



MONTANA FLOODPLAIN 2022 RESOURCE SEMINAR

November 30- December 2, 2022

“Preparing for Disaster and the Long Road to Recovery”

The DNRC’s Montana Floodplain Resource Seminar offers no-cost training on topics related to management and administration of Montana’s floodplain program. Workshops are available to community members and professionals, including floodplain administrators, county planners, and DES personnel, and any other interested parties. All sessions will be hosted via Zoom.

Please use the link(s) below to access to the Resource Seminar.

To access/attend the seminar, a link for each day is given below. You can access one or all workshops and adjust your participation to best fit your schedule.

For assistance, questions, or more information, please contact:

Traci Sears, Montana NFIP/CAP Coordinator at Ph (406) 444-6654 / Email: tsears@mt.gov
Shylea Wingard, MT NFIP/CAP Assistant at Ph (406) 444-1343 / Email: swingard@mt.gov

SEMINAR ACCESS VIA ZOOM

Topic: Montana Floodplain Resource Seminar - Day 1 – November 30th
Time: November 30, 2022, 08:00 AM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://mt-gov.zoom.us/j/81923794137?pwd=NjA4SnplczFuak85NkJKVUsrbjBmUT09>

Meeting ID: 819 2379 4137

Password: 525527

Topic: Montana Floodplain Resource Seminar - Day 2 – December 1st
Time: December 1, 2022, 08:00 AM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://mt-gov.zoom.us/j/88336247902?pwd=VW9qUFEybmpNQnZUTFJlVFQyQ2Z6dz09>

Meeting ID: 883 3624 7902

Password: 581170

Topic: Montana Floodplain Resource Seminar - Day 3 – December 2nd
Time: December 2, 2022, 08:00 AM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://mt-gov.zoom.us/j/86855445280?pwd=aURWb28yblJKRWF0ZEVOZGY4RHdkZz09>

Meeting ID: 868 5544 5280

Password: 011942



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AGENDA

Wednesday, November 30th, 2022

Joint Permitting Workshop

8:00 am – 8:30 am

2022 June Flooding Debris Removal Project

Description

This presentation will provide an update to June 2022 flood recovery efforts taking place in Montana to include the state debris removal project, updates on the FEMA Public Assistance Program, and what services/support were provided through the FEMA Individual Assistance Program.

CECs: Approved for CFMs – with active chat participation

Presenters:

Sara Hartley, CFM–State Hazard Mitigation Officer | Montana Disaster and Emergency Services | Sara.Hartley@mt.gov

Allison Taylor – Recovery Program Manager | Montana Disaster and Emergency Services | Allison.Taylor@mt.gov

Speaker Bio:

Sara Hartley is the *State Hazard Mitigation Officer for Montana and is a member of the Mitigation Team at Montana Disaster and Emergency Services (DES)*. She works with federal agencies, state agencies, tribal partners, local jurisdictions, and private non-profits to further investment in natural hazard mitigation and resiliency across Montana. Sara worked as the *Hazard Mitigation & Resiliency Director for a local jurisdiction in Colorado where she assisted in recovery and mitigation efforts following a series of natural disasters before moving to Montana and beginning work with MT DES in 2019*.

Allison Taylor, *MT DES Recovery Manager, comes to us from sunny Florida. Even though she is new to the state of Montana, she has over 3.5 years of recovery experience under the FEMA Public Assistance Grant with a specialization in environmental and historic preservation compliance. When she is not working, she enjoys being outside in nature or working in her stained-glass studio*



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8:30 am – 9:00 am

310 Permit – Conservation District

Description

A 310 permit is required by any private, nongovernmental person or entity that proposes to work in or near a stream on public or private land. The permit is necessary for any activity that physically alters or modifies the bed or banks of a perennially flowing stream. The presentation will cover the basic framework of the Natural Streambed and Land preservation Act and how it is applied by Conservation Districts in Montana.

CECs: Approved for CFMs – with active chat participation

Presenter: Jason Garber – Stream Permitting Coordinator | Montana DNRC| Conservation District | Jason.Garber@mt.gov.

