

CA Priorities in the Tahoe Basin

- Fuels Management/Biomass
- Regional Plan Update/TMDL
- Shorezone Plan
- Climate Change
- EIP Update



CA EIP Update Priorities

- Watersheds: Upper Truckee River, Ward, Blackwood Creeks
- Water Quality: State and local road systems, urbanized areas
- Recreation: Complete bike trail network, Lake Tahoe Water Trail
- Public Access: Kings Beach, Tahoe City, CSLT
- Transit: Road improvements; Waterborne transit
- Science: Tahoe Science Consortium
- Funding: Bi-State License Plate Campaign





Lake Tahoe Water Trail



Water Trails ...

A water trail is a mapped water route supported by designated shoreline facilities.

Offers exposure to notable:

- natural resources
- historic sites
- cultural features

Water Trails part of a growing nationwide trend



Kayak participation

1995 – 3.5 million

2005 – 7.6 million

117% increase



Water Trails ...

- For non-motorized, usually beachable watercraft
- Coordinated series of user experiences



Water Trails...

- Encourage low-impact, sustainable recreation and are part of a growing ecotourism trend



Water Trail Features

- **Shoreline facilities** include parking, short-term and long-term boat storage, restrooms, interpretive info



The Lake Tahoe Water Trail

- 2003 BIG IDEA Winner at the SMG Tourism Conference
- Became project of Tahoe Tomorrow and Lake Tahoe Water Trail Committee formed
- LTWT Committee published trail and trip planning guide and launched web site in 2005



The Lake Tahoe Water Trail



The Lake Tahoe Water Trail

- 2007 California legislative effort to designate water trail and direct planning effort received support and drew concern before stalling
- National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program agreed to support development of water trail plan
- Initial planning steps 2007



The Lake Tahoe Water Trail

Preliminary Issue Summary

Benefits

- Incredible growth in last 5 years
- Accessible to all ages and income levels
- Very low impact
- Part of local's expectations for high quality of life
- Fits the visitor profile important to the regional economy



The Lake Tahoe Water Trail

Preliminary Issue Summary

Concerns

- Relationship to existing beach uses and capacities
- Safety concerns
- Interface between public and private interests
- Shoreline development issues
- Wildlife concerns – invasive species



The Lake Tahoe Water Trail

Building a Working Group

Working Group Members ...

- California Tahoe Conservancy, State Parks, Boating and Waterways
- Nevada State Parks, Department of Wildlife
- TRPA, USFS
- Paddler Interests
- Private Property Interests
- Business Interests
- Environmental Interests



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Next Steps: Developing a Program

Working Group Members will...

- Develop vision/mission/goals
- Management and Facilities Assessment
- Develop shared Management and Facilities Objectives
- Comprehensive Outreach, Education
Interpretive Strategy



Lake Tahoe Water Trail

