



Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

USDA Forest Service Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest Overview of Recreation Management

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“Caring for the Land and Serving People”



Forest Service Mission:

“sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation’s Forests and Grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.”

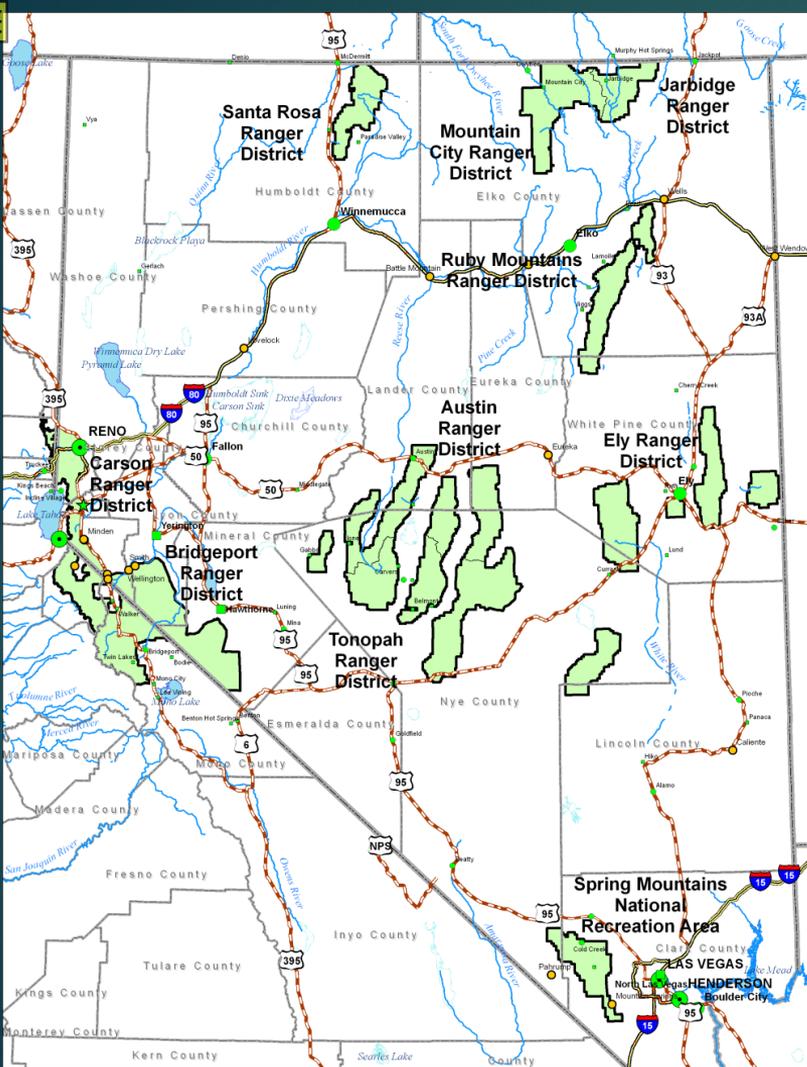
193 million acres, 155 national forests, 20 national grasslands, 1 national tallgrass prairie

Enabling/Governing Legislation

Organic Act, Transfer Act, Multiple Use-Sustained Yield Act, Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Act, National Forest Management Act, National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, National Historic Preservation Act...and more!

Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest – An Overview

- 6.3 million acres, 90% in Nevada
- Largest forest in lower 48
- Noncontiguous “sky islands”
- Six ranger districts, and the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area
- Forest Supervisor and Deputy in Sparks, Regional Office in Ogden, UT
- Decentralized management – rangers and Forest Supervisor have substantial autonomy



Conservation is the Core of the Forest Service Mission



Humboldt-Toiyabe conservation programs include:

- Managing endangered, threatened and sensitive species habitat for 120 species, including Lahontan cutthroat trout, Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep, Mt. Charleston blue butterfly, greater and bi-state sage grouse
 - 2.8 million acres of sage grouse habitat
 - 80% of suitable currently unoccupied recovery habitat for LCT
- Watershed, forest and rangeland health protection
- Management of cultural, geologic and other special resources

Conservation supports multiple use, now and into the future - Not every acre is managed or suitable for every use



Multiple Use on the Humboldt-Toiyabe

Mining:

- Largest locatable minerals program in the National Forest System
 - >500 active plans/amendments
 - Leasable (oil, gas, geothermal), limited, primarily on BLM

Renewable Energy (solar/wind):

