



2010 Annual Report



Your Partner in Lake Tahoe Conservation

Tahoe RCD Jurisdiction

About the Tahoe Resource Conservation District

There are over 3000 Conservation Districts across the country working to help people protect natural resources, including soil, water, forests and wildlife habitat. Established in 1974, and now one of the largest resource conservation districts in the nation, the Tahoe Resource Conservation District (Tahoe RCD) plays a vital role in preserving the world-renowned resources and scenic beauty of the Lake Tahoe Basin.

Native Americans cherished Lake Tahoe as a summer home, and ever since John C. Fremont became the first explorer in modern times to lay eyes on Lake Tahoe in 1844, the Tahoe Basin has attracted tens of millions of people to visit, live and play here. Pressures from resource extraction, development and recreation have made conservation a necessary priority, and the Tahoe RCD is proud to play an important role in protecting and restoring our alpine home for the enjoyment of future generations.

Our mission is to promote the conservation and improvement of the Lake Tahoe Basin's soil, water and related natural resources by providing leadership, information, programs and technical assistance to all land managers, owners, organizations and residents. Our programs focus on erosion control, runoff infiltration, terrestrial and aquatic invasive species prevention and control, conservation landscaping and public education and outreach.



The Tahoe RCD Backyard Conservation Program serves the California side of the Lake Tahoe Basin, shaded in green.

The Tahoe RCD's Watercraft Inspection Programs and aquatic invasive species control efforts cover the entire Lake Tahoe Basin, as well as the Truckee area.

The Tahoe RCD works closely with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for BMP design and technical assistance through the nationally recognized Backyard Conservation Program. NRCS also provides funding to the Tahoe RCD through this partnership.





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PHOTOS

Front Cover and Inside Background: Jonah Kessel, www.jonahkessel.com

Back Cover: Rachid Dahnoun

Letter From the District Manager

Dear Friends, Colleagues and Supporters,

We sincerely thank all of our partners and community members for supporting us as we continue to grow and evolve into a leading conservation organization in the Lake Tahoe Basin. The Tahoe RCD has drawn on the strength and expertise gained during our 37 years of conservation experience in the Tahoe Basin to overcome obstacles and find innovative ways to serve our community.

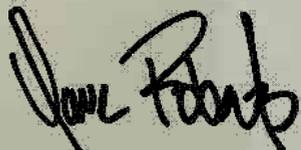
Over the past five years, the Tahoe RCD has seen enormous growth in both the size and influence of our organization. This is a direct reflection of our staff's dedication to protect Lake Tahoe and our ability to quickly adapt our programs to meet the needs of the community we serve. By cultivating partnerships with the community, agencies, jurisdictions and land managers, we help to reduce sediment and runoff, protect Tahoe from the threat of invasive species, and raise environmental awareness in the Lake Tahoe Basin.

Our staff size is at its all time high with over 100 employees during peak field season and annual expenditures reaching \$5.7 million, which represents an increase of almost 300% over the past 5 years. By hiring local employees and contractors, making green business practices a priority and securing competitive grant funding, we are working to ensure a healthy environment and economy in the Lake Tahoe Basin.

In this report you will find updates on our diverse programs and projects including erosion control, environmental education, invasive species control & prevention, and the Lake Tahoe and Truckee Region Watercraft Inspection Programs. These pages illustrate how our staff and partners bring our mission to life by preserving Lake Tahoe's natural resources.

As always, we are proud to be Your Partner in Lake Tahoe Conservation.

