



Apr 5th, 4:15 PM - 4:30 PM

Integrated floodplain management in Washington: How can we make it more resilient?

Guillaume Mauger

Climate Impacts Group, United States, gmauger@uw.edu

Andrew M. Smith

Fathom, Ltd., United Kingdom, a.smith@fathom.global.com

Cindy Dittbrenner

Snohomish Conservation District, United States, cindy@snohomishcd.org

Se-Yeun Lee

Climate Impacts Group, United States, leesy@uw.edu

Jason Won

Climate Impacts Group, United States, jswon11@uw.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://cedar.wwu.edu/ssec>



Part of the [Fresh Water Studies Commons](#), [Marine Biology Commons](#), [Natural Resources and Conservation Commons](#), and the [Terrestrial and Aquatic Ecology Commons](#)

Mauger, Guillaume; Smith, Andrew M.; Dittbrenner, Cindy; Lee, Se-Yeun; and Won, Jason, "Integrated floodplain management in Washington: How can we make it more resilient?" (2018). *Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference*. 402.

<https://cedar.wwu.edu/ssec/2018ssec/allsessions/402>

This Event is brought to you for free and open access by the Conferences and Events at Western CEDAR. It has been accepted for inclusion in Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference by an authorized administrator of Western CEDAR. For more information, please contact westerncedar@wwu.edu.

Flood Risk Management in Washington State: How Can we Make it More Resilient?

Guillaume Mauger | Climate Impacts Group
Haley Kennard | School of Marine and Environmental Affairs
University of Washington
Northwest Climate Conference
October 2017



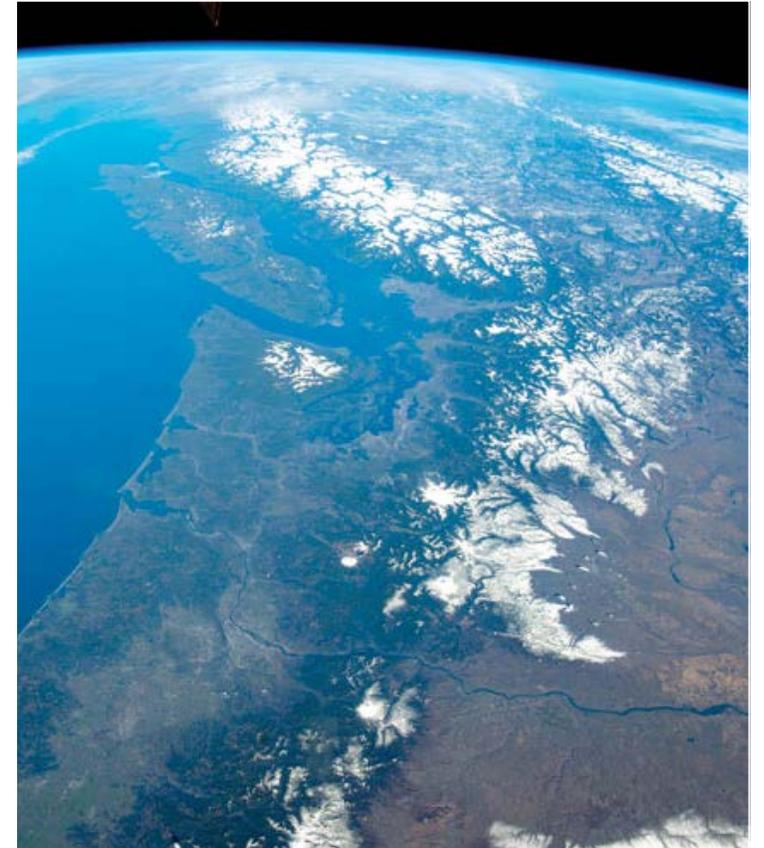
Climate Impacts on Flooding



Sea Level Rise



Heavy Rains



Snowpack

Who are the Washington Silver Jackets?



