

## Appendix D: Federal Agencies' Hazard Mitigation Roles, Responsibilities, and Authorities

Federal Agency and Web Address	Hazard Mitigation Roles and Responsibilities	Natural Hazards Mitigation Legal Authority
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers <a href="http://www.nwp.usace.army.mil">www.nwp.usace.army.mil</a>	Constructs, operates and maintains flood control dams, hydroelectric facilities, navigational locks and other water control structures. Works to constantly develop new construction, operation and maintenance technology to increase the effectiveness and longevity of investments. Advises communities, industries, and property owners on protection measures they can take to mitigate flood related damage, Provides floodplain management planning assistance, stream bank and shoreline protection, and aquatic ecosystem restoration. Other activities include advance measures to mitigate the impacts of natural hazards, and emergency operations. Also involved in levee inspection, rehabilitation, and the intergovernmental levee task force.	Flood Control Act of 1941, as amended: under “immediate threat of unusual flooding,” authorized mitigation assistance of a temporary nature; includes removal of waterway obstructions, actions to prevent the failure of dams, and “work necessary to prepare for abnormal snowmelt.” Also, PL 84-99; 1986 Water Resources Development Act, Section 1135; and many others.
Bonneville Power Administration <a href="http://www.bpa.gov">www.bpa.gov</a>	Works to provide reliable electric power within its jurisdictional boundaries. BPA’s transmission facilities are designed for high winds, ice loading, and seismic activity. BPA implements its natural hazards mitigation role through high-voltage transmission facility design and siting standards and the <i>Seismic Risk Mitigation Plan</i> . BPA provides updated emergency outage and storm information to users within its jurisdictional boundaries. BPA also works to protect, mitigate and enhance fish and wildlife populations in the Columbia River Basin impacted by the operation of the Federal Columbia River Power System.	BPA’s authority and responsibility for natural hazards mitigation derives from the North American Electric Reliability Council and the <i>Federal Response Plan</i> .
Economic Development Administration <a href="http://www.eda.gov">www.eda.gov</a>	Helps distressed communities address problems associated with long-term economic distress, as well as sudden and severe economic dislocations, including recovering from the economic impacts of natural disasters. The EDA provides various grants, loans, and technical assistance, especially to facilitate long-term economic recovery following a natural disaster. As per past disasters, the EDA has provided planning grants, assisted local governments to hire disaster recovery specialists, and provided infrastructure grants for critical public facilities.	The Economic Development Administration (EDA) was established under the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. § 3121). Funding is usually by special Congressional appropriation.
Environmental Protection Agency <a href="http://www.epa.gov">www.epa.gov</a>	Works to develop and enforce environmental regulations enacted by Congress. The EPA responds to natural disasters by providing environmental cleanup services, providing information and technical assistance regarding natural disaster related debris and providing information regarding preparation and recovery from natural disasters. The EPA provides funding for environmental education, wetlands protection, and clean water programs, including watershed restoration.	Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act as Amended in 1990, Coastal Wetlands Planning and Restoration Act, the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, and the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act.

Federal Agency and Web Address	Hazard Mitigation Roles and Responsibilities	Natural Hazards Mitigation Legal Authority
<p>Farm Service Agency www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/</p>	<p>Administers and manages farm commodity, credit, conservation, and disaster and loan programs as laid out by Congress through a network of federal, state and county offices. The FSA provides assistance for natural disaster losses, resulting from drought, flood, fire, freeze, tornadoes, pest infestation, and other calamities, and provides natural disaster recovery aid to farmers and ranchers to cover crop losses, livestock and feed losses, emergency conservation practices, etc. The FSA administers an Emergency Conservation Program for the rehabilitation of farmland and debris removal resulting from a natural disaster. In addition, the FSA has a program which acquires conservation easements, and a program which makes emergency loans for the replacement of farm buildings, equipment, and production loss.</p>	<p>The Farm Service Agency operates under the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (2002 Farm Bill), the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act, the Food Security Act of 1985, the U.S. Warehouse Act and numerous other laws. Some of the FSA programs rely on annual Congressional appropriations.</p>
<p>Federal Emergency Management Agency www.fema.gov</p>	<p>Works to reduce the loss of life and property by helping protect the Nation from all hazards, including natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters. FEMA leads and supports the Nation through a risk-based, comprehensive emergency management system of preparedness, protection, response, recovery, and mitigation. FEMA administers a variety of hazard mitigation, education, insurance, and disaster assistance programs, including the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP), National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), Flood Mitigation Assistance Program, Flood Map Modernization Program, Cooperating Technical Partners (CTP), National Incident Management System (NIMS), Public Assistance Grant Program, Community Disaster Loan Program, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, etc.</p>	<p>The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (The Stafford Act) as codified at 44 CFR: Part 206, Subparts G, H, and I define the Public Assistance Program, which provides funding for rebuilding destroyed or damaged public facilities. Funds for hazard mitigation can be included in approved projects during the rebuilding process. Subpart M requires that as a condition of receiving federal disaster assistance, states must develop or revise hazard mitigation plans which evaluate natural hazards, and make recommendations for mitigating these hazards in the geographic areas receiving such assistance. Subpart N covers the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), which funds projects to substantially reduce the risk of future damage, hardship, loss, or suffering in any area affected by a major disaster. Subpart H addresses the requirements for local governments to be eligible for federal assistance. Subpart K provides the policies and procedures for local governments and State and Federal officials concerning the Community Disaster Loan Program. In addition, floodplain management and protection of wetlands are contained in Part 9 of 44 CFR, and environmental considerations in Part 10.</p>

