



The BUZZ

A Quarterly Newsletter

July 2014

The BUZZ is a forum for Silver Jackets teams' successes, opportunities and resources.

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Connecting Flood Risk, Emergency Managers, and Silver Jackets: Annual Spring Flood Assessment

By Ms. Karen Durham-Aguilera, USACE

Every spring, we conduct our annual Spring Flood Assessment and brief the Deputy Commanding General for Contingency and Emergency Operations (DCG-CEO), currently MG John Peabody.

We base this assessment on your input; each Division has a command responsibility to provide an assessment of their regional flood risk for the coming flood season and an update of their planned or ongoing readiness and preparedness activities.

Also as part of the preparation for the Spring Flood Assessment, our Staff Weather Officer coordinates with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Weather Service (NWS) to obtain their

national spring flood assessment. Thank you for your efforts!

This flood assessment is essential to ensure we are evaluating risk and vulnerabilities and working both internally and externally to ensure we are postured to respond to the consequences of flooding.

The NWS spring flood assessment serves as our base estimate. The NWS assessment for this year indicated minor to moderate flood risk in relatively small areas of the country.

At the time of the Spring Flood Assessment briefing, we had updated information about potential increased flood risk in a few areas, due to higher snowpack or rainfall than previously anticipated.



Karen Durham-Aguilera, P.E., SES, Director,
Contingency Operations and Homeland Secu-
rity, HQ USACE

This was offset in some areas by the abnormally persistent drought that is still affecting many parts of the country.

Each Division provided an overview of areas of concern within their area of responsibil-

The Spring Flood Assessment is an excellent opportunity to bring together our internal partners for flood risk management with input from our external partners.

ity (AOR).

Some of these areas of concern were attributed to remaining damages from previous flood events.

In rolling up the input provided by each Division, several areas of concern emerged within Mississippi Valley Division's AOR, within Northwestern Division's AOR where heavier than anticipated snowpack existed, and within a small area of Southwest Division's AOR.

The briefing concluded with a review of the flood fight materials on hand and an assessment if greater supplies were needed.

Looking back, for the majority of the United States, our flood assessment aligned well with the prediction offered by NWS. Overall, the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division (LRD), the Mississippi Valley Division (MVD), and the Northwestern Division (NWD) have been engaged in flood fight/flooding response so far this calendar year.

The Spring Flood Assessment is an excellent opportunity to bring together our internal partners for flood

risk management with input from our external partners to ensure we all share a common understanding of the challenges and risks we face during the flood season.

The Spring Flood Assessment effort is led by the Emergency Management Community of Practice in support of the Commanders, but I encourage all of the Flood Risk Management Program Managers and Sil-

ver Jackets Coordinators to participate! This is an excellent opportunity for the Flood Risk Management and Silver Jackets Programs to engage and help us further connect the Flood Risk Management and Emergency Management efforts. I would also encourage Silver Jackets interagency teams to be engaged to ensure you are familiar with the assessments as part of our flood preparation efforts. You can make us better!

Louisville District image. Photo credit: Nick Bibelhauser



Spotlight On: District of Columbia, the 43rd Team of the Silver Jackets Program

By Karla Roberts, USACE Baltimore District

The District of Columbia (DC) recently formalized its Silver Jackets Team through an interagency Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by 10 federal and District agencies. However, the full team extends well beyond these agencies. District government agencies include the: Department of the Environment (DDOE), Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency, Office of Planning, Office of the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice, Department of Public Works, Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs, Department of Transportation, and Department of Insurance, Securities and Banking.

Federal agencies include representatives from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), National Park Service (NPS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Weather Service (NWS), U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, General Services Administration (GSA), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC).

Participating regional organizations include DC Water and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, and academic organizations include University of the District of Columbia, University of Maryland, and George Mason University.

