



Snowmobile Guide

Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit

EXHIBIT A

2014-2016 Forest Order No: 19-14-16



To Truckee, 8 Miles



**USDA Forest Service
Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit
Winter Vehicle Restrictions
Forest Order No. 19-14-16**

Pursuant to 16 USC 551 and 36 CFR 261.50(a) and (b), and to protect natural resources and provide for public safety, the following acts are prohibited within the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit. This Order is effective from December 18, 2014 through December 17, 2016. The prohibitions contained in this Order apply only when there is snow on the ground.

- Using or possessing an over-snow vehicle off National Forest System roads in the area shown as closed on Exhibit A, 36 CFR 261.56.
- Using an over-snow vehicle on National Forest System roads in the areas shown as closed on Exhibit A, 36 CFR 261.54(a).

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

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

These prohibitions are in addition to the general prohibitions contained in 36 CFR Part 261, Subpart A.

A violation of these prohibitions 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 6 months or both, 16 USC 551 and 18 USC 3559, 3571, and 3591.

This Order supersedes Forest Order No. 19-14-15.

Done at South Lake Tahoe, California, this 17th day of December 2014.

Nancy J. Gibson
Nancy J. Gibson
Forest Supervisor
Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit

Snowmobile Use

- Snowmobile use is allowed only in areas shown as "OPEN to Snowmobile Use" on this map. (See legend)
- There must be adequate snow on the ground to prevent resource damage. Any contact between the snowmobile and the ground is prohibited.
- Use of any other type of motor vehicle in the areas open for snowmobiling is prohibited off National Forest System roads and trails.
- Snowmobile registration laws are strictly enforced. All snowmobiles must be currently registered or have a non-resident operating permit.
- The effective date of these restrictions will vary, depending on weather and snow conditions. Please check with the Forest Service for the current status of these restrictions.
- The operator is responsible for knowing and following all local, County, or State regulations that pertain to snowmobile use.
- Violation of federal regulations relating to snowmobile use may result in a citation, with a maximum penalty of up to a \$5,000 fine and/or 6 months in jail.

Legend

- Groomed Snowmobile Route* (Staying on groomed trails minimizes resource impact)
- Highway, Main Road (Plowed)
- Main Forest Road (Not Plowed)
- Selected Unimproved Road (Not Plowed)
- Road, Surface Not Indicated (May Not be Plowed)
- Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit Boundary
- Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU) Land: OPEN to Snowmobile Use**
- Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit Land: CLOSED to Snowmobile Use**
- Wilderness Area: CLOSED to Motor Vehicle Use
- State Land: CLOSED to Motor Vehicle Use
- Private Land within LTBMU
- Land Outside Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit - Regulations in these areas are not represented on this map.**

