Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998 (Public Law 105 - 263)
Round 18 Nominations - Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention
Preliminary Recommendation

The following is a prioritized list of Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention project nominations that have been received and reviewed for possible funding under Round 18 of the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998 (Public Law 105 - 263). The purpose of releasing these lists is to obtain input from interested parties. Beginning March 1, 2021, the BLM is accepting written comments on these nominations until close of business (4:30 PM Pacific Time) on April 14, 2021. Comments should be mailed to the SNPLMA Executive Committee Chair, BLM Southern Nevada District Office, 4701 N. Torrey Pines Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89130, faxed to (702) 515-5110, or emailed to snplma@blm.gov. The SNPLMA Executive Committee will meet following the comment period to review comments received to develop a final recommendation for consideration by the Secretary of the Interior in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture. Questions may be addressed to the SNPLMA Division, BLM Southern Nevada District Office at (702) 515-5116.

Round 18 Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Recommended Primary Funding List

Rank	Tab #	Project Name	Requesting Entity	Location	Nomination Request	Funding Recommended	Total Recommendation
1	13	Hazardous Fuels Planning - Spring Mountains West	BLM	Las Vegas, Pahrump Field, and Red Rock/Sloan Field Offices, public lands of the six wildland urban interface areas	$875,362	$875,362	$875,362
2	5	Fuels Reduction - California non-Federal WUI	CTC	California side of the Lake Tahoe Basin WUI	$5,993,615	$2,996,808	$3,872,170
3	2	Defense Zone Improvement	NLTFPD	Wildland Urban Interface of Incline Village and Crystal Bay, NV	$1,222,527	$1,222,527	$5,094,697
4	15	Prescribed Fire - FS Lake Tahoe Basin	USFS	North, South, and West Shores of Lake Tahoe on National Forest System lands	$2,444,225	$2,444,225	$7,538,922
5	8	Fuels Reduction - North Tahoe WUI	NTFPD	Defense Zone of the Wildland-Urban Interface (non-federal WUI) on the California side of the Lake Tahoe Basin within NTFP and MBFP Districts.	$2,776,162	$2,776,162	$10,315,084
6	7	Fuels Reduction - National Forest Priority WUI	USFS	Southwest and west portions of the Lake Tahoe Basin in Eldorado and Placer Counties, CA	$10,489,750	$5,244,875	$15,559,959
7	1	California Community Forestry	CTC	Communities on the California side of the Lake Tahoe Basin	$4,159,180	$2,079,590	$17,639,549
8	16	Utility Corridors Resilience - Zone 2 and Zone 3	USFS	North, South, and West Shores of Lake Tahoe Basin	$7,575,350	$6,000,000	$23,639,549
9	11	Fuels Reduction Planning - SMNRA Eastside	USFS	Eastside of the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area, adjacent to the communities of Lee and Kyle Canyons	$2,190,688	$2,190,688	$25,830,237
10	14	Hazardous Fuels Reduction - Carson City	CCFD	Carson City, NV	$2,036,493	$2,036,493	$27,866,730
11	6	Fuels Reduction - Hwy 50	TDFPD	US Highway 50 corridor between Glenbrook and Zephyr Cove, NV	$432,470	$432,470	$28,299,200
12	4	Fire Adapted Communities - Lake Tahoe Basin	TRCD	Lake Tahoe Basin, CA and NV	$8,705,302	$4,352,651	$32,651,851
				Totals for Round 18 Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Recommended Primary Funding:	$48,901,124	$32,651,851	

Round 18 Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Recommended Secondary Funding List

Rank	Tab #	Project Name	Requesting Entity	Location	Nomination Request	Funding Recommended	Total Recommendation
2	5	Fuels Reduction - California non-Federal WUI	CTC	California side of the Lake Tahoe Basin WUI	$5,993,615	$2,996,808	$35,648,659
6	7	Fuels Reduction - National Forest Priority WUI	USFS	Southwest and west portions of the Lake Tahoe Basin in Eldorado and Placer Counties, CA	$10,489,750	$5,244,875	$40,893,534
7	1	California Community Forestry	CTC	Communities on the California side of the Lake Tahoe Basin	$4,159,180	$2,079,590	$42,973,124
12	4	Fire Adapted Communities - Lake Tahoe Basin	TRCD	Lake Tahoe Basin, CA and NV	$8,705,302	$4,352,651	$47,325,775
				Totals for Round 18 Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Recommended Secondary Funding:	$29,347,847	$14,673,924	

Round 18 Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Not Recommended Funding List

Rank	Tab #	Project Name	Requesting Entity	Location	Nomination Request	Funding Recommended	Total Recommendation
13	9	Fuels Reduction - South Lake Tahoe	SLTFR	City of South Lake Tahoe, El Dorado County, CA	$851,700	$0	$47,325,775
14	10	Fuels Reduction - Tri-County	USFS	Humboldt Toiyabe National Forest in Washoe, Douglas and Carson City Counties, NV	$1,173,190	$0	$47,325,775
15	12	Hazardous Fuels Collection - Carson City	CCFD	Private lands within the Carson City area	$147,290	$0	$47,325,775
16	3	East Mount Rose Corridor Nonfederal	WC	Vicinity of Sky Tavern Ski Resort, Mount Rose corridor, northeast of Lake Tahoe	$786,435	$0	$47,325,775
Totals for Round 18 Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Not Recommended Funding:					$2,958,615	$0	
Totals for Round 18 Primary Funding Recommendation:							**$32,651,851**
Totals for Round 18 Secondary Funding List:							**$14,673,924**
Totals for Round 18 Recommended List:							**$47,325,775**

SNPLMA Round 18
Fuels– California Tahoe Conservancy Addendum

Nomination: Tab 1

Entity: California Tahoe Conservancy

Project: California Community Forestry

Revision: The Partners Working Group's (PWG) recommendation was to fund 50 percent of this scalable nomination. This would meet a reasonable overall funding level established by the Executive Committee and still recommend the best of the best nominations.

The initial nomination budget request is $4,159,180. Therefore, PWG's recommendation is funding $2,079,590; whereby, the scope of the nomination would be downscaled to reflect the recommended funding amount.

Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act
Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention
Round 18

California Tahoe Conservancy and
the United State Forest Service

Community Forestry in California

Amount Requested: $4,159,480

Timeframe: 6 Years
Location: 39.035º / -120.132º (Center Point)
Congressional District: CA-04

Lead Agency: California Tahoe Conservancy
Participating Agency: USDA Forest Service, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit

Contact: Milan Yeates
Phone:(530) 208-6338
Fax: (530) 542-5567
Email:milan.yeates@tahoe.ca.gov

Purpose Statement:

The California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy) and the USDA Forest Service, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU) will implement a comprehensive, coordinated management strategy to reduce hazardous fuels in community forests on the California side of the Lake Tahoe Basin (Basin). The Conservancy and the LTBMU will reduce hazardous fuels on at least 650 acres and not more than 850 acres of small, forested parcels across public and private ownerships interspersed throughout neighborhoods. The proposed treatments encompass approximately 2,400 individual public open-space lots and undeveloped private lots that connect to the defensible space of 2,000 homes and other structures.

Background info to support the need:

Community forests are located within the wildland-urban interface (WUI) inside the Basin's residential neighborhoods and are among the highest priorities for fuel reduction treatments. Neighborhoods in the Basin contain thousands of small (less than 1 acre) public open-space lots and private undeveloped lots (see example ownership map of a South Lake Tahoe neighborhood below). A vital component of creating fire adapted communities is reducing hazardous fuels on these parcels. The Lake Tahoe Basin Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) states that open-space and undeveloped lots "are challenging and expensive to treat but are some of the highest priorities for treatment due to their location and proximity to residences." Additionally, the patchwork of multiple ownerships makes it challenging for land managers and private landowners to reduce hazardous fuels and improve forest health consistently throughout neighborhoods.

Example Ownership Map
Upper Truckee Neighborhood in South Lake Tahoe, California:

The California Community Forestry Round 18 Nomination (Nomination) substantially advances the goals and targets for hazardous fuel reduction identified in the Lake Tahoe Basin Multi-

Jurisdictional Strategy for Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention (Strategy). The Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team (TFFT) developed the Strategy in 2007, updated it in 2014, and amended it in 2017. The Strategy aims to provide comprehensive community protection by addressing the connectivity between defensible space around homes, the WUI, and the general forest.

The treatments proposed in this Nomination will reduce hazardous fuels on at least 650 acres of open-space and undeveloped lots immediately adjacent to developed lots, and will directly benefit approximately 2,000 homes and other structures. These treatments will create critical links between the defensible space created by residents and the tens of thousands of acres of surrounding WUI fuel reduction treatments completed by TFFT partners in the last decade. Fire agencies in the Basin recommend at least 100 feet and up to 300 feet of defensible space around structures. However, the defensible space of many residents currently extends only to their property lines, which are generally much closer than the recommended defensible space distance. The treatments will extend defensible space beyond property lines. By treating entire neighborhoods at once, the Nomination will create large safe working areas for firefighters and substantially reduce the potential intensity of fire that would occur surrounding structures.

To support the work, the Conservancy and the LTBMU have entered into a Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) agreement to reduce hazardous fuels. The agreement allows the Conservancy to perform forest management activities on National Forest System Land. The Conservancy and the LTBMU are currently conducting National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) planning and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) analysis on these community forest lands for future coordinated forest management activities.

Regarding private undeveloped parcels, the Conservancy and the LTBMU will work the Tahoe Network of Fire Adapted Communities (Tahoe Network) to coordinate treatments and align them with targeted defensible space outreach and assistance. The Tahoe Network is an agency and community collaboration that helps residents take individual action to collectively reduce their neighborhood's risk from wildfire. The Tahoe Network is steered by the Tahoe Resource Conservation District, the Basin fire districts, and the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension's Living with Fire program.

Relationship to prior approved phases or related SNPLMA projects and anticipated future phases:

The Nomination will result in a stand-alone viable proposal. The Conservancy and the LTBMU acknowledge that there is neither guarantee nor expectation of funding for future phases. The neighborhoods targeted for treatment will be collaboratively identified based on factors including connectivity to previously treated areas, wildfire exposure, and cost-effectiveness. The Nomination complements previous SNPLMA projects and other Basin nominations because it connects residential defensible space to thousands of acres of previous and planned treatments.

Project Timeframe:

The project timeframe is six years. The Conservancy and LTBMU will initiate implementation within one year of receiving funds. The standard project timeframe of six years will enable the Conservancy to build sustainable capacity for increased treatments in neighborhoods.

Deliverables:

The Nomination includes the following Primary, Anticipated, and Standard Deliverables:

1. Primary Deliverables (Deliverables that must be completed at a minimum in order to accomplish the purpose):
   a. Hand thin, pile burn, and/or mechanically treat 650-850 acres of small public open-space and undeveloped lots within communities on the California side of the Basin, to reduce crown fire potential and surface fire behavior, as well as improve forest health. Final acres will be determined based on a variety of factors, including terrain accessibility, slope, cost estimates, and environmental review.
   b. Host one or more educational/interpretive field trips to the treatment location(s) with local community members and stakeholders to highlight SNPLMA-funded projects and communicate the importance of fuel reduction treatments and defensible space in reducing the risk of wildfire and promoting forest health.
   c. Analyze and create a database of neighborhood characteristics for all neighborhoods in the Basin to support priority planning.

2. Anticipated Deliverables (Deliverables that are desirable and beneficial, but not minimally necessary to accomplish the purpose):
   a. Outreach and community engagement may be coordinated with the Tahoe Network in targeted neighborhoods to increase defensible space compliance and create continuous areas where hazardous fuels are reduced.
   b. The Conservancy may partner with the Tahoe Network to development neighborhood treatment plans which will guide implementation and support outreach.
   c. Biomass may be removed for utilization at a biomass processing facility where feasible.

3. Standard Deliverables (Deliverables that are generally accepted by the entity and/or by industry standards as necessary to complete the Primary and Anticipated Deliverables):
   a. Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) tree removal permits.
   b. National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) compliance.
   c. California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documents and/or exemptions.
   d. California Forest Practice Act permits and/or exemptions.
   e. Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board Timber Waiver enrollments.
   f. Re-evaluations of existing Archaeological reviews and/or surveys to identify cultural resources and determine avoidance protocols.
   g. Prescribed Fire Burn Plans, satisfying National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) interagency requirements.
   h. Project tracking within the Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) database.
   i. Project tracking within the TFFT project database.
   j. Pre and post-treatment photo monitoring.

Level of Project Readiness for Implementation:

The Conservancy and the LTBMU will initiate database development, treatment identification, resource surveys, and project planning upon receiving funds, and will initiate on-the-ground treatment activities within one year of receiving funds. Treatments proposed under the nomination will be subject to CEQA and/or NEPA.

The Conservancy Board must make an independent determination for any proposed activities to which CEQA applies. Proposed project activities will likely fall within the scope of the Tahoe Program Timberland Environmental Impact Report (PTEIR), which is a programmatic CEQA document that covers all Conservancy, local government, and private undeveloped properties across the California side of the Basin. CAL FIRE and Basin fire districts released the Draft PTEIR in May and are currently preparing the Final PTEIR. The PTEIR analyzes thousands of acres of forest management and fuel reduction projects. Agencies using the PTEIR can rely on its analyses for later projects rather than prepare separate CEQA documents and can use streamlined processes for project review under the California Forest Practice Act and Rules. The Conservancy will file a notice of determination or notice of exemption with the California State Clearinghouse prior to implementing on-the-ground activities. A Registered Professional Forester will file timber harvesting permits or notices in compliance with the California Forest Practice Act and Rules, as some activities are anticipated to generate commercial products.

Federal lands in the project area are subject to NEPA. The Conservancy and LTBMU are currently analyzing the proposed treatments in this Nomination through a GNA Agreement. The NEPA for federal land in the project area is expected to be complete in 2021.

