Project Execution Considerations

September 2025



Illustrative former path of lead cable

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1. Project Update

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Significant progress in removal efforts!

- On September 18, 2024, California Sportfishing Protection Alliance (CSPA) and Pacific Bell (AT&T) entered into a **new consent decree** to remove lead cables
- AT&T contractors **quickly mobilized**, and began executing the project in November 2024
- Based on what Tahoe Lead Removal Project (TLRP) observed during these activities, and verified after, we estimate **99% of the planned removal scope** has been completed
- While this represents a **significant accomplishment** and we remain grateful to all stakeholders for delivering this outcome for the community, the fact remains that there is **still work to be done**
- All indications are that AT&T plans to finish the removal **by the end of October**

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Disconnect in media coverage

- Unfortunately, various media outlets and local organizations **improperly characterized** this project as “complete” and the lead cables “out of the water”

KEEP TAHOE BLUE
League to Save Lake Tahoe

MEDIA RELEASES

Lead-sheathed telecommunication cables successfully removed from Lake Tahoe

League to Save Lake Tahoe November 21, 2024

USA TODAY

NATION

8 miles of lead telephone cable removed from Lake Tahoe following years of advocacy

In 2021, AT&T agreed to remove the cables following a lawsuit which alleged that the cables contaminated the lake and posed a widespread risk of exposure.

Greta Cross
USA TODAY

Tahoe Daily Tribune | lake tahoe action

Lead-sheathed telecommunication cables successfully removed from Lake Tahoe

News | Nov 22, 2024

SouthTahoeNOW.com
Your One Stop for Lake Tahoe News & Information

NEWS

Removal of lead-sheathed telecommunication cables from Lake Tahoe now complete

by Paula Peterson Thursday, November 21, 2024 - 12:22pm

San Francisco Chronicle

TRAVEL // TAHOE

‘Milestone for Lake Tahoe’: Major cleanup effort complete

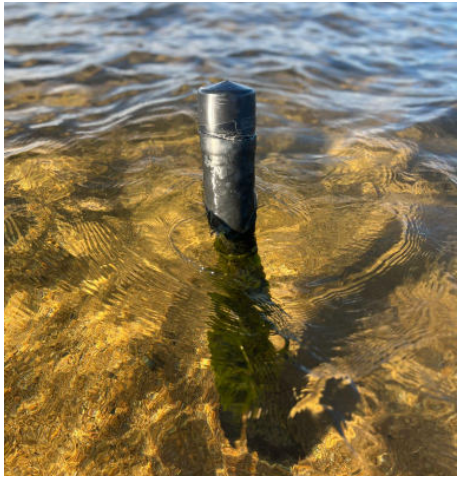
By Gregory Thomas, Travel & Outdoors Editor
Nov 21, 2024

SFGATE

These lead cables were abandoned in Lake Tahoe for decades. AT&T finally took them out.

By Julie Brown Davis, *California Mountain Towns Editor*
Nov 25, 2024

TLRP Organizer Footage
August 8, 2025



Sources: keeptahoeblue.org, SF Chronicle, USA Today, Tahoe Daily Tribune, South Tahoe Now, SF Gate.

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Updates to our approach

- As communicated previously, **we fully supported AT&T's efforts** to remove their legacy infrastructure and paused our plans to pursue independent removal as a community
- We **remain supportive** of AT&T's planned activities this fall given their continued partnership with U.S. Forest Service throughout 2025
- Accordingly to legal representatives for CSPA, AT&T provided notification that the lead cables were removed before Thanksgiving 2024; given no publicly available filings in this lawsuit since January 2025, **we are no longer relying on this form of accountability**
- While disappointing that the public was mislead on the status of the project, we remain focused on the future and **ensuring this important work is completed as permitted**
- **If for whatever reason** the remaining portion previously authorized for removal is not executed on by March 2026, we will once again evaluate independent removal efforts

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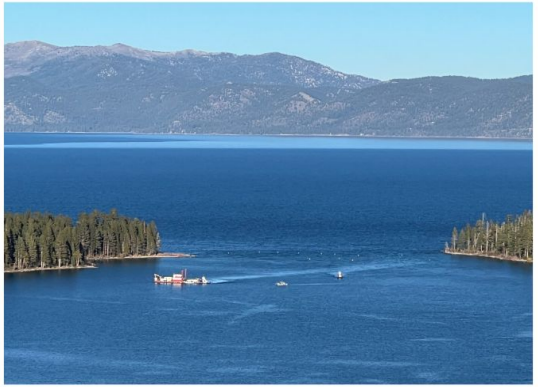
2. Observed Activities

