



NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

The Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NDNR) Floodplain Division is responsible for a non-structural program of floodplain management which includes delineating floodplains and providing technical assistance regarding floodplain management to local units of government. With these responsibilities in mind, NDNR partnered with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to work towards the common goal of providing floodplain mapping information and assistance. A Cooperating Technical Partners (CTP) partnership agreement was signed on August 19, 1999. Under the CTP agreement, NDNR aligned the state's floodplain programs with FEMA's programs and increased our efforts to build and improve our state floodplain management capabilities. In doing so, we have developed a knowledgeable floodplain team composed of engineers, floodplain management specialists, flood mitigation planners, GIS professionals, and an education & outreach specialist.

One of the main objectives of the CTP Program is to create Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRM). To assist with effort, NDNR developed and utilizes a GIS tool named N-FACT (Nebraska Flood Analyses Calculating Tool), which was designed to map Zone A floodplains for large rural unmapped areas in Nebraska. With this tool, our floodplain mapping team is delineating the 1% annual-chance-floodplain at a rate of approximately 5 stream miles per hour while producing most of the information necessary for FEMA's DFIRM product at the same time. This tool has been shared with other local, state and federal agencies. In addition, it was provided to State of Iowa for its evaluation when selecting mapping techniques. The N-FACT process has been coordinated with FEMA and the tool is being upgraded to run on the latest ArcGIS platform under a CTP program management grant. With the assistance of FEMA's CTP program, Nebraska now has 49 counties with DFIRMs and several more in preliminary phases.

However, this partnership is about more than just mapping. In 2006, NDNR developed an informative DVD for local officials, *Staying High and Dry: Floodplain Mapping, Management, and Map Adoption in Nebraska*. This DVD won the ASFPM's Tom Lee State Award for Excellence in 2007. NDNR developed second video in 2008 entitled *When the River Rises* to promote the local floodplain administrator's role in development planning.

More recently, NDNR used the floodplain team's capabilities coupled with other NDNR agency resources to complete the Coordinated Needs Management Strategy (CNMS) project in-house. NDNR's long history of floodplain management, extensive data library, and personal knowledge of Nebraska's flood history added an extra dimension to the CNMS products. This information will significantly improve our ability to accurately identify flood risk and potential mapping needs.

As FEMA transitions into the Risk MAP program, NDNR's capabilities will continue to evolve by developing Risk MAP products and using them to communicate risk to stakeholders, enhancing

our partnership with FEMA under the CTP agreement. We look forward to continuing our partnership with FEMA and producing more CTP success stories.