



## **2008 Annual Report**

**The Tahoe Resource Conservation District's 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.**

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## **I. Introduction**

The Tahoe Resource Conservation District (Tahoe RCD) is one of nearly 3000 Conservation Districts across the country helping people to protect land, water, forests, wildlife, and related natural resources. The State Legislature formed the Tahoe RCD in 1974 under Division 9 of the California Public Resources Code. The Tahoe RCD is a non-regulatory, grant-funded, not-for-profit agency.

Current programs at the Tahoe RCD focus on erosion control, runoff infiltration, terrestrial and aquatic invasive species control, and vegetation management. The Tahoe RCD works with its partner agencies to obtain grant funding and integrate backyard conservation into its programs, such as fire defensible space, water conservation, fertilizer management, and wildlife habitat enhancement. Although primarily established to work within the California portion of the Tahoe Basin, Tahoe RCD staff also works with Nevada residents of the Basin along side the Nevada Tahoe Conservation District.

## **II. Tahoe RCD Board of Directors**

The Tahoe Resource Conservation District Board of Directors is comprised of five members appointed by the El Dorado County and Placer County Board of Supervisors. The Board carries out the Tahoe RCD mission by providing guidance to Tahoe RCD staff for carrying out Tahoe RCD's programs.

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 the Tahoe RCD at 530-543-1501 (ext. 100).

### **Tahoe RCD Board:**

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

## **III. Tahoe RCD Staff**

The Tahoe Resource Conservation District has grown extensively this year in services, staff, and funding. The Tahoe RCD would like to thank Joan McCarty for her dedicated work as the Financial Manager and also Lesley Higgins for her contributions as a Conservation Assistant and Engineering Technician. The Tahoe RCD is also very grateful to Jenny Francis for her efforts in expanding the Invasive Species Program and wishes her luck in her future endeavors. Lastly, the Tahoe RCD would like to offer a special thank you to its Americorps members for their superior service this past year.



**Tahoe RCD 2008 Holiday Photo**

**Tahoe RCD Staff:**

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

**BMP Program Staff:**

Eben Swain, Resource Conservationist  
Michael Broadhurst, Engineering Technician  
Jennifer Cressy, Engineering Technician  
Lesley Higgins, 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  
Jane Covey, Conservation Assistant I

### **Invasive Species Program Staff:**

Jenny Francis, Resource Conservationist  
Nicole Cartwright, Conservation Planner  
Cara Stafford, Americorps Member  
Dan Deegan, Americorps Member  
Cara Schmidt, Watercraft Inspector  
Joe Laderoute Jr, Watercraft Inspector  
Joseph Laderoute Sr., Watercraft Inspector  
Jonelle Bright, Watercraft Inspector  
Caroline Kreling, Watercraft Inspector  
Chris Kilian, Watercraft Inspector  
Felipe Carvalho, Watercraft Inspector  
Kelly Fitch, Watercraft Inspector  
Justin Dolms, Watercraft Inspector  
Waleska Vasquez, Watercraft Inspector  
Pablo Ortega, Watercraft Inspector

## **IV. Programs**

### **Best Management Practices Retrofit Program**

The Tahoe Resource Conservation District's Best Management Practices (BMP) Retrofit Program is part of the nationwide Backyard Conservation Program. The BCP is designed to educate private homeowners about simple, inexpensive conservation measures they can utilize in their own backyards. The Backyard Conservation Program is a joint effort of the Wildlife Habitat Council, the National Association of Conservation Districts, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The Tahoe RCD is recognized throughout the country for its progressive BCP.

The Tahoe RCD's BMP Program works primarily with single-family residences located on the California side of the Lake Tahoe Basin, providing homeowners with information on how to control erosion and infiltrate stormwater runoff on their properties in compliance with the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency's (TRPA) BMP Ordinance. The goal of the TRPA's BMP Ordinance is to reduce the amount of sediment and nutrients entering Lake Tahoe in order to improve Lake Clarity. After the Angora Fire last summer, the Tahoe RCD has worked especially hard to maintain a close relationship with the local fire districts and the TRPA in order to develop a consistent message regarding BMP implementation and Fire Defensible Space practices. Tahoe RCD staff also works closely with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), who provides technical expertise and guidance with BMP designs.

