

**ROUND 11 CAPITAL PROJECT NOMINATION FORM**  
**LAKE TAHOE FEDERAL SHARE EIP CAPITAL PROJECTS**  
**APPENDIX K**

<b>Project Name:</b>	Taylor-Tallac Restoration Project	<b>EIP Number:</b> <i>(Required)</i>	10044
<b>Federal Agency Sponsor:</b> <i>(Required)</i>	US Forest Service	<b>Contact:</b>	Richard Vacirca
<b>Threshold:</b>	WQ, W, F, V, SC, SR, R	<b>Phone Number:</b>	530-543-2768
<b>Threshold Standard:</b>	WQ2&4, SC2, V1, F2-3, W2, R1, SR2	<b>Email:</b>	rvacirca@fs.fed.us
<b>FUNDING REQUESTED IN THIS ROUND:</b>		\$ 180,000	

**Federal Share EIP Consideration**

Select "yes" or "no" for each question. If you have a "yes" response, briefly describe. **Projects must meet one or more of these 5 items.**

- 1. Does the project involve federal land? Yes No**  
**If yes, is the federal land involved important to successful implementation of the project?**

The entire project occurs on Forest Service land along Lake Tahoe's south shore between Tallac and Taylor creeks.

- 2. Is this project identified in the EIP? If yes, please ensure the EIP number is identified in the above project information box. If no, provide a description of the projects contribution to the EIP program. Yes No**

- 3. Does the project involve the conservation of a federal or regional threatened, rare, endangered, or special interest species? Yes No**

Special interest species include: Tahoe yellow cress, Lahontan tui chub, Tahoe sucker, Lahontan redbreast shiner and willow flycatcher.

- 4. Does the project involve an identified federal interest such as the detection and eradication of non-native invasive species (aquatic or terrestrial)? Yes No**  
**If yes, identify the species?**

Eurasian milfoil  
 Invasive warm-water fishes (largemouth bass, bluegill, brown headed catfish)  
 Bull frogs

- 5. Does the project contribute to supporting implementation of capital projects in the EIP? Such projects that fulfill this function would include technical assistance, data management, and/or resource inventories? Yes No**

**Check all Capital Focus Area(s) that apply:**

- 1. **Watershed and Habitat Improvement**
- 2. **Forest Health**
- 3. **Air Quality and Transportation**
- 4. **Recreation and Scenic**

**Check all that apply (must meet a minimum of one category):**

- 1. **Continued emphasis on forest ecosystem health/fuels reduction projects considering the LTBMU Stewardship Fireshed Assessment and Lake Tahoe Basin Multi-Jurisdictional Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Strategy.**
- 2. **Continued implementation of projects approved in Rounds 5 through 10 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 10.**

***List Rounds and funding:***

Round 6 - \$40,000 SNPLMA Project Number: F047 (Taylor, Tallac and Spring Creek Watershed Ecosystem Restoration Project)
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- 3. **Project is consistent with and contributes toward TMDL pollutant reductions within the four source categories (atmospheric, urban & groundwater, forested uplands, and stream channel). *NOTE: If “yes”, then please respond to questions in the accomplishments section of the nomination proposal.***
- 4. **Control of aquatic invasive species and prevention and/or detection of new aquatic invasive species.**

## Project Nomination Proposal Outline

### **Project Summary (a brief summary which clearly describes the proposed project –maximum 200 words)**

- Summarize ONLY this Round 11 project.

This Round 11 proposal would fund initiation and completion of NFMA and NEPA that would include the following restoration activities: Baldwin Beach access road culvert replacement/installation, legacy road upgrades, recreation facility BMP upgrades, lagoon/wetland restoration and control and treatment of aquatic invasive species.

### **Project Description**

#### **Introduction**

- Provide project background which explains the situation and state the problem and how it will be addressed.

*Note: Focus needs to be the project in Round 11 not a history of an ongoing project or program.*

Taylor and Tallac creeks are located on the south shore of Lake Tahoe in El Dorado County, 4.5 miles west of the City of South Lake Tahoe. Historically, these two wetland complexes provided approximately 400 acres of wetland and meadow habitat. The wetland conditions are influenced by processes occurring on variable time scales related to geologic and lake level influences. The valley between Taylor and Tallac creeks is dissected by a series of historic lagoons (or swales) that created wetland habitat for a variety of native animal and plant species. From historic aerial photos, it appears that these swales may have hydrologically connected Taylor and Tallac creeks and follow topographic features such as historic beaches/lake levels. Land management practices since the 1850s has altered the barrier beach and lagoon formation/maintenance processes.

