



**Final Environmental Assessment
Lewis County Fire District #13
Replacement of Fire Station #2 (Substation)
Lewis County, Washington
FEMA-1734-DR-WA (Public Assistance)**

April 18, 2012



FEMA

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Federal Emergency Management Agency – Region X
130 228th Street Southwest
Bothell, Washington 98201-9796

Photo: Pasture Field -- Proposed Substation Location

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Terms Used in this Document	ii
Acronyms Used in this Document	iii
Section 1 Introduction	1
Section 2 Purpose and Need for Action	3
Section 3 Alternatives Analysis	5
3.1 Alternative 1 – No Action.....	5
3.2 Alternative 2 – Proposed Action.....	6
3.3 Other Alternatives Considered.....	8
Section 4 Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences	9
4.1 Floodplains (EO 11988) and Wetlands (EO 11990).....	9
4.2 Historic, Archaeological and Cultural Resources	10
4.3 Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice (EO 12898).....	11
4.4 Public Health and Safety.....	12
Section 5 Cumulative Impacts, Public Involvement, Conclusion	13
Section 6 List of Preparers, Agencies and Persons Consulted & References	15
Appendices	
Appendix A	Figures
Appendix B	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Species Lists
Appendix C	Project Conditions and Conservation Measures
Appendix D	SHPO Concurrence Letter
Appendix E	Public Notice

TERMS USED IN THIS DOCUMENT

Area of Potential Effect (APE) – the geographic area within which an undertaking may cause changes in the character or use of historic properties, if such properties exist. The APE is influenced by the scale and nature of the undertaking.

Best Management Practices (BMPs) – environmental protection practices applied to help ensure that projects are conducted in an environmentally responsible manner.

FEMA Floodway – that portion of the floodplain which is effective in carrying flow, within which this carrying capacity must be preserved and where the flood hazard is generally highest, i.e., where water depths and velocities are the greatest. It is that area which provides for the discharge of the base flood so the cumulative increase in water surface elevation is no more than one foot.

Floodplain – the lowland and relatively flat areas adjoining inland and coastal waters including, at a minimum, that area subject to a one percent or greater chance of flooding in any given year.

Nonattainment Area – the geographic area designated by EPA at 40 CFR Part 81 as exceeding a National Ambient Air Quality Standard for a given criteria pollutant. An area is nonattainment only for the pollutants for which the area has been designated nonattainment.

Prime Farmland – land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, fiber, forage, oilseed and other agricultural crops with minimum inputs of fuel, fertilizer, pesticides, and labor, and without intolerable soil erosion, as determined by the Secretary. Prime Farmland includes land that possesses the above characteristics but is being used currently to produce livestock feed, and timber. It does not include land already in or committed to urban development or water storage.

ACRONYMS USED IN THIS DOCUMENT

ACM – Asbestos Containing Material

CEQ – Council on Environmental Quality

CFR – Code of Federal Regulations

DAP – Disaster Assistance Policy

DAHP – (Washington State) Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

EA – Environmental Assessment

EIS – Environmental Impact Statement

EMD – (Washington State) Emergency Management Division

EMT – Emergency Medical Technician

EO – (Presidential) Executive Order

FEMA – Federal Emergency Management Agency

FPPA – Farmland Protection Policy Act

FONSI – Finding of No Significant Impact

LCFD#13 – Lewis County Fire District #13

NEPA – National Environmental Policy Act

NHPA – National Historic Preservation Act

NRCS – (U.S. Department of Agriculture) Natural Resources Conservation Service

SHPO – State Historic Preservation Office

USFWS – U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act of 1973 (Stafford Act), as amended, provides federal assistance programs for both public and private losses sustained in disasters. FEMA provides assistance to private citizens, public entities, and non-profit groups following declared disasters. The Lewis County Fire District #13 (LCFD#13 or Fire District) applied, through the Washington State Emergency Management Division (EMD), to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for funding to replace a substation (Station #2) that was damaged by flooding. The LCFD#13 is an all-volunteer fire department and the fire station is unmanned. The existing fire station and new location on which the fire station would be constructed is in Lewis County, Washington, on property owned by the Fire District (see Figure 1, Project Vicinity Map). The proposed new fire station location is:

NW ¼ of Section 31, T13N, R3W, Willamette Meridian (Latitude 46.575457, Longitude - 123.114016).

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Part 1500 through 1508) direct FEMA and other federal agencies to take into consideration the environmental consequences of proposed federally funded projects.

The CEQ and FEMA regulations (44 CFR Section 10) that implement NEPA require NEPA documents to be concise, focus on the issues relevant to the project, and exclude extraneous background data and discussion of subjects that are not relevant or would duplicate analyses already provided to the public. Accordingly, the following subjects are not evaluated in detail in this EA for the following reasons:

Subject	Analysis
Air Quality	The project is not in a nonattainment area, and is located in an area that is sparsely developed. Construction would create dust and vehicle and equipment emissions; however, impacts would be temporary. The proposed substation would replace an existing facility and does not increase current operations.
Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA)	The proposed substation location has soils that are classified as "Prime Farmland" according to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Lewis County soil survey map. The proposed substation site was evaluated by FEMA in coordination with NRCS. The NRCS Farmland Conversion Impact Rating form (AD1006) was prepared, and total points were less than 160. Thus, the site is considered farmland

	“committed to urban development” and requires no further review under the FPPA [7 CFR Ch. VI Part 658.2(a) and 658.4(c)(2)].
Fish & Wildlife	The proposed project site is a pasture, and wildlife on the site would be common for species accustomed to human activity such as rodents and coyote. No surface water exists on the site and fish are not present. No sensitive, threatened or endangered species are known to use or inhabit the site.
Geology and Soils	The proposed project would result in construction-related impacts to soils, which is Lacamas Silt Loam. The topography is relatively flat at both locations and impacts to geology and soils are expected to be minor.
Hazardous and Toxic Materials	Construction of the fire substation is not expected to result in any hazardous materials or toxic waste-related impacts. The substation would be located in a pasture, and constructed in compliance with applicable Lewis County building codes and standards relating to building materials.
Noise	Short-term construction-related noise would result during construction of the substation (there are no plans to demolish the existing substation as it could be used for other purposes). The proposed project would replace an existing facility, and is not expected to increase current noise level or frequency. Although the substation would be built 1.2 miles from its current location, the new location is farmland and development is sparse and dispersed in the area. Residents across the street (Beville Road) would hear noise when there is activity at the station; however, the substation would be unmanned, house only an engine and water tender, and is anticipated to receive only 10% of the calls, which average—for the entire fire district (not just the substation)—once a week for aid/rescue and once a month for fire apparatus.
Land Use and Socioeconomics	The project area is primarily farmland and rural residential. The existing substation would remain where it is (although no longer used as a fire station), and the new substation would be constructed on farmland that was donated by the landowner for the purpose of building the new fire station. Relocation of the fire station is not expected to result in socioeconomic impacts, other than the potential beneficial impact of continuing to provide fire protection services to the area.
Traffic	The proposed project, to replace the substation, is not expected to result in an increase of traffic. However, a minor reduction in traffic from the substation at its current location and minor increase in traffic at its new

