

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Budget

Fiscal Year 2017/18: On January 10, 2017, Governor Brown released the proposed Governor's Budget for the 2017/18 fiscal year (FY). Several minor changes to the Governor's Budget for the California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy) were also proposed as part of the April spring finance letter process. These changes involve technical adjustments to some budget language provisions, and reappropriation of \$523,000 in existing funding to a line item for the construction phase of the Tahoe Pines Campground Restoration and Access Project.

The Conservancy's proposed FY 2017/18 budget includes:

- \$7,497,000 for capital outlay and local assistance to fund various programmatic priorities and support the Environmental Improvement Program for the Lake Tahoe Basin, including:
 - \$2,621,000 in bond funds from Propositions 12, 40, 50, and 84;
 - \$1,658,000 from special funds dedicated to the Conservancy (Habitat Conservation Fund, Lake Tahoe license plate proceeds, Tahoe Conservancy Fund, and SB 630);
 - \$3,218,000 in federal grant and reimbursement authority.
- \$6,638,000 for ongoing support, including:
 - continuing "baseline" funding from various special funds and revenue sources dedicated to the Conservancy.

This year's capital outlay budget shifts from a program budget to a hybrid capital budget including both programmatic and project specific line items. As part of this shift, individual line items are being proposed for the Upper Truckee River and Marsh Restoration, the South Tahoe Greenway Shared Use Trail Phase 1b/2, and the Tahoe Pines Campground Restoration and Access projects. Line items are also proposed for minor capital outlay, acquisition, and conceptual and feasibility activities.

The Governor's Budget is incorporated into Assembly Bill 96 and Senate

Bill 72 for consideration by the State Legislature during the spring budget hearings. As of May 30, 2017, the Budget Act is being considered by the budget conference committee.

B. Legislative Update

On February 17, 2017, Assembly Member Bigelow introduced Assembly Bill 1191, an act to amend section 66906.1 of the Government Code. As discussed at the January and March 2017 Board meetings, the Conservancy's enabling statute does not specify that elected officials, city council members, or members of county boards of supervisors may serve on the Board. The proposed legislation would clarify the original intent of Government Code section 66906.1 by expressly providing for elected members of the City Council of the City of South Lake Tahoe (City), the Board of Supervisors of Placer County, and the Board of Supervisors of El Dorado County to serve on the Board. The legislation would also clarify that elected officials from these jurisdictions may serve on the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) Governing Board. The bill has received unanimous bi-partisan support from the Legislature so far. Staff will continue to regularly update the Board on the status of Assembly Bill 1191.

C. Highlights and Cross-Cutting Programs and Projects

U.S. Highway 50 Community Revitalization Project:

This Tahoe Transportation District (TTD) project, commonly referred to as the Loop Road Project, would relocate U.S. Highway 50 to the south from its current location near the California/Nevada state line. Conservancy and TTD staff are providing an update on this project at this Board meeting.

Forest Health Landscape Planning:

The Conservancy, along with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), TRPA, the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team, and the National Forest Foundation (NFF) continue to make progress on the Lake Tahoe West Restoration Partnership, a collaborative landscape level planning effort for the West Shore. The partner agencies and entities have developed teams to work on the different aspects of the initial planning phase. NFF's facilitator, the Executive Team, and the Core Team steer these efforts. Members of the public and other stakeholders participate in stakeholder committees that are providing input to the landscape assessment and strategy and participated in a field tour last week with agency staff to see and discuss areas and types of treatments that could result from the planning effort.

Discussions continue regarding implementation of a new landscape level effort, the Tahoe Sierra Resilient Forest Initiative. This initiative aims to accelerate large landscape forest health projects and development of biomass utilization infrastructure throughout the central Sierra to improve forest ecosystem health and resiliency. The Lake Tahoe West project is included within this larger initiative. The Conservancy, with the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, USFS, NFF, and The Nature Conservancy are spearheading this initiative and recently submitted a proposal to the Cal Fire Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund forest health grant program to support forest health and carbon reduction projects throughout this region.

