

Lake Tahoe Basin Invasive Weed Coordinating Group

2012 Annual Report and Newsletter



Dedicated to preventing and controlling invasive weed species in the Tahoe Basin by sharing resources and information.

Project Highlight

Weed Control in Emerald Bay: a Success Story By Dan Shaw, CA State Parks

Emerald Bay is a unique, high profile attraction in the Lake Tahoe basin and is a primary destination for photographers, boaters, campers, hikers and other recreationists. The establishment of invasive aquatic plant species in Emerald Bay State Park a decade ago was a grave concern to many due to the adverse effects these plants can have on near-shore ecology and visitor enjoyment.

Potential impacts from invasive aquatic plant infestations include alteration of the substrate from sand to muck; changes in habitat conditions that favor other non-native plant and animal species, such as catfish, bass, bullfrogs and algae; adverse swimming conditions and negative impacts on recreational boating; and increasing amounts of plant material fouling beaches. Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) expanded from a few plants in 2000 to over 6 acres densely infested along the western end of Emerald Bay by 2010. A very small patch of curlyleaf pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*) was also found.

In 2010, California State Parks initiated a strategic and comprehensive control program utilizing a combination of methods to try to eradicate these weeds from Emerald Bay. This has been a cooperative effort with the Tahoe Resource Conservation District, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, A.C.E. Diving, UC Davis Scientists, and other management and regulatory agencies, divers and scientists. Since 2010, we have comprehensively treated one of three discreet infestation areas each summer, while maintaining the previous years' treatment areas.

By the end of 2012, there was less than 1 acre of very small and very sparse milfoil plants at our most remote infestation site. Curlyleaf pondweed was treated and has not been detected for 3 years. The Swim Beach in front of Vikingsholm Castle has been virtually weed-free for almost 3 years now, and the mucky, vegetated dark waters have been returned to a pristine sandy bottom and clear, striking



Avalanche treatment site before (at left) and after treatment (at right). Photos by P. Caterino (left) and D. Shaw (right).



Parson's Rock treatment site before (at left) and after treatment (right). Photos by D. Freeland (left) and S. Murphy (right).

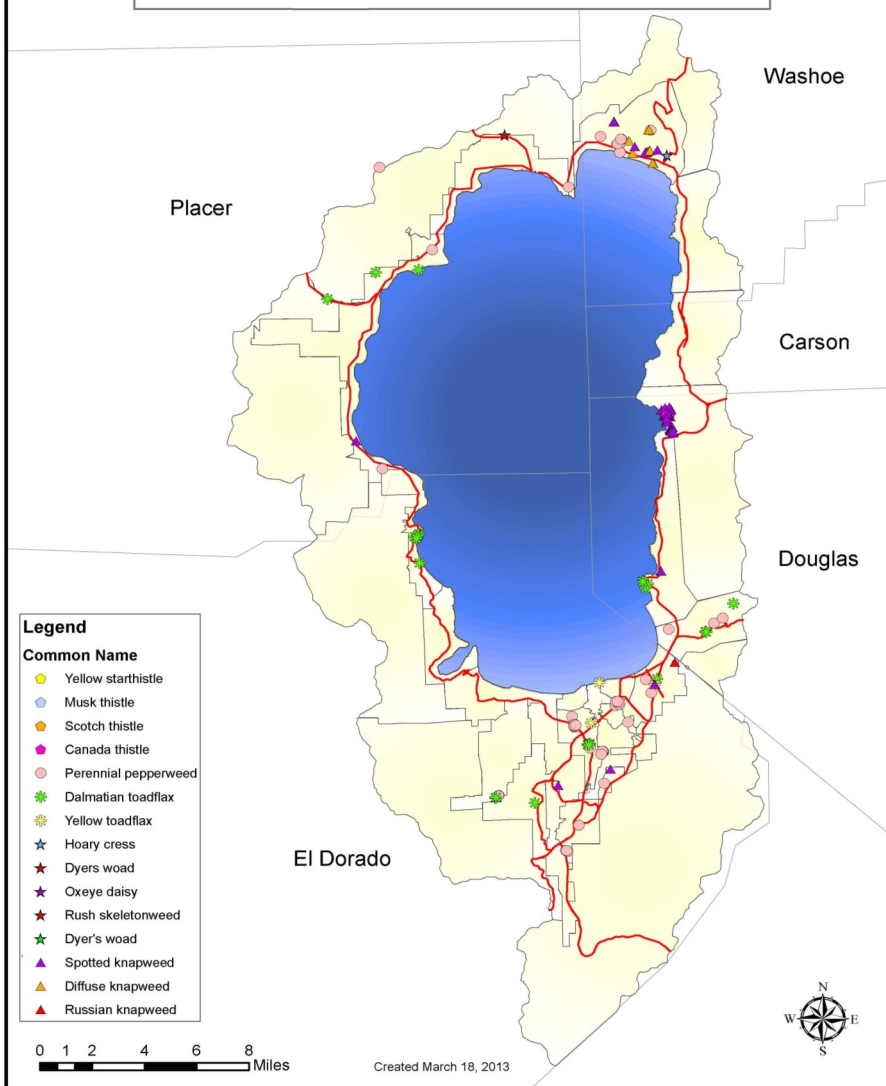
emerald-colored water again. Efforts will continue in 2013 to remove every last aquatic weed in all of Emerald Bay. The dedication and hard work of A.C.E. Diving (Shawn and Angie Murphy and Doug Freeland) have been instrumental in these efforts, and we can't thank them enough.

