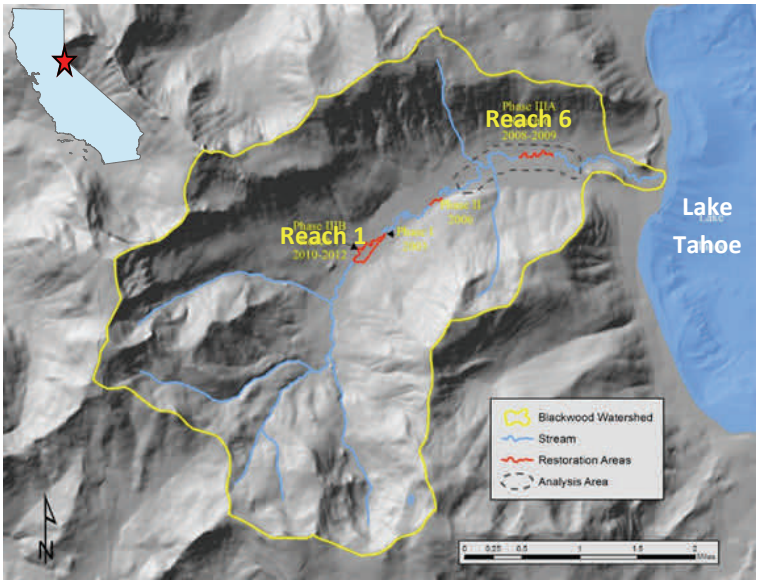
Water Quality Report Card		Sediment in Blackwood Creek
Regional Water Board:	**Lahontan, Region 6**	**STATUS** ☑ Conditions Improving ☐ Data Inconclusive ☐ Improvement Needed ☐ Targets Achieved/Water Body Delisted
Beneficial Uses Affected:	COLD, COMM, MIGR,MUN, REC-1, REC-2, SPWN, WILD	
Implemented Through:	U.S. Forest Service, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit. NPDES Permit No. R6T-2005-0007-62	
Effective Date:	July 2008	
Attainment Date:	2028	**Pollutant Type:** ☐ Point Source ☑ Nonpoint Source ☐ Legacy

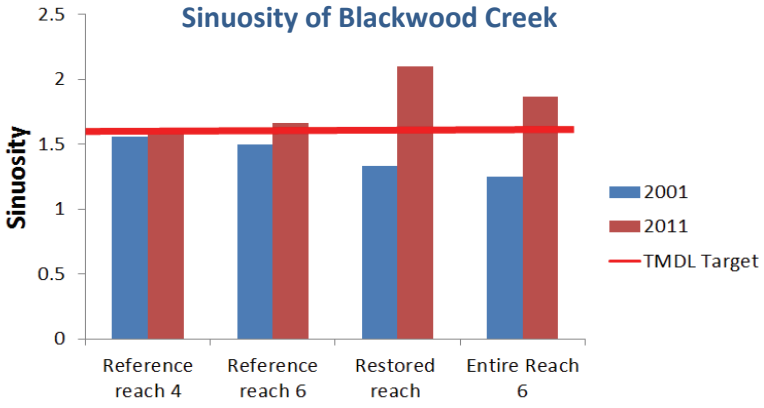
Water Quality Improvement Strategy

The Blackwood Creek Watershed is located on the West shore of Lake Tahoe located in Placer County. Starting in the late 1800's, the watershed was used for sheep and cattle grazing, timber harvesting and gravel pit mining; all of which impaired Blackwood Creek. During gravel mining, the creek channel was modified, causing an excess of sediment that led to accumulated bedded sediment pollution. A TMDL for bedded sediment in Blackwood Creek was completed by the Lahontan Regional Water Board in October 2007 and approved by the USEPA in July 2008. The TMDL is implemented through an NPDES Permit for discharge of storm water runoff associated with construction activity involving land disturbance and several long-term, multi-phase restoration projects by the US Forest Service (the primary landowner in the watershed) and the California Tahoe Conservancy (CTC). The phased projects focus on restoring upland conditions and in-stream habitat by removing or stabilizing large areas of excessive sediment that are impairing the creek channel and increasing vegetation cover. The US Forest Service (USFS) is responsible for the initial restoration of the stream channel. The USFS also created a Stream Channel Condition Inventory reach to monitor overall effectiveness of restoration efforts. The CTC Lower Blackwood Creek Restoration is ongoing and the CTC maintains restoration projects along the channel and floodplain.

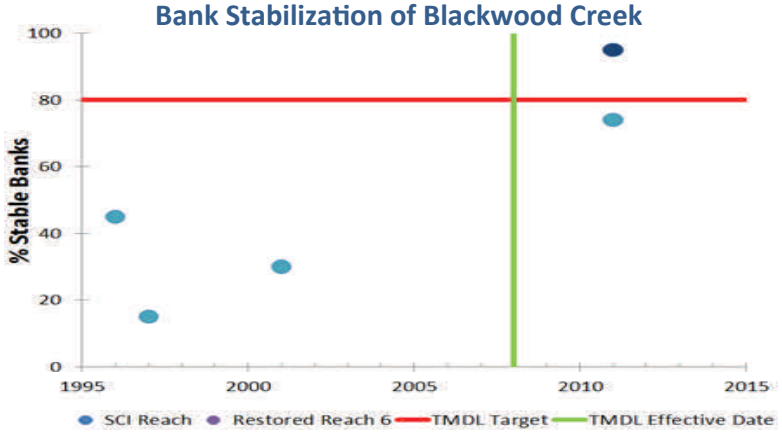
Blackwood Creek Watershed



Sinuosity of Blackwood Creek



Bank Stabilization of Blackwood Creek



Water Quality Outcomes

- Restored Reach 6 of the floodplain yielded sediment retention of 142 tons of silt and clay-sized particles the first year following restoration. Visual observation and photos indicate sediment deposition continues to occur on the reconstructed floodplain surface.
- Restored Reach 6 has changed from one dominated by processes of net degradation (channel erosion), to one dominated by processes of net aggradation (sediment deposition).
- Physical measurements and visual observations, indicate stabilization of channel cut-banks, with overall stability increasing from approximately 30% to 95% within the project reach.
- Restoration projects re-established a stable channel and created small floodplain areas to provide riparian habitat and allow sediment deposition. Installation of structures made of natural materials will stabilize eroding banks and provide habitat for fish and wildlife. Following the completion of Phase 3, the last phase of restoration, monitoring and reporting, for TMDL purposes, will be completed at five-year intervals.

December 2015