From: Tobi Tyler <tylertahoe1@gmail.com>
Sent: 7/21/2026 2:55:41 PM
To: Public Comment <PublicComment@trpa.gov>; Rosalie Herrera <rosalie.herrera@usda.gov>
Cc: Julie Regan <jregan@trpa.gov>; Herron, Lisa - FS, CA <lisa.herron@usda.gov>;
Subject: Public Comment for Governing Board Meeting July 22, 2026
Attachments: SC Glyphosate Ltr to TRPA and LTBMU.pdf

TRPA Governing Board members and Forest Supervisor Herrara,

Please see the attached comments from the Sierra Club's Tahoe Area Group regarding the planned use of glyphosate and other herbicides on USFS lands in the Tahoe Basin, which the Sierra Club strongly opposes for the reasons stated in the comments.

Thank you for making these comments part of the public record.
Tobi Tyler
Tahoe Area Group

SIERRA CLUB
Tahoe Area Group

July 21, 2026

Via email to: publiccomment@trpa.gov and rosalie.herrera@usda.gov

Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
128 Market Street
Stateline, NV 89449

Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit
Rosalie Herrera, Deputy Forest Supervisor
35 College Drive
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

Re: TRPA Governing Board Meeting Public Comment – Opposition to the Use of Glyphosate and Other Herbicides in Tahoe Basin Forest Restoration Projects

Dear Governing Board Members and Deputy Forest Supervisor Herrara,

The Tahoe Area Group of the Sierra Club encourages the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) and the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU) of the US Forest Service to eliminate the planned use of glyphosate and other herbicides in LTBMU's Caldor Restoration Project for 2028 and other Lake Tahoe Basin Projects on US Forest Service land. We offer the following comments as the basis for this elimination.

There are effective, safer, and more regenerative alternatives to herbicide application, including manual vegetation management and allowing natural ecological succession. These approaches restore forest resilience without introducing toxic chemicals into one of the nation's most environmentally sensitive watersheds.

The primary advantage of glyphosate and other herbicides is economic – it reduces short-term vegetation management costs. However, cost savings alone do not justify the environmental risks associated with its use as described below. Glyphosate and other herbicides are not necessary for successful post-fire forest recovery. Research has shown that tree seedlings often benefit from the shelter provided by shrubs and other early-seral vegetation, which moderate temperature extremes, retain soil moisture, and protect young trees during establishment. Allowing forests to regenerate naturally over time produces a more diverse and resilient ecosystem than artificially creating even-aged stands of trees. "Post-wildfire recovery of forest vegetation, soil, and hydrological responses: A review." Earth-Science Reviews, Volume 277, June 2026, 105452.

A forest composed primarily of trees of the same age is not a healthy, functioning ecosystem. Such monocultures are characteristic of timber production rather than ecological restoration. The Lake Tahoe Basin should be managed to maximize biodiversity, watershed protection, wildlife habitat, and long-term ecosystem resilience – not to create timber plantations.

The potential scale of herbicide application is also concerning. According to reporting by the Center for Biological Diversity, between 2017 and 2020, the U.S. Forest Service applied 938,732 pounds of pesticide products across approximately 1,467,944 cumulative acres of National Forest lands, averaging roughly 0.64 pounds per acre. Applying that average rate to approximately 3,600 acres that could be treated in the Tahoe Basin suggests that more than 2,300 pounds of herbicide could be applied. Because President Trump recently issued an Executive Order invoking the Defense Production Act to expand domestic production of glyphosate, actual future application rates could be substantially higher if increased availability leads to expanded use.

Monitoring herbicide use, while important, is not an adequate safeguard. Agencies cannot manage what they do not measure, but measurement alone does not prevent environmental harm. Monitoring will not prevent glyphosate and other herbicides from entering streams, wetlands, or groundwater. It will not prevent damage to soil microbial communities and mycorrhizal fungi that are essential for healthy forest recovery. It will not prevent the loss of root systems that stabilize soils and reduce erosion, nor will it prevent reductions in carbon sequestration resulting from the elimination of native vegetation. Finally, monitoring cannot eliminate potential human health risks associated with exposure to a chemical that continues to be the subject of significant scientific and regulatory debate regarding carcinogenicity.

Equally concerning is the absence of robust accountability measures. As stated in this article in Capital Weekly, *"No western state currently ties restoration bond expenditures to compound-specific baseline monitoring requirements,"* indicating that agencies are spending public restoration funds without establishing comprehensive baseline conditions against which the environmental effects of herbicide applications can be evaluated. Without baseline monitoring and long-term ecological assessment, agencies cannot credibly demonstrate that herbicide use is consistent with restoration objectives or that it avoids long-term harm.

LTBMU has shown that it is inadequately equipped or prepared to design and implement a robust monitoring plan for 3,600 acres. Numerous water quality violations issued by the Lahontan Water Quality Control Board over the last 20 years have proven this. Also, see Thomas Suk's comments dated July 21, 2026, which are herein incorporated by reference.

The Lake Tahoe Basin is internationally recognized for its exceptional water quality, biodiversity, and ecological significance. Forest restoration should strengthen these values, not compromise them through the unnecessary use of herbicides. Before any chemical vegetation management is

authorized, agencies should demonstrate that non-chemical alternatives have been fully evaluated and found infeasible, and that any proposed herbicide application is supported by rigorous, site-specific scientific analysis.

Environmental Risks Associated With the Use of Glyphosate and Other Herbicides

1. Loss of Native Biodiversity

Glyphosate is non-selective and kills most broadleaf plants and grasses. While intended to suppress competing vegetation, it also eliminates many native species that stabilize soils after a wildfire, produce berries and seeds for birds and mammals, provide nectar and pollen for native bees and butterflies, contribute to diverse forest structure, and shift forests toward conifer monocultures with reduced understory diversity. "Experimental evaluation of herbicide use on biodiversity, ecosystem services and timber production trade-offs in forest plantations." Journal of Applied Ecology. 29 May 2021, https://doi.org/10.1111/1365-2664.1393.

2. Harm to Pollinators

In burned forests, flowering shrubs are often among the first plants to recover and are especially valuable for pollinators. Glyphosate removes flowering plants that pollinators depend upon, thereby reducing native bee and butterfly abundance, lowering habitat quality, and decreasing food resources for native species. "Sublethal glyphosate exposure reduces honey bee foraging and alters the balance of biogenic amines in the brain." Journal of Experimental Biology, Volume 228, Issue 9, May 2025.

3. Wildlife Habitat Degradation

Removing shrubs and flowering plants, such as ceanothus, manzanita, bitterbrush and willow that provide nesting habitat, thermal cover, forage, and insect production negatively affects songbirds, deer, black bears, small mammals, reptiles and amphibians. Post-fire "competing vegetation" species are actually important components of healthy forest succession. "The Unintended Consequences of Using Glyphosate (the main ingredient in the herbicide Roundup)." Sharon Rushton, Ann Spake, and Laura Chariton. January, 2016.

Furthermore, modern forest ecology recognizes that post-fire shrubs are not simply "weeds." Species such as ceanothus fix atmospheric nitrogen, improve soil fertility, shade young conifers, reduce erosion, and provide wildlife habitat. Removing them can interrupt natural recovery processes.

4. Soil Health

Research indicates glyphosate can affect soil biology by altering microbial communities, reducing mycorrhizal fungi, altering nitrogen cycling, and reducing decomposition rates. Healthy soil fungi are particularly important for conifer regeneration. See Florido, F.G. et al. (2022). "A comprehensive experimental assessment of glyphosate ecological impacts in riparian forest restoration." Ecological Applications 32:e2472. "Glyphosate-based herbicides alter soil carbon

and phosphorus dynamics and microbial activity.” Applied Soil Ecology, Volume 169, January 2022, 104256.

5. Water Quality Risks

Water quality risks in watersheds include contaminant transport as glyphosate attaches to eroded soil and sediment and moves into streams that drain to Lake Tahoe. Meadows, wetlands, and ephemeral drainages can also become contaminated. Accidental overspray into waterways can also occur. Although glyphosate generally binds to sediment, post-fire landscapes often experience severe erosion, increasing transport potential. “Exposure risk and environmental impacts of glyphosate: Highlights on the toxicity of herbicide co-formulants.” Environmental Challenges, Volume 4, August 2021, 100149.

The phosphorus in glyphosate has also been found to stimulate growth of harmful algal species. “Low-dose stimulation of growth of the harmful alga, *Prymnesium parvum*, by glyphosate and glyphosate-based herbicides.” Harmful Algae, December 2018, 130-139, Volume 80. For watersheds such as Lake Tahoe – where protecting exceptional water clarity is a primary management objective – even small increases in pollutant loading warrant scrutiny.

6. Aquatic Species

Glyphosate formulations often contain surfactants that can be more toxic than glyphosate itself. If overspray or soils contaminated with glyphosate erode into waterways, aquatic species can also be affected, causing amphibian mortality, impacts to aquatic invertebrates, and reduced food sources for fish. Even though the Caldor project prohibits the use of aquatic formulations near streams, drift and contaminated soil runoff remain significant concerns, warranting the use of other alternatives. “An integrated review of glyphosate ecotoxicity and environmental fate in aquatic systems using species sensitivity distributions and meta-analysis.” Pesticide Biochemistry and Physiology, Volume 219, April 2026, 107025.

7. Carbon Storage

Many shrubs removed with herbicides continue storing carbon and contribute organic matter to soils. Eliminating them reduces aboveground biomass, slows soil carbon accumulation, and decreases ecosystem resilience. Although herbicide use may accelerate conifer growth, the net carbon benefit depends on site-specific conditions and remains an area of scientific debate. Thus, alternatives other than chemicals should be used.