TRPA Shoreline Process:

TRPA has embarked on the Shoreline Planning Initiative, a consensus-based multi-stakeholder planning process initiated to bring closure to a 30-year old effort to update ordinances related to activity within the Lake Tahoe shorezone. To move forward through critical policy issues and ensure efficient development of Policies, Code, and an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), TRPA has prepared a Shoreline Planning Initiative Work Program to complete the general planning effort in three phases by June 2018.

TRPA staff continue to hold meetings with the multi-stakeholder Shoreline Steering Committee and the Joint Fact Finding Committee and make progress on this important effort. Conservancy staff participate on the Joint Fact Finding Committee.

Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association Corporation Yard Relocation:

Conservancy staff began meeting with representatives from the Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association (TKPOA) in 2015 to re-initiate discussions about the potential relocation of TKPOA's corporation yard. This facility is located within a 99 year leased area in the Upper Truckee Marsh (UTM), and the land transferred to the Conservancy as part of the UTM acquisition. Approximately 58 years remain in the current lease term.

There is a long history of discussions related to relocating this facility out of the UTM. Currently, Conservancy and TKPOA staff have discussed relocating the facility to a less-sensitive Conservancy parcel on Venice Drive near the Tahoe Keys Marina. TKPOA has performed some conceptual planning on this new location to determine if the relocation is feasible.

At this time, TKPOA expects to have their membership vote on the relocation this summer. If the relocation is approved by their membership, Conservancy staff will begin preparing the environmental documents necessary to bring this topic to the Board for action.

Tahoe Valley Area Plan Asset Lands Authorized for Pre-Sale in September 2016 :

2070 Lake Tahoe Boulevard Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APNs) 023-231-03 & 023-381-01, 3.67 acres

1860 Lake Tahoe Boulevard APN 032-291-28, 9.75 acres

1029 Tata Lane APN 032-291-31, 1.6 acres

833 Emerald Bay Road APN 023-171-09, 0.51 acres

981 Tata Lane APN 023-481-17, 0.53 acres

Staff has coordinated with Civilis consultants and various interested parties on ideas for each of these sites. Ideas include: affordable, workforce, or tiny housing; cooperative office space; government service centers; and/or local maker/retail space. Staff has identified 2070 and 1860 Lake Tahoe Boulevard, 1029 Tata Lane, and 833 Emerald Bay Road as the highest priority parcels.

Staff have been in exclusive negotiations concerning a sale of the 2070 Lake Tahoe Boulevard parcels with Sutter Capital Group, owners of the adjacent Tahoe Valley Crossing parcel (The Crossing). The purpose of the exclusive negotiations is to develop the framework for a project that would provide a greater level of public benefit than other options through the achievement of the Conservancy and Statewide, regional, and area plan goals. Staff is exploring a partnership with the City and El Dorado County to secure the development rights and coverage needed for the project.

The TTD, El Dorado County, and several private developers and builders have expressed interest in working with the Conservancy on affordable, workforce, or market-rate housing, and/or a government service center on our TVAP Asset Lands, specifically 1860 Lake Tahoe Boulevard, 1029 Tata Lane, and 833 Emerald Bay Road. TTD is partnering with various local jurisdictions in California and Nevada on Transit Oriented Development (TOD), separate from any project or mitigation requirements, and might be interested in using part or all of 1860 Lake Tahoe Boulevard, 1029 Tata Lane, or 833 Emerald Bay Road. El Dorado County is seeking to consolidate various human services (Child Protective, Senior, Family, Employment and Cash Aid Services, among others), currently at different locations in South Lake Tahoe, at one location. The County has approached the Conservancy about constructing a new, consolidated human services center at 1860 Lake Tahoe Boulevard and/or 1029 Tata Lane. Various private developers and builders have expressed interest in building mainly market rate or workforce housing.

Staff is working on project requirements and site plans for the three highest priority parcels and we continue to explore partnerships with the TTD and/or El Dorado County and other developers.

Proposition 1 Grant Program:

Proposition 1, Round 2 Update: On April 28, 2017, the Conservancy received fourteen Proposition 1 applications totaling over \$8 million from seven entities. At its March 16, 2017 meeting, the Board authorized the Round 2 grant solicitation for the remaining (approximately \$3.6 million) Proposition 1 funding. The applications cover forest health, storm water quality, ecosystem and watershed management, and aquatic invasive species (AIS) focus areas and include three implementation, two acquisition, and nine planning projects. The Conservancy’s External Review Team is meeting at the end of June to discuss proposals and develop funding recommendations to staff. We anticipate bringing a recommendation package to the Board at its September 2017 meeting.

