

Friends of the West Shore

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COMMUNITY VISION STATEMENT

Conservation of Natural Resources

Friends envisions a West Shore with natural resources protected and restored, and TRPA's 1982 environmental thresholds attained.

Our Community Vision	Regional Vision Summary: Pathways & Forum 2007
Air, water, wildlife, fisheries and prime spawning habitat need to be preserved and enhanced.	<p><i>Wildlife and fisheries habitat should be maintained.</i></p> <p><i>Air Quality should be maintained at healthy levels while protecting the Basin's scenic qualities.</i></p>
Support and enforce current thresholds of the TRPA Environmental Improvement Program.	<p><i>Coordination among local, state, and federal governments with a stake in Lake Tahoe should occur at all levels.</i></p>
Economic resources should be directed to attaining Water Quality thresholds with strict observance of TMDL loading limits.	<p><i>There should be a sufficient reduction in loading of fine particulate, nitrogen, and phosphorus to Lake Tahoe to restore clarity.</i></p>
Minimize disturbance of pristine land, trees and other vegetation.	<p><i>The natural scenery of the Lake Tahoe Basin should be protected, restored, and visually accessible</i></p>
Provide connectivity of open space to maintain wildlife corridors	<p><i>Protection of the species and habitat rather than species alone. To move toward an ecosystem approach that manages both the connectivity of streams and wetlands with terrestrial communities.</i></p>
Reduce noise levels, other than from one-time events. Establish non-disturbance zones for specific species such as Northern Goshawk. Limit development into established wildlife areas.	<p><i>Noise levels should be controlled to protect wildlife as well as human enjoyment of the natural serenity of the area</i></p>

<p>Restore creeks and stream environment zones (SEZ) through erosion-control efforts to benefit spawning fish habitat and promote Lake clarity. Beneficial uses must be maintained in the same hydrologic watersheds.</p>	<p><i>Watersheds should be restored to achieve natural functioning of streams, marshes, and riparian areas.</i></p> <p><i>Forest restoration efforts should use management techniques that reduce erosion and protect natural levels of nutrients supporting plants and animal habitats.</i></p>
<p>Promote forest health and defensible space to protect human life from catastrophic events and preserve precious ecosystems and wildlife.</p>	<p><i>Elevated forest fuels should be reduced to levels that protect human life and permit the re-establishment of sustainable ecosystems.</i></p> <p><i>Forest composition and structure should be restored to natural conditions so forests retain a low probability of spreading a catastrophic wildfire.</i></p>
<p>No new development on open space outside of the Urban Growth Boundary and within the Urban Growth Boundary no development shall occur within wetlands or stream environmental zones.</p>	<p><i>Impacts to soil resources in urban settings should be minimized.</i></p> <p><i>The built environment should reflect the character, culture, and natural systems of local communities.</i></p> <p><i>Regional agencies, and local jurisdictions, and private sector should invest in the restoration of Lake Tahoe watersheds, meadows, and forests.</i></p>
<p>Soil conservation shall increase incentives to reduce coverage of new developments within the Urban Growth Boundary.</p>	<p><i>Development within sensitive lands should be identified and removed to appropriate locations through targeted incentives.</i></p>
<p>Preserve our historic and cultural areas to include: the Noonchester Mines, Sulfur Springs, Washoe settlements, Olympic Ski trail, historic homes and other sites built all along the West Shore.</p>	<p><i>Cultural and historical areas should be protected as integral parts of the Tahoe environment.</i></p>