

Tahoe Resource Conservation District

2011 Annual Report



Your Partner in Lake Tahoe Conservation



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Table of Contents, About Tahoe RCD: Jonah Kessel, jonahkessel.com

Next to Letter from President: Jim Delso, jdelsophotography.com



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About the Tahoe Resource Conservation District

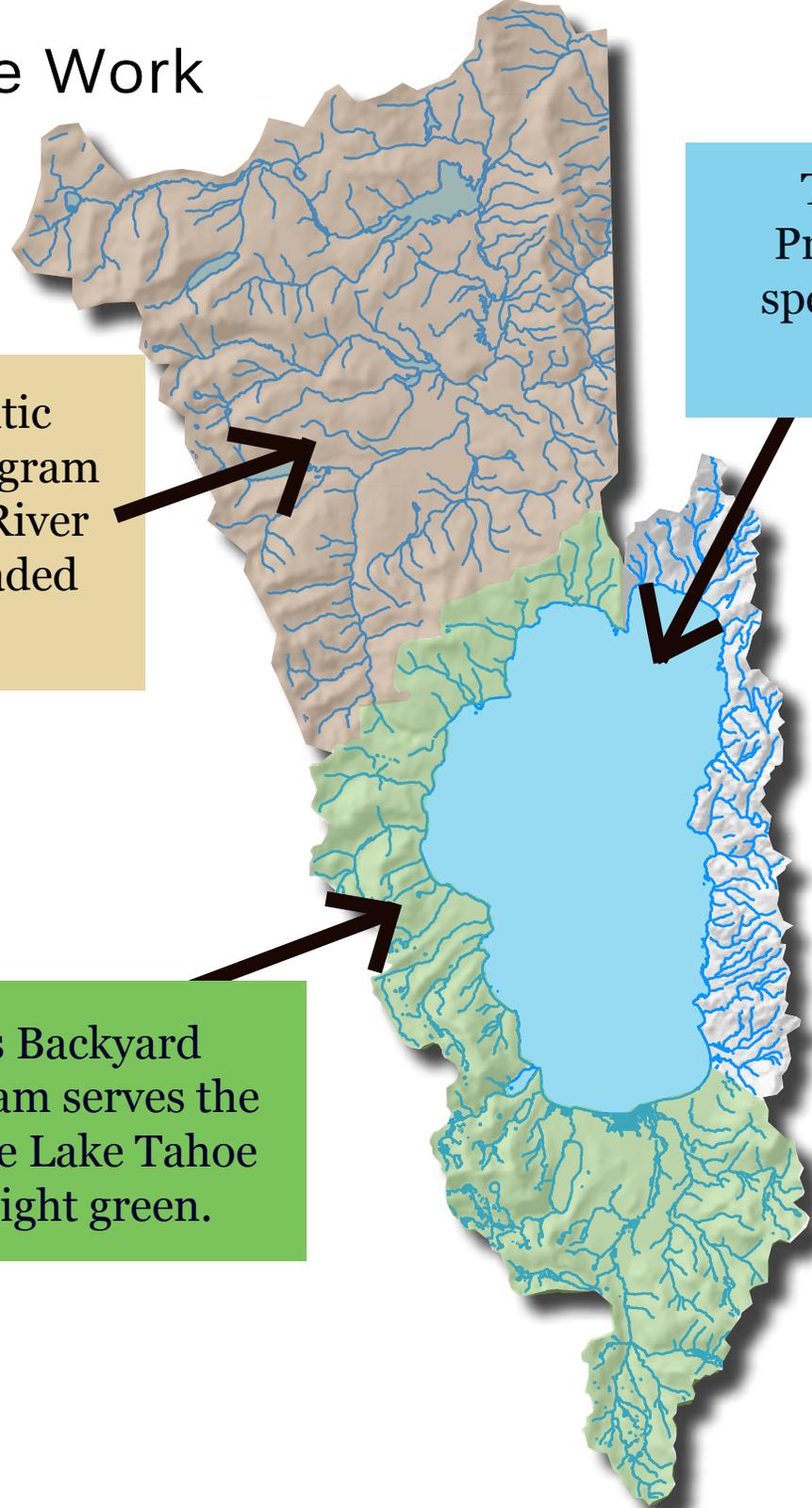
There are over 3000 Conservation Districts across the country. The Tahoe Resource Conservation District (Tahoe RCD) is one of the most influential conservation districts in the nation, playing a vital role in preserving the world-renowned resources and scenic beauty of the Lake Tahoe Basin.