The DC team first began meeting in April of 2012 as the Potomac River Flood Coordination Group. As more members were added to the team and its goals evolved, it was renamed as the Washington D.C. Flood Risk Management Team. In early 2013, Stacey Underwood, the USACE Baltimore District Silver Jackets Coordinator, gave a presentation to the group about the National Silver Jackets Program. This presentation was met with great interest, and the group began to develop an interagency MOU to formalize their own Silver Jackets team.

The vision statement of the DC Silver Jackets Team is to “establish and strengthen federal and District intergovernmental partnerships as a catalyst in developing and implementing comprehensive, resilient, and sustainable solutions to the District’s flood hazard challenges.”

The DC team’s main goals are to ensure continuous collaboration before, during, and after a disaster; identify and quantify flood risk; and provide a forum for exploring and examining methods to mitigate flood risk, including non-structural and structural solutions. Their interagency MOU, posted at <http://www.nfrmp.us/state/factDC.cfm>, provides a full list of the team’s mission and goals.

The DC Silver Jackets Team has established four task groups: Flood Inundation Mapping, Flood Emergency Planning, Levee Certification and Accreditation, and Communication. Each task group has respective responsibilities that will aid in fulfilling the team’s mission and goals.

The DC team recently focused on communicating the 17th Street Levee Closure completion (part of the USACE FRM project), developing the Potomac River Flood Inundation Mapping proposal, updating the District’s flood emergency preparedness plan, and participating in the District’s Hurricane Preparedness Exercise.

Here is what a few DC Silver Jackets team members had to say about the District and its participation in the program:

This MOU will give us the additional focus and visibility we need to better plan for and respond to the next major flood.

This team provides an opportunity for coordination of technical resources and collaboration.

- The District of Columbia is at risk of riverine, tidal, and interior flooding. Managing flood risk will be even more challenging due to climate change consequences. No single agency, however, has all the solutions to address the District's flood risk issues, prepare for the impacts of climate change, and build climate resilience. This team provides an opportunity for coordination of technical resources and collaboration among local, federal, and regional

agencies, as well as other key stakeholders. – Phetmano Phannavong, DDOE

- Our overall mission to enhance public safety and minimize flood losses does not encompass discrete, finite objectives, so the day will never arrive when we can say that the District and all its residents are completely and perfectly protected from floods. The task at hand is one of continuous improvement, whether from the point of view of increasing public awareness

about what steps to take to avoid an impending flood, or providing better technical tools to allow emergency managers to better respond to ongoing flood events. In that sense, the group will need to be dynamic in reshaping our membership and objectives over time to fit whatever future goals and priorities are of greatest value and as we make progress on various projects and sub-tasks. – Jonathan Dillow, USGS

- For the past 2 1/2 years we have been meeting to better manage floods in Washington DC. We have supported the NWS to create an additional forecast site on the Potomac River, documented lessons learned from Hurricane Sandy, participated in a city-wide hurricane exercise, and are working on new flood mapping. We have developed productive and professional relationships among our members of many diverse city and federal agencies. We have a long way to go, but the signing of this MOU as Silver Jackets will give us the additional focus and visibility we need to better plan for and respond to the next major flood to strike our Nation's capital. – Mark Baker, NPS



The team celebrating the commencement of its interagency MOU at the June 11, 2014 meeting at NCPC

Louisiana's Newly Chartered Silver Jackets Team Plans to Reduce Redundancies

By Nick Sims, USACE New Orleans District

The Louisiana Silver Jackets Team executed its team charter on April 21, 2014, officially kicking off the Louisiana Silver Jackets Program.

Although state, federal, and local partners have been working together under the unofficial Silver Jackets banner for many years, the team can now move forward to accomplish various state goals with the full support of the National Silver Jackets program.

The team's vision is to increase efficiency and coordination between state and federal governments in developing comprehensive and sustainable solutions to flood risk management problems in the State of Louisiana.

The team membership includes the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LaDOTD), the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA), USACE, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

A Silver Jackets Team kickoff meet-

ing was recently held at the LaDOTD Headquarters on Thursday, June 12, 2014. Based upon discussions within the team, it became evident that there are several redundant efforts going on within each agency.

