



CHAPTER SIX: STATE OF ALASKA RISK MAP STRATEGY

In order for Alaska’s communities to make informed risk management decisions, a consistent risk-based approach to identifying, assessing and planning for the mitigation of natural hazards is necessary. Recognizing the connection between reliable flood maps and flood damage is essential for protecting life and property in Alaska. This is the central purpose of Risk MAP: to provide communities with flood and other hazard information and tools they can use to enhance their mitigation plans and better protect their citizens. Through more accurate flood maps, risk assessment tools, and outreach support, Risk MAP strengthens local ability to make informed decisions about reducing risk and becoming more disaster resilient.

ROLE OF THE STATE RISK MAP COORDINATOR

The State Risk MAP Coordinator is central to the implementation of Alaska’s Risk MAP Program. The Alaska Risk MAP Coordinator serves as the intermediary and primary point of contact between Alaska’s local governments and FEMA and FEMA’s agents for Alaska’s Risk MAP Program. Consistent with FEMA’s Risk MAP goals, the Alaska CTP Coordinator will collaborate with other state, local, and tribal entities to facilitate mapping partnerships in order to update flood hazard data and maps and to ensure updated information is used in making informed decisions regarding planning, community development, and hazard mitigation.

The Risk MAP Coordinator will support local communities and FEMA Region 10 by implementing an integrated programmatic strategy to mapping flood hazards, performing risk assessments, informing hazard mitigation plans, acquiring detailed topographic data, and helping communities and tribes take action to become more resilient to natural disasters.

THE ALASKA MAPPING BUSINESS PLAN

The Alaska Mapping Business Plan: Integrating Mapping, Assessment, and Mitigation Planning comprehensively evaluates the status of Alaska’s flood maps, setting priorities for future mapping and risk assessment, and outlining a collaborative relationship with FEMA to fully execute the Risk MAP strategy for the benefit of Alaska’s communities, local governments, tribal entities, and residents.

The purpose of the mapping business plan is to provide FEMA with Alaska’s strategy for local government participation in the Risk MAP program. During Federal Fiscal Years 2023-24, DCRA will reach out to other state and federal agencies, private sector organizations, and non-profit entities by inviting them to Risk MAP meetings and activities. The purpose of this outreach is to develop a plan which leads to stronger support of FEMA’s mapping and hazard assessment program, and leverages new financial commitments from other entities with vested interests in improving the accuracy of mapping and hazard data collection in Alaska.

The State of Alaska’s Risk MAP project prioritization process is discussed in the next chapter, *Alaska Risk Map Data Acquisition, Analysis and Prioritization of Future Study Needs*, on page 129.



KEY STAKEHOLDERS AND SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS

The value of Risk MAP to Alaska communities is that it's not just a mapping project with a beginning and an end. Risk MAP is a process, a continuing, collaborative partnership to help federal, state, tribal, and local community officials, business owners, private citizens and stakeholders make sound floodplain management decisions and take action to reduce risk from floods and other hazards.

Essential to this partnership are key stakeholders and subject matter experts who are engaged and involved in every step of the Risk MAP Process. The Risk MAP Coordinator works throughout the Risk MAP Study with the Risk MAP Project Team. This includes the following team members:

Risk MAP Project Team

- FEMA Region X Project Officer (Risk Analyst)
- FEMA Region X Engineer
- FEMA Region X Floodplain Management Specialist
- FEMA Region X Mitigation Planner
- FEMA Region X Earthquake Program Manager
- STARR Project Manager
- STARR Engineer/Planner
- Regional Service Center Lead
- CERC Staff
- State of Alaska NFIP Coordinator
- State of Alaska Hazard Mitigation Officer
- State of Alaska Mitigation Planner
- State of Alaska Mitigation Grants Manager

In addition to the core Project Team, the State Risk Map Coordinator will notify an additional group of subject matter experts and stakeholders at the beginning of each Risk MAP Project. These subject matter experts and stakeholders may be engaged throughout the Risk MAP Life-Cycle of a project, as relevant.

Subject Matter Experts and Stakeholders

- State Geologist: DNR Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys
- State Dam Safety Officer: DNR Division of Mining, Land and Water
- State Emergency Manager: MVA Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
- DCRA Local Government Specialists in Regional Offices: Anchorage, Bethel, Fairbanks, Kotzebue, Juneau, Nome
- Additional State Risk MAP CTPs: Municipality of Anchorage, Fairbanks North Star Borough, City and Borough of Juneau, Kenai Peninsula Borough
- State Hydrologist: DOT/PF Statewide Environmental Office
- Alaska Silver Jackets Team (there may be some duplication with other stakeholders listed here)
- University of Alaska Fairbanks Scenario Network for Alaska +Arctic Planning (SNAP)
- NOAA Regional Coordinator and National Weather Service
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Floodplain Management
- Denali Commission Village Infrastructure Protection Program
- Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium Center for Environmentally Threatened Communities
- Western Alaska Landscape Conservation Cooperative



Figure 36: Mapping partners that will be engaged during the Risk MAP Life-Cycle.





