



# TAHOE FUND PROJECT PORTFOLIO

FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024

*Photo by California Tahoe Conservancy*

## DEAR FRIENDS:

The Tahoe Fund is powered by philanthropy—your philanthropy. Your generosity made a tremendous impact this past fiscal year, which came to a close on March 31, 2024.

Thanks to the unwavering support of our Stewardship Circle members and more than 1,500 donors, we awarded nearly \$1.4 million to 50-plus projects, and helped leverage \$40 million in public funds. Together with over 30 partners, we made significant progress on improving the Lake Tahoe environment for all to enjoy.

In March, we joined forces with a handful of other Tahoe organizations to provide critical funding for the California Tahoe Conservancy's acquisition of the Motel 6 property and surrounding 31 acres within the Upper Truckee River watershed. This made way for what will become one of the most important restoration projects in Lake Tahoe's history.

In December, we celebrated the opening of the new sawmill in Carson City, alongside Tahoe Forest Products and the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California. Through a grant from our Smartest Forest Fund and support from key public and private partners, we introduced the Tahoe-Truckee region to BurnBot's suite of remote-operated tools that will help remove excess fuel from our forests.

Construction has begun on new parking lots along State Route 28, marking the first step toward expanding the East Shore Trail. Over the next several years, we will be working with our partners to design, fund and build more off-highway parking and the next eight miles of path.

**These are just some of the game-changing projects that are powered by your philanthropy.**

As you read this project portfolio, know that all of this work was possible because of you.

With sincere gratitude,



AMY R. BERRY  
Tahoe Fund CEO



CORY RITCHIE  
Tahoe Fund Board Chair





Tahoe-Truckee BurnBot Pilot

## FOREST HEALTH

### **Biomass Utilization Tour**

A tour for public agencies that showcased several of the Tahoe region's offtake facilities for woody biomass, which are critical to increasing the pace and scale of forest restoration. This included the new Tahoe Forest Products sawmill in Carson City on Washoe Tribe land.

### **California Conservation Corps (CCC) Bike Shelter**

A new covered bicycle parking shelter for the CCC headquarters, to promote emission-free transportation for forestry workers.

### **FireAside**

Innovative software for creating and managing defensible space prescriptions that will significantly reduce planning time, and make it easier for both residents and fire districts to mitigate neighborhood fire risk. Philanthropic funding from the Tahoe Fund and Parasol Tahoe Community Foundation have made this tool available to every fire district in the Basin.

### **Glenbrook Underground**

An effort to reduce fire-starts and increase community resilience by undergrounding power, cable, and telecommunications lines in the Glenbrook Community.

### **Liberty Utilities Resilience Corridor Fuels Reduction Project**

A 1,250-acre fuels reduction project near Tahoe City led by the USDA Forest Service - Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU) and the National Forest Foundation. Tahoe Fund filled the remaining funding gap to get the project across the finish line.

### ★ **Lake Tahoe Community College (LTCC) Forestry & Fire Academy Programs**

Scholarships for students in LTCC's Forestry and Fire Academy Programs—along with a grant to support an administrator to ensure student success—to develop the future forestry workforce.

### **Science to Action Conference**

A multi-day event for public agencies, nonprofits and the science community to better incorporate science into land and lake management work around the Basin.

### **BurnBot Pilot**

A two-phase pilot bringing innovative technology to the Basin to increase the pace and scale of forest restoration. These remote-operated tools allow crews to do 10x the work in a fraction of the time, at a fraction of the cost, and more safely.

### ★ **Washoe TREN Training**

A ten-day prescribed fire training hosted by the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California and University of Nevada, Reno, among others, that aligns with the Tribe's traditional knowledge and practices, and aims to preserve the natural resources that hold deep cultural importance for the Washoe people.

### **Whitebark Pine**

An applied research effort with the University of Nevada, Reno to understand the rapid Whitebark Pine mortality in the Basin, and equip land managers with up-to-date data so they can tailor forest health treatments accordingly.

## LAKE CLARITY

### **Clean Up the Lake California Hotspots**

Scuba divers from Clean Up the Lake continued the removal of litter from hotspots identified during The 72-Mile Cleanup.

### **Deepwater ROV**

A remote-operated vehicle built by Restoring the Lake Depths Foundation that can remove litter from parts of the lake that are unreachable by scuba divers, and identify aquatic invasive species like the recently discovered NZ Mudsnails.

### **Motel 6 Acquisition**

Support for the California Tahoe Conservancy's monumental acquisition of the Motel 6 property and surrounding 31 acres within the Upper Truckee River watershed in South Lake Tahoe.



*Surfaced Art Sculpture at the Tahoe Blue Event Center*

### **Pope Marsh Aquatic Invasive Species**

Eradication of a 1.8-acre Eurasian watermilfoil infestation at Pope Marsh in South Lake Tahoe by the Tahoe Resource Conservation District and LTBMU.

### **UC Davis State of the Lake Report**

An annual report from the UC Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center that tracks short- and long-term clarity trends in Lake Tahoe.

## **STEWARDSHIP**

### ★ **Achieve Tahoe Adaptive Summer Programs**

This program offers summer activities such as archery, climbing, hiking, paddling and sailing for people with disabilities and their families.

