



News Release

Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest
Ely Ranger District
825 Ave E
Ely, NV 89301

Contact: Pat Irwin 289-3031

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Forest Service Withdraws Duck Creek Decision

Ely District Ranger Pat Irwin announced this week that she has withdrawn her decision regarding the Duck Creek Basin Transportation Plan. She will re-evaluate the analysis of the environmental assessment of lands administered by the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, and hopes to have a modified decision before Christmas.

“I do not make such decisions lightly,” said Irwin, referring to her July decision to retain nearly 100 miles of motorized routes on 53,700 acres of National Forest Land in the Duck Creek Basin; the decision closed 88 miles of routes, and banned motorized travel off road. “And I do not modify my decisions lightly. But in this case, some re-evaluation is needed.”

The Transportation Plan started because of public concern regarding off-highway vehicle use in the Basin. In December 1999, the White Pine County Coordinated Resource Management (CRM) Steering Committee responded to this concern and established a Technical Review Team (TRT) to recommend a solution to the increase in new roadways being created in the Basin. Irwin’s July decision adopted some of the TRT recommendations and modified others. In still other instances, the TRT did not come to a consensus and made no recommendations.

“The collaborative effort with local input is crucial to the success of the Transportation Plan,” stated Irwin. “The Forest Service is mandated to protect resources and provide ways for people to enjoy those resources, but the balancing act is never easy.”

Contact the Ely District Office for more information at (775) 289-3031. To view the current environmental documents, log on to the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest website at www.fs.fed.us/r4/htnf, and click on “Projects and Plans.”

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