

**Community Focus Statement D:** Become a destination renowned for culture, environment, health, and well-being for people of all ages and abilities.

D2

**Action Statement D.2:** Establish a resource conservation program to designate open space resources, establish a dedicated funding source, and actively promote open space protection through land acquisition, conservation easements, mitigation monitoring, volunteer support, and other similar tools.

**Benchmark:** Active and effective resource conservation program established in the Bear Valley area.

**Champion:** Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community

**Estimated Cost:** \$10,000–\$50,000, plus land acquisition and annual maintenance costs



Resource conservation programs will help to protect the surrounding natural environment. Photo source: Michael Baker International

Bear Valley is known for its scenic beauty and open space resources. These characteristics are a large part of why people choose to live in the area, as well as why an estimated 6 million people visit each year. Preserving the open space resources in Bear Valley is not only environmentally responsible and helps protect the local quality of life, but it is necessary to continue to maintain the local economy. One of the best ways to preserve the natural beauty of the Bear Valley area is to establish organizational support for a conservation program.

A local resource conservation program can create a comprehensive solution to open space protection that meets the needs and desires of the community. Under the framework of a resource conservation program, the Bear Valley communities can prioritize the appropriate protective actions for different open space resources. Local residents and businesses can provide direct input about proposed areas and strategies for protection. A resource conservation program could include establishing a formal Resource Conservation District, which could acquire open space land or secure conservation easements. Such an organization could also conduct monitoring activities, secure funding from various sources, and recruit volunteers to help with environmental stewardship activities. Alternatively, a nonprofit group could fill a similar role.

Any resource conservation efforts should be led by a dedicated group of community members, in partnership with the appropriate agencies and other organizations. Progress related to resource conservation efforts should be regularly reported to the Bear Valley communities, and the approach to these efforts should be changed if they do not appear to be working as expected.

Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Seek interested residents and businesses to participate on committee.	Champion	Months 1	Inland Empire Resource Conservation District <a href="https://www.iercd.org/">https://www.iercd.org/</a>
2. Meet with City of Big Bear Lake and the Inland Empire Resource Conservation District (IERCD) to learn about past conservation efforts, discuss future demand for mitigation lands, and explore potential for partnering.	Committee	Months 1 – 3	California Department of Fish and Wildlife <a href="https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Explore/Organization/HCPB">https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Explore/Organization/HCPB</a>  California Department of Conservation Resource Conservation District Resource Library <a href="http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlr/RCD/Pages/RCDResourceLibrary.aspx">http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlr/RCD/Pages/RCDResourceLibrary.aspx</a>
3. Identify and prioritize land protection and restoration activities, in coordination with public input.	Committee	Months 4 – 6	Land Trust Alliance <a href="http://www.landtrustalliance.org">http://www.landtrustalliance.org</a>
4. Secure funding for land protection, restoration, and maintenance activities.	Committee	Months 6 – 12	Nevada County Resource Conservation District <a href="http://www.ncrcd.org/">http://www.ncrcd.org/</a>
5. Recruit volunteers for land maintenance, tours, and other activities.	Committee	Months 10 – 12	East Merced Resource Conservation District <a href="http://www.eastmercedrcd.org/">http://www.eastmercedrcd.org/</a>
6. Conduct land protection, restoration, and maintenance activities.	Committee	Month 13, on-going	Placer County Resource Conservation District <a href="http://www.placercountyrccd.org/">http://www.placercountyrccd.org/</a>
7. Revisit priorities for remaining activities, and prioritize new activities as opportunities arise.	Committee	Month 25, on-going	