



# MONTANA HIGHGROUND



PHOTO: The Sun River makes an "oxbow" while Sawtooth Ridge towers in the distance. (Located near Augusta, Montana).

## ALL GOOD THINGS MUST END

GOODBYE FROM JOHN CONNORS

My Friends - This is the email I was hoping to never have to send. This is the email that I have received from so many friends and mentors that left their footprints along my path. This is the email where I say goodbye for now and I hope to see you down the trail.

The people and the mission of the Water Resource Division are fundamental to who I have become. Our work is the water flowing from the peaks to the plains, it shapes the surface and permeates everything beneath. Most will never know our contributions, but that does not diminish how we have inundated their lives. I am proud to have been a small part of our greater mission.

My nostalgia extends to the people but there are several amenities I will not miss.

1. Industrial grade toilet paper
2. This building's complete lack of anything resembling climate control
3. Back ally dumpster fires
4. Parking or the lack there of unless you are some sort of masochistic morning person
5. The echo of Teams meetings permeating walls made of tissue paper

Standing at the precipice of a brave new world, I grip tightly to the ropes our shared experiences. The melodic lyrics of Tom Petty hum through my mind as I slip my toes over the edge.

It's time to move on, it's time to get going  
What lies ahead we have no way of knowing  
But under my feet, baby, the waters flowing  
Time to move on, Time to get going

*Best Wishes*  
FROM DNRC FLOODPLAIN

Thank you for everything and I'll be looking for you downstream.

John Connors, P.E.

## NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

Goodbye from John Connors, DNRC Floodplain Bureau Chief

Wildfire-Related Floods and Debris Flows Near Canyon Ferry Reservoir in 2001

**NEW Rule Change - Federal Flood Risk Management Standards (FFRMS)**

Watershed Tours

Understanding Montana Floodplain Regulations Better

Flood After Fire and Drought

Montana Big Sky - Big Rivers

Around the Floodplain

Education and Training Events

DNRC Floodplain Contacts

# Wildfire-Related Floods and Debris Flows Near Canyon Ferry Reservoir in 2001

Submitted by: Seth Siefken, PE  
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Cell: (406) 475-4626 | [ssiefken@usgs.gov](mailto:ssiefken@usgs.gov)

The Horse Gulch Fire east of Canyon Ferry Reservoir in summer 2024 burned some of the same area burned by wildfires in 2000. The article below is extracted with minor modifications from a U.S. Geological Survey report (Parrett and others, 2004) on floods and debris flows following the wildfires in 2000. The report is of particular interest currently, as the area burned by the 2024 Horse Gulch Fire is likely susceptible to similar flood events to those described in the report until permanent vegetation is re-established in the burned area.

Beginning in late May 2001, a series of thunderstorms moved generally northeast across the Canyon Ferry area near Helena. On May 27, the first storm caused flooding on Cave Gulch (site 22), which is a small (4.6 square miles drainage area), ephemeral tributary to the northeast side of Canyon Ferry Reservoir (fig. 1). The Cave Gulch drainage basin, which was heavily burned in 2000, also has a mine and several excavated mine-waste settling ponds near the middle of the drainage basin.

Prior to the flood of May 27, streamflow in Cave Gulch near its mouth was such a rare occurrence that structures were built in the poorly defined channel. Consequently, flood discharge from the May 27 storm, although relatively small, had nowhere to go but through the structures (fig. 2). Although no site-specific data are available for the rain intensity in the Cave Gulch drainage basin, observer reports indicated that about 0.4 inch of rain fell in about a 30-minute period. The National Weather Service (NWS) precipitation station at the Helena airport about 20 miles west of Cave Gulch reported only a trace of rain during the same period. The recurrence interval for a 30-minute precipitation depth of 0.4 inches is about 10 years.

Following the May 27 flood, channel cross sections and high-water marks at site 22 (fig. 1) just upstream from the mouth of Cave Gulch were surveyed and the peak discharge was calculated to be 65 cubic feet per second. Because of some speculation by landowners that this flood may have, in part, resulted from the failure of some of the upstream mine-waste settling ponds, channel sections and high-water marks at a site upstream from the upper-most pond (site 23) were surveyed and a peak discharge of 130 cubic feet per second was calculated. Overall, the settling ponds, some of which were partially washed out, appear to have attenuated rather than increased the flood peak. Based on regional equations developed for unburned watershed conditions, the estimated recurrence interval for the calculated flood peaks was about 100 years at the upper site and about 10 years at the lower site.

On May 28, another thunderstorm passed through Helena and the Canyon Ferry study area and caused flooding from Crittenden Gulch (site 24), a small (drainage area of 2.3 square miles) west-side tributary to Canyon Ferry Reservoir (fig. 1). This flood washed out an access road to several summer homes, exposed a recently constructed septic tank (fig. 3), and deposited a considerable amount of sediment in a local harbor at the mouth of the stream. The Crittenden Gulch drainage basin also was heavily burned in 2000. Although no site-specific rainfall data were available for the May 28 storm at the Crittenden Gulch site, this second storm was much more intense at the NWS station at Helena than the May 27 storm. The maximum 15-minute storm depth at the NWS site was 0.3 inch and the maximum 1-hour depth was 0.5 inch. The recurrence intervals for these depths and durations were about 25 and 50 years, respectively.

