

**FEMA REGION X
RISK MAP DISCOVERY INTERVIEW
CITY OF MORO, OREGON
SHERMAN COUNTY, OREGON
June 22, 2015 8:30 AM PST**

Participants

City of Moro

- Rene` Moore, Moro City Administrator

Sherman County

- Georgia Macnab, Sherman County Planning Director
- Shawn Payne, Sherman County Emergency Manager

State of Oregon

- Steve Lucker, Floodplain/Natural Hazards Mapping Specialist

Resilience Action Partners (RAP)

- Kathleen Warren, Region X CERC Lead

STARR (FEMA Contractor)

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

Discussion

Network connection problems resulted in poor audio quality during this interview and portions of the recording are unintelligible.

Becca Fricke-Croft made introductions and presented an overview of the RiskMAP program and the different projects and products that can benefit communities. Our overall goal is discovering how FEMA can help Moro and Sherman County become more hazard and disaster-resilient communities. 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. Discovery Meetings are scheduled for late July, 2015.

The following information was collected during the interview. Unless otherwise noted, all comments are from the City of Moro and Sherman County representatives.

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.

- Shawn mentioned they have written emergency management plans and wildfire protection plans that locate various critical facilities, information is still current and can be made available for Discovery Map
- Moro's GIS service is provided by Sherman County with contract services through Wasco County by Tycho Granville (GIS Coordinator, Wasco County).

Planning

- Valuable/critical locations discussed include:

Moro

- City infrastructure, water reservoir, sewer plant
- Fire & EMS department
- Courthouse, senior center, public health clinic
- Mid-Columbia Producers (major employer in town)
- Senior Housing/Center (Sherman and Moore Street)
- Museum/Chamber of Commerce facility
- Maintenance shop and fuel depot adjacent to City Hall property
- New city hall and post office

Sherman County

- Cottonwood Park
 - Klondike Elevator
 - Electrical substation
 - Gordon Ridge Communications Tower (for 9-1-1 service)
 - County Administration Building located just outside Moro
 - WWTP located northeast of Moro
 - County Extension Office research center immediately east of Moro
 - County fairgrounds which is used as emergency evacuation area
- Current countywide FEMA hazard mitigation plan is up-to-date. The top hazard mitigation priority in the community is wildfire hazard

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- Moro operates under Sherman County evacuation and response planning—joint operating agreements and resolutions and in place
- Representatives discussed how they typically don't apply for FEMA mitigation grants because they can't meet benefit-cost ratio requirements
- Moro does not currently participate in NFIP, but would like to. Renee discussed a major snowmelt a few years ago that damaged a levee. The resulting flood caused damage to a few homes. Lawsuits and insurance claims started discussion of joining NFIP and making flood insurance available to property owners. Areas damaged by flooding are indicated on Discovery Map
- Recent development discussed includes a large highway interchange project called Bigg's Junction

Wildfire Hazard

- This is the primary natural hazard concern
 - (Moro) Surrounded by grasslands and agriculture, fire + winds can present a severe hazard and rapidly-evolving situation
 - The entire city of Moro is vulnerable. Homeowners specifically discussed as difficult to collaborate with on wildfire risk and reluctant to engage with community officials
 - (County) Same situation countywide—high potential for wildfires, ongoing drought situation exacerbates fire hazard

Landslide Hazard

- Vulnerable locations in Moro include areas adjacent to rivers which are susceptible to rock falls, and areas identified by community zoning maps
- Locations in Sherman County include "Maddie's Hump" between Biggs and Rufus—repetitive slides in this area impact nearby roadways

Severe Storm Hazard

- Risk level (Countywide)
 - Winter storms are high on local hazard analysis, mostly because of blocked highways, driving/transportation conditions
 - Ice storms regularly knock out power lines, blackouts can last several days depending on the area of the county (south end of county gets it worse)
- Tree damage, automobile accidents resulting from poor road conditions, some agricultural damage from summer hailstorms were discussed
- Generally have not had to shelter anybody—residents are prepared to shelter-in-place when necessary
- Communication and warning systems that work best are local news outlets. Reverse 9-1-1 is under development

