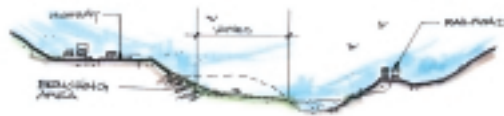
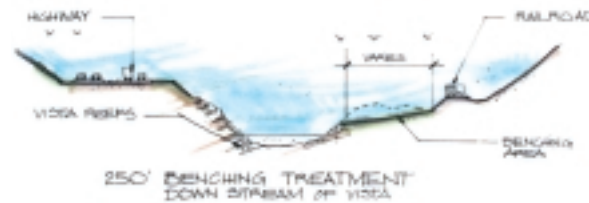


5 TERRACED RIVERBANKS

Rivers tend to meander over time. When levees are put up to protect buildings or farms, rivers tend to straighten out, allowing the water to pick up speed. Eventually, the river will cut a very deep channel with very eroded steep banks.

The Coalition Plan calls for terracing back the riverbanks, cutting the steep banks back into a series of steps or terraces. This allows the Truckee to flood more easily and to move more water downstream in a flood. Terraces can vary from 250 to 450 feet out from the riverbank, depending on the terrain. These terraces will be planted with native vegetation to help prevent erosion and to restore habitat for wildlife and water quality. Trails and access points can be incorporated to improve recreation on the river as well.



6 DOWNSTREAM MITIGATION

Several of the flood alternatives will increase the amount of water going downstream during the peak of a flood. Any changes to the flood peaks must be mitigated. The Plan calls for flood management based on the natural processes and characteristics of the river. Some options for downstream mitigation include recreating meanders and reconnecting the river to its floodplain. This allows for attenuation of flood peaks by storing more water in the floodplain. Recreating riparian vegetation zones (the soil, plants and animals that naturally exist within a floodplain) will stabilize the banks and reduce erosion, restore channel capacity, improve water quality, and nurture native wildlife along the river.



With a great deal of additional study, downstream restoration will be designed to support the region's water quality, fish recovery, and flood protection goals.

Environmental Impact Study

The Army Corps of Engineers planning process involves looking at a reasonable range of alternatives for providing a flood solution in the Truckee Meadows. The public is involved throughout the planning process. Because a project concept was developed for the Truckee Meadows in 1986, two alternatives based upon past studies are being re-evaluated in the General Re-evaluation Report/ Environmental Impact Statement (GRR/EIS). These two alternatives, as well as "no action" and the Community Coalition's plan, will be evaluated over the next year (see timeline page 12) in order to better understand the benefits and impacts and their ability to achieve the project objectives. Alternatives evaluated will include non-structural measures and mitigation measures. The evaluation of the alternatives will be based on the following studies and analyses, including but not limited to:

- Air and water quality
- Historic and cultural resources
- Recreation opportunities
- Economic analysis
- Ecosystem restoration opportunities
- Threatened and endangered species recovery requirements

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) evaluates the alternatives to determine the effect each of the alternatives will have on the environment. The public will be invited to comment on the findings presented in the EIS as part of the process mandated by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The plan formulation process and EIS provide the information needed to evaluate and compare the alternative plans and to select the alternative plan that best contributes to national economic development (NED) while protecting the nation's environment. With input from the community, the Corps will recommend a selected plan to Congress for authorization and appropriation of project funding.

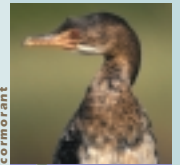
The four alternatives being considered are:

- "No Action"
- Setback Levees and Floodwalls
- Setback Floodwalls and Levees with Detention Basin
- Community Coalition Plan

Flood Protection Alternatives

All of the flood protection alternatives include several common elements:

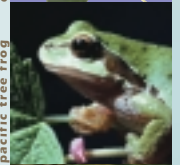
- Protection levels that ensure there is a 1 in 100 chance of floods on the River in any given year.
- Identification of long-term solutions that will provide flood protection but may take too long to put in place. One example would be flood storage upstream and at Lake Tahoe. If additional storage were successfully added after the flood protection plan is completed, it would provide additional protection to those downstream.
- Repair of existing floodwalls where needed, moving walls and levees away from the river where possible.
- Environmental restoration/recreation plans and studies.
- The concept of replacing or modifying the bridges that create bottlenecks and cause the water to leave the channel:
 - Sierra Street Bridge
 - Virginia Street Bridge
 - Lake Street Bridge
 - Rock Street Bridge
 - McCarran Boulevard Bridge



cormorant



cottonwood



pacific tree frog



blue heron