

August 17, 2006

Mr. Ryan Ike,
Acting Mitigation Branch Chief
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Region 10, Federal Regional Center
130 228th Street SW
Bothell, WA 98021-9796

SUBJECT: 2006 UPDATE – Oregon Flood Map Modernization Business Plan

Dear Mr. Ike,

The purpose of this letter is to provide updated information related to the Flood Map Modernization Business Plan for Oregon. The Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCDD) continues to make progress on the implementation and refinement of the map modernization support strategy outlined in our March 2004 business plan. We have divided the update for this fiscal year into three sections: sequencing priorities, Cooperating Technical Partner (CTP) responsibilities, and progress report.

Sequencing priorities

As a result of the mid-course adjustment, the map modernization process starting dates for fifteen of Oregon’s counties and completion of first year activities for nine of eleven Oregon counties started in federal FY06 were postponed. For those counties in which the starting dates were postponed, we recommend the following sequencing priorities (see attached table for details).

Higher	Yamhill and Hood River Counties
Medium	Crook, Gilliam, Jefferson, Wasco, and Baker Counties
Lower	Klamath, Union, Grant, Harney, Lake, Malheur, Sherman, Wallowa, and Wheeler Counties

Our priorities are based in part on a GIS data survey of counties completed by the Oregon Department of Administrative Services-Geospatial Enterprise Office (DAS-GEO), our main map modernization partner at the state-level and CTP co-partner agency. The survey results were included in the Hazards Framework/Oregon GIS Utility: Data Assessment and Conceptual Design document submitted with our October 26, 2005 business plan update.

CTP responsibilities

DLCDD will participate in the map adoption process by sending communities who have received Letters of Final Determination (LFD) from FEMA headquarters, state

coordination letters that 1) restate adoption timelines set by FEMA, 2) discuss state laws that govern comprehensive plan changes triggered by the new maps, and 3) stress the importance of adopting the new maps as soon as possible after receiving the LFD. DLCDC's letters will be targeted at staff in local planning departments instead of the community executive. We have developed a form letter in coordination with Denise Atkinson of your office and distributed the first batch of letters to Polk County jurisdictions this month.

Over the next few months, we plan to review a number of local flood hazard ordinances in Oregon through the use of temporary employees with land use and floodplain management experience. We have developed a review methodology for the temporary employees that we believe will result in consistent and comprehensive ordinance reviews documented in a format that can be readily shared with and understood by local communities, FEMA staff, etc. Since FEMA Region 10 is required to verify that local flood ordinances comply with all current NFIP standards or that any needed updates are adopted prior to the effective date of the new maps, DLCDC, in coordination with FEMA Region 10, will review ordinances early in the mapping process. Therefore, we will have plenty of time to work with communities on ordinance updates. Our plan is to tailor the state coordination letter discussed above for LFDs such that it can be sent out first when preliminary DFIRMs are available and then again, if necessary, when LFDs are issued.

In a major change to our CTP agreement, we are now proposing to take on the pre-scoping duties of the map modernization process. We can propose this step because we have secured additional staff and thus can take on additional workload. In the past, local governments worked directly with FEMA contractors in the pre-scoping phase. As a result, communication lines between DLCDC and local governments did not have a chance to develop, and we felt disconnected from the process. Furthermore, we received feedback from local governments indicating confusion about what information was needed from them to support the pre-scoping process. By taking on these pre-scoping duties, we can make local connections earlier and be on top of local needs for additional information. In addition, the pre-scoping process can be improved by starting it earlier. If counties and cities know what data is needed to produce better flood maps and can identify their needs and data shortfalls well in advance of the projected start, they could potentially make plans to secure funding to collect the needed data before the scoping process begins. We could also ensure that the data meets FEMA standards. This would result in better flood maps for those communities. Given that the mid course adjustment has caused postponement of many Oregon counties until 2008 or later, we should have ample time to meet with these counties before the scoping meetings are scheduled.

We do not anticipate a need for extra funding to manage the pre-scoping duties. Any savings realized by FEMA by having the state perform these duties can then be used to conduct more new studies or restudies, for example. We would work closely with FEMA and FEMA contractors and use the appropriate methods developed for the pre-scoping needs and resources assessment.

Progress report

Since the last business plan update in October of 2005, DLCD has added new staff to coordinate the Map Modernization Initiative in Oregon. Specifically, DLCD has secured a Flood Map Modernization Program Coordinator (November, 2005) and Flood Map Modernization Program GIS Specialist (August, 2006). This increased staff capacity would not be possible without FEMA's support through the MMMS grant program.

With MMMS and state resources, Oregon continues to focus on long-term flood map maintenance. Oregon developed its initial Flood Map Modernization Business Plan (2004) with this maintenance role in mind and continues to update the Business Plan to reflect refinements and accomplishments with respect to the state maintenance strategy. We have several projects underway or completed that are moving us in that direction.

