

# High Waters

*A Publication of the New Mexico Floodplain Managers Association*

## A Quarterly Newsletter December 2014

**Fall Workshop** - Pages 1 - 2

**Training and Conferences** - Page 2

**NWS/NOAA Outreach** - Page 3

**USACE Award** - Page 3

**New Mexico CFM's** - Page 4

**NM SHMO Update** - Pages 5 - 6

**ASFPM Webinar** - Page 6

**From the Chair** - Page 7

**NM Solar Fiesta** - Page 8

**State NFIP** - Pages 9 - 10

**New GIS Data** - Page 10

**Conference Chair** - Page 11

**FEMA Region VI Voices** - Page 11

**Special Features** - 12 - 17

Story Map

Underground Art

Statewide Lidar Plan

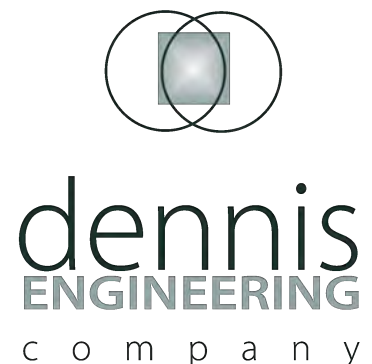
**ASFPM News and Views** - Page 18

**From the Editor** - Page 19

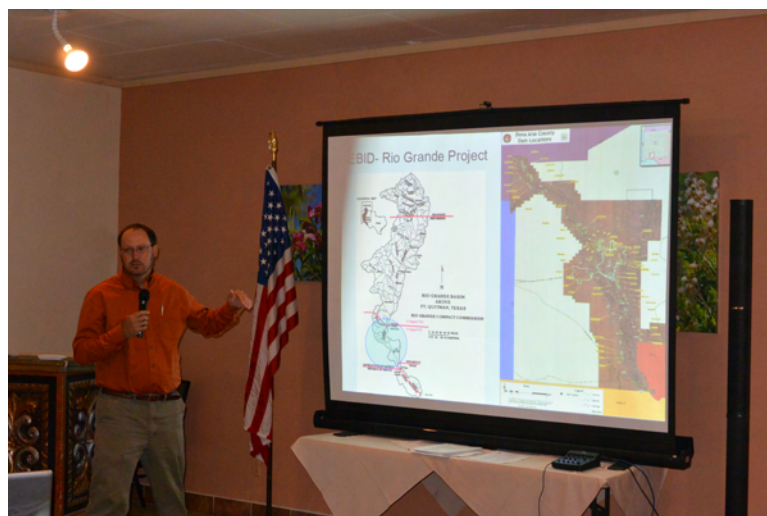
**NMFMA Purpose** - Page 20

## Sponsor Appreciation

Our NMFMA Fall Workshop in Elephant Butte was a great success. We would like to extend a special thank you to our sponsors who provided our membership with a great opportunity to learn and network.



# NMFMA Fall Workshop and Conference







## NWS/NOAA Outreach



### Winter Safety

The NWS Weather Ready Nation Program has released its Winter Safety Information Kit which contains links, stories, outreach material, and other information related to winter safety. In a nod to floodplain managers, there is even a section related to ice jams. Learn more at <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/winter/index.shtml> and at [http://www.nws.noaa.gov/com/weatherreadynation/winter\\_safety.html#.VlfMhq3WKcZ](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/com/weatherreadynation/winter_safety.html#.VlfMhq3WKcZ).



### Congratulations!

New Mexico's very own Stephen Scissons with the USACE Albuquerque Office was named **Flood Risk Manager of the Year** by the National Silver Jackets program. Read about the award [online](#).





## New Mexico Certified Floodplain Managers

*Grant Pinkerton, CFM*  
*Chair, Certification Committee*

The last CFM exam was proctored at the Fall workshop in Elephant Butte, NM held at the Elephant Butte Inn. The following four people passed the exam and are now NM CFMs:

Johnny Montiel, CFM	Roosevelt County
Joseph Benney, CFM	Town of Bernalillo
Maria Martinez-Encinias, CFM	Sandoval County
Robbie Travis, CFM	City of T or C

There are now 174 active CFMs certified by the NM certification program.

The next CFM exam will be proctored at the NMFMA Spring workshop in Albuquerque, NM, April 14 to 17 at the MCM Elegante hotel. You will be able to register to take the exam when the registration page for the workshop is set up on the NMFMA web site sometime after the first of the year.

You may notice a reduction of CFMs in the State since the last newsletter. A few CFMs were transferred to another program, and a few retired or moved to another job, but several were due to not gaining enough CECs during their first year after being renewed. Remember that you must earn CECs every year and that only 12 CECs can be counted for any one year of certification. The Charter for the NM CFM Program can be accessed on the Certification page of the website. If you have any questions about the CFM program, contact Grant Pinkerton.

