



JEFFERSON COUNTY

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

621 Sheridan Street • Port Townsend • Washington 98368
360/379-4450 • 360/379-4451 Fax
<http://www.co.jefferson.wa.us/commdevelopment/>

Why Plan For Flood Hazard Management?

Reducing flood damage to property and to public health and safety is a matter of public concern. Floods pose threats to public health and safety through:

- the loss or endangerment to human life;
- damage to homes;
- damage to public roads, highways, bridges, and utilities;
- interruption of travel, communication, and commerce;
- damage to private and public property;
- degradation of water quality;
- damage to fisheries, fish hatcheries, and fish habitat;
- harm to livestock;
- destruction or degradation of critical areas;
- erosion of soil, stream banks, and beds;
- and harmful accumulation of soil and debris in the beds of streams or other bodies of water and on public and private lands.



House damaged by Skykomish River flooding.

Many land uses alter the pattern of runoff by decreasing the ability of upstream lands to store water, thus increasing the rate of runoff and related downstream impacts. Reduction of flood damage therefore requires a comprehensive approach, incorporating storm water management and basin-wide flood damage prevention planning (RCW 86.12.200). Comprehensive flood hazard management planning identifies the specific causes and consequences of flooding and identifies pro-active strategies to reduce flood damage. Comprehensive planning also helps to reduce flood insurance rates for residents and helps secure more state and federal funding for local flood maintenance projects.