



# 2015 QUARTERLY REPORT

TAHOE REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY  
Second Quarter: April – June 2015

|| *lake Tahoe*



45  
YEARS  
OF PROGRESS

TAHOE  
REGIONAL  
PLANNING  
AGENCY

*Photo by Drone Promotions*



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# ACCELERATE THRESHOLD ATTAINMENT

Implement the 2012 Regional Plan – Focus on regional issues such as adapting to climate change.

TRPA's three Planning Divisions – Long Range, Current, and Transportation – implement ongoing regional planning that fulfills the Bi-State Compact requirement for a Regional Plan and related ordinances, rules, and regulations to achieve and maintain Environmental Threshold Carrying Capacities and allow for development consistent with those standards. Rather than waiting years for plan updates, regular and continual amendments are now identified through annual Governing Board priority setting, lessening the time for response to regional issues. Targeted modifications to address identified barriers and encourage implementation of the 2012 Regional Plan are currently the primary focus of TRPA's Planning Divisions.

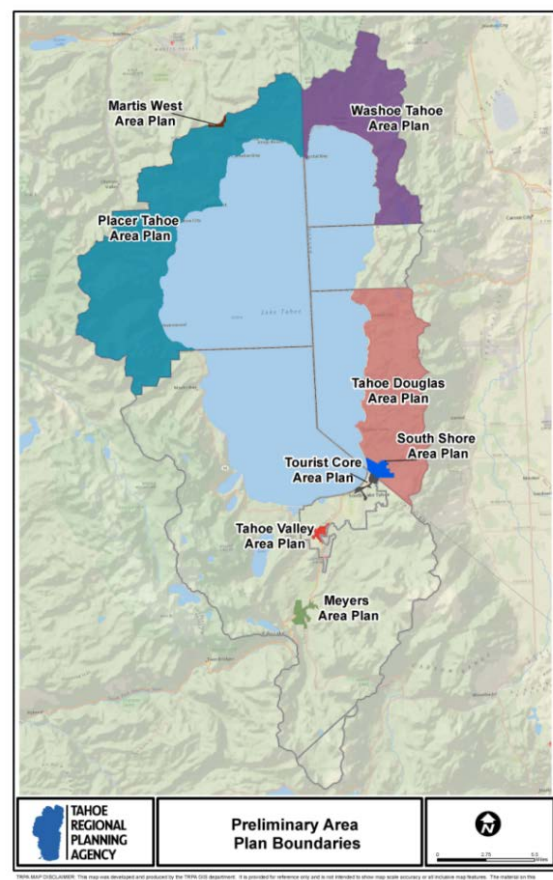
## LONG RANGE PLANNING DIVISION

Annual priority setting by the Governing Board identifies resulting plan and code amendments and Regional Plan and Code of Ordinances reviews that are based on evaluations every four years of progress toward achieving and maintaining the environmental Threshold Standards.

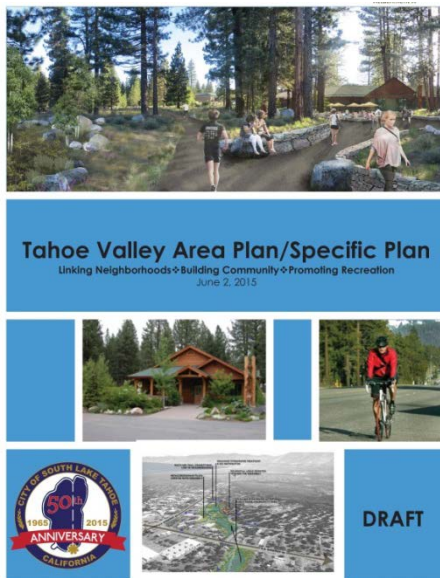
### Area Plans

The TRPA Governing Board has approved two Area Plans and six more are under development by local jurisdictions. Area Plans are the 2012 Regional Plan's approach to meet each local community's unique character and needs for integrating environmental improvements with community revitalization. Once an Area Plan is found to conform with TRPA's regional environmental goals, TRPA can delegate additional project reviews to local jurisdictions to streamline the permitting process with one-stop shop permitting and inspections for most projects.

- **Placer County's Tahoe Basin Area Plan and Tahoe City Lodge Project:** In June, Placer County and TRPA released a Notice of Preparation for a joint Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) that will be prepared for the proposed Placer County Tahoe Basin Area Plan and the Tahoe City Lodge Project. The draft Area Plan includes the entire portion of Placer County within the Tahoe Basin. Its focus will be on facilitating environmental improvements associated with redevelopment in the Tahoe City and



Kings Beach Town Centers, and will address the need for updated hotel stock on the North Shore. The Tahoe City Lodge Project, a proposed redevelopment project in Tahoe City, will be evaluated as part of the EIR/EIS. The Tahoe City Lodge Project includes redevelopment of the “Henrikson” site northeast of the Tahoe City “Wye” with new tourist accommodations and amenities, as well as renovations to the Tahoe City Golf Course clubhouse. The draft Area Plan is available online at: <http://www.placer.ca.gov/departments/communitydevelopment/planning/tahoebasinareaplan>.



- **City of South Lake Tahoe’s Tahoe Valley Area Plan:** After an extensive public outreach process, the South Lake Tahoe City Council adopted the Tahoe Valley Area Plan in June and the plan has been submitted to TRPA for Regional Plan conformance review. The Tahoe Valley Area Plan includes the mixed-use areas around the “South Y” in South Lake Tahoe. This Area Plan stresses implementation of area-wide Best Management Practices (BMPs), transfers of development out of sensitive lands, and more vibrant and walkable community centers through redevelopment and expansion of the bike/pedestrian system. The City Council and TRPA Governing Board have both approved a memorandum of understanding to streamline project review and improve consistency in monitoring and reporting on project activities within all of South Lake Tahoe’s adopted Area Plans.

- **Meyers Area Plan:** In May, El Dorado County hosted a community workshop at the Lake Tahoe Environmental Magnet School to share information and receive feedback on the draft Meyers Area Plan. Postcards inviting residents to the workshop were sent to more than 3,800 addresses before the workshop and more than 125 community members attended. The meeting format offered many opportunities for people to provide input on the plan through one-on-one interaction with staff from El Dorado County, TRPA, Caltrans, and the California Tahoe Conservancy.



*Meyers community workshop. Photo courtesy of Jessie Marchesseau/Lake Tahoe News*

El Dorado County plans to update the draft Area Plan based on the public comment received and will get direction from their Board of Supervisors to move forward with the environmental review process.

