



News Release

Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest
Jarbidge & Ruby Mountains Ranger Districts
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P.O. Box 246
Wells, NV 89835

Mountain City Ranger District
2035 Last Chance Road
Elko, NV 89801

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For Immediate Release on March 23, 2009 - **Stop Date is March 30, 2009**

Travel Management Comment Period Extended to March 30

Elko, Nevada...The Mountain City, Ruby Mountains, and Jarbidge Ranger Districts in northeast Nevada announced last Friday that the initial Combined Travel Management Project comment period has been extended to March 30, 2009. The Forest Service wants to ensure that all interested parties have additional time to identify roads and trails that should or should not be included on the latest Travel Management planning maps. New maps were provided at last Saturday's Elko meeting; these maps are available for viewing at both the Elko and Wells' offices, as well at the libraries at those locales.

The public input process is designed to gather public input throughout the planning cycle. "Once we have received additional information on the current designated routes, we will review those comments, make changes as appropriate based on those comments, distribute a new draft document with the changes mapped, schedule field trips with interested publics early in the spring and summer to refine the proposal even further, and then draft the next document and its decision," said Tom Montoya, Mountain City District Ranger.

This project will revise the Travel Management Plans for the Mountain City, Ruby Mountains, and Jarbidge Ranger Districts. The 2005 Travel Management Rule requires every National Forest to designate a system of routes for the recreating public. The need is for the protection and safety of visitors, to minimize conflicts among the various recreation visitors on public lands, and to minimize the impacts to the environment. Over the past decade or more, there has been an increase in the numbers and capabilities of 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/#mountaincity)

[http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/htnf/projects/#rubymountain;](http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/htnf/projects/#rubymountain) and,

[http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/htnf/projects/#jarbidge.](http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/htnf/projects/#jarbidge)

The Districts have held nine meetings in Elko County over the past two months, and also hosted a meeting last week in the Reno/Sparks area. The Forest Service requests your comments on this project by March 30, 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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