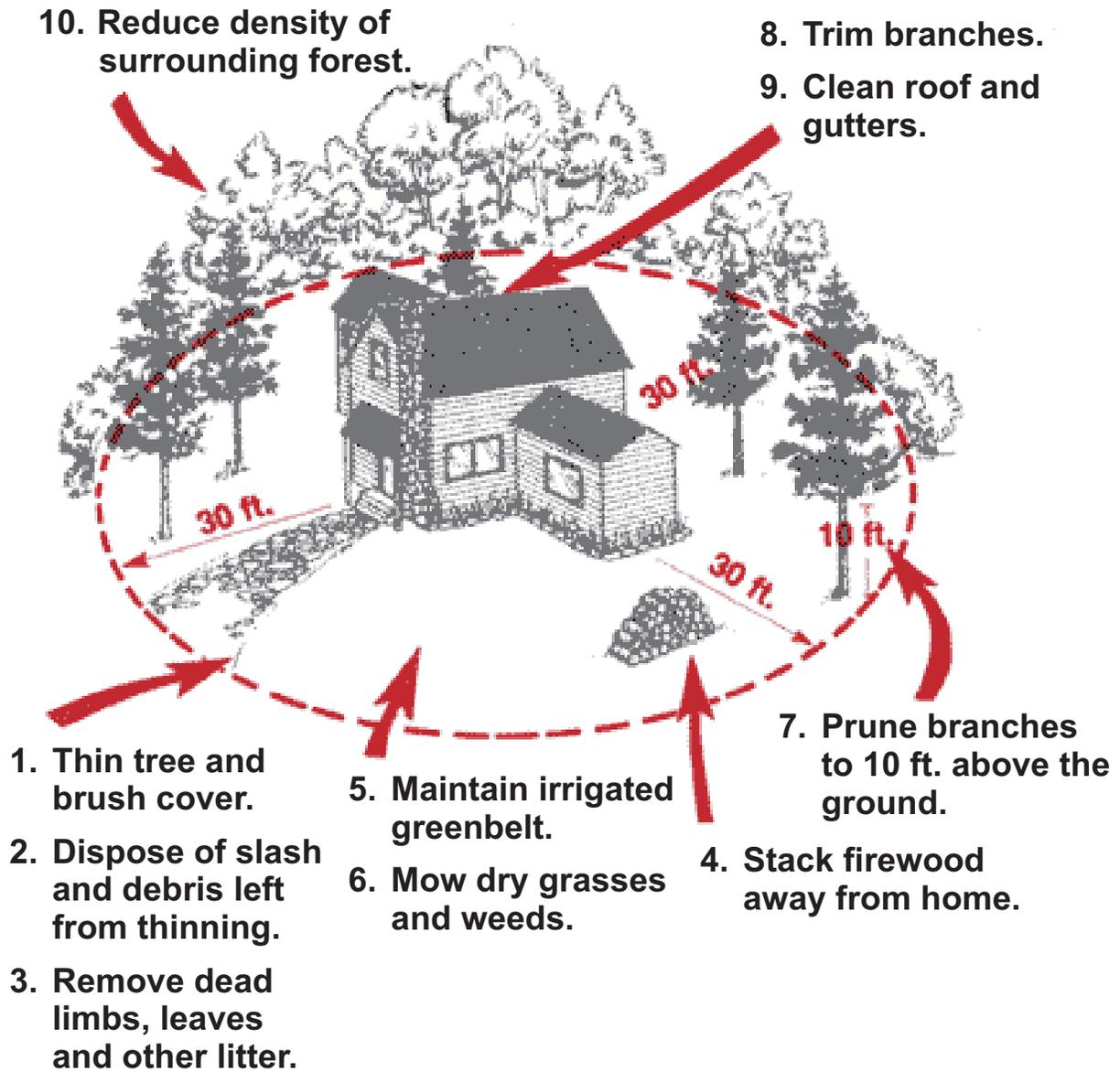


FOLLOW THESE GUIDELINES



Source: Walla Walla County

Job No. 15702511

Figure 5
Treatment Methodology



Source: Walla Walla County



Photo 1: 6466 Mill Creek Road. View is Southeast



Photo 2: 7134 Mill Creek Road. View is Southeast



Photo 3: 7852 Mill Creek Road. View is Southeast



Photo 4: 9052 Mill Creek Road. View is Southeast



Photo 5: 9052 Mill Creek Road (associated barn). View is Southeast



Photo 6: 5542 Mill Creek Road. View is South



Photo 7: 5542 Mill Creek Road (associated barn). View is Southwest



Photo 8: 4422 Spring Creek Road. View is Southeast



Photo 9: 4422 Spring Creek Road (associated barn). View is Southwest



Photo 10: 4328 Spring Creek Road. View is Southwest

Appendix B
Migratory Bird Species List

WALLA WALLA COUNTY MIGRATORY BIRD SPECIES LIST

Common Name	Scientific Name
American Goldfinch	<i>Spinus tristis</i>
American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>
Bewick's Wren	<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i>
Black-billed Magpie	<i>Pica hudsonia</i>
Black-capped Chickadee	<i>Poecile atricapillus</i>
Cedar Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>
California Quail	<i>Callipepla californica</i>
Chipping sparrow	<i>Spizella passerina</i>
Dark-eyed Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>
Golden-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus satrapa</i>
Great Horned Owl	<i>Bubo virginianus</i>
Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>
Lazuli bunting	<i>Passerina amoena</i>
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>
Northern Flicker	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>
Northern Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>
Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>
Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>
Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>
Warbling vireo	<i>Vireo gilvus</i>
Western kingbird	<i>Tyrannus verticalis</i>
Western Meadowlark	<i>Sturnella neglecta</i>
Western wood peewee	<i>Contopus sordidulus</i>
White-crowned Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>
Varied Thrush	<i>Ixoreus naevis</i>
Violet-green swallow	<i>Tachycineta thalassina</i>