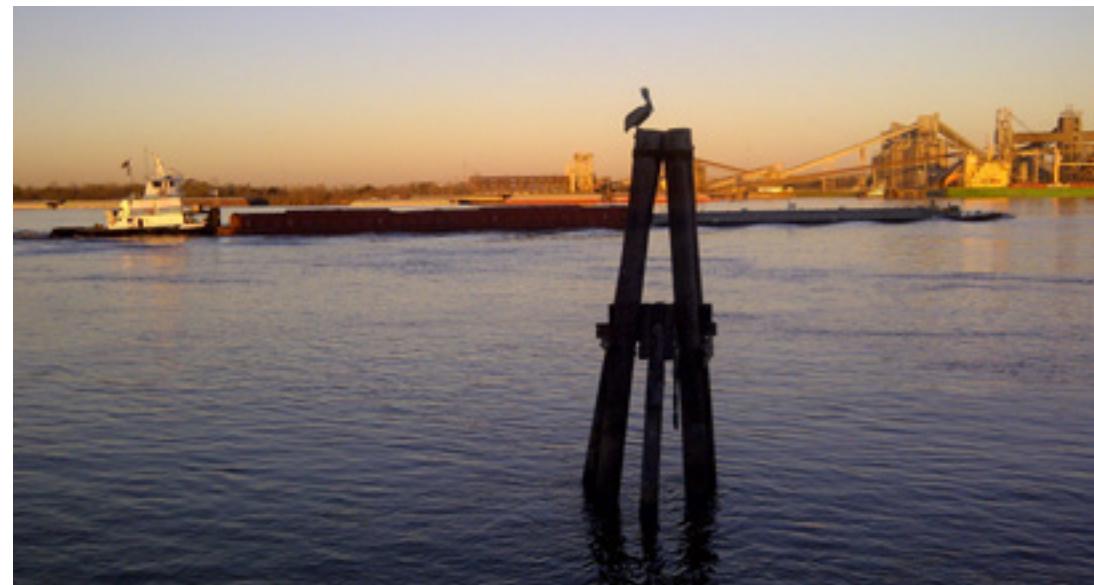
It was agreed that the team's initial priority will be a statewide GIS inventory to help reduce this redundancy. This will allow the team to focus on areas with the most need.

Other team priorities include completion

of Drainage Master Plans for Parishes currently outside the current levee protection, Base Flood Elevations for St. Martin Parish, and unconventional ways of building homes in relation to rising flood waters in the area.

Collaboration among agencies is very important for effective floodplain management. The Louisiana Silver Jackets team looks forward to helping the state achieve its many floodplain management goals.

The team is moving forward to accomplish various state goals with the full support of the National Silver Jackets program.



Discouraging Risky Coastal Development

By Katie Niemi and Dana Wright, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

CBRA encourages the conservation of coastal barriers and their associated aquatic habitat by restricting federal development subsidies within the CBRS.

Historically, the American people have been drawn to the coasts for their natural beauty, recreational value, and fish and wildlife. Around the mid-20th century, the development of the nation's hurricane prone and biologically rich coastal barriers, the low-lying landforms located at the interface of land and sea, began to take off in earnest.

By the early 1980's, Congress and the federal government recognized that such development was unsustainable and that certain federal actions and programs were subsidizing and encouraging this risky development.

Congress addressed these challenges thirty years ago with the enactment of the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA) of 1982, which established the Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS), now comprised of more than 3.2 million acres of relatively undeveloped coastal barrier habitat covering 2,500 miles of shoreline along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts, Great Lakes, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Virgin Islands.

The Secretary of the Interior, through the



Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge, located in CBRS Unit H00P (Credit: USFWS)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), is responsible for administering CBRA.

CBRA encourages the conservation of coastal barriers and their associated aquatic habitat by restricting federal development subsidies within the CBRS such as new flood insurance; development grants; and funding for infrastruc-

ture, dredging, and beach nourishment projects.

CBRA does not regulate or prohibit the development of coastal barriers. Areas within the CBRS can be developed if private developers or other non-federal parties bear the full cost and risk.

