



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Lake Tahoe Basin
Management Unit

35 College Drive
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150
(530) 543-2600 (Voice)
(530) 543-0956 (TTY)

File Code: 1010

Date: 09-22-14

Route To: Patrol Captain Frank Aguilar (Eldorado National Forest) and Rachel Birkey (OGC)

Subject: Forest Order No. 19-14-14 (Food and Refuse Storage)

From: Nancy Gibson
Forest Supervisor
Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit

To: File

On September 17, 2014 an Environmental Assessment (EA) was signed for implementation of Forest Order No. 19-14-14 (Food and Refuse Storage). The EA and Forest Order No. 19-14-14 allow for the initial implementation locations of Fallen Leaf Campground, Meeks Bay Campground, and Meeks Bay Resort to be prioritized over others due to the high rates of human-bear conflicts occurring at those sites. Additional recreation sites and locations would be prioritized in the future based on the frequency and nature of human-bear conflicts.

This restriction is necessary to protect public health and safety by reducing the potential for human-bear conflicts. Requiring proper storage of food and refuse will decrease the likelihood of black bears and other wildlife gaining access to human food sources and potentially becoming habituated to those food sources. Based on similar requirements that have been in effect for decades on several other Sierra Nevada National Forest units as well as at popular national parks, the mandatory use of bear-resistant food and refuse containers has been demonstrated as an effective means of preventing bears and other wildlife from obtaining human food and refuse.

Internal discussions about this action were conducted with Forest Ecosystem Management, Recreation, Law Enforcement, and Line Officers. External scoping was done through a legal notice published in the Tahoe Tribune on April 30, 2014 as well as meetings with existing permit holders and cooperating agencies. All public input received in response to scoping was supportive in nature.

Based on my review of the analysis contained in the Food and Refuse Storage Order Project EA, it is my decision to implement Forest Order No. 19-14-14 (Food and Refuse Storage at Fallen Leaf Campground, Meeks Bay Campground, and Meeks Bay Resort). This restriction will be in effect from October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2017.

For further information, contact Megan Mallowney, Permit Administrator, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, 35 College Drive, South Lake Tahoe, California, 96150. Phone: 530-543-2651.



ORDER NO. 19-14-14
LAKE TAHOE BASIN MANAGEMENT UNIT
FOOD AND REFUSE STORAGE RESTRICTIONS

Pursuant to 16 USC 551 and 36 CFR 261.50(a) and (b), and to provide for public safety and protect natural resources, the following act is prohibited within the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit. This Order is effective from October 1, 2014, through September 30, 2017.

Possessing or storing any food or refuse in the areas listed below, unless the food or refuse is stored in a container designed to prevent access by bears.

- a. Fallen Leaf Campground, as shown on Exhibit A.
- b. Meeks Bay Resort, as shown on Exhibit B.
- c. Meeks Bay Campground, as shown on Exhibit B.

36 CFR 261.58(cc).

Pursuant to 36 CFR 261.50(e), the following persons are exempt from this Order:

1. Persons with a permit from the Forest Service specifically authorizing the otherwise prohibited act or omission.
2. Any Federal, State, or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or fire fighting force in the performance of an official duty.

This prohibition is in addition to the general prohibitions in 36 CFR Part 261, Subpart A.

A violation of this prohibition is punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for an individual or \$10,000 for an organization, or imprisonment for not more than six months, or both. 16 USC 551 and 18 USC 3559, 3571, and 3581.

Done at South Lake Tahoe, California, this 23rd day of September, 2014.



NANCY J. GIBSON
Forest Supervisor
Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit

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LAKE TAHOE BASIN MANAGEMENT UNIT
FOOD AND REFUSE STORAGE RESTRICTIONS

EXHIBIT B

Map of Meeks Bay Resort and Meeks Bay Campground

