Threshold Update Initiative

TRPA GOVERNING BOARD
SEPTEMBER 27, 2017

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Thresholds Update Initiative

Challenge:

- The majority of the standards were adopted in 1982, based on science that is now over 40 years old.
- Cost of comprehensive monitoring is beyond the resources of the agency and its partners

Goals:

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

Typology of change

Threshold standards

e.g. 2012 change in standard for 8-hour Carbon Monoxide change from 9 to 6 parts per million to align with state standards

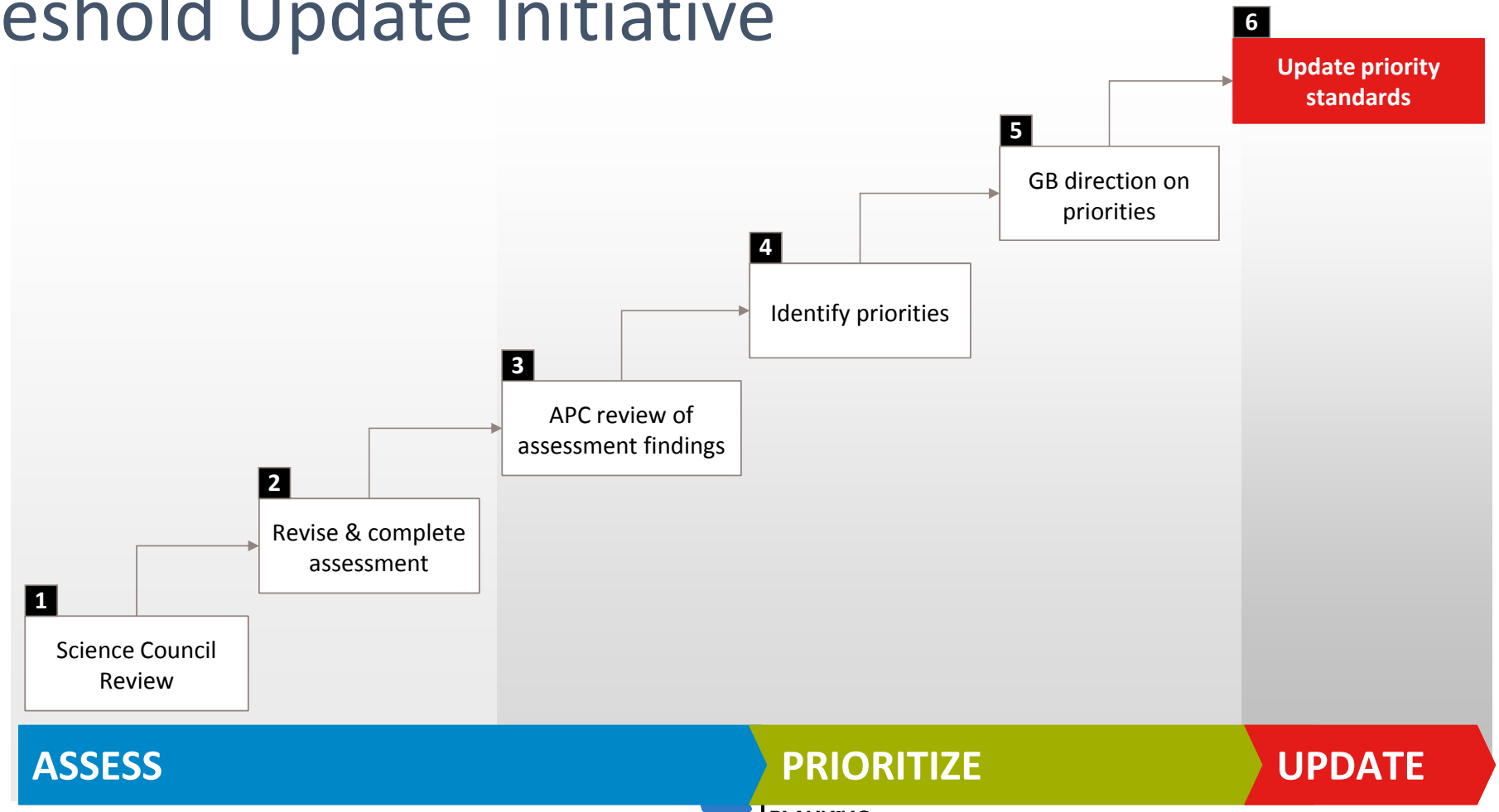
Monitoring and evaluation

e.g. Data collection and method used to assess change

Reporting and communication

e.g. Threshold dashboard, 2019 threshold evaluation format revisions

Threshold Update Initiative



Threshold Assessment History

9/30 Draft assessment included in 2015 Threshold Evaluation Report

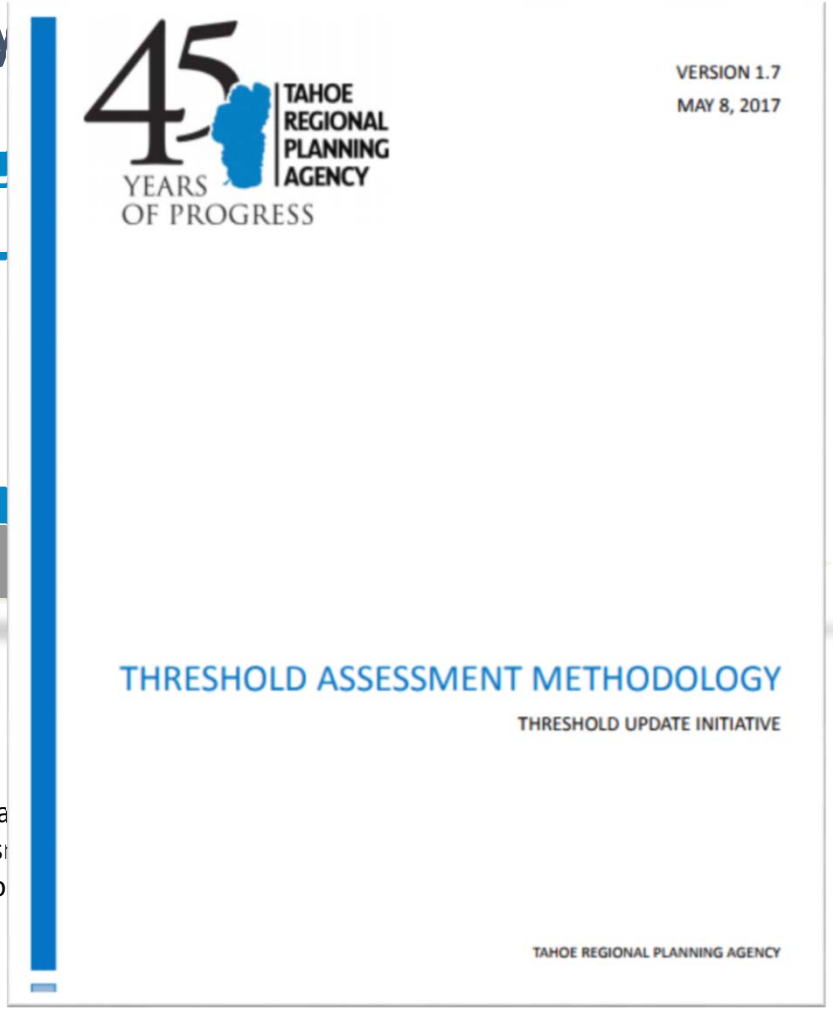
2/1 Tahoe Science Advisory Council review and feedback on the standard assessment

