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**DECISION NOTICE**  
**and**  
**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

***WILLIAM KENT BMP RETROFIT AND ADMINISTRATIVE SITE  
REDEVELOPMENT***

**U.S. FOREST SERVICE  
LAKE TAHOE BASIN MANAGEMENT UNIT (LTBMU)**

**PLACER COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

**BACKGROUND**

The US Forest Service facilities at the William Kent site are located approximately two miles south of Sunnyside-Tahoe City on Hwy 89 West Lake Blvd, Section 24, Township 15N, Range 16E. The property covers 22 acres and consists of the William Kent campground, the William Kent administrative site, and the William Kent day use beach area.

The administrative site is just west of the campground visitor check-in kiosk on the north side of the campground road. There are currently no buildings on the administrative site. Previous uses of the site included a small fire station, maintenance area, and residential home that was used as a barracks.

The day use beach area is located directly east of the campground on the east side of Hwy 89.

All facilities within the project area are federally owned and managed by the US Forest Service.

The William Kent Campground is a US Forest Service recreation facility, managed by the LTBMU, and operated under special use permit. The campground originally dates back to 1924, but the current infrastructure dates to the 1960's. The campground is bounded by private residences to the North, South, and West. Hwy 89 splits the campground and the beach facility.

Wildland fire protection on the west shore is currently serviced by the Meeks Bay Fire Station. This facility is a converted gas station, constructed circa 1940's and does not meet current building or accessibility standards. In 2003 a decision was made to replace the Meeks Bay Fire Station building in its current location at the entrance to the Meeks Bay Resort on Highway 89 (Meeks Bay Resort Fire Station Reconstruction Decision Memo, 2003 – Project Record H).

The Environmental Assessment was published for comment on April 25, 2012.

## **DECISION**

I have reviewed the William Kent BMP Retrofit and Administrative Site Redevelopment (EA), the Project Record, and the Response to Comments (DN/FONSI, Appendices C and D).

I have decided to implement Alternative 3 as fully described in the EA (Section 2.4).

### **Campground Facilities:**

Camping capacity and the overall number of campsites are proposed for reduction. The Proposed Action includes a reduction of campsites from 95 to 81. Traffic routes and direction of travel would be changed to improve traffic flow and access to campsites. The size and configuration of the individual campsites will also be changed.

1. Remove approximately 23,500 square feet (90%) of asphalt from within the SEZ in the campground (Table 2-3).
2. Reduce the stream crossings from 8 to 1.
3. Remove and reconfigure all paved surfaces into three one-way loops connected to a two-way road that runs down the middle of the campground.
4. Remove a net total of 14 campsites for a total remaining of 81 campsites (Table 2-4).
5. Construct all new spurs to meet FSORAG accessibility requirements; 16' wide by 40' long (31 non-utility sites, 32 utility sites), 20' wide by 60' long (5 utility sites), and 16' wide by 60' long (13 utility sites) (Table 2-4).
6. Ten yurt or tent cabin sites will be mixed in with the other campground sites. Sites may function as a regular campsite until a yurt is constructed.
7. Reconfigure the entrance road to include a one-way traffic circle.
8. Relocate the kiosk and dump station to the site of the former William Kent house and garage. Reconfigure the circulation patterns to allow for drive-up kiosk and pedestrian access via a sidewalk. A total of five parking spaces will also be provided for overflow parking and walk-up access.
9. Construct small infiltration basins and vegetated swales along the roadways and in areas where water flows from paved surfaces into the SEZ to prevent any campground pavement runoff from contributing to the water volume of the stream.
10. Remove impervious surfaces from within the SEZ and re-contour the stream channel in areas where the paved surfaces are removed to permit the water to spread out over the SEZ and allow for infiltration and to reduce the flow volume and velocity.
11. Plant native vegetation in eroded and disturbed areas.

12. Stabilize slopes in the campground with boulder placement and revegetate where needed.
13. Replace the signage along Hwy 89 and in the campground to improve navigation for vehicles and pedestrians.
14. Install electrical hookups in two campground loops closest to the campground entrance.
15. Install utilities at two host sites; to include water, electric, and sewer.
16. Repair fencing along the property line. "Gates" or gaps in the fence will be included to ensure that wildlife does not encounter a solid barrier when crossing the campground. Fencing may be replaced with any type of fencing materials that fits the BEIG guidelines (ex: solid wood, split rail, poly-coated chain link, etc).
17. Remove the six existing restrooms and replace with five accessible shower/bathroom facilities.
18. Create seven overflow parking sites on high capability lands outside the SEZ.
19. Plant vegetation for screening in suitable areas where vegetation was disturbed or removed along the campground perimeter. Vegetation may also be planted for screening of facilities. Screening vegetation must follow defensible space guidelines for facilities.
20. Approximately 400-800 trees would be removed to facilitate construction of BMPs and associated infrastructure. In addition, thinning of ladder fuels (smaller trees) will take place throughout the project area in order to provide defensible space for facilities.
21. Privacy fencing will be installed along the property line between the check-in kiosk area and neighboring residences (minimum height to be six feet).

#### **Administrative Site:**

In Alternative 3, the administrative facility is located on the south side of the campground entrance road.

1. Construct a new fire station/administrative building and associated parking south of the campground road to the west of the boat storage facility to serve the north and west shores of Lake Tahoe.
2. The fire station/administrative building will contain one or two bays for a Type III fire engine, offices for the fire personnel (no overnight accommodations), a kitchen and meeting area, bathrooms and showers, and office space for other forest service employees. Approximate building size is less than 3,500 square feet. Design of the building is to be similar to the USFS Spooner Fire Station on Hwy 50 on the east side of Lake Tahoe.

3. Administrative facility parking lot would have 23 parking spaces, including two universally accessible spaces (approximately 14,000 square feet).
4. Redesign of the campground entry road will include widening of the road to allow for a dedicated striped emergency vehicle lane.
5. Privacy fencing will be installed along the property line between the administrative site and neighboring residences (minimum height to be six feet).

**Beach:**

1. Excavate and shorten the stormwater pipe on the beach to expose the flow (“daylight” the stream) and stabilize the resulting slope. Stabilization may include riprap, boulder placement, retaining walls, structural walls, and vegetation. Bridges, footpaths, and safety rails will be installed where needed to ensure navigability, safety, and efficient use of the site by visitors.
2. Create an accessible pathway from the beach parking to the waterfront.

**Meeks:**

Proposed activities at the Meeks fire station include removing the fire station building and rehabilitate the site.

1. Decommission the building and remove excess asphalt.
2. Decompact the site and cover exposed soil (wood chips, pine needles, etc) to allow for natural revegetation.

ALTERNATIVE 3 -ALTERNATIVE PROPOSED ACTION  
CONCEPT DESIGN



## DECISION RATIONALE

I have decided to implement Alternative 3 for the following reasons:

1. **It is fully responsive to the Purpose and Need (EA, Section 1.6).**
2. **The selected alternative meets the desired conditions (EA, Section 1.5).**
3. **The selected alternative provides a comprehensive, rigorous, and thorough set of project design features and Best Management Practices (see Appendices A and B) that are specifically designed to minimize adverse environmental effects.** These measures have been demonstrated to be effective in mitigating effects. The selected alternative and the design features and BMPs reflect a cooperative effort by the Forest Service, other public agencies, and interested publics as to the appropriate actions to be taken in order to meet the need for action.
4. **The selected alternative best balances the social and environmental concerns regarding the public’s concerns with the Proposed Action and the need to upgrade the resort facilities.**

Environmental concerns that were brought up by the public regarding the initial proposed action involve the location of the main campground two-way road, the

location of the entrance kiosk, the location of the administrative building, the location of the RV dump station, and impervious surface coverage . I have considered those concerns along with balancing the recreation opportunity. The selected alternative results in a 90% reduction of impervious surface coverage within the SEZ in the campground, and an 8% reduction in impervious surface coverage overall.

