



File Code: 1950-1

Date: August 12, 2010

Dear Interested Parties:

The US Forest Service, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Replacement of Taylor Creek Education Center. This project proposes to:

- 1) Demolish the existing Taylor Creek Education Center (TCEC) and replace with a new structure (approximately 3,800 square feet) located in the area of the existing building site. Patio areas, walkways, roadways, utilities, and landscaping will all be retrofitted in order to match the new structure. (See EA, Figure 2-1 Site Plan) The existing access roadway from Highway 89 and the parking lot will remain unchanged.
- 2) Eliminate the multiple locations on site for visitor services and staff work areas in order to streamline staffing and visitor needs by removing the two temporary trailers and rehabilitating the area where they were previously located.
- 3) Enhance functions at the TCEC by providing a staffed information counter, wilderness education and permit issuance area, public restrooms, sales of maps and educational materials, interpretive program preparation, seasonal staff working space, adequate storage space, and an area for small outdoor patio talks.
- 4) Design the new TCEC to blend with and enhance the existing landscape through the use of native materials and neutral colors. Sustainable building design will incorporate "Green" technology to the extent possible and that technology will be interpreted on site as an example of "green" public building design. The TCEC will be designed using integrated design principles to optimize energy efficiency and use of renewable energy, protect and conserve water, enhance indoor environmental quality and reduce environmental impacts of materials (Forest Service Handbook 7309.11, Chapter 70) and will comply with the USDA's Sustainable Building Implementation plan.
- 5) Improve visitor information functions to meet Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) requirements.

These actions are needed because the existing TCEC is not adequately serving the needs of visitors at this site. It is undersized for the number of visitors, is inefficient and requires two temporary trailers to meet the functional needs of the overall program, and is unsafe for workers to use.

The proposed action is expected to improve conditions and functions of the TCEC. The present building was designed as the restroom and storage location for an adjacent Education Center; it was never designed to accommodate visitor information and support staff operations. Recently, the upstairs was declared unsafe for occupancy: the steep, narrow staircase violates building code and accessibility standards; it lacks adequate ventilation; there is no means of alternate escape in the event of a fire; and the presence of mice, bats, and their droppings presents a health risk to employees.



The EA is available for review at the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, 35 College Drive, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150 and online at <http://fs.usda.gov/lbmu>, under "Land and Resources Management" and search "Projects." Additional information regarding this proposal can be obtained from Jackie King at (530) 543-2618.

How to Comment and Timeframe

Written, facsimile, hand-delivered, oral, and electronic comments concerning this action will be accepted for 30 calendar days following publication of the legal notice in the Tahoe Daily Tribune. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period for this proposal. Those wishing to comment should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. The regulations prohibit extending the length of the comment period.

Written comments must be submitted to: Terri Marceron, Forest Supervisor, Re: Taylor Creek Project, 35 College Drive, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150. The office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered comments are: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

Oral comments must be provided at the Forest Supervisor's office during normal business hours via telephone (530) 543-2600 or in person, or at an official agency function (i.e. public meeting) that is designed to elicit public comments. No public meetings are planned at this time. Electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), or Word (.doc) to comments-pacificsouthwest-lbmu@fs.fed.us using Subject: Taylor Creek Project. In cases where no identifiable name is attached to a comment, a verification of identity will be required for appeal eligibility. If using an electronic message, a scanned signature is one way to provide verification. It is the responsibility of persons providing comments to submit them by the close of the comment period. Individuals and organizations wishing to be eligible to appeal must meet the information requirements of 36 CFR 215.6.

This comment period is intended to provide those interested in or affected by this proposal an opportunity to make their concerns known prior to a decision being made by the Forest Supervisor. Those who provide comments or otherwise express interest in the proposal by the close of the comment period will be eligible to appeal the decision pursuant to 36 CFR part 215 regulations.

Sincerely,



TERRI MARCERON
Forest Supervisor