



Upper Truckee River Restoration & Golf Course Reconfiguration Project



Erosion



No Buffer Zone

WORKING TOGETHER TO RESTORE 1.5 MILES OF THE UPPER TRUCKEE RIVER

Problem Statement

Over the past century, the Upper Truckee River has been impacted by logging, gravel mining, grazing channel straightening and subsequent development of the golf course directly on the floodplain. These disturbances have led to erosion, increases of sediment and nutrient loads to Lake Tahoe, and decreased riparian habitat. Due to these types of disturbances, Lake Tahoe has lost 30 feet of clarity since the 1960's.

Project Goals:

- Reduce erosion, fine sediment and nutrients into the Upper Truckee River and Lake Tahoe
- Restore natural river flows, floodplains and meadows
- Expand habitat corridor to strengthen natural ecosystem
- Reduce impacts of dated golf course and create streamside buffer zones
- Maintain recreational and economic benefits



LOCAL CHALLENGES



Sediment plume into Lake Tahoe from the Upper Truckee River
(Source: TRPA)



On average, 16 dump trucks of sediment enter Lake Tahoe from the project reach per year
(Source: Swanson Report)

Lake Clarity

The Upper Truckee River:

- Supplies the largest amount of water to Lake Tahoe
- Contributes the greatest amount of fine sediment to Lake Tahoe, delivering nutrients that reduce clarity by increasing growth of algae
- Has ongoing erosion due to straightening

Economic Decline

South Lake Tahoe Trends (1996-2005):

- Occupancy rates slipping from 43% to 29%
 - TOT taxes trending down
 - School enrollment decreasing by 20%
- Source: RRC Market Analysis Study, City of South Lake Tahoe*

LOCAL IMPACTS

Golf Course Provides Strong Economic Benefits



Provides Jobs

168 jobs (direct and indirect)



Generates Revenue

\$6.1M in annual visitor spending



Keeps Parks Open

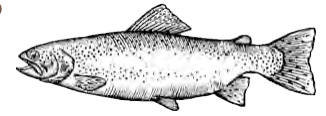
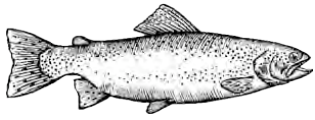
Provides \$880K in revenue annually

Lake Tahoe EIP Project Offers On The Ground Environmental Gain



- Upper Truckee River Restoration is a top EIP priority, including restoration of California State Parks (this project), Tahoe Keys and Airport reaches
- Demonstrates the most cost effective strategy for implementing Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) requirements
- Exemplifies a collaborative approach to funding and project implementation

Environmental, Economic & Recreational Impacts



Project Alternatives

ALTERNATIVE 2: RIVER RESTORATION & RECONFIGURATION OF GOLF COURSE (18-HOLE)

Economic:

- Maintain nearly \$6M in annual revenue to local economy
- Keep 168 local jobs
- Improve local property values

Environmental:

- Restore 37 acres of stream environmental zone (SEZ) and 97 meadow acres
- Reduce fine sediment input into Lake Tahoe

Recreational:

- New bridge open for trail connections between southeast and west side of river
- New trails connect to bike path
- Increased public access to river
- 18-hole regulation course

Summary: River channel and floodplain restored to natural condition. Remove 9 holes from floodplain and relocate to less sensitive lands.

ALTERNATIVE 3: RIVER RESTORATION WITH REDUCED GOLF COURSE (9-HOLE)

Economic:

- Marginal to no commercial viability
- Loss of at least \$3M in annual revenue to local economy
- Loss of at least 84 local jobs
- Potential decrease in property values

Environmental:

- Restore 43 acres of stream environmental zone (SEZ) and 112 acres of meadow
- Reduce fine sediment input into Lake Tahoe

Recreational:

- New trails connect to bike path on southeast side only
- No bridges
- Increased public access to river
- Loss of 9 holes on golf course

Summary: River channel and floodplain restored to natural condition. Remove golf holes from floodplain and re-configure to 9-hole golf course.

ALTERNATIVE 4: ENGINEERED STABILIZATION (18-HOLE)

Economic:

- Potential decrease in annual revenue and jobs
- Potentially reduced play due to visual impacts

Environmental:

- No improvements to flood plain, meadow or habitat
- Reduce fine sediment input into Lake Tahoe
- River channel locked in place with large rock
- Restores less than 1/3 acre of stream environmental zone (SEZ) and meadow

Recreational:

- No improvements to trails
- Bridges remain closed to non-golf use
- 18-hole regulation course

Summary: Riverbanks and channel stabilized with rock riprap, large rock grade control and bioengineering. No change to golf course.

