

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Budget and Accounting

Budget Fiscal Year 2017/18: The California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy) 2017/18 fiscal year budget includes:

- \$7,497,000 for capital outlay and local assistance to fund various programmatic priorities and support the Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) for the Lake Tahoe Basin (Basin), including:
 - \$2,621,000 in bond funds from Propositions 12, 40, 50, and 84;
 - \$1,658,000 from special funds dedicated to the Conservancy (Habitat Conservation Fund, Lake Tahoe license plate proceeds, Tahoe Conservancy Fund, and Senate Bill 630); and
 - \$3,218,000 in federal grant and reimbursement authority.
- \$6,638,000 for ongoing support, including continuing "baseline" funding from various special funds and revenue sources dedicated to the Conservancy.

B. Legislative Update

Senate Bill 5: On October 15, 2017, Governor Brown signed Senate Bill 5, which authorizes a \$4 billion parks bond, subject to voter approval on the June 2018 ballot. The bond includes \$27 million to the Conservancy for projects consistent with its statutory authority. The bond also authorizes several funding programs, which could fund Conservancy and Basin recreation, water quality, forestry, and watershed improvement projects.

C. Highlights and Cross-Cutting Programs and Projects

1. Forest Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation

The Conservancy is leading several large scale forest health and climate change adaptation projects. The projects described below are designed to mitigate climate change and restore ecosystem resiliency while increasing the pace and scale of restoration. For example, the Lake Tahoe West Restoration Partnership (LTW) is a 60,000 acre large scale restoration project that, when nested within the much larger 2.4 million acre landscape of the Tahoe-Central Sierra Initiative (TCSI), will help

achieve regional outcomes. Further, the science being developed for these projects will be utilized in developing a Basin-wide climate change adaptation strategy.

Forest Health Landscape Planning: The Conservancy, along with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA), Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team, and National Forest Foundation (NFF) continue to make progress on LTW. The Interagency Design Team and Stakeholder Science Committee have completed a comprehensive landscape resilience assessment that describes the resilience of west shore ecosystem values to numerous types of disturbances. Using the landscape resilience assessment, the LTW groups have begun to develop restoration strategies that will be tested with landscape models through an iterative process. Members of the public and other stakeholders participate in stakeholder committees that are providing input to the landscape assessment and strategy. Additionally, the resilience indicators developed in this process may have regional applicability within the TCSI.

The TCSI aims to accelerate large landscape forest health projects and development of biomass utilization infrastructure throughout the central Sierra to improve forest health and resiliency. Including the LTW and other similar scale projects in the TCSI will help solve forest and watershed management challenges that require landscape scale solutions. For example, the removal of biomass produced during forest health projects and the use of prescribed burns or managed wildfire at a scale that effectively helps reshape and restore the landscape are management challenges that will be solved collectively at regional scales. The Conservancy, with the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC), USFS, NFF, and The Nature Conservancy, are spearheading TCSI through a memorandum of understanding. The members are developing a charter and establishing a science advisory team. Many of the same scientists serve on the LTW science team and the models and results of the landscape resilience assessment are providing a foundation for TCSI.

Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) Round 16 California Regional Hazardous Fuels Reduction: In June 2017, the Board authorized a site improvement grant for up to \$414,075 to DPR for 112 acres of fuel hazard reduction work at Sugar Pine Point State Park and Tahoe State Recreation Area. The grant agreement has been executed and work is scheduled to begin in spring 2018. Currently, staff anticipates returning to the Board in February 2018 to seek authorization for the next round of implementation grants and contracts under this grant.

North Tahoe Fire Protection District Federal Emergency Management Agency

(FEMA) Grant: The North Tahoe Fire Protection District (NTFPD) received a hazardous fuels mitigation grant from FEMA in October 2017. The Conservancy is partnering with NTFPD to implement this grant and fund the cost share component through site preparation of the project areas. NTFPD plans to utilize hand crews to complete the work. Phase 1 of the project is anticipated to start in spring 2018.

Climate Change Adaptation Strategy: Conservancy staff is collaborating with staff from TRPA; Tahoe Transportation District (TTD); Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board; California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection; University of California, Davis (UC Davis); University of Nevada, Reno; Desert Research Institute; USFS Pacific Southwest Research Station; and U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to develop an inter-agency climate adaptation strategy for the Basin. The strategy will address the impacts of rising temperatures and extreme events on the natural environment (e.g., lake clarity and forest health), the built environment (e.g., transportation network), the social environment (e.g., public health and safety), and the Basin’s recreation-based economy. This team will use downscaled climate models and information derived from the LTW effort to identify areas most at risk and prepare a vulnerability assessment by fall 2018. The vulnerability assessment will provide the foundation for an integrated, Basin-wide adaptation strategy that will be developed by July 2019.