Best regards,



Dave Roberts, District Manager

Board of Directors

David Antonucci, President

Heather Segale, Vice President

Joyce Blackstone, Treasurer

Carl Ribaldo, Director

Bob Anderson, Director

Full-time Staff

Dave Roberts, District Manager

Holly Nattress, Administrative Assistant

Kay Taylor, Grants Assistant

Peter Brumis, Public Outreach Specialist

Watershed Resources Program

Eben Swain, Watershed Resources Program Manager

Michael Broadhurst, Engineering Technician

Jennifer Cressy, Engineering Technician

Sarah Ford, Conservation Planner

Courtney Walker, Conservation Planner

Dana Olson, Environmental Scientist II

Will Anderson, Environmental Scientist II

Gretchen Eichar, Environmental Scientist II

Todd Doherty, Environmental Scientist I

Biological Resources Program

Kim Boyd, Biological Resources Program Manager

Craig Threshie, Truckee Region AIS Coordinator

Nicole Cartwright, WIP Coordinator

Jonelle Bright, WIP Outreach and Education

Chris Kilian, WIP Operations Manager

Ian Turner, AmeriCorps Volunteer

Kara Steeland, AmeriCorps Volunteer

Watershed Resources Program

Our Watershed Resources Program manages large erosion control and revegetation projects and educates property owners on conservation landscaping practices. A major component is our Residential Best Management Practices (BMP) Program. The BMP Program provides technical assistance to homeowners regarding erosion control, vegetation, and water conservation. BMPs improve water quality by capturing and infiltrating stormwater runoff and fine sediment before it enters Lake Tahoe, thus improving lake clarity.



Gravel under elevated decks reduces erosion.



Using rock and vegetation is an effective way to stabilize steep slopes and prevent erosion.

Watershed Resources Services

- Site specific recommendations for BMP designs
- BMP technical assistance and tip sheets
- Final inspections for BMP Certificates of Compliance
- Conservation landscaping assistance, resources and plant materials
- Public workshops and community events

Backyard Conservation Hotline 530-543-1501 ext. 113

Watershed Resources Program Highlights

- Completed 210 BMP Site Evaluations, 439 Technical Assistances and requested 194 BMP Certificates of Completion
- Hosted over 20 workshops and events including South Tahoe Earth Day, BMP Contractors' Workshop, Wildfire Awareness Week, Green Thumb Gardening Series and Conservation Landscape Tour. Through these events we reached over 10,000 community members!



South Lake Tahoe Girl Scouts create stepping stones and plant moss in the Angora Community Demonstration Garden.



A community member receives information about composting at the Autumn Fest event at Lake Tahoe Demonstration Garden.

- Provided conservation landscaping assistance to 94 California homeowners and distributed 2,000 plants through Tahoe RCD vegetation consultations
- Facilitated four environmental education trainings focusing on water quality, water conservation, forest ecology, and aquatic wildlife; through these we reached approximately 120 educators
- Implemented existing natural resource education curriculums for South and North Tahoe elementary schools; through these we reached over 2,000 students

Tahoe RCD Conservation Projects

The goal of the **Brockway Summit CalTrans Project** is to reduce the overall contribution of fine sediments and nutrients entering Lake Tahoe from the Highway 267 corridor. Revegetation and slope stabilization practices are being implemented, thus improving the overall scenic quality of the area. We are working with CalTrans and Integrated Environmental Restoration Services (IERS) on project design and installation. To date, approximately 50,000 square feet of bare, eroding slopes have been treated within the project area, and over 2000 plants, trees and shrubs have been planted.



Restoration efforts at Homewood.



Brockway Summit Revegetation Project, Summer 2010.

Through the **Homewood Erosion Control Project**, we have partnered with Homewood Mountain Resort (JMA Ventures) to help improve Tahoe's water quality. The restoration activities conducted through this project will help to reduce non-point source pollutant loading in Homewood and Madden Creeks, which rank among the leading sources of upland erosion in the Tahoe Basin, contributing fine sediments and nutrients into Lake Tahoe. Erosion control and water quality improvements have been completed on over 125,000 square feet of disturbed bare soil within the Homewood property.

Invasive Species & Biological Resources Program

Our Invasive Species & Biological Resources Program includes the Terrestrial Invasive Weed and Aquatic Invasive Species Programs. Through these programs, we participate in the Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species Coordination Committee and the Lake Tahoe Basin Weed Coordinating Group. These groups are comprised of diverse stakeholders and community members dedicated to protecting the Lake Tahoe Basin from invasive species through education, research, prevention, early detection, surveys and control.

Tahoe & Truckee Boat Inspections

The Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Program implements Lake Tahoe's mandatory Watercraft Inspection Program, Truckee Regional AIS Prevention Program (TRAISPP), and Lake Tahoe's Survey and Control Program. The Lake Tahoe Watercraft Inspection Program prevents the introduction of AIS such as quagga and zebra mussels, which pose a huge financial and environmental risk to the Tahoe Basin.

With funding from the Truckee River Fund, TRAISPP implemented a pilot Watercraft Inspection Program in 2010, in the lower Truckee River watershed. Our Survey and Control Program consists of projects aimed at controlling AIS currently in Lake Tahoe.