Pressures from development, recreation and tourism have made conservation a necessary priority in the Lake Tahoe Basin. With a staff that grows to over 100 during the summer field season, the Tahoe RCD plays an integral role in protecting and restoring our alpine home for the enjoyment of future generations.

Our programs focus on erosion control, terrestrial and aquatic invasive species prevention and control, conservation landscaping and public education and outreach.



Where We Work



The Truckee Aquatic Invasive Species Program serves the Truckee River watershed area, shaded in tan.

The Tahoe Boat Inspection Program and aquatic invasive species efforts cover all of Lake Tahoe, shaded in blue.

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

There are many agencies, businesses and research institutions that partner with the Tahoe RCD. These are our key partners:

The logos of the partner organizations are arranged in three rows. The first row includes the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, NRCS, and Nevada Tahoe Conservation District. The second row includes the Truckee River Watershed Council, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and U.S. Forest Service. The third row includes the California Tahoe Conservancy and California State Parks.

A Letter from our President

Dear Tahoe Basin Community & Visitors,

As we reflect on our accomplishments in 2011, we continue to plan for a busy and successful year in 2012. This past year has been notable for the Tahoe RCD as we pursue our mission to protect the natural resources of the Lake Tahoe Basin. Our staff once again played a key role in conservation programs vital to the protection of the Lake Tahoe Basin, including the Tahoe Boat Inspection Program, erosion control & conservation landscaping services for residents through the Backyard Conservation Program and pioneering programs aimed at protecting the Tahoe Basin and Truckee area from the threats of invasive species.

Notable projects & partnerships for Tahoe RCD included:

- The Tahoe Keys Aquatic Invasive Plant Control Project and the Emerald Bay Asian Clam Control Project, both of which identified and deployed innovative approaches to controlling these invasive species, sparking collaboration on regional and national levels.
- Large-scale erosion control projects at Homewood Mountain Resort and on Brockway Summit (with CalTrans), utilizing improved techniques to reduce sediment.
- The Tahoe's Most un-Wanted public outreach campaign, raising awareness of conservation issues in the Tahoe Basin and what people can do to help.
- A leading role in the South Tahoe Environmental Education Coalition, educating local children about Tahoe's environment and the importance of protecting it.
- The launch of the Community Watershed Partnership (CWP), a holistic conservation initiative designed to increase community collaboration among agencies and residents while improving the efficiency of conservation efforts.

As always, our door is open! Please visit TahoeRCD.org for details and to support our efforts.

Best regards,

Bob Anderson
President, Board of Directors
Tahoe Resource Conservation District



Tahoe RCD by the numbers...

2,500 free plants provided to homeowners & Tahoe Residents

725 Erosion Control BMP Evaluations & Conservation Assists

Over **4,000** Students Reached through Wonders of Water, Outdoor Explore & Trees are Terrific Education Programs

3,420 hours served by our AmeriCorps members

Raised over **\$5,000** for the Lake Tahoe Demonstration Garden at Autumn Fest, with over **500** people in attendance

\$267,267 received from the Truckee River Fund to continue to run the Truckee Regional AIS Program

Conducted early detection monitoring at **12** water bodies within the Truckee watershed

Performed **4,857** watercraft decontaminations on high risk watercraft

Over **100** attendees at the 4th Annual Conservation Landscape Tour

285,005 cubic feet of water sampled for quagga mussel veligers

Hosted and presented at over **50** events, workshops & trainings

12,000 warm water non-native fish removed from Lake Tahoe

3 staff presentations showcased at the annual California Association of Conservation Districts Conference

