

# Forest Service seeks comment on geothermal plans

**Associated Press, 4-16-11**

SPARKS, Nev. -- The Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest is seeking public comment on the suitability of geothermal leasing on some of its ranger districts in Nevada and northern California.

Forest Supervisor Jeanne Higgins says the comments and environmental impact statements will help land managers determine whether to recommend portions of the Austin, Tonopah, Ely and Bridgeport, Calif., ranger districts for geothermal leasing.

Under the proposal, roughly 667,000 acres in the four ranger districts may be available for geothermal leasing. That would include about 659,000 acres of the Bridgeport district and far lesser amounts in the three Nevada districts.

U.S. Forest Service officials seek to identify appropriate areas for geothermal development while minimizing impacts to national forest lands.

Public comments should be submitted by May 16.