

Notice of Availability

Draft Environmental Assessment Lake Tahoe State Park Vegetation Management Project Federal Emergency Management Agency

The Nevada Division of State Parks (State Parks) has applied for funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), through the State of Nevada Division of Emergency Management (NDEM) for funding to implement a vegetation management project in the Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park (Park) in Washoe County, Nevada. The Waterfall Fire Disaster Declaration, FEMA-1540-DR-NV, made funds available for such Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) projects. NDEM identified the Lake Tahoe State Park Vegetation Management Project as a candidate for HMGP funding, which has been proposed as grant HMGP #1540-2-5. The State Parks proposes to reduce the risk of wildfires in the eastern portion of the Park by creating fuel breaks along several park access roads. These fuel breaks would extend a maximum of 150 feet on either side of the centerline of the roads. In addition, fuel reduction activities would occur at two primitive camping areas and at an historical structure, Hannah's Cabin, which are all located adjacent to or near to the linear fuel breaks. In general, treatment activities would involve reducing the density of live trees, dead trees and downed logs, and general biomass within the priority zones. Trees identified as being hazardous to public safety would be removed. All standing dead trees would be cut. Stems usable as fuelwood (cordwood) would be cut, moved to roadside areas, and stacked. All other biomass would be chipped, piled and burned, or burned in place. Burn piles would be approximately 4 feet tall and 5 feet in diameter. Trimming, tree felling, and other cutting activities would be conducted using hand tools. Staging areas would occur on the existing dirt roads. Chippers, log splitter, and other mechanized equipment would be used at staging areas. Project work would occur in the spring, summer, and fall after the ground has dried from the winter thaw. Treatment activities would likely occur for 75 days each year, over a 3-year period. All activities would occur while avoiding sensitive resources.

FEMA has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) for the proposed project, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and FEMA's implementing regulations. The DEA, which evaluates the environmental impacts of the proposed project, is available for public review and comment. The DEA is available on-line at <http://www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/envdocuments/ea-region9.shtm>. A copy of the DEA may also be viewed at the following location:

Nevada Division of State Parks; 901 So. Stewart St, Suite 5005; Carson City, NV 89701

To request a copy of the document or to provide comments regarding the DEA, please direct correspondence to the following address: Environmental Officer, FEMA Region IX, 1111 Broadway, Suite 1200, Oakland, CA 94607. For more information, contact FEMA's Region IX Environmental Officer at (510) 627-7027.

Comments on the DEA must be received by July 3, 2007. Until that date, FEMA will take no further action regarding the proposed project.