

Proposal for the Cathedral Rock Picnic Area Rehabilitation Project

The Spring Mountains National Recreation Area (SMNRA) is about to begin a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis of the proposed Cathedral Rock Picnic Area Rehabilitation Project. This proposal describes that project in detail.

Your comments on this proposal are important. If after reviewing this information you wish to submit comments or would like more information, please refer to page 7, “Commenting on This Proposal.”

Proposal

The Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Spring Mountains National Recreation Area (SMNRA) proposes to renovate and reconstruct the Cathedral Rock Picnic Area and Cathedral Rock Trailhead to reduce traffic congestion, and reconstruct facilities to improve safety and accessibility and avoid future damage in avalanche paths. If the decision is made to proceed with this proposal, project activities would be expected to begin in 2009 and last for approximately two years.

Purpose and Need for Action

The purpose of this proposal is to replace, renovate, and reconstruct facilities and infrastructure of the Cathedral Rock Picnic Area, and to meet the existing and future recreation demand for trailhead parking in the Cathedral Rock area. The picnic area renovation will help protect and interpret the rich natural resources in the area. The action is needed now because the site was damaged and partially destroyed by an avalanche in 2005. In addition,

1. There is a need for improved safety and accessibility of site facilities, protection of investments by locating facilities out of avalanche paths, and reduced natural resource damage at the Cathedral Rock Picnic Area and Cathedral Rock Trailhead and,
2. There is a need for reduced traffic congestion at the upper end of Highway 157 and increased parking capacity at trailheads and picnic sites.

Existing Condition. The Cathedral Rock Picnic Area (picnic area) and adjacent Cathedral Rock trailhead parking and restroom (trailhead) are the most heavily visited facility and trailhead in the Spring Mountains NRA. The picnic area was originally constructed as a campground in 1930, and was reconstructed as a picnic area in 1968. The picnic area consists of 74 single unit picnic sites, a 60-person capacity group picnic site, and a 75-person capacity group picnic site. All sites have picnic tables and pedestal grills. One vault restroom and three flush



Figure 1. Buildings destroyed by an avalanche in the Cathedral Rock Picnic Area

restrooms are currently on site. The four existing restroom facilities are over 40 years old and show signs of heavy use. The sewer system consists of septic tanks and leach fields, which are about 40 years old and nearing the end of their operational life.



Figure 2. Facilities are outdated and do not meet accessibility standards

poor travelways with steep routes or steps, and tables and grills that are not compliant with Forest Service Outdoor Accessibility Guidelines. Where pathways from spurs to tables are not clearly defined, a maze of trails has resulted, contributing to loss of vegetation and associated erosion. User-created trails are numerous throughout the picnic area causing resource damage.

Current picnic site facilities are inadequate to meet the existing vehicle use and parking levels. Parking spurs are inadequate for vehicles bigger than a compact car, and are too short for the current multiple car use patterns. When large groups use units with small single parking spurs, vehicles often park on the surrounding vegetation. Asphalt on the roads is generally in poor condition and is extensively deteriorated in some places. These conditions have resulted in a degradation of the area's natural resources including the Upper Kyle Canyon Very High Priority Biodiversity Hotspot. Species of concern include a variety of plants, butterflies, and Palmer's chipmunk.

Trailhead parking does not meet existing recreation use and causes traffic congestion

problems. Two trailheads are located in or adjacent to the picnic area to provide access to Cathedral Rock, Little Falls, and the South Loop of Mt. Charleston National Recreation Trail. The current upper trailhead, located off the highway and next to the picnic area, has an access road that allows hikers to walk directly into the picnic area without paying the fee. The Lower Cathedral Rock Trailhead, located outside the picnic area, has parking to accommodate 12 vehicles. These popular trails frequently attract 50 to

Currently, the Griffith Peak avalanche path, which produces powerful avalanches capable of destroying all but the largest trees, terminates in the picnic area. In 2005, two restrooms and five picnic sites were destroyed in an avalanche in the southern portion of the picnic area. In addition, the site and its furnishings are in a deteriorated condition due to age and high levels of use over time and do not meet facility condition standards, the SMNRA Built Environment Image Guidelines, or accessibility standards. Facilities at the site are not currently accessible due to



Figure 3. Illegally parked vehicles due to lack of adequate parking at the Cathedral Rock Trailhead

60 vehicles at one time, resulting in illegal parking along Highway 157 and on adjacent private property.

