



November 23, 2018

**Letter of Introduction for Field Surveys in Middle Columbia-Hood Watershed, Oregon**

Dear Resident,

Wasco County has been working collaboratively with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD), and local communities to better identify flood risk in the Middle Columbia-Hood Watershed. This effort includes a **new flood study** on several streams in your area that will ultimately be used **to update the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map** and provide valuable flood risk information. **Better identification of flood risk helps people determine their own priorities and take steps to reduce risk to lives and property.** This data also supports communities in recovery efforts when disaster strikes.

A very important part of accurately assessing flood risk is field surveys – to understand how conditions on the ground may impact flooding. FEMA's contractor, STARR II (represented by MAPCA Surveys), will be **conducting field surveys** across the watershed during the next several months. The purpose of these surveys is obtaining channel cross-sections, identifying or establishing elevation reference marks, and obtaining the physical dimensions of hydraulic and flood control structures. The field surveyors will make every effort to stay on public land and rights-of-way; it may occasionally be necessary for the surveyors to briefly access privately owned property to gather survey information on stream channels, bridges, culverts, and dams. Should this occur in your area, a representative of STARR II will attempt to contact the property owner in advance and seek permission to enter the property. **Surveyors will not trespass and will only collect information related to flood risk.** They will respect landowners' property and will not interfere with their use of it. This notice was prepared as soon as the request was shared with Wasco County. Survey crews will be in and around the County from **November 2018 through July 2019**, and the fieldwork will be performed Monday through Sunday during daylight hours. Upon request, the surveyors will identify themselves by driver's license and this letter of introduction.

**The County respectfully requests that the public allow STARR II survey crews proper and safe access to the following areas identified by FEMA:**

- **Chenoweth Creek: US HWY 30 to Chenoweth Road.**
- **Mill Creek: Mouth to upstream limits of city boundary.**
- **Threemile Creek: Mouth to downstream of US HWY 30.**
- **Threemile Creek near Wamic: approximately 3,000 feet downstream from Wamic Market Road to 3,000 feet upstream of Campbell Road.**
- **Fifteenmile Creek: Downstream City limits to upstream City limits.**
- **Rock Creek: Mouth to 1,300 feet upstream of Rock Creek Road.**
- **Deschutes River: Within Maupin City limits.**
- **Bakeoven Creek: Mouth to 500 feet upstream of city limits.**

**Access will allow FEMA to prepare a more accurate assessment of flood risk in our community. Mapped flood risks impact your insurance rates and in some cases, the ways in which develop may occur. Accuracy is important.**

Thank you for your cooperation in this important effort. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Wasco County Planning Staff at the contact information listed at the top of this page, or one of the following individuals:

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