Channel cross sections and high-water marks were surveyed and the peak discharge from Crittenden Gulch at its mouth (site 24) was calculated to be 370 cubic feet per second. Based on regional flood equations developed for unburned watershed conditions, the estimated recurrence interval for the peak discharge was about 50 years.

Both the May 27 and May 28 storms caused some debris flows from small gulches draining into Magpie Creek, (drainage area of 25.5 square miles at site 25) tributary to the east side of Canyon Ferry Reservoir. Although these debris flows caused no structural damage, they did block the Magpie Creek road for several days. The material deposited on the road, though probably soupy at the time of deposit, was a hard, concrete-like matrix-supported deposit when observed several days after the event. The deposits were eroded from a burned, steep, east-facing valley wall about 400 feet above the road. The bedrock is a siltite of the Belt Supergroup of Middle Proterozoic age that erodes to small plates in a finer grained soil. The debris flows generally did not reach the Magpie Creek channel and significant flooding did not occur on Magpie Creek. The peak flood discharge for the May 27-28 storms for Magpie Creek near the mouth (site 25) was estimated to be 80 cubic feet per second. The estimated recurrence interval for this discharge, based on unburned watershed conditions, is 2-5 years.



**PHOTO: Wildland fire burning in the Revenue near Norris, Montana. (By: Timbre Murphy | Sept. 2024).**

## See the Full 2004 Report available at:

Parrett, C., Cannon, S.H., Kenneth, P.L., 2004, Wildfire-Related Floods and Debris Flows in Montana in 2000 and 2001: U.S. Geological Survey Water Resources Investigations Report 03-4319, <https://doi.org/10.3133/wri034319>.

