The Montana DNRC Floodplain Resource Seminar provides a unique opportunity to obtain important and beneficial tools and resources for local officials, city and county staff, floodplain administrators, local emergency services personnel, attorneys, watershed committees, planners, sanitarians, realtors, insurance agents, state staff, engineers, students, and others working in floodplain management, natural resources, and emergency response.

www.floodplain.mt.gov/training

For more info and to register, go to the URL above and click on the 2016 Resource Seminar link at the top of the page.

Please contact the DNRC Floodplain Program with questions. Contact Ethan Stapp, Floodplain Specialist, at estapp2@mt.gov or 406-444-1343.

Sessions are offered free of charge and will cover a variety of topics, including:

- Floodplain 101
- RiskMAP Program Overview
- G318 Pre-Disaster Mitigation Planning Training
- Model Subdivision Regulations Overview
- Montana USGS StreamStats 4.0 Overview
- Technical presentations
- Certified Floodplain Manager prep and exam
ASSOCIATION OF MONTANA FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS
CONFERENCE Recap

The 17th annual Association of Montana Floodplain Managers (AMFM) conference was held this year at Fairmont Hot Springs and it was our best attended conference yet! We had a full agenda of timely and interesting presentations as well as some great opportunities for networking at our evening socials.

I hope that all of you attendees had a great experience and walked away from the conference with a little more information and a few more friends and contacts in the floodplain world. If you did not attend the conference, you missed out and should consider attending next year.

As the Executive Director of the AMFM, I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank all of the AMFM Board members and DNRC employees who helped organize and run the conference. Your hard work greatly contributed to its success. I would also like to thank our sponsors for their generous support, along with the numerous organizations who had booths and displays. Without all of you folks this conference would not be possible.

After reviewing the evaluations from this year’s conference (yes, we actually do read them) I would like to address a few items that were mentioned in the evaluations. First, we have received the same comment for the past couple years: the engineers want more technical presentations and the nontechnical attendees want more basic presentations.

(continued on Page 3)
I will begin my response to these comments with a question of my own. Did you attend one of our Pre-Conference Basic or Technical sessions listed on the agenda? Every year on the Tuesday morning before the official start of the conference, we put on 4-hour long workshops covering basic floodplain concepts and technical topics. These separate sessions offer an excellent opportunity to enhance your conference experience and I would encourage you to attend one of these sessions next year.

Other common comments that we receive concern people wanting more presentations and offering concurrent sessions. The AMFM would love to offer more presentations and to offer concurrent sessions. However, the reality of the situation is that we simply do not receive enough presentations from you, our members, when we send out our call for abstracts. Every year the AMFM must come up with 20-25 presentations to fill our agenda. Did you know that roughly 50% of the presenters this year made presentation within that last 2 years, and 25% of the presenters have done multiple presentations in the past 3 years?

I would like to take this opportunity to challenge each one of you to do a presentation. If you have never given a presentation and are hesitant to present for whatever reason, I feel that the AMFM conference is an ideal place for you to begin. We have a great group of folks who attend our conferences—relating whatever topic/situation that is important or unique to you would certainly be well received.

In closing, I would like to paraphrase one of our more famous US Presidents. Ask not what the AMFM can do for you, but what you can do for the AMFM. I am the last of the original seven (7) founding members of the AMFM from 18 years ago (it makes me feel old just to say that). Our Board members have been on the board an average of about 6 years. As an organization, we must evolve or we will stagnate and die. In order keep offering these great conferences and learning opportunities—and to make a difference in the floodplain field—we must continue to grow and revitalize ourselves as an organization. While our membership ranks have swollen, our internal support and organization has not. I and the current AMFM Board members will not be around forever. It is becoming increasingly difficult to respond to the needs of our growing membership and the ever changing technical and political floodplain world. We need your involvement! When the torch is passed, will you be there to take it, or will you be the one standing by watching as it is dropped?
In short, the answer is a resounding YES! The definition of DEVELOPMENT from 44 CFR 59.1 is “any man-made change to improved or unimproved real estate, including but not limited to buildings or other structures, mining, dredging, filling, grading, paving, excavation or drilling operations, or storage of equipment or materials.” Put simply, any human activity in the Special Flood Hazard Area requires a floodplain development permit. Although the term “demolition” is not referenced in the Development definition, it clearly falls within the definition since demolition is a man-made change. You will note also, that there is no reference nor definition for “temporary” or “permanent”. From FEMA’s perspective, all human activity causing change in the Special Flood Hazard Area requires a permit, whether it is a traveling circus complete with a “Big Top” for a week, or clearing and grubbing an area for a baseball park. If you are doing work in the Special Flood Hazard Area, a permit is required. It is not up to a property owner to decide that a permit is not necessary—that is the responsibility of the floodplain administrator and should be documented.