Both the Conservancy and the LTBMU have proven records of successfully reducing fuels and managing forests using grant funds. The Conservancy has administered a successful hazardous fuel reduction program on WUI lands in the Basin for over two decades, including management of multiple large-scale fuel reduction grants. In 2013 the Conservancy acted as lead agency for a SNPLMA Round 13 nomination with multiple fire districts, the California Conservation Corps, and California State Parks to complete nearly 200 acres of fuel reduction across multiple state, private, and local government ownerships. All work was completed on-time and within budget. The Conservancy is currently managing a $6.8 million SNPLMA Round 16 grant to complete at least 1,200 acres of hazardous fuel reduction spanning multiple ownerships. Work is proceeding on-time and within budget, with approximately 600 acres treated to date. The LTBMU has been utilizing SNPLMA funding for hazardous fuels reduction since the early 2000s. In the last decade the LTBMU has successfully implemented 41,000 acres of treatments using SNPLMA funds.

Project Implementation Process:

The Conservancy and the LTBMU will conduct a process which includes the following four steps to accomplish the purpose of this nomination:

1. Neighborhood Analyses and Treatment Area Identification
The Conservancy, the LTBMU, and the Tahoe Network will analyze and create a database of Basin neighborhoods to assess ownership patterns, defensible space compliance, current vegetative conditions, wildlife habitat, wildfire exposure, and demographics. Results will be used to collaboratively identify neighborhoods targeted for treatment. The partners will initiate this step upon receiving funds and will update the database annually throughout the project timeframe.

2. Environmental Compliance and Treatment Preparation
The Conservancy and the LTBMU will review and/or survey potential treatment areas for threatened, endangered, and sensitive wildlife and plants species, as well as historic and cultural resources. The Conservancy and the LTBMU will also obtain necessary permits, ensure CEQA/NEPA compliance, and prepare the treatments. Treatment preparation includes identifying and marking treatment boundaries, removal trees, watercourse boundaries, access points, and work limitation areas. The Conservancy and the LTBMU will initiate project planning for the first treatments upon receiving funds. The Conservancy and LTBMU will continue planning subsequent treatments during the first four years of the project timeframe.

3. Treatment Implementation
After the treatment area is identified, reviewed for environmental compliance, and prepared for treatment, the Conservancy will prepare and administer contracts and/or grants for hazardous fuel reduction treatments. The Conservancy and the LTBMU will ensure completion of the treatments through contract oversight, site visits, and grant reporting requirements. During this step the Conservancy and Tahoe Network will also host one or more field visits to treatment locations with community members and stakeholders. The Conservancy and the LTBMU will initiate this step within one year of receiving funds and will continue implementation throughout the performance period.

4. Project Closeout
Following the completion of a contract or grant agreement for a hazardous fuel reduction treatment, the Conservancy will complete a final inspection of the treatment area, pay final agreement invoice, and ensure all necessary documentation is in the project file. The Conservancy and the LTBMU will begin closeout in the final year of the project timeframe and will complete closeout prior to termination of the cooperative agreement.

Future Operations and Maintenance:

None.

Partnerships and/or contributed funds:

Upon Board approval, the Conservancy will provide $300,000 of in-kind contributions using non-federal funding sources to partially fund the treatments proposed in this Nomination. The Conservancy's in-kind funding accounts for approximately 40-60 acres of the 650-850 acres of treatments identified in the purpose statement.

Funding Requested Budget Detail:

The total budget for the Nomination is $4,459,180. The total includes the requested amount of $4,159,180 and in-kind contribution funding from the Conservancy totaling $300,000. The Conservancy will use the requested SNPLMA funding to reimburse staff labor hours, purchase supplies, and issue contracts, grants and/or agreements as necessary to complete the project deliverables.

Staff labor cost estimates were generated using fully burdened rates. The Nomination proposes to use a mix of hand thinning, pile burning, mechanical treatments, pile burning, and biomass removal to maximize cost effectiveness while meeting community protection and resource improvement objectives. During project planning the Conservancy will select the most appropriate and cost-effective treatment method for implementation. The estimated costs per acre for planning and implementation of the treatment areas have been generated using a 10-year average for similar treatments and areas. These costs may be reduced depending on the access and availability of a close biomass processing facility.

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Interagency Summary:

ROUND 18

HAZARDOUS FUELS AND WILDFIRE PREVENTION NOMINATION

ESTIMATED DIRECT COSTS & KEY MILESTONES

Project Name:	**California Community Forestry**	**Date prepared:**	**9/10/2020**
		Agency:	**Interagency Project**
Project #	***Assigned by SNPLMA***	**Priority #:**	***Assigned by SNPLMA***
Prepared by:	**Milan Yeates**	**Phone #:**	**(530) 208-6338**
Title/position:	Acting Communtiy Forestry Supervisor		

1	**Planning & Environmental Documentation**	$0	0.00%
	Includes labor for surveys/reports for cultural, natural, biological, archaeological, historical resources, etc. and preparation of NEPA documentation and the decision document. Does not include on-going compliance monitoring (see Direct Labor #3)		
2	**Consultation - Endangered Species Act**	$0	0.00%
	Direct expenses for FWS consultation. *Includes all labor, agreements, and costs for Section 7 review and approval.*		
3	**Direct Federal Labor to Implement Project (Payroll)**	$1,093,980	26.30%
	For interagency projects, identify a primary team lead and the lead agency for consultation/coordination and individual agency leads responsible for entering progress and reports into SMART.		
4	**Project Equipment and/or Supplies and Materials**	$53,000	1.27%
	Equipment, supplies or materials necessary to complete the project that are not included in contracts/agreements. Includes lease or rental of equipment/vehicles.		
5	**Travel and Per Diem for Implementation**	$0	0.00%
	Includes all necessary travel for training and implementation of the project. Training costs for tuition, materials, etc. are identified in item #7 below		
6	**Official Vehicle Use (vehicles with Federal license only)**	$7,200	0.17%
	Estimated costs for routine maintenance agency vehicles, leased or rental equipment, oil and gas, tires, etc. Does not include replacement cost		
7	**Training (required to implement the project)**	$0	0.00%
	Includes training essential/necessary for implementation of the project.		
8	**Contracts, Grants, and/or Agreements**	$2,990,000	71.89%
	CESU, IGO, Assistance agreements, Task Orders, and/or contracts with eligible entities for implementation of the project. Also includes all costs for construction/implementation of the plan. The period of performance for grants or agreements and contracts must not extend past the approved period of performance in the approved Work Plan. Final invoices and de-obligation of unexpended funds must be paid and sub agreements and contracts closed prior to submitting the request for closeout to the SNPLMA Division		
9	**Other Necessary Expenses**	$15,000	0.36%
	(See Appendix B-11)		
	Total requested/estimated budget	**$4,159,180**	**100.00%**
10	**Estimated agency or partner contribution**	$300,000	
	Total Estimated project value	$4,459,180	

General comments and description of milestones

650-850 Acres WUI Hazardous fuel reduction

Lead Agency:

ROUND 18

HAZARDOUS FUELS AND WILDFIRE PREVENTION NOMINATION

ESTIMATED DIRECT COSTS & KEY MILESTONES

Project Name:	**California Community Forestry**	**Date prepared:**	**9/10/2020**
		Agency:	**California Tahoe Conservancy**
Project #	***Assigned by SNPLMA***	**Priority #:**	***Assigned by SNPLMA***
Prepared by:	**Milan Yeates**	**Phone #:**	**(530) 208-6338**
Title/position:	Acting Communtiy Forestry Supervisor		

1	**Planning & Environmental Documentation**	$0	0.00%
	Includes labor for surveys/reports for cultural, natural, biological, archaeological, historical resources, etc. and preparation of NEPA documentation and the decision document. Does not include on-going compliance monitoring (see Direct Labor #3)		
2	**FWS Consultation - Endangered Species Act**	$0	0.00%
	Direct expenses for FWS consultation. *Includes all labor, agreements, and costs for Section 7 review and approval.*		
3	**Direct Federal Labor to Implement Project (Payroll)**	$965,480	24.09%
	For interagency projects, identify a primary team lead and the lead agency for consultation/coordination and individual agency leads responsible for entering progress and reports into SMART.		
4	**Project Equipment and/or Supplies and Materials**	$53,000	1.32%
	Equipment, supplies or materials necessary to complete the project that are not included in contracts/agreements. Includes lease or rental of equipment/vehicles.		
5	**Travel and Per Diem for Implementation**	$0	0.00%
	Includes all necessary travel for training and implementation of the project. Training costs for tuition, materials, etc. are identified in item #7 below		
6	**Official Vehicle Use (vehicles with Federal license only)**	$0	0.00%
	Estimated costs for routine maintenance agency vehicles, leased or rental equipment, oil and gas, tires, etc. Does not include replacement cost		
7	**Training (required to implement the project)**	$0	0.00%
	Includes training essential/necessary for implementation of the project.		
8	**Contracts, Grants, and/or Agreements**	$2,990,000	74.59%
	CESU, IGO, Assistance agreements, Task Orders, and contracts for implementation of the project. Also includes all costs for construction/implementation of the plan. The period of performance for grants or agreements and contracts must not extend pas the approved period of performance in the approved Work Plan. Final invoices and de-obligation of unexpended funds must be paid and sub agreements and contracts closed prior to submitting the request for closeout		
9	**Other Necessary Expenses**	$0	0.00%
	(See Appendix B-11)		
	Total requested/estimated budget	**$4,008,480**	**100.00%**
10	**Estimated agency or partner contribution**	$300,000	
	Total Estimated project value	$4,308,480	

General comments and description of milestones

The California Tahoe Conservancy as the submitting agency and the USDA Forest Service, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit as a participating agency will implement a comprehensive, coordinated management strategy for community forests on the California side of the Lake Tahoe Basin. The Conservancy and the LTBMU will reduce hazardous fuels on at least 650 acres and not more than 850 acres of small, forested parcels across public and private ownerships interspersed throughout neighborhoods.

Partners:

ROUND 18			
HAZARDOUS FUELS AND WILDFIRE PREVENTION NOMINATION			
ESTIMATED DIRECT COSTS & KEY MILESTONES			
Project Name:	California Community Forestry	Date prepared:	9/10/2020
		Agency:	USFS LTBMU
Project #	*Assigned by SNPLMA*	Priority #:	*Assigned by SNPLMA*
Prepared by:	Brian Garrett	Phone #:	
Title/position:	Assitant Vegetation Staff Officer		

1	**Planning & Environmental Documentation**	$0	0.00%
	Includes labor for surveys/reports for cultural, natural, biological, archaeological, historical resources, etc. and preparation of NEPA documentation and the decision document. Does not include on-going compliance monitoring (see Direct Labor #3)		
2	**FWS Consultation - Endangered Species Act**	$0	0.00%
	Direct expenses for FWS consultation. *Includes all labor, agreements, and costs for Section 7 review and approval.*		
3	**Direct Federal Labor to Implement Project (Payroll)**	$128,500	85.27%
	For interagency projects, identify a primary team lead and the lead agency for consultation/coordination and individual agency leads responsible for entering progress and reports into SMART.		
4	**Project Equipment and/or Supplies and Materials**	$0	0.00%
	Equipment, supplies or materials necessary to complete the project that are not included in contracts/agreements. Includes lease or rental of equipment/vehicles.		
5	**Travel and Per Diem for Implementation**	$0	0.00%
	Includes all necessary travel for training and implementation of the project. Training costs for tuition, materials, etc. are identified in item #7 below		
6	**Official Vehicle Use (vehicles with Federal license only)**	$7,200	4.78%
	Estimated costs for routine maintenance agency vehicles, leased or rental equipment, oil and gas, tires, etc. Does not include replacement cost		
7	**Training (required to implement the project)**	$0	0.00%
	Includes training essential/necessary for implementation of the project.		
8	**Contracts, Grants, and/or Agreements**	$0	0.00%
	CESU, IGO, Assistance agreements, Task Orders, and contracts for implementation of the project. Also includes all costs for construction/implementation of the plan. The period of performance for grants or agreements and contracts must not extend pas the approved period of performance in the approved Work Plan. Final invoices and de-obligation of unexpended funds must be paid and sub agreements and contracts closed prior to submitting the request for closeout		
9	**Other Necessary Expenses**	$15,000	9.95%
	(See Appendix B-11)		
	Total requested/estimated budget	**$150,700**	**100.00%**
10	**Estimated agency or partner contribution**	$0	
	Total Estimated project value	$150,700	

General comments and description of milestones

Staff labor to support Good Neighbor Authority Agreements (GNA) at LTBMU.

Performance Measures:

The Conservancy and the LTBMU have identified the following Outcomes and Outputs, and relevant SNPLMA Performance Measures that the Nomination will achieve:

o Outcome: Mitigate risk to lives, property, and the environment within neighborhoods in the defense zone of the WUI on the California side of the Basin. Achieving the following output(s) will accomplish this outcome:
• Output (Primary Deliverable): Reduce hazardous fuels on 650-850 acres of small, forested parcels in the wildland-urban interface. The SNPLMA Performance Measure is:
o Performance Measure F2 – Acres of Hazardous Fuels Treated – Wildland Urban Interface

o Outcome: Increase public awareness of wildfire, fuel reduction, defensible space and the SNPLMA program. Achieving the following output(s) will accomplish this outcome:
• Output (Primary Deliverable): Host one or more field trips of the treatment areas with community members and stakeholders. The SNPLMA Performance Measure is:
o Performance Measure O7 – Number of Interpretive or Educational Presentations given and/or Community Events participated in or Hosted (each presentation is reported as one unit).

o Outcome: Understand neighborhood characteristics to identify cost-effective opportunities for reducing wildfire risk in neighborhoods and targeting defensible space outreach. Achieving the following output(s) will accomplish this outcome:
• Output (Primary Deliverable): Analysis report and a database of neighborhood characteristics including ownership patterns, defensible space compliance, current vegetative conditions, wildlife habitat, wildfire exposure, and demographics. The SNPLMA Performance Measures are:
o Performance Measure O9 – Number of GIS Databases Generated and/or Map Layers Produced (each database or map layer is one unit).
o Performance Measure O11- Number of Databases, Reports, and Other Electronic Means of Documenting Activities (each electronic document or method developed is one unit).

