

Best Management Practices

RESOURCES

The clarity of Lake Tahoe is declining at an alarming rate of over one foot each year, largely due to soil erosion and surface runoff associated with urban development in the Tahoe Basin. When a watershed is disturbed and covered with impervious surfaces such as roads, driveways and rooftops, the rain and snowmelt flush sediment and nutrients quickly into the nearest stream or storm drainage system, ultimately ending up in Lake Tahoe. Once in Lake Tahoe, the sediment causes the water to appear muddy and the nutrients feed algae growth. In order to mitigate water quality impacts associated with developed areas, Best Management Practices (BMPs) are utilized. BMPs are proven methods that prevent sediment and nutrients from entering our surface waters.

Completion of the BMP process can be achieved by following three easy steps:

Step 1 – Request a free BMP site evaluation by contacting either the Conservation Districts or TRPA.

Step 2 – Have property owners implement the prescribed BMPs identified on the completed site evaluation form.

Step 3 – Call TRPA to request a final evaluation of your property and to receive a “Certificate of Completion”.

Fertilizer use may impact water quality by adding nutrients to surface waters that aid algae growth and decrease lake clarity. Below are tips for the wise use of fertilizers to protect water quality.

- Do not use fertilizers near stream zones, shorelines or on water saturated soils.
- Do not over fertilize – apply fertilizers once in the spring and early fall.
- Use only the nutrients necessary – get a soil test from the UNR Cooperative Extension or any certified testing laboratory.
- Do not overwater - nutrients are lost by runoff and leaching.
- Landscape with native plants – they require little to no irrigation or fertilizers once established.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND A FREE BMP EVALUATION, CONTACT ONE OF THE AGENCIES LISTED BELOW

For Residential properties in CALIFORNIA:

Tahoe Resource Conservation District

Backyard Conservation Program
P. O. Box 10529, 870 Emerald Bay Road,
S. Lake Tahoe, CA 96158
Phone: (530) 573-2210
Fax: (530) 573-2780
e-mail: jennifer.jespersen@ca.usda.gov
<http://tahoe.ceres.ca.gov/rcd/index.html>

For Residential properties in NEVADA:

Nevada Tahoe Conservation District

Backyard Conservation Program
P.O. Box 4605, 297 Kingsbury Grade, Suite
G, Stateline, NV 89449
Phone: (775) 586-7208
Fax: (775) 586-7209
e-mail:
backyardconservation@ca.nacdnet.org
<http://www.ntcd.org>

For Commercial & Multi-Family properties in NV and CA:

Tahoe Regional Planning Agency

Erosion Control Team
P.O. Box 1038, 308 Dorla Court, Zephyr
Cove, NV 89448
After March 1, 2003:
P.O. Box 5310, Stateline, NV 89449-5310
Phone: (775) 588-4547 x 202
Fax: (775) 588-4527
e-mail: bmp@trpa.org
<http://www.trpa.org>

EDUCATION /OUTREACH TRAINING

UNR Cooperative Extension

P.O. Box 8208, 865 Tahoe Blvd., Suite 110,
Incline Village, NV 89452-8208
Phone: (775) 832-4144
Fax: (775) 832-4139
e-mail: cobournj@unce.unr.edu
<http://www.unce.unr.edu/western>