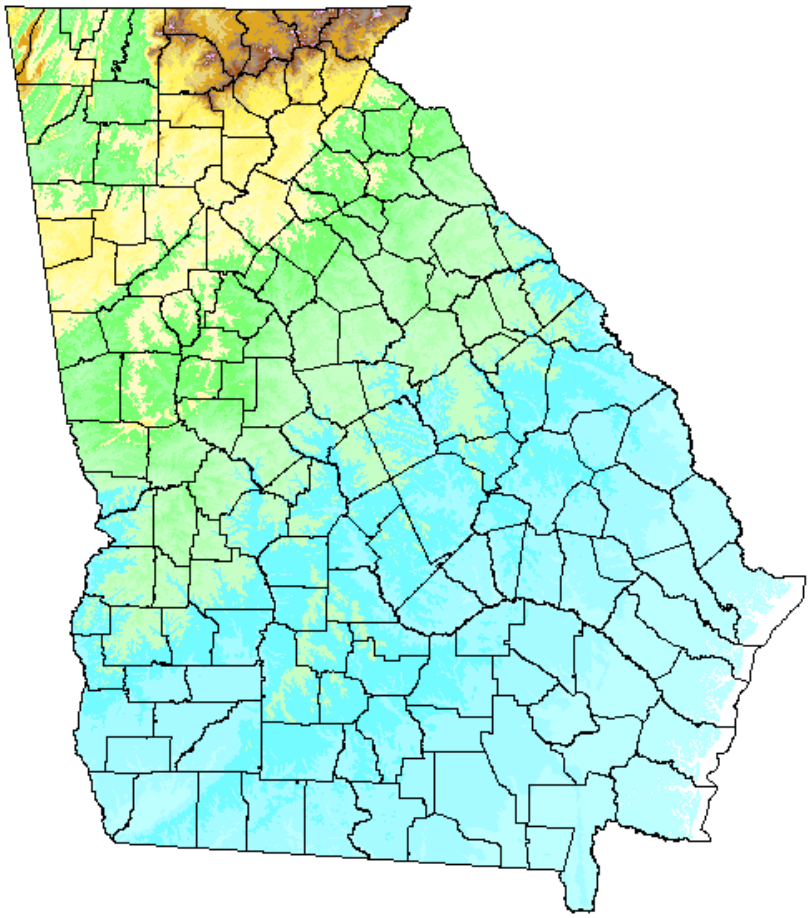
State of Georgia
Five-Year Floodplain Management Plan



Prepared By:
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Floodplain Management Office

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Introduction

Located within the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) – Environmental Protection Division (EPD), Georgia's Floodplain Management Office has responsibility for administering the State's floodplain management activities. The Floodplain Management Office serves as a liaison between the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the local communities participating in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

Currently, 64 percent of Georgia's 695 communities participate in the NFIP. This translates into 445 participating communities – 142 county governments and 303 municipalities. The Floodplain Management Office provides the following services:

- Provides guidance, technical assistance, and training to NFIP communities as well as to organizations involved in floodplain determinations.
- Serves as a resource for flood maps and related technical data.
- Assists local floodplain administrators with maintaining their community's compliance with the NFIP.
- Assists citizens in understanding the mandatory purchase requirements for flood insurance.
- Assists non-participating communities in applying for participation in the NFIP.
- Provides review comments to State agencies pertaining to proposed floodplain development.
- Provides technical assistance to State and Federal agencies and community officials in the aftermath of a Governor-declared State of Emergency or Presidentially declared disaster.

The Floodplain Management Office has three Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) positions dedicated to floodplain management activities involving the NFIP.

- State NFIP Coordinator
- Environmental Specialist
- Receptionist/Office Assistant

For the health, safety and general welfare of the citizens of Georgia, the Floodplain Management Office continues to educate and inform the public about the hazards associated with flooding and the need to protect against future flood losses. Likewise, the Office continues to promote the protection and preservation of the natural function of floodplains. This document outlines those activities and strategies that are necessary to achieve effective floodplain management as well as describes how floodplain management will support the State's Map Modernization Initiative.

State Authority for Floodplain Management

The Department of Natural Resources, through Executive Order of the Governor, is the designated agency having responsibility for administering the floodplain management program as it pertains to the NFIP.

Overall State Vision for Floodplain Management

Georgia's Five-Year Plan for Floodplain Management consists of activities relevant to the NFIP, specific tasks to be undertaken, anticipated deliverables and measurable results. Collectively these components of the plan represents the major thrust of Georgia's Floodplain Management Program. Based on the merits of this plan the State's Floodplain Management Program will be able to **develop and maintain a consistent level of floodplain management expertise and capability within State and local government in order to provide governmental officials and the general public with precise technical assistance while achieving effective floodplain management.**

Current Floodplain Management Effort

Supported by funding provided through the Community Assistance Program- State Support Services Element (CAP) Grant, Georgia Floodplain Management Office presently conducts the following activities in support of the flood loss reduction goals of the NFIP.

