



# Hazard Mitigation Grant Program - Post Fire 2024

## FM-5499-WA | Guidance



Washington State Military Department

Emergency Management Division

Camp Murray, WA 98430

**WA EMD is now accepting Pre-Applications for the 2024 HMGP Post Fire grant round**

**Submissions must be emailed to [HMA@mil.wa.gov](mailto:HMA@mil.wa.gov) by **December 13, 2024****

**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 pre-wildfire and post-wildfire mitigation projects that are designed to reduce or eliminate the effects and costs of future disaster damages are prioritized.

### **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 Tribes and counties, along with the eligible entities within them. For 2024, the prioritized Tribes and counties are:
  - **Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation** (FM-5518 Swawilla Fire)
  - **Ferry County** (FM-5518 Swawilla Fire)
  - **Okanogan County** (FM-5518 Swawilla Fire)
  - **Yakama Nation of Indians** (FM-5499 Slide Ranch Fire, FM-5517 White Swan Fire)
  - **Yakima County** (FM-5499 Slide Ranch Fire, FM-5517 White Swan Fire, FM-5521 Retreat Fire)
- Project proposals for eligible wildfire mitigation activities within the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI), 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 2024 HMGP Post Fire round, the federal funds (75% share) made available for each FMAG declaration is \$1,313,482. When the state share (12.5%) and required minimum local share (12.5%) is included, the total HMGP grant value per FMAG declaration is \$1,751,309.33. Funding from multiple FMAG declarations in a single year are combined into one HMGP funding round. **In 2024, WA State received four FMAG declarations, bringing its total HMGP Post Fire grant round value to \$7,005,237.32 (all shares).**

## **APPLICATION & FUNDING PROCESS**

**Completed Pre-Application Forms must be emailed to [HMA@mil.wa.gov](mailto:HMA@mil.wa.gov) no later than **December 13, 2024**. 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 until **February 2025**, to submit their packages.

Further guidance and documents regarding the 2024 HMGP Post Fire round are available on WA EMD's Hazard Mitigation Grants web page at <https://mil.wa.gov/hmgp-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 latest [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](mailto: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 latest 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 (Wildfire Mitigation)**
  - 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 PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES**

The following list provides examples of activities that are NOT eligible for HMGP Post Fire grant funding (excerpted from FEMA's latest [Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program and Policy Guide](#)):

- Activities that do not reduce the risk to people, structures or infrastructure.
- Activities that are dependent on a contingent action to be effective and/or feasible (i.e., not a stand-alone mitigation activity that solves a problem independently or constitutes a functional portion of a solution).
- Projects with the sole purpose of the open space acquisition of unimproved land.
- Property acquisition projects that do not maintain open space in perpetuity according to the requirements of 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 80.
- The cost of any functionality or finishing not directly required for meeting FEMA-approved performance criteria, such as interior or exterior decorative elements and fixtures and floor treatments.
- Projects for which actual physical work, such as groundbreaking, demolition or construction of a raised foundation, has occurred prior to award or final approval, with two exceptions:
  - Properties where private individuals have demolished damaged structures using private assistance or other non-federal assistance prior to application for HMA are eligible for inclusion in HMA project applications if the demolition is not connected to the project.
  - Projects for which demolition and debris removal related to structures proposed for acquisition or mitigation reconstruction has already occurred may be eligible when such activities were initiated or completed under the FEMA Public Assistance (PA) program to alleviate a health or safety hazard because of a disaster.
- Activities that establish hazard mitigation 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 units, other than property acquisition for open space or nature-based stabilization projects provided they qualify for one of the exceptions in Section 6 of the Coastal Barrier Resources Act.
- Projects located in Otherwise Protected Areas that require flood insurance after project completion.
- Activities associated with facilities or land owned by another federal entity where the specific authority relating to the activities lies with another federal entity.
- 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.
- Activities that only address manmade hazards.
- 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).
- Projects that address water quality improvement without mitigating hazards to water quality infrastructure.
- Projects that primarily address ecological or agricultural issues.
- Forest management.

- Prescribed burning or clear-cutting.
- Creation and maintenance of access roads or staging areas for wildfire response equipment.
- Creation and maintenance of fire breaks.
- Irrigation systems.
- Preparedness and response measures and equipment. (e.g., construction of emergency operations centers and fire stations; installation or purchase of sandbags, bladders, geotubes, and interoperable communications equipment; development/offering of response training).
- Projects that, without an increase in the level of protection, address 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; or maintenance/rehabilitation of facilities, including dams and other flood risk reduction structures).
- Activities that address unmet needs from a disaster that are not related to hazard mitigation.
- Studies not directly related to the design and implementation of a proposed hazard mitigation project.
- Activities excluded from funding because of duplication of programs or duplication of benefits.

**For more information regarding HMGP Post Fire grants, contact [HMA@mil.wa.gov](mailto:HMA@mil.wa.gov)**