



# Progress Report

## Federal Actions At Lake Tahoe

September 2000



US Army Corps  
of Engineers



**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**  
**FEDERAL ACTIONS AT LAKE TAHOE**  
**September 2000**

This report has been prepared by the Lake Tahoe Regional Executives, the regional managers in the Federal Interagency Partnership who are most familiar with these actions. In March 1998, the Federal Partnership provided the first Status Report on the Lake Tahoe Presidential Commitments, with the second Progress Report provided in May 1999.

The report provides current information about federal activities in each of the key areas of concern at Lake Tahoe:

- Improving water quality, the need to halt the continuing decline in Lake Tahoe's famed clarity.
- Improving forest health.
- Improving transportation in and around the Basin.
- Implementing the Environmental Improvement Program, a locally developed inventory of the actions necessary to achieve locally established environmental goals in the Lake Tahoe Basin.

The appendices to this report provide detailed summary information, by federal agency, of the actions undertaken by the federal government to restore and preserve the environment and the economy in the Lake Tahoe Basin.

The federal agencies participating in the Lake Tahoe Federal Interagency Partnership will continue to:

- implement multi-year programs and projects relating to water quality, forest health, and transportation, as well as actions contributing to achievement of the other environmental goals for the Tahoe Basin, and
- coordinate these programs and projects among the federal agencies and with Lake Tahoe Basin stakeholders, including active consultation with the Lake Tahoe Federal Advisory Committee.

The federal government has been active in the Lake Tahoe Basin for over 100 years, and expects to continue this role in the Basin, seeking to fulfill the federal obligation to the protection and preservation of this national treasure.

**PROGRESS REPORT  
FEDERAL ACTIONS AT LAKE TAHOE  
September 2000**

This report to the President highlights the actions undertaken by the Federal Interagency Federal Partnership (Federal Partnership) at Lake Tahoe since the Lake Tahoe Presidential Forum in July 1997, particularly noting progress since the Federal Partnership's last Progress Report of May 1999. The Federal Partnership agencies include:

- U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service and natural Resources Conservation Service
- U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management and Geological Survey
- U.S. Department of Defense, Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway and Federal Transit Administration
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Other departments and agencies joining the Federal Partnership in the past year include U.S. Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service and Bureau of Reclamation and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

**Background**

President Clinton and Vice President Gore came to Lake Tahoe in July 1997 to recognize the significance of Lake Tahoe and its surroundings as a national environmental resource, and to commend local stakeholders for the innovative partnerships of government, business, and environmental interests working together to protect the Tahoe Basin. During the Presidential Forum, the President committed additional federal resources to address concerns related to the declining lake clarity, and to make improvements in transportation, air quality, and forest health. The President and Vice President announced 39 specific actions to protect Lake Tahoe, at a cost of \$27.7 million from the federal government's Fiscal Year 1997 and 1998 budgets. These 39 actions, known as the Presidential Commitments, are generally completed (some multi-year actions remain in progress). In addition to these financial commitments, the President and Vice-President committed the federal government to develop partnerships with the Washoe Tribe and with local and state governments, and to coordinate all federal activities in the Basin to achieve greater environmental results.

Although government, business, and environmental entities are working together to address environmental concerns in the Basin, the clarity that makes Lake Tahoe famous continues to decline at an alarming rate. Scientists warn that unless this trend is halted over the next decade, the Lake's clarity will be lost. In addition to loss of lake clarity, approximately 30 percent of the trees in the Basin were dead in 1997. Also, traffic congestion during peak tourist season causes delays and air quality problems, adversely affecting the local economy and environment.

## **Current Status**

The Federal Interagency Partnership has met commitments from the Presidential Forum through completed and ongoing projects, making substantial progress in restoring and preserving the Lake Tahoe environment as well as enhancing the Basin's economy. Appendices A and B of this report outline the federal government's investments in the Lake Tahoe Basin since 1997, describing the specific activities of each Department and Agency. The Federal Partnership has continued to engage in many other activities in addition to the 39 Presidential Commitments. Of particular note is the increased federal engagement with state, tribal, and local organizations through participation in groups such as the Metropolitan Planning Organization, the Environmental Improvement Program Working Groups and Integration Team, the Lake Tahoe Federal Advisory Committee, the Upper Truckee Focused Watershed Group, and many others. Individual federal agencies have directed staff and funding to support many actions related to water quality, forest health, and transportation.

### *Federal Advisory Committee*

Initially convened in January 1999, the Lake Tahoe Basin Federal Advisory Committee (FAC) has provided the Federal Partnership with valuable recommendations and input. The FAC's federal budget recommendations, provided for Fiscal Years 2000, 2001 and 2002, have served as a useful reference for agency budget formulation as a planning tool for budget implementation. Input from FAC on the Watershed Assessment was valuable for making the document more usable for a number of audiences. The FAC also serves as a forum for consultation on various ideas and programs undertaken by the Federal Partnership. After having met for nearly two years, the FAC charter has just been renewed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, sending a positive message of support and affirmation for the importance the Federal Partnership places on the work of the FAC.