CBRA is more relevant now than

ever before as our nation looks for common-sense, fiscally-responsible ways to preserve our important coastal environment and keep people out of harm's way. However, CBRA is a map-based law and because the

majority of the official CBRS maps were last updated in 1990, they are now being modernized. USFWS has been working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and other federal partners on the Federal Interagency

Floodplain Management Task Force (FIFM TF) to bring the CBRS maps into the 21st century and improve CBRA compliance through a "digital conversion" project.

These updates will make CBRS maps more accurate and user-friendly now and into the future as the nation recovers from Hurricane Sandy and adapts to rising seas. Users can view an online mapper delineating coastal areas that are part of the CBRS at <http://www.fws.gov/CBRA/Maps/Mapper.html>.

Digitally converted maps are now available for all CBRS units in Delaware, South Carolina (including one unit that crosses the state boundary into North Carolina), Texas, and one unit in Florida.

The USFWS plans to complete digitally converted maps for all CBRS units in Maine, Maryland, New Jersey, New York City, North Carolina, and Virginia by the end of this year. Updated maps for most of the states that contain CBRS units are scheduled to be completed by the end of 2016.

Additional information about the CBRS can be found on the USFWS website at www.fws.gov/cbra.



Block Island National Wildlife Refuge, Rhode Island, located in CBRS Unit D09 (Credit: Greg Thompson, USFWS)

These updates will make CBRS maps more accurate and user-friendly now and into the future.

The competition will support innovative resilience projects at the local level.

National Disaster Resilience Competition

On June 17th President Obama announced the National Disaster Resilience Competition. Responding to demand from state, local, and tribal leaders who are working to increase the safety and security of their communities, the nearly \$1 billion competition will invite communities that have experienced natural disasters to compete for funds to help them rebuild and increase their resilience to future disasters.

The competition will support innovative resilience projects at the local level, while encouraging communities to adopt policy changes and activities that plan for the impacts of extreme weather and climate change and rebuild affected areas to be better prepared for the future.

As last month's National Climate Assessment made clear, climate change is no longer a distant threat. Average temperatures across the United States have increased between 1.3 and 1.9 degrees Fahrenheit since recordkeeping began in 1895. Heat waves, hurricanes, and severe storms have all become more frequent and more intense, and sea level rise is causing some communities to flood at high tides, threatening homes and critical infrastructure.

These facts underscore the need for urgent action to combat the threats from climate change, protect American citizens and communities today, and build a sustainable future for our children and grandchildren.

Communities across the country are contending with more frequent and/or severe storms, flooding, drought, and wildfires and have already recognized that in order to be prepared they must plan differently for a new and more uncertain reality.

The competition underscores the ability communities have to not only recover from recent disasters but also rebuild better and stronger for the future. It will allow them to engage local stakeholders, nongovernmental organizations, and the philanthropic sector to protect their own communities from the impacts of climate change by enhancing resilient infrastructure, building on sound science, and deploying innovative approaches to investments.

These funds will enable eligible communities to access resources that help to both recover from the previous disaster and make plans, decisions, and investments that make them more resilient to

the next disaster.

Of the nearly \$1 billion available through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds from the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013, about \$820 million will be available to all states and local governments that experienced a Presidential-declared major disaster in 2011, 2012, and 2013.

States in the region affected by Hurricane Sandy will be eligible to compete for approximately \$180 million to help address critical housing needs, building on the successful model set forth by HUD's Rebuild by Design competition. All successful applicants will need to show how their proposed action relates to the disaster from which they are recovering. HUD will ensure that geographic diversity is a consideration in the selection of participating communities.

The Department of HUD has recently provided a [fact sheet](#) listing details on the application process and eligibility criteria. (Content from a [White House Fact Sheet](#) released June 14, 2014.)

FEMA's Map Service Center – Redesign Coming Soon

By Kelly Bronowicz, FEMA

This summer, FEMA will launch a redesigned and greatly enhanced FEMA Flood Map Service Center (MSC), the authoritative online public source for flood hazard information produced under the National Flood Insurance Program.