Check Out Our Website!

Visit our website to report invasive weed sightings, get involved and learn about our priority weeds

TahoInvasiveWeeds.org

2012 Lake Tahoe Basin Invasive Weeds



2012 Highlights

Detection and Mapping

- Detection surveys were completed on **5,777 acres** of public and private lands. There were no detections of yellow starthistle in the basin.

Control and Eradication

- **607 sites** were treated with mechanical and chemical controls

Education & Outreach

- **10,100+ people** were reached via trainings, radio, presentations, events, newspaper, television and workshops.
- **465 homeowners** received onsite consultations to detect and control invasive plants.

Our Mission

Collectively, the Lake Tahoe Basin Weed Coordinating Group (LTBWCG) group is dedicated to ensuring that invasive weed detection, control and education is effective and seamless across the five county, bi-state region.

Since the LTBWCG inception in 2002, the group has annually prepared an action plan with specific actions and responsibilities relating to four areas of our collaborative work:

- detection and inventory of new and historical infestations,
- treatment and eradication of known sites,
- restoration as needed, and
- education and outreach.

The Lake Tahoe Basin is in the relatively early stages of invasion by weeds. The LTBWCG focuses on a technique called "early detection, rapid response" to find and eradicate plants before they become huge and expensive problems.

Upcoming Events

- * April 20: Tahoe Truckee Earth Day, at Squaw Valley Ski Resort
Visit: TahoeTruckeeEarthday.com
- * April 27: South Tahoe Earth Day, at Bijou Community Park
Visit: SouthTahoeEarthday.org
- * May 20 & 21: Weed Warriors Invasive Weed training, at University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, 4955 Energy Way, Reno. Preregistration required; \$40 class fee. Call 775-784-4848.
- * June 4: Invasive Weed Identification Workshop, at LT Community College, South Lake Tahoe, preregistration required
Visit: <http://ucanr.edu/ltbwgcgworkshop20130604>



LAKE TAHOE BASIN
WEED COORDINATING GROUP

Lake Tahoe Basin Invasive Weed Coordinating Group Partners:

California Department of Food and Agriculture, California State Parks, California Tahoe Conservancy, California State Lands Commission, Caltrans, Douglas County Weed District, El Dorado County Agriculture Department, Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lake Tahoe Environmental Education Coalition, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Nevada Tahoe Conservation District, Placer County Agriculture Department, Nevada Department of Agriculture, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, Tahoe Resource Conservation District, University of California Cooperative Extension, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, U.S. Forest Service-Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California and Nevada State Parks.