

# West Fork Carson River Vision Plan

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Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board



Carson River Forum, April 2023

# West Fork Carson River (WFCR) Vision Plan

- Being developed by Lahontan Water Board (CA)
- Advance restoration plan for meeting water quality standards
- Consistent with USEPA 2022 Vision for the Clean Water Act section 303(d) program



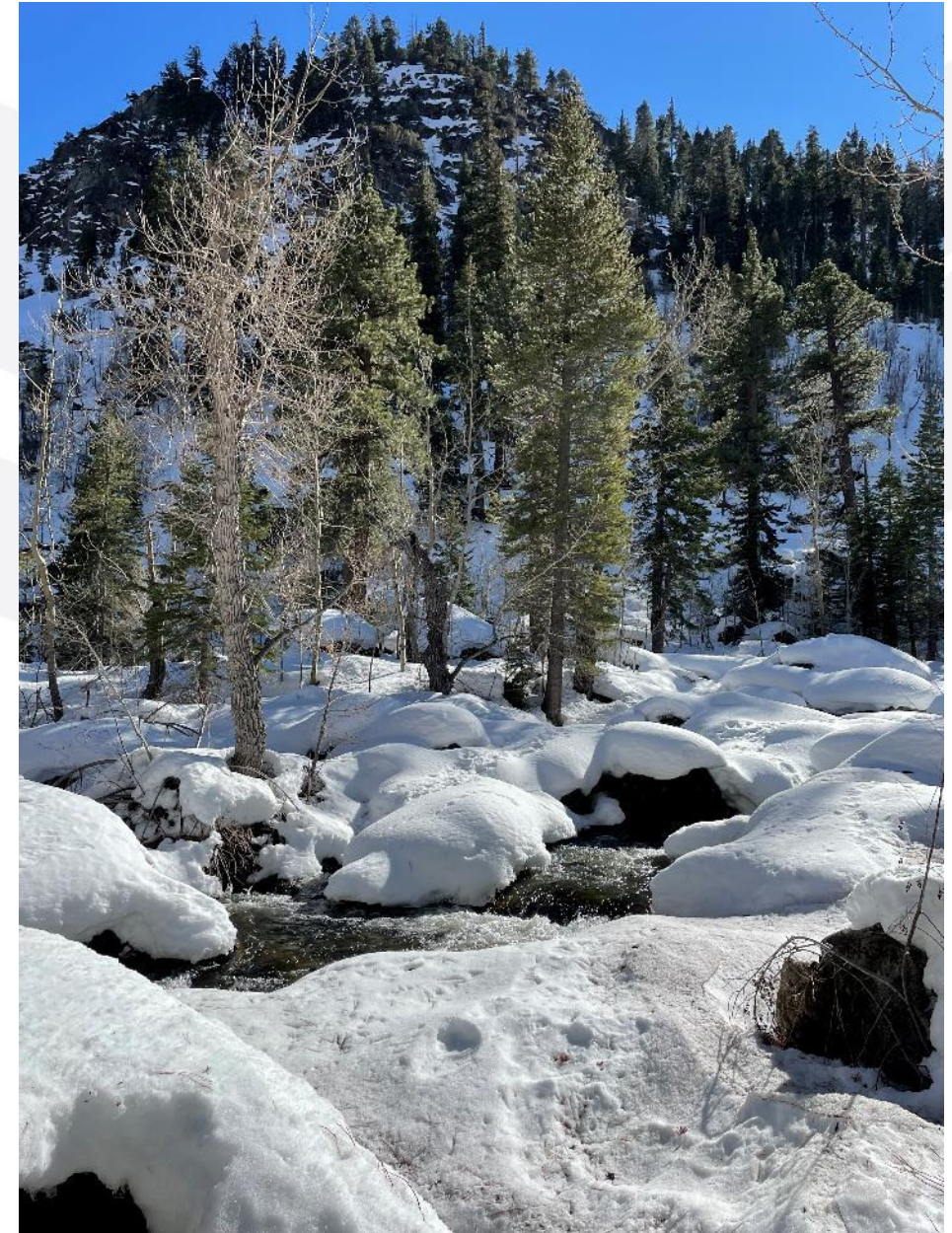


# West Fork Carson River (WFCR) Vision Plan

- Not a formal regulatory action
  - Refers to existing and expected actions
  - Relies on collaboration with watershed groups (AWG, CWSD), agencies (USFS-HTNF, NRCS) and stakeholders
  - Monitoring and adaptive management
- Addresses 9 elements needed for Clean Water Act 319 funding

