

Federal Interagency Floodplain Management Task Force



FEMA



Task Force Membership

USDA



A Unified National Program for Floodplain Management

- **1968 – National Flood Insurance Act, section 1302(c) specified that a “unified national program for floodplain management” be prepared and submitted to the Congress**
- **1975 – US Water Resources Council establishes Federal Interagency Floodplain Management Task Force (TVA, Agriculture, USACE, Commerce, Energy, HUD, Interior, Transportation, EPA, FEMA with States represented by ASFPM as an observer)**
- **1982 – OMB designated FEMA as lead for FIFM-TF**
- **1976, 1979, 1986, & 1994 – TF released UNP reports**



Recent Federal Collaborations

- **Pre-Katrina**
 - **Intergovernmental Flood Risk Management Committee (with ASFPM and NAFSMA)**
 - **Interagency Levee Policy Committee**
 - **Post Katrina – Ad-Hoc Coordination (FEMA – Corps Led)**
- **Post Disaster teams (Katrina; Midwest)**
 - **National Committee on Levee Safety**
 - **Silver Jackets/RFRMT/IRTF/MRFTF**
 - **Map Modernization & Risk Mapping –RiskMAP**
 - **Creation of various bi-lateral and tri-lateral Federal agency coordination groups**
 - **Informal re-activation of the Task Force (2008)**

Why Reestablish the Task Force?

- **Provide a forum for Federal coordination and discussion on floodplain management issues**
- **Increasing flood losses in US and impacts on natural resources and functions of floodplains caused by population growth and development**
- **Incorporate a greater understanding of the impacts of human behavior and climate change on our water resources**
- **Develop common approaches among Federal agencies when implementing water resource authorities and programs**
- **Coordinate communication messages and strategies**

Current FIFM-TF

- **First meeting held in November 2009**
- **Membership includes:**
 - FEMA
 - USACE
 - Department of Agriculture
 - Department of Commerce
 - Department of Defense
 - Department of Energy
 - Department of Homeland Security
 - HUD
 - Department of Interior
 - Department of Transportation
 - Env Protection Agency
 - General Services Admin
 - Tennessee Valley Authority
- **Advisors:**
 - Council on Environmental Quality
 - Office of Management and Budget

Vision and Mission of the Task Force

- **Vision**

- That the economic, environmental, and societal values of floodplains are protected and flood-prone communities are resilient and sustainable

- **Mission**

- The Task Force will promote, support, and encourage agencies to formulate and implement programs and policies that:
 - reduce the loss of life and property caused by floods
 - protect and restore natural resources and functions of floodplains

Purpose of the Task Force

- **Promote the health, safety, and welfare of the public by encouraging programs and policies that reduce flood losses and protect the natural environment.**
- **The Task Force will accomplish this purpose by developing approaches for improving coordination, collaboration, and transparency in floodplain management efforts within the federal government and with state and local governments, the private sector, and non-profit organizations.**

Goals and Objectives of the Task Force

- **Goal 1: Public Safety**

- **Protect lives, property, and cultural assets through effective implementation of sound floodplain management programs and policies by all Federal agencies**

- **Objective 1.1: Further the implementation of risk reduction measures that minimize exposure and reduce flood losses in the floodplain**
- **Objective 1.2: Provide incentives and disincentives to motivate society's participation in implementing risk reduction measures**
- **Objective 1.3: Encourage states to develop and implement floodplain management and hazard mitigation plans that include a full range of potential flood events**

Goals and Objectives of the Task Force

- **Goal 2: Sustain the Nation's Floodplain Resources, Functions, and Services**
 - **Protect and restore the natural resources and beneficial functions of floodplains, and the services they provide.**
 - **Objective 2.1: Increase stakeholder awareness and understanding of the significant economic and environmental benefits that society derives from naturally functioning floodplains and associated natural resources**
 - **Objective 2.2: Promote policies and programs that provide incentives for protecting and restoring the natural resources and functions of floodplains, and discourage policies and actions that degrade or destroy functioning floodplains**
 - **Objective 2.3: Where development in the floodplain cannot be avoided, promote uses and development practices that: 1) are compatible with natural floodplain functions, 2) minimize adverse impacts on floodplain resources and services, and 3) do not increase flood risk**

Goals and Objectives of the Task Force

- **Goal 3: Economic Vitality**
 - **Promote and sustain economic benefits of floodplains with minimal degradation to the natural environment while limiting flood risk**
 - **Objective 3.1: Establish standards across the government for consistent valuations of environmental benefits and services**
 - **Objective 3.2: Provide financial incentives to strive for minimal impact on the natural environment, both specifically in business practices and generally, to be mindful of the carbon/energy footprint on people, property, and plants**
 - **Objective 3.3: Promote incentives for regional planning that incorporate low flood risk and sustainable development practices such as non-structural flood damage reduction**

