

November 3, 2008

Workshop

Balancing Forest Health, Fuels Reduction, and Wildlife Habitat



US Forest Service, Lake Tahoe
Basin Management Unit (LTBMU)

Forest Plan Revision Past & Present Opportunities for Input

- Pathway process
- Comprehensive Evaluation Report (CER) public comments
- Forest Plan Revision Public Workshops
September 29th & 30th
November 3rd, November 12th, December 1st



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September 29-30, 2008

Public Workshops

- Provide overview of Forest Plan revision process
 - Opportunities for public input
 - Timeline for revising the Forest Plan
- Review the status of preliminary Forest Plan revisions to date
- Invite public input on forest management issues to inform Forest Plan revision

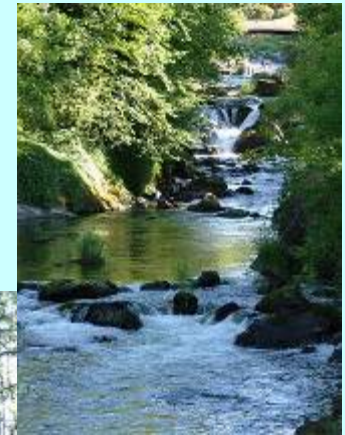


September Public Workshops

Key Topics of Interest

Forest Health & Management

- Fuels Reduction & Wildlife Habitat
- Soil, and Water Quality



Recreation and Land Use Management

Other Comments: Noise management, air quality, cultural heritage, stewardship & education, and communication



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Three Topic Specific Workshops

- Balancing Forest Health, Fuels Reduction, and Wildlife Habitat
November 3rd – Today!
- Balancing Forest Health with Soil, and Water Quality Issues
November 12th (South Lake Tahoe)
- Recreation Management
December 1st (North Lake Tahoe)



Tonight's Workshop Objectives

- Describe LTBMU's proposed **desired conditions** for forest health, wildlife habitat, and fuels
- Invite public input on **strategies** to balance forest health, fuels reduction, and habitat needs
- Inform the public of future public workshop topics and schedule



Agenda

- 6:00 Welcome and Introductions
- 6:10 Review Workshop Objectives and Agenda
- 6:20 Present Summary of Key Issues Pertaining to Forest Structure & Health
- 6:40 Invite Public Input on Forest Structure & Health
 - Breakout session discussions
- 7:40 Reports Back on Breakout Session Discussions
- 7:50 Recap Next Steps
- 8:00 Adjourn



Participation Guidelines to Support a Productive Workshop

- Focus is on sharing information; no decisions will be made at this workshop.
- Please speak to the focus and objectives of this workshop.
- Everyone will participate and keep the process on track.
- Participants will respect each other's personal integrity, values, and legitimacy of interests.
- Please turn cell phones off or to vibrate mode.



Clarifying Questions??



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Presentation Outline

- Background
 - Pre-settlement conditions
 - Changes to the forest
 - Current conditions
 - Desired conditions
- Strategies to achieve desired conditions



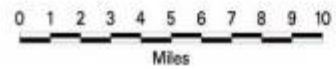
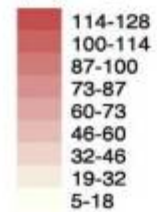
Pre-settlement Conditions

- Climate
 - Constantly changing
 - Little Ice-Age
- Indigenous peoples
 - Washoe and predecessors
 - Used and managed natural resources
- Disturbance regimes
 - Wildland fire
 - Insects and pathogens
 - Wind, avalanches, ice storms, etc.
- Dynamic wildlife habitats



**Modeled
Historic
Fire Return
Intervals**

Mean Fire
Return Interval
(in years)



