



State Floodplain Program 2018 Flood Preparedness Report

This document is prepared by the DNRC Floodplain Program.
Its intent is to be updated and distributed weekly throughout the 2018 flood season.

Current Conditions and Forecasts (4/19)

1. What's happening now
 - Wildfire Burn Areas
 - i. Risk will depend on spring snowmelt and possible spring rains.
 - ii. Outreach
 1. Since fall 2017, DNRC has been disseminating information about the risk of flood after wildfire to communities.
 2. Flood after wildfires information added to DNRC Floodplain Website with a link to FEMA's Flood After Fire Toolkit.
 3. DNRC is contacting fire-affected communities in anticipation of possible spring flooding. NWS has been in contact with these communities.
 4. Information about outreach and risk given to communities via email prior to the 4/6/18 FPA call.
 5. Information being prepared on the upcoming Floodplain newsletter.
 - Erosion
 - i. Erosion issues likely on the Yellowstone and Clarks Fork River (Carbon and Yellowstone Counties) during spring runoff.
 - ii. DNRC has started outreach efforts to possible affected communities.
 - Spring Runoff
 - i. Risk of flood from spring runoff is a statewide concern.
 - ii. Potential for major flooding around Glasgow and Missoula and on the Sun River.
 - iii. Have record high snowpack in many parts of the state.
 - iv. Important to watch how quickly temperatures rise (strings of days in the 80s) and if we see spring rains on top of runoff.
 - v. NWS is predicting a cooler and wetter-than-average spring in most of Montana.
 - vi. Flooding reported in Beaverhead County and the Town of Lima. Concerns about the potential of additional flooding this spring due to heavy snowpack.

- vii. Some area across the state are beginning to experience running water over roads and localized flooding.
 - viii. Winter Storm Watch for several areas in northwestern, southwestern, and central Montana. 6-10 inches of snow, a foot or more possible over the higher hills.
 - ix. Small stream flood warnings for Phillips and Western Valley Counties.
 - x. **Problematic flooding for farmers along the High-line**
 - xi. **Flooding in Pondera, Hill, Blaine, Valley, Toole, Liberty, Petroleum, and Fort Belknap Indian Reservation**
 - Reservoir Storage and Releases
 - i. US Army Corps of Engineers
 - ii. US Bureau of Reclamations
 - iii. State Water Projects Bureau
2. Forecasts and resources
- DNRC Floodplain Website: <http://floodplain.mt.gov/disaster-and-recovery>
 - i. Gives information and resources for the public and community officials about flood response and recovery in Montana.
 - NWS Flood Forecast and Observations: <http://water.weather.gov>
 - i. Gives information about flood forecasts at stream gauge locations. Select Montana in the drop-down menu on the right side of the page to see statewide information.
 - NWS Flood Outlook Webinars/Calls
 - i. East of the divide: NWS currently holds weekly flood outlook calls. Contact Megan Syner if you are interested in participating in these calls (megan.syner@noaa.gov).
 - ii. West of the divide: NWS currently holds periodic flood/weather outlook calls. Contact Leeann Allegretto if you are interested in participating in these calls (leeann.allegretto@noaa.gov).
 - NWS Forecast Lines: Call to get flood and/or weather forecasts specific to your area.
 - i. Billings Weather Service (24-hour): 406-652-0851
 - ii. Glasgow Weather Service (24-hour): 406-228-4042
 - iii. Great Falls Weather Service: 406-453-2081
 - iv. Missoula Weather Service (24-hour): 406-329-4840
 - NRCS Snow Survey Current Conditions Maps: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/mt/snow/products/NRCSEPRD1137464/>
 - Daily State Emergency Coordination Center Situation Reports: <http://readyandsafe.mt.gov/Home/Articles/current-secc-situation-report>
 - Governor's Current Executive Orders: <https://governor.mt.gov/Home/Governor/eo>
 - DNRC Wildfire Map: <http://gis.dnrc.mt.gov/apps/firemap/>