Desired condition. Cathedral Rock Picnic Area would be a safe, comfortable and fully accessible picnic area where visitors can enjoy a high quality recreational experience in a forested setting. The recreation opportunity provided would be a transition from an urban experience to a roaded natural setting in the picnic area that leads to a more primitive experience in the forest while promoting resource conservation behavior.

Forest stand conditions created within the site would maintain a viable forest resilient to recreation impacts, resistant to insect and disease outbreaks, emulating historic conditions, encouraging understory development of sensitive plants, and maintaining canopy and tree structure conducive to a recreational setting. Characteristics of the Upper Kyle Canyon Very High Priority Biodiversity Hotspot would be maintained and enhanced. Suitability of the site for sensitive plants and butterfly larval and nectar host species would be improved by protecting existing populations and encouraging plant colonization in disturbed areas through rehabilitation, planting, silvicultural strategies, and subsequent protection.

Trailheads would be safe and identifiable, providing adequate capacity for existing and future use, and would link to hiking trails with clear signs and information for users about safety, orientation, and the location of area facilities and features.

Management Direction. This proposed project aligns with the goals and objectives outlined in the *General Management Plan for the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area* (Management Plan), and helps move the project area towards desired future conditions described in that plan. Sections of the Management Plan that guide the project are:

SMNRA-wide goals supporting the desired future condition for the SMNRA and Management Area 11-Developed Canyons are to:

- 0.1 – Conserve the health, diversity, integrity, and beauty of the ecosystem
- 0.2 – Protect American Indian cultural uses and heritage resources
- 0.3 – Avoid disruptions to current uses and users of the Spring Mountains
- 0.4 – Provide additional opportunities for recreation, where consistent with the above

These SMNRA-wide goals for the desired future condition provide protection for sensitive species and ecosystems without undue burden on the existing users of SMNRA. Provisions will be made for new recreation opportunities located away from the most sensitive areas in recognition of the increasing demand for recreation and other human uses and the concurrent need to protect sensitive species and habitats (Management Plan, p. 10-12).

SMNRA-wide Objectives

- 0.28 – “Provide for public safety in management of recreation...” (Management Plan, p. 14)
- 0.48 – “Maintain, design, and locate trails with consideration of the needs of people with disabilities. Increase the number of trails accessible to people with disabilities” (Management Plan, p. 16)

- 0.143 – “Improve existing trailheads at designated and undesignated trails to provide adequate parking, signage and traffic control devices and restroom facilities where appropriate” (Management Plan, p. 33)

Management Area 11 (Developed Canyons) – Objectives

- 11.5 – “Enhance developed sites where feasible to restore resource or wildlife values where recreation use has adversely affected resources.” (Management Plan, p. 34)
- 11.13 – “Minimize traffic congestion on major roads within Kyle and Lee Canyons, in cooperation with federal, state, local agencies, local residents, and businesses.” (Management Plan, p. 35)
- 11.14 – “Increase capability to monitor and manage visitor traffic in Kyle and Lee Canyons.” (Management Plan, p. 35)

Proposed management activities also align with the goals and objectives of the Conservation Agreement for the Spring Mountains NRA (Conservation Agreement) and Clark County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP).

The Conservation Agreement (CA) establishes five guidelines based on an ecosystem management approach for conservation of 57 species of concern. These guidelines are meant to:

- Maintain viable populations of all native species in their natural habitats;
- Represent, with protected areas, all native ecosystem types across their natural range of variation;
- Maintain evolutionary and ecological processes (e.g., disturbance regimes, hydrological processes, nutrient cycles, etc.);
- Manage over periods of time long enough to maintain the evolutionary potential of species and the ecosystem; and
- Accommodate human use and occupancy within these constraints (U.S. Department of Agriculture 1998).

In 2000, the Clark County MSHCP was completed to provide for conservation of a wide variety of species and their habitats throughout Clark County. The goal of the MSHCP is to allow expansion of the municipal areas within Clark County while providing for “the overall goal of no net unmitigated loss or fragmentation of habitat and to maintain stable or increasing populations of covered species.” The CA and its species of concern are incorporated in the MSHCP as an appendix (U.S. Department of Agriculture 2003).

Proposed Action

The Forest Service is proposing to renovate, replace and reconstruct the facilities and infrastructure described below and shown in Attachment A. The project is located at the end of Highway 157 in Kyle Canyon above the town of Mount Charleston, Nevada, in the North ½ of Section 36, Township 19 S., Range 56 E., MDB&M, of Clark County, Nevada. The project area is about 35 acres in size.

