

Summary and Justification for Proposed Changes

Lake Tahoe Region Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan CALIFORNIA - NEVADA

Summary of Revision

The framework for the Lake Tahoe Region Aquatic Invasive (AIS) Species Management Plan (the Plan) will remain essentially the same. The goal of the 2014 Plan was to make the body of the Plan robust enough to guide the program (requiring major technical revisions in the future), while the appendices are “living” documents (requiring only minor technical revisions). The following changes were made:

BODY OF DOCUMENT

Executive Summary

- Minor updates
- Summary of previous version and pathway to this revision

Chapter 1: Introduction

- Minor updates

Chapter 3: Problem Definition

- Move (and update as needed) the former *Section 3.3 Non-native Species Present or Threatening Lake Tahoe* and *Section 3.4 Non-native Species Types* to **Appendix B: AIS of Concern**.
 - Rationale: While some specific species have and will likely continue to threaten the Lake Tahoe Region (e.g. quagga or zebra mussels), managers in the Region must be able to rapidly respond to new and unforeseen species (e.g. hydrilla). By shifting the control methods and invasion potential (e.g. former Table 6) to an appendix, managers in the Region can update information during their annual reviews, requiring only a minor technical revision, and allow for more rapid response to emerging issues.

Chapter 4: Plan Development

- Summarize the 2009 Plan, describe the major revisions to the updated Plan
 - Rationale: Provide a roadmap for how and why changes were made. It is anticipated this will inform future minor and major technical revisions.

Chapter 5: Management Plan Goals and Objectives

- Minor updates; however, full discussion of the Objectives were moved from former Chapter 6 to the revised Chapter 5 (see below for rationale).

Former Chapter 6: Current/Short- and Long-term Strategies and Actions

Former Chapter 7: Implementation Table

- Merged and moved these chapters to **Appendix C: Current/Short- Long Term Strategies and Actions**. Specific Action Items and the full Implementation Table is now provided in this Appendix.
 - Rationale: Action Items are dynamic and revised annually. Moving this information out of the body of the document, where elements are more static, allows stakeholders to readily input project information from annual work plans directly into the Implementation Table. Further, the Implementation Table will be revised to include “Current year anticipate need” rather than “Current/short-term need”. This will reflect the most recent understanding of costs associated with the action. The table will still include “Anticipated Need” (and cover the upcoming five years); however, this too will be updated annually. Specific dollars will be identified by stakeholders prior to formal submittal to the ANSTF.

Former Chapter 9: Research Considerations

- Move to **Appendix J: Key Management Questions**
 - Rationale: These items will be evaluated annually such that research and funding partners have a succinct list of target research and management needs.

APPENDICES

Appendices were revised to reflect information that is updated frequently, or infrequently but urgently, and were rearranged for continuity.

Appendix A: Regulations and Programs - minor updates

Former Appendix B: Lake Tahoe AIS Vessel Inspection Implementation Plan 2009-2010 – This appendix was removed and rolled into the new **Appendix D: Prevention Planning**.

- Rationale: The former Appendix B is out of date

Appendix B: AIS of Concern (see below under Former Appendix F)

Former Appendix C: Small Watercraft Screening Process - This appendix was removed and rolled into the new **Appendix D: Prevention Planning**.

- Rationale: The former Appendix C is out of date

Appendix C: Current/Short- Long Term Strategies and Actions - Added Table 8 (Implementation Table) , changed action items to reflect more recent naming scheme used in the Tahoe Region, and included Executive Summaries from past Work Program Reports.

- Rationale: By moving to an appendix, action items may be updated yearly to reflect annual updates in the AIS program. Currently, the Lake Tahoe AIS Coordination Committee budgets are project specific. Thus, the action items in the implementation table will follow this established nomenclature. These summaries will provide justification for changes to action items, including changes to funding and priority levels.

Former Appendix D: Contributors and Resources –updated and moved to the new Appendix I

Appendix D: Prevention Planning (see above under Former Appendix C) - new appendix that includes implementation plans for current projects directed toward preventing the introduction of individual or groups of AIS.

- Rationale: These plans are updated annually and are directly tied to elements identified in the Finance Plan.

Former Appendix E: Potential Economic Impacts –merged into new **Appendix G: Finance Plan**.

- Rationale: updated and will include finance plans for individual work plans as they are developed.

Appendix E: Control and Eradication Planning – new appendix that includes implementation plans for current projects directed toward controlling or eradicating individual or groups of AIS.

- Rationale: These plans are updated annually and are directly tied to elements identified in the Finance Plan.

Former Appendix F: AIS of Concern –changed to Appendix B: AIS of Concern, and also includes two sections from the body of the 2009 Plan 1) *Non-native Species Present or Threatening Lake Tahoe* and 2) *Non-native Species Types*.

- Rationale: in its previous form, distribution maps were too specific and inflexible. The distribution of AIS changes annually, due to effective management, and unfortunately, expanding populations. Further, the management response (former Table 5) is subject to change based on current circumstances (again, effective management and/or expanding populations or new populations).

Appendix F: Monitoring and Response Planning – new appendix that includes implementation plans for current projects directed toward monitoring and responding to individual or groups of AIS. For example, quagga/zebra mussel rapid response plans.

- Rationale: These plans are updated annually and are directly tied to elements identified in the Finance Plan.

Former Appendix G: Summary of Comments –moved to Appendix H and will include comments received from the ANSTF on the 2009 and 2014 Plans.

Appendix G: Finance Plan – new appendix, includes former Appendix E Potential Economics Impacts and will include finance plans for individual work plans as they are currently available, or will be following spring prioritization conducted by the AISCC.

- Rationale: the former Appendix E, while still meaningful, is not a guiding document that identifies specific funding needs for targeted projects. The new Appendix G is more project-specific and tied to elements identified in the Prevention Planning, Control and Eradication Planning, and Monitoring and Response Planning documents, cited above.

Appendix H: Summary of Comments – to include 2009 and 2014 comments.

- Rationale: including comments from all iterations will guide future iterations and facilitate the understanding of why specific changes were made. For example, comments from the ANSTF about moving the action items to the appendix in the 2014 Plan will be included.

Appendix I: Contributors and Resources – former Appendix D.

Appendix J: Key Management Questions - Formerly the section “Research Considerations” in the body of the document.

- Rationale: These items will be evaluated annually such that research and funding partners have a succinct list of target research and management needs.