Speaker Bio:

Jason Garber is originally from Big Horn Wyoming; Jason has been living and working in Montana since 2015. He holds a bachelor's degree in Anthropology from the University of Wyoming and a master's degree in Natural Resources from Utah State University. Jason transitioned to DNRC from DEQ where he was the Clean Water Act Section 401 Coordinator and 318 Coordinator. Jason has 20 years of experience working in cultural and natural resource fields and has worked closely with regulatory agencies and the public on stream permitting throughout the State of Montana. He enjoys trail running, skiing, gardening, and making functional pottery.

Jason is stationed in Helena and serves all CDs in Montana.

9:00 am – 9:30 am

318 Permit – Department of Environmental Quality

Description

318 Authorizations are issued for stream-related construction activities that elevate Total Suspended Sediment (TSS) and turbidity above background or naturally occurring levels. Applies only for work carried out in water. Regional FWP Fisheries Biologist may issue 318 Authorizations for small projects (headgate work, small bank repairs, etc.) during the 310 or 124 permitting processes. For larger projects, the FWP biologist refers the applicant to DEQ to issue the 318 Authorization.

401 Water Quality Certifications are required for activities that may adversely affect state water quality standards. 401 certification is tied to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 404 permit. Depending on the type of 404 permit you may have obtained from the Corps, a 401 Water Quality Certification of that 404 permit by DEQ might be necessary.

CECs: Approved for CFMs – with active chat participation

Presenter: Keenan Storrar–401 certification/318 Authorization Coordinator | Montana DEQ | Keenan.Storrar@mt.gov.

Speaker Bio:

Keenan Storrar has served as DEQ's 401/318 coordinator for three years. Previously he worked as a hydrologist and project manager in Utah DNR's Coal Program permitting underground and surface coal mining operations and overseeing the reclamation of abandoned mines. He received his BS in Geology and MS in Hydrology from the University of Montana.



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▶ 9:30 am – 9:40 am

Break

▶ 9:40 am – 10:00 am

124 Permit - MT Fish, Wildlife, and Parks

Description

A 124 permit is required by any government entity that proposes to work in or near a stream on public or private land. The permit is necessary for any activity that physically alters or modifies the bed or banks of any stream. The presentation will cover the basic framework of the Stream Protection Act for planned and emergency projects and how it is applied by Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks in Montana.

CECs: Approved for CFMs – with active chat participation

Presenter: Shannon Blackburn – Fish Biologist | Montana FWP | Fisheries | Shannon.Blackburn@mt.gov.

Speaker Bio:

Shannon Blackburn- Hailing from Washington state, Shannon obtained a bachelor’s degree in Environmental Science from Western Washington University. Post-graduation, she gained experience as a fisheries technician working for various agencies all over the west for the better part of a decade before going back to graduate school. Shannon earned a master’s degree in Natural Resources from the University of Idaho. Since 2020, she has been employed with Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, first as biologist covering the middle Yellowstone, Musselshell, and Bighorn rivers, and then transitioned into the fisheries manager role for the south-central region of Montana right before high water in 2022. When not at work, Shannon can usually be found outside fishing and rafting, hunting, skiing, and choring on her in-law’s farm and ranch.



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10:00 am – 10:30 am

404 Permit -U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Description

Section 10 Permits are required for the temporary or permanent construction of any structure in or over any federally listed navigable waters of the United States, the excavation from or depositing of material in such waters, or the accomplishment of any other work affecting the course, location, condition, or capacity of such waters. Work needing authorization includes boring or tunneling under navigable waters, suspending structures, utility lines, or other facilities over navigable waters, as well as all work within the Ordinary High Water Mark of navigable waters. Federally listed navigable waters in Montana include the Missouri River, Yellowstone River downstream of Emigrant, and a portion of the Kootenai River.

