Lake Tahoe Federal Interagency Partnership

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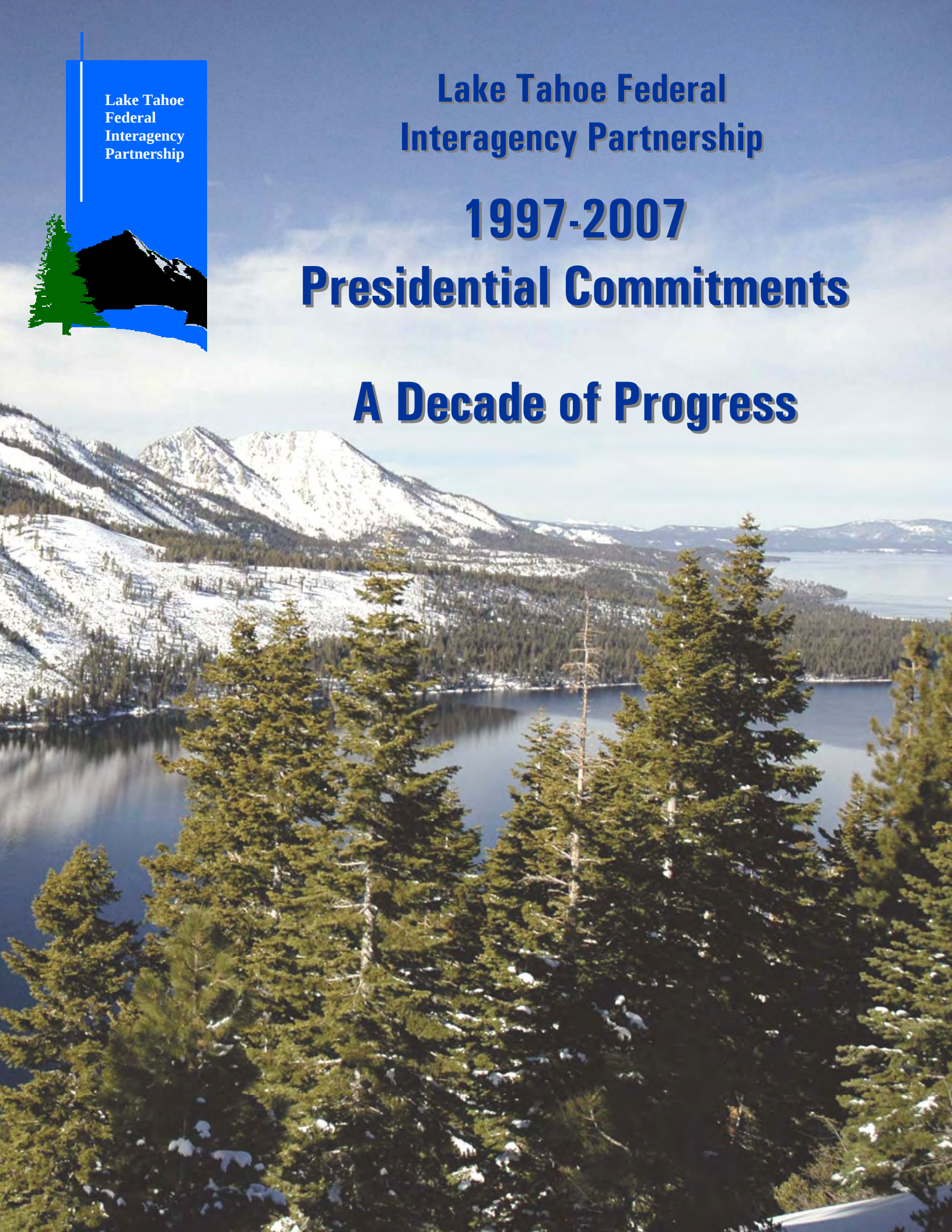
1997-2007 Presidential Commitments

A Decade of Progress



Lake Tahoe
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A Decade Of Progress

August 2007

A Decade Of Progress

On July 26, 1997, Executive Order 13057 (*Federal Actions in the Lake Tahoe Region)* was signed directing federal departments and agencies having principal management or jurisdictional authorities in the Lake Tahoe Region to establish a Federal Interagency Partnership (Partnership). By establishing this partnership, federal agencies committed to work collaboratively together. They also committed to work with state, local, and tribal partners to implement meaningful actions at Lake Tahoe to improve water quality, transportation, forest management, recreation and tourism, and to protect Lake Tahoe's environment.