### *Water Quality*

Numerous on-going Federal Interagency Partnership projects and programs are helping to address water quality concerns in the Lake Tahoe Basin. Although monitoring continues to show a decline in Lake clarity, the ability to understand and address the sources of this decline has improved.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has continued its support for the development of a Lake Clarity Model by University of California at Davis (UC Davis). This model is in its third year of development, and is expected to be complete by next year. Once complete, the model will establish the pollutant loading levels which need to be achieved to stop the loss of Lake Tahoe's water clarity, a tremendous step forward in scientific understanding of the lake. From this understanding, better decisions can be made about what types of projects will make the greatest contribution to improving water quality and halting clarity loss. EPA has also continued support for the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency's (TRPA) Real Time Management Program, which will enable TRPA to measure progress against the Basin's environmental goals at least annually, rather than at five-year intervals as in the past.

An individual EPA staff person remains assigned in the Basin to manage all EPA related actions at Lake Tahoe, to support the Federal Partnership, and to foster engagement of the federal partners with TRPA, the States of California and Nevada, and numerous local interests. Among EPA's other actions in Lake Tahoe, are funding for non-point source control projects, technical support to the State of California on MTBE contamination of drinking water wells as South Lake Tahoe, and wetlands planning grants to the Washoe Tribe and to TRPA. In addition, EPA, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), are all contributing to the production of a video documentary on Lake Tahoe, which is being developed by the Water Education Foundation.

The U.S. Forest Service's comprehensive Lake Tahoe Watershed Assessment provides a greater understanding of the amounts and sources of nutrients and sediment entering Lake Tahoe, as well as areas where more information is needed, such as in the area of air/water interactions. The Assessment estimates that over 50% of the nitrogen entering the lake comes from air sources, though it remains unclear what percentage of these sources are from inside or outside of the Lake Tahoe Basin.

The U.S. Forest Service, the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, the four research institutions (UC Davis, University of Nevada at Reno, the Desert Research Institute, and the Forest Service's Pacific Southwest Research Station), and others are collaborating to design and implement an urgently needed adaptive management plan. The plan will include research, monitoring, and modeling essential to the effective restoration of the Lake Tahoe ecosystem. This work was initiated in the recently completed Watershed Assessment. The U.S. Forest Service's watershed restoration projects, road decommissioning, and land acquisition all continue to help reduce the amounts of sediment and nutrients entering the lake.

The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) has accelerated the completion of updating the soil survey for the basin, which is expected to be released in 2001. NRCS continues to provide increased technical assistance for implementation of the Backyard Conservation Program. Through the Backyard Conservation Program, NRCS works with homeowners to identify needed erosion and sediment control measures or other water quality improvements.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recently performed an aerial survey of shallow water areas of Lake Tahoe. The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) will use these survey data to complement mapping previously completed by USGS and to improve the understanding of shore zone processes. On-going monitoring by the USGS and others has found that TRPA's 1999 ban on two-stroke engines reduced the amounts of MTBE entering Lake Tahoe by up to 70-90% in one boating season. The USGS cooperative analysis of historical tributary monitoring data has compiled into a digital database 364 station-years of stream flow, stream nutrient, and sediment-transport data covering the period 1973-1999. This includes 6 years of data for 11 monitoring stations for the period 1972-78 never before available to the general research community. The analyses of these data will include evaluation of historical time trends in nutrient loading to the lake.

The Bureau of Reclamation has provided funding for four consecutive years through the South Lake Tahoe Resource Conservation District and City of South Lake Tahoe for watershed protection and stream restoration activities associated with the Trout Creek Watershed Enhancement Project. Partial FY2000 funds are being directed to the Upper Truckee River Ecosystem Restoration Project.

### *Forest Health*

The U.S. Forest Service and its partners continue to make headway in improving forest health and reducing fire risk in the Basin by removing dead and dying trees and by implementing prescribed burning. Mechanical treatment of approximately 4,670 acres and prescribed burning of approximately 3,590 acres has been accomplished since 1997. Many of these projects have been implemented adjacent to homes where, without this work, a fire could have catastrophic impacts on personal property and lives. The Forest Service, as part of a multi-agency lead role in Tahoe Re-Green, works closely with homeowners to educate them on how to fire-safe their properties and provides information on low-interest loans to property owners for implementation. The Forest Service is also working with Forest Health Consensus Group to better define forest and wildlife research needs and attributes of old growth ecosystems in the Lake Tahoe Basin.