	location would likely occur. Because the area is sparsely developed, and the fire station is unmanned and used only when there is a call for assistance (i.e. the fire station does not generate daily commute trips), any changes in traffic are expected to be negligible.
Vegetation	The substation’s proposed location currently has pasture grasses. Brush (e.g. Himalayan blackberry, Scotts broom) would be cleared for the access driveway from King Road. Trees near the south end of the parcel would not be removed.
Visual Quality	The substation would be constructed on land that is currently a pasture, and would add a built element to a rural setting. Lighting at night would also change the visual setting. The impacts would be small, however, due to the small scale of the building (1,512 square feet). The building and driveway face King Road on the north end of the parcel, and lighting would be limited to the front of the station. Side and rear lighting would be by motion sensors, further reducing potential light impacts.
Water	The substation is not near a water body. Applicable best management practices (BMPs) would be used including erosion control measures, stabilization of exposed areas within 24 hours of reaching grade, and hydroseed or plastic covering over exposed areas immediately after construction.

2.0 PURPOSE AND NEED

The purpose of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act of 1973 (Stafford Act), as amended, is to provide a wide range of federal assistance for states and local governments significantly impacted by disasters or emergencies or both. The purpose of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Public Assistance (PA) Grant Program is to provide assistance to State, Tribal and local governments, and certain types of Private Nonprofit organizations so that communities can quickly respond to and recover from major disasters or emergencies declared by the President. Through the PA Program, FEMA provides supplemental Federal disaster grant assistance for debris removal, emergency protective measures, and the repair, restoration, reconstruction, or replacement of disaster-damaged or destroyed publicly owned facilities and the facilities of certain Private Non-Profit (PNP) organizations. The need for the FEMA action is to provide funds to Lewis County Fire District #13 (LCFD#13 or Fire District) to relocate a fire station damaged by flooding. The President declared a federal disaster for the region, making funds available to public entities for damage repairs.

During a December 2007 storm event, LCFD#13's substation was flooded when a debris jam at a bridge caused water from the South Fork Chehalis River flood its banks (see aerial photo). The facility sustained such damage that the Lewis County Building Official condemned the structure.



The LCFD#13 is an all volunteer department providing both fire and emergency medical technician (EMT) services to approximately 800 residents in the Boistfort Valley, an area of 102 square miles. The Fire District also provides support to neighboring fire districts when their capacity is exceeded. The department has 15 firefighters and 11 EMTs (five of whom are both, Firefighter/EMTs). In order to provide the prescribed coverage the Fire District has three strategically located stations with a total of eight vehicles.

The substation received substantial structural damage from the December 2007 flood event. The County building official has condemned the structure and will not allow it to be permanently repaired for fire station use so it must be replaced with a structure that meets current code (see Section 3.3 for additional detail).

2.1 PROJECT CRITERIA

The CEQ regulations require reasonable alternatives be identified, evaluated, and compared. Reasonable alternatives are alternative ways of meeting project objectives and criteria, but with varying degrees of environmental impact. Alternatives that would clearly result in substantially greater environmental impact than the Preferred Alternative do not require detailed analysis. The following project criteria are identified by the LCFD#13:

1. Flood Hazard. The primary focus for a new site is to relocate the fire station outside the area that flooded.

2. Response Time. The Fire District requires locations for its fire stations that optimize (minimize) response times for its residents and businesses. Fire stations are located so that service is no more than 5 driving miles away in order to expedite emergency response. Beyond safety considerations, response times can be an important factor with insurance coverage for residences and businesses.
3. Site Constraints. A new site needs to be of sufficient size that it can easily accommodate the movements of Fire District vehicles and equipment, as well as provide parking for volunteers and visitors.
4. Volunteers. The Fire District is an all-volunteer department. Any new site should be conveniently located for volunteers traveling to the fire hall from a variety of locations throughout the Fire District service area.
5. Cost. Cost is an important consideration for a small all-volunteer organization such as LCFD#13.
6. Availability of Property. Property must be available.

3.0 ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS

This section discusses the alternatives considered in this EA: (1) the No Action Alternative, (2) the Proposed Action (or Preferred Alternative) toward which FEMA would contribute funding, and (3) Other Alternatives Considered and Not Carried Forward in the analysis.

3.1 ALTERNATIVE 1 – NO ACTION

The No Action Alternative is required by the CEQ regulations to be included in the analysis, serves to provide a baseline of existing conditions and current impacts to resources in the project area, and is used to compare and contrast the impacts to resources of the other (action) alternatives. Under the No Action Alternative, FEMA would not provide funding to replace the damaged fire station.

The substation is a three-bay facility that houses a fire engine, water tender and aid car. Prior to the 2007 flood event, it had a restroom, laundry, office, and storage area. Since the flood, the substation has been used as a garage for Fire District apparatus.

Under the No Action Alternative, the LCFD#13 would continue to house equipment in the condemned station until such time as funds became available to construct a new station. If other funding did not become available, and the Fire District were not able to use the existing building (because the County has indicated that Fire District would have to vacate), this alternative could result in a lack of adequate fire service. For these reasons, the No Action Alternative does not restore the Fire District's fire and emergency medical services to its pre-disaster capacity and does not meet the project objectives discussed in Section 2.1.

