

News Release

Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest
Jarbidge & Ruby Mountains Ranger Districts
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Mountain City Ranger District
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Elko, NV 89801

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For Immediate Release on February 23, 2009 - Stop Date is February 26, 2009

Forest Service Holds Second Series of Travel Management Meetings in Elko County This Week

Elko, Nevada...The Mountain City, Ruby Mountains, and Jarbidge Ranger Districts in northeast Nevada have scheduled a second round of public meetings and are inviting public comments on its proposed Combined Travel Management Project through March 9, 2009. This project will revise the Travel Management Plans for the Mountain City, Ruby Mountains, and Jarbidge Ranger Districts to accommodate the recreating public.

The 2005 Travel Management Rule requires every Forest Service Ranger District to designate a system of routes for the recreating public. The need is for the protection and safety of all users and to minimize conflicts among the various users on public lands. Over the past decade or more, there has been an increase in the numbers and capabilities of off-highway vehicles (OHVs). This increase in motorized recreation must be managed to minimize conflicts and protect natural resources.

This project will designate a Forest motorized transportation system that includes adjustments and deletions to the current system, proposes to add non-system routes to that system, and proposes to prohibit motor vehicles off designated routes. Maps are available for review at the Ruby Mountains and Jarbidge Ranger Districts in Wells, Nevada, and at the Mountain City Ranger District Office in Elko, Nevada. A scoping document describing the proposed action and project maps are available on line at the following websites:

- <http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/htnf/projects/#mountaincity>;
- <http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/htnf/projects/#rubymountain>; and,
- <http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/htnf/projects/#jarbidge>.

The Districts held four open house meetings the week of January 25, and are holding another set of meetings this week. District Rangers will be on hand to acquaint people with the new travel rule and discuss the proposed action. Your help is requested in identifying roads and trails that should or should not be included on the travel management planning maps. You will be creating a transportation system that meets both your and other visitors' recreation needs.

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Four meetings are scheduled for 5 -7 p.m. Pacific Standard Time around Elko County:

- **Monday, February 23, in Elko at the Elko BLM Office;**
- **Tuesday, February 24, in Wells at the Forest Service Ranger Station;**
- **Wednesday, February 25, in Jackpot at the Community Recreation Center;**
and,
- **Thursday, February 26, in Mountain City at the Visitor Center.**

“The public is encouraged to contact the District Rangers for additional information on this process and timeline,” said Tom Montoya, Mountain City District Ranger. “This is an important topic to National Forest visitors, and we need to make sure everyone’s voice is heard and understood. The Forest Service requests your comments on this project by March 9, 2009.” Please contact either Montoya at 775-738-5171, or Jarbidge and Ruby Mountains District Ranger, Gar Abbas, at 775-752-3357.

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