

# **Collaborating Nationally and Empowering Locally**

the Flood Decision Support Toolbox (FDST)

Kristine Blickenstaff Texas GIS Forum March 8, 2022

### InFRM

Interagency Flood Risk Management (InFRM) Team -

- FEMA Region 6 Sponsor
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
- U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)
- National Weather Service (NWS)





# Why InFRM?

### Goals

- Integrate information and simplify access to data
- Increase accuracy and timeliness of information
- Provide high resolution information and forecasts
- Enrich stakeholder participation
- Mitigate and "inform" flood risk as a team





### Collaborating Nationally, Empowering Locally











## **A Web Presence for InFRM**

#### **≁InFRM**

Estimate Your Base Flood Elevation Flood Decision Support Toolbox Hydrology Assessment Atlas 14 👫



### **Interagency Flood Risk Management**

#### **Collaborating Nationally. Empowering Locally.**

Flooding remains the leading cause of natural-disaster loss across the United States. The Interagency Flood Risk Management (InFRM) team brings together Federal Partners with mission areas of hazard mitigation, emergency management, floodplain management, natural resources management or conservation to leverage the skillsets, resources and programs to determine the needs of communities and define solutions and implement measures to reduce long term flood risk throughout the States of Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas.

In 2014, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) began sponsorship of the InFRM team initiative to allow Federal teams across the States of Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Louisiana and Arkansas to better align and integrate. Currently, the InFRM team is comprised of FEMA, US Army Corps of Engineers, US Geological Survey, and the National Weather Service. No single agency has all the answers, but through a coordinated effort of multiple programs and various perspectives, a cohesive solution can be found. By applying their shared knowledge, the InFRM team can also enhance response and recovery efforts when flood events do occur.

While floods are impossible to prevent completely, and there is no way to guarantee protection of property, loss of life can be greatly reduced when communities have access to good data, practice sound land use, floodplain management and development practices and incorporate warning systems. Local communities can partner with the InFRM team to investigate solutions to reduce their communities flood risk.







### www.InFRM.us

# InFRM Projects – estBFE Viewer

#### **Estimate Your Base Flood Elevation**

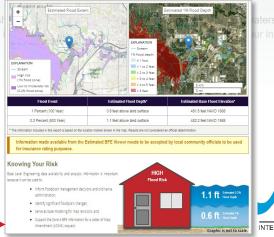
Base Level Engineering is a watershed-wide engineering modeling method that leverages high resolution ground elevation, automated model building techniques, and manual model review to prepare broad and accurate flood risk information for FEMA to assess its current flood hazard inventory. Base Level Engineering prepares flood risk information with scalable engineering, allowing FEMA to both assess its current flood hazard inventory and expand the coverage and availability of flood risk information to communities and individuals interested in reviewing their potential flood risk.

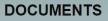
Goal: Centralized and available flood hazard analysis to support floodplain management activities and development review, while increasing risk awareness for individuals.

#### Benefits:

- The Estimated Base Flood Elevation Viewer allows users to determine the flood risk (High, Moderate, Low) throughout watersheds that have been assessed using Base Level Engineering methods.
- Estimated base flood elevations and flood depths for site specific locations (within the estimated 1% annual chance floodplain)
- Immediate point-click-download access to engineering models and Base Level Engineering datasets.
- Allows Federal, State, and local governments, as well as individuals, access to flood risk information.
  - Base Level
     Engineering Data
  - visualization
  - Point, click & download
  - Search functionality
  - My estBFE report









#### Estimated Base Flood Elevation Viewer Factsheet

Summarizes base level engineering and how to use the new Estimated Base Flood Elevation Viewer, which is an interactive web portal.



#### What is Base Level Engineering? Factsheet

Explains the base level engineering production approach and how it can be used to reduce flood risk.











# estBFE Viewer - Multi-functionality

#### **Estimated Base Floo**

< 🖹 Report 📕 Lege

Base Map: Topographi



Comments: This base map includes administrative boundaries, cities, water features, physiographic fea parks, landmarks, highways, roads, railways, and air

Data Source: ESRI ArcGIS Online

#### Welcome to the

Base Level Engineering assessments are produced using high resolution ground data to create technically creditable flood hazard information that may be used to expand and modernize FEMA's current flood hazard inventory.



#### View Base Level Engineering Data

Access all available Base Level Engineering data without GIS software.

- Click the DATA LAYERS button to add or remove map layers.
- Click the **LEGEND** tab to view an explanation of all data shown.
- Click the MAP VIEW button to open or close a second viewing window for side-by-side comparisons.





Download

#### Download Datasets & Models

Download the Base Level Engineering data presented in the viewer.

- Click the DATA LAYERS button and add the DOWNLOADABLE DATA layer.
- Click shaded areas in the map to open a dialog for choosing datasets to download.



#### Property Look Up

Where data is available, produce a property-specific report with estimated base flood information.

• Click the **REPORT** tab to create a flood risk report for a specific location.

Click a topic to get started!

