



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
Blackfeet Agency, 531 SE Boundary Street, P.O. Box 880
Browning, Montana 59417



NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)
SAINT MARY SCENIC OVERLOOK
AND BLACKFEET INTERPRETIVE LOOP

In compliance with the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508), the Blackfeet Environmental Office of the Blackfeet Tribe prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) for a proposal submitted by the Blackfeet Tribe's Transportation Planning Department to transform an existing pullout on U.S. Highway 89 into a scenic overlook with a plaza and an interpretive loop trail on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation in Glacier County, Montana.

The proposed Saint Mary Scenic Overlook and Blackfeet Interpretive Loop is located approximately 2 miles south of Saint Mary, Montana, in the northeast quarter of Section 10, Township 34 North, Range 14 West. The EA for the proposed Saint Mary Scenic Overlook and Blackfeet Interpretive Loop analyzed the potential impacts from construction, maintenance and use associated with the proposed project. The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) issued a Notice of No Significant Impact (FONSI) on February 21, 2014. The FONSI is a finding of environmental effect, not a decision to proceed with an action. As specified in 25 CFR Part 2.7, a 15-day appeal period is required after publication of this Notice of Availability (NOA) before an action may be implemented. Appeals must be sent to the BIA Blackfeet Agency, Browning, MT, with a copy to the BIA Rocky Mountain Region Office, Billings, MT, by March 13th, 2014.

This Notice of Availability solicits public comments on the Saint Mary Scenic Overlook and Blackfeet Interpretive Loop. The comment period for the EA will begin on Thursday, February 27, 2014 and will end on Thursday, March 13, 2014. The BIA will accept written comments until close of business on Thursday, March 13, 2014. If you have any questions or would like to submit written comments, you may submit your comments by email or postal delivery to the address below. Please provide sufficient detail so that we can accurately address your comments. Please include "Saint Mary Scenic Overlook and Blackfeet Interpretive Loop" in the subject line of any correspondence. Written comments and requests for information should be submitted to Gerald Gilbert, Civil Engineer (gerald.gilbert@bia.gov) Rocky Mountain Regional Office, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Division of Transportation, 316 North 26th Street, Billings, MT 59101. PH: (406)-657-6675; Fax: (406)-657-5916; Cell: (406)-698-0518. Copies of the EA, Decision Record (DR), and FONSI are available at the Blackfeet Agency Office at 531 SE Boundary Street, Browning, MT 59417. Copies are also available at the Browning Public Library, Blackfeet Community College Library, and Cut Bank Library.

Thedis B. Crowe, Acting

Thedis Crowe, Acting Superintendent
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Blackfeet Agency
Browning, Montana, 59417

Posted date: February 24th, 2014

Publication dates: February 27th and March 13th, 2014

2/20/2014

Date