



File Code: 1900

Date: July 16, 2008

Subject: Forest Service seeking public comments for proposed Rim to Reno Trail System

Dear Interested Individuals, Organizations, and Agencies:

The Forest Service's Carson Ranger District is seeking comments on the proposed Rim to Reno Trail System Project. The project extends from Washoe County's Michael D. Thompson Trailhead near Hunter Creek in Reno south to the existing Tahoe Rim Trail near Mt. Rose Highway, traversing the Mt. Rose Wilderness. The trail system includes trails that access the Hunter Creek Waterfall, Thomas Creek, Big Meadow, Mt. Houghton, and the Mt. Rose Summit Trailhead and would improve dispersed recreational trail opportunities in the Reno/Tahoe area.

The Forest Service will host two public meetings to discuss this project.

- **Monday July 28, 2008** Reynolds Non-Profit Center (aka Parasol) Building at 948 Incline Way, Incline Village from 6:30-8:30PM.
- **Tuesday July 29, 2008** Bartley Ranch Regional Park's visitor center at 6000 Bartley Ranch Road, Reno from 6:30-8:30 PM

How to Comment and Timeframe

This scoping notice is intended to provide those interested in or affected by this project with an opportunity to submit their concerns. The Forest Service welcomes your thoughts on the proposed action, including any issues to be analyzed or alternatives to be considered.

Please send in your comments by August 16, 2008 to:

Genny Wilson, District Ranger
Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Carson Ranger District
1536 South Carson St.
Carson City, NV 89701

Email comments can be sent to comments-intermtn-humboldt-toiyabe-carson.@fs.fed.us using subject: *Rim to Reno Trail System Project.*



Proposed Action

The Forest Service, in cooperation with the Tahoe Rim Trail Association, Washoe County Regional Parks and Open Space, Sierra Front Recreation Coalition, and the Nevada Division of State Parks, has identified the need for additional non-motorized, multi-user trails in the Mt. Rose area in order to improve recreation opportunities and to disperse recreational use. The purpose of this action is to develop a sustainable trail system between the Mt. Rose area and Hunter Creek area in southwest Reno through the Mt. Rose Wilderness. The trail system would provide new non-motorized backcountry trails from the existing Tahoe Rim Trail north to Reno.

Access to the new trail system would include the Mt. Rose Summit, Thomas Creek, and Michael D. Thompson (near Hunter Creek) trailheads.

There are seven components of the proposed Trail System:

1. Rim to Reno Trail (17.1 miles) – Main trail between the Mt. Rose Summit Trail and the Hunter Creek Trail in southwest Reno through the Mt. Rose Wilderness.
2. Hunter Creek Trail (3.2 miles) – Provides access to the intersection with the main Rim to Reno Trail from the Michael D. Thompson Trailhead in southwest Reno. Also provides access to the Hunter Creek Falls in the Mt. Rose Wilderness from the Michael D. Thompson Trailhead.
3. Big Meadows Connector Trail (0.3 miles) – Small spur trail connecting Rim to Reno Trail to Big Meadows.
4. Thompson Creek Connector Trail (5.4 miles) extensions– Connects the existing Thomas Creek Trail to the main Rim to Reno Trail. This trail will consist of two segments in the Mt. Rose Wilderness, one connecting the existing Thomas Creek Trail to the main Rim to Reno Trail at Davis Meadow, the other connecting at Big Meadows. This will provide loop trail opportunities in the Mt. Rose Wilderness from the Thompson Creek Trailhead.
5. Mt. Houghton Ridge Trail (1.2 miles) -Connects the existing Tahoe Rim Trail in the vicinity of Relay Peak east to the Rim to Reno Trail.
6. Mt. Houghton Summit Trail (0.6 miles) – Provides access to the summit of Mt. Houghton from the Mt. Houghton Ridge Trail.
7. New Tahoe Rim Trail single track segment (1.9 miles) – Connects the Tahoe Rim Trail near Relay Peak to the Mt. Rose Summit Trail at the waterfall near Mt. Rose meadows. This will create new single track trail by moving the existing trail off of a dirt road. It will provide loop trail opportunities from the Mt. Rose Summit Trailhead and the Tahoe Rim Trail.

The approximately 29-mile project would be completed through a combination of new trail construction and the redesign and improvement of existing trails. The project is located on National Forest System lands within and adjacent to the Mt. Rose Wilderness Area on the Carson Ranger District outside the Lake Tahoe Basin.

The objectives for the construction of this trail include: providing new recreational trail opportunities to distribute increasingly heavy trail use on existing trails in the Mt. Rose area; provide a new linear trail through Mt. Rose Wilderness to connect existing trails and trailheads adjacent to the Mt. Rose Wilderness; provide a new recreation trail opportunity for urban trail users who will be using the new Michael D. Thompson Trailhead near Hunter Creek Canyon in Reno.

For further information regarding this project go to <http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/htnf/projects/> and/or contact Joshua Boldt, Project Manager at Environmental Sciences Associates at 916/564-4500.

Sincerely,

Sally Champion

for
GENNY WILSON

District Ranger

Enclosures: Project Area Map