

Risk MAP Project Quarterly Report for the Fairbanks North Star Borough, AK Tanana River and Zone A Physical Map Revision

Greetings,

My name is Adam Pooler, and I am part of the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) Tanana River and Zone A Flood Study Risk Mapping, Assessment, and Planning (Risk MAP) Project Team, working with the Strategic Alliance for Risk Reduction (STARR II), a contractor for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). This email is being sent to you as a status update for work completed on this project as of August 28, 2025, and includes the overall progress to date, any scope/schedule changes (if applicable), and a detailed overview of the technical tasks associated with the study. *To ensure these status updates are sent directly to your inbox, please add the email domain “@starr-team.com” to your approved senders list.*

Project History

FNSB, the State of Alaska, and FEMA Region 10 identified refined floodplain analysis along the Tanana River and Zone A flood hazards in rural areas of the borough as a priority for FEMA's Risk MAP program. In committing funds, the State assists FEMA in prioritizing flood study updates based on population at risk to hazards, recent events, and community interest.

Flood studies encompass four key phases:

1. **Discovery and Scoping:** Ongoing mapping needs were communicated during the 2010s following a modernization of floodplain mapping in the populated portions of the borough and with subsequent updates along the Chena Slough. Providing flood elevations along Zone A reaches and updating the Tanana River utilizing advances in mapping and modeling technology provide a better depiction of flood risk and the necessary tools to plan and reduce risk in a flood event.
2. **Data Development:** The Tanana River analysis was funded through a FEMA Cooperating Technical Partner cooperative agreement commitment to FNSB whereas FEMA's consultant, STARR II, performed an updated engineering analysis for Zone A areas across the borough. Results for the analyses were shared in February 2023 (Zone A updates) and June 2023 (Tanana River) with respective Flood Risk Review (FRR) Meetings on July 6 and August 29, 2023. At the FRRs, updated flood risk was shared, solicited for community feedback, and, after incorporating local feedback, facilitated a transition to the Preliminary stage.
3. **Preliminary:** Flood risk information was prepared for public rollout via a Preliminary release on December 6, 2024. A Preliminary Flood Insurance Study (FIS), Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), and FIRM Database were released. Preliminary products are available for download on FEMA's [Preliminary Flood Hazard Data](#) webpage.
4. **Post-Preliminary:** As part of the Preliminary release, FEMA, State, and local officials coordinate on public outreach opportunities, due process protocol, and map adoption requirements through a Consultation Coordination Officer's (CCO) Meeting. The CCO

Meeting occurred on February 6, 2025. To support community outreach, Flood Risk Open House meetings were held June 3-5, 2025, which will be followed by a statutory 90-day appeal period for due process, beginning on September 16, 2025. After the 90-day appeal period, the Preliminary FIRM, FIS, and FIRM Database will move to Post-Preliminary Production, and the six-month map adoption period will commence.

Project Milestones and Deliverables

Meeting/Deliverable	Point of Contact	Actual/Projected Date
Flood Study Kick-Off Meeting	Dale Meck	August 27, 2020
BLE Map Release (GeoPlatform)	Adam Pooler	July 21, 2021
Flood Study Kick-Off Meeting	Adam Pooler	September 22, 2021
Draft Map Release – STARR II Zone A’s	Adam Pooler	February 16, 2023
Draft Map Release – Tanana River	Adam Pooler	June 21, 2023
Flood Risk Review (FRR) Meeting	Adam Pooler	July 6 & August 29, 2023
Flood Risk Product (FRP) Release	Adam Pooler	August 23, 2024
Preliminary DFIRM/FIS Release	Adam Pooler	December 6, 2024
Consultation Coordination Officers (CCO) Meeting	Marshall Rivers	February 6, 2025
Flood Risk Open House Meetings	Marshall Rivers	June 3-5, 2025
Appeal Period Starts	Adam Pooler	September 16, 2025*
Appeal Period Ends	Adam Pooler	December 15, 2025*
Letter of Final Determination	Adam Pooler	TBD
Maps and FIS become Effective	Marshall Rivers	TBD

**All projected dates are subject to revision as the project progresses.*

Recent Activity

At the request of community staff, FEMA and State partners attended locally sponsored Flood Risk Open House meetings held on June 3 through June 5, 2025, to inform the public on Preliminary map products. Information regarding the study process and timeline as well as regulatory and insurance implications of the new floodplain delineations were provided to meeting attendees. The public is welcome to visit the [Story Map](#) as an online resource for information on flood mapping updates. For direct questions on an individual property, please use the “Contacts” tab for additional assistance.

