

**FEMA REGION X  
RISK MAP DISCOVERY INTERVIEW  
CITY OF STEVENSON, WASHINGTON  
July 1, 2015 12:00 PM PST**

**Participants**

City of Stevenson

- Ben Shumaker, Planning Director
- Karl Russell, Public Works

FEMA Region X

- Ted Perkins, Engineer
- Kelly Stone, Risk Analyst

FEMA Region IX

- Xing Liu, Regional Service Center (RSC) Lead

State of Washington

- Morgan Mak, Emergency Management Division

Resilience Action Partners (RAP)

- Kathleen Warren, Region X CERC Lead

STARR (FEMA Contractor)

- Becca Fricke-Croft, Meeting 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 Stevenson 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 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 the Stevenson representatives.*

#### *Community Contacts*

- Confirmed current email addresses and phone numbers with community representatives

#### *Fact Sheets and Discovery Mapping*

- Adam asks if the city documents any of the hazard mapping or if Skamania County does that work for the city. Ben responded that the county does it based on the city's request as part of the Critical Areas process (GeoHaz maps created for the city but nothing was done for the flood maps)
- The city also has had the county develop a layer for all of the flowage easements that the Army Corps has over properties near the Columbia River that can be inundated by the Bonneville Dam
- Ben mentions that the city took part in the Skamania Hazard Mitigation Plan and that some critical facilities were geo-located when that plan was being compiled
- Skamania County provides almost all of the community's GIS services and datasets (contact Rick Hollatz, GIS Coordinator)

#### *Planning*

- Notable or critical features in the community include:
  - Skamania Lodge (privately owned facility)
  - Bridge of the Gods
  - Local government facilities—county offices, sheriff's department, fire department clustered downtown
  - WWTP is immediately west of mouth of Rock Creek, and water Plant is on Red Bluff Road near Le Bong Creek
  - Local school buildings—one immediately north of local government campus
- Status of FEMA Hazard Mitigation Planning projects
- The most recent hazard mitigation plan dates from 2011. Stevenson was engaged in multi-jurisdiction project led by Skamania County

#### *Earthquake Hazard*

- There is little concern for earthquakes in Stevenson. Potentially vulnerable locations are listed in countywide hazard mitigation plan.

#### *Wildfire Hazard*

- Within the city wildfire risk is minimal. The Stevenson fire district service reaches north of city into county areas and there is more risk in outlying areas bordering forest service land

- Mitigation projects or initiatives underway include the Underwood Conservation District which promotes the FireWise program. John Carlson, County Emergency Management Department was mentioned as a contact for this project.

#### *Landslide Hazard*

- There are many steep slopes to be concerned about. The Piper Road Landslide off of Rock Creek (2006-7) destroyed two houses and continues to push Rock Creek toward the Columbia River (area indicated on Discovery Map)
- Landslide deposits filled in a lot of Rock Creek near sewer plants, causing backups and altered drainage patterns—FIRM maps do not reflect these changes, updates needed
- Landslide mapping available from County offices (Rick Hollatz mentioned as contact person)
- Vulnerable locations include the Piper Road slide area (Uncertain if other structures/areas are vulnerable to further movement)
- Other roads that have been identified as being vulnerable or impacted by this hazard were pointed out as: El Paso Rd, Loop Rd, and Rock Creek Drive Rd
- Stevenson has not updated studies of the furthest extents of the slide or determined whether the high school will be affected. They would like more information on this
- Mitigation projects include regulations requiring geotechnical analysis for any construction permits on steeply sloped areas (25% or greater)
- Stevenson is “de-watering” the Piper Road landslide area as well as writing a grant to do some flood protection for the Rock Creek Drive Bridge area but was unsuccessful (not funded)

#### *Severe Storm Hazard*

- High winds are normal for the area
- Blackouts are expected in heavy snow/ice storms. Utilities are very good about getting service back up quickly (within a day)
- Don’t typically shelter anybody during emergencies, but have a county building (Hegewald Center) near WWTP identified as emergency shelter. Stevenson would like to coordinate with schools more than they have on shelter facilities
- Karl mentions that John Carlson would be a good source to reach out on the subject of transporting locals to shelters
- Local Building codes account for snow loads (50 lbs) and high wind speeds