12/6 Assessment peer reviewed

3/10 Standa assess revisio

ASSESS

Q3 2016 Q4 2016 Q1 2017



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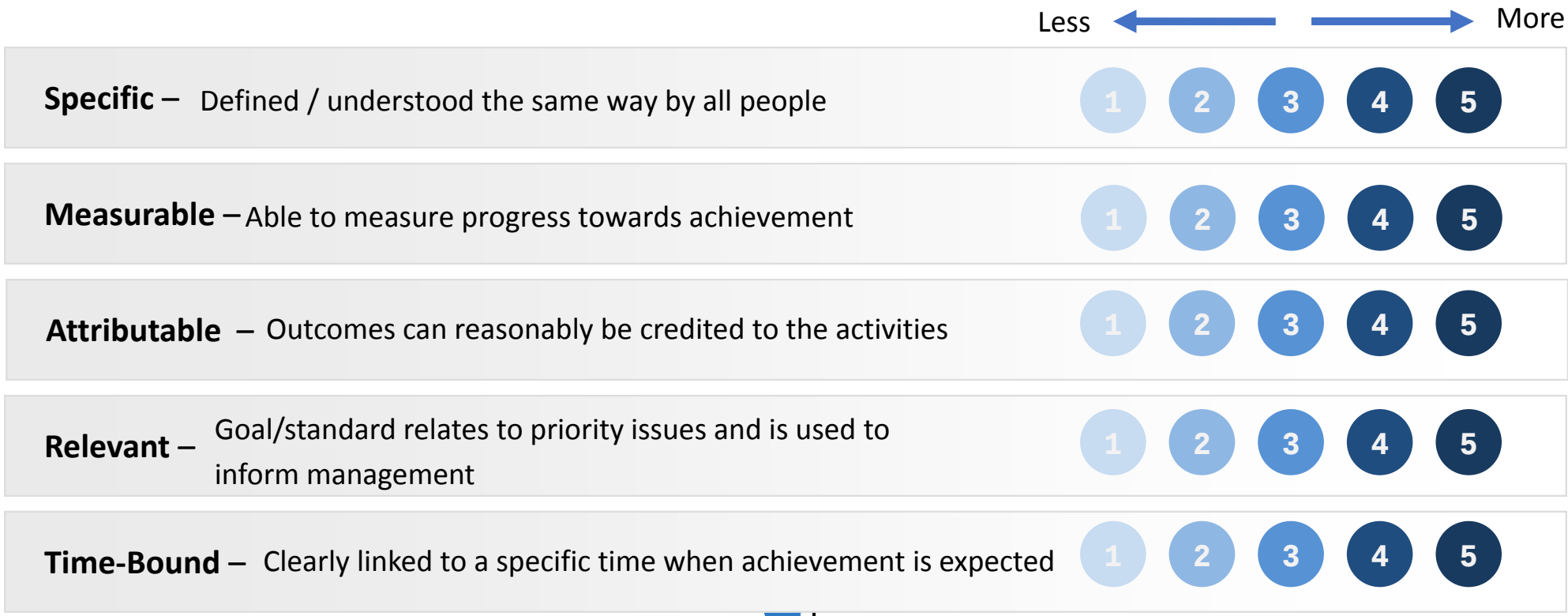
Threshold Assessment: SMART criteria

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

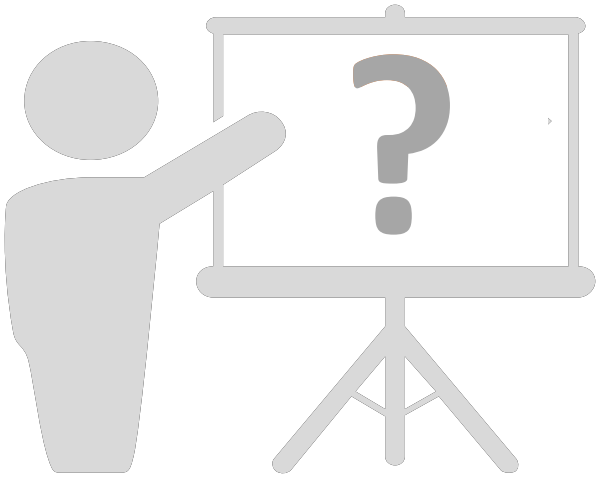


Assessment Findings

- 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

Relevancy

Relevant to whom ?



Relevant for what?

Relevant for the partnership to review at this time?

