

ROUND 12 CAPITAL PROJECT NOMINATION FORM
LAKE TAHOE FEDERAL SHARE EIP CAPITAL PROJECTS
APPENDIX K

Project Name:	Taylor-Tallac Restoration Project	EIP Number: <i>(Required)</i>	10044
Federal Agency Sponsor: <i>(Required)</i>	US Forest Service	Contact:	Sarah Muskopf
Threshold:	WQ, WL, F, V, SC, SR, R	Phone Number:	530.543.28.35
Threshold Standard:	WQ1, WQ2, WQ4, WQ5, WQ6, WL1, WL2, F2, V1, V3, SC1, SC2, SR3, R1	Email:	smuskopf@fs.fed.us
FUNDING REQUESTED IN THIS ROUND:		\$ 450,000	

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 and Lahontan redbreast shiner. The proposed project area is also historic habitat for Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog (candidate species for the Endangered Species Act), as well as Lahontan cutthroat trout (LCT), a threatened species listed on the Endangered Species Act. Efforts to restore a lacustrine population of LCT in Fallen Leaf Lake (headwaters of Taylor Creek) have been underway since 2005. Because of the diversity of habitat within the proposed project area, future restoration efforts could restore and enhance rare habitat for TES species as well as other native species dependant on these riparian habitats.

- 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?

This area has been identified by the Lake Tahoe Invasive Species Working Group as a priority area for Aquatic Invasive Species control, prevention and eradication efforts. Because of the proximity to source populations and a lagoon/wetland habitat which fosters habitat characteristics required by invasive species, the proposed project area currently is infested with Eurasian water milfoil, curly leaf pondweed, largemouth bass, bluegill, brown bullhead catfish, crayfish, and bullfrogs. Because of the variety of invasive species and the diverse habitat within the proposed project area (stream, lagoons, swales, beaver ponds) there is potential to test various control and eradication procedures to determine effectiveness of efforts.

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 11 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 12.

List Rounds and funding:

SNPLMA Project Number F047 (Round 6 - \$40,000) titled Taylor, Tallac and Spring Creek Watershed Ecosystem Restoration Project funded the completion of Restoration Plan for the proposed project area.

- 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 12 project.

In September 2009 the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU) finalized the Taylor-Tallac Ecosystem Restoration Plan, which outlines a program of work for meadow, wetland, aquatic habitat and recreation site restoration activities. This Round 12 proposal would fund initiation and completion of NEPA that would include, but is not limited to, any of the restoration activities mentioned below that are not covered under other project NEPA as well as potential actions identified during the Interdisciplinary Team process. Potential actions include: Baldwin Beach access road culvert replacement/installation, 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 12 not a history of an ongoing project or program.

A tremendous amount of resources have been used to address historic as well as ongoing impacts to the Taylor and Tallac creeks and wetlands. This area is one of the most popular beach destinations on the south shore yet past anthropogenic activities (logging, grazing, sewer line installation, roads, and parking lots) have left the area in a degraded state. This condition not only affects the habitat conditions for native terrestrial and aquatic species but also over all visitor experiences. Funding is needed to complete NEPA analysis for this sensitive and widely used area. With a complete Ecosystem Assessment Report (2004) and complete restoration Plan (2009) an analysis of potential actions to restore wetland function and processes is needed to move forward with future implementation activities. With a completed NEPA analysis the LTBMU could strategically apply for future appropriated or grant funding for implementation activities – a “shovel ready” project has a high probability of securing funding. This project, once NEPA is completed, also has numerous opportunities to leverage implementation funding from other sources (federal agencies, non-profits etc.)

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. The Taylor-Tallac Restoration Plan also documents a need to upgrade current recreation facilities to meet water quality and visitor use objectives. 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 redbreasted shiner, Lahontan cutthroat trout, and Tahoe yellow cress.

