

History of Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forests

Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest - The lands now part of Humboldt-Toiyabe have been administratively reorganized many times and include parts of several defunct national forests. The oldest of these is Ruby Mountains National Forest, established on May 3, 1906. In 1908, it was combined with Independence National Forest to form Humboldt National Forest. Toiyabe National Forest was established March 2, 1907. It ceased to exist in 1932, when it was absorbed by Nevada National Forest but was reestablished in 1938 from parts of Humboldt and Nevada. The last major reorganization occurred on October 1, 1957, when Nevada National Forest was dissolved and its lands divided between Humboldt and Toiyabe. Humboldt and Toiyabe National Forests were administratively joined in 1995. Though managed as a single entity, the two forests remain legally and geographically distinct.

Humboldt National Forest Ranger Districts & Stations

- **Ely District** - The current Ely Ranger District is located in East-Central Nevada. The Ely Ranger District was originally the Nevada National Forest. Based on the review of old files the District was originally divided into as many as 6 separate Districts on the Nevada National Forest. The District has been part of the Nevada National Forest, the Humboldt National Forest, and the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest.
- **Gold Creek/Mountain City District** - The original D-1 was only a portion of the District with Headquarters at Jacks Creek Ranger Station. During the 1930s, D-1 & D-2 combined making the Sometime in the Independence District. Later, its name was changed to Mountain City District. The Gold Creek Ranger District lasted from 1907 to 1971 and became a part of the Mountain City Ranger District in 1971.
- **Lamoille/Ruby Mountain District** - The Lamoille Ranger District existed from 1957 to 1975 until it consolidated with and Ruby Ranger District in 1975. Lamoille name dropped from use. Ruby Mountain Ranger District is adopted.
- **Jarbridge District** - Mound Valley, Jiggs (Jakes) Ranger District lasted from 1915 to 1922, and Wells Ranger District lasted from 1959 to 1975. Jarbridge Ranger District split in two Districts, Pole Creek Portion (1910-1919 Both Pole Creek and Elk Mountain Dist. trans. to Elko) and Jarbridge Portion (1909-1919). They were consolidated in 1919. Ruby Mountain and Jarbridge Districts were consolidated in 1996.
- **Santa Rosas District** - District 1 of the original Santa Rosa National Forest was located on 40 acres at the mouth of Rebel Creek Canyon and existed from 1911 to 1922. It consisted of the west slope of the mountain south of Threemile to the pass at Paradise Hill. The District was associated with the Rebel Creek Ranger Station, which included a house, cellar, corral. and horse pasture. In 1918 flood waters from the creek left debris around the Station, but it wasn't closed until 1922.
 - **W. W. Blakeslee (1911 - 1916)** - First and only Supervisor on the Santa Rosa National Forest. Stationed in Winnemucca on April 11, 1911, then moved to Paradise Valley on December 18, 1911. He was there until he was transferred to Austin in 1916.

- **Frank Herder (1911 - ?)** - Unknown title. National Ranger Station. Newspaper accounts say that he lived in a tent with his family year around at Eightmile Creek.
 - **John Doolay (1926 - 1931)** - Worked on the west side of the mountain, but not sure where he stayed, as the Rebel Creek Station was closed.
- **National Ranger Station** - The Station was in operation from May 11, 1911 to June 24, 1918. The first temporary station was set-up on Eightmile Creek and consisted of two tents and a corral. If the Threemile Creek site was used, there isn't any record of it, but the rangers had to live somewhere as one of the rangers had his family with him. National Ranger Station was in District 3 of the Santa Rosa National Forest. The area consisted of all the Threemile Creek, Buckskin Mt, to the Oregon line and east to the North Fork of the Little Humboldt River.
- **Paradise Valley Ranger Station** - The CCC began the construction of the station in the fall of 1934 and completed it in 1941.
 - **Pauk L. Travis (1912 - 1942)** - He lived at the Lamance Ranger Station and homesteaded there also. He worked from the Lamance Ranger Station, Martin Creek Ranger Station, and Calico Ranger Station. In the early years the three forenamed stations were part of what was known as District 2. The Lamance Ranger Station was closed, and many of the buildings sold to local ranchers in 1929. Travis then moved into the town of Paradise Valley and bought a house and lived in it until he retired in 1942. In 1934 the Forest Service bought land in the town of Paradise Valley. As luck would have it, it was situated next to Ranger Travis' house. The CCC began constructing the new Paradise Valley Ranger Station in the fall of 1934 and finished with the dwelling in 1941. Ranger Travis experienced 3 of 4 changes in the ownership of the Santa Rosa Ranger District. He was also there when National and Rebel Creek Ranger Stations', District Three and District One respectively were closed, and the Districts consolidated.

