



File Code: 1950

Date: April 3, 2012

Dear Interested Party:

The Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest is proposing to do modifications to portions of the Meadow Creek Road on the Mountain City Ranger District. Prior to any decisions being made on this proposal the Forest has initiated an environmental analysis in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act. As part of this analysis, interested parties are invited to comment on the proposal. The purpose of this comment period is to provide a scoping period as required by Forest Service regulations at 36 CFR part 220.6.

**Background:**

During the spring of 2010 a portion of the lower Meadow Creek Road was washed out by high flows and beaver activity. Temporary repairs have been completed to make the road passable; however, additional road repairs and maintenance are needed to provide a safe travel route, improve riparian conditions, and minimize the possibility of future washouts. The district is proposing road repairs along approximately 6 miles of the road. See attached map.

**Purpose & Need:**

To provide a safe road facility for public, tribal and agency use and to improve riparian habitat conditions in Meadow Creek.

**Proposed Action:**

The Forest is proposing to do modifications to portions of the road profile and adjacent stream banks to prevent further washouts of the road. Work would include:

- Outsloping the road to improve drainage
- Installation of rolling dips
- Rip-rap placement along the road cut-bank and stream bank
- Construction of barbs against the stream bank
- Adjustments to the existing road grade (both raising and lowering the road elevation)
- Minor road re-alignment
- Repair of the damaged road surface

This work will utilize native materials from local pit sources and excess fill from the road prism.

**Preliminary Issues:**

This preliminary list of issues, shown below, will be refined by the Interdisciplinary Team as the analysis progresses:

- Potential impacts to cultural sites from road improvements and borrow site activity.
- Potential impacts to fisheries and aquatic habitats from road improvements and borrow



site activity.

- Potential impacts to rare plant habitat from road improvements and borrow site activity.
- Potential impacts to recreationists from road improvements and borrow site activity when the road would be closed to public traffic.
- Potential impacts to traffic for firefighting and emergency services when the road would be closed to emergency traffic.

**Analysis Process:**

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 within a category listed in section 220 of 36 CFR. My preliminary assessment is that this proposal falls within the following category - Repair and maintenance of roads, trails, and landline boundaries [36 CFR 220.6(d)(4)].

**Comment Process:**

The Forest Service encourages your comments on this proposal, along with supporting reasons that the responsible official should consider in reaching a decision. Your comments will help us complete the environmental analysis.

Mailed written comments must be submitted to: Mountain City Ranger District: 2035 Last Chance Road, Elko, NV 89801, attention District Ranger.

The office business hours for those submitting written comments in person or providing oral comments are: 7:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday, excluding federal holidays.

Electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), and Word (.doc/.docx) to:

comments-intermtn-humboldt-toiyabe-mtn-city@fs.fed.us

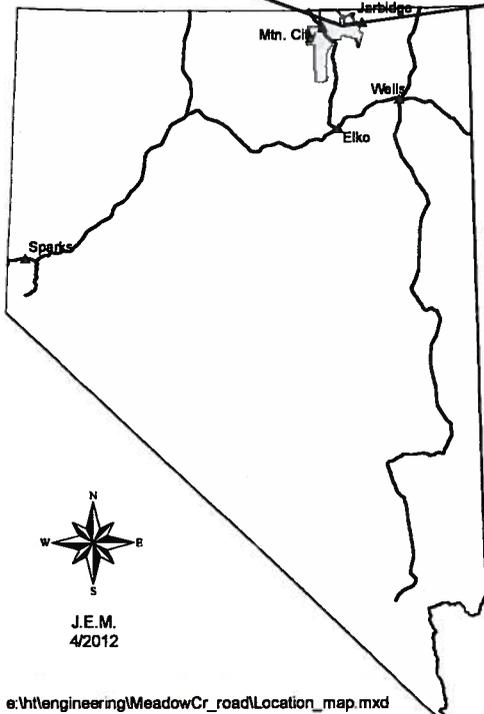
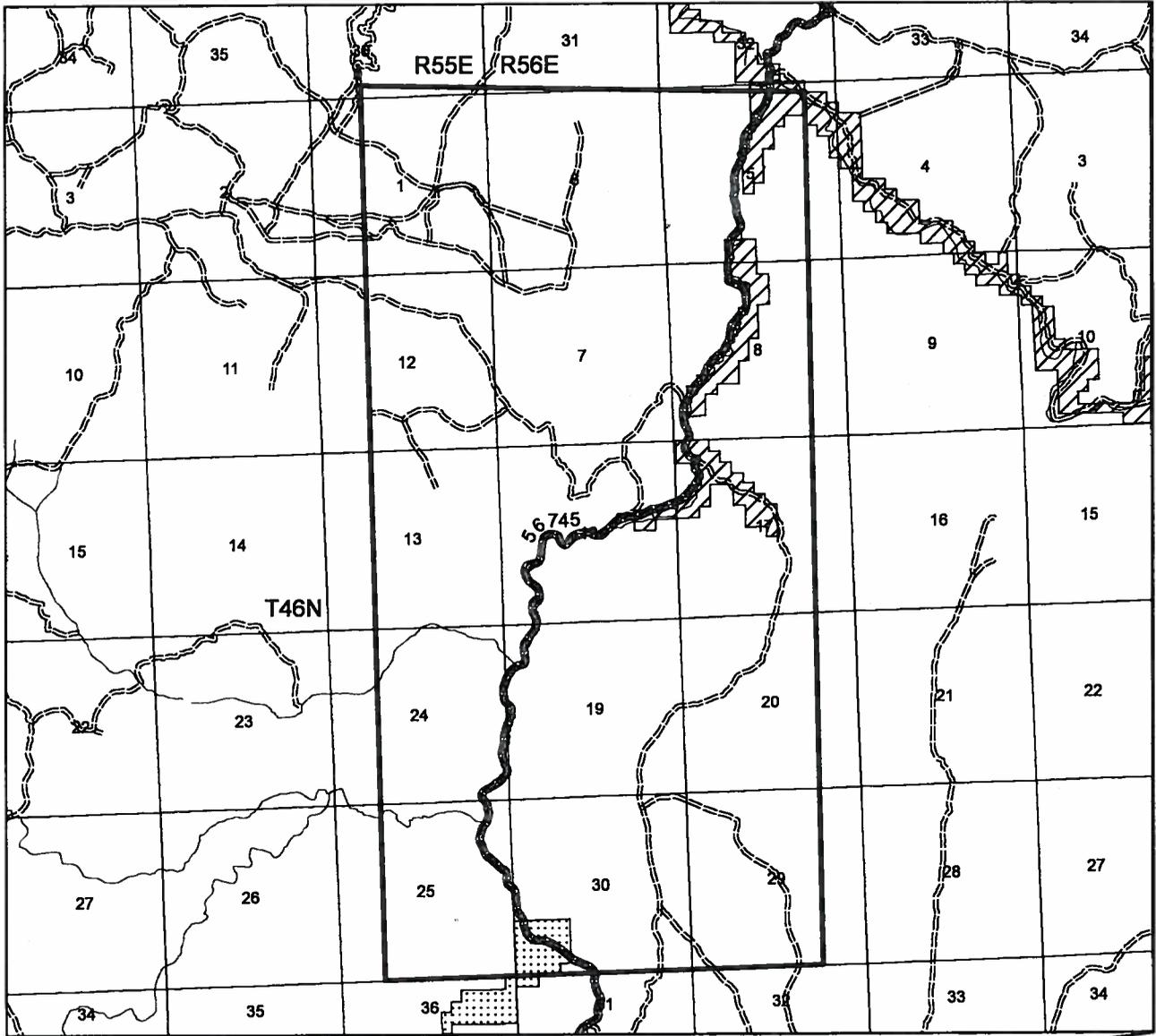
Names and addresses of those who comment on the EA will become part of the administrative record and will be available for release to a third-party upon request under authority of the Freedom of Information Act.

If you have questions or need further information please contact Kevin Carnes, Project Lead, at 775-778-6142 or kcarnes@fs.fed.us. We appreciate your interest in this project.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Kathryn W. Fuell*  
KATHRYN W. FUELL  
District Ranger

Enclosure



Meadow Creek Road Project  
 Mountain City Ranger District  
 Humboldt - Toiyabe National Forest

Location Map



J.E.M.  
 4/2012