# Wildfire-Related Floods and Debris Flows Near Canyon Ferry Reservoir in 2001

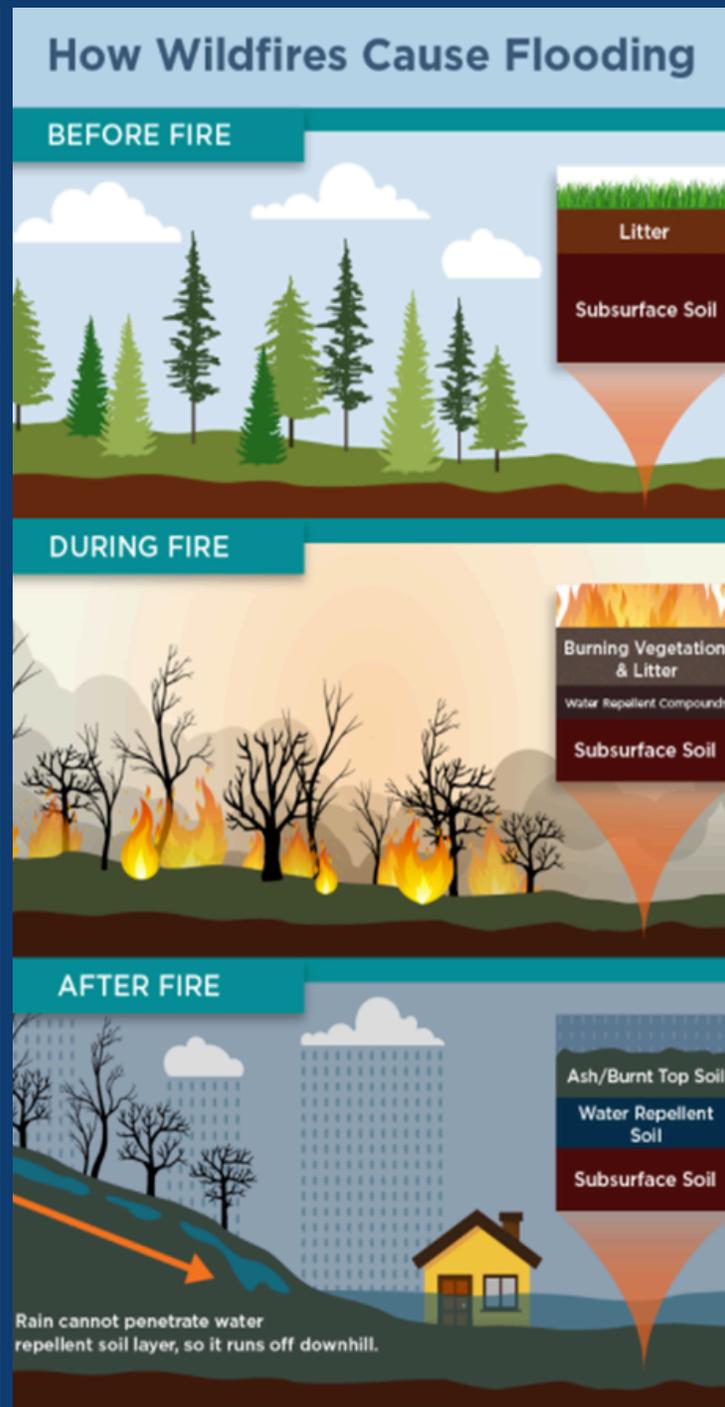
- Continued -

Following the storms in late May, five tipping bucket rain gages were installed in burned areas (fig. 1) to better determine future storm intensities. The rain gages were located near the mouths of Cave Gulch (site 26) and Crittenden Gulch (site 27), at a site near the headwaters of Cave Gulch (site 28), and at two sites in the Magpie Creek basin (site 29 in the upper part of the basin and site 30 near the middle of the basin). On July 17, a thunderstorm caused significant flooding again on Crittenden Gulch and Magpie Creek on Hellgate Gulch (site 32), a tributary to the east side of Canyon Ferry Reservoir. Rain depths at the raingage site in the Crittenden Gulch (site 27) drainage ranged from 0.17 inch in 5 minutes to 0.70 inch for the daily total. Rain depths at the Upper Magpie Creek gage (site 29) ranged from 0.13 inch in 5 minutes to 0.58 inch for the daily total. At the Lower Magpie Creek gage (site 30) rain depths ranged from 0.07 inch in 5 minutes to 0.39 inch for the daily total. Recurrence intervals for the rain depths ranged from <2 years to 2 years for all storm durations at the two gage sites in the Magpie Creek drainage.

The estimated peak discharge on Crittenden Gulch (site 24) following the July 17 storm was calculated to be 1,020 cubic feet per second. This flood caused further damage to the previously flooded access road on the west side of Canyon Ferry reservoir and completely blocked a culvert on the main road with gravel and debris. Estimated peak discharges for Magpie Creek above Bar Gulch (site 31, drainage area of 17.4 square miles) and Hellgate Gulch (site 32, drainage area of 9.2 square miles) were calculated to be 405 and 310 cubic feet per second, respectively. Estimated recurrence intervals for these flood magnitudes were 200 years for Crittenden Gulch, 50-100 years for Magpie Creek above Bar Gulch, and 100-200 years for Hellgate Gulch.

Several factors were common in the 2001 floods following the 2000 wildfire in the Canyon Ferry study area. First, flooding or debris flows generally occurred only when storm depths for the shorter (5-, 10-, and 15-minute) durations were greater than about 0.2-0.3 inch. Second, floods occurred more than once on several streams and the degree of flooding from the second storm generally was as great as or greater than that from the first storm. This second finding indicates that thunderstorm-caused flood peaks as large as those in 2001 might be a common annual occurrence on some streams until permanent vegetation is re-established. Third, significant debris-flow activity occurred only in burned drainages smaller than 1 square mile with channel gradients steeper than about 20 percent. Thus, numerous small, steep drainages in burned areas currently (2003) without significant debris flows are probably still highly susceptible to this process until permanent vegetation is reestablished.

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## Montana Floodplain Program

Questions? Need Assistance?

Visit the DNRC Floodplain Website

<https://dnrc.mt.gov/Water-Resources/Floodplains/>

# NEW Rule Change - Federal Flood Risk Management Standards (FFRMS)



PHOTO: The Sun River starts high in the Rocky Mountain Front Range.  
(By: S. Wingard near Gibson Reservoir - Sept. 2024)

**Community Leaders  
Floodplain Professionals  
Housing and State Agencies  
Local Builders, Lenders, and Realtors**

should be aware of this new standard and how it potentially impacts their community and residential construction projects in the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA).

**For more information on FFRMS New Rule Change and its impacts on HUD homebuyer programs, click the link:**

[ASFPM FAQ on HUD FFRMS Minimum Property Standards](#)

[HUD's Final Rule adopted April 23rd, 2024](#)

[Three Things to Know About New HUD FFRMS Rule](#) by Chad Berginnis, CFM (June 12, 2024).

## HUD's update to Federal Flood Risk Management Standards (FFRMS) and its Impact on Montana's FHA Homebuyers

**Montana Higher Flood Standards:** Montana joined the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) in 1972. Since then our state has had higher flood standards when it comes to developing in flood-prone areas compared to other states and federal standards. Montana's strong program is widely believed to be influenced by a thorough understanding of flood risk by the 1972 legislature members. Many of them experienced or were personally impacted by the 1964 flood event which wreaked havoc and wide-spread destruction in many Montana counties. Lives were lost, public safety and infrastructure was threatened or destroyed, and economic losses were high. It took years for many Montana communities to recover and others were forever changed. The 1972 decision-makers had first hand knowledge of what worked well and what information was needed to improve the program. Today, national decision makers are dealing with unprecedented storms and looking for ways to decrease the huge economic losses from these flood events, reduce infrastructure damages, and repetitive loss structures. They want to ensure the safety and well being of the public.

**For a list of local or state contacts, visit:** <https://dnrc.mt.gov/Water-Resources/Floodplains/Contacts>

**The new FFRMS standard:** Recently, HUD implemented an important update to its Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS), which directly impacts communities across the country. One of the key components of this new rule is a 2-foot freeboard requirement for new construction in Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHA) insured under Federal Housing Administration (FHA) mortgage insurance programs for single family homes. Specifically, the lowest floor of the residence must be at least two feet above base flood elevation (BFE). According to the Mortgage Bankers Association, 26% of the loan applications for newly constructed homes (slightly more than one in four) are financed using FHA insured mortgages.

