

WATERLOG

NFIP NEWSLETTER

Flood Insurance News In Idaho

Summer 2008

FEMA Mitigation Grant Opportunities to Reduce Future Flood Losses

by Dave Jackson, State Hazard Mitigation Officer



The application period for the FY 2009 cycle of Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) and Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Grant Programs began on June 19. All applications need to be submitted to the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security by December 5, 2008. The application period and guidance for these two programs has been combined for the first time this year to streamline and simplify the application process.

PDM is an annual competitive grant that provides natural hazard mitigation funding to state agencies, local governments, federally recognized tribal governments and public colleges and universities. Funding is provided on a 75/25 cost share basis. The non-federal share can include any combination of cash and in-kind sources. Eligible applicants may apply for a maximum federal share amount of \$3,000,000 for eligible projects and \$500,000 for planning projects. The State of Idaho is guaranteed at least \$500,000 for eligible projects each year. All subapplicants must be covered by a FEMA approved all-hazard mitigation plan. Jurisdictions identified through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) as having a special flood hazard area must be participating in the NFIP. All eligible projects must demonstrate a benefit cost ratio of at least 1:1.

The following are examples of eligible Flood Mitigation Projects under PDM program:

- 1 Voluntary acquisition and relocation of flood prone structures (buy-outs)
- 2 Elevation of flood prone public and private structures
- 3 Localized flood control projects that protect critical facilities
- 4 Protective measures for utilities

- 5 Floodproofing of public structures
- 6 Storm water management projects such as culverts and retention basins
- 7 Drainage enhancements
- 8 Hydrologic and hydraulic studies, engineering studies, and drainage studies for the purpose of project design and feasibility in conjunction with an eligible project.

All mitigation planning projects must result in the development or comprehensive update of an all-hazard mitigation plan that complies with 44 CFR Section 201.6.

The Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) program is designed to provide funds for mitigation activities that reduce or eliminate the long-term risk of flood damage to buildings, manufactured homes, and other structures insured under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The State of Idaho receives a set amount of funding that is based on the number of NFIP policies in force. Applicants may also compete for left over funds at the national level.



The following are examples of eligible Flood Mitigation Projects under the FMA program:

- 9 Voluntary Acquisition and relocation of flood prone structures (buy-outs)
- 10 Elevation of flood prone public and private structures
- 11 Dry floodproofing of non-residential structures
- 12 Minor localized flood control projects.

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WATERLOG

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Designed by Laurie Macrae



Patrick Kelly, the tall guy, has joined the floodplain unit as the Customer and Mapping Assistant. We said "Good Bye" to Laurie Macrae, who moved on to another state agency. Diego Caamano, right rear, is the research associate working on flood modeling of the lower Boise River. Barbara McEvoy, CFM, front left, is the Floodplain Specialist, who is also spearheading map modernization projects. Mary McGown, State Coordinator and new CFM, is front right.

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cover story continued...

All properties in FMA projects must be insured in the NFIP at the time of application and the policy must be maintained through the completion of the mitigation activity. All eligible projects must demonstrate a benefit cost ratio of at least 1:1.



An FMA program grant paid for this house in St. Maries to be elevated.



This structure in St. Maries was elevated after being damaged in a flood.



In Kingston, this flood-prone structure was elevated using FMA grant funds.

Training Opportunities Help Prepare Disaster Responders

Colleen A Rice, State Training and Exercise Program Manager

In an emergency, preparedness can make all the difference between a minor event and a major disaster. One of the most effective ways to prepare ourselves for any size incident is through training—not just classroom lectures and textbook studying, but also boots-on-the-ground teamwork. The Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security offers a variety training opportunities to first responders and to their supporting governmental agencies. Training in Idaho is targeted to meet the needs of emergency medical service personnel, firefighters, hospital staff, law enforcement personnel, public health personnel, public works/utility personnel, skilled support personnel, and other emergency management response, support, volunteer personnel at all levels. But the need for training doesn't end there—many engineers, surveyors, building inspectors, floodplain administrators, and other technical experts are needed during a crisis. It is essential that these experts receive proper training in Incident Command and Disaster Response. Beyond Incident Command Training, some courses that may be of interest are:

FEMA Independent Study courses online

For more information go to: <http://training.fema.gov/IS/crslist.asp>

IS-279 - Engineering Principles and Practices for Retrofitting Flood-Prone Residential Structures
Length: Self Paced

