

Executive Director's Report

Spring is a time for renewal. The outlook is improving for the pandemic in California. With the new fiscal year starting in July, the Conservancy is excited to be advancing Governor Gavin Newsom's priorities through our projects and programs. In particular, as outlined in the report below, we are committed to improving the resilience of the forests at Lake Tahoe and helping protect Tahoe communities from wildfire.

As the State of California eases COVID restrictions, we are also rethinking how and what our workplace means to the work we do. The Conservancy is approaching the reopening of its offices methodically. At the same time, we are happy to rekindle the camaraderie that comes with meeting more often face to face. The resilience of Conservancy employees, our Board, and the public we serve continues to be an inspiration and gives me hope and confidence that we are stronger as an organization and are well positioned to weather any challenges going forward.

Jane Freeman
Acting Executive Director, California Tahoe Conservancy



Program Area Status Updates

1. Land Management

- Opened Van Sickle Bi-State Park and Tahoe Pines (Meyers) to vehicles for the season on May 1.
- Closed the Upper Truckee Marsh to dogs on May 1 to protect birds and wildlife during their breeding season; closure remains in effect until July 31.
- Expanded scope of services with Clean Tahoe to address trash removal on Conservancy lots in Kings Beach.
- Renewed a short-term agreement with the Tahoe City Public Utility District (TCPUD) for access to Antelope Water Tanks.

Land Management Projects and Grants

Staff contracted 19 seasonal crew members through the Tahoe Resource Conservation District (Tahoe RCD) to plan and implement small-scale projects on Conservancy lands to restore and protect water quality, maintain properties and facilities, improve forest health and reduce fuel hazards on urban lots, and resolve encroachments.

2. Tahoe Livable Communities (TLC)

- Continued planning and coordination on potential projects that use Conservancy lands to advance mixed-use, affordable housing, and economic development.
- Continued processing land bank requests for proposed affordable housing, town center, and other infill projects.
- Coordinated with California Strategic Growth Council on grant and technical assistance opportunities in the Lake Tahoe Basin (Basin).

TLC Projects and Grants

For additional information, please refer to the TLC Update, Agenda Item 8.

3. Community Forestry

- Coordinated and developed priority forestry treatments across land ownerships with the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team (TFFT) (i.e., 21 Basin fire and land management agencies and the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California).
- Burned 29 acres of brush, branches, and woody debris created by active projects.

- The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) certified the Tahoe Program Timberland Environmental Impact Report (Tahoe PTEIR).

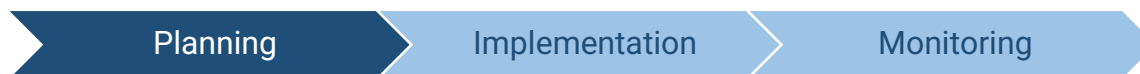
Strategic Initiatives

Tahoe PTEIR

In April, CAL FIRE certified the Tahoe PTEIR and approved the proposed forest management program. The Tahoe PTEIR addresses a long-term program of forest management across private, local jurisdiction, federal, and Conservancy land. It will help the Conservancy and other California TFFT partners reduce more wildfire fuels and improve forest resilience while protecting the region’s sensitive resources. Staff anticipates using the Tahoe PTEIR for future forest management projects on Conservancy lands.

Community Forestry Projects and Grants

The following forestry projects continue:



Project	Conservancy role(s)	Location
Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act Round 16 Grant Projects	Land manager, funder	High-priority wildland-urban interface projects on the California side of the Basin
Good Neighbor Authority Projects	Land manager, implementer on federal lands	Small neighborhood parcels owned by the Conservancy and USDA Forest Service, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit



Project	Conservancy role(s)	Location
North Tahoe Fire Hazardous Fuel Reduction and Defensible Space Project (220 acres)	Land manager	Conservancy-owned small neighborhood parcels in Placer County
Dollar Creek Forest Restoration Project (260 acres)	Land manager	The east side of the Conservancy’s Dollar property
Burton Creek State Park Forest Restoration Project (132 acres)	Provided funding to California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR)	Burton Creek State Park