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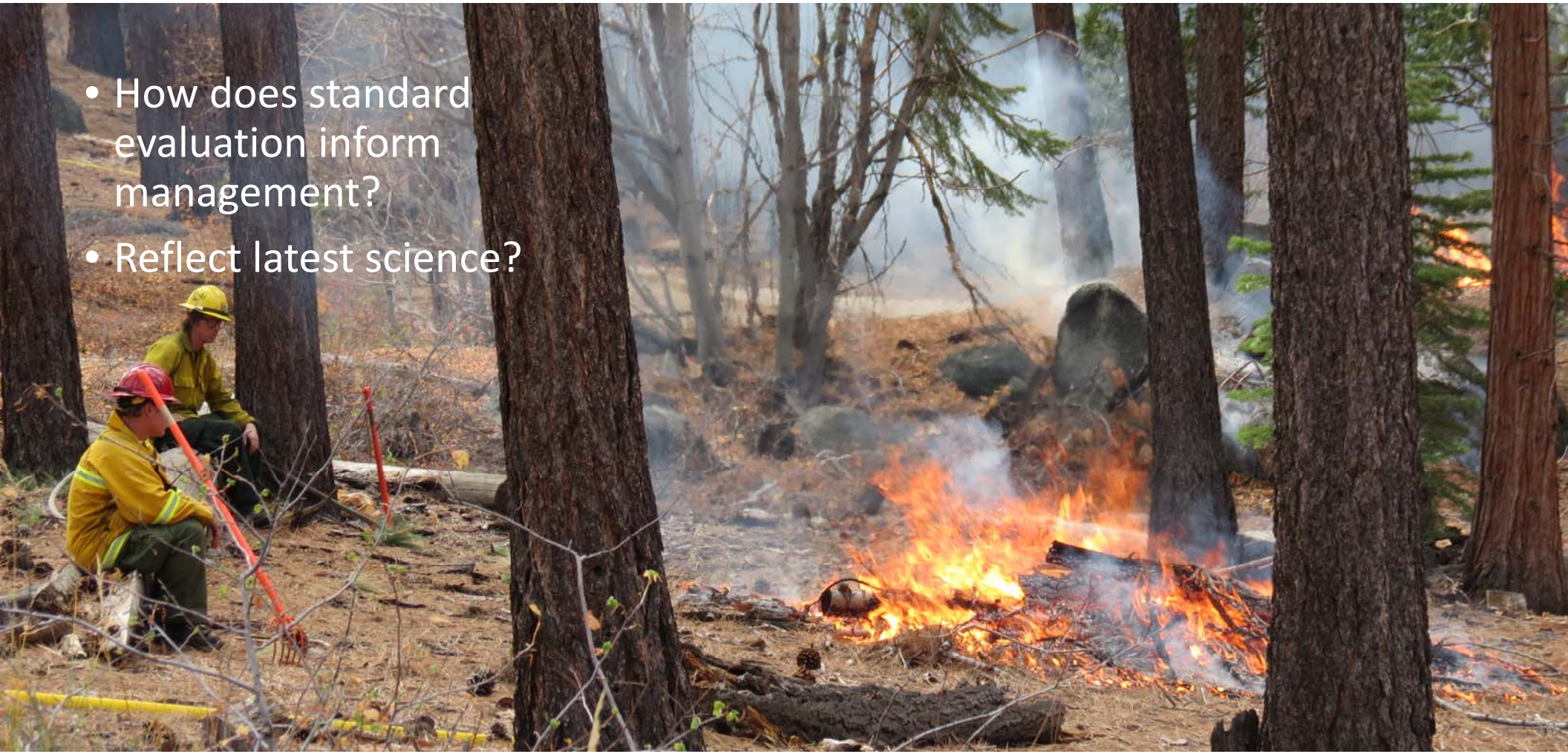
Relevancy

- Air Quality
- Fisheries
- Noise
- Recreation
- Scenic
- Soil Conservation
- Vegetation
- Water Quality
- Wildlife

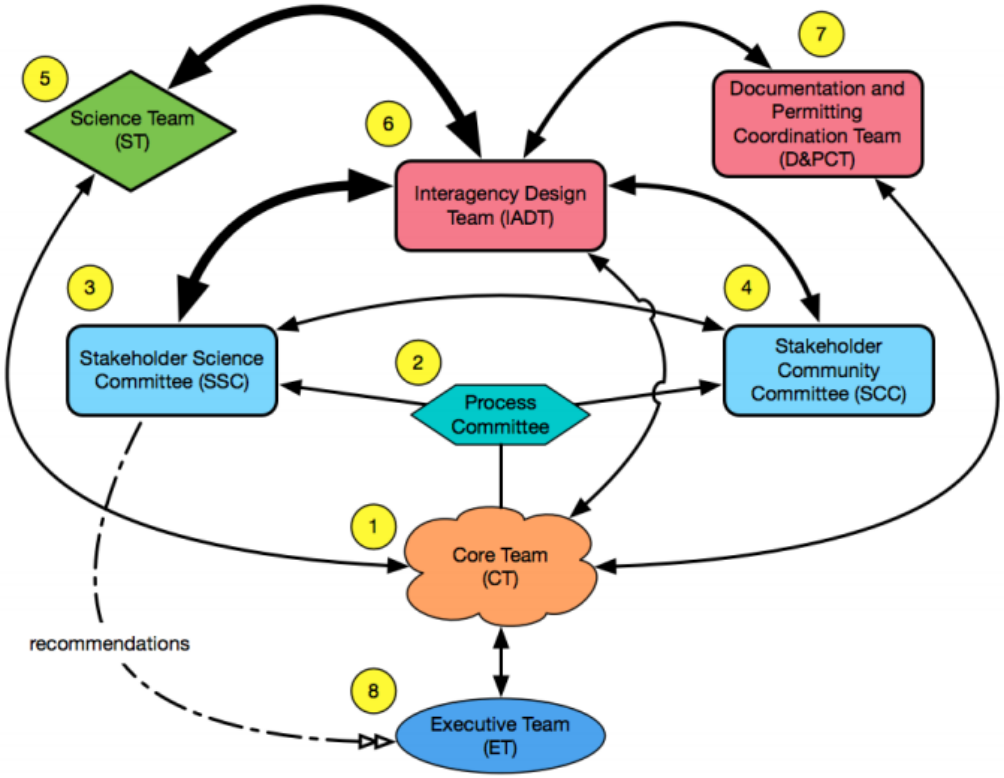
- Air Quality (VMT)
- Fisheries
- Noise
- Recreation
- Scenic
- Soil Conservation (SEZ)
- Vegetation (Forest Health)
- Water Quality
- Wildlife

