

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

### **A. Budget**

**Fiscal Year 2016/17:** On January 8, 2016, Governor Brown released the proposed Governor's Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2016/17.

The California Tahoe Conservancy's (Conservancy) proposed FY 2016/17 budget includes:

- \$9,797,000 for capital outlay and local assistance to fund its various programmatic priorities and support the Environmental Improvement Program for the Lake Tahoe Basin, including:
  - \$4,376,000 in bond funds from Propositions 12, 40, 50, and 84;
  - \$1,421,000 from special funds dedicated to the Conservancy (Habitat Conservation Fund, Lake Tahoe Conservancy Account/Tahoe License Plate, Tahoe Conservancy Fund, and Lake Tahoe Science and Lake Improvement Account [Senate Bill 630]);
  - \$2,000,000 in federal grant authority; and
  - \$2,000,000 in reimbursements.
  
- \$6,615,000 and 37.0 person years for ongoing support, including:
  - continuing "baseline" funding from various special funds and revenue sources dedicated to the Conservancy;

The Governor's Budget has been incorporated into Assembly Bill 1598 and Senate Bill 825 for consideration by the State Legislature during the spring budget hearings.

### **B. Highlights and Cross-Cutting Programs and Projects**

#### **Tribal Consultation Policy and Washoe Tribe MOU:**

The Conservancy and the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California (Washoe Tribe) are developing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to establish and maintain a formalized government-to-government relationship. The intent is to increase communication for land and resource management decision making and for other governmental relations, including building on and potentially improving existing Conservancy project consultation with the Washoe Tribe. The Conservancy and

Washoe Tribe recognize a mutual benefit in this relationship, given the Washoe Tribe's connection to the lands the Conservancy now manages and our joint interest in protection of social, biological, and tribal cultural resources at Lake Tahoe.

The MOU: 1) commits the organizations to hold regular meetings between the Washoe Tribal Chairman and the Conservancy Executive Director to ensure open and transparent dialogue on activities, opportunities, and issues of mutual interest; 2) commits the Conservancy to identify opportunities for Washoe Tribal participation and coordination in Conservancy projects; and 3) re-states the Conservancy's commitment to seek consultation with the Washoe Tribe for individual Conservancy projects and the Washoe Tribe's agreement to let the Conservancy know when it wishes to engage in consultation.

The Conservancy formally consults with California Native American Tribes and tribal communities with interest in its projects at Lake Tahoe pursuant to Executive Order B-10-11 and the California Natural Resources Agency Tribal Consultation Policy (November 20, 2012). The Washoe Tribe provided archeological monitoring of the Conservancy's Blackwood Creek restoration and Eagle Rock Trail construction projects and is participating on the Conservancy's Upper Truckee Marsh Technical Advisory Committee. We also continue to discuss opportunities for providing Washoe Tribal interpretive information at project and acquisition sites and to encourage the Washoe Tribe's involvement in the Integrated Regional Water Management group, which focuses on improving partnerships to address water-related issues in the Tahoe-Sierra region.

**Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) Round 16 Hazardous Fuels Project Nominations:** At the end of April, Lake Tahoe Basin fire and fuels agencies submitted six planning and implementation grant nominations totaling over \$40 million for SNPLMA hazardous fuels and wildfire prevention funding. The Lake Tahoe hazardous fuels projects will: implement hazardous fuels reductions on over 9000 acres in and around communities throughout the Lake Tahoe Basin; support planning efforts, including the Lake Tahoe West collaborative planning process (see below) and the Programmatic Timberland Environmental Impact Report, both of which received reduced Proposition 1 awards in March; and provide fuels reduction technical assistance to private home owners located in areas where other federal, state and local fuels treatments will be implemented. Together, these six projects, if funded, will position the Basin for completing hazardous fuels treatments in most of the urbanized areas, protecting communities and structures, and moving forest health, ecosystem protection, and climate adaptation to a landscape level. The Conservancy submitted a nomination on behalf of California Department of Parks and Recreation

(DPR), and local fire protection districts to treat up to 1800 acres in high priority areas on the California side of the Lake Tahoe Basin. We expect funding decisions from the Department of the Interior by the end of the year.

