



## Using FEMA's Community Rating System to Enhance Floodplain Management and Save Money

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## Overview

- NFIP Background
- CRS Overview
- Barnstable County & the CRS
- How You Can Contribute & Benefit

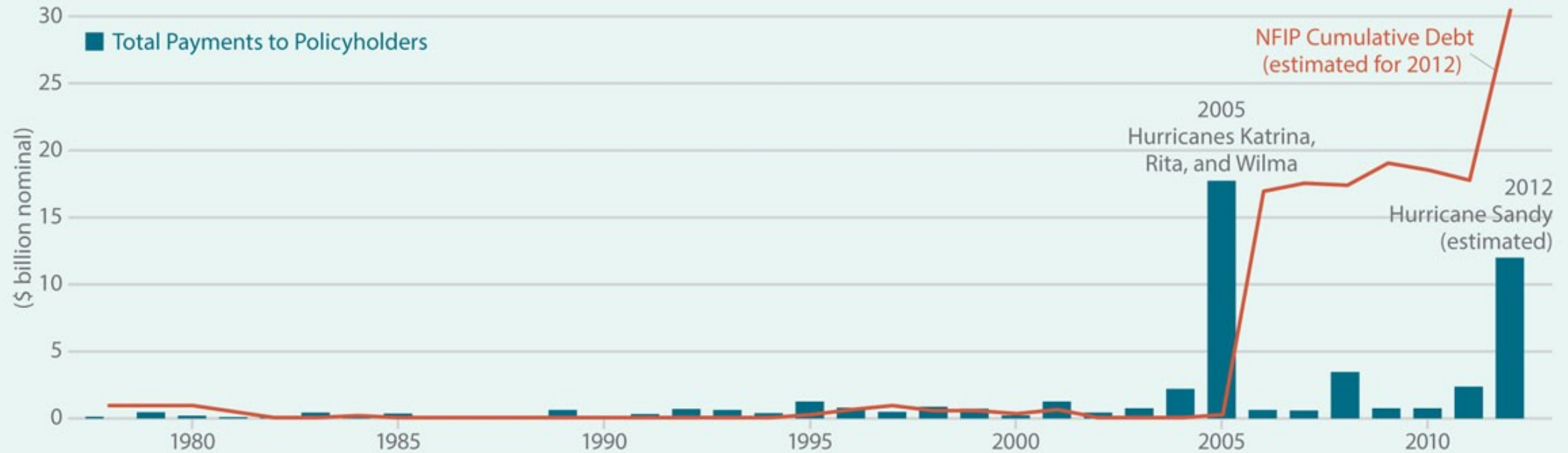
# National Flood Insurance Program Background

# National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

- Created in 1968
- Flood insurance is required if located in high-risk flood zone with federally-backed mortgage
- Subsidies for structures built before town's first flood map became effective
  - Very generally, subsidies  $\approx$  50% of true cost
- Major flood events: Katrina & Sandy

- Subsidies and major flood events = **\$24 billion in debt**  
to the Federal Treasury and federal taxpayers

# National Flood Insurance Program Debt Grows



Sources: FEMA 2013a; estimate for 2012 NFIP payments for Hurricane Sandy from King 2013; estimate for 2012 NFIP debt based on its borrowing limit of \$30.4 billion set by the Hurricane Sandy Relief Act.



