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April 21, 2026

Bobette Jones, District Ranger
477-050 Eagle Lake Rd.
Susanville, CA 96130

RE: Gallatin Marina Low Water Boat Ramp Enhancement Project

Dear Bobette Jones:

This letter is to inform you that the County of Lassen Board of Supervisors (BOS) is in support of the Gallatin Marina Low Water Boat Ramp Enhancement Project, as proposed with the Integrated Design Features. The BOS are in favor of the current proposal to extend the existing Gallatin Low Water Boat Ramp, remove sediment around the ramp, and construct a maintenance level road on Pike's Point for administrative use. The ramp on low water years can become non-functional to recreationists; and proves difficult for CA Department of Fish and Wildlife to stock fish in the lake. A minimum of 3.0 feet is needed to safely launch boats. The current ramp is not long enough to provide ample access to deeper water. The proposed enhancement project will provide a safer boating access for both the public and emergency personnel at Eagle Lake. There is also a need to provide access to state resources for safely stocking trout.

The proposed project location at the Gallatin Marina is within the Eagle Lake Recreation Area on the South end of Eagle Lake. The zoning for the project site is O-C-B (Public Campground/Boating/Beach District) and the land use designation is "Developed Campsite" per the *Eagle Lake Area Plan, 1982*. The proposed project is consistent with the *Lassen County General Plan, 2000*, the *Eagle Lake Area Plan, 1982*, and Chapter 18.56 of the Lassen County, Title 18 Zoning code.

Sincerely,

Gary Bridges,

Chairman of the Board of Supervisors

GFN:mmh



File Code: 1950; 2300
Date: March 31, 2026

Dear Interested Party,

The Eagle Lake Ranger District (ELRD), of the Lassen National Forest (LNF) is seeking your input on the proposed Gallatin Marina Low Water Boat Ramp Enhancement Project (Project). The project is located at the south end of Eagle Lake, roughly 15 air miles northwest of Susanville, CA at the Gallatin Marina area within the Eagle Lake Recreation Area. The project is located in Township (T) 31 North (N), Range(R) 11 East (E), Sections 7 and 21, Mount Diablo Base Meridian and covers approximately 13 acres of disturbance area.

In response to lake levels dropping, the Gallatin Low Water Boat Ramp was constructed in 2011. Since that time lake levels have continued to drop, and on extremely low water years the low water ramp has become non-functional to recreationists, additionally it has proven very difficult for CA Department of Fish and Wildlife to stock fish in the lake.

In 2023, the Forest Service developed and originally scoped a proposal for a new low-water boat ramp at Pike's Point, which was posted on the Schedule of Proposed Actions as "Pike's Point Low Water Boat Launch (63887)." Public notices were published in the Lassen Times on 8/8/2023 and 9/18/2023, and public scoping occurred from 8/8/23 to 10/3/23. Numerous comments from user groups led the Forest Service to begin developing alternatives and preparing an Environmental Assessment. After additional feedback from the public and the Lassen County Board of Supervisors, the EA was cancelled on 9/30/2025, and the Forest Service is moving forward with this proposal. Tribal consultation was initiated in June 2023 with the Maidu Consortium, Pit River Tribe, Melany Johnson, Susanville Indian Rancheria, and Greenville Rancheria, with continued coordination occurring with the Susanville Indian Rancheria. The project has also been discussed at Lassen County Board of Supervisors meetings and with other interested parties.

The current proposal would include extending the existing Gallatin Low Water Boat Ramp, removing sediment around the ramp to increase available water depth to boaters, and constructing a maintenance level (ML2) road on Pike's Point for administrative use. A description of the project, including the purpose and need, the proposed action and maps, is available on the Lassen National Forest web page at: <https://usfs-public.box.com/s/lz3ifz442a7cpuq0cyyxzagm0a0d4ghd>.

Preliminary analysis suggests that this action will be categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental impact statement (EIS) or an environmental assessment (EA). The category of action applies as it has activities to enhance a developed recreation area and boat ramp. In addition, it falls within the requirements of the limitations of this category.