Executive Committee Strategic Plan Values:

In addition to furthering agency and Basin fuel reduction goals, the Nomination also promotes the three Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) Strategic Plan goals:

• The Nomination promotes sustainability by implementing cost-effective hazardous fuel reduction treatments that help protect life, property, and the environment from the effects of catastrophic wildfire. The treatments will reduce fire risk by reducing fuels across entire neighborhood blocks. The treatments will restore forest health by implementing consistent thinning prescriptions that reduce the risk of insect and disease infestation in community forests.

• The Nomination promotes connectivity by using a coordinated approach to treat priority neighborhoods identified in the CWPP and Strategy. This Nomination implements federal, state, local and private fuels reduction treatments. The new treatment areas will connect previously treated areas to create continuous areas where homes have defensible

space and potential fire behavior is reduced. The Nomination builds on the success of the TFFT in delivering collaboratively developed and prioritized wildfire prevention and fuel hazard reduction programs.

- The Nomination **promotes community** by protecting public health and safety, and by providing outreach opportunities that strengthen communication and support between agencies and the public. The treatments will be carried out side-by-side with community members doing their part to create defensible space, helping to create a fire adapted community where public agencies and private citizens are aligned in preparing for wildfire.

Compliance with Departmental and Agency Priorities, Strategic Goals, Executive Orders, and Secretarial Orders:

The Nomination supports Department of the Interior (DOI) Priority 6 (Protect our people and the border). Specifically, the Nomination advances Goal 3 of Mission Area 5 in the DOI Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2018-2022 (Strategic Plan).

- Mission Area 5 of the Strategic Plan lists goals and strategies that help ensure public safety and advance DOI's priority of protecting our people and the border. Goal 3 is to manage wildland fire to reduce risk and improve ecosystem and community resilience. Additionally, DOI specifies that they will work with the Forest Service, and other state, local, and tribal partners improve operational efficiency, reduce management duplication, and strategically place fuels treatments as informed by a risk assessment and mitigation plan.
- The activities proposed under this Nomination advance Goal 3 and will directly improve ecosystem and community resilience by reducing the risk of damaging wildfire through strategic hazardous fuel reduction treatments. All activities are identified as a priority in the Strategy that federal, state, local, and tribal partners are implementing collaboratively.

The Nomination supports Forest Service Priorities 3 (Promoting shared stewardship by increasing partnerships and volunteerism) and 4 (Improving the condition of forests and grasslands).

- The Chief of the Forest Service's 2018 Leadership Intentions for the Five National Priorities (Leadership Intentions) clarifies the five priorities and sets expectations for the agency and its partners. Priority 3 focuses on the intent to leverage partnerships to increase collective capacity and make a difference on the whole landscape. The work of partners in the Lake Tahoe Basin to implement the Strategy exemplifies the power of shared stewardship to meet collective goals. The activities proposed under this Nomination advance Priority 3 because they complement the defensible space work that residents complete on their property, and connect wildland-urban interface treatments on public and private ownerships to create a continuous area where fuels are reduced, forest health is improved, and communities are better protected from wildfire.
- Forest Service Priority 4 describes the need to work at larger scales improve the condition of forests. A large portion of America's forests are at risk from insects, diseases, and

wildfire. These threats transcend property boundaries, and work must be completed across landscapes to protect federal, state, private, and tribal lands, and the valuable resources they provide. The activities proposed under this Nomination advance Priority 4 by directly improving the condition of forests in the Basin by acting as a surrogate to naturally occurring wildfire and removing fuels that have built up over the last century. This is essential in reducing the risk of damaging wildfire and of insect and disease infestation.

Consistency with Executive Orders and Secretarial Orders

This Nomination is consistent with Executive Order No. 13855 Promoting Active Management of America's Forests and Rangelands to Improve Conditions and Reduce Wildfire Risk (Executive Order). The Executive Order prescribes three policies to be implemented by the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture, and each align with the activities proposed in the Nomination.

First, the Executive Order requires DOI and the Forest Service to adopt shared management priorities in partnership with federal land managers, states, tribes, and other landowners. This Nomination implements the Strategy which was developed by federal, state, and local government fire agencies and landowners. The Strategy shares the same three goals as the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy, which are to restore fire resilient landscapes, create fire adapted communities, and enable safe and effective wildfire response.

Second, the Executive Order requires DOI and the Forest Service to coordinate federal, state, tribal, and local assets for wildfire prevention, suppression, and reducing hazardous fuels. By closely coordinating nominations, Basin land managers and fire agencies are closely coordinating with federal agencies to coordinate the deployment of assets and skills to protect communities and natural resources.

Third, the Executive Order requires DOI and the Forest Service to remove hazardous fuels, increase active management, and support rural economies. The Nomination implements prioritized treatments that protect life and property, and support the rural economy of the Basin by providing jobs and utilizing forest restoration byproducts.

Ranking Criteria:

1. Improves the community within and/or adjacent to the project area.

A. Addresses immediate public health and safety and community infrastructure.

The Nomination will protect public health and safety and community infrastructure by reducing fire behavior surrounding and immediately adjacent to thousands of homes and other structures. The proposed treatments are all within the WUI defense zone (the area generally within 0.25 miles of homes, businesses, and critical infrastructure, as depicted in the Nomination maps). The Nomination is designed to protect communities by extending residential defensible space beyond property lines, reducing fire behavior in

entire neighborhood blocks, and creating safe working areas for firefighters around homes.

B. Promotes protection of source water (rivers and lakes) or municipal watersheds.

The Nomination promotes protection of source water and municipal watersheds. The community forests targeted for treatment contain water storage and delivery infrastructure for North Tahoe Public Utility District, Tahoe City Public Utility District, and South Tahoe Public Utility District. The treatments will create defensible space directly surrounding this infrastructure, including pump houses and sensitive telemetry equipment. The Nomination will also protect source water quality by preventing the rapid transport of nutrient loaded sediment and toxic contaminants that occurs after wildfires destroy neighborhoods.

C. Project includes education and outreach to the community on Living with Fire or Fire Adapted Communities and/or the importance of fuels reduction on federal, state, and local government land.

The Conservancy and the LTBMU collaborate extensively with the TFFT, the Tahoe Network and the Living with Fire Program to plan projects and support community outreach. Target neighborhoods will be collaboratively selected with these partners, wherein treatments will occur and defensible space outreach will be focused. The Nomination also contains a primary deliverable for one or more interpretive/outreach field tours of treatment areas for stakeholders and community members that will be coordinated with the Tahoe Network and use Living with Fire materials.

2. Improves the connection of fuels reduction activities and wildlife habitat.

A. Project connects previously treated areas to create or increase contiguous blocks of treated land.

The coordinated management strategy for community forests will create entire contiguous neighborhoods where fuels are reduced and forest health is improved. Comprehensive treatment of the Basin's open-space and undeveloped lots across property lines will fill in the missing link needed to connect residential defensible space treatments to the WUI treatments on the borders of subdivisions. Additionally, Neighborhood prioritization criteria will include opportunities to connect treated areas to create contiguous treated blocks.

B. Project protects or enhances wildlife habitat and/or resilient vegetative communities.

The Nomination will protect and enhance wildlife habitat in the Basin's unique residential setting, and will implement best practices for forest management consistently in neighborhoods. Planning for neighborhood treatments will include assessments of vegetation and wildlife habitat to inform both prescriptions for treatments and protection for sensitive species. The Nomination is designed to mitigate the risk of stand-replacing wildfire which can destroy suitable wildlife habitat. The Nomination will improve forest health by reducing stand densities and altering species composition therefore reducing the competition for light, nutrients, and water. This will result in more open and diverse

community forests that are more resilient to insects, disease, and the effects of a changing climate.

C. Project enhances the effectiveness of other treatments in progress or complete.

The Nomination will enhance effectiveness of other adjacent in-progress or complete treatments. The Nomination is designed to not only mitigate wildfire risk on the proposed treatment areas but also to complement and enhance defensible space within neighborhoods and adjacent previous treatments surrounding neighborhoods.

3. Improves sustainability of the multijurisdictional 10-year plans, environment, and financial resources.

A. The Project will:

1. Improve the sustainability of the forest health and ecosystem function (e.g. stand density, desired species mix and age, tree health, etc.)

The Nomination will improve the sustainability of the forest health and ecosystem function by selectively thinning forest stands to resemble a historic forest structure. Due to the Comstock logging activities and subsequent 100 years of fire suppression, the forest stands in the Basin are even aged and overstocked, making them more susceptible to insect and disease outbreak, which in turn makes them more susceptible to catastrophic wildfire. The treatments are designed to act as a surrogate for the naturally occurring low intensity wildfires that historically managed the forest stands of the Basin, resulting in a less dense, diverse stand composition that is similar to pre-Comstock logging conditions.

2. Improve the habitat for sensitive species and Threatened and Endangered species. Includes mitigation and/or minimization measures when treatment in sensitive habitat is unavoidable.

The Nomination will improve the habitat for threatened, endangered, and sensitive species. Treatment designs will include mitigation and/or minimization measures when treatment in sensitive habitat is unavoidable. Biological reviews will be conducted for all proposed treatment areas and will identify known occurrences as well as suitable habitat for threatened, endangered, and other sensitive species. These reviews will inform recommendations for how to design projects to improve habitat, and for avoiding impacts to these species and their habitats.

3. Includes broadcast prescribed fire for resource management objectives for sustainable landscapes.

The Nomination does not propose the use of broadcast prescribed fire due to the treatment areas' extreme proximity to structures. However, the Nomination will facilitate the use of prescribed fire in WUI areas surrounding and near communities. A primary factor limiting land managers ability to use broadcast and understory burning is the condition of adjacent properties, especially those near structures, because of the risk and potential consequences of an escape. The Nomination will help build comfort with using prescribed fire to reduce fuels near communities by ensuring that all adjacent

properties pose minimal threats for increased fire behavior. The Nomination does include the limited use of pile burning for slash removal. All prescribed fire will be done under the direction of an NWCG certified Type 2 Prescribed Fire Burn Boss and in accordance with an approved NWCG Prescribed Fire Burn Plan.

B. The method of treatment is fiscally responsible for the project area by balancing resource objectives, values at risk, and cost per acre factors or cost-benefit analysis.

The Nomination proposes to use a mix of hand thinning, pile burning, mechanical treatments, and biomass removal to maximize cost effectiveness while meeting community protection and resource improvement objectives. The Conservancy, LTBMU, and Tahoe Network will use cost-effectiveness as a key factor in selecting neighborhoods targeted for treatment. As treatments are planned, the most appropriate and cost-effective treatment method will be recommended for implementation. The estimated costs per acre for planning and implementation of the treatment areas have been generated using a 10-year average for similar treatments and areas. These costs may be reduced depending on the access and availability of a close biomass processing facility.

4. Demonstrates sound project management and quality control measures.

A. Project goals and implementation processes are clear, measurable, achievable, and demonstrable.

The goal of the Nomination is to implement hazardous fuels reduction and forest health treatments on 650-850 acres of small forested parcels within the defense zone of the WUI on the California side of the Basin. The coordinated management approach for open-space and undeveloped lots enables contiguous neighborhoods to be treated concurrently, which builds efficiency and will allow more area to be treated. The Conservancy and the LTBMU have already initiated NEPA planning and have entered into a GNA agreement to implement the treatments.

B. Project proponent has the capacity to implement this project in a timely manner (contractor and staff availability, no backlog of current project, etc.) and within budget.

The Conservancy has a proven record of successfully implementing fuel reduction and forest management treatments using grant funding. The Conservancy has been awarded and successfully managed and closed out hazardous fuel reduction grants from past rounds of SNPLMA including Rounds 8, 13, 14. The Conservancy is currently managing a $6.8 million SNPLMA Round 16 grant to complete at least 1,200 acres of hazardous fuel reduction spanning multiple ownerships. Work is proceeding on-time and within budget, with 600 acres completed to date. The Conservancy recently expanded forestry and grant management staffing and has redoubled its efforts to collaboratively lead forest management projects and increase treatments on its lands.

The LTBMU has been utilizing SNPLMA funding for hazardous fuels reduction since the early 2000s. In the last decade, the LTBMU has successfully implemented 41,000 acres of treatments using SNPLMA funds. The Nomination helps build Basin partners' capacity to implement treatments on federal lands by using GNA, which allows states to manage work on federal lands.

C. Is a phase or related component to a previously funded project.

The Nomination will result in a viable stand-alone proposal. The Nomination complements previous SNPLMA projects because it connects residential defensible space to thousands of acres of previous and planned treatments.

D. Has identified committed non-SNPLMA sources of funding or in-kind contribution in the development and/or implementation of the project.

Upon Board approval, the Conservancy will provide $300,000 of in-kind contributions using non-federal funding sources to partially fund the treatments proposed in this Nomination. The Conservancy's in-kind funding accounts for approximately 40-60 acres of the 650-850 acres of treatments identified in the purpose statement.

Project Location:

Treatments will occur on open-space lots managed by the Conservancy, the LTBMU, and various local government agencies (primarily counties and public utility districts), as well as on privately-owned undeveloped parcels. Due to this checkerboard mix of ownership, neighborhoods targeted for treatment will be selected through a collaborative process facilitated by the Conservancy, the LTBMU, and the Tahoe Network. All treatments will be within 300 feet of habitable structures, and immediately adjacent to defensible space treatments required by California Public Resources Code section 4291.

