

 **NEWS RELEASE**

USDA FOREST SERVICE • Spring Mountains National Recreation Area (known to locals as Mt. Charleston) • 4701 North Torrey Pines • Las Vegas, NV., 89130 • Voice, 702-515-5400 •

702-515-5401

**Contact:** Del Orme,

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## **Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest Proposes New Fees at Group Picnic Sites**

**LAS VEGAS, Nevada...**The Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest is interested in hearing your comments on a proposal to charge fees at two group sites at the new Spring Mountains Visitor Gateway Complex at Spring Mountains National Recreation Area (NRA).

The new Spring Mountains Visitor Gateway Complex, completion set for spring of 2015, will include: a visitor center, approximately 17 miles of new trails, an education building, two amphitheatres, the Cold War Monument, the Seven Stone Memorial, and two group picnic sites.

The two new picnic sites will have a shade structure, accommodate up to 30 people each, and open all year. Proposed fees are \$70 per site, except during the summer months; the sites will then be reserved for \$70 for a half day or \$120 for all day.

The majority of the revenue collected at recreation fee sites remains on the forest to operate, maintain, and improve the facilities and programs.

Comments are now being accepted on the new group picnic sites fee proposal and may be sent to: Bill Dunkelberger, Forest Supervisor, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, 1200 Franklin Way, Sparks, NV, 89431. Comments will be taken through September 1, 2014.

All new fee proposals will be presented before a citizen's advisory committee, which is the Nevada Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Recreation Resource Advisory Committee (RRAC). Committee members represent a broad array of recreation interest groups to help ensure that the Forest Service is proposing reasonable and publicly acceptable fee changes.

The public is welcome to attend and comment at all advisory committee meetings. The next Nevada RRAC meeting is expected in early 2015. The exact meeting time, location, and agenda will be announced on the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest website and through the local media. These fee proposals will also have extensive reviews by both the Forest Service Regional and Washington Offices.

In 2004, Congress passed the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act, which allows the Forest Service to retain funds collected at certain recreation sites and use these funds locally to operate and maintain and improve these sites. Before the Forest Service received the authority to retain funds locally, all fees collected by the Forest Service went to the National Treasury.

If approved, the picnic sites would be placed on the National Recreation Reservation Site for rental information and reservations. Make reservations by calling a toll free number, 877-444-6777, or via online at [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov).

For more information, questions or comments about the picnic site fee proposals, please visit the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest website at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/htnf/> or contact Del Orme, Recreation Staff Officer, at 702-515-5401.

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