



# 2018 REPORT

— est. 1985 —

Photo: Nick Spannagel

## CHAIR'S MESSAGE



The California Tahoe Conservancy is entering a new era in which climate change affects every aspect of our work. Fortunately, as 2018 closes we are in a stronger position to meet the new challenges that threaten the

Lake Tahoe Basin. Voters passed Proposition 68, providing the Conservancy \$27 million for climate change adaptation, outdoor recreation, sustainable communities, and watershed and forest restoration.

These funds position the Conservancy well as we embark on a new five-year Strategic Plan. With our partners, we remain committed to restoring and protecting this national treasure.

Sincerely,

Brooke Laine  
California Tahoe Conservancy Chair

## OUR MISSION

To lead California's efforts to restore and enhance the extraordinary natural and recreational resources of the Lake Tahoe Basin.



Photo: Nick Spannagel

### 2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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*U.S. Forest Service (Ex-Officio)*

**PATRICK WRIGHT**  
Executive Director



# California Tahoe Conservancy 2018 Accomplishments

## Forest Health and Fuels Reductions Projects

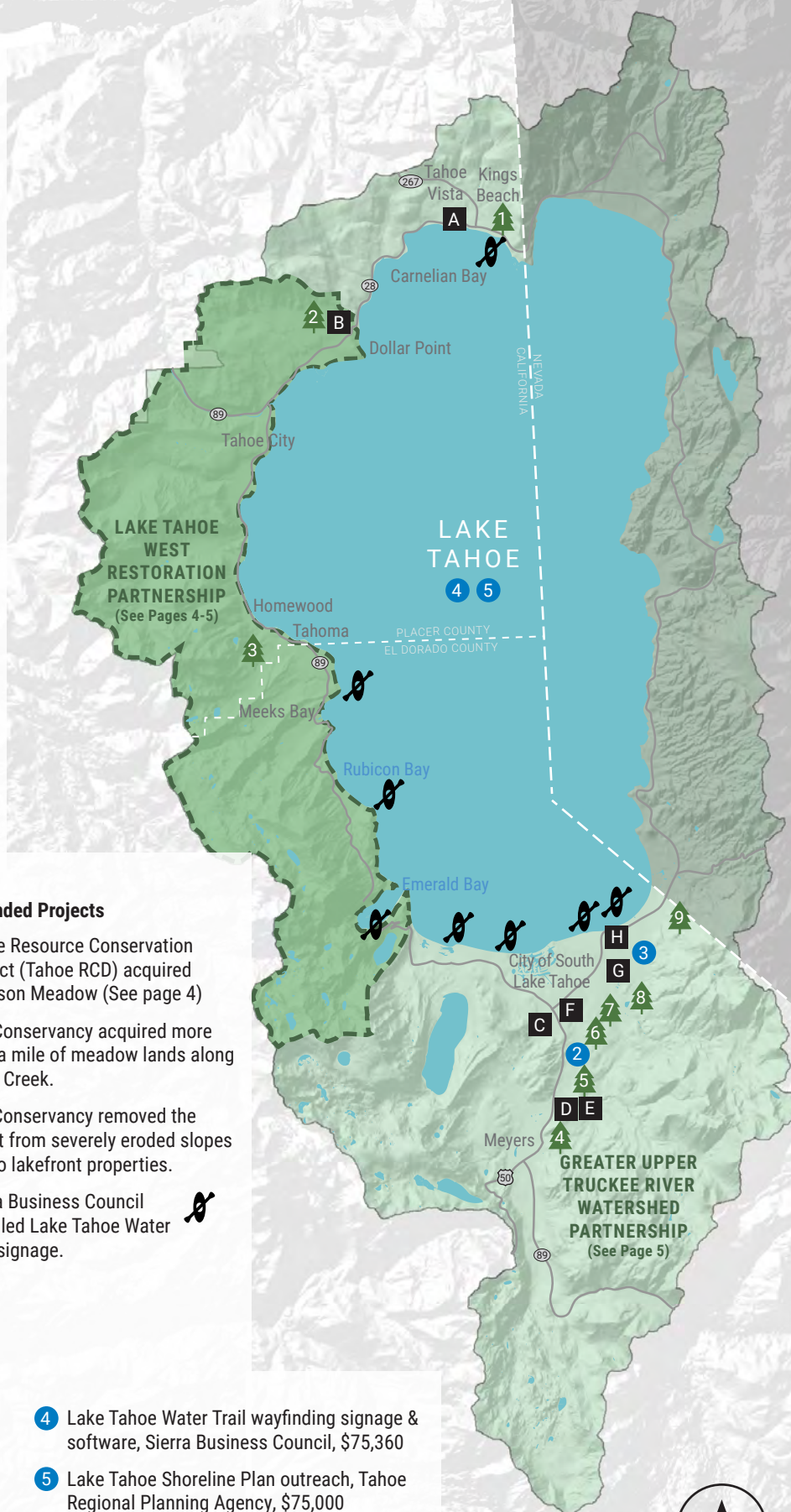
- 1 North Tahoe Fire Hazardous Fuels Reduction & Defensible Space Project  
2 acres treated, 26.5 acres prepared for hand thinning
- 2 Dollar Creek Forest Health & Biomass Project  
151 acres prepared for mechanical thinning
- 3 Tahoma Unit  
9 acres flagged and prepared for hand thinning and pile burning
- 4 Meadowvale State Recreation Area  
10 acres hand thinned and chipped with California Conservation Corps (CCC) and CAL FIRE
- 5 Sunset Aspen  
15 acres of piles burned with CCC and CAL FIRE
- 6 Lyons Ranch Defense Zone  
25 acres of piles burned with CCC and CAL FIRE
- 7 Montgomery Estates Urban  
32.5 acres flagged and prepared for hand thinning and chipping.
- 8 Cold Creek Urban  
13.5 acres hand thinned and chipped with CCC.
- 9 Van Sickle Phase II  
108 acres flagged and prepared for hand thinning and pile burning

