

Appendix B-8**TAHOE SCIENCE AND RESEARCH PROJECTS
ESTIMATED DIRECT COSTS & KEY MILESTONE DATES**

Project Name: Aspen Community Restoration	Sponsoring Agency: U.S. Forest Service	Date: March 10, 2004
Contact: Mollie Hurt or Victor Lyon	Phone: 530-543-2600	EIP # 10080

Identify estimated costs of eligible reimbursement expenses:

1. Planning and Research Costs (Specialist surveys, reports, monitoring, data collection, analysis, etc.)	\$ 0	0 %
2. Direct Project Labor (Payroll, fringe benefits, etc.)	\$ 83,000	39 %
3. Equipment (tools, software, specialized equipment, etc.)	\$ 0	0 %
4. Travel (Travel expenses associated with project)	\$ 0	0 %
5. Project Contracts, Grants and Agreements (Contracts, grants, agreements to be awarded)	\$ 132,000	61 %
6. Project Administration (contract admin services, procurement costs, etc.)	\$ 0	0 %
7. Other (Explain)	\$ 0	0 %
8. Contingency Reserve (Not to exceed 10%)	\$ 0	0 %
TOTAL:	\$ 215,000	100 %

Estimated Key Milestone Dates:

Milestones:	Date:	Estimated Costs
Field data collection completed in summer 2005	Oct. 31, 2005	\$200,000
Draft report	Nov. 30, 2005	\$10,000
Final Report	Jan. 15, 2006	\$5,000
Final Completion Date	Jan. 15, 2006	\$0

COMMENTS:

**Appendix I-2
TAHOE PROJECT PROPOSAL**

Project Name: Aspen Community Restoration**EIP #** 10080**Lead Agency:** U.S. Forest Service,
LTBMU**Contact:** Mollie Hurt or Victor Lyon**Phone Number:** 530-543-2600**Email Address:** mhurt@fs.fed.us or
vlyon@fs.fed.us**Threshold:** Vegetation and Wildlife**Threshold Standard:**

V-1 Relative abundance and pattern

W-2 Habitats of special significance

Total Project Cost: \$215,000**Project Description:**

The LTBMU assessed the location, size, condition, and risk of loss of aspen stands across approximately half of the Lake Tahoe Basin in 2002 and 2003. This project will assess the location, size, condition, and risk of loss of the remaining aspen stands on the Forest.

Describe the purpose and need for the project:

The Lake Tahoe Watershed Assessment (2000) determined that “maintaining aspen communities in the Lake Tahoe Basin is critical because they provide important landscape features used by a diversity of wildlife” and are “ecologically important areas”. The integrity and health of aspen stands within the Basin, however, have been compromised by the suppression of natural, landscape scale disturbances to which this species is adapted. Natural disturbances, such as wildfires and flooding, stimulate new growth in aspen stands, remove encroaching conifers, and reduce the build-up of fallen, woody debris. In turn, these effects influence the likelihood of a more destructive stand-replacing wildfire occurring. The reduction in aspen recruitment, due to reduced suckering, encroachment by conifers, and wildfire fuel-loading may lead to the loss of entire aspen stands.

The Lake Tahoe Basin Watershed Assessment also identified research needs for aspen stands in the Basin, “... a more intensive effort is needed to map aspen stands and record stand conditions or perhaps a modeling exercise would emphasize potential occurrence sites. In doing so, opportunities for restoration and regeneration may be highlighted. In terms of biological diversity, research is needed to identify what minimum aspen stand size is needed to support a diverse assemblage of taxa.”

The purpose of this project is to assess the location, size, condition, and risk of loss of the aspen stands within the Basin that were not assessed in 2002 or 2003. This project will prioritize which aspen stands are most in need of management and guide future management decisions regarding aspen stand restoration and wildlife monitoring projects on the Forest.

Describe the goals and objective of the project (for Science & Research Projects describe Key Management Questions being addressed):

This project addresses Key Management Question 2.1.12 ‘What and where are the ecologically significant areas in terrestrial environments in the Basin, as determined by a comprehensive assessment, and how is the composition, abundance, and distribution of associated plant and animal species and plant communities changing over time?’ This project will determine the current location, distribution, and condition of aspen stands, described in the Watershed Assessment as ‘ecologically significant areas’, in the Basin.

