

Inside this Issue

- 1 Washington Silver Jackets
- 2 Floodplains by Design New Projects Request
- 2 Floodplains by Design Workshops
- 2 Integrating Floodplain Management Policies Conference
- 3 NORFMA Workshops
- 3 Endangered Species Act Puget Sound Workshops
- 3 Online Training Opportunities

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News from Region X

Washington Silver Jackets Program

Flood risk management is likely not the first thought that comes to mind when hearing about a group calling themselves Silver Jackets, but it's precisely the focus of the Washington Silver Jackets team. The interagency team is made up of state and federal agency personnel working together to identify and address statewide flood risk priorities. The Washington team was originally developed in 2010, but the current make-up and operation of the group dates back only about 16 months. USACE Seattle District facilitates coordination, but activity within the team is driven by evolving flood risk needs. Routine participants include USACE, FEMA, USGS, and NOAA on the federal side, and Department of Ecology and Emergency Management Division. Ecology, as the state's NFIP regulating agency, is the Silver Jackets state lead.

A common misconception with Silver Jackets teams is that they are centrally funded to complete projects. While there are some opportunities for the team to lead small interagency studies, activities are actually funded through the individual programs of each agency. Identifying available federal and state funding can be taxing and no single agency has all the answers. It is the hope of the Silver Jackets members that more efficient, cohesive solutions can be achieved when all the key players are working through the same challenges.

The small interagency studies mentioned above are partly funded

by USACE but also leverage contributions from partner agencies. Washington has benefitted from these studies over the last couple years, receiving approval for four interagency projects ranging in USACE funds from \$40k to \$125k. One of those completed studies—"Integrating Flood Risk Reduction and Salmon Habitat Restoration in Puget Sound: An Early Opportunities Analysis"—uses a geospatial analysis and ranking classification to identify opportunities in Puget Sound floodplains for multi-benefit projects.

Two projects are ongoing: "River Basin Analysis: Early Opps Sequel" builds on the above multi-benefit analysis by reducing the scale to a local level and trying to tie target areas to feasible project options and funding mechanisms; and "Implementing the Rapid Assessment Flood Tool in Washington State (RAFT)" takes an Oregon Silver Jackets product and revises it for use in Washington to (among other things) offer flood risk management workers and responders quick statewide snapshots of the severity of forecasted flood events.

The newest awarded interagency study is for a post-wildfire flood risk assessment of the 2015 Blue Creek fire in southwest Washington.

For more information about the interagency studies or general questions regarding the Washington Silver Jackets team, contact Travis Ball, travis.d.ball@usace.army.mil or 206-764-3277.

Floodplains by Design New Projects Request

The Washington Department of Ecology, The Nature Conservancy and Puget Sound Partnership are announcing a Request for Proposals for new Floodplains by Design projects for the 2017-19 state biennium (begins July 1, 2017). The “Pre-proposals” are relatively short descriptions of the proposed project, how it addresses flood risk reduction and ecosystem improvements, and explains a robust stakeholder involvement process. The Pre-proposal application can be found at www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/floods/pdf/Application2017.pdf.

Pre-proposal applications are due to Ecology by midnight, January 29, 2016. Additional guidance on what makes a good Floodplains by Design project, required elements, technical standards, and the scoring system are contained in the new Floodplains by Design Funding Guidelines for 2017-2019 (see website above for [link](#)). It is highly recommended that you reference this guidance in preparing your pre-proposal.

A new project type is being introduced for this round of requests. The “Small Projects” type is intended to provide up to \$500,000 for the same project elements as the regular program, but allows smaller projects to compete within their own pool and not against the larger scale projects. If you are seeking this funding type, you must indicate that on the pre-proposal form. Pre-proposals will be qualitatively assessed and those showing the most promise of meeting the Floodplains by Design program objectives will be invited to submit full applications. Those invitations will be extended on March 14, 2016. Full applications will be due July 1, 2016. Ecology is also planning at least one workshop

to assist potential applicants with understanding the program and how to develop a quality project. (See below for details.)

For additional information, contact Scott McKinney at (360) 407-6131 or scott.mckinney@ecy.wa.gov.

Floodplain by Design Workshops

The Department of Ecology is offering workshops to help potential project sponsors understand the program intent and give feedback on project ideas. The workshops will provide a general overview of the Floodplains by Design (FbD) grant program, the processes and timelines involved in project selection, and offer tips and advice about what makes a successful proposal.