One project is to test the compatibility of FEMA's Mapping Information Platform and the GIS Utility, our state data repository. We are doing this by examining three different scenarios in three Oregon counties (Union, Lane and Lincoln) with the cooperation of GIS specialists in those counties. This pilot project, which received a Best Practices grant award, is underway. Data has been gathered from Union County and a data sharing agreement has been signed with Lincoln County. The Lane County GIS Consortium submitted a proposal to take the lead with the scenario in their county. Several consortium members have taken the MIP tools training in preparation for their role in the project. We are finalizing an intergovernmental agreement with them. Another important part of this pilot project will be to post information in one or two of the pilot jurisdictions and use web services to access the data.

With the assistance of state funds from DAS-GEO, DLCD will develop a floodplain data standard, floodplain datasets and a flood map modernization stewardship and maintenance plan. This project was approved by the Oregon Geographic Information Council. Once the standard is developed and the aforementioned pilot project completed, the state will be well positioned to assist local governments with technical issues associated with the Flood Map Modernization Program. This will include field testing the Oregon floodplain standard and validating the use of Framework data for Flood Map Modernization purposes. The recently hired GIS specialist will coordinate this effort in cooperation with the Map Modernization Working Group who drafted an outline for the maintenance plan. The working group, made up of representatives from local, state and federal agencies, has met three times this year.

Oregon continues to build an information technology infrastructure that will archive, organize, distribute and otherwise manage digital data elements and ultimately statewide floodplain coverage at the state level. For example in a recently completed Interagency Agreement (IGA) with DAS-GEO, hardware and software have been built into the Oregon Geospatial Data Clearinghouse to address DFIRM needs by building customized ArcIMS and ArcGIS server applications supporting flood hazard mapping.

DLCD and DAS-GEO continually looks for opportunities to build the information system needed to implement the state's map maintenance strategy. For example, we recently

were awarded a 2006 Best practices grant to 1) adapt existing imagery portal software, hosting services & storage capacity for the floodplain data and ensure that the floodplain portal integrates appropriately with FEMA's MIP and 2) to provide online maintenance for custodial stewards, who maintain floodplain and related data, by adapting an existing and improved hydrography tool kit. As a result, we will be in a better position to store and share the best available data and create a seamless statewide flood plain layer dataset.

We submitted a proposal to FEMA for a pilot project in southern Clatsop County to test the new coastal flood mapping methodology for the Pacific Northwest. The project would use the results from a storm/tsunami flood pilot study in Seaside, Oregon completed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for FEMA. We brought in the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries Coastal Office (DOGAMI) as a partner in this effort. DOGAMI has much expertise with coastal processes and would be a valuable flood map modernization partner in coastal areas. Although the project was postponed, it should not be shelved, because more accurate coastal flood maps are still considered a high priority in Oregon. In relation to Oregon's interest in seeing the new coastal mapping methodology implemented, we sponsored a one-day training, conducted by Watershed Concepts, about the methodology in Newport, Oregon at the end of June.

Finally, in our map modernization outreach efforts, we offered workshops on the flood program to local governments that included a section on flood map modernization, developed a website and Oregon-specific brochure, included an article on map modernization in our flood program newsletter, and e-mailed FloodSmart map adoption process brochures to jurisdictions scheduled to receive preliminary maps in 2006.

In conclusion, we have summarized within this annual business plan update key program activities. Additional information can be found in the quarterly performance reports submitted by DLCD to Region X for our active MMMS grant agreements. We are also always available to discuss DLCD's MMMS and CAP-SSSE supported efforts with you or others in the Mitigation Division. Please do not hesitate to contact me (503-373-0050 x269 or mark.dariento@state.or.us) or Christine Valentine (503-373-0050 x250 or christine.valentine@state.or.us.) should you have any questions or if we can otherwise be of assistance.

Thank you for FEMA's continuing support of our flood map modernization efforts in Oregon.

Sincerely,

Mark Darienzo
Flood Map Modernization Program Coordinator

cc. Denise Atkinson, FEMA Region X
Mark Riebau, Baker, RMC 10

DFIRM production sequencing

County	Original start date	New (<i>proposed start date in italics</i>)
Benton#	2006	2006/2007
Columbia#	2006	2006/2007
Coos#	2006	2006/2007
Curry#	2006	2006/2007
Douglas#	2006	2006/2007
Jackson	2006	2006
Josephine#	2006	2006/2007
Lincoln#	2006	2006/2007
Linn#	2006	2006/2007
Multnomah	2006	2006
Tillamook#	2006	2006/2007
Yamhill*^	2007	2007
Hood River*^	2007	2008
Baker*	2007	2008
Crook*	2007	2008
Gilliam*	2007	2008
Jefferson*	2007	2008
Wasco*	2008	2008
Klamath	2007	2009
Malheur	2007	2009
Union	2007	2009
Harney	2006	2009
Grant	2008	2009
Lake	2008	2009
Sherman	2008	2009
Wallowa	2008	2009
Wheeler	2008	2009

#first year activities started in FY06 with the remainder to be completed in FY07

*priority for 2007/2008 based on DAS survey

^high priority based on DAS survey