



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest Service

December 2019

Scoping Document

Mountain City Road Maintenance Station

Comments Welcome

The Mountain City, Ruby Mountains, and Jarbidge Ranger District of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest welcomes your comments on the proposed Mountain City Maintenance Facility located on National Forest System land within the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest.

Background/Purpose and Need

The Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) operates State Highways throughout the State of Nevada. State Route 225 provides access from Elko to Owyhee and runs through Mountain City. The closest maintenance station to Mountain City, NV is approximately 50 miles north of Elko, NV and 34 miles south of Mountain City.

An additional maintenance station approximately 4 miles south of Mountain City, Nevada on State Route 225 has been identified at the former Forest Service administrative site. This location is desirable due to its size and site distance for equipment entering and exiting the highway. The purpose of the project is to locate a highway maintenance station closer to Mountain City which would reduce the traveling distance needed and aide in the snow removal and deicing operations on the northern portion of State Route 225. The project is located in T45N, R53E, Section 24. Mount Diablo Meridian, Figure 1 Vicinity Map.

Proposed Action

The Forest Service proposes to issue a special use permit to the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) to operate and maintain a highway maintenance station at the site of the former Mountain City Ranger Station. The approximately 1.5 acre site would include storage of salt and sand for highway maintenance, storing equipment and utilization of the existing garage.

The site is accessed by an existing entrance road approximately 190 feet in length and 18 feet wide that would be paved to access an approximately 0.64 acre pad that would store about 1000-1500 tons of salt/sand for highway maintenance in the winter.

The pad would also be paved. A sand/oil separator would be buried to capture any sand or oil from moving off site. A rock lined ditch approximately 180 feet in length and 4 to 6 feet wide, would provide an additional barrier for capturing any sediment from the salt/sand pad.

Overhead electrical service would be installed along the existing entrance road to the garage, with poles near the salt/sand storage area to provide lighting during night operations. 2 wood power poles will be installed with a 30 foot right of way under a special use permit issued to Raft River Rural Electric Co-op.

A 6 foot tall chain link fence would be installed for added security. An approximately 0.20 acre parking area would be rough graded and 3-6" asphalt grindings would be installed and used for public parking.

Decision Framework

The deciding officer would decide whether or not to approve the proposed action on National Forest System land.

Expected Analysis

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 with a category listed in 36 CFR Section 220.6.

The preliminary assessment is that this proposal fits within the following category – *Approval, modification, or continuation of minor special uses of NFS lands that require less than five contiguous acres of land (36 CFR 220.6(e)(3))*. The project location is a previously disturbed area.

If during the analysis it is apparent that an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement is required, then the Forest Service would reassess the project and adjust the analysis as necessary.

Section 106 under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended, requires federal agencies such as the USDA Forest Service to identify and consider potential effects of its actions on historic properties. This is done through a collaborative framework of seeking, discussing, and considering views of the public on how potential adverse effects on historic properties resulting from a proposed Federal action should be addressed. The Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest will be using the NEPA scoping process in lieu of public involvement requirements found in 36 CFR Part 800, the regulations implementing Section 106 of the NHPA (54 U.S.C. 306108).

Implementation Time Frames

Implementation for the project is expected to begin in winter of 2019/2020.

Comment Process

The Forest Service encourages your comments on this proposed action, along with supporting reasons that the responsible official should consider in reaching a decision. 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 will be released if requested under the Freedom of Information Act.

To be most effective, we ask that comments be submitted no later than January 10, 2020.

Submit written comments to Joshua Nicholes, District Ranger, Mountain City, Ruby Mountains, and Jarbidge Ranger District, 660 South 12th Street, Suite 108, Elko, NV 89801. The office business hours for those submitting comments in person are: 8:00 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) to: comments-intermtn-humboldt-toiyabe-mtn-city@usda.gov.

