

**FEMA REGION X  
RISK MAP DISCOVERY INTERVIEW  
CITY OF MOSIER, OREGON  
JUNE 22, 2015 2:00 PM PST**

**Participating**

City of Mosier

- Nick Kraemer, Mosier City Planner
- Kathy Fitzpatrick, Mosier City Manager

Resilience Action Partners (RAP)

- Kathleen Warren, Region X CERC Lead

STARR (FEMA Contractor)

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

**Discussion**

Becca Fricke-Croft 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 Mosier 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. Discovery Meetings are scheduled for the week of July 20, 2015.

*The following information was collected during the interview. Unless otherwise noted, all comments are from the City of Mosier 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.

- Critical locations include many environmentally sensitive areas around town. The Discovery Maps needs updating with new fire department data provided by state/federal sources— locations we show are inaccurate

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- Mosier uses Wasco County's GIS services for mapping and datasets, no locally-developed information to add. Adam mentioned we will be working with Wasco County to collect additional mapping layers. It was mentioned the Army Corps of Engineers is collecting LiDAR data along Columbia River

*Planning*

- Valuable locations in the community include the public school (also the largest local employer), the Post Office, Mosier Creek Terrace Senior Center, and The Grange. All these locations are updated on Discovery Map
- The County has a current hazard mitigation plan but Mosier did not participate and is not included in it. The city has not done much hazard mitigation planning in general

*Earthquake Hazard*

- There have been no earthquakes in recent memory
- Vulnerable locations include bridges across Mosier Creek and Rock Creek which are historic structures not built to modern code
- Both bridges under ODOT jurisdiction, no plans to upgrade structures, some repair work done on Rock Creek bridge as part of I-84 ODOT bridge project incorporated earthquake retrofitting/strengthening

*Wildfire Hazard*

- The city is generally vulnerable to wildfire—no specific locations or buildings mentioned, no hazard inventory done
- Residents very aware of hazard and protection measures/evacuation needs
- Oregon Department of Forestry does a lot of local workshops and outreach to discuss safety, defensible space, analysis of areas where fire may be more of a problem

*Landslide Hazard*

- Risk level
  - There are steep slopes around town, but they appear to be stable
- Some development that has taken place on or near slopes were reviewed for landslide hazard—part of permitting and development review/geotechnical work before construction, requirements for retaining walls along roadways
- ODOT quarry located outside city limits mentioned by Nick, unstable slopes but doesn't impact anything other than itself
- Geotechnical/slope stability development standards for recent residential subdivisions mentioned by Kathy

*Severe Storm Hazard*

- Ice storms mentioned specifically as a recurring winter hazard

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- This area is very windy (60 mph) in general, so windstorms are relative—anything more than normal high wind happens infrequently
- Blackouts have lasted up to 4 days during bad storms—tree limbs knocked down by windstorms take out utility lines
- Ice storm in 2012 required shelter for residents at American Legion Hall during extended blackout. This building has been sold and is no longer available for shelter use
- Grange Hall now designated as primary emergency shelter, has backup electrical power and support from fire department (location indicated on Discovery Map)

*Emergency Communication*

- City itself doesn't have a warning system, fire department takes that role
- Residents generally find out about storms or hazards through other sources—media, fire department, word-of-mouth, etc.
- Door-to-door contact from fire department during storm events has worked in past
- No social media usage by City

*Flood Hazard*

- Only available floodplain data is Q3 mapping which may not match with modern aerial image datasets or actual flood inundation areas
- Mosier Creek is a very deep canyon, minimal flow and flooding is mostly contained in channel
- Rock Creek does occasionally flood, most recent (1996) caused in part by debris collecting against ODOT bridge structure—state is now much better at keeping channel clear and this risk has been all but eliminated
- Recent project (partnership between City, ODOT, and state parks) to stabilize streambeds and banks within ODOT rock quarry area southwest of town could change stream flow and floodplain areas
- There is not much development in flood-prone areas
- New floodplain studies include a Corps of Engineers project to collect LiDAR data along Columbia River (illustrated on Discovery Map and available online). The ODOT I-84 bridge project mentioned during interview, unknown if any stream flow studies were completed as part of design/engineering
- Mosier does not have a storm water system (other than street gutters) or management plan, not a problem today but Kathy thinks it is something the City should look into—water does collect in streets after storms but does not threaten structures

*Environmentally Sensitive Areas*

- Many areas around the city are considered environmentally important—aesthetically, wildlife habitat, recreation areas, and others

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*Communications and Outreach*

- A volunteer online community newsletter is effective at getting information out to residents— various articles and contributions as well as information from the City. It is unknown what percentage of residents are reached
- School flyers sent home with students also works well for reaching parents
- City council regularly meets twice monthly and could be a good venue for FEMA outreach

**Compliance and Training**

- Nick confirmed he serves as Floodplain Administrator

**Next Steps**

- STARR will send information about upcoming Discovery Meetings in the next few weeks— community not certain if they will participate or not
- Might consider grouping with another community if possible, depending on how Discovery Meetings are scheduled. The Dalles is 15 miles away, and Hood River is 5 miles away

