

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Highlights and Cross-Cutting Programs and Projects

Emerald Fire:

The Emerald Fire began in the early morning hours of October 14, 2016 near Cascade Lake and Emerald Bay. The fire burned 176 acres. No Conservancy lands were impacted by the fire, but there are two parcels (approximately three acres total) that are immediately adjacent to recently treated and burned National Forest System Lands. The treatments were credited with assisting with fire suppression activities and keeping the Conservancy parcels from burning. High winds and heavy rains during the fire complicated the situation and caused large debris flows, some of which closed State Route 89. The Conservancy assisted CalFire with rehabilitation efforts on State Responsibility Areas in the Cascade Estates Subdivision.

In addition to the Emerald Fire, numerous small fires have occurred on Conservancy and National Forest System Lands over the course of the late summer and early fall. Several of these were in or immediately adjacent to Van Sickle Bi-State Park and the Upper Truckee Marsh. Staff addressed any necessary restoration of the burned areas. The cause of many of these fires is still under investigation.

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. The revised alignment would impact Van Sickle Bi-State Park and numerous parcels owned by the City of South Lake Tahoe (CSLT). Many of the CSLT parcels were purchased using Conservancy-funded acquisition grants. The project's environmental document is expected to be released for public comment in the near future.

Conservancy staff have met numerous times with the TTD and Nevada Division of State Parks during project development and the 4F consultation process, required by the Federal Highways Administration, to discuss the potential impacts. As the project moves forward, staff will bring any necessary actions to the Board.

Forest Health Landscape Planning:

The Conservancy, along with the USDA Forest Service (USFS), California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA), 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 stakeholder analysis is complete and the stakeholder kick-off meeting was held November 30, 2016.

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.

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. In order 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 subcommittee.

Proposition 1 Grant Program:

The Board's Proposition 1 grant awards of \$8,261,568 authorized in 2016 are reflected in eight separate planning, acquisition, and implementation grant agreements distributed to the respective grantees including the NFF, Tahoe Resource Conservation District (TRCD), Washoe Tribe, Lake Valley Fire Protection District (LVFPD), El Dorado County, and DPR. Conservancy staff and grantees continue to move the projects forward (see table below). An acquisition grant, in the amount of \$1.2 million, for the Placer County Griff Creek Corridor and Public Access Project is being presented to you as Agenda Item 8.d at this meeting.

CONSERVANCY PROPOSITION 1 GRANT FUNDING AWARDS (2016)					
Project	Grantee	Conservancy Staff Contact	Grant Type	Grant Award	Status of Project
Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Plant Control Project	Tahoe Resource Conservation District	Whitney Brennan	Implementation	\$700,000	Grant agreement executed, project in progress
Johnson Meadow Acquisition	Tahoe Resource Conservation District	Aimee Rutledge	Acquisition	\$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	Planning	\$228,530	Grant agreement executed, workplan in progress
Lake Tahoe West Collaborative: A Multi-Jurisdictional Landscape Restoration Strategy	National Forest Foundation	Juan Carlos Urizar	Planning	\$849,100	Grant agreement executed, workplan approved
Lake Tahoe Basin Wildfire Protection and Water Quality Enhancement Project	Lake Valley Fire Protection District	Milan Yeates	Planning	\$850,000	Grant agreement executed, workplan in progress, recently approved SNPLMA Round 16 funds will cover some of the project costs
Antone Meadows Dam Removal and Restoration, Burton Creek State Park	California Department of State Parks	Jen Greenberg	Planning	\$149,938	Grant agreement executed, workplan in progress
Tahoe Storm Water Resource Plan	Tahoe Resource Conservation District	Scott Cecchi	Planning	\$150,000	Grant agreement executed, workplan approved

Meyers SEZ Restoration and Erosion Control Project	El Dorado County	Mark Sedlock	Implementation	\$1,100,000	Grant agreement in process
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Aquatic Invasive Species:

The Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Implementation Plan, a product of the Board’s September 2014 authorization of \$300,000 from the Lake Tahoe Science and Lake Improvement Account (Account) and 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 TRCD’s AIS plant eradication through the TRCD/Conservancy Joint Powers Agreement. This funding supports AIS eradication and control at the Tahoe City Dam, Emerald Bay, Lakeside Beach and Marina, Ski Run Marina and channel, and Fleur de Lac Marina. As noted above, in March 2016 the Board authorized a Proposition 1 implementation grant in the amount of \$700,000 to TRCD for additional plant control phases and projects. Accordingly, TRCD’s staff and its consultants and contractors are working for the remainder of the 2016 field season on multiple projects.