2. State Conservancy Summit

On October 16-18, the Conservancy hosted the annual gathering of State conservancies and partners at the Stanford Sierra Conference Center at Fallen Leaf Lake. Guests included Assemblymember Mark Stone (D-Santa Cruz), Senator Bill Dodd (D-Napa); partners from DPR, California Natural Resources Agency, and Wildlife Conservation Board; and nonprofit and advocacy representatives. Roundtable discussions addressed emerging state conservation funding programs and the role of State conservancies in a changing and increasingly diverse state.



A group photo during a tour of the Upper Truckee Marsh at the State conservancies meeting.

3. Tahoe Valley Area Plan (TVAP) Asset Lands Authorized for Pre-Sale

2070 Lake Tahoe Boulevard Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APNs) 023-231-03 and 023-381-01, 3.67 acres

1860 Lake Tahoe Boulevard APN 032-291-28, 9.75 acres

1029 Tata Lane APN 032-291-31, 1.6 acres

833 Emerald Bay Road APN 023-171-09, 0.51 acre

981 Tata Lane APN 023-481-17, 0.53 acre

Staff coordinated with Civilis consultants and various interested parties on ideas for each of these sites. Ideas include affordable, workforce, or tiny housing; cooperative office space; government service centers; and/or local maker/retail space. Staff identified 2070 and 1860 Lake Tahoe Boulevard, 1029 Tata Lane, and 833 Emerald Bay Road as the highest priority parcels.

As discussed at the September 2017 Conservancy Board meeting, staff is in exclusive negotiations concerning a sale of the 2070 Lake Tahoe Boulevard parcels with Sutter Capital Group, owners of the adjacent Tahoe Valley Crossing parcel. Based on feedback from the Board, staff met with Vail Resorts and Sutter Capital Group to discuss a workforce housing agreement, and are working on a pre-application meeting with Sutter Capital Group and the City of South Lake Tahoe (City).

The TTD, El Dorado County, St. Joseph's Community Land Trust, and several private developers and builders have expressed interest in working with the Conservancy on affordable, workforce, or market-rate housing, and/or a government service center on our TVAP Asset Lands, specifically 1860 Lake Tahoe Boulevard, 1029 Tata Lane, and 833 Emerald Bay Road.

Staff is developing project requirements and requests for proposals for the four highest priority parcels. Staff plan to discuss the project requirements with the Board.

4. Proposition 1 Grant Program

The Proposition 1, Round 1 grant awards, totaling \$9,461,568 included nine separate planning, acquisition, and implementation grant agreements. Grantees include the NFF, Tahoe Resource Conservation District (Tahoe RCD), Washoe Tribe, Lake Valley Fire Protection District (LVFPD), El Dorado County, Placer County, and DPR. Conservancy staff and grantees continue to move the projects forward (see table below).

CONSERVANCY PROPOSITION 1, ROUND 1 GRANT FUNDING AWARDS (2016)				
Project	Grantee	Conservancy Staff Contact	Grant Award	Status of Project
Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Plant Control Project	Tahoe RCD	Whitney Brennan	\$700,000	Grant agreement executed, work in progress
Johnson Meadow Acquisition	Tahoe RCD	Aimee Rutledge	\$4,234,000	Grant agreement executed, work in progress. The Department of Fish and Wildlife also awarded a \$4 million grant for the acquisition.
Meeks Meadow Restoration	Washoe Tribe	Joe Pepi	\$228,530	Grant agreement executed, workplan approved, work in progress
LTW Collaborative: A Multi-Jurisdictional Landscape Restoration Strategy	NFF	Juan Carlos Urizar	\$849,100	Grant agreement executed, workplan approved, advance authorized, work in progress
Lake Tahoe Basin Wildfire Protection and Water Quality Enhancement Project	LVFPD	Milan Yeates	Award amount reduced to \$350,025 in March of 2017 due to LVFPDs successful award of SNPLMA Round 16 grant	Grant agreement executed, workplan approved., work in progress
Antone Meadows Dam Removal and Restoration, Burton Creek State Park	DPR	Jen Greenberg	\$149,938	Grant agreement executed, workplan approved, work in progress
Tahoe Storm Water Resource Plan	Tahoe RCD	Scott Cecchi	\$150,000	Grant agreement executed, workplan approved, work in progress
Meyers Stream Environment Zone Restoration and Erosion Control Project	El Dorado County	Mark Sedlock	\$1,100,000	Grant agreement executed and construction recently completed
Griff Creek Corridor and Public Access Project	Placer County	Scott Cecchi	\$1,200,000	Grant agreement executed, work in progress