## **BMP Program Highlights - 2008**

### Technical Assistance:

- Completed 272 BMP site evaluations
- Performed 1,996 technical assistances of which 338 resulted in Certificates of Completion
- Installed BMPs on 4 single family residences, including the installation of an AirPave system to serve as demonstration site for alternative driveway systems
- Installed BMPs at the UC Davis Fish Hatchery in Tahoe City
- Installed BMPs at the Tahoe Lake Elementary School in Tahoe City
- Distributed BMP materials from Tahoe Sand and Gravel to 22 properties for BMP implementation; these materials were funded by left over money from the Proposition 13 BMP Rebate Program and were distributed to homeowners through Tahoe RCD vegetation consultations and BMP evaluations

### Public Outreach:

- The BMP Program outreached to over 2500 community members this past year through the following efforts:
  - Presented at and hosted 5 Conservation Block Parties in conjunction with the Nevada Fire Safe Council, South Tahoe Public Utility District, US Forest Service, and California Tahoe Conservancy ~ a combined total of approximately 160 people attended these events
  - Presented at 7 public meetings in coordination with jurisdictional Environmental Improvement Projects ~ a combined total of approximately 75 people were present at these meetings
  - Presented at 3 Homeowners' Association Meetings ~ a combined total of 65 people were in attendance at these meetings
  - Organized and participated in community events including Earth Day, Forest Stewardship Day, and Autumn Fest ~ a combined total of approximately 2000 people attended these events
  - Hosted and presented at a Partner Training for field staff from various partner agencies around the South Shore ~ Approximately 40 people attended
  - Coordinated the first annual Conservation Landscape Tour ~ approximately 100 people attended
  - Helped coordinate and presented at the 2008 Contractors' Workshop and Refresher Course ~ approximately 250 people attended these events
- Conducted mailings to more than 3000 people in the communities of Al Tahoe, Tahoe Keys, and Priority 3 Watershed neighborhoods
- Worked closely with local fire districts and the TRPA to develop a consistent message regarding BMP implementation and Fire Defensible Space practices
- Provided re-vegetation technical assistance and materials to community members within the Angora burn area
- Outreached to approximately 500 children at environmental education events
- Developed a project proposal and plan for the creation of a community demonstration park in the Angora Burn area
- Published conservation articles in local papers and newsletters

- Started the revision process of the Tahoe RCD website with a local web design company, Noble Studios

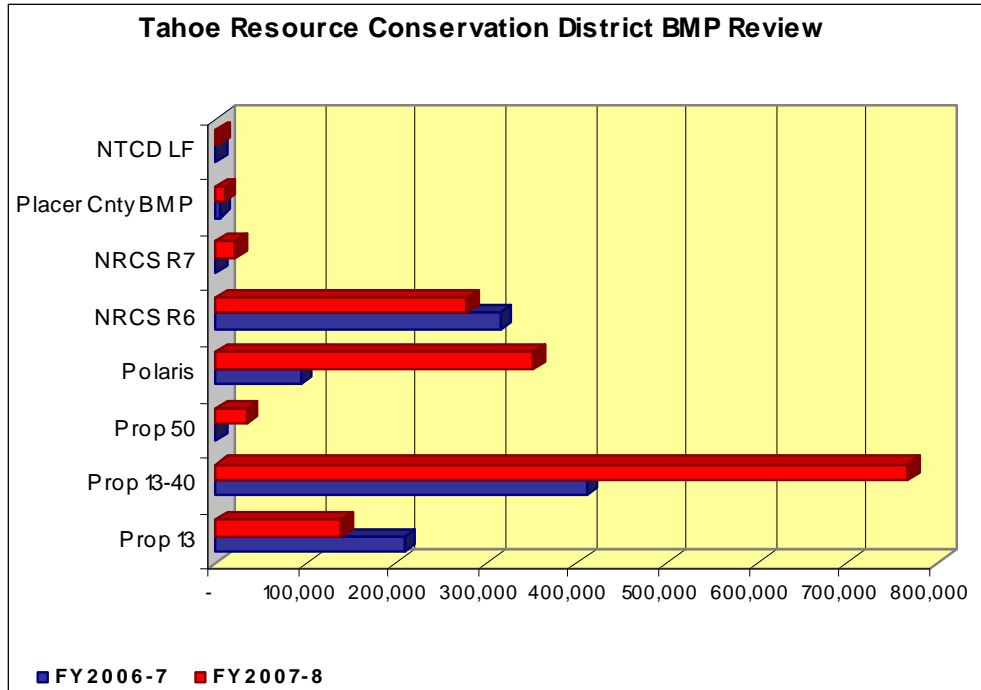
### **BMP Program Funding – Fiscal Year 2007 - 2008**