ALTERNATIVE 5: RIVER RESTORATION WITH REMOVAL OF GOLF COURSE

Economic:

- Loss of nearly \$6M in annual revenue to local economy
- Loss of 168 local jobs
- Potential decrease in property values

Environmental:

- Restore 120 acres of stream environmental zone (SEZ) and 131 acres of meadow
- Reduce fine sediment input into Lake Tahoe

Recreational:

- Alternative plans will be developed for other recreational uses of park
- No improvement to trails until future plans developed
- All bridges removed
- Loss of 18 holes on golf course

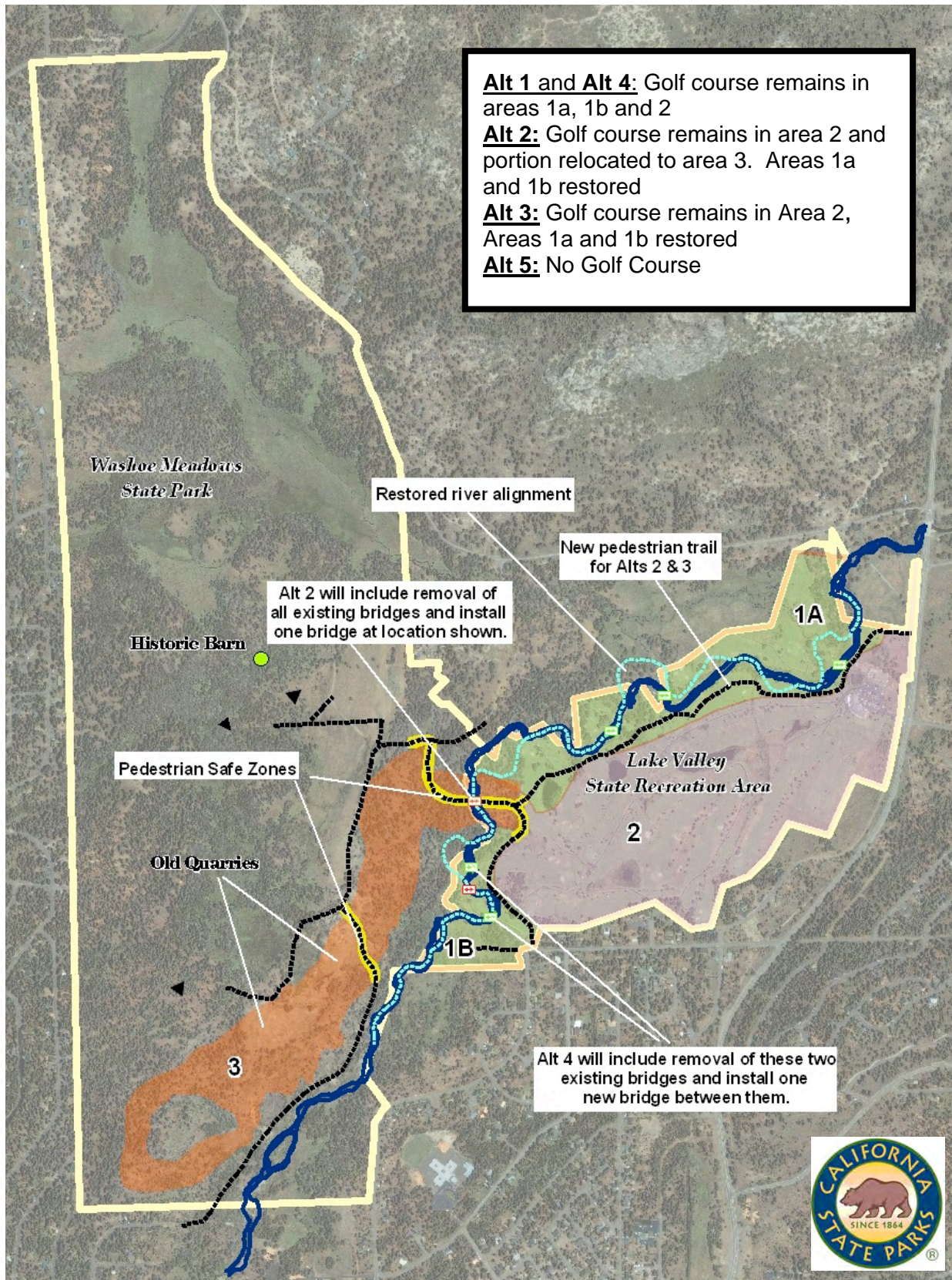
Summary: River channel and floodplain restored to natural condition. Remove entire golf course. Future planning for recreational development.



Note:
Alternative 1 = No Project. No Action.



Project Area



Support the Community AND the Environment

Get involved or get more info:

www.restoreuppertruckee.net

Phone: (530) 581-0925

E-mail: utproject@parks.ca.gov

Our Partners

