BURTON CREEK STATE PARK
PRELIMINARY GENERAL PLAN
DRAFT EIR

JUNE 15, 2005

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE PLAN

BURTON CREEK STATE PARK DRAFT GENERAL PLAN

Antone Meadow in Burton Creek State Park

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE PLAN

Burton Creek State Park has been in existence since 1978 when it was acquired by the California State Parks. The purposes of the acquisition were to provide a large area of resource protection and outdoor recreation opportunities on the north side of the Lake Tahoe Basin.

BCSP Vicinity Map

The park consists of typical mid-elevation west-side mixed conifer forest, a wet meadow complex and two main stream courses. The few cultural resources found on the property consist of isolated prehistoric artifacts and old cabin sites with little remaining. The park has remained to this day a relatively undeveloped park with no park facilities. Dirt roads left over from old logging activities crisscross the 2000 acre park along with many trails established by local residents living adjacent to the park. The roads are blocked to vehicle access. In the winter many of these same roads become part of a cross country ski concession operation.

The property is surrounded by undeveloped U.S. Forest Service land with connecting roads and trails and serves as part of an unobstructed habitat corridor to within a few hundred yards of the shoreline of Lake Tahoe.

In the late 1990's the District decided to begin preparation of this general plan for a number of reasons. Local entities were interested in developing a route through the park for access to a high school. The District wanted to lay the

foundation for possible future facility development in the park. A plan will also describe and address the immediate need to develop day use and access facilities, and to implement a Road and Trail Plan for the park. The Road and Trail Plan is needed to address current resource and recreation issues related to road and trail use in the park.

Another purpose for completing a general plan for Burton Creek State Park (BCSP) is to facilitate the transfer of the Dollar Parcel from the California Tahoe Conservancy to State Parks. The Dollar Parcel is a 900 acre undeveloped parcel of land adjacent to Burton Creek State Park. The parcel is currently owned by the California Tahoe Conservancy. The Dollar Parcel was acquired by the California Tahoe Conservancy in 1990. The purposes of the acquisition were to protect the property's natural and cultural resources, and make the land available to the public.

The Conservancy has indicated it will transfer the property to State Parks upon completion of a general plan acceptable to the governing board (ref. May 4, 2000 letter from CTC Executive Officer Dennis Machida to Dist. Superintendent Bob Macomber). The property will be a logical addition to the park of adjacent public land. It will allow the department to develop a comprehensive Road and Trail Plan for the entire area with better access into the park. The transfer would be at no cost to California State Parks.

The plan will also guide the District in the development of the park. The plan proposes day use facilities including four trailhead parking areas, roads, trails, administrative buildings and a campground. The campground may include alternative camping including yurts or cabins.

This draft plan attempts to strike a balance between the various demands on the property. It takes into consideration the Department's needs, the local community and the regulatory agencies concerns by incorporating several elements that address the traffic issue.

To better accommodate local traffic and environmental conditions the proposed campground is for 1 - 200 sites, instead of a much larger facility.

Second, the proposed campground development will take into consideration traffic on Highway 28, by referencing the Caltrans traffic index of Levels of Service (LOS) for Tahoe City. The index, that rates traffic flow on a scale of A – F, currently rates Tahoe City traffic at the bottom of the scale as an F, due to extreme traffic congestion at times. Caltrans, through traffic and road planning efforts now underway, has a goal to improve the traffic index to Level D, representing only minor delays in traffic flow. The Department's intent is to plan for campground facilities that will still allow Caltrans to meet this goal.

Also, by designing the facilities, roads and trails to accommodate travel by foot (and bike and ski) it is anticipated some visitors will access the park and surrounding areas while leaving their cars parked at the campground. This will be done by clustering some development and taking advantage of the existing trail and road system.

Another traffic issue was centered on the location of the campground access route. The route selected in this general plan is a route leaving Highway 28, east of Tahoe City west of Dollar Hill near Tamarack Lodge. This is an undeveloped area with no current traffic congestion. The general plan has identified the route near the Tamarack Lodge as the preferred access route into the park.

In order to develop this existing access to accommodate more traffic, the current natural preserve boundary should be adjusted since technically preserves should not have roads in them. The natural resource specialists on the planning team have determined the boundary of the preserve can be adjusted to accommodate the existing access route without impairment of the natural resources for which the preserve was established. Adjustment of the preserve boundary will require an action by the California State Park and Recreation Commission, and can be made concurrently with adoption of the Final General Plan.

Recognizing the need for a park-wide planning document for development of park facilities and transference of the Dollar Parcel to State Parks, the Department began this general plan process in 1999. The focus of the general plan is to identify park-wide goals and guidelines to guide the future development, management, and protection of park resources and visitor facilities, balance the potential impacts of facility development with the park visitors, local communities and regulatory agencies, and transfer the Dollar Parcel from the California Tahoe Conservancy to California State Parks.

There are several major park-wide planning goals included in the General Plan. Some of these are:

Natural Resources: Provide special protection for listed species, as well as for other exceptional natural resources. Manage the mixed conifer forest to reduce fire hazard and encourage the development of old growth stands through a reduction in trees per acre and opening of the canopy. Protect and ensure the perpetuation of native wildlife species populations at Burton Creek State Park. Preserve, rehabilitate and, as appropriate, establish new effective habitat linkages between the park and other protected lands in order to maintain biological diversity. Establish and preserve buffers around existing significant park resources. Rehabilitate watershed functions, thereby significantly reducing or eliminating unnatural soil erosion and stream sedimentation within the park's watersheds. Identify the beneficial uses and the surface water quality objectives for Burton Creek State Park and the Dollar Parcel.

Cultural Resources: Ensure a high level of appropriate protection, stabilization, preservation, and interpretation of the park's cultural resources, focusing in areas of exceptional archaeological and historical significance.

Recreation: Provide a multitude of recreational opportunities that will allow California's diverse population to visit, enjoy, and better understand the significance of the park's resources.

Interpretive Resources: Interpret the resources, the resource protection measures, and the restoration efforts underway in the park. Make connections between the quality of the environment and the quality of the recreation experience.

Future plans to be developed for the park include:

- A Roads and Trail Plan
- A Forest Management Plan
- An Interpretive Plan
- A Cultural Resource Management Plan

This General Plan is presented in four major sections. The first section is a brief **Introduction** to the park – its resources and history. The second section is a **Park Summary** of existing natural, cultural, and recreation resources. The third section, **The Plan**, presents future goals and guidelines for facility development and resource management programs. The fourth section is a first tier **Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and Analysis** of the entire General Plan.

The objectives of the EIR are to identify the significant impacts of implementing the General Plan and to provide general mitigation measures for a first tier of environmental review. A more detailed level of environmental analysis will be applied when actual development is proposed for construction and/or resource management projects are implemented.

The EIR is being prepared to provide full public disclosure of the Department's proposed actions. The Department's purposes in moving forward with the BCSP General Plan are the protection of natural and cultural features balanced with the development of recreation facilities. The activities proposed herein generally do not pose long-term significant impacts on the environment. However, implementation of elements of the General Plan may cause an increase in traffic in an area already congested with tourist traffic. Therefore a Statement of Overriding Considerations will need to be adopted for this impact. This Statement will be prepared as part of the Notice of Determination, for signature by the Director of the California Department of Parks and Recreation and approval by the Park and Recreation Commission as part of the adoption of this General Plan.

Typical Access Road in BCSP

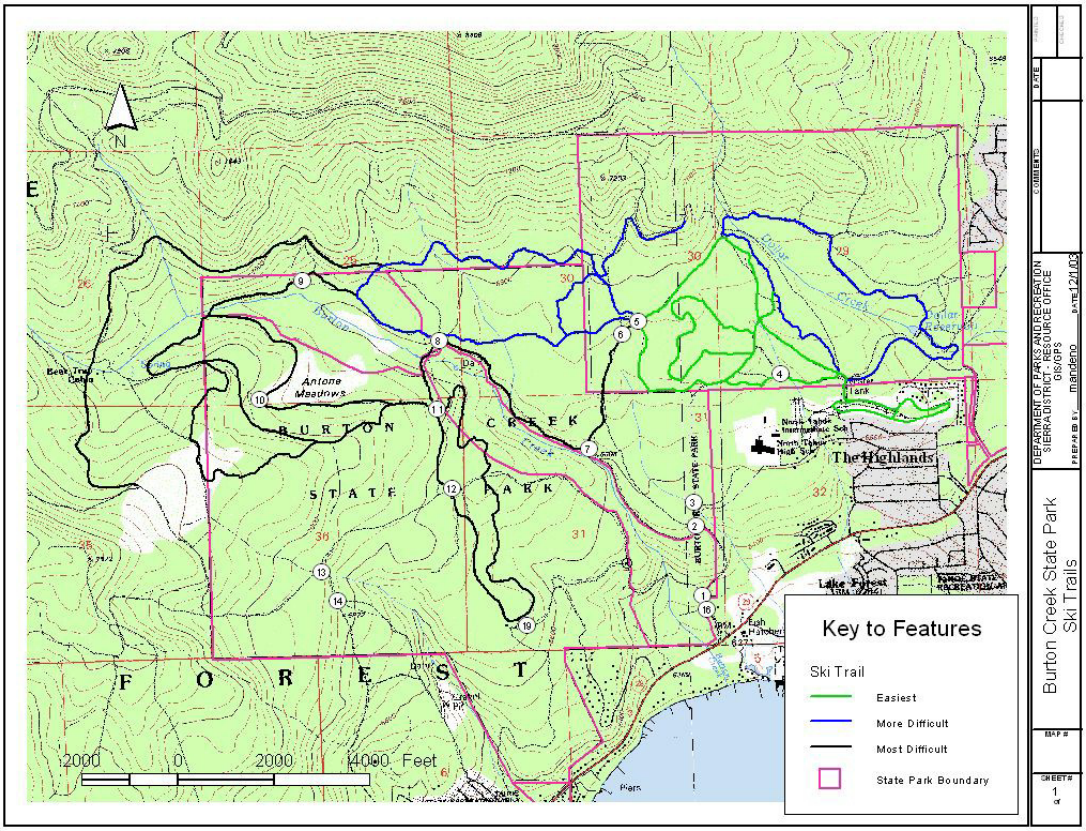
INTRODUCTION

Burton Creek State Park (BCSP) lies in the Lake Tahoe Basin on the northwest shore of Lake Tahoe adjacent to Tahoe City. The park is one of nine state park units in the Tahoe Basin. The nine units, along with eight other units outside of the Tahoe Basin, make up the Sierra District of California State Parks.

The California Tahoe Conservancy Dollar Parcel is situated immediately east of BCSP. The approximate 2000 -acre park and 900 acre Dollar parcel represent nearly 3000 acres of undeveloped mixed conifer forest land. All of the forest is second growth, having been logged from the turn of the last century through the 1950s. The land is crisscrossed with old logging roads and recreation trails. Local residents created most of the existing trails. In addition, State Parks maintains a network of service roads and recreation trails in the park, especially around Burton and Antone Meadows. The California State Park and Recreation Commission has classified the park as a State Park that includes two sub-units, Antone Meadows Natural Preserve and Burton Creek Natural Preserve. The preserves total about 350 acres.

Burton Creek State Park is situated immediately northeast of Tahoe City, on the north shore of Lake Tahoe in Placer County. Highway 28 and private property separate BCSP from the lake. BCSP is currently not signed along Highway 28,

the main road on the north shore. Access to BCSP and the Dollar Parcel is gained from informal parking areas, adjacent neighborhood roads, and undeveloped trailheads. A few gated service roads, are used by state park staff to access the interior of the park.



Main Roads and Trails in BCSP

Purpose Acquired

Burton Creek State Park was acquired in 1978. The purposes of the acquisition were to provide a large area of resource protection and outdoor recreation opportunities on the north side of the Lake Tahoe Basin.

The Dollar Parcel was acquired by the California Tahoe Conservancy in 1990. The purposes of the acquisition were to protect the property's natural and cultural resources, and make the land available to the public consistent with the park designation.

Spirit of Place

Burton Creek State Park holds within it a contrasting Spirit of Place. The first sense one has of the place is that of healing and recovery. The entire park was heavily logged from the 1800s through the 1950s. The meadows were heavily grazed. Now the young forest, with trees ranging from seedlings to 100- year old

pines and firs, with an occasional older tree, grow slowly in the forest. Eventually the park will once again be an old-growth Sierra forest. After decades of heavy grazing Burton and Antone meadows once again bloom and blossom to full maturity each year.

Open Forest/Shrub Stand

The quiet of the park is contrasted by the bustle of people recreating. The park, since the 1960s, has become a favorite of local community members and a few visitors who have discovered it as a place to mountain bike, hike, run, cross country ski and snowshoe. Mountain bike races and the "Great Ski Race" (an eighteen mile ski race from Tahoe City to Truckee) are organized events that take place annually in the park. The local high school also uses the park trails for organized sports and training, mainly cross-country skiing and cross-country running events. So the Spirit of Place is a contrast of quiet forest and meadow experience, and active, bustling recreation.

Purpose of General Plans

General plans are broad policy documents that set the direction park development and management will take for twenty years or more. Although the park is over twenty-five years old, a general plan has not been developed for it. Current facilities on the park and the Dollar parcel include roads, trails, two small dams, public utility district water tanks, and a private water diversion ditch and pipe. All existed prior to acquisition of the land by California State Parks.

In the late 1990's circumstances occurred prompting the preparation of this general plan. Planning began when the department was requested by local entities to explore the possibility of building a westerly access road from Highway 28 to the high school in the Highlands Subdivision. Due to identified environmental consequences of building such a road, and the incompatibility of such a road with park purposes, the concept of the road was eliminated early in the planning process.

Today, the primary reasons for the Department to complete a general plan for Burton Creek State Park are; to lay the foundation for possible future campground development, describe and address the immediate need to develop day use and access facilities, and to implement a Road and Trail Plan for the park. The Road and Trail Plan is needed to address current resource and recreation issues related to road and trail use in the park. A secondary purpose for completing a general plan for BCSP is to facilitate transfer of the Dollar Parcel from the California Tahoe Conservancy to State Parks.

General planning provides the public an opportunity to assess the Department's resource stewardship of the park, proposed facility development, and planned interpretive programing. It provides guidelines for future land use management within the park, including potential land acquisitions and facilities to accommodate the public's access to the park. The Burton Creek State Park General Plan also addresses integration of the park with the surrounding U.S. Forest Service and Tahoe Conservancy properties, and private property.

When completed and approved, the general plan will provide vision and direction for the next two decades or more of the park's management and development. Because it will be in effect for a long time, the plan must remain consistent in its vision for the park's future, general in its scope, and flexible in its approaches for solving future management problems and issues that are certain to arise.

Therefore, the general plan contains broad proposals. Major programs and projects require additional, more detailed levels of planning, referred to as management plans. For example, facility developments (i.e. campground, trailhead parking, and interpretive signage) need site specific Area Development Plans to determine how they will relate to their surroundings. Some management plans, such as those required for resource protection, are based on legislation or other directives. Other planning efforts may invite public comments to address visitor needs and community interest.

Future management plans and development projects are subject to additional environmental review to address, in much greater detail, the environmental permitting and compliance required for facility development.

Managed Forest Stand in BCSP

PARK SUMMARY

Existing Land Use - Roads, Trails, and Access Points

Burton Creek State Park and the Dollar parcel consist of approximately 3,000 acres of relatively undeveloped forest. A network of dirt roads and trails, two small dams, two water tanks, and a few signs, are the only developments in the park. The roads into Burton Creek State Park are gated. Only State Park and emergency vehicles are allowed on the roads in the park. The roads and trails are used by hikers and bikers during the summer, and cross-country skiers and snowshoe hikers in the winter. The adjacent Tahoe State Recreation Area, which abuts the southwest corner of the park, provides camping and beach day use at the lakeshore. The campground is filled to capacity the entire summer season it is open. Two existing State Park preserves (Burton Creek and Antone Meadows) exist in the park at this time.

Access is gained to the park via points off of Highway 28, between Tahoe City and Carnelian Bay.

The Dollar parcel is not gated. It receives considerable unregulated public use from adjacent subdivisions. Numerous redundant trails and roads contribute to erosion from the property.

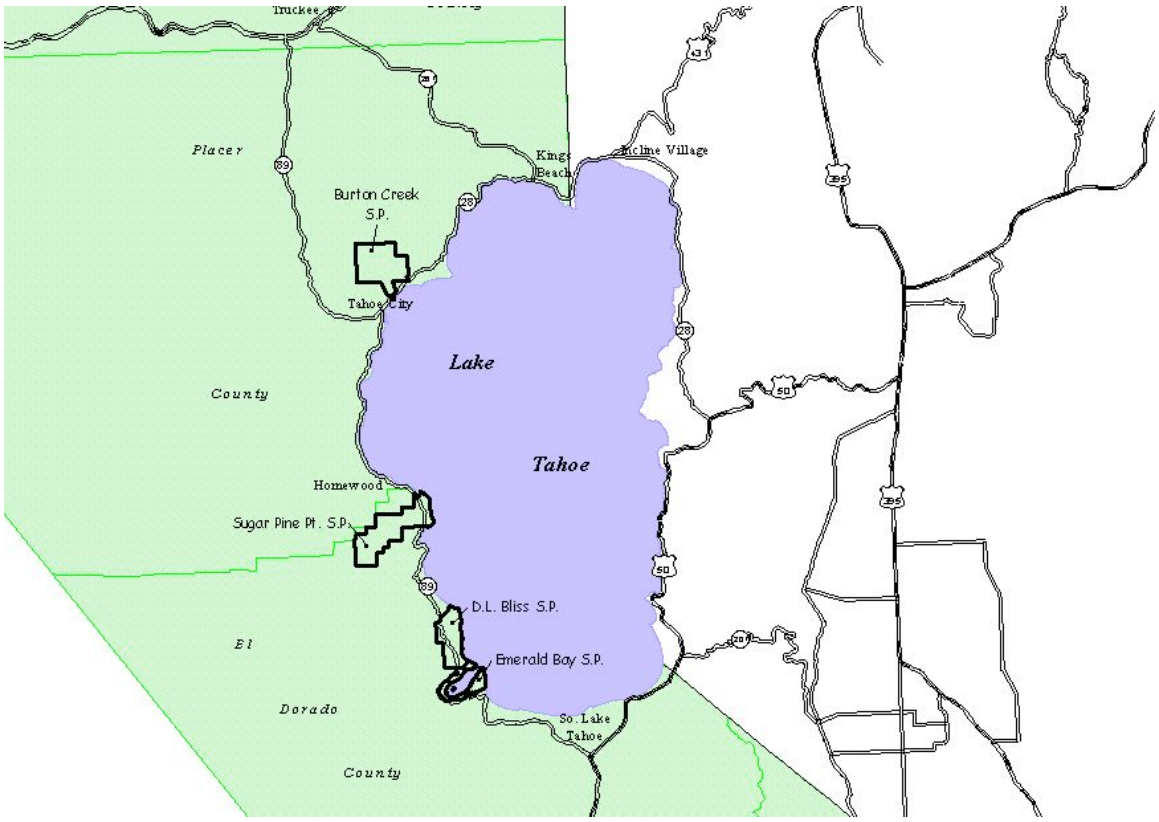
Adjacent Land Uses

Adjacent High School Facilities

Burton Creek State Park and the Dollar parcel are bounded by private subdivisions (Rocky Ridge, Tahoe City, Cedar Flat, and the Highlands), commercial development (Tamarack Lodge), U.S. Forest Service land, the Tahoe State Recreation Area, Highway 28, schools and individual private lots. Approximately 70 percent of the homes are second homes. Most of the lots are built out. There is an active program carried out by the California Tahoe Conservancy to purchase undeveloped lots in subdivisions to prevent development. Residents from the subdivisions often use the park for hiking, biking and nature study. People also use a number of trails and dirt roads to pass through the park to gain access to U.S. Forest Service lands, located higher in the watershed, for longer trips out into the forest.

