



Lake Tahoe Watershed Assessment

Volume I

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Abstract:

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This watershed assessment of the Lake Tahoe basin in northern California and Nevada is the first attempt to collate, synthesize, and interpret available scientific information with a comprehensive view toward management and policy outcomes. The seven-chapter report presents new and existing information in subject areas pertinent to policy development and land and resource management in the basin, including environmental history, air quality, watershed dynamics and water quality, biological integrity, and socioeconomic conditions. Key findings report the extent of recent climatic changes, historic accounts of past environmental disturbances, state of our understanding of why the Lake's clarity is declining, significant role that air quality plays in the decline, and an initial nutrient budget for nitrogen and phosphorous that are believed to fuel algae growth. In addition, important new work related to old-growth forests, the risk of wildfire and the conservation of biological diversity in the basin have helped to broaden our perspective of the interrelated nature of the environmental challenge facing the basin. A detailed analysis of institutional arrangements and capacities in the Lake Tahoe basin is presented in the context of environmental decision-making.

Retrieval Terms: environmental history, air quality, water quality, biotic integrity, socioeconomics, adaptive management, California, Nevada

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The Lake Tahoe Watershed Assessment Volume I

Edited by

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and
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In collaboration with USDA-Pacific Southwest Region and Research Station, the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, the University of California at Davis, the University of Nevada at Reno, and the Desert Research Institute, Reno, Nevada.

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The contents of this publication are in the public domain, except for the photographs on the cover and chapter divisions, which were provided by John T. Ravizé and Linda Ravizé, Institute of Mountain Photography, P. O. Box 444, Zephyr Cove, NV 89448.

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