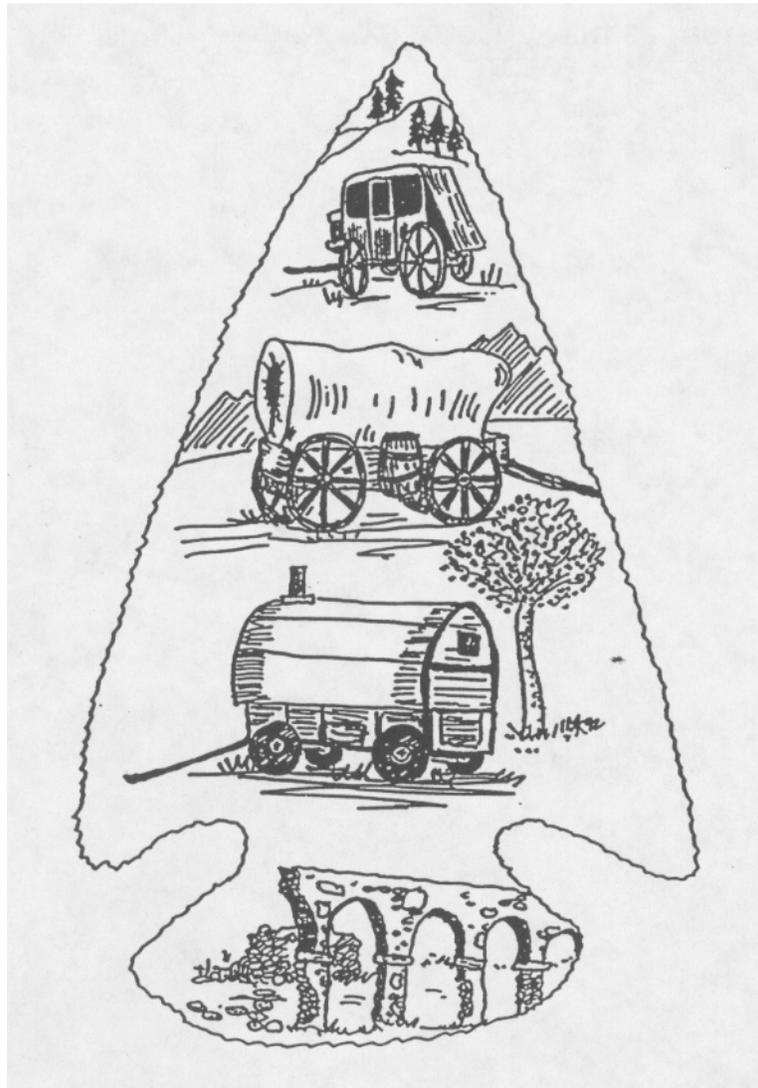


HISTORY OF THE HUMBOLDT NATIONAL FOREST



By Fred P. Frampton

**Humboldt National Forest
Cultural Resource Series #1**

**June 1992
Reformatted July 2008**

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**Edited by Judith Frampton
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INTRODUCTORY OVERVIEW

The modern explorer of the Humboldt National Forest will discover its historic and prehistoric resources many and diverse.

This synopsis is provided to give an overview of the Forest and its peoples. A variety of books and references are available in libraries, bookstores, and the Forest history and archaeology department for those interested in furthering their understanding of Nevada and Forest history.

Northeastern Nevada has been inhabited for at least the past 10,000 years. Through archaeological investigations, these millennia have been divided into the Paleoindian, Archaic, Prehistoric, Numic and Historic periods. Because climatic conditions in the Great Basin have not been conducive to agriculture, Native Americans lived primarily as hunters and gatherers.

Paleoindian hunters and gatherers lived during the close of the Pleistocene when many of the valley floors had pluvial lakes and large animals, such as ground sloths, woolly mammoths, saber-toothed tigers, camels, and horses. They lived near the lakes and were adept at hunting these large animals. There has been considerable discussion in the scientific community questioning whether these aboriginal hunters and gatherers were contributors to the extinction of these Pleistocene animals. While the answer to this question is unknown, other factors, such as climatic change with the concomitant drying of the Pleistocene lakes, probably contributed to this extinction between 9,000 and 10,000 years ago. Paleoindian sites are not common on the Forest or in Nevada, although some of the oldest in Nevada are Smith Creek Cave on Mount Moriah, Ely District, and Deer Creek Cave, immediately north of the Jarbidge Ranger District near the town of Jarbidge.

An aspect of Paleoindians, as well as the Archaic and all groups found in the Basin, is that the land carrying capacity for hunters and gatherers is rather low. For that reason, these inhabitants lived in small bands, usually of extended family groups, and were constantly on the move following the seasonal availability of plants and animals in a given area. Permanent settlements occurred only rarely. Housing often consisted of brush shelters or wickiups. While many people think of caves as places of habitation, they were frequently used more for the storage of food. Caves are important prehistoric sites, because they oftentimes are dry and, therefore, allow for the preservation of perishable artifacts. Excavations of caves give archaeologists a more complete picture of the prehistoric people.

The Archaic period between 6,000 B.C. and A.D. 500 saw an increase in human population in the Great Basin, and Archaic period sites are the most commonly found on all of the Districts on the Humboldt. These people utilized the lowest elevations all the way to the tops of the mountain ranges for hunting and gathering. High altitude rock alignments often are found on the Forest and were used as drive lines for collecting and orienting game, such as bighorn sheep, so that they could be shot easily. These Archaic people, like the Paleoindians, hunted with spears and with atlatls (spear throwers), and, consequently, the points associated with the Archaic are larger than later arrow points. Although Archaic sites are common, they are important sources of information about the prehistory of the Humboldt.

The Late Prehistoric period between A.D. 500 and 1300 on the Humboldt is characterized by the use of the bow and arrow and, consequently, smaller projectile points than the earlier periods. There is little other differentiation between the prehistoric and the earlier stages.

Found in eastern Nevada and on the Ruby Mountains and eastern portions of the Ely District is evidence of the Fremont Culture period. These Pueblo-like people were found more frequently in Utah. They were, in part, agriculturalists and lived in permanent pithouses, cultivating corn, beans, and squash as well as hunting and gathering supplemental foods. The Fremont also were adept pottery makers. On the Humboldt Fremont sites, which date between A.D. 500 and 1300, are often small campsites and petroglyph sites, which are found on the lower flanks of the Snake Range and the eastern slopes of the Schell Creek Range and the Ruby Mountains.

On the Grant and Quinn Ranges of the Ely Ranger District are found Puebloan Anasazi archaeological sites. The Anasazi usually are considered dwellers of Arizona, New Mexico, southern Utah, and Colorado. In the Southwest, they are noted for their cliff dwellings and pueblos as well as for their farm fields and finely constructed pottery. In an area north of Las Vegas, archaeological sites have been found which are Anasazi in nature, but pueblos and cliff dwellings have yet to be identified. Cliff dwellings and small pueblos probably do not occur on the Grant and Quinn Ranges, but archaeological surveys are rare and little is known of the area.

The Numic Period, between A.D. 1300 to 1850, is the time of the Paiute and Shoshoni. While some researchers believe the Shoshoni and Paiute have been in the Great Basin for thousands of years, others believe that the Numic moved into the Great Basin from eastern California about A.D. 1300. Because of geographic and climatic factors, these two Indian groups were the last in North America to come into continuous contact with Anglos. For some of these people, sustained contact did not occur until the 1870s.

