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News from Region 10



Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)

BRIC – Summer Engagement Series

FEMA announces new grant program

FEMA is in the process of rolling out a brand-new grant program, Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC). BRIC will support tribes, states, local communities, and territories, as they undertake hazard mitigation projects reducing the risks they face from disasters and natural hazards. BRIC is a new FEMA pre-disaster hazard mitigation program that replaces the existing Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) program and is a result of amendments made to Section 203 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act by Section 1234 of the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018.

The BRIC program guiding principles are supporting communities through capability- and capacity-building; encouraging and enabling innovation; promoting partnerships; enabling large projects; maintaining flexibility; and providing consistency.

During the month of July, FEMA Mitigation is hosting five virtual sessions geared towards a broad audience of federal employees, leaders in states, tribes, local communities, and territories, as well as private sector entities, private non-profit organizations, and individuals interested in learning more about the grant program. These sessions will be offered each Wednesday in July and recordings will be available on the BRIC website about two weeks after each session.

- **July 1** - Introduction to Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Grant Program
- **July 8** - Meaning of the BRIC Name
- **July 15** - BRIC and Building Codes
- **July 22** - BRIC and Community Lifelines
- **July 29** - BRIC and Nature-Based Solutions

For more information on the BRIC program and to register for the Summer Engagement Series sessions, please visit <http://www.fema.gov/bric>.

Project Update: Comprehensive Planning Improvements

Resource Handbook & Project Advisory Committee

In the fall of 2019, the Washington Department of Commerce and FEMA Region 10 partnered to provide Washington land use planners the opportunity to help structure the way natural hazard mitigation data and risk reduction strategies are integrated into Comprehensive Planning. The widespread need for more thorough guidance and examples for this integration became clear over a series of workshops held in October and November. A summary of the workshops will be available until July 22nd online [here](#).

Through collaborative discussions, FEMA and the Department of Commerce identified two projects to support local planners in the near-term; a Resource Handbook and a Project Advisory Committee who will work to develop more in-depth guidance on plan integration.

The creation of the Department of Commerce Resource Handbook will be completed through a resource and technical assistance audit of current information and guidance supporting the integration of natural hazards information into Comprehensive Plans. Available resources will be captured and consolidated into a user-friendly tool.

There will also be an Advisory Committee that will be convened later this year to support the development of additional tools and products to help better integrate natural hazard data into Comprehensive Plans. The Department of Commerce will lead the committee, with FEMA supporting the efforts.

Planning and work to execute both projects have begun. The Resource Handbook is projected to be complete by Summer 2020, and the first Project Advisory Committee meeting will be scheduled to take place this fall or winter.

For more information about these efforts, please contact [Cynthia Palmer](#), HMA Specialist.

Ask the Help Desk

The Region 10 Service Center is here to help local community officials and stakeholders with technical, training, mitigation, and mapping questions.

Email RegionXHelpDesk@starr-team.com.

Stakeholder Engagement Underway for ESA Requirements in Oregon

Erin Cooper, CFM – Senior NFIP ESA Specialist, FEMA Region 10

The Floodplain Management and Insurance (FM&I) Branch, along with nonprofit partner, the Willamette Partnership, is leading a series of stakeholder engagement webinars to discuss strategies for a new approach to implementing the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) in Oregon.

These webinars are being held as part of the current implementation planning process for the Biological Opinion (BiOp) and Reasonable and Prudent Alternative (RPA) issued by NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) regarding the impacts of NFIP implementation on threatened and endangered species habitat in floodplains across the state. The goal of these workshops (now

virtual due to COVID-19) is to ultimately find solutions for a BiOp Implementation Plan that not only protect critical habitat but also promote community vitality.

FEMA is also working in close coordination with NMFS and with Oregon's Department of Land Conservation and Development throughout this planning process. Together, this team is developing a framework for communities to adjust how the NFIP is implemented locally based on the intent of the BiOp and RPA. Specifically, the focus is on regions of the state where NMFS determined implementation can impact the critical habitat of several salmon species and in turn contribute to impacts on the Southern Resident Killer Whale population.

A collaboration platform has been established at <https://oregonnfip.org>. Currently, feedback is being solicited via a 'virtual flipchart' on solutions that can inform the final implementation options offered to NFIP participating communities. Individuals can provide this feedback at the '[Brainstorming Local Options](#)' page. More information and details about previous or upcoming [events](#) are also available.

Despite the changes to a virtual format, the team is looking forward to bringing people together to discuss their ideas for how the agency can develop a compliance framework that works for people and for fish.

Newsletter Ideas?

Want to spread the word about an upcoming event or recent success story? Let us know what you want to see in future issues! Articles can be up to 500 words and may include pictures.

Email RXNewsletter@starr-team.com.

NORFMA 2020 Virtual Conference: Call for Abstracts

This year, the Northwest Regional Floodplain Management Association (NORFMA) will be holding its annual conference virtually, September 22-24, 2020.

This year’s theme is “The Path Forward: Reducing Floods, Increasing Resilience.”

Continuing Education Credits (CECs) will be available for conference attendees.

Registration will open in early July, and the call for abstracts is now open. Submissions on Long-term Planning and Partnerships, Implementing Floodplain Projects, Acquisitions, Open Space Preservation, National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Permitting, Compliance, Higher Regulatory Standards, Climate Science and Sea Level Rise, Engineering and Mapping (Methods and Tools), Hazard Mitigation, Stormwater and Urban Flooding, Coastal Flooding Issues, and other emerging and relevant issues are welcome.

All abstract submissions are encouraged, and the due date is **Wednesday, July 29, 2020**. [Please submit all abstracts here.](#)

For more information, please visit the conference website at: <https://norfma.org/2020Conference>.



Online Training

(All times Pacific)

Tools for Determining BFE

July 16, 10 am
Online - 1 CEC

CRS: Preparing an Annual Recertification

July 21, 10 am
Online - 1 CEC

CRS: Changes to Activity 310 (Elevation Certificates)

July 22, 10 am
Online - 1 CEC

NFIP Basics

July 23, 10 am
Online - 1 CEC

Floodplain Development Permit Review

August 6, 9 am
Online - 1 CEC

Inspecting Floodplain Development

August 6, 10:30 am
Online - 1.5 CECs

CRS: The Role of the Community Coordinator

August 18, 10 am
Online - 1 CECs

CRS: Activity 450 Watershed Management

August 19, 10 am
Online - 1 CEC

To register for online courses, visit STARR’s training site: j.mp/starronlinetraining, or email RXTraining@starr-team.com.