



Nevada Floodplain Management News

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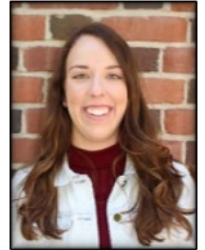
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Get to know Erin Warnock, the new Nevada State Floodplain Manager

Erin Warnock is the new State Floodplain Manager and NFIP Coordinator. Erin has a B.S. in Geology from the University of Nevada, Reno. Erin started her career working for the Nevada Division of Water Resources, Dam Safety Program three years ago. As a team member of the Dam Safety Program she performed dam inspections, assisted in the permitting process of both dams and water rights, managed annual dam storage fees, and was the lead in Emergency Action Plan outreach and approvals. She is excited to gain more knowledge in her new position and is happy to continue her career at the Division of Water Resources.



About the new Water Planning and Drought Resiliency Section

The Nevada Division of Water Resources (NDWR) Floodplain Management Program, formerly a part of the Engineering Section with Water Planning and Dam Safety, has been transferred to the newly established Water Planning and Drought Resiliency Section. The overall planning goals of the NDWR Water Planning and Drought Resiliency Section is to support the Division's mission to conserve, protect, manage and enhance the State's water resources for Nevada's citizens. The new section will take on the responsibilities and duties outlined in NRS Chapter 540, including the review of water conservation plans and floodplain management. Other activities of the new section will include developing a contemporary Statewide Water Plan and Drought Response Plan.

Thank you,
Bunny L. Bishop, CFM
Chief, Water Planning and Drought Resiliency

New flood risk education resources posted!

By Nicole Goehring, CFM

The Nevada Silver Jackets Team is excited to share a new public outreach tool for flood awareness in Nevada. The team created Story Maps, a relatively new presentation format developed by ESRI, to tell the tales of flooding along the Humboldt, Muddy, and Virgin Rivers. Using a desktop, smartphone, or tablet, viewers scroll and click through engaging text, visuals, and maps that make up each Story Map.

One of the unique features of Story Maps is the ability to create custom, interactive maps within the presentation. Historical accounts and interviews with long-time residents helped to bring local firsthand stories into each narrative, with an overarching message aligned with the “Nevada Floods” slogan. Still to be completed are Story Maps for the Truckee, Carson, and Walker Rivers.

We encourage Nevada communities and other outreach partners to share the Story Maps on your website, social media, and other outlets.

They are meant to be engaging, educational products for all.

The three completed projects can be accessed at <http://nevadafloods.org/library.htm>, or by using the links below.

Muddy River Flooding <https://arcg.is/1C5vaW>

Virgin River Flooding <https://arcg.is/1TiCaH>

Humboldt River Flooding <https://arcg.is/OLPu590>

Enjoy a couple of colorful comments taken from the Story Maps, *below*

Flooding in the Desert: The Lower Virgin River

"I'll tell you that old river, when it runs, it runs about one part water and two parts mud."

-Tuffy Ruth, Mesquite resident

Humboldt River

The Humboldt is a river of extremes. At times, it's completely dry. Mark Twain described it as a “sickly rivulet” and said, “one of the pleasantest and most invigorating exercises one can contrive is to run and jump across the Humboldt River till he is overheated, and then drink it dry.”

Two detention basins will be installed in the Johnson Lane area as a result of a settlement agreement between area residents and Douglas County, Nevada

By Courtney Walker



Two consecutive summers of intense flash flooding occurred in the Johnson Lane area in 2014 and 2015, prompting a lawsuit between several residents and Douglas County.

The County collaborated with the Carson Water Sub-conservancy District to receive a \$285,000 grant from FEMA to create the Johnson Lane Area Drainage Master Plan (Johnson Lane ADMP). The primary purpose of the ADMP was to identify the flooding hazards based on existing conditions and provide a prioritized list of projects that will help to alleviate the flooding hazards in the Johnson Lane area.

The development of the Johnson Lane area goes back to the 1950s. The area was primarily developed using serial parcel maps which only required development to provide infrastructure similar to adjacent areas. Therefore, much of Johnson Lane was developed without much thought given to stormwater conveyance. The historic drainage pattern has been altered due to networks of roads, homes, landscape berms, and undersized drainage infrastructure. The offsite flows and existing drainage networks had previously never been comprehensively studied or engineered to any standard.

The Romero Wash and Stephanie Wash Detention Basins were identified as two of several solutions in the Johnson Lane ADMP, completed in 2018.