To meet the identified needs, the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Spring Mountains National Recreation Area proposes the following actions:

1. Design all new facilities to comply with the SMNRA Built Environment Image Guidelines and FS built environment design criteria.

2. Remove and replace all of the roads, utilities, restrooms and other infrastructure of the picnic site.
3. Close and rehabilitate the existing Lower Cathedral Rock Trailhead on Highway 157 in cooperation with Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT).
4. Decrease total persons at one time (PAOT) from 476 to 459. Estimated hiking PAOT would increase from 53 to 275, while estimated picnicking PAOT would decrease from 423 to 184.
5. Develop above-ground permanent facilities outside the existing and reasonably foreseeable avalanche path.
6. Abandon the underground utilities including water lines and the sewer system in place. Comply with Clark County regulations for abandoning sewer systems.
7. Construct roads to current road and parking standards.
 - a. Provide for school bus parking and/or shuttle stop and turn-around.
 - b. If possible, realign entry grade to decrease steepness.
 - c. Provide two parking spaces for each single picnic site and four parking spaces for each double picnic site.
 - d. Provide about 100 trailhead parking sites.
 - e. Provide locations for garbage cans at all picnic sites and large dumpsters with accessibility for garbage trucks.
 - f. Design for snow removal from the north portion of the trailhead. Design for spring snow removal for the remainder of the trailhead and the picnic area to facilitate maintenance and opening.
 - g. Install naturally appearing barriers to control parking.
 - h. Design traffic flow and gate locations to maximize management options.
8. Provide fully accessible picnic sites – about 46 sites
 - a. Single family units – 24 with parking for two cars, one picnic table, trash can and one fire grill.
 - b. Double family units – 11 with parking for four cars, two tables, two trash cans and two fire grills. Each site can be split into two single units.
9. Provide utilities including telephone, electricity, water and sewer to the site and to facilities as described below.
 - a. Water Facilities – Install a new winterized system, following roads where possible to minimize disturbance.
 - b. Wastewater Facilities – Install septic tanks and leach fields.
 - c. Lighting – Provide a minimum of low-level safety and security lighting around the picnic area, at trailheads, and in toilets.
10. Provide eight accessible toilet facilities with heat, lighting, potable water, and sewer.
11. Provide two host sites at appropriate locations to facilitate efficient management of the site. Provide the sites with electricity, telephone, potable water and sewer connections.
12. Provide the northern host site with a small, winterized storage building and consider covering this site with an open structure snow roof sufficient to handle snow loads and meet built environment design criteria.
13. Provide an accessible entrance station with full winterized design along the entrance road. Utilities should include telephone, heat, sewer, electricity, and water.
14. Provide two new trailheads, both of which will provide access to the Cathedral Rock, Little Falls and South Loop Trails. The northern trailhead would provide

- parking for 68 cars and would include full trailhead facilities and restroom with winterized design and utilities. The southern trailhead would provide parking for 42 cars and would include full trailhead facilities and a restroom with electricity, sewer, and water. The southern trailhead would be closed in winter due to lack of demand and avalanche risk.
15. Develop a trail system for the picnic area consisting of short loops and/or destination trails including one accessible trail loop.
 16. Fully develop and implement an Environmental Education theme and infrastructure for the site.
 17. Use fence where appropriate to manage users, and post signs at National Forest and private property boundaries.
 18. Develop and implement a vegetation management plan addressing the forest and understory vegetation resources of the site.
 - a. Create forest stand conditions within the site that maintain a viable forest that is resilient to recreation impacts, resistant to insect and disease outbreaks, emulates historic stand conditions, encourages understory development of sensitive plants, and maintains canopy and tree structure conducive to a recreational setting. The plan would maintain large existing trees. White fir should be reduced and ponderosa pine encouraged. In addition, oak and mountain mahogany stands should be maintained but the understory should primarily favor mountain mahogany and ponderosa pine as tree species. Tree stocking, in lower age classes, should be reduced to minimize resource stress for larger trees while maintaining a species composition and age structure that allows for future recruitment of large trees. Promote shrub and tree species in between picnic sites and facilities for visual screening and sound attenuation between units.
 - b. Maintain or enhance characteristics of the Upper Kyle Canyon Very High Priority Biodiversity Hotspot. Improve suitability of the site for sensitive plants and butterfly host/nectar species by protecting existing populations and encouraging plant colonization in disturbed areas through rehabilitation, planting, silviculture strategies, and subsequent protection.
 - c. Implementing weed management strategies (FSM 2000 – Noxious Weed Management 2080), maintain avalanche events, mimicking the natural fire regime by thinning understory and younger trees, and monitor and control unmanaged recreation into rare plant and butterfly host plant populations.