Federal Agency and Web Address	Hazard Mitigation Roles and Responsibilities	Natural Hazards Mitigation Legal Authority
<p>U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service www.fws.gov</p>	<p>Directs fishery management, law enforcement, and technical support in pursuit of its mission to conserve, protect, and enhance fish and wildlife and their habitats. USFWS Provides cost-share payments, technical assistance, and design actions that are flood damage responsive and which minimize impacts to fish and wildlife through the implementation of agency sponsored restoration projects. Participates in systems analysis of floods in search for opportunities to implement system level fixes in order to reduce the losses that would otherwise occur in future floods. The USFWS Fire Management Program has been using and managing fire safely and cost-effectively, which leads to lands being in a healthier ecological condition, with lower risk of catastrophic fire. The program also provides mutual aid to other federal, state and local fire management agencies and is a member of the National Wildfire Coordinating Group. Fire Management Program missions operate in tandem with the goals of the National Fire Plan. The USFWS also provides a multitude of services and resources regarding animal pathogens, such as: testing of sick and dead birds, sample testing of wild birds, and the monitoring and testing of sentinel animals.</p>	<p>National Fire Plan as contained in Part 402, subpart C of 50 CFR. Some of these programs rely on special Congressional appropriations.</p>
<p>U.S. Forest Service www.fs.fed.us</p>	<p>Provides leadership in the management, protection, and use of public lands in national forests and grasslands. The USFS works to advance technologies in fire management and suppression to maintain and improve efficient fire mobilization and tracking systems, and to reach out in support of Federal, State, and International fire partners. The USFS Fire Management Program combines elements of fire prevention, fire suppression, and fire use to improve a community's resilience against fire related damage. The USFS releases a number of publications for use by the wildland fire community, such as <i>Fire Management Today</i>. USFS also operates a national database of state and local wildfire hazard mitigation programs, which serves as a clearinghouse of information about federal and nonfederal policies and programs that seek to reduce the risk of loss of life and property through the reduction of hazardous fuels on private lands. USFS belongs to the National Interagency Incident Communications Division (NIICD); a partnership between the USDA Forest Service and the Department of the Interior's agencies. Studies and works to mitigate landslides on federal lands, with an emphasis on watershed health. Involved in urban and community forestry, making grants to help protect watersheds.</p>	<p>The basic authority to issue directives concerning Forest Service operations is found in Part 2, subpart J of 7 CFR – Delegations of Authority by the Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment. The Forest Service also receives directives from the Healthy Forest Initiative and the National Fire Plan.</p>
<p>U.S. Geological Survey www.usgs.gov</p>	<p>A major goal of the USGS is to reduce the vulnerability of the people and areas most at risk from natural hazards. Working with all levels of government, private organizations, and the public, the USGS provides scientific research, mapping, and technical assistance to help build more resilient communities. The USGS operates the Natural Hazards Support System (NHSS), which enables users to monitor and analyze natural hazards as they occur anywhere on earth. During incidents of national significance, the USGS provides support to certain National Response Plan emergency support functions. In 2007 a Hazard Response Executive Committee was established with the USGS to provide executive direction, oversight, and support to USGS managers responding to major hazard events. The USGS also collects, interprets, and disseminates hydrologic data, including interpretation of magnitude and frequency of past and expected water flows.</p>	<p>15 U.S.C. 5652 The Land Remote Sensing Policy Act of 1992 enables the United States to maintain its leadership in land remote sensing. 42 U.S.C 5201 et seq., The Disaster Relief Act of 1974, Section 202(a), is used to provide technical assistance to State and local governments to ensure that timely and effective disaster warning is provided. 42 U.S.C. 7701 et seq., The Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977 sets as a national goal the reduction in the risks of life and property from future earthquakes, and many others.</p>

