

Objections to Revised Land and Resource Management Plan for Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit =
Draft Record of Decision

The biggest problem facing the LTBMU in the next twenty years is climate change. Although the Environmental Impact Statement includes a discussion of climate change, the preferred Alternative (Alternative E) does not address what should be done to help the basin's environment cope with this problem. Objections to the Draft Record of Decision's inadequacies are the following:

1. Outside of the WUI zones, cutting of large trees will be allowed in Alternative E. Large trees are the best removers of CO₂ from the atmosphere which is the main cause of climate change. The only large trees (over 20 inches in diameter) that should be cut outside of the WUI zone are identified hazard trees.
2. Over snow vehicles will remain in 55 percent of basin lands in all alternatives. OSVs, like any internal combustion engines, emit CO₂ which affects air quality and contributes to climate change. They also will have a deleterious effect on the land as the temperature in the basin increases. Even though it is not feasible at the present time to eliminate them entirely from the basin, they should at least be excluded from inventoried roadless areas.
3. No new wilderness is proposed in the preferred alternative. High altitude wilderness is the best place for species that have difficulty surviving as their present environment gets warmer to find a suitable environment. Both the Dardanelles and Freel IRA's would provide high altitude wilderness for these species and need to be part of the long-range management plan. If boundaries are carefully drawn, designation of these as wilderness would not interfere with well-used mountain bike trails.
4. Although it is impossible to eliminate automobiles from the Basin, no changes in recreation or parking should be made that encourage more mechanized traffic that makes the greatest contribution to CO₂ that causes atmospheric pollution and climate change.

Respectfully submitted,
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