

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
LAHONTAN REGION**

**MEETING OF MAY 14 AND 15, 2008  
Tahoe City**

**ITEM:** 4

**SUBJECT:** **STATUS REPORT – UPDATE ON THE TAHOE NATIONAL FOREST MOTORIZED TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

**CHRONOLOGY:** This is a new item before the Water Board.

**ISSUES:** No outstanding issues.

**DISCUSSION:** The availability and capability of motorized vehicles, such as off-highway vehicles (OHVs) and sport utility vehicles (SUVs), to access unpaved areas of public lands has increased tremendously over the past decades. Unmanaged OHV use has resulted in unplanned and unauthorized roads and trails, which has lead to excessive erosion, watershed and habitat degradation, and impacts to cultural resource sites. Studies have shown that unmanaged recreation, including these water quality and habitat impacts from OHVs, is one of the four key threats facing the Nation's forests.

In November 2005, the USDA Forest Service (USFS) published final travel management regulations requiring the designation of roads, trails, and areas open to motor vehicle use on National Forest lands. The USFS Tahoe National Forest (TNF) is preparing the first Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in the Lahontan Region to disclose use designations for the approximately 2,500 miles of unauthorized routes identified within the TNF. The proposed action includes the addition of approximately 50 miles of the existing unauthorized routes to the current system of National Forest System (NFS) trails currently open to the public for wheeled motorized use. Completion of the Final EIS is expected in September 2008.