



FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT PROJECT

Presentation to the Community Involvement
Committee

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**PLANNING &
SUSTAINABILITY**

Agenda

- I. Introductions
- II. Project Purpose
- III. Background
- IV. Floodplain Regulation Updates
- V. Who May be Affected
- VI. Community Engagement

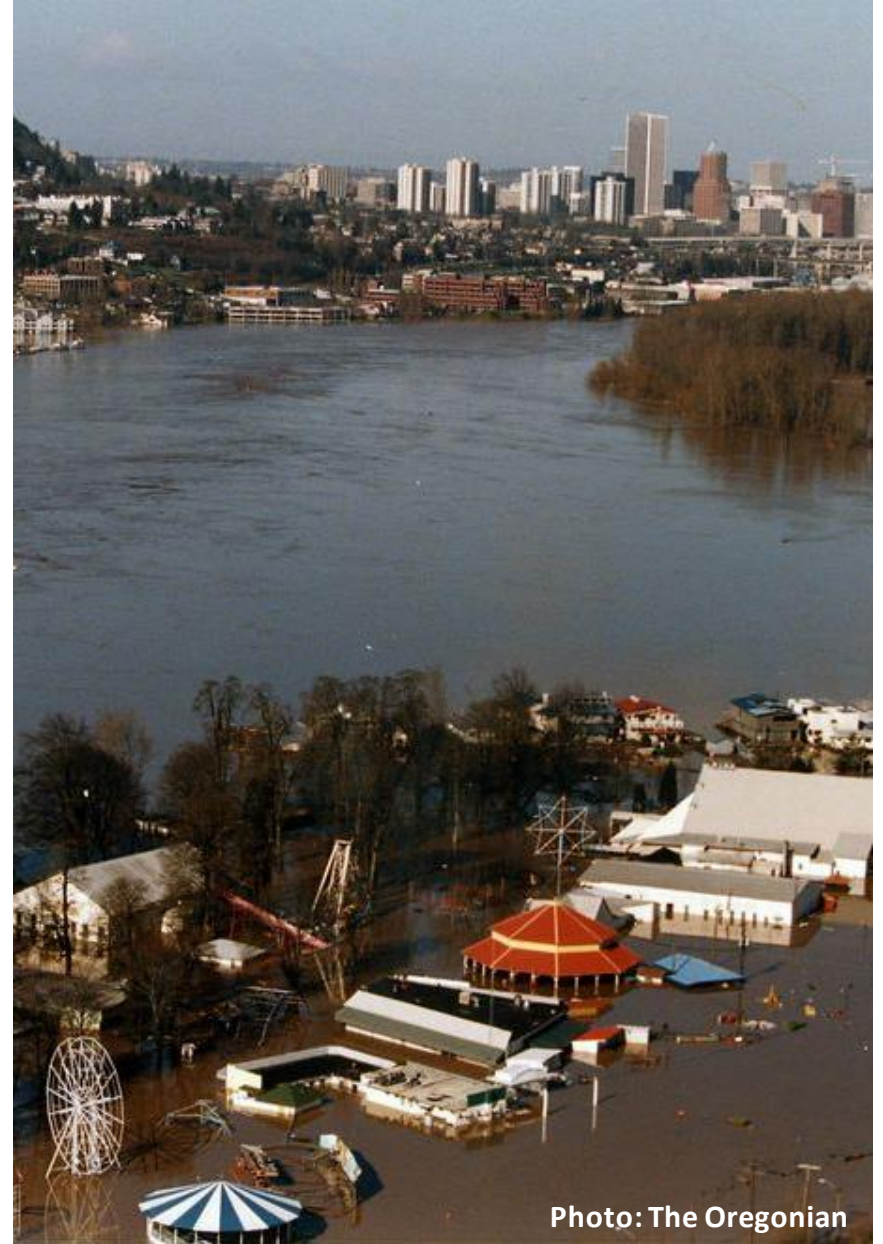


Photo: The Oregonian

Project Purpose

- Maintain access to floodplain insurance and disaster relief funds
- Reduce future flood risk
- Expand and increase habitat for Portland's threatened and endangered fish species

