

Preliminary Public Notice Language for Potential Impacts to Floodplains Whiteriver Hospital Project

The Indian Health Service Whiteriver Service Unit proposes to construct and operate a new hospital, associated facilities, and staff quarters in Whiteriver and near Indian Pine, Arizona, on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation. The proposed project would construct a new hospital campus designed to provide comprehensive medical services and supporting infrastructure. At the center of the project is the construction of a 407,746-square-foot hospital building that will include emergency medical services. Supporting facilities will be built throughout the site, including a 4,083-square-foot maintenance building, a 1,500-square-foot pump house, and a 16,316-square-foot wastewater plant with associated piping connections to water, sewer, and reclaimed water systems extending to and from the hospital campus. The total project area for the hospital and associated facilities is approximately 129 acres and is just north of Whiteriver, along State Route (SR) 73. The geographic coordinates of the hospital site are 33.877476°, -109.961766°.

The proposed staff quarters would be dedicated hospital employee housing consisting of approximately 183 housing units, ranging in size from two to four bedrooms, offering a mix of options to accommodate staff and their families. To support the development, new infrastructure will be constructed, including a 13,339-square-foot wastewater treatment plant connected by sewer, water, and reclaimed water piping to provide reliable utility services for the residential community. Access to the staff quarters site would be enhanced through new access road connections. An approximately 1,800-foot-long access road would be built from SR 73, east to the housing site, and improvements would be made to the existing gravel road that extends from Timber Ridge Road, south to the proposed water treatment plant. Both roadways would be paved with asphalt, improving long-term accessibility and reliability for staff residents and service vehicles. The total project area for the staff quarters is approximately 332 acres and is south of Indian Pine, along SR 73. The geographic coordinates of the site are 34.068576°, -109.895402°.

The available Federal Emergency Management Agency data indicate the project areas are currently designated as Zone X (Unshaded) (hospital site) and Zone D (staff quarters site). A hydrologic analysis was conducted to model the approximate 100-year and 500-year inundation areas within the project areas during an equivalent event. Based on hydrologic analysis, approximately 55 acres mapped as being inundated during a 100- or 500-year event would be affected by the Proposed Action. Specifically, approximately 13.8 acres of 100-year inundation areas and approximately 17 acres of 500-year inundated areas would be affected at the Whiteriver hospital site. Approximately 11 acres of 100-year inundation areas and approximately 12.8 acres of 500-year inundation areas would be affected at the

staff quarters site. In accordance with Executive Order 11988: Floodplain Management, the purpose of this notice is to inform the public of this proposed conversion or effect and request comments concerning the proposed project, alternative sites, or actions that would avoid these impacts, and methods that could be used to minimize these impacts.

The environmental documentation regarding this proposal is available for review by visiting <https://www.ihs.gov/phoenix/healthcarefacilities/whiteriver/> , or by contacting Trenton Breshears, Realty Specialist, Indian Health Service Trenton.breshears@ihs.gov.

Any person interested in commenting on this proposal should submit comments to the email address above by December 10, 2025.