

Section 3.12 Environmental

Any project that will be considered for federal funding needs to follow the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in order to assess the potential impact of the project on the environment. Key components that are always included in that review process are floodplains, wetlands, historic places, and threatened or endangered species. To provide a basis for initiating that environmental process, OMEGA has included a review of the flood plains, wetlands, and historic places in this plan. For any project that will be receiving federal funds, a more in depth analysis will be required which may include wetlands delineation, ecological surveys, archaeological surveys, and other more in-depth environmental investigations. Knowledge of flood prone areas is also important when planning transportation improvements so that the cost effectiveness of elevating a roadway or relocating a road outside of the flood plain can be considered.

3.12.1 Flood Plains

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) defines a 100 year flood as a flood event having a 1 percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year. The 100 year flood is also referred to as the base flood. Figure 3-47 shows the flood plains in the OMEGA RTPO planning area. Problem areas are located along the Tuscarawas River in the Dover and New Philadelphia area, the Walhonding River in Killbuck, and along Wills Creek in Cambridge. Floodplain maps for each county are provided in Appendix M.

Some major flood events included:

- In June of 1998, the Wills Creek flooded, exceeding past the flood stage of 15 feet for a period of approximately 130 hours (USGS). The peak of 26.91 feet during the flood event was a record for the Wills Creek. During this event, a section of I-77 south bound was destroyed by the overflow from the Salt Fork Dam. Subsequent to this flood, this section of I-77 was re-constructed so that the overflow from Salt Fork would be safely conveyed without impacting the interstate. Several state and local routes were also flooded and impassable for several days.
- In 2004 and 2005, the Wills Creek flooded again affecting areas that included: US 40 east of Cambridge, State Routes 285 and 265 near Lore City and State Routes 313 and 146 were flooded. The peak height at the measuring station in Cambridge was 21.22 feet.
- In 2008, the Tuscarawas River flooded passing the flood stage of 7.5 feet. The peak height was recorded at 7.98 feet. Eastbound SR 212 at I-77 was flooded for several days as well as other roads in Tuscarawas County.

