

# NEVADA TAHOE RESOURCE TEAM

HIGHLIGHTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2020-2021

## Nevada's Commitment to the Lake

The Nevada Tahoe Resource Team (NTRT) is an interagency team coordinated by the Nevada Division of State Lands (NDSL) and dedicated to preserving and enhancing the natural environment in the Lake Tahoe Basin. The team consists of eight members: five from NDSL; one from the Nevada Division of Forestry; one from the Nevada Department of Wildlife; and one from the Nevada Division of State Parks.

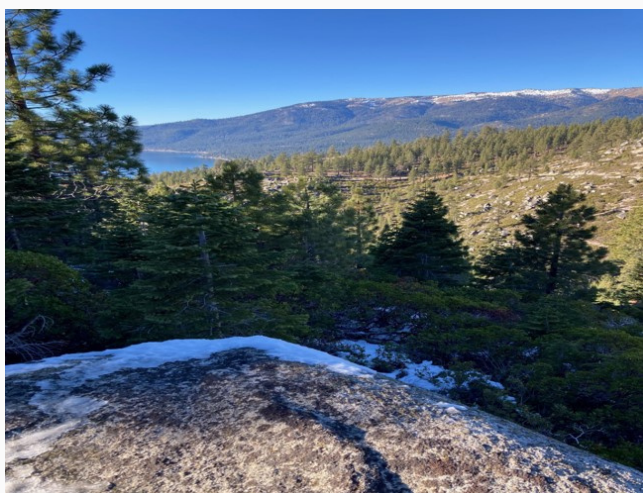
The NTRT implements Nevada's share of the Environmental Improvement Program and coordinates a wide range of projects designed to improve water quality, restore natural watercourses, improve forest health and wildlife habitat, and provide recreational opportunities.

## Lake Tahoe License Plate Program

Through sales of Nevada Lake Tahoe license plates, the NTRT helps fund projects that protect and restore Lake Tahoe's unique natural environment. In 2020, local nonprofit organization Clean up the Lake conducted underwater litter removal along six miles of Nevada Lake Tahoe shoreline. Over 2,000 pounds of trash was removed, categorized by source and size, and documented by the Desert Research Institute and the UC Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center. Clean up the Lake will continue their partnership in 2021 with the NTRT by removing litter from the remaining 22 miles of the Nevada shoreline, with future plans to remove both large and small litter items from the entire 72-mile shoreline of Lake Tahoe.



## Recreation Improvements



NTRT completed planning and design for the Tunnel Creek Alternative Trail in Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park in 2020. The trail will be a 2-mile multi-use non-motorized alternative route beginning at the Tahoe East Shore Trail and ending at the Incline Flume Trail. Goals are to improve public safety by reducing user group conflicts, enhance the recreational experience, and address erosion issues. Archeological, wildlife, and sensitive plant surveys were conducted throughout 2020 and trail construction is scheduled to begin in October 2021. Partners on the Tunnel Creek Alternative Trail include the Tahoe Fund, Great Basin Institute, and the Tahoe Area Mountain Bike Association.





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## Aspen Regeneration

Designed in collaboration with Basin partners and management agencies, NTRT implements forest health projects to improve resiliency in fire adapted Tahoe ecosystems. Aspen restoration is a high priority in Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park, where the trees provide vital habitat for wildlife and are an important scenic resource. Removal of conifers helps create an environment favorable for successful regeneration of aspen. During 2020, ten acres of second-entry treatments were completed in the area of the Spooner Landscape Resilience Project to reduce conifer encroachment in aspen stands.



## Wildlife Conservation



The NTRT has been working collaboratively on Peregrine Falcon conservation at Lake Tahoe with other state, federal, and local wildlife biologists. Together, they have been monitoring a Peregrine Falcon nest at Castle Rock since 2017 to learn more about human disturbance and determine appropriate protective measures. After consecutive years of nest failure due to increasing recreation, hikers and climbers were asked to give the falcons more space during the nesting season, which immediately resulted in successful nesting. Since first posting signage in 2019, the Peregrine Falcon nest at Castle Rock has fledged seven juveniles. Permanent informational signs will be installed in 2021 to protect this nest location in future years.

## Water Quality Improvements

The NTRT works closely with local jurisdictions, the Nevada Tahoe Conservation District and the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection on stream restoration and stormwater infrastructure projects to improve water quality, reduce erosion potential, and enhance stream environment zones. Planning and design for the Lower Wood Creek Water Quality Improvement Project in Incline Village began in 2018 with phase 1 of construction scheduled for implementation in 2021. The stormwater improvements will reduce the flow of fine sediment particles into Lake Tahoe and help prevent erosion. The project is expected to earn Washoe County approximately 40 credits in the Lake Clarity Crediting Program utilized by the Lake Tahoe Total Maximum Daily Load.

