



2026 LAKE TAHOE LICENSE PLATE PROGRAM GRANT PROCEDURES

1. Authority

Chapter 72 of the 69th Legislative Session amended NRS 482 and NRS 321 to establish the Lake Tahoe license plate program. During the 80th Legislative Session, NRS 321 was further amended to include funding for non-profit organizations, as well as public agencies. This program is funded by fees collected from individuals who purchase Nevada Lake Tahoe license plates. The program receives twenty-five dollars for the initial issuance of the plate and twenty dollars for each renewal. The following language was added to Chapter 321 of NRS:

- 1. The account for license plates for the support of the preservation and restoration of the natural environment of the Lake Tahoe Basin is hereby created in the state general fund. The administrator of the division of state lands of the state department of conservation and natural resources shall administer the account.*
- 2. The money in the account does not lapse to the state general fund at the end of a fiscal year. The interest and income earned on the money in the account, after deducting any applicable charges, must be credited to the account.*
- 3. The money in the account must be used only for the support of programs for the preservation and restoration of the natural environment of the Lake Tahoe Basin and must not be used to replace or supplant funding available from other sources. The administrator may provide grants from the account to other public agencies and non-profit organizations to carry out the provisions of this section.*

2. Definitions

Committee: Committee means the technical advisory committee established by the Division to perform technical review, and prioritization, of grant applications.

Division: Division means the Division of State Lands of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

Equipment: Items that are not completely consumed during the project and that generally have a useful life of more than one year.

Fund: Fund means 1) the account for license plates for the support of the preservation and restoration of the natural environment of the Lake Tahoe Basin; or 2) the account for navigable water fees to help fund environmental improvement and restoration projects in the Lake Tahoe Basin nearshore and aquatic zones.

Grantee: Recipient of the grant award.

Program: Program refers to a program, project or activity intended for the preservation and restoration of the natural environment of the Lake Tahoe Basin.

Supplies: Items generally consumed in use or with an anticipated life span of less than one year. Examples could include ice, plastic gloves, slides, buckets, notepads, pens and bags, etc.

3. Grants of Money

The Division will award grants of money, from the Lake Tahoe License Plate fund, for the preservation and restoration of the natural environment of the Lake Tahoe Basin. Grants may be used to fund an entire program or a portion thereof. The State Land Administrator makes all final decisions regarding grant funding.

Certain programs or projects meeting both the Environmental Criteria for Grant Awards established in Section 6, as well as the approval of the State Land Administrator, may be made eligible for consideration to receive state navigable water funds, either in lieu of or in conjunction with Lake Tahoe License Plate funds. The process for receiving navigable water funds will follow the grant procedures outlined below for the Lake Tahoe License Plate Program.

A copy of the funding agreement has been provided by the Division. The contractual language in the funding agreement is standard language approved by the State of Nevada Attorney General.

4. Solicitations of Applications

The Division will periodically solicit applications for grants of money from the fund. Funds can be provided for programs such as (but not limited to) **implementing projects to improve the environment (ex: water quality improvements, recreation features, etc.), educational programs (see Section 9 for budget limitations), research and monitoring.**

- A. Pursuant to Nevada Grant Policy Manual Policy 088-005, all state agencies issuing federal or state-funded subawards must develop and publish a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to promote transparency, fairness, and compliance with grant regulations. A NOFO provides potential applicants with essential details about the funding opportunity, eligibility, and application process.
 - a. To enhance accessibility and streamline grant funding processes, all state agencies are required to submit and publish NOFOs through NevadaPro. This centralized platform ensures that all funding opportunities are collected in one location and are easily accessible to all stakeholders across the state.

5. Evaluation and Prioritization

- a. Each program or project shall be evaluated based on the Environmental Criteria for Grant Awards found in Section 6. In its review, the Division shall use the advice of the technical advisory committee.
- b. The committee will rank submitted proposals and identify a preliminary list of projects deemed to be high priority for project funding.
- c. Proposals for projects/programs listed on the TRPA 5-year Environmental Improvement Program list will be prioritized this funding round.
- d. Past project performance using Lake Tahoe License Plate funds (including adherence to budgets, schedules, meeting of deliverables, and quality of work) will be considered as part of final funding recommendations.
- e. The State Land Administrator shall make the final selection considering the preliminary ranking list compiled by the committee.

