10th Annual Snapshot Day,

May 22, 2010

A Lake Tahoe Basin and Truckee River Watershed Citizen Monitoring Event

Introduction

What is Snapshot Day?

Snapshot Day is a one-day, volunteer-based event designed to collect watershed information during one point in time. Volunteer "team leaders" are trained, and these leaders accompany teams of volunteers to various pre-determined sites to collect information relative to the health of our watersheds.

The goals of this effort are two-fold: 1) to promote environmental education and stewardship, and 2) to collect valuable water quality information. While there is a great deal of high quality agency and university-sponsored monitoring taking place in the region, there is still insufficient information to adequately assess the status of all of the aquatic resources in the Truckee River Hydrologic Unit which includes all the Lake Tahoe Basin and Truckee River watersheds. With proper training and quality assurance, community volunteers can help fill this void by providing valuable information for watershed management and pollution prevention.

Some of the objectives of Snapshot Day are:

- Build awareness of water quality issues, aquatic resources and pollution prevention
- Screen for water quality problems, including the identification of sources of pollution and detection of illegal activities (i.e., chemical spills, filling of wetlands, diversions, illicit discharges, destruction of stream environment zones (SEZs), non-compliance with ordinances or regulations in place to protect natural resources, etc.)
- Provide water quality data that may be compared to water quality standards set by TRPA for the Tahoe Basin, and the States of California and Nevada;
- Provide water quality data that may be used in status and trend analyses;
- Provide some pre and post data for evaluating the effectiveness of restoration activities

It is important to note that citizen monitoring is designed to supplement existing agency monitoring efforts; all information is provided to the regulatory and resource management agencies, whose responsibility it is to protect water quality.

This was the 10th Annual Snapshot Day held May 22, 2010 and includes the entire Truckee River Watershed, from Lake Tahoe to the terminus at Pyramid Lake. This event has been sustained and operated by the dedication of both paid and unpaid staff, the funding of a few grants and donations, but mostly by the commitment of citizens who value the public involvement to protect the watershed they live in.

Table 1: Snapshot Day 2010

	Volunteers	Locations
North Shore Lake Tahoe	30	21
South Shore Lake Tahoe	70	35
Middle Truckee River	63	24

Lower Truckee River	49	13
Totals for 2010	**212**	**93**
***excludes duplicate samplers		

This collaborative effort was planned and coordinated by the Truckee River Watershed Council (TRWC), Incline Village General Improvement District (IVGID), the Northern Sierra Region of CaliforniaTrout, Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP), Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe (PLPT), and the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA). The list of organizations involved in putting on Snapshot Day 2010 includes:

- Incline Village General Improvement District (IVGID)
- Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Lake Tahoe Community College (LTCC)
- Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP)
- Nevada Division of State Lands (NDSL)
- Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe (PLPT)
- Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA)
- Truckee River Watershed Council (TRWC)
- University of California Berkeley, Sagehen Creek Field Station
- University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE)
- University of Nevada Cooperative Extension (UNCE)
- University of Nevada Reno (UNR) Electrical Engineering Department
- US Geological Survey, Carnelian Bay Field Station

Snapshot Day is a bi-state event and as such falls under two state-wide citizen-monitoring programs: the California State Regional Water Quality Control Board's (SWQCB) *Clean Water Team*, (http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/swamp/cwt_volunteer.shtml) and The Nevada equivalent under *Project Wet* (http://ndep.nv.gov/bwqp/wet01.htm). Through this bi-state collaborative Snapshot Day is able to achieve a larger watershed approach to successful data collection.

Methods of Data Collection

Citizen monitoring "team leaders" are provided training prior to Snapshot Day each year prior to the event. Team leader trainings cover protocols for visual observations, photo-documentation, water quality field measurements (temperature, pH, conductivity, dissolved oxygen), and water sampling (grab samples sent into the laboratory for subsequent analysis of nutrients, coliform, and turbidity). Each monitoring "team leader" is required to attend at least one session prior to the field day. Training for the team leaders is usually taught by the coordinator for that region, with assistance as needed from the cooperating resource and regulatory agencies.

Visual observations and photo-documentation are performed according to the procedures developed by the SWRCB Clean Water Team. The standardized observation form, the *California Stream and Shore Walk Visual Assessment Form*, was slightly revised to better apply to the region. At least three photos are taken at each sampling site (bed conditions, view across stream and view upstream from the starting point); however volunteers are encouraged to photograph as much as possible, especially of team members in the field. All stream-walks are initiated from a downstream position, traveling upstream.

A variety of instruments and kits are used on Snapshot Day by the volunteers. The majority of the monitoring teams are assigned these typical field instruments: armored Envirosafe thermometers (alcohol filled, 0.5° C resolution); standard pH indicator strips (0.5 pH unit resolution) or handheld Hannah pH meters (0.02 unit resolution); hand-held Oakton TDS Tester Conductivity meters (10 µS/cm resolution or Oakton Conductivity Low+ meters (1 µS/cm resolution); and Chemet dissolved oxygen kits (colorimetric, indigo carmine dye reaction, 1 mg/L resolution below 6 mg/L and 2 mg/L resolution above 6 mg/L). A few more experienced volunteer teams are trained to use Winkler titration kits (0.2 mg/L resolution). Much of the equipment has been purchased though the years with grants or donations, the remainder of the equipment was borrowed from Alpine Watershed Group, CA State Water Resources, LTCC, IVGID, and others. Turbidity meters, to be used at the staging locations, were supplied by TRWC and TRPA. All of the instruments and kits are calibrated and tested/standardized at a quality control session held no sooner than 1 week prior to the event

All observations, photos, field measurements and samples are taken between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 pm; this maintains the 'Snapshot' aspect of the project. Nutrient and bacteria samples are kept chilled with ice or blue ice in coolers from the point of collection until arrival at the lab for analysis. Any samples submitted past 1:00 pm are evaluated at that time to determine what the value is of samples submitted. Bacteria samples are collected in sterile Whirl-paks and nutrient and turbidity samples were collected in clean (acid rinsed) Nalgene® plastic bottles.

Bacteria samples are then transported from drop off points at Lake Tahoe and Truckee to either the Lahontan Water Quality lab in South Lake Tahoe or the U.S. Geologic Survey in Carnelian Bay. Bacteria samples collected from the Lower Truckee River were transported to the Nevada State Health Laboratory. The need for multiple labs for such a large area is to ensure sample analysis within the allotted 4 hour holding time. Quality assurance is comparable as each lab uses the same method, SM9222 from Standard Methods for Water and Wastewater Analysis, 21 Edition, 2007.

Nutrient samples collected from Lake Tahoe and the Middle Truckee River were delivered to High Sierra Water Lab in Truckee within the allotted hold time, and can be several days as long as they are kept chilled to 4° Celsius. LTR nutrient samples were taken to the Nevada State Health Lab for analysis. In past Snapshot Day reports the units for reporting were distinctly separate for the much lower concentrations in the upper watershed (Lake Tahoe through Truckee) and the more heavily developed Reno and Truckee Meadows. However in order to better ensure watershed wide comparability, all nutrient concentrations are shown as milligrams per liter. This also agrees with state standards. Readers are cautioned to note this difference in viewing previous reports.

Water Quality Standards

The US EPA has recommended criteria for nutrients and turbidity, and Nevada, California, and the TRPA have specific water quality standards and indicators generally more stringent in the Lake Tahoe Basin than elsewhere in the watershed. Table 2 lists some of these standards.

Table 2: Examples of Lake Tahoe Water Quality Standards

Parameter	Standard
Temperature	Shall not exceed 15° C, surface waters of Fallen Leaf Lake (CA)
pH	7.0 - 8.4 in Lake Tahoe (CA and NV)
TDS	Shall not exceed 60 mg/L average in Lake Tahoe (CA and NV)
Dissolved Oxygen	Mean no less than 6.5 and minimum of 4.0 mg/L for Lahontan waters designated as "cold freshwater habitat" (CA)
Turbidity	Shallow water shall not exceed 3 NTU near tributaries and 1 NTU not directly influenced by streams (TRPA)
Secchi Depth	December-March average of not less than 33.4 meters for Lake Tahoe (TRPA), and a mean of 18.5 meters for Fallen Leaf Lake (Lahontan Region, CA)
Algae	Lahontan RWQCB waters shall not contain biostimulatory substances (nutrients) that cause algae to become a nuisance or to affect the water's beneficial uses (CA)
Total Nitrogen	Mean of no more than 0.15-19 mg/l (CA)
Inorganic Nitrogen	Mean of no more than 0.025 mg/l for most tributaries to Lake Tahoe, Nevada side of Lake Tahoe (NDEP)
Total Phosphorous	Annual average of no more than 0.05 mg/l for most tributaries, Nevada side of Lake Tahoe and no more than 0.03 mg/l for most tributaries, California side of Lake Tahoe
Soluble Reactive Phosphorous	Mean of no more than .007 mg/l for Lake Tahoe, Nevada side (NDEP)
Fecal Coliform	Log mean of 20 CFU (30 day period) and maximum of 40 CFU, (Lahontan Region, CA)

The selected standards shown in Table 3 are from the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection for the Lower Truckee River watershed.

Table 3. Examples of Nevada State Water Quality Standards for the Truckee River

Parameter	Truckee River at Idlewild (LTR-IDL)	Truckee River at Wadsworth (LTR-WADS)
Temp	≤13º	≤14º
Dissolved Oxygen	≥5 mg/l	≥6 mg/l
pH	6.5-9.0	6.5-9.0
Chlorides	≤250 mg/l	≤250 mg/l
Total Phosphates	Annual average ≤ 0.10 mg/l	Annual average ≤ 0.05 mg/l
Ortho-phosphate	≤0.05 mg/l	NA
Nitrate	≤2.0 mg/l	≤2.0 mg/l
Nitrite	≤0.04 mg/l	≤0.04 mg/l
Total Nitrogen	NA	≤1.2 mg/l
Turbidity	≤10 NTU	≤10 NTU
Fecal coliform	≤200/400[a] No./100ml	≤200/400[a] No./100ml
E. coli	≤410 No./100ml	≤410 No./100ml

[a] Based on the minimum of not less than 5 samples taken over a 30-day period, the fecal coliform bacterial level may not exceed a geometric mean of 200 per 100 ml nor may more than 10 percent of the total samples taken during any 30-day period exceed 400 per 100 ml.

For full and more detailed information on water quality objectives in California refer to the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board *Basin Plan* at the following website: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/BPlan/BPlan_Index.htm. For water quality standards in Nevada see the following website: http://ndep.nv.gov/bwqp/standards.htm. For a .pdf version, visit: http://www.ndep.nv.gov/nac/445a-118.pdf. For the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) water quality standards, see the following website: http://www.trpa.org/Documents.htm and select "Environmental Threshold Carrying Capacities."