Paiute groups were found in the Santa Rosa District and the southern portion of the Ely District. The Shoshoni occupied the rest of the Forest: the Jarbidge, Mountain City, and Ruby Mountains districts, and the northern portions of the Ely District. The Shoshoni and Paiute were very adept basket makers and utilized pottery, as well. These loosely knit bands subsisted by hunting and gathering in a pattern described as a "seasonal round", where they followed the game in its migrations as well as gathered foodstuffs when it became seasonally abundant. No animal or plant resources were ignored. They were as proficient in herding antelope, bighorn sheep, and rabbits as they were in hunting crickets and grasshoppers. All were nutritionally excellent food sources. Indian ricegrass and Pinyon pine nuts were staple foods that were collected and stored for the winter, and fish were captured in weirs.

Prior to the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hildago of 1846, Nevada was claimed by the Spanish. Americans knew little of the region, having explored only the southern portion of the Basin in the vicinity of Las Vegas. In the 1820s and 1830s, Nevada was visited by both American and British fur trapping expeditions, including the Hudson's Bay Company, the Rocky Mountain Fur Company, and others. Peter Skene Ogden is generally credited as being the first Anglo to view northeastern Nevada, having in 1826 trapped along the headwaters of the East and West Forks of the Bruneau River, the Jarbidge River, and the South Fork of the Owyhee River. In the fall of 1828, Ogden again entered northeastern Nevada, trapped on the Little Humboldt River, and traveled over the Ruby Mountains at Secret Pass, wintering near the Great Salt Lake. In the spring of 1829, Ogden trapped along the Humboldt. Ogden's trapping expeditions included a large party of trappers, scouts, and Native American women. History has it that Ogden's Indian wife Mary was the source for the original naming of the Humboldt River. Today only the headwater is called the Marys River.

The first wagon travel to California was begun by the Bartleson-Bidwell party of 1841. While none of these wagons made it to their destination, the emigrants having reached California on foot, the route used by them developed into the Fort Hall Trail. The Humboldt Trail, from Fort Hall to Wells and then along the Humboldt River, continued to be an important artery for westward migration until the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad in 1869.

Lansford Hastings recommended a different trail, which crossed the Wasatch Mountains, skirted the Great Salt Lake Desert, and traversed the southern end of the Ruby Mountains at Overland Pass. This trail met the main trail along the Humboldt River at South Fork. The Hastings Cutoff and misinformation given with it resulted in tremendous hardships and, ultimately, cost large losses in lives and property, such as those of the 1846 Donner Party. Following word of the Donners' fate, the cutoff was not utilized again until 1848 when the California Gold Rush produced a dramatic rise in the use of the trail. The trail was again abandoned by 1850.

While a few remnants of wagon roads can be found in eastern Nevada, campsites of emigrants, explorers, and trappers are extremely rare and would be considered very important.

Recognizing the inevitable conflict between Native and emigrant groups, the federal government hoped to end depredations through peace treaties and the establishment of reservations. The Treaty of Ruby Valley of 1863 was the only treaty ever signed with Nevada's Indians. This treaty provided for safe passage of travelers and gave \$5,000 to the Indians annually for 20 years but did not cede to the federal government Native Americans' land claims. While the federal government in the 1960s offered payment to the Shoshoni for their land, the Shoshoni have not accepted the money and still claim much of Nevada, including most of the Humboldt National Forest.

William Rogers, the first white settler of Elko County became the local Indian agent in 1859 and was assigned the duty of selecting a reservation for the Shoshoni. This area, later known as Overland Farm, was rejected by the federal government, even though Rogers demonstrated that crops could be grown there.

The government's reservation program in Nevada developed slowly. The Indians, who had relied on an adequate land base to support their hunting and gathering culture, lacked sufficient implements, seeds, and instructions to be successful at farming. In addition, many lost land and water to the Anglos, who possessed the legal know-how to obtain claim to the land. Consequently, the aboriginal techniques of obtaining food were replaced by wage work or theft in order to survive. Faced with a steal or starve situation, many were attracted to the Overland Mail route and the Emigrant Trail as places to carry out their attacks. Because of raids on wagon trains, the segment of the trail between Fort Hall and Wells was one of the more perilous segments of the journey.

Until 1861, Nevada was a part of Utah Territory. In 1859, great mineral resources were discovered at the Comstock Lode, beginning the first extensive Anglo development in Nevada. Five years after these discoveries, in 1864, Nevada achieved statehood primarily due to the financial benefits the mines could provide to the Union during the Civil War and for its votes in helping President Lincoln pass the 13th Amendment.

Military forts were established in Nevada to protect the influx of white settlers, stages and mail services, mining districts and towns which blossomed between 1859 and 1870, and finally to protect those constructing the Transcontinental Railroad in the 1860s.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HUMBOLDT NATIONAL FOREST

The formation of the Humboldt National Forest came about due to a national conservation movement and legislation for the creation of Forest Preserves. Locally this movement can be tied closely to the grazing industry.

After the Gold Rush of 1849, large numbers of cattle and sheep were driven across Nevada to California. Following the development of the mining industry in Nevada in 1859, cattle moved to Nevada to supply the miners with meat. By the mid-1860s, Ruby Valley was utilized as a livestock wintering area for the mines at the Comstock, Reese River, White Pine, etc. As the livestock industry developed in the West, and with the completion of the railroad in the late 1860s, livestock began to be trailed and shipped for markets in the East. By 1874, most grazing areas in Nevada had been taken up by ranchers, and the range began a rapid deterioration. By 1890, most of the water holes along the driveways were fenced and guarded to prevent trespass by trailing sheep.

Around 1900 northern Nevada saw an invasion of migratory sheep herds that originated in southern Idaho. These herds often were owned and run by Basque shepherders. Beside a wave of racism, the local ranchers protested these herders' untaxed, free use of government land as well as their overgrazing practices. A number of so-called "tramp" sheep outfits filed false mining claims on the range in order to control grazing areas and water sources. Others set fire to the wooded high country to clear the trees and promote revegetation into grasses. With at least half a million sheep, 30,000 cows, and thousands of horses grazing in northeastern Nevada, livestock, particularly sheep, came off the range at the end of the season in very poor condition.

Into this situation came the Forest Service. Nevada ranchers, particularly the small outfits, believed that having the Forest Service in Nevada would remove the "tramp" outfits, as they could not have allotments, having no land base. To that end the ranchers prepared petitions to the Ogden Regional Office (at that time called the District Office) requesting the Forest to consider creating Forest Reserves in northeastern Nevada. The ranchers' petitions often were filled with comments about the overuse of the range by the "tramp" sheep.

There was opposition to the Forest Service on a local level, but with sheep coming off the range weighing only 30 pounds at the end of the season, with tempers flaring, and with at least one shooting, the fear of range wars was enough to gather the necessary support.

The Forest Service was quick to respond by preparing reports on the feasibility of each Reserve. The criteria the Forest Service used to determine whether an area was suitable was to assess its timber and water resources. If both timber and water were abundant, the analysts prepared favorable reports. If timber and water were not abundant, the report recommended a rejection of the parcel. Such was the

case with the Diamond Range north of Eureka. That area was submitted and denied twice because of the lack of both qualities. The report suggested the ranchers work with grazing departments rather than the Forest Service.

CONSOLIDATION OF THE HUMBOLDT NATIONAL FOREST

Throughout its history, the Forest Service has consolidated Forests and moved Ranger Districts from one Forest to another. The Humboldt is no exception, and its history may be even more complex than most.

Originally set aside on March 29, 1904, the Ruby Mountains Forest Reserve was the first Forest in Nevada to be established, this occurring in the spring of 1906. The Independence Forest Reserve was established in the fall of the same year. In 1907, the term "Forest Reserves" was changed to "National Forests."