- Location: Lake wide
- Description: Invasive plant control, warm water fish data collection, AIS Implementation Plan
- Conservancy Funding: \$300,000 (2014), \$200,000 (2015), \$700,000 (2016)
- Schedule:
 - 2015: Warm water fish data collection, invasive plant control, implementation plan completed
 - 2016: Invasive plant control, reports completed for 2015 projects
- Lead Agency: TRCD
- Partners: University of Nevada – Reno
- Staff Contact: Whitney Brennan

Lake Tahoe Water Trail:

In February 2015, the Board authorized up to \$50,000 from the Conservancy’s private donation funded Beverly Charter Trust Special Deposit Account for a competitively bid consulting services contract with the private non-profit Sierra Business Council (SBC). SBC is leading the Water Trail effort, in close coordination with the Lake Tahoe Water Trail Association, to provide wayfinding and trailhead signage along with public outreach and education. SBC is incorporating the Lake Tahoe Non-Motorized Boating Framework process and creating a Water Trail oversight committee consisting of recreation and business leaders. This oversight committee will provide policy direction and funding support to produce a safe, high quality lake access experience and reduce public/private use conflicts.

- Location: Lake wide

- Description: Water trail implementation features and a sustainable Water Trail organization
- Conservancy Funding authorized: \$50,000
- Contract Award: \$49,999
- Total Project Cost: \$ 212,696
- Schedule:
 - 2015 – Developed business model and marketing strategy; applied for grants to develop trailhead signage
 - 2016 – Design and install trailhead signage; work with paddle shops and lodging venues to develop coordinated rentals and managed trips on the Water Trail
- Contractor: SBC
- Partners: Conservancy, USFS, CSLT, Tahoe City Public Utility District (TCPUD), DPR, Nevada Division of State Parks
- Staff Contact: Jen Greenberg
- Project information: http://tahoe.ca.gov/ctc_projects/lake-tahoe-water-trail-79/

Tahoe Fund Visitor Information and Environmental Interpretation Project

Planning Grant:

Consistent with the Board’s December 2015 authorization, the Conservancy awarded a planning grant in the amount of \$85,000 to the non-profit Tahoe Fund for development of the Visitor Information and Environmental Interpretation Project. The Tahoe Fund has developed conceptual alternatives for environmental education and interpretation, in collaboration with key Lake Tahoe Basin agencies and stakeholder groups. A comprehensive update will be given to the Board as agenda item 9.a.

- Location: Lake wide
- Description: Planning activities to determine conceptual alternatives
- Conservancy Funding authorized: \$85,000
- Total Project Cost: \$95,000
- Schedule:
 - February 2016 – Tahoe Fund Request for Proposals and agreement with globally recognized Exploratorium, a San Francisco-based learning laboratory
 - March – September 2016 – Workshops and design charrette and report of findings
 - October 2016 – Final report review and determine next steps
- Lead Agency: Tahoe Fund
- Partners: Conservancy, USFS, TCPUD, Sierra Watershed Environmental Partnership, TRPA, League to Save Lake Tahoe, Tahoe Institute for Natural Science, UC Davis, Nevada Division of State Parks, Lake Tahoe Community College (LTCC), Sierra State Parks Foundation
- Staff Contact: Jen Greenberg

B. 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 fall 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 USFS has minor project items to complete in 2017 and will monitor the project in coming years to demonstrate performance and resource benefits.

- Location: Between Meyers and CSLT
- Description: 254 acres for Reaches 5 and 6;
 - Reach 5: 7,500 feet of channel construction in Reach 5;
 - 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 backfill of old channel
- 2017: Complete all remaining items
- 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. Staff now will be applying for regulatory agency permits in 2017 in preparation for construction bid advertisement and project implementation in 2018. Staff has submitted an application for potential Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) funding for the project.

