



File Code: 1950

Date: June 1, 2011

**Dear Interested Party:**

The Carson Ranger District welcomes your suggestions on a proposal to enhance habitat along the East Carson River from Centerville Flat downstream to the California/Nevada state line, and along reaches of Wolf Creek and Silver Creek. The legal description is T 9 N, R 20 E, Sections 1, 12, 13, 14 & 22: T9N, R21E, Sections 18, 20, 29 & 32: T10N, R20E, Sections 2, 26 & 36: and T11N, R20E, Sections 26, 34 & 35. The project is described below and is displayed on the attached map.

***BACKGROUND/ PURPOSE AND NEED FOR ACTION***

The East Carson River Strategy was completed in 2007. The objective of this strategy was to identify a plan of action for enhancing the management of NF lands in the East Carson River watershed. The analysis found that there has been an increase in user created camping sites, fire rings, and trash along the East Carson River corridor, particularly at the hot springs area in Alpine County. As a result of increased use there has been a loss of streamside and upslope vegetation. The strategy includes recommendations for enhancing the quality of recreational experiences and improving both wildlife and fisheries habitat. The purpose of this project is to implement those recommendations.

***PROPOSED ACTION***

This project entails restoring vegetation along the East Carson River from Centerville Flat downstream to the California/Nevada state line, and along reaches of Wolf Creek and Silver Creek. Along these reaches some disturbed and compacted areas will be revegetated with native vegetation to improve watershed condition. Motorized access in some sites may be designated with boulders or other measures to prevent further encroachment onto native vegetation. The specific areas proposed for restoration are described below and also displayed on the attached map.

**Wolf Creek** – There are several large overnight parking and recreational use areas near the wilderness trailhead along Wolf Creek. The proposed action includes defining the limits for motorized access and temporary corrals to prevent further encroachment onto native vegetation and the streambank. A new gate for horse and pedestrian access would be installed.

**Silver Mountain** – There are two adjacent recreational use areas along Silver Creek approximately three miles upstream of its confluence with the East Carson River. This area includes some of the remains of Silver Mountain City. The proposed action would close some of this area to overnight use, and designate motorized access, to protect the historic site.

**Centerville Flat** – This site is approximately 10 acres and is a network of roads and camping sites. The proposed action for this area includes developing a site plan that would define areas open to motorized vehicles and areas for restoration. The objective would be to allow motorized access and camping, prevent further encroachment onto native vegetation, improve the drainage through the site to prevent further gullyng and erosion down the streambank, and revegetate



compacted sites along the streambank. In addition, designated hiking trails may be constructed from the camping area to the river to prevent erosion and loss of vegetation from user created trails down the steep bank.

**Centerville Flat to Hangman's Bridge** – There are nine motorized access areas on NF lands along this reach of the East Carson River, which parallels HWY 4 and the Wolf Creek Road. The proposed action would define areas of motorized access and areas for restoration. User created roads left open for motorized access would be designated as authorized routes when the district completes travel management for this area.

Site 1 – This site includes spur roads on both the west and east side of Wolf Creek Road approximately one south of Centerville Flat. The proposed action would eliminate motorized access and revegetate disturbed areas.

Site 2 – This site is immediately south of Centerville Flat and includes a spur road leading to a large camping area along the river. The proposed action would gate the road, leaving a pull-out for parking, and restore some of the riparian vegetation.

Site 3 – There is turnout along HWY 4 and a short spur road to the river at this site. Under the proposed action the spur road would be physically closed to prevent motorized access to the river's edge.

Site 4 – This site includes a pull-out on the highway and a network of user created roads on the floodplain. The proposed action would define an area for motorized access and restore riparian vegetation.

Site 5 – There are two entrances to this site from the highway. The proposal would include defining an area for motorized access and restoring a small grove of aspen and cottonwood.

Site 6 – This site has an abrupt turnoff from the highway and a double entrance. The spur road ends at a camping site adjacent to Monitor Creek. The proposed action is to block the north end of the spur road to motorized use at an existing small parking area. This spur as described is on the district motor vehicle use map.

Site 7 - This site would be left as is for motorized access and recreation. This spur road is on the district motorized vehicle use map.

Site 8 – There is a highway pullout at this site and a user created road which leads to a campsite above the river. The proposed action would leave this site as it is.

Site 9 – This site has an abrupt turn off the highway to campsites close to the river. Under the proposed action this site would be closed to motorized access and revegetated.

**Hangman's Bridge to California/Nevada state line** – This reach of river is accessed by rafting, hiking and OHV. There are numerous dispersed camping areas along this reach. The area with the highest concentration of use and impact to the riparian habitat is at and near the hot springs. The proposal for this area includes decommissioning and revegetating unauthorized roads around the site, closing an area of approximately ½ mile radius around the hot springs to overnight use, and identifying areas near the hot springs for native plant restoration. Additional measures would include requirements for packing out waste and use of camp stoves or coals in firepans. Signage explaining resource protection measures would be placed along the river corridor.

