

# Association of Montana Floodplain Managers 25th Annual Conference

Holiday Inn Missoula Downtown | Missoula, MT | February 25th – 28th, 2025

## **A CONFLUENCE ALONG THE CLARK FORK**

### AGENDA

#### **Tuesday, February 25 (Preconference NOAA Workshop - Offsite - Missoula Library)**

On Tuesday, February 25, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is hosting an all-day workshop at the Missoula, MT Public Library focused on exploring its newest extreme precipitation product: [NOAA Atlas 15](#). NOAA Atlas 15 is the latest update to the precipitation frequency data presented in [Atlas 14](#), the National Precipitation Frequency Atlas of the United States. Currently, a pilot version of NOAA Atlas 15 is available, using Montana as a test case. This pilot interface is being shared with the public so NOAA can collect feedback to improve the tool before final publication.

At the workshop, participants will engage directly with the National Weather Service development team for NOAA Atlas 15; discuss and provide feedback on the interface; and share the decisions they make relying on extreme precipitation products such as Atlas. Individuals interested in participating in this free, in-person workshop can register [here](#).

#### **Tuesday, February 25 (Preconference DNRC Workshop - Montana Room)**

9:30 AM - 12:00 PM

**"Floodplain Basics (101)"** - For a highly entertaining and informative workshop to understand the National Flood Insurance Program. Join the MT DNRC dynamic duo, Nadene and Traci, as they help navigate the intriguing world of floodplain management. Shylea Wingard will also be on hand to provide practical insight and commentary.

Nadene Wadsworth  
Traci Sears  
Shylea Wingard  
MT DNRC

*Please email Traci Sears ([tsears@mt.gov](mailto:tsears@mt.gov)) or Shylea Wingard ([Shylea.wingard@mt.gov](mailto:Shylea.wingard@mt.gov)) to register for this event.*

1:15 PM - 3:30 PM

**"Floodplain Bootcamp"** – In-Person Mapping Session - Focus on on-line mapping products and how to use them. This workshop is a continuation of the floodplain bootcamp mapping sections. Participants should attend the free virtual floodplain mapping sessions prior to attending this workshop. If you are interested in knowing and understanding floodplain maps and studies, this would be an excellent workshop for you.

Peri Turk  
Larry Schock  
Ryan Murphy  
MT DNRC

*Please email Traci Sears ([tsears@mt.gov](mailto:tsears@mt.gov)) or Shylea Wingard ([Shylea.wingard@mt.gov](mailto:Shylea.wingard@mt.gov)) to register for this event. **Participants should also bring their laptops if possible.***

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM

**"Letter of Map Changes (LOMCs)"** - What are LOMCs? When should they be used? More importantly how should they be submitted in the permitting process and when local officials should sign the Community Acknowledgment Forms? In-depth review of the LOMCs and Conditional Letters of Map Changes (CLOMCs). Peri and Larry are eager to address all of your burning questions surrounding LOMCS and CLOMCs.

Peri Turk  
Larry Schock  
Ryan Murphy  
MT DNRC

*Please email Traci Sears ([tsears@mt.gov](mailto:tsears@mt.gov)) or Shylea Wingard ([Shylea.wingard@mt.gov](mailto:Shylea.wingard@mt.gov)) to register for this event*

#### **Tuesday, February 25**

2:00 PM - 5:00 PM **Registration - Big Sky Atrium**

4:00 PM - 8:00 PM **Exhibitor Setup Big Sky Atrium**

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM **AMFM Board Meeting - Montana Board Room**

***This is the abbreviated version of the agenda. An expanded version of the agenda that includes presentation abstracts can be found at this [link](#) or by following the QR Code.***



