

**FEMA REGION X  
RISK MAP DISCOVERY INTERVIEW  
OKANOGAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON  
April 7, 2015 2:00 PM PST**

**Participating**

Okanogan County:

- Scott Furman, Okanogan County Assessor
- Glenda Beauregard, Emergency Management Program Specialist

FEMA Region X

- Ted Perkins, Region X Engineer

State of Washington:

- Michelle Gilbert, Floodplain Management Specialist

STARR (FEMA Contractor):

- Becca Fricke-Croft (meeting host)
- Emily Whitehead, Project Manager
- Troy Sova, Senior GIS Analyst
- Josha Crowley, Regional Service Center (RSC) Lead

**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 Leavenworth 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. The Discovery Meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 4, 2015, and Tuesday, May 5, 2015.

*The following information was collected during the interview. Unless otherwise noted, all comments are from Okanogan County representatives.*

Community Contacts

- Ted Murray added as GIS contact

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Data Collection Summary

- 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.
  - Latest imagery used by Okanogan County is National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP).
  - Troy will email Ted with “wish list” for local basemap data tomorrow.
  - Becca noted that the pink “Areas of Concern” shown on screen were gathered during prior interviews with incorporated areas within Okanogan County. We may ask the County to clarify a few comments that the cities/towns made during those interviews.

Planning

- Becca asked if the meeting participants participated in the hazard mitigation planning and/or adoption process for the County’s most recent Multi-hazard mitigation plan.
  - Glenda noted there was a plan update adopted in 2014 and available on their County emergency management website. This plan was adopted prior to the recent fire.
- What is considered valuable to Okanogan County? What would the County consider their assets to be?
  - Glenda mentioned their people are considered an important asset. She noted they are a rural County. Their fire departments are volunteer basis
  - County has some major dams; in particular a dam break occurred during the recent wildfire.
- Highest priority mitigation projects?
  - There are committees actively working in the fire areas that are currently working on mitigation projects that are independent of their hazard mitigation plan, so the County is working on interfacing those fire mitigation efforts with their hazard mitigation planning.
  - County requested to defer this question to the face-to-face meeting so they have more time to prepare.

Earthquake Hazard

- Most earthquakes that County EM receives notification about are small in nature, and are located outside Conconully and Coulee Dam.
  - There was a historic 4.5 earthquake outside Conconully but nothing in recent years.

Wildfire Hazard

- High level of concern
- Lots of critical facilities at risk of fire
- There were a lot of residences lost in the fire
- Lots of utilities lost during the fire
- Outreach efforts related to fire?
  - Fire-wise meetings and outreach materials handed out

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- Number one need related to wildfire is for the federal government to take care of their national forests.
- Power lines were damaged as a result of the fire
  - o Twist lost power for 8 days during the fire
  - o Political red tape has gotten in the way of adding more power lines

Mass Notification System

- Working on implementing the Everbridge mass notification system (reverse 911 type of notification system) but not ready to go public with this system yet.
  - o Severe Storm
  - o Fire
  - o Flooding
  - o Database comprised of:
    - White pages
    - Yellow pages
    - 3,000 wireless numbers
    - Subscribers to fill in any gaps
  - o Outreach planned for public when this notification system is rolled out

Landslide Hazard

- Some places that experience runoff annually, but no major landslide concerns
- Their ground is not saturated and therefore landslide is not really an issue
- Any mitigation related to landslide?
  - o Some areas have been mitigated related to road damage
  - o Nothing comes to mind for landslide mitigation because this is not a concern

Severe Storm Hazard

- High Wind Events Experienced
  - o During windstorms can experience typical structure damage (loosing roofs, etc.), some roads are blocked by debris, power outages a concern, timber comes down ride along the road
  - o DOT and Public Works does a good job of clearing trees in areas where timber is known to come down
- Shelter needs and facilities
  - o Red Cross handles shelter needs, especially after large wildfires. Agreements with schools.
- County uses newspaper, radio to communicate with residents post-disaster in the past.
- Future will use Facebook, Twitter and the mass notification system mentioned earlier.

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Flood Hazard

- The County sent Jerry Franklin a map related to flood hazard concerns/needs
- Not aware of transportation projects that could have changed the flood hazard boundary. Will check with public works
- Conconully experiences sewer back-up
- Oroville marked areas of flood concern that the County agrees with as flood concern areas:
  - o Discussed area of concern for Tonasket Creek extension to the current flood study
  - o Okanogan River between Oroville and Tonasket may need additional study
  - o Salmon Creek: areas of concern that need to be discussed at Discovery Meeting
  - o GIS staff will send us their various areas of concern to add to Discovery Map as spatial GIS layer

Levees

- Ask the County to check the GIS layer that Troy will send, source being the National Levee Inventory, to see if the location(s) match their local understanding of levee existence

Environmentally Sensitive Areas

- Again ask the County to send any spatial locations for environmentally sensitive areas as a spatial GIS layer

Communications and Outreach

- Current community outreach/engagement
  - o Working on new reverse 9-1-1 Everbridge system—County will handle community outreach for this rollout
- What types of Outreach work for the County?
  - o During the fire the County Sheriff's office maintain Facebook page which was useful for notification
  - o No outreach specific mass mailers due to lack of funding
  - o PUD will add preparedness statements to their mailers
- Who would the County partner with for outreach, either during or before a disaster?
  - o County has partnered with Home Depot (annually), religious Churches, some Towns
  - o Three non-profits private groups that are doing restoration within the County (long-term recovery)

Compliance and Training

- Training and support
  - o County would like to look at list of free trainings offered online by Region X to see if any topics are relevant and of interest locally. That list will be provided at the meeting.
    - Perry Huston is the County designated Floodplain Administrator