The CFM exam is proctored several times each year. If you are interested in taking the exam, please remember that no matter what paperwork or on-line registration you submit for any specific workshop, class, or other function, **YOU MUST SUBMIT A CFM EXAM APPLICATION PACKET** to the Certification Board before you can be scheduled to take the exam. The packet is downloadable from the Certification page of the NMFMA website. The Application Packet should be mailed to the Roswell address noted in the packet. Any questions should be directed to Grant Pinkerton, Certification Board Chair, at [nmcfm@cableone.net](mailto:nmcfm@cableone.net).

# New Mexico State Hazard Mitigation Officer Update

Wendy Blackwell

NMDHSEM SHMO

## Status of Mitigation Planning

Currently there are 14 FEMA approved mitigation plans state-wide (nine County plans, three tribal plans, one university plan and the State Plan). FEMA mitigation grants were used to fund 13 of the approved plans and are being used for another 23 mitigation plans. In addition, there are seven planning sub-grants that are in the application stage.



You may ask... *“What does this mean to me as a local floodplain manager?”*

Well, I'll tell you...

1. There is funding for your community to participate in a mitigation planning effort.
2. Your community emergency manager is the likely contact for the status of your mitigation planning effort. (*Or, you can call us at the State.*)
3. Once your community mitigation plan is approved by FEMA, your community will be eligible for mitigation project funding.
4. With so many mitigation plans being drafted or approved, competition for the grant funding will get more intense.

That brings us to the next topic...

## Status of Mitigation Projects

Currently there are seven mitigation projects funded in the state. Most are for mitigation outreach and education. Examples include k-12 education about arroyo safety, public service announcements for wildfire mitigation and newspaper inserts on drought mitigation. Stream gauges, warning sirens and earthquake tie-downs are also being funded. In addition, there are three wildfire mitigation and eight flood mitigation construction projects being proposed. Examples of flood mitigation projects are detention basins, debris nets, culvert size increase and bank stabilization. All eligibility criteria has not yet been confirmed for these construction projects. But, we expect to award the funds for three flood mitigation construction projects in the next few months.

Again, you may ask... *“What does this mean to me as a local floodplain manager?”*

So, I'll tell you...

1. There is funding available to implement your community's flood mitigation actions. As you know, your community must have a FEMA approved mitigation plan to be awarded funding. But, you can get started on the application if your community will have an approved mitigation plan within one year.
2. Please coordinate your request for funding with your community's emergency manager and other contacts that participated in the mitigation planning process.
3. The Notice of Interest is the first step in the application process; it is a one-page quick description of the project. If more than one Notice of Interest is submitted, the State will request that the community identify their priorities for funding. The form can be downloaded at <http://www.nmdhsem.org/Grants.aspx>

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## New Mexico State Hazard Mitigation Officer Update Continued

- The Notice of Interest deadline is March 16, 2015 for the two 2014 Hazard Mitigation Grant Programs (DR-4148 and DR-4152). The Notice of Interest is required in order to be considered for funding. The deadline for the full application is June 30, 2015. Please keep in mind that your community does not have to be declared in the disaster in order to be eligible for the mitigation grant funding.

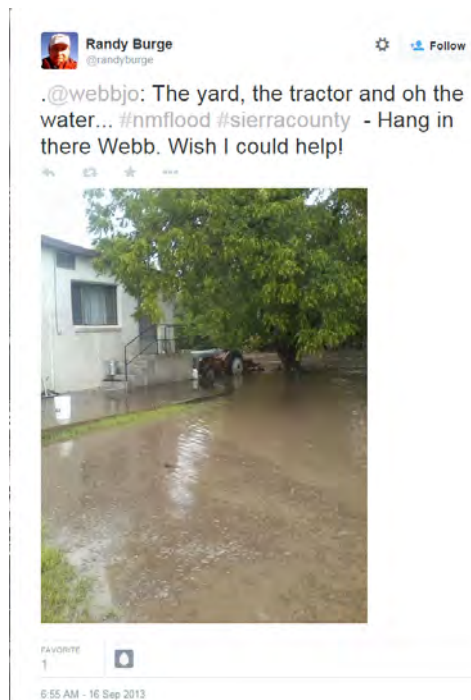
If you have questions about the grants, mitigation planning or any other aspect of the State's Mitigation Program, please contact Kevin or me. Happy holidays to all!

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Kevin Dodge, Mitigation Specialist  
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## ASFPM Social Media Webinar

The ASFPM hosted an "Introduction to Social Media for Floodplain Managers" webinar on October 23, 2014 with NMFMA members Michele Truby-Tillen and Michael Camponovo in attendance. Case studies from different communities across the country were highlighted as well as recommendations for difference platforms like Twitter, YouTube, and LikedIn. If you are interested in learning more please contact Michele or Michael or the Spring Workshop organizers and request a session.



