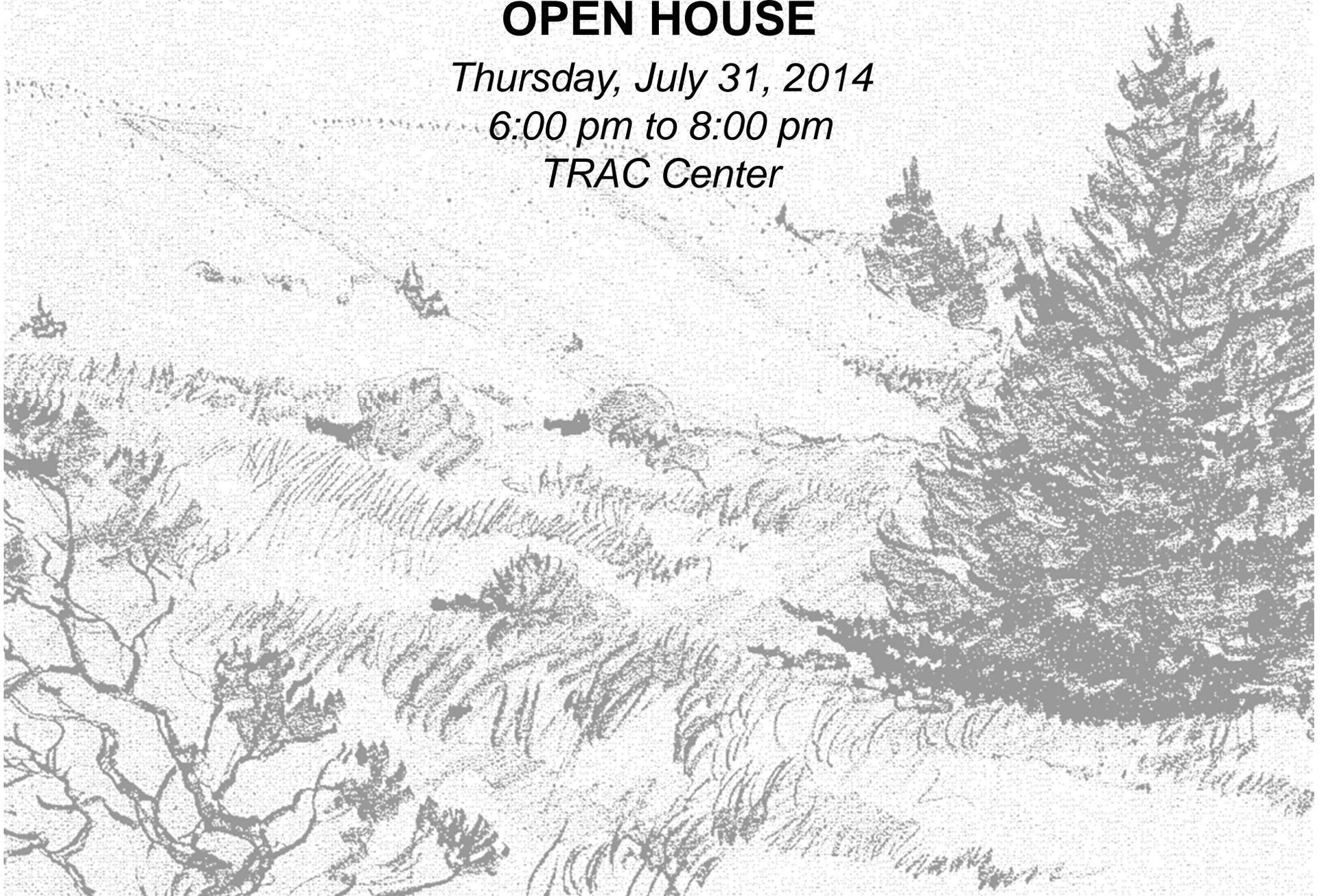


JUNIPER DUNES RECREATION AREA ACCESS ROAD OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, July 31, 2014

