Garnet Hill Recreation Area Management Plan and Environmental Assessment

- Ely City Council-

February 9, 2023

Agenda

- Project Goals and Objectives
- RAMP/EA Process Overview
- Existing Conditions
- Preliminary Proposed Action
- Schedule
- How to Participate
- Question and Answer



Goals and Objectives

- Combine existing Garnet Hill Recreation Area and Egan Crest Trailhead facilities and trail systems
- Expand user facilities at both trailhead areas
- Include information on the BLM process for consideration of future additions of new recreational facilities, trails, and visitor use opportunities within the GHRA
- Address the desired recreational outcomes, recreational needs, and management of increased visitation to the GHRA

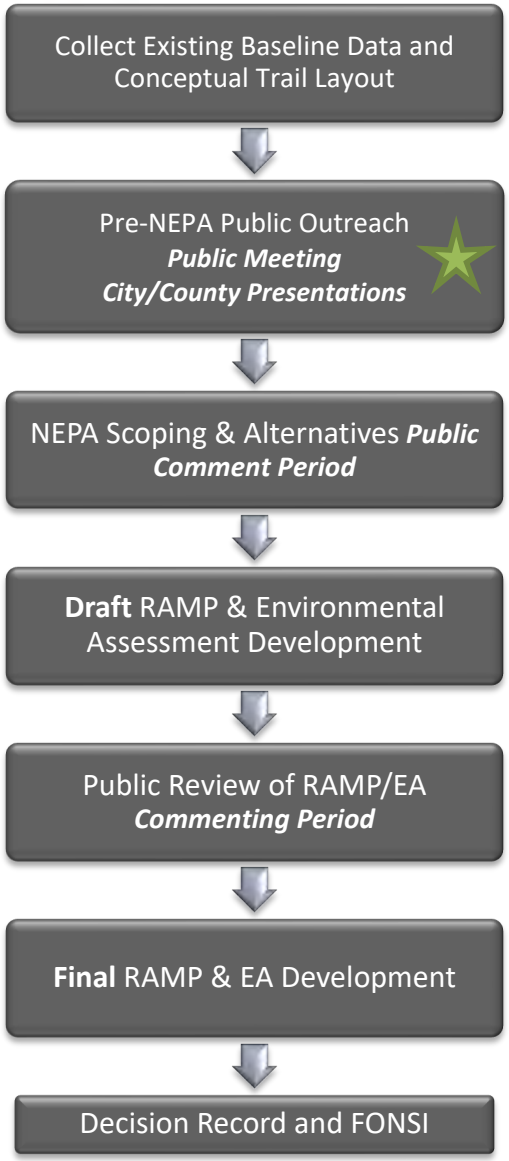
RAMP/EA Process

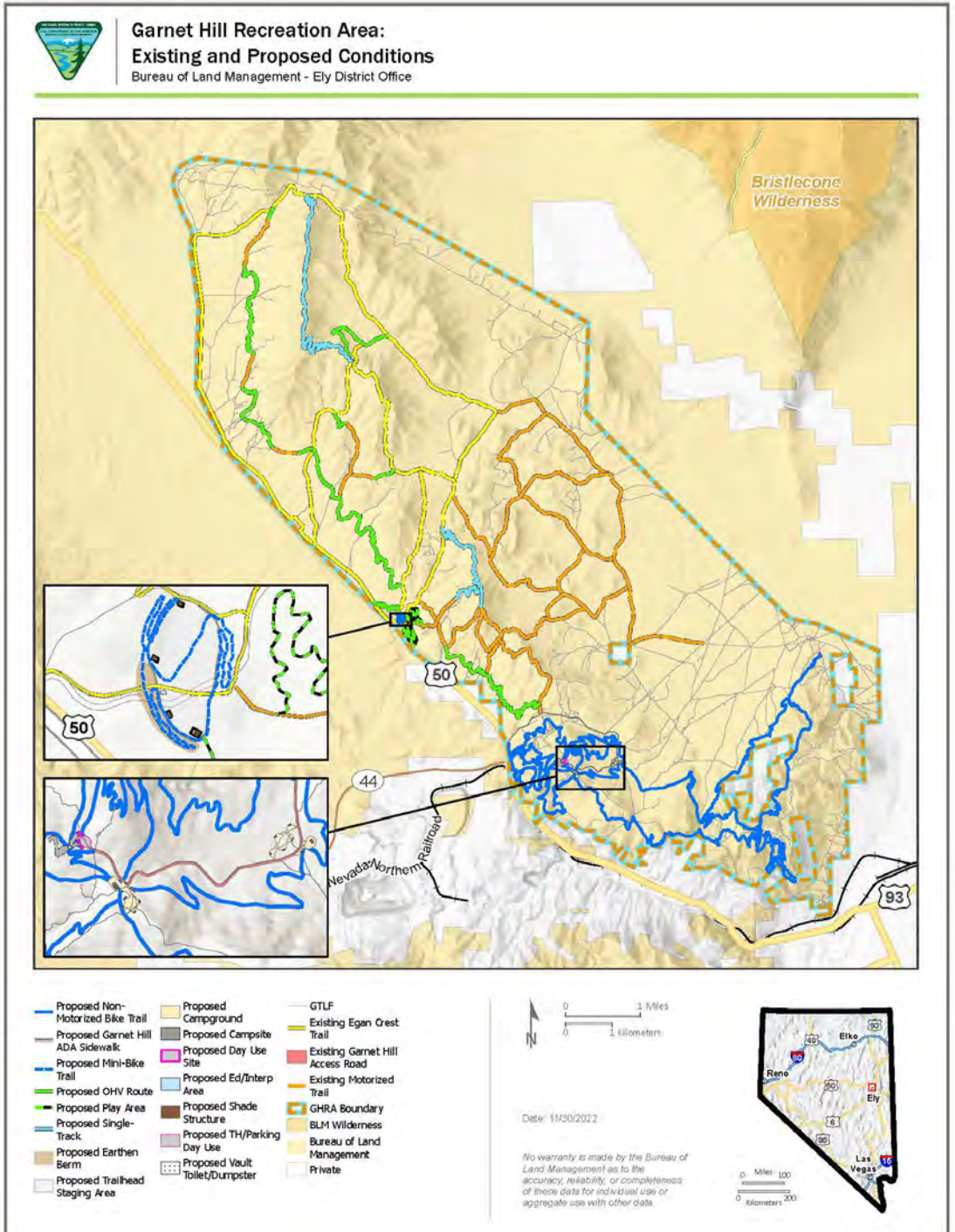
The Recreation Area Management Plan will:

- Conform with the existing Resource Management Plan and applicable federal and state laws and regulations.
- Consider public input on recreation needs and resource values.
- Identify existing route network as open to all uses and incorporate and improve some existing routes into signed trail system.
- Minimize user conflicts and resource impacts.
- Guide the BLM in future management of the Recreation Area and include direction for implementing actions, future maintenance actions, future addition of recreational opportunities, visitor use, use restrictions, and special recreation events.

