STARR
Strategic Alliance for Risk Reduction

May 2016
Volume 6, Issue 4

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Strategic Alliance for Risk Reduction
FEMA Region X Service Center
20700 44th Avenue West, Suite 110
Lynnwood, Washington 98036
(425) 329-3699

News from Region X

Biological Opinion on the NFIP in Oregon

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) recently issued a biological opinion on the impacts of implementing the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) on endangered and threatened marine animals in Oregon. The "Oregon BiOp" is the final document from a multi-year Endangered Species Act consultation between FEMA and NMFS. The document contains a Reasonable and Prudent Alternative (RPA) with recommended changes to the way that FEMA, the State of Oregon, and local governments administer the NFIP in Oregon.

FEMA Region X is working with Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) and other stakeholders to develop and provide information, training, and technical assistance to local governments in Oregon for the implementation of changes to the way that the NFIP is administered as a result of the BiOp and RPA. Webinars will be hosted by DLCD in May and a series of workshops will be offered at locations across Oregon in June and July concerning the Oregon BiOp and the RPA. Specific dates and times will be announced by DLCD (www.oregon.gov/LCD).

Workgroups will be formed to examine the BiOp and RPA, and advise DLCD on a path forward toward implementation.

The Oregon BiOp is available online: www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/habitat/conservation. If you have questions, please contact FEMA-R10-ESAcomment@fema.dhs.gov.

NFIP Updates

More changes are coming to the National Flood Insurance Program. A new video summarizes the changes to the NFIP Flood Insurance Manual that took effect on April 1, 2016. Many of these changes are a result of the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2014 and the continued implementation of Biggert-Waters 2012.

April 2016 Flood Insurance Program Updates Video

What You Will Learn

Significant recent changes to the NFIP covered in this video include:

- Elimination of subsidies for certain Pre-FIRM properties with policies that lapse and are reinstated
- Further guidance for determining building occupancy
- Revised definition for business buildings
- Additional instructions for Pre-FIRM buildings that were substantially improved on or after April 1, 2015

Suggested Additional Reading

FEMA periodically issues WYO Program Bulletins related to legislative changes and clarifications to the NFIP Flood Insurance Manual. FEMA recently published Bulletin w-16022 – October 1, 2016 Program Changes.

Free Online Flood Insurance Courses

The NFIP offers free online courses covering basic and advanced flood insurance topics through the FEMA

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NFIP *(cont.)*

Emergency Management Institute's Independent Study Program. Visit the NFIP Training pages for agents or claims adjusters for course details, or view this list of NFIP courses offered through the Independent Study Program.

Local jurisdictions should contact their state emergency management officer. Tribal communities should contact Kristen Meyers at kristen.meyers@fema.dhs.gov or (425) 487-4543.

Elevation Certificate QC Tool and the CRS

If you are a CRS community using the Region X Elevation Certificate Review (ECQC) Tool in your floodplain development review process, you should *also* use the CRS EC Checklist to ensure that the information provided on the Elevation Certificate meets the requirements for CRS Activity 310. The ECQC Tool cannot verify the community name and ID, for example, or other potential errors

that only human eyes can catch. The ECQC Tool can be downloaded from the STARR Region X website at http://j.mp/RX_ECQC_Tool. The CRS EC Checklist is at http://crsresources.org/300-3.

BIA Climate Change Funding

The Department of the Interior (DOI), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Tribal Climate Resilience Program (TCRP) is pleased to announce the FY16 Climate Funding Opportunity to support tribal projects to address:

- climate change adaptation (planning, workshops, and travel support),

- ocean and coastal management planning (and travel support),

- capacity building (new!),

- and to provide youth internships (research, management, or youth engagement).

In Fiscal Year 2016, a new Category 9, "Capacity Building", has been

created to support tribes that have limited technical or staffing capacity to identify how the tribe or tribal organization can start addressing climate change adaptation.

Contract proposals must contain the information required by 25 CPR 900.8 and all proposals must have tribal resolution(s) supporting their requests in order to receive funding.

If you have questions on the process, please contact your Regional Climate Change POC or Sean Hart, the Climate Change Coordinator within the Deputy Bureau Director, Office of Trust Services, Bureau of Indian Affairs, at climate.funding@bia.gov or by calling (202) 513-0337.

Newsletter Ideas?

Let us know what you to want to see in future issues! Articles can be up to 500 words and may include pictures. Email us at RXNewsletter@starr-team.com.

Online Training
(All times Pacific)

Biological Opinion on the NFIP in Oregon
May 11, 2:30-4pm
May 12, 8:30-10am
fema.connectsolutions.com/oregon
800-320-4330; PIN 432519
www.oregon.gov/LCD

Floodplain Development Permit Review
May 12, 9 am
Online* – 1 CEC

Inspecting Floodplain Development
May 12, 10:30 am
Online* – 1 CEC

CRS: Preparing for a Verification Visit
May 17, 10am
Online* – 1 CEC

CRS and Coastal Hazards
May 18, 10am
Online* – 1 CEC

NFIP Basics
June 8, 10am
August 25, 10am
Online* – 1 CEC

Elevation Certificates
June 16, 10am
Online* - 2 CEC

Letters of Map Change
July 14, 10am
Online* – 1 CEC

Tools for Determining BFE
July 28, 10am
Online* – 1 CEC

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*To register for online courses, visit STARR's training site online at j.mp/starronlinetraining, or email RXTraining@starr-team.com.

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