



File Code: 1950

Date: September 26, 2023

Dear Interested Party:

The USDA Forest Service, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU) has prepared a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Basin Wide Trails Analysis Project. The purpose of the Basin Wide Trails Analysis Project is to bring our management practices more in alignment with Subpart B of the Travel Management Rule (36 CFR Part 212) and move towards desired conditions for recreation described in the 2016 Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit [Forest Plan](#). Actions are needed to consider a recreation strategy that provides e-bike access to National Forest lands, while protecting and maintaining highly valued scenic quality and cultural and natural resources. This strategy will include consistent management of allowed use types for trails and routes connecting to adjacent land management entities. The project responded to the following needs:

- There is a need to provide a sustainable trail system meeting National Forest Trail Management Standard, including low-maintenance design principles, diversity of experience and challenge opportunity, and appropriate trail use guidance.
- To update the wheeled vehicle designation of the National Forest System trails and roads to reflect the use of e-bikes and update the [Motor Vehicle Use Map](#) to reflect these changes.
- Provide trail system connectivity to logical access points, such as trailheads, public transit routes, community centers and neighborhoods, and underutilized areas.
- Manage and upgrade some existing unmanaged trails.
- Provide a trail system that incorporates “stacked loop” design – trail experiences of different length, type and challenge exist from common access points.
- Limit potential impacts related to use conflict, or overuse of popular trail sections and areas.
- Provide Aquatic Organism Passage at trail crossings.
- Provide additional capacity on popular recreation trails.

The actions proposed in the Basin Wide Trails Analysis Project can be found in Chapter 2 of the Draft EA on the [project website](#). Individual project maps can also be found on the website. All actions would comply with USDA Forest Service, Tahoe Regional Planning Authority, and Lahontan Water Board regulations, National Best Management Practices (BMPs), and Resource Protection Measures (RPMs) for trail and road maintenance, construction, and decommissioning activities.



How to Comment and Timeframe

We will accept comments on this Draft EA for 30 calendar days following publication of the legal notice in the Tahoe Daily Tribune on Friday September 29, 2023, which is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period. Commenters should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. It is the commenter's responsibility to ensure timely receipt of comments (36 CFR 218.25) by October 28, 2023, at 11:59pm PST.

To submit a comment electronically, please go to our Forest Project webpage: [Basin Wide Trails Project](https://tinyurl.com/4mt4cm32) (<https://tinyurl.com/4mt4cm32>). Under the righthand column heading "*Get Connected*", click on "*Comment/Object on Project*". Please include: 1) your name, address, phone number, email address, and organization, if any; 2) where you heard of this project (newspaper, email, word of mouth, etc.); and 3) specific facts and relevant rationale you feel should be considered. Please note your comments and contact information will be considered part of the public record and may be available for public inspection. Postal mail and hand delivered comments should go to: Michael Gabor, Basin Wide Trails Analysis Project, LTBMU, 35 College Dr., South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150. Office hours are 8:00 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Please note that the office may or may not be open without notice due to ongoing public health concerns or closure of government facilities.

By submitting a comment electronically, you will automatically be signed up for future updates to this project and may opt out at any time. For any commenters submitting hand delivered or mailed in comments, updates will not be sent unless a valid email address is provided in your letter. All electronic comments must be submitted through the comments form on the website, email comments will not be accepted. For questions regarding this project, please contact Mike Gabor, LTBMU Forest Engineer, (530) 543-2642.

Sincerely,

ERICK J. WALKER
Forest Supervisor