#### *Emergency Communications*

- Stevenson posts notices on the city website. Most emergency communications come through County Emergency Management Department

#### *Flood Hazard*

- Flooding is not a big concern—Corps of Engineer’s Flowage Easements along the Columbia River keeps development out of flood-prone areas

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- The city would like to study how the Piper Road landslide and conveyance of Rock Creek is impacting the properties on the east side of the creek
- Stevenson does not experience a lot of storm flooding concern other than a handful of chronic storm drains that back up. Some drains become clogged from heavy rain events after a snow storm—flooding contained mainly on roadways, no homes affected
- Extension of the sewer outfall pipe into Columbia River was done but some bathymetric analysis may be necessary where Rock Creek and Columbia River meet

*Environmentally Sensitive Areas*

- Wetland layer data is available through Skamania County (Rick Hollatz)

*Communications and Outreach*

- The city Fire Department does outreach in regards to wildfire hazards. The city also relies on the County Emergency Management Department that stages disaster response rehearsals (earthquake, severe storms)
- Skamania County Emergency Management Department provides most information about disasters and hazards
- Outreach methods that work best include a Chamber of Commerce email list, an annual community survey, and Skamania Pioneer Newspaper and Facebook page
- Regular meetings of boards, organizations, etc. where outreach could happen
  - City Council meetings happen 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month
  - Planning Commission hearings happen 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of every month
  - Fire Department training happens every Monday
- The city's Planning Commission would be interested in any Risk MAP information that could be used in future documentation and geared towards seasonal hazards

*Compliance and Training*

- Stevenson is uncertain who is the current Floodplain Administrator—this function may be provided on contract basis through Building Department
- The city is interested in additional training opportunities for floodplain administration

**Next Steps**

- STARR will coordinate on the logistics of how many meetings, where, which communities will attend—will be in contact with communities over next few weeks
- Hegewald Center might be good venue for Discovery Meeting—will look into reserving it for week of July 20

