



File Code: 1950

Date:

Dear Interested Party:

The Mountain City Ranger District is proposing the Rattlesnake Canyon Headcut Stabilization project. This project is located on Forest Road #067 (Bruneau River Road) south of Rowland in Elko County, Nevada. The legal location is: Mount Diablo Meridian T.47N., R.56E., Sec. 10. (See enclosed maps)

The purpose and need is to stabilize three headcuts located on Rattlesnake Canyon Creek just upstream of it's crossing of Forest Road #067. These headcuts range in size from 20 feet to 3 feet. In addition to functioning as a migration barrier for fish and other aquatic organisms, these headcuts have the potential erode the meadow area further up Rattlesnake Canyon.

Rock from local sources will be used to fill the primary headcut, to establish the original slope and gradient of the stream. The existing undersized culvert at Forest Road #067 will be replaced with a low water stream crossing (ford). A portion of Forest Road #067 adjacent to Rattlesnake Canyon will be realigned away from the Bruneau River.

Redband trout, considered a Sensitive species by the Nevada Department of Wildlife, are recorded to have been historically present in Rattlesnake Canyon. However, because of long-term disconnection with the Bruneau River due to the headcut, the local population is no longer believed to be present. Also found in the Bruneau River drainage area is the Columbia spotted frog (Great Basin population), a candidate for listing; and native minnows and suckers.

Scoping is required for all Forest Service proposed actions, including those that may be categorically excluded from further analysis and documentation in an Environmental Impact Statement Environmental Assessment. Internal scoping indicates that this project meets the requirements under Category 6 - Timber stand and/or wildlife habitat improvement activities that do not include the use of herbicides or do not require more than 1 mile of low standard road construction (36 CFR 220.6(e) (6.)) As part of this analysis we are inviting public comment on the project at this time.

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation encourages agencies to coordinate the review of impacts to heritage resources that is required under the National Historic Preservation Act with reviews required under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Regulations (36 CFR, part 800) concerning protection and preservation of historic and pre-historic properties give the public, local governments, and other entities opportunities to participate in the review and evaluation of effects to cultural sites.



This review and evaluation is referred to as the Section 106 process because it refers to section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. In addition to seeking comments about historic and pre-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.

Your written comments, concerns, and suggestions should be sent to Maija Meneks, Project Coordinator, at 2035 Last Chance Road, Elko, Nevada 89801. Comments can also be sent via facsimile to the following number: 775-778-6167. Electronic comments can be sent to:

comments-intermtn-humboldt-toiyabe-mtn-city@fs.fed.us.

Please note "Rattlesnake Canyon Project" in subject line of your e-mail message. If requested, a copy of all comments provided in response to this letter will be made available to the public. This will include names, addresses and any other information provided with the comments.

In order to be most effective, the Forest Service requests your comments on this project by **July 12, 2010**. We are also asking 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 your name from the project mailing list.

For more information on this project, please contact Maija Meneks, Project Coordinator, at (775) 778-6139; or Mike Balen, Engineer, at (775) 778-6140