Yellow-breasted chat	<i>Icteria virens</i>
Yellow warbler	<i>Dendroica petechia</i>

Appendix C
SHPO/Tribal Consultation



FEMA

April 13, 2011

Dr. Allyson Brooks
Washington State Historic Preservation Officer
Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
P. O. Box 48343
Olympia, Washington 98504-8343

**Re: FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation Competitive Grant Program —Section 106
Consultation – Mill Creek Defensible Space Project, Walla Walla County, Washington**

Dear Dr. Brooks:

Walla Walla County applied for fiscal year 2010 funding under the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Pre-Disaster Mitigation–Competitive (PDM-C) grant program for a wildfire fuels-reduction project in southeastern Washington. The need for this action is to enhance protection for residents and firefighters and reduce risks of a catastrophic wildfire. The proposed Undertaking is being reviewed pursuant to the ongoing Programmatic Agreement (Agreement) between FEMA and your office, executed in accordance with the Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Concurrent with the Section 106 process, FEMA is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the action in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

Background

Wildland fires are ranked as one of the top five hazards for Walla Walla County. The likelihood of a major wildfire in the Mill Creek drainage area is rated high. Large wildfires have been avoided for the past 100 years due to effective fire prevention and suppression. During this time, neither mechanical vegetation removal nor the use of prescribed fire has been used, resulting in heavy fuel loads and an increase of risk and severity for wildfires.

In 2002, a Walla Walla County Emergency Management crew surveyed 217 residences in the project area to establish hazard ratings at individual home sites for the Mill Creek Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Of the residences surveyed, 113 had heavy fuel loads and 83 had medium fuel loads. For defensible space, 137 residences were rated as “Extreme Hazard” with combustible vegetation within 30 feet of the primary dwelling, 53 were rated as “High Hazard,” and 23 were rated as “Moderate Hazard” (Hulbert 2006).

