

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Availability of the Programmatic Environmental Assessment for The State of New Mexico Watershed Resiliency and Post-Fire Treatment Projects FEMA

Notification is hereby given to the public of the intent of the Department of Homeland Security-Federal Emergency Management Agency (DHS-FEMA) to provide Federal financial assistance to the State of New Mexico and Federally recognized Tribal Nations to reduce the potential for loss of life, critical public infrastructure, and erosion resulting from repetitive wildfire and monsoon cycles in New Mexico. FEMA makes federal assistance available to state, local, tribal, and territorial governments and certain private nonprofit entities under the Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant programs. These state, local, tribal, and territorial partners are the recipients and subrecipients of FEMA's grants. Tribal Nations may be either recipients or subrecipients of FEMA grants.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), a Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) has been prepared to assess impacts to the human environment from actions related to meeting purpose and need of the PEA undertaken by FEMA grant recipients or subrecipients in New Mexico. FEMA evaluated two scenarios in the PEA; a no action alternative, evaluated as a baseline, and a proposed action alternative that includes an evaluation of a range of potential actions to promote watershed resiliency. The range of actions, collectively identified as the proposed action alternative, includes but is not limited to vegetative thinning and noxious weed abatement; restoration of fire-adapted vegetation types; restoration of riparian areas; post-wildfire treatments for hillsides, channels, roads, and trails; structure demolition, relocation, or alteration; and hydraulic capacity improvements and sedimentation mitigation measures for critical flood control and reservoir infrastructure. DHS-FEMA's requirement of addressing floodplain management and wetlands protection in accordance with 44 CFR Part 9 is incorporated within the PEA.

The PEA is available for public comment on FEMA's website at <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/practitioners/environmental-historic/nepa-repository>. Written comments may be submitted by mail or email. Comments pertaining to the PEA may be emailed to FEMA-R6-EHP@fema.dhs.gov noted with the subject line, "New Mexico PEA 2022", or mailed to FEMA Region 6, 800 North Loop 288, Denton, Texas 76209, "Attn: Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation – REO".

The comment period will end 30 days after the date this notice is confirmed. Written comments on the PEA can be mailed or e-mailed as directed in this notice. If no substantive comments are received, the PEA will become final and a Finding of No Significant Impact will be signed. Substantive comments will be addressed, as appropriate, in the final documents.