

Floodplain Management Challenges in Arid Rural Idaho

September 24, 2024

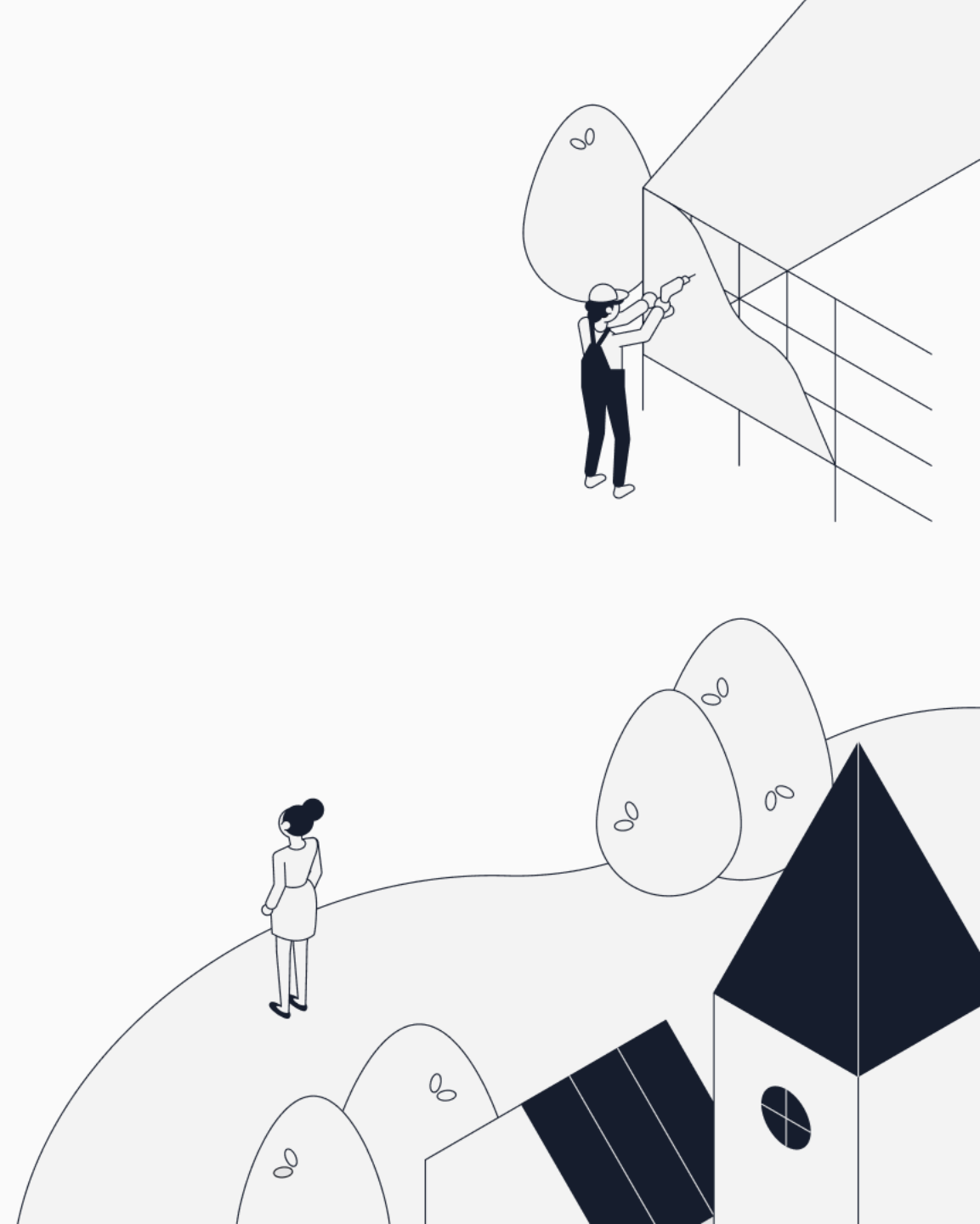
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WELCOME

Housekeeping

- This presentation is being recorded
- The recording and presentation will be shared via email and posted on our blog
- Use the Q+A or the Chat to ask questions
- CFMs: Complete the post-attendance survey to receive your CEC. The CEC Certificate will be sent via email to you (and the list will be sent to ASFPM) next week



Agenda

- 1 **Introduction**
- 2 **Floodplain Management Challenges
in Arid Rural Idaho**
- 3 **Q&A**

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GOV. PARTNERS

We work with over
**100 of the most at-risk
communities**
throughout the U.S.