All actions include resource-specific design criteria that guide the manner in which the actions are implemented to minimize or reduce anticipated effects. See Attachment B for a list of the design criteria for this project.

The picnic area would be closed for about two years for construction. The trailhead on Highway 157 would remain open during construction until the new trailhead parking is available. Following is the general construction phasing anticipated for the project, realizing there are numerous steps for each phase of construction. Implementation of the Vegetation Plan will occur prior to, throughout and after the construction phase of the project. Implementation monitoring will continue throughout the project to assure that construction drawings, standards and guidelines are adhered to by the contractors.

1. The first phase would demolish and remove the existing improvements. This would include ripping and removing all asphalt, demolishing and removing all toilet buildings, abandoning sewer systems in-place, and removing concrete picnic site pads and all site furnishings.
2. The second phase would be to complete vegetation treatments to restore health and vigor of the vegetation, and where practical, to reduce fuel loading according to the prescriptions outlined in the SMNRA Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Project. Remaining roadbeds and openings would be used for transport and stacking.
3. The third phase would construct new improvements to the picnic area and trailhead.
4. The forth and ongoing phase would be effectiveness monitoring per the project decision notice.

Commenting on This Proposal

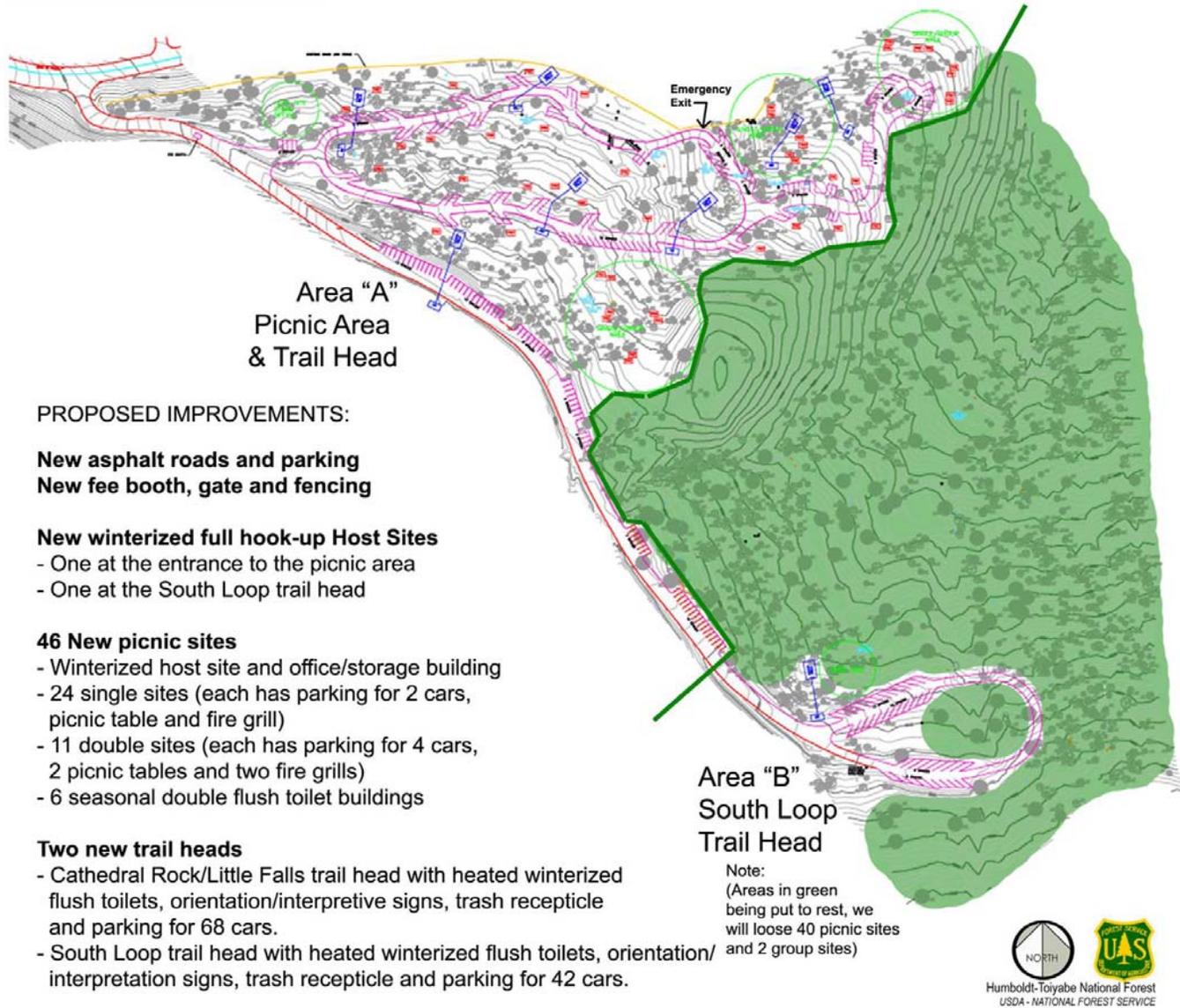
Written, facsimile, hand-delivered, oral, and electronic comments will be accepted for 30 calendar days following publication of this notice in the Las Vegas Review Journal. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period for this proposal. You should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source.

