HEAVENLY MOUNTAIN RESORT EPIC DISCOVERY PROJECT

Informational Briefing

TRPA
Regional Plan Implementation Committee
February 25, 2015

Presentation Outline

- Need for the Proposed Action
- Previous Master Plan Improvements
- Proposed Action & Alternatives
- Key Environmental Issues
- EIS Process

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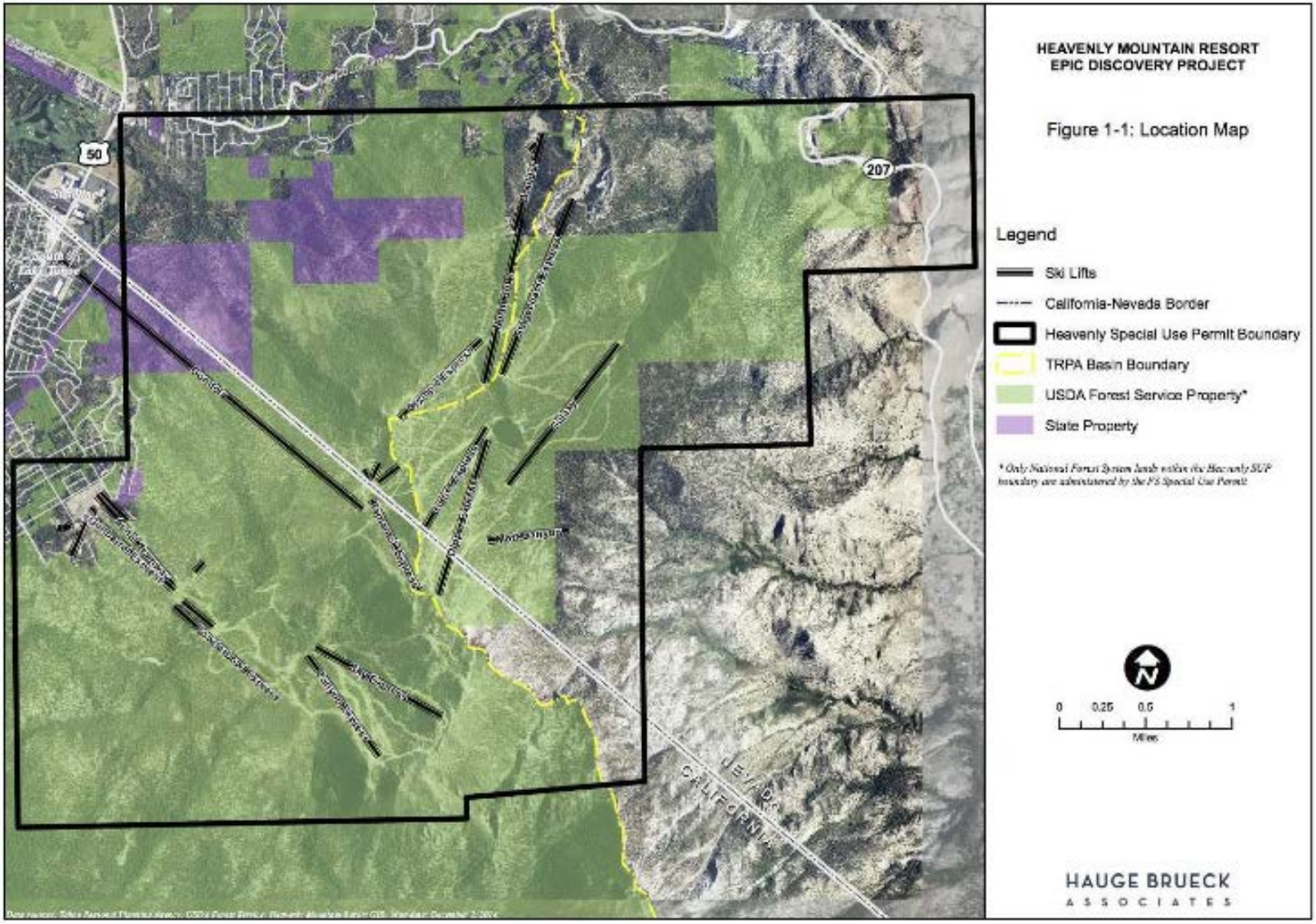
CALIFORNIA Water Boards
STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARDS



Need

- Change in recreational opportunities in response to changing visitor preferences
- Change in economic climate no longer relying solely on winter recreation

Proposal

- Expand year round recreational opportunities within developed portions of the ski area
- Ski Area Recreational Opportunity Enhancement Act (SAROEA) adopted by Congress 2011

Regional Plan Goals:

- Ensuring recreational opportunities keep pace with public demand
- Recreational facilities remain high on the development priority list
- Quality of outdoor recreational experience is maintained

Forest Service

- Forest Plan
- Public policy to approve facilities supporting summer and year-round recreation on Ski Resorts

Recreational Improvements

- Greater Access to forested mountain environment for different skill levels
- Range of activities, including adventure and thrill-based experiences appealing to multi generational groups
- Expanded year round non-ski/ride recreational opportunities
- Expanded interpretive programs

Benefits as a result

- The project will continue past Master Plan improvements
  - Restoration Work
    - ❖Slope Stabilization
    - ❖Facilities and Roads Improvements
    - ❖Improved Water Quality
  - Recreational Improvements

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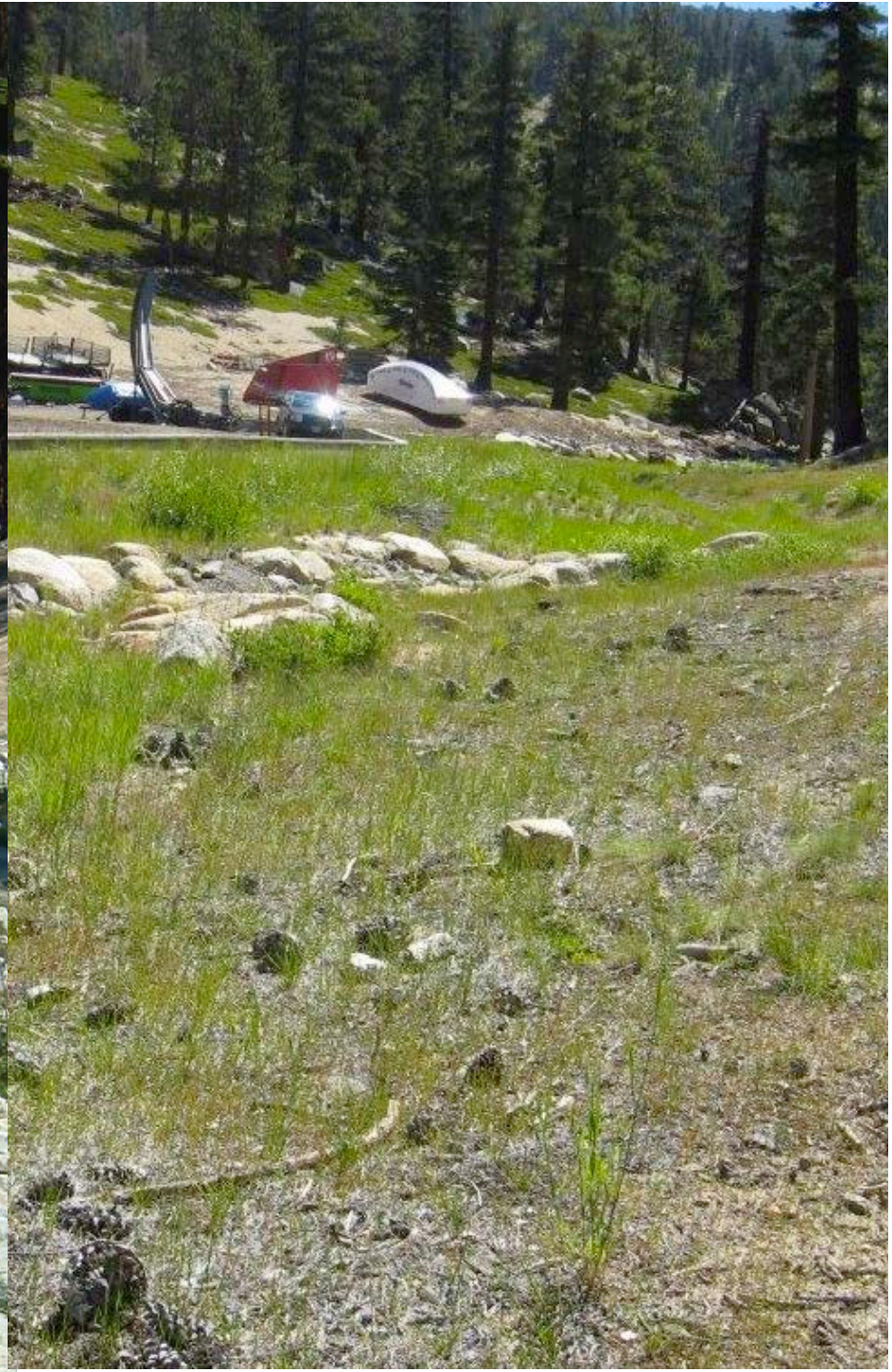