Proposed Undertaking

The proposed Undertaking consists of creating a defensible space, per Firewise Program guidelines, around the perimeter of each residential or barn building, for up to 217 locations. This would include reducing and removing hazardous or flammable fuels around a 30-foot radius of each main residential building, which may be expanded by 5 to 10 feet where buildings are located on steep

slopes. Contractors would conduct vegetation removal activities by hand, which would include select thinning, trimming and in some cases, planting grasses. Equipment would be staged along road right-of-ways and driveways. The proposed Undertaking does not include ground-disturbing activity.

Area of Potential Effect (APE)

The project area is located in the Mill Creek drainage area about 6 miles to the east of the city of Walla Walla, in Walla Walla County (Figure 1). The project area is found in Sections 26, 35 and 36, Township 8 North, Range 37 East; Sections 1, 2, 10, 13, 14, 22, 23, 25, 26, 34, and 35, Township 7 North, Range 37 East; Sections 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 17, 18, and 19, Township 7 North, Range 38 East; Sections 1, 2, and 12, Township 6 North, Range 37 East; and Sections 7, and 18 in Township 6 North, Range 38 East on the Walla Walla, Washington, USGS quadrangle (1976). The project area is located along portions of the following roads: Biscuit Ridge Road, Blue Creek Road, Klicker Mountain Road, Lewis Peak Road, Mill Creek Road, Scenic Loop Road, Scott Road, Seaman Road, Spring Creek Road, and Tracy Road.

FEMA has determined that the Area of Potential Effect (APE) for the proposed project encompasses about 31 acres in the Mill Creek drainage area (Figures 2a to 2c) along portions of nine roads that includes 217 properties in a heavily-wooded landscape. The APE is further defined as a 30-foot radius around each primary dwelling or barn.

Identification of Historic Properties

The identification of historic properties was completed by Anisa Becker, MA, a URS architectural historian, and Mike Kelly, a URS archaeologist, both meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards for their disciplines. Analysis was based upon the review of information from digital photographs, readily available materials collected during a desktop review, a confidential search of the Washington Information System for Architectural and Archaeological Records Data (WISAARD), and a windshield survey of the APE.

The WISAARD search was conducted in November 2010 to determine the presence or absence of previously-recorded properties and the extent of survey coverage in and near the APE. Within the APE there have been three cultural resource surveys resulting in the recordation of five archaeological sites. Two cultural resource surveys have been conducted within a 1-mile radius of the APE, and one above-ground property identified. Based on this data, the majority of the APE has not been previously surveyed.

Above-ground Resources. There are no National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)-listed properties in the APE; however, the NRHP- listed Dixie High School, which was built in 1921 and is listed under architecture for the Area of Significance, is located within 1 mile of the APE.

The Walla Walla County TaxSifter Parcel online database was consulted prior to the field survey for property construction dates. The search revealed that the majority of the 217 properties in the APE included structures built between the early 1960s to the early 1990s.

On November 15th and 16th, 2010, a windshield survey of the project area was completed along the following roads in the APE: Biscuit Ridge Road, Blue Creek Road, Klicker Mountain Road, Lewis Peak Road, Mill Creek Road, Scenic Loop Road, Scott Road, Seaman Road, Spring Creek Road, and Tracy Road. Structures aged 50 years or older that retain sufficient architectural integrity were identified and photo-documented.

Seven properties aged 50 years or older were identified, with four along Mill Creek Road and three along Spring Creek Road. Construction dates ranged from 1905 to 1931; all appear in good condition. Property 6466 Mill Creek Road (Photo 1) was built in 1919. Its windows appear to be original and horizontal wood siding is visible. Property 7134 Mill Creek Road (Photo 2) was built in 1907. Horizontal wood siding is visible on the first level on two sides. An unknown siding material was observed on the second floor gable end. The windows in the gable end appear to be original; it is unknown if any others are. Property 7852 Mill Creek Road (Photo 3) was built in 1928. Horizontal wood siding is visible on two sides and the windows appear to be original. The roof is clad in metal sheets. Property 9052 Mill Creek Road (Photo 4) was built in 1908. The siding material could not be determined from the public right-of-way. The wood-sash windows appear to be original. An associated barn (Photo 5) was observed on the property; the construction date has not been determined, but it is reasonable to suppose that it is contemporary with the primary dwelling.

