



Hazard Mitigation Grant Program - Post Fire 2023

FM-5456-WA | Guidance



Washington State Military Department

Emergency Management Division

Camp Murray, WA 98430

WA EMD is now accepting Pre-Applications for the 2023 HMGP Post Fire grant round

Submissions must be emailed to HMA@mil.wa.gov by December 1, 2023

Pre-Application Forms are located online at <https://mil.wa.gov/hmgp-post-fire-mitigation>

Washington State Emergency Management Division (WA EMD) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) places a high priority on supporting wildfire mitigation and recovery. The federal Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 authorizes using the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) for Fire Management Assistance Declarations, much like it is used for Presidential Disaster Declarations. This **HMGP Post Fire** grant program provides funds for all hazard mitigation types but prioritizes funding for pre-wildfire and post-wildfire mitigation projects designed to reduce or eliminate the effects and costs of future disaster damages.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

State and local Government, Special Purpose Districts, Private Nonprofit Organizations providing like-government services, and federally recognized Indian tribes are eligible to apply. All applicants must:

- Have a current, FEMA-approved Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Be in good standing with the National Flood Insurance Program (or located in a community that is)
- Be compliant with State Growth Management Act requirements (or located in a community that is)

PRIORITIES FOR GRANT FUNDING

Priority funding consideration will be given to submissions meeting the following criteria:

- Eligible submissions from FMAG-declared counties, along with the eligible entities within them. **For 2023, the prioritized counties are:**
 - **Clark County**
 - **Grant County**
 - **Klickitat County**
 - **Mason County**
 - **Okanogan County**
 - **Skamania County**
 - **Spokane County**
- Project proposals for eligible wildfire mitigation activities, especially those that mitigate risks to people or property in or near burn-affected areas (activities need not be located directly within burned area perimeters).

FUNDING & COST SHARE REQUIREMENTS

HMGP Post Fire grants are available to eligible applicants on a competitive basis with the following cost share:

- 75% federal share
- 12.5% state share (WA EMD)
- 12.5% local share (grant recipient)

For the 2023 HMGP Post Fire round, the federal funds (75% share) made available for each FMAG declaration is \$1,225,032.00. When the state share (12.5%) and required minimum local share (12.5%) is included, the total HMGP grant value per FMAG declaration is \$1,633,376.00. Funding from multiple FMAG declarations in a single year are combined into one HMGP funding round. **In 2023, WA State received eight FMAG declarations (including the October 2022 Nakia Creek Fire FMAG), bringing its total HMGP Post Fire grant round value to \$13,067,008.00 (all shares).**

APPLICATION & FUNDING PROCESS

Completed Pre-Application Forms must be emailed to HMA@mil.wa.gov no later than December 1, 2023. Late submissions will not be considered.

WA EMD uses a two-step application process for HMGP Post Fire grant rounds: a pre-application step and a full application step, which is by invitation only. During the first stage, potential applicants submit Pre-Application Forms to briefly outline project proposals. WA EMD reviews them and provides feedback, and then sends invitations (along with full applications) only to eligible applicants with suitable proposals. Those invited to develop full applications will have about three months to develop and submit their packages.

Further guidance and documents regarding the 2023 HMGP Post Fire round are available on WA EMD's Hazard Mitigation Grants web page at <https://mil.wa.gov/hmgrp-post-fire-mitigation>

After full application packages are submitted (by invitation only), WA EMD reviews them for eligibility and ranks them for funding consideration according to established priorities and processes described in its State Administrative Plan. WA EMD submits and recommends projects to FEMA for funding consideration. FEMA then conducts its own review, which includes environmental and historic preservation considerations, and issues grant awards. Upon notification of approval and funding, WA EMD prepares a grant funding agreement with the applicant.

PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

HMGP Post Fire grants come with a 4-year Period of Performance, which begins when the application package is submitted to FEMA for funding consideration. All grant-funded work must be completed within that timeframe. Time extension requests are considered on a case-by-case basis and typically require the grantee to demonstrate progress toward completing the project deliverables.

ONLINE RESOURCES

[WA EMD's main Hazard Mitigation Grants site](#)

[FEMA's HMGP Post Fire site](#)

[FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Assistance site](#)

[FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program and Policy Guide](#)

[FEMA's Benefit Cost Analysis site](#)

Email questions about HMGP Post Fire to WA EMD's Mitigation Section:

HMA@mil.wa.gov

ELIGIBLE MITIGATION PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES: HMGP Post Fire

While the funding emphasis of HMGP Post Fire is pre-wildfire and post-wildfire mitigation, the eligible activities are the same as those for standard HMGP grants and address a variety of natural hazards, not just wildfire. The full HMGP Post Fire criteria are described in FEMA's 2023 Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program and Policy Guide. All Proposals must be deemed cost-effective as determined by FEMA's required Benefit-Cost Analysis software.

