The New Floodplain Interactive Map and Nebraska Real-time Flood Forecasting (NeRFF)

Elijah Kaufman, CFM NeDNR Floodplain Management State NFIP Coordinator

Erin Wendt, CFM NeDNR Floodplain Management Outreach Coordinator



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Rules of the Road

- Attendees will be muted during the presentation
- Use the chat to ask questions during the presentation; we will pause for questions at various points
- If you want to share your video, please do
- For technical difficulties, send a private chat to Michele York or email <u>michele.york@nebraska.gov</u>
- We will be recording this class for those unable to attend today

Poll Questions

- Total of 3 poll questions. Your answers are anonymous
- If you are a Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) or a Nebraska Municipality Treasurer requesting Continuing Education Credit (CEC) today, you must answer **all** poll questions. We will report only full participation
- Only the person registered and logged into Zoom will receive credit. If multiple people are viewing the presentation together, you will each need to log into Zoom using your unique link and answer the poll questions separately to receive credit



Thank you for joining us!



The New Floodplain Interactive Map and Nebraska Real-time Flood Forecasting (NeRFF)

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Agenda

- 01 The New Interactive Map
- 02 Managing Layers
- 03 Available Tools
- 04 Introducing NeRFF
- 05 Using NeRFF
- 06 Future Plans for NeRFF



The New Interactive Map



 Now available on our interactive map webpage: <u>https://dnr.nebraska.gov/floodplain/int</u>

eractive-maps

- Combines faster load times with better functionality
 - Layers are maintained and stored in-house
 - More consistent connectivity

The New Interactive Map

- What changed?
 - Splash page with disclaimers no longer appears when opening the map
 - Layers, legend, and map guidance on the left, rather than the right
 - Tool bar is at the top left, rather than the top right
 - When using the search bar, you need to select from the drop down in order to zoom to the location



The New Interactive Map

- What hasn't changed?
 - Floodplain layers and symbology
 - -BFE request process
 - -LOMC layer
 - Drawing and print functions



Navigating the DWEE Website



Welcome

The Nebraska Department of Water, Energy, and Environment (DWEE) is the result of merging two state agencies, effective July 1, 2025: the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources and the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy. This new department brings together our state's efforts in water management, energy policies, and environmental protection. While we transition into a unified online presence, please continue to use the legacy websites for current services and information



https://dwee.nebraska.gov/

Navigating the Website

← → C 🏻 dnr.nebraska.gov/index



https://dnr.nebraska.gov/

Navigating the Website

← → C 🏻 dnr.nebraska.gov/index



Navigating the NeDNR Website



WATER TODAY. WATER TOMORROW.

Navigating the Website



Interactive Maps

Home / Services / Floodplain Management / Interactive Maps

Floodplain Interactive Map

Use this map to view FEMA's digital flood hazard data and community information relating to floodplain management.

Floodplain Interactive Map

NEW Floodplain Interactive Map

A new interactive map is available for testing and will launch in mid-May. Use this map in place of our existing interactive map to get ready for the change.

Floodplain Interactive Map



NEBRASKA

Floodplain Management FEMA Cooperating Technical Partner

Home About Contact

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< Overview Layers Legend >

<u>Floodplain Mapping and Guidance</u> Welcome to the Floodplain Interactive Map,

a Nebraska Department of Water, Energy and Environment (Department) interactive interface that provides floodplain and community information relating to floodplain management, permitting, and mapping for the State of Nebraska

Map Data and Guidance

This map is supported by a variety of data sources including FEMA's National Flood Hazard Layer (NFHL) and other FEMA publications which can be found at msc.fema.gov. Those choosing to use digital floodplain information for floodplain determinations should consult FEMA's policy on using such digital data, "Use of Digital Flood Hazard Data."

Terms of Service Agreement

Boundaries provided in this service are not necessarily considered as legal boundaries and are only an inexact representation of any official maps produced by the Department. For detailed information regarding the

Use of Digital Flood Hazard Data

DWEE Map Guidance

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Managing Layers



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Managing Layers

- Default layers include:
 - BFE Determinations
 - Political Boundaries
 - National Levee Database
 - Floodplain Boundary Comment Review
 - Floodplain Boundaries
 - NFHL
 - Flood Awareness Areas
 - Hybrid Reference Layer
 - Imagery



Managing Layers

- Sometimes this is too much information shown at once
- Layers can easily be turned off or on by checking or unchecking the box in the Layers Menu



LOMC

Point layer showing all LOMAs or LOMR-Fs present in the community. Shown as purple dots that can be selected to learn more.



