

The Forest Service Role in the Environmental Improvement Program:



U.S. Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit:

- As primary land manager, plays a key role in implementing the Environmental Improvement Program
- Convenes the Lake Tahoe Federal Advisory Committee

Federal Interagency Partnership:

- Created by Executive Order at the 1997 Lake Tahoe Forum
- Directed federal agencies to coordinate activities with the states, TRPA and local governments to attain environmental thresholds
- Federal agencies have implemented 270 projects since 2005, including water quality, forest health and fuels reduction, ecological restoration, and recreational access.

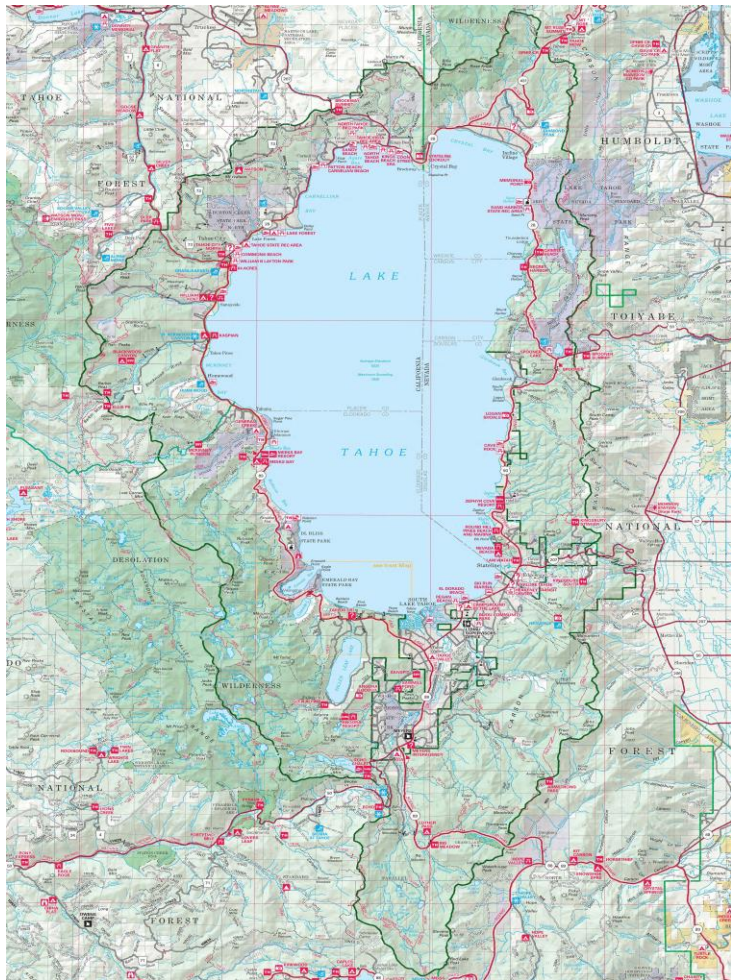


Exhibit I-Tahoe
Document consists of 9 pages.
Entire exhibit provided.
Meeting Date: 02-20-14



Forest Management for Fuels Reduction & Forest Health

Forest thinning and prescribed fire:

- Reduce density of trees and brush that could fuel a wildfire
- Reduce competition for water, sunlight and nutrients, improve forest health to resist drought, insects, and disease
- Restore fire's role in the ecosystem
- Improve aspen and meadow habitat
- Create resilience to climate change



A cut-to-length forwarder removes trees near Camp Richardson.



Forest Management for Fuels Reduction & Forest Health



Prescribed fire pile burning at Luther Pass Campground.

Current Status

- 16,145 acres treated since 2008
- Entering third year of 10,000 acre South Shore project
- Projects ready to begin include Carnelian and Incline
- Completed projects include Round Hill and Spooner
- LTBMU is currently working with partners to update the Multi-Jurisdictional Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Strategy.
- The Forest Service sponsors a Veteran's Green Corps crew on the LTBMU.



Ecosystem Restoration of Cold Creek in High Meadows



Completed section of Cold Creek stream channel in High Meadows.

Restoration Benefits

- The meadow floods more often
- Less sediment is carried downstream
- Wet meadow flora and fauna have returned
- Groundwater levels have risen
- Water storage has been increased



Ecosystem Restoration of Upper Truckee River Sunset Stables / Airport Reach

Progress

- Equipment staging area at Sunset Stables
- Temporary access roads constructed
- Removable bridge installed to cross river
- 3,000 feet of new channel constructed in 2013
- 4,000 feet of new channel scheduled for 2014
- Completion scheduled for 2016



Logs are placed in the new channel of the Upper Truckee River during construction.



Sprinklers water the new channel of the Upper Truckee River to help vegetation take root.



Recovering Native Species & Improving Habitat

Interagency efforts to help native animals and plants recover

- Ensure self-sustaining populations of Lahontan cutthroat trout in Basin streams and lakes
- Re-populate Sierra yellow-legged frog in Desolation Wilderness lakes
- Protect lakeshore populations of Tahoe yellow cress, mountainside clusters of Tahoe draba

Preventing the spread of invasive species, weeds

- Work with concessionaires and special use permittees to educate visitors on threats of invasives to native species
- Participate in interagency Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species Working Group
- Implement weed-control and eradication efforts tailored to the special needs of sensitive locations



Lake Tahoe school kids help remove Eurasian water milfoil from Taylor Creek.

Conservation Education & Generation Green



Watershed and Habitat Improvement Project Highlight: USFS Erosion Control Grants Program



Newly constructed infiltration basin at Incline Village project.

Program Highlights:

- USFS administers federal assistance grants to local governments for urban storm water treatment and SEZ restoration projects.
- Since 1984, the USFS has awarded a total of \$103 million, of which \$26 million has gone to Nevada jurisdictions. All federal awards are equally matched with state and local funds.



Jellyfish-style underground treatment vault used in Incline Village project.



Watershed & Habitat Improvement Project Highlight: Monument Pass Trail



Project Goals:

- Improve quality of recreation experience
- Improve recreation access
- Reduce impacts to resources
- Reduce future maintenance requirements
- Preserve shared use trail opportunities while
- reducing potential use conflicts



Youth Conservation Corps working on the Monument Pass trail, which connects High Meadows to the Tahoe Rim Trail at Monument Pass.



Transportation and Recreation Access Improvements

Project Highlight: Lake Tahoe Bikeway – South Demonstration Project



Mile marker 1 on the new South Demonstration section of the Lake Tahoe Bikeway.

Project Goals:

- Improve quality of recreation experience
- Improve recreation access
- Provide alternatives to the private automobile
- Preserve shared use trail opportunities while reducing potential use conflicts