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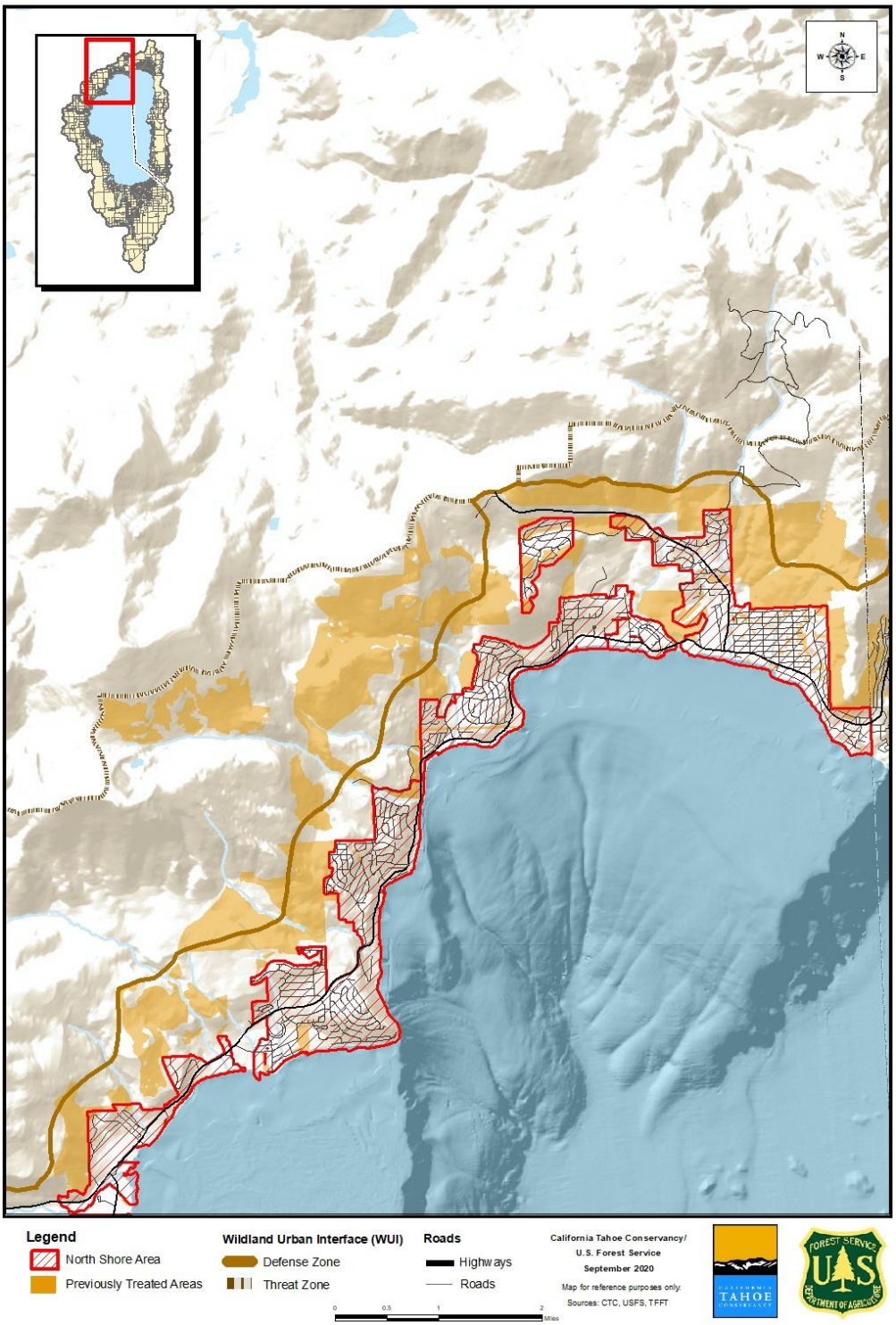
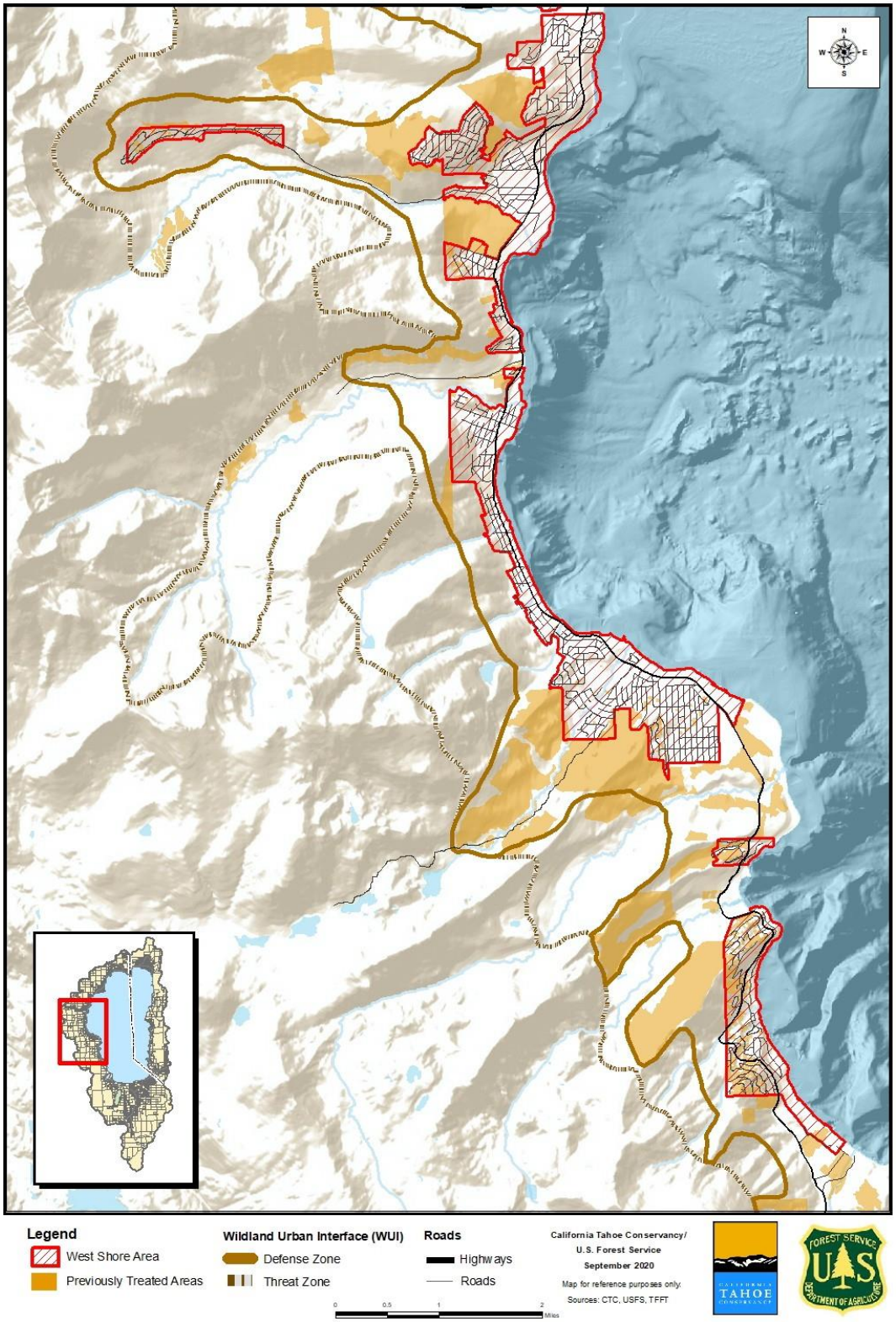
Maps:

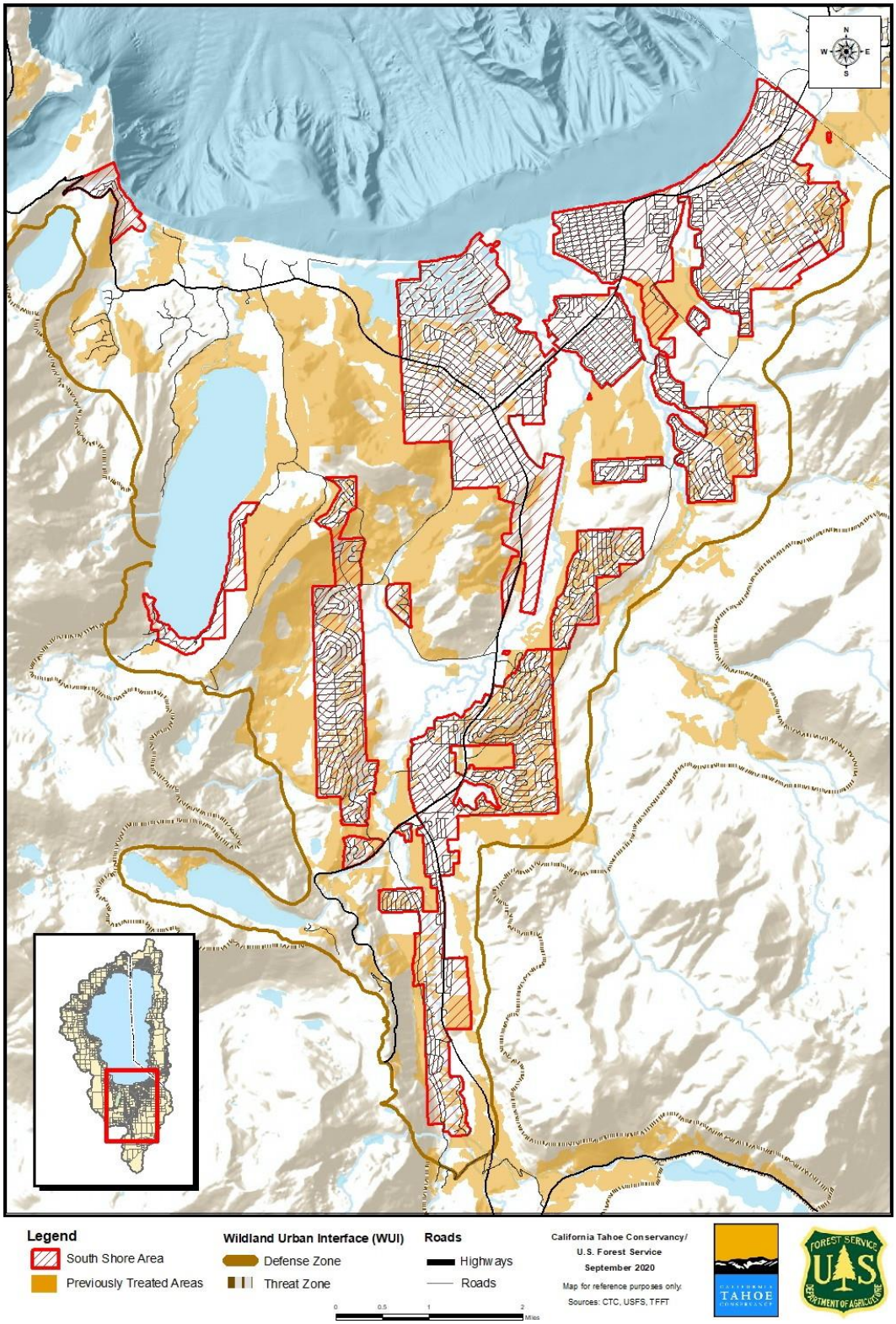
California Community Forestry
North Shore Area



California Community Forestry
West Shore Area



California Community Forestry
South Shore Area



Letters of Support:

Participating Agency Letter of Support

United States Department of Agriculture | **Forest Service** | **Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit** | **35 College Drive**
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150
530-543-2600
TDD: 530-543-0956

File Code: 1500
Date: September 10, 2020

Robert Taylor
Program Manager
Bureau of Land Management
SNPLMA Division
4701 N. Torrey Pines Dr.
Las Vegas, NV 89130

Dear Mr. Taylor:

The Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit is partnering with the California Tahoe Conservancy through the Good Neighbor Authority to implement the California Community Forestry project. This project is improving the capacity of the California communities located within the Tahoe Basin to become Fire Adapted Communities by coordinating and implementing fuels reduction treatments on public and private lands simultaneously across all ownerships within a geographical area.

This approach to achieve defensible space compliance on developed private lands and reduce fuels on vacant public and private parcels in a coordinated effort has been a long time goal and this project is designed to achieve that goal. The Lake Tahoe Basin Management is in full support of the California Tahoe Conservancy's interagency Round 18 SNPLMA nomination for the California Community Forestry project.

Sincerely,

X

Signed by: Department of Agriculture
DANELLE D. HARRISON
Acting Forest Supervisor

cc: Milan.Yeates@tahoe.ca.gov

September 10, 2020

Robert Taylor
Program Manager, SNPLMA Division
Bureau of Land Management
4702 North Torrey Pines Drive
Las Vegas, Nevada 89130

Re: SNPLMA Round 18 Nominations for Hazardous Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention in the Lake Tahoe Basin

Dear Mr. Taylor and other Nomination Reviewers:

Thank you for your consideration of the Lake Tahoe Basin's Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) Round 18 project nominations. The local government, state, and federal implementing agencies have partnered in a coordinated approach to comprehensively and cost-effectively implement the Lake Tahoe Basin Multi-Jurisdictional Strategy for Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention (Strategy).

The Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team (TFFT) formed in 2008 to implement the Strategy, with the twin aims of reducing fuels in the wildland-urban interface (WUI) and preparing communities for wildfire. The 21 partner agencies of the TFFT work within the Lake Tahoe Basin (Basin) to plan, prioritize, and implement fuel reduction and fire prevention projects that protect life, property, and the environment. The TFFT recently collaborated to identify critical need projects and develop ten SNPLMA Round 18 nominations that advance the goals of the Strategy.

Communities across the western United States are currently witnessing the catastrophe of yet another record-breaking wildfire season. A destructive wildfire in the Basin of similar scale to those burning right now elsewhere in the Sierra Nevada would have devastating impacts on our forests, communities, and businesses. Such a fire would also cause severe economic impacts in both California and Nevada.

The Basin's fire agencies are tested every fire season by dozens of wildfire ignitions, which each have the potential to become the Basin's next destructive wildfire. To improve our odds, we work at every level – from helping residents prepare themselves, their families, and their homes

Protecting lives, property, and the environment of the Lake Tahoe Basin from wildfire by implementing prioritized fuel reduction projects and engaging the public in becoming a fire adapted community.

for wildfire, to working within neighborhoods to create defensible space that extends across property lines, to reducing fuels and restoring forests in the WUI and beyond.

This holistic approach of working at every level is ratified in the Strategy, with its three goals of creating fire adapted communities, restoring fire-resilient landscapes, and supporting safe and effective wildfire response. These goals are mirrored by the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy. The goals are manifested in the over 60,000 acres treated in the Basin's WUI by TFFT partners over the last decade, and the thousands of homes inspected for defensible space and brought into compliance.