O Quick Start

**6** About

U.S. Department of the Interior | DOI Inspector General | White House | E-gov | Open Government | No Fear Act | FOIA





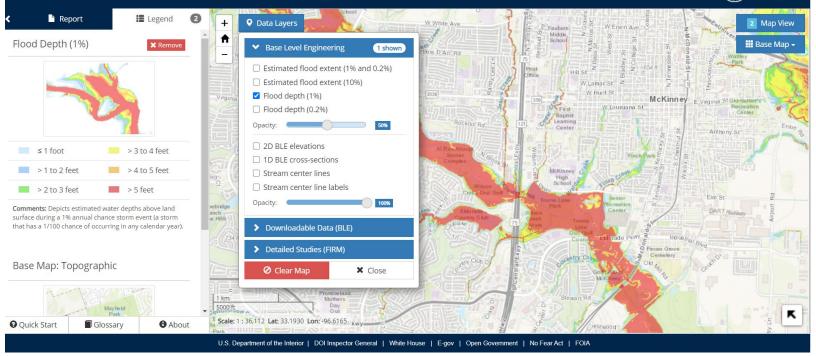
FEMA

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Glossarv

# estBFE Viewer – View Base Level Engineering Data

#### Estimated Base Flood Elevation (estBFE) Viewer



 Base Level Engineering – approach to flood risk reduction that combines highresolution ground elevation data and modeling advancements to create engineering models and flood hazard data on a watershed-level scale





🛞 FEMA

## InFRM Projects – Watershed Hydrology **Assessments (WHAs)**

#### Watershed Hydrology Assessments

As hydrology remains the single largest source of uncertainty in our understanding of flood risk, the InFRM team has been performing Watershed Hydrology Assessments to update flood risk estimates in large, complex river basins using suites of models developed by USACE.

The InFRM Watershed Hydrology Assessments (WHAs) are performed by an expert team of engineers and scientists from multiple federal agencies using the latest advances in hydrologic science and technology. The watershed assessments examine the hydrology across the entire basin, reviewing non-stationary influences, such as regulation, land use changes, and wet/dry climate variation, to ensure all variables affecting flood risk in the watersheds are considered. The multi-layered analysis employs a range of hydrologic methods, including rainfall runoff modeling, statistical hydrology, and reservoir simulations, and then compares the results of those methods to one another

The goal of the watershed hydrology assessments is to produce consistent 1% annual chance (100-yr) and other frequency flows across the river basin, based on all available hydrologic information. The results of the hydrology assessments represent the best available estimate of flood risk across the entire river basin and provide suggestions for areas where the current flood hazard information may need to be updated

River basins within the region are selected for hydrology assessments based on watersheds where USACE already had sufficiently detailed modeling products available as a starting point for the assessments and where FEMA had future floodplain mapping activities scheduled.

InFRM watershed hydrology assessments are currently underway for the following river basins:

- · the Guadalupe
- the Trinity,
- the Neches, and
- the lower Colorado River basins in Texas, and
- the Little River basin in Oklahoma

Additional basins will be added to the program as funding allows.



Trinity River

Neches River

#### DOCUMENTS

Marcos River Basin									
Summarizes new analyses completed to estim									
frequency flows for various stream reaches in									

the San Marcos River Basin



#### InFRM Watershed Hydrology Assessment for the Guadalupe River

Summarizes new analyses completed to estimate frequency flows, for various stream reaches in the Guadalupe River Basin.



#### InFRM Watershed Hydrology Assessments Factsheet

Highlights and description of the Watershed Hydrology Assessments

InFRM Watershed Hydrology Assessment for the Trinity River Basin

- Flood flow frequency for 2, 5, 10, 25, 50, 100, 250, and 500 yr
  - Statistical analysis (Bulletin 17C)
  - Rainfall-runoff modeling (CWMS)
  - RiverWare generated period of record

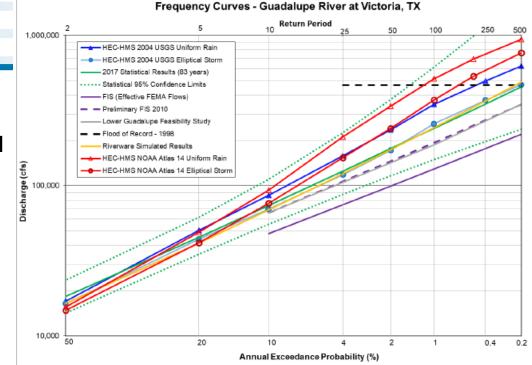




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# **WHA - Results**

- Statistical flood frequency results compared to previous effective flows, basin models to produce recommended results.
- Reports available at infrm.us
- Completed:
  - Guadalupe/San Marcos
  - Trinity
- In review:
  - Neches
- In Progress:
  - Colorado
  - Nueces
  - 8





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#### Interagency Flood Risk Management (InFRM) Watershed Hydrology Assessment for the Guadalupe River Basin

#### Interagency Flood Risk Management (In/FRM)

This report summarizes new analyses that were completed as part of a study to estimate the 1% annual chance (100yr) flow, along with other frequency flows, for various stream reaches in the Guadalupe River Basin...