Project	Conservancy role(s)	Location
Phase 2 of the California State Parks Fuel Hazard Reduction and Understory Burning Project (150 acres)	Provided funding to DPR	Sugar Pine Point State Park
Ski Run/Bijou Open Space Fuel Hazard Reduction Project (65 acres)	Land manager	Conservancy-owned neighborhood parcels in the Ski Run/Bijou area of the City of South Lake Tahoe
Phase 2 of the Van Sickle Bi-State Park Fuel Hazard Reduction Project (108 acres)	Land manager	California side of Van Sickle Bi-State Park
Biomass Transport and Utilization Project (17,500 tons of woody biomass)	Provided funding to DPR, Great Basin Institute, and Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California	California side of the Basin
Miscellaneous forest health and fuels reduction projects (50 acres)	Land manager	Conservancy-owned properties on the California side of the Basin

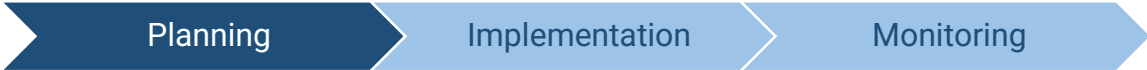
Staff also continues to monitor five projects and grants to partners previously identified in the [December 2020](#) and [March 2021 Executive Director Reports](#). Jurisdiction maps at the end of this report provide locations of Community Forestry Projects and Grants.

4. Landscape Forestry

- Released the Framework for Resilience for the Tahoe-Central Sierra Initiative.

Strategic Initiatives

Tahoe-Central Sierra Initiative (TCSI)





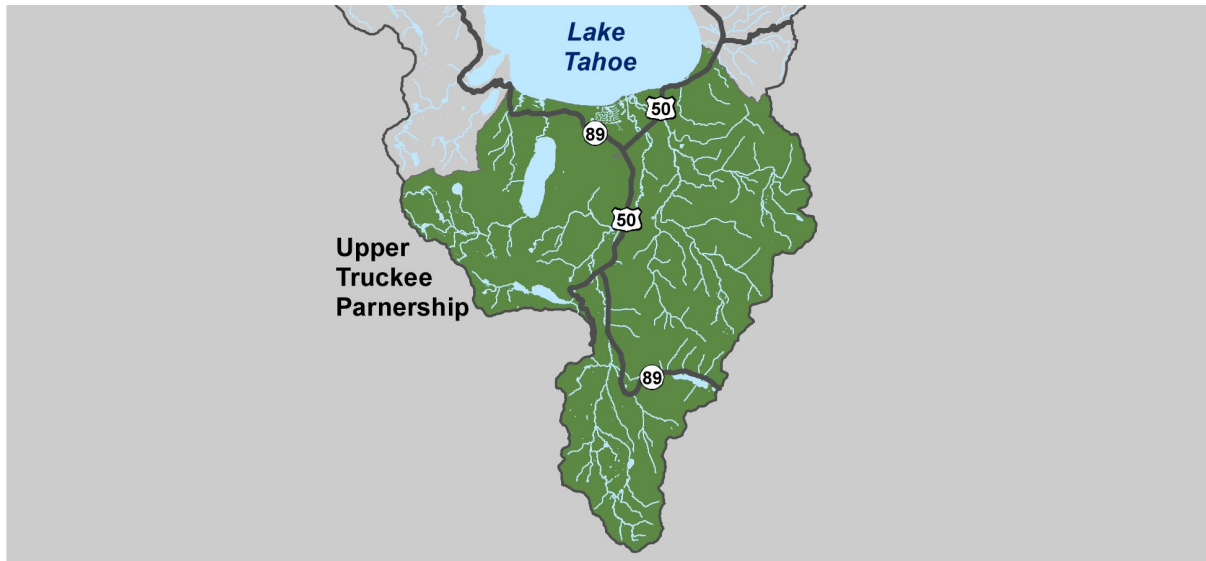
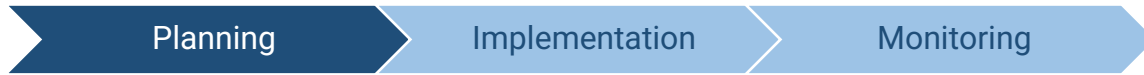
The TCSI is restoring forest resilience on a 2.4-million-acre landscape by strategically linking forest restoration collaboratives. In March, TCSI partners released the Framework for Resilience (Framework). The Framework defines what a resilient landscape looks like and identifies social and ecological values that make up that landscape. These values are described by ten pillars that represent the desired outcomes of restoring landscape resilience. The Framework provides a structure for assessing landscape conditions, setting objectives, designing projects, and measuring progress towards local, regional, and statewide goals. The Framework is available online at sierranevada.ca.gov/tcsi.

