

High Waters

A publication of the New Mexico Floodplain Managers Association

A Quarterly Newsletter

June 2017

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Spring Workshop

The Fall 2017 NMFMA Workshop and Conference is coming up **September 12-15, 2017** in Angel Fire, NM. Burl Smith is your conference director bsmith@angelfirenm.gov.



FROM THE CHAIR

As the newly elected NMFMA Chair, I would like to start by saying that I am so proud of NMFMA's accomplishments in 2016 under the leadership of Dave Turk! I want to give a big "Thank You" to outgoing NMFMA Chair Dave Turk for his four years of service to NMFMA's board and membership. Dave expanded on the mission of the NMFMA, along with moving it into new areas of education and outreach.

I only hope I can begin to fill the shoes of those who have held this position in the past. I am looking forward to growing the programs that Dave and others have started, along with the creation of new and hopefully exciting future programs (more on that later), for the NMFMA membership. We are introducing a slightly different path this year, in regards to the CAPSEEE funds being requested from FEMA for education and outreach.

With the National "CFM" debate going on with ASFPM, New Mexico needs to collaborate harder than ever with the other self-testing CFM States to keep our certified program under local control. We continue to experience growth of our membership, CFMs in New Mexico and our conferences are bringing out large groups of attendees seeking CEC's. As NMFMA members, we all need to become more influential in motivating support for floodplain management in New Mexico, at the local and State level.

I hope that each of you will consider getting more involved in our association. This organization is different than any other I've been a part of; as we all share a strong passion for reducing flood risks in our State/Counties/Communities.

Please do not ever hesitate to approach an NMFMA Board or Committee member to express your interest in participating, and see where you may fit in to the organization. There are a variety of committees that are always looking for helpful ideas and new perspectives.

Since the beginning of my floodplain career, I have turned to NMFMA old timers for answers, direction and support. I would like for all NMFMA members to feel like they can contact any board member, at any time to ask for help on all floodplain related matters.

Once again, I am honored to serve as your Chair for the next two years.

Sincerely,

Curt Temple, CFM



FEMA Sending Letters to All NFIP Policy Holders

This may impact you as the local Floodplain Administrator

Starting January 2017, FEMA began sending all NFIP policy holders a letter to notify them that review of their property's flood risk has been done. The letter will include what was found and how the flood risk will impact what they pay for flood insurance. For some, having an Elevation Certificate may lead to lower flood insurance costs immediately or in the future. There are seven different boiler plate letters (A through G described below). Depending on the unique situation of the policy, the appropriate letter will be sent. The last paragraph of the letter identifies which boiler plate the policy holder received. Letters A, C, D and E include a detailed one-page summary graphic (specific to the boiler plate identifier) that may be helpful in explaining the concepts. An example of Letter A and the attached graphic for letter A are included in the next few pages of the newsletter. The website to download the letters and additional information can be found at <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/resources-documents/collections/553>

Please note that on the webpage is states "Find your local floodplain manager. The floodplain manager often works for or in a community's local building, permitting, engineering or land use department". [As the Floodplain Administrator, you may receive calls about these letters.](#) We want to make sure you are aware that the letters started going out in January. However, please refer the insurance-related calls and inquiries to the insurance agent. If there are issues, please contact FEMA Region VI Mark Lujan (mark.lujan@fema.dhs.gov or (940-383-7327) or David Hiegel (David.Hiegel@FEMA.DHS.gov or 940-898-5405).

Letter A = Buildings newly mapped into a high flood risk area

Letter B = Buildings standard rated and outside the high flood risk area

Letter C = Buildings grandfather rated and in high risk flood area

Letter D = Primary residential Pre-FIRM buildings in a high risk flood area – paying a discounted rate

Letter E = Certain Pre-FIRM buildings in a high risk flood area – paying a discounted rate

Letter F = Buildings mapped outside of a high risk flood area and insured with a Preferred Risk Policy (*an example of this letter is not yet posted on the FEMA website*)

Letter G = Buildings that are Post-FIRM in a high risk flood area – paying a rate based on true flood risk (*an example of this letter is not yet posted on the FEMA website*)

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PDM/FMA Funding Opportunity

The Notices of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the annual Pre-disaster Mitigation (PDM) and Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) grants has not yet been released. We anticipate the NOFO release in the next few weeks. However, [we encourage you to submit a Notice of Interest immediately](http://www.nmdhsem.org/Grants.aspx) (available for download here <http://www.nmdhsem.org/Grants.aspx>). Once the NOFOs are posted, we anticipate that full applications will be due within 60 days. DHSEM will send an email to the NMFMA membership with specific due dates after the NOFOs are posted. Without federal disaster declarations in 2015 or 2016, New Mexico communities must rely on these two annual grants for mitigation planning and projects. If your community mitigation plan expires in 2018 or 2019, we encourage you to apply for PDM funding to prepare the up-date. If your community is interested in creating a mitigation plan, we encourage you to apply for PDM funding to write the plan. If you have a potential flood mitigation project that will reduce risk for NFIP insured structures, you can apply for the FMA funding. The first step to apply is to fill-out the DHSEM Notice of Interest (available for download here <http://www.nmdhsem.org/Grants.aspx>)

State Floodplain Coordinator Job Announcement

We anticipate the job posting for the State Floodplain Coordinator to be on the State Personnel website in mid-June (<https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/newmexico>). The formal job title will appear as 'Engineering Coordinator Specialist'.

