

## Tahoe Planting Initiative



**Angora Fire 2007**  
Burn area was just south of lake.  
<http://www.reuters.com/news/pictures>

Cool Green financially supports reforestation of public lands burned in the Lake Tahoe area. Fires include the Gap Fire of 2001 (2,450 acres) and the Angora Fire of 2007 (3,100 acres) at Lake Tahoe, North America's largest alpine lake.



**Lake Tahoe is considered one of the clearest large lakes in the world.**  
<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov>

- ◆ Tahoe replanting project is managed by American Forests.
- ◆ Goal: 30,000 trees as soon as possible in Onion Valley area.
- ◆ Type of trees: Ponderosa Pine, Douglas-Fir, Jeffrey Pine, and Incense Cedar
- ◆ The Angora burn area covers 10 percent of the Upper Truckee River watershed. An estimated 25 percent of all water and pollutants entering the lake come from the Upper Truckee River, according to John Reuter with the Tahoe Environmental Research Center, UC Davis.

- ◆ Lake Tahoe, one of the clearest large lakes in the world, is revered for its brilliant blue color and clarity with current visibility at 22 meters deep. Visibility loss averages one foot per year due to human causes: auto exhaust, smoke, road dust, and runoff from nearby development.
- ◆ Impact of the fire: erosion and runoff at Lake Tahoe are serious concerns with the loss of vegetation holding the soil in place. Particles increase cloudiness in the lake, and clarity has been used as a symbol for the health of the lake's eco-system. Impact can affect deep-water oxygen for the lake's trout.
- ◆ In 2001, the U.S. Forest Service reported August 30th that the total year-to-date area burned in Northern California to be in excess of 200,000 acres, or 800 square kilometers.
- ◆ The federal government does not have the resources to reforest the public lands beyond a very small percentage, so private and philanthropic organizations are essential to replant.
- ◆ Forests never return naturally to wooded areas following forest fires. They generally revert to grass lands with shrubs, permanently losing important carbon sinks and watersheds provided by mature forests.



**Emigrant Gap Fire of 2001**  
Satellite photo shows the most prominent plume 40 kilometers west of Lake Tahoe. Several other wildfires can also be seen.  
<http://eosweb.larc.nasa.gov>

[Return to homepage](#)