

LTBMU Annual Soil and Water BMP Monitoring Report for FY15

By Susan Norman, Forest Hydrologist

October 2016

Accomplishments

The LTBMU completed the remaining five National BMP evaluations, required to meet the USFS national target of 12 evaluations per Forest between FY15 and 16. These evaluations were completed between June and October of 2016. A summary of the results of the seven evaluations previously conducted in 2015, are also posted on the LTBMU public website. No Regional BMPEP evaluations were conducted in 2016, based on current Regional Office direction. Year 2016 evaluation results are presented below:

Site	Protocol	National Evaluation Rating
Angora Stream Channel and Floodplain Restoration Project	AqEco_B	Fully/Mostly/Good
Yeti CTL IRSC Unit #4	Veg_C	Fully/Effective/Excellent
Yeti CTL IRSC Unit #1	Veg_C	Fully/Effective/Excellent
North Echo Summit Water Association	WatUses_B	Fully/Effective/Excellent
Upper Truckee River Restoration Project- Reach 5	AqEco_A	Fully/Effective/Excellent

As can be seen from the table above, most of the evaluations rated BMPs as fully implemented and effective in preventing adverse impacts to soil and water quality. The Angora Channel Restoration evaluation that received a “mostly” effective rating, was a result of flooding that occurred on an adjacent county road immediately downstream of the project during winter rain on snow events, as well as lack of adequate restoration of soil function on a section of decommissioned temporary road through wet meadow soils.

The LTBMU met with California Tahoe Conservancy, El Dorado County Transportation Department, and Lahontan Regional WQ Control Board regulatory staff to assess causes and identify adaptive management responses.

- 1) Coordinate with County and a local wildlife group to manage flooding of County road caused by beaver dams located on USFS property.
- 2) California Tahoe Conservancy to remove downed trees constricting desirable flow paths on CTC lands.
- 3) Harvest and plant meadow sod plugs in the decommissioned temporary access road ruts to disperse flow.
- 4) Install three wood-based water bars (Photos 6 and 7) to deflect flow off the decommission temporary access road to further disperse flows onto adjacent meadow surface

Despite these two effectiveness deficiencies the overall effectiveness of Angora Creek restoration efforts in restoring vegetation along the channel banks and meadow surface has been very successful as illustrated in the photographs below.



Photo 1. New constructed channel stream bank vegetative cover (Oct 2016).



Photo 2. Decommissioned channel fill surface condition (Oct 2016).

