Environmental Improvement Program Committee

April 22, 2026

AGENDA ITEM 5.C

Threshold Update Priorities

Thresholds Update Initiative (2017)

Challenge:

- The majority of the standards were adopted in 1982, based on science that is now over 40 years old.

Goals:

- Relevant and scientifically rigorous threshold standards
- Cost-efficient, feasible, informative monitoring and evaluation
- A robust and repeatable process for standard review

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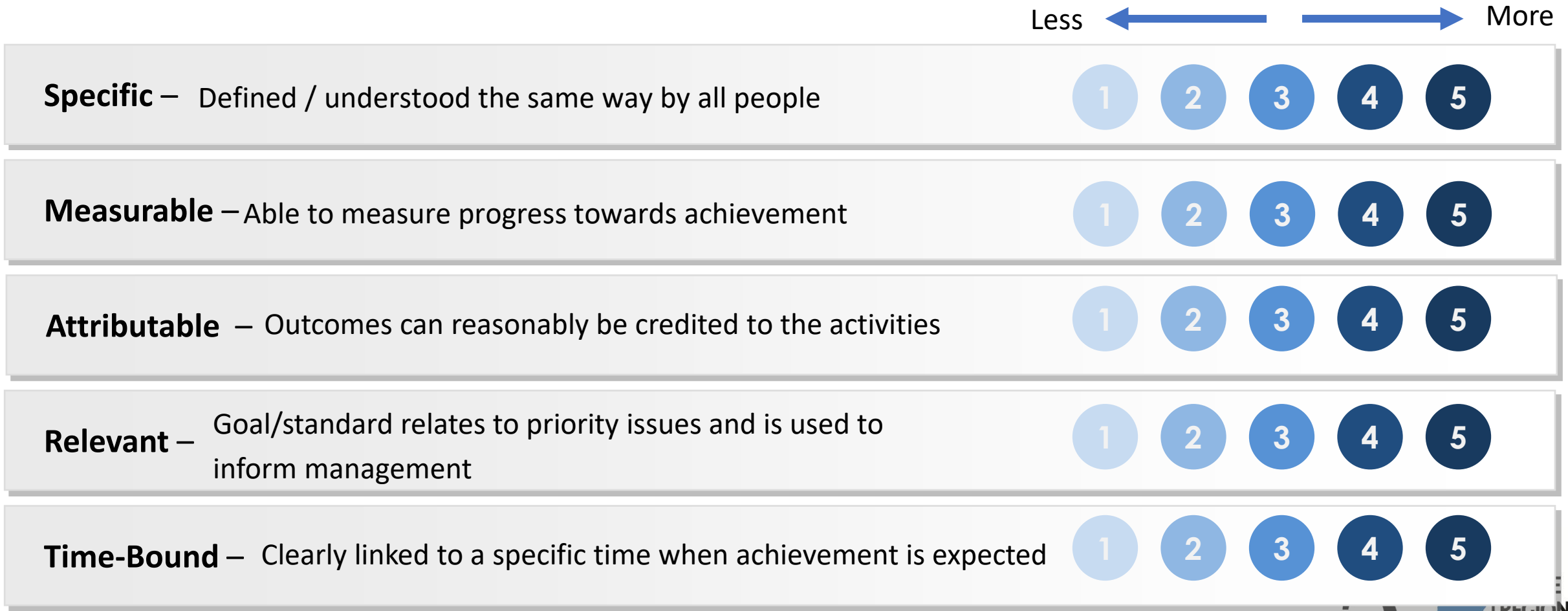
Threshold Assessment: SMART criteria

Each standard will be evaluated based on compliance with best practice in establishing environmental objectives.



Assessment Findings (2017)

- Room for improvement in all areas
- No standard received a perfect score
- 39% (69 of the 178) were found to be both specific and measurable
- 28% (49 of the 178) were found to be specific, measurable and based on settled/solid science

Action To Date

- May 2018 – Technical Clean-up
- April 2019 – Technical Clean-up
- April 2021 – VMT standard
- May 2024 – AIS / SEZ / TYC
- February 2026 – Forest Health and Water Quality

Today: 111 Standards (61 Initial Review Complete)

Proposed Update Priorities

1	Recreation	Specific and measurable standards for sustainable recreation.
2	Biodiversity	Standards for the protection of regionally important species.
3	Technical Review	Updates to ensure standards are specific and measurable.

