

FEMA REGION X
RISKMAP DISCOVERY INTERVIEW
TOWN OF CONCONULLY, WASHINGTON
March 27, 2015 9:00 AM PST

Participating

Town of Conconully, Washington

- Zack Claussen, Public Works Director
- Sam Martin, Mayor

State of Washington

- Jerry Franklin, Department of Ecology

FEMA Region X

- Amanda Siok, Region X Risk Analyst
- Ted Perkins, Region X Engineer

STARR (FEMA Contractor)

- Becca Fricke-Croft (meeting host)
- Troy Sova, Senior GIS Analyst
- Andy Dobson, Senior Planner

Discussion

Becca Fricke-Croft made introductions and presented an overview of the RiskMAP program and the different projects and products that can benefit communities. Our overall goal is discovering how FEMA can help Conconully 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 Okanogan Watershed have been scheduled throughout March and April, 2015. Conducting pre-meeting interviews with communities helps us to better prepare for the in-person local Discovery meetings. The Discovery Meeting is scheduled for the week of May 4 – 6, 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 Town of Conconully representatives.

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Confirm contact information

- Address and contact information for Mayor Sam Martin and Zack Claussen was updated—more recent email addresses are available.

Confirm collected data

- Troy Sova discussed the data, in particular GIS base map data that has been collected thus far during Discovery from local, State and Federal resources.
- Becca asked if the Town had local GIS datasets to share with this Discovery effort or if the Town relies on the County for spatial information, which Zack responded that they do look to the County for data information.
- It appears Okanogan County has not gone through Map Modernization and that there are not digital flood maps available specifically for Conconully. Q3 Study data used to illustrate flood hazard areas on our maps.
- Troy Sova mentioned that the project team could use any available information regarding environmentally-sensitive areas or Conconully critical facilities that is not available on statewide datasets. This could either be a downloadable dataset or indicated on a map during this phone interview.
- Okanogan County provides aerial photography to Conconully. Zack believes this data is up-to-date.
- Conconully does not have dedicated GIS staff or any additional data to add to our mapping at this time.

During the final half of this interview, Becca will be asking questions designed to spark discussion with the Town of Conconully regarding Resilience.

What is Valuable to the Town of Conconully? What does the Town try to protect?

- Town has a population of over 200 year-round residents, however, the population swells during the summertime months due to seasonal cabins up and around lakes.
- Five (5) resorts/lodging facilities that provide recreation for visitors.
- Town host recreation year round with groomed snowmobile/ATV trails, fishing, hiking for visitors.
- Critical infrastructure with in the Town would be the community hall (functions as emergency management facility) and fire station, Lower Lake Dam and Upper Lake Dam

Planning

- The “Okanogan County, Washington Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan” was revised in 2013 and the Town of Conconully participated and is covered by the plan.

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- Status of FEMA Hazard Mitigation Planning projects
 - Fire Hall needs replacement because of age and condition of structure, unsuitability of the facility, and lack of equipment. Currently being housed in an old maintenance shop, no exhaust evacuation system in place, building has been condemned. This project is a high priority for Conconully and the Town is pursuing state funds and actively raising other money. A website (www.conconullycomplex.com) describes the overall proposal to house the fire department, public works, and local food bank in a brand-new building.
 - Wildland fuel reduction has taken place in some canyons in order to reduce overall fire hazard

Earthquake Hazard

- Does not appear to be much of a concern for the community
- Had tremor event northwest of town few years ago that shook the Town pretty good but not much damage

Wildfire Hazard

- High risk level, much like similar Washington communities
- Tripod Complex, 2006, largest fire in state history affected town. In 2014 the Carlton Complex fire 10 miles south of Conconully. Fires can get out of control and race over hills toward town.
- Vulnerable locations
 - Box canyon north of town where additional fuel reduction is needed
 - Other canyons mentioned earlier where fuel reduction has taken place
 - Box canyon southwest of town with residential neighborhood is high risk area and needs fuel reduction
- Other needs
 - Money for Conconully Complex funding to provide better fire protection service to community

Landslide Hazard

- These areas were marked on the map during the interview
- East Lake Street area: any heavy rain will cause slides across irrigation canal and over public road. Up to two or three feet of material will cover roadway.
- Heavily wooded area near Silver Street: slides impact Post Office and other buildings along road. Again, slides happen during any heavy rain.
- South of town: small rockslide area that infrequently impacts county roadway
- Vulnerable locations, neighborhoods, infrastructure
 - Public roads as mentioned and U.S. Post Office
 - Another area of concern just outside of Town for rockslides marked during the call east of Conconully Road

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- Lake Street slide area has become worse where slides would fill in irrigation canal (concrete channel). Canal has been enclosed and now slides go over top of the ditch, drainage projects have been looked at in order to help alleviate the issues.
- Mitigation projects or initiatives
 - Ditch work has taken place on Mineral Hill: water-bar with rip-rap to try and reduce water velocity without much success
 - Haven't restricted development in landslide-prone areas. East Lake Street area is getting progressively worse--enclosed an open canal which resulted in increased runoff velocity

