

Marja Ambler

From: Pat Alden <palden@stlawu.edu>
Sent: Saturday, January 21, 2023 11:42 AM
To: Shannon Friedman
Subject: Lily Lake Trail

I've been walking up to Lily since 1955. This is NOT a trail that should have more traffic on it, esp. motor bike traffic. It's pretty outrageous that you are violating your own rules and retroactively issuing permits. Please keep this entrance into Desolation as environmentally intact as possible.

Patricia Alden
427 Fallen Leaf Road

Marja Ambler

From: Richard Silliman <rich.silliman@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 22, 2023 11:12 AM
To: Shannon Friedman
Subject: Lily Lake TRAIL

We own a cabin on Fallen Leaf Lake, and think the mountain biking trail is a poor idea. It will be dangerous with bikers and walkers sharing the trail. We do not need more bikers coming into the lake. Our roads are already overcrowded with visitors and we continually have to ask people to get off our dock. This will increase traffic on an already busy road that is very narrow.

The Silliman Cabin

Marja Ambler

From: scbryan <scbryan@aol.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 21, 2023 8:02 PM
To: Shannon Friedman
Subject: Lily Lake Trail

The USFS should not be exempted from applying for a permit to do any construction especially considering the environmental impact of such a trail. No individual would be allowed to do such a thing without a permit. I am not in favor of retroactively approving such a permit.

Stephanie Bryan
990 Fallen Leaf Road

Marja Ambler

From: Woodson Martin <woodson.martin@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 21, 2023 7:21 AM
To: Shannon Friedman
Subject: Lily Lake Trail

I am writing concerning the matter of a retroactive approval of the construction of the Lily Lake Trail

Location of Subject Property: Lily Lake Trail, El Dorado County, California
Assessor's Parcel/File Number: 580-000-00 / EIPC2021-0011
Applicant: United States Forest Service, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit

I am a property owner at Fallen Leaf Lake.

I find the idea of a retroactive approval by TRPA of the construction by USFS of the Lily Lake Trail to be a very bad precedent and inappropriate. Please don't grant that approval.

The USFS handled this matter inappropriately and skirted all the oversight required to ensure the environmental protection of this sensitive area.

To allow that work to stand would be an abdication of responsibility by TRPA and a capitulation of its authority to USFS.

What will be next if the USFS is allowed free reign?

Please stop this nonsense and disapprove the application.

Thank you

—Woodson Martin
534 Fallen Leaf Rd

Dear TRPA Board Members;

I am a resident of South Lake Tahoe and work for the Douglas County School District. As an avid ultra runner and mountain biker, I thoroughly enjoy using the trails built and maintained around the Tahoe basin.

I am in full support of the Lily Lake Trail and all that it has to offer. I began running the Lily Lake Trail before it was completed and when I came upon the volunteers, they were so kind and helpful (even when I asked for directions because I was turned around).

One thing I appreciate about this trail is that I do not have to drive and park at the Glen Alpine Trailhead to access Desolation Wilderness. This saves time and alleviates the stress of driving through one of the busiest areas in the summertime. It also helps spread out the trail users and provides options for trail access. As someone who runs 20+ miles, I love having options and the ability to connect to so many trails.

Lastly, the best part of the Lily Lake Trail are the views. I was stunned when I turned a corner on the trail and saw Fallen Leaf, Lake Tahoe and beyond. I have spent many hours on trails throughout the basin and there are very few trails that offer the same views, especially within a 2 mile span. Lily Lake Trail does not disappoint and I have had the opportunity to see many other trail users taking pictures and enjoying the views as well.

I appreciate you taking the time to read my letter.

Sincerely,
Lyndsey Bednar

Marja Ambler

From: Marlon Charneau <marlon.charneau17@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 23, 2023 2:19 PM
To: Shannon Friedman
Subject: Public Comment for Lily Lake Trail

Hello Shannon,

My name is Marlon Charneau and I am a resident of South Lake Tahoe. I have been in the basin for about five years now and what kept me here longer than I had ever imagined are trails like Lily Lake. From the moment it opened, the Lily Lake trail became a Tahoe classic. It perfectly captures the beauty and essence of Lake Tahoe; stunning views of peaks and vibrant blue lakes on a world class trail. I've hiked the trail with my 60+ year old parents, I've biked the trail, and I have run the trail. Every single time I have stopped at those benches to take in the beauty and ponder how lucky I am to live in a place that is surrounded by such beauty. People who live and visit Lake Tahoe are here for those types of experiences. Continuing to increase access is the right thing to do.