U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers®



DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

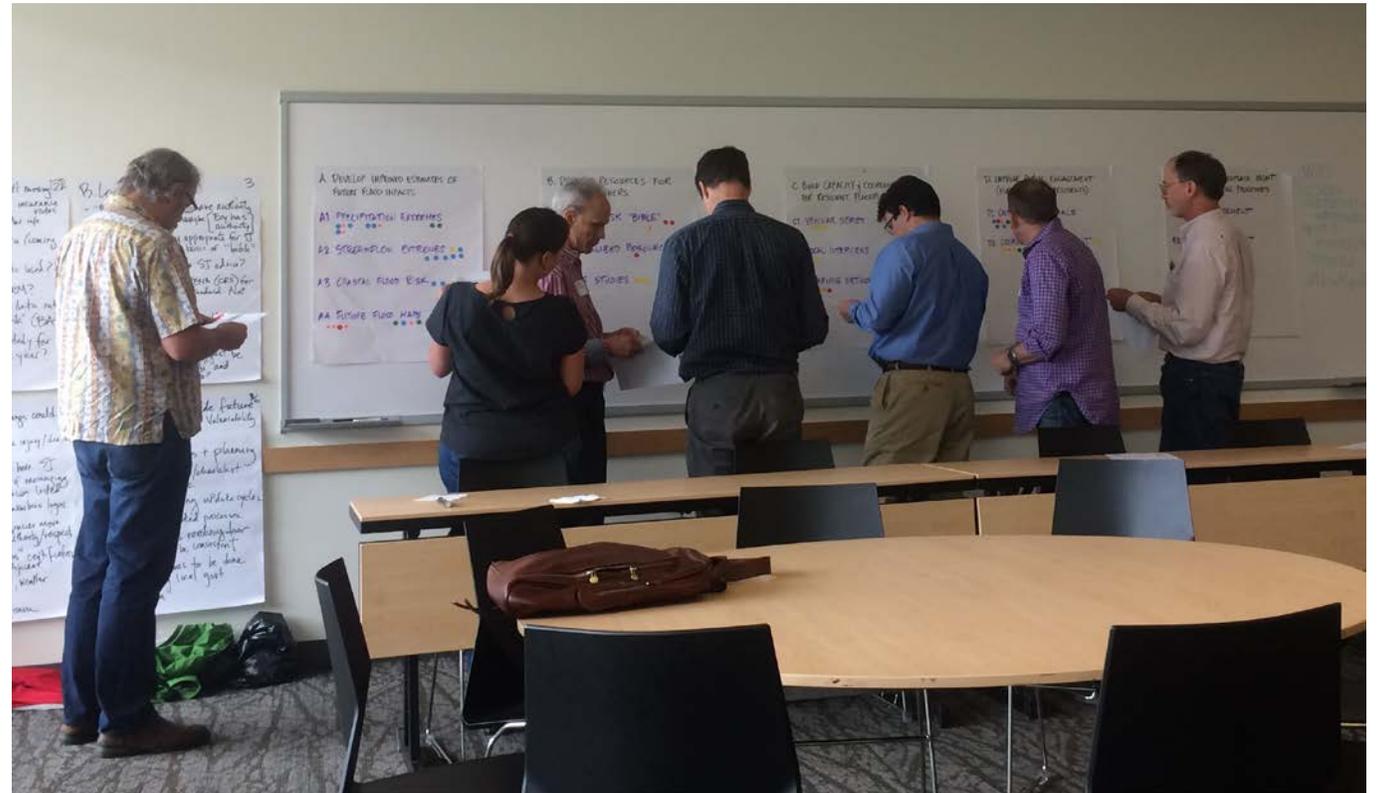


FEMA



Methods

- Semi-structured interviews
- Coding and memos (Atlas.ti)
- Work Plan draft
- Workshop:
 - Validation exercise
 - Prioritization



What did we learn from the interviews?