The selected alternative relocates the main campground two-way road to the interior of the campground, and the configurations of the one-way loops were changed to accommodate this new circulation pattern. The kiosk was relocated closer to its current position in this alternative, as well to reduce the noise and activity levels along the northern boundary of the campground. The RV waste dump station was relocated further from residential properties.

The administrative building is located to the south of the campground entrance road and a greater distance from residential lots in this alternative to reduce the noise and activity levels along the northern boundary of the campground. The administrative building will not have a public visitor information center associated with it.

## ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

In addition to the Selected Alternative (Alternative 3), I also considered the following alternatives:

1. **No Action:** The No Action Alternative reflects a continuation of existing recreational, administrative and traffic activities. No improvements to recreational, administration or traffic facilities would be made beyond those considered to be routine maintenance. No campground reconfiguration, BMP retrofit, administrative site construction, or accessibility upgrades would be implemented. A new fire station would not be built on the William Kent site and fire operations would remain at the Meeks fire station.
2. **Alternative 2:** The Proposed Action includes a reduction of campsites from 95 to 81. Traffic routes and direction of travel will be changed to improve traffic flow and access to campsites. The size and configuration of the individual campsites would also be changed. A new combined fire station/administrative building would be built on the location of the existing administrative site. The beach day use site would include improvements to stormwater management and accessibility. The Meeks Fire Station would be decommissioned and the site rehabilitated.
3. Alternatives Considered but Dismissed from Detailed Analysis

Scoping respondents had several suggestions for an alternative to the Proposed Action. One of these suggestions was considered but dropped from detailed consideration for the reasons presented below.

*Leave the Meeks Bay Fire Station at Meeks or move it to another site not located at the William Kent Administrative Site; the fire station is redundant in this location due to new fire stations nearby.*

**This was not considered in detail for the following reasons:** The Meeks Bay fire station is currently the only fire station responsible for wildland fire response; other fire stations along the west shore are responsible for fires occurring in areas other than the wildland and wildland-urban-interface (WUI). Therefore the consideration to build a wildland response fire station in proximity to other fire stations does not result in an overlap of fire response coverage.

Leaving the fire station at the Meeks Bay location would not meet the purpose and need of the project; specifically the need to improve the condition of Forest Service facilities relating to health and safety codes. The Meeks Bay Fire Station is no longer adequate for the size and mission of the fire engine module. The wildland fire response to the north and west shores of Lake Tahoe is not optimized at the Meeks Bay location. The Meeks Bay site is too small, which does not allow enough space for a new building that meets current standards, as well as adequate parking for station employees. Furthermore, the site does not have a year-round water source, which would limit the use of a new facility during the winter months.

Upon review of alternate locations of the West Shore, no other viable Forest Service-owned sites were found. Alternate sites were evaluated for wildland fire response effectiveness, access to year-round utilities, impact to sensitive sites, and for regulations prohibiting construction (ex: Santini-Burton lots). This alternative was not analyzed further as the effects were analyzed in either Alternative 1 (leaving the fire station at Meeks Bay), or Alternative 2 and 3 (different locations of the fire station/administrative building within the William Kent site). See Project Record Document B-1.

## **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

The proposal was listed in the Schedule of Proposed Actions on January 1, 2011. The proposal was mailed to adjacent property owners and interested agencies for comment during scoping from November 26 to December 30, 2010. In addition, the proposed action and scoping letter were posted on the LTBMU public website.

A total of 12 written, oral, or electronic comment letters were submitted (Project Record Documents Section C) and a total of 83 comments were identified and evaluated for relevance. These comments and their disposition are summarized in Project Record Document D-1. Using these comments, the interdisciplinary team developed a list of issues to consider in developing an action alternative.

The Environmental Assessment was released to the public on April 25, 2012 for a 30-day comment period. A total of 10 comment letters were received during the 30-day scoping

period and 3 comment letters were received after the close of the comment period. The Forest Service responded to the comment letters (see Appendices C and D). Some minor changes to Alternative 3 were developed based on the comments received during this comment period. Additionally, comments were received from the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board through inter-agency communication.

## FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

After considering the environmental effects described in the EA, I have determined that these actions will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment considering the context and intensity of impacts (40 CFR 1508.27). Thus, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared. I base my finding on the following:

1. **Beneficial and adverse impacts** – My finding of no significant environmental effects is not biased by the beneficial effects of the action (EA, pp. 3.3.1 through 3.7.4). Design features and BMPs implemented will mitigate effects to less than significant levels (DN/FONSI, Attachments A and B).
2. **The degree to which the proposed action affects public health or safety** – There will be no significant effects on public health and safety, and design features address public health and safety. The project involves routine work that has occurred and continues to occur within and near the project area. Signs will be used warning public users of project activities such as vehicles using the road, vegetation cutting, and equipment usage. A short-term forest order closing a portion of the project area during implementation could occur depending upon visitor use and the timing of implementation activities.
3. **Unique characteristics of the geographic area** – The project area includes forested areas and a streamside environment zone (SEZ) which are considered common characteristics of the geographic area adjacent to Lake Tahoe. There will be no significant effects on the forest and SEZ environments or on Lake Tahoe (EA, section 3.5.3).
4. **The degree of controversy over environmental effects** – Public involvement with interested and affected individuals and agencies throughout the environmental analysis identified concerns regarding the environmental effects of implementing the proposed actions, particularly with regard to the location of the Administrative building and the two-way main campground road. The EA adequately addresses these concerns and discloses the environmental effects.
5. **The degree to which the possible effects on the human environment are highly uncertain or involves unique or unknown risks** – The LTBMU has considerable experience and success with the types of activities to be implemented (i.e. tree removal and facility improvements within existing campgrounds). The effects analysis in the EA

shows the effects are not uncertain, and do not involve unique or unknown risk (EA, Chapter 3).

6. **The degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration.** The action will not establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects. No significant effects are identified (EA, Chapter 3), nor does this action influence a decision in principle about any future considerations.
7. **Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts** – There are no known significant cumulative effects between this project and other ongoing or planned projects in or adjacent to this project. The effects of other foreseeable future actions as well as past actions and ongoing actions were included in the analysis (EA, Chapter 3).
8. **The degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources** – The action will have no significant adverse effect on districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places Project Record Documents G-3).
9. **The degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act of 1973** – The action will have a “no effect” on any endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act of 1973. No federally-listed endangered or proposed species were identified by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) within the analysis area. No critical habitat for federally-listed threatened or endangered species is designated within the Lake Tahoe Basin. The project BE/BAs (Project Record Documents G-1) determined no proposed or designated critical habitat exists in or near the project action area (EA, Section 3.4.4).
10. **Whether the action threatens a violation of Federal, State, or local law or other requirements imposed for the protection of the environment** – The action will not violate Federal, State, and local laws or requirements for the protection of the environment. Applicable laws and regulations were considered in the EA (EA, Section 1.11). The action was designed to be consistent with the LTBMU LRMP (EA Section 1.11; Project Record Document B-1).

