

# Tahoe National Forest



## Forest Terrain

Located in California, in the north-central Sierra Nevada Range, the Tahoe National Forest lies between Lake Tahoe on the east and the Sacramento Valley on the west. The land rises from 1,500 feet on the west with steep-walled river canyons, to an elevation of 9,100 feet along the rugged peaks and ridges of the Sierra Crest. The Tahoe National Forest's abundant and varied natural resources provide countless opportunities for visitors.

## Land Ownership

The Tahoe National Forest encompasses over 1 million acres. Of these acres, approximately 841,000 are National Forest System land. Privately owned land totaling over 339,000 acres is scattered mostly in the central portion of the Forest. Lake Tahoe is not located within the Forest boundary, but on the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit.

Early day land grants to the railroads as well as mining claims and private timberland holdings account for the high percentage of privately owned land within the Forest and the peculiar checkerboard pattern of ownership. This complex land ownership pattern requires your attention. Please respect private property. Maps and information you may need to

make your visit more enjoyable can be obtained from a visit, a call, viewing the website or by written request to any of the Forest offices listed at the end of this publication.

## History

The Tahoe National Forest was first traversed by the Washoe and Maidu Native Americans and later by many of the early pioneers in search of gold from California. These trails were traveled by thousands of emigrants until the late 1860s, when the Transcontinental Railroad was built over the snowy summit.

The rich history of the Forest is still much in evidence today. The Tahoe National Forest contains thousands of recognized historical sites, many of which attract loyal patrons from all over the West. In the more remote areas, age old Native American sites, Gold Rush mining camps, and dwindling traces of emigrant trails are among the thousands of sites being protected and managed by the Forest Service for the benefit of both current and future generations.

## Recreation Opportunities

In the nation's top 20 for most visited National Forest, the Tahoe provides outdoor activities year round. During spring, summer and fall, the Forest



offers camping and boating sites, equestrian, mountain biking, hiking, and OHV trails, and is popular for hunting, fishing or general sightseeing. In the winter months, the Forest's high Sierra terrain accommodates many Nordic and alpine skiers and snowboarders along with snowmobile or snow play enthusiasts.

The Tahoe National Forest boasts hundreds of miles of trail for riding or hiking, and hundreds of miles of off-highway vehicle trails. In addition, portions of the trail system are signed and marked for Nordic skiing and snowmobiles.

Camping opportunities in a variety of settings are abundant on the Forest including wilderness camping with no constructed facilities or camping in one of the many designated campgrounds with assorted facilities. There are boat-in campgrounds at Bullards Bar Reservoir and developed campgrounds that accommodate overnight equestrian use in several locations. Most of the campgrounds are reservation based, but many have first come, first served sites available.

Day use areas offer picnic and boating opportunities, and in some locations, interpretive and nature trails or historical sites. In addition, old fire lookouts have been converted to facilities that are available for rent.

## Managing for Multiple-Use

National Forests were created by Congress at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century in order to provide a wide variety of resources for a growing nation.

Managed to protect the forest ecosystems, the Forest provides lumber and wood products, grazing areas, recreation, water for downstream uses, minerals, and a host of wildlife habitats. The rivers on the Forest generally yield 2 million acre feet of water for downstream drinking and irrigation. Thousands of mining claims are still active and produce many valuable minerals for various uses.

Helping timber stands become healthier by thinning reduces the threat of catastrophic fire. Timber harvesting removes dead trees and reduces some of the overly dense stands of trees throughout the forest. The Tahoe National Forest is working aggressively in cooperation with other agencies and private landowners to reduce the potential for wildfires. All timber activities are carefully planned with an emphasis on protecting watershed values and wildlife habitat.

During your visit to the Tahoe National Forest, you may see forest management of the many resources such as timber harvesting, sheep or cattle grazing, or a prescribed burn. If you have any questions about any aspect of the Tahoe National Forest operations, please give us a call.

### **Tahoe National Forest Headquarters**

631 Coyote Street  
Nevada City, CA 95959-2250  
(530) 265-4531

### **Yuba River Ranger District**

15924 Hwy. 49  
Camptonville, CA 95922  
(530) 265-4531

### **American River Ranger District**

22830 Foresthill Road  
Foresthill, CA 95631  
(530) 492-5631  
TTY users dial 711 for telecommunication relay

### **Sierraville Ranger District**

317 South Lincoln  
Sierraville, CA 96126  
(530) 994-3401 TTY: 994-3521

### **Truckee Ranger District**

10811 Stockrest Springs Road  
Truckee, CA 96161  
(530) 587-3558 TTY: 587-6907

# Tahoe National Forest

## Ranger Districts

