

U.S. 95 THORNCREEK ROAD TO MOSCOW

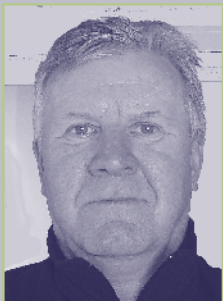
MARCH 2005

U.S. 95 Thorncreek Road to Moscow Profile: Dr. Wayne Melquist

Dr. Wayne Melquist is preparing a biological evaluation on the potential impacts of a new roadway to wildlife for the Idaho Transportation Department's U.S. 95 Thorncreek Road to Moscow Project. He is principal of Crex Consultants and a Research Associate Professor in the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources at the University of Idaho.

Dr. Melquist is gathering information about white-tailed deer, elk and moose, including the animals' history on Paradise Ridge and surrounding areas, their foraging patterns, and their movement patterns and travel corridors. Dr. Melquist's evaluation will include the western corridor, central corridor and eastern corridor of the project area.

The information gathered is being used to evaluate the potential direct, indirect and cumulative effects of each corridor on the three species. It includes effects on the species during and after completion of the project.



In analyzing the potential direct, indirect and cumulative effects of transportation corridors on deer, elk and moose, Dr. Melquist is considering the following:

- Disruption of individuals
- Habitat avoidance
- Habitat disruption
- Habitat enhancement
- Direct mortality
- Indirect mortality
- Population effects

These data will all be part of the final biological evaluation.

Prior to his current position, Dr. Melquist was a Wildlife Program Manager with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game from 1985-2003.

Dr. Wayne Melquist is scheduled to attend the April 12 breakfast meeting. Please see back for time and location.

The Idaho Transportation Department will host an open house at two times on April 13 to show the public the outcomes of the January 2005 workshops and the next steps in the project. The open house is:

Wednesday, April 13, 2005

2-4 p.m. and 5:30-8 p.m.

Eastside Marketplace off the Troy Highway

The purpose of the workshops on Jan. 19 and 20 was to present a range of possible alternatives/alignments to the public. Participants were shown descriptions and visual representations of five possible alternatives/alignments and asked to comment on them:

- Two west of the current alignment
- Two east of the current alignment
- Improve the current alignment

In addition, participants were given an opportunity to comment on leaving the alignment as it is today (No Action).

The range of alternatives/alignments was developed based on purpose and need, design standards and public input from the open houses held in November 2004. Nearly 200 people attended the January workshops and more than 550 comment forms were received.

The open house on April 13 will show what the public liked and disliked about the western, central and eastern alignments and the changes that were suggested. ITD staff will be available to answer questions, but there will be no formal presentation or discussion groups.

For those who are unable to attend, the information will be posted on the Web site after the open houses. The address is www.itd.idaho.gov/GetInvolved/D2/ and click on U.S. 95, Thorncreek Road to Moscow, Stage 1.



Nearly 200 people attended ITD's alternatives/alignments workshops in January and participated in discussion groups.

APRIL OPEN HOUSE

AN OPEN HOUSE TO DISPLAY THE RESULTS FROM THE JANUARY ALTERNATIVES/ALIGNMENTS WORKSHOPS AND SHOW THE NEXT STEPS OF THE PROJECT WILL BE HELD:

April 13, 2005

2-4 p.m. and 5:30-8 p.m.

Eastside Marketplace off the Troy Highway

Please drop by any time during the open house and stay as long as you wish.
ITD staff will be available to answer questions.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE U.S. 95 THORNCREEK ROAD TO MOSCOW PROJECT:

- Breakfast meeting – Held the second Tuesday of every month from 7-8 a.m. at the Mark IV Restaurant, 414 N. Main Street in Moscow. The next breakfast meetings are April 12 and May 10
- Kiosk – Information about the project is located on the kiosk at the Eastside Marketplace off the Troy Highway. The kiosk is staffed by someone who can answer questions and provide additional project information Thursdays from 5:30-7:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m
- Website – 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