

Federal Interagency Floodplain Management Task Force Work Plan

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I. Introduction

The collective costs of flooding disasters in the United States continue to increase while the functions and values of our floodplain ecosystems continue to be degraded or destroyed. Although federal, state, and local government agencies have implemented laws and programs, and private and non-profit organizations have undertaken initiatives to address these concerns, flood losses and environmental degradation continue. The 21st Century challenges to reduce the loss of life and property caused by floods and to protect and restore the natural resources and functions of coastal and riverine floodplains are as great as any point in our Nation's history.

Responding to the mandate in the 1968 National Flood Insurance Act, the Federal Interagency Floodplain Management Task Force (Task Force) was established in 1975 to develop a "unified national program for floodplain management."¹

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), with support from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) reconvened the Federal Interagency Floodplain Management Task Force with the overall goal of protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the public by reducing flood losses and protecting the natural environment. In addition to providing federal leadership in floodplain management efforts, the Task Force seeks to:

- Improve coordination, collaboration, and transparency among federal agencies in floodplain management efforts, and work closely with state and local governments, the private sector, and non-profit organizations.
- Prepare reports for the President to transmit to the Congress on any further actions or proposals necessary to achieve a unified national program for floodplain management.
- Conduct studies and assessments of floodplain management efforts and set realistic national objectives for reducing flood losses and protecting and restoring the natural resources and functions of floodplains.
- Identify and address federal policies and programs that have conflicting program missions, are not consistent with achieving the goals of floodplain management, or do not employ the most appropriate and cost-effective means to achieve effective floodplain management.

¹ The Task Force was created by the Water Resources Council pursuant to Public Law 90-448, Section 1302(c). Responsibility for conduct of the Task Force was later reassigned by the Office of Management and Budget to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) by letter dated September 9, 1982.

II. Purpose of the Work Plan

This Work Plan provides a framework and road map for the federal government to be more effective in promoting and encouraging floodplain management decisions that will 1) reduce the loss of life and property caused by floods, and 2) protect and restore natural resources and functions of floodplains.

This Work Plan is a living document that is updated periodically to reflect the evolution of knowledge about effective floodplain management and a variety of stakeholder perspectives and input. Through this Work Plan, the Task Force will provide federal leadership by supporting and promoting effective floodplain management, but with care not to preempt or direct local decision-making. The Task Force will identify ways to improve interagency coordination, disseminate critical information, and formulate effective policies and guidance to help achieve the goals of floodplain management. The Task Force will also actively seek stakeholder involvement and collaboration with public and private interests to reduce flood losses and the environmental degradation of floodplains for current and future generations.

The Work Plan includes a summary of the vision, goals, and objectives of the Task Force as well as the activities it is pursuing over the next three or more years.

III. Summary of the Task Force Vision, Mission, Goals, and Objectives

Vision

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: 1) reduce the loss of life and property caused by floods; and 2) protect and restore natural resources and functions of floodplains.

Goals

Goal 1: Public Safety

Protect lives, property, and cultural assets through effective implementation of sound floodplain management programs and policies by all federal agencies.

The intent of this goal is to enable informed decision making that improves public safety services and functions involving floodplain locations that are consistent with sustainable and resilient communities. This goal also includes efforts to incorporate recovery and restoration activities in advanced planning activities to minimize the impact on communities and the floodplain environment.

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.

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.

The intent of this goal is to build community and ecosystem resilience to the adverse impacts of flooding through enhanced protection of the many intrinsic functions and services that floodplains provide to society. Accomplishing this goal will require some emphasis on increasing public/stakeholder awareness of the broad array of societal benefits that naturally functioning floodplains provide (Objective 2.1). This improved understanding can be leveraged to support work (Objectives 2.2-2.3) to adjust relevant policies, programs, incentives or disincentives, and/or decision-making processes to better preserve and enhance floodplain resources, functions, and services to society.

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 a floodplain cannot be avoided, promote uses and development practices that: (1) are compatible with the natural functions of floodplains; (2) minimize adverse impacts on the natural resources and services of floodplains; and (3) do not increase flood risk.

Goal #3: Economic Vitality

Promote and sustain economic benefits of floodplains with minimal degradation to the natural environment while limiting flood risk.

This goal seeks to recognize the importance and necessity of economic activities in floodplains – but with an eye to the sustainability of such activities. As a large number of economic development activities intrinsically cause negative impacts on flood risk and/or environmental functions, the desired outcome from this goal is to minimize those negative impacts through informed decision making that carefully evaluates gains versus losses to the human and natural environments. Locally, or within a larger systems context of the watershed and floodplain, even small projects can alter hydrology, habitat, recharge, natural contaminant removal, and other natural functions and services provided by floodplains that can impact flood risk and the health, safety, and welfare of the natural and human environments. The process of this goal is to engage and appropriately balance human activities in floodplains so that they are economically sustainable for the promotion of human welfare and quality of life, while preserving and protecting the natural environment.

