

TAHOE REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY

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October 1, 1997

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U.S. Forest Service
Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit
Attn: Ms. Carrie Lukacic
870 Emerald Bay Road, Suite 1
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

Ex A3

Dear Ms. Lukacic:


COMMENTS REGARDING THE DRAFT BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMP) WATER QUALITY MONITORING PLAN

In regard to the draft monitoring plan referenced above we offer the following comments:

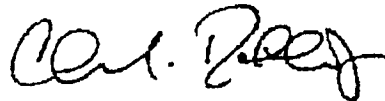
1. The proposal to observe BMPs before, during and after storm events is a key component of the draft monitoring plan. The shortcomings of the BMPEP which provided for an evaluation once a year should not be duplicated. Ideally, several evaluations conducted at different times of the year would be performed to provide a more accurate data set.
2. Unlike the BMPEP program, the new monitoring plan should not rely on the random selection of sites. Specific identification of different BMPs associated with different management categories would ensure an accurate evaluation of a wide variety of BMPs and their effectiveness.
3. Although more costly and complicated, the visual observation of BMPs should be complemented by the analysis of water samples. This information is important for evaluating whether or not runoff from areas affected by forest management activities meets adopted discharge standards. There is a need in the basin to create a network of adequately trained volunteers that can assist in monitoring efforts. Perhaps Adopt-A-Stream volunteers could assist?
4. It might be helpful if the data forms included information about the maintenance of BMPs. As discussed in the draft paper, maintaining BMPs is critical to ensuring their effectiveness. Analysis of relationships between maintenance schedules and the observed conditions of BMPs may be valuable when determining overall effectiveness.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft monitoring program. Upon completion of this years building season, we plan to provide more assistance in helping to address the "Extra Thoughts" section of the draft monitoring program paper.

Sincerely,



Paul Nielsen
Associate Planner
Project Review Division



Charles Donaldson
Planning Technician
Project Review Division

Planning for the Protection of our Lake and Land