

**FEMA REGION X  
RISK MAP DISCOVERY INTERVIEW  
CITY OF HOOD RIVER, OREGON  
June 25, 2015 11:30 AM PST**

**Participants**

City of Hood River

- Cindy Walbridge, Hood River Planning Director

State of Oregon

- Steve Lucker, Floodplain/Natural Hazards Mapping Specialist

Resilience Action Partners (RAP)

- Kathleen Warren, Region X CERC Lead

STARR (FEMA Contractor)

- Josha Crowley, Regional Service Center (RSC) Lead
- Adam Pooler, GIS Lead/Senior GIS Analyst
- Andy Dobson, Senior Planner

**Discussion**

Josha Crowley made introductions and presented an overview of the Risk MAP program and the different projects and products that can benefit communities. Our overall goal is discovering how FEMA can help Hood River become a more hazard and disaster-resilient community. A copy of the presentation is included with these meeting notes as Appendix A.

Pre-Discovery meetings and interviews with communities within the Middle Columbia-Hood Watershed have been scheduled throughout June and July, 2015. The Discovery Meetings are scheduled tentatively the week of July 20, 2015. Following the Discovery interview and meeting, STARR will prepare a report about the information compiled, including recommendations that FEMA may use to help allocate future Risk MAP funding. During the Discovery process, FEMA will be checking-in with and keeping communities informed every step of the way.

*The following information was collected during the interview. Unless otherwise noted, all comments are from Hood River representatives.*

*Community Contacts*

- Added Dave Flemings, building official added to list
- Kevin Liburdy, Senior Planner also added to list

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Confirm collected data

- Adam runs through the various datasets we've collected from local, state, and national sources
- All of this put together on the Discovery Maps which will be used for in-person meetings next month
- Floodplain information for the city is the Q3 data digitally captured from the community flood insurance rate maps

*Fact Sheets and Discovery Mapping*

The draft Discovery Map illustrates a variety of geographic data from state, national, and (when possible) local sources. These include basic geologic and geographic features, jurisdiction boundaries, hazard locations, critical facilities, floodplain data, infrastructure, aerial images, and environmentally sensitive areas. One reason for this interview is to review and refine the draft Discovery Map before the in-person Discovery Meeting with the community.

- Where are critical facilities and infrastructure located?
  - Anything important to the community to protect, to mitigate damage, gathering places, action centers—will document at Discovery meeting in July because we are running short on time
- Environmentally Sensitive areas
  - Cindy mentions that their wetlands were recently digitized by a consultant and is available to pass on to STARR
  - Also, the city has a wildfire interface zone boundary that is available as well
  - An Environmental Protection Zone (landslides) is located between the two (2) fault lines in the SE portion on the city
- Do you have a GIS specialist and data layers that we could add to our maps?
  - Use Hood River County as GIS resource—no local staff in City
  - We've already been working with Mike Schrankel at Hood River County GIS Department

Cindy makes mention that the City's Building Inspector, through the State of Oregon's E-permitting process, received a new map showing where all the potential environmental hazards are located possibly through the Buildings Code Division.

Steve Lucker said he is not familiar with the new maps and would like to talk more with Cindy after the interview.

*Planning*

- Status of FEMA Hazard Mitigation Planning projects
  - Uncertain whether city is included in countywide hazard mitigation plan—will clear this up with city engineering staff
- Top hazard mitigation priorities
  - Oil and coal trains moving through town very hot topic

### *Earthquake Hazard*

- Risk level
  - Not a lot of actual activity
- History/Damage
  - 1980s designation of east side of town as seismically active—information from most recent comprehensive plan for city (report will be provided)
  - Comprehensive plans have to be acknowledged by the State of Oregon and not much has been updated since the 70's and 80's.
  - Same area (NE side of city) also designated as vulnerable to landslide/slippage—construction requires geotechnical engineering work

### *Wildfire Hazard*

- Risk level
  - Always a risk and the area has a history of wildfire events
- Vulnerable locations
  - Areas will be provided at the in-person meeting
- Other needs
  - Josha mentions about the “Flood after Fire” concerns that the city may have interest in looking into
  - Cindy mentions that the city would be interested in information for long term planning purposes
- Mitigation projects or initiatives
  - Wildfire interface boundary mapped around city will be provided at the in-person meeting
  - Requirements for wildfires would be keeping fire breaks mainly in the Indian Creek Canyon area