STATE POLICIES AND PROGRAMS THAT BENEFIT FROM RISK MAP DATA AND PRODUCTS

Alaska Arctic Policy Commission

The Alaska Arctic Policy Commission (AAPC) was legislatively by HCR 23 (1 & 2) in April 2012. One of the most important aspects of the AAPC's work is to positively influence federal Arctic policy, strategy and implementation. On January 2015, the AAPC adopted an Implementation Plan which sets forth a vision for Alaska's Arctic future

The Alaska Arctic Policy and Implementation Plan creates a framework of policy and recommended actions that can be built upon and adapted to the emerging reality of the Arctic as a place of opportunity, stewardship and progress. The Implementation Plan's Strategic Line of Effort #3 – Support Healthy Communities, Recommendation 3D is to, *“Anticipate, evaluate and respond to risks from climate change related to land erosion and deterioration of community infrastructure and services and support community efforts to adapt and relocate when necessary.”*

The Implementation Plan recommends for execution of this policy,

“DCCED's Risk MAP program is a good start to identifying and prioritizing risk, though as a FEMA-funded project it is very specific in the communities it can include.”

The first recommended legislative action is to,

“Expand DCCED Risk MAP program and partner with communities who are ready to take action.”

The second recommended legislative action is to,

“Conduct high resolution mapping of communities and surrounding landscapes for the development and deployment of evacuation plans in areas where river and coastal flooding are regular occurrences or are likely to occur in coming decades. Prioritize communities currently threatened.”

Alaska Arctic Policy Act

The Alaska Arctic Policy Act was signed into law on August 9, 2015 as Chapter 10 SLA 15 (Alaska Statute 44.99.105). The act is designed to guide the state's initiatives and inform U.S. domestic and international Arctic policy in order to best serve the interests of Alaskans and the nation. Section 44.99.105(b) of the act states:

“(b) It is important to the state, as it relates to the Arctic, to support the strategic recommendations of the implementation plan developed by the Alaska Arctic Policy Commission and to encourage consideration of recommendations developed by the Alaska Arctic Policy Commission.”

In addition to supporting the recommendations outlined above through the AAPC, the Act identifies policies to,

“sustain current, and develop new, community, response, and resource-related infrastructure” (AS 44.99.105(a)(3)(C)),



and to

“sustain current, and develop new, approaches for responding to a changing climate, and adapt to the challenges of coastal erosion, permafrost melt, and ocean acidification” (AS 44.99.105(a)(1)(D)).

Local Governance

Alaska’s Constitution confers broad authority on its local governments. Alaska State Law requires that planning, platting and land use regulation is carried out by Alaska’s incorporated municipalities: home rule, first and second class boroughs, unified municipalities, and first class and home rule cities outside of boroughs. Local decision-Making and Planning Risk MAP Data and products can enhance planning and decision making at the local level by providing quality data from which wise decisions can be made.

Alaska Climate Change Impact Mitigation Program

The Alaska Climate Change Impact Mitigation Program (ACCIMP) was established by Alaska's Twenty-Fifth Legislature to provide technical assistance and funding to communities imminently threatened by climate-related natural hazards such as erosion, flooding, storm surge, and thawing permafrost. The intent of the program is to help impacted communities develop a planned approach to shoreline protection, building relocation and/or eventual relocation of the village.

The ACCIMP is implemented through a two-step process:

1. **Hazard Impact Assessments** are conducted to identify and define the hazard impacts in the community, to assess how those hazards impact the community, and to develop recommendations for how the community might best mitigate those hazard impacts; and
2. **Community Planning Grants** allow communities to carry out one or more of the recommendations from the Hazard Impact Assessment. Results of community planning efforts will provide a common blueprint for investment of federal assistance and state and local resources as well.

It is unlikely that the ACCIMP will receive funding in the near future due to the State’s fiscal situation. However, the new Alaska Native village focus of Risk MAP can accomplish similar results to the ACCIMP by helping communities begin the decision-making process for the adaptation planning process. Risk MAP’s hazard studies and analysis and risk assessment tools can increase local understanding of risk, and enhance local decision-making to take action against risk. Risk MAP data and tools can inform local hazard mitigation plans as well as community comprehensive plans and resilience/adaptation plans.

Alaska Community Coastal Protection Project

The Alaska Community Coastal Protection Project focused on three of the most imminently threatened villages in Western Alaska: the communities of Kivalina, Shaktoolik and Shishmaref. The objective of the project was to increase community resilience and sustainability to the impacts of natural hazards threatening these communities while protecting the natural coastal environment. The project was based on the premise that careful planning, agency collaboration and strong community leadership are essential to successfully addressing the needs of imperiled communities.