8. Increased Fire Concerns

Removing green understory vegetation can also increase the abundance of dry grasses, increasing the risk of fast-moving fires. Exposed soil reduces moisture retention, further exacerbating future fire risks in the area. Donato, D.C., et al. (2006). "Post-wildfire logging hinders regeneration and increases fire risk." Science 2006 Jan 20;311(5759):352. doi: 10.1126/science.1122855. Epub 2006 Jan 5.

9. Human Health Concerns

In July 2017, California's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) added glyphosate to its **Proposition 65 list** of chemicals "known to the state to cause cancer". Under California law, OEHHA was required to add the chemical after the World Health Organization's IARC labeled it a "probable carcinogen". Although human health remains one of the most debated aspects of glyphosate, there is no doubt that it is not a suitable restoration alternative for the Lake Tahoe Basin. "Glyphosate Pollution Treatment and Microbial Degradation Alternatives, a Review." Microorganisms. 2021 Nov 10;9(11):2322. doi: 10.3390/microorganisms9112322. PMID: 34835448; PMCID: PMC8625783.

10. Worker Health and Environmental Justice

The occupational health impacts on workers tasked with mixing, handling, and applying glyphosate and other herbicides must also be considered. Forest restoration projects frequently rely on seasonal or contracted labor, where levels of training, supervision, and experience may vary considerably. These workers often perform physically demanding jobs under extreme heat, steep terrain, and remote conditions, all of which increase the likelihood of mistakes, equipment failures, and chemical exposure. Forest and conservation work is already recognized as having one of the highest occupational injury and illness rates in the United States.

Although pesticide labels and regulations require personal protective equipment (PPE), the effectiveness of that protection depends on rigorous training, proper equipment, careful supervision, and consistent compliance. Federal and California pesticide safety regulations recognize that pesticide handlers require specialized instruction, appropriate PPE, medical evaluations when respirators are required, and ongoing oversight to reduce occupational exposure.

LTBMU should not assume perfect compliance with label requirements. Real-world forestry operations occur in windy conditions, rugged terrain, and remote locations where spray drift, equipment leaks, spills, and dermal or inhalation exposure are possible. Occupational exposure to glyphosate has been documented among forestry workers, demonstrating that applicators represent the population at greatest potential risk of exposure.

The agencies should also recognize that contract crews may be economically vulnerable. Workers paid by the acre or under tight production schedules may feel pressure to continue spraying despite equipment failures, inadequate protective gear, fatigue, or unsafe weather conditions. Such pressures can undermine the assumptions of safe chemical handling that underlie regulatory risk assessments.

The burden of these risks falls disproportionately on the workers performing the restoration – not on the agencies authorizing herbicide use. A true restoration program should not depend on exposing workers to avoidable chemical hazards when effective non-chemical alternatives, including manual vegetation management and natural forest regeneration, are available. The safest exposure is the one that never occurs.

Summary

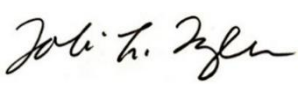
Peer-reviewed ecological research increasingly recognizes that post-fire shrub communities are an essential component of forest recovery rather than an obstacle to restoration. Early-seral vegetation stabilizes soils, reduces erosion, moderates microclimate, fixes nitrogen, supports pollinators and wildlife, and often facilitates conifer establishment. Conversely, intensive vegetation removal through herbicide application can alter soil microbial communities, leave glyphosate and other herbicide residues in runoff sediments, reduce native plant diversity, and simplify naturally recovering ecosystems. Rather than accelerating ecological restoration, broadcast herbicide application risks replacing a diverse, climate-resilient post-fire landscape with an artificially managed, even-aged conifer plantation that more closely resembles a timber production system than a naturally functioning Sierra Nevada Forest.

LTBMU must prioritize the protection of Lake Tahoe's exceptional water clarity. The increased sediment transport, risks to municipal water supplies and groundwater, effects on rare Sierra Nevada plant communities, potential conflicts with Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) objectives, and compliance with the Tahoe Regional Planning Compact's requirement to maintain or improve environmental threshold carrying capacities requires LTMBU to choose other alternatives.

Because the Tahoe Basin contains one of the world's most sensitive alpine watersheds, herbicide use should be used only where there is clear evidence that non-chemical alternatives are infeasible. Forest managers can often use integrated vegetation management approaches, including manual cutting or grubbing, targeted grazing where appropriate, mulching, prescribed fire under suitable conditions, and planting conifers at densities and locations that naturally reduce competition. Glyphosate and other herbicide use converts a biologically rich early-seral landscape – one that supports many native plants and wildlife – into a more homogeneous plantation. True ecological restoration should maintain native biodiversity, natural successional processes, and watershed functions, rather than focusing primarily on timber production or conifer stocking.

For these reasons, I urge the responsible agencies to prohibit the use of glyphosate and other herbicides listed for use in the Caldor plan and in other Tahoe Basin Forest restoration projects and instead prioritize restoration methods that protect water quality, preserve biodiversity, support natural forest regeneration, protect workers, and ensure the long-term health and resilience of this unique and cherished ecosystem.

Sincerely,



Tobi Tyler
Tahoe Area Group, Sierra Club

From: Travise McGuire <truetahoe@gmail.com>
Sent: 7/21/2026 8:16:47 AM
To: Public Comment <PublicComment@trpa.gov>
Subject: Glyphosate

The proposal to use Glyphosate as an undergrowth deterrent is incredibly short sighted and dangerous to our precious lake community. It is the perfect example of human intervention gone very, very wrong.
Once sprayed on our forests there us no going back. Those chemicals will eventually end up in our lake.
Animals as well as humans will be negatively affected by this highly potent and toxic chemical.
Please, please, do NOT do this! It's not too late to put a stop to this madness!!!

Thank you for considering my concerns.

Travise McGuire

Sent from my iPhone

From: tom suk <tom_suk@hotmail.com>
Sent: 7/21/2026 1:42:46 PM
To: Public Comment <PublicComment@trpa.gov>
Subject: Comments on herbicide use by U.S. Forest Service

Note to TRPA staff:
I sent earlier drafts of my comments on 7/16 and 7/20. The comments below, dated 7/21, supersede those earlier comments. Please delete my comments submitted 7/16 and 7/20, and accept the final comments below (dated 7/21, edited for clarity and completeness) into the record for your consideration.

July 21, 2026
*** AI was **not** used in crafting this message***

Dear TRPA,
I write today to provide comments regarding the US Forest Service's (USFS's) proposed use of chemical poisons (i.e., herbicides) within the Lake Tahoe basin. Please enter these comments into the record for any consideration of this matter by the TRPA and/or its staff.

As an initial matter, to establish my expertise, I graduated with honors from the University of California, Davis, and I worked for decades as a Senior Environmental Scientist at the California Regional Water Quality Control Board in South Lake Tahoe. During those years, I was responsible for regulating and monitoring USFS forestry activities throughout the California portions of the Tahoe Basin. My duties included reviewing USFS vegetation management proposals and monitoring proposals, coordinating independent peer review of USFS monitoring proposals, inspecting field activities, and conducting enforcement to ensure compliance with State water quality requirements. I also served for decades as the Water Board's monitoring specialist, helping the TRPA and the states of California and Nevada to establish criteria for the biological integrity of streams throughout the Tahoe Basin. I also served for many years as a member of the Tahoe Basin "Forest Health Consensus Group" and California's surface water monitoring roundtable, in part studying the transport and fate of chemical herbicides applied in forestry settings throughout California.

Monitoring conducted to date has shown that glyphosate can persist in the environment for long periods and be transported off-site by erosion processes. While glyphosate is known to bind to organic matter and clay particles, the soils within the Tahoe Basin (and the upper elevations on the west slope) that were burned by the Caldor Fire are relatively dry, steep and sandy (i.e., relatively low in clay and organic matter, and vulnerable to erosion). Hexazinone is both persistent and very mobile, threatening ground waters in addition to surface waters and wetlands. In lay terms, this means that glyphosate and hexazinone, if used in our area, would be unlikely to "break down" rapidly into non-toxic by-products, and they would likely "run off" the landscape from points of application to downstream waters. Hexazinone is particularly mobile; In my experience, hexazinone was detected nearly everywhere we (and the USFS) looked for it downstream or downgradient of its application.

It is my hope that the TRPA board and staff will not be fooled by any promises made by the USFS to "monitor" the fate and/or toxicity of runoff from herbicide applications. First, the results of *ad hoc* monitoring for herbicide by-products are essentially useless. What will you do with the results? Will there be triggers for action? What are the triggers? What are the remedial actions? In short, you need to understand at the outset that if you monitor for chemical herbicides downstream of forestry applications, you are likely to find them. What then?

Before you approve any use of chemical herbicides in forestry settings in the Lake Tahoe basin, you should insist that any plan to monitor the transport, fate and/or toxicity of the applied poisons must have the scientific rigor and statistical power to determine if significant human health and/or environmental endpoints have been exceeded.

The most important things that the TRPA needs to understand are: **1)** the USFS-LTBMU likely does not have the staff expertise to design such a monitoring study; **2)** any such monitoring plan should undergo independent (external) expert peer review, and in my direct experience the USFS is likely to oppose and resist independent expert peer review of its monitoring proposal(s) — because it does not want to actually commit to anything except vague assurances that it will implement "adaptive management" (i.e., the USFS will do whatever it wants to do, once it gets its permits); and **3)** the USFS likely does not have the budget to conduct monitoring with the scientific rigor and statistical power to confirm that human health and the environment would be adequately protected during landscape-scale herbicide applications in the unique environment of the Lake Tahoe basin.

In lay terms, what I experienced for decades, and what you are likely to experience in this matter, is that the USFS is likely to provide vague (most often non-binding) assurances to monitor herbicide runoff, without offering to provide (in advance, for expert peer review) a detailed monitoring proposal that has scientific rigor or the statistical power to detect what they are claiming to monitor. The USFS also is likely to provide no up-front triggers for corrective actions, or to specify the remedial actions that would be taken when triggers are exceeded. And then, once it receives approval from the requisite regulatory agencies, the USFS would likely claim that it does not have sufficient staff or budget to conduct all of the monitoring that it talked about throughout the planning process. This pattern of behavior has repeated itself over-and-over again for at least the last forty years.

