



# Discovery Meeting: Chemung Watershed

Horseheads, NY

May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011

**RiskMAP**  
Increasing Resilience Together



# Introductions

- **FEMA Risk MAP Project Team**
- **Local partners and officials**
- **State partners and officials**
- **Other Federal Government Officials**
- **Associations/non-profit representatives**

# Agenda

- **Why we are here**
- **Risk MAP Program overview**
- **Discovery overview**
  - Data collected to date
  - Your Discovery Map
  - Areas of concern
  - Activities that affect flood risk
  - Mitigation planning role and status
  - Watershed vision
  - Importance of communication
- **Next steps**



# Why We're Here

- **Flood risk changes over time**
- **Your watershed was selected for review due to need (age of Effective Studies throughout the watershed) and risk (levees, other special considerations)**
  - Continuation and enhancement of ongoing process in Chemung County
- **A complete, current picture of your flood hazards and risks will help you better:**
  - Plan for the risk
  - Take action to protect your communities
  - Communicate the risk to your citizens

# Program Overview

- **Risk MAP**

- Mapping – Flood hazard and risk identification
- Assessment – HAZUS and other risk assessment tools
- Planning – Hazard mitigation planning

- **Risk MAP Vision**

- Deliver quality data
- Increase public awareness of flood risk
- Encourage local/regional actions that reduce risk

**RiskMAP**  
Increasing Resilience Together

# Program Overview (cont.)

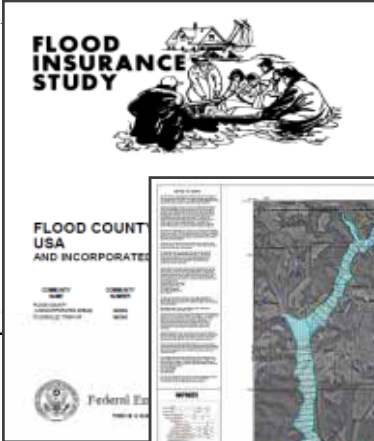
- **Through Risk MAP, FEMA works with communities to develop flood risk products and flood hazard maps that are:**
  - Based on the best available data from the community and latest technologies
  - Conducted by watershed
  - Strengthened by partnerships
- **You can use Risk MAP tools and data to:**
  - Create or improve your Hazard Mitigation Plans
  - Make informed decisions about development, ordinances, and flood mitigation projects
  - Communicate with citizens about flood risk

# Program Product Comparisons

## Traditional Regulatory Products

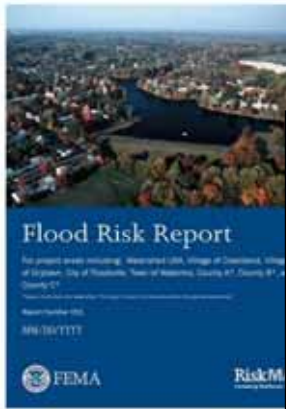
**DFIRM Database**

- Flood\_Hazard\_Data
- Political\_Boundaries
- Public\_Land\_Survey\_System
- TopoData
- Community\_Panel
- L\_Comm\_Info
- L\_MT1\_LOMC
- L\_Pan\_Revis
- L\_Pol\_FHBM
- L\_Riv\_Model
- L\_Stn\_Start
- L\_Wtr\_Nm
- S\_Bfe
- S\_DOQ\_Index
- S\_Firm\_Pan
- S\_Gen\_Struct
- S\_Label\_Lid
- S\_Label\_Pt
- S\_LOMR
- S\_Perm\_Bmk
- S\_Quad
- S\_Riv\_Mrk
- S\_Trnsport\_Ar



**FLOOD INSURANCE STUDY**

**FLOOD COUNT USA AND INCORPORATED**



**Flood Risk Report**

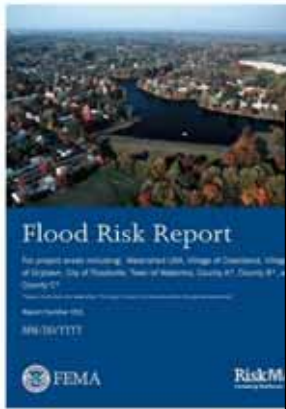
FEMA RiskMAP

Traditional products are regulatory and subject to statutory due-process requirements