7 CFR 1b.4 (d) (44) (USDA-44d-USFS) Construction, reconstruction, decommissioning, or disposal of buildings, infrastructure, or improvements at an existing recreation site, including



infrastructure or improvements that are adjacent or connected to an existing recreation site and provide access or utilities for that site. Recreation sites include but are not limited to campgrounds and camping areas, picnic areas, day use areas, fishing sites, interpretive sites, visitor centers, trailheads, ski areas, and observation sites. Activities within this category are intended to apply to facilities located at recreation sites managed by the Forest Service and those managed by concessioners under a special use authorization. Examples include but are not limited to:

- (i) Constructing, reconstructing, or expanding a toilet or shower facility;
- (ii) Constructing or reconstructing a fishing pier, wildlife viewing platform, dock, or other constructed feature at a recreation site;
- (iii) Installing or reconstructing a water or waste disposal system;
- (iv) Constructing or reconstructing campsites;
- (v) Disposal of facilities at a recreation site;
- (vi) Constructing or reconstructing a boat landing;
- (vii) Replacing a chair lift at a ski area;
- (viii) Constructing or reconstructing a parking area or trailhead; and
- (ix) Reconstructing or expanding a recreation rental cabin.

The Forest Service is seeking your input as it relates to the proposed action and identification of any issues about the anticipated effects from this proposed action. Please respond by April 14th so your comments may be fully considered as we move through the decision-making process with this project.

Comments, written or oral, may be submitted to: Bobette Jones, District Ranger, ATTN: **Gallatin Marina Low Water Boat Ramp Enhancement Project**, 477-050 Eagle Lake Road, Susanville, CA 96130. Written comments can also be delivered between 8:00am to 4:30pm, Monday through Friday, at the Eagle Lake Ranger District Office, located at the same address. Electronic comments in acceptable plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), portable document format (.pdf), or MS Word (.doc or .docx), may be submitted to: comments-pacificsouthwest-lassen-eagle-lake@usda.gov using Subject: Gallatin Marina Low Water Boat Ramp Enhancement Project. Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, are part of the public record for this proposed action.

A decision regarding this proposal is expected by May 2026. Thank you for your interest and participation in the environmental analysis process on the Lassen National Forest. For more information on the project please contact Brian Newman, Project Team Leader, by phone at (530) 338-8745 or by email at Brian.newman@usda.gov.

Sincerely,

Bobette Jones
District Ranger, Eagle Lake Ranger District
Lassen National Forest

Gallatin Marina Low Water Boat Ramp Enhancement Project
Eagle Lake Ranger District, Lassen National Forest
Lassen County, California
March, 2026

Introduction

The Lassen National Forest, Eagle Lake Ranger District is proposing to improve and maintain the Gallatin Low Water Boat Ramp at Eagle Lake and construct a road with limited use at Pike's Point. The project is at the south end of Eagle Lake, roughly 15 air miles northwest of Susanville, CA with a disturbance area of approximately 13 acres. In response to lake levels dropping, the Gallatin Low Water Boat Ramp was constructed in 2011 in order to provide safe boating access to Eagle Lake. The lake level continues to frequently drop, making the low water ramp non-functional for motorized boaters during drought years.

The Forest Service is proposing to continue use of the existing ramp as long as possible with maintenance and improvements but will continue to look for other potential sites on the lake if lake levels continue to drop below safe levels for motorized boaters. In the 2014-2016, and 2021-2022 low water years, CA Department of Fish and Wildlife has faced challenges safely releasing trout into the lake. Included in this proposal is construction of a road on Pike's Point that will enable the CDFW fish truck to access deeper water for safer release of trout. Use of the maintenance level 2 (ML2) road will be restricted by a gate or other control feature, and use will be limited to Forest Service, state resources, emergency personnel and other permitted users as needed. Basic custodial care of the road would be required to protect the road investments and to see that the damage to adjacent land and resources is held to a minimum.

Eagle Lake is the second largest natural lake entirely within the state of CA. It is unique due to its high pH and alkalinity. It is a closed basin lake with only one primary tributary, Pine Creek. It is an intermittent creek which only flows 2-3 months a year. The average annual precipitation within the basin is highly variable; with an average of 18 inches per year at the lake, nearly 60 inches per year in the higher elevations to the west, and 14 inches per year in the lower elevations to the northeast. On average, Eagle Lake can lose 42 inches per year in evaporation alone (DWR 1972) and, therefore, lake level fluctuations are directly correlated with drought periods. The average annual inflow to Eagle Lake has been estimated at 48% ground water, 38% direct precipitation, and 14% surface water (BLM 2010). Pine Creek contributes 75-85% of the surface inflows to the lake. The average annual outflow has been estimated to be 89% evaporation, 10% ground water movement out of the basin and 1 % ground water pumping (BLM 2010).