### **Commodity Pilot Program**

In May, the Governing Board Regional Plan Implementation Committee directed TRPA to move forward with a pilot program to facilitate continued implementation of the Transfer of Development Rights Program adopted with the 2012 Regional Plan to promote the transfer of development from sensitive lands to non-sensitive lands in town centers.

TRPA staff had received inquiries from people interested in restoring stream environment zones (SEZs) where there are existing motels, but potential applicants expressed concern and an unwillingness to perform restoration on these sites without assurances of sufficient tourist bonus units to provide the bonus unit incentives. Potential applicants cited insufficient supply of tourist bonus units, restrictive eligibility for participation, and lack of certainty on the availability of tourist bonus units as the reasons there have not been more projects resulting in the removal of legacy development from sensitive lands, restoration of SEZs, and redevelopment in town centers.

To address these issues, TRPA is developing a pilot program that would let applicants reserve commercial floor area and tourist bonus units for up to two years and convert unused commercial floor area and tourist bonus units from existing TRPA commodity pools. This would increase TRPA's bonus unit pool flexibility by providing the specific types of bonus units that are in demand, while not increasing the total amount of development that could occur under the 2012 Regional Plan. TRPA is evaluating the potential environmental impacts and will bring the pilot program forward for formal adoption later this year.

## **CURRENT PLANNING DIVISION**

The Current Planning Division implements the Regional Plan by providing timely and consistent review of project applications to achieve environmental improvement and economic investment consistent with the TRPA Regional Plan and Code of Ordinances. The Division supports local governments and other public and quasi-public entities to implement the Regional Plan and facilitate removal of development and development rights from sensitive and remote lands through a system of transferring and retiring development commodities.

Having consistent and predictable review times creates trust in the process and fosters applicant cooperation in project compliance and implementation needed to deliver environmental improvements.

Application submittals are up 7 percent over the same period last year. Although performance targets are not being met in some categories, the backlog of active applications was reduced by 33 percent in the last quarter, which is significant.

Measure	2013/2014 Actuals	2014/2015 Target	YTD
Number of applications	592	800	632
Percent of applications deemed complete/not complete within 30 days.	99%	90%	88%
Percent of applications requiring Hearing Officer review completed within 45 days of application being deemed complete.	78%	90%	53%
Percent of applications requiring Governing Board review (excluding those requiring an environmental impact statement) completed within 60 days of application being deemed complete.	100%	90%	100%
Percent of applications requiring Governing Board review with an environmental impact statement completed within 120 days of application being deemed complete.	0%	90%	100%
Percent of all applications reviewed within 120 days of application being deemed complete.	98%	100%	86%
Percent of surveyed customers rating their overall experience with the Customer Service Counter as good or exceptional (i.e., 4 or 5 on a scale of 1 to 5).	100%	80%	100%

## CODE COMPLIANCE PROGRAM

TRPA's Watercraft Team started in late May and is expected to operate through October 1. The Watercraft Team's primary responsibilities are educating the public on TRPA shorezone regulations, assisting in threshold monitoring, and enforcing the TRPA Code of Ordinances related to watercraft use on the lakes of the Tahoe Region. Daily duties of the Watercraft Team include assisting in wildlife, scenic, and water quality monitoring; public education and enforcement of the carbureted two-stroke engine prohibition, watercraft noise ordinances, shorezone regulations, and the 600-foot no-wake zone. Additional duties include other TRPA shorezone compliance issues such as monitoring of moorings and other shorezone structures and activities. The Watercraft Team also educates boaters about aquatic invasive species (AIS) issues as they pertain to boaters.





*The 2015 TRPA Watercraft Team consists of (from left to right) returning members Kristian Moorehead and Ted Truscott and our newest member Jeff Miller.*

## TRANSPORTATION PLANNING DIVISION

The Transportation Planning Division develops and drives implementation of regional transportation plans required by the Bi-State Compact. The Region's transportation plans integrate land use with parkways, highways, transit routes, waterways, bicycle facilities, terminals for the movement of people and goods within the Region and more. The TRPA Governing Board, along with a U.S. Forest Service representative, is the designated Tahoe Metropolitan Planning Organization (TMPO) for the Lake Tahoe Region and the Transportation Division serves as the TMPO staff. The TMPO coordinates planning for a regional transportation system.

### Active Transportation Plan Survey and Community Meetings

This spring, TRPA conducted initial outreach for the "Linking Tahoe: Active Transportation Plan – Bicycles, Pedestrians, and Safe Routes to Schools." The Active Transportation Plan focuses on creating a connected, accessible, and safe bicycle and pedestrian network at Lake Tahoe to support environmental thresholds and achieve other regional goals. This updated bicycle and pedestrian plan will guide long-term planning and implementation for new multi-modal transportation facilities at Lake Tahoe.

The first phase of outreach sought public input on goals, facility designs and locations, and safety concerns. TRPA Transportation Planner Morgan Beryl led the outreach effort and conducted two interactive workshops in April, one at the South Tahoe Public Library and another at Kings Beach Elementary School. Concurrent with the workshops, TRPA released the "Active Transportation Online Survey," which was open from April to June and generated more than 500



Help shape bicycling, walking, and safety improvements in your community.

