



## INTRODUCTION

In 2002, DCRA published the State of Alaska Statewide Flood Hazard Map Modernization Plan describing Alaska’s vision for supporting multi-hazard flood Map Modernization, available and needed staff resources, and a corresponding funding plan for future mapping activities. Six years later (2008), DCRA published Alaska’s Flood Map Modernization Plan, which provided an update of Map Modernization activities and detailed an action-oriented business plan for continued work in updating flood hazard maps. Since that time, significant progress has been made through FEMA’s Map Modernization Program and DCRA’s Community Mapping Program. However, data gathering and the prioritization scheme that formed the basis of both prior DCRA mapping business plans have not undergone a comprehensive update to reflect mapping progress during the past eight years. Consequently, mapping priorities identified in both plans do not reflect the current availability of mapping data, local socioeconomic conditions, natural hazard data, and climate change data as collected by various state and federal agencies.

FEMA manages several risk analysis programs that assess the impact of natural hazards and develop effective strategies for reducing risk. These programs support the United States Department of Homeland Security’s objective to “strengthen nationwide preparedness and mitigation against natural disasters.” During federal fiscal year (FY) 2009, FEMA transitioned from Map Mod to Risk MAP. While Map Mod focused on providing reliable and easily shared digital flood hazard data and maps, Risk MAP emphasizes advancing risk mapping, assessment, and planning work.

DCRA and FEMA have collaborated over the past 25 years to reduce loss of life and property through strategies and programs that reduce natural hazard risk. As the State of Alaska’s designated State Coordinating Agency for the NFIP, DCRA has actively participated in studying the status of flood hazard mapping and making recommendations for updating or creating new maps. As both the Alaska Statewide Flood Hazard Map Modernization Plan (2002) and Alaska’s Flood Map Modernization Plan (2008) documents illustrate, DCRA has actively engaged in FEMA’s Map Mod Program during the past eight years. DCRA is now looking to the future as a partner with FEMA in the execution of the Risk MAP Program.

The 2015 Alaska Mapping Business Plan provides a comprehensive approach for identifying and assessing Alaska’s flood mapping needs, identifying and prioritizing Alaska’s future flood mapping studies, and outlining a collaborative relationship with FEMA to fully execute the Risk MAP strategy for the benefit of Alaska’s communities, local governments, tribal entities, and residents.