



NFIP/CRS UPDATE

February/March 2021

Protecting Endangered Species & Receiving CRS Credit

The Endangered Species Act of 1974 requires all federal agencies to do what they can within their authorities to help in the recovery of threatened and endangered species (Section 7(a)(1)). The Community Rating System's (CRS's) attention to natural floodplain functions is an example of early Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) efforts to consider floodplain species. In 2017, FEMA created a work group with staff of different FEMA offices to further the consideration of species protection throughout FEMA programs. The work group included representatives of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), the agencies that identify threatened and endangered species and prepare recovery plans for them.

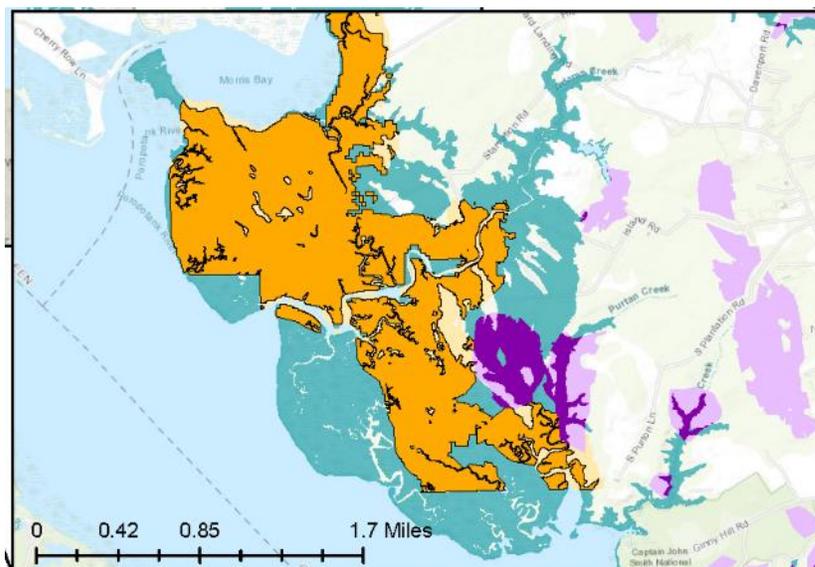
The work group developed a three-pronged approach to foster threatened and endangered species protection and recovery: (1) build awareness of the benefits of protection and recovery, (2) provide tools to help communities identify species within their jurisdiction, and (3) encourage communities to take actions by offering CRS credit.

1. To build awareness of the benefits of protecting threatened and endangered species and habitat conservation, the work group drafted, and FEMA implemented, a new [Floodplains and Wildlife Conservation webpage](#). The webpage provides background information on the opportunities and benefits for reducing flood risk and lowering flood insurance premiums while conserving habitat essential for threatened and endangered species. It also has short summaries of different local programs around the country and links to the other two approaches, Flood Risk and Endangered Species Habitat (FRESH) mapping tool and CRS credits.

Also in this Issue

The 2021 Addendum to the 2017 *CRS Coordinator's Manual*—Page 3
Construction Certificates Review Changes for 2021—Page 3
CRS Credit for Stormwater Management—Page 4
Substantial Damage Management Plan Credit—Page 5
Agricultural and Accessory Structures in the Floodplain —Page 5
Renewed CRS Forms Available—Page 7
Flood-related Exercises are Still Required for 2021—Page 7
Training Opportunities—Page 11

2. The second approach, the [FRESH mapping tool](#), helps communities identify areas where threatened and endangered species may be found. This is a site that non-GIS experts can use to find what listed threatened and endangered species have range or critical habitat in their communities and how they relate to their Special Flood Hazard Areas. To the right is an example map developed by Gloucester County, Virginia, from FRESH data that shows how the range for the sensitive joint-vetch



(in orange) matches the floodplain (blue). A local program to protect the mapped areas will prevent flood losses and help this threatened species to recover. The link to the “FRESH User’s Guide” can also be found on the [Floodplains and Wildlife Conservation](#) webpage.

