

# SIERRA OUTDOORS



An artist's rendering of the proposed Incline Village to Sand Harbor portion of the Lake Tahoe Bikeway project shows how the paved, multiuse path will make accessing a portion of Lake Tahoe near Nevada 28 easier and safer. COURTESY TAHOE FUND

## LAKE TAHOE BIKE PATH TO MAKE ACCESS 'INCREDIBLY SAFER'

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At Lake Tahoe, summer is supposed to be fun.

But for so many people, just getting to the water is a matter of dodging highway traffic and scrambling down rocky embankments.

Not the best way to kick off what are supposed to be relaxing times at the lake. It's a mad scramble that could be eliminated if organizers of a campaign to raise money for a bike path from Incline Village to Sand Harbor State Park are successful.

The Tahoe Fund, a Tahoe Basin nonprofit, is trying to raise \$750,000 in private contributions for the proposed 3-mile path from Lakeshore Boulevard to the state park. If the group succeeds, it would unlock about \$12 million in public funds from the Federal Highway Administration, Washoe County, Nevada Q1 bonds and the Nevada Department of Transportation.

If the campaign makes its goal this summer, construction could begin as soon as next spring and be done by 2016.

"This section of trail is incredibly important for so many reasons," said Amy Berry, CEO of the Tahoe Fund. "There has never been access to this part of the east shore outside of a car in a safe manner ... people right now are getting to the lake however they can."

The proposed path would be 10 feet wide, paved, open to walking, running and bicycles, be accessible to people with limited mobility and have a mostly flat grade.

It also would contain 16 lookout points for people to stop and enjoy the lakefront scenery, something that's tough to do along nearby Nevada 28 without being exposed to high speed traffic.

It also would come with an NDOT-constructed parking area to accommodate about 30



Source: RGJ research

STEPHEN REICH/RGJ



Amy Berry, CEO of the Tahoe Fund, a private, nonprofit group, points out where the proposed Incline Village to Sand Harbor bike path would be aligned near Nevada 28. BENJAMIN SPILLMAN/RGJ

views are spectacular." Part of the fundraising effort, which already has generated more than \$50,000, includes naming rights opportunities for the lookout points.

According to NDOT, the path to the California line near South Lake Tahoe is important because highways 28 and 50 can be hazardous for drivers and riders.

## FISHING REPORT

**FRENCHMAN LAKE:** A variety of baits are working well. Worms and Powerbait especially. Call Wiggin's Trading Post at 530-993-4683.

**LAKE DAVIS:** The damsel hatch continues to be strong. Some cooler weather during the past couple of weeks has kept the lake in great shape. The water temperatures are starting to get warm, but we should have a couple more weeks before the summer heat slows the fishing until fall. In the early mornings, fish can be seen sipping bugs on the surface all over the lake as long as the wind is not blowing. Several patterns, including callibaetis dries, loco ants and blood midge dries, can be effective. About 8 a.m., the damselfly nymphs start to come out of the mud and weeds and swim towards shore. Big rainbows can be seen swarming the weed beds in search of damselfly nymphs for about three hours each day. The wind also plays a role and days with a light or no wind are the best. If it gets too strong, the hatch seems to end, but if you go a little deeper, you can still get some grabs. Floating lines fished with long 4X leaders is a great way to start, then use an intermediate-type line for later in the morning. The afternoons tend to be slow due to the warming water. At about 8:45 p.m., the hexagenia mayflies start to hatch and for about a half an hour, fish come crashing back to the surface for one last meal. This pattern could last until the second week of July or so. Call 775-742-1754 or visit renoflyfishingoutfitters.com.

**TRUCKEE RIVER:** The Truckee River is in great shape. The flows continue to be perfect from Tahoe City all the way through Reno. On the California side, the fishing has been really good. The evening caddis and little yellow stone hatch has made its way all the way into the upper river. The water is lower from Tahoe City down to the confluence of the Little Truckee, but this is normal. There is a lot of water from Boca Bridge down to the state line. The higher elevations on the California side help with water temperature, and as the summer moves along, the better fishing on the Truckee should continue to be in California. The Nevada side also is in great shape. The water is starting to get a little warm in the afternoons. There are also a ton of float tubers on the Nevada side from about noon to 4 p.m.