### Active Transportation Plan Community Gathering

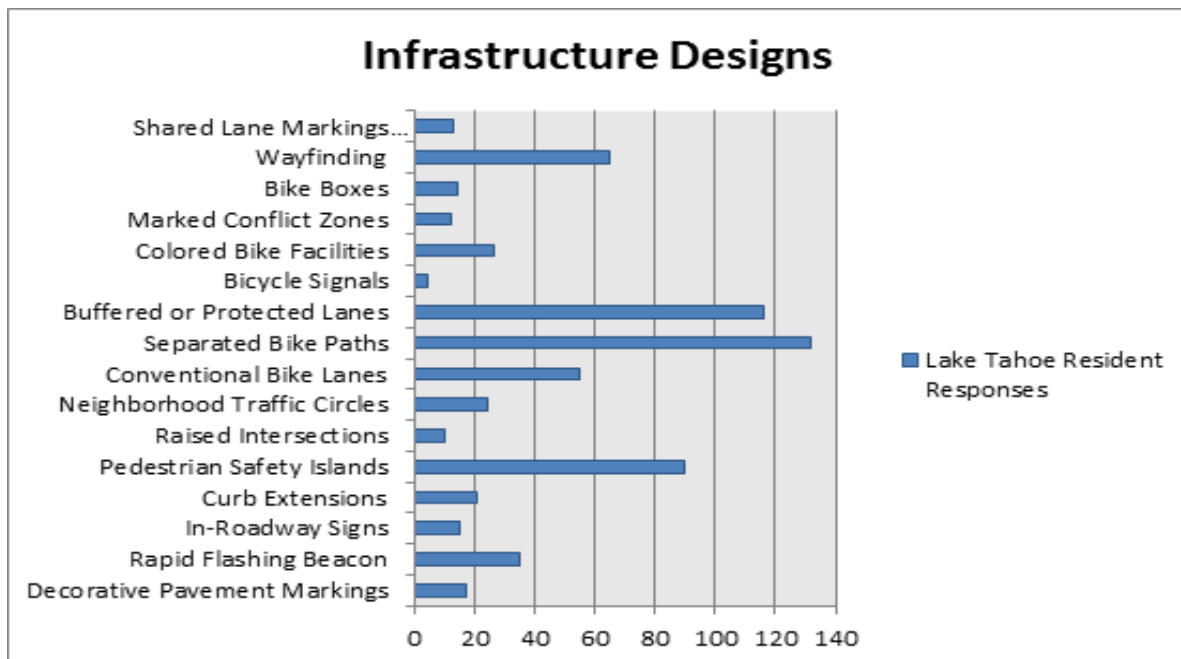
Spanish interpretation available on-site.

**Tuesday, April 14, 5:30-7:30pm**  
South Lake Tahoe Public Library, 1000 Rufus Allen Blvd.  
South Lake Tahoe, CA • Snacks and childcare provided

**Thursday, April 16, 5:30-7:30pm**  
Kings Beach Elementary, 8125 Steelhead Ave.  
Kings Beach, CA • Snacks and childcare provided

Take our survey: [tahoemp.org/ATPsurvey](http://tahoemp.org/ATPsurvey)

responses from both residents and visitors. The survey sought to identify parts of the bicycle and pedestrian network that are working well, areas that are in need of improvement, and the types of new infrastructure people want to see built in the Lake Tahoe Region. The survey closed on June 30. Results from the survey will be compiled and incorporated into the Active Transportation Plan.



*Summarized Active Transportation Plan workshop input on Infrastructure Designs, April 2015*

## Tahoe Talks Spring Series

TRPA, TMPO, and partners continued their Tahoe Talks Brown Bag Lunch Series this spring. The series invites people to discuss and learn more about ways to strengthen communities, make towns safer and more inviting for bicyclists and pedestrians, and help protect Lake Tahoe's amazing natural resources.



Spring topics included a presentation on dealing with drought by John Rice, General Manager for Sierra-at-Tahoe; a panel discussion on the economic contributions to Tahoe communities of bicycling and walking; and two webinars on legal rights and issues for pedestrians and bicyclists as part of Tahoe Bike Month in June. Approximately 40 people attended each of the first two sessions. In "Dealing with Drought," John Rice spoke about how Sierra-at-Tahoe is adapting the way it conducts business to take into account unpredictable weather patterns, including expanding its offerings to include more diverse activities throughout the year, moving snow with its "Bucket Brigade," and educating the public about ways they can reduce their impact on the environment. In May's panel discussion on "The Bike's Impact on Tahoe's Economy," attendees discussed how Lake Tahoe businesses can capitalize on bike tourism and ways they already have. Finally, in June,



Tahoe Talks featured two webinars on legal issues and law enforcement strategies to improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists. Approximately 15 to 20 people attended each of these two webinars, as well as two representatives from the City of South Lake Tahoe Police Department who discussed ways our communities can work with law enforcement to increase safety for pedestrians and bicyclists, the roadways' most vulnerable users. A key outcome of the law enforcement discussions was that Tahoe communities need to identify what their biggest safety threat is and work collaboratively to identify priority strategies to address it.

Steering committee agencies for the lunch series are TRPA, TMPO, Lake Tahoe Bicycle Coalition, League to Save Lake Tahoe, One South Shore, and Lake Tahoe Sustainability Collaborative Community Mobility Group.

## 2015 Lake Tahoe Bike Challenge

The Tahoe Bike Challenge concept is simple: For the first two weeks of June, leave your car parked as often as possible and bike, walk, or take transit to get around, for your health and the health of our environment. Vehicles are a major emissions source for carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas linked to climate change, and nitrogen, a harmful pollutant that gets deposited from the atmosphere into our Lake and fuels algae growth. Thirty-six teams competed for the most trips per employee and the most overall trips. Teams LUMOS and Tahoe Mountain Lab placed first and



*TRPA employees celebrating TRPA Car Free Day during the 2015 Lake Tahoe Bike Challenge.*

second in the most trips per employee category, with 31 and 19. In the overall trips category, Tahoe Mountain Lab, Lake Tahoe Community College, and the City of South Lake Tahoe all vied for first, second, and third. Tahoe Mountain Lab came in first with an amazing 296 trips by their 16 employees. TRPA employees finished fourth with 214 trips totaling 1,063 miles.