The first two approaches can help any community, including those not in the CRS or even in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

3. The third approach is a direct incentive to encourage communities that participate in the CRS to take additional action for the protection and recovery of threatened and endangered species.

This is done in two ways. First, the [2021 CRS Addendum](#) expands on the explanation of existing credits for such actions (see Section 116.a, page A-5 in the Addendum). There are now two lists of credits. The first is for protecting natural floodplain functions, and the second and new list on “Credit for Protecting Threatened and Endangered Species.” Such credits can be found in 10 of the 19 CRS activities. Communities are encouraged to consider if their public information, higher regulatory standards, or flood-damage reduction efforts could incorporate more aspects of species protections for additional CRS credit.

The second incentive is a new CRS credit to encourage local officials to use FRESH, review what they are doing and could do, and prepare an action plan that incorporates protecting threatened and endangered species into their floodplain management program. This is done in two stages. The first is the Floodplain Species Assessment, or FSA, that identifies the species with range and critical habitat in the community (an easy job using the FRESH mapping tool), compares their habitat to their floodplains, and reviews CRS elements the community is receiving, or could receive, credit for.

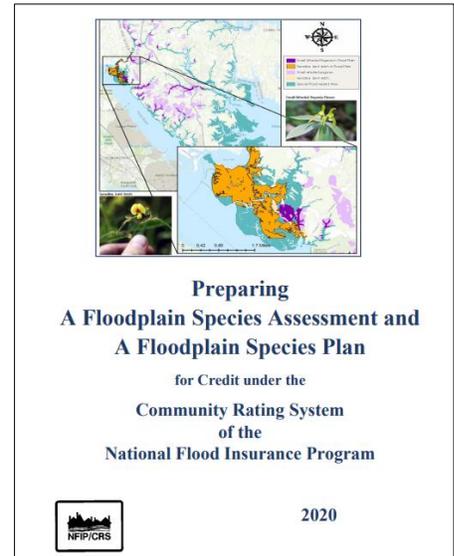
The draft FSA is circulated to the state or regional offices of FEMA, USFWS, NMFS, state and private offices, and organizations for comments and suggestions. After the FSA is revised to incorporate the comments, it can receive 15 points.

If the community finds that the FSA has revealed new information or ideas for community action, it is encouraged to prepare an action plan, credited as a Floodplain Species Plan or FSP. The plan would also be circulated to the subject matter experts in the appropriate agencies and organizations, revised, and then submitted to the community’s governing body for adoption. An FSP receives 85 points, for a total of 100 points, for both documents.

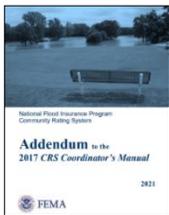
The new FSA and FSP credit is in the Addendum under the credit for a Natural Functions Plan (NFP) in Activity 510 (Floodplain Management Planning), page A-51. As with the other plans credited in 510, the community will need to provide progress reports on its FSP with its annual recertification package and will need to update the plan periodically. A committee is not needed for the development of an FSA or FSP.

The guidance document, "[Preparing a Floodplain Species Assessment and a Floodplain Species Plan](#)," just had a small revision related to distribution of the final documents. If you downloaded a version before March 15, you should download the current version. [Example FSA/FSP documents](#) are also available.

There will be a webinar on the new credits June 16 through the [CRS Webinar Series](#). ≡≡≡



The 2021 Addendum to the 2017 CRS Coordinator's Manual



The [2021 Addendum to the 2017 CRS Coordinator's Manual](#) is now available. The Addendum will be used by communities in conjunction with the current *Coordinator's Manual*. It will serve as a bridge between the existing guidance materials and the more comprehensive update that is anticipated to be needed when FEMA implements its NFIP transformation. Page A-4 of the Addendum explains, "How to Use the 2021 Addendum."

