



Tahoe: From Timber Barons to Ecologists

Douglas H. Strong

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We have come to love the West too much, and Lake Tahoe is a preeminent example of the cost of our endearment. The region annually attracts millions of visitors, more than any other scenic area of similar size in the United States. Runaway development to accommodate crowds has resulted in an alarming rate of environmental deterioration. Yet unprecedented recent efforts to protect the long-term ecological health of Tahoe provide hope for the future.

Douglas H. Strong tells the environmental story of the Tahoe Basin from its use by the indigenous Washoe to the present. To whom does Tahoe belong and how should the area be used? These fundamental questions receive widely differing answers: some favor private ownership and free enterprise, others insist that major portions of the basin should be set aside in parks and reserves, and still others advocate controlled economic growth with an emphasis on protecting the environment. Strong's extensively researched environmental history examines the struggle among these contending forces. Their efforts, failures, and accomplishments provide valuable lessons for those who care about the use of America's natural wonders.

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