## Non-Regulatory Products

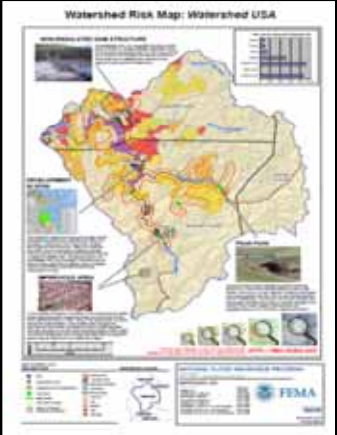
**Flood Risk Database**

- Community\_Panel
- L\_Comm\_Info
- L\_MT1\_LOMC
- L\_Pan\_Revis
- L\_Pol\_FHBM
- L\_Riv\_Model
- L\_Stn\_Start
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**Flood Risk Report**

FEMA RiskMAP



**Watershed Risk Map: Watershed USA**

FEMA RiskMAP

Risk MAP products are non-regulatory and are not subject to statutory due-process requirements

# Discovery

- **First, we want to learn where your flood hazards are, what risk they pose, and how your community addresses that risk**
  - Review local flood hazards and risk
  - Understand local mitigation capabilities, hazard risk assessments, and current or future mitigation activities
  - Collect information about flooding history, development plans, daily operations, and stormwater and floodplain management activities





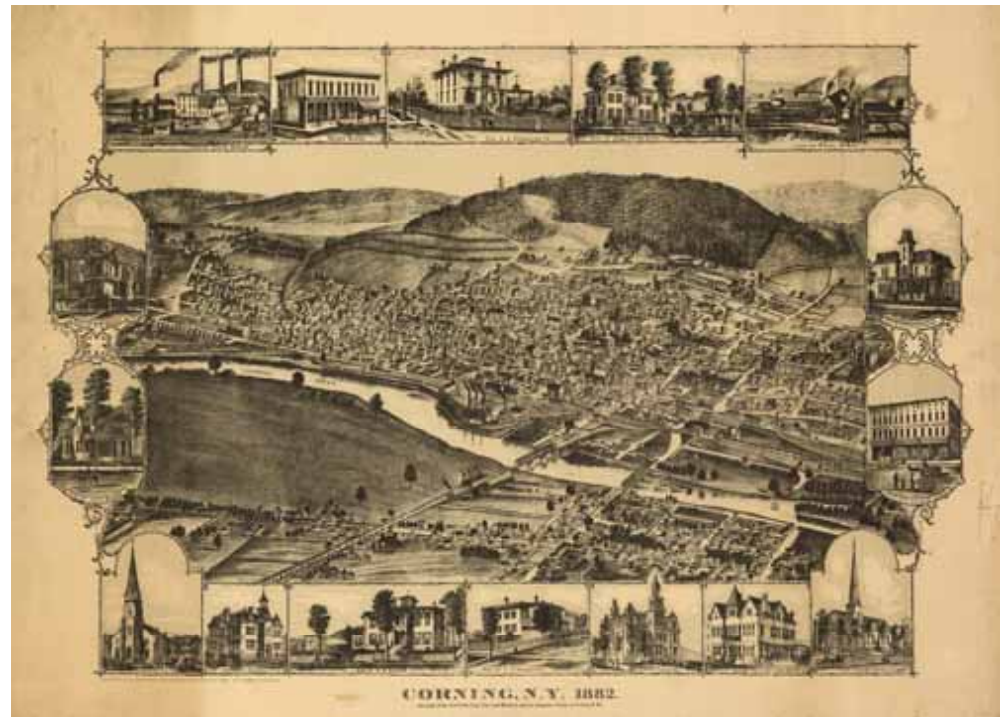
# Discovery (cont.)

