Discover the process

FEMA Planning and Budgeting…
On a national level, FEMA identifies watersheds for potential project funding

Discovery Initiated…
- On a regional level, FEMA invites watershed stakeholders to contribute local and regional data and knowledge
- Discovery Meeting scheduled

Data Collection and Coordination…
- Local officials internally discuss existing and needed floodplain projects
- Communities and regional organizations contribute data for the Discovery Map

Discovery Meeting…
- Watershed-wide stakeholders present working knowledge of flood risk to FEMA representatives
- Discovery Map, showing statistical flood risk data and contributed data, is discussed
- High flood risk areas and mapping needs are identified

Final Project Selection…
FEMA selects from Discovery projects a few watershed projects for current fiscal year funding

RELATED FEMA PROGRAMS
- National Flood Insurance Program
- Flood Mitigation Assistance Program
- National Dam Safety Program
- Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program
- Repetitive Flood Claims Program
- Severe Repetitive Loss Program
- Community Rating System

DOCUMENTS TO REVIEW
- Mitigation Plans
- Letters of Map Amendment
- Letters of Map Revision
- Levee Certification Documentation
- Flood Studies
- Comprehensive Plans
- Business Case Plans

ISSUES TO DISCUSS LOCALLY
- Communications Strategy
- Flood Risk Education Program
- Flood-Related Issues and Map Needs
- Available Topographic Data
- Cost-Share Potential
- Current Risk Reduction Strategy
- Ongoing or Needed Mitigation Actions

Contact your FEMA Regional Office for details
www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/ rm_main.shtm
1–877–FEMA MAP

Watershed Discovery Map: Watershed USA

DIGEST: FEMA REGN 8/3/06

FEMA
RiskMAP
Increasing Resilience Together
FEMA’s new Risk Mapping, Assessment, and Planning (Risk MAP) program provides communities with flood information and tools that can be used to enhance mitigation plans and better protect citizens. Through more accurate flood maps including Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMs), risk assessment tools, and outreach support, Risk MAP strengthens local ability to make informed decisions about reducing risk.

**Discovery is ...**

**the process of data mining, collection, and analysis with the goal of initiating a flood risk or mitigation project or risk discussions within a watershed**

Discovery initiates open lines of communication and relies on local involvement for productive discussions about flood risk. It provides a forum for a watershed-wide effort to understand how your community's flood risk is related to flood risk throughout the watershed. In Risk MAP, DFIRMs will be developed on a watershed basis, so Discovery Meetings will involve stakeholders from throughout your watershed on local, regional, State, and Federal levels.

Discovery is cooperative. Communities know their watershed and flood risks... and local knowledge of flooding and mitigation projects is essential to identifying needed projects and mapping. FEMA will bring statistical data, but local officials and regional organizations will be relied on to provide the working knowledge of local flooding.

Discovery is data. Locally and regionally developed data is important! Locally-contributed data will be combined with risk statistics on a Discovery Map to stimulate holistic discussions about watershed-wide flood risk, mapping needs, and mitigation actions. There is no limit to the types and formats of data and information, so while some data types are listed on the sidebar, contact your FEMA Regional Office with ideas about relevant data that you can contribute.

Discovery Meeting discussions will focus on identifying flood risk and the location of study needs for a potential project. Supporting conversations will cover project requirements and flexibility, data and cost-share, communications and outreach, current and potential actions to reduce flood risk. The meeting is not just all flood hazards and mapping needs, it includes mitigation plans and projects, community changes and local issues that need FEMA support. Following Discovery, FEMA will select watershed projects for funding.

Discovery is a call to action. Join FEMA in reducing flood risk for your community through education, awareness, contribution and cooperation.