

MONTANA HIGHGROUND

Fall 2019

Prickly Pear Creek
Image from Reddit

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DNRC CONTACTS

Need floodplain assistance? Ever wonder how you can submit a newsletter article?

See more on Page 10

NWS MEET & GREET

See who is spotlighted from the NWS Missoula office!

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Keep up-to-date on all things
Highground by visiting
floodplain.mt.gov/news

2019 RESOURCE SEMINAR

By Worry McNamee



Milk River

Photo: University of Montana

Did you know?

In 2018, the Washington Post dubbed Glasgow the “middle of nowhere”.

THE 2019 MONTANA DNRC RESOURCE SEMINAR

The 2019 Montana DNRC Resource Seminar was held at the Fort Peck Interpretive Center from Tuesday, September 10 to Wednesday, September 11, 2019. Many Montana communities were represented, as well as a large number of Federal, State, and local agencies.

Opening the Resource Seminar up was an all-day Local Levee Partnership Workshop. Representatives from the City of Glasgow to Missoula County took a deep dive into all things levee related (see article on page 9).

For the last day of the Seminar, participants saw the focus shift from levee topics to permitting and National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) topics. The morning started with a look at how NFIP Insurance can be a tool homeowners use for resiliency and recovery. Mel Hodges with Torrent Technologies out of Kalispell, MT walked attendees through the various levels of coverage and what that coverage can provide for homeowners after a disaster.

The National Weather Service (NWS) Glasgow office presented on the future fall and winter forecast for the Glasgow service area. On display were some useful links and tools users can navigate to for more NWS information. Rounding out the presentation, Brandon Bigelbach touched on some of the projects the NWS Glasgow office is currently working, including 3D flood mapping and storyboards.

There was also a quick update on the City of Glasgow and Hill County Montana Silver Jackets projects that have yet to formally kick-off. Participants learned what tools the US Army Corps of Engineers is using to get these communities updated flood risk information.

For the rest of the afternoon, floodplain administrators walked through floodplain permitting and DNRC technical assistance items. The time spent for some was a refresher on what documents and tools are out there to assist in permitting, while new floodplain administrators were given their first glimpse at the complexity of floodplain permitting!

A big thank you to all who attended, volunteered to present, and helped with the 2019 DNRC Resource Seminar.

Attention, Engineers!

Important changes to MT-2 LOMR/CLOMR submittals. DNRC wants to notify all practitioners that are involved in preparing and submitting MT-2 (LOMR/CLOMR) applications of important updates.

The historic common practice of developing and submitting “truncated” hydraulic models (typically with HEC-RAS model software) based on the extent of the area of revision limits, has been modified for cases where there are Effective digital model files available. Now, for locations where more recent Effective hydraulic models are available (roughly: 2005 to current), FEMA’s contractor reviewing MT-2 submittals is currently requesting that the revised area be incorporated into the Effective hydraulic model (regardless of the size and extent of that model). Instead of submitting a truncated model limited to the upstream and downstream tie-in extents. Officially, this is a request from the MT-2 reviewers, but it is not a necessary requirement until FEMA adopts the practice formally as Guidance or a Standard. The intent is to develop a “living model” concept, where the original Effective hydraulic model is maintained to incorporate all revisions within its extents.

TRUNCATED MODELS WILL STILL BE ACCEPTED...

And considered best practice for areas where Effective digital model fields are not available (e.g. older studies circa 1970’s-2005). These are generally locations that were modeled using HEC-2, WSP-2, or some other old model, and require Duplicate Effective model be reproduced in HEC-RAS utilizing whatever model and FIS data are available. Continue to employ the truncated model approach for these locations.



FEMA



Since this change may have scope/cost implications for projects requiring MT-2 submittals, please be advised and share with others. If you have any questions or would like more information, use the contact information below:

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DNRC MAPPING

By Tiffany Lyden

The DNRC Mapping Team applied for and received several new FEMA grant for new projects across the state! The new project areas are, Milk River Phase I, which is a new flood study for the Milk river Watershed through Hill, Blaine, Phillips, and Valley Counties. Missoula/Granite PMR, which is a new flood study for the Clark Fork and Bitterroot Rivers and Rock Creek in Missoula and Granite County. Finally, Carbon County PMR, which is a new flood study for Rock Creek, and the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River in Carbon County. This study will also include a part of the Clarks Fork in Yellowstone County.

Along with the new projects there are a whole host of on-going projects the mapping team is continuing to track. Madison-Jefferson Phase II, Jefferson Countywide, Beaverhead County, Mineral County, West Gallatin, and Bozeman Creek, Musselshell Watershed, and various areas of LiDAR collects.

For more information on any of these updates please visit www.floodplain.mt.gov.

For more information on the ongoing LiDAR collects please visit www.floodplain.mt.gov/lidar

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE MEET AND GREET

Get to know National Weather Service (NWS) team members from around the state. This edition highlights LeeAnn Allegretto from the NWS Missoula office. If you live in the Missoula area and have a weather question for her, email her at leeann.allegretto@noaa.gov.



Title: Meteorologist

Favorite Part of the Job: Helping the people in the Missoula area.

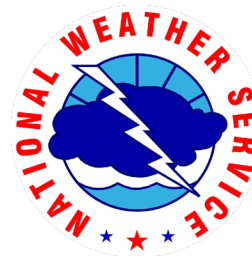
Favorite weather term: Bombogenesis

Favorite dessert: Key Lime Pie

Coffee or Tea: City Brew Dark Roast

Biking or Hiking: Hiking, Turquoise Lake!

Favorite Sports Team: Pittsburgh Penguins



Follow NWS Great Falls on Twitter!
[@NWSMissoula](https://twitter.com/NWSMissoula)

In the next Highground edition the NWS-Billing office will be highlighted!

FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The 2019 Floodplain Management Association (FMA) Annual Conference took place in sunny San Diego from September 3-6. The theme of this year's conference was keeping the lights on floodplains, resilience planning and risk reduction. A number of federal, state, and local agencies descended upon the Sheraton Hotel & Marina to discuss all things floodplains with a variety of different audience members.

Day one kicked off with County Supervisor Nathan Fletcher delivering the keynote presentation. Supervisor Fletcher amused the audience by telling two stories of mistaken identity he has fallen victim to in his time with San Diego's government. On a more serious note, Supervisor Fletcher emphasized the importance of floodplain conferences and workshops, like FMA, to work through the many challenges that come with floodplains and floodplain management. He offered San Diego as an example of the complex challenges that come with floodplain development and balancing the need for open space. Rounding out the day were a variety of plenary sessions with a few smaller workshop and discussion sessions.

Day two gave attendees their choice of a variety of smaller work sessions or technical roundtables to attend. Flood risk management, floodplain outreach and education, and post-flood event response were some of the topics for work sessions. Technical topics included engineering roundtables, developments of flood forecasting tools, and engineering modeling seminars.

The final day of the conference was highlighted by the California Silver Jackets meeting and an optional site visit to the Tijuana River.

For more information on the Floodplain Management Association and any upcoming events, please visit: www.floodplain.org.



Farewell!

Taylor Schatz ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, MONTANA DNRC

We are sad to announce Taylor Schatz has left Montana DNRC. Taylor accepted a position with Robert Peccia and Associates. Everyone here at the Floodplain Program wishes her the best and she will be missed around the office.

Nicole Stephenson FLOODPLAIN ADMINISTRATOR, TREASURE COUNTY

Nicole Stephenson will be leaving her position as Floodplain Administrator for Treasure County. She will continue to work for Treasure County in a DES role. Everyone at the floodplain program wishes her the best!

Cathy Barta FLOODPLAIN ADMINISTRATOR, CITY OF LEWISTOWN

Cathy Barta has left her position as Floodplain Administrator for the City of Lewistown. She will continue to work for the city in a DES capacity. Everyone at the floodplain program wishes her the best!

David Sutley FEMA REGION VIII, DENVER, CO

David Sutley has left his position at FEMA Region VIII in Denver, CO. David moved on to Dewberry. His work and contributions to Montana DNRC Mapping will be missed.

Welcome!

Renee Hawkins ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, DNRC FLOODPLAIN

Renee Hawkins takes over the Administrative Assistant position at Montana DNRC Floodplain Program. Renee will be helping the floodplain folks for a couple of months. Call Renee at 444-0862.



NOW HIRING!

CIVIL ENGINEERING SPECIALIST

THE FLOODPLAIN MAPPING PROGRAM IS LOOKING
TO HIRE A CIVIL ENGINEERING SPECIALIST TO JOIN
THE MAPPING TEAM!

The candidate will lead and carry out a variety of
floodplain mapping tasks and technical reviews.



Visit <http://statecareers.mt.gov/> for more details and to apply.

TRAININGS AND MEETINGS



MACO MIDWINTER CONFERENCE

February 10-13, 2020 | Great Falls, MT

Best Western Heritage Inn, Great Falls. For more information visit the Montana Association of Counties website www.mtcounties.org.



MONTANA WATER SUMMIT

March 3-4, 2020 | Helena, MT

The second biennial Montana Water Summit. For more information please contact Ann Schwend aschwend@mt.gov.



2020 AMFM CONFERENCE

March 10-13, 2020 | Kalispell, MT

Hilton Garden Inn, Kalispell, MT. For more information visit the Association of Montana Floodplain Managers at mtfloods.wildapricot.org.

UPCOMING CFM EXAM DATES



NEXT CFM EXAM
DECEMBER 4, 2019
TIME: TBD

Montana DNRC Water Resources Building | Fred Buck Room Helena, MT
Please email Worby McNamee at worby.mcnamee@mt.gov for details.

2019 LEVEE PARTNERSHIP WORKSHOP

By Nadene Wadsworth & Tiffany Lyden

The Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation (DNRC), supported by FEMA Region VIII and US Army Corps of Engineers Omaha District, hosted a Local Levee Workshop from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday, September 10, 2019 at the Fort Peck Interpretive Center in Fort Peck, Montana. The workshop engaged over 35 participants representing community stakeholders and experts from Montana DNRC, FEMA Region VIII, US Army Corps of Engineers Omaha District, Resilience Action Partners on behalf of FEMA Region VIII, Montana Disaster and Emergency Services (DES), representatives from Senators Steve Daines' and Jon Tester's offices, as well as the following Montana communities: City of Chinook/Blaine County, Dawson County, City of Glasgow/Valley County, Hill County, City of Malta/Phillips County, Miles City, and City and County of Missoula.



The workshop provided guidance and helped to set expectations for the communities on levee mapping procedures. It gave the communities the opportunity to have an open discussion, ask questions, and address concerns about their levees and conducting new flood studies. The workshop helped communities understand the of roles and responsibilities of the federal and state agencies and the local levee sponsor during a floodplain mapping project. It provided a network of local, state, and federal officials. The workshop emphasized the importance of having a local levee committee and provided ideas and information on how to begin developing that committee. Miles City and the City of Glasgow gave great examples about their existing levee committee and how important they are to the community.



ABOUT THE MONTANA HIGHGROUND

We are always accepting articles and ideas for this newsletter! Please email your contributions at anytime to worby.mcnamee@mt.gov.

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

Did you know? The Spanish word for flood is inundación.

ALWAYS REMEMBER
TURN AROUND, DON'T DROWN!

Augusta, MT
Photo: Helena IR

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