There are ten Hazardous Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention nominations for SNPLMA Round 18, each implementing a critical component of the Strategy. The nominations are:

1) **Lake Tahoe Basin Fire Adapted Communities**
   Agency: Tahoe Resource Conservation District
   Funding Requested: $8,705,000
2) **Defense Zone Improvement**
   Agency: North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District
   Funding Requested: $1,222,000
3) **Highway 50 Hazardous Fuel Reduction and Restoration**
   Agency: Tahoe-Douglas Fire Protection District
   Funding Requested: $400,000
4) **South Lake Tahoe Fire Rescue Wildland-Urban Interface Hazardous Fuel Reduction**
   Agency: South Lake Tahoe Fire Rescue
   Funding Requested: $852,000
5) **North Tahoe Fire Protection District Wildland-Urban Interface Hazardous Fuel Reduction**
   Agency: North Tahoe Fire Protection District
   Funding Requested: $2,500,000
6) **California Community Forestry**
   Agency: California Tahoe Conservancy
   Funding Requested: $4,159,180
7) **California Tahoe Conservancy Wildland-Urban Interface Hazardous Fuel Reduction**
   Agency: California Tahoe Conservancy
   Funding Requested: $5,994,000
8) **National Forest Priority Wildland-Urban Interface Fuel Reduction**
   Agency: Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit
   Funding Requested: $10,490,000
9) **Utility Corridors Resilience**
   Agency: Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit
   Funding Requested: $8,655,000

Protecting lives, property, and the environment of the Lake Tahoe Basin from wildfire by implementing prioritized fuel reduction projects and engaging the public in becoming a fire adapted community.

10) **Prescribed Fire Implementation**

Agency: Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit
Funding Requested: $5,046,000

Nomination 1 will deliver extensive community engagement and defensible space treatments through the Tahoe Network of Fire Adapted Communities (Tahoe Network). The Tahoe Network is a multi-agency and community collaboration that helps residents take individual action to collectively reduce their neighborhood's risk of wildfire. The preparedness of residents and the defensible space around homes are at the core of the Strategy' approach to preventing catastrophic wildfire.

The defensible space treatments completed through Nomination 1 directly connect to the treatments included in Nominations 2 through 6. These nominations propose treatments on the thousands of small open-space and undeveloped lots surrounding homes that are interspersed throughout neighborhoods, as well as on private and local-government lands near communities. Nominations 7 and 8 connect to neighborhood treatments and involve large-scale wildland-urban interface treatments on state and federal lands. The treatments substantially advance the TFFT's target of completing initial wildland-urban interface treatments identified in the Strategy by 2024.

Nomination 9 reduces wildfire risk and creates healthy forests surrounding powerlines, a significant potential source of wildfire ignitions. The treatments will help protect critical community infrastructure as well as reduce the risk of spread for ignitions originating from powerlines.

Finally, Nomination 10 proposes to strategically use prescribed fire as a tool for both fuel reduction and landscape restoration. In addition to implementing valuable treatments, the project helps to build Basinwide capacity to use prescribed fire across multiple jurisdictions.

The TFFT expresses its strong support for the full suite of projects listed above. The SNPLMA program has been transformative for the Basin by enabling a multitude of fuel reduction and wildfire reduction projects. These projects have helped improve our odds of withstanding wildfire and are an important reason for our success to date. Again, thank you for your consideration of the Basin's SNPLMA Round 18 nominations.

Sincerely,

Scott Baker
Chair, TFFT Multi-Agency Coordinating Group
Fire Chief, Tahoe-Douglas Fire Protection District

Protecting lives, property, and the environment of the Lake Tahoe Basin from wildfire by implementing prioritized fuel reduction projects and engaging the public in becoming a fire adapted community.

Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act
Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention
Round 18

North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District

Defense Zone Improvement

Amount Requested: $1,222,527

Timeframe: 6 years
Location: 39.249690º / -119.952627º
Congressional District

Contact:April Shackelford
Phone: 775 833 8129
Email: ashackelford@nltfpd.net

Purpose Statement:

The North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District (NLTFPD) will reduce hazardous fuels on 210-620 acres and plan for additional hazardous fuels removal on non-federal lands in the wildland-urban interface of Incline Village and Crystal Bay, NV to mitigate the wildfire risk to the community and improve forest health. The project will be accompanied by two public outreach activities that will showcase fuels reduction treatments and provide education on forest health, fuels treatments, and Fire Adapted Community concepts. These activities will create a better informed and more prepared Fire Adapted Community in Incline Village and Crystal Bay, NV, an area with extreme wildfire risk.

Background info to support the need:

The mission of NLTFPD's Fuels Management Division is to reduce the community's wildfire risk and improve forest health by effective fuels management practices. This mission began 24 years ago, and the Fuels Management Division can now look back on decades of successful fuels reduction activities and direct future projects to further manifest their mission and maintain the effectiveness of previous fuels reduction treatments. The Defense Zone Improvement Project will take place on the northeast side of Lake Tahoe Basin almost entirely within the WUI Defense Zone of Incline Village and Crystal Bay, NV. In this community, the fire hazard risk is rated as Extreme, as winds and slope align to create conditions that allow fire to spread rapidly through the community from a single ignition.

The project will restore healthy and resilient landscapes within the Defense Zone and will include fuels reduction work along powerline corridors critical in serving the human community. Treatment types include hand thinning, pile burning, mechanical treatments, and understory prescribed fire. Project planning will begin in fall 2021 and the project will be complete when at least 210 acres have been treated, two educational outreach activities have been completed, and land agreements and environmental planning is in place for future fuels reduction activities. The planning component will improve coordination among private citizens, federal, state, and local agencies and will connect and integrate previous and future projects to address prioritized needs. An additional 410 acres may be treated using various methods with understory prescribed fire as the preferred option when weather conditions allow. The project will connect and enhance previous treatments to restore and protect healthy and resilient landscapes. The 620-acre project will serve to protect Incline Village and Crystal Bay, NV from wildfire occurring elsewhere within the Wildland Urban Interface and the general forest beyond. Further, it will enhance previous and on-going fuels reduction work done by the NLTFPD, as well as complement the Incline Village Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Healthy Forest Restoration Project currently being carried out by the USFS.

Relationship to prior approved phases or related SNPLMA projects and anticipated future phases:

The project is not a phased project. This nomination will result in a stand-alone, viable project. NLTFPD acknowledges that there is neither guarantee nor expectation of funding for future phases.

Deliverables:

1. Primary Deliverables
   a. Reduce hazardous fuels on 210-620 acres of non-federal land in the wildland-urban interface of Incline Village and Crystal Bay, NV to reduce crown fire potential and surface fire behavior. Final acres will be determined based on a variety of factors, including available burn windows, climatological factors and environmental review.
   b. Host an interpretive presentation of a prescribed fire project with local community members and stakeholders.
   c. Host an educational workshop with local students about fuels reduction and its importance in creating Fire Adapted Communities.
   d. Treatment planning for future fuels reduction projects to address existing high-risk areas, treatment methods, invasive species, landowner engagement, and general project management.

2. Anticipated Deliverables
   a. Hand thinning and defensible space may be completed on additional privately owned or agency managed property within the Defense Zone to strengthen the primary treatment, reduce risk of catastrophic wildfire, and to provide increased community protection.
   b. Cooperating agreements from Nevada Department of Transportation, NV Energy, IVGID, Washoe County, and approximately 100 private property owners to allow for fuels reduction treatments and forest health improvements along highways and primary travel routes, powerline corridors, and in specific private properties with hazardous fuel loading that would support catastrophic wildfire.
   c. Prescribed understory burns may extend beyond treatment unit boundaries, depending on adjacent fuels conditions and landowner participation.

3. Standard Deliverables
   a. Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) environmental review and tree removal permitting.
   b. Avoidance protocols for cultural resources and concurrence with a finding of no adverse effect from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).
   c. Vegetation Management Plan, describing the prescription to accomplish the project's goals and objectives, and all necessary measures to mitigate negative impacts to wildlife, water quality, forest health, and cultural resources.
   d. Prescribed Fire Burn Plans, satisfying National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) interagency requirements.
   e. Project review and approval by the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team (TFFT), a voluntary association of Tahoe Basin fire agencies.

f. Project tracking using the Tahoe EIP tracking tool, managed by the TRPA.
g. Pre and post-treatment photo monitoring.

Project Timeframe:

The project is expected to take six years to complete.

Level of Project Readiness for Implementation:

NLTFPD provides all-risk emergency services to the Incline Village and Crystal Bay communities, as well as fire prevention, fuels management, and public education programs. The district's wildland division staffs 50 seasonal wildland firefighters that implement local fuels reduction projects and respond regionally and nationally to wildfires. NLTFPD staff includes a full-time forester, fuels management officer, fuels specialist, and compliance officer to facilitate project permitting, design, management, and reporting. The division chief is an NWCG-certified type 2 prescribed fire burn boss that develops prescribed fire burn plans, supervises understory burns, and manages crew operations.

NLTFPD has worked closely with the Incline Village General Improvement District (IVGID) on fuels management projects to address the need for hazardous fuels reduction on its 1500 acres, within and around communities. This successful partnership began in 1991 and has resulted in the treatment of over 1300 acres of IVGID land in the wildland-urban interface, serving as a strong barrier to protect the community from the wildfire threat.

Late in 2019 NLTFPD entered into a long-term contract with NV Energy to improve and maintain powerline resilience along corridors. This work will take place in the defense and threat zone of Incline Village and Crystal Bay, NV, and will extend beyond these areas over time. NV Energy is upgrading their utility assets concurrently to reduce the potential for sparks. This work greatly compliments adjacent defensible space efforts and near-by fuels reduction projects.

IVGID, NV Energy, and NLTFPD are committed to contributing one-third of project costs, not to exceed $611,263 in combined support of the Defense Zone Improvement Project. These agreements, a streamlined permitting process through the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, and previous approvals from the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office help to improve efficiencies in project readiness. Landowner permission, and clearance to conduct this work in stream zones has also been granted.

NLTFPD has benefitted from SNPLMA funding since 2007 after the Angora Fire solidified the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team to begin critically need fuels reduction projects in the Lake Tahoe Basin. NLTFPD completed their SNPLMA 13 project last year and is currently implementing the SNPLMA Round 15 Incline Village Prescribed Fire Project, and the SNPLMA Round 16 NV Regional Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project. Implementation of the Round 15 project will be completed by Fall of 2021, allowing for adequate time for project close-out. The Round 16 project is nearly 50% complete and on target to be completed by the end of the period of performance of March 2023. The completion of these and other fuels reduction projects will

allow NLTFPD to begin implementation of the Defense Zone Improvement Project within 1 year of the special account fund notice.

Future Operations and Maintenance:

None.

Partnerships and/or contributed funds:

The Incline Village General Improvement District (IVGID) owns 1500 acres in and around Incline Village and Crystal Bay, Nevada. IVGID provides $200,000 annually from a dedicated capital project fund for forest health and fuels reduction and projects, with the expectation that NLTFPD will leverage its contribution with grant funding. NV Energy provides power, and utility infrastructure to Incline Village and Crystal Bay residents and is invested with NLTFPD hand crews to increase fuels reduction efforts along power line corridors. NLTFPD will support future fuels mitigation planning and fuel load monitoring efforts. The $1,222,527 request from SNPLMA will be supported by a cash contribution of $611,263 from IVGID, NV Energy, and NLTFPD to be split according to the task or activity taking place. Support letters are provided at the end of the document.

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Funding Requested Budget Detail:

ROUND 18

HAZARDOUS FUELS AND WILDFIRE PREVENTION NOMINATION

ESTIMATED DIRECT COSTS & KEY MILESTONES

Project Name:	**Defense Zone Improvement Project**	**Date prepared:**	**8/27/2020**
		Agency:	**North Lake Tahoe Fire PD**
Project #	***Assigned by SNPLMA***	**Priority #:**	***Assigned by SNPLMA***
Prepared by:	**Erick Rodriguez**	**Phone #:**	**775-831-0351 x 8151**
Title/position:	Compliance Officer		

1	**Planning & Environmental Documentation**	$176,693	14.45%
	Includes labor for surveys/reports for cultural, natural, biological, archaeological, historical resources, etc. and preparation of NEPA documentation and the decision document. Does not include on-going compliance monitoring (see Direct Labor #3)		
2	**FWS Consultation - Endangered Species Act**	$0	0.00%
	Direct expenses for FWS consultation. *Includes all labor, agreements, and costs for Section 7 review and approval.*		
3	**Direct Federal Labor to Implement Project (Payroll)**	$867,369	70.95%
	For interagency projects, identify a primary team lead and the lead agency for consultation/coordination and individual agency leads responsible for entering progress and reports into SMART.		
4	**Project Equipment and/or Supplies and Materials**	$0	0.00%
	Equipment, supplies or materials necessary to complete the project that are not included in contracts/agreements. Includes lease or rental of equipment/vehicles.		
5	**Travel and Per Diem for Implementation**	$0	0.00%
	Includes all necessary travel for training and implementation of the project. Training costs for tuition, materials, etc. are identified in item #7 below		
6	**Official Vehicle Use (vehicles with Federal license only)**	$67,326	5.51%
	Estimated costs for routine maintenance agency vehicles, leased or rental equipment, oil and gas, tires, etc. Does not include replacement cost		
7	**Training (required to implement the project)**	$0	0.00%
	Includes training essential/necessary for implementation of the project.		
8	**Contracts, Grants, and/or Agreements**	$0	0.00%
	CESU, IGO, Assistance agreements, Task Orders, and contracts for implementation of the project. Also includes all costs for construction/implementation of the plan. The period of performance for grants or agreements and contracts must not extend pas the approved period of performance in the approved Work Plan. Final invoices and de-obligation of unexpended funds must be paid and sub agreements and contracts closed prior to submitting the request for closeout		
9	**Other Necessary Expenses**	$111,139	9.09%
	De Minimus at 10% - Administrative costs, overhead and other necessary expenses over the life of the project.		
	Total requested/estimated budget	**$1,222,527**	**100.00%**
10	**Estimated agency or partner contribution**	$611,263	
	Total Estimated project value	$1,833,790	

Performance Measures:

Outcome: Mitigate risk to lives, property, and the environment within the wildland-urban interface of the Lake Tahoe Basin. Achieving the following output(s) will accomplish this outcome:

Output: Reduce hazardous fuels on 210-620 acres in the wildland-urban interface. The SNPLMA Performance Measure is:

- Performance Measure F2 – Acres of Hazardous Fuels Treated – Wildland Urban Interface

Outcome: Increase public awareness of wildfire and fuels reduction and how it affects the community. Achieving the following output(s) will accomplish this outcome:

Output: Host an interpretive presentation of the project area with community members and stakeholders. The SNPLMA Performance Measures include:

- Performance Measure O5 – Number of Outreach Contacts Made (each individual is reported as one unit).
- Performance Measure O7 – Number of Interpretive or Educational Presentations Given and/or Community Events Participated In or Hosted (each presentation is reported as one unit).