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A fleet of vessels executed removal activities













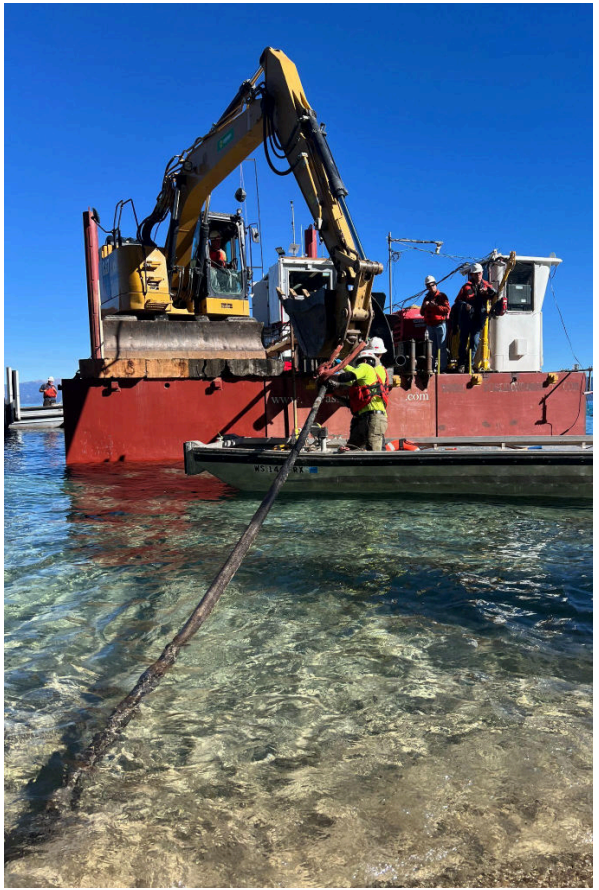
Source: Photos as taken by Tahoe Lead Removal Project Organizers.

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Heavy equipment used to cut into sections







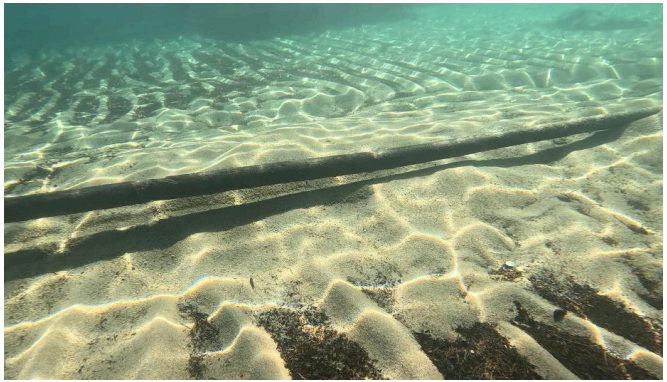


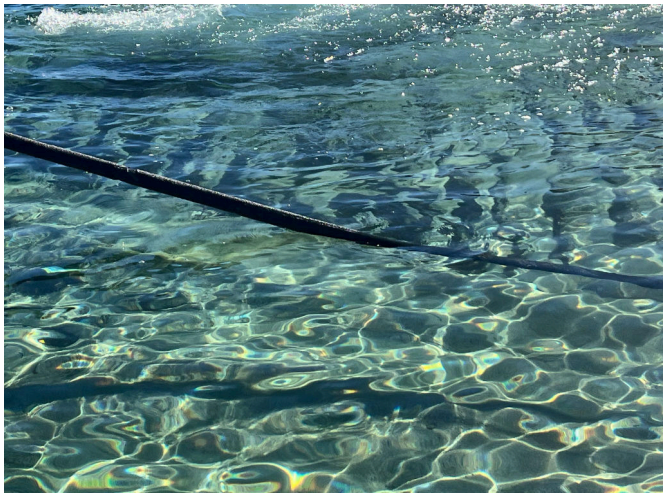


Source: Photos as taken by Tahoe Lead Removal Project Organizers.

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Lead cable lifted out of Lake Tahoe’s waters











Source: Photos as taken by Tahoe Lead Removal Project Organizers.

