

FSM 4062.04

**Nomination  
for  
Sagehen Experimental Forest**

**Name:** Sagehen Experimental Forest

**Location:** Truckee Ranger District, Tahoe National Forest in Nevada County, California

**Longitude / Latitude:** 32°25'45"N, 120°14'30"W

**Size:** 8,110 acres (3,282 ha)

**Description of the area and reasons for proposal:**

This area is located on the east slope of the northern Sierra Nevada Range. It contains almost the entire drainage of Sagehen Creek, west of State Highway 89, which is about 8 miles (13 km) long, running from near the crest of the Sierra Nevada Range to Stampede Reservoir. Stampede Reservoir includes the lower reach of Sagehen Creek and a portion of the Little Truckee and drains into Truckee River. Elevations range from 6,100 feet to 8,700 feet (1,859-2,652 m). Numerous fens with stringers of lodgepole pine are distributed along Sagehen Creek; mixed conifer forests occupy the drier site with true fir at the higher elevations.

Land use history of the area includes recreation, logging, grazing, and fur trapping. Fire (both nature and human caused) was a component of the ecosystem before the arrival of Euro-Americans and still plays an important role today. Recent major fires were the Donner and Carpenter Ridge fires that occurred in the 1960s.

The University of California, Berkeley, has operated a field station under Special Use Permit from the Tahoe National Forest within the basin for research and teaching since 1951. They have developed facilities to support the research mission. Research activities are multi-disciplinary and onsite facilities are occupied year-round. Flora, fauna, and insects of the area have been well-studied, and there is substantial climate and hydrological data collected since the 1950s. The research value and mission of the area were recognized in the Tahoe National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan.

There are two main access points to the site, both of them from Highway 89. The primary access is located at the center, lower elevation portion of the site. It is comprised of an unpaved road with a locked gate. Another point of access is a logging road, providing access to higher elevations of the area (see attached maps).

The proposed Sagehen Experimental Forest is located within the middle Truckee River watershed. The Truckee River originates in Lake Tahoe and is famous and significant for its values and importance to the area it passes through as well as to downstream users. An experimental forest within the Truckee River watershed will provide essential information for forest management of this watershed as well as other similar watersheds


in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. The area possesses excellent site conditions for an experimental forest. It has a long history of research activities with long-term data and well-equipped facilities. The access is convenient and secure. In addition, about 9.17 air miles (15 km) southwest to the proposed Sagehen Experimental Forest sits Onion Creek Experimental Forest, which is on the west slope of the Sierra Nevada Range, in the American River watershed (Map 1). Paired with Onion Creek Experimental Forest, this site will provide research opportunities for studying the dynamics of Sierra Nevada ecosystems.

**Attachments:**

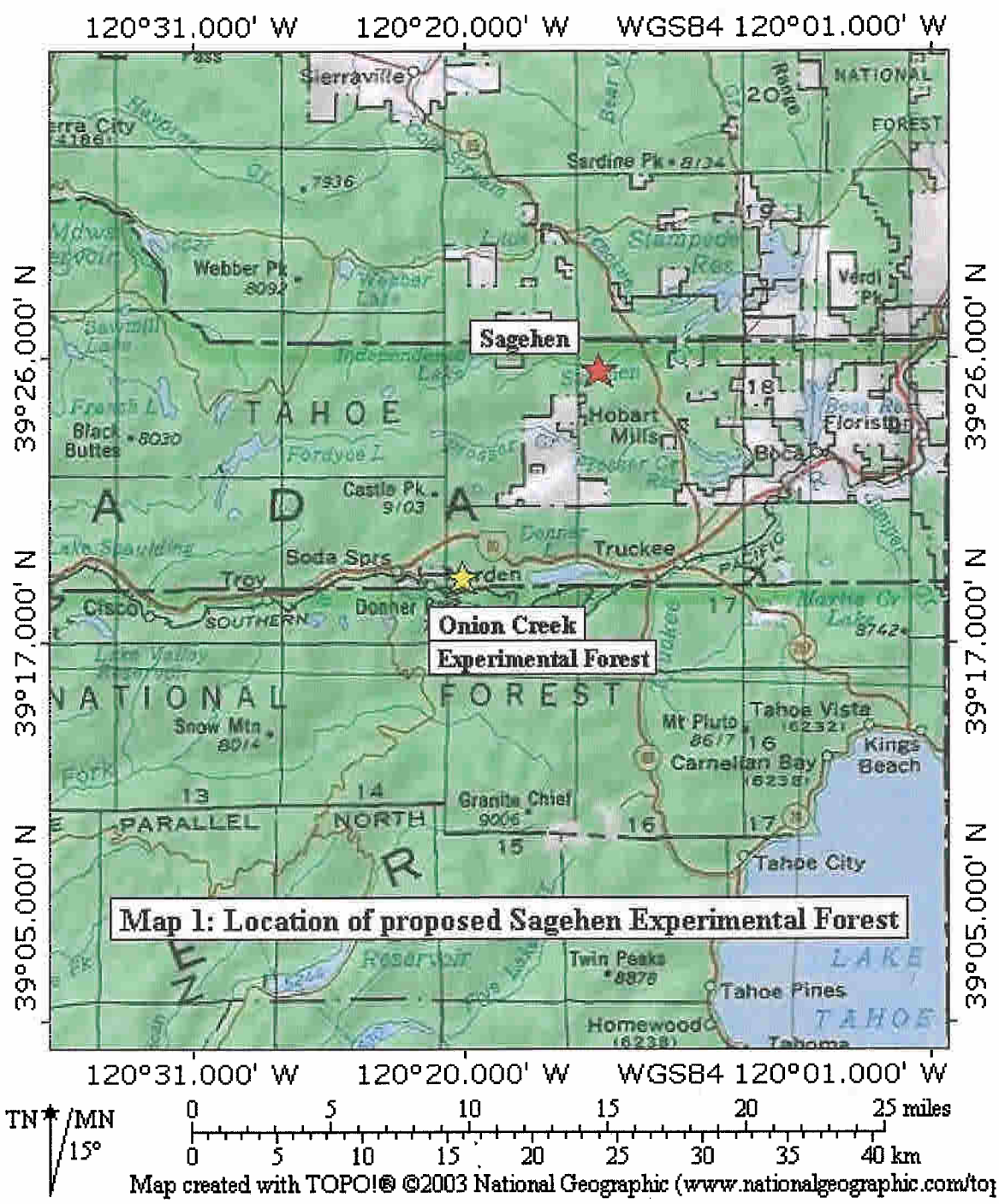
Map 1: Location of proposed Sagehen Experimental Forest  
Map 2: Proposed Sagehen Experimental Forest Boundary

