



PUBLIC NOTICE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
LOS ANGELES DISTRICT

RAINBOW CANYON DEBRIS FLOW DIVERSION STRUCTURE PROJECT

LOCATION: The project area is located within U.S. Forest Service land in the Rainbow Subdivision of the Spring Mountain National Recreation Area in the town of Mt. Charleston, Clark County, Nevada. The Rainbow Subdivision is an in-holding of private property within federal lands. See Figure 1.

PROPOSED PROJECT: The project entails construction of an approximately 1,200 foot long trapezoidal berm and trapezoidal channel to divert debris flows away from Rainbow Subdivision. The structure would be armored with riprap. The downstream terminus will be located northeast of the subdivision and connect to an existing ridge. The alignment will extend to the upstream terminus in a southwesterly direction. The structure would redirect flows away from the subdivision to an existing wash then into Kyle Canyon. At approximately 1,100 feet downstream, the diversion structure will cross an existing dirt road. A grade control structure will be needed to maintain the road elevations. About 270 feet downstream of the road, the existing bank may need to be bolstered with additional fill and armoring of the bank fill. This will be needed to direct the flows around the bend and away from the property immediately downstream. See Figure 1.

BACKGROUND AND AUTHORITY: The July 1, 2013 Carpenter 1 Fire burned approximately 27,881 acres. Approximately 26,939 acres was located in the Springs Mountains National Recreation Area and encompassed Rainbow Canyon. On September 1, 2013, a typical monsoon storm (i.e., 2-year storm) caused substantial debris flows and erosion that damaged dozens of residences and public infrastructure including Rainbow Canyon Road. The potential for a catastrophic debris flow during the 2014 monsoon season affecting Rainbow Subdivision is high. As a result, a diversion structure is needed to protect life and property.

The Nevada Governor's Office requested direct and technical advance measures from the Corps of Engineers on February 27, 2014. The Corps is authorized under Public Law 84-99 to provide flood emergency assistance when flood conditions exceed, or are predicted to exceed the response capability of local or state governments. The Corps of Engineers is coordinating this advance measures assistance work with the Nevada Division of Emergency Management, Clark County, and U.S. Forest Service.

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT COMPLIANCE: Initial characterizations of biological and cultural resources from the March 5, 2014 site visit are noted below:

Biological Resources: The habitat associated with the proposed project area is a relatively young Ponderosa Pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) forest interspersed with White Fir (*Abies concolor*). The trees are probably less than 50 years old and have been thinned in the past to accelerate the ecological succession. The area is relatively open with some grasses and a few shrub species that were unidentified at the time of the site visit on March 5, 2014, because the vegetation was still in a dormant stage.

- Rough Angelica (*Angelica scabrida*), currently a species of concern, was found on the proposed project site prior to the debris flow last August that buried much of the vegetation within the area. It is not known the current status of the population and a spring survey would be necessary to document whether the

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species is still in the proposed project area. A conservation management plan may need to be provided for this plant species in order to proceed with the proposed project.

- The Mt. Charleston blue butterfly occurs within the Spring Mountain National Recreation Area, but habitat within the proposed project area does not provide ideal habitat for the species. The butterfly is dependent upon open habitats that support Torrey's milkvetch (*Astragalus calycosus var. mancus*), the only known larval host plant for this species.

Cultural Resources: Coordination and consultation with Nevada State Historic Preservation Office may be necessary based on historical work by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the Rainbow Canyon area from 1934-1936 which include several check dams constructed upstream of the proposed project area. However, these structures may have been destroyed during the events of August 2013.

