



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Lake Tahoe Basin
Management Unit

870 Emerald Bay Road
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150
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File Code: 1950-1

Date: May 23, 2008

Interested Public:

The Blackwood Phase III Channel and Floodplain Restoration Project Environmental Assessment (EA) is now available for your review. The EA is posted on our web site at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/ltbmu/projects/>. If you are unable to retrieve this document through our web site, please contact the project leader identified at the end of this letter to receive a copy.

The EA contains the 'Proposed Action' alternative that would authorize the US Forest Service/Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU) to conduct restoration activities on 80 acres of channel and floodplain on the main stem of Blackwood Creek. The activities include channel construction, reactivation of historic channels, reshaping and strengthening floodplains and channel banks, and planting of native vegetation. Implementation of the proposed action would improve channel and floodplain function, reduce sediment inputs to Lake Tahoe, improve watershed function overall, and help reduce the risks to Lake Tahoe's water quality. A 'No Action Alternative' is also considered in the EA.

My preference is to implement the Proposed Action in the EA.

I am seeking your comments on this EA. Comments may be submitted in writing or orally. You may mail, email, fax, or deliver your comments in person. Please submit your comments to: US Forest Service, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, Forest Supervisor, attn: Blackwood Creek Restoration Project, 35 College Drive, South Lake Tahoe, CA, 96150-4500, by FAX [(530) 543-2693] or by delivery to the address shown above (Monday-Friday 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, excluding federal holidays). Electronic comments in acceptable formats [plain text (.txt), rich text (.rtf) or Word (.doc)] may be submitted to comments-pacificsouthwest-ltbmu@fs.fed.us. Provide your name, address and telephone number, the title of the EA, and your specific comments and supporting rationale that you would like considered in reaching a decision. Oral comments must be provided at the LTBMU during normal business hours via telephone (530-543-2600) or in person.

Names and addresses of those who comment will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action, and will be available for public inspection. Only those who submit comments during the 30-day comment period will have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR 215. Each individual or representative from each organization submitting substantive comments must either sign the comments or verify identity upon request. The opportunity to comment begins with the publication of the legal notice and ends 30 days thereafter, on or about **June 30, 2008**.

The EA incorporates, by reference, the following documents that may be of interest: a watershed analysis (Swanson et al., 2003), project designs (Swanson, 2008), and the Biological Assessment (USDA, 2008). Copies of these documents are available from the project manager.



Craig Oehrli of my staff is the project manager and can provide you with additional information about this proposal. You can reach Mr. Oehrli (530-543-2681) during regular business hours.

Sincerely,



for TERRI MARCERON
Forest Supervisor