The Park in the Tahoe Basin

Burton Creek State Park is one of nine units of the State Park System in the Tahoe Basin. Other parks include Kings Beach State Recreation Area (SRA), Tahoe SRA, the Ward Unit, Sugar Pine Point State Park (SP), DL Bliss SP, Emerald Bay SP, Washoe Meadows SP, and Lake Valley SRA (a concession operated eighteen hole golf course).



The State Parks in the Tahoe Basin

Significant Resource Values

Time, nature, and people have molded the natural resources of Burton Creek State Park and the Dollar parcel into the beautiful landscape that exists today. Identifying and understanding natural and cultural resource interdependence is imperative for properly managing the park.

Typical Forest in BCSP

Natural Resources Overview

Meteorology

The climate of the Lake Tahoe Basin is generally Mediterranean and is modified by topography and geography. It is characterized by relatively warm, dry summers, interrupted by occasional thundershowers and cold, wet winters with the majority of precipitation falling as snow. The annual mean temperature is 45 degrees. The coldest month is February, with an average temperature of 28 degrees. Average summer temperatures range from 60 to 80 degrees during the day, and 35 to 40 degrees at night. About 95% of the precipitation falls between October and May. Snow accounts for 75 to 80% of the total precipitation with an average snowfall of 200 to 325 inches. The normal average precipitation in the basin is 34 inches.

Geology

Lake Tahoe lies within the Sierra Nevada Geomorphic Province. It occupies a basin surrounded by 9,000 foot peaks of the Sierra Nevada. The eastern and western sides of the basin are composed of granite rock, with minor amounts of older metamorphic rock. Volcanic rock, some deposited as recently as 2.5 million years ago, covers most of the northern part of the basin.

The Sierra Nevada is a gently sloping fault block mountain range that was uplifted along its eastern edge. This range is bounded on the east and west by a series of interconnected fault segments. The displacement has been greater on the eastern margin, giving the Sierra Nevada a western tilt. South of Lake Tahoe, there is a single crest dividing the gentle western slope from the steep eastern scarp. The crest splits south of the lake, with one crest trending northwesterly and the other crest trending northward creating the Carson Range. This range separates the Carson Valley from Lake Tahoe. Lake Tahoe occupies the basin between the two uplifted crests.

Aspen Stand in BCSP

Most of the soils in the Lake Tahoe Basin are of granitic or volcanic parent material. The soils are geologically young and poorly developed. Most soils are shallow, coarse textured, have low cohesion, and contain small amounts of organic material. These attributes account for a high erosion potential on steeper slopes in the Tahoe Basin. In general, Burton Creek State Park is comprised mostly of “Tahoe City” olivine latite, which is covered by lake deposits in some places.

Topography

Burton Creek State Park is located within the Lake Tahoe Basin of the Sierra Nevada mountain range. The Lake Tahoe Basin is a large box-like depression surrounded by rugged mountains. The major topographic feature of the basin is the lake itself, by far the largest body of water in the Sierra Nevada, with a surface area of over 190 square miles. The park is located on the northwest side of the lake.

The lowest elevation within the park is located in the southeast corner of the park at about 6,280 feet above sea level (lake level is about 6,223 feet). The highest point is located along the western boundary of the park at about 7,160 ft. Slopes within the unit range from flat (less than 9%) to steep (26-50%), with about 85% of the park area having fairly flat slopes (less than 16%).

Hydrology

Burton Creek

Burton Creek State Park is within the watershed for Lake Tahoe. Although four creeks are found within the park, Burton Creek drains the majority of the land. The total drainage area of the creek is 3,310 acres with about 1,200 acres within the park. The U.S. Forest Service manages the watershed above the park. The creek is impounded at Antone Meadows and much of the water is diverted to the Tahoe City Golf Course. In the early 1990s, the Department was unsuccessful in challenging the water rights associated with this diversion. Another impoundment exists on Dollar Creek, the main drainage found on the Dollar property. Dollar Reservoir is about one acre in size and sits behind a dam 14 feet in height and about 400 feet in length. The dam and reservoir do not

currently serve any purpose other than as providing a favorite destination for hikers and bikers.

Artificial barriers exist on both Burton and Dollar Creeks near their confluences with Lake Tahoe. Consequently there is no interchange of fish and other migratory aquatic species between the lake and the creeks.

Plant Life

Montane Eriogonum – Artemesia Scrub

Plant Communities

The Lake Tahoe region contains a great variety of plants including more than 500 species of native plants and at least 160 introduced species. Within Burton Creek State Park there are five major plant communities: mixed coniferous forest; montane chaparral; montane shrub; montane meadow; and riparian forest.

Mixed Coniferous Forest

The mixed coniferous forest is the regional climax community. Dominant trees of the mixed coniferous forest in Burton Creek State Park are; Jeffrey pine, lodgepole pine, red fir, and white fir. The lower part of the unit is mainly a white fir forest, with a mixture of jeffrey pine, lodgepole pine, and red fir. There is a mixed understory containing large patches of pinemat manzanita and squaw carpet.

Montane Chaparral

In montane chaparral areas and especially where logging activities have disturbed the soil, mountain whitethorn is common. Service berry and clumps of sedge, Sierra gooseberry, squirreltail grass, western pennyroyal, and yellow cinquefoil occur on rock outcrops. Also on outcrops are the prostrate forms of

bitter brush, bush chinquapin, California fuchsia, mountain mahogany, snowberry, and thimbleberry.

Montane Eriogonum – Artemesia Scrub

Of special interest is the small area of Eriogonum-Artemisia scrub found on shallow, rocky soils that cover the edge of an ancient lava flow. This community is dominated by low sage and a prostrate buckwheat (Erigonum ovalifolium var. nivale) which is at a lower elevation than previously recorded (6,640 feet). Other species found in this plant community include sulphur flower, squirreltail grass, green manzanita and mule-ears. The plant community also contains a number of spring annuals that have yet to be described.

Mountain Meadow

The meadow areas of the park, including Burton and Antone Meadows, are dominated by alkali ryegrass, blue wild-rye, meadow barley, and various sedges, rushes and a variety of herbaceous plants further described in the unit's resource inventory.

Riparian Forest and Thicket

The riparian forest community is scattered along the outside edges on the meadow areas, and along parts of Burton Creek and Dollar Creek. Two major variations in the riparian community are the riparian willow and alder thickets. The major species present are Black cottonwood, creek dogwood, Lemmon willow, lodgepole pine, mountain alder, and quaking aspen.

Special Plants

No rare or endangered species (listed as such by the California Department of Fish and Game or the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service) have yet been identified in Burton Creek State Park or on the Dollar parcel. However, there are 3 rare and/or endangered species that could possibly exist on the site. These are: Truckee barberry (Berberis sonnei), Whitney carex (Carex whitneyi), and Sierra Corydalis (Corydalis caseana). White stemmed gooseberry (Ribes divaricatum var. inerme(occurs around Antone Meadows and is rare in the Tahoe Basin, with only one other locale reported in the basin. The seldom- seen water buttercup (Ranunculus aquatilis var. capillaceus) was found in Burton Creek at Antone Meadows.

Animal Life

Nearly 300 species of wildlife inhabit the Lake Tahoe Region, which has been divided into 13 wildlife habitat types. Four of these types are found within Burton

Creek State Park: herbaceous meadow; montane chaparral; riparian; and mixed coniferous forest.

The wildlife has two main sub-groups, mammals and birds. Birds are subdivided into waterfowl, upland game birds, and others. Actual lists of wildlife seen are fragmented, however, recent surveys for sensitive species such as the Northern goshawk and the California spotted owl are complete. The following general description of species are known to exist in different habitats of the Lake Tahoe Region.

Mammals

American Pine Marten

Large mammals that inhabit Burton Creek State Park are found throughout the park and would overlap the four habitat types. These species are; black bear, black-tailed deer, California mule deer, bobcat, mountain lion, and mule deer. All have a range that includes the northwest Tahoe Basin.

Some of the small and medium sized mammal species which are likely to be found in the park are; Belding ground squirrel, black-tailed hare, California ground squirrel, dusky shrew, heather vole, long-eared chipmunk, mice, moles, mountain beaver, mountain pocket gopher, northern pocket gopher, yellow-bellied marmot, yellow pine chipmunk, Douglas squirrel, golden-mantled squirrel, northern flying squirrel, porcupine, raccoon, and coyote.

Two furbearing animals of interest found in the park are the short-tailed weasel and the pine marten.

Birds

Upland game birds found in the park include: blue grouse, mourning dove, and mountain quail. Some common songbirds found in the park include: dark-eyed junco, white-headed woodpecker, Steller's jay, mountain chickadee, and the red-breasted nuthatch.

Reptiles and Amphibians

Reptiles and amphibians comprise a small percentage of the diverse wildlife found in Burton Creek State Park. Lizards such as the western fence, northern alligator, and sagebrush species are often found in forest openings such as rock outcrops or on talus slopes. Snakes such as the rubber boa, gopher, garter, and California mountain kingsnakes are found in forest openings. Amphibians that may occur in the park include the long-toed salamander, western toad, bullfrog, and Pacific tree frog.

Aquatic Life

The aquatic communities of Lake Tahoe and its tributaries have been greatly altered in the last several decades. Over fishing at the turn of the 19th century and introduced fish species decimated native fisheries. Land use practices and water diversions have also altered and reduced habitat for many aquatic organisms.

One fish species is present in Burton Creek State Park. Burton Creek and Dollar Creek contain a population of eastern brook trout, a non-native fish that is present in many Sierra Nevada waters. No other aquatic vertebrate species have been observed and few aquatic insects are found in the park's stream systems.

The ranges of two native sensitive species overlap the park's boundaries. The Lahontan cutthroat trout is a federal listed threatened species once native to Lake Tahoe and its' tributaries. The unit may also be within the range of the mountain yellow-legged frog. Neither have been found in the unit to date.

Sensitive Animals

California Spotted Owls

Potential habitat exists in the park for several listed species including; the Aleutian Canada goose, Bald eagle, Swainson's hawk, Peregrine falcon, greater sandhill crane, great gray owl, bank swallow, Sierra Nevada red fox, willow flycatcher, and wolverine. None of the species have been found in the park. Several species of interest have been found in the park or on the Dollar property including; osprey, California spotted owl, American pine marten, flying squirrel, and the northern goshawk.

More complete lists of the plants and animals of Burton Creek State Park and the Dollar parcel can be found in the resource inventories for the park available for review at the Sierra District office in Tahoma.

Areas of High Ecological Sensitivity

Antone Meadows and the riparian zone along Burton and Dollar Creeks are ecologically sensitive areas. Wildlife habitat values are high. The plant communities (wet and dry meadows, riparian aspen forests, and riparian alder thickets) show very high species diversity in relation to the surrounding mixed-conifer forest.

Meadow soils are very fragile. They are subject to soil compaction from vehicular and foot traffic. This is especially true when the soils are wet. Meadow plants are extremely sensitive to physical and chemical changes in the soil.

Meadows and riparian areas act as filtering systems for sediments and nutrients in water flowing into Lake Tahoe thus helping to maintain the water quality of Lake Tahoe.

Cultural Resources Overview

The information contained in this overview provides a general summary of the cultural resources found in Burton Creek State Park. More details about the park's cultural resources can be found in the Archaeological Inventory Surveys of Burton Creek State Park and the resource inventories for the park and the Dollar Property.

This plan is currently being presented to the appropriate Native American representatives for comment and consultation as required by the Department's Native American Consultation Policy and Senate Bill 18, Chapter 905, Statutes of 2004. The results of that consultation will be included in the Final General Plan.

The Archaeological Inventory Surveys were conducted between 1977 and 1991. In summary, no prehistoric sites, features, or isolated artifacts were found in the park. Historic findings include six log cabin sites, evidence of a lumber camp, a concrete dam, and a ditch and flume system.

The surveys also identified areas on maps where recreation facilities could be developed with no impacts to cultural resources.

Prehistory

Ethnographically, the Burton Creek area lies within Washoe territory. In the middle of the 19th century, the Washoe were believed to have occupied the region bounded by the south shore of Honey Lake, south to Sonora Pass and the West Walker River, between the Pinenut mountains east of Reno, and an area just west of the main crest of the Sierra Nevada.

Physically and culturally, the Washoe were closely related to both the Northern Paiute and Miwok Indian groups. Some of these similar cultural traits include: a conical house made by piling pieces of bark or brush; bedrock mortars; use of the soaproot bush; finely-made coiled basketry with descriptively named geometric patterns; and wooden cooking utensils.

The principal social, political, and economic unit of the Washoe was the household composed of one or two nuclear families. Sometimes, several households would form communities around a spring or creek, or near some local food source. Cooperating communities were loosely organized into bands, which existed primarily for purposes of economic cooperation and social function.

The Cultural Heritage Section conducted a surface reconnaissance of Burton Creek State Park from 1977 to 1991. Areas most likely to have sites (flat topography and along water courses) were surveyed first with about 60 percent of the park covered. No prehistoric sites were discovered.

History

Early Euroamerican historic use of the Burton Creek area was part of the trail known as “Scott’s Route”. This unimproved path connected Eagle Valley Ranch (Carson City) to Lake Tahoe, the Truckee River Outlet, Squaw Valley, and Fork House on the Iowa Hill-Michigan Bluff Trail. Travelers wishing to avoid the Donner Pass route but stay north of Lake Tahoe would take this route. The route is located near the lake’s edge.

The area where the park is located is named after Homer D. Burton, who listed his occupation as farmer, and occupied a half section of property (320 acres) near Lake Forest in 1858 or 1859. Burton cut timothy hay for the freighting trade, and raised garden vegetables, buckwheat, and oats. By 1871, Burton added a lake front resort to his holdings and named it “Burton’s Island Farm and Hotel.” Burton Creek still bears his name. In 1884 Burton sold the property to Antone Russi, who developed the property into a dairy farm. Antone Meadow in Burton Creek State Park is named after the family. Over the next ninety years the property was operated as a dairy farm and logging company by various interests

until it was acquired by California State Parks in 1977. Consequently, little if any of the park is in pristine condition.

Recreation Resources Overview

Typical Double Track Bike Trail in BCSP

Existing Recreation and Interpretive Facilities

Burton Creek State Park and the Dollar Parcel have relatively few developed facilities. There is currently no unit sign or defined entrance point to the park and the dirt road entrances to the park are gated. Access is currently gained on foot, by bike or skis. The Dollar parcel has a network of informal trails and roads extensively used by local residents. There are about 25 unpaved road and trail segments covering roughly 9 miles. Burton Creek State Park also has a network of roads and trails accessed mainly by the local public. Again there are approximately 25 road and trail segments covering about 10 miles. Over the last several years California State Parks has been improving the condition of many of the roads and trails in the park to conform to current design standards and address erosion and sediment concerns.

During the winter, a concession operation grooms about 50 kilometers of cross-country ski trails and maintains a lodge located off park property. People pay to use the groomed trails and rent ski equipment at the lodge. A few organized ski events take place each winter including the Great Ski Race, which is a cross-country ski race from Tahoe City to Truckee, a distance of about 18 miles. During the summer the same trails are used for several organized mountain bike races.

Cross-Country ski trails leading to BCSP

The adjacent Tahoe State Recreation Area has a small, developed campground with 20 campsites, a pier, a parking lot used by a boat concession, and a day use area all adjacent to Lake Tahoe. Campers occasionally cross the street and hike up into Burton Creek State Park. The campground is full during the summer season and about 4,000 day users use the beach area.

Many types of recreation take place in Burton Creek State Park and on the Dollar Parcel including hiking, mountain biking, bird watching, nature viewing, horse back riding, picnicking, snow shoeing, and cross-country skiing. The unit is also a pass-through area for those accessing U.S. Forest Service lands with destinations to Mt. Watson and the Tahoe Rim Trail. It is estimated about 12,000 people a year visit the park. Most visitors are from the local surrounding communities.

There are currently no formal park interpretive facilities at Burton Creek State Park.

Transportation/Traffic Circulation

The primary access to Lake Tahoe from the north is from State Highways 89 and 267. Access to the south part of the lake is via Highways 89 and 50. Burton Creek State Park is accessed via State Route 28 that travels along the north side of the lake. Currently, there are no paved or formal access points into the park. All of the accesses are classified as unpaved service and maintenance roads.

Constraints on Facility Development

Facility development in the park is constrained by the need to protect natural and cultural resources, and by basin wide regulations and limitations. The umbrella regulatory agency for the Tahoe Basin is the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA). In 1982 TRPA established thresholds for six categories of resources that reflect the unique natural qualities of Lake Tahoe, (water quality, air quality, soil conservation, vegetation, fisheries, and wildlife) and three thresholds to preserve the public enjoyment of Lake Tahoe (recreation, scenic, and noise). In order to track the status of threshold attainment, TRPA has adopted 36 indicators.

The 2001, a TRPA Threshold Update reported the majority of the indicators used to track the thresholds were not in compliance or were trending in a negative fashion.

At this time TRPA is revising their Threshold Report with more appropriate indicators based on the best science available. Any proposed facility development in the general plan will be reviewed by TRPA using the threshold attainment goals as a measure of project viability. Therefore, any facility development will have to be exceptionally planned and implemented to meet the strict environmental regulations in the Tahoe basin.

Another impact on facility development in BCSP, is the ongoing problem of traffic congestion in Tahoe City and in the Lake Tahoe area in general. During most of July and August, holidays, and winter weekends, traffic backs up on Highways 28 and 89 leading into Tahoe City. Delays can range from minutes to an hour, with the back up sometimes measured in miles.

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has an established system of describing traffic quantities on two-lane highways. Called “Levels of Service for Two-Lane Highways”, the system rates highway traffic on an alpha-numeric system based on quantity of traffic and speed limit (see below).

Traffic on Two-Lane Highways: Level of Service Definitions

LOS A – Free Flowing Conditions.

LOS B – Speeds at or near free-flow speed, but presence of other users begins to be noticeable.

LOS C – Speeds at or near free-flow speed, but freedom to maneuver is noticeably restricted.

LOS D – Conditions where speeds begin to decline slightly with increasing flow; Freedom to maneuver more restricted.

LOS E – Operating conditions at or near roadway capacity. Even minor disruptions to the traffic stream can cause delay.

LOS F – Breakdown in vehicle flow. Queues form quickly behind point in the roadway where the arrival flow rate temporarily exceeds the departure rate.

Highway traffic around Tahoe City is currently ranked as an F – heavily congested traffic. Demand exceeds capacity and speeds vary greatly – considerable delays. The Caltrans goal for highway traffic around Tahoe City is to achieve a ranking of D. This would allow for a speed of about 40 miles per hour (except right in town), with some traffic flow becoming unstable. Speeds are subject to sudden change and passing is difficult.

In order to meet this goal, Tahoe City traffic issues are currently being addressed through a new taskforce headed by Caltrans. Several alternatives to alleviate or lessen the traffic are being explored including construction of another bridge across the Truckee River, and bypasses around the town. Implementation is planned in the next five years.

Many of the recreation facilities proposed in this general plan are viewed as potential contributors to the existing traffic flow in Tahoe City. The Department's intent is to plan for facilities that will allow for a Level of Service ranking D or better.

