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**CHAPTER I. INTRODUCTION****A. Purpose of the Forest Plan**

This National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan was developed to direct the management of the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU). The goal of the forest plan is to provide a management program that uses a mix of management activities to direct the use and protection of resources, fulfill legislative requirements, and address local, regional, and national issues.

**The Forest Service mission at Lake Tahoe is to manage, protect, and enhance the environment of this national treasure for the benefit of the people.**

Pursuing this mission will produce some changes over the plan horizon of 50 years. Most of the nonurbanized land area will be under public management. There will be more recreation facilities to support both summer and winter activities. Access to these facilities by public transit and bike and pedestrian trails will be improved. Currently unroaded areas will remain unroaded. With the concurrence and action of the Congress, additional land area will be added to the National Wilderness Preservation System. Roads not necessary to access resources in existing roaded areas will be closed. Much of the remaining road system will be reconstructed to improve serviceability. All buildings, recreation facilities, roads, and trails will have improvements made to protect water quality. All disturbed land will be restored to meet water quality standards. Additional efforts will be made to reverse the declining quality of Lake Tahoe and bring it back toward a better condition. Groundwater will be managed to maintain or enhance its quality. Through active timber management, forests will be healthier and more diverse. There will be more old growth and also many small openings in which young trees are growing. Wildlife habitat will be enhanced through these vegetation treatments and through other improvements. Peregrine falcons and Lahontan cutthroat trout will be introduced.

To accomplish this mission, the forest plan:

- guides the management of the forest for the next 10 to 15 years and includes the associated long range goals and objectives;
- distributes land to the combination of management activities for which it is most suited;
- provides for yield of goods and services from the LTBMU in a way that seeks long term net public benefits in an environmentally sound manner;
- responds to major issues, management concerns, and resource opportunities;
- will be revised at least every 15 years, or whenever conditions or demands have significantly changed;



The forest plan was designed to guide forest management for 10 to 15 years, but it may be revised whenever the Forest Supervisor determines that changing conditions or demands would have a significant effect on programs. (See Chapter V, Monitoring and Evaluation, for more detail.)

Management actions, outputs, and environmental consequences have been projected beyond the plan period. This information is necessary for linking the plan to RPA which requires projections for four decades beyond the plan period. This does not legally bind the forest to action beyond the plan period.

The following excerpt from NFMA 36 CFR 219.10(d) provides an explanation of the concept of public appeal of the plan approval decision:

The provisions of 36 CFR, part 211, subpart B, Appeal of Decisions Concerning the National Forest System, apply to any administrative appeal of the Regional Forester's decision to approve a forest plan. Decisions to disapprove a plan and other decisions made during the forest planning process prior to the issuance of a record of decision approving the plan are not subject to administrative appeal.

Comments regarding this plan should be sent to the Forest Supervisor, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, P.O. Box 731002, South Lake Tahoe, California, 95731-7302.

#### B. Relationship of the Forest Plan to Other National Forest Planning Levels

Development of a forest plan occurs within the framework of Forest Service regional and national planning. Figure 1.1 displays the hierarchy of land management planning in the national forest system. The RPA 1985 Renewable Resource Program establishes national goals and direction for forest planning and specifies resource output levels for each Forest Service region based on suitability and capability information. Each Forest Service region distributes its share of the national production levels to the national forests of the region. This distribution is based on detailed site-specific information gathered at each national forest level. Each forest plan, in turn, substantiates whether or not a change is warranted in the production levels assigned by the region. Activities and/or projects are then planned and implemented by the national forest as directed by the forest plan. When completed, the forest plans may be used to revise the Regional Land and Resource Management Guide. Upon completion of the regional guide, a review may be made to determine if amendments to the forest plan are necessary.

Program Development and Budgeting and Annual Work Planning are the processes used to implement the forest plan. Activities and expenditures necessary to achieve the output levels in the forest plan are developed through these annual and multiyear programs. They allow for annual adjustments and changes needed to reflect current priorities within the overall forest plan direction. Programs of work through FY 1989, including budget proposals, will have been submitted to Congress before this forest plan receives approval in 1988. Although implementation of the standards and guidelines and other parts of the plan will begin upon approval, budget requests may lag by several years. Until existing permits, contracts, and agreements are renewed they may not fully conform with the plan.

Table 1.1 Land Area and Shoreline by Jurisdiction 1/

LTBMU Acreage Inside **Tahoe Basin**

	<u>Land Area</u> (acres)	<u>Lake Tahoe</u> <u>Shoreline</u> (miles)
California.....	155.170	41.4
Nevada.....	<u>50.080</u>	<u>29.6</u>
Total land area .....	205,250	71.0
Placer.....	31.134	
El Dorado.....	82.268	
Alpine.....	<u>4,216</u>	
Total national forest in California.....	117,618	total: 3.5
Washoe.....	6.707	
Carson.....	3.640	
Douglas.....	<u>16.831</u>	
Total national forest in Nevada.....	27.178	total: 7.7
Total national forest land.....	144.796	11.2
Other public lands		
California State Parks.....	6.871	10.2
Nevada State Parks.....	6.775	4.1
Tahoe Conservancy.....	269	0.4
Incline Village GID.....	18	0.6
Washoe County.....	****	---
Douglas County.....	533	---
Placer County.....	184	(w/ El Dorado)
El Dorado County.....	unknown	2.4
Total .....	14.650	13.7
Total public ownership.....	159,446	
Private ownership in California .....	30.949	24.5
Private ownership in Nevada.....	<u>16.410</u>	<u>17.8</u>
Total private ownership.....	47.359	42.3

