



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

## **Notice of Proposed Action**

# **Markleeville Guard Station Relocation**

**Carson Ranger District, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest  
Alpine County, California**

December 2004

## **COMMENTS WELCOME**

The Carson Ranger District of the Humboldt Toiyabe National Forest welcomes your comments on its joint proposal with Alpine County and the Carson City Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to move its Markleeville Guard Station from its current location adjacent to Alpine County administrative facilities in the town of Markleeville to a site at the Turtle Rock County Park (See Map). The proposal includes vacating Forest Service ownership at the Markleeville site and conveyance of the Markleeville parcels to Alpine County through the authority of the Townsite Act of 1958. The process for the land adjustment action will require additional public notices in the future. It also includes Alpine County amending its planned use at Turtle Rock County Park and returning title of a portion of the land to the United States under BLM jurisdiction. The Forest Service would then apply through BLM for authorization to use the land as the new Forest Service Administrative Site at Turtle Rock.

## **PURPOSE AND NEED**

The objective of the proposed Markleeville Guard Station relocation is to provide for continued administrative and fire suppression support for local community and National Forest administration purposes and to move existing facilities out of a flood prone location.

The proposal is needed in the Markleeville area due to the need for continued presence by the Forest Service and a need to restore the natural course of Markleeville Creek. The Forest Service has continually occupied the site since the 1930's. In the 1940's streambank structures were placed adjacent to the streamcourse. The streamcourse was

altered for use by the Guard Station. Later, in the 1960's utilities and a sewer pond were placed in nearby downstream locations that have since been threatened by flooding impacts exacerbated by the stream adjacent structures (a retaining wall and a footbridge) at the Markleeville Guard Station.

Alpine County facilities that are adjacent to the Forest Service Markleeville site would be able to expand if the Forest Service were to convey title to the site to Alpine County through Townsite Act application. The county plans to use the site for overflow parking and for recreational uses.

## **THE PROPOSED ACTION**

The proposed action was developed in consultation with Alpine County and the Carson City Field Office of the BLM. It includes moving the Forest Service Guard Station from the town of Markleeville to the Turtle Rock location. This will require a series of steps involving

- Abandonment and conveyance of a Forest Service Administrative site through Townsite Act authority to Alpine County.
- Amendment of Alpine County Turtle Rock Park development plan including quitclaim conveyance of the proposed future Forest Service Administrative site at Turtle Rock from Alpine County back to the United States.
- Authorizations by BLM and Secretary of Interior to construct and operate the future Forest Service administrative site at the Turtle Rock location.
- Construction of new Forest Service Guard Station facilities at the Turtle Rock Administrative Site.
- Contributions by Alpine County for water and sewer design and for access.
- Removal of facilities at the former guard station location in Markleeville

The new guard station facilities would occupy a 17 ½ acre site. The former facilities occupy a site that is approximately 6 acres which include a flood plain of approximately 3 acres.

The new location may include collocating utilities with Alpine County. The old location will be used by the county for additional parking and for a small county park within the floodplain. These actions will be reviewed through the environmental assessment process.

# COMMENT PROCESS

The Forest Service encourages your substantive comments on this proposed action, along with supporting reasons that the responsible official should consider in reaching a decision.

Your comments will help us prepare an environmental assessment on the proposed action. The assessment will be used to determine whether to prepare an environmental impact statement or a finding of no significant impact. If there is no potential for significant impacts, that finding along with the environmental assessment and a proposed decision will be sent to those who commented. If the environmental assessment concludes that there is the potential for significant impacts then an environmental impact statement would be prepared.

Written, facsimile, hand-delivered, oral, and electronic comments concerning this action will be accepted until January 14, 2005.

Comments must be submitted to: Gary Schiff, District Ranger, 1536 S. Carson St. Carson City, NV 89703; ph 775 882-2766; fax 775 884-8199. The office business hours for those submitting comments in person are: 8am to 5pm Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