**Forest Health Landscape Planning:** The Conservancy, with the USDA Forest Service (USFS), DPR, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA), and the National Forest Foundation (NFF) continue to move forward with the Lake Tahoe West collaborative landscape level planning effort for the West Shore. NFF received Proposition 1 grant funding from the Conservancy in March and recently held its annual meeting at Northstar, which included a field trip highlighting the Lake Tahoe West effort. NFF is incorporating Lake Tahoe West in to its Treasured Landscapes program, as part of the work they have been doing on the Tahoe National Forest. NFF issued a request for information for Lake Tahoe West facilitation and program management support, as part of its Proposition 1 grant, and anticipates hiring decisions by mid-June. The USFS submitted a SNPLMA nomination for the Lake Tahoe West effort to make up for funding cut from the Proposition 1 award and to cover costs associated with developing planning documents.

**Tahoe Regional Planning Agency 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 regulations related to accessing Lake Tahoe from the shoreline. 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.

To date, TRPA and their consultants have conducted 21 in-depth, confidential interviews with 34 people representing agency staff, the TRPA Governing Board and Advisory Planning Commission members, business, environmental, public health and safety, homeowners, and recreation interests to learn more about the range of perspectives on shoreline planning and policy development. In addition, they have convened and met with the multi-stakeholder Shoreline Steering Committee and the Joint Fact Finding Committee, held meetings with the Lake Tahoe Marina Association and permitting agencies to gain consensus on a strategy for processing current shoreline planning applications during the Shoreline Planning Initiative. They also began working on a public engagement plan to ensure transparency in the planning process. Conservancy staff is participating on the Joint Fact Finding subcommittee.

**Proposition 1 Grant Program:** The Board’s Proposition 1 grant awards in the amount of \$7,161, 568 authorized in March 2016 are reflected in seven separate planning 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), and DPR. Conservancy staff and grantees are developing the project workplans and compiling documentation required as preconditions to project implementation.

<b>CONSERVANCY PROPOSITION 1 GRANT FUNDING AWARDS (MARCH 2016)</b>					
<b>Project</b>	<b>Grantee</b>	<b>Conservancy Staff Contact</b>	<b>Grant Type</b>	<b>Grant Award</b>	<b>Status of Project</b>
Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Plant Control Project	Tahoe Resource Conservation District	Whitney Brennan	Implementation	\$700,000	In process
Johnson Meadow Acquisition	Tahoe Resource Conservation District	Aimee Rutledge	Acquisition	\$4,234,000	In process
Meeks Meadow Restoration	Washoe Tribe	Joe Pepi	Planning	\$228,530	In process
Lake Tahoe West Collaborative: A Multi-Jurisdictional Landscape Restoration Strategy	National Forest Foundation	Juan Carlos Urizar	Planning	\$849,100	In process
Lake Tahoe Basin Wildfire Protection and Water Quality Enhancement Project	Lake Valley Fire Protection District	Milan Yeates	Planning	\$850,000	In process
Antone Meadows Dam Removal and Restoration, Burton Creek State Park	California Department of State Parks	Jen Greenberg	Planning	\$149,938	In process
Tahoe Storm Water Resource Plan	Tahoe Resource Conservation District	Scott Cecchi	Planning	\$150,000	In process

**Aquatic Invasive Species:**

The Board’s September 2014 authorization to expend \$300,000 from the Lake Tahoe Science and Lake Improvement Account (Account) and from Proposition 40 (Budget Act of 2014) consistent with Senate Bill 630 continues to support the TRCD’s multi-year lake-wide strategy to remove invasive plants from the near-shore of Lake Tahoe. The strategy, including plant control, warm water fish data collection, and development of a comprehensive implementation plan, is reflected in the July 2015 successful effort to remove 11,154 warmwater fish through electroshocking for warm water fish data collection, 1.5 acres of lake bottom treatment for invasive plants at Lakeside Marina and Lakeside Swim Area, and 0.65 acres of lake bottom inventory for

invasive plant species at Ski Run Marina in 2015. In June 2015, the Board authorized an additional \$200,000 from the Account expanding the TRCD's AIS eradication effort to the Tahoe City Dam, Emerald Bay, and Lakeside Beach and Marina. TRCD staff and contractors will be working for the remainder of the 2016 field season on multiple projects.