The Board’s Round 1 Proposition 1 grant awards, totaling \$9,461,568 and authorized in 2016, are reflected in nine separate planning, acquisition, and implementation grant agreements. Grantees include the NFF, Tahoe Resource Conservation District (TRCD), Washoe Tribe, Lake Valley Fire Protection District (LVFPD), El Dorado County, Placer County, and DPR. Conservancy staff and grantees continue to move the projects forward (see table below).

CONSERVANCY PROPOSITION 1 GRANT FUNDING AWARDS (2016)				
Project	Grantee	Conservancy Staff Contact	Grant Award	Status of Project
Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Plant Control Project	Tahoe Resource Conservation District	Whitney Brennan	\$700,000	Grant agreement executed, work in progress
Johnson Meadow Acquisition	Tahoe Resource Conservation District	Aimee Rutledge	\$4,234,000	Grant agreement executed. The Department of Fish and Wildlife has also awarded a \$4 million grant for the acquisition.
Meeks Meadow Restoration	Washoe Tribe	Joe Pepi	\$228,530	Grant agreement executed, workplan approved, planning consultant chosen
Lake Tahoe West Collaborative: A Multi-Jurisdictional Landscape Restoration Strategy	National Forest Foundation	Juan Carlos Urizar	\$849,100	Grant agreement executed, workplan approved, advance authorized, work in progress
Lake Tahoe Basin Wildfire Protection and Water Quality Enhancement Project	Lake Valley Fire Protection District	Milan Yeates	Award amount reduced to \$350,025 in March of 2017 due to LVFPDs successful award of SNPLMA 16 grant.	Grant agreement executed, workplan submitted and approved. , Recently approved SNPLMA Round 16 funds will cover most of the project costs

Antone Meadows Dam Removal and Restoration, Burton Creek State Park	California Department of State Parks	Jen Greenberg	\$149,938	Grant agreement executed, workplan approved, work in progress
Tahoe Storm Water Resource Plan	Tahoe Resource Conservation District	Scott Cecchi	\$150,000	Grant agreement executed, workplan approved, work in progress
Meyers SEZ Restoration and Erosion Control Project	El Dorado County	Mark Sedlock	\$1,100,000	Grant agreement executed, final plans complete and construction to begin in July.

Aquatic Invasive Species:

The AIS Implementation Plan, a product of the Board’s September 2014 authorization of \$150,000 from the Lake Tahoe Science and Lake Improvement Account (Account) and \$150,000 from Proposition 40 consistent with Senate Bill 630, continues to direct the Lake Tahoe Basin’s strategy for AIS control activities. In June 2015, the Board authorized an additional \$200,000 from the Account expanding the TRCD’s AIS plant eradication through the TRCD/Conservancy Joint Powers Agreement. This funding supported AIS eradication and control at the Tahoe City Dam, Emerald Bay, Lakeside Beach and Marina, Ski Run Marina and channel, Fleur de Lac Marina, and Tahoe Vista. In March 2016, the Board authorized a Proposition 1 implementation grant for \$700,000 to TRCD for additional plant control phases and projects. Accordingly, TRCD’s staff and its consultants and contractors worked for the remainder of the 2016 field season on multiple projects and are continuing their phased control approach at these locations in 2017. The Board authorized a \$260,128 grant to TRCD to implement a pilot project using new UV light technology for AIS plant control.

- Location: Lake wide
- Description: Invasive plant control, warm water fish data collection, AIS Implementation Plan
- Conservancy Funding:
 - 2014: \$300,000
 - 2015: \$200,000
 - 2016: \$700,000
 - 2017: \$260,128
- Schedule:
 - 2015: Warm water fish data collection, invasive plant control, implementation plan completed
 - 2016: Invasive plant control
 - 2017: Invasive plant control using standard and new technology
- Lead Agency: TRCD
- Staff Contact: Whitney Brennan

D. Major Conservancy Projects Recently Completed or In Progress, El Dorado County

1. Natural Resources

Natural resources projects restore natural river processes, enhance stream environment zones (SEZs), improve wildlife habitat and fisheries, and improve water quality.



