

PLEASE RESPECT THE CLOSURE

IT'S FOR YOUR SAFETY, IT'S FOR THE FOREST

Imagine galloping on horseback through this forest.

This was easy 150 years ago when pines grew wide apart. Lightning-caused fires kept the forest floor clear of brush, small trees, and debris. The forest burned often and at low intensity, resisting insects and disease.



WHAT'S WITH THE BLUE PAINT?



Marked trees are diseased, unhealthy, or too close to other trees. These trees will be removed, then chipped or burned. Foresters leave dominant, healthy Jeffrey and sugar pines for the future.

You can help!

- Please stay out of this area; heavy equipment is operating and other hazards may exist
- Reduce fuels on your property
- Learn more; take care of the land

With the 1859 discovery of silver
in Virginia City, lumber was cut to build the mines. Tahoe trees became "Green Gold." The result? Almost all the trees were cut by 1890.

Following the Comstock Era
the forests began to grow back, but not in the same way. People who settled in the Tahoe basin feared fire and its destructive power. The natural fire cycle stopped. Less dominant fir trees grew fast, creating a thicket of fuel and weak trees competing for sunlight and water.

Only in the past few decades
have land managers begun to understand the vital role of fire in the ecosystem. The Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit is restoring the forest through thinning and prescribed burns. This forest will once again be healthy and wide open.