**Barriers to Home Ownership:** If a community does not have a 2-foot freeboard requirement in its floodplain regulations, it severely limits homeownership opportunities for Federal Housing Administration (FHA) homebuyers as they may no longer be able to access HUD-financed homes in flood hazard areas. Many first-time, moderate income, rural development, and veteran homebuyers use HUD programs to federally-back their loans and buy homes. Widely-used FHA loans are a vital as an affordable option for borrowers who have difficulty meeting the qualification criteria set for private lenders. In today's housing market where housing is already in short supply, homebuyers are now faced with another barrier to home ownership and now need to meet the 2-foot freeboard requirement.

**The final rule** amends the Minimum Property Standards (MPS) when it comes to drainage and flood hazard exposure. The purpose is to decrease potential damage from floods, increase the safety and soundness of residential property, and provide for more resilient communities in hazard areas. Currently, it only applies to new construction and not substantial damage or improvements. The new rule will impact community floodplain programs who only have regulations that meet federal minimum standards and require 1-foot of freeboard. Those communities are under pressure to amend their regulations and require 2-foot of freeboard.

**Impact on Montana:** The effect of this ruling on states already experiencing a housing crisis remains to be determined. Given Montana's higher floodplain standards are already in effect - the 2-foot of freeboard will be a standard building criteria for new structures in the regulatory flood hazard areas (RFHA). FFRMS' impact will be less as many communities, builders, and lenders already comply. Pre-project consultations are highly encouraged with your local floodplain administrator, or the State of Montana DNRC Floodplain Program before building or developing.

# Streambank Restoration Project on Clark's Fork of the Yellowstone Protects Infrastructure for Carbon County and the Town of Fromberg



SITE VISIT

EXPERTISE



TECHNICAL  
REVIEWS

FLOODPLAIN  
PERMIT

ABOVE: Linda Winn (Left/End) and Mickey Navidomskis (Right/End) - DNRC Floodplain Engineers - accompany Fromberg Mayor Tim Nottingham (Center) and FEMA Region 8 personnel - Stephanie DiBetto and Harry Katz - on an inspection of the Streambank Restoration project on the Clark's Fork River of the Yellowstone. (Photo By: Shylea Wingard)

ABOVE: Critical infrastructure for Carbon County (access bridge) and the Town of Fromberg (well heads) will be better protected thanks to the joint efforts and heavy lifting of the Conservation District, WGM Engineering, the USDA-NRCS, and other local agencies and officials. The project is expected to be completed by September 30th, 2024. (Photo by: Shylea Wingard)

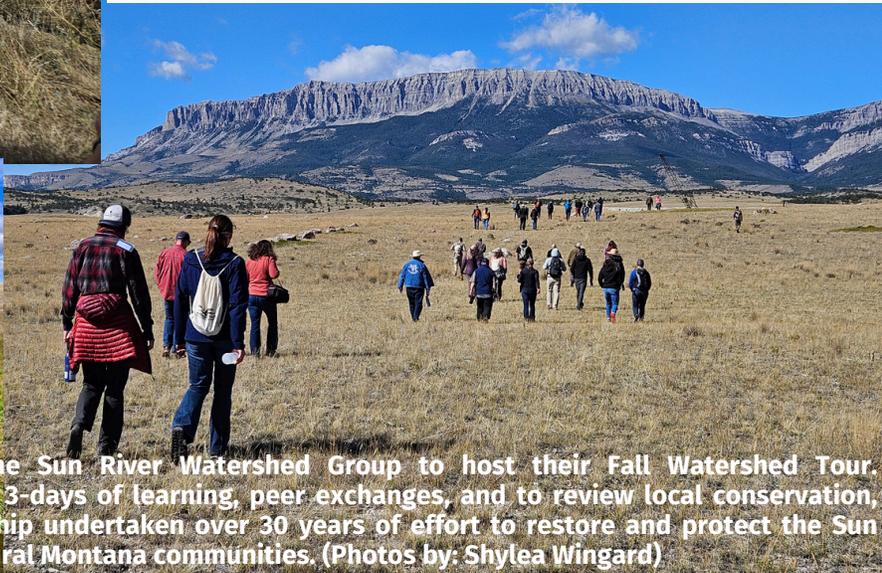


## WATERSHED TOUR

September 18-20

Local Solutions to Local Problems in the Sun River Watershed





MWCC partnered with the Sun River Watershed Group to host their Fall Watershed Tour. Participants gathered for 3-days of learning, peer exchanges, and to review local conservation, restoration, and partnership undertaken over 30 years of effort to restore and protect the Sun River Watershed and its rural Montana communities. (Photos by: Shylea Wingard)

# Understanding Montana Floodplain Regulations Better

## Basic Floodplain Regulations

Anyone proposing a project near a stream or river should check with their local floodplain administrator to determine if a permit is required for their proposed project. This requirement should be met whether floodplain maps exist for a parcel or not. If floodplain maps exist for an area, then the maps usually identify whether the proposed project or building site is located within the floodplain. For unmapped areas, floodplain administrators should make their decision about floodplain locations based on the best available data available. In some situations, local governments can require the property owner or developer to hire an engineer to determine the boundary of the 100-year floodplain. If it is determined that a building site or project is in the floodplain, the permitting process should be followed, with the local government ultimately deciding whether or not to issue a permit.

