

United States Fo Department of Ser Agriculture

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

File Code: 2600 Date: March 27, 2009

Subject: Big Meadow Creek Watershed Fire Regime Restoration Project Pre Decision Memo

Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit 35 College Drive South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

Dear Interested Parties:

The U.S. Forest Service, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU) is seeking comments on the enclosed Pre-Decisional Memo for the Big Meadow Creek Watershed Fire Regime Restoration Project. This project is following directives in the LTBMU Land and Resources Management Plan (Forest Plan) as amended by 2004 Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment Record of Decision (SNFPA) for management of a diverse ecosystems communities and associated species that depend on those systems as well as goals from fire and fuels management, which have objectives of actively restoring fire-adapted ecosystems.

The attached Pre-Decisional Memo includes a discussion of the implementation activities as well as a project area map. As the Big Meadow Creek Watershed Fire Regime Restoration Project continues through the environmental analysis process, the Forest Service will be the lead agency for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) planning process. The Forest Service will work closely with the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA), and Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (LRWQCB) to meet applicable regulations.

How to Comment and Timeframe

We are asking for your comments on this Pre-Decisional Memo. This 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 us your comments.

Written, facsimile, hand-delivered, oral, and electronic comments concerning this action will be accepted for 30 calendar days following publication of a legal notice in the Tahoe Daily Tribune. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period for this proposal. Those wishing to comment should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. The regulations prohibit extending the length of the comment period.

Written comments must be submitted to the Responsible Official: Terri Marceron, Forest Supervisor, Re: Big Meadow Creek Project, 35 College Drive, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150.

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The office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered comments are: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding federal holidays.

Oral comments must be provided at the Responsible Official's office during normal business hours via telephone (530) 543-2600 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 <u>comments-pacificsouthwest-ltbmu@fs.fed.us</u> using Subject: **Big Meadow Creek Watershed Fire Regime Restoration Project**. In cases where no identifiable name is attached to a comment, a verification of identity will be required for appeal eligibility. If using an electronic message, a scanned signature is one way to provide verification. It is the responsibility of persons providing comments to submit them by the close of the comment period. Individuals and organizations wishing to be eligible to appeal must meet the information requirements of 36 CFR 215.6.

For further information regarding this Proposed Action, contact Raul Sanchez – Project Leader at (530) 543-2679, email rsanchez@fs.fed.us.

Sincerely,

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TERRI MARCERON Forest Supervisor

Enclosures: Pre Decisional Memo