

DEVELOPMENT:
Project may start in late summer 2021

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Actual development is a ways off. Eckert said the fastest possible timeline to put shovels in the ground is late summer 2021.

The Forest Service Sisters Ranger District Headquarters will remain where it is now located, but new facilities will be built. According to Sisters District Ranger Ian Reid, that project, too, will begin at the earliest in 2021.

Maintaining its long-time Sisters location marks a change of plans for the Forest Service, who originally intended to sell the entire 80-acre administrative site and move its headquarters to a parcel of land on the west end of Sisters just

beyond the GrandStay Hotel.

“We’re not going to move,” Reid told *The Nugget*. “We’re retaining 12 acres of what we call Parcel 2.”

He said the costs and logistics of a move proved not to be viable.

“The site development was going to be pretty expensive, with highway improvements that were going to be required and utilities out there,” he said.

Instead, the USFS is in the process of contracting out a site plan that will feature a warehouse and vehicle garage and a new headquarters building on the current site. Staff will continue working at the existing office until the new one is built. The warehouse will likely be built first, Reid said.

Eckert described the cottage development as “a much more challenging kind of construction” than a

conventional housing development, because it is not just a matter of clearing the site and laying in a grid.

Though 250 to 300 housing units is a lot in a Sisters development, Eckert said, “it will feel very loose because of the open space and the trees. It’s hard to describe. Our goal is, before the planning commission (hearing) we can have some sort of representation so people can wrap their brains around that.”

The architect and designer said that the project will also feature some commercial development. The exact nature of that has not been determined, but Eckert envisions a kind of “commercial village” that would interact with the residential development.

“I don’t think the town needs a lot more commercial,” he said.

A forestful...



PHOTO BY BRENDA JAROS

Caterpillars are camped out across Sisters Country.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Much of the Forest Service administrative site will become housing in the next couple of years.

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