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Recreation Thresholds

RECREATION

POLICY STATEMENTS

R1) It shall be the policy of the TRPA Governing Body in development of the Regional Plan to preserve and enhance the high quality recreational experience including preservation of high-quality undeveloped shorezone and other natural areas. In developing the Regional Plan, the staff and Governing Body shall consider provisions for additional access, where lawful and feasible, to the shorezone and high quality undeveloped areas for low density recreational uses.

R2) It shall be the policy of the TRPA Governing Body in development of the Regional Plan to establish and ensure a fair share of the total Basin capacity for outdoor recreation is available to the general public.

Recreation Working Group

- CA State Parks
- California Tahoe Conservancy
- Carson City
- City of South Lake Tahoe
- Destination Stewardship Council
- Douglas County
- El Dorado County
- Incline Village GID
- League to Save Lake Tahoe
- Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
- North Tahoe PUD
- Placer County
- Tahoe Area Mountain Bike Association
- Tahoe Backcountry Alliance
- Tahoe City PUD
- Tahoe Fund
- Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
- Tahoe Rim Trail
- USFS, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit
- Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California

Supported by grants from the California Tahoe Conservancy and the Nevada Division of State Lands

Current Thresholds

WILDLIFE

SPECIAL INTEREST SPECIES

NUMERICAL STANDARDS

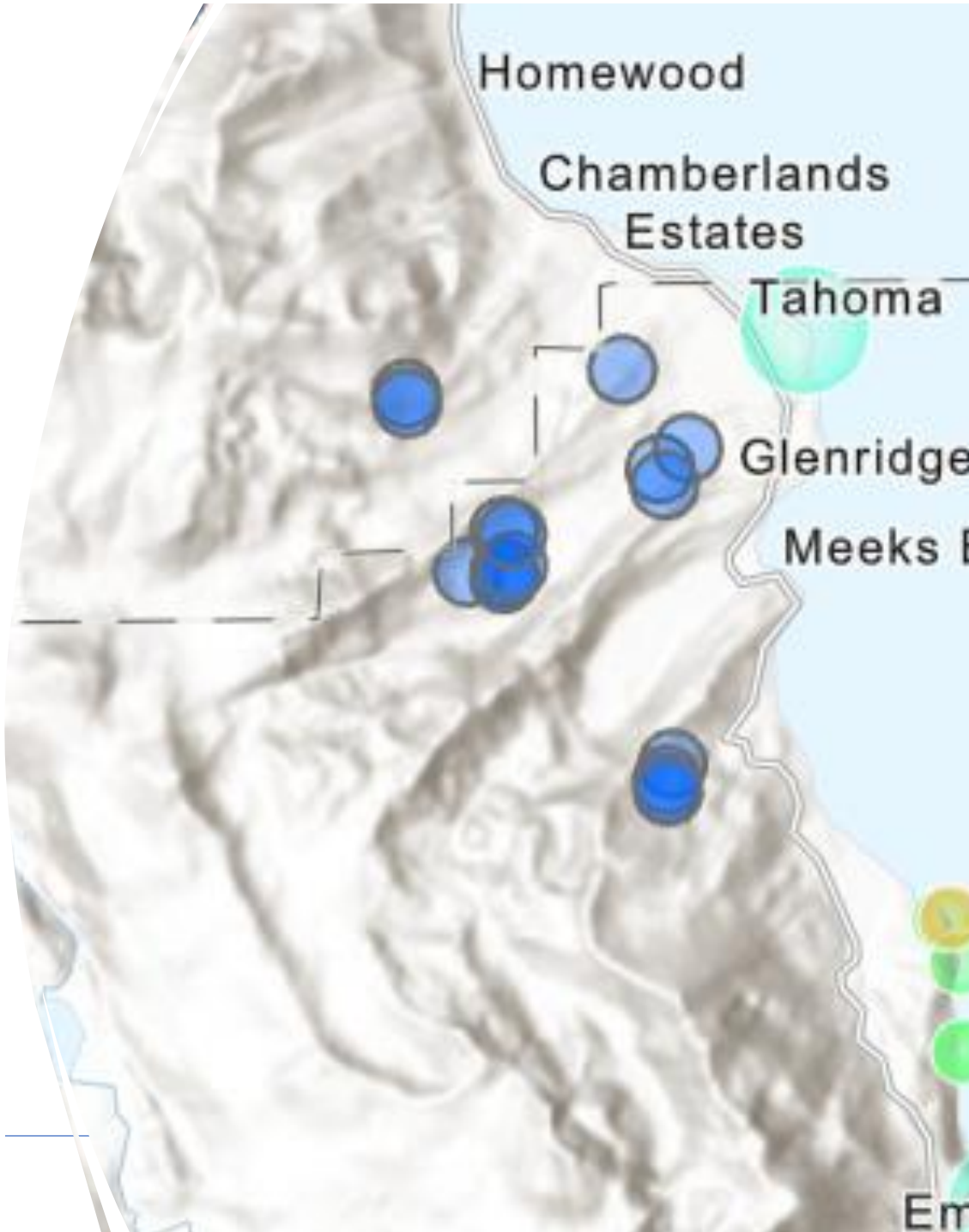
Provide a minimum number of population sites and disturbance zones for the following species:

