

U.S. 95 THORNCREEK ROAD TO MOSCOW

APRIL 2005

U.S. 95 Thorncreek Road to Moscow

Profile: Stephen Emerson

A field survey of historic structures in the U.S. 95 Thorncreek Road to Moscow corridor was recently completed by Stephen Emerson of Archaeological and Historical Services at Eastern Washington University.

Working together, Emerson and his colleague Ann Sharley identified and recorded 35 historic properties. The majority of these properties are farm complexes associated with grain growing and dairying. Many of the property owners Emerson and Sharley spoke with could trace their ancestry to the pioneers who originally settled the area.



The historic significance of these properties was evaluated based on criteria established for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. One of the most important criteria for such listing is called integrity. Integrity requires that buildings be at least 50 years old and either still function or convey the character of their original function. In most instances, farms in this survey did not meet this criteria because of remodeling, removal or other

alteration of the original farm structures. However, a few were judged significant because all or most of their original structural components were intact.

In addition to field work, Emerson's survey methods included:

- Research to determine if cultural resources had been previously recorded in the corridor
- Reviewing maps and notes on file with the Bureau of Land Management to identify historic structures and land use
- Researching local archives to collect information about the history of the corridor
- Reviewing local tax assessor records to collect information about individual structures.

Emerson will submit his survey to the Idaho Transportation Department and the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office for review and approval in accordance with the requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Emerson said he enjoyed his work on this project. "The countryside is beautiful and the people we spoke with were friendly and helpful with information and access to their properties," he said.

Stephen Emerson is scheduled to attend the May 10 breakfast meeting. Please see back for time and location.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Widening of the first 14 ½ miles of U.S. 95 from the Top of Lewiston Hill to Thorncreek Road will be constructed in 2005-07

TOP OF LEWISTON HILL TO GENESEE

- Work is anticipated to start this month
- Scarsella Bros., Inc. from Seattle is the prime contractor
- Construction is scheduled to last approximately two years. The project will be completed in the spring of 2007.
- Traffic delays are anticipated to be no longer than 15 minutes

GENESEE TO THORNCREEK ROAD

- Work started in March. The first construction activities were the removal of topsoil and drainage structures.
- Scarsella Bros., Inc. from Seattle is the prime contractor
- Construction will take approximately two years. The project will be completed in the spring of 2007.

THORNCREEK ROAD TO MOSCOW

- Maintenance work between Thorncreek Road and Moscow, MP 337.05 to MP 343, is scheduled for summer 2005
- Construction is not expected to take place until 2009



THANKS FOR ATTENDING

Thanks to all of you who attended the U.S. 95 Thorncreek Road to Moscow open house on Wednesday, April 13. Approximately 100 people signed in.

The purpose of the open house was to display the results from the January 2005 alternatives/alignments workshops and show the next steps of the project. The results were well received by the public.

The information shown at the open house is available on the Web site at: www.itd.idaho.gov/GetInvolved/D2/ click on U.S. 95, Thorncreek Road to Moscow, Stage 1. Follow the links to Public Involvement and click on Past Meetings.



ITD designer Dave Ellis discusses the results of the January workshops with open house attendees Gerald and Judy Reisenauer.

WHAT'S NEXT

- The environmental analysis for this project will continue through fall 2005. A public open house will follow.
- Monthly breakfast meetings to provide project updates are held the second Tuesday of every month from 7 to 8 a.m. at the Mark IV Restaurant, 414 N. Main Street in Moscow. The next ones are May 10, June 14 and July 12.
- The information kiosk is located at the Eastside Marketplace off the Troy Highway. The kiosk will be staffed throughout the summer. Staffing hours are Thursdays from 5:30-7:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Email thorncreekroadtomoscow@itd.idaho.gov
- Call ITD Project Manager Ken Helm at 799-5090