

Wednesday Feb 24 2016

Auburn (CA) Journal

## Q&A: Five questions with new Tahoe National Forest chief Eli Ilano

Fire, bark beetle infestation among forest concerns

By: Gus Thomson of the Auburn Journal

Stepping into the job of Tahoe National Forest supervisor, Eli Ilano takes on a role of guiding the U.S. Forest Service's presence over an expanse of 871,495 acres carpeting the Sierra in all or part of six counties.

That forest acreage is interspersed with blocks of privately held land totaling 400,000 acres. It's dotted with the blue of creeks, lakes and reservoirs. And above those reservoirs, it holds much of the watershed flowing through Placer County.

Ilano was promoted to Forest Supervisor after five years as deputy. The Journal asked him to expand on some of the key issues facing the forest:

. . . <irrelevant content snipped>

**4. What are some of the new recreational programs the Tahoe National Forest is now involved in?**

**The Tahoe National Forest is resuming management of campgrounds along the Yuba River corridor, Highway 89 north and in the Lakes Basin area. These campgrounds have been run by third-party concessioners since the 1980s. The change means Forest Service staff will be running Forest Service campgrounds and the priority is providing visitors and campers a high-quality experience at a reasonable price.**

**Last year, the Forest Service resumed management of campgrounds and recreation sites in the Foresthill area, Interstate 80 corridor and on the Truckee Ranger District. So far we've received overwhelmingly positive feedback praising the change.**

**We hope to add more services for visitors in the future, such as campfire programs, ranger talks and more.**

. . . <irrelevant content snipped>

### Comments

Kymerly Smith ·

Auburn, California

Sounds good. And like that the Forest Service is now managing the public grounds again.