TAHOE REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY

Lake Tahoe
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Executive Director Report

Julie W. Regan • August 26, 2026

TAHOE REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY

30th Annual Tahoe Summit

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A Summit Milestone

30th annual event celebrates decades of remarkable progress

By Thea Schwartz
Tahoe Regional Planning Agency

Now and then, we are lucky enough to witness history in the making. Sometimes, it arrives in a single extraordinary moment, like Artemis II's journey around the moon this April. Other times, history takes shape slowly and deliberately, built over decades through thousands of actions and guided by people who believe a better future is possible.

Over the past three decades, history has been unfolding across the Lake Tahoe Basin.

Tahoe was not always so carefully tended. Its forests were once heavily logged for timber before decades of fire suppression allowed them to become increasingly dense and vulnerable. A mid-

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Team Tahoe reflects on summit history

1997 summit was a catalyst for lasting change to protect and preserve the lake

By Devin Middlebrook
Tahoe Regional Planning Agency

Thirty years after the first Tahoe Summit brought national attention and renewed optimism to Lake Tahoe, Team Tahoe leaders reflect on the moment that helped launch a lasting era of partnership and environmental progress.

Cindy Gustafson

District 5 Supervisor, Placer County

Attending my first Tahoe Summit, I was struck by having both President Clinton and Vice President Gore attend and participate, indicating to the entire world how important protection and collaboration are to the future of Lake Tahoe.

For 30 years, Team Tahoe has consistently demonstrated the power of collaboration between government, business, and environmental interests to make meaningful progress in the complex challenges of restoration, protection, and economic sustainability of Lake Tahoe.

I am most proud of my role in working to ensure our local communities have a strong voice in Tahoe's future while building partnerships that restore the lake and support the people who call this special place home.

Julie Regan

Executive Director, TRPA

As a young professional in the 1990s, one of the highlights of the decade for me was Tahoe's first Presidential Summit where I met President Bill Clinton. I remember it vividly as the air was electric. Everyone felt the energy, and we shared a collective optimism for Lake Tahoe's future.

In the 30 years since that first summit, the Team Tahoe partnership has steadfastly worked to restore the Jewel of the Sierra. We're proud of the progress we've made and the global reputation for collaboration we've built. Our work is far from done, and we must press on.

Darcie Goodman Collins, PhD

CEO, Keep Tahoe Blue

As a 16-year-old, born-and-raised Tahoe native, I had the honor of participating in the very first Tahoe Presidential Forum in 1997. I served on a panel where I represented the Tahoe community's youth and was grateful for the powerful interest of President Clinton and Vice President Gore in protecting Lake Tahoe. It felt momentous to the teenage version of me, and the last 30 years of federal commitment to this national treasure showed it was a real turning point.

Without the annual summit, Tahoe wouldn't receive the unique focus of our federal delegation, reminding them of our uniquely successful collaborative partnership and the continued need for resources to address emerging threats.

As a member of Team Tahoe, I am most proud of the holistic approach we take to protecting Lake Tahoe and the tight-knit partnership between a broad and diverse group of stakeholders.

Amy Berry

CEO, Tahoe Fund

I attended the 2011 Tahoe Summit, one year before I joined the Tahoe Fund. I was immediately struck by how engaged the elected leaders and community members were in the work needed to ensure the long-term success of Lake Tahoe.

I am so grateful to Team Tahoe for all the coordinated work to ensure Tahoe will always be a place that future generations can continue to enjoy and love.

I am so proud of the way the local philanthropic community has stepped up to help ensure more environmental improvement projects can be completed in partnership with our wonderful public agencies.

Brian Wallace

Former Tribal Chair, Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California

Many people had waited generations, even lifetimes, for [the first Tahoe Summit]. It was a defining moment for the future of this place—a commitment to move beyond gradual change and confront the challenges facing Lake Tahoe together. I remember what it took just to bring the Washoe Tribe back to this Basin, and I don't take it for granted.

Looking back today, I'm encouraged by how far we've come. The Washoe Tribe's voice is increasingly recognized as essential to restoring our homeland, and we've had the chance to lead and partner on work that heals land and water our people have cared for since the beginning of time.

I'm grateful for the partnerships built over these three decades. The work isn't finished—but together, we can protect and honor this sacred place for the generations still to come. ◆

Devin Middlebrook is the government affairs manager at TRPA.

Cindy Gustafson

Julie Regan

Darcie Goodman Collins, PhD

Amy Berry

Brian Wallace

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Legislative Updates

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TTD Board/SR 28 Update

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What's Coming Up

September

- Transportation Committee
  - 2027 FTIP
  - Transportation Funding
- Appeals (pending)
- Field Tour: State Route 28

October

- Ops Committee
  - Fee Adjustments
- Aquatic Invasive Species Program Update
- Forest Health Program Update
- Recreation and Biodiversity Threshold Updates
- Best in Basin Awards