Site Locations

It is important to remember that the measurements made on Snapshot Day were designed to represent a single point in time and do not necessarily represent average conditions. The actual monitoring results are complied in Appendix A, which includes both the field measurements collected by volunteers and selected sites for nutrient and bacteria analysis. For a comparison of data from the past 10 years, please refer to the Tahoe Integrated Information Management Systems on-line database and charting tool (www.snapshotday.org).

Volunteers gathered data at 93 locations from the upper watershed of the Truckee River to it's terminus at Pyramid Lake. Only 2010 data is presented in this report:

Lake Tahoe Tributaries, South Shore:

- Angora abv Lake Tahoe Blvd
- Angora blw View Circle
- Angora at LT golf course
- Bijou Park Drainage at Werner Salas
- Bijou Park Drainage b/l Hansen's Resort
- Bijou Park Drainage Verdon
- Burke Creek blw Hwy 50
- Cascade Creek at mouth (at HWY 89?)
- Cold Creek abv Pioneer Trail
- Tahoe Keys Marina Slip 65
- Eagle Creek abr Hwy 89
- Echo Creek at Upper Truckee
- Heavenly Creek nr confluence @ Trout Creek
- Heavenly Creek above Pioneer Trail
- Meeks Creek at mouth
- Meeks Creek abv HWY89
- Meeks Creek Above Meadow
- Saxon Creek abv Trout Creek
- North Zephyr at mouth
- South Zephyr Creek at mouth
- Tallac Creek at mouth
- Tallac Creek upstream of Hwy 89
- Taylor Creek at mouth
- Trout Creek nr confluence w/Upper Truckee
- Trout Creek at Bellevue

- Upper Truckee River at mouth
- Upper Truckee River nr Airport Meadow
- Upper Trockee River at Meyers
- Upper Truckee River nr Carrows
- Tahoe Keys Cove

Lake Tahoe Tributaries, North Shore:

- Bonpland Creek at mouth
- Barton Creek at Star Harbor
- Carnelian Canyon at Hwy 28
- Doller Creek at mouth
- First Creek at mouth
- Griff Creek at mouth
- Lake Forest Creek at mouth
- Madden Creek at mouth
- Marlette Creek at mouth
- Mill Creek blw Lakeshore Dr
- McKinney Creek at mouth
- Quail Creek at mouth
- Secret Harbor Creek at mouth
- Slaughter House at the mouth
- Snow Creek at Mouth
- Hatchery Creek at Star Harbor
- Tahoe City Urban Ditch at lake
- Tunnel Creek at mouth
- Wood Creek at mouth
- Wood Creek at

Truckee River Watershed – Middle Truckee River:

- Alder Creek
- Bear Creek near mouth
- Truckee River in Big Chief Corridor
- Little Truckee River Below Boca Dam
- Cold Creek at Donner Creek
- Davis Creek
- Donner at Highway 89
- Donner at Donner Lake outflow
- East Martis Creek at bridge
- Union Valley Creek
- Juniper Creek near mouth
- Martis Creek at Martis Creek Lake
- Martis Creek at COE boundary
- Pole Creek
- Prosser Creek below dam
- Prosser Creek at Hwy 89
- Sagehen Creek at Hwy 89
- Squaw Creek
- Truckee River at Regional Park

- Truckee River near Tahoe City
- Trout Creek Lower near mouth
- Trout Creek at Bennett Flat
- Upper Little Truckee

Truckee River Watershed – Lower Truckee River:

- Dry Creek
- Evans Creek
- Galena Creek
- Hunter Creek
- Truckee River At Idlewild Park
- Truckee River above Nixon Bridge
- North Truckee Drain
- Truckee River @ McCarran Ranch
- Pyramid Lake
- Roberts Creek
- Lower Steamboat Creek
- Upper Steamboat Creek
- Truckee River Near Wadsworth Bridge
- Whites Creek

Results and Discussion

Water temperature for Lake Tahoe and the Truckee River watershed ranged from 0.8° Celsius (C) at Galena Creek to 14.5°C at Evans Creek near Reno. Generally, cooler water temperatures are considered better habitat for aquatic life in mountain streams and lakes since colder water contains more dissolved oxygen, an essential ingredient for fish and invertebrates. Higher temperatures promote nutrient solubility and can occur as a result of low flow (shallow) conditions, and/or a lack of canopy (vegetation) cover along stream banks, which acts to shade and thus prevent solar heating of the water. For a complete list of water temperatures by site refer to Appendix A.

Figure 1. Water temperature for selected sites in South Lake Tahoe, May 22, 2010.

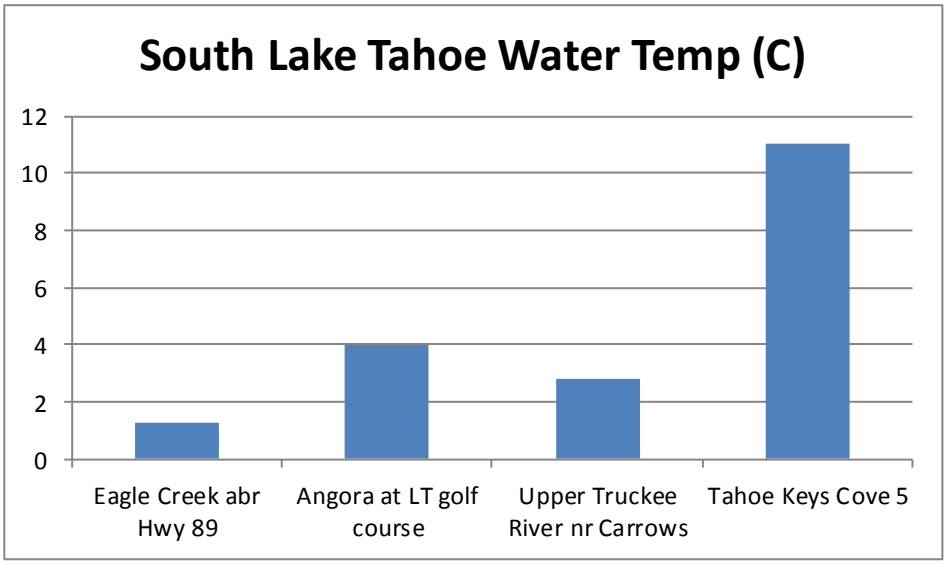


Figure 2. Water temperature for selected sites in North Lake Tahoe, May 22, 2010.

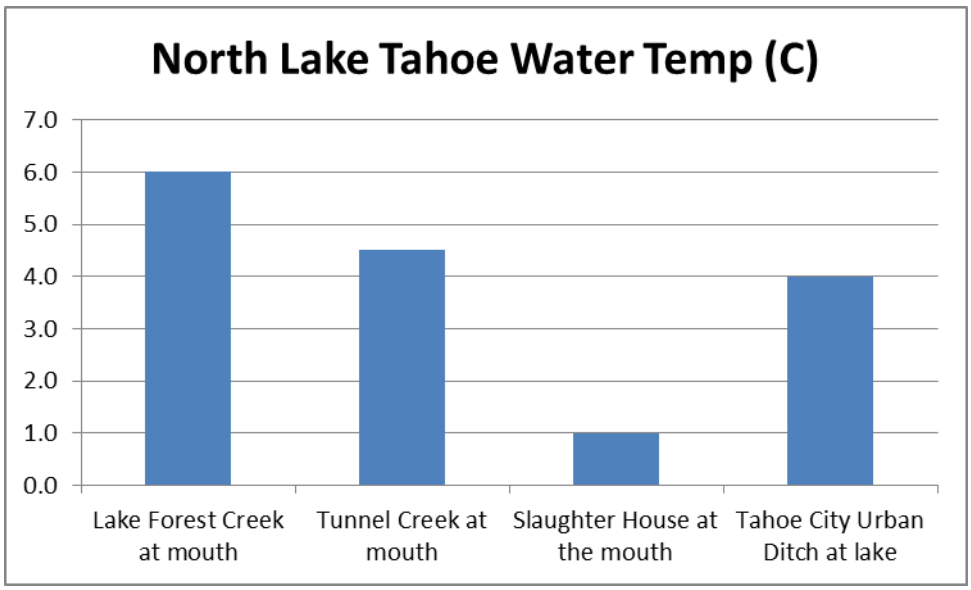


Figure 3. Water temperature for selected site in Middle Truckee River Watershed, May 22, 2010.

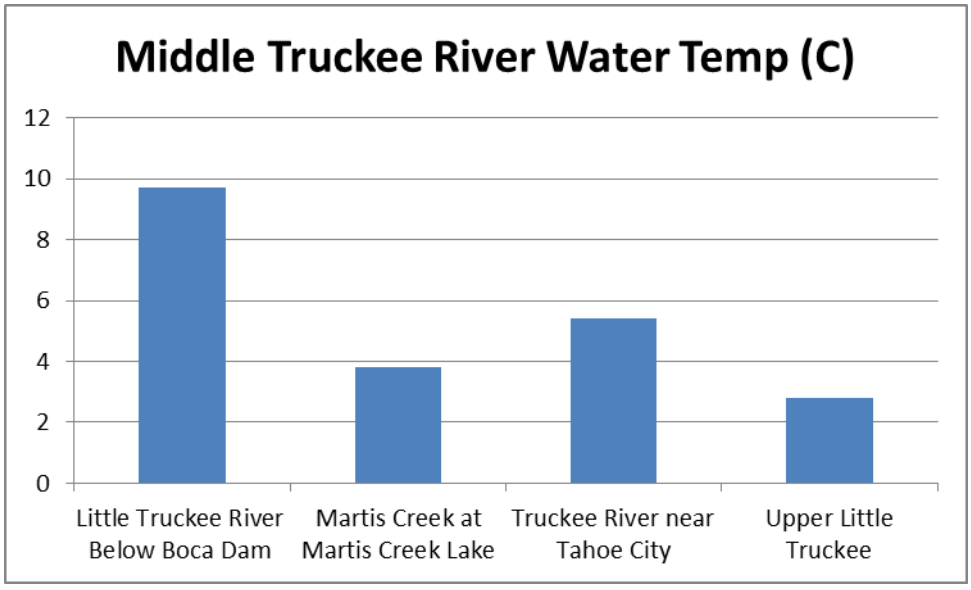
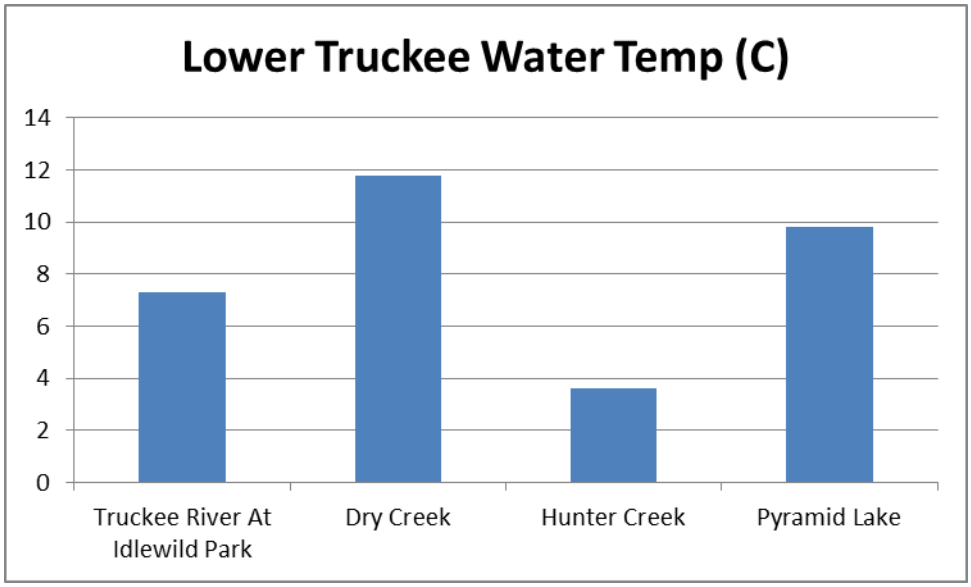


Figure 4. Water temperature for selected site in Lower Truckee River Watershed, May 22, 2010.