- 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: \$4 million 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: BOR, 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 LVFPD 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 (CCC), will implement approximately 97 acres of forest health/fuels reduction projects on Conservancy land in El Dorado County in 2016. 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. These efforts have totaled approximately eight acres to date this year.

Due to recent drought conditions, staff is observing increased levels of stressed trees and insect activity. Staff takes appropriate measures to reduce the spread of these conditions through regular lot inspections.

Staff will be presenting a recommended action associated with the recent notice of award of a Bureau of Land Management grant for forestry activities as Agenda Item 8.b.

C. 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.



Homewood Bike Trail

Homewood Bike Trail:

TCPUD completed the trail and held a ribbon cutting in October 2016. TCPUD began planning and construction for the West Shore Bike Trail in 1971 to provide a separated bicycle and pedestrian route along the developed portions of the West Shore. The bike trail was largely completed between Tahoma and Tahoe City by the end of that decade, except for an approximately one-mile stretch in Homewood. In this stretch, bike trail users must leave the protected trail and travel along the edge of heavily traveled State Route 89 that, in some areas, has no paved shoulder. The Homewood Bike Trail addresses this situation, providing a separated bike trail that links to the larger West Shore trail network.

- Location: Along State Route 89 in Homewood
- Description: A one-mile paved class 1 trail segment integral to the completion of the West Shore bike trail system
- Conservancy Funding: \$325,274 planning grants; \$500,000 implementation grants
- Total Project Cost: \$1,557,970
- Schedule: 2016 – construction completed
- Lead Agency: TCPUD
- Partners: Conservancy, North Lake Tahoe Resort Association (NLTRA), Placer County, Tahoe Fund, California Natural Resources Agency
- Staff Contact: Scott Cecchi
- Project documents: http://tahoe.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/files/ITEM10a_HomewoodBikeTrail.pdf

Dollar Creek Shared-Use Trail:

Approximately two miles of paved bike trail funded in part by the TTD is scheduled for 2017 construction. The Board's previously-approved land transactions, including easements through the Conservancy's 900-plus acre 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, provide the necessary right-of-way for the trail. 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
- Anticipated Total Project Construction Cost: \$3.5 Million
- Schedule:
 - 2015 – Right-of-way acquisition complete
 - 2017 – Construction start
- Lead Agency: Placer County
- Partners: Conservancy, 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 (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 Conservancy 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. Public review and comment on three concept alternatives occurred in August and September 2016. Consideration of input received and development of a preferred alternative is underway.

- Location: Kings Beach State Recreation Area, Kings Beach
- Description: 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. Also, revise the GP to provide the planning basis for a rebuilt pier and other recreational needs.

- 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: Sue Rae Irelan

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, along with other public partners such as TRCD, will implement approximately 20 acres of forest health/fuels reduction projects on Conservancy land in Placer County in 2016. These projects are prioritized through the annual Lake Tahoe Basin Fuels Reduction and Fire Prevention Incident Action Plan by the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team.

In 2010, NTFPD applied for a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Hazardous Fuels Mitigation Fund grant to address fuel hazard reduction on 881 Conservancy-owned parcels under one acre in size in Placer County. The Board approved the environmental document for this project in September 2016. The NTFPD anticipates that initial implementation of the project will begin in 2017.

D. 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 is scheduled to begin in 2017. 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: City of South Lake Tahoe 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: CSLT
- Partners: Conservancy, Caltrans
- Staff Contact: Lisa O'Daly

South Tahoe Greenway Shared Use Trail:

The Conservancy executed a Caltrans "Master Agreement" which allows the Conservancy to receive federal and State grant funds from Caltrans. Staff are also developing maintenance cost estimates, preparing environmental studies to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), securing easements from South Tahoe Public Utility District, and coordinating with DGS.

One key element of the project, a land exchange between CSLT and LTCC, has not yet been completed. The purpose of the land exchange is to allow LTCC to contribute \$700,000 to the project and gain management efficiencies.

