

# VIRGINIA SILVER JACKETS

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US Army Corps  
of Engineers®



# U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in Virginia

- USACE Civil Works Program (flood risk management, navigation, environmental restoration, recreation, etc.) boundaries are based on river basins. There are five USACE District offices that manage the various water resources programs in Virginia: Baltimore, Huntington, Nashville, Norfolk, and Wilmington. The Norfolk District manages about 60 percent of the State's geography and 49 percent of the population.

## River Basins

Baltimore District – Potomac

Huntington District – Big Sandy, Kanawha

Nashville District – Upper Tennessee, French Broad-Holston

Norfolk District – Albemarle-Chowan, Atlantic Coastal, Chesapeake Bay, James, Rappahannock, York

Wilmington District – Roanoke, Upper Pee Dee

- Norfolk District Regulatory Program (wetlands/permitting) covers the entire State.
- Norfolk District Military Program covers the entire State, except for certain areas bordering Washington, D.C.



### BALTIMORE DISTRICT

Accomack\* Harrisonburg Rockingham  
 Alexandria Highland\* Shenandoah  
 Arlington King George\* Stafford\*  
 Augusta\* Loudoun Staunton  
 Clarke Manassas Warren\*  
 Fairfax Manassas Park Waynesboro  
 Falls Church Northumberland Westmoreland\*  
 Fauquier\* Page Winchester  
 Frederick Prince William

### HUNTINGTON DISTRICT

Alleghany\* Floyd\* Radford  
 Bath\* Galax Smyth\*  
 Bland\* Giles\* Tazewell\*  
 Buchanan Grayson\* Washington\*  
 Carroll\* Highland\* Wise\*  
 Craig\* Montgomery\* Wythe\*  
 Dickenson\* Pulaski

### WILMINGTON DISTRICT

Appomattox\* Craig\* Martinsville  
 Bedford\* Danville Mecklenburg\*  
 Botetourt\* Floyd\* Montgomery\*  
 Brunswick\* Franklin\* Patrick  
 Campbell\* Grayson\* Pittsylvania  
 Carroll\* Halifax Roanoke\*  
 Charlotte\* Henry Salem

