



March 9th, 2009

US Forest Service -
Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit
Sarah Muskopf, Project Leader
35 College Drive
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

Sent via e-mail to: comments-pacificsouthwest-ltbmu@fs.fed.us

RE: Comments regarding Baldwin Grazing Management Project

To Ms. Muskopf:

The League to Save Lake Tahoe is in support of LTBMUs decision to discontinue authorized livestock grazing on the Baldwin Allotment in order to meet state and federal resource standards and achieve desired conditions in the Tahoe Basin.

Historically, grazing has adversely impacted soils and water quality throughout the Sierra Nevada, including Lake Tahoe. Grazing can contribute to stream bank erosion and the discharge of pollutants such as nitrogen and fecal matter. The Baldwin Grazing Allotment has been out of compliance with the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board's NPDES permit discharge requirements since 1999. The allotment did not meet discharge limits until the grazing herd was reduced from 45 horses from July 1 until October 15 to 30 horses for 3 days on a single pasture during 2007 and 2008.

Discontinuing future grazing on the Baldwin Allotment will better protect water quality and enhance protection of wildlife and sensitive plant species (such as Tahoe Yellow Cress) in wetland and riparian habitats. Furthermore, the League recommends that the site be analyzed for potential restoration and monitoring opportunities to reduce the long-term impacts from grazing in the area.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments and if you are in need of further information please contact us at 530-541-5388.

Thank you,

Flavia Sordelet
Environmental Program Advocate
The League to Save Lake Tahoe