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

Sincerely,

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

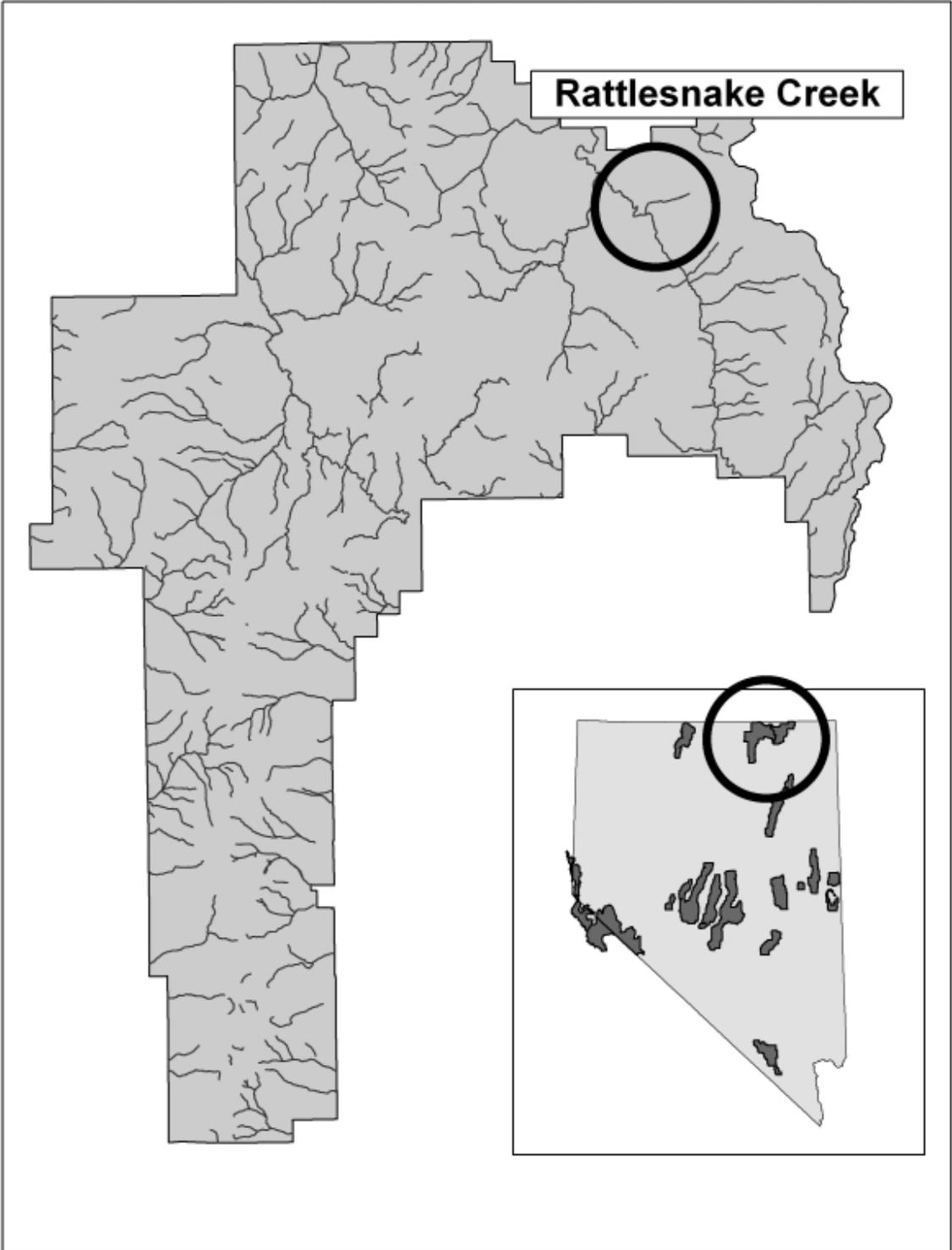


Figure 1. General location of the Rattlesnake Canyon Headcut Stabilization project in northeast Nevada, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Mountain City Ranger District.

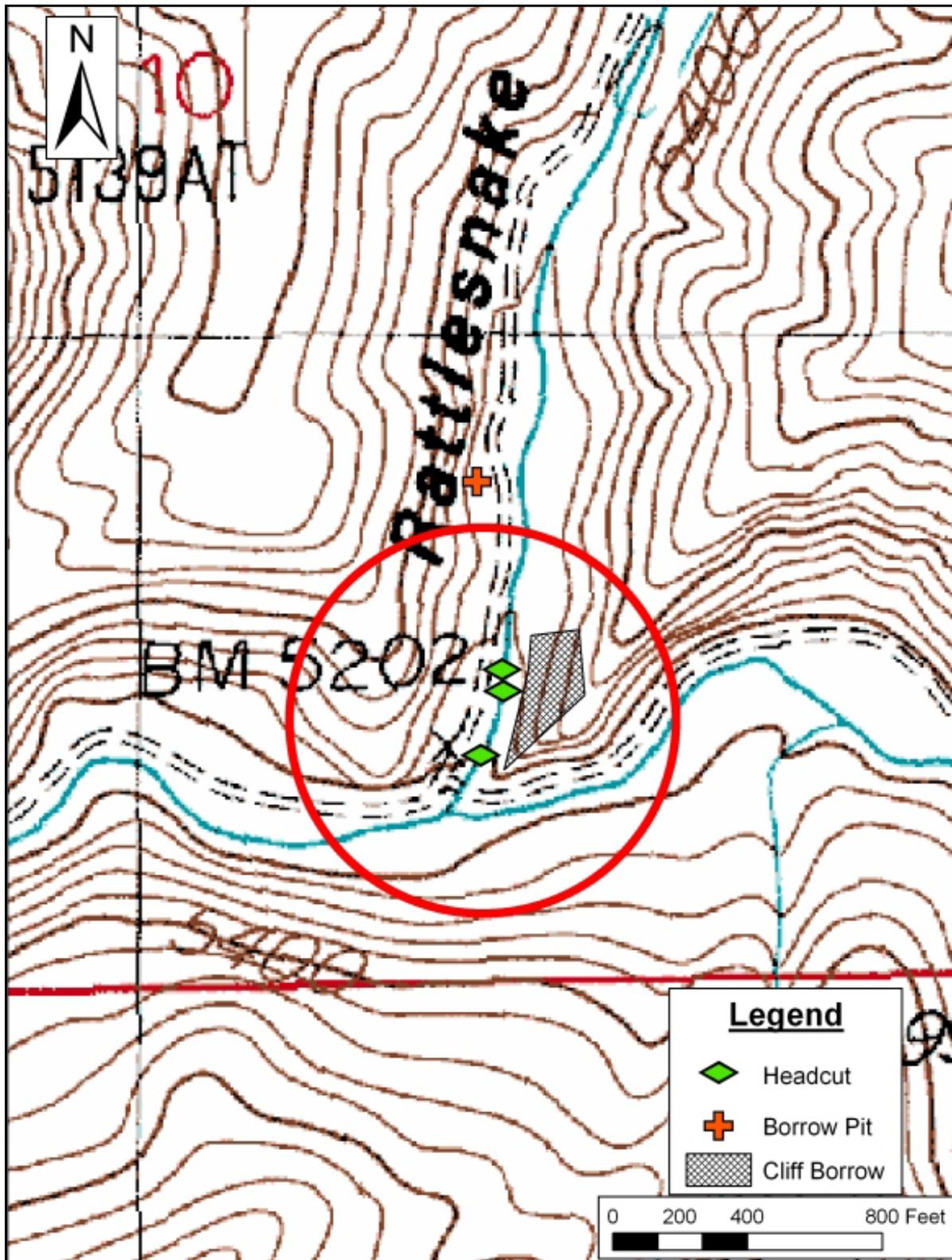


Figure 2. Location of the Rattlesnake Canyon Headcut Stabilization project.