



## TAHOE RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

*Our mission is to promote the conservation and improvement of the Lake Tahoe Basin's soil, water and related natural resources by providing leadership, information, programs and technical assistance to all land managers, owners, organizations and residents.*

*COMMUNITY. CONSERVATION. CONNECTION.*

# What is the Tahoe Resource Conservation District?

*We are one of nearly 3000 conservation districts across the country helping people to protect land, water, forests, wildlife, and related natural resources.*

*Our programs focus on erosion control, runoff infiltration, terrestrial and aquatic invasive species control, and vegetation management. We work closely with our partner agencies to obtain grant funding and integrate backyard conservation into our programs, including defensible space, water conservation, fertilizer management, and wildlife habitat enhancement. Although primarily established to work within the California portion of the Tahoe Basin, our staff also work with Nevada residents of the Tahoe Basin along side the Nevada Tahoe Conservation District.*





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# Best Management Practices Retrofit Program

Best Management Practices (BMPs) are erosion control measures required by the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency's BMP Ordinance for all developed properties in the Lake Tahoe Basin. BMPs help to improve water quality by capturing and infiltrating stormwater runoff before it enters Lake Tahoe. The goal of Best Management Practices is to improve lake clarity by reducing the amount of sediment and nutrients flowing into Lake Tahoe. Our staff assists single family homeowners on the California side of the Lake Tahoe Basin with meeting BMP requirements.



Slotted channel drains convey driveway runoff to drain rock infiltration systems or drywells.



Vegetation is an effective BMP treatment for stabilizing soil.

## Services that we provide:

- Site specific recommendations for BMP Designs
- Technical Assistance and Installation Tip Sheets
- Vegetation Consultations
- Final Inspections for BMP Certificates of Compliance
- Contractor and Public Workshops and Community Events

## 2009 BMP Program Highlights

- Completed 229 BMP Site Evaluations, 688 Technical Assistances and requested 202 BMP Certificates of Compliance from the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
- Provided outreach for over 7,000 Lake Tahoe community members through conservation workshops and events including South and North Lake Tahoe Earth Days, Forest Stewardship Day, the Annual Conservation Landscape Tour, the BMP Contractors' Workshop and Conservation Block Parties



Students from the Boys' and Girls' Club plant in the Angora Community Garden.



Garden goers enjoy the 2nd Annual Conservation Landscape Tour, August 2009.

- Designed and implemented natural resource education curriculums for South Tahoe elementary schools targeting over 2,000 students
- Provided conservation landscaping assistance and re-vegetation materials to 27 community members within the Angora burn area through Vegetation Consultations
- Disseminated BMP and backyard conservation information to the Tahoe community through local media and outreach efforts, including the launch of the new Tahoe RCD website

# Invasive Species Program

Our Invasive Species Program is comprised of the Terrestrial Invasive Weed and Aquatic Invasive Species Programs. Through these programs, we coordinate the Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species Working Group (LTAISWG) and participate in the Lake Tahoe Basin Weed Coordinating Group (LTBWCG). These working groups are comprised of diverse agencies and community members dedicated to protecting the Lake Tahoe Basin from invasive species through education, research, prevention, early detection, rapid response and control.



Volunteer bull thistle pull at the Tahoe City Fish Hatchery.

## Terrestrial Invasive Weed Program Services:

- Private property invasive weed surveys and removal
- Guidance on native and adapted plant selection and conservation landscaping
- Invasive weed education and outreach activities including mapping, data collection, prevention and control



Oxeye daisy is a common terrestrial invasive weed species.

## 2009 Terrestrial Invasive Weed Program Highlights

- Eradicated 1,400 invasive weeds through two weed pull events and 229 private property invasive weed surveys
- Reached over 2,200 Lake Tahoe community members through Autumn Fest, community weed pulls, Conservation Block Parties, the Conservation Landscape Tour, public meetings and homeowners' association meetings
- Disseminated invasive weed and conservation landscaping information to the Tahoe community including local nurseries



All watercraft suspected to have invasive species are thoroughly decontaminated prior to launching in Lake Tahoe.

## **Aquatic Invasive Species Program**

Our Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Program coordinates Lake Tahoe's mandatory Watercraft Inspection Program and also removal projects for aquatic invasive species currently in Lake Tahoe. The Watercraft Inspection Program, implemented in 2008, prevents the spread of quagga and zebra mussels, the New Zealand mud snail and other aquatic invasive species into the Tahoe Basin.