1,323 pounds of carbon averted by staff biking to work

1,501 invasive weeds removed from private properties

213 miles traveled on foot for surveying invasive plants

7,600 watercraft inspected for invasive species

Over **40,000** interactions with boaters through the Watercraft Inspection Program

348,480 square feet Treated to Control Milfoil & Asian Clams

Watershed Resources Program

One of the main focus areas for the Watershed Resources Program in 2011 was Conservation Landscaping services, including erosion control Best Management Practice (BMP) assistance and vegetation consultations.

We are continually working to provide the Tahoe community with holistic conservation practices to improve stewardship in the Tahoe Basin, whether we are serving residents and homeowners or ski resorts and CalTrans.

Site Specific BMP assistance:

- Erosion control
- Slope stabilization
- Driveways
- Fire defensible space

Vegetation consultations:

- Native and adapted Tahoe plants
- Water conservation
- Soil conditioning
- Wildlife management

Brockway Summit Erosion Control Project:

- Revegetated over two of acres of steep hillside and stream environment zone
- Planted 15,000 plants native & adapted plants



Tahoe RCD staff installing irrigation for the Brockway Summit Erosion Control Project.



Lake Tahoe residents participating in water quality monitoring.

CONSERVATION SPOTLIGHT: Community Watershed Partnership

Community Watershed Partnership (CWP) is holistic conservation initiative which engages locals, land managers and agencies in neighborhoods throughout the Lake Tahoe Basin. In 2011 we worked with residents of the Trout and Cold Creek Watershed near South Lake Tahoe. In addition to our suite of conservation services, we serve as a neighborhood liaison to other public agencies, in order to inform local residents about upcoming projects and how to ensure their voices are heard.

Highlights of CWP included:

- The removal of a car that had been left to rust in Trout Creek for over 30 years
- A block party where residents identified the need to improve fisheries and revisit meadow restoration projects
- A public forum at Sierra House Elementary School attended by approximately 50 local residents, including El Dorado County Supervisor Norma Santiago, El Dorado County water quality experts and Lahontan Water Board officials.
- A Conservation Landscape Tour was held, highlighting 8 beautiful gardens in the Montgomery Estates area.

Stay tuned in 2012 as we work with our partners to introduce CWP to additional priority watersheds in the Tahoe Basin. Plans include the launch of a new website, increased partnerships with local businesses and organizations, and additional conservation initiatives.

Invasive Species & Biological Resources Program

The Invasive Species & Biological Resources Program focuses on terrestrial invasive weeds & aquatic invasive species. We work with stakeholders and community members to protect the Lake Tahoe Basin from invasive species through:

- **Education**
- **Research**
- **Prevention**
- **Early detection**
- **Surveys**
- **Control**

Our Aquatic Invasive Species Control Program aims to control the spread of existing invasive species already introduced to Lake Tahoe.

Projects in Lake Tahoe include:

- Monitoring, research & control for invasive species
- Early detection monitoring for new infestations
- Treatment of 350,000 square feet of lake bottom to remove invasive Eurasian watermilfoil, curlyleaf pondweed and Asian clams



LAKE TAHOE BASIN
WEED COORDINATING GROUP



Tahoe RCD staff removing invasive weeds from a homeowner's property.

CONSERVATION SPOTLIGHT:

Emerald Bay Invasive Weed Control



Divers placing bottom barriers in Emerald Bay.



The 2011 field season featured the largest effort yet to control aquatic invasive plants in Emerald Bay. Synthetic bottom barriers are designed to block sunlight and kill the weeds in three different locations within Emerald Bay during the summer & fall. Divers also removed plants by hand from adjacent areas.