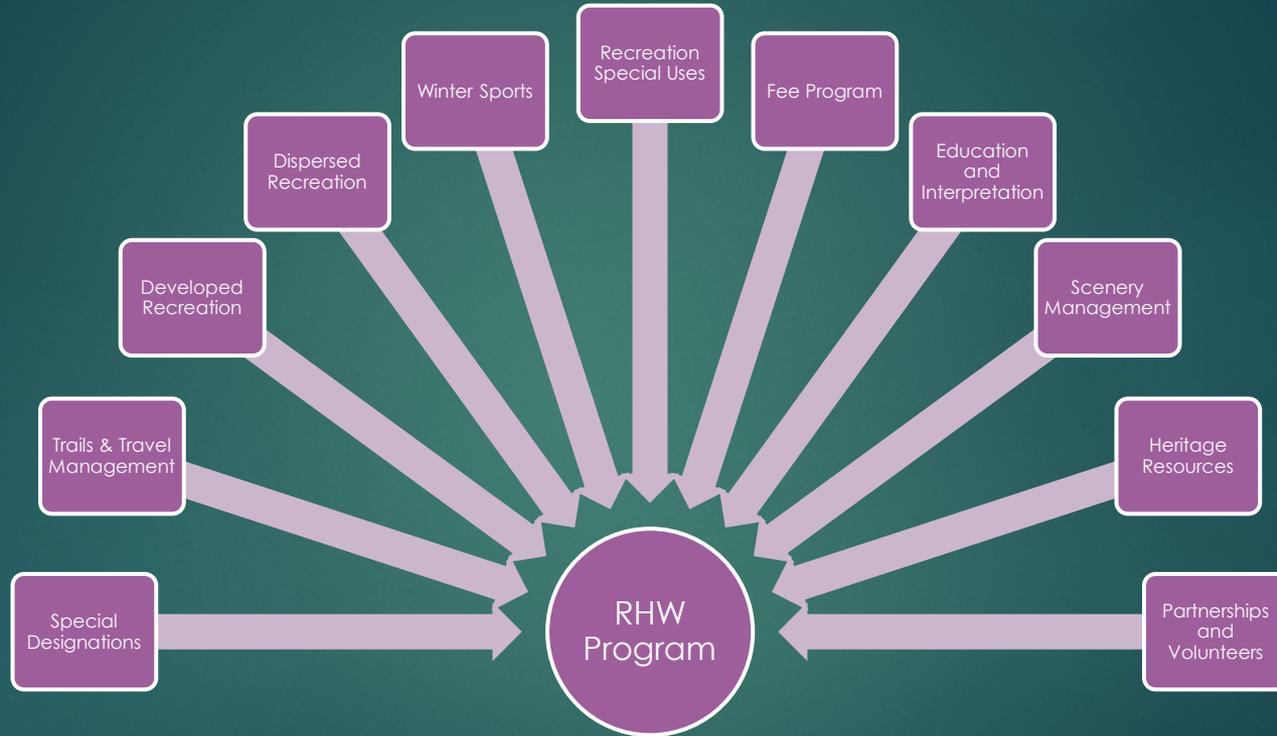
- Supportive but limited opportunity (terrain)
- Permit transmission lines

Livestock Grazing:

- Among the largest grazing programs
 - 148 active permits, 253 allotments
 - 4.6 million acres



Recreation, Heritage, Wilderness Program Components



Planning and
NEPA

Monitoring

Data
Management

Reporting

Budget

Grants &
Agreements

Contracts

Staffing



Special Designations



- **Wilderness**
 - 24 Wilderness Areas; ~1.3 million acres
 - 21 in Nevada; 3 in California
- **Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs)**
 - 4 WSAs; ~155,186 acres
- **National Scenic and Historic Trails**
 - Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail
 - California, Old Spanish, Pony Express National Historic Trails
 - Mt. Charleston, Ruby Crest, Tahoe Rim, and Toiyabe Crest National Recreation Trails
- **Spring Mountains National Recreation Area**
 - Designated in 1993; ~316,945 acres
- **Bridgeport Winter Recreation Area**
 - Designated in 2009; 7,250 acres
- **Wild & Scenic Rivers**
 - None at this time; multiple segments determined to be eligible in 2005

Some of the Recreation Opportunities on the H-T

 150 Campgrounds, Picnic Areas, Trailheads, and other developed sites

 2 Visitor Centers



2,007 miles Non-Motorized Trails



1,662 miles Motorized Trails



5,595 miles Forest Roads



 2 Alpine Ski Resorts

 8 Resorts/Pack Stations

 7 Organizational Camps

 97 Recreation Residences

30+ Recreation Events



100+ Outfitter & Guide Permits



Plus millions of acres of dispersed recreation opportunities...



How our program is funded...