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

#### **Lake Tahoe Water Trail:**

The Board's February 2015 authorization of up to \$50,000 from the Beverly Charter Trust Special Deposit Account for a consulting services contract with the private non-profit Sierra Business Council (SBC) in conjunction with the Lake Tahoe Water Trail Association involves specific project deliverables including wayfinding and trailhead signage, outreach and education, participation in the Lake Tahoe Non-Motorized Boating Framework process, and the creation of an oversight committee of recreation and business leaders capable of providing 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 sustainable water trail organization
- Conservancy Funding authorized: \$50,000
- Contract Award: \$49,999
- Total Project Cost: \$ 212,696
- Schedule:
  - 2015 – Develop business model and marketing strategy; apply for grants to develop trailhead signage
  - 2016 – Design and install trailhead signage; enter into agreement with partner agencies to support signage efforts, and host a workshop to update the Lake Tahoe Non-Motorized Boating Framework
- Contractor: SBC

- Partners: Conservancy, USFS, City of South Lake Tahoe, Tahoe City Public Utility District (TCPUD), DPR, Nevada State Parks
- Staff Contact: Jen Greenberg
- Project information: [http://tahoe.ca.gov/ctc\\_projects/lake-tahoe-water-trail-79/](http://tahoe.ca.gov/ctc_projects/lake-tahoe-water-trail-79/)

**Tahoe Fund Visitor Information and Environmental Interpretation Project:**

Consistent with the Board’s December 2015 authorization, a grant in the amount of \$85,000 has been awarded to the non-profit Tahoe Fund for development of conceptual alternatives for environmental education and interpretation on behalf of the Lake Tahoe Basin’s key agencies and stakeholder groups.

- 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, San Francisco-based learning laboratory
  - March – June 2016 – Workshops and design charrette; write report of findings
  - July 2016 – Review Final Report 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, NV State Parks, Lake Tahoe Community College, Sierra State Parks Foundation
- Staff Contact: Jen Greenberg

## **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, improve wildlife habitat and fisheries, and improve water quality.

Sunset Stables Reach 5 Construction 2013



#### **Upper Truckee River Sunset Stables Reach Restoration:**

USFS restoration crews will complete the project in 2016. Restoration includes construction of a new river channel to raise the river bed and inundate the meadow. The restored channel will raise groundwater and enhance unique habitats, and improve water quality by reducing bank erosion and increasing natural wetland filtration. In preparation for the dewatering and filling of the existing channel in 2016, USFS staff relocated Western Pearlshell mussels in summer of 2015 from the existing Reach 5 channel into other portions of the Upper Truckee River, including Reach 6, as well as other streams. The remainder of the mussel population in Reach 5 will be moved this year.

- Location: Between Meyers and the City of South Lake Tahoe
- Description: 254 acres; Reach 5: 7,500 feet of channel construction in Reach 5, Reach 6 is on hold
- Conservancy Funding: \$2,479,728 Reach 5 and 6 planning; \$0 construction
- USFS Funding: Reach 5 final design and construction - \$6,510,000
- Schedule:
  - 2013: 3,000 feet of new channel constructed Reach 5
  - 2014: 3,000 feet of new channel construction and related utility line relocation, Reach 5
  - 2015: No active construction, new channel vegetation established and aquatic resource relocation conducted for approximately 70 percent of the Western Pearlshell mussels, Reach 5
  - 2016: 1,500 feet of new channel construction at tie-in points, river relocation into new channel and backfill of existing channel, Reach 5
- 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 has completed the preliminary plan stage and received Board authority to move this project forward to final design and construction in July 2014. Staff is coordinating with Department of General Services (DGS) and Department of Finance staff in preparation for authorization by the State Public Works Board (PWB) to proceed to working drawings. Staff will be applying for regulatory agency permits in summer and fall 2016 to allow for construction bid advertisement and project implementation in 2017.