## **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

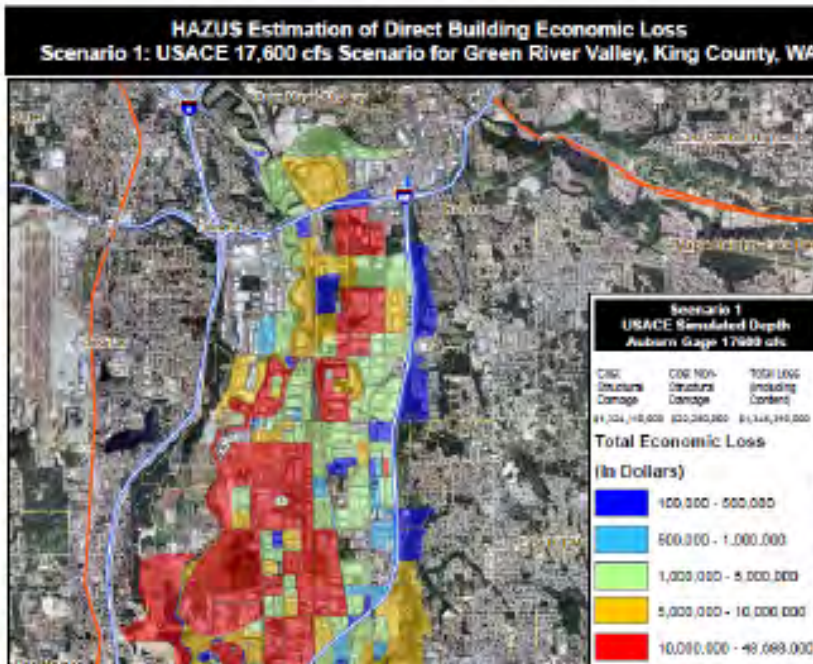
Increasing Resilience Together

- 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



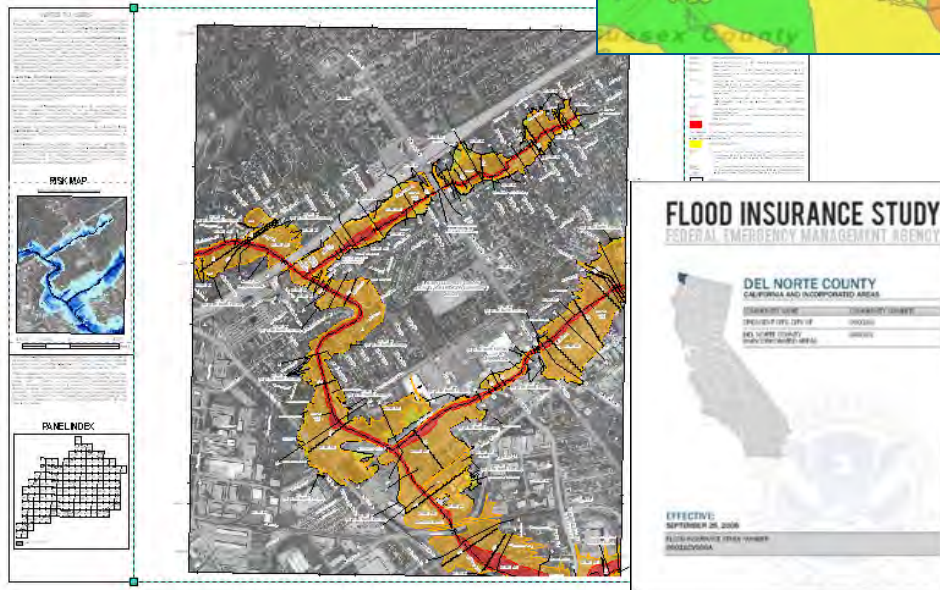
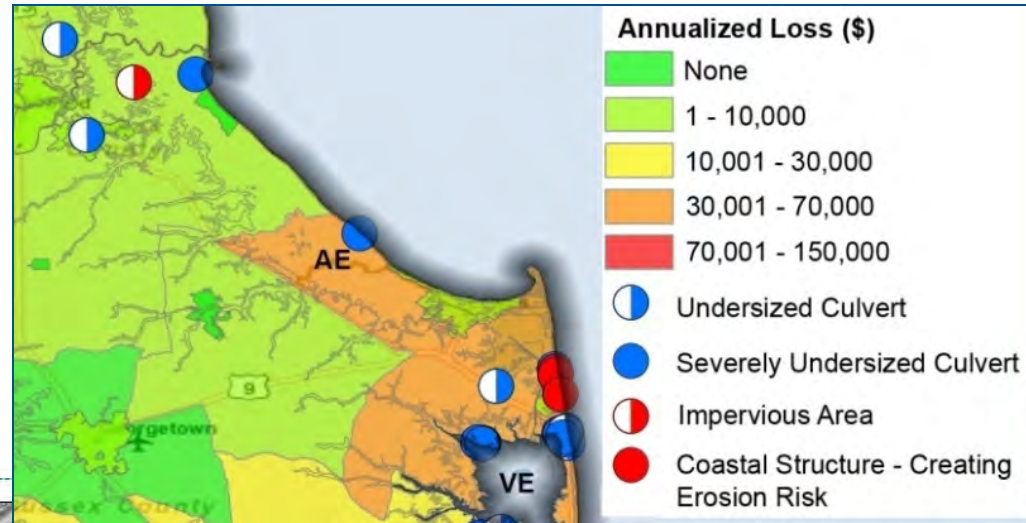
## HAZUS Risk Assessment & National Flood Risk Layer

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)**
- **Christine Shirley, State NFIP Coordinator, [christine.shirley@state.or.us](mailto:christine.shirley@state.or.us)**

## STARR

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