

Flood Plain Management Services

Authority and Scope

Section 206 of the Flood Control Act of 1960 (PL 86-645) as amended, provides authority for the Corps of Engineers to use its technical expertise in floodplain management matters to help both public and private interests.

Objective

The objective of the Flood Plain Management Services (FPMS) Program is to foster public understanding for dealing with flood hazards and to promote prudent use and management of the nation's floodplains. People who live and work in the floodplains need to know about the flood hazards and the actions they can take to reduce property damage and to prevent the loss of life caused by flooding. Land use adjustments based on proper planning and the employment of techniques for controlling and reducing flood damages provide a rational way to balance the advantages and disadvantages of human settlement on floodplains. These adjustments are the key to sound floodplain management.

Types of Assistance

The FPMS Program provides a full range of technical services and planning guidance on floods and floodplain issues within the broad umbrella of floodplain management. Involvement by project sponsors, who may furnish field survey data, maps, and historical flood/information is encouraged.

1. Technical Service

- The program develops or interprets site-specific data on obstructions to flood flows, flood formation and timing; flood depths or stages; flood-wave velocities; and the extent, duration, and frequency of flooding. It also provides information on natural and cultural floodplain resources of note, and flood loss potentials before and after the use of floodplain management

measures.

2. Planning Assistance

- On a larger scale, the program provides assistance and guidance in the form of "Special Studies" on all aspects of floodplain management planning including the possible impacts of off-flood plain land use changes on the physical, socioeconomic, and environmental conditions of the floodplain. This can range from helping a community identify present or future flood plain areas and related problems, to a broad assessment of which of the various remedial measures may be effectively used. The program also provides guidance and assistance for meeting standards of the National Flood Insurance Program and for conducting workshops and seminars on non-structural flood plain management measures, such as flood proofing.

3. Guides, Pamphlets, and Supporting Studies

- Studies are conducted under the program to improve the methods and procedures for mitigating flood damages. Guides and pamphlets are also prepared on flood proofing techniques, floodplain regulations, floodplain occupancy, natural floodplain resources, and other related aspects of floodplain management. The study findings, guides and pamphlets are provided free to federal agencies, Indian tribes, state, regional and local governments, and private citizens for their use in addressing the flood hazard.

Charges for Assistance Upon request, program services are provided to state, regional and local governments, Indian tribes, and other non-federal public agencies without charge.

Program services also are offered to non-water resource federal agencies and to the private sector on a 100 percent cost recovery basis. For most of these requests, payment is required before

services are provided. A schedule of charges is used to recover the cost of services taking up to one day to provide. Letter requests or signed agreements are used to charge for those that take longer.

All requestors are encouraged to furnish available field survey data, maps historical flood information and the like, to help reduce the cost of services.

How to Request FPMS Assistance Agencies, governments, organizations, and individuals interested in floodplain-related assistance and information should contact Seattle District's Planning Branch by writing to:

Seattle District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
ATTN: CENWS-PM-PL
PO Box 3755
Seattle, WA 98124-3755

A written request should be made for assistance that will involve a significant amount of staff effort and for site-specific information at locations, which are best described by a map.

For more information please contact Linda Smith at (206) 764-6721 or email her at Linda.S.Smith@usace.army.mil

Point of Contact: Charyl Francois Phone: 206-764-5522 Email: Charyl.L.Francois@usace.army.mil