Three additional properties are located adjacent to each other along Spring Creek Road. Property 5542 Spring Creek Road (Photo 6) was built in 1931. Horizontal wood siding is visible on two sides and the windows may be original, although they are mostly obscured by storm windows. The property also exhibits a collection of associated structures including a barn (Photo 7). Property 4422 Spring Creek Road (Photo 8) was built in 1905. Horizontal wood siding is visible and the windows appear to be original. An associated barn (Photo 9) was observed. Property 4328 Spring Creek Road (Photo 10) was built in 1920. Horizontal wood siding is visible and the windows appear to be original. No other above-ground resources were observed during the windshield survey.

Further research would be necessary to determine whether the seven properties identified in the windshield survey are eligible for listing in the NRHP. However, due to the nature of the Undertaking and the low potential for it to adversely affect the identified properties, no additional evaluation efforts were determined necessary.

Archaeological Resources. Five previously-recorded archaeological sites are located in the APE. Four were documented as a result of a 1965 survey, which included interviews with local residents in 1965. The survey itself did not yield any archaeological finds, but local residents recounted past finds and their locations, and gave oral accounts from relatives. The following sites were documented by this survey: 45WW26 is described as a seasonal pre-contact camp that has since been destroyed by several major floods; 45WW27 consists of projectile points; 45WW28 is the site of a log structure dating to circa 1890 that was in disrepair and has been removed to Fort Walla Walla City Park; and 45WW29 is the site of the Whitman Mission Saw Mill that has since been

Dr. Brooks
April 13, 2011
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destroyed by stream widening and straightening along this portion of Mill Creek. None of these sites have been evaluated for eligibility for listing in the NRHP, and they are not included in the State register. The fifth site, 45WW300, was recorded as a result of a bridge replacement project in 2010. It consists of a collapsed barn with associated debris that will be removed for the placement of a detour road (Dickson 2010).

We have also coordinated with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation. To date, we have not received any information regarding potential historic properties of religious or cultural significance to the Tribes within the APE.

Determination of Effects to Historic Properties

Based on the low-impact nature of the Undertaking's activities and historic property identification efforts, and baring additional information from your office or provided by Tribes, FEMA has determined that no historic properties, either above-ground or archaeological, will be affected by the proposed Undertaking. FEMA requires all its funded ground-disturbing projects to protect cultural resources during site work. Thus, in the event of an unanticipated discovery, and in compliance with State and Federal laws protecting cultural resources, including Section 106, all work is required to cease in the immediate vicinity of the find until the appropriate parties (including the SHPO) are consulted and an appropriate resolution plan is established.

We respectfully request your concurrence with this finding or additional comments. To assist your review we have included site maps and photos. Please contact Ms. Science Kilner, Deputy Regional Environmental Officer, at (425) 487-4713 if you need assistance or have questions.

Sincerely,



Mark Eberlein
Regional Environmental Officer

Enclosures: Figure 1 – Project Vicinity Map
Figure 2a – Area of Potential Effects (overview)
Figure 2b – Area of Potential Effects – South
Figure 2c – Area of Potential Effects – North
Photographs 1 to 10: Properties Potentially Eligible for listing in the NRHP

SK:bb



FEMA

April 7, 2011

Camille Pleasants
Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
P.O. Box 150
Nespelem, Washington 99155

Re: FEMA Pre Disaster Mitigation Grant Program FY2010 – Mill Creek Defensible Space Project,
Walla Walla County, Washington

Dear Ms. Pleasants:

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) proposes to fund Walla Walla County for a fuels reduction project (Undertaking). This funding is available from the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program for FY2010. The proposed Undertaking is being reviewed pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Concurrent with the Section 106 process, FEMA is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the action in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

The proposed Undertaking consists of creating a defensible space around the perimeter of up to 217 residential buildings by reducing and removing hazardous or flammable fuels around a 30-foot radius of each main building. Contractors would conduct vegetation removal activities by hand, which would include thinning, trimming and in some cases, planting grasses. The proposed Undertaking does not include ground-disturbing activity. The project area is located in the Mill Creek drainage area located 6 miles to the east of the city of Walla Walla. The project area is found in Sections 26, 35 and 36, Township 8 North, Range 37 East; Sections 1, 2, 10, 13, 14, 22, 23, 25, 26, 34, and 35, Township 7 North, Range 37 East; Sections 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 17, 18, and 19, Township 7 North, Range 38 East; Sections 1, 2, and 12, Township 6 North, Range 37 East; and Sections 7, and 18 in Township 6 North, Range 38 East on the 1976 Walla Walla, Washington, USGS quadrangle. The project area is located along portions of the following roads: Biscuit Ridge Road, Blue Creek Road, Klicker Mountain Road, Lewis Peak Road, Mill Creek Road, Scenic Loop Road, Scott Road, Seaman Road, Spring Creek Road, and Tracy Road.

FEMA has determined that the Area of Potential Effect (APE) for the proposed project encompasses about 31 acres in total in the Mill Creek drainage area along portions of nine roads that includes 217 properties in a heavily-wooded landscape. The APE is further defined as a 30-foot radius around each primary dwelling. Five previously-recorded archaeological sites are located in the APE. Four were documented as a result of a 1965 survey: 45WW26 is described as a seasonal pre-contact camp that has since been destroyed by several major floods; 45WW27 consists of projectile points; 45WW28 is the site of a log structure dating to circa 1890 that was in disrepair and has been removed to Fort Walla Walla City Park; and 45WW29 is the site of the Whitman Mission Saw Mill that has since been destroyed by stream widening and straightening along this portion of

Ms. Pleasants
April 7, 2011
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Mill Creek. The fifth site, 45WW300, was recorded as the result of a bridge replacement project in 2010. It consists of a collapsed barn with associated debris that will be removed for the placement of a detour road. The project area contains many tributaries of the Walla Walla River and is an area generally considered to be archaeologically sensitive, where surface or deeply buried cultural resources could be present, as evidenced by these five previously-recorded sites. However, given the proposed low-impact vegetation thinning and trimming around residential structures, we anticipate the Undertaking would have little potential to affect intact archaeological deposits. Furthermore, FEMA's project approval will be conditioned to protect any unexpected discoveries of historic or archaeological remains during the fuels reduction work.

We have initiated consultation with the Washington State Historic Preservation Office regarding this Undertaking. We respectfully request comment or further information you wish to share regarding historic properties in the project vicinity that are of religious or cultural interest to the Tribes. This information will be used to inform further identification and evaluation efforts and to determine potential project impacts.

To assist your review please find enclosed project site maps and an aerial. Should you have any questions, please contact Ms. Science Kilner, Deputy Regional Environmental Officer at (425) 487-4713 or science.kilner@dhs.gov. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Mark Eberlein
Regional Environmental Officer

Enclosures

SK:bb



FEMA

April 7, 2011

Teara Farrow
Cultural Resources Protection Program Manager
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
P.O. Box 638
Pendleton, Oregon 97801

Re: FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program FY2010 – Mill Creek Defensible Space Project, Walla Walla County, Washington

Dear Ms. Farrow:

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) proposes to fund Walla Walla County for a fuels reduction project (Undertaking). This funding is available from the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program for FY2010. The proposed Undertaking is being reviewed pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Concurrent with the Section 106 process, FEMA is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the action in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

