



King County, Washington

Cooperating Technical Partner (CTP) Since: 2000

Community Rating System (CRS) Participant Since: 1990

Major CTP Accomplishments: King County recently completed flood studies for the Green River, the Snoqualmie River, and the Skykomish River in King and Snohomish Counties.

CRS Rating: The County is currently rated Class 2 (providing a 40-percent reduction in flood insurance premiums for county residents in a Special Flood Hazard Area, the area subject to inundation by the base (1-percent-annual-chance) flood).

As the Nation's highest-rated county under the CRS program and second-highest-rated community overall, King County has been a long-time supporter and innovator under the CRS program. King County's floodplain management program is diverse, as evidenced by its credits for 17 of the 18 CRS activities. Its complex program is shared by multiple agencies of the King County government. The strengths of King County's floodplain management program, which have been the basis for its achievements under the CRS program, include: Public Outreach Programs, Land Use, Regulations, Stormwater Management, Planning, and, most importantly, Mapping.

Flood hazard identification has long been the cornerstone of King County's floodplain management program. Since 1993, the County has completed detailed floodplain mapping studies on over 143.9 lineal miles of its rivers. Flood hazard mapping activities account for approximately 12 percent of King County's CRS credits. Some of these credits come from the community's completion of flood studies under a CTP agreement. Serving as the project coordinator, King County worked closely with its neighbor, Snohomish County, which became a CTP at the beginning of the mapping effort, in 2003. King County's most recent study will be incorporated into a new countywide Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM). King County also maps channel migration



hazard areas and is working toward incorporating U.S. Geological Survey mapping related to lahar hazards (i.e., debris flows) and is finalizing the first set of new coastal maps. Maps that depict multiple hazards help build awareness during the local permitting and planning process.

In addition to these maps, which are essential technical resources for the county, King County also updated their 2010 comprehensive flood hazard management plan. This plan includes policies and recommendations to guide the county's next decade of floodplain management activities. Integral to the previous plan was the recommendation to adopt a countywide flood control district, which has provided a significant new source of funding to implement a variety of floodplain management programs and flood risk reduction projects along the major rivers in the county.