

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Purpose of the TimberWorks Plan?

The purpose of the Timberworks Plan is to develop a framework and action plan for a multiple benefit approach to addressing flooding issues in the communities of Aberdeen and Hoquiam. The Master Plan will be developed through a planning process that integrates technical and local knowledge, builds on previous studies and plans, and synthesizes different perspectives to identify solutions that reduce flood risk, enhance fish habitat, and increase recreation and open space opportunities in the area. The integration of concerns of people, floods, and fish, will lead to solutions that can generate broad public support and enhance community and economic development through protection of property and improvement of quality of life.

What Area will be Studied by the Plan?

The planning study will encompass the municipal boundaries of the Cities of Aberdeen and Hoquiam and include evaluation of the watersheds of the Hoquiam and Wishkah Rivers.

Who is Leading the Plan?

The Cities of Aberdeen and Hoquiam have formed a partnership to jointly conduct this planning study. The Cities have contracted with Forterra, a leading conservation organization in the Northwest to lead the planning effort. Forterra is supported by a multi-disciplinary consulting team lead by Maul Foster & Alongi, Inc. that includes Berglund Schmidt and Associates, KPFF, and Watershed Science and Engineering.

Why is the Plan Being Conducted Now?

Chronic flooding causes financial and physical impacts to the Cities of Aberdeen and Hoquiam. With recent policy changes in the National Flood Insurance Program, flood insurance rates have dramatically increased. It is estimated that residents of the City of Aberdeen pay over \$1 million per year in premiums to the National Flood Insurance Program. This represents a tremendous drain on household budgets in this low income area and has a chilling effect on property transactions in the FEMA flood zone.

How is the Plan Being Funded?

The TimberWorks plan is being funded by a \$250,000 grant from Grays Harbor County

How does the TimberWorks Plan Relate to the Levee Project?

Since coastal flooding has the broadest impacts, drives the FEMA flood insurance rate map, and has the fewest potential mitigation options in these developed communities, preliminary design of a levee system will proceed concurrently with the TimberWorks Plan. The levee design effort will provide technical information such as hydraulic and hydrologic analysis that will support the TimberWorks Plan. The TimberWorks plan will provided an expanded platform for community involvement in issues of flood reduction that will inform the levee design.