

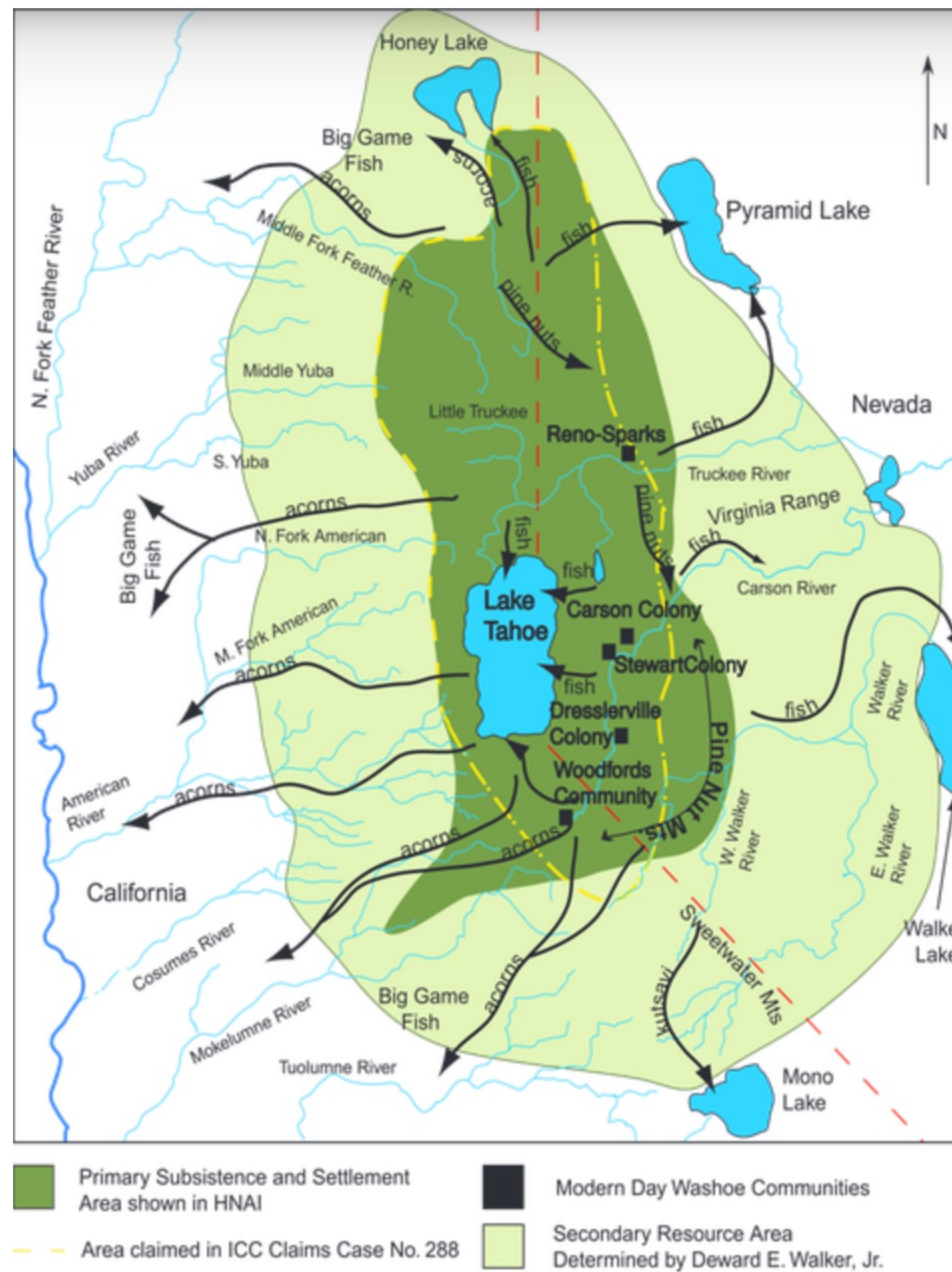
# The History and Development of the Washoe People

Caroline Blair

**Abstract:** This project is an exploration in the history, development, and reclamation efforts of the Washoe Tribe. This native tribe's ancestral land centers around Lake Tahoe and therefore spans the border of Nevada and California. The Washoe people have been adversely impacted by colonial and westward expansion, particularly due to the introduction of disease, decimation of resources, and the emergence of the mining industry. The developing relationship between the Washoe people and both state and federal governments could set a precedent for tribes whose ancestral lands cross state borders. In addition, the efforts of the Washoe to reclaim sacred sites that are popular tourist locations could also set a precedent for the Land back movement, a movement which seeks to return indigenous lands to indigenous control. I believe this research will contribute to the discussion of indigenous development projects and sustainable development, which are important topics for American anthropology currently. Through my research, I have learned that the Washoe Tribe currently has a development project intended to create revenue which is centered around the construction of a sawmill in the Tahoe Forest. The Washoe also have additional proposals for land use within each of their established settlements that will incorporate more agricultural practices and conservation efforts. The sawmill project and land use proposals represent efforts by the Washoe people to reestablish their relationship with their ancestral lands and promote their own development.