6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

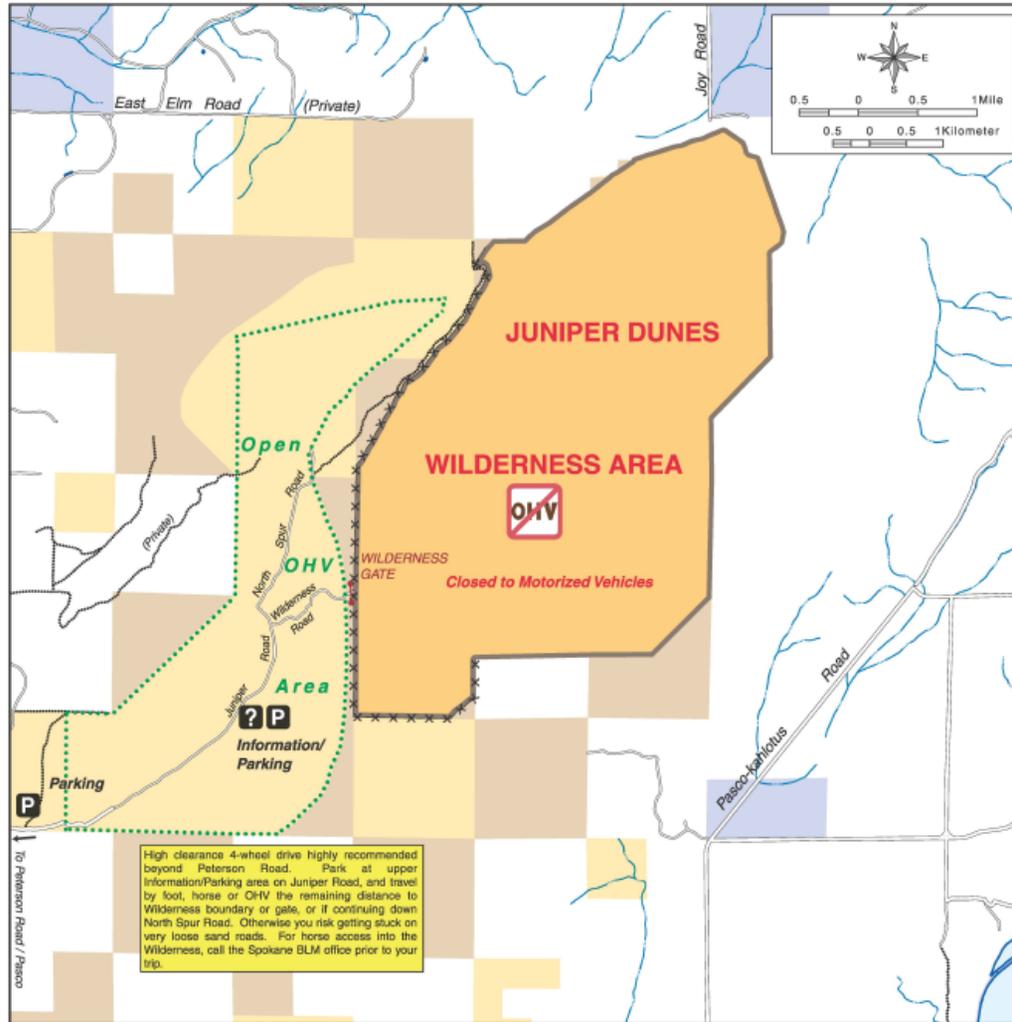
TRAC Center



What is the Juniper Dunes Area?

- Located in southeastern Franklin County (north and west of Pasco-Kahlotus Road)
- Total area: 19,600 acres
- Used for hiking, off-highway vehicles, biking, horseback riding, camping, hunting (within designated areas)
- Consists of three areas:
 - Juniper Dunes Wilderness: 7,100 acres of wilderness area; fenced; no motorized or mechanized uses (including bikes) are permitted
 - OHV "Open" Area: 3,920 acres of off-highway vehicle (OHV)-permissible area
 - ACEC: 8,620 acres of Area of Critical Environmental Concern; OHV use is only permitted on designated trails in this area
- Juniper Dunes Area is not serviced by a public access road, so access is currently at the discretion of surrounding private land owners

JUNIPER DUNES WILDERNESS



High clearance 4-wheel drive highly recommended beyond Peterson Road. Park at upper Information/Parking area on Juniper Road, and travel by foot, horse or OHV the remaining distance to Wilderness boundary or gate, or if continuing down North Spur Road. Otherwise you risk getting stuck on very loose sand roads. For horse access into the Wilderness, call the Spokane BLM office prior to your trip.