## From the Chair - Dave Turk

*David Turk, CFM, GISP*

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I am happy to announce that NMFMA has signed a sub grant agreement with New Mexico Department of Homeland Security & Emergency Management (NMDHSEM) this past October to help fund two very important initiatives: (1) the Flood Awareness Calendar, and (2) Turn Around Don't Drown road sign installation.

For the Flood Awareness Calendar initiative we have received fantastic art work from New Mexico students, grades 3-6<sup>th</sup>, from across the state that were instructed to illustrate their favorite disaster mitigation hero. We are in the process of compiling their illustrations and will incorporate them into a 12-month calendar. We will have the calendars ready to distribute in January so please keep an eye out for them!

The second initiative is the Turn Around Don't Drown (TADD) road signage where NMFMA will receive 100 signs to be installed at low-water crossings across the state to raise awareness of flood hazards associated at these locations and to mitigate risks during flood events. NMFMA will coordinate with interested communities and stakeholders across New Mexico who will install the low water crossing signs as appropriate. The signs will be distributed to interested communities on a first come, first serve basis, with the community responsible for installation. We expect to receive the signs during spring time.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank Jim Orwat, FEMA Region 6 senior engineer, who is retiring at the end of this year. Jim has been a great advocate for New Mexico and our communities in advancing flood hazard identification and mitigation. Jim's helpful demeanor and his extensive knowledge will be missed.

We have an exciting 2015 planned for NMFMA. We look forward to offering many great opportunities for members to get involved in educating New Mexico citizens and communities about flood hazard awareness, mitigation and disaster preparedness.

I thank you for your continued valuable work and attention to this announcement. I wish you a joyous holiday season with your family and friends.

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The Spring 2014 NMFMA Workshop and Conference is coming up from April 14-17, 2015 in Albuquerque, NM at the MCM Elegante Hotel. Contact Curtis Cherne at 505-924-3986 or [ccherne@cabq.gov](mailto:ccherne@cabq.gov) or Loretta Hatch at 505-869-2358 or [pzadmin@bosquefarmsonm.gov](mailto:pzadmin@bosquefarmsonm.gov) if you would like to present or have questions.





# 2014 NMSEA Solar Fiesta

Sean O'Melvney, URS, set up the flood simulator at the New Mexico Solar Fiesta on Saturday Sep 27 from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm at the NMC Workforce Training Center on behalf of the NMFMA. Sean had great participation with kids of all ages using the simulator to see the effects of flooding and precipitation on the landscape. Contact Jim DeAngelo if you would like training on how to use the model or would like to use the model for public outreach.







## In and Around New Mexico with the State NFIP Coordinator

*Bill Borthwick, CFM, State Floodplain Coordinator*

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### **A Developing Story - Participating Interest in Floodplain Management in New Mexico**

Floodplain Administrators! Guess what? We have new neighbors. Three communities in the State have elected to join the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP); City of Rio Communities, Roosevelt County and Quay County.

The City contacted me in July 2014 with a level of interest to join the NFIP. One of the challenges was that the community did not have a Community Identification Number (CID) for the NFIP. FEMA headquarters had to create a number for the City of Rio Communities. The community's number is now 355333. The City had to send FEMA a legal description of their jurisdictional boundaries. Also, the City needed to submit an application. The City provided FEMA a Resolution of Intent to join the NFIP. The last step was to adopt a Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance. The City of Rio Communities is now in the Regular Phase of the NFIP with the current effective Flood Insurance Rate Map dated October 6, 2010.

I would like to thank the following stakeholders who assisted with the process; the Honorable Mark Gwinn; Councilman Jim Winter and Valencia County Floodplain Administrator Hoss Foster, CFM. The City will send Mr. Scott Adair, Planning and Zoning Director, to the NMFMA Spring Workshop in Albuquerque.

Roosevelt County contacted me in May 2014 about their interest in the NFIP. Mr. Johnny Montiel with the County requested that I make a formal presentation to the County Commission on July 15, 2014. The purpose of the presentation was to increase community awareness about the importance of being in the NFIP.

Mr. Montiel took our L273 Course in Albuquerque in June 2014 and attended the Fall NMFMA Workshop in Elephant Butte in October 2014. He sat for the Certified Floodplain Managers (CFM) examination and passed before his community joined the NFIP. Wow! The County demonstrated a real commitment to floodplain management. The community joined the regular phase of the NFIP October 23, 2014.

Continued on the next page...

# In and Around New Mexico with the State NFIP Coordinator Continued

I would like to thank the following stakeholders who assisted with the process; former Roosevelt County Manager Charlene Webb; the Roosevelt County Commission; new County Manager Amber Hamilton; Roosevelt County Floodplain Administrator Johnny Montiel, CFM; Roosevelt County Administrative Assistant Laci Taylor; City of Portales Floodplain Administrator Sammy Standefer, CFM (and an NMFMA member!). One can easily see it takes time and effort by many people to get communities to join the NFIP.

