

## Chapter 14 - GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS AND TERMS

### Acronyms

<b>BMP</b>	–	Best Management Practices
<b>CNEL</b>	–	Cumulative Noise Equivalent Level
<b>CO</b>	–	Carbon Monoxide
<b>CSLT</b>	–	City of South Lake Tahoe
<b>DNL</b>	–	Day-Night Level
<b>EIP</b>	–	Environmental Improvement Program
<b>EMS</b>	–	Environmental Management System
<b>ETCC</b>	–	Environmental Threshold Carrying Capacity (TRPA)
<b>FRCC</b>	–	Fire Regime Condition Colass
<b>LRMP</b>	–	Land and Resource Management Plan (USFS Forest Plan)
<b>LSOG</b>	–	Late Seral/ Old Growth
<b>LTBMU</b>	–	Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (USFS)
<b>MS</b>	–	Management System
<b>NDEP</b>	–	Nevada Division of Environmental Protection
<b>NO<sub>x</sub></b>	–	Oxides of nitrogen
<b>NTU</b>	–	Nephelometric Turbidity Units
<b>OHV</b>	–	Off-highway vehicles
<b>PAOT</b>	–	People At One Time (TRPA)
<b>SE</b>	–	Socio-Economic
<b>SEZ</b>	–	Stream Environment Zone
<b>SMS</b>	–	Scenery Management System (USFS)
<b>SSS</b>	–	Special Status Species
<b>TDSS</b>	–	Tahoe Decision Support System
<b>TMDL</b>	–	Total Maximum Daily Load
<b>TMPO</b>	–	Tahoe Metropolitan Planning Organization
<b>TRPA</b>	–	Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
<b>TWG</b>	–	Technical Working Group
<b>USFS</b>	–	USDA Forest Service
<b>VHD</b>	–	Vehicle-Hours of Delay
<b>VMS</b>	–	Visual Management System (USFS)
<b>VMT</b>	–	Vehicle-Miles Traveled
<b>VOC</b>	–	Volatile Organic Compounds
<b>WUI</b>	–	Wildland Urban Interface

## Terms Defined

**Assessment Indicators** – Measurable parameters or metrics that assess environmental, social or economic condition. Assessment indicators are used to determine current status of a condition and show changes and trends in condition over time.

**Attribute** – A specific characteristic or element of a system or desired condition. Attributes are used to describe element of desired conditions. Like desired conditions they are phrased as outcome statements. An attribute of a functioning stream system is appropriate riparian vegetation. *See also: Desired Condition*

**Attribute Indicator** - A measurable parameter that measures the condition of a desired condition attribute. For example, stream flow is an attribute of the stream component of the Aquatic Ecosystem desired condition statement. The attribute indicator for stream flow is volume of water measured in cubic feet per second (CFS).

**Benchmark** – A determined point on a scale of measurement by which attainment of a desired situation can be judged.

**Community Defensible Space** – A multi-tiered system to provide protection from wildland fires within communities, consisting of:

- **Structure defensible space** – including the structure and directly adjacent area to structure and residences;
- **Defense zones (aka direct protection buffers)** –providing vegetation treatments within direct protection buffers so that wildland fire spread and intensity are reduced; and
- **Threat zones (aka indirect protection buffers)** – designed to reduce active and passive crow to surface fire by providing a landscape approach based on local and historical fire behavior characteristics and vegetation type.

**Desired Condition** – Desired Conditions describe the ecological, economic, physical, and social attributes that characterize or exemplify the outcomes of land management and, or land use regulations.

**Diagnostic Indicator** – A measurable parameter (or index) that measures the condition of a desired condition component. For example, streams are one of four components that are key to understanding if desired conditions for the Aquatic Ecosystem are being met. The diagnostic indicator for stream condition is the Benthic Macroinvertebrate - Index of Biological Integrity.

**Exceedance** – An event, characterized by duration and degree of exceedance, where the concentration of a pollutant is greater than (or equal to) the appropriate quality standard.

**Goals** – General statements of desired ends, or values, to be achieved in the long-term through the implementation of policies and management strategies.

**Index** – Type of indicator derived from a set of aggregated or weighted measures. *See also: Indicator, Indicator Suite.*

**Index of Biological Integrity (IBI)** – The Index of Biological Integrity is derived from the work of Karr 1981, Karr and Chu 1999. It is a multi-metric (multiple parameter) index that measures divergence from biological integrity (or reference conditions). The IBI incorporates many attributes of the biological community of interest to evaluate human effects on watershed

## Pathway 2007 Evaluation Report

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condition. In general, the IBI uses three groups of metrics: species richness and composition, trophic composition, and abundance and condition.

**Indicator** – A measurable parameter (metric) or an index of multiple measurable parameters (metrics) used to track progress toward achieving a desired condition and/or standard. Indicators are measures that change in response to human activity and can be used to assess the quality of resource or experience conditions.

**Indicator Suite** – A group of indicators that collectively present information on a major environmental issue, such as human health. *See also: Indicator, Index*

**Land Capability** – Defined as the ability of the land to tolerate disturbance without being severely compromised; within the Lake Tahoe basin, land capability focus is on maintaining a healthy landscape by concentrating development on the lands that are least sensitive to disturbance.

**Management Indicators** – Measurable parameters or metrics that track activity or measure the effects of specific project or management actions. Management indicators are used to show progress in implementing programs and evaluating effectiveness of management activities, such as environmental improvement projects.