3.2 ALTERNATIVE 2 – PROPOSED ACTION (THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE)

Substation (Station #2)

The existing substation would remain in its current location and is not part of the Proposed Action. The substation has been condemned for use as a fire station (it may be used for other purposes, although future uses are unknown at this time) and a new substation is proposed to be constructed on King Road 1.2 miles from the current station (see Figure 1).

The proposed station location is farmland and currently used for pasture (see Figure 2). No structures would be demolished or affected as there are none in the immediate vicinity.

The proposed substation would be 1,512 square feet and have a paved access driveway off King Road (30 feet by 124 feet), parking area (20 feet by 30 feet) adjacent to the building, and apron (36 feet by 40 feet) in front of the building. The construction area would be graded. Staging would take place within the confines of the property lines.

The substation would have a two-bay garage for an engine and water tender. By eliminating the restroom and laundry area, the need for a water supply and septic system was eliminated and cost of construction was reduced.

CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE

Construction is expected to start in early summer. A preliminary construction schedule includes the following general tasks:

Task	Estimated Duration in working days
Mobilization	2
Install sediment and erosion control	1
Clear and grub	2
Demolition	N/A
Construction	120
Revegetation	1
Final inspection	1
Site clean-up	1
De-mobilization	1
TOTAL	129*

*Weather permitting

Permits identified at this time that may be required for construction include Lewis County building permits and a road access permit.

MITIGATION

Prior to and during construction, sediment and erosion control measures and best management practices will be installed on and around the project site to minimize adverse impacts. Bare earth will be re-seeded and hayed to reduce potential sedimentation in stormwater run-off, and the silt fence will remain in place until the vegetation is re-established.

The following mitigation measures will be employed and are included as part of the Proposed Action (additional mitigation measures may be identified as conditions of permits and approvals by agencies with jurisdiction):

Resource	Mitigation
General	<p>Construction and clearing limits will be clearly marked on the ground and will not extend beyond the minimum area required to complete the work. Sensitive areas, if any, will be flagged to delineate no-work zones.</p> <p>No machinery or equipment will access areas outside the construction limits.</p> <p>All mitigation measures will be clearly stated in the construction specifications.</p>
Vegetation	Vegetation beyond the clearing zone will not be removed or damaged.
Water Quality and Soils	<p>Construction activities are planned to take place during the summer construction season.</p> <p>All disturbed ground will be reclaimed using appropriate best management practices. The measures described below will be maintained until the grade is stable and vegetation is re-established.</p> <p>Sediment and erosion control will be implemented to prevent or reduce non-point source pollution and minimize soil loss and sedimentation. These practices may include, but are not limited to, silt fence, filter fabric, check dams, straw wattles, and seeding/mulching of exposed areas.</p> <p>Regular site inspections will be conducted to ensure erosion control measures are properly installed and functioning effectively.</p> <p>Equipment, materials and procedures necessary to prevent and respond to hazardous spills will be maintained on-site at all times.</p>

3.3 OTHER ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND NOT CARRIED FORWARD

Other alternatives were considered but dismissed from further evaluation because they did not meet the project criteria discussed in Section 2.1, above.

Repair of the Fire Station

The existing substation is in a mapped floodplain, was damaged by flooding, and cannot remain as a fire station (a “critical facility”) at its current location.

Lewis County Code 15.35.300, Critical Facilities, states:

Critical facilities should be afforded additional flood protection due to their nature. Construction of new critical facilities shall be located outside the limits of the 100-year floodplain as identified on the community’s FIRM, or as identified by Lewis County as being an area of high flood risk whether or not the location is identified on the FIRM, unless no alternative location is feasible. Substantial modification of existing critical facilities shall include an analysis of whether relocation is feasible. Construction of new critical facilities permitted within the 100-year frequency floodplain shall have the lowest floor elevated to three or more feet above the level of the 100-year frequency flood. [Ord. 1204 Exh. A § 5, 2008; Ord. 1157, 1998; Ord. 1145 § 7(B)(5), 1995]

Further, under the repair alternative, the structure would continue to be subject to flooding.

Replacement of the Fire Station in the Same Location

This alternative involves demolition of the existing structure and its replacement including elevation of the structure as required by County Code.

The substation is located in a mapped floodplain and, as a critical facility, needs to be relocated out of the floodplain unless there is no alternative. Since a new location that meets project criteria, including being located out of the floodplain, has been identified by the Fire District, the substation cannot remain in its current location.

New Sites

The Fire District initiated discussions with landowners regarding the availability of land in the valley. The requirement to elevate or relocate a new fire station outside the area that flooded effectively limited the number of possible new locations. Relocating the fire station to the west of the Chehalis River would substantially increase travel time and reduce existing levels of service.

The Fire District evaluated a location east of Boistfort Road in the 200-300 block area. The landowners of this property were also not receptive to a fire station. In addition, this location was on the west side of the Chehalis River and approximately 80% of the residents served by the Fire District live on the east side of the river. Also, all but one volunteer live on the east side of the river. Because the fire station needs to be outside the high water mark of the 2007 flood, the new station location needs to be east of Boistfort Road (approximately the first 5 miles of Boistfort Road was under water in the 2007 flood). The only available site that met the Fire District’s criteria was located at Beville and King Roads.

4.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

This section discusses the existing condition of affected resources and the potential effects of the No Action and Proposed Action alternatives.

4.1 FLOODPLAINS (EO 11988) AND WETLANDS (EO 11990)

EO 11988 (Floodplains) requires federal agencies to reduce the risk of flood loss, minimize the impact on human health, safety, and welfare, and restore the natural and beneficial values served by floodplains. Under FEMA's implementing regulations at 44 CFR Part 9, FEMA must evaluate the potential effects of any actions it may take in a floodplain and consider alternatives to avoid adverse effects. Similarly, EO 11990 (Wetlands) requires that federal agencies take action to minimize the destruction, loss, or degradation of wetlands, and to preserve and enhance the natural and beneficial effects of wetlands. Federal agencies, in planning their actions, are required to consider alternatives to wetland sites and limit potential damage if an activity affecting a wetland cannot be avoided. Federal agencies are also required under 44 CFR Part 9 to provide public notice and review of plans for actions in floodplains and wetlands. The public notice for this disaster and public review of the Draft EA meet FEMA's public notice and review requirements.