In July of 1908, the Humboldt National Forest was formed through the consolidation of the Ruby and Independence Forests. In 1909 land around Owyhee, Bruneau, Marys River, and Pole Creek were added to the Humboldt. That same year the Nevada National Forest was created followed in 1911 by the Santa Rosa National Forest.

Because of the complexity of the Forest's organization, further discussion will be confined to an historic summary of each Ranger District.

HISTORY OF THE DISTRICTS

D-1, MOUNTAIN CITY

Use of this area by Native Americans has been described by some researchers as seasonal, where much of the area was abandoned during the severe winter months. It is not yet ascertained whether the entire area was abandoned or whether the people moved to warmer areas, such as the Bruneau River. Prehistoric sites abound along the margins of the District at lower elevations, along valleys and river courses.

Historically the area has been considered Shoshoni territory; however, the Duck Valley Reservation, which was established in 1877, has both Shoshoni and Paiute, as the reservation accepted people from throughout much of northern Nevada. Many of the residents consider themselves Sho-Pai, a merging of both cultural groups.

The Duck Valley Reservation, which was established in 1877, is situated on the Owyhee River, the name of which is a misinterpretation of historic maps. The Owyhee River was known to Peter Skene Ogden as the Sandwich Island River, so-called because some natives of those islands were killed by

Indians at its mouth. When the Sandwich Islands were renamed "Hawaii" on maps, the name of the river was changed accordingly, but the spelling followed phonetic methods. The name appears on Charles Wilkes's 1849 map of the Oregon Territory.

In May of 1869, Mountain City was founded when the Cope party, traveling between Idaho City and Elko, found rich silver and gold deposits along the Owyhee River. A town of approximately 700 people sprang up but within a year the population diminished to approximately 150 people and rarely grew above that number again.

Another town, Placerville, developed directly across the river from Mountain City in the vicinity of the current Mountain City landfill. Placerville survived only a few short years and was inhabited almost exclusively by Chinese. These "overseas sojourners" worked in placer mining, cooking, laundering, and prostitution. Chinese sites are found associated with many historic mining towns after the late 1860s.

Mining at Mountain City exploded again around 1900 but was short-lived and again collapsed within a few short years. A rich copper boom occurred at Rio Tinto, located a few miles south of Mountain City, in the 1930s and 1940s, which brought temporary, renewed life to Mountain City. Rio Tinto developed into a large, company town having housing, schools, and a hospital. Since its closing, most of the buildings have been torn down or moved to Mountain City. A toxic waste dump remains near the townsite close to the Forest boundary.

Shortly after the mines and towns developed, stage lines were established between Elko and southern Idaho towns to serve Mountain City from the south and north. The highway is probably an important reason for the survival of Mountain City up to the present day.

On the Mountain City District, Rio Tinto, Placerville, Rowland, Columbia, Cornucopia, Patsville, Bruno City, Bull Run, Van Duzer, Charleston, and Gold Creek developed and disappeared with barely a trace. Gold Creek, a gold mining community that began in the 1870s, struggled into the 20th Century, finally falling in the mid-1920s. A number of its remaining buildings were dismantled and removed to Mountain City 15 miles distant.

Few mining towns developed to the extent of the Cope District at Mountain City with the exception of Tuscarora. Located approximately 15 miles southwest of the Independence Range, the gold town of Tuscarora developed in the late 1860s and flourished through the turn of the century. Tuscarora maintained a hearty population throughout much of its life. While none of the mining at Tuscarora occurred on the Ranger District, activities in support of mining did. For example, timber for mill construction and for fueling the mills was gathered on the south end of the District and elsewhere. Further, water from the west side of the range was used for hydroelectric power to run the town and mills.

Like many of the other Districts in northeastern Nevada, grazing problems brought on the presence of the Forest Service. Overgrazing of cattle, sheep and horses, as well as a tremendous influx of "tramp" sheep outfits by out-of-state, Basque shepherders, pressured the local, small-scale ranchers and landowners to petition the Department of Agriculture to establish Forests in the area. In fact, the early Rangers spent much of their time deciding on appropriate livestock numbers, riding the range ensuring compliance, and preparing annual reports on the condition of the range.

As previously mentioned, the Independence Forest Reserve was established on November 5, 1906. On March 4, 1907, the name "Reserves" was changed to "National Forests." On July 1, 1908, the Humboldt National Forest was formed by combining the Districts on the Ruby Forest and the Independence, now the Mountain City District. On January 20, 1909, the Owyhee and Bruneau areas were added to this District. On July 4, 1941, a parcel of land known as the East Mountain City Townsite was removed from Forest Service ownership.

The criteria used to ascertain the quality of the parcel for Forest Reserve were the area's timber and watersheds. In the Bruneau Addition, now a part of the Mountain City District, the area was submitted twice for evaluation before it passed, because the first report failed to show evidence of important timber.

When the Forest was first established, the current Mountain City District was apportioned into four Ranger Districts, some of whose names are now obscure. The Independence and another District merged in the 1930s to create an enlarged District. Management of the Independence District was from the Ranger's headquarters at Jacks Creek.

The Gold Creek Ranger District took over management of the Bruneau River in the spring of 1940. It was not until 1971(?) that the Gold Creek Ranger District was abolished and its management given to the Mountain City Ranger District.

The importance of Gold Creek, both to the Forest and to the District, is that from 1911 to 1916 it was the Forest Supervisor's Office. According to accounts by the Humboldt National Forest's first Supervisor, C. S. "Syd" Tremewan, the District Forester (now called Regional Forester) in Ogden, arbitrarily decided to move the Supervisor's Office from a 12 by 12 foot room in the Harrington Building in Elko to Gold Creek. Tremewan, knowing that Gold Creek was a dying town and that most customers were better served through an office in Elko, complained about this action but went ahead with the move. Following that, Tremewan felt that the District Forester acted coldly toward him, and friction made working conditions difficult. Actions by the District Forester to raise the maximum limit of livestock for large stock owners and to reduce the limit for small stock owners infuriated Tremewan to the point that he resigned his position. Tremewan believed that by increasing the limit, the larger outfits would eventually take over, creating range monopolies.

The historic Gold Creek Ranger Station, which alternately has served as Supervisor's Office, District Office, and YACC Camp, exists in excellent condition and is under consideration for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. It is currently in use through permit to the Nevada Division of Forestry.

Before construction of paved roads and improved automobiles, there were numerous guard stations situated on the District. Some of these were at Jacks Creek, Cat Creek, McAfee, Meadow Creek, 76 Creek, and Mahala Creek. These were occupied seasonally, and all but the small cabin at 76 Creek have been abandoned and removed.

Prior to 1900, there were reports of abundant bighorn sheep, a few black bears, wolverines or skunk bears, and red fox on the District. Steelhead and salmon were common in the Bruneau and Owyhee Rivers and their tributaries until the construction in 1901 of the Swan Falls Dam on the Snake River. During wet years early Elko newspapers documented salmon in the Owyhee River in Independence

Valley near Tuscarora. Deer, on the other hand, were rare prior to the turn of the century and have increased in numbers as other animals have decreased.

In the vicinity of Camp Draw, the Mountain City Ranger District contains a small portion of the Jarbidge Wilderness Area. Trails enter the Wilderness from this area.

D-2, RUBY MOUNTAINS DISTRICT

The area encompassing the Ruby Mountains Ranger District historically has been some of the most intensively used in the state of Nevada. The marshes in Clover and Ruby Valleys contained enough water and natural resources that they may have been one of the few places in the state where prehistoric and historic Indians could live almost a sedentary lifestyle. Prehistoric caves, campsites, and lithic scatters are as common on this District as anywhere on the Forest. Prehistoric, bighorn sheep hunting sites are common on the tops of the East Humboldt Range and Ruby Mountains.