The two detention basins slated for installation will be located on property owned by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). An application has been submitted to BLM by Douglas County to acquire the right-of-way to construct the basins. Unfortunately, the BLM is unable to review Douglas County's application at this time due to limited staff availability. It has been disclosed that the County will have to go through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process prior to gaining approval to construct the detention basins.

Douglas County is anxious to complete the permitting process with the BLM and begin implementing the solutions identified in the Johnson Lane ADMP to work towards solving some of the long-standing flooding issues in the area.



For more information please contact Courtney Walker, Douglas County Stormwater Program Manager, (775) 782-6215 or cwalker@douglasnv.us.

For background information, please see [The Record Courier article](#), August 30, 2019.

We would like to thank the Clark County Regional Flood Control District for allowing us to use this Virtual Reality (VR) Experience: *Water Always Wins* through our outreach. It's brought a lot of smiles to faces and we share the belief that this innovative and tactful approach can ultimately decrease tragic and unnecessary deaths related to driving through flooded roadways. We invite you all to watch the Regional Flood Control District's Flood Channel episode featuring the VR : *Water Always Wins*



Click [here](#) to watch a televised segment of the VR: *Water Always Wins*.

You can also find instructions and try your own hand at the VR at FloodVR.com



NFIP Updates and More

The newest edition of the [NFIP/CRS Update](#) publication has some key information definitely worth highlighting.

The [new Elevation Certificate form](#) was issued by FEMA on February 21, 2020. Please note that even though this is the same as the previous form, with no new or altered fields and only the form date and expiration date changed, any Elevation Certificates signed and dated February 21, 2020 or later must be on the new form. FEMA may come out with new guidance on this, but as of right now, if an Elevation Certificate that is dated February 21, 2020 or later is reviewed for CRS purposes and it is not on the new form, it will be considered an error.

The [October 2019 special edition of The Buzz](#), the Silver Jackets newsletter, identifies federal agency programs, services, and tools available to support state flood risk management priorities and goals. This provides a handy resource to breakdown and identify assistance each federal agency can provide.

FEMA's ['Risk Rating 2.0' program](#) is set to begin October 1, 2021. It was slated to begin this October but eventually deferred to next year. The new National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) rating system will include all single-family homes, multi-unit and commercial properties during the changeover as opposed to a phased in approach, as originally proposed.

[NFIP insurance data](#) must now be requested by the community directly from your FEMA Regional CRS Coordinator, rather than ISO. Your ISO/CRS Specialist will provide you with a form letter that you may send to the FEMA Regional Office that states the repetitive loss list you are needing for CRS purposes. Contact information for Regional CRS Coordinators will be provided to you with the form letter. (See pg.3 of [NFIP/CRS Update](#) for more)



Congratulations to our friends at the Carson River Coalition on their launch of the "I AM CARSON WATERSHED" campaign. Click on the water droplet to see their new Public Service Announcement. In it, they ask you, the community, to help keep our watershed healthy by incorporating a few easy-to-do habits!



Upcoming Conference and Outreach Announcement

- ◆ **September 8-11, 2020: Floodplain Management Association (FMA) Annual Conference, Sacramento, CA**

Nevada Flood Risk Awareness Education

In support of the efforts to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 we have suspended all (person-to-person) outreach education activities. When we do resume activities, we will take all necessary precautions and various safety measures to the very best of our abilities. And, of course, when normal operations return please let us know if you would like flood education outreach in your community, schools, or local events by contacting us.

Meanwhile, as this pandemic has temporarily halted our ability to physically get out into communities, we are working with great partners, to expand and develop our capabilities for flood awareness education through resources accessible online and offered to students, teachers and life-long learners alike.

As with all of our partners, we remain steadfast and committed to our communities and their safety.

Stay safe, happy and healthy,

Carlos Rendo

Public Outreach Coordinator,

Nevada Division of Water Resources



Questions or Comments?

If you have any questions regarding the content of this newsletter or are interested in contributing articles to future issues, please contact NDWR's Public Outreach Manager, Carlos Rendo at crendo@water.nv.gov

Nevada Floodplain Management News is a Publication of the Nevada Floodplain Management Program.

The Nevada Floodplain Management Program was established in the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Division of Water Planning by the 1997 Nevada State Legislature after the need for a statewide flood management program became apparent when damages from the 1997 New Years Flood on the Truckee River were assessed.

In the Spring of 2001, the Nevada Floodplain Management Program was transferred within the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and was later confirmed by Governor's Executive Order, dated April 10, 2003, to its current residence within the Division of Water Resources (NDWR) under the direction of the Nevada State Engineer.