



File Code: 1950

Date: March 2011

Dear Interested Individuals, Organizations and Agencies:

The U.S. Forest Service, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU) is seeking public comment on the Proposed Action for the Meyers Weather Station Replacement. The project is located entirely on National Forest System.

Project Background

In 2007 the National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS) Remote Access Weather Station (RAWS) located at Meyers Fire Station/ Lake Valley Fire Station 7 in Meyers California became unreliable due to age and close proximity to newer building structures. These factors are affecting accurate fuels and weather readings. The Meyers RAWS Fire Weather Station collects critical fire weather information such as; wind speed and direction, relative humidity, temperature, precipitation depth, fuel moisture and solar radiation. This information is used to forecast Fire Danger, Project Activity Level (PAL) and Sale Activity Levels (SAL) within the Lake Tahoe Basin.

Purpose and Need:

The current Meyers RAWS has become unreliable due to its location around an increasing urbanized setting. There is a need to relocate the RAWS to a new location within Meyers.

The project is being proposed now because the current age and location of the RAWS does not meet NFDRS standards. Relocating a new RAWS to another location within Meyers will provide representative readings of fuels and weather conditions. This will enable Fire Weather Forecasters the ability to generate more accurate fire weather forecasts, PAL and SAL Forecasts. The new location and upgraded RAWS will provide forecasters with information which is more representative of the actual conditions within the Lake Tahoe Basin. With this information forecasters will be able to more accurately predict fire danger, PAL and SAL levels. This will allow resource managers the ability to carry out safe and effective management of forest resources with consideration of fire danger conditions.

Proposed Action

1. Relocate the current Meyers RAWS
2. Replace the current RAWS with a unit that meets requirements for a NFDRS weather station.

The project would relocate the current Meyers RAWS with an updated unit from the current location at the Meyers Fire Station and Lake Valley Fire Station 7 to the proposed location on the East Side of Lake Baron and at the end of Mohawk Street in Meyers, Ca. The weather station



will be placed on NFS land in Township 12N, Range 17E, Section 30. See attached map for location of current and new RAWS.

The total area of the space required for the RAWS unit and fencing will be approximately 400 square feet (20'x20'). The new RAWS will require 4 guy wires which will be secured inside a 6 foot tall chain link fence which will include a black or dark brown coating to minimize visual effects. No cement pad will be required, however in ground cement footings will be required to secure the fence posts. In addition, approximately 200 feet of vegetation clearing surrounding the fence would be required according to NFDRS standards. This may require removal of up to 25 trees no larger than 24 inches in diameter at breast height. Where possible the project area will maintain shrubs and small trees. The RAWS will be located in an area that will minimize the number and size of trees removed. The stump height of any removed trees will not exceed 6 inches.

The removal of identified trees would be done by hand utilizing chainsaws. The boles and boughs of the trees would be limbed, piled and burned. The larger diameter boles may be left on site to provide large downed woody material or would be located for accessible public fuelwood. The RAWS unit and vegetation clearing would occur within a maximum 2 acre area.

Prior to implementation a survey for sensitive plants and noxious weeds will be completed. If any new occurrences are identified, additional design features and mitigations will be implemented according to the LTBMU Forest Plan as amended.

The RAWS and security fence will take approximately 1 week to install and would be completed in late spring or early summer of 2011. It is expected that this will be the permanent site for the Meyers RAWS.

Decision Framework

This project is being planned under 36 CFR 220.6(e) 3. Approval, modification, or continuation of minor special uses of NFS lands that require less than five contiguous acres of land. This category includes section i; approving the construction of a meteorological sampling site.

The decision to be made by the responsible official is whether to implement the proposed action or take no action at this time.

How to Comment and Timeframe

This public comment period is the scoping stage under the NEPA process. This scoping notice is intended to provide those interested in, or affected by, this project with an opportunity to make their concerns known. We encourage you to be as specific as possible in your comments with regard to potential effects of the proposed action.

Written, facsimile, hand-delivered, oral, and electronic comments concerning this project will be most helpful if they are submitted by March 9, 2011, which is the end of the public scoping period. The office business hours for those providing hand-delivered comments are 8:00 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Oral comments may be provided during

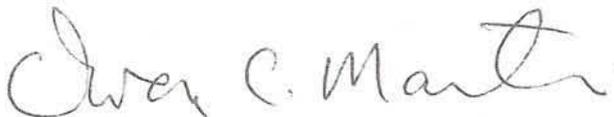
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Written, facsimile, hand-delivered, oral, and electronic comments concerning this project will be most helpful if they are submitted by March 15, 2011, which is the end of the public scoping period. The office business hours for those providing hand-delivered comments are 8:00 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Oral comments may be provided during normal business hours via telephone at (530) 543-2600 or in person. 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-ltbmu@fs.fed.us using subject: Meyers Weather Station. Comments in written, hand delivered or facsimile forms can be submitted to John Washington or Kyle Jacobson, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, 35 College Dr., South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150; 530-543-2655 (FAX).