Objective 3.1: Establish policies and 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 living resources.

Objective 3.3: Promote incentives for regional planning that incorporate low flood risk and sustainable development practices such as non-structural flood damage reduction.

IV. Activities

In updating this Work Plan, the Task Force has organized its activities into three categories. The first category includes activities aimed at strategic policy development. The second category includes activities aimed at improving program implementation. The third category is focused on ongoing activities that the Task Force performs regularly or on an as-needed basis. Resources for all aspects for this work plan have not been secured, so the Task Force will implement activities as resources become available.

Attachment 1 provides an expanded description of each activity, including how each activity supports Task Force goals. Each activity (and sub-activity) is numbered for reference. Attachment 2 provides a crosswalk between Task Force Goals and Objectives and current activities.

Strategic Policy Development Activities

One of the primary goals of the FIFM Task Force is to improve floodplain management practices at all levels. An important way it can do this is by improving key federal policies that have a significant impact on floodplain decisions, especially at the federal level. The activities below are designed to better identify and analyze potential problems that are preventing better floodplain management decisions, develop a vision for what better floodplain management looks like for the nation, and investigate potential approaches for making improvements – these could range from federally focused efforts such as updating the EO 11988 guidance or broader efforts aimed at policy and legislative changes.

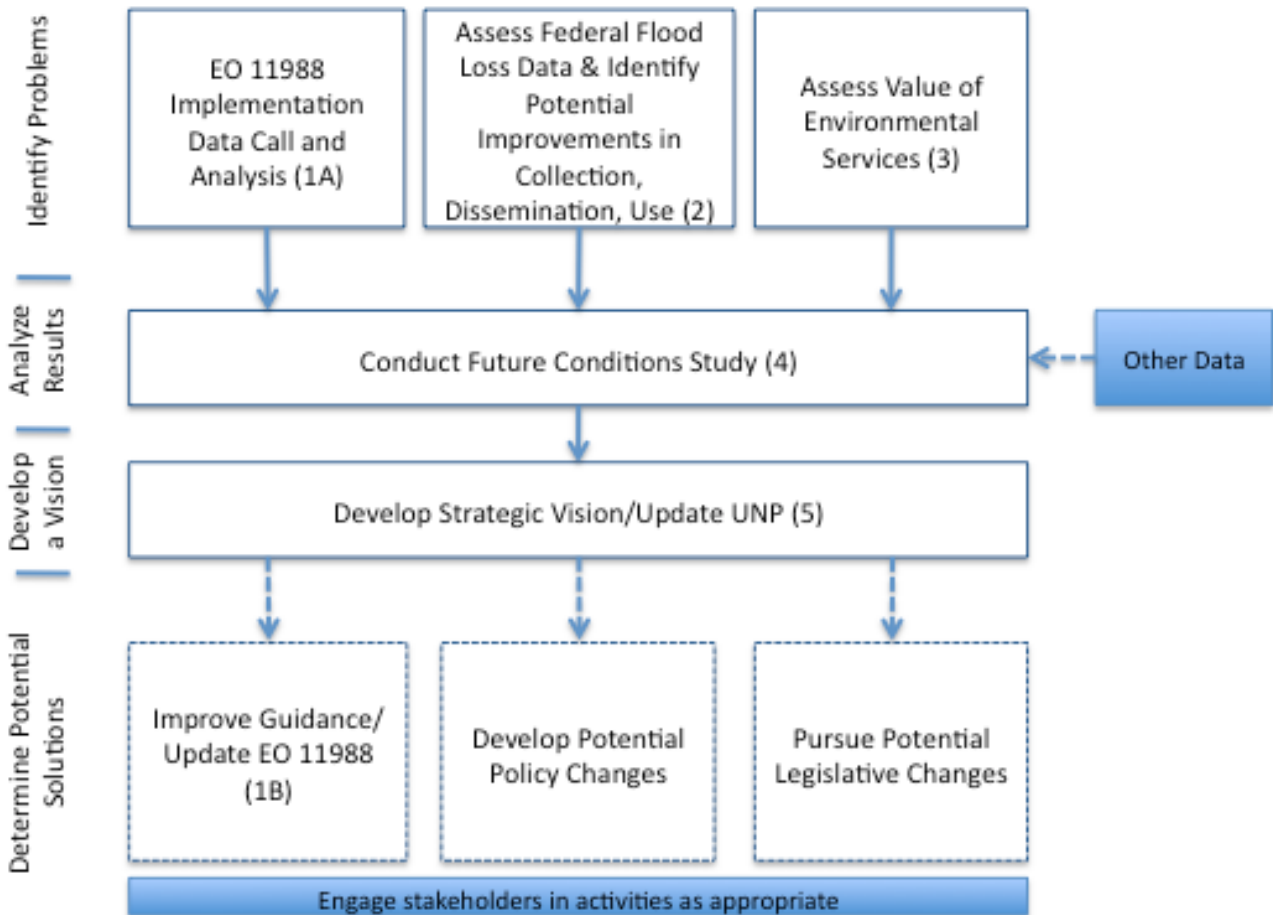
The specific activities the Task Force will undertake include:

- Collect data from federal agencies to analyze compliance with EO 11988. (1A)
- Assess federal use of flood loss data, and identify potential improvements in collection, dissemination, and use. (2)
- Assess the state of knowledge related to valuation of environmental services such as natural and beneficial functions and ecosystem goods and services, identify gaps in knowledge, and promote efforts to help fill these gaps. (3)
- Conduct a study that can provide information on future conditions that could inform current floodplain management decisions. (4)
- Develop a strategic vision and/or update the Unified National Program (strategic national framework) for floodplain management. (5)

It is hoped this set of activities, especially Activity 5, a new strategic vision for floodplain management, would result in additional products such as improved guidance for EO 11988 or an updated Executive Order (if appropriate, as articulated in Activity 1B), as well as

additional policy and legislative changes. These additional activities would be identified as a result of the work conducted. Figure 1 below shows how some of the major activities that the Task Force has identified fit together in this framework.

Figure 1: FIFM Task Force Strategic Policy Development Activities Framework



Activities to Enhance Program Implementation

In addition to the activities aimed at improving policies in the long term, the Task Force has identified several shorter-term efforts that, if implemented, could enhance floodplain management program implementation in the near term. These include:

- Enhance technical assistance to communities in coastal areas (6A) and improve incentives for coastal communities to make better floodplain management decisions (6B).
- Enhance collaboration and research on mapping to support floodplain management (7A followed by 7B in particular. 7C would follow at a later date.)

Ongoing Task Force Activities

In addition to these specific activities, the Task Force will continue to perform research, coordination, and communication activities in support of improved floodplain management efforts. Specifically, the Task Force will:

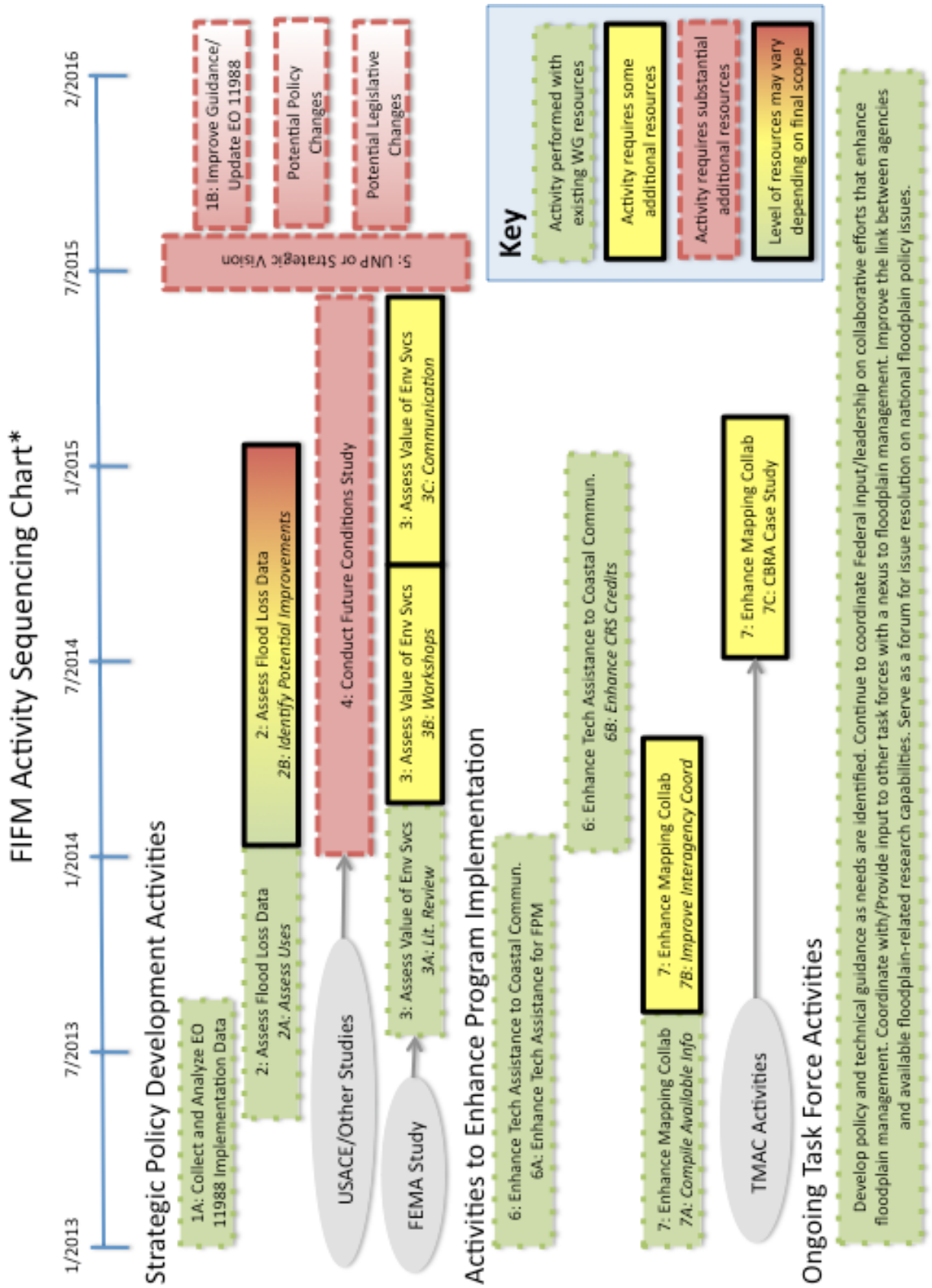
- Improve the link between agencies and available floodplain-related research capabilities.
- Develop policy and technical guidance for federal agencies to encourage sustainable development and appropriate land use within and affecting the floodplains as specific needs are identified.
- Engage stakeholders as appropriate in the work of the Task Force.
- Continue to coordinate federal agency input and leadership to ongoing collaborative efforts that enhance floodplain management.
- Engage and coordinate with federal interagency efforts to provide input to other task forces with a nexus to floodplain management.
- Serve as a forum to discuss and potentially resolve interagency conflicts related to national floodplain policies.

