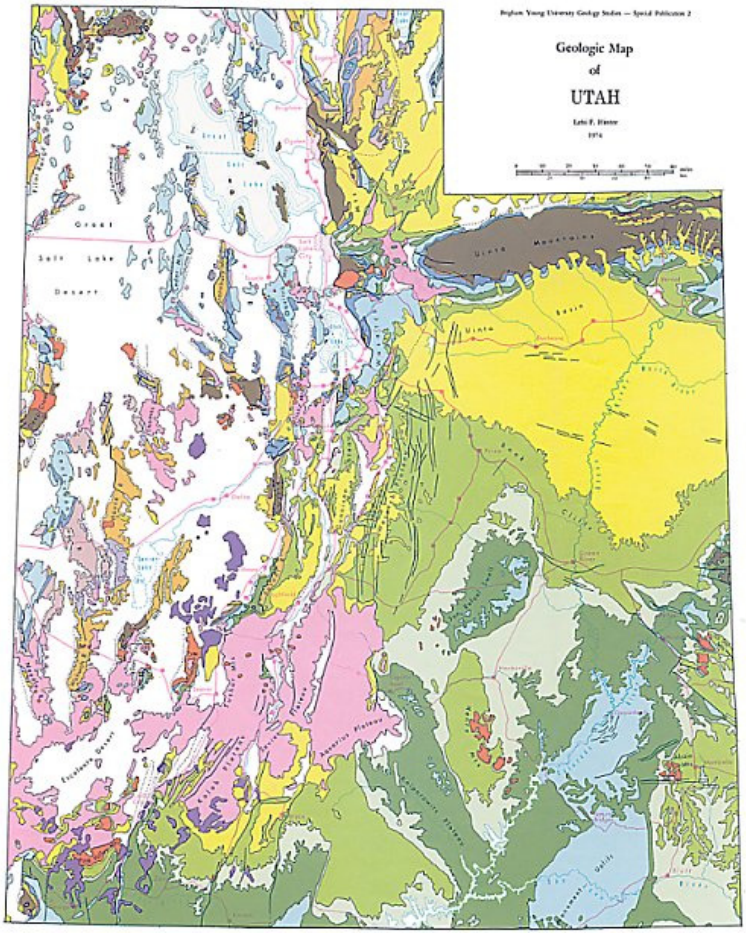
Utah Department of Public Safety
Division of Emergency Services

Floodplain Management Plan
State of Utah



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Utah's 5-year Floodplain Management Work Plan

Background

The State of Utah's diverse landscape and communities are under constant threat from geologic and hydrologic hazards. Federally declared flood disasters were issued in 1983, 1984, and 1989. Although Utah's precipitation is the second lowest in the country, the State's flooding history is significant. Over 1,500 cloudburst floods have been recorded in the last 160 years causing millions of dollars in damages. Utah's 2.2 million inhabitants are clustered in relatively small geographic areas at the base of steep mountain ranges, with 90 percent of the population concentrated in the Wasatch Front Region. Flooding along the Wasatch Front thus impacts a relatively small area, but a comparatively large population.

Currently, there are 201 communities identified by FEMA with flood hazards. Of those communities, 188 participate in the NFIP. There are 55 communities that have detailed study areas. Approximate A zones make up the rest of the area. Utah has also participated in the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program since it began in 1997, and has helped 12 communities develop flood mitigation plans. Utah supported mapping as a State Cooperating Technical Partner (CTP). The State of Utah supports the Utah Floodplain Management Association. This Association conducts annual conferences, roundtable discussions, and sponsors training on numerous mapping and compliance topics.

The CAP Program in Utah has always been a strong and viable program. Through quality program management, belief in the goals of the NFIP and a customer service approach, the Utah CAP has established a good working relationship with the participating communities and will be a positive force in the future of floodplain management in Utah.