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## FINDINGS REQUIRED BY OTHER LAWS AND REGULATIONS

### **National Forest Management Act**

This Act requires the development of long-range land and resource management plans. The LTBMU LRMP was approved in 1988 as required by this Act. It has been amended several times, including the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment, (2004). The LRMP provides guidance for all natural resource management activities on National Forest System lands in the Lake Tahoe Basin. The Act requires all projects and activities are consistent with the LRMP. The LRMP has been reviewed in consideration of this project. I find that this decision is consistent with the Lake Tahoe Basin LTBMU Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP). The consistency check is documented in the project planning record (Project Record Document B-1).

### **Endangered Species Act**

I find that this decision is consistent with Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service list of “endangered and threatened species that may be affected by Projects in the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Area” (updated on April 29, 2010). The list was reviewed (Project Record Documents G-1). The action will have a “no effect” on any endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

### **National Historic Preservation Act**

I find that this decision is consistent with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, which requires federal agencies to take into account the effect of a project on any district, site, building, structure, or object that is included in, or eligible for inclusion in the National Register. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) requires federal agencies to take into account the effect of a project on any district, site, building, structure, or object that is included in, or eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places. Section 106 of the NHPA (Public Law 89.665, as amended) also requires federal agencies to afford the State Historic Preservation Officer a reasonable opportunity to comment. There are no buildings, structures, or objects that are included in, or eligible for inclusion in the National Register within the project boundaries. (Project Record Documents G-3). No other cultural sites or archaeological sites would be affected.

### **Clean Water Act (Public Law 92-500)**

I find that this decision is consistent with the Clean Water Act, which requires all Federal agencies to comply with the provisions of the Clean Water Act. The Clean Water Act regulates forest management activities near federal waters and riparian areas. I find that the Best Management Practices (Appendix B) and project design features (Appendix A) associated with this decision will ensure that the terms of the Clean Water Act are met, primarily pollution caused by erosion and sedimentation (Project Record Documents Section G).

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### **Clean Air Act (Public Law 84-159)**

I find that this decision is consistent with the Clean Air Act. The project area lies within the Lake Tahoe Air Basin and the Placer County Air Quality Management District. The Traffic Study (Project Record Document G-9) identifies a net increase of only 2 Daily Vehicle Trips (DVT) from the improvements associated with the project. Chapter 93.3.B of the TRPA Code of Ordinances (TRPA 1987) requires that a project provide an air quality impact analysis only if the project is expected to significantly increase vehicle trips. The increase in DVT is consistent with the TRPA definition for an insignificant increase and is compliant with the TRPA ordinances. In addition, project design features (Appendix A) provide for the control of fugitive dust associated with the implementation of the project.

### **Environmental Justice (Executive Order 12898)**

I find that this decision is consistent with Executive Order 12898, which requires that all federal actions consider potentially disproportionate effects on minority and low-income communities, especially if adverse effects to environmental or human health conditions are identified. Analysis determined that there would be no adverse environmental or human health conditions created by any of the alternatives considered that would affect any minority or low-income neighborhood disproportionately.

The activities proposed in all alternatives were based solely on the existing and desired conditions of the project site, sensitivity of the environment, and practical treatment access in response to the purpose and need. In no cases were the proposed activities based on the demographic makeup, occupancy, property value, income level, or any other criteria reflecting the status of adjacent non-federal land. Reviewing the location of the proposed treatments in any of the alternatives in relationship to non-federal land, there is no evidence to suggest that any minority or low-income neighborhood would be affected disproportionately. Conversely, there is no evidence that any individual, group, or portion of the community would benefit unequally from any of the actions in the proposed alternatives.

### **Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 as amended (16 USC 703-712)**

I find that this decision is consistent with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The original 1918 statute implemented the 1916 Convention between the United States and Great Britain (for Canada) for the protection of migratory birds. Later amendments implemented treaties between the United States and Mexico, Japan, and the Soviet Union (now Russia). Specific provisions in the statute include the establishment of a federal prohibition, unless permitted by regulations, to “pursue, hunt, take, capture, kill, attempt to take, capture or kill, possess, offer for sale, sell, offer to purchase, purchase, deliver for shipment, ship, cause to be shipped, deliver for transportation, transport, cause to be transported, carry, or cause to be carried by any means whatever, receive for shipment, transportation or carriage, or export, at any time, or in any manner, any migratory bird, included in the terms of this Convention...for the protection of migratory birds...or any part, nest, or egg of any such bird.” Because forestlands provide a substantial portion of breeding habitat, land

management activities within the LTBMU can have an impact on local populations. The William Kent BMP Project would not adversely impact any populations or habitat of migratory birds (Project Record Documents G-1).

### **Invasive Species, Executive Order 13112 of February 3, 1999**

I find that this decision is consistent with Executive Order 13112. The EA covers botanical resources and noxious weeds. The project's design features are designed to minimize risk of new weed introductions (Project Record Documents G-1).

### **Recreational Fisheries, Executive Order 12962 of June 6, 1995**

I find that this decision is consistent with Executive Order 12962. The effects to fish habitat from the project are expected to be positive, as reductions in potential sedimentation and impervious surfaces will reduce the current impacts to the project site and to the adjacent streamside environment zone (Project Record Documents G-1).

### **Architectural Barriers Act**

I find that this decision is consistent with the Architectural Barriers Act (ABA), which requires that facilities designed, built, altered, or leased with funds supplied by the United States federal government be accessible to the public. The ABA provides uniform standards for the design, construction, and alteration of buildings so that persons with disabilities will have ready access to and use of them. These standards have been incorporated into the design of this project.

### **Floodplain Management, Executive Order 11988 of May 24, 1977, and Protection of Wetlands, Executive Order 11990 of May 24, 1977**

I find that this decision is consistent with Executive Orders 11988 and 11990. These executive orders provide for protection and management of floodplains and wetlands. Compliance with these orders will be ensured by adhering to the project design features, including the implementation of BMPs (Project Record Documents G-4).

### **Special Area Designations**

There are no specially designated areas that would be affected by the William Kent BMP Project (e.g., Research Natural Areas, Inventoried Roadless Areas, Wilderness Areas, and Wild and Scenic Rivers).

### **Tahoe Regional Planning Agency**

I find that this project will be consistent with requirements associated with TRPA. This project will be reviewed by TRPA consistent with the terms of the 1989 MOU between TRPA and the Forest Service. Depending on the extent of implementation phases, project permits may be required (see below).

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## **Local Agency Permitting Requirements and Coordination**

I find that this project will comply with all local agency permitting requirements. This finding is based upon the past record of the LTBMU working closely with all local agencies to ensure proper permitting of projects. There would be no planned ground-disturbing project activities that occur between October 15 and May 1. In the event that circumstances require resource protection work work during this period a grading exemption from TRPA and Lahontan Water Board would be required. In addition, any required permits will be obtained from TRPA and/or the Lahontan Water Board prior to project implementation. Appropriate permits will be obtained with Caltrans prior to implementation affecting the right-of-way along Highway 89.

