CASFM 2018 Annual Conference

Floodplain Management Sessions:

Session1: Local Choices and How They Can Impact the National Flood Insurance Program

Traci Sears (Montana DNRC)

Session2: Hyper Hydrology: A Holistic View of Colorado Hydrology

Chris Ide (Wood), Joshua Hill (Wood)

Making The Most Of It: Leveraging The CHAMP Study For Other Uses

Erin Cooper (Boulder County), Olivia Cecil (Boulder County), Kevin Doyle (Michael Baker Intl.)

LOCAL CHOICES And How They Can Impact the National Flood Insurance Program



September 26, 2018

NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM

AN AGREEMENT

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

makes subsidized flood insurance available within the community



LOCAL COMMUNITIES adopt and enforce floodplain regulations that meet FEMA requirements

(VOLUNTARY)



June 17, 1950 Flood of Alkali and Antelope Creeks



Ed S. Bacon bunkhouse on Milwaukee tracks





Rich and Sue Knudson Box 179 Harlowton, MT59036

MTDNRC PO Box 201601 Helena, MT 59620-1601

Traci,

Here are copies of the letter my mom wrote to her aunt and uncle following the flood of 6/17/1950, here in Harlowton. The pictures are of her parents property a mile and a half north of town on the Old Gap Road. The house was moved into Harlo and we now live in it. My son and I still own the property north of town. According to her brother and Dad, the wall of water -9 feet high at the barn - came down Alkali Creek to start with as 9 earth dams breeched with the downpour.

Our son has added to the bunkhouse and now lives in it. After the flood, it was moved to higher ground.

Hope you might find a use for these.

Happy Thanksgiving to all of your crew!

Rich and Sue Knudson

NOV 1 8 2017 D.N.R.C





'Neighborhood should have not been built': Homeowners file lawsuit against developer after flooding issues

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Homeowners suing developer in Sugar Land, Miya Shay reports.

Bloomberg Businessweek

August 31, 2017, 3:00 AM MDT

Harvey Wasn't Just Bad Weather. It Was Bad City Planning

Houston exulted in sprawling, hands-off growth. That's no way to prepare for natural catastrophes.









Variances

Example Permit Application Request - Background Information

- Tongue River residential home
 - Pre-FIRM built in 1972
 - Mapped into floodplain in 2010 with new study
 - Since 2010 entire home is located in AE Zone Floodway
- ▶ In 2017, the homeowner submits floodplain application to:
 - Add an addition to the house one bedroom and additional bathroom
 - Proposed elevation of addition same as existing house
- Permit was denied because:
 - Existing code allows no new structures in floodway
 - Existing code requires New construction or substantial improvement of any residential structure lowest level of floor is at two feet above the base flood elevation





Variances

- Proposed variances from must show the following:
 - Good and Sufficient cause is shown
 - An exceptional hardship to the applicant exists
 - The variance provides the minimum necessary action to afford relief
 - The variance will not increase flood heights, cause additional threats to public safety, cause extraordinary public expense, create nuisances, cause fraud or victimization of the public, or conflict with local laws or ordinances.
 - If a variance is granted, the community must maintain a record of all variances
 - Variances are for floodplain management purposes only and could significantly affect insurance premium rates on affected structures.

BEST ADVICE TO DECISION MAKING BOARDS – DON'T GRANT THESE VARIANCES UNLESS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY

Mitigation and Recovery



- Keys to Recovery Success
 - Act quickly
 - Actively plan
 - Engage the community
 - Develop partnerships, networks and effective coordination strategies

- Systematic and inclusive
- Leadership and unity of effort
- Pre-disaster & post-disaster recovery planning



Basic Enforcement Process

- Right to inspection (inspection of work in progress)
- Stop work order
- Revocation of permit
- Right to periodic inspection
- Violations to be corrected
- Actions in event of failure to take corrective actions
- Order to take corrective actions
- Appeal
- Failure to comply
- Section 1316



How is Section 1316 used?

