



CTP Success Story, North Carolina Floodplain Mapping Program

On September 5, 2008, the North Carolina Floodplain Mapping Program (NCFMP) issued preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) to its 100th county, Ashe County, completing the first pass at providing new, improved flood hazard data to the entire State. North Carolina (NC) has 100 counties and one Indian Reservation. Since the start of FEMA's Cooperating Technical State initiative and the NC Floodplain Mapping Program in 2000, the State has developed new hydraulic studies, both detailed and limited detail studies for 28,778 miles of stream in all 100 counties and the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indian Nation. The State released the last NC county (the 100th) preliminary on September 5, 2008. So, in the eight years since the start of the CTP participation, NC has acquired a Statewide LiDAR coverage (~34 million acres), replaced all un-numbered A zones with hydraulic studies (~17,000 miles) and AE zones with Base Flood Elevations (BFE), flown aerial photography to use as a digital FIRM base for 25 counties, received and began Letter of Map Change (LOMC) processing delegation for which the State received 143 cases and has issued/completed 101 cases to date.

Since 2000 when the NCFMP signed an agreement with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and became the first Cooperating Technical State (CTS) in the nation, the program has studied 28,778 miles of streams and coastline, has issued over 10,000 FIRM panels preliminary to 100 counties, has issued 84 MT-2 LOMCs, has initiated a storm surge restudy for the entire North Carolina coastline, and has collected LIDAR topographic data statewide. A major goal of the NCFMP was to remove as many of the approximate Zone A areas that existed on the previous effective maps as possible. Now, over 17,000 miles of stream have BFEs that previously did not.

The NCFMP partnered with other federal and State agencies to succeed in their mission to provide seamless statewide mapping using the most up-to-date data available. Being the first entity to attempt statewide mapping (data does not stop at the county boundary on the panel, the contiguous county and its data is shown) meant the NCFMP had to be innovators in nearly all aspects of producing a Flood Insurance Study from scoping all the way through to effective issuance.

The level of commitment that the NCFMP has to improving the data that is available to the communities and citizens of North Carolina is unparalleled. The NCFMP will again be innovators in the field of floodplain mapping as it enters the map maintenance phase.