United States Department of Agriculture
Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest

Spring Mountain National Recreation Area

SNPLMA Round 16
Capital Improvement Program

Mountain Springs Public Contact and Natural Resource Protection Facility

Project location
N 36° 1’ 34. 1.74”
W 115° 30’ 11.27”

Amount Requested $7,443,500

Project Manager: Donn Christiansen
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4701 North Torrey Pines Dr.
Las Vegas, NV 89130
(702) 3515-4558

Nomination reviewed and approved by: /s/ April 29, 2016

Jack L. Isaacs
Deputy Forest Supervisor

Date

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Executive Summary

The Forest Service is requesting funding for the planning and construction of a Public Contact and Natural Resource Protection Facility in Mountain Springs, NV. The only presence the Forest Service currently has on the west side of the Spring Mountains is a fire station that consists of a 6'x9' Tuff Shed located behind the Clark County Volunteer Fire Station. This site provides minimal secure storage and workspace for vehicles, equipment, and personnel. The existing facility does not meet the needs of the public or our employees, does not provide for effective public contact, resource protection, and does not contribute to operational effectiveness and efficiency. The current usage and future growth of this area creates the need to develop a permanent facility with the capacity to provide public contact opportunities, fire and public safety presence, staging area for programs and projects on the west side of the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area. The facility will provide cooperating agencies and the public a modern all-hazard and public education focused operation. Based on the growing population in the area there is demand for both developed and dispersed recreation use, increased risk to the natural resources, expansion of Hwy 160 corridor and the threat of wildfires and other hazardous conditions.

The new facility would provide space for secure equipment storage and maintenance, office, and living space for the current employees, a law enforcement officer, and temporary fire resources. A helicopter-landing pad with a 10,000-gallon water tank at the site would also aid our local interagency helicopter operation. This strategically located facility would have the effect of increasing our response capabilities to fire and law enforcement issues on the Southern and Western portions of the Spring Mountain Range and would promote opportunities for educational outreach to the public.

Additionally, the facility would provide for an integrated approach with Clark County Fire and Rescue, Mountain Springs Volunteer Fire Department, Metro Police and the Community of Mountain Springs for a full-service public contact focus. This proposal would combine resources and operations of these Agencies and the Community to reduce duplication, provide for greater usage of facility by interagency agreements, public meeting space and availability for partners and stakeholders to utilize the facilities to stage natural resource education, training and operations more efficiently and effectively on the southern and western side of the SMNRA.

Purpose and Need

Recreation use on the west side of the Spring Mountains has increased significantly with the population growth in Pahrump and southwest Las Vegas over the past 15 years. There is no infrastructure or facilities to provide timely pro-active resource management and recreation information to visitors on the southwest side. Resource damage has increased significantly due to a lack presence and an adequate site where visitors can meet and talk with Forest Service personnel on recreation opportunities on the west side of the Spring Mountains. Recreation information, fire restrictions, and resource information is only available on the woefully inadequate information board (figure 4.) on the side of the Clark County volunteer fire station. If visitors require additional information or maps for camping, they must walk around the fire station, through the tool work area to one of the two Tuff Sheds, and hope that Forest Service personnel are there with the appropriate information.

The existing facilities are grossly inadequate to be responsive to visitor expectations and dissemination of recreation opportunities in the area. Public meetings and presentation of environmental education programs in Mountain Springs, requires moving the fire engines out of the County engine bays. Public contact space is non-existent. The current information and resource information display is woefully inadequate. Visitors must navigate the rear of the County fire station to find a Forest Service employee if they have questions. The current facilities are ADA/ABA non-compliant. There is no space to store or park Forest Service vehicles and equipment out of the elements.

Recreation staff, law enforcement rangers, and fire crew all work out of two Tuff Sheds that were not intended to be used as office space, are not accessible, and are not secure.

In the near future, the Nevada Department of Transportation will widen Highway 160 and the Volunteer Fire Station and Forest Service space will have to be moved to accommodate the road widening. There are not adequate facilities in the area within which the Forest Service can relocate.

The current 5 person Engine Crew and Fire Prevention Technician are working out of a 6 foot by 9foot Tuff Shed behind the Clark County Volunteer Fire Station (Figure 1). The Engine Captain and Fire Prevention Technician have desks in the Tuff Shed. The remaining 4 crewmembers work outside or in the Clark County Volunteer Fire Station where they move a Clark County Fire vehicle out of its bay and work there. This facility provides no secure facility to store and maintain the fire engine or prevention vehicle, minimal storage for equipment, and the workbenches for the crew to use when maintaining fire equipment is outside. There is no conference room from which to conduct trainings and meetings, provide public outreach and education, develop volunteer opportunities and provide for future growth issues related to recreation, natural resource programs and prevention/suppression activities.

We also currently lack office space that is strategically located near the Westside of the Spring Mountain Range. A USFS Law Enforcement Officer stationed at this location will better serve the public and will increase the efficiency and effectiveness of our law enforcement team.