- Intended for use primarily as a backup for local enforcement actions (i.e., if a community could not force compliance through the enforcement mechanisms in its regulations, it could use Section 1316 as additional leverage)
- Not intended merely as a mechanism to remove bad risks from the policy base
- Section 1316 will only be implemented in instances where States or communities submit declarations specifically for that purpose.



No Adverse Impact

Managing principle focused on the impact on others

- Protects property rights—ensures action of any property owner does not adversely impact the property rights of others
- Leads to reduced flood losses while promoting better stewardship and community mitigation efforts
- Prevention of harm is treated different legally than making the community a better place—tougher to challenge in court



Thank you!

Traci Sears

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wood.

Hyper Hydrology: A Holistic View of Colorado Hydrology

Through the Colorado Hazard Mapping Program

woodplc.com



Outline

- CHAMP III Overview
- Colorado's Hydrologic Regions
- Hydrology Methods
- Hydrologic Region Specifics

THANK YOU!



COLORADO

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

CHAMP III

Colorado Hazard Mapping Program – Phase III

Modernized vs. Unmodernized



Modernized vs. Unmodernized



5

Phase III Goals

- Modernize 12 counties •
 - LiDAR / IFSAR with Bathymetry
 - Survey

6

- HydrologyHydraulics
- Floodplain Mapping
- Digitize 12 counties •

Phase III Scope



Colorado's Hydrologic Regions

Colorado Hydrologic Regions



Plains Regions

Paleoflood Investigations to Improve Peak-Streamflow Regional-Regression Equations for Natural Streamflow in Eastern Colorado, 2015 USGS SIR 2016-5099

West Regions

Regional Regression Equations for Estimation of Natural Streamflow Statistics in Colorado, 2009 USGS SIR 2009-5136

9

Hydrology Methods

Bulletin 17C Gage Analysis



11 A presentation by Wood.

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Hydrologic Modeling

HEC-HMS

- SCS Type II Rainfall Distributions
- Atlas 14 Rainfall Totals
- TR-55 Curve Number
- Wood Tools
 - Basin Delineation
 - Time of Concentration



Regression Equations



Rain-on-Grid

- HEC-RAS 5.0.5
 - HMS Parameters
 - Input Hydrographs





Rain-on-Grid



Hydrologic Region Specifics

Peak Streamflow Regression Equation

$$Q_{100} = 10^{2.91} A^{0.59} A_{7500}^{-0.33}$$

Drainage Area Percentage of A above 7,500 feet (plus 1)

Challenges:

- Regression was overestimating peak flows for low-lying areas.
- HEC-HMS models were overestimating runoff for high-elevation basins.









20 A presentation by Wood.

• • •
Southwest Region



21 A presentation by Wood.

• • •

Southwest Region



1. NOAA Technical Memorandum NWS HYDRO-40 (1984)

Slide 22

IC1 Land use - Rock is not a CN 98

Ide, Christopher, 9/20/2018

IC2 Initial Abstraction - Porus rock as well.

Ide, Christopher, 9/20/2018

Northwest Region



Challenges:

- Unable to calibrate HEC-HMS models using regression due to overestimation of peak flows for low-lying areas.
- Lack of nearby stream gage data to calibrate HEC-HMS models.



Northwest Region



Compared StreamStats drainage basin parameter outputs to HEC-HMS inputs



Time of Concentration

Curve Number

Mountain Region



Challenges:

• HEC-HMS models were overestimating runoff for high-elevation basins.



Mountain Region



26 A presentation by Wood.

• • •

Plains Region



Challenges:

• Regression peak flows are highly dependent of the percentage of clay in the basin. Can produce highly variable and sometimes unreasonable results.



Plains Region



Plains Region



Regression results were highly variable and often did not produce reasonable results.

Verified HEC-HMS results using Kansas and Nebraska regression equations, StreamStats parameter comparisons, and other studies conducted in the area.

