

NOTICE of Availability of Environmental Assessment and Public Hearing

Carbon County is preparing an application for a Treasure State Endowment Program (TSEP) Grant from the Montana Department of Commerce (DOC). TSEP grants are a state action subject to the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA). As required by the MEPA and DOC regulations, Carbon County has prepared a *draft* Environmental Assessment (EA) that evaluates the potential environmental effects and consequences of the proposed project. This notice announces the availability of the *draft* EA for public review and comments as well as the date and time of a Public Hearing regarding the proposed project.

The proposed project generally consist of the replacement of the Homestead Road Bridge (HR1), the East Pryor Road Bridge (EP2) and Red Lodge Creek Road Bridge (RL2). The Homestead Road Bridge crosses Five Mile Creek approximately 7 miles east of Joliet. The East Pryor Road Bridge crosses Five Mile Creek approximately 9 miles east of Joliet. The Red Lodge Creek Road Bridge crosses Red Lodge Creek approximately 8 miles northwest of Roberts.

Copies of the *draft* EA are available for review at the office of the Carbon County Commissioners, 17 West 11th, Red Lodge, MT, 59068-0887. Carbon County will consider all substantive comments received in response to the *draft* EA.

The Carbon County Commissioners will hold a **Public Hearing at 6:00 p.m. on March 19, 2014 at the Carbon County Extension Office at 128 South Main, Joliet, Montana** to discuss the following items:

1. Carbon County will seek Treasure State Endowment Program (TSEP) funding to fund, in part, the bridge replacements;
2. Carbon County will receive comments on the Draft Environmental Assessment;

At the Public Hearing, the proposed project will be explained, including the purpose and proposed area of the projects, activities, budgets, environmental issues, and TSEP grant guidelines. After the hearing, all comments will be reviewed and considered and Carbon County will decide that either:

1. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is necessary;
2. The Environmental Assessment did not adequately reflect the issues raised by the proposed action and must be revised; or
3. An EIS is not necessary, and make a final decision on the proposed action

All interested persons will be given the opportunity—and are encouraged—to ask questions and to express their opinions regarding this proposed project and its environmental impacts. For further information, contact Cassie Riggin from Great West Engineering at 2501 Belt View Drive in Helena, Montana, 59601, phone: (406) 281-8595, email: criggin@greatwesteng.com. Comments may be presented orally at the hearing or submitted in writing to Great West Engineering before 10:00 a.m. on March 18, 2014.