The other benefit that comes from this trail is that it can be accessed from different trailheads. I've started from Glen Alpine, but other times, when I didn't want to deal with the traffic, I have started from Angora Ridge, Mule Deer, and even Tahoe Mountain. Fallen Leaf is a special place to me that deserves to have adequate and sustainable trails that are accessible to the entire public, and not only to the few who live there.

The continuation of thoughtful trail development in this area will not only increase the protection of this stunning area but also improve traffic congestion. If recreationists could have a loop trail that allowed them to exit Lily Lake trail safely through the forest instead of on fallen leaf rd, it would not only benefit residents of the neighborhood but also recreationists.

Public lands such as Lily Lake trail and Fallen Leaf should continue to be methodically developed to increase safe and sustainable access to the public at large, and not focus on how to appease a minority of people who are upset by people trying to enjoy public lands. For this reason, I urge the TRPA to approve this permit and continue to approve thoughtfully designed trails such as this now iconic Lily Lake Trail.

Thank you for your time,

Marlon Charneau

Marja Ambler

From: Merritt Booster <merrittbooster@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 21, 2023 12:55 PM
To: Shannon Friedman
Subject: Lily Lake Trail Agenda Item Regarding Retroactive Permit Proposal

I am quite concerned about the proposed retroactive permit for the newly constructed Lily Lake Trail. When it suddenly appeared, it caused a bit of confusion as there had been no notice or opportunity for public comment.

The trail twists and turns and covers very steep slopes with a number of blind corners. I worry greatly about the environmental impact, especially should it be designated a mixed-use trail — with hikers and bikers — not to mention the safety hazards involved.

I strongly suggest that if it is impossible to let the trail return to nature, it should be designated as Hikers Only.

Merritt Booster
476 Fallen Leaf Road (seasonal)

Marja Ambler

From: Peter Steinhart <petersteinhart@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Sunday, January 22, 2023 9:59 AM
To: Shannon Friedman
Subject: Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) project for the Lily Lake Trail

Peter Steinhart
717 Addison Ave.
Palo Alto, CA 94301
` January 22, 2023

To: sfriedman@trpa.gov

Subject: Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) project for the Lily Lake Trail

I am angry and dismayed at this whole proposal. I wrote to Bill Yates of the TRPA in 2021, asking what TRPA was doing about this unpermitted project and never got an answer. Now TRPA is proposing to retroactively approve an illegal act by the Forest Service, an act that purely serves a single special interest group by introducing mechanized transport into an area that has hitherto been off-limits. You should not reward this flagrant end run around the memorandum of understanding with a vote of approval.

The new trail aims to introduce e-bikes into the area and will pour more traffic onto Fallen Leaf Lake Road between Glen Alpine Falls and Highway 89. While the environmental assessment held that the development would not increase vehicular traffic, that assessment was made under the assumption that no new methods of transport would be allowed on the trail. But the Forest Service intended all along that bikes would be added, and their current upgrading of trail status calls for allowing e-bikes on it. The Forest Service built the trail with intentions it did not make public. And it has since invalidated the environmental assessment made when the trail was built which held that it would not add vehicular traffic to the Lily Lake area. E-bikes are not permitted to use Highway 89 or the bicycle trail that parallels it, so E-bike riders will have to bring their bicycles in by car to either the Angora Lakes or Lily Lakes parking areas. That will increase traffic in the area and add to already dangerous overparking around Lily Lake. emergency vehicles are already unable on some days get through a morass of illegally parked cars. Moreover, Fallen Leaf Lake Road is already dangerous, impassably chocked with potholes, and overused. To add bicycles to the existing problems is to aggravate an already bad situation, to further interfere with the response time of first-responders, and to beg for injury accidents on the road. The Forest Service official in charge of trails in the Fallen Leaf Region said last year that Fallen Leaf Lake Road will eventually be redesigned so that bicycles and automobiles use separate parts of the road. Until that improvement is completed, TRPA should not approve any development that will increase i bicycle traffic on Fallen Leaf Lake Road.

This project made use of third part funding from a special interest. That the Forest Service went ahead with this project without the required permits from TRPA smells of collusion and secrecy. Please do not let TRPA take on the public mistrust that will come with approval.

Please do not approve this application.