Quay County joined the regular phase of the NFIP on October 23, 2014. Quay County Manager Richard Primrose is our point of contact. The County followed the same process as the other new participating communities. Quay County's next step is to designate a floodplain administrator. The current effective FIRM is dated May 5, 2003. The other NFIP participating communities in Quay County are City Tucumcari, Village of Logan and Village of San Jon.

When we have the Spring NMFMA Workshop, let's welcome our newest NFIP participating communities. The NFIP family in New Mexico has risen to 103 communities.

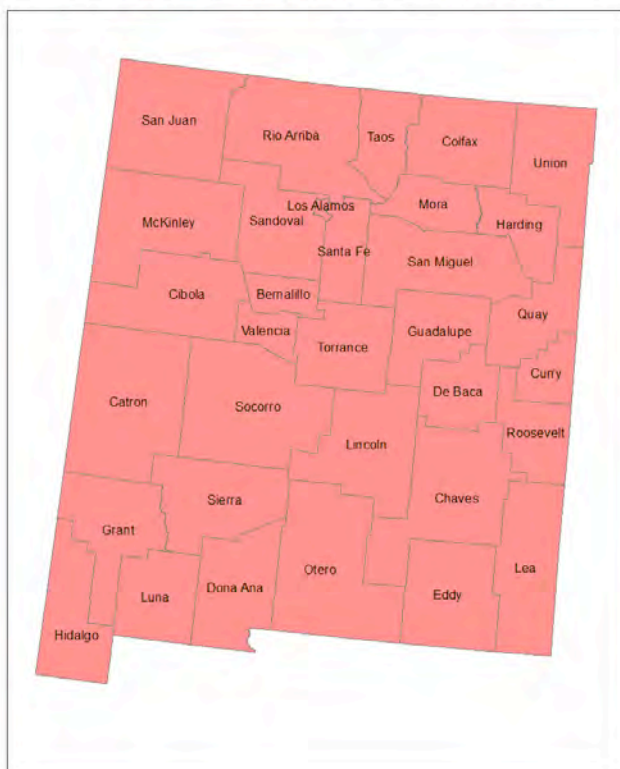
Increased participation is good!

## New GIS Data on RGIS

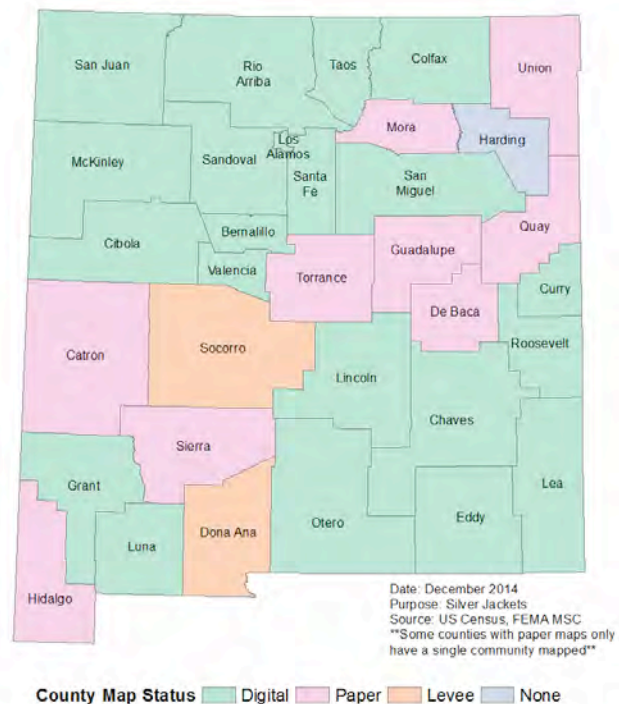
The 2014 NAIP County Mosaics are now available on the [RGIS Data Clearinghouse](#). The NAIP program collects 1 meter color imagery for the entire state on a recurring basis.

EDAC has been busy converting paper maps to GIS data as well and that data is also available on RGIS.

2014 NAIP Availability on RGIS as of 11/26/2014



FEMA Map Data Status for NM Counties





## From the Conference Committee

*Mike Czosnek, CFM*

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A special thanks to all of our sponsors Souder Miller and Associates, URS, RAMPP, Wilson and Company, Maccaferri, and Dennis Engineering Company for the 2014 Fall Workshop / Conference held in Elephant Butte this past October. In particular a special thanks to Souder Miller for their full sponsorship of our Wednesday evening social and a terrific job by the folks at the Elephant Butte Inn.

Also great job from Conference Director Carlos Bustamante, Program Co-Chairs John Gwynne and Carl Lukesh, with an honorable mention to Bradford Dyjak. Elephant Butte turned out to be financially successful for NMFMA with an unexpected large attendance ( 88 ) for a fall event. NMFMA needs to thank our Chair, Dave Turk and Bill Borthwick for their efforts in helping the State and FEMA help members attend with reimbursement. Pretty sure that helped the attendance to rise. Also a shout out to Dolores Czosnek for manning, or should that be womanning, the silent auction. Bunch of neat stuff.

