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# News from Region 10



**Figure 1: Multi-Agency Review Team members observe a bulkhead removal project on Whidbey Island, WA.**

## Shoreline Armoring Alternatives

### FEMA Joins Effort to Streamline Federal Permits

If you live in or visit Washington’s Puget Sound, on your next ferry ride, take a look at the properties along the shoreline. Are the homes and parks behind gray, concrete bulkheads, or are they separated from the shoreline by beach wrack, sand, and maybe a few rocks? Does the tide hit a wall when it’s coming in, or is it allowed to ride the angle of the beach and dissipate to a gentle wave before retreating back into the Sound?

These are questions that are considered in detail by a team of experts from multiple state and federal agencies working in the Puget Sound on shoreline armoring issues. Why? Simply stated, when shorelines are allowed to function naturally, they retain habitat value and often provide for natural erosion control that, together, make the Puget Sound a healthier environment for salmon, their prey, and other marine life. The team’s goal: make it easier for the federal permitting process to

approve soft shoreline armoring techniques instead of the hard armoring methods (ex. bulkheads and rip-rap) that have been standard for decades. Soft stabilization incorporates natural elements including large woody debris, gravel placement, or beach nourishment, in a design that mimics a natural shoreline and protects from erosion. The ferry dock at Fauntleroy and the Lincoln Park area in West Seattle are two great examples of how a community can be improved with beach access while still maintaining waterfront protection.



**Figure 2: Soft armoring has renewed local interest in visiting Sunlight Shores Community Beach - Whidbey Island, WA.**

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*Shoreline Armoring Alt's - cont'd*

FEMA Region 10's Mitigation Division is involved with the newly formed Multi-Agency Review Team (MART) as advisors on how shoreline armoring, armoring removal, and similar projects coincide with local communities' responsibilities as National Flood Insurance Program participants.

Floodplain management regulations often play a role in the local permitting for these activities, in addition to sometimes requiring coordination with the US Army Corps of Engineers or the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

*For more information about MART efforts, reach out to Erin Cooper ([erin.cooper@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:erin.cooper@fema.dhs.gov)) or Bryr Harris ([bryr.harris@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:bryr.harris@fema.dhs.gov)) with Region 10's Floodplain Management and Insurance Branch.*

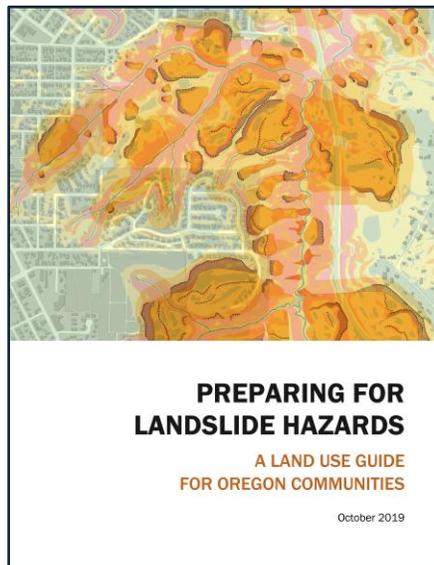
## New Land Use Guide about Landslides Available in Oregon

The Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) and the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) released the document "Preparing for Landslide Hazards: A Land Use Guide for Oregon Communities" and its accompanying quick reference on October 9, 2019.

In response to community conversations throughout Oregon, DLCD and DOGAMI jointly pursued and obtained grant funding from FEMA to create this Land Use Guide, which addresses frequently asked questions about increasing local resilience to landslide hazards through land use strategies. Many of these questions come from communities with new DOGAMI lidar-based landslide inventory and maps.

Lidar technology has revolutionized mapping. During the last decade, DOGAMI has been using lidar to produce detailed landslide inventories, shallow landslide susceptibility maps, and deep landslide susceptibility maps for communities in Oregon. With this new lidar-based information, communities should revise local codes, plans, and policies to most effectively use the new lidar-based information.

Preparing for a local or catastrophic natural hazard event requires a comprehensive community effort. The goal of the Land Use Guide is to address the information gaps faced by communities with new lidar-based landslide inventory and maps. Questions such as: What is the best method to implement this new information? What changes should we make to our codes, plans, and policies? What resources can we provide homeowners and others as we improve safety in our community?



The Land Use Guide provides examples of comprehensive plan language and development code provisions that can help communities reduce risk to landslide hazards.

These examples provide general guidance, allowing communities to tailor land use codes, plans, and policies to their individual circumstances.

The [Land Use Guide](#) and the accompanying [quick reference handout](#) are located on both DLCD's and DOGAMI's websites. The November 7, 2019 webinar about the Land Use Guide is also available on these websites.

