



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Tahoe  
National  
Forest

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File Code: 1950-3

Date: September 26, 2008

Dear Friend of the Tahoe National Forest:

I am pleased to announce the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Motorized Travel Management on the Tahoe National Forest. The DEIS discloses the environmental impacts associated with seven alternatives for managing motor vehicle use on the Tahoe National Forest. Of the alternatives under consideration at this stage, Alternative 6 is my preferred alternative. Some of the key elements of the Preferred Alternative are:

1. Cross country motorized travel off designated roads, trails and "Open "Areas" would be prohibited.
2. The Forest Plan would be amended to remove the seasonal closure on 18,000 acres in the Sugar Pine area to improve motorized recreation opportunities.
3. Wet weather seasonal closures of approximately 2,400 miles of native surface (dirt) roads and trails would be imposed. These additional wet weather seasonal restrictions are imposed to minimize erosion and protect water quality.
4. Hardened surface existing roads would be changed from "***Open to Highway Legal Vehicles Only***" to "***Open to All Vehicles***" on 276 miles of roads where there was an identified public need that outweighed potential risks to public safety.
5. 70.3 miles of motorized trails would be added to the National Forest Transportation System (NFTS). When added to the existing NFTS, the result is more than 2,900 miles of roads and trails available for motorized vehicle use. These additional motorized trails were selected for addition to the NFTS based on the following criteria:
  - o Specifically recommended for addition by the public.
  - o No adverse impacts to soil and water resources which could not be mitigated.
  - o If trail crosses private land, landowner not opposed to granting public access.
  - o No adverse heritage (archaeology) impacts which could not be mitigated.
  - o No significant effect to Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA) character.
  - o No significant cumulative effects to Spotted Owls or Northern Goshawks.
  - o No adverse effects to Lahontan Cutthroat Trout.
  - o Provides high quality OHV experiences.
  - o Motorized use not prohibited in the Forest Plan.
  - o Not already a designated non-motorized trail.
  - o Does not require new trail construction or significant re-routing of existing trail.
  - o No unacceptable public safety risks.

It is important to remember this proposal is just a draft. Your comments will be critical in refining this draft proposal prior to my final decision in March 2009. To provide you additional time as requested by the public, I have extended the comment period an additional 16 days for a total of two months of review. I strongly encourage each of you to closely review the enclosed documents and maps. Try to make your comments as site specific as possible, preferably by referring to those specific roads or trails you have concerns about.



Technical questions can be addressed to:

<p><b>David Arrasmith, Forest Planner</b> 631 Coyote Street Nevada City, CA 95945 (530) 478-6220 EMAIL: darrasmith@fs.fed.us</p>
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Public meetings will be held at the times and locations listed below to assist you in formulating your comments. These public meetings will start with an informal Open House for people to view displays, talk with various team members, and get questions answered. The Open House will be followed by a presentation by the Forest Service to help those reviewing the document to better understand and comment on the DEIS. Later in the comment period we may offer additional open houses/listening sessions.

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Oct. 1, 2008	Open House 3:00 PM to 5:00 pm Presentation on DEIS 6:30 - 8:00 pm	Nevada City, California Nevada City Elks Lodge 518 Highway 49 North
Oct. 3, 2008	Open House 3:00 PM to 5:00 pm Presentation on DEIS 6:30 - 8:00 pm	Sierraville, California Sierraville Ranger Station 317 South Lincoln Highway (Highway 89N)
Oct. 7, 2008	Open House 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM Presentation on DEIS 6:30 - 8:00 pm	Olympic Valley, California Resort at Squaw Creek 400 Squaw Creek Road
Oct. 9, 2008	Open House 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM Presentation on DEIS 6:30 - 8:00 pm	Auburn, California The Ridge Golf Course 2020 Golf Course Road

Mail Written Comments to: Travel Management Team  
631 Coyote Street  
Nevada City, CA. 95959

Or send EMAIL Comments to: tnf\_rte\_desig@fs.fed.us

Comments Must Be Postmarked by: November 26, 2008

Thank you for taking the time to be involved in this important process.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Tom Quinn*  
TOM QUINN  
Forest Supervisor