BFE Determinations

PLSS Sections that have a Valid Base Flood Elevation (BFE) Determination will be highlighted in yellow. This layer toggles those highlighted sections on and off.



Ice Jam Reports

Use this layer to view recent reports made by certified users of our ice jam reporting page. Reports will appear as a snowflake icon, and will display information about waterflow at the location.



Political Boundaries

This layer shows community boundaries, including city limits and Extra Territorial Jurisdictions (ETJs). You can now toggle off PLSS and County Boundaries.



National Levee Database

This layer shows nationally accredited levee systems. Levees are indicated by the dark gray line, typically along a watercourse.



Floodplain Boundary Comment Review

This layer is used for comments provided by users during the preliminary stages of a FEMA funded floodplain mapping project.



Creating a Boundary Comment

- 1. Turn on the "Floodplain Boundary Comment Review" layer
- 2. Click the 💬 icon next to the search bar
- 3. Select "New Feature" from the menu on the left side of your screen



Creating a Boundary Comment

- 1. Turn on the "Floodplain Boundary Comment Review" layer
- 2. Click the 💬 icon next to the search bar
- 3. Select "New Feature" from the menu on the left side of your screen
- 4. Draw a shape around the area you would like to comment on, double-click to finish drawing



Creating a Boundary Comment

- 1. Turn on the "Floodplain Boundary Comment Review" layer
- 2. Click the 💬 icon next to the search bar
- 3. Select "New Feature" from the menu on the left side of your screen
- 4. Draw a shape around the area you would like to comment on, double-click to finish drawing
- 5. Enter the required information, and click "Create"



Floodplain Boundaries
This layer includes:
NFHL
The regulatory floodplain (NeFHL)

Pending NFHL

Preliminary NFHL

□ Flood Awareness Areas

□ Effective Paper Map



Floodplain Boundaries

To view only regulatory boundaries, select the NeFHL and Effective Paper Map:

The regulatory floodplain (NeFHL)
 Pending-NFHL
 Preliminary-NFHL
 Flood-Awareness Areas
 Effective Paper Map



Hybrid Reference Layer

Displays a detailed overlay reference with road names, community labels, water features, landmarks, railways, etc.

(i) 📚 \$ \$ Overview Layers Legend) LOMC **BFE Determinations** Ice Jam Reports Political Boundaries National Levee Database M. Land County Road W **County Road W** Floodplain Boundary Comment Review **Floodplain Boundaries** Hybrid Reference Layer Streamgages Flood Risk Products Imagery

Streamgages

Point layer showing all active streamgages for Nebraska. Colors will coordinate with the current flood stage. Clicking on a gage will open a window displaying the most current data for the watercourse at the gage site.



Flood Risk Products

Layer displaying additional flood risk information beyond the regulatory data. Data includes depth "grids" and percent annual chance layers that allow you to click on any location to find site specific flood risk information.





This is an approximate value and should be used for informational purposes only.



Imagery

Toggle between different aerial imagery using this layer.



Available Tools



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Available Tools

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• All tools can be found along the top bar. These include:

Selecting Tools

Drawing Tools

Legend

Streamgage camera filter

Elevation Profile

Floodplain Bounday Review Comments

Print Map View

Attribute Table

Available Tools

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Selecting Tools

Select Feature: Use this to select features and read information

Select by Rectangle: Use this to select all features within a rectangle

Select by Lasso: Select features within a custom drawn polygon
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Drawing Tools

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- Draw a Point: Place points on the map
- Draw a Polyline: Draw a custom line on the map
- Draw a Polygon: Draw a custom shape on the map
- Draw a Rectangle: Draw a rectangle on the map
- O Draw a Circle: Draw a circle on the map
 - S ★ Undo, redo, erase, and "collapse" the drawing window

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Making Measurements

- When drawing any shape, toggle the "show length/area/perimeter measurement" button
- Select the preferred unit of measurement





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Other Tools

O Application Overview: Returns to the disclaimer information

- Map Layers: Opens layer selection
- E Legend: Opens the general map legend
- Solution NeFHL Legend: Opens the floodplain boundary legend