Strengths:

- Nexus for coordinated action
- Leverage strengths of each agency
- Excellent science resource
- Existing agency guidance on climate
- Passion and drive

Challenges and barriers:

- Flummoxed by uncertainty
- Gaps in Science
- Limited local capacity
- Actions sometimes contradict goals
- Coordination and Communication

Five Themes of the WA Silver Jackets Work Plan



(A) Develop improved estimates of future flood impacts

Estimating future flood impacts will allow agencies and communities to better understand, plan for, and manage their risks. Current information does not adequately portray risk.



(B) Develop resources for local planners

Local planners lack the tools and guidance needed to both communicate risk and plan effectively within the floodplain.



(C) Build capacity and coordination on resilient floodplain management

Improve coordination among the WA SJ Team, scientists, and local floodplain leaders, with the ultimate aim of cultivating a network for shared learning and information exchange.



(D) Improve public engagement

A public that is informed and cares about their flood risk will communicate that to local planners and elected officials. Specifically, these actions focus on outreach to city/county councils and homeowners/landowners/residents in flood-prone areas.



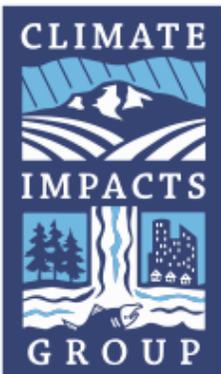
(E) Coordinate floodplain management goals and planning

Clearly articulated agency goals and better alignment among planning processes would free up capacity for local managers while also ensuring that floodplain management is applied consistently across programs.



(A) Develop improved estimates of future flood impacts

“If something is changing from what we have been expecting or used to expect, in order to get it right, our information is going to have to take that into account and portray that as well” (NWS 2017)





(B) Develop resources for local planners

“Community planners are doing so much. I’m just in awe of all the things they do. They can only do so much at one time. They can’t start making up their own programs. They really need guidance and someone with the informed opinion and a monetary reason why they should be doing these things” (ECY 2017)





(C) Build capacity and coordination

*"I want to engage with those people that are developing [climate models] and talk through it so that I really understand it and I'm not just communicating some bullet point that I read. That at this point is a barrier."
(NWS 2017)*



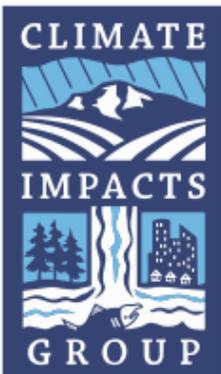
(D) Improve public engagement

“get some public information out there because there needs to be the public support instead of just rampant public opposition. [...] The city councils need to feel that they’re not going to just get lost when they start adopting higher regulatory standards.” (ECY 2017).

