









to produce comprehensively revised maps using digital technology that correct existing mapping errors and accurately reflect the original intent of the boundaries. The final decision to modify a CBRS boundary lies with Congress; the Service can only make recommendations to Congress. Due to limited resources, the Service undertakes only a limited number of technical correction reviews each year, and as a result, the agency has a large backlog of these types of requests.

### **Can a CBRS boundary be changed via a Letter of Map Amendment?**

No. CBRS boundaries cannot be changed by a Letter of Map Amendment. Aside from three minor exceptions, only Congress has the authority to modify boundaries of the CBRS through legislation. These exceptions include: (1) the CBRA five-year review requirement that solely considers changes that have occurred to the CBRS by natural forces such as erosion and accretion; (2) voluntary additions to the CBRS by property owners; and (3) additions of excess Federal property.

### **What is the status of the Service's CBRA map modernization effort?**

The maps that currently depict the CBRS are outdated and difficult to use. Recognizing the challenges associated with the existing set of CBRS maps, Congress directed the Service to modernize the maps using digital technology. In 2006, Public Law 109-226 directed the Service to: (1) finalize a digital mapping pilot project that creates digital maps for approximately 10 percent of the CBRS and (2) create digital maps for the remainder of the CBRS. In 2009, the Service conducted a 120-day public review and comment

### **Where can I get more information?**

**Service website:** <http://www.fws.gov/ecological-services/habitat-conservation/coastal.html>

**FEMA website:** <http://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/floodplain/nfipkeywords/cbrs.shtm>

**CBRS FIRM Panel Database:** <http://www.fema.gov/business/nfip/cbrs/cbrs.shtm>

**Flood Insurance Manual:** <http://www.fema.gov/business/nfip/manual.shtm>



period of the draft pilot project maps. The Service plans to finalize the pilot project in Fiscal Year 2010, and create a limited number of new digital maps for Congressional consideration as resources are made available for this effort. If enacted by Congress, the pilot project maps will modify the boundaries of about 70 CBRS units. As a result, some properties would be added to the CBRS and other properties would be removed from the CBRS.

### **How is the public informed of a CBRS mapping change?**

A notice is published in the *Federal Register* when a new CBRS map is enacted by Congress or modified administratively by the Service. The new map is posted on the Service's CBRS website. The Service also

coordinates with FEMA to update the affected FIRM(s) with the revised CBRS boundaries.

### **Are the CBRS boundaries available in digital format?**

Yes. Digital shapefiles of the CBRS boundaries are available for download on the Service's CBRS website at <http://www.fws.gov/ecological-services/habitat-conservation/coastal.html>. These digital boundaries are only representations of the official CBRS boundaries and should not be relied upon to determine eligibility for Federal financial assistance such as Federal flood insurance.

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June 2015