The 2021 Addendum includes two new prerequisite requirements, several new CRS credit opportunities, and some updates and modifications aimed at simplifying credit and reporting requirements. A collection of frequently asked questions about the Addendum are also available at fema.gov/community-rating-system.

Webinars in the [CRS Webinar Series](#) and recordings of CRS webinars will continue to focus on the 2021 Addendum. ≡≡≡

Important Points on Construction Certificates Review Changes for 2021

"Construction Certificates" is now the general term to include all floodplain-related certificates that are required to assist proper insurance ratings and compliance determinations. These include: Elevation Certificates, Non-Residential Floodproofing Certificates, Basement Floodproofing Certificates, V Zone Certificates, and Engineered Opening Certificates. All these forms are required for CRS purposes depending on the type of building and the manner in which it meets NFIP compliance (Elevation Certificates and both Floodproofing Certificates), placement of the building (V Zone certificates), and what kind of flood opening was used for enclosures below the base flood elevation (Engineered Opening Certificates). When the term

“construction certificates” comes up, remember—Elevation Certificates and all other certificates that are required to go with them. See [2021 Addendum, page A-17](#) for a more detailed explanation of required certificates.

Construction Certificates will now be submitted at the recertification date each year, not with the cycle verification if it takes place after January 1, 2021. This means providing your permit lists and certificates outside of your cycle verification from now on. If you are recertifying in a given year, the construction certificates are part of your recertification. If you are not recertifying in a given year, you will be asked to at least submit your permit list and construction certificates at your recertification date (this is known as an “Annual CC Review”). The reporting dates for the construction certificates will be identified in the notification email you receive 45 days ahead of the recertification date. **Please pay close attention to that email.**

All construction certificate reviews are required to meet 90% correctness, whether it’s with the annual recertification or whether it’s part of an Annual CC Review.

Communities will be given two chances to achieve 90%. If 90% is not achieved after two reviews by ISO, the community will be recommended to FEMA as a Class 10 (removed from the program). Be sure to review your construction certificates immediately when receiving them from surveyors, engineers, or architects so corrections can be done immediately. They are much easier at this time to correct than months later after you’ve already granted a Certificate of Occupancy or final permit approval. ≡≡≡

CRS Credit for Stormwater Management

In January, a revised guidance document that outlines changes in the 2021 Addendum regarding [CRS Credit for Stormwater Management](#) was made available. Updated [documentation checklists](#) for stormwater management regulations (SMR) credit and watershed master planning (WMP) credit in Activity 450 (Stormwater Management) reflecting the 2021 Addendum changes were also added. The checklists are designed to help communities provide proper documentation to the technical reviewer to ensure they receive appropriate credit.

Communities that want credit for either of these two elements are advised to closely review the guidance document prior to applying for credit. The guidance document provides examples of why stormwater management is critical for reducing flood losses in more detail than the 2017 *CRS Coordinator’s Manual*. It also provides more background on regulations and plans that can be credited as well as common misconceptions about potential credits. Some common pitfalls when submitting for SMR or WMP credit include

1. Submitting drainage reports that do not show compliance with the stormwater management regulations. Submitting noncompliant drainage reports will lower a community’s score, or result in a score of zero.
2. Submitting documentation that is not marked up to show the creditable language and not providing a completed checklist.
3. Several of the WMP sub-elements require regulatory language supporting the plan. The creditable language in the plan and regulations are both required for credit.

Communities that decide to apply for credit should download a copy of the appropriate checklist and fill it out

prior to submitting for credit. The checklist is designed to walk applicants through the process of determining if they qualify for credit, and if so, then providing the required documentation in a format that can easily be used to verify the credit. Communities that have submitted for SMR credit in the past will notice changes to the scoring and required documentation. These changes include

1. Impact adjustment maps are only required for communities with varying regulations across its jurisdiction.
2. If a community allows the rational method to be used for developments larger than 1 acre, the Design Storm (DS) credit is multiplied by 0.5.
3. SMR and WMP checklists have been reconfigured to clarify what documentation is needed and provide additional space for referencing the ordinance or manual.