The Environmental Assessment:

- Is the planning process by which the upgrading of and addition of recreational opportunities are analyzed for impacts to the environment.
- Will include the development and consideration of alternatives to avoid or reduce adverse resource impacts.




Garnet Hill Recreation Area:
Existing and Proposed Conditions
Bureau of Land Management - Ely District Office
Bristlecone Wilderness
50
50
44
Nevada Northern Railroad
93
Proposed Non-Motorized Bike Trail
Proposed Garnet Hill ADA Sidewalk
Proposed Mini-Bike Trail
Proposed OHV Route
Proposed Play Area
Proposed Single-Track
Proposed Earthen Berm
Proposed Trailhead Staging Area
Proposed Campground
Proposed Campsite
Proposed Day Use Site
Proposed Ed/Interp Area
Proposed Shade Structure
Proposed TH/Parking Day Use
Proposed Vault Toilet/Dumpster
GTLF
Existing Egan Crest Trail
Existing Garnet Hill Access Road
Existing Motorized Trail
GHRA Boundary
BLM Wilderness
Bureau of Land Management
Private
0 1 Miles
0 1 Kilometers
Date: 11/30/2022
No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.
Elko
Reno
Ely
Las Vegas
0 Miles 100
0 Kilometers 200

Garnet Hill


Welcome to Garnet Hill

Existing Conditions

Garnet Hill Trailhead

- Natural surface parking for approximately 8 vehicles
- 4 day-use picnic sites with grills
- ADA bathroom
- Group BBQ/picnic site
- 2 informal areas for tents
- No water is available
- Interpretive signage