# **The Flood Decision Support Toolbox**



### Background – Flooding in the South-Central U.S.

#### Harvey 2017



#### Mississippi River 2019

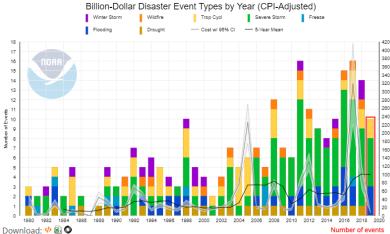


#### TS Imelda 2019



Wimberly 2015





NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) U.S. Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters (2019). https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/billions/



as of October 8, 2019

#### lda 2021



# A better warning system is needed!

- Inundation mapping requests during 2015/2016 floods
- USACE/USGS/Others?
- Over 1,500 river miles
- Requests came from
  - Federal Agencies
  - State Agencies
  - Cities
  - Municipalities

### Disadvantages

Pressure for time



- Prioritizing
- <sup>11</sup> Potential for error



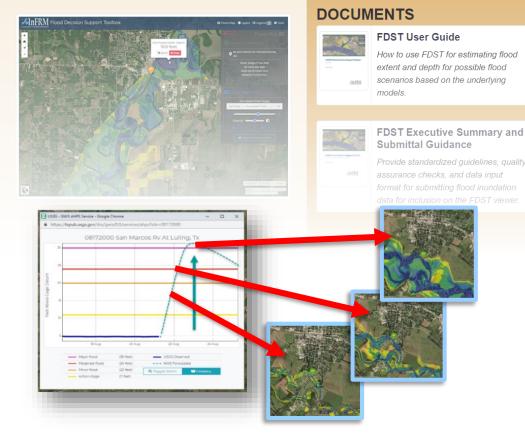


## InFRM Projects – Flood Decision Support Toolbox (FDST)

#### Flood Decision Support Toolbox

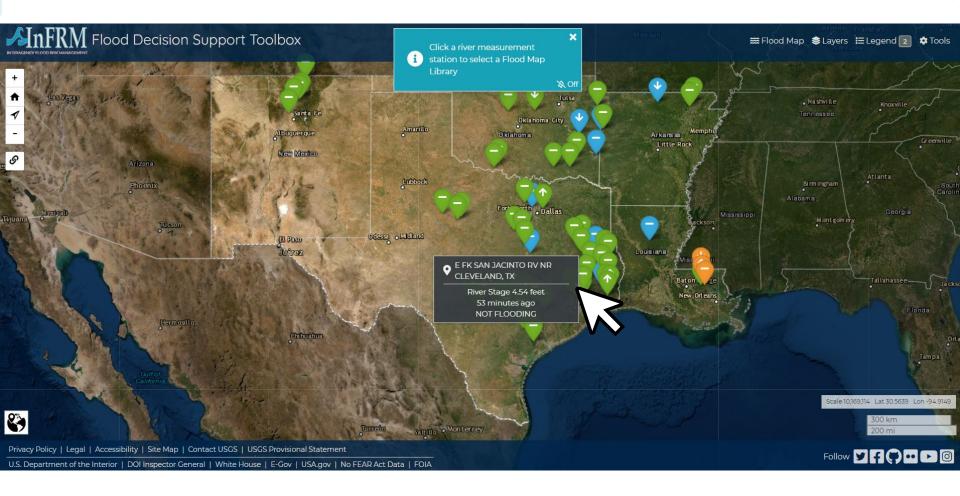
The InFRM Flood Decision Support Toolbox (FDST) is an interactive web application (WebApp) which:

- visualizes current flood-related weather conditions in FEMA region 6 (Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas),
- allows peace-time analysis by emergency planners, local governments, and other stakeholders preparing for potential response activities (such as planned evacuation routes, identification of vulnerable areas requiring road closure, and resource planning in advance of flood events),
- leverages federal, state, regional and local engineering model information to develop pre-positioned flood inundation libraries for micro-level efforts (neighborhood level),
- connects National Water Model predictions for macro-level planning (community,
- Pre-positioned map libraries
- areas in relation to a field reported streamgage height
- Tied to:
  - USGS streamgage data
  - NWS River Forecasts
  - NWS Flood Categories
- Scenario Planning
- Historical Flood viewing
- Print Map Generation

