



News Release

9/7/2016

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Public hearing scheduled Sept. 28 on proposed rule that would govern oversize shipments on U.S. 12

BOISE - A public hearing will be held Wednesday (**Sept. 28**) to gather comment on a proposed rule that would regulate non-reducible, oversized shipments on a section of U.S. 12.

The hearing will be from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. (MDT) at the Idaho Transportation Department headquarters in Boise at 3311 W. State Street. The public hearing also will be available at transportation department district offices via video conference in Coeur d'Alene, Lewiston, Shoshone, Pocatello and Rigby.

Following legal action in 2013, a district court affirmed the U.S. Forest Service had a duty to regulate oversized loads traveling through the Clearwater National Forest. The Forest Service issued written criteria to determine which loads will be subject to Forest Service review.

At the public hearing, attendees will be able to comment on a proposed rule that would set forth the conditions that non-reducible, oversize loads using U.S. 12 would follow, from Milepost 75.2 (close to the junction of U.S. 12 and Idaho 13) to Milepost 174.4 (the Idaho/Montana state line).

The proposed rule the Idaho Transportation Department is taking comment on would apply to shipments that:

- Exceed 16 feet in width or 150 feet in length
- Require longer than 12 hours to travel through the Wild and Scenic River Corridor and National Forest (the section of U.S. 12 that is from Milepost 75.2 to Milepost 174.4)
- Require physical modification of the roadway or adjacent vegetation to facilitate passage beyond normal highway maintenance.

Under the proposed rule, shipments that meet those criteria would adhere to regulations that prohibit them from using turnouts designated for recreational vehicles and traveling during hazardous weather conditions, among other requirements.

Non-reducible loads carry cargo that cannot be reduced in size to make a shipment lighter. Examples of non-reducible shipments are heavy equipment or wind turbine blades.

Comment is being taken from Wednesday, Sept. 7, through Friday, Sept. 30. Comments can be emailed to Ramon Hobdey-Sanchez at ramon.hobdey-sanchez@itd.idaho.gov, mailed to Idaho Transportation Department, Attn: Ramon Hobdey-Sanchez, P.O. Box 7129, Boise, ID 83707, or submitted over the phone by calling Hobdey-Sanchez at (208) 334-8810.

In addition, verbal and written comments will be accepted at the public hearing in Boise, and at the transportation department's district offices.

For additional information, please visit: <http://itd.idaho.gov/rulemaking/US-12.htm>.