Egan Crest Trailhead

- Natural surface parking for approximately 25 vehicles
- 2 picnic tables with shade structures
- Trailhead sign
- No bathroom
- No water



Preliminary Proposed Action

- None of the existing roads or routes are proposed to be closed to current uses
- Non-Motorized Trail System
  - 20-30 miles of newly constructed non-motorized and signed trails
  - System links 2-3 potential new trailheads/parking areas
  - Trail system and District Recreation Opportunity Map kiosks
- Motorized Trail System
  - 20-30 miles of newly constructed trails
  - Incorporates existing routes into signed motorized trail system
  - Connects Garnet Hill and Egan Crest trailheads

Preliminary Proposed Action

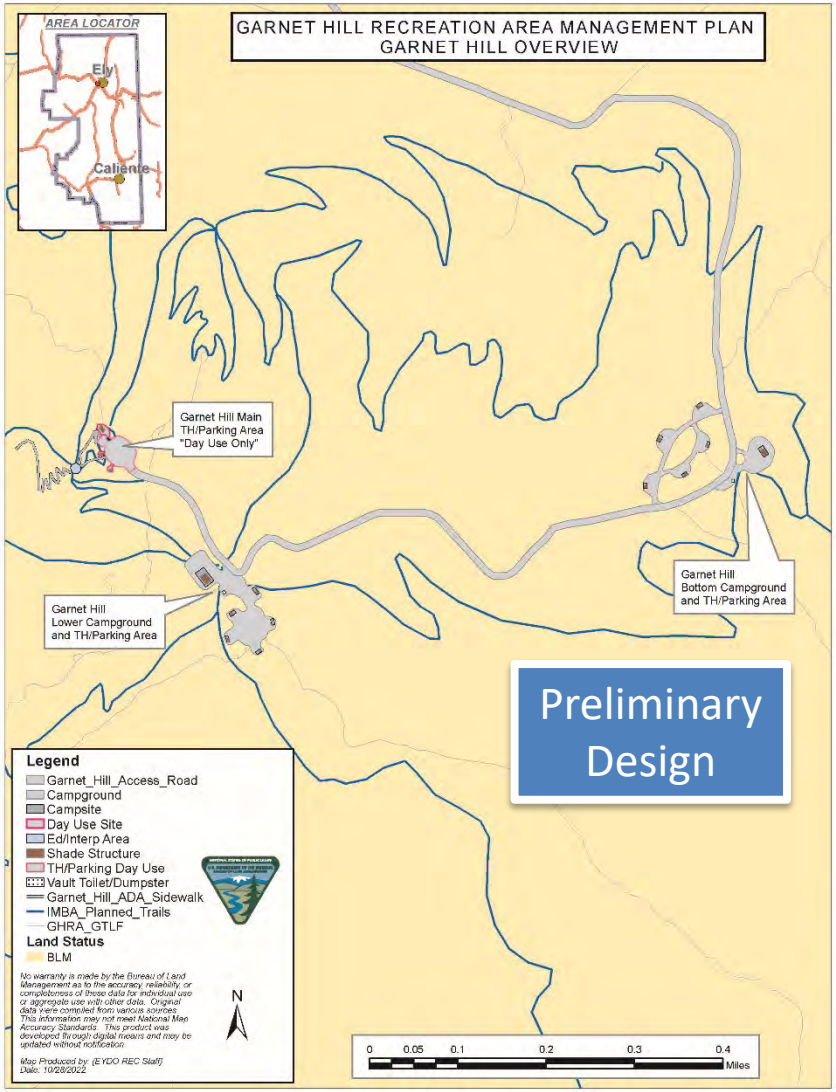
Garnet Hill Trailhead and Campgrounds

- Improved/engineered road access from Hwy 50
- Enlargement of the existing trailhead
- Improved access for garnet rock hounding via an ADA accessible sidewalk and trail leading to other garnet bearing locations
- ADA accessible group and individual day use picnic sites
- Two overnight ADA accessible campgrounds (potential fee use area) each having 1 group and 5 individual camp sites and 1 vault toilet
- An interpretive educational kiosk area and outdoor classroom facility

