

BRIDGEPORT VALLEY

Regional Planning Advisory Committee

PO Box 347
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546
760.924.1800 phone, 924.1801 fax
commdev@mono.ca.gov

PO Box 8
Bridgeport, CA 93517
760.932.5420 phone, 932.5431 fax
www.monocounty.ca.gov

October 13, 2020

John Peters, Mono County Board of Supervisors District 4
c/o Clerk of the Board
PO Box 715
Bridgeport, CA 93517

Re: RPAC supports the Humboldt Toiyabe National Forest filling the Bridgeport Ranger District Law Enforcement Officer position as soon as feasible

The Bridgeport Regional Advisory Committee (RPAC) is concerned that the US Forest Service (USFS) has not funded or filled the Humboldt Toiyabe National Forest (HTNF) Bridgeport Ranger District's Law Enforcement Office (LEO) position for this year or next. We understand from conversations with local USFS management that this issue is not within local control and that responsibility for filling this LEO position rests at a regional and national level.

The Bridgeport Ranger District (BRD) encompasses 1,300,000 acres and is heavily visited throughout the year. There is on average, according to the USFS Perceptions of Law Enforcement and Investigation Study, one LEO per 420,000 acres of Forest Service Land. By this calculation, the BRD could potentially have three LEOs - having none is not acceptable or defensible.

We feel that leaving the LEO position vacant is a breach of public safety and responsible government stewardship of our public lands. This negligence also poses a threat to nearby state and private lands.

The Bridgeport RPAC respectfully request the Board of Supervisors writes a letter urge the USFS to fund and fill this position as soon as possible.

We ask that the Board of Supervisors consider this request and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Little, Chair Bridgeport RPAC