### **Lake Tahoe's Watercraft Inspection Program:**

- Inspects all boats entering and exiting Lake Tahoe for aquatic invasive species
- Provides qualified inspectors at public launch facilities, technical support for private launches, trainings and decontamination of watercraft
- Educates boaters about responsible boating practices

## **2009 AIS Program Highlights**

- Completed over 14,000 watercraft inspections, 800 of which came from mussel-infested or high risk water bodies
- Decontaminated over 500 vessels and intercepted 12 vessels visibly contaminated with invasive mussels species
- Reached over 15,000 Tahoe community members and visitors through trainings, presentations, community events and media sources in Northern California and Nevada



Zebra and quagga mussels attach to boats and intake pipes, causing ecologic and economic damage.

# Tahoe RCD Projects

- The **Brockway Erosion Control Project** aims to reduce the overall contribution of fine sediments and nutrients entering Lake Tahoe and improve the scenic quality of the area. This is being done by revegetating and stabilizing the slope along the Highway 267 corridor.
- The **Homewood Erosion Control Project** implemented erosion control and water quality improvement practices at Homewood Mountain Resort to achieve pollutant load reductions within the Homewood Creek Watershed. The project goal is to make this watershed the first in the Lake Tahoe Basin to meet the Tahoe TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) Clarity Challenge of a 32% reduction in fine sediment loading.



Brockway Summit Erosion Control Project, fall 2009.



Angora Forest Stewardship Project, Spring 2009.

- The **Angora Community Demonstration Garden** promotes backyard conservation and is located at 1383 Mt. Olympia Circle in South Lake Tahoe. Upon completion, the garden will include examples of Tahoe native and adapted vegetation, defensible space, water conservation and erosion control practices specific to properties in the Angora Burn area. For more information, visit [www.evansfamilygarden.org](http://www.evansfamilygarden.org).
- Through the **Angora Forest Stewardship Project**, over 1,000 South Tahoe community members and students planted more than 7,000 tree seedlings on urban USFS lots in the Angora burn area during spring 2009. Community groups and local homeowners have adopted lots to perform on-going maintenance and monitoring of the trees. As a part of the project, we have developed and implemented an interdisciplinary forest health curriculum targeting all South Tahoe elementary schools.

## **Aquatic Invasive Species Control Projects**

Our aquatic invasives control projects follow the Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species Working Group (LTAISWG) mission by working to prevent new introductions of invasive species into Lake Tahoe and stop the spread of existing invasive species. Projects include the monitoring, research, control and removal of new and existing invasive species in Lake Tahoe.



Divers place bottom barriers as part of the Asian clam removal project in Lake Tahoe.

### **Asian Clam Pilot Removal Project**

- In 2009, we coordinated the initial pilot project for researching different methods for the removal of the Asian clam, an invasive species currently in Lake Tahoe.
- The pilot project was successful in testing multiple removal methods and is planning to ramp up for a large scale removal effort in the southeast side of the Lake in the near future.

### **Near-Shore Aquatic Weed Removal Project**

- We continue to facilitate aquatic weed removal for the Lake Tahoe Basin to prevent the growth of Eurasian watermilfoil and Curlyleaf pondweed in Lake Tahoe.
- Through aquatic weed removal projects, the installation of 54 bottom barriers and diver assisted hand removal methods were successful in removing two acres of weeds in Emerald Bay this season.
- In 2010, funds are in place to increase the acreage of removal and number of locations.

For more information on Tahoe RCD Projects, visit [www.tahoercd.org](http://www.tahoercd.org)



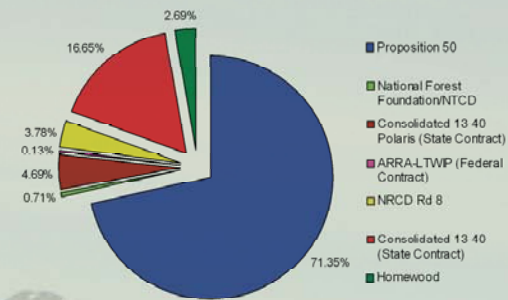
Eurasian watermilfoil, an aquatic invasive weed currently in Lake Tahoe.

# Tahoe RCD Funding Fiscal Year 2008 - 2009

The broad and diverse group of agencies, institutions, and citizens supporting our agency provide multiple funding opportunities and allow for our continued growth. Each year, we continue to secure federal, state, and local funding sources.

