



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest Service

Humboldt-Toiyabe
National Forest

SCOPING DOCUMENT

High Schells Wilderness Trailhead Installation Project

ELY RANGER DISTRICT
WHITE PINE COUNTY, NEVADA
March 1, 2011

RECEIVED

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DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
BUDGET AND PLANNING DIVISION

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COMMENTS WELCOME

The Ely Ranger District welcomes your comments on the High Schells Wilderness Trailhead Installation Project. The purpose of this comment period is to provide additional opportunity for public participation prior to a decision by the Responsible Official (Ely District Ranger). For detailed information on how to provide comments, please refer to the *Comment Process* section of this document.

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR ACTION

Need for Action:

Since designation as Wilderness, the High Schells has had no designated trailheads established; however, there are numerous trails in the Wilderness itself. The only established trailheads are in Cleve Creek for the North Fork trail, Kolcheck (Cave Mtn. side) Timber Creek and Snake Creek. The establishment of various trailheads to provide for more clearly defined access to this wilderness area will better serve the visiting public.

Purpose of the Action:

The purpose of our action is to provide for clearly defined access points to the High Schells Wilderness Area in the Berry Creek (north and south forks), East Creek, Basset Creek, Piermont Creek, McCoy Creek and Taft Creek areas. One kiosk will be installed at the existing North Fork Cleve Creek Trailhead.

PROPOSED ACTION

The Ely Ranger District proposes to establish and delineate 7 trailheads for access to the High Schells Wilderness. The first being located in Berry Creek in Duck Creek Basin at the end of the cherry-stem for each drainage (North Fork and the South Fork). The second trailhead will be located at the end of the cherry stem in the East Creek Drainage. The third trailhead will be installed in the Piermont Creek drainage, again at the end of the cherry stem road. The fourth trailhead will be installed at the end of the road in Basset Creek. The fifth trailhead will be installed at the end of the cherry stemmed road in McCoy Creek and the sixth will be installed in Taft Creek again, at the end of the cherrystemmed road. There will also be a kiosk installed at the North Fork of Cleve Creek trailhead. The purpose of these trailheads will be to provide visitors a more defined parking area, a kiosk with applicable information regarding the High Schells Wilderness, and things to do in and around the area.

LOCATION

North Fork of Berry Creek- T17N, R65E, S 11; South Fork of Berry Creek- T17N, R65E, S 24; East Creek- T18N, R64E, S 23; Piermont Creek- T18N, R65E, S 31; Bassett Creek- T18N, R65E, S 9; McCoy Creek- T17N, R65E, S 4; Taft Creek- T17N, R65E, S 15; North Fork of Cleve Creek- T16N, R65E, S 12.

COMMENT PROCESS

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.

To encourage public participation, the Forest Service will use a mailing of information to interested parties. Public involvement will be ongoing throughout the analysis process; however, at certain times public input will be specifically requested. Scoping comments should be received by **May 1, 2009**. Comments should be sent to **District Ranger, Ely Ranger District: 825 Avenue E, Ely, NV 89301**, or fax: **(775) 289-2132**. The telephone number is **(775) 289-3031**. Office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered comments are 8:00am to 4:30pm, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

Comments received, including the names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposal and will be available for public inspection. You must submit written comments or contact us if you want to ensure that you remain on the mailing list for this project. Electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), Acrobat (.pdf), and Word (.doc) to comments-intermtn-humboldt-ely@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.

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, will be available for public inspection, and released if requested under the Freedom of Information Act.

CONTACTS

For further information, contact Joshua Simpson, Natural Resource Specialist (775) 289-3031, or Jose Noriega, District Ranger (775) 289-3031.

ATTACHMENT: Maps of Each proposed Trailhead.

High Schells Wilderness Trailhead Location

Legend

- Trailhead Locations
- High Schells Trails
- ▭ ElyRDWilderness
- Designated Routes
- ▭ new ranger district boundary

