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Leveraging CRS for Climate Adaptation

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Southeast & Caribbean Climate Community of Practice

Sea Grant Georgia

Carl Vinson Institute of Government
The University of Georgia

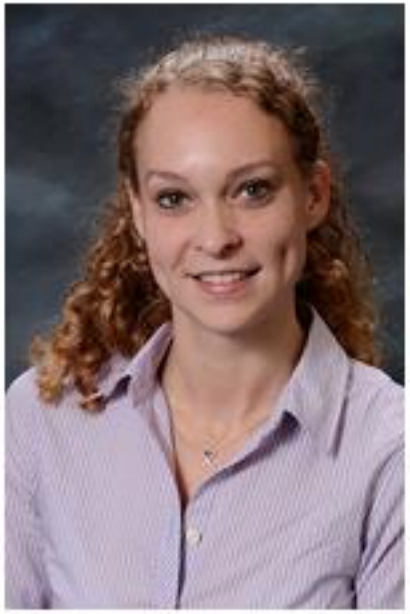
Agenda

CRS & Sea Level Rise

Leveraging Existing CRS Activities for Adaptation

CRS Barriers: Acquisition on Islands/Hazard Mitigation Funds

CRS & Sea Level Rise: A Quick Overview



Hunter Jones, a third-year law student at the University of Georgia School of Law, is preparing policy memos focusing on the participation of coastal Georgia cities and counties in the Community Rating System (CRS), a federal program incentivizing communities to take steps to reduce their flood risk. Jones has focused her legal studies on environmental law and is interested in a career in environmental policy. She served as co-chair of the 2015 Red Clay Conference, an environmental law conference at the UGA School of Law.

Georgia Sea Grant Law Fellow Program

Sea Grant Georgia

CRS: A Quick Overview

300 Series: Public Information

Elevation certificates, outreach, hazard disclosure

400 Series: Mapping and Regulations

Open space preservation, stormwater management

500 Series: Flood Damage Reduction

Acquisition/relocation, floodplain management planning

600 Series: Warning and Response

Flood warning and response, dams, levees

CRS & Sea Level Rise: A Quick Overview

*In 2013, Section 110-15 of the Manual listed credits "for community efforts to **anticipate the future** insofar as it relates to flood risk and natural floodplain functions, and to take actions that can mitigate any adverse impacts that could materialize."*

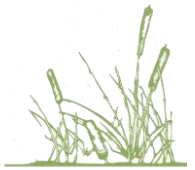
This is a good first step for policy. BUT the credits possible are less robust than first appears – focus on other activities already in the Manual are likely to do more for adaptation purposes AND generate more credits.

Category	Measure	Maximum credits available
Public Information Activities (Series 300)	**Map Information Service**: provide inquirers with information about local flood hazard and about flood-prone areas that are predicted to be susceptible to flooding in the future because of sea level rise.	20 pts.
	Hazard Disclosure: real estate agents disclose to prospective buyers a property's potential flood due to sea level rise.	8 pts.
Mapping and Regulation (Series 400)	**Program Prerequisite**: community must demonstrate that it has programs which minimizes increases in future flooding	Prerequisite to become a Class 4 or better community
	Program Prerequisite: community is using regulatory flood elevations in the V and coastal A zones that reflect future conditions, including sea level rise	Prerequisite to become a Class 1 or better community
	Floodplain Mapping: based on future-conditions hydrology, provided that the community's floodplain development regulations use base flood elevations based on future. When on the coast, a community must use an estimate of the sea level rise anticipated by the year 2100 or later. Credit: must regulate to these higher levels.	160 pts.
	Stormwater: if a community's stormwater program regulates runoff from future development. Must regulate runoff from a 10-year storm or larger. Must be legally enforceable.	380 pts.
	Stormwater: community's Watershed Master Plan manages future peak flows so that they do not exceed present values	315 pts.
Flood Damage Reduction Activities (Series 500)	**Floodplain Management Planning:** flood hazard assessment and problem analysis address areas likely to flood and flood problems that are likely to get worse in the future Step 4: requires community planners to collect and summarize data on what is at risk Step 5: requires community planners to collect and summarize data on what is at risk	Step 4: 35 pts. Step 5: 52 pts.
		Total credits available:

Mapping and Regulation (Series 400)	Floodplain Mapping: based on future-conditions hydrology, provided that the community's floodplain development regulations use base flood elevations based on future. When on the coast, a community must use an estimate of the sea level rise anticipated by the year 2100 or later. Credit: must regulate to these higher levels.	160 pts.

- Relevant to SLR is the requirement to use "future conditions hydrology" – flood discharges associated with a fully developed watershed without consideration of projected flood detention structures.
- Must estimate SLR by 2100.
- Study used must be developed by FEMA, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Geological Survey, NOAA, or through a regional study that produced higher base flood elevations.
- Must regulate to these higher levels.

432.b) of the Manual. A community that enforces a 3-foot freeboard requirement to the elevation of the lowest floor of the building or to the elevation to which a non-residential building is dry floodproofed, and to all components of the building, is eligible to earn up to 500 credits.



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CRS and Sea Level Rise: Leveraging Existing Activities for Adaptation

- Open space planning tools (cluster development, low-density zoning, land preservation tax credits)
- Open space preservation
  Acquisition/relocation
- Local ordinances (freeboard, regulations, limiting development in floodplain)
- Building mitigation
- Stormwater Management
- Structural flood control
- Dune protection
- Beach nourishment
- Wetland protection, creation, and restoration