Sequencing

These activities will be carried out over the next three or more years based on the sequencing chart below (Figure 2). The chart indicates the three categories of activities noted previously and orders the activities based on dependencies, urgency or ripeness. In addition, the chart references at a high level the resource implications of the activities – the different colored boxes correspond to the varying levels of resources needed.

As noted previously, resources for all activities have not been secured. The timeline for these activities will likely be extended if sufficient resources are not available to carry them out. In the current climate of declining budgets, this shift is likely. The Task Force will continue to identify more efficient ways to carry out its work to help avoid unnecessary delays.

Figure 2: Activity Sequencing Chart



ATTACHMENT 1: Federal Interagency Floodplain Management Task Force Activity Descriptions

Attachment 1: Task Force Activity Descriptions

1) Analyze compliance with EO 11988 and develop alternatives for guiding federal agency actions in flood hazard areas.

Description

Federal agency actions in flood hazard areas are currently guided by Executive Order 11988. Whether or not the existing version of EO 11988, developed in 1977, is adequate has been under discussion for several years. Given this debate, various Federal agencies had voluntarily submitted comments to the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) and participated in a discussion and redrafting exercise.

While the need for a revised or updated EO 11988 remains unclear, a critical issue is whether or not the current version of the Executive Order is being appropriately and consistently implemented across the Federal government. The Task Force believes that ensuring EO 11988 is being implemented consistently and effectively across the federal government will assist in improving sound floodplain management in the U.S. Further, in the process of gathering information to assess the implementation of EO 11988, the Task Force will be able to gather preliminary information to assess the effectiveness of EO 11988 in reducing flood risks and impacts of flooding on human safety, health, and welfare, and restoring and preserving the natural and beneficial values served by floodplains.

The Task Force will work closely with CEQ to implement this effort.

Activity 1A: Collect and analyze information on the implementation of EO 11988 among federal agencies.

- The Task Force will draft a letter for CEQ to distribute to federal agencies that 1) reminds them of their responsibilities under EO 11988 and 2) asks them to assess their individual implementing guidelines for EO 11988 as well as their compliance with their guidelines and with EO 11988 overall.
- CEQ will issue the letter at the appropriate time.
- The Task Force will analyze the results received from agencies.

Activity 1B: Evaluate strategies for providing updated guidance on federal actions in flood hazard areas.

- Determine whether EO 11988 is being consistently implemented across the federal government and, if not, develop recommendations to improve implementation.
- Determine, based on the output from Activity 1A and other appropriate information, whether EO 11988 is able to effectively meet its objectives and, if not, develop recommendations for a revised Executive Order or other method to align the federal government toward sound floodplain management practices.

Potential Benefits or Impacts

- Assesses opportunities and challenges federal agencies had or may have implementing the EO.
- More consistent implementation of the EO presents a unified approach across the federal family and ultimately saves lives and property and reduces the impacts of flooding.
- Assists the Administration in communicating the priority for implementing sound floodplain management and the need to have a coordinated approach.
- Provides input to the development of a new strategic vision for floodplain management.

Which Goal or Objective of the FIFM Task Force does this activity support?

