



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Lake Tahoe Basin
Management Unit

35 College Drive
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150
(530) 543-2600
(530) 543-0956 TTY

File Code: 1950

Date: June 22, 2012

Subject: Meeks Creek Meadow Ecosystem Restoration

Dear Scoping Respondents and other Individuals, Organizations and Agencies:

The USDA Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU) is seeking comments on the enclosed Revised Proposed Action for the Meeks Creek Meadow Ecosystem Restoration. The Meeks Creek Meadow Ecosystem Restoration is following the objectives of the LTBMU Land and Resources Management Plan (Forest Plan) and the 2004 Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment Record of Decision (SNFPA) for restoration of stream and meadow areas. The project area encompasses the Meeks Meadow (see enclosed project area map).

Project information will be posted on the LTBMU website at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/ltbmu/MeeksCreekMeadowRestoration>.

As the Meeks Creek Watershed Ecosystem Restoration continues through the NEPA environmental analysis process, the Forest Service will be lead agency. The Forest Service will work closely with the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) and Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (LRWQCB) to meet applicable regulations.

A Decision Memo was signed for the Meeks Creek Meadow Restoration Project in June, 2010. During initial implementation activities, it was apparent that some aspects of the proposed action, specifically prescribed fire operations, could not be successfully implemented and that implementation would require an expanded project area to be thinned before the meadow burn. The Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit concluded that the Interdisciplinary Team needed to reconvene to revise the proposed action, conduct additional surveys of adjacent land and NEPA analyses of the expanded project area, re-scope to agencies and members of the public, and complete a new Decision Memo. Through this process, the proposed action was modified to insure that the goals of the project were met while confirming the planned activities could be implemented effectively.

Project Description

This project proposes to restore approximately 300 acres of meadow habitat in the Meeks Meadow project area through treatments that thin adjacent stands and remove encroaching conifers from the meadow and are further treated with prescribed fire. The preferred method of treatment is to treat the entire meadow in one entry using a combination of mechanical equipment and hand treatment, followed by prescribed fire.

How to Comment and Timeframe

This Project is in the initial (scoping) stage of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis. We are asking for your comments on this Revised Proposed Action. This scoping notice is intended to provide those interested in or affected by this project with an opportunity to



make their concerns known. If you have information the Forest Service may not be aware of, or feel you have issues regarding potential effects of the Proposed Action, please send your comments to Sarah Muskopf, Interdisciplinary Team Leader, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, 35 College Dr., South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150.

Written, facsimile, hand-delivered, oral, and electronic comments concerning the Meeks Creek Meadow Ecosystem Restoration will be most helpful if they are submitted by July 23, 2012. 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 (530) 543-2838 or in person. Electronic comments must be submitted to 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: Meeks Creek Meadow Restoration.

If you would like to review the Proposed Action and map, they are posted on the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit website, <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/ltbmu/MeeksCreekMeadowRestoration>. For more information regarding this Proposed Action, Sarah Muskopf at (530) 543-2835, email smuskopf@fs.fed.us.

Sincerely,



NANCY J. GIBSON
Forest Supervisor

Enclosures:
Summary of Proposed Action
Project Area Map