



United States
Department of
Agriculture

**Forest
Service**

Pacific
Southwest
Region

R5-MB-231A

August
2011



Final Environmental Impact Statement

South Shore Fuel Reduction and Healthy Forest Restoration

Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit



Cover photo:

Wildland-Urban interface/intermix of National Forest System lands managed by the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit and neighborhoods within the City of South Lake Tahoe. Lake Tahoe, as viewed to the northwest from the intersection Ski Run Blvd and Pioneer Trail.

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**FINAL
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit
South Shore Fuel Reduction and
Healthy Forest Restoration
El Dorado County, California**

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Abstract: The South Shore Fuel Reduction and Healthy Forest Restoration Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) documents the analysis of three alternatives (1, 2, and 3) to manage fuel loading and forest health in the wildland-urban intermix (WUI).

Alternative 1 proposes no action; fuel loads would continue to increase and urban areas would remain at risk for high intensity wildfire.

Alternative 2 would reduce hazardous fuel and improve forest health on 10,671 acres.

- Alternative 2 emphasizes thinning to change wildfire behavior from high intensity crown fires to low intensity surface fire by removing smaller trees that act as fuel ladders and increasing spacing between trees.
- Forest health would improve by reducing basal area to attain forest densities with improved resistance to drought, insects, and disease.
- Alternative 2 would use mechanical equipment on more acres, including within SEZs and wildlife areas of the three alternatives.

Alternative 3 was developed in response to public comments received during scoping on the Proposed Action.

- Alternative 3 would reduce impacts to watersheds and wildlife compared to Alternative 2, while still reducing the risk of high-intensity crown fire.
- Alternative 3 reduces hazardous fuel and improves forest health in the WUI on 10,112 acres.

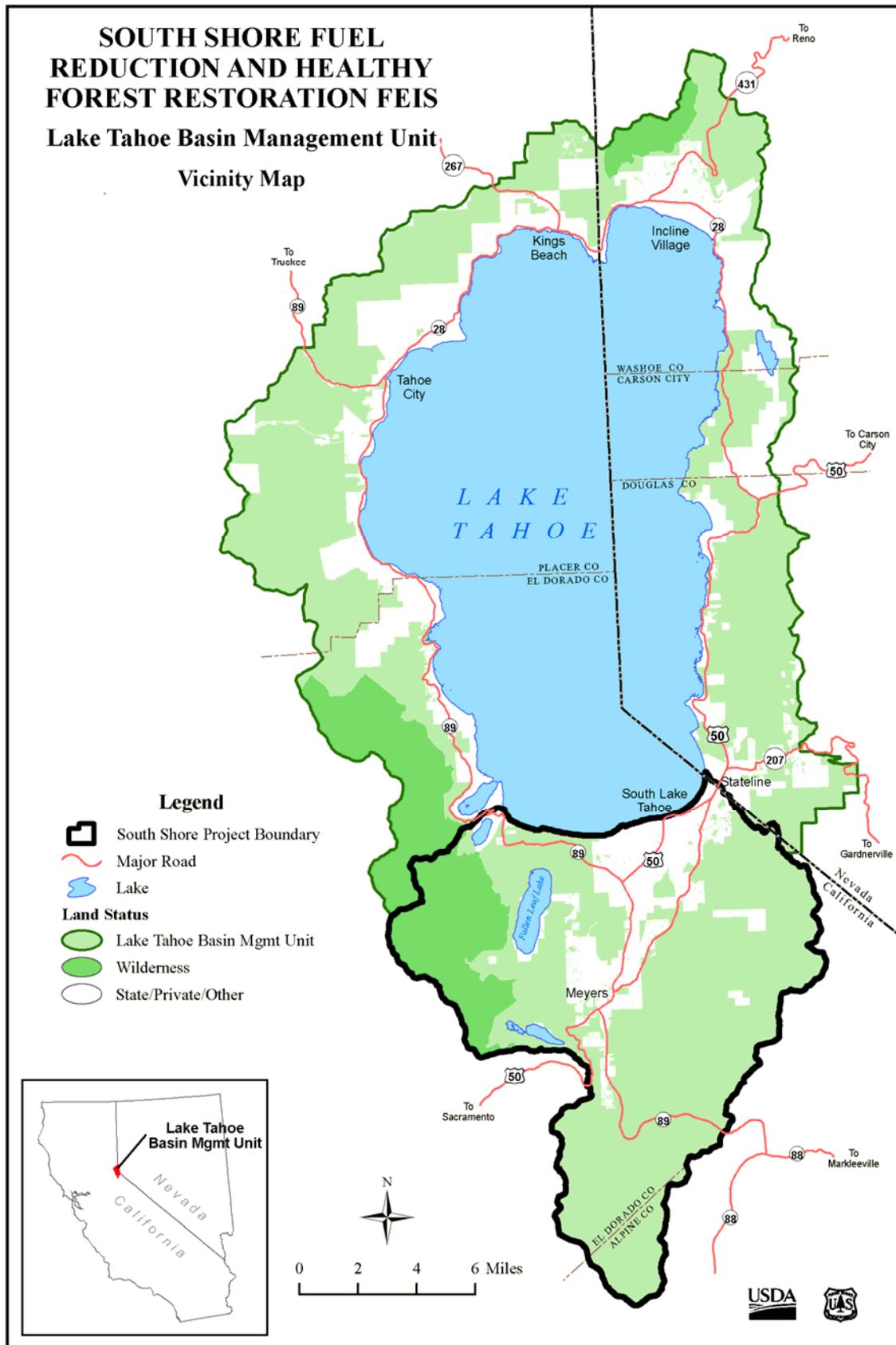


Figure 1. South Shore Project Vicinity within the Lake Tahoe Basin

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