Proposed Project Location

The project area is located at the Gallatin Marina area within the Eagle Lake Recreation Area on the South end of Eagle Lake at approximately 5100 feet above sea level. The project is located in Township (T) 31 North (N), Range(R) 11 East (E), Section 7 and 21, Mount Diablo Base Meridian (Figure 1).

The Eagle Lake Recreation Area, at the south end of Eagle Lake, is a very popular recreational destination on the forest. Visitors can hike, bike, hunt, kayak, bird watch, paddle board, fish, and

boat. Busy times include all holiday weekends, early in the fishing season, and another surge of people in winter. The deepest water sought after by recreationists is located in the south end of the lake. The Gallatin Low Water Ramp offers the only launching facility during low water years. It is located near existing facilities such as, a marina, store, restrooms, showers and laundry facility, and parking lots.

Eagle Lake is home to the endemic Eagle Lake Rainbow Trout (ELRT), the only trout capable of surviving in the lake’s alkaline water. Eagle Lake Rainbow Trout are considered a highly prized catch, and people come from all over the nation for the chance to catch the unique ELRT. Fishing season is open the Saturday preceding Memorial Day through the last day in February.

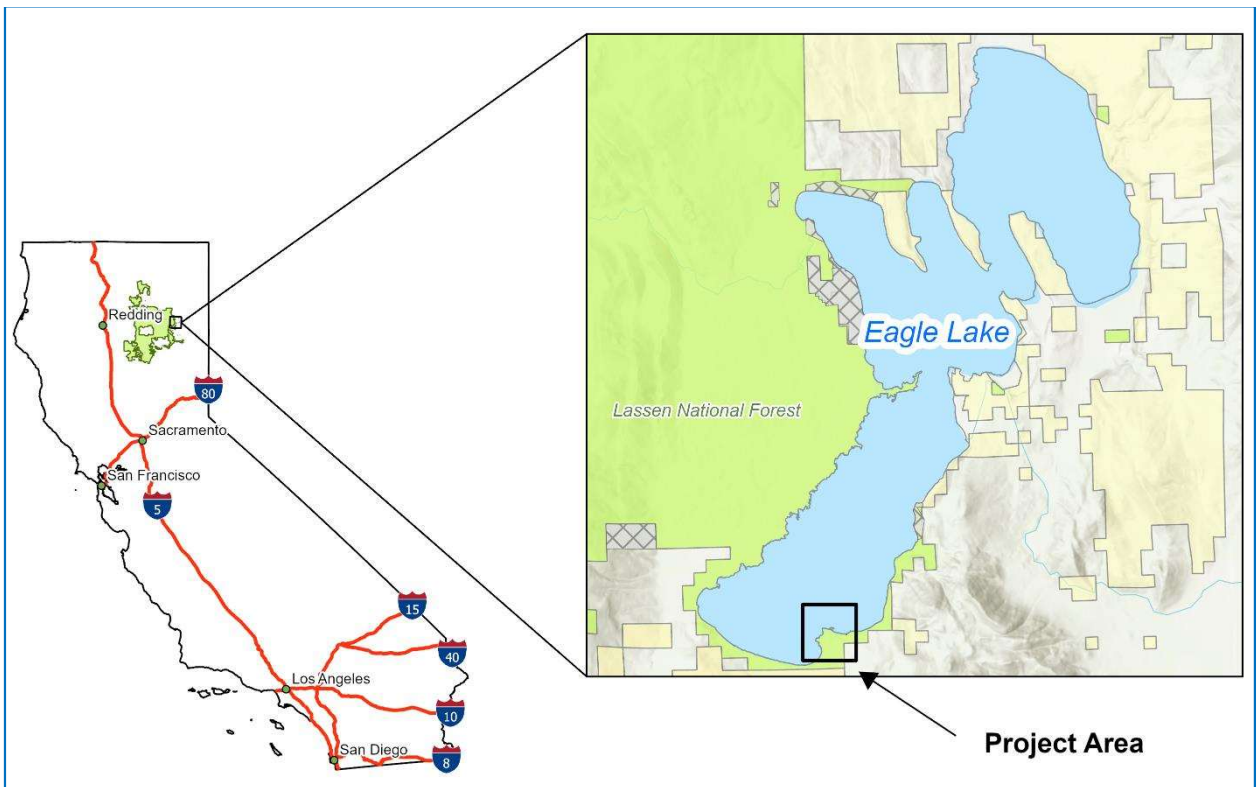


Figure 1. Vicinity Map

Purpose and Need

Due to prolonged drought cycles and continually declining lake levels, the current ramp frequently becomes almost non-functional to most motorized vessels when lake levels are low. A minimum depth of 3.0 feet is needed to safely launch boats, and the current ramp is not long enough to provide ample access to deeper water. With anticipated continued weather changes, snowpack is expected to continue to decline while temperatures are expected to increase by 9° by the end of the century on the Lassen National Forest (Merriam, 2022). Given these predictions, it is highly likely we will see the lake level at Eagle Lake continue to decline. There is a need to provide safe boating access for the public and emergency personnel at Eagle Lake in years of low water levels. There is also a need to provide and maintain shoreline access to recreationists, especially fisher people because this is a highly popular place to fish at Eagle Lake and contains some of the deepest waters on all of Eagle Lake. Additionally, in order to keep the lake stocked with ELRT, there is a need to provide access to state resources for safely stocking trout in the

lake.

Proposed Action

The Eagle Lake Ranger District is proposing to improve the existing Gallatin Low Water Boat Ramp by extending the existing ramp, dredging the sediment that has accumulated and deposited along the ramp, and adding an access road on Pike's Point.

