



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Lake Tahoe Basin Management  
Unit

35 College Drive  
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150  
(530) 543-2600  
(530) 543-0956 TTY

## ***Integrated Management and Use of Roads, Trails, and Facilities***

### ***Proposed Action***

*December 3, 2015*

### **Location**

This project is on all National Forest System (NFS) existing roads, trails, and facilities in the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit.

### **Background**

The Forest Service, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU) manages numerous facilities for public use and administrative purposes. Each facility serves a role in the overall stewardship and provision of public services on National Forest System (NFS) lands in the Lake Tahoe Basin. There are 42 developed recreation sites including campgrounds, day-use beaches, resorts, and trailheads. Numerous administrative sites include the Supervisor's Office, Meyers Work Center, and fire station facilities. The LTBMU also administers under permit private facilities located on NFS lands including resorts, such as Heavenly Mountain Resort, private organization camps, and cabins within recreation residence tracts.

There are approximately 250 miles of Forest Service system roads in the Lake Tahoe Basin which provide public and administrative access to National Forest resources. Public vehicle access on these roads is currently regulated through the 2011 Motorized Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) which establishes dates when gates may be open and the class of vehicle that may use the road. The LTBMU manages all approved recreational trails on NFS lands or rights-of-way within its jurisdiction. There are currently approximately 320 miles of classified trails, (approximately 20 miles authorized for motorized use) within the LTBMU. Deferred maintenance needs associated with roads, trails, and facilities are increasing at a considerable rate every year.

There are numerous events which occur on a regular basis on NFS lands managed by the LTBMU, including festivals, competitions, and social gatherings. These events are valued within the community and within the region for the experiences they offer as well as the economic benefit they contribute to the Lake Tahoe Basin.

Annually, the LTBMU receives dozens of requests to provide outfitting and guiding services on existing NFS roads and trails. Examples of requested activities include: guided hikes through Meiss Meadows for small groups; guided and/or outfitted mountain bike riding and shuttle services to popular trailheads; and guided overnight backpacking excursions. At present, no authorizations for outfitting and guiding activities are in place on the LTBMU, with the exception of wedding providers.



The operation, use, management and upkeep of the developed roads, trails, and facilities on NFS lands are recurring and on-going activities. In previous years, analysis and environmental documentation of these specific management activities and authorizations has mostly occurred on a case-by-case basis as each individual project is proposed. Currently maintenance of roads and trails is documented in a programmatic environmental analysis with annual review of specific proposed activities to ensure that extraordinary circumstances do not exist, and that project design accounts for particular site conditions. Events have typically been documented independently of each other, based on proponents' schedules. This approach to considering regular occurrences on NFS lands has proven unsustainable with respect to available public resources and staffing.

## **Purpose and Need**

The over-arching purpose and need for this Proposed Action is to create greater efficiency in reviewing and approving projects, events, and permits on NFS lands within the Lake Tahoe Basin. Currently every year the LTBMU analyzes dozens of individual projects under categorical exclusions (CE's) and environmental assessments (EA's) that are repetitive in nature, take a substantial amount of administrative time, result in large fees for analysis, involve minimal resource impacts, and rarely result in meaningful change to the actual on-the-ground activities. Specifically the need for this Proposed Action relates to the following activities:

There is a need to provide public access and administration of NFS lands on managed roads and trails, and at developed facilities. Reoccurring preventative maintenance, refurbishment, repair, and in some cases rebuild of developed features by trained construction or maintenance personnel, is needed to protect public resource investments and the Lake Tahoe Basin's natural setting and landscape character near roads, trails, and facilities. There is also a need to update the LTBMU Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) to improve consistency and respond to public interest and environmental conditions.

There is a need to manage and maintain roads, trails, and facilities on NFS lands to meet established standards for health and safety, environmental sustainability, accessibility, and to minimize deferred maintenance. There is a need to manage public recreation use on NFS lands through appropriate facilities, and to protect resource values from degradation. There is also a need to partner with private and non-governmental entities to provide managed use of NFS lands for organized recreational and community-enhancing events.

There is a need to efficiently manage environmental analysis and staffing demands with respect to routine and recurring management, upgrades, and administrative authorizations of NFS lands.

There is a need to provide authorizations for outfitting and guiding uses on NFS lands in the Lake Tahoe Basin to provide access to the forest for persons that might otherwise not be able to participate in a particular activity due to inexperience, cost of necessary equipment, unfamiliarity with activity rules/regulations/best practices, and in some cases due to physical limitations.