In many Sierra streams, propagation of cold-water fish (i.e. trout or salmon) is a designated beneficial use of the water. In such streams, numerical and narrative water quality standards generally are set at levels that will "support the beneficial use" of a cold water fishery. Such streams generally require cooler temperatures (ranges adequate for Rainbow trout survival shown below) and higher dissolved oxygen content than water in streams and lakes that do not have cold-water fishery as a designated beneficial use. Cold-water fish also require habitat characteristics that promote spawning (clear gravel beds, riffles), rearing habitat (glides and pools) and adequate food sources such as macroinvertebrates (mayfly, nymphs, stonefly nymphs, and caddisfly larvae). Such characteristics can be monitored, but they do not usually have numeric standards.

(Note that dissolved oxygen, temperature, total suspended solids (TSS) and turbidity are parameters directly related to habitat for which most waters generally have standards. Because macroinvertebrates are believed to be a primary indicator of stream health as related to fisheries, both LRWQCB and NDEP have developed or are in the process of developing an Index of Biologic Integrity (IBI). These are basically standards for benthic macroinvertebrates.)

Table 4: Beneficial Uses of the State's Waters

Species	Growth	Maxima	Spawning*	Embryo Survival**
Rainbow Trout	19°C (66 °F)	24°C (75 °F)	9°C (48 °F)	13°C (55 °F)

* The optimum or mean of the range of spawning temperatures reported for the species.
** The upper temperature for successful incubation and hatching reported for the species.
Adapted from EPA's Draft Volunteer Stream Monitoring: A Methods Manual.

All measured **pH values** fell between 4.5 and 9.2, which is typical of fresh water streams or lakes in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. In fresh water, pH in the range of 6.5 to 8.5 should protect most organisms. The high value of 9.2 was from Pyramid Lake, exactly the same as last year. The highest reported value from an upper watershed stream was 8.0 at Martis Creek in the Middle Truckee River segment.

Dissolved oxygen measurements ranged between 5.0 and 13.6 mg/L, all within reasonable levels for streams. Cold, clean water usually has levels of dissolved oxygen averaging above 6.0 mg/L, and single-measurement levels below 5 mg/L are considered dangerous for cold water aquatic life. While water quality objectives for dissolved oxygen will vary from region to region, waters that support coldwater fishes usually require that the average dissolved oxygen concentration shall not fall below 6 to 8 mg/L.

Conductivity measurements ranged from 10 to 3,343 µS/cm (micro Siemens per centimeter, the units used for conductivity measurements in fresh water). Generally the highest reading for the area is at Pyramid Lake, a natural alkaline system. Conductivity is used as an indicator of dissolved solids (e.g., minerals or salts); higher levels can be associated with degraded water quality. Anthropogenic sources that may affect conductivity include drainage from agricultural fields, wastewater or stormwater discharge, or inputs stemming from deicing materials on the roadways.

Conductance tends to be lower as water volume increases due to dilution, and generally increases with higher turbidity. The 2010 Snapshot Day occurred in an interval during peak spring run off. (See Figure 4 below).

Turbidity is a measure of the amount of suspended particles in the water. Algae, suspended sediment, organic matter, and some pollutants can cloud the water making it more turbid. If the turbidity is caused by suspended sediment, it can be an indicator of erosion, either natural or man-made. High sediment loads can clog the gills of fish, foul gravel beds and smother fish eggs and benthic insects. The sediment can also carry pathogens, pollutants and nutrients.

The US EPA's recommended criteria for turbidity in streams in Eco-Region II (forested mountains in the western U.S.), is at or below **1.3 NTU** (Nephelometric Turbidity Units) or less (*US EPA Ambient Water Quality Criteria Recommendations).* Higher NTU levels indicate poorer water clarity. TRPA has a near shore turbidity standard of 1-3 NTUs, which is rarely exceeded in the lake. The Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (LRWQCB) has established a standard of 3 NTUs for the Middle Truckee River, as measured by monthly means. The standard for the Truckee River in the State of Nevada is generally 10 NTU (single value measurement).

Valid turbidity data from the grab samples was determined for 93 sites. Values for South Lake Tahoe ranged from a low of .18 at the relatively undisturbed reach of Tallac Creek, to a high of 9.9 at Bijou Park Drainage which has large amounts of urban runoff. Values for North Lake Tahoe ranged from a low of 0.10 NTU on the relatively undisturbed Tunnel, to a high of 67 at Lake Forest Creek, which has a major restoration in progress. Middle Truckee River sites ranged from 0.0 Cold Creek at Donner to 5.60 at Juniper Creek. Eight of the 23 Middle Truckee River sites had values greater than 3 NTU, which is the CA Standard. All but four of the Lower Truckee River sites were below the Nevada State standard of 10 NTU.

Table 5: Average Turbidity for Snapshot Day by Region

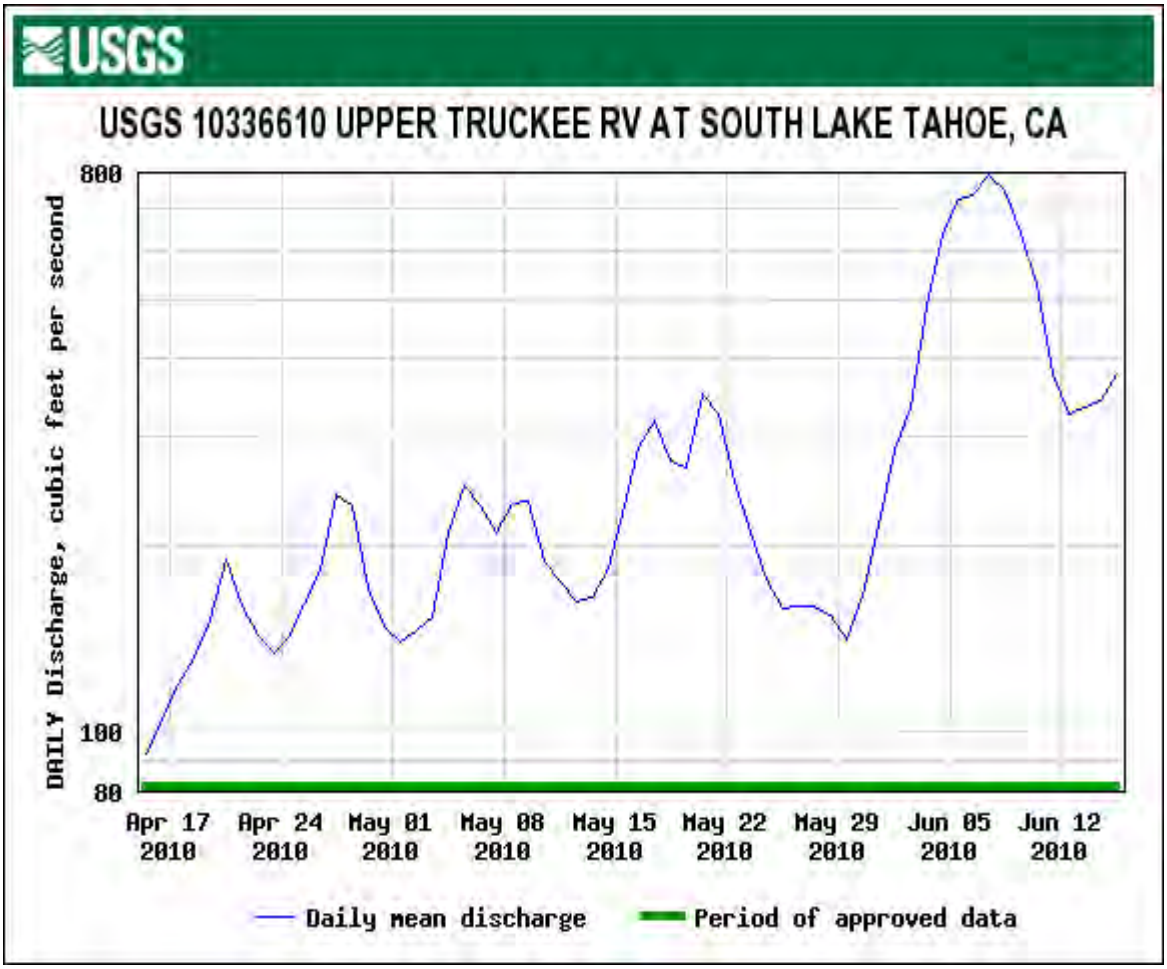
Region	Average turbidity measurement
South Tahoe	1.96
North Tahoe	4.88
Middle Truckee River	2.28
Lower Truckee River	7.75
Watershed average	4.21