Sunset Stables Reach 5 new channel

Upper Truckee River Sunset Stables Reach Restoration:

The USFS nearly completed the Reach 5 portion of the Upper Truckee River restoration effort in October 2016 before several rain events triggered an end to the construction season. A significant portion of the Reach 5 restoration is on Conservancy-owned land through a cooperative agreement between the USFS and the Conservancy. Restoration included construction of a new river channel to raise the riverbed and inundate the meadow. The restored channel will improve groundwater, enhance unique habitats, and improve water quality by reducing bank erosion and increasing natural wetland filtration. The fall rain and recent flood events have impacted the project and necessitate the need for corrective actions. The USFS intends to complete this corrective work and other project elements in 2017 and 2018, and will monitor the project in coming years to demonstrate performance and resource benefits.

- Location: Between Meyers and the City
- Description: 254 acres for Reaches 5 and 6;
 - Reach 5: 7,500 feet of channel construction;
 - Reach 6: Project is currently on hold pending construction funding
- Conservancy Funding: \$2,479,728 Reach 5 and 6 planning; \$0 construction
- USFS Funding: Reach 5 final design and construction - \$6,510,000
- Reach 5 Schedule:
 - 2013: 3,000 feet of new channel construction

- 2014: 3,000 feet of new channel construction and related utility line relocation
- 2015: No active construction, new channel vegetation established and aquatic resource relocation conducted for approximately 70 percent of the Western Pearlshell mussels
- 2016: 1,500 feet of new channel construction at tie-in points, aquatic relocations, river relocation into new channel and partial backfill of old channel
- 2017 and 2018: Implement corrective actions and project monitoring
- Lead Agencies: USFS, Conservancy
- Partners: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) (Reach 6)
- Staff Contact: Joe Pepi
- Project documents:
<http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/lbmu/UpperTruckeeRestoration>

Tahoe Pines Campground Restoration and Access Project:

Staff completed the preliminary plan stage and received Board authority in July 2014 to move this project forward to final design and construction. In July 2016, the State Public Works Board (PWB) approved preliminary plans and authorized development of working drawings. Staff continues to work closely with the Department of General Services (DGS) and the Department of Finance (DOF) to move the project forward. Property and contracting challenges have caused a delay in project implementation. A design consultant is currently completing working drawings and specifications. Staff anticipates bid advertisement in late fall 2017 and project implementation in 2018. At this meeting, staff is requesting authority to enter into a potential U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) grant for reimbursement of construction expenses.

- Location: Confluence of Upper Truckee River and Echo Creek in Meyers
- Description: Eight-acre site to restore SEZ and provide appropriate river-oriented access features
- Conservancy Funding: \$1,180,000 land acquisition; \$125,000 planning; \$650,000 construction
- Total Project Cost: \$975,000
- Schedule: State PWB approved preliminary plans in July 2016; 2018 construction
- Lead Agency: Conservancy
- Partners: Reclamation, California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), DGS
- Staff Contact: Joe Pepi

2. Forest Improvement

Forest improvement projects are designed to improve wildlife habitat, reduce fire threat, and promote natural processes.



Staff works cooperatively with the Lake Valley Fire Protection District (LVFPD), DPR, and the Meeks Bay Fire Protection District to plan and implement Conservancy's forestry activities in El Dorado County, primarily on Conservancy land. Staff, along with public agency partners such as the California Conservation Corps, will implement approximately 35 acres of forest health/fuels reduction projects on Conservancy land in El Dorado County in 2017. These projects are coordinated through the annual Lake Tahoe Basin Fuels Reduction and Fire Prevention Incident Action Plan by the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team. In addition, staff addresses hazard tree and fuel loading concerns raised by the public.

E. Major Conservancy Projects Recently Completed or In Progress, Placer County

1. Public Access and Recreation

Public access and recreation projects enhance regional public access and recreation.

