

California Tahoe Conservancy
Agenda Item 9
March 21, 2013

UPPER TRUCKEE RIVER RESTORATION WORKSHOP

Conservancy staff is hosting a workshop focused on the Upper Truckee River (UTR) Restoration Strategy to evaluate the current restoration strategy for the UTR and determine ways it can be improved and adapted. The workshop is being coordinated in conjunction with US Forest Service, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU), California State Parks (Parks), the City of South Lake Tahoe (City), and the Tahoe Science Consortium (TSC). The workshop, which is open to the public, will be held on May 2–3, 2013 at the Inn by the Lake in South Lake Tahoe and will follow the attached agenda (Attachment 1).

Maureen McCarthy, Executive Director of TSC, will moderate a panel of up to five independent restoration experts. The panelists will represent different specialties, such as geomorphology and aquatic habitats, and will be chosen based upon their expertise and lack of affiliation with UTR projects. The panelists will be provided with the *Draft Upper Truckee River Restoration Strategy Document* by March 21, 2013, to review and understand current UTR efforts. A copy of the draft strategy document will be provided to the Board at the March 21, 2013 Board meeting and will be available to the public.

In addition to the draft strategy document, the panelists will receive six questions (Attachment 2) that they will be asked to answer in a joint written response that will be presented to the public the afternoon of May 3rd. This written response will be used to finalize the draft strategy document.

Costs associated with the workshop were authorized by the Conservancy Board in July 2011 as part of the 2011 Planning Authorization.

List of Attachments:

Attachment 1 – Workshop Agenda

Attachment 2 – Panel Questions

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ATTACHMENT 1

UPPER TRUCKEE RIVER RESTORATION WORKSHOP AGENDA

May 2-3, 2013

Inn by the Lake, South Lake Tahoe, CA

Moderator: Maureen McCarthy, Executive Director, Tahoe Science Consortium

NOTE: This meeting will be recorded.

Day 1:

8:15 - 8:45 OVERVIEW

- 1) Purpose of workshop and draft strategy document
- 2) Motivation for workshop and document
 - Public perceptions of purpose/objectives, risks/benefits, and prioritization among other environmental needs
 - Environmental improvement program (EIP) goals, specifically reaching environmental sustainability/resiliency goals via restoring ecosystem function)
 - Total maximum daily load (TMDL) goals, specifically sediment and nutrient loading reductions to Lake Tahoe
 - Funding issues, including cost-effectiveness and trade-offs with other environmental improvements
- 3) Historical context of Upper Truckee River (UTR) watershed, interagency coordination, and project development/alternative processes
- 4) Panel asked to consider questions, deliverable expected
- 5) Introduce panel

8:45 - 9:45 PRESENTATIONS

- 20 minutes each with 10 minutes for panel Q&A

- 1) Long-term climate change anticipation
- 2) Environmental sustainability/resiliency via ecosystem restorations that improve ecosystem function

9:45 - 10:00 BREAK

10:00 - 11:00 PRESENTATIONS

- 20 minutes each with 10 minutes for panel Q&A

3) Process for planning projects, alternative development and analysis, and relation to strategy

4) Inherent risks in stream channel restoration and lessons learned to manage risk in the Tahoe Basin: short-term impacts vs. long term benefits as documented for Basin projects

11:00 - 12:00 PUBLIC COMMENT

Individuals may address the panel and workshop participants on topics related to the UTR strategy. Comments will be limited to five minutes.

12:00 - 1:00 LUNCH

Lunch will only be provided for the panel and moderator.

1:00 - 3:00 DIALOGUE BETWEEN PANEL & PROJECT PROPONENTS

Discussion between panel and UTR partner agencies about the UTR Strategy

3:00 - 3:30 BREAK

3:30 - 4:30 PUBLIC COMMENT

Individuals may address the panel and workshop participants on topics related to the UTR strategy. Comments will be limited to five minutes.

4:30 - 5:00 NEXT STEPS

Moderator provides closing comments

Day 2

START TBD – 12:30 CLOSED PANEL SESSION*

*NOTE: This session is only open to the panel and moderator.

12:30 - 1:30 LUNCH

Lunch will only be provided for the panel and moderator.

1:30 - 4:30 PANEL PRESENTATION

Panel findings, followed by Q&A from agencies and public

ATTACHMENT 2

UPPER TRUCKEE RIVER RESTORATION WORKSHOP PANEL QUESTIONS

1. The current Upper Truckee River (UTR) strategy and philosophy focuses the design of projects on the restoration of geomorphic and ecosystem functions. In what ways is this approach likely to be effective or ineffective, as a whole, in achieving the projected benefits?
2. How could the overall restoration strategy be improved to provide the most robust, comprehensive, coordinated, and coherent framework for restoring ecosystem function and resiliency within the UTR stream channel and floodplain?
3. The UTR restoration effort involves a wide range of varying landscapes, impairments, constraints, and opportunities. Considering the significant variations in individual project reaches and the potentially different restoration concepts used in specific settings, what additional guidance can the inter-agency strategy incorporate to ensure that the most efficient and beneficial river-wide effort is implemented?
4. Does the monitoring, analysis and reporting as described in the UTR strategy document, adequately provide guidance for measuring success in achieving the stated goals and objectives? In what ways can the monitoring, analysis and reporting be improved?
5. Ecosystem resiliency is an overarching restoration goal. How do we better communicate to the public and local government representatives the importance and need for action to achieve this goal, such as balancing risk of potential short term construction related impacts of restoration projects with the long term benefits to ecosystem function and resiliency?
6. How should new scientific information and technical advice that is obtained as part of program or project development be incorporated to improve and expand the river-wide restoration strategy?