



Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest
Spring Mountains National Recreation Area
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News Release

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Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest Asks Public Not to Travel to the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area Due to Overcrowding

Las Vegas, NV., May 1, 2020 – With the extension of Nevada’s “Stay at Home” directive, the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest asks the public to please honor this directive by not traveling to the Mt. Charleston area on the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area (SMNRA) near Las Vegas. If some time outside is needed, the stay-at-home directive asks the public to keep close to home in areas where social distancing can be practiced.

There are currently no facilities available on the SMNRA. All campgrounds, picnic areas, restrooms, and the Spring Mountains Visitor Gateway are closed. Despite this, the SMNRA is experiencing visitation consistent with holiday weekends, resulting in overcrowding, lack of social distancing, illegal campfires, accumulating trash and human waste, and road congestion due to illegal parking that impedes emergency access.

“Our priority is always to protect the health and safety of the public, local communities, and employees,” said Forest Supervisor Bill Dunkelberger. “We are asking the public to help us protect our communities and natural resources by refraining from visiting Mt. Charleston right now. We look forward to reopening sites and welcoming you back when we have the ability to do so safely.”

The Forest recognizes that the current closures and restrictions come at a time when many are seeking respite in natural areas. However, these actions have been taken to support federal, state, county, and local measures to control the COVID-19 pandemic.

The following restrictions are in place on the SMNRA:

- **Group Size**
 - No more than nine people in an area in accordance with social distancing recommendations provide by the CDC.

- **Fire Restrictions**
 - No igniting, building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, including charcoal grills and barbecues, coal and wood burning stoves and sheepherder’s stoves.
 - No smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle, trailer, or building.



Anyone that violates these restrictions could be subject to fines of up to \$5,000 and/or six months in jail. In addition, anyone found responsible for starting a wildfire can be held civilly and criminally liable.

For information and updates on recreation closures and fire restrictions on the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, please visit the following sites:

- <http://www.fs.usda.gov/htnf>
- <https://www.facebook.com/HumboldtToiyabeNF/>
- <https://twitter.com/HumboldtToiyabe>

For tips from the CDC on preventing illnesses like the coronavirus, go to:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/prevention.html>.

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The Humboldt-Toiyabe's spectacular 6.3 million acres make it the largest national forest in the lower 48 states. Located in Nevada and a small portion of eastern California, the Forest offers year-round recreation of all types.