I. State Authority

The Utah Division of Emergency Services and Homeland Security (DES), administers the floodplain management program for the state of Utah. The initial establishment of a state NFIP coordinating agency occurred with the signing of Utah Executive Order November 1, 1978 by Governor Scott Matheson. In 1980, Governor Matheson designated the Utah Division of Emergency Services as the state agency assigned to participate in the then called State Assistance Program now the Community Assistance Program State Support Services Element (CAP-SSSE). The Utah Floodplain Management office has been funded by the CAP-SSSE under a 75/25 cost sharing arrangement to carry out a full range of assistance activities under the NFIP.

II. Vision for Floodplain Management in Utah

The Utah CAP's vision for future floodplain management in Utah is to promote sound floodplain management practices to the communities of Utah to achieve protection of life and property from flooding, encourage the preservation and

restoration of the natural functions of floodplains, and ensure program compliance within the community's Flood Loss Prevention Ordinance.

A. State Floodplain Management Goals

Utah's goals are important for floodplain management to be effective. There must be constant communication and coordination between all parties involved. Education and technical assistance must be provided to individuals who do not necessarily work on flood related issues on a daily basis. Encouragement to the local community to enforce their floodplain ordinance is a constant push for enhanced floodplain management.

Goals:

1. Assist flood-prone communities in obtaining and maintaining participation in the NFIP.
2. Assist communities, permitting agencies, and private individuals in ensuring that new development is constructed consistent with the NFIP requirements and sound floodplain management practices.
3. Support and encourage mitigation activities that will reduce the risk of flood damage to existing property.

Objectives:

1. Educate local floodplain administrators on the regulations of the NFIP through development and delivery of floodplain management training, newsletters, online tutorials, and conferences, as well as community assistance visits and contacts.
2. Enhance communication with all partners of the Utah CAP including but not limited to Division of Water Resources, Automated Geographical Reference Center, USACE, NRCS, DEQ, lending institutions, engineering companies, and users of the FIRMS to better understand program goals and partnership in future efforts.
3. Support FEMA in ensuring that NFIP participating communities are upholding their requirements under the NFIP.
4. Facilitate coordination between Federal, state, and local governments related to floodplain management.
5. Support mitigation grant programs and other local mitigation activities and initiatives.

B. Current and Recent Floodplain Management Efforts

Significant effort has been expended to support the Map Modernization Program over the past couple of years. As Utah's maps have become outdated, increased activities to support mapping efforts and information dissemination on map changes have been challenging. Last year the Utah CAP developed the Map

Modernization Business Case Plan and applied for the 3MS Grant. We have hired a contract person to carry out the duties of the 3MS program. This will enable the CAP goals and objectives to once again become the driving force of this program. Even though the focus of the past couple years have been the Map Modernization program assistance, the Utah CAP was still able to complete the following activities:
-Conduct CAVs and CACs
-Develop newsletters
-Provide training at the annual conference for the Utah Floodplain and Stormwater Management Association
-Provide general technical assistance to communities, agencies, and individuals
-Support the HMGP, FMA, and PDM programs
-Attend the ASFPM annual conference
-Attend regional CAP Coordination meeting.

C. Strengths and Weaknesses of Program

1. Strengths
    a. Staff that is experienced and knowledgeable in the NFIP and floodplain management.
    b. Strong working relationship with the FEMA regional office.
    c. Well-established working relationships with other state and federal agencies involved in floodplain management.
    d. Strong support from other mitigation programs within the Division.
2. Weaknesses
    a. Limited staff (1.5 FTE) makes it difficult to visit communities and attend training.
    b. Frequent turnover of local floodplain administrators makes it difficult to develop and maintain floodplain management expertise and program continuity.
    c. Increased non CAP activities such as support of the Map Modernization program and PDM mitigation planning has resulted in reduced focus on NFIP compliance through CAVs and CACs.

III. Strategy to Improve Floodplain Management

A. Proposed CAP-SSSE Activities:

Development of 5-year plan – The 5-year floodplain management work plan is a living document and will be updated and revised as necessary. The plan will evolve into a document that will become the driving force of the state's floodplain management program.

Ordinance Assistance – Ordinance updates and reviews will be conducted as part of CAVs and CACs. Also as communities update their floodplain maps, changes to their ordinances will need to be made.

