

**FEMA REGION X  
RISK MAP DISCOVERY INTERVIEW  
TOWN OF COULEE DAM, WASHINGTON  
April 14, 2015 1:00 PM PST**

**Participating**

Town of Coulee Dam

- Barry Peacock, Public Works Superintendent
- Stefani Bowden, Clerk/Treasurer

Resilience Action Partners (RAP):

- Kathleen Warren – Region X CERC Lead

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 Coulee Dam 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 Meetings are scheduled 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 Coulee Dam representatives.*

Community Contacts

- Updating our list with Stephanie's email address and phone number
- No other contacts to add at this time

#### Confirm collected data

- Troy running through the various datasets we've collected from local, state, and national sources
- New information coming in from County and State
- All of this put together on Discovery Maps which will be used for in-person meetings next month
- Does not appear there is any floodplain mapped for Coulee Dam—not even Q3 data, Town is protected by Coulee Dam on Columbia River
  -
- Do you know of any other projects that have collected topographic data that could be useful?
  - Bureau of Land Management might have some data, have run models on dam failures
- Do you have a GIS specialist and data layers that we could add to our maps?

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

#### What is Valuable to the Town of Coulee Dam? What does the Town try to protect?

- All-government town”, built for workers and engineers working on dam
- The schools, National Park Service and Coulee Dam are of value great to the Town
- Surrounded by tribal property, federal lands
- Split into three counties—Okanogan County serves as “lead county” for the Town
- Makes it confusing/complex sometimes to administer community needs

#### Where are critical facilities and infrastructure located?

- Coulee Dam
- Roosevelt Way (Hwy 155) bridge over Columbia River
- Water treatment plant
- WWTP
- Electrical power transmission towers

#### Planning

- Status of FEMA Hazard Mitigation Planning projects
  - Did not have much input into Okanogan County hazard mitigation plan, don't know who if anybody participated from Coulee Dam

#### Earthquake Hazard

- The Town feels that they have very minimal risk, felt some shaking but minor in nature
- Dam hasn't sustained any damage from this hazard in the last 75 years and they don't expect it to move

#### Wildfire Hazard

- Barry says that this is one of their biggest concerns
- Last event was about a year ago and the wildfire burned down the “feeder pole” knocked out power to community, concerned with impacts of fire on infrastructure more than on physical community
- Power poles had to be re-built, replace with existing wooden poles since the Town couldn’t afford steel poles
- Previous fires have consumed most of the fuel surrounding the Town, not a lot of concern
- Vulnerable locations
  - Power infrastructure

#### Landslide Hazard

- The Town has a low risk based on the geology of the area
- Area is surrounded by Granite material, which is why the dam was built in the current location
- Town has some sandy areas in the north end of Town with some rolling slopes

#### Severe Storm Hazard

- The Town experienced a windstorm a few years ago that knocked over trees (100 +) and knock out power lines and power poles, received some FEMA assistance with cleanup
- Shelter needs and facilities
  - Not a big need, would rely on Okanogan County Sheriff for sheltering
  - Barry thinks that the Town would use school buildings
- Communication and warning systems
  - Use police and fire departments, going door-to-door or announce on PA systems
  - Dam is run by the USBR (US Bureau of Reclamation) that will help with fire and emergency services
  - Bureau of Land Management also can help out with notifications

#### Flood Hazard

- Barry considers the Town as being a low risk since it is protected by dam on Columbia River
  - Significant urban flooding from heavy rains (annotating the interview map with areas that have experienced flooding)
  - First area pointed out on the southwest side of the Town flooded out the main highway, washed out the hillside, flooded storm drains, filled basements with silt and rock
  - Second area on northeast side flooded out an electrical switch by highway, muddy material traveled to the WWTP and flooded out a 12’ deep gouge and filled the oxidation ditch with sand and material that had to be dug out
  - The Town has repaired storm drains since then, have received some help from Bureau of Land Management

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- Another event happened 10 years ago that did similar but not significant damage
  - Drainage repairs help reduce damage
- Other flooding issues or concerns
  - Becca mentioned looking at running GIS modeling of urban flooding to see if the past rain events could be mapped that occur in the same areas

**Levees**

- None in the area

**Environmentally Sensitive Areas**

- Barry does not know of any within the Town

**Communications and Outreach**

- Current community outreach/engagement
  - Nothing organized or used on a regular basis
  - Citizens aren't very concerned, until something happens
  - The Town could possibly use some of the materials/templates that FEMA can provide

**Compliance and Training**

- Training and support
  - Community is very small, no resources to build anything on their own—interested in what FEMA can offer them to help out (pamphlets or handouts)

**Who are the key players that may have interest in discussions at the Discovery meetings?**

- Bureau of Land Management ( Jeff DeWinkler) – Environmental Department

**Next Steps**

- No additional questions from Coulee Dam—covered all their questions
- Becca asking if they can check their schedules, let her know when they may be available to meet—she is scheduling final dates for meetings

