HEAVENLY MOUNTAIN RESORT EPIC DISCOVERY PROJECT

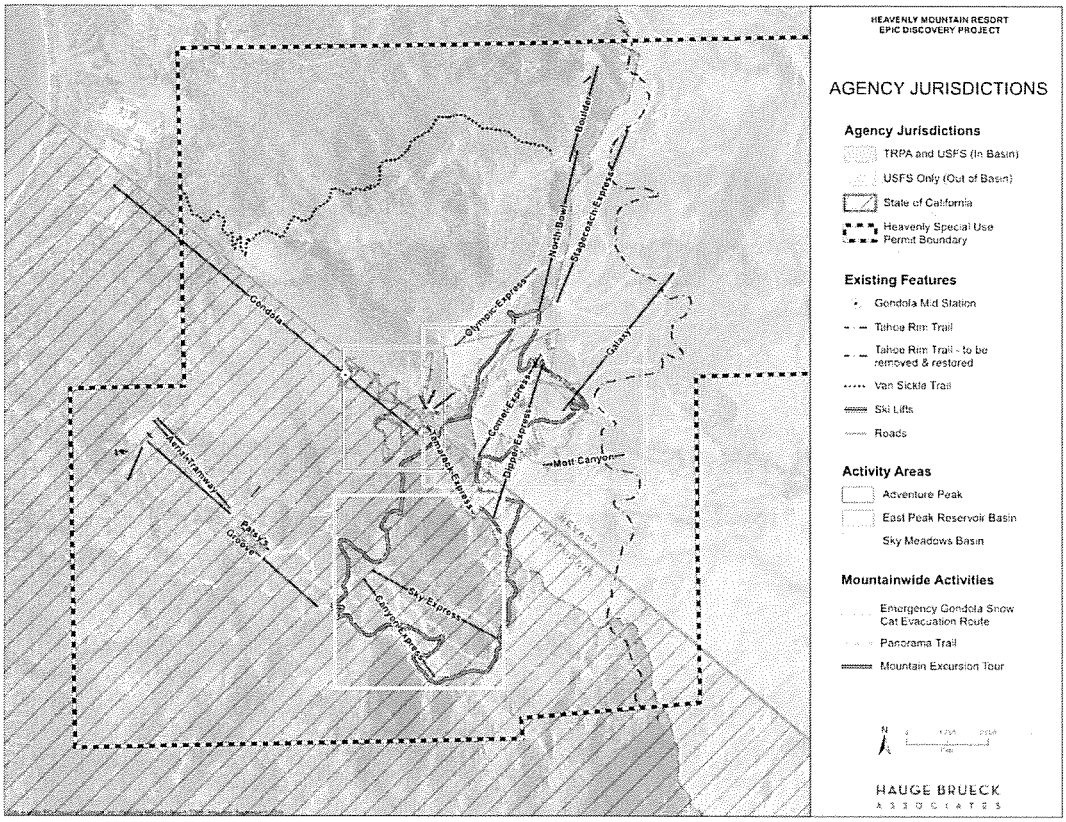
Draft

Environmental Impact Report (CEQA) &
Environmental Impact Statement (TRPA/NEPA)

TRPA
Advisory Planning Commission
September 10, 2014

Introduction

- Epic Discovery Project intended to enhance summer activities at Heavenly
  - Draft EIR/EIS/EIS discusses consistency w/
    - 2011 Ski Area Recreational Opportunity Enhancement Act &
    - Forest Service Implementing Directives from 2014
- Joint Environmental Document Prepared
  - Analyzes Potential Effects for TRPA (In Basin), Lahontan (CA) and USFS (All)