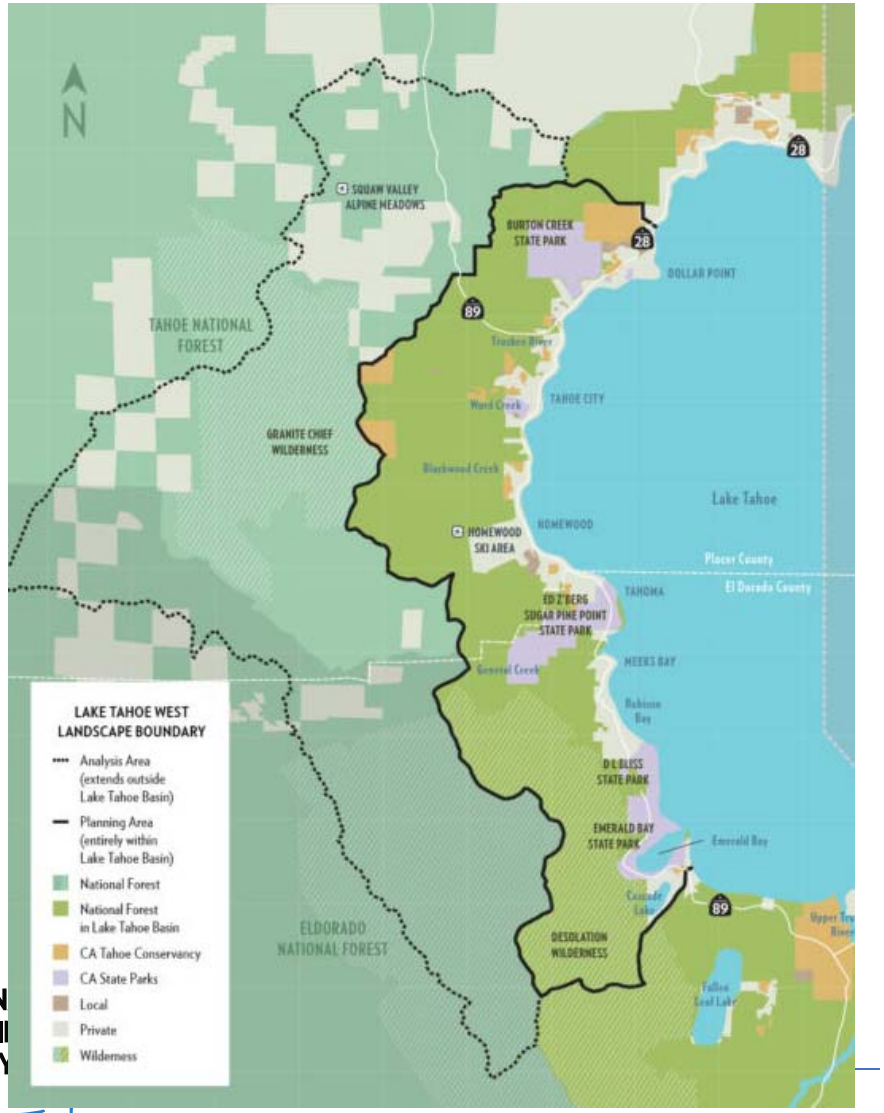
Vegetation (Forest Health)



Vegetation (Forest Health)

Lake Tahoe West Restoration Partnership





Recreation

"So TRPA recreation management is guided by these two statements?

I'm not sure you are inviting my comment on those (they are likely beyond the scope of this report) but I do have some concerns…..

First there is no mention of natural, cultural, and historic resource protection from recreational visitation….

…is this infrastructure sustainably designed and managed and what condition is it in..

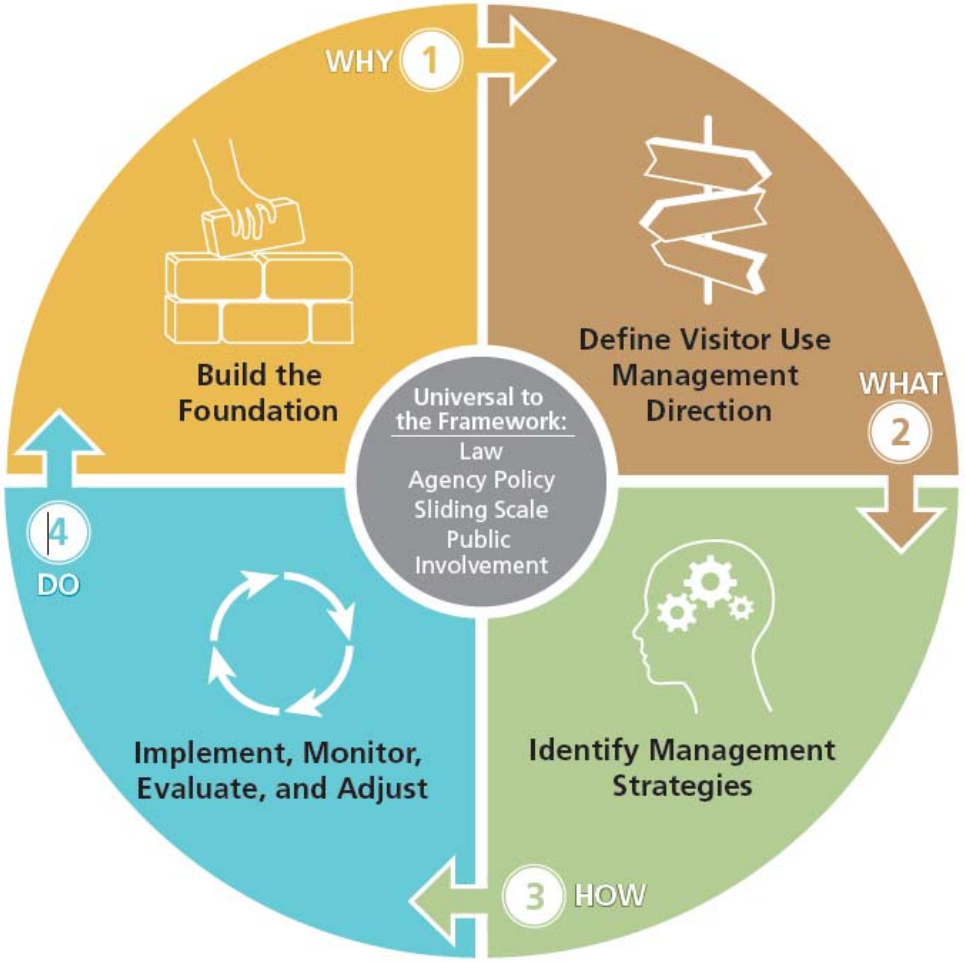
More importantly, these statements are not written in a manner that allows a clear empirical evaluation of management success…..