All attendees in Elephant Butte received a questionnaire in their packets that asked if they preferred having a single workshop as opposed to the two we historically have had. The results were overwhelming in favor of continuing with two workshops per year at different locations throughout the State. With that in mind the Conference Committee is in need of some folks to volunteer their town for a workshop. The Conference Committee has both spring (April) and fall (October) 2016 open at this time. All locations will be considered so please let the committee know of your interest.

NMFMA is currently scheduled to be in Albuquerque April 14-17, 2015 at the MCM Elegante. Curtis Cherne is the Conference Director and Loretta Hatch is the Program Director. In addition Rigel Rucker is heading up a sub committee of the conference committee that will be responsible for technical presentations at all future spring workshop / conferences, beginning with this one. NMFMA will be in Ruidoso October 6-9, 2015 for the fall workshop / conference. Curt Temple is the Conference Director and he is still seeking someone to handle the program director responsibilities, so if you have an interest please contact Curt or the Conference Committee.

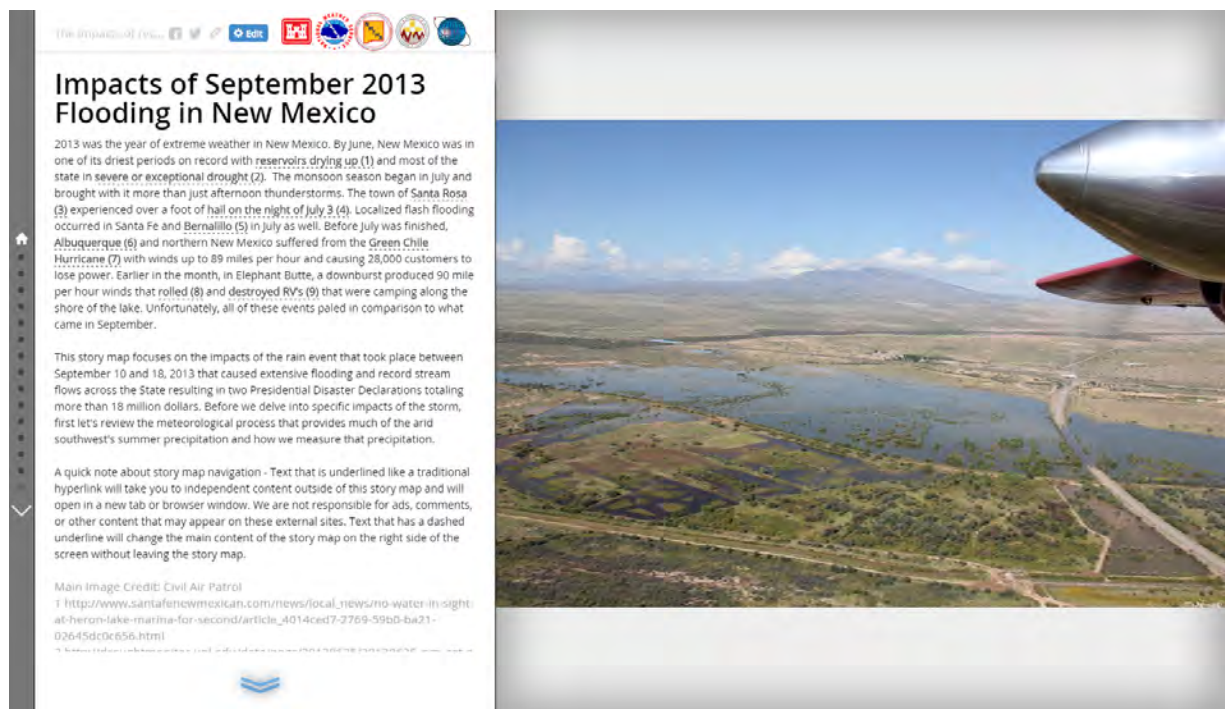
## Special Features

### September 2013 Flooding Interactive Story Map

Michael Camponovo, CFM

Earth Data Analysis Center, UNM

As floodplain managers, we know that the collective memory of our communities can be rather short in reference to past disasters. We also know that it can be difficult to draft effective public outreach programs with all of the other obligations that we have. Working with the USACE, NWS, and NMDHSEM, we've been trying out a new technique that may help with both needs in our communities. We have utilized ESRI's Story Map platform to create an interactive mapping application that houses maps, pictures, videos, and text to tell the story of the impacts of the September 2013 flooding in New Mexico. Before we go into any details, you can visit the site at <http://bit.ly/1wtX01P> or learn more about the ESRI Story Map program at <http://storymaps.arcgis.com/en/>.