FbD Workshops

November 19

9:00 am – 12:00 pm
Ecology Central Regional Office
1250 W. Alder Street
Union Gap, WA

November 24

9:00 am – 12:00 pm
Ecology HQ Office
300 Desmond Drive
Lacey, WA

December 8

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Ecology Eastern Regional Office
4601 N. Monroe
Spokane, WA

Participants are asked to bring their ideas about projects for their communities as well as questions about the grant program. The first part of the workshop will provide the overview of the FbD grant program, its intent and requirements. The second part will be broken into small groups to discuss more project-specific questions and provide more direct feedback to sponsors. Participants are encouraged to

review the FbD grant guidance document in advance, available at www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/floods/FloodplainsDesign2017.html.

Integrating Floodplain Management Policies Conference

The Oregon Law Institute of Lewis & Clark Law School and Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC) are co-sponsoring a one day conference on December 10 in Portland. The topic of the conference is “Integrating Floodplain Management Policies”. The conference will explore the fragmented approach of the numerous policies that affect the Columbia River Basin, including the Columbia River Treaty, National Flood Insurance Policy, and Columbia Basin restoration programs. 6.75 General MCLE Credits are available with this conference.

Conference Details

December 10
8:30 am to 4:30 pm

Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish
Commission
700 NE Multnomah St, Room 502
Portland, OR

Download a copy of the Conference Brochure at www.starr-team.com

For registration information, visit go.lclark.edu/oli.

Ask the Help Desk

The Region X Service Center is here to help with technical, training, mitigation, and mapping questions.

Send your questions by email to RegionXHelpDesk@starr-team.com.

RiskMAP

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NORFMA Workshops

NORFMA is offering three HEC-RAS workshops in the upcoming months. The workshop topics range from basic steady flow simulation to inundation mapping to two-dimensional (2D) floodplain modeling using the most recent version of HEC-RAS (RAS5.0).

Combined 1D/2D HEC-RAS

November 18-20
Boise, ID

[Click for workshop flyer](#)

1D Unsteady Flow Modeling Using HEC-RAS

December 1-3
Everett, WA

[Click for workshop flyer](#)

Two-Dimensional (2D) Flow Modeling using HEC-RAS2D

January 27-29, 2016
University Place, WA

[Click for workshop flyer](#)

To register for the workshops, go to www.norfma.org. For more information, contact Henry Hu, hhu@WESTconsultants.com or call (425) 646-8806.

Endangered Species Act Puget Sound Workshops

FEMA Region X and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) are teaming up again to offer new workshops to discuss how Puget Sound communities can continue to integrate the Endangered Species Act into their implementation of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). These workshops will discuss the current guidance that is available to help local floodplain administrators implement the 2008 NMFS Biological Opinion on the Implementation of the NFIP in Puget Sound and provide two detailed approaches to compliance.

Two "Door 3" workshops will cover the status of Implementation of Puget Sound Biological Opinion, compliance through Habitat Assessments ("Who, what, when, where, and how"), and the review of case studies.

Two "Door 2" workshops will cover the status of Implementation of Puget Sound Biological Option, factors for communities to consider, a checklist for an integrated programmatic approach, and community-wide implementation.

Registration for all workshops is free (link provided below). Five (5) CECs are available for each workshop for CFMs®.

"Door 3" Communities – Habitat Assessments

December 1 – Tacoma, WA
January 26, 2016 – Everett, WA

"Door 2" Communities – Programmatic Approach through Community Regulatory Frameworks

December 2 – Tacoma, WA
January 27, 2016 – Everett, WA

Registration is available online at www.eventbrite.com/o/fema-region-x-service-center-starr-7884892574

For more information, contact rxtraining@starr-team.com or call (425) 329-3699.



Online Training

(All times Pacific)

NFIP Basics

November 12, 11am
Online* – 1 CEC

CRS: Preparing for a Verification Visit

November 17, 10am
January 19, 2016, 10am
Online* – 1 CEC

CRS: Floodplain Management Planning (Activity 510)

November 18, 10am
January 20, 2016, 10am
Online* – 1 CEC

Floodplain Development Permit Review

December 8, 10am
Online* – 1 CEC

Inspecting Floodplain Development

December 9, 10am
Online* – 2 CEC

Introduction to CRS

December 15, 10am
Online* – 1 CEC

CRS: Developing Outreach Projects (Activity 330)

December 16, 10am
Online* – 1 CEC

Elevation Certificates

January 7, 2016, 10am
Online* – 2 CEC

Tools for Determining BFE

January 21, 2016, 10am
Online* – 1 CEC

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



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