

# IMPROVING LAKE TAHOE'S NEARSHORE

People from all over the world visit Lake Tahoe to marvel at the beauty and clarity of the shoreline waters. However, visible changes to nearshore conditions have become evident to visitors, residents, and management agencies, generating increased interest in managing the factors contributing to reductions in nearshore clarity, increased algal growth, the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS), and the decline in native biological species' populations and habitat.

Managing Tahoe's nearshore is a complex challenge that requires the participation of many partners to implement a suite of approaches. Cooperative actions by local, state and federal agencies to restore, protect, and maintain an exceptionally clean and clear nearshore are described herein. However, agencies can't do it alone. Individual actions are just as important for the preservation and protection of this unique resource. The back-side of this pamphlet presents some important things you can do to help.

## AIS Management

The Lake Tahoe AIS Management Plan describes the collaborative effort between local, state and federal partners to prevent new introductions of AIS; limit the spread of existing populations by employing strategies that minimize threats to native species and eliminate existing AIS populations; and abate harmful ecological, economic, social and public health impacts from AIS. The Watercraft Inspection Program is an essential component of this plan, as watercraft are the largest threat to introduce and spread these invaders.

## Regional Plan Implementation

The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency's Regional Plan provides the blueprint for achieving a sustainable future for the Region. Updated in 2012, a number of policies were included to accelerate nearshore quality, including a regional growth and land use control system; shorezone development standards; air quality and transportation improvements to reduce vehicle emissions; and incentives programs to replace low efficiency residential wood stoves, remove turf and manage fertilizer applications.

## TMDL Implementation

The Lake Tahoe TMDL Program is a program administered by the Lahontan Water Board and Nevada Division of Environmental Protection to restore Tahoe's historic clarity. Actions to

reduce fine sediment and nutrient loads from stormwater, streams and the atmosphere will benefit nearshore clarity and related characteristics at the local scale.

## Monitoring and Research

Nearshore management agencies will use monitoring and research to inform sound policy and decision making. Monitoring is essential for measuring and reporting nearshore quality status and tracking and evaluating trends. An effort is under way to establish a Nearshore Monitoring Plan that makes the best use of limited available resources. Nearshore agencies will use this data and information to assess if actions to improve nearshore quality are having the intended effect. Research is a critical science activity by which our understanding of nearshore processes and impacts can be improved. Priorities include the identification of impacted areas, better understanding the drivers associated with these hotspots, and determining what management approaches are necessary to implement to ensure desired nearshore conditions persist.

*Developed through collaboration between:*



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