### *Transportation*

The Coordinated Transit System (CTS), which will merge multiple private and public transit services operating at the South Shore into a single, computer-managed system, is expected to be in full operation in 2001. The North Shore Intermodal Transit Center is currently going through environmental review, and is expected to be under construction by 2001. The Tahoe Basin was designated a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) in 1999. The MPO is developing a transportation plan for the Basin, and is working with federal, state, and local entities to implement projects that will increase pedestrian and bicycle opportunities, enhance transportation flow, and provide road and traffic condition information for visitors entering and leaving the Basin.

### *The Environmental Improvement Program*

During TRPA's 1996 review of the progress being made in attaining the desired environmental conditions in the Lake Tahoe Basin, they found that the majority of environmental goals (known as environmental thresholds) for the Basin had not yet been achieved. The nine environmental thresholds for the Tahoe Region are: water quality, soil conservation, air quality, vegetation preservation, wildlife, fisheries, noise, recreation, and scenic resources. TRPA developed the Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) in response to this threshold review, identifying the actions necessary to achieve the threshold indicators within an accelerated timeframe.

The EIP lists hundreds of projects which, when implemented, will contribute to attainment of the environmental thresholds. TRPA proposes that \$908 million be directed to implementing EIP projects over a ten-year period which began in 1997. In addition, the EIP lists dozens of scientific research projects and studies, totaling \$18 million, which are needed to better understand the Lake Tahoe environment and

effectively adapt the plans for implementing the hundreds of projects. Finally, the EIP lists a variety of governmental and community programs needed to support implementation of the EIP. The EIP includes a proposed sharing of the \$908 million as follows in Table I:

	Private Sector	Local Government.	State of California	State of Nevada	Federal Government
Allocation (\$ Millions)	\$152.7	\$101	\$275.1	\$82	\$297.2
TOTAL	\$908 million				

Implementation of the EIP is underway. With the funding support of the federal government, States of California and Nevada, local governments, and the private sector, dozens of EIP projects have been initiated and/or completed. Since the Presidential Forum in July 1997, the federal government has carried out dozens of projects and initiated several programs that are either in the EIP or otherwise aimed at attaining the environmental thresholds (Table II, below). Included in these federal projects and programs are the 39 Presidential Commitments totaling over \$27.7 million, nearly \$20 million of which supported EIP projects (note that not all Presidential Commitments were actions included in the EIP). In addition, several governmental programs, environmental monitoring, and scientific research projects are in place to help coordinate and guide EIP implementation.

<b><u>Forest Health</u></b> Urban Lots Prescribed Burning Mechanical Treatments	<b><u>Watershed Preservation</u></b> Land Acquisition	<b><u>Restoration</u></b> Watershed Restoration FS Road Decommissioning & BMP Upgrades
<b><u>Runoff Control/Prevention</u></b> NDOT Master Plan Ski Way Stormwater Basin Forest Roads	<b><u>Transit</u></b> Coordinated Transit System East Shore Shuttle North Tahoe Transit Center Expand Home Mail Delivery	<b><u>Decision Making Tools</u></b> Water Clarity Model Real Time Management & Decision Support Lake Tahoe Watershed Assessment Fire History Study
<b><u>Environmental Assessment</u></b> Tributary Monitoring & Analysis Mapping Lake Tahoe Gasoline Pollution Lahontan Cutthroat Trout SEZ Classification System	<b><u>Program Support</u></b> Science Advisory Group Road Weather System Backyard Conservation Source Water Program Forest Health Consensus Group GIS Staff Support Water Quality Agreement	

Federal base programs and other Lake Tahoe federal initiatives since the Forum have brought additional federal funds to implementation of the EIP, as shown in Table II. Federal EIP-related activities in the Lake Tahoe Basin include forest health, acquisition of environmentally sensitive land, watershed restoration, runoff control and prevention, and transit projects. In addition, the federal government has invested in studies and projects to enhance our scientific knowledge of the Lake Tahoe environment, thus improving our ability to make wise decisions on the use of public funding for future EIP projects. The Federal Partnership participates actively in the Science Advisory Group (SAG) formed in 1999, which involves all the entities conducting science activity in the Basin in a comprehensive evaluation of the Basin's research needs.

The Federal Interagency Partnership's actions are summarized in Appendix A and detailed in Appendix B. Since 1997, the Federal Partnership's expenditures relating to Lake Tahoe encompass work both within and outside the scope of the EIP. Overall the Federal Partnership estimates having spent over \$150 million on Lake Tahoe related actions from 1997 to budget year 2001. Based on preliminary estimates, the Federal Partnership believes that roughly one-half of the total federal expenditure of \$150 million has been for EIP programs, projects, and support. Types of federally-funded EIP projects and programs include Forest Service watershed restoration, road decommissioning and timber stand improvements, USGS MTBE monitoring and analysis and NRCS technical assistance. Federal funding for projects such as repairing the Reno-Tahoe airport and highway overlays do not count towards the EIP.

