

## **AMENDMENT NUMBER 7**

### **HUMBOLDT NATIONAL FOREST LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

The Humboldt National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan was approved on August 19, 1986. Changes affecting the Humboldt National Forest since that time have required periodic amendments to the Forest Plan to keep it current. This amendment pertains to the designation of five new Research Natural Areas (RNAs) within the Forest. On November 23, 1998, Regional Forester Jack Blackwell made a decision to designate these five areas as RNAs. This amendment will also replace RNA changes contained in Amendment Number I and replace in its entirety Amendment Number 6.

#### **CHANGE #1**

Chapter H, Section E., Subsection 2.c., Research Natural Areas (page 11-29): Replace with the following:

“The Forest has at the present time eight designated research natural areas. These are:

White Pine Peak - This area, approximately 787 acres, is located in portions of sections 28, 29, 32 and 33, T.12N., R.58E., MDBM. This RNA is in Nye County on the Ely Ranger District. The principal feature of this area is a “native rangeland” plant community in nearly pristine condition.

Fall Creek - This area, approximately 4410 acres, is located in portions of sections 19, 20, and 29-32, T.46N., R.59E.; sections 24-26, 35 and 36, T.46N., R.58E.; sections 1, 2 and 12, T.45N., R.5 SE.; and section 6, T.45N., R.59E., MDBM. This RNA is in Elko County on the Jarbidge Ranger District. The principal features of this area are zones of alpine, montane forest and sagebrush steppe communities. This RNA replaces the proposed Jack Creek RNA which has been dropped from consideration.

Troy Peak - This area, approximately 2500 acres, is located in portions of sections 29-32, T.6N., R.58E.; sections 5-8 and 18 T.5N., R.58E.; and sections 1 and 12-14, T.4N., R.57E.; MDBM. This RNA is in Nye County on the Ely Ranger District. The principal features of this area are stands of bristlecone pine, limber pine and white fir. The area is also critical summer range for a herd of desert bighorn sheep.

Pearl Peak-This area, approximately 665 acres, is located in portions of sections 3,49 and 10, T.27N., R.57E., MDBM. This RNA is in Elko County on the Ruby Mountains Ranger District. The principal features of this area include bristlecone/limber pine woodlands and sagebrush-grass communities.

Sietz Canyon/Echo Lake - This area, approximately 2039 acres, is located in portions of sections 19-21,28-30,32 and 33, T.32N., R.58E., MDBM. This RNA is in Elko County on the Ruby Mountains Ranger District. The principal features of this area are glaciated

mountain landforms that include excellent examples of upper elevation riparian communities.

Hole in the Mountain - This area, approximately 1676 acres, is located in portions of sections 58, 17 and 18, T.35N., R.6 1 E.; section 32, T.36N., R.6 I E., MDBM. This RNA is in Elko County on the Ruby Mountains Ranger District. The principal features of this area are subalpine to alpine communities.

Mount Moriah - This area, approximately 876 acres, is located in portions of sections 34-36, T.17N., R.69E.; sections 1-3, T.16N., R.69E., MDBM. This RNA is in White Pine County on the Ely Ranger District. The principal feature of this area is the table top landform at 10,000 feet elevation with subalpine steppe habitat.

North-South Schell Peaks - This area, approximately 4021 acres, is located in portions of sections 19,24 and 36, T.18N., R.65E.; sections 1, 12, 13, and 24 T.17N., R.65E.; sections 18, 19, 29, 30, 31, 32, T. 1 8N., R.66E.; and sections 6, 7, 8, 17, 18 and 19 T. 1 7N., R.66E. This RNA is in White Pine County on the Ely Ranger District. The principal features of this area are alpine peaks and ridges that harbor a unique alpine plant community.”

## **CHANGE #2**

Table 11-13, Special Land Classification found on page 11-27 will also be replaced to reflect the RNA designations. The New Table is attached.

## **CHANGE #3**

Management Area direction for the Ruby Mountains will be updated to address the designation of the RNA's.

On Page IV- 104 replace the third paragraph with the following:

“At high elevations in the vicinity of Pearl Peak, which has been designated as a research natural Area, there are stands of bristlecone pine which may have value for tree ring studies. Efforts are directed at protecting this area, including keeping it isolated from roads and other improvements.

On page IV-105 replace the third paragraph in the Lands Section with:

“Pearl Peak and Seitz Canyon/Echo Lake RNAs will be managed to protect their ecological values.

On page IV- 109 replace the RNA management direction with the following:

“Protect the Seitz Canyon/Echo Lake and Pearl Peak Research Natural Areas from disturbance.”

#### **CHANGE #4**

Management Area direction for the Ruby Mountains Wilderness Area will be updated to address the designation of the RNA's.

On page 110 replace the last sentence with the following:

“The upper part of Seitz Canyon has been designated as a research natural area.

On page IV-I 11 replace the second paragraph in the Lands Section with:

“Seitz Canyon/Echo Lake RNA will be managed to protect its ecological values.”

On page IV- 112 replace the RNA management direction with the following:

“Protect the Seitz Canyon/Echo Lake Research Natural Area from disturbance.”

#### **CHANGE #5**

Management Area direction for the East Humboldt Area will be updated to address the designation of the RNA's.

On page 116 add the following paragraph to the lands sections:

“The area around Hole in the Mountain Peak has been designated as a research natural area and the area will be managed to protect its unique ecological values.

On page IV-I 18 in the lands section add the following management direction for Research Natural Areas:

“Protect the Hole in the Mountain Research Natural Area from disturbance.”

#### **CHANGE #6**

Management Area direction for the East Humboldt Wilderness Area will be updated to address the designation of the RNA's.

On page IV-120 add the following paragraph to the lands section:

“The area around Hole in the Mountain Peak has been designated as a research natural area and the area will be managed to protect its unique ecological values.

On page IV-121 in the lands section add the following management direction for Research Natural Areas:

“Protect the Hole in the Mountain Research Natural Area from disturbance.”

#### **CHANGE #7**

Management Area direction for the Mount Moriah Wilderness Area will be updated to address the designation of the RNA's.

On page IV-146 add the following paragraph to the lands and facilities section:

“The table area adjacent to Mount Moriah has been designated as a research natural area and the area will be managed to protect its unique ecological values.

On page IV-17 add a lands section and include the following management direction for Research Natural Areas:

“Protect the Mount Moriah Research Natural Area from disturbance.”

#### **CHANGE #8**

Management Area direction for the Schell Management Area will be updated to address the designation of the RNA's.

On page IV- 150 add the following paragraph to the lands management prescription:

“The area around North and South Schell Peaks has been designated as a research natural area and the area will be managed to protect its unique ecological values.

On page IV- 155 under the lands section add the following management direction for Research Natural Areas:

“Protect the North-South Schell Peaks Research Natural Area from disturbance.”