

The following pages are the:

Recommendations to
Pathway 2007 Executives on
Pathway 2007 Draft Evaluation Report
Vision, Desired Conditions, Indicators and Standards

This is Attachment B to Agenda Item VI.A in the APC Packet

**Recommendations to
Pathway 2007 Executives on
Pathway 2007 Draft Evaluation Report
Vision, Desired Conditions, Indicators and Standards
March 16, 2006**

BACKGROUND:

PATHWAY 2007 is a cooperative effort to envision and implement a shared future for Lake Tahoe. The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA), the USDA Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (USFS), the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (Lahontan) and the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) (collectively referred to as the PATHWAY Partners) are working together in a collaborative planning process to revise long-term resource management plans. These planning efforts include: USFS Land and Resource Management Plan Revision (Forest Plan), TRPA Regional Plan Update (Regional Plan), and Lahontan and NDEP Lake Tahoe Total Maximum Daily Load Process (Lake TMDL). Part of this process includes convening a Forum of diverse stakeholders to recommend mutually beneficial resource management options to PATHWAY agency decision-makers.

Forum discussions promote “enlightened self-interest” as participants work to understand different perspectives and incorporate the interests of all in developing recommendations. Members share information gained from these discussions to their respective constituencies through various venues.

A fundamental responsibility of the Forum is to provide recommendations for key milestones within the PATHWAY 2007 process. Recommendations are developed by examining alternatives. The Core Group Administrator will be responsible for bringing technical alternatives, not solutions, to the Forum for consideration and the Forum will negotiate with multiple interests to evaluate and decide among various alternatives.

Forum recommendations will be developed through a consensus-seeking process, based on all members working collaboratively to communicate their respective interests and identify preferred alternatives. Forum recommendations will be submitted to the PATHWAY Executives, who will convey recommendations with background information and agency input.

VISION

As part of their work the Forum created a Vision statement to describe what they seeking when they offer their opinions and consensus. They set the following standards for the statement. Consistent with the general:

1. Feedback received from the public through many venues
2. Visions of the Pathway Agencies
3. Requirements of the Tahoe Regional Planning Compact and all other applicable laws

And intended the statement be used -

1. As a statement of the Forum general purpose and direction for 2027
2. To ensure the consistency of the Resource Visions with the broader vision
3. As a future reference point for the agencies after the Forum has concluded

FORUM VISION STATEMENT: In 2027, the Lake Tahoe Basin is an exceptional place where communities thrive in harmony with the natural environment. The overwhelming presence of nature is apparent. The lake is blue and clear, air is clean, the region's ecosystems healthy, and natural sounds evident. Within the communities, the economy is strong and sustainable, the population diverse and vital, and the richness of everyday life is obvious.

Based on mutual respect and the integration of human and natural communities, a balance exists that inspires and motivates residents, businesses, visitors and governments alike to work together to maintain the Lake's value as a national and international natural treasure. It is truly a unique and special place!

PREAMBLE

This preamble expresses general concerns, especially legal and procedural, and sidebars that limit the Forum's ability to make recommendations. The document to which the preamble is attached represents the Forum's consideration and analysis of the Evaluation Report, presentation of Staff background and other information, discussion in broad and interest-based groups and iterations of the above. Areas where consensus was reached are stated and recommended to the agencies. Areas where consensus could not be reached are identified. A summary of concerns and disagreements is to be conveyed with agency input as described above.

On September 22, 2005, the Forum started the process to review in order to make recommendations on the Pathway 2007 Draft Evaluation Report. Agency Core Group members updated the Report to reflect those recommendations and on March 16, 2006 the Forum will make a final recommendation on this Report. The Forum identified a series of limitations in their ability to make recommendations:

1. Forum members believe there is insufficient information to make a fully informed final recommendation. Some members believe there is also, accordingly insufficient information for the agencies to make a fully informed decision. The Forum would have preferred working with the full package that compared proposed changes with the existing conditions, and the overall implications of the change and included management strategies as part of the consideration. However, some members of the Forum believe the development of the management strategies should be deferred until after the environmental threshold carrying capacity amendment process laid out in Resolution 82-11 has been completed.
2. Some Forum members expressed the view that the procedure being followed does not meet the requirements of the Tahoe Regional Planning Compact or TRPA Resolution 82-11.¹

Recognizing the limitations, the Forum offers initial recommendations. Members understand they will review each recommendation again in future phases of their collaborative process and final recommendations will be subject to integrating an acceptable overall recommendation.

With regards to TRPA, the Forum's initial recommendations are contingent upon the existing environmental threshold carrying capacities remaining in effect until amended in accordance with the provisions of the Tahoe Regional Planning Compact in a manner which is scientifically validated and provides an equal or superior means of environmental protection. Some Forum members also believe

¹ TRPA Resolution No. 82-11 (adopted August 1982) defines environmental threshold carrying capacity as "an environmental standard necessary to maintain a significant scenic, recreation, educational, scientific or natural value of the region or to maintain public health and safety within the region."

that the provisions of Resolution 82-11 must also apply². The environmental threshold carrying capacities, as amended, should also allow local communities to create the basis for a prosperous and sustainable local economy and provide for a good quality of life.

The Forum's recommendations of March 16, 2006 also specifically acknowledge:³

1. No organization or individual relinquishes any legal rights they may have to challenge this or any further decisions of the four governmental agencies.
2. Forum members are providing their initial recommendations with the further recommendation that acceptable management strategies be developed to implement any adopted plan(s) prior to TRPA's consideration of any amendment to the environmental threshold carrying capacities. These strategies must be feasible, include specific means by which they can be implemented and sufficiently in the control of the agencies and communities responsible.
3. Other Forum members are providing their initial recommendations with the further recommendation that the TRPA complete the process of reviewing and possibly amending the environmental threshold carrying capacities, and defer the development of the management strategies needed to achieve and maintain the environmental threshold carrying capacities until any necessary amendments to the carrying capacities have been adopted.
4. The initial recommendations depend on varying levels of certainty regarding supporting science. In areas of uncertainty the Forum notes their concerns and comments on adequacy of next steps to resolve the inadequacy.
5. Agreement to these initial recommendations is for purposes of further analysis only and there is no final agreement until Forum review and recommendation on the complete package to be presented to the four governmental agencies at a future date.
6. The Forum has not yet reached recommendations on any indicators or standards. The current versions of the indicators and standards are predominantly staff proposals containing new and existing standards and indicators. These were developed by the Core groups and the Technical Working Groups, then presented to and discussed with the Forum and some Forum committees. No endorsement of the current versions for the indicators and standards has been adopted by the Forum at this time.

Some Forum members believe the limitations and stipulations offered in the preamble are sufficient to allow them to comment on the indicators and standards. For those members the remaining indicators and standards are acceptable at this time, subject to uncertainties and research implied by the indicator "type."

Some Forum members believe there should not be any recommendations for indicators and standards at this time, given the requirements of the Tahoe Regional Planning Compact and TRPA rules to follow a certain protocol in determining if changes to environmental threshold carrying capacities should be made.

² TRPA advises that they will not be able to recommend this to the Board, as it binds a future Board to the actions of a previous Board.

³ Language presented Jan. 19, 2006.