The Federal Partnership is working with TRPA to develop the "common denominators" that will enable the widely varying federal budget spending categories across agencies (special appropriations, varying federal budget definitions, federal funding provided for state-administered programs, and the like) to align with EIP's spending categories. This alignment will foster the Federal Partnership's ability to speak definitively about the federal contribution in support of the EIP.

The U.S. Forest Service's Lake Tahoe Watershed Assessment sets a fact-based stage for identifying additional projects not currently listed in the EIP but needed to attain the environmental thresholds. Based on the Federal Partnership's August 1999 review of the EIP and the results of the Lake Tahoe Watershed Assessment, it's expected that the Forest Service and the Federal Partnership will recommend additional EIP projects in the areas listed below:

- Watershed habitat restoration projects on federal lands
- Programs to protect sensitive species
- Adaptive management (research, monitoring, modeling)
- Focused administrative changes to implement EIP projects



## **Conclusion**

The federal government has been active in the Lake Tahoe Basin for over 100 years. The 39 Commitments from the 1997 Lake Tahoe Presidential Forum continue the federal government's contribution to the environmental and economic goals for the Lake Tahoe Basin. The federal government has built upon the Commitments, working on and funding an array of programs and projects working toward the Basin's environmental and economic goals, as detailed in Appendices A and B. Much more needs to be done. Time is short for doing what's needed to reverse the decline in lake clarity and improve water quality. The federal government will continue its active role in the Basin, seeking to fulfill its obligation toward the protection and preservation of this national treasure.

Appendix A: Summary Table of Investments by the Lake Tahoe Federal Interagency Federal Partnership, Fiscal Years 1997-2001

Appendix B: Table of Investments by Agency, Fiscal Years 1997-2001

Appendix C: Supplemental Background Information on the Lake Tahoe Basin

## **Appendix A**

### **Table of Investments By the Lake Tahoe Federal Interagency Partnership Fiscal Years 1997-2001**

## INVESTMENTS OF THE LAKE TAHOE FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP

September 2000

Agency	FY97	FY98	FY99	FY2000	FY2001*	TOTAL
<b>Presidential Commitments</b>						
USDA Forest Service	\$0.00	\$6,164,000.00	\$6,457,000.00	\$8,025,000.00	\$7,025,000.00	\$27,671,000.00
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service	\$0.00	\$181,000.00	\$406,000.00	\$212,000.00	\$207,000.00	\$1,006,000.00
US Army Corps of Engineers	\$127,000.00	\$175,000.00	\$551,000.00	\$448,000.00	\$850,000.00	\$2,151,000.00
US Geological Survey	\$0.00	\$454,000.00	\$606,000.00	\$337,000.00	\$170,000.00	\$1,567,000.00
US Department of Transportation	\$0.00	\$6,070,000.00	\$12,433,701.00	\$964,461.00	\$0.00	\$19,468,162.00
US Environmental Protection Agency	\$0.00	\$9,403,000.00	\$2,861,000.00	\$1,361,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$13,725,000.00
<b>Total Presidential Commitments</b>	<b>\$127,000.00</b>	<b>\$22,447,000.00</b>	<b>\$23,314,701.00</b>	<b>\$11,347,461.00</b>	<b>\$8,352,000.00</b>	<b>\$65,588,162.00</b>
<b>Other Activities</b>						
USDA Forest Service	\$7,560,000.00	\$6,722,000.00	\$7,215,000.00	\$5,240,000.00	\$5,240,000.00	\$31,977,000.00
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service	\$120,000.00	\$232,000.00	\$222,000.00	\$232,000.00	\$263,000.00	\$1,069,000.00
US Army Corps of Engineers	\$0.00	\$15,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$215,000.00	\$0.00	\$260,000.00
US Geological Survey	\$627,154.00	\$777,654.00	\$792,654.00	\$821,124.00	\$1,660,600.00	\$4,679,186.00
US Department of Transportation	\$2,956,659.00	\$26,654,788.00	\$9,362,038.00	\$3,075,312.00	\$1,096,653.00	\$43,145,450.00
US Environmental Protection Agency	\$322,774.00	\$278,975.00	\$936,081.00	\$704,111.00	\$527,081.00	\$2,769,022.00
US Fish and Wildlife Service**	NA	NA	NA	\$117,600.00	\$57,600.00	\$175,200.00
US Bureau of Reclamation**	\$9,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$500,000.00	\$1,000,000.00	NA	\$1,534,000.00
<b>Total other Activities</b>	<b>\$11,595,587.00</b>	<b>\$34,705,417.00</b>	<b>\$19,057,773.00</b>	<b>\$11,405,147.00</b>	<b>\$8,844,934.00</b>	<b>\$85,608,858.00</b>
<b>Total Lake Tahoe Federal Partnership Investments</b>	<b>\$11,722,587.00</b>	<b>\$57,152,417.00</b>	<b>\$42,372,474.00</b>	<b>\$22,752,608.00</b>	<b>\$17,196,934.00</b>	<b>\$151,197,020.00</b>

