

**Scoping Notice and Request for Public Input
Regarding a
Speed Limit on the Fifteen Mile Road**

PROPOSED ACTION

The Bureau of Land Management Worland Field Office is considering implementing a speed limit for the first 4 miles of the Fifteen Mile Road.

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act provides for public safety in coordination with state laws.

The need for the action arises from the findings of a 2010 engineering study finding a risk to motor vehicle operation on the initial four mile segment of the Fifteen Mile Road. The BLM has an obligation to provide for public safety under 43 CFR 8340.0-2 which states, “The objective of these regulations are to protect the resources of the public lands, to promote the safety of all users of those lands, and to minimize conflicts among the various uses of those lands.”

43 CFR 8341.1 (d) addresses coordination with state law. The state law that is applicable in this case is Wyoming Statute 31-5-303 (b) which states that jurisdictions may determine the proper maximum speed limit using standards that are consistent with national practices.

IDENTIFIED GOALS

- Provide safe access for a wide variety of commercial and recreational activities on public lands.
- Determine appropriate speed limit using standard methods as outlined in the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

National Environmental Policy Act

To comply with NEPA and the Council on Environmental Quality regulations, which implements NEPA, the BLM is required to prepare an environmental analysis. The environmental document will serve several purposes. It will provide both the public and governmental agencies with information about the potential environmental consequences of the project and alternatives; identify all practicable means to avoid or minimize environmental harm from the project and alternatives; and provide the responsible official with information upon which to make an informed decision regarding the project. The document will be prepared by an interdisciplinary team (IDT) of BLM resource experts.

One essential element of the NEPA process is scoping. Scoping activities are initiated early in the process to:

- identify reasonable alternatives to be evaluated in the environmental analysis;
- identify environmental issues of concern related to the proposed actions;
- determine the depth of analysis for issues addressed in the environmental document; and
- identify potential mitigation.

This scoping statement has been prepared to describe means by which governmental agencies, the general public, and other interested parties may participate in and contribute to the analysis process. Public input is important in establishing the scope of analysis for any NEPA document, and the BLM encourages public participation.

Timing Requirements

Public input is important in establishing the level and scope of the analysis. The public is encouraged to participate throughout the environmental analysis process to help in identifying the level of analysis needed, alternatives to the proposed action, other issues or concerns that should be analyzed, mitigation opportunities, and any other comments or ideas to help ensure the completeness of the analysis process.

A public comment and review period will begin on September 6, 2011. Comments are due by **October 5, 2011**. Please submit your comments to:

BLM – Worland Field Office
ATTN: Aaron Kania, Project Manager
101 South 23rd St
Worland, WY 82401

307.347.5100
E-mail: Worland_wymail@blm.gov