

Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest

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News Release

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Buckeye Hot Springs Restoration Project a Win for Sustainable Recreation

Bridgeport, CA., June 4, 2021 – To improve the recreation experience and resource-related issues, the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest in partnership with Mammoth Lakes Recreation and Mono County are making upgrades to Buckeye Hot Springs. This popular day use area is located on the Bridgeport Ranger District and has been significantly impacted by increased visitation.

“The hot springs area is easily accessed from U.S. Route 395 and the town of Bridgeport, California, and is beloved by locals and visitors of the Eastern Sierra,” said Kim Murcia, Recreation Staff Officer on the Bridgeport Ranger District. “The absence of a formal trail system, restroom, and day use parking area have resulted in substantial trail braiding, impacts to sagebrush steppe, degraded water quality, and erosion caused by users accessing the hot springs from the informal parking area on Buckeye Road.”

Murcia explained Mammoth Lakes Recreation, Mono County, and the Bridgeport Ranger District, successfully competed for a Sierra Nevada Conservancy grant that addresses these issues. The project will improve existing conditions by installing a single vault toilet, trailhead infrastructure to mitigate vehicle encroachment, and interpretation signage. It will also include decommissioning multiple user-created trail segments as well as improving the designated trail system.

“These improvements will restore previously disturbed area and user-created trails,” added Murcia. “The improvements will also provide a more sustainable recreation experience that benefits the natural environment and water quality of Buckeye Creek.”

For the safety of Forest users, the hot springs as well as road and trail access to Buckeye Creek will be limited intermittently during project construction, which will take place June through October 2021. Please respect posted safety notices and direction provided by staff while continuing to recreate responsibly. Project safety information may be found at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/htnf/alerts-notices> or at <https://twitter.com/HumboldtToiyabe> and <https://www.facebook.com/HumboldtToiyabeNF/>.

Funding for this project has been provided by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, an agency of the State of California, under the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68).

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