To accomplish the objectives of the Executive Order, 39 actions were developed known as Presidential Deliverables or Presidential Commitments (Commitments). While most of these Commitments were to be completed within the first five years, some were designed to conclude on the tenth anniversary of the 1997 Executive Order.

Most of the actions identified as Commitments have been completed and many have gone beyond the original vision and are continuing today. New actions not envisioned at the time of the Executive Order have been undertaken as more federal agencies have joined the Partnership. While these new actions have contributed greatly to the environmental progress made at Lake Tahoe over the past decade, this report will only focus on the original Commitments to implement the Executive Order.

This report summarizes the progress made over the past decade bringing the Commitments to conclusion. These Commitments and the Partnerships accomplishments in implementing them are summarized on the following pages.

The Partnership remains committed to working collaboratively together and will continue working with state, local, and tribal partners. The Partnership will move forward into the next decade implementing environmental actions to protect and improve Lake Tahoe's environment.

The Federal Interagency Partnership

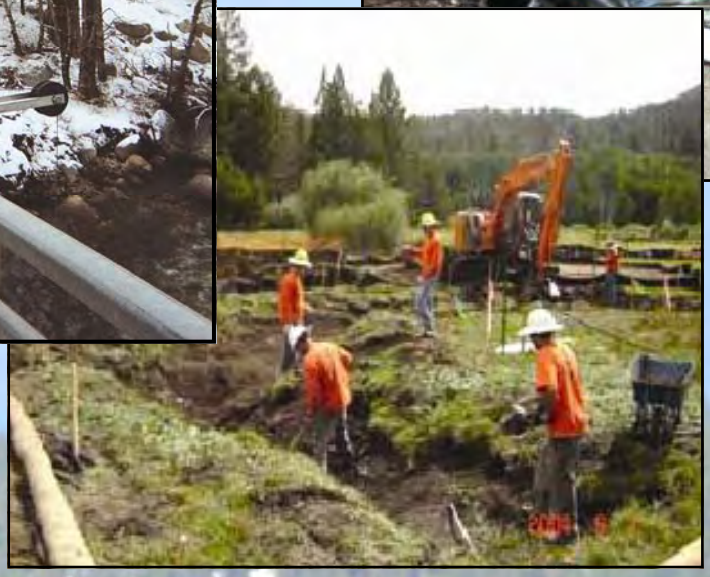
U. S. Department of Agriculture
- U. S. Forest Service
- Natural Resources Conservation Service

U. S. Department of Defense
- Army Corps of Engineers

U. S. Department of the Interior
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Bureau of Land Management
- U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U. S. Geological Survey

U. S. Department of Transportation
- Federal Highway Administration
- Federal Transit Administration

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency



Federal Interagency Partnership Presidential Commitments
1997-2007 Summary — A Decade Of Progress

