

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program – FEMA: FMAG-HMGP Pilot

Basic Application Information

Summer 2015 Fire Season (v_10-6-15)

Declared Counties of Baker, Douglas, Grant, Josephine & Wallowa

Introduction

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) places a high priority on supporting expeditious wildfire recovery through the use of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). In order to advance risk reduction after Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) declarations, FEMA announced a Pilot to provide HMGP assistance. Section 570 of the Fiscal Year 2015 DHS Appropriations Act authorizes FEMA to provide HMGP assistance as a result of a FMAG declaration. It reads: “Notwithstanding section 404 or 420 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170c and 5187), until September 30, 2015, the President may provide hazard mitigation assistance in accordance with such section 404 in any area in which assistance was provided under such section 420.”

Following a Presidential Major Disaster Declaration, HMGP assists states and local communities in implementing long-term hazard mitigation. For the FMAG-HMGP Pilot, FEMA specifically encourages the mitigation of the burn impacted area to reduce the increased risk for wildfire, flood, or erosion post event. However, the FMAG-HMGP Pilot is available for the mitigation of any hazard in the burn impacted area (funding earmarked to the FMAG-designated **county**).

Available funding for the FMAG-HMGP Pilot is calculated and offered using metrics different from the traditional HMGP “lock-in” calculation. FEMA will provide a national aggregate calculation based on an average of historical FMAG designations from the last five years. The total amount available for HMGP for states and tribal applicants with standard state or tribal hazard mitigation plans is \$331,166 for each FMAG and \$441,555 for applicants with enhanced state or tribal hazard mitigation plans. Oregon’s FMAG-HMGP Pilot offering for the 2015 Fire Season is based on \$441,555 per FMAG declaration (Oregon’s state mitigation plan enjoys enhanced status). These amounts will be available for HMGP regardless of whether the FMAG designation falls below the threshold, and may increase if the FMAG declaration evolves into a major Presidential disaster declaration under the Stafford Act (*unlikely at this time for Oregon*).

The Oregon Military Department, Office of Emergency Management (OEM) is administering the FMAG-HMGP Pilot for the 2015 Fire Season declarations. The actual cost of the program is shared - FEMA pays a portion of project costs (75%) and successful applicants provide a non-federal cost share (25%). Eligible applicants for this Pilot include local and state governments, and consumer-owned electric utility providers in the FMAG disaster area (by declared counties) that have current FEMA-approved natural hazard mitigation plans.

For the FMAG-HMGP Pilot, FEMA encourages expedited submission of applications within 90 days of Pilot notification availability. The traditional HMGP application period of 12 months from declaration still applies and extensions may be requested (but approval by FEMA is not guaranteed). The authorizing Pilot language does not restrict hazard mitigation to wildfire. FEMA encourages the mitigation of the burn impacted area to reduce the increased risk for wildfire, flood, or erosion post-event. Assistance is available for the mitigation of any hazard in the burn impacted area.

For this Pilot program offering, the HMGP project identification and application process is being offered in conjunction with Congressional outreach (Wildfire Aid Meetings), local community meetings, site inspections and through other outreach channels. As more information on the Pilot is released by FEMA, particularly with regard to mitigation restoration project activities that can be approved and implemented quickly, projects will be identified and scoped with an emphasis on timely implementation but *unlikely* before the onset of this winter's weather.

Potential Project Categories and Considerations for Implementation:

- Erosion Control: Where runoff and flooding is a concern, erosion channels can form quickly and significantly alter the landscape with downstream consequences to improved property. It is important to implement erosion control measures in a timely matter. Localized water diversions, sediment traps, erosion control mats, seeding/hydro-seeding with mulch, planting, etc. are all potential mitigation restoration treatments that can be considered.
- Seeding: For the recovery “mitigation” response, native grass seeding needs to be underway as soon as possible. In Eastern Oregon, cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) is very invasive and is likely to occur in the burn areas. If the native grasses don't get an early start, cheatgrass will take over quickly and crowd out native grasses. During fires, cheatgrass catches on fire quickly. Due to the huge size of the area impacted by the fires, project managers may decide to undertake aerial native seed application with helicopters. In addition to aerial applications, *whirlybird* grass seeders can be used to disburse seed from trails and steep slopes. Where there is road access, hydro-seeding (seed in water-based mulch) can be applied.
- Public Infrastructure: Projects that reduce future disaster losses to public utilities with an emphasis on consumer-owned electric utility providers, municipal water supply intakes, bridges that create waterway obstructions, etc.
- Private facility mitigation (such as houses that have been determined to be substantially damaged by fires and are required to be mitigated per local floodplain ordinances).
- Natural Hazards Mitigation planning per 44 CFR Section 201.6 (new plans and/or plan updates: up to 7% of the FMAG-HMGP). This category would also

include updating natural hazard risk assessments that can help guide the implementation of mitigation project implementation.