Population sites:

W1) Provide a minimum of 12 Goshawk population sites.
W2) Provide a minimum of 4 Osprey population sites.
W3) Provide a minimum of 2 Bald Eagle (Winter) population sites.
W4) Provide a minimum of 1 Bald Eagle (Nesting) population sites.
W5) Provide a minimum of 4 Golden Eagle population sites.
W6) Provide a minimum of 2 Peregrine population sites.
W7) Provide a minimum of 18 Waterfowl population sites.

Disturbance Zones:

W8) Provide disturbance zones in the most suitable 500 acres surrounding nest site including a 0.25 mile buffer centered on nest sites, and influence zones in 3.5 mi for Goshawk.
W9) Provide 0.25 mi disturbance zones and 0.6 mi influence zones for Osprey.
W10) Provide disturbance zones in mapped areas and influence zones in mapped areas for Bald Eagle (Winter).
W11) Provide 0.5 mi disturbance zones and variable influence zones for Bald Eagle (Nesting).
W12) Provide 0.25 mi disturbance zones and 9.0 mi influence zones for Golden Eagle.
W13) Provide 0.25 mi disturbance zones and 7.6 mi influence zones for Peregrine.
W14) Provide disturbance zones in mapped areas and influence zones in mapped areas for Waterfowl.
W15) Provide disturbance zones in meadows and influence zones in mapped areas for Deer.



Beyond Birds

Threshold Update

Administrative

Reorganization & Technical corrections

Substantive

Review the content of individual threshold standards

2023 Threshold Evaluation

Row Labels	Number of Standards	% of All Standards	Reported Standards	% of Reported Standards
Attainment	59	42%	59	53%
Non-Attainment	24	17%	24	21%
Implemented Management Standards/Policy Statements	29	21%	29	26%
Status Not Determined	28	20%		
Grand Total	**140**	**100%**	**112**	**100%**

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Threshold Standard Types

1 Numerical Standards	Establish a numerical target for an indicator
2 Management Standards	An adopted best practice, regulation, norm or requirement intended to protect or conserve a valued natural resource or socioeconomic value or experience.
3 Policy Statements	Provide direction to the agency in developing the *Regional Plan*