Community resilience has been increased through three measures:

- **Interagency Collaborative Support Structure:** Using a collaborative model similar to the Newtok Planning Group, DCRA established interagency planning work groups for the three communities. Through these working groups, collaborative organizational structures were developed to focus the combined capabilities of local, regional, state, and federal stakeholders on accomplishing the recommended actions for each community, whether it is shoreline protection, elevation of community structures, migration from shorelines, relocation, or a combination of these actions. These planning work groups serve as a vehicle for coordinating resources and technical assistance from state and federal agencies, regional organizations and local governments on a community-specific basis.
- **Local Capacity Building:** A full-time community coordinator was established in each community to work with project staff, representatives of the inter-agency working group, and the contractor, as well as serve as an advocate for funding through grants and other means to implement needed evaluations and action plans. A key role of the community coordinators has been to ensure community representation at the interagency working group meetings. While the grant funding for these positions has been completed, the Denali Commission has since provided funding for the community coordinators to continue this work.
- **Comprehensive Strategic Management Plan:** A contractor was hired to develop a strategic management plan for each community which provides the “blueprint” for how the community and agencies will proceed over the next five years to accomplish the recommended actions the community has decided to take, such as shoreline protection, elevation of community structures, migration from shorelines, relocation, or a combination of these actions. The contractor worked with project staff and the local project coordinators, and attended inter-agency meetings to develop the strategic management plans.

The strategic management planning process would be enhanced by the use of Risk MAP data and products as these tools would benefit the community decision-making process regarding adaptation project to address climate impacts as well as long-term planning.

State Grant Programs That Can Support Risk MAP Objectives or be linked to Risk MAP Goals

The ACCIMP and the Alaska Community Coastal Protection Project, described above, are grant programs administered by the State which support the following Risk MAP objectives:

- Increase public awareness of risk from natural hazards and establish a baseline of local knowledge and understanding of risk management concepts.
- Ensure that a measurable increase of the public’s awareness and understanding of risk results in a measurable reduction of current and future vulnerability to flooding.
- Lead and support states, local and tribal communities to effectively engage in risk-based mitigation planning resulting in sustainable actions to reduce or eliminate risks to life and property from hazards.



RESILIENCE PARTNERSHIPS

The development of collaborative partnerships among resilience associates is a cornerstone of Risk MAP. These partnerships are important throughout the Risk MAP process, from Discovery to Resilience. The relationships developed through these partnerships can provide a more in-depth understanding of natural hazard risk and more robust and effective ways to address community needs. The resilience partnerships in which DCRA has engaged have been extremely important to increasing resilience in Alaska communities. These partnerships are discussed below.

Alaska Silver Jackets Team

The State of Alaska Risk MAP Coordinator is a member of the Alaska Silver Jackets (ASJ) Executive Steering Committee. Nationally, the Silver Jackets Program is an initiative of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The objective of the Silver Jackets National Program is to lead collaborative, comprehensive and sustainable silver jackets to improve safety and reduce flood damages to our country. The program overarching goal is to integrate and synchronize the ongoing, diverse flood risk and authorities of FEMA, other Federal agencies, state organizations, and regional and local agencies. The project will encompass a broad strategy of interagency team development, policy studies, risk communication measures development, legislative initiatives professional papers and other means to accomplish this objective.

The Alaska Silver Jackets (ASJ) team of multi-agency and interdisciplinary volunteers work together toward its shared long view vision, to be a catalyst in developing wise, data supported, comprehensive, and sustainable solutions to all natural hazard issues. ASJ is a data-focused, voluntary, inter-agency, all natural hazard mitigation team of multi-professional / technical staff working together to protect life, property, and resources; with the motto, *“Working Together for Alaska”*

Currently, the ASJ Executive Steering Committee volunteer agencies include:

- Alaska Division of Community and Regional Affairs
- Alaska Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys
- Alaska Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Weather Service
- U.S. Geological Survey
- Federal Emergency Management Agency

Additional Agencies that voluntarily participate include but are not limited to:

- University of Alaska
- Denali Commission
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
- Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities



Participation in the Risk MAP process by Silver Jackets team members greatly increases the ability to avoid duplication of efforts, especially with tasks and projects such as data collection. By incorporating these stakeholders into the Risk MAP process, there is a better understanding of the flood and other hazard risk in a community and what resources are available to assist the local governments in addressing that risk.

Denali Commission Village Infrastructure Protection Program

The Denali Commission is an independent federal agency based on an innovative federal-state partnership designed to provide critical utilities, infrastructure, and economic support throughout Alaska in the most cost-effective manner possible.

On September 2, 2015, the President of the United States announced an initiative to increase resilience in Alaskan communities, stating that “the Denali Commission will play a lead coordination role for Federal, State, and Tribal resources to assist communities in developing and implementing both short and long-term solutions to address the impacts of ... coastal erosion, flooding, and permafrost degradation.” In order to fulfill this role as lead federal coordinating agency, the commission established the Village Infrastructure Protection (VIP) Program. The VIP program is dedicated to assisting rural Alaska communities that are threatened by erosion, flooding and permafrost degradation. The program goal is to mitigate the impact of these threats with respect to safety, health and the protection of infrastructure.

