



Nonprofit wins free BMPs

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June 19, 2007

South Lake Tahoe Women's Center was announced as the winner of the Sierra Nevada Alliance's first ever free Best Management Practices contest on Monday, beating out a pool of 20 applicants.

Key factors in the center's selection were its central Lake Tahoe Boulevard location, across from South Tahoe Middle School, which provides access to a variety of transportation options and gives the site the potential to act as a learning facility, according to the alliance and the Nevada Tahoe Conservation District, a partner on the project. Only parcels 5 acres and smaller were considered for the contest.

"This center is going to be a great demonstration site," said Jason Brand, senior program manager with the conservation district. "They already had some BMPs installed, but they needed quite a bit of work."

Defensible space, drip-line filtration systems and the incorporation of native plants into the landscaping of the site are among the BMPs planned for implementation in mid-August.

To further the site's educational potential, the conservation district and the alliance will be hosting a series of volunteer work days at the center, as well as two-day BMP training open to the public on Oct. 4 and 5.

"We're just trying to educate people on BMPs and land management," Brand said on Monday. "Basically, show people can they can do in their backyard that will positively effect their neighborhoods and watersheds."

At least one member of the neighborhood is already feeling the positivity.

"We are thrilled to be the winners of this contest," said Leanne Wagoner, executive director of the South Lake Tahoe Women's Center, in a press statement. "Since we run on the tight budget of a nonprofit, this will allow us to put in our BMPs. Plus we are happy to be a place where others in Tahoe can Learn practical and cost saving BMP measures."

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