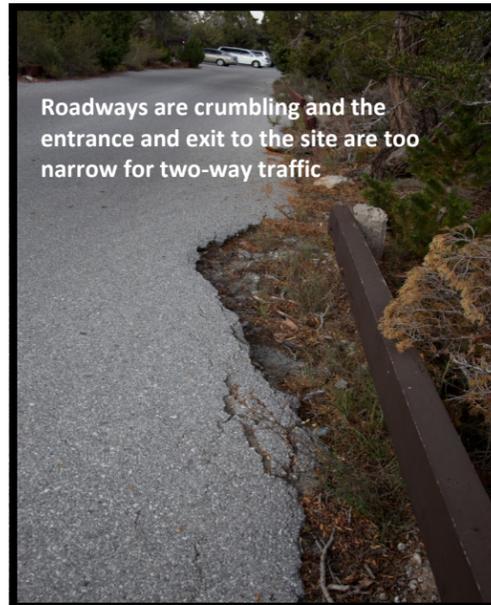


Project Timing

Construction of Mahogany Grove Campground is anticipated to begin during the summer of 2013 and continue through 2014. The length of this construction period accounts for the migratory bird nesting season and winter snowfall.

During construction, campers may continue to use Hilltop and Fletcher View Campgrounds. Picnickers may use Cathedral Rock and Sawmill Picnic Areas. For more information on prices and reservations, please go to www.recreation.gov or call (877) 444-6777.



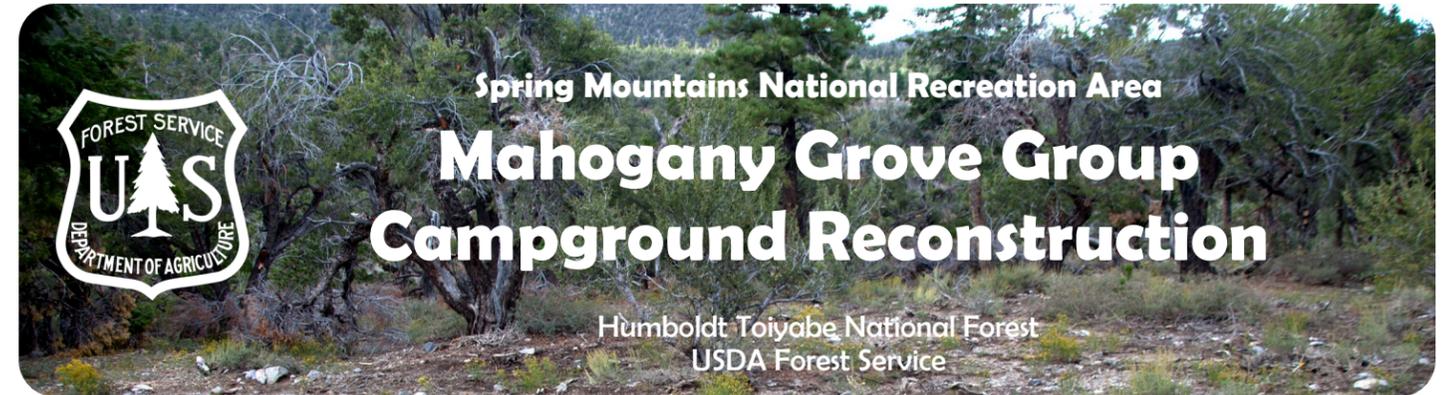
Questions or Comments?

If you have questions or comments, we would love to hear them! Comments are most useful if they are received by October 14, 2011.

Please email your comments to mahogany@fs.fed.us, or mail them to the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area, 4701 N. Torrey Pines Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89130. If you prefer to speak with us by phone, at the SMNRA office, or at the proposed project site, please feel free to contact Frank Leoni at (218) 349-1642.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who commented will be considered part of the public record for this project and will be available for public inspection.

USDA Forest Service
Spring Mountains National Recreation Area
4701 North Torrey Pines Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89130



Note from the Deputy Forest Supervisor

Greetings,

I am seeking your input regarding the proposed Mahogany Grove Group Campground Reconstruction Project. This project is located on the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area (SMNRA) of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, approximately 5 miles northwest of the intersection of Deer Creek Highway (State Route 158) and Kyle Canyon Road (State Route 157). If you are interested in this area, or would like information about these projects, please read this Scoping Notice carefully.

This Scoping Notice includes maps and information about our proposed action. The Scoping Notice summarizes the purpose and need for the projects and describes our proposed action for meeting the purpose and need. **Please keep in mind that what is outlined in the proposed action is only a proposal, not a final decision.** I will not make a decision on the proposal until my staff and I have reviewed public comments, considered alternatives to the proposed action, and analyzed the effects of the alternatives.

When making my decision on whether or not to implement the proposal, or to implement modifications to the proposal, I will consider your comments. Your comments are important for me to make an informed decision about the proposal. **I need your comments on this project by October 14, 2011** so that I can have the best information available to make a decision.

If you have information, concerns, or questions about our proposed action, I strongly encourage you to let us know. To be most helpful, your comments should be as site specific and project specific as possible and relate only to the Mahogany Grove Group Campground Reconstruction Project.

If you know of anyone else who may be interested in the proposal, please share this information with them. This document will be posted to our web site at www.fs.usda.gov/goto/htnf/projects.

If you respond to this scoping notice and provide comments on our proposal, I will provide you a copy of the environmental analysis and my final decision document. I expect to make a decision regarding these projects in June 2012.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Phillips
Deputy Forest Supervisor
Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest

Spring Mountains National Recreation Area

Mahogany Grove Campground Reconstruction

Project Background

Mahogany Grove Group Campground was designed and constructed in the early 1960s as a group picnicking day-use area. Currently, the area is being managed as a group camping area with 2 group units that can accommodate up to 80 people each and 2 additional units that can accommodate up to 40 people each.

