News Release

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From Response to Recovery and Mitigation USGS Flood Efforts Begin to Shift in Indiana

Reporters: Want to accompany a U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) field crew as they measure flooding? Please contact Scott Morlock, 317-716-8412.

USGS flood response efforts are shifting south in Indiana today to the lower reaches of the state's river systems, which are still rising. Meanwhile USGS crews to the north are moving from response to recovery mode.

"Where floodwaters are beginning to recede, we are deploying crews to set high-water marks to document the severity of the flood in areas with no streamgages, which help emergency managers to calculate damage estimates and to validate floodplain maps," said USGS hydrologist Scott Morlock.



USGS hydrographers launch their flood boat on the White River near Newberry, Indiana. More photos here.

USGS crews in southern Indiana continue to work long hours in response mode -- keeping streamgages operational and recording peak flows where rivers continue to rise.

"Our crews will be on station in these areas to ensure that flood data continues to get to the National Weather Service for flood forecasts and warnings," said Morlock.

Flooding has receded in areas like Columbus and Seymour, but flood peaks have not yet occurred on the

lower White River near Petersburg and the lower Wabash River south of Vincennes.

The crews will be making streamflow measurements on the swollen White and Wabash Rivers on a USGSS flood boat rigged with high-tech sonar flowmeters, GPS units, and the latest in safety gear.

For more information on USGS flood-related activities, please see: http://water.usgs.gov/osw/

USGS Water Science Centers are located in each state. They can provide more detailed information on stream conditions and on the USGS response to local events: http://water.usgs.gov/district_chief.html

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