### Floodplain Permitting

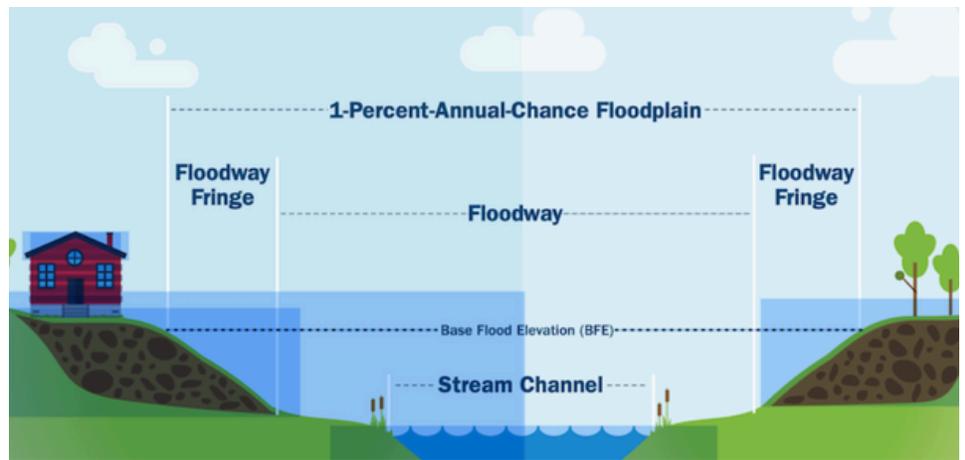
The floodplain permitting process considers several factors based on public health, safety, and welfare. To better understand how floodplain regulations apply to permitting and allowed uses, three terms should be explained (See Figure 1).

- **100-YEAR FLOODPLAIN** include the area adjoining a stream or river that has a one percent (1%) chance of flooding in any give year. This means a home located in the 100-year floodplain has a 26% chance of flooding during the life of a 30-year mortgage. The 100-year floodplain consists of both the floodway and the flood fringe. (100-year floodplain = floodway + flood fringe.)
- **FLOODWAYS** carry most of the flood water in a stream. Technically, floodways are the channel in a water course or drainage way, and those portions of the floodplain adjoining the channel that are reasonably required to carry and discharge the floodwater of any water course.
- **FLOOD FRINGE** is the portion of the 100-year floodplain outside of the floodway, including the flood storage and backwater areas subject to shallow water depths and low velocities.

**BASE FLOOD ELEVATION (BFE)** is the predicted water level for a 100-year flood.

**For more info click DNRC Floodplain**

<https://dnrc.mt.gov/Water-Resources/Floodplains/>



### Montana Regulations

Floodplain Regulations addresses both existing and new structures. Montana state law does not allow for new buildings or structures to be constructed in the floodway. However, in some cases, new buildings and structures may be allowed to be located outside of the floodway. As long as floodplain permit has been obtained and floodplain regulations and permitting conditions are followed. A joint stream permit application outlining the proposed project can be completed and submitted to each permitting agency. For a list of each agency's permit see: <https://dnrc.mt.gov/licenses-and-permits/stream-permitting>.

The floodplain permit is the last to be issued and requires that all other applicable permits and conditions be in place prior to the final decision on a floodplain permit application. There are time-specific public and adjacent landowner notices that are required for floodplain applications and could delay decisions by 30+ days. Be aware, that Montana communities (this includes a town, city or county) can adopt floodplain regulations that are stricter than state or federal regulations. These are called higher standards and can be incorporated and adopted within the floodplain ordinance.

There are several floodplain regulations that pertain to building a structure within the designated floodplain. It includes elevating structures so that the lowest floor of the building (including a basement) is 2 feet above the base flood elevation (BFE); and new structures cannot increase the base flood elevation of a 100-year flood. It is also important to know that there are additional requirements for septic systems. Septic system regulations are administered by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and local health departments. Septic systems and drain fields need to have at least 100 feet of separation from the floodplain. Contact your local floodplain administrator for more information on floodplain application, permits and regulations, <https://dnrc.mt.gov/Water-Resources/Floodplains/Contacts>



July 2024



**Download**

**The Montana Flood After Fire Guidebook was updated July 2024**

**- CLICK To Download -**



## FEMA

Sept. 12, 2024  
R8-24-NR-024  
FEMA Region 8 News Desk: (303) 235-4908  
[Fema-r8newsdesk@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:Fema-r8newsdesk@fema.dhs.gov)

## News Release

### Summer Rains Threaten Burn Scar Areas and Pose Flash Flood Threat, Be Prepared and Consider Buying Flood Insurance

DENVER – Recent years have brought many wildfires to the West. Beyond the damage caused and the challenges in battling them, fires often leave a hidden legacy – flash floods and mudflows. Wildfires leave the ground charred and in diminished capacity to absorb water. This creates a flash flooding potential for years to come, even in areas that rarely experienced flooding in the past. Sometimes these flash floods can pick up ash and large debris, that are highly destructive.

