

**From:** [MatSuWatershed@starr-team.com](mailto:MatSuWatershed@starr-team.com) on behalf of [RSCX](#)  
**To:** [Emily Whitehead - Project Manager - STARR](#)  
**Subject:** Risk MAP Project Quarterly Report for Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Alaska  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 08, 2015 3:34:38 PM

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Greetings,

My name is Emily Whitehead and I am part of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough (MatSu) Risk Mapping, Assessment, and Planning (Risk MAP) Project Team, working with the Strategic Alliance for Risk Reduction (STARR), a contractor for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). This email is being sent to you as a status update for work completed on this project as of August 19, 2015. Detailed status updates like this are sent quarterly and include the overall project status, changes to the scope or schedule of the project, and a detailed overview of the individual technical tasks associated with the project.

**Project History:**

The State of Alaska identified the MatSu Watershed as a priority for FEMA's Risk MAP program. The State determines its priorities based on population at risk to hazards, recent events, and community interest. FEMA, State, and Local stakeholders participated in a Risk MAP Discovery Meeting held April 23, 2013 where community concerns were identified. These concerns were captured in the Risk MAP Discovery Report and delivered to the communities in the watershed. After the Discovery Meeting, community concerns were researched and analyzed, in order to develop a scope of work that includes multi-hazard risk assessment products and updates to the communities' regulatory flood maps based on community-identified resilience needs.

**Project Milestones and Deliverables:**

| Meeting/Deliverable  | Point of Contact | Actual/Projected Date |
|--|------------------|-----------------------|
| Risk MAP Discovery Meeting                                 | Emily Whitehead  | April 23, 2013        |
| Flood Study Kick-Off Meeting                               | Emily Whitehead  | December 13, 2013     |
| Draft Map Release  | Emily Whitehead  | August 28, 2015       |
| Flood Risk Review (FRR) Meeting                            | Emily Whitehead  | Fall 2015*            |
| Preliminary DFIRM/FIS Release                              | Emily Whitehead  | To Be Determined      |
| Consultation Coordination Officers (CCO) Meeting           | Ted Perkins      | To Be Determined      |
| Public Meeting/Workshop                                    | Kathleen Warren  | To Be Determined      |
| Appeal Period Starts                                       | Emily Whitehead  | To Be Determined      |
| Appeal Period Ends   | Emily Whitehead  | To Be Determined      |
| Letter of Final Determination (LFD)                        | Emily Whitehead  | To Be Determined      |
| Draft Multi-Hazard Risk Report                             | Amanda Siok      | To Be Determined      |
| Risk MAP Resilience Workshop                               | Amanda Siok      | To Be Determined      |
| Delivery of Final Risk Report and Risk Assessment Database | Amanda Siok      | To Be Determined      |
| Maps and FIS become Effective                              | Emily Whitehead  | To Be Determined      |

*\*All projected dates are subject to revision as the project progresses.*

**Status of Project**

The scope for this Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) project includes the following:

| Type of Study        | Stream Name(s)   |
|----------------------|--|
| Approximate Zone     | West Fork Moose Creek<br>Gate Creek<br>Ninemile Creek<br>Moose Creek<br>Kroto Creek<br>Trapper Creek Sidearm<br>Trapper Creek<br>Rabideux Creek<br>Birch Creek Slough<br>Birch Creek<br>Question Creek<br>Answer Creek<br>Sunshine Creek<br>Montana Creek<br>Goose Creek<br>Sheep Creek<br>Sheep Creek Slough<br>Caswell Creek<br>Kashwitna River<br>197 1/2 Mile Creek<br>196 Mile Creek<br>Little Willow Creek<br>Lake Creek |
| Detailed Study       | Unnamed Tributary to Lake Creek<br>Lucille Creek<br>Cottonwood Creek<br>Unnamed Point Mackenzie<br>Upper Matanuska River<br>Matanuska River<br>Knik River<br>Willow Creek<br>Willow Creek Tributary<br>Little Susitna River  |
| Limited Detail Study | Wasilla Creek  |
| Leverage Study       | Matanuska River<br>Knik River<br>Bodenbug Creek  |
| No Change            | Deception Creek & Tributaries  |

The mapping of approximate study streams amounts to approximately 302 river miles, detailed riverine modeling of 59.6 miles, 10.7 miles of limited detail riverine modeling, and 12.3 miles of leverage studies.