Communities with questions as to what is required should speak to their CRS Specialist before submitting their documentation. . ≡≡≡

Substantial Damage Management Plan Credit

The 2021 Addendum to the 2017 *Coordinator's Manual* includes new CRS credit for the development of a Substantial Damage Management Plan (or SDP) in Activity 510 (Floodplain Management Planning). There are three subelements to SDP:

- SDP1 for development of the substantial damage plan
- SDP2 for pre-populating FEMA's Substantial Damage Estimator (SDE)
- SDP 3 for the consideration of mitigation alternatives with the plan and prior to a flood and other hazard events

At the [CRS Webinar Series](#) and other training on the 2021 Addendum, participants have asked if the SDE must be used to receive SDP2 credit. The answer is that the CRS will allow other methods or systems (tools) in place of the SDE provided that (1) the tool accurately determines substantial damage or substantial improvement (SD/SI) as required by the NFIP. (2) that it can be prepopulated with the building information for all buildings the community identifies for the SDP1 credit (those buildings that could be substantially damaged), and (3) the information gathered on the buildings, at a minimum, matches what the SDE requires.

To better understand what the SDE requires, see Table 3-1 of the "[Substantial Damage Estimator \(SDE\) User Manual and Field Workbook](#)." A CRS substantial damage planning guide will be available in coming weeks to assist communities with SDP credit. The next "CRS & Substantial Damage Properties Management Plans" webinar will be May 19, 2021. ≡≡≡

Agricultural and Accessory Structures in the Floodplain

In February 2020, FEMA issued [FEMA Policy #104-008-03](#), Floodplain Management Requirements for Agricultural Structures and Accessory Structures. This policy establishes design and performance standards for these types of buildings when they are located in the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) and allows for wet floodproofing. FEMA has provided additional guidance by publishing [Floodplain Management Bulletin P-2140](#), Floodplain Management Requirements for Agricultural Structures and Accessory Structures. This new policy has

created CRS-related questions regarding the obtaining construction certificates, the CRS review of those certificates, and CRS credit.

The CRS requires that communities “Maintain all required floodplain-related construction certificates [Elevation Certificates, V Zone certificates, floodproofing certificates, etc.] for all buildings constructed, substantially improved, and/or reconstructed due to substantial damage in the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) after the community applies for CRS credit.” Agricultural structures are included in this requirement (Class 9 prerequisite), however accessory structures (detached garages, shed, etc.) are not included. That is, when communities submit Construction Certificates for a storage shed, for example, it is not reviewed by the CRS. See Section 300 of the 2021 Addendum to the *Coordinator’s Manual* for more information.

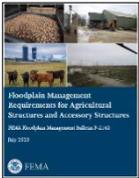
Agricultural Structures Variances

If a community adopts an ordinance that incorporates variance language and procedures for agricultural structures, or issues individual project/permit variances, per the FEMA policy, its CRS participation and credit will not be affected provided that Construction Certificates are submitted for CRS review, and the certificates are correct and complete. Construction certificates for agricultural structures will be included with the review of other construction certificates to meet the Class 9 prerequisite, and the CRS may require communities to submit a copy of the variances as documentation of NFIP compliance.

Accessory Structures Variances

If a community adopts an ordinance that incorporates variance language and procedures for accessory structures, or issues individual project/permit variances, per the FEMA policy, its CRS participation and credit will not be affected. Construction certificates do not need to be submitted for CRS review. However, construction certificates should be required at the community level for compliance purposes.