Toiyabe National Forest Ranger Districts & Recreation Areas

- **Austin-Tonopah District** - Presidential proclamations established the Toiyabe Forest Reserve on March 1, 1907 and the Monitor and Toquima Forest Reserves on April 15, 1907. Mark G. Woodruff administered the three reserves from Austin until they were consolidated as the Toiyabe National Forest on July 1, 1908.

The Toiyabe, Toquima, and Monitor Forest Reserves were consolidated as the Toiyabe National Forest on July 1, 1908 as part of a region-wide consolidation effort. The following year, the north ends of the Toiyabe and Shoshone Ranges were added, as was the south end of the Paradise Range. Adjustments continued as the Toiyabe National Forest absorbed (1915) and then lost (1916) the Moapa Division. The Toiyabe experienced several boundary and area adjustments throughout the 1920s. By 1923, the forest had four rangers covering average areas of 479,000 acres. The ranger districts were the Kingston, Potts, Reese River, and Manhattan Districts.

Very complicated Ranger District history re-alignment of administrative boundaries, name changes, as well as the recent 1989 Enhancement Act that assumed management responsibility of the Hot Creek Range from BLM.

- **Spring Mountains National Recreation Area** - Originally known as the Charleston National Reserve in 1906 and changed to Charleston National Forest in 1907. Was consolidated into the Moapa National Forest in 1908 and the name Charleston National Forest was discontinued. The Vegas National Forest was established in 1907 and was absorbed in the Moapa in 1908. The Moapa National Forest was absorbed in the Toiyabe National Forest in 1915 and the Moapa National Forest was discontinued. Spring Mountains National Recreation Area was formally designated by Congress in 1993.
- **Bridgeport District**
- **Carson City District**

Ruby Mountains National Forest – This National Forest was originally established as the Ruby Mountains Forest Reserve by the U.S. Forest Service in northeastern Nevada on May 3, 1906 with 423,660 acres (1,714.5 km²). It became a National Forest on March 4, 1907. On July 1, 1908 the entire forest was added to Humboldt National Forest, and the name was discontinued until Ruby National Forest was established from Humboldt in 1912. The lands are presently part of the Ruby Mountain District of Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest. The forest was administered from the Gold Creek Ranger Station from 1911 to 1916, which has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Independence National Forest – This National Forest in Nevada was established as the Independence Forest Reserve by the U.S. Forest Service on November 5, 1906 with 135,019 acres (546.40 km²). It became a National Forest on March 4, 1907. On July 1, 1908 the entire forest was combined with Humboldt National Forest, and the name was discontinued.

Nevada National Forest – This National Forest was established by the U.S. Forest Service in Nevada on February 10, 1909 with 556,072 acres (2,250.34 km²). On July 1, 1932 the entire Toiyabe National Forest was added. On October 1, 1957 the forest was divided between Humboldt National Forest and the reinstated Toiyabe National Forest, and the name was discontinued. The Spring Mountains in Clark County of southern Nevada were in the former Nevada National Forest.

Mono National Forest – This National Forest was established by the U.S. Forest Service in California and Nevada on July 1, 1908 with 659,456 acres (2,668.72 km²), almost all in California from parts of Inyo, Toiyabe, Stanislaus and Sierra National Forests. On July 1, 1945 the entire forest was divided between Inyo and Toiyabe, and the name was discontinued. Interestingly, Harriet M. Metcalfe, who acted as Mono-Toiyabe National Forest's supervisor while Alexander McQueen was on Nevada relations detail, may be the first female forest supervisor in the agency.

Thanks to Teresa Dixon, the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest Archaeologist, and present district rangers for compiling this.