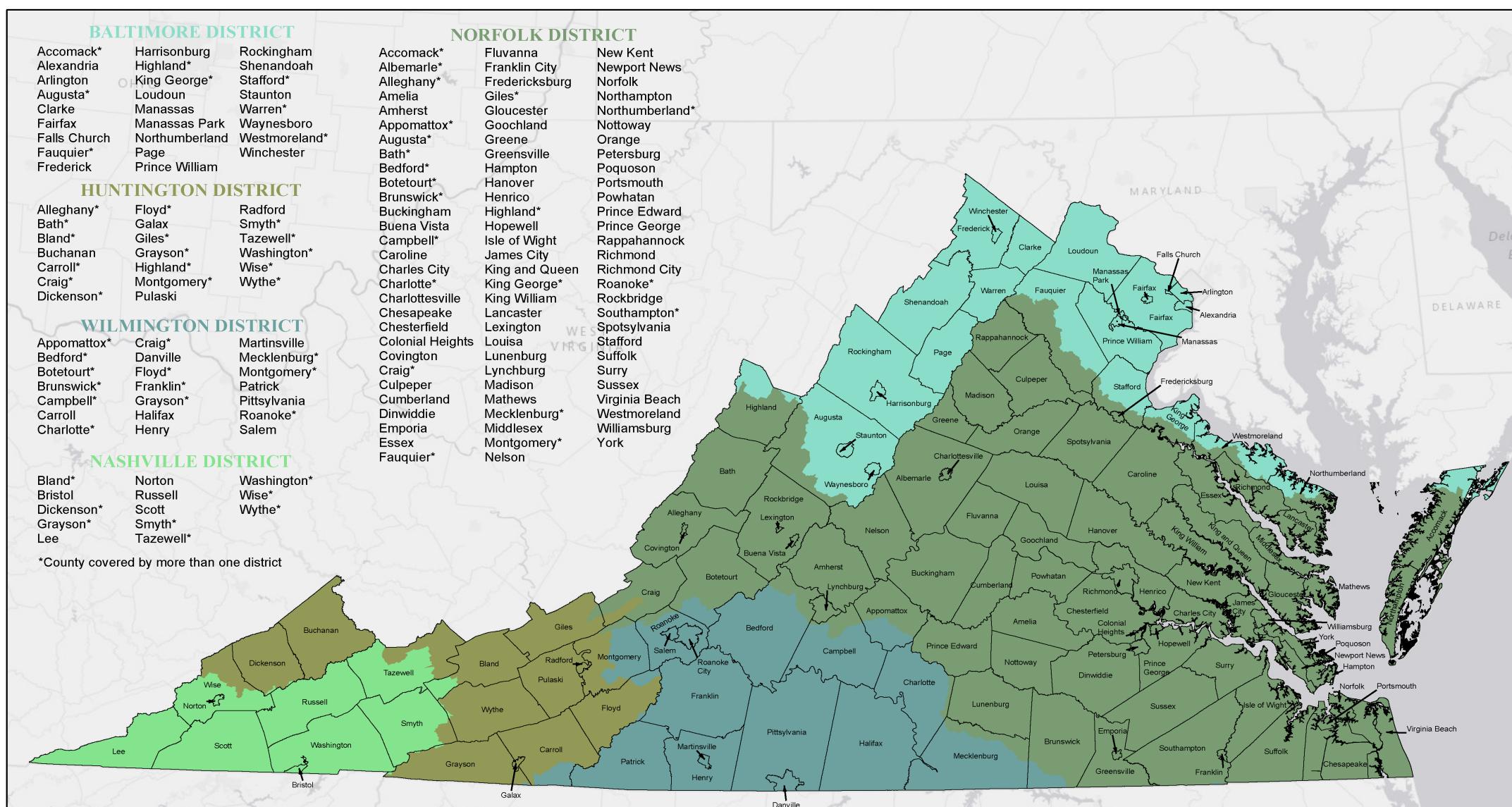
### NASHVILLE DISTRICT

Bland\* Norton Washington\*  
 Bristol Russell Wise\*  
 Dickenson\* Scott Wythe\*  
 Grayson\* Smyth\*  
 Lee Tazewell\*

\*County covered by more than one district

### NORFOLK DISTRICT

Accomack\* Fluvanna New Kent  
 Albemarle\* Franklin City Newport News  
 Alleghany\* Fredericksburg Norfolk  
 Amelia Gloucester Northampton  
 Amherst Goochland Northumberland\*  
 Appomattox\* Augusta\* Greene Orange  
 Bath\* Greenville Petersburg  
 Bedford\* Hampton Poquoson  
 Botetourt\* Hanover Portsmouth  
 Brunswick\* Henrico Powhatan  
 Buckingham Highland\* Prince Edward  
 Buena Vista Hopewell Prince George  
 Campbell\* Isle of Wight Rappahannock  
 Caroline James City Richmond  
 Charles City King and Queen Richmond City  
 Charlotte\* King George\* Roanoke\*  
 Charlottesville King William Rockbridge  
 Chesapeake Lancaster Southampton\*  
 Chesterfield Lexington Spotsylvania  
 Colonial Heights Louisa Stafford  
 Covington Lunenburg Suffolk  
 Craig\* Lynchburg Surry  
 Culpeper Madison Sussex  
 Cumberland Dinwiddie Virginia Beach  
 Dinwiddie Emporia Westmoreland Williamsburg  
 Essex Essex York  
 Fauquier\* Fauquier\* Nelson



## USACE Districts Responsible for Virginia Counties



0 20 40 Miles  
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 Prepared by: Douglas Hessler  
 Geospatial Services Section  
 Map File: Districts responsible\_VA\_Counties.mxd  
 Map Date: 07/15/2015





# Silver Jackets Program

- **Authority/Funding:** Flood Plain Management Services Program (established in 1967).
- **Scope:** Have a State-led interagency team that facilitates collaborative solutions to help address flood risk priorities set by the State.
- **Cost-Share:** Varies per project, but usually 100% Federally funded. Partners can contribute funds and work in-kind.
- The first Silver Jackets Team was formed in Ohio in 2005, now there are teams in all 50 states, Washington, D.C., Guam, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Virgin Islands.
- **Why the name?** During disaster response, agencies are often identified by the color jacket or shirt they wear. For example, FEMA has typically worn blue jackets or shirts and USACE has worn red. The name ‘Silver Jackets’ was coined to represent many agencies working together to tackle flooding issues.
- **Website:** <https://www.iwr.usace.army.mil/Silver-Jackets/>