The partnership between DCRA and the Commission makes sense, because DCRA has been a leader for many years in providing technical assistance to rural Alaska communities threatened by coastal/riverine erosion, flooding and permafrost degradation through its management of the Alaska Climate Change Impact Mitigation Program, Alaska Risk MAP Program, and participation on the Governor’s Subcabinet on Climate Change - Immediate Action Workgroup.

This relationship will be of direct benefit to the Alaska Risk MAP Program through the following efforts:

- 1. Statewide Threat Assessment:** as discussed in the section on “*Assistance to Imminently-Threatened Alaska Native Villages*” (page 91), the Denali Commission engaged the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the University of Alaska Fairbanks in a Statewide Threat Assessment Project to collect additional flood, permafrost and infrastructure data for rural Alaskan communities, analyze this data, and then develop a methodology that assigns a risk index for each threat for individual communities, as well as an overall aggregate risk index for all three threats when considered together. These indices can then be used to determine which communities should logically be added to the current GAO list of 31 imminently-threatened communities impacted by permafrost degradation, erosion and flooding. The Threat Assessment was completed in November 2019 and is available online at <https://secureservercdn.net/198.71.233.87/02e.11d.myftpupload.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Statewide-Threat-Assessment-Final-Report-20-November-2019.pdf>

The results of the Threat Assessment have been used to identify the State of Alaska’s Risk MAP priorities for 2020-2022, focusing on Alaska Native villages most vulnerable to flood, erosion and thawing permafrost threats.



- 2. Alaska Risk MAP-VIP Collaboration:** because the VIP Program focuses on the same communities as the Alaska Risk MAP Alaska Native Village Initiative, a clear process can be developed to address the needs of these communities:
- a. The communities will be prioritized by level of threat using the Denali Commission’s Statewide Threat Assessment.
 - b. Risk MAP Discovery will be initiated with one or two of the most threatened communities every other year. The Risk MAP process will guide each community on the critical steps of identifying and understanding risk, assessing risk and making decisions to respond to that risk. As mitigation actions are identified, increased collaboration can take place to align VIP and Risk MAP projects.

Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium Center for Environmentally Threatened Communities

The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium Center for Environmentally Threatened Communities (ANTHC/CETC) supports communities across Alaska that are experiencing infrastructure impacts associated with flooding, erosion, and permafrost degradation. ANTHC/CETC works closely with communities to understand their needs and priorities, identify technical resources that support them, and with grant writing to secure funding for community-driven solutions. The ANTHC/CETC has reached out to DCRA to partner with them to provide planning assistance and to facilitate interagency meetings for a number of communities, including Cheforak, Kotlik, Napakiak and Tuntutuliak. The Center is funded by grants from the Denali Commission and the Climate Justice Resilience Fund.

Arctic Executive Steering Committee - Arctic Resilience Working Group

The State of Alaska Risk MAP Coordinator is a state member of the Arctic Resilience Working Group, a working group under the White House Arctic Executive Steering Committee.

The Arctic Executive Steering Committee (AESC), established by Executive Order in January, 2015, approved a Department of the Interior proposal to examine opportunities for improving federal actions that address the imminent threat of coastal erosion and flooding impacting Alaskan Arctic coastal communities. The AESC formed an interagency Coastal Erosion Working Group (CEWG) [*Renamed in spring 2016 as Community Resilience Working Group (CRWG) at request of AK Native groups*] to coordinate with the State of Alaska, local governments, Tribal governments, and Alaska Native communities to develop recommendations for the AESC to consider. From the AESC meeting’s Summary of Conclusions:

The Department of Interior will lead a task force with the Army Corps of Engineers, the Departments of Transportation and Housing and Urban Development, Council on Environmental Quality, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, in coordination with the State of Alaska and Alaska Native communities, to create recommendations to address the imminent threat of coastal erosion and flooding to several high-risk Alaskan coastal communities.

The CRWG has engaged experts and potential partners throughout the region, and their informed perspectives helped develop a set of recommendations the working group intends to accomplish.



Adaptive Village Relocation Framework for Alaska Native Villages

One of the recommendations of this partnership is to develop a collaborative interagency relocation framework to assist Alaska Native village with relocation. The goals of the framework are to:

- Provide guidance and best practices on the data and analysis necessary to make sound decisions about relocation versus protection-in-place or migration.
- Identify a step-by-step roadmap that both communities and agencies can take, once a community has decided to relocate, that will result in a more efficient relocation process.
- Provide recommendations for changes and improvements that will streamline the use of existing federal and state resources for relocation efforts.

The State of Alaska Risk MAP Coordinator is developing this framework with several federal agency partners, led by the Department of the Interior.

