US Forest Service
Pacific Southwest Region
Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit

Proposed Action for the Nevada Beach Campground and Day Use Area BMP Retrofit Project Douglas County, Nevada

BACKGROUND:
The Nevada Beach Campground and Day Use Area is located on National Forest System (NFS) lands on Lake Tahoe's southeast shore approximately one mile north of Stateline, Nevada in Douglas County (See Figure 1). All facilities within the Nevada Beach Campground and Day Use Area are owned by the Forest Service and managed by California Land Management (CLM), a privately held company under the terms of a special use permit.

The Nevada Beach Campground and Day Use Area was constructed in the 1950's following the USFS purchase of the land in 1942. The facility was renovated in the 1970's; however since then, concerns for water quality and soil erosion around Lake Tahoe have increased and new standards for facilities have been established.

PURPOSE AND NEED:
The purposes of the Nevada Beach Campground and Day Use Area BMP Retrofit project include repairing or maintaining specific site conditions to bring them into compliance with Best Management Practices (BMPs) for soil and water quality protection, as well as bringing the facility into compliance with accessibility standards.

Currently, some existing facilities, walkways, camping spurs, parking areas, and other site features do not meet Forest Service Outdoor Recreation Accessibility Guidelines (FSORAG). These guidelines are a code for providing universal access to people with disabilities. The Forest Service needs to repair or replace some facilities at the site in order to be in compliance with the FSORAG and other laws such as the Americans with Disabilities Act / Architectural Barriers Act.

Some existing utilities within the site, such as water and electrical lines, are outdated or in a state of disrepair, and need to be maintained or replaced to meet health and safety codes.

PROPOSED ACTION
The Proposed action (see Figure 2, Preliminary Design) includes the relocation of one campsite from lower capability soils to an area of higher capability soils. Campsite spurs would increase to 16' wide by 40' long from current conditions and would comply with FSORAG. Sites will primarily be oriented for back-in access. Some sites will be designed for head-in use based on site conditions related to campsite living areas. Implementation of these activities may include

excavation for placement of drainage utilities such as pipes or replacement of culverts, paving, and limited tree removal. RV site utilities will be installed for campground host sites to facilitate season-long occupancy for these employees. Six accessible platforms are proposed at existing campsites for seasonal yurts or tent-cabins. These temporary structures would be removed during winter months and would be designed to visually blend with the surrounding landscape.

Portions of campground road sections are proposed for elimination or conversion to trail in order to provide simplified vehicle circulation and reduce impervious coverage

Repair and maintenance to structures and utilities will also take place to meet current codes and accessibility standards. The existing but abandoned water tank, pump pit and piping will be removed.

Parking areas will be improved at the day use area and may include implementation of stormwater catch basins including "sand-oil separators" and/or the use of infiltration basins. Parking areas will be reconfigured to optimize capacity and will remain within the existing parking area footprint. Accessible walkways from the day use parking areas to the beach are proposed, as well as development of accessible picnic areas along these routes.

Restroom buildings, water fountains and other site features that do not meet FSORAG requirements will be maintained or replaced**.** The northern most day use restroom will be replaced in a new location that better serves day use visitors.

PROJECT DESIGN FEATURES:
Project design features are elements of the project that are applied in treatment areas. These features are developed based on Forest Plan direction and site specific evaluations in order to reduce or avoid negative environmental impacts of the proposed action. Project design features associated with this project include the following:

Soil Design Features

1. Erosion control and prevention of sediment transport for this project will be implemented in accordance with; *UDSA, Water Quality Management for Forest System Lands in California - Best Management Practices* (USDA 2000). This project will also be included in the Region 5, Best Management Practices Evaluation Program (BMPEP) monitoring sample pool and will be subject to temporary BMP (TBMP) monitoring evaluations while construction is ongoing.

2. Project activities will occur within the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) grading ordinance season (May 01 – Oct 15). If grading or movement outside of this window becomes necessary (i.e. to finish BMPs, etc.) a standard grading exception permit request will be submitted to the TRPA for approval. During periods of inclement weather, operations would be shut down until conditions are sufficiently dry and stable to allow construction to continue without the threat of substantial erosion, sedimentation, or offsite sediment transport.