Thank you for reading all of this information. We look forward to providing more information and up-dates at the September NMFMA Workshop in Angel Fire.

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FEMA High Water Mark Initiative

As part of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), the High Water Mark (HWM) Initiative is a community-based awareness program that increases local communities' awareness of flood risk and encourages action to mitigate that risk.

As part of the project, communities post HWM signs in prominent places, hold a high-profile launch event to unveil the signs, conduct ongoing education to build local awareness of flood risk, and complete [mitigation](#) actions to build community resilience against future flooding. A variety of audiences, such as local officials, emergency management personnel, community leaders, as well as FEMA Regions, Federal, State, and local entities can learn more about the HWM Initiative in the sections below.

To learn more about the HWM Initiative, refer to the links below:

[About the HWM Initiative](#)
[How HWM Projects Work](#)
[HWM Community Pilot and Project Summaries](#)
[HWM Tools and Resources](#)

To join the HWM Initiative, please contact Vincent Brown at Vincent.Brown@fema.dhs.gov



Technical Mapping Advisory Council (TMAC)

The 20-member Technical Mapping Advisory Council (TMAC) is a federal advisory committee established to review and make recommendations to FEMA on matters related to the National Flood Mapping Program. This is required by the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 (BW-12) and the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2014 (HFIAA).

The TMAC creates recommendations to help ensure that FEMA's Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) reflect the best available science, and are based on the best available methodologies for considering the impact of future development on flood risk.

When TMAC delivered the 2016 Annual Report in March 2017, the committee offered two new recommendations. These recommendations focus on the importance of accurate flood hazard maps to provide relevant information for determining risk-based insurance premiums. This is the fourth report since October 2015 that the TMAC has provided to FEMA. To view the report visit, <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/111853>, or for more information on previous reports and the work of the TMAC, visit www.FEMA.gov/TMAC.



FEMA

Rio Hondo Watershed, NM

BASE LEVEL ENGINEERING FACT SHEET

PROJECT TEAM:

Jerry Clark, P.E., CFM
Civil Engineer, FEMA Region 6

Brian Keller, CFM, New Mexico CTP

Shawn L. Penman, PhD, CFM,
New Mexico CTP

BACKGROUND: The Rio Hondo sub-basin covers approximately 1,661 square miles. The 3 counties within the sub-basin have been in flood related federal disaster declarations 17 times and has been affected by 20 large wildfires between 2000 and 2013.

FEMA and the New Mexico CTP, the Earth Data Analysis Center (EDAC), initiated the Risk Map Discovery process in 2014. Following Lidar data collection in 2015, the Base Level Engineering Study was started in 2016.

Purpose

Base Level Engineering is a collaborative process that produces quality data that can be used to increase public awareness and lead to flood risk reduction.

Expand the national flood hazard data inventory and expedite flood data delivery to communities and create a framework for risk and scenario based analyses.

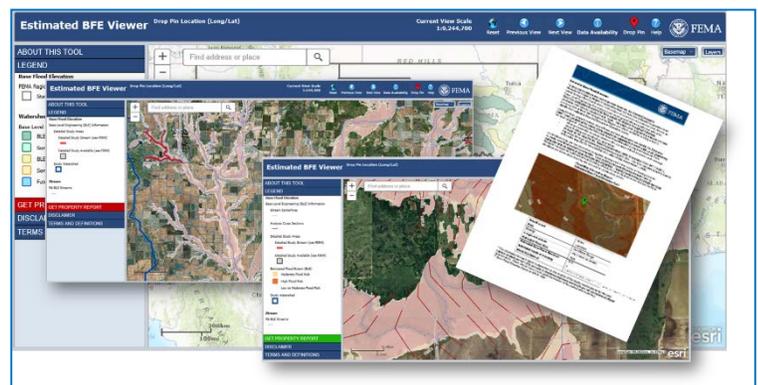
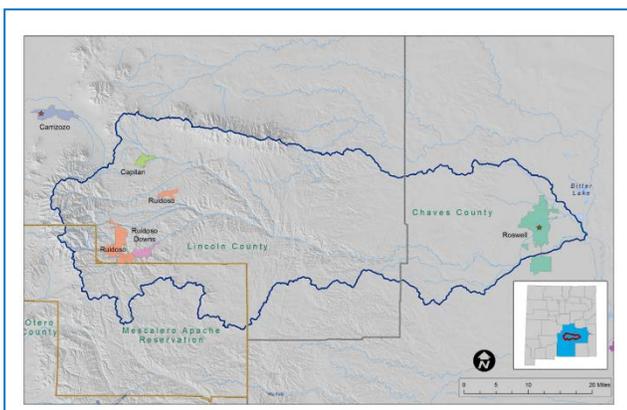
Minimum Data Purchase