CAV/CAC- Now that a mapping coordinator has been hired, CAVs and CACs will once again become the focus of the state floodplain management program. In FY05, 15 CAVs and 15 CACs will be conducted. These visits and contacts establish and strengthen relationships between the local floodplain administrator and the State NFIP Coordinator. The visits and contacts also enable the State NFIP Coordinator to pass on important program information for sound floodplain management decisions. During the next 5 years, CAVs and CACs will increase by 1%.

CIS data entry - Future CAVs will be entered into the CIS.

Workshops and other training – Each year workshops are offered at the UFSMA annual conference. There are occasional regional workshops for a more focused topic and more time for discussions. Workshops enable better communication among the local floodplain administrators. The narrow topic allows the local floodplain administrator to ask questions and gain a better understanding of their role in floodplain management and make sound floodplain management decisions. These workshops are done on an as needed basis.

Outreach – A newsletter will be published and distributed quarterly. A website will be updated and maintained. Outreach material will be developed and distributed. All outreach material will enhance communication between the state NFIP coordinator and all interested parties. The locals are informed of new ideas in floodplain management, which allows them to understand the regulations better and in turn make better decisions. This encourages compliance with the flood loss damage prevention ordinance.

GTA – Like CAVs and CACs, General Technical Assistance is a primary component of the state floodplain management program. Technical assistance will be provided to communities, state, and federal agencies and individuals. Technical assistance will include information on NFIP regulations, LOMR and LOMA procedures and status, building requirements in the NFIP, ordinance compliance, use of FIRMs, use of FEMA Map Store, etc.

Mapping assistance – The Utah CAP coordinator will provide assistance to the 3MS Coordinator in recommending, prioritizing and scoping map projects. Coordination between the two programs will be significant the first year and as the 3MS Program evolves, coordination will be ongoing.

The CAP Coordinator will strongly encourage communities to adopt new maps by the FIRM effective date to reduce the number of communities suspended from the NFIP. Also, the CAP Coordinator will encourage and support communities to adopt new maps prior to the 30-day letter being sent.

Coordination with other state programs to ensure state NFIP compliance Coordination with other state programs is more important now than ever. Sharing of information regarding projects, mapping, and resources is crucial. In a time with limited funding and large workloads, cost sharing is imperative. Future cooperation with other state programs will be sought.

Other Activities – Additional activities conducted annually include support for the PDM, FMA, participation in National and regional conferences and meetings, training of 3MS coordinator, participation in state committees and boards, review of stream alteration permits, and participation in emergency management exercises and drills, and other duties assigned in the agency.

B. Workload Allocation

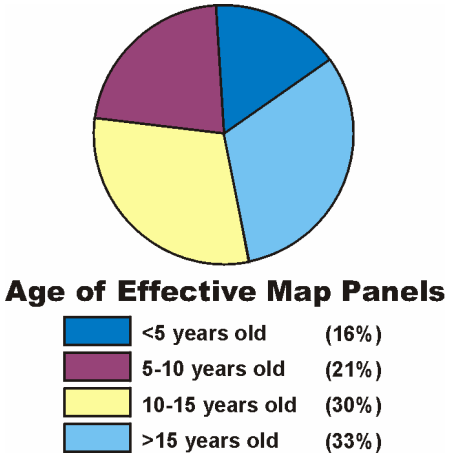
An estimate of workload allocation is provided below for Fiscal Years 2004 (current) through 2009. It is assumed that funding for the MMMS program is provided. Neither post-disaster assistance nor unforeseen future needs that may be identified by FEMA are included in the estimate. In that event, program activities will be negotiated with the regional office.