A streamlined design and interface, significant technical improvements, and a set of new user features will enable the new MSC to serve as both an intuitive and user-friendly source of information for the general public and a powerful flood hazard product portal for those working in flood insurance, hazard mitigation, and floodplain management.

These changes will improve the user experience but will affect some existing business processes for national and regional stakeholders.



Significant business impacts include:

- All flood hazard products will be available free of charge, and the new products "catalog" will have enhanced functionality; therefore, the MSC Store, the Digital Post Office (DPO), Express Document Delivery (EDDIE), and EDDIE for Disaster tools will no longer be required.
- Current paid revolving accounts and subscriptions, such as LOMC and FMSIS subscriptions, will be discontinued. A new, free subscription system will be stood up as part of the new MSC.
- All direct links to MSC pages other than the homepage will no longer

work as intended and will redirect to the MSC homepage.

Although the site's navigation and structure will differ significantly from what exists today, the new interface will enable users to quickly and intuitively access their desired information. Those who rely on the MSC for their regular work and business needs will experience a minimal learning curve and a limited impact on their operations.

Questions about the redesign of the FEMA Map Service Center may be sent to the Risk MAP Customer and Data Services Outreach Team at outreach@riskmapcds.com.

**FEMA
will
launch a
redesigned
and
greatly
enhanced
FEMA
Flood Map
Service
Center.**

Interagency project aims to improve how USACE is involving stakeholders in risk-informed decision making.



City, county, and state partners meet with public at open house on April 16 in Manhattan, KS.

Promoting Nonstructural Mitigation Measures Along the Big Blue River

By Amy Phillips, USACE Kansas City District

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Kansas City District, in conjunction with state and local partners, has started a project to help with mitigation of flood risks on the Big Blue River in and near Manhattan, Kansas. This interagency project will help the communities in the Big Blue River floodplain become aware of additional nonstructural tools that can be used for managing the flood risks in their area. These tools supplement the structural flood protection measures already in place through the Manhattan

Levee and Tuttle Creek dam.

"The objective of the interagency project is to reduce flood risk for homes and businesses," said Brian Rast, Lead Silver Jackets Coordinator for Kansas. "Another objective is to improve how USACE is involving stakeholders in risk-informed decision making."

The project is backed through two different funding mechanisms. One is the Flood Plain Management Services (FPMS) nonstructural initiative and the other is the Conflict Resolution and Public Participation Center of Expertise at the Institute for Water Resources.

The project on the Big Blue has four goals. The first two goals address modeling and mapping. The improved hydrologic and hydraulic models will generate the information necessary for the National Weather Service to post a flood inundation map on the web for all to access, similar to what is available for nearby Wildcat Creek.

The inundation mapping will allow for real-time flood predictions for extent of flooding in the area. This will help resi-

dents understand how vulnerable they are to floods that exceed the Tuttle Creek reservoir.

Another goal of the project is to assist the city and counties in developing a floodplain management plan that not only identifies the flood risk but completes a decision history on the menu of measures for reducing risks and establishes an action plan for the communities.

The last goal is to develop a public outreach program to promote nonstructural mitigation measures for the targeted communities. The public outreach efforts aim to share data on the cost effectiveness of the various tools for flood risk reduction, such as the installation of flood protection measures, building elevation, building removal, and the creation of open space.

The city, county, state, and federal partners planned and conducted a public open house on April 16th in Manhattan, KS, to help the residents and businesses in the high-risk area understand their flood risk and consider measures that can reduce the impact of floods.

Approximately 50 people attended the open house and were very interested in understanding their flood risk.

“Although the counties of Pottawatomie and Riley are closely involved, the city of Manhattan is leading the public involvement efforts with support from a professional facilitator provided through the Institute for Water Resources at USACE,” said Rast.