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Timeline

Coming Soon: By the end of the 2027

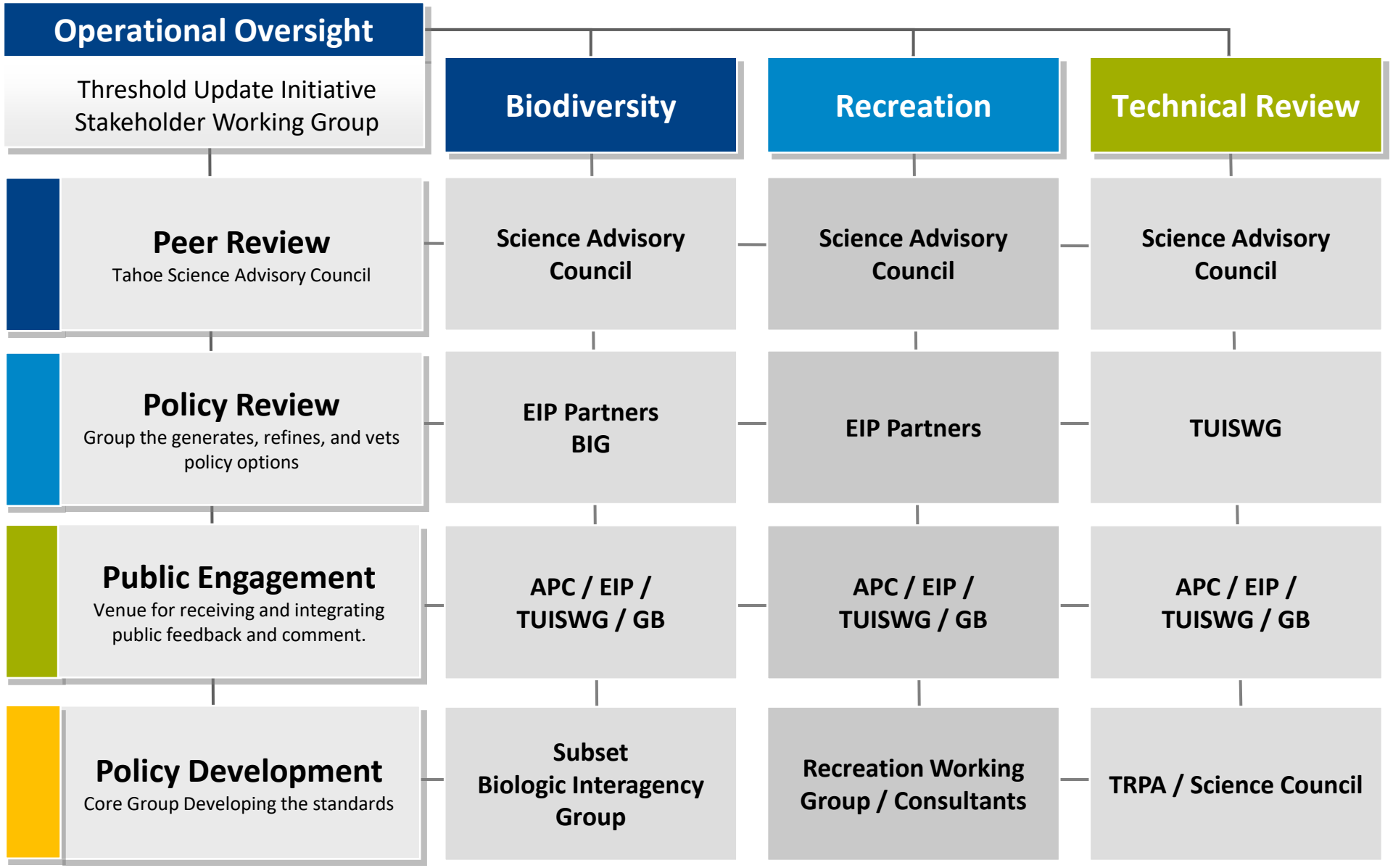
Committee Deliberation

Motion

1) A motion to recommend the proposed threshold update priorities for the 2026-2027 work plan as presented in the staff summary.

