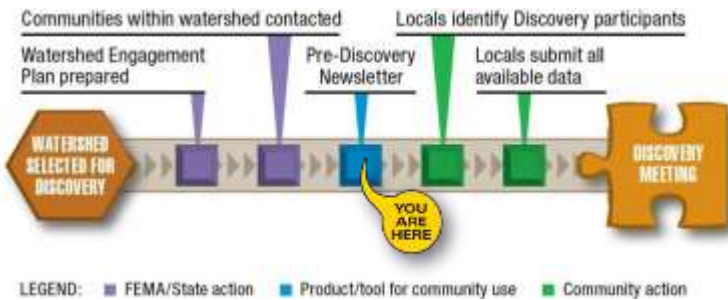


Risk MAP

Western Estancia Watershed Pre-Discovery Newsletter



The Goal

To partner with communities within a watershed to understand local flood risk understanding, on-going mitigation efforts, and proposed mitigation strategies. Through this two-way communication we can optimize services available through the Mitigation Division and provide the appropriate products and services to the communities within a watershed area.

Risk MAP and Taking Action to Reduce Flood Risks

Risk Mapping, Assessment, and Planning (Risk MAP) is the transformation of FEMA's traditional flood identification and mapping efforts into a more integrated process of accurately identifying, assessing, communicating, planning, and mitigating flood related risks. Risk MAP aims to assist communities in addressing gaps in flood hazard data to form a solid foundation for risk assessment, floodplain management, and provide State, local, and Tribal entities with information needed to make informed decisions to mitigate natural hazard risks.

The Earth Data Analysis Center (EDAC) will engage with communities within a watershed through a process we call "Discovery". This project is focusing on the Western Estancia Watershed.

Discovery in Your Watershed

The EDAC will begin an inventory and assessment of the flood risk data in the Western Estancia Watershed communities through conversations and data sharing opportunities with federal agencies, state agencies, and local officials. This Discovery phase is an opportunity for EDAC to better understand the natural hazards which affect your community and an opportunity for us to understand the vision for your community in the long term. Discovery allows the collection of community available data, the validation the flood inventory data we have collected, and identification of opportunities to facilitate mitigation planning and implementation for further reduction of flood risk within the community. The findings identified in Discovery can provide information to enhance local mitigation plans, increase local awareness of flood risk to improve community outreach, and increase local resilience to floods.

The Partners

During Discovery, EDAC and the State will partner with:

- Community officials; including elected officials, floodplain administrators, engineers, watershed council representatives, planners, emergency managers, and GIS specialists,
- Federal, State, and regional, non-profit organizations concerned with flooding or land use
- Other locally-identified stakeholders and community leaders

Prior to Discovery Meeting

EDAC will prepare a Draft Discovery Report for the watershed using current national and regional data. Communities are requested to:

- Review and validate the data gathered to date
- Identify additional local participants to attend the Discovery Meeting
- Review and provide storm water, floodplain management, and other community activities that relate to flood risk
- Review of their local or multi-jurisdictional mitigation plan to identify areas for further discussion

The Discovery Meeting

A Discovery Meeting will be held during which participants will have an opportunity to:

- Discuss the vision for their community & watershed's future, as well as the importance of mitigation planning and community outreach
- Discuss the community flooding history, development plans, flood mapping needs and flood risk concerns
- Look for possible mitigation actions and opportunities the community could implement
- Find synergies with other communities to reduce flood risk in the watershed
- Develop watershed partnerships

Risk MAP

Western Estancia Watershed

Pre-Discovery Newsletter



Data Request from Communities

Prior to EDAC holding a Discovery, the goal is to identify a Point of Contact in the community to collect and review:

- ✓ Historical local flooding mitigation activities and grant projects, ongoing or planned
- ✓ Verifiable high-water marks located within the community
- ✓ Recent, ongoing or proposed projects (culverts/bridges) since the previous map revision date
- ✓ Areas where there has been recent development or that are prone to future development
- ✓ Identify any flood control structures, such as berms, floodwalls, levees or other types of channel improvements within your community
- ✓ Relevant reports or studies that include hydrology, hydraulics, survey or LiDAR
- ✓ Boundary, hydrography, building footprints, parcel and transportation GIS data layers
- ✓ People or agencies that are utilizing GIS technology in your community
- ✓ Persons or agencies that are collecting local survey data
- ✓ Primary flood mapping needs of your community
- ✓ Areas in your community with repeated flooding
- ✓ Areas where the community feels the Special Flood Hazard Areas are understated or inadequate
- ✓ Areas where the community feels that the Special Flood Hazard Areas are overstated
- ✓ Projects identified in your community's hazard mitigation plan to help reduce the risk of future flood damage

- ✓ Comprehensive community/regional land use or watershed plans
- ✓ Details of the current flood risk communication process

EDAC asks communities to share whatever data they have to provide as complete a picture as possible.

Why Is this Important?

Because flood hazards change over time, community engagement in the Discovery process provides a great opportunity for communities to take a comprehensive look at the components that contribute to your community's and your watershed's natural hazard risk. In addition to providing another perspective, participating in this process will increase your understanding of your flood risk and help you identify proactive steps you can take to strengthen your community's ability to make informed decisions about reducing flood risk.

Data Available to EDAC at the National/Regional Level

FEMA can access and review:

- ✓ FEMA-approved mitigation plans
- ✓ Previous flood studies
- ✓ Number of flood insurance policies
- ✓ Letters of Map Revision
- ✓ Letters of Map Amendment
- ✓ Average Annualized Loss (AAL) information
- ✓ Census data
- ✓ Federal and State disaster information

Important Contacts

CTP Coordinator

Shawn L. Penman, PhD
spenman@edac.unm.edu
505-277-3622 x227

FEMA Mitigation Planning

Shanene Thomas
Shanene.Thomas@fema.dhs.gov
940-898-5492

FEMA Project Monitor

Tiffany Comiskey
Tiffany.Comiskey@fema.dhs.gov
202.880.0429



FEMA

RiskMAP