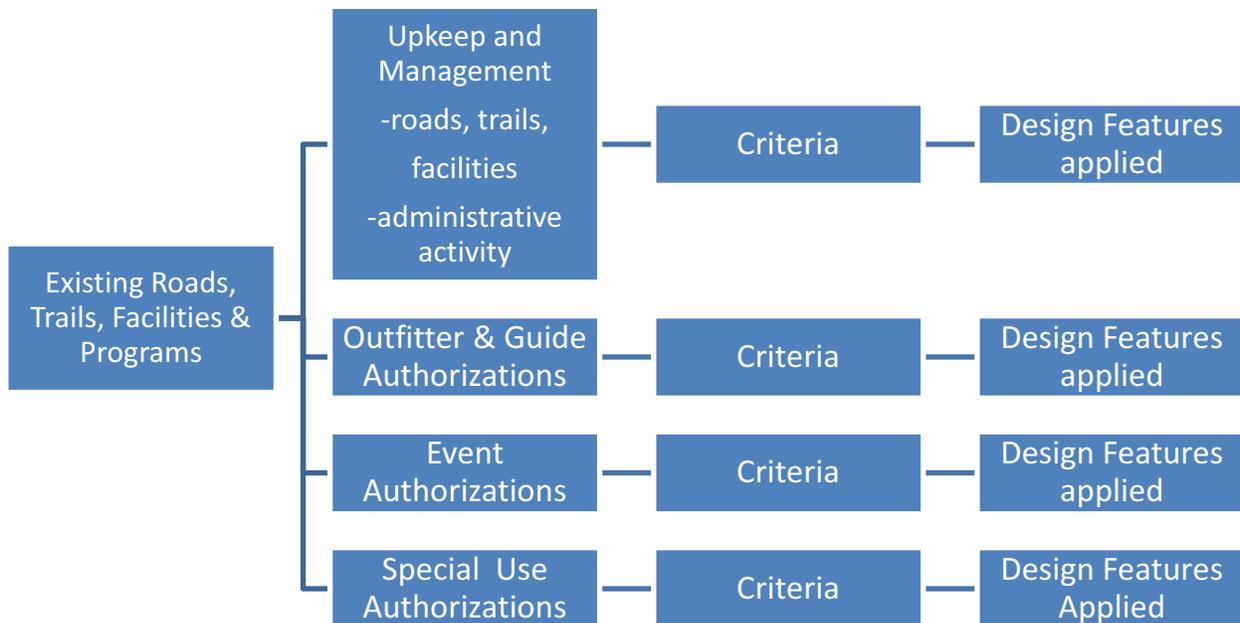


## **Proposed Action**

The LTBMU Proposes maintenance, upgrades, operation, administration, and uses of existing roads, trails and facilities located on NFS lands in the Lake Tahoe Basin. The criteria described for each proposed activity serve as filters for activities that may be authorized. Design features describe limitations and conditions for how those authorized activities would be carried out.

The Proposed Action consists of four components, each relating to existing roads, trails, and facilities, and the programs that occur on those roads, trails, and facilities:

1. Upkeep and management of roads, trails, and facilities,
2. Authorization of outfitter guide activities,
3. Authorization of events, and
4. Authorization of special use permits for recreation uses of NFS lands



A list of individual project activities will be reviewed by an interdisciplinary team (IDT) on an annual basis to determine consistency with criteria and design features described in this Proposed Action. Only activities that are consistent with these conditions will be authorized under the NEPA analysis associated with this Proposed Action (See Appendix B and C).





The proposed action will not result in any changes to existing management direction found in the LTBMU Land and Management Plan (Forest Plan), or existing rules, regulations, and administrative decisions regarding the use of NFS lands (i.e. CFRs regulating dogs at Forest Service beaches, over-the-snow (OSV) or off-highway-vehicles (OHV) use laws/regulations/requirements, existing management plans for areas such as the Tallac Historic Site, existing Forest Orders, etc.).

Design features for all activities (found after the proposed action components) are included to minimize effects to environmental conditions and social values. Permits for management activities may or may not be required from partnering regulatory agencies, depending on individual project specifications and site conditions.

## **Proposed Action Components and Criteria**

### **1. Upkeep and management of Forest Service-owned and privately-owned buildings and sites on National Forest System lands, including administrative, recreation, public resort, private resort, organization camps, and recreation residence buildings; upkeep and management of roads and trails on National Forest System lands.**

- a. Specific activities include, but are not limited to:
  1. Maintenance activities such as painting, roofing, and landscaping,
  2. Management of hazard trees,
  3. Implementation of Best Management Practice (BMP) measures to protect water quality and prevent facility erosion and degradation (such as installation of infiltration basins, hardening of existing disturbed areas, grading to direct storm water, etc.),
  4. Replacement of existing features, including pavement, utilities, and buildings,
  5. Addition of features that support existing program delivery without increasing vehicle use, such as restrooms or garbage collection facilities,
  6. Placement of minor site features such as signs and benches,
  7. Upgrades to meet requirements for universal accessibility, including the Architectural Barriers Act, and Forest Service Outdoor Recreation Accessibility Guide,
  8. Delineation of parking areas to improve use and minimize resource impacts,
  9. Placement of barriers to protect resource values (soil, vegetation),



10. Brushing and debris removal to maintain clear paths of travel,
11. Re-grading and re-surfacing travel routes,
12. Cleaning of culverts, drainage features, and sediment collection basins,
13. Staging of equipment in currently compacted areas, or on high-capability soil areas which will be restored following maintenance activity,
14. Management of existing NFS trails including the adoption of existing trails on NFS land that are not part of the NFS system in order to bring them to standard and protect natural resources,
15. Re-route and restoration of trail segments from highly sensitive areas to higher sustainability areas,
16. Installation or replacement of gates to manage right-of-way access and to meet trail use designations,
17. Replacement of stream crossing structures to meet current design standards, protect resource values, and incorporate Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) guidelines for projects less than 1 acre,
18. Update of the LTBMU Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) for dates that each system road may be open for public motorized access and use, and for administrative updates (see Appendix A).

Criteria for Upkeep and Management of Roads, Trails, and Facilities:

*The activities described above must meet the following criteria in order to be approved as part of this Proposed Action:*

- Construction of new facility features which change the program or services offered at the site will not be authorized,
- Decommissioning and elimination of recreation or administrative facilities which terminate the program or services offered at the site will not be authorized,
- Development or replacement of features beyond an existing special use permit boundary that serve the permitted program activity will not be authorized,
- Development or replacement of features within sensitive areas which do not reduce long-term impacts to the sensitive area will not be authorized,
- Changes to parking facilities that increase or decrease existing vehicle capacity by more than ten percent will not be authorized,
- Construction of new roads or trails, not associated with a re-route for environmental benefit will not be authorized,
- Modifications to ski runs and lifts will not be authorized,
- Activities which require formal consultation with Fish & Wildlife Service (F&WS) that would require a new Biological Opinion from F&WS will not be authorized,
- Activities occurring in areas of occupied or proposed critical habitat for Sierra Nevada Yellow Legged Frog (SNYLF) will not be authorized,
- Activities which cannot be documented as having “no effect” to heritage values under the Programmatic Agreement between the USFS Region 5 and State Historic Preservation Officers,



or which cannot be documented as having “no adverse effect” to heritage values following the Section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act will not be authorized,

- Activities occurring in wildlife protected activity centers (PAC’s) or in TECSP habitat during established limited operation periods (LOP’s) would not be authorized unless:
  - a. Absence of the species can be verified
  - b. The activity will not result in a disturbance to the species (i.e. non-motorized and non-mechanized activity)
- Activities that occur within 300 feet of an occupied bat roost and have the potential to disturb roost inhabitants or alter the roost habitat during the roosting period would not be authorized.