Number	Agency	Presidential Commitment	Status
1	USEPA	Wastewater Pipeline—$7,150,000	Complete
2	USEPA	Water Quality Forecasting Model—$880,000	Complete *-Continuing-*
3	USEPA	Real-Time Threshold Monitoring Program—$ 200,000	Complete
4	USEPA	Multi-Agency Water Quality Research Team	Complete *-Continuing-*
5	USEPA	Lake Tahoe/Lake Biakal Partnership—$50,000	Complete
6	USEPA	Environmental Hotline—$15,000	Complete *-Continuing-*
7	USGS	Analysis of LTIMP Monitoring—$160,000	Complete
8	USGS	Digital Mapping of the Lake Basin—$150,000	Complete
9	USGS	Source of Gasoline Pollution—$740,000	Complete
10	USGS USFWS	Restoration of Lahontan Cutthrout Trout (LCT)—$275,000	Complete *-Continuing-*
11	USDOT	Road Erosion Control & Stormwater Management Master Plan—$300,000	Complete
12	USEPA	Stormwater Settling Basin—$50,000	Complete
13	USDOT	Road Weather Information System (RWIS)—$75,000	Complete
14	USFS	Forest Road Decommissioning and Improvement—$13,000,000	Complete
15	USFS	Watershed Restoration on National Forest Lands—$4,625,000	Complete *-Continuing-*
16	USEPA	Wetlands Restoration—$150,000	Complete
17	CORPS	Trout Creek—$700,000	Complete
18	NRCS	Backyard Conservation Initiative—$150,000 Soil Survey Update—$450,000	Complete *-Continuing-* Complete
19	USEPA	Source Water Protection Program—$50,000	Complete *-Continuing-*
20	USFS	Watershed Assessment—$2,600,000	Complete

Federal Interagency Partnership Presidential Commitments
1997-2007 Summary — A Decade Of Progress

Number	Agency	Presidential Commitment	Status
21	USFS	Fire History—$125,000	Complete
22	USFS	Urban Lots—$2,000,000	Complete *-Continuing-*
23	USFS	Prescribed Burning—$2,500,000	Complete *-Continuing-*
24	USFS	Mechanical Treatment—$7,483,200	Complete *-Continuing-*
25	USFS	Land Acquisition—$2,550,000	Complete *-Continuing-*
26	USFS	Forest Health Consensus Group—$150,000	Complete
27	USDOT USFS USEPA	Coordinated Transit System—$1,250,000 Coordinated Transit System—60 Acres Coordinated Transit System—$1,250,000	Complete Complete Complete
28	USDOT	East Shore Beach Shuttle—$20,000	
29	USDOT	Transit Center—$1,000,000	Complete
30	USDOT	Reno/Tahoe Airport—$6,000,000	Complete
31	USPS	Mail Delivery Upgrade—$250,000	Complete
32	USGS USFS	GIS-Internet Linked Database—$525,000 GIS-Internet Linked Database—$525,000	Complete Complete *-Continuing-*
33	USEPA	Technical Staff Support—$75,000	Complete *-Continuing-*
34	USFS	Washoe Tribe Memorandum of Agreement	Complete
35	USFS	Cave Rock Environmental Analysis—$120,000	Complete
36	USFS	Meeks Meadow Special Use Permit—$27,000	Complete
37	USFS	Taylor Creek Washoe Cultural Center—$150,000	Complete
38	CORPS	Watershed Restoration Partnership—$1,100,000	Complete *-Continuing-*
39	USEPA	Water Quality Partnership Agreement—$60,000	Complete *-Continuing-*

