

Migratory Landbird Conservation on the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit

Under the National Forest Management Act (NFMA), the Forest Service is directed to “provide for diversity of plant and animal communities based on the suitability and capability of the specific land area in order to meet overall multiple-use objectives.” (P.L. 94-588, Sec 6 (g) (3) (B)). The January 2000 USDA Forest Service (FS) Landbird Conservation Strategic Plan, followed by Executive Order 13186 in 2001, in addition to the Partners in Flight (PIF) specific habitat Conservation Plans for birds and the January 2004 PIF North American Landbird Conservation Plan all reference goals and objectives for integrating bird conservation into forest management and planning.

In late 2008, a *Memorandum of Understanding between the USDA Forest Service and the US Fish and Wildlife Service to Promote the Conservation of Migratory Birds* was signed. The intent of the MOU is to strengthen migratory bird conservation through enhanced collaboration and cooperation between the Forest Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service as well as other federal, state, tribal and local governments. Within the National Forests, conservation of migratory birds focuses on providing a diversity of habitat conditions at multiple spatial scales and ensuring that bird conservation is addressed when planning for land management activities.

The Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit is proposing to manage lands located in the Tahoe East Shore fifth field watershed. Proposed management is intended to implement direction contained within the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP, USFS 1998). Opportunities to promote conservation of migratory birds and their habitats in the project area were considered during development and design of the Burke Creek Highway 50 Crossing and Realignment project (MOU Section C: items 1 and 11 and Section D: item 3).

The complete project description can be referenced in the Burke Creek Highway 50 Crossing and Realignment project Environmental Assessment (NTCD 2015)

Potential impacts to habitats and select migratory bird populations have been assessed in the project Management Indicator Species (MIS) report and impacts to select TECPS birds and their habitats have been analyzed in the project Biological Evaluation (BE) and EA. These impacts are summarized below:

- Disturbance to individuals during implementation
- Changes in amount and structure of riparian shrub habitat

References:

CalPIF (California Partners in Flight). 2002. Version 2.0. The oak woodland bird conservation plan: a strategy for protecting and managing oak woodland habitats and associated birds in California (S. Zack, lead author). Point Reyes Bird Observatory, Stinson Beach, CA. <http://www.prbo.org/calpif/plans.html>.

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USDA Forest Service. 2000. Landbird Strategic Plan, FS-648. Washington, D.C.