

Nevada Tahoe Leadership Group Funding Goals

The Nevada Tahoe Leadership group will submit a proposal to the Nevada Department of Environmental Protection (NDEP) for a grant under the Nevada Nonpoint Source 319(h) Management Program. The grant elements are outlined below.

A. Community Support and Coordination

Coordination and support is necessary to create sustainable watershed education programs on the Nevada side of the Lake Tahoe Basin. Schools will be brought together with natural resource agencies and others to implement place-based learning, monitoring and restoration projects which relate to nonpoint source management. A community watershed coordinator will work directly with teachers, students and administrators, while a regional coordinator will focus on leadership development so that projects and programs are sustainable.

- Part-time (30 hour) community watershed coordinator
- Portion of basin-wide regional coordinator
- AAW Leadership Institute attendance
- Office, supplies, travel expenses

B. Integration of Nonpoint Source Management into K-12 Education

1. Professional Development

Provide training to teachers and agency providers in Adopt-A-Watershed place-based education, environment as an integrating curriculum (EIC), and service-learning concepts so that existing curriculum can be enhanced by inclusion of Lake Tahoe and water quality content. Training would be provided by Sierra Watershed Education Partnerships during the first year.

- Place-based learning workshop
- Teachers Interpretive Hike Series
- Community Leaders in the Classroom Workshop
- AAW Leadership Institute attendance
- Water monitoring skills and guidelines training
- Offer university credit in cooperation with Sierra Nevada College

2. Project Implementation

Provide direct support to teachers through the community watershed coordinator to develop collaborative projects with natural resource agencies, other school, community organizations and businesses which monitor and restore local watersheds and resources. EIC projects provide documented improvement in student achievement, motivation and behavior.

- Monitoring and restoration projects
 - Design and implementation of Best Management Practices on several school sites
 - Rosewood Creek project, including monitoring, erosion control, trail, signage, classroom presentations and training (partner with IVGID)
 - restoration project east lake shore area (perhaps partner with NSP & GBOS)
 - restoration project in the Stateline and Zephyr Cove area (partner with Nevada Tahoe Conservation District)
 - interpretive signage for SNC demonstration garden (partner with SNC & UNCE)
- field trip transportation
- teacher release time (substitute reimbursement) for project development
- teacher mini-grants for qualified projects

- water monitoring equipment
- disseminate successful demonstration projects and models to other teachers and areas

3. Curriculum Alignment

Provide materials needed by teachers to use the Lake Tahoe environment as an integrating context (EIC), specifically providing replacement units for existing textbooks and materials so that teachers can use these to meet standards, and information on how place-based learning meets specific state standards.

- match existing Teach Tahoe curriculum with The Tahoe Report video series
- develop teacher support materials to align Tahoe classroom and field projects with standards
- develop science replacement units which use the Lake Tahoe Basin and water quality as the context

4. Information Sharing

Provide information needed by teachers and community leaders to participate in monitoring and restoration projects related to nonpoint source management. Maintain a database of people available to present in classrooms and support field projects.

- input information to the Teachers and Students section of the Tahoe Integration Information Management System (TIIMS), including teacher developed lesson and project plans, and student monitoring data
- create and maintain Community Leadership in the Classroom database on TIIMS

C. Integration of Nonpoint Source Management into Public Outreach

1. Comprehensive Environmental Education Plan (subcontract to LTEEC)

Support development of the Comprehensive Environmental Education Plan under leadership of LTEEC. The plan will include guidelines and examples to ensure that all educational partners in the basin are including high quality place-based learning that includes nonpoint source management in all their activities, and that K-12 efforts are aligned with these broader efforts.

2. Media Campaign

Support continued development and dissemination of basin-wide media campaigns to educate the public about water quality issues and encourage participation in community monitoring and solutions.

- Disseminate existing The Tahoe Report videos more widely and develop new episodes based on developing issues such as dog waste, cigarette butts, defensible space, forest health, and best management practices (BMP) for private lands
- Disseminate existing student-produced videos and develop new episodes based on developing issues