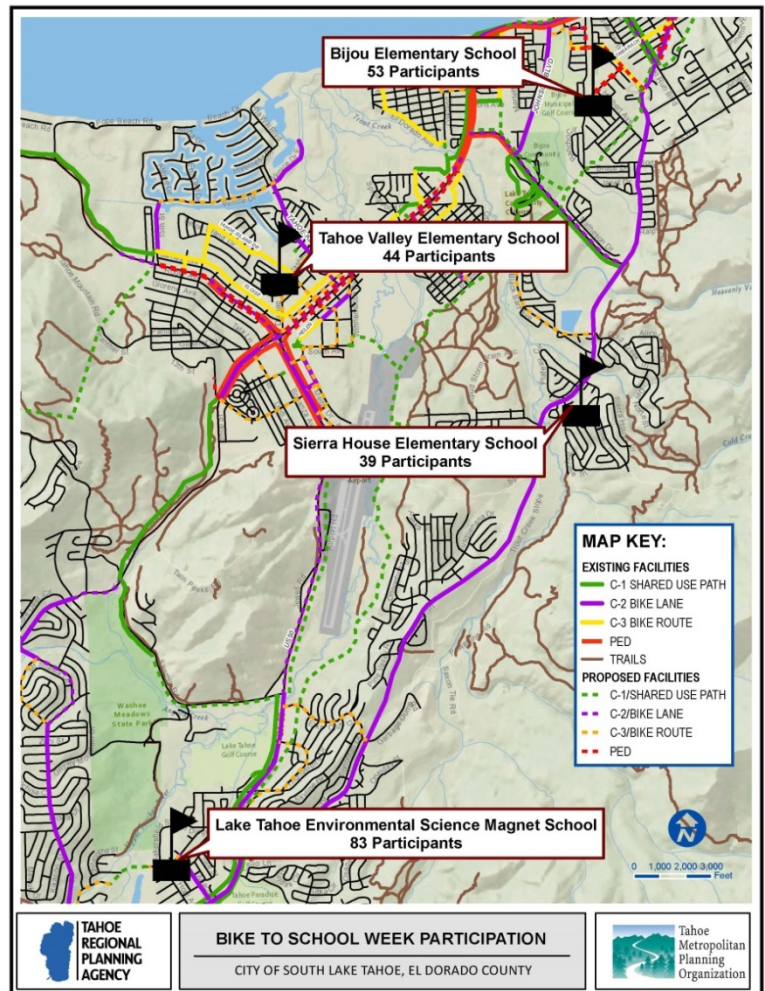
In this year's Tahoe Bike Challenge, 315 people made 2,706 trips totaling 17,299 miles. By biking instead of driving, participants prevented an estimated 18,663 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions and saved an estimated \$3,845 in fuel purchases – all in just two weeks.

New and seasoned riders alike got into the excitement. South Tahoe schools made a great showing, with children at all four elementary schools punching "ride cards" each day to track their biking and walking trips. More than 200 children turned in cards, but Bike to School organizers from the Community Mobility Group and the Lake Tahoe Bicycle Coalition observed even more children biking and walking from June 1-14.

The goal of the Tahoe Bike Challenge is to get people riding bikes and keep them riding bikes the rest of the year. To help, the Lake Tahoe Bicycle Coalition has made the Tahoe Bike Map available on its website [www.tahoebike.org](http://www.tahoebike.org). It is the Tahoe Region's most comprehensive bike trail map and will help anyone find just the kind of bike ride they are looking for, whether that is a leisurely trip for the family, a better route to pedal to work or school, or a tough mountain bike trail.



*Students riding bikes to Meyers Elementary School during the 2015 Tahoe Bike Challenge.*





**Develop and Implement New Funding Strategies for the Environmental Improvement Program (EIP)** – Maintaining momentum in implementing the EIP means confronting constrained state funding and the decline of federal grants that have supported restoration, science, and monitoring programs.

The Environmental Improvement Division leads and coordinates implementation of the Tahoe ecosystem restoration initiative, the EIP. The Division provides leadership within the EIP partnership to develop new financing strategies for future projects and programs and sets priorities so that ever-more-limited funding is being used on EIP projects that will achieve maximum threshold gain. The Division also identifies and builds new associations beyond the Tahoe Region to strategically leverage new and innovative funding sources. The External Affairs Team works with EIP staff to secure new funds for high priority programs.

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

EIP implementing partners have made progress on a number of important projects this past quarter.

### State Route 89/Fanny Bridge Community Revitalization Project

The TRPA Governing Board unanimously approved the State Route 89/Fanny Bridge Community Revitalization Project preferred alternative in May. The project realigns State Route 89 to route through traffic over roundabouts and a new two-lane bridge across the Truckee River to reduce transportation conflicts among drivers, bicyclists, and pedestrians at the congested pinch point at the Tahoe City “Wye.” The project creates an additional emergency egress and ingress route for first responders and residents and addresses structural and safety issues for the 87-year-old Fanny Bridge. The project will upgrade the old highway alignment for local traffic, bicyclists and pedestrians, supporting community revitalization and transformation of the old alignment and Fanny Bridge area into a recreation- and activity-friendly river district for locals and visitors.



*The existing Fanny Bridge over the Truckee River in Tahoe City.*

The next steps are to move forward with final design. The goal is to complete project design by October 2015 and begin construction in 2016 with a projected completion in 2018. Project participants include Tahoe Transportation District, TRPA, Federal Highway Administration Central Federal Lands Highway Division, Caltrans, Placer County, Tahoe City Public Utility District, Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board, U.S. Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management



Unit, California State Parks, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, and the Tahoe-Truckee Sanitation Agency. For more information about the project visit [www.FannyBridge.org](http://www.FannyBridge.org).

### **Central Incline Village Water Quality Improvement Project – Phase II**

The Central Incline Village Phase II Water Quality Improvement Project started construction last quarter. The project will treat stormwater runoff from Washoe County roads in a high pollutant loading area near Lake Tahoe. The Lake Tahoe Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) identifies fine sediment as one of the leading causes of reduced water clarity in Lake Tahoe; therefore, the focus of this project is to reduce the amount of fine sediment particles in stormwater runoff before it enters the Lake. The project includes various stormwater infrastructure improvements.

### **Nevada Stateline to Stateline Bikeway**

The Nevada Stateline to Stateline Bikeway continues to make progress. A new section along Laura Drive on the southern portion of the bikeway in Stateline, Nevada has started construction and future segments are being designed. The northern section of the bikeway from Incline Village to Sand Harbor is expected to break ground next summer.

## **STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

The Stormwater Management Program's purpose is to reduce the amount of pollutants flowing into Lake Tahoe and accelerate attainment of water quality thresholds. The primarily grant-funded program focuses on roadway infrastructure projects, area-wide water quality treatment projects, and the installation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) on private parcels. TRPA actions supplement and support rather than replace or duplicate the actions required by the Lake Tahoe Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). TRPA coordinates with local jurisdictions and partner agencies to identify priority locations for pollutant load reduction projects for the most effective use of limited implementation dollars.

### **2015 Contractors Workshop**

The TRPA Stormwater Management Team, in coordination with Nevada Tahoe Conservation District and University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, conducted the 2015 Contractors Workshop and refresher workshop this past quarter to train local contractors on BMP design, installation, and maintenance, as well as how to use the new electronic submittal process for small scale BMP retrofits. These trainings are critical to have local contractors fill the gap left by resource conservation districts that no longer have funding for small scale BMP technical assistance. By attending this training, local contractors can now provide this assistance to homeowners.

