



FEMA

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
Tiger Mountain Trail Footbridge Project
Washington State Department of Natural Resources
King County, Washington
FEMA-1817-DR-WA

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) applied through the Washington State Emergency Management Division (EMD) to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for funding assistance under the Public Assistance (PA) Grant Program to replace the Tiger Mountain Trail Footbridge. This footbridge is a part of the Tiger Mountain Trail system damaged during a January 2009 flood event, a Presidentially declared disaster (FEMA-1817-DR-WA). The purpose of the Public Assistance program is to award financial grants to assist State and local governments, federally recognized Tribal governments, and certain private nonprofit entities with the response and recovery from disasters.

The project area is a part of the Tiger Mountain Trail system in the West Tiger Mountain Natural Resource Conservation Area (NRCA), which is within Tiger Mountain State Forest, King County, Washington. The Tiger Mountain State Forest is managed by DNR. The proposed action, which is the preferred alternative, includes replacement of the damaged 70-foot span footbridge with an approximately 180-foot span footbridge, in approximately the same vicinity as the original footbridge. The east abutment of the new footbridge would be built approximately 60 feet higher than the current location. The west abutment of the new footbridge would be relocated upslope and out of the active channel of High Point Creek. Project elements include the following:

- Remove the existing bridge's 70-foot long by 6-foot wide footbridge and decking.
- Remove railings and six galvanized steel braces.
- Clear area around new location of footbridge and trail approach.
- Construct approximately 30 feet of new trail on the east side of the creek and approximately 200 feet of new trail on the west side of the creek.
- Construct new concrete east and west abutments with approximately 14-foot tall steel I beam cable suspension supports.
- Install new footbridge cables, suspension superstructure, and wood decking.

By reorienting and extending the length of the footbridge, along with increasing the vertical clearance between the footbridge and the creek bed, the hydraulic capacity under the footbridge would be greater than the original placement of the footbridge. This greater clearance would allow large debris torrents and periodically high water volumes to be transported underneath the new bridge. The potential for future damages to the new structure will be reduced. Disruption of natural floodplain process, such as the creation and sustainment of downstream fish habitat areas, will also be minimized.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ's) implementing regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500 through 1508), and

FEMA's implementing regulations (44 CFR §10.9), FEMA prepared a Draft EA to identify 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) No Action; (2) Repair and Relocate the Tiger Mountain Trail Footbridge (Preferred Alternative); and (3) Restore the Damaged Footbridge in Approximately its Pre-disaster Location. Other alternatives considered but not carried forward are described in the EA. The Draft EA was made available for public comment for 30 days. FEMA received three comment letters on the Draft EA; none of the comments resulted in substantive revisions to the Final EA.

CONDITIONS

The following conditions were developed to mitigate the potential impacts of this project and must be complied with as part of the project scope. Failure to comply with these conditions may jeopardize Federal funds:

1. DNR will follow any Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife requirements and coordinate with the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe regarding possible removal of several large trees and subsequent placement in High Point Creek as large woody debris for fish habitat
2. Any change to the approved scope of work will require re-evaluation for compliance with NEPA and other Laws and Executive Orders.
3. This review does not address all federal, state and local requirements. Acceptance of federal funding requires recipient to comply with all federal, state and local laws. Failure to obtain all appropriate federal, state and local environmental permits and clearances may jeopardize federal funding.
4. If ground disturbing activities occur during construction, applicant will monitor ground disturbance and if any potential archeological resources are discovered, will immediately cease construction in that area and notify the State and FEMA.

FINDING

Based upon the PA grant application 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 (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 PA grant application and final EA may proceed.

APPROVALS



Mark G. Eberlein
Regional Environmental Officer
FEMA Region 10

11-30-2010

Date