Additionally, government-housing facilities on site would allow us to recruit a wider applicant pool by providing a low-cost housing option for employees.

This facility also provides integrated operational ability for Clark County Fire and Rescue, Metro Police Department and the Mountain Springs Community. This facility would be a focal point for Public Contact and Natural Resource and Recreation Programs on the Southern and Westside of the Spring Mountains and decrease response times for critical incidents. As evidenced by the Carpenter 1 Fire in 2013 the lack of available resources and air support in close proximity to fires starting in this area contributes to catastrophic wildfires. The ability to provide a helipad and water source not only provides for fire suppression support but also any other emergency medical services response.

The development of a facility that enables outreach activities to surrounding communities to be locally based and available for community meetings and activities to better educate the public and enable local citizens to take ownership of public lands in their area.

The ability to provide a work center for staging other natural resource project operations creates a more efficient and effective strategy for all integrated programs and enables volunteers and partners to better serve the public and care for the land. It often takes over 2 hours to reach some of the Westside areas which only leaves 4 hours in a normal day to perform work. When crews can begin at this facility they are able to increase productivity and create a more sustainable operation.

Proposal

This proposal includes NEPA, planning and implementation for the construction and outfitting of the public contact facility and natural resource protection facility on the Spring Mountain National Recreation Area, which is a part of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest. This facility would be located near the community of Mountain Springs, which is approximately 25 miles southwest (36 by road) from the main Spring Mountain NRA offices in northern Las Vegas (Figure 2).

The project scope will include:

- Public contact desk to provide visitor information.
- Outside information kiosks with area maps, recreation information, etc.
- Vehicle/engine bays with “pull through” bays that will accommodate 1-2 heavy fire engines, 1 light fire engine, and 1 law enforcement vehicle.
- Equipment storage/workshop area.
- Office space for fire, law enforcement and natural resource personnel.

- A training/meeting/conference room available for public meetings, education, and outreach use.
- A workout room.
- Barracks facilities large enough to accommodate 10 people. This will house the station's crew and any additional resources assigned to the area.
- A paved and lighted helicopter pad for use by fire suppression helicopters and for night operations by Emergency Medical helicopters and a 10,000-gallon Heliwell to be used exclusively for fire suppression.
- Paved access road and yard, power, communications, water, and septic systems infrastructure.
- Bulk fuel tanks for fueling of agency vehicles.
- Parking lot for visitors/meeting attendees.
- Parking shade structures with solar panels.

How to Determine When the Project is Complete

This project will be complete when the construction of the facility is complete, final invoices have been paid, the contractor has provided a lien release, and the Forest Service has taken possession of the facilities and the new facility is operational.

Funding Request

The requested project funding to complete planning and implementation is $7,443,500 (see the Estimated Necessary Expenses and detail estimated work sheets below.)

The facility will house a five person Engine Crew, one Fire Prevention Technician, one Law Enforcement Officer, and any additional resources on temporary assignment to the area. This facility would be approximately 10,000 square feet and would be similar to other SNPLMA funded fire station construction projects such as the BLM Logandale Fire Station (Figure 3). The station would include

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Capital Improvement Project Proposal
Estimated Necessary Expenses

Project Name:	Mountain Springs Public Contact & Natural Resource	Date:	4/8/2016
Agency:	USDA Forest Service Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest		
Project #:		Priority #	
Prepared by:	Peter Fleischmann		
Phone #	775-352-1272		%

1	**Planning, Environmental Compliance & Preconstruction Engineering and Design** ***(Not to exceed 27% of total project costs)****	$1,281,000	17.2%
	(pre-design sketches and conceptual drawings; environmental assessment and permitting, specialist surveys/reports for archaeology, wildlife, biology, etc.; architectural and engineering analysis, design survey & field investigations; construction drawing, specifications, cost estimates, and engineering technical reports.)		
2	**Construction Contract Costs**	$5,200,400	69.9%
	(including labor, supplies & materials, construction management, etc.; sampling/testing; site restoration; and government furnished supplies and materials.		
3	**Project Equipment**	$0	
	(pg. 89 of the Implementation Agreement) SNPLMA funds can only be used for "project related necessary expenses" and SNPLMA can reimburse only for those equipment costs directly associated with completion of the approved project. Does not include office furnishings or equipment necessary for operations or maintenance of the project).		
4	**Travel**	$184,000	2.5%
	(including per diem where official travel status is required to carry out the project, such as to serve as COR, experts to review reports, etc.)		
5	**Official Vehicle Use**	$31,300	0.4%
	(pro rata cost for use of Official Vehicles when required to carry out the project)		
6	**Other Direct and Contracted Labor**	$540,000	7.3%
	Agency payroll for the Contracting Officer to do project procurements, COR Project Inspector, Section 106 Consultation, NEPA Lead, Project Manager, Project Supervisor, and subject experts to review contracted surveys, design/drawings, plans, reports, etc.; Also covered is the cost to contract for a Project Manager and/or Project Supervisor if contracted separately from other project costs.		
7	**FWS Consultation - Endangered Species Act**	$8,000	0.1%
8	**Federal Direct Labor** *(direct angency labor for construction, PI, CO, and COR work)*	$0	
9	**Other Necessary Expenses** (See IA Appendix B-3)	$198,800	2.7%
	Total Requested/Estimated Budget	**$7,443,500**	**100.00%**
10	**Total Estimated contributed funds**	$0	
	Total Estimated Project Value (*Requested funding plus contributed funds*)	**$7,443,500**	

