Sources of Flood Data

This table lists possible sources of information for flood data to use when developing the damage history.

Table 3.8: Sources of Flood Data

Local	State	Federal	Other
Solid waste management Transportation Park development Sewage treatment Water supply Drainage Navigation *Special Districts:* ▪ Flood Control ▪ Levee Improvement ▪ Watershed ▪ Soil and Water Conservation	Agencies responsible for bridge and road projects Agency responsible for floodplain management (e.g., Department of Transportation, Department of Natural Resources, Emergency Management) State universities may have simplified methods that would be useful.	*FEMA:* ▪ FISs ▪ FIRMs *U.S. Army Corps of Engineers* ▪ Floodplain Information Reports (prior to mid-1970s) ▪ Floodplain Management Services Office ▪ Urban area and watershed studies *Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS):* (Small watershed areas less than 250,000 acres) ▪ Constructs small flood-control dams; acquires land. ▪ Facilitates or conducts watershed planning studies for communities. *Federal Highway Administration* *Department of Transportation* *Tennessee Valley Authority:* Conducts flood relations programs to assist State and local governments to develop nonstructural measures for floodplain management. *USGS:* ▪ Helps States maintain stream gauge stations. ▪ Analyzes and records stream flow data; publishes annual report with flow data for gauged streams. ▪ Prepares inundation maps of previous floods for specific communities. ▪ Prepares Flood-Prone Quadrangle Maps, standard topographic maps (1:24,000 scale) that show approximate delineation of the 1-percent ("100-year") flood. (FEMA often uses flood-prone quads to delineate the approximate floodplain on FIRMs.)	*NRCS Soil Survey Reports** High-Water Marks (Height of past floods) ▪ Newspaper articles ▪ Recorded high-water marks ▪ Residents Note: It can be difficult to relate frequency of occurrence to specific flood events. *Wetland Maps (Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetlands Inventory Project)* ▪ Wetlands are identified on small-scale (1:100,000 or 1:125,000) and large-scale topographic maps. Some States are inventorying wetlands for regulatory purposes. ▪ Social media

*Reports include description of soil classifications and aerial photos showing the location of each soil type. Alluvial soils derived from material deposited by running water include types of soils prone to flooding. When found adjacent to rivers and streams, the boundary of alluvial soils used in conjunction with the USGS Flood-Prone Quadrangle Map or Flood Hazard Boundary Map (FHBM) can be used to obtain a reasonable estimate of the Base ("100-year") Flood Elevation.