WATER QUALITY

Exceptional water quality provides restored clarity, environmental and human health, and human enjoyment of Lake Tahoe waters.

Proposed Desired Conditions

1: Lake Tahoe Clarity

Restore and then maintain the waters of Lake Tahoe for the purposes of human enjoyment and preservation of its ecological status as one of the few large, deepwater, ultraoligotrophic lakes in the world with unique transparency, color and clarity.

2: Human & Environmental Health

Water quality conditions in the Lake Tahoe basin are protective of human and environmental health.

NO STANDARDS OR INDICATORS ARE PROPOSED AT THIS TIME

Indicators for Investigation Only – See Narrative

Pollutant Loading Sources

Measurement of fine sediment, nitrogen and phosphorus loads from tributaries, storm water, stream channel erosion, ground water, and atmosphere. (Type III)

Pollutant Loading Effects

Secchi depth measurement in deep water of Lake Tahoe. (Type I). Near shore aesthetics (Type III).

WQ Health Conditions Report

Summary of health-based water quality information and data from Tahoe Basin ground and surface waters. (Type II)

Index of Biological Integrity (IBI)

To be determined by Fisheries Technical Working Group. (Type III)

Standards for Investigation Only – See Narrative

Pollutant Load Reductions

The TMDL Integrated Water Quality Management Strategy will be used in concert with the TMDL Tool Box to determine pollutant reductions for specific sources.

Clarity

Secchi depth transparency shall not be less than annual average of 29.7 m. Appropriate nearshore aesthetic standard(s) will be developed (after 2008). Existing turbidity standards in place until new standards adopted.

WQ Violations

No ~~detections~~ violations of constituent concentrations in excess of established federal, state and local standards.

IBI Index –

See standards under Fisheries and Wildlife sections

Water Quality

The Water Quality discussion serves as a center piece of Forum discussion. All agree a blue, pristine Lake Tahoe is a primary P7 goal. While the Forum does not always agree on the best way to accomplish this, the goal is never out of sight.

AREAS OF CONSENSUS

Vision

The Forum adopted the following Vision by consensus: *Exceptional water quality provides restored clarity, environmental and human health, and human enjoyment of Lake Tahoe waters.*

Desired Condition 1 – Lake Clarity

The Forum agreed in principle with the Lake Clarity desired condition.

Desired Condition 2 – Human and Environmental Health

The Forum agreed in principle with Desired Condition 2.

AREAS OF DISCUSSION

Collectively, the Forum was very concerned about making any recommendations on Water Quality Indicators and Standards without learning the outcomes of planned US Environmental Protection Agency required Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) work. This work should be available this spring. An additional concern was the nature of available science related to proposed standards and indicators. Staff proposals contained some approaches that are relatively untested or for which there is limited information to make decisions.

Some members expressed the view that it is premature to be discussing indicators and standards at this time as there is not yet scientific evidence and technical information available to indicate which existing environmental threshold carrying capacities should be amended as required by TRPA's Resolution 82-11.

Staff acknowledged there are limitations to water quality indicators and standards presented and instead of asking for a recommendation, asked for clarification on whether staff is moving in the right direction to evaluate the listed indicators and standards.

Staff's goal is to get an approach that is strong and workable, with good intent, and as the science is developed, move forward to make change, through adaptive management, if change is indicated. Some Forum members noted there is little history of adaptive management by the agencies and questioned if this could happen.

Some members expressed the view that the staff is going in the wrong direction. These members believe the desire to complete a new Regional Plan in a short time frame deemphasizes the environmental threshold carrying capacities, which should be of central importance. These members suggest the agencies instead should concentrate on completing a review of environmental threshold carrying capacity attainment status and developing the scientific evidence and technical information that will be required to amend the carrying capacities appropriately.

Based on these substantial concerns the Forum did not recommend any water quality indicators or standards.

AREAS OF CONCERN

Staff acknowledged the Forum concerns and requested guidance in moving forward with additional analysis and investigation.

As noted above, in response to the staff request for guidance, some Forum members did not believe they should continue down this track, but instead begin developing the scientific and technical information that will be needed to amend the environmental threshold carrying capacities.

Those willing to affirm the staff direction found the following approaches were worthy of further analysis and investigation.

- **Indicator -Pollutant load sources**
- **Standard - Pollutant load source reductions**
- **Standard – Clarity** [Note: One member stated omission of near shore aesthetic standards due to a lack of resources (time-money) is undesirable for the tourism businesses. The near shore aesthetic is important to the human enjoyment of the Lake. There was general agreement from the subgroup and other Forum members that near shore aesthetic standards are worthy of further analysis and investigation.]
- **Indicator and Standards - Water Quality Health Conditions** [Note: The subgroup agreed in principle to retain existing standards and further evaluate and investigate addition metrics for future action.]

General comments from the Forum-

If indicators and standards are proposed in the future, the Forum asks staff to identify the means to identify potential new pollutants in the future and ensure the TMDL system is the best technology to address it. They also ask that the technology is peer reviewed.

Some members are willing to recommend the Secchi disk indicator at this time, given that it is an existing water quality standard.

A significant number of members asked that some method be developed to address how the agencies will respond to catastrophic events that could substantially impact compliance with the proposed approaches.

For future discussion the Forum encouraged staff to clarify in clear language how the state standards are tied/linked to the TRPA standard; some members noted that there are important distinctions between environmental threshold carrying capacities and state standards that staff may have overlooked. The existing standard for turbidity should be included and statements made that a new standard may be developed after 2008. They also asked for discussion of how cost effectiveness ties to decision-making as it relates to the quality of the information being gathered.

Some members of the Forum struggled with understanding how a standard goal could be set and have it be legally binding without knowing scientifically it can be reached regardless of how desirable a goal it is. Part of the discussion addressed timeframes and how time would be relevant in setting standards. For example, some members of the Forum wanted an understanding if compliance was expected tomorrow, 20 years from now, a hundred years, etc.

AIR QUALITY

Vision: Air quality in the Lake Tahoe Basin is healthful for residents, visitors, and ecosystems, and supports excellent visibility.

Proposed Desired Conditions

1 Visibility

Visibility in the Lake Tahoe Basin is at 2001 – 2003 levels or better.

2 Human and Ecosystem Health

Air quality in the Lake Tahoe Basin is healthy for humans and ecosystems.

3 Lake Clarity

DELETED – Moved to other resource areas

Proposed Indicators

Visibility

Basin-wide and local light extinction -- light extinction allows calculation of visible range. (Type I)

Human and Ecosystem Health

Number of exceedances of any health standard for all pollutants-of-concern. (Human Health: Type I; Ecosystem Health: Type III)

Proposed Standards

Basin-wide Visibility

Light extinction calculated at Bliss State Park equivalent to 116 miles of visual range for 50% of the year and 72 miles of visual range for 90% of the year.

Human Health

Zero exceedances of the most restrictive Federal, California or Nevada human health standards for ozone, for carbon monoxide and for particulate matter. This standard will be applied Basin-wide.

Local Visibility

Light extinction calculated at South Lake Tahoe equivalent to 58 miles of visual range for 50% of the year and 34 miles of visual range for 90% of the year.

Standards at other locations in the Lake Tahoe Basin may be adopted once baseline monitoring data is available.