This may be achieved by implementing the improvements developed through the Caltrans Tahoe City traffic working group combined with other mitigations such as retiring of an existing campground in Lake Forest currently managed by the Department of Fish and Game. Also, the size of the proposed campground has been reduced from 300 sites and two large group sites, to a campground of a range of 1 - 200 sites, and one group site.

Planning Influences

System Wide Planning Influences

Planning for state parks often deals with issues that extend beyond park and regional boundaries. Often, federal, county, or other state agencies are responsible for providing oversight for various planning related policies and laws such as the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA), California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Clean Water Act, Section 404, and Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Additionally, numerous Department resource management policies found in the Department's Operation Manual help guide the planning processes.

Local planning influences include the regulations of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency and the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board. Both agencies

can and do restrict the amount of coverage and development that can take place on the land in the basin. The Placer County General Plan designates the park as Resource Protection, timberland and recreation land.

(See Appendix F for a complete listing of planning influences.)

Statewide and Regional Recreation Demands

The State Park System Plan 2002 is a landmark document used by the Department in planning. The plan addresses the activities and needs of the State Park System's major programs today and over the course of the next ten years. Some of the plan's goals relevant to this general plan include:

There is a great need for the State Park System to expand and upgrade recreational opportunities, not only those that occur in natural settings, but also those associated historic areas and urban settings.

California's population is growing rapidly in numbers and diversity, calling for recreation opportunities that are more numerous and more varied than ever before.

The demand for recreation is greater than ever. The state's population grew 25 percent between 1987 and 2002. Visitation to state parks increased more than 50 percent in the same time period. Attendance is now at record levels. Last year, about 85 million people visited California State Parks.

California State Parks are the most heavily visited of any state park system in the nation. Some facilities are at capacity. Demand for new campsites is very high. In response to increasing demand for camping facilities and with a current inventory of approximately 15,000 campsites, the Department's goal is to provide 20,000 campsites by the year 2020.

Many campsites are full and people are turned away. The State Park System has been able to add very few campsites during the last ten years. Demand is so high that if the department were to add 325 sites a year, it would not keep up with statewide demand.

The State Park System should undertake an aggressive facility development program to provide for a broad range of visitor opportunities and to accommodate changes in the population level and demographics.

The on-site development of new recreation facilities and the renovation of existing ones should reflect responsiveness to public demand tempered by a concern for compatibility with the natural and cultural resources of the area.

Also, alternative camping options such as cabins and yurts, may extend the camping season in places like Lake Tahoe into the early spring and late fall and even winter.

Local Demand, Demographics and the Communities

Currently, California State Parks has approximately 500 campsites in the Tahoe Basin. Campsites are found in Tahoe State Recreation Area, Sugar Pine Point State Park, DL Bliss State Park, and Emerald Bay State Park. During summer months, all campgrounds operate at capacity. In the winter, only a few sites remain open to the public at Sugar Pine Point State Park. The rest of the campgrounds are generally closed for the winter.

Burton Creek State Park is partially surrounded by communities and subdivisions. To the west is Tahoe City. To the east are the Highlands and Cedar Flat neighborhoods. To the south are Star Harbor and Lake Forest. To the north is mainly U.S. Forest Service land. The general trend in these neighborhoods is more and more of the homes are becoming second homes as permanent residents move out. Fifty to eighty percent of the homes are now second homes. Affordable housing is becoming a critical issue for the working class and lower income residents in the basin.

The Visitors

The majority of visitors to the park are local residents. This is mainly a consequence of the park not having developed access or highway signs describing where the park is located. It is anticipated that once this plan is approved, and facility development implemented, many visitors from outside the local area will visit the park. From visitor surveys taken in the past, visitors to the Tahoe Basin come mainly from the San Francisco Bay, Sacramento, the Central Valley, Reno, and Carson City areas.

Public Comment

Data collected at public meetings and from user surveys taken in the park revealed the public is unevenly divided about proposed uses for the park. The majority of comments received indicated people like the park in department ownership but do not want to see it developed except for some minor amenities like better signs and trails. They prefer to see it left as is, serving mainly the local community. A minority of those registering comments, support development of the park, including construction of a campground.

Statewide surveys have shown a need for a great increase in state park facilities. The visiting public has few affordable options for overnight stays in the Tahoe Basin. The Department must consider these statewide demands when developing options for park development.

Issue Analysis

The Sierra District of California State Parks, undertook preparation of a general plan for Burton Creek State Park to: investigate the possibility of building a west access road to the Highlands Subdivision through the park; initiate the transfer of the Dollar Parcel to State Parks from the California Tahoe Conservancy; and, to describe a course of action for recreation development of the park.

Through issue analysis and information obtained at the general plan meetings the concept of building an access road through the park to the Highlands Subdivision was determined to be infeasible. The road would cause substantial environmental damage while serving no park purposes.

Transferring the Dollar Parcel from the California Tahoe Conservancy to California State Parks remains an important objective of this plan. The department anticipates the Dollar Parcel will be transferred once this general plan is approved. The 900-acre parcel adjacent to Burton Creek State Park would be a logical extension of the current state park. One stipulation that comes with the parcel is accommodation of a proposed paved bicycle path through the parcel. The bike path segment is part of the larger plan to construct a path around the entire lake.

Another issue is appropriate park facility development. The analysis of available information, public input, and the balancing of local with statewide recreation needs must be considered when determining the appropriate level of park facility development.

Currently, the plan proposes, in the near term, development of day use facilities such as trails and trailhead facilities. In addition, the plan describes a long term vision that includes campground development (1- 200 campsites and one group camp), alternative camping such as cabins and yurts, employee housing, and maintenance facilities.

A primary caveat to campground development will be traffic flows along Highway 28. Development of a campground at Burton Creek State Park will be considered with engineering measures taken in Tahoe City to improve the current traffic Level of Service, from a ranking of F to a level of D, as described in the Caltrans Level of Service traffic Ranking System. This may be achieved by expanding existing roads, adding new roads, building a bypass around Tahoe City or developing a second bridge down river from Fanny Bridge. The Department's intent is to plan for facilities that will allow for a level of service D or better.

The final issue centers on the access route into the park for campground development. Two routes of access have been identified as feasible – a route entering the park near the Tamarack Lodge, and a route located at Dollar Hill.

The Department has identified the route near the Tamarack Lodge as the preferred access route into the park. In order to develop this access, the current natural preserve boundary will require adjustment. This will require action by the Park and Recreation Commission.

Integrating Park Uses with Adjacent Land Uses

The near term development proposal of providing day use facilities, including four trailheads and parking lots on the perimeter of the park, can be integrated with adjacent land uses through careful location selection and facility design. Development of a campground can be integrated with adjacent land uses by locating the campground in the middle of the 2000-acre park, away from any adjacent neighborhoods, on high-capability lands. Road and trail development will be coordinated with local neighborhoods and the US Forest Service to insure connectivity with adjacent road and trail systems. The campground will be situated with the pedestrian oriented village concept in mind, where links to roads and trails with adjacent recreation and town activities accessible by foot and bike. Development of a campground would be considered in concert with those criteria as described above.

Opportunities for High Quality Recreation and Interpretation

Development of BCSP and the Dollar Parcel offer a perfect opportunity to provide high quality recreation and interpretation experiences. In the Lake Tahoe Basin, the department currently offers camping and interpretation facilities at Sugar Pine Point, DL Bliss, Emerald Bay, and Tahoe State Recreation Area. Cultural and natural resource interpretation, particularly historic interpretation is provided at Sugar Pine Point State Park's Pine Lodge and Emerald Bay State Park's Vikingsholm facilities.

Opportunities for high quality recreation and interpretation at Burton Creek State Park will include activities such as hiking, biking, skiing, skating, camping, and the interpretation of the Tahoe Basin's natural environment.

Integrating Park Planning in the Tahoe Basin

Park planning in the Lake Tahoe Basin requires coordination with many public and private entities. As previously discussed, two major planning considerations for BCSP and the Dollar Parcel are integrating planning with the TRPA thresholds and considering the traffic problems of Tahoe City. The Department believes the proposed day use facilities will lead to improving some of the indicators for the TRPA thresholds and help solve transportation problems in the area.

Any development would require environmental documents and planning studies for new facility developments. Development of a campground will be considered in conjunction with the criteria described above.

Park planning in the Tahoe Basin also involves soliciting input from conservation organizations such as the League to Save Lake Tahoe, visitor bureaus, and working closely with public utilities and local government, and the local communities. Facility development will also be closely coordinated with the U.S. Forest Service, whose lands surround a portion of the park.

THE PLAN SECTION

Antone Meadow and Burton Creek

The Plan Section establishes the overall long-range purpose and vision for the future of Burton Creek State Park. Specific goals and supporting guidelines further clarify the vision for the future of Burton Creek State Park. The goals and guidelines are designed to rectify the issues described in the last section, while providing a solid foundation for resource protection and management, as well as recreation development and interpretation at the park. The goals and guidelines serve as the design and implementation guideposts for subsequent management and development plans.

The general plan is, by necessity, visionary in nature and driven by current issues. A general plan cannot predict the future with certainty. Therefore, it is designed as a dynamic document that allows managers the opportunity to incorporate newly emerging technologies and improved management concepts for resolving current issues, along with the ability to provide adequate direction for resolving those that may arise in the future.

Declaration of Purpose

The Declaration of Purpose describes the purpose of the park and is the broadest statement of management goals designed to fulfill the vision for the park. A Declaration of Purpose is required by the Public Resources Code, Section 5002.2(b), *"setting forth specific long-range management objectives for the park consistent with the park's classification…"*

The Declaration of Purpose is as follows:

"The purpose of Burton Creek State Park is to provide the opportunity for high quality active and passive forms of recreation in an area featuring splendid views of the Lake Tahoe Basin, the Carson Range and the Sierra Nevada Crest. Local, regional, and statewide visitors will recreate in conifer forests bisected by cool, clear perennial streams that support a host of plants and animals.

"California State Parks will preserve, protect, restore, interpret and manage the unit's natural, cultural, aesthetic and scenic resources, features and values, making them available to the public for their educational, inspirational and recreational benefits."

Park Vision

The park vision provides guiding images of what the park should be like in the future, following full implementation of the general plan and future management plans.

The park is a healthy mixed conifer forest, typified by park-like stands dominated by large overstory pine and fir trees. Little dead and down wood exists, limiting the potential for catastrophic wildfire. The conifer forest is bisected by cool, clear perennial streams devoid of water diversions. The creeks and surrounding riparian areas support a host of aquatic dependent and terrestrial species. The park's juxtaposition between the lake and upland areas in the basin makes it a critical habitat corridor for the flow of plants and animals from lake to highlands.

The park is a great recreation experience for Lake Tahoe Basin residents and visitors providing excellent interpretive displays and developed recreation facilities. The developed recreation facilities provide the desired balance between recreation and featured resources blending well with surrounding communities and existing uses.

Visitors are attracted in all seasons to the exceptional recreational experiences, aesthetic qualities, and the support facilities provided by the park and in nearby communities.

Department Mission

Management of Burton Creek State Park is directed by a hierarchy of mandates. The most general is the Department's Mission, which is to:

"Provide for the health, inspiration, and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high quality outdoor recreation."

Unit Classification

Further refining the responsibilities of the Department in its operation of the park is the unit's classification. Most of the park is designated as a state park. In addition, two areas within the park have been designated as natural preserves. A partial definition from the Public Resource Code, Section 5019.53, follows.

State Parks

"State parks consist of relatively spacious areas of outstanding scenic or natural character, oftentimes also containing significant historical, archaeological, ecological, geological, or other such values."

"Improvements undertaken within state parks shall be for the purpose of making areas available for public enjoyment and education in a manner consistent with the preservation of natural, scenic, cultural, and ecological values for present and future generations…"

Natural Preserves

"Natural preserves are characterized by wildness in the sense of integrity, rather than spaciousness. The purpose of such preserves is to emphasize and protect for public enjoyment special natural values that are unusually rare, are of exceptionally high quality, or are significantly representative of their kind. In natural preserves, as in wildernesses, environmental integrity is especially important, and is stressed in the statute."

PARK-WIDE MANAGEMENT GOALS AND GUIDELINES

Antone Meadow above dam

This section presents the goals and guidelines that apply park-wide for resource management, planning facilities for public access, recreation, interpretation, and park administration. It addresses planning issues that apply to all geographic areas of the park. These goals and guidelines, as well as those for specific areas of the park, are driven by the Declaration of Purpose and Park Vision. The goals and guidelines described herein also apply to the Dollar parcel.

PARK-WIDE GOALS AND GUIDELINES FOR NATURAL RESOURCES

The Department's Mission mandates efforts to *"preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural resources." Additionally, the park's Declaration of Purpose aims to achieve the goal to preserve and protect an area of montane forest and meadows in the Burton Creek watershed…and provide habitat for spotted owl, goshawk and osprey.*

Special Status Species Management

A general plan does not provide specific inventory and monitoring protocols to assist in the protection of special species. However, the Department currently follows protocols established by other agencies to survey and protect special status species including many plants, spotted owls, northern goshawk, osprey

etc. The Department also consults and works with responsible fish and wildlife agencies in managing natural resources.

Goal

Provide special protection for federally and state listed species, California Native Plant Society (CNPS) listed species, as well as for other exceptional natural resources, including Species of Special Concern designated by the Department of Fish and Game, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA), and/or protected by federal law.

Guidelines

- **Using resource specialists, inventory and monitor the park's natural resources to document their distribution and health.**
- **Scientific research should be conducted with as little manipulation and/or disturbance as possible, with the intent of gaining a better understanding of methods for conserving rare species and ecosystems.**
- **Develop programs and policies as needed to protect and manage special status species consistent with natural resource management policies and priorities in the natural resource section of the DOM.**

Plant Life Management

Mixed Conifer Forest

When California State Parks acquired the park in 1977 it received a mixed conifer forest that had been logged over several times. No old growth stands remained. Only a few trees over two hundred years old remained. The area was crisscrossed with old logging roads and skid trails. Decades of fire suppression resulted in a tremendous accumulation of dead and down wood. This changed the ecological conditions under which the mixed conifer forest developed. Motorized recreational vehicles had had free reign over the land causing erosion and damaging meadows.

Since acquiring the park, the Department has implemented many resource management projects to begin to address these resource issues. Forest thinning and prescribed fires have been the main management tools used. In addition, access roads were gated and efforts to limit off-highway vehicle use were implemented.

Goal

Manage the mixed conifer forest to reduce fire hazard and encourage the development of old growth stands.

Guidelines

- **Develop a Forest Management Program that: 1) identifies areas of overstocking and implements forest thinning projects, 2) identifies areas of high fuel loading and implements projects to reduce dead and down material, and 3) integrates the fuel reduction projects with the overall goal to maintain and improve the forest health. Methods may include stack and burn, broadcast burning and chipping of material.**
- **Develop and maintain a monitoring program with key indicators to measure when forest health objectives have been met. Work with local fire districts, fire safe councils, and communities to develop a public education program for wildfire prevention within and adjacent to the park.**
- **Develop and implement a Roads and Trails Plan to address the negative impacts caused by volunteer trails, old logging roads and motorized vehicles. Work closely with local user groups in the development of a well-designed trail system.**
- **Educate and involve the public in the resource management activities taking place in the park.**

Vegetation Management

Preservation and perpetuation of representative examples of natural plant communities are statewide mandates for the Department. In addition, key goals for natural area management in the State Park System are to restore, protect, and maintain native ecosystems and indigenous flora and fauna.

Goal

Protect, perpetuate, and where possible, rehabilitate the native vegetation complexes of Burton Creek State Park through active resource management programs. Interpret the resource management programs to the public.

Guidelines

- **Develop a Vegetation Management Plan that addresses re-establishment of the natural ecological processes essential for the development and maintenance of native plant communities including meadows, riparian woodlands, mixed-conifer forest, short scrub ecotypes, and montane chaparral.**
- **Control and/or eradicate non-native species on a long-term basis to prevent their establishment and spread. Priority for control efforts should be given to those species that are most invasive, ecologically detrimental, and/or conspicuous in the park.**

- **Use only native vegetation in revegetation projects. The plants/seeds should be appropriate for the site, and obtained from within park boundaries or from nearby areas with similar ecological conditions. Ensure that all mulches are free of foreign seed.**

Special Plants

Manage Special plants as described above in the Special Status Species Management section. Refer to Appendices A-E for a list of special plants.

Goal

Protect special plants (rare, threatened, endangered, endemic, or locally significant populations) within the park to manage for their perpetuation in accordance with state law.

Guidelines

- **Protect all special plants to the degree necessary to maintain or restore populations. Establish a monitoring program for known special plant locations on a long-term basis to assess the health of populations and take corrective management actions when necessary.**

<u>Animal Life Management</u>

Changes in land use that have altered local vegetative complexes within the park and surrounding areas have also impacted native wildlife populations. The protection and perpetuation of these populations is contingent upon the successful rehabilitation and continuance of native plant and aquatic communities, combined with the removal of exotic plant and animal species.

Goal

Protect and ensure the perpetuation of native wildlife species populations at Burton Creek State Park.

Guidelines

- **Protect all sensitive native wildlife species and their habitats. Specific programs, using sound ecological principles and professionally accepted methods, are necessary to protect sensitive animal populations and rehabilitate their habitats. Include all species that are locally important (including endemic species), whether or not they appear on any endangerment list, as well as those protected by federal and/or state law. A comprehensive list of**

species requiring special management attention should be prepared and regularly updated.

- **Rehabilitate degraded wildlife habitat in those areas where it will not recover in a reasonable time if left untreated.**
- **Continue efforts to remove water diversions and barriers on Burton Creek to ensure perpetuation of the aquatic and riparian dependent species along the creek.**
- **Reduce and, where possible, eliminate wildlife access to human food and garbage by using wildlife-proof trash containers where appropriate, including trailhead locations. Educate the public about the detrimental effects that supplanting wildlife food sources with human food can have on the ecological balance of the park and surrounding regions.**
- **Avoid impacts and disturbance to critical wildlife habitat areas, such as riparian zones, during the breeding season; riparian understory should be retained as a dense and structured vegetation layer.**

Special Animals

Manage special animals as described above in the Special Status Species Management section above. These animals include the California Spotted Owl, Osprey, Northern Goshawk, American Pine Marten, Pileated Woodpecker, Sierra Snowshoe Hare, and Sierra mountain beaver.

Goal

Protect and where appropriate restore special animals (California species of concern, threatened, endangered) within Burton Creek State Park and manage for their perpetuation in accordance with state and federal laws.

Guidelines

- **Minimize the number of trails in northern goshawk and spotted owl nesting habitat. Trail building and maintenance activities in these areas should be minimized during the breeding season and shall comply with spatial limitations established by applicable federal, state, and local regulations.**
- **On fish bearing streams ensure that culverts placed beneath park roads and trails are properly sized and are designed for optimum stream velocity for passage of fish.**

Habitat Linkages

Habitat linkages are lands held and managed primarily for their natural resource values with the purpose of making a connection between two or more, larger protected land areas. Together, these lands should be able to sustain

populations of focal species and form a habitat suitable for facilitating the movement of animals and dispersal of plant seed. Protecting linkages within the park, as well as between the park and other wild land areas, is imperative to maintaining ecosystem health and supporting regional conservation. Priority for linkages or corridors should be given to those lands that functionally connect ecosystems.

Goal

Preserve, rehabilitate and, as appropriate, establish new effective habitat linkages between the park and other protected lands in order to maintain or increase species abundance and diversity within ancient forest ecosystems, riparian areas, streams, and other significant wildlife habitat core areas.