Misc Extra Slides

Process


Operational Oversight
Threshold Update Initiative Stakeholder Working Group
Biodiversity
Recreation
Technical Review
Peer Review
Tahoe Science Advisory Council
Science Advisory Council
Science Advisory Council
Science Advisory Council
Policy Review
Group the generates, refines, and vets policy options
EIP Partners BIG
EIP Partners
TUISWG
Public Engagement
Venue for receiving and integrating public feedback and comment.
APC / EIP / TUISWG / GB
APC / EIP / TUISWG / GB
APC / EIP / TUISWG / GB
Policy Development
Core Group Developing the standards
Subset Biologic Interagency Group
Recreation Working Group / Consultants
TRPA / Science Council

Threshold Update Policy Discussion

Existing Standard	Existing Policy Goal	Conceptual threshold
Preserve and enhance the high quality recreational experience (with emphasis on undeveloped shoreline and low density recreation).	Visitor experience Access to diverse opportunities	Ensure all recreation sites have sustainable infrastructure and operations in place to manage site capacity. • Protecting environmental, cultural, access, experience, and quality of life attributes
Ensure a fair share of the total Basin capacity for outdoor recreation is available to the general public.	Preserve and expand access to public lands for recreation	Preserve and expand publicly managed recreation lands and recreation opportunities. • Ensure a diverse mix of recreation land types available

Underlying Considerations: Science-based, objective, maintain flexibility for land managers, transportation connection, ongoing monitoring, adaptive management, don't forget operations

Driving Action

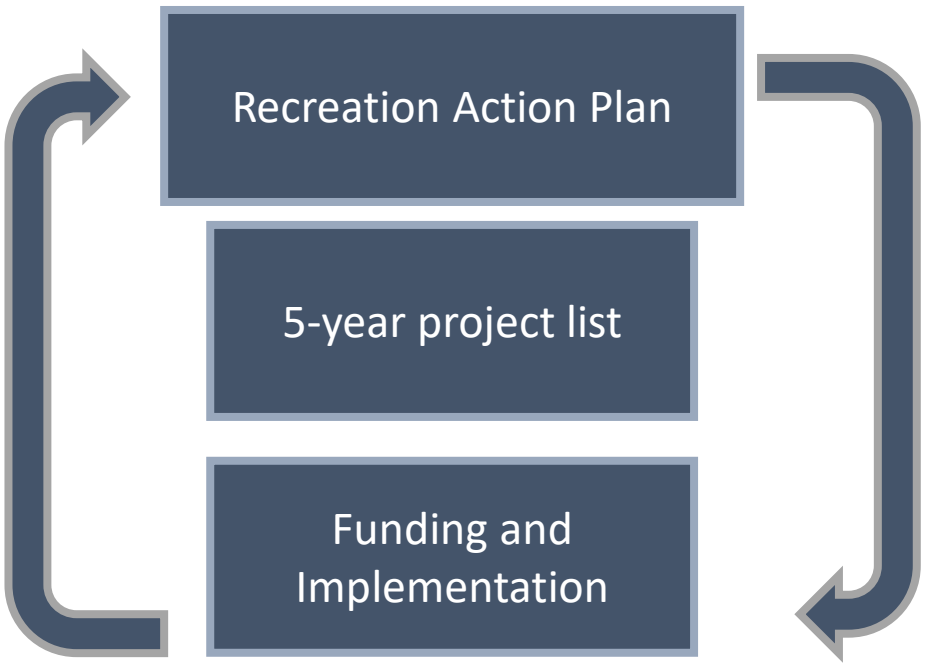
Lake Tahoe
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Threshold Update

