



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: 1950

Date: July 15, 2008

Subject: Sierra Nevada Yellow-Legged Frog (*Rana sierrae*) Habitat Restoration 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 Sierra Nevada Yellow-Legged Frog (SNYLF) (*Rana sierrae*) Habitat Restoration Project. The SNYLF Habitat Restoration 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 management of wilderness resources, wildlife habitat management, and fish habitat management. Additionally, this project supports objectives from the Desolation Wilderness Management Guidelines and Land Management Plan (1998) and the Wilderness Act of 1964, to "ensure an enduring resource of Wilderness for present and future generations." The wilderness character of Desolation and source of solitude and primitive recreation will be protected and restored in the course of this project.

The project area encompasses seven lakes identified by the California Department of Fish and Game as "Native Species Restoration Lakes" in Desolation Wilderness (see enclosed project area map). No future stocking efforts are planned for these lakes.

Announcements for this project will be posted on the LTBMU website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/lbmu/projects>.

As the Sierra Nevada Yellow-Legged Frog Habitat Restoration Project continues through the environmental analysis process, the Forest Service will be lead agency for the NEPA process. The Forest Service will work closely with the California Department of Fish and Game, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA), and Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (LRWQCB) to meet applicable regulations.

How to Comment and Timeframe

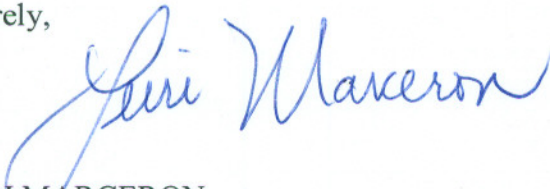
This Project is in the initial (scoping) stage of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis. We are asking for your comments on this Proposed Action. This scoping notice is intended to provide those interested in or affected by this project with an opportunity to make their concerns known. If 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 Sarah Muskopf, 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 this project will be most helpful if they are submitted by **August 15, 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) 543-2835. 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: Sierra Nevada Yellow-Legged Frog Habitat Restoration Project.

Electronic copies of this letter, the Proposed Action and map, are posted on the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit website, <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/ltbmu/projects>. For further information regarding this project, contact Sarah Muskopf at (530) 543-2835, email smuskopf@fs.fed.us.

Sincerely,



TERRI MARCERON
Forest Supervisor

Enclosures:
Summary of proposed action and map