## Other Completed Conservancy and Conservancy-Funded Projects

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>A</b> The Conservancy acquired a quarter-acre parcel in roadless Snow Creek Watershed         | <b>F</b> Tahoe Resource Conservation District (Tahoe RCD) acquired Johnson Meadow (See page 4)       |
| <b>B</b> Placer County completed a 2.2 mile Dollar Creek Shared-Use Trail (See page 5)           | <b>G</b> The Conservancy acquired more than a mile of meadow lands along Trout Creek.                |
| <b>C</b> The Conservancy prepared its Asset Lands for Sustainable Development (See page 7)       | <b>H</b> The Conservancy removed the threat from severely eroded slopes at two lakefront properties. |
| <b>D</b> The Conservancy acquired 1.85 acres of riparian habitat along the Upper Truckee River.  | <b>I</b> Sierra Business Council installed Lake Tahoe Water Trail signage.                           |
| <b>E</b> El Dorado County completed the Country Club Heights storm water management improvements |  |

## 2018 Conservancy Funding Awards

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 Meeks Bay aquatic invasive species control and monitoring, U.S. Forest Service, \$185,000     | 4 Lake Tahoe Water Trail wayfinding signage & software, Sierra Business Council, \$75,360 |
| 2 South Tahoe Greenway Shared Use Trail Construction, El Dorado County, \$2.5 million           | 5 Lake Tahoe Shoreline Plan outreach, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, \$75,000            |
| 3 Floodplain property acquisition in Bijou Creek Watershed, City of South Lake Tahoe, \$793,991 |   |





## Stewarding Conservancy Lands and Protecting Basin Communities from Wildfire

The Conservancy owns nearly 4,700 parcels, including thousands of quarter-acre lots within the urban areas of the Lake Tahoe Basin (Basin). These parcels provide open space, water quality, and recreational benefits, and have significantly protected the Lake Tahoe watershed.

The Conservancy inspects each of its parcels at least once every two years to monitor forest health, identify maintenance needs, and guard against encroachments. Conservancy staff addresses citizen reports, removes hazard trees, and treats forest fuels to reduce wildfire threat.

## Land management by the numbers

**2,955** 

Conservancy properties inspected  
(of a total of nearly 4,700 parcels).