Dollar Creek Shared-Use Trail:

Approximately two miles of paved bike trail is scheduled for 2017 construction. Tree removal began prior to the onset of winter 2016/17. The Board approved land transactions that provide the necessary right-of-way for the trail, including easements through the Conservancy's Dollar property and a land transfer from the North Tahoe Public Utility District (NTPUD) to Placer County for the Conservancy-funded 85-acre Firestone property. A Basin-wide Federal Lands Access Program grant awarded to the TTD is the primary source of construction funding.

- Location: Dollar Hill State Route 28 to Fulton Crescent Drive
- Description: 2.2 mile connection extending the Lake Tahoe Bike Trail network

- Conservancy Funding to Placer County: \$807,200 for planning and acquisition; \$0 construction (past expenses to NTPUD for planning and acquisition for the longer North Tahoe Bike Trail: \$1,889,200)
- Anticipated Total Project Construction Cost: \$3.5 Million
- Schedule:
 - 2015 – Right-of-way acquisition complete
 - 2017 – Construction start
- Lead Agency: Placer County
- Partners: Conservancy, North Lake Tahoe Resort Association (NLTRA), TTD, NTPUD
- Staff Contact: Lisa O'Daly
- Project documents:
 - <http://www.placer.ca.gov/Departments/Works/Projects/DollarCreekBikeTrail.aspx>

Kings Beach General Plan Revision and Public Pier Rebuild Project:

The DPR is leading a Kings Beach State Recreation Area General Plan (GP) Revision and the Public Pier Rebuild Project planning process, including environmental review under the provisions of both the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and TRPA environmental regulations. In April 2015, the Board authorized \$525,000 in Proposition 40 and NLTRA funds for this planning effort. In addition, the DPR has committed \$442,646. The Environmental Impact Report/ Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) scoping period occurred in late 2015 and early 2016. In response to comments, the NTLRA and Placer County approved an additional \$69,575 in grant funding to allow consideration of a third pier location alternative. The Board authorized acceptance and expenditure of this additional funding in September 2016. The Preferred Alternative for the project was released in January 2017. Work on the environmental document continues including considering the comments received from the public and other agencies.

- Location: Kings Beach State Recreation Area, Kings Beach
- Description: Revise the GP to provide the planning basis for a rebuilt pier and other recreational needs. Rebuild the existing pier with a combination fixed pier/floating pier design, optimize the location relative to onsite needs, and extend the length to reach the navigational target at the 6,217-foot contour line.
- Conservancy Funding: \$562,700 for feasibility study, preliminary planning, GP development, and environmental review in addition to \$94,575 in grant funding from NLTRA
- Total Project Cost: \$1,099,921 (GP/preliminary planning/feasibility/environmental)
- Schedule:
 - 2015 – Complete work on the feasibility study and preliminary plans and initiate GP and environmental review processes

- 2015-2017 – GP development, pier preliminary plan completion, environmental analysis
- 2018-2019 – Final design and construction
- Lead Agency: DPR
- Partners: Conservancy, NLTRA, DGS
- Staff Contact: Lisa O’Daly

2. Forest Improvement

Forest improvement projects are designed to improve wildlife habitat, reduce fire threat, and promote natural processes.

Consistent with Governor Brown’s declared State of Emergency on October 30, 2015 regarding the increased mortality of trees statewide, Conservancy staff, its forest health partners, and neighboring property owners are observing increased mortality of sugar pines, including larger diameter trees, specifically within the Carnelian and Agate Bay areas. Staff is taking appropriate measures, including removal of trees using a private contractor, to safeguard remaining healthy trees and remove dead, dying, or otherwise hazardous trees.

Staff works cooperatively with the North Tahoe Fire Protection District (NTFPD) to plan and implement the Conservancy’s forestry activities in Placer County. Staff plan to permit and prepare approximately 64 acres of forest health/fuels reduction projects on Conservancy land in Placer County in 2017. Implementation is projected to start in the 2018 field season. Funding for this work is from a Federal Emergency Management Agency Hazardous Fuels Mitigation Grant to NTFPD.

