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News from Region 10



Risk MAP Feature: Discovery in Region 10 Grant & Baker Counties, OR

In mid-September, Region 10 held two Discovery meetings in eastern Oregon with Grant and Baker counties. The meetings drew a broad group of stakeholders, including emergency managers, public works officials, floodplain administrators, and key state partners to discuss local natural hazard concerns, current risk-reduction efforts, and future needs for data and mitigation.

Each participating community joined FEMA on a 1-hour Information Exchange phone call to share preliminary information and discuss initial needs. Information collected on these calls were used to craft the meeting format and were used as a baseline to drive the meeting discussion. In total, 10 Information Exchange calls were held between July and August and 38 individuals participated (20 from Grant County, 18 from Baker County).

During the meetings, attendees discussed the on-going Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan update and participated in activities that

captured specific data, LiDAR, and mapping needs. Experts from FEMA and multiple State of Oregon departments (DOGAMI, OPD, DLCDD, and OEM) shared insights, tools, and updates with the group. The meetings closed with community focused breakout groups where local officials and participants shared and prioritized future mitigation priorities.

Following these Discovery meetings, FEMA and partners will compile the information gathered to begin to prioritize areas for hazard mapping and, depending on funding availability, planning for next steps. This information, combined with topographic data (LiDAR), supports the important step of Base Level Engineering analysis, the first step at mapping the flood hazard areas using the best available data.

Thanks to all of the local, state, and federal partners who participated in the planning and execution of these meetings.

For more information on this Discovery effort, please contact Rynn Lamb, Risk Analyst at: rynn.lamb@fema.dhs.gov.

Survey on Hazus & Geospatial Trainings for Natural Hazards

Teaching Analysis Techniques

Your friendly Regional Risk Analysts are working to put together regional Hazus and geospatial trainings for natural hazards risk and vulnerability analysis. Interested? Great! Please fill out [this survey](#) in order to help us find the best times and locations to hold the courses.

The survey includes course descriptions and targeted audiences. Please be aware that these are not EMI courses and will not count towards Hazus certification. They are tailored to meet regional needs and teach analysis techniques with additional tools beyond Hazus software. Needs are based on a survey sent to the Northwest Hazus Users Group (NWHUG) last year.

Feel free to share this survey with any group or individual that may be interested in taking natural hazard geospatial analysis training in the region.

Please complete the survey by October 11th, 2019.

Please direct any questions to Charlie Kline, Risk Analyst, at: charles.kline@fema.dhs.gov

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.

Mount Vernon Flood Protection Celebration

Increasing Community Safety & Improving Economic Vitality



Figure 1: The new floodwall is an integral part of the downtown promenade, providing flood protection and public recreation space.

This September, the City of Mount Vernon, Washington and its partners celebrated National Preparedness Month and the successful long-term collaboration in the development of a downtown flood protection wall.

Downtown Mount Vernon lies within the Skagit River delta, an area famous for its tulip production made possible by the fertile soil brought to the valley by regular flooding. Since 1897, the floodwaters have caused a great deal of damage to the area.

In response to these major flooding events, the city assembled an advisory group consisting of a diverse selection of community members. This group, charged with creating a long-term solution to the flooding problem in the downtown area, ultimately determined a floodwall would be the best solution.

Local, state, and federal organizations provided 12 sources of funding for this protection project, resulting in a 40% reduction in flood insurance premiums. In addition to these savings, the floodwall completion removed 223 buildings from the regulatory floodplain.

FEMA joined Mayor Jill Boudreau in applauding a diverse group of partners who have been committed to realizing this major mitigation project. The strong collaboration between the City of Mount Vernon, Skagit County, Dike District 3, Puget Sound Energy, state government and federal government was key to the project's success.

FEMA created a video in support of this project demonstrating the city's commitment to protecting the downtown community: <https://youtu.be/-09IWDeAkiw>.

To learn more about flood maps and other products, please visit the [FEMA Flood Map Service Center](#).

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.

Job Opportunity: Regional Floodplain Management Planner



The Shorelands and Environmental Assistance (SEA) program within the Department of Ecology is looking to fill a Regional Floodplain Grant and Management Planner position. This role will work out of the Central Regional Office in Union Gap, WA.

This planning position involves coordinating community assistance

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Job Opportunity - cont'd

activities with local governments enrolled in the National Flood Insurance Program and providing technical assistance and state support for communities developing or implementing Comprehensive Flood Reduction Management Plans.

This role is responsible for promoting, planning, managing, and assessing the performance of Floodplains by Design (FbD) projects throughout the State. The position also manages the FbD grants awarded to local sponsors for multi-benefit flood projects in the region.

For more information, or to apply for this position, please visit: www.governmentjobs.com.

Endangered Species Act Fall Workshops

Endangered Species Act (ESA) Specialists with FEMA Region 10 will be hosting two workshop sessions this fall for Habitat Assessments and National Floodplain Insurance Program (NFIP) ESA Compliance.

Workshops seek to reach local government, state agencies, Floodplain Administrators, planners, coastal resource managers, environmental consultants, and those who interface with the NFIP in the Puget Sound region. Participation is free and the class size limit is 30 students per workshop.

Workshop 1:

Snohomish County Department of Emergency Management

Thursday, November 7th

Workshop 2:

Thurston County Office of Emergency Management

Thursday, December 5th

To RSVP for this workshop, please email [Rogena Goines](mailto:rogona.goines@fema.dhs.gov) with your name, title, and preferred workshop: rogona.goines@fema.dhs.gov.



Online Training

(All times Pacific)

PDM: Advanced Assistance Application Development

October 2, 10 am
Online

PDM: Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA) Basics for Projects

October 3, 10 am
Online

PDM: eGrants Introduction

October 7, 10 am
Online

STARR: Elevation Certificates

October 10, 10 am
Online – 2 CECs

CRS: Preparing for a Verification Visit

October 15, 10 am
Online – 1 CEC

CRS: Watershed Impact Adjustment Maps (Activity 450)

October 16, 10 am
Online – 1 CEC

STARR: NFIP Basics

October 24, 10 am
Online – 1 CEC

STARR: Tools for Determining Base Flood Elevation

November 14, 10 am
Online – 1 CEC

CRS: Introduction to CRS

November 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.