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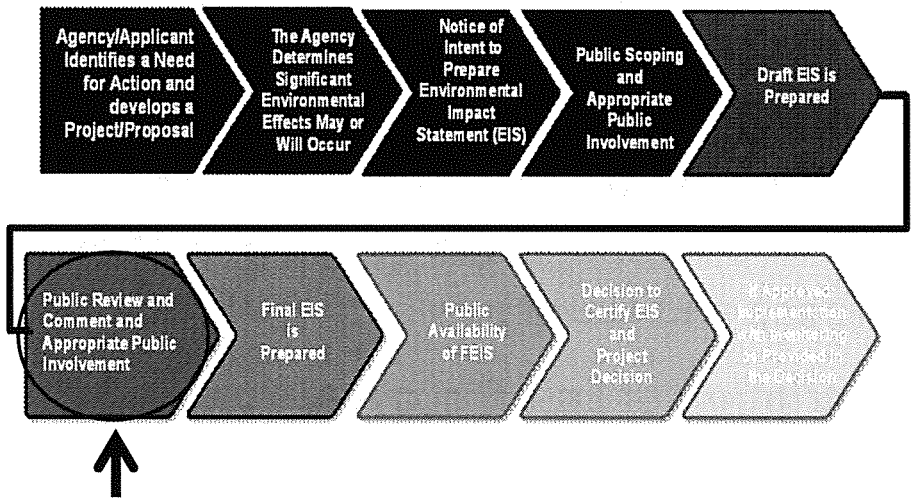
No Action Required

- No formal action is requested at this time
- Staff will brief the APC & public on the content of the Draft EIR/EIS/EIS
- Staff will accept comments from APC and public on the content of the Draft EIR/EIS/EIS

TRPA EIS Process



Current step – comments due October 27, 2014

Comment Period

- The 60-day public comment period
  - Began August 22, 2014 and concludes October 27, 2014
- Additional open house and hearing opportunities
  - Sept 18th - USFS LTBMU Open House (6:00 to 8:00 PM)
  - Sept 24th - TRPA Governing Board (begins 9:30 AM)
- TRPA Governing Board Action
  - Master Plan Amendment after Final EIR/EIS/EIS

Heavenly Mountain Resort Summer Operations

- View Video documenting Existing Conditions, including discussion of lessons learned from current operations and development of the Purpose and Need
- Description of Epic Discovery Project Activities

Zipline Canopy Tours and Challenge Course

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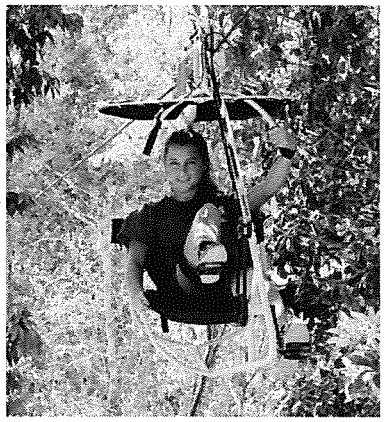
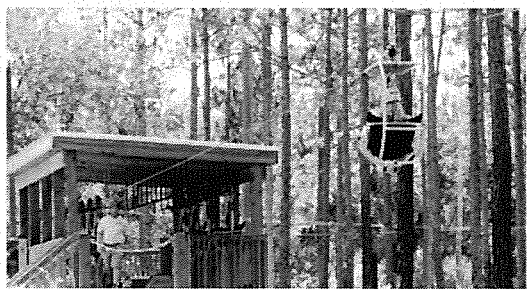
Sky Cycle Canopy Tour





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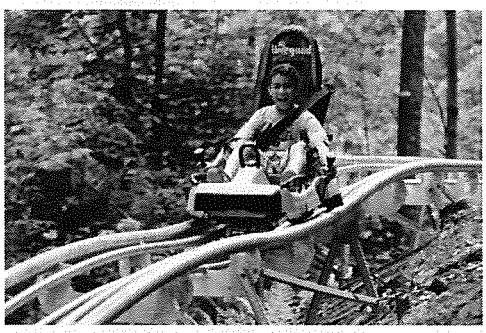
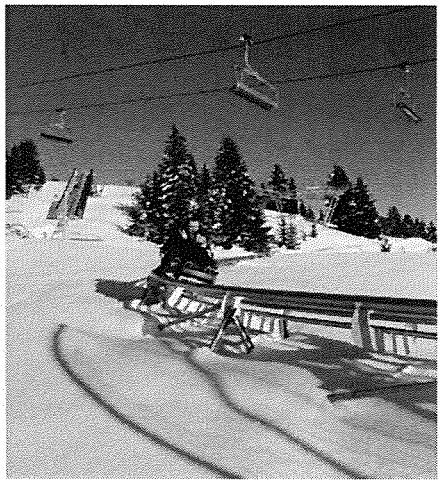
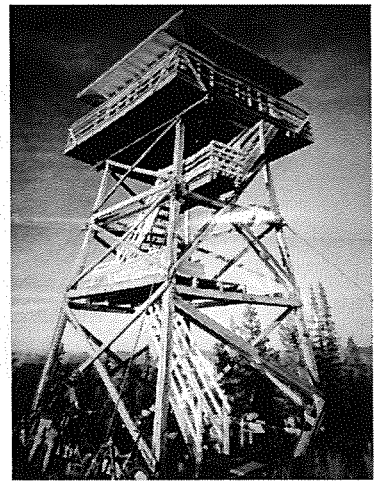
Alpine Coaster