General Comments:

1 Estimated costs for Planning, Conceptual Design, Environmental Compliance and Field Work/Surveys, NEPA & Pre-construction Architectural and Engineering Design Services

	Description	Units	Unit of measure	Unit Cost	Est. Cost
Professional Contracts and Services	In-house Landscape Architectural design	50	days	$500	**$25,000**
	in-house Architectural design	120	days	$500	**$60,000**
	in-house Civil design	260	days	$550	**$143,000**
	in-house Electrical design	100	days	$550	**$55,000**
					$0
A&E Services	Topographic Site Survey and Control	1	Job	$30,000	**$32,500**
	Geotechnical investigation and reports	1	Job	$30,000	**$32,500**
	Structural Engineering design	1	Job	$30,000	**$32,500**
	Mechanical design	1	Job	$30,000	**$32,500**
					$0
Permitting	Building permits (n/a)		ea		**$0**
	Dust Permits	1	ea	$1,000	**$1,000**
	Water rights acquisition costs	4	ac-ft	$20,000	**$80,000**
	NV Energy Connection Design	1	ea	$30,000	**$30,000**
					$0
NEPA compliance	Archaeological surveys and reports	300	hrs.	$400	**$120,000**
	SHPO consultation and coordination	80	hrs.	$400	**$32,000**
	Biological/wildlife surveys and reports	700	hrs.	$450	**$315,000**
	Preparation of environmeantal assessment/FONSI	400	hrs.	$500	**$200,000**
	FONSI and decision documentation	180	hrs.	$500	**$90,000**
					$0
				Estimated total	**$1,281,000**

2 Estimated Costs for Construction Contracts (Agency costs)

	Description	Units	Unit of measure	Unit Cost	Est. Cost
Construction Management Contract Services	Contract for construction	1	LS	$4,939,820	**$5,200,000**
					$0
					$0
					$0
					$0
Misc.	Federal Register notice	1		$400	**$400**
					$0
					$0
				Estimated total	**$5,200,400.00**

4. Estimated travel (not associated with construction contract administration)

Identify by title/position and purpose of travel

	Description	Units	Unit of measure	Unit Cost	Est. Cost
Government Travel	Entity Planning/Design/Coordination meetings	40	ea	$1,500	**$60,000**
	Progressing meeting with A&E contractor(s)	2	ea	$5,000	**$10,000**
	COR/Inspector Per Diem	720	day	$150	**$108,000**
	Budget travel to District for project oversite	15	days	$200	**$3,000**
	Oversite	15	days	$200	**$3,000**
					$0
				Estimated total	**$184,000**

5 Estimated costs for use of Government vehicles and equipment (FOR or hourly rate)

	Description	Units	Unit of measure	Unit Cost	Est. Cost
Heavy Equipment and government vehicles	Gov Vehicle for COR/Inspector	30	Month	$350	**$10,500**
	Gov Vehicle for COR/Inspector	22000	Miles	$0.65	**$14,300**
	Other Gov Vehicle Use	10000	Miles	$0.65	**$6,500**
					$0
					$0
				Estimated total	**$31,300**

6 Labor costs for developing, managing and implementing contracts to complete the project.

This is an estimate of the total hours. Identify by Specialist title and role. Recommend use of Reimbursable Project Log to monitor and track agency labor charged to the project

	Description	Units	Units of measure	Unit Cost	Est. Cost
Federal and contract personnel involved with developing and executing contracts	Contracting Officer (CO)	140	days	$500	**$70,000**
	Contracting Officer Representative (COR)	300	days	$500	**$150,000**
	Agency Project Manager	200	days	$500	**$100,000**
	Agency Project Inspector (PI)	300	days	$400	**$120,000**
	Agency Project Supervisor	100	days	$500	**$50,000**
	Agency Project Engineer (s)	100	days	$500	**$50,000**
					$0
					$0
				Estimated total	**$540,000**

7 Estimated costs for consultation with the FWS for endangered species review

Identify by title/position

	Description	Units	Units of measure	Unit Cost	Est. Cost
Agency personnel involved	Agency Biologist(s)	20	days	$400	**$8,000**
					$0
					$0
					$0
					$0
				Estimated total	**$8,000**

9 Other Necessary Expenses

Includes the cost of permit fees or other cost not directly related to the execution of the project byut a necessary expense.

