

**RISK MAP AND THE DISCOVERY PROCESS**

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FEMA’s Risk Mapping, Assessment and Planning (Risk MAP) program is designed to assist communities nationwide to assess flood risks, and encourage mitigation planning to avoid or minimize damage in the face of future disasters. The Discovery process is conducted on a watershed basis and brings many partners together to identify all needs and concerns. The Yavapai County Flood Control District is organizing and planning Discovery for two watersheds in Yavapai and Coconino counties.

The District has received a grant from FEMA to cover a large portion of the costs. Local involvement in the process will give the District more control of project timelines and outcome. Through a contract with JE Fuller Hydrology and Geomorphology, Inc. we will conduct a series of meetings with communities and stakeholders to identify all needs and concerns within the watersheds. Once Discovery has been completed we will be in a position to receive funding, as available, from FEMA for future Remapping or mitigation projects.

FEMA will be performing Discovery throughout the country as prioritized by a complex system of metrics. Through seeking the grant and performing Discovery at the local level, the District will be able to go to the second step in the program and compete for project funding.

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**Discovery and Risk MAP**

The FEMA Risk Mapping, Assessment and Planning program helps communities identify, assess and reduce their flood risk. Through Risk MAP, information is produced to enhance local mitigation plans, improve community outreach, and increase local resilience to floods.

**The Partners**

During Discovery, FEMA and the District partner with:

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

**The Meetings**

Through the services of our consultant the District will schedule a series of Discovery meetings to:

- ◆ Review and validate the flood risk data gathered to date
- ◆ Discuss the community flooding history, development plans, flood mapping needs, and flood risk concerns
- ◆ Review stormwater, floodplain management, and other community activities that relate to flood risk
- ◆ Discuss the vision for the watershed’s future, as well as the importance of mitigation planning and community outreach

**Local and National Flood Data Tell the Story**

The data that FEMA has available only tells part of the flood risk story. For a holistic picture of a community’s flood risk, FEMA relies heavily on information and data provided by the community itself. Because the flood risk changes over time, this is a great opportunity to take a look at activities that impact your community’s flood risks.

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## RISK MAP AND THE DISCOVERY PROCESS (CONT'D)

### Data Collected from Communities During Discovery

The District and our consultant will work with communities 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 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

### Why Is this Important?

Because flood hazards change over time, this effort provides a great opportunity to take a comprehensive look at the components that contribute to your community's and your watershed's flood 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 protect your community from losses to life and property that often accompany flooding.

### Data Available from FEMA at the National/Regional Level

FEMA can provide:

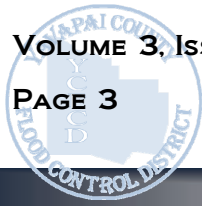
- Mitigation plans
- Previous flood studies
- Numbers of flood insurance policies
- Letters of Map Amendment
- Letters of Map Revision
- Average Annualized Loss (AAL) information
- Census data
- Federal and State disaster information

**GAUGE OF  
THE MONTH**



### APACHE MAID

Gauge ID: 460  
 Gauge Type: Precipitation  
 Watershed: Verde River  
 Sub-basin: Beaver Creek  
 Location: 17 mi. ENE of Lake Montezuma  
 Installed: 4/17/2000



## AGUA FRIA PMR OPEN HOUSE

Yavapai County held an open house meeting on Monday, November 18 in Black Canyon City to meet with property owners about changes to the Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs) in the area. The Flood Control District has been working with FEMA as part of a Cooperating Technical Partnership (CTP) to update the maps, using better hydrology and topography than was used to generate the original maps over three decades ago. Communities have two avenues for getting updated maps approved: a Letter of Map Revision (LOMR), which officially revises the map without reissuing the map panels, and a Physical Map Revision (PMR) which physically revises and reissues the affected panels. The Agua Fria study in Black Canyon City was processed as a PMR. As such, any tributary on the entire panel was reviewed and updated as appropriate.



Yavapai County PMR outreach is set up to allow property owners to get as much information as they can on their property. Parcel-specific maps are sent to the owners of any property that has had a floodplain limit change prior to the meeting. In addition, the meeting is set up with stations to answer questions on specific parcels, the model, the FEMA process, and insurance options. In attendance were representatives from Yavapai County, FEMA, JE Fuller Hydrology and Geomorphology, Bender Consulting, and the Arizona Department of Water Resources. Approximately 25 community members came to discuss the maps with the team and Supervisor Thomas Thurman.