CRS Considerations



The NFIP has provided new guidance that allows for wet-floodproofed agricultural and accessory structures. These practices are only allowed by variance. If an agricultural structure is wet-floodproofed per the new policy, the structure will not qualify as having freeboard since the floor would be below the base flood elevation. Freeboard credit (FRB) in Activity 430 (Higher Regulatory Standards) is verified based on a community’s ordinance and the review of construction certificates. Communities that currently enforce freeboard (or other higher standards) for agricultural structures could have credit reduced if they opt to issue too many variances for agricultural structures. Again, construction certificates (Elevation Certificate and an engineered opening certificate if engineered openings are used) are required for agricultural structures, and variance paperwork may be requested to show it followed the FEMA policy. And, while construction certificates for accessory structures do not need to be submitted for CRS review, communities should collect and maintain construction certificates. ≡

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What’s Happening with Risk Rating 2.0

The NFIP is redesigning its risk rating by leveraging industry best practices and current technology. FEMA will deliver rates that are fair, make sense, are easier to understand, and better reflect a property’s unique flood risk. FEMA calls this effort Risk Rating 2.0. Implementation will begin in October 1, 2021. Learn more about the [new risk effort on FEMA’s website](#). . ≡ ≡ ≡

Renewed CRS Forms Available

The CRS [Community Certifications forms](#) and [Environmental and Historic Preservation Certification forms](#) (the CCs and EHPs) that CRS communities use with the 2017 *CRS Coordinator's Manual* have been renewed and released by FEMA. The previous forms, which had an expiration date of March 31, 2020, went through the routine renewal process in accordance with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) procedures under the Paperwork Reduction Act (see the [February/March 2020 issue of the NFIP/CRS Update newsletter](#)). The previous forms remained valid during the review and, as only minor updates were made, communities should have no trouble transitioning to the new versions for future certifications.

The renewed forms, available as fillable PDFs on FEMA's website, will be valid until October 31, 2023. The pages of each packet can be separated as needed, depending on the community's needs. The forms may also be obtained from the community's ISO/CRS Specialist. Below are some of the forms available.

- [CRS Application Letter of Interest and Quick Check](#) (FEMA Form 086-0-35 OMB)
- [CRS Community Certifications](#), FEMA Form 086-035A (shown in Appendix E of the 2017 *Coordinator's Manual*)
- [CRS Community Certifications for Environmental and Historic Preservation](#), FEMA Form 086-0-35B (shown in Appendix F of the 2017 *Coordinator's Manual*)
- [NFIP Repetitive Loss Update Form](#), FEMA Form 086-0-35C (formerly AW-501)

Any questions about which forms ought to be used, and when, can be answered by the ISO/CRS Specialist.



Flood-related Exercises are Still Required for 2021

As discussed in the [April/May 2020 NFIP/CRS Update newsletter](#), an annual flood-related exercise of your community's adopted plan continues to be required Under Activity 610 (Flood Warning and Response) for credit despite the continuing COVID-19 pandemic. The majority of state/county/municipality Emergency Operation Centers (EOCs) accomplished this credit criteria in 2020 virtually by web-based exercises or their response actions related to actual flood events. Emergency warning and response plans were modified and then tested in areas such as sheltering and evacuation with the latest Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's COVID-19 requirements factored in.

Keep in mind that an annual evaluation is always due with the next verification, whether it is a cycle or recertification. Community CRS staff are highly encouraged to coordinate with their emergency management staff in accomplishing this mission. Be aware that the CRS requirement for an annual test is not a calendar year, but the year between annual recertifications. An EOC activation or exercise conducted in 2020, combined with an after-action report/lessons document since the time of the community's last recertification, meets the

requirement. An After-Action Report/Improvement Plan from a flood event since the last recertification also meets the criteria.

If you have questions concerning meeting the annual recertification requirements for these three activities, please contact your ISO/CRS Specialist. ≡≡≡

For Second Year in a Row, ASFPM Annual National Conference will be Virtual

The Association of State Floodplain Managers will convene the world's largest and most comprehensive [floodplain management conference](#) May 10-14, 2021 in a virtual setting. Below are presentations and a workshop dealing specifically with the CRS.

