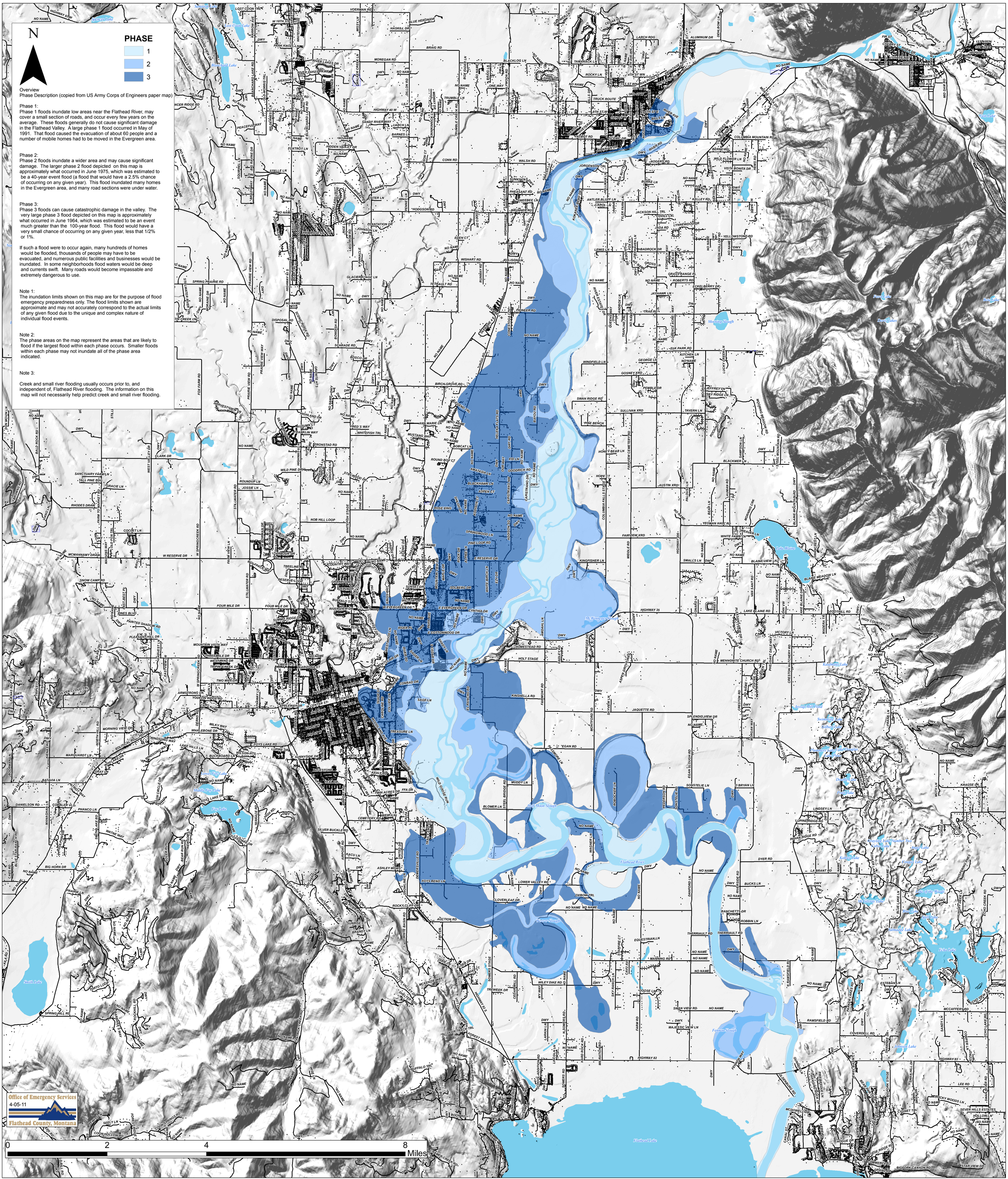

Overview
Phase Description (copied from US Army Corps of Engineers paper map)

Phase 1:
Phase 1 floods inundate low areas near the Flathead River, may cover a small section of roads, and occur every few years on the average. These floods generally do not cause significant damage in the Flathead Valley. A large phase 1 flood occurred in May of 1991. That flood caused the evacuation of about 60 people and a number of mobile homes had to be moved in the Evergreen area.

Phase 2:
Phase 2 floods inundate a wider area and may cause significant damage. The larger phase 2 flood depicted on this map is approximately what occurred in June 1975, which was estimated to be a 40-year event flood (a flood that would have a 2.5% chance of occurring on any given year). This flood inundated many homes in the Evergreen area, and many road sections were under water.

Phase 3:
Phase 3 floods can cause catastrophic damage in the valley. The very large phase 3 flood depicted on this map is approximately what occurred in June 1964, which was estimated to be an event much greater than the 100-year flood. This flood would have a very small chance of occurring on any given year, less that 1/2% or 1%.

If such a flood were to occur again, many hundreds of homes would be flooded, thousands of people may have to be evacuated, and numerous public facilities and businesses would be inundated. In some neighborhoods flood waters would be deep and currents swift. Many roads would become impassable and extremely dangerous to use.

Note 1:
The inundation limits shown on this map are for the purpose of flood emergency preparedness only. The flood limits shown are approximate and may not accurately correspond to the actual limits of any given flood due to the unique and complex nature of individual flood events.

Note 2:
The phase areas on the map represent the areas that are likely to flood if the largest flood within each phase occurs. Smaller floods within each phase may not inundate all of the phase area indicated.

Note 3:

Creek and small river flooding usually occurs prior to, and independent of, Flathead River flooding. The information on this map will not necessarily help predict creek and small river flooding.