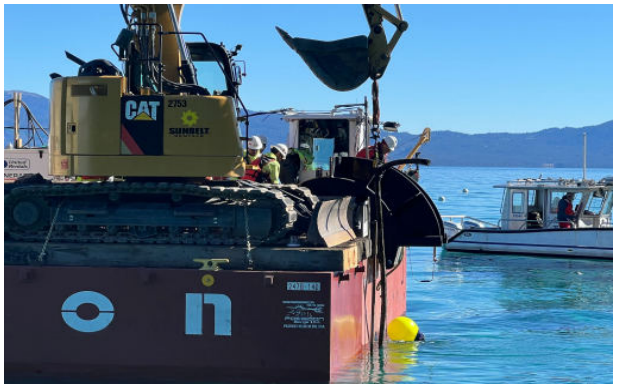
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Miles of lead cables successfully extracted!











Source: Photos as taken by Tahoe Lead Removal Project Organizers.

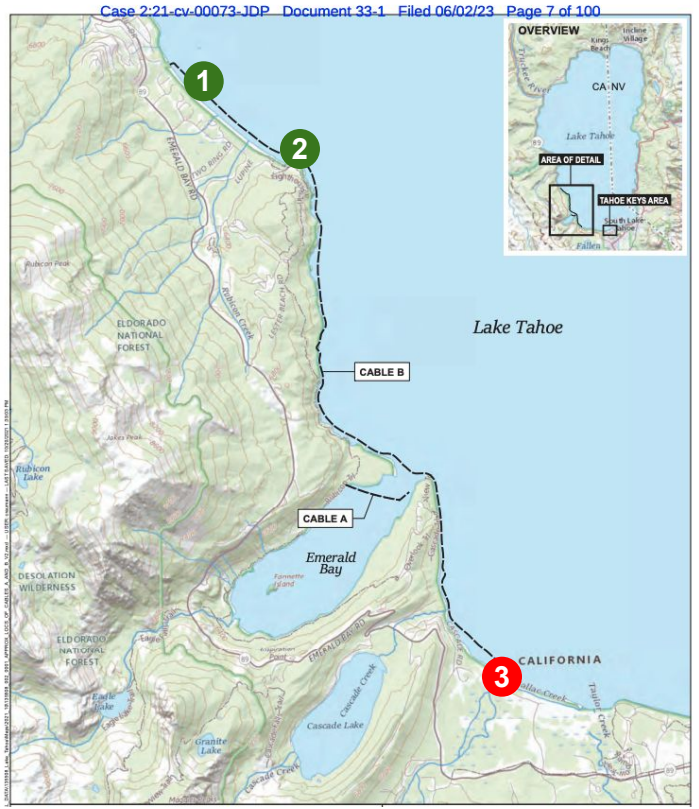
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3. Removal Confirmation

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Our additional verification

- During the course of November 2024, TLRP was only able to officially observe **two days of removal activities,** although multiple petition signers independently provided additional footage
- Over the ensuing 10 months, our organizers have visited **three sites** where lead cables were confirmed present
- This **additional due diligence** further validated the success of removal efforts as our documentation over previous years provides verifiable contrast
- Our additional visits also confirmed that a portion of the larger of the lead cables **remains on Baldwin Beach**
- This obviously runs counter to our initial expectations, public understanding, and the media reporting - there is a **<u>disconnect in what was communicated and what was actually completed</u>**

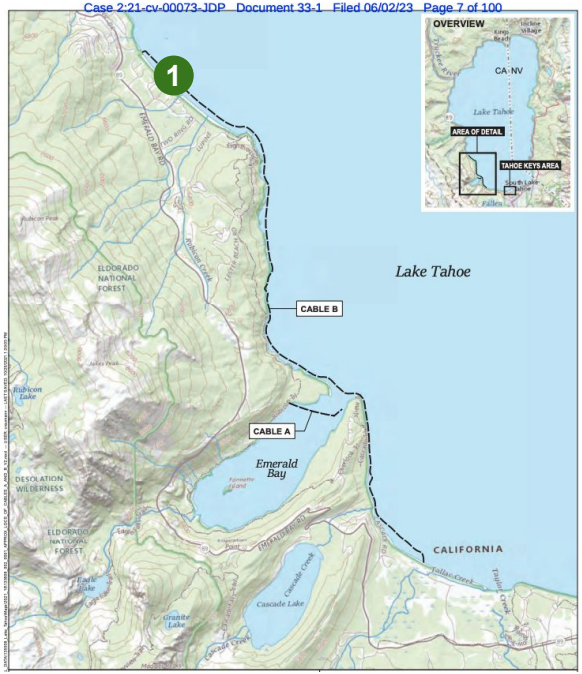


Source: Courtlistener CA Sportfishing Protection Alliance v. Pacific Bell Telephone Co. Complaint Document #33.