### *Landslide Hazard*

- Risk level
  - Awareness of areas east of town along Hood River, but nothing imminent or actively moving
- Vulnerable locations
  - Lots of steep slopes in seismic area indicated on east side of town, in and around fault lines
- Mitigation projects or initiatives
  - Regulations for geotechnical review for new construction in slip-prone areas—derived from comprehensive plan document
  - Steve asks what triggers those engineered plans for the construction to take place. Is it based on any event that has been mapped?
  - Hazard area is marked and mapped from the Comprehensive Plan along with language talking about requirements

### *Severe Storm Hazard*

- Risk level
  - Regular event, especially ice storms
- Vulnerable locations
  - Steep slopes around town, very steep roadways (10-15% grade) easily shut down from winter ice storms
  - Mitigation/road clearing can usually get things moving again in a day or two
  - One main artery is open during event (State Highway running East-West and North-South)
- Damage, power blackouts, duration
  - Pacific Power gets the power back on
- Shelter needs and facilities
  - No need for sheltering

### Emergency Communications

- Have a reverse 9-1-1 system

### *Flood Hazard*

- Risk level
  - Indian Creek Canyon mentioned specifically and highlighted on Discovery Map and a small portion of Hood River are the two reaches that are identified within the city in the Comprehensive Plan
- FIRM comments, revisions, questions
  - Columbia River has the potential for flooding and the city has an application in court that has been appealed since 2011 until recently where mitigation has been done on the River to resolve some issues
  - Q3 data only thing available from 1983 FIS mapping—only representative, not actual floodplain locations, paper maps are what should be used for any regulations and permitting
  - Flood mapping is “horrible” right now—lots of problems, inaccuracies, inconsistencies
  - Need a lot of work re-studying and establishing accurate floodplain elevations along Columbia River, sounds like 1983 FIRM doesn’t show any 1% floodplain along Columbia River even though Q3 data does
  - City has been working with the Army Corps of Engineers to find elevations that will work along the river
  - Elevations are getting close to where they should be and the delineations are confusing
  - Very unclear what is going on along Columbia River, which behaves more like a lake because of Army Corps dams
  - Cindy will bring to the meeting a letter from the Corps showing the 100 year elevation mark and elevation certificate

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- Josha mentions that with the elevation certificate and letter stating the 100 year, a property owner along the Columbia River could obtain a Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA) based on the elevation before any new study is performed
- New development or construction that could affect runoff amounts, impact waterways
  - 88 room hotel is being built at the bottom of the basin
- New floodplain studies
  - Henderson Creek in an intermittent stream and is not a flooding concern; irrigation has been piped underground and no longer affects the creek's flow
  - Phelps Creek has been mapped and only a small portion flows through the city
- Other flooding issues or concerns
  - Lots of silt buildup in Hood River mentioned by Cindy that isn't showing up on our Discovery Map—shown as underwater when actually is above surface from storm in early 2000's
  - Dramatic difference between Discovery Map and other aerial images—entire mouth of river has large deposit/sand bar (how many acres of land?)
  - Area is under State of Oregon ownership
  - Josha mentions that in the interim, Cindy can reach out to the RSC to negotiate with the existing maps if applicants are trying to obtain a LOMA

*Levees*

- Other levees or flood control structures not shown on the map
  - Only one levee indicated on map—appears to be incorporated into railroad line built to protect the line but not designed as providing protection
  - No additional levees mentioned

*Environmentally Sensitive Areas*

- Wetland areas recently mapped through consultant—GIS layers available
- Wildfire interface zone boundary also available through GIS
- EFEE Analysis for Columbia River—study of some kind that they can provide at Discovery Meeting

*Communications and Outreach*

- Current community outreach/engagement
  - Don't use social media systems, basic website service
  - Hood River Valley Residents—have a website and newsletter
- Where does your community get information about disasters and hazards?
  - Website and Utility bills
- What kind of outreach works best in your community?
  - Use of the city website
  - City has the ability to put information on utility bills

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*Compliance and Training*

- Floodplain administrator
- Floodplain permitting
- Training and support
  - Region X newsletters that are put out monthly with specific issues and trainings available

**Next Steps**

- Will coordinate specific times, dates, and places for Discovery Meeting later in July
- Follow-through on documents, reports, and additional data we did not collect during phone interview

## **Appendix A: Interview Presentation**



FEMA

# Risk MAP Discovery

## Middle Columbia-Hood Watershed

Information Exchange Sessions  
June 2015

**RiskMAP**  
Increasing Resilience Together





# Information Exchange Agenda

- **Overview of Risk MAP and Discovery**
- **Introduction to Enhanced Risk MAP Products**
- **Interactive Questionnaire**
- **Close**