- Some mitigation activities are difficult to evaluate using FEMA-approved benefit-cost analysis (BCA) methodologies. Up to 5 percent (5% Initiative) of the HMGP funding allocation may be set aside to consider such activities. For example, this could include the use, evaluation, demonstration, and/or application of new, unproven mitigation techniques, technologies, methods, procedures, or products. The amount of funding for the 5% Initiative is extremely limited and highly competitive and explained further in this Basic Application. *This category also includes warning systems and, potentially, LiDAR-based surveying/analysis of the burned area.*

Project Considerations – Basic Criteria

- Projects identified in the disaster-declared “burn” areas (declared by county) will have priority preference. FEMA mitigation funding is intended for use on non-Federal lands; work on Federal lands is not eligible for FEMA funding.
- To be eligible for HMGP grants, communities (city or county as an eligible applicant) must have a current FEMA-approved natural hazards mitigation plan.
- Mitigation strategies and priorities as described in this pre-application.
- The collection of environmental information, to comply with the required National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), is essential for the state’s review and FEMA’s approval of potential projects. *Please pay close attention to this requirement as this is a crucial step in identifying potentially eligible projects as well as the cost and time to complete the required information.*
- Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA): To evaluate proposed hazard mitigation projects prior to funding, FEMA requires a BCA to validate cost effectiveness. BCA is the method by which the future benefits of a mitigation project are estimated and compared to its cost. In an effort to further streamline implementation of the FMAG-HMGP Pilot, FEMA has developed certain base-line determinations when considering a project’s cost-effectiveness. For the FMAG-HMGP Pilot, soil stabilization, flood diversion and reforestation projects that cost under \$5,250 per acre ... those project categories are determined cost effective and no further BCA is required. If a project exceeds this per acre value then the use of FEMA’s BCA tool may be required. These actions, when implemented, will protect communities and jurisdictions and mitigate secondary hazards that accompany wildfires. The actions to be implemented will depend upon the topography of the area and what the community or jurisdiction identify as the best mitigation options. Also, BAER Team reports that evaluate fire impacts on Federal lands can provide mitigation strategies that could dovetail with like mitigation on non-Federal lands using FEMA funding. Activities not listed above may be submitted to FEMA and evaluated using traditional cost-effectiveness methodologies including benefit cost analysis.

- Letters of match commitment (required 25% non-Federal cost share) **and** maintenance commitment are required with the final application to FEMA. The 25% non-Federal share contribution can be cash, in-kind or a combination. Not all in-kind “match” is eligible and must be pre-approved including requirements for appropriate back-up documentation. At \$441,555 for HMGP mitigation per FMAG declaration, the required non-Federal share contribution is equivalent to \$147,185. FEMA’s maintenance requirements, post-implementation, depend on project type. For example, public infrastructure projects have a maintenance requirement for the life of the facility.
- All projects are submitted through the state to FEMA for their consideration: FEMA has the final authority on whether projects are selected for funding or not. Completing the attached Basic Application is the first step in the *incremental* application process for HMGP funding.
- **Timeline: All HMGP projects must be identified, fully developed and submitted to FEMA within one year of the date of the FMAG disaster declaration. We are aiming to identify, develop, and submit mitigation restoration projects within a 90-day window of FEMA “officially” opening the FMAG-HMGP Pilot for sub-applications. Once the state receives notice of the FEMA FMAG-Pilot program offering, that information and supporting details will be sent to the FMAG-declared counties. FEMA officially announced the FMAG-HMGP Pilot on September 28, 2015.**

Summer 2015 Oregon FMAG Declarations and FMAG-HMGP Eligibility:

- FMAG-5114, 09/13/2015, - Dry Gulch Fire
 - Baker County; *Application Deadline: 9/14/2016*
- FMAG-5107, 08/21/2015, Grizzly Bear Fire Complex
 - Wallowa County; *Application Deadline: 8/21/2016*
- FMAG-5102, 08/15/2015, Canyon Creek Fire Complex
 - Grant County; *Application Deadline: 8/15/2016*
- FMAG-5097, 08/13/2015, Cornet & Windy Ridge Fire Complex
 - Baker County; *Application Deadline: 8/13/2016*
- FMAG-5096, 08/09/2015, - Krauss Lane Fire
 - Josephine County; *Application Deadline: 8/9/2016*
- FMAG-5092, 07/31/2015, - Stouts Creek Fire
 - Douglas County; *Application Deadline: 7/31/2016*
- Subrecipient Management Costs: Offered at the discretion of the Recipient (OMD/OEM); assume there will be no Subrecipient administrative management cost funding made available by the Recipient.