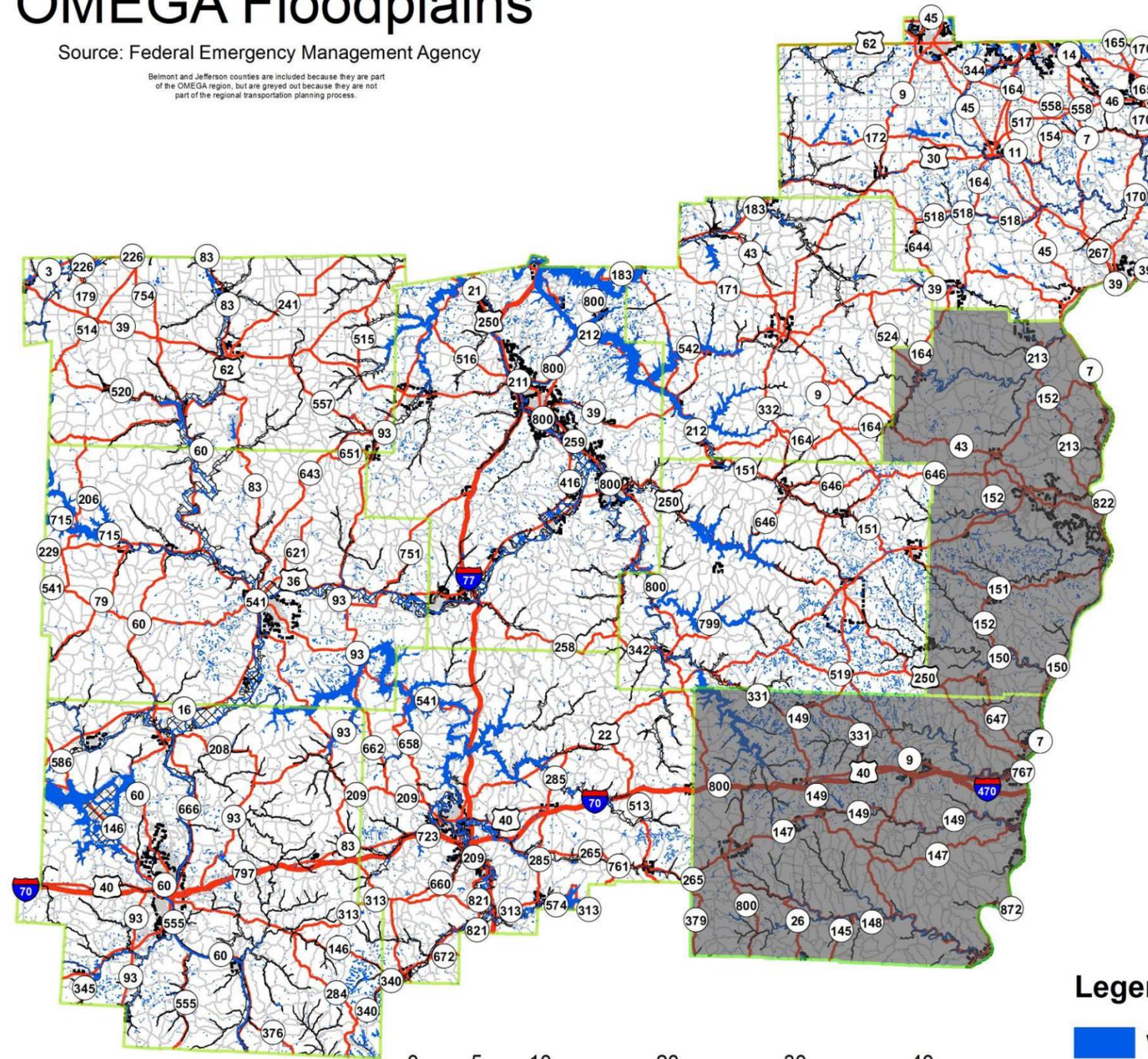
FIGURE 3-46: OMEGA Floodplains



OMEGA Floodplains

Source: Federal Emergency Management Agency

Belmont and Jefferson counties are included because they are part of the OMEGA region, but are greyed out because they are not part of the regional transportation planning process.

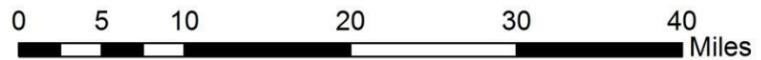


Legend

- Waterways
- Floodplains



Date: 7/23/2014



3.12.2 Wetlands

A map showing the location of the wetlands from the USGS National Inventory of Wetlands is provided in Figure 3-48. Please note that this map does not depict all wetland areas in the OMEGA RTPO planning region, but only those areas that are included in the National Inventory. Those that are in the area are located along the lakes and rivers in the area. The total acreage for all of the wetlands in the OMEGA RTPO as obtained from the USGS Database is 3,573 acres, or less than 0.14% of the total planning area. As previously stated, this data base does not preclude the need for a wetland delineation for a specific project. Wetland maps for each county are provided in Appendix N.

3.12.3 Historic Places

The National Register of Historic Places designates areas or buildings that have significant historical value. In the OMEGA study area there are 202 historic buildings, 14 historic structures, 3 historic districts, 3 historic sites, and 1 historic object. Figure 3-49 shows the location of these historic places. The designated buildings are more highly concentrated in the more urbanized areas. The rest of designated areas are spread out throughout the planning area. Maps of the historic places by county are provided in Appendix O.

- **Historic Districts:**
 - Muskingum River Lock No. 10 and Canal – Zanesville
 - Godwin - Knowles House – East Liverpool
 - Concord Hicksite Friends Meeting House – Colerain (outside the RTPO area)

- **Historic Sites:**
 - John H. Morgan Surrender Site – West Point
 - Gnadenhutten Massacre Site – Gnadenhutten
 - Beginning Point of the US Public Land Survey – Ohio State Line; East Liverpool

- **Historic Object:**
 - Toronto World War I Monument – Toronto (outside the RTPO area)