Guidelines

- **Establish a program to collect baseline information for monitoring the health and function of core areas and habitat linkages as a high management priority. The effects of human uses and impacts, as well as natural processes such as erosion and weather, on the integrity of the park's ecosystems should be measured and, where necessary, mitigated or remedied.**
- **Based on soundly justified environmental needs, consider establishing new linkages with habitats on other protected lands through acquisition or appropriate conservation easements from willing sources, subject to the availability of support funds.**

Buffers

Buffers, such as dedicated open space and standing timber, are areas that lie between the park's boundary and adjacent developments and serve to protect the park's natural and cultural resources. Land uses outside park boundaries can negatively impact parklands with visual and audible intrusions, exotic plant infestations, chemical pollution, competition and predation from domestic pets, wildfire, artificial light, noise, and loss of foraging or nesting habitat. Buffers may be necessary where activities on neighboring lands create adverse impacts, such as erosion and sedimentation on existing park watersheds.

Goal

Establish, maintain, and preserve buffers around existing significant park resources as protection against adverse environmental impacts.

Guidelines

- **Establish and maintain cooperative working relationships with local jurisdictions responsible for zoning and land use management.**
- **Seek cooperative agreements with adjacent landowners, neighbors, and local jurisdictions to address needed buffers between significant park resources and adjacent properties.**

Watershed Management

Historic land uses, such as logging, road construction, and recreation trail development, have altered many of the natural processes in the park's watersheds. Problems resulting from these uses include soil erosion and stream sedimentation, scouring of creek banks, loss of streamside vegetation, and loss of aquatic habitat.

Goal

Rehabilitate watershed functions, thereby significantly reducing or eliminating unnatural soil erosion and stream sedimentation within the park's watersheds.

Guidelines

- **Cooperate with regulatory agencies to address and remedy any sediment discharge issues affecting the park. The plan would include elements such as vegetation management, cultural resource impacts, geomorphic features, soil stability, and facilities development. Attempts should be made to reduce the net area of hardened surfaces (foundations, paving etc.).**
- **Work with appropriate agencies to acquire and protect key watershed lands for important drainages in the park.**
- **Work with universities, colleges, and other researchers to increase the scientific knowledge base that could benefit park watershed management without negatively impacting the park's resources.**
- **Continue ongoing efforts to rehabilitate old logging roads and trails within the park.**

Water Quality

The surface water and groundwater of the Tahoe Basin area is an important resource that must be protected. In the Lake Tahoe Basin, the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board is responsible for adopting and implementing the Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan) that sets forth the water quality standards and control measures for surface water and groundwater. New projects or new/increased visitor use within the park must be evaluated to

insure that they do not contribute to degradation of surface and groundwater quality.

Goal

Identify the beneficial uses and the surface water quality objectives for Burton Creek State Park and the Dollar Parcel.

Guidelines

- **Identify any potential naturally occurring impacts to water quality, such as landslides or stream channel erosion.**
- **Determine if natural processes have been aggravated or accelerated by human activities and if so, devise mitigation measures to reverse those trends.**
- **Identify management actions to prevent any negative impacts to water quality from planned construction or other activities in the park.**
- **Adhere to the water quality protection standards and control measures available in the Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region. The use of best management practices for erosion control and surface runoff (stormwater) must be developed for any projects within the park.**
- **Provide interpretive information to educate the public on ways to improve and maintain the water quality in the Lake Tahoe Basin**

Geologic Concerns

Several potential geologic and natural hazards must be considered when planning new facilities within the park. Site-specific investigations should be conducted in any areas where new development is planned.

Goal

Minimize any negative impacts resulting from the park's natural processes with regard to planned structures or other public projects (trails, roads, campgrounds, etc.).

Guidelines

- **Monitor and document the geologic and other natural processes affecting the park and its resources.**
- **Include professional (biological, geological, engineering) evaluations for the siting and design of permanent structures, developments, roads, and trails to mitigate potential damage from unstable soil,**

landslides, avalanches, flooding, earthquake-induced damage, and potential soil or groundwater contamination.

- **Identify areas of geological or other natural sensitivities to insure that any planned projects will not negatively impact the park's natural environment. Monitor and document the geologic and other natural processes affecting the park and its resources.**
- **Provide interpretive programs on the geology of the park, how the park was shaped by geologic forces, and the potential geologic hazards within the park.**

Fire Management

The widespread inclusion of fire as a component of comprehensive vegetation management programs in California reflects a developing understanding of its critical ecological role in many ecosystems. When applied through the strategic use of reliable historical information and monitoring data, fire can assist managers in maintaining vegetative diversity, reducing fuel loads that can contribute to devastating conflagrations, and reducing the scale, frequency, and severity of epidemic outbreaks of pathogens and insects.

Forest treated with Prescribe Fire

Goal

Maintain a fire management program based on vegetation management priorities, historical information, monitoring data, and other park management goals.

Guidelines

- **Compile and map a fire history of the park, to be merged with information about vegetation, sensitive habitats, hydrology, visitor use and safety, infrastructure, and other pertinent data, in order to develop a spatially based framework for future planning.**
- **Coordinate with appropriate fire suppression agencies, such as the U. S. Forest Service, to maintain and update the Wildfire Management Plan for the park.**
- **Integrate the park's management objectives into regional fire management policies and protocols through the incorporation of science, community involvement and agency cooperation.**
- **Develop a plan that incorporates fire as a vegetation management strategy.**
- **Interpret the important role of active resource management techniques, such as prescribed burning, so that the public will understand and accept the temporary aesthetic impacts that result.**

PARK-WIDE GOALS AND GUIDELINES FOR CULTURAL RESOURCES

Cultural resources referred to in this General Plan consist of significant and potentially significant prehistoric and ethnographic sites, historic and ethnohistoric resources, and cultural landscapes. These include but are not limited to such features as archaeological sites, homesteads, historic structures, mill sites, and historic roads and trails. Cultural landscapes are defined, in part, as landscapes that evolved through use by peoples whose activities or occupancy shaped them.

They tell the multitude of stories of several thousands of years of human presence upon this land. Protecting and interpreting cultural resources will help future generations better understand the widely differing philosophies about the high Sierra held by Native Americans, early-arriving European and American travelers and settlers, the lumber industry, and today's outdoor enthusiasts.

Goal

Ensure the highest level of appropriate protection, stabilization, preservation, and interpretation of the park's cultural resources, focusing in areas of exceptional archaeological and historical significance.

Guidelines

- **Develop an inventory, mapping, and database utilizing GIS technology for those cultural resources within the park that may be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places and/or the California Register of Historic Resources.**
- **Assess the significance of known cultural resources (6 cabin sites, flume and ditch) in the park.**
- **Prepare a park-wide Cultural Resources Management Plan that establishes an ongoing management process to record and develop findings of significance for cultural resources in the park that are historically or archaeologically important. Consistent with other park goals, including the protection of prime resources, develop a long-range management strategy that includes preservation, stabilization, rehabilitation, or reconstruction of the park's significant cultural resources, including the transportation history of the high Sierra.**
- **If a finding of significance for cultural resources has not been made, consult with cultural resource specialists to determine significance prior to undertaking programs for development or rehabilitation of an area to natural conditions. Any plan for restoration, remodeling, adaptive reuse, or non-use must comply with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* and will require careful consideration to ensure the widest public benefit, until such time as the more comprehensive Cultural Resources Management Plan can be completed.**

- **Establish a program to protect all significant cultural resources from adverse effects resulting from park use, development of facilities, resource management programs, or natural processes, such as erosion.**
- **Consult regularly with the Washoe and other groups who have traditional ties to resources within the park to ensure productive, collaborative working relationships, especially when considering management practices, such as the Department's gathering policy, and interpretation involving the park's natural and cultural resources of interest and concern to them.**

PARK-WIDE GOALS AND GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING VISITOR IMPACTS

The Department recognizes the importance of the public need for recreation opportunities but also acknowledges that any recreational use produces at least some impacts. There is a need to manage visitor impacts in conjunction with providing recreation, and maintaining resources. Use the established Planning Zones described below as the guide for allowing and managing appropriate types and levels of public use.

Carrying Capacity

Public Resources Code Sections 5001.96 and 5019.5 provide basic direction for ensuring that carrying capacities are considered as part of any park facility development. Since the code does not define "carrying capacity", it is understood here to mean a land's inherent ability to sustain both the integrity of its natural systems and the land uses dependent upon them over time. It implies that there is a point in any system after which the ability to regenerate is exceeded by demands on the system, and a cumulative net loss results. Carrying capacity should also consider the visitor's experience and people management.

An ideal carrying capacity would result in no cumulative net losses in any of the resource values of a unit (natural, cultural, aesthetic, or recreational) due to human use (activities or facilities development). An ideal carrying capacity must also consider how the number of people in an area or use of a facility affects the quality of the recreation experience.

The intent is to avoid long-term degradation of a resource-based park system while providing high quality recreation. Significant resource damage can occur instantly due to one individual's actions or, over a long period of time by many people. Also, the quality of one's recreation experience may be affected by one individual or by too large of crowds. Different types and patterns of recreational use may also contribute toward resource and social impacts.

Impacts can be reduced or avoided by taking management actions and initiating proper mitigation measures. Capacity limits, use regulations and enforcement, education and interpretation, site investigations and monitoring, planning and proper design, and staff presence all contribute to minimizing the impacts visitors have on park values. The first step of guiding future public access or use of a park is to determine the location and significance of the park's resource values.

Establishing land-based carrying capacities, quantified in terms of visitor attendance levels, will be addressed through inventorying and monitoring in subsequent management planning efforts. When site-specific proposals for land uses or facilities are to be prepared, various resource maps of the proposed project location will be checked for resource constraints and sensitivities during the project's preliminary planning phases. Site-specific investigations may also be necessary. Regional coverage requirements and TRPA threshold standards will be evaluated.

The impacts of carrying capacity on the recreation experience must be measured also. Field surveys, data analysis of the recreation experience, trends in use, trends in law enforcement incidents, and measurements of satisfaction must be considered to determine appropriate levels of public use.

Goal

Apply professional processes and methods for identifying, analyzing, and managing visitor activities in order to maximize recreation opportunities, while minimizing resource impacts, and maintaining appropriate types and levels of visitor use.

Guidelines

- **Survey and review areas of potential impacts, employing appropriate personnel and responsible agencies, in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), prior to site-specific development or during the preparation of management plans. Establish specific criteria for desired resource conditions for each planning zone. Periodically assess resource conditions and design and implement appropriate actions to manage public and Department operational impacts while assuring maintenance of acceptable resource conditions.**

PARK WIDE GOALS AND GUIDELINES FOR CIRCULATION

Establishing and maintaining access for public use is an important part of the successful management of Burton Creek State Park. Changing demographics

and use patterns will require ongoing periodic evaluations of park operations and resource management programs.

Travelers on Highway 28 and nearby roads are not currently being informed about the existence of the park in an effective way. The road and trail system within the park was developed for logging and unplanned, casual recreation. Signs within the park are inadequate in establishing location and directing people to other locations, roads and trails.

Goal

Improve signage along Highway 28 and local roads leading to the park that announce the existence and location of the park in a clear and effective way.

Guidelines

- **Coordinate with Caltrans, county and local agencies to provide easy-to-read signs on highways and local roads that direct visitors to the park's entrance(s), and maximize potential visitor opportunities to learn about and visit Burton Creek State Park. Evaluate and improve signage along the highway, and on local roads, to reach visitors eastbound and westbound on Highways 28, 89 and 267.**
- **Analyze the existing system of roads and trails in Burton Creek State Park, and existing signs, and recommend appropriate modifications to improve circulation within the park.**

Goal

Maintain roads and trails to support acceptable levels of recreational use without significant impacts on natural and cultural resources. Increase visitor safety and enjoyment when exploring the park.

Guidelines

The Roads and Trails Management Plan should make recommendations that increase visitors' enjoyment and safety when exploring the park.

- **To serve park destinations and attractions, create a circulation system that does not create traffic conflicts. Consider the development of multi-use and single purpose trails. Create separate travel ways where necessary to improve safety and minimize traffic conflicts.**
- **Prepare a Roads and Trails Management Plan for guiding the location, distance, use, and maintenance of existing and future roads and trails.**

- **Evaluate signs on roads and trails within the park to determine if they are adequate (in winter and summer) to announce, orient, and focus visitors arriving and moving through the park. Make changes where necessary to create continuity of siting and design, concentrating visitors' attention on the park identity, destinations, and attractions, and to provide appropriate warnings of potential hazards (e.g., pedestrian or bicycle crossing points) and opportunities for disabled visitors. Use Department sign standards for materials and content.**
- **Provide more loop trails, staging areas, and backcountry trail experiences as a high priority for each of the park's trail user groups, including hikers, equestrians, mountain bicycle users, winter users, and visitors with disabilities.**
- **Evaluate the current backcountry roads to determine future needs:**
  - Roads to be retained in order to provide critical safety and fire response;
  - Access for resource management projects such as vegetation inventory and assessments, restoration of habitat, wildlife species monitoring, and prescription fire preparations and management;
  - Roads to be converted to trails to provide essential linkages in the trail system;
  - Roads to be removed to lessen the impact on the natural or cultural resources.

- **Actively work with the USFS to improve park road and trail linkages with surrounding lands.**
- **Evaluate and propose a backcountry trail system that provides longer hikes, ski and snowshoe tours, horseback rides and mountain bike rides with connection to U.S. Forest Service lands and trails, the Tahoe Rim Trail and the Fiberboard Freeway.**
- **In the Roads and Trails Plan, emphasis should be placed on creating opportunities for visitors to enjoy the park's diverse topography, biotic communities, scenic views, and cultural attractions with minimal or no impact to the park's natural or cultural resources.**

PARK-WIDE GOALS AND GUIDELINES FOR RECREATION

The park provides numerous opportunities for recreational activities. As California's population continues to increase and diversify, the demands for outdoor recreational opportunities are also certain to grow and change both in the numbers of people desiring an outdoor experience and in the types of recreational activities they desire.

A Developed Recreation Trail

Goal

Provide a multitude of recreational opportunities that will allow California's diverse population to visit, enjoy, and better understand the significance of the park's resources.

Guidelines

- **Plan recreational opportunities within a state and regional context. Provide for recreational activities at the park that are appropriate for its size and varied terrain. These may include, but are not limited to, trail hiking, camping, yurt and cabin rentals, horseback riding, mountain biking, swimming, cross-country skiing, ice skating, snow-shoe trekking, rock climbing, nature study, and the enjoyment of solitude.**
- **Plan the park in the context of a pedestrian centered destination village concept that supports a network of trails and is closely linked to regional transportation alternatives (bike, ped, ski trails, and transit).**
- **Evaluate the current capacities of the road and trail system to provide a quality visitor experience, while implementing facility upgrades to make current and future programs accessible to the general public.**
- **Prepare management plans or complete appropriate studies to provide a greater understanding of planning issues for development projects in the park, including campgrounds and trails. They should take into account potential impacts of facilities and visitation increases on the resource base, the relationship of the new facilities**

to those already existing, access and traffic loads on feeder roads, as well as those within the park, and disabled access.

- **If recreation trends and visitor desires indicate viable interest in types of facilities beyond campgrounds that would be new to the park, complete feasibility studies as necessary to evaluate compatibility with other uses and resource management objectives.**
- **Explore strategies to provide maximum feasible accessibility to campsites, trails, vistas, interpretive resources, and other park facilities.**
- **Consider possibilities for private concessions to provide recreational activities that are not currently offered by the Department.**
- **Expand the health and wellness of Californians through expanded recreation opportunities, including a focus on the needs of youth.**

PARK-WIDE GOALS AND GUIDELINES FOR INTERPRETATION

Burton Creek State Park features natural and recreation resources. The park provides evidence of historic resource extraction (logging), some minor historic settlement, and current recreation. The park is only one part of the overall effort of land management agencies to provide recreation in the Tahoe Basin while improving the environmental health of the area.

Existing interpretive programs and facilities for the visitor at Burton Creek State Park do not exist. The complete story of the region's geological formation and plant, animal, and human use of this area needs to be interpreted. Key resources should be interpreted too. The main types of vegetation (meadow and forest), dominant forest wildlife species, and the general geology and topography need to be interpreted. Also, interpretive themes should describe the healing of the land from past resource extraction activities and describe the restoration projects underway to improve the environmental health of the park.

Interpretive Themes

Burton Creek State Park held minor prehistoric and historic importance to two groups: the Washoe Tribe, who lived in the area for thousands of years; and the settlers around Lake Tahoe who populated the basin in the mid 1800's on to modern times.

The cultural history interpretive period of the park extends from prehistoric times (approximately 4,000 years before present) to modern times. The earliest date for the purpose of interpretation is defined by relevant archaeological evidence found within and adjacent to the park; the range of this information extends into the historic period. The earliest date of the historic period is established by the early times recollected through Washoe Tribal Oral Tradition and is categorized mainly by recorded history as opposed to physical evidence. At Burton Creek

State Park, natural history is directly linked to human history and modern recreation taking place on the land.

More specific categorical timelines and their interrelationships should be based on thorough research and be defined in the Park Interpretive Plan to be developed after this General Plan is completed. In general, these relationships will include natural history highlights and the formation of the area's resources, the existence and influences of the Native Americans and European inhabitants on the environment, and the transition of past forest uses with current recreation uses.

Goal

Interpret the natural and cultural history of the area and its resources, the current resources in the park, the history of resource protection during the last century to the current time, and the restoration efforts underway in the park to restore and maintain healthy forests, streams and meadows in the park. Make connections between the quality of the environment and the quality of the recreation experience.

Guidelines

- **Integrate environmental education into interpretive programs describing the natural and cultural resources visitors see in the park**
- **Describe and explain efforts in the Tahoe Basin to improve and restore the environmental health of the lake, streams, and forests.**

Goal

Develop an Interpretive Plan for the park. Present a unifying theme for interpretation through primary and supporting thematic contexts. Primary and secondary themes will conceptually support the unifying theme.

Guidelines

- **The following includes an appropriate unifying interpretive theme and primary and supporting themes for Burton Creek State Park.**
- **The Unifying Theme is: The Changing Landscape**
- **Primary Theme: Logging, mining, and fishing all changed the historic resource landscape. Recreation changes the modern resource landscape. Describe in detail the resources that exist in the park now, and how they differ, if at all, from the past. Interpret what people see in the park now - the predominant trees , birds, mammals, human features etc.**
- **Supporting Theme: Restoration of resource damage to address both historic and modern impacts.**

- **Primary Theme: The Changing Life and Times of Lake Tahoe.**
- **Supporting Theme: From settlers to mountain bikers.**
- **Supporting Theme: The battle for environmental improvement at the lake.**

PARK WIDE GOALS AND GUIDELINES FOR AESTHETICS

All landscapes are dynamic and have definable, multi-dimensional characteristics. Light, visual patterns and textures, temperature, scent, sound, expanding vistas or focused views blend together to create distinguishing aesthetic qualities, often referred to by planners as a "Spirit of Place." Burton Creek State Park is in a landscape characterized by conifer forests, beautiful views of Lake Tahoe, streams, wildlife, and seasonal phenomena, such as summer flowers, fall color, and winter snow, that all harmonize to evoke a positive emotional response to this special place of great beauty.

To sustain the aesthetic and audible qualities unique to the park, both in-park and surrounding land management practices are critical. Preserving the highest aesthetic standards for Burton Creek State Park is a responsibility that should be shared. State Park planners, park managers, and staff, as well as representatives from other responsible agencies and neighboring landowners, must work cooperatively to create and sustain an aesthetic ambiance befitting the beauty of this place.

