

## **NOTICE OF INTENT TO PREPARE A PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (PEA) FOR WILDFIRE MITIGATION**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announces its intent to prepare a Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) for Wildfire Mitigation projects throughout the State of Colorado.

Due to the increase in the quantity of vegetative ground and ladder fuels, surface fires today move easily into the tree canopy and fuel destructive crown fires. The purpose of this action is to reduce the wildfire hazard in the urban interface communities. Fuel reduction in areas prone to wildfire reduces the severity of potential wildfires, increases the ability to control wildfires, and minimizes potential damage to property, public safety, and the natural environment. Much of the proposed project funding will be provided to projects under FEMA's Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation Assistance programs, along with other FEMA programs, as appropriate. All projects will be evaluated by FEMA to ensure they meet all applicable federal, tribal, state and local requirements for these types of activities.

FEMA hereby publishes this notice of intent to prepare a PEA for these actions, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (PL 91-190) and associated environmental statutes, as implemented in FEMA's regulations 44 CFR Part 10. Notice is also published in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as implemented in 36 CFR Part 800; and Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management and Executive Order 11990, Wetlands Protection, as implemented in 44 CFR Part 9; since these actions may have the potential to affect historic, cultural and archaeological resources, floodplains and wetlands.

This statewide PEA will address the purpose and need of the proposed projects, project alternatives considered (including the 'No Action' alternative), affected environment, environmental consequences, and impact mitigation measures. The proposed action(s) being considered for funding include eligible vegetation management measures necessary to reduce hazardous fuels in order to create defensible space around structures and to protect life and property beyond defensible space perimeters, but proximate to at-risk structures. No open burning will take occur as a result of the proposed projects. Appropriate Best Management practices will be implemented and all actions must comply with applicable federal, tribal, state and local regulations and requirements. Once completed, the draft PEA will be available for public review and comment.

A public comment period related to the alternatives as outlined in this 'Notice of Intent' or other possible alternatives will remain open for 15 days following publication of this notice. In addition to this initial comment period, a final comment period will be opened for notice of availability of the Draft PEA.

Interested persons may provide comments or obtain more detailed information about the alternatives by contacting Daniel Jones, FEMA Region VIII, Environmental Specialist, Denver Federal Center, PO Box 25267 Denver, CO 80225, (303) 231-1887, [daniel.jones5@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:daniel.jones5@fema.dhs.gov). Comments will be accepted from the affected public; local, state, tribal and federal agencies; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate environmental impacts of the proposed projects.