Aligned Vision

Scoring Criteria

2026 Baseline



Sustainable Recreation Sites

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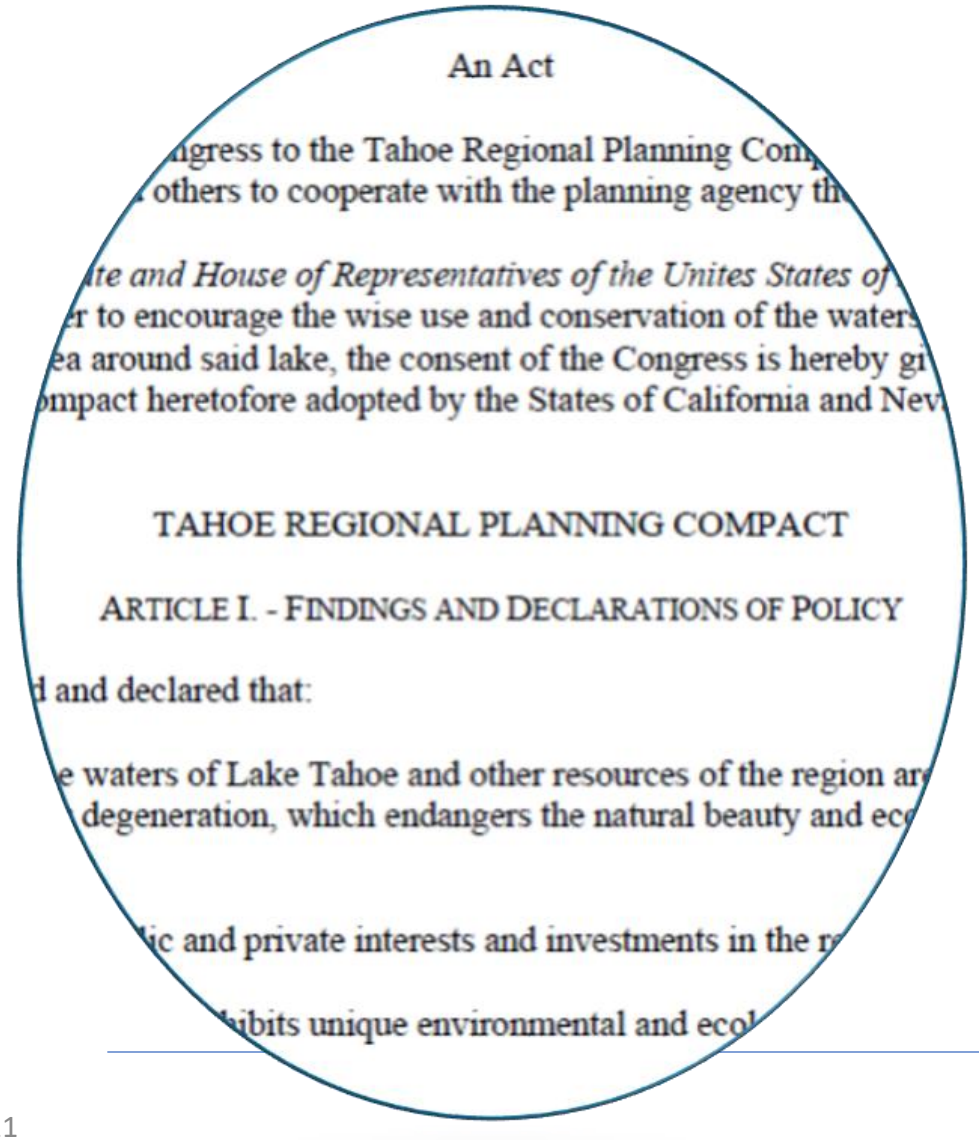
Bi State Compact



An Act

ngress to the Tahoe Regional Planning Com
others to cooperate with the planning agency th

te and House of Representatives of the Unites States of
r to encourage the wise use and conservation of the waters
ea around said lake, the consent of the Congress is hereby gi
mpact heretofore adopted by the States of California and Nev

TAHOE REGIONAL PLANNING COMPACT

ARTICLE I. - FINDINGS AND DECLARATIONS OF POLICY

d and declared that:

e waters of Lake Tahoe and other resources of the region ar
degeneration, which endangers the natural beauty and ec

ic and private interests and investments in the r

ibits unique environmental and ecol

Article (II) (i) "***Environmental threshold carrying capacity***" *means an environmental standard necessary to maintain a significant scenic, recreational, educational, scientific or natural value of the region or to maintain public health and safety within the region. Such standards shall include but not be limited to standards for air quality, water quality, soil conservation, vegetation preservation and noise.*