Peter Steinhart

Marja Ambler

From: Randy Saar <randy_saar@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 21, 2023 1:36 PM
To: Shannon Friedman
Subject: Lily Lake Trail and retroactive approval

1/21/23

TRPA Governing Board

C/O Shannon Friedman

Via email

Re: Lily Lake Trail and retroactive approval

Board:

As a longtime resident of South Lake Tahoe I have enjoyed years of outdoor activities in the area including hiking many trails in the area including several hikes up and down the Lily Lake Trail. I am very concerned about user safety on that trail. I find the steepness in various areas and narrowness of the trail especially dangerous when encountering bikes on it. In many places there is really nowhere for either the bicyclists or hiker to get out of the other's way due to the severe upslope, downslope (cliff) and narrowness of the trail. Hikers are in peril from downhill bicycles unable to stop due to loose or wet soil or slippery rocks and obviously the bicyclist is in danger of flying off the cliff. There are many areas on the trail that bicycling and hiking are incompatible. I recommend restricting access on the trail to hikers only.

How is it that this permitting process has gotten turned around? If I were to build a house without a permit, I'm sure there would be various repercussions including punishment and possibly demolition and removal and an approval would not be retroactive.

I hope there will be benefit to the greater public and not special interest groups from this meeting.

Sincerely,

Randy Saar

Marja Ambler

From: Raymond Alden <rayalden17@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 20, 2023 5:22 PM
To: Shannon Friedman
Subject: Comments for January 25th meetings

To: sfriedman@trpa.gov.

Subject: Comments regarding the January 25th meetings of the EIPTPO committee and Governing Board with respect to the **Lily Lake Trial**, Assessor's Parcel/File Number: 580-000-00 / EIPC2021-0011.

Dear members of the EIPTPO committee and the Governing Board:

These comments are offered pursuant to the invitation concerning the agenda item "Discussion and possible recommendation to the Governing Board

on the **Lily Lake Multi-use Trail**, TRPA File Number EIPC2021-0011, Environmental Improvement Program Project number 03.02.02.0082 (action); (Page 495)

The arguments against this proposal will be presented by others and are endorsed by the undersigned resident of the affected area. This message concerns the affect of the proposed action on the overall utility of the TRPA. Public respect for environmental regulations rests on the foundation of its respect for the institutions that make and enforce the rules. Over many years, public respect for the TRPA has grown, waned, and wavered. The proposed grant of a retroactive permit to the U S Forest Service for work already done is clearly damaging to the reputation of the proposer, and would be even more so, if approved, to the public's confidence in, and respect for, the TRPA. For the sake of its past and future credibility, TRPA must deny this request.

I write as the elder of the Alden family, resident seasonally at 476 Fallen Leaf Road. The property has been family-owned and occupied for 96 years, currently by 26 family members under the name Barbara H. Alden

Properties, LP. That name is a reference to my mother, who built the cabin in 1927.

I was there at the time.

Respectfully,

Raymond M. Alden

Marja Ambler

From: sara schuchert <sschuchert@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 21, 2023 6:29 PM
To: Shannon Friedman
Subject: Lily lake mixed use trail

Hello,

I am writing as a concerned homeowner from the Fallen Leaf Lake Community. I am thrilled to share the beauty of Fallen Leaf and the surrounding areas with people who want to enjoy the nature and recreation opportunities it provides. However, I am concerned that the USFS is trying to retroactively approved the new mountain bike trail that comes down the mountain to Lily Lake. ALL projects in the area need to have community discussion, environmental impact and TRPA review to ensure that we are preserving this incredible land for all kinds of people. It is also essential that projects properly assess safety for ALL users - native wild animals included! Users of different abilities need places to hike too! My 82 year old mother still hikes around Lily Lake and struggles on the trail when she confronts bikers descending at high speed.

No project should be retroactively approved without proper discussion of impact on environment and users. It is lengthy and inefficient at times, but this is democracy.

Marja Ambler

From: Sheri Stonier-Montoya <sherism@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 22, 2023 3:18 PM
To: Shannon Friedman
Subject: Lily Lake Retroactive Permit
Attachments: TRPALilyLakeTrail.docx

January 22, 2023

TRPA,

My husband Steve and I own the house at 382 Fallen Leaf Road that we share with our sons Cole, age 22 and Vaughn, age 20. I am adamantly opposed to the retroactive permit approval of the Lily Lake Trail. The Fallen Leaf Lake Community has been adversely impacted by this illegally constructed TAMBA trail.

The availability of the Lily Lake Trail has significantly increased the number of people at Fallen Leaf Lake yet no additional services or support structure have been added. No additional parking has been added. There has been no additional ranger/sheriff presence. No additional restrooms were added. No additional trash facilities were added. It is reprehensible that all the burdens of this trail rest on our community with zero support from TRPA or any other organizations.