The Best Management Practices Program at the Tahoe RCD is funded through a combination of federal, state, and local sources, including the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act (SNPLMA) through the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Placer County, Polaris Creek (Proposition 40), and State Propositions 13, 40, and 50.

The Tahoe Resource Conservation District and its partner agencies completed the deliverables related to the Proposition 13 grant agreement in FY 2007-08 through extensive community outreach and the provision of backyard conservation technical assistance. The Tahoe RCD also completed Round 6 of the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act (SNPLMA) through providing BMP design criteria and technical assistance to private homeowners in the Lake Tahoe Basin.

Also in 2008, the Tahoe RCD partnered with the University of California at Davis and the Desert Research Institute to help restore a portion of the Tahoe City Fish Hatchery owned by UC Davis. BMP Program staff installed Best Management Practice treatments, vegetation, and temporary interpretative BMP signage on the Fish Hatchery property. Staff also attended National Wetlands Day at the Hatchery and the Hatchery grand opening event, bringing interactive educational material to both events.

<b>BMP Fund Sources FY 2006-7</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Prop 13	20%	\$ 209,133
NRCS Round 6	31%	\$ 315,211
Prop13-40 Consolidated	40%	\$ 410,589
Polaris	9%	\$ 93,687
Placer County BMP	0%	\$ 3,995
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$ 1,032,615</b>
<b>BMP Fund Sources FY 2007-8</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Prop 13	9%	\$ 139,536
Prop 50	2%	\$ 33,508
Prop 13-40 Consolidated	48%	\$ 767,639
NRCS Round 6	17%	\$ 278,364
NRCS Round 7	1%	\$ 21,128
Polaris	22%	\$ 351,825
NTCD Lake Forest	0%	\$ 2,986
Placer County BMP	1%	\$ 9,390
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$ 1,604,376</b>



## **Invasive Species Program**

The Invasive Species Program at the Tahoe Resource Conservation District is divided into the Terrestrial Invasive Weed and Aquatic Invasive Species Sub-programs, which focus on the removal and abatement of terrestrial and aquatic invasive species. The Tahoe RCD is the coordinator for the Lake Tahoe Basin Weed Coordinating Group and the Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species Working Group. 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.

### **Terrestrial Invasive Weed Sub-program**

The Terrestrial Invasive Weed Program, a part of the nationwide Backyard Conservation Program, conducts invasive weed surveys on private properties, provides vegetation consultations for Tahoe Basin homeowners, and organizes education and outreach activities, all in coordination with the Lake Tahoe Basin Weed Coordinating Group (LTBWCG). Tahoe RCD Invasive Weed Program staff also performs mechanical weed removal, weed identification, and provides guidance on native and adapted plant selection and conservation landscaping. LTBWCG members are responsible for mapping, data collection, prevention, and control efforts in the Tahoe Basin.

### **Invasive Weeds Program Highlights - 2008**

#### **Technical Assistance**

- Completed 3 weed pull events with approximately 200 community members

- Conducted 120 private property invasive weed surveys in combination with BMP evaluations with 62 follow-up visits to verify weed species and assist with removal
  - Discovered 5 new public weed sites
- Removed approximately 700 invasive weeds from private properties as a result of invasive weed surveys

### Outreach

- The Terrestrial Invasive Weeds Program outreached to over 2000 Lake Tahoe community members this year through the following efforts:
  - Coordinated and hosted multiple community workshops and events including Autumn Fest, the Annual Invasive Weed Tour, Weed Pulls, Conservation Block Parties, and the Conservation Landscape Tour
  - Community-wide presentations including classes, public meetings, and Homeowners' Associations
- Advertised monthly in local media and published invasive weed educational articles in local newspapers and newsletters
- Hosted backyard conservation and weed identification trainings
- Created 20 invasive weed species tip sheets for use during homeowner consultations
- Partnered with the Nevada Tahoe Conservation District to educate Nevada private homeowners about invasive weed prevention and identification