To be eligible for the 5% Initiative, activities must:

- Be difficult to evaluate against traditional program cost-effectiveness criteria;
- Comply with all applicable HMGP eligibility criteria as well as with Federal, State, and local laws and ordinances;
- Be consistent with the goals and objectives of the State and local mitigation plans; and
- Be submitted for review with a narrative that indicates that there is a reasonable expectation that future damage or loss of life or injury will be reduced or prevented by the activity.
- Activities that might be funded under the 5% Initiative could include:
 - The use, evaluation, and application of new, unproven mitigation techniques, technologies, methods, procedures, or products;
 - Equipment and systems for the purpose of warning citizens of impending hazards; and
 - Hazard identification or mapping (such as landslide risk assessments) for the implementation of mitigation activities.

**OREGON OFFICE of EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM (HMGP)
2015 FMAG-HMGP Pilot**
HMGP Basic Project Identification/Concept and Description

A. Project Title: _____

B. Sub-Applicant Identification

1. Name of Applicant Organization/Agency: _____

2. Type of Organization: _____

3. Current Jurisdiction Mitigation Plan / Date: _____
[County or City Government]

C. Sub-Applicant's Representative (The applicant's agent, project manager, or official contact).

Name: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

FAX: _____

E-mail: _____

D. Projects Linked to Similar Mitigation Projects on Federal Lands

As identified in BAER Team Report:_____

Will the proposed hazard mitigation project complement a *like* mitigation restoration project on Federal lands? If so, what is the scope of the *like* mitigation restoration project on Federal lands? FEMA FMAG-HMGP Pilot mitigation funding cannot be used on Federal lands. Please describe. Use additional sheets if necessary.

OBJECTIVES

A. Project Objective (Is this project or strategy identified in your local natural hazards mitigation plan?):

B. Project Description (Briefly describe the proposed project and its scope of work. Include how the proposed project will reduce the hazard's effects and risks):

C. Project Location (Description of Location, Attached Maps):_____

COST ESTIMATES

A. Cost Summary (A complete cost description including a list of materials and services will be required after submission of the basic application). HMGP projects are based on a maximum 75% federal share with a 25% non-federal share contribution.

1. Federal Share (HMGP): \$ _____
 2. Applicant's Share: \$ _____
 3. Other Non-Federal Shares (Describe): \$ _____
- Total Funds Required Completing Project: \$ _____

WORK SCHEDULE

A. Starting Date: Within [] days after final project approval. (If more than thirty (30) days please explain; use additional pages as needed):

B. Completion Date: Within [] months after project initiation. (If more than twelve (12) months, please explain; use additional pages as needed):

C. Provide a General Outline of the Work Schedule Necessary to Complete This Project - (A complete work schedule that clearly describes project milestones and shows the anticipated flow of the project from the time of initiation to completion will be required after submission of the basic application):

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

All projects must comply with the National Environmental Policy Act. FEMA is responsible for preparing the necessary documentation; however, the applicant is required to provide the necessary data. At this time, please provide a description of any environmental concerns and impacts associated with this project:

Floodplains & Wetlands

Archaeological, Historical, Tribal & Other Cultural Resources

Endangered Species

Benefit – Cost (BCA) Analysis

Describe how the project will reduce future (potential) disaster damages and that, minimally; every dollar expended on mitigation will reduce future losses by at least one dollar. (For the FMAG-HMGP Pilot, FEMA has developed certain baseline determinations when considering a project's cost-effectiveness; this waiver will be essential on projects that focus on site restoration that minimize impacts of other hazards downstream in the watershed). Use additional pages as necessary (see attached data collection forms):

If you have any questions and/or RETURN THIS APPLICATION TO:

Dennis Sigrist
OMD / Office of Emergency Management
2015 FMAG-HMGP Pilot Application
US Mail Address:
P.O. Box 14370
Salem, OR 97309-5062
(503)378-2911, ext. 22247
PREFERRED Communication - dennis.sigrist@state.or.us

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Environmental Information & Considerations

The following information will assist in the environmental reviews of proposed projects regarding compliance with all applicable laws and regulations. Providing as much of this information as possible upfront with the Basic HMGP Application will assist in expediting the review process, particularly when additional consultation with state and Federal agencies is required for environmental compliance.

