United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Washington, DC 20240
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JAN 13 2009

TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA

DECISION MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

FROM: C. Stephen Allred, Assistant Secretary - Land and Minerals Management
James L. Caswell, Director

TELEPHONE NUMBER: (202) 208-6734, (202) 208-3801

SUBJECT: Recommendations for Expenditure from Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) Special Account – Lake Tahoe Fuels Projects

I. STATEMENT OF THE ISSUE

We recommend SNPLMA expenditures totaling $4,317,690 for approval. Funds were generated by land sales conducted under the authority of the SNPLMA. These projects were previously recommended for funding in total by the SNPLMA Executive Committee as part of the Round 9 package, but we sought approval of only a portion of the funding for these projects as part of Round 9. The remainder was deferred pending completion of a streamlined regulatory process for permitting hazardous fuels reduction projects at Lake Tahoe. We have been advised by the Forest Service that it has completed a process with the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency and the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (State of California) to revise existing Memoranda of Understanding to further streamline regulatory permitting requirements for hazardous fuels reduction projects.

II. BACKGROUND

The Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998 (SNPLMA, Public Law 105-263, as amended) authorizes the use of revenues from the sale of public lands identified for disposal in the Las Vegas valley. The SNPLMA created a Special Account in which the revenues generated by eligible land sales are deposited. The SNPLMA authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to expend 85 percent of the revenue in the Special Account for projects under particular expenditure categories, which are the subject of this decision. Under the SNPLMA, the remaining 15 percent is distributed to state and local government for the State's general education program and water treatment and transmission facility infrastructure in Clark County, Nevada.

These recommendations were developed through a collaborative effort involving the Federal agencies identified in the SNPLMA, the States of Nevada and California, local governments, and interested parties in Nevada and California as part of the Round 9 nomination process. The proposed expenditures were made available for public review and comment.

III. OPTIONS

A. Approve the recommended Lake Tahoe hazardous fuels reduction project expenditures as shown in the proposed Decision Document.

B. Approve portions of the recommended expenditures as shown in the proposed Decision Document; excluding certain projects as deemed appropriate.

C. Disapprove the recommended expenditures.

IV. ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR OF APPROVAL

The SNPLMA program has high visibility with the public and key Federal partners, as well as a high level of Congressional interest. The nomination-to-final-recommendation process is inclusive of many publics and agencies. In particular, public and Congressional input on the proposed recommended expenditures included expressions of support for funding the fuels projects at Lake Tahoe.

A delay in the approval of these expenditures could impact the Forest Service's ability to implement these critical hazardous fuels reduction projects in a timely and efficient manner.

V. RECOMMENDATION

We recommend that the Secretary approve and sign the Decision Document.

VI. SECRETARIAL DECISION

Option A ✓ Option B___ Option C___ Further Discussion ___

DIRK KEMPTHORNE
Secretary of the Interior

JAN 14 2009
Date

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

WASHINGTON

DECISION DOCUMENT

Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act
Lake Tahoe Fuels Projects

The Secretary of the Interior hereby approves the estimated expenditures from the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) Special Account and other authorizations outlined below, with the provisos as stated.

The total expenditure authorized from the SNPLMA Special Account is $4,317,690, including estimated expenditures of:

Project	Requesting Entity	Funding Source (Category)	Estimated Costs
Lake Tahoe Basin Prescribed Fire Under Burn Project	USFS-LTBMU	Lake Tahoe Restoration	$437,690
South Shore Ecosystem Restoration & Hazardous Fuel Reduction	USFS-LTBMU	Lake Tahoe Restoration	$2,450,000
Lake Tahoe Urban Forest Restoration and Fuels Reduction, Phase 3 of 4	USFS-LTBMU	Lake Tahoe Restoration	$1,000,000
		Hazardous Fuels	$430,000
TOTAL FUNDING REQUEST			**$4,317,690**

1. The Lake Tahoe Restoration Projects are funded out of the Lake Tahoe Reserve in the SNPLMA Special Account. This reserve was approved in the SNPLMA Round 6 Secretarial Decision Document dated February 7, 2006, to fund future rounds of Lake Tahoe Restoration Projects.

2. Authorization for expenditures for projects as set forth in this Decision Document shall not be construed as a final approval for any particular expenditure. The amounts authorized herein are not approved for expenditure unless and until all requisite procedures are followed as outlined in this document and in the *SNPLMA Implementation Agreement*.

3. No amount authorized herein shall be considered to be an amount approved for expenditure until a work plan has been submitted by the proponent and accepted by the Bureau of Land Management. The work plan shall set forth a schedule of periodic expenditures reflecting logical phases of the project.

APPROVED:

DIRK KEMPTHORNE

JAN 14 2009

Date