



lake tahoe

LAKE TAHOE RESTORATION ACT
PRIORITY LIST

Environmental Improvement Program
Federal Fiscal 2023



March 2022

Photo by Beth Vollmer

The Lake Tahoe Environmental Improvement Program

THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (EIP) is an unparalleled partnership working to restore and protect the Lake Tahoe Region. Local, state, and federal government agencies, private entities, scientists, and the Washoe Tribe are all collaborating across jurisdictions to implement projects with countless benefits.

The collective impact of 80-plus organizations working together over the last 25 years has improved forest and ecosystem health, made progress on lake clarity, enhanced fish and wildlife habitat, and provided more sustainable recreation opportunities for the public.

The EIP also serves as the backbone for Lake Tahoe's climate adaption and coordination. Partners are working together to confront the climate crisis and roll out shovel-ready projects to adapt to extreme weather, upgrade deteriorating infrastructure, and make ecosystems more resilient. Continued commitment to the EIP is vital to protecting the Region's investment in environmental restoration and preserving this outstanding natural resource.

Lake Tahoe Restoration Act

The Lake Tahoe Restoration Act of 2016 authorized up to \$415 million over 7 years for the Environmental Improvement Program. The Act requires that EIP partners maintain a priority list of projects for the program areas of Forest Health, Aquatic Invasive Species, Watershed Restoration, Lahontan Cutthroat Trout, and Accountability. A total of \$53 million has been appropriated for the current Lake Tahoe Restoration Act as of FY21, which is about 13 percent of the total \$415 million authorization.

In 2021, Senator Catherine Cortez Masto (D-Nev.), Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.), Senator Jacky Rosen (D-Nev.), and Senator Alex Padilla (D-Calif.) joined together to introduce bipartisan legislation to extend authorization of the Act. Companion legislation on the House side, was introduced by Reps. Mark Amodei (R-Nev.), John Garamendi (D-Calif.), Dina Titus (D-Nev.), Susie Lee (D-Nev.), and Steven Horsford (D-Nev.).

Priority List Summary

Federal Fiscal 2023

Forest Health	\$23,000,000
Aquatic Invasive Species	\$7,200,000
Watershed Restoration	\$60,000,000
Lahontan Cutthroat Trout	\$7,700,000
Accountability	\$5,000,000

TOTAL **\$102,900,000**

The EIP Project Tracker reflects the commitment to transparency about project information:

eip.laketahoeinfo.org



FOREST HEALTH AND FIRE PROTECTION

\$23,000,000

Increase the pace and scale of forest fuels treatments, restore areas burned by the Caldor Fire, and upgrade aging water infrastructure to protect communities.

- Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Forest Restoration*	\$8,000,000
- Regional Water Infrastructure Upgrades to Protect Communities	\$15,000,000
Total Request:	\$23,000,000

**Reflects the unfunded need considering 2021 state and federal investments in this category.*

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

\$7,200,000

Protect Lake Tahoe from harmful invasive species such as the quagga and zebra mussel. Reduce and control the spread of invasive weeds that disrupt Lake Tahoe's water quality and clarity.

- Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention and Control	\$7,200,000
Total Request:	\$7,200,000

WATERSHED RESTORATION & EROSION CONTROL \$60,000,000

Implement projects in high-traffic corridors that protect the watershed and reduce stormwater pollution to Lake Tahoe. Restore streams and meadows to increase biodiversity and resilience to climate change.

- River and Meadow Restoration	\$25,000,000
- Water Quality, Stormwater, and Recreation Corridors	\$35,000,000
Total Request:	\$60,000,000



LAHONTAN CUTTHROAT TROUT

\$7,700,000

Continue to build a sustainable population of Lahontan Cutthroat Trout in the basin through habitat restoration.

- Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Recovery	\$7,700,000
Total Request	\$7,700,000

ACCOUNTABILITY

\$5,000,000

Build out Lake Tahoe's online tracking system (LT INFO) to ensure transparency and real-time reporting. Implement EIP effectiveness monitoring and innovative technology.

- LT INFO System	\$2,000,000
- EIP Effectiveness Monitoring & Innovative Technology	\$3,000,000
Total Request:	\$5,000,000

In 1997, Executive Order 13057 established the Tahoe Federal Interagency Partnership including the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Transportation, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Secretary of the Army. Representation has been delegated to nine federal agencies: USDA Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Geological Survey, Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Federal Highway Administration, Environmental Protection Agency, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