## **2. Authorization of a temporary use pool for outfitter/guide special use permits and issuance of one-year authorizations against the use pool.**

- a. Issue a one-year authorization for outfitter/guides to operate the following use types on NFS lands outside of designated wilderness: backcountry skiing/snowshoeing, backpacking, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, shuttle services, and wedding/memorial service providers. The outfitter/guide program will be administered as follows:
  - 1. Establish an open season for application of special use permits on a first-come-first-served basis,
  - 2. With the exception of the shuttle services used to take participants to the activity, all uses are non-motorized,
  - 3. Issue no more than 5 special use permits (up to 5 permittees) for each use type with the exception of wedding permit providers (see Wedding permit provider criteria below),
  - 4. Issue up to 200 service days at one time to an individual permittee, with an opportunity for additional days on a first-come, first-served basis up to the amount established by the pool (see chart below),
  - 5. A service day is defined as a day or any part of a day on NFS lands for which an outfitter or guide provides services to an individual client,
  - 6. The total number of service days is calculated by multiplying each day of the trip by the number of clients on the trip,
  - 7. The Forest Service maintains discretion in approving the location and timing of proposed activities. In general activities proposed for use at extremely busy sites will not be approved or additional requirements may be added to the permit terms (i.e. limitations on start times, the requirement to have all participants shuttled and shuttle vehicle may not park at the site, use of those sites only during non-peak days, etc.),
  - 8. Group size is determined by the number of clients.



### Temporary Use Pool Service Day Allocation

<b>Use</b>	<b>Restrictions (all uses assume non-wilderness use)</b>	<b>Service Day Pool</b>
<b>Backcountry Skiing/snowshoeing</b>	Sufficient snow cover to prevent any damage to ground vegetation; group size of no more than 10	1000
<b>Backpacking</b> (overnight use)	Group size of no more than 10; follow all applicable campfire and fire restrictions	1000
<b>Fishing</b>	Group size of no more than 5; applicable state fishing license required	400
<b>Hiking</b> (day use)	Group size of no more than 10	2000
<b>Horseback riding</b> (day use or overnight use)	Group size of no more than 10; outside of existing developed recreation sites and only on trails with an equestrian Trail Maintenance Objective	300
<b>Mountain biking</b>	Group size of no more than 12; no use of Pacific Crest Trail (PCT)	1500
<b>Shuttle Services</b> (other than public transit)	Pickup at FS or non-FS site with drop-off at designated FS parking areas where the activity will take place on NFS lands	2000
<b>Wedding/Memorial Service Providers</b>	Consists of less than 20 people at the 64 Acres lakeside facility or the Logan Shoals Vista	2000

#### Criteria for Outfitter/Guide Permits:

- The permit may not include temporary closure of system roads, trails, or facilities to general public use for the purposes of an outfitter/guide operation,
- All permitted activities must be in accordance with allowable general forest use in the area proposed for use,
- The permit may not authorize any outfitting/guide uses within a designated Wilderness.
- Issuance of an outfitter/guide special use permit for any activities within a developed recreation site already under special use permit will not be considered under this authorization. Outfitter/guide activities at these sites are managed under the terms of the existing special use permit,
- Proposed uses must be appropriate for the proposed facilities (i.e. horse trailer parking may only occur at facilities designed to accommodate horse trailers),
- Outfitter/guide activities may not result in exclusive use of a site,
- Use of unmanned aerial vehicles (drones) is not allowed,
- All parking must occur at existing authorized parking areas that can accommodate the group size; shuttle/carpool services must be provided so that the group will not utilize more than 50% of the entirety of a parking area or if the parking area is already full,
- Pickup and drop-off of any shuttle services must occur at designated parking areas or at pull-offs where vehicle parking is permitted and legal according to applicable state/county/local law,
- Outfitter/guide activities may be de-authorized or required to move an alternate location if it is determined that use conflicts exist or other extenuating circumstances exist such as construction or holiday crowds that would result in impacts to a particular area,



- Outfitter/Guide activities will be revoked or will not be approved if they unreasonably conflict or interfere with administrative use of the Forest Service, other scheduled or authorized existing uses of the National Forest System, or use of adjacent non-National Forest System lands,
- Activities which require formal consultation with Fish & Wildlife Service (F&WS) that would require a new Biological Opinion from F&WS will not be authorized,
- Activities occurring in areas of occupied or proposed critical habitat for Sierra Nevada Yellow Legged Frog (SNYLF) will not be authorized,
- Activities which cannot be documented as having “no effect” to heritage values under the Programmatic Agreement between the USFS Region 5 and State Historic Preservation Officers, or which cannot be documented as having “no adverse effect” to heritage values following the Section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act will not be authorized,

Additional Criteria for Wedding Providers:

*In addition to the general criteria listed above for outfitter/guide use, the following additional criteria apply for Wedding permit providers:*

- The number of special use permits issued is not limited, however no one permit holder may operate more than 400 service days,
- Group sizes are limited to 20 people including the officiant,
- Wedding parties are restricted to the 64 Acres lakeside facility and the Logan Shoals Vista,
- Receptions, loud or amplified music, releasing helium balloons, and throwing rice, confetti of any kind, or birdseed are prohibited,
- Wedding ceremonies are not permitted on Forest Service beaches,
- Setup of dining facilities and moving of site infrastructure such as picnic tables is not allowed.

**3. Authorization under terms of a special use permit, for uses of Forest Service roads, trails, and facilities for purposes of events. Activities include:**

1. Travel, by means available to the general public, on system roads and trails,
2. Staging of equipment and people on existing paved or protected surfaces which do not block general public access,
3. Approving trail event uses consistent with the specific Trail Management Objectives (TMO) (i.e. mountain bike race on trail that has a TMO with mountain biking as a designated managed use) and applicable trail regulations,
4. Issuance of 5-year permits for events which have previously occurred on NFS lands within the last 5 years and can demonstrate a history of compliance with the terms of Forest Service special use permits,
5. Issuance of 1-year permit for events which have not previously occurred on NFS lands.



