



TAHOE FUND FY 2021-22 RECAP

DEAR FRIEND OF THE TAHOE FUND

Another fiscal year has come to a close, and we are left with one word: **gratitude**.

Even amidst the continuing uncertainty caused by the pandemic and wildfires, you were right there with us, reinforcing our philosophy that together, we can improve the Lake Tahoe environment for all to enjoy.

Thanks to the unwavering support of our Stewardship Circle donors and steadfast partners throughout the Basin, we funded more projects this year than ever before.

Together, we are making our forests smarter, our Lake clearer, our recreation more sustainable, our transportation more efficient, and our community more prepared to take care of Tahoe.

We also partnered with organizations that are expanding access and inclusivity while building the next generation of stewards who will love and care for our environment for years to come. You can find these projects marked with a star in our recap list.

This year, the Tahoe Fund:

- Funded more than 40 projects
- Distributed more than \$1 million in grants
- Helped secure more than \$4 million in public funding
- Partnered with more than 30 agencies and organizations

None of this would be possible without your support. Thank you for continuing to show us the power of philanthropy.

As you look through our project recap, which is organized by our five strategic objectives, please know that this work happened **because of you**.

With sincere gratitude,



AMY R. BERRY
Tahoe Fund CEO



ALLEN BIAGGI
Board Chair, FY 21-22



FOREST HEALTH

Post-Caldor Fire Fuel Treatment

Research: Many credit the fuel thinning treatments around South Lake Tahoe with helping to prevent the loss of any homes in the Basin during the Caldor Fire. Scientists with the US Forest Service are now conducting on-the-ground research to fully understand and document the impact of those treatments.

Sugar Pine Plantings: The Sugar Pine Foundation continued to plant sugar pine seedlings across the Tahoe Basin with community and student groups.

Tahoe Basin Land Tender: To help increase the pace and scale of forest health restoration projects, Vibrant Planet has developed a new software solution called Land Tender that will reduce planning time for projects from years to months using high-definition LiDAR and artificial intelligence.

UC Davis Sugar Pine Reforestation: Scientists with the UC Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center made 3,000 seedlings available to the public to help repopulate the forest with healthy sugar pine trees. These seedlings were grown from the seeds of healthy sugar pines located throughout the Tahoe Basin.

STEWARDSHIP

★ **Adventure Risk Challenge Community Leadership Program:** This program empowers underserved high school students through outdoor education opportunities and leadership development.

Bike Coalition Map, Safety & Ambassadors: A collaborative approach to improve bicycle safety across the region by creating a comprehensive map of the Basin's bike trails, distributing critical safety equipment like lights, reflectors, and bells, and stationing ambassadors at high-use bike trail locations to provide information on safety and etiquette.

★ *Projects focused on access and inclusivity*



Adventure Risk Challenge Community Leadership Program (ARC)

★ **Generation Green Summer Internship:**

An eight-week work-study program with the US Forest Service for local high school students that helps build their futures and a love of the outdoors.

★ **McConkey Eco-Challenge:** This student competition is designed to inspire and engage the next generation to help solve the region's environmental challenges.

Peregrine Falcons: A collaborative effort by the Tahoe Institute for Natural Sciences, the Tahoe Rim Trail Association and the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) to monitor and protect peregrine falcon fledglings along popular hiking and climbing routes.

★ **SOS Outreach:** SOS Outreach continued to expand its youth mentorship program in North and South Lake Tahoe, increasing its capacity to bring outdoor recreation opportunities to even more underserved youth in our community.

Tahoe In Depth: An environmental newspaper published by the TRPA, Tahoe Fund was honored to continue to sponsor this important educational piece.

★ **Tahoe XC Interpretive Signs:** This project will enhance educational signage around the Tahoe XC facility, providing historical background on the Washoe lands, and creating new wayfinding maps with regulatory information for different trail systems.

Take Care Campaign: The Take Care campaign continued to expand its efforts to teach people how to take care of Tahoe with signage and billboards on the highways leading into the Tahoe Basin. This past year included the introduction of Take Care Tahoe Ambassadors at high-use recreation sites throughout the region to provide guidance on good stewardship practices and serve as a resource for recreation users.

TCPUD Solar Powered Waste Compactors: Solar trash compactors will be placed around Tahoe City and down the West Shore to help minimize trash overflow, and save on fuel and emissions by reducing the number of trash collection trips.

★ **Tahoe Institute for Natural Science Tahoe's Nature for All:** A pilot project that offers free nature-experience programs for several underserved communities, including young people struggling with mental health issues, survivors of domestic abuse, and those from low-income families.

UC Davis State of the Lake Report: This annual report from the UC Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center tracks short- and long-term clarity trends in Lake Tahoe.

