



# Meeks Bay Restoration Project

USDA Forest Service Pacific Southwest Region  
Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit



## HOW CAN I HELP SHAPE THE PROJECT?

The Meeks Bay Restoration Project Proposed Action is available on the LTBMU project website <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/lbmu/meeksbayrestoration>. It was developed based on input we received from stakeholders, as well as agency input. You are seeing this document during what is called the public scoping period. This is an opportunity for the public to help us shape the proposed action moving forward. There will be additional opportunities for public input as the project moves forward in the NEPA/CEQA process.

The public scoping phase of the project is the time when the public has the opportunity to tell the Forest Service how close we are to the right solution that meets the purpose and need for the project and moves the land towards the desired condition. Comments received during the scoping period are used to inform the analysis in the draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report, which is the next phase of the NEPA/CEQA process. Comments are also used to help us develop alternatives that could provide a different solution while still meeting the purpose and need for the project.

### **The public comments that help the Forest Service are based on the effects of the proposed action.**

The comments that are most helpful for the Forest Service in informing the analysis, developing an alternative, or modifying the proposed action answer one of the following questions:

- What are the effects of the proposed action on wildlife, plants, water quality, recreation, heritage, social values, or other resources? Are the effects positive or negative?
- Does the proposed action adequately address the purpose and need for the project?
- Are there unintended consequences from the proposed action?
- Are there alternatives to the proposed action that should be considered because they can accomplish one of the following?
  - Mitigate a negative effect of the proposed action
  - Better address the purpose and need for the project
  - Better provide a positive benefit to one resource, while not causing negative impacts on other resources (including wildlife, plant, heritage, water quality, recreation, and other social resources)
  - Provides a better solution that prevents unintended consequences

Comments that address the questions shown above are the most helpful.

## **There are some comments that we commonly receive that do not provide the Forest Service a path forward.**

Some of these comments include general opinions on the proposed action without any supporting rationale. Suggestions to include actions that are outside the scope of the project (meaning they are not part of the purpose and need for the project) are beyond what the Forest Service can accomplish with the project. While we strive to accomplish the most good with each project, we cannot accomplish all of the goals we have for any one piece of land with a single project. And not every piece of land can provide every type of resource, recreation, or social benefit to all at one time. And of course the Forest Service must remain within law, regulation, and policy. Suggestions to take actions that would require a change in a law, regulation, or policy to accomplish are also outside what the Forest Service can achieve through the proposed action. Reading the proposed action closely and commenting on the actual proposal is very helpful in making sure that your comments are addressing the actual proposal and are not based on generalities or misperceptions.

**Providing input during the designated scoping period is the most helpful in allowing the Forest Service to meaningfully respond to comments.** Comments are most helpful if received by October 26, 2018. The Forest Supervisor has the option to extend the public scoping period if they feel the public needs more time to provide meaningful input. The comment periods for the next steps in the NEPA process are prescribed by law and have a designated length that cannot be extended.

*Thank you for taking time to read and provide comment on the  
Proposed Action!*