

# **Request for Comments Notice of Proposed Action**

## **Siegel Creek Watershed Project**

**USDA Forest Service – Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest  
Ely Ranger District  
White Pine County, Nevada  
March 27, 2012**

### **PURPOSE AND NEED**

The purpose and need for this project is to reduce soil erosion, reduce sedimentation and improve wildlife habitats within the Spring Valley/Siegel Creek watershed. This watershed has a proportionally high concentration of roads due to a history of mining, recreation and human occupation. The Spring Valley/Siegel Creek watershed has been identified as a priority watershed in conjunction with the North Schell Restoration Project.

### **LOCATION**

The Siegel Creek Watershed Project Area includes National Forest System lands located on the northeast portion of the Schell Mountain Range; T22N, R65E, Sections 26, 27, 34 and 35 and T21N, R65E Sections 2,3,10, and 11. The project area is approximately 40 miles northeast of Ely, Nevada.

### **PROPOSED ACTION**

This project will involve the reclamation of approximately 11.5 miles of unauthorized roads to reduce soil erosion, reduce sedimentation into streams, and reduce road densities to improve habitats for wildlife. The enclosed map displays the proposed status of all roads within the project area under this project. Road reclamation will be accomplished using a variety of techniques based upon site specific conditions. The following are the proposed reclamation techniques under this proposal

- Ripping the road bed using equipment followed by seeding with a native seed mixture. (4.31 miles)
- Vertical mulching which involves crews planting vegetation and installing naturally occurring vertical structure to hide and reclaim the road surface. (1.82 miles)
- Lopping and scattering of pinyon-juniper branches and small trees to hide and reclaim the road surface. This will involve no ground disturbing activities. (5.42 miles)
- No treatments proposed. These roads have naturally reclaimed themselves primarily due to lack of use and vegetation growth. There is no need for reclamation actions. (3.30 miles)
- No treatments proposed. These are roads that are currently not on our Motor Vehicle Use Map (Travel Plan), however reclamation is being deferred pending a review of those maps to determine if these roads are needed primarily for access to private lands. (2.37 miles)

Road reclamation activities may also involve placement of barriers such as rocks, trees, or burns to prevent unauthorized vehicle access. No treatment will occur on roads crossing private lands and this proposal will also maintain appropriate vehicle access to private lands. In addition to road reclamation, this project will involve planting of riparian vegetation, such as willows, along streams to stabilize streambanks. Road maintenance will also be completed on open roads to ensure adequate drainage to reduce erosion and sedimentation and to provide safe travel routes for motor vehicles.

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

We will accept written, facsimile, hand-delivered, oral, and electronic comments concerning this action for thirty calendar days following the publication of this notice in the *Ely Times*. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period for this analysis.

Those wishing to comment should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. Regulations prohibit extending the length of the comment period.

Written comments must be submitted to the Responsible Official: District Ranger, Ely Ranger District: 825 Avenue E, Ely, NV 89301, or fax: (775) 289-2132. The telephone number is (775) 289-5100. Office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered comments are 8:00am to 4:30pm, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

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-toiyabe-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 must be received by the close of the comment period. Those who provide comments during this comment period may be eligible to appeal the decision. Individuals and organizations wishing to be eligible to appeal must provide the information identified in 36 CFR 215, including:

- Name and address,
- Title of the Proposed Action;
- Specific comments (36 CFR 215.2) on the Proposed Action, along with supporting reasons that the Responsible Official should consider in reaching a decision,
- Signature or other verification of identity upon request; identification of the individual or organization who authored the comments(s) is necessary for appeal eligibility,
- For multiple names or multiple organizations, a signature must be provided for the individual authorized to represent each organization, or for each individual that wishes to have appeal eligibility, and
- Individual members of organizations must submit their own comments to meet the requirements of appeal eligibility as an individual, comments received on behalf of an organization are considered as those of the organization only.

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.

For further information, contact Nate Millet (Central Zone Hydrologist) (775)289-5126 or Jose Noriega (District Ranger), Ely Ranger District at (775) 289-5100.

**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

**Ely Ranger District – Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest**

**Siegel Creek Watershed 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 April 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 Copper Creek Restoration 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.**