It's important to be aware of your situation and to know if you live near a burn scar area. A small amount of rain can quickly create a flash flooding. Make sure you have a solid evacuation plan and monitor changing weather conditions via the National Weather Service or local media outlets. You also should have important documents in a safe and easy to access place should you be forced to evacuate.

Unlike many causes of damage, flooding and mudflows are generally not covered by a homeowners' policy. Floods are the most common and expensive natural disaster in the U.S. Just an inch of water in an average-sized home can cause \$25,000 in damage. A National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) policy protects against such losses and can ensure that a flood doesn't bring financial ruin.

Buyers should be aware of the 30-day waiting period for an NFIP policy to go into effect. It is important to purchase a policy now to protect your property against the continuing threat of flooding. You can usually purchase flood insurance from your current agent. If that isn't possible, NFIP representatives can help you find one.

As with any insurance, be sure to talk with your agent about the specifics of your policy. Find out more about your risk and flood insurance at [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov). To purchase flood insurance or to find an agent, call 1-800-427-4661.

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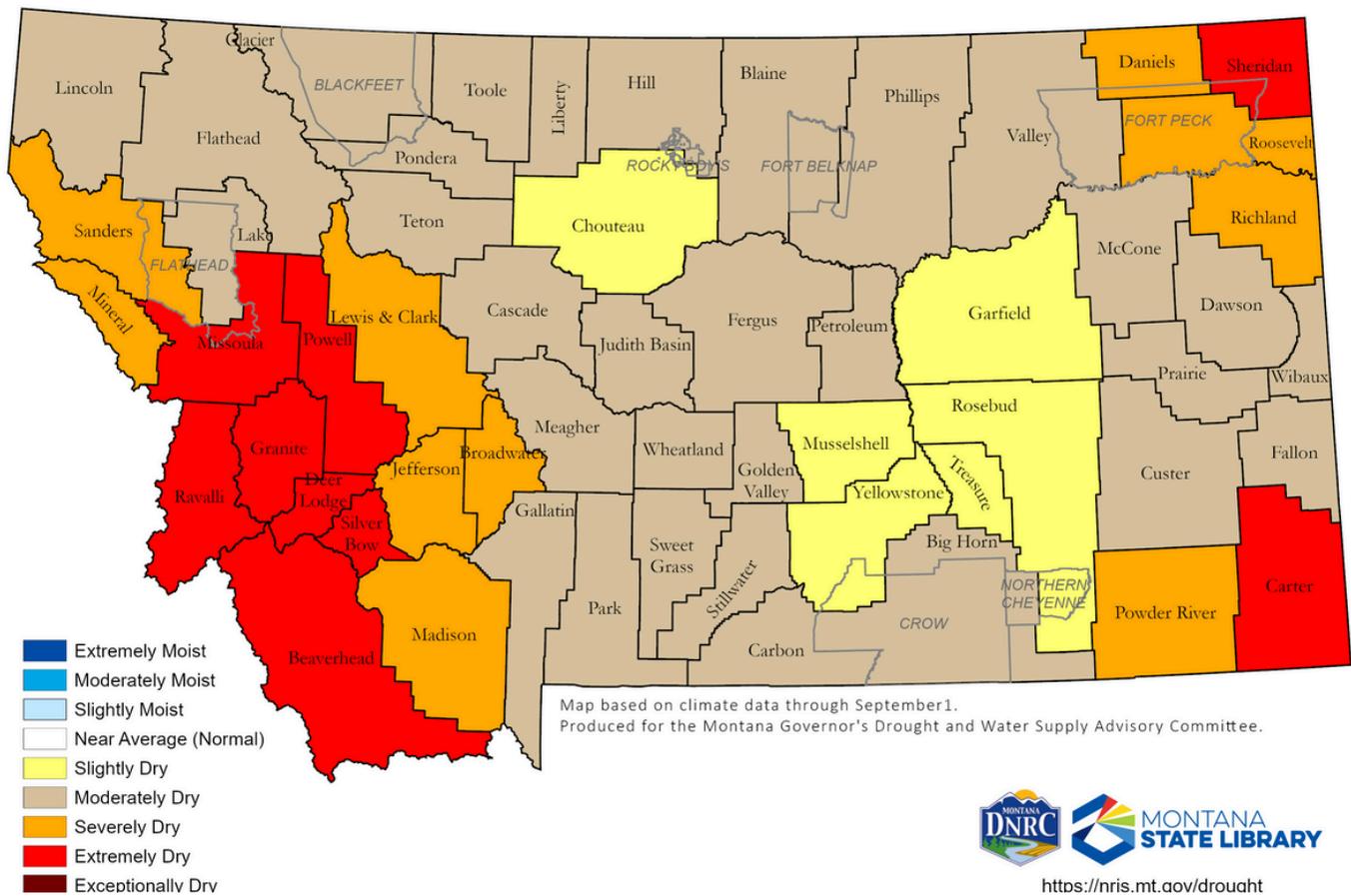
*FEMA's mission is helping people before, during, and after disasters.*

Follow us on twitter at <https://twitter.com/femaregion8>

Learn more at [fema.gov/region8](http://fema.gov/region8)

September 2024 1

## Montana Drought Status by County - September 7, 2024



**For more information regarding drought conditions in Montana, visit: <https://drought.mt.gov/>**

## September is National Preparedness Month

As colder weather approaches, September is a good time to prepare for winter conditions in Montana. Snow tires are put on the car, garden hoses are drained, and the furnace is checked or wood is cut and stored. September is also National Preparedness Month and is a good time to raise community and property owner awareness on the importance of being prepared for disasters - especially flooding - whether from ice jams, flood after fire, or rapid snow melt. Awareness is the first step, however, action is the key.

