

Intro – Address

I'm here today encouraging you to participate in the coalition challenging the National Flood Insurance Program's Oregon Biological Opinion.

Our industry believes it's important that Lane County becomes a member of Oregonians for Floodplain Protection for several reasons.

Following are just a few of our primary concerns with the Biological Opinion and the Reasonable and Prudent Alternative:

- Fails to take into consideration what efforts are already being made at the local level to protect listed species and habitat.
- Fails to seek any local input; instead, simply imposes one size fits all standard on every lot – whether in dense urban area or ag or forest land.
- Renders significant portion of urban areas off limits to development
- Harm is assumed based on a broad brushed analysis that assumes the worst outcome/impact at every turn. Not an accurate portrayal of development in the floodplain today under current existing regulations.
- Effectively rendering the entire 100 yr floodplain critical habitat – when that was NOT the critical habitat designation. It's a Land grab.

Wouldn't it smarter to have the local community develop and implement strategies that protects species that are right for each community based on its unique circumstances.

Not a set of one size fits all development restrictions that do not even consider existing local regulations or local conditions.

Our goal is to stop a tremendous overreach by National Marine Fisheries Service.

We want to keep these decisions in the hands of the state and local government - not the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Particularly when they did not even bother to consider local regulations as part of their analysis.

Thank you for your time and service to our community.