



Facts About the North Carolina CTS Flood Mapping Program Lumber River Basin Plan

North Carolina faces extreme hazard and consequence from hurricanes and flooding. Since 1989, there have been 14 federally declared disasters in the State. North Carolina's vulnerability to hurricanes and devastating flooding makes it crucial that communities and property owners have accurate, up-to-date information about flooding risks.

North Carolina, through the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Cooperating Technical Community partnership initiative, has been designated as the first Cooperating Technical State (CTS). As a CTS, the State will assume primary ownership and responsibility of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Flood Insurance Rate Maps for all North Carolina communities.

Why is North Carolina Undertaking the Flood Mapping Program?

- Hurricane Floyd revealed flood hazard data and map limitations;
- Approximately 55% of North Carolina Flood Maps are at least 10 years old;
- Roughly 75% of North Carolina Flood Maps are at least five years old;
- Federal flood mapping budgets are finite; on average, the state only receives an updated flood study for one county per year;
- Most counties have indicated that they do not have the resources to take on this responsibility.

Flood Mapping Program Funding

- In August 2000, the North Carolina General Assembly allocated \$23 million to the Program;
- FEMA has contributed an additional \$5.3 million toward the Program; and
- Also, FEMA has contributed in-kind technical assistance such as engineering, mapping and program management services.

Program Benefits

- Updated flood hazard data will provide current, accurate information for communities and property owners to make proper siting and design decisions;
- The use of updated data will dramatically reduce long-term flood losses to local communities;
- New flood information will alert those at risk of flooding of the need to purchase flood insurance;
- A digital Information System will allow online access to all map users 24 hours a day without requiring sophisticated software;
- Up-to-date base maps along with the digital format will allow users to make more efficient and accurate flood risk determinations.

Scoping Phase for the Lumber River Basin

The State has worked closely with FEMA and FEMA's Mapping Coordination Contractor, Dewberry & Davis LLC, to complete the initial planning (scoping) phase for the Lumber River Basin counties and communities in the Fall of 2000. The scoping activities included:

- Researching and inventorying available elevation, flood hazards, and digital base map data that may be useful for preparing updated digital flood maps;
- Assessing existing flood hazard data on current flood maps for adequacy;
- Working with communities to determine their specific needs with regards to updated maps;
- Identifying data that needs to be developed or acquired to accurately update flood maps;
- Determining the proposed scales, paneling scheme, and format for digital flood map production;
- Developing a schedule for completion of updated flood hazard data and digital map production.

Proposed Mapping Activities

The tables below summarize the proposed studies for the Lumber Basin. Those areas not being studied in detail will either be redelineated using existing flood elevations and new topography, or restudied using approximate methods and new topography.

Summary of Flooding Sources Proposed to be Studied in Detail

County	Flooding Sources	Approx. Length (miles)
Bladen	Portions of: Lateral # 7	1 (riverine)
Brunswick	Portions of: Calabash River, Doe Creek, Goose Creek, Jinny's Branch, Lockwood Folly River, Mercers Mill Pond, Mill Pond, Mulberry Branch, Nucitt Branch, Pamlico Creek, Scotts Branch, Shallotte River, Sharon Creek, Williams Branch, and the Atlantic Ocean	59 (riverine) 14 (coastal)
Columbus	Portions of: Big Creek, Bogue Swamp, Creek Branch, Canal Cove, Lake Waccamaw, Mollies Branch, Pine Log Swamp, Soules Swamp, and White Marsh	54 (riverine)
Moore	Portions of: Aberdeen Creek and Tributary, Jackson Creek and unnamed tributaries	9 (riverine)
Robeson	Portions of: Dunns Marsh and unnamed tributaries, Lumber River, and Pittman Mill Branch	19 (riverine)
Scotland	Portions of: Gum Swamp Creek, and Leith Creek	17 (riverine)
Total		173

Summary of Study Methods for the Lumber River Basin

Study Method	Estimated Linear Miles		
	Effective	Community Recommendations	Draft Basin Plan
Detailed Study (Riverine)	283	161	160
Detailed Study (Coastal)	40	8	14
Approximate	1,550	246	1,432
Redelineation (Riverine)	NA	56	241
Redelineation (Coastal)	NA	14	26

What's Next for the Lumber River Basin?

After the final scoping meeting, the Basin Plan may be revised based upon comments received by communities and citizens and then finalized. Notification will be distributed to all impacted counties and communities with a written description and explanation of any changes made from the Draft Basin Plan.