Floodplains

The substation (both existing and proposed) is on FIRM Panel #5301020240B, dated December 15, 1981. The damaged substation is located in Zone A, a 100-year floodplain without base flood elevations established.

The proposed substation location is in an area mapped as Zone C, which is not in a 100-year or 500-year floodplain and has low flood hazard potential.

Wetlands

Based on the National Wetland Inventory and field observations, the No Action and Proposed Action alternatives would not take place in or affect wetlands.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

Alternative 1 – No Action

Under this alternative, there would be no new construction. Operations would continue until such time as the Fire District is no longer allowed to operate from the condemned structure. The existing structure may be subject to future flood events. Consequently, under the No Action alternative there would be the potential for flood-related impacts on the fire station, the ability of the Fire District to provide EMT and fire protection service, and on the surrounding area if flooding creates debris from the structures.

Alternative 2 –Proposed Action

The location of the fire station under the Proposed Action is not in mapped floodplain and no impacts on the floodplain or from flooding are anticipated at the new site. Additionally, the new location would not promote further occupancy or modification to the floodplain as it is replacing an existing fire station.

4.2 HISTORIC, ARCHAEOLOGIC, AND HISTORIC RESOURCES

The area of potential effect (APE) for the substation extends out one tax parcel beyond the site proposed for the new substation in order to consider potential visual impacts on any historic structures in the area. The western two-thirds of the APE is an open field currently used for cattle pasturage. A power line passes through the easternmost third of the APE. According to Lewis County Fire Chief Gregg Peterson, the transmission line originally ran parallel to an old section of Beville Road that was altered to enter King Road at a 90 degree angle as a safety precaution. Thus the east end of the APE has been previously disturbed.

The APE is located in the Chehalis River Valley. The occupation of the Chehalis River valley began during the Clovis period, circa 11,000 BP. The earliest evidence for human occupation in the project vicinity consists of several fluted points found near the city of Chehalis (Meltzer et al. 1987; Osborne 1956).

The late Holocene (circa 4000 BP) saw a shift toward increasingly sedentary lifeways and more intensive exploitation of local resources. Fish, marine and plant products become more prominent in the diet, coinciding with investment in food preservation and storage systems (Herbel and Schalk 2002). This lifeway continued and intensified into the Late Prehistoric or Late Pacific periods (circa 2200–200 BP).

Population levels in the Lewis County region appear to have increased during the Late Period, and lifeways documented in early historic accounts appear to have been established. Toward the end of this period and the advent of the historic era, Native American communities throughout the area began to be dramatically affected by the arrival of Euro-American populations. Although direct contact did not always occur during the early years of the nineteenth century, indirect impacts, in the form of spreading epidemics, had significant effects on population levels just the same (Boyd 1998; Campbell 1989).

In the early nineteenth century, Native American groups of the Southwestern Coast Salish tradition occupied the Chehalis River Valley (Hajda 1990). They were politically organized at the village level, but recognized larger group associations based on dialect and cultural similarity. The APE for the proposed project is located in an area of joint occupation by Upper Chehalis and Cowlitz groups. This locale was also known for villages of the Athapascan-speaking Kwalhioqua group, who merged with the Cowlitz after European contact (Ruby and Brown 1992:103).

Euro-American settlers began to move into the area around Boistfort in the 1850s. Some had come west from the states of Illinois, Ohio, and New Hampshire; others listed Scotland, Bohemia, Ireland, Canada, Switzerland, France, and England as their place of birth (US Census 1860). They established farms, logged wood from the abundant forests, and built relationships with local Native American tribes.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

Archaeologists with Historical Research Associates (HRA) conducted an inventory of the area that will be impacted by the proposed project using a combination of pedestrian transects and shovel probes. No archaeological resources were identified during the inventory of the area that will be impacted within the Substation APE. No historic properties, or properties eligible for listing, were identified in the APE.

Alternative 1 – No Action

Under the No Action Alternative, the project would not be funded by FEMA, and there would be no effects to any historic properties or archaeological resources. However, this alternative would result in a decrease in fire protection and emergency response services in the area.

Alternative 2 –Proposed Action

Since the results of the archaeological and historic properties investigation were negative, there would be no effect to archaeological resources within the APE for the proposed Substation. However, FEMA would condition funding with the requirement that, in the event archaeological or historic materials are discovered during project activities, work in the immediate vicinity shall be discontinued, the area secured, and the State and FEMA notified.

4.3 SOCIOECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE (EO 12898)

Executive Order (EO) 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations, directs federal agencies to identify and address, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority and low-income populations in the US resulting from federal programs, policies, and activities. Socioeconomic and demographic data for residents in Lewis County were studied to determine if a disproportionate number (defined as greater than 50 percent) of minority or low-income persons have the potential to be affected by the project alternatives.

U.S. Census Bureau 2010 data for Lewis County reports the County population as 75,455 people. Race data include the racial breakdown percentages of 0.5% black, 1.3% Indian, 0.9% Asian, 8.7% Hispanic and 2.6% “Other” or a mix of two or more races.

The median incomes for households and families in the county were \$35,511 and \$41,105, respectively. Approximately 10.4% of families and 14% of the population were below the poverty line, including approximately 18.6% of those under age 18 and 9.4% of those individuals

age 65 and over.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

Alternative 1 – No Action

The No Action alternative would result in reduced levels of fire protection and EMS service to all residents within the LCFD#13 service area, regardless of racial status or income level.

Alternative 2 –Proposed Action

The Proposed Action, to replace the substation would not result in disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority and low-income populations because of the small scale and limited nature of construction, temporary nature of impacts, and sparsely populated and rural nature of the project area.

The new fire substation would benefit all residents within the Fire District service area, including minority and low-income residents. No disproportionately high and adverse impacts on minority or low-income populations would occur.

4.4 PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

The LCFD #13 provides fire and EMS services to a resident population of approximately 800 people over a service area of approximately 102 square miles. The Fire District operates three fire stations. The substation (Station #2) needs to be replaced due to flood damage. The existing fire stations have served the Boistfort Valley community since the 1960s.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

Alternative 1 – No Action

This alternative has several adverse impacts on public safety. First, the existing structure, while “...safe for temporary occupancy...” (Lewis County Fire District #13, 2011), places Fire District staff at risk because of the weakened structural integrity of the building.

