

2010 Spring Floods

By Gloria Bucco and Steve McMaster

During two wet weeks in June, just about the entire State of Nebraska was under some type of flood watch or warning. Major rivers and tributaries flooded causing damage to homes, businesses, crops and bridges. The spring rains resulted in flooding on the Missouri, North Loup, Elkhorn and Platte rivers. In addition, Ponca, Big Papillion, Weeping Water and Logan creeks set flooding records. **All told, 16 gages broke historic records, two records going back to 1947.**

So far, preliminary damage estimates to public infrastructure from the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency total more than \$16 million statewide.

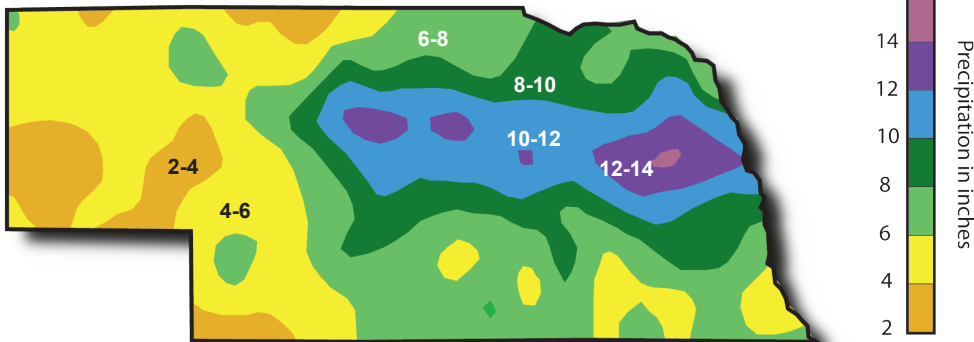
On July 15, 2010, President Obama issued a federal disaster declaration for Public Assistance in 53 Nebraska counties for June's storm damage and flooding. Public Assistance can help with eligible costs to remove storm debris, take emergency protective measures and repair or replace disaster-damaged roads, bridges, public buildings and critical facilities such as water, sewer and power systems, and other public facilities. Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds will also be available statewide to reduce future hazard risk.

Highest Flood Stages Recorded During June 2010

River	Flood Stage* (feet)	Crest Date	Historic Record (feet)	Historic Year	Source
Missouri at Rulo	26.63	6/23/2010	25.60	1952	USGS
North Loup at Taylor	7.21	6/12/2010	7.17	1978	USGS
Elkhorn at Ewing	13.32	6/13/2010	11.32	1947	USGS
Ponca Creek at Verdell	15.14	6/12/2010	14.70	1960	USGS
Big Papillion Creek at Fort Street in Omaha	23.61	6/5/2010	21.58	2008	USGS
Platte Mid-Channel at Cottonwood Ranch near Elm Creek	9.75	6/25/2010	8.38	2008	USGS
Elkhorn at Norfolk	16.85	6/15/2010	13.05	1995	USGS
Elkhorn at Pilger	15.21	6/16/2010	12.23	2007	USGS
Logan Creek at Wakefield	26.28	6/12/2010	23.55	2003	USGS
Elkhorn at Neigh	15.54	6/15/2010	13.37	1995	NDNR
Weeping Water Creek at Union	32.67	6/21/2010	30.97	1993	NDNR
Cedar River near Spalding	8.47	6/14/2010	7.50	1947	NDNR
Calamus River near Harrop	7.75	6/12/2010	4.68	1995	NDNR
Elkhorn River near Atkinson	10.34	6/13/2010	9.27	1995	NDNR
North Loup River at Ord	6.89	6/12/2010	5.52	1962	NDNR
Mira Creek near North Loup	12.96	6/12/2010	10.56	1981	NDNR

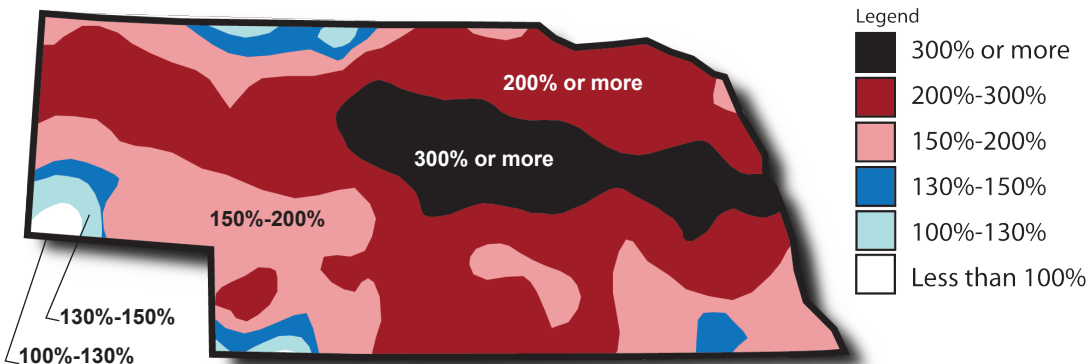
* new flood stages recorded in June are provisional

Precipitation in inches 6/1/2010-6/27/2010
provisional data



Data Source: NOAA Regional Climate Center
Graphic: Nebraska Department of Natural Resources

Percent of Normal Precipitation for June 2010



Data Source: National Weather Service
Graphic: Nebraska Department of Natural Resources

This spring's rain and subsequent record-breaking flooding reinforce the importance of floodplain management. When a community or county knows where its flood risks are located, officials and citizens can take steps to protect life and property by controlling development within those areas.

The National Flood Insurance Program is available to any community or county that makes application and adopts floodplain management regulations. Those regulations, based on state and federal minimum requirements, will ensure that new development will be protected from the 1% annual chance flood. There is no application fee, and NDNR staff members are available to help with the process or other floodplain management questions.