

Request for Comments

McGinness Hills Pinyon-Juniper Removal Project

USDA Forest Service – Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest
Austin Ranger District
Lander County
February 7, 2014

Why we are proposing this project

This project involves the cutting of small pinyon and juniper trees that are invading the sagebrush habitats in the northern portion of the Toiyabe Mountain Range. Potential treatment areas will be between 5 and 2,000 acres in size within the project area. Trees selected for removal are young regenerating trees (e.g., less than eight feet tall) that have established within sagebrush habitats. On average, there are approximately 10-50 trees/acre. Slash generated from the treatment will be left on the ground to provide a microclimate that will retain moisture and facilitate the establishment and growth of grasses. This treatment will retain the sagebrush-grass community type (emphasizing mountain brush and sagebrush habitats) and will benefit sage grouse and mule deer.

What we propose to do

We propose to mechanically cut young pinyon and juniper trees within the project area. The project area encompasses approximately 52,000 total acres. The treatments will be accomplished using chainsaws. Vehicles will stay on existing roads, and trees to be cut within the project area will be accessed by foot.

Where we propose to do this

The project area is located north and east of Austin, NV in the north end of the Toiyabe Range. See the attached map.

Key project components

- We will avoid areas with important cultural resources.

- No riparian areas or meadows will be adversely impacted.

How we will figure out what to do

We will use the comments and issues we receive from you to analyze the effects of implementing this project. After hearing from you, we will decide how to meet our goals and what measures we can take to eliminate or reduce any negative effects.

How you can help us decide what to do

We ask that you let us know what you think about this proposal. Comments we receive, including names and addresses, are part of the public record and are available through the Freedom of Information Act. Please provide your comments by March 14, 2014.

The decision to be made

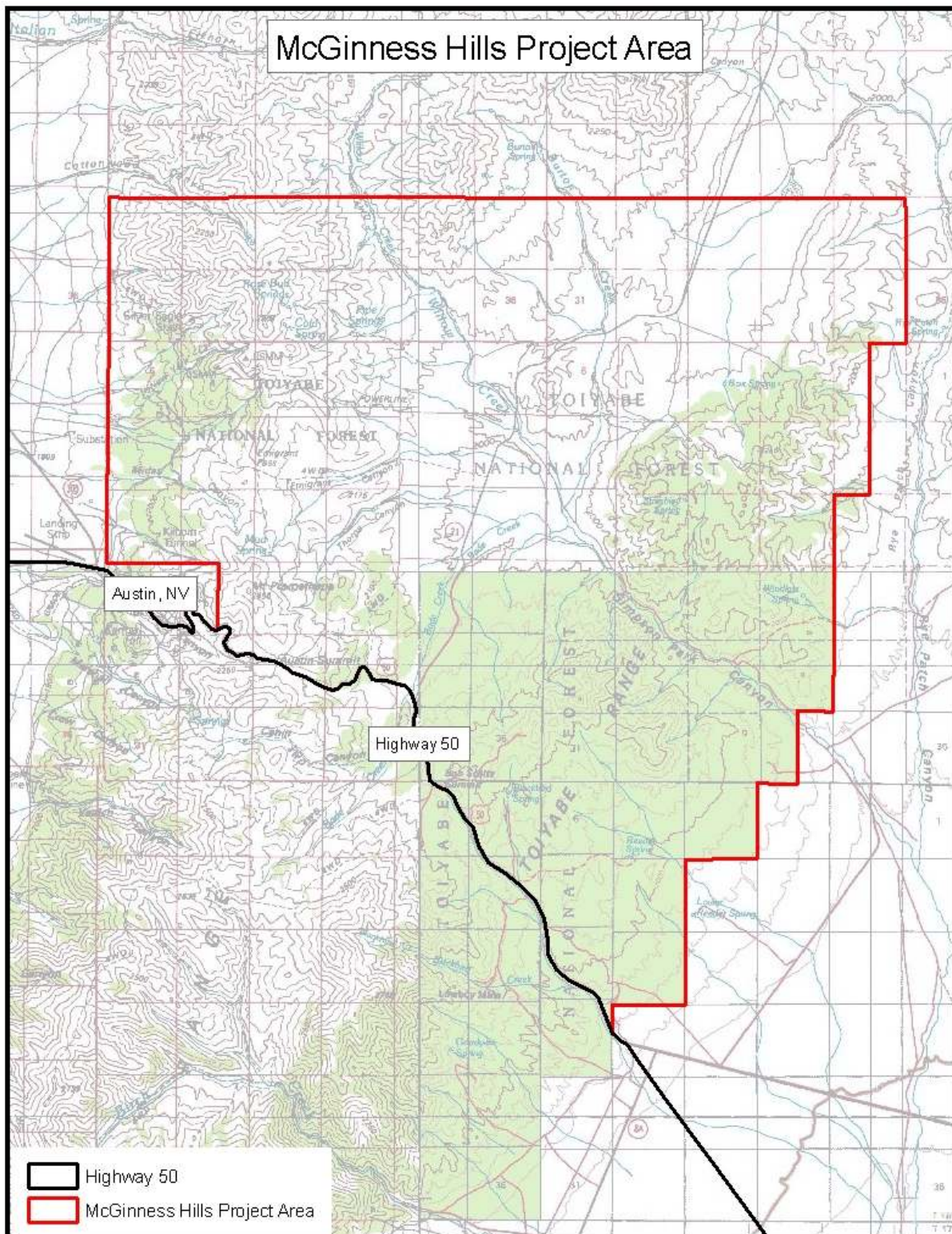
The decision to be made is whether or not to cut small pinyon and juniper trees from sagebrush communities in the north Toiyabe range.

We want to hear from you ...

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



Justin Rozich, Wildlife Biologist or
Steven Williams, District Ranger
Austin Ranger District
P.O. Box 130
100 Midas Road
Austin, NV 89310
775-964-2671
justinrozich@fs.fed.us or swilliams01@fs.fed.us

McGinness Hills Project Area



Austin, NV

Highway 50

-  Highway 50
-  McGinness Hills Project Area

For Official Use Only

Comment #: _____

Date Received: _____

Logged in by: _____

McGinness Hills Pinyon-Juniper Removal Project

Comment Form

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 14, 2014** to: Justin Rozich, Wildlife Biologist, or Steven Williams, District Ranger, Austin Ranger District, 100 Midas Road, Austin, NV 89310.

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 McGinness Hills Pine Pinyon–Juniper Removal 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.**