

INITIAL PUBLIC NOTICE FEMA-4623-DR-MT



October 18, 2021

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) hereby gives notice to the public of its intent to reimburse eligible applicants for eligible costs to repair and/or replace facilities damaged by wildfire during the incident period of August 8, 2021 to August 20, 2021. This notice applies to the Public Assistance (PA) and Hazard Mitigation Grant Programs (HMGP) implemented under the authority of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. § 5121-5206.

Under a Stafford Act declaration (FEMA-4623-DR-MT) signed by the President on September 30, 2021, the following county and tribe have been designated adversely affected by the disaster and eligible for Public Assistance for debris removal, emergency work, and the repair or replacement of disaster-damaged facilities:

- Rosebud County
- Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation

Under the PA program FEMA reimburses state and local governments and certain types of private nonprofit organizations for the cost of disaster-related debris removal, emergency protective measures to protect life and property, and the repair or replacement of disaster-damaged public facilities such as roads, bridges, water control facilities, buildings, equipment, public utilities, parks and recreational facilities. This may be the only public notice concerning these actions.

All jurisdictions in Montana are eligible to apply for assistance under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). Additional designations may be made at a later date if requested by the State and warranted by the results of further damage assessments.

FEMA intends to provide HMGP funding to the State of Montana to mitigate future disaster damages. These projects may include construction of new facilities, modification of existing, undamaged facilities, relocation of facilities out of floodplains, demolition of structures, or other types of projects to mitigate future disaster damages. In the course of developing project proposals, subsequent public notices will be published, if necessary, as more specific information becomes available.

This public notice concerns activities that may affect historic properties, activities that are located in or affect wetland areas or the 100-year floodplain, and critical actions within the 500-year floodplain. Such activities may adversely affect the historic property and floodplain or wetland or may result in continuing vulnerability to flood damage.

The National Historic Preservation Act requires federal agencies to consider the effect of their undertakings on historic properties. Those actions or activities affecting buildings, structures, districts, or objects 50 years or older or that affect archeological sites or undisturbed ground will require further review to determine if the property is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (Register). If the property is determined to be eligible for the Register and FEMA's undertaking will adversely affect it, FEMA will provide additional public notices. For historic properties not adversely affected by FEMA's undertaking, this will be the only public notice.

Presidential Executive Orders 11988 and 11990 require that all federal actions in or affecting the floodplain or wetlands be reviewed for opportunities to relocate and evaluated for social, economic, historic, environmental, legal, and safety considerations. Where there is no opportunity to relocate, FEMA is required to undertake a detailed review to determine what measures may be taken to minimize future damages. The public is invited to participate in the process of identifying alternatives and analyzing their impacts through this notification. Executive Order 12898 Environmental Justice directs federal agencies to identify and address the disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of their actions on minority and low-income populations, to the greatest extent practicable and permitted by law.

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 protects the civil rights of persons with disabilities. It prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability by the federal government, federal contractors, and by recipients of federal financial assistance. Any recipient or sub-recipient of federal funds is required to make their programs accessible to individuals with disabilities. Its protections apply to all programs and businesses that receive any federal funds. This applies to all elements of physical/architectural, programmatic, and communication accessibility in all services and activities conducted by or funded by FEMA. FEMA intends to comply with the Rehabilitation Act in all federally conducted and assisted programs in alignment with the principals of whole community inclusion and universal accessibility.

As noted, this may be the only public notice regarding the above-described actions under the PA and HMGP programs. Interested persons may obtain information about these actions or a specific project by writing to the Federal Emergency Management Agency - Region VIII EHP Office, Denver Federal Center, Box 25267, Denver, Colorado 80225-0267, or by email at FEMA-R8EHP@fema.dhs.gov. Please include in the subject line of the email "DR-4623-MT EHAD." Comments should be sent in writing at the above addresses within 15 days of the date of this notice.