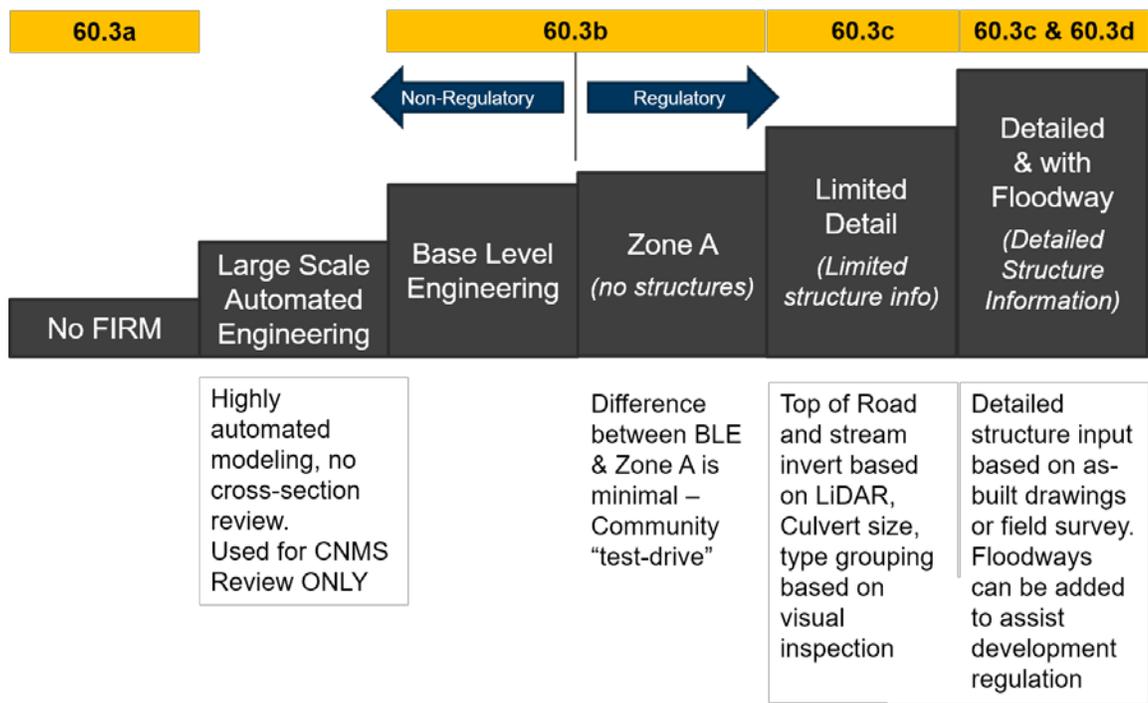
- Hydraulic Modeling (10%, 4%, 2%, 1%, 1%+ and 0.2%)
- 10%, 1% and 0.2% Floodplains
- 1% and 0.2% Water Surface Grids
- 1% and 0.2% Flood Depth Grids
- Hazus Level 2

Estimated BFE Viewer

- Uses BLE Analysis
- Designed as effective tool for community leaders and resident to make informed decisions
- <http://apps.femadata.com/estbfe>

APPROACH: This approach creates data that may be used to assess stream inventory, prioritize watersheds or stream segments for further study, provides a sounding board and initiates a discussion with communities that revolves around risk information, risk identification and indication of flood risk abatement and mitigation strategies that may reduce current or future flood risk. Products can be used to communicate flood risk to residents and model how development may affect the manner in which water is conveyed through their community or be adopted by local communities with no FIRMs.





Base Level Engineering

- 1 Base Level Engineering
- 2 Limited Detail Study
- 3 Detailed Study
- 4 Detailed w/ Floodway

Scalable models allow communities to maintain the inventory.

BLE Approach

- High resolution ground elevation data
- Regression equation based hydrology
- Highly automated hydraulic modeling
- Lessons learned in Map Modernization
- Cross-section location and orientation review
- Structure cross-sections included in modeling

BLE Creates

- Baseline models equivalent to Zone A floodplains
- Scalable Flood Hazard modeling that can be refined by community

BLE Refinement

- Dams & Reservoirs
- Culverts

Does BLE replace a FIRM? Base Level Engineering (BLE) information does NOT replace current Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM). The BLE information can be adopted by local communities without any FIRMs and may be used in areas where no flood hazard information is shown on the FIRM. Where the BLE results are similar OR more conservative it may be used to provide Estimate Base Flood Elevations to residents. Where BLE is smaller than the current FIRM it should NOT be used to provide Estimated Base Flood Elevations. This data may be used for local planning purposes.

More details on BLE: <http://www.riskmap6.com/Resources.aspx>

Purpose of the NMFMA

1. *To promote public awareness of proper floodplain management;*
2. *To promote the professional status of floodplain management and secure all benefits resulting there from;*
3. *To promote a liaison between individual concerns with proper floodplain management and to encourage the exchange of ideas;*
4. *To keep individuals concerned with proper floodplain management well informed through education and professional seminars and to provide a method for dissemination of information, both general and technical;*
5. *To inform concerned individuals of pending floodplain legislation and other related management matters, and;*
6. *To study and support legislation pertinent and necessary to the effective implementation of floodplain management matters.*

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