- Describe what Round 12 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 12, clearly identify if the project is for planning or implementation and how it will be completed with Round 12 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 12 project and the source of those funds.*

This Round 12 proposal would fund initiation and completion of NEPA, which would analyze restoration activities not already covered under other project specific NEPA. The NEPA analysis could be a multi-year effort pending the type and amount of field surveys needed to provide input to the environmental analysis. Beyond surveys, this funding would provide money for National Forest Management Act (NFMA) analysis, Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) involvement, interagency outreach, public outreach and scoping, and the final decision document. The NEPA analysis would address any potential activities brought forward through past reports or through the IDT process to restore ecosystem processes and function in the Taylor Tallac Wetland complex. Activities include but are not limited to stream and wetland habitat enhancement, aquatic invasive species eradication/control, road and parking lot upgrades, and vegetation treatment.

In addition, the following are planned actions that would provide information to the proposed NEPA analysis as well as aid in the success of any future restoration activities in the Taylor Tallac Wetland complex.

SNPLMA Project Number F047 (Round 6 - \$40,000) titled Taylor, Tallac and Spring Creek Watershed Ecosystem Restoration Project funded the completion of Restoration Plan for the proposed project area. This restoration plan will provide the foundation information for moving forward with the NEPA analysis.

SNPLMA Project Number F142 (Round 9 - \$2,450,000) titled South Shore Fuels Implementation. This project that has identified approximately 150 acres of vegetation treatment within the proposed project area to improve forest and ecosystem health. Implementation is expected in 2013 under South Shore Fuels NEPA.

SNPLMA Project Number F154 (Round 10 - \$200,000) titled Aspen Restoration. This project will treat 15 acres of conifer encroachment within designated aspen stands in proposed project area. Implementation is expected in 2011 under Aspen Restoration NEPA.

SNPLMA Project Number F086 (Round 7 - \$93,600) titled Meadow Restoration. This project completed NEPA and implemented a pilot project to determine the effects of prescribed fire on small conifers and determine the vegetative response to fire. Three burn plots were implemented within the proposed project area. A technical report on the results is expected from UC Davis March 2011.

SNPLMA Project Number F136 (Round 9 - \$225,000) title Restoration of Fire Adapted Ecosystems. This project funded re-surveys of vegetative trend transects in meadows throughout the Tahoe basin, including the proposed project area. Trend transects have been installed within the project area since 1996 and have been re-surveyed every five years to determine vegetative and wetland conditions. Additionally, funding from Round 9 is currently being used to complete the NEPA analysis for six priority meadows requiring

vegetation treatments due to conifer encroachment. The proposed project area is included in the NEPA analysis.

SNPLMA Round 11 (Round 11 - \$375,000) titled Restoration of Fire Adapted Ecosystem. Funding from Round 11 will be used for continued implementation of the Restoration of Fire Adapted Ecosystem Project. Round 11 funds will be used to implement thinning and burning activities in selected meadows. Implementation in the proposed project area is expected in 2013.

- 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 designing ecological restoration and 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.

In addition to the completed restoration plan, an Ecosystem Assessment Report was complete in 2004, aquatic surveys were complete in 2008, wildlife surveys were complete in 2008 and 2009, botanical surveys were complete in 2009 and 2010, and aerial photos were taken in 2002.

- 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 portion of the Taylor-Tallac Restoration Project is anticipated to come from alternative sources. Any eradication or control of AIS will be coordinated by the LTAIS Coordination Committee. Other partners expected to be associated with planning and potential future implementation include Washoe Tribe and Tahoe Yellow Cress/Adaptive Management Working Group.

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 a) restore ecological processes of meadow, wetland and aquatic habitat and b) to improve water quality of Lake Tahoe and protect groundwater resources.

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.

The objective of this project is to complete the NEPA analysis (NFMA analysis, IDT involvement, surveys, specialists’ reports, public outreach and scoping, and final decision document) for the Taylor - Tallac Meadow/Wetland Complex.

The NEPA would analyze potential activities that would contribute to the achievement of multiple resource benefits through the following anticipated thresholds:

Fisheries: Habitat (pools, cover, and back water habitats) may be enhanced for local fish populations and native amphibians. Stream habitat and wet meadow systems may be restored.

Water Quality: This project may restore fine sediment characteristics as well as nutrient storage and uptake capabilities associated with recreation facility BMP upgrades. This project may also restore other water quality elements, such as stream temperature by increasing water depth and riparian vegetation coverage (stream shade).

