Water Quality Outcomes

- Although sediment trends have shown improvement, according to monitoring reports from 2014 and 2015, biotic indices (numeric analyses of the population and diversity of benthic macroinvertebrates living on the streambed) indicate continued impairment by sediment as the diversity and number of insects has been impacted and decreased. However, the total suspended sediment values indicate improvement in sediment load in the Middle Truckee River.

- Rain-on-snow and summer thunderstorm events caused suspended sediment loads to temporarily exceed the TMDL target in 2002-2003. However, the annual 90th percentile accounts for these seasonal variations.

- The 2014 Middle Truckee River Suspended Sediment Monitoring Report approximated annual sediment load to the river as 742 tons per year. According to the TMDL, the loading capacity of the Truckee River is 40,300 tons per year (based on water year 1996 to 1997). It is speculated that the sharp decline in suspended sediment is due, in part, to drought conditions.

- Monitoring of Truckee River tributaries and outfalls in 2015 focused on characterizing storm water quality and associated land uses to identify the volume, turbidity, suspended sediment concentration, and sediment sources for the Truckee River. The tributaries and outfalls are continually monitored to develop a multi-year, robust dataset to evaluate storm water management activities, and identify and prioritize future storm water management activities in the watershed.