# The Vision for Risk MAP

Through collaboration with State, Local, and Tribal entities, Risk MAP will deliver quality data that increases public awareness and leads to action that reduces risk to life and property



# RiskMAP

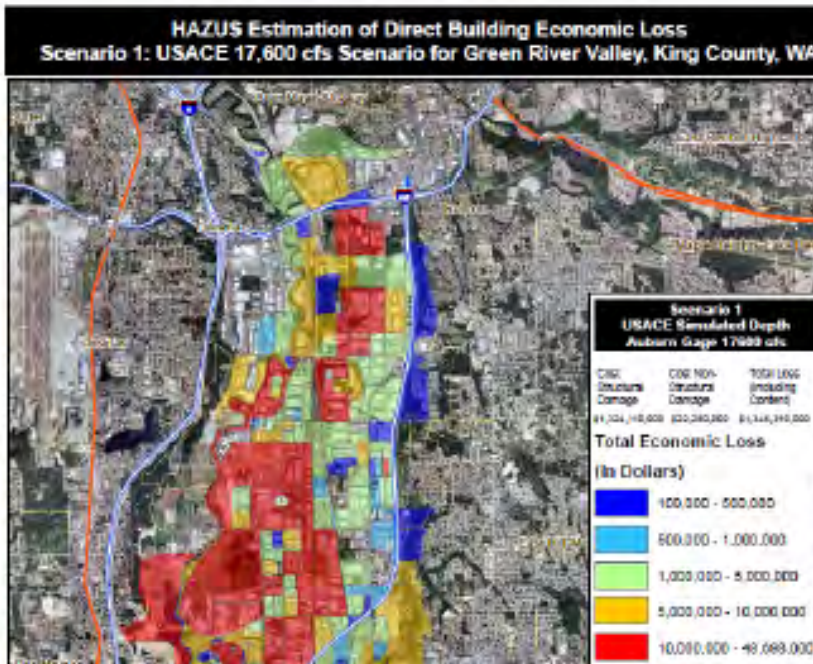
Increasing Resilience Together

- Collaborative approach
- Goals: quality data, public awareness, action that reduces risk
- Watershed-oriented
- Multi-Hazard
- Focus on up-front coordination
- Discovery is mandatory

