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2013

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ANNUAL REPORT

## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

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As a founding Board Member, I recognize the important role the Conservancy plays in the Lake Tahoe Basin. We are a valued partner, a respected landowner, and the funder of hundreds of water quality, landmark restoration, public access, and habitat enhancement projects. For nearly three decades, we have collaborated with others to lead the State's efforts at Lake Tahoe. Perhaps most importantly, we continue to maintain the highest standards of stewardship and provide

critical project funding to our local government and nonprofit partners.

Our work is not done. The challenges of restoring the Upper Truckee River and other high priority watersheds, completing a comprehensive bike trail network, and continuing to proactively manage our lands remain in front of us. The Agency's new Strategic Plan outlines our steps to achieve these goals and ensure a sustainable future for Lake Tahoe. With continued support we are committed to leading California's efforts on the Environmental Improvement Program and the Regional Plan. I'm pleased to present this annual report, and I look forward to our many accomplishments to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Larry Severson".

**Larry Severson**

*Chair of the California Tahoe Conservancy*

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### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**LARRY SEVISON**, Chair  
*Placer County*

**JOHN HOOPER**, Vice Chair  
*Public Member*

**LYNN SUTER**  
*Public Member*

**TODD FERRARA**  
*Resources Agency*

**KAREN FINN**  
*Department of Finance*

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*City of South Lake Tahoe*

**NORMA SANTIAGO**  
*El Dorado County*

**NANCY J. GIBSON**  
*U.S. Forest Service (Ex-Officio)*

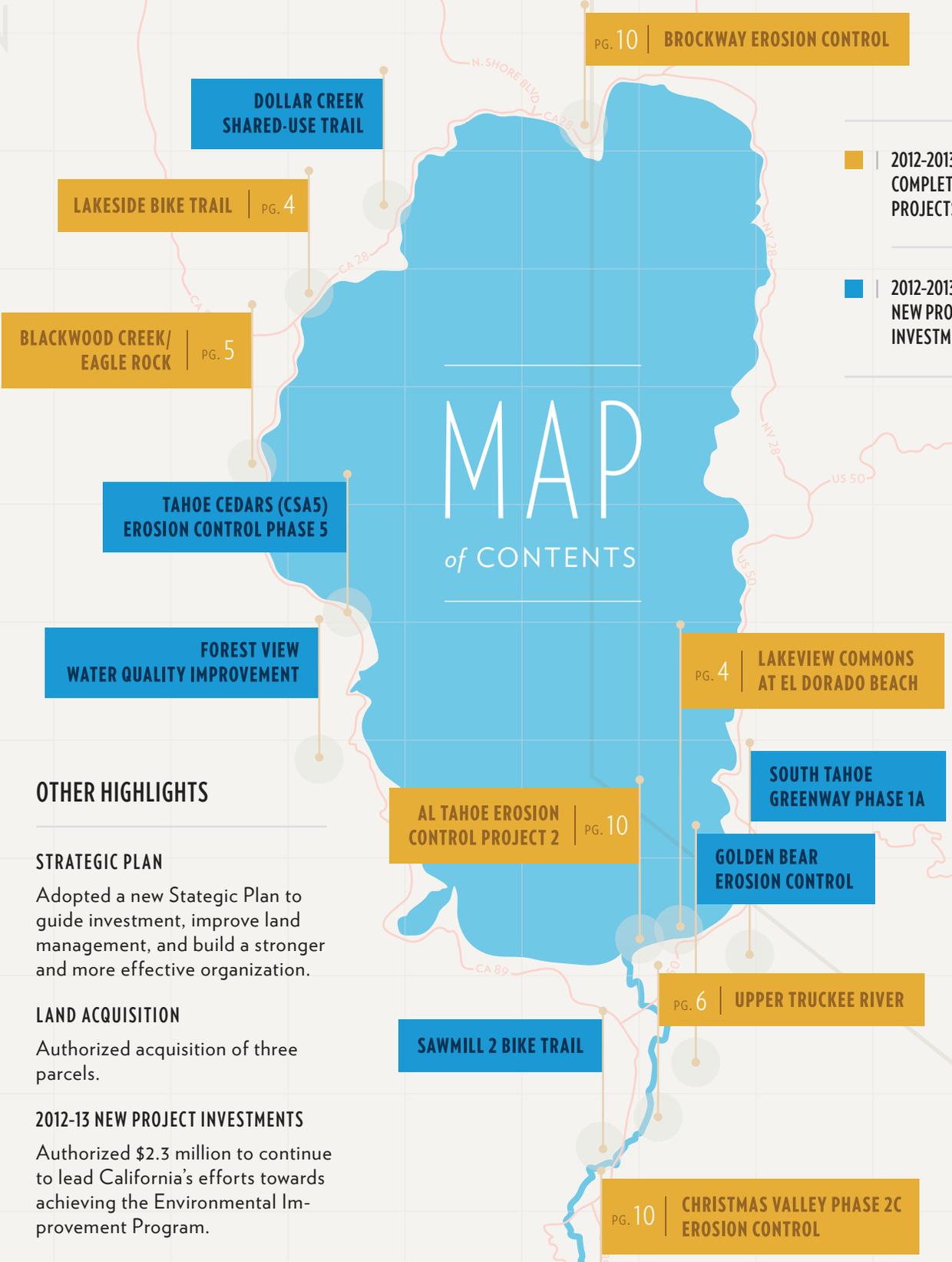
**PATRICK WRIGHT**, Executive Director

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# MAP of CONTENTS

- 2012-2013 COMPLETED PROJECTS