✓ Search Address or Sections

Other Tools

R Popular Searches: Search for your community by name

Elevation Profile: Allows users to view elevation information along a profile



Floodplain Boundary Comments: Opens commenting tool

Print Map View: Opens the printer tool to print the current or custom view

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Attributes: Opens the attribute tables for available layers

Using the Elevation Profile tool



- 1. Read the disclaimer
- 2. Click "Draw"
- 3. Draw a line across the area you need elevations for, and doubleclick to finish drawing



Using the Elevation Profile tool



- 2. Click "Draw"
- 3. Draw a line across the area you need elevations for, and doubleclick to finish drawing
- 4. Change units by clicking the a icon and using the drop downs



Using the Elevation Profile tool



- This tool is for information purposes only, and cannot replace surveyed elevations for permitting, LOMC, or proof of compliance
- The full disclaimer can be read when you first click on the tool



Nebraska Real-Time Flood

Forecasting

4.9

Flood by Stage

Flood by Frequence

Drag to Simulate Flood Inundation for North Platte River at North Platte

🛛 🗹 View Depth

Record Stage: 7.73 ft (6/21/2011)

Nebraska Real-Time Flood Forecasting



- Now available on our interactive map webpage: <u>https://dnr.nebraska.gov/floodplain/interact</u> <u>ive-maps</u>
- NeDNR received requests for inundation boundaries during the 2019 Flood Event
 - We had accurate predictions for National Weather Service, but did not have the time to run inundation boundaries
 - After the flood, we decided we needed to prepare for the next event and have the data ready in advance

Nebraska Real-Time Flood Forecasting

- Online flood inundation tool
 - Has pre-computed inundation boundaries for 54 communities with stream gages
 - Landing page highlights gage flood stages and forecasted stages
 - Also has radar, live camera feeds, watershed boundaries, and much more



Second Stress Real-time Flood Forecasting

NEBRASKA

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The Nebraska Real-time Flood Forecasting (NeRFF) Map is a tool being provided by the Nebraska Department of Water, Energy, and Environment (DWEE) and the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, with funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the State of Nebraska. The Map is intended to be used to provide flood hazard data to property owners and emergency managers prior to and during flooding events. The information provided does not supersede the Effective Special Flood Hazard Areas. The map is not intended to be used for the issuance of Floodplain Development Permitting, Insurance Rating, or obtaining Letters of Map Change. DWEE will continue to improve, add data to, and update the Map, therefore the appearance and functionality may change over time. Additionally, the Map utilizes data from many sources and may not perform if those source sites are down.

The following are a list of assumptions made during the modeling process. This is not an inclusive list.

- Levees and levee closure structures were included in the analysis only if they were listed in the US Army Corps of Engineers' National Levee Database (NLD). No levee breach analyses were
 completed: levees were assumed to perform until overtopped.
- Bridges and culverts were modeled unobstructed: ice Jams and debris collection were not considered.
- Inundation boundaries were only developed for the listed stream: tributaries were not taken into account.
- Lakes, ponds, and lagoons were assumed dry until overtopped.
- The critical facilities layer is draft and subject to change at any time.

The models used to develop the inundation boundaries and depth grids were developed using the best available topographic, land use, and flood insurance study data, as well as best engineering practices at the time of their development. Any change to the topography or land use will impact the accuracy of the inundation boundaries. These are not regulatory models and were developed solely for informational purposes. Any use of these models or modifications beyond that are not recommended, but may be conducted based on the discretion of a licensed professional engineer. The Department of Water, Energy, and Environment makes no claims, representations, and warranties, express or implied, concerning the validity, the reliability, or the accuracy of the data and data products furnished by the Department. The Department of Water, Energy, and Environment assumes no liability for any errors, omissions, or inaccuracies in the information provided regardless of their cause, or for any decision made, action taken, or action not taken in reliance upon the information contained in these models. All models and reports are available from DWEE, upon request.

Click "Agree" to view the map.

Save/Print Map

Aaree

Service State Real-time Flood Forecasting

Chadron

4924

Fort Morga

Greele

1551 ft

Storm Lake

1562

Show Legend Gage Filters Show Weather Radar Additional Layers

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▼ Search for a Location or Gage

City

By default, all stream gages in Nebraska will be visible when you first open the page. Gages with a square icon have simulated inundation boundaries. Gages with a circle do not, but will display live data from the gage site.

