

# U.S. 95 THORNCREEK ROAD TO MOSCOW

JANUARY 2005

## JANUARY 19 AND 20 WORKSHOPS

To begin the process of identifying the best possible alternative/alignment for the U.S. 95 Thorncreek Road to Moscow project, ITD will present a range of possible alternatives/alignments at workshops on Jan. 19 and 20. Workshop times and location are listed on the other side of this newsletter.

The possible alternatives/alignments have been developed by the project team based on:

- Public input from the November 2004 open houses
- Constructability – Whether a road could be built along a particular alternative/alignment

At the workshops you will see descriptions and visual representations of six possible alignments:

- Two west of the current alignment
- Two east of the current alignment
- Improve the current alignment
- No build – Leave the current alignment as it is today

You will have the opportunity to discuss, change and give input on the range of alignments.

## ITD CONDUCTING ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

Many environmental studies will be completed to help determine the best possible alternative/alignment for the U.S. 95 Thorncreek Road to Moscow project. These studies will be conducted throughout the project area and will help the project team understand the environmental impacts of the project.

As this project moves forward and the number of possible alternatives/alignments is narrowed, more detailed studies may be required to further identify specific environmental impacts and determine how best to address these impacts.

### ITD will conduct studies of:

- Threatened, endangered and rare species of wildlife and plants
- Cultural and/or historic resources
- Wetlands and waterways
- Climate
- Visual and noise
- Residential displacements and socioeconomic effects
- Prime farmland
- Hazardous materials



### U.S. 95 Thorncreek Road to Moscow Profile: Shelly Gilmore

ITD has contracted with Resource Planning Unlimited, Inc. to perform wetlands studies in the U.S. 95 Thorncreek Road to Moscow project area. Shelly Gilmore is the company's president and is conducting the study.

For this project, Gilmore will provide information to ITD about wetlands and jurisdictional waters of the United States found within the project area. Information will include wetland location, boundaries, and function. She started her work in August 2004 and expects to finish in the spring.

To do her work, Gilmore – who has been in business 10 years and previously worked for the Idaho Soil Conservation Commission and the Lewiston Wastewater Treatment Plant – reviews previous studies, maps and aerial photos of the project area to determine where wetlands might be located. She then goes into the field to investigate further. To determine wetland presence, Gilmore uses the protocols outlined in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 1987 Wetland Delineation Manual.

She first investigates the area for plants that tolerate seasonally wet conditions. Then she digs a test hole and examines the soil color and texture. Gilmore also evaluates whether the site continues to support saturated soil conditions for a prolonged period of time.

Gilmore said she finds this project interesting, “The investigation area is very large and challenging.”

*Shelly Gilmore is scheduled to attend the Feb. 8 breakfast meeting. Time and location are listed on the other side of this newsletter.*

# U.S. 95 THORNCREEK ROAD TO MOSCOW PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

The Idaho Transportation Department invites you to attend a workshop to help identify the best possible alternatives/alignments for the U.S. 95 Thorncreek Road to Moscow project. ITD will present a range of possible alternatives/alignments at the workshops.

## PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND ONE OF THESE WORKSHOPS

**Wednesday, January 19**

**1 to 4 p.m.**

**or**

**5:30 to 8:30 p.m.**

**Thursday, January 20**

**1 to 4 p.m.**

**or**

**5:30 to 8:30 p.m.**

The workshops will be held in the Eastside Marketplace off the Troy Highway. These workshops are not an open house format. They will begin on time and will last three hours. Please plan to arrive 10 minutes early.

### MONTHLY BREAKFAST MEETINGS

ITD is hosting monthly breakfast meetings on the second Tuesday of every month to provide information about this project and answer questions. The next ones are Feb. 8, March 8 and April 12. All breakfast meetings are from 7-8 a.m. at the Mark IV Restaurant, 414 N. Main St., Moscow.

### INFORMATION KIOSK

A project kiosk is located at the Eastside Marketplace (off the Troy Highway). The kiosk will be staffed by someone who can answer questions and provide project information on:

- Thursdays from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
- Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Web site: [www.itd.idaho.gov/getinvolved/d2/](http://www.itd.idaho.gov/getinvolved/d2/) and click on U.S. 95, Thorncreek Road to Moscow, Stage 1  
Call: ITD Project Manager Ken Helm at 799-5090