- 2012-2013 NEW PROJECT INVESTMENTS



## OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

### STRATEGIC PLAN

Adopted a new Strategic Plan to guide investment, improve land management, and build a stronger and more effective organization.

### LAND ACQUISITION

Authorized acquisition of three parcels.

### 2012-13 NEW PROJECT INVESTMENTS

Authorized \$2.3 million to continue to lead California's efforts towards achieving the Environmental Improvement Program.

## 2012-2013 SIGNATURE PROJECTS

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### LAKEVIEW COMMONS AT EL DORADO BEACH

Opened in 2012 through a collaborative effort between City of South Lake Tahoe and El Dorado County, Lakeview Commons has become the major social and recreational hub on the south shore. Community events and weekly concerts draw thousands of residents and visitors throughout the summer to dig their toes into the sand and watch the sun set over the Lake.



### LAKESIDE BIKE TRAIL

This spectacular waterfront trail extends 1.1 miles through downtown Tahoe City, redefining the community's relationship to the Lake. Built and maintained by the Tahoe City Public Utility District, the trail connects cafes, restaurants, businesses, and lakefront parks, and links to a 22-mile trail network along the Truckee River and Tahoe's west shore.



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**BEACHES APP** The Conservancy partnered with the Tahoe Fund in developing a mobile app that provides comprehensive, up-to-date information

on all of Tahoe's federal, State, and local public beaches, including directions, facilities, transit connections, and other useful information.

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### **LOWER BLACKWOOD CREEK**

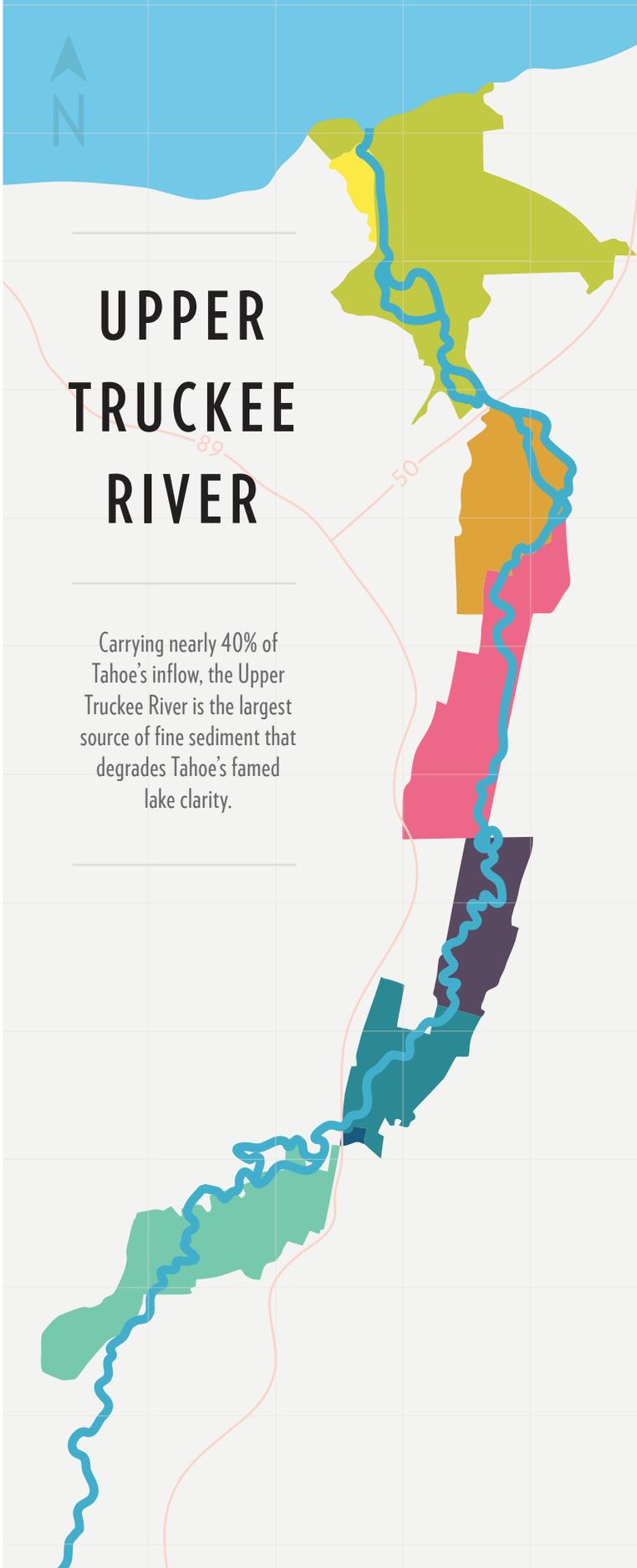
Decades of grazing and mining activities degraded Blackwood Creek, which contributed the most fine sediment per unit of area to Lake Tahoe. The Lower Blackwood Creek Restoration Project is the final piece of a comprehensive inter-agency strategy to stabilize the creek channel, enhance aspen and other stream vegetation, and improve riparian and aquatic habitat.