In short, the USFS will attempt to get a permit from you by offering vague assurances of "monitoring" followed by "adaptive management." They will not put actual flesh on those bones unless you actually force them to. And that will not be easy.

The only way to ensure useful monitoring of any herbicide applications in the Tahoe Basin would be to insist, up front, that the USFS: **1)** submits, in advance, a monitoring proposal for independent (external) expert peer review that clearly articulates the monitoring questions being asked and the actions proposed to answer those questions; and **2)** makes any and all changes to its draft monitoring plan needed to secure concurrence from the external peer reviewers to ensure that the plan has the scientific rigor and statistical power to actually answer the proposed monitoring questions; and **3)** commits to fully implementing the monitoring plan (i.e., if the USFS at any time finds itself without sufficient staff and/or budget to fully implement the monitoring plan, your permit should require that all herbicide applications immediately cease). If you do not press for and require all of these things, they will not happen, and the result will be *ad hoc* management (i.e., whatever the USFS feels like doing on any given day), and *ad hoc* monitoring (i.e., a few samples here, a few samples there, with no statistical power to answer anything).

My experience, and that of my colleagues, over many decades is that the USFS will offer endless vague assurances (which it will characterize as binding promises, when in fact they aren't) in order to secure any necessary approvals/permits. The USFS then will proceed without implementing all of the promised mitigation and monitoring. The open question is whether the TRPA will "rubber stamp" the USFS's usual vague assurances, or have the will to insist on sound science during the review and approval process, and to enforce compliance when the USFS ultimately claims to not have sufficient staff or funding to implement the promised mitigation measures and monitoring.

In closing, you should think very hard about whether the USFS is truly capable of conducting landscape-scale applications of chemical herbicides in the Tahoe Basin, while adequately monitoring the effects, in a way that protects public health and the environment. Given my decades of direct experience, I seriously doubt it.

Thomas Suk
South Lake Tahoe, CA

From: Staci Baker <tahoestaci6@icloud.com>
Sent: 7/21/2026 11:53:14 AM
To: Public Comment <PublicComment@trpa.gov>
Subject: Glyphosate

I want my comments attached to the permanent record. Glyphosates are a known carcinogen. There is absolutely no consideration by TRPA or these other agencies regarding environmental protection and safeguarding. The environment is essential and it is also essential for wildlife which is necessary. Spraying these known toxic chemicals to remove essential parts of the environment, such as vegetation necessary for soil health and microbiome, erosion prevention and habitat (food source for wildlife) under the shortsighted guise of fire prevention is simply incompetent and not true.
It is time the TRPA recognizes that their horrific lack of regard and priority for the environment and the wildlife is severely impacting residents and will impact tourists in decades to come.
Do not spray a known carcinogen. There is no upside.
Do you ever listen to us? Do you ever do the right thing for the environment? do you ever actually follow science instead of developer dollars ? Nice to know that public sentiment has nothing to do with your job security.
Staci Baker D.V.M.

From: Reid Reichardt <reidtahoe@gmail.com>
Sent: 7/21/2026 2:40:17 PM
To: Public Comment <PublicComment@trpa.gov>
Subject: Public Comment: Caldor Herbicide Plan - Review Required by MOU, Water Monitoring Not a Safeguard

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[I originally sent the message below today at 8am. Because I did not receive the standard automated confirmation receipt, I am sending this duplicate copy to ensure my comments are successfully received and entered into the public record. If my earlier email was received, the text below is an exact duplicate. Please note that the other email address (reidtahoe@fastmail.net) is the best one to reach me at. Thank you.]

Dear TRPA Governing Board:

I'm submitting this comment to address some urgent concerns about the Forest Service's Caldor "restoration" plan for the Tahoe Basin.

TRPA's Jurisdiction

The Compact that created TRPA in 1969, and that was revised by Congress in 1980, gives TRPA jurisdiction over environmentally significant activities in the entire Lake Tahoe Basin, including on federal land. TRPA was granted this jurisdiction because the agency exists in large part to protect the Tahoe Basin from the kind of threat it's now facing from the Forest Service's plan to use glyphosate and synthetic herbicides.

The Memorandum of Understanding

TRPA and the Forest Service have a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), most recently amended in 2023, under which TRPA agreed to delegate review of certain routine activities to the Forest Service. That MOU does not exempt herbicide or chemical vegetation control. Moreover, there's nothing routine about a plan to spray thousands of acres of Tahoe Basin with broad-spectrum herbicides. The MOU is explicit on this point: **the Forest Service is required to submit a complete application to TRPA for any activity that isn't exempt**, and TRPA is committed to reviewing any such project.

In addition, a healthy forest is a diverse ecosystem. Yet the Forest Service's plan targets native vegetation critical to erosion control and nutrient renewal, it employs herbicides known to harm mycorrhizal fungi — the soil fungi the majority of plants depend on for nutrient uptake — and it will eliminate wildlife habitat and food sources while exposing remaining wildlife to serious health risks. And it will be doing all this damage in favor of a few conifer species. This is a very different thing from restoring a diverse ecosystem — it is not reforestation. Whatever it is, it does not belong in the Tahoe Basin, and it does not belong outside TRPA's review.

Given what's at stake — the health of the Tahoe ecosystem and the health of Tahoe residents — I urge the TRPA Governing Board to direct staff to require the Forest Service to submit a complete application for this project, as the Forest Service's own agreement with TRPA requires, and to thoroughly review the Caldor herbicide plan under the Board's full authority before this plan with potentially irreversible consequences for the Tahoe Basin moves forward.

Water Monitoring Is Not a Safeguard

There's a second issue that deserves the Board's full attention: TRPA's announcement that it will expand water quality monitoring downstream of the Caldor. Monitoring detects contamination after the fact — it cannot reverse it. So beyond creating an appearance of concern, and giving our community a false sense of security, what does this actually accomplish? Once glyphosate or other herbicide is detected, there is no way to remove it from thousands of acres of sprayed forest, and no way to stop its movement through waterways.

This risk is not hypothetical. In November 2009, following the Angora Fire, the Forest Service was cited for water quality violations at a logging area after heavy erosion damaged Angora Creek. The agency admitted it hadn't done enough to prevent the violation — but by then, the damage was done. The risk the Forest Service is now taking is vastly greater. And the only real safeguard against it is to not take the risk in the first place. Water monitoring only becomes meaningful once there's a ban in place for it to enforce.

A Lasting Safeguard

To prevent this kind of threat to the Tahoe ecosystem and Tahoe residents from going under the radar in the future, I also urge the Governing Board to amend your Code of Ordinances to explicitly prohibit glyphosate and all other synthetic herbicides in the entire Lake Tahoe Basin.

Sincerely,
Reid Reichardt

From: pcmoor@icloud.com <pcmoor@icloud.com>
Sent: 7/21/2026 12:58:39 PM
To: Public Comment <PublicComment@trpa.gov>
Subject: Public Comment: Use of Herbicides in the Tahoe Basin

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Dear Tahoe Regional Planning Agency

I would like to comment on the planned use of Glysophate & other synthetic herbicides in the Tahoe Basin.

As a lay botanist & trained Master Gardener of NV, I'm concerned with the damage glysophate poses to our forests' soil environment.

Simply put, our forests have developed a very complex, reciprocal network within the soil to nourish the flora. The burned forests have already suffered one soil biome disaster, damaging that network. As the shrubs & seedlings are naturally reintroduced, those complex, reciprocal networks are gradually rebuilding. Killing that flora & their soil biome, to plant seedlings is counterproductive. That critical nourishing network will die; that sterile soil won't nourish but erode, and you will be left with struggling seedlings.

I urge you to not use glysophate in any area. You will be creating a dead zone above & below the soil that affects all future plants and animals, including us.

Thank you for your consideration.

paula chung
2paulachung@gmail.com
paulachung.com

From: M Barkan <mbarkan444@gmail.com>
Sent: 7/21/2026 8:45:09 AM
To: Public Comment <PublicComment@trpa.gov>
Subject: Lake Tahoe reforestation

The recent fires were very destructive. There have been many destructive fires there over the last several thousand years and our planet, nature have always been able to reforest the area. No human intervention has ever been needed. None is needed now. Recent photos show young conifers growing strongly in impressive numbers without our input. Please, leave the area alone!
Thank you.

From: Lisa Foley <lisafoley@ymail.com>
Sent: 7/21/2026 8:32:32 AM
To: Public Comment <PublicComment@trpa.gov>
Cc: Reid Reichardt <reid@fastmail.net>;
Subject: Public Comment: USFS Caldor Herbicide Plan — Economic and Worker Welfare Concerns

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Dear Tahoe Regional Planning Agency,

I'd like to comment on two unseen consequences of the USFS herbicide plan that will likely be impossible to undo. First, the Tahoe economy and tourism. Even though this plan has just come to light, I've already heard people say "we're not coming to Tahoe anymore." And the spraying hasn't even begun. But the concern makes sense. Who wants to hike or bike through the environmental equivalent of a genetically modified cornfield? Who wants to swim in its runoff? Tahoe's whole economy rests on a perception of clean air and clean water. No marketing budget can buy that back once it's actually gone. There will be healthier places to visit — to bring kids, and dogs. On the other hand, there's no better marketing than being the community that said no to synthetic herbicides on public land. I really hope you'll choose the latter. It's an opportunity.