Proposed Actions

- Amend the Master/Regional Plan
  - Revision to text/table describing allowable summer uses
  - Addition of map showing where new uses are allowed
- Approval of the following Series of summer and year round activities

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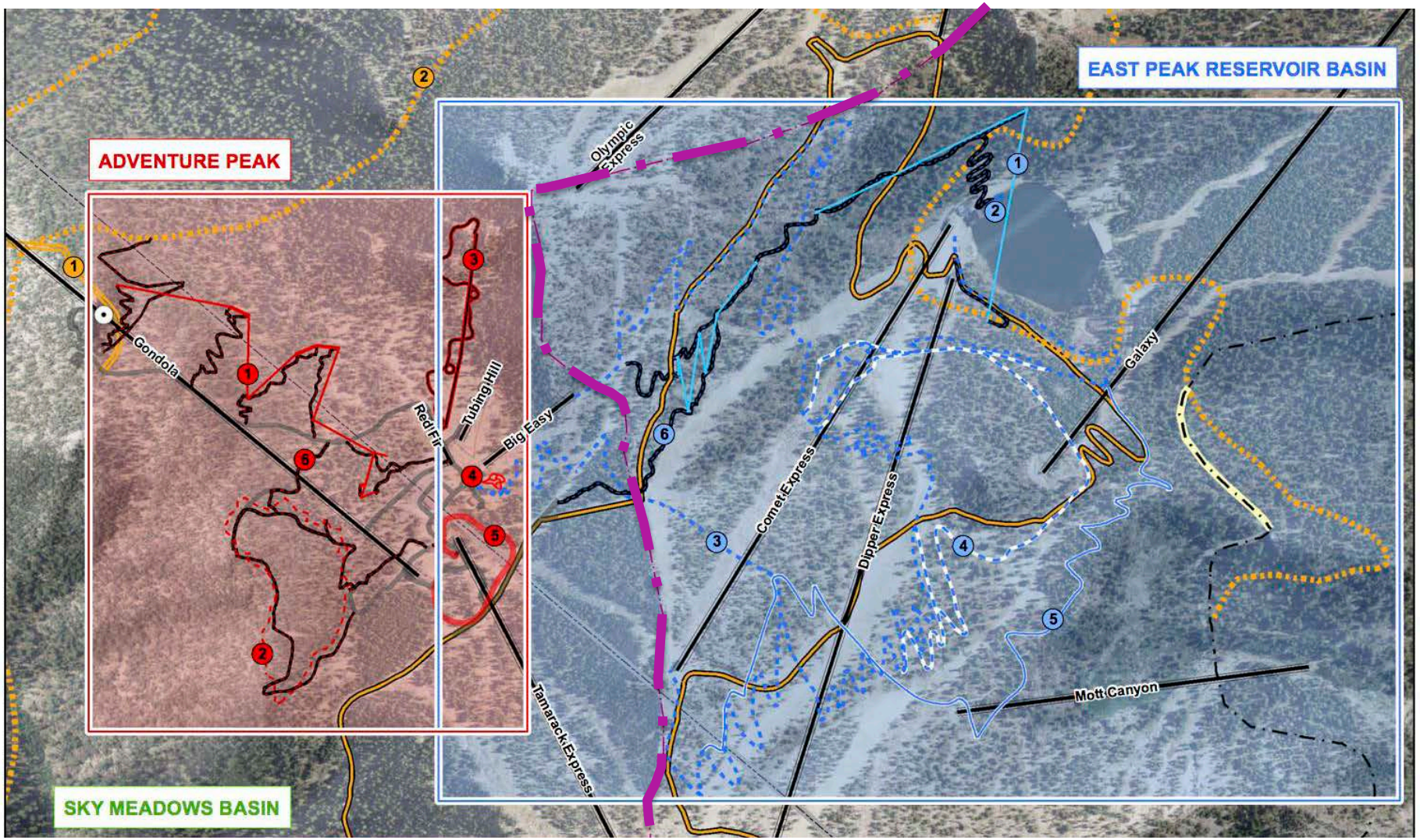