- **Next, we want to work with you to understand where the following may help:**
  - New or updated flood hazard information based on engineering studies
  - Additional flood risk assessments
  - Hazard mitigation planning technical assistance

# Chemung Watershed

# Chemung Watershed Communities

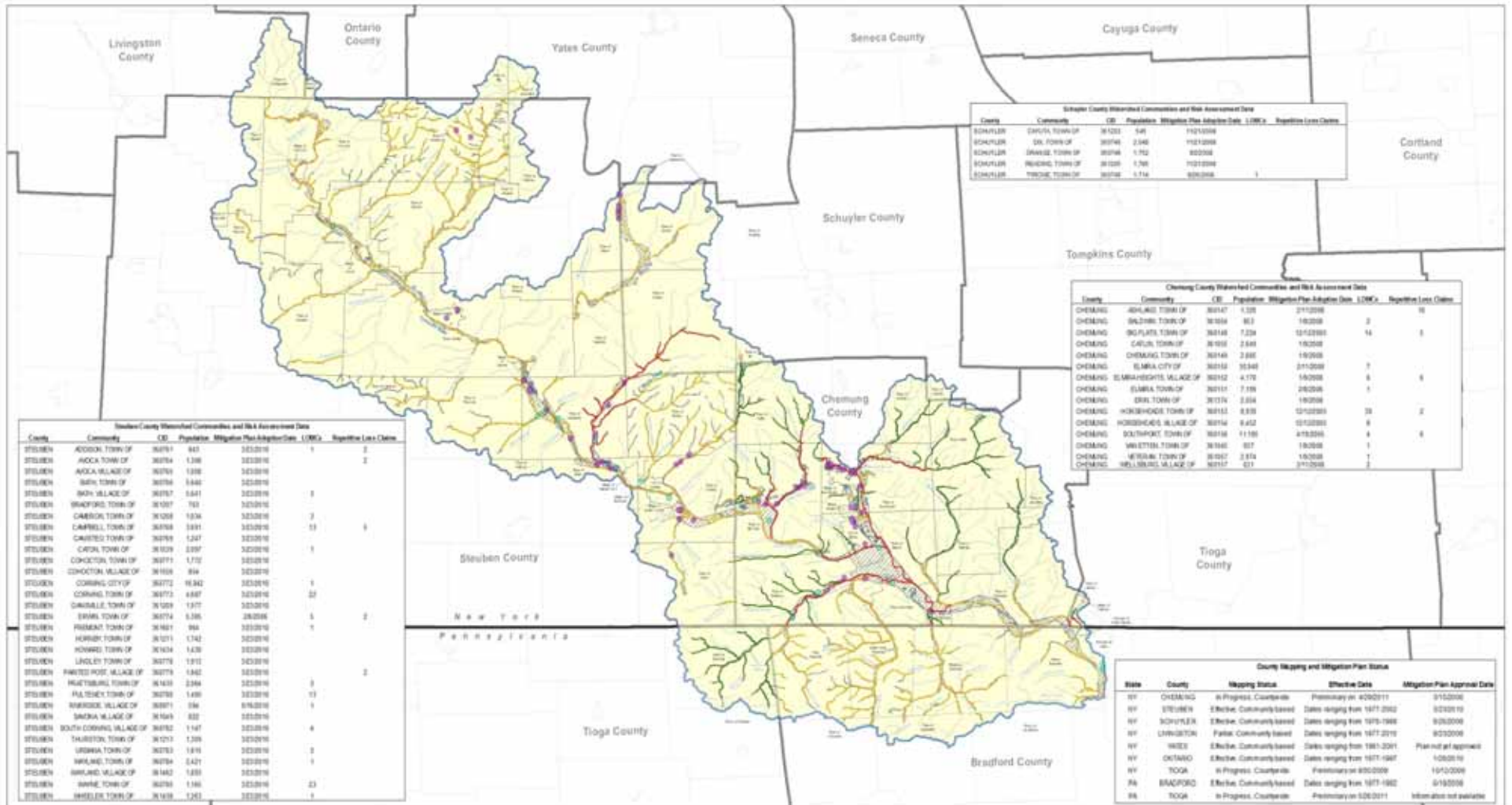
- The Chemung Watershed contains or touches:
  - 3 counties
  - 2 Cities, 11 Villages, 39 Towns
  - Approximately 1,270 total stream miles
  - Approximately 150,000 residents in the watershed



