



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Tahoe
National
Forest

631 Coyote Street
Nevada City, CA
95959-2250
530-265-4531
530-478-6118 TDD
530-478-6109 FAX

File Code: 1950-3

Date: September 21, 2010

Dear Friends of the Tahoe National Forest:

I am pleased to announce that the **Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS)** and **Record of Decision (ROD)** for the **Tahoe National Forest Motorized Travel Management Project** are now available. A compact disk (CD) and/or hardcopy of the FEIS and ROD is enclosed. The FEIS and ROD are also available for download on the Tahoe National Forest website: http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/tahoe/projects_plans/ohv_inv. Opening the map pdf files will require Adobe Acrobat Reader 9.3. This software can be downloaded for free at <http://www.adobe>. If you would like to receive a hardcopy of the FEIS and ROD, please contact the Tahoe National Forest Supervisor's Office, 631 Coyote Street, Nevada City, CA 95959; (530) 265-4531.

We began working with the public on this project more than six years ago. Our public involvement process was designed to be open, inclusive, and collaborative, and involved many diverse interest groups, individuals, agencies, and American Indian Tribes. I want to thank the many committed individuals and organizations who have given countless hours to participate in this effort. We have incorporated many of the suggestions submitted to us throughout the travel management planning process, including the comment periods on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS September 2008) and the Supplemental DEIS (February 2010), in the FEIS analysis of environmental effects and in the Selected Alternative.

From the beginning, this project has been about balancing the various needs for motorized recreational opportunities with the need to protect natural and cultural resources. Each of the seven alternatives analyzed in the FEIS does this, with different emphasis placed on providing various, and sometimes conflicting, values and resources. Based on the public input I received during the DEIS and Supplemental DEIS comment periods, I made some important modifications to the Preferred Alternative (Alternative 6), which are highlighted in the ROD. I have selected Alternative 6 because I believe it strikes the best balance between providing motorized recreation access and opportunities and protecting critical natural and cultural resources.



The summary presented below highlights the main points of my decision. Greater details about my decision and the analysis that led to it can be found in both the ROD and FEIS. A key element of my decision includes a permanent prohibition on cross country motor vehicle travel, which will reduce detrimental effects on natural resource conditions. Importantly, my decision implements this prohibition while ensuring public motorized access to recreation opportunities across the Tahoe National Forest. In summary, I have decided to:

- Add specific routes, as identified on the map accompanying this ROD, to the NFTS as follows:
 - 13.1 miles (346 individual segments) of roads and
 - 48.9 miles (107 individual segments) of motorized trails.
- Establish approximately 244 acres of “Open Areas” at Boca, Prosser, and Stampede Reservoirs as open to highway legal vehicles only.
- Make the following changes to the NFTS:
 - allow highway-legal vehicles mixed with non-highway legal vehicles (referred to as motorized mixed use) on a total of approximately 130.8 miles of passenger car roads, of which approximately 117.5 miles will be open to mixed use only during deer rifle-hunting season;
 - allow non-highway legal vehicles to use 122.0 miles of roads as an added benefit of reducing maintenance levels on specific roads where natural resource management objectives can be achieved with a lower road maintenance level;
 - place seasonal restrictions on 1,369.5 miles of motorized roads and trails as follows: (1) on the westside of the Tahoe National Forest, implement wet weather seasonal closures on native surface roads and trails from January 1 through March 31; (2) on the remainder of the Tahoe National Forest, implement wet weather seasonal closures on native surface roads and motorized trails from January 1 through April 23; and (3) allow over-the-snow travel on 3.6 miles of the Fordyce jeep trail when 15 inches of snow is present on the ground; and
 - re-open 11.4 miles (13 individual segments) of existing closed roads (Maintenance Level 1 roads) for motorized use.
- Amend the 1990 *Tahoe National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan* (Forest Plan) to remove the seasonal restriction for the Humbug Sailor Management Area (#84).

This decision is subject to appeal pursuant to the regulations at 36 CFR Part 215. Appeals, including attachments, must be filed within 45 days of the publication date of the legal notice of the decision in Grass Valley’s *The Union*, the newspaper of record. Detailed procedures for appeal are included in the ROD. For further information about this decision, please contact David Arrasmith, Project Team Leader, Tahoe National Forest Supervisor’s Office, 631 Coyote Street, Nevada City, CA 95959; (530) 478-6220.

As we implement this decision, I look forward to continuing to work with individuals and groups interested in the management of the Tahoe National Forest's roads and motorized trails and "Open Areas." We expect to provide volunteer opportunities for the public to help us implement, enforce, maintain, and fund the designated route system and protect the Forest's wealth of natural resources. I urge you to get involved with these important efforts and I appreciate your interest in the management of your National Forest.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Quinn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and a long, sweeping underline.

TOM QUINN
Forest Supervisor

Enclosure