Ecosystem Health

To be established as air pollutant impacts to ecosystems are identified.

Air Quality

AREAS OF CONSENSUS

Vision:

Desired Condition 1 – Visibility

Desired Condition 2 – Human and Ecosystem Health

AREAS OF CONCERN

Standards and Indicators

Some Forum members believe there should not be any recommendations for indicators and standards at this time, given the requirements of the Tahoe Regional Planning Compact and TRPA rules to follow a certain protocol in determining if changes to environmental threshold carrying capacities should be made.

Visibility indicator and standard: The Forum requests an explicit discussion of the intent to change standards if data becomes available. Staff believes this will be addressed in the management strategies phase; however, not all Forum members agree with this approach.

Some questioned the use of the 2001-03 standard instead of the 1990 standard.

Some members believe that Lake Quality should be included in desired conditions.

AREAS OF GENERAL AGREEMENT

Many Forum members believe the limitations and stipulations offered in the preamble are sufficient to allow them to comment on the indicators and standards.

Human and Ecosystem health indicator and standard:

Although many Forum members felt this was acceptable, it was noted that in the human health standard, “zero exceedances” sends up a red flag for some as it may not be attainable.

General comments from the Forum-

One member pointed out their concern that the single biggest environmental issue is global-warming and asked that the document consider emissions as they relate to the greenhouse gases and the Kyoto treaty. Staff noted this has not been raised prior to this point, but could be considered in the future. In addition staff believes the California review of this (now underway) could be used in further discussions. Staff does not have a sense there are strong effects of greenhouse gas emissions from the Basin.

Some members expressed concerned about how light extinction calculated at South. Lake Tahoe will be applied to other jurisdictions.

Another member noted monitoring in one spot is probably not good monitoring.

Several members asked that some method be developed to address how the agencies will respond to catastrophic events that could substantially impact compliance with the proposed approaches.

Some noted that the science presentation showed the air quality trend line continuing upward through 2011 – 2013 and that should be the indicator in order to match the vision.

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Vision

Environmental conditions in the Lake Tahoe Basin support healthy and sustainable native terrestrial and aquatic animal populations and vegetation communities.

Proposed Desired Conditions

1. Biological Integrity of Terrestrial Ecosystems:

The functional, physical, chemical and biological integrity of the Basin's terrestrial ecosystem are maintained at or above a sustainable level.

2. Sustainability of Special Status Species:

Populations of, and environmental conditions and processes important to native threatened, endangered, rare, special interest or sensitive species are maintained at or above a sustainable level.

3. Biological Integrity of Aquatic Ecosystems:

The functional, physical, chemical and biological integrity of the Basin's aquatic ecosystem are maintained at or above a sustainable level.

Proposed Indicators

1. Biological Integrity of Terrestrial Ecosystems:

Proportion of Terrestrial Ecosystem component benchmarks (as measured with a vertebrate - index of biological integrity and other relevant indicators) met or exceeded within an evaluation period. (Type II)

2. Sustainability of Special Status Species:

Proportion of Special Status Species that meet or exceed benchmarks (as measured by Productivity, Abundance, or Presence/ Absence and attribute indicators) within an evaluation period. (Type II)

3. Biological Integrity of Aquatic Ecosystems:

Proportion of Aquatic Ecosystem component benchmarks as measured with various indexes of biological integrity and other relevant indicators met or exceeded within an evaluation period. (Type II)

Proposed Standards

All component benchmarks for terrestrial ecosystems are met or exceeded within an evaluation period.

Components Include:

- Montane Vegetation Zone
- Upper Montane Vegetation Zone
- Sub-alpine Vegetation Zone

At least 20% of the benchmarks for Special Status Species (SSS) are met or exceeded within the first evaluation period. At least 40% of the benchmarks for SSS are met or exceeded by the second evaluation period. At least 60% of the benchmarks for SSS are met or exceeded by the third evaluation period. At least 80% of the benchmarks for SSS are met or exceeded by the fourth evaluation period.

All benchmarks for aquatic ecosystem components are met or exceeded within an evaluation period.

Components Include:

- Streams
- Lake Tahoe
- Wetlands
- Small Lakes

Wildlife and Fisheries

AREAS OF CONSENSUS

Vision

The Forum agreed in principle with the Wildlife and Fisheries vision statement: Environmental conditions in the Lake Tahoe Basin support healthy and sustainable native terrestrial and aquatic animal populations and vegetation communities.

Desired Condition 1 – Biological Integrity Of Terrestrial Ecosystems

The Forum agreed in principle with this Desired Condition.

Desired Condition 2 – Special Status Species

The Forum agreed in principle with Desired Condition 2, but a red flag staff needs to consider is the implication of reviewing the list of special status species and how it relates to the management strategies.

Desired condition 3 – biological integrity of aquatic ecosystems:

The Forum agreed in principle by consensus with Desired Condition 3.

AREAS OF CONCERN

STANDARDS AND INDICATORS

Some Forum members believe there should not be any recommendations for indicators and standards at this time, given the requirements of the Tahoe Regional Planning Compact and TRPA rules to follow a certain protocol in determining if changes to environmental threshold carrying capacities should be made.

Some commented that an evaluation period is not part of a standard, that phrase should be deleted.

For the three proposed indicators, one member suggested that the phrase “met or exceeded” be replaced with “met or surpassed.” The word “exceeded” is typically associated with violations.

For standards and indicators, some members believe there needs to be an explanation of the difference between a benchmark and a standard. Typically, standards should never be exceeded.

Several members noted the need for consistent definitions.

General comments from the Forum-

Many Forum members believe the limitations and stipulations offered in the preamble are sufficient to allow them to comment on the indicators and standards. For those members the

- **Terrestrial**
- **Aquatic Ecosystem**
- **Special Status**

indicators and standards are acceptable at this time although some concerns were expressed regarding how realistic the special species standard was to move from 20% to 40% within five years.

Those offering support also noted that benchmarks need to be established for all components, (identified in the staff summary and addendum documents). Staff projected an August 2006 timeframe for this.

Some members are concerned about definitions of sustainability. Both economic and ecological sustainability need to be addressed; some thought these were linked, not separate.

NOISE

Noise levels provide for community and neighborhood serenity, abundant quiet recreational areas, and are not harmful to wildlife.

Proposed Desired Conditions

<p>1: Single Event Noise Sources</p> <p>Single event noise levels are controlled to preserve the serenity of the community and neighborhood and provide abundant quiet recreation areas.</p>	<p>2: Cumulative Noise Levels</p> <p>Community noise levels are controlled to preserve the serenity of the community and neighborhood and provide abundant quiet recreation areas.</p>	<p>3: Effects on Wildlife</p> <p>Noise levels are controlled to protect wildlife.</p>
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Proposed Indicators

All data for the indicators shown below shall be compiled by the monitoring protocol and be reported no less than annually by category, noise areas, and species of concern.