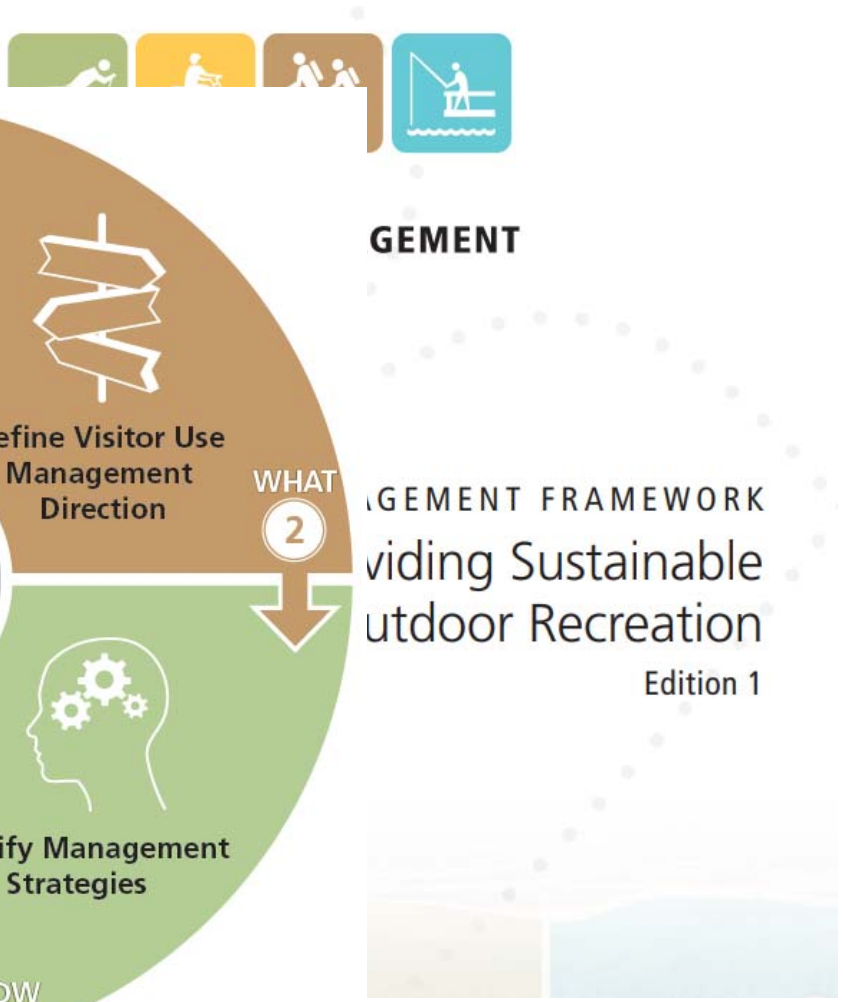
– 2015 Peer Reviewer

Recreation

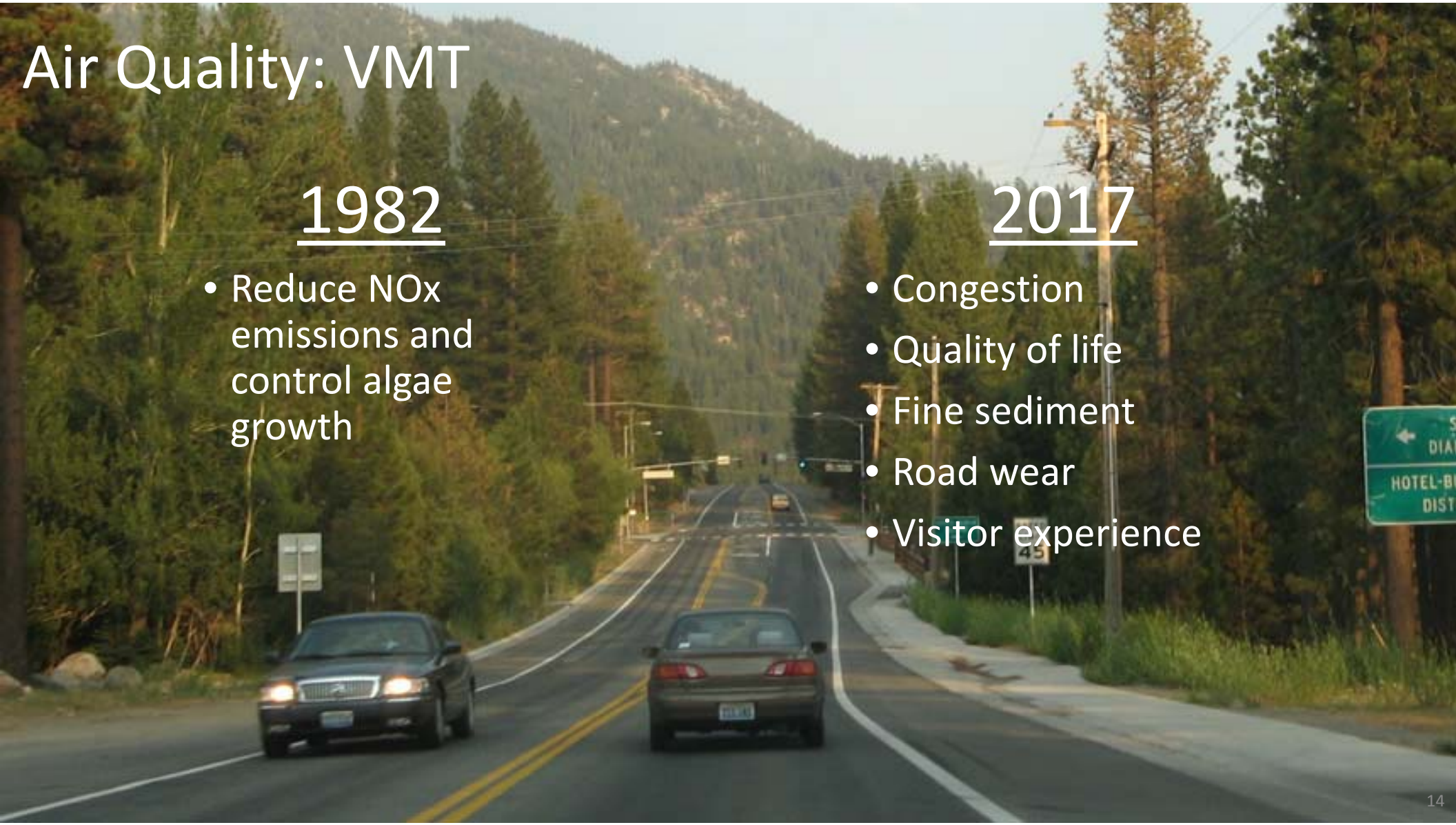
Sustainable recreati

- US Forest Service
- Tahoe Regional Pla
- Nevada State Park
- Nevada Division of
- California State Pa
- Tahoe Fund
- City of South Lake
- League to Save Lak
- Tahoe Transportati
- Lake Tahoe Visitor
- North Lake Tahoe