**21**  
restoration  
projects completed



**97**  
maintenance  
projects completed



**182**  
citizen reports  
addressed



**17**  
encroachments  
resolved



**209** hazard  
trees removed



**1.2** acres of  
sensitive stream  
environment  
enhanced



**180** native  
trees planted



**2.4** miles of forest roads  
inspected and maintained



**1.4** miles of trail improved





## Restoring the Resilience of Basin Forests and Watersheds

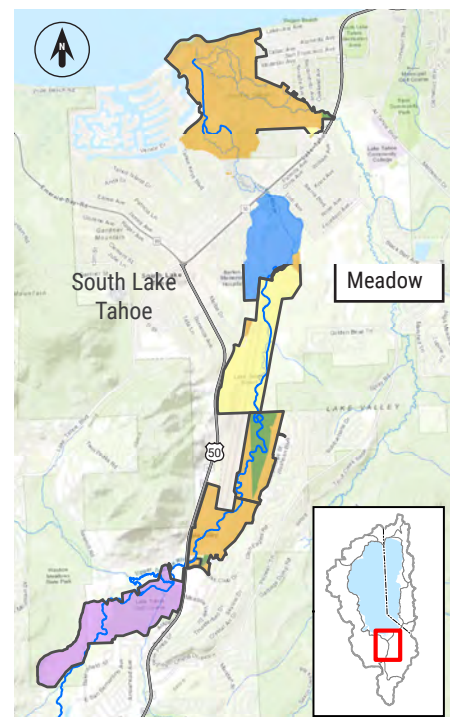
The Conservancy has invested in hundreds of projects and programs to improve the clarity of Lake Tahoe and restore the Basin's forests. However, climate change presents new threats. This year, the Conservancy:

- Helped the Tahoe RCD acquire **Johnson Meadow** (above), the last major private property on the Upper Truckee River (right), with a \$4.2 million grant.
- Assessed the resilience of the west shore's forests and communities to climate change, drought, and wildfire with the **Lake Tahoe West Restoration Partnership**.
- Secured \$2.3 million through the **Tahoe-Central Sierra Initiative** (facing page) to combat climate change and reduce wildfire risk at Lake Tahoe.

## Upper Truckee River Restoration

### Land Ownership

- California Tahoe Conservancy
- California State Parks
- Other Public
- Private
- Tahoe RCD
- U.S. Forest Service
- Restoration Project Boundaries





## Large Landscape Restoration

-  **Tahoe-Central Sierra Initiative**  
Secured \$27 million in California Climate Investment funding for large landscape restoration projects.
-  **Lake Tahoe West Restoration Partnership**  
Completed Landscape Resilience Assessment.
-  **Greater Upper Truckee River Watershed Partnership**  
Kicked off collaborative interagency effort to restore the Basin's largest and most ecologically significant watershed.
-  Additional Tahoe-Central Sierra Initiative projects.



## Providing Public Access and Outdoor Recreation for All Communities

The Conservancy has invested in Lake Tahoe's most important bike trails and shoreline public spaces. Properties such as the Conservancy's nine Lake Tahoe beaches and Van Sickle Bi-State Park welcome thousands of visitors. This year, the Conservancy:

- Supported Placer County in its completion of the **Dollar Creek Shared-Use Trail** (right, Conservancy Board Member Larry Severson with scissors).
- Partnered with the Sierra Business Council in developing the **Lake Tahoe Water Trail**.
- Launched a plan to **improve access to Conservancy recreation sites for people with disabilities**.



Photo: Placer County





Photo: Chris Mertens

## Fostering Basin-wide Climate Change Adaptation and Sustainable Communities

Climate change has started touching everything in the Basin, from the health of the Lake and its forests to its world-class recreation areas. All Conservancy programs integrate climate change science, mitigation, and adaptation. This year, the Conservancy:

- Launched development of an interagency **Climate Adaptation Action Plan** for the Basin with the Tahoe Transportation District and partners.
- Co-hosted a **public review workshop** regarding the Fourth California Climate Assessment's Sierra Nevada Regional Report.
- Incorporated climate change into all aspects of the Conservancy's work in its new five-year **Strategic Plan**.