National Emergency Training Center (NETC) Courses at Emmitsburg, Maryland:

For more information go to: <http://training.fema.gov/EMICourses/EMICourse.asp>

E194 - Advanced Floodplain Management Concepts
Length: 4 days

E273 - Managing Floodplain Development through the National Flood Insurance Program
Length: 4 days

E278 - National Flood Insurance Plan/Community Rating System
Length: 4 days

E279 - Retrofitting Flood-Prone Residential Buildings
Length: 4 days

Courses provided in the state through BHS:
For more information contact Colleen Rice 208-422-3095 or crice@bhs.idaho.gov

G361 – Flood Fight Operations
Length: 2-3 days



The Flood Fight Operations class gets participants into the field to build emergency structures such as this ring dike.

G270.3 - Expedient Flood Fight - Field activity for proper sandbagging
Length: 1-3 hours



Course participants get experience filling sandbags during a Flood Fight Operations class in May 2008 in Driggs.

Many of these classes have little to no cost associated depending on qualification. If you are interested in attending any of these courses, please contact the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security Training Program, Colleen Rice 208-422-3095. Preparing ourselves for an emergency can be done with a few simple steps and some planning—learn how!

Discovering Base Flood Elevations in the Special Flood Hazard Area

In the past 50 years, 20 [Presidential Disasters](#) have been declared in Idaho; 15 were due to flooding. Given these numbers we can deduce that, in Idaho, federally declared disasters occur in the floodplain at least 75% of the time. Idaho is a beautiful, stream and river crossed state with high mountains and wide valleys. It is within these floodplains where the highest percent of our population chooses to build. Unfortunately, many of Idaho's flood hazards are [not fully mapped](#) to show this risk and some areas are completely unstudied. The result is a great number of undetermined Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHA) and 'approximate' or 'unnumbered' A zones.

Some Idaho communities have restrictive ordinances regulating floodplains, and they deny permits for development in the SFHA. But this is not the predominate rule. Often it is in the areas of unknown risk where people are allowed to build homes and infrastructure directly in the path of a potential disaster. Discovering the 1% annual chance of flood risk, or Base Flood Elevation (BFE), is one way to mitigate great financial burdens on communities by reducing the damage to health and property that may occur during a disaster.

Using 'best available data' to discover the BFE is a minimum requirement of CFR [44CFR 60.3](#) for each NFIP community. This data may be obtained from agencies like NRCS, USGS and Army Corps of Engineers, ITD, IDWR, county or city departments and the private sector. Each FEMA Flood Insurance Study (FIS) that accompanies a Flood Information Rate Map

(FIRM), is required to extend at least 500 feet outside its proposed limits. Sometimes the FEMA study will have data not shown on a map panel. It is always wise to check the FIS first.

If all resources have been exhausted and there isn't a study that provides BFE, then the community may determine a BFE on its own. This can be done by using the methods provided in [FEMA 265 Managing Floodplain Development in Approximate Zone A Areas: A Guide for Obtaining and Developing Base \(100-year\) Flood Elevations](#). Methods contained in this publication are still valid since the publication in 1992. Contour interpolation is a simple method to determine BFE's. A good source for free topographic maps is the [USGS Seamless](#) website. This site offers free topo in continuous quadrangles. The BFE generated this way is good for floodplain management when used with a solid test of 'reasonableness,' other historic information and liberal use of freeboard. This data will not relieve the property owner from possible flood insurance requirements.

Another inexpensive, yet much more accurate method, is using the Quick 2 software that comes with the publication. This is an engineering program that uses some empirical data when, combined with other data, will create a BFE and cross section across the property. The information needed to use this program is the stream discharge and the best available topography. [Stream gage](#) information is available in Idaho from the USGS. If you do not have a copy of [QUICK 2](#) or the [TUTORIAL](#), you can download the latest versions from the FEMA website.

CONGRATULATIONS TO IDAHO'S NEW CFMS

Congratulations to the five people who became Certified Floodplain Managers (CFM) in Idaho 2008 as of mid-year.

- Jordan Evans, Keller Associates.
- Mary McGown, Idaho Department of Water Resources
- Blaine Nite, Williams Engineering
- Normal Suenkel, Benewah County
- Jennifer Zung, Harmony Design & Engineering

The primary goal of the Association of State Floodplain Manager (ASFPM) Certified Floodplain Manager Program (CFM Program) is to help reduce the nation's flood losses and protect and enhance the natural resources and functions of its floodplains by improving the knowledge and abilities of floodplain managers in the United States.