Scotch broom, common invasive weed, poses high fire risk.



Tahoe RCD watercraft inspectors at our NorthStar off-highway inspection station.

Program Services

- Provide inspection and decontamination for boats entering Lake Tahoe and the Truckee River Watershed
- Manage certified inspectors at public launch facilities and off-highway inspection stations
- Educate and outreach to stakeholders, boaters, anglers, community members and youth about invasive species
- Private property invasive weed surveys and control treatments
- Guidance on native and adapted plant replacement
- Mapping, prevention and control efforts for terrestrial invasive weeds and aquatic invasive species



Zebra and quagga mussels attach to boats and intake pipes, causing ecologic and economic damage.

Terrestrial Invasive Plants & Weeds

- Removed 1,400 invasive weeds through weed pull events and private property weed surveys
- Reached over 17,000 community members & visitors through Autumn Fest, community weed pulls, public meetings, outreach programs and homeowners' association meetings
- Surveyed and mapped 1,619 acres of flammable invasive weeds in South Lake Tahoe

Program Highlights:

Boat Inspections

- Conducted 8000 watercraft inspections (Tahoe) and 7,400 surveys (Truckee), interacting with over 29,000 boaters
- Intercepted 12 boats infested with AIS from entering Lake Tahoe waters
- Decontaminated over 1,200 vessels
- Implemented roadside inspection stations as an added convenience to boaters and to further reduce introduction of Aquatic Invasive Species



Volunteer at a bull thistle pull along the Upper Truckee River.

**Tahoe Boat Inspections & Aquatic Invasive Species Information:
888-824-6267 TahoeBoatInspections.com**

Aquatic Invasive Species Control Projects

Our Aquatic Invasive Species Survey and Control Projects follow the guidelines outlined in the Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan. The goals of the plan are to prevent new introductions of invasive species into Lake Tahoe and to control the spread of existing invasive species. Projects include the monitoring and research for Asian clams and Early Detection monitoring, survey and removal of Eurasian watermilfoil and Curlyleaf pondweed.



Bottom barrier removal, off Lakeside Beach



Monitoring for the presence of quagga/zebra mussels

Tahoe RCD staff coordinate the **Asian Clam Control Project**, which is currently researching different methods of control, including implementation of lake bottom barriers and suction removal. Due to early successes, we are expanding the control efforts by increasing the size of treatment areas.

We also facilitate the **Near-shore Aquatic Weed Survey and Control** of Eurasian watermilfoil and Curlyleaf pondweed in Lake Tahoe. Control methods include the deployment of bottom barriers and diver assisted hand removal. In 2010, we successfully removed two acres of invasive weeds in Emerald Bay. 2011 efforts will be increased to include additional locations.

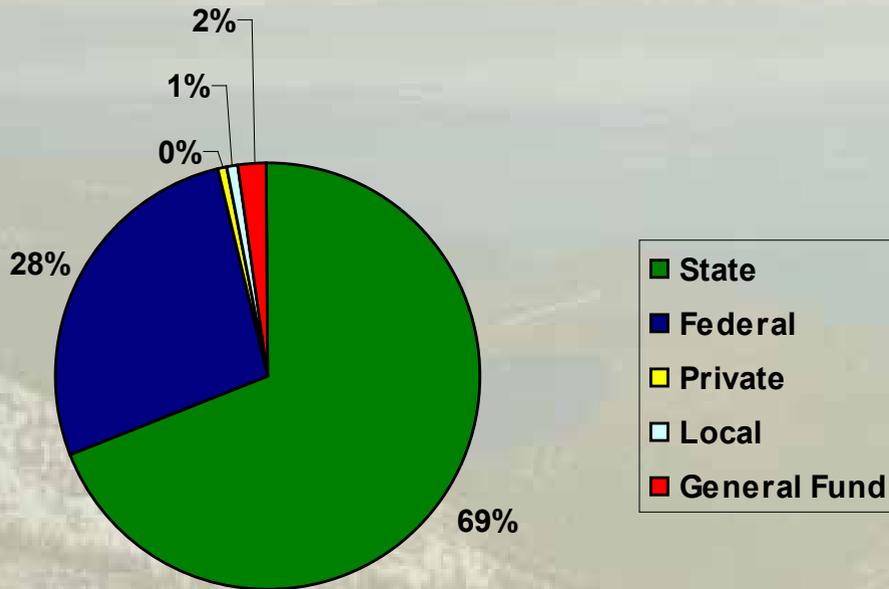
Tahoe RCD Funding Fiscal Year 2009 - 2010

The broad and diverse group of agencies, institutions, and community members supporting our agency provide multiple funding opportunities and allow for our continued growth. Each year, we continue to secure federal, state, and local funding sources.