Tuesday, May 11, Time: 9-10:30 a.m. Central
CRS—National Focus

- Rachel Sears, FEMA—CRS Transformation: Incentivizing the Future of Risk Reduction
- Bill Lesser, FEMA—The Community Rating System: Program Updates and the 2021 Addendum
- French Wetmore, French & Associates, Ltd.—New CRS Credits for Conservation and Recovery of Threatened and Endangered Species

Thursday, May 13, Time: 9-10:30 a.m. Central

- Shannon Hulst, Barnstable County Cape Cod Cooperative Extension/Woods Hole Sea Grant—Regional CRS and Floodplain Management: Making it Work for Resource-Limited Communities
- Josh Overmyer, Charlotte County—CRS Retrograde, Now What?
- Heather Hilliard, City of Kenner—Using Emergency Management as a Lever to Improve your CRS Score

Friday, May 14, Time: 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Central

Workshop (\$25) Elevation Certificates and How to Review Them: Instructions for NFIP Communities.

- This workshop, presented by Becca Fricke-Croft, a senior project manager with Atkins, will go through the Elevation Certificate section by section to help participants verify forms are being completed correctly by both licensed professionals and local community officials. Specific focus will be applied to building diagrams since they are very important in floodplain management at the local level and insurance rating by the NFIP. The workshop will then go through the proper review procedures for floodplain managers and communities in the CRS. ≡≡≡

Personnel Announcements

Scott LaPorte has been hired as our newest CRS Resource Specialist. Scott will be joining the Resource Specialists team to process recertifications and elevation certificates. Scott is a CFM and brings many years of NFIP experience with him. Scott has previously worked with the local governments and consulting firms managing grants and various mitigation projects.

Susan Mazzitelli has been hired as our newest ISO/CRS Specialist. Susan started March 1 and will be covering parts of New Jersey and other areas yet to be determined. Susan is a CFM and brings CRS experience along with hazard mitigation and grant experience with her recent work as a consultant in Pennsylvania. ≡≡≡

Updates on CRS Training

The CRS Webinar Series is continuing throughout 2021. Please visit the [Training & Videos](#) page of the CRS Resources website for updates to the schedule. The 4-day, field-deployed CRS courses and 2-day CRS courses are being rescheduled, as needed. See Training Opportunities on page 11. ≡≡≡

Resources to Promote Flood Insurance



In keeping with FEMA's goal of doubling flood insurance nationwide by the year 2022, the CRS is encouraging participating communities to strengthen their outreach efforts in helping residents understand how flood insurance can help protect them from economic losses and recover more quickly.

The [FloodSmart website](#) and its [Agents page](#) have an array of materials targeted toward consumers and insurance specialists. [NFIP Claims Handbook](#) (FEMA F-687) guides policyholders in filing claims for flood damage. There are free materials available from [FEMA's media library](#). ≡≡≡

CRS Elevation Certificates Training Videos

To help communities improve the correctness of their Elevation Certificates, eight [Elevation Certificate Training Videos](#) were created. They describe the required fields for CRS, the correct way to fill out each CRS-required field, the common errors seen in each section, and how to correct an Elevation Certificate with errors on it. These videos also cover general issues with Elevation Certificates such as form date rules, page rules, how to handle annexations, how to handle Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) changes after a building is permitted, and how to document different kinds of buildings. The videos should be watched beginning with "Section A," and ending with "How to Correct an Elevation Certificate." They are intended to serve community officials, but please feel free to share these videos with the surveyors, engineers, and architects in your community who fill out these forms. They will benefit greatly from them as well. ≡≡≡



Keep Your Contact Information Current

If there are any staff changes (i.e., a new CRS Coordinator) or contact information updates in your community, please let your ISO/CRS Specialist know so we can update our files. If we cannot get in touch with the right person at cycle or recertification time, it creates unnecessary delays and difficulty with maintaining your classification. ≡≡≡

Remember Your Recertification Schedule

The table (below) is another reminder of when your annual recertification is due. Each quarter, communities are notified 45 days ahead of the deadline and given the recertification packet to sign and return. If you do not receive a recertification packet, you can assume you were not required to recertify that year. This happens when you recently went through your cycle verification, are currently going through your cycle verification, or have a cycle verification scheduled for later in the year. Please pay attention to the emails you receive about this.