Written comments must be submitted to: Genny Wilson, Acting District Ranger at 4701 North Torrey Pines Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89130. The office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered comments are: 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM Monday through Friday, excluding Federal holidays. Oral comments must be provided at the Responsible Official's office during normal business hours via telephone at (702) 515-5401 or in person; or at an official agency function (i.e. public meeting) that is designed to elicit public comments. Electronic comments must be submitted in rich text format (.rtf), or Word (.doc) to comments-intermtn-humboldt-toyiabe-spring-mtns@fs.fed.us. Comments must meet the information requirements of 36 CFR 215.6. Only those who submit timely comments will be eligible to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR 215.

Additional information regarding the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process can be obtained from: Paul Schaefer at (702) 839-5560

Attachment A
Project Area Map

Cathedral Rock Day-Use Area



Attachment B
Project Design Criteria

No.	Design Criteria - General Project Design/Implementation
G1	<p>Public Information/Education Design and install information and educational signs and/or products that interpret the unique natural resources and history of the Cathedral Rock area. Specifically, in accordance with Interagency Agreement #14-48-0001-94605 between the FS and USFWS for Spring Mountains NRA install signs that will provide information on low impact recreation and ecological resource protections (CA 7.7) that include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Palmer's chipmunk conservation at all developed recreation sites located within its habitat (CA 7.8) - Butterfly and host plant conservation
G2	<p>Project Resource Monitors Project monitors will be used to integrate with implementation crews and provide onsite oversight to protect natural resources. Monitors may be used for a variety of resources, but a biological monitor must be used to identify, locate and flag plant polygons and occurrences, and to guide contractors in avoidance techniques in sensitive species habitats. Monitors will train the contractor and their staff in avoidance techniques and work with them in their initial unit treatments until the monitor is satisfied the contractor can operate independently. Thereafter, if the monitor or contractor determines there is a need for onsite monitoring during treatments (such as in units with high priority species, difficult terrain, etc), the monitor will be on site to guide implementation. Coordination may include training of crews in: the identification sensitive species; avoidance of impacts to sensitive species (e.g., identification/avoidance of wildlife use/habitat elements, including nests, cavities, and snags); notification of the Forest Service Resource Specialist if a sensitive, threatened, or endangered species is encountered; and that individuals must not be picked up or removed without a permit. All monitors will coordinate with the appropriate resource staff assigned to the Spring Mountains NRA.</p>
G3	<p>Demolition of Existing Facilities During the demolition phase of the project, materials removed from the existing site should be recycled or re-used to the greatest extent possible. A material recovery and recycling plan should be developed as part o contract specifications during implementation.</p>
No.	Design Criteria – Wildlife
W1	<p>Cover Sites (Palmer's Chipmunk, reptiles, small birds and mammals) Provide a minimum of 10 wildlife cover sites per acre within developed or primitive recreation sites by maintaining or adding dead and down wood material or rocks at appropriate locations. (SMNRA GMP Standard 0.38). Intent: Woody debris piles provide important cover/foraging sites to a number of species (e.g., Palmer's chipmunk and other species (small mammals, reptiles, neotropical birds)).</p>
W2	<p>Dead and Down Wood Retain a minimum of 50 linear feet/acre of downed trees with a minimum 12 inch diameter at the large end and 15 feet long on sites being managed for late seral stage of the Pinyon/Juniper and Mixed Conifer Land Type Associations (SMNRA GMP Standard 0.37 and 0.91). Trim branches and limbs as necessary. Place any new downed trees in such as way as to not affect drainage patterns; impede traffic or use of recreation facilities; create a public safety problem; and where consistent with defensible space. Intent: Provide ground cover for small mammals, amphibians, reptiles, and invertebrates</p>

