



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Humboldt-Toiyabe
National Forest

Carson Ranger District
1536 S. Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701
(775) 882-2766 Fax (775) 884-8199

File Code: 1950

Date: December 11, 2009

RECEIVED

DEC 15 2009

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
BUDGET AND PLANNING DIVISION

Dear Interested Party,

Enclosed for your review is the Notice of Proposed Action for the Plymouth Interagency Facility. The Carson Ranger District of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest welcomes your comments on this proposal. Your comments will help us prepare the environmental assessment (EA). If there is no potential for significant impacts, that finding, along with the EA and the District Ranger's decision will be sent to those who comment on the proposal. If the EA indicates the potential for significant impacts, the District Ranger would initiate additional environmental documentation prior to a decision.

Written, facsimile, hand-delivered, oral, and electronic comments concerning this action will be accepted for 30 calendar days from the date of this letter. Comments must be submitted to: District Ranger, Carson Ranger District, 1536 S. Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada 89701; or fax 775-884-8199. The office business hours for those submitting comments in person are: 8:00 am to 4:30 pm 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.

Thank you for your interest in this important project.

Sincerely,

GENNY WILSON
District Ranger

Enclosure





Notice of Proposed Action

Opportunity to Comment

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest Service

December 11, 2009

Comments Welcome

The Carson Ranger District of the Humboldt Toiyabe National Forest welcomes your comments on its proposed Plymouth Interagency Facilities (project) which is located on National Forest System lands within the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest. This project proposes to build an interagency facility to increase capacity of housing and operations in support of Federal land management activities.

This proposal will be documented in an environmental assessment (EA). Written, facsimile, hand delivered, oral, and electronic comments concerning this proposal will be accepted for 30 calendar days following the publication of the legal notice of this Notice of Proposed Action/Opportunity to Comment in the *Reno Gazette-Journal*, published on December 11, 2009. For detailed information on how to provide comments please refer to the "Comment Process" section of this document on page 5.

Purpose and Need

The Forest Service, in conjunction with the Bureau of Land Management, is proposing to develop approximately 40 acres of National Forest System lands of which about 20 acres would actually have facilities, located west of Highway 395 in Township 14N, Range 20 E, and Section 18 between Harris and Hobo Hot Springs Roads in Douglas County Nevada. This proposed action responds to the goals established by the Bureau of Land Management Consolidated Resource Management Plan (CRMP 2001), the Humboldt-

Toiyabe Facilities Master Plan and the Toiyabe Land and Resource Management Plan (1986).

Currently the Bureau of Land Management does not have a housing facility for their temporary workforce in Carson City. The Forest Service currently utilizes a small and dilapidated housing facility for employees located near the Minden Airport in Douglas County, Nevada. This facility is run down and is no longer sufficient for employee occupancy. A small workshop located near the Minden facility is also outdated and insufficient in size for current work activities and employee parking. Existing parking and storage for Forest Service is limited to a small area at the district office in Carson City.

The BLM currently works their Silver State Hotshot Crew out of their field office in East Carson City. Firefighter resources would be more efficiently managed from a fire facility where crew members can be housed.

This project would provide temporary housing for Federal employees. In addition it would provide space for fire suppression resources, fleet and employee parking, workshop and storage for district equipment.

Once new facilities are established for Forest Service housing and workspace, the current site in Minden Nevada on National Forest System lands would no longer be needed for Forest Management. The parcel is disjoint from the National Forest and small in size (0.72 acres) within Township 13N, Range 20E, and Section 8. That site would be restored for conveyance; utilities would be decommissioned and may include removal of the current structures.

The Proposed Action

This project proposes to develop a new administrative site on National Forest System lands and build an interagency facility to enhance the capacity of housing and improve operations in support of land management activities.

Two federal employee housing units would be constructed approximately 5000 square feet in size to house up to 20 employees each; the facility would be constructed to existing approved BLM and FS facility plans and specifications.

A Forest Service workshop of approximately 5,000 square feet would be built and may include storage for equipment and supplies and a meeting room.

An approximately 6500 square foot operational center would be built and include office and work space for BLM's Silver State Hotshots.

Build FS and BLM covered, lighted and secured parking for fleet and employee vehicles.

Access would primarily be along Hobo Hot Springs Road through a drive way directly into the facility. Harris Hot Springs could be improved for access to this facility and for adjacent land owners and easement could be issued.

The site would have native and fire resistant vegetation to conform to the surrounding area. The perimeter of the facilities would be fenced with a low visual fence to deter unauthorized access.

The existing 0.72 acre administrative site located in Minden Nevada could be restored to native surface. This may include removing all equipment, building, concrete pads, fencing, and decommissioning utilities.

Issues

The Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management have identified no issues associated with this proposed action.

Alternatives to Proposed Action

In addition to the Proposed Action, the Forest Service will address the No Action Alternative, and 7 additional alternatives in the EA:

No Action Alternative: Under this proposed action new federal facilities would not be constructed and BLM resources would continue to work out of the Carson City Field Office and USFS resources would continue to work out of the Carson City District Office and the Minden warehouse facilities. Temporary federal employee housing would be limited or not available.

Site 1: south of Arrowhead Drive and west of Gogni Road (12 acres) in Carson City on BLM lands. The closest city sewer connection is 3,000 feet away and a septic system is not an option due to the soil type. The reason this site was eliminated from further analysis is the cost of infrastructure. Additional costs were estimated at \$552,000.

