

FEMA Mitigation Funding Opportunity Erosion Control and Watershed Protection

Overview

- Post-fire Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) funding opportunities are available to states, local and tribal governments, for the mitigation of wildfire or impacts of wildfire on publicly or privately owned forests or grasslands, which could lead to increased or new damage in the burned area.

Eligible Activities

- Surface erosion control actions necessary to reduce potential threats to structures or facilities (note: this might not be considered an emergency action if there is time to consult with necessary resource agencies prior to initiating the action, e.g. hydro seeding cannot happen until early spring).
- Slope stabilization (Ground disturbance activities and planting non-native vegetation have higher environmental complexity).
- Actions to reduce risk of mass failures or risk to debris flows.
- Debris basins to hold debris flows due to fire (Ground disturbance activities have higher environmental compliance).
- Upgrades to existing culverts to reduce any threat of road failing due to plugged culvert.
- Stabilization of roads or other facilities in danger of failure.
- Installation of permanent gabions, ecology blocks, K-railing and other erosion control measures used to protect at risk structures or facilities.
- Installation of sediment traps or check dams at high risk areas when threat exists.

* NOTE: Where possible, bioengineering should be considered instead of hardened structures along stream banks.

Overall Complexity

Project	Application	Environmental	Legal
Erosion Control	Low	Low	Low
Slope Stabilization	Low	Medium	Medium



FEMA

Project	Application	Environmental	Legal
Debris Mitigation and Basins	Medium	Medium	Medium
Culvert Upgrades	Low	Medium	Medium
Infrastructure and Utility Protection	Low	Medium	Medium
Sediment Traps or Check Dams	Low	Medium	Medium

Fire Mitigation Examples



Application Requirements

- Must be a local government, Tribe, or Private Nonprofit (PNP*).
- Must have a FEMA approved Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP).
- Must fulfill appropriate FEMA and Recipient application requirements including, scope of work, budget, schedule, etc.
- Long-term benefits must outweigh costs (Benefit Cost Ratio greater than 1).
 - Projects that cost less than or equal to \$5,200 per acre of benefit are automatically cost effective. No benefit-cost analysis is required.
 - Projects with costs greater than \$5,200 per acre of benefit must submit a documented benefit-cost analysis.
- 25 percent non-federal match required (Under the BRIC program, small and impoverished communities are eligible for a 10 percent non-federal match).
- Projects affecting private property must have property owner permission.
- Funding limits are set by FEMA and the Recipient.

- No construction is allowed prior to FEMA award approval.

* PNPs are eligible only under HMGP and are not required to have an HMP.

Environmental Requirements

This depends on the action, the resources affected, and the applicable environmental and historic preservation (EHP) laws. Therefore, engagement with the FEMA EHP is required on a project specific basis. For example, under the Clean Water Act, the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has emergency provisions which FEMA may be able to utilize to avoid duplicative compliance reviews. This can be achieved due to a Memorandum of Understanding and other programmatic agreements between FEMA and other resource agencies.

If emergency consultation is deemed necessary, FEMA EHP will contact the relevant resource agencies and provide them as much information as possible regarding the proposed action, design elements, mitigation measures, public risk, and other relevant information.