Goal

Identify, preserve, and perpetuate the distinctive landscape qualities that give Burton Creek State Park its special "spirit of place."

Guidelines

- **Burton Creek State Park is in a high Sierra environment in the Lake Tahoe Basin. The Department should define fully the aesthetic characteristics of the park and its surrounding landscapes in order to be able to integrate these characteristics into the design of new park facilities.**
- **For positive aural experiences, locate service and maintenance functions away from public areas. Space interpretive stops so that natural, not human, sounds dominate. Orient openings toward natural sounds such as a babbling creek. Restrict the audio levels of sounds from radios and other human-made devices, and reduce vehicle noise through screening, berms, separation of use areas, etc.**

Goal

Preserve and perpetuate distinctive landscape qualities in the park, and guide appropriate design for renovation of existing facilities or future construction.

Guidelines

- **Building and structure design should reflect the native qualities of the individual building site. Structures should not extend higher than existing tree canopy, and/or should be designed to fit comfortably into an ultimate planting/native vegetation scheme. Buildings and structures should be integrated into existing landforms wherever possible, and take advantage of existing contours for energy efficiency (wind protection) and low visual impact, where appropriate.**
- **Care should be taken when designing structures and public use areas to preserve and present views of natural elements. Emphasize grand views, such as those to the surrounding peaks and Lake Tahoe, by the use of design elements that showcase these views**
- **Consolidate functions or segment facilities to reduce the footprint of individual structures to allow sensitive placement within existing landforms, including parking lots, buildings, and other large facilities.**
- **Apply the concept of "first impressions" not only to the entrance area of the park, but to every human-designed element in the park**

PARK-WIDE GOALS AND GUIDELINES FOR SUSTAINABLE DESIGN

The use of sustainable design and construction materials is an appropriate concept for the Department to consider in development of new facilities. Sustainable design contributes to a healthier environment, which in turn would benefit the park's visitors and natural and cultural resources.

Goal

Use sustainable design in the site location and construction of any future facilities and, as much as possible, in the maintenance of facilities in the park, including buildings, parking lots, day use areas, and trails.

Guidelines

- **Where possible, use natural, renewable, indigenous, and recyclable materials, and simple-to-maintain and energy-efficient design.**
- **Consider using non-toxic means of pest and vegetation control.**
- **Use sustainable design to minimize impacts to cultural and natural resources by choosing appropriate building sites and creating low**

impact structures that avoid the use of environmentally damaging, waste producing, or hazardous materials.

Goal

Design park facilities that recognize that a primary goal for recreation (re-creation) is the need for human connection with the park's natural systems and cultural resources.

Guidelines

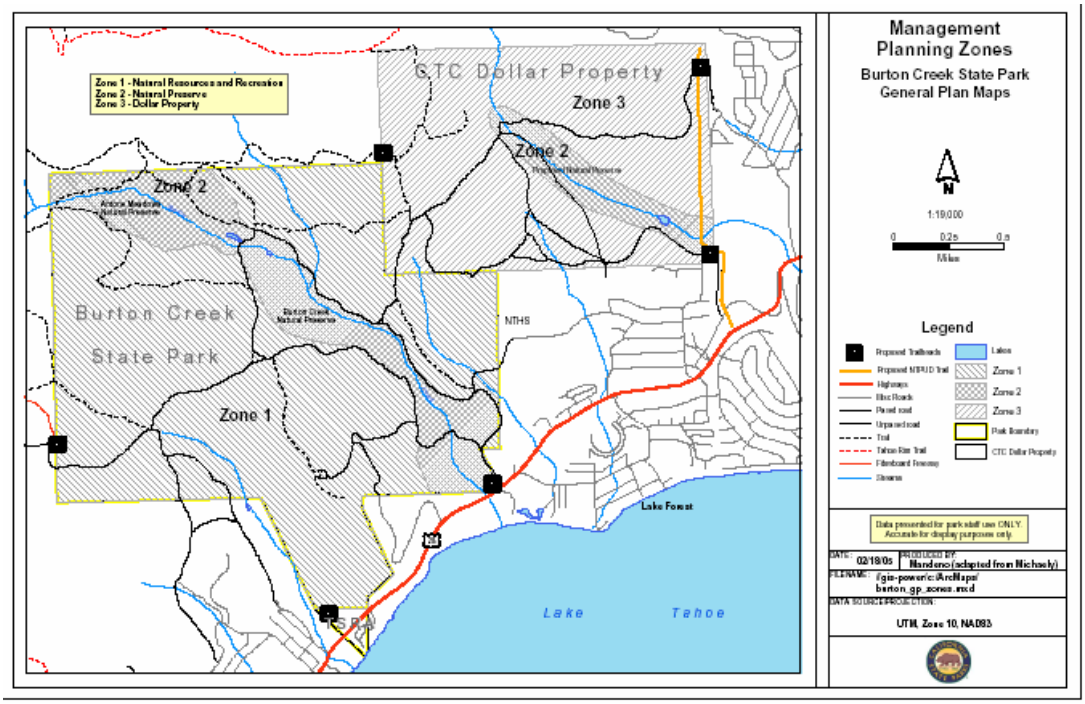
- **Facilities will be designed to incorporate the primary senses – sight, hearing, smell, taste, and touch – to enhance the visitor's understanding of the environment's uniqueness.**
- **Facilities will be designed to foster a sense of connection to the natural and cultural resources in the surroundings, to appreciate their worth and the need for stewardship of these resources for future generations.**

PARK PLANNING ZONES

Park Planning Zones have been developed in this General Plan as a guide for systematizing land use, recreation development, and resources. The zones represent parts of the park that have similar characteristics and should be managed with similar strategies. The Dollar parcel, currently managed by the Tahoe Conservancy, is delineated as a separate zone.

Park Planning Zones: Goals and Guidelines

Goals and guidelines for each Planning Zone are either site-specific or pertain to conditions and activities that occur chiefly within that zone. The preceding park-wide goals and guidelines apply to all zones. Protection and preservation of natural ecosystem elements and processes, including protection of special status species and important cultural features, will be integral components of the management of all of the zones.



Park Planning Zones

Planning Zone #1: Natural Resources and Recreation Zone

Planning Zone #1 encompasses all of Burton Creek State Park with the exception of Burton Creek and Antone Meadows Natural Preserves. The preserves are located in the middle of the park. This zone contains a variety of recreation uses focused mainly on the road and trail system.

Goal

Planning Zone #1 should have a successful combination of day use public access facility development (trailheads), overnight camping facilities, interpretive displays, restoration of forest natural resources, and a variety of non-motorized recreation activities.

Guidelines

- **Visitor access, and recreation and interpretive facilities that are compatible with cultural and natural resource management objectives for the park and the Tahoe basin, will be developed in this zone. Current recreation uses will be integrated with new facility development.**
- **Plan campground development (including alternative camping options of yurts and cabins) in the central portion of park.**

Goal

Establish access points around the park through the development of four trailhead locations as described in the environmental analysis. Provide clear signage for the public introducing the park and indicating the locations of trailheads. Provide year round access to at least one trailhead.

Guidelines

- **Analyze existing traffic flow in the surrounding area and use this information in the design of new park access points.**
- **Attempt to provide travelers coming into the park with a feeling of "slowing down the pace" and of transition from the urban and highway environments to the natural world.**
- **Show that the park is directly linked to the lake through the Tahoe State Recreation Area (TSRA).**
- **Trailhead parking areas will be relatively small. It is possible trailhead locations will be incorporated with other recreation facilities currently existing or proposed for the future. Use existing vegetation, trees, boulders, etc. as natural buffers between small parking areas and surrounding areas. Create parking area(s) that are large enough for winter snow storage if the trailhead is going to be opened year round. Follow local and regional agencies (Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board, etc.) regulations for site design, coverage requirements and construction. If a recreation center is built at Dollar Hill, consider working with the managing agencies to develop trailhead location there too.**
- **Establish obvious visitor and staff points of contact and have clear directions to park areas and attractions.**
- **Separate vehicle, pedestrian, bicycle and equestrian circulation to the extent possible.**
- **Park roads leading to developed facilities shall be accessible to patrol and emergency vehicles.**
- **Implement a sign program outside the park providing clear directions to the park and trailheads. Implement a year- round sign program in the park, providing clear directions on trails and roads so visitors know where they are and how to get to where they are going.**
- **Develop and implement an Interpretation Plan for the zone. Include themes of natural resource management and cultural history of the park and in the Tahoe basin.**

Goal

Provide camping on high capability land central to the park, to help meet regional and statewide recreation demands.

Guidelines

- **Consider development of a campground sized to accommodate approximately 1 - 200 campsites and one group camp area.**
- **Explore alternative camping options such as cabins and yurts, and year round camping.**
- **Incorporate all regulations and guidelines established by TRPA and the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board into the final design and site location for the campground.**
- **Impacts to the surrounding communities will be taken into consideration when locating the campground within the park.**

Planning Zone #2 – Natural Preserve Zone

Two natural preserves currently exist in Burton Creek State Park; Antone Meadows Natural Preserve and Burton Creek Natural Preserve. The preserves were established to preserve a Sierra mountain meadow and riparian forest respectively. Mountain meadows and riparian areas in the Tahoe basin are critical areas for two reasons. They help to preserve the water quality of waters flowing into Lake Tahoe. They also provide habitat types limited in the basin for a wide suite of wildlife species.

Goal

Protect the natural resources of the preserves while providing the public with access to enjoy them.

Guidelines

- **Develop a Road and Trail Management Plan for the park that allows for access to the preserves without compromising the integrity of the natural resources in the preserves.**
- **Develop and implement an Interpretation Plan for the preserves to interpret to the public the qualities and importance of the preserves natural resources to the overall ecosystems in the park and the Tahoe Basin.**
- **Request an adjustment to the current Burton Creek Preserve boundary to accommodate development of the primary access road into the park. District resource staff believes this can be accomplished without negative impacts to the prime resources of the preserve.**

Planning Zone #3 – The Dollar Parcel

The Dollar Parcel is a 900-acre area of land adjacent to Burton Creek State Park. The California Tahoe Conservancy has indicated a willingness to transfer the

property to California State Parks once this general plan is approved. The parcel's location, sandwiched in between the two communities of Highlands and Cedar Flat, has made it a popular recreation area for the locals. The heavy recreation use has created some impacts to the land, mainly a network of volunteer trails, some which are poorly designed and redundant on the landscape.

The Dollar parcel has the Dollar Creek riparian corridor running roughly through the middle of it. This creek and riparian area, considered critical habitat within the Tahoe Basin, would be an ideal candidate for sub-classification as a natural preserve, similar to those already established in Burton Creek State Park for Burton Creek and Antone Meadows. The rest of the Dollar parcel will be classified as a state park through incorporation with Burton Creek State Park.

Goal

Manage the Dollar Parcel similar to Zone #1 in Burton Creek State Park, emphasizing summer and winter day use recreation and resource management and restoration.

Guidelines

- **Incorporate the guidelines described for Zone #1**
- **Seek active participation and input from the surrounding neighborhoods of Highlands and Cedar Flats when proposing resource restoration work or facility development on the Dollar parcel.**
- **Funding permitting, begin addressing the existing road and trail network on the parcel, identifying areas of resource damage that will be high priority areas for restoration work.**
- **Protect, interpret and enhance the area around the Dollar Dam and reservoir**

Goal

Protect the natural resources associated with Dollar Creek and the associated riparian area.

Guidelines

- **Recommend the Dollar Creek riparian forest for classification as a natural preserve.**

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

Summary

The objectives of the Environmental Analysis section are to identify the significant impacts of implementing the General Plan and to provide general mitigation measures for a first tier of environmental review. The General Plan does not provide a detailed program of specific development or management, but sets the broader goals for the park's management, resource protection, and provisions for public use. Future planning steps may include layout and design of facilities or specific resource management plans and processes. A more detailed level of environmental analysis is applied at that time.

This analysis focuses on the environmental effects of the preferred alternative where the general recreation uses and natural resource programs are described within the Natural Resources and Recreation Zone, and Natural Preserve Zone.

The proposals contained in this document were developed during the general planning process for Burton Creek State Park. The General Plan proposals respond to critical issues in park facilities and management and provide guidelines for future land use decisions. The plan outlines specific goals and guidelines, recommends facility development, and identifies the need for specific resource management plans.

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970 establishes a requirement for state agencies to analyze and disclose the potential environmental effects of a proposed action. The environmental impact report (EIR) prepared by state and local governments is usually a free-standing document intended to meet the requirements of CEQA. However, CEQA also encourages options to avoid needless redundancy and duplication, such as combining General Plans and EIRs (CEQA Guidelines 15166) and the use of tiering, a process where a lead agency prepares a series of EIRs, progressing from general concerns to more site-specific evaluations with the preparation of each new document (CEQA Guidelines 15152). When the lead agency combines a General Plan and an EIR, all requirements of CEQA must be covered and the document must identify where the requirements are met. The next section below provides a guide to the structure and contents of the General Plan/EIR, which meets the CEQA requirements.

Tiered CEQA Analysis

The BCSP General Plan/EIR serves as a first-tier Environmental Impact Report EIR, as defined in Section 15166 of the CEQA Guidelines that will be followed by individual and/or site-specific projects and appropriate CEQA compliance.

This General Plan/EIR provides discussion of the probable impacts of future development and establishes goals, policies and objectives to implementing such development in a manner which will avoid or minimize such environmental impacts. This approach is consistent with a tiered approach to EIRs.

Where a proposed project covers a wide spectrum of action, from the adoption of a Plan, which is by definition tentative and subject to further refinement, to activities with a site-specific impact, CEQA requires that "environmental impact reports shall be tiered whenever feasible[.]" (Public Resources Code section 21093(b).) Tiering is defined as "the coverage of general matters and environmental effects in an environmental impact report prepared for a policy, plan, program or ordinance followed by narrower or site-specific environmental impact reports…." (PRC section 21068.5; CEQA Guidelines section 15385.) While a tiered EIR may not defer all consideration of impacts to a point in the future, it can legitimately indicate that more detailed studies and project-specific impacts may be considered in future environmental documents. Generally, the courts have recognized that environmental studies at the general plan level will be general. It has been found to be acceptable to consider more detailed analysis later in the process which will be measured against specific performance criteria formulated at the time of Plan approval.

The level of detail addressed in the Environmental Analysis section is comparable to the level of detail provided in the land use proposals of the Plan. What is critical, and what is set forth in the Plan, is the formulation and eventual adoption of a set of policies designed to minimize and mitigate impacts that might them from further implementation projects.

For example, the Plan designates Park property into land classifications, such as natural preserves and management zones. Goals and policies are proposed for adoption for each of these zones which provide conceptual parameters for future management actions. The Plan envisions four focused management plans (Cultural Resources, Roads and Trails, Interpretive, Forest Management) will be prepared subsequent to adoption of the General Plan. The Plans that follow, such as the Roads and Trials Management Plan will propose the activities to be carried out, and will require CEQA compliance and public review as part of their approval.

Structure and Contents of the General Plan/ EIR

The CEQA Guidelines (Title 14. California Code of Regulations), Article 9. Contents of Environmental Impact Reports Section 15120 (c) states that Draft EIRs shall contain the information required by Sections 15122 through 15131. The following table shows where the required items are found in this General Plan/ EIR.

Table 1.1 Location of EIR Required Content

CEQA Guidelines Content	Location in ABDSP General Plan/ EIR
15122. Table of Contents or Index	The Table of Contents is in the beginning of the document.
15123. Summary	The Summary is located after the Table of Contents, before the main text.
15124. Project Description	The Plan describes the Project in the Executive Summary, the Project Description Section, and Environmental Analysis. The Introduction contains information about the project objective and the general plan process.
15125. Environmental Setting	The Environmental Setting and Existing Conditions are described in the Park Summary.
15126. Consideration and Discussion of Environmental Impacts	Environmental Impacts are discussed in the Environmental Analysis.
Significant Environmental Effects of the Proposed Project.	Significant Effects and Proposed Mitigation are described in the Environmental Analysis.
Significant Environmental Effects Which Cannot be Avoided if the Proposed Project is Implemented.	Unavoidable And Irreversible Significant Environmental Effects are described in the Executive Summary and Environmental Analysis.
Significant Irreversible Environmental Changes Which Would be Involved in the Proposed Project Should it be Implemented.	Unavoidable And Irreversible Significant Environmental Effects are described in the Environmental Analysis.
Growth-Inducing Impact of the Proposed Project.	Growth-Inducing impacts are described in the Environmental Analysis
Mitigation Measures Proposed to Minimize the Significant Effects.	Mitigation measures are described in the Environmental Analysis
Alternatives to the Proposed Project.	Plan Alternatives are described in the Environmental Analysis
15127. Limitations on Discussion of Environmental Impact	Discussion of irreversible changes is addressed in the Environmental Analysis
15128. Effects Not Found to be Significant	Effects found not to be significant are discussed in the Environmental Analysis.
15129. Organizations and Persons Consulted	Appendix – References, Persons and Organizations Consulted, Report Preparers

15130. Discussion of Cumulative Impacts	Environmental Analysis

USES OF THIS GENERAL PLAN/ EIR

The General Plan/ EIR has been prepared by the California Department of Parks and Recreation, Sierra District. California State Park and Recreation Commission has approval authority for all State Park combined General Plan/EIRs. The Commission determines whether or not to: Accept the certified General Plan/EIR as a "final EIR" under CEQA Guidelines Section 15166 and adopt the General Plan/ EIR as a general plan under PRC 5002.2.

The BCSP General Plan is the guiding policy document for subsequent operation and management of the Park. The Plan utilizes three management zones to describe the overall management purpose and intent of specific regions within the Park. These zones are described in detail in the Project Description Section of the Plan. Additionally, the Plan specifically envisions that a series of four focused management plans (Cultural Resources, Forest Management, Roads and Trails, and Interpretive) be prepared subsequent to adoption of the General Plan. Some of the provisions of these focused management plans as well as development, maintenance, facility use, and recreational activities allowed by the General Plan have the potential to impact the environment. Prior to taking any further action, CSP must evaluate whether that action constitutes a "project" under CEQA, whether it is categorically exempt (for example routine maintenance), whether it may have a significant impact on the environment and if so, whether a negative declaration or an EIR needs to be prepared.

All future action by CSP will need to be found consistent with the adopted BCSP General Plan. The Plan's Goals and Guidelines define the main approach to mitigation for subsequent actions and the General Plan/ EIR establishes the baseline for future environmental review as a first tier program EIR.

SCOPE OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The General Plan/ EIR addresses the entire area and operation of the park, hence it is broad and comprehensive in scope. A series of meetings and a formal public process were used to determine the Plan and the content of the environmental analysis.
An Initial Study and a Notice of Preparation (NOP) was circulated to state agencies, local city and county planning offices, interested public organizations and interested individuals. See Appendix A.

CSP conducted extensive public involvement during the planning process, with four public meeting being held.

Project Description

As funds become available, the plan proposes to implement resource management projects and to develop and construct day use facilities first. Future planning and development of a public access road, overnight campground facilities with alternative camping such as yurts and cabins, and administrative buildings will require a substantially larger capital investment.

The plan proposes initial construction of four new trailheads on the perimeter of the park for parking and access to the park. Parking facilities will each accommodate 8-12 vehicles. Interpretive displays will be installed. Restrooms may be constructed where feasible. Trail connections will be developed from existing trails and roads.