Preliminary Proposed Action

Garnet Hill Trailhead and Campgrounds

Overview

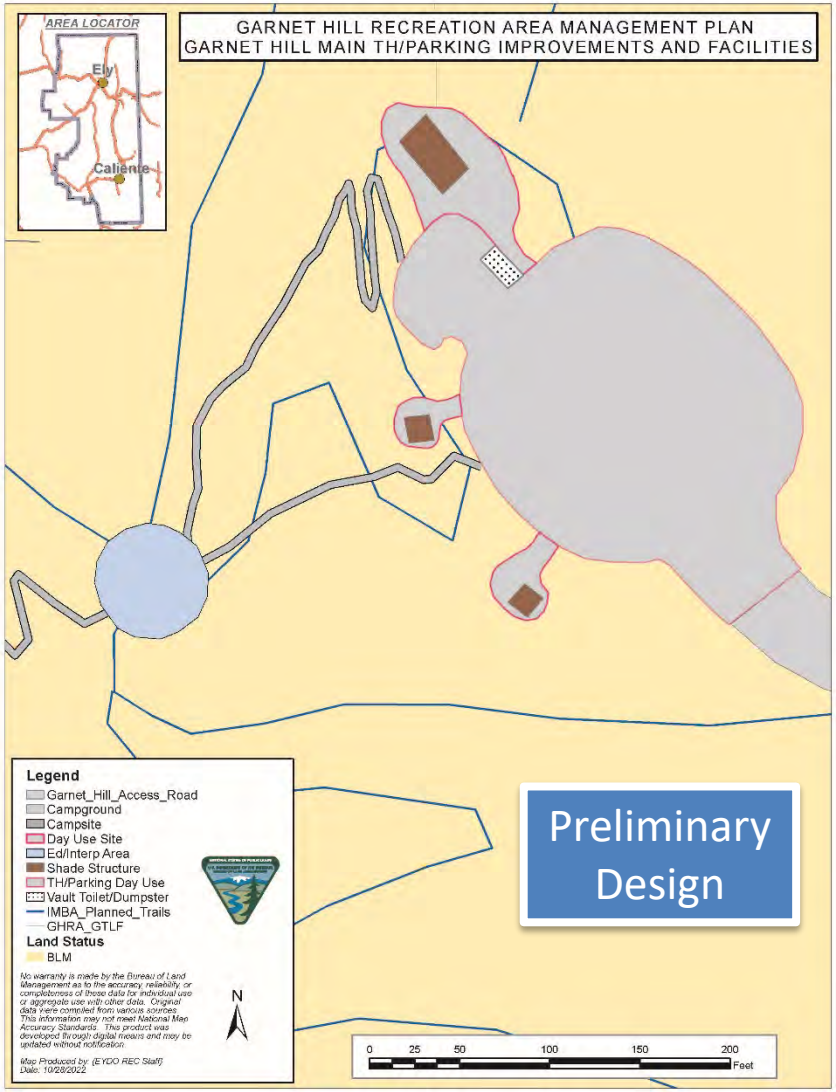


Preliminary Proposed Action

Garnet Hill Trailhead

Day Use and Outdoor Educational Area

- Shade structures
- Vault Toilet
- Dumpster
- Outdoor Classroom/Educational Area
- Improved access to rockhounding area

