

Region 10 News Flash

Now Available: Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the updated Draft Implementation Plan for National Flood Insurance Program - Endangered Species Act Integration in Oregon

FEMA seeks public comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) seeks public input on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and the updated Draft Implementation Plan for National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) – Endangered Species Act (ESA) Integration in Oregon.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has published a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the updated Draft Implementation Plan for NFIP-ESA Integration in Oregon. Public comments can be submitted from August 22 to October 6, 2025. Communities, agencies, and the public are encouraged to review the Draft EIS and updated Draft Implementation Plan. Please share your comments on the alternatives and their potential benefits and impacts on people and the environment. Comments on the Draft EIS should be specific and inform the Agency's selection among the alternatives.

FEMA is analyzing potential changes to how the NFIP is implemented in the Oregon plan area to comply with the ESA and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA). In collaboration with Oregon agencies and interested parties, FEMA developed a Draft Implementation Plan for NFIP-ESA Integration. If approved, participating and future NFIP communities in the Oregon plan area would need to require no net loss standards for floodplain development. Over 200 communities in Oregon would be affected by these changes to the NFIP.

The Draft EIS is a requirement of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The Draft EIS evaluates the potential social, environmental, and economic impacts of three alternatives to how the NFIP is implemented in the Oregon plan area. The No Action alternative considers the effects of not changing how the NFIP is implemented in the Oregon plan area. Two action alternatives evaluate the effects of requiring no net loss standards for development in the Oregon plan area. The no net loss standards comprise mitigation ratios to offset impacts on three floodplain functions, riparian buffer zone (RBZ) requirements, as well as reporting requirements.

Many agencies, organizations, and community members have shared questions and concerns that are now addressed in the updated Draft Implementation Plan and the Draft EIS.

Public meetings and comment opportunities

The project website contains the Draft EIS, the updated Draft Implementation Plan, other documents, information about public meetings, a link to a

<u>virtual room</u>, and ways to comment.

American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters will be present at the meetings.

Comments must be submitted **by October 6** in one of the following ways:

- Email: fema-r10-or-nfip-esa-integration@fema.dhs.gov
- Verbally at a public meeting
- Online comment form: https://tinyurl.com/FEMA-OR-EIS-Comment
- Mail: NFIP OR-EIS, FEMA, Region 10, 130 228th Street SW, Bothell, WA 98021
- Fax: 425-775-7560 Attention: FEMA NFIP OR EIS

FEMA will consider all input received during the Draft EIS public review and comment period. Following the public review and comment period on the Draft EIS, FEMA will publish a Final EIS.

Visit the <u>NFIP-ESA Integration in Oregon Program website</u> to learn more and sign up for updates on the Region 10 NFIP-ESA Integration efforts.

Note: This article was originally sent through the GovDelivery subscription service on August 22, 2025, and has been modified for formatting. To sign up for the GovDelivery service and receive more articles like this directly, click <u>here</u>.

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