Emerald Bay Treatment Areas:

- Parson's Rock
- Vikingsholm Pier/Swim Beach
- Avalanche Beach

Invasive weed control efforts have:

- Increased public safety (aquatic weeds increase drowning hazards for swimmers)
- Improved water quality
- Helped to protect Lake Tahoe's native species, which provide food for native wildlife

This project was a continuing effort to control and eradicate aquatic plants from Emerald Bay. Invasive plant populations in Emerald Bay have been reduced, and with continued treatments we will be able to better manage the populations in the future. Information and resources were shared with other conservation groups as far away as Maine and New York.

Tahoe Boat Inspection Program



Tahoe RCD staff performing a decontamination of a boat with potential invasive species.

Staffed by Tahoe RCD employees, the goal of the Tahoe Boat Inspection Program is to prevent the introduction of harmful aquatic invasive species (AIS), such as quagga and zebra mussels.

There are wide-spread negative environmental and economic impacts of AIS on industries, communities and native species populations.

Watercraft are the largest vector for spreading aquatic invasive species (AIS) into new waterways. Mandatory inspections help stop AIS before they enter the water.

What does Tahoe Boat Inspection Program do?

- Provides inspections and decontaminations for boats entering Lake Tahoe and the Truckee River Watershed
- Provides training for public and private boat launches and marinas
- Educates stakeholders, boaters, anglers and paddlers about responsible boating practices, such as arriving with boats that are Clean, Drain and Dry.

To learn more visit:

www.TahoeBoatInspections.com



Boca Reservoir in the Truckee River watershed.

CONSERVATION SPOTLIGHT: Truckee AIS Program

The Tahoe RCD spearheaded the Truckee Regional Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Program. This program provides inspections and decontaminations for all boats entering water bodies in the Truckee River watershed (Boca, Stampede, Donner and Prosser).

Truckee Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Program includes:

- Watercraft inspections
- Early detection monitoring (to ensure rapid response to new AIS introductions)
- Stakeholder meetings
- Education and outreach campaign

At this time, the program is voluntary for the Truckee Region. In 2011 we had stakeholders review the latest research about AIS and other prevention programs, which lead to community-driven input that will likely make inspections mandatory at local water bodies in 2012. Our efforts were rewarded with another year of funding in 2012 from our valued partners at the Truckee River Fund.

Community Education

With our water quality and forest ecology education programs, we educated over 4,000 elementary and middle school students . This effort, spearheaded by the Tahoe RCD, stems from South Tahoe Environmental Education Coalition (STEEC) partners. STEEC is comprised of over 20 agencies and organizations partnering to bring a collaborative network of environmental education resources and programs to Lake Tahoe and beyond.

Community events and programs we host:

- Green Thumb Gardening Series at Lake Tahoe Community College and UC Davis Fish Hatchery Demonstration Gardens
- Work days at the Angora Community Demonstration Garden in the Angora burn area.
- Coordination of Earth Day, Conservation Landscape Tour, Autumn Fest and more!

New outreach tools

- Social media to increase interaction with the community and younger audiences
 - (Facebook, twitter, and the Tahoe RCD Blog)
- ‘The Tahoe Perspective radio show, airing every Tuesday at 5:15pm on local K-Tahoe 96.1FM. Contact us through TahoeRCD.org or “like” us on Facebook to suggest topics or become a guest!



Tahoe RCD staff educating 4th graders about watersheds and geology on the MS Dixie Earth Day cruise.

CONSERVATION SPOTLIGHT:

Tahoe's Most unWanted

In 2011, we launched our Tahoe's Most un-Wanted campaign. The fun, wild-west themed posters are intended to help locals and visitors identify some of the most pressing threats to the Tahoe Basin, as well as what people can do to help mitigate environmental challenges.

Current poster themes:

- Aquatic Invasive Species
- Terrestrial Invasive Weeds
- Sediment from Runoff
- Nutrients from Fertilizers and Pesticides

In December 2011, we launched a Facebook contest in order to collaborate with the community for our next series of educational posters.