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; 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 – Procedural grant requirement steps (CEQA supplemental, NEPA, Master Agreement development, etc.)
 - 2017/18 – Final design of Phase 1b & 2
 - 2019/2020 – Phase 1b & 2 construction
- Lead Agency: Conservancy
- Partners: Caltrans, LTCC, CSLT, TTD, USFS, Federal Highway Administration
- Staff Contact: Chris Mertens
- Project documents: http://tahoe.ca.gov/ctc_projects/south-tahoe-greenway-79/

2. Soil Erosion Control

Soil erosion control projects improve water quality by capturing and treating stormwater to reduce the amount of sediment and nutrients delivered to Lake Tahoe.



Sierra Tract Chris Basin

Sierra Tract Erosion Control:

CSLT completed construction of Sierra Tract Phase 3/4 in fall 2016.

- Location: Sierra Tract neighborhood in South Lake Tahoe
- Description: Address stormwater runoff pollutants that discharge directly into the Upper Truckee River using improvements such as infiltration galleries
- Conservancy Funding: \$4,929,497 (all phases)
- Total Project Cost: \$4.288 million to construct Phase 3/4
- Schedule:
 - 2000-2013 – Phase 1A, 1B, and Phase 2 completed
 - 2014 – Grants awarded for Phase 3/4 final design and construction
 - 2015 – Start of Phase 3/4 construction
 - 2016 – Completion of Phase 3/4 construction.
- Lead Agency: CSLT
- Partners: Conservancy, State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), USFS
- Staff Contact: Joe Pepi
- Project documents: www.cityofslt.us/documentcenter/view/3204

3. Natural Resources

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



Cove East in winter

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. TRPA has certified the project's Joint Final EIR/ EIS/ EIS. DGS recently awarded a contract for preliminary plan development, and the design contractor has commenced engineering activities. 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 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: BOR, DGS, SWRCB, TRPA, USACE
- Staff Contact: Scott Carroll
- Project documents: http://tahoe.ca.gov/ctc_projects/upper-truckee-marsh-69/

4. Forest Improvement

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



California Conservation Corps
Crews help fall a tree.

Staff, along with other public partners, will treat approximately six acres of Conservancy land located within the CSLT this year. Staff also expects to complete three acres of fuel hazard reductions and hazard tree removals 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 CSLT Airport with funding from the Bureau of Land Management SNPLMA grants program. LVFPD will complete the remaining seven acres in 2017.

E. 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.

Short-term (two-month) license was granted to CSLT on September 30, 2016 for the purpose of conducting preliminary geotechnical investigation to support project planning and design efforts for the CSLT's Tahoe Valley Stormwater/Greenbelt Improvement Project. The Conservancy's license fee was waived in favor of an in-lieu right to use all data collected.

Short-term (six months) license granted to Frank Bosch and Linda Cook on November 1, 2016 for site use at Van Sickle Bi-State Park (Park). In lieu of the license fee, the Licensee will provide regular inspections of the Conservancy's Park property and report findings to the Conservancy weekly.

Short-term (five months) lease renewed for the Tahoe Flea Market (TFM) executed on November 09, 2016. TFM will operate and maintain its weekend flea market from May 1- September 30, 2017. TFM pays a flat fee to the Conservancy for this use and provides signage promoting the sale of Lake Tahoe License Plates.

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

The seasonal Upper Truckee Marsh dog closure ended on July 31, 2016. The El Dorado County Sheriff's Office and California Highway Patrol assist with management of the Marsh property and the Park. Conservancy volunteers and TRCD-provided land stewards also assist with property management.



TRCD Crew during Heavenly Creek Bridge Construction

During the summer of 2016, TRCD field crews assisted the Tahoe Rim Trail Association with construction and site stabilization of the bridge over Heavenly Creek on the Nevada side of the Park. Conservancy staff coordinated with DPR to restore and reinstall the Hitching Post at the California Day Use Area. Staff will be coordinating with Nevada Division of State Parks to develop interpretative signage to incorporate into the Hitching Post in summer 2017. The Park closed to public vehicle access for the season on October 31, 2016. More information about Van Sickle Bi-State Park is available at: http://tahoe.ca.gov/ctc_projects/van-sickle-bi-state-park-79/



Hitching Post