

DFIRMS - What Every Community Needs to Know

By: Bill DeGroot, P.E.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is in the middle of an ambitious program to convert the nation's Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) to digital FIRMs (DFIRMs). This is a constantly evolving effort. This presentation will bring the listeners up to date on the current state of the effort in the United States, Colorado and the Urban Drainage and Flood Control District.

The DFIRMs are currently being done on a county-wide basis, although that may change. The District and the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) have been working with FEMA as Cooperating Technical Partners (CTP) to complete the DFIRMs in Colorado. Typically, FEMA will fund 80% of the cost of a DFIRM, with the CWCB, District and/or local governments providing the other 20%. The District and CWCB have retained consultants to do the actual map production.

Dave Jula, Project Manager in the Denver office of Michael Baker Jr., Inc, FEMA's National Service Provider (NSP), will present an overview of the program from a national perspective. Karen Price, Colorado Map Modernization Coordinator, will provide an update on the status of DFIRM production in Colorado. Bill DeGroot, Manager, Floodplain Management Program for the District, will update the status of the seven metro area counties located within or partially within the District, and will demonstrate the versatility of the final DFIRM products.

Current Status of Denver Metro Area County DFIRMs

County	Effective Date
City and County of Broomfield	August 18, 2004
Douglas County	September 30, 2005
City & County of Denver	November 17, 2005
Adams County	September 30, 2006 (target date)
Boulder County	September 30, 2006 (target date)
Arapahoe County	November 30, 2006 (target date)
Jefferson County	June 17, 2003 (but in 1929 datum)