Flood Hazard

- Risk level
 - (Moro) River flooding generally not a high risk for community because of topography. A recent snowmelt/storm flood event discussed in residential area on west side of town is a rare occurrence
 - (Moro) Agricultural dams upland from City have been built over the years. Breaks/failures in these levees have potential to cause damage from water release
- Repetitive loss properties
 - (County) Rufus has repetitive loss properties, impacted by canyons running through town (Scott Canyon, Gerkin Canyon highlighted on Discovery Map). Debris management on stream has improved the situation somewhat
 - (County) Current floodplain mapping from Q3 data dating back to 1984

Environmentally Sensitive Areas

- Wilderness study areas through Bureau of Land Management on southern portion of county. This study may not have been completed because of property owner remonstrance
- Protected river corridors mentioned specifically

Communications and Outreach

- Current community outreach/engagement discussed includes a countywide newsletter (mailed) that focuses on defensible space from wildfires, and winter-storm preparedness
- Poor internet service limits use of social media or online communication—nothing beyond standard community websites. Rufus does maintain a Facebook page
- A small e-news service is provided through a Sherman County resident-volunteer
- Moro is currently not in NFIP, but looking to join up—would welcome news about floodplain mapping
- More coordinates through Sherman County for information about disasters and hazards
- Public/community outreach through meetings hasn't worked well generally—poor attendance unless something controversial is up for discussion. They are very interested in options for more successful community engagement

Compliance and Training

- Georgia with Sherman County is the current Floodplain Administrator
- Floodplain permitting uses the same permitting process as for any other construction
- Training and support will be needed in Moro if they join the NFIP. Sherman County is interested in training as well

Next Steps

- STARR will continue to coordinate with Moro and Sherman County on scheduling Discovery Meetings the week of July 20, 2015. Final dates, times, and locations have not been determined

