



United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service

Reader's Guide to the LTBMU Forest Plan

The Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit revised Forest Plan document is presented in three volumes, and is consistent with all applicable Federal requirements guiding the preparation of a Revised Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) and a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS).

Volume I is the FEIS, which includes:

- **Executive Summary**

The Summary provides a brief overview of the planning process, the alternatives and the issues on which the alternatives are based, and the consequences of the alternatives.

- **Chapter 1 – Purpose and Need**

This chapter describes the Plan area and sets forth the purpose and need for plan revision. It begins with a general description of the changes made between the Draft and Final EIS. The decision to be made and how Forest Plan decisions fit into a broader planning framework are described, along with the Forest Plan management direction its application. Public involvement in the planning process is summarized; the major plan revision themes are introduced, accompanied by brief descriptions of the issues around which alternatives were developed. Chapter 1 concludes with a list of applicable laws, regulations, policies, and executive orders.

- **Chapter 2 – Alternatives**

This chapter describes the five alternatives considered in detail along with the alternatives considered but not analyzed in detail. The process for developing a range of reasonable alternatives is described, and the elements that do not vary by alternative are listed. The five alternatives are characterized in terms of their key strategies, how they address the relevant issues, and how the Plan management direction would vary. Chapter 2 concludes with several tables that compare the alternatives in different ways.

- **Chapter 3 - Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences**

This chapter provides a description of the affected environment and the analysis of the environmental consequences of implementing each of the four alternatives. This chapter includes an affected environment description and effects analysis specific to each of the resources with the potential to be affected. Cumulative effects are analyzed in a single section for all resources. Also included are findings about environmental justice, the relationship of short term uses and long term productivity, unavoidable adverse impacts, and irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources.

- **Chapter 4 – Consultation and Coordination**

This chapter lists the Interdisciplinary Team members and other contributors to the document, describes the individuals and agencies consulted during document development, and provides a list of individuals and groups to whom the document has been distributed.

Volume II provides a detailed description of Alternative E, the Preferred Alternative. This Revised Forest Plan is divided into three main parts:

- **Part 1 – Vision**

The desired conditions comprise the overall vision for the LTBMU. Desired conditions are long term aspirations that describe the specific ecological, social, and/or economic attributes toward which management of the land and resources should be directed. The outcome of land management activities over time should be to move the Plan area toward achievement of the desired conditions. The collaboratively developed desired conditions from the Pathway process express a shared vision for the Lake Tahoe Basin.

- **Part 2 – Strategy**

The Strategy section describes how the Forest intends to move the Plan area toward the desired conditions. This part of the Plan includes the Program Strategies and Objectives, the Management Emphasis Areas and Suitable Uses, and descriptions of the Designated and Recommended Special Areas on the LTBMU.

- **Part 3 – Design Criteria**

This section is comprised of the standards and guidelines which establish constraints and boundaries for management activities. Standards and guidelines are established to help achieve or maintain the desired condition or conditions, to avoid or mitigate undesirable effects, or to meet applicable legal requirements.

Volume III provides the appendices and additional supporting information for the FEIS/Revised Forest Plan, which some readers may find helpful when reviewing the main text of the document. Volume III includes the Monitoring Plan.