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Site 1: Rubicon Bay Buoy Line



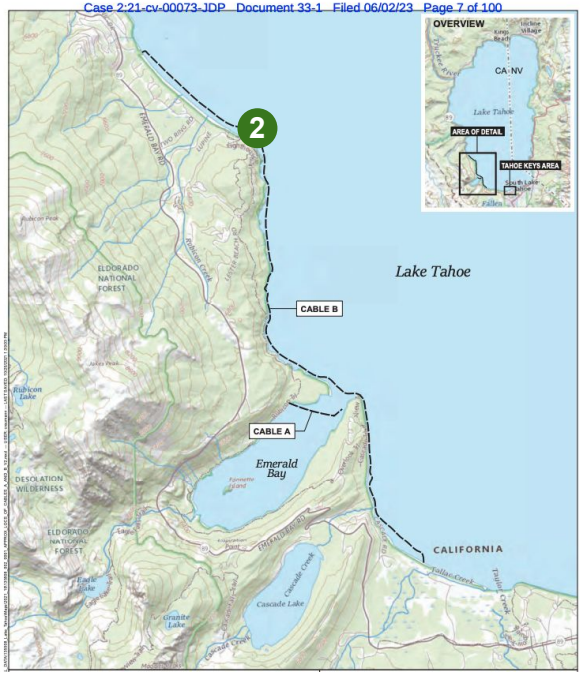


Source: Pictures on the left as taken underwater by Tahoe Lead Removal Project organizers. Map to the right sourced via Courtlistener CA Sportfishing Protection Alliance v. Pacific Bell Telephone Co. Complaint Document #33.

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Site 2: Rubicon Point Boulders





Source: Pictures on the left as taken underwater by Tahoe Lead Removal Project organizers. Map to the right sourced via Courtlistener CA Sportfishing Protection Alliance v. Pacific Bell Telephone Co. Complaint Document #33.

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4. Baldwin Beach

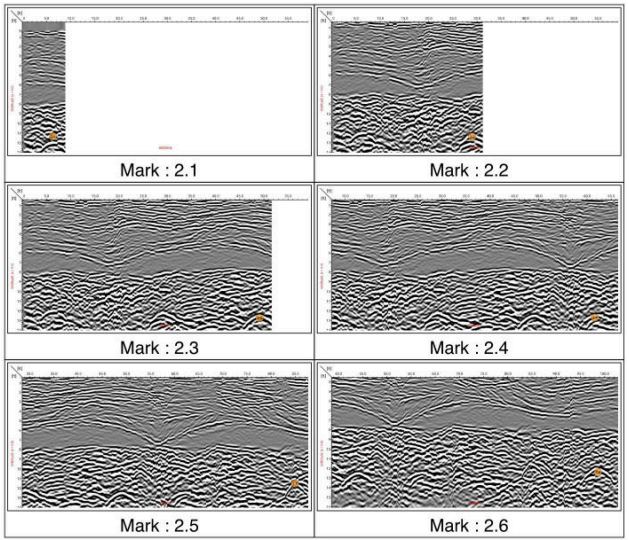
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June 2025 EM / GPR Survey

- TLRP independently engaged a **3rd party utility locator** to confirm the location of remaining lead cable on Baldwin Beach
- This non-intrusive survey **identified the remaining portion of lead cable**, which correlated with a protrusion in the water at the suspected location

Field Notes

Completion Date	Technician's Field Notes
6/27/2025	Report of Work Completed - June 27, 2025 I arrived at Baldwin Beach in South Lake Tahoe, CA around 12:00 PM and met with Alex, JR, and Evan, the site contact. Evan guided us to the suspected location of the underground pipe. During our inspection, we identified a protrusion in the water that correlated with the expected position of the pipe. We proceeded with an EM locate and conducted a thorough GPR scan of the area. For related photos and the site sketch, please refer to WO-00280311. During the EM locate of the protruding pipe, we detected a signal extending south across the sand. Additionally, we noted a possible marker along this path, directly aligning with the anticipated route of the pipe through the inaccessible marshland. The GPR scan indicated an anomaly at a depth of approximately 5 to 9 feet, consistent with both the observed protrusion and the documentation provided by Evan regarding the pipe's burial. No other anomalies were detected in the vicinity. The identified pipe was marked using pink flags and accurately mapped according to our findings.