3673 1

Save/Print Map





Example:

• These filters would allow you to only see gages along the <u>Elkhorn River</u> that are <u>rising</u> and are at the <u>moderate</u> flood stage.

✓ Stream ✓ NeDNR/DWEE Flood Status Not Available Simulations	All Big Blue River
20 Missouri River Bi	
✓ Reservoir ✓ USGS Max Forecast Constant Forecast Potential Platte River	Elkhorn River
□ Other	Little Blue River
Near Flood Stage Rising Rising Big Papillion Creek Mi	Vissouri River
Minor Flooding Moderate Flooding Camera Little Blue River Nid	Niobrara River
Major Flooding Seasonal Niobrara River	
Ice Affected	
Apply Filters Reset Filters Close	

Service State Real-time Flood Forecasting





👑 NeRFF Nebraska Real-time Flood Foreca



atte River near Grand age Height: 3.84 ft	Island ^
Flood Simulator 🛯 🗋 Shov	v Watershed 🛛 🕀 Zoom
Sage ID:	06770500
Owner:	USGS
Datum:	1,829.9 (NGVD29)
River Basin:	Platte River
ce Affected:	No
easonal:	No
Current Discharge (cfs):	927

Constant

St

Stage Trend:

NWS Gage Site:

USGS Gage Site: Sign Up for Alerts:

HIVIS Camera:





👑 NeRFF Nebraska Real-time Flood Foreca



itage Height: 3.84 ft	
🛓 Flood Simulator 🛛 👌 Show	v Watershed ⊕ Zoom to
Gage ID:	06770500
Owner:	USGS
Datum:	1,829.9 (NGVD29)
River Basin:	Platte River
Ice Affected:	No
Seasonal:	No
Current Discharge (cfs):	927
Stage Trend:	Constant
NWS Gage Site:	View
USGS Gage Site:	View
Sign Up for Alerts:	View
HIVIS Camera:	Vilv
PLATTE RIVER NEA	R GI ND ISLAND
132 132 132 132 132 13 34 2 34 3 34 4 34 5 34 6 34 12 Latest elserved value: 3.78 ft at 7:15 AM CD	7 102 132 132 132 132 132 7 1 8 301 9 301 10 301 11 301 12 7

Platte River near Grand Island

Use the "View" links to see the information on the NeDNR, USGS, or NWS website







Service Stranger Stra



Service Strang NeRFF Nebraska Real-time Flood Forecasting



Service State Real-time Flood Forecasting





🐸 NeRFF Nebraska Real-time Flood Forecasting



Service State New York State S





Click "Additional Layers" to view:

5446 ft

4924 ft

Fort Morg

Chevenr

ort Collin

- Critical Facilities (data provided by hazard mitigation plans and local communities)
- Nebraska dam locations
 - Levees
- Rain gauges
- Ice jam reports
- High water marks and their data
- Stream lines
- Building footprints
- National Risk Index for flood hazards
- Weather watches and warnings

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Contact Home About Additional Layers a Search for a Location or Gage **Regulatory Flood Zones Critical Facilities** Nebraska Dams Storm Lake Levees Nebraska Rain Gauges Ice Jam Reports **High Water Marks** 1562 f National Risk Index Weather Layers astings

Save/Print Map

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Regulatory Flood Zones – View regulatory flood hazard areas, similar to the interactive floodplain map. These can be activated with inundation boundaries to compare.





Critical Facilities – Displays the location of critical facilities identified in local hazard mitigation plans or by emergency management offices



Additional Layers

> Regulatory Flood Zones

Critical Facilities

Nebraska Dams

Levees

Nebraska Rain Gauges

Ice Jam Reports

High Water Marks

Digitized Streams

- > Building Layers
- > National Risk Index
- > Weather Layers

Nebraska Dams – Displays Nebraska registered dams and their hazard level. Click any point to view more information. Data from the Dam Safety Division.



Additional Layers

> Regulatory Flood Zones

Critical Facilities

Nebraska Dams

Levees

Nebraska Rain Gauges

Ice Jam Reports

High Water Marks

Digitized Streams

> Building Layers

> National Risk Index

> Weather Layers

Levees – Accredited levees from the National Levee Database



Additional Layers

Regulatory Flood Zones

Critical Facilities

Nebraska Dams

Levees

Nebraska Rain Gauges

Ice Jam Reports

High Water Marks

Digitized Streams

- > Building Layers
- > National Risk Index
- > Weather Layers

Nebraska Rain Gauges -View data from the NeRAIN rain gage system. Use the filters in the bottom left to adjust the range for data.