**Management Strategies** – Policy, regulatory and programmatic strategies implemented in order to reach desired conditions. Examples of management strategies may include education programs, environmental improvement projects and land use policies.

**Management System** – A set of processes and practices that direct and coordinate the collection and use of information for adaptive management.

**Objectives** – Specific measurable results that one seeks to attain by a certain point in time.

**Oligotrophic** – Applies to aquatic environments lacking in plant nutrients and having a large amount of dissolved oxygen throughout.

**Pathway 2007** – Resource management project for the Lake Tahoe Basin among the U.S. Forest Service, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board, and the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection; the common vision and strategy of environmental and community goals involves multiple steps to build upon current regulatory framework in order to define and achieve desired management goals.

**People At One Time (PAOT)** – Recreation development design capacity system which attempts to promote and control recreation facility development through the consideration of the expected number of persons at that site at one point in time.

**Periphyton Biomass** - Algae attached to plants and other surfaces such as the lake bottom, and an important food resource for invertebrates and fish; Under highly enriched conditions, periphyton may reach very high densities, potentially reducing the amount of light available for the plants upon which they are growing.

**Relevé** – A European method of vegetation sampling that was developed as a quick means to classify the range of diversity of plant cover over large tracts of land. It relies on ocular estimates of plant cover for classification and description.

**Scenery Management System (SMS)** – USFS visual quality management system of 1997; revises the previous VMS system (see Visual Management System), and is implemented during a Forest Plan revision, to incorporate human values into ecosystem management.

**Scenic Character Themes** – Visually distinctive types of land use and development proposed as a means to inventory a given area in order to produce the desired condition for scenic resources; Themes are classified as:

- **Natural-appearing theme** – visual influences from urban/community land uses are minute or nonexistent,
- **Transition theme** – visual influences from urban/community land uses exist yet are typically minor to moderate, and
- **Urban/Community theme** – human urban/community development is the dominant scenic identity.

**Scenic Integrity Level** – Indication of the visual evidence of development that is acceptable in a given area in order to produce the desired condition for scenic resources. The proposed standards for Scenic Integrity would be applied to each Theme and Place unit throughout the Basin, and articulated verbally, pictorially, and numerically. *See: Scenic Character Themes.*

**Secchi disk depth** – The measurement of Lake Tahoe open water clarity (algal abundance and general lake productivity) by means of a circular plate divided into quarters painted alternately black and white. The disk is attached to a rope and lowered into the water until it is no longer visible. Secchi disk depth, then, is a measure of water clarity. Clear water lets light penetrate more deeply into the lake than does murky water. This light allows photosynthesis to occur and oxygen to be produced. The rule of thumb is that light can penetrate to a depth of 1.7 times the Secchi disk depth.

**Seral stage** – A temporal and intermediate stage in the process of succession (i.e. gradual supplanting of one community of plants by another).

**Skylines** – Scenic resource term for horizontal divide (often ridgelines) that define the earth-sky silhouette.

**Soil Conservation** – The use of land management procedures and land use methods to protect the soil against natural or human-induced depletion or deterioration.

**Special Status Species (SSS)** – Individual species that are in need of focused study and management attention because of low population size and/or distribution (i.e., isolated population), changing trends in abundance, and other factors. Such species usually require specific management actions that are tailored on a species-specific or site specific basis.

**Standard** – A numerical target related to an indicator that defines successful achievement of a desired condition. For purposes of this document the term standard does not imply that the numeric target is legally binding or enforceable. *See also: Desired Condition*

**Stream Environment Zone (SEZ)** – Perennial, intermittent, and ephemeral streams, meadows and marshes, and other areas of near-surface water influence within the Lake Tahoe Basin.

**Trophic** – Of, or relating to, nutrition; Lentic (lake) term to describe biological productivity: Lakes with low productivity are called oligotrophic (nutrient poor) and very productive lakes are termed eutrophic (nutrient rich).

**Type** – Refers to level of development of each indicator and standard combination according to the following descriptions:

**Type I** - The indicator directly represents the condition with respect to the desired condition, has well established monitoring and analysis protocols and a historic dataset to show current condition. A measurable standard can be directly linked to the desired condition without further investigation.

**Type II** - The indicator directly represents the condition with respect to the desired condition; monitoring and analysis protocols are established with minor adjustments potentially necessary; baseline or background information may be needed to establish a numeric level for current conditions. A measurable standard will directly link to the desired condition; however some additional investigation may be required to determine the appropriate measurable standard.

**Type III** - The indicator is expected to represent the condition with respect to the desired condition; monitoring and analysis protocols and specific parameters may still require further investigation to develop the indicator; baseline data may need to be collected to establish a numeric level for current conditions. Further analysis is required to develop a measurable standard that will directly link to the desired condition.

**Ultraoligotrophic** – The lentic (lake) low biological productivity character of Lake Tahoe: High water transparency due to a low amount of suspended particles and free floating microscopic plants (phytoplankton) and animals (zooplankton).

**Visual Management System (VMS)** – USFS visual quality system, established in 1973, to consider public validation of the scenery values to be protected, and the longevity of scenery values with the context of ecology on national forest lands.

**Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)** – The area where various structures (most notably private homes) and other human developments meet or are intermingled with forest and other vegetative fuel types.