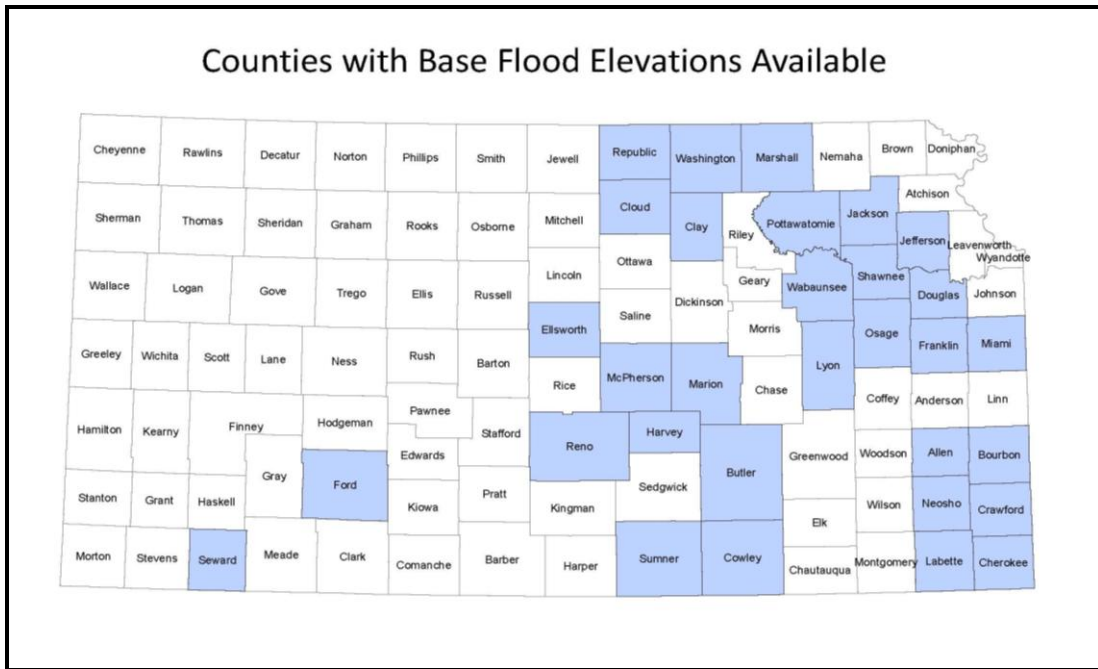
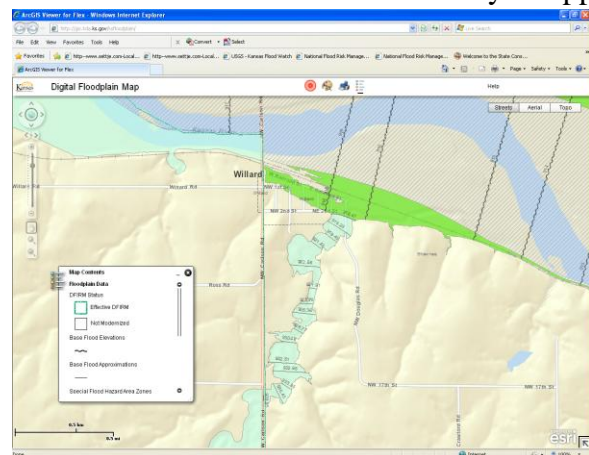
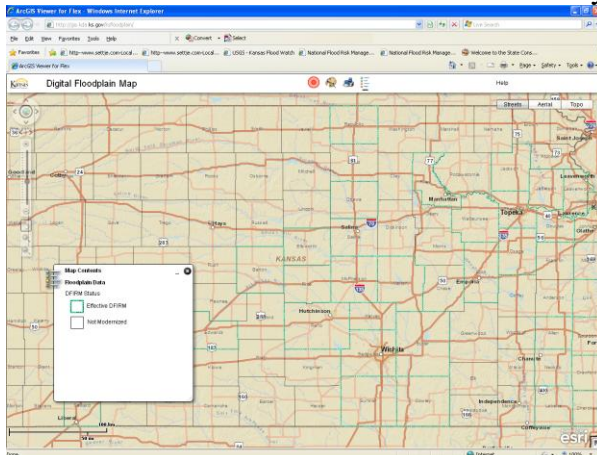


## Base Flood Elevation Data



Go to <http://gis.kda.ks.gov/ksfloodplain/> and zoom in to an area in one of the counties in blue.

As you zoom in closer the elevation data layers appear.



Here is a list of other useful websites:

Letters Of Map Change:

<http://gis.kda.ks.gov/kslomc/>

Floodplain Management Status Map:

[http://gis.kda.ks.gov/ksfpm\\_status/](http://gis.kda.ks.gov/ksfpm_status/)

Web Map Instructions:

[http://gis.kda.ks.gov/kda-dwr\\_webmap\\_instructions.pdf](http://gis.kda.ks.gov/kda-dwr_webmap_instructions.pdf)

## **Special Requirements For A Zones Without Base Flood Elevations**

BFE is the acronym that stands for base flood elevation. Base flood elevation is the predicted water surface elevation in a one percent annual chance flood event. Some flood maps have areas that only show unnumbered A Zones. There are no water surface elevations provided for those areas of some flood maps. In many communities that have new Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) water surface elevation data is being shown on the Division of Water Resources (DWR) website. The term we are using for this information is a BFA to distinguish it from a BFE.

The BFA layer is created from the modeling done to create an A Zone floodplain without survey. The hydrology that is used is generally from the USGS Regression equations based on a specific stream channel. Once the Hydrology flows and amounts are calculated it is applied to a program called HEC-RAS which calculates the Hydraulics to see how high the water will rise. In doing this, the best available digital elevation model is used to map the cross sections derived from the hydraulic study of the stream. The cross sections illustrate the water surface elevation or how high the water will rise. These cross sections are referred to as BFA's or base flood approximations. The reason for the approximation is that by not doing a survey this leaves a greater level of error based on the digital elevation model. The better the elevation data provided, the lower the level of error. When mapping this data, the ground surface elevation is used devoid of all structures and the water surface is mapped strictly based on the digital elevation model's bare surface elevation.

“If Flood Insurance Study data is not available, the community shall obtain, review, and reasonably utilize any base flood elevation or floodway data currently available from Federal, State, or other sources.” This language is in almost every single community's floodplain management regulation in Kansas. In many cases the BFA layer will be the best available information to use for determining a base flood level. A community may use BFA information when there is not a BFE.

On some of the forms from Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) there is a place to document the BFE and the source for the BFE. If you use elevation data from the DWR website for an unnumbered A Zone explain what was done on the Elevation Certificate or MT-EZ form. State the source of the data as, “State” and add a note saying, “Data from DFIRM created under MapMod program.” Making this explanation will help to avoid any problems with future reviewers of the documents.

When cross section data for an AE Zone is available in a Flood Insurance Study (FIS) that information will also be shown on the DWR floodplain website. Elevation determinations based on the FIS do not require any special explanation. State that the source of the data is the FIS. When an FIS is available always use the information out of the FIS. Never use the rounded off numbers shown on the FIRM.