Vegetation: This project may 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 may 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: This project may 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: This project may 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: The project may improve upon existing recreation facilities and enhance public access to the Baldwin Beach area.

Scenic: By restoring meadow and wetland properties the project may 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 to minimize such risks. Future implementation will include temporary and permanent BMPs, as well as initiating methods to avoid potential impacts to the environment, which may include:

- Channel and floodplain erosion.
- Floodplain dessication followed by advancement of encroaching conifers.
- Increased releases of fine sediment into the creek and down to Lake Tahoe.

Accomplishments

- Describe the anticipated project accomplishments (i.e. products or identifiable environmental benefits being produced or implemented under this project), and how the project results/accomplishments will be communicated and made available to the public.

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

Round 12 funding would accomplish the completion of NEPA (NFMA analysis, IDT involvement, surveys, specialists' reports, public outreach and scoping, and final decision documentation). Based on information gathered from the completed Ecosystem Assessment Report (2004), Restoration Plan (2009), as well as past survey efforts (including wildlife, fisheries, amphibian, butterflies, bats, botanical, topographical, and stream condition), the anticipated future implementation actions and effects include, but are not limited to, the following potential actions (unless addressed under other project level NEPA):

1. Stream habitat and wet meadow systems could be enhanced by improving the physical characteristics of swales to promote surface water retention at various lake stages and improve habitat for aquatic and riparian dependant native species.
2. Removal or installation of culverts along Baldwin Beach access road would allow both hydrologic connectivity and aquatic organism passage.
3. Baldwin Beach parking lots could be upgraded and reconfigured to improve drainage and provide enhanced vegetative cover as well as improved visual integrity from the lake.
4. Control and treatment of aquatic invasive species (AIS) could be implemented through various control measures such as hand pulling and installing bottom barriers to remove aquatic weeds or manual removal (gill-nets or electroshockers) of warm-water fish and amphibians.

As part of this Round 12 project the NEPA process would include both an interagency and public scoping effort(s) and potentially a draft NEPA document comment period. The inclusion of a comment period is dependent on the level of NEPA required. The planning status of this project will also be updated in the LTBMU's Schedule of Proposed Action document.

- 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 were 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. With over 75 percent of wetland habitat degraded and 25 percent destroyed projects that can restore/enhance function, processes and connectivity of these rare habitats while providing recreational opportunities are pioneering future restoration efforts in the Lake Tahoe basin.

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.

Not applicable.

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 process 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). In addition, NEPA documentation will address any design features and BMP's to protect resources.

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 12 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.