## Tahoe Sawmill Project

•The Washoe Development corporation has leased 37.2 acres of land in lower clear creek to Tahoe Forest Products to install a sawmill. There are three main objectives of this project: to protect and maintain a healthy forest, the creation of jobs, and generation of sustainable income. The project is being developed with environmental effects in mind and have stated the need for “solutions to improve run-off and protect the creek and natural habitats.” The mill will help maintain forest health and reduce wildfires through thinning and removal of dead and fallen trees. The tribe has also established protocol should cultural items be found during construction.



For references, please use the QR code:



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## Community Proposed Land Use

- Washoe Tribal Planning/Project Management
- Vision Statement of the Washoe Nation:
  - Preserving, reviving and living the Washoe culture and traditions.
  - Where:
    - Respect for one another and tribal values promote our spiritual, physical and environmental wellness.
    - Educational opportunities are available for all tribal members and descendants.
    - A solid economic foundation ensures self-sufficiency for tribal success.
    - Responsive government promotes teamwork, professionalism, and accountability.

Carson Community: Proposed Land Use

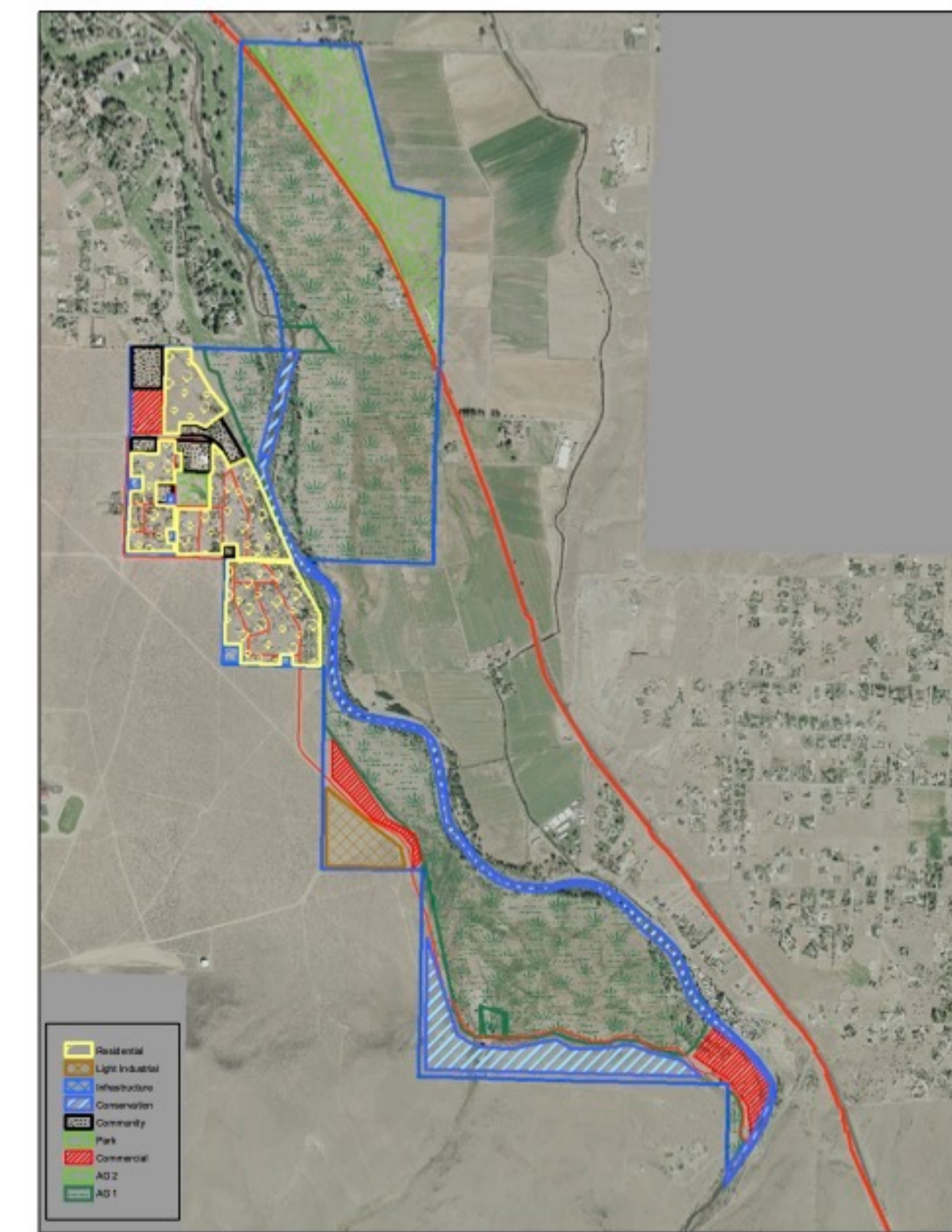
Washoe Tribe of NV and CA  
Environmental Protection Department  
GIS: J. Johnson  
June 2008



This data has been compiled on a geographic information system for the use of Washoe Tribe Environmental. The data does not represent survey delineation and should not be construed as a replacement for the authoritative source. The Washoe Tribe assumes no liability as to the sufficiency or accuracy of this data.