From FEMA’s perspective, all human activity causing change in the Special Flood Hazard Area requires a permit, whether it is a traveling circus complete with a “Big Top” for a week, or clearing and grubbing an area for a baseball park.

During a Community Assistance Visit, unpermitted human activity in the Special Flood Hazard Area will have to be corrected. If the community was remiss in issuing a permit, then FEMA will hold the community responsible to correct the violation (and so will the property owner’s attorney). If the property owner was informed that a floodplain development permit was needed (whether the property owner agreed with the FEMA map or floodplain administrator decision or not), then the cost of any corrective action taken will be the responsibility of the property owner. In this situation, the community would document they have attempted to resolve the violation. If no resolution occurs, the community can request a Section 1316 – denial of flood insurance on the property (regardless of owner).
Throughout March and into the first part of April, FEMA has issued a series of bulletins announcing rating, underwriting, and processing changes. Here’s a quick glimpse into each along with a link to more reading material.

**W-16018 – Deductible Disclosure and Cancellation Receipt Date Procedures**

In the November 2015 edition of the NFIP Flood Insurance Manual (FIM), FEMA indicated that when a mortgagee was listed on an NFIP flood policy, the mortgagee’s written consent had to be secured before requesting a deductible higher than the applicable minimum deductible. That requirement has now been eliminated retroactive to November 1, 2015, since it is too burdensome to policyholders. [Read more...](#)

The same bulletin revises how cancellation effective dates that are based on the cancellation receipt date are determined. The November 2015 edition of the FIM stated that for the purpose of determining the receipt date of the cancellation/nullification request, the receipt date shall be that date on which the cancellation/nullification request, along with the complete supporting documentation for that request, is received by the insurer. That cancellation receipt date determination has now been revised. [Read more...](#)

**W-16020 – April 2016 Revisions to the NFIP Flood Insurance Manual Posted Online**


**W-16022 – October 1, 2016 Program Changes**

FEMA provides a look ahead to program changes coming this autumn. FEMA is implementing a number of changes to refund procedures that will better benefit policyholders. Some of the changes outlined are retroactive to a November 1, 2015, receipt date, but the effective date cannot be earlier than April 1, 2016.

Because the April 1, 2016, revisions to the FIM were already being finalized at the time of the preparation of this bulletin, the provisions of this bulletin supersede any conflicting guidance in the November 1, 2015, or April 1, 2016, FIM. [Read more...](#)

**W-16024 – Implementation of Section 100214 of BW-12 – Payment of Condominium Claims**

Section 100214 of Biggert-Waters prohibits FEMA from denying payment to condominium unit owners who purchased unit-owner building coverage under the Dwelling Form policy for building claims that cannot be paid by the Residential Condominium Building Association Policy (RCBAP). The RCBAP’s coinsurance penalty triggers when the building insurance coverage purchased by the condominium association is less than 80 percent of the full replacement cost of the RCBAP insured condominium building, or less than the maximum amount of insurance available. [Read more...](#)

For additional information on flood insurance training for insurance agents, go to: [www.h2opartnersusa.com/agent/floodtraining.html](http://www.h2opartnersusa.com/agent/floodtraining.html).

Lenders can locate information on flood compliance training at: [www.h2opartnersusa.com/lender/floodcompliance.html](http://www.h2opartnersusa.com/lender/floodcompliance.html).

Questions? Please email questions@h20partnersusa.com
MONTANA ASSOCIATION OF DAM AND CANAL SYSTEMS WORKSHOP
October 18 & 19 | Missoula, MT

This year’s MADCS Workshop will take place on October 18th and 19th at the Double Tree by Hilton in Missoula, MT. A Field Trip will take place on October 18 followed by the Workshop on October 19. Look for registration and agenda in early August. We hope to see you there!

The Montana Association of Dam and Canal Systems (MADCS) invites all persons interested in dams and canals to submit presentation ideas to be considered for the MADCS 12th Annual Workshop, October 18th and 19th in Missoula.