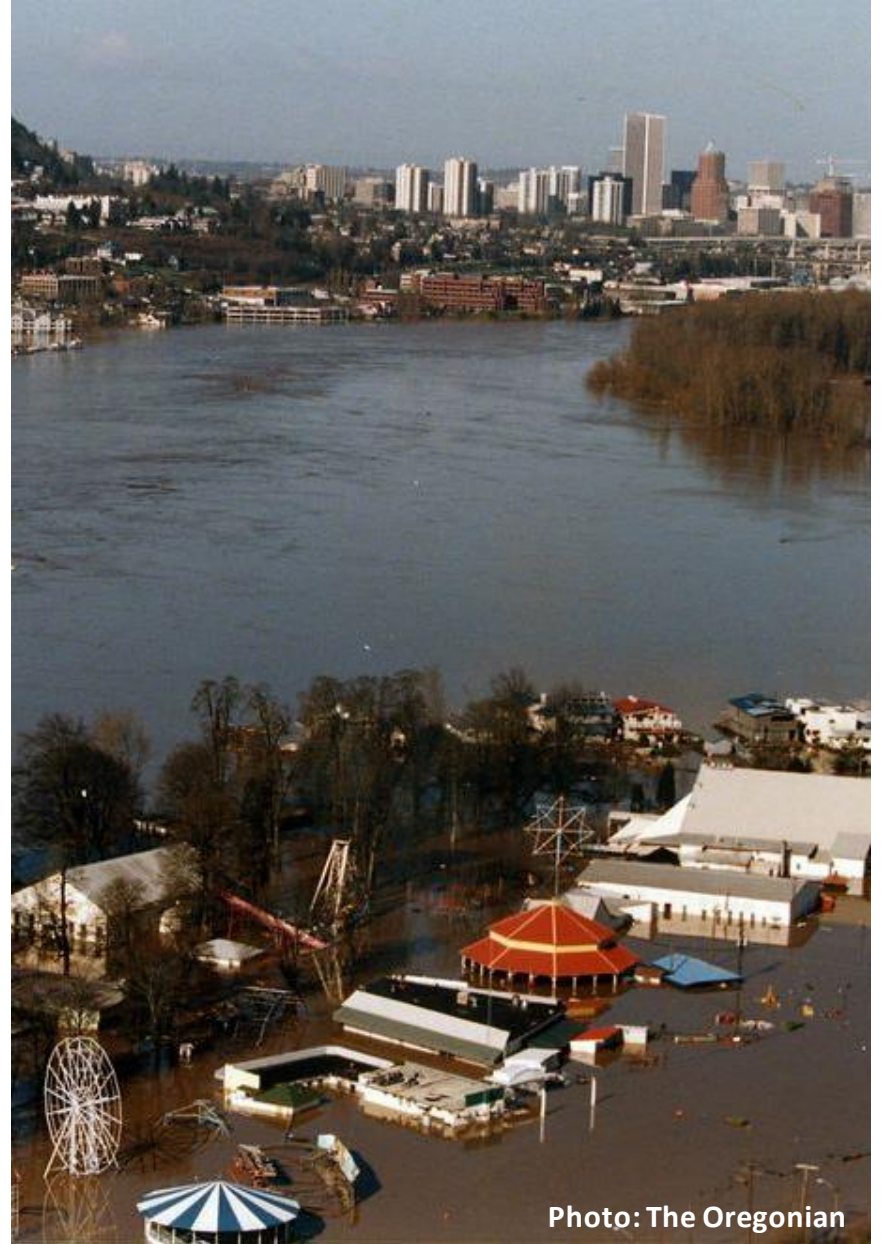


Photo: The Oregonian

Background

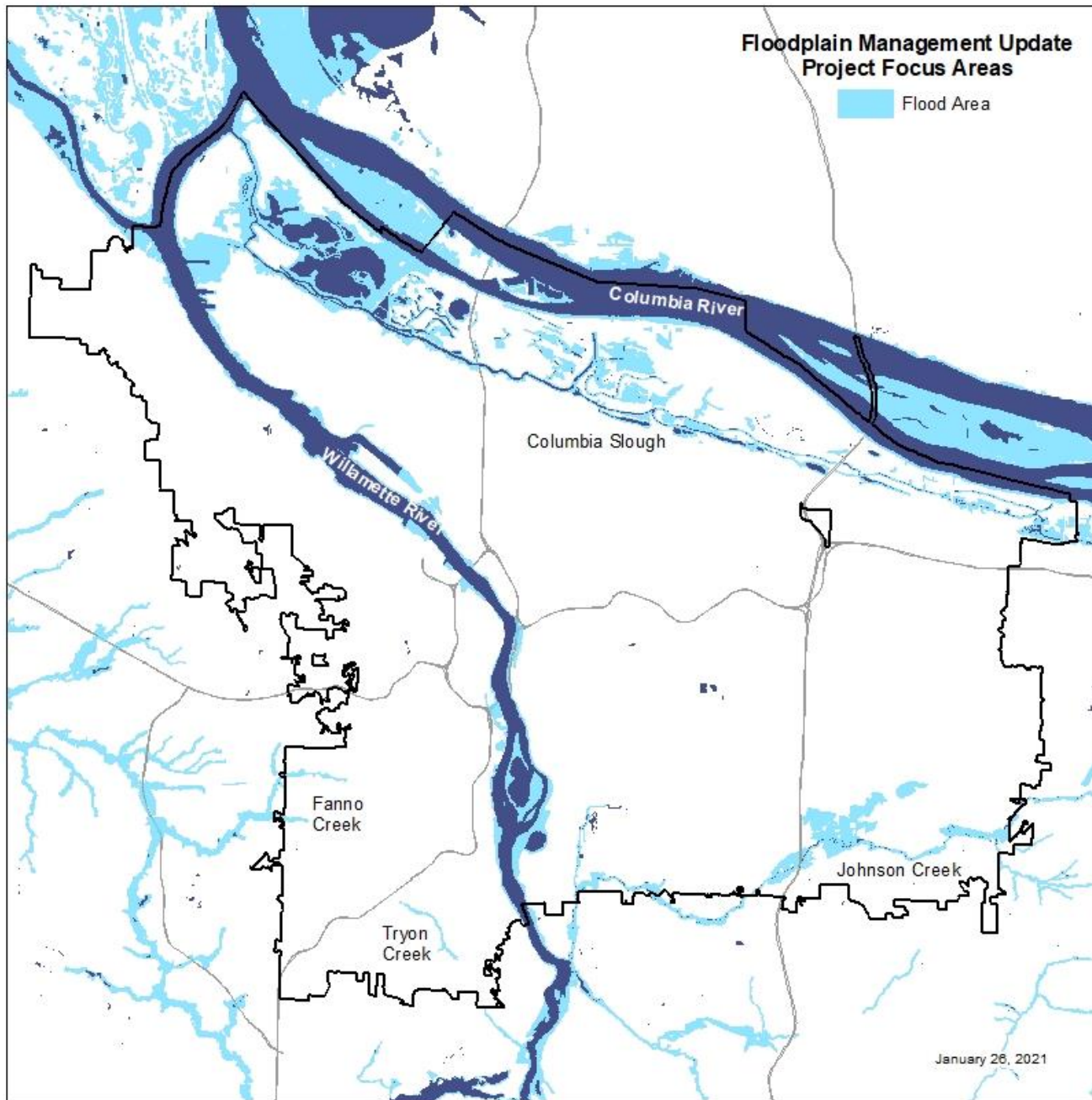
Portland's Floodplains

Approximately 6,500 acres
(3,800 taxlots)

City's floodplains

- FEMA 100-year floodplain
- 1996 Flood Inundation Area





FEMA National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

Provides flood insurance to floodplain properties in participating communities

Community Rating System (CRS) participation reduces insurance rates when voluntary measures are taken