5. Watershed Restoration and Water Quality

- Partnered with the USDA Forest Service, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit to plan for restoring the Upper Truckee River near Sunset Stables.
- Monitored restoration benefits at the Upper Truckee Marsh.
- Tahoe RCD continued removing aquatic invasive plants at the Tahoe Keys Offshore Complex.

Strategic Initiatives

Greater Upper Truckee River Watershed Partnership (UTP) Synthesis

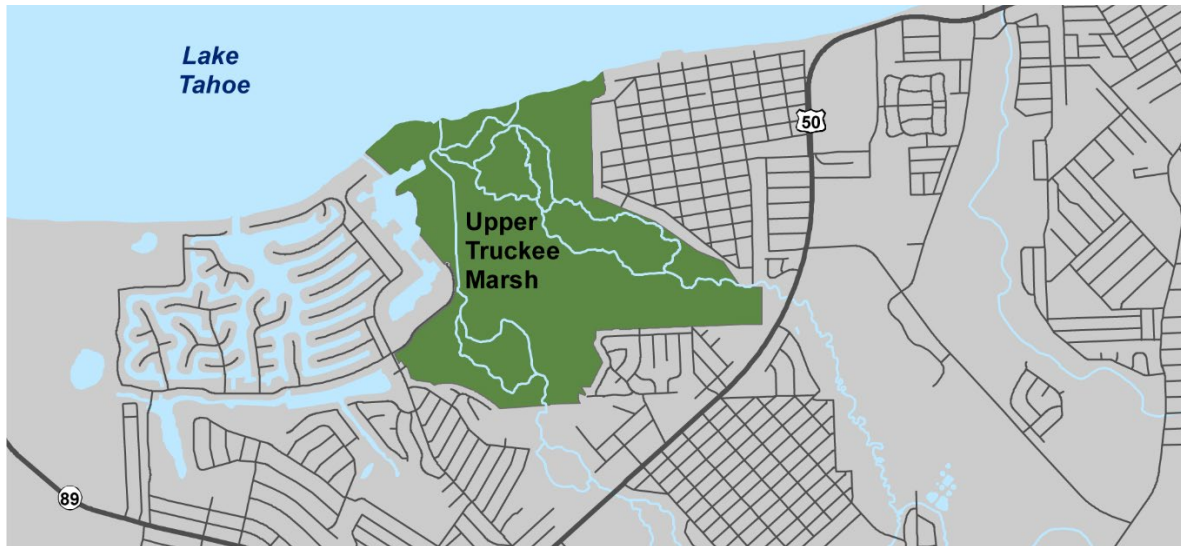


The UTP links resource protection and restoration, recreation, and transportation projects in the largest watershed in the Basin. The Conservancy is working with stakeholders to develop the UTP Synthesis. The UTP Synthesis will identify current programs and projects, future opportunities, and information needs for restoring resilience in the region.

Watershed Restoration and Water Quality Projects and Grants

Upper Truckee River and Marsh Restoration Project





The Conservancy is restoring the Upper Truckee Marsh (Marsh) to improve wildlife habitat and water quality in the largest wetland in the Basin. The University of Nevada, Reno has begun monitoring how well the Marsh captures and stores greenhouse gases to document project benefits. The Conservancy will soon resume restoration, including grading and revegetation near Cove East Beach. In the project's southern area, the Conservancy will monitor and adaptively manage the network of pilot channels constructed last year.