## Realtor Workshops on Best Management Practices

As a part of the BMP Action Plan recommendations, TRPA held six workshops with the real estate community around Tahoe during the past quarter. Area realtors learned more about BMPs and an enhanced BMP disclosure form for real estate transactions. TRPA requires people selling property to disclose the property's BMP status to the purchaser prior to sale. The purchaser must submit a BMP disclosure form to TRPA within 30 days of sale. The new BMP disclosure form is more user-friendly and can now be accessed, filled out, and submitted to TRPA electronically. It is available at [www.tahoebmp.org](http://www.tahoebmp.org).



*Shay Navarro, TRPA Stormwater Management Program Manager, presenting to the real estate community about BMPs and the enhanced BMP disclosure process.*

## BMP Certificates Issued

The TRPA Stormwater Management Team continues to issue BMP Certificates for private and public parcels within the Tahoe Basin. During the second quarter of 2015, TRPA issued 91 single-family residential, 85 multifamily residential, and four commercial BMP Certificates.

BMP Certificates Issued from January 1 to June 29, 2015				
California	Land Use	Total Certificates	Part of an Area-Wide Project	Issued through Compliance Actions
	Single Family	604	-	3
	Multi-Family	83	-	-
	Commercial	10	6	5
Nevada				
	Single Family	43	8	11
	Multi-Family	52	23	-
	Commercial	-	-	-
TOTAL		792	37	19

## **AQUATIC RESOURCES PROGRAM**

TRPA's Aquatic Resources Program leads the Lake Tahoe Region partnership in actions needed to prevent the introduction of new aquatic invasive species (AIS) and eradicate or control the spread of existing AIS. The program implements the Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan and has a key goal of securing long term, stable funding for continued AIS prevention and control needs.

### **AIS Prevention Program**

The 2015 AIS Inspectors received their annual training in April in advance of the boat inspection stations opening in May. This year's inspectors are a mix of veterans and new hires, which allows for a good mix of knowledge about the program and new enthusiasm.

Three boat inspection stations opened on May 1 at Meyers, Alpine, and Spooner and a new station near the Truckee airport opened on May 21. The new Truckee-Tahoe station replaces the station at Northstar Ski Resort and is an exciting development for the Tahoe Prevention Program as it is a partnership with the Town of Truckee's prevention efforts for Donner Lake. This expanded partnership will increase the level of protected lakes near Tahoe and allows for cost sharing.

So far this season, inspectors:

- Inspected approximately 1,200 boats from April 1 through June 23,
- Decontaminated more than 350 boats, and
- Stopped nine boats carrying AIS from launching at Lake Tahoe.

### **AIS Control Program**

TRPA, Tahoe Resource Conservation District, and University of Nevada, Reno participated on an AIS panel discussion May 19 hosted by the Tahoe City Rotary and sponsored by the Tahoe Fund. The focus of the discussion was current initiatives to control the spread of invasive weeds at the Tahoe City Dam and down the Truckee River. The Aquatic Resources Program will continue to seek outreach opportunities with this group and others like it.

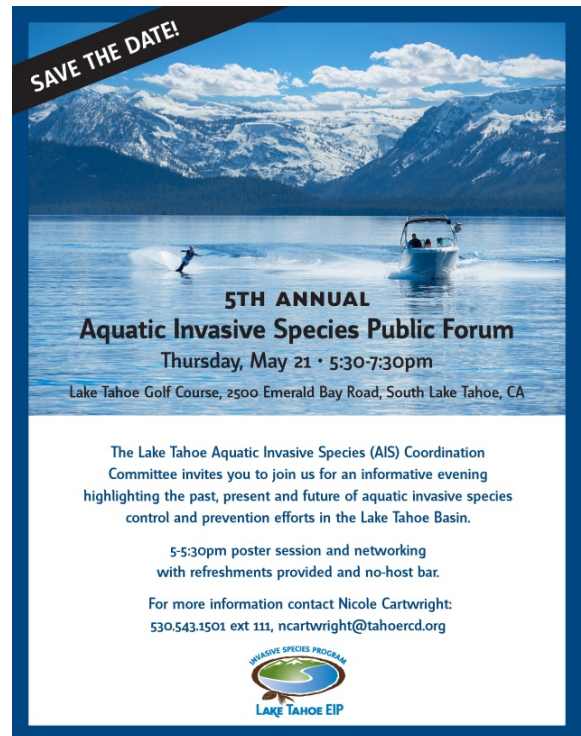
### **AIS Public Forum**

The AIS partnership held the fifth annual AIS Public Forum on May 21 at the Lake Tahoe Golf Course. The forum provides an opportunity to educate the public about AIS prevention and control programs at the Lake. The forum is sponsored by the Lake Tahoe AIS Program, a coalition of 40 government agencies and nonprofit groups that have partnered together to prevent the introduction and the spread of AIS at Lake Tahoe. More than 50 people attended the forum. Presentations included:

- AIS accomplishments and upcoming projects at Lake Tahoe, by Nicole Cartwright, AIS Program Coordinator at the Tahoe Resource Conservation District;
- AIS control plans for Lake Tahoe, by Dr. Marion Wittmann, Conservation Biologist at University of Nevada, Reno;



- Native mussels in the Truckee River by U.S. Forest Service staff;
- The Emerald Bay Asian Clam Pilot Research Project, by Dennis Zabaglo, Aquatic Resources Manager at TRPA;
- The Lake Tahoe Quagga Mussel Survivability Study, by Sudeep Chandra, Associate Professor at University of Nevada, Reno;
- The Tahoe Keys Integrated Weed Management Plan, by Rick Lind, President, Sierra Ecosystem Associates; and
- An overview of Eyes on the Lake and citizen AIS monitoring efforts, by Savannah Rudroff, Natural Resources Associate, League to Save Lake Tahoe.



## FOREST AND VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The Forest and Vegetation Management Program restores and maintains healthy and fire-safe forests and provides prioritized direction for fuel reduction and forest management activities to promote ecosystem resiliency. In addition to collaboration with partners implementing projects that protect and manage vegetation and forests in the Lake Tahoe Basin, the purpose of TRPA's program actions are to improve water, air, land, recreation, and scenic resources and protect the Basin from potential hazards such as catastrophic wildfire.

### Forest Management

TRPA continues to work with the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team (TFFT) on project planning for the field season. The TFFT has completed the 2015 Incident Action Plan, a planning document that outlines all 2015 fuel reduction and forest health projects. Implementation planning and permitting for these projects is underway and TRPA is working closely with implementers to provide seamless permitting. Protecting communities is a primary goal of the projects along with creating forests that are more resilient to drought and insects.