Allocated Budget

- Salary & Employee Expenses (NFSE)
- Base Program
 - NFRW (Recreation, Heritage, Wilderness)
 - CMTL (Capital Maintenance, Trails)
 - FCRD (Recreation Facility Maintenance, Improvement)
- Above Base Program

Recreation Fee Program

- Recreation Enhancement Act
- Organizational Camps
- Recreation Residence (future, CY2025)

Other Federal Funding

- Interagency Agreements/Funds
 - National Park Service
 - U.S. Marine Corps
- Great American Outdoors Act
- Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

SNPLMA

- Capital Improvement
 - SMNRA, Ely, MCRMJ (White Pine only)
- Conservation Initiatives
 - SMNRA

Resource Advisory Council

- Secure Rural Schools (Title II funds)

Grants and Partner Funding

- Nevada RTP
- Nevada OHV
- California OHV
- National Forest Foundation
- NGO Private Funding





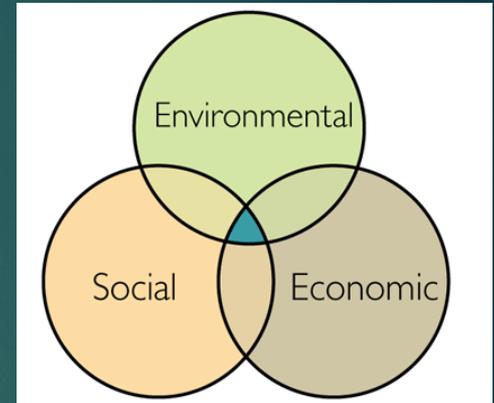
Recreation Fee Program



- **Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA)**
 - Types of Fees Authorized
 - Developed Recreation Fee Sites (Standard and Expanded Amenities)
 - Special Recreation Permits (Hoover Wilderness Permit, Christmas Tree Permit)
 - Recreation Special Uses (Outfitter & Guides, Recreation Events, Snow Play, Vendor only)
 - In R4, 95% of fees collected are returned to the Forest for use at sites of collection.
 - Current Fee Proposals
 - Bridgeport RD is finalizing a fee increase proposal for the Hoover Wilderness Permit (RAC approved this spring)
 - Carson, Austin-Tonopah, MCRMJ, SMNRA, and Santa Rosa in process of a fee proposal for campgrounds and picnic areas
 - Carson and Bridgeport in process of a fee proposal for an increase in Christmas Tree permits
- **Organizational Camps**
 - Retained from land use fees
- **Recreation Residences**
 - Fee retention begins in 2025

Sustainable Recreation

- Sustainable recreation is about appropriate management of recreation use on National Forest System lands and long-term investment in community well-being.
- The Forest must work with others, inside and outside the agency, to choose investments wisely, plan, and implement innovative solutions by:
 - Determining the most sustainable activities, investments, and locations
 - Balancing agency offerings with those on other public or private lands
 - Maintaining or changing what we already have into sustainable options for the future
 - Ensuring any requests for new opportunities are affordable and sustainable
- The Forest continues to address sustainable recreation through education, partnerships, reducing deferred maintenance, and field presence.
 - Capitalizing on partnerships and relationships.
 - Increasing conservation education efforts.
 - Increasing staffing and ensuring Forest Service representation on the landscape.
 - Reducing deferred maintenance and improving recreation facilities and trails through Great America Outdoor Act (GAOA), Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act, and other grant funding.
 - Reviewing and adjusting recreation fee structure(s).



Program Workforce

- Currently, there are 69 permanent recreation positions across the Forest authorized on our organization chart.
 - 26 of these recreation positions (37.7%) are vacant currently across the Forest
 - Prior to the Agency's hiring surge effort in the last 2-3 years, there were approximately 25 permanent recreation positions on the Forest's organization chart
 - This represents an increase of 44 positions on our organization chart
- The permanent workforce is supplemented every year by:
 - Temporary, seasonal employees
 - Youth Conservation Corps crewmembers
 - Partner employees
 - Volunteers
- There are also 17 heritage positions on our organization chart, with 4 current vacancies.



Great American Outdoors Act

Total Funds Awarded = \$7,666,960

- Fiscal Year 2021
 - Mt. Rose and Tahoe Meadows Restroom Reconstruction (Carson)
 - Campground Site Feature Replacement (Carson, Bridgeport, Austin-Tonopah, MCRMJ, Santa Rosa)
 - Wilderness Trails Maintenance (Austin-Tonopah; SMNRA)
 - Galena Visitor Center Deferred Maintenance (Carson)
 - Spring Mountains Visitor Gateway Center Deferred Maintenance (SMNRA)
- Fiscal Year 2022
 - Bob Scott Campground Reconstruction (Austin-Tonopah)
 - Ophir Creek Trail Bridge Replacement (Carson)
 - Carolyn Creek Trail Bridge Replacement (MCRMJ)
 - Big Creek Fence and San Juan Toilet Replacement (Austin-Tonopah)
 - Virginia Lake Restroom Repair (Bridgeport)
 - Spring Mountains Visitor Gateway Amphitheater Repairs (SMNRA)
 - Ely District Campground Access (Ely)
 - Martin Creek Guard Station and Lye Creek Campground Maintenance (Santa Rosa)
- Fiscal Years 2023/2024
 - H-T Deficient Bridge Replacement
 - Spring Mountains Visitor Gateway Trail Reconstruction (SMNRA)
 - Ely Barracks Replacement (Ely)



