

NOTICE OF PROPOSED ACTION AND OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT

SUPPLEMENT TO

**CARSON CITY FIELD OFFICE
GEOTHERMAL LEASING ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA-NV-030-06-025)**

**Aurora Area
Bridgeport Ranger District
Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest
May 2, 2011**

Lead Agency: USDA Forest Service
Responsible Official: Jeanne Higgins, Forest Supervisor

For more information contact:

Keith Whaley, District Geologist
Bridgeport Ranger District
HC 62 Box 1000
Bridgeport, CA 93517
760-932-5821

Abstract

A Geothermal Leasing Environmental Assessment (EA) addressing 61 non-competitive leases was prepared by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Carson City Field Office and published in July, 2006. Nineteen of the 61 noncompetitive lease applications (comprising portions of 56 sections) analyzed are located on National Forest System (NFS) lands within the Bridgeport Ranger District. The 2006 EA evaluated the impacts on the natural and human environment that could result from the Carson City Field Office (CCFO) of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) issuing leases for geothermal resources.

Following the preparation of the 2006 EA, a Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact (DN/FONSI) was signed by the Humboldt-Toiyabe Forest Supervisor on April 17, 2007. This decision for NFS land made available for leasing 22 sections, including 14 sections within the North and South Aurora lease areas (Figure 1). In this decision, 33 sections of land in the North and South Aurora lease areas were “not selected” for leasing at that time due to a lack of sufficient resource data to make a determination and adequately assess potential impacts. In 2008 the BLM requested that the Forest Service conduct further analysis on the 33 sections “not selected” for leasing. Based upon additional information, the Forest Service is now proposing to make available for leasing 22 sections (both whole and partial) of NFS lands in the South Aurora

and North Aurora Lease areas. Leasing of these sections would be subject to the modified list of stipulations listed in Attachment C.

INTERNET LINKS TO PRIOR DOCUMENTS

For prior documents listed and discussed in this EA Supplement, the following links provide access to those documents:

- A. Bureau of Land Management Carson City Field Office Geothermal Leasing Environmental Assessment (EA-NV-030-06-025):

http://www.nv.blm.gov/carson/Planning_Env_Coord/Geothermal/2006/Geothermal_EA_July_2006.pdf

- B. Finding of No Significant Impact and Decision Record Carson City Field Office Geothermal Leasing Environmental Assessment (EA-NV-030-06-025) and,

- C. Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact, Geothermal Leasing, Bridgeport Ranger District, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, with Attachments and Tables and,

- D. This document: Supplement to Carson City Field Office Geothermal Leasing Assessment (EA-NV-030-06-025) with tables and attachment:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/htnf/projects>

STRUCTURE OF THE SUPPLEMENT

While certain components of the 2006 Geothermal Leasing Environmental Assessment (EA-NV-030-06-025) will be supplemented by this analysis, most of the important aspects of the project and the analysis were sufficient and therefore will remain unchanged. At the start of each chapter of this supplement a paragraph will summarize any updated or new information.

COMMENT PROCESS

Comments must be received **within 30 days after publication** of the legal notice of the proposed action for this project in the Newspaper of Record, the Reno Gazette-Journal. The publication date is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period for a proposed action documented in the supplement.

Written comments must be submitted to:

Keith Whaley
Project Manager
Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest
Bridgeport Ranger District

HC 62 Box 1000
Bridgeport, CA 93517

Comments can be hand-delivered to the Bridgeport Ranger Station, Highway 395 South, Bridgeport, California, Attention: Keith Whaley. Office business hours are 8:00 am till 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

Comments may also be sent via e-mail or via facsimile to (760) 932-5899. Electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), Acrobat (.pdf), and Word (.doc) to:

comments-intermtn-humboldt-toiyabe@fs.fed.us

Please place “Aurora Geothermal EA Supplement” in the subject line.