Usually, the Nevada side of the river provides good fishing for beginners and kids and anglers who don't get out much because it gets stocked every two to three weeks. That is not the case this year. The Truckee has a good population of wild fish, but they are much harder to catch and good techniques and ability to get good drifts with the correct flies are a must. Nymphing in the mornings with stoneflies, caddis and little yellow stone nymphs with or without an indicator is a good way to go. In the evenings when the sun gets off the water, look for fish to start to look up and feed during the caddis hatch until dark, especially on the California side of the river. Flows are: town of Truckee, 281 cfs; Boca Bridge, 591 cfs; Farad, 650 cfs; Reno, 362 cfs; and Vista, 279 cfs. Call 775-742-1754 or visit renoflyfishingoutfitters.com.

**LITTLE TRUCKEE RIVER:** Flows are 148 cfs. Great flows for this time of year. PMDs have been hatching on most days starting late morning. There is still a green drake or two as well. Nymphing with PMDs in sizes 16 and 18 is a great way to go. When you get the opportunity to throw a dry, PMDs also are the way to go. 5X or even 6X tippet is a must. The river is going to be crowded around sunset.

west shore have fish rising late afternoon until dark. Casings are floating around both basins, so it's been happening for several days, just at low intensity levels. Expect the big surge to erupt this week as a warming trend is in the forecast. This year's pond smelt hatch is looking good, about 1 to 1 1/4 inches long and growing. After aquatic insect reproduction hatches decline, expect hungry fish to turn their attention back to the flourishing smelt populations. However, the hatches show no sign of declining; in fact, it's safe to say it's going full-throttle and will be for a while. So, that abundance of aquatic insects will take the heat off the smelt, allowing them to get bigger as the fish will still have insects on the menu for some time. Expect the bite to get back on an early morning track, as darker nights eliminate night feeding opportunities. We have been catching a mix of browns and rainbows and an occasional salmon, trolling north of Rec. 2 and from Rec. 1 to the A-frame. Most of our hits have been coming off the down rigged deep rods between 35 to 45 feet or about 6 to 8 feet off the bottom. However, a couple lead core line guys have reported rainbows to 3 pounds, three to four colors down, early. Most boats are launching at the free public ramp at Canyon Dam, which has plenty of parking and a dock. The USFS ramp also has a dock in place. Call Doug Neal, Almanor Fishing Adventures, at 530-258-6732.

**SACRAMENTO RIVER:** The rainbow trout fishing on the Lower Sacramento River in Redding, Calif., has been excellent with many double-digit wild rainbow trout coming to the net. Catching 20 to 35 wild rainbow with a 1- to 3-pound average or 16 to 20 inches. The occasional large 4- to 5-pound trout has been coming in daily. Side-drifting small glo bugs in various egg color patterns working best. Back trolling small No. 50 and No. 70 sized hot shot lures also are hooking wild rainbows. Current river releases from Keswick Dam near Redding are 11,000 cfs.

Lower Sacramento River salmon season update: The Lower Sacramento River will reopen to king salmon fishing on July 16 and remain open until Dec. 16. The Sacramento River will open 150 feet below the Sycamore boat ramp in Red Bluff, Calif. River flows this season will be lower than usual, but look for a strong salmon run on July 16. The daily salmon bag limits on the Sacramento River have been set at two king salmon per person. Call Dave Jacobs, Professional Guide Service, at 530-646-9110 or visit sacramento-fishing.com.

**DONNER LAKE:** This lake was stocked again and should continue to fish well. With temps leveling into the 70s, it's a great time to get out and fish. Mack fishing has been good for those trolling. Jigging has been good at depths from 70 to 100 feet and some smaller fish being caught along the shoreline. Kokanee fishing has started with fat fish ranging from 10 to 12 inches in 45 to 60 feet with most of the schools being between Loch Leven Lodge and China Cove and some larger Kokanes in the 13- to 14-inch range on the opposite shore from the boat launch suspended 60 to 80 feet down in 100 to 120 feet of water. With the recent stocking, some small Macks have been cruising the shorelines in the morning and evening picking off small rainbows. Throw imitations that will mimic these and smaller baitfish now in these dusk and dawn hours to be successful.

posed to high-pollution. It also would come with an NDOT-constructed parking area to accommodate about 30 vehicles near the north end with more planned for the future.

People could park at the lot and walk or bike to Sand Harbor, one of Nevada's busiest state parks.

Or they could use the path, which, for much of the route, would go between the highway and the lake, to access the water.

So, kayakers or paddleboarders, for example, could get to the water without parking next to the busy highway or cramming into the state park.

"It is going to be such an incredible trail, it really doesn't have to be about the destination," Berry said. "The

generated more than \$50,000, includes naming rights opportunities for the lookout points, which can cost as much as \$100,000.