# Carson River Adaptive Stewardship Plan (CRASP) & WFCR Vision Plan

- CRASP
  - EPA-approved watershed plan for Nevada, not California
  - Needed specifics for CA to be eligible for Clean Water Act section 319 funding
- WFCR Vision Plan
  - Companion to the CRASP
  - Addresses needed specifics for CA



# WFCR Water Quality

- Significant monitoring
  - Lahontan Water Board, NDEP, STPUD, AWG
- Generally, good quality
- Protective standards
- Standards exceedances: phosphorus, nitrogen, turbidity, total dissolved solids, iron, sulfates, indicator bacteria
- Relatively low frequency, magnitude of exceedances
- Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) or other action required under the Clean Water Act
  - WFCR Vision Plan being developed and implemented in advance of TMDLs



# Sources

- Historical activities
  - logging
  - grazing
- Roads
- Recreational activities
- Septic tanks
- Grazing
- Hydrologic modification
- Climate change, fire





# Actions to Improve WFCR Water Quality

- River/watershed restoration
- Erosion control
- Road/culvert improvements
- Recreation management/facilities improvements
- Grazing best management practices
- Septic tank systems improvements
- Fuels reduction
- Education and outreach
- Monitoring and information collection
- Adaptive management





# Next Steps

- Public review of draft—  
June – July 2023
- Lahontan Water Board –  
October 2023
- Submittal to USEPA
- Implementation
- Adaptive management
  - ~ 5 and 10-year reviews









# If needed Slides





# Contacts and Information

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Lahontan Water Board Website and ListServ

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/water\\_issues/programs/tmdl/west\\_fork\\_carson\\_river.html](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/water_issues/programs/tmdl/west_fork_carson_river.html)

Story Map

<https://gispublic.waterboards.ca.gov/portal/apps/storymaps/stories/7a2c57e43a0241a88051b87f99384856>

AWG Website

<https://www.alpinewatershedgroup.org/west-fork-carson-river-vision-proje>

# USEPA 9 Element Watershed Plan

- a. • Identify causes and sources of pollution
- b. • Estimate load reductions expected
- c. • Describe management measures and targeted critical areas
- d. • Estimate technical and financial assistance needed
- e. • Develop an information and education component
- f. • Develop a project schedule
- g. • Describe interim, measurable milestones
- h. • Identify indicators to measure progress
- i. • Develop a monitoring component



# Clean Water Act Section 303(d)

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## 303(d) List

- “Impaired” waterbodies or reaches
- Updated every six years
- TMDL required

## Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)

- Allocate allowable pollutant loads to attain standards
- Established in the Basin Plan
- Implementation requirements for all sources
- Extensive public process



# Why was the West Fork Carson River chosen as a Vision Project?

- Robust data set
- Public and stakeholder involvement (AWG, CWSD, etc.)
- Dynamic restoration projects
- Substantial assessment and planning documents (CWSD Carson River Adaptive Stewardship Plan)
- Appropriate for TMDL alternative
  - Likely to attain standards without TMDL
- USEPA 9-Element Watershed Plan - Clean Water Act 319 funds



# WFCR Vision Plan Development

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- Identified as a Priority in 2015
- Groundwork & Outreach 2017-2020
- 4 AWG Stakeholder Forums
  - Sept 2020 – Roads and Water Quality
  - Nov 2020 – Restoration Projects
  - March 2021 – Recreation
  - March 2022 – Grazing
  - Recordings available online ([alpinewatershedgroup.org](https://alpinewatershedgroup.org))