FDEM
Florida



Cedar Rapids
Iowa



Harris County
Texas



Tampa
Florida



Jefferson Parish
Louisiana



Alexandria
Virginia



Kitty Hawk
North Carolina



Las Cruces
New Mexico



Georgetown County
South Carolina



Norfolk
Virginia



Leon County
Florida



Calvert County
Maryland



Peterborough
New Hampshire



Orting
Washington



Hoboken
New Jersey



Clearwater
Florida

PRODUCT

Our geospatial dashboard drives per-property insight.

The screenshot displays a web application interface for Coral Gables. The top navigation bar includes a search bar with the text "Search for address" and a close button. Below the search bar, the address "141 Solano Prado, Coral Gables, FL 33156" is displayed, along with a "Share public profile" button and a "SI/SD Tracking" button. The main content area is divided into tabs: "Overview", "Activity", "SI/SD", "Documents", and "Logs". The "Overview" tab is active, showing a "Warnings" section with a list of five warnings: "Lowest Floor does not conform to local regulatory standards", "Machinery does not conform to NFIP requirements", "Machinery does not conform to local regulatory standards", "Flood insurance requirement", and "Flood Zone changes". A "FIRM Info" section is also visible, showing flood zone details for "Zone AE (EL 12 feet)". The right side of the dashboard features a map view of the property, with a "Parcel-level Info" callout box highlighting the flood zone information.

Parcel ID: 0351050100090

141 Solano Prado, Coral Gables, FL 33156

Share public profile

SI/SD Tracking

Overview Activity SI/SD Documents Logs

Warnings

Edit

- Lowest Floor does not conform to local regulatory standards
- Machinery does not conform to NFIP requirements
- Machinery does not conform to local regulatory standards
- Flood insurance requirement
- Flood Zone changes

FIRM Info

Flood info

Effective FIRM

Flood zone	AE
In Floodway	No
In CBRS	No
BFE	12.0'
Design Flood Elevation	13.0'
Datum	NGVD29

Zone AE (EL 12 feet)

