

# Federal Interagency Floodplain Management Task Force



FEMA



# A Unified National Program for Floodplain Management

- 1968 – National Flood Insurance Act, section 1302(c) specifies that a unified national program for floodplain management” be prepared and submitted to Congress**
- 1975 – WRC Establishes Federal Interagency Floodplain Management Task (TVA; Agriculture, USACE, Commerce, Energy, HUD, Interior, Transportation, EPA, FEMA with States represented by ASFPM as an observer)**
- 1982 – OMB designates FEMA as lead for FIFM-TF**
- 1976, 1979, 1986, & 1994 – TF releases UNP reports**



# Federal Interagency Floodplain Management Task Force

## 1978 - 1994 FIFMTF Products

\* *Nonstructural Floodplain Management Study: Overview*, (White, 1978).

\* *Floodplain Acquisition: Issues and Options in Strengthening Federal Policy*, (Kusler, 1978).

\* *Improved Formulation and Evaluation of Nonstructural Elements for Water Resources Plans in Flood Hazard Areas*, (Shabman, 1979).

\* *Options to Improve Federal Nonstructural Responses to Flood*, (Platt, 1979).

\* *Economic Aspects of Wildlife Habitat and Wetlands*, (Midwest Research Institute, 1979).

\* *Emerging Issues in Wetland/Floodplain Management - Supporting Materials for a Report of a Technical Seminar*, (Kusler, 1979).

\* *Emerging Issues in Wetland/Floodplain Management - Summary* 1980).  
*Report of a Technical Seminar Series*, (Kusler, 1979).

\* *Sources of Wetlands/Floodplain Research Information*, (1980).

\* *Workshop Report on Bottomland Hardwood Wetlands*, (National Wetlands Technical Council,) \*  
*Nonstructural Measures in Flood Damage Reduction Activities*, (Galloway, 1980).

\* *The Influence of Regulations and Practices on the Implementation of Nonstructural Flood Plain Plans*, (CME Associates, Inc., 1980).

\* *An Assessment of Storm Surge Modeling*, (Hydrology Committee, 1980).

\* *State and Local Acquisition of Floodplains and Wetlands*, (Field Associates, 1981).

\* *Analysis of Methodologies Used for the Assessment of Wetland Values*, (USA Waterways Experiment Station, 1981).

\* *Floodplain Management Handbook*, (Owen, 1981).

\* *Cooperative Flood Loss Reduction: A Technical Manual for Communities and Industry*, (Owen, 1981).

\* *Evaluating the Effectiveness of Floodplain Management Techniques and Community Programs*, (1985).

\* *Further Advice on Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management*, (1987).

\* *Protecting Floodplain Resources: A Guide for Communities* (1994)

- Task Force publishes “*Protecting Floodplain Resources: A Guidebook for Communities*” (1996)
- Task Force becomes dormant (1997)



# 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
  - 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)



# 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



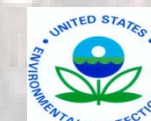
# Purpose (draft) of the Task Force

- **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.**



# Why Reestablish the Task Force?

- Increasing demands on natural resources caused by population growth and development
- Provide a forum for Federal coordination and discussion
- 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
- Harmonize communication messages and strategies



# Accomplishments

- **Charter drafted**
  - **Pending legal review**
- **May 2010 – Listening Session held in DC**
  - **Feedback obtained and being implemented**
  - **Final report being finalized**
- **Work Plan Drafted**
  - **Under review, but in the process of being finalized**
  - **Working group has received preliminary guidance to develop additional background on select items within the work plan**
  - **No final decisions on selected activities made**



# Goals of the Task Force

1. **Develop a unified national strategy and framework for floodplain management**
  - **Promote alignment of Federal programs and polices with sound floodplain management**
  - **Develop strategic direction and provide leadership for Federal efforts that promote, encourage, and support sound floodplain management**
2. **Provide a forum for Federal agency alignment and problem solving for emerging issues and opportunities**



# Proposed 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**



# Proposed Activities (Continued)

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,**



# Next Steps

1. **Provide information about the strengths and weaknesses of the current UNP for consideration by the TF**
2. **Continue gathering stakeholder input through listening sessions**
3. **Develop scope of work and evaluation criteria for Activity 1 of the Work Plan**

**“Assess impacts and barriers of Federal programs with regard to achieving the goals of floodplain management”**

  - **Investigate a joint effort with the National Committee on Levee Safety to identify areas for better coordination within the floodplain**
4. **Develop scope of work and evaluation criteria for Activity 3 of the Work Plan**

**“Assess state of knowledge related to variation of environmental services”**



# Requested Input

## Overall Vision and Purpose

- Do you agree with the Task Force that we need to have a national vision or unified, national approach for floodplain management?
- If so, what principles should guide this national vision?
- Do you agree with the mission of the Task Force?
- What most would we like to achieve through a unified national approach for floodplain management/ What would success look like?

## Assessment of Opportunities & Challenges

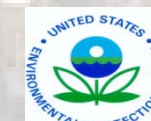
- What are the greatest barriers or challenges to a unified, national approach for floodplain management?
- Which existing federal laws, programs, and related state and local programs work well together?
- Where are existing programs working at cross purposes to the stated goals of floodplain management?



# Requested Input

## Advice to the Task Force in Moving Forward

- What are the appropriate roles of Federal, state, and local agencies, the private sector, and non-profit organizations in the floodplain management practice?
- Describe your opinion regarding the existing balance between the competing interests of economic viability, public safety, and protecting and restoring the natural resources and functions of the floodplains (sometimes referred to as the “natural and beneficial values” of floodplains)?
- How can the Federal government work most effectively in this process while recognizing the competing interests at the community level?



# Requested Input

## Feedback on Task Force Activities

- Generally speaking, do these seem like the right set of activities a Task Force like the FIFM-TF should be focusing on?
- Is there anything big the FIFM-TF is missing from this set of activities?
- Which of these activities are most important to you? Why?
- If you had limited resources, which would you focus on in the next year? Why ?
- If you could give one bit of advice to the Task Force, what would it be?



# Requested Input

- Please feel free to write comments on the hand-out and leave them for us to collect
- If you have any questions or further comments for the Task Force, please do not hesitate to contact:
  - Stephanie Bray ([Stephanie.N.Bray@usace.army.mil](mailto:Stephanie.N.Bray@usace.army.mil) or 202-761-4827)
  - Linda Manning ([lmanning@thecounciloak.com](mailto:lmanning@thecounciloak.com))
- Please provide any additional comments by September 10, 2010

Thank you very much!



# Task Force Membership