## **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

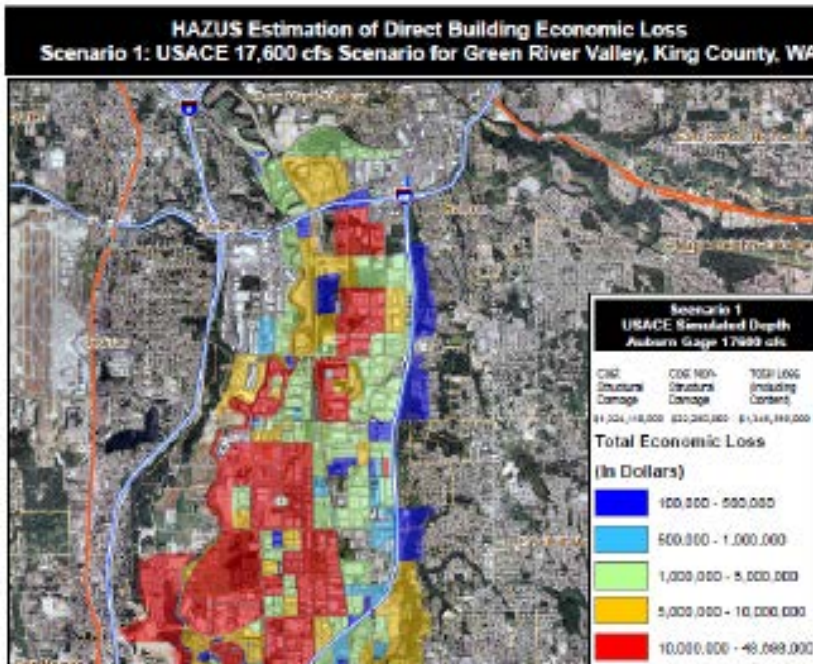
Increasing Resilience Together

- 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



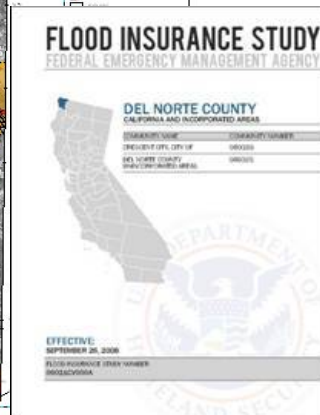
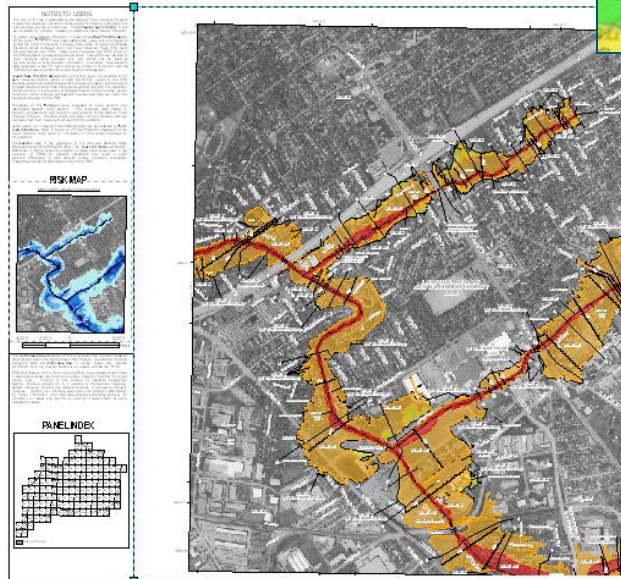
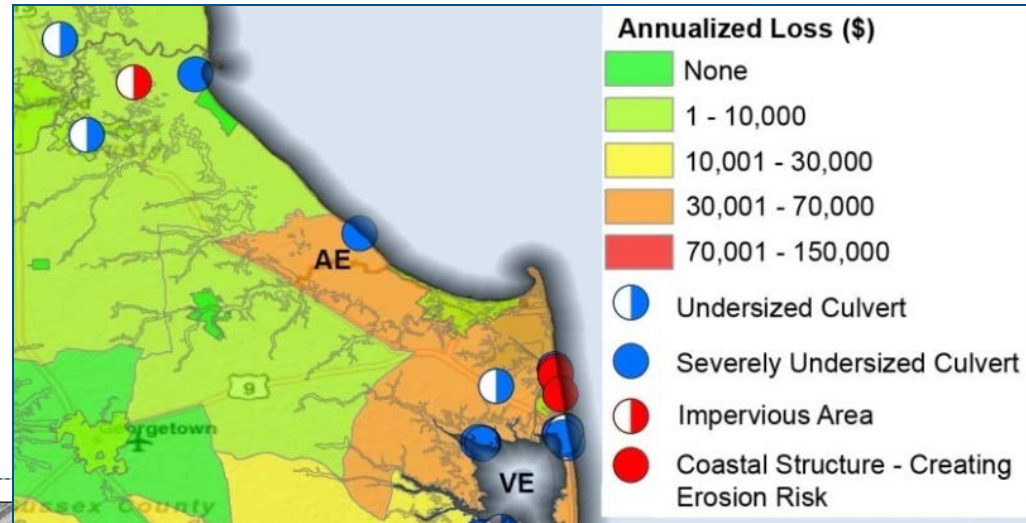
## HAZUS Risk Assessment & National Flood Risk Layer

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: 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

- **Kelly Stone, Risk Analyst, [kelly.stone@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:kelly.stone@fema.dhs.gov)**
- **Kristen Meyers, Mitigation Planner, [kristen.meyers@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:kristen.meyers@fema.dhs.gov)**
- **Ted Perkins, Regional Engineer, [dwight.perkins@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:dwight.perkins@fema.dhs.gov)**

## WASHINGTON

- **Jerry Franklin, State Risk MAP Coordinator, [jfra461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:jfra461@ecy.wa.gov)**
- **Morgan Mak, Mitigation & Recovery Strategist, [morgan.mak@mil.wa.gov](mailto:morgan.mak@mil.wa.gov)**

## STARR

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