- Scope of Work
 - Clear and complete project description (who, what, where, why and when)
 - Photos of structure/site, including part of surrounding area
 - Sketches, when applicable, to clearly define the proposed action
 - GIS mapping can be used delineate restoration areas, for example
 - Notation of any poor environmental conditions in the area
- Location Information
 - Vicinity map with site location clearly marked
 - Accurate GPS position (note or sketch where it was taken, if large site)
 - Relationship of the site to existing features, natural and otherwise
 - Rivers, lakes, streams, wetlands, floodplain, saltwater, etc.
 - Vegetation, including general types of plants, trees, or lack thereof
 - Geologic features, including steepness of slopes and unstable areas
 - Roads, bridges, buildings, neighborhoods, etc. in the immediate area
- Documentation
 - Are there existing permits for the site? When possible, site permits type and number.
 - Has the applicant *consulted* with regulatory agencies? (record of findings)
- Historic Information
 - Are there any historic structures in or near the site?
 - How old is it? Historic structures can be buildings, bridges, improved landscapes, dams, historic districts, battlegrounds, mines, fences, walls, and more.
 - 49 years old + is a general rule of thumb
- Archaeology
 - Note actions in previously undisturbed areas, especially when excavation is involved.
 - If fill is involved, please elaborate on the level before and after.
- Cultural & Tribal Resources:
 - Tribal outreach and consultation
- Low Income - Minority Populations
 - Are they present and will they be adversely affected by the project? (noise, air quality, disturbance of any kind)
- Potential for Public Controversy
 - Look for signs of public controversy and try to gauge level of seriousness.
 - Look for indicators of dissatisfaction with the project by the public.

Try to include any information that may be relevant to an environmental determination or would help to understand the scope of the project and its impact to the environment.



FEMA

September 28, 2015

Andrew J. Phelps
Director, Oregon Office of Emergency Management
P.O. Box 14370
Salem, Oregon 97309-5062

Re: Fire Management Assistance Grant Declarations (FMAG) and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Fiscal Year 2015 Pilot Program – Notice of Funds Availability

Dear Mr. Phelps:

In order to advance risk reduction after wildfires resulting in FMAG declarations, we are announcing a pilot program to provide HMGP assistance, as directed by Section 570 of the Fiscal Year 2015 Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Appropriations Act. Pursuant to sections 404 and 420 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170c and 5187), States, territories, and federally-recognized tribal governments that elect to become Grantees with FMAG declarations from March 4, 2015 until September 30, 2015 at 11:59pm local time, may apply for HMGP funding. A primary purpose of the new FMAG HMGP program is to provide financial assistance for burn area remediation and flood and erosion protection in the immediate period following a wildfire. Funding can also be used for longer-term hazard mitigation activities. With minor exceptions, this new FMAG HMGP program will be operated as a standard HMGP grant program, pursuant to the *Hazard Mitigation Assistance Unified Guidance*, February 27, 2015 edition, the HMGP regulations of 44 CFR 206.430 through 206.440, the hazard mitigation planning requirements of 44 CFR 201, and the State Management Costs Rule of 44 CFR 207.

This letter serves as notification that HMGP funding is available to the State of Oregon as a result of federally declared FMAGs. The following table provides a list of FMAG declarations and total amounts available for HMGP funding for Oregon. Under the nationwide pilot program, the total amount available for HMGP funding for states, territories and tribal applicants with standard state or tribal hazard mitigation plans is \$331,166 for each FMAG. The funding level increases to \$441,555 for Grant Applicants with Enhanced state or tribal hazard mitigation plans. These lump sum values represent the national average calculation of potential 15% and 20% HMGP ceilings based on the Federal funding for all FMAGs for the past five years. Since final funding amounts for an FMAG typically are not known until well after the standard 1-year HMGP Ceiling calculation for Presidential disaster declarations, and in order to implement this pilot program in FY 2015, it was decided to provide a single HMGP calculation for use with all FMAG declarations. These amounts will be available regardless of whether the FMAG designation falls below the threshold. HMGP funding may only increase if the FMAG declaration evolves into a major Presidential disaster declaration under the Stafford Act; and that HMGP funding will be provided as a separate funding stream from that of the FMAG HMGP.