LEGEND

- Trail
- Improved Road
- Other Road or Trail, Access as Designated
- x-x-x-x- Fence

Administered Land

- Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
(OHV use limited to designated roads and trails)
- BLM Wilderness Area *(closed to Motorized Vehicles)*
- BLM Area of Critical Environmental Concern
(OHV use limited to designated roads and trails)
- Washington Dept. of Natural Resources
- Private or Other

Surface management and land ownership is subject to ongoing change. Contact the BLM Prineville District office for further information.



WASHINGTON



No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data. Original data were compiled from various sources. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This product was developed through digital means and may be updated without notification.

M13-12-03

History of the Juniper Dunes

- The Juniper Forest Management Area has been utilized by residents of the Tri-City metro area since the 1960s.
- In 1971, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) began program of acquiring associated lands, resulting in 4,500 acre management area.
- In 1981, Washington State Wilderness Act increased wilderness area by 1,800 acres.
- In 1987, BLM completed the Wilderness Management Plan for Juniper Dunes Wilderness.
- Between 2001 and 2007, several closures of access to privately-owned land initiated the process of trying to build a public access. While this ran through various avenues (direct negotiations between BLM and landowners, proposed federal legislation, *etc.*), a comprehensive outcome did not occur.

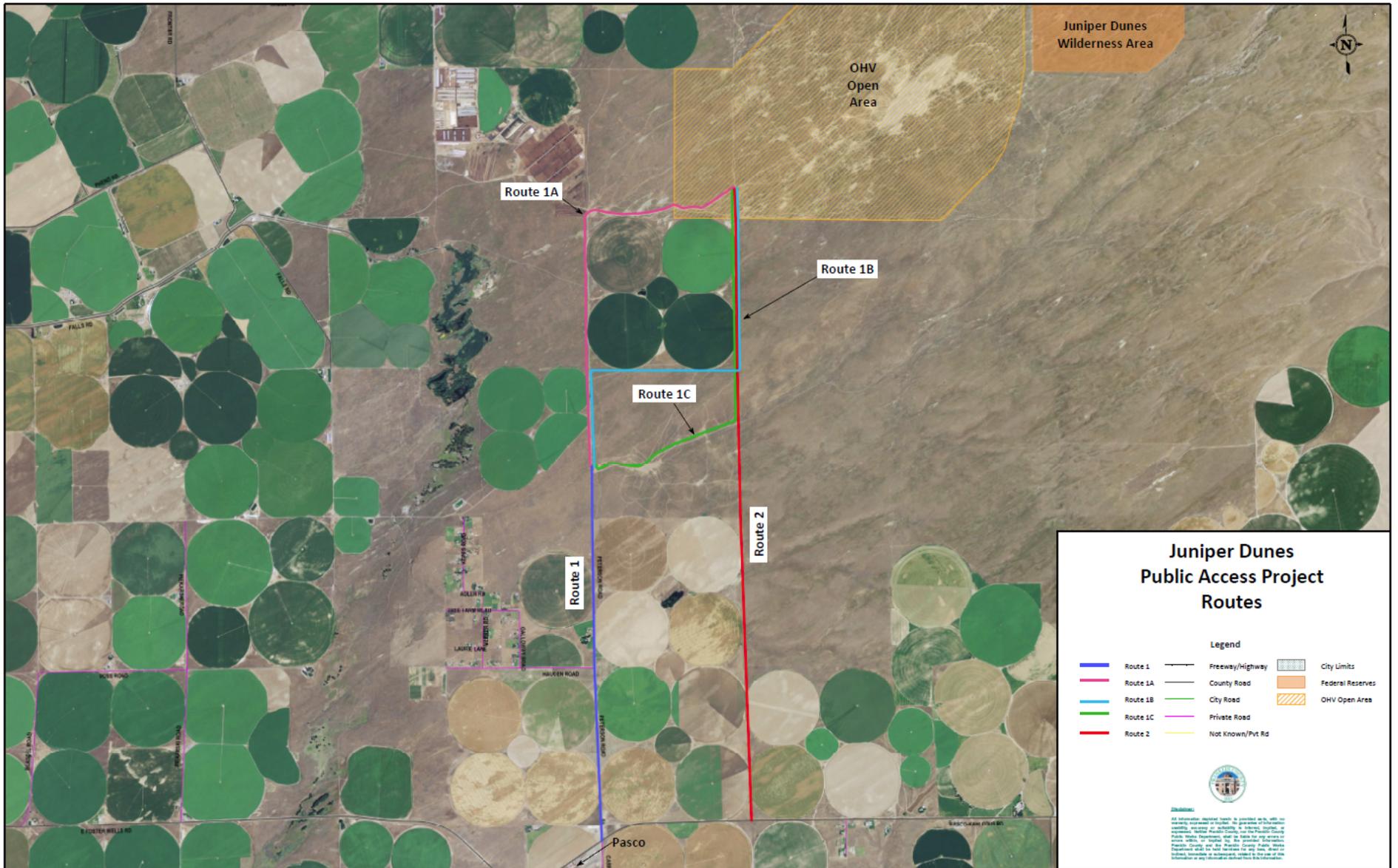
History of the Juniper Dunes (continued)

