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 Division of Emergency Management
- Missouri State Emergency Management Agency
- Nebraska Emergency Management Agency

The Region 7 Floodplain Mapping websites listed below are hyperlinked:

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

Key Accomplishments

- Floodplain Management Update:
  - Nebraska floodplain management update
    - There are 427 NFIP-participating communities in Nebraska.
    - 8 communities are currently participating in the CRS program.
    - There are 88 ASFPM-Certified Floodplain Managers (CFMs) in Nebraska
  - Kansas floodplain management update
    - There are 486 NFIP-participating communities in Kansas.
    - 46 communities are currently participating in the CRS program.
    - There are 116 ASFPM-Certified Floodplain Managers (CFMs) in Kansas.
    - 6 Counties have reached the LFD stage of mapping since May 2023.
Iowa floodplain management update
- There are 733 NFIP-participating communities in Iowa.
- 13 communities are currently participating in the CRS program.
- There are 68 ASFPM-Certified Floodplain Managers (CFMs) in Iowa.
- 7 Counties have reached the LFD stage of mapping since May 2023

Missouri floodplain management update
- There are 689 NFIP-participating communities in Missouri.
- 12 communities are currently participating in the CRS program.
- There are 163 ASFPM-Certified Floodplain Managers (CFMs) in Missouri.
- 7 Counties have reached the LFD stage of mapping since May 2023

Mitigation Update:
- Nebraska mitigation update:
  - The State of Nebraska currently has a total of twenty-four (24) Local Hazard Mitigation Plans.
  - A total of four (4) Local Hazard Mitigation Plan update applications were submitted under BRIC 2022.
  - Two (2) Hazard Mitigation Plan update applications were submitted under HMGP, including the State Hazard Mitigation Plan update.
  - Twenty-five (25) applications were submitted under HMGP and nine (9) applications were submitted under BRIC; these included two (2) for National Competition.

- Kansas mitigation update:
  - The State Hazard Mitigation Plan was adopted and approved in November 2023. With the normal 5-year expiration, the next update has already begun.
  - Twelve Regional Mitigation Plan updates have commenced, with the first two plans already submitted to FEMA for approval. Three additional Regional Mitigation Plans are set to expire in the fall of 2024 and are currently halfway through the updating process. In 2025, five regional plans will expire, the first one in January. Kick-off meetings and updates for these plans will commence in the fall of 2024, running concurrently with ongoing updates. The final two Regional Mitigation Plans are scheduled to expire in early 2026.

- Iowa mitigation update:
  - The Iowa Enhanced Mitigation Plan was approved in September 2023.
  - A total of 82 of 99 counties have an approved local mitigation plan.
  - Under FMA23 Iowa submitted applications for a Levee Setback and Aquifer Recharge Study and a Flood Scoping Project for Socially Vulnerable Communities.
  - Under BRIC23 Iowa submitted 10 planning applications, 6 Capability and Capacity Building (CCB) applications and 2 regular constructions projects under the state set aside. Three projects were submitted to the competitive portion.
  - Iowa currently has two communities participating in BRIC Direct Technical Assistance (DTA). Three others have made application for FY23 BRIC DTA.
Under FMA22, Iowa submitted one project application that is pending FEMA approval.
Under BRIC22, Iowa has approved or pending review 3 planning grants, 7 CCB grants (one still under review), and 1 competitive infrastructure grant that was selected for further review.
- Iowa currently has 4 open disasters.

 Missouri mitigation updates:
- The Missouri State Hazard Mitigation Plan 2023 (Enhanced) was approved July 20, 2023.
- Missouri Mitigation has been approved to update its Hazard Mitigation Plan Format Guidance and conduct workshops for hazard mitigation plan developers.
- All 116 County Hazard Mitigation Plans are current.
- FY22 FMA (Flood Mitigation Assistance) Missouri sent three projects in for review; one has been approved.
- FY22 BRIC (Building Resilient Infrastructure & Communities) Missouri sent in five projects; one has been approved and four were identified for further review. Out of the four, two are Competitive applications.
- FY23 FMA Missouri submitted two applications, which are pending FEMA review.
- FY23 BRIC Missouri submitted two State Allocated and four Competitive applications pending FEMA review.
- BRIC Direct Technical Assistance completed ten submissions. FEMA is in the process of reviewing.
- Currently Missouri has six open disasters, two of which end in 2024.

Challenges
- Increased numbers of violations are being reported or found during CACs/CAVs as states work with more communities each year. Many of these violations are a result of limited development. The communities do not apply NFIP requirements; sometimes they are not even aware that they are a NFIP-participating community! As states transition to the new audit process, they envision the need for more FEMA support; FEMA will need a strong commitment to follow through on enforcement.
- Property owners and developers use loopholes to avoid current regulations. For example, they obtain a LOMR-F to remove a property, but the lot is then sold and a home with a walkout basement is built. FEMA has improved at catching LOMR-Fs used inappropriately in place of a LOMR and actual study, but this has been a challenge for the states, specifically when development is occurring around a sandpit lake.
- Guidance suggesting the use of variances to exempt agricultural structures from elevation requirements being at odds with CRS requirements.
- State legislative attempts to limit communities from adopting higher standards which could impact CRS ratings. Legislation has been passed limiting local governments in requiring higher standards for stormwater management controls.
The Statement of Work process is time consuming and creates overly rigid, prescriptive performance requirements based on largely speculative decisions from a year prior.

The rise of private flood insurance is obscuring coverage data.

Priorities

- Kansas just received a FEMA HQ-approved ESA article. This may be helpful for other states.
- The Region 7 State Hazard Mitigation Officers and State NFIP Coordinators have a robust partnership, taking pride in maintaining mutually beneficial affiliations. They actively participate in this by providing technical assistance and support to each other and to other states requesting information and aid with mitigation and disaster/flood recovery efforts. It is a priority to maintain that partnership and to assist one another as the State Hazard Plans are being completed during the next Tired State Framework assessment in 2026.

Recommended Actions

Helping other states by sharing workshop PowerPoint presentations, plans, standing operating procedures, reports and ordinance updates has proven useful in meeting our many workplace obligations. This partnership needs to continue as all of us strive to implement the latest program requirements. There have been many changes in both the Hazard Mitigation section and the National Flood Insurance Program; helping one another navigate these changes helps all of us come out on top!