- Location: Confluence of Upper Truckee River and Echo Creek in Meyers
- Description: Eight-acre site to restore Stream Environment Zone 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: 2017 construction
- State PWB approval anticipated in summer 2016
- Lead Agency: Conservancy
- Partners: Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), Caltrans, DGS
- Staff Contact: Joe Pepi

**2. Forest Improvement**

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



Staff works cooperatively with the LVFPD and the Meeks Bay Fire Protection District (MBFPD) to plan and implement Conservancy’s forestry activities in El Dorado County primarily on Conservancy-owned or managed land. Staff along with public agency partners such as the California Conservation Corps (CCC) will implement approximately 92 acres of forest health/fuels reduction projects on

Conservancy parcels in El Dorado County. These projects are coordinated through the annual Lake Tahoe Basin Fuels Reduction and Fire Prevention Incident Action Plan by the Tahoe Fuels and Fire Team. In addition, staff is anticipating approximately eight acres of fuel hazard reduction and hazard tree removal requests initiated by neighboring private landowners for the current field season.

## **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.



Homewood Bike Trail, existing conditions

#### **Homewood Bike Trail:**

TCPUD is the project lead overseeing trail construction scheduled for completion in 2016.

- 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
- 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](http://tahoe.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/files/ITEM10a_HomewoodBikeTrail.pdf)

#### **Dollar Creek Shared-Use Trail**

Construction of approximately two miles of paved bike trail, following a private construction contract award by Placer County, is scheduled for 2016. Board-approved land transactions, including easements through the Conservancy's 900-

plus acre Dollar property and fee title land transfers from the North Tahoe Public Utility District (NTPUD) to Placer County for the Conservancy-funded 85-plus acre Firestone property, provide the necessary land tenure or right-of-way. A Basin-wide Federal Lands Access Program grant awarded to the Tahoe Transportation District (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
- Total Project Construction Cost: \$3.5 Million
- Schedule:
  - 2015 – Right-of-way acquisition complete
  - 2016 – Construction start
- Lead Agency: Placer County
- Partners: Conservancy, NLTRA, TTD, NTPUD
- Staff Contact: Sue Rae Irelan
- Project documents:  
<http://www.placer.ca.gov/Departments/Works/Projects/DollarCreekBikeTrail.aspx>

**Kings Beach General Plan Revision and Pier Rebuild Project:**

The DPR is leading a Kings Beach State Recreation Area General Plan (GP) Revision and the Pier Rebuild Project (Project) planning process, including environmental review under the provisions of both the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and TRPA environmental regulations. The Environmental Impact Report/ Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) scoping period began on December 22, 2015 and ended on April 15, 2016. DPR, Conservancy, and TRPA staff are evaluating comments received to identify the number and scope of reasonable alternatives to evaluate in the environmental documentation. The Conservancy Board authorized \$525,000 in Proposition 40 funds in April 2015 for this planning effort, in addition to previous Conservancy expenditures.

- 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
- Total Project Cost: \$832,339 (GP/preliminary planning/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, DPR, NLTRA, DGS
- Staff Contact: Sue Rae Irelan

## 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.

### **Kings Beach Commercial Core and Watershed Improvement Projects:**

All Conservancy grants for these projects were completed in June 2015 subject to Placer County's continuing obligation to operate and maintain the project for the useful life of the improvements (typically 20 years). Placer County continues to make substantial progress toward project completion and the final phases of the Commercial Core Improvement Project (CCIP) are currently under construction. Placer County is at the fifty percent design level for the next phase of the Watershed Improvement Project (WIP), which focuses on the Coon Street sub-watershed.

