

California Tahoe Conservancy
Agenda Item 9b
December 12, 2013

UPPER TRUCKEE RIVER RESTORATION

The California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy) and its partners have continued to restore the Upper Truckee River (UTR) during summer and fall of 2013.

The U.S. Forest Service, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit completed the first phase of the UTR Sunset Stables Reach 5 restoration project by constructing 3,400 feet of new channel on federal and Conservancy lands. Fuel wood produced during this construction effort was coordinated by the Conservancy for distribution to elderly and disabled people through a collaboration with the Kiwanis Club of Lake Tahoe (<http://kiwaniscluboflaketahoe.org/>) and the California Conservation Corps.

Conservancy staff continue to develop the preferred alternative for the Upper Truckee Marsh (UTM) project by evaluating public comments, reviewing potential environmental impacts, and analyzing project goals and objectives. Staff anticipate presenting the preferred alternative and analysis to the Board and the public during summer of 2014. The final environmental document will be prepared once the preferred alternative is finalized.

The City of South Lake Tahoe's Airport UTR project team recently completed extensive monitoring of the site and is currently drafting a report. In addition, the UTR Coordinated Adaptive Management Group conducted a field tour in June 2013 to continue learning from the project's results and adapting to new information.

The Conservancy continues to actively pursue opportunities to advance the UTR Restoration Strategy. In response to panel recommendations from the UTR workshop conducted May 2-3, 2013, the Conservancy now focuses staff and resources on the UTM project. The Conservancy also improved UTR monitoring by advocating for continued development and using quantifiable success criteria. To meet these criteria, the Conservancy supports the progress of the Stream Load Reduction Tool (SLRT), which is used to estimate water quality benefits. As counseled by the panel, staff intends to incorporate ecosystem services into the UTR strategy by providing a clear message about how the UTR projects benefit people and the environment. A meeting between

UTR agency executives is being scheduled to discuss and determine future levels of collaboration relative to the workshop recommendations.

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