The site does not provide enough group units for the number of groups that request reservations, even though many of the units are under-utilized by groups whose average size range from 15-20 people.

The 2 vault restrooms, in addition to being in a state of disrepair, do not adequately meet the needs of users during peak visitation.

There are no highway signs warning motorists about vehicles leaving or entering the highway from the site, which causes potential safety concerns. Another safety concern is the narrow road that leads into and out of the campground.

The old growth mountain mahogany, pinyon pine, and western juniper that characterize the site are being damaged by visitors who are cutting or breaking branches for firewood and exposing tree roots while creating their own trails.



User created fire rings can contribute to wildfires



Parking spaces are inadequate for the approximately 240 people that the site can accommodate



Restrooms are inaccessible to individuals with mobility impairments



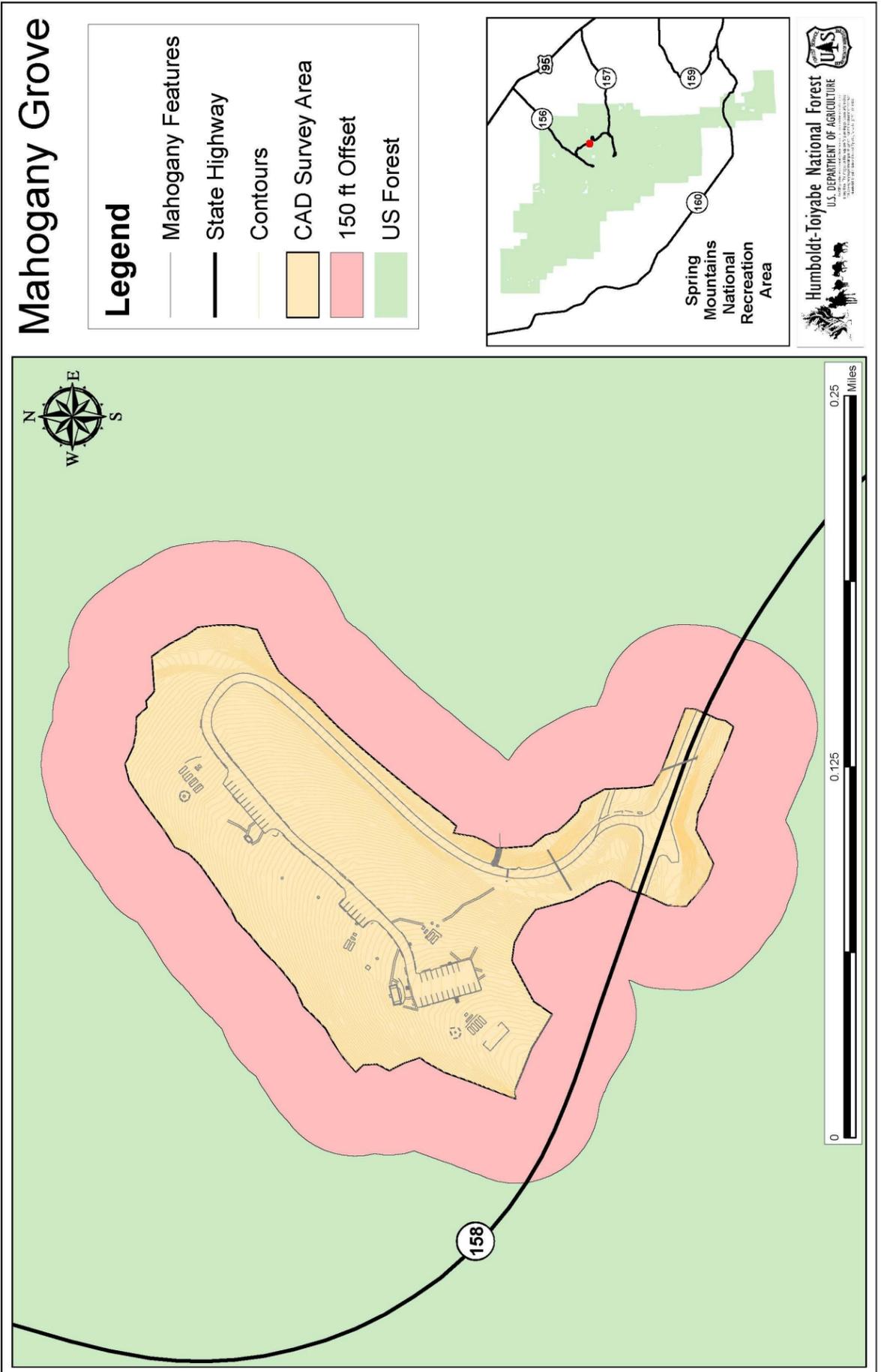
Visitors illegally cut and break tree branches for firewood

Photos courtesy of Shawnee Hinman

Proposed Action

To better maximize the site, serve the needs of our visitors, improve traffic flow and parking, and protect the forest landscape, I am proposing the following actions:

- Replace all existing infrastructure, including tables, grills, restrooms, and roadways
- Provide 5-6 group camp units that accommodate 20-40 people at each site
- Construct hardened surfaces for picnic tables, grills, and camping pads
- Reconstruct entrance road to safely accommodate traffic
- Provide an adequate number of restrooms that are dispersed throughout the site
- Construct shade structures as appropriate
- Construct hardened trails as necessary
- Provide parking that optimizes utilization of the area
- Develop an interpretive walk through the original historic Civilian Conservation Corps-built campground
- Implement a vegetation management plan to promote healthy trees, shrubs, and other vegetation within the site



Project Map

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