### Tahoe Yellow Cress

The recent low water years have been good for Tahoe Yellow Cress (TYC). As the water continues to recede, TYC colonizes the freshly exposed sandy beach areas and the increased size of the beaches usually means less pressure from recreation activities. The Tahoe Yellow Cress Conservation Strategy update is near a final draft.

# ESTABLISH TRPA AS A LEADER IN ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAMS

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**Establish New Cutting-Edge, Nationally Recognized Environmental and Sustainability Approaches and Programs.** The agency operates on a world stage and the time is ripe for growing TRPA's reputation nationally and internationally as a leader in environmental restoration and sustainability approaches. We will use best practices and form new strategic alliances.

The Lake Tahoe Region has a long history of balancing the natural and human systems to protect the landscape for future generations. To that end, TRPA has been building a framework for sustainability since before it became a common catchphrase. Climate change effects have arrived in the Sierra Nevada and are projected to continue into the foreseeable future. Increased air and water temperatures, reduced winter snowpack, altered precipitation patterns, and more frequent storm events are expected trends. Potential effects such as increased wildfire risk, drought, public health and safety issues, and aquatic invasive species infestations affect the environment and may impact economic prosperity. Mountain resort communities such as Lake Tahoe are especially vulnerable to these changes because our economy and sense of community are intrinsically linked to our environment.

Ecosystem sustainability is larger than TRPA alone and requires multi-sector public and private partners to succeed. By doing our part and spurring others to do theirs, we can adapt to climate change effects. The TRPA-adopted 2012 Sustainable Communities Strategy achieves California greenhouse gas reduction targets for transportation-related emissions. The recently completed award-winning Lake Tahoe Sustainability Action Plan is an even broader action blueprint for both public and private sector participants to address greenhouse gas reduction and the effects of climate change.

## SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT HELD IN TAHOE



*"What practical actions can we take in the next 12 months to strengthen mountain-urban connections which support more resilient communities?"* This is the question that more than 70 practitioners, leaders, community members, and students from all over California, Nevada, the Sierra Nevada, and the Western United States tackled at the inaugural Connections sustainability summit June 22-24 in Incline Village.

Connections 2015, the first-of-its-kind sustainability summit in Tahoe, was hosted by the Lake Tahoe Sustainable Communities Program, in partnership with the Mountain Pact, and in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Western Governors' Association. TRPA's Lake Tahoe Sustainable Communities Program is a regional partnership to create a more resilient Lake Tahoe. The event was sponsored by the South Shore

Transportation Management Association, Sierra Business Council, Tahoe Water Suppliers Association, Kate Levine Graphic Recording, the Mountain Pact, and TRPA.

The theme of Connections 2015 was *"building more resilient communities through mountain-urban partnerships."* On Monday, June 22, Jeremy Sokulsky, President of Environmental Incentives, Inc., kicked off the summit by contemplating how our changing landscapes can be an opportunity for innovation. Expert panel speakers and participants then discussed best practices, challenges, and opportunities for improved



*The workshop featured an action-planning session to move the best ideas of the conference forward for implementation.*



*An illustration of a Connections 2015 action plan, by Kate Levine, a graphic facilitator, who donated her time to the event.*



mountain-urban partnerships in the following areas: (1) Forest Health and Water Security, (2) Transportation, Recreation, and Access, and (3) Valuing the Mountain-Urban Connection. The first day concluded with a happy hour networking reception on the shores of Lake Tahoe.

Tuesday, June 23 was all about action. Using individual expertise and information gained on the first day of the event, participants of Connections 2015 collaboratively developed an action plan focusing on strengthening the mountain-urban connection. Actions included creating a unified message, developing pilot projects to demonstrate value, and environmental education initiatives. The action plan will be implemented by participants over the next 12 months, culminating in the Connections 2016 gathering.

To view a list of the speakers, visit [www.trpa.org/connections2015](http://www.trpa.org/connections2015).

## LAKE TAHOE SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN WINS NATIONAL AWARD



*TRPA and Ascent Environmental staff after accepting the award. From left to right, Honey Walters, Ascent Environmental; John Hester, TRPA; Karin Edwards, TRPA; Poonam Boparai, Ascent Environmental.*

The American Planning Association recognized the Lake Tahoe Sustainability Action Plan in April with a National Planning Achievement Award for Environmental Planning. The Sustainability Action Plan is one of 12 plans nationwide that were recognized with planning excellence awards during the American Planning Association's National Planning Conference on April 20 in Seattle, Washington. The award shows that Lake Tahoe is leading the way in planning to improve sustainability and adapt to climate change.

TRPA created the Sustainability Action Plan collaboratively with

many partners, including El Dorado and Placer counties, City of South Lake Tahoe, California Tahoe Conservancy, and the North Lake Tahoe Resort Association and Sierra Nevada Alliance. A grant from the California Strategic Growth Council paid for creation of the Plan, which includes implementation steps for residents, businesses, visitors, schools, and governments to rebalance the Lake Tahoe Region's environment, economy, and community health while also confronting the impacts of climate change.

More information about the Lake Tahoe Sustainability Action Plan and the steps community members can take to improve the Lake Tahoe Region's sustainability is available online at <http://laketahoesustainablecommunitiesprogram.org/sustainability-action-plan/>.

# PROPEL THE DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF BEST INFORMATION, DATA, AND SCIENCE FOR DECISION-MAKING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

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**Provide Excellent Information for Policy Decisions, Accountability, and Operations** – TRPA is committed to continuing strong relations with the science community and improving measurement and reporting for programmatic and fiscal accountability.

TRPA is charged with monitoring and measuring many hundreds of threshold standards, Regional Plan performance measures, and management actions for progress and effectiveness at a regional cost of many millions of dollars. The Research and Analysis Division brings all data systems and monitoring, evaluation, and reporting resources together under a single Division Manager for more efficient response to continually growing needs. The Division manages both internal and external coordination among TRPA, partner agencies, and the scientific community on applied research, status and trend monitoring related to TRPA standards, and partner agency data needs.

## IMPROVEMENT IN LAKE CLARITY IN 2014

During this past quarter, researchers at the University of California, Davis released data showing that the average annual clarity level for Lake Tahoe for 2014 was 77.8 feet, which is the biggest improvement in lake clarity in more than a decade. This represents a 7.5 foot increase over the previous year's results and is almost 14 feet greater than the value of 64.1 feet measured in 1997, when the lowest average clarity value was recorded. The clarity level is the depth at which a 10-inch white disk, called a Secchi disk, remains visible when lowered into the water. UC Davis researchers take measurements 28 times throughout the year. Winter clarity in 2014 improved by one foot, but the largest improvement was in summer clarity where there was a 13-foot improvement over the preceding year.

