

# NEVADA TAHOE RESOURCE TEAM

HIGHLIGHTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2021-2022

## 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.

### Promoting Sustainable Recreation

The NTRT and Nevada Division of State Parks oversaw construction on the new visitor center and amphitheater that now welcomes visitors to Spooner Lake. New facilities, trails and interpretive elements are being developed as part of the phased Spooner Frontcountry Improvements Project, which will offer a portal and information hub for backcountry trails.



### Reducing Pollutants in the Lake

The NTRT partnered with Nevada Tahoe Conservation District to stabilize soils and revegetate an eroding slope and social trails at Cave Rock in the State Park. These improvements will drastically reduce the amount of fine sediment particles and pollutants entering the lake from runoff. The project will also protect habitat for Tahoe yellow cress, a native plant that only occurs on the shores of Lake Tahoe.

### Monitoring Aquatic Invasive Species

The NTRT partnered with UC Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center Scientists to assess the density of invasive Asian clams at Sand Harbor after a multi-year control project. The low density of clams throughout most of the area surrounding the Sand Harbor boat ramp is likely due to the success of the benthic barrier treatments performed from 2017-2020 in that area. Data from this project will be used to coordinate future mitigation efforts to halt the spread of Asian clams and assess potential algal growth associated with clam populations.



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## Restoring Degraded Land

The NTRT-Nevada Division of State Lands restored a building pad and ground disturbance on a seven-acre parcel along Edgewood Creek. The old building pad was filled in with soil that was salvaged from construction of the new visitor center and amphitheater at Spooner Lake, graded to match the original contour of the site and seeded with a native plant mix, including manzanita, bitterbrush, and squirreltail.



## Improving Forest Health

The NTRT-Nevada Division of Forestry provided oversight to Forestry Crews that burned over 150 acres and 1350 slash piles inside the boundary of the 300-acre Spooner Landscape Resilience Project at the State Park. The project began with helicopter logging in 2017 and this recent treatment completes the section between the Tahoe Rim Trail and Spooner Lake. These improvements help create resilient forests that can better withstand drought, bark beetles, and wildfires, while continuing to provide recreational opportunities, wildlife habitat, and clean water.

## Preserving Sensitive Ecosystems

The Nevada Land Bank acquired ten acres of environmentally sensitive land in the upper Kingsbury area to ensure the long-term conservation management and protection of habitat for hundreds of native plant and wildlife species, including bears, mule deer, and Peregrine falcons that nest on the nearby cliffs. Over 8,000 square feet of restored land coverage was permanently retired with this acquisition, helping to reduce the environmentally detrimental effects of impervious surfaces which contribute to runoff and pollutants in the lake.



## Protecting Native Wildlife Species

The NTRT-Nevada Department of Wildlife collaborated with state, federal, and local wildlife biologists to protect a peregrine falcon nest at Castle Rock with permanent signage. Hikers and climbers visiting Castle Rock today will find new signs at the trailhead, informing them about the nesting falcons and how to minimize disturbance during the nesting season. As a result of this management effort, the peregrine falcons at Castle Rock have experienced three consecutive years of successful nesting, including three young that fledged in July 2022.