Describe your topic in short abstract form. Abstracts should be no more than 350 words in length. Submit them to Bree Caldwell either by email or mail no later than May 27, 2016.

Email  
bcaldwell@mt.gov

Mail  
P.O. Box 201603  
Helena, MT 59620-1603

For more information on the abstract process or about MADCS, please visit our website at www.madcs.org or contact Bree Caldwell, 406-444-0862, or MADCS President Vern Stokes, pccrc@3rivers.net or 406-279-3315.
HAZARD MITIGATION ASSISTANCE (HMA) PROGRAM

- **2016 Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant (PDM)**
  Offering $90 million in funds to compete for nationally!

- **2016 Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant (FMA)**
  Offering $199 million in funds to compete for nationally!

This is the largest amount of money we have seen in almost 10 years! The application cycle begins March 15. All applications must be completed to the state by June 1, 2016.

More information on the grant opportunities can be found at [www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-assistance](http://www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-assistance) under each of the programs.

HMA PROGRAM CONTACT

Nadene Wadsworth
Deputy State Hazard Mitigation Officer
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nwadsworth@mt.gov

**UPCOMING MITIGATION TRAINING**

**G318 Pre-Disaster Mitigation Planning Training**
July 21 & 22, 2016
UM Helena College

This training is offered as part of Montana DNRC's 2016 Floodplain Resource Seminar. For more information, go to [www.floodplain.mt.gov/training](http://www.floodplain.mt.gov/training) and click the 2016 Floodplain Resource Seminar link at the top of the page.
KEN SALO RECEIVES LEWIS & CLARK LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FROM MONTANA DNRC

DNRC’s Water Operations Bureau Chief, Steve Story, presented Ken Salo the 2016 Lewis & Clark Engineering and Floodplain Mapping Lifetime Achievement Award at the Annual AMFM Conference in March. Ken has been with Morrison-Maierle since the late 1970s; this award honors his significant contributions to floodplain work in the state of Montana.

After graduating from Cal-Poly in 1975 with a B.S. in Agricultural Engineering, Ken started his career at the Montana Department of Fish and Game as a civil engineer. He came to Morrison-Maierle in 1978 specifically to work on floodplain studies. He worked on the company’s first six FEMA floodplain contracts in a row.

SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS AT MORRISON-MAIERLE

Ken Currently serves as the firm’s Chief Technical Services Officer, Senior Vice President, and as Director Emeritus of the Board of Directors. He is also the Natural Resources Market Group Leader where he directs and mentors more than 25 engineers and scientists through the company’s environmental engineering projects. In addition to these positions, he serves on the Corporate Leadership Team and was the former Helena Office Manager.

Through his projects at Morrison-Maierle, Ken oversees and is responsible for engineering design and rehabilitation of facilities including dams and dikes; concrete principal and earth-lined emergency spillways; diversion and head-gate structures; agricultural and turf irrigation systems; wastewater irrigation systems; pipelines; storm drains; lined and unlined canals; culvert and bridge hydraulics; water measurement structures and stream bank and channel erosion protection.

He performs hydraulic and hydrologic analyses for Dam Safety Investigations; Flood Insurance Studies; principal and emergency spillways; flood retention and protection facilities; major storm drainage facilities; stream channel improvements; flood and dambreak profiles and delineation; energy dissipation structures; site drainage and grading plans, and bridge or culvert crossings. During his tenure, Ken has served as the Project Principal, Project Manager, or Lead Design Engineer on nearly all of Morrison-Maierle’s noteworthy natural resources projects.

Ken has spent numerous hours working on committees, advisory councils, and professional organizations. He’s currently on DNRC’s Extreme Storm Working Group. He’s also a member of the American Society of Agricultural Engineers; American Society of Civil Engineers; United States Committee on Large Dams; Association of State Dam Safety Officials; American Water Resources Association.

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A MENTOR TO MANY

While many at Morrison-Maierle have learned from Ken Salo, a few members of his market group can attest to the lessons learned from him when it comes to natural resources engineering.

“He is definitely my mentor,” says Mark when referring to Ken. “He has a unique approach to engineering projects because he can see the big picture. While he’s extremely detail oriented and very thorough, he also has the ability to take a step back and look at the questions and problems before us. That’s important in the work we do.”

When Mark came to Morrison-Maierle he went to work on a project on the Fort Belknap reservation for three weeks. Combined with this experience and Ken’s willingness to teach and share his intimate knowledge of floodplain studies, Mark says he knew this was going to be the beginning of a great career.

