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Date: December 8, 2009

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DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
BUDGET AND PLANNING DIVISION

Interested Public

Winnemucca, NV 89445

Dear Interested Public:

The Santa Rosa Ranger District is proposing to renovate the historic Martin Creek Guard Station by making long-needed repairs, upgrades, and sanitation improvements to make the facility useable once again while retaining and preserving the historic character of the guard station.

The Martin Creek Guard Station is a historic guard station parts of which were constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC) in the 1930's and consists of 4 buildings. It is centrally located on the Santa Rosa District making it ideal for use as a staging area for field work. Its location is approximately a 2-hour drive from the Santa Rosa District Office in Winnemucca, NV. Paradise Valley Guard Station, about an hour away, is staffed year-round, but has limited housing for temporary field work. Martin Creek had been used frequently up to about 10 years ago. However, due to a water supply that was no longer reliable or sanitary, use declined and ongoing repairs became low priority. Martin Creek Guard Station has fallen into severe disrepair as a result of disuse. There is a desire to use the station again to stage ongoing field work by Forest Service and State of Nevada employees. Educational and service organizations could benefit from the opportunity to use the facility. The District is also looking at placing the guard station in the Forest Service cabin rental program. Frequent use of the station is anticipated once proposed renovation is completed.

The proposal would connect the water system to an existing system at Lye Creek Campground (thereby eliminating duplicative effort of managing two systems), install a septic system meeting current standards, and make numerous deferred maintenance repairs to the buildings such as new roofing, exterior lead-based paint remediation, horse facility repairs, siding repairs, and plumbing fixture upgrades. Solar energy will also be analyzed for lighting needs to eliminate propane light fixtures that are a fire hazard and create carbon-monoxide concerns. Consistent use will encourage routine maintenance.

This project is located on Forest Road #084 (Hinkey Summit Road) in Road Creek drainage, Humboldt County, Nevada. The legal location is: NE1/4, NW1/4, Section 24, and T.44N. R.39E.

The purpose of the project is to:

- Provide for public safety,
- Provide an efficient staging area for field work,
- Eliminate the deferred maintenance backlog,



- Retain and preserve the historic character of the guard station,
- Bring the facility up to a standard required to place the station in the cabin rental program.

We will be conducting the environmental analysis for this project as a Category 3 categorical exclusion (Forest Service Handbook 1909.15_31.12 (3) or 36 CFR 220.6(d) (3) in the Code of Federal Regulations) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). As part of this analysis we are inviting public comment on the project at this time.

Your written comments, concerns, and suggestions should be sent to Tina Gast, Project Coordinator, at 1200 East Winnemucca Boulevard Winnemucca, NV 89445. Comments can also be sent via facsimile to the following number: 775-625-1200. Electronic comments can be sent to: mgast@fs.fed.us. Please note "Martin Creek Guard Station Rehabilitation" in subject line of your e-mail message.

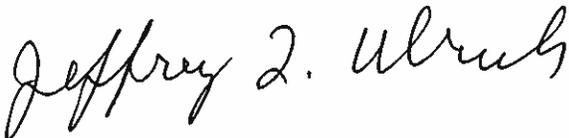
All comments are part of the public record and are available upon request including names, addresses and comments.

The Forest Service requests your comments on this project by January, 15 2010. If we do not hear from you regarding your interest we may remove your name from the project mailing list.

For more information on these projects, please contact Tina Gast, Project Coordinator, at (775) 623-5025 Ext 111.

We thank you for your interest in the management of your national forests and look forward to your comments.

Sincerely,



JEFFREY L. ULRICH
District Ranger