From lessons learned from a 2011 Wildcat Creek pilot project, the city floodplain manager and facilitator created two groups prior to the open house: a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) and a Public Action Working Group (PAW). Using a term from the public involvement practice, these groups have different “orbits of participation,” a term meaning how close they are to the central project work effort.

The TAG consists of federal, state, and local floodplain managers; coordinates complex assessments; and makes first order decisions about the floodplain management plan. The PAW is middle orbit of participation that enhances the initial outreach by

establishing approximately ten people representing the stakeholders with the most flood risk.

This PAW serves as a two-way conduit for public input and assures that their needs are being met; and, more importantly, engagement improves at the outermost orbits of participation.

This promotes more risk-informed decisions at the individual level.

In the first meeting, PAW members commented that a facilitator noticeably improves communication while assisting with the understanding of technical terminology. News releases, a live radio interview, and the outreach from PAW ensured a good turnout in the first of three open houses.

“The project will reduce the consequences over a long period of time due to the floodplain management plan, but the flood forecast inundation maps will be an immediate benefit,” said Rast. “Demonstrating an amount of benefit will



View overlooking the Big Blue River project area in Manhattan, KS. Photo by Jen-nie Wilson.

depend heavily on how the stakeholders at the individual level, rather than state or federal level, choose to take on their part of the shared responsibility of managing flood risks.”

For more information on this project, visit the USACE project page at www.nfrmp.us/state/PBigBlueKR.cfm.

The project is scheduled to be completed before March 2015.

Project efforts promote more risk-informed decisions at the individual level.

Recent study recommends how NWS can improve its flood forecast and warning tools.



In Pursuit of More Clarity in Flood Risk Messaging

By Rachel Hogan Carr, Director of the Nurture Nature Center in Easton, PA

As emergency managers and others working in flood-prone communities know only too well, getting residents to evacuate and take the right action steps during a flood event can be difficult. Even with highly accurate and timely data available from the National Weather Service (NWS), people often don't take steps to prepare and evacuate prior to a major flood event.

Findings from a recent social science study by the Nurture Nature Center

(NNC), a non-profit organization with a focus on flood risk communication and outreach, resulted in recommendations about how the NWS can improve its flood forecast and warning tools so that they are easier to

understand and more likely to motivate people to take protective actions. NNC's study, "Flood Risk and Uncertainty: Assessing the National Weather Service's Flood Forecast and Warning Tools," involved focus groups and surveys with residents from two flood-prone communities: Easton, PA, where NNC is based, and Lambertville, NJ.

Working with project partner Dr. Burrell Montz from East Carolina University and research evaluators from RMC Research Corporation in New Hampshire, NNC took residents through a dramatic hurricane scenario designed to gather feedback about what tools residents use as a flood event is approaching and what modifications could be made to improve NWS flood forecast and warning tools. Specifically, residents provided feedback about NWS's Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service (AHPS), including the hydrograph, flood and flash flood watches and warnings, quantitative precipitation forecasts, significant river flood outlook products, and ensemble river forecast products issued through project partner Middle Atlantic River Forecast Center's Meteorological Model Ensemble River Forecasts (MMEFS) system. NWS partners on the project

also included the Weather Forecast Offices in Mt. Holly, NJ, Philadelphia, PA, and Binghamton, NY.

During the first round of focus groups in June 2013, participants gave feedback about a range of factors related to the products, including timing, visual clarity, the use of color, and word choice, as well as information about how they interpret and share information with others. Based on their feedback, NNC worked with NWS project partners to mock up revised products that reflect the participants' suggested changes and needs for information. In December 2013, the project team tested these mock-up products with a second round of participants in both cities and then did a final online survey of all participants in February 2014.

Overview of findings:

The AHPS **hydrograph** was generally the top-ranked product in post-session surveys. Participants said the hydrograph was "very clear, easy to read, and useful," and it received high rankings for visual clarity, usefulness, and location specificity. NNC's modifications worked to eliminate some confusion that participants had about the product

and included a more complete legend with a definition of terms and revised use of color.