Western Alaska Partnership

The State of Alaska Risk MAP Coordinator is a Co-Chair of the Western Alaska Partnership (WAP). The WAP (formerly the Western Alaska Landscape Conservation Cooperative) focuses on over 750 miles of rapidly changing terrain, including the permafrost-dominated tundra of the Seward Peninsula, complex river delta systems of the Yukon and Kuskokwim rivers, abundant volcanoes of the Alaska Peninsula, and transitional forests of permafrost-free Kodiak Island.

The WAP's mission is to bring partners together to coordinate, share, and develop applied science that can be used to inform conservation. The partnership promotes coordination, dissemination, and development of applied science to inform landscape level conservation, including terrestrial-marine linkages, in the face of landscape scale stressors, focusing on climate change.

The WAP Steering Committee consists of government agencies, tribes and tribal organizations, non-government organizations, universities, and other organizations or government entities with an interest in conservation in western Alaska. The WAP Steering Committee governs the activities of the WAP.

The WALCC Steering Committee has identified the following study areas:

- The Yukon-Delta Geography was selected as our focal area approach to provide adaptation strategies and recommendations (“Adaptation Planning”) within the WALCC.
- Species shifts and nearshore ice and river ice were selected topics to pursue to advance our ability to address coastal system topics in western Alaska.
- The most important questions to pursue if we have project funding for the above topics include:
 - Species Shifts – looking at links and relationships among trophic levels and drivers, and need for flexible subsistence/harvest management (including invasive species).
 - Sea Ice and Nearshore Ice & River Ice – safety and travel, forecasting – make sure to add new questions to tie back to erosion/flooding and species shifts & subsistence (in addition to questions that are already there).



Western Alaska Coastal Resilience Workshops

In 2016, three of Alaska's LCCs (Western Alaska, Aleutian Bering Sea Islands and Arctic) and the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association worked with a number of partners on a series of four workshops *Promoting Coastal Resilience & Adaptation in Arctic Alaska*. The workshops were held in Nome, Kotzebue, Unalaska and King Salmon. At the workshops, tribal leaders, resource managers, community planners, and scientists explored strategies to adapt to these unprecedented changes along Alaska's coasts.

Adapt Alaska Collaborative

The Adapt Alaska Collaborative developed in order to maintain the momentum of the workshops *Promoting Coastal Resilience & Adaptation in Arctic Alaska* discussed above. The intent is to broaden the partnerships started through the coastal resilience workshops and extend the work to Alaska as a whole. Some goals of this effort are to:

- Continue the capacity-building conversations – the back and forth dialogue between agencies, non-profits, researchers, residents and communities.
- Continue to develop and share information about the impacts of climate change, and the practical strategies to help Alaskans respond to these changes.
- Take full advantage of resilience work to date, both information collected and connections formed between communities, agencies, researchers.
- Bring in new capacity, new partners (e.g., Lieutenant Governor's office).
- Continue to develop the Adapt Alaska website.

Three working groups have been formed under the Adapt Alaska Collaborative:

- **Coordination/Communication/Outreach Work Group**, whose goal is to keep the 'movement' alive and moving forward; no other initiative has the breadth of participants, knowledge or capacity for widespread action in these areas.
- **Resilience Planning Work Group**, whose goal is to improve the value and reduce the burden of State, Federal and other funding agency planning requirements for rural communities working toward adaptation and resilience implementation actions.
- **Integrated Knowledge, Information and Research Work Group**, whose goal is to improve the three-way co-production of useful environmental information, aiming to better integrate:
 - locally based, "indigenous knowledge"
 - outside expertise, "western science; work by "scientists/researchers"
 - needs of consumers of environmental information

The Alaska Risk MAP Coordinator belongs to the Resilience Planning Work Group and Integrated Knowledge, Information and Research Work Group. Information from both of these efforts can enhance work the Alaska Risk MAP Coordinator is doing in Alaskan communities by incorporating leading-edge concepts in integrated knowledge and resilience planning into the Risk MAP process.



Adapt Y-K Delta Partnership

The Adapt Y-K Delta effort was funded by the Western Alaska Landscape Conservation Cooperative with support from the Alaska Silver Jackets Team. The effort was regionally-focused, driven by a steering committee of 20 representatives from throughout Alaska’s Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. During two steering committee workshops held in Bethel, the steering committee identified three key regional issues being threatened by a changing climate: **Community Infrastructure** threatened by erosion flooding and permafrost degradation, **Subsistence Activities** impacted by shifting seasons, and **Trails and Transportation Corridors** affected by thawing permafrost and lack of river ice.

The two steering committee workshops informed the development of an action plan that included a list of projects focusing on adapting to changing conditions and immediate needs. The plan was rolled out during a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy workshop held in Bethel in April 2019.

The Alaska Risk Map Coordinator served on the support team with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska Sea Grant, and the project consultants - Agnew::Beck Consulting and Nautilus Impact Investing.

