

**FEMA REGION X  
RISK MAP DISCOVERY INTERVIEW  
TOWN OF TWISP, WASHINGTON**  
April 16, 2015 1:00 PM PST

**Participating**

Town of Twisp

- Kurt Danison, Planner

Resilience Action Partners (RAP)

- Kathleen Warren – Region X CERC Lead

STARR (FEMA Contractor)

- Josha Crowley, Meeting Host
- Troy Sova
- Andy Dobson

**Discussion**

Josha Crowley 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 Cashmere become a more hazard and disaster-resilient community. Moving past “in or out of the floodplain” to assessing different levels of risk of flooding, landslide, wildfire, etc. 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 Meetings are scheduled at the Agraplex in Okanogan on May 4 - 6. 2015.

*The following information was collected during the interview. Unless otherwise noted, all comments are from the Town of Twisp representatives.*

Community Contacts

- Kurt is primary contact with the community
- All other contact information checks out (Mayor, Clerk/Treasurer)
- At Kurt’s suggestion, Andrew Denham, public works director and primary contact for emergency management projects and levee maintenance was added to the contact list

Fact Sheets and Interview Maps

(not able to connect webinar to Twisp, unable to display or comment on mapping)

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- How does the information we provided look to you? Revisions or questions?
- Where are critical facilities and infrastructure located?
- Do you know of any other projects that have collected topographic data that could be useful?
  - Channel migration zone study Methow River
  - Salmon recovery groups that have collected data on Methow River and tributaries
  - Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation coordinates local data collection, and a couple of other local organizations involved in this effort, lots of studies underway from various disciplines
- Do you have a GIS specialist/Department as well as any GIS data layers that we could add to our maps?
  - Kurt Danison would be their GIS contact. No layers provided.

**Planning**

- What do you value in your community?
- Status of FEMA Hazard Mitigation Planning projects
  - Rely on county's multi-hazard plan, but also have their local emergency management procedures they follow
  - New County director is updating HMP plan, administratively EM functions being removed from Sheriff's Office and placed under County Commissioners
    - Communities not pleased with Emergency Management being removed.
  - Carlton Complex fire brought emergency management to everyone's attention—plan and process is meaningful to residents and stakeholders
- Top hazard mitigation priorities
  - Better communication between communities and county
- Status of evacuation, response, and recovery planning
- Successful FEMA grant applications and projects
- Other hazard mitigation programs happening nearby—county, region, etc.
- Land development or other regulations related to hazard mitigation
  - Development regulations could be tied more closely to emergency management and hazard considerations

**Earthquake Hazard**

- Risk level/concern
  - Not a big concern, experience some small tremors, some building permit considerations/requirements as a result of earthquake zone
- History
  - None at this time
- Damage
  - None at this time
- Vulnerable locations

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- Geological hazardous data areas based on soil types.
- Mitigation projects or initiatives
  - None at this time

**Wildfire Hazard**

- Risk level/concern
  - Carlton Complex Fire disrupted electrical service for eight days (information provided at Okanogon County Interview)
- Vulnerable locations
  - Drainage from wildfires impacts highways.
- Other needs
  - Concern with ground movement and LiDAR from wildfire hazards.
- Mitigation projects or initiatives
  - Rain gauges in Okanogon County provides warning for residents.

**Landslide Hazard**

- Risk level/concern
  - Concern is for Twisp being isolated by landslides on highways outside of town, not a lot of concern for slides within community
- History
- Vulnerable locations, neighborhoods, infrastructure
- Mitigation projects or initiatives
  - GIS study of hazard-prone areas based on soil types, slopes, etc. to locate problem spots and inform property owners/people pulling permits

**Severe Storm Hazard**

- Risk level/concern
  - Last few years have had some incredible storms, heavy rain and winds
- Damage, power blackouts, duration
  - Trees come down, blackouts, storm flooding, above-ground infrastructure prone to being knocked out. Wildfire Drainage causes erosion and runoff issues.
  - Severe storm disrupted internet access.
- Shelter needs and facilities
  - New Civic Center Building would become a new shelter/emergency command center due to the Town Hall's roof collapsing.
  - Community Center provides a shelter.
- Communication and warning systems
  - Communication systems were not existent during Wildfires.
- Mitigation projects or initiatives

