



# *Lake Tahoe*

## *Federal Advisory Committee*

February 6, 2013

The Honorable Tom Vilsack  
Secretary of Agriculture  
United States Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250

**Re: Role and Accomplishments of the Lake Tahoe Federal Advisory Committee  
Request for Expedient Charter Renewal**

Dear Secretary Vilsack:

I am writing to you on behalf of the members of the Lake Tahoe Federal Advisory Committee (LTFAC). The members of LTFAC are passionate about protecting the Lake, which is widely recognized as a national treasure. Towards that end, we receive presentations, consider stakeholder input, engage the diverse expertise of our members, and after careful deliberation, develop recommendations. The 2011-2013 Charter expires soon. We look forward to the Department's timely Charter renewal so that we can continue this important work.

The LTFAC serves as a national model for how engaged citizens can collaborate with federal, state, tribal, and local partners to establish consensus on controversial issues. This collaboration allowed LTFAC to accomplish significant tasks during the 2011-2013 Charter. In a time of increased need and reduced budgets, LTFAC developed consensus and submitted recommendations for the final round of the Tahoe program funding from the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA). These recommendations were ultimately approved by the Secretary of the Interior. Additionally, LTFAC adopted an updated vision statement to guide its work in the "Post SNPLMA" era. This vision underscores the roles that diverse stakeholders and community members have in sustaining the future of Lake Tahoe. Since that vision was adopted, the LTFAC has, among other things, reviewed completed and in-process projects funded by SNPLMA, discussed how to encourage citizen involvement and

stewardship, explored new funding strategies, and received an update about the continued threat posed by aquatic invasive species.

This collaboration also allowed the LTFAC to function as an important voice for accountability, focusing not just on the financial, but also on the need for the accountability and transparency that federal partners must have to be effective in the broader partnership between the States of California and Nevada, Washoe Tribe, and the many stakeholders who are concerned with the economic and environmental health of Lake Tahoe.

LTFAC wholeheartedly encourages you to visit Lake Tahoe to see first-hand the strength of the collaboration that has been developed. We suggest that the 2013 Lake Tahoe Summit scheduled for this coming August would be an excellent opportunity for this visit. We would appreciate the chance to work with USDA Forest Service regional and local officials to host your tour so you can attend and participate in the forum of federal, state, local and regional officials, involved stakeholders, and members of the public. Participants include members of Congress and the governors of California and Nevada. This year's host will be U.S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid. There is great tradition in this forum. 2013 will mark the 17<sup>th</sup> annual Summit, dating back to the historic visit of President Clinton, Vice President Gore and several of their cabinet officials, including then-Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman.

In closing, we thank you for the honor of your appointment as members of the Lake Tahoe Federal Advisory Committee to serve the Department of Agriculture and the Lake Tahoe Federal Interagency Partnership.

Very sincerely yours,

*/s/Steve Teshara*

Steve Teshara  
Chair, Lake Tahoe Federal Advisory Committee

cc: Mr. Randy Moore, Regional Forester, USDA Forest Service, Region 5  
Ms. Nancy Gibson, Forest Supervisor, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit  
Mr. Jeff Marsolais, Deputy Forest Supervisor, Designated Federal Official,  
LTFAC  
Members, Lake Tahoe Federal Advisory Committee

Note: Specifically, the LTFAC is chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act. Our purpose is to provide advice to the Secretary of Agriculture and to the Federal Interagency Partnership, established by Executive Order 13057, on how the Partnership can best fulfill its duties pursuant to that order to protect the extraordinary natural,

recreational and ecological resources in the Lake Tahoe Region. Our advice consist of the consensus of Committee members, representing the broad array of local, regional, state, tribal and national interests concerned with the environmental, economic, and cultural health of the Lake Tahoe Basin.