Appeal Start Letters are anticipated to be mailed to community officials on September 2, 2025. These letters provide information about the start of the statutory 90-day appeal period for due process. There will be two newspaper publications in the *Daily News-Miner* to notify community members, one on September 9, 2025 and another on September 16, 2025.

Next Steps

The appeal period will officially begin on September 16, 2025 and run for 90 days. The appeal

period is the time when comments and appeals, with supporting technical data, may be submitted. Both technical and non-technical data will be accepted and reviewed for consideration and possible incorporation into the maps. Any owner or lessee of real property, within a community where a proposed flood elevation determination has been made who wishes to appeal and comment on the maps should submit their comments through their respective jurisdictions. The jurisdictions should submit these appeals and comments using one of the following methods:

- Through the mail to:
FEMA Region 10 Service Center
20700 44th Ave. W., Suite 130
Lynnwood, WA 98036
- OR -
- Through email to:
rscx@starr-team.com and cc: adam.pooler@stantec.com and
marshall.rivers@fema.dhs.gov

If a constituent insists on submitting their appeal information directly to FEMA, one can provide these addresses to them to do so. In this situation, FEMA will be providing copies back to the community so there is an awareness of what is being commented on and to allow the community to provide feedback on any comment or appeal received. **All submittals and supporting data are due to FEMA by the last day of the appeal period on December 15, 2025.**

Submittal acknowledgment letters will be sent for any comments/appeals received during the appeal period. The submittals received during the appeal period will be reviewed for validity and the proposed resolution of the comments/appeals will be presented to the communities.

For additional information on this project, please refer to the following links:

- **FEMA GeoPlatform and Flood Study Data:**
[Preliminary Floodplains | Fairbanks North Star Borough, Alaska - Risk MAP Portfolio](#)
- **Flood Map Update Virtual Resource:** <https://arcg.is/uaKfH0>
- **Project Deliverables (Risk MAP Contacts, Meeting Materials)**:**
[Fairbanks North Star Borough, Alaska - Risk MAP Project Deliverables \(starr-team.com\)](#)

***NOTE: If you have trouble downloading or are prompted for credentials when clicking the file name on the website, cancel the prompt and instead right-click the file name and choose "Save As" or "Save Target As".*

General Information

If you have questions about this Risk MAP project, please contact FEMA Region 10 Risk MAP Implementation Section Chief and Project Monitor Marshall Rivers (marshall.rivers@fema.dhs.gov, (425) 381-3773), FEMA Region 10 Regional Engineer Dale Meck (dale.meck@fema.dhs.gov, (202) 285-2671), or State Risk MAP Coordinator Becca Rein (rebecca.rein@alaska.gov, (907) 269-3037).

The STARR II Region 10 Help Desk is another resource available to answer project-related questions. STARR II staff will route and research your question and respond within three business days. Submit your questions via email, the address is RegionXHelpDesk@starr-team.com.

If you want to keep up with what's happening around Region 10, get project status updates, or learn about upcoming events and training opportunities, subscribe to the Region 10 monthly newsletter. For more information or to subscribe, email rxnewsletter@starr-team.com.

Current and past issues of the newsletter, project status updates, announcements, upcoming events, and training opportunities are also available online at the STARR II website, www.starr-team.com.

I hope you found this status update email helpful. If you would like to be removed from the distribution list, or if you feel there is someone that should be added to the list, please reply to this email. If you have any questions, or if there is information that you would like to see in future updates, please feel free to contact me by phone or email. My contact information is below.

Sincerely,

Adam Pooler, GISP
Project Manager

STARR II - Strategic Alliance for Risk Reduction

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