In June 1972, torrential downpours caused severe flooding in Pennsylvania and northern New York. The floods—many major streams were the highest ever, along the river valleys were washed. Extremes of streamflow were as much as twice the discharge of a normal flood. In southern New York, large areas in Genesee, Orleans, Monroe, and close to the hamlets communities were inundated to depths of several feet. Peaks of all of the principal streamflow stations were recorded, and extensive flooding of residences properties resulted.

The extent of flooding shown on the map is delineated by the U.S. Geological Survey from field surveys made immediately after the floods.

The study was conducted in cooperation with the State of New York and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.