The Tahoe RCD continues to administer the California Tahoe Conservancy (CTC) seasonal staff payroll, enabling field crews to manage forested lots around the Tahoe Basin.

Watershed Resources Program	
Grant Name	Expenditures
Proposition 50	\$2,245,218.66
ARRA-LTWIP (Prop 13-40)	\$226,850.68
ARRA- Polaris Creek	\$246,132.85
NRCS Round 8	\$260,356.77
CalTrans - Brockway Summit Project	\$73,750.88
CA Water Board- Homewood Erosion Control Project	\$439,266.41
Green Works! Project Learning Tree	\$878.64
CTC Field Crews	\$685,812.72
Proposition 13	\$122,967.81
CTC EIP Coordination	\$57,271.52
CTC Upper Truckee River Project	\$97,468.14
Total	\$4,455,974.60

Tahoe RCD Fiscal Year 2009-2010



Invasive Species and Biological Resources Program	
Grant Name	Expenditures
NRCS Round 8	\$41,729.02
Bureau of Reclamation	\$295,249.72
CTC - AIS	\$28,212.66
US Fish and Wildlife Service	\$513,755.38
Truckee River Fund - Watercraft Inspection Program	\$48,316.88
Private Donations	\$22,145.47
TRPA - Truckee WIP, Decon, off-site	\$204,796.07
NV Dept. of Environ. Prot.	\$6,311.55
Fallen Leaf Lake PA	\$2,510.91
Total	\$1,163,027.60

Tahoe RCD General Fund	\$128,424.83
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Upcoming in 2011

Community Watershed Partnership

Funded by a grant from the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Community Watershed Partnership (CWP) is a holistic conservation initiative which takes place at the community scale. The Trout/Cold Creek watershed will be the first community targeted through this pilot program. Residents will provide input on current and planned conservation projects in their own neighborhood through forums and conservation activities. Expected outcomes include enhanced recreational opportunities, defensible space, wildlife habitat, and water quality improvements.

Guide to Best Management Practices

Our Guide to Best Management Practices will educate Tahoe homeowners and the general public about the importance of erosion control and storm water infiltration in the Tahoe Basin. This guide will serve as a valuable resource to learn about the history of the Tahoe BMP Ordinance and the wide variety of BMP treatment options available.



Upper Truckee River watershed restoration site.



Tahoe Yellow Cress grows only on the sandy beaches of Lake Tahoe.

Tahoe Yellow Cress Conservation Program

During summer 2011, we will be working with the NRCS and Nevada Tahoe Conservation District doing Tahoe Yellow Cress conservation work with lake-front private property owners. This includes creating site specific stewardship plans for Tahoe Yellow Cress populations with recommendations for care, planting and protection.

Tahoe Basin Watershed Coordinator

In January 2011 we were awarded \$293,000 from the CA Dept. of Conservation to create a new Watershed Coordinator position for the Tahoe Basin. The Watershed Coordinator will work with local jurisdictions, agencies, and the community to coordinate land use planning, increase environmental awareness, and address water quality issues within the Tahoe Basin.

Get Involved!

The Tahoe RCD has many volunteer opportunities.

Join us once a week in our Angora Community Garden, located at 1383 Mt. Olympia Circle in South Lake Tahoe. Learn about native plants, water efficient landscaping and soil amendment practices.

Volunteer at the Lake Tahoe Demonstration Garden, located at the Lake Tahoe Community College in South Lake Tahoe. Learn about Best Management Practices, native and adapted plants and more!

Contact us at (530) 543-1501 ext. 113 or info@tahoercd.org



The Rotary Club works in the Angora Community Garden.

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WWW.TAHOERC.ORG/BLOG

Donate Today!

Your support enables us to continue working hard for the Tahoe community. Please consider making a tax deductible donation today.

Contact us at (530) 543-1501



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