The Lake Tahoe West Restoration Partnership completed a Landscape Resilience Assessment of Lake Tahoe’s West Shore in December 2017. This assessment was the first of its kind in the Lake Tahoe Basin where scientists, resource managers, and stakeholders analyzed and shared data across many land ownerships. The team compared current to historic conditions and examined the density of trees, meadow function, wildlife habitat, and the connectivity of streams throughout the ecosystem. The assessment showed how resilient different areas of the West Shore are to disturbances such as fire and climate change.

Landscape Resilience Assessment Key Results

- The West Shore forests are overly dense compared to historic conditions.
- Lower elevations and canyons are more vulnerable to impacts than higher elevations and wilderness areas.
- Eighty percent of streams have barriers that may prevent passage of aquatic species.
- One third of the West Shore is susceptible to large patches of high severity fire.

Next Steps

The Lake Tahoe West partnership is using the results of the assessment to develop a strategy to restore the resilience of the West Shore. The partnership will complete the strategy in 2019 and begin planning on-the-ground restoration projects in early 2020.
Resilience to Fire

Areas in orange and red are less resilient to wildfire. To view the Landscape Resilience Assessment visit: www.nationalforests.org/LakeTahoeWest