Direct any questions to the CRS Resource Specialist who contacts you for your recertification or Elevation Certificate review. We now have four CRS Resource Specialists responsible for processing annual recertifications and reviewing Elevation Certificates. They will be happy to help you. ≡≡≡

CRS Annual Recertification Schedule			
CC-213 Recertification and Required Documentation Due to ISO By:			
1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
February 1	May 1	August 1	October 15
Alaska Connecticut Florida: Miami-Dade County Florida: Monroe County Illinois Indiana Iowa Kansas Maine Michigan Minnesota Mississippi New Hampshire New York North Dakota Ohio Pennsylvania Rhode Island South Dakota Vermont Wisconsin	Colorado Delaware Florida: All Others Kentucky Massachusetts Missouri Nebraska Puerto Rico West Virginia	Arkansas California Idaho Louisiana Montana North Carolina South Carolina Utah Virginia Wyoming	Alabama Arizona Georgia Hawaii Maryland Nevada New Jersey New Mexico Oklahoma Oregon Tennessee Texas Washington
Annual Recertification Information Distributed to Community By:			
December 15	March 15	June 15	September 1

Online Resources

If you cannot find information about the CRS or a document you need, please notify your ISO/CRS Specialist or NFIPCRS@iso.com. Here are some helpful posts on the CRS website.



- [Making Corrections to the Repetitive Loss List](#) is a one-page CRS handout that describes the new procedure communities submit to FEMA corrections to the repetitive loss list, using the Repetitive Loss Update Worksheet, also known as the AW-501.
- [CRS Credit for Stormwater Management](#) is a full guide, including examples, to help communities tailor their stormwater management and watershed management programs in ways that reduce flood losses, protect natural processes, and earn CRS credit. This 2020 edition provides background on the creditable management techniques, discusses the legal aspects of such management, and describes various ways to document the creditable activities.
- **Webinar Schedule**—A schedule for the first half of 2021 is posted under the [Training & Videos page](#) of the CRS Resources website. This link has registration information. Also, see the webinar schedule below.
- The most recent issue of the “NFIP/CRS Update” newsletter, in case you missed it, along with all other past issues, can be found under the 100s page of the [CRS Resources website](#).
- **Success with CRS** is a [website with articles](#) about the many ways communities have found their own types of success through the CRS. ≡ ≡ ≡

Training Opportunities

CRS Webinars

CRS offers 1-hour webinars to help communities understand and meet their CRS requirements. Many will be recorded, so they can be accessed later. Registration is free but required, as space is limited. Some courses provide continuing education credits for certified floodplain managers (CFMs). See all of the [CRS webinar trainings available](#) on the CRS Resources website. All webinars begin at 1 p.m. Eastern/10 a.m. Pacific.

- **Preparing an Annual Recertification**—April 13, 2021
- **Watershed Master Planning**—April 14, 2021
- **Introduction to the CRS**—May 18, 2021
- **CRS & Substantial Damage Properties Management Plans**—May 19, 2021
- **Changes in the CRS: The 2021 Addendum to the CRS Manual**—June 15, 2021
- **CRS & Floodplain Species Assessment**—June 16, 2021

If you'd like to have a webinar on the FEMA Elevation Certificate, or a particular CRS activity, contact your ISO/CRS Specialist. For more on the CRS webinars, go to the Training tab of the [CRS Resources website](#). If you have questions about or suggestions for the CRS Webinar Series, contact Becca.Croft@atkingglobal.com.

Workshops and Training related to the CRS

— **The Community Rating System (E0278)** (field-deployed course is L0278)

May 24-27, 2021

This is the all-purpose training course for the CRS. It is taught at EMI (see below) and at sites throughout the country at the request of interested communities, groups, or states, pending available funding.