SUSTAINABLE RECREATION / TRANSPORTATION

Caldor Trails Restoration: As the US Forest Service, the Tahoe Area Mountain Biking Association (TAMBA), and the Tahoe Rim Trail Association developed their plans to rebuild and restore the trails in the aftermath of the devastating Caldor Fire, the Tahoe Fund raised the money needed to get the work started.

★ **Camp Wamp Field Trips:** Weekly field trips will bring disabled campers from Camp Wamp to the universally accessible Tahoe East Shore Trail and beaches of Sand Harbor State Park.

Dollar Creek Bike Path: Placer County continued to make improvements to the popular Dollar Creek Bike Path that leads from Dollar Point towards Old County Road.

Douglas County Sheriff Rescue Cold Water Equipment: New swiftwater rescue equipment for the Douglas County Sheriff Rescue team will enhance their ability to continue to keep people safe on Lake Tahoe.

East Shore Trail: Improvements continued to be made on the East Shore Trail, including the installation of new trail counters to track the trail's popularity and new donor trout and bears.

Incline Flume Trail: With the Incline Flume Trail restoration work nearly complete, new kiosks, wayfinding and interpretive signs were installed to help share the rich history of the trail.

Regional Parking Enforcement Program Development: Parking is a major issue throughout the Tahoe Region. The Tahoe Fund hired a consultant to work with more than 20 partners to begin research on a potential regional parking enforcement program.

★ **Tahoe Backcountry Alliance Washoe Tribe - Winter Recreation:** New equipment like cross country skis, snowshoes and additional winter gear helped kids in the Washoe Tribe to take part in winter recreation.



Tahoe Area Mountain Biking Association (TAMBA)

TAMBA Trail Crew: The first grant from the newly established Tahoe Trails Endowment was made to the Tahoe Area Mountain Biking Association (TAMBA) to hire a crew to work on trails around the region in need of regular maintenance.

★ *Projects focused on access and inclusivity*

TAMBA Support & Volunteer Capacity Building: TAMBA is responsible for the creation and care of many of the most popular trails in the Tahoe Basin. The Tahoe Fund continued to support TAMBA's work and provided funding to expand their capacity to engage volunteers around Lake Tahoe.

Tahoe Truckee Area Regional Transit Connect: The most popular micro-transit solution in the country, TART Connect provides door-to-door shuttle service in the North Shore communities at no charge. The Tahoe Fund provided a grant for the program to continue operating in 2022.

★ **Taylor Creek Interpretive Upgrades:** The National Forest Foundation is leading a major upgrade to the signage at Taylor Creek Visitor Center. This includes updating 23 signs and adding Spanish-language versions. There will also be a self-guided audio tour in Spanish to improve accessibility for thousands of local residents and families.

★ **Tahoe Rim Trail Inclusivity and Accessibility:** Tahoe Rim Trail Association (TRTA) is creating inclusive resources throughout the Tahoe Rim Trail, including trailside information and stories in multiple languages and free outdoor programming for underserved and underrepresented youth and families in the Tahoe community.

Tunnel Creek Singletrack: This new 2.28-mile trail is a safe alternative for bikes to descend from the Marlette Flume Trail, the Incline Flume Trail and the Tahoe Rim Trail while reducing user conflicts with hikers on the popular Tunnel Creek Road. The trail will be completed in Summer 2022.

Upper Tyrolian Trail Reconstruction: A new bike trail that connects Tahoe Meadows to the start of the Tyrolian Downhill, featuring banked turns, jumps and beautiful singletrack where an eroding old fire road once existed.

Washoe County Hasty Rescue Team: New equipment for the Hasty Rescue Team helped improve the capability and efficiency of future rescues, including winter ice kits, technical rope rescue kits, radios and new ropes.



Clean Up The Lake

LAKE CLARITY

72-Mile Lake Clean Up: The first ever scuba clean up of all 72 miles of Lake Tahoe was completed by Clean Up The Lake, thanks to major support from Tahoe Blue Vodka, Vail Resorts and more than 135 Tahoe Fund donors. The team pulled 25,000 pounds of trash from the Lake!

Caldor Fire Impacts on Lake Clarity: As the Basin filled with smoke during the Caldor Fire, ash fell from the sky into Lake Tahoe. Scientists at the University of Nevada and UC Davis are working together to understand the impacts of the ash on Tahoe's famed clarity.

Elk Point Marina Bubble Curtain: This innovative effort to install a bubble curtain to prevent aquatic invasive weeds from entering the marina is a new technique that may also be adapted to other marinas throughout the Basin.

Taylor Tallac AIS: Led by the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency and the US Forest Service, the removal of 17 acres of invasive plants in the Taylor and Tallac creeks and marshes is the largest Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) project to-date in the Tahoe Basin.