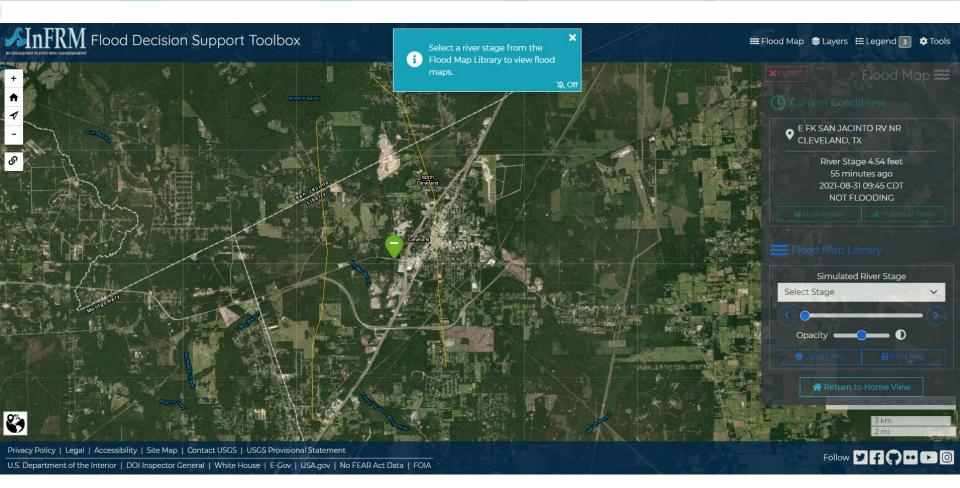








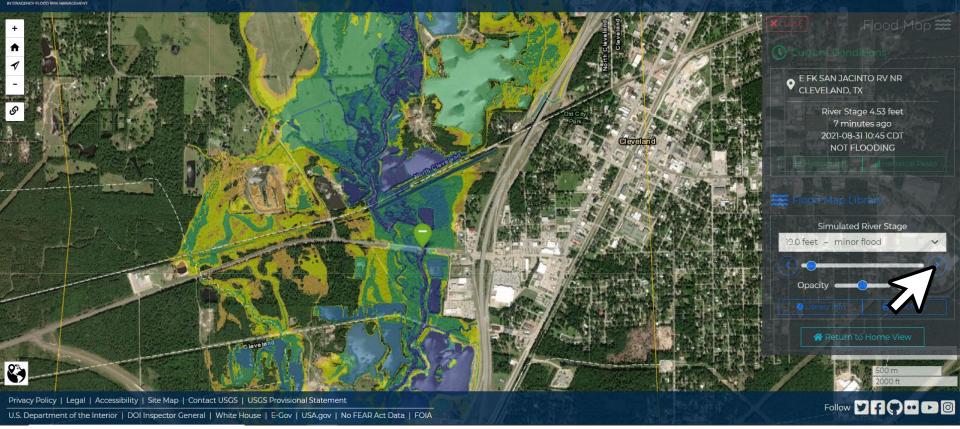






SINFRM Flood Decision Support Toolbox

➡ Flood Map Layers E Legend 
■ Tools



Map library extends from **NWS Minor Flood** stage to maximum expected flood (**max observed** OR **500year event**)



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#### SinFRM Flood Decision Support Toolbox

U.S. Dec

16



Map library extends from NWS Minor Flood stage to maximum expected flood (max observed OR 500year event)

DOI Inspector General | White House | E-Gov | USA.gov | No FEAR Act Data | FOIA



☵ Flood Map 📚 Layers 🖽 Legend 🛐 🏟 Tools

#### Sinfred Flood Decision Support Toolbox

☵ Flood Map 📚 Layers ☵ Legend 🛐 🌩 Tools



Select anywhere in the map to view estimated water depth



### SINFRM Flood Decision Support Toolbox



U.S. Department of the Interior | DOI Inspector General | White House | E-Gov | USA.gov | No FEAR Act Data | FOIA



🚟 Flood Map 🛭 😂 Layer

E Legend 3

Tools

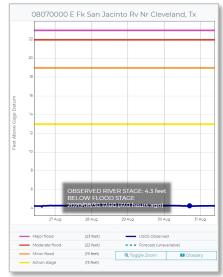
#### MnFRM Flood Decision Support Toolbox

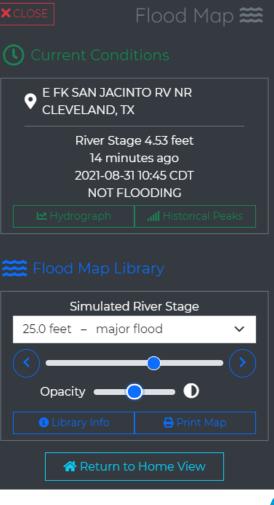




- Hydrograph:
  - Tied to USGS streamgage data, NWS AHPS prediction service
  - Stage forecast\*
  - Flood categories\*

#### \* If available





#### Historical Peaks:

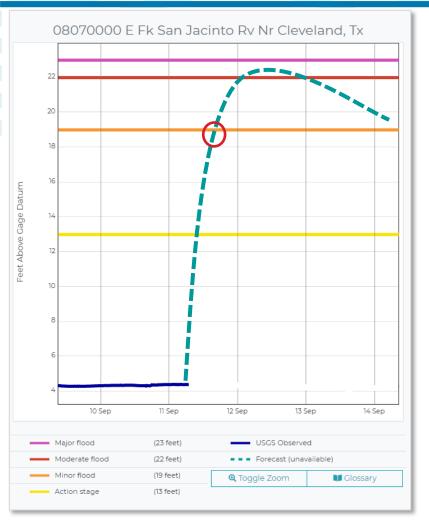
- Top 10 historical stages
- Enables user to view the effects of a historical flood as if it were to happen today