As Oregon has an Enhanced State Hazard Mitigation Plan the amounts available under this pilot program for HMGP funding are as follows:

FMAG Declaration	Event Name	Declaration Date	Application Period Deadline	HMGP Available
5092	Stouts Creek Fire	7/31/2015	7/31/2016	\$441,555
5096	Krauss Lane Fire	8/9/2015	8/9/2016	\$441,555
5097	Cornet and Windy Ridge Fire Complex	8/13/2015	8/13/2016	\$441,555
5102	Canyon Creek Fire Complex	8/15/2015	8/15/2016	\$441,555
5107	Grizzly Bear Complex	8/21/2015	8/21/2016	\$441,555
5114	Dry Gulch Fire	9/14/2015	9/14/2015	\$441,555
Total HMGP Available				\$2,649,330

The HMGP application period deadline is 12 months from the FMAG declaration, and additional extensions of up to 90 days may be requested from the Regional Administrator, pursuant to 44 CFR 206.436(e). However, to assist with immediate post-wildfire needs, FEMA encourages expedited submissions of applications within 90 days of this notice. This is not a requirement, only a statement of intent on the part of FEMA to provide prompt HMGP funding assistance. The funding available is still in accordance with the 75/25 matching requirements. Hazard Mitigation Planning projects may be submitted for up to 7% and Initiative projects for 5% of the total amount available. State Management Costs in the amount of 4.89%, with 100% Federal funding, are available for each FMAG HMGP declaration.

Eligible sub-applications are limited to those that benefit the Counties and Tribes that have been declared for each individual FMAG. HMGP under this pilot program is not declared statewide. FEMA has added a new HMGP project type to accommodate burn area remediation, erosion control, and flood control projects stemming from a wildfire. Under the FMAG HMGP Pilot only, Pre-Calculated Benefits in the amount of \$5,250/acre of treatment area may be used to demonstrate cost-effectiveness. These Pre-Calculated Benefits are not eligible outside of this pilot program. Other existing eligible wildfire mitigation activities are subject to FEMA's Wildfire Mitigation Policy MRR-2-08-1, and include defensible space, ignition resistant construction, and vegetation management. FMAG HMGP projects are not limited to wildfire mitigation; however, it is highly encouraged that projects be developed which mitigate burn impacted areas to reduce the increased risk for wildfire, flood, or erosion post event.

The FMAG HMGP funding is available at this time, however, the standard HMGP requirements must first be fulfilled: approval and signing of a FEMA-State Agreement (FSA) and SF 424. A single FSA and SF424 will apply to all FMAG HMGP declarations in 2015. Likewise, a single HMGP State Administrative Plan can be developed for use with all FMAG declarations this calendar year. Our Grant Programs Division will work closely with the State's financial staff to secure this documentation.

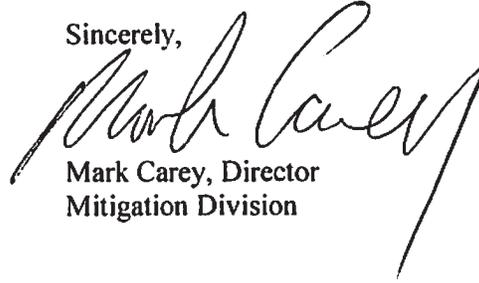
All standard HMGP requirements still apply: Sub-applicants must be eligible and have adopted a FEMA-approved Hazard Mitigation Plan; Sub-applications must meet all eligibility requirements, including cost-effectiveness and environmental compliance. Grant and sub-grant awards must

Mr. Phelps
September 28, 2015
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comply with existing and subsequent programmatic and financial requirements established by section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act and 2 CFR 200. Please note that in the event a Presidential Declaration in areas covered by one or more the State's FMAGs, that Public Assistance funding for Category B Emergency Protective Measures will take funding precedence for burn area remediation and immediate-needs flood and erosion protection, which are new mitigation activities that are otherwise eligible under the new FMAG HMGP.

For further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Brandon Sweeza at (425) 487-2022.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Carey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail that extends downwards and to the right.

Mark Carey, Director
Mitigation Division

Enc: FEMA HMGP Pilot Fact Sheet and FAQ

Cc: Dennis Sigrist, State Hazard Mitigation Officer