



USACE Flood Risk Management – Protecting American Lives and Property from Devastating Floods

“What we need is a smart system of infrastructure equal to the needs of the 21st century. ... We’ve already begun on this task. ... And we’re not just talking new and restored roads and bridges and dams and levees, but we’re also talking a smart electric grid and the high-speed internet and rail lines required for America to compete in the 21st century economy. We’re talking about investments with impacts both immediate and lasting.”

– President Barack Obama

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Flood Risk Management Program (FRMP) is an ongoing collaborative program that functions to integrate and synchronize the flood risk management projects, programs and authorities of USACE with counterpart projects, programs and authorities of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), other Federal agencies, state organizations, and regional and local agencies. Through both structural and non-structural measures, the FRMP serves as a vehicle to reduce the risk to human safety and property from riverine and coastal flooding.

Funding

The President’s fiscal year 2013 budget request of \$4.731 billion includes \$1.41 billion for the FRMP. This budget provides funding that will allow USACE to study, construct, operate, maintain, repair and improve the Civil Works flood and storm damage reduction infrastructure, including continuing construction at high risk dam safety projects and the levee safety initiative. The budget was developed using a risk management approach to reduce risks to lives and property from inland and coastal flooding. Risk management entails prioritizing the highest priority new construction, major rehabilitation projects and priority maintenance activities. Our FRMP infrastructure is essential to maintaining the nation’s economic competitiveness and national security. These projects annually fund 43,350 direct jobs.¹

This budget includes \$588 million to fund continuing construction on 44 projects, of which four are funded for completion and includes \$363 million to fund 9 of the highest risk Dam Safety Action Classification I and II projects at full capability. Moreover, the budget provides \$464 million of operation and maintenance funding for USACE flood risk management projects and includes maintenance funding to bring 7 operating projects with unacceptable condition ratings to an acceptable condition. Also included in the program is \$41 million for the USACE Levee Safety Initiative. This funding continues the four-year initiative begun with the FY 2012 budget that will complete important components of the levee safety program. This funding will enable completion of periodic assessments of Federally authorized levees systems; complete a screening-level risk assessment of the levee systems that USACE operates and maintains, levees that were Federally constructed or authorized and/or locally operated, and non-federal levees that are covered in Rehabilitation and Inspection Program; and complete levee data collection for the national levee database. USACE’s FY 2013 Budget includes about \$30 million in the Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies Account for preparedness for floods, hurricanes and other natural disasters, including \$2.5 million in support of continued development of interagency teams known as Silver Jackets, bringing together State and Federal agencies to implement flood risk management solutions.

Program Objectives

- Reduce flood damages through the use of existing projects.
- Increase the protection of people in a flood plain by bringing new USACE projects on line.
- Reduce flood damages through targeted new USACE projects.

Over the years, the USACE flood control and flood prevention mission has evolved to a more comprehensive flood risk management mission. This change reflects a greater appreciation for the complexity and dynamics of floods—the interaction of natural forces and human development—as well as the federal, state, local and individual partnerships necessary for thorough management of the risks caused by coastal storms and heavy rains. In implementing the FRMP, USACE has demonstrated its commitment to lead the nation away from the mindset of controlling floods to a more comprehensive approach of managing the risks associated with floods and coastal storms. This shift in perspective acknowledges the complexities and dynamics of flood plains and USACE’s commitment to the partnerships necessary to apply effective flood plain and coastal flood risk management practices. USACE’s FY 2013 Budget includes about \$30 million in the Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies Account for preparedness for floods, hurricanes and other natural disasters, including \$2.5 million in support of continued development of interagency teams known as Silver Jackets, bringing together State and Federal agencies to implement flood risk management solutions.



Key Messages

- Public safety is USACE's number one priority.
- The USACE Flood Risk Management Program seeks to reduce risk to human safety and property in the event of floods and coastal storms.
- Funding enables USACE to help protect the public, and residential, commercial, and industrial property from flood damage.
- Flood risk management is a shared responsibility.

Facts & Figures

- USACE owns and operates 692 dams.
- USACE built 11,750 miles of levees.
- For more information about USACE's efforts, visit <http://www.usace.army.mil/>

¹ US Army Corps of Engineers IWR- Regional Economic System. Computer Model and Online Database. Alexandria, VA: Institute for Water Resources, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.