Source: Blood Hound Underground Utility Locators, survey as conducted June 27, 2025.

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Confirmed lead cable location

- The **remaining portion** of the lead cable is located on the western end of Baldwin Beach, bisecting areas of consistent public recreation
- This site is **inherently complex** as it connects Tallac Creek to Lake Tahoe, and is a few dozen yards from a public parking lot



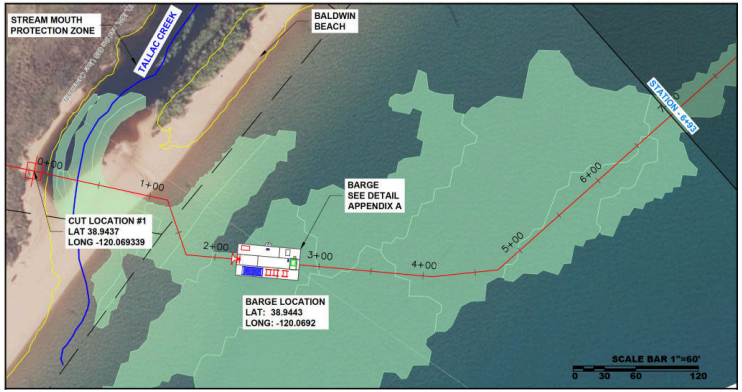


Source: Blood Hound Underground Utility Locators, survey as conducted June 27, 2025.

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Consistency with AT&T permits

- Location **consistent with publicly available TRPA permits** as submitted by AT&T
- Comparing our footage to what was provided in the 2023 permits shows the **dynamic nature of the water level and sands** between Tallac Creek and Lake Tahoe



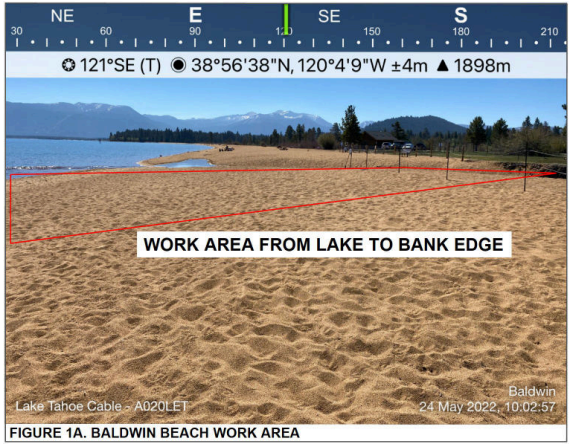


FIGURE 1A. BALDWIN BEACH WORK AREA



FIGURE 1C. CUT LOCATION #1

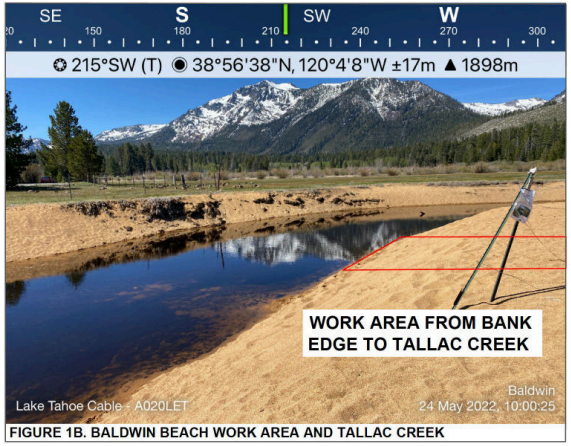


FIGURE 1B. BALDWIN BEACH WORK AREA AND TALLAC CREEK

Source: Lake Tahoe Info Parcel Tracker. ERSP 2022-1690. AT&T Project A020LET 2022. Permit Drawings, as approved March 9, 2023.

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Post Locate Photos

- Survey personnel **clearly marked** the path of the lead cable on a temporary basis for the purpose of documentation



Source: Blood Hound Underground Utility Locators, survey as conducted June 27, 2025.

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5. Summer 2025 Site Visits

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Site Visit: June 27-29, 2025

- TLRP organizers also documented this state across **three separate site visits**
- At the time, the remaining lead cable was **completely submerged** under the water in close proximity to the shoreline - with a gray capping







Source: Footage as documented by Tahoe Lead Removal Project organizers, June 27-29, 2025.