## **IMPLEMENTATION DATE**

If an appeal is filed, implementation may occur on, but not before fifteen business days from the date of appeal resolution. If no appeal is filed, implementation may begin five business days from the close of the appeal period.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW OR APPEAL OPPORTUNITIES**

This decision is subject to administrative review (appeal) pursuant to 36 CFR Part 215. Individuals or organizations who provided comments or otherwise expressed interest in the proposal by the close of the comment period are eligible to appeal the decision pursuant to 36 CFR part 215 regulations. The notice of appeal must meet the appeal content requirements at 36 CFR 215.14.

The appeal must be filed (regular mail, fax, email, hand-delivery, or express delivery) with the Appeal Deciding Officer at:

Randy Moore, Regional Forester  
USDA Forest Service  
Pacific Southwest Region  
1323 Club Drive  
Vallejo, CA 94592

Email: [appeals-pacificsouthwest-regional-office@fs.fed.us](mailto:appeals-pacificsouthwest-regional-office@fs.fed.us)  
Phone: (707) 562-8737  
Fax: (707) 562-9091

The office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered appeals are: 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Electronic appeals must be submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), or Word (.doc) to the email address listed above. In cases where no identifiable name is attached to an electronic message, a verification of identity will be required. A scanned signature is one way to provide verification.

Appeals, including attachments, must be filed within 45 days from the publication date of this notice in the Tahoe Daily Tribune, the newspaper of record. Attachments received after the 45 day appeal period will not be considered. The publication date in the Tahoe Daily Tribune, newspaper of record, is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an appeal. Those wishing to appeal this decision should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source.

## CONTACT

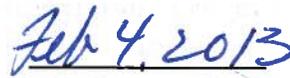
For additional information concerning this decision or the Forest Service appeal process, contact:

Ashley Sommer or Gerrit Buma, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit  
35 College Drive  
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150  
Phone (530)543-2600, Fax (530)543-2693



**NANCY J. GIBSON**

Forest Supervisor  
Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit



**DATE**

### Appendices:

Appendix A – Project Design Features

Appendix B – BMP's

Appendix C – Response to Comments

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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## APPENDIX A: PROJECT DESIGN FEATURES

The project direction from the Forest Supervisor was for the interdisciplinary team to prevent negative effects up-front, rather than include mitigation measures to correct effects after they occur. These prevention measures are termed “design features” because they are part of the design of the project to minimize or prevent negative environmental effects.

Project design features were developed in response to community input during scoping and interdisciplinary team discussion and analysis. Project design features are elements of the project design that ensure consistency with the Forest Plan. These features are included as part of the selected alternative based upon past experience with similar projects in the Lake Tahoe Basin area and have been proven to be effective based on monitoring and professional observations.

Activities associated with implementation of this project could have localized, short-term effects. The following design features have been incorporated into the selected alternative and are intended to minimize or avoid effects on soils, water, vegetation, wildlife, fisheries, heritage resources, recreational resources, and air quality. In addition to the following design features, applicable BMPs are identified in *Water Quality Management for Forest System Lands in California* (USDA Forest Service 2000a). Adherence to these BMPs ensures compliance with the Clean Water Act. These specific BMPs are listed in Appendix B. Detailed specification for these BMPs would be incorporated into the final design plans and SWPPP which will be approved by the Lahontan Water Board prior to issuance of the General Permit.

### Recreation and Access

1. Maintain recreational facilities in a usable condition to the extent possible as long as human health and safety is not compromised and project implementation is unimpeded. The existing kiosk would not be removed until the new kiosk is installed and vehicular access is available. Existing bathrooms would remain in operation until the new bathroom facilities are opened and accessible.
2. Prepare a traffic control plan prior to commencing project operations. A temporary forest closure may be implemented for project activities. Closure should be as limited as possible to reduce restrictions to public access. Closure would be only for areas of active construction activity.
3. Prohibit vegetative slash and construction burning. Construction wastes will be hauled offsite to an approved waste facility. Slash will be either chipped and used onsite or hauled offsite to an approved waste facility.
4. Provide advanced notice to the public to ensure that the public is aware of proposed project activity. Post signs in project areas near public access points to highlight the proposed action and impacts to public access.

5. Signing and temporary fencing would be provided around the construction site.

### Scenic Resources

1. New building facilities would be designed to blend with and enhance the existing landscape through the use of native materials and neutral colors. The design will be consistent with the USFS Built Environment Image Guide.
2. Emphasis will be placed on retaining large mature trees to ensure the natural forested appearance of the campground remains.

### Heritage Resources

1. If any previously unrecorded cultural resources are discovered during project monitoring or project construction, all project-related activities would cease immediately in the vicinity of such discoveries, the Forest Service would begin the consultation process, as outlined in Section 800.13 of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation regulations "Protection of Historic Properties" (36 CFR Part 800).

### Soil and Ground Disturbance

1. Project activities would occur within the TRPA grading ordinance season (May 01 to October 15) and in accordance with the LRWQCB permit. If grading or movement of soil outside of this window becomes necessary (i.e. to finish BMP's, etc.) a standard grading exemption permit request would be submitted to TRPA and LRWQCB for approval. During periods of inclement weather, operations would be shut down at the discretion of the Contracting Officer until conditions are sufficiently dry and stable to allow construction to continue without the threat of substantial erosion, sedimentation, or offsite sediment transport.
2. Erosion control and prevention of sediment transport for this project (EA Appendix A) would be implemented in accordance with; *USDA, Water Quality Management for Forest System Lands in California -Best Management Practices* (USDA 2011).
3. Provision for hazardous materials spill kits would be included in the contract specifications.
4. Staging of materials and equipment would be limited to existing disturbed areas outside the SEZ (where soil is already compacted and vegetation has been cleared). Following project completion, any areas used for staging and not intended for continued vehicular use would be tilled, seeded, and mulched.
5. Rock, soil and other earthen material removed during grading operations may be stockpiled and used for construction activities. Consistent with BMP requirements, measures would be employed that prevent stockpiled material from entering the stream channel or otherwise adversely affecting ground water, such as with the use of fiber logs, covering with tarps, etc.

6. Riparian/stream/SEZ and soil restoration activities would be developed where appropriate. Appropriate restoration actions, methods, locations, and amount would be developed based on the types and magnitude of disturbance within the SEZ, as well as site-specific and watershed-level opportunities and constraints for SEZ enhancement.
7. Infiltration basins and vegetated swales would be installed to intercept stormwater flowing from the campground into the SEZ. BMPs would be designed for the 1 inch 1 hour event, and the 2 inch 24 hour rainfall event.
8. Disposal areas for sidecast material will be displayed on engineering plans. Compliance with contract specifications during implementation will be handled by the project contracting officer representative (COR).
9. To prevent pollutants such as fuels, lubricants, and other harmful materials from being discharged into watercourses or other natural channels, unless otherwise agreed upon by the COR, service and re-fueling areas shall be located outside of SEZs. If fuel storage capacities meet or exceed those stated in contract provisions, project Spill Prevention, Containment, and Counter Measures (SPCC) plans are required. Operators are required to remove service residues, waste oil, and other materials from National Forest land and be prepared to take responsive actions in case of a hazardous substance spill, according to the SPCC plan.
10. Construction and maintenance activities adjacent to SEZs will be done in accordance with construction designs. SEZ boundaries will be flagged prior to starting work adjacent near the SEZ. Compliance with contract specifications during implementation will be handled by the project COR.
11. The following will be required in contracts: Coordination with the LRWQCB for permits will be required when diverting any flow. Specifications for such activities will be included in the engineering plans. Compliance with contract specifications during implementation will be handled by the project COR.
12. Culvert specifications will be included in the engineering plans. Temporary BMPs such as silt fence will be used to ensure water quality is protected during installation. Compliance with contract specifications during implementation will be handled by the project COR.
13. Riprap (rock stabilization) use will be included in the engineering plans. Plans will specify what type and size to be used. Compliance with contract specifications during implementation will be handled by the project COR.
14. The road surface within the campground will be paved. Compliance with contract specifications during implementation will be handled by the project COR.
15. Erosion control will be accomplished through applying seed to disturbed areas, paving road surfaces, installing drainage features and basins, and retaining walls.