### ★ **Adventure Risk Challenge (ARC) Community Leadership Program**

A year-long program empowering underserved high school students through outdoor education and leadership development.

### ★ **Boys & Girls Club of Lake Tahoe Outdoor Recreation**

Recreation and outdoor adventures for Club kids, including skiing, snowboarding, golf, rock climbing, and more in the South Lake Tahoe area.

### ★ **Girls On the Run Sierra**

Scholarships for low-income participants in Girls On the Run's after school programming, which focuses on running training and leadership development.

### **Lake Tahoe Destination Stewardship Plan**

A new plan developed by more than a dozen partners to better manage tourism and outdoor recreation and balance the needs of the environment, businesses, visitors, and local communities.

### **Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care Center Explorer Packs**

Backpacks filled with resources and tools for the immersive educational programs for kids at Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care Center.

### **McConkey EcoChallenge**

A student competition designed to inspire and engage the next generation to help solve the region's environmental challenges.

### ★ **SOS Outreach Mentorship Program**

A youth mentorship program that brings outdoor recreation opportunities to underserved youth in North and South Lake Tahoe.

### **Surfaced Art**

An art sculpture created from trash removed by scuba divers during The 72-Mile Lake Cleanup. The sculpture is on display outside of the new Tahoe Blue Event Center in South Lake Tahoe.

### **Tahoe In Depth**

An environmental newspaper published by the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency.

### ★ **Tahoe's Nature for All**

Free nature experiences from the Tahoe Institute for Natural Sciences for underserved communities, including young people struggling with mental health issues, survivors of domestic abuse, and low-income families.

### **Take Care Tahoe**

New educational messaging campaigns to encourage people to take it slow while driving, wear life vests to avoid the dangers of cold water shock, Drink Tahoe Tap, stay safe in the backcountry, and more.

★ *Projects focused on access and inclusivity*



*SOS Outreach Youth Mentorship Program*

### ★ **Increasing Access on the Tahoe Rim Trail**

Inclusive resources throughout the Tahoe Rim Trail system, including trailside information and stories in multiple languages, along with free outdoor programming for underserved community members and visitors.

### ★ **Washoe Tribal Liaison**

Support for a new Tahoe liaison position for the Washoe Tribe of California and Nevada.

### ★ **YEA! Camps**

Gateway Mountain Center's camps are designed to connect high-risk youth with nature through adventure activities such as rock climbing, hiking, and kayaking.



*Echo Lakes Trail Restoration by TRTA*

## SUSTAINABLE RECREATION

### ★ **Adaptive Outrigger Canoe & Mobility Mats**

A double outrigger canoe for Lake Tahoe Waterman Foundation's adaptive paddling programs and Mobi-mats to improve beach access for people with disabilities at Watermans Landing.

### **Crystal Bay Lookout Panels**

New interpretive panels on the LTBMU's Stateline Fire Lookout Trail in North Lake Tahoe.

### **Tahoe Mountain Biking Association (TAMBA) Trail Crew**

Support for TAMBA's professional trail building crew from the Tahoe Fund's Trails Endowment.

### **Trail Operations Training Program**

A new trail training program for TAMBA staff and volunteers hosted by land managers and trail building organizations throughout the region.

### **Echo Lakes Restoration**

Critical trail work by the Tahoe Rim Trail Association on 19 miles of trail from Echo Lakes to Lake Aloha in Desolation Wilderness.

### **Lower Tyrolian Trail**

Reroute of the bottom 0.75 miles of the Tyrolian Trail away from a residential neighborhood and over to the east side of Incline Creek by TAMBA.

### **Meeks Ridge Trail**

A new 4.5-mile trail built by TAMBA that connects Meeks Bay to the Lost Lake Trail and creates a 10-mile loop on the west shore for hikers and bikers.

### **Mt. Tallac Winter Access**

Snow plowing, signage and maintenance at the Mt. Tallac trailhead by the Tahoe Backcountry Alliance to help expand winter recreation access.

### ★ **Tahoe Rim Trail Kiosks**

Replacement of old trailhead kiosks around the Tahoe Rim Trail with an improved design and bilingual trail information.

### **Washoe Meadows Connector Trail**

Improvements on the North-South Connector Trail in Washoe Meadows by California State Parks, including new pavers and boardwalks to elevate the trail and prevent water from concentrating.

## TRANSPORTATION

### **East Shore Trail Expansion**

Planning and construction of new parking lots on SR 28 along the current and future route of the East Shore Trail, as the expansion to Spooner Summit gets underway.

### **Lake Link Electrification**

A new electric charger in the City of South Lake Tahoe that will enable on-route, fast charging for the LakeLink microtransit service's forthcoming electric fleet.

### **Parking Enforcement Study**

A collaborative effort among 20-plus organizations to develop a regional parking enforcement strategy to alleviate dangerous on-highway parking and congestion.

**TAHOEFUND.ORG**

*The Tahoe Fund acknowledges that we live, work, and recreate on the traditional and ancestral homeland of the Wašičiw (Washoe people - the people from here).*