Don't you have to be a programmer to build interactive websites? In this case, the answer is no. We used ESRI's ArcGIS Online platform and their built in guides to create our interactive content. However, there are a number of tips that will help make your map creation process go a little more smoothly:

- Visit the ESRI Story Map site for ideas on different themes and templates as well as how the tool is used
- Contact your GIS Department to find out if your organization already has an ArcGIS Online Account

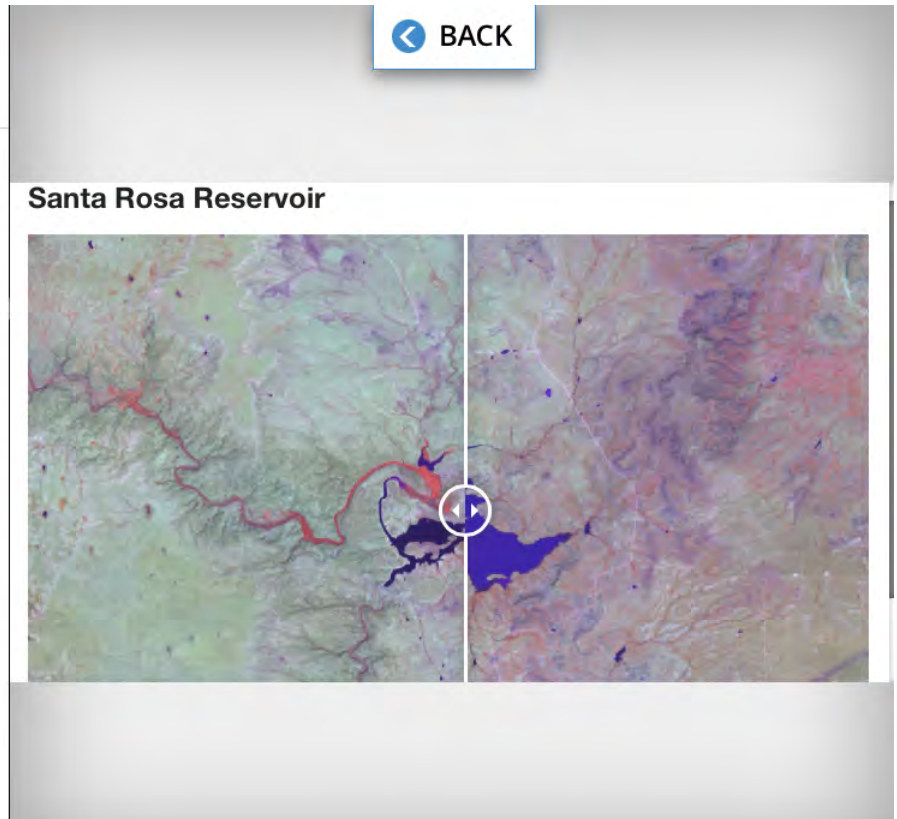
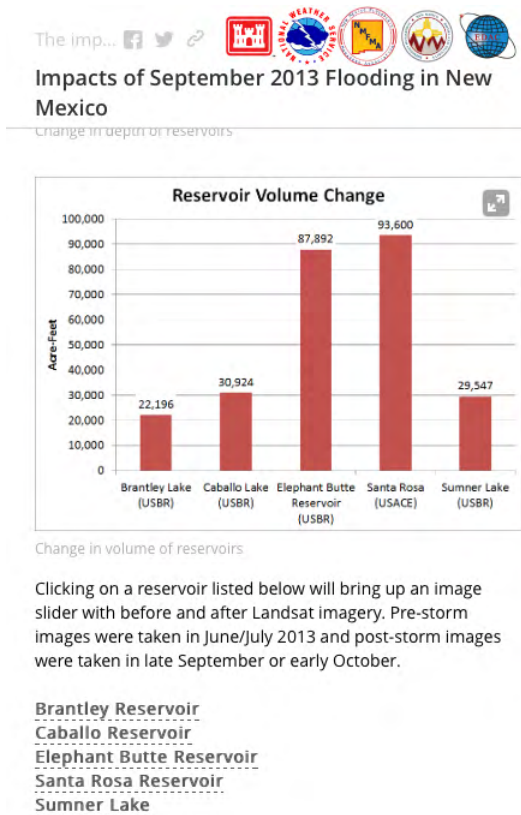
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## Special Features

- Draft a story board for your content and collect your pictures, videos, text, maps, and url's in one place

If you'd like to learn more about using this platform contact Michael Camponovo at EDAC or the Spring Workshop organizers to request a presentation or session.



- The majority of the content for the story map came from a report published by the [USACE Albuquerque District Office](#) and a website about the storm from the [NWS Albuquerque Office](#).



## Special Features

The Underground Art World

Nicole Friedt, CFM

NMDOT

Although I don't condone 'tagging', I must admit that some individuals are talented. The ability to use aerosol paint to create detailed murals is quite beyond me. I will admit I've used my fair share of spray paint in poor attempts to paint various household items. All attempts have ended with weird drips, inadequate coverage, and of course – paint everywhere. As such, I thought I would acknowledge some interesting works of art that were recently discovered during a culvert inspection. Yes, you heard me.... a culvert inspection. These examples of local art currently reside under Interstate 25 in total darkness. You just never know what lies beneath your feet.



