



FEMA



Federal Emergency Management Agency ENVIRONMENTAL & HISTORIC CONSIDERATIONS

**Idaho Straight Line Winds
December 16-18, 2025; DR4905ID; declared April 7, 2026**

Environmental and Historic Preservation (EHP) Compliance During Disaster Recovery

FEMA awards are federally funded; all Applicants must comply with applicable federal, state, and local laws, executive orders, regulations, and permitting requirements. Early coordination with regulatory agencies will address compliance concerns and expedite funding. See the last page of this brochure for contact information.

The most important message is that the FEMA EHP staff is committed to helping you identify and meet your environmental compliance responsibilities. Be sure to:

- Identify all potential environmental and historic concerns, problems, or questions and discuss these with EHP staff as soon as possible.
- Contact permitting agencies to determine if you will need approvals or permits.
- Comply with all permit conditions.
- Submit all relevant permits and correspondence with state or federal agencies with your FEMA grant application.

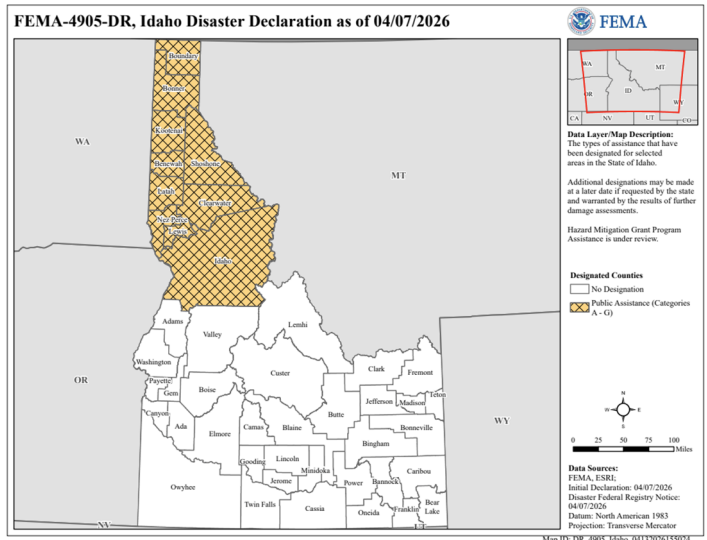
Our work is under the direction of FEMA Federal Coordinating Officer Vincent Maykovich. We coordinate closely with the Idaho Office of Emergency Management (IOEM) State Coordinating Officer Ben Roeber and his staff. As the Regional Environmental Officer, I pledge to assist you in understanding and complying with all EHP requirements. Eric Welch will be our EHP liaison for this incident.

Respectfully,
Science Kilner,
Regional Environmental Officer

Help us help you! Provide the following:

- ⇒ Complete and accurate project description (scope of work).
- ⇒ Location of work including accurate GPS coordinates (latitude & longitude) and address, if available.
- ⇒ Dates of construction for all built structures, if known, e.g., buildings, bridges, utility structures.
- ⇒ Clear, color photos which identify scale and location of damage and/or repair.
- ⇒ Existing environmental documentation. Include permits and approvals and any applicable management plans.
- ⇒ Sketches, design plans, or site maps showing limits of ground disturbance, staging areas, and access routes.

Failure to comply with applicable federal, Tribal, state, and local environmental and historic preservation laws could jeopardize or delay potential federal funding.



Important Note: Obtaining permits is the sole responsibility of the Applicant. Required permits and notifications must be issued **prior** to initiating any site activity. If the project is an emergency action to address immediate threats to life or property, regulatory agencies should be notified as soon as possible, and documentation should be submitted to FEMA EHP for review.

Environmental Laws & Project Requirements

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is a law that directs federal agencies to consider the environmental effects of actions they are funding. Some disaster response and recovery activities can proceed with limited environmental or historic preservation review while others require more detailed consideration, including coordination with resource/regulatory agencies and/or affected Tribes before work proceeds.

Projects on Tribal reservation lands must comply with Tribal laws, with emphasis on environmental and cultural resources requirements.



