

Top 22 Things You Need To Know About The New CRS

1. Why all these changes? Verification concerns from FEMA / Congress.
 - 1.) Need to make sure credits are earned. Need to make sure your Class is correct. There is now \$300 million in CRS discounts. Let's make sure they are earned appropriately and nothing is being given away.
 - 2.) We discovered new or better ways of doing things and re-evaluated what's most effective in good floodplain management. We want to make sure the proper credits were given to the right Activities and we want to incent certain Activities that we know work and will lead to better floodplain management.
2. Review your ECs very carefully, they are scored on correctness now. Plus the points have decreased.
3. Start keeping a permit list, by year, of all floodplain permits issued clearly identifying which permits required an EC. This list along with the "Finished Construction" ECs must be submitted to Specialist 1 month ahead of the visit.
4. Activity 540 CDR now requires an inventory of all components in your open channel drainage system along with a corresponding map. This list and map must be submitted 1 month ahead of the visit. 540 also requires a CC-EHP form now saying you maintain your drainage system in accordance with all federal, state and local permits/laws.
5. Calculate your Open Space as completely as possible now. No more 5 acres = 5% of the credit. Also, this Activity is now worth up to 1,450 pts.
6. "Default" credits are now "Optional Minimums". Pretty much 10% for those Activities affected.
7. You will likely lose points in the 300 Series. Everything except for 360 has reduced points.
8. You may lose points for 630 SDS. Was 57 pts., will now be 30 or 0. You now must be affected by a high hazard dam and be able to produce an inundation map showing this or correspondence from the State's Dam Safety office saying your community is affected.
9. Outreach needs to be thought about differently now. Think messages, audiences and how often the outreach is done along with keeping the information basic. Other credits for Stakeholders and Flood Response Preparation now available.

10. Website criteria is much different. Publicize CRS services, website format, more detail than regular outreach.
11. Activity 510 is different.
12. Basic buyout credit (Activity 520) has been reduced by 41%. But you do get a bonus now for buying out more than 30% of your SFHA buildings (5pts. for every 1% you are over 30%, up to 350 pts.). Critical Facilities now counted 2x for credit.
13. 320 Publicity and logs will be different. You will need to update your publicity language and documentation records to fit exactly what you're getting credit for.
14. That PPI thing. 40% multiplier. Credits can extend to 340DFH/REB, 350 WEB, 360 PPA/PPV, 420 NFOS5, & 540 SDR. Committee needed, half must be outside local government.
15. More emphasis on permit records for verification.
16. Field Verification is more for 420, 450, 520, 530 & 540.
17. Rep Loss requirements are the same.
18. There is a new Activity (370). It rewards you for promoting flood insurance in your community. Insurance detail is needed – FEMA is coming up with some guidance to their Regions on how to best handle requests from communities.
19. Most communities in Illinois will lose points in Activity 410 (Mapping). Credits were reduced.
20. Recertifications. Before you get verified under the new Manual, your recertification requirements stay the same. After you are verified under the new Manual, you will then have to submit the PDT, all ECs and a permit list, in addition to all the normal things you had to submit.
21. Class 4 Prerequisites have increased. See pages 210-4 through 210-6 of the Coordinator's Manual.
22. 610 FWR Plans now have to include a map with 3 flood action levels. Make sure you are doing annual reviews and exercises.