**Recent Activity**

Hydraulic modeling and Floodplain mapping tasks are complete. First Order Analysis/Approximation (FOA) of Deception Creek & Tributaries resulted in the recommendation to FEMA that a new detailed study be funded for these reaches if future funding becomes available.

**Next Steps:**

The draft workmaps are completed and were distributed to communities on August 28, 2015. FEMA will be contacting you in the near future to set up a Flood Risk Review (FRR) Meeting, so that your community has an opportunity to discuss the workmaps and the methodologies that were utilized in their production.

Additional information on this project including the project area and Risk MAP contacts can be found online at: <http://www.starr-team.com/starr/RegionalWorkspaces/RegionX/MatSuDisco/SitePages/Home.aspx>

*NOTE: If you have trouble downloading or are prompted for credentials when clicking the file name on the website, cancel the prompt and instead right-click the file name and choose "Save As" or "Save Target As".*

**General Information:**

If you have questions about this Risk MAP project, please contact the State Risk MAP Coordinator, Sally Cox, [Sally.Cox@alaska.gov](mailto:Sally.Cox@alaska.gov), (907) 269-4588.

The STARR Region X Help Desk is another resource available to answer project-related questions. STARR staff will route and research your question, and respond within three business days. Submit your questions via email, the address is [RegionXHelpDesk@starr-team.com](mailto:RegionXHelpDesk@starr-team.com).

If you want to keep up with what's happening around Region X, get project status updates, or learn about upcoming events and training opportunities, subscribe to the Region X monthly newsletter. For more information or to subscribe, email [rxnewsletter@starr-team.com](mailto:rxnewsletter@starr-team.com).

Current and past issues of the newsletter, project status updates, announcements, upcoming events and training opportunities are also available online at the STARR website, [www.starr-team.com](http://www.starr-team.com) (shortcut link: <http://j.mp/starrxnews>).

I hope you found this status update email helpful. If you would like to be removed from the distribution list, or if you feel there is someone that should be added to the list, please reply to this email. If you have any questions, or if there is information that you would like to see in future updates, please feel free to contact me by phone or email. My contact information is below.

Sincerely,

**Emily Whitehead, CFM, GISP**  
Project Manager

**STARR - Strategic Alliance for Risk Reduction**

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**This message was sent by RSCX to the following:**

A. Clark Buswell - Deputy Mayor - City of Wasilla  
Alex Strawn - Development Services Manager/Floodplain Manager - MatSu Borough  
Amanda Siok - Risk Analyst - FEMA Region X RAB  
Ann Gravier - Alaska State Hazard Mitigation Officer - State of Alaska  
Bert Cottle - Mayor - City of Wasilla  
Casey Cook - Emergency Manager - MatSu Borough  
Crane Johnson - Senior Hydrologist - NOAA - Alaska-Pacific River Forecast Center  
DeLena Johnson - Mayor - City of Palmer  
Dennis Brodigan - Director of Emergency Services - MatSu Borough  
Eileen Probasco - Planning and Land Use Director - MatSu Borough  
Emily Whitehead - Project Manager - STARR  
George Hays - Assistant Manager - MatSu Borough  
Joe Hannan - City Manager - City of Palmer  
John Moosey - Borough Manager - MatSu Borough  
Karen Wood-McGuinness - Floodplain Management Specialist - FEMA Region X FMI  
Kristen Meyers - Senior Mitigation Planner - FEMA Region X RAB  
Larry DeVilbiss - Mayor - MatSu Borough  
Mark Whisenhunt - Planner - MatSu Borough  
Michelle Olsen - Permit Technician/Deputy Floodplain Manager - MatSu Borough  
Pamela Ness - Code Compliance Officer/Floodplain Administrator - MatSu Borough  
Region X Service Center - STARR  
Richard Boothby - Fire Code Official - MatSu Borough  
Sally Russell Cox - Alaska Risk MAP Coordinator - State of Alaska  
Sandra Garley - City Planner/Community Development Director - City of Palmer  
Scott Nelsen - Emergency Management Specialist II - State of Alaska  
Steve Colligan - Councilman - MatSu Borough  
Tamra Biasco - Risk Analysis Branch Chief - FEMA Region X RAB

Taunie Boothby - Alaska State NFIP Coordinator - State of Alaska  
Ted Perkins - Regional Engineer - FEMA Region X RAB  
Tina Crawford - City Planner - City of Wasilla  
Vickie Lee Fenster - Permit Technician/Deputy Floodplain Administrator - MatSu Borough