



File Code: 1950

Date: April 25, 2001

SCOPING STATEMENT

USDA FOREST SERVICE Shoshone National Forest North Zone/Wapiti Ranger District Park County, Wyoming

Dear Interested Party:

The Shoshone National Forest is considering granting two road easements to private property owners for access to their property. The easements are located in Park County, near the South Fork of the Shoshone River. The location is about 30 miles southwest of Cody, Wyoming.

The purpose of this letter is to solicit written comments from all concerned parties. Your comments and suggestions are needed and encouraged. Project alternatives will be determined and environmental consequences analyzed during the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process initiated by this scoping letter.

NOTE: If you no longer want to be included on the NEPA mailing list to receive these scoping notices, please notify the office and help us keep the list current. Scoping Statements, the quarterly Schedule of Proposed Actions (SOPA) and other related NEPA documents are now being posted on the Internet at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/shoshone>. See “Projects” under “Planning” on the Shoshone National Forest home page.

Introduction and Proposed Action

The **Purpose and Need** for the action is:

Applications for these easements were received from the EJ Ranch and the J Bar 9 Ranch. The two easements involve the same portion of road located in the southwest quarter (SW1/4SE1/4) of Section 4 T.49N, R105W and the west half northeast quarter (W1/2NE1/4) of Section 4 T.49N, R105W., 6th P.M. Park County, Wyoming. The road crosses Aldrich Creek and the easement involves .59 mile of road across National Forest Systems Lands to access private land.

The area is currently roaded and the easement is for an existing road, which has been used historically by each party as the access to their property. No new construction, reconstruction, or ground disturbance is proposed at this time.



Possible Alternatives

- No Action Alternative – Current management would continue and the easement applications would be denied. Property owners would not have legal access to their property.
- Proposed Action - The project would be authorized as proposed.

Preliminary Issues:

- What is the need for public access to the area?
- What are the opportunities for shared maintenance responsibilities?
- Will future road or bridge upgrades be needed?
- Is there a need for year round access?
- What affect will this action have on National Forest System lands or other landowners?
- What other alternatives to the proposal should be considered?

Nature of Decision

The decision to be made is whether or not to authorize the easements as proposed, or an alternative to the proposal. Also, the decision could include what mitigation measures need to be applied to the proposal. Based on public comment from this scoping notice and environmental analysis, the Forest Service must determine whether significant issues or concerns exist. If there are any, they will be addressed in the analysis and the eventual decision.

Contacts

The public is provided this opportunity to identify and submit issues and concerns they feel the Forest Service should address. To be most helpful, written comments need to be submitted no later than May 25, 2001. Comments should be as specific as possible to assist us in the analysis.

For further information, contact Jennifer Watson, Lands Specialist at (307) 527-6241. Comments can be mailed to: Attention-Marty Sharp, NEPA Coordinator, North Zone/Wapiti Ranger District, 203 A Yellowstone Ave., Cody, WY 82414.

Again, your comments are important to us.

Sincerely,

/s/ Brent L. Larsen
BRENT L. LARSON
District Ranger