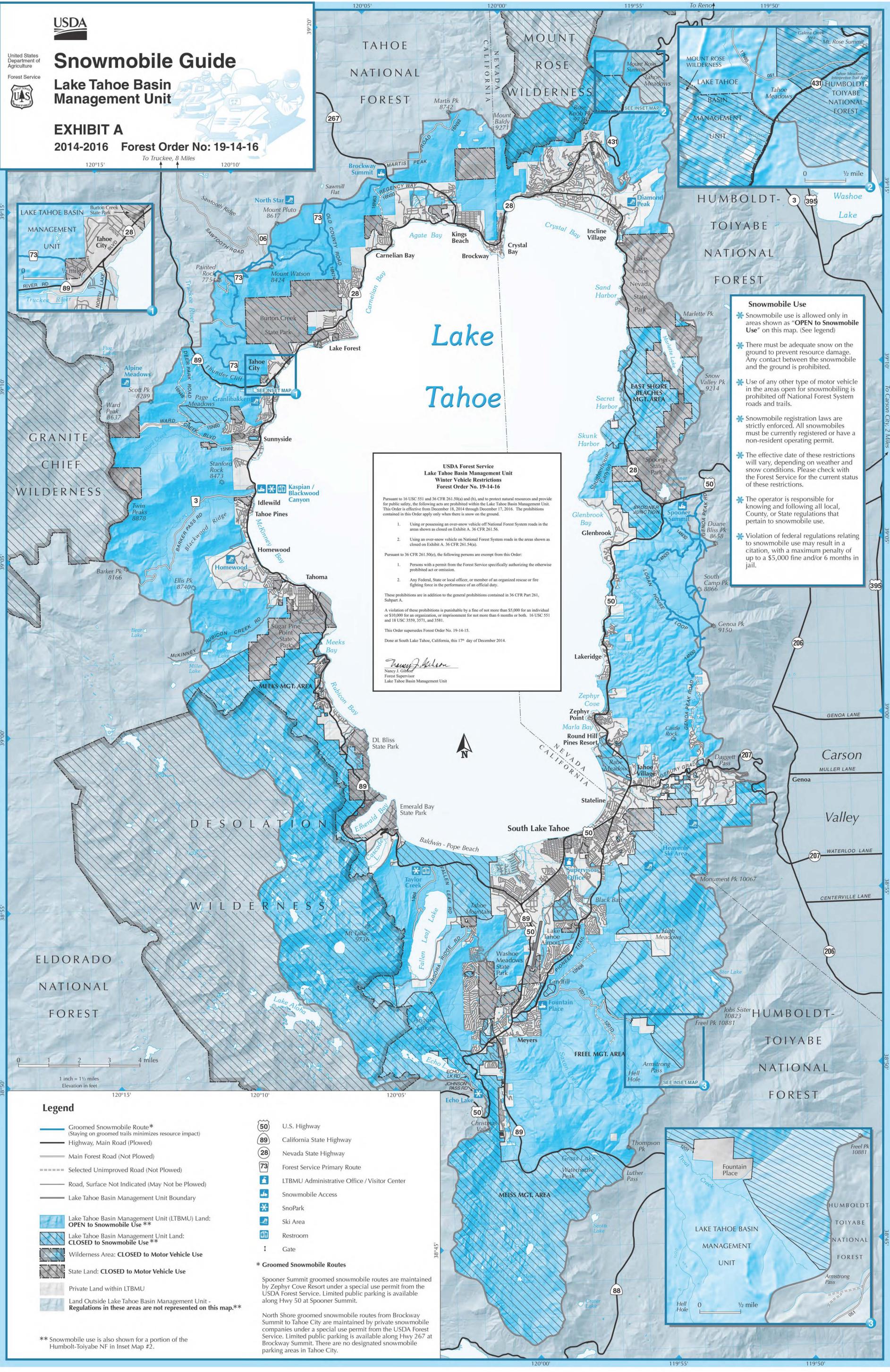
- 50 U.S. Highway
- 89 California State Highway
- 28 Nevada State Highway
- 73 Forest Service Primary Route
- LTBMU Administrative Office / Visitor Center
- Snowmobile Access
- SnoPark
- Ski Area
- Restroom
- Gate

*** Groomed Snowmobile Routes**

Spooner Summit groomed snowmobile routes are maintained by Zephyr Cove Resort under a special use permit from the USDA Forest Service. Limited public parking is available along Hwy 50 at Spooner Summit.

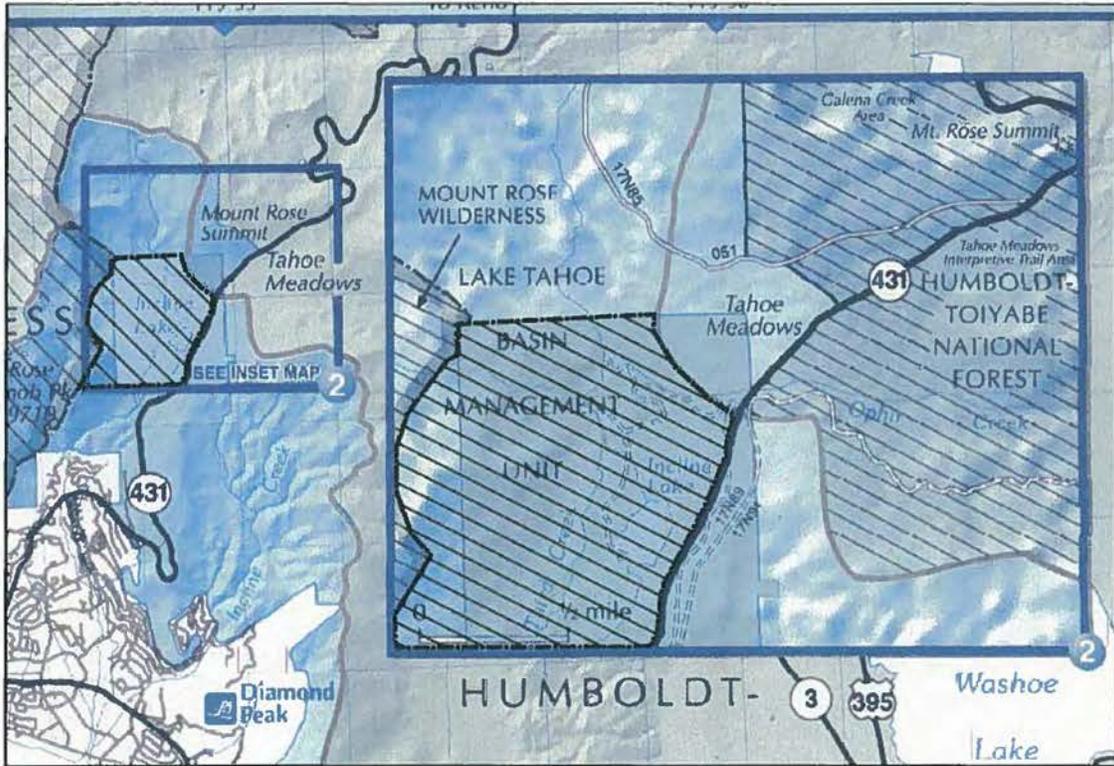
North Shore groomed snowmobile routes from Brockway Summit to Tahoe City are maintained by private snowmobile companies under a special use permit from the USDA Forest Service. Limited public parking is available along Hwy 267 at Brockway Summit. There are no designated snowmobile parking areas in Tahoe City.