### **EAGLE ROCK TRAIL**

One of Tahoe's most spectacular destinations, Eagle Rock provides stunning and panoramic Lake views. The Conservancy led a collaborative effort with the California Conservation Corps, Tahoe Rim Trail Association, and Tahoe Resource Conservation District to remove the old network of steep and eroding trails, reduce runoff to Blackwood Creek, and build two easily accessible trails to the summit.

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# UPPER TRUCKEE RIVER

Carrying nearly 40% of Tahoe's inflow, the Upper Truckee River is the largest source of fine sediment that degrades Tahoe's famed lake clarity.

## ■ | LOWER WEST SIDE

This project re-established 23 acres of wetland and now features year-round vistas and wildlife viewing along a well-used trail that accesses Lake Tahoe.

## ■ | UPPER TRUCKEE MARSH

The Conservancy completed a draft restoration plan and has sought public and scientific comment on how best to restore the Marsh's 600 acres and provide access to residents and visitors.

## ■ | JOHNSON MEADOWS

The U.S. Forest Service is pursuing acquisition of this large piece of private property remaining along the Upper Truckee River floodplain.

## ■ | AIRPORT REACH

This City of South Lake Tahoe project was completed in 2011, and replaced a straight channel with a meandering river and restored floodplain.

## ■ | SUNSET REACH 5

The U.S. Forest Service completed the first phase of a four-year project to replace the stream channel and provide better aquatic habitat and support a healthier meadow ecosystem.

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### **SUNSET REACH 6**

This Conservancy project will enhance and restore the stream channel and floodplain downstream of Elks Club.

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### **ELKS CLUB**

The Conservancy acquired this developed site with the goal of restoring the ecosystem while accommodating river access.

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### **GOLF COURSE**

California State Parks plans to relocate golf holes out of a sensitive floodplain and restore the river and adjacent habitat.

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### **UPPER TRUCKEE RIVER WORKSHOP**

Conservancy staff hosted a three-day workshop focused on the Upper Truckee River Restoration Strategy. A distinguished panel of scientists led discussions and provided recommendations to help this collaborative effort.

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### **UPPER TRUCKEE RIVER**

In partnership with the U.S. Forest Service, California State Parks, and other organizations, the Conservancy launched a comprehensive, interagency strategy to restore the ecological health of the Upper Truckee River, Tahoe's largest and most urbanized watershed.

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## 2013 LAND MANAGEMENT & FOREST HABITAT ENHANCEMENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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Stewardship of the Conservancy's 6,500 acres of mostly small lots requires year-round maintenance and inspection. Like any good neighbor, we protect these environmentally sensitive lands by restoring stream zones, removing hazard trees, thinning overgrown forests, building and repairing fences, and revegetating degraded areas.