Wallace Historic District in Wallace, ID



State Bank of Kamiah in Kamiah, ID

Historic Preservation & Cultural Considerations

Any structure (e.g., buildings, bridges, etc.) that is at least 45 years old may be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. To facilitate review under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the age of any structures being repaired, replaced, and/or demolished must be provided. Some projects will require FEMA to consult with the State Historic Preservation Officer and/or Tribal Historic Preservation Officers.

Archaeological resources and cultural properties may also require special attention and include consultation. The extent of ground disturbance during site work must be provided to facilitate review. Proposed work which affects a previously undisturbed area (e.g., relocating a utility, realigning a road, or excavating a material borrow area) must be evaluated for archaeological concerns before work proceeds, even if the area is within a previously established right-of-way (ROW).

For projects within a Tribal reservation boundary and/or projects that could affect historic properties that may have religious and/or cultural significance to a Tribe, FEMA will consult with Tribes.

Debris Disposal & Hazardous Materials

Debris from disasters must be managed in accordance with federal, Tribal, state, and local regulations. Handling and disposing of large quantities of disaster debris (such as stockpiling, on-site burial, or burning) require special consideration and approval from the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Tribal Government, and/or a local clean air agency. Solid waste facilities may be permitted by the local jurisdictional health departments.

Temporary debris storage, reduction, or separation areas should not be placed on undisturbed ground, in floodplains, or in or near water. Debris cannot be stored in a wetland, even temporarily. Removal from a wetland must be coordinated with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the Idaho DEQ.

All waste must be disposed of at a facility permitted to accept that type of waste, unless a special permit has been issued by the DEQ.

Applicants must provide EHP with documentation showing temporary and final debris disposal locations.



Bull Trout, threatened species

Protected Species & Habitats

All FEMA funded activities must comply with the Endangered Species Act (ESA), Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), Bald & Golden Eagle Protection Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) are the two federal agencies with jurisdiction over protected species.

Under the ESA, projects must avoid or minimize impacts that are likely to adversely affect threatened or endangered (“listed”) species. To see

if your project may impact listed species under USFWS jurisdiction, visit: [IPaC](#). For listed species or Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) under NMFS jurisdiction, visit: [Species and Habitat App](#) (see p.4 for full web addresses).

FEMA must consult with NMFS and USFWS for any activities that have the potential to affect federally-listed species, critical habitat, or essential fish habitat. ESA and MSA frequently require conservation measures (e.g., project or timing restrictions) to minimize impacts. The NMFS issued a programmatic Biological Opinion (BiOp) on effects resulting from repairs, rehabilitations, and replacement of facilities and infrastructure impacted by disaster events. The BiOP, which can be found [here](#) (see p.4 for full web address), contains Project Design Criteria that must be implemented to comply with ESA/MSA.

For emergency work and completed projects, the Applicant may be required to show compliance with ESA and MSA (i.e., by having contacted NMFS and/or USFWS before starting work).

Work In/Affecting Water

In accordance with the Clean Water Act (CWA), E.O. 11988: Floodplain Management and E.O. 11990: Wetlands Protection the Rivers and Harbors Act, and state water laws, work in or affecting water including any part of the tributary system including small streams, lakes, and wetlands usually requires permitting from the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR), Idaho Department of Lands (IDL), and/or U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

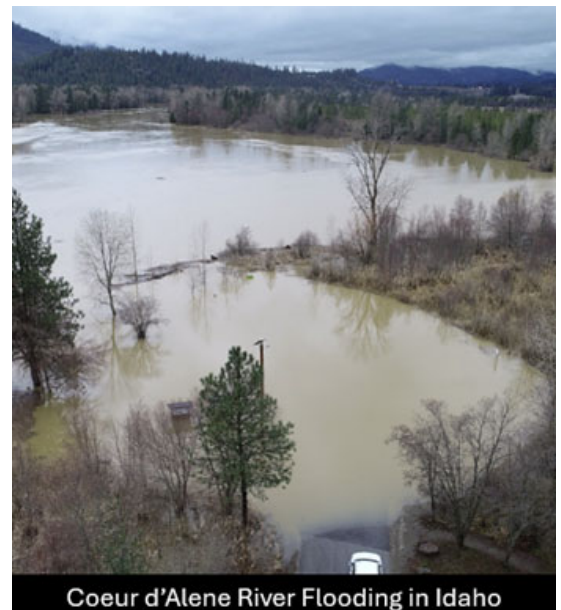
Many activities require permits including debris removal, bridge and culvert work, levee work, and embankment stabilization. For more information on permits contact the appropriate agencies.