Output: Host an educational workshop with local students about fuels management and its importance in creating Fire Adapted Communities and promoting forest health. The SNPLMA Performance Measures include:

- Performance Measure O5 – Number of Outreach Contacts Made (each individual is reported as one unit).
- Performance Measure O7 – Number of Interpretive or Educational Presentations Given and/or Community Events Participated In or Hosted (each presentation is reported as one unit).

Executive Committee Strategic Plan Values:

- The project **promotes sustainability** by restoring, protecting and preserving healthy and properly functioning ecosystems through strategic and cost-effective fuels reduction treatments that enhance the public's enjoyment of the outdoor environment of the Lake Tahoe Basin. The project has shared support through long-term agency and community partnerships, relevancy to former and future fuels reduction treatments, and durability as initial treatments are followed up with more-cost effective secondary treatments.

- The project **promotes connectivity** by encouraging public interaction with nature through field trips and educational outreach that allows NLTFPD to showcase the effectiveness of hazardous fuel reduction treatments. Knowledge of forest health in these areas and their accessibility to the community creates additional outdoor

recreation opportunities to unite people to important places across the Lake Tahoe Basin landscape and improve their quality of life.

- The project **promotes community** by working with partner agencies, municipalities, and private property owners to improve the quality of life for the human community while protecting the integrity of biological communities. The fuels reduction treatments restore sustainable forest health in community forests and powerline corridors that enhance their safety and provide outdoor recreational opportunities.

Compliance with Departmental and Agency Priorities, Strategic Goals, Executive Orders, and Secretarial Orders:

NLTFPD shares the three core values inherent to the SNPLMA Program and the Defense Zone Improvement Project manifests those core values on the landscape. The project will directly manifest Goal 1 as described in the SNPLMA Strategic Plan, by sustaining the quality of the outdoor environment with fuels reduction treatments that reduce the wildfire risk, and restore historic forest conditions promoting healthy and resilient landscapes. The project also supports Goal 2 by generating healthy and resilient landscapes near communities and local hiking trails, and by providing opportunities to learn about the importance of these landscapes and the recreational opportunities they provide.

This nomination furthers five of the ten Department of Interior Priorities. The budget is aligned to support the focus on conservation stewardship and sustainable development of natural resources through the promotion of historic stand conditions. It also allows NLTFPD to continue to be a good neighbor and maintain trust in working with agencies and the public to restore forest health and protect communities. NV Energy is working vigorously to modernize electrical utility infrastructure along with enhanced vegetation management. This partnership allows for Incline Village and Crystal Bay to be among the first to benefit from this strategic collaboration. Overall, the project will allow us to achieve our current goals, plan for new ones, and improve our overall fuels reduction strategy. It will strengthen our leadership capabilities in community safety and forest health in the Tahoe Basin and beyond.

The project directly addresses two of the five U.S. Forest Service Priorities, and indirectly address the others. The bulk intention of the project is to improve the condition of forests. The partnerships required to carry out the project, and the proximity of the project to thousands of residential properties require good neighbor principles between NLTFPD, additional agencies and the public. Excellent customer service is necessary to address concerns from the community we serve as we work to protect and educate them on the effectiveness and long-term outcome of our treatments. The planning component of this project will further promote shared stewardship and increased partnerships with local and state agencies and many private property owners as we work to address hazardous fuels with future projects. The project will also indirectly enhance recreation opportunities as field trips and classroom visits will help to expose people to fuels reduction treatments and the forest around them. Lastly, the project will be uplifting and empowering for the employees at NLTFPD through the continuance of a respectful and safe working environment.

Consistency with Executive Orders and Secretarial Orders

EO No. 13855 Promoting Active Management of America's Forests, Range Lands to Improve Conditions and Reduce Wildfire Risk

The NLTFPD is an ideal agency to implement EO No. 13855 as its primary mission and proven fuels reduction treatment activities completely align with the policy and goals of the order. NLTFPD understands that dense trees and undergrowth have amassed in the nation's forests aiding insect infestation, invasive species, and disease creating weakened forests and vulnerable communities at risk of damage from catastrophic wildfire. The Fuels Management Division employs 50 seasonal wildland firefighters and 4 additional wildfire management team staff members, who are passionate about safely and aggressively fighting wildfire to protect communities and forests. All fire personnel understand the role of vegetative fuels in the wildland fire fight, and the role that management must take as we work to address the wildfire challenge. With the same vigor and commitment, they actively manage our forests to improve forest health conditions and reduce the wildfire risk. Roads to access the lands we manage are maintained over time to ensure these roads are available for emergency vehicles and evacuation traffic when the need arises.

SO No. 3372 Reducing Wildfire Risks on Department of the Interior Land Through Active Management

The primary intent of the Defense Zone Improvement Project is to reduce wildfire risks through active land management, and to plan for future land management activities. These lands are not owned federally, but are adjacent to lands in federal management, and the community of Incline Village and Crystal Bay, NV. The fuels reduction work in defense zone forests serves to better protect people and communities from the threat of catastrophic wildfire, and the open forest stand that will result better protects wildlife habitat and watersheds.

Ranking Criteria:

1. Improves the community within and/or adjacent to the project area.

A. Addresses immediate public health and safety and community infrastructure.

The project takes place primarily in the WUI Defense Zone, as depicted by the current Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) map in the Lake Tahoe Basin Multi-Jurisdictional Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Strategy, August 2014. The map on the previous page shows the project location with proximity to neighborhoods and the WUI defense zone boundaries, in relation to Lake Tahoe as a whole. NLTFPD will also be participating in the Lake Tahoe Basin Fire Adapted Communities Project also proposed for SNPLAM Round 18. The specific neighborhoods that will be targeted for Fire Adapted Communities and defensible space compliance are also shown.

B. Promotes protection of source water (rivers and lakes) or municipal watersheds.

Treatment units will be within the 1st Creek, 2nd Creek, Wood Creek and 3rd Creek watersheds. All treatment areas are within three miles of Lake Tahoe. The project will protect source water quality by preventing the rapid transport of nutrient loaded sediment that occurs after high-intensity fire.

One of the treatments will be to reduce fuels in the Wood Creek Stream Environment Zone where it is owned by IVGID. Fuel reduction in this area will increase water flow and riparian stream function, contributing to the health of Lake Tahoe source waters.

C. Project includes education and outreach to the community on Living with Fire or Fire Adapted Communities and/or the importance of fuels reduction on federal, state, and local government land.

The project deliverables include an educational fieldtrip of an actively managed forest within the Incline Village area. It is intended for middle school, high school, and college students and the primary tenets of *Living With Fire* will be used to guide the field tour. Thus the ramifications of living in a fire adapted forest will be discussed along with the importance of defensible space and evacuation preparedness. The events will support NLTFPD's existing education programs, which include defensible space inspections and neighborhood Fire Adapted Community events.

The project is complementary to the Tahoe Network of Fire Adapted Communities Project (SNPLMA Round 16), and will further serve the Round 18 nomination for the Lake Tahoe Basin Fire Adapted Communities Project . The program provides defensible space inspections, curbside chipping, and implementation assistance to residents in participating fire districts located in the Lake Tahoe Basin. NLTFPD is actively participating in this project.

2. Improves the connection of fuels reduction activities and wildlife habitat.

A. Project connects previously treated areas to create or increase contiguous blocks of treated land.

The project will connect land areas within the perimeter that were previously treated for fuels reduction by NLTFD. It will also reduce fuels in untreated areas to increase contiguous blocks of treated lands. The USFS Incline Hazardous Fuels and Healthy Forest Restoration Project borders the proposed treatment area on three sides with some of the most proximal areas are already treated. Part of the planning component is intended for future treatments on urban lots managed by the USFS, the NV Division of State Lands, Washoe County, and neighborhoods that are actively engaged with hazardous fuels reduction and defensible space activities.

B. Project protects or enhances wildlife habitat and/or resilient vegetative communities.

Wildfire has the potential to damage or destroy suitable habitat for wildlife. Native plants are also at risk as noxious weeds and invasive species tend to spread rapidly following wildfires. The project will reduce the risk of stand-replacing fire in critical habitat areas to avoid these outcomes and protect and enhance wildlife habitat.

The project will alter stand densities to reduce competition among desired tree species, there-by improving their resistance to insects and disease. Prescribed fire induces mortality in shade-tolerant species such as white fir, providing regeneration opportunities for fire-tolerant tree species, such as Jeffrey and ponderosa pine. Prescribed fire can emulate historic patch size and variation, contributing to diverse habitat needs by promoting a structurally diverse forest stand better suited for a wide variety of species in a natural and historic setting.

C. Project enhances the effectiveness of other treatments in progress or complete.

Adjacent to the project area to the east, north, and west is land managed by the USFS. This land is currently being treated as part of the USFS Incline Fuel Reduction and Healthy Forest Restoration Project. Three neighborhoods are interspersed throughout the project area. These neighborhoods are the focus of the Tahoe Network of Fire Adapted Communities Project currently being implemented. Residential private properties are being brought into compliance with defensible space code using a letter system, repeated inspections, and incentives. The Defense Zone Improvement Project will enhance these neighborhood efforts with adjacent fuels treatments. On the opposite side of the adjacent fuels treatments is the ongoing Incline Fuel Reduction and Healthy Forest Restoration Project being carried out by the USFS.

3. Improves sustainability of the multijurisdictional 10-year plans, environment, and financial resources.

A. The Project will:

1. Improve the sustainability of the forest health and ecosystem function (e.g. stand density, desired species mix and age, tree health, etc.)

Like much of the Lake Tahoe Basin, the project area was extensively logged in the late 1800's. Subsequent regeneration and the suppression of frequent, low-intensity wildfire has created an even-aged homogeneous forest with a preponderance of dead-and-down and ladder fuels. Such areas are prone to destructive wildfire and insect epidemics, and lack many of the environmental benefits of a pre-suppression forest stand. Treatments will provide opportunities for pine regeneration, diversification of structure, and will make the stands more resilient to wildfire, insects, and disease.

2. Improve the habitat for sensitive species and Threatened and Endangered species. Includes mitigation and/or minimization measures when treatment in sensitive habitat is unavoidable.

Wildlife surveys have been completed in near-by project areas, and it has been determined that threatened and endangered species are not present in the project area. However, areas of the project have been identified as potentially suitable habitat for the northern goshawk, a sensitive species. Previously completed initial entry treatments have improved habitat suitability for this species and this proposed project will create more suitable habitat and enhance the effects of previous treatments. Consistent with USFS management recommendations for the northern goshawk, prescribed fire will be

used to improve post-fledging forage habitat, and provide nesting opportunities where applicable.

3. Includes broadcast prescribed fire for resource management objectives for sustainable landscapes.

NLTFPD has successfully used understory prescribed fire to treat over 630 acres of private and community land. Staff resources and expertise will allow broadcast/understory fire to be safely and effectively implemented in accordance with an approved Prescribed Fire Burn Plan.

B. The method of treatment is fiscally responsible for the project area by balancing resource objectives, values at risk, and cost per acre factors or cost-benefit analysis.

Treatment methods in the project area are constrained by steep slopes with limited access points for machinery. Hand thinning and pile burning followed by understory prescribed fire is an ideal method for safe and cost-effective reduction of hazardous fuels for these areas while also providing secondary resource benefits.

The Defense Zone Improvement Project will have a direct positive impact on the wildfire survivability of nearby homes. There are 1,786 parcels within one-quarter mile of the project area containing 1,409 private homes. Conservatively, the value of these homes exceeds $600,000,000. Actual home replacement costs would exceed this figure, and the totals do not consider reductions in land valuation following a catastrophic wildfire, nor other economic impacts.

South Lake Tahoe's Angora Fire in 2007 burned 3,071 acres, destroyed 254 homes, and incurred an estimated $150,000,000 in property loss and $12,000,000 in suppression costs. Post-treatment fuels conditions will allow firefighters to safely contain ignition within the project area during the initial attack phase, and provide containment opportunities for large fires approaching the project area, thereby preventing a disaster similar to the Angora Fire.

4. Demonstrates sound project management and quality control measures.

A. Project goals and implementation processes are clear, measurable, achievable, and demonstrable.

The Defense Zone Improvement Project is a targeted nomination with clear goals and objectives. The treatment will result in reduced hazardous fuels on at least 210, but not more than 620 acres of land within the WUI Defense Zone of Incline Village and Crystal Bay, NV. Treatments will result in reduced surface fire behavior and crown fire potential.

The Prescribed Fire Burn Plan is the guiding document for the implementation of pile burning and understory prescribed fire, and includes all necessary measures to ensure a safe burn that meets objectives, and mitigates negative impacts to wildlife, water and

air quality, forest health, and cultural resources. Monitoring and analysis will ensure that the predicted fire behavior of treated areas meets objectives. Mitigations for negative impacts will be developed in coordination with permitting agencies and included in the plan. Treatment types, dates, and acreage will be added to an existing treatment database accessed through ArcGIS. This database holds treatment history for the lands we manage and is utilized in treatment planning. This information is displayed on maps to display our treatment history internally and for public facing opportunities.