- Location: Kings Beach subdivision and State Route 28 (SR28) in the vicinity
- Description: The CCIP includes full streetscape improvements including Class II bikeways along SR28 from State Route 267 to Chipmunk Street. The WIP implements water quality and pedestrian improvements throughout the watershed.
- Conservancy Funding: \$600,000 to plan the CCIP and \$1,123,000 for planning and acquisition grants for the WIP
- Total Project Cost: Over \$45 million
- Schedule:
  - 2010 – Fox Clean Water Pipe - completed
  - 2014-2016 – Construction of the CCIP and associated improvements in the Kings Beach neighborhood
  - UNFUNDED – Construction of the Coon Clean Water Pipe and Stream Environment Zone Improvements
- Lead Agency: Placer County
- Partners: Conservancy, Caltrans, TRPA, USFS, NLTRA, DPR, Department of Housing and Community Development, North Tahoe Business Association, Federal Highway Administration, State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)
- Staff Contacts: Scott Cecchi

- Project documents: <http://www.kingsbeachcore.info/> ; <http://www.placer.ca.gov/~media/dpw/ProjectsKingsBeach/documents/KbEIRa ppB.ashx>

### 3. Natural Resources

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



Lower Blackwood Creek, Fall 2013

#### **Lower Blackwood Creek Restoration:**

The Eagle Rock trails continue to attract Lake Tahoe visitors to the mountain and lake vistas. Post-project effectiveness monitoring of the Lower Blackwood Creek Restoration project indicates very successful re-establishment of vegetation and visual sightings of fish populations, and the Project was named a TRPA “Best in the Basin” award winner. Monitoring to inform adaptive management will continue and is anticipated to help inform design for future Lake Tahoe Basin projects and activities.

- Location: West shore, five miles south of Tahoe City
- Description: Enhanced water quality and aquatic and riparian habitat conditions along Blackwood Creek and the realignment of popular, but eroding, trails accessing Eagle Rock
- Conservancy Funding: \$4,229,000
- USACE reimbursements: \$3,175,000
- Schedule:
  - 2011 – Construction of first phase of Eagle Rock trail
  - 2012 – Construction of stream improvements
  - 2013-2014 – Final site restoration, irrigation, and plant establishment activities; monitoring; construction of second phase of Eagle Rock Trail
  - 2015/2016 – Monitoring
- Lead Agency: Conservancy
- Partners: USACE, DGS, Tahoe Fund, CCC
- Staff Contact: Stuart Roll

- Project documents: [http://tahoe.ca.gov/ctc\\_projects/lower-blackwood-creek-restoration-69/](http://tahoe.ca.gov/ctc_projects/lower-blackwood-creek-restoration-69/)

#### **4. Forest Improvement**

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



Staff works cooperatively with the North Tahoe Fire Protection District (NTFPD) to plan and implement Conservancy's forestry activities in Placer County. Staff along with other public partners such as the CCC will implement approximately 50 acres of forest health/fuels reduction projects on Conservancy parcels in Placer County. These projects are coordinated through the annual Lake Tahoe Basin Fuels Reduction and Fire Prevention Incident Action Plan by the Tahoe Fuels and Fire Team. Staff also anticipates 10 acres of un-scheduled fuel hazard reductions and hazard tree removal projects in response to requests initiated by neighboring private landowners this year.

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. Staff anticipates that their National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document (EA) will circulate for public comment will occur this summer.