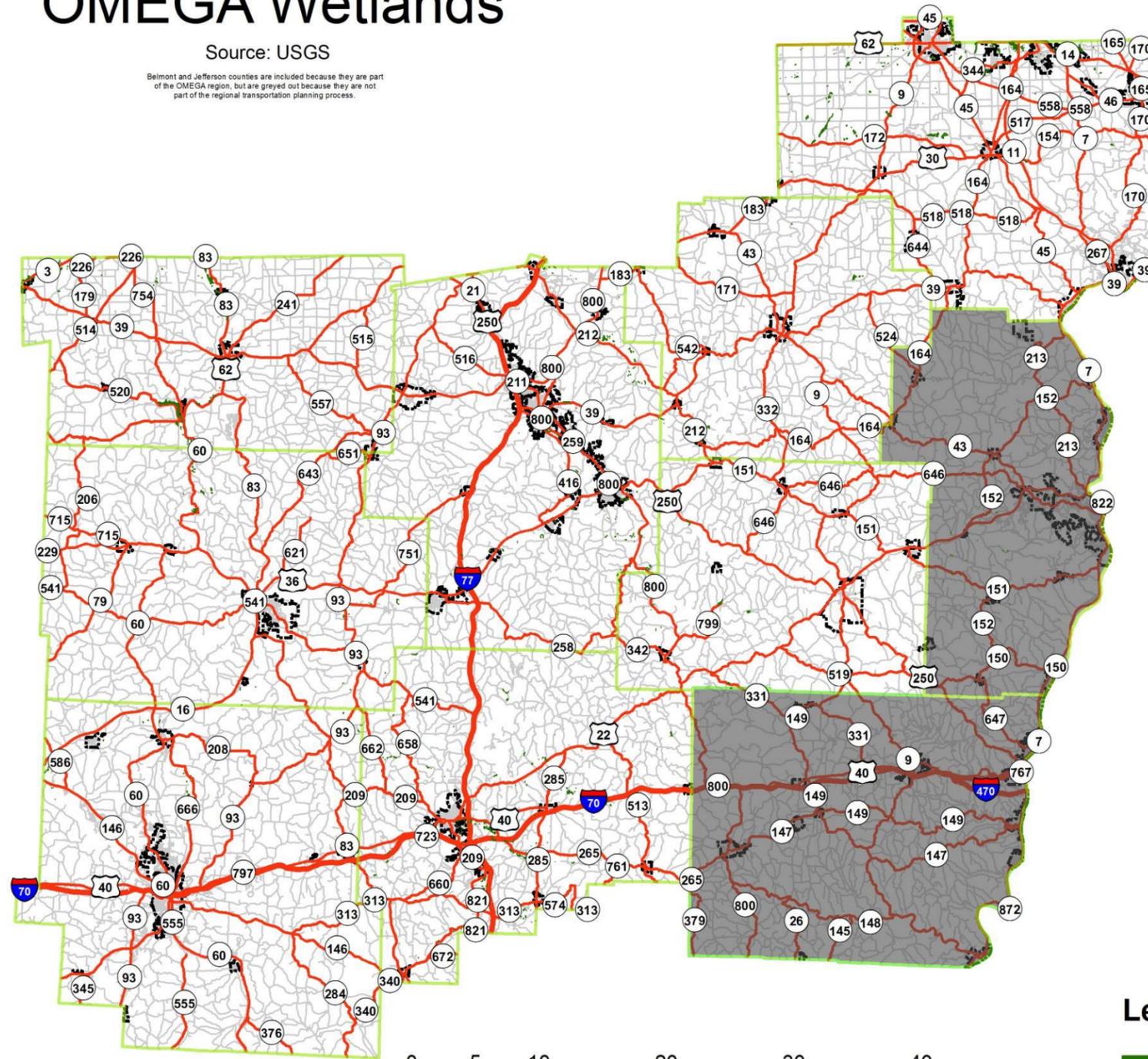
FIGURE 3-47: Wetlands



OMEGA Wetlands

Source: USGS

Belmont and Jefferson counties are included because they are part of the OMEGA region, but are greyed out because they are not part of the regional transportation planning process.



Legend

Wetlands



Date: 7/23/2014

FIGURE 3-48: Historic Places