# Data Reviewed to Date

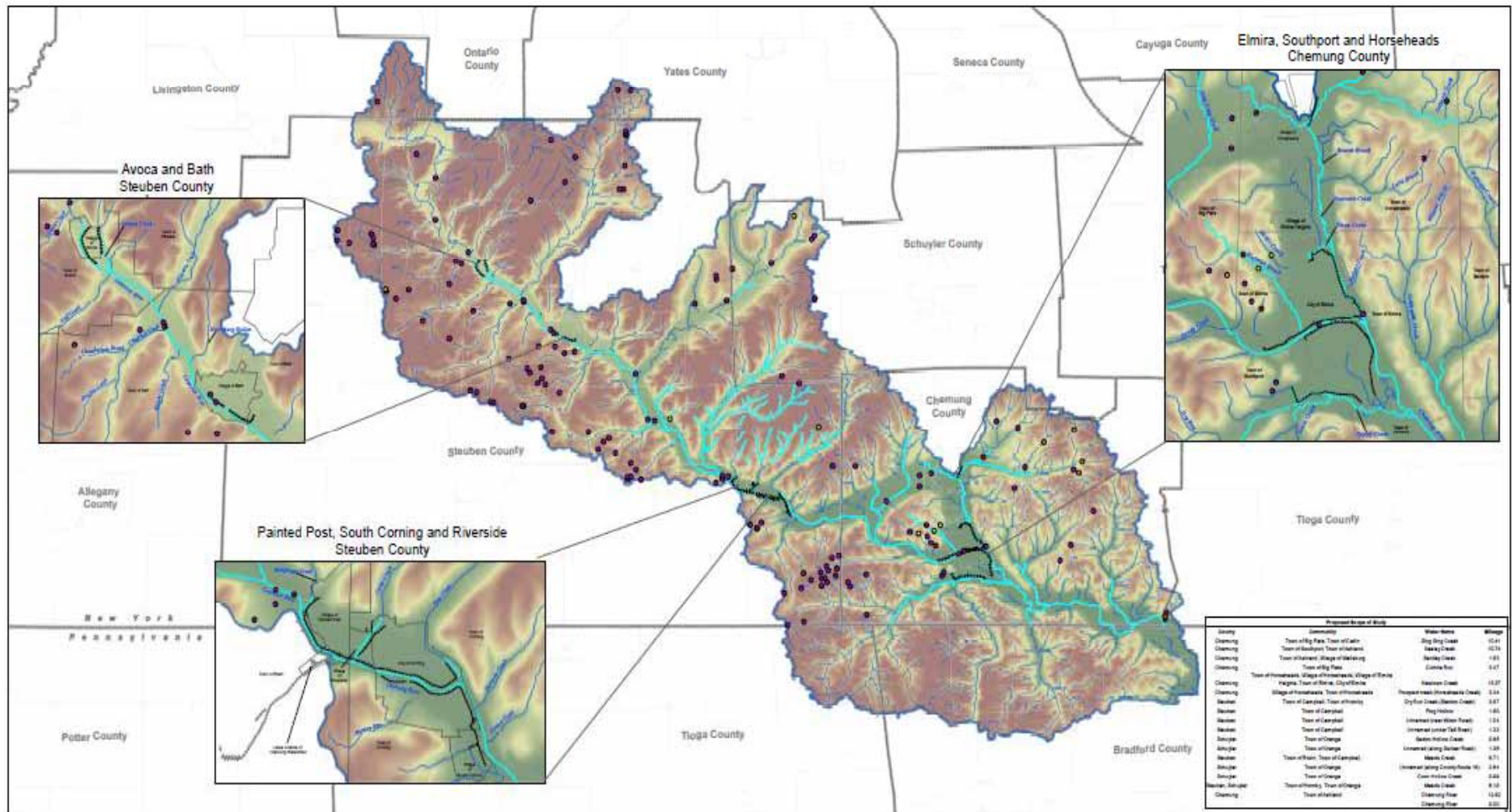
- **In addition, we have reviewed data and documentation that we had available for the Chemung Watershed**
  - Your FEMA-approved Hazard Mitigation Plans
  - Previous flood hazard studies conducted
  - The number of flood insurance policies and claims
  - Letters of Map Amendment and/or Letters of Map Revision
  - Average Annualized Loss (AAL) information
  - Census data
  - Federal and State disaster information
  - Historical storm and flooding events
  - Existing dam information