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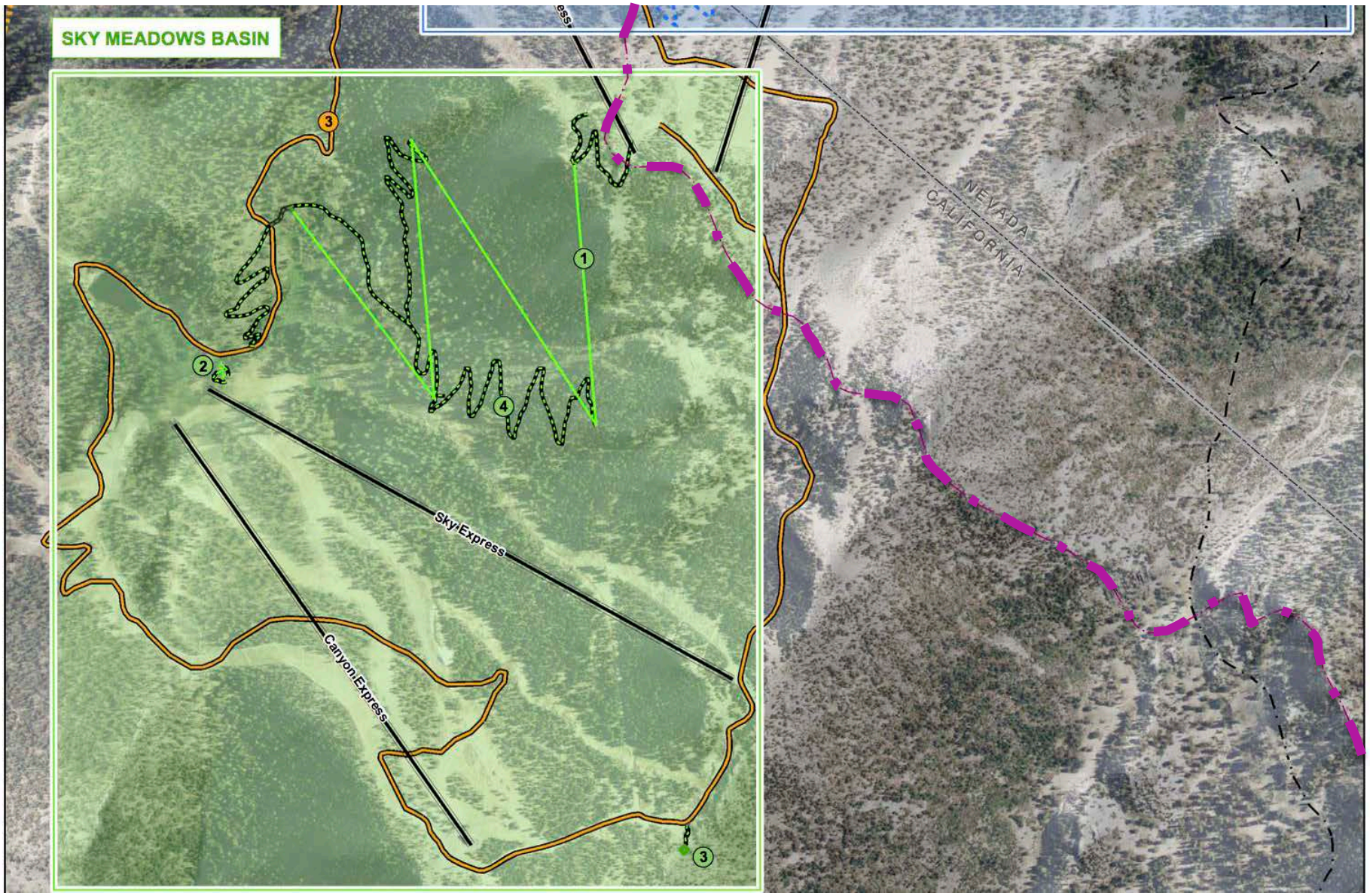
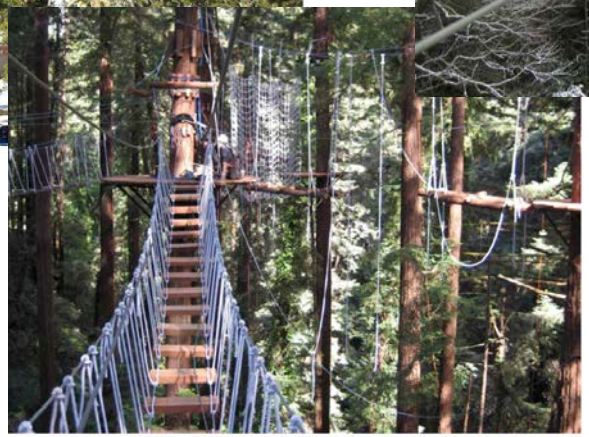


