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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Foresthill, Placer County - The Tahoe Nordic Search & Rescue Team has acquired a used over-the-snow vehicle to expand its wintertime search and rescue capabilities in eastern Placer County.

Ownership of the LMC 1500 snowcat was transferred on Thursday (Oct. 16) to the Tahoe City-based volunteer group by the Placer County Water Agency (PCWA) and the Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E).

The vehicle, used by PCWA on the Middle Fork American River Power Project, has been replaced and the water agency and PG&E, its partner on the power project, desired to see the snowcat kept in Placer County for search and rescue purposes.

Four members of Tahoe Nordic Search & Rescue picked up the snowcat Thursday at PCWA's Power Systems headquarters in Foresthill.

Representatives of Tahoe Nordic included president Steve Twomey, founder and charter member Larry Sevison, board member Ray O'Brien and volunteer snowcat operator Dave Gleske.

Steve Jones, PCWA Power Systems manager, and Kevin Goishi, PG&E's partnership coordinator, represented their agencies in officially transferring the vehicle to the Tahoe City Public Utility District. It will be maintained and used by the 100-member volunteer search and rescue team.

Twomey said Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue, founded in 1976, responds to searches for people lost in the Sierra, primarily in winter. Alpine skiers and snowboarders straying "out of bounds" at resorts account for about 50 percent of its

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searches, followed by backcountry skiers, snowmobilers, hikers and hunters and people in downed airplanes.

Twomey said Tahoe Nordic's newly acquired snowcat will expand the group's ability to respond to emergencies. He said it would be equipped with radio equipment and ski racks and would become the group's primary search and rescue vehicle.

Sevison, a former county supervisor and founder of Tahoe Nordic Search & Rescue, expressed appreciation to PCWA and PG&E for the donation and said the vehicle would help the volunteers respond and save lives.