



Corps Planning: Floodplain Management Services

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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The Floodplain Management Services Program

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the federal government's largest water resources development and management agency. Through the Floodplain Management Services (FPMS) program, the Corps provides information on flood hazards to local interests, state agencies, and other federal agencies to guide development of the floodplains of the rivers of the United States.

The FPMS program addresses the needs of people who live and work in floodplains to know about flood hazards, and the actions they can take to reduce property damage and prevent the loss of life caused by flooding. The program's objective is to foster public understanding of the options for dealing with flood hazards and to promote prudent use and management of the nation's floodplains. The FPMS program provides a full range of technical services and planning guidance that is needed to support effective floodplain management.

Under the FPMS Program, the Corps is authorized to compile and disseminate information on floods and flood damages, including identification of areas subject to inundation by floods of various magnitudes and frequencies, and general criteria for guidance of federal and non-federal interests and agencies in the use of floodplain areas; and to provide advice to other federal agencies and local interests for their use in planning to ameliorate the flood hazard.

Authorized by Section 206 of the Flood Control Act of 1960, as amended (33 U.S. Code § 709a), FPMS is sometimes referred to as the "Section 206" program.

Elements of the FPMS Program

Floodplain management services cover the full range of information, technical services, and planning guidance and assistance on floods and floodplain issues within the broad umbrella of floodplain management. Technical services and planning guidance under the FPMS Program are provided to state, regional, and local governments without charge, within program funding limits. FPMS services for federal agencies and private persons are on a cost-recovery or fee basis. The Corps may also accept voluntarily contributed funds to expand the scope of services requested.

Under FPMS, the Corps can provide:

- **General Technical Services.** Flood and floodplain data are obtained, developed, and interpreted, using available data whenever practical. The Corps will use data from all appropriate sources, including hydrologic and hydraulic information developed within the Corps, but also other federal, state, or local agencies. Outreach to communities, localities, and other public entities may be provided on request.
- **General Planning Guidance.** On a broader scale, assistance and guidance in the form of "Special Studies" are provided on all aspects of floodplain management planning, including the possible impacts of off-floodplain use changes on the physical, socioeconomic, and environmental conditions of the floodplain.
- **Guides, Pamphlets, and Supporting Studies.** Flood and floodplain data/information are disseminated to states, local governments, federal agencies, and private citizens to convey the nature of flood hazards and to foster public understanding of options for dealing with flood

hazards. Supporting studies are conducted to improve methods and procedures for flood risk management, or to illustrate alternative ways of achieving floodplain management goals.

- National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Support. The NFIP is administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The Corps provides technical support to the NFIP, for example developing or contributing to Flood Insurance Studies, on a reimbursable basis.

Common FPMS activities include: developing studies or guidance on floodplain delineation, flood hazard evaluation, hurricane evacuation, flood warning/preparedness, regulatory floodway analysis, comprehensive floodplain management, flood risk reduction, urbanization impacts, storm water management, flood proofing, and inventory of flood-prone structures. The program also provides assistance for conducting workshops and seminars on nonstructural floodplain management measures such as flood proofing.

Other Corps Planning Technical Assistance Programs

The Corps Planning Program also supports water resources planning by states, non-federal interests, territories, and tribes. Through the cost-shared Planning Assistance to States (PAS) program, the Corps can support comprehensive water resources planning for the development, utilization, and conservation of the water and related resources of drainage basins, watersheds, or ecosystems.

Through the Interagency and International Services (IIS) program, the Corps can provide technical assistance to non-Department of Defense federal agencies, state and local governments, tribal nations, private U.S. firms, international organizations, and foreign governments. Through the IIS program, the Corps may provide engineering and construction services, environmental restoration and management services, research and development assistance, management of water and land related natural resources, relief and recovery work, and other management and technical services. Most IIS work is funded on a reimbursable basis.

For More Information

For more information on Corps technical assistance programs, including FPMS, please contact your local District's Planning office: <http://www.usace.army.mil/Locations>.