Figure 37: Communities of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta (US Fish and Wildlife Service)





STATE OF ALASKA RISK MAP COORDINATOR MEETING PARTICIPATION

Roles and Responsibilities for all Meetings

Purpose: Help facilitate and organize the meeting, engage with stakeholders, attend the meeting, and provide set-up support. Bring any materials that are shipped to the Risk MAP Coordinator office. Help identify note takers to support the meeting summary-official note takers will be assigned ahead of the meeting.

Pre-Meeting Coordination

- Ensure that meeting materials are available at the location, either through coordination with your office or the local government.
- Set expectations, background and purpose for the meeting.
- Work with the community to identify who should attend the meeting.
- Participate in pre-meeting calls.
- Review preliminary and effective Risk MAP products.
- Provide feedback on agenda and outreach materials.
- Answer questions from participants and potential participants.
- Coordination expected of the Risk MAP Coordinator may be reliant on the delivery of mapping products and regulatory milestones.

Post-Meeting Coordination

- Ensure participants receive information requested and needed.
- Share follow-up needs with FEMA.

Ongoing Meeting Coordination

- Continue coordination with communities within the State to determine community floodplain mapping needs.
- Expand the conversation to multi-hazard and look at mitigation interests, data gaps, and needs.
- Ongoing coordination task list is not exhaustive. Additional tasks could include coordination with CTPs, Silver Jackets, NHMP and mitigation funding cycles, and local communities.
- Quarterly reporting that communicates the story (quality over quantity) of engagement and progress made.

Ongoing Coordination Tasks (outside of Risk MAP Meetings)

Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Alignment

Task 1

Coordinate with Federal, State, and local partners to align the development and timeline of CTP grants,



local projects, and NHMP Plans.

Engagement Frequency

Touch base with communities at Steering Committee meetings.

**This is dependent of the availability of NHMP funding in place. A quantitative performance metric is needed to identify when a community is interested in participating in Risk MAP.*

Task 2: Coordinate with Federal, State, and local partners to align the timing of Resilience with NHMP development or post adoption.

Engagement Frequency: Once the Resilience project area and timeline for meeting is identified, support local conversations and coordination efforts. This needs to occur 6 months before the Resilience Meeting is planned to occur.

Flood Insurance Rate Map Outreach

Task: Engage with communities that have FIRMs to determine their desire and need for updates and supplemental multi-hazard products to inform future scoping.

Engagement Frequency: Touching base with communities in coordination with the annual State Risk MAP Strategy.

LiDAR Collection

Task: Engage with Federal, State, and local partners to determine needs and location for future LiDAR collection to inform future scoping.

Engagement Frequency: Touch base with primary State partners quarterly and with communities requesting LiDAR, as needed.

Risk MAP Website

Task 2: Update State Risk MAP website with current products, timelines, etc.

**This can include training opportunities, funding opportunities and technical support opportunities, how a community can address unmet needs through Risk MAP resources, Silver jackets projects and other mitigation project coordination opportunities.*

Engagement Frequency: At minimum, update quarterly and after every Risk MAP meeting.



Discovery

Pre-Discovery Coordination

Purpose: A watershed is selected for Discovery based on prioritization from the *Alaska Prioritization and Future Studies Sequencing Decision Support System* and the coordinated input by FEMA and the State. Before Discovery begins, FEMA, FEMA’s mapping contractor STARR (Strategic Alliance for Risk Reduction) and the State will work together to collect data regarding local flood risks, other hazards, and other community data.

State Risk MAP Coordinator Role:

- Before funding is obligated, coordinate with communities to determine their interest in Risk MAP.
- Determine the community’s primary needs and concerns.
- When funding is obligated by FEMA, work with the communities and FEMA’s Community Engagement and Risk Communication (CERC) contractor to identify meeting logistics.
- Send out meeting invites, agenda, slide deck, and related materials.
- Gather details as needed for CERC.
- Identify local leaders.

Engagement Timeline

Before funding is obligated: Identify interest 1-year before meeting. Alert the Region when a community is unresponsive to strategies how if and if proceed. The engagement strategy must be developed before CERC can be funded to support.

Discovery Meeting

Purpose: The Discovery Meeting is the first in-person meeting that the Project Team has with community officials, affected Tribes, and other key stakeholders across the study area. It is important for the Project Team to understand as much as possible about the watershed’s flood hazards and risk prior to the Discovery Meeting. The Discovery Meeting is a working meeting, so it is important that attendees expect to participate in discussions about their flood risk. The meeting brings the community and other stakeholders in the watershed together. The Discovery Meeting is focused on introducing or enhancing watershed risk concepts and discussing the flooding hazards in the watershed and their associated flood risk.

State Risk MAP Coordinator Role:

- Support communities to identify priority areas for new floodplain mapping studies, and other multi-hazard maps and risk assessments.

Engagement Timeline

Day of meeting and immediately following the meeting to support follow-up requests.



Ongoing Discovery Coordination

State Risk MAP Coordinator Role

- Continue coordination with communities within the State to determine community floodplain mapping needs.
- Expand the conversation to multi-hazard and look at mitigation interests, data gaps, and needs.
- Support communities to identify priority areas for new floodplain mapping studies, and other multi-hazard maps and risk assessments.

