



NEWS RELEASE



U.S. Forest Service, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest

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Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest Proposes Christmas Tree Permit Fee Increase

Sparks, NV; March 6, 2015 – The Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest (HTNF) is seeking public comments on a proposal to increase Christmas tree permits on the Bridgeport Ranger District from \$5 to \$10 per tag (i.e., per individual tree) beginning with the 2015 cutting season.

Each year the HTNF Bridgeport Ranger District sells approximately 725 Christmas tree permits to the public. Currently \$5 goes to the national treasury for every permit sold. Increasing the fee to \$10 would allow \$5 to remain on the district to support administrative and visitor services for the Christmas tree permit program, including maps, signage, and a Forest Service presence on major cutting days.

All fee proposals are presented before two citizen's advisory committees—Nevada Bureau of Land Management Recreation Resource Advisory Committee (RRAC) and California RRAC. Committee members represent a broad array of recreation interest groups to help ensure that the Forest Service is proposing reasonable and publicly acceptable fee changes.

The public is welcome to attend and comment at all RRAC meetings. The Nevada RRAC meeting is expected to be held in the fall of 2015, and the meeting time, location, and agenda will be announced on the HTNF Web site and through local media. The Forest Service national office in Washington, DC, as well as its Intermountain regional office in Ogden, Utah, will also extensively review this fee proposal.

In 2004, Congress passed the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act that allows the Forest Service to retain funds collected at certain recreation sites— including those from Christmas tree permits, special recreation permits, and interagency passes— and use the funds locally to operate, maintain, and improve these sites. Before the Forest Service received the authority to retain funds locally, all the fees went to the national treasury.

We want to continue to offer this unique recreation opportunity to the public that many enjoy as a seasonal tradition," said Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest Supervisor Bill Dunkelberger.

Comments concerning the fee proposal will be accepted until May 30, 2015 and may be sent to Jamie Fields, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest Recreation Program Manager, 1200 Franklin Way, Sparks, Nevada 89431.

For more information about this fee proposal, please visit the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest Web site at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/htnf> or contact Fields at 775-352-1254.

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The Humboldt-Toiyabe's spectacular 6.3 million acres make it the largest national forest in the lower 48 states. Located in Nevada and a small portion of eastern California, the Forest offers year-round recreation of all types.

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