In addition to wetland and aquatic habitat alterations the influx of aquatic invasive species, such as Eurasian watermilfoil, bull frogs and warm-water fishes have invaded both Tallac and Taylor creeks, which now compete with native species such as Lahontan tui chub, Lahontan redbreast shiner and Tahoe yellow cress.

Round 6 funded the development of the Taylor-Tallac Restoration Plan, which was completed in September 2009. The Taylor-Tallac Restoration Plan outlines a program of work for meadow, wetland, aquatic habitat and recreation site restoration activities. The Plan documents a need to upgrade current recreation facilities to meet water quality, aquatic habitat and visitor use objectives. NEPA is needed prior to implementation of this project to determine necessary levels of project refinement in order to conserve sensitive resources.

- Describe what Round 11 is specifically funding; list the number of years the requested funding will cover; briefly describe how this project links into previous and future projects, and identify other round funding.

*NOTE: Focus should be on finishing current/phased projects. If project is new in Round 11, clearly identify if the project is for planning or implementation and how it will be completed with Round 11 funds. Identify if Round 12 or other funds will be needed to complete the project. Please identify total non-SNPLMA funds that are being contributed/dedicated to the proposed Round 11 project and the source of those funds.*

This Round 11 proposal would fund initiation and completion of NEPA by March 2012. The Restoration Plan (funded in Round 6) identified the following potential activities that would move the area towards desired ecological conditions and enhance recreation site function:

1. Baldwin Beach access road culvert replacement/installation: Replace/install 3 culverts along Baldwin Beach access road at swales 1, 3 and 4 intersections in order to increase surface and groundwater connectivity.
2. Legacy road upgrades: Remove 2 historic road crossings and replace 1 culvert along swale 1 (STPUD man-hole access).
3. Recreation facility BMP upgrades: Upgrade Baldwin Beach parking lots (re-pave, improve drainage and install BMPs to protect surface and groundwater resources).
4. Lagoon/wetland restoration: Enhance the physical characteristics of swales 2, 3 and 4 to promote surface water retention during various lake stages.
5. Control and treatment of aquatic invasive species (AIS): Conduct AIS control measures, including hand pulling and installing bottom barriers in Tallac and Taylor creeks and swale 1 and conduct manual warm-water fish removal efforts in Taylor Creek.

The NEPA process that Round 11 funding would pay for includes: refine internal proposal development as part of National Forest Management Act (NFMA) consistency requirements; complete interagency and public scoping; complete appropriate level of NEPA documentation; and complete 1 NEPA decision document.

Round 12 or other funding (estimated at \$2,000,000) will be needed to implement potential action items 1-4, all of which will be included in the NEPA document. Implementation funding would pay for necessary permitting, equipment/construction contracts, BMP installation and maintenance, and any additional site-specific pre-work needed prior to project initiation. Funding for action item 5 will be procured in coordination with the Lake Tahoe AIS Coordination Committee.

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

The Taylor-Tallac Restoration Plan provides a site-specific framework for achieving desired ecological conditions in balance with continued recreation use. In completing the Plan extensive coordination occurred between internal and external partners, such as South Tahoe Public Utility District (STPUD) and Forest Service (USFS) recreation, engineering and ecology staff. Furthermore, the Plan specifically identifies the project purpose and need, desired conditions and a scope and scale of proposed activities, which will all feed into the NEPA analysis in a consistent/time effective manner.

The timing of planning for this project also fits well with restoration efforts that have occurred and are currently on-going in the south shore. For instance, the California Tahoe Conservancy (CTC) is in the process of planning wetland restoration efforts in the Truckee River Marsh and aquatic weed removal methods are being tested in the Tahoe Keys to support future larger scale removal efforts. These activities coupled with the Taylor-Tallac project have interrelated objectives from the standpoint of meeting ecological and water quality desired conditions in the south shore of Lake Tahoe.

- Describe partnerships for this project. (if applicable, project should identify committed/secured partner funding and/or other partner contributions (describe) and how it is integrated into the project)

Continued coordination would continue between the USFS and STPUD regarding access needs to public utility lines. The monitoring of AIS populations and treatment strategies in the Taylor-Tallac area has been identified by the Lake Tahoe AIS Working Group as one of the recommended action items as part of the AIS program. Partnership funding for the AIS implementation portion of the Taylor-Tallac Restoration Project is anticipated to come from alternative sources, which will be coordinated with the LTAIS Coordination Committee.