\*Projected funding based on the President's proposed budget

\*\*Not included in itemized tables & Presidential Commitments

NA=Information not available or applicable

**Appendix B**

**Tables of Investments  
by the  
Federal Agencies  
Fiscal Years 1997-2001**

**APPENDIX B--INVESTMENTS OF THE LAKE TAHOE FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP**

<b>Summary of Federal Investments at Lake Tahoe by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Forest Service, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit</b>						
Investments ( <i>C</i> denotes original Presidential Commitment)	Status (July 2000)	Investment dollars				
		Actual FY97	Actual FY98	Actual FY99	Estimated FY00	Estimated FY01 [a]
Watershed Assessment	C Watershed Assessment is complete. Continue to refine knowledge and quantify data to support Lake restoration.	-	900,000	286,000	192,000	192,000
Watershed Restoration	C 92 acres restored, 1.25 mi stream restored, 90 acres riparian habitat	-	426,000	383,000	322,000	322,000
	Additional projects	256,000	125,000	61,000	60,000	60,000
USFS Roads: Improved & Decommissioned	C Gates installed, 58 mi of roads upgraded; 33 miles decommissioned	-	1,080,000	909,000	1,063,000	1,063,000
	Additional projects	257,000	190,000	404,000	266,000	266,000
Mechanical Treatment & Urban Lots	C 4670 acres mechanically treated in general forest zone and urban lots	-	2,326,000	1,326,000	1,038,000	1,038,000
	Additional projects	766,000	370,000	381,000	155,000	155,000
Land Acquisition (Purchase)	C Deeds recorded on 786 acres.	-	-	2,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000
	Purchase \$\$'s not shown in final but anticipated	1,000,000	1,150,000	1,000,000	-	-
Land Acquisition	C Case processing for above purchases, includes landline and associated work.	-	135,000	286,000	201,000	201,000
	Additional projects	80,000	107,000	130,000	45,000	45,000
Prescribed Burning	C Use of prescribed burns to treat 3590 acres	-	277,000	433,000	353,000	353,000
	Additional projects	105,000	105,000	150,000	130,000	130,000
Recreation Funding	C Final EIS. Completing Section 106 consultation for Cave Rock, MOU signed by FS and Washoe Tribe for Meeks Meadow, Washoe to obtain permits and funding for construction at Taylor Creek, and SR 28 access plan.	-	116,000	63,000	43,000	43,000
	Additional projects	850,000	810,000	725,000	774,000	774,000
Erosion Control Grants	C Erosion Control Grants to Counties for completion of erosion control projects.	-	-	-	1,000,000	-
	Additional projects	500,000	-	750,000	-	-
Other Programs	C All additional program areas, many in support to above program areas. Including but not limited to internet linked GIS database, Interactive Educational Fire History Display.	-	288,000	65,000	183,000	183,000
	Additional projects	1,830,000	1,945,000	2,240,000	2,460,000	2,460,000
Indirect - Overhead	C Indirect expenses charged against earmark	-	616,000	706,000	630,000	630,000
	Indirect expenses charged against base program	1,916,000	1,920,000	1,374,000	1,350,000	1,350,000
<b>Total Original Presidential Commitments:</b>		-	<b>6,164,000</b>	<b>6,457,000</b>	<b>8,025,000</b>	<b>7,025,000</b>
<b>Other Activities:</b>		<b>7,560,000</b>	<b>6,722,000</b>	<b>7,215,000</b>	<b>5,240,000</b>	<b>5,240,000</b>
<b>Total Investment:</b>		<b>7,560,000</b>	<b>12,886,000</b>	<b>13,672,000</b>	<b>13,265,000</b>	<b>12,265,000</b>

[a] NOTE- FY01 estimated investments are based on the President's budget request for FY01.

**APPENDIX B--INVESTMENTS OF THE LAKE TAHOE PRESIDENTIAL PARTNERSHIP**

<b>Summary of Federal Investments at Lake Tahoe by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service</b>						
Investments (‘C’ denotes original Presidential Commitment)	Status (July 2000)	Investment dollars				
		Actual FY97	Actual FY98	Actual FY99	Estimated FY00	Estimated FY01 [a]
Field Office Technical Assistance (CTA)	On going	116,000	228,000	181,000	195,000	199,000
Soil Survey Acceleration Appropriated Funding (CO-02) C		-	73,000	152,000	-	-
Soil Survey Acceleration Redirected Staff (CO-02) C	In progress	-	-	45,000	182,000	177,000
Backyard Conservation Appropriated Funding (CTA) C		-	25,000	-	-	-
Backyard Conservation Redirected Staff (CTA) C	In progress	-	78,000	142,000	25,000	25,000
Backyard Conservation - Financial Assistance (EQIP) C		-	-	50,000	-	-
Water and Nutrient Management Appropriated Funding (CTA) C		-	5,000	-	-	-
Water and Nutrient Management Redirected Staff (CTA) C	In progress	-	-	17,000	5,000	5,000
Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D)	On going	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
Watershed Assistance on Cold Creek (WF-08)	In progress	-	-	37,000	33,000	60,000
<b>Total Original Presidential Commitments:</b>		-	<b>181,000</b>	<b>406,000</b>	<b>212,000</b>	<b>207,000</b>
	<b>Other Activities:</b>	<b>120,000</b>	<b>232,000</b>	<b>222,000</b>	<b>232,000</b>	<b>263,000</b>
	<b>Total Investment:</b>	<b>120,000</b>	<b>413,000</b>	<b>628,000</b>	<b>444,000</b>	<b>470,000</b>