The Proposition 1, Round 2 grant awards, totaling \$3,359,083 include eight separate planning, acquisition, and implementation grant agreements. Grantees include the NFF, Tahoe RCD, UC Davis, El Dorado County, the City, and TTD. Conservancy staff and grantees continue to move the projects forward (see table below).

CONSERVANCY PROPOSITION 1, ROUND 2 GRANT FUNDING AWARDS (2017)				
Project	Grantee	Conservancy Staff Contact	Grant Award	Status of Project

Bijou Park Creek Priority Acquisition	City	Jen Greenberg	\$572,250	Awaiting signed grant agreement (see details below)
Country Club Heights Erosion Control Project	El Dorado County	Mark Sedlock	\$250,000	Awaiting signed grant agreement
Collaborative Aquatic Invasive Species Program Planning	Tahoe RCD	Whitney Brennan	\$862,000	Awaiting signed grant agreement
Lake Tahoe West Restoration Partnership	NFF	Juan Carlos Urizar	\$398,750	Amendment to Round 1 award
Control of the Invasive Mysis Shrimp to Recover Lake Clarity and Ecosystem Health	UC Davis	Whitney Brennan	\$390,081	Awaiting signed grant agreement
Tahoe City Caltrans Maintenance Yard Relocation and Restoration Project	TTD	Joe Pepi	\$354,000	Awaiting signed grant agreement
Polaris Creek and Wetland Restoration, Feasibility Study	Tahoe RCD	Scott Carroll	\$282,000	Awaiting signed grant agreement
Country Club Heights Erosion Control Project - Phase 3	El Dorado County	Jen Greenberg	\$250,000	Awaiting signed grant agreement

Bijou Park Creek Priority Acquisitions: In September 2017, staff recommended the award of \$1,366,241 to the City for this project. This total award, comprised of \$814,102 in Proposition 1 funding and \$552,139 in Proposition 50 funding, would have supported acquisition and restoration of four environmentally sensitive properties. Prior to the September Board meeting, the owner of these properties informed the Conservancy that she was not a willing seller, and the City was unable to demonstrate that the owner of a third property was a willing seller. As a result, the Board authorized a Proposition 1 award of \$572,250 for the acquisition and restoration of the one property for which there was a willing seller. The Board directed staff to return later with recommendations for additional grant awards for this project.

The City is evaluating other properties for potential acquisition and restoration as part of this project, and they are currently communicating with the owners of two properties. The City is pursuing appraisals for these two properties, and will request documentation that the owners are willing sellers. Staff anticipates recommending additional grant funding for this project in April 2018.

5. Aquatic Invasive Species

The Board authorized a \$260,128 grant in March 2017 to Tahoe RCD to implement a pilot project using new ultraviolet (UV) light technology for aquatic invasive species plant control. Two rounds of treatments were completed by September 2017 and preliminary results are promising. Tahoe RCD will complete the second year of post-project monitoring in fall 2018 and the final report by December 2018.

D. Major Conservancy Projects Recently Completed or In Progress, El Dorado County

1. Natural Resources

Natural resource projects restore natural river processes, enhance stream environment zones (SEZs), and improve wildlife habitat, fisheries, and water quality.

Upper Truckee River Sunset Stables Reach Restoration: The USFS nearly completed the Reach 5 portion of the Upper Truckee River (UTR) restoration effort in October 2016 before several rain events ended the construction season. A significant portion of the Reach 5 restoration is on Conservancy 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 fall rain and winter flood events have impacted the project, requiring corrective actions. The USFS constructed corrective work and other project elements in late summer and fall of 2017, which included installation of vegetation and rock to stabilize portions of the project area. The USFS and Conservancy will monitor the project in coming years to demonstrate performance and resource benefits, and to inform additional adaptive management actions.