The Ruby Valley Indian Reservation, established between 1910 and 1915, and the Te-Moak Indian Reservation, established in 1941, adjoin the District. They play an important part in the life of the District.

The Humboldt River and, presumably, the East Humboldt Mountains were named by John C. Fremont after his surveying expedition into the Great Basin in 1843. Fremont named the river and the mountains in honor of Baron von Humboldt, an early-day scientist who probably never saw them. Many people wonder, when they see the name East Humboldt Mountains, where the Humboldt Mountains are. An 1869 map, made by Cadwallader, of the route to the White Pine mines on the current Ely Ranger District names the Ruby Mountains the Humboldt Mountains. It may be that both designations "Ruby" and "Humboldt" were interchangeable in the early days and that "Ruby" eventually came into more common usage. The name Ruby comes from early settlers, soldiers, and travelers finding garnets on the southeast end of the range.

The major travel corridor in Nevada, the Humboldt River, which has been utilized continuously since the late 1840s for wagon roads, railroads, and highways, is near the Ruby Mountains District. This travel corridor is, in part, the reason for the continued livelihood of towns such as Wells, Elko, and Carlin. The town of Lamoille also developed very early and was another route, on the Emigrant Trail, used when grass became scarce along the Humboldt River.

Overland Pass, on the south end of the Ruby Mountains Ranger District, was the route of the ill-fated Donner Party, as well as of the Pony Express and Overland Mail and Stage. The trail is currently being considered by the National Park Service for nomination to the National Historic Trail System.

Leonard Wines Stage Lines, and others, ran daily from Elko to Hamilton, which was in the White Pine Mining District on the current Ely Ranger District. This old road runs along the west side of the Ruby Mountains through Huntington Valley.

The Ruby Mountains region was the first to be impacted by trappers, explorers, emigrants, settlers, and the military in northeastern Nevada. Some of the highest density of ranches in the state of Nevada occurs surrounding the Ruby Mountains Ranger District. Residents include descendants of Mormon pioneers who were sent to settle the area by Brigham Young, as well as descendants of people who

developed stagecoach way-stations and ranches beginning possibly as early as the 1850s. Still others may be descendants of those who occupied Forts Ruby and Halleck.

Camp Ruby, established in 1862 at the south end of Ruby Valley, was constructed to protect the mail and stage route, which traversed Overland Pass. This camp or fort was abandoned in 1869 when its troops were moved to Fort Halleck. The last three remaining structures from this historic fort burned in the summer of 1992.

Fort Halleck, one of the more important military establishments in Nevada and situated on the western flanks of the Ruby Mountains, was established in 1867 and abandoned in 1886. The initial purpose of this fort was to protect the workers constructing the Transcontinental Railroad. By the early 1880s, the fort had little usefulness, and the troops were transferred to southern Arizona to aid in the Apache campaign.

In order to make construction of the Transcontinental Railroad financially feasible, the federal government gave the railroad every other section of land within a 20 mile-wide strip on either side of the railroad. This has dramatically affected the lands now within the northern half of the Ranger District, for many sections within the boundary are in private ownership, having been disposed of by the railroad. Even more lands are in private ownership, because the areas on both sides of the Ruby Mountains are fertile and wet and were, therefore, more intensively settled in the mid to late 1800s. Approximately 65,000 acres of private land are interspersed within the Ranger District boundary.

Both Ruby and Clover Valleys have seen a large number of ranches develop. The Central Overland Company established a ranch in Ruby Valley in the 1860s to supply their stage company, which employed over 100 people, with food and fodder.

According to Syd Tremewan, the first Humboldt Forest Supervisor, Frank S. Gedney, a rancher from Ruby Valley and an Elko attorney, after talking with Gifford Pinchot and President Roosevelt about the grazing problems in the area, succeeded in getting 90% of the local ranchers and stockmen to sign a petition to have the Ruby Mountains placed in Forest Reserve.

The Ruby Mountain Forest Reserve was the first on the Humboldt National Forest to be set aside on May 3, 1906, although there is some reference in the historical files that the Reserve was first withdrawn from general federal management on March 29, 1904, in a temporary status. Nevertheless, the Reserve, which became Forest in 1907, was merged with the Independence to form the Humboldt on July 1, 1908. On June 19, 1912, the District was again separated out into the Ruby National Forest and remained as such until July 1, 1917, when it was again combined with the Humboldt.

In the early years the District was divided between the Ruby Ranger District and the Jakes (Jiggs?) Ranger District. In 1922 these were combined to form the Ruby Ranger District, renamed the Lamoille Ranger District in 1957, which continued managing the complete District until 1959 when it was divided between the Lamoille and Wells Ranger Districts.

The Lamoille District controlled the west side of the Ruby Mountains from Secret Pass on the north to Overland Pass on the south. The Wells District controlled the west side from Secret Pass to Wells and all of the east side of the mountains to Overland Pass. On February 20, 1975, the two Districts were consolidated by the Forest Supervisor to form the present Ruby Mountains Ranger District. No Rangers have been stationed at Lamoille since 1975.

There is an interesting story about this consolidation. In the early 1970s, many Ranger Districts and even Forests were consolidated to save money. In 1975, plans were made by the Forest Supervisor to abolish the Wells Ranger District. At the time of the announcement, politicians in Wells immediately notified Nevada's congressmen in Washington. By the next morning, the congressmen had received agreements from the Chief and the Regional Forester to direct the Forest Supervisor to close the Lamoille District instead of Wells. The truth of this story is not validated, and the only truth we know is that the consolidation created the single Ruby Mountains Ranger District, headquartered in Wells.

The Ruby Mountains Ranger District was plagued with the same overstocking and tramp sheep problems as the other Districts on the Forest. In addition, there were wild horse herds that competed for available resources. Ranger August Rohwer, first working out of his home near Pole Creek and then from the Ruby Guard Station near the abandoned town of Ruby City, spent a considerable amount of his time on problems of overstocking of cows, sheep and horses. Wild horse herds still roam the southern portion of the Ruby Mountains in the vicinity of Cherry Springs and Overland Pass.

The "Rubies" contain a myriad of trails. August "Monte" Rohwer, son of Ranger August Rohwer, was hired as a horse packer about 1924 to deliver supplies to the trail crews. According to Monte, the sole purpose of the trails was to monitor livestock use. Since that time, the trail along the crest of the Ruby Mountains has become the Ruby Crest National Recreation Trail, and its use in monitoring livestock has all but disappeared.

In 1913, a hydroelectric plant was constructed near the mouth of Lamoille Canyon at the site of the Powerhouse Picnic Area. This hydroelectric plant furnished power to Lamoille and to Elko for many years but was abandoned in late 1971 after a fire destroyed the power generating plant. The flume to this plant is visible along the north canyon wall above the Lamoille Canyon road extending from the vicinity of the Lions Camp to the Powerhouse Picnic Area. The only small hydroelectric plant found in Nevada still exists on Trout Creek on the north end of the East Humboldt Range. This functioning plant, constructed in 1927, originally supplied all the power to the town of Wells and surrounding areas.

Residents of Elko and Lamoille petitioned the Humboldt National Forest in the early 1920s to construct a road into Lamoille Canyon. No progress was made to this end until the late 1930s when the Lamoille CCC camp constructed a road and campgrounds. The road was widened and paved in the early 1960s.