### Botany/Non-Native Invasive Plant Species

1. If any sensitive plants or special interest plants are found they would be flagged by an LTBMU Forest Botanist and avoided.
2. Include non-native invasive species prevention measures in project contract. In the event that noxious weeds are found on the site, the LTBMU noxious weed coordinator would be consulted.
3. All construction and earth-moving equipment would be free of non-native invasive plant species before moving into the project area. Equipment would be considered free of non-native invasive plant species when visual inspection by the COR does not reveal soil, seeds, plant material, or other such debris.
4. Equipment would be cleaned prior to moving to other National Forest System lands.
5. All gravel, fill, or other materials would be required to be weed-free. Obtain certified weed-free materials from gravel pits and fill sources that have been certified weed free or have been surveyed and approved by the LTBMU Forest Botanist.
6. All mulches and seed mixes would be weed free. Seed mixes must be approved by the LTBMU Forest Botanist.
7. Staging areas for equipment, materials, or crews would not be situated in areas infested by non-native invasive species. Areas containing non-native invasive species would be “flagged and avoided” before implementation.
8. Cheatgrass infestations found during project activities would be treated and covered with weed matting prior to and during project implementation. Treatment may include chemical or hand methods, depending on the size of the infestation (see 2010 TIPS EA).
  - a. Staging areas for equipment, materials, or crews will be designated in paved areas away from cheatgrass and noxious weed infestations.
9. After the project is completed, all disturbed project areas will be monitored for 3 years to ensure non-native invasive species do not spread and additional non-native invasive species do not become established in areas affected by the project. Monitoring will occur through the LTBMU invasive weeds monitoring program.

### Wildlife

1. If special status wildlife species are detected in the project vicinity, Limiting Operating Procedures (LOPs) would be implemented as determined by the project biologist. The project biologist would determine if LOPs are necessary based on habitat suitability or the most current wildlife data from pre-project field surveys.
2. Any sightings of threatened, endangered, candidate, sensitive, management indicator, or special interest species would be reported to the project biologist. Nests and dens would be protected with flagging, fencing, or limited operating periods in accordance with management direction. Species identification, known

locations, and protection procedures for both plants and animals would be addressed with implementation crews during a pre-construction meeting.

3. Existing down logs greater than 20 inches dbh may be retained. Logs that are moved during construction could be repositioned.
4. Bear-proof garbage dumpsters would be temporarily installed during implementation or food-related trash associated with project activity would be removed daily to prevent wildlife attraction to the project area.

### Engineering

1. Building construction would incorporate “green” sustainable construction features where appropriate (i.e. sourcing sustainably produced or local materials, utilizing passive solar, integrating energy-saving technologies, etc).
2. Paved surfaces around structures that do not require vehicular circulation would be designed with porous paving systems or other semi-pervious surface (i.e. gravel) where appropriate to enhance infiltration of stormwater.
3. Building structures would have roofline drip trenches or other BMPs to catch and slow stormwater flowing from the roof.
4. Select light features for the campground and administrative site that limit light pollution while following building code and Forest Service lighting design guidelines.
5. Fence repairs and new fence construction will allow places for through-travel of large wildlife (i.e. bears) in at least one location along each property line in a manner that does not necessitate the animal to go over the fence or push it down.
6. Specific allowable construction hours would be set from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm, Monday through Friday. Construction outside of these allowable hours must be coordinated and approved by the COR and the permittee.

### Air Quality

1. Unpaved areas during construction subject to vehicle traffic must be stabilized by being kept wet, treated with chemical dust suppressants or covered. Cover materials must contain less than 0.25 percent naturally-occurring asbestos.
2. The speed limit on unpaved areas must be 15 mph or less unless the road surface and surrounding area is sufficiently stabilized to prevent vehicles and equipment traveling more than 15 mph from emitting dust exceeding Ringelmann 2 (dust sufficient to obscure vision by 40%), or visible emissions from crossing the project boundary line.
3. Storage piles and disturbed areas not subject to traffic must be stabilized by being kept wet, treated with a chemical dust suppressant, or covered when material is not being added to or removed from the pile.

4. Prior to any ground disturbance, including grading, excavating, and land clearing, sufficient water must be applied to the area to be disturbed to prevent emitting dust exceeding Ringelmann 2 and to minimize visible emissions crossing the boundary line.
5. Construction vehicles leaving the site must be cleaned to prevent dust, silt, mud, and dirt from being released or tracked off site.
6. When wind speeds are high enough to result in dust emissions crossing the boundary line, despite the application of dust mitigation measures, grading and earthmoving operations are suspended.
7. No trucks are allowed to transport excavated material off site unless no spillage can occur from holes or openings, and loads are either covered with tarps, or wetted and loaded such that the material does not touch the front, back, or sides of the cargo compartment at any point less than six inches from the top and that no point of the load extends above the top of the cargo compartment.
8. Actions must be taken such as surface stabilization, establishment of a vegetative cover, or paving to minimize wind-driven dust from inactive disturbed surface areas.
9. Track-out of dirt or mud onto public paved roadways must be minimized and cleaned up.
10. A Dust Control Plan (DCP) will be submitted to the Dust Control District for approval prior to the start of earth-disturbing activities if this requirement has been established as a Condition of Approval of a discretionary permit.

### **Tree Removal**

1. Emphasis will be placed on retaining structurally complex large trees. Where feasible based on project activities, Jeffrey pine, sugar pine, and incense cedar would be retained and lodgepole pine and white fir would be removed. Trees showing signs of stress, or insect and disease infection would be removed, consistent with project activities.
2. Thinning of ladder fuels for defensible space standards around structures will take into consideration recreation and screening objectives. Identification of ladder fuels will occur in coordination with recreation program managers.
3. Cut trees may be removed, or utilized as fuelwood. Any slash material generated from tree removal (i.e. smaller trees, limbs, and tops) would be removed in whole, chipped, and removed or chipped for use on the site. Tree removal may require the use of ground-based mechanical equipment, chainsaws, or chippers, and a staging area(s) in order to process material.

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## Monitoring

1. The William Kent Campground BMP Retrofit and Administrative Site Renovation project would be included in the pool of projects for random BMP evaluations under the Best Management Practices Evaluation Program (BMPEP) program. Each year the LTBMU completes evaluations for the BMPEP as part of the Pacific Southwest Region's effort to evaluate the implementation and effectiveness of BMPs created for protecting soil and water resources associated with Forest Service management activities.
2. Monitoring to ensure that all contract items including temporary BMPs, design features, and permit requirements are being followed, will be provided by the Forest Service Contracting Officer's Representative following protocols established for public works contract administration.