Potential significant environmental impacts are those commonly associated with facility development and visitor use. Potential adverse impacts identified in this plan include disturbance to or loss of natural and cultural resources, degradation of water quality due to excessive soil erosion and sedimentation, minor increases in traffic, and impacts to visual resources. Potential mitigation measures for each type of impact have been discussed. These mitigation measures reflect the specificity of the General Plan and are therefore in the form of guidelines. The most appropriate mitigation measures will be developed as specific projects are proposed and implemented.

Future facility development would include all the development of an entrance road and campground ranging from 1 – 200 campsites, and one group site. A small number of yurts or rustic cabins may be constructed within the campground area for summer and/or winter use. Administrative buildings, including maintenance buildings and employee residences are planned for construction to support the facility.

Potential significant environmental impacts are those commonly associated with facility development and visitor use. Potential adverse impacts identified in this plan include increases in traffic, disturbance to or loss of natural and cultural resources, degradation of water quality due to excessive soil erosion and sedimentation, and impacts to visual resources.

The Department has determined that potentially significant impacts can be mitigated for all impacts except traffic. Adding traffic of any amount to the Tahoe City area may be considered significant and may not be mitigated.

Potential mitigation measures for all other types of impacts have been discussed. These mitigation measures reflect the specificity of the General Plan and are

therefore in the form of guidelines (with the exception of traffic as discussed above). The most appropriate mitigation measures will be developed as specific projects are proposed, design plans are drawn up, and environmental analysis and documents developed.

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE: Summary of Proposals by Planning Zone

Planning Zone #1: Natural Resources and Recreation Zone

- Analyze existing access points to the park. Develop 4 trailheads located; 1) near the Tamarack Lodge, 2) somewhere on the west side of the park near the Fiber Board Freeway Road, 3) across the street from the Tahoe State Recreation Area Campground, and, 4) on the east side of the Dollar parcel if the property is transferred to California State Parks.
- Screen or soften the visual effect of parking lots and operations and maintenance areas from public views.
- Prepare and implement the Roads and Trails Plan for this zone.
- Develop an entrance road near Tamarack Lodge. This action will require an adjustment to the existing Burton Creek preserve boundary.
- Plan for development of a campground in this planning zone. The actual size of the campground would be determined through analysis of use data and environmental analysis and constraints. Start the planning process by considering a facility to accommodate 1 - 200 campsites, a small number of cabins and yurts, and one group camp area. Campground development would take into consideration traffic on Highway 28, with the intent of maintaining the Caltrans goal of Level of Service D.
- Evaluate highway and park directional signage; furnish clear signage to park areas, attractions, and facilities.
- Implement resource management projects to protect and manage park resources. Projects to include forest thinning, vegetation restoration, erosion control, and wildlife habitat improvement projects.

Planning Zone #2: Natural Preserve Zone

- Emphasize resource protection and management over recreation
- Manage surrounding recreation activities to minimize impacts to the preserves.

Planning Zone #3 – The Dollar Parcel

- Develop one of the four trailheads for the park on the east side of the Dollar Parcel. The trailhead development may be coordinated with a community recreation facility development proposed in the vicinity of the Dollar Parcel.

- Immediately begin addressing the resource damage caused by the current recreation taking place on the property. Begin by removing and rehabilitating redundant roads and trails, and by addressing uncontrolled vehicle access to the parcel.
- Classify Dollar Creek and the riparian area as a Natural Preserve

Preferred Alternative: Park-Wide Proposals

- Identify, protect, and interpret all significant natural and cultural resources; restore disturbed sites where feasible.
- Develop resource management plans to evaluate the park's natural and cultural resources and provide guidance for protection, habitat restoration, and adaptive management.
- Coordinate with resource and regulatory agencies for the protection, enhancement and management of cultural and natural resources; maintain cooperative relationships with all groups who have traditional ties to resources within the park.
- Minimize activities and new facility development in sensitive habitats; inventory and monitor areas where the public has access to water resources to evaluate use impacts; limit access to smaller ponds and streams to non-motorized watercraft; reduce, and where possible, eliminate wildlife access to human food and garbage.
- Cooperate with adjacent landowners, local jurisdictions, and regulatory agencies for ongoing resource protection, including the acquisition of property from willing sellers or obtaining conservation easements, for habitat linkages, buffers, and the enhancement and protection of views and viewsheds.
- Utilize the planning zones as a guide for appropriate development and visitor use; establish specific criteria for desired resource conditions and visitor experience for each planning zone; establish management actions to minimize unacceptable impacts.
- Implement a comprehensive and cohesive sign program to evaluate signage along the highway, on local roads, and within the park; cooperate with appropriate state, county, and local agencies to eliminate any deficiencies.
- Develop a Road and Trails Management Plan to guide the location, distance, use, and maintenance of existing and future roads and trails.
- Identify, preserve, and perpetuate the distinctive landscape qualities of Burton Creek State Park and the Dollar Parcel, by defining the aesthetic characteristics of the park, and developing aesthetic quality objectives and standards; enhance and protect existing views, viewsheds, and other aesthetic resources in the design and layout of new park facilities.
- Develop interpretive programs for natural resources in order to promote public understanding and stewardship.

The proposed General Plan attempts to address the challenges and constraints created by the existing uses, facilities, and visitor demands. The plan provides direction, criteria, goals, and objectives for future development, operation and management.

Environmental Setting

Refer to the Park Summary section of the General Plan for a description of the existing park environment, significant resource values within the park, and the local and regional environment in the vicinity.

This General Plan is consistent with other applicable regional plans, such as the Placer County General Plan, Tahoe City Plan Area Statement, and various Tahoe Regional Planning Agency plans for the Tahoe Basin.

Significant Environmental Effects

The purpose of this section is to identify impacts of the project that have the potential for significance and will require more detailed analysis when management plans and area development plans are prepared.

According to the CEQA Guidelines Section 15382, a significant effect on the environment refers to a "substantial, or potentially substantial, adverse change in any of the physical conditions within the area affected by the project, including land, air, water, minerals, flora, fauna, ambient noise, and objects of historic or aesthetic significance." Significant environmental effects are those commonly associated with visitor use, large resource management projects and development projects. These adverse effects can include negative visual impacts, degradation of water quality, and disturbance to or loss of cultural resources, sensitive species, and wildlife habitats.

The term threshold is used to describe levels of impact. Thresholds are standards used to determine if an activity or project will cause, or potentially cause, a substantial adverse physical change. If the project or activity could exceed a threshold, the impact is considered potentially significant. If appropriate mitigation can reduce the impact below the threshold, the impact is considered less than significant.

Mitigation is defined as actions that will:

- **Avoid the impact altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action;**
- **Minimize the impact by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation;**
- **Rectify the impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the impacted environment;**

- **Reduce or eliminate the impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the action; and**
- **Compensate for the impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments (CEQA Guidelines Section 15370).**

This General Plan is the first phase of a tiered EIR and, as such, proposed development and associated mitigation are general in nature. Many of the proposed mitigation measures are contained in the plan goals and guidelines. As management plans, area development plans, or other projects are proposed, they will be subject to further environmental review. Project specific mitigation measures will be developed and implemented at that time.

The following potential environmental impacts and associated mitigation measures refer to proposals planned within the existing park boundaries.

Aesthetic Resources

Threshold
The threshold level for an aesthetic impact consists of a management or development activity that will substantially degrade the existing aesthetic character or quality of a site and/or its surroundings, or is incompatible with the character of the park.

Impact
Potentially significant, unless mitigated

Discussion
Any changes that substantially degrade the visual experience for visitors to the park have the potential to cause significant impacts. The significance of visual impacts is dependent on the expectations and perceptions of the viewers. The presence of facilities or numerous visitors would generally be more offensive to those expecting a wilderness experience than to those expecting higher levels of service or social interaction.

The following are identified in the plan as facilities that, if developed, could create adverse visual impacts within the park:

- **Parking for day use**
- **Entrance roads**
- **Campground facilities including cabins and yurts**
- **Interpretive exhibits/facilities**
- **Trails, including trail connections and associated support facilities (trailheads)**
- **Informational signage**
- **Administrative buildings**

The development of new facilities could create adverse visual impacts if proper design for color, scale, location, style, materials, and architectural mass are not carefully considered. The use of inappropriate colors, design, and materials in the natural landscape or historic setting may be visually offensive.

A parking area or campground could be an obvious human-made intrusion to the natural landscape. Development of outdoor interpretive structures could create adverse visual impacts for park visitors. High-profile directional, informational, and interpretive signs along trails, roads, and highways could also contribute to visual clutter.

The impacts to visual resources are considered potential because the actual size, location and design of the facilities or structures have not been determined.

Mitigation

Visual impacts can be avoided or reduced by appropriate siting, design, and selection of materials. The development of aesthetic design standards and objectives, management plans, and specific project designs will define aesthetically appropriate design features, identify visual resources, and identify optimum methods for protecting existing resources. Appropriate native plant species should be used to screen or soften the visual effect of parking areas, roads, and trails; buffer intrusive or distracting views and activities outside park boundaries; and enhance scenic views. Construction and maintenance activities should be scheduled to decrease the impacts to visitors and adjacent property owners. Placement of a campground near the center of the park, away from nearby neighborhoods, will mitigate the potential negative aesthetic impacts.

General Plan designated planning zones will also provide additional resource protections. The planning zones outline appropriate development and land use, or make recommendations for future studies, as well as recommend consideration of acquisition parcels to retain and enhance scenic resources.

All plans and projects will be in compliance with local, state, and federal permitting and regulatory requirements and subject to subsequent tier CEQA review and project specific mitigation. Mitigation will be implemented in later planning and development stages.

The impacts to visual resources can be reduced to a less than significant level with mitigation.

Responsibility:	Department of Parks and Recreation Staff/Landscape Architect, and other mandated contracting authorities

Monitoring/Reporting: Completion of required resource evaluations and development plans prior to implementation of specific projects, as part of the subsequent tier CEQA review

Biological Resources

Threshold
Direct take or removal of a sensitive species; substantial reduction, disturbance, or alteration of sensitive habitat or native plant community; actions that reduce, disturb or alter critical habitat, cause fish or wildlife habitat to drop below self-sustaining levels, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare, threatened, or endangered species, or threaten to eliminate an animal community; introduction of non-native, invasive species.

Impact
Potentially significant, unless mitigated

Discussion
Human activities and associated impacts (including timber harvest, fire suppression, and recreation use) have altered native plant and animal communities throughout the region, including lands in what is now Burton Creek State Park. The remaining habitats provide food, shelter, and reproductive habitat for many species and are highly valued park resources. Consequently, protection and restoration of these habitats, especially forest, riparian, and wetland communities, is essential and will help ensure the stability of plant and animal populations. The park has an important role as a link between fragmented forest habitats of the Sierra Nevada. Specifically, the park also serves as a corridor between the lakeshore zone and the upland forest zone.

Sensitive wildlife, habitats, and plant communities may occur at Burton Creek State Park. A complete survey of the park's biological resources has not been completed; therefore there is the potential for additional biotic resources at the park to be discovered. Potential significant impacts to these biological resources may occur during facility development and, rehabilitation, or resource management as proposed in the General Plan.

Development of the following facilities and activities could create significant adverse impacts on biological resources within the park, especially the introduction of new facilities and structures into previously undisturbed areas.

- **Campground facilities**
- **Trailhead parking**
- **Entrance and interior park roads**
- **Trails, including trail connections and associated support facilities (trailheads)**
- **Interpretive exhibits/facilities**

- **Rehabilitation of areas where the landscape has been disturbed**
- **Vegetation management projects and programs**

There are several sensitive habitat types within the park including aspen groves, wetlands, wet meadows and riparian forest. These habitat types are found in the natural preserves. Facility rehabilitation and development, including additional trails, regional trail linkages, and resource management projects have the potential to disturb, degrade, or remove habitat. The construction of new facilities and structures into previously undisturbed areas of the park could create substantial adverse impacts on wildlife.

Ground disturbance, including grading, soil compaction, or vegetation removal, has the potential to provide habitat for non-native invasive species. Ground disturbance could include new facility construction (campgrounds, trails, roads, or trailheads). Trails and roads can become dispersal corridors for invasive plants. The spread of invasive species, especially in previously undisturbed native habitats or sensitive habitats, may have adverse impacts by promoting the loss of native habitat and reducing species diversity.

Vegetation management in the park can result in significant impacts as well as pose potential risks to humans and property. Among management activities that will require further impact assessment prior to implementation are prescription burning of vegetation, habitat restoration projects (including stream restoration, soil grading, and other activities), and removal of plants, whether exotic or native.

<u>Mitigation</u>

- There will be no facility development (campground, trails, roads, or trailheads) in any of the sensitive habitats.

- The General Plan proposes a number of guidelines to preserve, enhance, and minimize disturbance to vegetation and wildlife. A comprehensive Vegetation Management Plan will be developed that will provide guidance for identification, protection, habitat restoration, and adaptive management of the park's resources, especially species of special concern and sensitive habitats.

- Site-specific surveys for sensitive species and habitats will be completed as part of the planning process for resource management projects, construction, maintenance, or rehabilitation of facilities and trails.

- State and federal resource agencies will be consulted to assist with appropriate resource protection, habitat enhancement, and management techniques.

- All activities and new facility development in areas of known sensitivity will be minimized. This will include limiting access to some areas of the park, or temporarily closing or relocating facilities to promote restoration.

- Construction and restoration will be scheduled whenever possible to avoid disturbance to sensitive wildlife, especially during the breeding season. In addition, all large trees, significant rock outcrops, and other sensitive habitat will be preserved and protected from construction impacts.

- The planning zones outlined in the General Plan will also provide additional resource protection by designating appropriate land use, facility development, and visitor use areas, resulting in a significant reduction in opportunities for facility development and adverse visitor use impacts in sensitive areas.

- Visitor use impacts to wildlife can be significantly reduced or eliminated by placing facilities away from known nesting sites and sensitive habitat. However, all impacts cannot be avoided because the range of some animals may include the entire park.

- Efforts will be made to reduce or eliminate human influences to wildlife (including access to food and garbage). . Wildlife proof garbage receptacles and food lockers will be installed.

- An expanded interpretive program for natural resources is proposed that would promote public understanding, education, and stewardship.

- The plan proposes an invasive species management program that will provide guidelines for managing all ground disturbance.

- A program of revegetation of disturbed areas with appropriate native species will be implemented.

- For continued resource protection and enhancement, on-going communication and cooperation with regulatory agencies, local jurisdictions, and adjacent landowners will be pursued to encourage conservation easements and acquisition of property from willing sellers for buffers and habitat linkages.

Foremost among the necessary precautions observed during the planning and implementation of vegetation management is adherence to existing laws, regulations, and protocols. The environmental disclosure process requires that all such planning be developed with the participation of the local public and all appropriate agencies. Activities with the potential for impacts beyond park boundaries will include disclosure of potential impacts specific to each activity.

Impacts to biological resources can be mitigated to a less than significant level by implementing the General Plan guidelines and project specific mitigation measures.

All plans and projects will be in compliance with local, state, and federal permitting and regulatory requirements and subject to subsequent tier CEQA review and project specific mitigation.

Responsibility:	The Department of Parks and Recreation Staff/Resource Ecologist, and other mandated contracting authorities
Monitoring/Reporting:	Completion of required resource evaluations and development plans prior to implementation of specific projects, as part of subsequent tier CEQA review

Cultural Resources

Threshold
Substantial loss or destruction of the historic or prehistoric sites or structures that eliminate important examples of major periods of California history or prehistory; addition or alterations, including non-historic additions and repairs, that adversely impact or substantially alter the visual continuity of a cultural resource or landscape.

Impact
Potentially significant, unless mitigated

Discussion
Burton Creek State Park contains potentially significant cultural resources that could be destroyed or degraded by new development and facility improvements proposed in the General Plan. These resources consist of historic sites, historic resources, and cultural landscapes. Archaeological sites, homesteads, historic structures, and historic roads and trails are important features. Although most of the park has been surveyed for cultural resources there has not been a complete inventory of the park‘s cultural resources; therefore, there is potential for the discovery of previously unknown prehistoric and historic sites during facilities construction, rehabilitation, resource management projects, restoration, or maintenance operations.

Areas in Planning Zone #1 are of greatest concern since this is where most of the proposed management activities will take place and where the highest visitor use occurs. This area has been surveyed. The sites have been mapped and areas where facilities could be constructed without impacting cultural resources have been identified.

The following are identified in the plan as potential facilities and activities that could create significant adverse impacts on cultural resources within the park:

- **New campground development**
- **New trailhead development**
- **New road or trail construction**
- **Entrance roads**
- **Interpretive exhibits/facilities**
- **Informational signage**
- **Rehabilitation of areas where the landscape has been disturbed**
- **Resource management projects**
- **Administrative buildings**

Interpretive facilities and trails and their associated amenities, such as picnic sites, placed in or near historic landscapes can potentially decrease historic ambiance and increase the threat of vandalism or damage due to additional public use.

All areas not previously inventoried and proposed for development will require inventories on a project-by-project basis if they have not been previously inventoried.

Mitigation

Prior to construction or reconstruction, significant repairs, implementation of interpretive programs, or other site-specific development, areas of potential impact will be inventoried and reviewed to determine the presence and significance of cultural resources, the potential impact, and recommended mitigation, if appropriate. Impacts may be reduced by project avoidance, site capping, structural stabilization/renovation, project redesign, and data recovery.

The alteration or removal of any historic or archaeological features will be subject to Public Resources Code 5024.5 review requirements.

The General Plan proposes development of a Cultural Resources Management Plan to management, protection and interpretation of the park's cultural resources.

All plans and projects will be in compliance with local, state, and federal permitting and regulatory requirements and subject to subsequent tier CEQA review and project specific mitigation.

Impacts to cultural resources will be mitigated to a less than significant level through the implementation of General Plan goals and guidelines and any additional site-specific mitigation measures.

Responsibility:	Department of Parks and Recreation Staff/Cultural Resource Specialist, and other mandated contracting authorities
Monitoring/Reporting:	Completion of required resource evaluations and development plans prior to implementation of specific projects, as part of the subsequent tier CEQA review

Water Quality Resources

Threshold
A substantial violation in a water quality standard or waste discharge requirement; alteration of the existing drainage pattern of an area in a manner that would result in substantial erosion or siltation; substantial degradation of water quality, especially related to non-point sources.

Impact
Potentially significant, unless mitigated

Discussion
Surface and ground waters are of varying quality in the Lahontan Region and the protection of water quality is extremely important in the Tahoe Basin. Many water quality problems are related to non-point sources, such as soil erosion (from construction and timber harvest areas), stormwater runoff (sediment and chemicals), and individual wastewater disposal systems. Non-point sources have been identified as the major cause of water pollution in California.

The General Plan proposes a number of facilities that may have an impact on water quality. Development and maintenance of the following facilities could create significant adverse impacts.

- **New campground with yurts and cabins**
- **New developed trailheads**
- **Entrance, visitor, and maintenance roads**
- **Trails, including trail connections and associated support facilities (trailheads)**
- **Interpretive exhibits/facilities**
- **Rehabilitation of areas where the landscape has been disturbed**
- **Administrative buildings**

Surface waters within the park include Burton Creek, Barton Creek, Dollar Creek and a small portion of Lake Forest Creek (located on the Dollar parcel). Sedimentation of these surface waters may increase turbidity and physically alter the streambed and lakebed habitat. As tributaries flowing into Lake Tahoe, any

increase in sediment loading to these waters may be considered a significant impact.

Soils in many areas of the park are classified as highly erosive. Any proposed soil disturbing activities or increases in impervious surfaces may contribute to potentially significant adverse impacts to water quality unless mitigated.