Additional documentation may be required for projects within or affecting the floodplain, including floodplain development permitting or a no-rise certificate if in the floodway. For projects in communities that participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), contact the local floodplain administrator for local/Tribal permitting requirements **prior to construction**.

Permitting

Obtaining permits is the responsibility of the Applicant or person/company performing the work, and must be issued prior to initiating any site activity. Copies of all permits must be provided to FEMA. Documentation in lieu of a permit, from the applicable regulatory agency, may also be provided.

To apply for multiple permits in one application, complete and file a [Joint Application for Permit](#) (see p.4 for full web address) through the Governor’s Office. This will simultaneously request permitting from USACE, IDL, and IDWR. For any questions about permitting, including whether permits may be required for a project, contact the appropriate agencies. If emergency work needs to occur to protect life or property, contact the individual agencies via their emergency processes.



Coeur d'Alene River Flooding in Idaho



Hazard Mitigation

FEMA has the responsibility, and is committed, to help ensure that communities affected by the disaster make better risk-informed decisions and become less vulnerable to the loss of life and property from future disasters. These efforts, called hazard mitigation, typically require more in-depth EHP review because they have more ground disturbance and potential to impact important cultural and environmental resources. EHP has subject matter experts to assist you during Site Inspections and project creation to resolve these concerns.

Contact Information & Helpful Resources

General/Technical Assistance:

FEMA Region 10 EHP

Science Kilner, Regional Environmental Officer
(425) 686-5794
science.kilner@fema.dhs.gov

FEMA Disaster EHP

Eric Welch, EHP Environmental Specialist
(202) 709-2895
eric.welch@fema.dhs.gov

<https://www.fema.gov/about/regions/region-10>

Idaho Office of Emergency Management

Jarod Dick, Recovery Coordinator
(208) 258-6515
jdick@imd.idaho.gov
Ryan Bender, North Central Area Field Officer
(208) 258-6514
rbender@imd.idaho.gov
<https://ioem.idaho.gov/>

Idaho State Historical Society

State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)
(208) 334-3861
shpo@ishs.idaho.gov
<https://history.idaho.gov/>

Regulatory (Permits):

Idaho Department of Water Resources

Western Regional Office, (208) 334-2190
<https://idwr.idaho.gov/>

Department of Environmental Quality

General, (208) 373-0502
Lewiston Regional Office, (208) 799-4370
Coeur d' Alene Regional Office, (208) 769-1422
<https://www.deq.idaho.gov/>

Idaho Fish and Game

Panhandle Region, Coeur d'Alene, (208) 769-1414
Clearwater Region, Lewiston, (208) 799-5010
Southwest Region, McCall, (208) 634-8137
Headquarters, Boise, (208) 334-3700
<https://idfg.idaho.gov/>

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Walla Walla District Regulatory Contact,
(208) 433-4464
<https://www.nww.usace.army.mil/>

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office, Boise,
(208) 918-2155
<https://www.fws.gov/office/idaho-fish-and-wildlife>

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)

West Coast Region, Boise Satellite Office,
(208) 378-5696
<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/contact/boise-idaho>

Floodplain Management

State NFIP Coordinator: Peter Jackson,
(208) 287-4973
<https://idwr.idaho.gov/floods/>

Web Addresses:

IPaC: <https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/>

NOAA Species & Habitat App: <https://maps.fisheries.noaa.gov/portal/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=e8311ceaa4354de290fb1c456cd86a7f>

NMFS Biop: [https://www.google.com/url?](https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwjR_HL7oruAhUquVvKkHRsDDZMQFjAOegQIIBAC&url=https%3A%2F%2Frepository.library.noaa.gov%2Fview%2Fnoaa%2F24208%2Fnoaa_24208_DS1.pdf&usg=AOvVaw0JeN0hQ4Z8LXJTWOqqJsAo)

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Joint Application for Permit: <https://www.idl.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2020/01/InstructionGuide-3.pdf>