The Tahoe RCD continues to administer the California Tahoe Conservancy (CTC) seasonal staff payroll.

Total Expenditures - BMP Program and Partner Agencies  
Fund Revenue FY 2008-2009



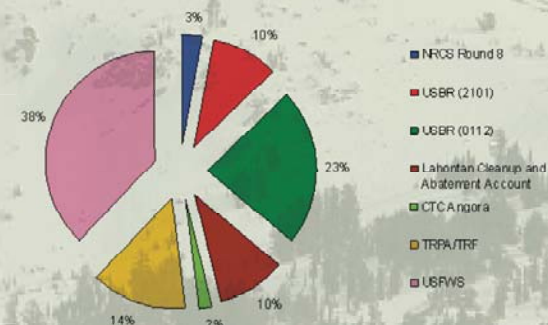
Best Management Practices Program Fund Revenue Fiscal Year 2008-2009

Grant Name	Total Amount Spent (Per Grant Agreement)-FY 2008-2009	% of Funding (Per Grant Agreement) FY 2008-2009
Placer County	\$ 6,555.11	0.17%
Proposition 50	\$ 2,821,049.23	71.35%
National Forest Foundation/NTCD	\$ 28,000.00	0.71%
Consolidated 13-40 Polaris (State Contract)	\$ 185,593.47	4.69%
ARRA-LTWIP (Federal Contract)	\$ 5,040.72	0.13%
NRCS Rd 8	\$ 9,652.60	3.78%
Consolidated 13-40 (State Contract)	\$ 658,354.00	16.65%
Homewood	\$ 106,344.06	2.69%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 3,954,034.08</b>	

Invasive Species Program Fund Revenue, Fiscal Year 2008-2009

Grant Name	Total Amount Spent FY 2008-2009	% of Funding FY 2008-2009
NRCS Round 8	\$19,195	3%
USBR (2101)	\$70,248	10%
USBR (0112)	\$159,783	23%
Lahontan Cleanup and Abatement Account	\$74,140	10%
CTC Angora	\$9,329	2%
TRPA/TRF	\$100,000	14%
USFWS	\$266,931	38%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$699,626</b>	

Invasive Species Program  
Fund Revenue FY 2008-2009





Students plant a tree in the Angora Burn area as part of a forest health service learning project.

## Upcoming in 2010

### Lake Tahoe Environmental Resource Guide

During the 2010 field season, we will be developing and distributing a Lake Tahoe Environmental Resource Guide to educate Basin homeowners about local conservation issues in addition to our services and resources. The Guide will include information on water quality, conservation landscaping, recycling, invasive species, and much more.

### Tahoe Environmental Education Stewardship Series

Over the past year, we have been working with our partners to develop the Tahoe Environmental Education Stewardship Series utilizing the Project WET (Water Education for Teachers), WILD (Wildlife In Learning Design), and Learning Tree curriculums for current and future use in the Lake Tahoe

Basin. The Series provides a sustainable environmental education program to help create a lasting stewardship for natural resources in and around Lake Tahoe.

### Green Thumb Gardening Series

During the 2010 field season, we will be launching a series of conservation landscaping classes to be held in the Lake Tahoe Community College Demonstration Garden. These free classes will be taught by community members including UC Cooperative Extension staff and Master Gardeners, soils, gardening and landscape professionals, local agency personnel, and Lake Tahoe Community College Demonstration Garden interns.



Diverse landscapes work well to attract wildlife to your yard.



## **Board of Directors and Staff**

Our Board of Directors is comprised of five members appointed by the El Dorado and Placer County Board of Supervisors. The Tahoe RCD Board of Directors meets the second Tuesday of every month. For information on meeting locations or to receive a copy of the monthly agenda, contact Holly Nattress, Administrative Assistant at 530-543-1501 (extension 100).

### **Tahoe RCD Board Members**

Robert Anderson, President  
David C. Antonucci, Vice President  
Joyce Blackstone, Treasurer  
Barbara Childs, Director  
Heather Segale, Director

We would like to offer a very special thank you to our AmeriCorps members, Kelly Hickman and Dan Deegan, for their superior service and dedicated work efforts in our Invasive Species Program this past year. We would also like to thank Nick Sabo for his dedicated efforts as a Conservation Assistant in our Best Management Practices Program and as a Watercraft Inspector. Finally, we are extremely grateful to Cara Schmidt for her seven years of devoted work efforts in our BMP Program and two seasons as a Watercraft Inspector.

