

Request for Comments Notice of Proposed Action

Ely Ranger District –Murray Watershed Mountain Bike Trail Expansion USDA Forest Service – Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest Ely Ranger District White Pine and County July 5, 2013

Why We Are Proposing This Project

The Ely Ranger District has been approached by the Great Basin Trails Alliance, a local non-profit trails user group, to expand mountain biking opportunities within the Murray Watershed. Currently approximately 15 miles of mountain biking trails exist within the Murray Watershed. The Murray Watershed is managed as a non-motorized area, closed to OHV's, ATV's, and motorcycles.

What We Propose To Do

The District proposes to expand mountain biking opportunities in the Murray Watershed by analyzing the trails proposed by the Great Basin Trails Alliance and if no significant issues are identified then we will move forward with construction of new mountain bike trail opportunities.

Where We Propose To Do This

The project is located on the Ely Ranger District encompassing the Murray Watershed. The Elderberry Canyon and Ice Plant Canyons are affected. T15N, R62E, Sections 5,6,7,8,28,29,30,31,32,33,36. See attached map.

How We Will Figure Out What To Do

We will use issues identified from public input and interdisciplinary coordination to guide the Mountain Bike Trail development and planning process. We will also use information garnered from archaeological and biological surveys to further inform the decision process in order to avoid sensitive areas or areas of cultural significance.

How You Can Help Us Decide What To Do

We ask that you think about potential issues in the Murray Watershed and provide us with constructive input. Examples are: What areas are appropriate for trails and developed trail heads or signs?

The Decision To Be Made

The decision to be made will be either to expand existing mountain biking opportunities within the Murray Watershed or not.

How To Comment And Timeframe

Written, facsimile, hand-delivered, oral, and electronic comments concerning this action will be accepted for 30 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 time frame information provided by any other source. The regulations prohibit extending the length of the comment period, excluding federal holidays.

Written comments must be submitted to: District Ranger, Ely Ranger District; 825 Avenue E, Ely, Nevada, 89301, or fax (775) 289-2132. The telephone number is (775) 289-3031. Office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered comments are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., 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 may also be submitted to jnoriega@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.

Appeal Eligibility

Comments must be received by the close of the comment period. 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 and will be available for public inspection and released if requested under the Freedom of Information Act.

We want to hear from you ...

If you would like more information, write or call:

Joshua Simpson, Natural Resource Specialist-Recreation, Trails and Wilderness
Jose Noriega, District Ranger
Ely Ranger District
825 Avenue E
Ely, NV 89301
775-289-3031

Ely Ranger District – Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest

**Ely Ranger District-Murray Watershed
Mountain Bike Trail Expansion**

For Official Use Only Comment #: _____ Date Received: _____ Logged in by: _____
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Comment Form

We have provided this form for your convenience.

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: _____

To provide electronic comments send them to jnoriega@fs.fed.us

For additional information regarding this project please call Joshua Simpson at (775) 289-3031.