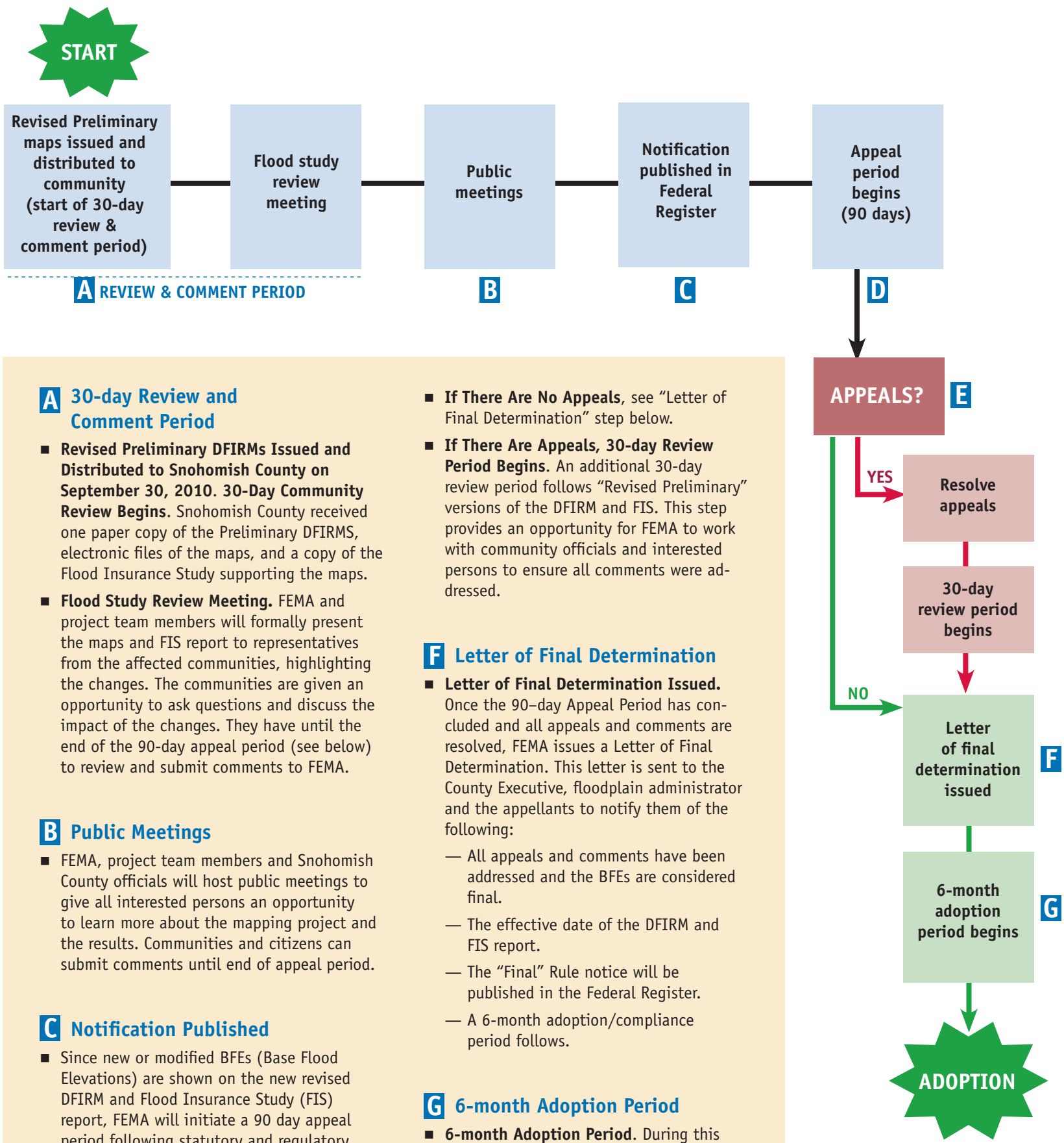
Process for Adopting the Snohomish County DFIRMs



A 30-day Review and Comment Period

- **Revised Preliminary DFIRMs Issued and Distributed to Snohomish County on September 30, 2010. 30-Day Community Review Begins.** Snohomish County received one paper copy of the Preliminary DFIRMS, electronic files of the maps, and a copy of the Flood Insurance Study supporting the maps.
- **Flood Study Review Meeting.** FEMA and project team members will formally present the maps and FIS report to representatives from the affected communities, highlighting the changes. The communities are given an opportunity to ask questions and discuss the impact of the changes. They have until the end of the 90-day appeal period (see below) to review and submit comments to FEMA.

B Public Meetings

- FEMA, project team members and Snohomish County officials will host public meetings to give all interested persons an opportunity to learn more about the mapping project and the results. Communities and citizens can submit comments until end of appeal period.

C Notification Published

- Since new or modified BFEs (Base Flood Elevations) are shown on the new revised DFIRM and Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report, FEMA will initiate a 90 day appeal period following statutory and regulatory requirements. A notice will be posted on the FEMA website, a legal notice will be published in the Federal Register, and a legal notice will be published in the Herald twice in a ten day period. FEMA will also send official notification of the proposed modified BFEs by letter to the County Executive and floodplain administrator.

D 90-day Appeal Period

- **90-day Appeal Period Begins.** During the appeal period, Snohomish County communities and citizens may submit their appeal (formal objection) to the proposed BFEs. The appeals must include data showing that the proposed BFEs are scientifically or technically incorrect.

E Appeals?

- **Resolve Appeals.** At the end of the 90-day appeal period, FEMA will review all appeals and other formal comments, obtain any necessary additional data or documentation, and work with community officials and interested persons to address any significant issues raised. If appropriate, FEMA will issue a resolution letter to the County Executive and floodplain administrator and other appellants documenting its determination, and "Revised Preliminary" versions of the DFIRM panels and FIS report.
- **If There Are No Appeals**, see "Letter of Final Determination" step below.
- **If There Are Appeals, 30-day Review Period Begins.** An additional 30-day review period follows "Revised Preliminary" versions of the DFIRM and FIS. This step provides an opportunity for FEMA to work with community officials and interested persons to ensure all comments were addressed.

F Letter of Final Determination

- **Letter of Final Determination Issued.** Once the 90–day Appeal Period has concluded and all appeals and comments are resolved, FEMA issues a Letter of Final Determination. This letter is sent to the County Executive, floodplain administrator and the appellants to notify them of the following:
  - — All appeals and comments have been addressed and the BFEs are considered final.
  - — The effective date of the DFIRM and FIS report.
  - — The "Final" Rule notice will be published in the Federal Register.
  - — A 6-month adoption/compliance period follows.

G 6-month Adoption Period

- **6-month Adoption Period.** During this period, the following actions take place:
  - — Project team members produce the final DFIRM and FIS report materials, which are delivered to FEMA's Map Service Center for review. After further review, the materials are delivered to the US Government Printing Office for printing.
  - — The Government Printing Office will produce paper copies of the DFIRMs and FIS and returns them to the Map Service Center for distribution.
  - — The Map Service Center will send paper copies, digital versions and the database of the DFIRM and FIS to Snohomish County and designated recipients.
  - — The county will review and revise its floodplain management ordinances, coordinating with FEMA to ensure the revised regulations are aligned with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and the new DFIRMS and FIS.
  - — The county must adopt the revised regulations before the DFIRM and FIS become effective.