The planning component allows for time to coordinate with other federal, state, and private landowners to address excessive fuel loading on lands that we currently cannot access. Much discussion has taken place, but a concerted effort to get agreements in place is one of the goals with this project. We will be seeking agreements from the NV Department of Transportation for future work on highway corridors; Washoe County for road easements, urban lots, and school properties, and from the USFS for a Good Neighbor or similar agreement to allow for fuels reduction work on urban lots, and other critical areas. We will also be engaging several private property owners that collectively pose a fire risk, to gain an agreement to conduct fuels reduction work on their properties, that may include cable yarding.

NLTFPD is actively monitoring over 300 permanent plots within the project area as part of their ongoing projects. The rapid assessment monitoring protocol provides basic vegetation and fuel loading data to ensure fuels reduction objectives are being met. The data is being used to determine changes in fuel loading due to various treatment types and to establish processes for prioritizing prescribed fire treatments over time based fuel loading, site characteristics, and vegetative response to fire.

B. Project proponent has the capacity to implement this project in a timely manner (contractor and staff availability, no backlog of current project, etc.) and within budget.

NLTFPD provides all-risk emergency services to the Incline Village and Crystal Bay communities, as well as fire prevention, fuels management, and public education programs. The district's Wildland Division staffs 50 seasonal wildland firefighters that implement local fuels reduction projects and respond nationally to wildfires. NLTFPD staff includes a full-time fuels management officer, forester, fuels specialist and compliance officer to facilitate project permitting, design, management, and reporting. The division chief is an NWCG-certified Type 2 Prescribed Fire Burn Boss that develops prescribed fire burn plans, supervises understory burns, and manages crew operations.

Since 2001 NLTFPD has successfully completed over 40 projects funded by Nevada State Fire Assistance grants, USFS non-federal lands grants, and former rounds of SNPLMA. Project work entailed prescribed understory fire, hand thinning, mechanical treatments, and community education projects. Initial hand thinning treatments have occurred on over 1000 acres, along with the completion of understory burns on over 630 acres of private and community land. The fuels reduction projects that NLTFPD is

currently engaged in are nearing completion, and the staff is eager to further manifest their mission.

Using former project records and improved project tracking methodology, NLTFPD staff can confidently incorporate the Defense Zone Improvement Project into their annual work-load. Two 20-person wildland firefighting crews will be available for fuels reduction project work. One crew can typically complete 50 acres of hand thinning within a field season, making for an average of 100 acres to be treated with hand thinning each year. Other on-going projects will require 20-30 acres of treatments per year, allowing for up to 80 acres to be treated each year for the Defense Zone Improvement Project. In 2020 NLTFPD initiated the Incline Hand Crew with 10 crew members, and an additional 10 will be added to this crew for 2021. They are working under the NV Energy contract to reduce fuels along powerline corridors to promote powerline resiliency. This crew also has the flexibility to be reassigned and may contribute to the Defense Zone Improvement Project if necessary.

C. Is a phase or related component to a previously funded project.

The project is a stand-alone nomination and is not a phase in a previously funded SNPLMA project.

The project is a related component of several hand thinning or first entry treatments previously completed by NLTFPD. It will better connect and enhance these treatments and it will provide understory prescribed fire as a secondary treatment. Additionally, the NV Regional Fuels Reduction Project (SNPLMA 16) is currently addressing the wildfire threat on eastern side of Incline Village, and SNPLMA Round 18 will address the wildfire threat along the northern side of town.

D. Has identified committed non-SNPLMA sources of funding or in-kind contribution in the development and/or implementation of the project.

The $1,222,257 request from SNPLMA for the Defense Zone Improvement Project will be supported by funding sources from IVGID, NV Energy, and an in-kind contribution NLTFPD to reach $611,263

Maps:

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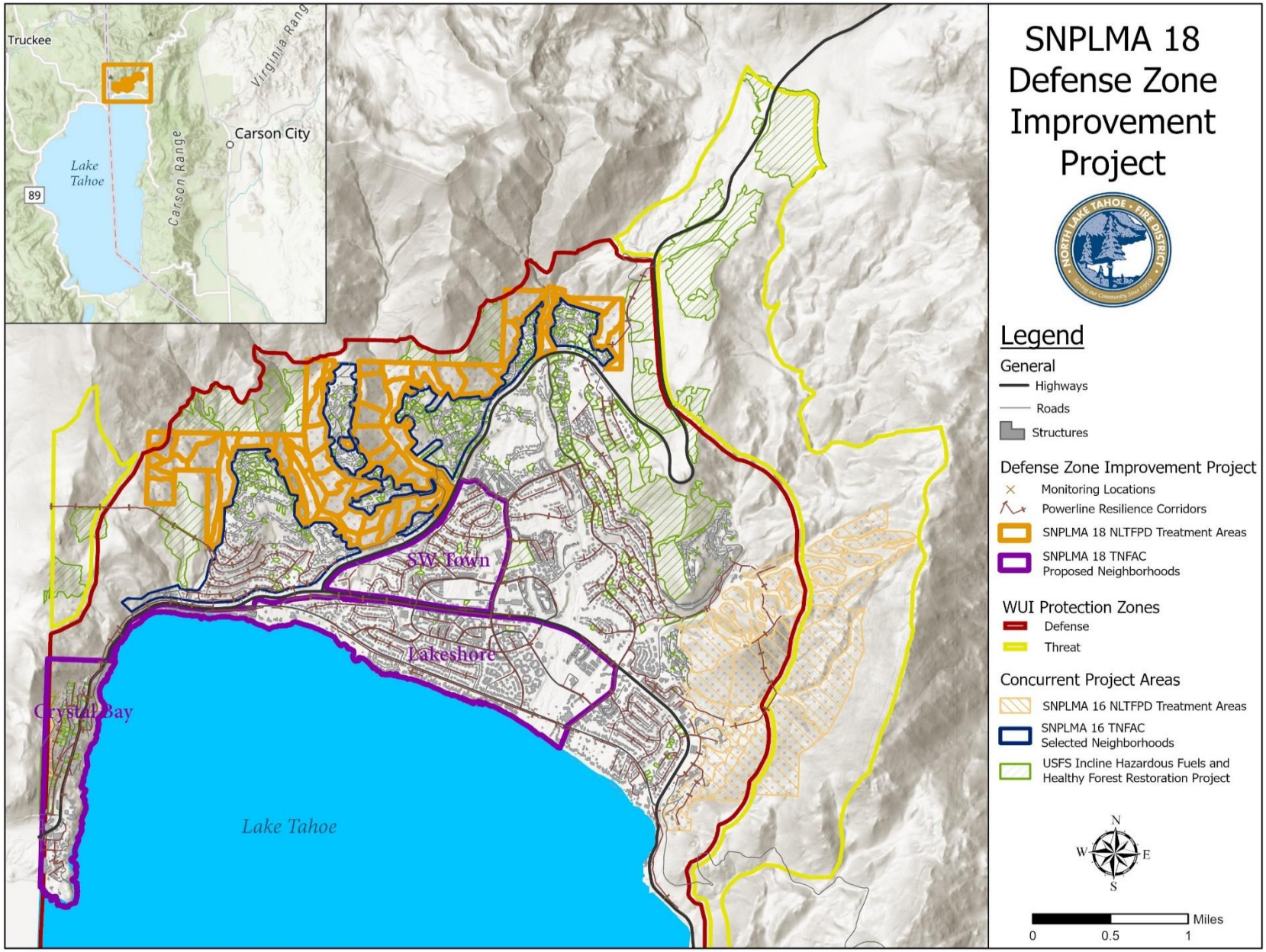
SNPLMA 18
Defense Zone
Improvement
Project
Legend
General
Highways
Roads
Structures
Defense Zone Improvement Project
Monitoring Locations
Powerline Resilience Corridors
SNPLMA 18 NLTFPD Treatment Areas
SNPLMA 18 TNFAC
Proposed Neighborhoods
WUI Protection Zones
Defense
Threat
Concurrent Project Areas
SNPLMA 16 NLTFPD Treatment Areas
SNPLMA 16 TNFAC
Selected Neighborhoods
USFS Incline Hazardous Fuels and
Healthy Forest Restoration Project
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Carson City
Lake
Tahoe
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Carson Range
Virginia Rang
SW Town
Lakeshore
Crystal Bay
Lake Tahoe

Letters of Support:

INCLINE VILLAGE
GENERAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

August 25, 2020

North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District
866 Oriole Way
Incline Village, NV 89451

Attention of Fire Chief Ryan Sommers

Dear Chief Sommers:

The Incline Village General Improvement District (IVGID) is pleased to support the Defensible Space (Fuels Management) Program conducted by the North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District (NLTFPD).

IVGID is a large land owner within the area served by NLTFPD and we appreciate the efforts made by NLTFPD to leverage our annual commitment of up to $200,000, which is typically authorized each year by our Board of Trustees, to this important community project. Our area, which includes the communities of Incline Village and Crystal Bay, are a safer place because of the services provided by the NLTFPD.

IVGID looks forward to the continuation of our mutually beneficial working relationship for many more years to come.

Sincerely,

Indra S. Winquest
IVGID General Manager

cc: IVGID Board of Trustees (5)
J. Nelson

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES · 893 SOUTHWOOD BOULEVARD · INCLINE VILLAGE, NV 89451
PH: (775) 832-1100 FX: (775) 832-1122 · WWW.YOURTAHOEPLACE.COM

August 21, 2020

North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District
866 Oriole Way
Incline Village, NV 89451

Attention: Ryan Sommers
Fire Chief

Subject: Letter of Commitment for Defense Zone Improvement Project

Chief Sommers,

This letter certifies that Sierra Pacific Power Company DBA NV Energy is committed to meet the matching fund requirements for the Defense Zone Improvement Project. If this nomination is awarded to North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District, matching funds will be made through a commitment up to $210,000 during the period of performance of the project.

Additionally, I certify that funds will be expended solely on NV Energy property and/or easements on non-federal lands within NLTFPD's jurisdiction during implementation of hazardous fuels reduction work. I further certify that matching funds are non-federal funds.

Please contact me if you have any question. I can be reached at 775-430-0902 or mregan@nvenergy.com.

Sincerely,

Mark Regan
Fire Mitigation Specialist / Fire Chief
NV Energy

August 28, 2020

Bureau of Land Management
Southern Nevada District Office
4701 North Torrey Pines Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89130

Attention: Robert Taylor
Conservation Initiatives, Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention & Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project

Subject: Letter of Commitment for Defense Zone Improvement Project

Dear Mr. Taylor,

This letter certifies that North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District is committed to meet the matching fund requirements for the Defense Zone Improvement Project. If this nomination is awarded to North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District, an in-kind labor contribution will be made through a commitment up to $88,347.00 during the period of performance of the project.

Additionally, I certify that the in-kind contribution will be matched solely on personnel costs conducting planning work for hazardous fuels reduction. I further certify that matching funds are non-federal funds. Agency overhead costs are not included as in-kind contributions.

Should you have any questions please contact me at 775-831-0351 or rsommers@nltfpd.net.

Sincerely,

Ryan Sommers
Fire Chief
North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District

North Lake Tahoe
Fire Protection
District

866 Oriole Way
Incline Village, NV
89451

775/831-0351
Fax 775/831-2072
www.nltfpd.net

Ryan Sommers
Fire Chief

Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act
Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention
Round 18

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District

East Mount Rose Corridor - Non-Federal Lands

Amount Requested: $786,435

Timeframe: 6 Years
Location: 39.33699 / -119.87262
Congressional District NV-2

Contact: August Isernhagen
Division Chief – Wildfire and Fuels
Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District
3663 Barron Way
Reno, NV 89511
(775) 741-0372
aisernhagen@tmfpd.us

Purpose Statement:

The Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District will implement hazardous fuels reduction, defensible space, and ecologic function and habitat improvements on 100 to 200 acres of City, County, and private-owned land along the Mount Rose corridor, through: the removal of dead brush and timber, the thinning of live brush and timber, removal of ladder fuels, and restoration of aspen stands. Access and egress routes and defensibility of roadways will also be improved. In addition, the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District will conduct public education and outreach through the promotion of Nevada Network of Fire Adapted Communities and Living with Fire initiatives, and invasive species mitigation.

Background info to support the need:

The Area - This proposal treats several dozen properties, however given its position on the slope to the south west of Reno, Nevada and the downwind communities of Arrow Creek, Joy Lake, and Montreux, the number of properties benefiting from this project are substantially larger. Historically the most catastrophic fires in the Truckee Meadows approach from the Sierras from the west and south due to low pressure systems approaching and zephyr winds.

The Agency - Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District has initiated a Wildfire and Fuels Division whose primary mission is fuels mitigation in unincorporated Washoe County. The Division consists of approximately 20 personnel and multiple pieces of equipment. Funding sources are currently the District itself, and NV Energy.

The Fuel - Fuel models are typically timber with intermittent brush components. Timber consists of *Pinus pondersa, Pinus jeffreyi,* and *Abies concolor*. Intermittent stands of *Populus tremuloides* and *Libocedrus decurrens* also exist. Mature stands of all timber types encroach on the highway and private properties. Sky Tavern itself consists of stringers of timber and fields of brush in the ski runs themselves. The entire project is high, on the east side of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, with steep slopes, narrow winding access, and limited water supply making the area susceptible to catastrophic wildland fire. Fire exclusion, the addition of homes, and the maintenance of the resort have resulted in moderate to heavy brush loading and establishment of fir and other shade tolerant species, contributing to ladder fuels and encroaching on aspen stands.

Sky Tavern - Sky Tavern is an immensely popular ski school for children for all income and socio-economic status levels in Washoe County. It promotes the love of outdoor recreation to youth that would otherwise have very limited exposure. Both Sky Tavern and the private properties adjoin Mount Rose Highway.

The Highway - Mount Rose Highway is one of five main roads into and out of the Tahoe Basin. It is the closest egress for citizens in Incline Village. Defensibility of the highway and maintenance of it as a fuel break and an effective access route for incoming fire response, and egress for exiting public is crucial. Both Sky Tavern and the private properties adjoin Mount Rose Highway.