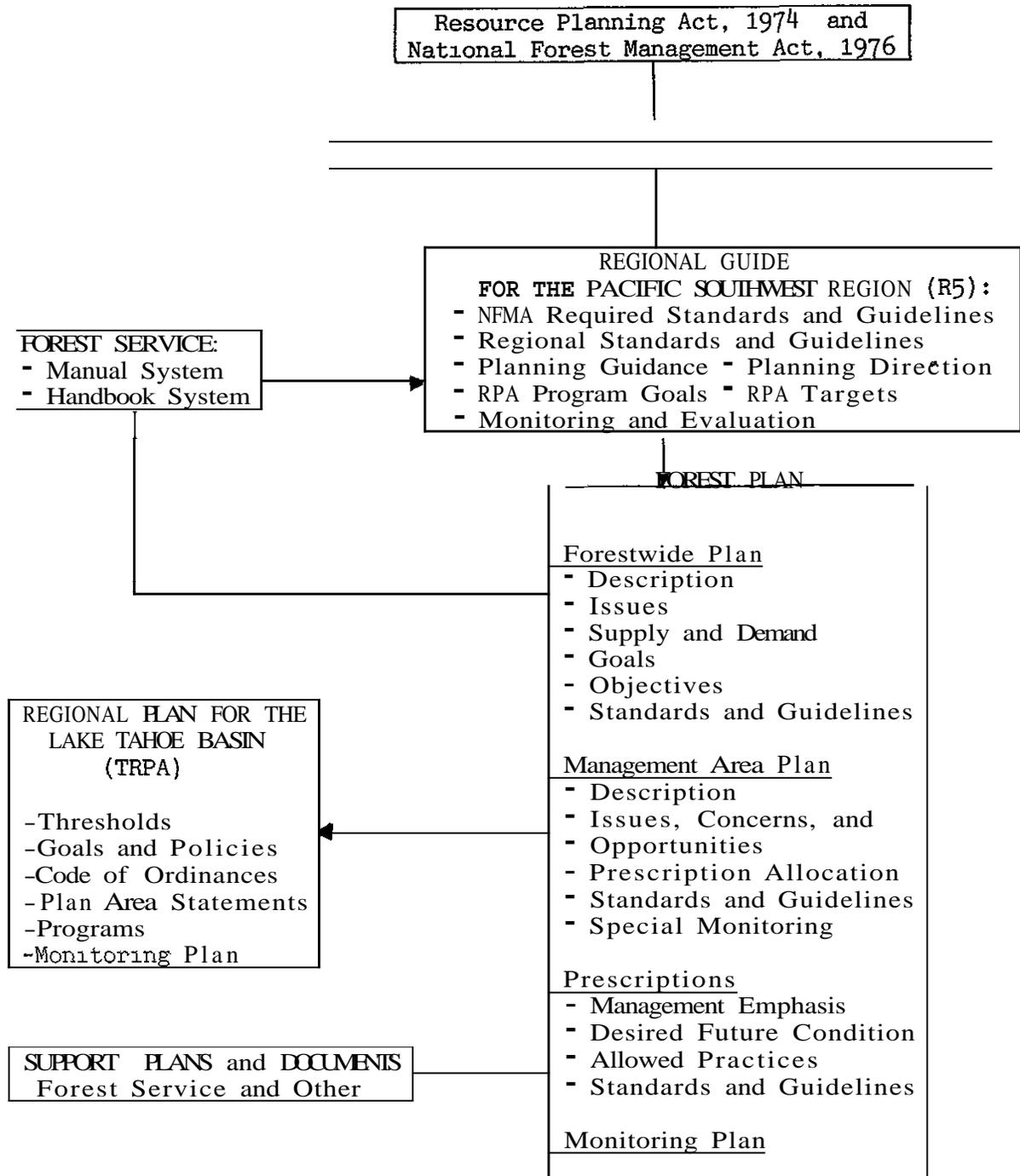
LTBMU Acreage Outside **the Tahoe Basin**

National forest .....	2.937
Nonnational forest .....	<u>758</u>
Total .....	3.695

TOTAL:	TOTAL :	
NATIONAL FOREST OWNERSHIP IN THE LTBMU .....	147.733	11.2

1/ Acreage figures computed from 10-82 S2K data base (138.311). plus donations. purchases and acquisitions of other property through January 14, 1987; shoreline figures accurate as of December. 1987.

Figure I-1. Framework for Forest Planning.