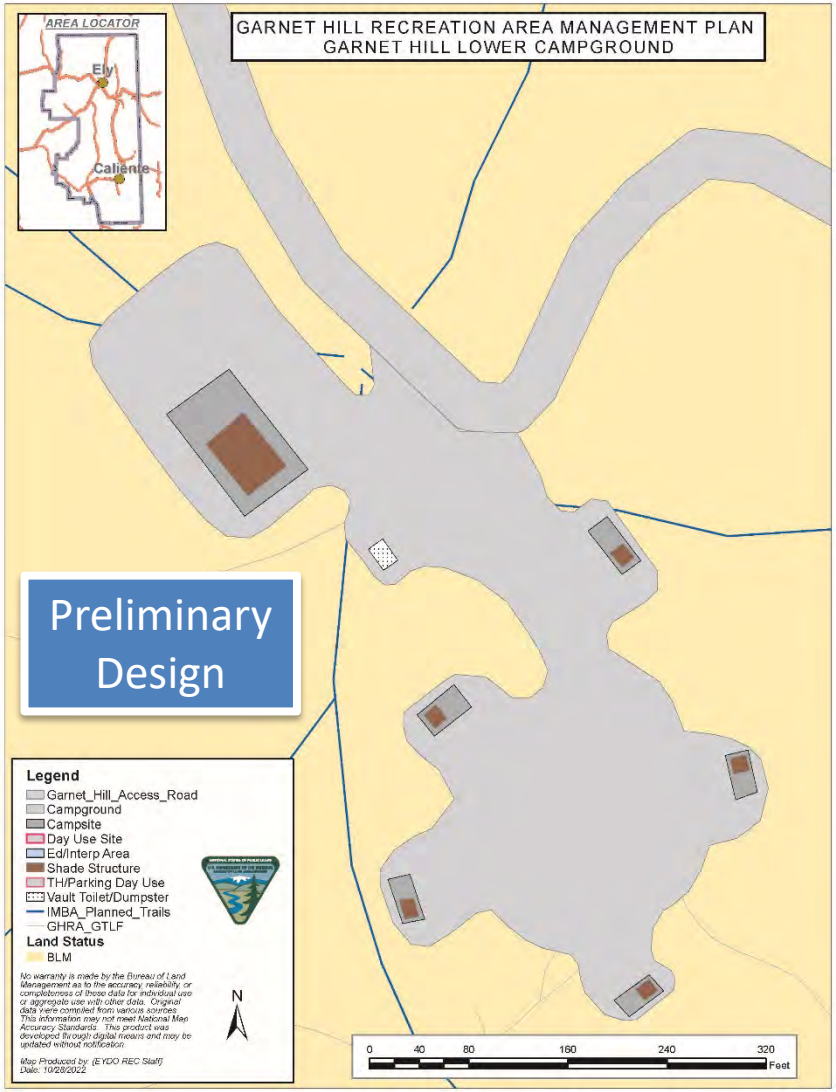


Preliminary Proposed Action

Garnet Hill Area

Proposed Westside Campground

- 5 individual campsites w/ shade structures
- 1 group campsite w/ shade structure
- vault toilet
- dumpster