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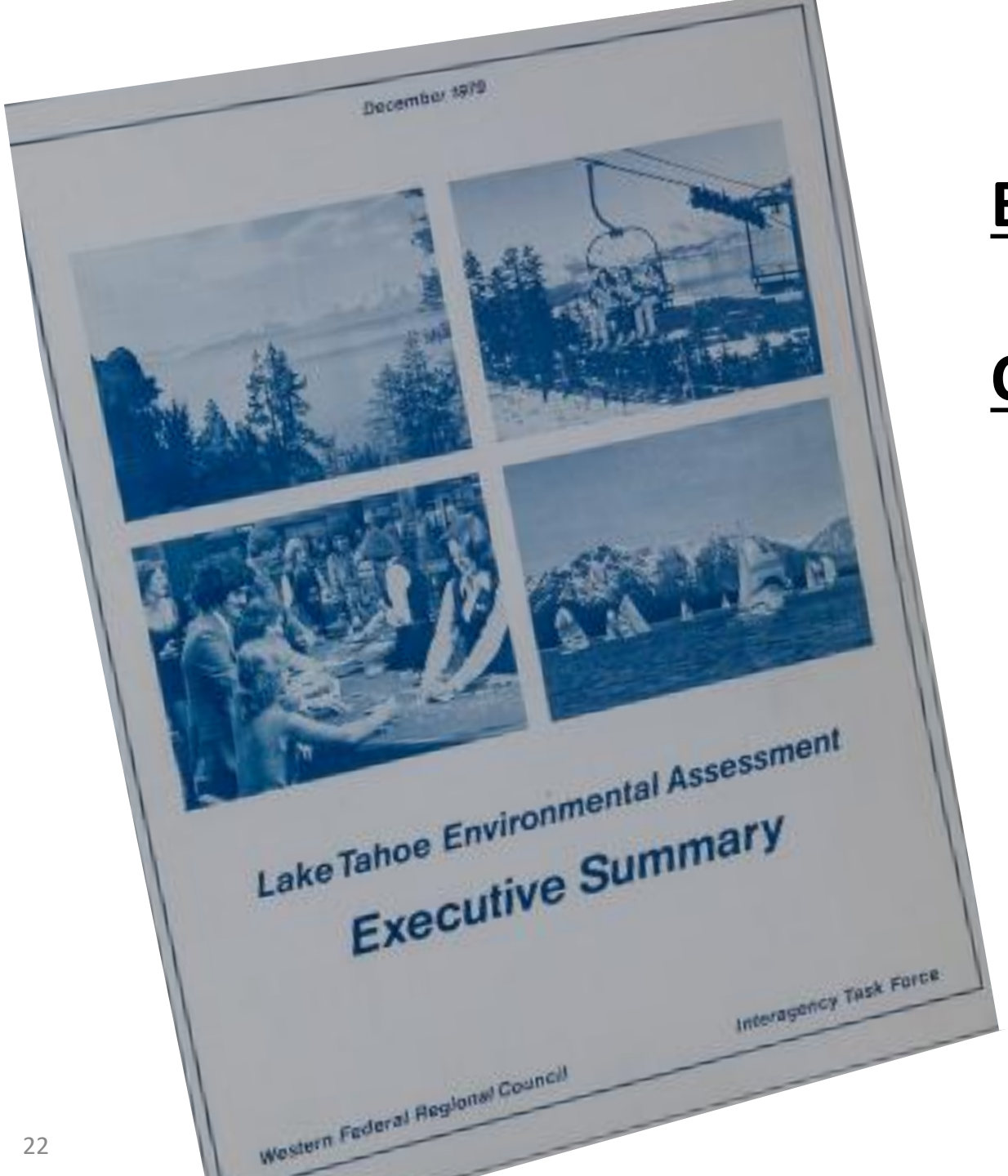

Environmental Threshold

Desired end-state

Carrying Capacity

"the maximum population and associated urban activity that a region can accommodate without exceeding environmental thresholds and without exceeding the infrastructure and mitigation cost limitations"

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“..simply refer to “Threshold Standard” instead. The term “carrying capacity” has very specific meanings depending on context, and could lead to unintended interpretation”

- 2015 Peer Reviewer

Executive Oversight

TIE-SC

Operational Oversight

EIP Coordinating Committee