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**Next Steps**

- Discovery Meeting arrangements were discussed.
- The County can help with a facility for the 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

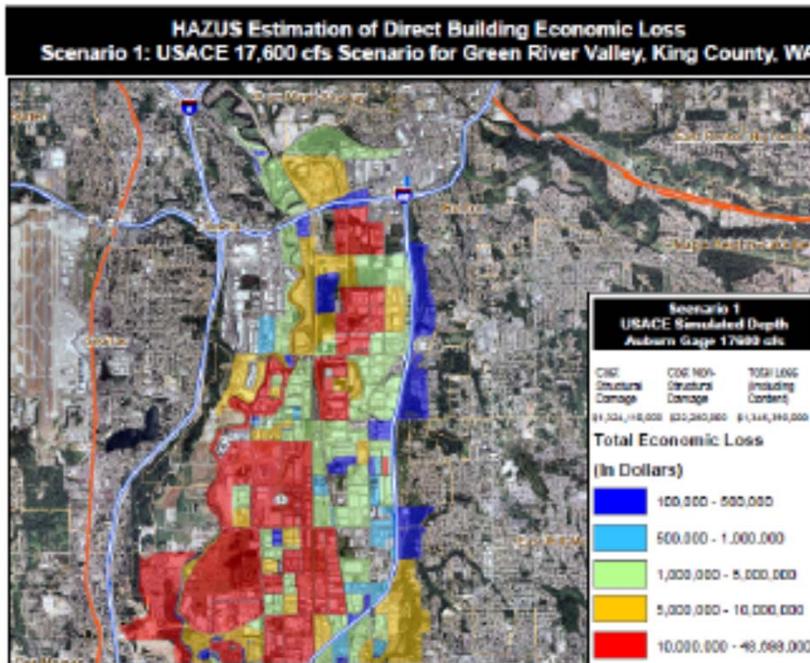
Increasing Resilience Together

- 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 +

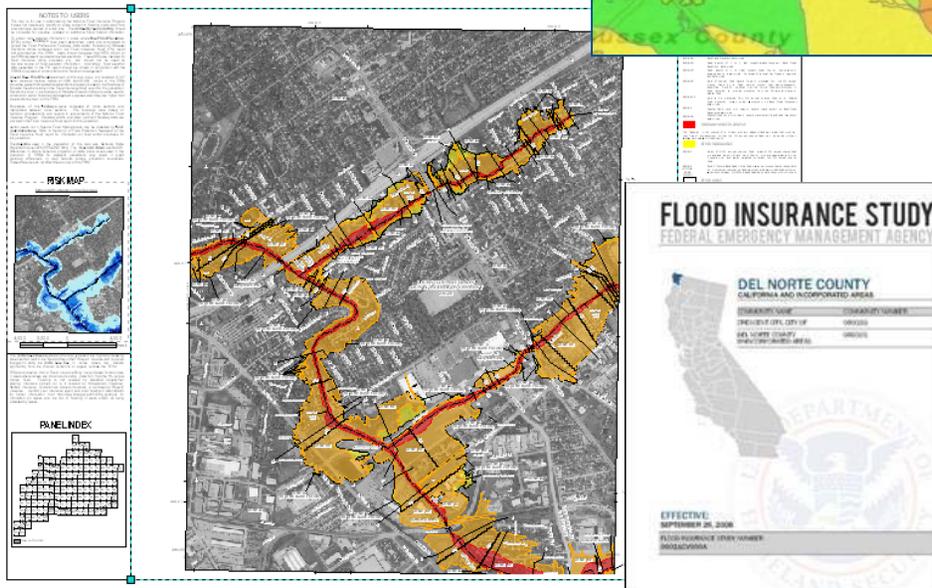
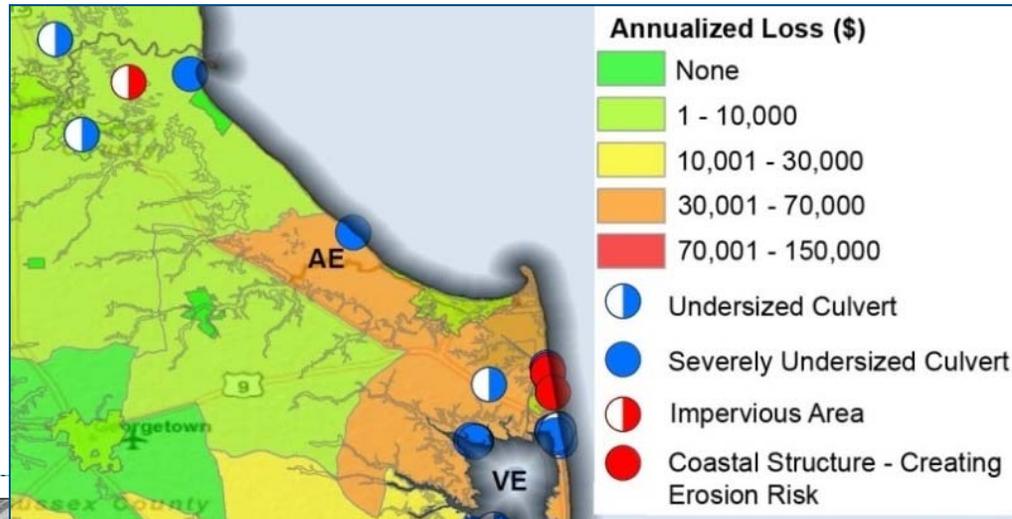
## HAZUS Risk Assessment & National Flood Risk Layer

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



# Okanogon & 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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