Organizers also will offer customized paving bricks shaped like either a bear or a trout to be installed with the names of \$2,500 and \$5,000 donors.

A wall near the beginning of the segment also will include names of people who donate \$100 or more, Berry said.

The Incline Village to Sand Harbor segment of path is one of several priority segments in the ongoing Lake Tahoe Bikeway Project, which aims to make biking around the entire lake easier and safer.

Completing the eastern shore path from Incline Vil-

lage can be hazardous for drivers and riders.

According to NDOT, from April 2006 through March 2013, there were 469 total accidents, including motorized vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians. The overall crash rate was 1.44 per 1 million miles, well above the state-wide rate of .96 for similar roads. The injury crash was .54 per 1 million miles, which is 180 percent higher than the overall rate of .30.

Berry said she's confident the pathway will make getting to the lake "incredibly safer" and she's hopeful once people experience it, it will build momentum for more segments to be completed.

"It is going to be such an awesome place to go spend time," she said.



An artist's rendering of the proposed Incline Village to Sand Harbor portion of the Lake Tahoe Bikeway project shows an example of planned lake viewing areas. The Tahoe Fund, which is raising money to build the path, is offering naming rights to overlooks for high-dollar donors. COURTESY TAHOE FUND

fly, nymphs and the waxy or even 6X tippet is a must. The river is going to be crowded on most days as it always is this time of year. Give other anglers some space and try to stay out of the water as much as possible. The Little Truckee is a technical fishery, and fewer casts will always catch more fish. Call 775-742-1754 or visit [renoflyfishingoutfitters.com](http://renoflyfishingoutfitters.com).

**SAWMILL LAKE:** The lake continues to provide some great higher-elevation stillwater fishing. Fish are eating callibaetis and damselfly in the late morning through midafternoon. There are also carpenter ants, pine beetles and termites getting blown into the lake on windy days. This is an incredible place to hone your dry fly skills. For more information on how to book a trip at Sawmill, call or email Rob Anderson at 775-742-1754 or [rob@bucketlistflyfishing.com](mailto:rob@bucketlistflyfishing.com).

**EAST WALKER RIVER:** The flows are great at 98 cfs. The fishing has been outstanding. This is probably going to be short-lived as the air and water temperatures continue to climb during the next month, but it is in great shape now. Mornings are best and it is best to fish early and quit about lunchtime when the water gets warm. Fish are looking up for big dries such as hoppers and yellow stones. Fish the seams near faster water and take a stealthy approach. Nymphing also has been really good with small nymphs such as caddis and midges. Call 775-742-1754 or visit [renoflyfishingoutfitters.com](http://renoflyfishingoutfitters.com).

**LAKE ALMANOR:** Surface temps are about 70 degrees and will climb this week. Clarity is good, about 14 to 16 feet depending on where you are. Lake levels are still very good. Water quality is outstanding. Aquatic insect hatches continue to amaze. The hex hatch has started, early as expected. Small exploding pockets of these hex hatches around the

and dawn hours to be successful. Call Mountain Hardware, Truckee, at 530-587-4844.

**BOCA:** Lake level has leveled off at 42 percent capacity and could come up a bit with more water coming into the lake than is going out. A stocking of trout last week should pump some more life into this lake. Small car-top boats, small aluminum boats or float tubes here; water level is too low to launch anything else. Fishing by the dam in the morning has been good along with the inlet portion of the lake more towards the evening. Lots of personal water craft or Jet Skis ripping around the lake during the day, so look for morning and evening fishing to be more productive. Call Mountain Hardware, Truckee, at 530-587-4844.

**STAMPEDE:** Kokanee fishing here has been great, but with water levels at 30 percent capacity, it's a must to have 4-wheel drive to launch, and even that's been risky. Good Kokanee action with fish ranging in the 12- to 13-inch range in the top 25 to 40 feet of water, but some larger fish are being taken around the island in 45 to 55 feet of water. Another hot spot has been off the boat launch when water depth reaches 35 to 45 feet. Spinners, hoochies and radical glow tubes have been go-to lures in colors with pink, orange and purple. Best Dodger colors have been copper with any orange and pink. Look for Macks underneath these schools of Kokes and some larger ones still hanging out in the deeper sections of the lake around the dam. Trout fishing has been best in the coves up and down from the campgrounds and boat ramp. Smallmouth fishing has been sporadic in the Davis Creek arm, but some of those that are being caught have been pretty nice. Call Mountain Hardware, Truckee, at 530-587-4844.