Making Aquatic Invasive Species Control More Efficient



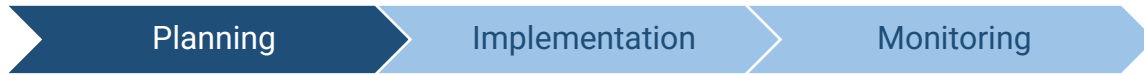
With Lake Tahoe Science and Lake Improvement Account (Senate Bill 630) funding and guided by the Aquatic Invasive Species Action Agenda, the Tahoe RCD will continue removing aquatic invasive plants at the Tahoe Keys Offshore Complex this summer. The Offshore Complex is one of the largest remaining aquatic invasive plant infestations at Lake Tahoe. As of this year, Basin partners are treating or planning to treat all but one known aquatic invasive plant infestation.

6. Recreation and Public Access

- The City of South Lake Tahoe (City) continued planning, with Conservancy funding, the 56-Acre site, a civic and recreation hub.
- El Dorado County resumed building the South Tahoe Greenway Shared Use Trail, Phases 1b and 2.

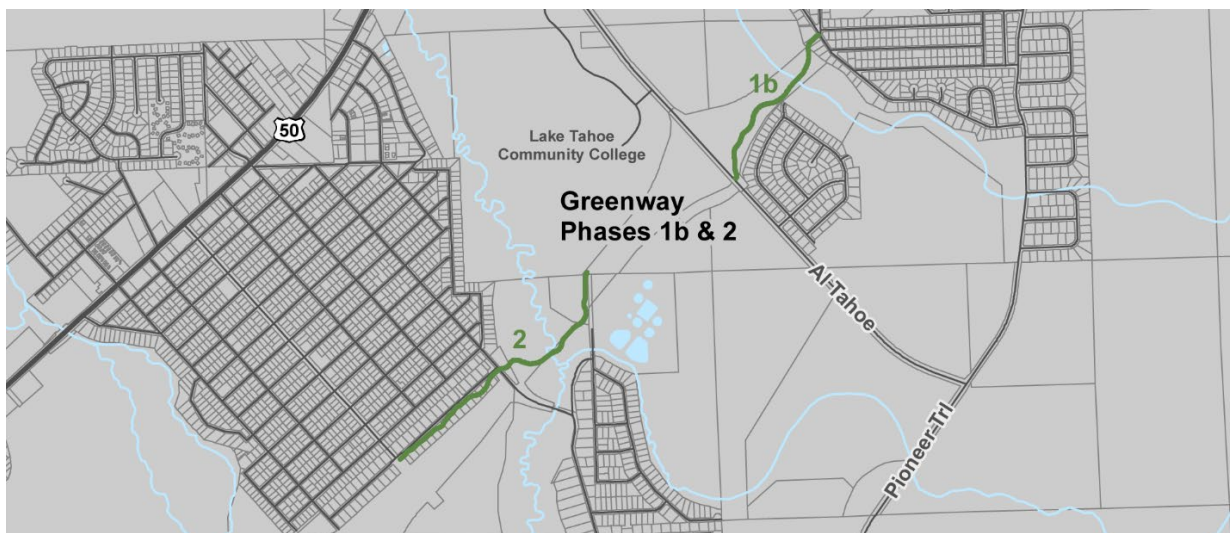
Recreation and Public Access Projects and Grants

56-Acre Master Plan



Following broad public engagement, the City has selected a preferred conceptual design for the 56-Acre Master Plan and is beginning environmental review. The Master Plan will provide a comprehensive strategy to guide the City's proposed improvements to this lakefront civic and recreation hub. Supported by a Conservancy Proposition 68 grant, the City plans to complete the Master Plan by the end of 2021, including all outreach, conceptual designs, and environmental review.

South Tahoe Greenway Shared Use Trail (Greenway) Phases 1b and 2



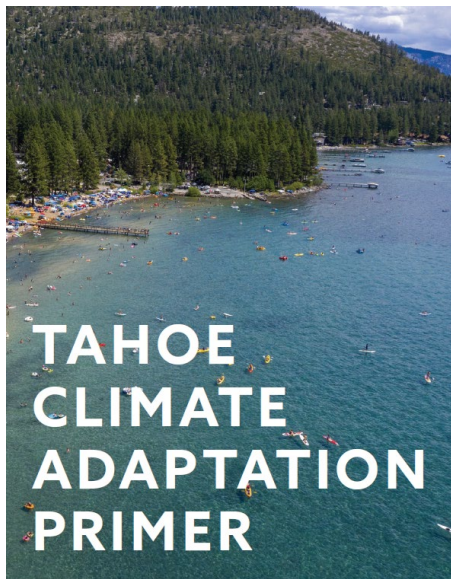
El Dorado County resumed constructing Greenway Phases 1b and 2 this spring. The Greenway provides the backbone for non-motorized travel in the south shore area by connecting neighborhoods and the Lake Tahoe Community College to the region's shared-use trail network. Construction will finish in late summer or fall 2021 following delivery of construction materials that were delayed due to COVID-19. Completed sections are open for public use, including the trail along Barbara Avenue and the boardwalk across Bijou Meadow. El Dorado County will temporarily close some of these sections for paving and striping.