The improvements are in part due to continuous work through the Environmental Improvement Program to lower pollutants to the Lake. The results were also influenced by the drought, as reduced precipitation meant fewer contaminants flowed into Lake Tahoe, particularly during the summer, when clarity levels were the highest recorded since 2002.

# OPERATE AS A HIGH PERFORMANCE ORGANIZATION

Create an Enduring Organizational Culture of High Performance and Continuous Improvement – The agency will improve its performance management system to ensure each individual is in alignment with, evaluated against, and rewarded for achieving performance targets.

## ANNUAL GOVERNING BOARD STRATEGIC PLANNING RETREAT

At the April 2015 Governing Board meeting, Governing Board members and TRPA staff took an annual strategic look at TRPA's and the Tahoe Region's direction. Past annual retreats looked at a 12-month horizon, but this year the retreat participants looked farther out on the horizon toward mid-term goals. The question asked was, *"What do we have to focus on in the next five to 10 years to make the most significant difference for the next 50 years?"*

At the retreat, the Board provided guidance on the most important five-year initiatives related to the four TRPA strategic plan objectives. Based on this guidance, for each initiative TRPA staff is translating the desired five-year outcomes into Action Plans. As a part of these Action Plans, staff is identifying a series of incremental tasks, developing schedules, estimating three- to five-year budgets, making staffing assignments, and creating performance scorecards to keep track of how well we are accomplishing the outcomes we set for the next several years.



TRPA Governing Board member Clem Schute at the TRPA Governing Board strategic planning retreat in April 2015.

## FINANCE UPDATE

Both California and Nevada have completed their budgeting processes for the coming fiscal year (in Nevada's case, the next two fiscal years). In addition to baseline funding, both States have increased funding for TRPA to support two major initiatives marking the first increase in many years. The first is ongoing permanent funding for the Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Program to replace sun-setting federal funds from the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act. The



second is a one-year appropriation to fund the 2016 Threshold Evaluation Report. The Threshold Evaluation is an important check-in on progress towards achievement of our Environmental Thresholds and the next report is due by December 2016. Overall, the budgets reaffirm both States' commitment to TRPA and the Tahoe Basin.

### **LAKE SPIRIT AWARD WINNERS RECOGNIZED AT JUNE GOVERNING BOARD MEETING**

The Governing Board recognized four individuals who possess a strong personal commitment to preserving Lake Tahoe at the June 2015 TRPA Governing Board meeting. The Lake Spirit Awards honor real people making real progress at restoring Lake Tahoe. Created in 2011, the awards are a way to recognize those individuals whose passion for Tahoe results in progress and environmental improvements. The awards covered two categories -- exemplary citizen and exemplary agency representative or environmental scientist. This year's winners are as follows:

#### **Exemplary Citizens:**

- Rebecca Bryson (South Shore) is a member of the Community Mobility Working Group, which advocates for improved community connections. Bryson spearheaded a composting program in Lake Tahoe Unified School District elementary schools and was the lead organizer for the Sierra House Growing Domes project, generating more than \$100,000 for its construction.
- The Murphy family (North Shore) is committed to fighting aquatic invasive species in Lake Tahoe. Through their business, Wet Leprechaun Dive Services, the Murphy family has helped physically remove aquatic invasive weeds from iconic Tahoe locations, including Emerald Bay. The Murphy family also champions public education about aquatic invasive species in an effort to grow awareness of this threat to Lake Tahoe.

#### **Exemplary Agency Representative or Environmental Scientist:**

- Joy Barney (South Shore) of the U.S. Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit founded the Generation Green of Lake Tahoe Program, which educates high school students about the environment and gives them work and volunteer experience through the Forest Service. She helped found the South Tahoe Environmental Education Coalition, providing 1,500 hours of environmental education in local schools annually.
- Madonna Dunbar (North Shore) of the Incline Village General Improvement District and Tahoe Water Suppliers Association promotes environmental programs in Incline Village and around the Region. Her work on the IVGID Waste Not Program reaches more than 200,000 people every year. She promotes water conservation and encourages people to "Drink Tahoe Tap."



*2015 Lake Spirit Award Winners: From left to right, Joanne Marchetta, TRPA Executive Director; award recipients Rebecca Bryson, Joy Barney, Shawn Murphy, and Madonna Dunbar; Casey Beyer, Chair of the TRPA Governing Board.*

## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

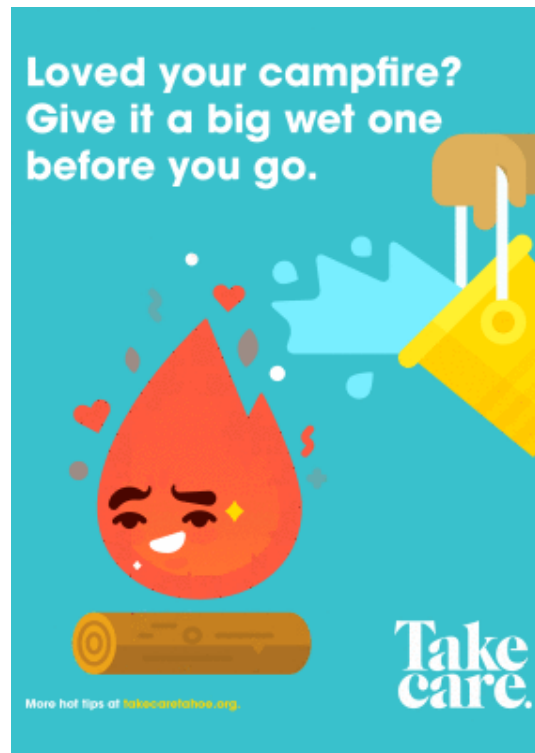
TRPA supports a culture committed to public education, outreach, and community engagement to implement the Regional Plan. The External Affairs Team leads public engagement initiatives in collaboration with a wide variety of agency and nonprofit stakeholders. During this past quarter, TRPA continued ongoing education and outreach in the Lake Tahoe Region to raise public awareness about issues at Lake Tahoe and improve public understanding about the role of TRPA.

### Take Care Campaign Launched

TRPA External Affairs staff worked with the Lake Tahoe Outreach Committee to launch the Take Care campaign in April 2015. The Take Care campaign is designed for use in outreach programs by public agencies, private businesses, and nonprofit organizations within the Tahoe Region and provides a unified stewardship brand to help reduce impacts and promote a more responsible use of our outdoors. Messages contained in the initial launch included messages about litter, dog waste, fire safety, and aquatic invasive species prevention.