***Low flood risk doesn't mean no risk. Floods can happen anywhere.***

The interactive website, **Reduce Flood Risk**, was developed by ASFPM in 2022 with financial support by FEMA. It is a free tool that helps property owners take control of their flood risk and make informed decisions about their property and flood safety. The site provides users with over 45 strategies to help mitigate flood risk. It offers detailed information, guidance, photos and links to additional resources so property owners, renters, and community officials can make informed decisions.

Users can go to [ReduceFloodRisk.org](https://www.reducefloodrisk.org) and answer a series of five short questions to receive a detailed list of mitigation options recommended to reduce flood risk specific to their property type. Results can be filtered and sorted by key attributes, costs, and level of maintenance, making it easier for users to find solutions that fit user needs and budget. The site also offers other helpful resources on flood insurance, financial assistance, and other contacts. No accounts or personal information is required.

**For more information, visit: <https://www.reducefloodrisk.org/>**

## Reduce Flood Risk

# Montana - Big Sky | Big Rivers

*"Out here on the land, there is beautiful harmony and peace in all things"*



ABOVE: 1) The Big Hole River near "The Hogsback" by Glen, MT (Photo: S. Wingard). 2) The Highway outside of Three Forks, MT near Lewis and Clark Caverns and the Jefferson River. (Photo: S Wingard). 3) The Sun River shows off its fall colors. (Photo: S. Wingard). 4) Muddy Creek Restoration stream bank restoration project near Vaughn, MT (Photo: S. Wingard). 5) The Sun River backcountry outside of Augusta, MT (Photo by: S. Wingard) 6) "A high projecting spur" referenced in Lewis' Journal on August 5th, 1805 as the expedition explored the Big Hole River. (Photo by: S. Wingard).



# NEWS From the Floodplain



## Montana FPA Updates

Please report personnel updates to Traci Sears or Shylea Wingard

### Welcome

- Bob Stump - Town of Sheridan - Mayor/FPA
- Brian Bullock - City of Boulder - City Administrator/FPA
- Gary Poore - Cascade County - Interim Planning Director/FPA
- Kamely Harkins - Town of Ekalaka - Clerk/Treasurer/FPA
- Lindsey Kimball - Treasure County - FPA
- Matt Greenmore - Town of Twin Bridges - Acting Mayor / FPA
- Michelle Schriock - Madison County - Planner I

### Goodbye / Well Wishes

- Angie Stahl - Treasure County - FPA
- Megan McCauley- City of Boulder - City Admin/FPA
- Kristi Millhouse - Town of Twin Bridges - Clerk/FPA

## Congrats on your CFM certification

Please let Traci or Shylea know if you have received your CFM certification



Please let us know if you are planning to take your CFM or if you want to take Floodplain Bootcamp in January to prepare.

## DNRC Regional Engineers Rock It

YOU ROCK!



**Peri Turk, Helena Regional Engineer,** passed her Professional Engineer (PE) Exam and is now a licensed engineer!

**Ryan Murphy, Lewistown Regional Engineer,** received his master's degree in engineering to add to his growing list of credentials!

## USGS PUBLISHES 2022 YELLOWSTONE RIVER FACT SHEET

The USGS fact sheet for the 2022 Yellowstone River flood has been published online here:

<https://pubs.usgs.gov/fs/2024/3035/fs20243035.pdf> [pubs.usgs.gov]

**ABSTRACT:** Extraordinary floods surged down the Yellowstone River and its tributaries in northwestern Wyoming and south-central Montana on June 13-15, 2022. During the flood the U.S. Geological Survey staff worked to maintain real-time data from streamgages by making field measurements of streamflow and repairing damaged equipment while communicating the latest streamflow information with the public and with local, State, and Federal agencies. After the flood, staff surveyed high-water marks, computed peak stream flow at streamgages unreachable during the flood, and updated flood-frequency estimates for streamgages in the Upper Yellowstone River Basin. Streamflows were the highest on record at 17 streamgages in the Upper Yellowstone River Basin. River stages were highest on record at most of those stream gages. The flood-related data and analyses are summarized in this fact sheet.