7. Climate Adaptation and Biodiversity

- Completed the Tahoe Climate Adaptation Primer.

Strategic Initiatives

Tahoe Climate Adaptation Primer



The Conservancy and partners recently completed the Tahoe Climate Adaptation Primer. The Primer summarizes anticipated climate change impacts to the Lake, forested uplands, and communities at Lake Tahoe; ongoing climate adaptation work in the Basin; highlights existing partnerships and initiatives; and identifies key roles and next steps for adaptation work in the Basin.

Staff continues to develop a companion detailed portfolio of ongoing and anticipated adaptation actions and projects.

Climate Change Adaptation Projects and Grants

Lake Tahoe Greenhouse Gas Inventory Update Grant

The Conservancy provided a \$100,000 grant to the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) in April 2020 to update the Basin's greenhouse gas inventory and analyze carbon sequestration in forests and wetlands. The TRPA recently completed work under the grant, culminating in a public webinar in March 2021 and a final report in April 2021. The report establishes a replicable methodology and baseline for measuring greenhouse gas emissions and carbon capture and storage in the Basin. It also identifies future emission reduction and carbon sequestration strategies and priorities.

Organizational Learning and Excellence

1. Budget and Accounting

Early Action Wildfire Prevention and Preparedness Funding

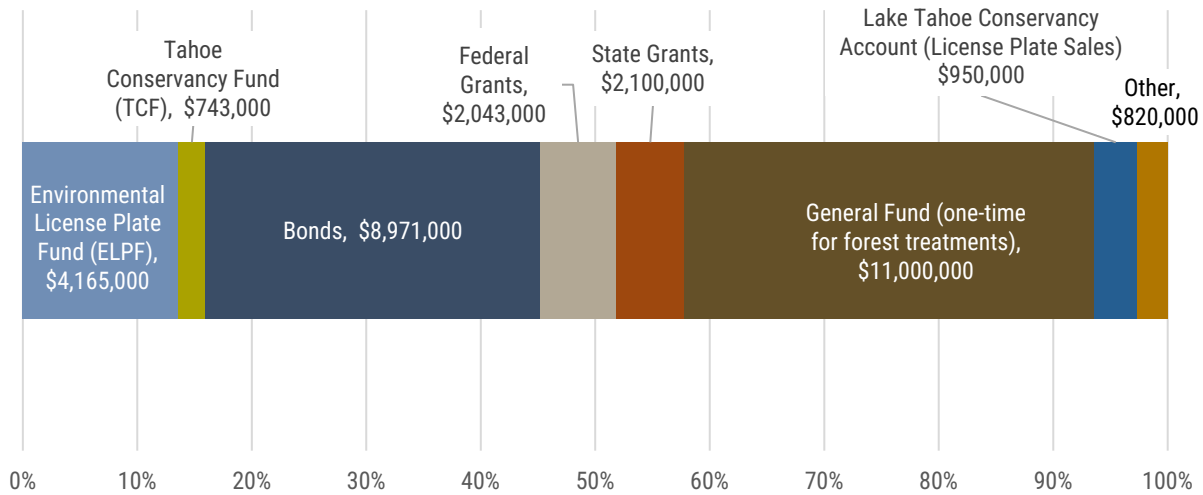
In April, Governor Newsom signed a \$536 million early action funding plan to accelerate wildfire prevention projects statewide—a significant benefit to Tahoe forests and communities. This funding package is part of the Governor's \$1 billion investment in forest health and community resilience in the proposed 2021-2022 state budget. The early action funding included \$1 million for the Conservancy to reduce hazardous fuels on its open-space lots, implement high-priority forest management projects on its lands in the wildland-urban interface, and use prescribed fire to restore landscape resilience. The Governor's proposed 2021-2022 state budget includes an additional \$11 million to reduce wildfire risk on Conservancy lands.