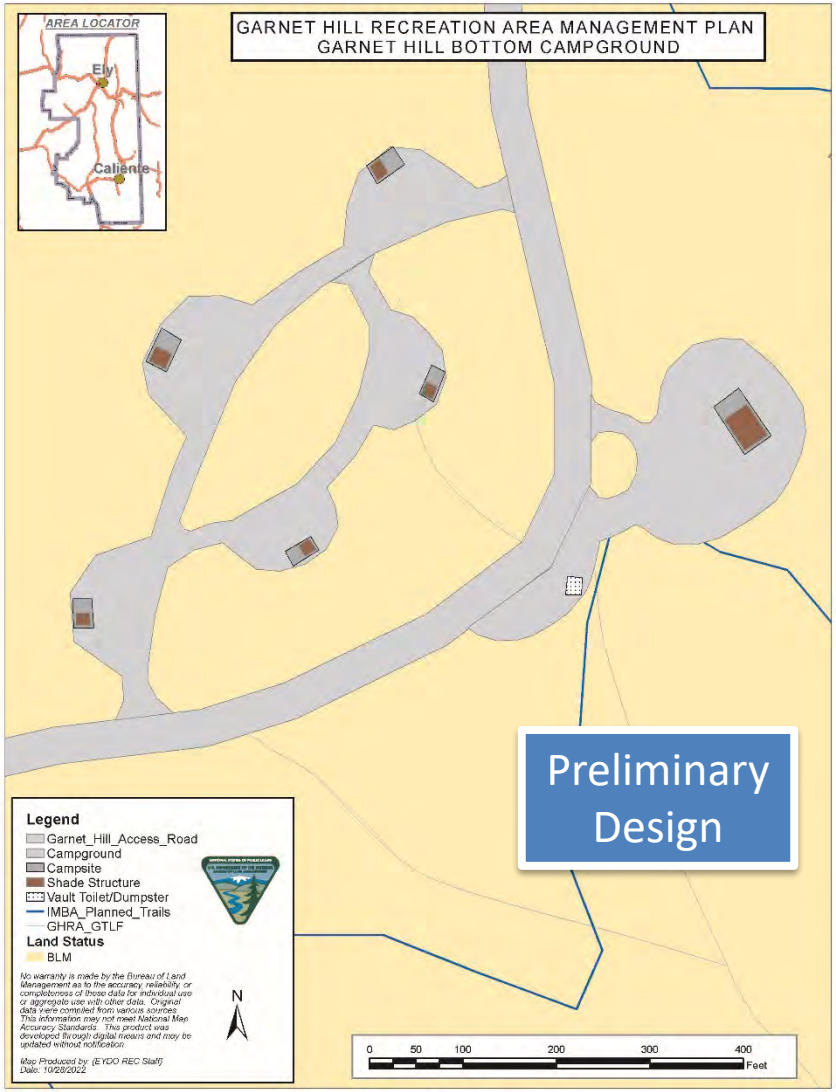


Preliminary Proposed Action

Garnet Hill Area

Proposed Eastside Campground

- 5 individual campsites w/ shade structures
- 1 group campsite w/ shade structure
- vault toilet
- dumpster



Preliminary Proposed Action

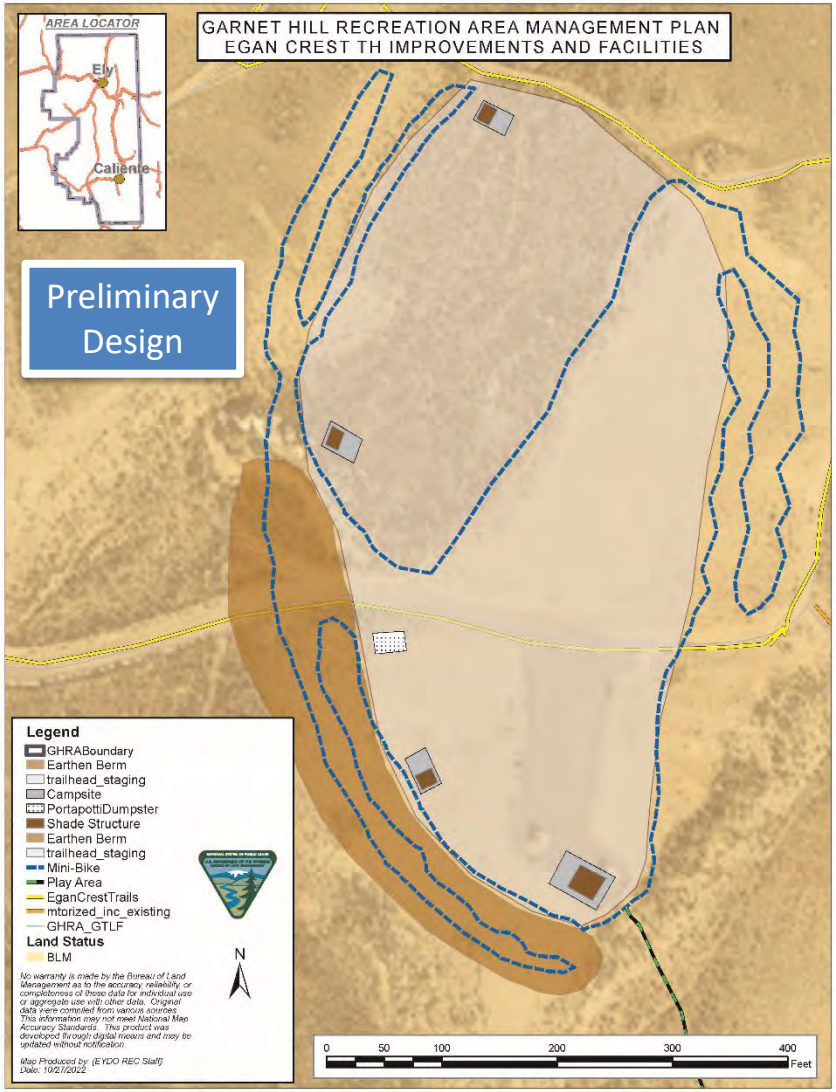
Egan Crest Trailhead

- Construction of an earthen berm to shield view of trailhead from Hwy 50
- Expansion of the existing trailhead parking area from .75 acres to 3-5 acres
- Installation of a concrete pad for rented dumpster and porta-potties
- Construction of 1 Group and 3 individual ADA accessible camp sites (potential fee use area)
- Installation of a kiosk with trail system map and Ely District Recreation Opportunity Guide map