3. Drinking fountains and water spigots will include signage directing the public not to wash dishes at these locations.

Biological Design Features

1. Any sightings of threatened, endangered, candidate, sensitive, management indicator, or special interest species would be reported to the project biologist. These species would be protected as directed by standards and guidelines in the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit Forest Plan (LTBMU FP), Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment (SNFPA), and Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) code of ordinances.

2. Minimize the removal of larger trees as required for an efficient road system. Species preference would be given to large cedars, then pines, and finally to firs. Structural preference would be given to live trees with teakettle branches, large diameter broken tops, or cavities in the bole for wildlife habitat.

3. The population of the LTBMU sensitive plant, Tahoe yellow cress (TYC), will be buffered by 100 feet in diameter. No project activities will occur within this buffer. In addition no project activities will affect Burke Creek.

4. If any other LTBMU sensitive plant species or special interest plant species are identified before or during project implementation a buffer of up to 100 feet in diameter or distance determined by LTBMU Botany Department will be flagged around the sensitive resource.

5. All construction and earth-moving equipment are required to be weed-free. All off-road equipment used on this project shall be free of soil, seeds, vegetative material, or other debris that could contain or hold seeds of noxious weeds. “Off-road equipment” includes all construction equipment; it does not include, service vehicles, pickup trucks, and similar vehicles not intended for off-road use. Equipment will be considered clean when visual inspection by contract COR does not reveal soil, seeds, plant material, or other such debris.

6. All gravel, fill, or other materials are required to be weed-free. Use onsite sand, gravel, rock, or organic matter when possible. Otherwise, obtain certified weed-free materials from gravel pits and fill sources that have been certified weed free or approved by the LTBMU Botany Department.

7. Minimize the amount of ground and vegetation disturbance in the construction areas. Reestablish vegetation where feasible on disturbed bare ground to minimize weed establishment and infestation.

8. Use weed-free mulches, and seed sources. Seed mixes and mulch would be used to enhance the establishment of native plants. Where feasible, salvage topsoil from project area for use in onsite revegetation, unless contaminated with noxious weeds. All activities that require seeding or planting must utilize locally collected native seed sources when

possible or seeds and plants approved by the LTBMU Botany department. Plant and seed material should be collected from or near the project area, from within the same watershed, and at a similar elevation when possible. Persistent non-natives such as *Phleum pratense* (cultivated timothy), *Dactylis glomerata* (orchard grass), or *Lolium* spp. (ryegrass) will not be used.

9. Noxious weed infestations identified before project implementation that are within the project area or along travel routes near the project area will be hand treated or "flagged and avoided" according to the species present and project constraints.

10. After the project is completed all disturbed project areas would be monitored. This is to ensure additional weed species do not become established in the areas affected by the project.

Heritage Design Features

1. In the event historic properties are discovered during the implementation of this undertaking, all project related work must stop immediately, the LTBMU's Heritage Resources personnel will be notified at once and the procedures as set forth in Section 800.13 of the Council's regulations must be implemented in accordance with the guidance as stated in this sub-section.

Recreation Design Features

1. Provide advanced notice to ensure that the public is aware of proposed project activity. Post signs in project areas near public access points to highlight the proposed action and impacts to public access.

2. Initiate temporary forest closure only during project activity period to ensure public safety. Any closure should be as limited as possible to reduce restrictions to public access.

IMPLEMENTATION DATE:
The planned implementation date for the Nevada Beach Campground and Day Use Area BMP Retrofit Project is May 2010 although some actions may occur in 2011.

CONTACT PERSON:
The project contact person is Daniel Cressy, Landscape Architect, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, 35 College Dr., South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150, (530) 543-2857. Electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as an email address, plan text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), or Word (.doc) to comments-pacificsouthwest-ltbmu@fs.fed.us using the subject title "Nevada Beach BMP project".