Second, inadequate facilities and equipment limit the capabilities of the Fire District to respond to fire and emergency medical calls. Response times can increase and the levels of service experienced by area residents and businesses can decline. Further, in the event of a major widespread disaster that results in severe damage, the Fire District could find itself unable to provide desired levels of service to area residents. In addition, other neighboring Fire Districts that depend on LCFD#13 to supplement their capabilities would not be able to receive assistance.

Finally, the No Action Alternative would not be in compliance with the County’s requirement to relocate Fire Station #2 to a site outside the area that was flooded (Lewis County Code 1335).

Alternative 2 –Proposed Action

Under this alternative, the substation would be constructed outside the floodplain. This alternative would meet the County’s requirement to be outside the flood zone and would not be subject to recurrent flood events.

Overall, the new site and structure would provide a safe operating environment for Fire District personnel and would enhance the capabilities of the fire District to serve its residents and support residents of neighboring fire districts.

5.0 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Cumulative effects or impacts are defined as “the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (federal or non-federal) or person undertakes such other actions” (40 CFR 1508.7). Cumulative effects are determined by combining the effects of an action with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions.

The foreseeable impacts are associated with construction activities during construction of the substation. The contribution of noise and of dust from equipment and vehicle emissions during construction activities would not result in a measurable contribution to cumulative impacts on air quality to greenhouse gases, or to climate change.

The primary intent of this project is to restore the fire protection and EMS services that existed prior to the flood event. Other than reducing any cumulative flooding impacts by locating the substation out of the flood zone, no other cumulative impacts are likely.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

FEMA is the lead federal agency for conducting the NEPA compliance process prior to deciding whether to fund the road relocation project. As the lead agency, FEMA prepares NEPA documents, responds to any public comments, meets the spirit and intent of NEPA, and complies with all NEPA provisions.

In addition to FEMA’s public involvement process, Lewis County Fire District #13 has provided opportunities for the involvement of its residents, businesses, and local government entities through a number of outreach efforts and venues. Public meetings were held to present initial designs, present progress, and receive input from the residents of the district. The first meeting was held at the Baw Faw Grange Hall. The Fire District advertised the meeting with a notice in the local newspaper (The Daily Chronicle) and on the reader board on Boistfort Road in front of Station #1 and the Grange Hall. Fire Chief Peterson, Architect Norm Pfaff, Commissioners Fenn, Munroe, and Macnab presented the project status and station plans.

To gain additional community input, the project status and plans were presented a second time at the next Lions Club meeting. Attendance and participation at both meetings was reported as having been very good.

Several meetings have been held with members of the Firefighters Association to gain their input on the project. The Fire District also had one-on-one reviews with residents who weren't able to attend the public meetings or who wanted additional information.

The proposal was also discussed and reviewed with appropriate County and local agencies including the County Building Department officials, Community Development Department planners, Road Department, Environmental Health, Auditor's and Assessor's Offices as well as the local Public Utility District (PUD) and Water District (LCFD#13 2011).

Because of the public/community involvement that the Fire District has already provided regarding the project, FEMA determined that a review period of 15 days after the publication of the Public Notice was sufficient for public review of the Draft EA. The Draft EA was posted on FMA's website and e-mailed to 19 recipients. The LCFD#13 posted the Public Notice at the Boistfort Store, Curtis Store, outside the Curtis Post Office, and at the entrances to the fire stations. On March 24, 2012, the LCFD#13 Volunteer Firefighters Association had a community breakfast at the Baw Faw Grange Hall where over 100 people from the valley attended and had the opportunity to see the Public Notice and to ask questions. Reportedly, the most frequently asked question was regarding when construction would begin. One letter from the Lewis County Building Official was received during the public comment period. The letter expressed support for the proposed substation.

6.0 LIST OF PREPARERS

Mark Eberlein, FEMA, Region X, Regional Environmental Officer
Diori Kreske, FEMA, Region X, Environmental Advisor
Aaron Fogel, FEMA Archaeologist
Lynn Compas, Historical Research Associates, Inc.

AGENCIES AND PERSONS CONSULTED

Lewis County Fire District #13

Commissioners: Dave Fenn, Chairman; Bill Macnab
Gregg Peterson, Fire Chief

Lewis County

Fred Chapman, Building Official and Fire Marshal

Tribes

Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis
Cowlitz Indian Tribe
Nisqually Indian Tribe of the Nisqually Reservation
Shoalwater Bay Tribe

Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

Allyson Brooks, PhD, State Historic Preservation Officer
Robert Whitlam, PhD, State Archaeologist

Washington Emergency Management Division

Gary Urbas, Deputy State Coordinating Officer
Jill Nordstrom, Regional Public Assistance Supervisor

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service

Charles Natsuhara, Area Resource Soil Scientist

REFERENCES

Lewis County. 2010. Comprehensive Plan.

Lewis County Code 15.35.300, Critical Facilities [Ord. 1204 Exh. A § 5, 2008; Ord. 1157, 1998; Ord. 1145 § 7(B)(5), 1995]

Lewis County Fire District #13. 2011. Letter dated July 18, 2011 from Marg Knipp, for Commissioner Bill Macnab. 2p.

[USDA NRCS Farmland Protection Policy Act Website](#)

USDA NRCS. 2011. E-mail dated October 13, 2011 and Letter dated October 19, 2011 from Charles Natsuhara, Area Resource Soil Scientist.

USDA, Rural Development, Environmental Compliance Library, USDA Departmental Policy for the Farmland Protection Policy Act, found at:

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/pdf/7cfr658.pdf>

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. 1993. Applicability of RCRA disposal requirements to lead-based paint abatement wastes. Final Report. EPA 747-R-93-006. Technical Programs Branch, Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics. March, 1993.