Zipline Canopy Tours and Challenge Course



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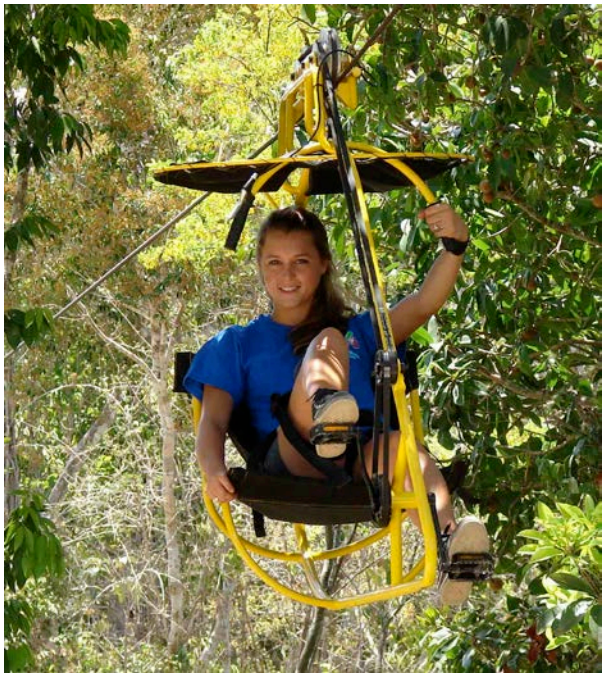
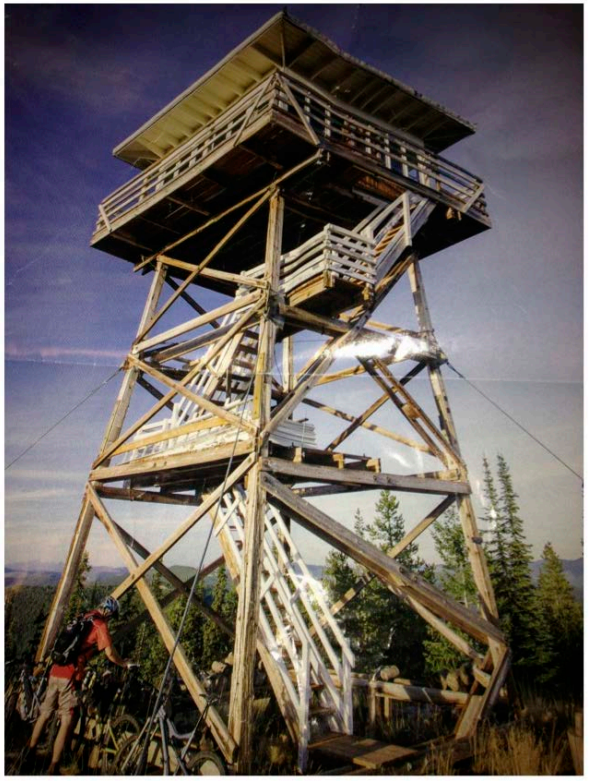
Sky Cycle Canopy Tour



