INITIAL PUBLIC NOTICE

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is proposing to fund the Stemilt Basin Fuels Reduction project and the Scout-A-Vista (SAV) Wildfire Fuels Reduction project (Projects). Funding would be provided by the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) as authorized by Section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Assistance and Emergency Relief Act, 42 United States Code.

FEMA intends to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Projects, in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA); Executive Order (EO) 11988, Floodplain Management; EO 11990, Wetlands Protection; and EO 12898, Environmental Justice.

Chelan County Natural Resource Department has applied for HMGP funds for the Projects; with matching funds (25 percent) provided by state and local sources. The purpose of these Projects is to protect people and property by reducing the risk of wildfire-related hazards within the Stemilt and Squilchuck sub-basins near Wenatchee, Washington. The Projects would implement fuels reduction work in three treatment areas: (1) approximately 100 acres of land located along the Upper Wheeler Road and an optional 49 acres if funding allows, (2) approximately 75 acres of land south of Squilchuck State Park, and (3) approximately 29 acres of land within the southern portion of the SAV Property. The Projects would reduce the intensity of wildfires that may occur in this area and provide areas along Upper Wheeler Road and along the edges of the Forest Ridge subdivision where fire fighters may more safely manage a wildfire. These projects are adjacent to ongoing and planned fuels reduction projects in the Stemilt and Squilchuck Basins, which cumulatively are designed to improve forest health and reduce wildfire risk throughout the watersheds (more information is provided in the [Stemilt-Squilchuck Landscape Evaluation 2019](https://www.co.chelan.wa.us/files/natural-resources/documents/Stemilt_Squilchuck_LandscapeEval_finalJune2019%281%29.pdf) and [WA DNR 20-Year Forest Health Plan](https://www.dnr.wa.gov/ForestHealthPlan)).

The County would be responsible for the maintenance of the Stemilt Basin Fuels Reduction Project and the SAV landowner would be responsible for the maintenance of the SAV Wildfire Fuels Reduction Project.

Initial comments concerning the Projects, potential alternatives, and preliminary identification of environmental issues will be accepted from the public; local, state, and federal agencies; Tribes; and other interested parties to scope the EA and inform decision-making. Comments should be made in writing and sent to the FEMA contact listed below. Comments must be received by Month X, 2020 to be considered.

Additional information about the Projects, including a brief fact sheet can be obtained by contacting Chelan County or at the following website: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Once complete, the draft EA, anticipated fall 2020, will be made available for public comment.

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| **Responsible Official:** | **Stemilt Basin Fuels Reduction Contact:** | **Scout-A-Vista Wildfire Fuels Reduction Project Contact:** |
| Science KilnerActing Regional Environmental OfficerFEMA Region 10130 228th St SW Bothell, WA 98021-9796FEMA-R10-EHP-Comments@fema.dhs.gov  | Erin McKaySenior Natural Resource Department SpecialistChelan County Natural Resource DepartmentErin.McKay@CO.CHELAN.WA.US(509) 630-5303 | Patrick HaggertyForestry Program ManagerCascadia Conservation DistrictPatrickH@cascadiacd.org 509-436-1601 |