



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

# Public Scoping

## Great Basin South Grazing Allotment Project

Bridgeport Ranger District, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest  
Lyon and Mineral Counties, Nevada and Mono County,  
California

### Comments Welcome

The Bridgeport Ranger District welcomes your comments on a Forest Service proposal to issue grazing permits in the Great Basin South area. This project was initiated with an Environmental Assessment. Additional analysis and the need for consistency has resulted in a decision to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement. All comments received during the previous scoping process for the Environmental Assessment will be incorporated into the Environmental Impact Statement project record.

### Purpose and Need

There is a need to maintain or improve the overall health of the rangeland in the project area. The purpose of this project is to determine the management direction for livestock grazing needed to move existing resource conditions within the project area towards desired conditions.

### The Proposed Action

The proposed action is to authorize continued cattle grazing on in the 410,000 acre Great Basin South area (see Map) under updated grazing management direction in order to move existing rangeland resource conditions within the project area toward desired condition. The updated direction will be incorporated in attendant grazing permits and allotment management plans to guide grazing management within the project area during the coming decade, or until amendments are warranted based on changed condition or monitoring.

The project area is located in portions of Mineral and Lyon counties, Nevada, and portions of Mono County, California. The analysis will determine if a change in management direction for livestock grazing is needed to move existing resource conditions towards desired conditions. This could include changes in utilization levels on riparian and upland vegetation. The Conway, East Walker, Huntoon, Larkin Lake, Masonic, Aurora, Nine Mile, Powell Mountain, Rough Creek, Whiskey Flat, and Wild Horse Allotments would

continue to have authorized grazing. Squaw Creek Allotment would continue to be vacant.

## Possible Alternatives

In addition to the proposed action we have tentatively identified two additional alternatives that will be analyzed in the EIS.

1.) No Action Alternative: This would be continuation of the current grazing management.

2.) No Grazing Alternative: This would end grazing on all allotments as existing permits expire.

The following are some potential issues identified through internal Forest Service scoping based on our experience with similar projects. The list is not considered all-inclusive, but should be viewed as a starting point. We are asking you to help us further refine the issues and identify other issues or concerns relevant to the proposed project.

- Continued livestock grazing has the potential to adversely affect the health of riparian vegetation.
- Continued livestock grazing has the potential to adversely affect the health of rangeland vegetation.
- Continued livestock grazing has the potential to adversely affect sage grouse habitat.

## Comment Process

Please send your comments to the Responsible Official, Bridgeport District Ranger Margaret Wood, HCR 1, Box 1000, Bridgeport, CA 93517; FAX (760) 932-5899; or you may hand-deliver your comments to the above address during normal business hours from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday, excluding federal holidays. Email comments may be sent

to [comments-intermtn-humboldt-tioyabe-bridgeport@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-intermtn-humboldt-tioyabe-bridgeport@fs.fed.us).

Comments need to be received within 30 days of the publication of the Notice of Intent in the Federal Register.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record for this project and will be available for public inspection and will be released if requested under the Freedom of Information Act.

Additional information on the proposed action may be obtained by contacting David Loomis, Great Basin South Project Manager (775) 882-2766

