

Floodplain Management: Section II – Special Environmental Concerns, FOTG-Texas

Authority

- Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management)
 - Avoid long- and short-term adverse impacts associated with occupancy and modification of floodplains.
 - Avoid direct and in-direct support of floodplain development where there is a practical alternative.
- NRCS policy (190-GM, Part 410, Subpart B, Section 410.25)
 - Recognize unique and significant public values of floodplains.

Floodplains – lowlands or relatively flat areas adjoining inland or coastal waters, including areas subject to a chance of flooding of 1 percent or greater in any given year.

- Base floodplain – 100-year floodplain (the 1-percent chance floodplain).
- Critical action floodplain – 500-year floodplain (the 0.2-percent chance floodplain) where certain facilities are present, such as a school, hospital, nursing home, utility, or a facility producing volatile, toxic, or water-reactive materials.

Floodplains can be identified at <http://msc.fema.gov/portal> or as described below.

Floodplains may be shown on maps produced by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, on NRCS watershed plans and floodplain management studies, and soil survey information.

Floodplains have flooding frequency classes from *Rare* to *Very Frequent*.

Flooding frequency classes

- *Rare* – flooding unlikely but possible under unusual weather conditions; 1 to 5 percent chance of flooding in any year.
- *Occasional* – flooding expected infrequently under usual weather conditions; 5 to 50 percent chance of flooding in any year.
- *Frequent* - flooding likely to occur often under usual weather conditions; more than a 50 percent chance of flooding in any year.
- *Very frequent* – flooding likely to occur very often under usual weather conditions; more than a 50 percent chance of flooding in all months of any year.

Floodplains can be managed to reduce threat to human life, health and property in ways that are environmentally sensitive. NRCS provides leadership and takes actions where practicable to conserve, preserve, and restore existing natural and beneficial functions and values in base floodplains as part of its technical and financial assistance programs.