



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Humboldt-Toiyabe
National Forest

Ruby Mountains/Jarbidge
Ranger Districts
P. O. Box 246
Wells, NV 89835

Mountain City Ranger
District
2035 Last Chance Rd.
Elko, NV 89801

File Code: 1950-1

Date: January 20, 2009

Dear Interested Party:

The Mountain City, Ruby Mountains and Jarbidge Ranger Districts are inviting public comments on the proposed Combined Travel Management Project. This project will revise the Travel Management Plans for the Mountain City, Ruby Mountains and Jarbidge Ranger Districts to accommodate increasing numbers and capabilities of off highway vehicles (OHV's) on the Districts and to protect natural resources. This project includes adjustments to the current forest transportation system, additions of user-created routes to that system, and the prohibition of motor vehicles off designated routes. This project will not analyze over the snow vehicle travel, such as snowmobiles. At the end of the project, the District Rangers will identify the minimum road and trail system needed for safe and efficient motorized travel and for administration, utilization, and protection of National Forest System lands.

The Districts are not alone in the process. On November 2, 2005 the Forest Service announced a new regulation or "rule" for recreational motor vehicle use on National Forest System Lands. This rule requires that all Forests will identify and designate those roads, trails, and areas that will be open to motor vehicles and what type of vehicles and time of year use will be allowed. The rule prohibits the use of motorized vehicles off of a designated transportation system, cross-country travel will be prohibitive unless specifically identified through this process or authorized under permit.

Since informal scoping began in 2005, subsequent field inspection, land status verification and natural resource assessment of travel routes has been completed and used to develop a current proposal. Additional information will be collected through public involvement and ongoing field data collection.

A scoping document describing the Proposed Action and maps depicting the project are available on line at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/htnf/projects/#mountaincity>, <http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/htnf/projects/#rubymountain>, or <http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/htnf/projects/#jarbidge>.

Hard copies (either printed versions or CD) can be obtained by contacting the Mountain City Ranger District Office at (775) 738-5171 or by written request to Mountain City, Ruby Mountains and Jarbidge Ranger Districts Combined Travel Management Project, c/o James Winfrey, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, 1200 Franklin Way, Sparks, NV 89431.

Your written comments and concerns should be sent to James Winfrey at the address in the paragraph above or emailed to: comments-intermtn-humboldt-toiyabe-mtncty@fs.fed.us or comments-intermtn-humboldt-toiyabe-rubymtns-jarbidge@fs.fed.us with the subject heading of "Combined Travel Management." Comments may also be faxed to the following number attention to Jim Winfrey: 775-355-5399. All comments provided in response to this letter become part of the project record and will be made available to the public if requested under the Freedom of Information Act. This includes names, addresses, and any other information provided with the comments.



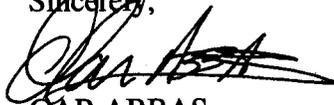
The Forest Service requests your comments on this project by **February 20, 2009**. We also ask that you inform us of whether or not you wish to remain on the mailing list for this project. If we do not hear from you regarding your interest, we may remove you from the project mailing list.

The Forest Service welcomes and encourages public comments into the Travel Management proposal(s). Maps are available for review at the Ruby Mountains and Jarbidge Ranger District in Wells, Nevada and at the Mountain City Ranger District Office in Elko, Nevada. As a first step in developing a collaborative process the Districts will hold open house meetings. District Rangers will be on hand to acquaint people with the new travel rule and discuss the proposed action. Dates, times, and locations for these open houses are as follows:

- Elko – January 26, 2009 - 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. – Elko Forest Service Office
- Wells – January 27, 2009 – 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. – Wells Forest Service Office
- Jackpot – January 28, 2009 – 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. PST – Jackpot Recreation Center
- Mountain City – January 29, 2009 – 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. PST – Mountain City Courthouse

If you have questions regarding specific roads or if you would like to arrange for a Forest Service representative to attend your meetings or visit with your group to provide additional information please contact District Rangers, Tom Montoya, Mountain City District Ranger at (775) 738-5171, or Gar Abbas, Ruby Mountains and Jarbidge District Ranger at (775) 752-3357.

Sincerely,



GAR ABBAS
District Ranger
Ruby Mountains/Jarbidge Ranger District



THOMAS A. MONTOYA
District Ranger
Mountain City Ranger District