



Proposed Action for Camp Richardson Corral Permit Reissuance Project

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this project is to reissue a 20-year resort special use permit (SUP) to Camp Richardson Corral (Corral), which is currently operating under an expired authorization.

LOCATION:

Camp Richardson Corral lies northeast of Fallen Leaf Lake along State Route 89. The facility is located within T.13N., R.17E., Sections 25 and 36; T.12N., R.18E., Sections 6 and 7; and T.12N., R.17E., Sections 1, 2, 11, and 12 in Eldorado County, California, Figure 1. The site is part of the Fallen Leaf Management Area of the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU) 1988 Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Proposed Action is to re-authorize a 20-year resort special use permit to QUARTER CIRCLE 13 LIMITED PARTNERSHIP (dba Camp Richardson Corrals) for the use and occupancy of National Forest System lands on the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit.

This permit covers approximately 6 acres in T.13 N., R.17 E., Section 36, T.13 N., R.17 E., Section 25, T.12 N., R.18, Sections 6 and 7, and T.12 N., R. 17 E., Sections 1, 2, 11, and 12 MT. DIABLO MERIDIAN, ("the permit area"), as shown in figure 1. In addition, the permit authorizes use of existing system trails in the Fallen Leaf Management Area as well as within the Desolation Wilderness Area as described in the Fallen Leaf ATM, and the Desolation Wilderness Management Guidelines.

This SUP is issued for the purpose of:

Operation and maintenance of privately-owned improvements on NFS lands, operation and maintenance of a National Forest System road, outfitting and guiding services, use of a Forest Service administrative site for pasture turn-out, and private horse boarding services as described below:

- Operation and maintenance of privately-owned improvements at Camp Richardson Corral (see attached map) including waterlines, parking areas, tack room, box stalls, office/museum, hay storage building, bunkhouse, blacksmith shop, tack and feed building, riding ring and corrals, and partially-covered paddocks.

- Operation and maintenance of Forest Service System Road entrance road and parking area.
- Outfitting and guiding services including guided trips on horse or mule as well as wagon and sleigh rides. Guided trips on horse or mule will occur in and around the Fallen Leaf Lake area and inside the Desolation Wilderness on an approved network of NFS trails (see attached map) and include both day and overnight use. Wagon and sleigh rides will occur near Fallen Leaf Lake and at the Tallac Historic Site on an approved network of NFS roads (see attached map).
- Use of a Forest Service administrative site known as Fredericks Pasture for turnout of up to 30 head of horses and mules between September 1 and November 15 (see attached map).
- Private horse boarding services.

This project will include the latest Best Management Practices (BMPs) to address water quality, soil erosion concerns, and noxious weed management, along with proposed measures for threatened and endangered species (TES) mitigation for areas within the 6 acre corral area and 73 acres of pasture on a Forest Service Administrative Site.

BACKGROUND:

Camp Richardson Corral has operated under a special use permit with the U.S. Forest Service since 1966 at its present location, with its most current twenty-year term permit (Authorization I.D. No. ELD500101) issued in 1987. Prior to this authorization, the holder maintained a day ride and commercial pack trip business on private land on Jameson Beach Road until the land was acquired by the federal government.

Camp Richardson Corral SUP is largely comprised of privately-owned improvements on 5.88 acres of National Forest System (NFS) lands. Access to the Corral is via State Route 89, approximately ¼ mile north of Camp Richardson Resort. The site is located in a popular developed recreation area, with its southern boundary sitting directly adjacent to Camp Richardson Resort's campground while its remaining borders face undeveloped NFS acreage. The next closest developed recreation site is the Tallac Historic Site, situated approximately ½ mile across from Highway 89 from the permit boundary.

The majority of the Corral's improvements were constructed in the 1960s and have not yet been evaluated for historic eligibility. In addition to wooden fencing, these improvements include a tack room, bunk house, hay barn, farrier shop, and a collection of small sheds and outbuildings. These facilities receive their heaviest use in the summer season (May 1st to October 31st), from which the permit holder stages day rides in the Fallen Leaf Lake area as well as hay rides at the Tallac Historic Site and spot, dunnage, and overnight pack trips into the Desolation Wilderness. Per Desolation Wilderness Management Guidelines Record of Decision (1998), the holder is authorized a total of 116 service days in the wilderness (109 in Opportunity Class 3 and 4, and 7 days in Opportunity Class 1 and 2). Winter operations consist of sleigh rides along portions of

the trails identified in the Fallen Leaf Lake Trail Access and Travel Management Project (Fallen Leaf Lake ATM) as well as across the highway at the Tallac Historic Site and generally occur from late December through March, depending on snow conditions.