### Criteria for Events:

- Temporary closure of system roads, trails, facilities, and parking areas to general public use for the purposes of an event is not authorized,
- Event activities must be consistent with allowable general public use in the area proposed for use,
- Events may not conflict with or displace a normally occurring program in the area proposed for use,
- Use of unmanned aerial vehicles (drones) for event purposes is not authorized,
- Portable restrooms and refuse containers appropriately sized and spaced for event staff/participants must be provided by the permittee,
- Motorized vehicles are prohibited on any non-motorized trail/route,
- Any dogs accompanying participants and staff must remain on leashes,
- Sites with concessionaires will require coordination with and written concurrence from the concessionaire,
- The event must comply with relevant accessibility requirements,
- The event group must be able to be physically accommodated at all proposed sites along the event route on existing developed parking or gathering areas (i.e. a large event must be staged on a site large enough to accommodate the group or the group must be split so that at any one time no more individuals will be located on a site than that particular site can accommodate, including all proposed supporting vehicles and infrastructure),
- Events may be de-authorized or required to move to an alternate location if it is determined that the proposed site is too small or other extenuating circumstances exist such as construction or holiday crowds that would result in impacts to a particular area,
- Events will be revoked or will not be approved if they unreasonably conflict or interfere with administrative use of the Forest Service, other scheduled or authorized existing uses of the National Forest System, or use of adjacent non-National Forest System lands,
- When an event permit expires, the Forest Service will evaluate any competing interest for use of those facilities being utilized during that event,
- An event which requires formal consultation with Fish & Wildlife Service (F&WS) that would require a new Biological Opinion from F&WS will not be authorized,
- An event occurring in areas of occupied or proposed critical habitat for Sierra Nevada Yellow Legged Frog (SNYLF) will not be authorized,
- Activities which cannot be documented as having “no effect” to heritage values under the Programmatic Agreement between the USFS Region 5 and State Historic Preservation Officers, or which cannot be documented as having “no adverse effect” to heritage values following the Section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act will not be authorized,
- Activities occurring in wildlife protected activity centers (PACs) during established limiting operating periods (LOPs) for protected wildlife may not include:
  - Staging of equipment
  - Placement of aid stations or designated congregation areas
  - Disturbance to wildlife that affects reproductive activities



#### **4. Authorization or re-authorization, under terms of a special use permit, of recreation special uses on National Forest System lands.**

- a. Specific activities proposed include, but are not limited to:
1. Re-issuing under current and updated permit terms an expired permit for recreation facilities for which operational changes are not proposed.

##### Criteria for Re-issuance of current permit:

- All permitted activities would remain the same as the current existing permit,
- No new resource concerns identified,
- Substantial operational changes are not proposed under the new permit,
- All relevant resource protection measures must be updated at the time of re-issuance,
- Requirements for annual operating plans must be updated at the time of re-issuance,
- Permit issuance which requires formal consultation with Fish & Wildlife Service (F&WS) that would require a new Biological Opinion from F&WS will not be authorized,
- Permits occurring in areas of occupied or proposed critical habitat for Sierra Nevada Yellow Legged Frog (SNYLF) will not be authorized,
- Activities which cannot be documented as having “no effect” to heritage values under the Programmatic Agreement between the USFS Region 5 and State Historic Preservation Officers, or which cannot be documented as having “no adverse effect” to heritage values following the Section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act will not be authorized,

2. Authorization of special use permits for commercial filming,

##### Criteria for Commercial Filming:

- Filming access must be consistent with authorized public and/or permittee access,
- Filming activities may not conflict with or displace a normally occurring program in the area proposed for use,
- Locations will be within existing roads, trails, and facilities, and all equipment, crew, vehicles, and talent will remain within designated areas,
- Duration will not exceed two weeks,
- All filming activity must be able to be physically accommodated at proposed sites (i.e. at any one time no more individuals will be located on a site than that particular site can accommodate, including all proposed supporting vehicles and infrastructure),
- Sites with concessionaires will require coordination with and written concurrence from the concessionaire and all recreation user fees must be paid,
- Night lighting will generally not be authorized unless it does not interfere in any way with the natural environment, general public, or surrounding uses,
- Amplified sound will generally not be authorized unless it does not interfere in any way with the natural environment, general public, or surrounding uses,
- NFS roads, trails, and facilities will remain open for public access and disruptions to normal use will be limited,
- No construction of sets will be approved,
- All props must be approved and will be limited in size,
- No pyrotechnic special effects will be approved,



- No ground disturbance will be authorized,
- Traffic control will manage vehicle, and visitor circulation,
- Filming activities would result in “no effect” to historic resources,
- Filming activities which would require formal consultation with Fish & Wildlife Service (F&WS) that would require a new Biological Opinion from F&WS will not be authorized,
- Filming occurring in areas of occupied or proposed critical habitat for Sierra Nevada Yellow Legged Frog (SNYLF) will not be authorized,
- Filming occurring in wildlife protected activity centers (PACs) during established limiting operating periods (LOPs) for protected wildlife may not include:
  - a. Staging of equipment
  - b. Placement of designated congregation areas
  - c. Disturbance to wildlife that affects reproductive activities

## **Design Features**

Project design features are elements of the project that are applied in implementation. These features are developed based on Forest Plan direction and site specific evaluations in order to reduce or avoid negative impacts of the proposed action activities. Project design features associated with this Proposed Action include the following.

### ***Design Features common to all components***

These design features would apply to all activities in the proposed action, regardless of activity type. The term “authorized activities” refers to the specific activity taking place. In the example of a maintenance/construction project, the activity would be construction activities (all stages including site preparation, staging, construction, trail maintenance, monitoring, etc). In the example of an event, the activity includes event setup, the actual event, and event cleanup. In the example of outfitter/guide operations, it would be any operation conducted by the permittee, including any preparation, actual guiding activities, or any necessary cleanup.

