



August 22, 2008

Sarah Muskopf  
Aquatic Biologist  
Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit  
35 College Drive  
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150-4500

**RE: Comments on the Sierra Nevada Yellow-Legged Frog Restoration Project Proposal**

Dear Ms. Muskopf,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Sierra Nevada Yellow-Legged Frog Restoration Project Proposal.

The following comments are submitted on behalf of the League to Save Lake Tahoe, a membership based non-profit organization dedicated to protecting and restoring the environmental quality, scenic beauty and low-impact recreational opportunities of the Lake Tahoe Basin.

The League to Save Lake Tahoe is supportive of the USFS's project to restore seven high alpine lakes within the Desolation Wilderness to support appropriate habitat for the recolonization of the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog (*Rana sierrae*) by removing introduced, non-native fish that are both predators and competitors. *R. sierrae* is a candidate for the listing as an endangered species, and although, the League recognizes the potential loss to recreational fishing, we believe that returning these lakes to their pre-settlement ecological condition in order to support appropriate habitat for *R. Sierrae* takes precedent.

The League expects the LTBMU to use best management practices during electrofishing and gillnetting operations and will ensure that these procedures will not have a negative impact on any of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency's environmental thresholds. Furthermore, the League encourages the LTBMU to establish a vigorous monitoring program that will not only analysis the vitality of *R. Sierrae* populations, but will

examine changes in food web dynamics throughout the lakes due to fish removal and amphibian re-colonization.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog restoration project proposal. Please do not hesitate to contact the League to Save Lake Tahoe with comments or questions.

Sincerely,

Nicole Gergans  
Program Advocate  
League to Save Lake Tahoe  
955 Emerald Bay Rd.  
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96159  
530-541-5388  
[nicole@keptahoebblue.org](mailto:nicole@keptahoebblue.org)