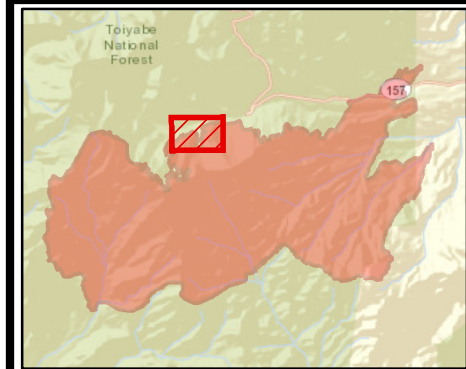
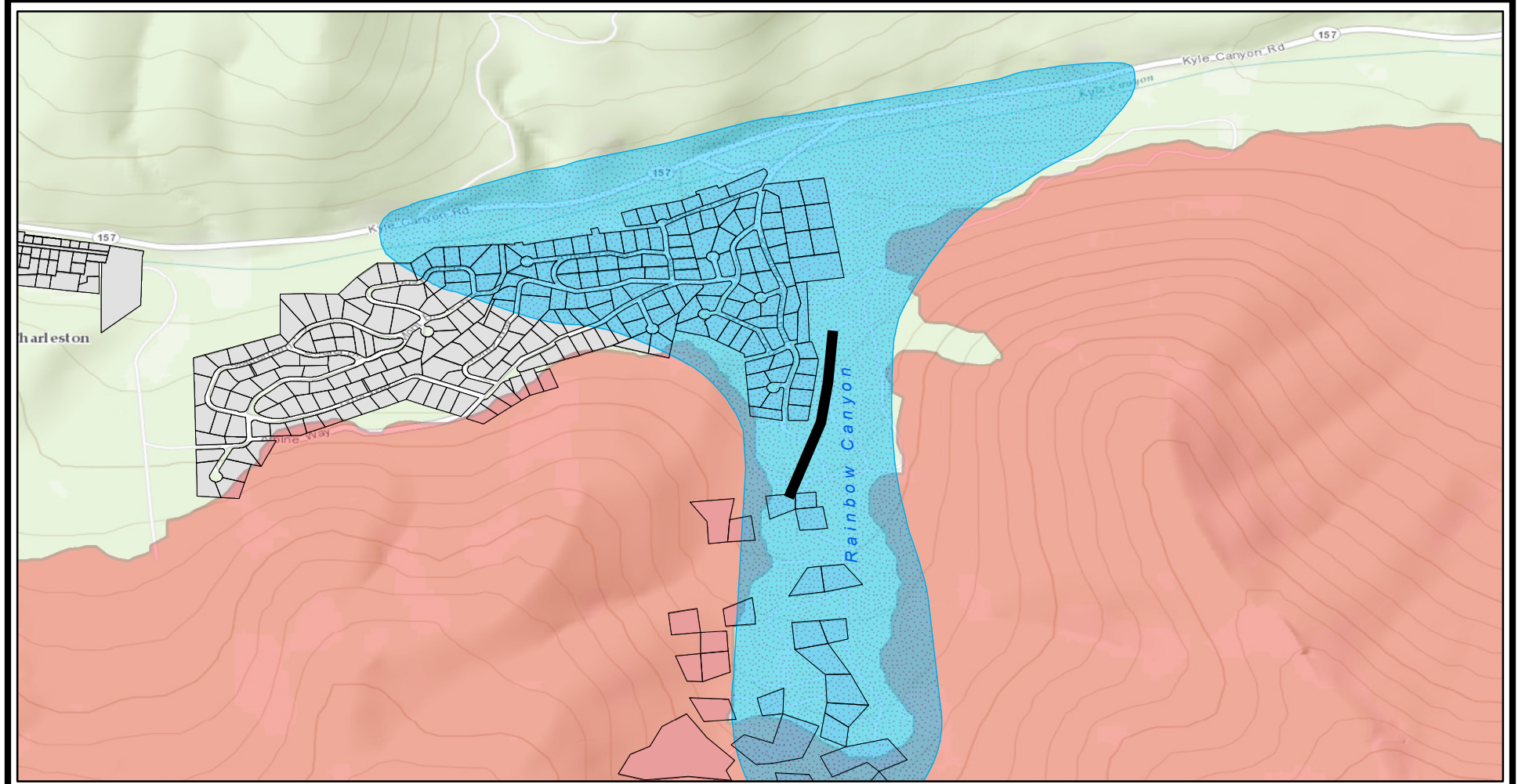
Based on information gathered during the site visit, it is likely that the project would not result in significant impacts to endangered species, important fish and wildlife resources, water quality, or other natural and cultural resources. Therefore, the Corps proposes to prepare an Environmental Assessment for the proposed project.

SUBMITTING COMMENTS: The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; and other interested parties. Comments will be accepted from April 7, 2014 to April 22, 2014.


Comments should be mailed to:

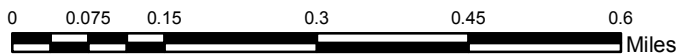
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Kenneth Wong, Planning Division
915 Wilshire Blvd., 14th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Alternatively, comments can be sent electronically to: kenneth.wong@usace.army.mil



Legend

-  Diversion Structure
-  Flood Extent
-  Burn Area
-  Parcels



Sources:
 Imagery Background:
 ESRI ArcGIS Online Basemap Sources
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Coordinate System:
 State Plane California VI (FIPS 406, Feet)
 Datum: NAD 1983



CARPENTER 1 FIRE

RAINBOW CANYON
FLOOD EVENT
SEPTEMBER 2013



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Figure 1