



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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In Reply Refer To:
1790 (AKA020)

SCOPING/INFORMATION PACKAGE

JACK RIVER TRAIL REHABILITATION PROJECT DOI-BLM-AK-A020-2014-0007-EA

Introduction

This information package summarizes a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposal to rehabilitate approximately two miles of the Jack River Trail, an Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) 17(b) easement, four miles east of Cantwell, Alaska.

Federal actions must be analyzed in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other relevant Federal and state laws and regulations to determine potential environmental consequences.

The purpose of this information package is to inform interested and affected parties of the proposal and to solicit comments to assist with the environmental review of the proposal. The analysis of the proposal is underway and will be documented in an Environmental Assessment (EA). Public comments received in response to this solicitation will be used to identify potential environmental issues related to the proposed action and to identify alternatives to the proposed action that also fulfill the purpose of and need for the project.

Project Area Description

The Jack River Trail is located at Mile 131 of the Denali Highway, approximately four miles east of Cantwell, Alaska. The trail is an ANCSA 17 (b) easement trail providing access through Ahtna, Inc. native lands to public lands. Public lands begin at mile 2 of the trail. The proposed work would take place on Native Corporation lands within the 25-foot easement reserved to the United States. The legal land description for the project area: is Sections 7 & 18, T. 18 S, R. 6 W, Fairbanks Meridian.

Preliminary Purpose and Need

The BLM action under consideration is trail rehabilitation work along the first two miles of the Jack River Trail. Action is needed because the first two miles of trail are subject to erosion, trail braiding, and ponding of water resulting in unsustainable trail tread. The purpose of the action is to provide for appropriate access to public lands, consistent with ANCSA Section 17 (b) and 43 CFR§ 2650.4-7 which authorizes the reservation of public easements on lands conveyed to Native Corporations, while

reducing or eliminating effects (trail braiding, erosion, vegetation stripping) incurred by private lands along the easement.

Preliminary Proposed Action

The Glennallen Field Office proposes to perform trail rehabilitation techniques along the first two miles of Jack River Trail. Techniques including the installation of trail hardening panels (e.g., Geoblock), drainage and erosion control features, and culvert installation would be utilized to develop a sustainable trail tread. Work will begin in July of 2014 and will be performed by Bureau of Land Management employees with the assistance of a youth conservation crew.

The proposed project is a partnership project between Ahtna Inc., the Student Conservation Association, The State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources, and the Bureau of Land Management.

This project would be funded by a grant from the Federal Highway Administration's Federal Lands Access program.

Public Input Needed

Your comments and concerns will be considered in the development of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this proposal. Comments will be most useful if they provide information or concerns specific to the Proposed Action. For comments submitted, please identify whether you are submitting comments as an individual or as the designated spokesperson on behalf of an organization.

Please submit your comments on the Proposed Action and other issues to be considered to the address(es) noted below by February 18, 2014.

Please send electronic comments to:

blm_ak_gfo_general_delivery@blm.gov with "Jack River Trail Rehabilitation Project" in the subject line.

Please send U.S. Mail comments to:

Bureau of Land Management
Glennallen Field Office
Attn: Jack River Trail Rehabilitation Project
P.O. Box 147
Glennallen, Alaska 99588

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identification information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold from public review your personal indemnifying information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

For more information, contact Cory Larson, Outdoor Recreation Planner, at (907) 822-7310.

Enclosures

Project Area Map