- Portlanders currently receive a 25% discount on insurance premiums



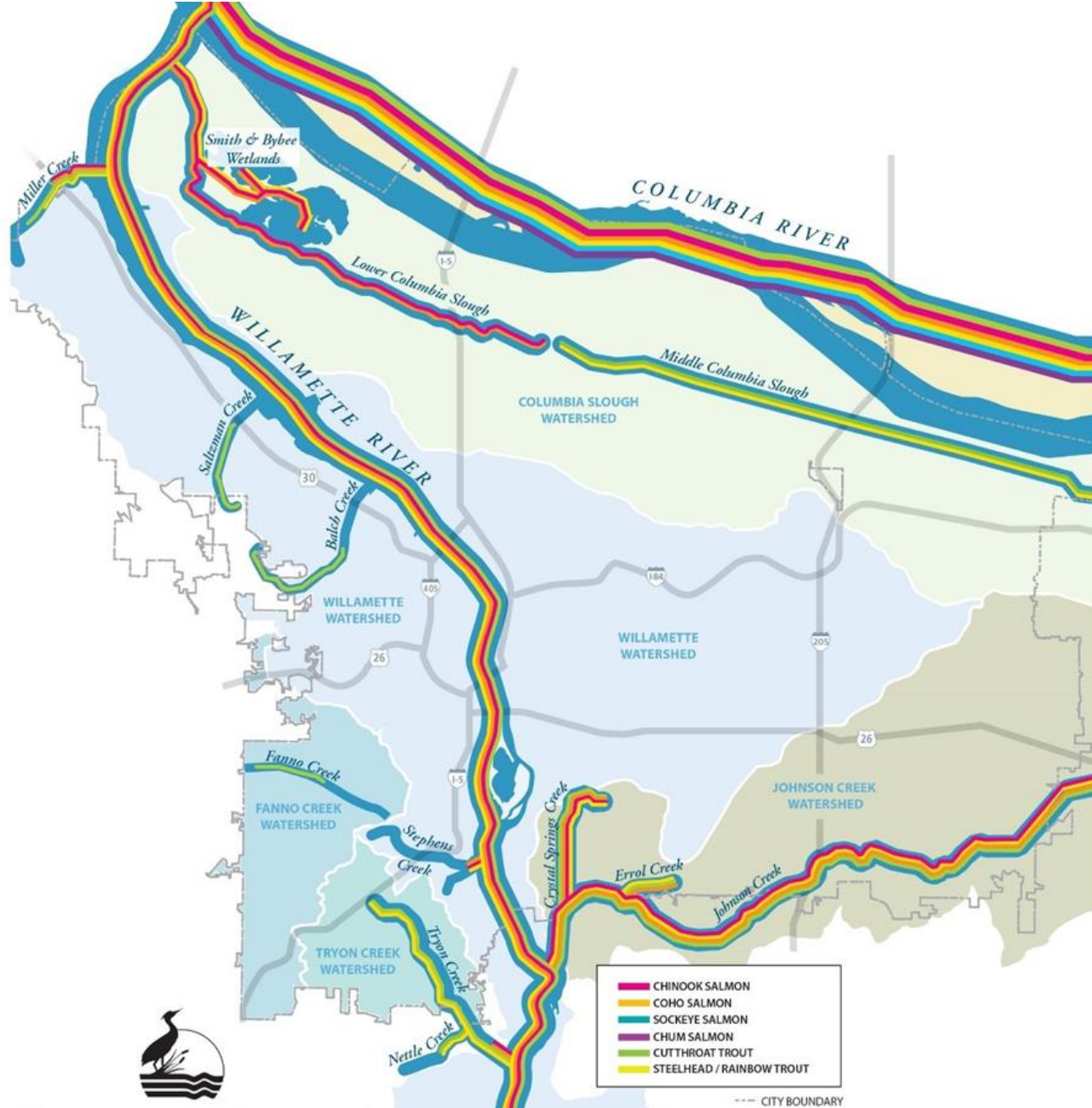
National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Biological Opinion