The Civilian Conservation Corps was active on this District building roads, fences, and campgrounds, fighting fires as well as Mormon Crickets, and constructing numerous Forest facilities. The Lamoille Guard Station, formerly the Ruby and Lamoille Ranger District Office, was constructed and landscaped by the CCC in the mid to late 1930s. The Lamoille Guard Station is one of the most picturesque on the Forest, if not in all of Nevada. They also constructed a Guard Station at the Terraces in Lamoille Canyon and another in Clover Valley. The Terraces structures were removed, probably because of avalanche danger, and the house is now at the Supervisor's Compound in Elko. The building from Clover Station was moved to Ruby Guard Station.

The Lions Camp, formerly Camp Lamoille, a youth organization camp, was constructed in the 1940s with funds donated by Max C. Fleischmann of yeast and brewery fortune. It has been used by Boy Scouts, church groups, 4-H Clubs, and others. Currently it is administered under special use permit to the Lions Club.

Numerous streams on the Ruby Mountains District support Lahontan Cutthroat Trout, a threatened species. Bighorn sheep were reintroduced to the District in the late 1980s, their population having been decimated by disease from domestic livestock before 1920. Until the late 1880s there were a few black bears found on the East Humboldt Mountains. Antelope were considerably more plentiful than deer until after the creation of the Forest. Rocky Mountain goats and Himalayan snow partridges, exotic species, have been introduced.

Because of the unexcelled beauty of the Ruby Mountains, the Ruby Mountain Scenic Area was established on January 19, 1965. The scenic area covered 40,720 acres in the heart of the Ruby Mountains from Ruby Dome and Verdi Peak on the north to the heads of Long Canyon and Mayhew Creek on the south.

On December 15, 1989, the Nevada Wilderness Bill created the East Humboldt Wilderness of 36,900 acres and the Ruby Mountain Wilderness of 90,000 acres. These two areas account for approximately 33% of the Ranger District. The unparalleled hiking in the Wilderness areas, as well as campgrounds and easy access in Lamoille Canyon, makes the Ruby Mountains Ranger District the most heavily used recreation area on the Forest.

The road through Lamoille Canyon has been included as a Scenic Byway in the National Forest Systems.

D-3, JARBIDGE DISTRICT

Jarbridge is an anglicization of a Shoshoni word. Legend has it that a man-eating monster lives in Jarbridge Canyon and that the Paiute and Shoshoni did not enter the canyon for fear of their lives. Syd Tremewan, first Humboldt Forest Supervisor, said that an Indian woman told him that her father's father and several others had chased the Devil from the Owyhee River, across the Bruneau and into Jarbridge Canyon, where they walled him up in a cave. There are innumerable prehistoric and historic sites in the area which, while not destroying the legend, do indicate that the area was used by Indians.

The early history of the Jarbridge District is related primarily to the livestock and mining industries. The earliest livestock men ran cattle. The Diamond A Desert was named from the brand worn by the first cattle to use this area, while O'Neil Basin was named for the O'Neil brothers who were the first white settlers in that area.

What is now the Mahoney Ranger Station was first used as a sheep base camp by the Williams Estate Co. A cabin was constructed there in 1892 and was occupied by Bill Mahoney, an employee of the company. Mahoney and his Indian wife diverted water from Cottonwood Springs and raised most of the produce used by their shepherders. The present cabin at Mahoney is partially that of the original.

Kitty's Hot Hole was first settled by the Wilkins family. Upon the retirement of Mr. Wilkins, his only daughter Kitty took on the role of raising horses and had large horse contracts with the army. Her fame at raising horses grew, and Kitty became known as "the Horse Queen of Idaho." The hot hole is now named Murphy's Hot Hole after its second owner Pat Murphy.

A portion of the District was included in the creation of the Independence Forest Reserve on November 5, 1906. On January 20, 1909, Owyhee (on the Mountain City District), Mary's River, and Pole Creek

were added to the Forest, and at that time, the Jarbidge Ranger District split to become the Pole Creek and the Jarbidge Districts. These were numbered Districts 9 and 7, respectively. On June 19, 1912, Elk Mountain was added to the District; and Rowland, Diamond A, and Charleston were deleted from the Forest. Elk Mountain during that time was separated from the Pole Creek District by a two-mile strip that was utilized as a livestock driveline. The Pole Creek bench was added to the District on June 12, 1919, which closed the driveline. In the same year, the Jarbidge, Pole Creek, and Elk Mountain Districts were all combined. The districts remained in that arrangement until the spring of 1940, when Forest Supervisor A. R. Torgerson recommended to the Regional Forester that the Districts be changed, and the Bruneau River was placed in the Gold Creek Ranger District, now Mountain City.

When the Forest Service took over management of the land, much of the area had been overgrazed to the point that some places, such as that around Pole Creek, were considered "dust bowls." A large part of the early Rangers' duties was dividing grazing allotments and counting livestock numbers. This task was not an easy one, as local ranchers considered it a game, rather than an illegal act, to run more stock than was paid for or permitted.

In 1908, Dave Bourne discovered gold in Jarbidge Canyon, and a gold rush ensued. A brief boom saw 1500 miners move into the canyon, living mainly in tents, but a business district with two- and three-story buildings lined the main street and included a restaurant in a house constructed of bottles. Within only a few months, the population had diminished and, thereafter, rarely exceeded a few hundred people.

The townsite was situated on the Forest, and miners built homes on the land through special use permits. By presidential order, on March 8, 1911, the townsite was removed from the Forest, allowing for private ownership of land and for the sale of liquor, which previously had been prohibited on the Forest.

While individual prospectors did poorly, a few large mining companies turned good profits. During 1918 and 1919, the area's gold production led the state in volume. When the mines closed in the 1930s, more than \$10,000,000 had been recovered. Fire leveled most of the business district in 1919. The Elkoro Mill, situated on the east side of town, was intact until 1991 when its owner had it demolished.

Jarbidge claims the dubious but historic distinction of witnessing the last stagecoach robbery in the United States, in 1916. The court case in this incident was also the first to use fingerprints as evidence. Jarbidge continues today as a quaint, historic-looking town that survives as summer homes and a jumping-off point for recreationists in the Jarbidge Wilderness, as well as for hunters and fishermen.

Pavlak, a small town about two miles south of Jarbidge, has all but disappeared. The Pavlak Mill stood at this site with the Bluster Mill a short distance to the south.

According to Karl Wilkinson, Ranger from 1938 until his death in a snow slide in 1941, a major duty of the Ranger between 1911 and 1930 was in managing timber sales. While the timber was not well suited to home construction, it was used in Jarbidge not only for homes and businesses but extensively for mining timbers. The Jarbidge District planted a few trees in various areas, and a few ponderosa pines planted in 1932 in the vicinity of the Jarbidge cemetery are now beginning to mature.

Prior to the 1920s, there were few deer in the Jarbidge area or, for that matter, on the entire Forest. There were many antelope and some bighorn sheep still to be found in the high country, but only one elk was reported in the Elk Mountain area. These animals disappeared after about 1920. In 1989, elk were

reintroduced into the Robinson Hole area on the north end of the District. Recently a few moose and an occasional bear have been seen on the District.

In 1956, Ranger Thomas Phillips and Supervisor Torgerson proposed that an area encompassing the headwaters of the East Fork of the Jarbidge River and Mary's River be set aside and maintained in a near natural condition. Accordingly, the Chief of the Forest Service signed a proclamation creating the Jarbidge Wild Area in 1958. This 64,667-acre area became the Jarbidge Wilderness on April 9, 1964. It remained Nevada's only Wilderness until others were added on December 5, 1989. With additions in 1989, the Jarbidge Wilderness now comprises an area of 113,167 acres or approximately 47% of the District. For this reason, outdoor recreation is an important aspect of the District.