	Description	Units	Units of measure	Unit Cost	Est. Cost
See B-11 for approved expenses	Dust permit				**$0**
	Hazardous materials/waste disposal fee				**$0**
	ADMINISTRATION COSTS (over 5 years)				
	Budget Tracking/Accounting and Execution	150	days	$350	**$52,500**
	Allocation of Transferred Funds to the Region and to	10	days	$400	**$4,000**
	Preparing Transfer Requests	10	days	$380	**$3,800**
	Managing Allocation of Transferred Funds	10	days	$400	**$4,000**
	Supervision and Oversight of SNPLMA-Funded Staff	15	days	$380	**$5,700**
	Preparing Quarterly Status Reports	10	days	$380	**$3,800**
	A percent of Project-Related Indirect Costs for Support Based on Staff Time Spent on the Project(s), provided these expenses meet the three criteria of necessary expenses and are not covered elsewhere in the cost estimate (Examples of such indirect costs would be secretarial support, printing, copying, cost-center expenses, etc.)	5	year	$25,000	**$125,000**
					$0
				Estimated total	**$198,800**

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Cost Saving Strategies

By working with our federal partners to form a construction plan we utilize knowledge gained from the planning and construction of other SNPLMA funded fire station style construction projects (see Figure 3). This reduces the development and architectural costs involved in project planning. We also seek to locate the facility in an area having minimal risk of resource impacts that would require expensive mitigation. The facility would also be located in an area that would require minimal ground disturbance for construction, and is in close proximity to utility services. Potential project sites have been investigated, and a site located within the community of Mountain Springs (on FS land) shows potential for meeting the above mentioned criteria and does not require any land acquisition costs. The LEED standards would be included in project planning to reduce operational and construction costs and provide for a more sustainable operation over time. These could include water-saving fixtures, solar tube lighting, insulated bay areas, solar power generation, etc.

The operation and maintenance of the facility would be the responsibility of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest (specifically, the Spring Mountain NRA Fire & Aviation program and other natural resource programs utilizing the facility). The development of the facility as an integrated public contact and natural resource protection operation enables additional resources from other Natural Resource Programs and projects, Clark County Operations, Metro Police, partners and stakeholders to contribute to long-term facility sustainability. This project is not a phase of a prior approved project, and as proposed would not require any additional phases.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT RANKING CRITERIA

1. **SUSTAINABILITY: The project promotes sustainability by conserving resources to ensure availability to future generations, or restores or maintains natural processes. The project will remain relevant and continue to provide a benefit in the face of changing demographics and/or environment.**

    A) *Conserves the quality of the outdoor environment and mitigates future potential negative impacts by conserving, preserving, or protecting the natural and/or cultural resources of the project area.*

    This project will provide a facility for a more rapid and effective response to wildland fires in the Southern and Western portion of the Spring Mountain NRA as well as the Southern portion of the Las Vegas Interagency Response area. This will result in increased safety for residents, public land users, and firefighters in this area. The addition of law enforcement at this location will increase our presence on the south and west sides of the Spring Mountains to better manage and protect the natural and cultural resources.

Additionally, the current station is located behind a county volunteer fire station that is on and adjacent to the right of way for a busy state highway (see Figure 2). The new location will put the station, employees, and visitors in a location off the highway and away from traffic. The new facilities, including fencing and exterior lighting, will also enhance the security and safety of equipment, employees, and the public.

B) *Enhances or Restores the quality of the outdoor environment by reducing or eliminating existing impacts to the natural and/or cultural resources of the project area.*

The new facility would have individual bedrooms for ten employees, this would provide space for our personnel and out-of-town resources and a conference room for up to twenty-five people. The new fire station also would provide a safer, improved, and strategically located facility from which to conduct: (1) Fire Operations (suppression, prevention, hazardous fuels removal, and helicopter support) across the Spring Mountains Range and as an interagency partner, and (2) Law Enforcement to accommodate increased public use on the Westside of the Spring Mountain Range. (3) Work Center from which natural resource staff and partners can stage recreation and resource projects to better maintain, restore and protect the quality and quantity of the environment.

C) *Project will enhance stewardship and shared support for the operations and maintenance over the life of the project(must show financial support and/or in-kind support)*

This facility would increase Forest Service employee presence in the community of Mountain Springs. Having this presence and involvement within the community is important to both the agency and the community. The facility will improve the Forest Service's ability to outreach to the community and public land users regarding recreation, natural resources, fire/law enforcement issues, as well as promote the Forest Service's agency goals of ecological restoration. The addition of sustainable building design features will also provide for an educational opportunity, and demonstrate that the agency is a leader in sustainable facilities.

