

**Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
PUBLIC NOTICE**

**Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Assessment and Early Notice of a Proposed
Activity in a 100-Year Floodplain
Proposed Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Hurricane Lake WMA Office Relocation
White County, Arkansas**

Interested persons are hereby notified that the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC) has applied to FEMA for assistance with the proposed relocation of the Wildlife Management Area (WMA) office administrative building from a flood-prone area to a higher elevation.

On May 2, 2011, President Obama declared that a major disaster (FEMA-1975-DR) due to severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding beginning April 23, 2011. Swift moving water over topped the access roads and parking lots and structures located in Henry Gray Hurricane Lake and Steve Wilson Raft Creek WMA causing extensive damage to the structural, electrical, and mechanical components to the WMA administrative office building. The same office building has been flooded at least five different times since it was constructed in the early 1980's. The lower section of this office building flooded in 1982, 1989, 2008, 2008, and in 2011. During each of these flood events, this office facility had sustained substantial damage. According to FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (Community Panel #: 05145C0525E, Effective Date: May 2, 2012) the project area is located within a mapped Zone A flood zone (areas of 100-year flood). Pursuant to 44 CFR Part 9.6 (b), FEMA hereby provides interested parties with an initial notice of its intent to carry out the proposed action within a floodplain.

The proposed project area is approximately 115 feet wide and 205 feet in length encompassing approximately 0.54 acres. The project area will include the office facility, associated driveway and parking, and necessary infrastructure (utilities, septic tank and field, etc.). The proposed office facility will be within the existing picnic and camping area of the WMA that has not experienced flooding over the past 10 years. This land is also already owned by AGFC and habitat is disturbed through lawn maintenance practices on and around the proposed site. Chain-link fencing will be installed around the entire perimeter. Since the site is maintained, clearing of brush and trees will be limited to only those required for facility and parking construction, installation of the septic field lines, and any required for safe construction operations. Approximately 0.14 acres of tree and brush removal will be part of the 0.27 acres of total ground disturbance.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and the implementing regulations of FEMA, a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared to assess the potential impacts of the proposed action on the human and natural environment. The Draft EA summarizes the purpose and need, alternatives, affected environment, and potential environmental consequences for the proposed action. The Draft EA is available for comment and can be viewed and downloaded from FEMA's website at <http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents>. The Draft EA can also be viewed at the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Headquarters located at #2 Natural Resources Drive, in Little Rock, Arkansas during the hours of 8:00 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday, except for holidays.

This constitutes initial notice and FEMA is accepting comments for the proposed project. The comment period will end 15 days from the initial notice publication date in the newspaper. Written comments on the Draft EA can be mailed or faxed to the contact below. If no substantive comments are received, the

Draft EA will become final and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will be issued for the project. Substantive comments will be addressed as appropriate in the final documents.

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