Section 404 Permits are required for any activity that will result in the temporary or permanent discharge or placement of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States, including wetlands. Fill material includes, but is not limited to: rock, sand, soil, clay, plastics, timber, mats, construction debris, wood chips, overburden from mining or other excavation activities, and materials used to create any structure or infrastructure in the waters of the United States. The term fill material does not include trash, garbage, or waste material. Dredged material is material excavated or dredged from any water of the United States.

This workshop will present on the Section 10 and 404 Permit Process.

CECs: Approved for CFMs – with active chat participation

Presenter: Sage Joyce – MT Program Manager / Regulatory Offices Chief | Montana USACE | Regulatory Program | Sage.L.Joyce@usace.army.mil

Speaker Bio:

Sage Joyce is originally from Kalispell, Sage is currently in Helena and manages the USACE Regulatory Program for the state of Montana, which includes all three offices. After completing two tours with the U.S. Navy as an aircraft mechanic and safety officer, Sage started with the Army Corps of Engineers in 2010 while working on a master’s degree in Wetland Biology at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia. In 2015, she found an opportunity to come home to Montana and accepted the Senior Project Manager Position in Billings. She worked in the position until 2019 when she transitioned to the Program Manager position. She loves to travel, generally doing anything outdoors, and has a passion for cooking, gardening, and doing crafty art projects with her daughter.



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“Preparing for Disaster and the Long Road to Recovery”

10:30 am – 11:00 am

Floodplain Program

Description

The National Floodplain Insurance Program (NFIP) was implemented as a unified program administered at the local level to reduce flood losses and damage. Floodplain Permits are required by anyone doing development in and around a designated floodplain. This presentation will cover the basic floodplain program information, permit applications, and local floodplain programs.

CECs: Approved for CFMs – with active chat participation

Presenter: Traci Sears– MT National Flood Insurance Program Coordinator | MT DNRC | Water Operations | Tsears@mt.gov

Speaker Bio:

Traci Sears has worked as the Montana NFIP Coordinator for over 16 years. Prior to joining the DNRC, she was a planner and floodplain administrator for Flathead County.

11:00 am – 11:30 am

Navigable Water Ways (Tentative)

Description

A Navigable Waterway Land Use License, Lease, or Easement authorization is required by any private, nongovernmental person or entity that proposes to work in or along the riverbed of rivers owned by the State of Montana State Trust Lands. The presentation will cover the history and process of how the State Trust Lands determine ownership, along with the process of applying for a permit to authorize said work.

CECs: Approved for CFMs – with active chat participation

Presenter: Joe Holzwarth - Area Planner, Southern Land Office | Montana DNRC | Trust Lands Management Division | jholzwarth@mt.gov

Speaker Bio:

Joe Holzwarth is originally from Moorcroft, WY, Joe has been living and working in Montana since 2003. He holds a bachelor's degree in History and Environmental Science, as well as a Master's Certificate in Geographic Information Systems. Joe has been working for the Trust Lands for approximately 3 years as an Area Planner, overseeing licensing, leasing, right-of-way duties at the Southern Land Office in Billings, MT. With these duties, he is responsible for studying and writing environmental assessments to ensure Montana's Trust Lands and river maintain pristine and functional for future generations while accommodating current uses. Joe previously worked as an asset management coordinator for the City of Billings where he was responsible for inventorying and management of all city-owned assets and developing long-term, sustainable policies to reduce cost. He enjoys hiking, horticulture, sustainable and renewable gardening, and woodworking. Joe is stationed in Billings and serves the Southern Land Office.



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“Preparing for Disaster and the Long Road to Recovery”

11:30 am – 12:00 pm

Streamlining the Permitting Process for Recovery

Description

This presentation will go over the fundamentals of both the PA and IA funding programs and touch on environmental and historic preservation requirements of both. When a disaster strikes, the capacity of local and state governments is often exceeded, and property damages may trigger federal thresholds for assistance. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) offers recovery support programs in the form of Public Assistance (PA) and Individual Assistance (IA). Allison will present the fundamentals of both PA and IA funding programs and explain more about the environmental and historic preservation requirements of both programs.