The proposed Undertaking consists of creating a defensible space around the perimeter of up to 217 residential buildings by reducing and removing hazardous or flammable fuels around a 30-foot radius of each main building. Contractors would conduct vegetation removal activities by hand, which would include thinning, trimming and in some cases, planting grasses. The proposed Undertaking does not include ground-disturbing activity. The project area is located in the Mill Creek drainage area 6 miles to the east of the city of Walla Walla. The project area is found in Sections 26, 35 and 36, Township 8 North, Range 37 East; Sections 1, 2, 10, 13, 14, 22, 23, 25, 26, 34, and 35, Township 7 North, Range 37 East; Sections 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 17, 18, and 19, Township 7 North, Range 38 East; Sections 1, 2, and 12, Township 6 North, Range 37 East; and Sections 7, and 18 in Township 6 North, Range 38 East on the 1976 Walla Walla, Washington, USGS quadrangle. The project area is located along portions of the following roads: Biscuit Ridge Road, Blue Creek Road, Klicker Mountain Road, Lewis Peak Road, Mill Creek Road, Scenic Loop Road, Scott Road, Seaman Road, Spring Creek Road, and Tracy Road.

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along this portion of Mill Creek. The fifth site, 45WW300, was recorded as the result of a bridge replacement project in 2010. It consists of a collapsed barn with associated debris that will be removed for the placement of a detour road. The project area contains many tributaries of the Walla Walla River and is an area generally considered to be archaeologically sensitive, where surface or deeply-buried cultural resources could be present, as evidenced by these five previously-recorded sites. However, given the proposed low-impact vegetation thinning and trimming around residential structures, we anticipate the Undertaking would have little potential to affect intact archaeological deposits. Furthermore, FEMA's project approval will be conditioned to protect any unexpected discoveries of historic or archaeological remains during the fuels reduction work.

We have initiated consultation with the Washington State Historic Preservation Office regarding this Undertaking. We respectfully request comment or further information you wish to share regarding historic properties in the project vicinity that are of religious or cultural interest to the Tribes. This information will be used to inform further identification and evaluation efforts and to determine potential project impacts.

To assist your review please find enclosed project site maps and an aerial. Should you have any questions, please contact Ms. Science Kilner, Deputy Regional Environmental Officer at (425) 487-4713 or science.kilner@dhs.gov. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Mark Eberlein
Regional Environmental Officer

Enclosures

SK:bb

Appendix D
Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

**Federal Emergency Management Agency
Draft Environmental Assessment
Wildfire Mitigation Project in Southeastern Washington**

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) proposes to provide funding to Walla Walla County for a fuels reduction project in Washington. Funding would be provided as authorized by §203 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Assistance and Emergency Relief Act (Stafford Act), 42 U.S. Code.

FEMA prepared a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed project pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and FEMA's implementing regulations found in 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 10. The EA evaluates alternatives for compliance with applicable environmental laws, including Executive Orders 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), 11988 (Floodplain Management), and 12898 (Environmental Justice). The alternatives evaluated in the EA are (1) no action; and (2) fuels reduction by hand in the Mill Creek drainage area, approximately 6 miles southeast of the City of Walla Walla (Proposed Action).

The EA is available for review online at the FEMA environmental Web site at: www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/envdocuments under Region X. If no significant issues are identified during the comment period, FEMA will finalize the EA, issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), and fund the project. Unless substantive comments are received, FEMA will not publish another notice for this project. However, should a FONSI be issued, it will be available for public viewing at www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/envdocuments under Region X.

The draft EA is also available for review on May 25, 2011, at the Walla Walla County District 4 Fire Department, at 2251 S. Howard Street, Walla Walla, WA.

Written comments on the draft EA should be directed no later than 5 p.m. on June 24, 2011 to Mark Eberlein, Regional Environmental Officer, FEMA Region X, 130 228th Street SW, Bothell, WA 98021, or by e-mail to mark.eberlein@dhs.gov. Comments also can be faxed to 425-487-4613.