Appendix B-8

LAKE TAHOE RESTORATION PROJECTS
ESTIMATED NECESSARY EXPENSES & KEY MILESTONE DATES

Project Name: Areawide Conservation Planning for EIP/TMDL Implementation

Agency: Natural Resources Conservation Service

Prepared by: Jane Schmidt Phone: 530-543-1501 EIP #: 630, 16

SNPLMA Project #: _____

Identify estimated costs of eligible reimbursement expenses:

1. Planning, Environmental Assessment and Research Costs (specialist surveys, reports, monitoring, data collection, analysis, NEPA, etc.)	$ 8,000	1 %
2. FWS Consultation—Endangered Species Act	$	%
3. Direct Labor (Payroll) to Perform the Project	$ 110,000	18 %
4. Project Equipment (tools, software, specialized equipment, etc.)	$ 30,000	6 %
5. Travel (including per diem where official travel status required to carry out project, such as serve as COR, experts to review reports, etc.)	$ 15,000	3 %
6. Official Vehicle Use (pro rata cost for use of Official Vehicles when required to carry out project)	$ 5,000	- %
7. **Cost of Contracts, Grants and/or Agreements to Perform the Project**	$ 300,000	50 %
8. Other Direct and Contracted Labor: Agency payroll for the Contracting Officer to do project procurement, COR, Project Inspector, Sec. 106 Consultation if required, NEPA Lead, Project Manager, Project Supervisor, and subject experts to review contracted surveys, designs/drawings, plans, reports, etc.; Also covered is the cost to contract for a Project Manager and/or Project Supervisor if contracted separately from other project contracts)	$ ~~42,000~~ 90,000	7 % 15
9. **Other Necessary Expenses** (See Appendix B-11)	$	
TOTAL:	$ 600,000	100 %

Estimated Key Milestone Dates:

Milestones/Deliverables:	Date:
700 integrated resource plans, private lands	**September, 2010**
Final Completion Date:	September, 2010

COMMENTS:

APPENDIX K
LAKE TAHOE CAPITAL PROJECT PROPOSAL
ROUND 9

Consistency with Lake Tahoe nomination criteria:

Project nominations must qualify as an Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) project and be the responsibility of the federal government (federal share responsibility); and have a willing and ready federal sponsor.

Project nominations must be consistent with one of the focus areas in the June 2006 Federal Vision (pp. 8-9) (http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/ltbmu/documents/ltbec/revised-FV-Final.pdf) and fit into at least one category.

***Capital Focus Area** (as described in the 2006 Federal Vision): Watershed and Habitat Improvement, Water Quality Protection (also cross-cuts other focus areas offering Assistance objectives).*

Circle a minimum of one category: (in bold print)

1. Continued emphasis on fuels reduction in coordination with projects funded under the 2006 SNPLMA amendment (the "White Pine" amendment).
2. Continued implementation of projects approved in Rounds 5 through 8 which implement the EIP. Project proposal should clearly describe the phase/product being produced along with the consequence of not completing the project phase proposed for Round 9.
List project(s):___16_____
3. Project is consistent with and contributes toward TMDL pollutant reductions within the four source categories (atmospheric, urban & groundwater, forested uplands, and stream channel).
List category(ies):_Urban and groundwater, stream channel_____
4. Control of aquatic invasive species and prevention of new aquatic invasive species.

Project Name: Areawide Conservation Planning For EIP /TMDL Implementation — **EIP #: 630, 16**

Lead Agency: Natural Resources Conservation Service — **Contact: Jane Schmidt**

Threshold: Water Quality — **Phone Number: 530-543-1501**

Threshold Standard: WQ4-A, WQ5, runoff water — **Email Address: jane.schmidt@ca.usda.gov**

Funding Requested in this Round: $600,000 — **Total Project Cost:** $600,000

Is this a multi-year Project? (If "Yes", describe in the Detailed Project Description below number of years or phases and which year the requested funding will cover) YES

Project Summary (maximum 200 words): (applicable ONLY to this Round 9 project):
Implement Areawide Conservation Planning on a minimum of 2 key watersheds in California and Nevada to facilitate and provide for enhanced delivery of Environmental Improvement Projects (EIP) and implementation of the TMDL within watershed boundaries. Address inter-related natural resource issues such as soil and water conservation, urban stormwater runoff, native and invasive species management, fuels reduction through creation of defensible space, water conservation and drinking water protection at a watershed level to enable residents and agencies to collaborate on strategies, solutions, and EIP implementation. This project targets outreach and coordination efforts at the watershed scale, as well as providing technical assistance to developed single-family residential property owners on the design and installation of retrofit BMP's targeting pollutants in urban stormwater runoff.

