



Forest Supervisor Ed Monnig Discusses This Week's Public Travel Management Planning Meetings in Elko County

February 28, 2009

I wanted to take the opportunity to thank the Elko County Commissioners and all who attended one or more of our four public meetings this week on the Travel Management planning process for the Mountain City, Jarbidge, and Ruby Mountains Ranger Districts. I attended the Elko and Wells meetings on Monday and Tuesday, and listened to everyone's comments and concerns.

One comment that was expressed repeatedly was that we need to improve our current maps. We began updating our maps on Wednesday so that in the near future, you will be able to better identify the roads and their geographical references. I also heard from a number of you who have submitted comments already, and that you are pleased that your input is being considered in our analysis to help refine our proposal.

Tom Montoya, the Mountain City District Ranger, Gar Abbas, the Jarbidge and Ruby Mountains District Ranger, their staffs, and I will continue to closely coordinate with the Elko County Commission and take the Commission's concerns to heart throughout this planning process. In order to accommodate you and the Commission's needs, we decided to extend the current comment deadline from March 9 to March 23.

We will use these comments to develop a "proposed action" that will be available for review in June. We will then begin another comment period over the summer to discuss this proposal and adapt as necessary, based on public comments.

From now until March 23, we are also working with the Commission and other parties to ensure that we receive the broadest range of comments possible. Please remain actively involved in this important effort.

Contact Tom Montoya at 775-738-5171, or Gar Abbas at 775-752-3357, to learn more about this effort. Our website is also another good source of Travel Management planning information at www.fs.fed.us/r4/htnf/projects. Thank you for your ongoing interest in this Travel Management planning process.