The following actions are proposed:

Extend Gallatin Low Water Boat Ramp

- Extend existing ramp using materials such as a precast concrete slab approximately 20 feet wide by 5 feet long and 9 inches thick. Install beyond the current slab lower into the lake at a deeper depth. Up to two slabs will have an aggregate base of approximately 12 inches deep and will be anchored into the ground with the use of $\frac{3}{4}$ inch rebar stakes.
- Maintain the ramp as needed to provide a minimum of 3-foot depth of water for safe boat launching. The maintenance interval would be based on water depth and would vary year-to-year.

Remove Excess Sediment from Ramp Area

- Use heavy equipment to scour the sediment that has accumulated near the base of the existing ramp to create a channel with deeper water for boaters to launch their boats. The channel width would be approximately 20 feet, and length would not exceed 300 feet to provide a minimum depth of approximately 3 feet that is required for boater safety. Volume of material removed will be approximately 889 cubic yards. This amount could be less depending on water depth and depth of sediment.
- Transport the dredge materials using heavy equipment to locations on the Forest (see map) or off Forest if needed. Possible locations for areas to use the materials include nearby restoration projects for channel fill.

Construct a Road at Pike's Point

- Construct a road base-surfaced road (FS Maintenance Level 2) 10-24 feet wide. Road would extend to within 10' of the ordinary high-water mark (OHWM) on Pike's Point. Road would be for administrative use and for state resources to access deeper water for planting fish. Excavation and embankment would be used to construct the road.
- Remove approximately 5 trees as needed for construction of road. Trees would be hand-felled and piled.
- Remove or relocate exposed/loose boulders along proposed route.
- Install a gate or other control feature at the entrance to the road to limit vehicle use of the road to authorized users only.

Equipment to be used for the project will be determined by the contractor or Forest Service and approved by the Forest Service. It is anticipated that the following types of equipment would be used; graders, dredgers, loaders, excavators, dump trucks, compactors, generators, water trucks and bulldozers.

In addition to implementing Best Management Practices (BMPs) from the Water Quality Management for Forest System Lands in California, Best Management Practices (2011) and the National Best Management Practices for Water Quality Management on National Forest System Lands (2012), the following design features would be incorporated into the project to ensure that resources are protected.

