



FEMA

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

New Station 291 Construction Project
Snoqualmie Pass Fire and Rescue, Washington
FEMA-EMW-2009-FC-02883

The Snoqualmie Pass Fire and Rescue (SPFR) applied to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFG) for funding assistance to build a new fire station. Funding was authorized through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The ARRA is an economic stimulus package and the purpose of the Fiscal Year 2009 funds is to create or save jobs in recession-hit areas which includes supporting 'shovel-ready' projects. ARRA will further help achieve AFG goals of firefighter safety and improved response capability/capacity based on need, through the construction, renovation, or modification of fire stations.

The Proposed Action includes construction of an approximately 20,000 square foot fire station on a 1.5 acre parcel located at SR906 near Interstate 90 Exit 53 at Snoqualmie Pass. The two story building will include dedicated space for training/meetings, dormitories, exercise room, office/work stations, kitchen, restrooms, day room, equipment/supply storage, an oxygen and air filling room, decontamination room, and 3 apparatus bays. The station will also have a back-up generator in the event of power outages. In addition to the fire station, the site will include space for parking, maneuvering space for the trucks, and stormwater management features.

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 evaluated in the EA include: A) No Action, continued use of existing station; B) construction of a new fire station at the Exit 53 Parking Lot location (proposed); and C) construction at the Hyak Parking Lot location. Other alternatives were considered but not carried forth and are described in the EA. The Draft EA was made available for public review and comment from March 5 to April 7, 2010 and SPFR hosted an open house on March 20, 2010. FEMA did not receive substantive comments on the Draft EA.

FINDINGS

Based upon the site and building design and attached Mitigation and Conservation Measures; and in accordance with FEMA's regulations in 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 10 for environmental consideration, including Executive Orders (EO) addressing floodplains (EO 11988), 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 SPFR AFG application and final EA may proceed.

APPROVAL



Mark G. Eberlein
Regional Environmental Officer
FEMA Region X

April 13, 2010

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:

- This review does not address all Federal, State, and local requirements. Acceptance of Federal funding requires recipient to secure and comply with all Federal, State, and local permitting requirements. Failure to obtain all appropriate Federal, State, and local permits and clearances may jeopardize Federal funding.
- 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.
- The SPFR is responsible for selecting, implementing, monitoring, and maintaining best management practices to control erosion and sediment, reduce spills and pollution, and provide habitat protection during site work.
- Site soils would be covered and/or wetted during construction to minimize fugitive dust.
- Mitigation measures associated with wetlands adjacent to the site shall be implemented per Kittitas County Critical Areas requirements.
- In the event that archaeological or historic materials are discovered during site work, activities in the immediate vicinity shall be discontinued, the area secured, and the SHPO and FEMA notified.