

The Index

Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Floodplain Management Office Newsletter

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www.GeorgiaDFIRM.com

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LINKS OF INTEREST:

www.GeorgiaDFIRM.com

www.FloodSmart.gov

www.fema.gov/hazard/flood

<http://msc.fema.gov>

The Index is a publication of GA DNR Floodplain Management; for editorial comments or questions, please contact Tom Shillock at 404-675-1607, or write to tom.shillock@dnr.state.ga.us. If you would like to join the mailing list, please contact Garrett Skinner at Garrett.Skinner@atkinsglobal.com.

The GA DNR Outreach Guidebook for Local Governments has been updated. The latest version now reflects the GA M.A.P. mapping process as well as FEMA's new Appeals & Comments process that went into effect on December 1, 2011 (see page 2). The respective templates and fact sheets have been updated as well. To download the latest versions, visit: <http://www.GeorgiaDFIRM.com/Communityoff/Commdocs.htm>.



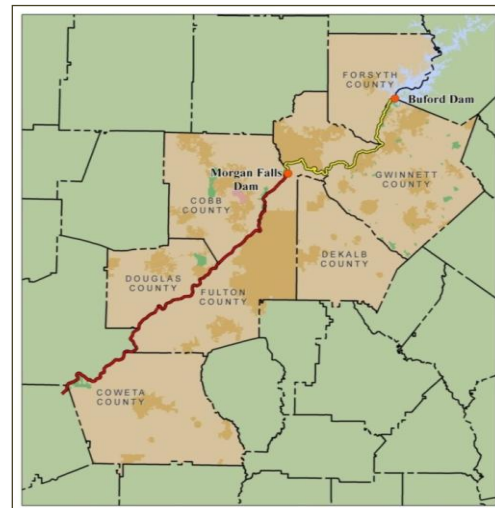
Upper Chattahoochee River Basin Map Update

Public Meetings Held; Appeal Periods Begin in January and February.

Starting in late September, GA DNR-EPD began releasing the updated, preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) and Flood Insurance Study (FIS) Reports to municipalities within the Upper Chattahoochee River Basin study area.

In cooperation with communities throughout the project area, GA DNR-EPD and its mapping contractors held public open houses in multiple jurisdictions November through December 2011.

All Counties within the UCRB project area have changes to the Base Flood Elevations (BFE). As a result, GA DNR-EPD and FEMA are issuing BFE notices for to all affected communities within each county. The BFE notices are being issued to community CEOs of the affected communities. Corresponding newspaper notices within the community's local newspaper are being published in January and February to initiate the start of the 90-day appeal periods for each county. For more information on the appeal period and how to submit appeals and comments, please visit Georgia's website.



90-Day Appeal Period Dates

County	2nd Newspaper Notice	Appeal Period
Cobb County	February 2012*	February- May 2012
Coweta County	January 26, 2012	January 27 - April 25, 2012
DeKalb County	February 2012**^	February - May 2012
Douglas County	January 13, 2012	January 14 - April 12, 2012
Forsyth County	January 18, 2012	January 19 - April 17, 2012
Fulton County	February 2012**^	February - May 2012
Gwinnett County	February 2012*	February - May 2012

*Dates of Final Notice not available at time of newsletter printing; ^ Will be subject to new Appeals and Comments process (see page 2).

SAVE THE DATE: 2012 Georgia Association of Floodplain Management Conference will be held March 26-29, 2012 at the Legacy Lodge & Conference Center at Lake Lanier Islands, GA. The conference details are being finalized and will be posted soon on www.gafloods.org. If you have questions, contact GAFM.Conferences@GAFloods.org.

FloodSmart Provides Shareable Tool to Illustrate the Personal Cost of Flooding

We all know the financial consequences that flooding can cause, but how well do your local residents understand that? FloodSmart has a [Cost of Flooding](#) tool that local communities and other stakeholders **can put on their website** that illustrates the financial consequences of a flood. Simply by choosing how deep the flood waters could be in a home, this tool shows that all it takes is a few inches of water to cause major damage to a home and its contents. Go to FloodSmart's Community Resources page to see this and other useful tools: http://www.floodsmart.gov/floodsmart/pages/partner/partner_index.jsp.