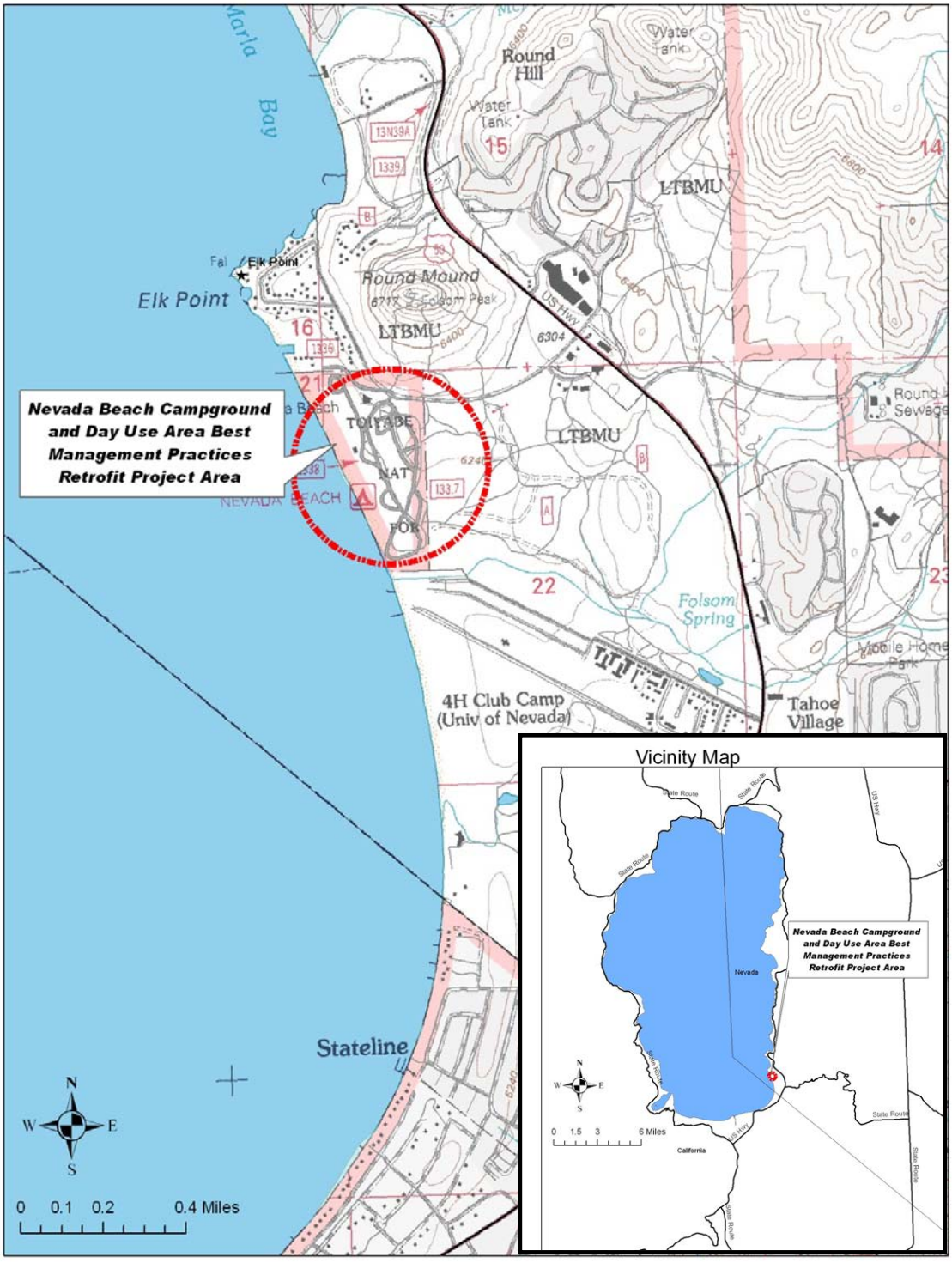

Figure 1. Project Area Location

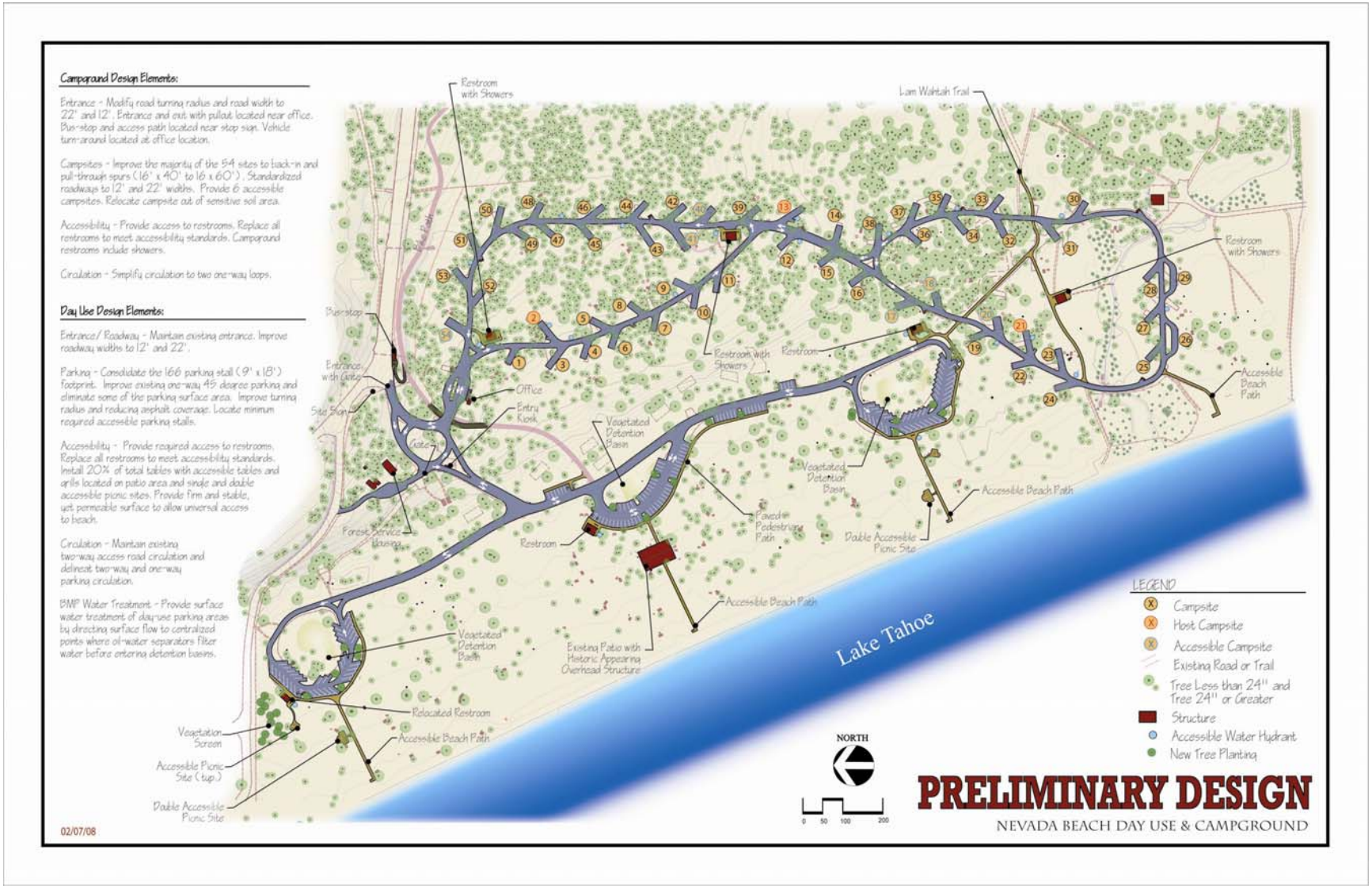

Figure 2. Preliminary Design of Nevada Beach Campground and Day Use Area BMP Retrofit Project