# Silver Jackets – Goals to Reduce Flood Risks

- Have a State-led interagency team.
- Establish a forum to plan and implement State priorities.
- Collaborate with agency partners, working together to provide a unified approach.
- Supplement and strengthen existing relationships.
- Leverage the programs, funding, expertise, and perspectives of multiple agencies.
- Being aware of ongoing activities, preventing duplication of efforts.





# Virginia Silver Jackets Team

- **Charter originally signed:** December 22, 2010
- **Most recent charter signing:** March 2021
- **Virginia Silver Jackets Coordinator:** Faraz Ahmed, Chief, FPMS, USACE, Norfolk District
- **Co-Chair:** Debbie Messmer, State Hazard Mitigation Officer, VDEM

## Mission Statement

*To facilitate cooperation and function as a catalyst in the identification, abatement and resolution of flood hazards and associated risks within the Commonwealth through such means as flood and dam observation and warning systems; riverine, coastal and dam break hazard mapping; flood and dam hazard mitigation; planning and education; as well as response and recovery activities.*



FEMA



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# Proposal Requirements / Selection Criteria

## Proposal Requirements (submitted annually)

- At least two governmental partners other than USACE - needs to be one from the State and then one other State, Federal (FEMA/USDA/USGS/NOAA, etc.), Local, or Tribal partner.
- The State must submit a request for an interagency proposal.
- Other partners are helpful, not limited to governmental.

## Proposal Selection Criteria

1. Directly protects life safety, reduces or prevents increases in flood risk, and/or increases resiliency.
2. Promotes shared responsibility for flood risk management by prompting actions by others in support of risk reduction, including by communicating flood risks.
3. Addresses priority in the State or Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.
4. Leverages partner resources, with emphasis on collaborative execution.
5. Proposals judged more favorably if they
  - (A) improve environmental function;
  - (B) address Other Social Effects;
  - (C) address climate change;
  - (D) address repetitive flooding; or
  - (E) serve a disadvantaged community.



# Silver Jackets - Activity Examples

## (No Construction)

Activities & Products
Floodplain Mapping
Community Rating System Activities
Dam Break Analyses
First Floor Elevation Calculation
Flood Damage Estimation (HAZUS)
Flood Warning / Preparedness
Flood Risk Community Management Studies
Floodplain Management Plan / Emergency Action Plan Assistance
Hazard Mitigation Actions
Nonstructural Assessments
Outreach / Workshops
Tabletop Exercises
Risk Communication / Guides and Pamphlets



# Silver Jackets - Activities in Virginia

## Completed

- 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Agnes Outreach Campaign (USACE, Baltimore District)
- City of Richmond High Water Mark Campaign
- Lower Virginia Peninsula Coastal Resilience Tournament (tabletop exercise for disaster preparedness)
- National Weather Service (NWS) Blackwater River Flood Inundation Mapping, Franklin, VA
- NWS James River Forecast Point Development, Richmond Locks, Virginia
- NWS Roanoke River Flood Inundation Mapping (coordinated through USACE, Wilmington District)
- Pulaski Nonstructural Flood Risk Management Assessment (USACE, Huntington District)
- Roanoke River Valley Flood Risk Outreach (coordinated through USACE, Wilmington District)
- Virginia Flood Risk Guidebook
- Virginia Flood Risk Information System