## **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

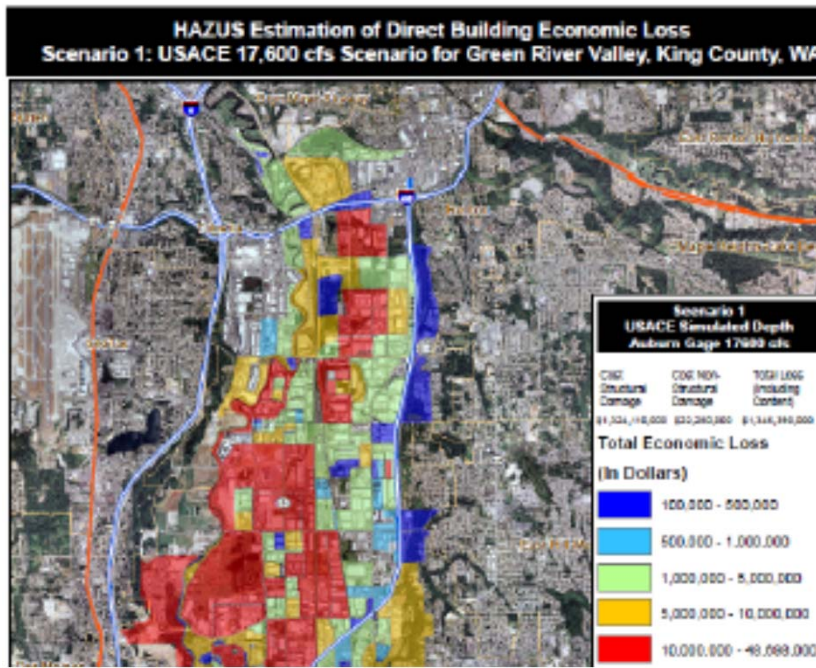
Increasing Resilience Together

- 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 +

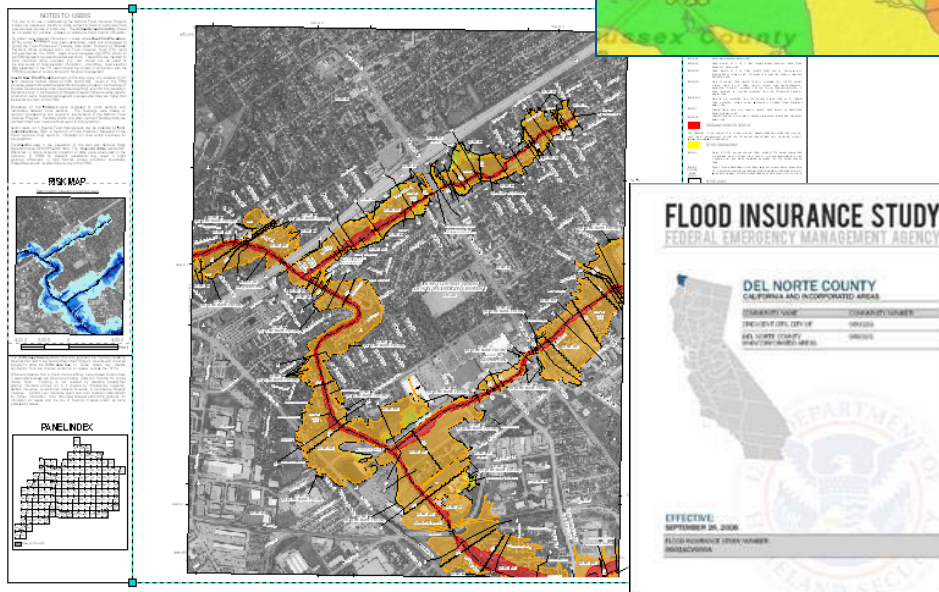
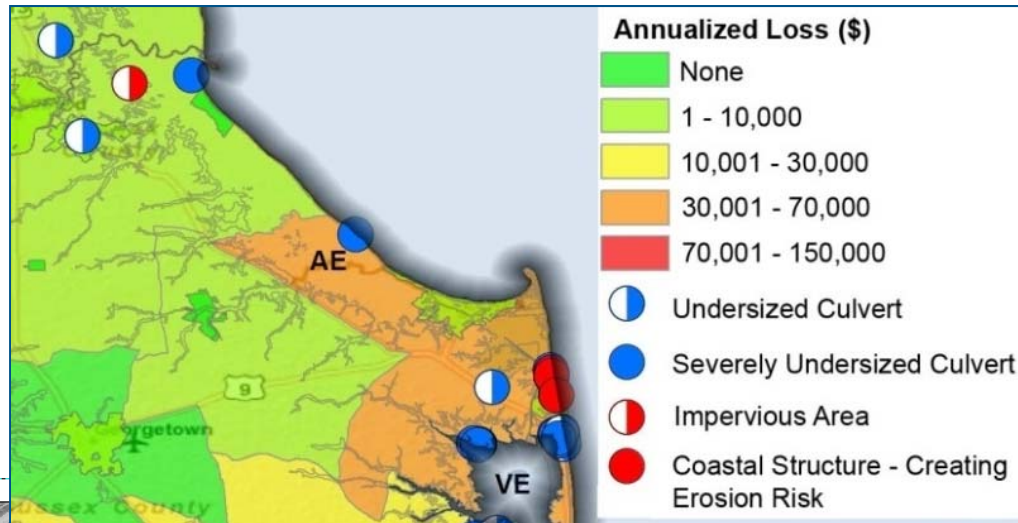
## HAZUS Risk Assessment & National Flood Risk Layer

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](mailto:amanda.siok@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)**
- **Michelle Gilbert, Floodplain Management Specialist, [migi461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:migi461@ecy.wa.gov)**

## STARR

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