

**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/lbmu/documents/lbtec/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 Focus Area. Habitat Improvement Program.

Highlight a minimum of one category:

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): 10184

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): _____

4. Control of aquatic invasive species and prevention of new aquatic invasive species.

Project Name:

Invasive Weeds – Technical Assistance on Private Lands

Lead Agency:

Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA)

Threshold: Vegetation

Threshold Standard:

V1 common plant communities

Funding Requested in this Round: \$238,000

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)

EIP #: 10184

Contact: Jane Schmidt

District Conservationist

Phone Number: 530-543-1501

Email Address:

jane.schmidt@ca.usda.gov

Total Project Cost: \$700,000

Yes

Project Summary (maximum 200 words): (applicable ONLY to this Round 9 project):

This project targets the spread of invasive weeds in the Lake Tahoe Basin, a serious threat to native ecosystems and to water quality objectives. Many of the noxious and invasive species in the Lake Tahoe Basin are at early stages of infestation, making control measures feasible, at this time. This project provides private property owners with direct education targeting noxious and invasive plant species of concern in the Lake Tahoe Basin, replacement native plants, and produces plans documenting conservation technical assistance provided to landowners to address invasive weed control and restoration with native plantings. An integrated approach will be applied to prevent the introduction, establishment, and spread of harmful non-native plant species in the Lake Tahoe Basin. Activities must include exclusion, detection, eradication, and suppression, and provide for restoration of impacted sites.

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).

To provide private property owners with conservation technical assistance in the area of noxious and invasive biological species that is in compliance with all local and state regulations. Conduct field visits to detect and verify invasive plant species, prescribe appropriate conservation practices and provide state or county referrals for treatment and provide homeowners with revegetation technical assistance. This project continues the work of the Lake Tahoe Basin Weed Coordination Group, with a special focus on residential properties in the Tahoe Basin. The program would be delivered as a component of the *Backyard Conservation Program*.

This project is part of a multi-year effort, and this funding request is to support the program for two years. Similar needs are expected for future outyears.

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

This project addresses two assistance goals in the 2006 Federal Vision: HIP-A3, Provide technical assistance to private landowners in the conservation or restoration of terrestrial and aquatic habitats. HIP-A4, Provide technical assistance to private landowners in the exclusion, detection, and eradication of noxious or invasive plant species and provide for restoration of treated areas. An integrated approach will be applied to prevent the introduction, establishment, and spread of harmful non-native biological species in the Lake Tahoe Basin. Education, outreach and technical assistance will target exclusion, detection, eradication, and suppression, and provide for restoration of impacted sites. The goal is to increase the awareness of Basin residents about this issue and enlist their aid in early detection and control as new noxious weeds appear in the Basin. Focus on reducing the impacts of noxious and invasive biological species that compromise water quality through an increased rate of soil erosion and nutrient transport, especially in key riparian and wetland ecosystems critical to maintaining water quality in Lake Tahoe.

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

To assist a minimum of 400 private property owners with direct technical assistance targeting noxious and invasive biological species of concern in the Lake Tahoe Basin, or to produce plans documenting conservation technical assistance provided to landowners to address control and restoration measures. Practices may include: pest management, including referrals on noxious weed control, mulching recommendations to reduce noxious weed invasion on difficult sites, wildlife upland habitat management, and critical area planting to restore affected sites. To produce tip sheets on noxious and invasive biological species that addresses the full complement of strategies needed to combat these biological threats to the Lake Tahoe Basin environment. Furnish private property owners with information on prevention, who to contact for assistance, how to control or contain the spread of these species, and technical recommendations on restoration of treated areas to resist further threat of invasion. Produce 4 media articles targeting local newspapers, radio or television for outreach and education on noxious and invasive biological species threats to the Lake Tahoe environment. Provide one in depth training (in English and Spanish) to landscapers/contractors on proper invasive weeds and proper landscape maintenance and restoration techniques. Conduct two advanced agency field staff identification trainings.

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

The foundation for this program was put into place through Round 7 funds and as such is ready to implement when funding is received.

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

The Lake Tahoe Basin Weed Coordinating Group was established through a MOU in 2000, and includes about 2 dozen agencies within the Tahoe Basin. This project proposal focuses on the primary goals and objectives of the Weed Coordinating Group for weed infestations affecting private lands. The *Backyard Conservation Program* is used to deliver program activities, and is a cooperative effort among the Nevada Tahoe Conservation District, the Tahoe Resource Conservation District, and the NRCS.

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

1) The questions the monitoring program is designed to answer

Evaluate invasive weed infestations on private land for agencies working to reduce this threat to the Lake Tahoe Basin environment. Determine levels of public awareness of the invasive weed issue and the ability of the outreach efforts to convince the public to take an active role in responding to this issue.

2) The monitoring approach:

Reports collected by County agencies with invasive weed programs will provide detection data on private lands to a master GIS database for risk analysis of future threats to the Tahoe Basin. This project will feed new data into this inventory effort to complete the bigger picture of invasive weed threats to the environment and allow

for adaptive management to better target these threats. Number of residents assisted and the outcome of this assistance will be ascertained.

3) Whether this project monitoring fits into a larger monitoring or research program:

Yes, this project is part of a comprehensive Basin-wide effort to monitor and track the threat of invasive plant species invasion into the Tahoe Basin, and to provide data for the most effective means of early control of these species.