## APPENDIX B: BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

The following management requirements are designed to address the watershed management concerns. BMPs are derived from the Forest Service publications *Nation Best Management Practices for Water Quality Management on National Forest System Lands* (USDA Forest Service 2012) and *Water Quality Management for National Forest System Lands in California* (USDA Forest Service 2001). All applicable water quality BMPs would be implemented. Final application of these BMPs is based on the selected alternative and integration (further refinement) with project design features (DN, Appendix A; EA, Section 2.1.2.3.).

<b>Nation Core BMPs</b>	<b>Best Management Practice Objective Description</b>
Plan-1. Forest and Grassland Planning	Use the land management planning and decision making processes to incorporate direction for water quality management consistent with laws, regulation, and policy into land management plans.
Plan-2. Project Planning and Analysis	Use the project planning, environmental analysis, and decision making processes to incorporate water quality management BMPs into project design and implementation.
Plan-3. Aquatic Management Zone Planning	To maintain and improve or restore the condition of land around and adjacent to water bodies in the context of the environment in which they are located, recognizing their unique values and importance to water quality while implementing land and resource management activities.
AqEco-1. Aquatic Ecosystem Improvement and Restoration Planning	Reestablish and retain ecological resilience of aquatic ecosystems and associated resources to achieve sustainability and provide a broad range of ecosystem services.
AqEco-2. Operations in Aquatic Ecosystems	Avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse impacts to water quality when working in aquatic ecosystems.
AqEco-4. Stream Channels and Shorelines	Design and implement stream channel and lake shoreline projects in a manner that increase the potential for success in meeting project objectives and avoids, minimizes or mitigates adverse effects to soil, water quality and riparian resources.

Fac-1. Facilities and Nonrecreation Special Uses Planning	Use the applicable special use authorization and administrative facilities planning processes to develop measures to avoid, minimize or mitigate adverse effects to soil, water quality and riparian resources during construction and operation of facilities and nonrecreation special uses activities.
Fac-2. Facility Construction and Stormwater Control	Avoid, minimize or mitigate adverse effects to soil, water quality and riparian resources by controlling erosion and managing stormwater discharge originating from ground disturbance during construction of developed sites.
Fac-3. Potable Water Supply Systems	Provide potable water supplies of sufficient quality and quantity to support the use at facilities.
Fac-4. Sanitation Systems	Avoid, minimize or mitigate adverse effects to soil and water quality from bacteria, nutrients and other pollutants resulting from collection, transmission, treatment and disposal of sewage and wastewater at facilities.
Fac-5. Solid Waste Management	Avoid, minimize or mitigate adverse effects to water quality from trash, nutrients, bacteria and chemicals associated with solid waste management at facilities.
Fac-6. Hazardous Materials	Avoid or minimize short- and long-term adverse effects to soil and water resources by preventing releases of hazardous materials.
Fac-7. Vehicle and Equipment Wash Water	Avoid or minimize contamination of surface water and groundwater by vehicle or equipment wash water that may contain oil, grease, phosphates, soaps, road salts, other chemicals, suspended solids, and invasive species.
Rec-1. Recreation Planning	Use the applicable recreation planning process to develop measures to avoid, minimize or mitigate adverse effects to soil, water quality and riparian resources during recreation activities.
Rec-2. Developed Recreation Sites	Avoid, minimize or mitigate adverse effects to soil, water quality and riparian resources at developed recreation sites by maintaining desired levels of ground cover, limiting soil compaction and minimizing pollutants entering waterbodies.
Rec-9. Recreation Special Use	Avoid, minimize or mitigate adverse effects to soil, water quality and riparian resources from physical, chemical and biological pollutants

Authorizations	resulting from activities under recreation special use authorizations.
Road-2. Road Location and Design	Locate and design roads to avoid, minimize or mitigate adverse effects to soil, water quality and riparian resources.
Road-3. Road Construction and Reconstruction	Avoid or minimize adverse effects to soil, water quality and riparian resources from erosion, sediment and other pollutant delivery during road construction or reconstruction.
Road-4. Road Operations and Maintenance	Avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects to soil, water quality and riparian resources by controlling road use and operations and providing adequate and appropriate maintenance to minimize sediment production and other pollutants during the useful life of the roads.
Road-6. Road Storage and Decommissioning	Avoid, minimize or mitigate adverse effects to soil, water quality and riparian resources by storing closed roads not needed for at least 1 year and decommissioning unneeded roads in a hydrologically stable manner to eliminate hydrologic connectivity, restore natural flow patterns and minimize soil erosion.
Road-7. Stream Crossings	Avoid, minimize or mitigate adverse effects to soil, water quality and riparian resources when constructing, reconstructing or maintaining temporary and permanent waterbody crossings.
Road-9. Parking Staging Ares	Avoid, minimize or mitigate adverse effects to soil, water quality and riparian resources when constructing and maintaining parking and staging areas.
Road-10. Equipment Refueling and Servicing	Avoid or minimize adverse effects to soil, water quality and riparian resources from fuels, lubricants, cleaners and other harmful materials discharging into nearby surface waters or infiltrating through soils to contaminate groundwater resources during equipment refueling and servicing activities.
Veg-1. Vegetation Management Planning	Use the applicable vegetation management planning processes to develop measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects to soil, water quality and riparian resources during mechanical vegetation treatment activities.
Veg-2. Erosion Prevention and	Avoid, minimize or mitigate adverse effects to soil, water quality and riparian resources by implementing measures to control surface erosion, gully formation, mass slope failure, and resulting sediment

Control	movement before, during and after mechanical vegetation treatments.
Veg-3. Aquatic Management Zones	Avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects to soil, water quality and riparian resources when conducting mechanical vegetation treatment activities in the AMZ.
Veg-4. Ground-Based Skidding and Yarding Operations	Avoid, minimize or mitigate adverse effects to soil, water quality and riparian resources during ground-based skidding and yarding operations by minimizing site disturbance and controlling the introduction of sediment, nutrients and chemical pollutants to waterbodies.
Veg-6. Landings	Avoid, minimize or mitigate adverse effects to soil, water quality and riparian resources from the construction and use of log landings.
Veg-8. Mechanical Site Treatment	Avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects to soil, water quality and riparian resources by controlling the introduction of sediment, nutrients, chemical or other pollutants to waterbodies during mechanical site treatment.
WatUses-1. Water Uses Planning	Use the applicable authorization and administrative planning processes to develop measures to avoid minimize or mitigate adverse effects to soil, water quality and riparian resources during construction, operation, maintenance and restoration of water use infrastructure.

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## APPENDIX C: RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FROM 30-DAY COMMENT PERIOD (APRIL/MAY 2012)

In response to the legal notice for the 30 day comment period for the Environmental Assessment (EA), twelve (12) comment letters were received. Additionally, one comment letter was received after the close of the comment period. Comments contained in the Response to Comments reflect references to numbers that are contained in the Final EA unless otherwise noted. The comments and the Forest Service (FS) responses are as follows:

### Comment Letter 1 – Perry Obray

**Comment 1:** What consideration has been given to "reducing" snow removal costs, deicing of pathways, and pollution (for example, air pollution from snow removal operations) in the design of the facilities? Such as using landscaping, solar orientation, etc. to enhance deicing.