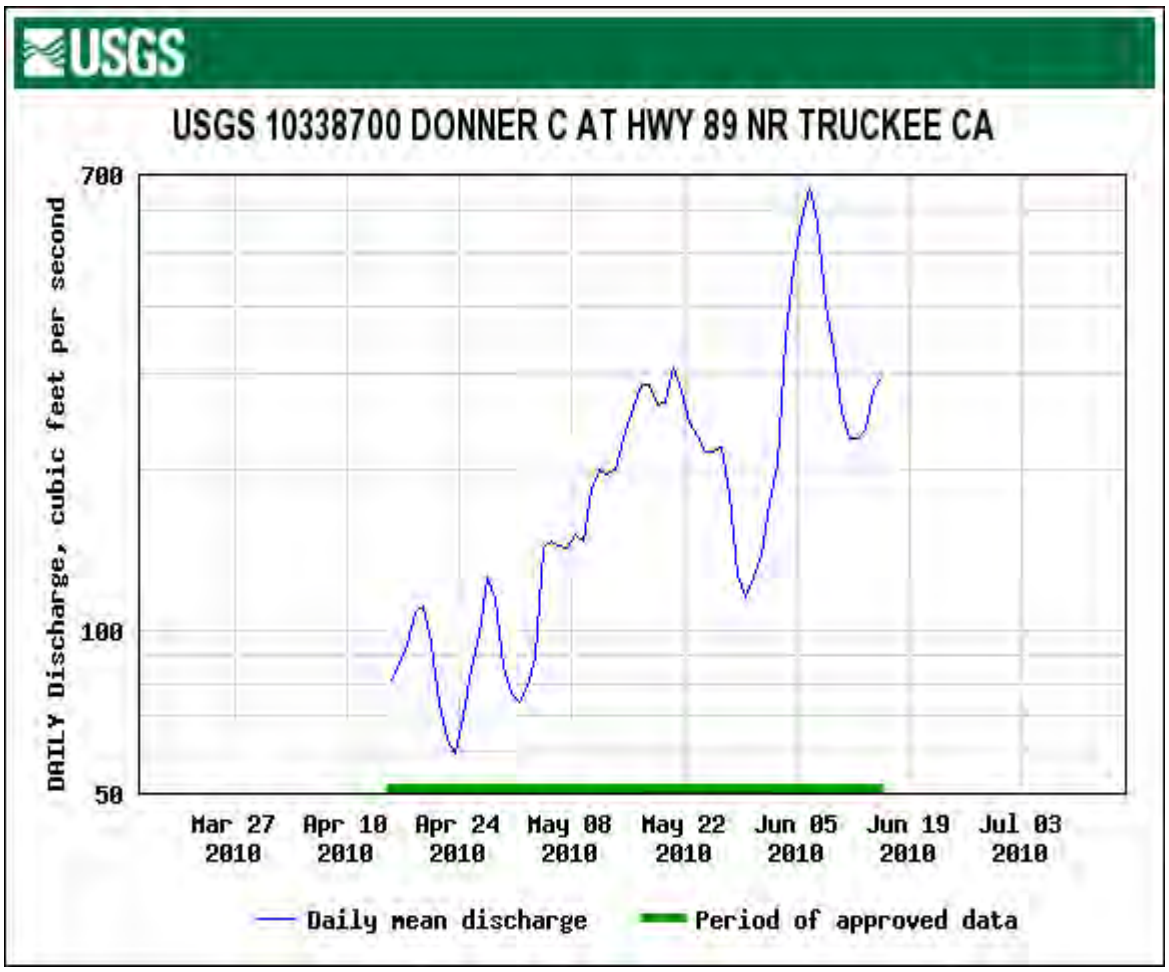
Streamflow is the measurement of how much water is following, which varies with precipitation. One of the major goals of Snapshot Day, besides the public involvement and education, is to gain information on the vast numbers of streams and creeks that are not routinely measured for water quality or streamflow (volume of water). The Tahoe Basin has about 13 streams that are regularly measured out of 64. The Middle and Lower Truckee have even less under regular monitoring. Stream flow data for those sites that are measured was obtained for May 22, 2010 was obtained from USGS gaging stations and selected site hydrographs are shown in Figure 2.

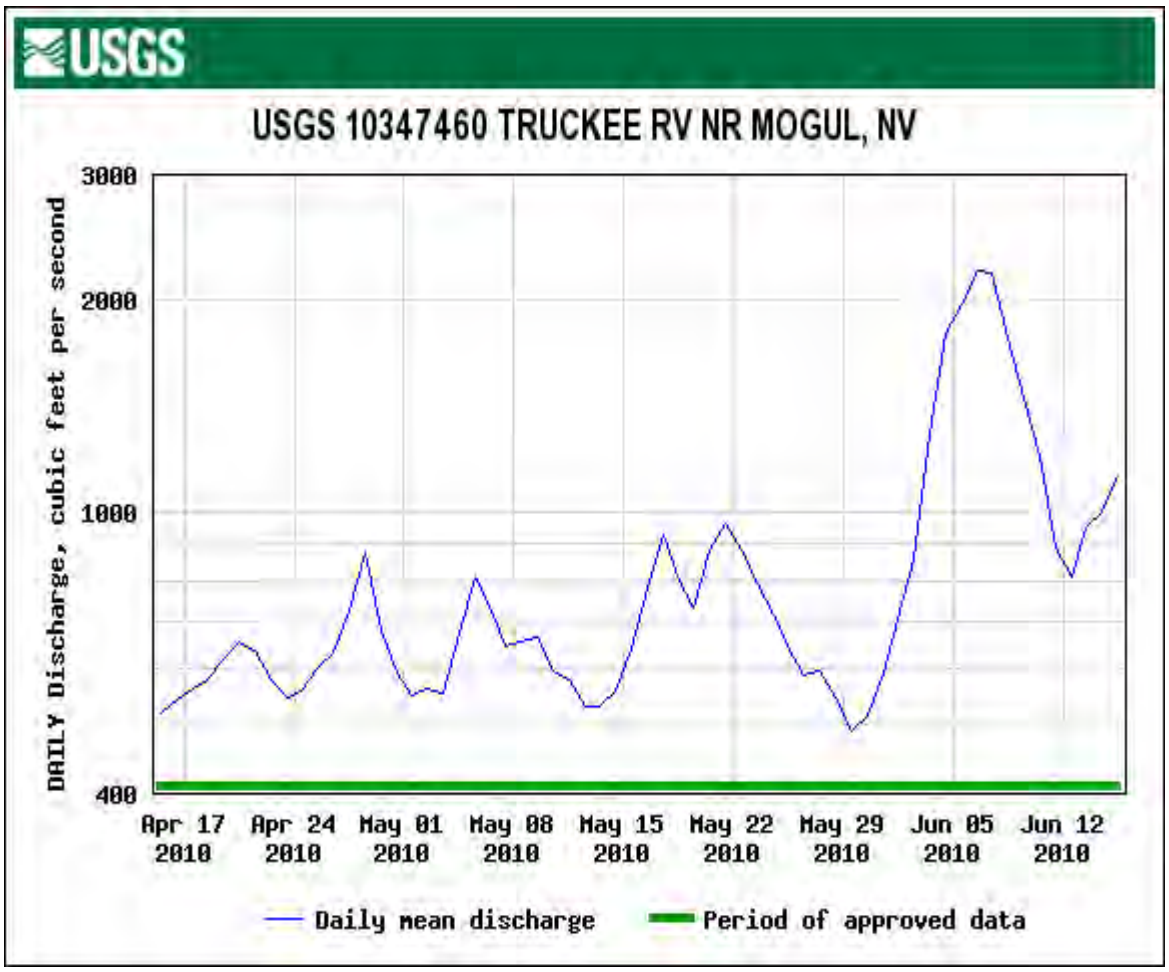
Average snow pack as of the *June 2010 NRCS Water Supply Outlook Report* for the Lake Tahoe Basin was 38.3 percent, with the Truckee River at 65.6 percent. Reported precipitation

was 90 percent of average in the Lake Tahoe Basin and 89 percent of average for the Truckee River. Reported stream flow forecasts were expected to be well below average for the Lake Tahoe and Truckee River watershed as of May 1, 2010.

Figure 5: Stream Flow of Selected Streams on Snapshot Day. Snapshot Day took place on May 22nd.




USGS
USGS 10338700 DONNER C AT HWY 89 NR TRUCKEE CA
DAILY Discharge, cubic feet per second
700
100
50
Mar 27 2010
Apr 10 2010
Apr 24 2010
May 08 2010
May 22 2010
Jun 05 2010
Jun 19 2010
Jul 03 2010
Daily mean discharge
Period of approved data



Visual observations at most of the study locations were indicative of generally good water quality conditions. Algae were reported at 30 of the 91 sites. Litter was only reported at 10 sites overall with 7 of the 10 sites in the Lower Truckee locations Water with a rotten egg smell was reported from Bijou Park at Verdon. South Zephyr Creek at the large Zephyr Cove Marina has obervations of algae, oily sheen, form/suds and litter.

Coliform bacteria all observations, photos, field measurements and samples were taken between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 pm, this maintains the 'Snapshot' aspect of the project. Nutrient and bacteria samples are kept chilled with ice or blue ice in coolers from the point of collection until arrival at the lab for analysis. Any samples submitted past 1:00 pm are evaluated at that time to determine what the value is of samples submitted. Bacteria samples were collected in sterile Whirl-paks and nutrient and turbidity samples were collected in clean (acid rinsed) Nalgene® plastic bottles.

Bacteria samples were transported from drop off points in South Lake Tahoe and Truckee to either the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board laboratory in South Lake Tahoe or the U.S. Geologic Survey laboratory in Carnelian Bay. Bacteria samples collected from the Lower Truckee River were transported to the Nevada State Health Laboratory. The need for multiple labs for such a large area is to ensure sample analysis within the allotted 6 hour

holding time. Quality assurance is comparable as each lab uses the same method, SM9222 from Standard Methods for Water and Wastewater Analysis, 21 Edition, 2007[j].

Coliform bacteria are found in the feces of warm-blooded animals, including humans, pets, livestock, beavers, and birds. Fecal Coliform is measured in colony forming units counted per 100 milliliters of water (CFU/100ml). CFU are roughly equivalent to the number of bacteria cells. The Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board standard for fecal coliform is 20 counts per 100 ml for a single occurrence.

There were few hits of bacteria in the upper watersheds. Two sites were above the CA standard, South Zephyr Creek and Burke Creek. South Zephyr Creek is located near a horse-back riding stable and has had numerous violations in the past. Burke Creek is a popular dog walking area and has benefited from a recent Eagle Scout Project that installed a dog waste station near the parking lot. Figure 5 shows a marked improvement in both creeks. Water quality improvement for Burke Creek over the past year could be attributed to the dog waste station.

Figure 6 shows fecal coliform data for the eight of thirty-six North Lake Tahoe sites that had one or more colony per 100 ml. **Figure 7** shows fecal coliform data for 15 of the 48 South Lake Tahoe sites that had one or more colony per 100 ml. The following list of west shore sites had 1 colony per 100 ml:

1. Bear Creek at mouth
2. Donner at Donner Lake outflow
3. Union Valley Creek at SFFCC road
4. Martis Creek at mouth
5. Martis Creek at COE boundary
6. Prosser Creek below dam
7. Squaw Creek at mouth
8. Truckee River at Regional Park
9. Truckee River near Tahoe City
10. Trout Creek at mouth

Lower Truckee River site continue to show some bacteria. The Nevada State standard for E. Coli for is 410 CFU/100 mL (single value measurement) and the only exceedance was at Lower Steamboat Creek, which is below the Truckee Meadows Wastewater Treatment Effluent discharge.

Figure 6: Graph of Fecal Coliform data for South Zephyr Creek and Burke Creek, 2009 & 2010.

