

BLM News

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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Spruce Mountain Off-Highway Vehicle Trail Project Proposed

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Elko Field Office has received a project proposal from the Elko Convention and Visitors Authority (ECVA) to develop the Spruce Mountain Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Trail. Public comment on the proposed project is requested.

The Spruce OHV Trail would be approximately 88 miles long, and would follow existing graded and two-track routes around the north and east sides of Spruce Mountain. The main turnoff to the Trail would be located approximately 35 miles south of Wells, off Highway 93. The route would be passable by most full-sized vehicles, however some portions are quite narrow and would require a high clearance and short wheel-base vehicle. In addition to the spectacular scenery, the area also has remnants of the historic mining camp of Sprucemont and the numerous old mining buildings, as well as the opportunity to view wildlife such as deer, elk, and antelope.

ECVA initially proposed the project in early 2003 as one of a series of OHV Trails, in cooperation with the BLM Elko Field Office, U.S. Forest Service-Humboldt/Toiyabe National Forest, and the communities of Elko, Carlin, and Wells.

The purpose of the project is to provide an opportunity for recreational OHV use. There is a regional demand for these opportunities with visitors expected from Nevada, Utah, Idaho and California. Other communities throughout the West are developing similar OHV trails to encourage tourism. The most notable local example is the Paiute Trail in west central Utah which covers several hundred miles and links several remote communities together.

If approved, marking the trail would begin in Spring 2004 and the trail would be open by June 5th, 2004 - National Trails Day. It would take about two years to fully implement the trail proposal and develop the associated interpretive stops, parking area, and other associated facilities.

Written comments should be sent to: Spruce Mountain Trail Project Coordinator, BLM Elko Field Office, 3900 Idaho Street, Elko, Nevada 89801, by the close of business on February 27, 2004. Comments will be used to guide the preparation of the environmental analysis, which will analyze the proposed action for the potential impacts and address issues and concerns.

Copies of the project proposal are available at the BLM Elko Field Office or on the BLM Elko Field Office website (<http://www.nv.blm.gov/Elko>). For questions or more information, please contact Steve Dondero by phone - (775) 753-0225, by email - sdondero@nv.blm.gov, or by mail - 3900 Idaho St., Elko, NV, 89801.

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