**Forest Service Response:** The analysis determined that there will not be a significant increase in air pollution related to snow removal under the proposed or alternative actions. The pathways and roadways will be designed to meet FS guidelines for accessibility and maximize efficiency. Aspects such as solar orientation of the building and pathways will be taken into consideration during design. The campground will remain a seasonal facility.

**Comment 2:** What consideration has been given to invasive shell fish organisms and any others in regards to the proposed pipe going into the lake? Is it appropriate to use larger diameter pipes that can be efficiently swapped out/and or cleaned to reduce exposure to unwanted invasive species clogging pipes in the water?

**Forest Service Response:** The action alternatives propose to shorten the stormwater pipe and move the pipe outfall further from the lake. The design will not result in any opportunity for invasive aquatic organisms to get in the existing large diameter pipe and no new pipe is proposed. Proposal will have no effect on invasive shellfish organisms.

### Comment Letter 2 – Henry Tollette

**Comment 1:** We have put up with the noise, traffic, and frequently irresponsible behavior of the [William Kent] campers. The lack of control by camp supervisors has been a constant issue. With the proposed investment in the campground we can only expect more issues.

**Forest Service Response:** The operation and control of the campground is managed under the terms of a Special-Use Permit and not affected by the project

activities. In Alternatives 2 and 3 the campsites are located further from the neighboring properties in most areas and these alternatives are anticipated to reduce conflicts between neighboring properties and campground guests.

**Comment 2:** The addition of a fire station seems counter intuitive as there is a new fire station in Tahoe City, less than 2 miles away. Perhaps Tahoma would be a better choice.

**Forest Service Response:** The proposed fire station will serve wildland fires, not residential or structure fires that are serviced through the fire protection districts (example: the new fire station in Tahoe City). Currently the only fire station responsible for responding to wildland fire is the Forest Service fire station at Meeks Bay. Under this decision the fire station at William Kent would replace the fire station at Meeks Bay. This new facility would be the only wildland fire station on the West/North shore. See Section 2.1

**Comment 3:** The activity around the boat launch and Sunnyside resort will add to the delay time for fire response.

**Forest Service Response:** Currently the fire engines must travel through this corridor when responding to the majority of wildland fire calls, therefore there will be no change from the existing response time. Fire response times were analyzed as part of the existing condition and in determining the suitability of alternative fire station locations. It was determined that a location at William Kent would not negatively impact the ability to respond to wildfires.

**Comment 4:** Changing the routing of the campground road will require the removal of many native trees which I would think would also not be in the interest of the Department of Agriculture.

**Forest Service Response:** The Forest Service actively manages forest density and structure and it was determined that tree removal in this campground would be beneficial to overall forest health due to the high density of vegetation within the campground. See Section 3.2.3 and 3.4.3

### Comment Letter 3 – Chuck McCormick

**Comment 1:** Now when I look off my deck into the park I see trees in a natural forest environment. Any lighting would destroy this setting.

**Forest Service Response:** This site has historically been a campground. The action alternatives do not propose a change to the use of the facility. Lighting is only proposed at the restroom facilities and around the administrative building. Alternative 3 analyzed alternative locations for the restroom facilities that reduce the impacts to adjacent neighbors. Exterior lighting under all Alternatives is an important safety consideration. Light fixtures will be selected to minimize light pollution while following Forest Service design standards. See Design Feature 4 under the Engineering Section.

**Comment 2:** I am also concerned about the increase number of vacationers staying at this campground park due to the improved facilities.

**Forest Service Response:** The number of campers visiting the campground will decrease by 14 campsites (70 Persons-at-one-time) under both Alternative 2 and 3. There is a possibility that the campground will reach capacity more frequently, but the number of vacationers at any given time will be less due to the decrease in capacity.

**Comment 3:** Am I correct in assuming that the USDA is going to do something in this campground? If this is the case then I want to vote or support "plan number three" [Alt 3]

**Forest Service Response:** Thank you for your support of Alternative 3.

#### **Comment Letter 4 – Ken and Rebecca Burg**

**Comment 1:** We would prefer Alternative 3.

**Forest Service Response:** Thank you for your support of Alternative 3.

#### **Comment Letter 5 – Margaret Redmond**

**Comment 1:** [Alt 3] indicates that there would be planned openings for bear passage. Would breaks be at regular intervals along the fence on all sides of the park or just in the areas that appear to be most traveled at the present?

**Forest Service Response:** Wildlife passages will be placed at suitable locations closest to existing wildlife travel patterns. See Section 2.5

**Comment 2:** Will generator use still be allowed in the non-utility loop, or would this be kept as a quiet camping area?

**Forest Service Response:** The Forest Service does not dictate what type of vehicles can use a particular campsite or what camping equipment is allowed at each site; only the maximum vehicle length and number of total vehicles. Generator use is currently allowed throughout the campground outside of "quiet hours". This project does not propose any changes to existing campground operations.

**Comment 3:** Are you planning to move the campsites away from the property line or add some natural screening on the campground side of the fence? [Current campsites are too close]

**Forest Service Response:** The campsites in both action alternatives have been moved farther from the property line in most areas. Screening vegetation may be used in suitable areas (see Design Feature Tree Removal 2).

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**Comment Letter 6 – Ralph and Diana Davisson**

**Comment 1:** Our first question would be the need for another new fire station in the northwest corner of the Lake, as there is a large new fire station in Tahoe City. Homewood or Tahoma would seem to be more central locations.

**Forest Service Response:** See response to Comment 2-2.

**Comment 2:** We strongly urge you to choose Alt 3 [assuming the need for another fire station].

**Forest Service Response:** Thank you for your support of Alternative 3.

**Comment 3:** The road that is shown on your map of Alt 2 is directly behind the residences on Fountain Ave. That would effectively, turn desirable residential property into a traffic island.

**Forest Service Response:** The effects of changing the circulation within the campground are analyzed in Section 3.5. Alt 3 routes circulation more internal to the campground compared to Alt 2. Alt 3 was developed based on comments relating to the proximity of the main campground road to the neighboring residences.

**Comment 4:** It appears you have not yet seriously considered other alternative [locations for fire station].

**Forest Service Response:** See response to Comment 2-2. Additionally, alternate locations for the fire station were considered. Upon review of alternate locations of the West Shore, no other viable sites for wildland fire response were found. Alternate sites were evaluated for wildland fire response effectiveness, access to year-round utilities, impact to sensitive sites, and for regulations prohibiting construction (ex: Santini-Burton lots). See Project Record B-1.

**Comment 5:** One of the amenities that we have enjoyed, and feel entitled to continue to enjoy, is the rural atmosphere provided by the Park [William Kent Campground]. Many of the homes in our neighborhood have been improved over the years; it doesn't seem fair to drastically change that environment without due cause.

**Forest Service Response:** This site has historically been a campground. The alternatives do not propose a change to the use of the facility. Reconfiguration of the campground will address resource concerns and accessibility concerns. In Alternative 3, moving the campground road further from the neighboring residential properties will enhance the separation of campground activity and neighboring residences.

### Comment Letter 7 – Rob Thomas

**Comment 1:** I am concerned about the traffic congestion and safety along Hwy 89 (it is already a mess on weekends in the summer and on some winter weekends as well). I hope you consider requesting CALTRANS put in a designated turn lane, and possibly a traffic light.