The facility also has the support of Clark County Fire and Rescue, Metro Police, Clark County Commissioners and the local Community of Mountain Springs as a focal point for integrated operations and long term natural resource protection and education program enhancement.

D) *Project employs sustainable or "green construction" practices using recycled or renewable materials, improves energy efficiency or utilizes low-maintenance*

products in construction. Conserves resources during the manufacture and life-cycle of the project.

This project will incorporate options for sustainable/renewable energy sources. Solar and wind power are both being researched and considered for this facility.

2. **CONNECTIVITY: The project provides recreational opportunities that link population centers, recreation facilities and natural landscapes. It encourages people to meaningfully connect with their natural environment, thus helping them appreciate and care for the environment**.

   A) *Project provides access and/or amenities to previously undeveloped recreation areas and/or new recreation opportunities to enjoy the public lands. (i.e. trails, kiosks with location maps and site information, parking, way-finding, restrooms, day or overnight camping, etc.)*

   The facility would increase our ability to manage recreation activities and future development of recreation programs on the west side of the SMNRA. Additionally, fire and law enforcement response capabilities would be improved which could increase our ability to control fires with initial attack and to respond to illegal activities that could have impacts on recreation activities, environmental and cultural resources. The increased employee presence would increase public outreach regarding recreation, natural resources, information, federal land rules/regulations and land stewardship.

   The facility will include recreation and natural resource kiosks to provide public education and information for recreation and cultural sites in the proximity to this area and the west side of the SMNRA. The facility will also provide for public meetings and education presentations on the unique characteristics of the Spring Mountains and opportunities for recreation and volunteer involvement.

   B) *Project improves access to previously developed recreation areas and sites on public lands and/or upgrades site amenities. (i.e., trails, kiosks with location maps and site information, parking way-finding, restrooms, day or overnight camping, etc.)*

   As mentioned above, this facility would increase our ability to respond to activities that could have impacts on resources and recreation sites. This includes providing a safe landing area and a readily available water source for our local interagency helicopter operation. Also, in anticipation of increased population growth in Las Vegas and surrounding communities, we are seeking to strategically locate our resources to meet public demand.

The ability for staff, partners and volunteers to work out of this facility enables a more concentrated effort to maintain and sustain the recreation areas on the south and west side. The distances from the current office, precludes more investment in the trails and amenities located in this area. Crews will be more efficient and successful in supporting trails, public interaction and natural resource protection because of this facility location.

C) *Project contains an outreach and education component to improve public awareness and engage the public in the conservation and protection of the surrounding natural environment through the use of resource interpretation (information signage, kiosks, educational programs, etc.) (This factor is only scored on a sliding scale from 0 to 10)*

There are numerous cultural, historical, and natural resource values (e.g. historical structures, archeological sites, wildlife habitat, endemic species, recreational sites, etc.) which we will be better able to protect and manage as a result of this project. It will enhance our abilities to respond to fires and illegal activities that can have significant impacts on these resources. Additionally, the increase in public outreach and engagement will allow us to better disseminate information about land management/stewardship, and the conference room for employee trainings/meetings will promote information exchange regarding the natural resource protection, recreation and create an ownership opportunity for the local population to be engaged in these management approaches.

3. **COMMUNITY: This project provides outdoor recreation opportunities to improve the quality of life, especially for underserved communities. It conserves or restores the functionality, resiliency, and integrity of biological communities. The project encourages partnerships, which in turn also builds community.**

A) *Project provides new or enhances existing recreation opportunities for under-served or under-represented communities that cannot be addressed or met with current funding. (Must be sustainable – see criteria #1)*

The current fire station facility does not meet visitor needs. Because there will be an increase in the number of personnel stationed at the facility, and additional personnel living on site, we will achieve more efficient and effective response to events and request for information such as recreation, trails, allowable activities, fire, medical emergencies, cultural areas and law enforcement issues which provide immeasurable benefits to the public. Additionally, the increased presence of the Forest Service at this location provides a better opportunity to do public outreach, which increases the knowledge base of our public land users in areas such as federal rules/regulations, natural resources, recreation, Firewise communities and land stewardship.

B) *Project has identified committed non-SNPLMA sources of funding or in-kind contribution for the development of the project. (see below for in-kind or volunteer hours calculation)*

Assuming that the population growth of Las Vegas and surrounding communities will continue to rise, we seek to plan ahead for this growth. Additionally, the increased use of the south and west side of the Spring Mountains (by user such as OHV riders, horse riders, hikers, etc.) requires that we analyze our current management strategy and place our resources in strategically located sites to maximize management effectiveness.

The management challenges of increased public land use are two-fold. For one, increased public land use in and around this part of the Spring Mountains has put more people on the ground, and with this comes the potential for an increase in events that require the response of fire and law personnel (e.g. human caused fires, medical emergencies, law violations, etc.). Response to such events not only benefits the public, but can significantly reduce the costs by expediting response times. Secondly, increased use of the land places a greater demand on resources. Unique plants, animals, and cultural sites exist on this part of the Spring Mountains and will require a strong Forest Service presence in the area to promote our land stewardship message.

