

COUNTY OF EL DORADO

330 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA 95667
(530) 621-5390
(530) 622-3645 Fax

TERRI DALY
Acting Clerk of the Board



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August 21, 2012

Nancy Gibson
Forest Supervisor
Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit
35 College Drive
South Lake Tahoe, CA 95160

RE: Recommendations and Input on the Draft Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit Plan

Dear Ms. Gibson:

The Board of Supervisors for the County of El Dorado has carefully considered factors affecting the county and its constituencies contained within the Draft Land Forest Management Plan (Forest Plan), including, reductions in recreational opportunities and catastrophic fire danger.

We understand that this forest plan may be used as a model for other forest areas and regard our comments as critically important input on behalf of the broad spectrum of user interests. We also regard the 1982 Planning Rule as a valuable reference as addressed by the Forest Range Land Renewable Resources Planning Act (1972) regardless if compliance is not required as stated in your draft forest plan.

The Board of Supervisors recommends combining aspects of alternatives B and C; and, does not support alternatives A and D.

Alternative B recommendations and agreements:

- Reduce the management areas from 21 to 4;
- Address safety concerns of communities by focusing on fuels treatments in Wildland Urban Interface areas;
- Expedite contracts for the sale of dead and dying trees after wildfire to generate revenue;
- Encourage better management of old growth condition through fuels treatments;
- Trees greater than 30" DBH may be removed under certain conditions described within the draft plan;
- Respond to major issue, management concerns and resource opportunities;
- Proactive approach to prevention of invasive species (ie. Quagga Mussel, etc.);
- Fuel treatments specifically intended to promote resilience to fire and insect outbreaks;
- Jeffrey Pine reduction in mid seral closed canopy stands to promote succession to late seral;
- Goals stated in option B of open access for OHV and OSV use is preferable.

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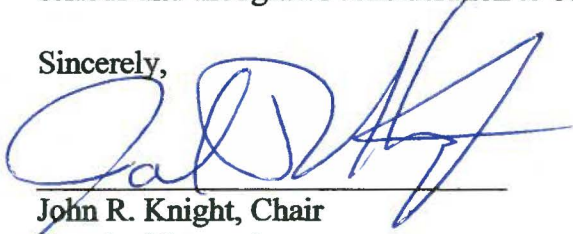
Alternative C recommendations and agreements:

- Reduction in stand densities;
- Wildland fire management for resource management would be allowed in all Fire Management Units;
- Overnight accommodation unit expansion (campsites and cabins);
- Any facility removed in a Stream Environment Zone would be replaced by facilities installed elsewhere;
- Encourage development of multi-modal transportation alternatives before consideration of expansion of day use parking (added parking fee structure is not desired);
- Future expansion of recreation infrastructure up to 15%;
- Enhancement of recreation access increasing vehicular access to forest areas while maintaining OHV and OSV use as designated in alternative B.

In addition, we would suggest including in the Forest Plan recognition of the Rubicon Trail based on the National Register of Historic Places Evaluation, done as part of the NEPA process completed pursuant to the recent granting of an easement signed on August 14, 2012, by the Eldorado National Forest.

We appreciate this opportunity to represent the public for this input period. We hope that you will pay serious and thoughtful consideration to our recommendations.

Sincerely,



John R. Knight, Chair
Board of Supervisors
County of El Dorado