

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

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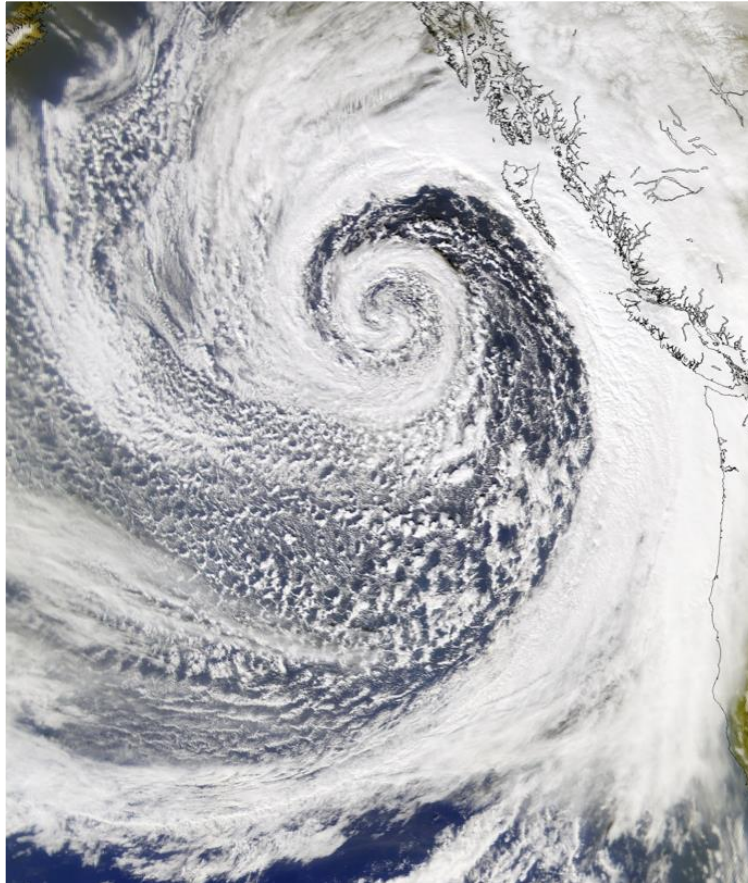
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Haley Kennard | School of Marine and Environmental Affairs  
University of Washington  
Northwest Climate Conference  
October 2017



