



**U.S. Forest Service
Pacific Southwest Region
Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit**



June 29, 2016

Revised Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit Forest Plan: Frequently Asked Questions

The Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU) revised Forest Plan Record of Decision (ROD) was signed June 20, 2016 by Regional Forester, Randy Moore. We anticipate the notice will be published in the Federal Register July 1. The revised plan will become effective 30 days after the Federal Register notice. At which time the LTBMU will start transitioning into the revised plan (2016 Plan).

- **What area does the 2016 Plan cover?**
 - The 2016 Plan provides management direction for the National Forest System lands within the boundaries of the LTBMU. The LTBMU includes approximately 155,000 acres or about 75% of the Lake Tahoe basin watershed both within California and Nevada.
- **What is the 2016 Plan revising?**
 - The 2016 Plan replaces, in total, the 1988 Plan and all the amendments that have been incorporated over the years, including amendments made by the 2004 Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment.
- **How will the transition from the old plan to the revised Plan happen?**
 - The 2016 Plan will become effective 30 days after posting in the Federal Register. However the ROD has provisions for a smooth transition from the 1988 Plan to the 2016 Plan. Current projects and permits will continue under the older plan until they are completed and/or permits expire. New projects and permits will be administered under the management direction in the 2016 Plan. Generally forest plan consistency is evaluated during the environmental analysis process (NEPA) and the direction in the 2016 Plan will be applied when NEPA compliant analysis is conducted.
- **What changes will I notice when the 2016 Plan is in effect?**
 - For the most part any changes will not be evident to residents and the visiting public. The 1988 Plan set the LTBMU on a very balanced course that has served Lake Tahoe well over the past 28 years. The 2016 Plan continues on that same path but incorporates new science and embraces some of the contemporary issues such as forest health, climate change and invasive species. Land allocations and management direction for various uses do not significantly change recreation opportunities already in place.

- **What effect does the 2016 Plan have on Wilderness or Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRA)?**
 - The 2016 Plan does not change the existing congressionally designated Wilderness, nor the IRAs. The plan does not recommend any new wilderness. All of the IRAs, plus 4,550 additional acres, are included in the new Backcountry Management Area, which emphasizes natural environmental processes, dispersed recreation and limited management.
- **What are the recommendations for Wild and Scenic River designation?**
 - The 2016 Plan retains the 1999 recommendation for seven miles of the Upper Truckee River to be included in the Wild and Scenic River System. In addition the 2016 Plan identifies three tributaries, and three creeks (Taylor, Eagle, and Glen Alpine) as eligible for further suitability studies in the future.
- **How does the 2016 Plan change the trail and road system used by motorized, mechanized and non-motorized users?**
 - In general, there are no changes to the road and trails system or current use designations. There are no changes to winter over snow vehicle areas. The 2016 Plan encourages restoration and/or relocation of roads and trails that are not environmentally sustainable.
- **Will campgrounds, resorts and other public developed facilities expand under the 2016 Plan?**
 - The plan allows for approximately 5-10% expansion in overnight accommodations (e.g. campgrounds, resort cabins), and day-use parking (e.g. beaches, picnic grounds). However, the plan emphasizes focusing on upgrading aging facilities as a priority. Ski Area expansion direction is unchanged from the 1988 Plan.
- **Will there be changes in forest health and fuels management projects?**
 - The Forest Service will continue to aggressively treat fuels, in cooperation with State agencies, and local fire districts, to reduce the threat of wildfire in the Wildland Urban Interface. The 2016 Plan also emphasizes the need to look at the entire basin's forest health and resiliency in light of climate change, drought and other factors that lead to tree mortality. The Plan's standards incorporate the latest science in managing the forest in concert with wildlife and water quality.
- **Will the 2016 Plan be monitored for effectiveness and can it be amended?**
 - Yes. The Plan includes monitoring that is singularly focused on evaluating if the 2016 Plan is effective in meeting the Desired Conditions. The Plan may be amended at any time through a public environmental assessment process that is compliant with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).
- **Where can I find out more information about the Plan?**
 - The Plan, Final Environmental Impact Statement, and Record of Decision may be found on the LTBMU website: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/ltbmu/ForestPlanRevision>. Digital and paper copies are available at the Supervisors Office, 35 College Dr., South Lake Tahoe, CA
 - Contacts: Denise Downie, LTBMU Plan Leader (530) 543-2683
Michael LeFevre, LTBMU Planning Officer (530) 543-2840
Lisa Herron, LTBMU Public Affairs Officer (530) 543-2815
###

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.