[a] NOTE- FY01 estimated investments are based on the President's budget request for FY01.

**APPENDIX B--INVESTMENTS OF THE LAKE TAHOE FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP**

<b>Summary of the Federal Investments at Lake Tahoe by the U.S. Dept. of Defense, Army Corps of Engineers</b>						
Investments (C' denotes original Presidential Commitment)	Status (July 2000)	Investment dollars				
		Actual FY97	Actual FY98	Actual FY99	Estimated FY00	Estimated FY01 [a]
Upper Truckee River, Section 206, Stream Restoration	C	-	10,000	192,000	103,000	100,000
Upper Truckee River, Reconnaissance	C	92,000	4,000	6,000	3,000	-
Upper Truckee River , Feasibility	C	-	-	-	50,000	200,000
Tahoe Basin, CA&NV Reconnaissance	C	-	67,000	26,000	2,000	-
Incline & Third Ck, Section 206, Stream Restoration	C	-	-	5,000	55,000	200,000
Edgewood Creek, Section 206, Stream Restoration	C	-	-	-	5,000	-
Blackwood Creek, Section 208, Clearing and Snagging	C	-	7,000	153,000	36,000	-
Ward Creek, Section 208, Clearing and Snagging	C	-	7,000	158,000	4,000	-
Blackwood Creek, Section 206, Stream Restoration	C	-	-	-	50,000	200,000
Federal Partnership Coordination	C	35,000	80,000	11,000	140,000	150,000
Lake Bathymetry	-	-	-	-	150,000	-
Lake Tahoe Video	-	-	15,000	10,000	-	-
Incline Village Flood Plain Mapping	-	-	-	20,000	15,000	-
EIP Support	-	-	-	-	50,000	-
<b>Total Original Presidential Commitments:</b>		<b>127,000</b>	<b>175,000</b>	<b>551,000</b>	<b>448,000</b>	<b>850,000</b>
<b>Other Activities:</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>215,000</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total Investment:</b>		<b>127,000</b>	<b>190,000</b>	<b>581,000</b>	<b>663,000</b>	<b>850,000</b>

[a] NOTE- FY01 estimated investments are based on the President's budget request for FY01.

## APPENDIX B--INVESTMENTS OF THE LAKE TAHOE PRESIDENTIAL PARTNERSHIP

<b>Summary of Investments at Lake Tahoe by the U.S. Dept. of Interior, Geological Survey and its Cooperating Agencies</b>						
Investments (‘C’ denotes original Presidential Commitment)	Status (July 2000)	Investment dollars				
		Actual FY97	Actual FY98	Actual FY99	Estimated FY00	Estimated FY01 [a]
Long-Term Tributary Monitoring Program (LTIMP)	Monitoring of flow and quality of tributary watersheds and ground waters. TRPA provided half the total funding shown.	602,654	592,654	592,654	592,624	627,100
Stream gaging and other support to local agencies	Ongoing program, 100% repay from local cooperators	24,500	20,000	20,000	28,500	28,500
Analysis of historical LTIMP monitoring data	C Project underway; publications scheduled for FY01. UCD (FY99), and LRWQCB (FY00-01) provided half the funding shown.	-	-	234,000	212,000	50,000
GIS Clearinghouse	C GIS and information web support to other Federal and local partners	-	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
Digital bathymetry	C First phase completed	-	100,000	10,000	5,000	-
	C Second phase- LIDAR mapping of shallow shore margins by USACE	-	-	-	USACE	-
Sources of gasoline/organics contamination	C First phase completed in FY99. TRPA provided half the funding shown.	-	234,000	242,000	-	-
	Second phase- follow-up monitoring. TRPA provided half the funding.	-	-	-	50,000	50,000
	Third phase-- PAH research. Local partner provides half the funding.	-	-	-	-	500,000
Restoration of Lahontan Cutthroat Trout	C Surrogate feasibility studies at Independence Lake. Funded in partnership with US Fish and Wildlife Service.	-	70,000	70,000	70,000	70,000
Federal Partnership and science coordination	Staff time	-	25,000	40,000	50,000	50,000
Decision-Support Models	Economic modeling for decision support systems. TRPA provided \$40k in each of FY98, FY99	-	140,000	140,000	100,000	350,000
Digital Atlas for Tahoe Basin	Proposed; may require 50% local funding	-	-	-	-	55,000
<b>Total Original Presidential Commitments:</b>		-	<b>454,000</b>	<b>606,000</b>	<b>337,000</b>	<b>170,000</b>
<b>Other Activities:</b>		<b>627,154</b>	<b>777,654</b>	<b>792,654</b>	<b>821,124</b>	<b>1,660,600</b>
<b>Total Investment:</b>		<b>627,154</b>	<b>1,231,654</b>	<b>1,398,654</b>	<b>1,158,124</b>	<b>1,830,600</b>

[a] NOTE- FY01 estimated investments are based on the President's budget request.