Work Plan Activities

- 1. Assess impacts and barriers of Federal programs with regard to achieving the goals of floodplain management**
- 2. Conduct Foresight-style study that can provide information on future conditions that could inform current decisions**
- 3. Assess state of knowledge related to variation of environmental services such as natural and beneficial functions and ecosystem goods and services, identify gaps, and promote efforts to help fill these gaps**
- 4. Develop alternatives for guiding Federal agency actions in flood hazard areas, including updating EO 11988**
- 5. Update and revise the Unified National Program (strategic national framework) for Floodplain Management**
- 6. Develop policy and technical guidance for Federal agencies to encourage sustainable development and appropriate land use within and affecting the floodplains**

Work Plan Activities

- 7. Conduct public listening session(s) on scope, focus areas, and activities of the Federal Interagency Floodplain Management Task Force**
- 8. Continue to coordinate Federal agency input and leadership to ongoing collaborative efforts**
(Silver Jackets, RiskMAP, EPA Smart Growth/HUD-DOT-EPA Interagency Partnership for Sustainable Communities, and Intergovernmental Flood Risk Management Committee)
- 9. Serve as a forum for inter-agency problem solving and alignment on current and emerging issues and opportunities**
- 10. Engage and coordinate on Federal interagency efforts to provide input to other task forces with a nexus to floodplain management,**

Recent Activities of the FIFM-TF

- **Recent efforts of the FIFM-TF have focused on alignment of the Federal agencies on flood risk management policy**
 - **Coordination Matrix**
 - **Activity 1**
- **Guidance for Federal agencies on unwise use of the floodplain**

Coordination Matrix

- **FIFM-TF member agencies identified program opportunities to increase federal interagency coordination and collaboration**
- **Examples of some of these initiatives include:**
 - **Development of a Joint Memorandum to address FEMA's requirements in NFIP regulations during planning of USACE FRM projects**
 - **USACE and TVA developed a working arrangement for performance of NEPA reviews along the Tennessee River and tributaries**
 - **Codify HUD's wetlands policies and better align them with FEMA's regulations and policies to avoid confusion over implementation of EO 11990 and EO 11988**
- **The goal of these federal activities were to produce near-term improvements to flood risk management in the nation**

Activity 1

- **Activity 1: Assess impacts and barriers of Federal programs with regard to achieving the goals of floodplain management**
- **FIFM-TF worked with ASFPM to develop information on conflicts, barriers, and opportunities between Federal programs involved with floodplain and flood risk management**
 - **Aimed to determine how Federal programs support or interfere with sound floodplain management**
 - **ASFPM provided results of investigation to FIFM-TF in early July**
 - **Results of investigation still being reviewed and considered by FIFM-TF**

Activity 1

- **Themes emerging from investigation**
 - There are numerous Federal programs with some nexus to floodplain management and they are not fully coordinated
 - Legal and policy frameworks of floodplain management continue to evolve
 - A great deal of information on floodplains, flood risk, and floodplain management is still not well understood
- **Next Steps**
 - FIFM-TF will present and implement a set of recommendations for policy changes or other Federal actions to improve floodplain and flood risk management

Highlighted Recommendations

- **Support the Silver Jackets Program**
 - **The agencies of FIFM-TF recognize the contributions to FRM made by these state-led interagency teams**
 - **FIFM-TF co-chairs have signed (?) letter endorsing and supporting Silver Jackets concept**
 - **Joint letter requested each agency provide POC to coordinate agency efforts with Silver Jackets teams**
 - **Intent is to ensure that the full resources of the Federal Government are available to Silver Jackets teams**

Highlighted Recommendations

- **Activity 9: Serve as a forum for inter-agency problem solving and alignment on current and emerging issues and opportunities**
- **Recommendation is to increase efforts to work in this capacity**
 - **At national level, FIFM-TF has made efforts to align agency programs and policies**
 - **If nationally-significant issues or opportunities arise in the field cannot be resolved at lower levels, FIFM-TF would be appropriate body to resolve**
 - **Silver Jackets teams have significant role to play in attempting to resolve inter-agency issues and in raising issues that cannot be resolved to higher levels**

Unwise Use of Floodplains Guidance For Federal Agencies

Regulations, programs, policies, or practices may be considered an *unwise use of the floodplain*, if such actions are:

- **Inconsistent with the provisions of the E.O. 11988 and associated federal guidance;**
- **Unnecessarily increases or transfers flood risk geographically, governmentally, socioeconomically, or generationally;**
- **Fails to consider a systems approach;**
- **Disproportionately affects minority, low-income, or vulnerable populations;**
- **Fails to consider relevant current, future, and potential economic, environmental, and social risks, costs, impacts, and benefits**

Potential uses for the Unwise Use guidance

- **Revision of Principals and Guidelines**
- **Development of corresponding individual agency guidance**
- **Future activities where a consolidated Federal perspective may add value**

Requested Input

- If you have any questions or further comments for the Task Force, please do not hesitate to contact:
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Thank you very much!