# Climate Impacts on Flooding



**Sea Level Rise**



**Heavy Rains**



**Snowpack**



# Who are the Washington Silver Jackets?



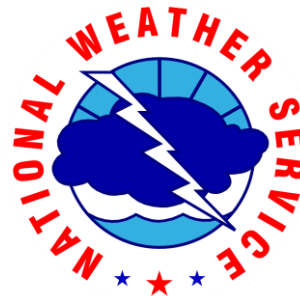
U.S. Army Corps  
of Engineers®



DEPARTMENT OF  
**ECOLOGY**  
State of Washington

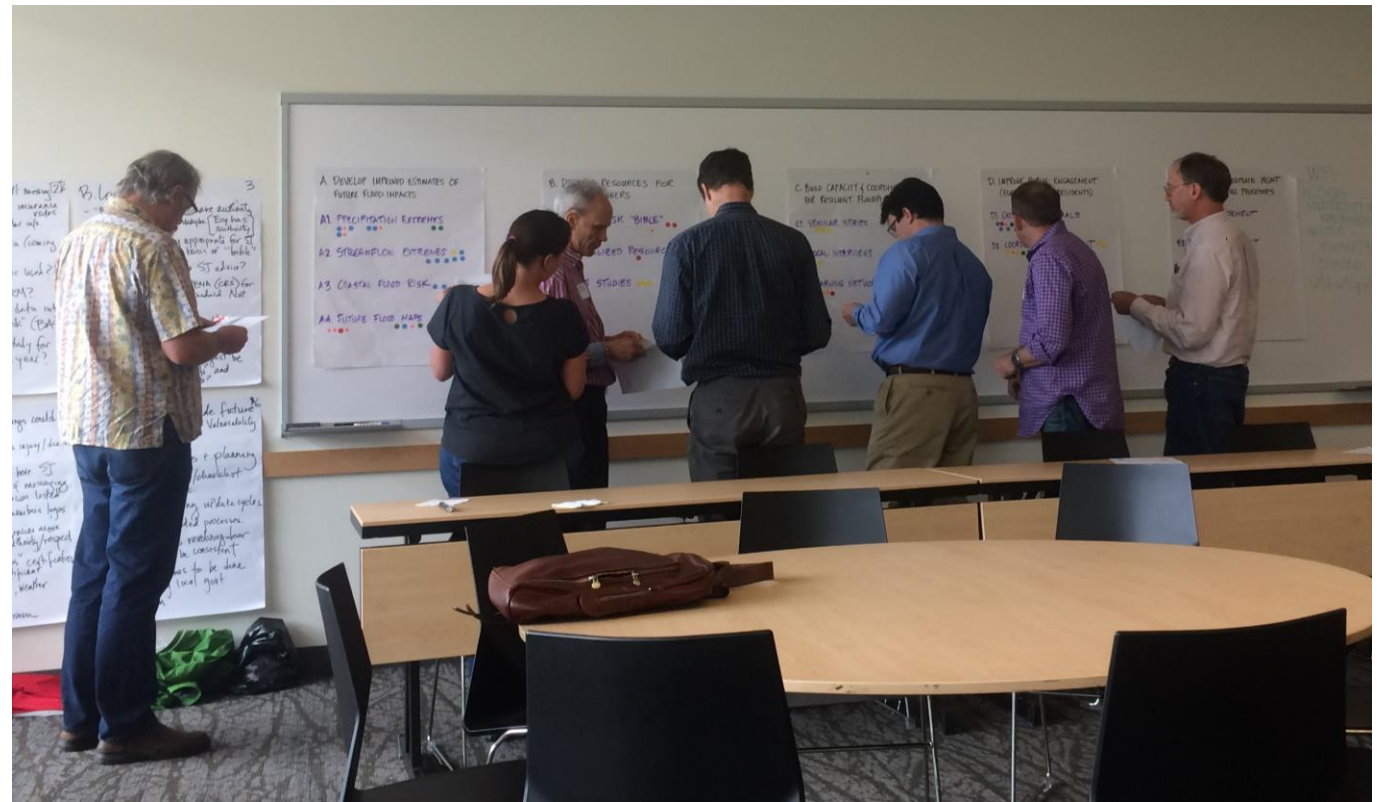


**FEMA**



# Methods

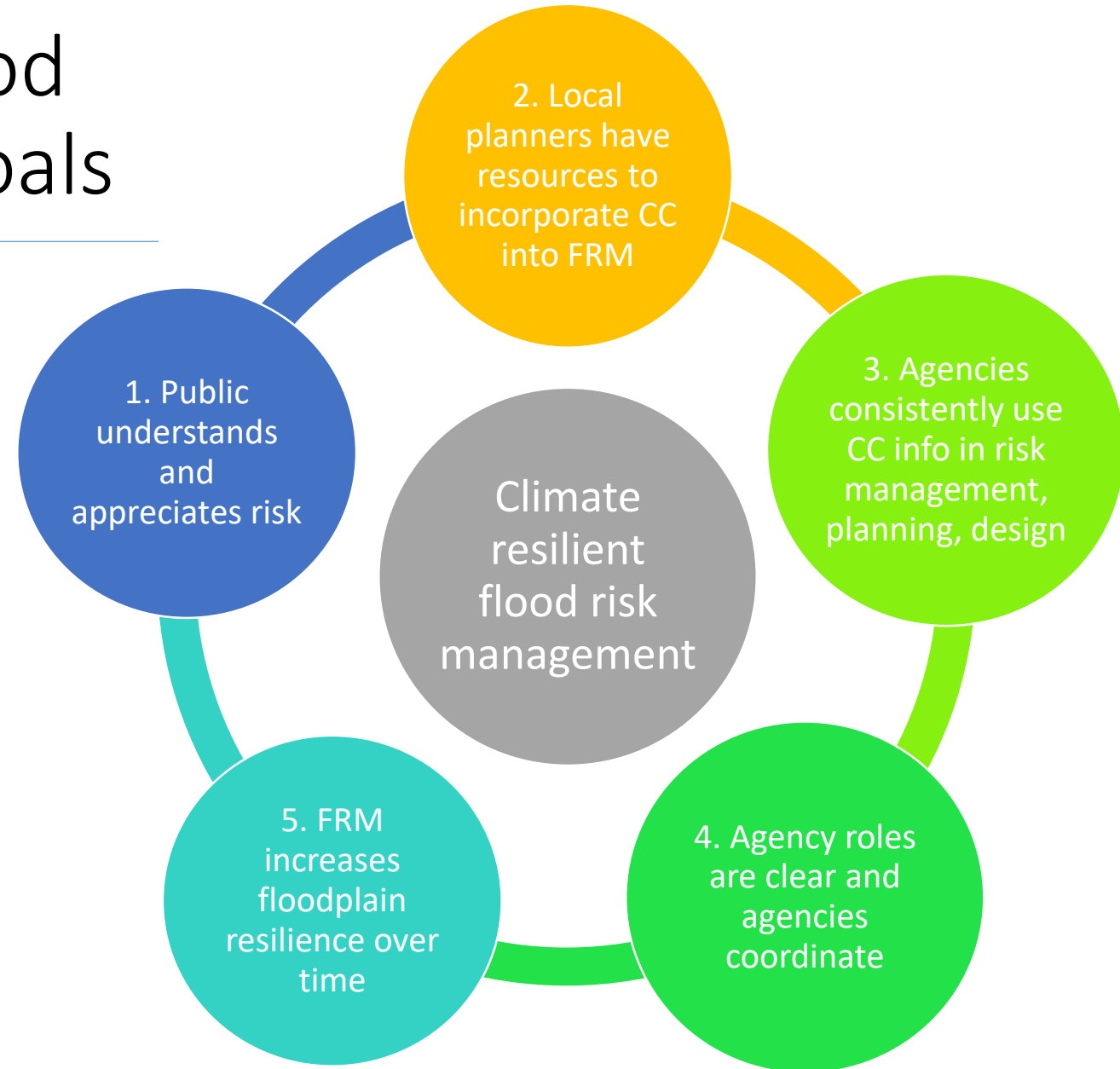
- Semi-structured interviews
- Coding and memos (Atlas.ti)
- Work Plan draft
- Workshop:
  - Validation exercise
  - Prioritization





