

Tahoe National Forest 2021 Update

Eli Ilano, Forest Supervisor



Nevada County

- Large portions of two Ranger Districts:
 - Yuba River Ranger District
 - Sonja Lin, Acting District Ranger
 - Truckee Ranger District
 - Jonathan Cook-Fisher, District Ranger
 - Includes portions of the Sierraville and American River Ranger Districts as well.
- 193,463 acres of National Forest System lands
- 28 US Forest Service Campgrounds
- 2/7 Focal Watersheds are in Nevada County
 - Little Truckee River
 - Van Norden





2020 Tahoe National Forest Highlights: Natural Resources

- Treated a **record** 20,000 acres of hazardous fuels, including 3,450 acres of prescribed fire.
- Over \$5 million of competitive federal funds were allocated among twenty Tahoe National Forest partnership agreements, including:
 - National Forest Foundation
 - Truckee River Watershed Council.
- Partners contributed \$9 million in non-federal funds to projects on the Tahoe National Forest.



2021 Program of Work: Natural Resources

- Continued prescribed fire treatments at Prosser Hill (Truckee area).
- Working with partners on a preliminary Van Norden Meadow restoration design.
- Lady Bug Project - approved in 2020
 - Straddles Sierra/ Nevada County border.
 - Benefitting Little Truckee River corridor between Boca and Stampede Reservoirs.
 - 2,000 acre + forest health and resilience project.
 - 1820 acres mechanical thinning.
 - 500 acres mastication (2021).
- In process: transfer of lands from the USFS to the Federal Highway Administration for the Caltrans State Route 20 Realignment Project.
 - Caltrans awarded timber settlement sale, may begin removing trees this year.

Continued: Natural Resources 2021 Program of Work

- Along with variety of stakeholders, completing a watershed assessment of the area around Boca Reservoir.
- Western Nevada County Community Defense Project
 - All hazardous fuel work completed (1,317 acres).
 - 1,296 acres of piles burned.
 - Additional burning this year (4,200 acres remaining).
- Approved: PG&E Lake Fordyce Dam Seepage Mitigation Project.
 - Improving 8.2 miles of existing haul route along the Rattlesnake and Lake Fordyce Road.
 - Roadside hazard tree abatement as well.
 - Allows improved access to repair Lake Fordyce Dam, a three-year repair project.





Tahoe National Forest Recreation

- Beginning in 2020, the TNF has experienced a huge surge in visitation paralleling the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 2020 Campground occupancy far exceeded previous years.
 - Undeveloped camping rose in popularity which leads to increased wildfire risk.
- Expanded '21 Christmas tree permit program –over 10,000 sold; \$10/permit.
- TNF recreation staff proactively managing the Donner Summit snow play area.
 - Working with State partners to plan a marquee four-season recreation portal on Donner Summit.
 - May include additional trails in the Soda Springs area.
- Working with the South Yuba River Safety Cohort to address issue along the Yuba River crossings including wildfire risk, parking, impacts from garbage and human waste, and safety issues.
 - Lang Crossing staging area (Bowman Road crossing) = National Forest System lands
 - Emerald Pools = Private Property.



Trail System Expansion

- The **East Zone Connectivity Project** was approved on March 12, 2021
 - 70 new miles of motorcycle single-track (Boca-Stampede).
 - Restores 41 miles of user-created OHV trail.
 - Construction of new staging areas and trailheads.
 - Designates 35 miles of non-motorized trail open to Class 1 eBikes including: Sawtooth Trail, Jackass Ridge trail system, Emigrant Trail, and Big Chief Trail.
- The **Pines to Mines** trans-Sierra trail: Working with Partners to identify existing routes and planning new connections.
 - Nevada County
 - Bicyclists on Nevada County (BONC)
 - Truckee Trail Foundation
 - Bear-Yuba Land Trust
 - Gold Country Trail Council
- Current assessment: placement of the **Lone Grave Trail**, a proposed mountain biking trail, on the south side of SR 20, east of Fivemile House.
 - Will provide an alternate location for mountain bikers and remove some of the pressures from the nearby Hoot Trail.





Thank You

Questions?