

FEMA PUBLIC NOTICE
DRAFT PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF
BEACH, INLET SHORELINE, AND DUNE NOURISHMENT AND
RESTORATION ACTIONS IN FLORIDA

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) hereby gives notice to the public of its intent to provide programmatic support of beach and inlet shoreline nourishment and restoration actions, dune restoration and establishment actions, and sand borrow area expansion or development in the state of Florida (Proposed Action). This public notice concerns activities that could potentially occur within any of Florida's 35 coastal counties.

Florida's beaches, inlet shorelines, and dune systems provide effective mitigation against destructive wave action and support Florida's beach-related tourism economy. However, hurricanes and coastal storms move huge volumes of sediment and erode these resources, reducing their capacity to mitigate for future storm events. The purpose of the Proposed Action is to support coastal resiliency in Florida through beach, inlet shoreline, and dune nourishment and restoration actions. The Proposed Action would provide a streamlined approach to compliance requirements of these actions and prioritize efficiency in delivering FEMA's mission. The Proposed Action is needed to strengthen Florida's response to severe coastal storms and erosion and reduce the potential for loss of life and property.

Under the Proposed Action, FEMA's grant programs would support implementation of six categories of actions that could be implemented alone or in combination to meet the purpose and need of the Proposed Action: 1) beach or inlet shoreline nourishment, 2) beach or inlet shoreline restoration (or renourishment), 3) dune restoration actions, 4) dune establishment, 5) sand borrow area expansion, and 6) sand borrow development. These actions represent the most common federally funded coastal nourishment or restoration actions in Florida. Any single project would need to remain under 2.1 million cubic yards of sand placement or displacement.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), FEMA has prepared a Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) to assess impacts to the natural and human environment from actions related to carrying out the Proposed Action. The PEA is available for public comment on FEMA's website at:

<https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/practitioners/environmental-historic/nepa-repository>

<https://www.floridadisaster.org/public-notice/>

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) requires federal agencies to consult with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for effects to federally listed threatened and endangered species. FEMA is utilizing existing Programmatic Biological

Opinions with USFWS and NMFS to ensure compliance with Section 7 of the ESA. In addition, FEMA will consult with USFWS and NMFS on a project-specific basis, as needed. Consultation with NMFS under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, and with NMFS and USFWS under the Marine Mammals Protection Act will also be conducted, as needed, on a project-specific basis.

The National Historic Preservation Act requires federal agencies to consider the effect of their undertakings on historic properties. Site-specific consultation and coordination with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) will be conducted, as needed, to avoid, minimize, or mitigate potential adverse impacts to historic resources on a project-specific basis. Additionally, FEMA invited Federally Recognized Tribes, in accordance with Executive Order (EO) 13175, to review the Draft PEA and will continue to engage cultural resource stakeholders and Tribal Nations on a project-specific basis.

Presidential Executive Orders 11988 and 11990 require that all federal actions in or affecting the floodplain or wetlands be reviewed for opportunities to relocate and evaluated for social, economic, historical, environmental, legal, and safety considerations. FEMA anticipates that some projects identified under this PEA will be located in or near coastal floodplains and marine or estuarine wetlands. FEMA will apply the 8-step decision-making process and publish public notices, as required, to consider site-specific impacts of each project.

This will serve as the final public notice regarding the above-described action funded by FEMA. Interested persons may obtain information about these actions or a specific project by writing to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region 4, 3005 Chamblee-Tucker Road, Atlanta, Georgia 30341, or by emailing FEMA-R4EHP@fema.dhs.gov. Comments should be sent in writing with the subject line, "FEMA Beach FL PEA", at the above address within 30 days of the date of this notice.