The PMR process includes an appeal period, during which any member of the public can appeal the maps. The appeal must be a technical challenge to the data presented in the engineered study, but it can be done. The Agua Fria PMR appeal period ends December 17, 2013.

The changes to the maps can be viewed at [www.ycflood.com](http://www.ycflood.com) under Property Search.

### PROPOSED FUTURE PMRS

PMR Name	Status
Verde River	Anticipated Letter Of Final Determination in February, 2014
Agua Fria River in Black Canyon City	Appeal Period Ends 12/17/13
Big Bug Creek	Appeal Period Expected to Start in December, 2013
Miller and Model Creeks	Proposed
Mint Creek and American Wash	Proposed
Skull Valley Wash	Proposed
Zone A Project	Proposed

## Preserving Open Space and Riparian Habitats

First, let's look at a couple definitions. The floodplain open space is the area in and adjacent to the channel of a waterway that conveys runoff during a storm event. A riparian habitat is the area adjacent to the waterway that contains native vegetation related to the waterway.



Why should riparian habitat and floodplain open space be preserved? Over time, floodplains develop their own systems for handling the runoff they receive, including the erosion and sedimentation. When this area is developed against the natural course of the runoff, it can be costly to maintain and not as effective as the natural watercourse. Riparian habitats along the watercourse help to maintain water quality by filtering nutrients and refreshing aquifers. These areas enhance biological productivity by supporting a high rate of plant growth and by maintaining biodiversity and the integrity of the ecosystem.

Riparian habitats also provide habitats for fish and wildlife by serving as breeding and feeding grounds. They are common migratory routes and often protect the habitats of rare and endangered species.

The benefit of these areas extends to humans as well. They provide recreational opportunities and an atmosphere for studying the wildlife. The cultural and natural resources found in these areas also create an opportunity for outdoor education. Parks, trails, open spaces, wildlife conservation areas and the overall aesthetics of these natural areas are important assets to communities and can be shared resources.

How can these areas be protected? Communities can work with developers to preserve these spaces wherever possible. Subdivisions can be planned to keep these corridors open. When these areas are disturbed, mitigation efforts could be made to restore or replace them. Areas that have been disturbed in the past that no longer serve their developed purpose can be restored.

## YCFCD CONTACT INFORMATION

### LOCATIONS:

1120 Commerce Dr. Phone: 928.771.3197  
 Prescott, AZ 86305 Fax: 928.771.3427

10 S. Sixth St. Phone: 928.639.8151  
 Cottonwood, AZ 86326 Fax: 928.639.8118

### Please visit the County website for more information:

- Applications, Forms and Instructions
- Building Codes
- Community Plans
- Drainage Criteria Manual
- Fees/Impact Fees
- Flood Hazard Status Reports
- Flood Protection Information
- General Plan
- Ordinances
- Regulations
- Storm Water Management Program
- Related Links & More

**[www.yavapai.us](http://www.yavapai.us)**

### COUNTY TOLL FREE TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Ash Fork, Bagdad, Seligman, Yarnell 800.771.2797  
 Black Canyon City and Phoenix Area 602.495.8800

### COUNTY SWITCHBOARD NUMBERS

Prescott 928.771.3100 - Verde Valley 928.639.8100

The Yavapai County Board of Supervisors also serve as The Board of Directors for the District.

The initial floodplain ordinance was adopted December 1981, and has been revised over the years.

The Drainage Criteria Manual, was first adopted November 1998, and revised August 2005. The current Ordinance and Drainage Criteria Manual are available on line at the County website or may be purchased at the Prescott and Cottonwood District offices.

### **Services Performed**

The District is available for assistance or technical advice on the following topics:

- National Flood Insurance Program
- District ALERT System
- Flood Insurance Rate Maps
- Flood Status Information on a Parcel of Land
- Flood Protection & Safety
- Local Flood Hazard
- Development & Permitting within the 100 year floodplain
- Construction in or adjacent to a significant watercourse
- Storm Water Quality and Pollution Control

Flood protection information and links to other agencies are available on the County website. Visit [www.ycflood.com](http://www.ycflood.com) for archived issues of this newsletter.