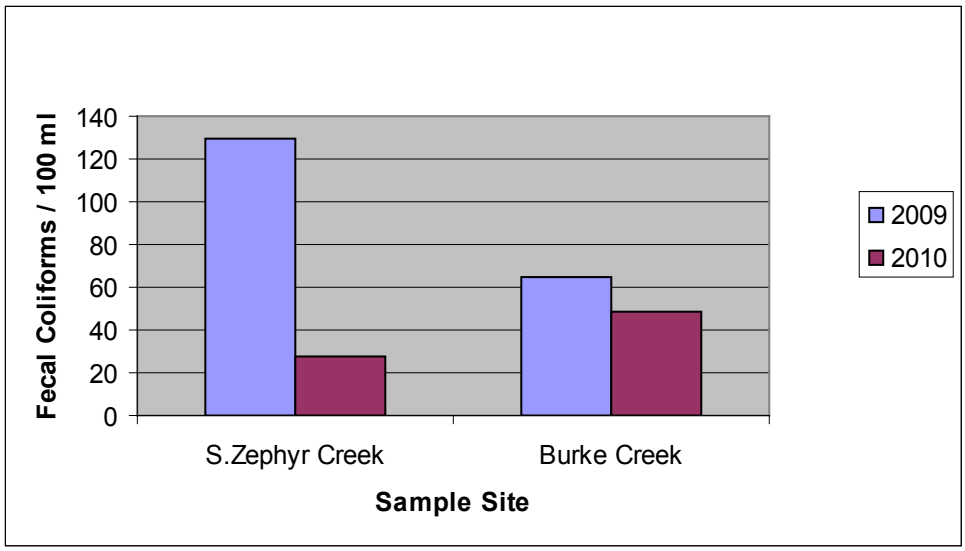


Figure 7: Graph of Fecal Coliform data for eight North Lake Tahoe sites, 2010.

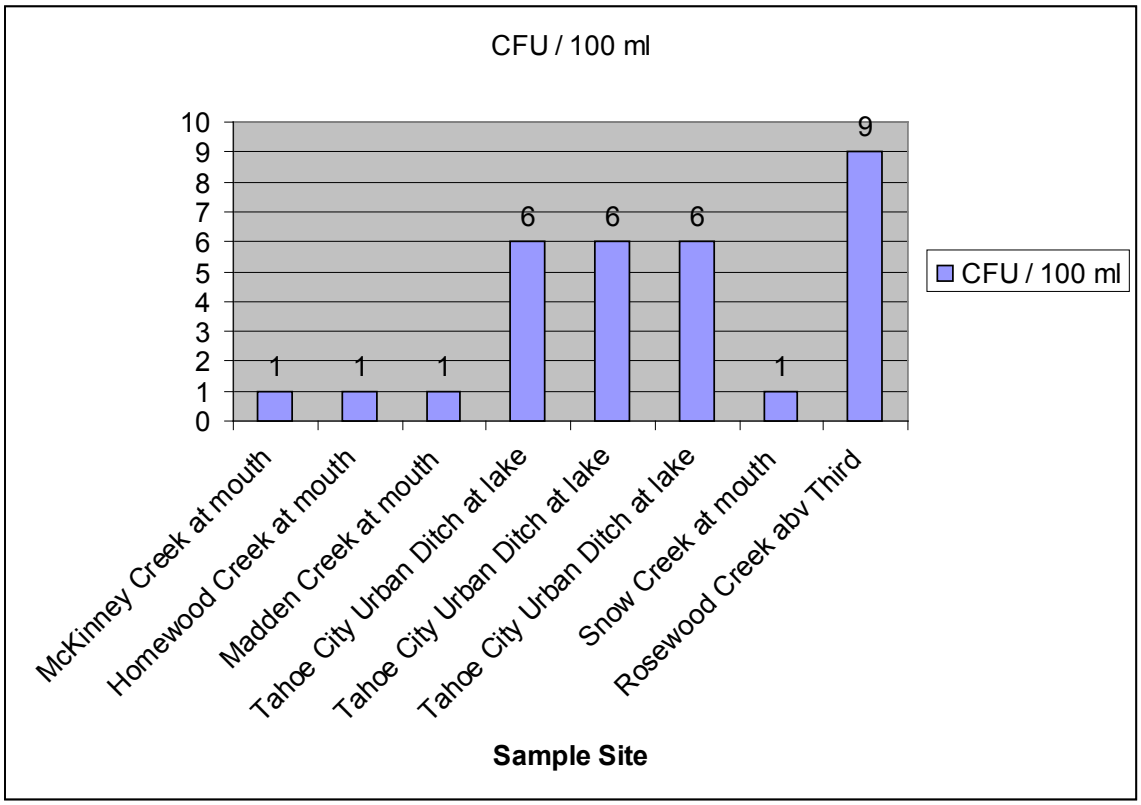
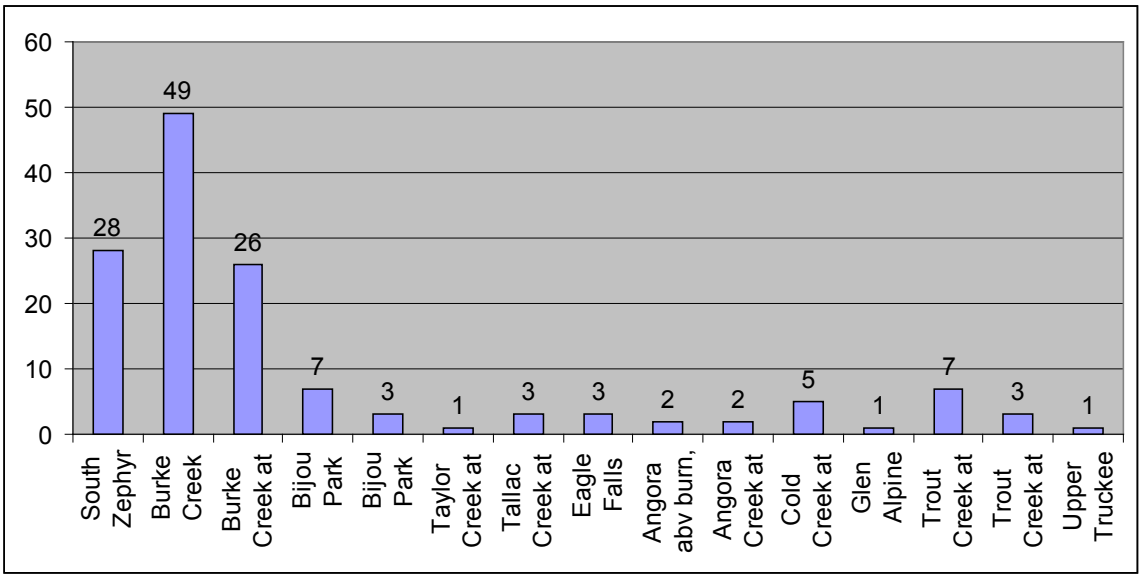


Figure 8: Graph of Fecal Coliform data for 15 South Lake Tahoe sites, 2010.



Nutrients
Sixty samples were analyzed for nitrogen and phosphorus, which are of most concern for algae growth and water clarity. Along with excess algae growth, nutrient concentrations that are too high can lead to odors, discolored waters, loss of clarity, and nighttime oxygen depletion, which can cause fish, kills in extreme cases.

Nitrogen naturally occurs in any watershed but excessive amounts are damaging as stated above. Nitrogen is very mobile so the dissolved portion is generally of more concern.

Phosphorous is a nutrient that stimulates algal growth, and phosphorus pollution has been identified as a serious problem contributing to the degradation of water quality in Lake Tahoe and the Truckee River. Sediment entering streams and the lake from human caused erosion of soil along roads, or from residential or commercial properties, is a common source of phosphorous. As more emphasis is placed on annual loads and TMDLs (Total Maximum Daily Loads), total phosphorous is not as much concern as the soluble and more reactive form that tends to cling to the smallest sediment particles.

The following graphs are created using the selected sites with the most record as described earlier. The