CECs: Approved for CFMs – with active chat participation

Presenter: Allison Taylor – Recovery Program Manager | Montana Disaster and Emergency Services | Allison.Taylor@mt.gov

Speaker Bio:

Allison Taylor, MT DES Recovery Manager, comes to us from sunny Florida. Even though she is new to the state of Montana, she has over 3.5 years of recovery experience under the FEMA Public Assistance Grant with a specialization in environmental and historic preservation compliance. When she is not working, she enjoys being outside in nature or working in her stained-glass studio.

AGENDA

Thursday, December 1st, 2022

Recovery Workshop

8:00 am – 8:20 am

June 2022 Flooding Event and Preparing for the Next Disaster

Description: Overview of the June 2022 Flood Event. The presentations over the next two days should help prepare communities, community stakeholders, and elected officials for the next disaster and how to adequately follow through on community responsibilities through disasters and recovery.

CECs: Approved for CFMs – with active chat participation

Presenters:

Traci Sears– MT National Flood Insurance Program Coordinator | MT DNRC | Water Operations | Tsears@mt.gov

Speaker Bio:

Traci Sears has worked as the Montana NFIP Coordinator for over 16 years. Prior to joining the DNRC, she was a planner and floodplain administrator for Flathead County.



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8:20 am – 8:50 am

City of Red Lodge Lesson’s Learned

Description: Red Lodge and the surrounding region experienced historic flooding in June of 2022. Months later, the Community and surrounding area continues to struggle through a network of challenges and misconceptions in restoration of public infrastructure, private property and Rock Creek. This presentation will provide insights into Red Lodge's disaster response in the immediate aftermath of the flood, what has been achieved, and long-term needs. Opportunities and challenges of working with an impacted community alongside state and federal agencies in planning for recovery and resilience moving forward will be highlighted.

CECs: Approved for CFMs – with active chat participation

Presenter: Courtney Long – Red Lodge FPA and Planning Director | City of Red Lodge | clong@cityofredlodge.com

Speaker Bio: Courtney Long is the City of Red Lodge Planning Director and Floodplain Administrator. Prior to her career as a Planner her experience and education focused on natural resource conservation, having worked with local, federal and state agencies and NGOs. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Biology and Environmental Studies from Appalachian State University and a Graduate Certificate in Protected Area Management from the University of Montana.

8:50 am – 9:20 am

Stillwater County Streamlining the Permitting Process and 1206

Description

Disasters are never easy for local communities, but it is even more difficult when most of the County staff and elected officials are new. Stillwater County was significantly impacted by the June 2022 flood event. With new and limited staff Stillwater jumped into action to streamline the floodplain permitting process and understand the influx of assistance being offered to include the new DRRA 1206 funding.

CECs: Approved for CFMs – with active chat participation

Presenters

Stephanie Ray – Stillwater County FPA and Planning Director | Stillwater County | sray@stillwatercountymt.gov

Traci Sears – Montana National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Coordinator | DNRC | tsears@mt.gov

Speaker Bios:

Stephanie Ray is the Community/Economic Development Director, Director of Planning & Community Development, Planning and Floodplain Administrator for Stillwater County.

Traci Sears has worked as the Montana NFIP Coordinator for over 16 years. Prior to joining the DNRC, she was a planner and floodplain administrator for Flathead County.

9:20 am – 9:50 am



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Hazard Mitigation Plans – The Importance of Coordination Between Emergency Managers/Coordinators and Floodplain Managers

Description

This presentation will explain the importance of Hazard Mitigation Planning and the necessary coordination/collaboration between emergency managers and other stakeholders within a community, especially floodplain managers. We will focus on how collaboration throughout the planning process can best inform communities as to the risks posed flood hazards and what actions can be taken to minimize their risk. presentation.