*This project was funded by the FEMA FY 2016 Cooperating Technical Partners (CTP) Grant No. EMS-2016-CA-00017. For more information, contact Tricia Sears, Natural Hazards Planner, at [tricia.sears@state.or.us](mailto:tricia.sears@state.or.us).*

**Newsletter Ideas?**  
Want to spread the word about an upcoming event or recent success story? Let us know what you want to see in future issues! Articles can be up to 500 words and may include pictures.  
Email [RXNewsletter@starr-team.com](mailto:RXNewsletter@starr-team.com).

## Implications for Floodplain Management and Comprehensive Plans

### FEMA and WA Commerce seeking Input from Land Use Planners

The Washington State Department of Commerce and FEMA are partnering on a project that will look to offer recommendations on integrating natural hazard information into Comprehensive Plans and other land use tools in Washington. Feedback from the planning community will help shape next steps in this project.

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FPM Implications & Plans - cont'd

The intention of this effort is to provide information for reducing long-term risk to residents, businesses, natural resources, critical infrastructure, cultural and historic sites, and other locally-identified priorities, through land use planning; where there is voluntary interest and political and economic feasibility.

FEMA and the Department of Commerce have already held three workshops for planners in Washington that are involved in developing or maintaining Comprehensive Plans. The first in-person workshop was held on October 30th at the Eastern Washington Planners' Fall Forum; followed by two virtual workshops, hosted on November 7th and 19th.

If you are a planner in Washington involved in long-range planning and would like to participate, there is still time! **The final in-person workshop will be held on December 12th in Tacoma, WA.** There will be space to share and brainstorm ideas for integrating natural hazard data and mitigation actions into existing Comprehensive Plan goals, policies, and objectives in order to increase overall community resilience.

The feedback gathered at the four workshops will be used to identify the next steps in tailoring a tool kit for planners, floodplain managers, and emergency managers on how to

more fully include natural hazard information and risk reduction strategies into long-range community planning efforts.

*If you have any questions, are interested in attending the December 12th workshop, or would like additional information, please contact Leanne Rone, [leanne.rone@mbakerintl.com](mailto:leanne.rone@mbakerintl.com).*

### Ask the Help Desk

The Region 10 Service Center is here to help local community officials and stakeholders with technical, training, mitigation, and mapping questions.

Email [RegionXHelpDesk@starr-team.com](mailto:RegionXHelpDesk@starr-team.com).

### Floodplains by Design

#### Pre-application period open now

The Washington Department of Ecology will accept pre-applications for new Floodplains by Design (FbD) grants through Jan. 31, 2020. The grants will be awarded for the 2021-23 Biennium, which starts July 1, 2021. Pre-applications are used by Ecology to screen projects and help determine their suitability in matching the intent of the FbD program. [Pre-application forms](#) are available electronically.

For more information, contact Lynn Schmidt, [lyns461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:lyns461@ecy.wa.gov).

## Oregon Risk MAP Website Change

FEMA Region 10 will now be managing the Oregon Risk MAP program. As a result, the Department of Land Conservation and Development Risk MAP website has been discontinued.

For future reference and information regarding the FEMA Risk MAP program and status information regarding individual Oregon projects please refer to the following two websites:

[FEMA Risk MAP](#)

[STARR II](#)

STARR II's website links to an Oregon-specific page, which can then link through to individual projects for status updates. If your community does not have an ongoing Risk MAP project then you may not want to link to this page.

If your community's website had links to the DLCDC Risk MAP website, please take note and remove that link to avoid having a broken link on your website.

For more information, please contact Celinda Adair, [celinda.adair@state.or.us](mailto:celinda.adair@state.or.us).



**Online Training**

(All times Pacific)

**CRS: Natural Floodplain Functions**

December 17, 10 am  
Online - 1 CEC

**CRS: Preparing for an Annual Recertification**

December 18, 10 am  
Online - 1 CEC

**STARR: Elevation Certificates**

December 19, 10 am  
Online - 2 CECs

**STARR: NFIP Basics**

January 9, 10 am  
Online - 1 CEC

**STARR: Tools for Determining Base Flood Elevation**

January 23, 10 am  
Online - 1 CEC

**STARR: Elevation Certificates**

February 13, 10 am  
Online - 2 CECs

**STARR: Floodplain Development Permit Review**

February 27, 9 am  
Online - 1 CEC

**STARR: Inspecting Floodplain Development**

February 27, 10:30 am  
Online - 1 CEC

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To register for online courses, visit STARR's training site: [i.mp/starronlinetraining](http://i.mp/starronlinetraining), or email [RXTraining@starr-team.com](mailto:RXTraining@starr-team.com).