	2004	**2005**	**2006**	**2007**	**2008**	**2009**	**Comments**
5-year plan	10%	8%	8%	6%	5%	5%	Decrease as transition to maintenance
CAVs	19%	20%	21%	22%	23%	25%	Increase as more communities join NFIP
CACs	5%	6%	6%	7%	7%	7%	Increase as more communities join NFIP
GTA Ordinance assistance	25%	25%	25%	25%	25%	25%	
Outreach (newsletters, website, documents)	10%	11%	11%	11%	11%	11%	
Map Mod Assistance	10%	10%	8%	6%	5%	3%	Decrease as program sustains
Conferences/regional meetings	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	
Support PDM	1%	1%	2%	3%	2%	2%	Increase as more grants awarded
Staff Training	6%	5%	3%	3%	3%	3%	Decrease as new staff trained
USFMSA conference/ workshops	10%	10%	11%	12%	14%	15%	Offer more training
CRS assistance	1%	1%	2%	2%	2%	3%	Increase due to added communities
Other duties as assigned	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	

IV. Map Modernization Activities

Plans

With the Federal government's commitment to the FEMA's National Map Modernization Program, the State of Utah can now be an effective partner in the flood mapping process. In 2002, the Utah CAP developed the Map Modernization Implementation Plan. This Plan ardently was only a beginning, both in detail and in action. Implementing this plan will be an evolutionary process that will adjust to changing priorities, new information and technology, and broader community support. This plan identifies needs and creates a framework to coordinate flood mapping efforts and monitor its' progress. As the graphic below shows, there is a great need to update Utah's Floodplain maps. Most of the state's FIRMs are 15 years old or older. Many of the maps currently do not accurately reflect Utah's floodplains.



In 2003, the Utah CAP developed the State Business Case Plan. This plan outlined the management plan for future floodplain mapping in Utah. The primary recommendation of that plan is that funding be secured for a state mapping coordinator as a contract employee to handle the management of the Map Modernization Program in Utah. The specific duties of the state mapping coordinator will include: coordination of mapping projects and meetings, selection of mapping contractors, management of timelines, and organization of projects.

The new state mapping coordinator is located in DES and will work closely with the CAP Coordinator on all aspects of map modernization, particularly in the area of ordinance adoption. His duties include program management, coordination of technical review, solicit and selection of mapping and technical review partners through RFQ process, project prioritization, scoping and outreach, monitoring contractors to ensure specifications are met, community mapping assessments, public meetings, workshops,

web development, postings, and all other management activities summarized in the 04 MMMS Guidance.

The CAP-SSSE will perform ordinance review and comment associated with map updates. The CAP-SSSE will support the map coordinator by attending all mapping meetings, but will primarily focus on community compliance and adoption of new maps within the 30-day time frame.

V. Needs analysis and gap assessments

A. Current Funding Levels

If funding levels remain the same, the workload will also remain the same. If current staff levels cannot be maintained or if a disaster or other unanticipated workload occurs, all activities, including NFIP compliance activities would need to be reduced even further.

B. Increased Funding Levels

If the CAP-SSSE funding increases, more compliance activities would increase. Small increases in the funding would result in more regional training and workshops offered. As well as more outreach materials and website development. Further increases in would likely next be used to increase the number of CAVs. A reasonable frequency of CAVs for an average NFIP Community is once every 5-7 years, which would require more than doubling the number of CAVs currently performed. A substantial increase would need to occur for that level of frequency. Additional staff hired would have to be a contract or intern level of hire. No new FTE's are available for the Utah CAP-SSSE.

VI. Performance Measures

Outcome/Output	Method of Measurement
Communities to adopt new maps by the FIRM effective date.	Percentage of communities suspended for failure to adopt new map___0%_____
Encourage communities to adopt new maps prior to the 30-day letter being sent.	Percentage of communities that receive a 30-day letter in 2005__20%_____

Increase floodplain management training in the state	Increase Number of officials trained in FY05 by 5%
Increase number of CAVs each year. There are 15 proposed CAV's for FY05.	Number of CAVs in FY05 to be increased to reach 25% by FY 09
Increase CFMs in state.	Number of CFMs in FY04__1__ Number of CFMs in FY05__2__
Increase participation in the Utah Floodplain and Stormwater Management Association	Members in FY05 increase 3%
Quantify general technical assistance calls.	Document and categorize general assistance calls in CIS.