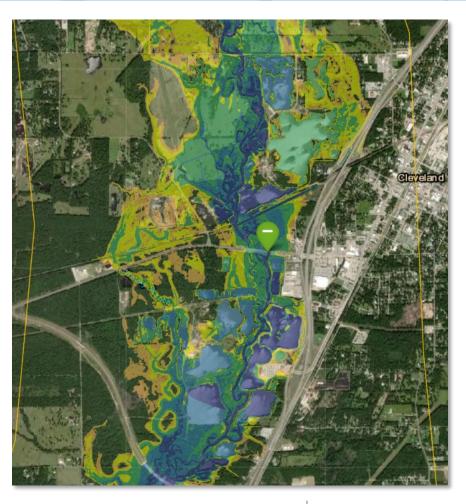
Top 10 Historical Peak Stages 🛛 🕺									
E Fk San Jacinto Rv nr Cleveland, TX									
Sun Aug 27 2017	27.17 feet	MAJOR Flood	🗮 View Flood Map						
Wed Jan 07 1998	24.57 feet	MAJOR Flood	🗮 View Flood Map						
Mon Oct 17 1994	24.57 feet	MAJOR Flood	🗮 View Flood Map						
Sat Nov 23 1940	24.1 feet	MAJOR Flood	🗮 View Flood Map						
Wed Jun 13 1973	23.92 feet	MAJOR Flood	🗮 View Flood Map						
Sat May 04 1935	23.6 feet	MAJOR Flood	🗮 View Flood Map						
Fri Nov 13 1998	21.72 feet	MODERATE Flood	🗮 View Flood Map						
Fri May 27 2016	20.85 feet	MINOR Flood	🗮 View Flood Map						
Sat May 21 1983	20.68 feet	MINOR Flood	🗮 View Flood Map						
Sat Apr 18 1959	20.38 feet	MINOR Flood	🗮 View Flood Map						
C <sup>*</sup>	USGS Station V	Vebsite 🛛 NWS Station	Website						

[Stages reported in feet above gage datum, which is 107.96 feet above NAVD88]

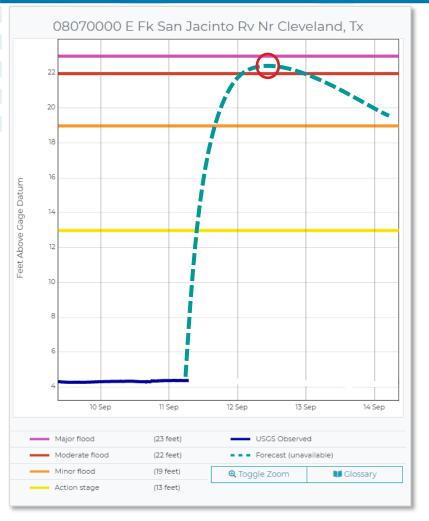


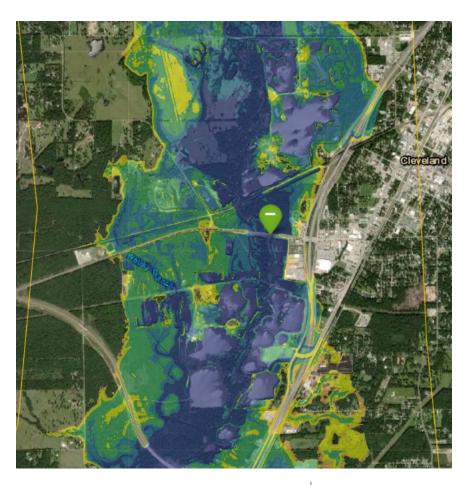




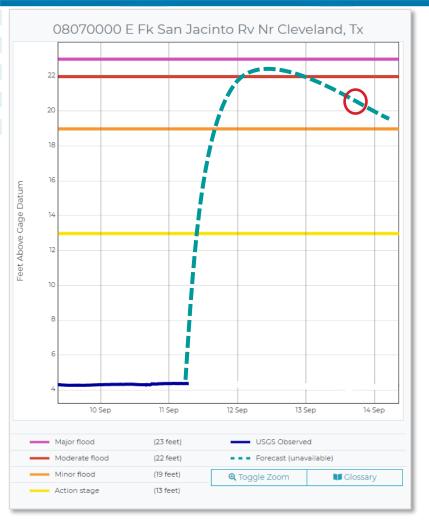


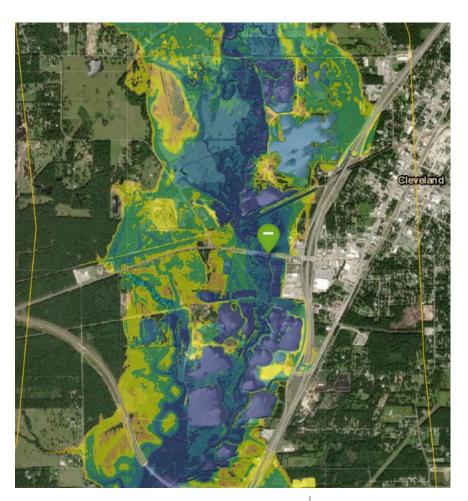










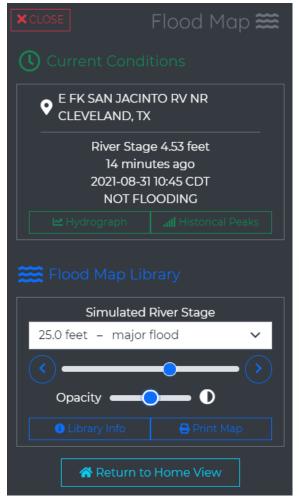




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- Library Info:
  - Model metadata
  - Model source
  - Model error, ranking (Tier A, Tier B)
  - 'Download Library' option