This approach has generated increased interest by our partners and stakeholders who have committed to working with us to create a sustainable and long term approach to management of this facility and the services that it will provide to the public, employees and the land.

C *Project has identified committed non-SNPLMA sources of funding or in-kind contribution for the implementation of the project. (10 pts. For project that engages public in the conservation and protection of the surrounding natural environment through use of volunteer/stewardship resources)*

Agency partners and stakeholders have committed to assisting and utilizing this facility to promote their programs and goals. Public meetings, trainings and community events would be supported by this facility. Additionally, the presence of the helipad greatly reduces the response time for emergency situations and reduces costs to the public and private entities.

4. Addresses maintenance and operation costs.

A) *Operations and Maintenance costs will be reduced. (Factor A is scored on a sliding scale: 6 points for short-term up to 10 points for long-term reduction to operations and maintenance cost.*

Deferred maintenance is not a strong issue as the current facility is a 6'x9' Tuff Shed. However, it should be considered that the lack of secure facilities to store vehicles/equipment and the lack of a proper, indoor facility to maintain vehicles/equipment creates a situation of increased, indirect costs.

B) *Operations and Maintenance costs will remain the same.*
N/A.

C) *Operations and Maintenance costs will increase, but the project will improve an existing situation or address an immediate health or safety issue.*

The direct costs of operating and maintaining a new, larger facility will be higher than the cost of the current facility. The utilities are shared with Clark County Fire Department and paid for by them, we currently provide for a T1 line at this station and that is the only operating cost that we pay. However, the *indirect* costs will be reduced by providing facilities to secure and maintain fire engines, vehicles & equipment. Operations and maintenance costs will increase, but the project will improve the existing situation.

The ability to connect with the local community and the public that accesses this part of the Forest offset the increase in costs. The efficiencies and cost savings by other program areas will enable the Forest to support the costs of operation and not just depend on the fire budget.

Agency contacts:

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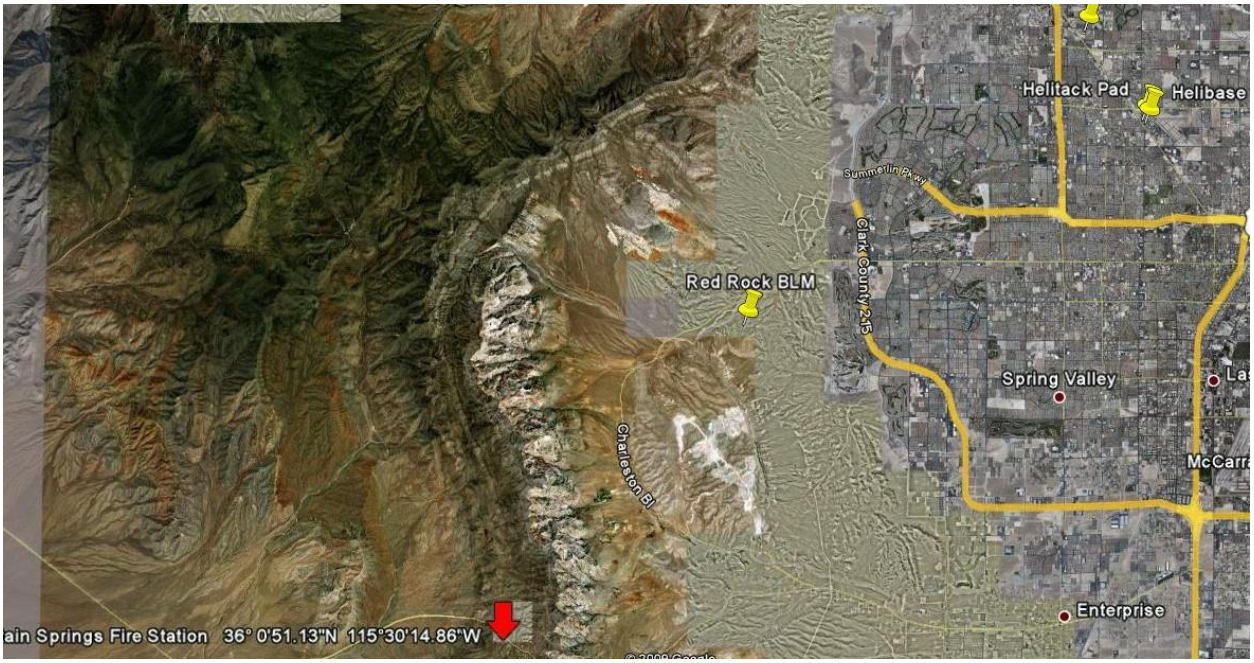

Figure 1. General location of the proposed Mountain Springs facility.