- Location: Between Meyers and the City
- Description: 254 acres for Reaches 5 and 6
 - Reach 5: 7,500 feet of channel construction
 - Reach 6: 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 - \$8,000,000
- 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, partial backfill of the upstream half of the old channel and complete backfill of the downstream half
- 2017 and 2018: Implement corrective actions, stabilization, adaptive management, and project monitoring
- Lead Agencies: USFS, Conservancy
- Partners: 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 is working closely with the Department of General Services (DGS) and Department of Finance (DOF) to move the project forward, but property and contracting challenges have delayed project implementation until 2019. Due to increasing construction costs throughout the State and cost increases due to inflation, staff anticipate a funding shortfall for this project. Staff will update the Board on this emerging issue, and if necessary, may seek authorization for additional funding at a future Board Meeting.

At the June 2017 Board meeting, the Board authorized staff to enter into a Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) grant for reimbursement of project construction expenses. Reclamation recently committed \$150,000 of the \$300,000 total grant amount, and they anticipate obligating the remainder of the total grant funding in 2018.

- Location: Confluence of UTR and Echo Creek in Meyers
- Description: Eight-acre site to restore SEZ and provide appropriate river-oriented access features
- Conservancy Funding: \$1,180,000 land acquisition; \$125,000 planning; \$500,000 construction
- Reclamation Funding: \$200,000 planning; \$150,000 committed for construction; \$150,000 additional anticipated for construction
- Total Project Cost: \$975,000 (Board authorized, not including cost increase)
- Schedule: PWB approved preliminary plans in July 2016; 2019 construction
- Lead Agency: Conservancy
- Partners: Reclamation, California Department of Transportation (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 with the LVFPD, DPR, and the Meeks Bay Fire Protection District to plan and implement Conservancy's forestry activities in El Dorado County, primarily on Conservancy land. The California Conservation Corps implemented 15 acres of forest health/fuels reduction projects on Conservancy land in El Dorado County in 2017. Weather dependent, staff anticipates completing pile burn operations on 30 acres of Conservancy owned land in fall/winter 2017-2018. 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.

E. Major Conservancy Projects Recently Completed or In Progress, Placer County

1. Public Access and Recreation

These projects enhance regional public access and recreation.

Dollar Creek Shared-Use Trail: Approximately two miles of paved bike trail is currently under construction. The Board approved land transactions that provide the necessary right-of-way for the trail, including easements through the Conservancy's 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. A Federal Lands Access Program grant awarded to the TTD is the primary source of construction funding. The wet winter disclosed larger areas of SEZ than were previously mapped, necessitating a minor trail reroute to avoid the sensitive area. Construction will be completed in 2018.

- Location: Dollar Hill State Route 28 to Fulton Crescent Drive
- Description: 2.2 mile connection extending the Lake Tahoe Bike Trail network
- Conservancy Funding to Placer County: \$807,200 for planning and acquisition; \$0 construction (past expenses to NTPUD for planning and acquisition for the longer North Tahoe Bike Trail: \$1,889,200)
- Anticipated Total Project Construction Cost: \$3.5 Million
- Schedule:
 - 2015 – Right-of-way acquisition complete
 - 2017 – Construction start
 - 2018 – Complete construction
- Lead Agency: Placer County
- Partners: Conservancy, North Lake Tahoe Resort Association (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 planning process, including environmental review under the provisions of both the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and TRPA environmental regulations. In April 2015, the Board authorized \$525,000 in Proposition 40 and Placer County funds granted through NLTRA for this planning effort. A September 2016 NLTRA grant augmentation provided an additional \$69,575 for additional CEQA analysis. In addition, DPR has committed \$442,646 towards the planning effort. The environmental impact report/ environmental impact statement (EIR/EIS) scoping period began in late 2015. The preferred alternative for the project was released in January 2017. The draft EIR/EIS begins circulating for comment this winter.

- Location: Kings Beach State Recreation Area, Kings Beach
- Description: Revise the GP to provide the planning basis for a rebuilt pier and other recreational needs. 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 (6,217-foot elevation).
- 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
 - 2015-2018 – GP development, pier preliminary plan completion, complete environmental analysis
 - 2018-2019 – Secure funding and initiate final design and construction documents
- Lead Agency: DPR
- Partners: Conservancy, NLTRA, Placer County, DGS
- Staff Contact: Lisa O’Daly

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. The Conservancy private contractor has removed 83 hazard trees since January 2017. The Tahoe RCD field crew completed fuel hazard reduction efforts on 64 parcels this past field season.



Tahoe RCD field crew working together to chip wood for a forest improvement project.