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## Special Features



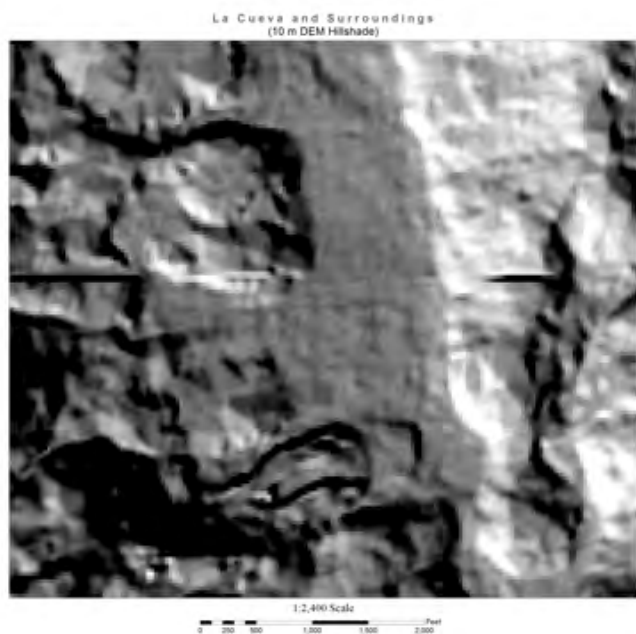
## Special Features

### New Mexico Statewide Lidar Acquisition Plan Update

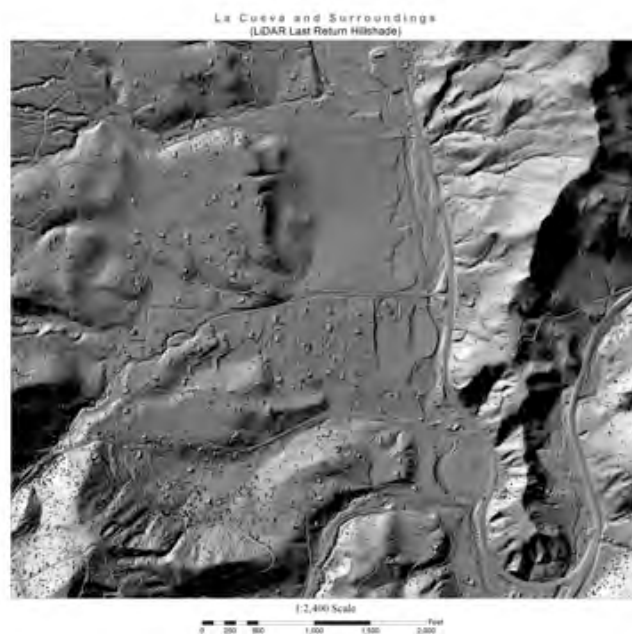
Mike Inglis

Earth Data Analysis Center

In January 2014, the New Mexico Geospatial Advisory Committee formed the NM Elevation Data Planning and Acquisition Subcommittee to respond to the USGS 3D Elevation Program opportunity and plan for New Mexico's need for enhanced elevation data. The committee was tasked with creating an inventory of existing elevation data, developing partner and stakeholder relationships, identifying lidar data needs and priorities, and developing a statewide lidar acquisition plan.



Current 10 Meter DEM Hillshade



Lidar 2 foot DEM Hillshade

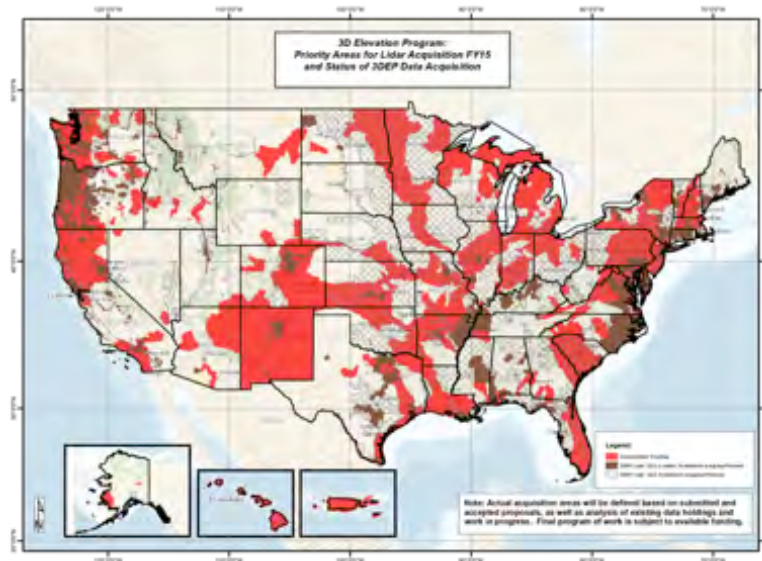
Interactive Image slider at <http://edac.unm.edu/projects/lacueva/>

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## Special Features

In June of 2014 the subcommittee presented to the USGS 3D Elevation Program (3DEP) National Program and as a result of that presentation the entire state was considered a priority acquisition area.