6. Evaluation Criteria for Grant Awards

The Division shall evaluate each program or project pursuant to the following criteria:

- a. The environmental benefit of the program toward preserving and restoring the natural environment of the Lake Tahoe Basin, including whether the program:
 - (i) Will contribute to the achievement of environmental thresholds as identified in the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) regional plan; and/or
 - (ii) Is listed as a program or project in the “Environmental Improvement Program” of TRPA.
- b. The ability to obtain all required local, state and federal permits, or easement that is required for carrying out the project.
- c. The long-term viability of the program or project.
- d. If applicable, the ability of the applicant to maintain the project for at least 20 years and the adequacy of the maintenance plan. If the applicant is not maintaining the project an MOU with the organization responsible for maintaining the project is required.
- e. The cost effectiveness of the program or project.
- f. The ability of the applicant to carry out the program in a timely manner; as well as prior applicant performance using Lake Tahoe License Plate funds, including adherence to budgets, schedules, meeting of deliverables, and quality of work. Applicants should be able to demonstrate their ability to implement the project during the initial field season following grant funding.
- g. If the applicant is applying to fund a program or project that is a portion of a larger project, the ability of the portion funded with grant money to achieve environmental benefits independently of other components of the larger project.
- h. The amount of cooperation and support for the program or project from persons other than the applicant, including, without limitation:
 - (i) Federal, state and local governmental agencies;
 - (ii) Private landowners; and/or
 - (iii) Non-profit organizations.
- i. The amount of matching contribution provided by the applicant.
- j. The comments and technical ratings received through the technical review process (research and monitoring proposals only). For proposals which receive a technical review an average score of 4 or higher is necessary for the proposal to be considered for funding.
- k. The likelihood that information resulting from research and monitoring proposals can be used directly to guide current and relevant land and resource management in the Tahoe Basin.
- l. For research-based proposals, applicant will invite relevant Nevada Tahoe Resource Team (NTRT) members to any academic, professional, or community-oriented presentation of preliminary research findings, including graduate student thesis defense. Applicants will also attend several meetings over the life of the grant with relevant NTRT members to ensure that the management implications of the research initially proposed are being pursued.

7. Requirements of the Grantee Upon Awarding of Grant

The grantee and the Division shall enter into an agreement, which shall include, but not be limited, to the following (funding agreement available from the Division):

- a. A schedule for disbursement of the grant funds that is tied to deliverables for the completion of the program or project.
- b. Progress reports shall be submitted, ***at a minimum***, on a quarterly basis and shall be of sufficient detail to show progress to provide payment of invoices. This includes tracking of project implementation schedule, adherence to expenditures projected at grant onset, future projected expenditures and timeframe, and detailed explanation of any changes or discrepancies from previously agreed upon deliverables and scheduling.

- c. Invoicing for reimbursement of project expenses will be submitted, at a minimum, on a quarterly basis.
- Reimbursement requests will clearly show line-item expenses which correlate to specific budget categories and performance benchmarks outlined in project proposal, contract, and budget.
 - Reimbursement requests will consistently adhere to the format prescribed by the Division.
 - Detailed documentation clearly outlining match expenditures will be required for reimbursement of expenditures.
 - Mileage reimbursements will be made based on the State of Nevada approved reimbursement rates and documented in a fully completed State Travel Claim Form provided by Division. Failure to provide clear and transparent travel activities will result in denial of mileage claims.
 - For travel reimbursements an approved travel itinerary (including mileage) must be submitted and approved prior to grant funding. Reimbursements exceeding the approved itinerary will not be approved.
 - Vehicle fuel reimbursements cannot exceed the approved GSA Rate. Whatever rate is selected is approved for the life of the grant regardless of increases in rates:
 - Option A: For motor pool organizations a daily rental rate and mileage rate not to exceed the GSA rate of \$0.21.
 - Option B: For personal vehicles or when a government vehicle is not available a rate not to exceed \$0.70 per mile.
 - All fuel, maintenance, tires, damage, tolls, car washes, equipment is the responsibility of the grantee, and any reimbursement requests will be denied.
 - Option C: Boats, UTVs, etc. will be reimbursed at an agreed upon hourly or mileage rate.
 - **Quarterly reimbursement requests and progress reports adhere to the following schedule:**