F. Major Conservancy Projects Recently Completed or In Progress, City of South Lake Tahoe

1. Public Access and Recreation

These projects enhance regional public access and recreation

El Dorado Beach to Ski Run Boulevard Bike Trail and Lake Access Enhancement:

Construction of approximately .75 miles of paved bike trail for Phase 1 has begun. In 2012, the Board approved easements through Conservancy land to facilitate the project. CSLT has also completed easement acquisition needed to complete project implementation through private land. Portions of the trail are also located within the U.S. Highway 50 right-of-way. Although the Conservancy has no active funding in this project, staff monitors implementation to ensure compliance with the terms of its easements and with the planning grant awarded in 2002.

- Location: the City along U.S. Highway 50

- Description: A three-quarter-mile segment that will bridge the bike trail gap between El Dorado Beach and Ski Run Boulevard
- Conservancy Funding: \$645,000 planning
- Total Project Cost: \$2,000,000
- Schedule:
 - 2017: Trail construction
- Lead Agency: the City
- Partners: Caltrans
- Staff Contact: Lisa O'Daly

South Tahoe Greenway Shared Use Trail:

At this meeting, staff is requesting authorization of a \$60,277 augmentation for Phase 1a of the project, which would supplement the currently remaining Phase 1a authority of \$169,723. The total authorization of \$230,000 would support improvements to complement the project work accomplished in 2015 and to address drainage concerns.

Phases 1b and 2 of the project continue to move forward. Conservancy staff are working with Caltrans to develop a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document for Phases 1b and 2. Staff are also developing maintenance cost estimates in coordination with DGS. The South Tahoe Public Utility District has approved needed easements for the project.

The land exchange and Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Conservancy, City, and Lake Tahoe Community College District (LTCC), are nearly complete. During the next six months, staff will focus their time coordinating with DGS and Caltrans in preparation for required authorizations from the PWB and California Transportation Commission to allow the project to move to the working drawings phase.

The approved Greenway project includes the following elements:

- Location: Between the Sierra Tract neighborhood and Van Sickle Bi-State Park
- Description: 3.86-mile trail to provide the backbone of the bicycle network in the core of South Lake Tahoe; planned phased implementation includes Phase 1a, Glenwood Way to Herbert Ave., (0.42 miles, completed in October 2015); and Phases 1b & 2 (approximately 1 mile)
- Conservancy Funding: Preliminary planning - \$585,060; Phase 1a final design and construction - \$881,000, staff is requesting Phase 1a augmentation of \$60,227 at the June 2017 meeting; final design and construction for Phase 1b and 2 - \$1,300,000
- Partner funding for Phases 1b & 2:
 - \$1,928,000 in Active Transportation Program funds (State and federal funds, administered by Caltrans and California Transportation Commission);

- \$700,000 in Measure F funds (LTCC);
- \$399,000 in Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality funds (federal funds administered through TTD).
- Total Project Cost: Estimated \$12-15 million to complete
- Schedule:
 - 2015 – Phase 1a construction completed
 - 2016/17 – Procedural grant requirement steps (CEQA supplemental, NEPA, Master Agreement development, etc.)
 - 2017 – Proposed construction of additional drainage improvements within Phase 1a to complement the work accomplished in 2015
 - 2018/19 – Final design of Phase 1b & 2
 - 2020/21 – Phase 1b & 2 construction
- Lead Agency: Conservancy
- Partners: Caltrans, LTCC, City, TTD, USFS, Federal Highway Administration
- Staff Contact: Chris Mertens
- Project documents: http://tahoe.ca.gov/ctc_projects/south-tahoe-greenway-79/

2. Natural Resources

Natural resources projects restore natural river processes, enhance SEZs, improve wildlife habitat and fisheries, and improve water quality.



Upper Truckee Marsh

Upper Truckee Marsh Restoration:

The Board certified the Final EIR and approved the project in December 2015 and authorized staff to expend funds for project planning, acquisition, and construction. The design contractor is progressing with engineering activities to develop preliminary plans. A team of scientists and resource experts is providing guidance and assistance to the project design and monitoring development efforts.

Staff is also continuing negotiations with private property owners for acquisitions in support of the project. Staff is working closely with the USACE to develop a

partnership agreement for the project, and pursuing other federal and state funding opportunities for the project, as they arise. Staff and contractors continue comprehensive monitoring in the Marsh thanks to partnerships with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), the TRCD, and the United States Geological Survey (USGS).