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.

The goal is to identify and eradicate invasive weeds on private properties basin-wide while promoting revegetation with native plants to enhance restoration efforts.

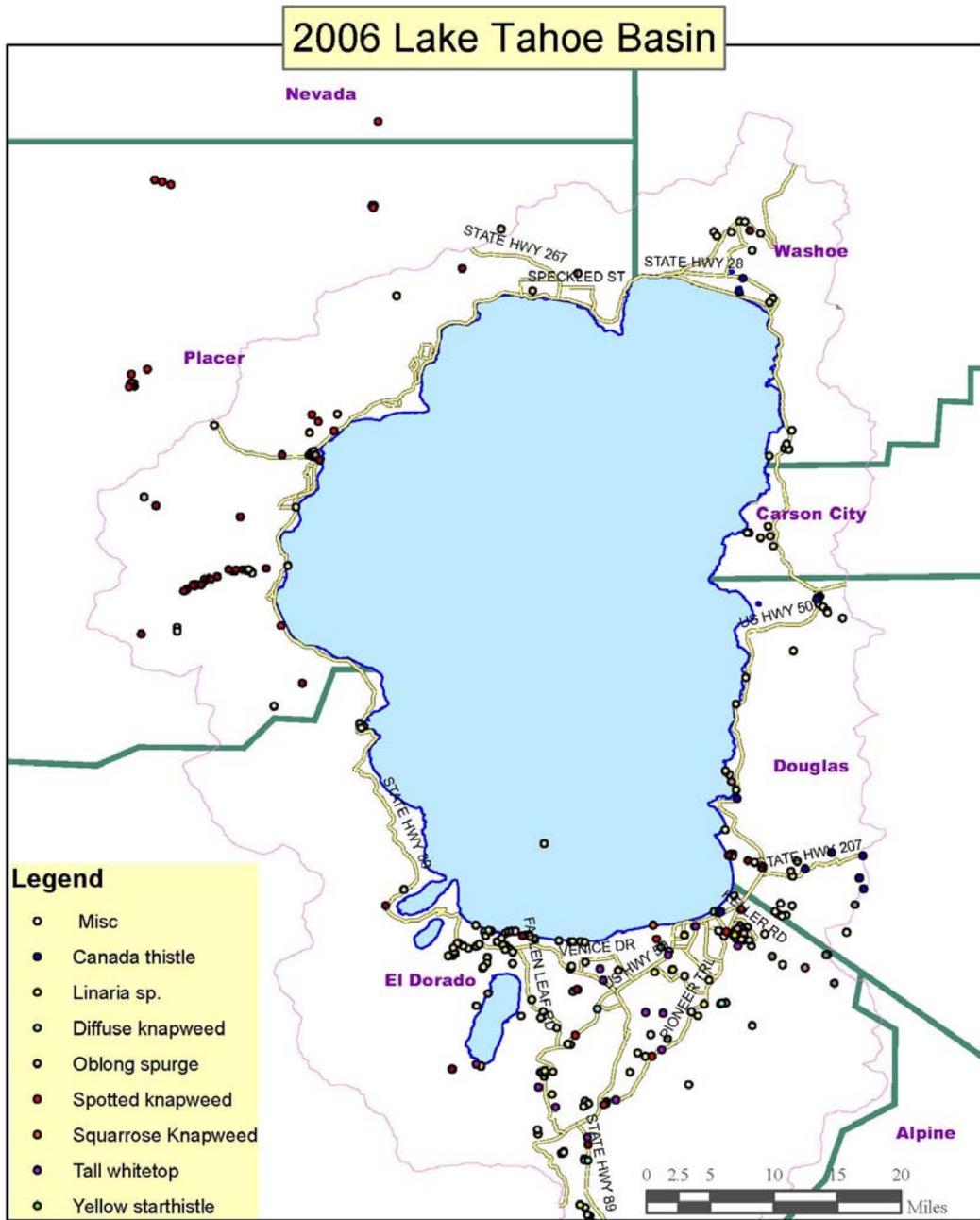
2) Describe the risk to the environment from failure of the proposed project: (i.e. if the project fails what is the environmental consequence).

Non-native weeds are highly invasive with a well-known propensity to establish and disseminate rapidly. These weeds will out-compete native vegetation quickly, eventually creating a monoculture that negatively impacts wild areas, public lands and forests, recreation and other assets of economic and natural significance, including Lake Tahoe's famed water clarity.

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

The delivery of this project to residential landowners will be made through the *Backyard Conservation Program*, a cooperative effort among the Nevada Tahoe Conservation District, the Tahoe Resource Conservation District, and NRCS. Education, outreach and technical assistance will be provided to landowners to increase their awareness on the integrated steps needed to prevent and control invasive plant species from having a long-term negative impact on the water quality and terrestrial habitats at Lake Tahoe and to encourage them to be proactive in dealing with this issue. This program on invasive plant species will be commensurate with the number of property owners targeted for delivery of the *Backyard Conservation Program*. Additionally, advertisements will be carried out so the public is aware of this new assistance available to them. Workshops, trainings, and presentations will be conducted on a regular basis to ensure all audiences are reached. Activities associated with this project will be added to the demonstration gardens at the Lake Tahoe and Sierra Nevada Community Colleges.

Include an 8 ½ X 11 map depicting the project.



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