Additional Layers

> Regulatory Flood Zones

Critical Facilities

Nebraska Dams

Levees

Nebraska Rain Gauges

Ice Jam Reports

High Water Marks

Digitized Streams

- > Building Layers
- > National Risk Index
- > Weather Layers

Ice Jam Reports - Use this layer to view recent reports made by certified users of our ice jam reporting page.



Additional Layers

Regulatory Flood Zones

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Nebraska Rain Gauges

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High Water Marks

Digitized Streams

- > Building Layers
- > National Risk Index
- > Weather Layers

High Water Marks – Data from recorded and reviewed historical high water marks. Shown as clusters when there are multiple in one location.



North Platte River HWM ID ^ ×					
e	Coom to				
	Name:				
	Waterbody:	North Platte River		. 1	
	Flood Date:	3/13/1903, 11:00 PM	M		
	Event Name:				
	Source:				
	Description:	In the early 1880's s came to farm the No Platte Valley in west Nebraska. Heavy Rai would cause flash fla and the runoff was m stored. To provide irrigation flood cont hydropower to the m the 111-mile North I Project from Guerns Whyoming, to Bridg Nebraska was built project, originally ca the Sweetwater Proj was authorized this 1903 and constructi began in 1905.	ettlers orth ern infall ooding not rol and egion, Platte ey peport, The ect, date in on		
	Elevation (ft.):				
	Global ID:	{0D5540C0-A354-4: 84CD-BF621BE52A	2ED- D5}		
	Book Number:				
	HWM ID:				
		-			

Additional Layers

> Regulatory Flood Zones

Critical Facilities

Nebraska Dams

Levees

Nebraska Rain Gauges

Ice Jam Reports

High Water Marks

Digitized Streams

> Building Layers

- > National Risk Index
- > Weather Layers

Digitized Streams – Use this layer to view streambed locations along mapped streams. Data currently under maintenance, so no screenshot.

Additional Layers

> Regulatory Flood Zones

Critical Facilities

Nebraska Dams

Levees

Nebraska Rain Gauges

Ice Jam Reports

High Water Marks

Digitized Streams

> Building Layers

National Risk Index

> Weather Layers



Building Layers – View building footprints and general structure information.

Additional Layers



Digitized Streams

- > Building Layers
- National Risk Index
- > Weather Layers



National Risk Index – Dataset and online tool to help illustrate the United States communities most at risk for 18 natural hazards. NeRFF displays riverine flood risk by census tract or county level.
Additional Layers

Additional Layers

Regulatory Flood Zones

Critical Facilities

Nebraska Dams

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Digitized Streams

> Building Layers

National Risk Index

> Weather Layers



Weather Layers – View watches and warnings, 6 hour observed rainfall, and 6 hour forecasted rainfall

Additional Layers

Additional Layers **Regulatory Flood Zones Critical Facilities** Nebraska Dams Levees Nebraska Rain Gauges Ice Jam Reports **High Water Marks Digitized Streams Building Layers** National Risk Index Weather Layers



Weather Layers – View watches and warnings, 6 hour observed rainfall, and 6 hour forecasted rainfall

NeRFF Applications

- Imminent flooding
 - Evacuation zones
 - Emergency routes
 - Road closures
 - Emergency flood briefings
- Development planning
- Hazard mitigation planning
- Updated modeling for local officials
- Flood emergency tabletop exercises
- Outreach events

Be #NebraskaReady with NeRFF Nebraska Real-time Flood Forecasting Developed by Nebraska's Department of Natural Resources, you can now see current river conditions statewide and flood simulation for 40+ locations at nerff.nebraska.gov Up-to-date river stages and forecasts Flood simulation by stage and frequency Weather warnings and radar FEMA floodplains and critical facility locations HIVIS camera views of rivers at gage locations Click on a gage to get started >>> Flood by Stage Flood by Frequency 19′ ✓ View Depth

Future Plans for NeRFF

- Plan to add 2-3 sites per year
- Leverage the National Water Model to add ungaged sites
- Update critical facilities data
- Add damage assessment data for structures



Questions?

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