Data gathering
Measurements are made of the topography around the river, along with any culverts, bridges, and road crossings. LiDAR uses an airplane to collect ground elevation over a large area, and ground survey supplements the airborne data. Flood flow data determine how much water there will be in a river during a flood event.

Engineering and floodplain modeling
The elevation and survey data are combined with the flood flow data to determine where the water will go when it overflows the channel and how far it will spread out. The area shown to be underwater and at high risk is mapped as the regulatory floodplain.

Draft Data available for public review
Draft data is delivered to the communities. Public open houses will be conducted for landowners to review the information.

Preliminary Data public comment and appeal period
FEMA Preliminary Maps are produced and ready for public review and comment period. A second public open house is usually conducted to review the information. 90-day official comment & appeal period held.

Flood Insurance Rate Maps become effective
FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps finalized.

Estimated Completion date

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Flood Study Conducted
4 steps of a flood study.
1) Survey & LiDAR
2) Hydrology (flood flow)
3) Hydraulics (engineering)
4) Mapping (delineation)

Public Review
2 public open houses are usually held during this time. Once at draft map stage and again at preliminary map stage. During this time public comments are encouraged. There will be an official 90-day appeal period after the maps become preliminary.

Resiliency and Mitigation efforts
Once new maps become effective the community can determine what mitigation efforts it would like to pursue to reduce flood risks.

Project Timeline Missoula-Granite Floodplain Maps Update

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