Alpine Coaster

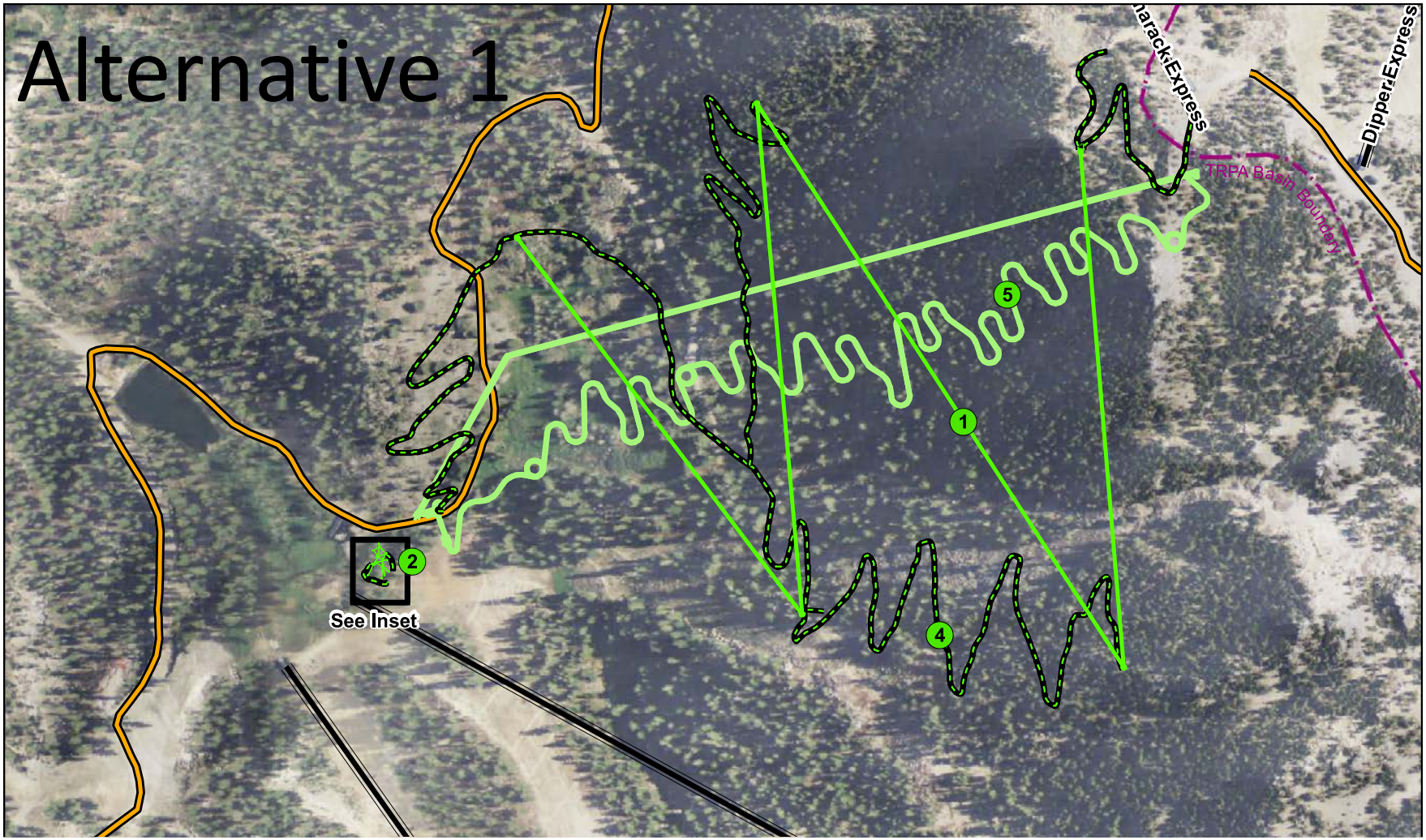
Mountain Bike Park/Trails

Mountain Tours/Lookout Tower



Draft EIR/EIS/EIS Alternatives

- Proposed Action
- 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


Alternative 1
TRPA Basin Boundary
Dipper Express
See Inset
1
2
4
5

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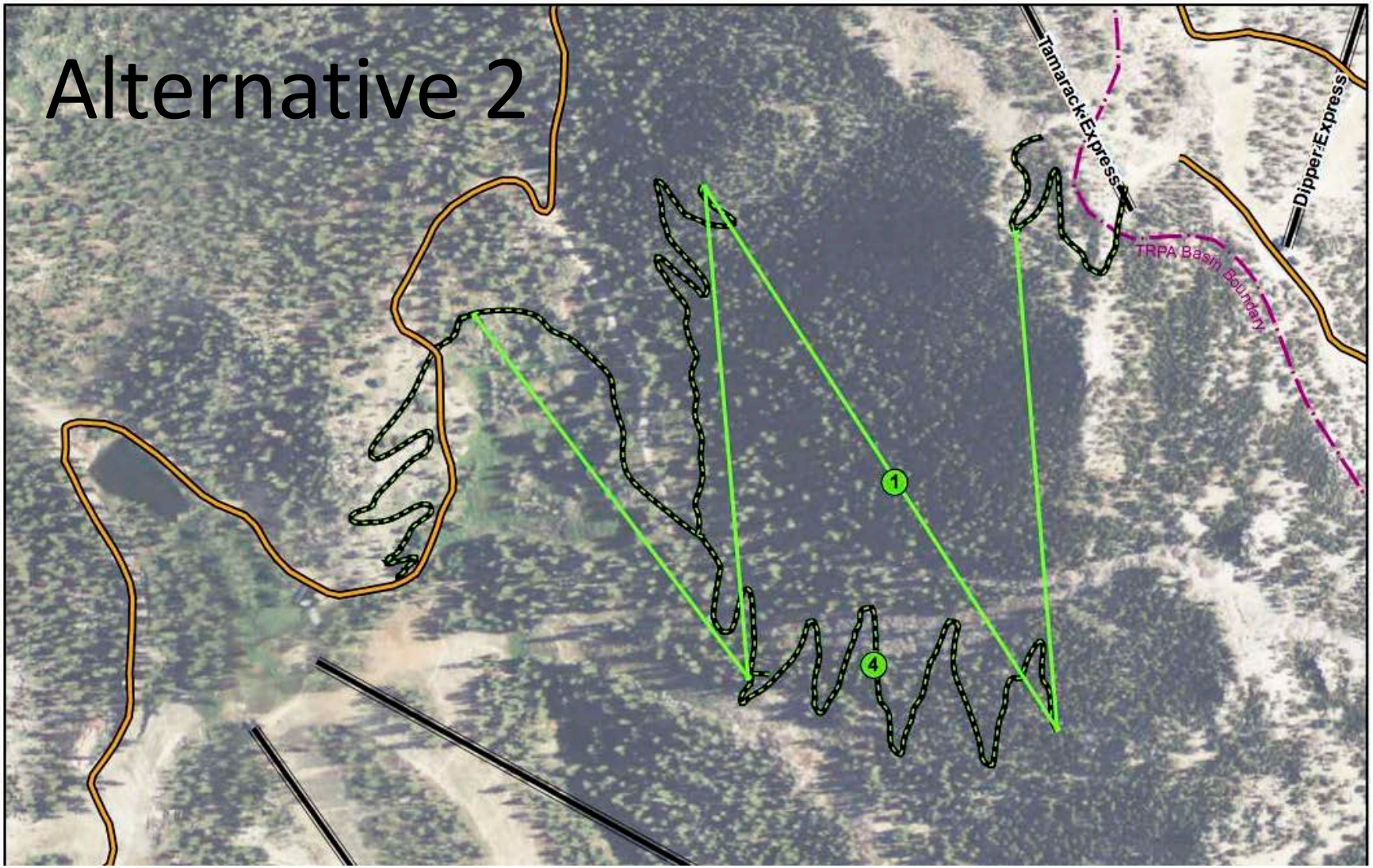


DEIR/EIS FINDINGS

- Less Than Significant Impacts
- Key Environmental Issues/Impacts
- Design Features/Mitigation Measures

Fire Protection

- Ensure safety zones and evacuation routes are maintained and specified in Summer Ops Plans
- Correctly identify first responders (including Tahoe Douglas FPD) in the MP
- Identify helicopter landing zones to facilitate evacuation of sick/injured
- Provide “rescue locator” signs on trails

Biological Resources

- Migratory birds – survey for and protect active nest sites found on activities
- Whitebark pine – implement conservation strategies from Action Plan
- Sierra Nevada yellow legged frog – delay meadow development to complete survey protocols and consult with USFWS