Preliminary Proposed Action

Egan Crest Trailhead

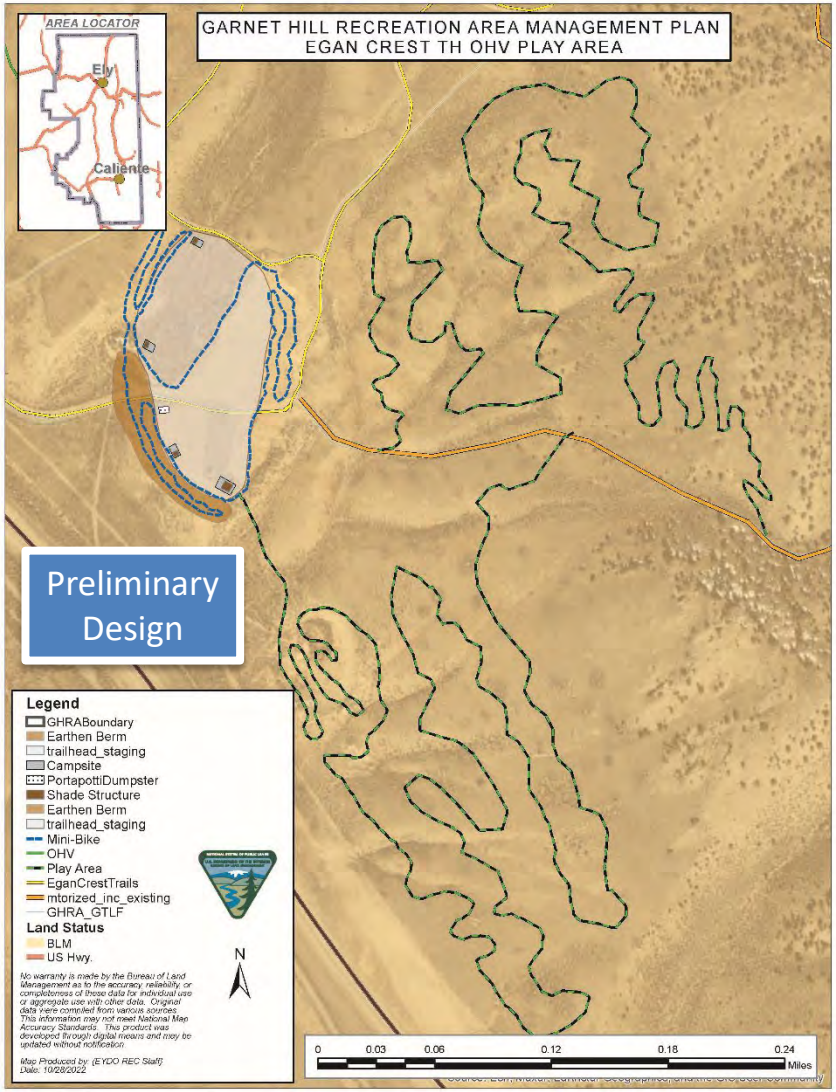
- 3 individual campsites w/ shade structures
- 1 group campsite w/ shade structure
- Porta Potty
- Dumpster
- Mini-bike Course



Preliminary Proposed Action

Egan Crest Trailhead

- Play Area



Preliminary Schedule

Project Milestones	Timeline
Public Workshop	December 7, 2022
Present Preliminary Proposed Action to City, County and County appointed committees	January/February 2023
On-site field tour	Late Winter - Spring 2023
EA Public Scoping Meeting	
Draft Preliminary EA and RAMP	Late Spring - Early Summer 2023
Preliminary EA/RAMP posted to NEPA Register (ePlanning)	Summer 2023
BLM finalizes EA/RAMP	Late Summer – Early Fall 2023
Issue Decision Record and Appeal Period	Fall 2023

Input received at the Public Workshop

- Directional use signage on singletrack trails
- Access across private and/or City land
- OHV width use on trails
- E-bike use

How to Participate

After this presentation, submit your comments to BLM via:

Mail to:

BLM Bristlecone Field Office
702 N Industrial Way
Ely, NV 89301
Attn: Garnet Hill RAMP

Email to:

blm_nv_ely_ghra@blm.gov

Question and Answer Session