### June 2022 Floods in the Upper Yellowstone River Basin

Fact Sheet 2024-3035

Prepared in cooperation with the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation and the Federal Emergency Management Agency

By: Katherine J. Chase, DeAnn Dutton, William B. Hamilton, Seth A. Siefken, Cassidy Vander Voort, and Aroscott Whiteman

<https://doi.org/10.3133/fs20243035>

For additional information, contact:

Director, Wyoming-Montana Water Science Center  
U.S. Geological Survey  
3162 Bozeman Avenue  
Helena, MT 59601

## MT Disaster and Emergency Services (DES) - NEEDS YOUR INPUT



MT DES developed a voluntary survey to gather emergency management training and exercise needs for the state of Montana. It is not limited to emergency managers- **all partners and stakeholders are welcome to complete the survey.**

The first part of the survey is geared toward individual training needs. If you coordinate training or exercises at the agency or jurisdiction level. The second part of the survey has some general questions for emergency management training and exercise needs at a higher level.

Note that you cannot save the survey- it must be submitted or your answers will not be recorded.

Please use, survey link: <https://forms.office.com/g/UX85V7pEi6>

## SAVE THE DATES



**BOOTCAMP**  
JUST AHEAD

**Basic Floodplain Training Series**

Starts January 10th, 2025

Virtual training and CFM exam preparation will be offered every Friday at 9am

Watch for an email or contact Shylea for more info / Zoom invite

**DNRC Floodplain RESOURCE SEMINAR**

December 1-3rd, 2024

**SAVE THE DATE**

**More information to come**

**DES** Montana Disaster & Emergency Services

**L0102**

**FEMA Science of Disaster**

Part of FEMA Basic Academy

**December 3rd-5th, 2024**

**Fort Harrison, Helena MT**

Email: [Betsy.Ross@mt.gov](mailto:Betsy.Ross@mt.gov) to attend

**Montana Association of Planners!**

Annual Conference  
October 7-9th, 2024  
Lewistown, MT  
<https://mtplanners.org/>

2025 ASFPM Annual Conference

*Call for Abstracts*

ASFPMconference.org

### Call for Abstracts: 2025 ASFPM Conference

The countdown to the 2025 Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) Annual Conference has begun. ASFPM is seeking flood-risk management professionals willing to share their expertise and experience. Whether you have an innovative approach, a groundbreaking study, or an inspirational success story, this is your chance to present at the flood conference.

ASFPM is calling on you to help shape the conversation in New Orleans — where the lessons are deep and the impact profound.

Submit your abstract today for an event that promises to be as extraordinary as the city hosting it. We are accepting abstracts for both 30-minute sessions and immersive 2-4 hour workshops on a broad range of floodplain management topics.

### Submit your abstract by Oct. 31

Make plans to come to the Big Easy, May 18-22, 2025.  
Visit [ASFPMconference.org](https://ASFPMconference.org)

### FEMA Establishes National Disaster & Emergency Management University

FEMA is expanding the Emergency Management Institute (EMI) into a newly created university that will deliver an expanded curriculum to help emergency managers continue to build capacity today to meet the hazards of tomorrow.

The National Disaster & Emergency Management University (NDEMU), will offer comprehensive education and training programs spanning various disciplines within disaster and emergency management across the entirety of an emergency manager's career, closing an identified gap in mid- and advanced career professional development that exists between EMI's traditional technical training and the theoretical-based education programs.

**For More Information, click**  
<https://training.fema.gov/>



### Need Training for CFM Exam? [Register for ASFPM Workshop](#)

**November 5th, 2024**  
**11 am - 1:00 pm (ET)**

[CLICK HERE](#)

Interested in becoming a Certified Floodplain Manager, but need help studying? Not sure where to start? ASFPM hosts quarterly workshops for those interested in learning more about the CFM certification. During the live virtual workshop, you'll be able to learn, ask questions and gain insights about preparing for the exam.

**NFIP 101: Intro to Floodplain Management**

Learn the fundamentals of floodplain management with this free self-paced course developed by FEMA. Perfect for new local floodplain administrators or those looking for a refresher. CECS available with full course completion.

[Learn More](#)

[NFIP101 \(floods.org\)](https://www.floods.org)

### Web-based Training for Floodplain Administrators

- Want to learn floodplain management basics?
- Don't have time to attend a 4-day course?
- Want to brush up on 1 or 2 floodplain topics?

**Go To: NFIP 101**  
<https://www.floods.org/training-center/online-training/asfpm-on-demand-learning/nfip101/>

# MONTANA HIGHGROUND NEWSLETTER

Your source for floodplain regulations and permitting information, workshop and training events, FEMA guidance, administrative



A serene fall morning on the Sun River near Simms, Montana. (Photo By: S. Wingard - Sept. 24)

## QUESTIONS? Need Assistance? Contact...



Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation  
**FLOODPLAIN PROGRAM**  
[www.floodplain.mt.gov](http://www.floodplain.mt.gov)

Updated 09/27/2024

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Federal Emergency Management Agency  
 Flood Maps  
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<https://dnrc.mt.gov/Water-Resources/Floodplains/News>

The Montana Highground Newsletter is a quarterly publication of the DNRC Floodplain Community Assistance Program (CAP).

The Montana Highground Newsletter welcomes your articles, information, ideas, projects, and photos.

Please email your contributions to: [shylea.wingard@mt.gov](mailto:shylea.wingard@mt.gov)

Electronic distribution is made via email and circulated to over 600 recipients. To be added to the distribution list or to submit an article or information for publication, please contact:

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