



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



**June 29, 2016**

# Overview Guide to the revised Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit Forest Plan

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.

- Every national forest managed by the Forest Service is required to have a land management plan, or forest plan, by the National Forest Management Act of 1976 and other laws. Forest plans guide how we manage National Forest System lands, but do not compel any action, authorize projects or activities, or guarantee specific results. The life of forest plans is generally 15-20 years.
- The last forest plan for the LTBMU was competed in 1988, and substantially amended in 2004 by the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment. Economic, social, and ecological conditions have changed over the years; new laws, regulations and policies are in place; and new information based on monitoring and scientific research is now available.
- The LTBMU manages approximately 155,000 total acres within the Lake Tahoe Basin. These lands lie within both California and Nevada and comprise about 75% of the land within the Lake Tahoe watershed.
- The LTBMU started plan revision in 2004 with an extensive all-lands collaboration process partnering with State, and Federal agencies and the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency known as Pathway 2007.
- The Notice of Intent to complete an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) analyzing alternative forest plan management approaches was published in March 2012. A draft EIS was circulated in June 2012 for public and tribal comment. We received 18,500 comments. The Final EIS and draft Record of Decision were published in November 2013. Twelve objections to the decision were received, and reviewed leading to the Reviewing Officer for the Chief of the Forest Service issuing objection resolution instructions to the LTBMU in September 2014.
- The revised Plan, Final EIS, ROD and all the supporting documents may be found on the LTBMU website: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/ltbmu/ForestPlanRevision>

- Overall the revised Forest Plan continues management of the LTBMU on a balanced path similar to the 1988 Plan, but with the application of contemporary science, recognition of a changing climate and streamlined management direction.
- The 2016 Plan has three major components
  - **Desired Conditions** – describe the aspirational future, in terms of specific ecological, social, and/or economic attributes toward which management of the LTBMU should be directed.
  - **Strategies** – describe how the Forest Service intends to move the Plan area toward the desired conditions. In some resources specific Objectives are outlined as well.
  - **Design Criteria** – expressed as standards and guidelines that establish constraints and boundaries for management activities.
- The revised plan streamlines management direction by dividing the LTBMU into four Management Areas, reduced from 20 in the 1988 Plan. The four Management Areas are: General Conservation, Backcountry, Wilderness and Santini-Burton.
  - Recommended Wilderness: The revised Plan does not recommend any additional wilderness.
  - Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRA): The revised Plan does not alter any of the existing IRAs and includes all exiting IRAs within the new Backcountry Management Area emphasizing natural environmental processes, dispersed recreational opportunities, and limited management. The Backcountry Management Area includes 4,552 acres more than the IRAs.
  - Wild and Scenic Rivers: The revised Plan reaffirms the 1999 recommendation to designate seven miles of the Upper Truckee River as a Wild and Scenic River. The Plan additionally identifies three tributaries of the Upper Truckee River and three additional creeks (Eagle Creek, Glen Aline Creek and Taylor Creek) as eligible for further suitability study.
  - Travel Management Direction: Current Motorized Vehicle Use Map and Over-snow Vehicle Use Map remain in place without change.
  - The revised Plan allows for a modest increase of approximately 5-10% in developed recreation site capacity expansion.
  - Ski Area expansion limits are unchanged from the 1988 Plan.
  - Spotted-owl habitat management from the 2004 Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment (SNFPA) is retained until a new Spotted Owl Conservation Strategy is adopted by the Pacific Southwest Region.
  - Commitment to Tribal relations described in the 2004 SNFPA are retained.

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