Peak Streamflow Regression Equation

$$Q_{100} = 10^{-0.19} \underbrace{A^{0.87}_{4} P^{1.17}_{4}}_{\text{Drainage}} Mean$$
Area Annual
Precipitation

Challenges:

- HEC-HMS models were overestimating runoff for high-elevation basins.
- Difficult to model hydraulics in flat areas.





31 A presentation by Wood.

• • •









Summary – Southwest Region

Challenges:

- Regression was overestimating peak flows for low-lying areas.
- HEC-HMS models were overestimating runoff for high-elevation basins.

Solutions

- Used neighboring state regression equations (when appropriate).
- Modified HEC-HMS input parameters for high-elevation basins and calibrated to downstream stream gages.



Summary – Northwest Region

Challenges:

- Unable to calibrate HEC-HMS models using regression due to overestimation of peak flows for low-lying areas.
- Lack of nearby stream gage data to calibrate HEC-HMS models.

Solutions

• Compared StreamStats drainage basin parameter outputs for HEC-HMS calibration.



Summary – Mountain Region

Challenges:

• HEC-HMS models were overestimating runoff for high-elevation basins.

Solutions

• Modified HEC-HMS input parameters for high-elevation basins and calibrated to similar, nearby stream gage basins.



Summary – Plains Region

Challenges:

• Regression peak flows are highly dependent of the percentage of clay in the basin. Can produce highly variable and sometimes unreasonable results.

Solutions

- Use regression equations with caution when the percentage of clay is on either end of the allowable range.
- Use neighboring state regression equations (when appropriate) and StreamStats drainage basin parameter outputs for HEC-HMS calibration.



Summary – Rio Grande Region

Challenges:

- HEC-HMS models were overestimating runoff for high-elevation basins.
- Difficult to model hydraulics in flat areas.

Solutions

- Modified HEC-HMS input parameters for high-elevation basins and calibrated to similar, nearby stream gage basins.
- Modeled hydrology/hydraulics for streams in the flat San Luis Valley using 2-D methodologies.



Summary

Hydrologic Region	Challenges	Solutions	
Southwest	Regression was overestimating peak flows for low-lying areas. HEC-HMS models were overestimating runoff for high- elevation basins.	Used neighboring state regression equations (when appropriate). Modified HEC-HMS input parameters for high-elevation basins and calibrated to downstream stream gages.	
Northwest	Unable to calibrate HEC-HMS models using regression due to overestimation of peak flows for low-lying areas. Lack of nearby stream gage data to calibrate HEC-HMS models.	Compared StreamStats drainage basin parameter outputs for HEC-HMS calibration.	
Mountain	HEC-HMS models were overestimating runoff for high- elevation basins.	Modified HEC-HMS input parameters for high-elevation basins and calibrated to similar, nearby stream gage basins.	
Plains	Regression peak flows are highly dependent of the percentage of clay in the basin. Can produce highly variable and sometimes unreasonable results.	Use regression equations with caution when the percentage of clay is on either end of the allowable range. Use neighboring state regression equations (when appropriate) and StreamStats drainage basin parameter outputs for HEC-HMS calibration.	
Rio Grande	HEC-HMS models were overestimating runoff for high- elevation basins. Difficult to model hydraulics in flat areas.	Modified HEC-HMS input parameters for high-elevation basins and calibrated to similar, nearby stream gage basins. Modeled hydrology/hydraulics for streams in the flat San Luis Valley using 2-D methodologies.	



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MAKING THE MOST OF IT: Leveraging The CHAMP Study For Other Uses

Erin Cooper, Boulder County Olivia Cecil, Boulder County Kevin Doyle, Michael Baker Intl.





