Dawson, Fallon, Powder River Counties Flood Study Project

RiskMAP Increasing Resilience Together

The Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation

This is an estimated timeline for project milestones completion

Completed 2022	Late 2025 Early 2026	Mid-Late 2026	TBD	TBD
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 determines how much water there will be in a river during a flood event.	The elevation and survey data are combined with flood flow data to determine where the water will go 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 is delivered to the communities. Public open houses will be held to review the information.	FEMA Preliminary Maps are produced and ready for public review and comment. 90-day official comment & appeal period held 6-9 months after preliminary maps are issued.	FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps finalized.
Data gathering	**Engineering and floodplain modeling**	**Draft Data available public review**	**Preliminary Data public comment and appeal period**	**Flood Insurance Rate Maps become effective**

Steps of a flood study.

1) Survey & LiDAR
2) Hydrology (flood flow)
3) Hydraulics (engineering)
4) Mapping (delineation)

Public Review

A public open house is held after draft data is available and before preliminary maps are released.

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 the flood study is completed the community can determine what mitigation efforts it would like to pursue to reduce flood risks.

Community Work

Update local floodplain ordinances.

Prepare initiatives to reduce flood risk.