For further information regarding this proposed action, contact John Washington at (530) 543-2652 or Kyle Jacobson at (530) 543-2658.

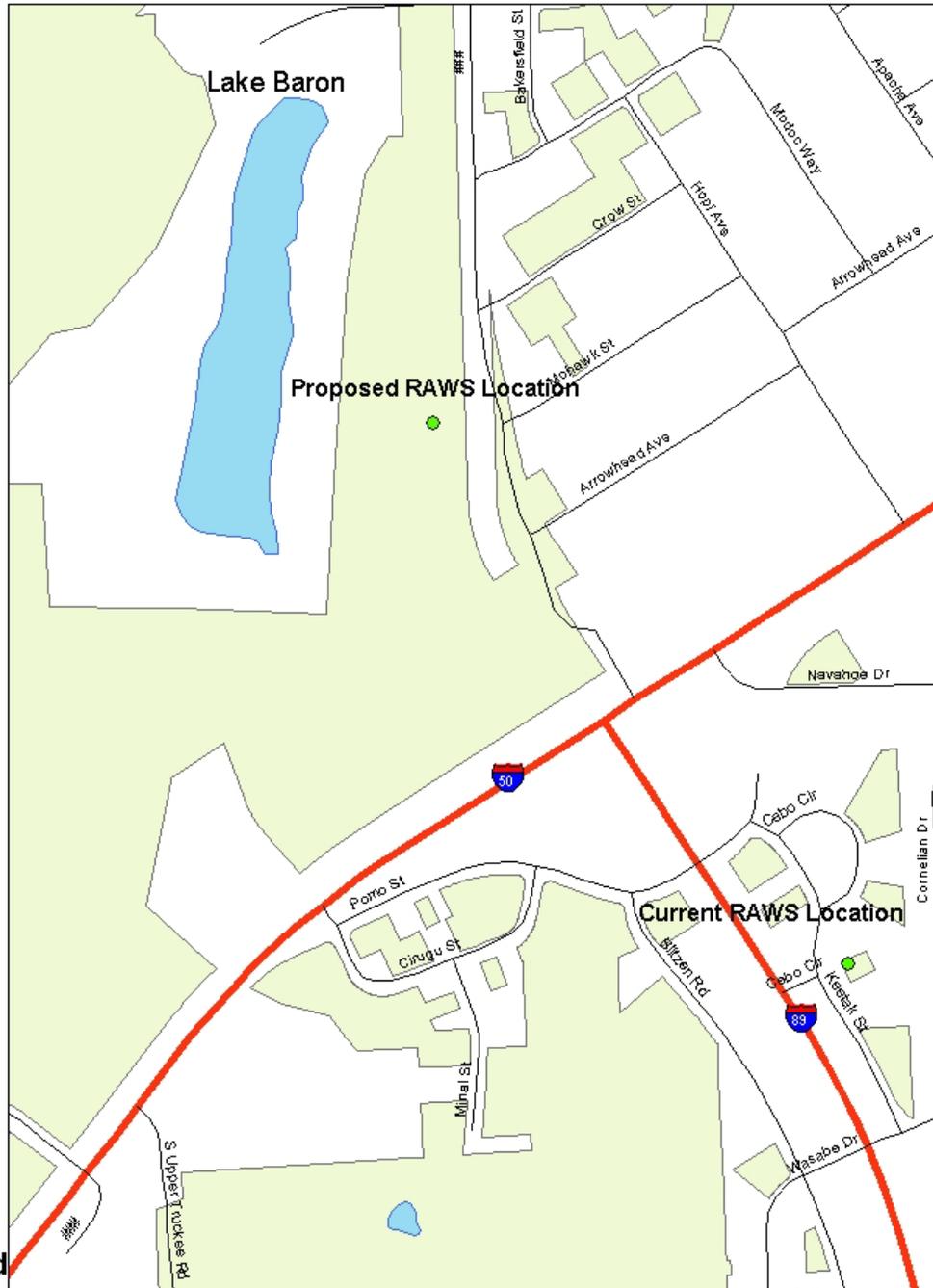
Sincerely,



for JEFF MARSOLAIS
Acting Forest Supervisor

Enclosure: Project area map

Meyers Weather Station Replacement



Legend

- Local Roads
- Lake Baron
- National Forest System Land

0 180 360 720 1,080 1,440
Feet