W3	<p>Snags Retain all snags in the undeveloped portion of project area that do not pose a threat to public safety or extreme fire danger. Pinyon/Juniper, Mixed Conifer, and Bristlecone Pine Land Type Associations in all cases. (SMNRA GMP Standard 0.36).</p> <p>Intent: Snags are retained to provide habitat for cavity nesting animals (e.g., bats, woodpeckers, chickadees, flammulated, western screech, and pygmy owls) and animals that feed upon the insects living within dead trees.</p>
W4	<p>Pile Treatment Remove and chip if possible If burning piles use the following order of preference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1. remove and chip material - 2. cut and burn material immediately - 3. pile and burn material within the season of treatment - 4. if it's not possible to burn material within the season that piles are created, as in number 3 above, disassemble and reassemble the pile before burning <p>Prior to removing/burning brush piles, disturb the piles of brush to encourage animals to move out of the piles. When possible, light piles directionally to encourage wildlife to exit. Locate burn piles on already disturbed sites such as dirt roads, clearings, or parking areas where feasible</p> <p>Intent: Minimize direct mortality of animals that use dead and down piles for cover sites.</p>
W5	<p>Butterfly larval host and nectar plants Protect occurrences of larval host plants species host plant populations in accordance with measures detailed in the vegetation management plan. Maps and a list of species to protect are contained within that plan. Generally, these protection measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Flag areas containing larval or nectar host plants by a district biologist or implementation monitor prior to demolition and construction activities. - Flagged areas will be designated such that ground disturbing or mechanized equipment will be minimized in and around the flagged areas. - Disturbance of larval or nectar plants will be minimized to the greatest extent possible recognizing that individual plants may be damaged or destroyed. - no pile burning in areas containing larval host plants <p>Intent: Butterfly larvae occupy larval host plants and the surrounding duff and soils; these design criteria will prevent direct mortality of adults and larvae.</p>
W6	<p>Raptors, neotropical birds, breeding birds, small mammal, and reptiles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limiting Operating Period – no vegetation manipulation from March 15 – July 31 <p>***Exception(s) in consultation with staff Wildlife Biologist; survey for breeding songbirds and goshawk, flammulated owl and other raptors</p> <p>Intent: Implementing treatments outside the breeding season will minimize direct mortality of individuals.</p>

