

## Request for Comments Scoping

### NDOT Timber Mtn. Communication Site USDA Forest Service – Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest Ely Ranger District July 15, 2010

**RECEIVED**  
JUL 19 2010  
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR  
BUDGET AND PLANNING DIVISION

#### Project description

The State of Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) proposes to install a communications site on Timber Mountain in the Grant Range. The communication site will cover approximately ¼ acre. Structures to be installed includes a 120 sq. ft. Pre-fabricated building to house communications equipment, a 40 ft. galvanized steel monopole tower, solar panels, and a propane generator with two 500 gallon propane tanks.

The foundation of the prefabricated building and the solar panels would be twelve inch concrete piers, approximately sixteen piers altogether. A slab type foundation would be used for the generator and two grade beam foundations would be used for the propane tank. The preferred foundation for the tower would be direct burial in concrete, approximately ten ft. deep. If the drilling for this foundation is not possible the tower would be supported by a minimal foundation with anchor bolts. Buried conduits would connect the propane tank and generator and the prefabricated building to the generator and solar panels. Conduit from the prefabricated building to the tower would be under an overhead cable tray.

The site can be accessed from Railroad Valley Road by crossing approximately 4 miles of existing BLM road and approximately 4 miles of Forest Road 59102. Needed road improvement for the construction and maintenance of the site would require repair of existing washouts and redesigning one switchback. Ground leveling will occur on the communications site.

This communications site will support State, Federal and local government entities. The Department of Transportation and Department of Public Safety, Highway Patrol will be the primary users. Construction would begin this summer or fall.

#### Project location

The Project is on Timber Mountain in the Grant Range South of Lund, NV in Nye County. The site is located in Section 18 of Township 6 North and Range 58 East of the Mt. Diablo Meridian.

#### Why this location?

The site location was chosen based on elevation, access and radio connectivity with other NDOT sites.

#### The decision to be made

The decision to be made is whether or not to issue a Special Use Permit to NDOT for the installation and maintenance of a communications site on Timber Mountain in the Grant Range.

#### What we have learned so far

- The sites has an existing communications use
- The site will be near the Grant Range Wilderness area.
- Historical sites are in the area
- The site will provide improved communication for NDOT and the NV Highway Patrol

### **How we will figure out what to do**

We will use these issues, the comments we receive from you and the results of archeological, vegetation and wildlife on-site surveys to determine the possible effects (positive and negative) of allowing construction of this communications site.

### **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 comment/scoping period provides those interested in or affected by this proposal an opportunity to make their concerns known prior to any decision being made. Comments for this scoping period will be accepted through July 30, 2010.

#### **We want to hear from you ...**

If you would like more information on this proposal or would like to submit a comment write or call:

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Public involvement in the NEPA process is essential. Scoping is performed as one of the first steps to receive input from interested individuals, organizations and government agencies including federal, state, and local agencies. We invite you to submit written comments stating your concerns and issues that are relevant to the proposed project. Comments received in response to this scoping document and from personal contacts will be considered during the analysis of this project.