## LTBMU Forest Plan

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prepared for the forest plan will be used as a basis or aid in program and project level environmental analysis. This means that environmental analyses for program and project level decisions will be tiered directly to the EIS. At the local level, activities and projects carry out the direction developed in the forest plan. These local projects can use all of the data and other information in the plan and the EIS as a basis for local project environmental analysis. This process of "tiering to" the broader documents and incorporating the plan and EIS by reference permits concentrating on issues specific to subsequent smaller projects.

### C. Relationship of the Forest Plan to the Plans of Other Agencies

The National Forest Management Act requires that planning efforts be coordinated, when feasible, with the plans of other public entities, native American tribes, and owners of private lands located within the national forest boundary.

The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) was created by Public Law 96-551 (the Revised Tahoe Regional Planning Compact). Often referred to as the Bi-State Compact, it is an agreement between the States of Nevada and California and the Federal government on goals for the Lake Tahoe Basin. Directed by the compact, the TRPA established Environmental Threshold Carrying Capacities for the basin. The thresholds are the standards against which all projects and activities are measured for the achievement of the goals of the compact. (Appendix E provides a list of the thresholds.)

In cooperation with many Federal, State and local agencies, organizations, and individuals, the TRPA prepared a regional plan for the area. While the TRPA plan (approved in July 1987) deals mainly with urban issues, it also establishes a framework for management of the natural environment, including the national forest.

The TRPA is the lead regulatory agency for private land in the basin. While the Forest Service is directed to cooperate with the TRPA, the Act does not change any laws or regulations of the United States. Federal statutes, other than the Bi-State Compact, require the Forest Service to comply with the environmental thresholds for water, air, and noise. No determination has been made that legally binds the Forest Service to the visual, vegetation, wildlife, fishery, and recreation thresholds. Nevertheless, programs and projects proposed by the Forest Service will be reviewed against these standards.

Management standards of the TRPA Regional Plan and the California Water Quality Management Plan for the Lake Tahoe area are not consistent. With adoption of the TRPA plan, a process of bringing the State plan into conformance with the TRPA plan was initiated. Completion of this process is expected by the summer of 1988.

This plan is compatible with the goals of the State Park Systems.

Local plans are (or will be) in conformance with the forest plan through the TRPA Regional Plan requirements.

The Washoe Indian Tribe, though not a landowner in the basin, has developed plans to revive their cultural ties with the area at a cultural center to be sited on national forest land.

The "Federal Policy for the Lake Tahoe Basin", by the Western Federal Regional Council, 1978, was prepared to coordinate the role of federal agencies operating within the area. These agencies often have conflicting missions and objectives. Though the council does not meet regularly to review Lake Tahoe matters, and portions of the "Policy" are outdated, the Forest Service will continue to abide by and promote the concepts outlined therein.

#### D. Organization of the Forest Plan

The Forest Land and Resource Management Plan is the long-term direction for managing the LTBMU. It states what management prescriptions will be required to achieve the desired future condition. The management area maps indicate specifically where these prescriptions will occur. The resource element and support maps supplement LTBMU forestwide standards and guidelines. Further, the forest planning file is available for project planning and allocating resources described in the forest plan.

The forest plan elaborates on the proposed action (management direction) described in the accompanying Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The two documents should be considered together rather than as separate documents. Alternatives considered in arriving at the proposed management direction are described in the EIS, and the environmental effects are assessed and compared. The analysis (used to determine the proposed management direction) is also contained in the EIS. The documentation of the process used to develop both of these documents is contained in the planning records available at the Forest Supervisor's Office, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, 870 Emerald Bay Road, South Lake Tahoe, California.

The forest plan is composed of five chapters and appendices:

- Chapter I describes the purpose and need, the organization of the forest plan, and general description and location of the LTBMU. It discusses the relationships and coordination of the forest plan to other planning levels and studies, tiering of environmental documents, plan implementation process, and public review and appeal rights.
- Chapter II summarizes the process used to identify public issues, management concerns, and resource use and development opportunities. Included in this chapter is a discussion of how each issue, concern, or opportunity is resolved or disposed of in the forest planning process.
- Chapter III summarizes the LTBMU Analysis of the Management Situation. This chapter contains a brief description of the current management direction, supply or production capability, existing and projected demands for market and nonmarket goods and services, and the need or opportunity for change to each resource. (The detailed analysis of the management situation is a part of the planning records.)

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## LTBMU Forest Plan

- Chapter IV presents the management direction for the LTBMU. The forestwide management direction contains the goals, objectives, forestwide standards and guidelines, and practices and prescriptions. Objectives are the planned measurable results that respond to the goals of the forest plan. Management direction is also contained in this chapter for mapped portions of the LTBMU called management areas.
- Chapter V describes the revision or amendment procedures, data sources, and the proposed procedures to monitor and evaluate the progress and results of the forest plan. If **progress** and results deviate significantly from those planned, a plan revision or amendment ~~may~~ be necessary prior to the five year re-analysis or every 15 years as required by the National Forest Management Act.
- Eight appendices are attached to the plan. Included are resource implementing plans (needed to support the forest plan), additional technical studies (valuable research needs), environmental thresholds, and the tentative Ten Year Timber Program.

(End Chapter I)