** Snowmobile use is also shown for a portion of the Humboldt-Toiyabe NF in Inset Map #2.



Winter Vehicle Restrictions Exhibit A – Forest Order No. 19-14-16

Incline Lake-Mount Rose-Tahoe Meadows Inset into Exhibit A Map



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1. Using or possessing an over-snow vehicle off National Forest System roads in the areas shown as closed on Exhibit A. 36 CFR 261.56.
2. Using an over-snow vehicle on National Forest System roads in the areas shown as closed on Exhibit A. 36 CFR 261.54(a).

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.

These prohibitions are in addition to the general prohibitions contained in 36 CFR Part 261, Subpart A.

A violation of these prohibitions 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 6 months or both. 16 USC 551 and 18 USC 3559, 3571, and 3581.

This Order supersedes Forest Order No. 19-14-15.

Done at South Lake Tahoe, California, this 17th day of December 2014.



Nancy J. Gibson
Forest Supervisor
Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit



Forest
Service

Lake Tahoe Basin
Management Unit

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

Date: December 17, 2014

To: File

From: Nancy J. Gibson, Forest Supervisor

Re: Winter Vehicle Use Restrictions (Forest Order 19-14-16)

This Forest Order will restrict winter vehicle use in the areas shown as closed on the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit Recreation and Snowmobile Guide Map. It is to be issued under authority of Title 36 Code of Federal Regulations Section 261.50(a) and (b). This Order prohibits particular use of over-snow vehicles and other motor vehicles in the closed areas. This Order will be in effect until December 17, 2016, only while there is snow on the ground.

PURPOSE AND NEED

This Forest Order will protect natural resources and provide for public safety on National Forest lands within the Lake Tahoe Basin pending the revision of its Forest and Land Use Management Plan. Individual Management Area guidelines in the 1988 LTBMU Forest Plan provide the following guidance/justifications:

FOREST ORDER PROVISIONS:

1. Using or possessing an over-snow vehicle off National Forest System roads in the areas shown as closed on Exhibit A.
2. Using an over-snow vehicle on National Forest System roads in the areas shown as closed on Exhibit A.

All of the Management Areas closed as shown on Exhibit A were evaluated for the need for winter over-snow vehicle restrictions in the Environmental Impact Statement accompanying the LTBMU Land and Resource Management Plan (current Forest Plan).

Desolation Wilderness: Closed to all motorized use.

Mt. Rose Wilderness: Closed to all motorized use

East Shore Beaches Management Area: Maintain closure to over-snow vehicles.

Echo Lakes Management Area: Maintain closure to over-snow vehicles (winter).

Emerald Bay Management Area: Closed to over-snow vehicle use.

Freel Management Area: The area north of Fountain Place Road is closed to all over-snow vehicles. The area south of Fountain Place Road is open to over-snow vehicles.

