



FEMA

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Lewis Road Relocation and Reconstruction
Yakima County Public Works
FEMA-HSFEHQ-06-D-0162

Yakima County applied through the US Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) for financial assistance under §203 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Assistance and Emergency Relief Act (Stafford Act), 42 USC, as amended, to relocate and reconstruct portions of Lewis Road near Naches, Washington. The County identified the need to reduce the repetitive damages from floods sustained to Lewis Road, while improving ingress and egress to the properties that use it.

Flooding on the Naches River typically occurs during the winter and spring. Historically, winter floods have been larger in magnitude, such as the December 1933 and February 1996 events. Lewis Road has been inundated by the Naches River on an almost annual basis, with more significant damage at approximate 5-year and higher events. Shallow, fast moving water flowing across a roadway can wash a car off the road, and as little as 6 inches of moving water can knock people off their feet (WA Department of Ecology 2008). This represents a real danger to the local residents.

The need for this action is to reduce the repetitive damages sustained to Lewis Road while improving ingress and egress to the properties that use it. From this need, the County identified the preferred alternative (relocation and reconstruction of Lewis Road) as a high priority in the Naches River Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan and the Yakima County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Yakima County would reconstruct Lewis Road approximately 500 feet further south of the Naches River. The total road length would be shortened by approximately 350 feet for a total length of 1,700 feet. The stormwater treatment for the new road would be through infiltration along side slopes adjacent to the roadway. Although the road will remain in the FEMA floodplain and floodway, the road would move to slightly higher land, allowing residents and emergency vehicles safer access during 1-, 5-, and 25-year floods. No practicable alternatives for locating the road outside the floodplain were identified. Approximately 200 feet of the existing roadway closest to South Naches Road would be removed and planted with native vegetation. The remainder of the gravel roadway would remain but would not be maintained by Yakima County.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and FEMA's implementation regulations, FEMA prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) to identify and evaluate potential environmental impacts resulting from the alternatives presented in the EA and to determine whether to prepare an Environmental Impacts Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). Alternatives evaluation in the EA include: 1) Reconstructing

Lewis Road approximately 500 feet further south of the Naches River (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 in February/March, 2009. FEMA did not receive any comments on the Draft EA; therefore, the draft EA was finalized as is.

FINDINGS

Based upon the attached Mitigation and Conservation Measures and Final 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 (EO 11990), 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 (44 CFR Part 10.8) and the project as described in the attached Final EA may proceed.

APPROVAL



Mark G. Eberlein
Regional Environmental Officer
FEMA Region X

4-2-09

Date

Attachment A:

MITIGATION AND CONSERVATION MEASURES

Mitigation and Conservation Measures refer to actions that would minimize or eliminate potential adverse environmental impacts that could result from the Proposed Action. Measures include:

- The applicants shall obtain all required local, state, and federal permits and approvals prior to implementing the Proposed Action Alternative and comply with any and all conditions imposed.
- The applicant is responsible for selecting, implementing, monitoring, and maintaining best management practices to control erosion and sediment, reduce spills and pollution, and provide habitat protection.
- Any change to the approved scope of work will require re-evaluation for compliance with NEPA and other laws and Executive Orders.
- In the event that archaeological or historic materials are discovered during project activities, work in the immediate vicinity should be discontinued, the area secured, and the State and FEMA notified.
- Construction shall occur during non-flood seasons. However, should construction be required during the flood season, as determined by the local floodplain administrator, all construction equipment shall be staged in an area not susceptible to flood events or be readily transportable out of the floodplain to avoid any flood damages.