1. Daily monitoring of fire weather and Project Activity Level (PAL) will occur during authorized activities. If thresholds for restrictions on project activities are reached, related activities will be suspended in compliance with Forest Service direction. A variance may be authorized and approved if project conditions meet specific criteria.
2. When mechanized equipment is used for authorized activities, fire tools and extinguishers or adequate water source will be kept on site and readily available.
3. Authorized activities will avoid all known occurrences of prehistoric cultural resources through flag-and-avoid procedures or through explicit instructions.
4. If any previously unrecorded cultural resources are discovered during authorized activities, all activities would cease immediately in the vicinity of such discoveries and the Forest Service would be notified. The Forest Service would then assess whether the cultural resource can be flagged and avoided or to what extent authorized activities must be reduced or cease.
5. Wastes and petroleum products used will be contained, stored, collected, and removed from the project site in accordance with Resource Conservation and Recovery Act regulations and federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration standards.



6. Implement dust mitigation procedures consistent with applicable regional/local fugitive dust control requirements.
7. Vehicle washing will be done at a commercial car or truck wash facility or at a designated and contained vehicle washing area that is connected to the sewer system to minimize introduction and spread of invasive plant species.
8. Portable restroom facilities must be located in non-sensitive locations.
9. The use of leaf blowers or other air-powered devices shall not be used to clear any pathway or paved surface in order to prevent fugitive dust particles from entering the air. The use of brooms or other manual clearing devices is allowed for pathway clearing.
10. The use of water hoses or other pressurized water devices to perform general clearing of pathways or paved surfaces shall only be allowed when associated with a single event activity such as construction debris or a spill of non-hazardous materials; then the activity may only occur after manual removal of material has first been conducted.
11. Where mechanized equipment is used, all equipment refueling and maintenance activities will occur outside Stream Environment Zones (SEZs) to minimize the potential risk of adversely affecting water quality.
12. Staging of materials, equipment, and people for authorized activities will be limited to existing disturbed areas outside of SEZs (where soils are already compacted and vegetation has been cleared). No new disturbance will be created for equipment and people staging/stockpile areas.
13. Avoid or minimize impacts to federally threatened, endangered, and sensitive plant species. Plants listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act or identified as sensitive or otherwise requiring special protection by the Regional Forester (known as TECPS species) will be flagged and avoided in areas where known occurrences overlap with authorized activities. The need to flag these species may be waived by the forest botanist in the instances of incidental overlap (such as with outfitter/guide, filming, or event activities) and potential user/plant conflict would be mitigated through specific requirements in the permit and annual operating plan that results in avoidance of occurrences of TECPS species.
14. Any sighting of threatened, endangered, sensitive or special interest species, or location of nests or dens of these species will be reported to the Forest Wildlife Biologist.
15. Nests, dens, or sensitive plant locations will be protected in accordance with management direction for the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, Land Management Plan.

### ***Additional Design Features for Construction-related activities.***

1. Activities that involve grading or movement of more than 3 cubic yards of soil will occur between May 01 and October 15 (except as specifically permitted by the TRPA and RWQCB) each year to avoid the period of highest precipitation, stream flow, and erosion potential. During periods of inclement weather, operations will be shut down until conditions are sufficiently dry and stable to allow construction to continue without the threat of substantial erosion, sedimentation, or offsite sediment transport.



2. The “Technical Guidance on Implementing the Stormwater Runoff Requirements for Federal Projects” under Section 438 of the Energy Independence and Security Act will be followed and applicable BMPs from the “National Best Management Practices for Water Quality Management on National Forest System Lands” (USFS 2012) will be implemented on all construction-related authorized activities.
3. To the degree feasible, trail and road maintenance activities will be confined to the area of existing disturbance within the trail corridor or road prism. No snags or green trees will be felled for road/trail maintenance unless identified as a hazard and then only in compliance with direction given in FSH 7709.59 Chapter 41.7 Section 2. Tree-felling along decommissioned road or trail segments as necessary to block and cover the closed surface in a non-continuous manner may occur.
4. Best Management Practices for trail construction, maintenance, and decommissioning outlined in the Forest Service Trails management handbook will be followed.
5. Facility improvement projects will be included in the Region 5, Best Management Practices Evaluation Program (BMPEP) monitoring sample pool and will be subject to temporary BMP (TBMP) monitoring evaluations while construction is ongoing.
6. Following project completion, any areas used for staging and not intended for continued vehicular use will be mulched.
7. Any detection of previously unknown federally threatened, endangered, LTBMU sensitive species, or special habitats such as fens, before or during maintenance activities, within or from the project area, will be reported to the LTBMU Forest Botanist and protected as directed in the Forest Plan.
8. Follow all LTBMU Invasive Plant Species Management measures to minimize the spread of noxious weeds through project activities, including:
  - a. Inventory—As part of site-specific planning, project areas and adjacent areas (particularly access roads) will be inventoried for invasive plants.
  - b. Equipment Cleaning—
    - 1) All equipment and vehicles (Forest Service and contracted) used for project implementation must be free of invasive plant material before moving into the project area. Equipment will be considered clean when visual inspection does not reveal soil, seeds, plant material or other such debris. Cleaning shall occur at a vehicle washing station or steam-cleaning facility before the equipment and vehicles enter the project area. Equipment used during emergency work or used exclusively on paved surfaces is exempt from the cleaning requirement.
    - 2) When working in known invasive plant infestations or designated weed units, equipment shall be cleaned before moving to other National Forest Service system lands. These areas will be identified on project maps and delineated in the field with flagging.
  - c. Staging areas—Do not stage equipment, materials, or crews in invasive plant-infested areas.



