

# MONTANA HIGHGROUND

April 2018



Recording flood readiness PSA  
with Lt. Gov Mike Cooney

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## GET PREPARED

Join our Montana Flood  
Coordination Calls for  
Floodplain Administrators.

*Get more info on Page 2*

## THANK YOU!

We appreciate everyone who  
helped make this year's AMFM  
Conference a success.

*Get more info on AMFM on Page 5*

Join our  
Montana  
**Flood  
Coordination  
Calls**  
for Floodplain  
Administrators

Calls take place  
every other  
Friday at 10am\*  
(4/13, 4/27, 5/11, etc.)

**Contact  
Traci Sears  
for more info:  
tsears@mt.gov**

*\*Call frequency will  
increase as necessary*

## CHECK OUT OUR PSA

click the video below



## FLOOD PREPARATION TIPS

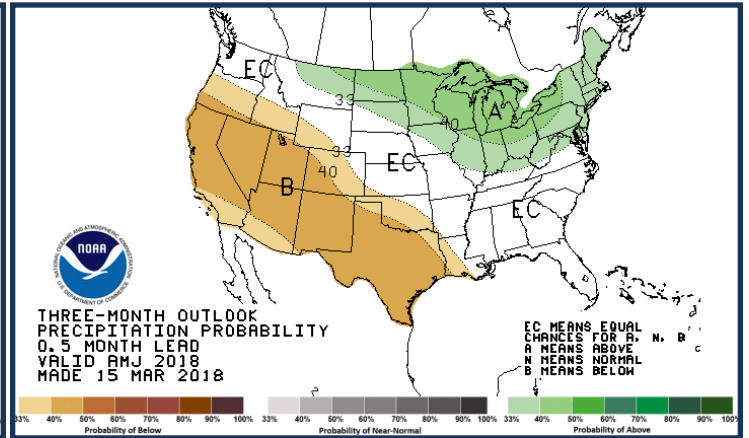
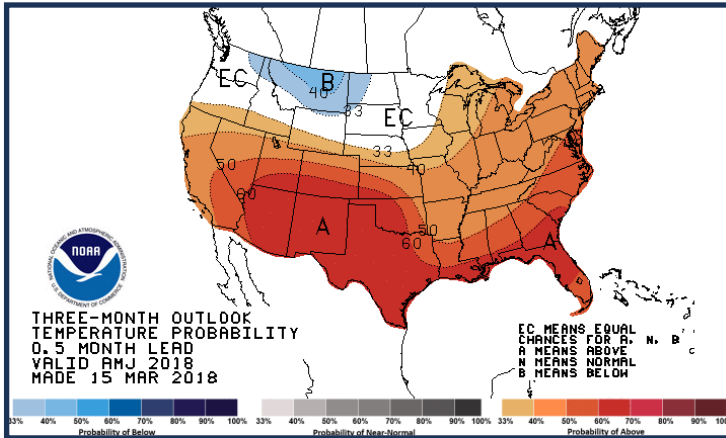
for Floodplain Administrators

- 1. Educate residents about flood insurance.**  
Many people don't realize standard homeowners insurance doesn't cover flooding. Also, flood insurance policies require 30 days to take effect. Encourage residents to speak with an insurance agent as soon as possible to be protected this spring.
- 2. Get your local weather and flood forecasts.**  
Contact your local National Weather Service office for resources specific to your community. They can also loop you in on flood outlook information when there is a flood threat.
- 3. Review your emergency procedures.**  
Make sure you know how you will conduct emergency permitting and alert residents about it when there is a looming flood threat. Also, determine how you will work with your County DES coordinator to document flood damage, meet FEMA's Substantial Damage determination requirement, and permit cleanup/repair work in the floodplain.
- 4. Get key messages out to residents now.**  
Residents should be made aware of how to protect themselves from flooding, how to obtain flood forecast information, what their permitting requirements are before/during/after a flood, and how to document damage from flood for insurance purposes.



# Spring Flood Outlook

April, May, and June are predicted to be slightly cooler and wetter than average statewide, as indicated by the blues and greens on the maps below.



## ICE JAM

- Ice jam threat across Montana has decreased significantly at this time.
- At the beginning of April, flood warnings due to ice jam were issued on eastern portions the Missouri River, Musselshell River, and lower Yellowstone River in March.
- At the end of March, ice jams were reported on the Yellowstone at Savage and Richland Park.

*Click on the video to see ice moving near Miles City*



## SPRING RUNOFF

- Risk of flood from spring runoff is a serious concern statewide due to record snowpack and possible wet weather.
- There is increased potential for flooding around Havre, Glasgow, and Missoula this spring.
- Spring rains on top of runoff will greatly increase the risk of major flooding.
- Be on alert for strings of days in the 80s and wet weather.

## EROSION

- This spring, we will most likely see an extended runoff season and associated erosion issues.
- Erosion issues are likely on the Yellowstone River, the Clarks Fork River, and other erosive rivers across the state.

## WILDFIRE BURN AREAS

- Fire-affected communities may see increased runoff this spring, even in areas not shown on FEMA maps as high-risk flood zones.
- If you have a wildfire burn area in or near your community, contact National Weather Service for more information about your flood risk.