Second, worker welfare. In June, the Supreme Court ruled in *Monsanto Co. v. Durnell* that people can no longer sue herbicide makers for failing to warn them about cancer risk from a chemical the World Health Organization's cancer research agency classifies as a probable human carcinogen. This was one of the main legal protections that workers had. At the same time, spraying is significantly cheaper than hand-crew thinning, but that savings involves hiring fewer people. Exploitation means using someone's labor without an equal exchange of value. Ask yourself who's willing to mass spray glyphosate for low wages with no legal recourse if they get sick — and you'll see that what's about to happen involves human exploitation. With hand-crew thinning, the risks are visible and the work is fair. Yes, it costs more. But is it so bad for a government agency to give people jobs... instead of cancer risk? Thank you in advance for doing the right thing for Tahoe.

Lisa Foley
Zephyr Cove Resident

From: Lavy <lavyweiss@gmail.com>
Sent: 7/21/2026 12:59:41 PM
To: Public Comment <PublicComment@trpa.gov>
Subject: July 22, 2026 Governing Board Meeting - Public Comment

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Dear TRPA Governing Board,

My name is Lavy Weiss. I've called the Tahoe area home for 20 years, and this basin, its forests, and its water have shaped my life here in every way. I'm writing to strongly urge you to oppose the use of conventional herbicide spraying as a wildfire mitigation approach in the Lake Tahoe Basin.

The clarity of this lake is one of the defining features of this region, and it's a direct reflection of watershed health. Herbicide runoff puts that clarity at risk, and along with it, the fish, birds, plants, and soil systems this basin depends on. It also puts the people who live here at risk, the ones who drink this water, swim in this lake, and are raising the next generation in these mountains.

This isn't a settled or safe issue. This past March, a coalition of scientists, including experts from the CDC and the National Cancer Institute, released a formal statement after reviewing the current body of evidence on glyphosate. Their conclusion: the science linking these herbicides to cancer and other serious health effects is now strong enough that continued regulatory delay is unjustifiable: https://deohs.washington.edu/seattle-statement-glyphosate-and-public-health

A separate county-level analysis published this March found elevated non-Hodgkin lymphoma rates in areas with the highest glyphosate use, part of a decade-long accumulation of supporting evidence: https://www.thenewlede.org/2026/03/analysis-find-hot-spots-for-glyphosate-and-cancer-in-iowa/

And a March 2026 clinical review expands on the World Health Organization's 2015 finding that glyphosate is a probable human carcinogen, adding five more years of corroborating research: https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S2152265025042855

Given all of this, I don't think it's responsible to weigh convenience or cost above the long-term health of this ecosystem and this community.

I recognize that fire risk in this basin is real and needs to be addressed. But there are proven approaches that don't require introducing chemical risk into our water and our bodies: controlled burns, indigenous land stewardship practices that predate any of our own time here, and hands-on forest thinning. These methods work with the natural fire ecology of this land instead of against it.

Lake Tahoe deserves protection that matches its true worth, not decisions driven by what's fastest or cheapest.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this and for representing the people and wildlife who call this place home.

Sincerely,

Lavy Weiss

Tahoe area resident, 20 years

From: Aria Benham <laketahoearia@gmail.com>
Sent: 7/21/2026 1:58:03 PM
To: Public Comment <PublicComment@trpa.gov>
Subject: STOP BEING SILLY

Please.dont use poison. Be better. Glyphosate can be avoided. Keep our waters fresh clean and clear. The end. Knock it off, you have the power!

From: Kate Leist <kate.e.leist@gmail.com>
Sent: 7/21/2026 12:50:09 PM
To: Public Comment <PublicComment@trpa.gov>
Subject: July 22, 2026 Governing Board Meeting - Public Comment

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Dear TRPA Governing Board,

My name is Kate Leist. I have lived in Truckee for 15 years, and in that time this land and this lake have become part of who I am. I'm writing today to urge you to reject the use of conventional herbicide spraying as a means of forest fire mitigation in the Lake Tahoe Basin.

Lake Tahoe's clarity is not just a point of pride for this community, it's a living indicator of the health of this entire watershed. Herbicide runoff threatens that clarity, and it threatens the wildlife, plant life, and soil systems that depend on clean water to survive. It also threatens the health of the people who live here, drink this water, swim in this lake, and raise our children in these mountains.

This is not a settled or safe practice. This March, a group of scientists, including researchers from the CDC and the National Cancer Institute, issued a formal statement after reviewing the latest evidence on glyphosate, concluding that the evidence linking these herbicides to cancer and other health harms is now strong enough that further regulatory delay can no longer be justified: https://deohs.washington.edu/seattle-statement-glyphosate-and-public-health

A separate analysis released this March found that counties with the highest glyphosate use have non-Hodgkin lymphoma rates above the national average, a link researchers say is reinforced by a growing body of evidence over the past decade: https://www.thenewlede.org/2026/03/analysis-find-hot-spots-for-glyphosate-and-cancer-in-iowa/

And a March 2026 clinical literature review builds directly on the World Health Organization's 2015 classification of glyphosate as a probable human carcinogen, adding new supportive evidence from the last five years: https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S2152265025042855

I don't believe we should be gambling with the health of this ecosystem or this community based on convenience or cost.

I understand the urgency of fire mitigation in this basin. But there are ways to do this work that don't come at the cost of our water, our wildlife, and our own bodies. I urge the board to invest instead in the practices that have protected this land far longer than any chemical solution: controlled burns, indigenous land stewardship practices, and forest thinning done by hand. These approaches honor both the fire ecology this land evolved with and the deep knowledge of the people who tended it long before any of us arrived.

Lake Tahoe is not a resource to manage for short-term convenience. It's a living system, and it deserves protection that reflects its true value.

Thank you for your time and for considering the voices of the people who call this place home.

Sincerely,

Kate Leist Truckee, CA resident, 15 years

From: Jessica Howitt <jessicahowitt@gmail.com>
Sent: 7/21/2026 1:01:17 PM
To: Public Comment <PublicComment@trpa.gov>
Subject: Public comment - glyphosate spraying Caldor fire scar & basin

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Dear Members,

I am writing once again to urge you to oppose the continued use of glyphosate in the Lake Tahoe Basin.

I recently finished reading The Ageless Brain by a New York Times bestselling physician. Throughout the book, the author repeatedly identifies glyphosate as an environmental contributor to neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's disease and ALS, while also discussing its association with cancer. Reading it reinforced what so many of us have been worried about: we should be doing everything possible to reduce unnecessary exposure to toxic chemicals, not introduce them into the place we call home.

Since the last meeting, I've listened to representatives from both the U.S. Forest Service and TRPA discuss the studies they rely on and the safety of glyphosate when used in the forest. They explain that warning signs will be posted and that applications will be carefully managed. What they fail to mention is that glyphosate doesn't simply stay where it is sprayed—it moves through the air, soil, and water, creating exposure beyond the treatment site.

We are repeatedly told that studies have shown glyphosate is safe when used properly. However, recent reporting revealed that the EPA relied on an influential glyphosate study even after determining that it had been ghostwritten by Monsanto. Since the Forest Service relies on EPA assessments when approving glyphosate use, this raises serious questions about whether the science being relied upon is as independent as the public is led to believe.

I have personally spoken with the Forest Service and was told they would only be using backpack sprayers on targeted areas, such as tree stumps, and would be careful not to broadly spray entire areas. Unfortunately, many of us have already witnessed herbicide applications at Sierra-at-Tahoe that extended far beyond what we were told would happen, leaving large areas of vegetation dead. Seeing that with our own eyes has made it difficult to trust these assurances.

Additionally, there is a strong argument that conifers simply need time and opportunity to regrow naturally. We can already see all around the Angora Fire burn areas that conifers are returning and growing at a steady rate without the need for herbicides. This demonstrates that natural regeneration is not only possible, but already happening successfully.

The TRPA have the authority to rewrite the handbook and ban the use of herbicides in the Tahoe Basin.

Please be the heroes our community needs. Be the first in the nation to stand up against this corruption. Protect the people, the wildlife, the water, and the forests that make Tahoe so special. Please choose safer alternatives and keep Lake Tahoe free from glyphosate.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Jessica howitt
Sent from my iPhone

From: Vanessa Dodds <info@vanessadodds.com>
Sent: 7/21/2026 9:27:48 AM
To: Public Comment <PublicComment@trpa.gov>
Subject: July 22, 2026 Governing Board Meeting - General Comment

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To whom it may concern,

My name is Vanessa Dodds and I live in Truckee, CA and own property in Kings Beach, CA. I am very concerned with the spraying of toxic glyphosate herbicides in the Tahoe Basin. This is an unacceptable measure in response to forest mismanagement that has occurred over the last 40+ years. By allowing forest overgrowth we have created a big problem in need of remediation and spraying chemicals that are detrimental to the forests, soil, water quality, insects, animals and the human population that enter the forest is very short-sighted.

We should be focusing on mastication and burning to remediate the issues. While I understand that these methods are expensive, by using glyphosate, we are essentially trading our collective health for cleaner forests. This is not sustainable and will create many issues in the years to come that we are unaware of yet.

I ask that you please reconsider. Unfortunately by beginning these practices I do not believe we will go back to mastication and burning. We should prioritize our collective health. This could end up being very expensive when health related lawsuits begin due to the health impacts caused by these choices. While we think we are saving money now, we are fueling large sums toward the companies who produce these chemicals when we could be creating jobs for people doing forestry management in the area. This shift will help our local economy and health, which should be the priority of our local governing bodies. You should not be prioritizing large companies that are not local over the health and local economy. The impacts are not isolated and will affect other areas of the lake and neighboring towns because once the chemicals are in the top soil it can move around with wind and erosion. This article explains what I am discussing in more detail:

https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2026/04/roundup-glyphosate-spraying-forests-monsanto-science-retraction-cancer-health-concerns-maha-trump-executive-order-supreme-court-bayer-lawsuits/

Thank you for your time,
Vanessa Dodds
(530)448-7633

From: Erin C Crow <ecrowmassage@gmail.com>
Sent: 7/21/2026 9:53:04 AM
To: Public Comment <PublicComment@trpa.gov>
Subject: Public comment on USFS herbicide plan

A tree plantation is not a restored habitat. Nature has a biological directive to restore healthy forests that include chaparral, fungi, habitat for birds, fish and mammals. If you must control a few invasive species, please do so with out chemical contamination of our fragile ecosystem. As our governing champions of this special environment, please do the right thing for ALL who live and grow here.