Flood Watches and Warnings were also among the higher ranked items. These were very familiar to people, though participants complained that they were not “user-friendly.” In response to participants’ requests for more clarity in the messaging of these products, NNC’s modifications included more prominent action statements, use of color, and formatting changes.

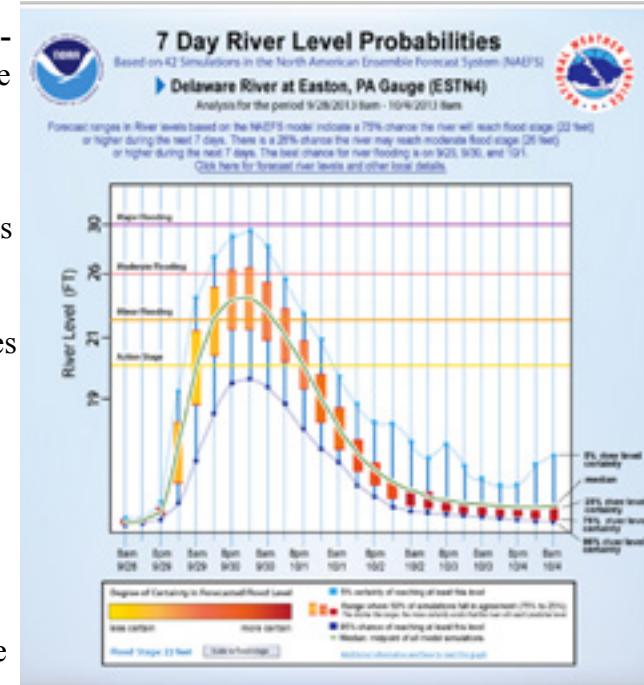
The **Significant River Flood Outlook** was initially rated very low by participants who expressed serious confusion about what the product was intended to show. After NNC’s modifications, which included increased geographic specificity, changes in patterning and use of color, and new title and language changes, the products were rated as more useful.

The **flood inundation mapping** tool was noted as helpful for neighborhood planning and use, and participants appreciated its area-specific, local information. Some participants had difficulty interpreting the graphics. NNC’s project team did not modify the flood inundation maps for this study but rather recorded public understanding of these tools.

Finally, the **ensemble MMERF forecasts** presented the greatest challenge to participants’ understanding. Prior to modification, participants could extract almost no meaningful or accurate information from these various ensemble forecast graphics. NNC’s modifications included substantial overhaul of visual design and changes to the title and legend. After modifications, participants had a much better comprehension and ranked the product more highly than others. Even with modifications, many participants indicated that they were unlikely to use these products on a regular basis, opting instead for more familiar products such as the hydrograph; however, in general, participants did express some interest in receiving uncertainty information.

The project, funded by NOAA’s Office of Oceanic and Atmosphere Research as one of ten projects studying decision-making during extreme weather events, will release its complete findings later this summer on its project website, <http://socialscience.focusonfloods.org>.

Findings will provide details about the specific products, as well as the ways that people find and share information about their risk during acute flood events. NNC will also be releasing a



series of educational materials and videos designed to help the public understand uncertainty in forecasts. These materials will be released later in 2014 on the project website. The project team has also recently undertaken a similar study of NWS coastal flood forecast and warning tools with an emphasis on the use of emergency briefing packages. For more information on this coastal project, see <http://coastal.focusonfloods.org>.

To hear more detailed findings about NNC’s project, join in a Silver Jackets webinar on October 9, 2014, at noon CT. An email invitation will go out to all Silver Jackets teams in early fall.

To hear more detailed findings about NNC’s project, join in a Silver Jackets webinar on October 9, 2014.

***Join the
2014
Interagency
FRM Project
Workshop
discussions
by webinar.***

2014 Interagency Flood Risk Management Project Workshop: Select Sessions Available by Webinar

If you are interested in participating in the 2014 Interagency FRM Project Workshop but can't travel to Massachusetts, select sessions of the August meeting will be offered as webinars. Portions of the Workshop agenda that will be open to participants in a series of five webinars over the course of three days are listed below:

Tuesday, August 19, 2014

8:30 – 10:15 Webinar #1 -- Workshop Welcome Followed by a Discussion of Silver Jackets Benefits

Ms. Karen Durham-Aguilera will welcome workshop participants and provide opening remarks that highlight current activities within flood risk management.

