



File Code: 1950

Date: November 25, 2008

Subject: Lower Truckee Riverbank Stabilization Project

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 Proposed Action for the Lower Truckee Riverbank Stabilization Project, which follows the objectives of the LTBMU Land and Resources Management Plan (Forest Plan) and the 2004 Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendments. The project is located in the Lower Truckee Management Area, in the northwest quadrant of the LTBMU, in Placer County, California. The project consists of a one-acre parcel (APN # 094180019000) on the north shore of the Lower Truckee River (see the enclosed project area map).

The project goal is to implement measures to restore the eroded riverbank and the adjacent disturbed floodplain. The objectives that support this goal are (i) restoration of the floodplain of this parcel to match upstream and downstream morphology and (ii) creation of a stable floodplain and channel edge that contain desirable riparian plant species and are resistant to erosion.

The Forest Service will be lead agency for the NEPA process. The Forest Service will work closely with the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA), Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (LRWQCB) and Army Corp of Engineers to meet applicable regulations.

How to Comment and Timeframe

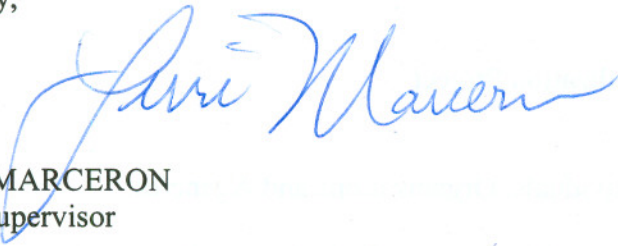
This scoping notice is intended to provide those interested in or affected by this project with an opportunity to make their concerns known. If you have information the Forest Service may not be aware of, or feel you have issues regarding potential effects of the Proposed Action, please send your comments to Jim Harris, Hydrologist, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, 35 College Dr., South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150.

Written, facsimile, hand-delivered, oral, and electronic comments concerning this project will be most helpful if they are submitted by December 31, 2008. 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) 543-2738 or in person. Electronic comments must be submitted 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: Lower Truckee Riverbank Stabilization Project.



For further information regarding this Proposed Action, contact Jim Harris at (530) 543-2738, email jsharris@fs.fed.us.

Sincerely,



TERRI MARCERON
Forest Supervisor

Enclosures: Summary of Proposed Action
Project Area Map

Summary of Proposed Action

Lower Truckee Riverbank Stabilization Project
USDA Forest Service Pacific Southwest Region
Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit
Placer County, California

I. PROJECT AREA DESCRIPTION

The Lower Truckee Riverbank Restoration Project is located in the Lower Truckee Management Area, located in the northwest quadrant of the LTBMU, in Placer County, California. The project consists of a one-acre parcel (APN # 094180019000) on the north shore of the Lower Truckee River (see enclosed map).

II. PURPOSE AND NEED

Open access to this section of the riverbank has resulted in heavy impact by kayakers, rafters, and various other enthusiasts accessing the river and launching water craft. Impacts include compacted and disturbed soils which has resulted in 100 linear feet of high angle river bank (approximately 7 feet tall and at ~45 degree slope angle) composed of unconsolidated and unvegetated fluvial sediments. Transport of sediments to the river is pervasive and on-going through sheet, rill, and gully erosion, therefore riverbank stabilization and floodplain restoration is needed to remove the threat to water quality. Restoration of the floodplain and channel edge should create conditions that resist erosion, while enhancing the riparian habitat characteristics of the site. In order to preserve this restoration, measures such as signs and barricades are needed, to discourage continued river access at this site and encourage users to use the 64 Acres facility located immediately upstream.

III. PROPOSED ACTION

Riverbank stabilization and floodplain restoration will include re-grading approximately 4000 square feet of the parcel (including 300 lineal feet of the river edge) to match the upstream and downstream floodplain morphology. Denuded areas will be revegetated through seeding approximately 5000 square feet with naturally occurring weed free grasses. Willows will also be planted to stabilize areas as needed. The riverbank will be armored with riprap in a manner that addresses both aesthetics and erosion control. A backhoe/front loader will be used to re-grade the bank and place the riprap as necessary. The total disturbed area will be approximately 5500 square feet.

