

Background on the floodplain maps:

Powell County has paper floodplain maps. The effective mapping for most of county was completed in the late 1970's. The effective mapping in the county consists of a combination of 1981 and 1994 paper Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs). The only mapping updates that have occurred since that time have been due to physical changes (bridge replacements and a remediation project) in the Deer Lodge area, that were updated as Letters of Map Revision (LOMRs).

In 1974, an initial Flood Hazard Boundary Map (FHBM) was produced for the City of Deer Lodge, which was subsequently revised in 1976. Flood Hazard Boundary Maps for the unincorporated areas of Powell County were produced in 1980.

In the late 1970's, as part of the effort to produce an initial Flood Insurance Study (FIS) for Powell County and the City of Deer Lodge, detailed flood studies were conducted on 1.2 miles of Cottonwood Creek, 1 mile of Peterson Creek, and 1.4 miles of the Clark Fork River in the Deer Lodge area. Approximate flood boundaries for the rest of the mapped floodplains in the county were delineated from the 1980 Flood Hazard Boundary Maps, other flood prone maps, aerial photos, topographic maps, and field surveys of areas affected by past flooding events.

In the early 1990s, additional flood study work was conducted by the Soil Conservation Service on 11.7 miles of the Little Blackfoot River, 0.9 miles of Elliston Creek, and 3.7 miles of Telegraph Creek. Rather than publish a new FIS, these studies were added into the county's existing FIS as a 1994 revision. As part of this 1994 FIS revision, eight new Flood Boundary and Floodway maps were issued for the new detailed study areas, along with seven new Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) panels, replacing three of the original 1981 FIRM panels.