Human activities in the watershed can greatly accelerate the rate and amount of erosion and sedimentation. Activities at the park that could increase sedimentation may include construction of new facilities, rehabilitation of existing facilities, operations and maintenance practices, and outdoor recreation such as mountain biking or equestrian use.

Potential impacts associated with construction practices include soil and vegetation disturbance from grading, filling, and construction equipment use and storage. Surface and groundwater contamination may occur from construction materials, such as concrete, paint, and other chemical products. Ground disturbance, especially in floodplains and wetlands, may reduce the natural processes for sediment and nutrient absorption.

Impervious surfaces may contribute to water pollution as a source of vehicle contaminants, such as oils, grease and other petroleum and chemical products. These substances become suspended or dissolved in storm water runoff and may enter surface or groundwater.

Maintenance practices may include snow removal, which can carry de-icing chemicals and vehicle fluids from the roadway into surface or ground water. Sand used on road surfaces to provide traction in the winter can be crushed and dissipated and may enter surface waters. Normal park operations may also include trail maintenance and vegetation removal by mechanical or chemical methods. These practices can disturb the ground surface, contributing to increased erosion and sedimentation, and excess pesticides may enter groundwater or surface waters.

Recreation impacts can include soil compaction in day use areas and along trails and roads. Intense visitor use, particularly mountain biking, may also cause increased erosion on trails, disturbance to or destruction of sensitive wetland and riparian vegetation. Watershed damage by natural or human-caused wildfires can decrease water quality by sedimentation.

Mitigation

Certified best management practices for the Lahontan Region, developed by the U.S. Forest Service, the Lahanton Regional Water Quality Control Board, and the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, will be installed where appropriate.

As part of the planning process for any proposed development of site-specific plans, resource management plans, or facility construction, site-specific studies of soil conditions will be conducted. All new projects, projects to rehabilitate existing facilities, and increased visitor use in the park will be evaluated to ensure that they do not contribute to degradation of water quality. Any accelerated erosion, sedimentation, and habitat degradation will be reduced or eliminated where feasible.

Natural vegetation, soils, and the duff layer will be protected and restored to preserve natural infiltration. Erosion control practices should be used near surface waters for all activities that disturb the ground surface. Existing drainage patterns should not be significantly modified.

Mitigation measures for construction impacts will include; the use of erosion control best management practices to stabilize soils during construction and for any activities that involve soil disturbance; stabilizing all disturbed areas by the beginning of the wet season (October 15); protecting all non-construction areas to prevent unnecessary disturbance; stabilizing and vegetating areas at the completion of construction; and avoiding storage of surplus or waste materials in the 100-year floodplain, near surface waters, or in drainages.

Recreational facilities will be designed to minimize water quality impacts by avoiding disturbance to steep slopes, highly erosive soils, and riparian and wetland areas. Recreation impacts may be avoided or reduced by; utilizing erosion control measures near surface waters for all human activities which disturb the ground surface; developing ongoing programs of trail maintenance and watershed restoration for areas disturbed by recreational use; and designing new facilities to minimize water quality impacts by avoiding disturbance to steep slopes, highly erosive soils, and riparian/wetland areas. Best management practices will be applied to campgrounds, day use areas, and trails to reduce erosion and provide appropriate treatments for storm water runoff. To allow the recovery of compacted soils and natural vegetation, temporary closure, reconfiguration, or relocation of campgrounds and other facilities will be considered.

To avoid potential impacts to water quality, park visitors will be restricted from entering sensitive habitat areas, including wetlands, riparian areas, and streambeds, by the use of fencing and signage. Appropriate biotechnical stream bank erosion control methods will be utilized where feasible.

The General Plan proposes development of a Roads and Trails Management Plan to evaluate all roads and trails in the park, including trail location, use, and maintenance practices.

The existing interpretive program will be improved in order to educate the public on ways to improve and maintain water quality, including information on the water quality impacts of recreation.

Future implementation of specific projects will be subject to a more extensive analysis of potential impacts and mitigation during subsequent environmental review.

Responsibility:	The Department of Parks and Recreation Staff/Resource Ecologist/Geologist, and other mandated contracting authorities
Monitoring/Reporting:	Completion of required resource evaluations and development plans prior to implementation of specific projects, as part of subsequent tier CEQA review

Unavoidable Significant Environmental Effects

Traffic

Traffic in the Tahoe City area is congested during the summer, and during winter weekends. Caltrans currently ranks traffic flow as an F – Considerable Delays - on Highway 28, the worst rating in its Level of Service traffic flow rating system. Proposed campground development in the General Plan may contribute to the traffic congestion. It is the intent of the Department to meet the goal of Caltrans to achieve and maintain a traffic flow Level of Service D, with only minor delays in traffic. However, this goal may not be attained.

Although some of the expected increase in traffic from the campground development may be mitigated through various measures such as project design encouraging hike and bike trips to town, developing public transportation options, closing of the Forest Lake Campground (DFG operated), and limiting the size of the new campground, not all of the additional traffic may be mitigated to a level below significant. That determination will be made when a traffic analysis is conducted as part of a facility development project specific CEQA document. Therefore, an increase in traffic of a yet undetermined amount, must be considered at this time an unavoidable significant environmental effect.

Evaluation of the specificity of this first tier review indicates that all the other potential effects from projects proposed in this General Plan can be reduced to a less than significant level with appropriate facility location, the implementation of

resource management programs, and the development of other specific mitigation measures.

Until the uses, locations, and scope of facilities or management plans are specified, the actual level of impact, whether individual or cumulative, cannot be determined. However, all future plans and projects are required to be in compliance with local, state, and federal permitting and regulatory requirements and subject to subsequent tier CEQA review and project specific mitigation.

Significant Irreversible Environmental Changes

No significant irreversible changes to the physical environment are anticipated from the adoption and implementation of this General Plan.

Facility development, including structures, campgrounds, roads, and trails, may be considered a long-term commitment of resources; however, the impacts can be reversed through removal of the facilities and discontinued access and use. The Department does remove, replace, or realign facilities, such as campsites, trails, and roads where impacts have become unacceptable either from excessive use or from a change in environmental conditions.

The construction and operation of facilities may require the use of non-renewable resources. This impact is projected to be minor due to the limited amount of facilities planned for development and considering the sustainable practices in site design, construction, maintenance, and operations as proposed in the General Plan. Sustainable principals used in design and management emphasizes environmental sensitivity in construction, the use of non-toxic materials and renewable resources, resource conservation, recycling, and energy efficiency.

Growth-Inducing Impacts

With complete development of all proposals, park visitation is likely to increase. This would be due to an increased awareness of the park, improved access through access development (trailheads), use of a new campground, and improved road and trail facilities, including additional new trails and linkages from the park to regional trails. Additional directional and informational signage outside the park boundaries (on the highway and in the community) should raise the park's profile as a destination for recreation.

Any improvement or increase in capacity can encourage increased use, which may create additional tourism and the need for tourist services in the adjacent communities and surrounding region. The proposals in the General Plan may potentially foster economic growth in the region by encouraging an increase in supporting recreation and tourist services, such as recreation equipment, supplies, food, and related facilities. The Lake Tahoe area has a recreation and

tourism-based economy and an increase in visitor use may be considered an economic benefit.

Alternatives

Four alternatives for the Burton Creek State Park General Plan were presented to the public at the second public meeting. The alternatives ranged from no development to maximum development of the park. Based on the public comment, discussions with pertinent regulatory agencies, input from all levels of department planning and operations personnel, the two highest development alternatives were dropped from consideration. Therefore, two alternatives along with the No Project alternative were advanced, one of which became the preferred alternative previously described in this general plan

- **Preferred Alternative – previously described**
- **Alternative 1 - No Project**
- **Alternative 2 – Minimum Recreation/Maximum Resource Management**

Alternative 1 - No Project

Description

The California Environmental Quality Act requires an evaluation of the specific "no project" alternative and its impact [CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.6(e)(1)]. The no project alternative describes the existing conditions, as well as the physical conditions that are likely to occur in the future if the project (the proposed plan) is not approved. The purpose of describing and analyzing a no project alternative is to allow decision-makers to compare the impacts of approving the proposed project with the expected impacts of not approving the project.

One substantial impact of adopting the No Project Alternative would be the Dollar Property would not be transferred from the California Tahoe Conservancy (CTC) to California State Parks. For the transfer to take place the CTC is requiring the adoption of a general plan for Burton Creek State Park.

The nine hundred-acre Dollar parcel, along with Burton Creek State Park, would continue to be used mainly by local residents only. Unmanaged, resource destructive recreation would continue to occur on the Dollar parcel.

If a general plan is not implemented for Burton Creek State Park the existing situation will continue for park development, operation, and management. Development within the park would be restricted to projects that:

- **Repair, replace, or rehabilitate an existing facility including roads and trails;**
- **Provide a temporary facility, so long as the construction does not result in the permanent commitment of resources;**
- **Are necessary for the protection of public health and safety; or**
- **Provide emergency measures necessary for the immediate protection of a natural or cultural resource [Public Resources Code 5002.2(c)].**
- **Restore or enhance natural resources.**

If a general plan is not adopted for the park the department could not work towards meeting its mandate to the people of California to provide recreation. The department could not meet the demand for new camping and day use facilities.

Evaluation

The existing conditions, lack of facilities, and limitations would continue if the General Plan were not adopted. Without the facility improvement to improve visibility and access to the park, the park will remain unknown to the general public and be subject to vandalism and resource destruction.

Under the no project alternative the park's natural and cultural resources may not receive an increased level of protection. Comprehensive park-wide resource management plans and policies for natural and cultural resources may not be developed. Under the no project alternative cultural resource protection would be limited. Development of a systematic assessment process to determine the future treatment of cultural resources within the park would be unlikely because implementation of new programs would require adoption of a general plan.

Without a general plan, the Department would not have the authority to develop or enhance facilities to respond to public demand. Funding for recreation and interpretation improvements to enhance the visitor experience may be difficult to obtain. Recreational and interpretive improvements that could enhance the visitor experience would not be developed.

Under the no project alternative development no new trail development would be proposed. Opportunities for regional trail linkages (for instance, to the Tahoe Rim Trail) would be lost. State Parks would not be able to assist in meeting the visitor demand for hiking and biking trails in the Tahoe Basin. Sensitive natural and cultural resources may be expected to degrade over time due to overuse.

Under the no project alternative, land use management may not be evaluated on a park-wide basis, and planning zones to guide land use, visitor use intensity, recreational facility development, and possible future acquisitions may not be developed. Without an organized land use plan, management plans, and

development guidelines and incremental cumulative impacts may adversely impact the park in the future.

Improvements and installation of information and direction signs may not occur.

The existing visual character of the park could not be improved or enhanced in a significant way. Existing scenic resources may be affected, and protection of existing scenic vistas by acquisition or conservation agreement may not be provided with the no project alternative.

Alternative 2 – Minimum Recreation/Maximum Resource Protection and Management

Description
Alternative 2 contains the same key components and scope as the proposed plan, with the exception of elimination of the proposed campground (and associated infrastructure), groomed cross-country ski trails, and elimination of special events not compatible with maximum resource protection and management. This alternative encourages only low impact and low-volume day use activities with minimal facilities.

Evaluation
This alternative would not meet current statewide recreation use trends, and trends in the park that includes moderate use for hiking and biking during the summer, many special use events, and a popular cross-country ski facility with groomed trails. The Department would not contribute to meeting the unmet demand for camping statewide.

Cumulative Impacts

Cumulative impacts refer to two or more individual effects which, when considered together, are considerable or which compound or increase other environmental impacts. The individual effects may be changes resulting from a single project or a number of separate projects. The cumulative impact from several projects is the change in the environment that results from the incremental impact of the project when added to other closely related past, present, and reasonably foreseeable probable future projects. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant projects taking place over a period of time (CEQA Guidelines Section 15355).

The facility development proposed in the General Plan may result in impacts to cultural resources, sensitive species, wildlife habitat, water quality, and visual resources.

The entire region surrounding the Tahoe Basin, is experiencing tremendous growth. At the same time growth and development in the Tahoe Basin is

relatively slow due to environmental restrictions imposed by TRPA and the Lahanton Regional Water Quality Control Board aimed at protecting the water quality of Lake Tahoe and meeting other TRPA thresholds. The development of this general plan has taken these environmental mandates into consideration while trying to meet the statewide demand for camping and other recreation activities. In order to avoid exceeding negative cumulative effects in the Tahoe Basin this general plan will only propose development that will comply with all environmental and land use regulations established for the Lake Tahoe Basin.

To the extent that water quality degradation and the loss of biological, cultural, and visual resources is occurring in the region (especially in Nevada and Placer counties) any loss, disturbance, or degradation of these resources would contribute to cumulative impacts. The plan proposes a number of mitigation measures to avoid or minimize impacts to these resources. Mitigation will reduce the impacts to a less than significant level.

Effects Found Not to be Significant

As a first tier of planning and environmental analysis, the following impacts were found not to be significant. Future implementation of plan proposals will be subject to a more detailed analysis of potential impacts resulting from the specific project during a second-level environmental review.

Land Use and Planning

The General Plan for Burton Creek State Park provides guidelines for future land use and development and is consistent with local and regional general plans. The General Plan proposals are consistent with the existing land use in the area, which is a combination of open space, recreational, residential and commercial.

Future implementation of general plan proposals will be subject to additional tiered environmental review. No significant land use and planning impacts are projected.

Population and Housing

The impact of this plan on population and housing requirements would be minimal. There may be an increase of permanent or seasonal staff with the development of overnight and day use recreation in the park including the possibility of expanded interpretive and educational programs. Staff housing may be accommodated inside the park by constructing staff residences or outside of the park boundaries, if available. If implemented, these proposals would not substantially or adversely impact housing and population growth in the area. No significant population and housing impacts are projected.

Geologic Hazards

There are specific areas within the park boundaries with the minor potential for small, localized landslides and avalanches. The entire region has experienced earthquakes, with micro-earthquakes common in the Tahoe Basin. The General Plan provides a number of guidelines to protect the public from these natural hazards. Site specific surveys to identify potential hazardous areas should be conducted prior to any permanent facility development, and construction of facilities in these areas avoided if appropriate. Signs will be posted on trails warning visitors of any potential hazards. All new development will comply with current building code standards for construction in seismic areas.

Future projects will be subject to further, more detailed review. The project will not result in or expose people to substantial geologic hazards.

Air Quality

Air quality is a critical issue in the Lake Tahoe Basin, especially because of its' contribution to pollution of the lake itself. The level of service and development proposed in this general plan is not expected to significantly increase traffic in the basin. Actual traffic analysis data will be developed for CEQA documents produced for specific development projects such as the trailhead and/or campground development. Also, the Department will coordinate with the TRPA and local transit authorities to publicize the location and benefits of public transit to the community and park visitors. Incorporation of the lake shuttles to bring people to the park should also be part of the plan.

Dust from the site preparation and construction of facilities proposed in the General Plan may create temporary air quality impacts. The impact can be substantially reduced by the use of dust control measures and other construction best management practices. Dust control measures should be developed during site-specific planning as an element of sustainable design for site development and in future project development review and implementation.

Wood smoke from wood burning heaters and fireplaces may contribute to air pollution. The impact can be substantially reduced by installing new burning units with secondary burners that reduce particulate matter.

The Department will continue to comply with all local, state, and federal regulations regarding air quality. Air quality impacts resulting from this project will not be significant.

Energy and Mineral Resources

The plan will not result in significant impacts to energy and mineral resources. Sustainable practices for site planning, building design, construction, materials,

maintenance, and operations should be prescribed where feasible. These practices utilize elements of energy efficiency, energy conservation, the use of renewable and recycled materials, and total life cycle cost analysis.

Future implementation of general plan proposals will be subject to additional tiered environmental review. If implemented, this plan would not substantially impact energy and mineral resources.

Hazards

The project would not release hazardous substances, create a health hazard, expose people to any existing sources of health hazards, or increase a fire hazard.

The project proposes to maintain a fire management program that will evaluate the current fire risk and recommend strategies to reduce the fuel load in the park, thus increasing public safety.

Future projects will be subject to further, more detailed review. Should any hazardous substances or other health hazards be identified, appropriate warning and protective methods should be developed. The project will not result in or expose people to substantial health or fire hazards.

Public Services

The proposal would not require additional external government services for fire protection, police protection, schools, or public facility maintenance.

Future implementation of general plan proposals will be subject to additional tiered environmental review. If implemented, this plan would not have an adverse effect on external public services.

Utilities and Services Systems

The project recommends new facility development (including campground development, trailhead parking and restroom facilities) that will require additional utilities and service systems. The increase required will be provided by local utility services.

Future implementation of general plan proposals will be subject to additional tiered environmental review. If implemented, the project will not result in a need for substantial increases or alterations in utilities and service systems.

Noise

The General Plan proposes new facility development in Planning Zones 1 and 3 that could potentially increase noise levels during normal operation. The addition of campground and trailhead facilities may add increased noise levels through normal visitor use and traffic. Development of these new facilities will involve construction equipment and may cause temporary increased noise levels. Noise impacts should be subject to timing constraints to avoid negative impacts to park visitors, neighbors, and sensitive wildlife identified as occurring in the vicinity.

Any future projects will be subject to additional environmental review. There will not be significant adverse noise impacts resulting from the implementation of this plan.

Recreation

The plan may restrict some types of recreation in order to minimize resource impacts; however, the plan also proposes the evaluation and potential development of other forms of recreation to respond to visitor demand and to provide increased opportunities for interpretation and education.

The General Plan proposes improving existing hiking and biking opportunities and considers the closure of non-essential roads in order to decrease disturbance to sensitive wildlife, vegetation, or soil resources. If implemented, the plan may also consider bridging roads that cross streams in order to protect sensitive wildlife, habitat, and water quality. The plan may also limit new facility development and minimize activities in sensitive habitats during the breeding season.

The project calls for the development of a Roads and Trails Management Plan that would evaluate the need, location, use, and development of existing and future roads and trails and associated facilities. This management plan may propose discontinuing the use of specific roads and trails due to severe erosion or disturbance to sensitive wildlife habitat.

The plan proposes new campground facility development. This development will take place in areas of low environmental and cultural sensitivity, away from any nearby communities.

The plan proposes increasing access points to the park, loop trails, and trail linkages from the new development to existing park facilities as well as to local and regional trails outside the park boundaries. The plan also calls for evaluating the need for upgrading facilities for maximum accessibility, and evaluating visitor demand for expanded or new types of facilities.

Any future projects will be subject to additional environmental review. There will not be significant adverse impacts to recreational resources resulting from the implementation of this plan.