Molly Davidson says that Ken “is a well respected and highly admired leader of our natural resources market group and also a kind and intelligent mentor.” She says he is very thoughtful, encouraging, and offers sound advice and judgement. She added that Ken’s “passion for water resource engineering and contractual agreements is apparent. Ken is a strong asset to Morrison-Maierle and is recognized as a great leader throughout the professional community.”

NOW ONLINE

StreamStats Beta Version 4
http://water.usgs.gov/osw/streamstats

StreamStats Beta Version 4 is online and available to the public as of March 24 at the link above. StreamStats Beta Version 4 includes the ability to delineate and determine basin characteristics for gages in Montana. USGS is publishing all of the StreamStats reports after which they will load the data and regression equations into StreamStats.
Sarah Houghland, Project Manager at Michael Baker, will be moving on to a new firm in Denver on May 20th. Sarah has 16 years of experience in civil engineering and water resources management including working the last 8 years with Michael Baker. Over the last 6 years, she has managed Floodplain Mapping studies in MT for the DNRC in Stillwater County, Sweetgrass County, Carbon County, Bozeman, and has supported floodplain mapping activities in many other Counties and Communities.

Sarah Houghland has worked with Michael Baker since November of 2008, but has been taking engineering to a new level since June 2000. She has worked in both the FEMA and non-FEMA world, but the pull proved to be too strong and for the past six years she has been mostly working on FEMA-related endeavors. Fun Fact: To win a chili cook-off at work, Sarah had a friend (and a professional chef) make the chili. She won!

A native Kentuckian, Sarah matriculated at the University of Kentucky and earned both undergraduate (1998) and graduate (2000) degrees in Civil Engineering and has the diplomas in her office to prove it. Fun Fact: Sarah has attended the Kentucky Derby and did not see a horse all day. She did see many mint juleps.

The DNRC, on behalf of those Sarah has worked with in Montana, wishes to express our thanks and appreciation for all of Sarah’s efforts as Michael Baker’s lead Project Manager over the last many years! Her work has been exemplary and her contributions significant to the success of the projects she led, as well as to our state mapping program. She will be greatly missed but we wish her best of luck and great success in the next chapter of her career!

Legend has it that the person in charge of the website for Colorado Association of Floodplain Managers once asked Sarah for a photo to put on the website. Sarah kept putting off sending him a picture, so he put this photo of Phyllis Diller next to Sarah’s contact info and kept it there until she noticed... She finally did send him a picture.
MODEL SUBDIVISION REGULATIONS UPDATE

Over the past three years, the Community Technical Assistance Program (CTAP) housed within the Planning Bureau at the Department of Commerce has been actively working to update the 2006 Montana Model Subdivision Regulations. This process has been a major undertaking, as CTAP’s aim is to provide a comprehensive guiding document that not only serves as a template cities and counties may use in adopting or updating their local regulations, but also as a technical resource on best practices for local planners, board members, decision makers and the private sector on the “hows” and “whys” of subdivision review.

In early December 2015, a preliminary draft of the model document was provided to a peer review group consisting of planners representing both the public and private sector, elected officials, surveyors, engineers, realtors, builders, and state agency representatives (among others). Participants in the peer review group were given two months to evaluate the preliminary draft and provide initial comments to CTAP. Since February, CTAP has compiled and evaluated each and every peer reviewer comment received, and conducted three separate conference calls to review and discuss comments with peer reviewers to determine whether changes should be made. Peer review conference calls concluded at the end of March—CTAP has spent the month of April editing the draft model subdivision regulations in advance of the releasing the final draft document for public comment.

CTAP anticipates the public comment period will open in May. CTAP will post the final draft document, along with a summary of peer review comments outlining any edits or actions taken by CTAP, on the website at http://comdev.mt.gov/Programs/CTAP. Once the final draft has been posted, CTAP will send notification via our listserv inviting all interested parties to submit public comments on the final draft, along with instructions on format and timeframe in which to do so.

Anyone with questions or comments regarding the model subdivision regulation update can contact Allison Mouch, Community Planning Bureau Chief, at amouch@mt.gov or by phone at (406) 841-2598.
WALTER LUDLOW
DNRC State Floodplain Engineer
406-444-6664 | weludlow@mt.gov

The DNRC Floodplain Program is happy to announce that Walt Ludlow has joined our team as the new State Floodplain Engineer, managing the Floodplain Mapping Section. Walt comes to us from MDT, where he has spent the last 15 years working in the Hydraulics Section in Helena, leading the Butte District projects.

