



FEMA

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
ARKANSAS GAME AND FISH COMMISSION
HURRICANE LAKE WMA OFFICE RELOCATION,
WHITE COUNTY, ARKANSAS
FEMA 1975-DR-AR (PW 4413)**

BACKGROUND

The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC) has applied to the Federal emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for funding assistance with a project to relocate the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Hurricane Lake WMA Office. Authority for the project is provided by the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 USC 51521 et seq.). FEMA's Public Assistance Program funds the restoration or construction of facilities to replace facilities that have sustained damage due to presidentially declared natural disasters. This project will relocate the wildlife management area (WMA) administrative offices from a flood-prone area to a higher elevation. The new office will be located across the street from the present office. The proposed new office location is above typical flood elevations.

An Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared in accordance with the guidelines established in Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) for the FEMA, 44 CFR, Subpart B, Part 10.9; Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended; and regulations promulgated by the President's Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR §§1500-1508). The purpose of the EA is to analyze the potential impacts of the proposed relocation of the WMA administrative offices from a flood-prone area to a higher elevation and to determine whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

Two project alternatives were considered in this EA: 1) No Action; and 2) Relocation of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Hurricane Lake WMA Office (Proposed Action). Under the No Action alternative, FEMA would not provide funding to relocate the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission WMA administrative offices from a flood-prone area. Future flooding events would continue to cause additional expenses in equipment repair and replacement, employee displacement, and lost employee service hours to the public.

The Proposed Action Alternative is to construct the WMA administrative offices on a site that has not experienced flooding over the past 10 years, is located at the entrance of the WMA, and is not within a wetland. This land is also already owned by AGFC and habitat is disturbed maintained lawn. The proposed project would minimize the effects on both the human and natural environments.

A public notice was posted in The Arkansas Democrat Gazette newspaper on June 4, 2014, and the draft EA was made available for comment at Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

Headquarters and on the FEMA website for a 15-day public comment period. No comments were received from the public during the 15-day comment period.

FINDINGS

The Proposed Action as described in the EA will not significantly impact the resources associated with climate, geology and soils, and air quality; water quality, wetlands, and floodplains; biological resources; cultural resources; and socioeconomic resources. All populations, including minority and low-income populations, will benefit from the Proposed Action.

CONDITIONS

The following conditions must be met as part of this project. Failure to comply with these conditions may jeopardize the receipt of Federal funding.

1. This review does not address all federal, state and local requirements. Acceptance of federal funding requires recipient to comply with all federal, state and local laws. Failure to obtain all appropriate federal, state and local environmental permits and clearances may jeopardize federal funding.
2. A Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) for Construction Activities will be developed for the project and Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be implemented to minimize any impacts to water quality during the project construction. Additional mitigation efforts include prevention measures to reduce the threat of petroleum based fuels and lubricants from heavy equipment from leaking or being spilled on soils or entering surface waters.
3. All conditions in the Floodplain Development Permit will be implemented.
4. Potential impacts to the air quality in the area will be mitigated by the use of water spray as a dust suppressant, as needed, to control the dust in the areas being disturbed.
5. On- and off-site staging areas will be utilized when needed to avoid any traffic delays associated with equipment loading and unloading during construction.
6. In the event that archeological deposits, including any Native-American pottery, stone tools, bones, or human remains, are uncovered, the project shall be halted, and the applicant will stop all work immediately in the vicinity of the discovery and take reasonable measures to avoid or minimize harm to the finds. All archeological findings will be secured and access to the sensitive area restricted. The applicant will inform FEMA immediately, and FEMA will consult with the SHPO or THPO, and the Tribe. Work in the sensitive areas cannot resume until consultation is completed, and appropriate measures have been taken to ensure that the project is in compliance with the NHPA.

7. Compliance with all applicable Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requirements will occur to prevent hazardous exposures to employees during construction and maintenance of this project.
8. Any change to the approved scope of work will require re-evaluation for compliance with NEPA and other Laws and Executive Orders.

CONCLUSIONS

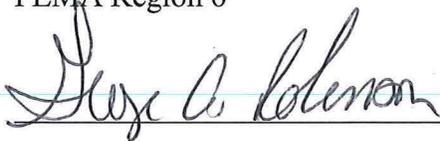
Based on the findings of the EA, coordination with the appropriate agencies, and adherence to the project conditions set forth in this FONSI, FEMA has determined that the proposed project qualifies as a major Federal action that will not significantly affect the quality of the natural and human environment, nor does it have the potential for significant cumulative effects. As a result of this FONSI, an EIS will not be prepared (44 CFR Part 10.9) and the proposed project as described in the associated EA may proceed.

APPROVAL



Kevin Jaynes
Regional Environmental Officer
FEMA Region 6

Date 6/23/14



George A. Robinson
Regional Administrator
FEMA Region 6

Date 6/25/14