

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 28, 2010

**DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME                      OFFICE OF SPILL PREVENTION AND RESPONSE**

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**PUBLIC ASKED TO AVOID DONNER LAKE SPILL CLEAN UP AREA**

Responders to the diesel spill at Donner Lake created a 100 foot exclusion area at the mouth of Summit Creek where it enters Donner Lake. Marker buoys have been requested to be placed in the lake to assist boaters and watercraft users to navigate the area and avoid disturbing boom with their wakes.

The public is asked to stay out of the area for the safety of the crews, but also to keep from accidentally tracking any of the material to other locations. Additional responders will be contacting residents whose property borders Billy Mack or Summit Creeks to advise them not to launch kayaks, canoes, or other watercraft into the creeks. Billy Mack Creek feeds into Summit Creek which flows into Donner Lake. Residents typically use the creeks to launch into the lake through the mouth of Summit Creek which is currently closed with boom.

The Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and Nevada County Environmental Health (NCEH) responded to the spill on May 26 which occurred when a tanker truck overturned and spilled as much as 3,000 gallons of diesel fuel along I-80 on the west side of Donner Lake. Some of the material washed over the side of the interstate into the soil and watershed of Billy Mack and Summit Creeks.

Crews have been recovering as much product as possible. Approximately 350 feet of containment boom and about 1,000 feet of absorbent boom have been placed into Summit Creek to keep the material from getting into Donner Lake. Most of the diesel is in the soil, but rain and snow melt flush it out so crews will maintain boom while conducting additional clean up this weekend. A temporary fence has been placed along the shore at West End Beach where it borders Summit Creek.

Soil removal plans are under development, but those operations are not expected to begin until after the Memorial Day weekend. Traffic for the holiday weekend is not expected to be impacted by the continuing activities. DFG and NCEH will continue monitoring activities for public health and wildlife over the weekend.

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