<p>1. Noise Events</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Numbers of individual exceedances. 2. Number of corrective actions taken. 3. Percent of planned monitoring completed. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. On-Highway Vehicles b. Off-Highway Vehicles c. Over-Snow Vehicles d. Watercraft e. Aircraft 	<p>2. Cumulative Noise Levels</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Numbers of exceedances of the 24 hr standards. 2. Numbers of exceedances of the 1 hr standards. 	<p>3. Effect on Wildlife</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Further investigation of the appropriate limits will be done by wildlife experts by May 2006.
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Proposed Standards

<p>On-Hwy Vehicles – Same as the current CA and NV stds. (20" exhaust std for motorcycles. OHVs – Same as the current CA stds. Over-Snow Vehicles – 73 db or equivalent std. Watercraft – Same as current TRPA stds. Non Settlement Agreement Aircraft – (Recommendation complete by May 2006)</p>	<p>Numerical standards will be based on those currently found in the plan area statements for each specific area including transportation corridors. In addition, hourly noise levels for each area will be developed and proposed at a later date.</p>	<p>Currently Under development. Will be jointly developed with wildlife programs for appropriate levels.</p>
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Noise

AREAS OF CONSENSUS

Vision

Noise levels provide for community and neighborhood serenity, abundant quiet recreational areas, and are not harmful to wildlife.

Some of the issues associated with noise are in litigation and Forum members agreed to set aside discussion on those issues.

Desired Condition 1 – Single Event Noise Sources

The Forum agreed in principle with this desired condition.

Desired Condition 2 – 2: Cumulative Noise Levels

The Forum agreed in principle with this desired condition.

Desired condition 3 – Effects on Wildlife

AREAS OF CONCERN

VISION

Some members would prefer that the vision statement say, “Noise levels provide for community and neighborhood serenity, quiet recreational areas, and are not harmful to wildlife.”

Some members have a concern with the vision, in that some communities have activities that are not serene; “community serenity” may preclude necessary or desired business or other activities. Several comments were received regarding the need to look at urban issue in the context of how people perceive noise; please see the meeting minutes for March 16, 2006.

Some are concerned that community planning many not adequately address noise concerns and that transect planning might assist in this regard.

STANDARDS AND INDICATORS

Some Forum members believe there should not be any recommendations for indicators and standards at this time, given the requirements of the Tahoe Regional Planning Compact and TRPA rules to follow a certain protocol in determining if changes to environmental threshold carrying capacities should be made.

AREAS OF GENERAL AGREEMENT

Many Forum members believe the limitations and stipulations offered in the preamble are sufficient to allow them to comment on the indicators and standards. For those members the indicators and standards are acceptable at this time.

General comments from the Forum-

Several Forum members noted transportation corridors passing through residential areas should have less noise than areas that pass through commercial zone. Others asked for consideration of a standard for some of the non-settlement aircraft such as helicopters and seaplanes.

VEGETATION

Vegetation Vision

Vegetation in the Lake Tahoe Basin is healthy and dynamic with the full compliment of native plant communities, wildlife habitats and ecological processes.

Proposed Desired Conditions

<p>1: Healthy Vegetation Full range of native species, seral stages, habitats and ecological processes occur.</p>	<p>2: Plant Communities of Concern The natural conditions and functions of plant communities of concern are sustained.</p>	<p>3: Special Status Species Populations of native threatened, endangered, rare, special interest or sensitive species are maintained at or above sustainable levels.</p>	<p>4: Hazardous Fuels Fuel conditions pose low wildfire risk to communities.</p>
<p>5: Urban Vegetation Vegetation in the urban zones is predominantly native, water-efficient and non-invasive. Urban vegetation contributes to defensible space, water quality protection, and scenic and local community values.</p>			

Proposed Indicators

<p>Healthy Vegetation Departure from historic vegetation structure (Type I)</p>	<p>Plant Communities of Concern Ecological status index (Type I-III)</p>	<p>Special Status Plant Species Proportion of species that meet or exceed benchmarks within an evaluation period (Type III)</p>	<p>Hazardous Fuels Predicted Fire Behavior (Type I)</p>
<p>Urban Vegetation Proportion of parcels that meet approved vegetation criteria (Type III)</p>			

Proposed Standards

<p>Manage conditions in 90% of the watersheds to achieve 20% or less departure from historic stand structure.</p>	<p>Maintain or improve the Ecological Status of all monitored locations in an evaluation period.</p>	<p>Twenty percent (20%) of species meet or exceed benchmarks in the first evaluation period with an additional 20% meeting benchmarks in each subsequent period.</p>	<p>Achieve 90% probability that predicted fire behavior in treated areas of urban and WUI zones does not exceed applicable surface fire type. In wildland areas that support WUI and Urban zones, predicted fire does not include active crown fire type.</p>
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Vegetation

AREAS OF CONSENSUS

Vision

Desired Condition 1 – Healthy Vegetation

The Forum agreed in principle with this desired condition.

Desired Condition 2 – Plant Communities of Concern

The Forum agreed in principle with this desired condition.

Desired Condition 3 – Special Status Species

The Forum agreed in principle with this Desired Condition, but there are red flags. Staff needs to address the specifics of reviewing the list of special status species and how it will relate to the management strategies.

Desired Condition 4 – Fire and Fuels

The Forum agreed in principle with this desired condition. The Forum's goal is for vegetation conditions to reduce wildfire risks.

Desired Condition 5 – Urban Vegetation

The Forum agreed in principle with this desired condition; however, some members expressed concern about requirements versus incentives for native species in the urban landscape.

AREAS OF CONCERN

Desired Conditions

Another concern is that there should be finer resolution regarding the definition of urban and that desired conditions be related to the level of urban development. Some believe this should occur as referenced by transect planning; others believe this should occur without reference to transect planning.

Some Forum members emphasized the importance of respecting existing urban boundaries in the transition to a transect-based system. There is a need to define gradations of transect planning boundaries.

STANDARDS AND INDICATORS

Some Forum members believe there should not be any recommendations for indicators and standards at this time, given the requirements of the Tahoe Regional Planning Compact and TRPA rules to follow a certain protocol in determining if changes to environmental threshold carrying capacities should be made.

Some members felt that the vegetation standards do not appear to be equivalent or better than existing environmental thresholds carrying capacities; there is not a non-degradation standard, as there is in the existing threshold carrying capacities. The proposed standards fail to assure the existing requirement that vegetation structure be consistent with the Bailey report.

Urban Vegetation Indicator and Standard

The Forum collectively recommends additional staff work in this area.

Some members are concerned regarding the monitoring program for species on private property.

Healthy Vegetation Indicator and Standard

The Forum collectively recommends additional staff work in this area.

Some members are concerned that the proposed healthy vegetation standard is not reconciled with the previous standard and that an appropriate level of analysis is needed to proceed.

Fire and Fuels Indicator and Standard

The Forum collectively recommends additional staff work in this area. They also suggest this standard should establish a link to the TRPA Fuels Management Plan.

AREAS OF GENERAL AGREEMENT

Many Forum members believe the limitations and stipulations offered in the preamble are sufficient to allow them to comment on the indicators and standards. For those members the remaining indicators and standards are acceptable at this time, subject to uncertainties and research implied by the indicator “type.”

General comments from the Forum-

Managing vegetation to reduce the potential for wildfire in “communities,” should also include non-urban areas.

If you know you can’t reach the standard, then it should not be included or the community will be held to an unachievable standard.

Establish a baseline and then list the goal with a strategy to get us there.

Some indicated that they would like to see language that covers the need for vegetation to remove the more global environmental impacts of development (i.e. heat island effects off pavement) and therefore provide incentives for green roofs, etc.