D-4, ELY DISTRICT

Containing nearly half the acreage of the Humboldt National Forest, the Ely Ranger District has a tremendous degree of cultural and biological diversity. Prehistoric use of the District was intensive, and an abundance of prehistoric sites is found throughout. A prehistoric wickiup site called the Bustos Wickiups, located near Currant Mountain, has been excavated and a report published. It is believed that there are other wickiup sites and camps as well as prehistoric, game hunting traps and corrals. There is urgency in the need to record sites constructed of wood, as wood is perishable and decomposes upon exposure to the elements or is subject to destruction by fire.

In the 1920s, archaeologists from the Southwest Museum in Los Angeles spent a considerable amount of time excavating caves on Mount Moriah and Wheeler Peak, as some of the oldest known prehistoric sites in Nevada occur in this area.

While a number of the caves did yield prehistoric, Native American resources, it was discovered that some also had outstanding cave formations. Lehman Caves National Monument, carved out of the Nevada National Forest on Wheeler Peak on January 24, 1922, also contained traces of prehistoric habitation near the cave entrance.

The Ely Colony, established in 1931, and the Duckwater Reservation, established in 1940, are situated near or adjoining the District. Residents utilize the District for procurement of natural resources, such as medicinal plants, game, and pine nuts. These Native American groups also maintain religious and secular sites within the District.

Prior to the establishment of the Forest, the Ely Ranger District was heavily impacted in the 19th Century by mining activity on several of its mountain ranges. In the early development of mining in Nevada, towns accompanied all of the mines, as transportation was too slow to allow the miners to commute; therefore, a plethora of mining ghost towns are found on the District. The White Pine Mining District, from which White Pine County is named, developed in 1868 into the shortest-lived, most intensive, mining boom in North American history. A dozen towns developed within this mining district, and all are situated within the boundaries of the Ely Ranger District. These towns, which accounted for roughly half to three-quarters of the entire population of Nevada in 1869, included Hamilton, Treasure City, Shermantown, Eberhardt, Swansea, White Pine City, Babylon, Menken, Greenville, Pocotillo, and Monte Cristo.

Other ghost towns and mining camps situated on or close to the Ranger District include Seligman, Schellbourne, Siegel, Aurum, Ruby Hill, Muncy, Piermont, Steptoe City, Taylor, Osceola, Black Horse, Minerva, Troy, Grant City, Central City, Willow Creek, Troy, Nyala, and Adaven. A few of these early towns are now ranch headquarters. Ecotourism and exploration of these historic sites on the Ely Ranger District remain important recreational foci.

What is currently the Ely District became the Nevada National Forest on February 10, 1909. Other Forest Reserves created about the same time as the Nevada National played a confusing role in the Forest. In the fall of 1906, the Charleston Forest was created, and the Vegas Forest was created in the fall of the following year. In July of 1908, these two Forests were combined to form the Moapa National Forest. In July of 1915, the Moapa was moved to the Toiyabe, and the following year it was removed from the Toiyabe to become a part of the Dixie. In June of 1932, the Toiyabe was transferred to the Nevada National Forest, abolishing the Toiyabe. In April of 1937, the Moapa was merged with the Nevada National Forest. On May 9, 1938, the Toiyabe (including those parts of the Moapa near Las Vegas) was re-created, removed from the Nevada National Forest, and merged with the Santa Rosa District of the Humboldt to form the Toiyabe.

The Nevada National Forest was merged with the Humboldt on October 1, 1957. Through 1957, the Nevada National Forest maintained three Districts: the White Pine, the Ely, and the Baker. The Baker District was abolished at the time of the consolidation of the Nevada and the Humboldt; however, a crew continued to utilize the Baker Ranger Station until Great Basin National Park was created in 1986. At this time, the land on which the Baker Ranger Station was located was returned to its original owner, the Bureau of Land Management, who, in turn, handed ownership over to the National Park Service. As its buildings were constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps, this compound is in the process of being evaluated by the Park Service for historic significance.

When the Nevada National Forest was merged with the Humboldt, the Ely and White Pine Ranger Districts remained. The Ely District managed Wheeler Peak, Mt. Moriah, and the Schell Creek Range. The White Pine Ranger District managed the White Pine Range, Ward Mountain, and the Quinn Division. These two Districts finally were combined in 1980 into the present Ely Ranger District.

When the Forest was established in Ely, like the Districts to the north, grazing was the important issue. In the history files in the Forest Supervisor's Office are letters to the Forest from early-day ranchers discussing the poor range conditions and the benefits they saw of Forest Service management of federal lands.

In a newly published biography of Archie Murchie entitled *The Free Life of a Ranger*, Murchie discusses the problems he had gaining control of livestock overgrazing on the Nevada National Forest. While the early ranchers supported the Forest Service takeover, by the 1940s and 1950s many ranchers had become resentful of Forest Service intervention and began to pay little attention to Forest Service grazing requirements. Murchie spent a great portion of his time counting sheep and tracking livestock overuse in a rather adversarial atmosphere.

During the 1930s and early 1940s, the Nevada National Forest played host to the Civilian Conservation Corps. CCC camps in the Berry Creek and Moorman Ranch areas hosted hundreds of young men as they constructed various range and recreation projects on the Forest and elsewhere. Some of the lasting

projects include the Berry Creek road and numerous Forest Service facilities, such as the offices at Ely and Berry Creek, and the Ellison and Baker Guard Stations.

Past the first half of the 20th Century, the economy of White Pine County and particularly Ely was largely intertwined with the mining industry and Kennecott Copper Company. Many of Ely's city fathers, as well as state politicians, were aware that when Kennecott abandoned Ely, the economy would collapse. To promote tourism, therefore, every few years beginning in the mid-1950s Wheeler Peak was proposed as a National Park.

The Forest Service, according to Archie Murchie, subversively opposed the National Park Service, rallying the area's ranchers to oppose the Park. There are letters dating to the 1960s in the historic files from Sierra Club members decrying the Forest's construction of a road and campground near the top of Wheeler Peak as an attempt to destroy Wilderness character and make the area unsuitable as a National Park. The Forest also underwent considerable attack during this same time period for allowing a researcher to cut down a 4,900-year-old bristlecone pine for study. Ultimately, however, 77,000 acre, Great Basin National Park was created on October 27, 1986, surrounding Wheeler Peak. The road and campground are now an integral part of the Park's facilities.

Remnant bighorn sheep herds are still found on the south end of the Ely District on the Grant and Quinn Ranges. Deer populations began to flourish after 1900 and were overpopulated by the 1940s until doe tags were finally offered, reducing herd sizes. Elk were reintroduced in 1935 in the vicinity of Connors Pass and have expanded throughout much of the Schell Creek and Egan Ranges and are now moving onto the White Pine Range. The elk herd has become the largest in the state.

On December 5, 1989, four Wilderness Areas on the Ely Ranger District were created by Congress. These include the Grant Range, Quinn Canyon, Mount Moriah and Currant Mountain Wilderness Areas, totaling approximately 195,000 acres, or 18% of the Ely Ranger District.

Pinyon pine trees are more common on this District than anywhere else on the Humboldt National Forest, and the Native American populations, as well as others, continue the tradition of harvesting these trees' seasonal crop of pine nuts. Native American communities also continue to use certain areas on the Ely District for traditional religious and revitalization purposes.

D-5, SANTA ROSA DISTRICT

Little is known of the prehistoric occupations on the Santa Rosa Ranger District. There are large, petroglyph sites as well as large, obsidian sources that were utilized by the aboriginal inhabitants for making stone tools. cursory observations suggest that prehistoric sites may be immense. Indian occupation of the area when Anglo settlers first entered was Paiute.

