



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Floodplain Management Offices

Through Mapping Activity Statements (MASs) negotiated with FEMA each fiscal year, the State of Georgia has taken on increased responsibility for the production of Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMs). In fact, the State has assumed end-to-end responsibility for Flood Map Modernization within Georgia, encompassing outreach, scoping, production, technical data review, DFIRM development, post-preliminary processing, map adoption, and ordinance review. Georgia has one of the highest numbers of counties in the nation and is the largest state east of the Mississippi, so specialized techniques are required to scope flood map production.

Complete Story (link)

In an effort to make flood map scoping an efficient process for Georgia, the State has developed a special regionally-based scoping process, calling on the resources of the sixteen Regional Development Centers (RDCs) in the State. The process began with the State revising their business plan to reorganize the remaining production of DFIRMs for all counties in the State by RDC to more effectively group counties for both scoping and production. In addition to scoping flood map production by RDC, the State is also producing the flood maps on the same basis, resulting in substantial savings and improved coordination between contiguous countywide projects.

In Georgia, a hybrid system has been adopted for flood map scoping and production. The critical difference between this scheme and other commonly practiced hybrid schemes is the size of the area to be studied. In the Georgia scheme, the unit of study is the RDC, a grouping of about ten counties on average, ranging from five to seventeen counties. The RDC-based study scheme encompasses a size of study comparable to the watershed-based scheme, but is defined by political units. The RDC-based scheme naturally encompasses significant lengths of major river systems, entire watersheds of moderate to large size, and well-defined political units all connected by a common thread, the RDC. RDC-based scoping meetings also save travel time and costs because the State can hold regional scoping meetings rather than visiting each individual community.

Georgia developed State-specific technical standards and processes for the presentation of future conditions floodplain mapping and limited detail studies on DFIRMs. Additionally, continuous profiles along rivers and streams will be able to be produced using this floodplain map scoping and production method, while also reducing cost and increasing quality control. In less than three years as a Mapping State, Georgia has delivered sixteen new countywide DFIRMs, with an additional ten counties to be delivered this summer. Additionally, the State achieved up to 50 percent reductions in per-panel production costs while still providing limited detail studies and redelineations in most counties.