Introduction

The ASFPM Region 7 area includes the States of Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska. The Region 7 State Floodplain Management websites listed below are hyperlinked:

- Iowa Department of Natural Resources;
- Kansas Department of Agriculture
- Missouri State Emergency Management Agency
- Nebraska Department of Natural Resources

The Region 7 State Hazard Mitigation websites listed below are hyperlinked:

- Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
- Kansas Department of Agriculture
- Missouri State Emergency Management Agency
- Nebraska Emergency Management Agency

The ASFPM State Chapters in Region 7 include:

- Iowa Floodplain and Stormwater Management Association (IFSMA);
- Kansas Association for Floodplain Management (KAFM);
- Missouri Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association (MfSMA);
- Nebraska Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association (NeFSMA).

In 2021, both Missouri and Nebraska had Major Disaster Declarations:

The State of Missouri: On September 1, 2021 FEMA DR-4612-MO was declared for 21 counties for severe storms, straight-line winds, tornadoes, and flooding.

The State of Nebraska: On September 6, 2021, FEMA DR-4616-NE was declared for 14 counties for severe storms and straight-line winds.

**Key Accomplishments**

**Iowa:** There are 688 NFIP-participating communities in Iowa; 13 are currently participating in the Community Rating System (CRS) program. Iowa currently has 65 ASFPM Certified Floodplain Managers (CFMs). By the end of 2021, all of Iowa’s 99 counties have countywide DFIRM mapped to the 2-foot LiDAR.

**Kansas:** There are 471 NFIP-participating communities in Kansas; 42 are currently participating in the CRS program. Since May, 2021, eleven counties in Kansas received letters of final determination; three of those now have new effective FIRMs. Kansas currently has 116 ASFPM Certified Floodplain Managers (CFMs).

In Kansas, the state is divided into twelve (12) regions, each of which has a regional hazard mitigation plan. All regions completed their hazard mitigations plans with the last one being
completed in January. Every region in Kansas now has a hazard mitigation plan. The State of Kansas began the process of updating the state’s Hazard Mitigation Plan in 2022.

Kansas continues to support the Community Rating System, with GIS resources provided for the communities that do not have adequate resources of their own.

**Missouri:** There are 681 NFIP-participating communities in Missouri; 12 are currently participating in the CRS program. Since May 2021, Missouri has had no new DFIRMS. Missouri currently has 168 ASFPM-Certified Floodplain Managers (CFMs).

The State of Missouri began the process of updating the State’s Hazard Mitigation Plan in 2022.

**Nebraska:** There are 419 NFIP-participating communities in Nebraska; 6 are currently participating in the CRS program. Since May 2021, two counties in Nebraska received new DFIRMS, Nemaha and Richardson. Three counties went preliminary: Cheyenne, Deuel and Wayne. Nebraska currently has 92 CFMs.

Nebraska’s Floodplain Management Section is completing the State Hazard Mitigation Plan, rather than the State Hazard Mitigation Office. The Floodplain Management Section is required by Nebraska State Statutes to update the plan.

### Challenges

The Region VII States of Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska have expressed many of the same challenges. They include:

- Pandemic restrictions made meeting activities, as documented on the 2021 Activity Planning and Pricing Tool, problematic and made predictions for the 2022 CAP fiscal year difficult.
- States would like for the Community Engagement Prioritization Tool to be a better guide. States need greater confidence in using it while planning Community Assistance Contact (CAC) visits and Community Assistance Visits (CAVs).
- States are still waiting for official guidance from FEMA related to the Endangered Species Act. They are told by FEMA to educate communities on ESA but have no guidance from FEMA on how to implement this.
- States are frustrated with using the NFIP’s PIVOT system. SCs and SHMOs alike are not getting the data they need to perform their responsibilities. In addition, unfulfilled data requests are holding up some CRS communities during Annual Recertification and Cycle Verification process.

### Priorities

The Region 7 State Hazard Mitigation Officers and State NFIP Coordinators have a robust partnership and take pride in maintaining mutually beneficial affiliations. They actively participate by providing technical assistance and support to each other and to other states requesting
information and aid with mitigation and flood recovery efforts. It is a priority to maintain that partnership and to assist one another as the State Hazard Plans are being completed and during the next Tired State Framework assessment in 2023.

**Recommended Actions**

Recommended actions include sharing workshop PowerPoint presentations, plans, standard operating procedures, reports and ordinance updates. This has proven helpful to Region VII states in meeting professional obligations. This partnership will continue to help all of us as we strive to implement the latest requirements of our program. There have been many changes in both the Hazard Mitigation section and the National Flood Insurance Program and helping one another navigate the changes works to the benefit of all!