Erin Crow, SLT

Sent from my iPhone

From: Cindy Mittelstadt <cgm.lotus@gmail.com>
Sent: 7/21/2026 9:30:05 AM
To: Public Comment <PublicComment@trpa.gov>
Subject: Glyphospate

Dear TRPA,

Glyphosate is a known poison to humans, plants and animals. Everyone is familiar with Round - up(it's common name), and most of the public is aware of the damage it causes. Cancer in humans and stops the Mycorrhizal Fungi for the earth beneath it for healthy trees, plants,etc. to grow. With all of the logging and drying of so much of our already clear cut areas, even wood chips to keep in the moisture
would encourage the growth of seedlings.

We as residents are concerned for Tahoe"s water clarity and health, the surrounding forest is crucial for this!!! Wildlife and water life have already suffered the loss of so much area to live and keep our ecosystem working as a whole. Please do not allow this deadly herbicide be used in our Tahoe Basin Please be responsible and stewards for the lake you protect.

Sincerely,
Cindy and Brent Mittelstadt
Meyers resident

From: L B <washoelb@yahoo.com>
Sent: 7/20/2026 5:37:17 PM
To: Public Comment <PublicComment@trpa.gov>
Subject: General Comment - USFS Herbicide Use

For the reasons stated below, I respectfully urge the TRPA

-To update their Code of Ordinances to ban all synthetic herbicides in the Tahoe Basin

-In the Caldor burn area, allow hand-crew thinning only

- Require an application and review process for the USFS herbicide plan

Reasons:

1. The MOU between the TRPA and USDA, FS Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit requires the FS to inform the TRPA of activities being considered for implementation and that the FS conduct activities, including exempt activities, in accordance with the TRPA Regional Plan and Code of Ordinances.

2. The TRPA Code of Ordinances, Section 60.1.7, states that the use of Pesticides (insecticides, fungicides and herbicides) shall be consistent with the Handbook of Best Management Practices.

3. The TRPA BMP Handbook Section 5.3.2.3 states, “According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), pesticides by their very nature are designed to kill or harm living organisms. This means that most pesticides create some risk of harm”. This section also states, “Pesticide use in the Basin has been discouraged by TRPA since the 1987 Regional Plan, which states that alternatives to chemical application should be employed where practical”. There are other alternatives available to the FS including hand-crew thinning.

4. The Caldor Burn area is beginning to recover. Pioneer plant species and new trees are emerging and helping to stabilize and nourish the soil. Wildlife is returning. A healthy, biodiverse ecosystem is slowly developing. The use of synthetic herbicides in our forests will kill understory plants, wildlife, including bees and other pollinators, and wildlife habitat. Section 5.3.2.3 of the TRPA BMP Handbook states, “There are large gaps in the knowledge of pesticide movement and the fate in the environment, so to err on the side of human safety and the environment, measures to minimize unnecessary release of pesticides into the environment is TRPA policy”.

5. Section 5.3.2.4 of the TRPA BMP Handbook states, “Herbicides have potential human and water quality impacts. All other weed control methods should be considered and eliminated before chemical application is considered”. The paragraph goes on to discuss the protection of water and stream zones. As recently as June 2026, warning signs near Kiva Beach indicated the FS use of the herbicide Chlorsulfuron. The MSDS for this synthetic herbicide states that it is very toxic to aquatic life, with lasting effects and to keep the product away from drains and water courses. This herbicide should not have been applied along the shoreline. The FS is not complying with the TRPA Code of Ordinances. Their herbicide use should require a plan review and monitoring for compliance. All synthetic herbicide use in the Tahoe Basin should be banned to prevent this type of careless occurrence.

6. Tahoe is a treasure. Our children, grandchildren and future generations should be safe to enjoy and learn from this precious environment without being exposed to noxious chemicals. The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) concluded that glyphosate is probably carcinogenic to humans. It has been linked to liver inflammation, metabolic disorders and cancer risk. Jeopardizing our health and that of future generations when there are viable alternatives to synthetic herbicide use makes no sense. Please consider taking immediate steps to protect the Tahoe Basin from the Forest Service’s irresponsible practices.

From: T S <tina.sauve@gmail.com>
Sent: 7/20/2026 12:06:39 PM
To: Public Comment <PublicComment@trpa.gov>
Subject: Public Comment on USFS Herbicide Plan

To Whom It May Concern,

I live in the Caldor Fire burn scar and have witnessed the forest's recovery over the past five years. The first year after the fire was devastating—ash-covered slopes caused severe runoff into streams, neighborhoods, and ultimately the Lake Tahoe watershed. Since then, chaparral, wildflowers, fungi, and thousands of conifer seedlings have returned, stabilizing the soil, providing wildlife habitat, and naturally regenerating the forest. It is clear the ecosystem is recovering on its own.

For this reason, I strongly oppose the use of herbicides, including glyphosate, in the Tahoe Basin.

My concerns include:

- Harm to soil health and increased erosion and runoff into Lake Tahoe.
- Risks to wildlife habitat, pollinators, pets, and native plant communities.
- Human health concerns, as glyphosate is listed as carcinogenic by California and a probable carcinogen by the World Health Organization.
- Exposure risks for hikers, mountain bikers, foragers, nearby residents, and Forest Service workers.
- Damage to chaparral, which is a vital and natural stage of post-fire recovery that prevents erosion, restores nutrients, supports wildlife, and helps conifer seedlings establish.
- The possibility that removing native vegetation could encourage invasive grasses and increase future fire risk.
- The precedent this would set for future forest management throughout the Tahoe Basin.

I also find it inconsistent that homeowners in sensitive watersheds face strict TRPA regulations to protect Lake Tahoe, while the Forest Service may be allowed to apply herbicides across the same highly sensitive watershed. I have experienced firsthand how carefully this land is regulated, and I believe protecting the watershed should mean allowing natural forest recovery—not introducing chemicals that could harm the ecosystem and the lake we are all working to protect.

Please require an application and review process for the USFS herbicide plan, because what the USFS describes in its plan does not meet any TRPA review exemptions and please allow this forest to continue healing naturally.

Sincerely,

Tina Sauve

Meyers resident

From: tatyana golenkova <tatgol07@gmail.com>
Sent: 7/20/2026 4:53:51 PM
To: Public Comment <PublicComment@trpa.gov>
Subject: Glyphosate spray opposition

I want to share my reasons for opposing the glyphosate spraying here at Tahoe.

This is a beautiful and clean place to live and enjoy, for us and for the next generations. We are responsible for keeping it safe, clean, and healthy.

This spray will get into the air and our lungs, making us sick. It will get into the soil, killing green brush and bushes. It will run through the streams and into the Lake, poisoning our water.

Animals will be affected too, as they rely on the natural food provided by the forest. I also forage in these woods and grow my own herbs in my backyard. All of this will be affected.

Nature will heal itself better, faster, and healthier than we ever could.

I climb Cowboy Hat Hill every year, and I've seen the positive changes in the environment. The brush and bushes hold the dust and provide plenty of space to seed or plant new trees. As an alternative, let's organize and participate in new planting rather than killing the existing life.

A simple Google search shows the dangerous substance we're dealing with here. The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) classifies glyphosate as a "probable human carcinogen." Emerging research also suggests potential associations with gut bacteria disruption, endocrine effects, and metabolic disorders, though direct causal links are still being studied.

Scary.

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Best regards,
Tatyana Golenkova
9254811089

From: K Doria <pawsdrsb@gmail.com>
Sent: 7/20/2026 8:51:44 PM
To: Public Comment <PublicComment@trpa.gov>
Subject: General Comment for Governing Board Meeting : Opposition to Glyphosate Use in the Tahoe National Forest and Lake Tahoe Basin

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Dear Board Members,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the continued use of glyphosate-based herbicides on vegetation within the Tahoe National Forest and the Lake Tahoe Basin.

These forests and watersheds are among California's most treasured natural resources, providing clean drinking water, critical wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, and ecological services that benefit countless communities. Introducing herbicides into these sensitive environments raises significant concerns about both immediate and long-term environmental consequences.

The potential for herbicide runoff into streams, wetlands, rivers, and Lake Tahoe itself is deeply troubling. Even when applications are made according to label instructions, rainfall, snowmelt, and erosion can transport herbicides and their breakdown products into nearby waterways. Protecting water quality should remain a top priority in a region renowned for its exceptional clarity and ecological value.

I am also concerned about the effects of glyphosate use on wildlife. Amphibians, pollinators, birds, mammals, and aquatic organisms depend on healthy native plant communities and uncontaminated habitat. Herbicide applications can alter these ecosystems, reduce biodiversity, and affect the food sources and shelter upon which many species rely. Fish and other aquatic life may also be impacted when herbicides or associated ingredients reach surface waters.

Human health deserves equal consideration. Forest visitors, nearby residents, outdoor workers, and tribal communities all rely on these public lands for recreation, cultural practices, and natural resources. While regulatory agencies have evaluated glyphosate under approved use conditions, scientific debate continues regarding its potential long-term health and environmental effects. Given this uncertainty, I believe the precautionary principle should guide management decisions in such ecologically sensitive landscapes.

I urge you to prioritize vegetation management strategies that minimize chemical use whenever feasible. Mechanical removal, prescribed grazing where appropriate, targeted manual treatments, and integrated vegetation management approaches can often reduce reliance on herbicides while better protecting water quality and ecosystem health.

