



BOULDER COUNTY FLOODPLAIN REMAPPING NEWSLETTER

9th Edition - Fall 2019

In response to the 2013 flood event, the state-funded [Colorado Hazard Mapping Program \(CHAMP\)](#) and FEMA are updating local flood hazard information for the Front Range's most affected waterways, including Boulder County stream reaches. Visit www.BoCoFloodplainRemapping.com for the latest information.

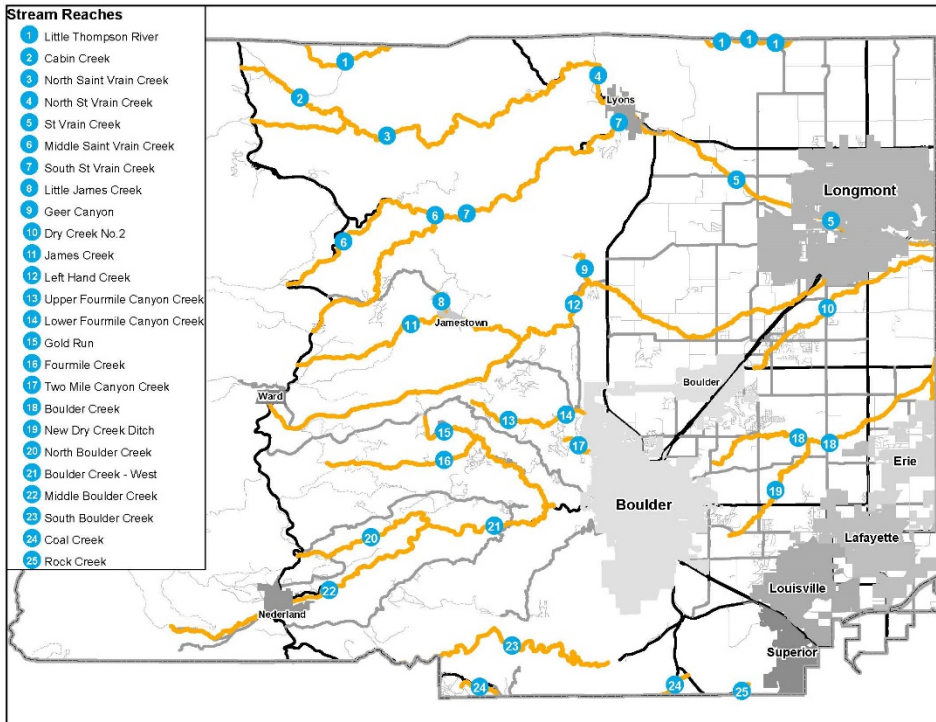
READ PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS

Visit www.BoCoFloodplainRemapping.com and navigate to 'Floodplain Mapping - How to Stay Informed' for all past editions and to join the listserv.

FLOODPLAIN REMAPPING PROJECT PROGRESS

View Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps and Proposed Regulatory Floodplain online:

Visit www.boco.org/FloodplainMapUpdate to access the map review platform



What has happened so far?

In 2017 and 2018, the county adopted comprehensive zoning map amendments to the Floodplain Overlay Zoning District based on draft CHAMP data for streams in unincorporated Boulder County. The draft data were also submitted to FEMA.

In September 2019, FEMA released Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs). The differences between the Preliminary FIRMs and the previously adopted CHAMP mapping are generally small, and mostly based on clean-up and smoothing of boundaries.

What happens next?

Boulder County is in the process of adopting the Preliminary FIRMs into the Floodplain Overlay Zoning District. Prior to local adoption of the Preliminary FIRMs, both the Planning Commission and Board of County Commissioners will hold public hearings. Visit the docket webpage (www.boco.org/z-19-0001) for more information and hearing dates. Local adoption of the Preliminary FIRMs does not impact flood insurance requirements and rates.

What are Preliminary FIRMs?

Preliminary FIRMs are flood maps produced by FEMA during the remapping process that allow the public an early opportunity to review and comment on proposed floodplain mapping changes. Without the additional outreach surrounding draft maps from the CHAMP study performed by the county from

Hearings for Floodplain Overlay Zoning District Map Amendments

Planning Commission Public Hearing - Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2019

- ◆ 1325 Pearl St., Boulder County Courthouse, Commissioners Hearing Room, 3rd floor
- ◆ Hearing begins at 1:30 p.m.; see the agenda (available shortly before the meeting) for estimated start time for this item - www.boco.org/z-19-0001
- ◆ For a live webstream of the hearing and archived video of past hearings, visit the Public Meetings, Hearings, Records & Video Archives at: <https://www.bouldercounty.org/government/public-meetings/hearings-and-records/>

Board of County Commissioners Public Hearing - December 2019 TBA

2016 to 2018, this would have been the first opportunity for the public to view revised floodplain maps. These *preliminary* maps and data are used to create the *final* effective FIRMs that identify local flood hazards and determine flood insurance ratings.

