

## Snapshot Day – Watershed Education Volunteer Monitoring & Stewardship



**Snapshot Day** is a one-day citizen volunteer stream monitoring event for Lake Tahoe Basin, the Truckee River, and the Carson River watersheds in Nevada and California. It is a one-day volunteer-based annual event that takes a picture of 1-moment in time of your watershed. Citizen volunteers learn about their watershed, water quality issues, how streams function, and how to assess stream health. Each year, The Nevada Nonpoint Source Pollution (NVNPS) Management Program work in partnership with other public agencies, educational institutions and nonprofit organizations to provide citizens and students a unique opportunity to learn about local water quality issues related to nonpoint source pollution, water quality protection, and to participate in relevant watershed research. These events provide hands-on education to the public; and an opportunity to job shadow and interact with water resource professionals.

Snapshot Day is an event designed to provide a “snapshot” of water quality within a watershed. The purpose of a watershed “Snapshot Day” is two-fold:

- 1) to collect valuable water quality data over time,
- 2) to promote environmental education through volunteerism and stewardship.

Snapshot Day events help supplement existing monitoring programs and compile a more complete picture of watershed conditions. Citizen volunteer monitoring have helped to identify and alert agencies to several "hot-spot" areas with water quality concerns.

**When is Snapshot Day?** For the Tahoe Basin and Truckee River watersheds, Snapshot Day takes place in May or early June each year, and captures spring runoff conditions. For the Carson River watershed, Snapshot Day takes places in mid-October, after agricultural irrigation ends for the season.

Volunteer monitoring teams are assigned to monitoring sites to conduct a habitat assessment (an overview of physical conditions affecting stream organisms), collect “grab” (water) samples, take photos, and gather field data. Monitored field parameters include: pH, dissolved oxygen, conductivity, temperature, and Secchi depth (in lakes). Monitoring materials and water samples returned to your staging area location and analyzed for turbidity, nutrients and fecal coliform bacteria.

- ⇒ Groups meet by 9:00 a.m. to collect data at various locations within the watershed. Citizen volunteer activities are usually completed by noon.
- ⇒ Refreshments are provided before and during field work!
- ⇒ Citizen volunteers participate only on the actual day of the event.
- ⇒ Students are assigned to a sampling site near to their school
- ⇒ Team Leaders attend 1 training session prior to event.
- ⇒ All necessary equipment is provided.

**For more information or to get involved, contact:**

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