

INITIAL PUBLIC NOTICE

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is proposing to fund the Leavenworth Area Wildfire Resilience Program, Chelan County (Project). Funding would be provided by the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) as authorized by §404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Assistance and Emergency Relief Act, 42 U.S. Code.

FEMA gives notice of the intent to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Project, in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA); Executive Order (EO) 11988, Floodplain Management; EO 11990, Wetlands Protection; and EO 12898, Environmental Justice.

Chelan County Fire District #3 (CCFD#3) has applied for HMGP funds for the Project; with matching funds (25 percent) provided by Project participants (property owners) and the Washington Military Department Emergency Management Division. The Project would be coordinated by the Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition in partnership with the CCFD#3. The purpose of the Project is to improve the safety of residents by reducing their risk to wildfire-related impacts through vegetative fuels reduction, creation of defensible spaces, and ignition resistant material retrofits for property owners in the wildland urban interface. The Project focuses on several developed areas in and near Leavenworth, including the Chumstick Creek watershed, Icicle Valley, and Mountain Home Road areas. The Project is needed to assist property owners in these extreme fire risk areas with establishing defensible fire protection around their properties, thereby improving safety for the overall communities.

The Project would provide technical and financial assistance to qualified property owners to remove excessive vegetative fuels, create defensible spaces around structures, and retrofitting select structures with ignition resistant material. Contract labor may be provided to establish defensible spaces and dispose of vegetative debris. Participating property owners could provide personal labor and/or materials. Each participant property owner would be required to sign a 10-year maintenance contract which specifies the necessary annual maintenance activities.

Initial comments concerning the Project, potential alternatives, and preliminary identification of environmental issues will be accepted from the affected public; local, state and federal agencies; Tribes; and other interested parties in order to scope the EA and inform decision-making. Comments should be made in writing and sent to the FEMA contact listed below. Comments must be received by August 4, 2017 to be considered.

Additional information about the project, including a brief fact sheet and participation information can be obtained by contacting the applicant. Once complete, the draft EA will be made available for public comment, anticipated fall 2017.

Responsible Official:	Applicant Contact:
Science Kilner Deputy Regional Environmental Officer FEMA Region 10 130 228th St SW Bothell, WA 98021-9796 science.kilner@fema.dhs.gov (425) 487-4613 fax	Annie Schmidt Public Affairs Officer Chelan County Fire District #3 228 Chumstick Highway Leavenworth, WA 98826 pio@chelanfd3.org (509) 548-7711 fax