Parcel-level Info

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Maureen O'Shea, CFM

Floodplain Specialist

Idaho Department of Water Resources

Quirky Challenges of Floodplain Management in Arid Rural Idaho

By: Maureen O'Shea, CFM



Idaho Communities

1,990,456 Population 2024

2,500,000 cows

44 Counties

41 participate

199 Cities

132 participate

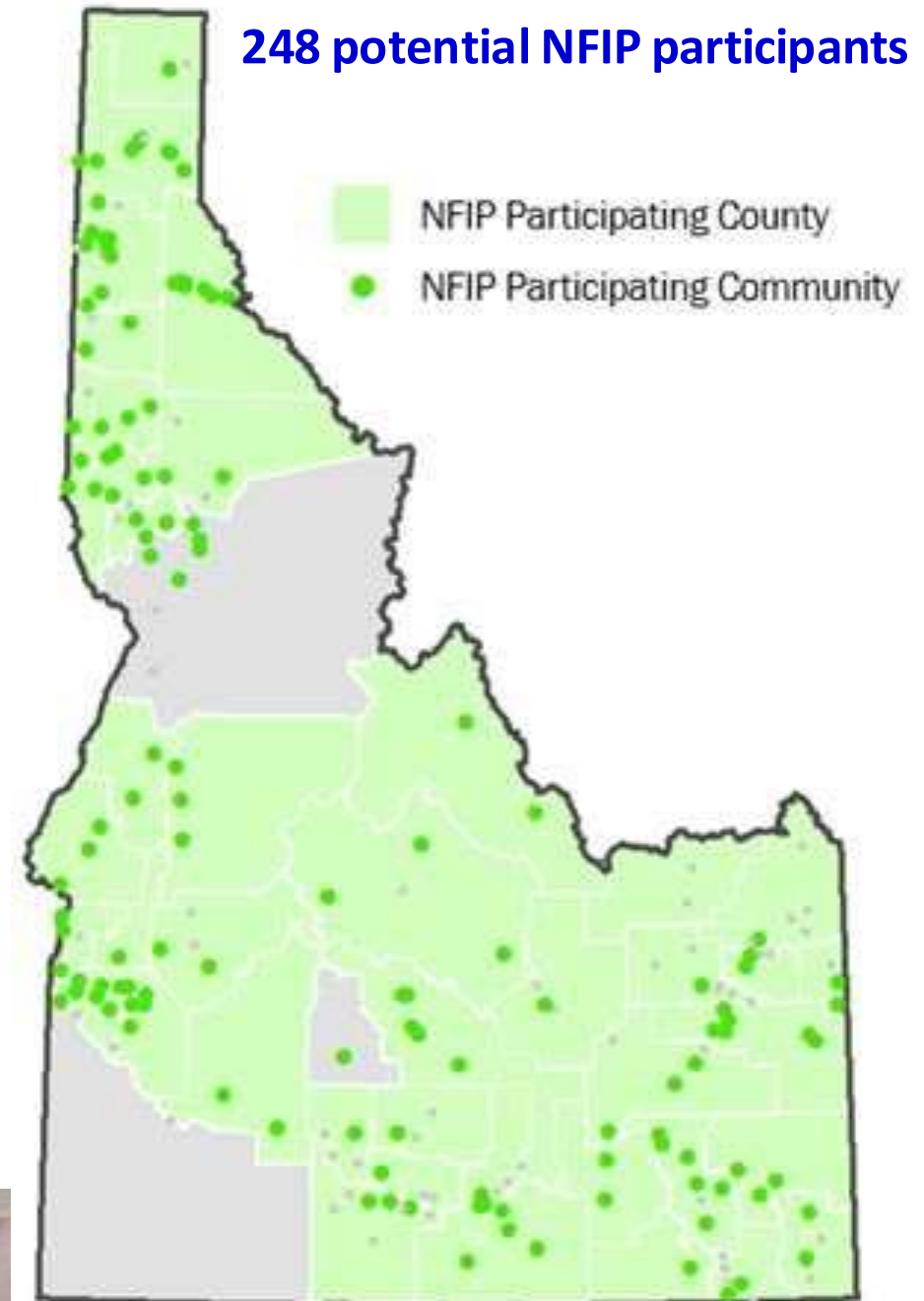
5 Tribes

0 participate

Total 173 NFIP Communities

3 emergency phase

70% participate



NFIP Non-Participating Communities

Crouch
Dubois
Franklin
Grand View
Hamer
Hauser
Idaho County (W)
Lincoln County (W)
Menan
Placerville
Plummer
Riggins (W)
St. Charles
Weippe
White Bird

- 3 have withdrawn (W)
- 12 chose not to adopt the FIRM/FBFMs (70's - 90's)
- 5 tribes & 55 other communities have never been mapped nor joined the NFIP



Idaho Statewide NFIP Insurance 5/13/2024

NFIP Coverage	\$1,494,827,000
NFIP Annual Premiums	\$5,761,716
NFIP Total Policies	5,366
NFIP Average Premium	\$1,073.75
NFIP Claims since 1978	\$10,212,976
NFIP Total Claims since 1978	1,097
NFIP Total Paid Claims since 1978	797
Average NFIP Loss	\$12,814.27



Idaho Flood Disasters

- **23 Presidentially Declared Disasters since 1956**
 - (68 yrs./23= ~every 3 yrs.)
- **17 Presidentially Declared Disasters since 1968 & the NFIP**
- **January 1997 - Last Individual Assistance (IA) disaster in ID**
- **Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAGs) are more common & lead to increased outreach for “Flood After Fire”**