Public lands should be managed in a manner that safeguards clean water, preserves biodiversity, and protects the health of present and future generations. I respectfully ask that you suspend or significantly limit glyphosate applications in the Tahoe National Forest and Lake Tahoe Basin until comprehensive, transparent environmental assessments demonstrate that these practices pose no unacceptable risks to water resources, wildlife, fish populations, or public health.

Thank you for your time and for considering the concerns of citizens who value the long-term health and resilience of these extraordinary public lands. I appreciate your commitment to responsible stewardship and respectfully request that these concerns be fully considered in future management decisions.

Sincerely,

Kelly Doria
Pawsdr@sbcglobal.net

From: Jessica Krupa <jessica.krupa88@gmail.com>
Sent: 7/20/2026 4:07:41 PM
To: Public Comment <PublicComment@trpa.gov>
Subject: July 22, 2026 Governing board meeting general comment

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It's unlikely I'm the first to express my concern about the spraying of toxic chemicals (glyphosate) on our public lands, but I'd like to today. These chemicals don't simply dissipate or dissolve, they will be with us and the plants/animals around us for years to come. There are effective alternatives to spraying these chemicals, so I'd love to hear back about what other options have been explored in this area. I am a local resident of incline village, my name is Jessica Krupa and I hope you take the community's objection to these chemicals seriously and reverse your decision to spray them all over our beautiful land.

Jessica Krupa

From: Jen Finlay <jenfkk@gmail.com>
Sent: 7/20/2026 1:20:09 PM
To: Public Comment <PublicComment@trpa.gov>
Subject: July 22nd, 2026 Board Meeting - Item A&B - General Comment Regarding Proposed Herbicide Use in the Lake Tahoe Basin

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To the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the continued or expanded use of chemical herbicides within the Lake Tahoe Basin, particularly the use of glyphosate-based herbicides and other toxic chemical treatments in this uniquely sensitive ecosystem.

Lake Tahoe is one of the world's most treasured and ecologically fragile environments. Decisions regarding land management in this region must prioritize the long-term health of our watershed, forests, wildlife, soil systems, and the communities that depend on this landscape. The introduction of toxic herbicides into such a delicate environment raises significant concerns that deserve the highest level of scrutiny.

The Lake Tahoe watershed is deeply interconnected. Chemicals applied to vegetation can move through soils, groundwater, streams, wetlands, and ultimately impact the clarity and health of Lake Tahoe itself. Herbicides do not only affect the targeted plants; they can also impact non-target species, pollinators, beneficial insects, soil microorganisms, fungi, and the broader ecological networks that allow forests and landscapes to regenerate naturally.

Healthy soil biology is the foundation of a resilient ecosystem. Our forests depend on thriving microbial communities, mycorrhizal fungi, and complex biological systems that support nutrient cycling, water retention, carbon storage, and natural regeneration. The use of broad-spectrum herbicides threatens these essential processes by disrupting the very systems needed for long-term forest health.

Glyphosate, one of the most widely used herbicides in the world, has raised significant scientific and public health concerns. In 2015, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), part of the World Health Organization, classified glyphosate as “probably carcinogenic to humans.” While regulatory agencies have reached different conclusions regarding glyphosate’s risks under specific conditions of use, the ongoing scientific debate and extensive litigation demonstrate that serious questions remain regarding its long-term impacts on human health and the environment.

Communities across the country have also raised concerns about the widespread use of glyphosate and its potential consequences. Major legal settlements involving glyphosate manufacturers have resulted in over $12 billion dollars in compensation to individuals who alleged harm from exposure. This history should encourage greater caution, not increased reliance on these chemicals.

Many residents have witnessed landscapes treated with chemical herbicides that struggle to recover, with depleted vegetation, disrupted soil systems, and diminished ecological resilience. When we damage the biological foundation of the land, we create additional ecological stress and make natural restoration more difficult.

It is deeply concerning that chemical herbicides are still being considered as a management tool in a place as environmentally significant as the Lake Tahoe Basin. We should be setting the highest standard for STEWARDSHIP, not relying on practices that may compromise the long-term integrity of our forests, soils, waterways, and communities.

Residents, wildlife residents that were here long before us, visitors, children, pets, all share this environment. We have a responsibility to protect this extraordinary place for future generations. I urge TRPA to reject expanded herbicide use and commit to non-toxic, science-based approaches that preserve the ecological health, water quality, and natural resilience of the Tahoe Basin.

Thank you for your consideration and for your commitment to protecting Lake Tahoe.

--

Jenny Finlay
Integrative Health Practitioner

(775) 224-9220
jenfkk@gmail.com
Reno, NV

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From: Jenna Carando <jcarando@gmail.com>
Sent: 7/20/2026 8:20:06 PM
To: Public Comment <PublicComment@trpa.gov>
Subject: July 22, 2026 Governing Board Meeting - Public Comment

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Hello,
I am a full time resident of Truckee with my husband and children. I'm writing to express my concern regarding herbicide usage in Tahoe. We must protect our ecosystems, and the animals and people that inhabit them. We are responsible for being stewards of this land and must consider the impact of our actions. Spraying herbicides in Tahoe (or anywhere for that matter) has dramatic long term consequences. Please fight back against this practice.
Jenna Carando

From: Dave Simon <dsimon1027@gmail.com>
Sent: 7/20/2026 8:40:15 AM
To: Public Comment <PublicComment@trpa.gov>
Subject: URGENT: Require Formal TRPA Review for Caldor Burn Area Glyphosate Project & Ban Synthetic Herbicides

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Dear Members of the TRPA Governing Board:

I am writing as a Stateline resident to urge the TRPA Governing Board to take immediate action on two critical matters:

First, direct staff to require a full TRPA application and environmental review from the U.S. Forest Service for its planned glyphosate and synthetic herbicide application in the Caldor burn area before any spraying occurs.

Second, amend the TRPA Code of Ordinances to explicitly ban glyphosate and all synthetic herbicides throughout the Lake Tahoe Basin to prevent irreversible ecological damage.

1. TRPA Holds Clear Jurisdiction Under the 1989/2023 MOU
Under the 1969 Compact (revised in 1980), TRPA retains explicit jurisdiction over environmentally significant activities across the entire Basin, including federal land. While the 1989 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)—amended in 2023—delegates routine review for specific activities to the Forest Service, Section 3F limits exemptions to five narrow categories. Herbicide and chemical vegetation control are not exempt.

The widespread chemical spraying currently proposed goes far beyond "routine" management. Under the explicit terms of the MOU, any non-exempt activity requires the Forest Service to submit a complete application for TRPA review.

2. Monoculture Is Not Ecosystem Reforestation
The Forest Service's plan to eliminate competing natural vegetation to favor a single tree species is not true ecosystem restoration—it is monoculture production. Labeling this project "reforestation" bypasses the scrutiny required for a project of this scale and potential environmental cost.

Given the grave risks to the health of the Lake Tahoe ecosystem and local residents, TRPA must assert its full authority. Please require the Forest Service to honor its agreement, submit a complete application, and undergo formal TRPA review before any irreversible action is taken.

Sincerely,

Dave Simon
Stateline, NV
(775) 583-8750

From: Amy Kacher <amykacher1@gmail.com>
Sent: 7/20/2026 12:51:42 PM
To: Public Comment <PublicComment@trpa.gov>
Subject: Glyphosate and other chemicals

Dear TRPA board members,

I am writing to express my concern about the spraying of toxic chemicals in our forests. The unattended consequences are to great a risk to sit idly by and allow the US Forest Service or any of our local entities to use them.

I ask that you please use your power to ban them in the Tahoe basin and encourage you to look at a product already approved by the State of California as a potential alternative:
https://www.firehawkbioherbicide.com

Sincerely,

Amy Kacher
1280 West Lake Blvd
Tahoe City

hey, we are all just people

From: janet atkinson <janet2atk@gmail.com>
Sent: 7/19/2026 1:02:56 AM
To: Public Comment <PublicComment@trpa.gov>
Subject: Public comment - glyphosate spraying Caldor fire scar & basin

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Hello.

I am a resident of North Lake Tahoe. You must do everything in gourmet power to stop the proposed spraying of glyphosate in Tahoe. It will surely run off into the lake and will poison the ecosystem and make it dangerous to recreate in Tahoe.

Thank you,
Janet Atkinson

From: stewart bittman <bittmanbliss@att.net>
Sent: 7/18/2026 10:41:37 AM
To: Public Comment <PublicComment@trpa.gov>
Subject: glycophosphate use in Lake Tahoe

Dear folks at TRPA,

We are 47-year residents of the South Tahoe area and are deeply concerned about the use of synthetic herbicides in the basin. We strongly urge you to support a ban on this practice and to only allow hand thinning. It seems incredibly ludicrous to us to protect the lake in so many ways and yet allow harmful chemicals to leach into our groundwater. Beyond that, we abhor the potential damage to the health of wildlife as well as humans. We understand the fire risk and take it seriously (we have close relatives and friends who lost homes in the Angora fire), and yet we still demand a ban on known carcinogenic chemicals as part of the solution.