# Recent Reforms: Get the NFIP out of Debt

## Biggert-Waters (BW-12)

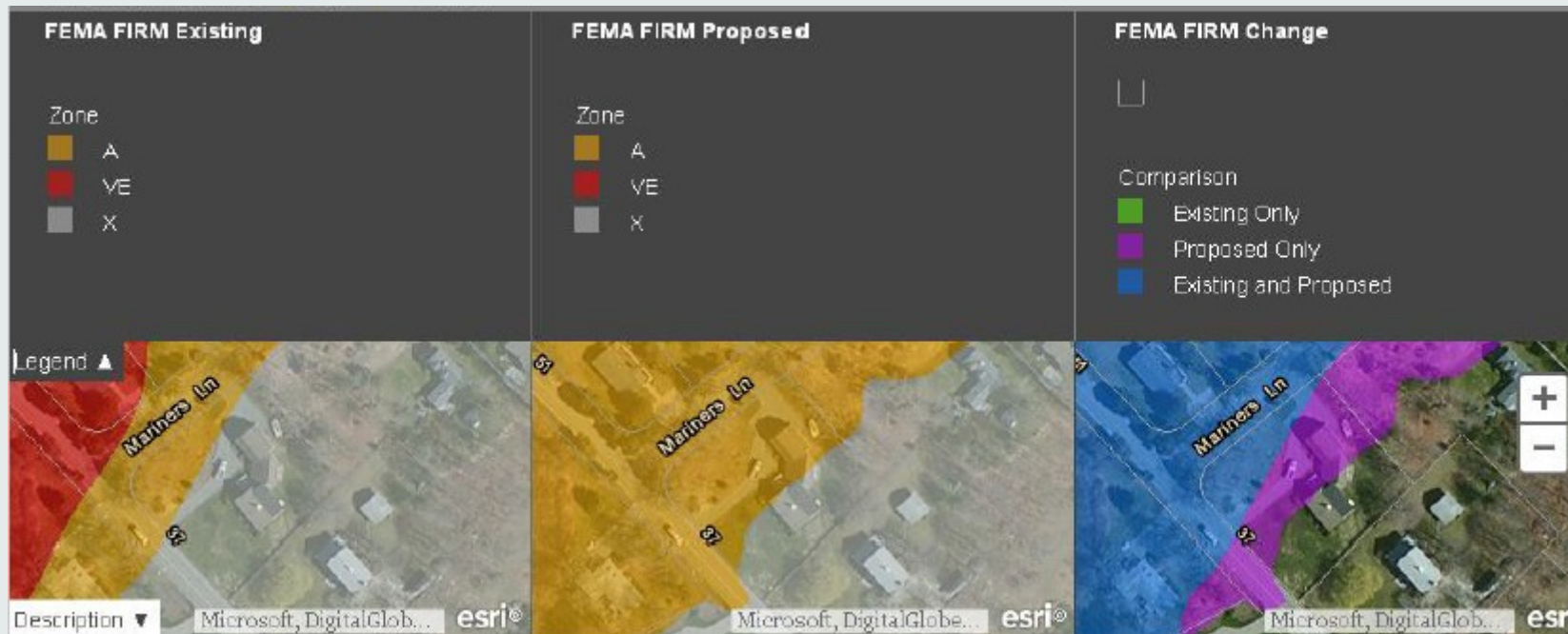
- 25% rate increases for all subsidized policyholders
- Immediate full-cost rate upon sale of home or lapse in policy
- Creates Reserve Fund & surcharge
- Onus on subsidized policyholders to pay fair share; new costs for non-subsidized minimal

## Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act (HFIAA)

- Reformed BW-12
- Slowed down rate of increase for subsidized **primary** homeowners
- Maintained rate of increase for subsidized **second homes and businesses**, AND added \$250 surcharge for these properties
- Added HFIAA fee and increased Reserve Fund fee for **ALL policyholders**

# New Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) = Double Whammy

- Whole East Coast getting new flood maps (Cape Cod's maps became effective July 16, 2014)
- New maps expand flood zone → more people are required to pay flood insurance, at annually increasing rates



Source:  
[http://cccommission.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Compare/storytelling\\_compare/index.html?appid=e16623f58d784cf585bb3e1946f42fae](http://cccommission.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Compare/storytelling_compare/index.html?appid=e16623f58d784cf585bb3e1946f42fae)

# CRS Overview



# The Community Rating System (CRS)

- Voluntary NFIP program that offers discounts on flood insurance in exchange for actions that reduce flood risk within a community
- Incentivizes resilience, alleviates increasing flood insurance costs, makes town and residents safer from flooding
- Towns participate in the program

