

# 8-Step Process Guidance: Floodplain Management

The 8-Step is required by both [EO 11988 \(Floodplain Management\)](#) & [EO 11990 \(Wetlands Protection\)](#). [24 CFR Part 55](#) are HUD's regulations developed to establish standards to ensure compliance with both Executive Orders.

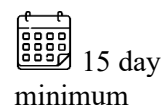
- This Guidance is summarized from [HUD's WISER Webinar](#)
- For more detailed guidance see: [Guidelines for Implementing Executive Order \(EO\) 11988 and EO 13690, 8-Step Process Case Study Example and Flow Chart](#)

## ***STEP 1: Determine whether the action is located in a 100-year floodplain (or 500-year floodplain for critical actions) and/or a wetland***

- Information to Gather:
  - Proposed Project Location/Address
  - [FIRMette](#): Map #, Panel #, and Effective Date, Flood Zone Determination
- Does the Project Qualify as a [Critical Action](#)?
- Wetland type identified by [National Wetlands Inventory \(NWI\) Map](#)

## ***STEP 2: Early Notice: Notify the public for early review of the proposal and involve the affected and interested public in the decision-making process***

- Notice info
  - Project Description
  - Location
  - Type and Size of the Special Flood Hazard Area
  - Wetlands: Type/Classification and size of wetland
  - Natural and beneficial functions and values that may be affected
  - Contact Info
  - Office Address and Hours
- Contact Environmental Officer for Template



15 day minimum  
Include responses to any comments in 8 step document

## ***STEP 3: Identify and evaluate practicable alternatives***

Pick a new site  
[Alternative Sites]

Consider "No Action Alternative": a determination not to approve any action involving occupancy of the floodplain/wetland.

Redesign proposal so construction is not in the floodplain or wetland  
[Alternative Actions]

## ***STEP 4: Identify potential direct and indirect impacts associated with floodplain and/or wetland development.***

- Lives and Property:
  - How many residents/workers are being introduced into the development area?
  - What is the cost/value of the proposed development?
- Beneficial Floodplain or Wetland Values:
  - Water Resources: Flood Moderation, Water Quality Maintenance, Groundwater Recharge.
  - Climate Resources: Effects of Changes in Landcover

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- Cultural and Community Resources: Archaeological, Historic, Recreation.
- Agriculture Resources: Aquacultural, Forestry

**STEP 5: Design or modify the proposed action to minimize the potential adverse impacts to lives, property, and natural values in the floodplain and/or wetland and to preserve its values.**

## MINIMIZE

- Potential Mitigation Techniques: Permeable surfaces, storm water capture, green roofs.
- New construction & substantial projects must be elevated at or above the 100- year floodplain.
- Critical actions must be modified to include early warning systems and emergency evacuation plans

## RESTORE & PRESERVE

- Restore: Reestablish a setting allowing natural and beneficial values of the floodplain and/or wetland
- Preserve: Prevent modification to the natural floodplain and/or wetland environment, or maintain it closely to its natural state

**STEP 6: Reevaluate the Alternatives**

- Is the proposed project still practicable considering exposure to flood hazards?
- Are alternatives rejected at Step 3 now practicable due to new information gained in Step 4 & 5?
- Consider impacts to: human life, real property, and the natural and beneficial functions and values of the floodplain and/or wetland.
- Reevaluation: include a review of economic costs associated with each alternative.

**STEP 7: Publish Final Notice: Determination of no practicable alternative**

- Notice Info
  - Justify why the development must be located on this site.
  - Include a list of alternative site(s) considered under Step 3
  - Cite all mitigation measures to be taken to minimize adverse impacts and to restore the floodplain and/or wetland.
- Contact Environmental Officer for Templates



15 day  
minimum



Include  
responses to any  
comments in 8 step  
document

**STEP 8: Implement the Proposed Action.**

- After taking public comments into consideration, the project can be implemented.
- Mitigation measures will be conveyed to the sponsor in writing via CDBG Environmental Release and Environmental Review Record (ERR) on GEARS.
- The responsible entity will be required to ensure mitigation measures are implemented.