Climate change  
threatens  
Lake Tahoe's  
famous clarity





The Conservancy acquired this 1.85-acre parcel along the Upper Truckee River, protecting its important habitat for birds and other wildlife.

The **Tahoe Livable Communities** program refocused the Conservancy's land acquisition and development rights programs to:

1. Acquire and restore aging developed properties on environmentally sensitive lands, and either retire or transfer the development rights to town centers.
2. Sell, lease, or exchange vacant Conservancy land in town centers; and
3. Prevent future development by acquiring the remaining private properties in several of Lake Tahoe's roadless subdivisions.

This year, the Conservancy:

- Collaborated with the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency to update the systems for transferring development rights in the Basin.
- Prepared our South Lake Tahoe "Y" Area **Asset Lands** for sale to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by supporting the development of sustainable, walkable and bikeable town centers.
- Completed 29 coverage and development rights transactions through the Conservancy's **Land Bank** for a total of \$274,075.



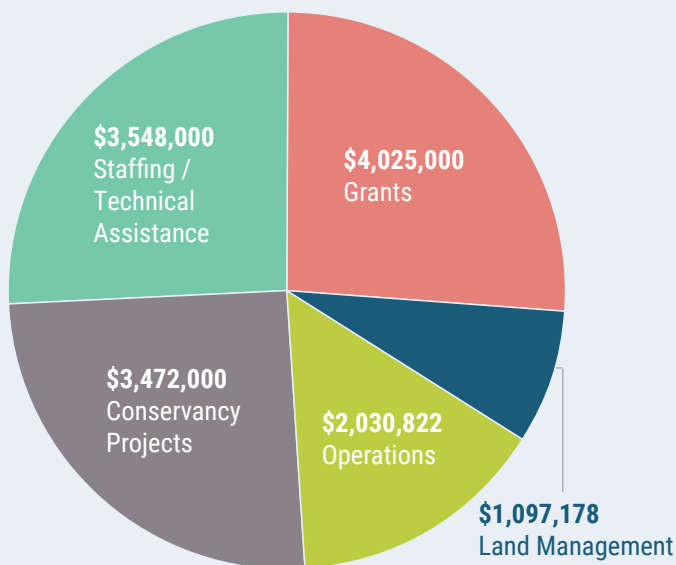
## Striving for Organizational Learning and Excellence

The Conservancy's operations provide the organizational backbone for its programs and investments. During the last several years, the Conservancy has considerably strengthened its internal operations in several areas. In 2018, the Conservancy:

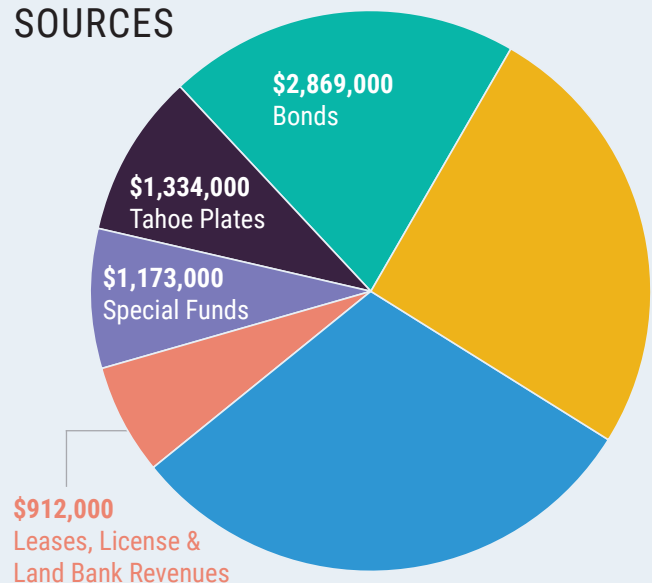
- Completed an upgrade of its computerized Property Data Management System (right), making it easier for Conservancy staff to collect paperless data on its nearly 4,700 parcels in the field using mobile devices.
- Developed a new Strategic Plan to guide the Conservancy's work from 2018 to 2023, with input from the public, stakeholders, and the Conservancy Board and staff (top).



## FY 2017-18 EXPENDITURES



## FY 2017-18 FUNDING SOURCES



## CALIFORNIA TAHOE CONSERVANCY

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