Agency/State/Federal Coordination

1. State Floodplain Program's role in flood coordination and response
 - Falls under ESF 5

- Coordination with all agencies
2. State Flood Readiness Meetings
 - 3/22: Kick-off meeting held. Discussion of incorporating other agencies for a more coordinated flood response. (Floodplain and Dam Safety Programs)
 - 3/29: Briefing with Director Tubbs about current conditions/forecasts and agency coordination.
 - 4/6: DNRC & DES Coordination and Training for Emergency Managers and Floodplain Administrators group meet to discuss upcoming calls and meetings.
 - 4/12: Kick-Off for DNRC/DES Ops Brief Call (Multi-Agency Coordination Group) (MACG)
 - i. These calls will be held between involved agencies weekly.
 - 4/18: DNRC/DES Multi-Agency Coordination Group
 3. Agency Meetings
 - Fall 2017: Met with US Forest Service and NWS about burn areas and flood concerns.
 - 2/1: MERF/Emergency Support Function (ESF) Workgroup Meeting
 - 3/9: Lower Milk River Flood Task Force Conference Call
 - 3/13: USACE Annual Flood Readiness Meeting (USACE, FEMA, DES, and DNRC)
 - 3/20: Presented at Governor's Drought and Water Supply Committee about flood outlook and DNRC's outreach efforts.
 - 3/28: Tribal Nations Flood Outreach Meeting (DNRC, NWS, and DES)
 - 4/3: Roles and Responsibilities During Flood Response (DNRC and DES)
 - 4/4: Preparedness 2018—In This Together Conference. DNRC presented at event.
 - 4/11: DNRC Flood Readiness Meeting
 4. Congressional/State Representative Contacts
 - Will provide updates upon request

Dam Safety Program

Public Outreach

1. Dam Safety Bulletin
 - 4/10: One Page Bulletin in development
 - i. Mailing to all the non-federal dam owners and Water Users Associations
 - ii. Coordinating with State Water Projects
 - iii. Sending document out to print at the end of this week
 - iv. Should be mailed out next week
 - 4/17: Mailing to all non-federal dam owners and Water Users Associations are being sent out today.

Floodplain Programmatic Activities

Public Outreach

1. Press Releases/Media Contact
 - 1/18: Ice Jam Press Release
 - i. Messages included ice jam awareness, how to prepare home/family, importance of flood insurance (30-day waiting period).
 - ii. Picked up by Helena KTVH.
 - 2/21 Ice Jam Press Release (Eastern Montana)
 - i. Messages included ice jam threat growing, how to prepare home/family, importance of flood insurance (30-day waiting period).
 - ii. Picked up by Billings Gazette, Helena IR, Missoulian, Great Falls Tribune, Yellowstone Public Radio, Billings Color 8 News, Helena KTVH.
2. Television PSA with Lieutenant Governor Cooney (30 seconds)
 - 3/20: Developed and approved script.
 - i. Messages included increased flood risk this spring, consider flood insurance (30-day waiting period), and contact your Emergency Manager for more info.
 - 3/22: Recorded PSA with Lieutenant Governor Cooney with KTVH.
 - 3/27: Received, reviewed, and approved PSA from KTVH.
 - April: Commercial is running in all seven major Montana markets during primetime (for a two-week period).
3. PIO Activities
 - Assisting with PSA Commercial. John provided coordination, including contacting media outlets and securing spokesperson.
 - Assisting with the upcoming digital campaign, contacting outlets and setting up meetings.
 - Working on coordination with key social media contacts.
 - Working with DNRC Floodplain on communications needs
4. Social Media
 - Working on coordination with key social media contacts
 - 4/6: NWS and worked with DRNC on a series of flood videos for social media. The first one on flood insurance was just released.
5. Other Advertising
 - 3/27: Meet with Helena IR to develop digital ads.
 - 3/30: Creatives sent to Helena IR. Awaiting contract information confirmation of distribution.
 - 4/11: Ads started running on April 1st
 - 4/18: Ads running until the end of May