Describe the anticipated project accomplishments:

This project will assess the location, size, condition and risk of loss of those aspen stands which were not surveyed in 2002 and 2003. The results of this project will also guide future management decisions regarding wildlife monitoring and aspen stand restoration projects in compliance with management direction established in the Watershed Assessment. These actions will result in positive benefits to the Vegetation and Wildlife thresholds.

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

The Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit wildlife department assessed approximately 450 acres of aspen stands within the Lake Tahoe Basin in 2002 and 2003. The stand assessment techniques to be used are well-established as a Forest Service regional survey protocol. No environmental documentation is required to proceed, and surveys will commence as stands become accessible in early summer 2004.

Describe partnerships for this project (include documentation):

The LTBMU is working cooperatively with the California Tahoe Conservancy through informal agreement. Managers from both agencies have met to discuss management direction, to visit sites where pilot aspen stand treatments have been completed, and to share their respective survey assessment databases.

For Science & Research Projects describe how this project will guide future management activities:

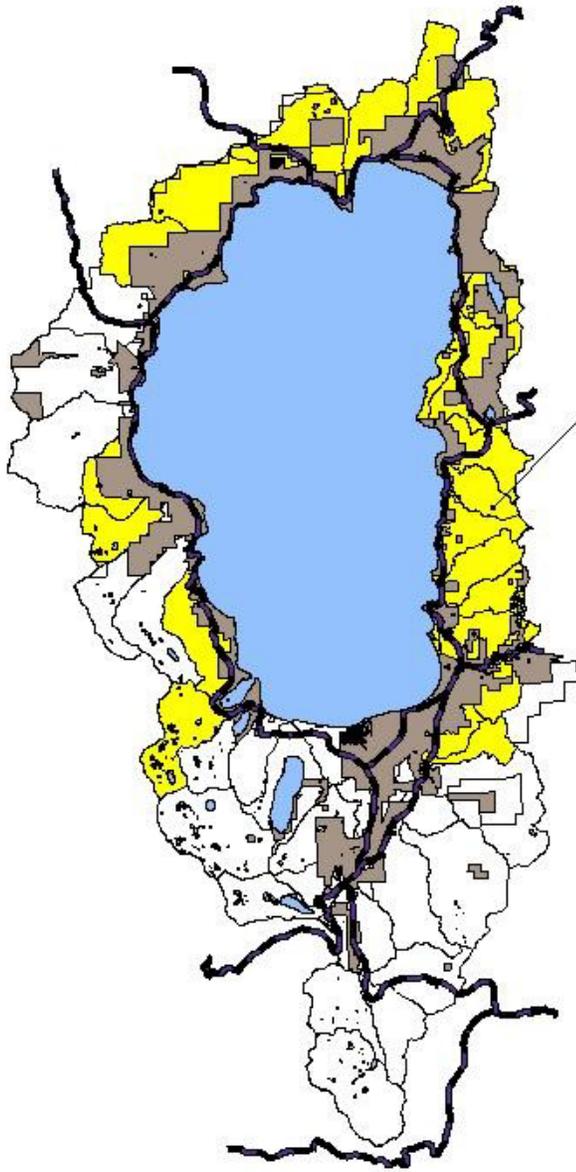
This project is part of the first phase of a multi-year aspen stand management program. The information gathered will guide managers in prioritizing which aspen stands are most at risk of loss and will guide the selection of future project and control sites. The second phase of this project is to implement restoration of aspen stands while carefully monitoring the effects of stand manipulation on the bird and small mammal communities that inhabit aspen stands. Future treatments may include removal of encroaching conifers, or reintroduction of fire.

SNPLMA Project #: _____ (To be assigned by SNPLMA Administration)

Include an 8 ½ X 11 map depicting the project, or research/study area.

See below.

Aspen Community Restoration



Aspen stand assessments for this project are planned for the watersheds highlighted in yellow.



-  Waterbody
-  Highway
- Land Ownership**
-  Forest Service
-  Non-Forest Service
-  Watersheds