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- Construction of new town hall/civic center to replace old building—in danger of roof collapse during heavy rain. Building is past useful life.
- Would like to have new facility equipped to serve as emergency communication center and shelter—Okanogan County Sheriff supporting this effort, would like a center in this part of the county

**Flood Hazard**

- Risk level/concern
  - Twisp and Methow Rivers run through the town.
  - Unknown impacts from Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation Stream Restoration projects
- FIRM comments, revisions, questions
  - Need for new studies on both Twisp and Methow Rivers and digital floodplain data to replace hard copy FIRMs, and to accurately reflect what is happening on the ground
  - Twisp does have detailed study (old) with BFE and cross section data
  - Kurt may have digital floodplain data for Twisp—he hand-digitized floodplains for his own practical use as town planner for permitting
  - Looks like Q3 data is highly inaccurate, channel for Twisp & Methow Rivers does not match with channel shown on aerial photography
- Repetitive loss properties
  - Unknown
- Recent infrastructure projects that might affect floodplain/floodway/elevations
  - Both state road Bridge structures replaced recently and increased flow
- New development or construction that could affect runoff amounts, impact waterways
  - Southeast side of town east of Sewage Treatment plant, industrial park located within old oxbow meander from Methow River, low area likely to be flooded, lots of fill added prior to industrial development—ground elevation needs updated with new LiDAR study
    - Tennant is an emergency services provider
- Are there any new floodplain studies underway?
  - None at this time
- Other flooding issues or concerns
  - Manufacturing Home Park
  - Cabin Structure just north of confluence with Twisp and Methow was retrofitted to be above the floodplain.

**Levees**

- Other levees or flood control structures not shown on the map
  - None, we show everything on our Discovery Map

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- Documentation
  - Recent Corps study certified a community levee (south bank of Twisp River, adjacent to Town park and swimming pools) east of St. Rt. 20, but not the one protecting a manufactured home development to the west

**Environmentally Sensitive Areas**

- Areas identified in the community by state, others not shown on the map

**Communications and Outreach – Most items not discussed on call**

- Current community outreach/engagement
- How would residents react to changes in floodplain mapping
- Where does your community get information about disasters and hazards
- Who are the key players in communication and outreach to residents
- What kind of outreach works best in your community
- Current awareness among residents about disasters and hazards
- Regular meetings of boards, organizations, etc. where outreach could happen
- Use of RiskMAP products for outreach, communication, and education
  - Community is aware of potential trainings provided by Region.

**Compliance and Training - Most items not discussed on call**

- Floodplain administrator
- Floodplain permitting
  - Most issues were with permitting completed by the county versus the community in previous years.
- Training and support