<b>Total USGS Funds:</b>	<b>301,327</b>	<b>688,327</b>	<b>734,327</b>	<b>632,312</b>	<b>1,054,550</b>
<b>Total Partner Funds:</b>	<b>325,827</b>	<b>543,327</b>	<b>664,327</b>	<b>525,812</b>	<b>776,050</b>



## APPENDIX B--INVESTMENTS OF THE LAKE TAHOE PRESIDENTIAL PARTNERSHIP

Summary of Investments at Lake Tahoe by the U.S. Dept. of Transportation							
Investments (‘C’ denotes original Presidential Commitment)		Status (July 2000)	Investment dollars				
			Actual FY97	Actual FY98	Actual FY99	Estimated FY00	Estimated FY01 [a]
Road erosion control and storm water management	C	Master plan completed by NDOT Funding for US50 and SR28 authorized. Project underway.	-	50,000	10,200,000	-	-
Road weather information system	C	RWIS operational in both states without Federal funds. Funds to be used to improve interagency coordination.	-	-	-	75,000	-
Coordinated transit system	C	Contract awarded. System expected to be operational by the end of 2000.	-	-	1,256,505	393,211	-
East shore beach shuttle	C	Evaluation report completed. Shuttle has ceased operation.	-	20,000	-	-	-
Transit center	C	Draft EIS is circulating for comment. A record of decision is expected by the end of FY 2000.	-	-	977,196	496,250	-
Airport repair	C	Reconstruction underway.	-	6,000,000	-	-	-
Roadway improvements in California		Funds obligated	2,956,659	26,490,016	8,161,563	-	-
Roadway improvements in Nevada		Funds obligated	-	144,772	1,200,475	500,000	-
Transit vehicles		Funds obligated	-	-	-	2,008,586	-
Transit marketing		Funds obligated	-	20,000	-	-	-
Transportation planning		Continuous work program process underway.	-	-	-	566,726	1,096,653
<b>Total Original Presidential Commitments:</b>			-	<b>6,070,000</b>	<b>12,433,701</b>	<b>964,461</b>	-
<b>Other Activities:</b>			<b>2,956,659</b>	<b>26,654,788</b>	<b>9,362,038</b>	<b>3,075,312</b>	<b>1,096,653</b>
<b>Total Investment:</b>			<b>2,956,659</b>	<b>32,724,788</b>	<b>21,795,739</b>	<b>4,039,773</b>	<b>1,096,653</b>

[a] NOTE- FY01 estimated investments are based on the President's budget request for FY01.

**APPENDIX B--INVESTMENTS OF THE LAKE TAHOE FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP**

<b>Summary of Federal Investments at Lake Tahoe by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency</b>							
Investments (‘C’ denotes original Presidential Commitment)	Status (July 2000)	Investment dollars					
		Actual FY97	Actual FY98	Actual FY99	Estimated FY00	Estimated FY01 [a]	
Stormwater Settling Basin	C	Construction completed in 1998. Basin capturing an estimated 115 tons of sediment/year	-	50,000	-	-	-
Coordinated Transit System	C	Design contractor is on board and program is expected to be fully operational by 2001	-	1,250,000	-	-	-
UC Davis Lake Clarity Model	C	Model is in third year of development and is expected to be released February 2001	-	358,000	261,000	261,000	-
Real Time Management Program	C	Program and associated models are in development. Program is expected to be implemented in 2001	-	235,000	-	-	-
Wetlands Classification and Mapping	C	TRPA has developed classification system for SEZ restoration needs	-	150,000	-	-	-
Source Water Assessment Coordination	C	Project complete. Source water areas mapped and TRPA source water protection ordinance passed.	-	50,000	-	-	-
Tahoe-Baikal Partnership	C	Project complete in 1998.	-	50,000	-	-	-
TCSF Environmental Hotline	C	Project ongoing	-	10,000	-	-	-
EPA place-based position	C	Position has been in place since 1998 and provides coordination of EPA activities with other federal, state and local partners in the basin	-	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
STPUD Pipeline Upgrades	C	Ongoing. Third grant will be awarded July 2000.	-	7,150,000	2,500,000	1,000,000	-
Non point Source Implementation Grants (CWA Section 319)		Grants have funded erosion control projects, revegetation demonstration projects and BMP retrofit programs	205,000	152,588	563,000	367,030	400,000
MTBE Technical support		EPA Region 9 has provided contractual and technical support to the Lahontan RWQCB to assist in design of MTBE groundwater clean up	-	-	50,000	50,000	-
Watershed Planning Grants		Ongoing grants to TRPA for 208 planning activities	25,693	24,306	10,000	10,000	10,000
Stormwater Monitoring and Maintenance grant		TRPA in process of developing program	-	-	100,000	-	-
Wetlands Planning Grants		Grants to the Washoe Tribe and TRPA to develop wetlands planning programs	-	-	96,000	150,000	-
Lake Tahoe Educational Video		Video in process of development	-	-	-	10,000	-
CWA Program Base Funding		Ongoing grants to CA & NV for Tahoe CWA program implementation	92,081	102,081	117,081	117,081	117,081
<b>Total Original Presidential Commitments:</b>			-	<b>9,403,000</b>	<b>2,861,000</b>	<b>1,361,000</b>	<b>100,000</b>
<b>Other Activities:</b>			<b>322,774</b>	<b>278,975</b>	<b>936,081</b>	<b>704,111</b>	<b>527,081</b>
<b>Total Investment:</b>			<b>322,774</b>	<b>9,681,975</b>	<b>3,797,081</b>	<b>2,065,111</b>	<b>627,081</b>