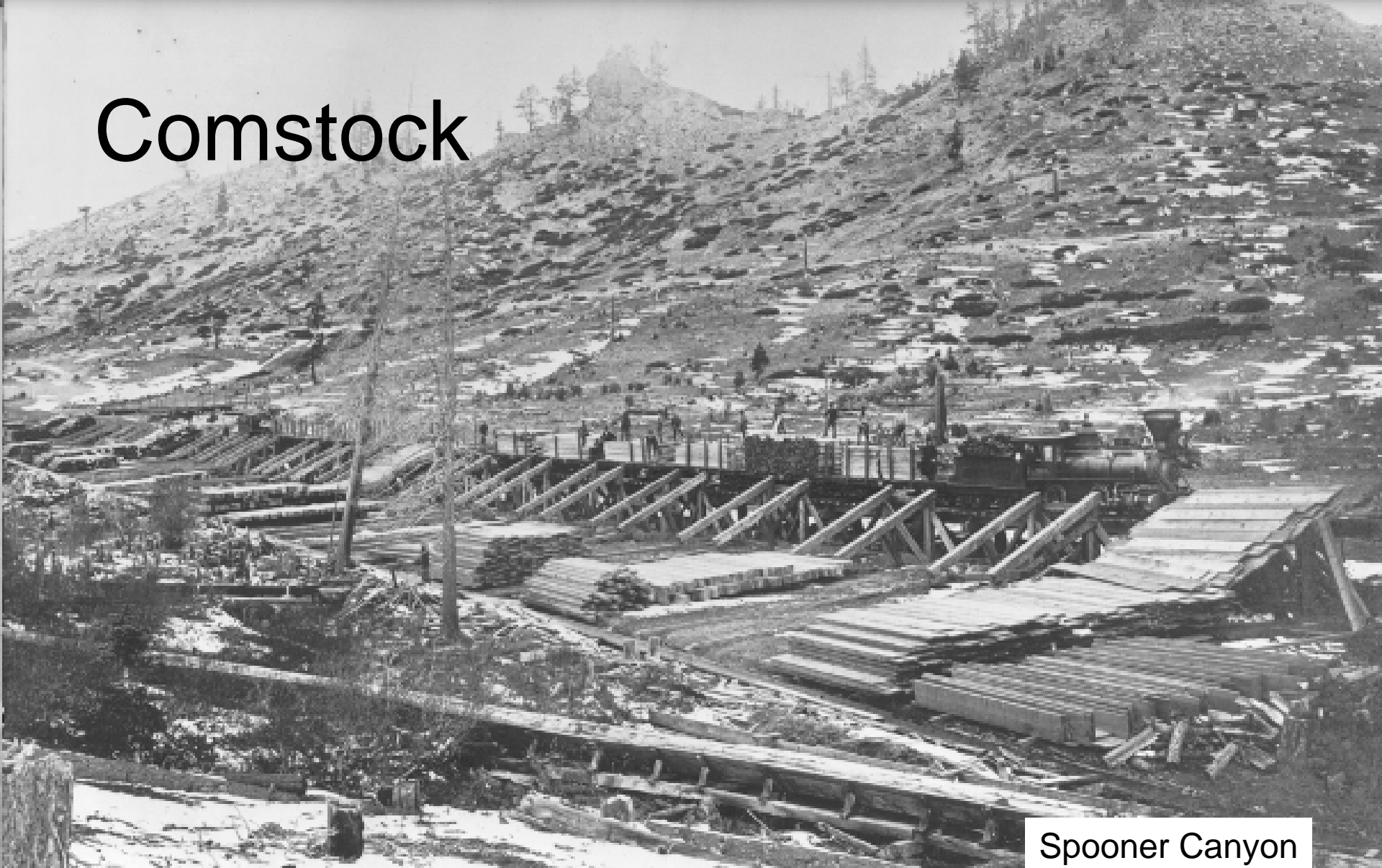
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Changes to the Forest

- Comstock Era – 1860s to early 1900s
- Settlement of Lake Tahoe
- Growth of even-aged forest
- Fire suppression
- Widespread changes to wildlife habitats



Comstock



Spooner Canyon



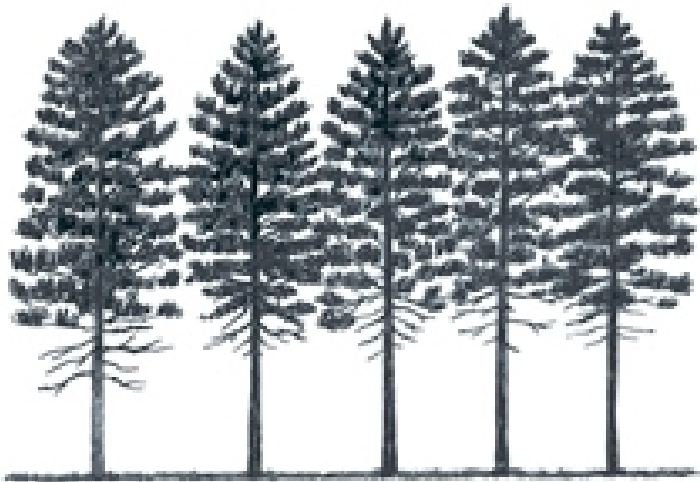
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Settlement