Here's what they came up with:

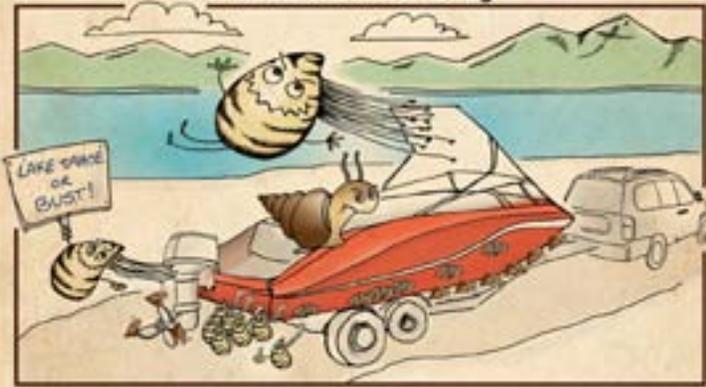
- Pollution from trash
- Traffic
- Leaf blowers
- Invasive fish
- Fire danger
- Homes without bear bins

Local residents, teachers, visitors and organizations are welcome to pick up posters at our office, located at 870 Emerald Bay Road in South Lake Tahoe.

Stay tuned for more posters, designed to inspire change in the Tahoe Basin. A hint for our next poster: Tahoe Dog owners love to "DOO their duty" to protect Tahoe's water quality and public lands!

TAHOE'S MOST ^{un}WANTED

"The Hitch-hiker Gang"



Quagga Mussel



New Zealand Mudsnail



Zebra Mussel



WANTED DEAD AND GONE FOR

These pests could cost millions to Tahoe's economy and irreparably damage our environment, affecting everyone who lives or plays in the Tahoe Basin. These critters have NOT yet been discovered in Lake Tahoe, but we need YOUR HELP to keep it that way!

HOW YOU CAN HELP!

Aquatic Invasive Species are easily spread by boaters, paddlers or fishermen. Make sure your boat, shoes and equipment are CLEAN, DRAINED & DRY before coming to Tahoe.



We're all in this boat together!

Boaters: Visit TahoeBoatInspections.com for more information.

DON'T LET THESE NUTS HITCH!
GET A FREE RIDE!

Full-time Staff & Board



Board of Directors

Bob Anderson, President
Carl Ribaud, Vice President
Joyce Blackstone, Treasurer
Heather Segale, Director
David Antonucci, Director

Watershed Resources Program

Eben Swain, 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

Full-time Staff

Dave Roberts, District Manager
Holly Nattress, Administrative Assistant
Cheryle Scarborough, Financial Manager
Kay Taylor, Grants Assistant
Pete Brumis, Public Outreach Specialist
Kim Gorman, Watershed Coordinator
Max Neale, AmeriCorps, Monitoring and Control Assistant
Kirsten Lindquist, AmeriCorps, Outreach Assistant

Biological Resources Program

Kim Boyd, Program Manager
Mike Mammola, Truckee Region AIS Coordinator
Jim Brockett, AIS Control Coordinator
Carlos Leonzo, Watercraft Inspection Program Coordinator
Chris Killian, WIP Operations Manager
Jonelle Bright, WIP Outreach and Education
Nicole Cartwright, Conservation Planner
Clay Yancey, Watercraft Inspector
Joe Laderoute, Watercraft Inspector
Matt Nelson, Watercraft Inspector