Federal Interagency Partnership Presidential Commitments

Department of Agriculture

Number	Agency	Commitment	Accomplishment	Status
18	NRCS	**Backyard Conservation Initiative—$150,000** Technical assistance to individual homeowners on nutrient and water management and deliver a "Backyard Conservation" initiative to 1,000 homeowners each year targeting erosion and sediment control. **Soil Survey Update—$450,000** Update soil survey information for the Lake Tahoe Basin and provide information in electronic format for use in GIS analysis	-The *Backyard Conservation Program* at Lake Tahoe has exceeded the original target of reaching 1,000 homeowners per year. Annually, an estimated 12,000 landowners are contacted about BMP- Retrofit requirements. About 30 public workshops are held each year and numerous other presentations are made for homeowners, contractors, realtors, community groups, and schools. -NRCS produced the 2006 Soil Survey for the Tahoe Basin Area, California and Nevada. The soil survey has been released in digital format.	**Complete $3,705,250** *-Continuing-* **Complete $946,000**
14	USFS	**Forest Road Decommissioning and Improvement—$13,000,000** Improve 168 miles of roads, close 116 miles of roads, convert 1/3 of closed roads to trails over 10 years (29 miles per year 1998-1999; 41 miles per year 2000-2008)	1997-2004 108 miles decommissioned 13 miles converted to trails, 170 miles improved/reconstructed roads.	**Complete $14,255,000**
15	USFS	**Watershed Restoration on National Forest Lands—$4,625,000** Complete 1 mile of channel restoration 1998-1999, and 2 miles per year from 2000-2002; 25 acres riparian restoration in 1998, 125 acres in 1999 and 200 acres per year 2000-2002; and 100 acres cooperative projects in 1998, 150 acres in 1999, and 200 acres per year 2000-2002	1997-2006 390 acres of riparian habitat improved and 40 miles of stream improved. (Targets shifted to miles of stream improved)	**Complete $7,600,000** *-Continuing-*
20	USFS	**Watershed Assessment—$2,600,000** Comprehensive Lake Tahoe Basin watershed assessment	Comprehensive Lake Tahoe Basin Watershed Assessment completed in 2000.	**Complete $1,570,000**
21	USFS	**Fire History—$125,000** Establish baseline information on natural fire history and vegetation conditions in the Lake Tahoe Basin.	Established baseline information on natural fire history and vegetation conditions in the Lake Tahoe Basin. This product continues to be used today.	**Complete $155,000**
22	USFS	**Urban Lots—$2,000,000** Clear brush and wood from over 3,500 federally owned lots (5 yrs)	1997-2006 1,462 acres completed.	**Complete $35,318,000** *-Continuing-*
23	USFS	**Prescribed Burning—$2,500,000** Reduce fuels on 1,000 acres per year for 5 years by prescribed burning	1997-2006 7,647 acres completed.	(Combined integrated fuels-
24	USFS	**Mechanical Treatment—$7,483,200** Mechanical treatment to reduce fuels on 2,000 acres per year for 5 years	1997-2006 10,410 acres completed	mechanical treatment program)

Federal Interagency Partnership Presidential Commitments

Department of Agriculture

Number	Agency	Commitment	Accomplishment	Status
25	USFS	**Land Acquisition—$2,550,000** Acquisition of 90 environmentally sensitive parcels (315 acres)	1997-2006 2,979 acres acquired.	**Complete** **$54,871,000** *Continuing*
26	USFS	**Forest Health Consensus Group—$150,000** Support the groups efforts to shape, monitor and update a comprehensive forest management plan ($50 ,000 per year)	Forest Service participated in this group which was later replaced by Tahoe ReGreen. This effort promoted interagency collaboration which is still on-going under the Pathway 2007 planning process.	**Complete**
29	USFS	**Coordinated Transit System—60 Acres** Forest Service to provide up to 60 acres of land for a transit center at 64 Acres in Tahoe City	Acreage was provided for this project and the EIS/EIR was completed in 2000.	**Complete**
32	USFS	**GIS-Internet Linked Database—$525,000** Bring IBM ARC INFO/ARC View (GIS) fully online and participate with USGS, TRPA and others in developing a database within the Executive Order. USFS hire and maintain a GIS staff.	GIS staff is in place. Software has been installed and is used on a daily basis. Data sharing is continuing. TIIMS contribution to TRPA $140,000.	**Complete** **$240,000** *-Continuing-*
34	USFS	**Washoe Tribe Memorandum of Agreement** Government to Government agreement with the Washoe tribe and USFS.	Agreement signed July 25, 1997.	**Complete**
35	USFS	**Cave Rock Environmental Analysis—$120,000** Analysis of management and assistance to TRPA and the Washoe Tribe for long range planning.	Environmental Impact Statement Record of Decision signed August 5, 2003.	**Complete**
36	USFS	**Meeks Meadow Special Use Permit—$27,000** 30 year Special Use Permit with the Washoe Tribe	Permit issued to the Washoe Tribe October 1997 and a Memorandum of Understanding issued July 1998.	**Complete**
37	USFS	**Taylor Creek Washoe Cultural Center—$150,000** USFS and the Washoe Tribe to enter into a 30 year special use permit for the establishment of a Washoe Cultural Center	Environmental Assessment was completed in 1998, however the Washoe Tribe has not executed the permit.	**Complete**