- Maintain periodic contact with communities to provide guidance to local officials and assessing need for training and technical assistance – Community Assistance Contacts (CACs).
- Assist local officials with maintaining community compliance with NFIP regulations – Community Assistance Visits (CAVs).
- (Increase limits of flood insurance coverage) Convert communities in Emergency Program to Regular Program.
- Assist non-participating communities in applying for participation in the NFIP.
- Sponsor workshops and other training activities to support implementation and enforcement of floodplain management regulations.
- Provide coordination and technical assistance to State and Federal agencies and local communities.
- Promote awareness of the NFIP and understanding of floodplain management through participation and involvement in public forums such as Hurricane Expo, Coast Fest, Association County Commissioners of Georgia annual meeting, Georgia Municipal Association annual meeting, and Georgia Regional Development Centers annual conference.
- Attend conferences and training courses that will enhance staff expertise, specifically ASFPM annual conference and FEMA Region IV CAP conference.
- Develop State Five-Year Floodplain Management Plan.
- Participate in the conducting of Pre-Scoping, Scoping and Final Mapping Meetings associated with Map Modernization.
- Provide technical assistance to communities and assistance to GEMA and FEMA in the aftermath of a declared disaster.

Outline for Improving Floodplain Management in Georgia

Activity I.
Maintain or improve the percentage of communities that adopt new maps by the FIRM effective date.

Tasks
1. Initiate discussions of flood ordinance updates and map adoptions during Mapping Scoping Meetings with community officials.
2. Develop outreach programs that address map adoption and ordinance update.

Deliverable
Achieve 90% adoption of new maps by the FIRM effective date.

Performance Measurement
Compare the number of communities receiving new maps to the number that have adopted new maps and have compliant ordinances.

Percentage of Yearly Staff Time
20%

Partnerships
Georgia Floodplain Management Office, FEMA Region IV Office, Regional Development Centers (RDCs), Georgia Municipal Association, Association County Commissioners of Georgia

Activity II
Increase the percentage of communities that adopt new maps prior to the 30-day letter sent by FEMA.

Tasks
1. Initiate discussions with community officials regarding the timely adoption of new maps and ordinance updates during Mapping Scoping Meetings.
2. Develop outreach programs that address the timely updating of flood ordinances and adoption of new maps.

Deliverable
Achieve 90% adoption of new maps prior to submittal of 30-day letter by participating communities and 50% adoption by non-participating communities.

Performance Measurement
Compare the percentage of communities in FY-2005 that received a 30-day letter with the number in subsequent years (FY-2006 – FY-2009).

Percentage of Yearly Staff Time
10%

Partnerships
Georgia Floodplain Management Office, FEMA Region IV Office, Regional Development Centers (RDCs), Georgia Municipal Association, Association County Commissioners of Georgia

Activity III.
Increase the number of flood prone communities in Georgia enrolled in the NFIP.

Tasks
1. Target non-participating flood prone communities for enrollment in the NFIP.
2. Develop outreach strategy to enroll flood prone communities.

Deliverable
1. (Currently 445 participating communities) Increase number by enrolling at least one flood prone community per year.
2. Increase number of participating communities by enrolling the 42 Sanctioned Communities.

Performance Measurement
Compare the number of flood prone communities in Georgia participating in the NFIP at the end of FY-2004 with the number of participating communities in subsequent years (FY-2005 – FY 2009).

Percentage of Yearly Staff Time
10%

Partnerships
Georgia Floodplain Management Office, FEMA Region IV Office, Regional Development Centers (RDCs), Georgia Municipal Association, Association County Commissioners of Georgia

Activity IV.
Provide technical assistance to communities that result in increased compliance.

Tasks
1. Conduct CACs: Increase FY-2004 CACs by 10% in FY-2005; continue 10% increase in FY-2006, FY-2007, FY-2008 and FY-2009.

2. Conduct CAVs: Select communities based on established criteria in consultation with FEMA Region IV. NOTE: In future years of the plan the number of CAVs will most likely decline due to the workload from Map Modernization.
3. Enter CAC and CAV findings into Community Information System (CIS).
4. Resolve deficiencies in outstanding CAVs.
5. Maintain Log of Telephone Assistance to communities.
6. Provide Repetitive Loss technical assistance to GEMA and communities.

Deliverable
Increase communities' floodplain management capability.

Performance Measurement
Compare the number of CACs and closed CAVs reported in CIS for FY-2004 with the number reported in subsequent years (FY-2005 – FY 2009).

Percentage of Yearly Staff Time
15%

Partnerships
Georgia Floodplain Management Office, FEMA Region IV Office, Regional Development Centers (RDCs)

Activity V.
Increase the number of CRS communities in Georgia and/or improve CRS Class.

