

**Federal Emergency Management Agency  
PUBLIC NOTICE**

Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Assessments for the Newton County Defensible Space Project, Newton County, Texas  
HMGP-DR-1999-TX PROJECT #17

Interested persons are hereby notified that Newton 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.

FEMA proposes to provide funding to Newton County for a defensible space wildfire mitigation program that will be conducted at 52 project sites. The combined proposed treatment area is approximately 120 acres. Defensible space work will involve removal of flammable materials, particularly vegetation, in proximity to residential or nonresidential structures. Cut material would be chipped and hauled from the sites daily. No trees larger than 10 inches diameter at breast height are proposed to be removed. The purpose of the proposed project is to reduce potential wildfire hazards around residential and nonresidential structures in Newton County, Texas.

A draft Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared 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 EA evaluates alternatives that provide for compliance with applicable environmental laws. The alternatives evaluated include (1) no action; (2) the proposed action described above. Portions of the proposed action will be carried out in the regulatory floodplains of Cow Creek, Sabine River, Thickety Creek, and Trout Creek. Potential alternatives and impacts on floodplains are described in the draft EA.

The draft EA is available for review and comment at the following locations from March 31, to April 30, 2015.

Bon Wier Post Office, 10735 US 190, Bon Wier TX 75928, (409) 397-4331, Mon-Sun 12:01 am - 11:59 pm  
Burkeville Post Office, 147 Tx 63 Burkeville TX 77632, (409) 565-4621, Mon-Sat 12:01 am - 11:59 pm; Closed Sunday  
Newton County, 115 Court St Newton TX 75966, (409) 379-5341 Mon-Sun 12:01 am - 11:59 pm  
Newton County Public Library, 212 High St Newton TX 75966, (409) 379-8300 Mon-Fri 8:30 am - 5:00 pm  
Newton Post Office 419 N Rusk, Newton TX 75966, (409) 379-4088 Mon-Sun 12:01 am - 11:59 pm  
Wiergate Post Office 983 FM 1415, Wiergate TX 75977, (409) 565-4418 Mon-Sun 12:01 am - 11:59 pm

An electronic version of the draft EA can be requested from Dorothy Weir, FEMA Region 6, at [dorothy.weir@fema.dhs.gov](mailto: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 EA 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](mailto:dorothy.weir@fema.dhs.gov). 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.