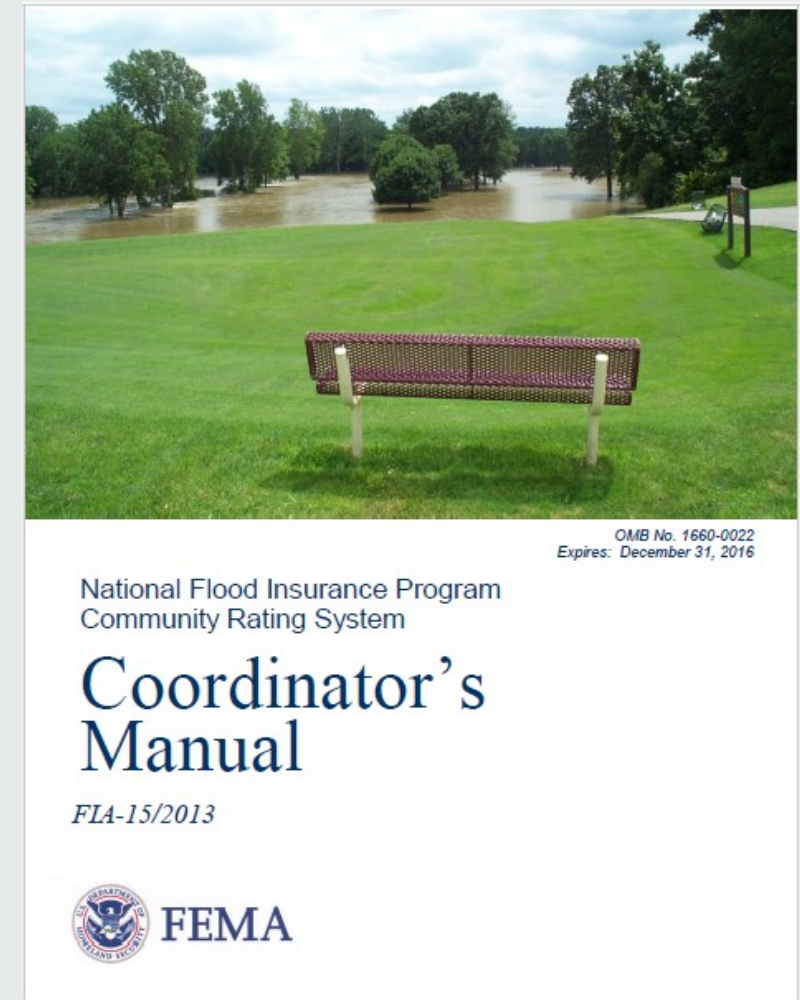


# CRS Rating Table

Class	Points	Premium Discount
10	0-499	0%
9	500-999	5%
8	1000-1499	10%
7	1500-1999	15%
6	2000-2499	20%
5	2500-2999	25%
4	3000-3499	30%
3	3500-3999	35%
2	4000-4499	40%
1	4500+	45%

# CRS Activity Categories

- **Public Information**
  - Newsletters, brochures, presentations, reading flood maps
- **Mapping and Regulations**
  - Open space preservation, stormwater management regulations
- **Flood Damage Reduction**
  - Acquisition/relocation, mitigation, hazard mitigation planning
- **Warning and Response**
  - Flood emergency response and warnings

