



FISCAL YEAR 2020-21 RECAP

DEAR FRIEND OF TAHOE FUND

WE WRAPPED UP our 10th fiscal year on March 31, 2021. And what a year it was!

We started off in the midst of a global pandemic with many uncertainties about the future of our country, our community, and our organization. We wondered what COVID-19 would mean for all of us and how it would impact our ability to continue to support environmental improvements in Tahoe.

As we gathered with our board of directors in late March 2020, we surveyed the situation and looked to our newly finalized 5-year strategic plan for direction. We decided that regardless of what lay ahead, we would stay committed to our mission of using the power of philanthropy to improve the Lake Tahoe environment for all to enjoy.

We agreed we would find ways to achieve the goals of our new strategic plan to increase the pace and scale of forest restoration, to support innovative ideas to improve the Lake's water clarity and quality, to make recreation more sustainable, to find innovative ways to improve transportation, and lastly to continue to help more people take care of Tahoe.

I am beyond thankful to share that with your incredible support, we did just that.

Over the past 12 months, we were able to provide critical funding to 32 different environmental improvement projects around Lake Tahoe with more than \$1 million in grants. These private funds will leverage more than \$4 million of public funds. For those of you that have been with us from the start, you may recall we supported just three projects in our first year of operations. This year we contributed to more projects than we did in our first five years combined.

The increase in the pace and scale of our work happened because of you.

You never wavered with your continued and generous support in the years leading up to this, and especially during these very strange times. For this, we are beyond grateful.

Here is a quick recap of those projects by Strategic Plan Goal Area:



FOREST HEALTH

Acoustic Owl Monitoring: We partnered with the US Forest Service to test the use of digital acoustic monitoring equipment to track spotted owls in the forest. If successful, this could provide a new protocol that will significantly reduce the permitting time of forest health projects.

Sugar Pine Plantings: We supported the Sugar Pine Foundation's efforts to plant 10,000 seedlings across the Tahoe Basin.

STEWARDSHIP

Adventure Risk Challenge: We were honored to help support the efforts of ARC to engage high school students in outdoor education opportunities and leadership development.

Basin Bike Racks: We partnered once again with the Lake Tahoe Bicycle Coalition to place bike racks at town centers around Tahoe to encourage more people to bike instead of drive their cars.

Bike Coalition Map and Safety: We are also partnering with the Bike Coalition to improve the safety of bikers through a pilot of trail ambassadors this June, new bike maps, and bike safety items like lights and bells.

Clean Tahoe: We funded Clean Tahoe to do extra clean ups of the Spooner Sled Hill and the East Shore parking areas to try to manage the overflow of visitors at a time when land managers had fewer resources.

Generation Green: While COVID forced the Forest Service to cancel this traditional summer-work program for local high school kids, we were able to support a smaller scale virtual version to keep high school students engaged in learning about land management.

Peregrine Falcons: We helped fund a wonderful collaboration between the Tahoe Institute for Natural Sciences, Tahoe Rim Trail and the TRPA to help protect peregrine falcon fledglings on a popular section of trail in South Lake Tahoe.

SOS Outreach: We provided support for SOS Outreach to expand their capacity to expand their program to get underserved youth out skiing and riding combined with community service and social and emotional learning skills.

South Tahoe Stewardship Rangers: We provided funding to this pilot program that will launch this summer to help manage the crowds at hot spot recreation sites in South Lake Tahoe in partnership with the Lake Tahoe Unified School District and the Sierra Nevada Alliance. Local bilingual youth will be employed as Junior Rangers to help provide educational information to visitors.

UC Davis State of the Lake Report: We continued to support this annual report from the UC Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center that tracks short and long-term clarity trends in Lake Tahoe.

Tahoe In Depth: We continued our support of this important environmental newspaper that is published by the TRPA.

Take Care Campaign: We partnered with more than 50 organizations around the region to expand the Take Care campaign to support COVID specific messaging and launch a Backcountry Safety Awareness Week.

Tahoe Rim Trail Taskforce Trailhead:

We provided funding for this new pilot program to put ambassadors at busy Tahoe Rim Trail trailheads around the Basin to help with the increase in trail users.