Viewing Preliminary FIRMs

Proposed regulatory Flood Risk Zones are available on Boulder County's map review platform: www.boco.org/FloodplainMapUpdate. This January, the county will host public meetings to encourage public review and enable the community to meet with participating county, State, and FEMA staff. The meetings will provide opportunities to discuss map changes and the FEMA appeals process (described below) and ask questions about flood insurance and the mapping process.

SUBMITTING DATA THROUGH FEMA APPEALS PROCESS

FEMA will accept public input on the Preliminary FIRMs and associated report through an appeals process that will include a 90-day public appeal period in the spring or summer of 2020. Outreach related to the appeals period will be provided through various media, including the project website, prior to the 90-day window for appeal submissions.

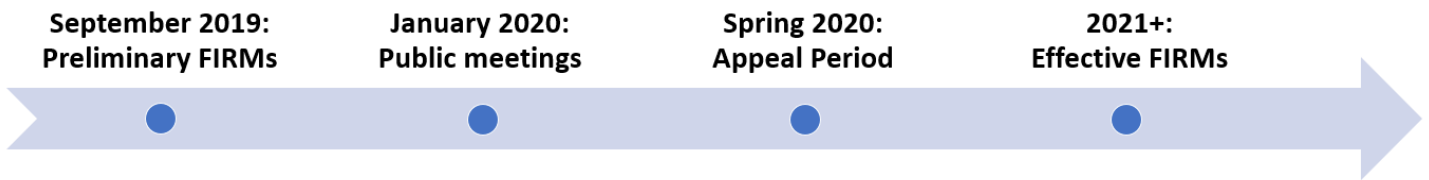
During this FEMA appeal period, Boulder County will track and gather technical data and non-technical comments to be submitted to FEMA at the end of the 90-day window. If warranted, FEMA will revise the Preliminary FIRMs and/or reports to reflect information submitted in support of the appeal(s) and provide these materials with an appeal resolution letter.

An appeal and its supporting data must be related to:

- ◆ New or modified Base Flood Elevations (BFEs)
- ◆ Base flood depths
- ◆ Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) boundaries
- ◆ SFHA zone designations
- ◆ Floodways

All data submitted for appeals must adhere to FEMA's standards for hydraulic modeling, topographic data capture, and related guidance. Challenges received by FEMA from the county that do not address this subject matter will be considered comments only.

ESTIMATED FEMA TIMELINE:



BE PREPARED AT HOME

It's never too early to begin thinking about the next flood season. Although flood season does not officially begin until April, there are many important things you and your family can do to prepare for floods:

- ◆ Know your neighborhood's flood history and locations of low-lying areas.
- ◆ Determine if your home and workplace are in a floodplain.
- ◆ Stay alert for changing weather conditions.
- ◆ When conditions indicate the potential for flooding, get out of low-lying areas, canyons, and areas downstream from dams.
- ◆ If flooding becomes likely, consider filling up sinks, bathtubs, and other containers with clean water.
- ◆ Store valuables and insurance papers upstairs in waterproof containers.

You can buy flood insurance no matter where you live or what your flood risk, but you should not wait until the rainy/flood season (April - September) to make a decision. There is a 30-day waiting period before coverage goes into effect. By law, flood insurance is issued as a separate flood insurance policy through the Federal government, and can be purchased through your existing insurance company and agent. Go to www.FloodSmart.gov to find an agent and to learn more.

All Boulder County residents are eligible for flood insurance. Even homes not located near the floodplain can suffer flood damage. Learn more about flood insurance at www.FloodSmart.gov.



STAY INFORMED ABOUT FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

Website

Visit www.BoCoFloodplainRemapping.com to find information about regulatory floodplains, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), and CHAMP activities.

Newsletters & Listserv

Boulder County will publish newsletters as new information becomes available. Each newsletter will be available online and via email listserv. All previous Floodplain Remapping Project newsletters are available on the [project website](#).

Social Media

Important news will also be distributed via Boulder County's social media outlets on Facebook and Twitter at www.Facebook.com/bouldercounty and www.Twitter.com/BoCoDOT.

Contact

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In Our Next Newsletter:

In January 2020, community members can review the Preliminary maps and learn about the FEMA process going forward at a series of public meetings. Our next newsletter will include public meeting dates, times, and locations.