STREAM ENVIRONMENT ZONES

Vision :

SEZs function at natural levels within the context of the watershed, and provide values commensurate with their functions. Societal and beneficial uses of SEZ such as water management, cultural and scientific purposes, limited agriculture and recreation, are compatible with the naturally functioning conditions of SEZ lands.

Proposed Desired Conditions

3: SEZ Physical and Chemical Functions and Values

SEZ physical and chemical processes function naturally within the constraints and dynamics of the watershed, including, but not limited to, natural hydrologic processes, water quality, and stormwater treatment capacity.

4: SEZ Biological Functions and Values

SEZ biological processes function naturally within the constraints and dynamics of the watershed. Vegetation, terrestrial wildlife, and aquatic communities are healthy and sustainable.

5: SEZ Societal Values

Beneficial uses of SEZ lands for water management, cultural and scientific purposes, limited agriculture, and recreation are compatible with the naturally functioning conditions, as stated by Desired Conditions SC-3 and SC-4.

Proposed Indicators (Under development)

SEZ Physical, and Chemical Functions and Values	SEZ Biological Functions and Values -	Societal Values
SEZ Hydrologic Function Index	SEZ Vegetation Condition Index	No Indicators Proposed
Stream Condition Inventory	Terrestrial Wildlife Habitat Index	
Streambank Stability Index	Aquatic Habitat Index	
Water Quality Index		
Stormwater Treatment Capacity Index		

Proposed Standard (under development)

Preserve, enhance and maintain existing naturally functioning SEZ lands.

Enhance and/or restore natural function to all disturbed, degraded SEZ lands in undeveloped, non-urban lands, such as wildlands, state parks and national forests, in accordance with management guidelines and designated uses.

Additionally, enhance and restore SEZ lands lacking natural functioning due to urban influences and past human use and alteration, where beneficial and attainable. Acreage goals for naturally functioning SEZ lands shall be set at 5 year intervals and updated in accordance with guidelines set forth in the Pathway 2007 adaptive management program.

AREAS OF CONSENSUS**Vision****AREAS OF CONCERN****DIALOGUE**

Staff primarily requested an initial reaction to the staff proposal and the Sub-Committee's report. Some Forum members and staff believed that given the extraordinary time constraints the item could be moved to a Forum vote without the normal discussion period. Some members of the Forum adamantly opposed the lack of dialogue. They argued that the Forum was convened for dialogue and that dialogue should occur, even if the schedule would need to be adjusted. These Forum members voted against all desired conditions and concepts for indicators and standards. Those members noted their concerns may or may not be substantive. Without the normal dialogue they did not find it possible to offer a conclusion and suggested this was a disservice to the Forum.

Indicators and Standards

The current staff recommendation is under development. The Forum is unable to make recommendations on Indicators and Standards. Staff assured that they were only asking for comments.

AREAS OF PARTIAL AGREEMENT

The Forum convened a Sub-Committee on this subject and that sub-group along with a number of other Forum members believes the initial approach of the indicators and standards, while clearly still unformed, represents innovative thinking and is worthy of continued analysis and investigation. This agreement was not; however, uniform. The proposals appear to represent a significant departure from the established process and the approach is premature for consideration without substantial scientific and technical review.

The comments from the Forum were lengthy and varied and therefore are not included within this report. Comments can be found in Forum meeting notes (February 16, 2006).

Scenic

Scenic Quality Vision

The Lake Tahoe Basin is internationally recognized for its outstanding natural beauty and is a resource of national significance. Characteristic views within the Basin are of the natural appearing forest, meadows, mountains, and expansive blue lake. The built environment harmonizes with this natural appearing setting in a sustainable manner that supports a vibrant community and healthy economy.

Proposed Desired Conditions

Natural Environment

Scenery viewed from Lake Tahoe and the Basin's major roadways, public recreation areas, trails, and urban centers predominantly displays natural appearing forest, meadows, mountains, and the shoreline of Lake Tahoe. Development, where visible, complements the natural setting.

Community Design

Communities of the Lake Tahoe Basin are planned and designed with aesthetic characteristics that respect the local natural systems. Lake Tahoe's built environment is diverse yet appropriate in scale and style. It helps foster the identity of individual communities and a sense of place.

Dark Sky

Views of the night sky from the naturally appearing areas of the Basin are conducive to star gazing. Light emanating from the built environment is carefully controlled to ensure safety and security without encroaching on the regional dark sky.

Proposed Indicators

Scenic Integrity

How much development is visible, its visual contrast, its level of dominance, and the number of viewpoints from which it is seen (Type I).

Scenic Quality Ratings

Measures the scenic quality of natural landscape views of individual scenic resources that can be seen from the travel routes, designated public recreation areas and bike trails (Type I)

Design and Development Measures

Implementation of applicable design and development measures that are implemented in a given area (Type II)

Proposed Standards -

Built Environment Quality Index Level

Percentage of implementation of Development and Design Measures to ensure that development has the appropriate community desired visual attributes for the area in which it will be located to meet the minimum Built Environment Quality Index Level.

Scenic Integrity Levels

The amount of development acceptable in a given area in order to produce the desired condition for scenic resources.

Scenic Quality Ratings

Maintain or improve the numerical rating assigned each resource as recorded in the Scenic Resources Inventory. Maintain or improve the numerical rating assigned to each identified scenic resource, as recorded in the 1993 Lake Tahoe Basin Scenic Resource Evaluation.

Scenic

AREAS OF CONSENSUS

Vision

Desired Condition 1 – Natural Environment

The Forum agreed in principle with this desired condition. Some suggested that not all areas of an urban core would reasonably have a “natural view.”

Desired Condition 2 – Community Design

The Forum agreed in principle with this desired condition.

Desired condition 3 – Dark Sky

The Forum agreed in principle with this desired condition.

In general the Forum found “transect planning” an intriguing and potentially reasonable approach; however, there are many unanswered questions.

AREAS OF CONCERN

Most members found the initial concepts on indicators and standards worth continued exploration. Even so, some found that indicators and standards must be evaluated in conjunction with replacing the existing environmental threshold carrying capacity.

A lack of a recommendation does not imply consent. The Forum understands this item will be revisited in future Forum proceedings.

General comments from the Forum-

Transect planning needs to differentiate commercial and residential (residential more stringent).

Some members suggested that indicators and standards should address “Form-based” code provisions.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation Vision

An innovative multimodal transportation system is in place that gives priority to viable alternatives to the private automobile, that appeals to users and serves mobility needs while improving the environmental and socioeconomic health of the Basin.

Proposed Desired Conditions

1. Mobility/Socio-Economic Vitality

A multimodal transportation system that promotes viable alternatives for mobility needs, encourages alternative mode use, and decreases dependency on the private automobile. - (Non-Threshold)

2. Environmental Impacts

The transportation system is integrated with environmental goals. - (Non-Threshold)

PROPOSED INDICATORS

Mobility/Socioeconomic Indicator

An index that includes "usage" and "access" indicators such as:

Usage

1. Percentage of Travel to Recreation Sites via Non-Auto Modes
2. Percentage of Travel to Commercial Core Areas via Non-Auto Modes
3. Non-Auto Mode Share within and into the Basin

Access

1. A Measure or Measures of Transit, Bicycle, and Pedestrian Access to Recreation Facilities
2. A Measure of Commercial Core Areas Meeting Transit-Oriented Design (TOD) Standards.
3. A Measure or Measures of Overnight Population (Resident and Visitor) Served by Transit, Bicycle, and Pedestrian Facilities.