### Aquatic Invasive Species Sub-program

The Tahoe RCD Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Program was formed after the January 2007 discovery of quagga mussels in Lake Mead, Lake Havasu, and the Colorado River Basin. The AIS Program serves as chair for the Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species Working Group (LTAISWG). Funding received from the Bureau of Reclamation for the removal and monitoring of aquatic weeds in Emerald Bay and Ski Run Marina supported some of the program's first efforts.

The AIS Program has grown extensively this past year by following the Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species Working Group mission. The group is working to prevent new introductions into Lake Tahoe such as quagga and zebra mussels, and performs monitoring, research, control, and removal of existing invasive species. This year the AIS Program launched the Watercraft Inspection Program to prevent the spread of quagga and zebra mussels, New Zealand mud snails, and other aquatic invasive species to the Tahoe Basin and educate boaters about this prevention. Due to the collaboration efforts between the Tahoe RCD, TRPA, and the LTAISWG, it is now mandated by the TRPA that all watercraft are subject to an inspection before entering Lake Tahoe. A boat launch facility can no longer be open without a watercraft inspector present. This new requirement puts the Tahoe RCD in the spotlight for continued coordination of the Watercraft Inspection Program at Lake Tahoe. LTAISWG partners are continuing research of aquatic invasive species in Lake Tahoe to better support resource management decisions in the Tahoe Basin.

## **AIS Program Highlights - 2008**

### Technical Assistance

- Completed over 8,000 watercraft inspections; 34% Tahoe only boaters, 289 high risk boats
- One vessel found with visible invasive mussels and prevented from launching in Lake Tahoe
- Decontaminated 64 boats containing/at risk for invasive species using a high pressure boat wash or bleach solution
- Installed bottom barriers in Emerald Bay and Ski Run Marina with the TRPA and Tahoe Divers Conservancy to prevent the growth of Eurasian watermilfoil and Curlyleaf pondweed
- Funded surveys of Eurasian watermilfoil and curlyleaf pondweed populations in Ski Run Marina, Emerald Bay, Fallen Leaf Lake, Zephyr Cove, Meeks Creek, Taylor-Tallac Marsh, Osgood Swamp, and the Lower Truckee River
  - Surveying conducted by the US Forest Service and CA Department of Parks and Recreation
  - Remetrix performed hydro-acoustic surveys of Emerald Bay and Ski Run Marina for biomass and bio-volume estimates
- Developed pilot projects to test removal methods for Asian clams in Lake Tahoe
- Initiated planning for aquatic weed and warm-water fish pilot removal treatments with the TRPA, US Department of Agriculture, and CA Fish and Game Department, led by the USFS