- In 2011, Franklin County received a grant from BLM for \$716,500 to complete the first phase of a public access road to the Juniper Dunes area. However, mitigation for concerns regarding existing irrigation water lines risked exceeding available funds.
- In June 2013, Franklin County was awarded a Federal Land Access Program grant, administered through the Federal Highway Administration's Western Federal Lands Highway Division (WFLHD). This provided funding for an access road.
- In August 2013, Franklin County committed to its portion of the funding match.
- In April 2014, Franklin County executed a memorandum of agreement with WFLHD and BLM to work together on the project.

Juniper Dunes Access Road - Purpose and Scope

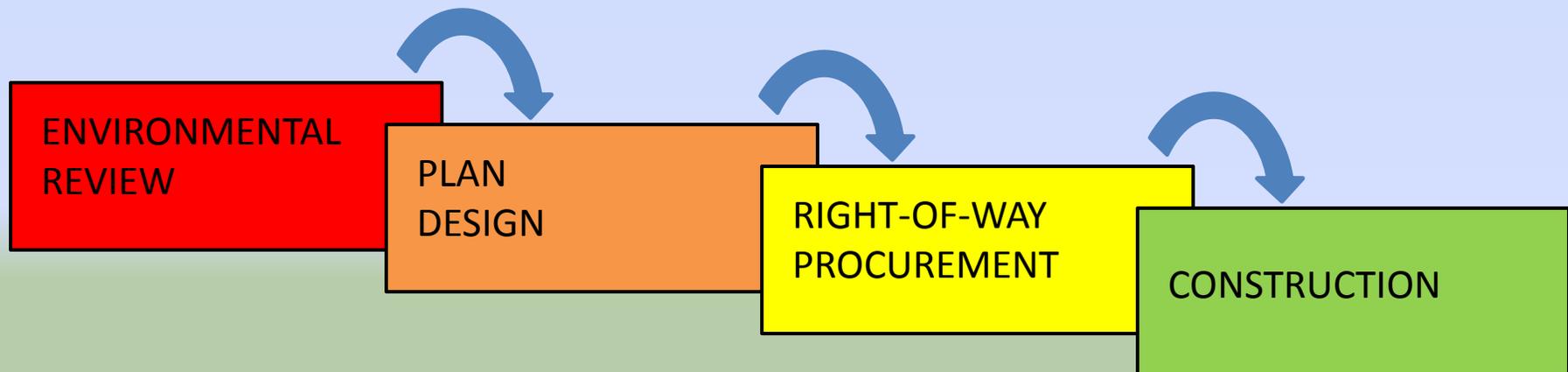
- Provide a legal public access road to the Juniper Dunes Wilderness Area and the adjacent off-highway vehicle (OHV) open area, starting at a public road and ending at a staging area adjacent to the Juniper Dunes open area.
- The project aims to address the following issues:
 - No public access (all access currently traverses private property)
 - Public access has been legally restricted in the past (by property owners)
 - Bring public access to the area to County road standards: drainage, sight distance, road conditions, consistent and necessary road width
 - Prevent or reduce opportunities for vandalism and disturbance of surrounding properties
 - Provide better access for emergency responders
- The BLM's need for the proposed action will be to respond to a right-of-way application submitted by Franklin County and to implement the 1987 BLM Resource Management Plan's action to acquire public access rights to the Juniper Dunes area.

