
RE: USFS updates for the Mono County

From Coogan, Aaron - FS, CA <aaron.coogan@usda.gov>
Date Mon 1/26/2026 2:08 PM
To Melinda Guerrero <meguerrero@mono.ca.gov>
Cc Erin Bauer <ebauer@mono.ca.gov>; Brent Calloway <bcalloway@mono.ca.gov>

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Hello Melinda,

I have a couple of staffing notes to update the County. Our new Law Enforcement Officer has begun training at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center. He will complete that training June/July timeframe and then begin field training with a qualified field training officer. We hope to have him back on District in full capacity around August/September. The Districts Rangeland Technician has found employment elsewhere which leaves our Rangeland Management shop vacant. I am working with the Carson Ranger District and the Supervisor's Office to try to fill gaps as we can but Rangeland issues will likely have delayed responses.

We have tried to maintain the winter closure on Buckeye Road but have experienced several instances of the gate being illegally opened and people intruding into the closure area for wheeled vehicles.

We continue to receive applications for mineral exploration on the NV side of the district. As soon as one plan is approved another seems to be getting submitted. That is expected to continue as gold prices continue to reach record highs recently surpassing \$5,000 per ounce. Projects currently in planning include the Burnt Rock EA, Wagen EA, Doug CE, Rainmaker CE, Keane CE, Rockland East CE. I have heard that I will also be getting another Plan of Operations submitted soon that will likely be another EA. All of these projects are on the NV side of the district.

The Campground Prospectus seeking bids for a concessionaire to operate the Bridgeport/Carson concessionaire run campgrounds is accepting bids until close of business, 4:30 p.m. on March 2, 2026. The prospectus can be found here: https://sam.gov/opp/dc35f4c8079945fa9936e823538c0c37/view_and_searchable_on_Sam.gov.

American Rivers is seeking grant funding for the implementation of the Pickel Meadows Restoration Project which we still hope to begin implementation of this upcoming fall/winter during low flow. Project information can be found here: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/r04/humboldt-toiyabe/projects/archive/66070>

We are beginning the planning phases to determine what level of analysis will be needed for two different bridge projects. One is a hiking bridge on the Pacific Crest Trail within the Hoover Wilderness which was damaged during the 2022-23 winter. The other is replacement of the decking material of the Buckeye Bridge on Buckeye Road. This project has the potential to create traffic impacts on Buckeye Road and we will want to coordinate with stakeholders during implementation.

We have brought in an Enterprise Team to assist us with our Recreational Residence Permit Renewals. We have nearly 60 Recreational Residence Permits on the District with nearly that many elsewhere on the Forest which all expire December 31st, 2028. We are looking to get ahead of the renewals by ensuring that residences are monitored and brought to compliance prior to renewal of permits.

Barring a potential lapse in funding I am scheduled to be in Las Vegas, NV February 9th-13th for our spring Forest Leadership Team meetings and Grey Towers, PA February 22nd-28th for Ranger Academy.



Aaron Coogan
District Ranger

Forest Service

**Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Bridgeport Ranger
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Caring for the land and serving people

From: Melinda Guerrero <meguerrero@mono.ca.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, January 21, 2026 10:28 AM

To: Coogan, Aaron - FS, CA <aaron.coogan@usda.gov>

Cc: Erin Bauer <ebauer@mono.ca.gov>; Brent Calloway <bcalloway@mono.ca.gov>

Subject: Re: USFS updates for the Mono County

Hey Aaron,

Checking in to verify if you have any updates for the RPACs and any chance you will attend in person?
The next AV RPAC is Feb 5th and BP RPAC is Feb 12th.

Also, I am CC'ing Brent Calloway (Bridgeport RPAC) and Erin Bauer (Antelope Valley RPAC), who will be taking over the RPACs as Mono County Planning staff. Feel free to send us your updates and information for these meetings.

Best,

Melinda Guerrero

Mono County Community Development
Development Planner Analyst

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760.924.1813

From: Coogan, Aaron - FS, CA <aaron.coogan@usda.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, December 30, 2025 11:47 AM

To: Melinda Guerrero <meguerrero@mono.ca.gov>

Subject: RE: USFS updates for the Mono County

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Hello Melinda,

I may be able to attend on the 8th. If so I'll bring updates then as well.