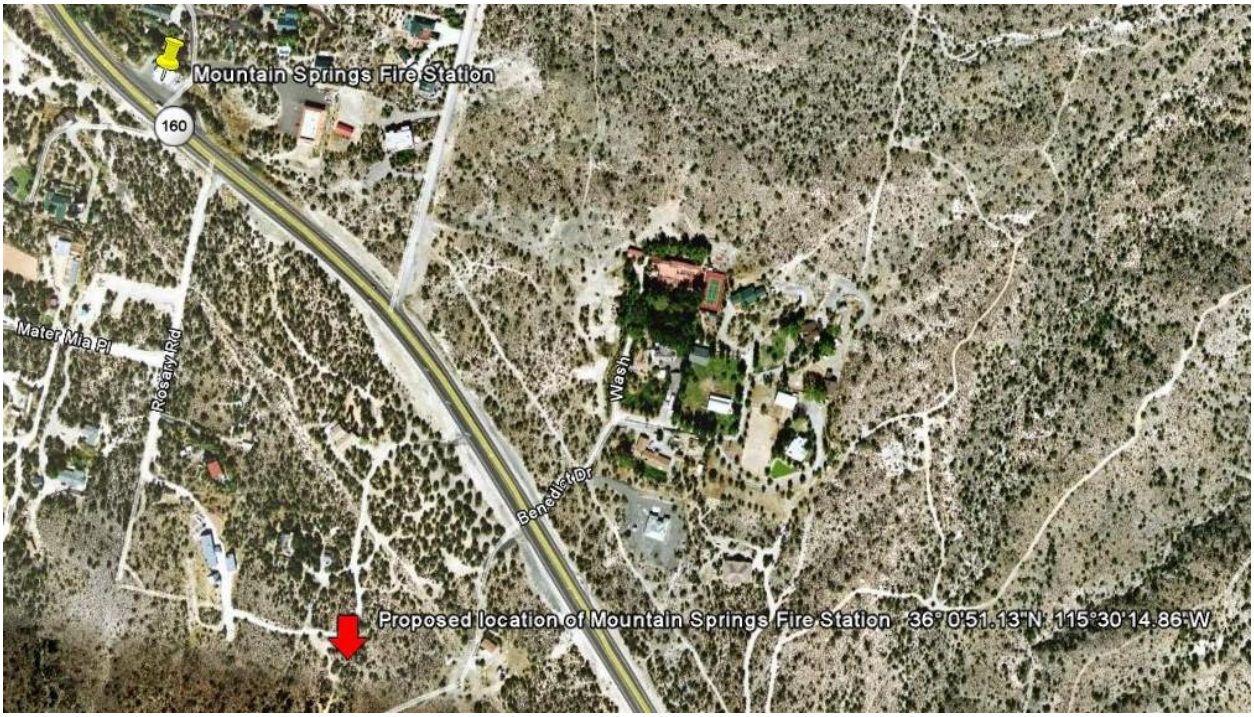

Figure 2. Proposed location of the Mountain Springs Cpontact and Resource Protection Facility.

Figure 3. Existing facilities located behind the Clark County Fire Station in two Tuff. Work area and storage is not protected from the elements.

Figure 4. Existing recreation and resource information boards.

Figure 5. Existing wellness and work-out area in walkway behind the County Facility.

Figure 6. Existing BLM Logandale Fire Station complex, viewed from the helipad. FS facilities will use the existing facilities as a template.

Fire Department

575 East Flamingo Road • Las Vegas NV 89119
(702) 455-7311 • Fax (702) 734-6111

Greg Cassell, Fire Chief
Kelly Blackmon, Deputy Fire Chief • Jon Klassen, Deputy Fire Chief • John Steinbeck, Deputy Fire Chief
Roy Session, Deputy Fire Chief • Jeff Buchanan, Deputy Fire Chief • Scott Webster, Deputy Fire Chief
"Responding with Integrity – Serving with Compassion"

April 28, 2016

To Whom It May Concern;

The Clark County Fire Department (CCFD) has enjoyed a long standing partnership with the US Forest Service (USFS) and supports the proposed USFS Fire Station in Mountain Springs. The Mountain Springs area has a long history of wildfires and fire protection in the area is of a paramount importance. There are approximately 30 permanent residents in the area, a major highway as well as radio repeater sites that are a high-value asset to all of the agencies operating in the area.

The current Mountain Springs fire station is staffed by volunteers and at times our personnel are not available. While CCFD Urban units can support the station for structural fires and calls for emergency medical services, those personnel are not currently equipped or trained for a sustained wild fire event. During the summer months, fire conditions in Mountain Springs can become extreme and the importance of the USFS seasonal wildfire crews cannot be understated.