FINODE           MINIMUM         27.0 feet above NAVD88           MINIMUM         27.0 feet above NAVD88           MINIMUM         137.0 feet above NAVD88           MINIMUM         137.0 feet above NAVD88           MINIMUM         25.0 feet above NAVD88           MINIMUM         0.5 feet           MINIMUM         0.5 feet           MINIMUM         20.5 feet           MARES         2           MARES         2           MARES         FLOOD INUNDATION MODEL           POVIDED BY         FEMA           PUBLISE         2019           RANKINK         Tee B (Includes hydraulic models that are similar in quality to those used by FEMA for Base Level Engineering flood risk analysis and mapping)           MODEL         0.7 feet           MORES         Aint guide sub dat a stage of 29 ft. gage datum.           MODEL         This map library was generated using FEMA Base Level Engineering (BLE) study for the East Fork San action Risk motts           Station River watersheed. TX. Model dat and supporting documentation may be found through the Estimated Base Flood Elevation (estBFE) Viewer at the InFRM website: infrm.us           CONTACT         InFIMQUIGSgov           INMVEB hybrith American Watard FLAM Models Medie. IMMES, NASO, National Weather Service. USOS, United States Geologal Survey, FEMA, Federela Barerererererererererererere	Library Inform	ation ×									
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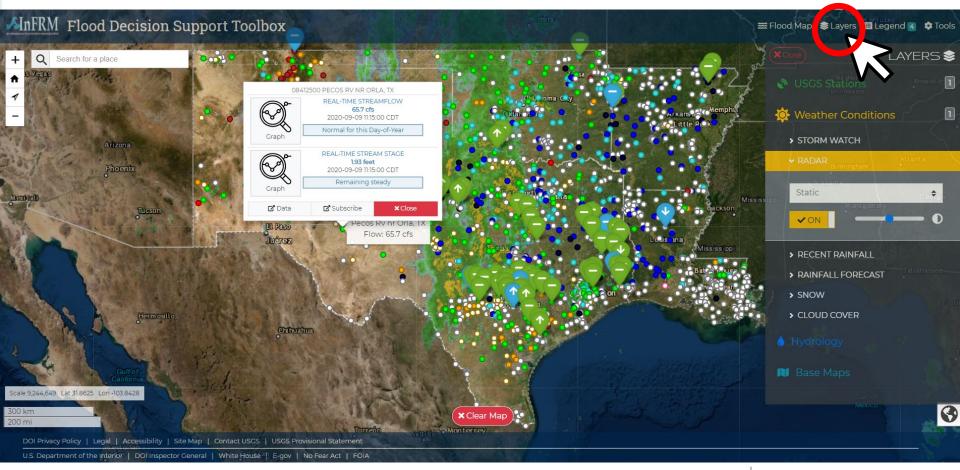
### Print Map:

- PDF or print snapshot of map view
- Enables distribution of flood map in field
- Includes map view and library info



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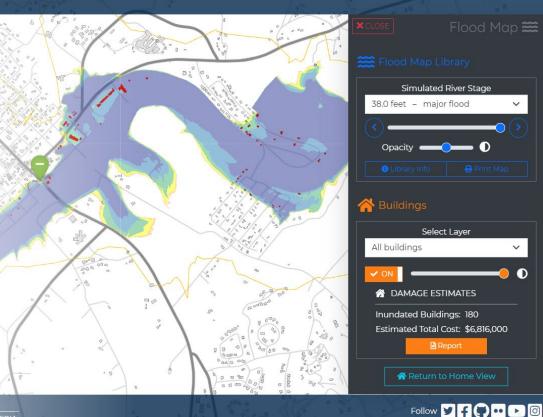




