - Would like mapping to stay ahead of development.
 - Enforcement in rural areas is difficult.
 - 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; enhanced products are less critical.
 - Federal funding is too frequently allocated to high population states
 - Region 8 is mostly rural and all non-coastal = major disadvantage
- **CRS Manual Updates**
 - There are 80 CRS communities in Region 8 as of May 1, 2016.

- Region has its first Class 2 Community in Fort Collins, CO, which improved from Class 4 to Class 2 last year.
- 45 percent of communities in Region 8 have been verified under the 2013 CRS Coordinator's Manual standards
 - 14 communities experienced class improvements
 - 13 communities had no change in classification
 - 6 new communities enrolled in CRS
 - 3 retrogrades
- CRS interest continues to grow within the region as 13 communities have expressed interest in new participation
- The CASFM CRS Committee continues to be active.
 - The committee prepared a letter that was sent to the CRS Task Force (CRSTF) to provide feedback on implementation of the 2013 Manual.
 - The CRSTF will be considering recommendations provided by CASFM and preparing a response in July.
- 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 Cristina Martinez, flood technical coordinator for ISO at cristina.martinez@iso.com
 - Brian Varrella, ASFPM Region 8 Director (brian.varrella@state.co.us), is also a free resource to communities through ASFPM, and can help direct concerns and questions moved to the correct experts across the region
- **Training Needs and Concerns**
 - Endangered Species Act issues are becoming more relevant to daily operations of the typical local and state floodplain managers, and cross-profession coordination training is needed.

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:

- 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 cross-training and coordination between floodplain managers and emergency managers in the five wildfire-prone states within Region 8.
- 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
- Advocate to abandon all D-Zones on all FIRMs.
- Offer a region teleconference once per quarter, organized by the executive office.