

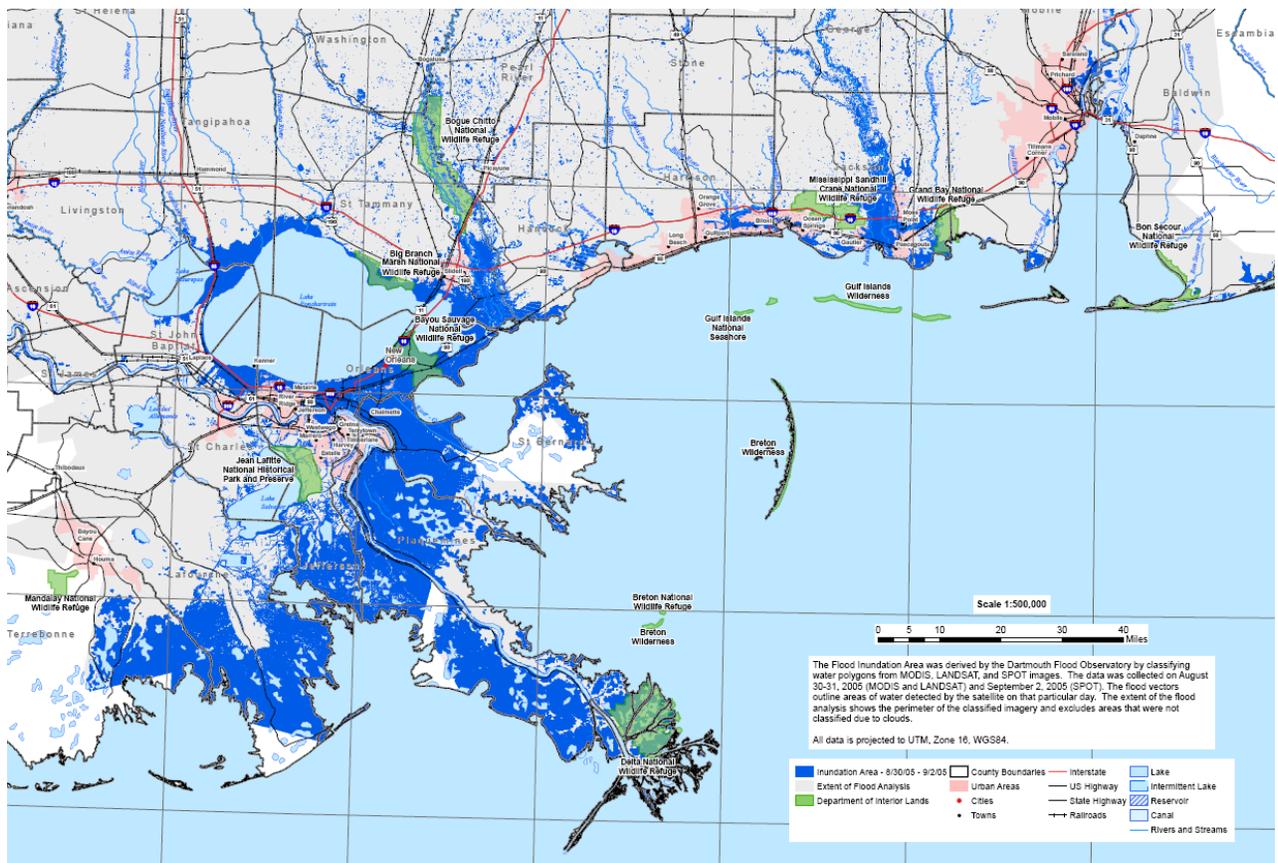
National Emergency Response to Natural Disasters

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) provides support to Federal, State and Local management agencies in response to natural hazards worldwide. The USGS Rocky Mountain Geographic Science Center (RMGSC) provides integrated geospatial data from remotely sensed and GIS data sources. The geospatial datasets are derived from multiple sources of remotely sensed information. The data is distributed via web-enabled mapping applications for Emergency Managers and the general public. These integrated datasets are also incorporated into custom digital map products distributed for printing.

Hurricanes Katrina & Rita - The RMGSC collected (via NGA) and cataloged hundreds of airborne and satellite images in support of relief efforts for the 2005 hurricanes that devastated the Gulf Coast of the United States. The DigitalGlobe QuickBird satellite image collected on September 3, 2005 (see below) shows the massive flooding throughout the greater New Orleans area just a few days after Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast. This post imagery was processed by the RMGSC and incorporated into web-enabled mapping applications along with other geospatial data (transportation, critical infrastructure, etc.). These web applications supported post hurricane monitoring efforts at USNORTHCOM and the Department of the Interior (DOI).



The RMGSC integrated the commercial satellite imagery with geospatial data to generate custom map products. These products were quickly produced (less than 24 hours) to support the Colorado National Guard for relief and recovery efforts in the St. Bernard parish. These image maps (image to right) were used to identify flooded zones in relation to residential areas. Custom maps were also produced along the Gulf Coast (see below) showing flood inundation zones, wind speeds and FEMA disaster areas. These maps were distributed to USNORTHCOM and DOI agencies to supplement the web mapping



For more information please contact:
 Jeff Sloan
 USGS Rocky Mountain Geographic Science Center
 303-202-4118 – jsloan@usgs.gov