Detailed Project Description (focuses on what Round 9 is funding; list the number of years or phases the Round 9 requested funding will cover; if phased, briefly describe how this project links into previously phased projects including what remains for Rounds 10 and beyond).
Areawide Conservation Planning to facilitate EIP and TMDL implementation within key watersheds in California and Nevada. While the primary focus will be to target completion of TMDL-driven goals, the full range of inter-related resource concerns present in those watersheds will be addressed to gain maximum cumulative environmental benefits.

Currently, specific Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) projects such as BMP Retrofit, local erosion control projects, and stream channel restoration work are delivered on a basis of land ownership. Each property owner is responsible for independently delivering their "share" of EIP projects. This approach misses opportunities for collaboration among adjacent interests to work cooperatively to achieve mutually beneficial results. On the other extreme, the broader scale of watershed planning is typically completed for the entire Lake Tahoe Basin, as in the TMDL process. The broad planning approach does not identify opportunities linked to the distinctive nature and composition of individual communities and natural resources found within a watershed. There is a need to conduct planning and facilitate TMDL implementation at a watershed scale to effectively deliver environmental improvements specific to watersheds and their communities.

This watershed-focus approach provides a greater opportunity to foster community participation in support of EIP/TMDL project implementation. Through targeted outreach efforts, citizens are encouraged to play a central and substantive role in the stewardship of the watershed in which they live, and to take action to complete projects where they are integral to success such as BMP Retrofit projects, fire defensible space, and controlling the spread of noxious weeds. Watershed scale emphasis will also provide for a greater ability to effectively coordinate among agencies for accelerated attainment of environmental thresholds and strategically contribute to the reduction of source category pollutant loads. Watersheds will be selected based on TMDL priorities, appropriate scale to match available resources and permit effective collaboration, interest of communities in participating, and a mixture of proposed EIP projects and TMDL implementation opportunities that will benefit from enhanced coordination efforts.

Round 9 funding is requested to cover a 2 year period for watershed planning, delivery of conservation objectives including BMP Retrofit plans in coordination with fire defensible space, and reporting to demonstrate the value and accomplishments of utilizing areawide conservation planning.

Describe the goals and objectives of the project (those applicable ONLY to this Round 9 project):

The "Federal Vision" specifies that the Service Goal for programmatic assistance will emphasize a watershed approach, not political boundaries. This project is within the Watershed and Habitat Improvement Focus Area, Water Quality Protection Program. Includes objective under Education (WQP-ED1) to develop and implement an environmental education program and outreach strategy that will assist landowners in implementing BMP's. Assistance Objective WQP-A1 to provide conservation technical assistance to support implementation of the Backyard Conservation Program. Demonstrate the effectiveness of Areawide Conservation Planning to increase citizen participation in accomplishing urban stormwater pollution reduction while attaining other resource objectives in fuels reduction, native and invasive species management, water conservation, drinking water protection, and other areas. Take advantage of increased efficiencies of interagency coordination to attain environmental thresholds, specifically aimed at water quality objectives. Objectives include identifying watershed stakeholders and facilitating their collaboration in implementing the EIP/TMDL. Complete Areawide planning, including GIS portrayal of EIP projects, opportunities for TMDL implementation, gap analysis, and summary of cumulative effects. Share final project outcomes Basin-wide for replication and peer review.

Describe the anticipated project accomplishments (i.e. products or identifiable environmental benefits being produced or implemented under this project):

Provide technical assistance to produce 700 integrated plans for private property owners addressing Best Management Practices, fire defensible space, water conservation and drinking water protection, invasive and noxious weeds, and other pertinent resource issues with a community focus. Facilitate the implementation of these 700 integrated plans through the *Backyard Conservation Program.* Identify watershed stakeholders and encourage their participation in the identification, location, and design of community scale restoration efforts, targeting EIP and TMDL implementation. Provide the opportunity to scope projects that are planned. Increase opportunities for partnerships and collective planning for EIP and TMDL implementation. Provide coordinated outreach and education efforts within communities to avoid duplication and conflicting messages, and make the best use of available resources. Allow for greater coordination and application of scientific information specific to the watershed areas.

Describe the "readiness" of this project to move forward (urgency, capacity, capability, environmental documentation etc.):

Project would be ready to implement beginning in 2009. Technical support and infrastructure is in place and the *Backyard Conservation Program* is currently utilized to deliver outreach and education efforts targeting specific conservation issues.

Describe partnerships for this project. **(if applicable, project should identify partner funding [committed/secured] and how it is integrated into the project)**

Technical assistance on conservation issues is provided to private landowners within the Tahoe Basin through the "Backyard Conservation Program", a partnership effort with the Nevada Tahoe Conservation District, the Tahoe Resource Conservation District and NRCS. An MOU outlines responsibilities among these 3 agencies and TRPA for the BMP Retrofit Program. Cooperative Extension in Nevada and California supports some educational aspects of the program. The community orientation of this project would increase partnership efforts with local fire districts, the Firesafe Council, public utilities, other Federal and State agencies and active coordination with local jurisdictions to effectively deliver outreach and education programs, effectively utilize resources, and facilitate collaboration in developing specific solutions to water quality problems within the geographic areas of interest.