Presidential Declarations for FLOOD		
Disaster	Date	Incident Description
4443	6/12/2019	Severe Storms, Flooding, Landslides, & Mudslides
4342	10/7/2017	Extreme flooding
4333	8/27/2017	Flooding, Landslides, & Mudslides
4313	5/18/2017	Severe Storms, Flooding, Landslides, & Mudslides
4310	4/21/2017	Severe Winter Storms & Flooding
1987	5/20/2011	Flooding, Landslides, & Mudslides
1927	7/27/2010	Severe Storms & Flooding
1781	7/31/2008	Flooding
1630	2/27/2006	Severe Storms & Flooding
1592	7/6/2005	Heavy Rains & Flooding
1177	6/13/1997	Flooding
1154	1/4/1997	Severe Storms/Flooding (Last IA Disaster)
1102	2/11/1996	Storms/Flooding
697	2/16/1984	Ice Jams, Flooding
505	6/6/1976	Dam Collapse
415	1/25/1974	Severe Storms, Snowmelt, Flooding
324	3/2/1972	Severe Storms, Extensive Flooding
186	12/31/1964	Heavy Rains & Flooding
143	2/14/1963	Floods
120	2/14/1962	Floods
116	6/26/1961	Floods
76	5/27/1957	Floods
55	4/21/1956	Floods

Snake River



Important source of irrigation water
for potatoes, beef cattle, hay,
wheat, milk, barley, & sugar beets

1,078 miles through Idaho



Snake River

- Largest tributary to the Columbia River
- Average discharge over 54,000 CFS
- Most is mapped as A Zone w/o BFEs



Snake River

- **Originates in NW Wyoming, arcs across southern ID before entering WA & flowing west to the Columbia River.**
- **Much of the area along the river, within a few miles of its banks, is irrigated farmland.**
- **There are 15 hydropower dams, three on the ID/OR border.**
- **Produces >1,100 megawatts of electricity — enough for the city of Seattle — & the water withdrawals irrigate 3.8 million acres.**



Irrigation Law from 1899

Idaho Code 42-1202 Maintenance of Ditch

The owners or persons in control of any ditch, canal or conduit used for irrigating purposes shall maintain the same in good order & repair, ready to deliver water by the first of April in each year, & shall construct the necessary outlets in the banks of the ditches, canals or conduits for a proper delivery of water to persons having rights to the use of the water.

History: [(42-1202) 1899, p. 380, sec. 16; reen. R.C. & C.L., sec. 3307; C.S., sec. 5655; I.C.A., sec. 41-1102.]



FIRMs & FBFMs

12 Counties FEMA digitized

11 Counties never mapped

Bear Lake Co.

Camas Co.

Caribou Co.

Lewis Co.