Staff works cooperatively with the NTFPD to plan and implement the Conservancy's forestry activities in Placer County. Staff plans to permit and prepare approximately 64 acres of forest health/fuels reduction projects on Conservancy land in Placer County in 2017. Implementation is projected to start in the 2018 field season. Funding for this work is from a FEMA Hazardous Fuels Mitigation Grant to NTFPD.

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 mile of paved bike trail is finished. Although the Conservancy has no active funding in this project, staff monitors implementation to ensure compliance with the terms of its 2012 easements and with the planning grant awarded in 2002.

- Location: the City along U.S. Highway 50
- Description: a three-quarter-mile trail segment between El Dorado Beach and Ski Run Boulevard

- Conservancy Funding: \$645,000 planning
- Total Project Cost: \$2,000,000
- Schedule:
 - 2017: Trail construction completed
- Lead Agency: City
- Partners: Caltrans
- Staff Contact: Lisa O'Daly



The El Dorado to Ski Run Bike Trail as it crosses the Conservancy's "Lakeview Lookout" parcel.

South Tahoe Greenway Shared Use Trail: An update item for the Greenway Shared Use Trail is on this meeting's agenda.

The 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 Avenue, (0.42 miles, completed in October 2015); and Phases 1b and 2 (approximately 1 mile)
- Conservancy Funding: Preliminary planning - \$585,060; Phase 1a final design and construction - \$941,227; final design and construction for Phases 1b and 2 - \$1,300,000
- Partner funding for Phases 1b and 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
 - 2016/17 – Procedural grant requirement steps (CEQA supplemental, National Environmental Policy Act, master agreement development, etc. for Phases 1b and 2)
 - 2017 – Construction of additional drainage improvements within Phase 1a to complement the work accomplished in 2015
 - 2018/19 – Final design of Phases 1b and 2
 - 2020/21 – Phases 1b and 2 construction
- Lead Agency: Conservancy
- Partners: Caltrans, LTCC, City, TTD, USFS, Federal Highway Administration
- Staff Contact: Chris Mertens
- Project Documents: http://tahoe.ca.gov/ctc_projects/south-tahoe-greenway-79/

2. Natural Resources

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



Upper Truckee Marsh

Upper Truckee River and Marsh (Marsh) Restoration: The design contractor for this project recently completed preliminary plans, and a team of scientists and resource experts is providing guidance and assistance to the project design and monitoring development efforts.

Staff is also continuing negotiations with private property owners for acquisitions in support of the project. Staff recently entered into a partnership agreement with USACE for the project, and is pursuing other federal and State funding opportunities as they arise. Staff and contractors continue comprehensive monitoring in the Marsh thanks to partnerships with the Tahoe RCD and USGS.

- Location: Mouth of the UTR on the south end of Lake Tahoe primarily on Conservancy lands

- Description: 600-acre UTR 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 \$12,360,000 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: Reclamation, DGS, State Water Resources Control Board, TRPA, USACE, Tahoe RCD, USGS
- Staff Contact: Scott Carroll
- Project Documents: http://tahoe.ca.gov/ctc_projects/upper-truckee-marsh-69/

3. Forest Improvement

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

In 2017, staff completed priority fuel hazard reduction and hazard tree removal initiated in response to neighboring landowner concerns. At this time, staff continues to monitor disease and insect activity 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 36 acres at the City Airport with funding from the Bureau of Land Management SNPLMA grants program. LVFPD completed cutting and piling of material on the final six acres and anticipates completing the final stage (pile burning) in fall/winter 2017-2018.

G. 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.

The Conservancy granted a temporary (one day) license to the Lake Tahoe Marathon on August 31, 2017 to provide access to start a marathon race at Waterman's Landing on October 14, 2017. The license fee for this activity is \$100.

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

The seasonal Marsh dog closure ended on July 31, 2017. The California Highway Patrol assists with management of the Marsh property and the Park. Tahoe RCD seasonal staff also assist with property management.



Nick Meyer was recognized by Morgan Fessler-Steel, Tahoe Rim Trail Association Executive Director, for his exceptional partnership efforts at the Park.

On October 31, 2017, the Conservancy closed the Park to public vehicle access for the season. Conservancy and Nevada Department of State Parks (NDSP) staff led a tour of the Park during the morning session of the September Board meeting. Eric Johnson, NDSP Administrator, provided an update on Nevada management and operations, including results of the 2017 legislative session related to the Park, new State of Nevada funding and staffing, and next phase planning and development. Frank Bosch and Linda Cook, Park site hosts, were recognized for their tremendous contributions to the Park as they finish their final season as volunteers.