The first Anglo settlements surrounding the District were in Paradise Valley in the mid-1860s. Settlers discovered that food crops could be grown in these relatively low, well-watered elevations. With protection from the Paiute by military forts, the town of Paradise flourished. Mining in nearby areas, such as Spring City and Bullion, helped maintain the population.

Two additional mining districts developed after the turn of the century. National, on the northwest end of the Santa Rosa Range, began operations around 1907. The discoverer of the ore body, J. L.

Workman, named this mine after his automobile, a National. National was Nevada's top gold producer for a few years. Little remains of this mining district except for some collapsed buildings, a mill site, and an abundance of mining adits. The Buckskin Mines developed in the 1920s and continued into the 1930s when the mill was destroyed by fire. Mill foundations and some buildings remain, as well as hazardous waste tailings. A house and assay office for the Buckskin Mine currently are considered important historic sites.

Paradise was along the stage road from the mines on the Comstock. From Paradise, the road traversed along the East Fork of the Quinn River, across the Owyhee Desert, to Boise City. Paradise also acquired a sizeable, Chinese population after these laborers had completed construction of the Transcontinental Railroad and moved into the farming and mining industries.

Two military forts were established in the vicinity of what is now the Forest to protect the settlers and the stage lines. The Quinn River Camp of 1865, which became Fort McDermitt in 1866, was located near the north end of the Ranger District. Fort McDermitt continued until 1889 when it was transferred to the Department of the Interior to become Fort McDermitt Indian Reservation. Fort Winfield Scott, in Paradise Valley, near the south end of the District, was established in 1866 and abandoned early in 1871. Fort Winfield Scott remains a private ranch with a number of original buildings still standing.

The current Santa Rosa Ranger District was originally established on April 1, 1911, by Proclamation 1120 as the Santa Rosa National Forest. The people on the Santa Rosas must have gone through something of an identity crisis, as the administration of the District changed frequently. In July of 1917, the Santa Rosa National Forest was combined with the Humboldt. In the spring of 1938, the District was transferred to the Toiyabe. Then in 1951, the Santa Rosa was transferred back to the Humboldt, where it remains today.

When the District was first established as the Santa Rosa National Forest, there were three Ranger Districts set up. District 1 was at the north end of the Santa Rosa Range and included the area north from Threemile, Buckskin Mountain and the North Fork of the Little Humboldt, to the Oregon state line. Ranger Frank Border lived year-round in a tent with his family on Eightmile Creek near the UC Ranch. District 2 consisted of the west slope of the Santa Rosa Mountains south from Threemile. The Ranger Station was located at Rebel Creek. District 3 consisted of Martin Basin and the Paradise Valley side of the mountain. Operations on this District were directed from the Supervisor's Office at Paradise and the Lamance station. Ranger Paul Travis lived and worked from his homestead on Lamance Creek and became District Ranger when all three were consolidated. He remained in that capacity until his retirement in 1942 or 1943.

When the Forest Service took over management of the Santa Rosa Mountains in 1911, the primary activity in the area was livestock grazing. As a result, there are many historic ranch complexes surrounding the Ranger District, and a large amount of private lands abut the District, particularly on the south end.

The history of the Santa Rosa Ranger District includes, as an important aspect, the valuable work accomplished by the Civilian Conservation Corps. Having a base camp in Paradise Valley as well as a spike camp at Martin Creek, the CCC, from 1933 through 1941, constructed a number of important facilities, reservoirs, roads, and trails. The Paradise Ranger Station, built in the late 1930s, remains today much as it was constructed. The CCC also constructed some of the buildings at Martin Creek

Guard Station. The Humboldt National Forest currently is in the planning stages of nominating this compound to the National Register of Historic Places. In addition, the road to Hinkey Summit was widened and improved by the CCC, and a number of horse trails on the Santa Rosa Range were built.

Five CCC men were killed while fighting a range fire on the west side of the Santa Rosas. A monument to these men was erected near Orovada.

The Santa Rosa Range is home to a herd of bighorn sheep, and there are trophy fishery streams, such as the East Fork of the Quinn River, which contains Lahontan Cutthroat Trout. The Quinn currently is being rehabilitated to improve fish habitat.

On December 5, 1989, the Santa Rosa Peak-Paradise Peak Wilderness was created, and 31,000 acres of the District are now part of an increasing amount of Wilderness in the National Forest Systems. While only a little over 11% of the District, it is an important part of the uplands portion of the Santa Rosa Range.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

- 05/03/06 Ruby Mountains Forest Reserve established from Public Domain by Presidential Proclamation. 34 Stat. 3198.
- 11/05/06 Independence Forest Reserve proclaimed. 34 Stat. 3198 (?).
- 11/05/06 Charleston Forest Reserve proclaimed. 34 Stat. 3252.
- 03/04/07 "Forest Reserves" changed to "National Forests" by Cong. Act. 34 Stat. 1269.
- 07/01/08 Vegas Forest Reserve proclaimed. 35 Stat. 2165.
- 07/01/08 Humboldt NF formed by consolidation of Independence and Ruby Mountains National Forests. E.O. 908.
- 07/01/08 Moapa Forest Reserve proclaimed. E.O. 908.
- 07/01/08 Charleston & Vegas Forests become part of Moapa and names discontinued.
- 07/01/08 Monitor and Toiyabe Ranges added to the Toiyabe National Forest.
- 01/20/09 Owyhee, Bruneau, Marys River, and Pole Creek added to HNF. Proc. 832.
- 02/10/09 Nevada NF proclaimed on the present Ely RD.
- 03/08/11 Jarbidge Townsite deleted from HNF.
- 04/01/11 Santa Rosa NF established. Proclamation 1120.
- 06/19/12 Elk Mtn. added to HNF; Rowland, Diamond A, Charleston deleted. Proclamation 1202.
- 06/19/12 Ruby NF separated from the HNF. HNF remains in the Humboldt & Jarbidge Mountains. Proclamation 1202.
- 04/06/15 Moapa Forest transferred to the Toiyabe and name discontinued.
- 05/10/16 Moapa Division of Toiyabe transferred to Dixie National Forest.
- 07/01/17 Santa Rosa NF, Ruby NF, and Humboldt NF combined as HNF. E.O. 2631.
- 06/12/19 Pole Cr. bench added to HNF. Proc. 1523.
- 06/23/32 Entire Toiyabe Forest added to Nevada National Forest. E.O. 5863. (Discontinued name of Toiyabe Forest.)
- 04/19/37 Transferred the Moapa Division of the Dixie Forest to the Nevada Forest. E.O. 7607.
- 05/09/38 Santa Rosa Div. transferred to Toiyabe NF. Re-established the Toiyabe Forest. E.O. 7884.

- 07/04/41 East Mountain City Townsite transferred from HNF.
- 07/05/51 Santa Rosa Div. transferred back to Humboldt from the Toiyabe. P.L.O. 740.
- 10/01/57 Nevada Forest divided between the Humboldt and Toiyabe Forests. P.L.O. 1487.
- 04/09/58 Jarbidge Wild Area designated.
- 09/03/64 Jarbidge Wilderness established with passage of the Wilderness Act.
- 10/27/86 Great Basin National Park created around Wheeler Peak from 77,109 acres of Ely Ranger District.
- 08/23/86 Ruby Marsh areas (14,757 acres) transferred from BLM to HNF. Actual marshes remain with the Fish & Wildlife Service.
- 12/15/89 Nevada Wilderness Bill creates new Wilderness Areas on the Humboldt.