Goal 1, Objectives 1.1 and 1.2; Goal 2, Objective 2.3; Goal 3, Objectives 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3

2) Assess federal flood loss data and identify potential improvements in collection, dissemination and use

Description

Understanding the full extent of flood losses in the United States is important for determining total costs as well as the impacts of federal programs and policies in and around floodplains. This activity is important because federal agencies collect and use flood loss data differently based on their missions and the needs of their stakeholders, which means that the extent of flood losses in the U.S. is not fully known. This activity will help illuminate what flood loss data is available within federal agencies, how these data are presently used, and how losses are collected in order to identify ways to improve collection, dissemination, and/or use of these data.

USACE will lead this effort and will coordinate closely with other FIFM Task Force member agencies, especially USGS, NOAA, USDA, and EPA.

Activity 2A: Assess federal flood loss data and its uses.

- Look at existing data sources and compilations (e.g., National Weather Service Hydrologic Information Center Annual Flood Loss Data).
- Convene key federal agencies to discuss what flood loss data they have and how they collect and use these data.
- Compile this information to create a more comprehensive view of how flood loss data is collected and used within federal agencies to highlight high-level similarities and differences and to determine if there are any gaps or overlaps in the data.

Activity 2B: Identify potential improvements in collection, dissemination, and/or use of flood loss data.

- The Task Force will analyze output from Activity 2A.
- Reconvene agencies to discuss observations.
- Identify approaches for improving the collection, dissemination, and/or use of flood loss data to enhance future policy decisions.

Potential Benefits or Impacts

- Federal agencies and the public will have a more comprehensive understanding of how flood loss data in the U.S. are collected and how these data are used.
- There will be a list of recommended actions for improving flood loss data collection and how these data can be used to enhance the formulation and implementation of future floodplain management policy.
- Understanding the total costs of flood damages in the various sectors will help federal agencies determine if present programs and policies are focusing floodplain management efforts in the right areas.

Which Goal or Objective of the FIFM Task Force does this activity support?

Goal 1, Objectives 1.2 and 1.3; Goal 2, Objectives 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3; Goal 3, Objectives 3.2 and 3.3

3) Assess the state of knowledge related to valuation of environmental services such as natural and beneficial functions and ecosystem goods and services, identify gaps in knowledge, and promote efforts to help fill these gaps

Description

Recent studies have shown that floodplains provide more value (“services”) per acre than any other land area. However, floodplains continue to be degraded by development and other activities, often creating hidden losses for communities, and the nation. Protecting and restoring the natural resources and functions of floodplains, therefore, would have significant economic and environmental benefits. Increasing awareness of these values by decision makers at all levels of government, as well as the private sector, is also a critical gap that needs to be filled. In addition, incorporating these values into benefit/cost analyses for flood risk management projects would help to prevent losses and save significant resources (both economic and environmental) over time.

NOAA will lead this effort in coordination with representatives from FEMA, USACE, EPA and DOI. All FIFM Task Force agencies will be impacted.

Activity 3A: Conduct a literature review of existing studies, approaches, and analytical tools that assist in understanding ecological, economic, and societal functions and services of floodplains.

- Assess prior efforts (e.g., ongoing FEMA BCA project, NOAA’s Coastal Blue Carbon initiative).
- Review peer-reviewed and gray literature originating from federal agencies, academic institutions, non-profits, etc.
- Produce concise report outlining (1) useful methods and tools; (2) areas of duplication or synergy; and (3) known gaps in data, research, and decision-support tools.

Activity 3B: Convene State of the Science Workshop(s) (in coordination with Natural Floodplain Functions Alliance)

- Convene a “blue ribbon panel” of natural and social scientists and policy makers inside and outside of government to review Activity 3A product.
- Have panel (1) provide recommendations on key data, research, and decision-support tool gaps, and (2) prioritize needed research and development efforts.
- Produce “State of the Science” report.
- Develop prioritized research plan, including a strategy for data collection, research, and decision-support tool development necessary to fill those gaps.

Activity 3C: Communication / Awareness-Building Products

- Using products of Activities 3A and/or 3B, develop communication materials targeted to local governments and the publics they engage.

Potential Benefits or Impacts

- Improves the awareness and knowledge of decision makers in order to advance efforts to preserve and restore the natural resources and functions of floodplains.

Which Goal or Objective of the FIFM Task Force does this activity support?

Goal 1, Objective 1.2; Goal 2, Objectives 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3; Goal 3, Objectives 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3

4) Conduct a study that can provide information on future conditions that could inform current floodplain management decisions

Description

A future conditions study is an interdisciplinary analytical approach that seeks to improve one's ability to anticipate and manage future changes by assessing and integrating a variety of scientific domains (natural science, demographics, economic, technological). It employs interdisciplinary analysis and systems thinking to develop potential alternative scenarios that assist decision makers not only in developing activities and programs for today, but planning for tomorrow based on best information available related to future trends and disciplinary interactions. Rough measures indicate that flood-related risks to property, people, and natural ecosystems are increasing due to a variety of demographic, land use, and water resources management actions; however, we have little organized assessment of the scale, direction, or impacts of this risk. Further, it is critical for the Task Force to develop baseline information that will allow it to assess the effectiveness of federal agency activities and Task Force guidance related to sustainable floodplain management.