*Note: The form requests information about project goals, objectives, accomplishments, and questions the program is designed to answer across several different sections. These issues are closely linked and your individual responses should provide a cohesive description.*

**Goal – Purpose and Need (“larger” statement of future expected outcome – usually not measurable)**

The purpose and need of the project is to complete 1 NEPA document, which includes analysis to support goals of a) restoring ecological processes of meadow, wetland and aquatic habitat and b) improving water quality and protecting groundwater resources in the Taylor Tallac area of Lake Tahoe.

**Objectives (specific measurable statements of action which when completed will move towards achieving the goal)**

*Note: Objectives will form the basis for the milestones/deliverables to be identified in Appendix B-8*

- Describe how fulfilling objectives will contribute to the achievement of one or more environmental thresholds (air quality, water quality, soil conservation, vegetation, fisheries, wildlife, scenic, noise, recreation). Provide measures if applicable. For example: acres treated, miles of stream restored for each objective.

Implementation of the NEPA sub-projects would eventually contribute to the achievement of the following thresholds:

Fisheries (F) - Stream Habitat (F2); In-stream Flow (F3)

Habitat (pools, cover, and back water habitats) would be enhanced for local native fish and amphibian populations. Approximately 4000 feet of stream habitat and 300 acres of wet meadow systems will be enhanced.

Water Quality (WQ) - Water Clarity (WQ2); Tributaries (WQ4)

This project would restore overland flow and groundwater characteristics as well as nutrient storage and uptake capabilities associated with recreation facility BMP upgrades. This project would also restore other water quality elements, such as stream temperature by increasing water depth and riparian vegetation coverage (stream shade).

Vegetation (V) - Common Vegetation (V1)

This project would restore riparian and meadow vegetation types and coincide with other upland vegetative rehabilitation efforts that are prescribed by the LTBMU in the South Shore Hazardous Ecosystem Restoration and Hazardous Fuels Project (EIP Number 10177). The project would also have benefits to Tahoe yellow cress habitat by restoring localized water table regimes, which is an important aspect to the life history of this species.

Wildlife (W) - Habitats of Special Significance (W2)

This project would improve the riparian and meadow system habitats for wildlife species, such as willow flycatcher whose foraging and nesting life histories depend on them.

Soil Conservation (SC) - Stream Environment Zones (SC2)

This project would restore soil building and maintenance characteristics throughout the Taylor-Tallac meadow/wetland complex by utilizing and implementing natural channel designs, which promote stable/well vegetated streambanks that are more resistant to erosion.

Recreation (R) - Quality Experience and Access (R1)

The project would improve upon existing recreation facilities and enhance public access to the Baldwin Beach area.

Scenic Resources (SR) - Scenic Quality Rating (SR2)

By restoring meadow and wetland properties the project would improve upon local scenic qualities within the Taylor-Tallac project area.

- Describe the estimated environmental risks from unintended consequences of the proposed project (if applicable).

There will be no unintended consequences to the environment from completing NEPA for the Taylor-Tallac Restoration Project. Analysis to support a NEPA decision will identify potential environmental risks and develop design features (including BMPs) to minimize such risks.

**Accomplishments**

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

*Note: Differentiate between direct and/or primary project effects and secondary and/or overall watershed effects.*

Round 11 funding would accomplish the completion of 1 NEPA document, which would analyze the proposed action. Planning would analyze:

1. Approximately 4000 feet of stream habitat and 300 acres of wet meadow systems will be enhanced by improving the physical characteristics of swales 2, 3 and 4 to promote surface water retention at various lake stages.
2. A total of 3 culverts along Baldwin Beach access road will be replaced to allow both hydrologic connectivity and aquatic organism passage.
3. A total of 2 road crossings and replacement of 1 culvert that intersects swale 1.
4. Baldwin Beach parking lots will be upgraded (re-pave, improve drainage and install BMPs to protect surface and groundwater resources).
5. Control and treatment of aquatic invasive species (AIS): Conduct AIS control measures, including hand pulling and installing bottom barriers in Tallac and Taylor creeks and swale 1 and conduct manual warm-water fish removal efforts in Taylor Creek.

Round 12 or other funding will be needed to implement potential action items 1 – 4 above.