Bridgeport Winter Recreation Area officially opened for over-snow vehicle travel on December 25th and Saturday December 27th there was a SAR for an avalanche in Latopie Lake where one snowmobile was avalanched into the lake. The rider was partially pinned and submerged and was careflighted with a broken leg. The other snowmobile present was able to ride out.

Also on Saturday December 27th we received notification from Officer John Pelichowski and the Sierra Snowcat and Yurts operating in the Dunderberg area that one of their snowcats had caught fire and burned down. The permittee is removing as much contaminated snow from around the vehicle as possible but full extraction of the machine will not be possible until snow has melted out in the spring.

Buckeye Road seasonal closure is currently in place and has been groomed along with the Paha loop trail by Jimmy Little. We will be flexible in reopening but want to ensure that the snow has melted and the roads have dried sufficiently before doing so. Hopefully the forecasted rains for the 30th and 31st won't melt it all off before people get a chance to enjoy it.

Thank you,



Aaron Coogan
District Ranger

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Caring for the land and serving people

From: Melinda Guerrero <meguerrero@mono.ca.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, December 23, 2025 11:56 AM

To: Coogan, Aaron - FS, CA <aaron.coogan@usda.gov>

Subject: Re: USFS updates for the Mono County

Hi Aaron,

Checking in for any updates or important messages from Forest Service. Bridgeport RPAC's next meeting is January 8th and I can certainly reiterate the updates you wrote for the Antelope Valley RPAC if there are no further updates beyond that. Have a great holiday weekend!

Melinda Guerrero

Mono County Community Development
Development Planner Analyst

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From: Coogan, Aaron - FS, CA <aaron.coogan@usda.gov>

Sent: Monday, December 1, 2025 9:24 AM

To: Melinda Guerrero <meguerrero@mono.ca.gov>

Subject: RE: USFS updates for the Mono County

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Hello Melinda,

Updates for the Antelope Valley RPAC.

Seasonal employees have been placed in non-pay status. Developed recreation sites are closed for the winter. The Bridgeport Winter Recreation Area does not have enough snow to open and remains closed to over snow vehicles until enough snow has accumulated.

We are very pleased to be welcoming a new Law Enforcement Officer, however they will not be in full capacity until after completing Federal Law Enforcement Training Center Academy after February.

Christmas Tree tags are available online at Rec.gov and in the office on most Mondays but that is the only day that they are available in-person currently. It may be smart to call ahead to be sure if making the drive from Antelope Valley.

The grant application to the CA Wildlife Conservation Board for the Pickel Meadows Restoration Project was accepted and American Rivers and CDFW will be looking to start work at the Pickel Meadows parking lot at People's Gate later this year. Removing the artificial fill from the 1997 flood and landslide events which cut the Walker River off from the historic flood plain and bring the channel back to more natural state. More information can be found here: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/r04/humboldt-toiyabe/projects/archive/66070> .

When completed, this project could help reduce sedimentation and damaging high flows downstream.

There may still be some piles that to burn in Mill Canyon if we get a window and the personnel lined up to complete them, will keep advised and notify if/when the windows occur.

If there are any specific questions from the group please let me know.

Thank you,



Aaron Coogan

District Ranger

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From: Melinda Guerrero <meguerrero@mono.ca.gov>
Sent: Friday, November 14, 2025 11:54 AM
To: Coogan, Aaron - FS, CA <aaron.coogan@usda.gov>
Subject: USFS updates for the Mono County

Hi Aaron,

Hope you are doing well. As things have been closing up for the season and projects paused for winter, the Bridgeport and Antelope Valley wanted to touch base with Forest Service participation. They have been happy with me passing along updates from you. Bridgeport specifically wanted to inquiry if you or a Forest Service liaison would be able to attend in-person in the future to RPAC meetings, whether it be quarterly, twice a year, once a year? They understand staffing and scheduling can limit the amount of participation as well. Both RPACs enjoy being able to interact with the agency and to build better community connections.

Let me know you thoughts.

Cheers,

Melinda Guerrero

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