**Take  
care.**

The Lake Tahoe Outreach Committee is comprised of TRPA, Tahoe Fund, League to Save Lake Tahoe, UC Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center, Tahoe Resource Conservation District, and Tahoe Sustainability Collaborative. More than 100 organizations and businesses have downloaded campaign materials. The toolkit can be downloaded free of charge at [www.takecaretahoe.org](http://www.takecaretahoe.org).



Samples of the Take Care messages available for download at [www.tahoe.caretahoe.org](http://www.tahoe.caretahoe.org).

## New Issue of Tahoe In Depth Published

TRPA published and distributed the summer 2015 issue of its environmental newspaper, Tahoe In Depth, at the end of June. Tahoe In Depth aims to inspire better environmental understanding and stewardship at Tahoe, and to help people learn more about how they can help protect the Lake and enjoy all it has to offer. The publication is directly mailed to all property owners in the Tahoe Basin and is made available at distribution points around the Lake, including visitors' centers, restaurants, coffee shops, and government offices. It can also be downloaded online at [www.tahoeindepth.org](http://www.tahoeindepth.org).

In April, the California Association of Public Information Officials recognized Tahoe In Depth with a 2015 Excellence in Communications Award. The newspaper won first place in the Association's external newsletter category. The Excellence in Communication awards recognize the most creative and effective communications programs in the state of California. CAPIO is a membership organization that serves communication professionals throughout the public sector.





## Western Governors' Association Annual Meeting

Lake Tahoe was the site of the 2015 Western Governors' Association annual meeting. Members consist of governors from 19 states and topics included drought, transportation, energy, and collaboration. TRPA Executive Director Joanne Marchetta spoke alongside Nevada Governor Brian Sandoval, California Secretary of Natural Resources John Laird, and Heavenly Mountain Resort's Chief Operating Officer Pete Sonntag about the collaborative work to preserve Lake Tahoe, highlighting TRPA and the Region as a model for other states to follow. Staff also assisted with two tours during the event that highlighted major Environmental Improvement Program accomplishments and environmental redevelopment projects.



*TRPA Executive Director Joanne Marchetta speaks at the Western Governors' Association annual meeting at Lake Tahoe.*

## 2015 Second Quarter Education & Outreach Highlights

- Participated in annual environmental field trips reaching every elementary school student in South Lake Tahoe over a two-week period in May and June.
- Hosted an event at the Lake Tahoe Environmental Science Magnet School where 175 students rode their bikes to school and learned about the positive impacts biking can have for the Lake Tahoe Region.
- Hosted representatives from rural water associations from all 50 states as part of an annual event organized by the Nevada Rural Water Association. TRPA Communications staff gave the visitors an overview of Lake Tahoe and its environment and discussed the role TRPA plays as a regional leader.
- Attended the City of South Lake Tahoe's annual Wildfire Safety Expo in June. Reached more than 100 adults and children, sharing information about wildfire safety and preparedness and the importance of creating defensible space.
- Shared crisis communications expertise as part of a Public Relations Society of America Sierra Nevada Chapter conference in Reno.
- Created an updated Lake Tahoe boating map with information about preventing the introduction of AIS and a new rack card that teaches paddlers how to self-inspect their non-motorized watercraft for AIS.
- As part of the Tahoe Bike Challenge in June, TRPA raised more than \$1,540 in donations for the TRPA environmental scholarship fund. The money will support local students studying environmental fields in college.



*External Affairs Chief Julie Regan, right, spoke on an expert panel on crisis communications as part of a Public Relations Society of America Sierra Nevada Chapter conference in Reno.*

- Environmental Education Specialist Devin Middlebrook assisted a Boy Scout Troop in planning and executing the removal of 730 feet of old rusted pipe from the exposed lakebed just south of Tahoe City.



*Photos show the pipe on the lakebed before the project and after removal.*

## NEW TRPA STAFF

During the second quarter of 2015, TRPA filled a number of staff vacancies. Outlined below are new team members who joined the Agency during this past quarter.



### **Dan Segan, Research & Analysis Division**

Dan Segan joined TRPA in late May as a Principal Natural Resource Analyst with the Research & Analysis Division. Most recently, Dan worked as a conservation planner on international conservation projects for the Wildlife Conservation Society primarily supporting projects in Africa, and before that on marine areas for the University of Queensland in Australia. He has experience in using ArcGIS for spatial analysis and prioritization, mountain stream monitoring, and surveying. Dan has a master's degree in environmental science and management from the University of California, Santa Barbara, and a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. In his role as a Natural Resource Analyst, Dan will work on the upcoming 2016 Threshold Evaluation Report.



### **Jaymi Hardy, Human Resources**

Jaymi started with TRPA on a temporary assignment in September 2014, taking over the Senior Accountant role during a staff vacancy. During that time, Jaymi was instrumental in the redesign of work processes between Human Resources and Finance. During this past quarter, she took on a permanent role with TRPA as a Human Resource Assistant. Jaymi will support key Human Resource functions such as open enrollment, onboarding and offboarding staff, and Human Resource system upgrades, as well as general Human Resources work. Jaymi has a bachelor's degree in accounting and became a CPA while working as an auditor with Ernst & Young in San Francisco. For the past 15 years, Jaymi worked as an accounting consultant for small to mid-size companies in the Tahoe Basin and the Bay Area and taught accounting courses at Lake Tahoe Community College.



### **Melissa Uppendahl, Finance**

Melissa joined TRPA in April as a Senior Accountant. Melissa is a Tahoe native who has varied work experience in the fields of finance, legal, and grant administration, in addition to a bachelor's degree in business administration and a master's degree in public administration. Melissa will be responsible for accounts payable and payroll.



### **Jennifer Self, Current Planning**

Jen joined TRPA in June as an Associate Planner in the Current Planning Division and will assist with project review, land capability verifications, and the front counter. Jen grew up in Alabama, but has long considered the Sierra and California her home. She began her career in cultural resource management at Yosemite National Park. For the past three and a half years, she worked as a project coordinator and research associate on a wide variety of planning projects with the Community Service Center, a planning consulting organization in Oregon. Jen holds a bachelor's degree in community planning and historic preservation from the College of Charleston in South Carolina, and master's degrees in community and regional planning and historic preservation from the University of Oregon.