CECs: Approved for CFMs – with active chat participation

Presenter: Sara Hartley, CFM – State Hazard Mitigation Officer | Montana Disaster and Emergency Services | Sara.Hartley@mt.gov

Speaker Bio:

Sara Hartley is the State Hazard Mitigation Officer for Montana and is a member of the Mitigation Team at Montana Disaster and Emergency Services (DES). She works with federal agencies, state agencies, tribal partners, local jurisdictions, and private non-profits to further investment in natural hazard mitigation and resiliency across Montana. Sara worked as the Hazard Mitigation & Resiliency Director for a local jurisdiction in Colorado where she assisted in recovery and mitigation efforts following a series of natural disasters before moving to Montana and beginning work with MT DES in 2019.

▶ 9:50 am – 10:00 am

Break

▶ 10:00 am – 10:45 am

Community Floodplain Administrator’s Responsibilities and Coordination during Recovery

Description

There are many day-to-day responsibilities for a local Floodplain Administrator. Those responsibilities are significantly increased during and after a disaster. The recovery stage is chaotic, emotional, overwhelming, and can move at a snail’s pace. Understanding the recovery process, a Floodplain Administrator’s responsibilities, and the importance of coordination during recovery are critical to building back stronger. This presentation will go over key points for reimbursements, grant opportunities, and providing emotional and professional assistance to property owners within the community.

CECs: Approved for CFMs – with active chat participation

Presenter

Traci Sears – MT NFIP Coordinator | MT DNRC | Water Operations | Tsears@mt.gov

Speaker Bio:

Traci Sears has worked as the Montana NFIP Coordinator for over 16 years. Prior to joining the DNRC, she was a planner and floodplain administrator for Flathead County.



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Friday, December 2nd, 2022

Community Preparedness for Safety inspections and Recovery

8:00 am – 8:30 am

Mapped Floodplains and Creating Maps for Recovery Inspections and Outreach

Description

There’s been a flooding event in your community! Where do you even begin to determine who might have been impacted? Katie Shank will use Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to demonstrate the steps needed to create a landowner list of potentially affected landowners in the effective SFHA that can be utilized by emergency personnel and SDE teams.

CECs: Approved for CFMs – with active chat participation

Presenters

Katie Shank – Flood Hazard GIS Specialist, MT DNRC Floodplain Program | Katherine.shank@mt.gov

Speaker Bio:

Katie Shank has worked in the GIS field for over a decade, receiving an undergraduate degree in Geography and Environmental Sciences from the University of Wisconsin and a graduate degree in Geography from the University of Montana. She has been with the Montana DNRC for over three years as their Flood Hazard GIS Specialist, receiving her CFM in 2020.

8:30 am – 9:00 am

Thanks for the Info. Now What?

Description

In a disaster/emergency a local official or floodplain administrator (FPA) may receive information and reports from multiple departments and agencies – DES, GIS, DNRC, or FEMA to name a few. How do you sort, decipher, and use this blizzard of white paper and email? This workshop will share how to use available resources to identify affected property owners in the floodplain, logistically coordinate site visits and property damage assessments for SD teams, and how to use it to organize and set up communication and permit logs to track processing and ensure NFIP regulations and FEMA guidelines are met. Lessons learned from the June 2022 flood event will be highlighted.

CECs: Approved for CFMs – with active chat participation

Presenters

Shylea Wingard – CAP Assistant/Floodplain Specialist | Montana DNRC | Water Resources – Floodplain | Shylea.wingard@mt.gov

Speaker Bio:

Shylea Wingard enjoys working with Montana communities and State partners as a floodplain specialist / CAP assistant. She has a master’s degree from Purdue University in Agricultural Economics and a strong background in natural resources having grown up on a Montana cattle ranch and working as an extension agent. She resides with her family near Ennis, MT where they operate a seasonal horseback/agri-tourism business.

9:00 am – 9:30 am



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Photo Collector

Description

Accurate photo documentation is critical for the success of field work. Context Camera is an app for Apple or Android mobile devices (smart phones or tablets) that allows the user to capture more useful photos by stamping them with informational overlays. These overlays can include multiple user-entered caption fields, GPS coordinates, elevation, orientation, etc. This process increases efficiency and reduces errors, both in the field and back in the office.