Fallen Leaf Management Area: Closed to over-snow vehicles east of Fallen Leaf Road to South Lake Tahoe and north of Tahoe Mountain, north of Highway 89 and at Angora Lakes

Heavenly Valley Management Area: Maintain closure to OHV/OSV use

Marlette Management Area: Closed to over-snow vehicles except the Slaughterhouse Canyon Area.

Meeks Management Area: Maintain closure to OHV/OSV use.

Meiss Management Area: Closed to all motor vehicles

Mt. Rose Management Area: Open to over-snow vehicles except within designated wilderness.

Roundhill Management Area: Open to over-snow vehicles except in Rabe Meadow and the vicinity of Round Hill Pines Resort.

Tahoe Valley Management Area: Open to over-snow vehicles except for areas around Grass Lake, Waterhouse Peak, Christmas Valley, and in the vicinity of Pioneer Trail and Black Bart.

Urban Lots Management Area: Closed to over-snow vehicle activity.

REASONS FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

This action has been categorically excluded from further documentation in accordance with the Environmental Policy and Procedures Handbook FSH 1909.15 Chapter 30. This decision falls under section 31.12(1): Categories Established by the Chief: "Orders issued pursuant to 36 CFR Part 261 - Prohibitions to provide short-term resource protection or to protect public health & safety." This action can be categorically excluded from documentation in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or Environmental Assessment (EA). This is not a project or activity implementing a land and resource management plan that is documented in a decision memo, decision notice or record of decision.

As per 36 CFR 220.6(b), the mere presence of one or more of these resource conditions does not preclude use of a categorical exclusion. It is the existence of a cause-effect relationship between a proposed action and the potential effect on these resource conditions and if such a relationship exists, the degree of the potential effect of a proposed action on these resource conditions that determine whether extraordinary circumstances exist.

Resource Conditions that should be considered in determining whether extraordinary circumstances related to a proposed action are:

1. Federally listed threatened or endangered species of designated critical habitat, species proposed for Federal listing or proposed critical habitat, or Forest Service sensitive species – There are no potential effects of this decision on listed wildlife, fish and plant species. Prohibitions on winter over-snow vehicles are expected to be beneficial to listed wildlife, fish and plant species.
2. Flood plains, wetlands or municipal watersheds – There are no flood plains, wetlands or municipal watersheds located within the authorized winter over-snow vehicle riding areas.
3. Congressionally designated areas, such as wilderness, wilderness study areas or national recreation areas – There are no potential effects of this decision on congressionally designated areas, wilderness study areas or national recreation areas, as all areas will remain open to non-motorized winter access under existing management guidelines in these areas.
4. Inventoried roadless areas or potential wilderness areas – There are no potential effects of this decision on inventoried roadless areas or potential wilderness areas, as all areas will remain open to non-motorized winter access under existing management guidelines in these areas.
5. Research Natural Areas – No research natural areas will be affected by this action.
6. American Indians and Alaska Native religious or cultural sites – There will be no effect or impact to American Indian religious or cultural sites. Alaskan sites do

not apply to the California-Nevada region.

7. Archaeological sites, or historic properties or areas – There will be no effect to archaeological sites or historic properties or areas.

This action is not subject to administrative appeal pursuant to 36 CFR 215.12(f), which states that decisions for actions that have been categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement, are not appealable.

Scoping contacts regarding the action have included:

Nevada State Parks
California State Parks
Tahoe City Public Utility District
Douglas County Parks and Recreation
Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest
Eldorado National Forest
Tahoe National Forest

Internal consultation included:

Gina Thompson: Recreation & Lands Staff Officer, LTBMU
Mike LeFevre: Planning Staff Officer, LTBMU
Joseph M. Cook: Patrol Captain, LTBMU & Tahoe National Forest
Laura Clarke: Law Enforcement Officer – LTBMU
Frank Machler: Law Enforcement Officer – LTBMU
Adam Nadeau: Law Enforcement Officer - LTBMU

In summary, all of the contacts expressed support for the decision. Contacts with Law Enforcement officers reflected there have been numerous and frequent incidents with unmanaged winter vehicle activities during past winter periods on the LTBMU.

IMPLEMENTATION DATE

The Forest Order will be implemented December 18, 2014 through December 17, 2016

Further information regarding this decision can be obtained from:

Don Lane: Supervisory Recreation Forester 530-543-2621
Joseph M. Cook: Supervisory Law Enforcement Officer 530-265-4531/530-906-2087
35 College Drive South Lake Tahoe, California 96150