External Trail Network

- Increased trail use – Construction of Panorama trail will better connect HV and increase use on TRT/Van Sickle Connector Trails
- Increases possibility of trail conflicts, adverse wear and tear, and demand for parking at VSSP
- Addressed by measures in Trail Partnership Action Plan

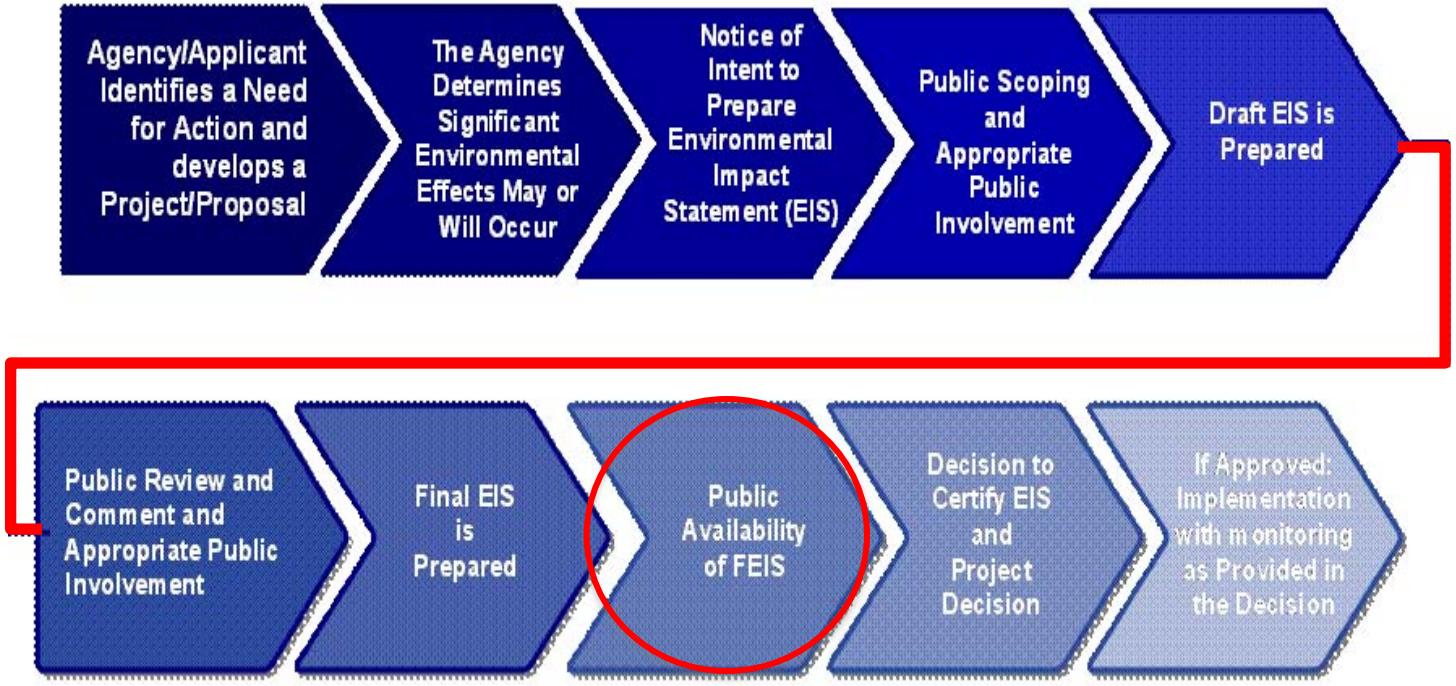
Traffic and Parking

- Increased summer vehicle trips on roadways/intersections near Gondola
- Roadways/intersections continue to operate at acceptable levels of service
- Standard TRPA AQ fees collected to address increased trips/VMT
- Adequate parking available at existing lots

Onsite Roadway Monitoring/Maintenance

- Increased use of on mountain roadways to implement Epic Discovery activities
- Construction or realignment of roadways to serve activities
- Monitor and maintain roads to achieve Forest Service road standards

TRPA EIS Process



Current step – Final EIS February 25, 2015

Final EIR/EIS/EIS satisfies:

- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

  Forest Service (Entire Project)

- California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

  California Water Quality Control Board (CA)

- Tahoe Regional Planning Compact

  TRPA (In Basin)

No Action Required

- No formal action is requested at this time
- This is an informational briefing

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Questions