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ACRONYMS

BCSP – Burton Creek State Park
DPR – Department of Parks and Recreation
CNPS – California Native Plant Society
CTC – California Tahoe Conservancy
DFG – Department of Fish and Game
TRPA – Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
USFS – United States Forest Service
USFWS – United States Fish and Wildlife Service

MAPS

EXISTING AND PROPOSED PARK CLASSIFICATIONS

PROPOSED AND ALTERNATIVE ACCESS ROUTES

MANAGEMENT PLANNING ZONES

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE – PROPOSED FACILITY LOCATIONS

PROPOSED PRESERVE BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A
Vegetation Types at Burton Creek State Park

Calveg	Wildlife Habitat Relationships	Sawyer and Keeler-Wolf	1980 Burton Creek State Park Resource Inventory
Lodgepole pine	Lodgepole pine	Lodgepole pine	Lodgepole pine forest
White fir	White fir	White fir	Mixed conifer
Mixed conifer	Sierran mixed conifer	Mixed conifer	Mixed conifer
Eastside pine	Jeffrey pine	Jeffrey pine	Mixed conifer
Quaking aspen	Aspen	Aspen	Riparian
Black cottonwood	Montane hardwood-conifer	Black cottowood	Riparian
Mountain alder	Montane riparian	Mountain alder	Riparian
Montane mixed chaparral	Montane chaparral	Bush chinquapin	Montane chaparral
Greenleaf manzanita	Montane chaparral	Greenleaf manzanita	Montane chaparral
Montane mixed chaparral	Montane chaparral	Holodiscus	Montane chaparral
Huckleberry oak	Montane chaparral	Huckleberry oak	Montane chaparral
Montane mixed chaparral	Montane chaparral	Tobacco brush	Montane chaparral
Snowbrush	Montane chaparral	Mountain whitethorn	Montane chaparral
Wet meadow	Wet meadow	Sedge	Mesic meadow
Wet meadow	Wet meadow	Beaked sedge	Mesic meadow
Wet meadow	Wet meadow	Montane meadow habitat	Mesic meadow
Willow-alder, willow-aspen, et al.	Montane riparian	Montane wetland shrub habitat	Riparian
Tule-cattail-sedge	Fresh emergent wetland	Bulrush-cattail	Ephemeral lake
Tule-cattail-sedge	Fresh emergent wetland	Cattail	Ephemeral lake
Wet meadow	Fresh emergent wetland	Spikerush	Ephemeral lake
Perennial grass*	Wet meadow*	Montane meadow habitat	Xeric meadow

Calveg	Wildlife Habitat Relationships	Sawyer and Keeler-Wolf	1980 Burton Creek State Park Resource Inventory
Basin sagebrush	Sagebrush	Big sagebrush	Not described
Bitterbrush	Bitterbrush	Bitterbrush	Not described
Annual grass & forbs	Wet meadow	N/A**	Vernal pool**
N/A	Riverine	N/A	N/A
N/A	Lacustrine	N/A	N/A
Non-vegetated (exposed rock)	N/A	N/A	Granite outcrop

* This designation is approximate and is probably not consistent with all characteristics of the habitats described in the other classifications.
** Vernal pool descriptions in Sawyer and Keeler-Wolf do not provide suitable series matches based on extant species in Burton Creek State Park. The use of “vernal pool” to describe seasonally wet depressions in the park may be inconsistent with the specific soil conditions that characterize the vernal pool designation in other locations.

Listings of sensitive vegetation types in the CNDDB are constrained by the database’s reliance on reported occurrences. According to Sawyer and Keeler-Wolf (1995), the CNDDB has determined that almost half of the listed vegetation types in California (Holland 1986) are rare enough to merit protection. Many of these types are in clear danger of disappearing or their ecological values irreparably compromised due to development, agriculture, exotic species invasions, or other impacts. While vegetation in California has been mapped or classified at relatively coarse scales over the past 100 years, only recently have ecologists pursued efforts to classify California vegetation at more ecologically and taxonomically relevant scales. These efforts have been supported and implemented by numerous land management agencies, including the U.S. Forest Service, the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the California Department of Fish and Game, the California Native Plant Society, and The Nature Conservancy.

APPENDIX B

Special Status Plants Potentially Occurring at Burton Creek State Park

The following list has been compiled from three sources – the California Natural Diversity Database (Department of Fish and Game 2002), the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment, Appendices (Volume 4 of 6) (United States Forest Service 2001), and the California Native Plant Society Inventory (2001). These lists include special status plants for which suitable habitat may exist in the Burton Creek State Park area.

A. California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB) (Department of Fish and Game 2002), for the Tahoe City and Kings Beach, 7.5 topographic quadrangles:

Latin name	Common Name
Bruchia bolanderi	Moss
Erigeron miser	Starved daisy
Ivesia sericoleuca	Plumas ivesia
Lewisia longipetala	Long-petaled lewisia
*Rorippa subumbellata**	Tahoe yellow cress

* Federally endangered

None of the occurrences reported in the CNDDB are within current park boundaries or those of pending acquisitions.

B. U.S. Forest Service Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment (2001)
The U.S. Forest Service, in its Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment, Appendices (Volume 4 of 6) (2001), published the results of a vulnerability analysis for 135 focal plant species. These species are federally listed as threatened or endangered, or proposed for such listing, or are designated by USFS as sensitive. USFS did not include two taxa, *Draba asterophora* var. *asterophora* and *D. asterophora* var. *macrocarpa*, in its analysis, because the threats to these were not within any of five problem areas (no reference was provided for this designation). None of the species in the analysis has been documented to occur in Donner Memorial State Park; suitable habitat for many of the species is lacking in the park or proposed acquisitions. Further information on threats is available in the Forest Plan Amendment and Appendices.

The complete list for the USFS vulnerability analysis in Tahoe (T) and El Dorado (ED) National Forests is as follows:

Latin name	Common name	National Forest
Arabis rigidissima var. *demota*	Carson Range rock cress	T
Arctostaphylos nissenana	Nissenan manzanita	ED
Astragalus webberi	Webber's milk-vetch	T
Botrychium ascendens	Upswept moonwort	T
Botrychium crenulatum	Scalloped moonwort	T

Botrychium montanum	Western goblin	T
Calochortus clavatus var. *avius*	Pleasant Valley mariposa lily	ED, T
Clarkia biloba ssp. *brandegeae*	Brandegee's fairyfan	T
Clarkia stellata	Lake Almanor fairyfan	T
Cypripedium fasciculatum	Clustered lady's-slipper	T
Cypripedium montanum	Mountain lady's-slipper	T
Epilobium howellii	Subalpine fireweed	ED, T
Erigeron miser	Starved daisy	T
Eriogonum tripodum	Tripod buckwheat	ED
Eriogonum umbellatum var. *torreyanum*	Donner Pass buckwheat	ED, T
Fritillaria eastwoodiae	Butte County fritillary	T
Horkelia parryi	Parry's horkelia	ED
Ivesia aperta var. *aperta*	Sierra Valley ivesia	T
Ivesia aperta var. *canina*	Dog Valley ivesia	T
Ivesia sericoleuca	Plumas ivesia	T
Ivesia webberi	Webber's ivesia	T
Lewisia cantelovii	Cantelow's lewisia	T
Lewisia longipetala	Long-petaled lewisia	ED, T
Lewisia serrata	Saw-toothed lewisia	ED, T
Lomatium stebbinsii	Stebbins's lomatium	ED
Lupinus dalesiae	Quincy lupine	T
Meesia triquetra	Moss	ED, T
Meesia uliginosa	Moss	T
Monardella follettii	Follett's monardella	T
Navarretia prolifera ssp. *lutea*	Yellow bur navarretia	ED
Penstemon personatus	Closed-throated penstemon	T
Phacelia stebbinsii	Stebbins's phacelia	ED, T
Pyrrocoma lucida	Sticky pyrrocoma	T
Rorippa subumbellata	Tahoe yellow cress	ED
Scheuchzeria palustris ssp. *americana*	American scheuchzeria	T
Senecio layneae	Layne's ragwort	ED
Vaccinium coccineum	Siskiyou Mountains huckleberry	T

D. California Native Plant Society Inventory (2001)

The CNPS Inventory lists the following species, documented from the _____ and _____ quads. None of these species has been documented from Burton Creek State Park or from areas anticipated for DPR acquisition in the foreseeable future. No known surveys have been conducted for these species outside the core park area. List 1B species are those that are rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere, while List 2 species are those that are rare, threatened, or endangered in California but more common elsewhere.

Latin name	Common name	List
Erigeron miser	Starved daisy	1B
Ivesia sericoleuca	Plumas ivesia	1B

Lewisia longipetala	Long-petaled lewisia	1B
Rorippa subumbellata	Tahoe yellow cress	1B
Scutellaria galericulata	Marsh skullcap	2

APPENDIX C

Potentially Occurring Non-Native Invasive Plants

Latin Binomial	Common Name	Cal EPPC List	CDFA List	Present at Burton Creek State Park.
Bromus tectorum	**Cheatgrass**	**Red Alert**	**NL**	**yes**
Cardaria chalapensis	**Lens-podded hoary cress**	**A-2**	**B**	**no***
C. draba	**Heart-podded hoary cress**	**A-2**	**B**	**no***
C. pubescens	**Globe-podded hoary cress**	**NL**	**NL**	**no***
Cirsium arvense	**Canada thistle**	**B**	**B**	**no***
C. vulgare	**Bull thistle**	**B**	**NL**	**yes**
Conium maculatum	**Poison-hemlock**	**B**	**NL**	**yes**
Halogeton glomeratus	**Halogeton**	**Red Alert**	**A**	**no***
Hypericum perforatum	**Klamath weed**	**B**	**C**	**yes**
Lepidium latifolium	**Perennial pepperweed**	**A-1**	**B**	**no***
Leucanthemum vulgare	**Ox-eye daisy**	**Red Alert**	**NL**	**no***
Lythrum salicaria	**Purple loosestrife**	**B**	**B**	**no***
Myriophyllum aquaticum	**Brazilian water milfoil**	**B**	**NL**	**no***
Verbascum thapsus	**Woolly mullein**	**B**	**NL**	**yes**

*** not documented from the park**

<u>California Exotic Pest Plant Council's (CalEPPC) Exotic Pest Plants of Greatest Ecological Concern:</u>

A-1 or A-2 – the most invasive species in the state

B – less invasive
Red Alert – potential to spread although currently restricted to small areas

California Department of Food and Agriculture's (CDFA) Noxious Weed Rating system:

A - an organism of known economic importance subject to enforced action
B - an organism of known economic importance, action discretionary
C – an organism subject to no state-enforced action outside of nurseries
NL – not listed

The CalEPPC list provides rankings primarily based on ecological impacts, while the CDFA listed species are ranked based on economic importance. With the exception of *Cardaria chalapensis* and *Conium maculatum*, the U.S. Forest Service Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment has identified all of these species in its ecosystem-wide monitoring strategy for noxious weed management.

APPENDIX D

Wildlife Habitats

Sensitive Species by Habitat Type (both potential and present at Burton Creek State Park)

	Lodgepole Pine - PRESENT: Sierra Nevada snowshoe hare, lodgepole chipmunk, pine marten; POTENTIAL: Cooper's hawk, goshawk, olive-sided flycatcher, yellow warbler, spotted bat
	White Fir – PRESENT: Sierra Nevada snowshoe hare, olive-sided flycatcher; POTENTIAL: Cooper's hawk, goshawk
	Mixed Conifer (fir dominated) - PRESENT: Sierra Nevada snowshoe hare, yellow warbler, POTENTIAL: Cooper's hawk, goshawk, spotted owl, olive-sided flycatcher
	Mixed Conifer (Jeffrey pine dominated) - PRESENT: Osprey; POTENTIAL: Cooper's hawk, goshawk, spotted owl, olive-sided flycatcher, Townsend's big-eared bat, long-legged myotis
	Eastside Pine- PRESENT: Osprey; POTENTIAL: Cooper's hawk, goshawk
	Mature Coniferous Forest (various tree species) POTENTIAL: spotted owl, goshawk, osprey, Townsend's big-eared bat, long-legged myotis, wolverine, pine marten
	Montane Hardwood Conifer - POTENTIAL: Cooper's hawk, Sierra Nevada snowshoe hare, Sierra Nevada mountain beaver
	Aspen/ Mountain Alder - PRESENT: Sierra Nevada mountain beaver; POTENTIAL: Cooper's hawk, Sierra Nevada snowshoe hare, Sierra Nevada mountain beaver
	Montane Riparian - POTENTIAL: cooper's hawk, black swift, olive-sided flycatcher, yellow warbler, pallid bat, Townsend's big-eared bat, spotted bat, long-eared myotis, fringed myotis, western mastiff bat, silver-haired bat, Sierra Nevada mountain beaver, Sierra Nevada snowshoe hare, Sierra Nevada red fox
	Permanent and Intermittent Streams - POTENTIAL: Lahontan cutthroat trout, mountain sucker, mountain yellow-legged frog
	Montane Chaparral - PRESENT: yellow warbler; POTENTIAL: pallid bat, long-eared bat, western mastiff bat, silver-haired bat, Sierra Nevada snowshoe hare, Sierra Nevada red fox
	Wet Meadow - POTENTIAL: willow flycatcher, spotted bat, Sierra Nevada red fox
	Barren – disturbed by human activities such as mining
	Exposed Rock – POTENTIAL: pallid bat, spotted bat, small-footed myotis, fringed myotis, long-legged myotis, western mastiff bat, Sierra Nevada red fox

APPENDIX E

Sensitive Terrestrial and Aquatic Vertebrate Species

Common Name	Species	Status*	Probability at Burton Cr.SP	Habitat Affinity at Burton Cr.MSP
Lahontan Cutthroat Trout [a]	*Oncorhynchus clarki henshawi*	FT	Possible	Burton and Dollar Creeks
Mountain Sucker [e]	*Catostomus platyrhynchus*	CSC	Possible	cool, clear streams
Mountain Yellow-legged Frog [e]	*Rana muscosa*	FPE	Possible	ponds, streams
Cooper's Hawk [a]	*Accipiter cooperii*	CSC (nesting)	Probable	forest near water, riparian
Northern Goshawk [a]	*Accipiter gentilis*	CSC, FSC (nesting)	Present	dense, mature coniferous forest
Osprey [c]	*Pandion haliaetus*	CSC (nesting)	Present	large snag/tree, lake
California Spotted Owl [b]	*Strix occidentalis occidentalis*	CSC, FSC	Present	mature coniferous forest
Black Swift [a]	*Cypseloides niger*	CSC (nesting)	Unlikely	cliffs, waterfalls
Willow Flycatcher [c]	*Empidonax trailii*	CE (nesting)	Possible	meadows with willows
Olive-sided Flycatcher [d]	*Contopus borealis*	G5S4	Present	mixed conifer, red fir, lodgepole pine
Yellow Warbler [d]	*Dendroica petechia brewsteri*	CSC (nesting)	Possible	riparian woodland, montane chaparral
Pallid bat [b]	*Antrozous pallidus*	CSC	Possible	open coniferous forest, exposed rock
Townsend's big-eared bat [b]	*Corynorhinus townsendii*	CSC, FSC	Possible	riparian, mature forest
Spotted bat [b]	*Euderma maculatum*	CSC, FSC	Possible	coniferous forest, wet meadows, cliffs, rocks
Small-footed myotis [b]	*Myotis ciliolabrum*	FSC	Possible	forests near water
Long-eared myotis [b]	*Myotis evotis*	FSC	Possible	snags, riparian, forest, water bodies
Fringed myotis [b]	*Myotis thysanodes*	FSC	Possible	water bodies, coniferous forests
Long-legged myotis [b]	*Myotis volans*	FSC	Possible	coniferous forests, water source
Western mastiff bat [b]	*Eumops perotis*	CSC, FSC	Possible	meadows, chaparral, forests
Silver-haired bat [b]	*Lasionycteris noctivagans*	FSC	Possible	forests, snags, water source
Yuma myotis [c]	*Myotis yumanensis*	CSC, FSC	Probable	forests, water bodies
Sierra Nevada Snowshoe Hare [d]	*Lepus americanus tahoensis*	CSC, FSC	Present	riparian thickets, young conifers
Sierra Nevada Mountain Beaver [a]	*Aplodontia rufa californica*	CSC, FSC	Possible	dense riparian, deep soil, near water
Lodgepole Chipmunk [d]	*Tamias speciosus speciosus*	FSC	Present	open canopy lodgepole pine forest

Sierra Nevada Red Fox [a]	*Vulpes vulpes necator*	CT, FSC	Possible	lodgepole pine, red fir, chaparral, riparian
California Wolverine [a]	*Gulo gulo luteus*	CT, FSC	Possible	coniferous forest, exposed rock, wet mdws.
Pine marten [c]	*Martes americana*	G5S3S4	Present	coniferous forest, snags, downed logs

Source of species records: [a]CNDDB; [b]USFS 2001; [c]DPR; [d]Morrison 1993, USFWS[e].

*Status Codes: FE = Federal Endangered; FPE = Federal Proposed Endangered; FT = Federal Threatened; FC = Federal Candidate; CE = California Endangered; CT = California Threatened; CSC = California Species of Concern; G5S4 = found throughout its historic range, but factors exist to cause some concern in California such as narrow habitat or continuing threats; (nesting) status applies only to nesting birds.

Present: known to live in Burton Creek SP from recent records (1980-2002), and suitable habitat exists. Probable: suitable habitat exists, but no surveys have been conducted to confirm presence. Possible: suitable habitat may exist in the park, no surveys have been conducted to determine presence. Unlikely: although suitable habitat may exist in the park, the species occurs in such low density, or requires such large areas of habitat, that it is unlikely that breeding individuals would be found in the park.

APPENDIX F

Planning Influences

System-Wide Planning Influences

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Title II and III
Clean Water Act, Section 404
Federal Endangered Species Act
Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act
National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, revised in 1992
California Code of Regulations
California Department of General Services, Division of the State Architect, Access Compliance
California Endangered Species Act
California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
California Fish and Game Code
California Native Plant Protection Act
California Public Resources Code:

Section 5019.50	State Park Classification
Section 5024	Preserving and Maintaining all State-owned Historical Resources
Section 5024.1	California Register of Historic Resources
Section 5024.5	Historic resource reviews
Section 5097.9	Native American Heritage: Cultural and Sacred Sties Free Exercise of Religion; Cemeteries, Place of Worship on Ceremonial Sites
Section 5097.99	Felony Possession of Native American Human Remains and Artifacts
Section 5097.991	Repatriation
Section 5020.1(g)	Native American Heritage and Department of Parks and Recreation Gathering Policy
Section 21083.2	Unmitigated Significant Effects on Archaeological Sites

Governor's Executive Order W-26-92 (Maintain, protect and manage cultural and heritage resources)
Natural Communities Conservation Planning Act
California Department of Parks and Recreation Operations Manual
California Department of Parks and Recreation Administrative Manual
California Recreational Trails Plan
California State Park and Recreation Commission Statements of Policy
California State Parks System Plan
California State Parks Access to Parks Guidelines
California State Parks Mission Statement
Park Concessions Policies

Policies, Rules, Regulations, and Orders of the California State Park and Recreation Commission and the California Department of Parks and Recreation

Resource Management direction provided in the Department Operations Manual - Natural Resources - Section 0300 et al. Sections pertinent to general planning at Burton Creek State Park include:

0301	Authority and Jurisdiction
0303	Department Natural Resource Responsibility
0304	General Management Direction
0304.1	Management Concepts and Principles
0304.2	Unit Classification
0304.3	Knowledge-Based Management Approach
0304.4	Active Management
0305	Air Resources
0306	Water Resources
0307	Geologic Resources
0308	Soil Resource Management
0310	Plant Resources
0310.7	Exotic Plant Control
0311	Animal Resources
0311.4.3	Habitat Restoration
0313.2.1.2	Vegetation Management and Fuel Modification
0313.2.2.1	Prescribed Fire Management Policy
0314.2.1	Timber Trespass
0315	Planning
0317	Uses and Natural Resources Management
0319	Natural Resources Interpretation and Education
0320	Cooperation and Management with Others

Regional Planning Influences

The policies, plans and programs of agencies and organizations in the region affect the park in various ways. These influences represent government on many levels and address regional issues that may affect planning decisions at Donner Memorial State Park.

Federal:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Forest Service, Tahoe National Forest
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

State:

California Department of Fish and Game
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

California Department of Transportation
California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region
California State Board of Forestry

County and Local:

Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
The Town of Tahoe City
Placer County
Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District
Placer County Air Pollution Control District