- d. Control areas—Equipment traffic and soil-disturbing project activities would be excluded from invasive plant infestations or designated weed units, where feasible. These areas will be identified on project maps and delineated in the field with flagging.
- e. Project-related disturbance—Minimize the amount of ground and vegetation disturbance in staging and construction areas. Where feasible, reestablish vegetation on disturbed bare ground to reduce invasive species establishment; revegetation is especially important in staging areas.
- f. Early Detection—Any additional infestations discovered prior to or during project implementation should be reported to the Forest Botanist or their designated appointee for prioritization and assessment for treatment.
- g. Post Project Monitoring—After the project is completed the Forest Botanist should be notified so that (as funding allows) the project area can be monitored for invasive plants subsequent to project implementation.
- h. Gravel, fill, and other materials--All gravel, fill, or other materials are required to be weed-free. Use onsite sand, gravel, rock, or organic matter when possible. Otherwise, obtain weed-free materials from sources that have been certified as weed-free. If an LTBMU inspector is not available to inspect material source, then the project proponent will provide a weed-free certificate for its material source.
- i. Mulch and topsoil--Use weed-free mulches and topsoil. Salvage topsoil from project area for use in onsite revegetation, unless contaminated with invasive species. Do not use material (or soil) from areas contaminated by cheatgrass.
- j. Livestock—If supplemental fodder (e.g hay, silage) is required for livestock, including horses and other pack animals, it will be certified weed-free.
- k. Revegetation—
  - 1) Seed and plant mixes must be approved the LTBMU Forest Botanist or their designated appointee who has knowledge of local flora.
  - 2) Invasive species will not be intentionally used in revegetation. Seed lots will be tested for weed seed and test results will be provided to Forest Botanist or their designated appointee.
  - 3) Persistent non-natives, such as timothy (*Phleum pretense*), orchardgrass (*Dactylis glomerata*), ryegrass (*Lolium spp.*), or crested wheatgrass (*Agropyron cristatum*) will not be used in revegetation.
  - 4) Seed and plant material will be from native, high-elevation sources as much as possible. Plant and seed material should be collected from as close to the project area as possible, from within the same watershed, and at a similar elevation whenever possible.
- l. Prior to implementation, treat or avoid infestations of priority invasive plant species that intersect proposed activities. Infestations prioritized for treatment will be treated in accordance with Forest Service management direction and the design features of the LTBMU 2010 Terrestrial Invasive Plant Species Treatment Project Environmental Assessment



- m. All materials used in project activities must be certified weed free.
9. Minimize removal of trees 30 inch diameter at breast height (DBH) or greater to the extent feasible.
10. Projects will follow all applicable protection measures identified in the US Fish and Wildlife Service Biological Opinion on Sierra Nevada Yellow Legged Frog within the Lake Tahoe Basin.
11. Implement Limited Operating Periods (LOPs) to avoid or minimize disturbance to breeding activities of sensitive species. LOPs will be implemented around nests, dens, roost sites, and other areas of concentrated use (e.g., Protected Activity Centers) by these species as directed in the Forest Plan. LOPs limit the type, spatial extent, and timing of project activities permitted. The timing of LOPs is standardized by species as described below. The use of surveys to confirm non-presence of species, limitations on types of equipment used, or other measures as identified during the annual review process may be implemented in order to prevent disturbance to these species during the LOP. Only project activities that do not result in disturbance to these species may proceed.
  - a. California spotted owl: March 1 - August 15
  - b. Northern goshawk: March 15 - September 15
  - c. Bald eagle (nest): March 1 - August 31
  - d. Bald eagle (winter habitat): October 15 - March 15
  - e. Golden eagle: March 1 - July 31
  - f. Osprey: March 1 - August 15
  - g. Willow flycatcher: June 1 - August 31
  - h. Marten: May 1 - July 31
12. For projects that affect public access or use of a facility (i.e. a project that requires partial closure of a site or a substantial change to site operations), provide advanced notice to the public to ensure that the public is aware of project activities. Post signs in project area near public access points to highlight the proposed action. Advanced notice for activities that do not result in a substantial change to access (i.e. trail or road maintenance where an alternate route is provided, the need for visitors to use an alternate on-site restroom, etc.) is not required.

***Additional Design Features for Events, Filming, and Outfitter/Guide Operations:***

1. Participants must be advised to dispose of trash properly in event-provided containers located throughout event routes.
2. The permit holder is responsible for ensuring all refuse generated from participants is removed from site and disposed appropriately in refuse containers.
3. The permit holder is responsible for all participants' compliance with fire prevention requirements in effect at the time; such requirements may prohibit smoking outside enclosed vehicles during periods of increased fire danger.
4. Temporary signs to mark event routes may be posted on stakes; signs may not be posted on trees, and markings on bicycle paths are prohibited. All materials must be collected and removed at the end of the event.



5. All temporary improvements must be removed by the end of the event and portable restrooms must be removed by close of the next business day after the event. Portable restrooms may not be placed in proximity to any water body.
6. Notice of the event will be posted by the permittee at the appropriate trailheads at a minimum the weekend before the event is to occur. Notices will include maps of NFS roads and trails to be used for the event and the event schedule.
7. Camping, fishing, or staging of materials/people is not allowed within PAC's, den site buffers, or other areas protected by an LOP.

## **Anticipated Level of NEPA**

At this time, the analysis of this Proposed Action is expected to be documented in an Environmental Assessment (EA). The anticipated decision for this project will clearly identify which activities (if any) are considered appropriate to proceed under this analysis, under what conditions those activities may proceed in, and any relevant design features that will mitigate the risk to environmental, historic, social, and recreational resources. The Forest Service has discretion in authorizing activities under the anticipated decision.

## **Implementation Date**

Implementation of Proposed Action activities could begin as soon as a NEPA decision is signed and project review documents consistency with this decision. Implementation of maintenance, upgrades, operation, administration, and uses of existing roads, trails and facilities located on NFS lands in the Lake Tahoe Basin could be implemented under this decision in summer 2016.

## **How to Comment on this Proposed Action**

This project is in the initial (scoping) stage of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis. This scoping notice is intended to provide an opportunity for affected or interested parties to express their concerns regarding the Proposed Action. If you have information the Forest Service may not be aware of, or believe you have issues regarding potential effects of this Proposed Action, please submit your written, facsimile, hand-delivered, oral, or electronic comments by January 15, 2016. The LTBMU is particularly interested to hear from you if you have recommendations for project criteria or design features, or if you believe previous Forest Service road, trail, facility, event, or special use permit authorization activities have resulted in undesirable effects which could be improved or avoided in the future. We are also interested to hear if there are other categories of outfitter/guiding activities which should be considered.

Send your mail comments to Daniel Cressy, LTBMU, 35 College Drive, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150. 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](mailto:comments-pacificsouthwest-ltbmu@fs.fed.us) using subject: Integrated Management and Use of Roads, Trails, and Facilities. The office business hours for those providing hand-delivered or oral comments are 8:00 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.