Engagement Timeline

1-month after the meeting, ensure that all follow-up requests have been addressed. Follow-up quarterly until scoping begins.

Scoping Meetings and Levee Meetings

Scoping Meeting Coordination

Purpose: If a flood risk project is appropriate for the watershed and the project involves flood engineering analysis, the project team will conduct additional coordination with the impacted communities to discuss anticipated changes to the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) and Flood Insurance Study (FIS).

State Risk MAP Coordinator Role

- Serve as an advocate to refine what was heard during the Discovery phase to ensure that scoping moves forward appropriately regarding accurate quantities, appropriate methodologies, available data, potential partners, and local contributors for new floodplain hazard analysis.
- Scoping is dependent on LiDAR and the Risk MAP Coordinator can help identify gaps in data to outline priority areas, identify LiDAR footprints and needs.
- Share the Mass Zone A data with local communities with a commenting period to support local feedback and engagement on the assessment. Compile feedback and provide to the Region.
- The Risk MAP Coordinator will be available to contact and communicate with communities, explain the purpose of the meeting, provide follow-up, and act as the advocate for communities to ensure that their priorities are moving forward.

Engagement Timeline

Begins 3-6 months after Discovery and 2-3 months before finalizing project planning.

Levee Meeting (including Local Levee Participation Team (LLPT) Meetings)

State Risk MAP Coordinator Role

- Support the Region in communicating levee policies and processes with communities prior to and during the LLPT phase in order to determine appropriate mapping processes to address non-accredited levees and embankment features.
- The Risk MAP Coordinator will be available to contact and communicate with communities, explain the purpose of the meeting, provide follow-up, and act as the advocate for communities to ensure that their priorities are moving forward.



Engagement Timeline

Varies

Flood Risk Review Meeting

Pre-Flood Risk Review Meeting Coordination

State Risk MAP Coordinator Role

- Explain to the community the connection between floodplain mapping needs expressed at the Discovery Meeting, the priorities identified at the Scoping Meeting, and the draft map that will be presented at the Flood Risk Review (FRR) Meeting.
- Identify local staff turnover between the Discovery Meeting and CCO meeting.
- Help establish expectations for the draft product.
- Facilitate conversations and direct question to the FEMA engineer about the draft map and the underlining assumptions in the modeling.
- Coordinate with the community, FEMA, and STARR to determine the meeting logistics.
- Send out the meeting invitation, agenda, and slide deck.

Engagement Timeline

Approximately 2-3 months before the expected work map release.

Flood Risk Review Meeting

Purpose: The Flood Risk Review Meeting is a technical/engineering-focused meeting giving community officials the opportunity to review the draft Risk MAP products included as part of the Risk MAP project scope. This type of meeting may also be important for Risk MAP projects that include significant changes in the identified flood risk. The Flood Risk Review Meeting allows the project team to highlight the flood risk associated with the changes, and gives communities the opportunity to review the results and begin communicating that risk to impacted residents and businesses.

The Flood Risk Review Meeting is a recommended, technical/engineering-focused meeting that gives community officials the opportunity to review the draft Risk Mapping Assessment and Planning (Risk MAP) products. The intent of this meeting is to get the communities to get a first glimpse of what the results look like, provide them enough information so they know what went into the effort (and what didn't), prepare for any political challenges that comes with the better understanding of flood risk, and to provide feedback on anything that does not look right. This is the time where it is ideal to get detailed comments from the community as we have not gone through the high cost efforts of quality review checks and getting it into the very specific preliminary map format. A detailed explanation of what has been done and showing flexibility in the approach, if the community can provide educated feedback on how it could be improved, helps to establish technical credibility as one moves forward through the process.

State Risk MAP Coordinator Role

- Gain feedback from the community leaders about the draft map.
- Ensure the leaders understand the technical methodologies, assumptions, and inputs to derive the draft floodplain.
- Obtain buy-in and determine where changes are needed.



Engagement Timeline

Day-of meeting and address any follow-up requests.

Consultation Coordination Officer (CCO) Meetings

Purpose: The CCO Meeting is held by the project team for the local officials in communities receiving new or updated regulatory products such as the FIRM and Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report. The purpose of the CCO Meeting is to present the preliminary FIRM panels and data to stakeholders, including community officials, before presenting the information to the public.

After the release of preliminary FIRMs and FIS reports, FEMA holds meetings to present them first to community officials (Consultation Coordination Officer or CCO Meeting). Any changes in flood risk will be explained and participants will have an opportunity to provide feedback on the products. This is also the meeting where public outreach needs are discussed.

Pre-CCO Meeting Coordination

State Risk MAP Coordinator Role

- Continue to coordinate with the community to answer questions about the floodplain modeling, regulatory process, and their goals for the CCO Meeting.
- Engage with the community at the time of the map release.
- After the preliminary maps are released, coordinate with CERC and communities to support meeting coordination and determine CCO Meeting logistics.
- Send out the meeting agenda, slide deck, and invitations.
- Gather details for CERC as needed.

