



Changes to the 10-step Floodplain Management Planning Process Effective with the 2013 CRS Coordinator's Manual

— A Handout for the National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System —

NOTE : This handout covers the MAJOR CHANGES TO THE CREDIT CRITERIA ONLY. For a full discussion of Activity 510's current credit criteria and points per step, please refer to the 2013 CRS Coordinator's Manual.

A floodplain management plan (FMP) must meet all 10 CRS steps in order to be credited in Activity 510. If a plan is approved by FEMA, it may miss one CRS step, but credit will be capped at 50 points. If a FEMA-approved plan misses two steps, it will not qualify for CRS credit.

Step 1: Organize to prepare the plan

If a community wants FMP credit for a multi-jurisdictional planning effort, the community requesting credit must have at least two representatives on the planning committee, from departments responsible for implementing the action items for that community.

In previous years, communities could earn credit in Step 1(a) for having a “professional planner” involved in the planning process. This has been discontinued. Credit is now earned if the office responsible for the community's land use and comprehensive planning is actively involved in the floodplain management planning process.

Full credit in Step 1(b) for having a planning committee of community departments and agencies is available now only if the committee has expertise in the six mitigation categories reviewed under Step 7. Partial credit is provided if some of the categories are not represented. See also the handout on planning committees.

Step 7 Categories

- Preventive measures (e.g., codes)
- Property protection (e.g., elevation)
- Natural resource protection
- Emergency services
- Structural flood control projects
- Public Information

Step 2: Involve the public

Credit for having a planning committee with representatives of the public or stakeholders is contingent on having the planning committee meeting open to the public and the meeting schedule publicly posted. See also the handout on planning committees.

Credit was added to recognize a variety of methods that encourage public input.

Step 3: Coordinate

In general, the credit criteria for this step did not change. Clarification was added to explain that the intent is for the planner(s) to contact agencies or organizations, ask for data or information related to hazards, ask what the organizations are doing that might affect flooding or properties in the flood prone areas, and offer these agencies and organizations an opportunity to be involved in the planning effort.

Step 4: Assess the hazard

Credit was added to recognize plans that include an assessment of less-frequent flood hazards, areas likely to be flooded, and flood problems that are likely to get worse in the future as a

result of changes in floodplain development and demographics, development in the watershed, and climate change or sea level rise.

Step 5: Assess the problem

Repetitive loss Category B and C communities must include repetitive loss areas in the problem assessment for credit under Step 5(c).

Credit was added for describing in the assessment the impact of the future flooding conditions described in Step 4(c) on people, property, and natural floodplain functions.

Step 6: Goals

The goals must address all of the flood-related problems identified in Step 5.

Step 7: Review possible activities

NOTE: This step is not the same as the “capabilities assessment” included in FEMA’s planning process for hazard mitigation. This step calls for an examination of possible alternatives.

There is a new requirement that the discussion of activities must include the community’s capability to fund and implement the activity. If the activity is currently being implemented, the plan must note whether it is achieving expectations and, if not, whether it should be modified. In addition, if the plan is an update of the previously credited plan, each activity of the previous plan must be discussed, along with the status of its implementation.

A review of preventive activities is required.

Credit criteria were added to recognize plans that discuss whether the community’s floodplain management regulatory standards are sufficient for current and future conditions, as discussed under Steps 4(c) and 5(f).

Step 8: Draft an action plan

Credit criteria were added that require the plan to include at least one action item for each stated goal.

Step 9: Adopt the plan

There was no change to the credit criteria for this step in the 2013 *Coordinator’s Manual*.

Step 10: Implement, evaluate, and revise

Credit for Step 10(b) is now based on how frequently the planning committee meets per year.

To earn credit for this step under the 2007 *Coordinator’s Manual*, the planning committee had to be the same committee as that credited in Step 2(a). Beginning with the 2013 *Coordinator’s Manual*, credit for Step 10(b) can be earned with EITHER the same planning committee as credited under Step 2(a), OR for a successor committee with similar membership that was created to replace the original committee and charged with monitoring and evaluating implementation of the plan.