Juniper Dunes Access Road – Current Stage

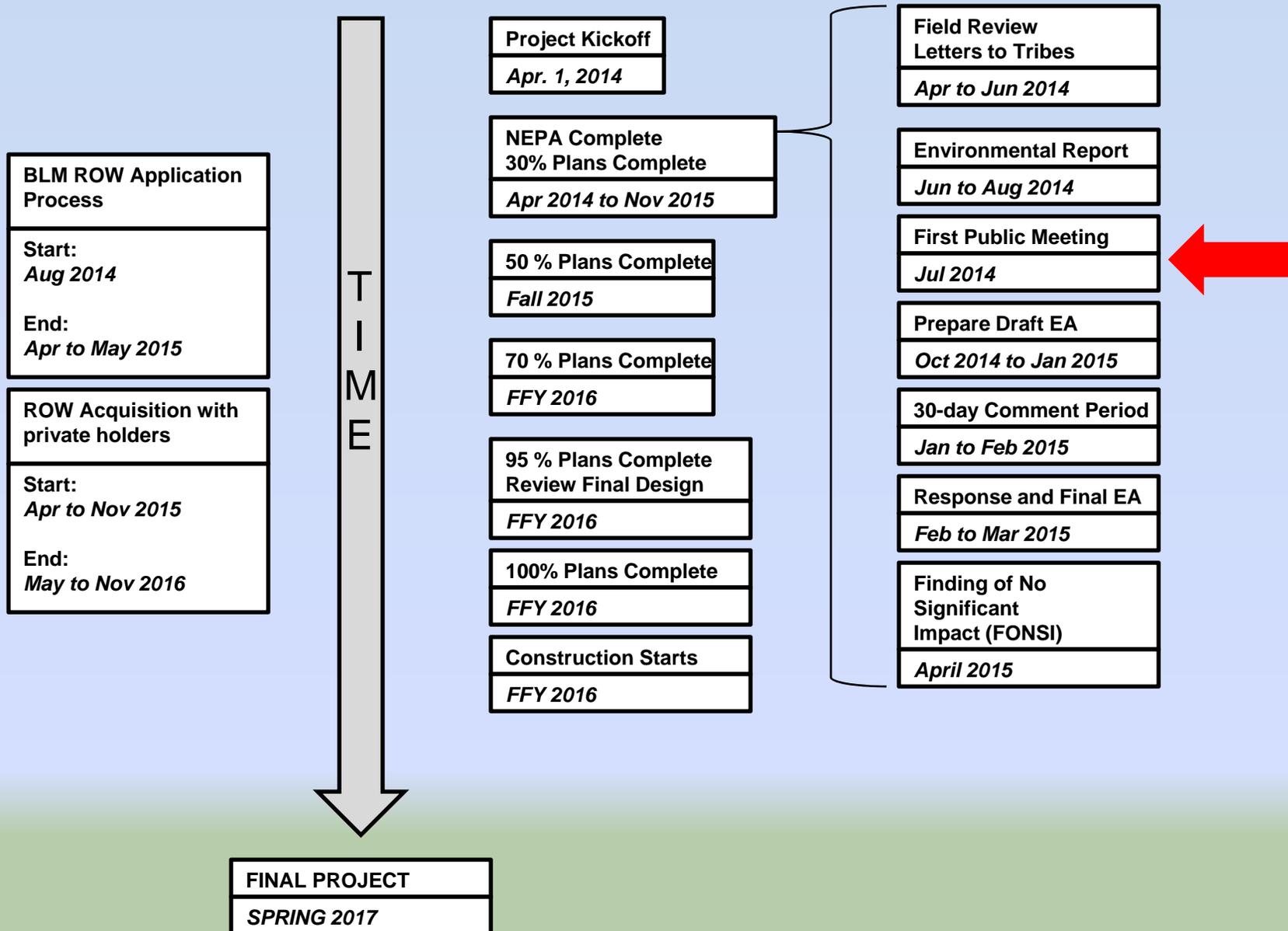


Juniper Dunes Access Road – Current Stage

- Currently in the environmental review stage:
 - National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires consideration of biological, cultural, historical, population impacts.
 - Requires resource assessment surveys, consultation with local tribes, community input (such as this meeting).
 - All technically viable alternatives must be considered.
- Once the environmental review stage is completed, construction plans can be finalized.
- After plans are completed, right-of-way can be purchased from landowners.
- Then, CONSTRUCTION!



Juniper Dunes Access Road – Planned Timeline



QUESTIONS?