○ 1 st Quarter	January 1 - March 31	Due April 30
○ 2 nd Quarter	April 1 - June 30	Due July 30
○ 3 rd Quarter	July 1 - September 30	Due October 30
○ 4 th Quarter	October 1 - December 31	Due January 30
- d. Failure to provide reimbursement requests and clear accompanying documentation within 45 days following a quarterly deadline will result in denial of reimbursement and entity forfeits all rights for reimbursement. If two reimbursement requests are missed the grant will be terminated. If a grant is terminated, then a correction plan must be submitted and approved for the grantee to be eligible for future grant rounds.
- e. Any changes in scope of work, budget, product, and performance will require written notification and acceptance. Reimbursements incurred prior to approval of the revised budget will be denied. Grantee understands they are required to seek approval prior to expending additional funds and keeping NDSL informed of increasing costs or problems.
- f. Project leads and principal investigators must agree to terms and definitions, and sign contract in conjunction with fiscal and administrative staff representing their sponsoring institution. Failure to submit accurate and timely reimbursement claims due to oversight or error of one wing of the awarded entity does not free grantee of obligation to meet grant reimbursement requirements.
- g. If the project involves improvements located on private or government property, the grantee shall obtain such easements for conservation, permits, or other interests in land as are necessary to carry out the project prior to project inception, or demonstrate

compellingly their ability to obtain such permits as part of their submitted project timeline.

- h. Acknowledgement that the project will begin within six months of awarding the grant.

8. Match Requirements

- a. Nevada State agencies shall not be required to provide matching funds to be eligible for grants under this program.
- b. All other grant applicants shall be required to provide a matching contribution to the proposed project of not less than 25 percent of the cost of the project to be eligible for grants under this program.
- c. All match dollars expended shall be documented on Division approved outlay reports and include sufficient backup documentation.

9. Acceptable and Unacceptable Uses of Grant

Acceptable uses of grant money include:

- a. All expenses related directly to the program or project, including, without limitation, expenses related to design and construction; and
- b. Grant funds may be utilized in **ONE** of the following manners:
 - 1. For the administrative costs of the program or project, not to exceed five percent (5%) of the grant (if budgets include administrative costs of 5 percent, staff hours used to administer the grant are intended to be covered by the 5 percent administrative costs and therefore should not be billed separately); **OR**
 - 2. For indirect costs associated with project labor. **The maximum Indirect Cost Rate (IDC) accepted for reimbursement is not to exceed 40 percent of the direct cost base. Maximum reimbursable IDC for grants with the Nevada System of Higher Education is 10 percent for research projects and 8 percent for all other non-research projects. Grantees shall provide sufficient backup documentation to support proposed indirect costs.**
- c. Environmental education/outreach programs. The maximum amount of funds available each year for environmental education programs shall not exceed \$25,000 or 10 percent of the available grant funds available January 15th of each year, whichever is more limiting.
- d. Supplies and equipment purchase/rental. For equipment purchases or rentals, the maximum amount available with any grant is five percent (5%) of the total project costs up to \$5,000. It is expected that the grantee will attempt to rent equipment as a first option. If renting equipment is not reasonable based on cost, availability, quality, etc. then equipment expenditures may be approved in advance of the purchase by the grantor. If purchasing equipment, the grantee should identify in the proposal what equipment is proposed for purchase, how it is directly related to the implementation of the project, and why rental equipment will not be utilized. With all equipment purchases the grantor will have the option to retain the equipment upon project completion. If the equipment is being utilized by more than the project, it is generally expected that the equipment costs will be split amongst the other funding entities. There are no cost limitations for supplies.

The money in the account must be used only for the support of projects for the preservation and restoration of the natural environment of the Lake Tahoe Basin and must not be used to replace or

supplant funding available for other sources. If you have any questions regarding whether particular items are eligible for reimbursement, please contact NDSL for clarification.

Unacceptable uses of the grant money include:

- a. Any planning activities which are not directly related to the design and engineering of the project;
- b. Paving, unless paving is recommended by the committee to remedy erosion;
- c. The acquisition of land, unless such an acquisition is deemed by the state land administrator to be an integral component of the program or project;
- d. Any work required by a public agency or non-profit organization as mitigation or as a condition of the approval of any other project;
- e. Any component of the program or project that is deemed by the state land registrar to not benefit the public;
- f. Funds to cover tuition costs, conference costs, research publications or training.