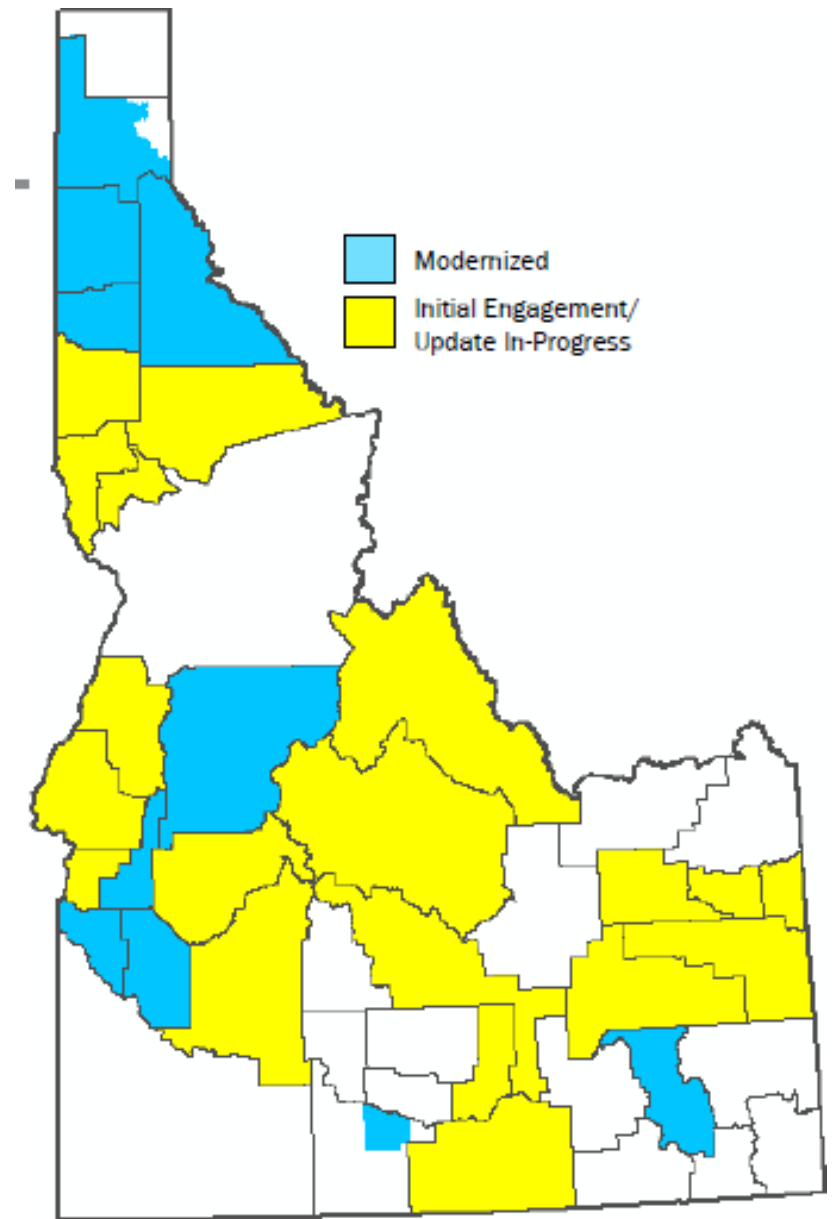
Oneida Co.

Owyhee Co.

Power Co.

Tribes/Tribal Lands (5)

**19 Counties in some stage of the
Risk MAP process**



FIRMs & FBFMs

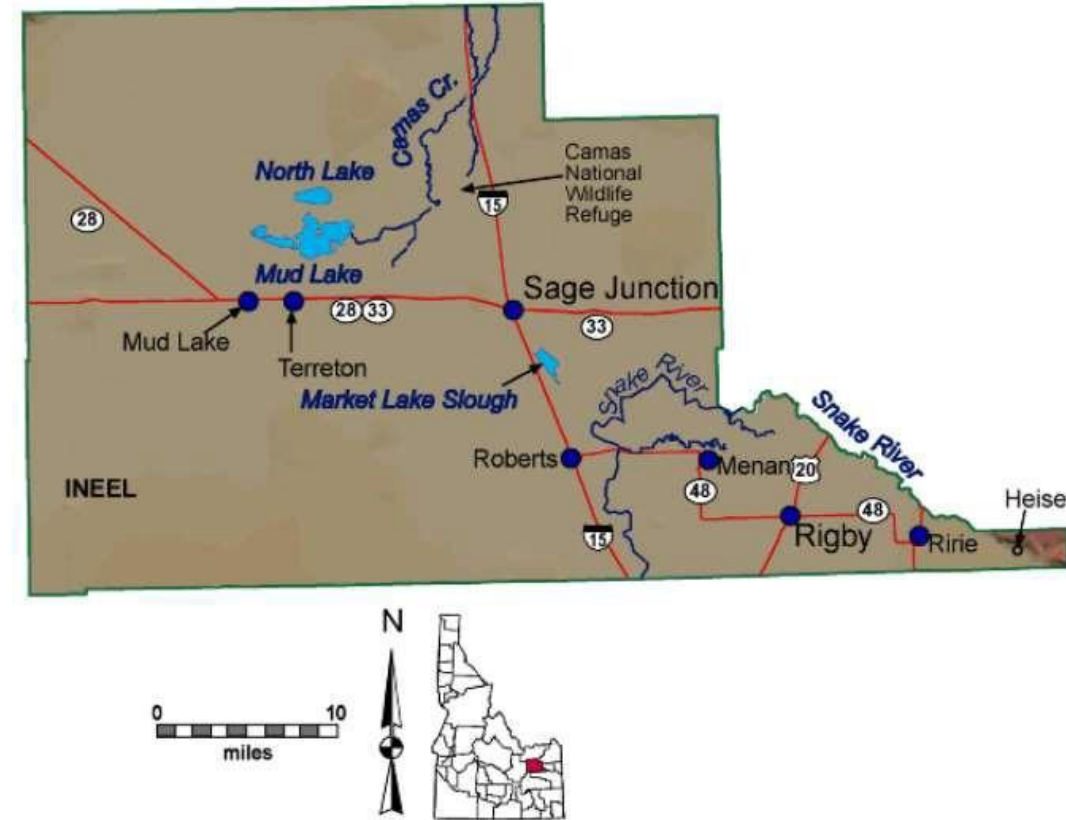
- 32 counties still use paper maps
- IDWR with Silver Jackets digitized about half the non-digitized counties
- IDWR obtained a CTP grant to digitize the remaining communities
- FIRMs/FBFMs housed on IDWR's website