## **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 is scheduled for a 2016 start date. In 2012, the Board approved easements through several Conservancy-owned parcels of land to facilitate the project. The City of South Lake Tahoe continues to acquire the easements needed to complete project implementation through private land. Portions of the trail are located within the U.S. 50 right-of-way. Although the Conservancy has no active funding in this project, staff monitors implementation to ensure compliance with the terms of the 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:
  - 2016: Phase 1 construction between Ski Run and the Lakefront Professional Building. (The former Alta Mira Site will be constructed as part of Phase 2 in a future year.)
- Lead Agency: City of South Lake Tahoe
- Partners: Conservancy, Caltrans
- Staff Contact: Lisa O'Daly

#### **South Tahoe Greenway Shared Use Trail:**

Current activities include: working with Lake Tahoe Community College and the City of South Lake Tahoe to approve a Memorandum of Understanding and agreement for long-term trail operation and maintenance; multi-party land exchanges involving the City of South Lake Tahoe, the College, and the South Tahoe Public Utility District; planning for summer wildlife surveys and coordination with Caltrans on Active Transportation Program Master Agreements related to Federal Highway Administration funding; and oversight by DGS, Project Management Branch, and PWB staff on the land transaction and capital outlay processes.

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
- 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, Lake Tahoe Community College, City of South Lake Tahoe, TTD, USFS, Federal Highway Administration
- Staff Contact: Chris Mertens
- Project documents: [http://tahoe.ca.gov/ctc\\_projects/south-tahoe-greenway-79/](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 stormwater runoff (pre-project)

### **Sierra Tract Erosion Control:**

The City of South Lake Tahoe commenced construction of Sierra Tract Phase 3/4 in July 2015 and expects to complete construction by 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: Estimated \$3.6 million to complete 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: City of South Lake Tahoe
- Partners: Conservancy, SWRCB, USFS
- Staff Contact: Joe Pepi
- Project documents: [www.cityofslt.us/documentcenter/view/3204](http://www.cityofslt.us/documentcenter/view/3204)

### 3. Natural Resources

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



Cove East in winter

#### **Upper Truckee Marsh Restoration:**

- The Board certified the Final Environmental Impact Report and approved the project in December 2015 and authorized staff to expend funds for project planning, acquisition and construction. TRPA certified the Project’s Joint Final EIR/ EIS/ EIS on February 24<sup>th</sup>, and BOR anticipates signing a Record of Decision in the coming months to complete NEPA compliance. Staff continues close coordination with DGS and Department of Finance to hire a design contractor and begin preliminary plan development, and 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 staff is also pursuing other federal and state funding opportunities for the Project, as they arise. Staff and contractors continue comprehensive monitoring of water in the Marsh thanks to partnerships with the SWRCB 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 (Phase 1 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/](http://tahoe.ca.gov/ctc_projects/upper-truckee-marsh-69/)

#### 4. Forest Improvement

Forest improvement projects are designed to improve 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 10 acres of Conservancy-owned land located within the City this year. Staff also expects to complete three acres of fuel hazard reductions and hazard tree removals initiated in response neighboring landowner concerns.

Staff continues to coordinate with the South Lake Tahoe Fire Department and LVFPD to secure funding through the Bureau of Land Management SNPLMA grants for planning and implementation of forest health/fuels reduction projects on 37 acres at the City of South Lake Tahoe's Airport parcels. LVFPD will complete the remaining seven acres in 2016.

These projects were coordinated through the annual Lake Tahoe Basin Fuels Reduction and Fire Prevention Incident Action Plan by Tahoe Forest Fuels Team.

## G. Urban Land Management Program



Eagle Rock film shoot by Loom

### 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 notice of recently executed licenses below:

**Short-term (two day) license was granted to US Cellular** on April 8, 2016. US Cellular took 360 degree video for advertising purposes. The Placer County Film Commission was notified and issued a film permit. The Conservancy's license fee and insurance requirements have been satisfied.

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

The seasonal Upper Truckee Marsh dog closure began on May 1, 2016. The El Dorado County Sheriff's Office in cooperation with the California Highway Patrol assist with management of the Marsh property, as well as at Van Sickle Bi-State Park. Conservancy volunteers and a TRCD provided land steward also assist with property management. The park reopened to public vehicle access for the season on May 1, 2016. More information about Van Sickle Bi-State Park is available at: [http://tahoe.ca.gov/ctc\\_projects/van-sickle-bi-state-park-79/](http://tahoe.ca.gov/ctc_projects/van-sickle-bi-state-park-79/)