Federal Agency and Web Address	Hazard Mitigation Roles and Responsibilities	Natural Hazards Mitigation Legal Authority
<p>Federal Highway Administration www.fhwa.dot.gov</p>	<p>Works to use best available safety practices, programs, and technologies in all phases of highway planning, design, construction, and operations to ensure that transportation system plans, technologies and innovations improve safety of the human and natural environments. The FHA provides Emergency Relief (ER) funds for the repair of Federal Aid System (FAS) highways and roads which have been seriously damaged by natural disasters. The use of ER funds for natural hazards mitigation is limited. This use must be justified based on an analysis of the cost of the added or improved feature(s) versus the projected savings in costs to the ER program should future disasters occur. FHA is committed to improving our nation's ability to manage emergencies that take place within the transportation network infrastructure or affects it in some way through its Emergency Transportation Operations (ETO) program. Hazard mitigation is normally accomplished using regular federal highway funds.</p>	<p>Title 23, USC, Section 125, Federal Aid Highway Program, as amended, includes formula and project grants intended "to foster safe highway design and to replace or rehabilitate deficient or obsolete bridges," including activities related to capital improvement projects for safety reasons. Part 625 of 23 CFR notes the design standards for those which are currently adopted by the FHA.</p>
<p>U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development www.hud.gov</p>	<p>Works to help people buy homes, to create affordable rental housing, to spur community and economic development, and to enforce fair housing laws. HUD funds, especially Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, are sometimes used in conjunction with other hazard mitigation funding sources to implement projects including elevation, relocation, or acquisition of structures. HUD can provide critical housing and development resources to aid communities recovering from a natural disaster. HUD has also joined forces with other Federal and state agencies to aid in the implementation of disaster recovery assistance, such as: Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Small Business Association.</p>	<p>HUD funds used for CDBG come from Part 570 CFR 24, noting the modification of the community development block grant definition for metropolitan city and other confirming amendments. HUD funds utilized for hazard mitigation projects often come from special Congressional appropriations.</p>
<p>Bureau of Land Management www.blm.gov/nhp/</p>	<p>Works at the local, state, and national levels to meet its mission of sustaining the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. BLM provides technical assistance regarding watershed restoration, and implements watershed restoration on public lands under its jurisdiction. BLM is responsible for fire protection and wildfire management on the public lands in the Western States, offering a number of programs regarding fire mitigation/prevention, education, and outreach. BLM also administers a hazardous materials management program, which works to minimize hazards, reduce public employee exposure to risks and reduce or eliminates long-term threats to human health and natural resources resulting from natural hazards.</p>	<p>43 U.S.C. 1701 Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 to expedite fuel reduction on federal lands and to authorize other forest protection programs. 16 U.S.C. 2001 For watershed management through The Soil and Water Conservation Act of 1977</p>
<p>National Marine Fisheries Service www.nmfs.gov</p>	<p>Responsible for the management, conservation and protection of living marine resources within the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone. Federal agencies consult with NMFS to ensure that actions are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any Endangered Species Act or Marine Mammals Protection Act listed marine or anadromous species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat. The NMFS provides technical assistance to states, counties, municipalities, and other entities that wish to improve conservation efforts for marine or anadromous species. Non federal entities may work with NMFS to develop habitat conservation plans. Works with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to avoid, minimize, and mitigate habitat alterations associated with USACE permits and activities.</p>	<p>Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1996: project grants to eligible recipients can be used for various purposes, including restoring fisheries or preventing future failures, as long as the project meets specified criteria. Other authorities under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act. The Endangered Species Act and the Marine Mammals Protection Act work to ensure that actions taking place within the marine environment do not jeopardize a listed species or their habitat.</p>