Transportation Environmental Impact Indicator

The Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) indicator and standard will be replaced by a Vehicle Impact indicator and standard. This will be either: an indicator directly relating vehicle impacts to water quality goals, based on targets identified by the TMDL; OR a traffic volume or vehicle-miles traveled indicator, with a standard based on technically feasible but challenging reductions identified through the traffic model, which will be ready by the end of 2007.

Other **Environmental Indicators** for Transportation will be housed in other environmental resource areas. Specific attention will be given to the integration with Water Quality, Air Quality, Wildlife, Vegetation, Noise, Scenic, and SEZ.

Proposed Standards

Numeric standard for Transportation Environmental Impact Indicator to be set after 2007.

Usage

1. Percentage of Travel to Recreation Sites via Non-Auto Modes. Standard to be determined after 2007
2. Percentage of Travel to Commercial Core Areas via Non-Auto Modes. Summertime standard to be determined by August 2006 (tentative).
3. Non-Auto Mode Share within the Basin. Standard to be determined after 2007.
4. Non-Auto Mode Share into the Basin. Summertime standard to be determined by August 2006 (tentative).

Access

1. A Measure or Measures of Transit, Bicycle, and Pedestrian Access to Recreation Facilities. Standard to be determined by August 2006 (tentative)
2. A Measure of Commercial Core Areas Meeting Transit-Oriented Design (TOD) Standards. Standard to be determined by August 2006 (tentative)
3. A Measure or Measures of Overnight Population (resident and visitor) served by Transit, Bicycle, and Pedestrian Facilities. Standard to be determined by August 2006 (tentative)

Transportation

AREAS OF CONSENSUS

Vision: The Forum agreed in principle with the vision. The vision applies to intra-regional and inter-regional transportation.

Priority: The Forum agreed in principle that transportation should be a very high priority in overall agency plans and management.

Desired Condition 1 – Mobility/Socioeconomic Vitality

Some Forum members have concerns with specific language but are willing to “stand aside” with the understanding this will be revisited.

Desired Condition 2 – Environmental Impacts

The Forum agreed in principle with this desired condition.

Other Guidelines

1. Any measurement of alternative transportation must include usage of the transportation as well as the number of options for alternative transportation.
2. The package should identify the governance of transportation planning and implementation. It should also include a regional revenue source.

AREAS OF CONCERN

The staff report considers whether or not Transportation should be an environmental threshold carrying capacity and concludes “If Transportation is not a threshold, it would be in a secondary position to those study areas that are mandated or identified as thresholds.”

Some Forum members dispute the accuracy of this analysis and believe the reasoning may lead some to believe an environmental threshold carrying capacity is needed to achieve goals when in fact it may not be needed. They suggest regardless of whether Transportation is an adopted TRPA threshold carrying capacity, TRPA is required to prepare and adopt:

1. “A transportation plan for the integrated development of a regional system of transportation, including but not limited to parkways, highways, transportation facilities, transit routes, waterways, navigation facilities, and appurtenant terminals for the movement of people and goods within the region”
2. “A land-use plan for the integrated arrangement and general location and extent of, and the criteria and standards for, the uses of land, water, air, space and other natural resources within the region, including but not limited to an indication or allocation of maximum population densities and permitted use”

Some also asked that parking be included within the transportation plan.

Those with concerns point out the Tahoe Regional Planning Compact requires TRPA to prepare and adopt several other plans and none are given greater or lesser standing to these plans but instead

declares “The regional plan shall be a single enforceable plan ...” They argue that Transportation does not have a “secondary position” in the Compact and that plan adoption clearly implies plan implementation.

In addition, TRPA has formally accepted transportation planning responsibilities as the designated Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA) for the California side of the Lake Tahoe Basin and as the Tahoe Metropolitan Planning Organization (TMPO) under applicable federal statutes, with the approval, by resolution, of the governors of both California and Nevada. Some members point out this increases the degree of responsibility that TRPA has accepted regarding transportation and makes the staff conclusion inconsistent.

AREAS OF GENERAL AGREEMENT

Environmental Threshold Carrying Capacity

Most Forum members believe Transportation should not be an environmental threshold carrying capacity at this time. Those that disagree suggest that a threshold carrying capacity is needed to give the issue the appropriate level of focus in the planning and decision process. Of that group, some also believe that having a Transportation as a threshold carrying capacity will improve funding options. (Note: see areas of concern above.)

Numeric Targets

The Forum struggles with establishing numeric goals for transportation at this time. Most believe it is not appropriate until sufficient data is developed; however, some suggest numeric targets are reasonable.

General comments from the Forum-

1. There should be a fourth indicator to specifically address non-motorized transportation – walking and bicycles (not just lumped together as non-auto mode share). A potential standard could be the percentage of residences within a 1/4 mile of a sidewalk/bike path and the use of these paths.
2. Regarding the use of bicycles – there are different ways to use bikes - commuting versus sightseeing. When addressing road overlays, etc., consider encouraging ways for people to commute using bikes.
3. A concern was raised over recommending that transit is good and private autos are bad. We could encourage a better environment for electric and biodiesel vehicles for example. Both private and public systems should be improved.
4. There is a need to assess the adequacy of existing infrastructure.
5. There should be more concern about intermodal linkage; we need to realize that most still travel by car.
6. We should include air service in addition to buses and other types of transit when we discuss transportation.

7. Multimodal includes options such as rail, monorail, aircraft, gondola, fixed guideways, etc.
8. Assessment of transit needs should not include just one segment of the population.
9. Include air quality as a measurement as vehicle impacts. Define vehicles as all modes of transporting people.
10. Movement of goods should be included somewhere in the vision or in the desired conditions.
11. Priority should be given to integrated, intermodal systems that minimize emissions per vehicle mile. Some believe that there needs to be an emphasis on least polluting forms of transportation.

RECREATION

Recreation Vision

The Lake Tahoe Basin's unique natural, cultural and human environments provide sustainable recreation opportunities consistent with public desires and natural resource capacities. Recreation is linked to irreplaceable natural assets, the regional economy, and social well-being.

Proposed Desired Conditions

1: Opportunity –

There exists a spectrum of high-quality recreational opportunities which sustains Lake Tahoe's natural setting as an outstanding recreation destination.

2: Access–

There exists additional high-quality access where lawful and feasible to natural areas and shorezone consistent with desired resource conditions and user expectations.

3. Education-(No

agreement) Residents and visitors are educated about the recreation opportunities, appropriate behavior and the unique natural and cultural environments of Lake Tahoe.

Proposed Indicators

OPPORTUNITY

1. Recreation Surveys
Assess quality of opportunities (type I)
2. Number of opportunities
PAOTs for developed opportunities (type I)

ACCESS

1. Land, shorezone and facilities for recreation (type II)
 - Acreage of legally accessible land
 - Miles of legally accessible Shorezone
 - Number of recreation facilities
2. Recreation Survey for access quality

EDUCATION

Recreation survey to evaluate the effectiveness of education programs.

