



File Code: 1950

Date: May 14, 2010

Dear Reader:

The Mountain City Ranger District requests your comments and concerns on the proposed Meadow Creek Bridge Replacement Project.

The proposed action is to maintain and improve existing public access through replacement of three bridges along the Meadow Creek Road in Elko County. The bridges to be replaced are the upper, middle and lower Meadow Creek bridges. See attached map. Work is scheduled to begin in July of 2010 and end in October of 2010. Detours will be constructed around the lower and middle Meadow Creek bridges; however the replacement of the upper bridge will require a temporary road closure.

The Forest Service will conduct an environmental analysis on this project in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). As part of this analysis, we invite you to comment on the project at this time.

Based on our experience with similar bridge replacements, initial concerns for this proposed project include:

- The effects on riparian areas and water quality
- Impacts on wildlife species and wildlife habitat (including aquatic wildlife).
- Impacts on threatened, endangered, and sensitive plant species.
- Impacts to other National Forest System land users including, but not limited to livestock permittees and recreationists.
- Impacts to heritage resources.

We anticipate that this project can be categorically excluded from analysis and documentation in an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement. Based upon our initial review of the project we have determined that the project fits within Category 3 – *repair and maintenance of roads, trails and landline boundaries*. (36 CFR 220.6(d))

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires Federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties. Regulations (36 CFR part 800) concerning protection and preservation of historic properties give the public, local governments, and other entities the opportunity to participate in the review and evaluation of effects to cultural sites. In addition to commenting about impacts to historic sites, certain individuals and organizations with a demonstrated interest in the undertaking may participate as consulting parties in the Section 106 process. The Forest Service shall consider all written requests to



participate as a consulting party. We will coordinate our review of impacts to heritage resources with our NEPA review for this project.

Your written comments and concerns should be sent to me at the above letterhead address. Comments may also be faxed to 775-778-6167 or e-mailed to: comments-intermtn-humboldt-toiyabe-mtn-city@fs.fed.us. Please include "Meadow Creek" in the subject line. 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 may include names, addresses and any other information provided with the comments.

The Forest Service requests your comments on this project by June 15, 2010. 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.

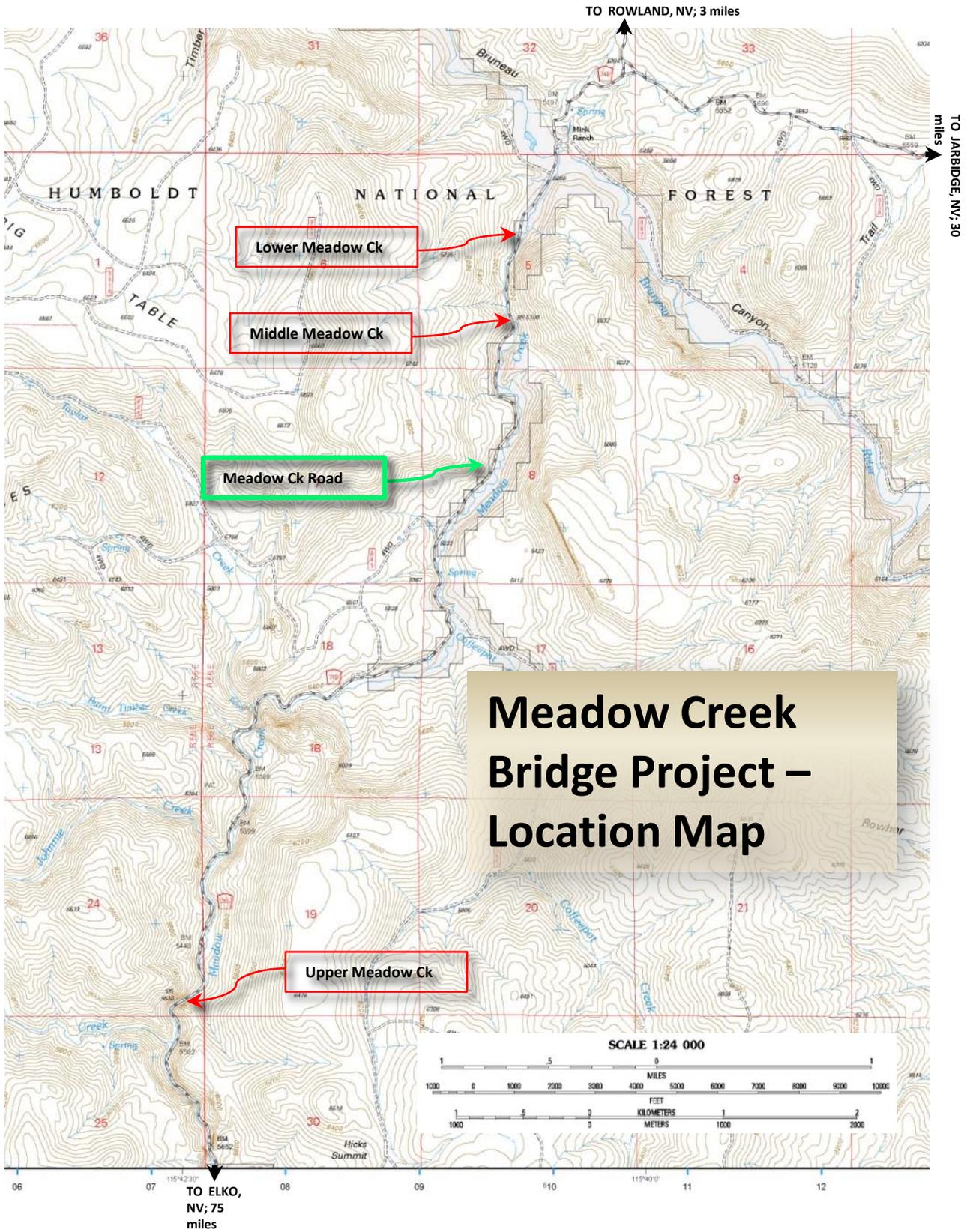
For more information on this project, please contact Mike Balen, project manager at (775) 778-6140. Thank you for your interest in the management of your National Forests.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Thomas A. Montoya*  
THOMAS A. MONTOYA  
District Ranger

cc: Michael D Balen

Enclosure



# Meadow Creek Bridge Project – Location Map