

# Targhee Pass EA (U.S. 20: Jct. SH 87 - Montana Line)

## ENV. ASSESSMENT INFO

July 2017

### TARGHEE PASS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA)

Your input is highly valued and will help shape the final outcome of the EA. All public comments are welcome. We recognize that not everyone can attend the public meetings, so please visit our website or contact us for more information.

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[www.environment.fhwa.dot.gov/projdev/index.asp](http://www.environment.fhwa.dot.gov/projdev/index.asp)

### STUDY OVERVIEW

The Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) has initiated an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate risks, benefits, opportunities, and costs associated with reconstruction of Targhee Pass (U.S. 20 between its junction with Idaho 87 and the Montana state line). At this time, pavement condition in this segment of the corridor is beyond routine repair



and requires reconstruction, as well as consideration of upgrades to meet current design safety standards. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is the lead agency on this study and will be signing the final study document. The study will be completed in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

### What's has been done lately?

In response to public comments during the scoping process for the Targhee Pass EA, the project goals and objectives have been refined. They now include evaluating improved safety for pedestrians and bicycles, reducing collisions between wild animals and vehicles (a goal is to reduce property damage and injuries associated with collisions and to protect wild animals), and maintaining wildlife movement across the corridor for several species.

ITD and Idaho Department of Fish & Game (IDFG) are working together to identify prudent and reasonable safety solutions that reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions (WVC) and maintain or enhance local and migratory animal movement.

### What's Next?

**Targhee Pass Alternatives Workshop** – The public is invited to attend a public meeting to learn more about the Targhee Pass EA and assist ITD in developing alternatives to be evaluated as a part of the EA. This workshop will take place on **Thursday, July 27 from 4-7 p.m. at the Island Park EMS Building (4124 County Circle Road).**

**Stakeholder Working Group** – ITD is working to develop a Stakeholder Working Group (SWG) to help ITD and FHWA by providing feedback that is representative of the diverse interests in the EA. The SWG will also assist in sharing accurate information back out to respective constituencies about the EA.



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## What's Next? (continued)

**Comment Period** – ITD will provide a 30-day comment period when the proposed alternatives become available for review, prior to proceeding with the EA analysis.

**Public Meeting** – A public meeting for reviewing the alternatives will be held in Island Park during the alternatives comment period.

**Environmental Analysis Comment Period and Public Meeting** – When the Targhee Pass EA document is complete, ITD will provide another 30-day comment period and public meeting. This is currently expected to occur in Summer 2018.

## STUDY PROCESS & SCHEDULE

The study team has been gathering input from residents, local officials, regulatory agencies and all interested parties to understand issues facing Targhee Pass and surrounding areas. ITD will work with stakeholders through an open process to complete a thorough environmental study that considers and evaluates a range of potential solutions.

OCT-DEC 2016	JAN-JUNE 2017	JULY-AUG 2017	AUG-DEC 2017	JAN-SPRING 2018	EARLY SUMMER 2018
Study initiation Public Meeting #1	Incorporate comments	Public Meeting #2 Alternatives workshop	Public Meeting #3 Present draft alternatives	Complete impact analysis	Public Meeting #4 Present EA document
Stakeholder assessment  Public scoping & comment period (12/15/16-1/30/17)	Refine Purpose & Need  Evaluate strategies for reducing wildlife collisions & maintaining migration corridors	Incorporate comments  Develop draft alternatives	30-day public comment period  Incorporate comments & refine alternatives	Prepare environmental assessment (EA) document	30-day public comment period  Finalize EA  Prepare & publicize decision