Respectfully submitted,

Stewart and Hillary Bittman
1721 Delaware St
South Lake Tahoe, CA

From: SUE QUINN <sequinn53@gmail.com>
Sent: 7/17/2026 4:42:20 PM
To: Public Comment <PublicComment@trpa.gov>
Subject: Stop Round-up/glyphospate spraying

Dear TRPA leaders,
Please help the citizens of the Lake Tahoe Basin to stop and/ or prevent the US Forest Service from spraying or applying the poisonous synthetic herbicides glyphospate in or around the LAKE TAHOE BASIN. This is one of the most insane ideas our government has ever made. It is a push by the government to grow trees for harvesting.
These are public lands that need protection from the rape and pillaging by government entities who apparently have no interest in protecting our environment and all of the flora and fauna that keep the balance of life.
We need to prevent this from happening for so many important reasons. How do we keep it out of our waterways and watertable (SLT gets our water from local wells); out of the air when the dry lifeless dirt is blown into the air surrounding all of us living here? This will remove important ground cover that provides: protection from runoff and prevents soil erosion; shelter and food for wildlife; important nutrients for other plants to take hold and grow into a healthy balanced forest again.
Please take this seriously and let me know what I can do to help you.
Sincerely, Sue Quinn ☮☯

From: tom suk <tom_suk@hotmail.com>
Sent: 7/16/2026 7:01:38 PM
To: Public Comment <PublicComment@trpa.gov>
Subject: Re: July 22 agenda item re: USFS proposed herbicide use in the Lake Tahoe basin

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Dear TRPA,
I write today to submit comments on your July 22 agenda item regarding the US Forest Service's (USFS's) proposed use of herbicides in the Lake Tahoe basin. As an initial matter, to establish my expertise, I graduated with honors from the University of California, Davis, and I worked for decades as a Senior Environmental Scientist at the California Regional Water Quality Control Board in South Lake Tahoe. During those years, I was responsible for regulating and monitoring USFS forestry activities throughout the Tahoe Basin. My duties included reviewing USFS vegetation management proposals and monitoring proposals, coordinating independent peer review of USFS monitoring proposals, inspecting field activities, and conducting enforcement to ensure compliance with State water quality requirements. I also served for decades as the Water Board's monitoring specialist, and served as a member of the Tahoe Basin "Forest Health Consensus Group" and California's surface water monitoring roundtable, in part studying the transport and fate of herbicides applied in forestry settings throughout California.

Monitoring conducted to date has shown clearly that glyphosate is both very persistent and very mobile in the environment. In lay terms, this means glyphosate does not degrade or "break down" quickly into less toxic by-products, and it is known to "run off" the landscape from points of application to downstream surface and ground waters. In my experience, glyphosate was detected nearly everywhere we (and the USFS) looked for it downstream of its application.

It is my hope that the TRPA board and staff will not be fooled by any promises made by the USFS to "monitor" the fate and/or toxicity of runoff from herbicide applications. First, the results of *ad hoc* monitoring for herbicide by-products are essentially useless. What will you do with the results? Will there be triggers for action? What are the triggers? What are the remedial actions? In short, you need to understand at the outset that if you monitor for glyphosate downstream of forestry applications, you are likely to find it. What then?

Before you approve any use of chemical herbicides in forestry settings in the Lake Tahoe basin, you should insist that any plan to monitor the transport, fate and/or toxicity of glyphosate (or other toxic ingredients) resulting from herbicide applications in the Tahoe Basin must have the scientific rigor and statistical power to determine if significant human health and/or environmental endpoints have been exceeded.

The most important things that the TRPA needs to understand are: **1)** the USFS likely does not have the staff expertise to design such a monitoring study; **2)** any such monitoring plan should undergo independent (external) expert peer review, and in my direct experience the USFS is likely to oppose and resist independent expert peer review of its monitoring proposal(s) — because it does not want to actually commit to anything except vague assurances that it will implement "adaptive management" (i.e., the USFS will do whatever it wants to do, once it gets its permits); and **3)** the USFS likely does not have the budget to conduct monitoring with the scientific rigor and statistical power to confirm that human health and the environment would be adequately protected during landscape-scale herbicide applications.

In lay terms, what I experienced for decades, and what you are likely to experience in this matter, is that the USFS is likely to provide vague (most often non-binding) assurances to monitor herbicide runoff, without offering to provide (in advance, for expert peer review) a detailed monitoring proposal that has scientific rigor or the statistical power to detect what they are claiming to monitor. The USFS also is likely to provide no up-front triggers for corrective actions, or to specify the remedial actions that would be taken when triggers are exceeded. And then, once it receives approval from the requisite regulatory agencies, the USFS would likely claim that it does not have sufficient staff or budget to conduct all of the monitoring that it talked about throughout the planning process. This pattern of behavior has repeated itself over-and-over again for at least the last forty years.

In short, the USFS will attempt to get a permit from you by offering vague assurances of "monitoring" followed by "adaptive management." They will not put actual flesh on those bones unless you actually force them to. And that will not be easy.

The only way to ensure useful monitoring of any herbicide applications in the Tahoe Basin would be to insist, up front, that the USFS: **1)** submits, in advance, a monitoring proposal for independent (external) expert peer review that clearly articulates the monitoring questions being asked and the actions proposed to answer those questions; and **2)** makes any and all changes to its draft monitoring plan needed to secure concurrence from the external peer reviewers to ensure that the plan has the scientific rigor and statistical power to actually answer the proposed monitoring questions; and **3)** commits to fully implementing the monitoring plan (i.e., if the USFS at any time finds itself without sufficient staff and/or budget to fully implement the monitoring plan, your permit should require that all herbicide applications immediately cease). If you do not press for and require all of these things, they will not happen, and the result will be *ad hoc* management (i.e., whatever the USFS feels like doing on any given day), and *ad hoc* monitoring (i.e., a few samples here, a few samples there, with no statistical power to answer anything).

My experience, and that of my colleagues, over many decades is that the USFS will offer endless vague assurances (which it will characterize as binding promises, when in fact they aren't) in order to secure any necessary approvals/permits. The USFS then will proceed without implementing all of the promised mitigation and monitoring. The open question is whether the TRPA will "rubber stamp" the USFS's usual vague assurances, or have the will to insist on sound science during the review and approval process, and to enforce compliance when the USFS ultimately claims to not have sufficient staff or funding to implement the promised mitigation measures and monitoring.

In closing, you should think very hard about whether the USFS is truly capable of conducting landscape-scale applications of herbicides in the Tahoe Basin, while adequately monitoring the effects, in a way that protects public health and the environment. Given my decades of direct experience, I seriously doubt it.

Thomas Suk
South Lake Tahoe, CA

From: Sophia Banning <sophiabanning@yahoo.com>
Sent: 7/16/2026 12:59:45 PM
To: Public Comment <PublicComment@trpa.gov>
Subject: No Glyphosate in Lake Tahoe

To whom it may concern,
My name is Sophia Banning and i am just one of many concerned and agitated citizens that are strongly against the use of glyphosate in our area. It is a fact that it will probably give us cancer. Please find it within your brains, hearts, and souls to NOT ALLOW THIS. You can fix this.
Sincerely,
A very disappointed citizen.

Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer

From: GALINA STAM <galinastam@comcast.net>
Sent: 7/16/2026 5:59:06 PM
To: Public Comment <PublicComment@trpa.gov>
Subject: Oppose Forest Service Herbicide Plan

Dear TRPA Governing Board and Leadership,

I am writing to urge TRPA to thoroughly review and oppose the U.S. Forest Service's plan to spray glyphosate and other synthetic herbicides within the Lake Tahoe Basin.

Lake Tahoe is a national treasure. Its world-renowned water clarity and fragile ecosystem demand the highest level of environmental protection. Introducing toxic chemicals like glyphosate into the watershed poses an unacceptable risk to water quality, public health, and local wildlife.

As a regulatory agency tasked with preserving this unique environment, TRPA must lead with the precautionary principle. I specifically ask that TRPA take the following actions:

- **Ban all synthetic herbicides:** Establish a basin-wide prohibition on synthetic chemical applications to permanently safeguard our water and community.
- **Prioritize hand-crew thinning:** Restrict management in the Caldor Fire burn area to manual labor. This approach creates good local jobs and eliminates toxic chemical exposure.

Please uphold your mandate to protect Tahoe. Reject this herbicide plan and champion safe, manual forest management instead.

thank you,

Galina Stam

galinastam@comcast.net

From: M Bird <sailbirds2000@gmail.com>
Sent: 7/15/2026 10:53:36 AM
To: Public Comment <PublicComment@trpa.gov>
Subject: Glyphosate

Please, there is no reason other than cheapness for spaying of roundup in or around our forests.

The damage down wind and down stream not to mention the effect on our wildlife is not worth the ease, convenience or budgetary considerations.

What about the humans working and playing in that same forest. Despite legal precedent, Europe and many scientists in the US offer how dangerous this nonselective herbicide can be.

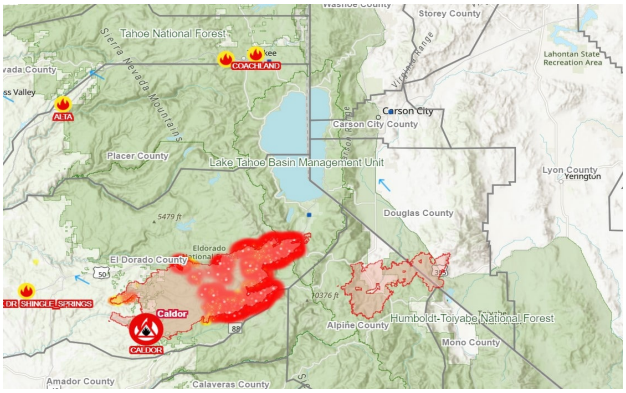
https://www.webmd.com/cancer/herbicide-glyphosate-cancer

Having a standing forest with everything in it dosed with herbicides isn't worth the price.

Please do not approve this effort. Protect our forest, flora and fauna.

Thank you
M bird
South Lake Tahoe
40 yr resident

From: djinkens@charter.net <djinkens@charter.net>
Sent: 7/15/2026 5:51:58 PM
To: Tahoe@lcb.state.nv.us <Tahoe@lcb.state.nv.us>
Cc: Public Comment <PublicComment@trpa.gov>;
Subject: USE OF GLYPHOSATE IN THE CALDOR FIRE AREA AND LAKE TAHOE BASIN
Attachments: image001.jpg



Dear Honorable Nevada Leaders and Neighbors:

Thank you for your service to your State and the Tahoe Basin that we share.

