

# December 2024 Update

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## Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Modifications to the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) — Endangered Species Act (ESA) Integration in Oregon

### Technical Reports and Cooperating Agency Review

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To support the preparation of the EIS, FEMA has prepared five technical reports: Economics, Biological Resources, Floodplains, Water Quality and Environmental Justice. Each technical report describes the existing conditions in the Implementation Plan Area and evaluates the impacts associated with three alternatives: No Action Alternative (Alternative 1), No Net Loss with Exception for Project-Specific ESA Compliance Alternative (Alternative 2), and No Net Loss without Exception for Project-Specific ESA Compliance (Alternative 3). The findings of these reports will be summarized in the EIS, with the full reports appended to the EIS. In October and November 2024, FEMA shared these technical reports with the EIS Cooperating Agencies for their early review and comment. Click [here](#) for more information on Cooperating Agencies.

### Economics Technical Report

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The Economics Technical Report describes the baseline economic and demographic conditions within the plan area as the foundation for analyzing economic impacts. NFIP participating jurisdictions in the plan area encompass more than 35.5 million acres, or about 56 percent of the total 63 million acres in Oregon. In 2020, the plan area included 97 percent of the state's total population, or just under 4 million people. A relatively small portion of the plan area population and housing are within the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), 4.8 percent and 5.4 percent respectively. Similarly, a relatively small portion of the plan area acreage, 3.3 percent, is within the SFHA.

The plan area economy exhibits positive trends. GDP has grown by 2.1 percent annually since 2018 within the plan area. Employment has grown by 1.7 percent annually since 2010 and is projected to grow by one percent per year through 2032.

### Biological Resources Technical Report

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To analyze impacts to biological resources, this technical report begins by describing existing land uses and habitat types in the plan area. The plan area extends over all nine ecoregions mapped by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW): Blue Mountains, Coast Range, Columbia Plateau, East Cascades, Klamath Mountains, Nearshore, Norther Basin and Range, Wester Cascades, and Willamette Valley. Within the plan area, these ecoregions cover over 36 million acres. Of this, approximately 1.2 million acres are mapped Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), or about 3.3 percent.

The plan area supports a diverse array of wildlife species, including mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, invertebrates and fish. This includes 158 special status species, of which 54 species are listed or proposed for listing under the ESA. The plan area is also populated by 18 species of invasive wildlife. Similar to wildlife, plant



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species within the plan area are diverse and include special status species, ESA-listed species and invasive species. There are 56 special-status plant species, 11 species listed or proposed for listing under the ESA, and 12 invasive plant species within the plan area.

## Floodplains Technical Report

This report establishes the context by describing and quantifying floodplains in the plan area. For each of the ODFW ecoregions, the report indicates the percent of the SFHA by FEMA flood zone. The Willamette Valley ecoregion has the largest SFHA acreage at about 514,000 acres. This accounts for 15 percent of the ecoregion’s total land mass. The Coast Range ecoregion has the second largest SFHA acreage at about 280,000, which accounts for less than 5 percent of the ecoregion’s total land mass. In contrast, the Northern Basin and Range ecoregion has the smallest SFHA acreage at less than 3,000 acres. This is less than one half of one percent of the ecoregion’s total land mass.

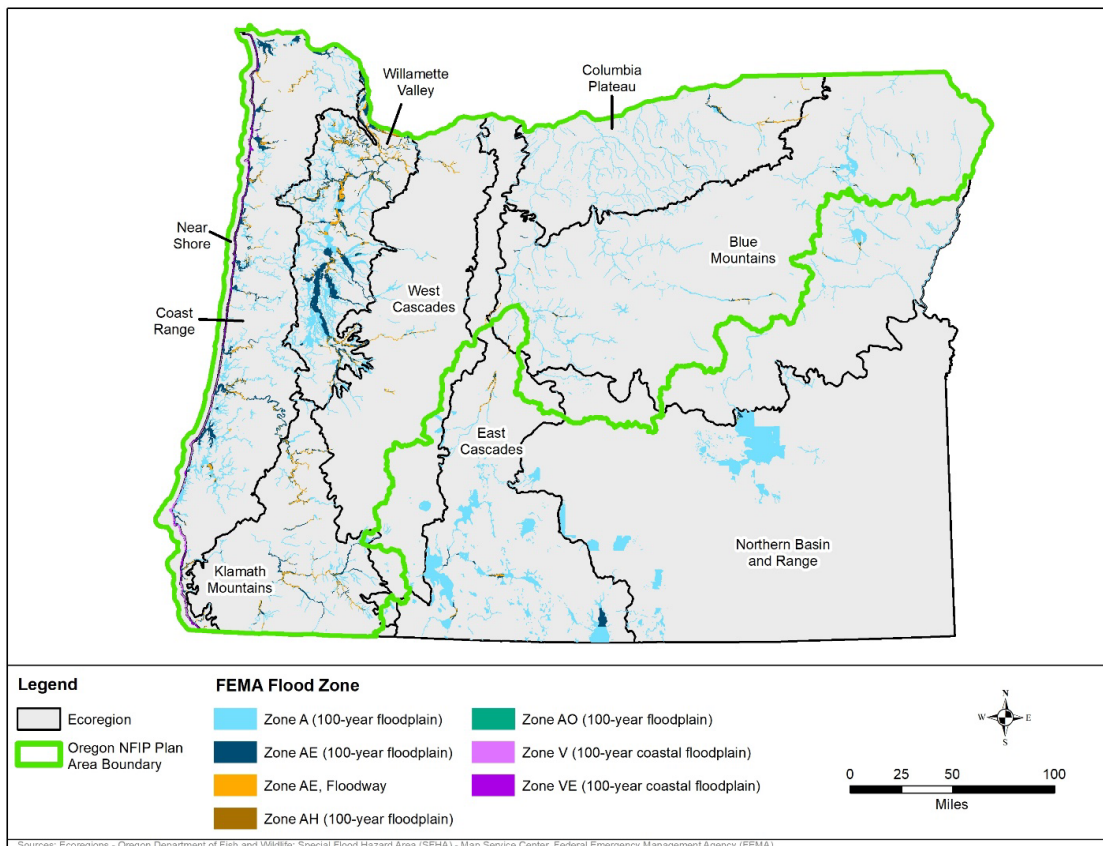


Figure 1. FEMA Flood Zones and ODFW Ecoregions within the Oregon Plan Area

## Next Steps

In spring 2025, FEMA anticipates releasing a preliminary review version of the Draft EIS for Cooperating Agency review. Following that, FEMA will publish the Draft EIS and will accept comments for a 75-day period. During this time FEMA will host several open houses, both on-line and in-person in various locations throughout Oregon plan area. Comments received during this time will inform FEMA’s identification of a preferred alternative and the preparation of the Final EIS.



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