Community Preparedness

1. Flood Coordination Calls for Floodplain Administrators

- 3/23: Invited Floodplain Administrators to Kick-Off Call on 3/26
 - i. Bi-weekly, or weekly, as needed
 - 3/30: Flood Coordination Call #1 was held. Also emailed out save-the-date for the 4/13 call.
 - Working with FEMA on Floodplain Administrators Duties Before the Flood Document
 - Working on Substantial Damage training/webinar for floodplain administrators
 - Working with FEMA on information for 4/13 calls and handouts
 - 4/13: Flood Coordination Call #2 was held. FPA Duties Before the Flood.
 - 4/18: Email sent to all FPAs about upcoming Call #3 on April 27th.
2. Website for Flood Coordination
- 3/23: Began Adobe Connect website development.
 - 3/30: Transitioning away from Adobe Connect website. Instead creating a specific page on DNRC's website.
 - 4/8: Updated mapping information due to problems with FEMA link
 - 4/17: DNRC provided comments and recommendations to DES proposed All-Hazards Webpage
3. DNRC Highground Newsletter
- Fall 2017: Article on flood after wildfire
 - 4/11: Draft completed, sent final draft out for review.
 - 4/18: Floodplain Newsletter was distributed via email and posted on DNRC website.
4. Email Correspondence to Floodplain Administrators
- 8/3/17: Increased Flood Risk in Wildfire Areas
 - 9/13/17: Rainfall and Potential Flash Flooding in Wildfire Areas
 - 1/2: Ice Jam Flooding Possible
 - 2/21: Ice Jam and Spring Flood Outlook
 - 3/23: Spring Flood Update and Flood Coordination Calls Kick Off
 - 3/30: Save the date for 4/13 Flood Coordination Call
 - 4/5: Information to specific wildfire impacted communities
 - 4/16: Information sent to FPAs concerning Joint Permit Application updates
5. Meetings and Trainings
- Past efforts
 - i. 3/8: Spring Flood Outlook presentation at Assoc. of MT Floodplain Managers Conference April 2018.
 - ii. 4/4: Met with Town of Fromberg Mayor concerning erosion and flood issues.
 - iii. 4/2: Conference call with Musselshell Commissioners, Attorney, and Emergency folks on mitigation projects, emergency permitting, and community compliance.
 - iv. 4/2: Conference call with Garfield County Commissioners to discuss participation in the NFIP (in anticipation of flooding this spring).
 - v. 4/4: Met with Petroleum County about participation in the NFIP (in anticipation of flooding this spring).

vi. **4/20: Floodplain Presentation at Missoula Emergency Manager Training**

- Future efforts
 - i. May 17, 2018: Emergency Coordinators meeting at DES – Floodplain briefing
 - ii. May 2018: Flood Response/Recovery Training for Floodplain Administrators. Topics should include documenting flood damage, using FEMA’s new Substantial Damage Estimator Tool.

Flood Response and Recovery

1. Disaster Declarations
 - Local
 - i. March: Broadwater County
 - ii. March: Fort Belknap
 - iii. 3/26: Savage Ice Jam
 - iv. 3/30: Flooding in Beaverhead and the Town of Lima
 - v. **4/12: Flooding in Pondera, Hill, Blaine, Valley, Toole, Liberty, and Petroleum**
 - State
 - i. Executive Order for Winter Storm Emergency EO-05-2018
 - ii. **State of Emergency due to flooding on the Milk River Basin and Marias River**
 - Federal
 - i. No requests at this time
2. Media Coverage
 - Working on coordination efforts with NWS, DNRC, and DES
3. Data Collection (aerial photography, high water marks, peak discharge estimates, etc.)
 - Working on state/federal agency coordination and cooperation agreements if needed.
 - **Working on education and agency coordination for data collection resources**
4. Insurance Issues/Information
 - Coordinating with FEMA acquiring historic claims and on Substantial Damage Information
 - Coordinating with Montana Insurance Commissioner on flood insurance website and information
5. Emergency Permitting and Technical Assistance
6. Individual Assistance/Public Assistance Activity
 - With no requests from the governor for FEMA assistance, there is no activity at this time.
7. Substantial Damage Reports
 - Currently, the only damage reported is from Broadwater County – damage to unmapped roads and a few residents.