<https://maps.idwr.idaho.gov/agol/IdahoFloodHazard/>



FIRMs (Map Mod) – Jefferson Co.

- 23 of the FIRMs are FEMA digitized
 - Effective 2008
 - In 1988 Datum
 - Only Dry Bed & the Heise levee were re-studied
- 15 of the FIRMs are paper maps
 - Effective 1988
 - In 1929 Datum
- Talk about a CHALLENGE!!



FIRM/FBFM MAPPING UPDATES

- Underserved & disadvantaged rural communities lack the resources (staff & funds) & lack FPM technical knowledge & understanding.
- These communities rely on USACE, Silver Jackets, FEMA CTP, & FEMA Risk Analysis Branch to assist in providing updated mapping.
- Idaho NFIP Communities wonder why FEMA's mapping process takes so long.



Risk MAP Projects (19 in Process)

<u>Project Area</u>	<u>Next Major Milestone</u>	<u>Milestone Date</u>	<u>Discovery Date</u>
Boise County	FRR Comment Resolution	7/31/2024	2/1/2011
Minidoka County	Base Level Engineering Release	6/30/2025	2/1/2011
Payette County	Draft Map Release	5/15/2024	2/1/2011
Teton County	Flood Risk Products Release	5/15/2024	4/28/2011
Blaine County (Big Wood PMR)	Flood Risk Products Release	6/30/2024	6/9/2011
Bingham County (Upper Snake)	Draft Map Release	7/15/2024	1/27/2015
Bonneville County (Upper Snake)	Draft Map Release	7/15/2024	1/27/2015
Jefferson County (Upper Snake)	Draft Map Release	7/15/2024	1/27/2015
Madison County	Draft Map Release	7/15/2024	1/27/2015
Clearwater County	Preliminary Map Release	6/30/2024	1/26/2016
Latah County	Base Level Engineering Release	1/31/2025	1/26/2016
Lewis County	Base Level Engineering Release	10/31/2024	1/26/2016
Nez Perce County	Flood Risk Products Release	5/30/2024	1/26/2016



Risk MAP Projects (19 in Process)

<u>Project Area</u>	<u>Next Major Milestone</u>	<u>Milestone Date</u>	<u>Discovery Date</u>
Cassia County	Base Level Engineering Release	6/30/2025	1/1/2019
Custer County	Project Kickoff	6/30/2024	10/1/2019
Lemhi County	Project Kickoff	6/30/2024	10/1/2019
Elmore County	Draft Map Release	10/15/2025	2/9/2022
Adams County	Draft Map Release	6/30/2025	2/10/2022
Washington County	Draft Map Release	1/30/2025	2/10/2022



