

TAHOE REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY

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NEWS RELEASE

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LAKE TAHOE CELEBRATES 10 YEARS OF ENVIRONMENTAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS & CONTINUING THE COMMITMENT

Lake Tahoe, CA/NV—The Lake Tahoe Region celebrated a decade of restoration and conservation work today and renewed its commitment to the Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) at the Lake Tahoe Forum at Sierra Nevada College in Incline Village, NV.

The EIP was launched in 1997 as a collaboration of more than 50 organizations committed to healing past environmental damage at Lake Tahoe through restoration and conservation projects. Celebration of the 10-year anniversary of the program is highlighted by the list of accomplishments to date and underscored by the need to continue the commitment of funding from federal, state, local and private partners.

“We’ve accomplished a great deal for Lake Tahoe over the last 10 years, but more must be done to achieve our long term goals of environmental protection and restoration,” said John Singlaub, Executive Director of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency.

Some of the accomplishments presented at the Forum today include:

- Approximately 266 EIP capital projects completed and many more are in the planning stages.
- Acquired 2,388 linear feet of Lake shoreline for public use
- Completed 140 science and technical assistance projects through funding \$48 million in research and monitoring.
- Acquired more than 3,064 acres of sensitive land for public benefit.

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2-2-2 EIP Accomplishments

- Improved over 13,000 acres for wildlife habitat.
- Restored more than 739 acres of wetlands.
- Completed and planned nearly 25 projects to help restore the Upper Truckee River watershed which delivers more fine sediment into Lake Tahoe than any other tributary.
- Treated stormwater runoff from 26 miles of state highways.
- Conducted forest fuels reduction treatments on 21,293 acres of forest.
- Completed the “Fuels Reduction & Forest Restoration Plan for the Lake Tahoe Basin Wildland Urban Interface” including Community Wildfire Protection Plans which qualifies Lake Tahoe to receive funding authorized under the Healthy Forests Restoration Act.
- Achieved a 20% reduction in vehicle traffic near Stateline, Nevada since 2001 because of transit-oriented redevelopment.
- Constructed or rehabilitated 20 transit facilities and increased transit ridership to 1.5 million passengers annually.
- Constructed or planned 127 miles of new multi-purpose trails.

The 1997 Lake Tahoe Presidential Forum was a turning point in Tahoe’s history. The event inspired renewed commitment to restore the Lake’s ecosystem and spurred the creation of the EIP. As of 2006, \$1.1 billion has been invested by Congress, the California and Nevada state legislatures, local governments, and the private sector to implement the EIP. Now that we have reached the 10-year anniversary of the EIP, new commitments must be made.

“The conservation of Lake Tahoe is a work in progress,” said Julie Regan, Communications and Legislative Affairs Chief, TRPA. “We’ve implemented one of the largest collaborative restorative initiatives in the United States here at Tahoe but science is showing we have a lot of work ahead to restore the lake’s clarity to 100 feet, which is our steadfast goal.”

The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency cooperatively leads the effort to preserve, restore, and enhance the unique natural and human environment of the Lake Tahoe Region now and in the future. For additional information, call Jeff Cowen at 775-589-5278.

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