WA EMD encourages submission of the following eligible mitigation projects and activities for HMGP Post Fire grants:

- **Defensible Space and/or Hazardous Fuel Reduction work**
 - Must occur in a designated Wildland Urban-Interface (WUI)
 - Must occur no further than 2 miles from structures, facilities, or infrastructural components
 - Defensible Space work must occur within 100 feet of at-risk structures, such as:
 - Residential homes and facilities
 - Critical infrastructure and essential facilities such as water reservoirs, WWTP, powerlines/power stations, communication towers, eligible roadways, fueling stations, PUD facilities, etc.
 - Proposals must include creation of a Maintenance Plan to ensure long-term benefits of treatments
- **Ignition-resistant materials retrofits** to residential structures or critical facilities/components *that have previously received, or will receive under the same proposal, hazardous fuel reduction or defensible space treatments.*
 - Can include retrofit of roof assemblies, wall components, and fuel tank protection
 - See FEMA publications P-737, P-754 for information on technical standards
- **External water hydration systems** to residential structures or critical facilities/components *that have previously received, or will receive under the same proposal, hazardous fuel reduction or defensible space treatments.*
 - Must be structure-specific
 - Can include foam, fire-retardant, or water-sprinkler systems
 - Need a dedicated delivery system (must be self-contained if foam or fire-retardant system)
 - Water-fed systems can have a cistern only if reliable water source is available to fill the cistern
- **Trainings on Firewise USA® and/or Fire Adapted Communities principles, practices and standards**
 - Trainings on how to conduct site assessments and treatment prescriptions
 - Can include train-the-trainer sessions for local staff and community partners
- **Rain Gauges** for post-fire impacted waterways with increased threat of flash flooding
 - Proposals must include equipment purchases and complete installation
- **Culvert upsizing and storm drain system retrofits** in or near burn areas threatened by flash floods and debris flows
 - Installation of water retention or detention basins to help manage increased runoff
 - For in-water work, particularly in fish streams, FEMA usually requires Environmental Assessments (EA) prior to grant award (per NEPA). They'll conduct the EA if needed, but it may take a very long time to complete.

- **Generators at fire district facilities** whose mandated coverage area includes the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI)
 - Proposal must be proven cost-effective using FEMA's required Benefit-Cost Analysis software
- **Generators for water utilities** that provide flow to fire hydrants and/or fire district equipment in the WUI
 - Proposal must be proven cost-effective using FEMA's required Benefit-Cost Analysis software.
- **Post-fire mapping** to gather new data on flash flood hazards and other imminent threats in or near burn areas
 - Limited funding may be available for this activity. Consult with WA EMD Mitigation staff
 - HMGP Post Fire grants cannot be applied to activities occurring on federal lands
- **Site assessments and treatment prescriptions** for properties/parcels
 - Limited funding may be available for this activity. Consult with WA EMD Mitigation staff

INELIGIBLE MITIGATION ACTIVITIES: HMGP Post Fire

The following list provides examples of activities that are NOT eligible for HMGP Post Fire grant funding:

- Projects that do not reduce the risk to people, structures, or infrastructure
- Projects that are dependent on a contingent action to be effective and/or feasible (i.e., not a stand-alone mitigation project that solves a problem independently or constitutes a functional portion of a solution)
- Projects with the sole purpose of open space acquisition of unimproved land
- Property acquisition projects incompatible with open space and do not maintain open space for the conservation of natural floodplain functions or include encumbrances that may allow for horizontal drilling or fracking
- Flood control projects related to the repair or replacement of dams and other flood control structures and repair of dams for the purpose of regular pre-scheduled or damage-induced maintenance
- Projects for which actual physical work, such as groundbreaking, demolition, or construction of a raised foundation, has occurred prior to award or final approval.
- Projects for preparedness activities or temporary measures (e.g., sandbags, bladders, geotubes)
- Projects that create revolving loan funds
- Activities required because of negligence or intentional actions that contributed to the conditions to be mitigated; activities intended to remedy a code violation; or the reimbursement of legal obligations, such as those imposed by a legal settlement, court order, or State law
- All projects located in Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS) Units, other than property acquisition and structure demolition or relocation projects for open space under HMA. For details on CBRS Units see Addendum, Part A.6.
- Projects located in an OPA that require flood insurance after project completion
- Activities on Federal lands or associated with facilities owned by another Federal entity
- Projects for hazardous fuels reduction more than 2 miles from at-risk buildings and structures
- Projects that address unmet needs from a disaster that are not related to mitigation
- Retrofitting facilities primarily used for religious purposes, such as places of worship (or other projects that solely benefit religious organizations). However, a place of worship may be included in a property acquisition and structure demolition or relocation project provided that the project benefits the entire community, such as when a significant part of the community is being removed from the hazard area.
- Activities that only address manmade hazards
- Projects that address, without an increase in the level of protection, the operation, deferred or future maintenance, rehabilitation, restoration, or replacement of existing structures, facilities, or infrastructure (e.g., dredging, debris removal, replacement of obsolete utility systems or bridges, maintenance/rehabilitation of facilities, including dams and other flood control structures)

- Projects for the purpose of:
 - Landscaping for ornamentation (e.g., trees, shrubs)
 - Site remediation of hazardous materials (except for eligible activities, such as the abatement of asbestos and/or lead-based paint and the removal of household hazardous wastes for disposal at an approved landfill)
 - Water quality infrastructure
 - Projects that primarily address ecological or agricultural issues
 - Forest management
 - Prescribed burning or clear-cutting
 - Creation and maintenance of fire breaks, access roads, or staging areas
 - Irrigation systems
- Studies not directly related to the design and implementation of a proposed mitigation project
- Preparedness measures and response equipment (e.g., response training, electronic evacuation road signs, interoperable communications equipment)

For more information regarding HMGP Post Fire grants, contact HMA@mil.wa.gov