



**FEMA**

## **FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

Harriman State Park Fire Mitigation Project

Fremont County, Idaho

FEMA-LPDM-PJ-10-ID-2008-006

The Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR) applied to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Legislative Pre-Disaster Mitigation (L-PDM) program for funding assistance with a wildfire fuel load reduction project in eastern Idaho. The Harriman State Park Fire Mitigation project would reduce risk from fire to people and property on 113 acres of public land located in Fremont County, Idaho.

The Proposed Action would selectively remove excessive vegetation (mostly Lodgepole pines) with light mechanized equipment, such as a small tracked vehicle with a harvesting head, chainsaws, weed cutters; and hand-held tools such as pulaskis and saws for pruning and limbing. Work will be completed either by private contractors or park staff on approximately 113 acres of publicly owned land. The geographic areas targeted for wildfire vegetation management include 50 acres near the historic ranch complex and 63 acres near the administrative area. These treatment areas were selected to create defensible space around the existing historic structures and the roadway. The 20 historic structures on the property and the roadway itself would not be altered. The work would be conducted in late summer or early fall.

A wildland fire fuels management specialist would assess and document the nature of the current vegetative fuels situation around the structures and along the park roads within the 113 acre project area. This assessment would result in a Fuels Management Plan.

Treatments to selectively remove vegetation, including existing downed trees, vary depending on the site, including proximity of vegetation to structures, the road, or trails, and the density of the stand. Most dead or dying trees would be felled by hand. Some dead trees, or snags, would be left for raptor nesting if they are not within falling distance of a structure, trail, or road. Park staff would work with wildlife biologists with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to determine which trees should be left as snags. Trees less than 10 feet tall would be thinned to create openings, and remaining trees would be limbed to a height of approximately 8 feet. Small trees (mostly Lodgepole pines) between 3-4 inches in diameter at breast height would also be removed. Removal of large healthy mature trees, shrubs and grasses is not proposed. Piling of debris would be by hand or mechanical means using a small, tracked excavator with a harvester head to mechanically cut the trees. Larger debris would be hauled through a trailer on the excavator, and small debris would be pulled in a trailer using a small, rubber-tired all-terrain vehicle. Vegetative materials deemed impractical for recycling would be burned at the park's permitted and approved burn site, located approximately 2 miles away.



**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 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 stated in the FEMA grant application and described in this EA as the proposed action will require re-evaluation for compliance with NEPA and other laws and Executive Orders.
- Care should be taken during project implementation to avoid affecting historic properties identified in the Railroad Ranch complex, the Golden Lake Dam, and Bull Barn.
- In the event that archaeological or historic materials are discovered or impacted during project activities, work in the immediate vicinity shall be discontinued, the area secured, and the SHPO and FEMA notified.
- Vegetation removal will not occur within 200 feet of water resources, and only manual removal of small Lodgepole pines encroaching in wetlands will occur, 6 inches above ground surface.
- Work on the trees should occur in late summer and early fall, outside of the typical migratory bird nesting season which ranges from March through August. If clearance activities must take place during the nesting season, a breeding bird survey shall be conducted before removal activities by a qualified professional in view of avoiding/minimizing disturbance.