USACE is conducting a study that will result in a tool that can measure baseline flood risk within a watershed. The tool would allow flood risk to be assessed based on changing conditions within the watershed. With additional data and input from other agencies, this tool may be able to assist in conducting watershed-level future condition studies. Other agencies may have also conducted similar studies.

USACE will lead this effort in coordination with other Task Force member agencies.

Key steps are included below:

- Survey member agencies to identify additional inputs and similar studies conducted.
- Convene experts to discuss futures methodologies and determine parameters and expected products of study.
- Develop scope and parameters of study.
- Conduct the study, including future scenarios.
- Produce guidance and recommendations to federal agencies based on future conditions study (TBD).

Potential Benefits or Impacts

- Inform the public debate regarding the possible and likely impacts of the status quo (e.g. current programs, laws, activities).
- Provide a baseline to assess future agency and Task Force actions and recommendations.
- Assess progress and impacts of activities and actions to date.

Which Goal or Objective of the FIFM Task Force does this activity support?

Goal 1, Objective 1.3; Goal 2, Objectives 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3; Goal 3, Objectives 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3

5) Develop strategic vision and/or update the Unified National Program (strategic national framework) for Floodplain Management

Description

The Unified National Program (UNP) document provides a conceptual framework and guidance for implementing federal programs and policies to reduce the loss of life and property caused by floods and to protect and restore the natural resources and functions of floodplains. As an interagency document, it is a mechanism to assist federal agency coordination and to describe the various roles of federal, state, and local entities. The UNP document was last updated in 1994. Since that time, many concepts have either evolved or been created concerning floodplain management. Some of these topics include risk assessment, ecosystem services, ecosystem restoration, integrated water resources management, climate change adaptation, and climate change mitigation.

An initial step when considering the value of a document revision is to review the existing plan and develop a list of areas for update, replacement, deletion, or addition. Upon review of this list of needs, the Task Force can better assess the value of having a revised UNP document and, if deemed appropriate, the effort required to complete a revision.

USACE will lead this effort in coordination with Task Force member agencies. The specific tasks related to this activity will be determined, to a certain extent, based on the outcome of Activities 1A, 2, 3, and 4 but may include:

- Review the 1994 and previous versions of the UNP document and determine areas that warrant updating based on new information and science as well as key areas of reconsideration and/or reconfirmation by the Task Force. This will also include a section related to existing gaps of information related to understanding floodplain functions and measuring progress. (Completed 2012)
- Assess outputs from other related Task Force activities.
- Determine whether revision of the UNP would be helpful or if a different document should be developed to serve as a national vision for floodplain management.
- Hold webinars with different stakeholder groups (including state and local representatives) to obtain broader perspectives on an appropriate national vision.
- Finalize vision and determine what additional program activities should accompany this vision.

Potential Benefits or Impacts

- Confirm/revise key national floodplain management goals.
- Articulate relationships among levels of government (e.g. tribes, state/local/regional governments).
- Communicate current national floodplain management priorities and strategies for coordinated action across all levels of government.

Which Goal or Objective of the FIFM Task Force does this activity support?

Attachment 1: Task Force Activity Descriptions

Goal 1, Objectives 1.2 and 1.3; Goal 2, Objective 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3; Goal 3, Objectives 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3

6) Enhance Technical Assistance to Communities in Coastal Areas: Provide technical assistance to communities to better enable them to make decisions regarding the risk of investing in infrastructure and encouraging development in vulnerable coastal areas

Activity Description

The coastal area is home to over 160 million people, supports 66 million jobs, and contributes \$8.3 trillion to the U.S. economy, accounting for 58 percent of the nation's economic output.² It is also subject to a number of natural hazards that threaten lives, property, the natural environment, and, ultimately, economies. Vibrant coastal economies depend on community-wide understanding and acknowledgement of coastal hazard risk and shared efforts to reduce the impacts of hazards on society and the environment. Without good, reliable information about their risks, communities can make decisions that can result in significant losses in the event of a disaster.

NOAA will lead this effort in coordination with FEMA, EPA, DOI (including FWS and USGS), and USACE.

Activity 6A: Enhance Technical Assistance for Coastal Floodplain Management

- Inventory existing federal or federally sponsored data, tools, training, best practices documentation, and other types of technical assistance related to coastal flooding and risk reduction. To the extent that information is readily available, include non-federal resources.
- Develop a communications piece guiding interested parties to relevant resources identified in the inventory phase. Identify opportunities to integrate this information into existing agency websites or outreach efforts (e.g., NOAA Digital Coast; FEMA Headquarters' and Regional Offices' coastal outreach websites and community engagement activities; USACE National Flood Risk Management website).
- Identify gaps in resources and technical assistance based on existing needs assessments from participating agencies and other stakeholders (e.g., ASFPM, Coastal States Organization, American Planning Association, coastal state Silver Jackets teams). To supplement, engage such stakeholders in validating and refining the Task Force's compilation of documented user needs and gaps.
- Develop brief statement on opportunities for Task Force agencies to address gaps, either through modification of existing programs/resources or new initiatives.

