

# MONTANA HIGHGROUND

March 2019



Photo Credit: Arin Peters  
Craig, MT

## CONTENTS

Quick Guide to Emergency Kits	3
AMFM CRS Workshop	4
Meet the National Weather Service	4
MACo Midwinter Conference	5
Announcements	6
DNRC Resource Seminar	7
Trainings and Upcoming Meetings	8
DNRC Floodplain Contacts	9

Spring is Here!



## ICE JAMS

Spring flooding and ice jams become a concern as temperatures start to rise.

See more on Page 3

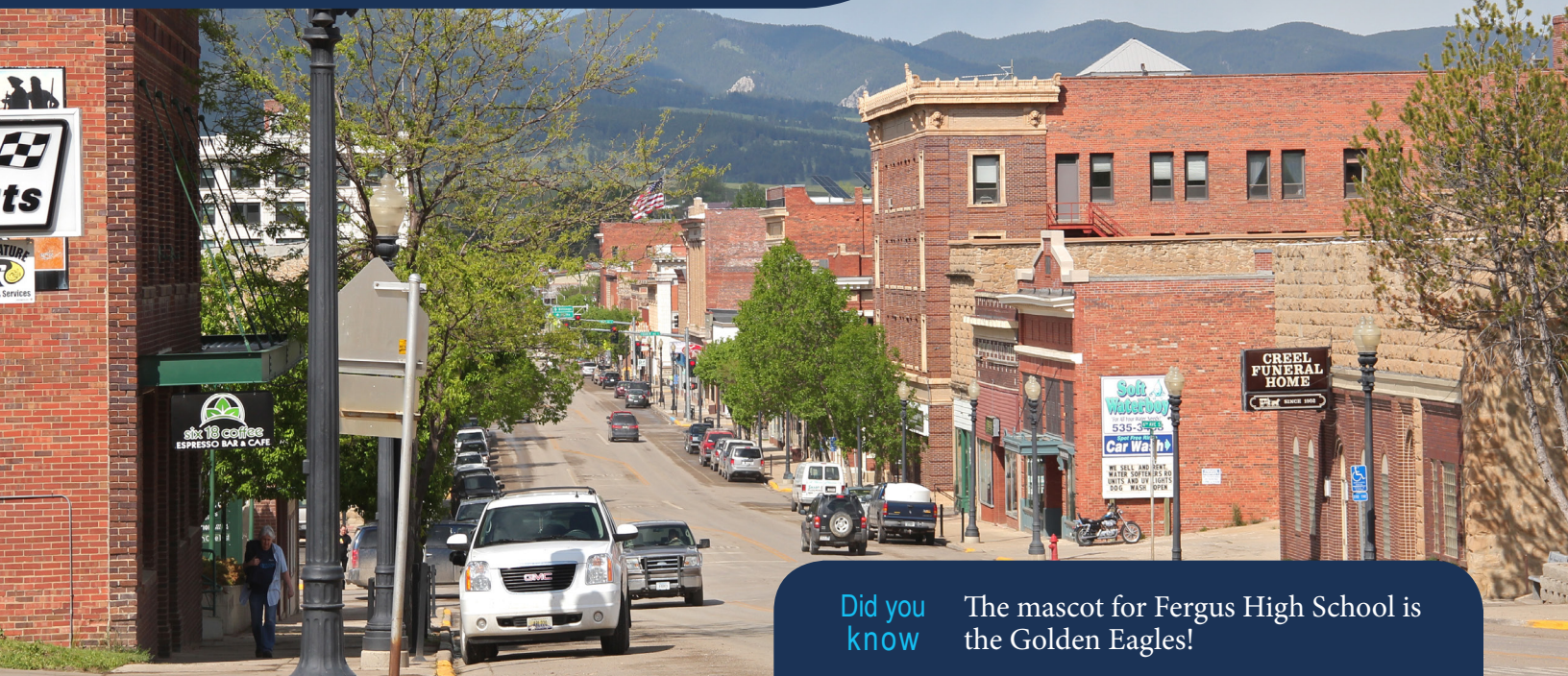
## AMFM RECAP

Take a quick look back at some of the highlights from the 20th Annual conference

Page 2

# 2019 AMFM CONFERENCE

See you in 2020!