Before the Lily Lake Trail, the Fallen Leaf Basin was wildly overused during the summer months. With the addition of mountain bikes, e-bikes, motorcycles, etc. and their riding groups using the Lily Lake Trail day and night there is complete chaos. Traffic on Fallen Leaf Road is more congested, drivers literally park wherever they can, and trash is strewn everywhere. The usage and its negative impact are only going to grow in the future.

TRPA will be setting a very dangerous precedent if the Lily Lake Trail is granted a retroactive permit. TRPA would be opening the door for organizations like TAMBA to act with impunity to do whatever they want wherever they want and however they want. Do not set the precedent that you are willing to ruin communities that you are chartered to protect.

Sheri Stonier-Montoya
sherism@hotmail.com
(408) 202-2893

Marja Ambler

From: Steven Montoya <stevenmontoya.ca@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 22, 2023 7:12 PM
To: Shannon Friedman
Subject: Public Comment - Lily Lake Trail Retroactive Permit Approval

TRPA,

I am the original and current property owner of a cabin at 382 Fallen Leaf Road. I am writing regarding the proposed retroactive permit approval of the Lily Lake Trail currently on the agenda for the meeting on January 25th, 2023.

I am against TRPA approving a retroactive permit. Specifically:

- A. It sets a dangerous precedent for the USFS and LTBMU to proceed with projects in the absence of any oversight. Without oversight, the community, environmental, and safety aspects of a project at best will be minimized and potentially ignored. Also, TRPA would never allow a build first and approve later for houses at Fallen Leaf Lake..
- B. The existing MOU between TRPA and the USFS requires permitting for new trail construction greater than 1000 linear feet. The Lily Lake Trail well exceeds this specification. The need for permitting was ignored, therefore directly limiting upfront scrutiny by the Fallen Leaf Community. I know there are other Fallen Leaf property owners who feel the same.
- C. Construction on this trail started in 2018. I did not learn that this trail existed until the late summer of 2020 and the Angora Ridge starting point of this trail is directly above our cabin. I find it very hard to understand how a project of this size, scope, and impact on the Fallen Leaf Basin was not publicized widely to the community independent of rules and regulations. As the USFS partnered with TAMBA for the trail construction, I am sure the mountain biking community knew, it was just those of us who live and provide stewardship for the area who were left in the dark.
- D. The trail was constructed through environmentally sensitive pristine slopes. The continued use by mountain bikes will degrade the integrity of the slope and negatively impact the clarity of Fallen Leaf Lake and ultimately Lake Tahoe. Was this even considered before, during, or after construction?

The Lily Lake Trail retroactive permit as written should NOT be approved by the TRPA Governing Board. As the trail is already built, my input is to designate the trail as 'Hiker Only' and diligently pursue citations and fines for people that violate that designation over the next 2-3 years. Allowing the USFS to pursue future recreational projects in the greater Tahoe Basin without oversight will be seriously detrimental to the long-term environmental sustainability of the region.

Sincerely,

Steven Montoya
382 Fallen Leaf Road

--

Steven C. Montoya
mobile: +1 (408) 202-2852

Marja Ambler

From: terry wedler <terrywedler@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 23, 2023 9:56 AM
To: Shannon Friedman
Subject: Angora/Lily Lake Trail

Hello Mr. Friedman,

Thank you for being the gatherer of information.

My husband and I have spent every summer in the Fallen Leaf basin for the last 50 years. I have been there for the last 71 years, my father for 92 years.

We are not against trails, which will let more people experience this beautiful place, but we are against building these trails without the correct approval process.

We are upset that the Forest Service knowingly did not follow the prescribed process of approval for the building of the trail from Angora to Lily Lake. Because they violated the public trust they should not be allowed to retroactively approve the trail.

As a consequence for this violation, the trail should be designated as a hikers only trail or returned to its natural state.

Thank you for hearing us.

Sincerely,

Terry and Reed Wedler

Marja Ambler

From: Vaughn Montoya <hockeymontoya6@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 23, 2023 4:37 PM
To: Shannon Friedman
Subject: Public Comment: Lily Lake Trail Permit Approval

TRPA,

My family built our cabin at 382 Fallen Leaf Road when I was 3 years old, I am now 20 years old.

I am against TRPA's approval of the Lily Lake Trail retroactive permit as proposed in the upcoming January 25th meeting. Approving a permit after the trail was constructed and opened sidesteps significant environmental and safety issues. Concerns should have been fully identified prior to the construction and now there are open issues you must address.

