Order No. 19-15-10
USDA Forest Service
Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit
Taylor Creek Closure Order

Pursuant to 16 USC 551 and 36 CFR 261.50(a) and to provide for public safety, and protect resources, the following act is prohibited within the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit. This Order is effective from October 1, 2015 through November 15, 2015.

> Going into or being within 300 feet of Taylor Creek from the point at which the creek exits the Fallen Leaf Lake Dam, then continuing north to Lake Tahoe. 36 CFR 261.53(f).

Pursuant to 36 CFR 26 1.50(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 firefighting 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 30th day of September, 2015.

JEFF MARSOLAIS
Forest Supervisor,
Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit

Forest Service

Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit

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File Code: 5330 **Date:** September 30, 2015

Subject: Taylor Creek Closure Order

To: Letter to File

From: Jeff Marsolais, Forest Supervisor

It is my decision to implement the Taylor Creek Closure Order (see attached order) to protect special biological communities and public health and safety.

During the fall Kokanee Salmon run, large numbers of Kokanee spawn in Taylor Creek, a stream that runs through National Forest System lands within the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit between Fallen Leaf Lake and Lake Tahoe. The salmon activity draws an increase in black bear feeding in the area. Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU) Biologists have identified this area as a special biological community during this period of time due to the presence of the Kokanee, the black bears, other fish species including the Lahontan Cutthroat Trout and various raptors including bald eagles. The presence of the kokanee, the bears, and other fish and wildlife draws an increase in human visitation to the area as well. During the 2014 season, LTBMU staff at the Taylor Creek Visitor Center observed an increase in the amount of visitors to the site over prior years. Staff also observed a substantial number of visitors that walked off of the designated roads and trails, through the riparian vegetation and the streams, in an attempt to take pictures of, and with, the wildlife. This activity compromises wildlife's ability to feed, poses an increased risk of unsafe bear/human encounters, and damages the riparian vegetation and stream banks.

Therefore, pursuant to 16 USC 551 and 36 CFR 261.50(a), 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 September 30, 2015 through November 15, 2015.

Going into or being within 300 feet of Taylor Creek from the point at which the creek exits the Fallen Leaf Lake Dam, then continuing north to Lake Tahoe. 36 CFR 261.53(e).

Pursuant to 36 CFR 26 1.50(e), the following persons are exempt from this Order:

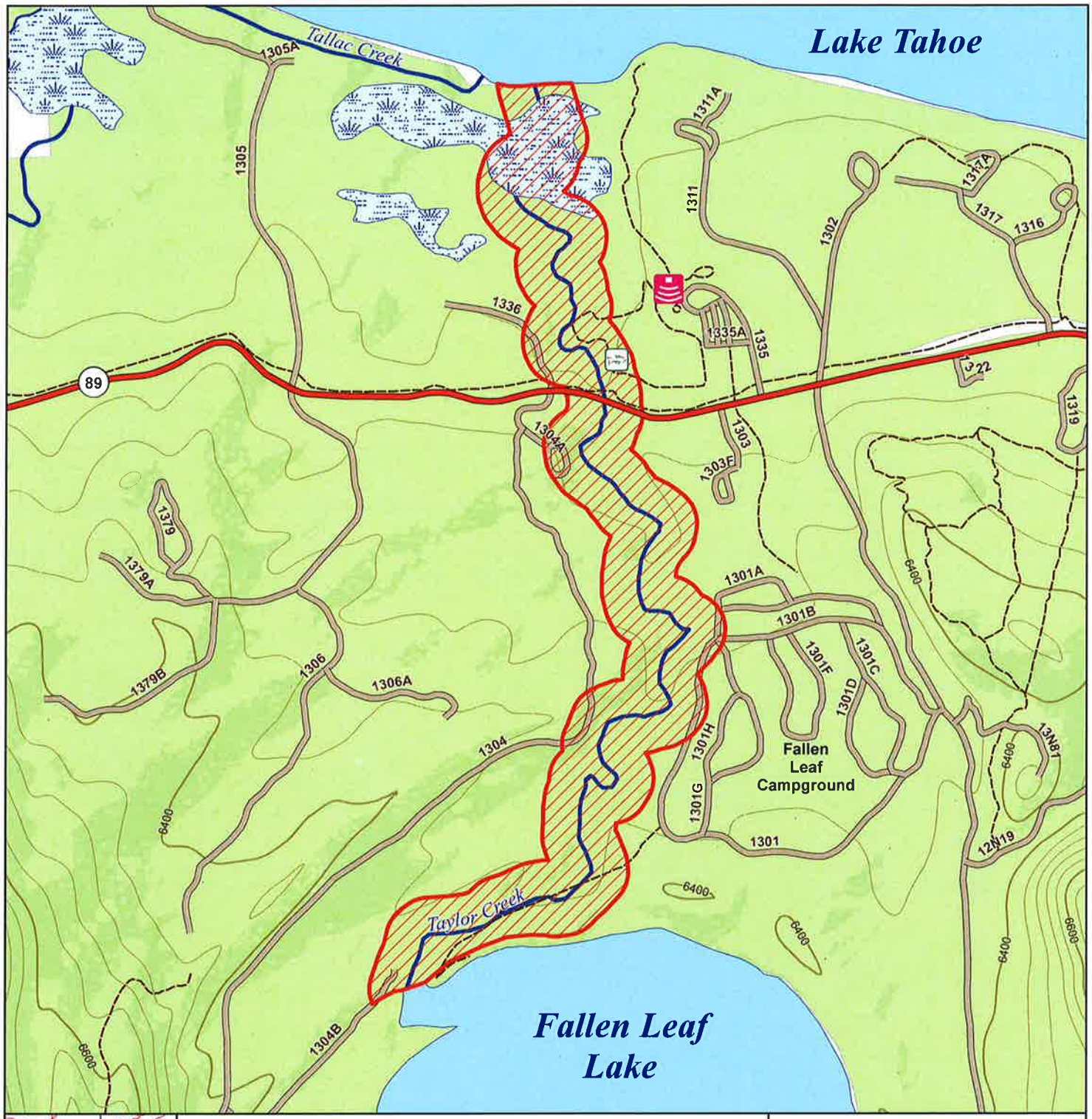
1. Persons with a permit from the Forest Service specifically authorizing the otherwise prohibited act or omission.
2. Any Federal, State or local officer or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.

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.

Consultation was done internally and externally with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the El Dorado County Sheriff's Department and USFS employees with expertise in biology, recreation, public affairs and law enforcement. No formal public involvement occurred with this project.

I have concluded that this decision may be categorically excluded from documentation in an Environmental Impact Statement or Environmental Assessment under the National Environmental Policy Act. This action falls within the category identified in 36 CFR 220.6(d)(1) – prohibitions to provide short-term resource protection or to protect public health and safety – and does not require documentation in a decision memo, decision notice, or record of decision. I have determined that there are no extraordinary circumstances associated with this temporary closure. Implementation of the decision may begin immediately.



Taylor Creek Closure

Visitor Center/ Amphitheater

Stream Profile Chamber

Highway

Open Roads

Open Trails

Contour Interval 40 Feet

0 0.125 0.25 0.5 Miles

0 750 1,500 3,000 Feet

LAKE TAHOE BASIN MANAGEMENT UNIT

TAYLOR CREEK CLOSURE ORDER

Forest Order No. 19-15-10

USDA

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For more information, contact: Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit
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