



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Lake Tahoe Basin Management
Unit

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

File Code: 7720 / 2310

Date: November 16, 2007

Subject: Daggett Summit Trail System

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 Daggett Summit Trail System (Daggett Summit Project). The Daggett Summit Project 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 dispersed recreational trail opportunities in the Kingsbury, Daggett, and South Lake Tahoe areas. The project extends from near the end of Andria Drive in Upper Kingsbury on the north into Heavenly Mountain Resort's Stagecoach and Boulder areas to the south and well into the Van Sickle State Park on the southwest (see enclosed project area map). While connected to the South Lake Tahoe area, this entire project is in Nevada.

The Forest Service plans to host a public meeting on **December 11, 2007** to encourage education and comment this Proposed Action. Announcements will be posted on the LTBMU website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/ltbmu/projects> and in the Tahoe Daily Tribune.

As the Daggett Summit Project continues through the environmental analysis process, the Forest Service will act as lead agency for the NEPA process, and will coordinate approval and implementation authority with Nevada State Parks and Douglas County. All approval agencies will work closely with the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA), and, where appropriate, with the Nevada Department of Environmental Protection to meet applicable regulations.

How to Comment and Timeframe

This Project is in the initial (scoping) stage of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis and the fourth year of survey efforts. We are asking for your comments on this 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 Garrett Villanueva, 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 South Shore Project will be most helpful if they are submitted by **January 11, 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) 543-2762 or in person, or at an official agency function (i.e. public meeting) that is designed to elicit public comments. 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: Daggett Summit Project.

Project Description

There is a need to re-route segments of the Tahoe Rim Trail (TRT) in the area around Daggett Summit where the trail is currently located on paved public roadways. The current routing is both unpleasant as a recreational experience and creates sometimes dangerous conflicts between hikers, bikers, equestrians, and local vehicle traffic (especially in areas where there are no sidewalks and steep roadways). Additionally, requests by Nevada State Parks for a link from the new Van Sickle State Park to the TRT, and from South Lake Tahoe personnel for additional local hiking opportunities are included in this Project.

The Daggett Summit Project will relocate the existing Daggett area TRT from paved streets to forested land, and connect the TRT to Van Sickle State Park. This estimated 13 mile project will be completed through a combination of new trail construction (approximately 9.5 miles), adoption and improvement of existing authorized trails (approximately 1.7 miles), and redesign and rebuild of multiple short sections of user created unauthorized trails (approximately 1.8 miles). Up to six short spur trails may be included for trailhead connection (2 spurs) or vista access (4). Approximately 85% of the land involved is Forest Service Land, and 91% (11.9 miles) is within the Lake Tahoe hydrologic basin. Other land sections belong to Nevada State Parks and Douglas County, both of which are active partners in project planning, as well as Heavenly Mountain Resort and the Tahoe Village Homeowners Association. The Project also includes coordination with the Nevada Department of Transportation, the Kingsbury General Improvement District, the Washoe Tribe, the City of South Lake Tahoe, and the California Tahoe Conservancy.

The goal of completing this project is to improve the trail system by creating TRT connections via native surface paths rather than paved roads, as well as connecting the TRT system directly to the South Lake Tahoe/Stateline area. The overall project area environment will be improved by decommissioning of numerous non-system trails throughout (see Map 2 and Tables 1-3).

The following are objectives of this Proposed Action:

- Develop trail systems that minimize trail use conflicts. This includes eliminating portions of the current Tahoe Rim Trail alignment on paved roadways to reduce conflicts with vehicle traffic.
- Provide an interconnected trail system that includes loops and connector trails. This includes adding a connector from the new California/Nevada Van Sickle Bi-State Park to the Tahoe Rim Trail and providing significant new loop trail opportunities in the Upper Kingsbury and Daggett-Van Sickle areas. This will also provide for day hiking opportunities close to the urban core with vista opportunities of Lake Tahoe and the Carson Valley, as well as providing users the option of using public transit to access trailheads.

- Finish the last section of the Tahoe Rim Trail currently remaining on paved public roadways.
- Provide for a natural environment trail experience that is not available while on the road.
- Provide environmentally sound trails that are multi-use, non-motorized.
- Decommission segments of trails that are causing resource damage and will be unnecessary after completion of the re-route.

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.fed.us/r5/lbmu/projects>. For further information regarding this Proposed Action, contact Garrett Villanueva at (530) 543-2762, email gvillaneuva@fs.fed.us.

Sincerely,



TERRI MARCERON
Forest Supervisor

Enclosures:

Summary of Proposed Action

Project Area Map

Table of Trail Segment Data

Map of Proposed Road/Trail Decommissioning/Rehabilitation

Table of Decommissioning/Rehabilitation Data