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

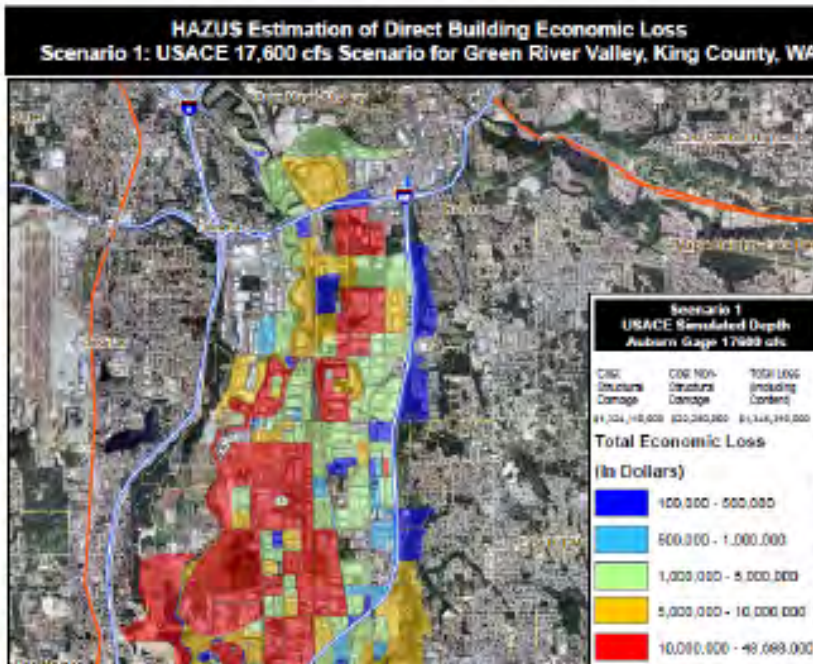
Increasing Resilience Together

- 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 +

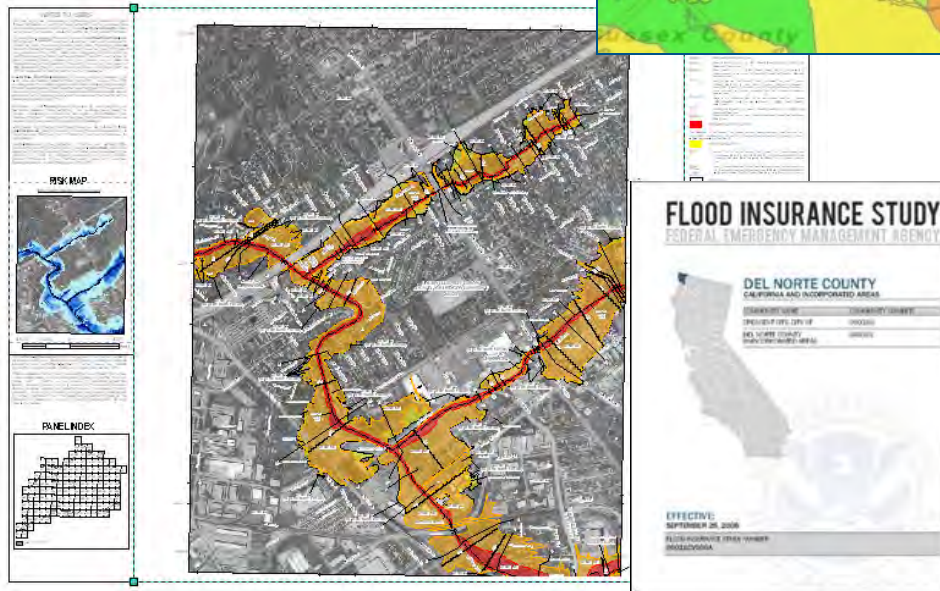
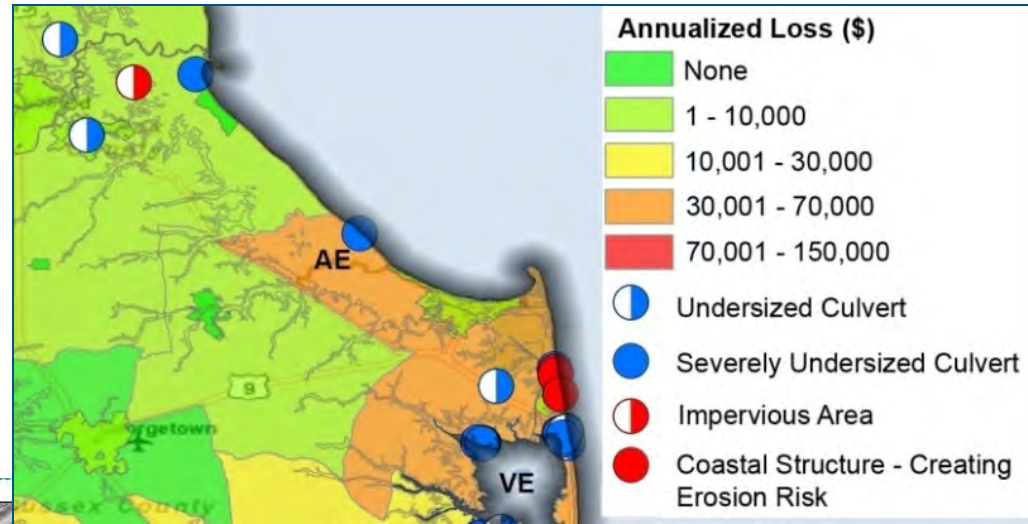
HAZUS Risk Assessment & National Flood Risk Layer

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

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- **Brett Holt, Mitigation Planner, brett.holt@fema.dhs.gov**
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- **Steve Lucker, State Risk MAP Coordinator, stephen.lucker@state.or.us**
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STARR

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