



**PRESS RELEASE – For Immediate Release – March 20, 2018**

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 Board of County Commissioners

**Project Title:**

HMGP-4283-60 – Indian River County, County-Wide Wildfire Mitigation

**Location of Proposed Work:**

- County-Wide – see map attached. Generally east of I-95 and west of the Indian River Lagoon.

CONSERVATION AREA	ADDRESS
58 <sup>th</sup> Avenue Conservation Area	58 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, approximately 0.1 miles South of 49 <sup>th</sup> Street, Vero Beach
Ansin Riverfront Conservation Area	Water Vliet & CR 512, Sebastian
Cypress Bend Community Preserve	1801 27 <sup>th</sup> Street, Sebastian
Hallstrom Farmstead Conservation Area	Old Dixie Highway, approximately 1 mile South of Oslo Road, Vero Beach
North Sebastian Conservation Area	1295 Main Street, Sebastian
Sebastian Harbor Preserve	184 Englar Drive, Sebastian
Sebastian Scrub Conservation Area	1258 Schumann Drive, Sebastian
South Oslo Conservation Area	Oslo Road, approximately 0.3 miles East of US 1, Vero Beach
Wabasso Scrub Conservation Area	5900 85 <sup>th</sup> Street, Sebastian
South County Park	800 20 <sup>th</sup> Avenue SW, Vero Beach

**Proposed Work and Purpose:**

Indian River County has prepared a grant application for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program issued by FEMA and administered by the State of Florida in response to Hurricane Matthew (2016). This project would provide fire

protection throughout the county to specific sites referred to as Tier 1, generally east of I-95 and west of the Indian River Lagoon. Projects within the Tier 1 ranking are proposed to be funded and will provide site specific wildfire protection measures.

Defensible space to protect homes, businesses and roads will be created utilizing specialized equipment that will mow vegetation in place to the ground level. Additional disking on perimeter areas may be utilized. Removing vegetation and disking provides wildfire protection to adjacent structures, vehicular access and the ability to maintain defensible space, providing long-term protection to the residents adjacent to the preserve. The project is anticipated to take 3 years to complete. A start date has not been determined at this time.

A draft of the County's Wildfire Management Plan 2018 is available at the following link:

[http://www.ircgov.com/Public\\_Notices/WMP\\_DRAFT.pdf](http://www.ircgov.com/Public_Notices/WMP_DRAFT.pdf)

**Project Alternatives:**

The alternatives to the project that have been and will be considered are 1) the no action alternative and 2) installing smaller defensible areas. These alternatives to the proposed project are not viable because Alternative 1) does not provide any protection to homes or access during a wildfire; and Alternative 2) would not provide enough protection to protect homes in the event of a wildfire and still poses access issues for emergency response.

**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 Recovery and Mitigation, 2555 Shumard Oak Blvd., Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100. These are due within 30 days of this notice (April 20, 2018). 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:

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