USFWS. 2011. National Wetlands Inventory: <http://137.227.242.85/wetland/>. Accessed June 29, 2011

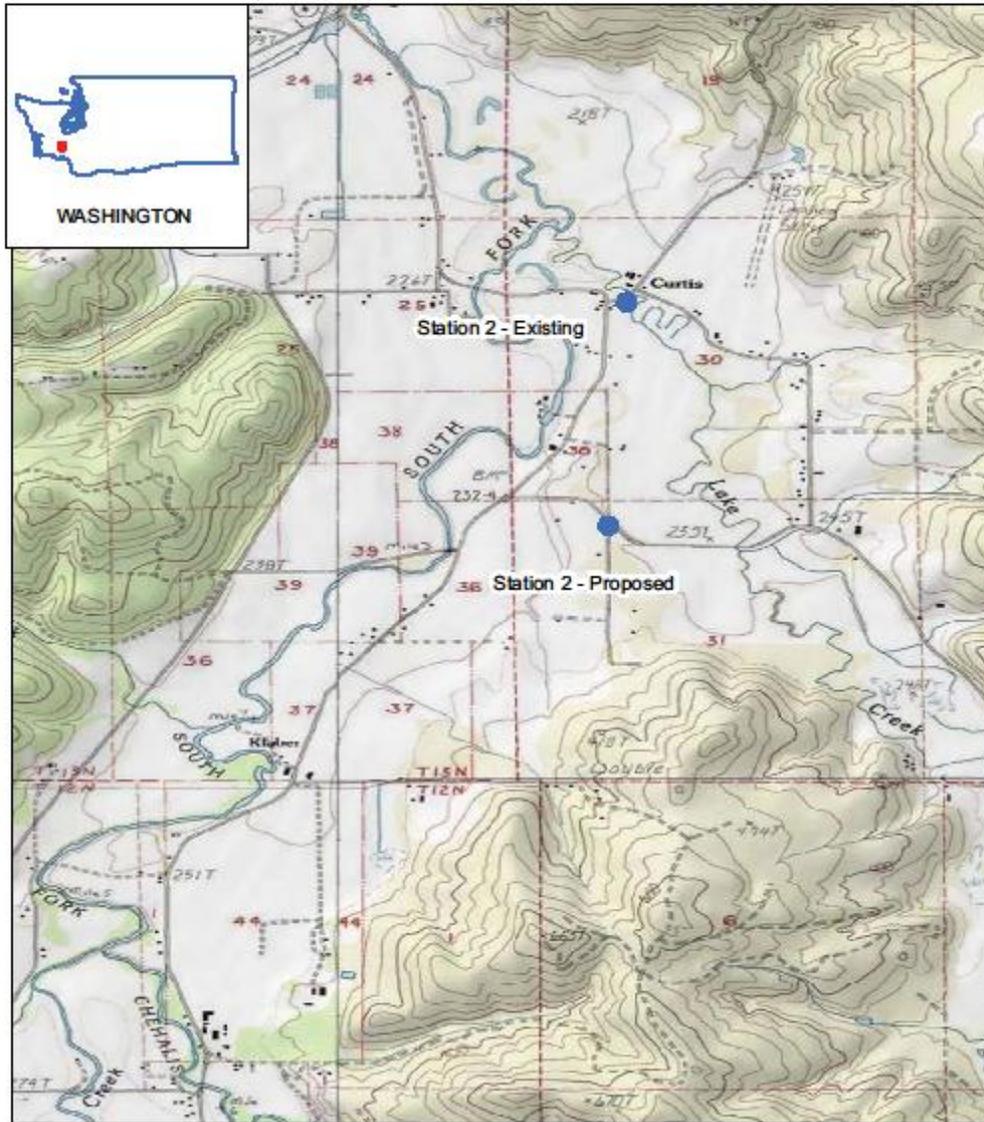
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. 2011. SalmonScape.

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/mapping/salmonscape/>. Accessed June 28, 2011.

Wikipedia. 2011. Lewis County, Washington.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lewis_County,_Washington. Accessed September 14, 2011.

Figure 1. Project Vicinity Map
LCFD#13 Replacement of Fire Station #2



Public Assistance Section, Washington State Emergency Management Division
March 8, 2012