**Forest Service Response:** We understand your concern about traffic congestion and safety along Highway 89. The action alternatives are anticipated to reduce congestion at the campground intersection. Addition of a turn lane and traffic light on Highway 89 are outside the scope of this project. The EA was shared with Caltrans and they are aware of the alternatives. We will continue working with Caltrans as project planning moves forward.

**Comment 2:** Adding your administration building and a new fire station will only increase congestion.

**Forest Service Response:** The action alternatives are anticipated to reduce congestion at the campground intersection. Traffic and congestion was analyzed in Section 3.5. Traffic levels are not expected to significantly increase.

**Comment 3:** Lake Tahoe Park Association owns the triangular property next to the Tahoe Park store adjacent to the entrance to the campground and across the street from Wm Kent Beach... we will be considering potential options for its use... while I doubt it will be used for commercial purposes, you might want to consider it when approaching Caltrans regarding traffic congestion.

**Forest Service Response:** Thank you for the input. The comment does not raise a concern with the EA and does not identify a future action that could contribute to cumulative effects in the area.

### Comment Letter 8 – Leslie Aldredge

**Comment 1:** As the representative trustee for the Perry H Youngreen Trust, which owns 385 Fountain Ave, we would like to voice our support for Alternative 3.

**Forest Service Response:** Thank you for your support of Alternative 3.

### Comment Letter 9 – Tony Luci

**Comment 1:** The concern with the utility hookups adjacent to neighboring properties is the noise of generators and large RVs, etc. Can RV hookup spots be located inside the campground and not in camp spots adjacent to the neighborhood?

**Forest Service Response:** See response to Comment 5-2 in association with noise impacts. Additionally, generator use would not be anticipated in sites that have utility hookups because electrical outlets are generally preferred over generators

when available. Generator use is precluded during quiet hours under current management guidelines. Management guidelines are not proposed to change under either action alternative.

**Comment 2:** Can all yurts be located inside the campground and not in camp spots bordering the neighborhood?

**Forest Service Response:** Yurts are generally located in the interior of the campground. It is assumed that this comment was submitted due to the noise from generators that are sometimes associated with yurt structures. Please see response to comment 9-1.

**Comment 3:** Is there any plans to put a cross walk on HWY 89 to protect campers crossing to the beach?

**Forest Service Response:** See response to comment 7-1.

#### **Comment Letter 10 – Sharon Dove**

**Comment 1:** The RV dump station and check-in kiosk will generate noise, smell, and general disturbance next to my house. [The commenter lives adjacent to where the old William Kent Garage was located; and near where the new kiosk is proposed under Alternative 3].

**Forest Service Response:** Impacts of the check-in kiosk and RV dump station were analyzed in Section 3.1 and 3.4. Based on this concern, the RV dump station was moved further from the residential lots. It is now located off of the proposed traffic circle. The RV dump station will be designed to current sanitation standards. The sanitation standards incorporate a trap that prevents the escaping of gases. The check-in kiosk activity currently occurs approximately 200 feet from the proposed location in Alternative 3 and the change in activity level is proposed to decrease due to the reduction in campsites. A 6 foot (minimum) fence is proposed to provide a visual and sound barrier between this area of the campground and adjacent properties (Alternative 3 description for Administrative Site, Section 2.4). See Section 3.1.3 and 3.4.3.

**Comment 2:** There is a change in density from the past 20 years in the area directly behind my house.

**Forest Service Response:** Comment does not outline any specific environmental or social impact. Impacts to the neighbors were analyzed in Section 3.1.3 and 3.4.3. Under Alternative 3 the proposed fire station was relocated to an alternate location in response to concerns about the impact of activity created from the proposed structure to the adjacent residences. The sewer dump station moved to reduce the activity in this area. See response to Comment 10-1.

**Comment 3:** There is a change in use from the past 20 years in the area directly behind

my house from maintenance storage to expanded parking and check-in kiosk.

**Forest Service Response:** The site has historically been an administrative site adjacent to a campground. These administrative activities have been relocated under Alternative 3 in response to concerns about the effects of administrative activity adjacent to private property. For additional information, see response to comment 10-2 and 10-1.

#### **Comment Letter 11– Margaret and Steve Redmond**

**Comment 1:** [Alt 1] This is an acceptable alternative.

**Forest Service Response:** Thank you for your comment.

**Comment 2:** [Alt 2] This is not acceptable. We are strongly opposed to the proposed bathroom location near our property line. We feel that the additional foot traffic, lighting and noise in the area will detract from the enjoyment and resale value of our property.

**Forest Service Response:** Impacts to neighboring properties were analyzed in Section 3.1.3 and 3.4.3. The restroom buildings were relocated further from residential lots in Alternative 3 based on comments received during scoping. The use of the site as a campground is not proposed to change in either action alternative. Past experience has shown that similar campground reconstruction projects and SEZ restoration projects have improved the scenic value of those landscapes. See the response to Comment 3-1 in reference to light pollution from the proposed facilities. The decrease in campground capacity reduces the amount of people with potential to generate noise within the site.

**Comment 3:** If [Alt 2] is pursued, we shall initiate legal action to protect our property value.

**Forest Service Response:** Please see the “Administrative Review or Appeal Opportunities” section of this document for legal appeal rights.

**Comment 4:** [Alt 3] This is an acceptable proposal as presented as the locations of the bathroom facilities have been addressed and are acceptable in this proposal.

**Forest Service Response:** Thank you for your comment.

#### **Comment Letter 12 – Brian and Christine York**

**Comment 1:** We are in support of Alternative 1 - no action. This alternative is the least obtrusive, and poses the least amount of risk and impact to our property [480 Pineland Drive] as well as the neighboring properties.

**Forest Service Response:** Thank you for your comment.

**Comment 2:** [Alternative 3] is undesirable due to the increased traffic that would be converging merely feet from our property.

**Forest Service Response:** In response to this comment, the alignment of the roadway was adjusted slightly to reduce the impacts of the vehicular traffic intersection on the adjacent residential lots.

**Comment 3:** [Alt 3] triples the amount of camp sites on the proposed loop.

**Forest Service Response:** Comment does not outline any specific environmental or social impact. Impacts to the neighbors were analyzed in Section 3.1.3 and 3.4.3. Overall density of campsites in the campground is reduced by 14, reducing the volume of traffic and the density of people that may be creating noise within the site.

**Comment 4:** [Alt 3] poses a significant risk to our property value and would affect our standard of living.

**Forest Service Response:** See response to Comment 11-2 and 12-2.

**Comment 5:** We are absolutely opposed to Alt 2.

**Forest Service Response:** Thank you for your comment.

**Comment 6:** [Alt 2] increases the amount of vehicle and foot traffic as well.

**Forest Service Response:** Alt 3 was developed to move the restroom facility farther from the property line in response to comments received during scoping related to this restroom facility. Under Alt 2 the amount of vehicle traffic in direct proximity to 480 Pineland Drive is almost eliminated due to the presence of the restroom building and the reconfiguration of the roads. The presence of 3 existing campsites in direct proximity to 480 Pineland is replaced with a restroom facility. The proposed restroom is consistent with the USFS Built Environment Image Guide and the design would complement the quality of the setting.

**Comment 7:** [Alt 2] Having a communal bathroom merely feet from our property would significantly diminish our property value, as well as diminish our standard of living. The impact from the night and day, 24/7 bathroom activity with noise, lights, and people would be monumental.

**Forest Service Response:** See response to Comment 11-2.