County Populations as of 2022

<u>POPULATION RANGE</u>	<u># OF COUNTIES</u>
Less than 5,000	7
5,001 to 10,000	8
10,001 to 25,000	15
25,001 to 50,000	7
50,001 to 100,000	3
Greater than 100,000	4

<25,000 = 30 of 44

<50,000 = 37 of 44



City Populations as of 2024

<u>POPULATION RANGE</u>	<u># of CITIES</u>
Less than 5,000	163
5,001 to 10,000	9
10,001 to 25,000	13
25,001 to 50,000	6
50,001 to 100,000	5
Greater than 100,000	3

<25,000 = 185 of 199

<50,000 = 191 of 199



Political Makeup Constantly Changing

- City & County elections occur every 2 years. Often half of the seated commissioners or council are new every 2 years.
 - Thus, FPM education is an ongoing challenge.
- Not only does half the elected officials change out with biennial regularity; then every four years so does the City/County Clerk.
- Sometimes staff also leave at term end, offering no continuity of FPM operations.



Floodplain Administrator (FPA)

- These cities are usually so small many use Gmail or other free email providers for their email.
- A clerk, a treasurer, & a public works person are the usual three employees of the city. Other staff may be part-time &/or contract staff.
- These small cities/counties can never be a Master of Floodplain Management. They do less than one (1) Floodplain Development Permit per quarter, & sometimes less than one (1) per year.



FPA & Other Duties as Assigned

In the 215 community's w/a population of <25,000 the City/County Clerk often wears MANY hats.

Clerk's Office functions often include Alcohol Beverage Licensing, Alcohol Catering Permits, Annual Budget, Building Permit Applications, Elections, Meeting Minutes, Park Reservations, Dog Licensing, Payroll, Personnel/Human Resources, Planning & Zoning, Public Records Request, Urban Renewal, Water, Sewer, Sanitation Services, Utility Billing, &

“OTHER DUTIES AS ASSIGNED” including Floodplain Development Permits.



Floodplain Administrator (FPA)

City of Notus on the Snake River

- Population 610
- City Clerk with a 13-year tenure
 - has attended a couple trainings
 - has adopted a new Flood Ordinance
 - has issued six new building permits (in her tenure) none were for structures in the SFHA
- Recently received an MT-2 application
 - first floodplain permit activity as the FPA
- City Clerk & Treasurer are part-time
- Public Works Director is full-time



Notus, ID

Total area 0.39 sq. mi.