[a] NOTE- FY01 estimated investments are based on the President's budget request for FY01.

## **Appendix C**

# **Supplemental Background Information on the Lake Tahoe Basin**

## **Appendix C**

### **Supplemental Background Information on the Lake Tahoe Basin**

#### *History*

Lake Tahoe is among the largest high alpine lakes in the world. The natural beauty of the Lake Tahoe Basin attracts millions of visitors each year, and has led to an economy that is entirely dependent on preserving that beauty in order to remain viable.

Significant settlement of the area dates from the discovery of the Comstock silver mines in Virginia City, 24 miles to the east of Lake Tahoe, in 1859. The mines had neither timber nor water, and Lake Tahoe seemed an unlimited source for both. Between 1860 and 1930, about two-thirds of the Basin's forest was cut down to support the mines. The clear cutting of the forest slopes resulted in substantial sedimentation to the Lake, and resulted in a different mix of trees in the Basin than was there before. The drought of the late 1980s and early 1990s weakened many of the trees in the Basin, and an infestation of bark beetles killed many trees. The combination of all these events resulted in the unhealthy forest found in the Basin today.

Railroads and roads made access to Lake Tahoe possible at the turn of the century. The legalization of gambling in Nevada in 1931 along with the natural beauty of the area, made Lake Tahoe a popular tourist destination. Tourist-related growth continued through the 1950s and accelerated following the 1960 Winter Olympics held in nearby Squaw Valley. The conflict between development and preservation has resulted in the creation of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) in 1970. The TRPA has been regulating development at Lake Tahoe since 1970 in an effort to prevent and mitigate environmental damage, and has formed many partnerships to strengthen the balance between environmental preservation and economic sustainability.

#### **The Federal Interagency Partnership**

The Federal Interagency Partnership is responsible for carrying out actions specified in three separate documents: Executive Order 13057, the Federal Partnership Agreement, and the Actions to Protect Lake Tahoe.

##### **Executive Order 13057: Federal Actions in the Lake Tahoe Region**

- Established the Federal Interagency Partnership.
- Requires a Memorandum of Agreement with California, Nevada, Washoe Tribe, and the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency.
- Sets forth 14 areas of federal assistance including coordination, building partnerships, public involvement, and support for actions for the attainment of TRPA's environmental thresholds and improvement of water quality, forest health, transportation, air quality, habitat, recreation, and tourism.

**Agreement of Federal Departments and Agencies on Protection of the Environmental and Economic Health of the Lake Tahoe Region**

- Describes 14 areas of federal assistance consistent with Executive Order 13057.
- Sets forth operating norms and procedures for the Federal Partnership.
- Establishes the Lake Tahoe Federal Advisory Committee.
- Requires federal review and comment of TRPA's Environmental Improvement Program for the Lake Tahoe Region and integration of appropriate programs and funds to achieve the goals of the EIP.
- Requires submittal of annual reports to the President.
- Established federal representation in TRPA's EIP Partnership by the Federal Partnership Chair.

**Actions to Protect Lake Tahoe, July 26, 1997 (referred to as the Presidential Commitments)**

- A pledge to double the Administration's annual investment in the Tahoe Basin for Fiscal Years 1997 and 1998, and to work with state and local partners to expand federal government's commitment in succeeding years.
- Lists 39 specific actions (Presidential Commitments) to improve water quality, forest health, transportation, and partnerships, with a total of \$27 million in additional fun