Anticipated Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Expenditures

The Conservancy employs a variety of funding sources for programs and projects, operations, grants, and staff. The Conservancy's base funding comprises state special revenue monies through Environmental License Plate sales, Lake Tahoe License Plate sales, and land management revenue. The Conservancy continues to rely on voter-approved bonds (Propositions 1, 12, 40, 50, 68, and 84) with state and federal grants to bridge the gap between its base funding and the full cost of projects and operations.

The Conservancy's funding sources and anticipated expenditures for the 2021-2022 fiscal year include:

Funding Sources FY 2021-2022



Planned Expenditures FY 2021-2022

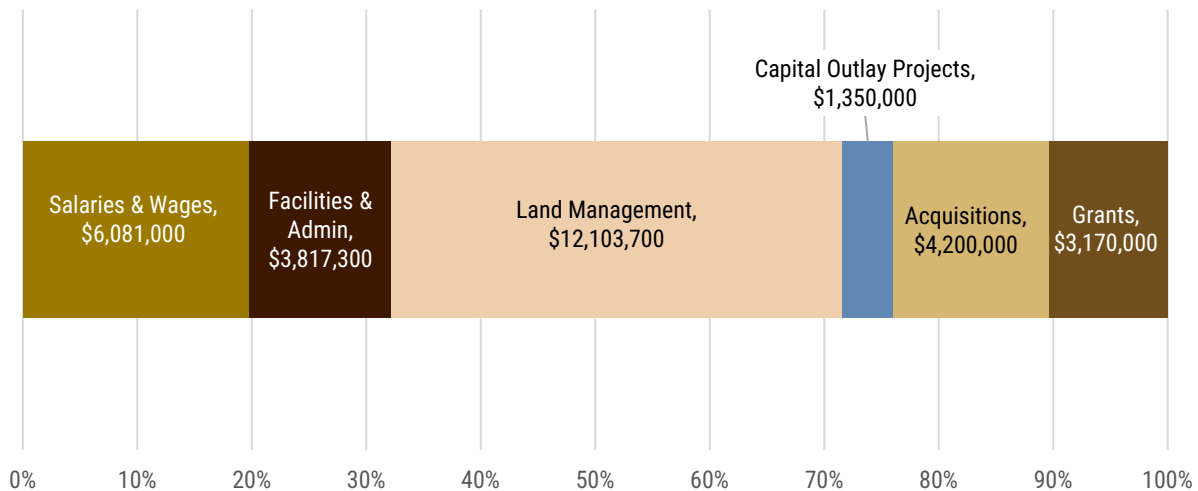


Figure 1: funding sources. The Conservancy continually seeks state and federal grants to help fund projects. Annually the Conservancy requests authority to spend those grants. For additional information, refer to the Fiscal Year 2021/22 Program Authorization, Agenda Item 9.

2. Grants to Partners

During the 2020-2021 fiscal year, the Conservancy issued \$3,159,535 in 14 grants to local governments, state agencies, federal agencies, tribal governments, nonprofit organizations, and universities. The Conservancy targeted these grants to further the Environmental Improvement Program (EIP).

3. Proposition 68 Grant Program

In 2018, California voters approved Proposition 68 (the Parks, Environment, and Water Bond), which authorized \$4 billion in general obligation bonds to finance programs that cover drought, water, parks, climate, coastal protection, and outdoor access for all. This bond allocates \$27 million to the Conservancy for the purposes set forth in its governing statutes. The Conservancy has programmed \$21 million of this funding for projects, acquisitions, planning and monitoring, technical assistance, and grants. To date, the Conservancy has authorized 11 Proposition 68 grants totaling nearly \$3 million.