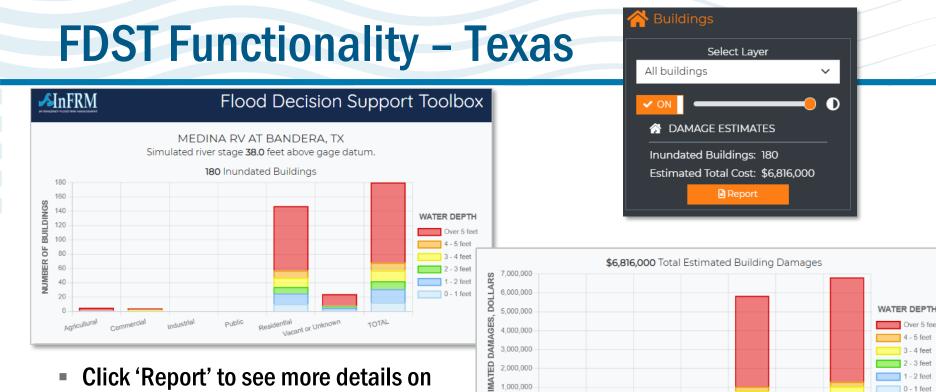
#### Flood Decision Support Toolbox

#### ು Flood Map 📚 Layers 🖽 Legend 🕢 💠 Tools

- New buildings layer in Texas viewer shows buildings likely to be inundated and estimated total cost of damage
- Damage estimates were derived from depth-damage relations for structures from the USACE
- Building footprint data created from Open Street Map buildings layer and Microsoft Al buildings layer
- Where possible, building categorical info was obtained from local County Appraisal Districts







EST

Agricultural

- estimated building damages and estimated costs
- Print Map function also summarizes building damage in Texas
- NOTE: costs CANNOT be tied back to individual buildings 27

Water Depth, Feet	Agricultural		Commercial		Industrial		Public		Residential		Vacant or Unknown		TOTAL	
	Count	Damages	Count	Damages	Count	Damages	Count	Damages	Count	Damages	Count	Damages	Count	Damages
Over 5	4	\$126,000	2	\$122,000	0	\$0	0	\$0	90	\$4,809,000	16	\$465,000	112	\$5,522,000
4-5	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	10	\$224,000	1	\$11,000	11	\$235,000
3-4	0	\$0	2	\$111,000	0	\$0	0	\$0	13	\$299,000	0	\$0	15	\$410,000
2-3	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	9	\$187,000	2	\$72,000	11	\$259,000
1-2	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	15	\$281,000	4	\$59,000	19	\$340,000
0-1	1	\$4,000	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	10	\$41,000	1	\$5,000	12	\$50,000
TOTAL	5	\$130,000	4	\$233,000	0	\$0	0	\$0	147	\$5,841,000	24	\$612,000	180	\$6,816,000

Public

Vacant or Unknown

TOTAL

Residential

Over 5 fee

5 feet

3 - 4 feet

2 - 3 feet

2 feet

0 - 1 feet

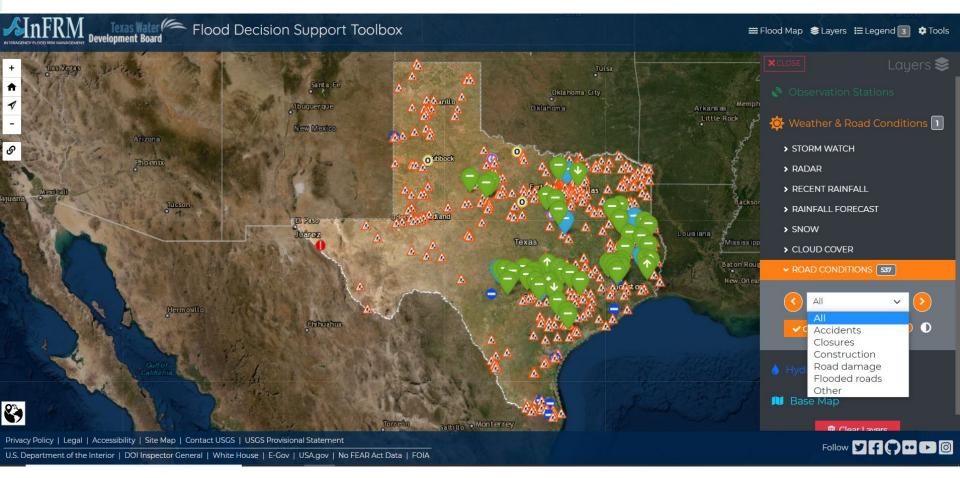
All damage amounts are estimates rounded to the nearest \$1,000.