Figure 9: Average Nutrients for South Lake Tahoe

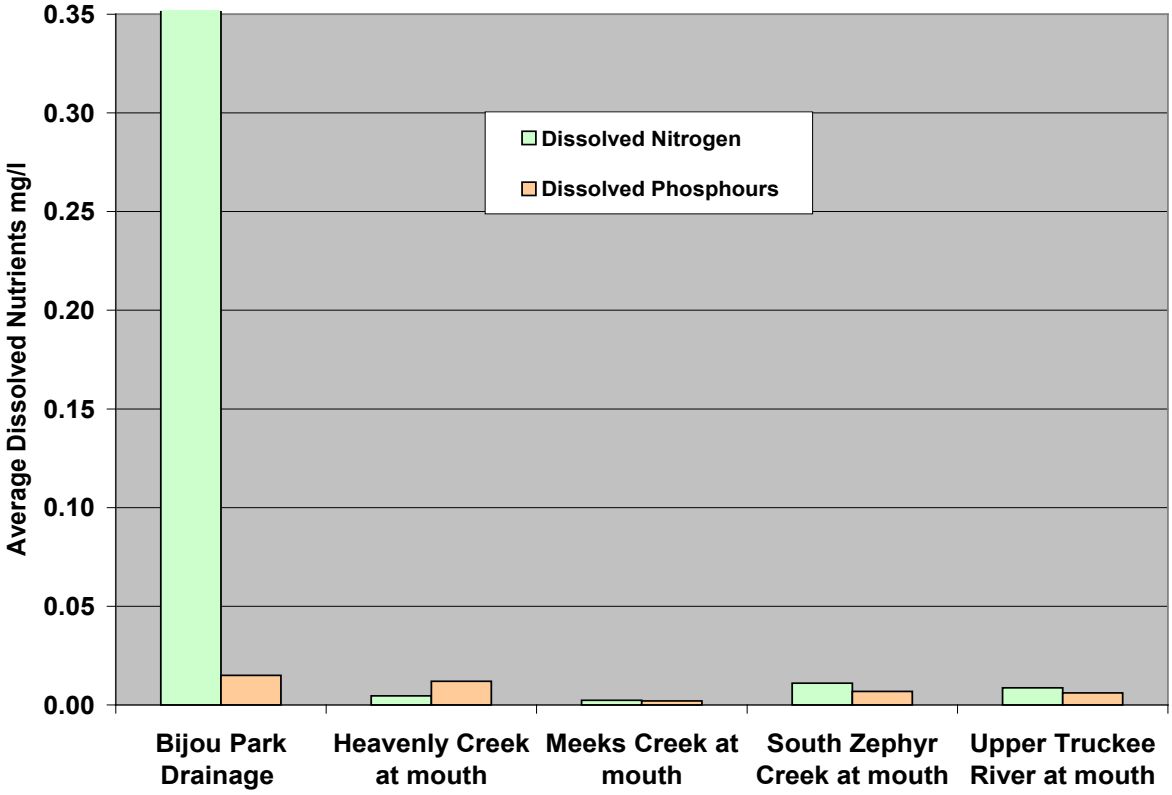


Figure 10: Average Nutrients for North Lake Tahoe

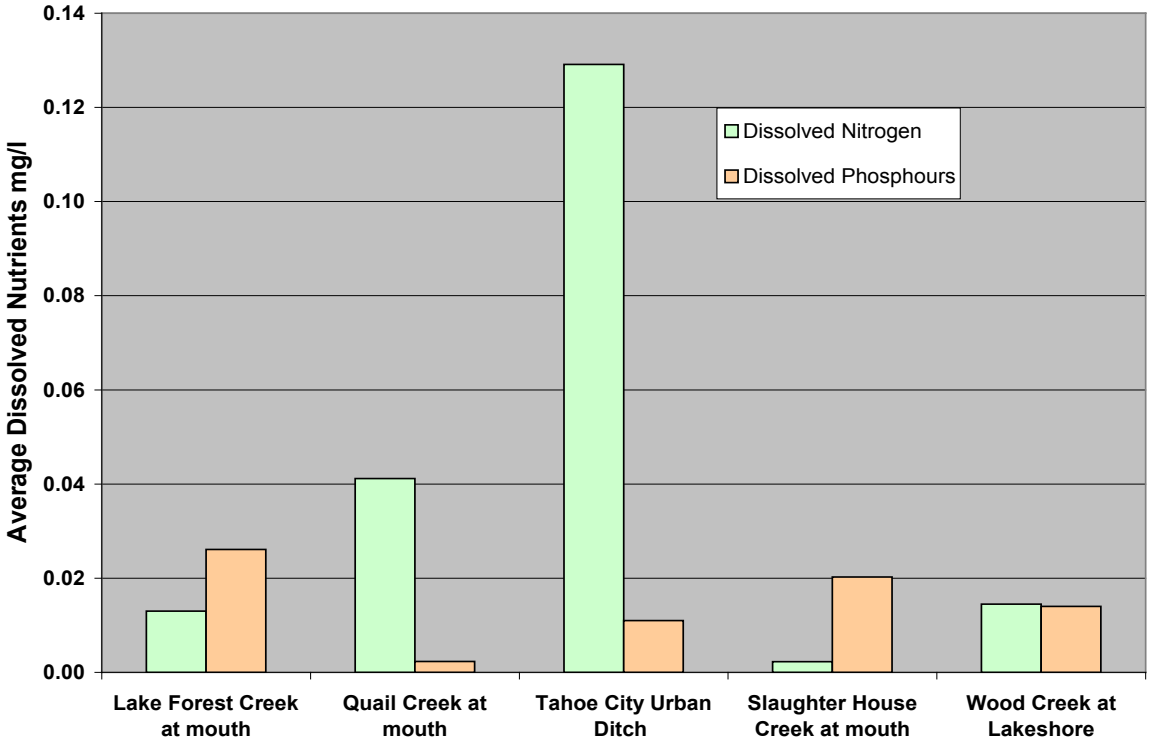


Figure 11: Average Nutrients for Middle Truckee River

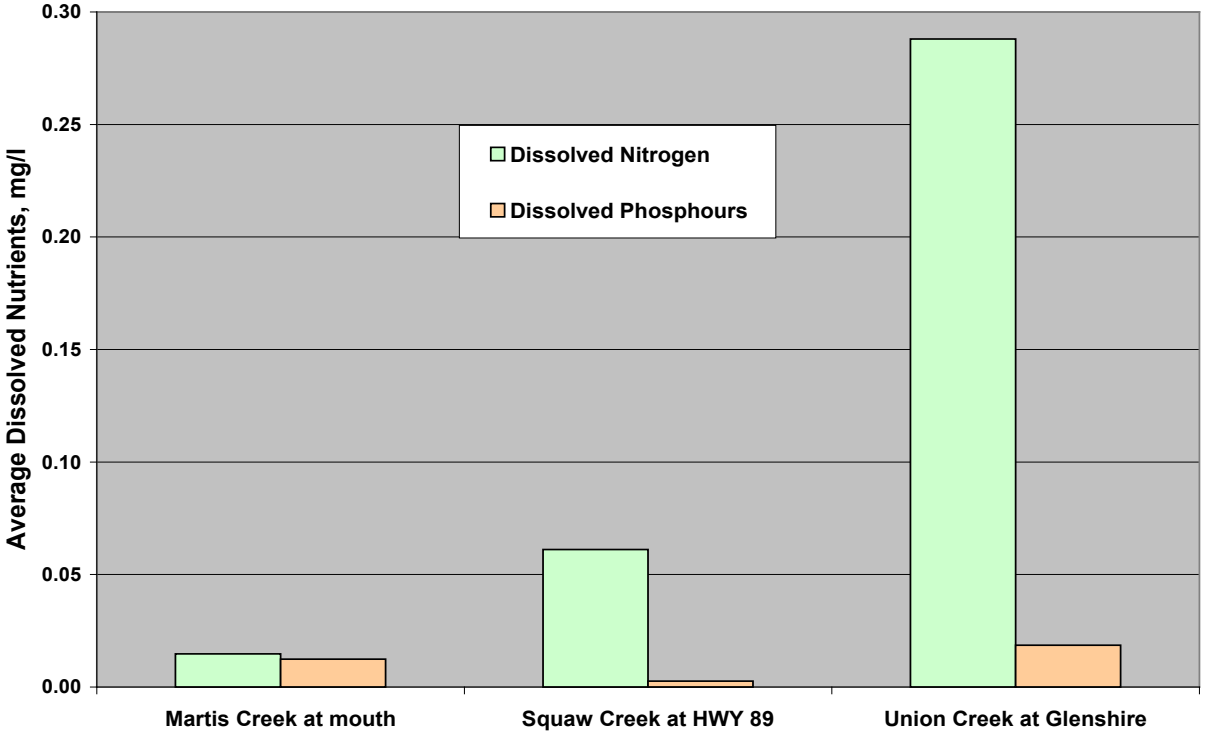
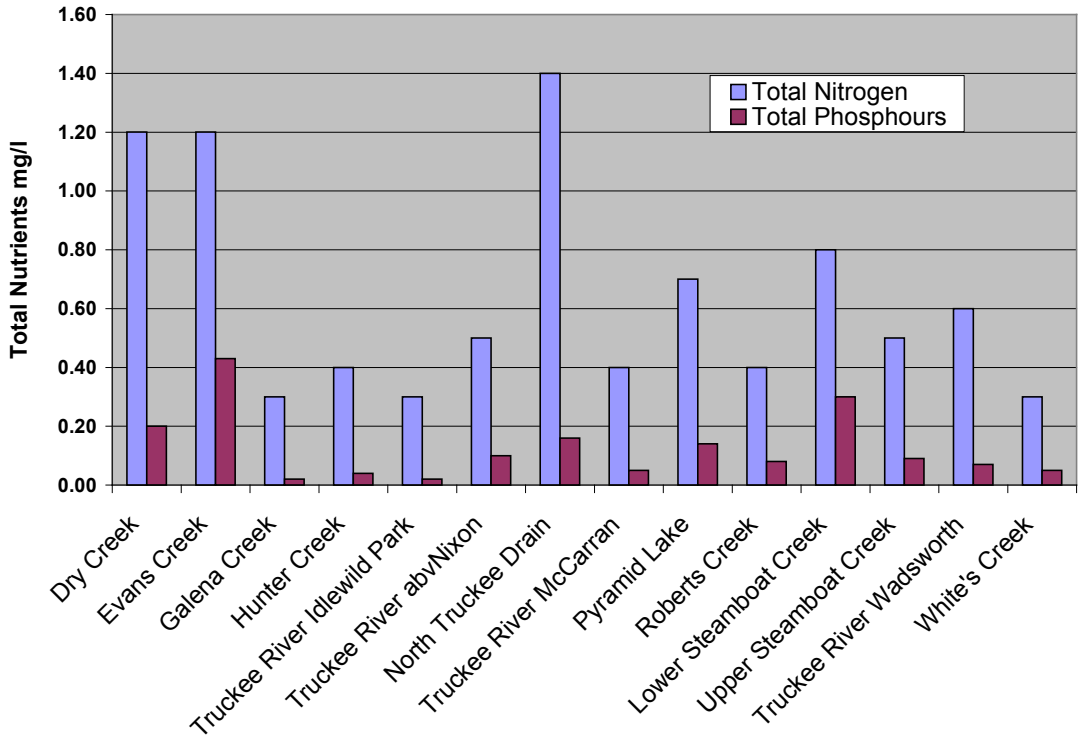


Figure 12: Lower Truckee River 2010 Nutrients



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Conclusion

As seen the overall water quality for 2010 was quite good, with very few major issues. Turbidity was somewhat elevated, typical for spring runoff, and the same 'hot spot' sites in each region continue to bear closer scrutiny.

The most amazing result is that Snapshot Day has reached its tenth year anniversary, only 1 of 2 in the State of California that has such distinction. This shows not only how possible it is to successfully engage the public in active watershed stewardship, but to also provide valuable data to the responsible agencies. This event has been funded primarily though local and state agencies and the largest source of continued support are from the Nevada State Lands Commission through the selling of license plates for conservation. Almost all years of nutrient analysis has been funded from NV State Lands and the continued support of Elizabeth Harrison. The event coordination is also mostly volunteer and yet the collaboration and continued dedication of those involved to engage citizen volunteers makes the event happen. Many residents have committed to the sampling near their homes to insure high quality data is collected for the protection of the waters in our region. The successes of this type of event show how average homeowners and residents can provide invaluable data collection and have fun at the same time!

For more information about how to get involved with water quality monitoring activities contact the following agencies:

- *South & West shores of Lake Tahoe* – Contact Jenny Hatch, Northern Sierra Regional Director of CalTrout, at (530)541-3495.

- *North Lake Tahoe - Incline Village* – Contact Incline Village GID Waste Not/Incline Village Clean Water Team, (775) 832-1284.