Dresslerville Community: Proposed Land Use

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Environmental Protection Department  
GIS: J. Johnson  
June 2008



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Woodfords Community: Proposed Land Use

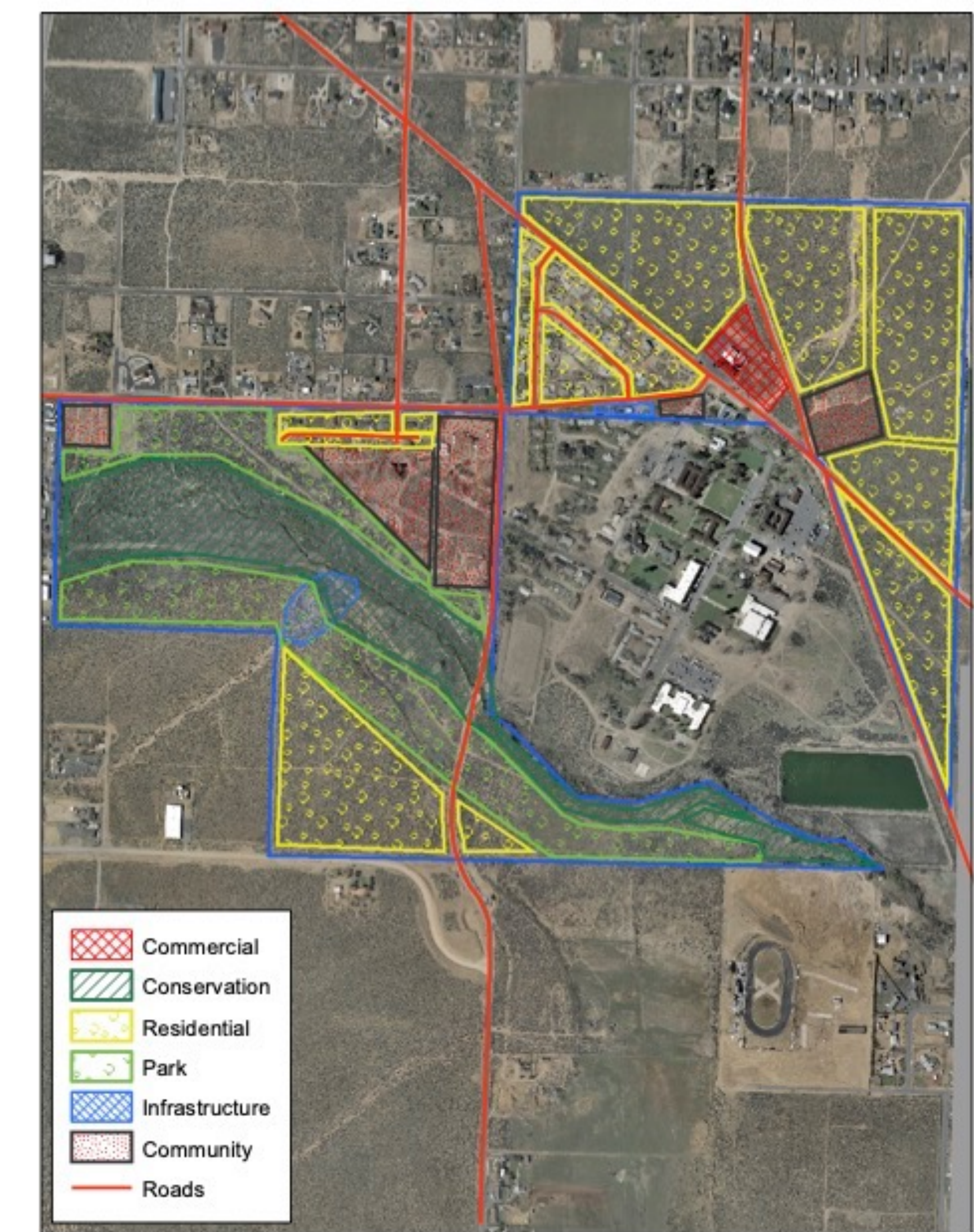
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Stewart Community: Proposed Land Use

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Environmental Protection Department  
GIS: J. Johnson  
June 2008



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