## On-going

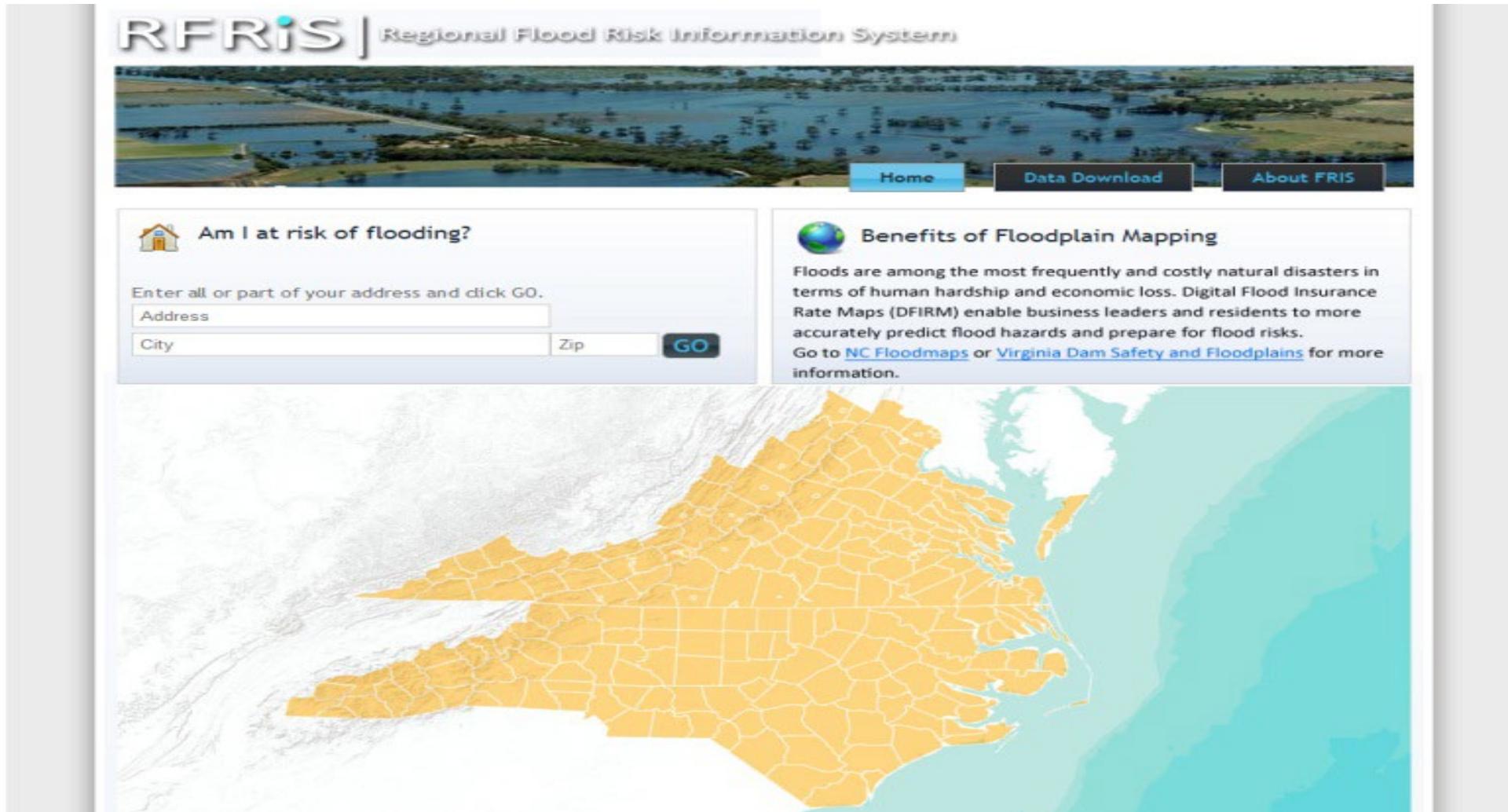
- Lakemont Neighborhood Flood Risk Assessment, Petersburg, VA
- Mitigating Historic Structures in Virginia

## Future (FY24 Proposal Submitted)

- Outreach / Workshop

# Virginia Flood Risk Information System

Website: <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/dam-safety-and-floodplains/fpvfris>