Federal Interagency Partnership Presidential Commitments

Department of Defense

Number	Agency	Commitment	Accomplishment	Status
17	CORPS	**Trout Creek—$700,000** Study to investigate environmental restoration opportunities in the Trout Creek Watershed and lead construction of restoration project if justified	Corps—This study was completed in 1999. While the study did not result in a project in the predicted watershed, it did spin off other projects (see USBR).	**Complete** **$100,000**
38	CORPS	**Watershed Restoration Partnership—$1,100,000** Partnership with TRPA to initiate a cost-shared Upper Truckee River and Trout Creek Watershed Feasibility Report, and use of Corps authority for additional opportunities of environmental restoration—Section 208 Study for Blackwood and Ward Creeks	The Corps, TRPA, and others have created several successful partnerships resulting in numerous projects including restoration of Mill Creek, Round Hill SEZ restoration, reconstruction of critical environmental infrastructure, establishment of a comprehensive wastewater infrastructure program, establishment of regional hydrology and hydraulic design criteria, creation of storm water loading evaluation tools, completion of several critical water quality studies and facilitating establishment of the Tahoe Science Consortium.	**Complete** **$2,700,000** *-Continuing-*

U. S. Postal Service

Number	Agency	Commitment	Accomplishment	Status
31	USPS	**Mail Delivery Upgrade—$250,000** Extend home and clustered mail box service to communities on the west shore of Lake Tahoe		**Complete**

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency

Number	Agency	Commitment	Accomplishment	Status
1	USEPA	**Wastewater Pipeline—$7,150,000** Provide grant to STPUD for replacement of 27 mile wastewater effluent pipeline	Grant to STPUD; 27 miles effluent export pipeline replaced.	**Complete** **$10,650,000**
2	USEPA	**Water Quality Forecasting Model—$880,000** Water quality modeling grant	Predictive, process-based model developed applied to TMDL development; continuing being improved	**Complete** **$1,080,000** *-Continuing-*
3	USEPA	**Real-Time Threshold Monitoring Program—$200,000** Funding to TRPA to develop real-time monitoring for water and air quality	Produced threshold data collection, evaluation, modeling, analysis and reporting system, public access to information via TIIMS.	**Complete** **$235,000**

Federal Interagency Partnership Presidential Commitments

Environmental Protection Agency

Number	Agency	Commitment	Accomplishment	Status
4	USEPA	**Multi-Agency Research Team—$0**	Culminated in creation of Tahoe Science Consortium.	**Complete** *-Continuing-*
5	USEPA	**Lake Tahoe/Lake Biakal Partnership—$50,000** Provide funding to Tahoe/Baikal Institute to conduct scientific research and education programs at Lake Tahoe and Lake Baikal	1998-—U.S, and Russian policy makers traveled to Lake Tahoe and Lake Baikal resulting in increased understanding of political, legal, and technical aspects of protecting these lake environments.	**Complete $50,000**
6	USEPA	**Environmental Hotline—$15,000** Implement National hotline demonstration	1-800-CLEANUP and www.1800cleanup.org provides zip code specific environmental and recycling information.	**Complete $10,000** *-Continuing-*
12	USEPA	**Stormwater Settling Basin—$50,000** Fund project at Ski Way Blvd. in Incline Village	Settling basin built in 1999 projected to capture 115 tons of sediment per year.	**Complete $50,000**
16	USEPA	**Wetlands Restoration—$150,000** Provide funding to CA and NV for wetlands restoration projects to filter out contaminants and improve water quality and habitat for wildlife	104 Wetlands Planning Grants: 1998—$150,000 1999—$96,000 2000—$150,000	**Complete $296,000**
19	USEPA	**Source Water Protection Program—$50,000** Provide funding to TRPA for a Source Water Protection Program under the Safe Drinking Water Act to ensure protection of public health	Following source water assessments, EPA funded efforts to identify source water protection measures and coordinate implementation among jurisdictions and with the EIP.	**Complete $280,000** *-Continuing-*
27	USEPA	**Coordinated Transit System—$1,250,000** In conjunction with USDOT award funds to coordinate and combine operation of mass transit vehicles owned by various public and private entities	Funding allocated.	**Complete $1,250,000**
33	USEPA	**Technical Staff Support—$75,000** EPA will increase staffing in the Basin to provide technical assistance and participate in multi-agency teams	EPA staffing (Lake Tahoe Basin Coordinator) has been provided since 1998.	**Complete $1,000,000** *-Continuing-*
39	USEPA	**Water Quality Partnership Agreement—$60,000** Agreement to ensure EPA, CA and NV coordinate research and implementation of water quality restoration	EPA has been working with CA and NV and has provided $1,700,000 to CA and $1,300,000 to NV since 1997 through the CWA program.	**Complete $3,000,000** *-Continuing-*

