

# Intermountain Trails

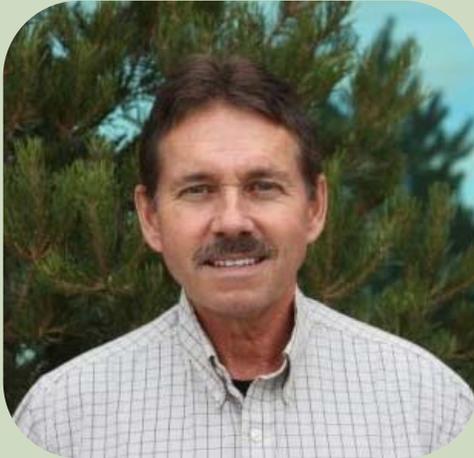
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## Forest In Focus: Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest

### Forest Supervisor—Bill Dunkelberger



Humboldt-Toiyabe Forest Supervisor,  
Bill Dunkelberger

The Humboldt-Toiyabe is the largest forest in the lower 48 states. The forest administers 6.2 million acres.

I am impressed with the passion and dedication that our employees have for carrying out the Forest Service mission, “Caring for the land and serving people.” I have enjoyed meeting with local citizens, elected officials, permittees, sister-agency employees, and interest groups. I have also spent time learning about local partnerships

and concerns about the Forest.

We are fortunate to have many outstanding partners. I sense that citizen-centered stewardship and collaboration are alive and well in this part of the West!

The forest is currently focusing efforts on working with communities and adjacent landowners to identify and implement large landscape treatments that have multiple benefits on and off the forest. These integrated projects are improving the health and resilience of watersheds by reducing fuels and the potential for catastrophic wildfire, improving habitat for critical wildlife like sage grouse, eradicating invasive plants, restoring native vegetation, and enhancing water quality and flows by restoring riparian areas and improving erosion control on roads and trails.

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### TRAIL STORIES



*Popular Hunter Creek Trail near Reno  
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# Popular Hunter Creek Trail near Reno Untouched by Recent Wildfire

Reno area hikers held their breath while waiting to hear about the outcome of the Hunter Falls Fire near the Mount Rose Wilderness in May. Hunter Creek Trail, a popular five-mile trek located off of Woodchuck Circle, is heavily used by dog walkers, hikers, and equestrians. The area is also known for its scenic riparian zone.

The wildfire began late in the evening on May 17 in the Mount Rose Wilderness. It burned 760 acres, had 144 personnel working on it, and cost around \$980,000 to suppress. On May 22, 2014, the fire was fully contained, while the cause of the fire remains under investigation.

According to Brian Reublinger, a Forest Service Engine Captain and Public Information Officer on the Hunter Falls Fire, “The Hunter Falls fire didn’t burn close to the actual Hunter Falls Trail. The name Hunter Falls Fire was just the closest known geographical location, when naming the fire.”

“We had to close the trail to the public during the wildfire; helicopters were busy shuttling cargo to crews over the trail,” explained Irene Davidson, Carson District Ranger.

While grateful the trail is in good condition, concerns surfaced about runoff from the damaged areas. A Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation team (BAER) was called in to assess the change in runoff, and determine how much sediment would be coming off of the fire area. After precise mapping, the team determined that the stream, downstream residences, and features, such as the trail and canal, would not be overwhelmed with a large flood or a big slug of sediment. This is important - the burned area is a tributary to the Truckee Meadows Water Authority intake that provides area drinking water.

“We know how worried folks were about this special area, and are glad that they now can see for themselves that it’s still spectacular,” Davidson said.



Hunter Trail

## Bridgeport Ranger District Participates in Town Parade

Bridgeport Ranger District participated in two entries for the annual Bridgeport July 4 Town Parade in the Eastern Sierra of California: Smokey was the Grand Marshall and rode on a fire engine and alongside additional engines and firefighters, and a float celebrated both the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act and 50 years of the Hoover Wilderness. Wilderness rangers and trail crew members also staffed a downtown booth celebrating the 50th anniversary of Wilderness from July 3 through July 6.



