

Request for Comments/ Notice of Proposed Action

Schell Creek Range Abandoned Mine Closures

USDA Forest Service – Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest
Ely Ranger District
January 27, 2010

Why we are proposing this project

Forest Service lands in the Schell Creek Range contain numerous abandoned, underground mine features. These features present a physical safety hazard to the visiting public and provide habitat for sensitive bat species.

What we propose to do

The Forest Service proposes to close about 118 features by installing a foam plug, bat-friendly cupola (raised grate), grate or a bat-friendly gate.

Where we propose to do this

Forest Service land in the Schell Creek Range is located approximately 7 miles east of Ely, Nevada and extends about 55 miles from Connors Pass to Schellbourne Pass.

What we have learned so far

We have identified preliminary issues:

- Will closures impact biological and cultural resources?
- Will closures impact recreation

How we will figure out what to do

We will use these issues and those we receive from you to reduce impacts to the environment and to analyze the effects of implementing the project.

How you can help us decide what to do

We ask that you think about this proposal and let us know what you think. This thirty-day comment period provides those interested in or affected by this proposal an opportunity to make their concerns known prior to making the decision.

The decision to be made

We will decide to complete the project as proposed or with modifications.

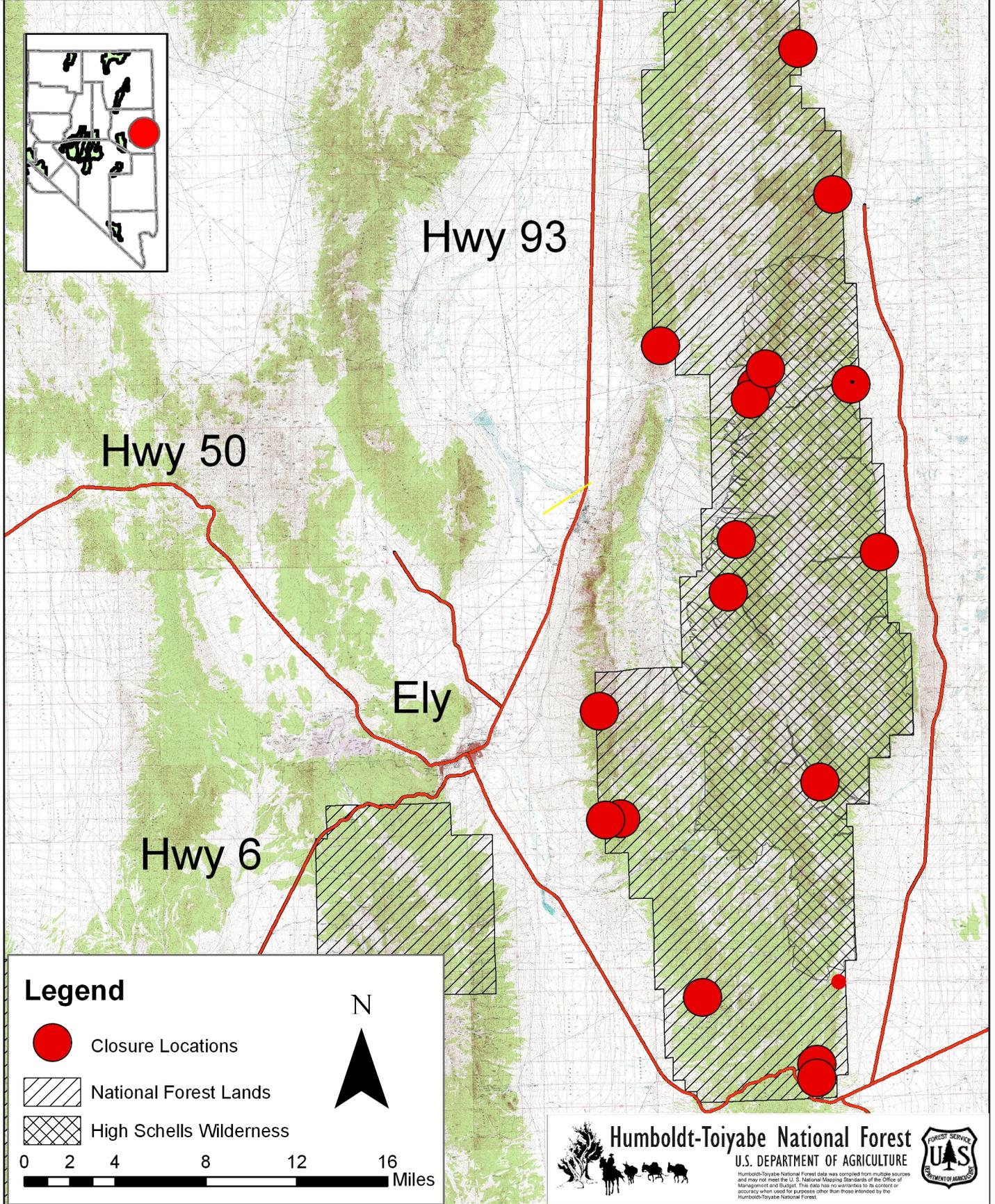
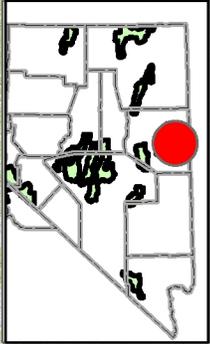
We plan to cite a categorical exclusion to make this decision. This means that the decision will not be preceded with an Environmental Assessment.

We want to hear from you ...

If you would like more information, contact:
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To provide electronic comments, in rtf or doc:
comments-intermtn-humboldt-toiyabe-ely@fs.fed.us

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Legend

-  Closure Locations
-  National Forest Lands
-  High Schells Wilderness



0 2 4 8 12 16 Miles



Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



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