### Outreach

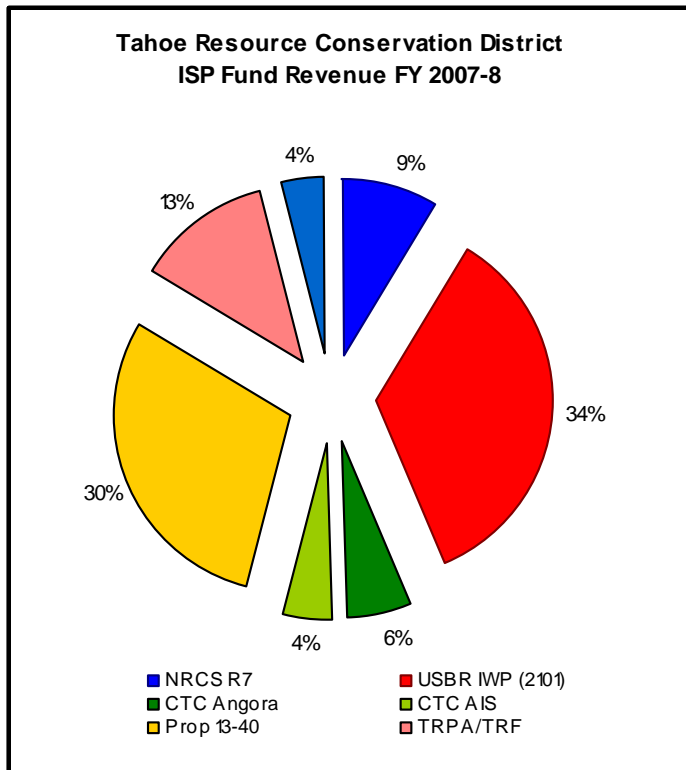
- The AIS Program outreached to over 10,000 community members and Tahoe visitors this year through presentations, trainings, local media, and watercraft inspections
  - Led 5 Watercraft Inspector Trainings for agency personnel, marina staff, and volunteers, training over 100 inspectors throughout the season
  - Distributed over 6,000 Aquatic Invasive Species brochures around the Tahoe Basin
  - Conducted ongoing watercraft inspections to stop the spread of aquatic invasive species into Lake Tahoe
  - Presented in group meetings, classes, clubs, and conferences about aquatic invasive species
  - Hosted educational booths and activities at community events and workshops including the Wooden Boat Classic, North and South Shore Earth Days, Autumn Fest, and the UC Davis Fish Hatchery Opening
- Worked with the TRPA, marinas, and boat launches to draft a Lake Tahoe Basin boat inspection plan
- Developed and installed an informative ‘Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers’ billboard on Highway 50 east of Placerville
- Launched an extensive media campaign including television, radio, and newspaper advertisements
  - Created a television commercial about the threat of quagga mussels that aired 7,200 times in Reno, Carson City, and North and South Lake Tahoe

- Printed over 30 newspaper articles and advertisements about quagga mussels and watercraft inspections in the Tahoe Basin, Sacramento, and Reno regions
- Held two press conferences with Sacramento and Reno news channels
- Formed LTAISWG Public Outreach Sub-committee to create and design program pamphlets, press releases, and web-based information

**Invasive Species Program Funding – Fiscal Year 2007-2008**

The Invasive Species Program grew rapidly in this fiscal year, largely due to the start of the Watercraft Inspection Program. The program was funded by two sources during the last fiscal year, the US Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation and California Propositions 13-40, with a total revenue of \$131,374, compared to \$264,645 in the 2007-08 fiscal year.

NRCS R7	9%	\$	23,450
USBR IWP (2101)	35%	\$	92,002
CTC Angora	6%	\$	15,611
CTC AIS	4%	\$	11,254
Prop 13-40	30%	\$	79,039
TRPA/TRF	13%	\$	33,289
Donation	4%	\$	10,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>264,645</b>



## **V. Joint Program Efforts**

### **Vegetation Consultations**

The Tahoe RCD started to offer a new vegetation consultation service during the 2008 field season, a combined effort of the Best Management Practices and Invasive Species Programs. Vegetation consultations assist homeowners with vegetating their properties utilizing conservation landscaping principles. Each property receiving a vegetation consultation receives a site evaluation of the areas to be planted including information on appropriate plant selection based on soil type, moisture content, and sunlight conditions. Properties are also surveyed for invasive weeds and if found, a removal plan is created and implemented. During the consultation, homeowners receive an introduction to basic horticulture and conservation landscape practices, in addition to being provided with a copy of the *Home Landscaping Guide for Lake Tahoe and Vicinity* and other valuable resources to help maintain a Tahoe-friendly landscape. Landscaping techniques promoted through vegetation consultations promote water conservation, soil erosion control, and wildlife enhancement.

The demand for the Tahoe RCD's vegetation consultation services was high this field season, especially within the Angora Burn area. With the remaining funds from the 2007 BMP rebate program funded by Proposition 13, the Tahoe RCD purchased 3600 plants from Cornflower Farms Nursery and opened a line of credit at Tahoe Sand and Gravel. The plants were distributed to homeowners receiving vegetation consultations and each property affected by the Angora Fire was also eligible for up to \$350 of credit at Tahoe Sand and Gravel to purchase soil amendments and mulch as well as BMP materials to control erosion. Twenty-two Angora property owners took advantage of the Tahoe Sand and Gravel credit and over 700 plants were distributed throughout the 2008 field season. A total of 85 vegetation consultations were conducted, 42 of which were on Angora Fire affected residential properties.

