Success with CRS:
Lessons from Class 2 Communities

Dennis Dixon, CFM – CRS Coordinator, Pierce County, WA
Mitch Paine, CFM – CRS Coordinator, King County, WA
Washington success story
Class 2 for Thurston, Pierce, and King Counties
4.9 class average for Puget Sound communities

[Map showing communities and counties with advanced CRS classes and participation status]
Someone else did the heavy lifting

- **340 Hazard Disclosure**
  - State disclosure requirements
- **420 Low Density Zoning**
  - State growth management act
- **430 Higher Regulatory Standards**
  - State floodway prohibitions
  - Endangered Species Act compliance - Biological Opinion for Puget Sound
  - Compensatory storage
  - State adopted 2015 I-Codes with 1 foot freeboard
- **440 Flood Data Maintenance**
  - State maintained GPS CORS network
- **450 Stormwater Management**
  - State implemented Clean Water Act / NPDES Manual for Watershed master plans & SWM regulations
- **630 Dams**
  - State Dam Safety credit

Adds up to over 1,100 points
Teammates
CRS Users Groups

- **Northwest Regional Floodplain Management Association CRS Users Group**
  - Hosted by Dennis Dixon, quarterly call in/in-person meeting in Tacoma
  - Training presentations and discussion on communities’ programs

- **King County CRS Users Group**
  - Hosted by Mitch Paine, quarterly in-person meeting, rotates among CRS communities
  - Training presentations
  - Coordination on specific activities (330, 370, 510, 610, etc)
  - Field trips
Pierce & King CRS History

King County joined – 10/1/1991
1991 – Class 9
1992 – Class 8
1996 – Class 6
2001 – Class 4
2005 – Class 3
2007 – Class 2
2014 – 350 points above Class 2

Pierce County joined – 10/1/1995
1995 – Class 7
1999 – Class 5
2002 – Class 3
2009 – Class 2
2014 – 1,300+ points above Class 2
Class 1?

- Not likely; points are there, but prerequisites are difficult
- 370 Insurance requirements
- Must obtain credit for Levees - 620 and Dams - 630
- Coastal floodplains – regulations must reflect sea level rise
  - Puget Sound sea level rise predicted to be ~5 feet
Activities we’re proud of:

• 430 Higher Regulatory Standards
  – Extended/additional floodway definitions
  – Erosion (CMZ) & Life Safety (DFF)
Activities we’re proud of:

• **450 Stormwater Management**

• **510 Floodplain Management Planning**
  – Flood plans in addition to HMPs

• **520 Acquisition & 530 Flood Protection**
  – King County has elevated nearly 80 homes since 2000 including 45 repetitive loss properties
  – Pierce County has removed 398 floodplain homes including 35 of 61 repetitive loss properties
Lessons Learned

• Bring your CRS program in-house
• Coordinate and befriend your permitting staff
  – Since higher regulatory standards are so high, very few ECs are reviewed
  – Pierce County: 7 ECs in SFHA (2014-2018)
    • With 7,600 building permits during that same period
  – King County: 16 ECs in SFHA (2014-2018)
  – All ECs had CRS “gig” review issues
Lessons Learned

• Don’t forget about prerequisites:
  – Repetitive loss
  – BCEGS (Class 6, Class 4)
  – Freeboard – across all flood zones
  – Natural floodplain functions areas
  – Life safety (600 series) credits:
    • 610 points
    • 620 inventory/map of levees
    • 630 inventory/map of dams
Lessons Learned

• Maximize your impact adjustment ratio for 430
  – Pierce County: Maximum 1.5 less open space credit
  – King County: Maximum 1.1 less open space credit

• Outreach – RL outreach
  – Meaningful AND CRS compliant

• Activity 540
  – Channel Debris Removal (CDR) easier for smaller communities
Why do we do CRS?

• Supports our vision of a resilient and sustainable community
• The organized data is used for many other purposes
• National recognition helps create goodwill and a track record that can influence grant awards
• Elected officials tout CRS
Why do we do CRS?

• Gives a deadline to do the things we want to do but otherwise might not get to:
  – emergency drills
  – outreach campaigns
  – consolidating emergency plans

• Keeps permitting agencies focused on floodplain management

• Helps us with the Corps and levee maintenance programs
Questions?

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