Federal Interagency Partnership Presidential Commitments

Department of Transportation

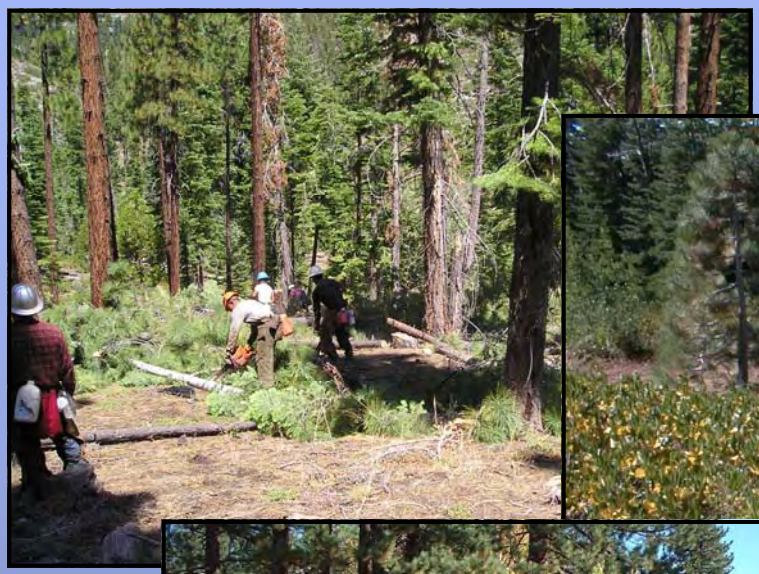
Number	Agency	Commitment	Accomplishment	Status
11	USDOT	**Road Erosion Control & Stormwater Management Master Plan—$300,000** Provide technical support for a master plan to upgrade paved roads and to improve erosion control and stormwater management	Master plan completed by Nevada Department of Transportation. Funding for US 50 and SR 28 authorized.	**Complete $10,250,000**
13	USDOT	**Road Weather Information System (RWIS)—$75,000** Fund new joint CA/NV plan to utilize an advanced weather information system to reduce wintertime application of sand, salt, and de-icing chemicals	RWIS operation in both states.	**Complete $75,000**
27	USDOT	**Coordinated Transit System—$1,250,000** In conjunction with USEPA ward funds to coordinate and combine operation of mass transit vehicles owned by various public and private entities	Funding obligated and in the design phase.	**Complete $1,800,000**
28	USDOT	**East Shore Beach Shuttle—$20,000** Fund a study to evaluate a new east shore beach shuttle service for Lake Tahoe beachgoers to address erosion, congestion, and safety hazards along State Route 28	Evaluation report completed, shuttle has ceased operations.	**Complete $20,000**
29	USDOT	**Transit Center—$1,000,000** USDOT will provide up to $1,000,000 for a transit center at 64 Acres in Tahoe City	Transit Center is operational.	**Complete $1,473,446**
30	USDOT	**Reno/Tahoe Airport—$6,000,000** Fund work at Reno/Tahoe International Airport to repair the cross-wind runway damage during recent winter floods	Work funded in 1998.	**$6,000,000**