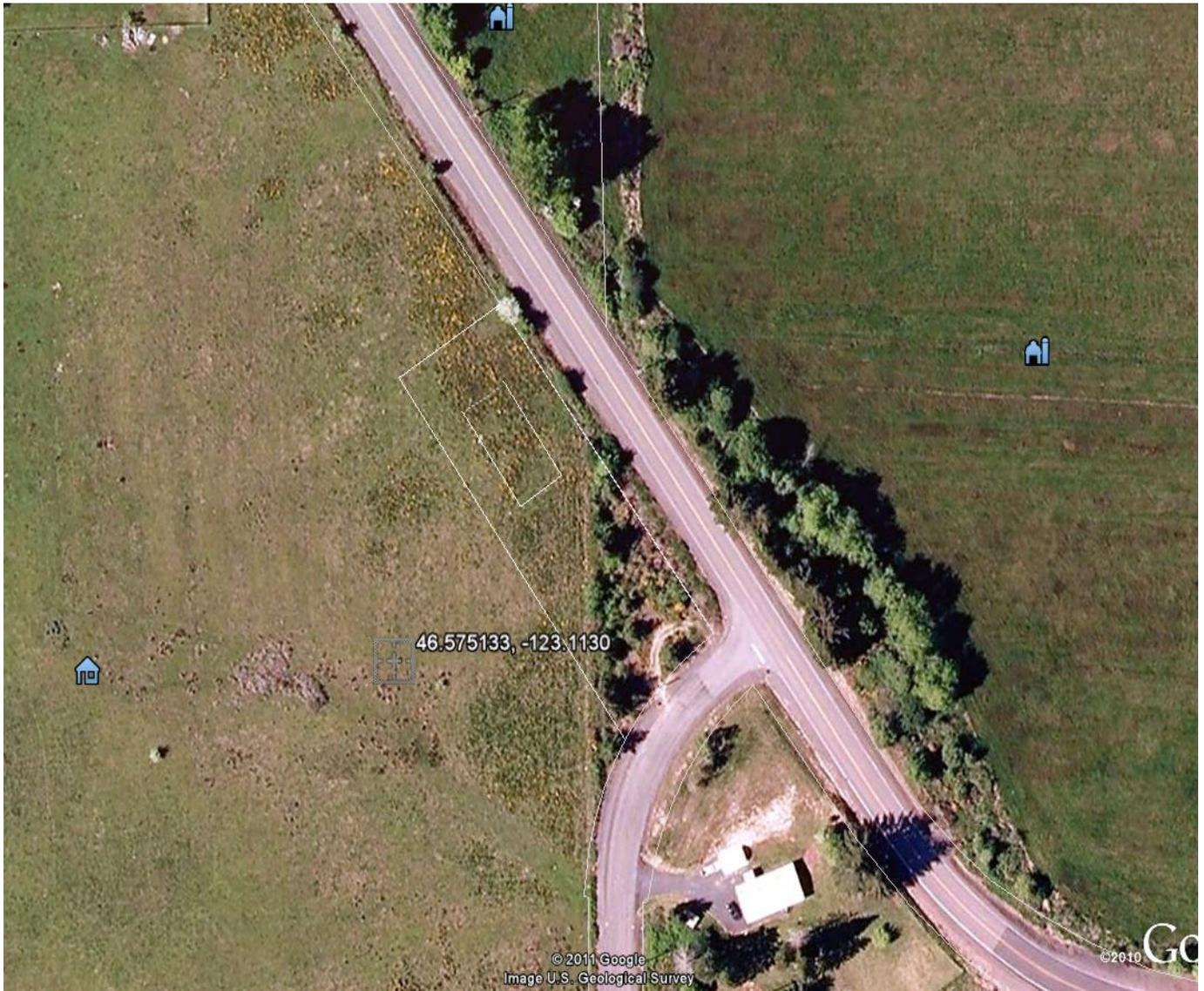


Figure 2. Station #2 – New Location

(Footprint of the station building is the inner rectangle inside parcel boundary)

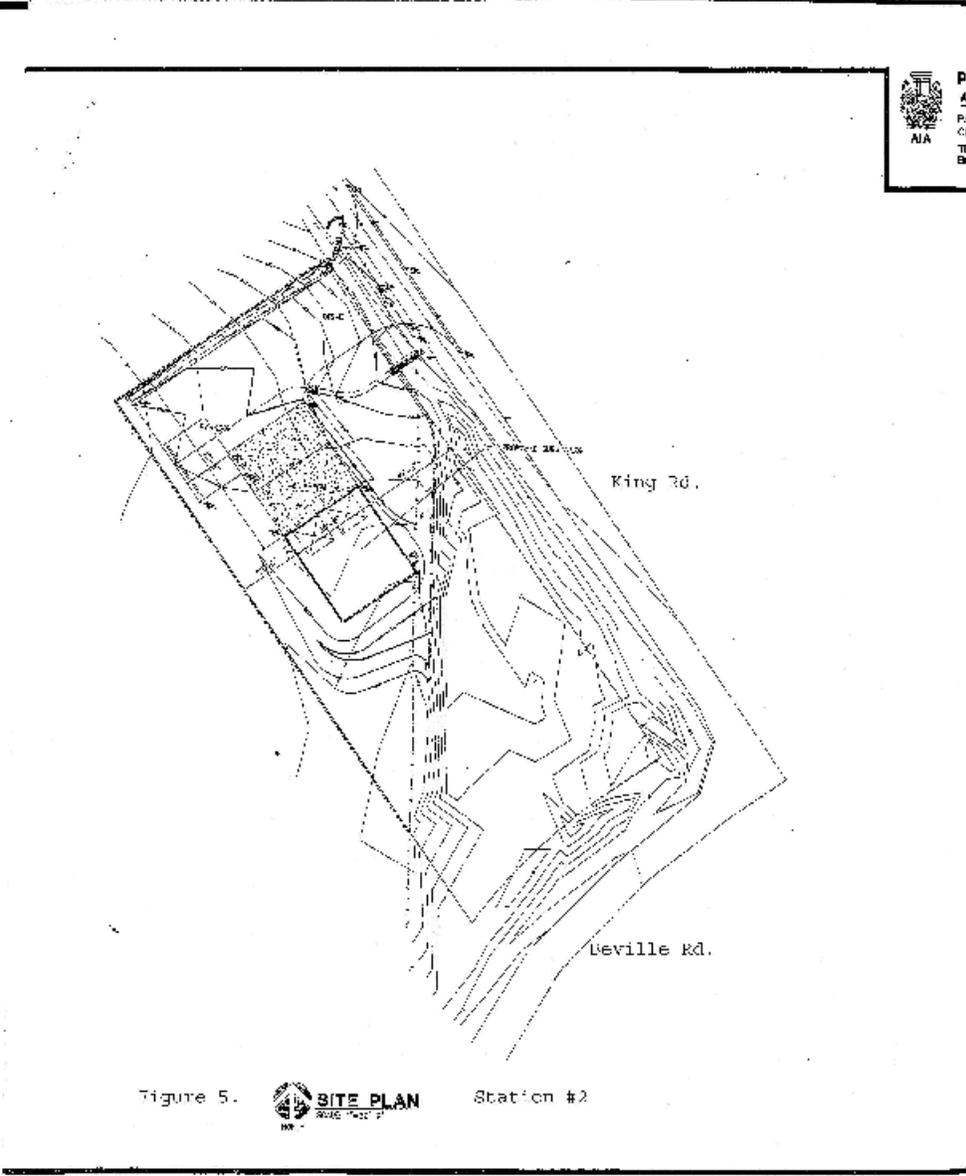


Figure 3 – Station #2 Site Plan (double click on figure to enlarge and show detail)

APPENDIX B

**LISTED AND PROPOSED ENDANGERED AND THREATENED SPECIES AND
CRITICAL HABITAT; CANDIDATE SPECIES; AND SPECIES OF CONCERN
IN LEWIS COUNTY
AS PREPARED BY
THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
WASHINGTON FISH AND WILDLIFE OFFICE**

(Revised August 1, 2011)

LISTED

Canada lynx (*Lynx canadensis*)
Gray wolf (*Canis lupus*)
Grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos* = *U. a. horribilis*)
Marbled murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*)
Northern spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*)

Major concerns that should be addressed in your Biological Assessment of project impacts to listed species include:

1. Level of use of the project area by listed species.
2. Effect of the project on listed species' primary food stocks, prey species, and foraging areas in all areas influenced by the project.
3. Impacts from project activities and implementation (e.g., increased noise levels, increased human activity and/or access, loss or degradation of habitat) that may result in disturbance to listed species and/or their avoidance of the project area.