Taylor Creek Visitor Center Interpretive Trail Improvements:

We provided funding to help update the interpretive panels along the Rainbow Trail and to develop a digital Spanish language audio tour for Spanish speaking visitors.

SUSTAINABLE RECREATION/ TRANSPORTATION

Desolation Wilderness: We provided the Tahoe Rim Trail with funding to support their multi-year restoration of a 12-mile segment of the Tahoe Rim Trail through Desolation Wilderness.

Dollar Creek Bike Path: We provided funding to Placer County for new benches, picnic tables, interpretive panels and kiosks along the new Dollar Creek Bike Path.

East Shore Trail: We continue to support the wonderful new East Shore Trail. This summer we added more than 20 new interpretive signs and kiosks to help educate users of the trail.

Hasty Search & Rescue: With the increased use of the backcountry in summer and winter, we are supporting the efforts of the Washoe County Hasty Search & Rescue team to keep people safe.

Incline Flume Trail: We supported the development of new interpretive panels and kiosks that will be installed this summer to help educate users on the history of the trail and to provide wayfinding information for safety.

Lily Lake Trail: The final work will be completed on this new section of trail that connects backcountry trails around Angora Ridge in partnership with TAMBA and the US Forest Service.

Lost Lake Trail & General Creek Trail

Restoration: This summer our partners at TAMBA will do some much needed trail maintenance on the Lost Lake Trail and General Creek Trail on the West Shore of Tahoe.

South Lake Tahoe Middle School and Boys & Girls Club Bikes: After purchasing 40 new bikes for youth in South Lake Tahoe, we helped ensure their sustainability by funding annual maintenance of the new bikes.

Spoooner Lake Amphitheater: Construction is scheduled to begin in June for the new Spooner Lake Visitor Center and Amphitheater. Our \$300,000 grant helped to secure more than \$2 million in public funds for this exciting project.

Tahoe Nordic Search & Rescue: We provided grant funds to help the Tahoe Nordic Search & Rescue organization purchase new radios to keep their team in contact while out on rescue missions.

Upper Tyrolian Trail Reconstruction: We funded efforts by TAMBA and the Forest Service to reconstruct a trail that leads from the Tahoe Meadows down to the popular Tyrolian Downhill Trail. The new trail design will reduce erosion and prevent illegal trail building nearby.



UC Davis Lake Monitoring: UC Davis has a series of sensors on Lake Tahoe that monitor wave height, water temperature and other metrics. We provided funding to make this information available on a website for the public to use as they prepare their on-the-water activities.

LAKE CLARITY

72-Mile Scuba Clean Up: Thanks to a matching donation from Tahoe Blue Vodka and great support from Vail Resorts, we were able to raise the funds needed for our partners at Clean Up The Lake to do a 72-mile underwater Scuba clean up of the Lake that will begin in May.

Electric Boat Charging: We partnered with Homewood High & Dry Marina to install what we hope will be the first of many electric boat charging stations on Lake Tahoe.

Upper Truckee River: We are committed to the restoration of the Upper Truckee

River, recognizing that is the Basin's most impaired watershed. We funded three different projects to help move this restoration work forward:

- We provided funding for the Tahoe Resource Conservation District to do the environmental planning work to restore the river as it runs through Johnson Meadow.
- We also provided funding to California State Parks to do the environmental planning work on a reach of the river that falls under their ownership.
- After helping the Tahoe Resource Conservation District purchase Johnson Meadows a few years ago, we were happy to help support new interpretive panels in the meadow that will help educate visitors to the area on the fragility of the environment.

It is a long list of projects that echoes our board's desire to get things done.

You may have also noticed that all of our projects are partnerships. We know that collaboration is the key to progress. We partnered with more than 20 agencies and organizations this past year. This does not include the 50 partners we worked with on the Take Care Tahoe program as we expanded it to include COVID-19 messaging. Together, we were able to accomplish so much more thanks to the dedication and work of our partners.

As we look back on the last year of our first decade, we can't help but think about what comes next. If we were able to accomplish this much in our first 10 years, we know with your continued support we will be able to do even more great work into the future.

Thank you for showing us the true power of philanthropy.

With sincere gratitude,


AMY BERRY
Tahoe Fund CEO


ALLEN BIAGGI
Tahoe Fund Board Chair