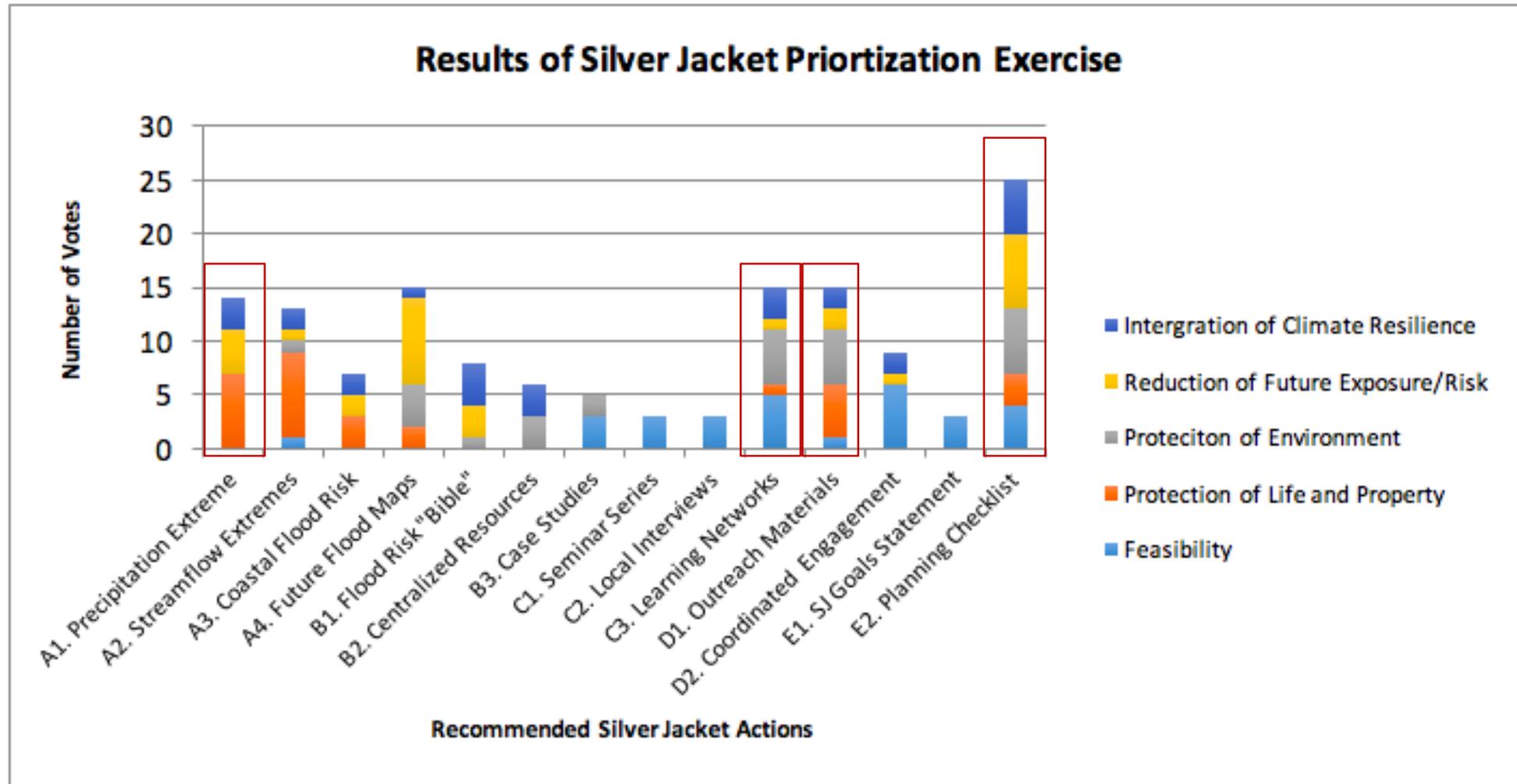


(E) Coordinate FRM goals and planning processes

“Strengthening partnerships and relationships with agencies that are on the cutting edge. We should be on the cutting edge. [...] We might have a piece of the puzzle, but no single agency is going to own the whole puzzle.” (EMD 2017)



Near-Term Priorities for the WA SJ



Scope & Vintage



King County via the Puget Sound Institute: <http://www.pugetsoundinstitute.org/tag/floodplains/>

Questions?

- Funding: FEMA CTP Grant
- Acknowledgements:
 - Washington Silver Jackets (WA SJ)
 - Travis Ball, WA SJ Lead
 - Abby Hook, workshop facilitator
 - Workshop volunteer note-takers:
 - Spencer Easton,
 - Harriet Morgan,
 - Ingrid Tohver

*Integrating Climate Resilience in Flood Risk Management:
A Work Plan for the Washington Silver Jackets Team*



Snoqualmie River Valley, Dec. 2010

Guillaume Mauger, UW Climate Impacts Group

Haley Kennard, UW School of Marine and Environmental Affairs

September 29, 2017



[doi:10.7915/CIG7MP4WZ](https://doi.org/10.7915/CIG7MP4WZ)