- Tahoe City Public U
- Sierra Nevada Con
- Tahoe Chamber of





Air Quality: VMT



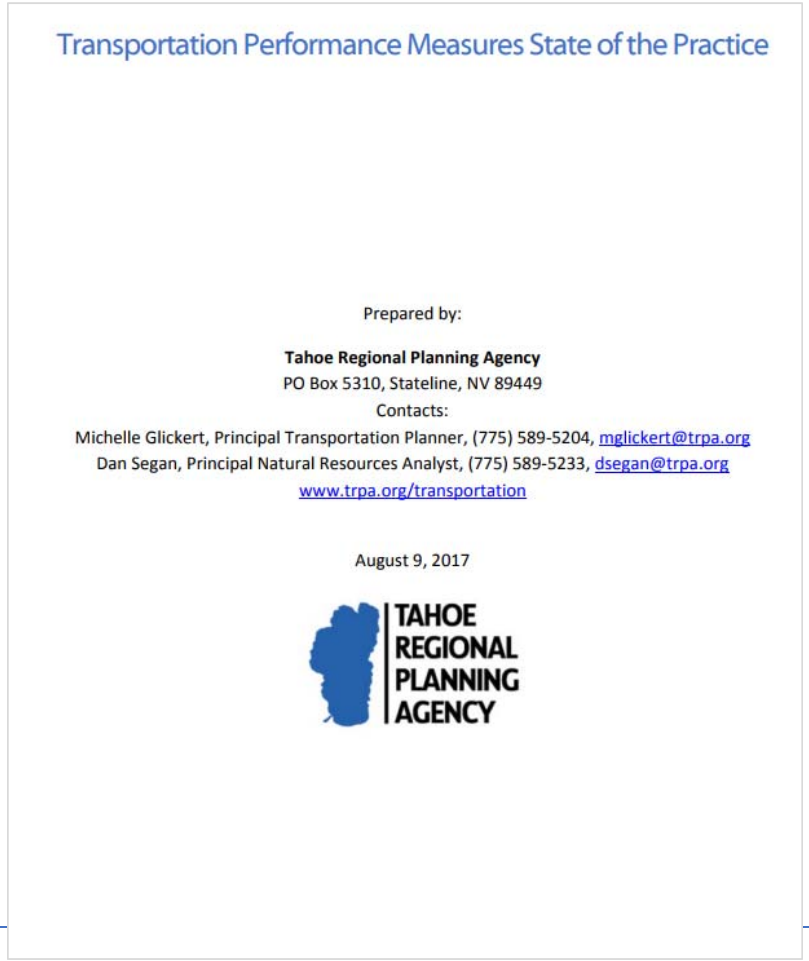
1982

- Reduce NOx emissions and control algae growth

2017

- Congestion
- Quality of life
- Fine sediment
- Road wear
- Visitor experience

Air Quality: VMT



Transportation Performance Measures State of the Practice

Prepared by:

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August 9, 2017

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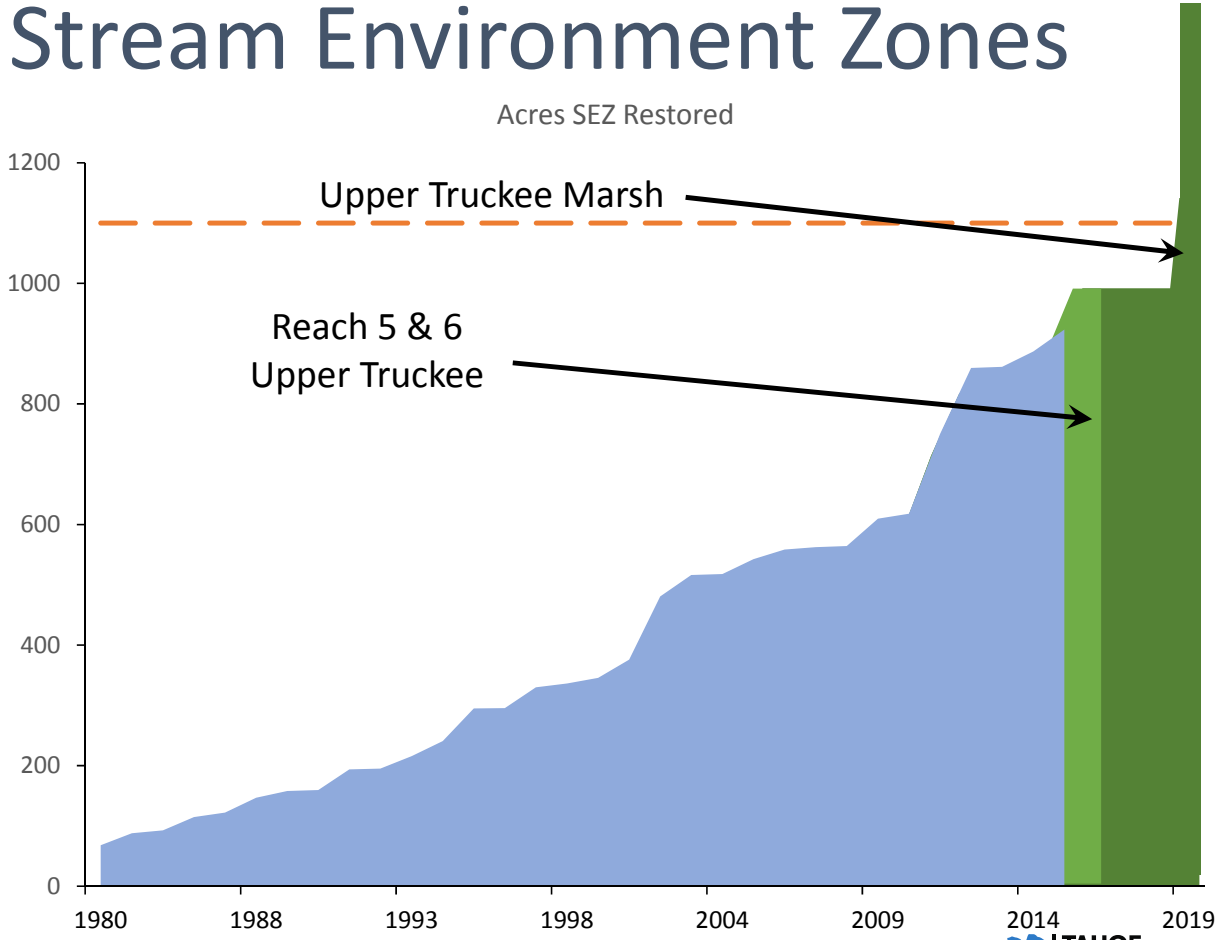
- APC Transportation Measures Working Group
  - State of the Practice Report
- Bi-State Consultation
  - Policy alignment
- Transportation Performance Management
  - Project prioritization
- Science Advisory Council
  - Water quality – VMT

Stream Environment Zones



"In summary, the present approach to evaluating the condition and the improvement in SEZ's is an overly blunt instrument with no apparent scientific basis beyond "more is better." The science has truly advanced in the last 40+ years"

– 2015 Peer Reviewer

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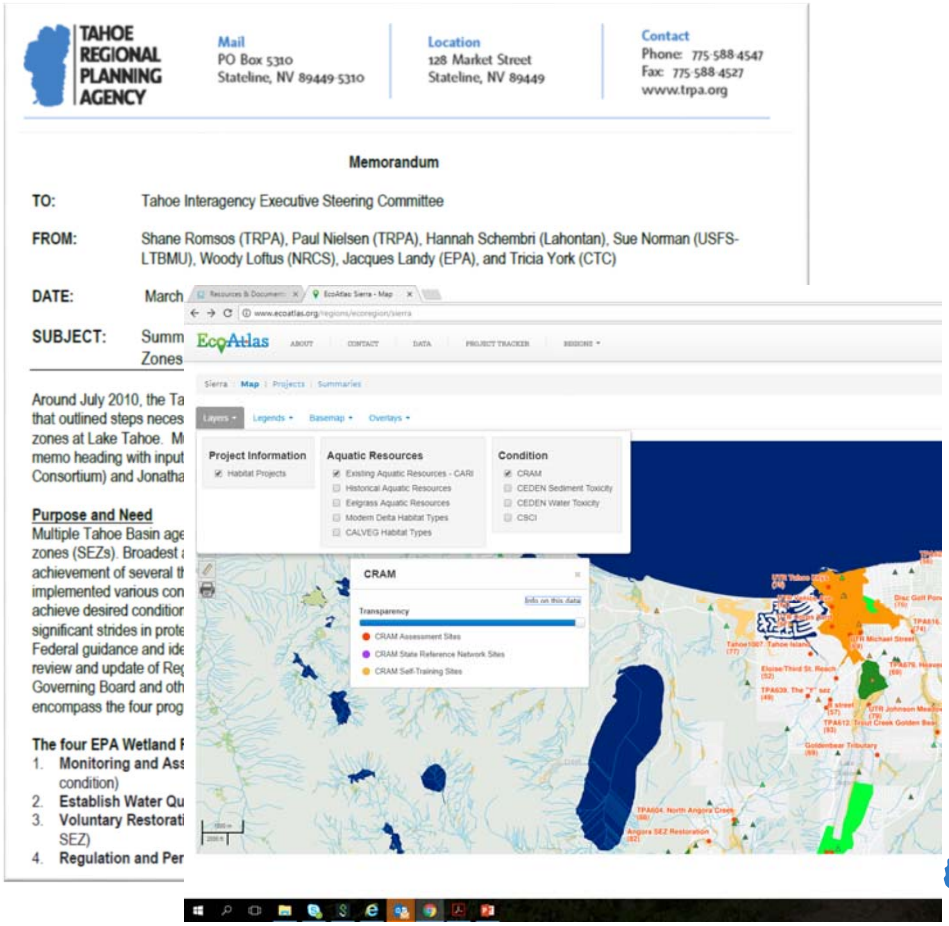
Stream Environment Zones



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Memorandum

TO: Tahoe Interagency Executive Steering Committee

FROM: Shane Romsos (TRPA), Paul Nielsen (TRPA), Hannah Schembri (Lahontan), Sue Norman (USFS-LTBMU), Woody Loftus (NRCS), Jacques Landy (EPA), and Tricia York (CTC)

DATE: March

SUBJECT: Summ
Zones

Around July 2010, the Ta
that outlined steps neces
zones at Lake Tahoe. M
memo heading with input
Consortium) and Jonatha