Severe Storm Hazard

- History and frequency
 - Heavy snow can bring down trees. The community is used to tough winters.
- Damage, power blackouts, duration
 - Falling trees will take out power lines, outages only last a few hours usually.
- Shelter needs and facilities
 - No shelter needs
- Communication and warning systems
 - Conconully uses a Facebook page and website for outreach
 - There is no cellular telephone service. If landlines are out phone communication is non-existent.
 - Likewise, radio station coverage in the community is spotty (little FM, no AM stations)
 - An emergency warning system is an issue of concern as the community does not have a reliable method to communicate with residents during emergencies

Flood Hazard

- FIRM comments, revisions, questions
 - Conconully does not have any SFHA mapping available
 - Areas of town vulnerable to flooding being marked on map along the main creek running through the Town
 - Creek which runs north-south through town impacts areas along Broadway and West Fork Road. The creek is straight enough that water velocity carries large rocks and boulders to Broadway Street Bridge. Only has about 3 feet of clearance for flow to get through when debris is deposited during event
 - Sandbagging from last bridge in Town on north end all the way down to Broadway St
 - Broadway Street Bridge is a low-clearance chokepoint that frequently jams with logs and river debris. Floodwaters spill out east and west of bridge
 - Campgrounds get flooded out south of town
 - Flooding that occurs north of the Town along with debris dams eventually makes its way down the creek through the community

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- Repetitive loss properties
 - Flooding as described above happens regularly, and properties along creek are frequently impacted.
- Recent infrastructure projects that might affect floodplain/floodway/elevations
 - Army Corps “sugar dike” project to try and hold creek back
- Other flooding issues or concerns
 - FIRM shows flooding in areas highly unlikely to ever flood. Conconully has never filed a LOMC. There appears to be accuracy problems related to location of floodplain areas.
 - Dam failure mapping: Conconully requests an evacuation plan specific to the community. Jerry will look into what it might take to build an evacuation plan from Dam Emergency Action reports.

Levees

- Other levees or flood control structures
 - Sitting Bull Restaurant has manmade 3ft high sugar dike (sandbags) to protect property
 - USACE helped install dike from Broadway Street Bridge southward along both sides of creek to outfall from Upper Lake, also northward about 150 feet, only along east side of creek.

Environmentally Sensitive Areas

- State park has wetland areas south of town where creek empties into lake.

Communications and Outreach

- Current community outreach/engagement
 - Fire department sends annual letter with information about wildfire, fire defensible space
 - Past grant for fuel reductions around town: Conconully was engaged in this effort ten years ago
 - Conconully is working with Okanogan Conservation District on Firewise Program to educate homeowners on how to protect property
 - The community plans to host other meetings and get information out to residents
- The Chamber of Commerce, Fire Department, and Ladybugs Auxiliary, are the key players in communication and outreach to residents
- Conconully would be interested in RiskMAP product templates for outreach, communication, and education
- There was a question related to evacuation mapping and if this is a product that can be produced through RiskMAP project.

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Compliance and Training

- Zack as the floodplain administrator, could use more training/education regarding general floodplain management
- Property owners have to go through floodplain permitting and regulations to build on their property, but it hasn't discouraged construction in the floodplain.
- Training and support: Zack feels like the Town needs new and accurate floodplain mapping. Becca mentioned that will come out of Discovery process and could likely result as a RiskMAP project. Amanda mentioned this issue will be listed as a priority.

Additional Concerns

- Dam Inundation mapping could be used for the fire hall specifically for the Town
- New flood maps could really be used for the Town since the areas currently mapped are not accurate
- Jerry Franklin will bring in his Dam Safety officer to look into the dam failure scenario map and bring it down to the community level

Next Steps

- Discovery Meeting logistics were discussed. Conconully could combine meeting with Okanogan.
- Monday or Tuesday mornings are better for Conconully staff. Becca may send out poll for various communities to coordinate meeting times and places.
- Dam failure hazard may be natural way to group communities in meetings—anybody affected could meet together.

Appendix A: Interview Presentation



FEMA

Risk MAP Discovery

Okanogan & Wenatchee Watersheds

Information Exchange Sessions
March/April 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