- *Middle Truckee River (Tahoe City to Nevada State Line)* – Contact Beth Christman, Truckee River Watershed Council, (530) 550-8760

- *Lower Truckee River (Nevada Stateline to Pyramid Lake)* – Contact Mary Kay Wagner, Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, (775) 687-9454

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The California Streamside Biosurvey: An Introduction to Using Aquatic Invertebrates as Water Quality Indicators, California State Water Resources Control Board, September 2001

Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region, California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region, 1993 Revision

Water Supply Outlook, Natural Resource Conservation Service website, www.nrcs.us.gov

Acknowledgements

2010 SNAPSHOT DAY SPONSORS

California State Water Resource Control Board
California Tahoe Conservancy
Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board
Lake Tahoe Community College
Nevada Division of Environmental Protection
Nevada Division of State Lands
Nevada State Health Laboratory
Tahoe Environmental Research Center
Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
Tahoe Resource Conservation District
Tahoe Water Suppliers Association
Truckee River Watershed Council
University of California Cooperative Extension
University of Nevada Cooperative Extension
United States Geologic Survey
Washoe County
Waste Not, Incline Village General Improvement District
California Trout

Citizen Monitoring Working Group Snapshot Day Planning Committee:

Beth Christman (Truckee River Watershed Council)
Rebecca Sawyer (Incline Village General Improvement District)
Jenny Hatch (Regional Director, CalTrout)
Mary Kay Wagner (Nevada Division of Environmental Protection)
Susie Kocher (University of California Cooperative Extension)
Rita Whitney (Tahoe Regional Planning Agency)
Marie Bledsoe (Tahoe Regional Planning Agency)

Equipment and Contact:
Alpine Watershed Group, Sarah Green
CA State Water Resource Clean Water Team, Erick Burres
Incline Village General Improvement District, Rebecca Williams
Lake Tahoe Community College, Kathy Strain
Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, Mary Kay Wagner
Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, Rita Whitney
Truckee River Watershed Council, Beth Christman
United States Geological Survey, Paul Honeywell
University of California, Davis

Laboratory Analysis (Nutrients and Bacteria):
High Sierra Water Lab
Nevada State Health Laboratory
Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control
United States Geologic Survey

Special Thanks To

Lake Tahoe Community College and Sierra Nevada College for the use of their campus and instruments
Nevada Division of State Lands for funding nutrient analysis
Nevada State Health Lab for Lower Truckee River laboratory analyses
Paul Honeywell, U.S. Geologic Survey, Carnelian Bay office, for coordinating Lake Tahoe bacterial analysis
Jenny Hatch, CALTROUT, for report writing
Rita Whitney, TRPA, for report writing
Marie Bledsoe, TRPA, for development of the Tahoe Integrated Information Management System data site for Snapshot Day
Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, for technical assistance, report printing and binding
Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility for nutrient analysis, Lower Truckee River
Lisa Petrusa, LRWQCB, bacteria and turbidity sampling and analysis

And all the volunteers that made it happen!

Appendices

Appendices:

A. 2010 Summary of Field and Lab Data

B. Map of Sampling Locations

Note: Data collected as part of the Snapshot activities is available electronically. Contact Jenny Hatch, Cal Trout or go to www.snapshotday.org

APPENDIX A

APPENDIX B

Snapshot Day May 22 , 2010 Summary Field and Lab Data

SITE ID	Station Name	Conductivity (µs)	DO (mg/l)	Water Temperature (*C)	pH	Turbidity (NTU) (1)	Ammonia NH3-N,mg/l (2,3)	Dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen DIN-N,mg/l (2,3)	Total Keldahl Nitrogen TKN, mg/l (2,3)	Total Nitrogen TN, mg/l (2,3)	Soluble Reactive Phos. SRP-P, mg/l (2, 3)	Dissolved Phos. SRP-P, mg/l (2, 3)	Total Phosphorus TP-P, mg/l (2, 3)	Particulate Phos.PP, mg/l	Total Suspended Solids TSS, mg/l	Fecal Coliform Bacteria No. of Colonies per 100 mL (4)	E- Coli Bacteria No. of Colonies per 100 mL (4)
South Lake																	
SLT-ANG1-01	Angora abv Lake Tahoe Blvd	20	null	5.5	6.7	0.43	0.001	0.005	0.117	0.122	0.001	0.006	0.016	0.010	2.50	separate table	separate table
SLT-ANG1-03	Angora blw View Circle	20	9	6	7	0.65	0.001	0.001	0.171	0.172	0.002	0.008	0.015	0.007	1.20		
SLT-ANG3-00	Angora at LT golf course	40	8	4	7.1	0.85	0.001	0.001	0.213	0.214	0.003	0.013	0.018	0.005	1.60		
SLT-BPDR-02	Bijou Park Drainage at Werner Salas	440	5.5	4	7.1	0.79											
SLT-BPDR-03	Bijou Park Drainage b/l Hansen's Resort	490	6	7.0	7.5	7.22	0.015	0.382	0.209	0.591	0.008	0.014	0.042	0.028	4.00		
SLT-BPDR-03	Bijou Park Drainage Verdon	206	8.5	13	7.8	9.9	0.001	0.002	0.242	0.244	0.002	0.012	0.019	0.007	1.60		
SLT-BURK-02	Burke Creek blw Hwy 50	163	6	5.5	7.7	5.1	0.001	0.004	0.293	0.297	0.005	0.014	0.030	0.016	5.20		
SLT-CASC-01	Cascade Creek at mouth (at HWY 89?)	10	6	8.2	6.7	0.37											
SLT-COLD-00 (01?)	Cold Creek abv Pioneer Trail	40	9.6	4.5	7.2	1.42	0.001	0.014	0.222	0.236	0.004	0.013	0.024	0.011	1.75		
SLT-COVE	Tahoe Keys Marina Slip 65	150	10	12	7.9	1.71											
SLT-EAGL-01	Eagle Creek abr Hwy 89	10	7	1.3	6.4	0.29											
SLT-ECHO-00	Echo Creek at Upper Truckee	10	10	3.5	6.5	0.44	0.001	0.027	0.088	0.115	0.000	0.002	0.005	0.003	0.75		
SLT-HEAV-00	Heavenly Creek nr confluence @ Trout Creek	40	8	2.0	6.9	0.97	0.001	0.005	0.177	0.182	0.010	0.018	0.026	0.008	1.00		
SLT-HEAV-01 (02?)	Heavenly Creek above Pioneer Trail	40	8	3.0	7.3	0.76											
SLT-MEEK-00	Meeks Creek at mouth	10	5.5	6	6.8	0.9	0.001	0.002	0.122	0.124	0.001	0.004	0.008	0.004	0.60		
SLT-MEEK-01	Meeks Creek abv HWY89	10	7	6	6.9	1.12											
SLT-MEEK-02	Meeks Creek Above Meadow	39	11.0	2	5	4	0.003	0.018	0.629	0.647	0.006	0.015	0.033	0.018	5.20		
SLT-SAXN-00	Saxon Creek abv Trout Creek	46	9	3.0	5.5	3	0.001	0.011	0.183	0.194	0.007	0.015	0.027	0.012	2.40		
SLT-NHZR-00	North Zephyr at mouth	110	9	3.0	7.6	3.3											
SLT-SZHR-00	South Zephyr Creek at mouth	120	6	4	6	0.73	0.005	0.006	0.415	0.421	0.011	0.020	0.032	0.012	1.50		
SLT-TALL-00	Tallac Creek at mouth	30	7.0	7	6.9	0.83	0.001	0.001	0.206	0.207	0.001	0.007	0.011	0.004	1.50		
SLT-TALL-01 (02?)	Tallac Creek upstream of Hwy 89	10	7	2	6.6	0.18											
SLT-TALR-00	Taylor Creek at mouth	20	6.0	7	7.4	0.49	0.001	0.002	0.100	0.102	0.000	0.003	0.009	0.006	1.25		
SLT-TROU-00	Trout Creek nr confluence w/Upper Truckee	40	11	6.5	7.1	1.53	0.002	0.002	0.209	0.211	0.006	0.012	0.025	0.013	2.40		
SLT-TROU-02 (01?)	Trout Creek at Bellevue	40	9	5.2	5.7	2.54											
SLT-TRMO-00	Upper Truckee River at mouth	30	12	2.0	7.3	2.68	0.001	0.017	0.191	0.208	0.005	0.011	0.025	0.014	6.80		
(SLTTR15-02)	Upper Truckee River nr Airport Meadow	39	11	2.0	5	2.03											
SLT-TR30-04	Upper Trockee River at Meyers	36	11	2.8	5.3	1.06											
SLT-TROU-10	Upper Truckee River nr Carrows	36	11	2.8	5.3	2.19											
SLT-KEYS	Tahoe Keys Cove 5	120	7	11.0	8.0	1.21	0.001	0.001	0.136	0.137	0.002	0.007	0.016	0.009	1.25		
North Lake																	
NLT-BONP-00	Bonpland Creek at mouth	60	7.0	2.0	5.0	4.72	0.003	0.027	0.492	0.519	0.011	0.022	0.064	0.042	17.6		
NLT-BRTN-01	Barton Creek at Star Harbor	50	9.0	4.0	5.0	0.91	0.001	0.002	0.159	0.161	0.08	0.015	0.025	0.01	1.14		
NLT-CACN-01	Carnelian Canyon at Hwy 28	80	8.0	3.0	5.0	2.13											
NLT-DLRH	Doller Creek at mouth	60	10.0	3.6	5.0	1.94											
NLT-FRST-00	First Creek at mouth	45	9.0	3.0	5.0	1.08											
NLT-GRIF-00	Griff Creek at mouth	50	7.0	4.0	5.0	2.87	0.002	0.002	0.119	0.121	0.003	0.023	0.03	0.007	3.14		
NLT-LKFC-00	Lake Forest Creek at mouth	100	5.0	6.0	5.5	67	0.003	0.002	0.117	0.119	0.015	0.03	0.034	0.004	1.33		
NLT-MADC-00	Madden Creek at mouth	30	7.5	2.5	7.0	0.23	0.002	0.051	0.092	0.143	0.004	0.015	0.017	0.002	1.2		
NLT-MARL-00	Marlette Creek at mouth	60	5.0	4.0	4.8	0.91											
NLT-MILL-00	Mill Creek blw Lakeshore Dr	40	8.0	4.8	5.0	1.78	0.003	0.002	0.152	0.154	0.018	0.029	0.04	0.011	1.43		
NLT-MKNY-00	McKinney Creek at mouth	20	8.0	2.0	4.5	0.28	0.002	0.047	0.128	0.175	0.001	0.006	0.01	0.004	0.86		
NLT-QULC-00	Quail Creek at mouth	13	5.0	2.0	4.5	0.28	0.001	0.064	0.105	0.169	0.002	0.01	0.013	0.003	1.14		
NLT-SCRT-00	Secret Harbor Creek at mouth	90	8.0	9.0	6.5	0.14	0.009	0.002	0.101	0.103	0.001	0.006	0.01	0.004	1.14		
NLT-SLHO-00	Slaughter House at the mouth	150	5.5	1.0	6.0	1.55	0.002	0.002	0.367	0.369	0.022	0.044	0.047	0.003	1.71		
NLT-RSWD-01	Snow Creek at Mouth	143	9.0	5.0	5.3	6.33											