# Friends of Nevada Wilderness Partners with Santa Rosa Ranger District on ATV-Cattle Guard Project

The Santa Rosa Mountain Range is located north of Winnemucca, Nevada, and is one of the most visually stunning and underutilized recreation destinations in the state. In addition to its beauty, the Santa Rosa Mountains provide excellent country for ATV touring. Until recently, this optimal ATV touring country did not possess any well-marked motorized trail routes.

In an effort to address the trail issue, the Humboldt (NV) Resource Advisory Council approved the purchase of ATV “cattle guards.” These new cattle guards allow riders to pass through a fence without having to get off of their quad to open and close a gate. Completion of the project will create a motorized trail loop system in the northern portion of the Santa Rosa District. Work is occurring in the Buttermilk Meadows area and Mullinox Creek this summer.

The 22-mile loop, with no restriction to use, will take visitors through one of the widest varieties of habitat and wildlife viewing opportunities in Humboldt County.

Progress on the project is already underway. An information kiosk, route signs, and several ATV



Left to right, Jake Kastner, Renee Aldrich, and Pat Murphy stand on a new finished cattle guard in Mullinox Canyon. Photo: courtesy of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest

cattle guards were installed last summer. Additionally, a route map and an interpretive brochure will be created for public distribution.

The end product will result in a greatly enhanced riding experience for visitors to the Santa Rosas while maintaining the integrity of grazing systems. Increased gate effectiveness will allow for optimal range management for resource conservation.

## Safety Tips: Eye Injuries



An eye injury can happen quickly—in the blink of an eye. That’s why it’s so important to protect your eyes from harm. According to the American Academy of Ophthalmology, an estimated 90 percent of eye injuries are preventable with the use of proper safety eyewear. Even a minor injury to the cornea—like that from a small particle of dust or debris—can be painful and become a life-long issue, so take the extra precaution and always protect your eyes. If an eye should become injured, seek emergency medical help immediately.



## Artifacts from Small Chinese Settlement Found on Forest Service Land

Artifacts such as Chinese “Bamboo,” soy jar pottery, and opium tins explain that the inhabitants were Chinese in a small settlement camp being excavated on the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, north of Bridgeport, California. Emily Dale, a University of Nevada Reno doctoral student, is doing the excavating work along with Forest Service archaeologists Alyce Branigan, Chimalis Keuhn, and Eric Dillingham and a crew of volunteers.

The Chinese originally came to the Western United States in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Most ended up working in the trans-continental railroad, lumber, and mining industries. However, after the California goldfields dried up and the trans-continental railroad was completed, the immigrants, mostly male, moved around the American West looking for gold placer deposits and domestic and labor jobs at mining camps.

Active from 1880-1920, the camp was perhaps inhabited by a handful of men with their donkeys, pigs, and possible vegetable gardens. The Mineral County, Nevada settlement workers most likely provided fuel-wood to mining camps in Bodie and Masonic (both in Mono County, California) and Aurora, Nevada.



Adrienne Dale excavated over 60 centimeters into a possible old corral. If this had been a domestic area for people, a lot of artifacts would be expected. The lack of artifacts helps to confirm that the area was a corral. *Photo: courtesy of Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest.*

Fred Frampton, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest Archaeologist, has previously studied camps in northern Nevada and believes these outlying Chinese camps were among the last areas occupied. The camps perhaps served a last refuge of mining in Nevada.

Artifacts at the site are protected by law and are collected by the archaeologists and volunteers under permit. For more information on volunteering with this project, go to the Forest Service “Passport in Time” webpage <http://www.passportintime.com/>.

## Fish and Wildlife Service and Forest Service collaborate to recover recently-listed Webber's Ivesia plant Protected under Endangered Species Act

Webber's ivesia (*Ivesia webberi*) was given protection under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) as a threatened species on June 2, 2014, by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. To help protect the species, the Fish & Wildlife Service designated 2,170 acres of National Forest and other lands as critical habitat in the Reno, Nevada, area.