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Site Visit: August 7, 2025

- During a subsequent site visit, TLRP organizers observed the **lead cable sticking out of the water**, as level of Lake Tahoe decreased during the summer

- Notably, algae was growing on the underwater portion, and **the capping appeared black**







Source: Footage as documented by Tahoe Lead Removal Project organizers, August 7, 2025.

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6. Tahoe Yellow Cress Surveying

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Supporting final removal efforts

- We were honored to have U.S. Forest Service invite us support the implementation of **Tahoe Yellow Cress (TYC) mitigations** ahead of the final removal from Baldwin Beach

- The current population of TYC is among the signature conservation achievements for the Lake Tahoe Basin and beyond, and we were excited to play a role in this **critical part of the project**









Source: Calscape.org ; copyright © 2004 Steve Matson.

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September 3rd TYC Surveying

- Over a dozen individuals across multiple organizations participated in **TYC surveying throughout Baldwin Beach and Tallac Creek**
- The group identified **numerous instances** of TYC on the banks of Tallac Creek
- This yearly surveying the first week of fall occurs around Lake Tahoe, and is a key of the 2015 strategy established by the **Tahoe Yellow Cress Adaptive Management Working Group**





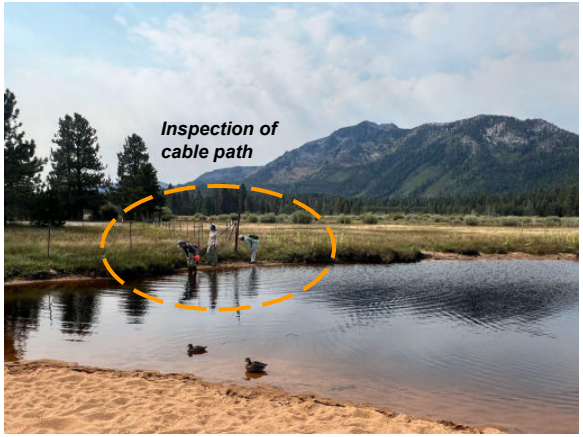


Source: Photos as taken by Tahoe Lead Removal Project Organizers during September 3, 2025 Tahoe Yellow Cress Survey as led by U.S. Forest Service.

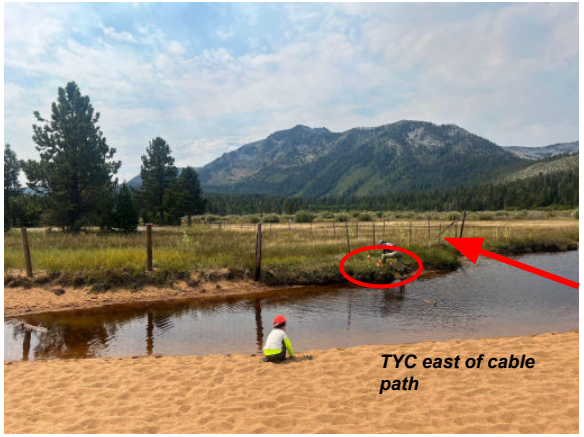
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No TYC in planned work zone!

- We're excited to confirm that **no TYC was found above the path of the lead cable!**
- This includes the area where the digging, capping, and covering will take place as **authorized** during the permitting process
- As such, **no mitigation or transplanting of TYC required** for the project to proceed
- Of note, there is a cluster of TYC **east of the cable**, so while the work crews will need to be cognizant - it will not interfere with their ability to execute the project







Source: Photos as taken by Tahoe Lead Removal Project Organizers during September 3, 2025 Tahoe Yellow Cress Survey as led by U.S. Forest Service.

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7. Our Ask

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Ask for public transparency

- As we move forward, we would **formally request your support** for our organizers to be present during the final activities removal on Baldwin Beach

- We appreciate that timing will be dynamic as it has in the past, and will operate on a **“best efforts basis”**, we simply ask for open communication and the opportunity

- Once complete, **we’re hopeful the agencies can join the community in celebrating** this landmark moment for the lake

- We’d also ask that the agencies **independently verify the final work as complete for the public** given what transpired over the past 10 months, as well as the financial conflicts of interest and lobbying efforts of other organizations involved “behind the scenes”

- We appreciate your partnership over the years, we are poised to **finish the job!**

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Let’s finally get the lead out!



Source: Photos as taken by Tahoe Lead Removal Project Organizers on September 3, 2025.

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