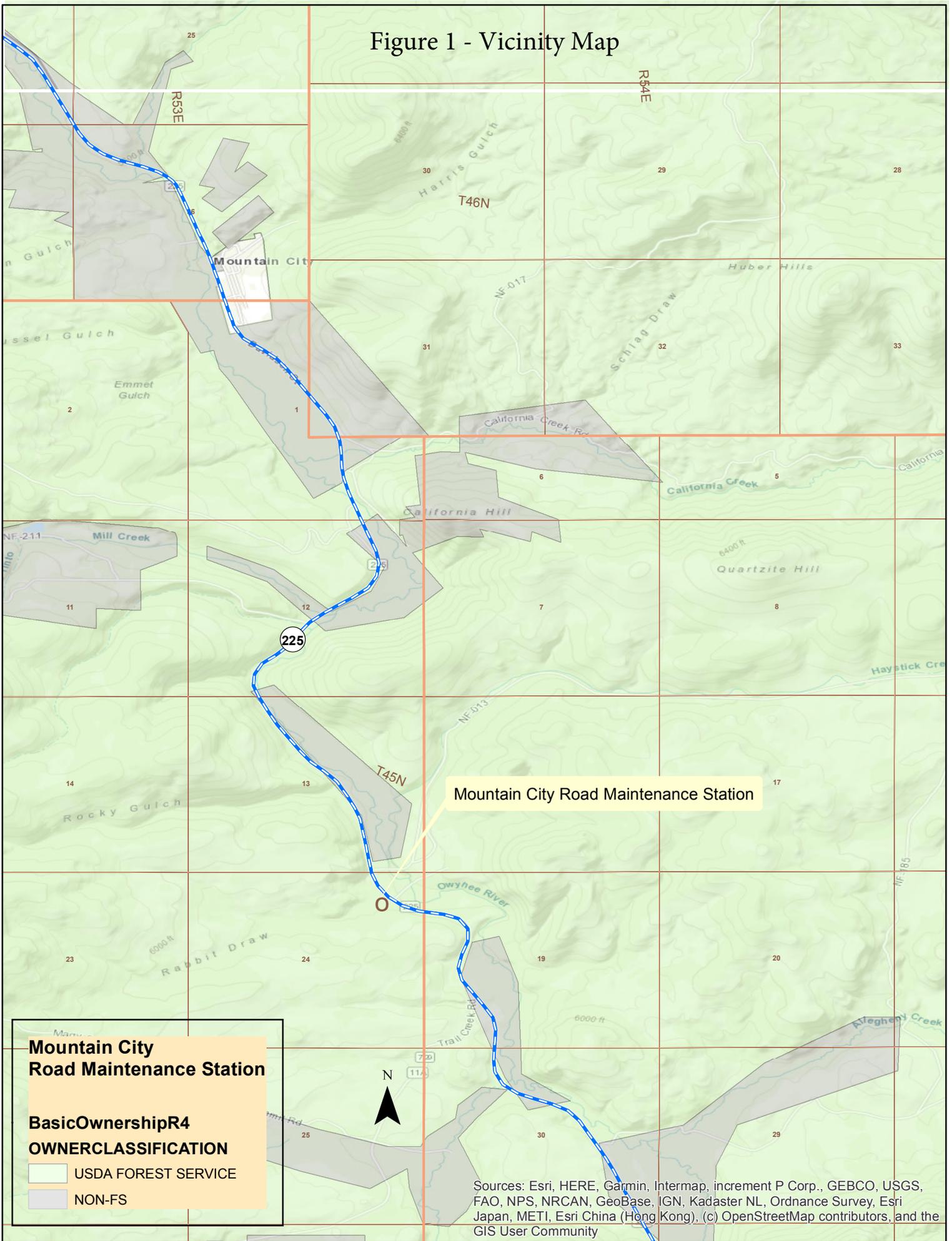
For further information please contact Wendy Markham, Project Coordinator at 775-352-1218 or wendy.markham@usda.gov

The U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital and familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Figure 1 - Vicinity Map



Mountain City Road Maintenance Station

Mountain City Road Maintenance Station

BasicOwnershipR4 OWNERCLASSIFICATION

- USDA FOREST SERVICE
- NON-FS

Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community