Purpose and Need
Multiple Tahoe Basin age
zones (SEZs). Broadest
achievement of several th
implemented various con
achieve desired condition
significant strides in prote
Federal guidance and ide
review and update of Reg
Governing Board and oth
encompass the four prog

The four EPA Wetland
1. Monitoring and Ass
condition)
2. Establish Water Qu
3. Voluntary Restorati
SEZ)
4. Regulation and Per

EcoAtlas

Project Information
Habitat Projects

Aquatic Resources
Existing Aquatic Resources - CARI
Historical Aquatic Resources
Eelgrass Aquatic Resources
Modern Delta Habitat Types
CALVEG Habitat Types

Condition
CRAM
CEDEN Sediment Toxicity
CEDEN Water Toxicity
CSCI

CRAM
Transparency
CRAM Assessment Sites
CRAM State Reference Network Sites
CRAM Self-Training Sites

- EPA grant to TRPA
  - 200k grant to advance SEZ management
  - Steering committee: U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, Nevada Division of State Lands, California State Parks, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Lahontan Water Board, Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, California Tahoe Conservancy
- Upper Truckee River Watershed Advisory Group
- Science Advisory Council

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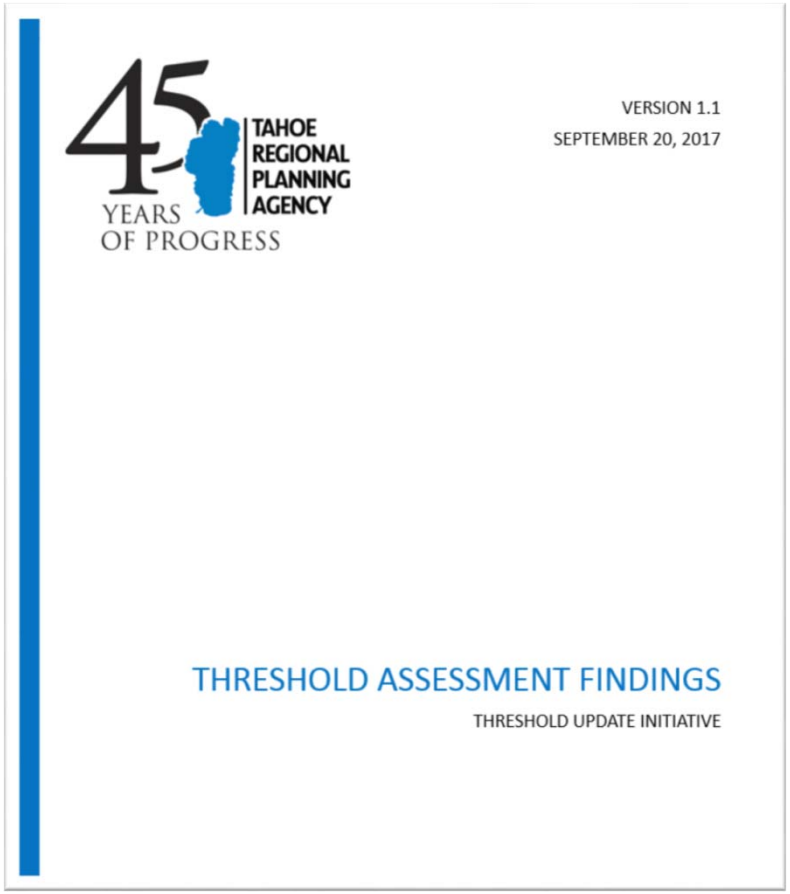
Tahoe Science Advisory Council



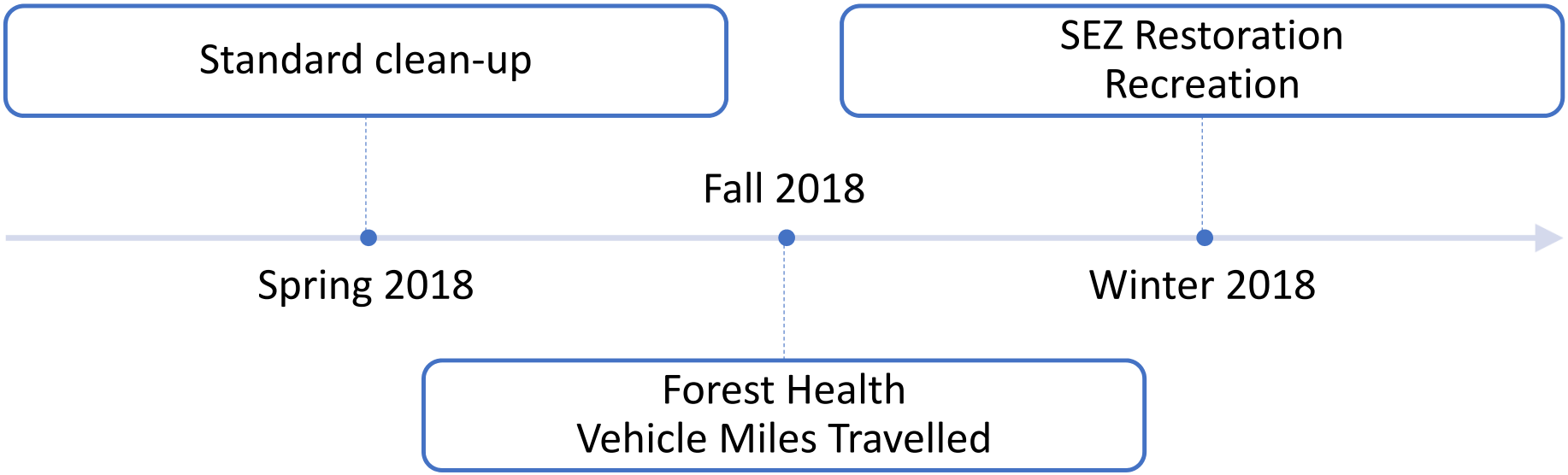
1) Standard Clean-up

- One in four standards overlapped another standard

2) Best practice

- Translating lessons learned from other System to Tahoe

Timeline



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Questions