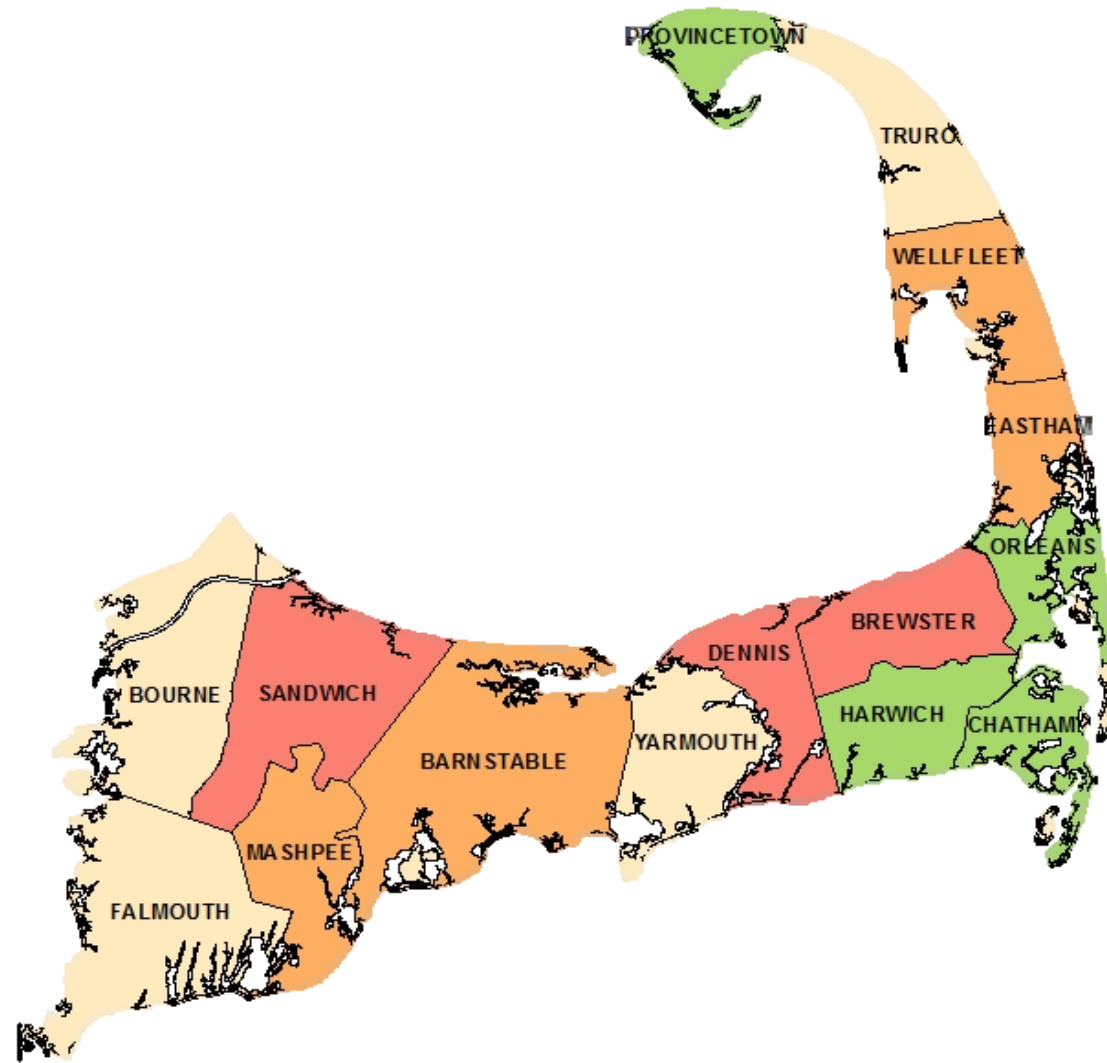


# Barnstable County and the CRS

# Barnstable Co

## Legend

- Current CRS 1
- Application in
- Ready to Begi
- Not in CRS Pr



	Total Policy Count	CRS Policy Count	Savings 2015	
			Class 7 (15%)	Average per Policy
Barnstable	1241	680	\$ 197,944	\$ 291
Bourne	1152	959	\$ 328,830	\$ 343
Brewster	111	23	\$ 6,029	\$ 262
Chatham	528	225	\$ 59,573	\$ 265
Dennis	1593	818	\$ 181,029	\$ 221
Eastham	224	72	\$ 25,685	\$ 357
Falmouth	2504	1696	\$ 560,695	\$ 331
Harwich	760	410	\$ 82,998	\$ 202
Mashpee	664	404	\$ 94,037	\$ 233
Orleans	261	103	\$ 31,307	\$ 304
Provincetown	1095	743	\$ 148,797	\$ 200
Sandwich	449	249	\$ 92,043	\$ 370
Truro	330	243	\$ 47,682	\$ 196
Wellfleet	241	118	\$ 30,996	\$ 263
Yarmouth	1586	1002	\$ 285,302	\$ 285
Total	12739	7745	\$2,172,946	\$ 275



# How You Can Contribute and Benefit

# Contribute: Activity Examples

- **Open space preservation in floodplain**
- Acquisition/relocation/demolition of floodprone structures
- Elevating buildings or adding flood vents
- Maintaining stormwater system to reduce flooding from backups
- Improving capacity of stormwater systems (e.g. enlarged culverts)
- Ensuring prospective real estate buyers are aware of flood risk
- Hosting flood information in the local library/CLAMS

- Install/maintain elevation benchmarks
- Emergency warning and response
- Become a CFM (town employee)
- Protecting, creating, and restoring wetlands
- Public outreach to increase flood awareness, especially in floodprone areas
- Interpreting flood maps to help public understand flood risk
- And many more!



# Examples: Contribute from Outside the Town

- Additional public outreach: Barnstable County/Cape Cod Cooperative Extension and AmeriCorps, local hosts for presentations (e.g. Waquoit Bay NERR)
- Hazard Mitigation Plans: Cape Cod Commission
- Stormwater system maintenance: Cape Cod Mosquito Control
- Geographic Information Systems/mapping projects: Towns, Cape Cod Commission, Cape Cod Cooperative Extension
- Open Space Preservation: Land conservation groups

# Benefits

- Saves money!
- CRS creates incentives to take on smart floodplain management actions that you may be interested in pursuing for other reasons
- Improves coordination
- Participation in CRS User Group
- Become a Certified Floodplain Manager® (CFM)

Interest in CRS/Floodplain User Group,  
basic CFM training, and CFM exam?

# Questions?

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# Minimum CRS Requirements

- 500 credit points
- Join & participate in NFIP for 1 year
- Full compliance with minimum NFIP regs
- Maintain elevation certificates (new construction)
- Meet repetitive loss criteria: info gathering, mapping, outreach, mitigation plan (part of hazard plan)
- Flood insurance for town-owned property in SFHA (only where required because of federal financial involvement)
- Show LiMWA line on new FIRMs