Federal Agency and Web Address	Hazard Mitigation Roles and Responsibilities	Natural Hazards Mitigation Legal Authority
<p>National Parks Service www.nps.gov</p>	<p>Provides technical assistance to all levels of government, nonprofit organizations, community groups, Native Americans, and others regarding conservation assistance, greenway planning, and the restoration of waterfront recreational projects. The NPS cooperates with these partners to help meet their mission of extending the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world. The NPS works to protect park visitors, staff, infrastructure, and neighbors of the national park system from natural disasters through their geohazard management program. The NPS also works to protect national parks from natural hazards through a variety of plans and programs, such as: the Fire Program, Pest Management Program, and the Wildlife Management Program.</p>	<p><a href="#">Parts 1 to 199 of 36 CFR</a> provide for the proper use, management, government, and protection of persons, property, and natural and cultural resources within areas under the jurisdiction of the NPS.</p>
<p>Natural Resources Conservation Service www.nrcs.usda.gov</p>	<p>Provides assistance to private landowners in the conservation and enhancement of natural resources. NRCS's natural resources conservation programs help people reduce soil erosion, enhance water supplies, improve water quality, increase wildlife habitat, and reduce damages caused by floods and other natural disasters. NRCS is authorized through the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program to assist in relieving imminent hazards to life and property from floods and erosion, including floodplain easements, stream bank protection, debris removal, and sediment and erosion control. Through its Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program, the NRCS provides technical assistance, and constructs improvements (e.g.: levees and other water control structures) to protect, develop, and utilize land and water resources in small watersheds under 250,000 acres. NRCS is involved in wetlands assessment, delineation, restoration, training, outreach and preservation through a variety of programs. NRCS is also involved with nutrient and pest management, providing a number of best management techniques.</p>	<p>The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 is landmark legislation for conservation funding and for focusing on environmental issues. Parts 620 and 1467 of 7 CFR established the Wetlands Reserve Program. The Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act gives the NCRS authority to implement its EWP program.</p>
<p>Rural Development www.rurdev.usda.gov/</p>	<p>Provides loans and grants for water and waste disposal facilities, emergency service facilities, electric and telephone services, health care facilities, etc. It endeavors to ensure that its funds to small rural communities after disaster events take into consideration reducing the likelihood of similar damage occurring in the future. Rural Development also makes direct loans to qualified lower income rural families to meet emergency assistance needs resulting from natural disasters or improve dwellings in rural areas. In areas affected by natural disasters, Rural Development <a href="#">can help</a> existing Rural Development borrowers who are victims of a disaster. USDA Rural Development assistance is available to rural communities affected by natural disasters if funds from the <a href="#">Federal Emergency Management Agency</a>, the <a href="#">Small Business Administration</a>, other agencies or insurers are inadequate to meet housing needs.</p>	<p>The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 contains provisions that affect the delivery of Rural Development programs. Part 2.48 of CFR 7 -- Delegations of Authority to the Under Secretary for Rural Development. Housing Act of 1949, as amended and others</p>

Federal Agency and Web Address	Hazard Mitigation Roles and Responsibilities	Natural Hazards Mitigation Legal Authority
<p>Small Business Administration  <a href="http://archive.sba.gov/services/disaster_assistance">http://archive.sba.gov/services/disaster assistance</a></p>	<p>Provides low interest, long term loans with various terms to homeowners, renters, businesses, and private nonprofit organizations following natural disasters through its Disaster Loan Program (DLP); a certain percentage of loan proceeds can go towards hazard mitigation measures. These loans include physical disaster loans, economic injury loans, military reservists' loans and home and personal property loans. SBA implements a Disaster Recovery Plan (DRP) to ensure a broad scope of coordination, awareness, and support through its organization that may be needed in response to a natural disaster. SBA also utilizes Disaster Recovery Centers and Disaster Reserve Teams to help respond to disaster emergencies.</p>	<p>Small Business Act of 1953, as amended and others: provides low interest, long term loans to repair/replace damaged personal and real property. Loans may be increased up to 20% for mitigating devices to protect real property from future disasters of the same kind. Part 123 of 13 CFR delegates the SMA authority to implement its Disaster Loan Program</p>
<p>National Weather Service  <a href="http://www.nws.noaa.gov">www.nws.noaa.gov</a></p>	<p>Provides synoptic and critically important information regarding weather conditions and precipitation. NWS provides localized watches and warnings (Emergency Alert System) and forecasts regarding certain natural disasters, such as: hurricanes, flooding, fire, snow storms, tsunamis, etc. NWS implements a number of safety campaigns regarding certain natural disasters (listed above).</p>	<p>The Emergency Alert System implemented under the FCC's rules; Part 11 of 47 CFR.</p>
<p>National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  <a href="http://www.noaa.gov">www.noaa.gov</a></p>	<p>Works to understand and predict changes in Earth's environment and to conserve and manage coastal and marine resources to meet our Nation's economic, social, and environmental needs. NOAA provides daily weather forecasts, severe weather warnings and climate monitoring to fisheries management, coastal restoration and supporting marine commerce</p>	<p>The Coastal Zone Management Act Federal Consistency Regulations provide guidance for NOAA actions within the Coastal Zone. NOAA's authorities are published in two titles of the CFR: title 15 Chapter IX and title 50 Chapters II, IV, and VI.</p>