

LAKE TAHOE TMDL PROGRAM 2015 STRATEGY & CURRENT THEMES

The TMDL Strategy provides consistent direction to inform the prioritization of day-to-day activities and communications by the TMDL Program Managers, so that they can motivate implementation of effective actions to restore Lake Tahoe clarity.

Long-Term Goal

Guide implementation of cost effective load reduction measures to: reverse clarity loss of Lake Tahoe; achieve 80 ft Clarity Challenge by 2026; and achieve the 100ft numeric target by 2076.

5-Year Milestone Objectives *(through 2016 updates)*

- Work to secure sustained funding for implementation through 2021.
- Implement Lake Clarity Crediting Program including: 1) functional tools, 2) all urban jurisdictions register catchments, perform inspections and declare credits, and 3) all urban jurisdictions achieve credit targets associated with the 10% load reduction milestone.
- Report TMDL progress for all source categories included in the TMDL implementation plan and discuss progress in the context of lake clarity status.
- Solicit, document and be responsive to input from all stakeholders.

Annual Objectives & Actions *(through 2015 Calendar Year)*

- Maintain focus on the urban source category. Jurisdictions accept the Crediting Program and Tools and start registering catchments and performing initial inspections.
- Complete Stormwater Tools Improvement Project and Crediting Program Handbook revisions so that basic functions of Tools work and no technical barriers to registering catchments, performing inspections and declaring and awarding credits.
- Accomplish full TMDL Management System cycle without contractor support.

Current Themes *(External talking points to drive focus and motivate action)*

- Urban load reduction implementation and accounting remains the focus of the Lake Clarity Crediting Program. TMDL Program Managers may consider crediting for non-urban activities once all urban jurisdictions have demonstrated familiarity with Crediting Program protocols through application of the associated tools and catchment registration sufficient to achieve the 10% load reduction milestone.
- Get familiar with the tools and start using Tools to setup roadway and BMP classifications.
- Roadways are the largest source and operations and maintenance are cost-effective opportunities to achieve load reductions. Demonstrating reductions from roadways is key to securing additional funding and lifting grant program restrictions on funding O&M activities.
- All stakeholders will have the ability to provide input to the adaptive management of TMDL implementation. TMDL Program Managers are committed to documenting and being responsive to this input.
- The Tools Improvement Project will make implementation of the Crediting Program reasonable and useful for urban jurisdictions.
- The TMDL Program Managers continue to support pollutant controls in all source categories. The TMDL Program will track and report performance measures and evaluate implementation progress from forests, streams and, if feasible, atmospheric deposition.
- Establishing and implementing a Nearshore Monitoring Program will facilitate nearshore condition assessment and will help determine if nearshore condition is improving in response to TMDL implementation as expected.
- TMDL Program Managers will continue to consult with colleagues and partner agencies to integrate the nearshore and deep-water lake issues and will consider whether and how to incentivize and prioritize the implementation of TMDL load reduction efforts to facilitate the greatest benefits to nearshore condition.