I am writing to you regarding the decades old practice by the USFS to applied glyphosate (Roundup) to burned forest areas in order to kill the quickly growing ground cover plants (manzanita, etc.) arguably so the new forest trees can have a better chance of surviving and becoming a forest again. All of us want to see new forest growth.

I am informed that this practice has taken on new scrutiny with the Caldor fire forest recoveries and applying glyphosate in areas that could potentially reach Lake Tahoe via streams and runoff. I know that we share a common interest in protecting Lake Tahoe, people, and animal life that populate the area from serious harm

I am not a scientist, but I am a long-term resident of the Basin and a past and present public official who has grave concerns about the safety of this product on humans, animals, and sensitive environments,

Online resources say that EPA approves of its use, but I found the following disturbing potential dangers of the product:

" The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) classifies glyphosate as "probably carcinogenic to humans."
A University of Washington review found glyphosate exposure may increase non-Hodgkin lymphoma risk by up to 41%.
Pediatricians and environmental health advocates warn that post-fire spraying may pose risks to children, wildlife, and watersheds, especially when used at large scale.
Tahoe residents have raised strong concerns about transparency, water quality, and cumulative exposure, prompting TRPA to expand water-quality monitoring for glyphosate downstream of burn areas. "

I urge our Nevada State partners and their representatives on TRPA to take appropriate action to see that the product is not used in the Caldor Fire burn area or other sensitive areas in the Basin until it is proven safe for animals and human contact. In the alternative, the USFS should find a substitute safe product. I have faith that they can do so and respect in general the work they do to protect our forests.

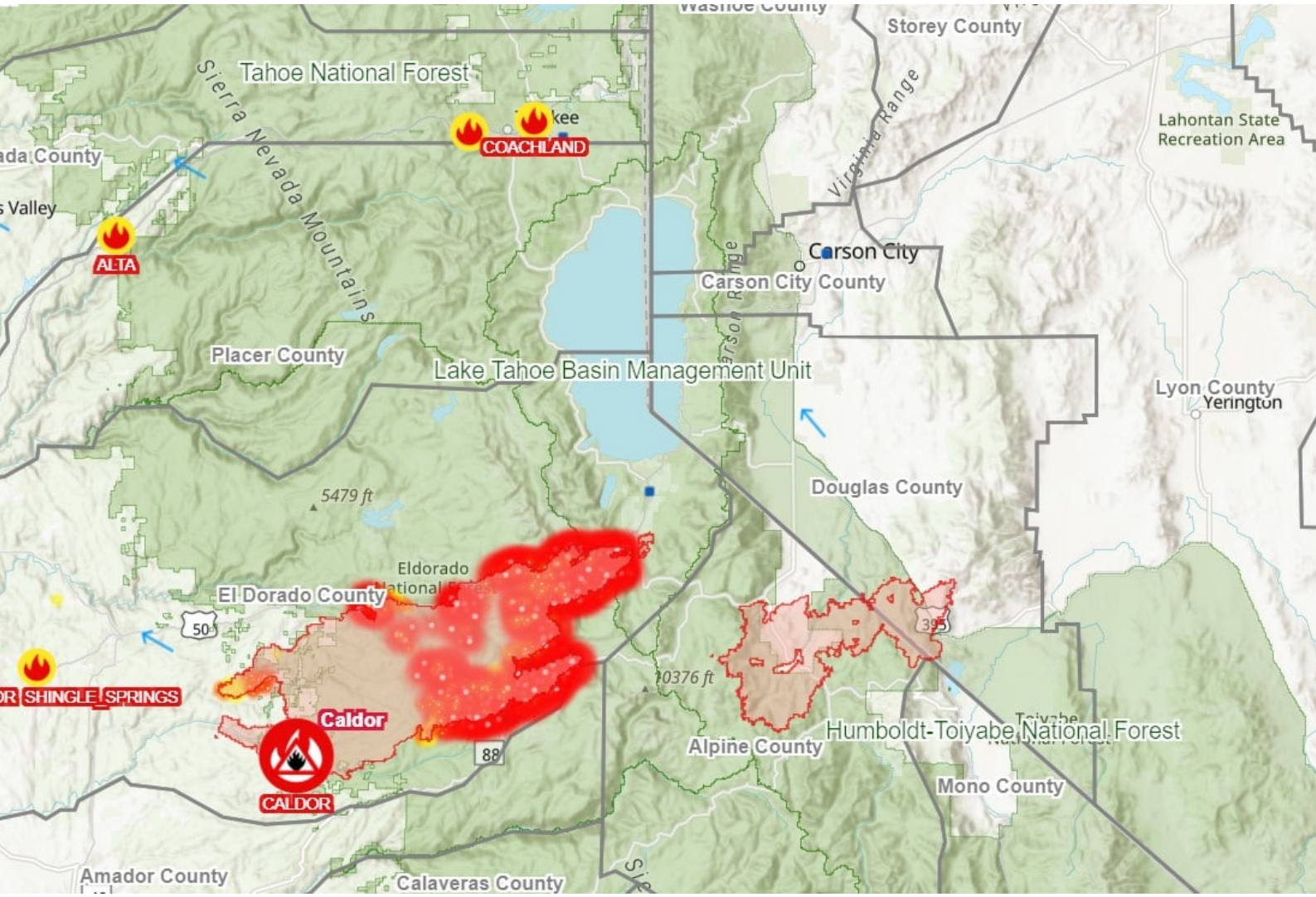
Thank you for your consideration in this regard.

Respectfully,

David

David Jinkens, MPA
Good Government Advocate
City Council Member
South Lake Tahoe, CA

Comments made here are mine alone.


Tahoe National Forest
Sierra Nevada Mountains
COACHLAND
ALTA
Placer County
Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit
Storey County
Virginia Range
Lahontan State Recreation Area
Carson City
Carson City County
Lyon County
Yerington
Douglas County
5479 ft
Eldorado
El Dorado County
50
SHINGLE SPRINGS
Caldor
CALDOR
88
10376 ft
395
Alpine County
Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest
Mono County
Amador County
Calaveras County

From: Dana Tibbitts <dana.tibbitts@gmail.com>
Sent: 7/15/2026 7:10:52 PM
To: djinkens@charter.net <djinkens@charter.net>
Cc: tahoe@lcb.state.nv.us <tahoe@lcb.state.nv.us>; Public Comment <PublicComment@trpa.gov>;
Subject: Re: USE OF GLYPHOSATE IN THE CALDOR FIRE AREA AND LAKE TAHOE BASIN

There are apparently more than one kind of Round up product – not all include glyphosate. I'm not sure how we would verify the type used in this scenario.

Perhaps someone should request some very specific information from USFS before spraying.

There's still a case to be made that managing such post fire destruction zones may require glyphosate to allow new trees to grow, but I have no confidence that those new trees are in the offing with the proscribed restoration project, which by the way will allow them to at least double dip on another 'round up' of funding on this fire.

They have no idea how to regrow a new forest like the one they burned down. And what will come back for the most part is thorn and thistle, far more flammable than anything that was taken out in the first place.

Dana Tibbitts

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 15, 2026, at 5:52 PM, djinkens@charter.net wrote:

<image001.jpg>

Dear Honorable Nevada Leaders and Neighbors:

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I am writing to you regarding the decades old practice by the USFS to applied glyphosate (Roundup) to burned forest areas in order to kill the quickly growing ground cover plants (manzanita, etc.) arguably so the new forest trees can have a better chance of surviving and becoming a forest again. All of us want to see new forest growth.

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Thank you for your consideration in this regard.

Respectfully,

David

David Jinkens, MPA
Good Government Advocate
City Council Member
South Lake Tahoe, CA

Comments made here are mine alone.

From: Chloe Connolly <chloe.co@comcast.net>
Sent: 7/15/2026 7:45:38 AM
To: Public Comment <PublicComment@trpa.gov>
Subject: Glyphosates

Hi,

I'm an incline village resident, and I'm reaching out regarding the proposed ordinance to prevent the spraying of glyophates in the TRPA jurisdiction. I understand there was a board meeting in late May. Where does that stand? Has the board reached a decision?

Thank you,
Chloe

From: Angel Marie <kittenlover2012@gmail.com>
Sent: 7/12/2026 2:04:50 PM
To: Public Comment <PublicComment@trpa.gov>
Subject: Public comment - glyphosate spraying Caldor fire scar & basin

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I do not accept this to be done to the land, land that is shared by all & this is not okay!!
Sent from my iPhone

From: Jen Latwis <latwisjen@gmail.com>
Sent: 7/11/2026 3:02:49 AM
To: Public Comment <PublicComment@trpa.gov>
Subject: Public comment - glyphosate spraying Caldor fire scar & basin

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Please do not ruin our water and ecosystem by spraying glyphosate in Tahoe forests.
I'm against using this chemical as it is proven to be harmful, ruining our bodies and animals.

= =
Jennifer Latwis

From: Michael deRutte <deruttem@gmail.com>
Sent: 7/5/2026 1:05:51 PM
To: Public Comment <PublicComment@trpa.gov>
Subject: Public comment - glyphosate spraying Caldor fire scar & basin

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Please leave Tahoe alone!
Michael deRutte

From: Stacey Lawn <staceylawn@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: 7/2/2026 12:25:45 PM
To: Public Comment <PublicComment@trpa.gov>
Subject: Public comment - glyphosate spraying Caldor fire scar & basin

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Hoping I'm not too late. I just saw this posted on Instagram of a concerned resident of South Lake Tahoe. Please reconsider the spraying of glyphosate as it will poison the lake, rivers, and streams. I'm not sure what the alternative is but clearly this sounds like the worst choice.

Thank you for your consideration and time hearing out all of the concerned citizens.

Stacey Lawn
Sent from my iPhone