Montana Department of Natural Resources (DNRC) Floodplain Management Program

Ward’s Science Storm Water Floodplain Simulator (Simulator)

Loan Information

9/2010 by Mary Guokas

The Ward’s Science Floodplain Simulator is available to communities, non-profits, other agencies for loan at no cost, except for expenses that may be associated with transporting the simulator. To see the simulator in action, watch 5-minute video from this link:


Size and Weight

- Size of simulator: 46 ¾” long x 16 ½” Wide x 9” High
- Approximate size with case: 48” long x 18” wide x 15” tall.
- Approximate weight in case: 70-80 pounds, this includes the dolly which is permanently affixed to the case. The dolly part of the case makes for easy transport, outside of loading and unloading the case in a vehicle.

Transporting

- Two people are needed to load and unload simulator from vehicle and from case.
- Generally a large SUV or pick-up truck is needed to transport the simulator.
- Securing transportation of the simulator is the responsibility of the borrower; however the Montana DNRC floodplain staff may be available to help find transportation or transport.

Site Considerations

- No electricity is needed for the Simulator. It can be used outdoors, on a nice day.
- Electricity would be needed for optional use of “live” Excel-generated hydrographs via laptop or laptop and LCD projector.

Prepare for Simulator Use

- GREAT information is contained in the “User’s Guide”, including activities and background information. A hardcopy of the “User’s Guide” and “Student Handout” is included in the loan. Electronic copies can be sent, upon request. Allow a day (really!) of prep time to review the “User’s Guide” acquainted yourself with activity you’ll be conducting and create copies of needed handouts. I frequently use a modification of Activity 3, “Modeling Flood Risk Factors”.
- For the sake of consistency, “Floodway” and “Floodplain” are illustrated above as well as in the “User’s Guide” on page 21.

About 2 gallons of water are needed. Water pitcher and buckets are included.