This certification is awarded by the ASFPM to individuals who achieve at least 70% on the exam, which demonstrates their knowledge of the basic national standards and programs of floodplain management.

There is a continuing education requirement of 16 CECs every two years. For more information about the CFM program, go to: <http://www.floods.org/Certification/certprog.asp>

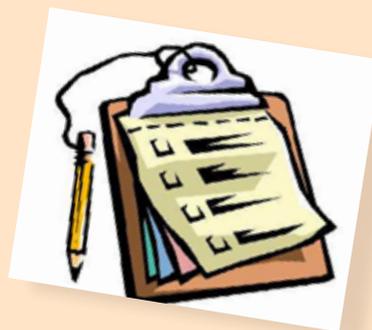
There now are 14 CFMs in Idaho.

2009 National Conference

TELL US YOUR OPINION!

When the electronic survey pops up in your mailbox asking your opinion and ideas about training opportunities, please take the time to respond! There also will be questions about different ways of delivering training, your ability and willingness to travel and subjects you would find helpful and interesting. There is a growing effort to revitalize a professional group for floodplain managers and interested others and there will be a set of questions about your interest in participating in the organization.

The survey will be delivered by SurveyMonkey for the Floodplain Unit at the Idaho Department of Water Resources.



RESOURCE LINKS

Idaho Water Resources

National Flood Insurance Program

Association of State Floodplain Managers

Flood Information for Consumers

Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security

FEMA Map Service Center

NFIP Forms

UPDATED FULL CONFERENCE PROGRAM!

Floodplain Management Association Annual Conference

September 2-5, 2008

Paradise Point Resort, San Diego, CA

Registration starts at \$395

Floodplain Sustainability: Integrating Flood Risk, Land Use and Environmental Stewardship

The Floodplain Management Association (FMA) invites you to this year's premier conference in Floodplain Management in the U.S.! Anticipating over 500 attendees from around the country and the international community, the conference brings together regulators, scientists, planners, engineers and researchers to address the latest policy and technical issues in floodplain management. The updated program including 18 technical sessions, 16 workshops and 18 policy panels is now posted at www.floodplain.org.

Conference Welcome Fest on the U.S.S. Midway! As one of San Diego's most spectacular venues, the Midway offers a magical experience, capturing the beauty of the San Diego Bay and paying tribute to the city's rich naval heritage. Climb inside aircraft, ride flight simulators, explore the ship and see the nighttime dazzling lights of downtown San Diego - an unforgettable experience for families, friends and business associates. Enjoy a special dinner and wine on the bay under the stars! Transportation provided.

Program Highlights!



- Perspectives on Recent and Future Flood Management Legislation
- Wetlands, Climate Change and Flood Management
- U.S. Army Corps Arid Regions Demonstration Programs
- Research and Development Opportunities by U.S. Army Corps
- Multi-Objective Floodplain Management
- Levee Sustainability
- Water Quality, Hydromodification and BMPs
- Erosion, Geomorphology and Sediment Transport
- Flood Management in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta
- Alluvial Fans - Technical and Policy Developments
- Coastal Erosion and Flooding
- Modeling Post-Fire Effects
- Multi-Hazard Planning and Modeling
- GIS Tools and Applications in Floodplain Management
- Risk Communication, Public Involvement and Outreach
- **Professional Development Workshops include:** CFM

Certification, Hydrology and Hydraulics, FEMA Elevation Certificate, Coastal Inundation Mapping, Riparian Habitat Restoration, Restoration Project Permitting, Serving as a Water Resources Expert Witness, Legal Issues for Floodplain Managers - and many others!

CLIMATE CHANGE 1-DAY SYMPOSIUM - September 5!

This unprecedented symposium is designed to provide an insightful, state-of-the-art look into the status of climate change research and investigations in California, with a focus on regulatory and legal implications to floodplain management. It includes up-to-date discussions on the salient studies, investigations, and research initiatives including the challenges associated with hydrologic modeling, the uncertainties of future source area hydrologic response, and the physical/infrastructure, natural resource, economic, and socio-cultural risks to floodplain managers and system-wide flood control operators. An open forum with scientists, regulators and policy experts will provide invaluable opportunities for dialogue on challenges, opportunities and recommendations.

I look forward to seeing you this September!

Iovanka Todt, Executive Director
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