**Wednesday, February 26      Conference Sessions – Garden City Ballroom**

|  |   |          |   |   |
|--|---|----------|---|---|
| 8:00 AM  | - | 5:00 PM  | <b>Registration - Big Sky Atrium</b>  |   |
| 8:00 AM  | - | 9:00 AM  | Checking in with the DNRC Floodplain Program Team   | DNRC Floodplain Program Staff<br>DNRC Regional Engineers<br>Connor Johnson, PE, CFM<br>AECOM  |
| 9:00 AM  | - | 9:20 AM  | 2D Resources for Floodplain Managers and Community Officials  |   |
| 9:20 AM  | - | 10:20 AM | Assisting and Building Capacity Through Deployment  | Tracie J Harrison, CFM<br>Utah NFIP Coordinator<br>Courtney Long, CFM<br>Great West Engineering<br>Traci Sears, CFM<br>MT NFIP Coordinator<br>Sara Hartley, CFM<br>MT DES |
| <b>10:20 AM - 10:35 AM Morning Break - Big Sky Atrium      Courtesy of NV5 Geospatial</b>            |   |          |   |   |
| 10:35 AM   | - | 11:05 AM | Unseen Flood Risk: Irrigation's Overlooked Hazards  | Drew Vance PE, CFM<br>DOWL  |
| 11:05 AM   | - | 11:35 AM | Remote sensing applications to support large-scale riverine and floodplain assessments and monitoring | Mischa Hey<br>NV5 Geospatial  |
| 11:35 AM   | - | 12:05 PM | Lessons from the Animal House Case – Johnson v. City of Bozeman                                       | Charity Yonker, CFM /JD<br>MT DNRC Land Use Attorney<br>Shylea Wingard, CFM, MS<br>MT DNRC Floodplain Planner   |
| <b>12:05 PM - 1:30 PM Lunch on Your Own</b>  |   |          |   |   |
| 1:30 PM  | - | 1:50 PM  | Welcome and Opening Comments<br>Annual Update from the AMFM Board                                     | AMFM Board Members  |
| 1:50 PM  | - | 2:50 PM  | <b>Keynote Speaker:</b> The Road Less Traveled: Taking the No Adverse Impact Highway to Resilience    | Chad M. Berginnis, CFM<br>ASFPM Executive Chair   |
| <b>2:50 PM - 3:05 PM Afternoon Break - Big Sky Atrium      Courtesy of Hydrometrics and Dewberry</b> |   |          |   |   |
| 3:05 PM  | - | 3:30 PM  | DNRC's Floodplain Mapping Program Updates   | Hannah Shultz<br>Monica Conlin<br>MT DNRC   |
| 3:30 PM  | - | 4:00 PM  | Requiem for a Drain: Inventorying and Rehabilitating Montana's Highway Culverts                       | Jennifer Johnson, PE, CFM<br>George Metzger, PE<br>Layne Davies, PE<br>Montana Department of Transportation   |
| 4:00 PM  | - | 4:45 PM  | Floodplain Permitting: A Jeopardy! Game (The Sequel)  | Peri Turk, PE<br>Ryan Murphy, PE<br>MT DNRC   |
| 4:45 PM  | - | 5:00 PM  | DNRC Awards   | Shylea Wingard, CFM, MS<br>MT DNRC Floodplain Planner   |
| <b>6:00 PM - 9:00 PM Evening Social - Big Sky Atrium      Courtesy of KLJ</b>                        |   |          |   |   |

