

# Scoping Document Request for Comments

## Gredette Meadows Riparian Exclosure Project

USDA Forest Service – Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest  
Ely Ranger District  
Nye County, Nevada  
February 29, 2012

### **PURPOSE AND NEED**

The purpose and need for this project is to protect Gredette Meadows from impacts from grazing by feral and permitted livestock. Gredette Meadow is one of the largest meadow complexes in the Grant/Quinn Mountain Range and is currently threatened by overgrazing by feral cattle. The intense year-round grazing has altered the meadow vegetation and caused physical changes in the meadow such as hummocking and headcutting. Efforts have been underway for several years to address the feral livestock issue and this project will further aid in the recovery of the meadow.

### **LOCATION**

The Gredette Meadow Project Area includes National Forest System lands located southwest of the Cherry Creek Guard Station in the Quinn Canyon Range. The project is located at T3N, R56E, Sections 9 and 10. The project area is approximately 110 miles southwest of Ely, Nevada.

### **PROPOSED ACTION**

This project will involve the construction of a 1.5 mile riparian exclosure fence around Gredette Meadows. The Fence will be a four strand barbed wire fence constructed to Forest Service standards. Special construction specifics will include metal corner and H brace posts to be resilient to fire impacts. Additionally, T-post will be reduced to increase the fences durability. Woody debris that will be removed to facilitate construction will be placed along the perimeter of the fence to discourage cattle from trailing along the fenceline. Standard fence building techniques will be used during construction. Although the meadow is less than 50 acres in size, the exclosure will be approximately 400 acres in size to protect a variety of sensitive resources within and adjacent to the meadow.

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

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. We will use the comments we receive from you to analyze the potential effects of implementing this project.

To encourage public participation, the Forest Service will mail information to interested parties. Comments are requested by **March 30, 2012**. 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.

**WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU ...**

**If you would like more information or to comment on this proposal, write or call:**

**Nate Millet, Zone Hydrologist** or  
**Jose Noriega, District Ranger**  
Ely Ranger District  
825 Ave E  
Ely, NV 89301  
775-289-3031  
nmillet@fs.fed.us or [jnoriega@fs.fed.us](mailto:jnoriega@fs.fed.us)

**For Official Use Only**

Comment #: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_  
Logged in by: \_\_\_\_\_

**Ely Ranger District – Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest  
Gredette Meadows Riparian Exclosure Project**

**Comment Form**

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We have provided this form for your convenience. Please use this or any other format to let us know your concerns or ideas about this project. Send comments by March 30, 2012 to: Nate Millet, Zone Hydrologist, Ely Ranger District, 825 Avenue E, Ely, NV 89301.

*For your information: names and individuals commenting on Forest Service proposals may be released if requested under the Freedom of Information Act.*

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Organization:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Contact Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Here are my concerns, issues, and/or ideas about the Gredette Meadows Riparian Exclosure Project:**

**Please check all that apply...**

\_\_\_\_\_ **I have information about the area that may be helpful in the decision.**  
Feel free to contact me at \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Please send me the final decision document.**

\_\_\_\_\_ **I have no further interest in this proposal and do not want to receive further mailings.**