Partnerships and Shared Stewardship

- The Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest continues to work toward increasing and diversifying partnership capacity at the national, state, and local levels.
- Partnerships and volunteers are a critical part of the successes of our recreation program, filling gaps in our workforce, advocating for the resource, and educating the public.
- In 2022, the first-ever Recreation Shared Stewardship Agreement was signed right here in Nevada between federal and state agency partners.
 - Through Shared Stewardship, the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest is working with federal and state partners to...
 - Determine recreation management needs on a state-level
 - Collaboratively develop and implement shared priorities, initiatives, and projects
 - Some of our Recreation Shared Stewardship Accomplishments...
 - Nevada Recreation Shared Stewardship Monthly Collaboration Call
 - Tahoe Meadows Safe Winter Recreation Access
 - Partnership with USDA Forest Service (Regions 4 and 5), NDOT, NDOR
 - Obtained NPS RTCA Technical Assistance for Tahoe Meadows Safe Winter Recreation Access Situation Assessment (Kick off fall 2024)
 - Obtained EDA funding for a consultant to facilitate Tahoe Meadow Safe Winter Recreation Access Master Plan process



Some partnership grant funding highlights in Nevada

RTP Year	Applicant	Project	Award
2024	Tahoe Rim Trail Association	Tahoe Rim Trail Youth Education	\$27,691
2024	Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship	Peavine Maze Maintenance	\$118,466
2024	Friends of NV Wilderness	H-T Wilderness Trail Maintenance	\$121,645
2024	Walker Basin Conservancy	Wilson Canyon Trail Maintenance	\$63,594
2024	Biggest Little Trail Stewardship	Peavine Trail Maintenance and Enhancements Phase III	\$56,000
2023	Tahoe Rim Trail Association	Youth Trail Education and Outreach Project	\$24,000
2023	Great Basin Institute	Winter Ranger Program	\$57,291
2023	Friends of NV Wilderness	Alta-Toquima/Table Mountain Recreation Map	\$20,929
2023	Friends of NV Wilderness	Jarbidge Wilderness Trail Maintenance	\$80,000
2023	Great Basin Institute	Toiyabe Crest Trail Maintenance Phase II	\$50,000
2023	Biggest Little Trail Stewardship	Belli Front Trail System Phase 2	\$45,000
2023	Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation	Tahoe Meadows Access Ramp	\$50,000
2023	Tahoe Rim Trail Association	Improving Accessibility at Tahoe Meadows	\$90,013
2022	Tahoe Rim Trail Association	Young Stewards Service Learning Project	\$11,806
2022	Friends of NV Wilderness	Jarbidge Recreation Map	\$12,756
2022	Friends of NV Wilderness	Wilderness Toiyabe Crest Trail Improvement	\$100,000
2022	Great Basin Institute	H-T Trail Maintenance, Phase 2	\$49,397
2022	Tahoe Rim Trail Association	TRT Kiosk & Panel Improvements	\$40,000
2022	Biggest Little Trail Stewardship	Tamarack Lake Trail Extension Planning	\$50,220
2021	Reno Area Dirt Riders	Peavine Maze Maintenance	\$70,575
2021	Great Basin Institute	Winter Rec Snow Rangers	\$40,000
2021	Washoe County	Sierra Front Trail Planning	\$74,300
2021	Biggest Little Trail Stewardship	Peavine Trail Planning	\$50,000
2021	Great Basin Institute	H-T Trail Maintenance	\$90,000
2021	Muscle Powered	Lincolny Bypass Trail	\$30,400
2021	Muscle Powered	Capital to Tahoe Trail	\$97,535
2021	Friends of NV Wilderness	Eastern Nevada Trail Maintenance	\$60,000
		4-Year Total RTP Awards	\$1,581,618

- Nevada Recreational Trails Program (RTP)
 - RTP grants have made a significant impact on the maintenance of existing trail systems on the Forest, along with establishment of new trails and education opportunities.
 - Over the past four RTP cycles, partners have been awarded over \$1.5 million in funds to support recreational trails on the Forest.
- Conserve Nevada Grant Program
 - Tahoe Meadows Boardwalk (National Forest Foundation); \$75k awarded (2024)
- Nevada Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Grant
 - Toiyabe Crest Trail Signs (Great Basin Institute); \$13,772 awarded (2023)
- National Forest Foundation/Truckee Meadows Water Authority
 - Trail Ambassador Program





Questions?