Lupinus sulphureus ssp. *kincaidii* (Kincaid's lupine)
Sidalcea nelsoniana (Nelson's checkermallow)

Major concerns that should be addressed in your Biological Assessment of project impacts to listed plant species include:

1. Distribution of taxon in project vicinity.
2. Disturbance (trampling, uprooting, collecting, etc.) of individual plants and loss of habitat.
2. Changes in hydrology where taxon is found.

DESIGNATED

Critical habitat for the marbled murrelet
Critical habitat for the northern spotted owl
Critical habitat for *Lupinus sulphureus* ssp. *kincaidii* (Kincaid's lupine)

PROPOSED

None

CANDIDATE

Fisher (*Martes pennanti*) – West Coast DPS
North American wolverine (*Gulo gulo luteus*) – contiguous U.S. DPS
Whitebark pine (*Pinus albicaulis*)

SPECIES OF CONCERN

Bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)
Cascades frog (*Rana cascadae*)
Coastal cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki clarki*) [southwest Washington DPS]
Columbia torrent salamander (*Rhyacotriton kezeri*)
Larch Mountain salamander (*Plethodon larselli*)
Long-eared myotis (*Myotis evotis*)
Long-legged myotis (*Myotis volans*)
Northern goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*)
Northwestern pond turtle (*Emys* (= *Clemmys*) *marmorata marmorata*)
Olive-sided flycatcher (*Contopus cooperi*)
Oregon vesper sparrow (*Pooecetes gramineus affinis*)
Pacific lamprey (*Lampetra tridentata*)
Pacific Townsend's big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii townsendii*)
Peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)
River lamprey (*Lampetra ayresi*)
Tailed frog (*Ascaphus truei*)
Valley silverspot (*Speyeria zerene bremeri*)
Van Dyke's salamander (*Plethodon vandykei*)
Western gray squirrel (*Sciurus griseus griseus*)
Western toad (*Bufo boreas*)
Cimicifuga elata (tall bugbane)
Delphinium leucophaeum (pale larkspur)
Meconella oregana (white meconella)

APPENDIX C

PROJECT CONDITIONS AND CONSERVATION MEASURES

The following conditions and measures shall be followed:

1. The applicant shall obtain all required local, state, and federal permits and approvals prior to implementing the Proposed Action Alternative and comply with any and all conditions imposed.
2. The applicant is responsible for selecting, implementing, monitoring, and maintaining best management practices to control erosion and sediment, reduce spills and pollution.
3. Any change to the approved scope of work will require re-evaluation for compliance with NEPA and other laws and Executive Orders.
4. In the event that archaeological or historic materials are discovered during project activities, work in the immediate vicinity should be discontinued, the area secured, and the State, affected Tribe, and FEMA notified.

APPENDIX D



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY & HISTORIC PRESERVATION

1063 S. Capitol Way, Suite 106 • Olympia, Washington 98501
Mailing address: PO Box 48343 • Olympia, Washington 98504-8343
(360) 586-3065 • Fax Number (360) 586-3067 • Website: www.dahp.wa.gov

March 19, 2012

Mr. Mark Eberlein
FEMA- Region X
130 228th Street SW
Bothell, Washington 98021

Re: Lewis County Fire District # 13 New Station Project
FEMA# 1734-DR-WA / PW-1615
Log No.: 012612-01-FEMA

Dear Mr. Eberlein:

Thank you for contacting our department. We have reviewed the materials you provided for the proposed Lewis County Fire District # 13 New Station Project, Lewis County, Washington.

Thank you for your description of the Area of Potential Effect (APE). We concur with the proposed APE. We look forward to receiving the results of your consultation efforts, professional archaeological survey report and your Determination of Effect. We concur with your Determination of No Historic Properties Affected for the Substation Element of the Project.

We would appreciate receiving any correspondence or comments from concerned tribes or other parties that you receive as you consult under the requirements of 36CFR800.4(a)(4).

These comments are based on the information available at the time of this review and on behalf of the State Historic Preservation Officer in compliance with the Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, and its implementing regulations 36CFR800.4.

Should additional information become available, our assessment may be revised, including information regarding historic properties that have not yet been identified. Thank you for the opportunity to comment and a copy of these comments should be included in subsequent environmental documents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rob Whitlam".

Robert G. Whitlam, Ph.D.
State Archaeologist
(360)586-3080
email: rob.whitlam@dahp.wa.gov



APPENDIX E

PUBLIC NOTICE

**Federal Emergency Management Agency
Draft Environmental Assessment
Replacement of Fire Substation (Station #2)
Lewis County Fire District #13
Lewis County, WA**

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) proposes to provide funds to Lewis County Fire District #13 (Fire District) to relocate a fire station that was damaged by flooding during a storm event in the winter of 2007.

FEMA prepared a Draft environmental assessment (EA) for the proposed project pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and FEMA's implementing regulations found in 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 10. The EA evaluates project alternatives and compliance with applicable environmental laws and Executive Orders #11990 (Protection of Wetlands), #11988 (Floodplain Management), and #12898 (Environmental Justice). The alternatives evaluated in the EA are the (1) No Action; and (2) Proposed Action (or Preferred Alternative) toward which FEMA would contribute funding, and 3) Other Alternatives Considered but not carried forward in the analysis.

During a December 2007 storm event, LCFD#13's Fire Station #2 (a substation) was flooded when a debris jam at a bridge caused water from the South Fork Chehalis River to divert into the project area. The facility sustained such damage that the Lewis County Building Official condemned the structure.

The proposed unmanned (volunteer) fire substation location is:

NW ¼ of Section 31, T13N, R3W, Willamette Meridian (Latitude 46.575457, Longitude - 123.114016).

The Draft EA is available for review online at the FEMA environmental website:

<http://www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/envdocuments/ea-region10.shtm>.

If no substantive issues are identified during the comment period, FEMA will finalize the EA, issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and fund the project. The Final EA and FONSI will be available for viewing at the FEMA website noted above. Unless substantive comments are received, FEMA will not publish another notice for this project. Please submit your written comments on the Draft EA to FEMA Region X Environmental Officer, Mark Eberlein, no later than 5 pm on March 28, 2012. Comments can be:

1. Mailed: 130 228th Street SW, Bothell, WA 98021
2. E-mailed: mark.eberlein@fema.dhs.gov
3. Faxed: 425-487-4613