

September 2005

Meeks Bay Resort Campground Rehabilitation

Background

Meeks Bay Resort and Marina is an internationally marketed facility known for its scenic views and for providing a variety of recreation activities at Lake Tahoe. The resort has 10 cabins, and two motel buildings housing 12 motel units. The Kehlet mansion, a 7 bedroom, two-story residence, also is on the resort. The resort has a visitor center / commercial sales center, snack bar, 103 slip marina, boat ramp, and 37 unit campground. The resort receives 47,000 visitors per year. The resort and campground are closed during the winter months.

The resort dates back to 1932, when there were over 65 cabins, the Kehlet mansion, a dance hall and restaurant, tent cottages, a campground and a large pier. There was also a theater, various apartments and a caretaker's lodge. For over 70 years, this area has provided families and visitors a unique Lake Tahoe experience. It is not uncommon to hear guests speak of their grandfathers staying in the resort, and families returning each summer for the past 30-40 years.

The resort is owned by the Forest Service and operated under a special use permit. In 1998 the resort permit was awarded for 20 years to the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California for the operation and maintenance of the site. Meeks Bay Resort experiences conditions that were addressed in the 1997 Presidential Forum public workshops: a poor quality, crowded, eroding campground adjacent to a popular resort facility in a fragile lake environment with impacts to vegetation, scenic quality and water resources - the Meeks Bay Resort campground is aging and dilapidated. The potential for positive rehabilitation of the environment while providing enhanced economic opportunity for the community is very high.

Proposed Action

Who: The US Forest Service, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit proposes to:

What: Reconstruct the campground and restroom building at Meeks Bay Resort Campground.

The Proposed Action focuses on the rehabilitation of the campground, and sub-standard restroom facility. Implementation of this Proposed Action would include the following:

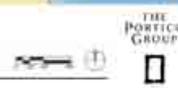
1. Mitigate impacts to Meeks Creek and Lake Tahoe environments and improve water quality by implementing best management practices (BMP's).
2. Improve the scenic quality of the campground by implementing a landscape design that helps to define circulation, provide campground screening and privacy, and that compliments the surrounding native plant communities.

3. Replace aging sewer, water and electrical utility services within the campground area.
4. Improve customer experience and safety by rehabilitating the existing camp sites and replacing toilet, shower and laundry facilities.
5. Replace 12 RV sites and 25 tent sites with 23 full hook-up RV sites and 14 tent sites, in keeping with current camping trends. Create a small group camping / activity area.
6. Update facilities to universal accessibility design standards.
7. Define vehicle circulation and parking areas. Pave and install BMPs in all traffic areas.
8. Revegetate and restore compacted areas.
9. Remove uninhabitable structures.
10. Manage and remove invasive weed species within the project area in accordance with Forest Service noxious weed strategies.
11. Provide adequate number of fire hydrants within campground.
12. Provide gated emergency vehicle access route into campground.

Campground Rehabilitation Concept Plan – January 2004



**MEEKS BAY RESORT
CAMPGROUND REHABILITATION**
USDA Forest Service – Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit



The campground rehabilitation will be coordinated with future Forest Service efforts to improve habitat and hydrology within the Meeks Creek stream environment zone.

Where: Meeks Bay Resort is located at 7941 Emerald bay Road, Meeks Bay CA 96142, in Eldorado County, approximately 9 miles south of Tahoe City on Highway 89. The Assessor's Parcel Number for the property is APN# 16-031-12 and is located in the southwest corner of section 3, T14N, R17E. The project area is roughly bounded by Highway 89, the edge of Meeks Creek stream environment zone, Lake Tahoe shorezone, and the Meeks Creek guest lodge.

When: The proposed campground rehabilitation will begin in September 2006 and will be completed in June 2007. All construction activity will comply with.

Purpose and Need (*Why*)

1. To reduce sediment and pollution entering Meeks Creek and Lake Tahoe from the use of the campground.
2. To provide up-to-date, facilities for developed recreation and access to Lake Tahoe.
3. To control and mitigate soil compaction resulting from undefined vehicle and pedestrian circulation.

Public Comments

If you have information you feel the Forest Service may not be aware of, or feel you have issues (points of dispute, debate or disagreement) regarding potential effects of the proposed campground rehabilitation please forward those issues in writing to:

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