# Your Discovery Map

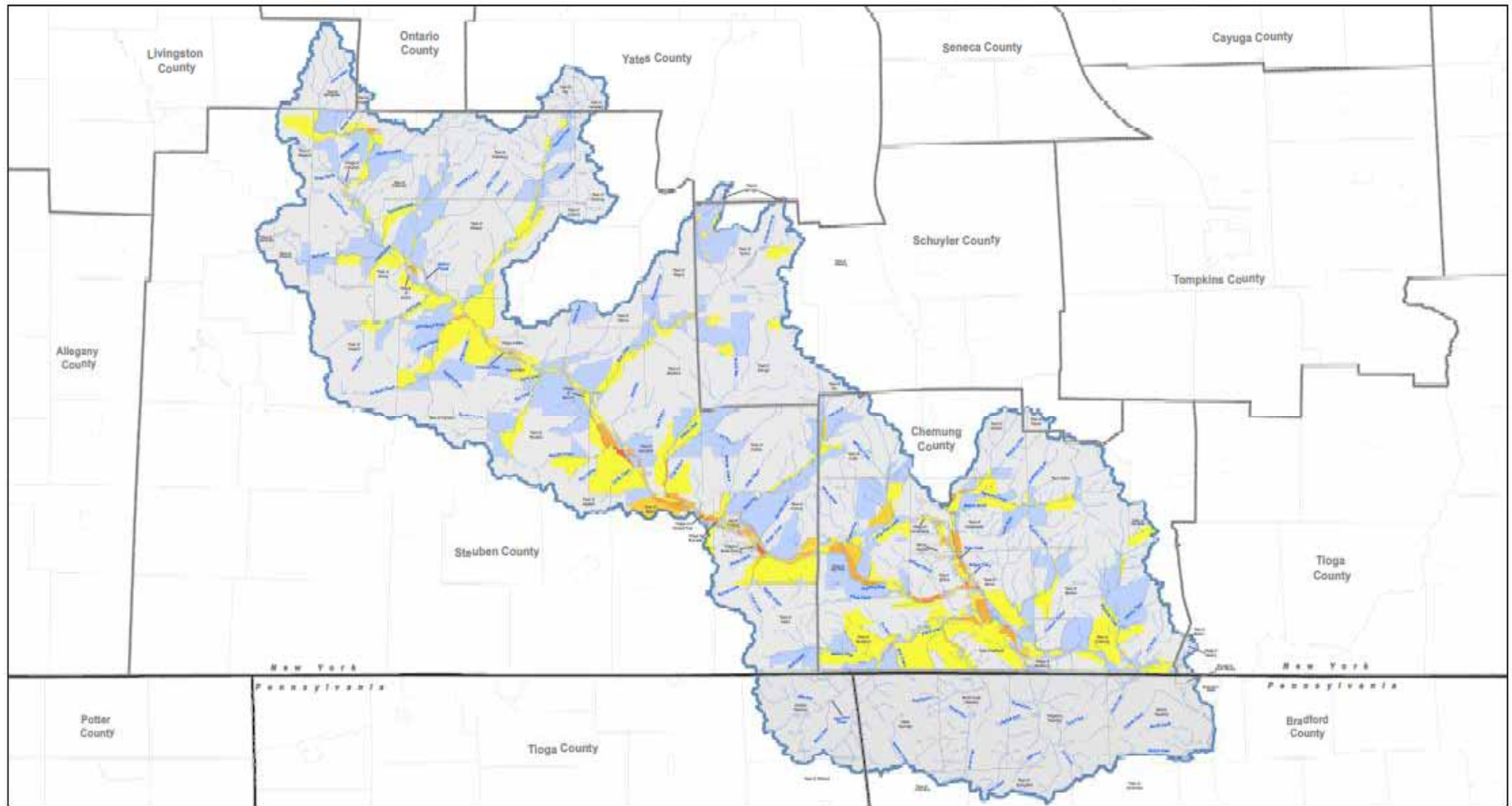




# Your Discovery Map



# Your Discovery Map



# Examples of Areas of Concern

- **Area of concern #1 – Lowman Crossing (Ashland/Wellsburg)**
  - Description
  - Potential study needs
  - Possible mitigation solutions
  
- **Area of concern #2 – Dry Brook Creek (Town of Chemung)**
  - Description
  - Potential study needs
  - Possible mitigation solutions



# Levees

- **As part of its effort to reform the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), FEMA is exploring more precise methods for identifying flood risk in areas impacted by levees.**
- **In the individual breakout sessions, communities with levees will receive a letter and information packet in regards to options that can be pursued in regards to levees.**

# Local Activities That Affect Flood Risk

- **Upcoming activities that may affect your flood risk**
  - Development plans
  - Planned mitigation activities
- **Local activities you currently take to address flood risk**
  - Stormwater management activities
  - Floodplain management activities
  - Daily operations
  - Outreach activities

# Mitigation Planning

## ■ Hazard Mitigation Plans:

- Can help guide your decisions on mitigation activities for all hazards you face
- Are an important resource responsible for responding to disasters
- Can help you apply for assistance to take action

## ■ We reviewed your mitigation plans and found that:

- Chemung County – In Process
- Steuben County – March, 2010
- Schuyler County – August, 2008



# Hazard Mitigation Plan Updates

- **Risk MAP flood risk tools can help you enhance the flood portion of your Hazard Mitigation Plans**
  - Provide risk analyses and assessments that can bolster your Plans
  - Can help you identify and prioritize flood mitigation activities
- **Mitigation planning resources**
  - A wide range of planning technical assistance is available through Risk MAP
  - Types of assistance will be determined once we've agreed upon areas to be studied

