

**Q & A: FY 15 Interagency Projects
Planning Community of Practice Webinar Series
September 19, 2014**

The September 19th webinar, part of a series of information-sharing webinars hosted by the Planning Community of Practice, provided an overview on the upcoming available funding opportunities for interagency projects via FY15 Floodplain Management Services dollars.

Jennifer Dunn, the Silver Jackets Program Manager (IWR) and Lisa Kiefel from the PCoP were joined by Ken Hall, HQUSACE Investigations Manager for the presentations and questions from the field.



For more information on submitting a proposal for an interagency project, please contact your District Floodplain Management Services (FPMS) Project Manager.

The questions and responses below are not a direct transcript; they have been reordered and edited for clarity. Additional questions and feedback are always welcome via the Planning Community Toolbox's SMART Guide comment form online at:

<http://planning.usace.army.mil/toolbox/smart.cfm?Section=10&Step=1> or by email to hqplanning@usace.army.mil

Floodplain Management Services (FPMS) Program Management

District Programs entered Apr 2014 proposals into FPMS. These did not get accepted. Does that mean they are in this year's FPMS and we should not send a proposal again?

Districts should send in your highest priority studies regardless of whether they have been submitted before.

If our Programs or RM offices do not concur that FPMS Special Studies are not "new starts" can they contact Ken Hall?

Yes, absolutely. Ken should be able to help; he's in the Global contact list.

Slide 15 notes that draft funding amount for the FPMS Special Initiative "SAGE" is \$1 M. What is SAGE?

SAGE stands for "Systems Approach to Geomorphic Engineering." The purpose of the SAGE initiative is to (1) coalesce existing scientific knowledge and engineering experience on (a)

“green” or “soft” or “living shorelines” solutions and (b) “SAGE” or “hybrid” combinations of “green” and “gray” solutions; (2) develop hybrid solutions for the different coastal landscape/ecosystems that contribute to good floodplain management in the coastal zone on a regional scale; (3) propose field tests to be conducted through the Section 2038 authority of WRDA 07 to demonstrate the viability of proposed solutions and other research in both flood risk management and ecosystem restoration research programs; and (4) document the effectiveness of pilots and demos funded by other authorities. This SAGE effort will be accomplished in close collaboration with other agencies (especially NOAA and FEMA), non-governmental organizations (especially The Nature Conservancy and The Conservation Fund), academic institutions, and private sector firms.

Are “FPMS Special Studies” proposals and “Silver Jackets FRM / Non-Structural approach” proposals one and the same?

There are several initiatives within the FPMS program. The proposals we are describing in this briefing is specifically for Interagency Flood Risk Management project proposals.

There was an initiative to revise/update the FPMS implementation guidance/regulation (Appendix G of the Planning Guidance Notebook). Was that ever completed and if not where does it stand?

Appendix G of the Planning Guidance Notebook (ER 1105-2-100) is under revision with incorporation of additional WRRDA14 considerations. Appendix G updates are being developed now and a preliminary draft is expected around the end of the year.

Questions on Proposal Guidelines

Does the two projects-per-state limit apply to Indian nations?

It is expanded to allow two projects per Indian Nation, beyond the two projects-per-state limit.

Selecting two studies per state seems to favor smaller states. Was consideration given to a regional selection approach, such as by MSC or FEMA region?

We did not want to be in a position of prioritizing one state over another with the interagency proposals; therefore we chose to evaluate proposals on the merit of the flood risk management goals instead of assigning a certain amount of funding for any region.

Can a proposal be submitted again even if one was entered in 2014? Can you also be considered in the regular FPMS program on those studies?

Yes, if you have a good proposal, submit it even if it was entered in 2014. If you don’t get selected, there may still be funding in FPMS through the regular ceiling program. Proposing a project does not disqualify you for other programs, and we anticipate that the selection for this funding by November/December will facilitate consideration of other program cycles if it is not selected.

Is the proposed continuation of a successful pilot (e.g. phase II or III) equally appealing as a brand new great idea? We have received user feedback that warrants the proposed continuation of a non-structural effort currently under way.

As a reviewer, it is based on the leveraging and the outcomes, whether new or not. The why and what of the benefits that you submit are the compelling drivers for selection.