- Attendees of E0278 CRS courses based on previous *CRS Coordinator's Manuals* may want to repeat this course. Therefore, restrictions on repeat attendance have been waived.
- For continuing education credit (CECs) for certified floodplain managers (CFMs), the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) will award CECs earned at the E0278 CRS course.
- No more than two persons per community may attend at one time.

Prerequisite: To enroll in the CRS course, you must be a CFM, have completed the NFIP course (E0273), or be a full-time floodplain manager with more than two years of floodplain management experience.

— **Managing Floodplain Development through the NFIP (E0273)**

May 24–27, 2021; June 28–July 1, 2021;
August 30–September 2, 2021

E0273 is also field deployed periodically. Contact your [State NFIP Coordinator](#) for more information.

— **Unified Hazard Mitigation Assistance—**

Developing Quality Application Elements (E0212) April 12–15, 2021

— **Unified Hazard Mitigation Assistance—**

Application Review and Evaluation (E0213) September 27–28, 2021

— **Unified Hazard Mitigation Assistance**

Project Implementation & Program Closeout (E0214) September 29–30, 2021

— **Advanced Floodplain Management Concepts I (E0194)** None at this time

— **Advanced Floodplain Management Concepts III (E0284)** None at this time

— **Retrofitting Flood-prone Residential Building (E0279)** June 14–17, 2021

— **Fundamentals of Building Science (E0312)** June 28–July 1, 2021;
September 20–23, 2021

— **Residential Coastal Construction (E0386)** August 2–5, 2021

CRS communities can receive CRS credit points after their staff members complete certain training sessions. Under Section 432.o, regulations administration (element RA) of the *CRS Coordinator's Manual*, five points are provided for each member of a community's floodplain permit staff who graduates from courses E0194, E0273, E0278, E0282, E0284, or E0386 (up to 25 points). Graduating from E0279 is worth up to five points under Activity 360 (Flood Protection Assistance).

About the Emergency Management Institute

Note that on-campus training at EMI has been suspended, and students will be notified in advance concerning the status of their on-campus course offering.

FEMA's EMI in Emmitsburg, Maryland, offers training on topics related to floodplain management, mitigation, and construction, including the basic CRS course (E0278). These are oriented to local building, zoning, planning, and engineering officials. Tuition is free for state and local government officials, travel stipends are available, and on-campus lodging is free. Free transportation is provided from the airport to the campus and back to the airport. The only out-of-pocket expense is a meal ticket—all-you-can-eat breakfast, lunch and dinner. Go to the welcome page of the [welcome page of the EMI website](#) for details. The application to attend can be found [on this page on the EMI website](#), or call EMI at (800) 238-3358 or (301) 447-1035. Signed applications should be submitted through the state's Emergency Management Training Officer. ≡≡≡

Bring the CRS to Your Home Town

The CRS conducts the field-deployed CRS course (L0278, the same as EMI's E0278) throughout the year, depending on funding availability. A state, CRS Users Group or organization that would like to host a course or discuss CRS training opportunities should contact its FEMA Regional CRS Coordinator (see the [CRS Resources website](#)). ≡≡≡

Statement of Purpose

The *NFIP/CRS Update* is a publication of the National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System. It provides local officials and others interested in the CRS with news they can use.

The *NFIP/CRS Update* is produced in alternate months by the Insurance Services Office, Inc. (ISO), which is the Lead Service Provider to the Federal Emergency Management Agency for the CRS. The newsletter is distributed electronically, at no cost, to local and state officials, consultants, and other interested persons. Communities are encouraged to copy and/or circulate the *NFIP/CRS Update* and to reprint its articles in their own local, state, or regional newsletters. No special permission is needed.

To become a subscriber or to suggest a topic that you would like addressed, contact NFIPCRS@iso.com. You can also sign up for the newsletter at the [CRS Resources website](#).