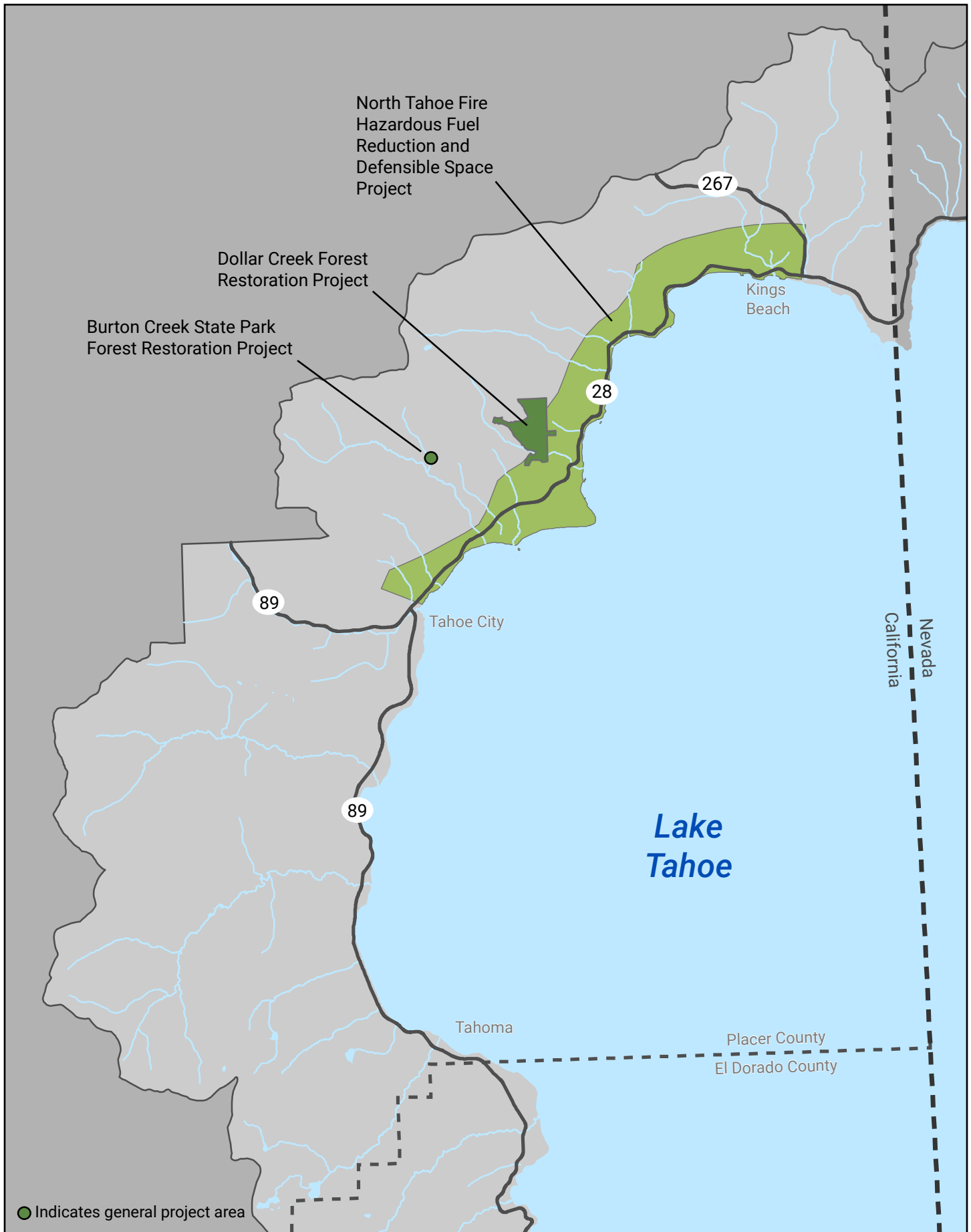
4. Proposition 1 Grant Program

In 2014, California voters approved Proposition 1 (the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014). The Conservancy administers a competitive grants program for awarding its allocated Proposition 1 funding. The Conservancy has awarded three rounds of Proposition 1 grants, totaling 18 grants that amount to \$12.8 million. Two grants are currently active; the remainder are closed out or are in the monitoring phase. Staff anticipates soliciting a fourth round of Proposition 1 grant applications in 2021.

