

POSTING 9/16/2009
UPPER COWLITZ RIVER FLOOD CONTROL

In response to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) study, a meeting was convened to develop a strategy aimed at implementing the recommendations of the study. The main study recommendations were to:

- Protect the Franklyn Bridge (Skate Creek Bridge) by controlling the wood debris in the river channel above the bridge.
- Install a new revetment across Cannon Road on Forest Service land to protect much of HV 8/11 from another major channel migration.
- Repair existing revetments on both sides of the river.
- Create a flood control district for the upper Cowlitz.

The NRCS study provides the scientific information necessary to combat the proposed Channel Migration Zone (red zone) regulations which would halt development along much of the land near the river and greatly reduce property values. By implementing the NRCS recommendations, much of the area in the red zone can be protected vs the CMZ assumption that the continued migration of the river will inevitably wash infrastructure, homes and property down the river.

Three main alternatives are being considered; all focus on the recommendations of the NRCS study as the basis for going forward. Those alternatives are:

- Continue to push Lewis County to take the lead using the NRCS recommendations as a basis.
- Prepare for a flood event and implement the NRCS recommendations during or shortly on an emergency basis.
- Form a Flood Control District based on the NRCS recommendations and look for grants for implementation.

The various agencies (County, NRCS, Forest Service, etc.) indicate that the formation of a flood control district is the best option.

John Anderson, a member of HVCC, has formed a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to challenge the CMZ assumptions as well as change the focus toward implementing the NRCS recommendations. Lee Grose is also organizing a TAC which he believes should combine with John Anderson's effort.

HVCC's position is that the infrastructure, homes and property along the upper Cowlitz River need to be protected!