

Federal Emergency Management Agency
Notice of Availability of the Draft Programmatic Environmental Assessment
For Wildfire Mitigation Projects throughout Colorado

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announces the availability of a draft Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) for proposed wildfire mitigation projects throughout the State of Colorado. This notice of availability for comment is 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. All projects will be evaluated by FEMA to ensure they meet all applicable federal, tribal, state and local requirements for these types of activities.

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. 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 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.

A public comment period related to the alternatives as outlined in the draft PEA will remain open for 15 days following publication of this notice. The draft PEA will be available for public review on the Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management website at <http://dhsem.state.co.us/emergency-management/mitigation-recovery/recovery/recovery-programs> and the FEMA Online Library at <http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/92895>.

Interested parties may submit comments or request a hard copy of the draft PEA and other information by contacting Daniel Jones, FEMA Region VIII, Environmental Specialist, Denver

Federal Center, PO Box 25267 Denver, CO 80225, 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.

If no substantive comments are received, the draft PEA and associated Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will become final and be published by FEMA. Substantive comments will be addressed as appropriate in the final documents.