

## CONSIDER A CAREER IN FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT

Want a challenging career that is in demand? Floodplain management is an emerging career option to consider. Few fields cover a broader range of disciplines. A floodplain manager is required to deal with elected officials and Federal, state, and local agencies, perform flood risk analyses, communicate effectively with individuals, small groups, and large groups. In the U.S. more than 22,000 communities participate in the National Flood Insurance Program and by Federal law each one must designate a floodplain administrator. There are currently fewer than 9,000 Certified Floodplain Managers in the U.S.

Do you have a specific region where you would like to work? Everywhere floods, even the driest place in the country (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Photo taken in Death Valley (Western)



Figure 2. Photo of University of Washington students inspecting a "Green" levee.

A recent study estimated that world-wide flood losses would reach \$1T per year by 2050. Hurricane Katrina cost more than \$100B in damage alone. The figure does not include economic losses to businesses lost tax revenues, or job losses caused by the storm. About 40 percent of the U.S. population lives in coastal counties and population growth there is 3 times the national average. More and more people are moving into harm's way and adding infrastructure to these high risk areas. Global warming is increasing the risk to coastal communities. Mitigating flood risks makes communities more resilient and attractive to residents and businesses. (Figure 2) The floodplain manager is the first line of defense against bad development

decisions.

### Where can you get the education and training to enter this exciting field?

- Western Kentucky University offers a Bachelors of Interdisciplinary Studies degree with Concentration in Floodplain Management. For more information contact Warren Campbell at [warren.campbell@wku.edu](mailto:warren.campbell@wku.edu)
- The University of Washington in Seattle offers a Master's degree in Infrastructure Planning and Management with a Floodplain Management Degree Option. The program is a hybrid distant learning program and the majority of the courses taken online with the exception of 2 summer Seattle based resident sessions. <http://www.infrastructure-management.uw.edu/overview/floodplain/>. For more information contact Bob Freitag at [bfreitag@uw.edu](mailto:bfreitag@uw.edu).

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“The great thing about working in floodplain management is that every day, I know I am helping people.”