**40**  
acres of forest habitat treated

**3,205**  
property inspections completed

**98**  
citizen reports responded to

**110**  
hazard trees removed

**115**  
maintenance projects implemented

**30**  
restoration projects realized



The Tahoe Resource Conservation District continues to be an invaluable partner in managing these lands. Our Joint Powers Agreement further strengthens a 20+ year relationship of restoration and land management.

## LAND MANAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

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### **VAN SICKLE BI-STATE PARK**

Co-managed by Nevada Division of State Parks, Van Sickle Bi-State Park offers extraordinary views of Lake Tahoe. The Van Sickle Foundation and the Tahoe Fund generously provide funding for operations. Explore Tahoe and the Tahoe Rim Trail Association organize nature hikes, camps, and public speakers. Since 2008, site hosts Frank and Linda have helped to protect historic resources and steward the park.



### **GAR WOODS GRILL & PIER**

Gar Woods Grill & Pier meticulously cares for the Conservancy's 540 linear feet of north shore public beach, its parking facilities, and public restrooms in exchange for a shared facility arrangement.

## 2012-2013 MAJOR EROSION CONTROL PROJECTS

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### **BROCKWAY EROSION CONTROL**

Placer County's Brockway Project reduces polluted runoff to a popular public beach from the densely developed North Stateline Area. The project brought together several public and private partners, including Placer County, the Conservancy, the U.S. Forest Service, and local property owners.



### **CHRISTMAS VALLEY PHASE 2C EROSION CONTROL**

El Dorado County completed the final phase of the Christmas Valley Erosion Control Project in 2013. This project reduces sediment and pollutant loads that previously discharged directly into the Upper Truckee River.



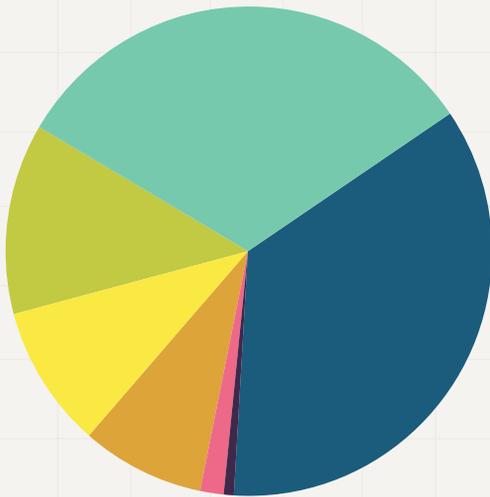
### **AL TAHOE EROSION CONTROL PROJECT 2**

This City of South Lake Tahoe project now treats storm water from the densely populated Al Tahoe neighborhood in an underground vault before entering Lake Tahoe.



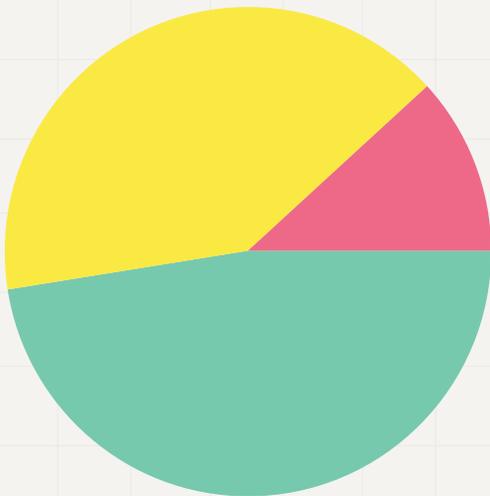
# FISCAL YEAR 2012-2013

## SUPPORT AND REVENUE



35%	Land Bank	3,531,000
32%	Environmental License Plate	3,288,809
13%	Lake Tahoe License Plate	1,295,768
9%	Bonds	954,855
8%	Reimbursements	837,071
2%	Leases and Licenses	217,547
1%	Habitat Conservation Funding	81,189
<b>Total Support and Revenue</b>		<b>\$10,206,239</b>

## EXPENSES



47%	Environmental Improvement Projects	4,825,064
41%	General and Administrative	4,155,143
12%	Land and Forest Fuels Maintenance	1,181,802
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$10,162,009</b>

# HELP THE CONSERVANCY

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PRESERVE LAKE TAHOE'S FUTURE.



## PURCHASE A TAHOE LICENSE PLATE

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[WWW.TAHOEPLATES.COM](http://WWW.TAHOEPLATES.COM)

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The mission of the California Tahoe Conservancy is to lead California's efforts to restore and enhance the extraordinary natural and recreational resources of the Lake Tahoe Basin.

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