No.	Design Criteria – Botany
B1	<p>Avoid occurrences of Clokey paintbrush, Jaeger’s Ivesia, Hitchcock bladderpod, and Charleston pinewood lousewort during project layout and implementation. Avoid individuals of rough angelica during project layout and implementation where possible. Protect large species occurrences (<i>mapped or found occurrences >0.1 acre</i>) with a 25 m buffer. Protect individual occurrences (<i>mapped or found occurrences 0.1 acre</i>) with a 5 meter buffer prior to unit treatments. Flagging must be done during the peak growing season for each species (see Spring Mountains NRA Sensitive Plant and Butterfly Plant Primary Survey Time Periods table). Use hand treatments only within flagged areas at any time of year to prevent direct impacts, soil compaction, and disturbance from ground-based mechanical equipment, etc. Mechanical work can be done outside the flagged areas following Design Criteria for other factors as soil erosion, etc.</p> <p>If burn piles are used to reduce biomass, locate burn piles in disturbed areas (e.g. gravel roads, open rocky areas in washes, etc.) to minimize impacts to soil, soil sterilization, and the potential for weed infestation. Limit the number of burn piles by spacing them as far apart as possible. Feed brush and limbs into burn piles as it is cut within or between units. Do not pile burn in occupied habitat (e.g., within flagged areas).</p>
B2	<p>Collect seed from known plants that are useful for revegetation efforts; include collection of some rare plant and nectar and larval host plant seeds for rehabilitation efforts in closure areas.</p>
B3	<p>Employ Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest Best Management Practices for weeds. Especially ensure that equipment coming and going from treatment areas (mulches, etc.) be weed-free (washing, etc). Use native plant material and/or weed-free mulches for rehabilitation of disturbed areas. Prior to initiating this project, a weed risk-assessment, based upon 2006 survey data, would be prepared (see HTNF Noxious weed Control Program EA, Appendix B) and a weed mitigation plan per the US Forest Service Manual 2000, Chapter 2080 policy for Noxious Weed would will be followed.</p>
B4	<p>If slash or chipping is used to prevent erosion, woody material should not exceed a maximum depth of 2 inches, occur in scattered patches, and not cover more than 50% of the area where chips are scattered.</p>
B5	<p>Prior to initiating the project, a monitoring program may be developed and implemented to evaluate predicted or unknown effects of construction activities on sensitive species or to evaluate the seeding/recruitment success of seeding rough angelica, Hitchcock bladderpod, and other butterfly host plants. The need for a monitoring program will be decided by Spring Mountains NRA botany and wildlife staff in coordination with other resource staff on the forest.</p>
No.	Design Feature – Silviculture
S1	<p>Do not cut, and minimize damage to, existing deciduous trees and shrubs, (e.g., aspen, cherry, elderberry, mountain mahogany, oak)</p>
S2	<p>Reduce needle and duff accumulations where needed by either mechanical means (e.g., raking and removing), or low-intensity prescribe fire to enhance growth and establishment of understory vegetation.</p>
S3	<p>Assess tree hazards within and immediately adjacent to the day use area using established methods and criteria (e.g., “Tree Hazards: Recognition and Reduction in Recreation Sites”, http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/hazardtrees/treehazards/thazards.pdf) and remove hazard trees.</p>
S4	<p>Reduce tree stocking to a level in which the large ponderosa pine in the stands would not be considered at risk to mountain or western pine beetle mortality and to which bark beetle activity would be considered no more than endemic. This level would generally be below the “upper management zone” in terms of stand density index.</p>

S5	General species preference for thinning trees should be: bristlecone pine, ponderosa pine, single-leaf pinyon pine, Utah juniper, and white fir in descending order of preference to retain. This order of preference may be modified for portions of the project area to take into account site-specific factors.
S6	Tree thinning should be “from below” to favor retaining larger trees over smaller trees and should use the uneven-aged single-tree selection system.
S7	Vary spacing of leave trees during thinning to retain or enhance the natural appearance of the forest. Retain small 3 to 6 tree groups of small diameter trees in strategic locations to create future groups of large trees, retain visual diversity, and retain picnic site screening.
S8	In areas of aspen or aspen regeneration is occurring favor thinning conifers over aspen clones.
No.	Design Criteria – Heritage
H1	If unanticipated resources are discovered during project implementation, all work will stop in the vicinity until cleared by a professional cultural resources manager.
H2	Avoid impacts to the CCC Wading Pool site area and features (26CK006347; 04170503274; TY 3274)
No.	Design Criteria - Recreation and Visuals/Scenery Management
R1	Accessibility Improve accessibility as much as possible and ask for deviation where slope or other condition does not allow full access. At least 20% of the travelways to sites would be accessible. All picnic pads, tables, grills, and water hydrants will comply with the Forest Service Outdoor Accessibility Guidelines. Toilet buildings would be fully accessible. Accessible parking and travelways would be provided at all toilets.
R2	Separate Uses Separate the picnic and trailhead uses by distance and fences where needed to avoid hiker and equestrian trespass into the picnic area. Picnic and trailhead uses would have separate fees (desired management objective).
R3	Design Guidelines and Architectural Theme Follow <i>Spring Mountains National Recreation Area Built Environment Image Guide</i> , Feb. 2007, for the design of facilities. Renovate the picnic area in a similar style to the original CCC campground with appropriate consideration of historic precedents as the original but bringing everything up to date. One should have the feeling that they are in a convenient, but historic old picnic area done with great care using local natural resources.
R4	Season of Use Maintain the site open for use as long as possible, and fit into East Side Management strategy for recreation facilities.
R5	Entrance Station Provide an entrance to the area that accommodates collecting fees from picnic users and trail users, separates the traffic to each use area, and either informs the users the area is full or accommodates a stacking lane out of the way for picnic users to wait for a site to open up.
R6	Concession Operation and Maintenance Provide for environmental and financial sustainable operation and maintenance.