



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest Service

Intermountain Region

Humboldt-Toiyabe National
Forest

Austin/Tonopah

Ranger District



SCOPING DOCUMENT

Blackbird Fence Project

May 24, 2016

**Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest
Austin/Tonopah Ranger District
Lander County, Nevada**

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PURPOSE AND NEED

The purpose of this proposal is to provide protection and prevent damage to the water development and infrastructure currently under Special Use Permit (SUP) AUS104 with the U.S. Forest Service – allowing it to be maintained in a functioning condition.

LOCATION

The project area involves approximately 5 acres of pinyon/juniper and sagebrush vegetation types. The project does not occur in areas delineated as Priority, General, or Other Habitat Management Areas for greater sage-grouse. The project area is located approximately 6 miles east of Austin, NV. The legal description for this project is Mount Diablo Meridian, Township 18 North, Range 44 East, within Sections 12, and 13. The attached maps show the location of this project: The project area boundary is black and white striped, the current existing fences are colored red.

PROPOSED ACTION

The Forest Service proposes to construct a fence to protect the Blackbird Ditch, a permitted water development, and supporting infrastructure provided it can be constructed in a way that avoids adverse effects to cultural resources, boundary management, and wildlife resources within National Forest System lands retained under management. The proposed fence would consist of a standard four strand barbed wire configuration in which the lowest strand is smooth to facilitate safer wildlife crossings. Materials will be brought in by truck via Forest Service Road 43253. Construction of the fence will likely require less than five acres of vegetation removal. Construction of the fence may require gates where the fence crosses roads off National Forest System (NFS) Road 43253. Cattleguards will be placed where the fence crosses NFS roads. Construction of the fence is tentatively planned to begin once the Decision Memo is signed in late fall of 2016 and continue until completion (weather permitting).

CONTACTS

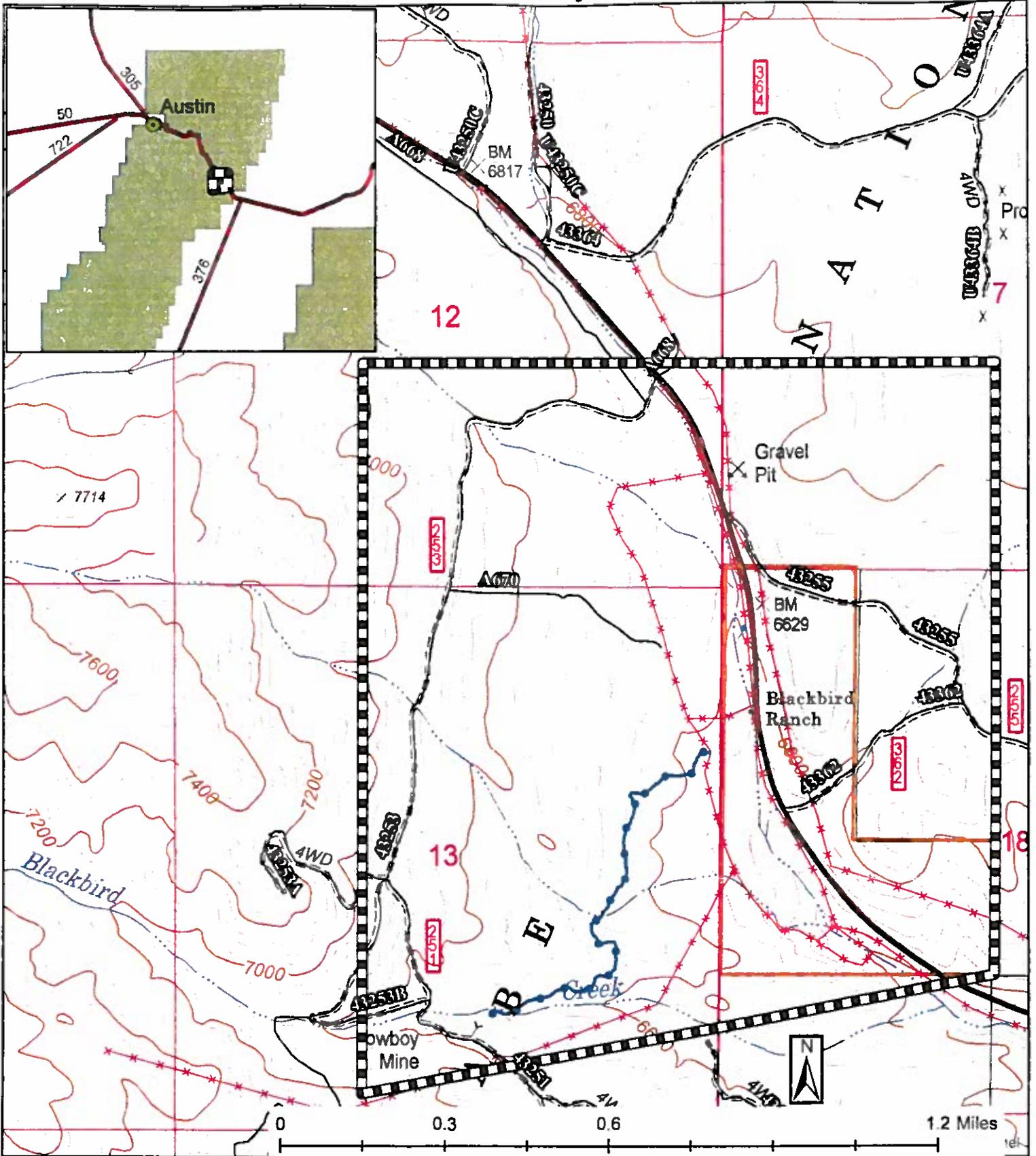
For information or if there are questions, contact project coordinator Meagan Carter or District Ranger Erik Taylor at (775) 964-2671. The address is Austin/Tonopah Ranger District, 100 Midas Canyon Road, P.O. Box 130, Austin, NV 89310. Our fax number is (775) 964-1451.

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. Comments received in response to this scoping document and from personal contacts will be considered during the analysis of the project.

To encourage public participation, the Forest Service will use a mailing of information to interested parties. Public involvement will be ongoing throughout the analysis process; however, at certain times public input will be specifically requested. Comments should be received by June 24nd, 2016. Comments should be sent to District Ranger, Austin/Tonopah Ranger District, P.O. Box 130, Austin, NV 89310. Comments received, including 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.

Blackbird Fence Project Area Map



Legend

- | | | | |
|--|------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
|  | Blackbird Fence Project Area |  | Roads |
|  | Existing Fence |  | Blackbird Ranch Property Boundary |
|  | Blackbird Pipeline |  | AT_FS_Boundary_83 |

