

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) hereby provides an initial notice of its proposal to provide Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funding for an action located in a floodplain and wetland. In this case, funding will be provided through Vermont Emergency Management to the Town of Middlebury to restore and create additional floodplain storage at the Middlebury River between the Lower Plains Bridge and the Grist Mill Bridge Road. A map of the proposed project location and other details are available upon request by email to Kimberly.demuro@fema.dhs.gov or by phone at (617) 956-7569.

The proposed action includes removal of large sediment deposits from chute entrances and the top of large gravel and sand bars; Armor sections of the Ossie Road Berm and upstream berms; Adding ground anchors and rip rap to an existing flood wall; and extending the floodwall west of Grist Mill Road by 150 feet. The removal of sediment deposits will reconnect five (5) flood chutes areas and six (6) large sediment bars will be removed. The average depth of the chute removal is between two (2) to three (3) feet and the sediment bar removal ranges from two (2) to four (4) feet in depth. For each activity the intent is to remove woody debris and gravel material that is present above the 1-year flood elevation. Sediment removal in the chutes and sediment bars range from 2,900 to 20,400 square feet. The volume of sediment removal for these areas ranges from 215 cubic yards to 2,326 cubic yards.

Three staging areas would be utilized. Access to the downstream chutes and berm is proposed through the junkyard property. Access is proposed at Goodro Lumber Company to reach two (2) work areas. Access to the flood chute area near Lower Plains Road is proposed near two residential properties.

The primary purpose of the proposed action is to reduce the risk of flooding within the community. The proposed action is within a mapped special flood hazard area (100-year floodplain) and within an area that contains wetlands.

Comments about this project and floodplain and wetlands impacts may be submitted in writing to:

David E. Robbins, Regional Environmental Officer
Federal Emergency Management Agency, Boston, MA
david.robbsins@fema.dhs.gov phone 617-832-4791

If FEMA receives substantive comments, it will evaluate and address the comments as part of the environmental review documentation for this project.