Engagement Timeline

Check-in with communities approximately 2 weeks after the release of preliminary products. This applies if a revised prelim is needed.

CCO Meeting

The CCO Meeting is required by 44 CFR 66.5 (f):

(f) The community shall be informed in writing of any intended modification to the community's final flood elevation determinations or the development of new elevations in additional areas of the community as a result of a new study or restudy. Such information to the community will include the data set forth in paragraph (e) of this section. At the discretion of the Regional Administrator in each FEMA Regional Office, a meeting may be held to accomplish this requirement.

State Risk MAP Coordinator Role

- Discuss how the community wants to share and communicate the new map to the general public as well as provide recommendations about targeted outreach for impacted property owners.

Engagement Timeline

Day-of meeting and address any follow-up requests.



Public Open House Meeting

Purpose: Once the preliminary maps are released, the CCO meeting is held, and the appeal period process is started, there is often a request for a public meeting. Most communities request and FEMA likes to support a public open house to help get the word out about the changes to the flood maps and to provide an opportunity for the community to get their questions answered on whether they are in a floodplain, what the flood insurance requirements are, and what the regulations are for floodplain development in these areas.

The format of the public meeting is an open house with a 15 minute simplified overview of the NFIP, the study, and the study process. The open house format is explained and an explanation is given of what questions can be answered at what tables.

Pre-Public Open House Meeting Coordination

State Risk MAP Coordinator Role

- Coordinate with communities to determine if a Public Meeting is needed.
- Help identify a local point of contact or representative to take ownership at the meeting.
- Coordinate with communities and CERC to determine meeting logistics.
- The Risk MAP Coordinator can encourage local staff participation, bring in multi-hazard subject matter experts to the meeting (including the State NFIP Coordinator), and through leveraging relationships with local staff, identify how public engagement has been successful in communities and bring those elements to the Public Meeting.
- Coordinate with FEMA, STARR, and State agencies on the slide deck.
- Sent out meeting invitations.

Engagement Timeline

Check-in with communities approximately 2 weeks after the release of preliminary products. This applies if a revised prelim is needed.

Public Open House Meeting

State Risk MAP Coordinator Role

- Communicate how/why communities have been prioritized for new floodplain mapping based upon criteria developed by the Risk MAP Coordinator program.

Resilience Workshop

Purpose: A Resilience Workshop is an in-person meeting led by FEMA and the Risk MAP Project Team. The goal of the meeting is to help communities understand the results of the risk assessment products and to develop resilience focused strategies using the new data and resources. During this meeting FEMA, State and Local officials engage with the mapping partners to identify the flood risks through the use of the Risk MAP Products Suite, providing a new perspective and understanding of flood risk within their community.

The Resilience Meeting phase of the Risk MAP Process consists of 2-3 separate meetings:

- Elected Officials Briefing
- Tribal Only Briefing



- Community Participants Resilience Workshop

Goals of the Workshop:

- To get federal, state, and local stakeholders together to discuss feasible strategies to reduce risk
- To achieve a community-level review of mitigation strategies from the Hazard Mitigation Plan and Areas of Mitigation Interest from the Risk Report
- To develop a community-specific list of feasible mitigation and risk-reduction strategies

Pre-Resilience Workshop Coordination

Purpose: Prior coordination for the Resilience Workshop is key in order to assign roles for the workshop and allow key facilitator so to do any necessary research and preparation before the meeting.

State Risk MAP Coordinator Role:

- Coordinate with communities to determine their interest in a Resilience Workshop.
- Identify themes/topics and goals of the workshop to inform SMEs who need to be involved in the planning.
- Coordinate with the community, CERC, and SMEs to determine the workshop logistics.
- Send out meeting invitations, agenda, and related materials.
- Gather details as needed for CERC.

Engagement Timeline:

Approximately 1-year before the workshop. The engagement strategy must be developed before CERC is funded to support. It is ideal to have 6-months to plan for a Workshop.

Resilience Workshop

State Risk MAP Coordinator Role:

- Align new hazard mapping and data with local planning processes.
- Identify resources like training, technical support, and funding to advance local mitigation strategies into action.

Engagement Timeline:

Day of meeting and immediately following the meeting to support follow-up requests.

Post-Resilience Workshop Coordination

Purpose: Mitigation Strategies developed prior to the Resilience Workshop are revised after the Workshop to reflect community priorities. These strategies are first developed by the FEMA Mitigation Planners and Risk Analysts with input from the State Risk MAP coordinator and Risk MAP Project Team.

State Risk MAP Coordinator Role:

- Coordinate with communities to follow-up on action items identified during the workshop.
- Ensure the requested resources are provided in a timely manner.

Engagement Timeline:

To begin within 1-month of the workshop in order to meet long-term meetings. Post-Resilience coordination to occur, at minimum, quarterly.