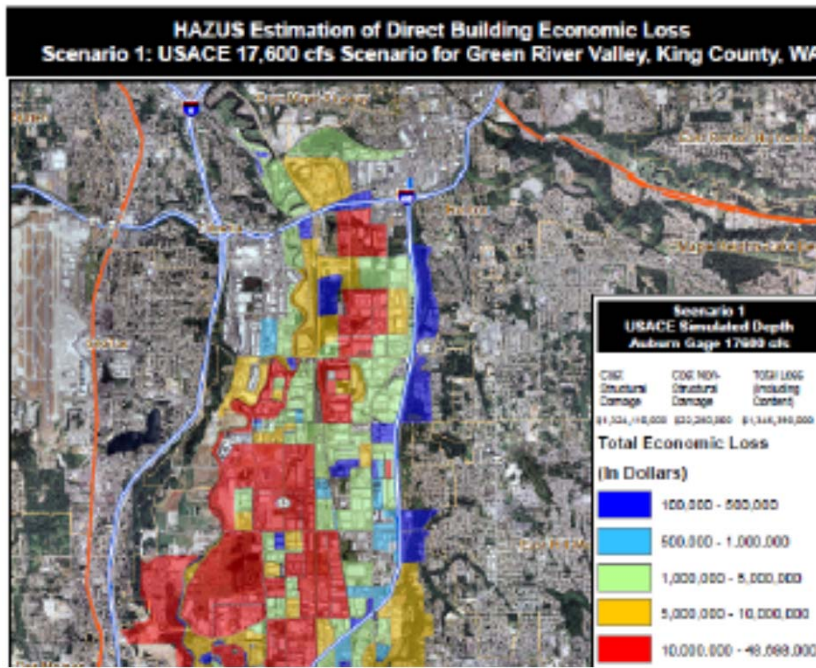
Increasing Resilience Together

- 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



Inundation

- 3 feet or less
- 3 to 6 feet
- 6 feet +

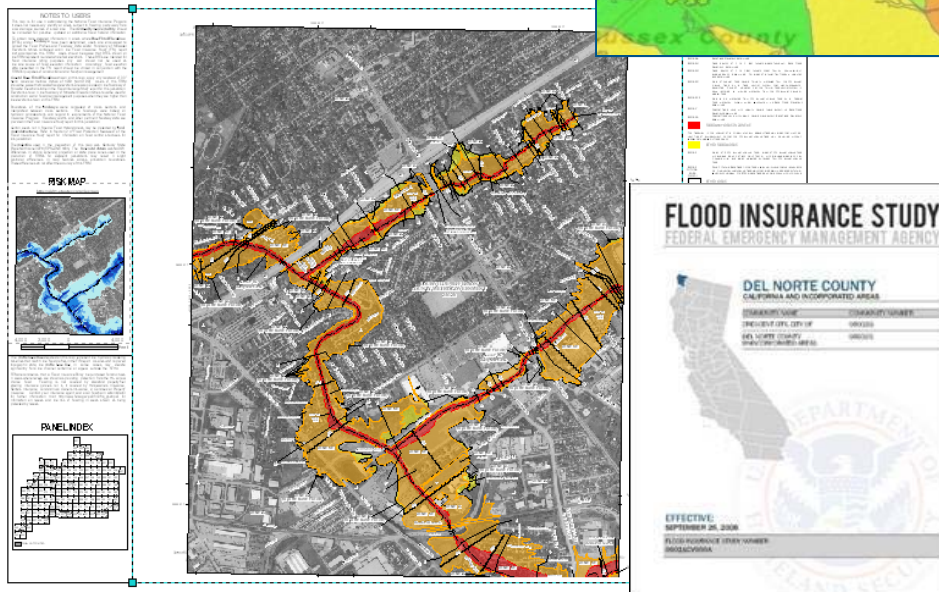
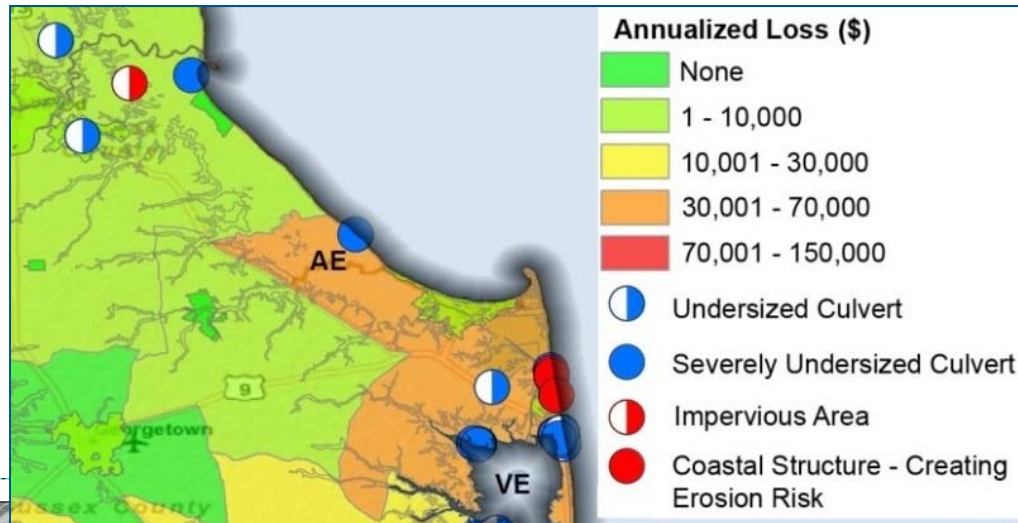
HAZUS Risk Assessment & National Flood Risk Layer

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



Okanogan & Wenatchee 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: March/April 2015**
- **Discovery Meetings: May 4-6, 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**
- **Kristen Meyers, Mitigation Planner, kristen.meyers@fema.dhs.gov**
- **Ted Perkins, Regional Engineer, dwight.perkins@fema.dhs.gov**

WASHINGTON

- **Jerry Franklin, State Risk MAP Coordinator, jfra461@ecy.wa.gov**
- **Michelle Gilbert, Floodplain Management Specialist, migi461@ecy.wa.gov**

STARR

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