For further information regarding the Proposed Action, contact Daniel Cressy at (530) 543-2694  
email [dcressy@fs.fed.us](mailto:dcressy@fs.fed.us) or visit <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/ltbmu/IntegratedMgmt> .



## Appendix A –

### Update of the LTBMU Motor Vehicle Use Map

The 2011 MVUM for the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit will remain in effect with proposed changes. In general, these changes include removing from the MVUM those roads which are operated by an entity other than the Forest Service under the terms of a special use permit, and establishing open dates of April 15 – December 1 for recreation residence tracts. All roads open to public motorized access may be closed at any time by direction of the Forest Supervisor to protect public safety or environmental conditions such as high snow or soil moisture levels.

#### 2016 Motorized Travel Access Changes

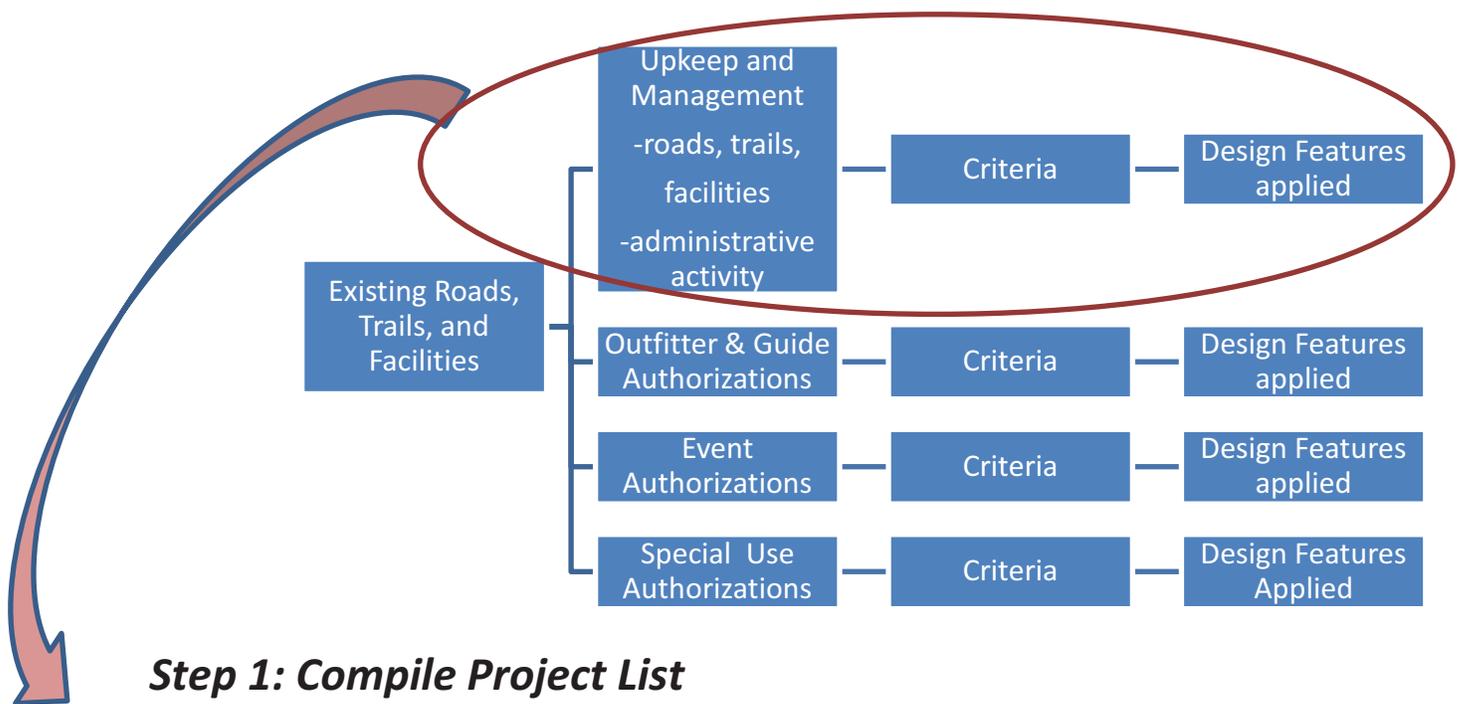
<b>FS Route</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Route Common Name</b>	<b>Current regulation</b>	<b>Proposed Changes from current regulation</b>
1330	Emerald Bay	Recreation Residence Tract	Open May 10 – November 15	Open April 15 – December 1
1305	Baldwin Beach	Baldwin Beach Road	Open May 15 – November 15	Remove from MVUM, operated under permit
1301 A-H	Fallen Leaf	Fallen Leaf Campground	Open May 15 – October 31	Remove from MVUM, operated under permit
1320	Camp Richardson	Camp Richardson Campground	Open May 15 – November 15	Remove from MVUM, operated under permit
1321	Camp Richardson	Jameson Beach Road	Open May 15 – November 15	Remove from MVUM, operated under permit
1212	Fallen Leaf	Frederick’s Cabin Road	Open June 01 – November 15	Closed
1209	Pope Beach	Pope Beach Road	Open May 15 – November 15	Remove from MVUM, operated under permit
1216	Fallen Leaf	Glen Alpine Springs Road	Not in MVUM	Open April 15 – December 1
1307, 1393-96	Tallac Creek	Spring Creek Recreation Residence Tract	May 10 – November 20	Open April 15 – December 1
1103-06	Echo Lakes	Echo Lakes Road	Not in MVUM	Open April 15 – December 1
1337 C-G	Nevada Beach	Nevada Beach Campground	Not in MVUM	Remove from MVUM, operated under permit
1339	Round Hill	Round Hill Pines Resort	May 10 – October 31	Remove from MVUM, operated under permit
1341	Zephyr Cove	Zephyr Cove Resort	Not in MVUM	Remove from MVUM, operated under permit
1509	East Shore Beaches	Chimney Beach Parking	May 01 – October 31	Open May 1 – November 15
1508	Tahoe City	64 Acres Recreation	June 01 – November	Remove from MVUM,



