

Idaho Transportation Department

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Informational Open House scheduled for US 95: McArthur Lake Safety Improvement and Wildlife Crossing Project, January 30<sup>th</sup> in Naples**

*Public invited to learn about project and provide input at open house, Monday, January 30<sup>th</sup>*

**COUER d' ALENE** –The Idaho Transportation Department proposes safety improvements on an approximately 2.1 mile stretch of U.S. 95 east of McArthur Lake at its crossing over Deep Creek. A public Open House meeting is scheduled in Naples, **Monday, January 30**, to provide information and receive public comment on this important project.

The public is invited to stop by anytime between **4 and 7 pm at Naples Elementary School, on the corner of Trail Creek Road and Old US 95.**

The intent of the project is to provide motorists with a safer section of road on Idaho's only north-south connecting highway, and simultaneously improve an important wildlife crossing. Potential changes may include reducing the severity of the curves and adding a new multi-span bridge, which would provide a safe underpass for wildlife.

Near the intersection with Highland Flat Road (Country Road #4), between Elmira and Naples, U.S. 95 is forced in to a combined horizontal and vertical curve due to a narrow corridor between McArthur Lake (to the west) and the Union Pacific and Burlington Northern & Santa Fe rail lines (to the east). Otherwise posted at 60 mph, this section of U.S. 95 is posted at an advisory speed of 45 mph.

This stretch of highway is an important linkage habitat between the Cabinet-Yaak and Selkirk Mountains, this section of U.S. 95 is also dangerous for migrating wildlife.

J-U-B Engineers, Inc. of Coeur d'Alene is the design consultant on this project. The Langdon Group, a subsidiary of J-U-B, has been hired to facilitate the project's public involvement efforts.