Activity 6B: Explore/expand NFIP's Community Rating System (CRS) as incentive mechanism for improved floodplain management in coastal communities.

- Consult with CRS officials and develop white paper outlining potential new CRS credits, enhancements to existing credits, rationale, and anticipated flood risk reduction benefits.
- Submit white paper to FEMA staff and CRS Task Force for discussion and/or potential revisions to conform with standard CRS proposal format.

² NOAA State of the Coast: www.stateofthecoast.noaa.gov/

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- Full CRS Task Force would consider proposal for inclusion in next version of *CRS Coordinator's Manual* (due in 2015); there may be multiple iterations to address feedback during the intervening months/years.
- Following CRS Task Force and FEMA approval, new credits appear in *CRS Coordinators Manual*.

Potential Benefits or Impacts

- The inventory's communications piece will enhance end-user awareness of and access to the diverse data and tools available across the Federal government (and potentially outside the government) that can be used to support flood risk reduction and other decision making. Currently there is no central point of discovery for these resources, limiting their reach and application in state and local decision making.
- The gap analysis will identify unmet needs for technical assistance to support community-level coastal flood risk management. Follow-on Task Force actions to promote addressing these gaps would ultimately lead to improved community access to and use of risk data in decision making.
- Increased financial incentives for states/communities to avoid at-risk development in areas vulnerable to sea-level rise.

Which Goal or Objective of the FIFM Task Force does this activity support?

Goal 1, Objectives 1.1 and 1.3; Goal 2, Objectives 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3; Goal 3, Objective 3.2 and 3.3

7) Enhance collaboration and research on mapping to support floodplain management

Description

Maps and related data play an important role in floodplain management from the national to the local level. They are critical tools in assessing potential flood risks, making planning and infrastructure decisions, and setting risk-informed guidelines for development. Although progress has been made in coordinating some data collection activities across federal agencies, there remains a need to increase these efforts and ensure appropriate standardization, interoperability, and data sharing for floodplain-related datasets. In addition, much of the data being collected and follow-on technical analyses and mapping do not necessarily reflect the potential impacts of climate change (e.g., sea-level rise, changing precipitation patterns), and some datasets are incomplete and/or in need of updating or modernization.

This activity will include three parts that will help increase agency and users' awareness of and access to available floodplain-related data, enhance coordination of mapping activities and data modernization, and enhance data available related to climate change impacts.

The Task Force will coordinate with FEMA as the agency implements the NFIP reform bill (HR 4348). The bill mandates similar activities. The Task Force goal is to assure that all desired elements of mapping coordination (including natural and beneficial functions) are addressed, either directly as part of the NFIP reform activities or as ancillary activities.

USACE will lead efforts related to Activities 7A and 7B below. DOI (FWS and USGS) will lead efforts related to Activity 7C. USACE and DOI will coordinate with FEMA and NOAA as appropriate.

Activity 7A: Compile current information about mapping efforts related to flood risk/floodplain management and the natural resources and functions of floodplains.

- Meet with representatives of the Integrated Water Resources Science and Services team to discuss their work to date and identify overlap and gaps in the two groups' interests.
- Task Force member agencies identify mapping-related activities that they are participating and develop a comprehensive list.
- Identify and address gaps or overlaps.

Activity 7B: Improve interagency mapping coordination in an effort to promote consistency, reduce duplication, and enhance use; encourage data set completion and modernization; and improve public access to data for local use and decision-making.

- Discussions with the IWRSS team should also focus on work previously done by a sub-group under the IWRSS charter to improve mapping effort coordination and develop common standards. Based on the results of this discussion, gaps in the effort should be identified and a plan for addressing those gaps should be developed.

Activity 7C: Coordinate with FWS and USGS who will design and conduct a mapping case study

- This case study will describe and quantify the economic and natural resource value of undeveloped coastal barriers; assess the federal costs and natural resource impacts associated with protecting developed shorelines from sea-level rise (i.e., structural and non-structural erosion control measures); and propose cost-effective national strategies to preserve the

Attachment 1: Task Force Activity Descriptions

natural and beneficial functions of coastal barriers as well as reduce future risk and enhance coastal resiliency (e.g., expansion of the Coastal Barrier Resources System to reduce or prohibit federal subsidies that encourage development in vulnerable areas subject to sea-level rise or other actions).

Potential Benefits or Impacts

- Increases agency and users' awareness of and access to available floodplain-related data.
- Enhances coordination of mapping activities and data modernization.
- Enhances data available related to climate change impacts.
- Maximizes limited federal resources invested in floodplain mapping.
- Assists states, communities, tribes, and the private sector in making informed floodplain management decisions.