**Thursday, February 27      Concurrent Sessions A (General) – Garden City Parlor AB**

|                     |   |          |   |  |
|---------------------|---|----------|---|--|
| 8:15 AM             | - | 9:00 AM  | Floodplain Administrators Interactive Panel Discussion  | Rob Livesay - Ravalli County<br>Sean O'Callaghan - Gallatin County<br>Matt Heimel - Missoula County<br>Larry Schock - DNRC |
| 9:00 AM             | - | 9:45 AM  | 2024 Upper Yellowstone Channel Migration Map  | Jeannette Blank<br>Montana Freshwater Partners   |
| 9:45 AM             | - | 10:15 AM | Bank Stabilization Projects Post-Flood  | Courtney Long, CFM<br>Great West Engineering, Inc.   |
| 10:15 AM - 10:30 AM |   |          | <b>Morning Break - Big Sky Atrium</b>   | <b>Courtesy of Allied and Michael Baker</b>  |
| 10:30 AM            | - | 11:10 AM | Overview of FEMA's Modeling and Mapping of Levee Systems  | Roger Denick, PE, CFM, PMP<br>STARR II / Region 8 Service Center   |
| 11:10 AM            | - | 11:30 AM | Belt, Montana Levee and Floodplain Evaluation   | Bradley R. Hoefler, CFM<br>U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Omaha  |
| 11:30 AM            | - | 12:00 PM | Montana Silver Jackets – Many Partners, One Team. Statewide Collaboration to Reduce Flood Risk Throughout Montana   | Laurel J. Hamilton, P.E.<br>U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Omaha   |
| 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM  |   |          | <b>General AMFM Membership Luncheon - Garden City Ballroom</b><br><i>(Lunch on your own for non-members)</i><br><b>Brightways RISE Challenge Lunch Presentation</b> | <b>Courtesy of DOWL, Great West Engineering, Morrison Maierle, and HDR</b>   |
| 1:30 PM             | - | 2:00 PM  | Should a LOMA Always be Trusted? Taking a Deeper Dive into a Migrating River  | Rob Livesay<br>Ravalli County Planning<br>Matt Johnson, PE, CFM<br>RESPEC  |
| 2:00 PM             | - | 2:30 PM  | Emergency Floodplain Permitting for the City of Malta Sewage Lift Station   | Lorie Bond<br>City of Malta<br>Jonathan Weaver, PE, CFM<br>Great West Engineering  |
| 2:30 PM             | - | 2:50 PM  | DRAFT Map Adoption for Regulatory Purposes & FEMA Policy #104-008-2   | Mike Day, PE<br>WGM Group, Inc.<br>Mickey Navidomskis, PE<br>DNRC Floodplain Engineer                                      |
| 2:50 PM - 3:05 PM   |   |          | <b>Afternoon Break - Big Sky Atrium</b>   | <b>Courtesy of WGM</b>   |
| 3:05 PM             | - | 3:50 PM  | Funding Partnerships for Flood Mitigation   | Kelly Smith<br>City of Three Forks<br>Including agency staff from DNRC, Great West Engineering, and Headwaters Economics   |
| 3:50 PM             | - | 4:15 PM  | Utah Post Wildfire Team building  | Tracie J Harrison, CFM<br>Utah NFIP Coordinator  |
| 4:15 PM             | - | 4:35 PM  | Caras Park – Working/Permitting in the Clark Fork River Floodplain  | Taylor Winkel, PE<br>RESPEC  |
| 4:35 PM             | - | 5:50 PM  | Caras Park Construction Tour  | Morgan Valliant<br>City of Missoula<br>Taylor Winkel, PE<br>RESPEC   |
| 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM   |   |          | <b>Evening Social - Big Sky Atrium</b>  | <b>Courtesy of Pioneer Technical, RESPEC, and WET</b>  |

**Thursday, February 27 Concurrent Sessions B (Technical) – Garden City Parlor CD**

|         |   |          |  |                                  |
|---------|---|----------|--|----------------------------------|
| 9:00 AM | - | 9:30 AM  | Addressing Hydrologic Data Deficiencies Using Stochastic Storm Transposition   | Matthew Deshotel, PE<br>Dewberry |
| 9:30 AM | - | 10:15 AM | NOAA Atlas 15: A Precipitation Frequency Tool to Help Build Climate Resilience | Doug Kluck<br>NOAA               |

