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News from Region X

Consider Floodplain Management as a Career

University of Washington and Western Kentucky University offer degrees in Floodplain Management

Want a challenging career that is in demand? Floodplain management is an emerging career option to consider. Few fields cover a broader range of disciplines. A floodplain manager works with elected officials and federal, state, and local agencies; performs flood risk analyses; and communicates effectively with individuals, small groups, and large groups. In the US, more than 22,000 communities participate in the National Flood Insurance Program and by Federal law each one must designate a floodplain administrator. There are currently fewer than 9,000 Certified Floodplain Managers® in the U.S.



Death Valley - Western Kentucky University Students during a field experience course

Do you have a specific region where you would like to work? Floods happen everywhere—even the driest place in the country.

A recent study estimated that worldwide flood losses would reach \$1T per year by 2050. Hurricane Katrina cost more than \$100B in damage



University of Washington students inspecting a “green” levee.

alone. The figure does not include economic losses to businesses, lost tax revenues, or job losses caused by the storm. About 40 percent of the US population lives in coastal counties and population growth there is 3 times the national average. More and more people are moving into harm’s way and adding infrastructure to these high risk areas. Global warming is increasing the risk to coastal communities. Mitigating floods risks can strengthen and making communities better and more attractive. The floodplain manager is the first line of defense against bad development decisions.

Where can you get the education and training to enter this exciting field?

Western Kentucky University offers a Bachelors of Interdisciplinary Studies degree with Concentration in Floodplain Management. For more information contact Warren Campbell at warren.campbell@wku.edu

The University of Washington in Seattle offers a Master’s degree in Infrastructure Planning and Management with a Floodplain

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Career (cont.)

Management Degree Option. The program is a hybrid distant learning program. The courses are taken online with the exception of two summer Seattle-based resident sessions. <http://www.infrastructure-management.uw.edu/overview/floodplain/>. For more information contact Bob Freitag at bfreitag@uw.edu.

Newsletter Ideas?

Let us know what you want to see in future issues! Do you have a suggestion for a story, event announcement, or did you recently read something that others would want to see?

Articles can be up to 500 words and may include pictures. Send us your story or ideas. Email us at RXNewsletter@starr-team.com.

New BCA Toolkit Version 5.2.1

The Benefit Cost Tool is used to perform benefit cost analysis for applications submitted under FEMA’s Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grant Programs. The latest version (5.2.1) is now available. Here are highlights of the latest release:

- Added an Expert DFA Module designed to simplify the process of determining if it would be viable to pursue performing a full DFA BCA on certain project types
- Fixed the restore functionality
- Updated the Government Mileage Per Diem Rate to \$0.575 per mile
- Fixed the Coastal Elevation help content that was producing errors

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.

BCA Toolkit Version 5.1 will be available for a short period of time to provide an opportunity for people to transition the latest version. Version 4.8 will no longer be accepted for use to demonstrate the Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA) for HMA projects.

If you need assistance in the transition process contact the BCA Helpline at bchelp@fema.dhs.gov; or, call (855) 540-6744.

Download the Toolkit at <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/92923>.



Upcoming Events & Training

(All times Pacific)

Substantial Damage Estimator 2.1

October 14, 8am
Online* - 1 CEC

Elevation Certificates

October 15, 10am
Online* - 2 CEC

Hazards Planning & Resilience: The Elected Officials Perspective

October 19, 10am
<http://j.mp/1QbEMb1>

Introduction to CRS

October 20, 10am
Online* - 1 CEC

CRS: Drainage System Maintenance

October 21, 10am
Online* - 1 CEC

G318: Mitigation Planning for Local Governments

October 27-28
Lynnwood, Washington
Pamela.Anderson@fema.dhs.gov

CRS: Preparing for a Verification Visit

November 17, 10am
Online* - 1 CEC

NORFMA HEC-RAS Workshop

November 18-20
Boise, Idaho
12 CEC
norfma.clubexpress.com

CRS: Floodplain Management Planning (Activity 510)

November 18, 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.

