

JUNIPER DUNES AREA ACCESS ROAD

Open House to Discuss Environmental Assessment

Tuesday, February 17, 2015 • 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm • TRAC Center

<http://www.wfl.fhwa.dot.gov/projects/wa/juniper-dunes/>

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- *19,600-acre wilderness area in Franklin County*
- *Over 8,600 acres of off-road area*
- *Currently not served by county road*

Background:

- Wilderness area, including recreation area, developed from the 1960s through the late 1980s
- The early and middle 2000s were marked by numerous access closures by adjacent property owners on whose land access routes lie
- 2011 – Franklin County received Bureau of Land Management (BLM) grant for access road
- 2013 – Franklin County received Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) grant for access road
- 2014 – Franklin County, BLM, and FHWA's Western Federal Lands Highway Division joined to complete the access road project
- February 2015 – The draft environmental assessment (EA) is released for a 30-day public comment period

Scope and Purpose:

- The project will develop a new access road to the Juniper Dunes Area (proposed specs follow):
 - Length: approximately 4.2 to 4.92 miles
 - Width: two (2) 11-foot lanes with two-foot shoulders (26 feet total)
 - Composition: first mile: asphalt over rock base
remainder: gravel
 - Speed: 35 MPH
- Project administration and construction to comply with USDOT requirements
- Estimated cost: \$1,800,000 to \$2,250,000

Current Status:

- Project is currently in the environmental review phase, which is required by federal law (National Environmental Policy Act) and reviews the project's potential to impact biological, cultural, historical, and population resources
- Draft EA has been released for 30-day public comment period; cultural resource and biological resource studies have been completed in areas near the proposed alternatives



Juniper Dunes Access Road – Planned Timeline