# Vision for Your Watershed

- **A watershed vision is important to:**
  - Highlight that actions may affect others upstream and downstream
  - Help you work together to achieve a more resilient watershed

# Risk Communication in Your Watershed

# Risk Communication

- Citizens look to local officials to keep them informed of flood risk
- Regular communication is important regarding:
  - Flood hazard and risk information
  - Steps citizens can take to protect their families and property



# Risk Communication (cont.)

- Risk MAP provides information to help you communicate about flood risk, including:
  - Flood risk products that are clear and easy to understand
  - Materials that can be used to inform local media about flood risk, including:
    - Template for letter that can be used to inform citizens about their risks
    - Fact Sheets
    - FAQs
  - These materials are available at [www.rampp-team.com](http://www.rampp-team.com)
    - Public tab
    - Select State
    - Scroll to bottom for Chemung Watershed information



# Taking Action

- Mitigation and risk reduction can only happen at the local level.
- Risk MAP can provide:
  - Risk identification and awareness
  - Education on mitigation alternatives
  - Technical and outreach assistance
- Risk MAP can also provide information about:
  - Hazard Mitigation Assistance grants
  - Other Federal Agency grants to support mitigation activities
  - Technical assistance provided by related trade associations

# Next Steps

- **Based on today's discussion, we will provide you with:**
  - An updated Discovery Map
  - A Discovery Report that summarizes the data we collected
- **In the next 6 weeks, we will discuss preliminary results of your flood hazards**
- **Based on that discussion, we will determine areas for further study and provide a finalized project scope that shows the areas to be studied**
- **We look forward to continuing to work with you to help you create a more flood resilient watershed**



# FEMA