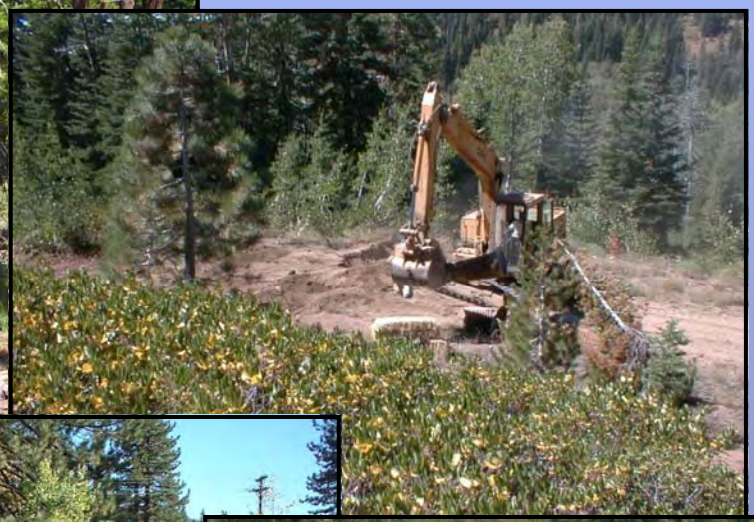
Federal Interagency Partnership Presidential Commitments

Department of Interior

Number		Commitment	Accomplishment	Status
18	USBR	**Backyard Conservation Initiative—$150,000** Technical assistance to individual homeowners on nutrient and water management and deliver a "Backyard Conservation" initiative to 1,000 homeowners each year targeting erosion and sediment control.	Reclamation granted $428,437 to Resource Conservation Districts on the California and Nevada sides of the Lake Tahoe Basin to facilitate implementation of Best Management Practices through the Backyard Conservation Program	**Complete $428,400**
17	USBR	**Trout Creek—$700,000** Study to investigate environmental restoration opportunities in the Trout Creek Watershed and lead construction of restoration project if justified	USBR—provided $1,319,000 to the City of South Lake Tahoe for channel reconfiguration and bioengineering methods .	**Complete $1,319,000**
7	USGS	**Analysis of LTIMP Monitoring—$160,000** Analyze and evaluate data generated by Lake Tahoe Interagency Monitoring Program (LTIMP over the past 15 years	USGS Fact Sheet FS-138-00 and Water Resources Report WRI-02-4030 have published. USGS- $256,000, UCD- $120,000, Lahontan RWQCB $120,000 and TRPA- $16,000	**Complete $1512,000**
8	USGS	**Digital Mapping of the Lake Basin—$150,000** Use new technology to produce a precise 3-dimensial digital map of the bottom surface of Lake Tahoe	USGS Open-File Report OFR-98-508, Map Reports WRI-99-4031 and WRI-99-4043 have been published. CORPS completed LiDAR mapping of shallow shore margins.	**Complete $150,000**
9	USGS	**Source of Gasoline Pollution—$740,000** Conduct an in-depth survey of organic contaminants in Lake Tahoe and tributary streams and groundwater	USGS Fact Sheet FS-055-98 and Report WRI-99-4218 have been published. USGS- $401,000, TRPA- $401,000	**Complete $802,000** *-Continuing-*
10	USGS USFWS	**Restoration of Lahontan Cutthrout Trout (LCT)—$275,000** Investigate the factors allowing LCT to successfully survive in Independence Lake and assess the feasibility of re-establishment of LCT in Lake Tahoe	USGS study and summary report are complete for Independence Lake- $280,000. USFWS completed three years of research and contracted with Tahoe Research Group on a study that emphasized the abundance, population structure, and forage base of Lake Trout and the food web of Fallen Leaf Lake. A new population of Lahontan cutthroat trout has been introduced and is being maintained at Fallen Leaf Lake-$829,300.	**Complete $1,109,300** *-Continuing-*
32	USGS	**GIS-Internet Linked Database—$525,000** Lead a multi-agency team to review and adopt, standards and protocols for spatial data and other data used in GIS that support improvement of the Basin's health.	Study is done with the set-up and design of TIIMS. TIIMS is ongoing. Lake Tahoe integrated into the USGS National Map Program.	**Complete $591,000**

A Decade Of Progress





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U. S. Environmental Protection Agency