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NEWS RELEASE

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RECREATION IMPROVEMENTS ON TAP AT LAKE TAHOE

Lake Tahoe, CA/NV – Creation of a new bi-state park, groundbreaking for a new 13-mile Tahoe Rim Trail segment, rehabilitation of a 56-acre lake shore recreation area and planning initiatives directing more than \$28 million over the next decade for a comprehensive trail system have the future looking up for public recreation at Lake Tahoe.

Ground will break today on the Daggett Summit Trail system project in Douglas County, Nevada. The project, which was approved May 27 by the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) Governing Board, will add a 13-mile segment to the 165-mile Tahoe Rim Trail. The new trail segment will ultimately join with the planned Van Sickle State Park, the first phase of which was approved by the TRPA board in April and the California Tahoe Conservancy on May 29.

Today's groundbreaking coincides with the 17th annual National Trails Day. The trail segment and new park are one piece of a broader, long-term planning effort that over the next decade will dramatically improve outdoor recreation in the Lake Tahoe Basin.

"This is an exciting time for recreation in Lake Tahoe. New and improved trail systems, opportunities for expanded shoreline access, and better recreation facilities and interpretive programs all are in the pipeline," said Melissa Shaw, TRPA's recreation program manager. "Whether hiking, bicycling, camping, boating, kayaking or skiing,

imagine. plan. achieve.

visitors and locals alike have a significantly upgraded Tahoe experience to look forward to in coming years.”

The planning effort driving many of the anticipated recreation projects is the Lake Tahoe Environmental Improvement Program, which since 1997 has steered more than \$1 billion in public and private investment toward restoration projects that include recreation improvements. In that time, 82 public recreation facilities have been constructed or rehabilitated and 2,388 linear feet of shoreline have been acquired for public use. Additionally, numerous trail projects were completed and the Commons Beach area at Tahoe City was transformed into a recreational hub for the community. An updated EIP to be considered by the TRPA Governing Board in July will build on this progress. The update proposes more than \$28 million in multi-use trail improvements, \$54 million for better lake access, and \$107 million for recreation facilities such as campgrounds and ski facilities.

Also imbedded in the program are 43 miles of new bicycle and walking trails integrated with Tahoe’s transportation grid and \$13 million for educational and interpretive programs.

“By working collaboratively with our agency partners and the private sector, we will assist their efforts to deliver high-quality, environmentally sustainable recreation choices,” Shaw said. “With the outdoors more accessible and user friendly, the public will value Tahoe as a national treasure worthy of protection, restoration and continued investment.”

Recreation is one of nine threshold areas used to measure the overall environmental health of the Lake Tahoe Basin under the Tahoe Regional Planning Compact. The U.S. Forest Service, California and Nevada State Parks, California Tahoe Conservancy, local counties, City of South Lake Tahoe and private businesses work cooperatively with TRPA to plan, fund and deliver projects. Other individual recreation projects currently in the planning stages around Tahoe include:

- Lakeview Commons: A 56-acre multi-use recreation site including a campground and beach area in the City of South Lake Tahoe scheduled to be considered by the TRPA Governing Board this summer.
- Camp Richardson erosion control project and campground rehabilitation. This project is being designed and planned under a memorandum of understanding between TRPA and the Forest Service. It includes a major reconstruction of the campground to improve erosion control and upgrade facilities.
- Greenway Bikeway: Multi-use trail link connecting Meyers, CA, and Stateline, NV. The approximately 9-mile trail will be an extremely scenic and enjoyable

ride, providing an alternative for bicyclists who currently must share the road with highway traffic in the corridor. This project is currently under review.

- North Tahoe Bike Trail: This approximately 9-mile trail will connect Dollar Hill to existing bike trails in the North Tahoe Regional Park, providing the missing link between Tahoe City and Tahoe Vista. The lead agency is the North Tahoe Public Utility District.
- Stateline to Stateline Bikeway: Some 30 miles of bikeway along the east shore of Lake Tahoe, connecting Sand Harbor to the South Shore casino corridor in Nevada. One demonstration project, a separated bike trail between Stateline, NV, and Round Hill Pines Beach, is scheduled to enter environmental review process this summer. A feasibility study is under way for the entire project, which is overseen by the 10-member Nevada Stateline-to-Stateline Working Group.
- Sawmill Bikeway: This two-mile project will connect the bike trail and bike bridge along Highway 50 in Meyers to Lake Tahoe Blvd. along Sawmill Road and is scheduled for construction in 2010. The lead agency is El Dorado County.

In addition to these projects and others, numerous environmental restoration and redevelopment initiatives are in the planning stages that have scenic and recreation benefits.

The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency cooperatively leads the effort to preserve, restore, and enhance the unique natural and human environment of the Lake Tahoe Region now and in the future. For additional information, call Dennis Oliver at (775) 589-5235 or email to doliver@trpa.org.

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