



# News from Region 10

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## ***Newsletter Ideas?***

*Do you want to spread the word about an upcoming event or recent success story? Let us know what you'd like to see in future issues! Articles can be up to 500 words and may include pictures. **Email:** [RXNewsletter@starr-team.com](mailto:RXNewsletter@starr-team.com).*

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## FEMA Announces Nearly \$3 Billion in Funding Selections to Drive Resilience to Climate Change & Extreme Weather Events

On August 28, 2023, Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro N. Mayorkas, FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell, and Senior Advisor to the President and White House Infrastructure Coordinator Mitch Landrieu announced the project selections for nearly \$3 billion in climate resilience funding as part of President Biden's [Investing in America](#) agenda. The selections, through two competitive grant programs, will help communities across the nation enhance resilience to climate change and extreme weather events.

These selections include \$1.8 billion for critical resilience projects funded by the [Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities \(BRIC\)](#) national competition and \$642 million for [Flood Mitigation Assistance \(FMA\)](#) community-scale flood mitigation projects. These selections build on [\\$160 million in BRIC and FMA selections](#) that FEMA announced in May for efforts to support mitigation projects, project scoping, and adoption of hazard-resistant building codes. Combined, the funds awarded this grant cycle of the BRIC and FMA programs total nearly \$3 billion including management costs.

*“Today is an exciting day for disaster resilience in FEMA Region 10's states of Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington. Each state has received multi-million dollar selections from the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) fiscal year 2022 grant program. These selections will vastly improve the resilience of our region and tackle challenging issues we collectively face, like the City of Portland's effort to reduce extreme urban heat by planting over 10,500 trees in targeted urban locations.”*

- FEMA Region 10 Administrator Willie G. Nunn

*“From Hawaii to Maine, and everywhere in between, we are seeing the increasing frequency and intensity of natural disasters, devastating communities nationwide. Though FEMA will always help communities respond and recover to these disasters, it is also paramount to build resilience before disasters strike. Thanks to President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, we have more resources than ever to meet this moment and provide our state, local, territorial, and tribal partners with the resources they need to help us create a more resilient nation.”*

- FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell

The top five primary hazard sources of the projects selected in the [national competition](#) for each program include flooding, infrastructure failure, fire, drought and dam or levee break hazards.

To learn more about the BRIC grant program and view these new selections, visit [FEMA.gov](#).

## FEMA Releases New Community Rating System Discount Guide

A new guidance document is now available from FEMA for communities and individuals interested in a detailed overview of the Community Rating System (CRS) discounts offered under the [National Flood Insurance Program's \(NFIP\) rating methodology](#). This methodology leverages industry best practices and cutting-edge technology to enable FEMA to deliver rates that are actuarially sound, equitable, easier to understand and better reflect a property's flood risk.



The [Community Rating System Discount Guide](#) is a six-page resource containing information on calculating the incentive program discounts, applied to the full-risk premium for all NFIP policies in the Regular Program in a participating community – including policies outside of the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). This resource also provides several scenarios\* illustrating the application of the CRS discount for a new policy and for policies renewing into the NFIP's pricing approach.

- › **New NFIP Policies:** New policies receive the full-risk premium with the applicable CRS discount immediately.
- › **Existing NFIP Policies:** Existing policies with premium decreases or increases at or below the statutory annual increase percentage receive the full-risk premium with the CRS class discount immediately. Premium increases above the statutory annual increase percentage will gradually go up to the full-risk premium less the CRS class discount.
- › **CRS Class Improvements:** The CRS discount is applied to the full-risk premium at the next policy renewal. Policies on a glidepath will benefit from the additional discount when they reach the full-risk premium.
- › **CRS Class Retrogrades:** The difference in the CRS discount due to the class retrograde is applied at renewal and is not subject to the statutory annual increase cap.
- › **Policy at NFIP Maximum Rate, CRS Discount Not Applied in Full:** New and existing policies where the premium after the CRS discount is higher than the premium based on the maximum rate cap will receive the difference in the premium amounts for the CRS discount.
- › **CRS Discount Not Applied:** Buildings in violation of NFIP regulations, as noted in [Title 44 of the Federal Code](#), sections 44 and 60.3, will not receive a CRS discount until the violation is resolved and documentation of such is provided.

*\*The premiums used in the scenarios are notional and are not based on actual property addresses or rating variables determined by geolocation.*

For more information on the Community Rating System and floodplain management, visit [FEMA's CRS webpage](#).

## NFIP Endangered Species Act Integration in Oregon

FEMA is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the implementation of the plan for *National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) – Endangered Species Act (ESA) Integration in Oregon*. The agency released a draft of this plan in October 2021. A [Notice of Intent \(NOI\)](#) to prepare an EIS was published by FEMA on March 6, 2023, opening the public comment period. This comment period ran for 92 days and closed on June 26, 2023.

As FEMA develops the EIS, quarterly updates may be posted in the “*Resource Documents*” section of this [Region 10 webpage](#). The first quarterly report in the resources section (i.e., [NEPA EIS Quarterly Update \(June 2023\)](#)) summarizes the number and types of comments received, as of May 31, 2023. The [Scoping Meeting Presentation](#) includes the tentative schedule for the NEPA process.

FEMA hosted virtual and in-person public meetings to solicit comments regarding the Proposed Action and the environmental issues that FEMA should consider in the EIS. Additional in-person meetings will be held when FEMA releases the Draft EIS for public review and comment.

To view more information about the NFIP’s ESA Integration in Oregon, visit [FEMA.gov](#).

### ***Ask the Help Desk:***

The Region 10 Service Center is here to help local community officials and stakeholders with technical, training, mitigation, and mapping questions.

**Email:** [RegionXHelpDesk@starr-team.com](mailto:RegionXHelpDesk@starr-team.com).

## **Online Training Calendar**

*(All times Pacific)*

<b>Course</b>	<b>Date/Time</b>	<b>Continuing Education Credits (CECs)</b>
CRS: FEMA Elevation Certificates	September 12, 10 am	1.5
CRS: Annual CRS Requirements	September 19, 10 am	1.5
CRS: FEMA Elevation Certificates	September 20, 10 am	1.5
STARR II: FEMA Elevation Certificates	October 11, 10 am	2
STARR II: Reviewing FEMA Elevation Certificates	October 12, 10 am	2
CRS: FEMA Elevation Certificates	October 17, 10 am	1.5
CRS: Flood Warning & Response (Activity 610)	October 18, 10 am	1



To register for online courses, visit STARR's training site: [j.mp/starronlinetraining](http://j.mp/starronlinetraining), or email [RXTraining@starr-team.com](mailto:RXTraining@starr-team.com).

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### **STARR II - Strategic Alliance for Risk Reduction**

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