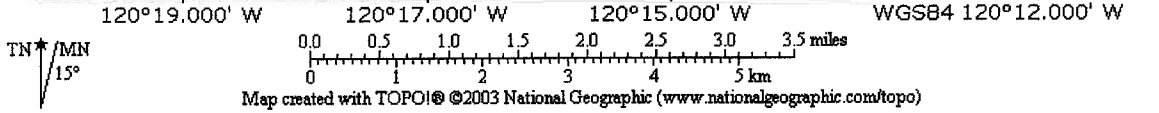
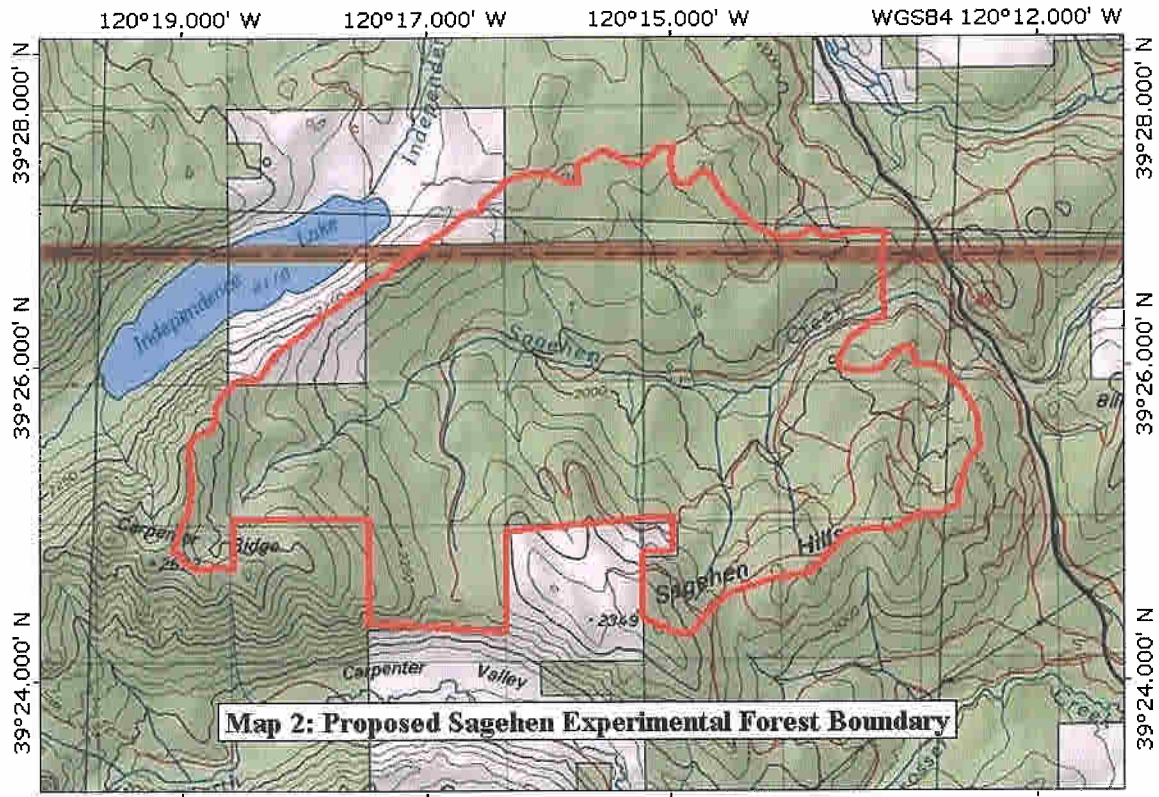
Proposed by:   
JAMES R. SEDELL  
Station Director  
Pacific Southwest Research Station

Date: 7/15/05

Concurred by:   
BERNARD WEINGARDT  
Regional Forester  
Pacific Southwest Region

Date: July 15, 2005





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