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

As part of this Round 11 project the NEPA process will include an interagency and public scoping effort(s). The planning status of this project will also be updated in the LTBMU's Schedule of Proposed Action document and news releases.

- If you checked "yes" for the project being consistent with and contributes to TMDL pollutant reductions please consider and integrate the following in the project description:

a) Describe whether, and how, the project demonstrates advanced, alternative, or innovative practices.

The practice of reactivating historic lagoon habitats along margins of large inland lakes is not frequently practiced. A situation where lagoons in the form of swales, which historically may have been connected to two different streams is very rare. The restoration of special habitats, such as lagoons and meadow systems is important for a variety of native animal and plant species. The habitat enhancement objective of hydrologically reconnecting the Taylor and Tallac creek swales is innovative when considering the approach is able to achieve a balance between existing recreation site facility use and ecological goals.

b) If project includes project level monitoring, describe ability of proposed monitoring strategy to contribute to the state of TMDL knowledge. Also describe if purpose of the capital project is to conduct data collection and/or analysis related to Lake Tahoe clarity.

Monitoring would be incorporated as part of NEPA analysis and decision.

c) Describe treatment approach for reducing pollutants and/or measures to address connectivity between pollutant sources and Lake Tahoe or its tributaries. Identify target pollutants, and, to the degree feasible, provide quantitative estimates of project effectiveness at reducing pollutant loads (and/or a commitment to provide post-project estimates).

Part of the potential actions to be considered in the NEPA analysis will be to upgrade current recreation facility BMPs, which involves improving storm water drainage and treatment at the Baldwin Beach parking lots and improving surface water connectivity where the Baldwin Beach access road intersects historic lagoon swales. Both potential actions would address decreasing sources of fine sediment and treatment of hydrofluorocarbons from asphalt sources (i.e. bio-swale filtration system).

d) If appropriate, describe whether, and how, the project can be combined or coordinated with other TMDL implementation projects.

Not applicable.

## Monitoring

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

- List the questions the monitoring program is designed to answer.

Not applicable – Round 11 funding would only fund the completion of NEPA, which will include the identification of required monitoring as part of the proposed action.

- Describe any coordination with, or input from, the science community on monitoring and adaptive management that has occurred on the development of this nomination and what changes (if any) to the project were made as a result of this input.

Not applicable

- 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? (*Note: A detailed monitoring plan and/or research plan is not required, however, enough detail must be provided to allow someone that is unfamiliar with the project to understand and evaluate the proposed methods and strategies.*)

Not applicable

- Describe whether the monitoring or research associated with this project fits into or is part of a larger monitoring or research program.