Mountain Bike Park/Trails

Mountain Tours/Lookout Tower



Lahontan Requirements

- Heavenly regulated under Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs)
- Updated WDRs to include Epic Discovery operations
- Water Board is CEQA lead agency for EIR
- Mitigation identified to reduce potentially significant impacts
- Updated WDRs to implement new mitigation and monitoring requirements

Draft EIR/EIS/EIS Alternatives

- Proposed Action – described by Heavenly
- No Action – No changes to the 2007 Master Plan
- Alternative 1 – Remove Forest Flyer and Construct Sky Basin Coaster
- Alternative 2 – Remove Sky Meadows Challenge (Ropes) Course

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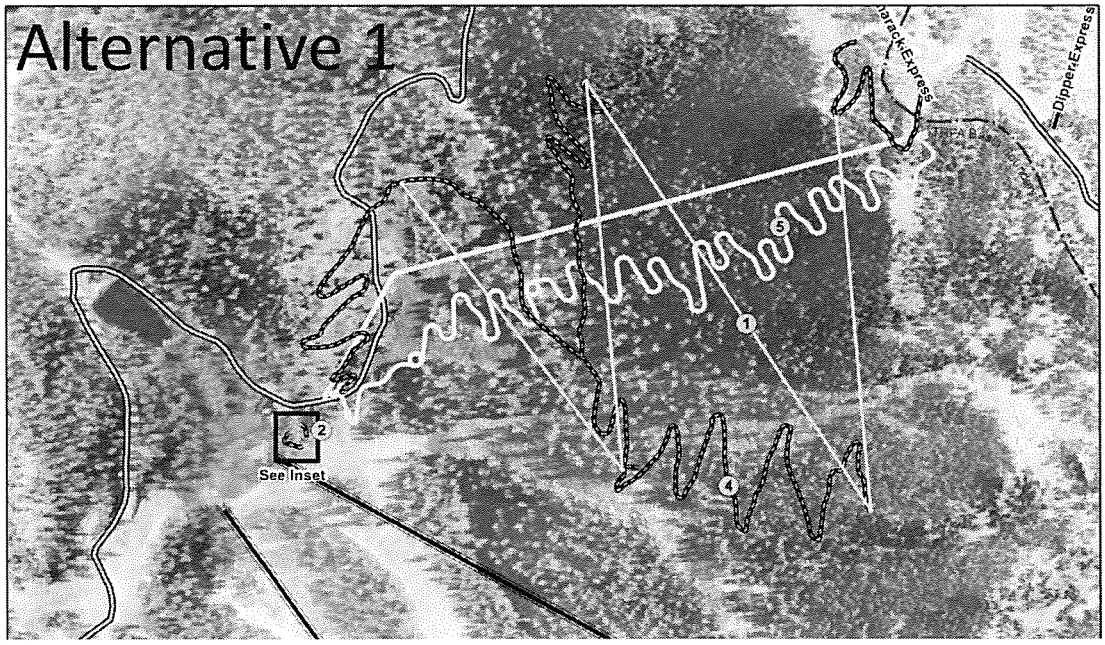