Proposed Standards - NO AGREEMENT

OPPORTUNITY

1. Surveys shall indicate the performance of the majority of opportunity attributes indicate high-quality opportunities.
2. Developed recreation opportunities shall reach 19,862 PAOTs as may be amended by the Place-based planning process.

ACCESS

1. Additional acres of land, miles of shoreline and number of facilities accessible to the public for recreation opportunities as will be recommended by the Place-based planning process.
2. Surveys shall indicate the performance of the majority of recreation access attributes indicate high-quality access.

EDUCATION

User and provider surveys shall indicate effectiveness of education programs

RECREATION

The Forum found the issues surrounding the Recreation Resource Topic complex and among the more difficult to define common ground. A recreation sub-committee was formed to provide further input to the Forum on recreation issues and met for 15 hours.

AREAS OF GENERAL AGREEMENT

Definition of Recreation

Shopping and dining are activities people enjoy when they come to Tahoe and these activities will be tracked, but not regulated. For the purpose of the Forum initial recommendations, recreation opportunity and access are the primary focus.

Environmental Threshold Carrying Capacity

Most Forum members believe Recreation should be a TRPA environmental threshold carrying capacity; however there was a mixed response as to whether the threshold carrying capacity should remain a policy or change as some members suggested to more numeric, quantitative standards.

Discussion

Policy v. Numeric

Among the many arguments for retaining the policy threshold carrying capacity were concerns about the validity of potential numeric standards. Others questioned the cost of monitoring standards. Some members felt moving to a numbers-based system would not accommodate how the recreation industry evolves. Others pointed out that TRPA may not be the right body to manage recreation issues. They suggested a need for flexibility and adaptability with this topic and supported the USFS continuing to actively manage recreation.

Environmental Threshold Carrying Capacity

There was some dissention regarding designation as a threshold carrying capacity. A member of the Recreation Committee stated that recreation should not be a threshold carrying capacity because it is too difficult to define, too difficult to measure, TRPA is not a provider, funding would not be jeopardized, and TRPA would not be held accountable and required to stretch its limited resources in an area in which it has so little direct responsibility. Another member pointed out the Tahoe Regional Planning Compact describes carrying capacity as an important aspect of recreation. In this context the concern was that shore-zone development could potentially block public access and road capacity would potentially be filled by commercial purposes, edging out those who wanted to recreate. This speaker believed if these aren't risks any longer, then Recreation may not need to remain a threshold carrying capacity, or the agencies could just have a policy statement related to access.

AREAS OF CONSENSUS

VISION

Forum members agreed in principle with the Recreation Vision. Several individuals did not understand the use of "cultural" and "human environment" in the vision and suggested removing the last sentence and emphasizing public outdoor recreation. Several others sought some acknowledgement of "carrying capacity."

Desired Condition 1 – Opportunity – agreement in principle.

Desired Condition 2 – Access - agreement in principle.

Education

The full Forum emphasized the importance of education in general, in all resource areas, not just this one. They believe public education is critical to assist in changing public behavior so the environment is protected. Forum members had disagreements about how education should be represented in the staff recommendation. Many felt education is an overarching topic that should be addressed in each Resource Topic area. Many others felt education was a critical and specific element that needed emphasis when managing recreation.

AREAS OF CONCERN

General

Changes in indicators and standards that appear in the staff report are not only counter to the Forum's dialogue, but were not even discussed in the Forum, the technical working group or the Recreation Committee. Staff was not responsive to the Forum's comments in those areas. A better strategy would be that the report going to the Board either contain everything that was left on the proposals with the indication of what hasn't been discussed or recommended, or not contain anything that was not in a recommendation.

Desired Conditions

Some members suggested that availability needs to be addressed along with access. Some wondered if the desired condition for access addresses acquisition of public land.

Some members stated they believe the desired condition for access relates specifically to access to public lands and other recreational opportunities open and/or available to the public. Some members want to emphasize the need to respect and protect private property rights. Forum members notes that "lawful" captures this concern, yet eminent domain remains an issue.

There is a concern that recreational opportunities, which are not located outdoors or not related to tourism, are being overlooked. Specifically, recreational facilities (such as baseball diamonds, soccer fields) and private recreational facilities (such as bowling lanes) are not addressed. All recreational facilities, both public and private, should be added to the access desired condition. In offering a differing perspective, one member emphasized that finding #10 of the Tahoe Regional Planning Compact addresses the need to preserve "outdoor" recreation.

Carrying Capacity

Some suggested the Forum can't adequately address recreation without talking about overall capacity of people in the Basin. They emphasized that recreation carrying capacity needs to be considered as a part of the recommendation process. Some activities are self-limiting but a segment of members believe there is a need to list maximum permissible numbers or there really isn't any way to know where the agencies are relative to those targets.

For others this perspective did not adequately consider issues such as the economic markets for recreation, use of private property, adaptive management and the evolving nature of recreation. Some suggested it would be hard to even guess about preferred recreation venues 20 years from now.

Numerical Standards

As noted in the discussion of a numeric environmental threshold carrying capacity, there is concern over data gathering, surveys, etc. and how they will really impact recreation and proposed changes. There were specific and emphatic concerns regarding PAOTs. The Recreation Committee Report (on file at TRPA) expresses those concerns in more detail.

Some note quality of recreation is difficult to quantify, but “user satisfied” is a way to track through the recreation surveys and the private sector has a great deal to do with implementation and monitoring.