CHAMP & Boulder County



Benefits from CHAMP study



- Improving county processes
- Enhancing local understanding of flood risk through improved communication
- New & innovative ways to put the flood study to use

Putting CHAMP to Use



Some of the ways Boulder County has leveraged the CHAMP study:

- I. Best Available Information
- 2. Planning & Permitting
- 3. FEMA CRS Credits

- 4. LiDAR LOMAs
- 5. Overtopping
 - Depth & Velocity Grids
 - Capacity
- 6. Evacuation Priorities

I. Best Available Information



Extensive outreach & early guidance on revised predictions for flood risk – powerful information to help property owners understand the coming changes



I. Best Available Information



Floodplain maps now show two flood studies as one regulatory tool







FEMA Floodway

Boulder County Floodplain

Floodplain Overlay District









2. Permitting Decisions using BFEs

- New structures built above CHAMP BFE
- Permitting approved/denied based on CHAMP flood risk zones (Floodplain Overlay District)

Boulder County



2. Permitting Decisions – comparing to CHAMP vs. Effective



No-rise & CLOMR/LOMR analyses compared to CHAMP vs compared to effective





3. FEMA Community Rating System

- Credit for early regulation to the CHAMP study
 - New Study credit
 - Floodway Standard
- Community discounts on flood insurance premiums



410 FLOOD HAZARD MAPPING

The OBJECTIVE of this activity is to improve the quality of the mapping that is used to identify and regulate development at risk from flood hazards.

What else can we do with all this data



Boulder County

What other groups could use the data

Location	1-Hour Rainfall Threshold (inches)	Peak Flow Rate (cubic feet/ second)	Homes at Risk	Flood Affects Bridges & Roads Affected. Life Safety Risk
Fourmile Canyon Creek below burn area	3/4"	300 to 700	N/A	 Most small residential bridges, and driveways. Life Safety risk is low except along creek banks.
Fourmile Canyon Creek below burn area	1"	600 to 1,000	N/A	 Most small residential bridges, and driveways. Life Safety risk is low except along creek banks.
Fourmile Canyon Creek below burn area	1 ¼"	900 to 1,400	N/A	 Most small residential bridges, and driveways. Life Safety risk is low except along creek banks.
Fourmile Canyon Creek below burn area	11/2"	1,200 to 1,700	N/A	 Most small residential bridges, and driveways. Life Safety risk is present.
Fourmile Canyon	1¾"	1,600	N/A	 Most small residential bridges,

- Floodplain Department
- OEM
- Transportation
- Land Use Planning
- Public Health



4. LiDAR LOMAs



Boulder County

4. LiDAR LOMAs



Boulder County Successes:

- 10+ LiDAR LOMAs approved for residents
- Residents are eligible for a flood insurance reimbursement

Data included in LOMA submittal:

- Annotated FIRM, FIRMette
- CHAMP FIS profile with BFE shown
- LiDAR Final Accuracy Report
- Topographic Map
- Subdivision Plat Map
- CHAMP Phase I data for reach
- Memo to FEMA from Boulder County



BFE = 5707.0 feet NAVD88 11,385 feet above confluence
5 & 6. Overtopping and Evacuation

eneral Informatio

Homepage **Progress Reports**

Glossary

Precipitation

Data Server **GIS Grids**

Temporals Documents

Precipitation Documents

liscellaneous

Publications

Contact Us

Inquiries

LH160

LH170

LH180

LH190

LH200

LH210

LH220

LH220A

LH230

LH240

LH250

LH260

LH260A

LH270

1H270A

LH280

LH290

LH300

Storm Analysis

Record Precipita

USA.gov

Subbasin Name

Probable Maximum

requency

Maps Time Series

FAQ



Lower Recurrence Intervals added to HMS models

Boulder County

R30

LH170

Ê

LH280

P10

LH210

LH250

5 & 6. Overtopping and Evacuation



Additional Products created with existing 10, 25, and 50 year flow data



5 & 6. Overtopping and Evacuation



Boulder County

Closing



- Applying CHAMP data and products to the benefit of existing County processes, plans, and programs.
- Developing new ways to put flood study data to work to benefit the County & residents and build Resilience.
- "Standing on the Shoulders of Giants"





Thank you!

Boulder County

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