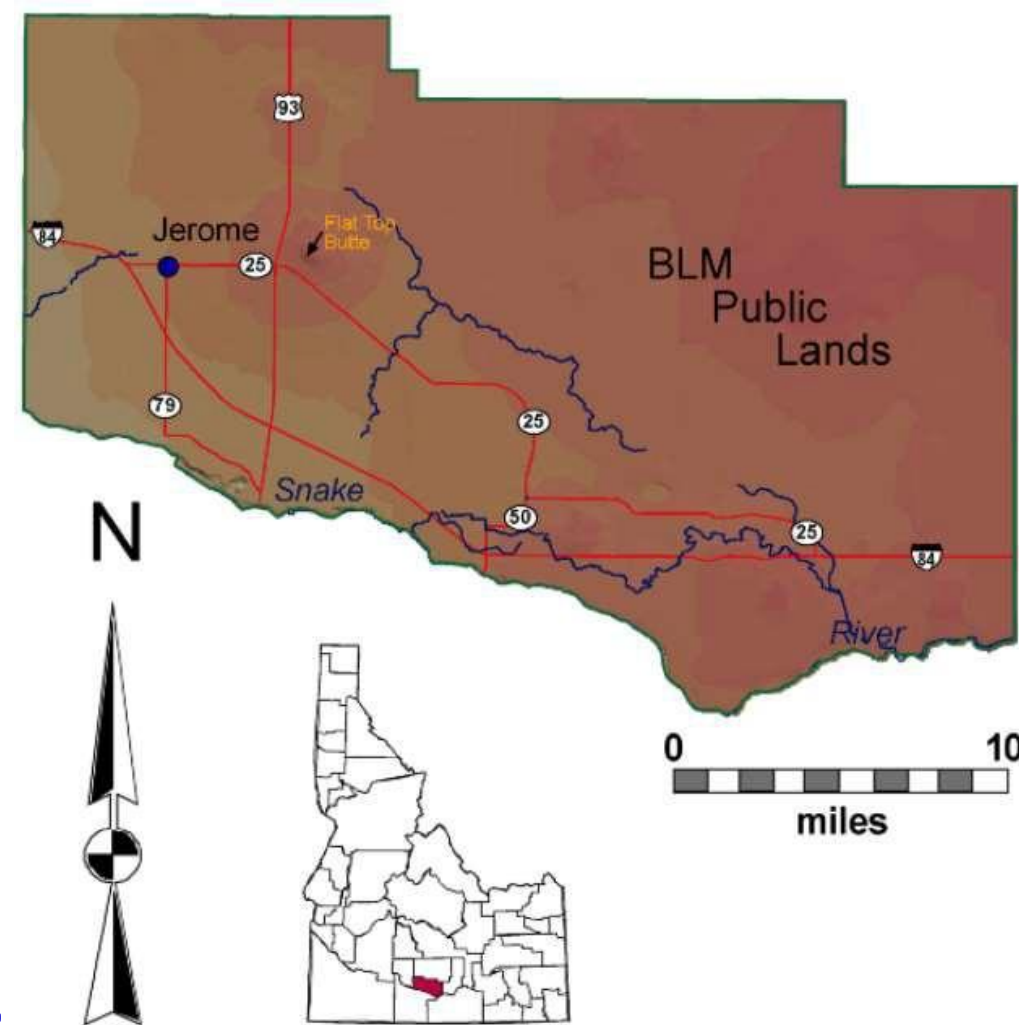
- 0.38 sq. mi. is land
- 0.01 sq. mi. is water



Floodplain Administrator (FPA)

Jerome County on the Snake River

- Population 25,714
- Total Area 602 sq. mi.
 - Land 597 sq. mi.
 - Water 5 sq. mi. (0.8%)
- Planning Staff/FPA
 - have attended trainings
 - have adopted a new Flood Ordinance
 - floodplain is primarily the Snake River
 - have issued two Floodplain Development Permits since 11/2015



Master Floodplain Administrator (FPA)

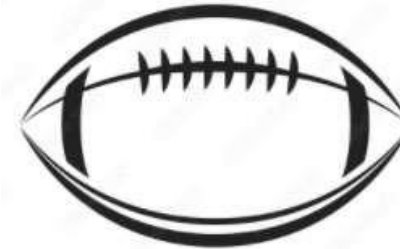


**If someone only snow skis once a year...
they will never become an Olympic contender.**

Picabo Street, from Triumph, ID is an American former World Cup alpine ski racer & Olympic gold medalist

**If someone plays flag football only on weekends...
they will never be a starting NFL Quarterback.**

Jake Plummer, from Boise, ID is an American former professional football quarterback who played 10 seasons in the NFL



State NFIP Coordinator Responsibility

Per Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations §60.25

(b)(3) Guide & assist county & municipal public bodies & agencies in developing, implementing, & maintaining local flood plain management regulations;

In Idaho it is a fulltime occupation to ensure the NFIP communities have the necessary support & assistance to properly permit all Floodplain Development in the SFHA.



Community Rating System (CRS)

- What about CRS?
- How can a city/county with two or three employees even consider participating in the CRS program?
- Only 8 communities continue to participate in CRS located in the larger urban areas.
- Disadvantaged & underserved communities are prohibited from participating in CRS due to the onerous reporting requirements.

Community	Rating
Ada County	7
Boise	7
Eagle	7
Garden City	7
Gem County	9
Kootenai County	7
Meridian	8
Moscow	8



Thank You

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Thank you!

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