Specifically:

- A. TRPA's staff report only identifies one primary concern of the Fallen Leaf Community that "the trail is not suitable for mountain biking because of the steep terrain". I wish the report had highlighted the additional project concerns raised by the community to fully understand why those were discounted and not brought forward.
- B. The staff report indicates that (1) TRPA staff did a site visit during construction and found it in compliance with design standards and (2) the EA analyzed the trail design to be consistent with other similar trails in the basin. However,
 - a. The EA was done in 2013. I understand the exact route of the constructed trail does not match the proposed design that was analyzed. I do not see how an EA from 2013 could be cited as justification a decade later.
 - b. It is unclear to me how the site visit by TRPA staff during construction can be used as evidence of compliance for the completed project. No date is cited or a sense of when the site visit was executed relative to project completion.
 - c. Given the nature of building a trail on untouched terrain, TRPA should have expected that the completed project could deviate from the original plan.
 - d. Additionally to the above point (b), the lack of oversight allowed changes in the original plan to potentially go unchecked.
- C. In 2021 I hiked the completed trail. There are sections in the lower half of the trail that are cut through steep slopes and loose soil without support material installed. Long-term it is unclear how this area does not have an erosion problem. Again, without a permit, the constructed route compliance cannot be checked.
- D. The original 2013 Decision Notice had the Lily Lake Trail identified to replace two other existing trails that were hiker/pedestrian. Per that notice, I do not see how the Lily Lake Trail was not intended to support "multi-use". Yet, the USFS used its partnership with the Tahoe Area Mountain Biking Association (TAMBA) to build the trail. Not surprisingly, its construction was executed specifically for mountain biking. So, now you have hikers going up and down the hill faced with mountain bikers moving at a faster rate of speed coming together on steep terrain. There is an increased risk that the hiker or the pedestrian will be seriously injured and emergency response teams will need to be deployed.

Given the above points, I am against the TRPA governing board granting approval for the Lily Lake Trail retroactive permit as presented by TRPA staff at the January 25th meeting.

Regards,

Vaughn Montoya
Student, Northeastern University in Boston, MA
382 Fallen Leaf Road

Marja Ambler

From: Wendy Katz <wkatz2@unl.edu>
Sent: Sunday, January 22, 2023 4:54 AM
To: Shannon Friedman
Subject: FW: Time Sensitive: Lily Lake Trail Agenda Item Regarding Retroactive Permit Proposal

Dear S. Friedman and the TRPA Governing Board,

I understand that at your next meeting you will be voting on permitting the Lily Lake Trail. I was concerned to learn that this is a retroactive approval, which as I understand it means that the Forest service built the trail without a TRPA permit, and without opportunity for public comment, and so there was no oversight of environmental issues or input from the Fallen Leaf lake community. This seems to go against TRPA policy and means TRPA cannot protect the environment or the community in the basin.

I hope you will send the Forest Service the message that they cannot ignore your authority. I realize that the trail has been built, so it may seem too late, but perhaps at a minimum TRPA could designate the trail hiker only, to reduce the severe impact of mountain biking on this steep slope. Signaling to the Forest Service that they need to get permits in advance is important for ensuring future USFS projects are environmentally studied and receive community input.

Sincerely,
Wendy Katz
955 Emigrant Road
South Lake Tahoe

Lily Lake Trail retroactive permit.

As a longtime resident of Fallen Leaf Lake I appreciate the opportunity to share my reactions to the TRPA staff proposal to the Governing Board to retroactively approve the permit for the trail construction as a mountain biking, mixed-use trail.

Briefly, but emphatically, I agree with the Fallen Leaf Protection Coalition's serious concerns about the unusual and troubling circumstances surrounding the construction of the trail, "specifically the absence of permitting and required environmental review, protections and compliance." I am aware that FLPC has informed TRPA board members of its position regarding each of these issues.

I would only like to emphasize one personal concern based upon years of using trails of all kinds and encountering how they are used, misused, degraded, repaired, and maintained, and how the impact on trails has changed significantly in recent years with increased foot traffic and mountain biking. Since trails do not design, build and maintain themselves; would granting retroactive approval also mean that USFS, and TRPA specifically approve of, and assume responsibility for the trail's design, present condition and maintenance? Who exactly, would be responsible for and pay for maintaining the trail? Would the organization that made the original request to USFC for the trail, and which presumably paid for its construction, commit to maintaining the trail up to current "best practices" standards? If so, will the USFC now provide oversight? Or will the USFS maintain the trail going forward?

Thank you for your attention,

Worth Summers