Walt received his B.S. in Civil Engineering from the University of Utah in 1994, and spent 6-1/2 years in consulting prior to working at MDT. His wife Sheila works in Planning at MDT and their two daughters, Hannah and Grace, are students at Capitol High. Walt started work with us on April 18.

CADEN JAMES DECKER

Congratulations to Nicole Decker, DNRC Civil Engineering Specialist, and her husband, Ted Decker, on the birth of their son Caden James Decker. Caden was born on March 2nd weighing 7lbs 4oz. Both parents and baby are happy and healthy!

BARBARA WOODBURY
Floodplain Administrator
Park County & Town of Clyde Park

BEST WISHES to Barbara Woodbury as she says goodbye to environmental health and floodplain management with Park County! Barbara has worked on sanitation and floodplain administration at Park County for over 7 years and she has been a sanitarian for 14 and a half years. Barbara’s last day with the county was April 28th. After that, she will be opening a rock shop just south of Livingston—be sure to stop by if you are in the area!

Anaconda-Deer Lodge County has not yet named a replacement Floodplain Administrator.

Park County has recently named Lawson Moorman, County Planning Department, as Floodplain Administrator.
### 2016 Lewis & Clark Local Floodplain Administrator Awards

#### JIM CARPITA

This award recognizes Jim Carpita’s efforts in implementing a strong floodplain program in Beaverhead County. In particular, it recognizes his leadership in both the Big Hole River floodplain mapping project and the Beaverhead River and Blacktail Deer Creek floodplain mapping projects. Jim’s willingness to provide input, resources, and funds for both projects is to be commended. He was instrumental in getting the Big Hole project to completion, prudently moving the public hearings and adoption process forward while responding to community concerns with care and directness.

We are thankful for Jim’s commitment to initiate a new mapping project in the county along the Beaverhead River and Blacktail Deer Creek, and also for working on the mapping update near Melrose. Jim’s hard work and leadership are truly appreciated.

#### BJ GRIEVE

BJ Grieve’s involvement in Montana floodplain management has brought him into focus as a major asset, not just to his own community, but to other Montana communities with local floodplain programs. We commend BJ and would like to recognize his efforts to improve and implement a strong CRS floodplain program for Flathead County. He is a leader who incorporates humor and professionalism in his approach to floodplain management. BJ’s willingness to be involved in training venues, nominate reluctant candidates for various boards, and revolutionize the County enforcement procedures and process is to be highly commended. His level of engagement has been supportive to county and state staff, in addition to serving as a successful example to others involved in floodplain management in Montana.

#### STEVE HESS

This award recognizes Steve Hess’ efforts in implementing a strong floodplain program in Butte-Silver Bow County and, in particular, his leadership in the Big Hole River floodplain mapping project. Steve was a tireless advocate for moving the Big Hole project forward, working with landowners, the Big Hole Watershed Committee, and the other three counties. His willingness to provide input, resources, and funds for the project is to be commended. We are thankful for his support, engagement, hard work, thoughtful insight, commitment and cooperation. Because of Steve’s efforts and collaboration, the Big Hole River floodplain mapping project became a reality.
Congratulations to the following individuals who recently became Certified Floodplain Managers (CFMs): Matthew Barnes (Morrison-Maiingerle), Luke Carlson (Morrison-Maiingerle), Cody Croskey, Molly Hirschi (Stahly Engineering), Josh Juarez (Carbon County), Kristin Mayernik (Morrison-Maiingerle), Don Sims (Cascade County), and Sue Goodman (City of Sheridan, WY).

Become a Certified Floodplain Manager

To become a CFM, individuals take an exam administered through the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASPFM) and maintain their certification through continuing education. In Montana, proctors administer CFM testing at the annual AMFM Conference in March and at the free DNRC Floodplain Resource Seminar in Helena in July.

The next scheduled CFM exam and prep session will be offered on Thursday, July 21st in Helena at the Floodplain Resource Seminar. Prospective test takers need to apply to ASPFM (www.floods.org) for exam registration before July 1 and are encouraged to allow about 3 months for testing preparation.

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We are always accepting articles and ideas for this newsletter! Please email your contributions to mphillips2@mt.gov at anytime.