## **Appendix A: Interview Presentation**



# 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

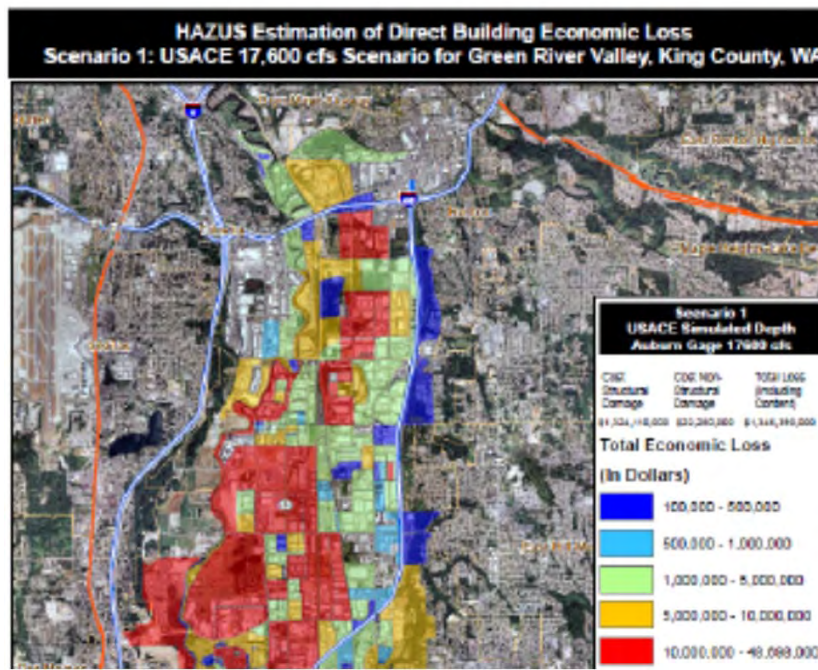
Increasing Resilience Together

- 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 +

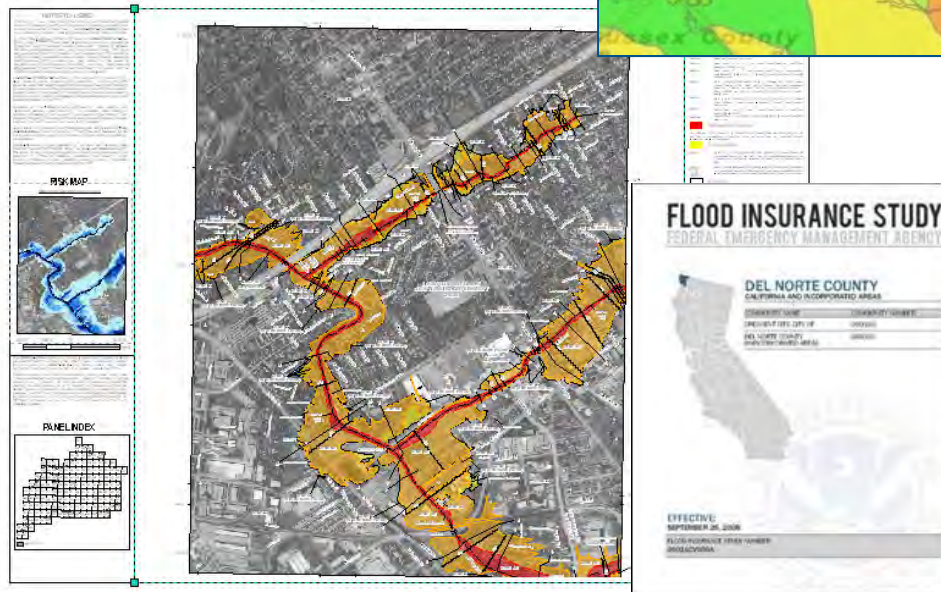
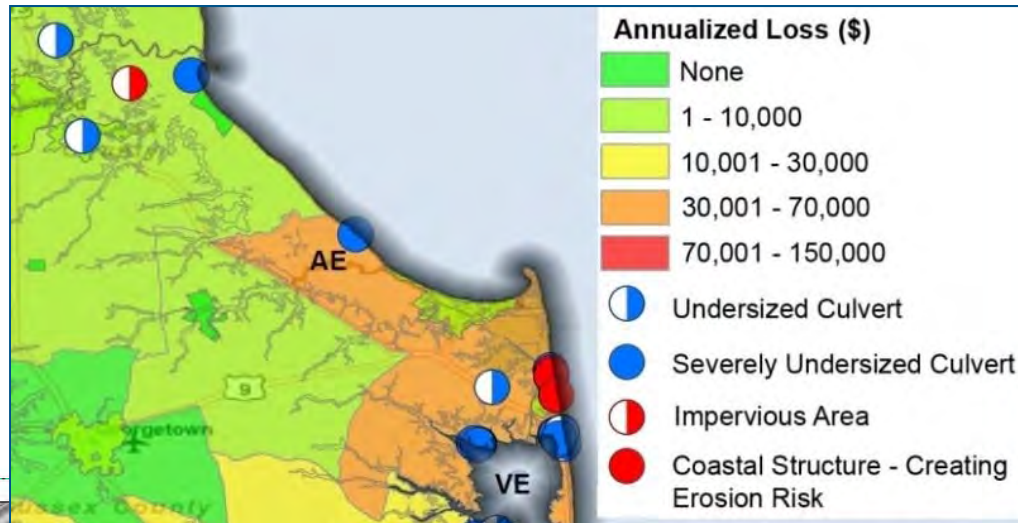
## HAZUS Risk Assessment & National Flood Risk Layer

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

- **Emily Whitehead, [emily.whitehead@stantec.com](mailto:emily.whitehead@stantec.com)**
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