### **Tahoe RCD Staff**

Dave Roberts, District Manager  
Holly Nattress, Administrative Services Coordinator  
Kay Taylor, Grant Assistant

### **Best Management Practices Program Staff**

Eben Swain, Resource Conservationist  
Michael Broadhurst, Engineering Technician  
Jennifer Cressy, Engineering Technician  
Sarah Ford, Conservation Planner  
Courtney Walker, Assistant Conservation Planner  
Dana Olson, Conservation Assistant II  
Bill Weston, Conservation Assistant II  
Cara Schmidt, Conservation Assistant I  
Nick Sabo, Conservation Assistant I

### **Invasive Species Program Staff**

Kim Boyd, Resource Conservationist  
Nicole Cartwright, Conservation Planner  
Kelly Hickman, AmeriCorps Member  
Dan Deegan, AmeriCorps Member  
Jonelle Bright, Lead Watercraft Inspector  
Chris Kilian, Lead Watercraft Inspector  
Joseph Laderoute Sr., Lead Watercraft Inspector  
Joe Laderoute Jr, Watercraft Inspector  
Will Anderson, Watercraft Inspector  
Kendall Bell, Watercraft Inspector  
Felipe Carvalho, Watercraft Inspector  
David Demasi, Watercraft Inspector  
Justin Dohms, Watercraft Inspector  
Brett Fountain, Watercraft Inspector  
Caroline Kreling, Watercraft Inspector  
Molly McNerney, Watercraft Inspector  
Robb Morrison, Watercraft Inspector  
Melanie Nelsen, Watercraft Inspector  
Alex Quissenberry, Watercraft Inspector  
Nick Sabo, Watercraft Inspector  
Cara Schmidt, Watercraft Inspector  
Kerstin Seufert, Watercraft Inspector  
Daniel Swain, Watercraft Inspector  
Hillary Talbot, Watercraft Inspector  
Mike Thomas, Watercraft Inspector  
Max Webb, Watercraft Inspector

## **Partners**

We would like to thank the Tahoe community, local businesses, agencies, and beyond for their continuing support for our agency. The collective goal of maintaining the beauty and integrity of this unique environment can only be achieved by the community's commitment to working together.

## **Federal**

100th Meridian

Army Corps of Engineers

Bureau of Reclamation

Fish and Wildlife Services

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Sierra Nevada Alliance AmeriCorps Partnership

United States Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin

Management Unit

## **State**

California Association of Resource Conservation Districts

California Conservation Corps

California Department of Conservation

California Department of Fish and Game

California Department of Transportation

California Tahoe Conservancy

Project Learning Tree

Project Water Education for Teachers (WET)

Project Wildlife In Learning Design (WILD)

State Water Resources Control Board

University of California Cooperative Extension

University of California at Davis

University of Nevada Cooperative Extension

## **Local**

Alpine County

Alpine Watershed Council

Boys' and Girls' Club Lake Tahoe

California Trout – Tahoe Chapter

City of South Lake Tahoe

Clean Tahoe Program

Desert Research Institute

El Dorado County

Homewood Mountain, JMA Ventures

Incline Village General Improvement District

Integrated Environmental Restoration Services

Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species Working Group

Lake Tahoe Basin Weed Coordinating Group

Lake Valley Fire Protection District

Lake Tahoe Community College

Lake Tahoe Unified School District

Nevada Fire Safe Council

Nevada Tahoe Conservation District

Placer County

Red Tail Environmental Education Consulting Company

Sierra Nevada Alliance

Sierra Watershed Educational Partnership

South Tahoe Public Utility District

Tahoe Regional Planning Agency

Tahoe Truckee Unified School District

Town of Truckee

Truckee River Watershed Council

Special thanks to Jonah Kessel ([www.jonahkessel.com](http://www.jonahkessel.com)) for providing the background photos for our Annual Report.

COMMUNITY. CONSERVATION. CONNECTION.



# TAHOE RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

*870 Emerald Bay Road, Suite 108  
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150*

*Backyard Conservation Hotline  
530-543-1501 extension 113*

*Tahoe Aquatic Nuisance Species Hotline  
1-888-824-6267*

*Fax: 530-543-1660  
info@tahoercd.org  
www.tahoercd.org*