Tasks
1. Target communities that have a minimum of 100-flood insurance policies.
2. Conduct a CRS Workshop.
3. Use CAVs to promote CRS.

Deliverable
(Currently 24 communities participate in CRS) Increase number by enrolling at least one community or improving Class/Rating by one point per year.

Performance Measurement
Compare the number of CRS communities in FY-2004 with the number in subsequent years (FY-2005 – FY-2009).

Percentage of Yearly Staff Time
10%

Partnerships
Georgia Floodplain Management Office, FEMA Region IV Office, Regional Development Centers (RDCs)

Activity VI.
Increase the effectiveness of floodplain through State inter-agency coordination.

Tasks
1. Conduct project reviews for proposed floodplain development.
2. Provide technical data.
3. Provide guidance and technical assistance in the aftermath of a Governor-declared State of Emergency or Presidentially declared disaster.

Deliverable
Increase awareness and understanding of floodplain management.

Performance Measurement
Document the number of project reviews and/or technical assistance provided to other State agencies with annotations describing how these improved floodplain management.

Percentage of Yearly Staff Time
5%

Partnerships
Georgia Floodplain Management Office and other State agencies

Activity VII.
Increase attendance at floodplain management training workshops.

Tasks
1. Strategically schedule workshops – location, date, time, and duration.
2. Target communities for offering workshops on specific topics or issues.
3. Identify and target local officials for specific workshops.
4. Contact RDCs to encourage and promote attendance at workshops.

Deliverable
Increase awareness and understanding of floodplain management.

Performance Measurement
Compare the number of local officials who attended FEMA's E-273 training course in FY-2004 with numbers in subsequent years (FY-2005 – FY-2009).

Compare the number of surveyors and engineers who attended a Technical Workshop in FY-2004 with numbers in subsequent years (FY-2005 – FY-2009).

Based on technical assistance provided to local officials, assess attendance at workshops.

Percentage of Yearly Staff Time
5%

Partnerships
Georgia Floodplain Management Office, FEMA Region IV Office, Regional Development Centers (RDCs)

Activity VIII.
Increase the number of Certified Floodplain Managers (CFMs) in NFIP communities in Georgia.

Tasks
1. Continue to promote the CFM Program in the quarterly newsletter - HIGH GROUND.
2. Use the CAV to promote the CFM Program.
3. Continue to offer the CFM exam at the conclusion of the field-deployed FEMA training course E-273.

Deliverable
Increase awareness and understanding of floodplain management.

Performance Measurement
Compare the number of CFMs in NFIP communities in FY-2004 with the number in subsequent years (FY-2005 – FY-2009).

Percentage of Yearly Staff Time
5%

Partnerships
Georgia Floodplain Management Office, FEMA Region IV Office, ASFPM Office

Activity IX
Revise and update Georgia's Five-Year Floodplain Management Plan.

Tasks
1. Reflect in the plan changes that have occurred in the State, in outcomes and funding.
2. Submit annually draft revisions/updates to FEMA Region IV Office.

Deliverable
Revised and/or updated Management Plan.

Performance Measurement
Compare actual outcomes with each year's projected outcomes.

Percentage of Yearly Staff Time
5%

Partnerships
Georgia Floodplain Management Office, FEMA Region IV Office, ASFPM Office

Activity X
(NFIP Coordinator) Provide oversight of Georgia's Map Modernization Initiative.

Tasks
1. Coordinate implementation of Cooperating Technical Partners (CTP) Agreement.
2. Coordinate updating of Map Modernization Business Plan.
3. Consult with and review deliverables provided by Mapping Contractor.
4. Attend and participate in Pre-Scoping, Scoping and Final Mapping Meetings.

Deliverable
Timely production of new and updated flood maps for 159 counties.

Performance Measurement
Compare deliverables to Map Modernization Business Plan and Mapping Activity Statements (MAS).

Percentage of Yearly Staff Time
15%

Partnerships
Georgia Floodplain Management Office, FEMA Region IV Office, and Post, Buckley, Schuh and Jernigan (Mapping Contractor)

Needs analysis and gap assessments

Georgia's current floodplain management activities are primarily funded by the CAP-SSSE Grant and based on the present funding level these activities are achievable. By the conclusion of the State's Five-Year Floodplain Management Plan and certainly through the efforts of Map Modernization, it is expected there will be a significant increase in the number of flood prone communities in Georgia. Likewise, it is anticipated there will be an increase in NFIP communities. In order for Georgia Floodplain Management Office to sustain an effective level of technical assistance, training, and on-site analysis of local floodplain management programs, there must be recognition of the future increase in workload and the possible resulting decline in floodplain management activities. Serious consideration must be given to future funding levels given the fact that this Five-Year Plan will give rise to a greater demand on the State's personnel resources. Consideration must also be given to the need for flexibility in the application and allocation of CAP funds based current economic conditions within State government.