- Location: Mouth of the Upper Truckee River on the south end of Lake Tahoe primarily on Conservancy-owned lands
- Description: 600-acre river and marsh restoration project, including the Lower West Side Project
- Conservancy Funding authorized to date: \$4,305,000 planning; \$1,495,000 acquisitions, \$20,760,000 construction (Lower West Side and the future Marsh project)
- Total Project Cost: Estimated \$12.36 million additional to complete the project
- Schedule:
 - 2001-2002 – Lower West Side project constructed
 - 2013 – Draft EIR/EIS/EIS released for public comment
 - 2014 – Preferred alternative presented to Board for discussion
 - 2015/2016 – Final EIR/EIS/EIS certification
 - 2019 – Anticipated start of construction
- Lead Agency: Conservancy
- Partners: Reclamation, DGS, SWRCB, TRPA, USACE
- Staff Contact: Scott Carroll
- Project documents: http://tahoe.ca.gov/ctc_projects/upper-truckee-marsh-69/

3. Forest Improvement

Forest improvement projects are designed to improve wildlife habitat, reduce fire threat, and promote natural processes.



Tahoe Conservation Partnership Crews chip wood as part of a forest improvement project.

Within the City, staff expects to complete eight acres of fuel hazard reduction and hazard tree removal initiated in response to neighboring landowner concerns. At this time, staff continues to monitor disease and insect activity as part of these forest health efforts and addresses issues where necessary.

Staff continues to coordinate with the South Lake Tahoe Fire Department and LVFPD to implement forest health/fuels reduction projects on 37 acres at the City Airport with funding from the Bureau of Land Management Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act grants program. LVFPD will complete the remaining seven acres in 2017.

G. Urban Land Management Program

1. Special Use Requests:

Pursuant to Board authority (January 20, 2011), staff is authorized to enter into license agreements consisting of three years or less provided the Board is notified. Accordingly, staff is providing this notice of recently executed license agreements.

A short-term (three-year) license was granted to Comstock Seed on June 1, 2017. Comstock will collect local source native seed from Conservancy properties along Upper Truckee River corridor. Comstock will provide a credit to the Conservancy worth ten percent of the value of the seeds collected to be used toward future seed purchases.

A short-term (three-year) license granted to the TRPA on May 15, 2017 for noise monitoring stations throughout the Lake Tahoe Basin. The Conservancy's license fee is waived in favor of an in-lieu right to use all data collected.

A temporary-use (two days) license was granted to the Nevada Interscholastic Cycling League (NICL) on May 17, 2017. NICL will host mountain biking race events along the existing roads and trails of the Dollar property on August 27 and 28. The license fee for this activity is \$100.

A temporary-use (one day) license was granted to the Rivers For Change on June 2, 2017 for access to and use of Conservancy parcels along the Upper Truckee River for the Truckee River Source to Sea Paddling and Environmental Learning adventure. The license fee for this activity is \$100.

Temporary-use (one day) license was granted to the San Francisco Estuary Institute on May 30, 2017 for access to and use of a Conservancy parcel near the confluence of the Upper Truckee River and Angora Creek to conduct a California

Rapid Assessment Method for wetlands training. The license fee for this activity is the rights to use all data collected and \$100.

2. Upper Truckee Marsh and Van Sickle Bi-State Park:

The seasonal Upper Truckee Marsh dog closure started on May 1, 2017. The California Highway Patrol assist with management of the Marsh property and Van Sickle Bi-State Park. Conservancy volunteers and TRCD-provided land stewards also assist with property management.



TRCD Crew during Heavenly Creek Bridge Construction at Van Sickle Bi-State Park

Van Sickle Bi-State Park opened to public vehicle access for the season on May 1, 2017. The Park was selected as a “must visit” destination in South Lake Tahoe by FlipKey, a TripAdvisor company. The Park is also featured in an article, *8 Beautiful Little Lake Towns Across America*. Here is a link to that article:

<https://www.flipkey.com/blog/2017/02/06/beautiful-little-lake-towns-across-america/>