U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Region X
130 228th Street, SW
Bothell, WA 98021-9796

FEMA

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Tiger Mountain Trail Re-Route and Footbridge Relocation 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 realign a trail and replace an associated footbridge in the Tiger Mountain State Forest. The trail and footbridge are 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 to and recovery from disasters. The need for the FEMA action is to provide funds to DNR to restore the function that was lost with the damage to the Tiger Mountain Trail. The January 2009 landslide rendered the Tiger Mountain Trail between its west and east connections with the West Tiger Railroad Grade unusable by hikers and other recreational users, disrupting the east/west trail system connection.

The project area is a part of the Tiger Mountain Trail system in the West Tiger Mountain Natural Resource Conservation Area (NRCA) 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 the design and construction of a 2,880 linear foot (LF) trail re-route above a slide and a new trail footbridge, and the decommissioning of approximately 6,500 LF of existing trail and the disassembly of an existing footbridge along the trail section to be decommissioned. Project work includes construction of the trail footbridge and completion of the re-routed trail connections. Specific project elements include:

- Construct approximately 2,880 LF of new trail.
- Disassemble an existing 50-foot long wood glue-laminate footbridge located several feet to the east of the damage site.
- Clear the area around the location of the relocated footbridge and trail approach.
- Install concrete abutments and stringers for a new wooden footbridge.
- Construct an approximate 50-foot long wooden footbridge.
- Decommission approximately 6,500 LF of the Tiger Mountain Trail east and west of the damage site.

The proposed action was selected as the preferred alternative because it was the best alternative to meeting the need for the action. The No Action would not meet the intended purpose and need and the other considered alternatives were deemed insufficient for meeting the need for the action.

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; and (2) Proposed Action (Construct the Trail Re-Route and Relocated Footbridge). 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 no comments on the Draft EA.

FEMA prepared a separate EA for another DNR project to replace a Tiger Mountain Trail footbridge over High Point Creek (*Tiger Mountain Trail Footbridge Project*), approximately 0.8 mile downstream in the same watershed; that project is similar in nature and scale to this proposed project. FEMA issued a FONSI for that project on November 30, 2010.

CONDITIONS

The following conditions were developed to avoid, minimize, or 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. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife requires that the project include revegetation of disturbed riparian areas with native or other approved woody species.
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, the 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 has determined that 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 — 6-7-11

Mark G. Eberlein
Regional Environmental Officer
FEMA Region 10

Date