PERSONNEL

(Includes additions since this was written in 1992.)

Forest Supervisors

Humboldt National Forest, 1908-present

C. S. "Syd" Tremewan	1908-1913
S. B. Arthur	1913-1916
Vernon Metcalf	1916-1917
C. E. Favre	1917-1923
Alexander McQueen	1923-1938
A. Torgerson	1938-1957
Louis Dremolski	1957-1961
W. L. Hansen	1961-1965
Bob Rowen	1965-1970
Vern L. Thompson	1970-1977
John Hafterson	1977-1980
B. J. Graves	1980-1988
John P. Inman	1989-1994
R. M. (Jim) Nelson	1994-1998 (Merger with Toiyabe NF)

Ruby Forest Reserve

Franklin W. Reed	1907
C. N. Woods	1907

Ruby National Forest

James N. Ryan	1915
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Nevada National Forest, 1909-1957

Royal Mathias	1909-
George C. Thompson	1912-1916
Fred L. Mott	1917-1919
Alexander McQueen	1918-1923
C.A. Beam	1923-1931
Chester Olsen	1932-1934
George Larson	1935-1938
A. E. Briggs	1939-1945
John Herbert	1946-1948
John Parker	1949-1952
L.A. Dremolski	1954-1957

Rangers

Mountain City Ranger District, 1908-present

The original D-1 was only a portion of the District with Headquarters at Jacks Creek Ranger Station. 1930s: D-1 & D-2 combined making the Sometime in the Independence District. Later its name was changed to Mountain City District.

Jarvis & Chas. Keas	
H. W. Naylor	
C. E. Butler	
_____ Schulze	
Warren C. Taylor	1918
L. E. McKenzie	1921-1924
W. B. Hamlin	1925-1927
Q. D. Hansen	1939-1940
Ben R. Stahmann	1940-1943
T. E. Brierley	1943-1946
R. C. Kuehner	1946-1953
D. M. Gaufin	1952-1954
C. D. Ross	1954-1958
F. G. Beitia	1958-1961
Steve Scott	
Jim Lawrence	
Lewis Campbell	1973
Dave Kimpton	
George Martinez	
Jack Carlson	1988-1994
Scott Bell	1994-Present

Ruby Ranger District, 1915-1957

James N. Ryan	1915-1918
August Rohwer	1918-1922
August Rohwer	1922-1929
Lewis E. McKenzie	1931-1938
Tom Brierley	1951
John Kincheloe	1961

Lamoille Ranger District, 1957-1975

John Kincheloe	
Robert Marrow	
Darwin Jensen	1973-1975

Ruby Mountains Ranger District, 1975-present

Val R. Gibbs	1975
Dan Pence	
Dan Baird	-1987

Mound Valley, Jiggs (Jakes) Ranger District, 1915-1922

J. W. Mink	1915-1922
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Wells Ranger District, 1959-1975

Val R. Gibbs	1973-?
Dwight Kimsey	
Glen Bradley, Jr.	1961-1966
Harry Opfar	1968-1969

Mont Lewis	1987
D. Waive Stager	1994-1996
Dave Aicher	1996-200_
Bill Van Bruggen	200_

Jarbidge Ranger District (Pole Creek Portion), 1910-1919

Both Pole Creek and Elk Mountain Dist. trans. to Elko

Fred G. Lancaster	1910
Joe (Doc) Asdale	1910-1916
R.M. Matthews	1916-1919

Jarbidge Ranger District (Jarbidge Portion), 1909-1919

L. L. Lindsay	1909-1916	
Oscar W. Mink	1916-1919	Promoted to Deputy Supervisor in 1919

Present Jarbidge District, 1919-present

Chester J. Olsen	1919-1921	Later became Regional Forester
Thomas J. Wells	1921-1924	In '24 transferred to Gold Ck.
Lewis E. McKenzie	1924-1929	In '29 transferred to Gold Ck.
Thomas J. Wells	1929-1931	
Q. David Hanson	1931-1933	Transferred to Loa, UT
T. Carl Haycock	1933-1938	Transferred to Monroe, UT
Karl J. Wilkinson	1938-1941	Killed on snow survey in 1941
Thomas E. Brierley	1941-1943	Transferred to Jackson, WY
Ulrich H. Zuberbuhler	1943-1946	Transferred to Targhee
Roy C. Kuehner	1946-1947	
William L. Price	1947-1951	Transferred to FBI in Spokane
James D. Butler	1951-1952	Transferred to Mt. Home, ID
Hallie L. Cox	1952-1955	Transferred to Cache NF
Thomas A. Phillips	1955-1957	Transferred to Sawtooth NF
John (Jack) Wilcox	1957-1961	Transferred to Ely Ranger District
Dahl L. Zohner	1961-1965	
Bert Webster	1965	
Robert Easton	1973-1987	
Rod Howard	1987-1992	
D. Waive Stager	1992-1996	
Dave Aicher	1996-200_	
Bill Van Bruggen	200_	

Gold Creek Ranger District, 1907-1971(?)

Became a part of the Mountain City Ranger District in 1971(?).

Archie Bell	
Morris Cress	
_____ Arthur	
W. Naylor	1915-1918
R.M. Matthews	1919-1920

_____ Miller	1921-1923
D.S. Chayman	1923
L. E. McKenzie	1924
Tom Wells	1924-1928
August Rohwer	1929-1949
Wayne Cloward	1950
G. F. Horton	1951-1954
R. H. Scholtz	1955-1956
M. R. King	1958-1959
George Zugger	1959-1961+?
Kenneth Dittmer	1963-1967
Rance Rollins	

White Pine Ranger District, 1909-1980

Charley Thompson	
George Carson	
Jack McGuire	
Alexander McQueen	
George E. Moore	1921-1928
Thomas Windous	1929-1932
George E. Moore	1933-1939
Foyer Olsen	1940-1944
Robert A. Williams	1944-1945
P.M. Reese	1947
Horace Jensen	1951-1952
Jim Butler	1953-1955
Eugene Hoffman	1957-1958
Donnel Ward	1959-1962
William A. Schmeling	1964-1966
Ben Albrechtsen	1967-1972
Garth Baxter	1972-1978
Hank Walters	1978-1980

Baker Ranger District, 1909-1957

Charlie Thompson	
Graham S. Quate	
George Larson	
Sylvan D. Warner	1938
Reed Thompson	1945
M. I. Bishop	1951
Les Flukerger	
George Fry	

Santa Rosa Ranger District, 1911-Present

W.W. Blakeslee	Santa Rosa Forest Supervisor
Frank Border	Ranger on D-1

Ely Ranger District, 1909-Present

George Larson	
D. B. Bailey	
Barney McNulty	
James Cahill	
Ben Stahmann	1938-1939
Q. David Hansen	1941-1943
Foyer Olsen	1944-1947
Archie Murchie	1947-1959
Don Cox	1960-1966
John Glenn	1966-1969
John "Jack" Wilcox	1970-1984
Rene "Paul" Demeule	1984-1992
Jerry Green	1992-2002
Patricia Irwin	2002-Present

Paul Travis	1914-1943	Lived at Lamance since beg. of R.D. until retiring in 1943
_____ Herrell	1915	
_____ Kalbaugh	1915	
L. E. McKenzie		
S.R. Justice		
Wayne J. Cloward		
Gerald F. Horton	1955-1956	
Eugene Hoffman	1957-1961	
John (Jack) Wilcox	1961-1970	
Louis Beardall	1972-1974	
Norman Huntsman	1974-1978	
Don Petersen	1978-1981	
Marvin Turner	1981-1989	
Scott Bell	1990-200_	
Jose Noriega	200_	