**Did you know** The mascot for Fergus High School is the Golden Eagles!

## 20TH ANNUAL ASSOCIATION OF MONTANA FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS

The 20th Annual AMFM Conference in Lewistown March 11-14 was a tremendous success! Thank you to all the presenters, attendees, volunteers and sponsors. The pre-conference started off with a Community Rating System Workshop (see page 4) and the Certified Floodplain Managers Review and Exam.

Tuesday, March 12, kicked off the conference with messages from both Senator Daines and Senator Tester as well as Representative Gianforte. Highlights from the first day include a technical assistance presentation by Larry Schock and Worby McNamee, a dam presentation by Ben Fennelly, and the DNRC Awards presented by Traci Sears.

Wednesday, March 13 started off with looking into flood claims and what's covered. Alberta, Canada Environment and Parks presented on Flood Hazard Mapping, and the morning ended with a presentation from Disaster & Emergency Services going over the FEMA Mitigation opportunities. Wednesday closed with a presentation by Chairperson Pam Vosen discussing a stream restoration project from Fergus County.

The last day of the conference was filled with presentations from private contractors; Pioneer Technical Services, Michael Baker, and WGM Group closed out the conference.

All the presentations from the AMFM conference will be posted on the DNRC Floodplain website, check [floodplain.mt.gov](http://floodplain.mt.gov) for updates and information.



# ICE JAM THREAT AND SPRING FLOODING PREPARADNESS

Worby McNamee, Montana DNRC and Arin Peters National Weather Service

As the colder months of winter make way to the warmer temperatures of spring, flooding in many area across the state becomes a bigger and bigger concern.

## POTENTIAL FOR ICE JAMS

The state of Montana experiences the highest number of reported ice jams in the continental US, with most occurring in February and March, DNRC Director John Tubbs advises.

The colder temperatures the state experienced in February has been pushed aside by warmer temperatures in mid to late March. This warming can cause large pieces of ice to break up on rivers and streams sending them downstream.

Ice jams are especially dangerous because they can occur without much warning. More than 80 percent of the associated flooding with ice jams occurs in Montana between January and Match.

## NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

Arin Peters with the National Weather Service (NWS) Great Falls office cautions residents that live along riverways that are prone to ice jams, “stay alert, keep aware of your surroundings and the warming temperatures.”

If residents in an area experience an ice jam keep these tips in mind:

1. Stay clear of the area, flood waters can rise quickly.
2. Report ice jam and flooding to local authorities.
3. Never walk on or out onto unstable river ice.

## BE PREPARED!

As ice jams and spring flooding become a bigger and bigger threat, take action and be prepared!

1. Purchase flood insurance. In most cases flood insurance must be purchased 30 days before a flooding event.
2. Have a preplanned emergency evacuation route.
3. Keep extra drinking water on hand. Flooding can compromise local water systems.
4. Be ready to transport valuables and/or where practical elevate them.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON  
FLOOD INSURANCE VISIT  
[WWW.FLOODSMART.GOV](http://WWW.FLOODSMART.GOV)

## EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT QUICK GUIDE AND SUGGESTIONS

Here are a few suggested items to make your own emergency supply kit as well as some helpful hints.

1. Water, one gallon per person, per day. Three days' worth is suggested.
2. Food, non-perishable
3. Battery-powered or hand crank radio. Extra batteries.
4. Flashlight and extra batteries.
5. First aid kit.
6. Local maps.
7. Dust mask and duct tape.
8. Plastic bags.
9. Hand sanitizer.
10. Multi-tool.

For more information on emergency supply kits, to learn more about simple steps to prepare for emergencies and much much more, visit the website [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)



# COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM AMFM PRESENTATION

Constance Lake from ISO's Community Hazard Mitigation section held a four hour, Community Rating System (CRS) preconference workshop on Monday March 11. With the help of Missoula County Floodplain Administrator, Todd Kliez, Constance took workshop attendees through various aspects of the CRS program. CRS communities such as Cascade County and Gallatin County were among the communities to learn more about obtaining points for various flood risk activities and outreach. Discussions about various community activities, questions about CRS updates and nationwide CRS activity examples were just some of the highlights from the workshop. If your community has any questions about the CRS program or interested in joining, please contact Constance Lake at ISO via email [clake@iso.com](mailto:clake@iso.com) or call her at 307-258-5661.



## NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE MEET AND GREET

Get to know National Weather Service (NWS) team members from around the state. This edition highlights Brandon Bigelbach from the NWS Glasgow office. If you live in the Glasgow area and have a weather question for him email him at [brandon.bigelbach@noaa.gov](mailto:brandon.bigelbach@noaa.gov).



**Title:** General Forecaster

**Favorite Part of the Job:** Being in service to the American people and keeping people safe from various weather hazards.

**Favorite aspect of living in Glasgow:** The nice two-and-a-half minute commute, also the quiet living and generous community that is the City of Glasgow.

**Favorite weather term:** Quasi-geostrophic

**Sports Team:** Minnesota Wild! I live and breathe hockey!





# MONTANA ASSOCIATIONS OF COUNTIES MIDWINTER CONFERENCE

The Montana Association of Counties Midwinter Conference took place in Helena February 11th-14th. The four-day event kicked off with commissioners representing 48 counties walking through the various vendor booths. Tuesday morning was dedicated to various committee meetings and Governor Bullock spoke to the commissioners at lunch. Tuesday afternoon was dedicated to county-specific topics, ranging from urban county meetings to hard rock mining county meetings. Wednesday started off with a discussion from Lt. Governor Cooney about the 2020 census. Rounding out the Wednesday sessions were various presentations put on by State agencies, such as Montana Department of Environmental Quality and Montana Department of Justice. The final day of the conference allowed the commissioners to each lunch and meet with Legislators at the Capitol.

The MACo Annual Conference which is scheduled for September 22-26, 2019 will be held at the Heritage Inn, Great Falls.



For more information about MACo events, county information, or other events pertinent to counties go to the MACO website: [www.mtcounties.org](http://www.mtcounties.org).



# CONGRATULATIONS!

## Lifetime Achievement Award CHARITY FECHTER

We are pleased to announce that Charity Fechter, Floodplain Administrator for Madison County won the Lifetime Achievement Award presented by Traci Sears at the 20th Annual AMFM Conference in Lewistown. Thank you to Charity for all her hard work over the years!

## Floodplain Administrator of The Year KATHY MAUDRONE

We are pleased to announce that Kathy Maudrone, Floodplain Administrator for Sanders County won the Floodplain Administrator of the Year Award presented by Traci Sears at the 20th Annual AMFM Conference in Lewistown. Thank you to Kathy for all her continued hard work.



# Welcome!

## Katie Shank FLOOD HAZARD GIS SPECIALIST

We are pleased to announce that Katie Shank has joined the State Floodplain office in Helena as our Flood Hazard GIS Specialist. Katie works on flood hazard mapping to FEMA standards as part of the floodplain mapping team. Call Katie at 406-444-6664 or email her at [katherine.shank@mt.gov](mailto:katherine.shank@mt.gov)



# 2019 RESOURCE SEMINAR

## SAVE THE DATE

JOIN  
US IN

Fort Peck

SEPT  
9-13

Fort Peck Interpretive Center and Museum  
157 Yellowstone Road, Fort Peck MT, 59223



Visit [floodplain.mt.gov](http://floodplain.mt.gov) for updates on registration and workshop details

## TRAININGS AND MEETINGS



### MILES CITY FLOOD AWARENESS

Tuesday April 16, 2019

Miles City Flood Awareness Day will be held at the Miles City Town and Country Club at South 4th Street & Eagle Drive. Please contact Samantha Malenovsky at [smalenovsky@milescity-mt.org](mailto:smalenovsky@milescity-mt.org) for details



### 2019 MONTANA DNRC RESOURCE SEMINAR

September 9-13, 2019

The 2019 Montana DNRC Floodplain Resource Seminar will be held at the Fort Peck Interpretive Center and Museum. For more details, agenda and registration please visit [www.floodplain.mt.gov](http://www.floodplain.mt.gov)



## UPCOMING CFM EXAM DATES



DATE: SEPTEMBER 9-13 | TIME: TBD

Montana DNRC Resource Seminar

Please email Worby McNamee at [worby.mcnamee@mt.gov](mailto:worby.mcnamee@mt.gov) for updates





## 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](mailto:worby.mcnamee@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.

Photo Credit: Arin Peters

[ALWAYS REMEMBER  
TURN AROUND, DON'T DROWN!](#)

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[www.floodplain.mt.gov](http://www.floodplain.mt.gov)