Ivesia webberi Photo by Carol Witham, Nevada Natural Heritage Program

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the U.S. Forest Service are working closely together to recover the Threatened plant. Extra measures are taking place to protect the habitat and plants on occupied sites by placing boulders at some sites to ensure that unauthorized OHV's don't drive over the plants, and by irradiating noxious weeds.

"We are grateful that the Fish and Wildlife Service is leveraging resources to partner with us so quickly to help protect this plant," said Danielle Chi, Natural Resources Director for the Intermountain Region of the Forest Service.

"Webber's ivesia is threatened with extinction because of many factors, particularly the invasion of nonnative plant species and associated increases in the frequency and severity of wildfires throughout the species' limited range," said Ted Koch, State Supervisor for the Nevada U.S Fish & Wildlife Office.



Webberi Ivesia

Webber's ivesia is restricted to sites with sparse vegetation and shallow, rocky, clay soils on mid-elevation flats, benches, or terraces between 4,500 and 6,200 feet elevation in Washoe and Douglas Counties in Nevada, and in Lassen, Plumas, and Sierra Counties, in California. All 17 known populations of Webber's ivesia are within the transition zone between the eastern edge of the northern Sierra Nevada and the northwestern edge of the Great Basin.

Webber's ivesia is a member of the rose family. It is a low-growing, perennial herb that is approximately ten inches in diameter with clusters of leaves that lie nearly flat on the ground. It has greenish-gray leaves, red, wiry stems, and clusters of small bright yellow flowers. Flowering typically begins in May and extends through June, and the whole plant becomes reddish-tinged late in the season.

The US Fish & Wildlife Service first identified Webber's ivesia as a candidate for ESA protection in 2002, due to the threat posed by urban development, authorized and unauthorized road use, OHVs and recreation use, livestock grazing and trampling, wildfire and suppression activities, displacement by non-native invasive plant species, and inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms. The species continues to experience habitat loss due to these threats.

# Regional Forester's Message



I want to thank you for participating and supporting the series of listening sessions held earlier this year regarding the Forest Service's interaction with people that care about National Forests. Using the facilitation expertise of the Metropolitan Group, the sessions gave voice to employees, community members, partners, and stakeholders about the needs, wants, and expectations of the Forest Service and the land we manage.

Throughout February and March, a total of 21 listening sessions were held in nine different communities throughout the Intermountain West. Locations include Duchesne, Cedar City, and Saint George, Utah; Elko and Las Vegas, Nevada; Jackson, Wyoming; Salmon, Challis and Boise, Idaho. In total, 187

external constituents and 150 Forest Service employees gave feedback and ideas in the formal listening sessions or during in-depth, one-on-one interviews.

A diversity of perspectives was heard. Yet a number of overarching themes emerged:

1. People tend to lead with their emotional love of the land, which can be an underutilized opportunity for connection;
2. Growing threats to natural resources are fueling the "environment versus economy" debate rather than inspiring unified action toward solutions;
3. National Forests are highly unlikely to be transferred to the states for management, despite high-profile attention;
4. There seems to be a disconnect between the Forest Service's work and mission in that the work is not communicated in the context of why the agency does what it does (its mission), creating the impression of an agency driven by its "to-do" list;
5. Individual leadership styles dictate the public's experience with the Forest Service, as opposed to organizational brand and reputation, resulting in mixed impressions;
6. Forest Service employees and leadership often change locations and there is a frequent turnover of rotating positions, this is resulting in unintended consequences in communities;
7. The public reacts positively to the Forest Service's presence when employees let go of a "do more with less" mindset and engage on shared interests; and
8. Communicating during controversy would be better than staying silent; others often tell the agency's story, and it would be better to hear from the agency itself.

The [report](#) also makes a few recommendations on future actions the Forest Service can take to increase public engagement and awareness of the Forest Service in the Intermountain Region. I intend to further explore the recommendations and identify actions I can take as Regional Forester to deliver on the agency's mission.

When it comes down to it, we all value the land. I am committed to continuing the dialogue over how we can work together in the management of the National Forests so as to serve present and future generations.

NORA B. RASURE  
Regional Forester