Funding

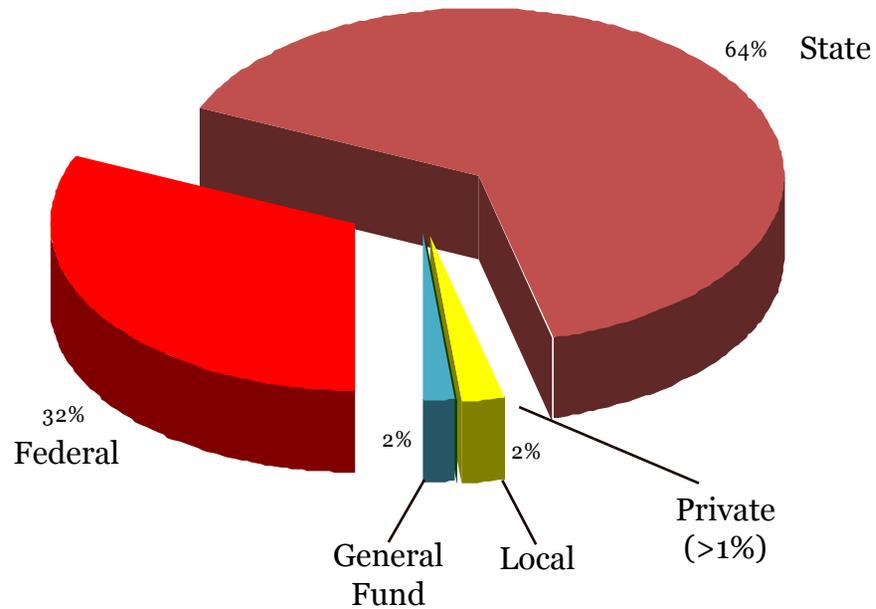
Tahoe RCD Fiscal Year Funding 2010 - 2011

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.

Tahoe RCD works closely with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) through funding and erosion control BMP design, homeowner technical assistance and the national-wide Backyard Conservation Program.

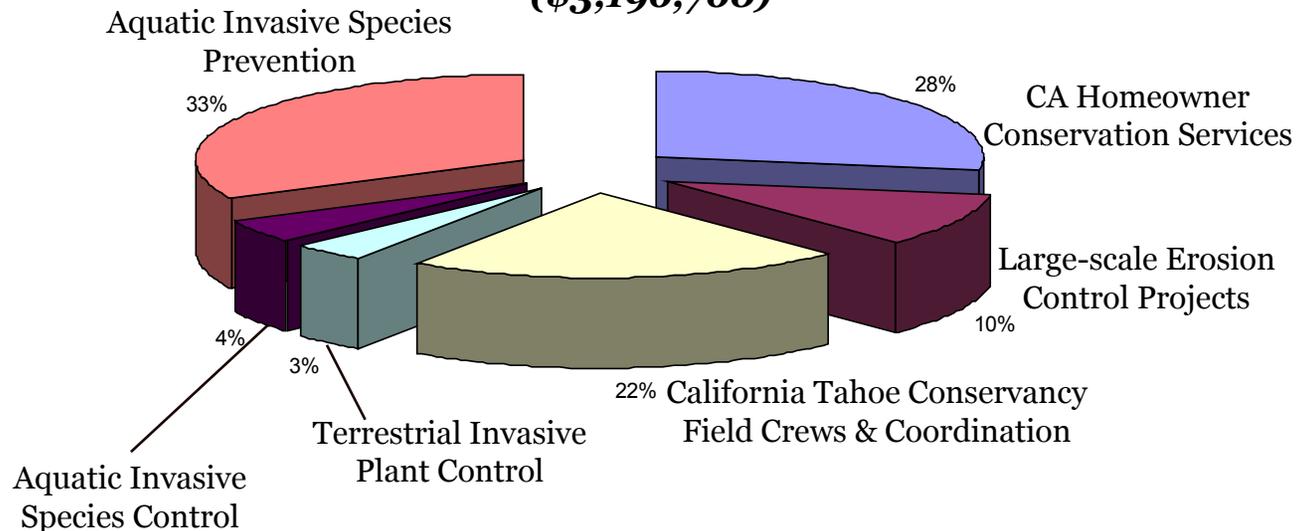
The Tahoe RCD continues to administer the California Tahoe Conservancy (CTC) seasonal staff payroll, enabling field crews to manage forested lots around the Tahoe Basin.

Funding Sources



Tahoe RCD Use of Funds

(\$3,196,760)





Your Partner in Lake Tahoe Conservation



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