# Risk MAP Products

## Multi-Frequency Depth & Water-Surface Elevation (WSE) Grids

10%, 2%, 1%, 0.5%, 0.2% annual chance profiles



### Inundation

- 3 feet or less
- 3 to 6 feet
- 6 feet +

## HAZUS Risk Assessment & National Flood Risk Layer

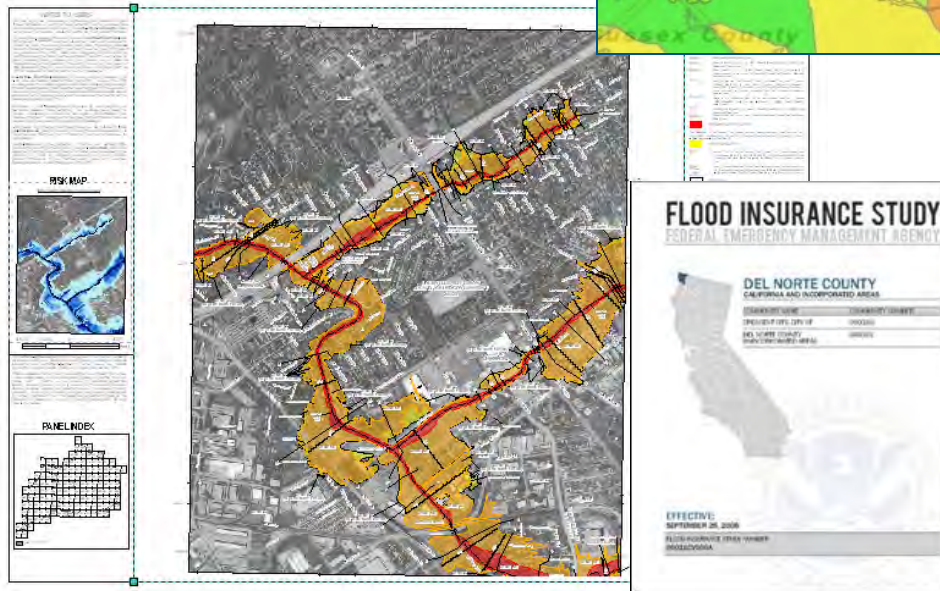
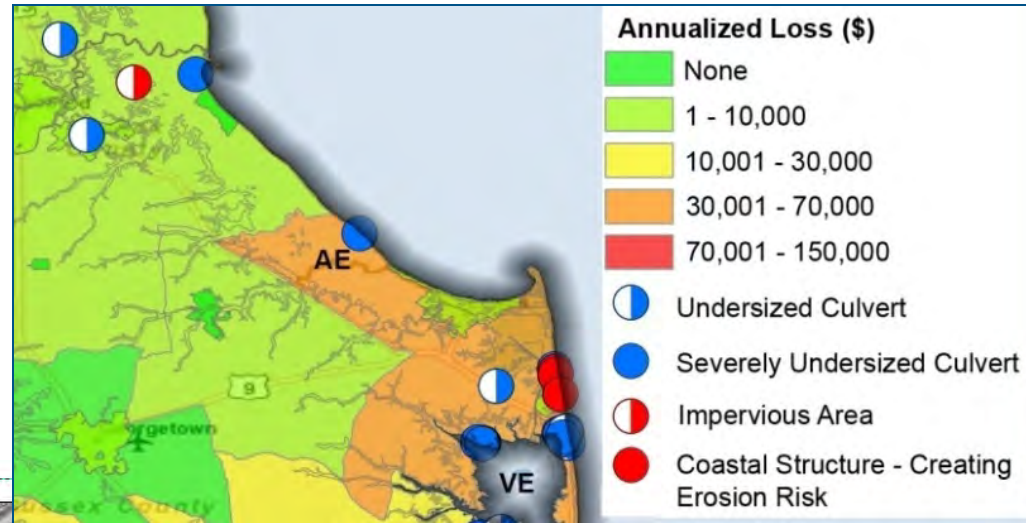
Enables communities to understand risk by reference to existing structure loss



# Risk MAP Products

## Contributing Hazard Factors

Highlights areas of concern identified throughout project



## FIS Reports and DFIRM Maps

DFIRM and FIS will continue to fulfill regulatory requirements and support the NFIP

# Discovery

***Discovery is the process of data collection and analysis with the goal of initiating a hazard risk or mitigation project and risk discussions within the watershed***

## **When:**

- After an area/watershed has been prioritized
- Before a Risk MAP project is scoped or funded

## **Required for new and updated...**

- Flood studies
- Flood risk assessments
- Mitigation planning technical assistance projects

## **Why:**

- Increases visibility of flood risk information, education, involvement
- Helps inform whether a Risk MAP project will occur in the watershed



# Middle Columbia-Hood Discovery

- **Federal and State Data Collection**
- **Local Issues: Identify Risk MAP Needs**
  - Need support with mitigation planning?
  - Need mitigation projects?
  - Need new flood study data?
  - Need training on floodplain management?
  - Need support developing a hazard risk outreach program?
  - What else can FEMA do to help your community become resilient?
- **Pre-Discovery Interviews: June 2015**
- **Discovery Meetings: Week of July 20-24, 2015**
- **Risk MAP Project(s) Identified**
- **Possible FEMA Funding Allocated for Risk MAP Project**

# Discovery Interview

- **Local Contacts**
- **Data**
  - LiDAR
  - Local or Regional GIS Data
- **Mitigation Planning**
  - Desired Mitigation Projects
- **Local Hazards**
  - Earthquakes
  - Wildfires
  - Landslides
  - Severe Storms
  - Flooding
- **Levees**
- **Environmentally Sensitive Areas**
- **Communications and Outreach**
- **Compliance and Training**

Mitigation Planning		
How would you describe your level of involvement with the development of the mitigation plan? (Considerable, Moderate, Minimal)	Do you need assistance with mitigation planning in your community? (Yes, No, Possibly)	Mitigation Planning Comments, Explanations, Questions



# Questions?

## FEMA

- **Amanda Siok, Risk Analyst, [amanda.siok@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:amanda.siok@fema.dhs.gov)**
- **Brett Holt, Mitigation Planner, [brett.holt@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:brett.holt@fema.dhs.gov)**
- **David Ratté, Regional Engineer, [david.ratte@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:david.ratte@fema.dhs.gov)**

## OREGON

- **Steve Lucker, State Risk MAP Coordinator, [stephen.lucker@state.or.us](mailto:stephen.lucker@state.or.us)**
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