

APPENDIX I

LAKE TAHOE CAPITAL PROJECT PROPOSAL

Project Name: Noxious Weeds – Technical Assistance on Private Lands	Capital Focus Area: Watershed and Habitat Improvement Focus Area. Habitat Improvement Program.	EIP #: 10184
Lead Agency: Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA)	Contact: Jane Schmidt, District Conservationist	
Threshold: Vegetation	Phone Number: 530-543-1501 (101)	
Threshold Standard: Need list from TRPA	Email Address: Jane.schmidt@ca.usda.gov	
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)	Total Project Cost: \$500,000	
YES	Funding Request in this Round: \$100,000	

Project Summary (maximum 200 words): This project targets the emerging issue of noxious weed invasion 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 biological species of concern in the Lake Tahoe Basin, or produces plans documenting conservation technical assistance provided to landowners to address noxious weed control and restoration measures. An integrated approach will be applied to prevent the introduction, establishment, and spread of harmful non-native biological species in the Lake Tahoe Basin. Activities must include exclusion, detection, eradication, and suppression, and provide for restoration of impacted sites.

Detailed Project Description: 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 perform verification of noxious and invasive biological species, prescribe appropriate conservation practices and provide state or county referrals for treatment. This project incorporates goals of the Tahoe Basin Weed Coordination Group, and supports the Coordinator for this program, 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 is a multi-year effort, and this funding request is to support the program for one year.

Describe the goals and objectives of the project: This project addresses HIP-A3 and HIP-A4, providing technical assistance to private landowners in the conservation / restoration of habitat and targeting invasive or noxious weeds. An integrated approach will be applied to prevent the introduction, establishment, and spread of harmful non-native biological species in the Lake Tahoe Basin. Activities must include 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. As native plant communities - especially in the critical wetland filtering areas - are replaced with deep tap-rooted noxious and invasive species, water tables are lowered, soil stability is reduced and higher sediment loads are produced. Due to the highly sensitive nature of the Lake Tahoe Basin ecosystem, the ability to use chemicals to treat infestations of noxious and invasive biological species is severely restricted. This

restriction on the use of chemical controls is especially critical in dealing with aggressive aquatic noxious species, where other means of control and restricting their spread must be employed.

Describe the anticipated project accomplishments: To assist a minimum of 200 private property owners with direct education 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 host at least 5 workshops to 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 5 media articles targeting local newspapers, radio or television for outreach and education on noxious and invasive biological species threats to the Lake Tahoe environment. Target 2 demonstration sites, one in each State to show successful strategies for curtailing noxious or invasive weeds..

Describe the “readiness” of this project to move forward (Environmental documentation, etc.): Program is ready to implement when funding is received.

Describe partnerships for this project. (Include documentation): Tahoe Weed Coordination Group was established through a MOU in 2000, and includes numerous agencies within the Tahoe Basin. The *Backyard Conservation Program* 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

Provide information on new noxious weed infestations to agencies working to reduce this threat to the Lake Tahoe Basin environment. Determine levels of public awareness of the noxious 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 noxious 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 noxious weed threats to the environment and allow for adaptive management to better target these threats.

(3) Whether this project monitoring fits in to a larger monitoring or research program?

Yes, this project is part of a comprehensive Basin-wide effort to monitor and track the threat of

noxious species invasion into the Tahoe Basin, and to provide data for the most effective means of early control of these species.

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 training will be provided to landowners to increase their awareness on the integrated steps needed to prevent noxious and invasive biological 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 noxious and invasive biological species will be commensurate with the number of property owners targeted for delivery of the *Backyard Conservation Program*.

Include an 8 ½ X 11 map depicting the project.

The project could include all private lands with single-family residential parcels in the Lake Tahoe Basin, and is not easily depicted on a specific map.

Appendix B-8

**LAKE TAHOE RESTORATION PROJECTS
ESTIMATED DIRECT COSTS & KEY MILESTONE DATES**

Project Name: Noxious Weeds - Technical Assistance on Private Lands Agency: Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA)
 Prepared by: Jane Schmidt Phone: 530-543-1501 EIP #: 10184
 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.)	\$	<u>3,000</u>	<u>3</u>	%
2. FWS Consultation-Endangered Species Act	\$	<u>0</u>	<u>-</u>	%
3. Direct Labor (Payroll) to Perform the Project		<u>12,000</u>	<u>12</u>	%
4. Project Equipment (tools, software, specialized equipment, etc.)	\$	<u>5,000</u>	<u>5</u>	%
5. Travel (including per diem where official travel status required to carry out project, such as serve as COR, experts to review reports, etc.)	\$	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	%
6. Official Vehicle Use (pro rata cost for use of Official Vehicles when required to carry out project)	\$	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	%
7. Cost of Contracts, Grants and/or Agreements to Perform the Project	\$	<u>60,000</u>	<u>60</u>	%
8. Other Direct Costs 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	\$	<u>5,000</u>	<u>5</u>	%
9. Other Necessary Expenses (See A- B9)	\$	<u>15,000</u>	<u>15</u>	%
TOTAL:	\$	<u>100,000</u>	<u>100</u>	%

Estimated Key Milestone Dates:

Milestones/Deliverables:		Date:
Workshops	5	Sept, 2009
Demonstration sites (1 Nevada, 1 California)	2	Sept, 2009
Technical Assistance to private landowners	200	Sept, 2009
Media articles	5	Sept, 2009
Final Completion Date:		Sept, 2009