Representatives from FEMA, NOAA/NWS, NRCS, and USGS will share how their agencies have benefited from involvement in Silver Jackets and other interagency flood risk management efforts and how this involvement supports their agencies' missions and

translates to success on the ground. The moderator will then engage panelists in a question and answer session.

10:45- 12:00 Webinar #2 - - Reducing Flood Risk: Interagency Projects

Ms. Jennifer Dunn will provide an overview of the Silver Jackets interagency flood risk management projects and highlight how projects reduce flood risk. District project leads will briefly present how their project partnerships and products directly contribute to shared responsibility in flood risk management. Participants will briefly discuss in dyads the questions below followed by a full group discussion, which will be revisited at the end of the meeting:

1. How have projects had the most impact on flood risk? Where are those projects in the FRM life-cycle?
2. Are our projects focused where and when we can have the

bigest impact on flood risk? If not, how should we refocus our efforts?

In conclusion, Ms. Lisa Bourget will orient workshop participants to the poster display and "BINGO" card, inviting participants to peruse posters at breaks and during the scheduled poster sessions.

Note: Only the full group discussion will be available by webinar.

3:00 – 4:45 Webinar #3 - Successful Project Starts

State agency representatives from Silver Jackets teams will discuss how their team identifies and initiates interagency projects. The panelists will share their state team experiences and lessons learned related to prioritizing needs, framing projects for implementation success, and how their team defines success. Afterwards, participants will continue the discussion in small groups, focusing on ongoing challenges and possible solutions to

project initiation.

Wednesday, August 20, 2014

1:00 – 2:00 Webinar #4 - Agency Resource Roundtable

A panel of four agency representatives will each highlight one or more programs or resources that are new or otherwise not widely recognized by project teams. Agency representatives will discuss how these programs or resources could benefit an interagency project and share thoughts on other ways their agency may support team efforts.

Thursday, August 21, 2014

8:15 -9:15 Webinar #5 - Maximizing Our Collective Impact on Flood Risk: Strengthening Complementary Partnerships and Projects

Considering the multitude of factors that contribute to successful interagency projects, participants will strategize how to move flood risk management projects forward through facilitated discussion of the following questions:

1. How can we increase our impact on flood risk?
2. How can we move projects beyond assessment and information sharing to prompting actions that reduce flood risk?
3. How can we build on each other's programs and take coordinated action to achieve more effective and efficient flood risk management outcomes?

For webinar log-in information, available in early August, contact your USACE SJ Coordinator or the FRM/SJ Support Team. All sessions are on Eastern time; start times may be adjusted during the course of the meeting.

Continuing Education Credits are available for both the CFM and PE; notify Stephanie Bray of interest in receiving CECs for webinar participation by August 6th, 2014.

We look forward to your virtual participation in the meeting this August!



Image of Southbridge facility



Upcoming Events

August

Interagency Flood
Risk Management Meeting
Southbridge, MA
August 19-22

[Certified Floodplain Manager
Refresher Course](#),
Harrisburg, PA
August 20-22

September

[Kansas Association
of Floodplain
Managers Conference](#)
Wichita, KS
September 3-4

October

[NAFSMA Annual Meeting](#)
Boston, MA
October 14-17

[ASBPA 2014 National Coastal
Conference](#)
Virginia Beach, VA
October 14-17

ASFPM Mitigation and
Flood Proofing VI Workshop
Broomfield, CO
October 27-30

November

[Restore America's Estuaries
7th National Summit on
Coastal and Estuarine Restoration](#)
Washington, DC
November 1-5

Minnesota Association of
Flood Plain Managers
Annual Conference
Duluth, MN
November 19-21



New England District image of Tully Lake



US Army Corps
of Engineers