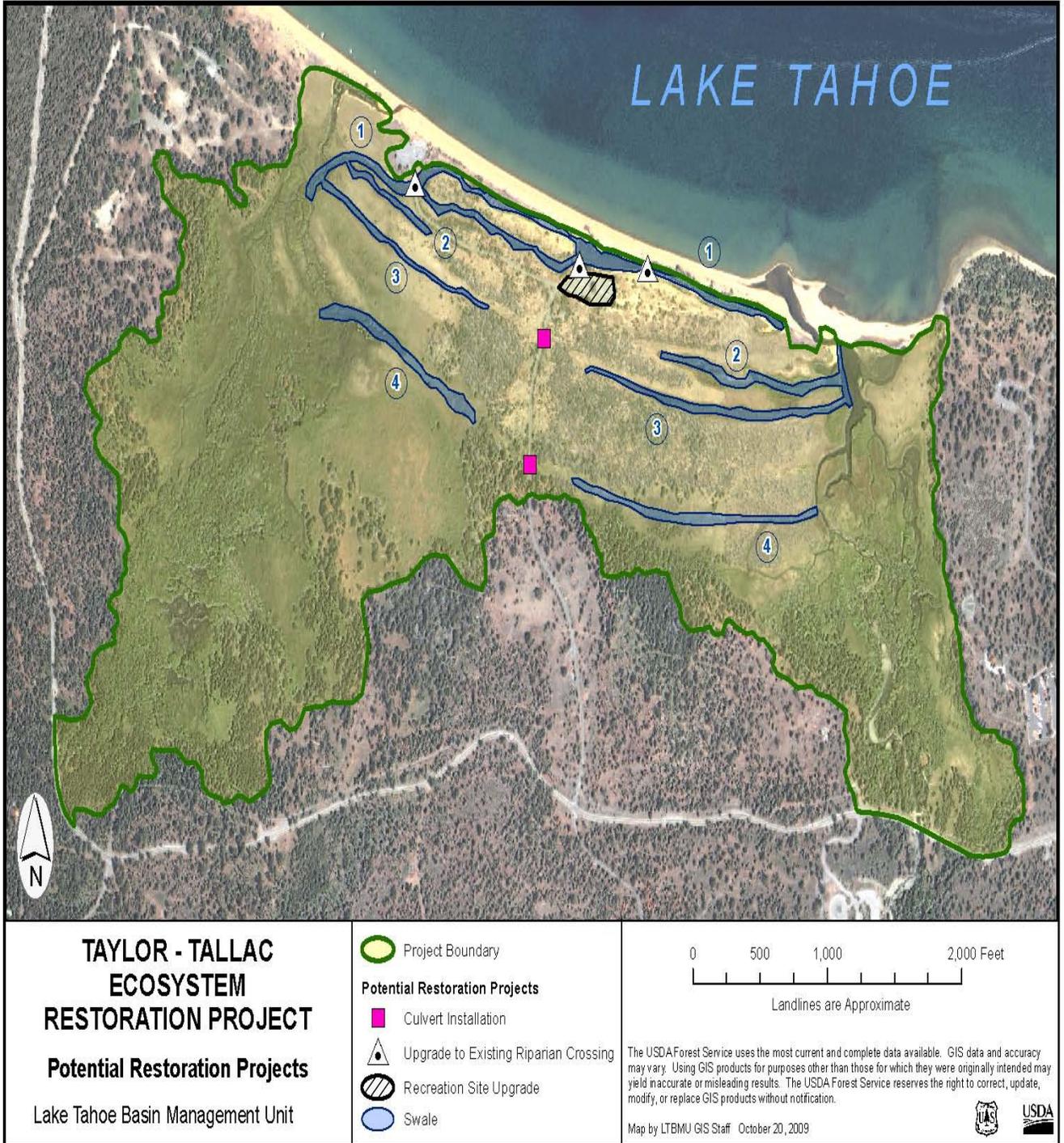
Not applicable

- Describe how information from the monitoring and/or research will be used to improve the continued performance of the proposed project or future similar projects.

Not applicable

**Attachments**

- If applicable, include 8 ½ X 11 map depicting the project



## Appendix B-8

### LAKE TAHOE RESTORATION PROJECTS ESTIMATED NECESSARY EXPENSES & KEY MILESTONE DATES

Project Name:	Taylor-Tallac Restoration Project	Agency:	US Forest Service
Prepared by:	Richard Vacirca	Phone:	530-543-2768
SNPLMA Project #:	F047	EIP #:	10044

#### Identify estimated costs of eligible reimbursement expenses:

<b>1. Planning, Environmental Assessment and Research Costs</b> (specialist surveys, reports, monitoring, data collection, analysis, NEPA, etc.)	\$ 20,000	11.1	%
<b>2. FWS Consultation – Endangered Species Act</b>	\$ 5,000	2.8	%
<b>3. Direct Labor (Payroll) to Perform the Project</b>	\$ 109,400	60.7	%
<b>4. Project Equipment</b> (tools, software, specialized equipment, etc.)	\$ 5,000	2.8	%
<b>5. Travel</b> (including per diem where official travel status required to carry out project, such as serve as COR, experts to review reports, etc.)	\$ 3,000	1.7	%
<b>6. Official Vehicle Use</b> (pro rata cost for use of Official Vehicles when required to carry out project)	\$ 4,000	2.2	%
<b>7. Cost of Contracts, Grants and/or Agreements to Perform the Project</b>	\$ 0	0	%
<b>8. Other Direct and Contracted Labor:</b> 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)	\$ 12,000	6.7	%
<b>9. Other Necessary Expenses</b> (see Appendix B-9)	\$ 21,600	12	%
<b>TOTAL:</b>	\$ 180,000	100	%

#### Estimated Key Milestone Dates:

Milestones/Deliverables:	Date:
Complete Proposed Action and Project Initiation Letter	June 1, 2011
Complete Scoping	August 30, 2011
Complete Scoping Analysis and Alternative Development	January 15, 2012
Complete NEPA Document and Decision	June 15, 2012
<b>Final Completion Date:</b>	<b>January 15, 2013</b>

#### COMMENTS:

Estimated implementation costs = \$2,000,000