Table 1 Integrated Design Features

Resource Area	Integrated Design Feature
Botany 1	Commercial seed mixes proposed for revegetation would be limited to native species only, would be approved by appropriate forest personnel prior to purchase and would be certified weed-free.
Botany 2	If project implementation calls for mulches or fill, they would be certified weed-free. Imported fill would be inspected for invasive plants prior to its transport to the project area.
Cultural 1	Known historic properties within the project APE will be protected using Approved Standard Protection Measures pursuant to the Regional Programmatic Agreement (RPA) Appendix E section 1.3 (1) (2).
Cultural 2	In the event that previously unknown cultural resources are discovered during project activities, all work in that area shall cease and the Lassen National Forest cultural resource staff will be notified.
Cultural 3	Monitoring by heritage program specialists may be used to enhance the effectiveness of protection measures. The results of any monitoring inspections shall be documented in cultural reports and the NRM Heritage database. An archaeologist and/or cultural monitor will be present during the implementation of any activities that will be ground disturbing if possible given cultural resource staff ability to do so.
Invasive Plants 1	All off-road equipment would be weed-free prior to entering the Forest. Staging of equipment would be done in weed-free areas
Invasive Plants 2	Known invasive species occurrences would be treated prior to implementation with herbicides as part of the Eagle Lake Weeds and Wildlife Project EA completed in 2015. Treatment would continue annually to ensure project activities do not enhance the spread of invasive species within the project area.
Invasive Plants 3	New infestations identified during project implementation would be evaluated and treated according to the species present and project constraints and avoided by project activities.
Invasive Plants 4	Post-project monitoring for implementation and effectiveness of weed treatments and control of new infestations would be conducted as soon as possible and for a period of multiple years after completion of the project.
Soil 1	Soil quality standards and appropriate Best Management Practices (BMP) that protect forest soils would be implemented for the entire project. BMPs are described in Water Quality Management for Forest System Lands in California, Best Management Practices (2011), LNF LRMP (1993), and the 2004 SNFPA ROD.
Water Quality 1	Implement National Core BMPs. All proposed activities will adhere to the National Best Management Practices for Water Quality Management on National Forest System Lands (USDA Forest Service 2012). Reference Appendix A for specific BMPS.
Wildlife 1	Adhere to an LOP from February 15 through September 15 in unsurveyed goshawk nesting habitat and when treatment areas are within 0.25 miles of existing northern goshawk Protected Activity Centers (PACs), This LOP may be waived if non-nesting is documented.
Wildlife 2	Adhere to LOP prohibiting actions within approximately 0.25 miles of known bald

	eagle nest trees during the breeding season (January 31 through August 31). This LOP may be waived if non-nesting is documented.
Wildlife 3	Adhere to LOP prohibiting actions within 1/8 miles of any known osprey nest tree during the breeding season (March 1 through August 31). This LOP may be waived if non-nesting is documented.
Aquatic 1	A project Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plan (SPCC Plan or herein “Spill Plan”) will be provided to the Forest Service by the contractor prior to commencement of any project work.
Aquatic 2	Any construction occurring within 5 feet of the ordinary high-water mark will be limited to a 60-day work window from October – November.
Aquatic 3	Visual observations /survey of fish species present in work area will be completed by a qualified specialist prior to commencement of in-water work.
Aquatic 4	Placement of a silt-curtain to minimize suspended sediment drift beyond the active dredge site will be deployed (and remain in place) during all phases of work occurring within 5 feet of the ordinary high-water mark during project activities.
Aquatic 5	Placement of an absorbent oil boom to control and minimize surface–water contamination will be deployed (and remain in place) during all phases of in-water work.
Aquatic 6	All concrete must be precast (and cured) before entering any waterbody associated with this project.
Aquatic 7	Equipment and supplies will be staged outside of the RCA in designated staging areas identified by the Forest Service.
Aquatic 8	An equipment fueling area will be identified by the Forest Service outside of the RCA and adjacent to the equipment staging area prior to commencement of work.
Aquatic 9	Ensure all equipment operated in or adjacent to the waterbody is clean of aquatic invasive species, as well as oil and grease, and is well maintained.
Engineering 1	If imported fill is required, it will be free from detrimental quantities of organic materials and free of all debris, mud, and other unsuitable materials.
Engineering 2	All embankment work will occur above the Ordinary High-Water Mark (OHWM), and virtually all excavation will occur below the OHWM.

Appendix A

Best Management Practices for Water Quality Management on National Forest System Lands. The following is a table of the most relevant best management practices; they are not repeated in full here and are incorporated by reference.

AqEco-1	AqEco1 - Aquatic Ecosystem Improvement and Restoration Planning.
AqEco-2	Operations in Aquatic Ecosystems
AqEco-3	Ponds and Wetlands
Fac-7	Vehicle and Equipment Wash Water
Rec-8	Watercraft Launches.
Road-3	Road Construction and Reconstruction
Road-10	Equipment Refueling and Servicing
Veg-2	Erosion Prevention and Control.

This proposed action was approved by District Ranger, Bobette Jones on 3/13/26

Gallatin Marina Low Water Boat Ramp Enhancement



- Potential Areas for Dredge Materials
- Staging Areas
- Dredging and Ramp Extension Area
- Project Boundary
- Proposed Road at Pike's Point

Scale: 1:3,238 NAD 1983 UTM Zone 10N

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