

## [US President Declares Major Disaster for the State of Washington](#)

### Local News

Posted by: David Haviland

Posted on : September 26, 2012 at 4:28 am

Washington D.C. - The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has announced that federal disaster assistance has been made available to counties affected by a severe storm, straight-line winds and flooding on July 20, 2012. Ferry and Okanogan counties were hit hard by a severe storm, straight-line winds, and flooding, Grays Harbor PUD Commissioner Tom Casey spoke with Ferry County PUD Commissioner Nathan Davis at a meeting this month for the Washington Public Utility Districts Association "They had a very freaky wind that blasted through the county that just twisted trees. It was something they've never seen before and it tore up their system something terrible." Casey said with mutual aid from 3 counties, the Utility was still strapped to recover quickly. Federal funding is available in Ferry and Okanogan counties as well as to the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation. Federal funding is also available on a cost-sharing basis for hazard mitigation measures for all counties and tribes within the state. Kenneth K. Suiso has been named as the Federal Coordinating Officer for federal recovery operations in the affected area. Suiso said additional designations may be made at a later date if requested by the state and warranted by the results of further damage assessments.

Federal Aid Programs for State of Washington Disaster Recovery Following is a summary of key federal disaster aid programs that can be made available *as needed and warranted* under President Obama's major disaster declaration issued for the State of Washington. **Assistance for the State and Affected Local Governments Can Include as Required:** Payment of not less than 75 percent of the eligible costs for repairing or replacing damaged public facilities, such as roads, bridges, utilities, buildings, schools, recreational areas and similar publicly owned property, as well as certain private non-profit organizations engaged in community service activities. (*Source: FEMA funded, state administered.*) Payment of not less than 75 percent of the eligible costs for removing debris from public areas and for emergency measures taken to save lives and protect property and public health. (*Source: FEMA funded, state administered.*) Payment of not more than 75 percent of the approved costs for hazard mitigation projects undertaken by state and local governments to prevent or reduce long-term risk to life and property from natural or technological disasters. (*Source: FEMA funded, state administered.*) **How to Apply for Assistance:** Application procedures for local governments will be explained at a series of federal/state applicant briefings with locations to be announced in the affected area by recovery officials. Approved public repair projects are paid through the state from funding provided by FEMA and other participating federal agencies. *FEMA's mission is to support our first responders and ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards. Stay informed of FEMA's activities online: videos and podcasts available at [blocked::http://www.fema.gov/medialibrary](http://www.fema.gov/medialibrary)">[www.fema.gov/medialibrary](http://www.fema.gov/medialibrary) and [blocked::http://www.youtube.com/fema](http://www.youtube.com/fema)">[www.youtube.com/fema](http://www.youtube.com/fema) ; follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/fema](http://www.twitter.com/fema) and on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/fema](http://www.facebook.com/fema).*