

Water Quality Report Card		Sediment in Heavenly Valley Creek	
Regional Water Board:	Lahontan, Region 6	STATUS	<input type="checkbox"/> Conditions Improving
Beneficial Uses Affected:	COLD, RARE, MIGR, SPWN		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Data Inconclusive
Implemented Through:	Waste Discharge Requirements		<input type="checkbox"/> Improvement Needed
Effective Date:	September 30, 2002 (Permit)	Pollutant Type:	<input type="checkbox"/> Point Source <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nonpoint Source <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legacy
Attainment Date:	2022	Pollutant Source:	Erosion/Siltation Nonpoint Source Runoff

Water Quality Improvement Strategy

Heavenly Valley Creek (HVC) is located on the southeastern shore of Lake Tahoe and crosses the California-Nevada Stateline. Heavenly Mountain Ski Resort (Heavenly) operates on a 40-year special use permit (renewed in 2002) with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). The HVC is impaired by sediment caused by development at Heavenly, including ski runs, a snowmaking reservoir, roads, HVC diversions, and erosion of the steep hillslope. In 1999, HVC was listed on the 303(d) List as impaired for sediment, and the [Heavenly Valley Creek Sediment TMDL](#) was adopted by the Regional Water Board in 2000. In 2011, the Regional Water Board amended the TMDL Implementation and Reporting Plan to establish new storm sampling locations and to remove previous storm water sampling requirements at compliance points, with the goal of establishing a better environmental impact relationship with mountain ski operations. The sediment TMDL will be met when the in-stream total sediment load does not exceed 58 tons per year as a 5-year rolling average, measured at the property line monitoring station. [The Heavenly Mountain Resort Mitigation and Monitoring Plan Annual Report \(October 2013-September 2014\)](#) was developed by Heavenly Ski Corp. in collaboration with the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) to continuously monitor restoration effectiveness within Heavenly and USFS lands. Environmental monitoring and reporting are ongoing.

Heavenly Valley Creek (HVC) Watershed



Water Quality Outcomes

- Since 2005, the five-year rolling average has been less than the TMDL target of approximately 58 tons per year of total sediment load. Results are reported to the Regional Water Board and USFS quarterly and annually.
- Heavenly routinely installs and maintains temporary and permanent Best Management Practices (BMPs) to control sediment erosion and runoff within the ski resort property. Installation of BMPs and erosion reduction measures should also help control nutrient loading and exceedance issues in the HVC, and improve overall water quality.
- Benthic macroinvertebrate (e.g., organisms living on the streambed) samples show impairment of biological conditions in the HVC at most sample locations. However, not enough sampling events have occurred to allow for a valid statistical comparison to demonstrate trends over time.
- Heavenly conducts monitoring and evaluation in cooperation with the TRPA, the Regional Water Board, USFS, local and county government offices. Heavenly works with their consultants to address nutrient and sedimentation issues in the HVC by applying adaptive management in the production of short- and long-term sustainability plans. These sustainability plans will provide guidance for further improving BMP implementation, developing treatment options, monitoring the effectiveness of BMPs, and documenting implementation activities.

HVC Sediment TMDL Load Allocations

Disturbance Level	Sediment Load
Historically Disturbed Lands	48 tons per year
New Development	0.7 tons per year
Undisturbed	9 tons per year
Total	57.72 tons per year as a 5-year rolling average

Total Sediment Load in HVC (1999-2004)