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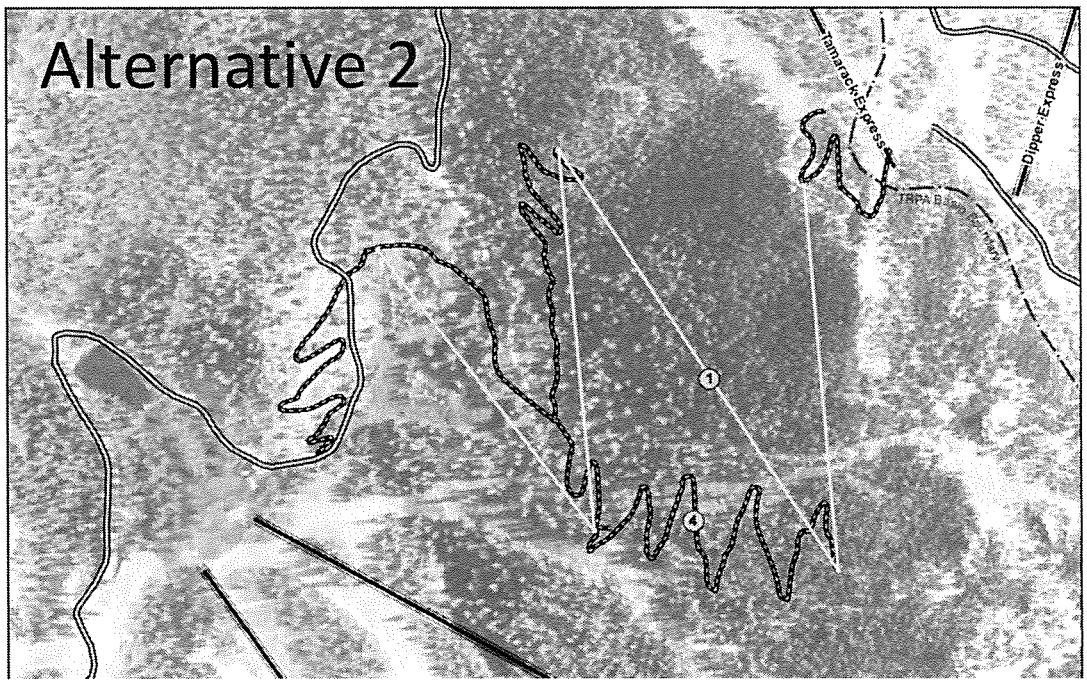

Less Than Significant Impacts

- Water Use and Groundwater
- Air Quality/Greenhouse Gases
- Noise
- Transportation and Parking
- Visual Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Land Use
- Socioeconomics

Key Environmental Issues/Impacts

- **Water Quality/SEZ** – Surface WQ and Cumulative Watershed Effects
- **Soils and Geology** – Erosion Control/Coverage
- **Vegetation** – Tahoe Draba, Whitebark Pine and Weed Management
- **Wildlife** – Pacific Marten, Yellow-Legged Frog and Migratory Birds
- **Recreation** – Increased Use of Connector Trails

Design Features/Mitigation Measures

- **Avoid SEZ and sensitive plants** – relocate select trails and install fences/barriers
- **Control Runoff/Erosion** – treat identified watershed hotspots and prepare trail/roadway management plans
- **Protect wildlife** – avoid SN Yellow-Legged Frog Habitat until presence/absence confirmed

Design Features/Mitigation Measures

- **Protect Nesting Birds** – Annual surveys for nesting birds and utilize buffers if needed
- **Protect Reproductive Marten** – Annual surveys for nursery/den sites and utilize buffers if needed
- **Trail Management** – Monitor recreational experience on adjacent connector trails and construct improvements if needed

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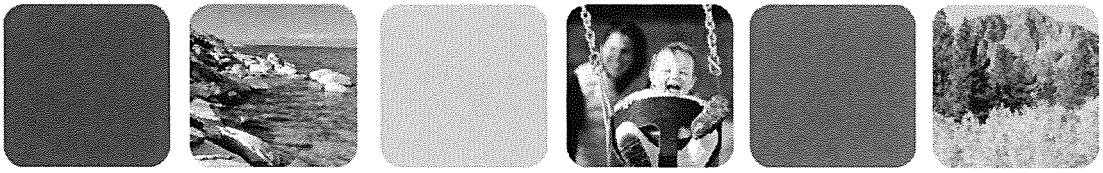
Public and APC Comments