# NEW FLOODPLAIN RESOURCES






## Federal Housing Administration's 203(k) Rehabilitation Program

Section 203(k) insurance enables homebuyers and homeowners to finance both the purchase (or refinancing) of a house and the cost of its rehabilitation through a single mortgage or to finance the rehabilitation of their existing home.

## Natural Hazard Mitigation Saves: 2017 Interim Report

National Institute of Building Sciences | Published 2017

### Benefit-Cost Ratio by Hazard and Mitigation Measure from the Natural Hazard Mitigation Saves: 2017 Interim Report

National Benefit-Cost Ratio Per Peril <small>*BCR numbers in this study have been rounded</small>		Federally Funded	Beyond Code Requirements
<b>Overall Hazard Benefit-Cost Ratio</b>		<b>6:1</b>	<b>4:1</b>
 <b>Riverine Flood</b>		<b>7:1</b>	<b>5:1</b>
 <b>Hurricane Surge</b>		Too few grants	<b>7:1</b>
 <b>Wind</b>		<b>5:1</b>	<b>5:1</b>
 <b>Earthquake</b>		<b>3:1</b>	<b>4:1</b>
 <b>Wildland-Urban Interface Fire</b>		<b>3:1</b>	<b>4:1</b>

## Costs of Building Higher

ASFPM Brochure | Published 2018

Additional cost of construction: \$4,690

Annual flood insurance premium built to the BFE: \$2,147

Annual flood insurance premium built 2 feet above the BFE: \$734

Annual flood premium savings: \$1,413

Number of years to pay off \$4,690 via premium savings: 3.3 years

Added savings realized during a 30-year mortgage: \$37,300\*



# AMFM ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Larry Schock, Montana DNRC, Missoula, MT



ASSOCIATION OF  
*Montana*  
FLOODPLAIN  
MANAGERS

*See you next year in*  
**LEWISTOWN**



## *Thanks to all*

The 19th Annual Association of Montana Floodplain Managers (AMFM) Conference was held this year in Great Falls. Those in attendance experienced a full agenda of timely and interesting presentations as well as some great opportunities for networking at evening socials. Floodplain professionals came together from all parts of Montana (and even Canada!) to learn from one another at both conference sessions and in the evenings over a few beers.

This year's conference was a great success because of those who took the time to put it together. We want to thank the AMFM Board for their hard work in this regard. Once again, the Board, led by the great Lisa Oedewaldt and Larry Schock, brought together great sponsors, attendees, and presenters.



**AMFM challenges anyone, especially local Floodplain Administrators, to consider doing a presentation in 2019 and/or to get more involved with AMFM. Also, if you did not attend the conference, you should consider attending next year in Lewistown. There's something in it for everyone in the floodplain world!**



# Floodplain Administrators of the Year

## Congratulations TO TODD KLIETZ

For the past 20 years, Todd has been a leader and advocate for floodplain and risk management in Missoula County and throughout the state. Among many other things, Todd has testified before Congress, run two CRS programs, submitted innovative mitigation grants, dealt with one of the largest superfund structure removals, and provided technical review and input on floodplain regulations and issues. Moreover, Todd has been sure to assist other floodplain administrators and has continued to guide the understanding of floodplain regulations and management in Montana.

Todd is a notable example of an individual who has committed to serving the public and not being afraid to question or advocate for change when needed. His ability to maneuver through challenging regulatory parameters and local dynamics is admirable. The communities that he has served are fortunate for the standards he has set and maintained for floodplain management.



Todd Klietz accepts his award from Traci Sears at AMFM

## Congratulations TO ADAM CARLSON

As Musselshell County Floodplain Administrator, Adam was responsible for the development of a successful and proactive local program. Not only did he serve as the DES Coordinator and Floodplain Administrator, he oversaw GIS, rural addressing, and other duties as assigned. During his tenure, Adam actively assisted with the Musselshell River re-mapping project, worked with communities in Florida on recovery projects, and updated the community floodplain regulations.

Most notably, we commend Adam on his efforts to initiate and coordinate a large-scale flood mitigation project with various stakeholders and needs. When completed, this project will significantly lower the flood risk for both communities and help enhance community recreation and amenities. Roundup and Musselshell are fortunate to be recipients of his mitigation vision and insight.



Adam Carlson accepts his award from Traci Sears at AMFM

## Welcome to our new Floodplain Administrators

ANNIE GILLESPIE | Carbon County Floodplain Administrator

LINDSAY MORGAN | Lewis & Clark County Floodplain Administrator

SHIRLEY MILLER | Town of Fromberg Floodplain Administrator

DAN ROWAN | Town of Plains Floodplain Administrator

Updated list of local  
Floodplain Administrators  
[CLICK HERE](#)

Contact [mphillips2@mt.gov](mailto:mphillips2@mt.gov) with updates

# Congrats to Montana's First CRS CLASS 7 COMMUNITIES



Thanks to this Class 7 CRS rating, Missoula County and Great Falls residents now receive a 15% discount on flood insurance.