Concluded 16 threatened and endangered salmon and steelhead negatively impacted

FEMA is coordinating with Oregon stakeholders on implementation guidance

FEMA guidance expected in October 2021





Floodplain Regulation Updates

5-year Work Plan

Three Bureau of Planning and Sustainability Phases

- Phase 1 – Willamette South Reach
- Phase 2 – Floodplain Management Project
- Phase 3 – Area-specific updates

Bureau of Environmental Services working on companion mitigation and restoration programs



Floodplain Management Project (Phase 2)

Update floodplain map

- Based on new US Army Corps of Engineers model

Update Zoning Code (Title 33)

- Targeted expansion of environmental overlay zones
- Update tree and vegetation replacement requirements
- Increase habitat mitigation in areas close to the Willamette River in Central Reach



Floodplain Management Project (Phase 2)

Update Building Code (Title 24) "cut/fill" regulations

- Update areas where cut/fill is required
- Increase cut/fill ratios along rivers and streams and in undeveloped floodplains



Future Area-specific Updates (Phase 3)

- Willamette North Reach
- Columbia River Corridor (the River and the Slough)
- Johnson Creek



Who May be Affected

Floodplain Management Update (Current Phase) Demographics

Communities of Color

- Higher percentage of persons of color (36%) in the Columbia Slough watershed than City as a whole (29%)
 - Higher share of Black, Asian and Native American residents
- Columbia River watershed has higher share of Black residents (8%) than City as a whole (6%)

Low Income Households

- Significantly higher percentage of low-income households in the Columbia River and Columbia Slough watersheds (58% and 55%, respectively) when compared to the entire City (47%)

Floodplain Management Update (Current Phase) Demographics

Languages Spoken

- Generally, a small number of non-English languages spoken in these areas, incl. Spanish, Cantonese, Slavic, and Japanese

Renters

- Significantly higher percentage of renters in the Central Reach and South Waterfront (76% and 58%, respectively)

Less than a 4-year Degree

- Columbia River and Columbia Slough communities both characterized by comparatively high percentages (73% and 63%, respectively)

Future Area-specific Updates (Phase 3)

Communities of Color

- Higher percentage of persons of color (39%) in the Johnson Creek watershed than City as a whole (29%)

Low Income Households and Renters

- Percentage of low-income households and renters in Johnson Creek are consistent with the City as a whole
- Of those individuals that live in the North Reach, a lower percentage are low-income or renters

Future Area-specific Updates (Phase 3)

Languages Spoken

- Over 10 non-English languages spoken in the Johnson Creek watershed

Less than a 4-year Degree

- Approximately 71 percent of the Johnson Creek community does not have a 4-year degree

Benefits

Continued compliance with NFIP and CRS, which provides reasonably-priced insurance to Portlanders

Accurate, up-to-date floodplain maps

Reduced flood risk for those living and working in the floodplain

Improved and expanded habitat for Portland's threatened and endangered salmon and steelhead



Potential Impacts

May somewhat limit development capacity or increase the cost of development of vacant properties

Minor updates to vegetation and stormwater management for developed properties



Community Engagement

Potential Engagement Strategies

- Focus groups with underrepresented communities who live and work in the floodplain
- Partnerships with community-based organizations (includes stipends)
- Presentation with voice-over to be distributed to interested parties and available on our website
- Typical community outreach – eNewsletter, virtual workshops, one-on-one meetings, website, etc.



Questions

1. A significant challenge will be to communicate technical information in a digestible way.
 - What is the best way to help people understand floodplain issues and our proposals?
 - Do you think that a narrated PowerPoint presentation will be an effective tool?
2. Are there edits or additions that should be made to the 2-page summary?

Questions

3. We are required to send mailers to property owners and interested parties at different points in the project.
 - Would you recommend using mailers from the City to let people know about the project early on in the process?
 - What other approaches might be more effective in raising awareness of the project ?



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