IV. PROJECT DESIGN FEATURES

The following are additional design features proposed for the project to reduce or avoid negative environmental effects of the proposed action on forest resources.

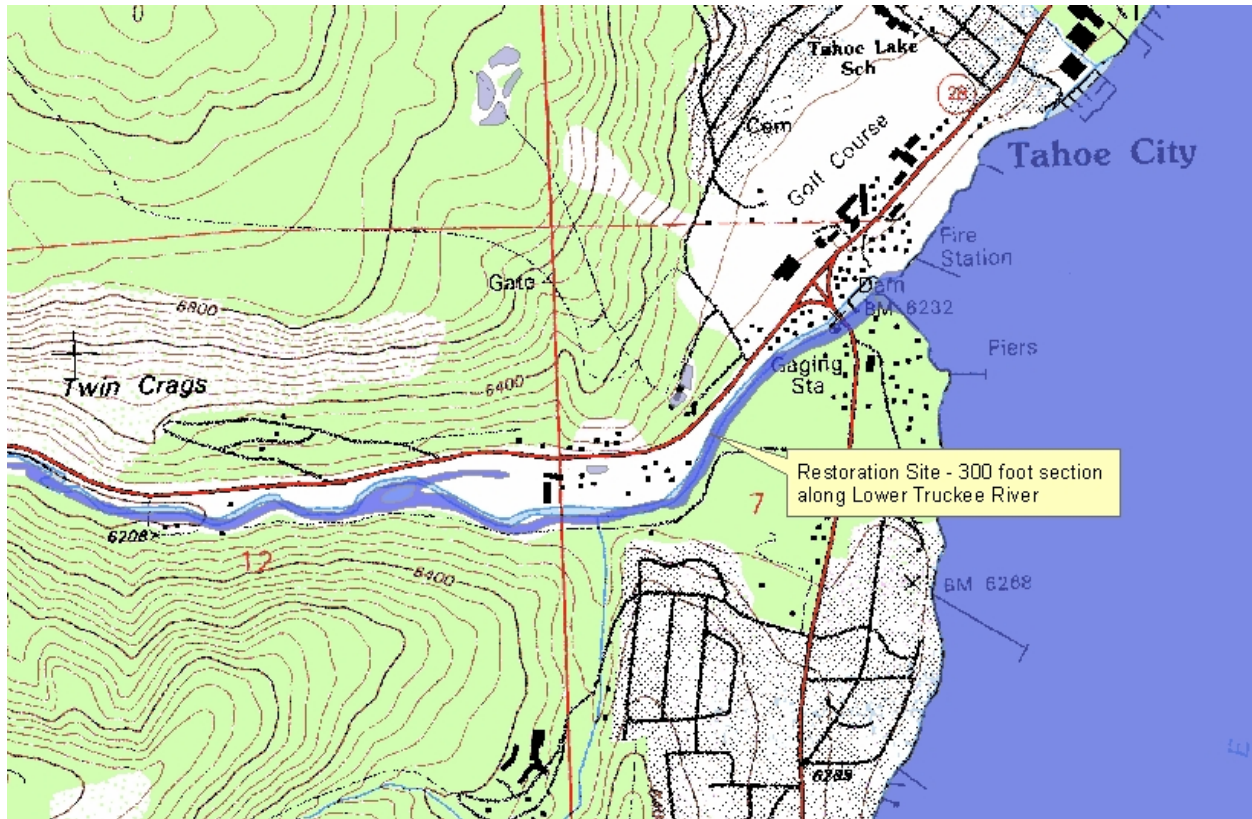
- Install temporary soil and water protection best management practices.
- Perform post project noxious weed surveys.
- Utilize appropriate signage/flagging to protect public from heavy equipment, and prevent damage to project from public during project operations.

V. TIMELINE

Public Scoping – December, 2008

Completion of NEPA documentation – February, 2009

Project Implementation – May, 2009



Map showing the location of the Lower Truckee Riverbank Stabilization Project.