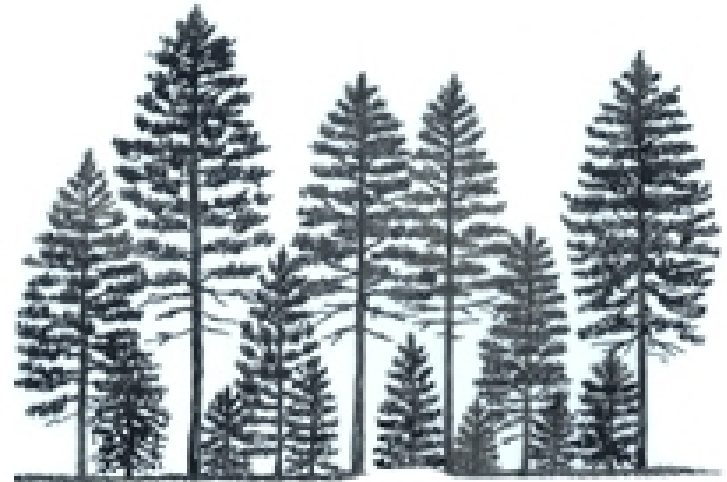


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Even aged vs Uneven aged forest



Even-aged: a stand composed of a single age class of trees in which the range of tree ages is usually plus or minus 20% of the rotation age.



Uneven-aged: a stand with trees of three or more distinct age classes, either intimately mixed or in small groups.



Fire Suppression

1928

2004

Angora Ridge, 1928. Photo by Taylor



Angora Ridge, 2004. Photo by Hilldinger



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Wildlife



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Current Conditions

- Vegetation
 - Structure, composition, & density
 - Loss of habitat variability
- Processes
 - Fires
 - Bark beetles
 - Competition and drought related mortality
- Deviation from healthy forest conditions





Angora Fire



Gondola Fire



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High Meadows



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Desired Conditions

- Resembles pre-settlement conditions
- Range of wildlife habitats
- Resilient to disturbances
- Natural processes or surrogates occur within the natural range of variation
- Fuel conditions pose low wildfire risk to communities





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Resembles Pre-settlement Conditions
Jeffrey Pine Type



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Resembles Pre-settlement Conditions
Red Fir-White Fir Type

Two Primary Approaches

1. Allow natural processes or provide surrogates to restore forest structure, density, and composition.

Strategies:

- Wildland Fire Use
- Thinning
- Prescribed Burning
- Other?





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Two Primary Approaches

2. Risk Management

Reduce risk to:

- communities and wildlife habitat from catastrophic fire
- competition and drought related mortality
- bark beetle outbreak
- climate change effects



Current Key Strategies

- Wildland Urban Interface treatments
- Habitat protection
 - Protected Activity Centers (PACs)
- Aspen community and hardwood restoration
- Other?

Tradeoffs Exist



Clarifying Questions??



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Breakout Session

Organizing Questions

- What are your thoughts on the desired conditions?
- What are your thoughts on the strategies to achieve the desired conditions, and are there other strategies the Forest Service should consider?
- What challenges and tradeoffs do you see in attempting to reach the desired conditions?



Next Steps

Additional opportunities to provide input:



Upcoming Public Workshops

November 12th:

South Lake Tahoe (LTBMU Offices)
Topic: Balancing forest health with soil,
and water quality issues

December 1st:

North Lake Tahoe (Sierra Nevada
College, Incline Village)
Topic: Recreation Management



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Forest Plan Revision Timeline

Lake Tahoe Basin
Management Unit



Contact Information and Additional Comment

To provide suggestions, comments, and ideas, contact the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU) planning team by postal service mail, e-mail:

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Website: www.fs.fed.us/r5/ltbmu



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