Site 2: the corner at the round-about of Fifth Street, Edmonds and Carson River Road at the north end of Prison Hill Recreation Area in Carson City, Nevada (11 acres) on BLM Lands. This site was dismissed due to the preference of Carson City to manage the location for open spaces. Development would not be consistent with the BLM Carson City Urban Interface Plan Amendment (October 1996).

Site 3: immediately north of the Chocolate Factory on the East side of State Route 341 in Lyon County (6 acres) of BLM lands. Due to access deficiencies it would be prohibitively expensive to construct the facility in this location. Building on this site would require a deceleration lane with entrance approach for Highway 341. The estimated costs of a type-3 approach with one deceleration lane would be \$270,000 with an annual maintenance cost of \$10,000.

Site 4: north side of US Highway 50, 1.3 miles east of the Carson City/Lyon County line in Moundhouse, Nevada (17 acres) on BLM lands. Due to access deficiencies it would be prohibitively expensive to construct the facility in this location. This site is surrounded by private lands on the north, east and west. The only access to this site is to the south from Highway 50. Building on this site would require a deceleration lane with entrance approach for Highway 50. The estimated cost of a type-3 approach with one deceleration lane would be \$270,000 with an annual maintenance of \$10,000.

Site 6: west of Highway 395 between Jacks Valley Road and Topsy lane (30 acres) in Douglas County on USFS lands. This site was eliminated from further analysis due to the projected cost of infrastructure. Connecting to a sewer line was estimated to be \$263,000 and \$357,000. These lands have been identified by Douglas County for disposal to accommodate commercial growth in the area.

Site #7: west side of Prison Hill in Carson City, NV at Edmonds Road (8 acres) on BLM lands. This site was withdrawn from further analysis due to public scoping as part of the NEPA process.

Summary of Proposed Action Impacts

The following table summarizes the potential impacts of the Proposed Action. In the EA, these impacts will be compared to those resulting from the alternatives.

Affected Resource	Summary of Impact
Air Quality	Short term impacts are possible from site excavation and construction. No long term or cumulative impacts to air quality would occur.
Watersheds	There would be no impacts to water quality or watershed values. Project design would include mitigation to control potential water run.
Vegetation	The project area is currently a disturbed site being heavily impacted from unauthorized off road vehicle use. This project would remove approximately 20 acres of sagebrush and bitterbrush vegetation through site development. Impacts to surrounding National Forest lands would be reduced through restoration and more closely managed lands due to the presence of Forest employees.
Noxious and Invasive Weeds	<p>Cheatgrass is known to occur within and adjacent to the project area. Ground disturbing activities may lead to increased spread of cheatgrass within and adjacent to the project area. To minimize the risk of cheatgrass invasion, the following design features will be implanted:</p> <p>Treatment of noxious weeds will occur prior to any ground disturbing activities in areas where heavy concentrations of cheatgrass occur.</p> <p>All equipment will be clean and inspected prior to moving onto the project site during construction. Equipment will be washed to remove any soil and debris that may harbor noxious weed seeds.</p> <p>Any road surface material needed will be inspected and certified weed free.</p> <p>If re-vegetation and/or landscaping is required, seed will be tested as weed free.</p>
Threatened, Endangered and Forest Sensitive	The project area does not contain suitable habitat for any Federally listed threatened, endangered, or Forest Sensitive wildlife or plant species. The project area is adjacent to winter

Affected Resource	Summary of Impact
Species and Wildlife	range for mule deer. However, the high level of existing disturbance within the project area and proximity to the highway diminishes the habitat quality for mule deer. The project area is not considered important habitat for migratory birds due to the high level of existing disturbance. Therefore no impacts to wildlife or plant species are expected from the proposed action.
Heritage Resources	No heritage resources were found through a complete survey of the site. No impacts would occur to heritage resources.
Socioeconomics	No impacts.
Visual Resources	The proposed facilities would be conducive to the surrounding developments on adjacent lands and along the Highway 395 corridor. No impacts would occur.
Motorized Recreation	The project area is currently not authorized for motorized use. This project would establish legal right of way to residents living north of the project boundary through the paving and dedication of a permanent roadway.
Inventoried Roadless Areas	The project area does not occur within an Inventoried Roadless Area. No impacts would occur.
Noise	There would be some short term noise generate from excavation and construction of new facilities. These impacts would be limited to the construction period.

Decision Framework

Based on the environmental analysis and disclosure documented in the EA, the District Ranger will decide 1) whether to select the actions proposed or modified, or as described in an alternative; 2) what mitigation measures are needed; and 3) what monitoring is required.

Comment Process

The Forest Service encourages your comments on this proposal, along with supporting reasons that the responsible official should consider in reaching a decision. Only those who provide comments during this comment period are eligible to appeal the decision.

Your comments will help us prepare the environmental assessment (EA). If there is no potential for significant impacts, that finding, along with the EA and the District Ranger's decision will be sent to those who commented. If the EA indicates the potential for significant impacts, the District Ranger would initiate additional environmental documentation prior to a decision.

Written, facsimile, hand-delivered, oral, and electronic comments concerning this action will be accepted for 30 calendar days following the publication of this notice in the *Reno Gazette-Journal*.

Comments must be submitted to: District Ranger, Carson Ranger District, 1536 S. Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada 89701; or fax 775-884-8199. The office business hours for those submitting comments in person are: 8:00 am to 4:30 pm 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. 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 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 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.

For further information contact Robert Hickok, Project Manager at 775-787-3224 or email at rhickok@fs.fed.us.

Plymouth Interagency Facilities

Township 14 North, Range 20 East, Section 18

Genoa, Nevada, 7.5' USGS Topographic Quadrangle


