

**Appendix I-2  
TAHOE PROJECT PROPOSAL**

**Project Name: Development of an Adaptive Management  
Framework Phase II**

**EIP #: 10163**

**Lead Agency: TRPA**

**Contact: Gordon Barrett**

**Sponsor Agency: USFS**

**Phone Number: 775-588-4547**

**Threshold: All Thresholds**

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**Threshold Standard:**

**Total Project Cost: \$800,000**

**LTFAC/TWG Recommended Funding:**

**\$500,000**

**Project Description:**

The goal this project is to implement the strategies developing in the Phase I Adaptive Management Framework (AMF) Development Project to develop an AMF as the basis for environmental management within the Lake Tahoe basin for the 2007 Regional Plan. This would entail: (1) the development of a suite of environmental indicators (includes updated TRPA Environmental Thresholds - with TMDLs, and USFS Desired Future Conditions) for use evaluating the condition of the Lake Tahoe basin environment and guiding restoration strategies within the basin; (2) development of a methodology that links EIP project implementation priorities to the environmental indicators; (3) development of an adaptive management needs assessment for each element of the TRPA and USFS regional plans using the procedures developed in the Phase I AMF Development Project; and (4) development of a stakeholder education interface for the integrated threshold assessment model so that it can be used to better inform the collaborative process to update thresholds, develop TMDLs for Lake Clarity, and update agency plans know as Pathway 2007.

**Describe the purpose and need for the project:**

The TRPA, USDA Forest Service, states of California and Nevada and local stakeholders are on the cusp of a historic opportunity that will conclude by 2007 with the adoption of updated Thresholds and TRPA/USFS land-use and management plans for Lake Tahoe. Occurring once a generation, this milestone is not an insignificant opportunity. It is Regional leadership's desire that the effort to update and revise the Region's goals and plans also results in significantly advancing decision making and resource management processes to a sophisticated level worthy of the next generation. To that end, the agencies are working with scientific experts to develop tools and methodologies to support this planning effort. The current environmental framework in the basin is limited in its usefulness because it focuses on developing a regulatory-based report card of environmental conditions, rather than information that can be used to manage the basin's environment in a sustainable fashion. The basin agencies, scientists and stakeholders will develop a system that allows a natural environment to be managed in a sustainable fashion. Under such a system, progress towards meeting environmental and economic goals could be evaluated in a more objective and realistic fashion than currently exists. In addition, the effectiveness of restoration strategies and actions in meeting environmental goals could be more rapidly evaluated, which in turn would provide for more efficient

SNPLMA Project #: \_\_\_\_\_

(To be assigned by SNPLMA Administration)

implementation of environmental restoration and management activities. Finally, the system could be used to develop more reliable estimates of the capital resources needed to meet the basins environmental goals.

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

The primary Key Management Question being addressed is “How can we implement an Adaptive Management Strategy to guide restoration in the Lake Tahoe basin?” This project will directly address and answer this question.

**Describe the anticipated project accomplishments:**

This project will accomplish three interrelated objectives, these being: (1) the assessment of the efficacy of current and proposed environmental indicators and standards in guiding environmental management and restoration activities within the Lake Tahoe basin; (2) an approach to link EIP project impacts to both basin wide environmental management strategies and environmental indicators, which in turn will facilitate the prioritization of EIP project implementation; and (3) a description of the resources required to incorporate an adaptive management approach into all elements of the 2007 Regional Plan.

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

Lake Tahoe is the ideal watershed for this application in that it is experiencing environmental problems that are highly interrelated to its economic condition, and it has developed a sophisticated and stable environmental management system that could adopt the environmental management framework to be developed in this project. In addition, the planning for this project is already being completed in the Phase I Adaptive Management Framework Development project funded by TRPA and the USFS in the Fall of 2003 and is due to be completed in the early spring of 2004. All the elements necessary for this project to be successfully undertaken and completed are in place.

**Describe partnerships for this project. (Include documentation)**

Currently, the TRPA, USFS LTBMU, LRWQCB and NDEP are working collaboratively on the Phase I Adaptive Management Framework Project as part of Pathway 2007. These partnerships will continue for this project.

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

This project will be the basis for implementing an Adaptive Management Framework to guide environmental management for Threshold and DFC attainment within the Lake Tahoe basin. Thus, the results of this project will provide the information necessary to determine the resources and agency structure needed to implement Adaptive Management approach within the Lake Tahoe basin for the next 20 year Regional Plan.

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