Commercial

Additional buildings may be impacted outside of the inundation externation

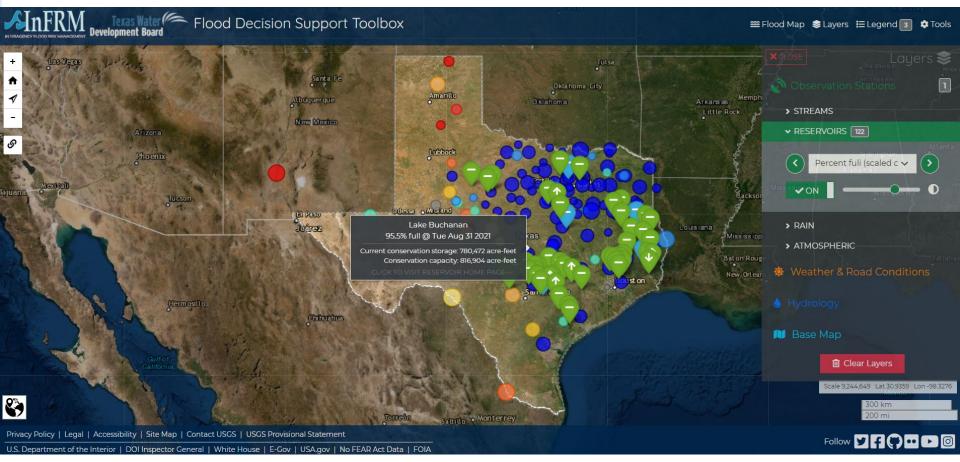


Industrial



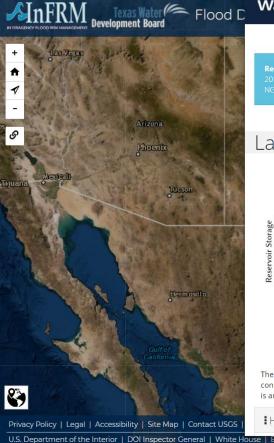
Texas viewer shows TXDOT road conditions

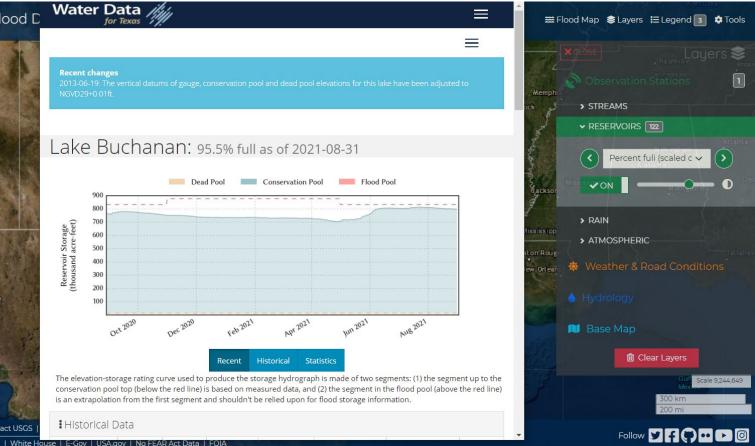




Reservoir status available through Water Data for Texas (% full and % flood height)







Reservoir status available through Water Data for Texas (% full and % flood height)



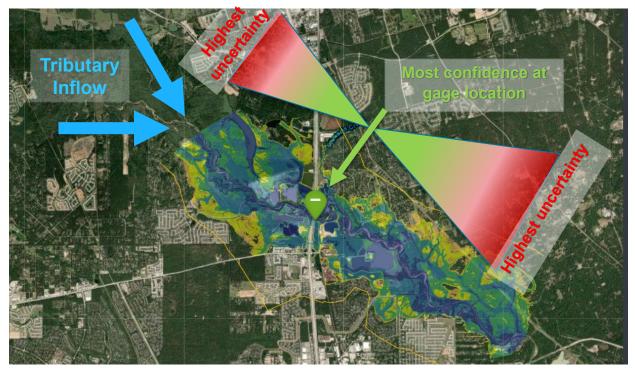
# **Uncertainty in Modeling**

#### No model is 100% correct

 No information is better than poor or misleading information, BUT

> fair or reasonably reliable information is better than no information

- Important to communicate uncertainty of model
  - Tier A/B
  - Rating Curve RMSE
  - Uncertainty in forecasts
- FDST maps flow at gage, and as far upstream and downstream as that gaged flow is valid

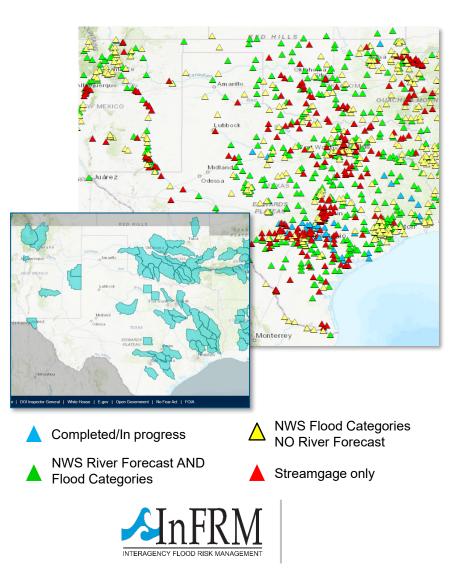




## Federal – State – Local Partnerships

#### FDST designed to be a living website

- Map submission guidelines describe map library submittal process
- InFRM team working on new/updated features and functionality
- Flexible framework enables some customization to regional/local partners' needs
- Goal is for State and Local partners to be primary contributors
  - Add missing sites of need
  - Update sites with new models
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# **The FDST Process**

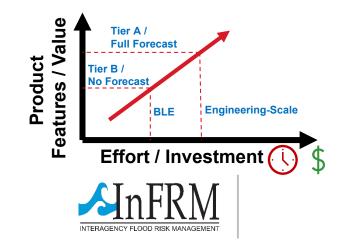
#### Three items needed to generate a map library;

- 1. USGS streamgage (AHPS forecast point a plus)
- 2. Hi-res LIDAR
- 3. Hydraulic Model



#### Hydraulic model scalable:

- FDST flexible with model requirements
- Begin with Base Level Engineering
- Update with full-scale Engineering model





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