# Blackwater River Flood Inundation Mapping

Website: <https://water.weather.gov/ahps/inundation.php>

**Partners:** National Weather Service, USGS, City of Franklin

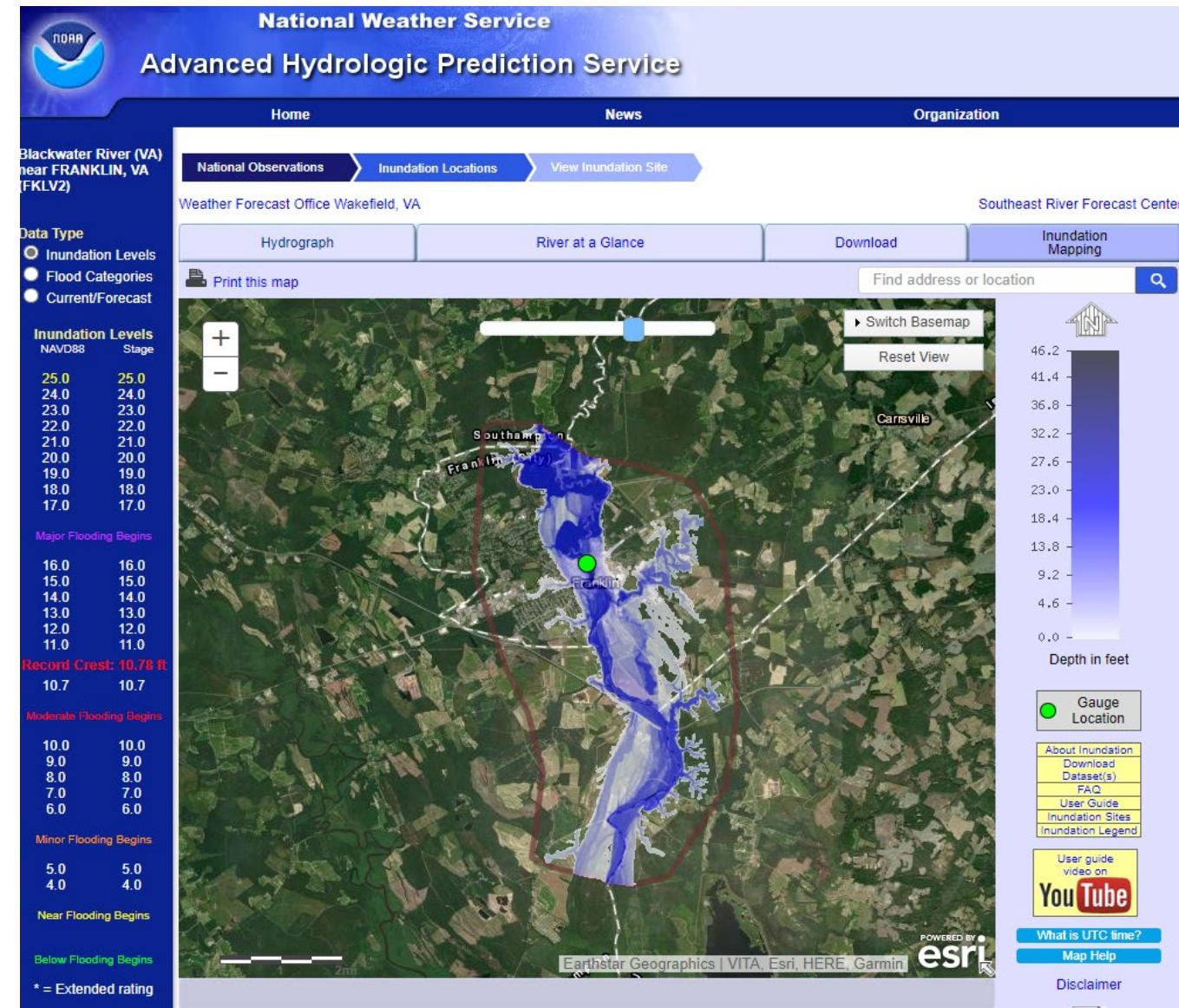
**Project Description:** Developed flood inundation mapping for the Blackwater River in Franklin, VA to post on NWS's AHPS site.

## Objectives:

- HEC-RAS modeling
- Develop inundation mapping and depth grids at every foot intervals
- From Action Stage to the Flood of Record

**Total project costs:** \$150K

**Federal funding:** \$150K



# City of Richmond High Water Mark Campaign

Website: <https://www.rva.gov/public-utilities/news/high-water-mark-sign-unveiled-pony-pasture>



# Questions?

## Contact Information:

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