Since that time the subcommittee has been working to fine tune the plan and develop a funding and legislative strategy. The subcommittee has proposed a 5 year plan to collect and process statewide USGS Quality Level 2 data that is suitable for a wide range of elevation mapping applications such as pipeline development, solar siting, floodplain delineation, and forestry management.

Quality Levels	Data Source	Horizontal Resolution	Vertical Accuracy	
		Point Density	RMSEz in Open Terrain	Equivalent Contour Accuracy
QL 1	LiDAR	8 points/m <sup>2</sup>	9.25 cm	1 foot
QL 2	LiDAR	2 points/m <sup>2</sup>	9.25 cm	1 foot
QL 3	LiDAR	1 – 0.25 points/m <sup>2</sup>	≤18.5 cm	2 feet
QL 4	Imagery / LiDAR	1 – 0.04 points/m <sup>2</sup>	46.3 – 139 cm	5 – 15 feet
QL 5	Imagery / IFSAR	0.04 points/m <sup>2</sup>	92.7 – 185 cm	10 – 20 feet

At this time the subcommittee has presented to one legislative committee and received constructive feedback and support for the program. However, assistance will be needed in the future.

For more information, see the New Mexico 3DEP Fact Sheet at

<http://pubs.usgs.gov/fs/2014/3041/pdf/fs2014-3041.pdf>

# Highlights from ASFPM Newsletter

Michael Camponovo, CFM

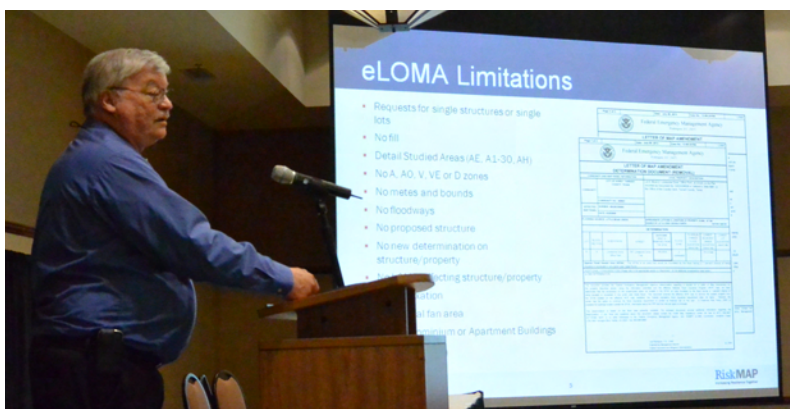
## ASFMP October 2014 News and Views Highlights

There are a number of good articles in the latest newsletter from ASFPM including:

- An article titled “Nada, Zip, Zilch” concerning the city of Milwaukee’s goals of reducing flood risk including having zero buildings within the 1% SFHA by 2035.
- How Pawleys Island, SC adopted 3 feet of free board
- How Stanwood, WA is moving critical infrastructure from its flood prone downtown to higher elevation

Read the full newsletters here: [http://www.floods.org/ace-files/documentlibrary/News\\_Views/Oct\\_2014\\_News\\_Views.pdf](http://www.floods.org/ace-files/documentlibrary/News_Views/Oct_2014_News_Views.pdf)

Congratulations to Jim Orwat, FEMA Region VI Engineer, who has announced his retirement at the end of December. Jim has been an advocate for the needs of New Mexico’s floodplain community for years and will be missed.





## FROM THE EDITOR

*Michael Camponovo, CFM*

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Every time I sit down to work on this newsletter part of me hopes that the finished product is 7 pages long. Alas, we have a very active membership and it just takes more space to cover all of your activities.

I want to extend a special thank you to the USACE, NWS, and NMDHSEM for coordinating with me on our September 2013 Flood Impacts Story Map. This was the first story map we have assembled, and the quality of the finished product would have been impossible without their input. Please let us know if you're interested in learning how to produce these same interactive sites for public outreach or education within your community.

If you run into any members of the New Mexico 3D Elevation Program please extend a special thank you. They have been working since January to make a plan for acquiring high quality topographic data for the entire state and are in the final stages of their project. They may be contacting you to ask for help by contacting your legislature to voice your support for lidar in your community.

Finally, I'd like to thank Jim Orwat for all of his help with both the Risk MAP and CTP programs in New Mexico. Jim has been an advocate for our state at the region for years and has helped guide a number of successful risk identification and mapping projects. You will be missed.

See you in April.



*Michael Camponovo*



# 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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