GEORGIA COASTAL COUNTIES MAPPING PROJECT KICKS OFF

The GA DNR-EPD has initiated the Flood Insurance Study (FIS) and Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) updates for counties and municipalities along the Georgia coast as part of the Coastal Georgia Floodplain Mapping Project. The coastal counties included in this study are: Effingham, Chatham, Bryan, Liberty, Long, McIntosh, Glynn, Camden, and Charlton Counties. This project will involve updated coastal analysis along the Atlantic coastline and updated riverine analysis for selected inland streams within these counties.

Georgia DNR-EPD recently held two Kick-Off Meetings with local government representatives to present the proposed scope of this project, gather information, and address questions. Meetings were held on October 20, 2011 at Garden City's City Hall and the GA DNR-EPD office Brunswick, GA. These meetings followed Multi-Agency Stakeholder Meetings and Scoping Meetings held in coastal Georgia in late 2010.

Attendees included chief elected officials, city/county managers, engineers and floodplain administrators from each municipality and county within the study area. GA DNR-EPD staff and representatives from Mapping Partners Atkins, CDM Smith, Dewberry, and Taylor Engineering described the project areas, the two phased approach to inland and coastal analyses, and the schedule for project completion. After the formal presentation, meeting attendees met in breakout sessions to discuss the specific project scope within each county.

The Coastal Mapping Project is divided into two phases: the inland phase (shown on the map in orange) and the coastal phase (shown on the map in green). Preliminary FIRMs for the inland phase are scheduled to be delivered for review by the end of 2012; preliminary FIRMs for the coastal phase are scheduled to be delivered for review in the spring of 2014. The 2014 schedule for the coastal phase will account for both coastal inundation modeling and riverine modeling.

GA DNR-EPD staff is very pleased with the level of local participation at the two Kick-Off meetings. Local government representatives are encouraged to remain involved, as coastal stakeholder participation is critical to the success of this project. In addition, if communities have new or updated information to share (e.g., new photo imagery, new data), it is not too late to share that information; please contact Collis Brown at (404) 362-2606. For more information about the coastal study project, including a project status per county and information provided at the Kick-Off meetings, please visit www.GeorgiaDFIRM.com and click on the *Georgia Coastal PMR Status* button.

New Appeals and Comments Processed Becomes Effective December 1, 2011

Effective December 1, 2011, all flood studies and Physical Map Revisions (PMRs) for which preliminary and certain revised preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) and Flood Insurance Studies (FIS) reports are issued will have a new Appeal Process. This new guidance also applies to Letters of Map Revision (LOMRs). Under the new policy, the addition/modification of Base Flood Elevations (BFEs)/base flood depths or any change in Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) boundary, floodway delineation, or zone designation requires a statutory 90-day appeal period and the fulfillment of the additional due process notification requirements outlined in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) regulations. FEMA will use the term "comment" when referring to base map feature changes.

Federal Register publications and other public notices identifying appealable FIRM changes will be simplified under the *Expanded Appeals Process* and will no longer include specific flooding source names or BFE listings; instead links to online preliminary Flood Insurance Studies (FISs) and FIRMs and LOMR documents will be included in the notices to allow users to better understand the changes being made to their community's FIS and FIRM. For more detailed information on the *Expanded Appeals Process*, refer to FEMA Procedure Memorandum 57 at <http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=4938>.

Chatham County to Receive Physical Map Revision (PMR)

Chatham County is scheduled to receive a PMR that will revise 13 panels. This PMR incorporates two LOMRs (Pipemakers Canal and S&O and five small tributaries). Preliminary maps are scheduled to be issued to community officials by the end of February 2012 for their review followed by a Preliminary DFIRM Community Coordination (PDCC) meeting with the community officials. The PMR is targeted to become effective in Spring 2013.