A proposed action may be categorically excluded from further analysis and documentation in an environmental impact statement (EIS) or environmental assessment (EA) only if there are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposed action and the proposed action is with a category listed in section 31.12 or 31.2 of FSH 1909.15. My preliminary assessment is that this proposal falls within *31.2(6) – Timber stand and/or wildlife habitat improvement activities which do not include the use of herbicides or do not require more than one mile of low standard road construction and Category 31.2(1) – Construction and reconstruction of trails.*

***HOW TO PARTICIPATE***

Send comments to the Carson Ranger District: 1536 South Carson Street, Carson City NV 89701, attention District Ranger: East Carson River Project. Electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), and Word (.doc) to *comments-intermtn-humboldt-toiyabe-carson.@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.

Your comments would be most helpful to us if provided by July 1, 2011. The Forest Service will be holding a public meeting on June 7<sup>th</sup>, 6 to 8 pm, at the Turtle Rock Community Center near Markleeville, CA, to provide information on this project. If you have questions or need further information please contact Sally Champion at 775-882-2766. We appreciate your interest in this project.

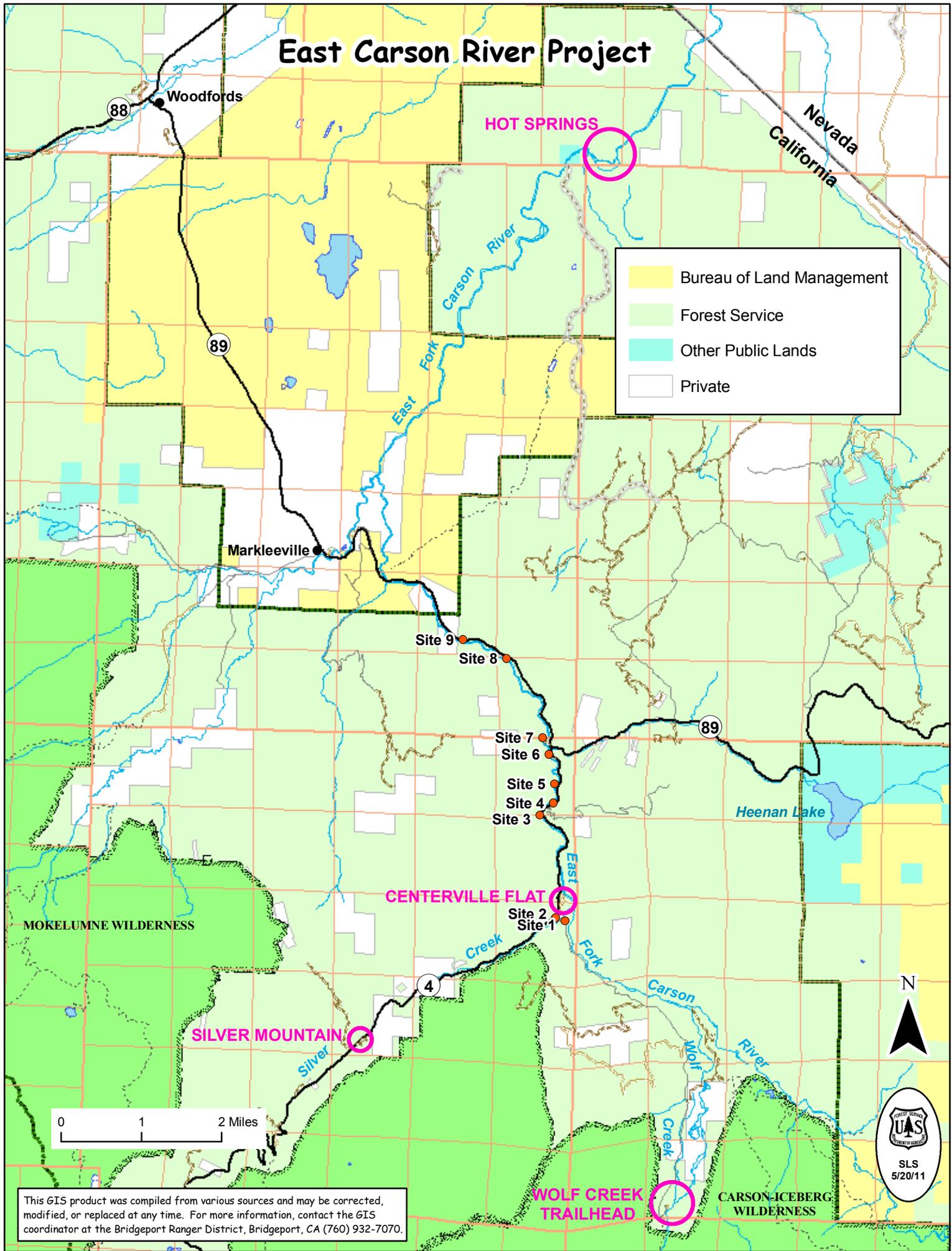
Sincerely,

*/s/ Genny Wilson*

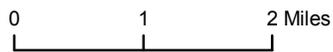
GENNY WILSON  
District Ranger

Enclosure

# East Carson River Project



	Bureau of Land Management
	Forest Service
	Other Public Lands
	Private



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