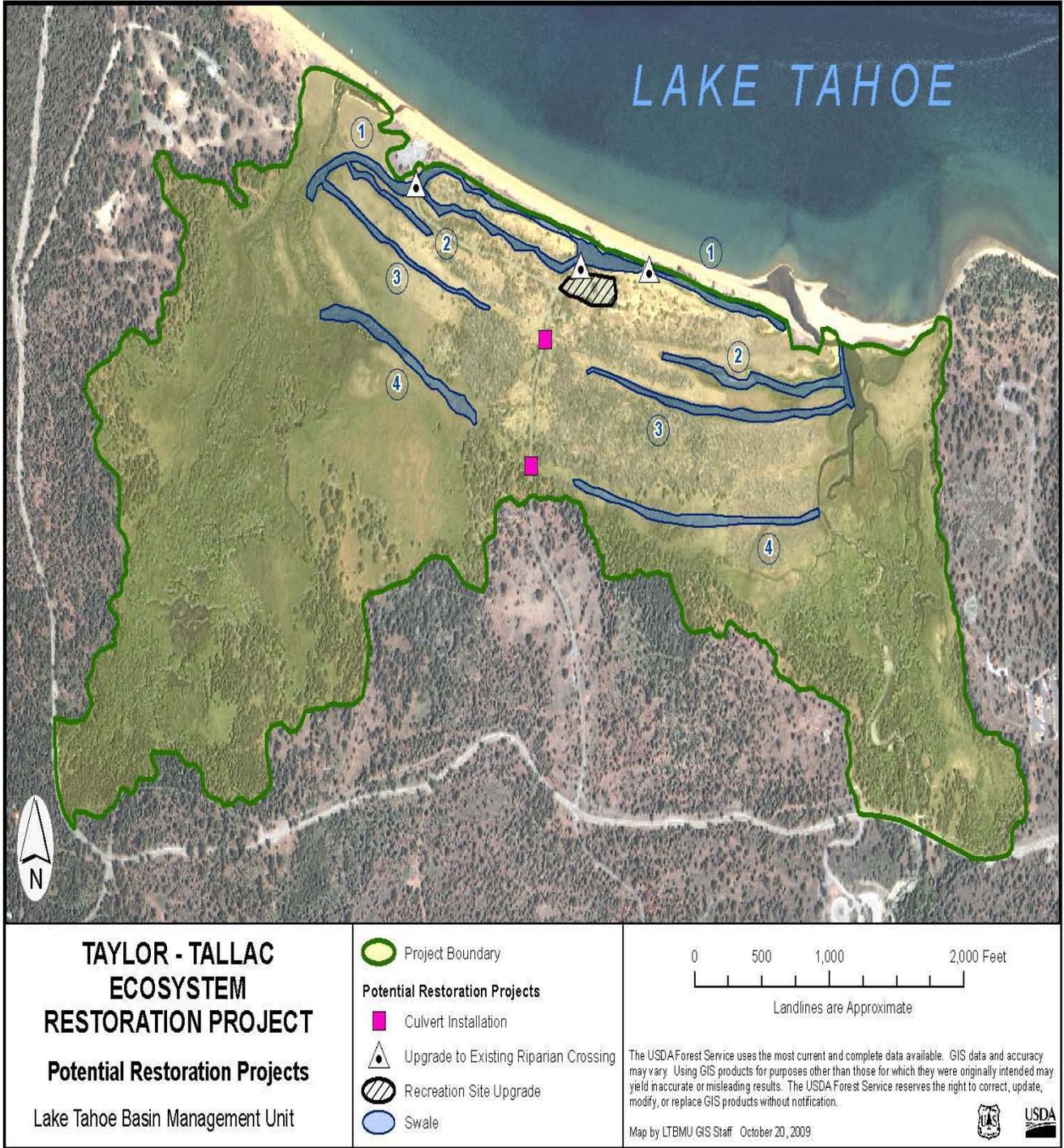
Not applicable

- 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

- Project Area Map will be updated through NEPA process.



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:	Sarah Muskopf	Phone:	530-543-2835
SNPLMA Project #:		EIP #:	10044

Identify estimated costs of eligible reimbursement expenses:

1. Planning, Environmental Assessment and Research Costs (specialist surveys, reports, monitoring, data collection, analysis, NEPA, etc.)	\$ 150,000	33	%
2. FWS Consultation – Endangered Species Act	\$ 10,000	2	%
3. Direct Labor (Payroll) to Perform the Project	\$ 191,000	43	%
4. Project Equipment (tools, software, specialized equipment, etc.)	\$ 5,000	1	%
5. Travel (including per diem where official travel status required to carry out project, such as serve as COR, experts to review reports, etc.)	\$ 5,000	1	%
6. Official Vehicle Use (pro rata cost for use of Official Vehicles when required to carry out project)	\$ 5,000	1	%
7. Cost of Contracts, Grants and/or Agreements to Perform the Project	\$ 0	0	%
8. Other Direct 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)	\$ 30,000	7	%
9. Other Necessary Expenses (see Appendix B-9)	\$ 54,000	12	%
TOTAL:	\$ 450,000	100	%

Estimated Key Milestone Dates:

Milestones/Deliverables:	Date:
Complete Proposed Action and Project Initiation Letter	December 31, 2012
Complete pre-project surveys	September 30, 2013
Complete NEPA and Decision Document	April 30, 2014
Initiate Project Close-out	September 30, 2014
Final Completion Date:	December 30, 2014

COMMENTS: Implementation dollars will be actively pursued through grant, partnership and appropriated funds.