Disclaimer for Flood-Inundation Maps

Inundated areas shown should not be used for navigation, regulatory, permitting, or other legal purposes. The USGS provides these maps "as is" for a quick reference—emergency planning or flood awareness, or to help identify existing floodplain areas. The user assumes all risk of using this information.

Uncertainties and Limitations for Use of Flood-Inundation Maps

Although the flood-inundation maps represent the boundaries of flooded areas with a distinct line, some uncertainty is associated with these maps. The flood boundaries shown were estimated based on water stages (water-surface elevations) and streamflows at selected USGS streamgages. Water-surface elevations along the stream reaches were estimated by steady-state hydraulic modeling, assuming unobstructed flow, and by using streamgages and hydrologic conditions associated with the flood event. Flood boundaries shown were estimated using steady-state hydraulic modeling for the flood event, which may vary slightly from the actual flood boundaries shown. Additional areas may be flooded due to unexpected conditions such as changes in the streambed elevation or roughness, backwater into major tributaries along a main stem river, or backwater from localized debris or ice jams. The accuracy of the floodwater extent portrayed on these maps will vary with the accuracy of the digital elevation model used to simulate the land surface. Additional uncertainties and limitations pertinent to the study area are described in the document accompanying this set of flood-inundation maps.

If this series of flood-inundation maps will be used in conjunction with National Weather Service (NWS) river forecasts, the user should be aware of additional uncertainties that may be inherent or factored into NWS forecast procedures. The NWS uses forecast models to estimate the quantity and timing of water flowing through selected stream reaches in the United States. These forecast models estimate the amount of runoff generated by precipitation and snowmelt, the movement of floodwater as it proceeds downstream, and the flow and stage (water-surface elevation) for the stream at a given location (AHPS forecast point) throughout the forecast period (every 6 hours and 3–5 days out in many locations). For more information on AHPS forecasts, please see: http://water.weather.gov/ahps/pcpn_and_river_forecasting.pdf.

Chattahoochee River