

**Federal Emergency Management Agency
PUBLIC NOTICE**

Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Assessments for the Bastrop County South Lost Pines and North Lost Pines Hazardous Fuels Reduction Projects, Bastrop County, Texas
HMGP-DR-1999-TX PROJECT #12 and PROJECT #31

Interested persons are hereby notified that Bastrop County has applied to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), through the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM), for Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funding under Section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program provides grants to states and local governments to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures that reduce the loss of life and property due to natural disasters and to enable mitigation measures to be implemented during the immediate recovery from a disaster.

Under Project #12, FEMA proposes to provide funding to Bastrop County for hazardous fuels reduction activities on approximately 1,825 acres of public and private property in an area north of Lake Bastrop near Camp Swift. Under Project #31, FEMA proposes to provide funding to Bastrop County for hazardous fuels reduction activities on approximately 876 acres of public and private property in the Tahitian Village area. The proposed actions would lower the occurrence of heavy under and mid-story fuel by mechanical and hand-thinning in order to reduce the intensity of surface fires and to lower the probability of fires transitioning into the crowns where they can more easily spread. The purpose of the proposed project is to reduce wildfire hazards and reduce risk to property and human lives in Bastrop County, Texas.

A draft Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared for each project to assess the potential impacts of the proposed action and alternatives on the human and natural environment in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the Council for Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500 – 1508), the National Historic Preservation Act, Executive Order 11988, Executive Order 11990, and the implementing regulations of FEMA (44 CFR Parts 9 and 10). The draft EAs evaluate alternatives that provide for compliance with applicable environmental laws. The alternatives evaluated include (1) no action; (2) the proposed actions described above.

The draft EAs are available for review and comment at the Office of the Bastrop County Judge located at 804 Pecan Street, Bastrop, Texas 78602, from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Monday through Friday from February 28, 2015 to March 30, 2015. An electronic version of the draft EAs can be requested from Dorothy Weir, FEMA Region 6, at dorothy.weir@fema.dhs.gov or viewed on FEMA's website at <http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents>.

The comment period will end 30 days from the initial notice publication date. Written comments on the draft EAs can be mailed, emailed, or faxed to Dorothy Weir, Environmental Specialist, FEMA Region 6, 800 N Loop 288, Denton, TX 76209, Fax: 940-297-0152; dorothy.weir@fema.dhs.gov. If no substantive comments are received, the draft EAs will become final and Findings of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will be issued for the projects. Substantive comments will be addressed as appropriate in the final documents.