The CCFD has for years hosted seasonal crews at our station in Mountain Springs; however, the current fire station was built as a volunteer fire station and not built to accommodate full-time personnel. The CCFD station lacks an adequate kitchen (the stove is in the apparatus bay as there is no room in the kitchen), only the apparatus bay are heated, and there is no air conditioning. The total living area for the seasonal crews is a room approximately 8 X 10. The station has two bays and both are assigned to CCFD apparatus, which means leaving the USFS apparatus outside.

While some USFS tools and supplies are kept inside the station, the bulk is in a shed behind the station as is the primary USFS work area. The proposed new fire station would be a welcome addition to the area and help provide a critical fire response during an active fire season.

Should you have any questions, I can be contacted at (702) 455-7370.

Respectfully,

Greg Cassell

GREG CASSEL
Fire Chief

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
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CLARK COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER
500 S GRAND CENTRAL PKY
BOX 551601
LAS VEGAS NV 89155-1601
(702) 455-3500 FAX: (702) 383-6041

April 25, 2016

Donn Christiansen, Area Manager
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Forestry Service
4701 North Torrey Pines Drive
Las Vegas, Nevada 89130

Dear Mr. Christiansen:

As Clark County Commissioner for District F, which includes the community of Mountain Springs, I am in support of the Mountain Springs Fire Station project being proposed by the U.S. Forest Service.

Mountain Springs' location in the southern portion of the Spring Mountain Range is a perfect midway point between the Pahrump Valley and the Las Vegas Valley. This would provide the Forest Service a central location for staging of activities in the area, disseminating public information and provide a permanent presence for this portion of the range. This investment in the community would be welcome not only to the Mountain Springs community, but other agencies as well, as there are currently no public meeting spaces within the community. As the southwest part of Las Vegas continues to grow and connectivity increases between both sides of the mountain range, a meeting space of this type would be a real asset to the entire region. A facility at this location would have been invaluable during the Carpenter 1 fire and will be just as important for any emergencies in the future.

Sincerely,

Susan Brager

Susan Brager, Commissioner
Clark County District F

/cag

FRIENDS of NEVADA WILDERNESS

April 22nd , 2016

Donn Christiansen
Area Manager
Spring Mountains National Recreation Area
U.S. Forest Service
4701 N. Torrey Pines Dr.
Las Vegas, NV 89130

Re: SNPLMA Round 16 Grant Proposal – Public Contact & Resource Protection Facility

Friends of Nevada Wilderness would like to express our support for the Public Contact & Resource Protection Facility proposal authored by the U.S. Forest Service.

Commonly known as the "west side" of the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area, the communities of Mountain Springs and Pahrump don't see an equal presence of Forest Service staff or services to the more popular canyons of Kyle or Lee, nearer to Las Vegas. Due to this lack of presence these communities are underserved, and as a result, can lead towards a lack of education in regards to Leave No Trace Ethics and consequently, resource damage including motorized incursions into the Rainbow Mountain Wilderness. Friends of Nevada Wilderness has put forth a lot of effort alongside volunteers in preventing and naturalizing motorized incursions around Mountain Springs and Lovell Canyon which both border the Rainbow Mountain Wilderness. We believe a stronger Forest Service presence may assist in deterring these negative behaviors.

We support the Forest Service in building a facility in the community of Mountain Springs to build a stronger relationship with these communities that will lead to greater resource protection and appreciation, especially of the wilderness areas nearby. Friends of Nevada Wilderness values the goals sought to be achieved through this proposal and applauds the actions by the Forest Service to better manage the health of our public lands.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions or further information.

Thank you,

Jose Witt
Southern Nevada Director
Friends of Nevada Wilderness

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Southern Nevada District Office
Las Vegas Field Office
4701 N. Torrey Pines Drive
Las Vegas, Nevada 89130
http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en.html

March 17, 2016

To: SNPLMA Executive Committee

From: Clay Stephens, Acting Fire Management Officer

Subject: Letter of Support for USFS Capital Improvement Project, Mountain Springs Fire Station

As an interagency partner with the USFS in Southern Nevada and as a partner with Clark County Fire Department (CCFD) I am writing to express my support for the proposed fire station in Mountain Springs. The area around Mountain Springs has a long history of fire occurrence and that station is in a key area to provide a timely response to wildfires. The community of Mountain Springs has numerous primary residences and other structures within the wild land urban interface that would be vulnerable to a wildfire. In addition, the immediate area has a Boy Scout Camp and a Church Camp that each have several structures and various camp groups throughout the year. The area also has communication facilities on top of Mount Potosi that are at risk to wildfires.

The current facility that the USFS has located their tough shed in is owned and maintained by CCFD. The facility is inadequate and does not promote a professional work environment, nor does it allow opportunities for the general public to get information from a USFS fire station. In addition, the planned expansion for highway 160 would require the removal of the fire station. As stated before, it is imperative that a fire response is maintained in Mountain Springs.

If you would like to discuss this further, please contact me at the information listed below.

Southern Nevada District
4701 N. Torrey Pines Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89130
Desk: 702-515-5121
Cell: 702-575-0392