INDICATORS AND STANDARDS

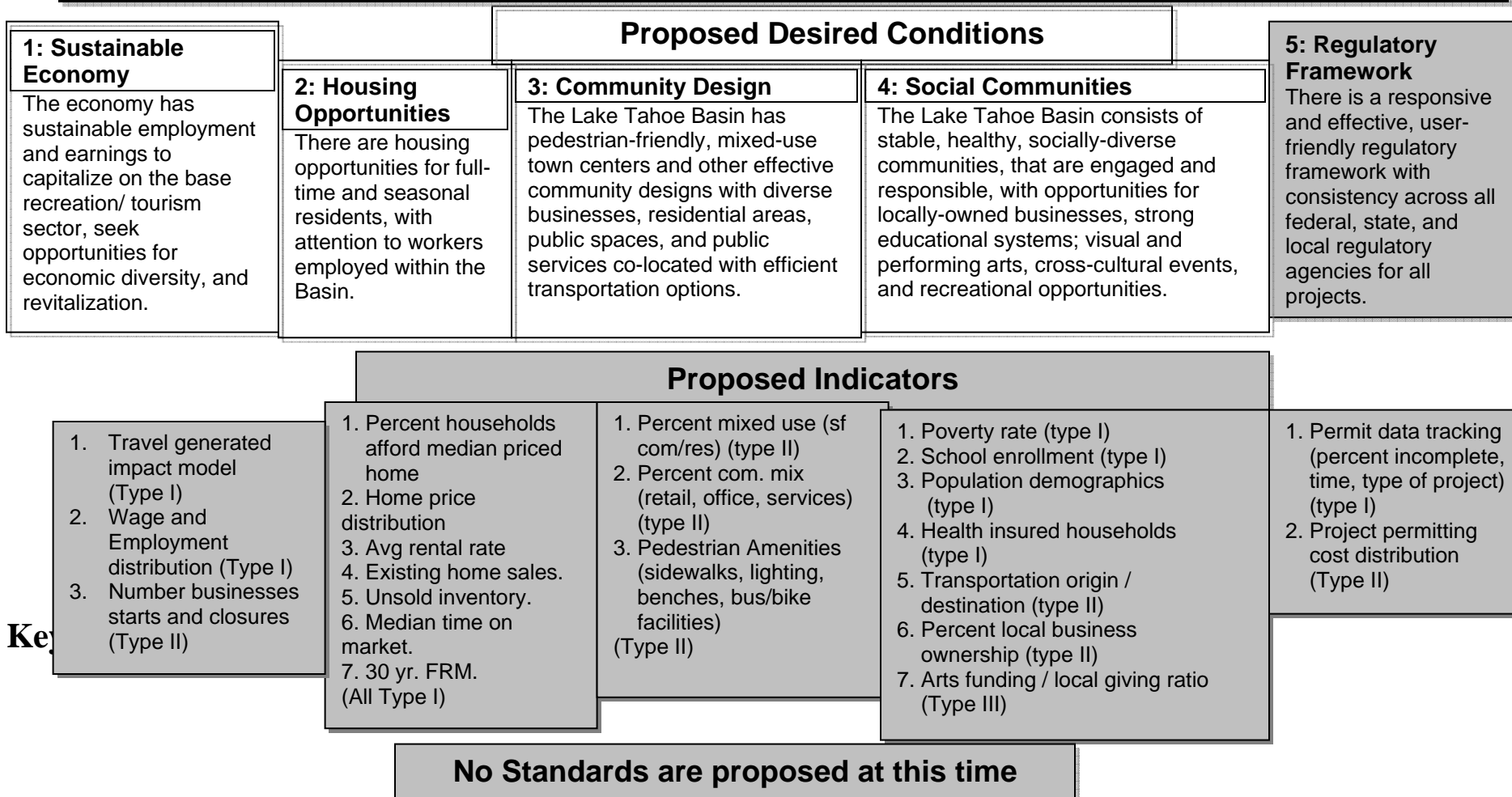
Because the indicators were linked to the Desired Conditions, and there were substantial concerns related to the Desired Conditions, the Forum did not make recommendations on those items.

The elimination of several possible standards and indicators designed to give a broader and more accurate representation of recreation without any discussion significantly reduces Forum input and sends the message that the staff will simply do what it wishes. The staff report indicates that there was no agreement on standards and indicators. The fact is that these areas had not yet been discussed.

SOCIO-ECONOMICS

SOCIO-ECONOMICS VISION

There is a sustainable balance among environmental protection and conservation practices that provide the basis for the region's unique natural characteristics, a base recreation and tourism economy, other diverse economic sectors, attractively built communities, diverse social populations, and an exceptional quality of life. The Lake Tahoe Basin as an international model for sustainable alpine communities that applies the best known practices in economic development, environmental protection, regulatory and planning process, community design, and inclusive resident and visitor communities.



SOCIOECONOMICS

The Socioeconomics discussion centers on the concept of “triple bottom line.” All Forum members support protection of the environment. The Forum agrees that decisions enhancing to the environment, economy and social fabric of the community are not always mutually exclusive. Forum members support evaluating decisions in the context of the triple bottom line.

Differences exist in the way individual Forum members place emphases on the "triple bottom line." Some Forum members seek overall balance in decision-making while others believe it is worthwhile to accommodate social and economic needs but only after the environment is protected. These differences potentially could drive management strategies and decisions on whether or not to adjust other environmental threshold carrying capacities. This issue is both philosophical as well as based on different interpretations of the guiding language of the Tahoe Regional Planning Compact.

GENERAL AGREEMENTS

Overall the Forum found the socioeconomic issue extremely important but noted data is lacking to complete standards and indicators and did not believe it should be a TRPA threshold carrying capacity at this time.

The Forum agreed in principle that:

- 1) it is important to collect baseline data on the topic of socio-economics, and
- 2) data should be compiled at reasonable cost with all agencies acting in partnership.

AREAS OF CONSENSUS

VISION

The Forum agreed in principle with the staff prepared vision as long as the statement reflects the importance of recreation and tourism as a key part of the local economy along with the importance of locally owned businesses. Some suggested a need to expand the economy in a way that complements the environment. One recommendation was to find a way to not focus solely on a tourism-based economy while others noted the Tahoe Regional Planning Compact refers to tourism and tourism should be included in the vision.

Desired Conditions:

Desired Condition 1 – Sustainable Economy

As noted above, the Forum believes one desired condition should be a sustainable economy. They view this as a diversified economy complementing the substantial tourism base economy. Lake-based tourism brings environment and business interests together. The same dialogue also links to maintaining the community social fabric. Some questioned how to ensure people could earn enough and have adequate housing to actually live in the Tahoe Basin. Another question centered on how to recognize the substantial contribution of the non-profit sector. Due to the unique nature of the Basin the non-profit sector may have a greater contribution to the economy than may normally be recognized in other regions.

Desired Condition 2 – Housing Opportunities:

- I) The Forum agreed in principle with the general statements about housing because the Forum recognizes the importance of having housing in the Basin. The difficulty is in defining a housing desired condition as something that crosses an economic spectrum while acknowledging a need for affordable housing for workers.

Some believe housing should not be a TRPA mandate but rather be viewed as a community problem. Those members believe each community needs to consider how to house their workers rather than pass it on to another community.

Desired Condition 3 – Community Design**Desired Condition 4 – Social Communities****NO AGREEMENT****Desired Condition 5 – Regulatory Framework**

The Forum was not opposed to considering regulatory framework and many believe some adjustments are essential. There are several areas of concern:

1. What level should regulation occur at?
The Forum found some things should be regulated locally while other things should be Basin or region wide or managed from state and federal codes. Substantial discussion is needed before this could be addressed.
2. What is the appropriate measurement?
The measurement of regulatory impact is not easy to define. For example some suggested evaluating how many people needed to hire consultants to complete regulatory packages, while others noted that a number of people seeking permits lived outside the basin and typically hired others to perform this type of work, regardless of complexity.
3. What is the correct focus and structure for regulatory reform?
Some suggested the regulatory framework should focus on incentives rather than negative outcomes (carrots versus sticks). Others noted the intention of focusing on the socioeconomic resource was to improve planning and educate decision makers and stakeholders alike regarding total
4. How do we insure that regulatory reform addresses the triple bottom line not just the economic bottom line?
The issue of balance and balance occurs was important to the Forum.
5. What process should be used to address regulatory reform?
One suggestion was to revitalize a socio-economic advisory committee patterned after one established in the North Shore some years ago. Several Forum members have volunteered to even assist in finding funding to support such a group.

Standards and Indicators

Because standards and indicators flow from desired conditions and there was not firm agreement with desired conditions, the Forum did not make recommendations on standards and indicators.

A Forum member noted community indicators typically involve a list of forty items, instead of seven; it is important to have a complete base of community indicators to obtain a more complete understanding of community health.

The Forum recommends that a sub-group be convened to discuss and develop a list of community indicators.