This presentation will give an overview of the process used by MT DNRC for Substantial Damage Estimation (SDE) during the June 2022 flooding in Montana. It will include lessons learned in the field and a process to automate organization of photos by address and/or date.

The process is customizable and can be used for a variety of other requirements, like construction or building inspections, complaint documentation, or other field visits. After the presentation, participants will receive a prebuilt photo overlay that they can further refine for their use (use requires paid app version – \$10/year or \$30 lifetime).

CECs: Approved for CFMs – with active chat participation

Presenters

Brent Zundel, PE, CFM – Regional Engineer, MT DNRC Bozeman/Helena Regional Office | BZundel@mt.gov

Speaker Bios

Brent Zundel has been with the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation since 2014. He is the regional engineer for approximately 20 public and private high-hazard dams and six DNRC State Water Projects-owned dams in southwestern and south-central Montana. He provides technical floodplain management assistance to communities in nine counties and reviews new or updated floodplain mapping projects across the state. He is the current president of the Montana Section of the American Water Resources Association (AWRA). He has a BS in civil engineering and a BA in Spanish from Montana State University.

▶ 9:30 am – 10:20 am

SDE Spreadsheet- How to Use it in Your Community

Description

This presentation will use Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to demonstrate how to import FEMAs Substantial Damage Estimate (SDE) spreadsheet that was created by South Carolina CAP into ArcGIS Online and how to create an app for field use in ESRIs Fields Maps application. It will also show you how to use the app in the field when conducting an assessment, while going over lessons learned to assure the best quality of data collection.

CECs: Approved for CFMs – with active chat participation

Presenters:

Katie Shank – Flood Hazard GIS Specialist, MT DNRC Floodplain Program | Katherine.shank@mt.gov

Peri Turk, EI, CFM – Floodplain Mapping Specialist, MT DNRC Floodplain Program | peri.turk@mt.gov

Speaker Bio:

Katie Shank has worked in the GIS field for over a decade, receiving an undergraduate degree in Geography and Environmental Sciences from the University of Wisconsin and a graduate degree in Geography from the University of Montana. She has been with the Montana DNRC for over three years as their Flood Hazard GIS Specialist, receiving her CFM in 2020.



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Peri Turk has been with the MT DNRC Floodplain Mapping Program for over 2 years, receiving her EI and CFM in 2020. Previous to the DNRC, she was a student at Ohio State University, receiving an undergraduate degree in ecological engineering in 2020.

10:20 am – 10:30 am

Break

10:30 am – 11:00 am

Processing Substantial Damage Estimates (SDE) information

Description

Once the community has gathered the SDE information, the next step is to process specific property information. This presentation will discuss the next steps including merging information from Montana Cadastral to complete the required information for SDEs. The presentation will also discuss troubleshooting field information and MT Cadastral property information.

CECs: Approved for CFMs – with active chat participation

Presenters - Anthony Moritz – Havre Regional Engineer | MT DNRC | anthony.moritz@mt.gov

Speaker Bios

Anthony Moritz serves as the MT DNRC Regional Engineer for Havre office. He works with a large number of communities along the Milk River.

11:00 am – 11:30 am

Tabletop Exercise in Billings at the AMFM Conference

Description

This presentation will explain the importance, goals, and intent of table-top exercises. A tabletop exercise is a disaster preparedness activity that takes participants through the process of dealing with a simulated disaster scenario. During this presentation, we will discuss the critical elements in planning and executing an effective tabletop exercise.

CECs: Approved for CFMs – with active chat participation

Presenters

Betsy Ross – Preparedness Coordinator | Montana Disaster and Emergency Services | Betsy.Ross@mt.gov

Speaker Bios

Betsy Ross has been working with Montana DES for over 4 years as a Preparedness Coordinator. In addition to supporting training and planning efforts, her role involves planning for, developing, and conducting exercises of various levels. Betsy is well versed in the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) and its application. In her previous role with the Ready Montana program, she delivered the Whole Community Disaster Simulation in several communities involving hundreds of participants. Betsy has also served in the State Emergency Coordination Center Planning Section for multiple disasters.