### **Upper Truckee River Watershed Improvement Projects**

The Upper Truckee River Watershed is the largest watershed in the Tahoe Basin. The river has been modified from its original condition through activities such as logging, livestock grazing, and the development of roads, golf courses, an airport, and residential, commercial, and industrial properties like the Tahoe Keys. The Upper Truckee River contributes more sediment than any other water body to Lake Tahoe. Therefore there are multiple levels of restoration efforts from many agencies and organizations focused on the Upper Truckee.

With funding obtained from the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, and the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board, the Tahoe RCD has partnered with the City of South Lake Tahoe and El Dorado County to perform environmental evaluations and restoration on the Upper Truckee River and Angora Creek.

## **VI. Upcoming in 2009**

### **Angora Community Demonstration Garden**

The Tahoe Resource Conservation District, South Tahoe Public Utility District, Nevada Fire Safe Council, Lake Valley Fire Protection District, and University of California Cooperative Extension plan to re-vegetate a property burned in the Angora Fire for demonstration purposes, beginning in the spring 2009. The property is owned by the Allen family and was graciously donated for the project. The purpose of the project is to provide a sample landscape that showcases conservation landscaping ideas tailored to the Angora Burn area for the benefit of homeowners affected by the Angora Fire and other Lake Tahoe community members. The garden will include examples of Tahoe native and adapted vegetation, fire defensible space, water conservation, and erosion control practices specific to properties in the Angora Burn area. Additionally, the garden will feature soil amendment monitoring, irrigation techniques, and a variety of composts and mulches. The demonstration garden, located at 1383 Mount Olympia Circle, will promote backyard conservation and also will serve as a beautiful area for the neighborhood to enjoy.

### **Angora Community Forest Stewardship Program**

The Tahoe Resource Conservation District in conjunction with the US Forest Service, the Nevada Tahoe Conservation District, and the Sierra Nevada Alliance received funding this fall from the National Forest Foundation to educate and organize Angora homeowners, local students, and the Tahoe community to create a Forest Stewardship Program to plant, maintain, and monitor Forest Service urban lots in the Angora Fire burn area. The planting of the lots will begin in the spring of 2009.

The goal of the Angora Forest Stewardship Program is to ensure the long-term health of the forest. By using native seed collected from near the Angora Burn area and grown at the Forest Service nursery in Camino, the trees will be adapted to local growing conditions. The species to be planted include Jeffrey Pine, Sugar Pine, and Incense Cedar. In addition to the tree planting and monitoring, an educational program will be incorporated into the schools involved with the project.

### **Homewood Erosion Control Project**

In 2008, the Tahoe RCD, in collaboration with Homewood Mountain Resort, was awarded funding from the Department of Water Resources to implement erosion control and water quality improvement practices to achieve pollutant load reductions within the Homewood Creek Watershed. This goal of this pilot project is to make the Homewood Creek Watershed the first watershed in the Lake Tahoe Basin to achieve the Lake Tahoe Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Clarity Challenge of a 32% reduction in fine sediment loading. Project implementation is expected to begin in spring of 2009.

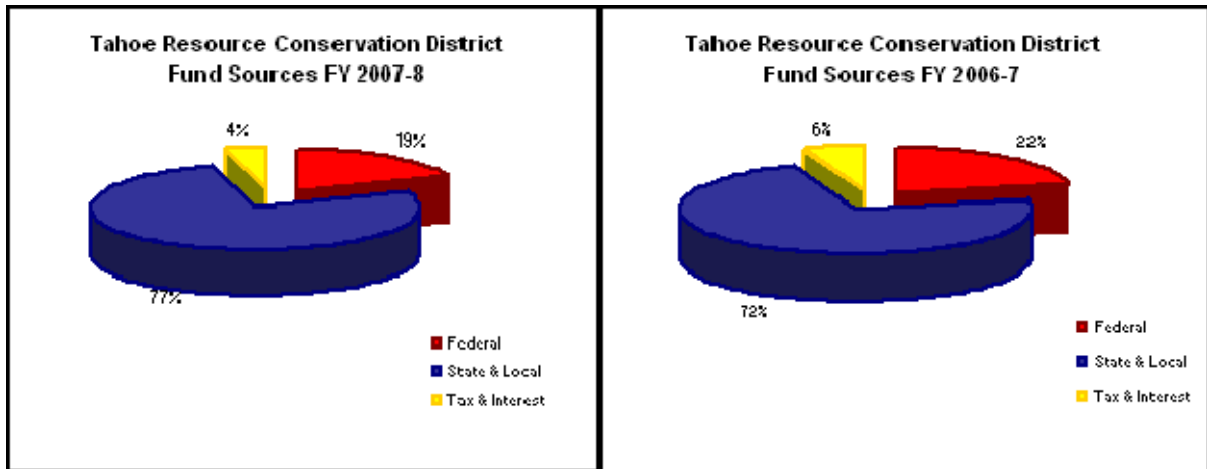
## VII. Funding Summary (2007-2008 Fiscal Year)