**10:15 AM - 10:30 AM Morning Break - Big Sky Atrium Courtesy of Allied and Michael Baker**

|          |   |          |  |                                 |
|----------|---|----------|--|---------------------------------|
| 10:30 AM | - | 11:00 AM | Flood History of Northwest Montana and U.S. Geological Survey Flood Frequency Updates                                    | Seth Siefken, PE<br>USGS        |
| 11:00 AM | - | 11:20 AM | USGS Indirect Flood Measurements in Montana  | Dan Armstrong<br>USGS           |
| 11:20 AM | - | 11:40 AM | Paleofloods – What they are and what we can learn from them  | Haylie Brown<br>USGS            |
| 11:40 AM | - | 12:00 PM | A Tale of Two Hydrographs: Comparative Analysis Between HEC-RAS 2D Rain-on-Mesh and Traditional Rainfall-Runoff Modeling | Sarah Pfiefler<br>Michael Baker |

**12:00 PM - 1:00 PM General AMFM Membership Luncheon - Garden City Ballroom  
(Lunch on your own for non-members)  
Brightways RISE Challenge Lunch Presentation Courtesy of DOWL, Great West Engineering, Morrison Maierle, and HDR**

|         |   |         |  |   |
|---------|---|---------|--|---|
| 1:30 PM | - | 2:00 PM | Silver King Wildfire Flood and Debris Flow Study: Applying FEMA Region VIII Post-Fire Hydrology Guidance in a 2-D Rain-On-Mesh Model | Drew Burman, PE, CFM<br>WSP                         |
| 2:00 PM | - | 2:30 PM | A Comparison of Complex Hydraulic Modeling along Crabtree Creek using HEC-RAS 1D/2D and SRH-2D                                       | Emma Bones, PE<br>Dewberry                          |
| 2:30 PM | - | 2:50 PM | Advancing Floodplain Modeling and Mapping: Overcoming Challenges Using 2D HEC-RAS Models   | Meredith Miller, EIT, CFM<br>Dani Halloran<br>AECOM |

**2:50 PM - 3:05 PM Afternoon Break - Big Sky Atrium Courtesy of WGM**

|         |   |         |  |   |
|---------|---|---------|--|---|
| 3:05 PM | - | 3:35 PM | HEC-RAS 2025: Advancing Floodplain Modeling  | Hudson White, EI<br>DOWL  |
| 3:35 PM | - | 4:05 PM | The Great (West) Yellowstone Adventure – Data Collection in the Upper Yellowstone Basin            | Justin Evertz, PE<br>Ben Windauer, EI<br>Great West Engineering |
| 4:05 PM | - | 4:25 PM | Sevenmile Creek Restoration – Reconnecting Floodplain to an Incised Stream and Revising Flood Maps | Ronda Burns, PE, CFM<br>Confluence Consulting, Inc.             |

**6:00 PM - 9:00 PM Evening Social - Big Sky Atrium Courtesy of Pioneer Technical, RESPEC, and WET**

**Friday, February 28 Conference Sessions – Garden City Ballroom**

|          |   |          |  |   |
|----------|---|----------|--|---|
| 8:30 AM  | - | 9:30 AM  | From Risk to Action: How BLE data leads to Floodplain Management, Mitigation Projects, and Funding | Jerri Daniels, CFM<br>Dewberry                      |
| 9:30 AM  | - | 10:00 AM | Resilient Montana: FEMA’s Hazard Mitigation Assistance Funding Overview                            | Sara Hartley CFM<br>MT DES<br>Andrew Long<br>MT DES |
| 10:00 AM | - | 10:30 AM | Dam Safety and Downstream Development  | Karl Kingery PE, CFM<br>Hydrometrics, Inc.          |

**10:30 AM - 10:45 AM Morning Break - Big Sky Atrium Courtesy of Forerunner**

|          |   |          |   |  |
|----------|---|----------|---|--|
| 10:45 AM | - | 11:05 AM | Flooding Tools for More Effective Decision-Making | Eli Goldstein<br>Forerunner                            |
| 11:05 AM | - | 11:30 AM | How to Communicate Like a Hostage Negotiator      | Shylea Wingard, CFM, MS<br>MT DNRC, Floodplain Planner |
| 11:30 AM | - | 12:00 PM | Beavers as Floodplain Engineers and Stewards      | Elissa Chott<br>National Wildlife Federation           |

Adjourn