## MISSOULA COUNTY

Floodplain Administrator: Todd Klietz

**Missoula County is the first county in Montana to be recognized as a CRS 7 community.**

**What set them apart:** Due to Missoula County's efforts, led by Todd Klietz, the County receives the maximum points possible for providing map information to community residents including basic zone information, flood depth data, and natural floodplain functions through the County website and one-on-one meetings. Coordinating with other departments on open space preservation and administering to higher regulatory standards also provided a high number of points for the community.

## CITY OF GREAT FALLS

Floodplain Administrator: Charlie Sheets

**The Great Falls is the first municipality in Montana to be recognized as a CRS 7 community.**

**What set them apart:** Due to Great Falls' efforts, led by Charlie Sheets, the City receives the maximum points for providing map information to residents including basic zone information, flood depth data, and natural floodplain functions through the City website and one-on-one meetings. Coordinating with other departments on open space preservation, adopting and implementing the Cascade County Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan, and administering to higher regulatory standards also provided a high number of points for the community.

Todd Klietz and Jamie Erbacher accept Missoula County's award from Diana Herrera (FEMA)



Charlie Sheets accepts Great Falls' award from Constance Lake, Montana's new ISO Specialist.



# MONTANA SILVER JACKETS: KICK-OFF MEETINGS

Worby McNamee, Montana DNRC Floodplain Program, Helena, MT



On January 23rd, members from DNRC, US Army Corps of Engineers, and local officials met to kick off the Silver Jackets' Ekalaka and Glendive projects.

## EKALAKA PROJECT

On the morning of January 23, the Ekalaka Mayor and Floodplain Administrator, as well as a Carter County Commissioner attended a Silver Jackets project kick-off meeting. The meeting went over the scope of the purposed hydrology and hydraulic study and allowed ample time for the community to provide the DNRC and the US Army Corps with feedback.

The Town of Ekalaka, through the MT Silver Jackets, is slated to receive updated hydrology and hydraulic studies, which will help the town plan better and develop smarter. The LiDAR that is being used as part of the Silver Jackets project was secured by the town through a Department of Commerce grant.

The kick-off meeting proved to be very successful. With the feedback provided by community representatives, the timetable for funding and submittal dates may be moved forward to help with a purposed building project. The DNRC will visit Ekalaka again this Spring to provide updates.

## GLENDIVE PROJECT

On the afternoon of January 23rd, DNRC staff and the US Army Corps met with the City of Glendive to kick off a funded project focusing on the West Glendive area. There are three components of the project:

1. **A levee breach analysis** will look at a worst-case scenario for levee breach and identify weak points along the levee.
2. **A LifeSim component** aims to put a human-life value to the potential loss if the levee were breached. It also incorporates a monetary value for businesses affected if a breach were to occur.
3. **A nonstructural analysis** will be completed that will identify potential funding sources for relocation or wet/dry floodproofing.

Worby McNamee, the MT Silver Jackets lead, was accompanied by Traci Owens from the US Army Corps in giving the kick-off presentation. After feedback from city, county, and private landowners, Owens remarked, "We are excited about the benefit this brings the City of Glendive, from emergency planning and management to identifying additional funding sources for helping the city and its residents."

The Ekalaka and Glendive projects were the only two submittals for FY18 that have been awarded to the Montana Silver Jackets. Each project used the kick-off meetings in January as the start of project work but also a chance to introduce the team to each community. Stay tuned for the latest updates on each of the projects in upcoming newsletters.

For more information, contact Worby McNamee at [worby.mcnamee@mt.gov](mailto:worby.mcnamee@mt.gov).





# PRE-DISASTER MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM UPDATE

Nadene Wadsworth, Montana Disaster and Emergency Services, Helena, MT

With the approved federal budget this year, we are anticipating of a large pot of money under the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant program the FY 2018 budget (\$249 million) and Flood Mitigation Assistance Program (dollar amounts to be released with the Notice of Funding).

**Nadene is eager to begin developing applications ahead of the Notice of Funding announcement. Contact Nadene to see the Notice of Intent for potential construction projects as well as the HMA facts page describing a brief overview of the eligible items under the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program (nwadsworth@mt.gov or 406-324-4785).**

If your county is interested in updating their Hazard Mitigation Plan, Nadene would like to begin those applications now. Please notify as soon as possible if you would like to update your plan so that you can get access to the eGrants system to develop your application. Montana has been very successful with these programs in past and Nadene would like to see that success continue.



*Save the Date*

## Floodplain Resource Seminar

Helena, MT | Week of July 16

Topics: Legal Issues (with Ed Thomas), CFM Exam and Prep, 2D Hydraulic Modeling, and more.



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## ABOUT THE MONTANA HIGHGROUND

We are always accepting articles and ideas for this newsletter! Please email your contributions at anytime to [mphillips2@mt.gov](mailto:mphillips2@mt.gov).

The Highground Newsletter is a quarterly publication of the Montana DNRC Floodplain Program. This newsletter & other DNRC Floodplain Program activities are funded, in part, through grants from FEMA.

Persons with disabilities who need an alternative accessible format of this document should contact the DNRC Public Information Officer at 406-444-0465.

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