Which Goal or Objective of the FIFM Task Force does this activity support?

Goal 1, Objectives 1.1 and 1.3; Goal 2, Objective 2.1; Goal 3, Objective 3.3

ATTACHMENT 2: Cross Walk of Task Force Goals, Objectives, and Activities

Crosswalk of Task Force Goal #1 with Objectives and Activities

Goals/Objectives	Activities						
<p>Goal #1: Public Safety</p> <p>Protect lives, property, and cultural assets through effective implementation of sound floodplain management programs and policies by all federal agencies.</p>	1) Analyze compliance with EO 11988 and develop alternatives for guiding federal agency actions in flood hazard areas	2) Assess Federal Flood Loss Data and Identify Potential Improvements in Collection, Dissemination and Use	3) Assess the state of knowledge related to valuation of environmental services such as natural and beneficial functions and ecosystem goods and services, identify gaps in knowledge, and promote efforts to help fill these gaps	4) Conduct a study that can provide information on future conditions that could inform current decisions	5) Develop Strategic Vision and/or Update the Unified National Program (strategic national framework) for Floodplain Management	6) Enhance Technical Assistance to Communities in Coastal Areas: Provide technical assistance to communities to better enable them to make decisions regarding the risk of investing in infrastructure and encouraging development in vulnerable coastal areas	7) Conduct public listening session(s) on scope, focus areas, and activities of the Federal Interagency Floodplain Management Task Force
Objective 1.1: Further the implementation of risk reduction measures that minimize exposure and reduce flood losses in the floodplain.	X					X	X
Objective 1.2: Provide incentives and disincentives to motivate society's participation in implementing risk reduction measures.	X	X	X		X		
Objective 1.3: Encourage states to develop and implement floodplain management and hazard mitigation plans that include a full range of potential flood events.		X		X	X	X	X

Crosswalk of Task Force Goal #2 with Objectives and Activities

Goals/Objectives	Activities						
<p>Goal #2: Sustain the Nation’s Floodplain Resources, Functions, and Services</p> <p>Protect and restore the natural resources and beneficial functions of floodplains, and the services they provide.</p>	1) Analyze compliance with EO 11988 and develop alternatives for guiding federal agency actions in flood hazard areas	2) Assess Federal Flood Loss Data and Identify Potential Improvements in Collection, Dissemination and Use	3) Assess the state of knowledge related to valuation of environmental services such as natural and beneficial functions and ecosystem goods and services, identify gaps in knowledge, and promote efforts to help fill these gaps	4) Conduct a study that can provide information on future conditions that could inform current decisions	5) Develop Strategic Vision and/or Update the Unified National Program (strategic national framework) for Floodplain Management	6) Enhance Technical Assistance to Communities in Coastal Areas: Provide technical assistance to communities to better enable them to make decisions regarding the risk of investing in infrastructure and encouraging development in vulnerable coastal areas	7) Conduct public listening session(s) on scope, focus areas, and activities of the Federal Interagency Floodplain Management Task Force
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		X	X	X	X	X	X
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.		X	X	X	X	X	
Objective 2.3: Where development in a floodplain cannot be avoided, promote uses and development practices that: (1) are compatible with the natural functions of floodplains; (2) minimize adverse impacts on the natural resources and services of floodplains; and (3) do not increase flood risk.	X	X	X	X	X	X	

Crosswalk of Task Force Goal #3 with Objectives and Activities

Goals/Objectives	Activities						
<p>Goal #3: Economic Vitality</p> <p>Promote and sustain economic benefits of floodplains with minimal degradation to the natural environment while limiting flood risk.</p>	1) Analyze compliance with EO 11988 and develop alternatives for guiding federal agency actions in flood hazard areas	2) Assess Federal Flood Loss Data and Identify Potential Improvements in Collection, Dissemination and Use	3) Assess the state of knowledge related to valuation of environmental services such as natural and beneficial functions and ecosystem goods and services, identify gaps in knowledge, and promote efforts to help fill these gaps	4) Conduct a study that can provide information on future conditions that could inform current decisions	5) Develop Strategic Vision and/or Update the Unified National Program (strategic national framework) for Floodplain Management	6) Enhance Technical Assistance to Communities in Coastal Areas: Provide technical assistance to communities to better enable them to make decisions regarding the risk of investing in infrastructure and encouraging development in vulnerable coastal areas	7) Conduct public listening session(s) on scope, focus areas, and activities of the Federal Interagency Floodplain Management Task Force
<p>Objective 3.1: Establish policies and standards across the government for consistent valuations of environmental benefits and services.</p>	X		X	X	X		
<p>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 living resources.</p>	X	X	X	X	X	X	
<p>Objective 3.3: Promote incentives for regional planning that incorporate low flood risk and sustainable development practices such as non-structural flood damage reduction.</p>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X