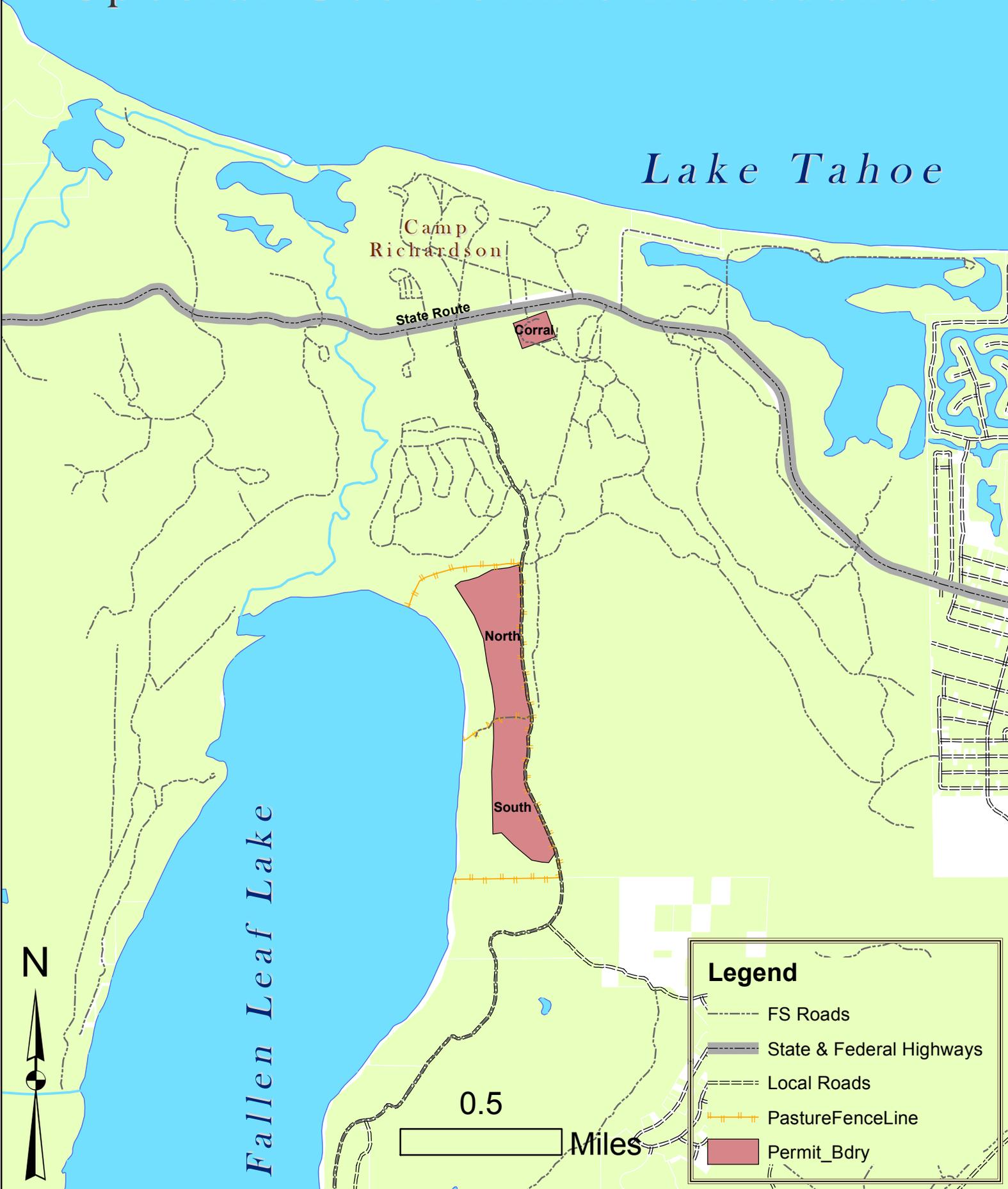
In addition to the permit boundary, Camp Richardson Corral's permit also authorizes use of the Forest Service administrative site, known as the Fredericks Pasture, for turn-out of up to 30 head of horses and mules between September 1 and November 15 (not to exceed 75 animal months).

ANTICIPATED LEVEL OF NEPA & DECISION TO BE MADE:

At this stage of planning, a Categorical Exclusion is the anticipated level of NEPA for this project.

FSH 1909.15 - 32.2 Category (15) Issuance of a new special use authorization for a new term to replace an existing or expired special use authorization when the only changes are administrative, there are not changes to the authorized facilities or increases in the scope or intensity of authorized activities, and the applicant or holder is in full compliance with the terms and conditions of the special use authorization. [36 CFR 220.6(e)(15)]

Camp Richardson Corrals Special Use Permit Reissuance



Lake Tahoe

Camp Richardson

State Route

Corral

North

South

Fallen Leaf Lake



0.5 Miles

Legend

- FS Roads
- State & Federal Highways
- Local Roads
- Pasture Fence Line
- Permit_Bdry