# Climate Resilient Flood Risk Management Goals

*“structures are going to be under-designed and money is going to be overspent - without an eye for climate change”*  
(USACE 2017)



## A. Develop improved estimates of future flood impacts

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- *“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

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- *“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

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- *"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)*

Local  
Managers

Agencies

Coordin-  
ate



## D. Improve public engagement

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- *“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).*

Public

Local  
Managers

Coordin-  
ate

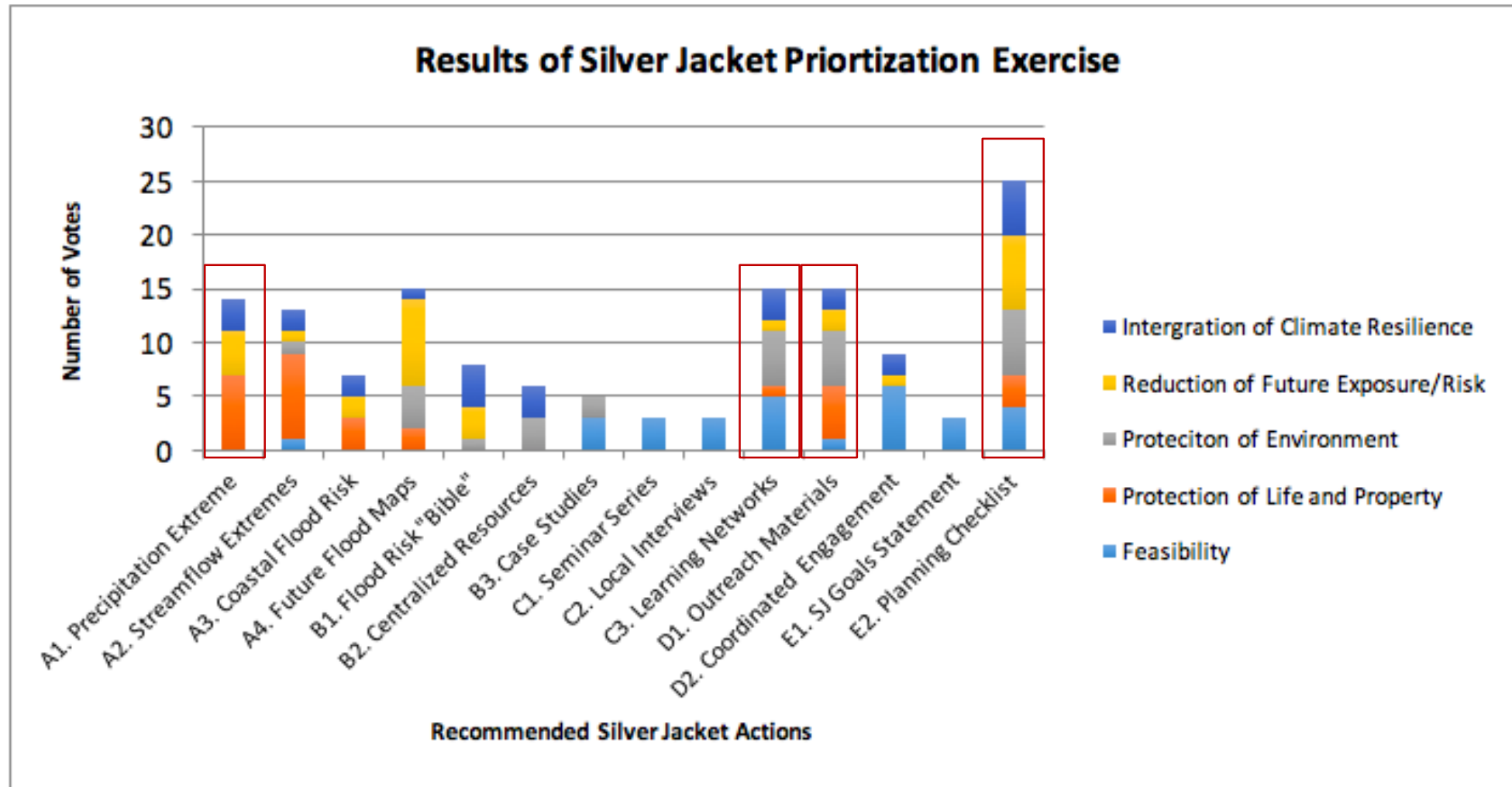
## E. Coordinate FRM goals and planning processes

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- *“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)*



# WA SJ Near-Term Priorities for Climate Action



# Resilience and Scale



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



# Questions?

- Acknowledgements:
  - WA SJ interviewees and workshop attendees
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