



Press Release

Reno, NV, December 23, 2014 – For Immediate Release:

On August 20, 2014, New Millennium Dive Expeditions' (NMDE), was notified by the University of Nevada, Reno's College of Sciences (UNR), that the Lake Tahoe Nearshore Community Structure Pilot Monitoring Project had been funded by a grant from the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) with support from the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection and Lahontan Water Quality Control Board. They requested that the dive protocols and assets of NMDE, along with its environmentally involved and dedicated community membership of volunteers, would be required for the successful and safe execution of this program's underwater effort.

NMDE began providing its volunteer divers to Tahoe's research community at the request of several local governmental and environmental agencies in January of 2013. After NMDE's tenure studying the SS Tahoe for the State of Nevada's Historic Preservation Office, resulting in the SS Tahoe's listing on the National Register of Historic Landmarks in 2004, the reputation of NMDE for providing quality, responsible and professional underwater research diving was established. Between 2004 and 2013, NMDE began its affiliation with Global Underwater Explorers' Project Baseline effort, and in 2010 NMDE formally organized and began managing Project Baseline: Tahoe to complement their work already completed in the lake.

NMDE's role in the Nearshore Community Structure Pilot Monitoring project was twofold. First, to circumnavigate Tahoe in order to identify plant beds that may contain invasive plants growing in the target depth range of 2m -8m (6ft – 25ft) within the "Nearshore" zone of Tahoe (Tahoe Shore Zone definitions - <http://www.nmde.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/Lake-Tahoe-Zones.pdf>), and secondly, to return to those plant bed locations found and conduct more in-depth determination of plant species and density within the beds, under the direct supervision and guidance of the University's scientific team.

As has been reported, as recently as 15 August, 2014 in the Reno Gazette-Journal, there is much concern regarding the Nearshore lake zone. The volunteer members of New Millennium, working closely with Lead Scientist Dr. Sudeep Chandra of UNR, were tasked with covering approximately 72 miles of the lake bed at an average depth of 15 feet. This project will help scientists and managers understand better, and on a much broader scale, which plant communities are growing in the shallow waters of Tahoe's Nearshore zone.

NMDE's divers began work on August 20, 2014 and completed its dive work for the Nearshore Community Structure Pilot Monitoring project on October 18. They completed 14 Missions, conducted

38 dives and logged over 600 volunteer hours completing the underwater tasks necessary in circumnavigating Lake Tahoe, which was the first continuous underwater circumnavigation effort ever completed in Tahoe.

During the “diver survey” portion of this project, along with the circumnavigation dives, NMDE located and delineated 9 plant beds (between Camp Richardson and Stateline on the south end of the lake), took over 50 samples for biomass and identification under the direct supervision of the UNR’s scientific team, captured over 300 images and video and were instrumental in helping understand the condition of Tahoe’s Nearshore zone in a much more efficient and representative manner.