

**JOINT FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL
PUBLIC NOTICE
3/21/2022**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency and Florida Division of Emergency Management have received the following application for Federal grant funding. Final notice is hereby given of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) consideration to provide funding in the form of Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. Funds will be provided in accordance with Section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, Public Law 93-288, as amended.

Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), federal actions must be reviewed and evaluated for feasible alternatives and for social, economic, historic, environmental, legal, and safety considerations. Under Executive Order (EO) 11988 and EO 11990 FEMA is required to consider alternatives to and to provide public notice of any proposed actions in or affecting floodplains or wetlands. EO 12898 also requires FEMA to provide the opportunity for public participation in the planning process and to consider potential impacts to minority or low-income populations.

Funding for the proposed project will be conditional upon compliance with all applicable federal, tribal, state and local laws, regulations, floodplain standards, permit requirements and conditions.

Applicant:

Indian River County

Project Title:

HMGP-4564 (state # 27)- Indian River County, Countywide Wildfire Management, Wildfire

Location of Proposed Work:

The area affected by this project consists of homes in the following locations:
Vero Beach and Sebastian, Florida, 32967 and 32958

Proposed Work and Purpose:

Indian River County proposes wildfire protection to five properties in the cities of Vero Beach and Sebastian, Florida, 32967 and 32958. The project area is bounded to the West by the I-95, the Sebastian River to the North-West, the US Hwy 1 to the east and the 69th Street to the South. The proposal shall improve the wildfire protection of the County areas by the creation of defensible spaces and hazardous fuels reduction. Activities were separated by location into five (5) named improvement zones:

1. Indian River Fairgrounds- Shall include the creation of a 20-foot mowed, and a 10-foot-wide disked defensible space along the entire perimeter of the northern section of the pine flatwoods community. Once the defensible space has been created, the eastern and western management blocks would be roller chopped.
2. Donald McDonald & Dale Wimbrow Parks- Shall include the creation of a 20-foot-wide mowed, followed by a 10-footwide disked defensible space around most of the northeastern upland vegetative community. Once the defensible space has been installed, the area will be roller chopped to reduce vegetative fuel loads that have accumulated over time and due to strong storms.
3. Indian River County Solid Waste Disposal District (IRCSWDD) 65th Street Facility- Shall include the creation of a 20-foot-wide mowed, followed by a 10-foot-wide disk perimeter defensible space. Once the defensible space has been installed, the existing natural areas will be mowed.
4. Hobart Park- Shall include the construction of a 20-foot mowed, followed by a 10-foot-wide disk defensible space along the entire western and southwestern perimeter of the property. Once the defensible space has been created, the western portion of the property would be roller chopped.

5. Cypress Bend Preserve- Shall include the creation of a 20- foot-mowed, followed by a 10-foot-wde disked defensible space along the southern property boundary.

The project shall reduce the risk of property loss by protecting 56 residential properties and critical infrastructure from potential wildfires. All activities shall be implemented using current codes and best practices, and shall be completed in strict compliance with Federal, State and Local applicable Rules and Regulations.

Project Alternatives:

The alternatives to the project that have been and will be considered are 1) the no action alternative and 2) eliminate fuel reduction and provide limited defensible space. These alternatives to the proposed project are not viable because under Alternative 1) the threat of wildfire is not reduced and the needs of the County will not be served, and Alternative 2) the defensible space will not be a significant barrier to the spread of wildfire without the reduction of fuel load on each parcel, or the defensible space is insufficient to prevent spread of wildfire to adjacent lands.

Comment Period:

Comments are solicited from the public; local, state or federal agencies; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of the proposed project. The comments should be made in writing and addressed to the Florida Division of Emergency Management, Bureau of Mitigation, 2555 Shumard Oak Blvd., Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100. These are due within 30 days of this notice. The State will forward comments to applicable regulatory agencies as needed. Interested persons may submit comments, obtain more detailed information about the proposed action, or request a copy of the findings by contacting:

Beth Powell/Assistant Director of Parks and Conservation Resources (772) (2261873)
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