The Tahoe Resource Conservation District was successful in securing a number of local, state, and federal funding sources over the last fiscal year. New revenue sources for the Invasive Species Program included the Bureau of Reclamation, US Fish and Wildlife Services, Natural Resource Conservation Service Round 7 of the Southern Nevada Public Management Lands Act (SNPLMA), and the Tahoe RCD's first private donations. For the BMP Program, new revenue sources came from California's Proposition 50 Integrated Regional Water Management Plan and a Federal 319 Grant to implement water quality improvements within Homewood Mountain Ski Resort.

Several funding sources were fully expended this fiscal year, including NRCS Round 6 of SNPLMA, California Proposition 13, and two US Bureau of Reclamation grants for projects on the Upper Truckee River.

Revenue for the 2007-2008 fiscal year totaled \$1,604,376 for the BMP Program and \$264,645 for the Invasive Species Program.

Fund Sources FY 2007-08			Fund Sources FY 2006-07		
Federal	19%	\$ 527,450	Federal	22%	\$ 419,329
State & Local	77%	\$ 2,166,582	State & Local	72%	\$ 1,389,479
Tax & Interest	4%	\$ 117,704	Tax & Interest	6%	\$ 114,444
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$ 2,811,736</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$ 1,923,252</b>



Revenue for the 2007-2008 fiscal year increased by 68% from the last fiscal year, due to the initiation of Proposition 50 and the Watercraft Inspection Program. The Tahoe RCD continues to administer the California Tahoe Conservancy (CTC) seasonal staff payroll. CTC funds comprise more than 35% of Tahoe RCD state and local fund revenue.

## **VIII. Partners**

The Tahoe Resource Conservation District has multiple partner agencies, who work together on various scientific, restoration, funding, outreach, and education efforts. The Tahoe RCD would like to acknowledge and recognize its partners for their support.

### **Federal**

Natural Resources Conservation Service  
United States Forest Service – Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit  
Sierra Nevada Alliance Americorps Partnership  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
100<sup>th</sup> Meridian  
Army Corps of Engineers

### **State**

California Tahoe Conservancy  
University of Nevada Cooperative Extension  
University of California Cooperative Extension  
University of California at Davis  
California Conservation Corps  
California Department of Fish and Game  
State Water Resources Control Board  
California Department of Conservation  
California Association of Resource Conservation Districts

### **Local**

Tahoe Regional Planning Agency  
Nevada Tahoe Conservation District  
Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species Working Group  
Lake Tahoe Basin Weed Coordinating Group  
Lake Valley Fire Protection District  
South Tahoe Public Utility District  
Sierra Watershed Education Partnership  
Nevada Fire Safe Council  
Sierra Nevada Alliance  
City of South Lake Tahoe  
El Dorado County  
Placer County  
Lake Tahoe Community College  
Boys and Girls Club Lake Tahoe  
Incline Village General Improvement District  
Lake Tahoe Environmental Education Coalition

Tahoe Divers Conservancy  
Tahoe Environmental Research Center

**Donors**

Stephen Merrill  
League to Save Lake Tahoe  
Silicon Valley Community Foundation

**IX. Conclusion**

The Tahoe Resource Conservation District would like to thank the members of the Tahoe community, local businesses, agencies, and beyond for their continuing support. The collective goal of maintaining the beauty and integrity of this unique environment can only be achieved through our work together.