

U.S. 95 THORNCREEK ROAD TO MOSCOW

FEBRUARY 2005

INFORMATION KIOSK

A project information kiosk is located at the Eastside Marketplace (off the Troy Highway). The kiosk includes project information and notification of upcoming meetings and activities. As soon as information from the January workshops is available, it will be posted at the kiosk.

The kiosk is staffed by someone who can answer questions and provide additional project information:

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

MONTHLY BREAKFAST MEETINGS

One of ITD's goals for this project is to provide the community with many opportunities to receive information about the project and answer questions. ITD is hosting monthly breakfast meetings on the second Tuesday of every month for this purpose.

The breakfast meetings are held at the Mark IV Restaurant, 414 North Main St. in Moscow, from 7 to 8 a.m. The next breakfast meetings are:

- March 8
- April 12
- May 10



Public participation at the monthly breakfast meetings has been very good. In March, Dr. Russell Qualls (see profile at right) will be the featured speaker.



U.S. 95 Thorncreek Road to Moscow Profile: Dr. Russell Qualls

The Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) has contracted with Idaho State Climate Services to conduct a wintertime climate analysis in the U.S. 95 Thorncreek Road to Moscow project area. The purpose is to compare the existing U.S. 95 alignment and two alternative corridors – one east and one west of the existing highway.

Dr. Russell Qualls is the Idaho State Climatologist and director of Idaho State Climate Services. Idaho State Climate Services is part of the University of Idaho's Cooperative Extension System and resides within the Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering.

For this project, Dr. Qualls has established three automated weather stations:

- A site within the western corridor
- A site within the eastern corridor
- A site at the southern end of the study corridor near Reisenauer Hill

The weather stations measure a variety of data including:

- Precipitation intensity, accumulation and type (*rain, snow, drizzle, etc.*)
- Air temperature
- Relative humidity
- Snow depth
- Visibility distance

The project will examine air temperature, precipitation and fog – including visibility distances – at the three sites to determine if the climate is different.

Certain distinctions are of particular interest, such as:

- The fraction of time for which the air temperature is below freezing
- The magnitude of precipitation, including the split between rain and snow
- The number of hours for which reduced visibility from fog falls within specified ranges, such as 0-100 meters, 100-200 meters and 200-300 meters

In order to synthesize a longer-term record for each of these sites, Dr. Qualls will be utilizing the data collected at the University of Idaho Plant Sciences Farm to get the mean and variability of the climate.

Data measured concurrently at the three ITD project sites and Plant Sciences Farm will be used to determine the relationships between the sites. Then the long-term climatological record from Plant Sciences Farm can be used together with the three project sites to generate a long-term climatic record for each of the project sites.

The fact that the sites are relatively close to one another, but are affected differently by factors such as topographic air mass lifting, cold air drainage and exposure, makes this an exciting and interesting project.

Dr. Qualls is scheduled to attend the March 8 breakfast meeting. For time and location, see Monthly Breakfast Meetings at left.

THANKS FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE JANUARY WORKSHOPS

Thanks to everyone who attended an alternative/alignment workshop for the U.S. 95 Thorncreek Road to Moscow project on January 19 and 20. Nearly 200 people attended one of four workshops at the Eastside Marketplace. More than 500 comment sheets were received.

The Idaho Transportation Department is reviewing the information gathered from these workshops.

Six alignments were shown at the workshops:

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

Workshop participants identified many issues they liked and disliked for each of the alignments. ITD is reviewing this input and will present the public's comments in the March newsletter and at the information kiosk. A more detailed summary will also be presented on the project Web site, www.itd.idaho.gov/GetInvolved/D2/ click on U.S. 95, Thorncreek Road to Moscow, Stage 1.

The next opportunity to give input on this project will be announced in a future newsletter, at the kiosk and on the Web site.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- Visit the Web site at www.itd.idaho.gov/GetInvolved/D2/ and click on U.S. 95, Thorncreek Road to Moscow, Stage 1
- Email thorncreekroadtomoscow@itd.idaho.gov
- Call ITD Project Manager Ken Helm at 799-5090