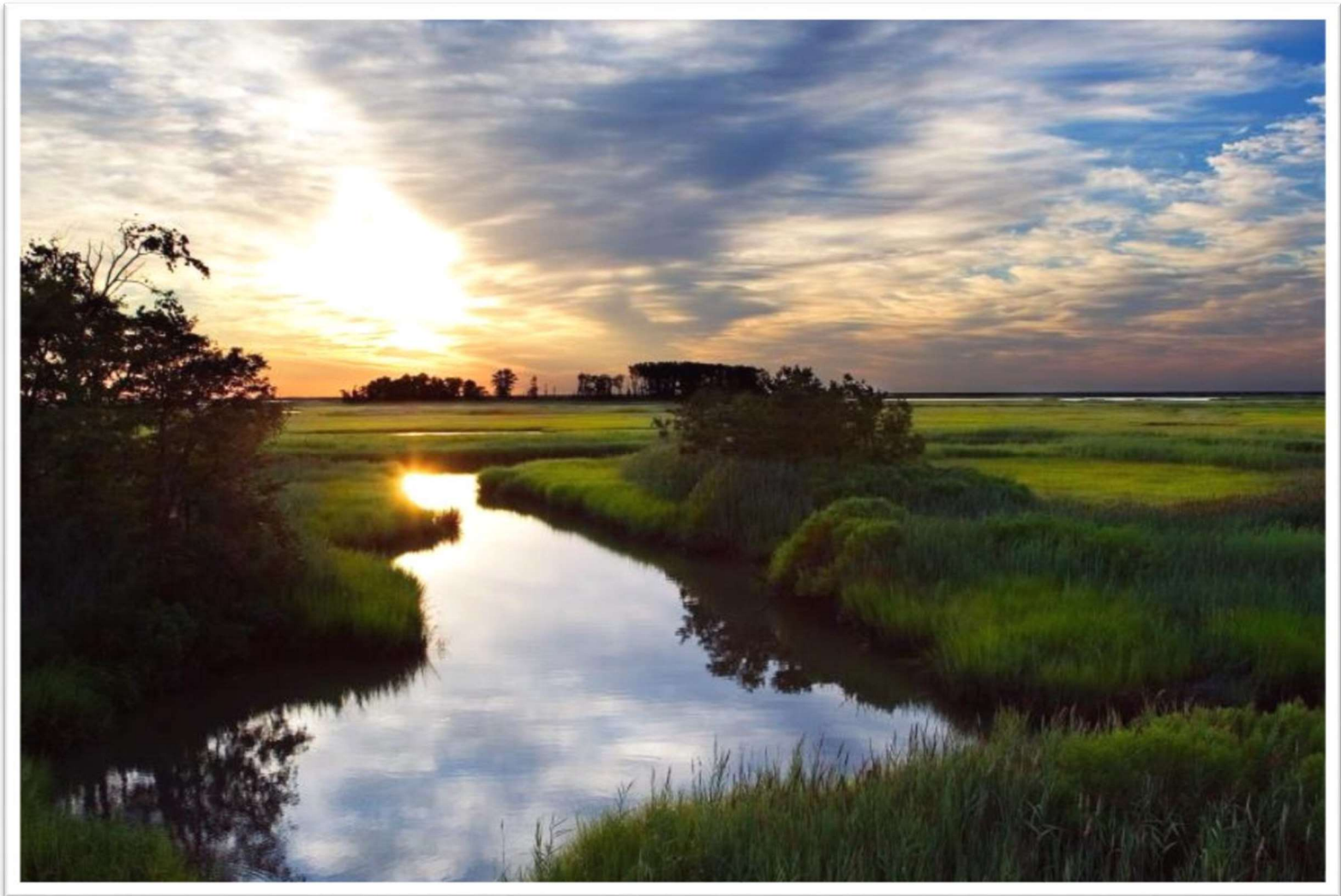


# *National Flood Programs & Policies in Review (2015)*



*A publication of the Association of State Floodplain Managers*

*Edited in 2022 for inclusion in ASFPM submittal to FEMA's  
Request for Information on NFIP Standards*



The ASFPM National Flood Programs & Policies in Review (NFPPR) is the primary document used to guide our policy, research and education activities. The document was created and reviewed by national experts and our leaders in flood risk reduction and floodplain management and has been reviewed and approved by the ASFPM Board of Directors. This document is laid out in five major sections, with specific subsections under each. Each section lists specific recommendations and who should be responsible for its implementation. We also explain why the change is needed. The document has been edited specifically for inclusion in the ASFPM response to FEMA's 2021 Request for Information on the National Flood Insurance Program's Standards for Land Management and Use, and Assessment of the Program's Impact on Threatened and Endangered Species and Their Habitats.

#### **Principles used in writing and developing these recommendations:**

- The while the full NFPPR report covers ALL federal programs, not just FEMA and the NFIP, this version has been edited to focus on actions within FEMA's purview or which they play a significant role. There are at least 26 federal agencies whose programs and policies can either decrease or increase flood risk. A multi-agency, coordinated effort will be required to fully meet two of the fundamental goals of the NFIP: to reduce loss of life and damage in the nation from flooding, and to reduce taxpayer costs for disaster relief and recovery from flooding. While we have not addressed every aspect of every program, we have tried to address key issues in programs that have an impact on the effectiveness of the NFIP.
- We aimed high! We were shooting for recommendations that ultimately will lead to the successful management of flood risk in the nation, not what is necessarily politically possible at this point in time. A recommendation may not be authorized under current law, but if critical, we may suggest Congress should change the law to better serve the public interest, protect taxpayers, and better support underserved communities and populations.

#### **External factors affecting flood risk management**

- Populations in the US will increase much faster than most developed nations, and much of it will be focused in high risk flood areas, increasing the challenges facing flood risk management.
- Changes in sea level rise and storm intensity and flooding due to a changing climate.
- The nation's infrastructure is in poor shape and will get even worse unless a stable funding source is developed to upgrade and maintain that infrastructure to address future conditions.
- Rapid advance in technology for flood mapping, forecasting, land contour mapping and data collection, compilation and utilization for actions related to flood risk reduction, including graphic displays to communicate risk and increase risk awareness.
- Funding will likely decrease at the federal level, meaning states and locals will no longer be able to externalize the consequences of allowing building at risk.