Describe the project monitoring that will be implemented as part of this project including:

1) **The questions the monitoring program is designed to answer**

To what extent are the integrated resource plans for private property implemented, are they implemented as planned, and are they effective in preventing soil erosion and water quality impacts? Do these integrated resource plans, once implemented, meet multiple objectives for water quality, fire defensible space, water conservation, and other pertinent issues to the specific communities? Does the Areawide Planning approach encourage increased community participation and awareness of local EIP/TMDL implementation efforts, and result in citizen action to complete projects? Does the watershed planning and coordination effort result in accelerated attainment of environmental thresholds? Continually consider and adapt new technologies to residential scale applications for Best Management Practices.

2) **The monitoring approach** **(describe the methods and strategies [i.e. monitoring, research, or both] that will be used to verify whether the project goals and objectives have been met. A detailed monitoring/research plan is not required, but enough detail must be provided to allow someone that is unfamiliar with the project to understand and evaluate the proposed methods and strategies.)**

Project effectiveness will be evaluated by determining the increased rate of community participation in EIP/TMDL implementation, and the ability to increase voluntary compliance with provisions contained in TRPA Ordinances or with other unregulated issues that are of concern to communities. Increased collaboration among agencies and with watershed stakeholders will be documented and results that lead to accelerated attainment of environmental thresholds will be recorded.

3) **Whether this project monitoring fits into a larger monitoring or research program** **(including how information from the monitoring and research will be used to improve the continued performance of the proposed project or improve future similar projects)**

This project lends itself to fit into a larger context of science and research in the Basin. The urban lands will be a focus of TMDL implementation, and this requires understanding of the connectivity between developed and undeveloped land uses within watersheds. Various models being developed and employed to estimate load reductions could be used by researchers to test and report on the effectiveness of a watershed approach to EIP/TMDL implementation. There are ample opportunities to collect data on applied BMP practices that would prove useful in continually improving the program. Data collected may support broader modeling efforts to improve long-term effectiveness of BMP's. These opportunities need to be identified as additional efforts in science and research are funded; we expect to work in a cooperative effort with the science community on these issues.

Describe these two items which will be considered along with the above project monitoring information by the Tahoe Science Consortium related to research and monitoring resource areas and the effectiveness of environmental restoration activities:

1) Describe the specific goals and objectives of the project and describe how fulfilling those objectives will contribute to the achievement of one or more environmental thresholds.

Programmatic assistance provided by this project will emphasize a watershed approach, not political boundaries. Specific goals and objectives include (1) develop and implement an environmental education program and outreach strategy that will assist landowners in implementing BMP's; (2) provide conservation technical assistance to support implementation of the Backyard Conservation Program; (3) demonstrate the effectiveness of Areawide Conservation Planning to increase citizen participation in accomplishing urban stormwater pollution reduction while attaining other resource objectives in fuels reduction, native and invasive species management, water conservation, and other areas; (5) take advantage of increased efficiencies of interagency coordination to attain environmental thresholds, specifically aimed at water quality objectives.

The implementation of the TMDL is being primarily focused on reducing fine sediment discharges in the urban upland land use which is comprised primarily of residences, businesses and secondary roads. The US Army Corps of Engineers and Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board Report *"Methodology to Estimate Pollutant Load Reductions in Lake Tahoe"* identifies that increases in residential BMP compliance, increased sanding management oversight and increased stormwater treatment are all part of the solution and that decisions must be made at the local levels. Communities will play a key role in making these decisions and supporting their implementation.

By engaging citizens at the community and watershed level, residents will actively participate in key decisions and EIP/TMDL implementation. Otherwise, local acceptance of and support in implementing resource objectives is unlikely to occur.

2) Describe the risk to the environment from failure of the proposed project (i.e. if the project fails what is the environmental consequence).

Failure of the project would result in a status quo situation for EIP / TMDL implementation in the selected watersheds; while there is no anticipated negative impact from project failure, the expected positive net benefit would not be attained.

Describe how the project results will be communicated and made available to the public.

An education and outreach program is in place and is delivered through the *Backyard Conservation Program.* Materials have been developed to explain the rationale for the program, and demonstration sites and workshops are utilized as teaching tools. Other components of outreach and education include media articles or segments, one-on-one contacts with landowners, Tip Sheets explaining practices, and school projects. TRPA survey data from Pathway efforts will be used to target audiences with specific education messages and use communication methods that have proven to be effective. Numerous types of information will be provided to watershed stakeholders, agencies and local jurisdictions including GIS generated maps of communities and watersheds, land use locations and pollutant loading information, EIP project locations, data specific to BMP's/fire defensible space/water conservation, and other important conservation issues specific to the watersheds.

Include an 8 ½ X 11 map depicting the project.

This project will include targeted watersheds important to EIP and TMDL implementation in both California and Nevada.