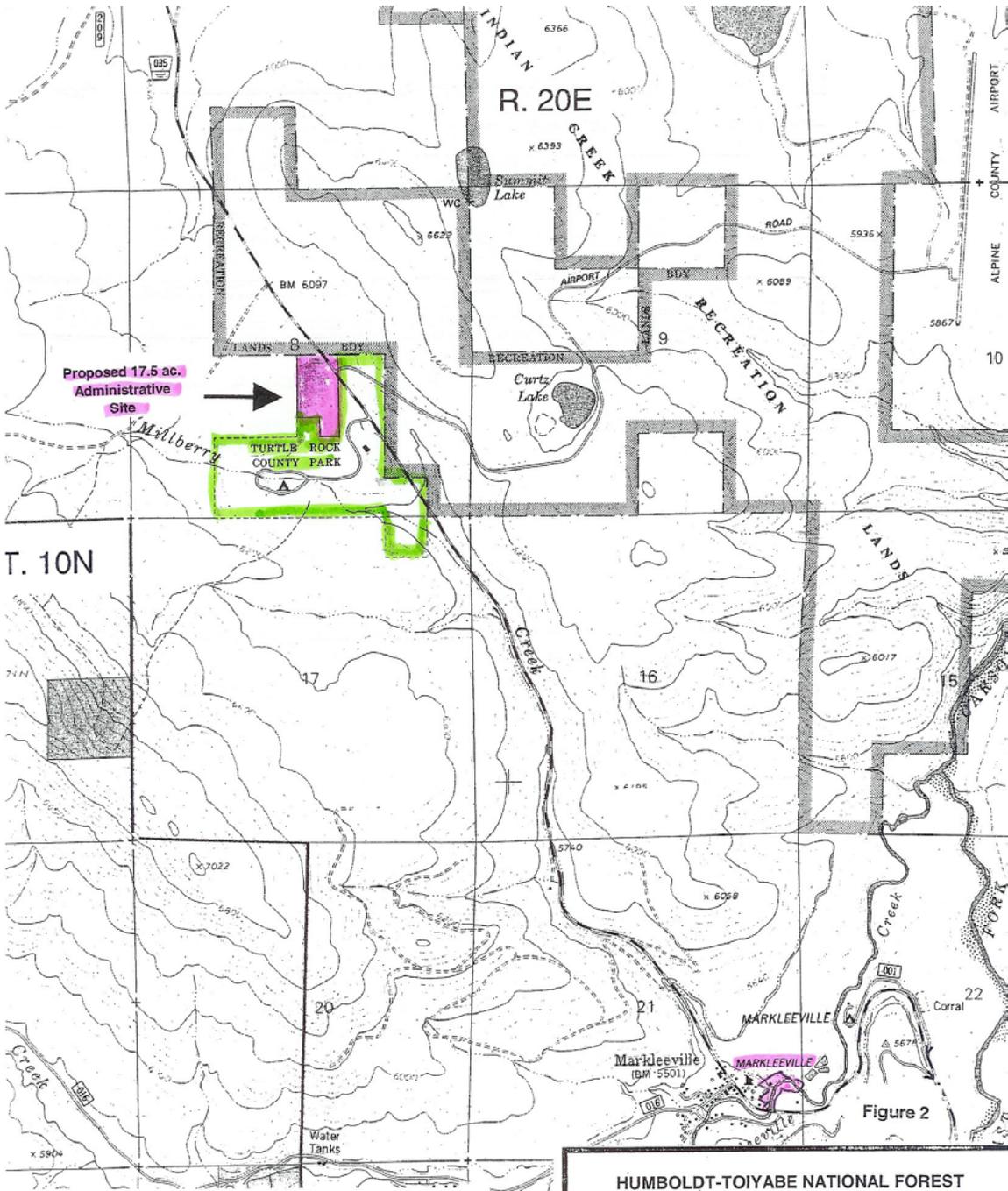
Electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), and Word (.doc) to comments-intermtn-humboldt-toiyabe-carson@fs.fed.us. Comments must have an identifiable name attached or verification of identity will be required. A scanned signature may serve as verification on electronic comments.

It is the responsibility of persons providing comments to submit them by the close of the comment period. Those who provide substantive comments during this comment period are eligible to appeal the decision under the regulations. Individuals and organizations wishing to be eligible to appeal must provide the information identified in 36 CFR 215, including:

- Name and Address;
- Title of the proposed action;
- Specific substantive comments (36 CFR 215.2) on the proposed action, along with supporting reasons that the Responsible Official should consider in reaching a decision;
- Signature or other verification of identity upon request; identification of the individual or organization who authored the comments(s) is necessary for appeal eligibility;
- For multiple names or multiple organizations, a signature must be provided for the individual authorized to represent each organization, or for each individual that wishes to have appeal eligibility, and

- Individual members of organizations must submit their own substantive comments to meet the requirements of appeal eligibility as an individual, comments received on behalf of an organization are considered as those of the organization only.

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.



**HUMBOLDT-TOIYABE NATIONAL FOREST**  
 Alpine County, California  
**AREA OF PROPOSED**  
**GUARD STATION RELOCATION**  
 (From USGS Topographic Map, Markleeville Quadrangle)  
 K. Whaley | 2001-12-104 | 01/15/04