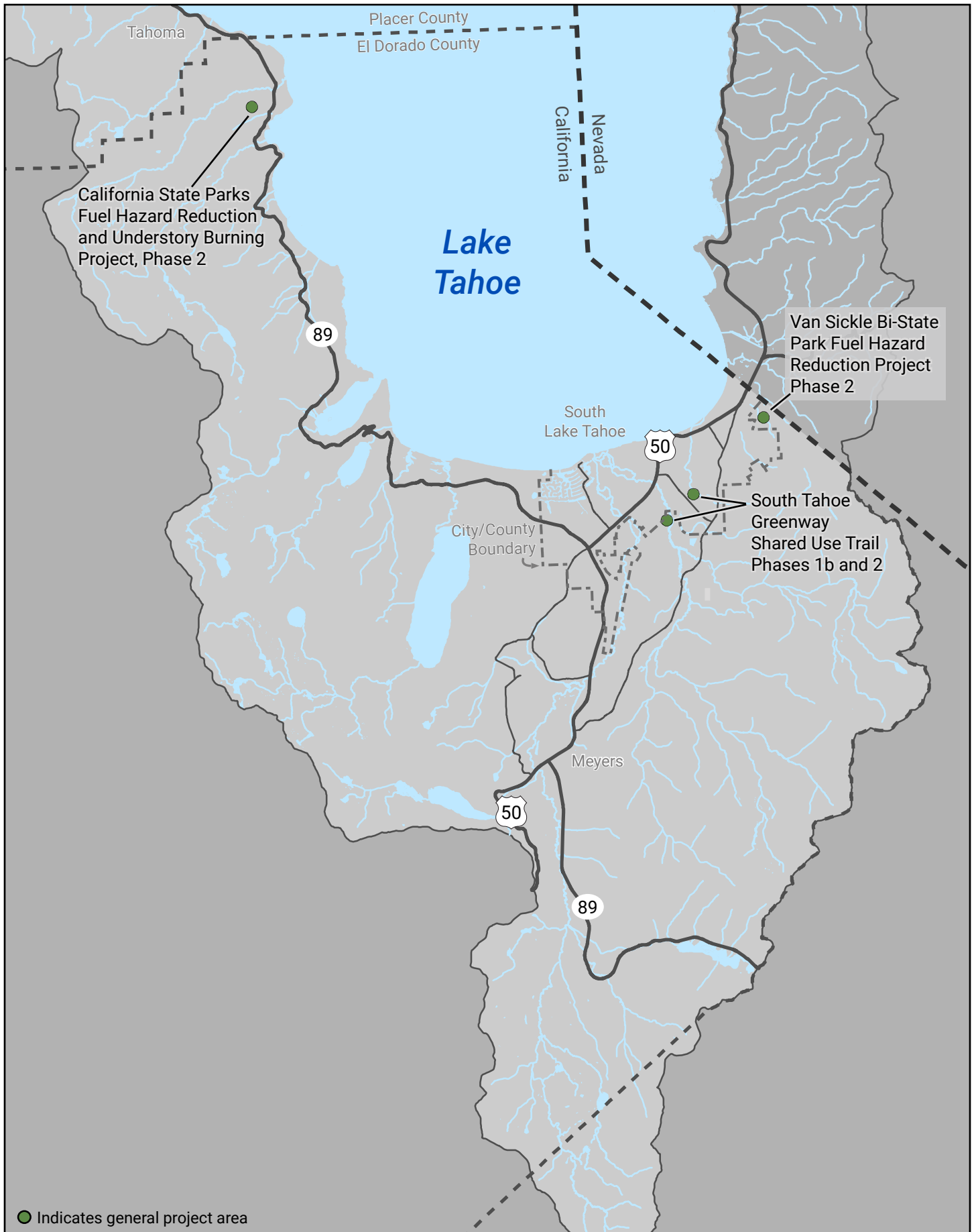
5. Capitol Collaborative on Race and Equity (CCORE)

The Conservancy continues to participate in CCORE—a comprehensive training and planning program with 14 other state agencies to address systematic racial inequity. Participating staff recently hosted two trainings for all Conservancy employees. Staff will develop a racial equity action plan to evaluate and improve Conservancy programs to help ensure it is working on behalf of all Californians.

Projects and Grants in Placer County



Projects and Grants in El Dorado County



Projects and Grants in the City of South Lake Tahoe

