



Lake Tahoe

CALIFORNIA'S COMMITMENT TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Tremendous progress has been made since the Environmental Improvement Program's (EIP) inception in 1997. In total, the EIP partners have contributed over \$1.48 billion to the Program. More than 340 projects are on the ground with an additional 148 in progress.

AUGUST 2010

Highlights

HIGHLIGHTS OF CALIFORNIA'S COMMITMENT TO THE EIP

California plays a lead role in developing and implementing EIP projects and programs, committing over \$616 million. In 2009, the California Partners completed 26 projects with 89 more in progress.

Watersheds, Habitat & Water Quality



Reducing Stormwater Pollution

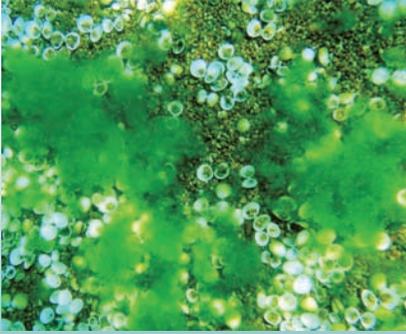
- **Caltrans:** \$465 million secured to collect and treat runoff from the California highway network in the Basin
- **California Tahoe Conservancy:** \$66 million in grants for 59 erosion control projects to local jurisdictions since 1997
- **Private:** 859 private parcels retrofitted in California in 2009, with a private citizen contribution of \$5.3 million
- **Lahontan Regional Water Quality Board:** In 2010, released a comprehensive water quality plan (TMDL), in partnership with Nevada, to restore Tahoe's famed Lake clarity



Restoring California Priority Watersheds

- Since 1997, completed more than 24 projects in the 54 square mile Upper Truckee Watershed, which contributes more than 2,078 tons of sediment to the Lake annually; 19 more projects are in progress.
- Enhanced 874 acres of wildlife habitat on State lands in key watersheds

Aquatic Invasive Species



Managing Aquatic Invasives

- **California Tahoe Conservancy/US Army Corps of Engineers:** Provided critical funding to combat and manage Aquatic Invasive Species
- **California Department of Fish and Game:** Provided law enforcement
- **California Department of Parks and Recreation/UC Davis:** In 2009, with the help of other partners, installed approximately 8,000 square feet of bottom barriers to kill Eurasian watermilfoil at Emerald Bay Underwater Park

Forest Management



Advancing Forest Ecosystem Health and Reducing Hazardous Fuels

- **CAL FIRE:** Since 2005, funded approximately \$4 million of fuels reduction work and conducted over 3300 defensible space inspections
- **California Tahoe Conservancy/California Department of Parks and Recreation:** In 2009, in partnership with local fire districts, treated 423 acres to reduce hazardous forest fuels on State lands

Public Access, Recreation, and Alternative Transportation



Improving Public Access

- Began construction of Lakeview Commons at El Dorado Beach, a new waterfront park in South Lake Tahoe
- Planned for Van Sickle Bi-State Park in South Lake Tahoe in partnership with Nevada Division of State Parks

Improving Transit and Trail Connections

- Funded Tahoe City's Lakeside Trail and other key segments of the Basin's growing bike trail network



THE CALIFORNIA PARTNERSHIP

California Dept of Transportation (Caltrans)
California Dept of Parks and Recreation (CDPR)
California Tahoe Conservancy (CTC)
Lahontan Regional Water Quality Board (LRWQB)
California Dept of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)
California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG)

Partnerships

*Document Produced by:
California Tahoe Conservancy*

NEVADA TAHOE RESOURCE TEAM

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM 2009-2010 HIGHLIGHTS

The State of Nevada is committed to preserving, protecting, restoring and enhancing the natural environment of the Lake Tahoe Basin. In 1999, the Nevada Tahoe Resource Team (NTRT) was established as an inter-agency team to coordinate and implement an initial \$82 million in Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) projects. During the 2009 Legislative Session, Nevada committed an additional \$100 million for the implementation of EIP projects to protect Lake Tahoe.

The Nevada Division of State Lands and the NTRT coordinate the development and implementation of EIP projects for:

- Protecting and enhancing Lake Tahoe's water quality.
- Preventing and controlling erosion.
- Protecting and restoring natural watercourses, wetlands, wildlife habitat, fisheries and vegetation.
- Restoring forests, including hazardous fuels reduction, urban parcel management and wildlife habitat enhancement.
- Enhancing recreational opportunities in the Lake Tahoe Basin.

WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS

The Nevada Department of Transportation is currently implementing the State Route 207 Water Quality Improvement Project which starts at US 50 and ends at Daggett Pass. Storm water runoff from the highway currently flows untreated into Edgewood Creek. The project includes revegetation, rock slope protection, new retaining walls and articulated blocks to stabilize the eroding slopes and roadside swales. The project also includes detention basins, land coverage restoration, drop inlets and facilities to capture and convey storm water for treatment. Project construction commenced during the summer of 2009 and will be completed in 2011.



Failing timber walls will be replaced with stamped concrete retaining walls that will blend with the surrounding environment.



Rock slope protection with curb and gutter has been installed to protect failing cut slopes and to convey stormwater to treatment areas.

HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION & FOREST RESTORATION



Before



After

These pictures are taken near Sand Harbor on the east side of Highway 28 near the Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park ranger's housing unit. The 98-acre project created defensible space around the housing unit, and fuel breaks on the surrounding mountainside. Another 100 acres of hazardous fuels reduction will be completed in this area in 2011-2012, and maintenance of adjacent treated acreage in the Highway 28 fuel break will begin in 2012.

URBAN PARCEL MANAGEMENT

Beginning in August of 2009, the NTRT thinned 14 acres of dense Jeffrey pine and white fir within the Daggett Summit wildland urban interface. Approximately 450 slash piles were disposed of in April 2010, completing the project which now provides another point of public access to the Tahoe Rim Trail.



WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT

The NTRT tracks flying squirrels in the Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park in conjunction with the Nevada Department of Wildlife. As an indicator species for late successional forest health, this project will help develop a habitat model and map priority nesting locations for future forest management activities.



PHOTO BY TORREY RODGERS

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

In April of 2008, Asian Clam populations in Lake Tahoe were found in much higher densities than had been observed since 2002. The findings instigated new collaborative efforts between researchers and management agencies, because Asian clams can have significant impacts to the environment through the degradation of water quality and promotion of habitat suitable for other exotic species such as Quagga mussels. The NTRT provided a quick response to this threat through funding from the Lake Tahoe License Plate Program for a 2009 pilot study on control mechanisms in Marla Bay. The NTRT provided additional funds for an expanded pilot project in Marla Bay that began in June of 2010.



PHOTO BY BRANT ALLEN, UCD

TAHOE LICENSE PLATES



The Nevada Lake Tahoe License Plate Program has provided over \$3.7 million dollars in the past 10 years for water quality improvement projects, recreational enhancements at Nevada State Parks, fisheries and wildlife enhancement projects, and research/monitoring projects designed to guide management decisions and practices.

