

SCOPING/INFORMATION PACKAGE

GREENHORN HOMEOWNER'S ASSOCIATION AMENDMENT TO RIGHT-OF-WAY FOR WATER STORAGE FACILITY

Project # IDI-17799
NEPA # ID-230-2009-EA-3683
April 2009

The information in this package summarizes a Bureau of Land Management, Shoshone Field Office (BLM) action in response to an application from the Greenhorn Homeowner's Association (Greenhorn) to amend their existing right-of-way (ROW) for a water storage facility in accordance with the Sun Valley Management Framework Plan (MFP 1982), as amended. Federal actions must be analyzed in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and other relevant Federal and State laws and regulations to determine potential environmental consequences.

The purpose of this document is to inform you and other interested parties of this proposal, and to solicit your comments to assist us with the NEPA review of the proposal. The analysis of this proposal is currently ongoing, and will eventually be documented in an Environmental Assessment (EA). 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 meet the purpose of and need for the project.

Introduction

Greenhorn holds an existing ROW (IDI-17799) grant for a water storage facility pursuant to the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), as amended, and the BLM regulations at 43 CFR 2800. The Greenhorn Subdivision's existing water system is operated under a permit administered by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) and was constructed in 1976 and currently provides service to 27 homes on 33 residential lots within the subdivision.

The existing water system consists of the following:

- Two 125-gallon per minute supply wells,
- 6-inch diameter transmission/distribution piping with associated fittings and gate valves,
- Two buried tanks located approximately 400-feet above the wells (on public land)
 - 25,000-gallon steel tank
 - 30,000-gallon concrete tank

The subject parcel of public land where the water storage facility is located is approximately 6-miles north of the City of Hailey, Idaho, 1.5-miles west of State Highway 75, and 0.5-miles south of Greenhorn Gulch road in T3N, R17E, B.M., S13, SWSE.

Purpose of and Need for Proposed Action

On March 11, 2009, Greenhorn submitted an application to amend their existing ROW (IDI-17799) for a water storage facility. The existing system is and has been experiencing low pressure problems at the west end of the distribution system and excessive pressures at the east end. In addition, the water storage facility has limitations in its ability to meet fire protection demands. Greenhorn's application to amend the existing facilities is to replace both the 25,000-gallon and 30,000-gallon tanks with a 150,000-gallon concrete tank. The new storage tank will help in providing adequate storage for fire flow, flow equalization, and emergency storage purposes.

In accordance with 43 CFR 2800, BLM needs to process the application for a ROW grant. If approved the grant would allow Greenhorn to improve the water storage facility, meet system requirements, and continue to provide water services to the subdivision. The Greenhorn Subdivision is currently surrounded on three sides with public land; two sides administered by the BLM and one side by the U.S. Forest Service. The threat of wildfires within the area is high. An improved water system within the subdivision will allow the residents and local fire response units to better protect the residential improvements if a threat does occur or vice versa if a residential fire occurs to protect it from potentially jumping to adjacent public lands.

Proposed Action

The BLM would issue an amendment to the existing ROW grant (IDI-17799) authorizing Greenhorn to replace both the 25,000-gallon steel tank and the 30,000-gallon concrete tank with a buried or partially buried 150,000-gallon concrete tank. The new tank site would be located about 200-feet southwest, uphill of the existing tank site. The 6-inch transmission/distribution pipeline would be extended to the new site.

Preliminary Issues

Issues are generated through the public scoping process, a review of the MFP, and/or generated from a need for compliance with laws or regulations. Preliminary issues associated with the proposed project are:

- Best Management Practices should be incorporated to ensure that noxious and invasive weeds are not introduced and/or allowed to expand into the project area.
- Design features should be incorporated to mitigate the effects of the construction/installation activities associated with the new buried or partially buried 150,000-gallon tank and extension of the 6-inch water pipeline in regards to vegetation and visual resources.

Preliminary Alternative Development

Preliminary alternatives include:

- **No Action:** Under the no action alternative the amendment would be denied and the existing ROW would remain as is with the 25,000-gallon and 30,000-gallon tanks.

Decision to be Made

Under the scope of the upcoming analysis, a decision will be made whether to amend the existing ROW to allow for the replacement of the existing tanks with a new 150,000-gallon tank.

Public Input Needed

Your comments are specifically requested on the proposed action, preliminary issues, and alternatives. Comments made on this proposal would be most helpful if they are received by May 22, 2009, and are directly relevant to the proposal and project area. The BLM will accept public feedback outside of established public involvement timeframes. However, such comments may be considered secondary to comments received in a timely manner and may only be assessed to determine if they identify concerns that would substantially alter the assumptions, proposal design, or analysis presented in the EA.

Written comments must be submitted to the BLM, Shoshone Field Office, 400 West F Street Shoshone ID, 83352. The office business hours for submitting hand-delivered comments are 7:45 am through 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), Word (.doc), or portable document format (.pdf) to id_shoshone_fo@blm.gov. E-mails submitted to e-mail addresses other than the one listed, in other formats than those listed, or containing viruses will be rejected. To be most helpful, comments sent electronically should include the title of this project in the subject line. Please identify whether you are submitting comments as an individual or as the designated spokesperson on behalf of an organization. Issues that are outside the scope of the proposal will not be addressed at this planning level.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying 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 identifying information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

The primary contact for questions and comments for this project is Tara Hagen, Realty Specialist, 400 West F Street, Shoshone ID, 83352, (208) 732-7205.

Attachments

Figure 1 - Project Location Map

Figure 2 – Greenhorn Subdivision Aerial