Snapshot Day May 22 , 2010 Summary Field and Lab Data

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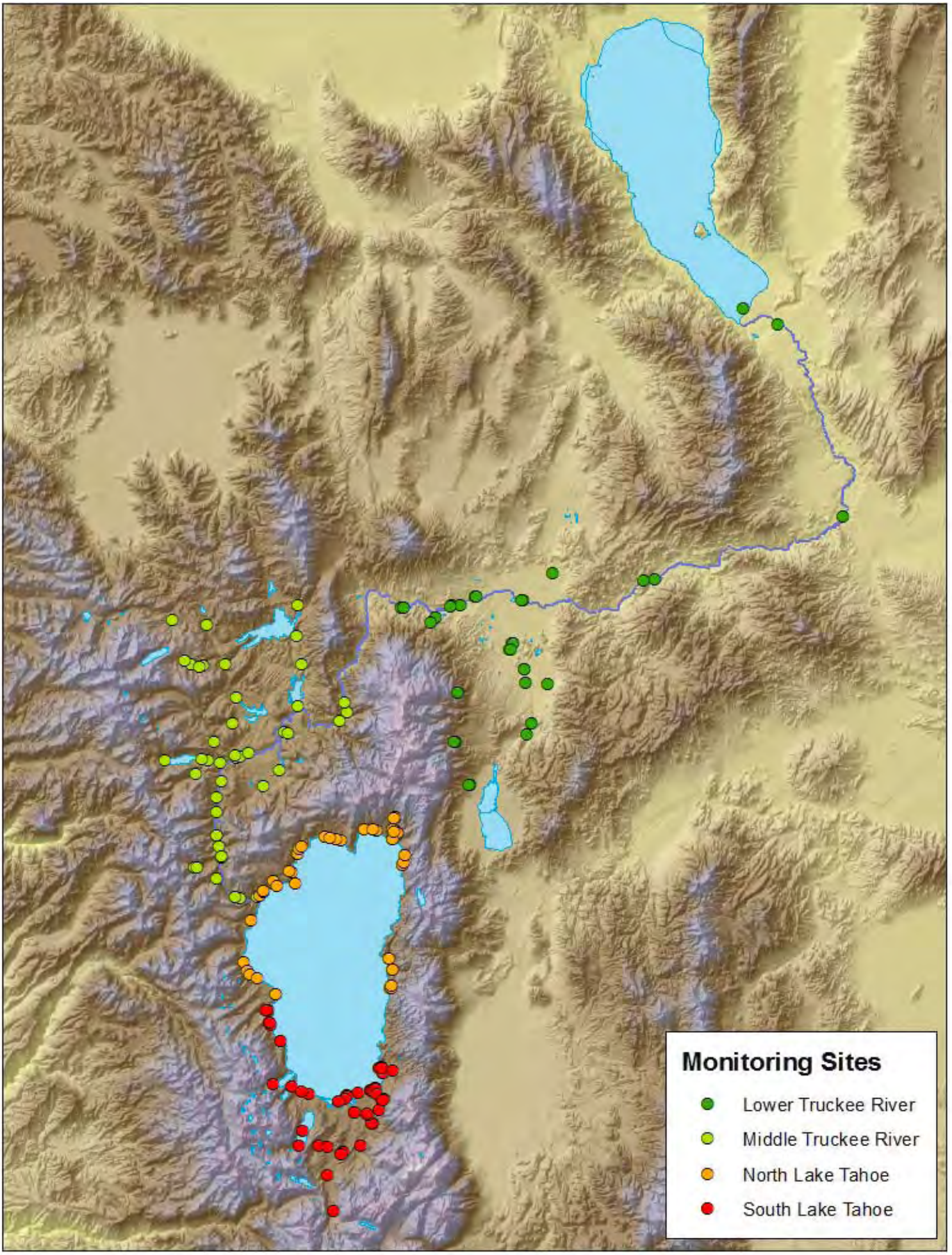
NLT-STAR-00	Hatchery Creek at Star Harbor	100	7.0	5.0	5.0	1.04	0.003	0.002	0.119	0.121	0.041	0.054	0.067	0.013	2		
NLT-TCUD-00	Tahoe City Urban Ditch at lake	200	7.5	4.0	7.0	2.25	0.014	0.018	0.246	0.264	0.007	0.024	0.035	0.011	3.71		
NLT-TUNN-00	Tunnel Creek at mouth	60	7.0	4.5	8.0	0.10											
NLT-WOOD-00	Wood Creek at mouth	50	8	1.5	5.3	0.99	0.001	0.012	0.108	0.12	0.012	0.02	0.037	0.017	3.71		
NLT-WOOD-02	Wood Creek at Tananger	50	7.5	1	5.3	1.08	0.002	0.017	0.117	0.134	0.012	0.021	0.034	0.013	4.29		
River Sites																	
MTR-ALDR	Alder Creek	70	9.1	2.5	7.3	3.39	0.005	0.02	0.134	0.154	0.002	0.016	0.024	0.008	2.86		
MTR-BEAR-00	Bear Creek near mouth	55	101	2.5	7.8	0.41	0.006	0.031	0.113	0.144	0.001	0.007	0.013	0.006	1.14		
MTR-BIGC	Truckee River in Big Chief Corridor	74	608	5.5	5.5	2.80											
MTR-BOCA	Little Truckee River Below Boca Dam	154	6	9.7	6.0	2.41											
MTR-COLD-00	Cold Creek at Donner Creek	40	9.8	2.3	7.6	0.00	0.001	0.01	0.109	0.119	0.003	0.009	0.017	0.008	1.71		
MTR-DMCB	Davis Creek	57	10	6.8	6	0.79											
MTR-DONN-01	Donner at Highway 89	83	9.1	6.4	7.6	1.11	0.001	0.007	0.09	0.097	0.001	0.009	0.016	0.007	1.71		
MTR-DONN-03	Donner at Donner Lake outflow	110	9	8.2	7.7	0.44	0.001	0.002	0.12	0.122	0.001	0.008	0.014	0.006	1.14		
MTR-EMAR	East Martis Creek at bridge	100	10.2	4.2	7.4	4.15											
MTR-GLEN-00	Union Valley Creek	data sheet lost					0.002	0.235	0.219	0.454	0.018	0.029	0.043	0.014	2.29		
MTR-JUNI	Juniper Creek near mouth	81	10.1	2.8	7.9	5.60											
MTR-MART-00	Martis Creek at Martis Creek Lake	100	10.3	3.8	8	3.24	0.004	0.004	0.206	0.21	0.026	0.037	0.05	0.013	2.57		
MTR-MART-01	Martis Creek at COE boundry	63	10	3.9	7.9	2.18	0.002	0.015	0.172	0.187	0.008	0.022	0.027	0.005	0.86		
MTR-POLE-00	Pole Creek	49	9	3.5	5.5	1.22											
MTR-PROS-01	Prosser Creek below dam	60	8.6	7.6	7.6	2.81											
MTR-PROS-01	Prosser Creek at Hwy 89	50	5.3	3.2	7.5	3.24											
MTR-SAGE	Sagehen Creek at Hwy 89	60	8.7	2.8	5.5	3.44											
MTR-SQCR	Squaw Creek	70	10.4	3.9	7.5	1.78	0.003	0.079	0.114	0.193	0.001	0.005	0.014	0.009	2		
MTR-TOWN	Truckee River at Regional Park	90	6.5	4	7.7	0.95	0.001	0.016	0.101	0.117	0.001	0.005	0.019	0.014	2		
MTR-TRO01	Truckee River near Tahoe City	13	5.2	5.4	5.5	3.50	0.001	0.007	0.123	0.13	0.021	0.029	0.049	0.02	3.2		
MTR-TROU-00	Trout Creek Lower near mouth	140	9.7	3.3	7.6	2.65	0.002	0.003	0.159	0.162	0.008	0.015	0.025	0.01	2.57		
MTR-TROU-02	Trout Creek at Bennett Flat	97	10	4.5	7.7	0.58	0.001	0.007	0.098	0.105	0.003	0.011	0.02	0.009	0.86		
MTR-ULTB-00	Upper Little Truckee	36	7	2.8	5.2	3.49											
Lower Truckee																	
LTR-DRY	Dry Creek	385	7.75	11.8	8.1	7.4	0.1	0.4	0.8	1.2	0.13		0.20		12	300	135
LTR-EVA	Evans Creek	340	9.5	14.5	7.9	5.0	0.1	0.4	0.8	1.2	0.35		0.43		11	380	312
LTR-GAL	Galena Creek	90	8	0.8	7.4	2.0	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.01		0.02		10	10	10
LTR-HUN	Hunter Creek	120	8	3.6	7.8	3.3	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.01		0.04		10	10	10
LTR-IDL	Truckee River At Idlewild Park	110	8.5	7.3	5.5	2.7	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.01		0.02		10	10	10
LTR-NIXB	Truckee River above Nixon Bridge	203	9.6	11.6	8.0	14	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.5	0.01		0.10		31	50	86
LTR-NTD	North Truckee Drain	670	6	10	6	14	0.1	0.5	0.9	1.4	0.05		0.16		22	330	399
LTR-MCR	Truckee River @ McCarran Ranch	190	8.5	9.1	8.2	4.8	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.02		0.05		10	10	63
LTR-PYRL	Pyramid Lake	3343	10.2	9.8	9.2	13	0.1	0.6	0.1	0.7	0.06		0.14		29	80	96
LTR-ROB	Roberts Creek	170	9	5.7	7.1	5.9	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.05		0.08		10	80	63
LTR-STE-01	Lower Steamboat Creek	740	7	11	8.1	17	0.1	0.1	0.7	0.8	0.20		0.30		21	410	529
LTR-STE-02	Upper Steamboat Creek		8.9		8.1	3.5	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.5	0.05		0.09		10	260	295
LTR-WADS	Truckee River Near Wadsworth Bridge	134	9.6	9.7	7.8	9.4	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.6	0.02		0.07		22	30	86
LTR-WHI	Whites Creek	105	11.5	6.5	7.3	6.6	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.01		0.05		10	180	243
Minimum Value		**10.0**	**5.0**	**0.8**	**4.5**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.1**	**0.1**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.01**	**0.00**	**0.60**	**10**	**10**
Maximum Value		**3343**	**608.0**	**14.5**	**9.2**	**67.0**	**0.1**	**0.6**	**0.9**	**1.4**	**0.4**	**0.1**	**0.4**	**0.0**	**31.0**	**410.0**	**529.0**

Snapshot Day May 22 , 2010 Summary Field and Lab Data																	
SITE ID	Station Name	Conductivity (µs)	DO (mg/l)	Water Temperature (*C)	pH	Turbidity (NTU) (1)	Ammonia NH3-N,mg/l (2,3)	Dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen DIN-N,mg/l (2,3)	Total Keldahl Nitrogen TKN, mg/l (2,3)	Total Nitrogen TN, mg/l (2,3)	Soluble Reactive Phos. SRP-P, mg/l (2, 3)	Dissolved Phos. SRP-P, mg/l (2, 3)	Total Phosphorus TP-P, mg/l (2, 3)	Particulate Phos.PP, mg/l	Total Suspended Solids TSS, mg/l	Fecal Coliform Bacteria No. of Colonies per 100 mL (4)	E- Coli Bacteria No. of Colonies per 100 mL (4)
Count (# of valid responses)	87	85	86	85	87	86	60	60	60	59	60	46	60	46		14	14

Notes:

Note 1: Turbidity (NTU) lab analysis conducted at the four collection sites for each region.
Note 2: Lake Tahoe and Middle Truckee River Watershed nutrient analysis conducted by High Sierra Water Lab.
Note 3: Lower Truckee River Watershed nutrient analysis conducted by Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility.
Note 4: Fecal Coliform analysis conducted byLahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board/USGS Carnelian Bay/State of Nevada Lab. Value represents number of colonies per 100 mL. Coliform value


Monitoring Sites
Lower Truckee River
Middle Truckee River
North Lake Tahoe
South Lake Tahoe