		Site, Tahoe City Transit Center	15	operated under permit
1530	Tahoe City	Twin Crags Recreation Residence Tract	June 01 – November 15	Open April 15 – December 1
1528 A-D	Sunnyside	William Kent Campground	May 01 – October 31	Remove from MVUM, operated under permit
1418	Meeks Bay	Meek Bay Resort	May 10 – October 31	Remove from MVUM, operated under permit
1414 A-d	Meeks Bay	Meeks Bay Campground	May 10 – October 31	Remove from MVUM, operated under permit
14N32	Genoa Peak	Genoa Peak Road	June 01 – November 15	April 15 – December 01
14N35	Genoa Peak	Genoa Peak Road	June 01 – November 15	April 15 – December 01

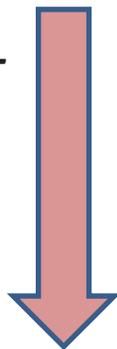


## Appendix B - Example Process of a Project That Would Be Approved



**INDIVIDUAL PROJECT PROPOSAL**  
**EXAMPLE: REPLACE A RESTROOM AT POPE BEACH**

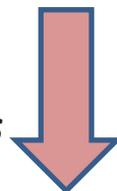
**Step 2: IDT Applies Screening Criteria**



- Is the project outside of a sensitive area? **Yes**
- Is the project replacing/upgrading a current facility? **Yes**
- Is the project outside of the need for Fish & Wildlife Service consultation? **Yes**
- Would the project result in “no effect” to historic resources? **Yes**
- Does the project meet all other criteria? **Yes**

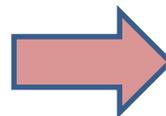
**PROJECT MOVES FORWARD INTO DESIGN PHASE**

**Step 3: Apply Design Features**



- Apply all National BMP Handbook design features
- Apply all other relevant construction project design features

**APPROVED PROJECT TO REPLACE A RESTROOM AT POPE BEACH**

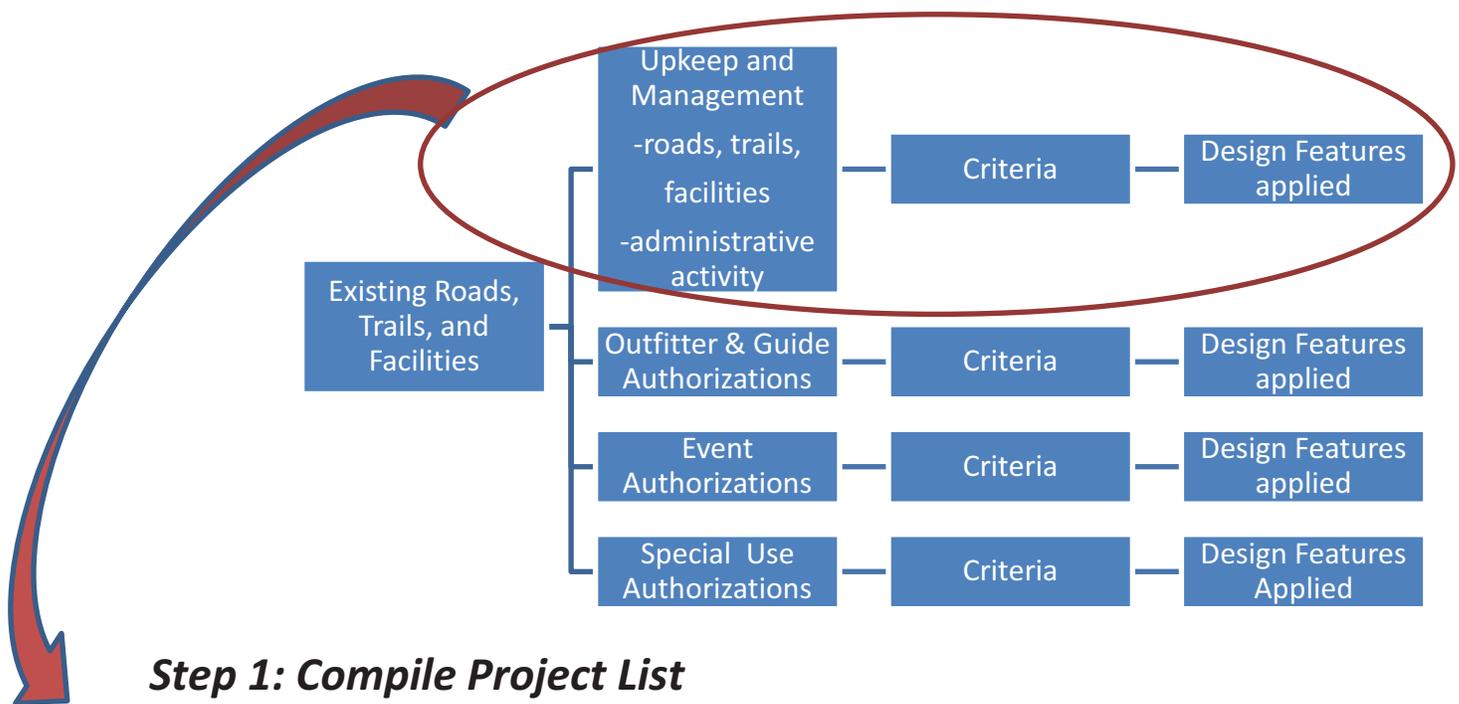


**Step 4: Obtain required permits and construct.**

Document consistency in Project Record



## Appendix C - Example Process of a Project that Would Not Be Approved



### INDIVIDUAL PROJECT PROPOSAL

**EXAMPLE: CONSTRUCT A NEW CAMPGROUND IN MEISS MEADOW**

**Step 2: IDT Applies Screening Criteria**



- Is the project outside of a sensitive area? **No – it is proposed in a sensitive wetland area**
- Is the project replacing/upgrading a current facility? **No; this is a new facility**
- Is the project outside of the need for Fish & Wildlife Service consultation? **No; project affects Lahontan cutthroat trout**
- Would the project result in “no effect” to historic resources? **No**
- Does the project meet all other criteria? **Yes**



**This project may not proceed!**

The project failed to meet multiple criteria; although failing any one individual criterion would have kicked the project out of approval through this process. Projects that cannot proceed under this project analysis may be considered through an individual project NEPA analysis.