



**FEMA**

## **FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

**Construction of a Bridge Across the South Fork Stillaguamish River, Verlot, WA,  
Snohomish County Public Works  
Public Assistance Project Worksheet No. 205  
FEMA-1499-DR-WA**

Snohomish County applied through the Washington State Emergency Management Division (WS-EMD) to the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for financial assistance under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended, to construct a new bridge across the Stillaguamish River near Verlot, Washington. Snohomish County decided to build the bridge rather than build a new road around Monte Cristo Grade Road, which washed out during flooding that occurred from October 15-23, 2003. The event was declared a Presidential disaster (FEMA-1499-DR-WA).

Snohomish County would construct a new bridge where an earlier bridge stood. The site is approximately 0.5 mile downriver from the road washout site. The original bridge was constructed in the 1930s and removed in the 1970s. The new bridge would connect the current dead end of 342<sup>nd</sup> Drive NE to the Monte Cristo Grade Road and restore vehicular access to approximately 20 recreational properties.

The proposed bridge would be a 244-foot long, single lane bridge constructed with a prefabricated two-span, steel bow truss. The decking would be untreated cedar. Additional work includes grading and paving the roadway approaches, grading to match existing driveways, and modifying adjacent drainage ditches to provide water flow away from the new bridge abutments. Guardrails would be installed at the bridge approaches. Low impact development techniques would be used to treat the stormwater from the road approaches. The Monte Cristo Grade Road would remain unpaved following construction of the bridge. The road would be permanently barricaded in the area of the washout. No additional right-of-way would be required. All work will be done within the right-of-way.

Snohomish County will provide environmental mitigation measures and comply with Environmental and Historic Preservation regulations by 1) implementing its conservation measures and construction Best Management Practices in accordance with those outlined in its Biological Assessment (June 2008) and final Environmental Assessment for this project; 2) halting the project, taking all reasonable measures to avoid or minimize harm, and contacting FEMA if historically or archaeologically significant materials or sites (or evidence thereof) are discovered during the implementation of the project; and 3) applying for and securing appropriate federal, state and local permits.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and FEMA's implementing regulations, FEMA prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) to identify

**Finding of No Significant Impact**

Construction of a Bridge Across the South Fork Stillaguamish River, Verlot, WA

Page 2

and evaluate potential environmental impacts resulting from the alternatives presented in the EA and to determine whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). Alternatives evaluated in the EA include: 1) Construct a bridge across the South Fork Stillaguamish River between 342 Drive NE and the Monte Cristo Grade Road (Preferred Alternative) and 2) No Action. Other alternatives were considered but not carried forth and are described in the EA. The Draft EA was submitted for public review and comment. FEMA received three comment letters on the Draft EA. Responses to these letters are included in the Final EA (Appendix E).

**FINDINGS**

Based upon the attached EA and in accordance with FEMA’s regulations in 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 10 for environmental consideration, including Executive Orders (EOs) addressing floodplains (EO11988), wetlands (EO11990), and environmental justice (EO 12898), FEMA determined the proposed project will not significantly affect the quality of the natural and human environment. As a result of this FONSI, an EIS will not be prepared (44CFR Part 10.8) and the project, as described in the attached EA may proceed.

**APPROVAL**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark G. Eberlein  
Regional Environmental Officer  
FEMA Region 10

1-20-09  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date