Adjoining Work - The proposed project area is also surrounded by a substantial United States Forest Service project currently in the planning phase, which in turn also ties into previously performed and currently planned work on University and State property to the south. Currently NV Energy, the local power utility has committed over four million dollars for fuels work in Washoe County. This work is being conducted by the same Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District staff as this proposal and builds fire breaks along powerline infrastructure. Approximately $200,000 of this money is allocated for fuels reduction abutting this proposed project.

Relationship to prior approved phases or related SNPLMA projects and anticipated future phases:

As previously mentioned, there are numerous projects planned that adjoin this proposal. There is lack of information on anything that has previously occurred. This project is stand alone, however in the future other projects will be proposed for county and private land continuing down slope along the highway, eventually creating a break from summit to below the tree line.

Deliverables:

Primary Deliverables – Primary deliverables are contingent upon final results of planning.

1) Treatment of 100-200 acres of Wildland Urban Interface hazardous fuels between the two priority level locations.
2) Defensible space establishment/improvement on a minimum of 15 private parcels.
3) Three public outreach events to discuss Nevada Network of Fire Adapted Communities and Living with Fire.
4) Elimination of invasive flora on treated parcels.

Anticipated Deliverables – Anticipated deliverables are contingent upon final results of planning.

1) The development of a Nevada Network of Fire Adapted Communities Chapter in the area of Sky Tavern.
2) Treatment of further private acreage/parcels moving down the Mount Rose Corridor.

Standard Deliverables

- Consultation regarding endangered species.
- Consultation regarding historic sites.

Project Timeframe:

Timeframe from award to completion will be less than the allotted six years.

Level of Project Readiness for Implementation:

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District has hired the personnel and purchased the equipment to complete the project. Prescriptions have been written and initial contacts and agreements been made. This project is ready to be implemented upon the arrival of funding and consultation clearance.

Implementation Process Description:

Initial contact and agreements have already been made with Sky Tavern and some of the homeowners. The next steps will include consultation to ensure the lack of endangered species and historic sites on the properties and identification of any "no-work" zones. Subsequently a community outreach event will be scheduled with Nevada Network of Fire Adapted Communities and Living with Fire to educate the community, make more contacts, and obtain more agreements. During the implementation phase, crews will perform hand work and masticators will perform machine work where terrain allows. Project focus will begin at the highest elevations and connect with NV Energy fuel breaks, working downslope. All dead brush will be removed. Live brush will be removed by approximately 50%. The majority of dead and downed timber will be removed, however some will be left for wildlife habitat. All firs will be removed from pine, cedar, and aspen understories. Materials will be chipped on site, hauled away, or burned.

Future Operations and Maintenance:

No answer.

Partnerships and/or contributed funds:

Matching/Contributed Funds – In addition to NV Energy funds, the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District has already hired personnel and purchased equipment. Management personnel time and equipment operating costs will be incurred by the District, acting as an "in kind" match. Specific amounts are not yet known.

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Funding Requested Budget Detail:

ROUND 18

HAZARDOUS FUELS AND WILDFIRE PREVENTION NOMINATION

ESTIMATED DIRECT COSTS & KEY MILESTONES

Project Name:	**='General project Info'!B3**	**Date prepared:**	**9/14/2020**
		Agency:	**='General project Info'!B10**
Project #	***Assigned by SNPLMA***	**Priority #:**	***Assigned by SNPLMA***
Prepared by:	**='General project Info'!B8**	**Phone #:**	**775-741-0372**
Title/position:	='General project Info'!B9		

1	**Planning & Environmental Documentation**	$30,360	3.86%
	Includes labor for surveys/reports for cultural, natural, biological, archaeological, historical resources, etc. and preparation of NEPA documentation and the decision document. Does not include on-going compliance monitoring (see Direct Labor #3)		
2	**FWS Consultation - Endangered Species Act**	$6,000	0.76%
	Direct expenses for FWS consultation. *Includes all labor, agreements, and costs for Section 7 review and approval.*		
3	**Direct Federal Labor to Implement Project (Payroll)**	$0	0.00%
	For interagency projects, identify a primary team lead and the lead agency for consultation/coordination and individual agency leads responsible for entering progress and reports into SMART.		
4	**Project Equipment and/or Supplies and Materials**	$50,204	6.38%
	Equipment, supplies or materials necessary to complete the project that are not included in contracts/agreements. Includes lease or rental of equipment/vehicles.		
5	**Travel and Per Diem for Implementation**	$0	0.00%
	Includes all necessary travel for training and implementation of the project. Training costs for tuition, materials, etc. are identified in item #7 below		
6	**Official Vehicle Use (vehicles with Federal license only)**	$45,963	5.84%
	Estimated costs for routine maintenance agency vehicles, leased or rental equipment, oil and gas, tires, etc. Does not include replacement cost		
7	**Training (required to implement the project)**	$17,010	2.16%
	Includes training essential/necessary for implementation of the project.		
8	**Contracts, Grants, and/or Agreements**	$0	0.00%
	CESU, IGO, Assistance agreements, Task Orders, and contracts for implementation of the project. Also includes all costs for construction/implementation of the plan. The period of performance for grants or agreements and contracts must not extend pas the approved period of performance in the approved Work Plan. Final invoices and de-obligation of unexpended funds must be paid and sub agreements and contracts closed prior to submitting the request for closeout		
9	**District Personnel Cost**	$636,898	80.99%
	(See Appendix B-11)		
	Total requested/estimated budget	**$786,435**	**100.00%**
10	**Estimated agency or partner contribution**	$15,403	
	Total Estimated project value	$801,838	

Performance Measures:

None provided.

Executive Committee Strategic Plan Values:

The project addresses the three Executive Committee values as follows:

- Sustainability – Areas of the project have not been treated since the Comstock and are overgrown and unhealthy, and therefor susceptible to disease, bark beetle infestation, and crown fire. This project will restore vigor to both the conifer and aspen stands by removing fuels that would naturally have been consumed by historic fire regimes. Water and macro-nutrients will be released for consumption by healthier specimens on site, creating a healthier, less likely to burn, and in the end more sustainable site.
- Connectivity – Connectivity is addressed in two elements, hazardous fuels itself, and connecting with people. The project connects numerous previous and planned fuel breaks. At the conclusion of all proposed projects, consistent fuels work will have been performed from Little Valley to the range above Arrowcreek. Connectivity with people results from interaction with the public through project planning, project implementation, and community events.
- Community – In addition to elements described in connectivity, the community will be strengthened through events, meetings, and hopefully the development of a Nevada Network or Fire Adapted Communities Chapter.

Compliance with Departmental and Agency Priorities, Strategic Goals, Executive Orders, and Secretarial Orders:

The fuels reduction project at Sky Tavern aligns with the following Departmental and Agency Priorities and Strategic Goals:

- "Sustainably develop our energy and natural resources" – Through the reduction in hazardous fuels, the development and use of natural resources both in Sky Tavern and in the surrounding area will be maintained in a sustainable way. Skiers and mountain bikers will continue to utilize the area and resources for recreation and it will remain defensible in fire.
- "Restore trust and be a good neighbor" – Through the mitigation of hazardous fuels and the resulting increase in property safety of both Sky Tavern and the privately owned parcels around it, the community and public will gain trust and faith in our National, State, and Local governments.
- "Being good neighbors and providing excellent customer service" – Through the mitigation of hazardous fuels and the resulting increase in property safety of both Sky Tavern and the privately owned parcels around it, the community and public will gain trust and faith in our National, State, and Local governments.
- "Promoting shared stewardship by increasing partnerships and volunteerism" – Through utilization of the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District's new Fuels Division, both Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act and Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District will be gaining a new collaborative partner. Neither have worked together in the

past and the new relationship has many opportunities for growth. During public outreach events and the creation of a Nevada Network of Fire Adapted Communities Chapter, volunteerism is guaranteed from the local communities.

- "Improving the condition of forests and grasslands" – This project will return both the conifer and aspen areas of the land to more of a pre-European state. Primary benefits will include but won't be limited to: reduction of brush loading, reduction of timber stocking levels, removal of shade tolerant species, and overall increased survivability during the occurrence of wildland fire.
- "Enhancing recreation opportunities, improving access, and sustain infrastructure" – By making the area more fire resilient, this project ensures the continued availability of the ski school and bike resort. As mentioned above, the ski school is open to all socio-economic and ability levels of children. This resorts existence directly affects the outdoor recreation opportunities for city raised children, and this proposed project in turn, directly supports the resort's safety and very existence.

Ranking Criteria:

Following are areas where I feel our proposal matches ranking criteria:

1. "Improves the community within and/or adjacent to the project area"
    A. All of the Sky Tavern proposal is within .25 mile of life and property in an "extreme hazard" zone as defined by the International Wildland Urban Interface Code.
    B. This project has riparian zones going through it. The work and resulting fire management that is possible, ensures water shed integrity.
    C. Our proposal has education and public outreach relating to Living with Fire and Nevada Network of Fire Adapted Communities built into it.
2. "Improves the connection of fuels reduction activities and wildlife habitat"
    A. No answer.
    B. The Sky Tavern proposal protects and enhances wildlife habitat through decreased likelihood of stand replacing fire and even more so, by the restoration of aspen stands and hydrologic function.
    C. Our proposal is a small component of other, substantially larger fuels mitigation projects being performed and planned by the: State of Nevada, University of Nevada, Reno, United States Forest Service, and NV Energy.
3. "Improves sustainability of the multijurisdictional 10-year plans, environment, and financial resources"
    A. The Sky Tavern project improves sustainability and forest health as described throughout the proposal.
    B. Our proposal is fiscally responsible and balances the resources at risk with the benefits proposed.
4. "Demonstrates sound project management and quality control measures"
    A. The Sky Tavern project lists specific, measurable, and attainable goals.
    B. As mentioned, Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District already has the staff on payroll and the equipment in possession to complete the proposal.
    C. No answer.

D. NV Energy is spending considerably money in the adjacent areas, utilizing our personnel and equipment to multiply the impact of the proposed work. The Project Manager has a secondary education in Forest Ecology and Range Management and approximately 20 years in natural resource management and fuels projects.

Location:

Latitude/Longitude 39.33699* X -119.87262* (see attached maps)

The primary proposed sites consist of the City owned, but non-profit ran, Sky Tavern Ski Resort and the closest approximately 80 private properties moving downslope to the north and east of the resort. An additional "secondary" approximate 10 properties have been identified further north and east. These secondary targets will be treated if the primary are complete and funds remain or if factors prevent primary completion.

Maps:

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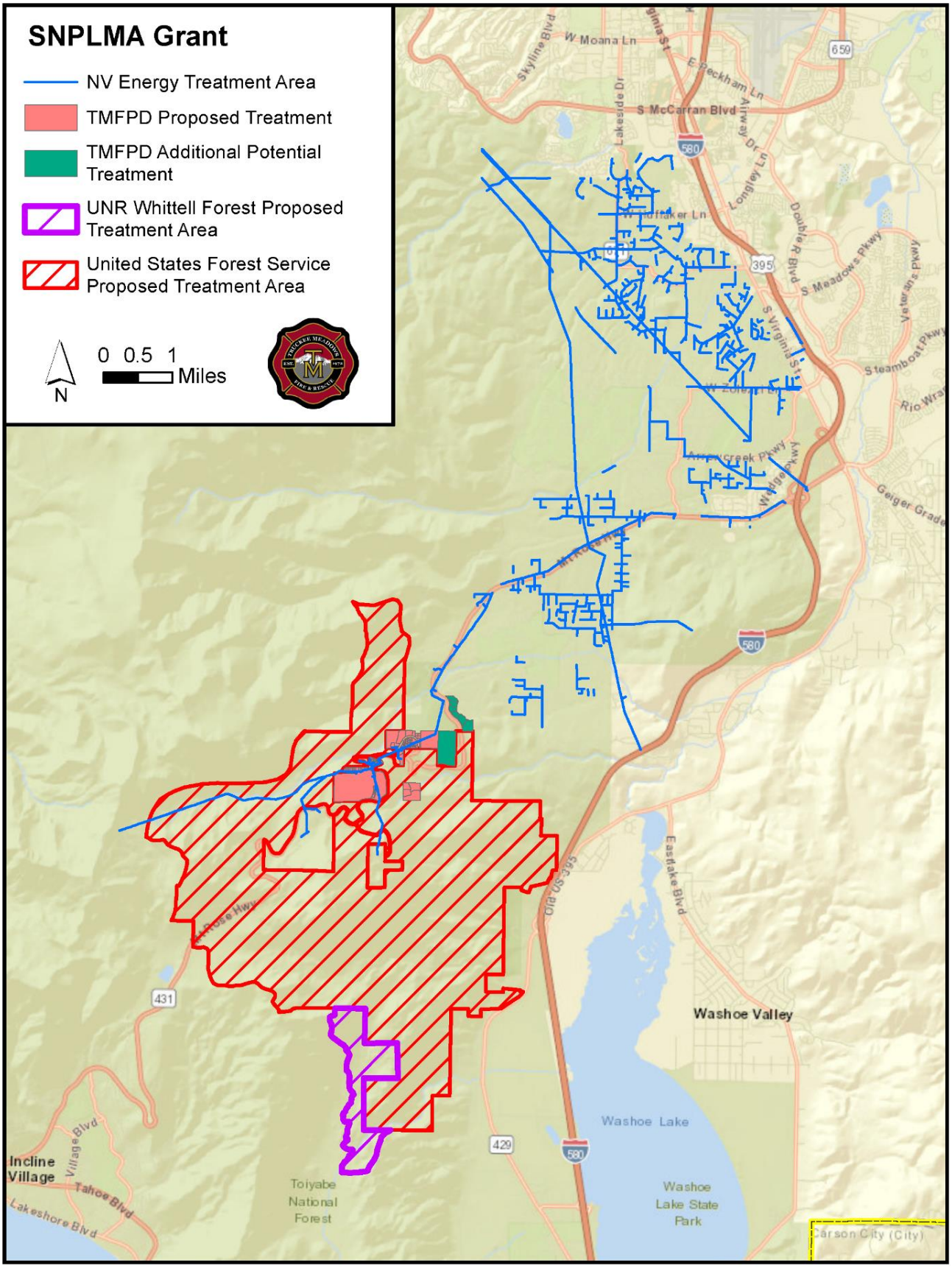

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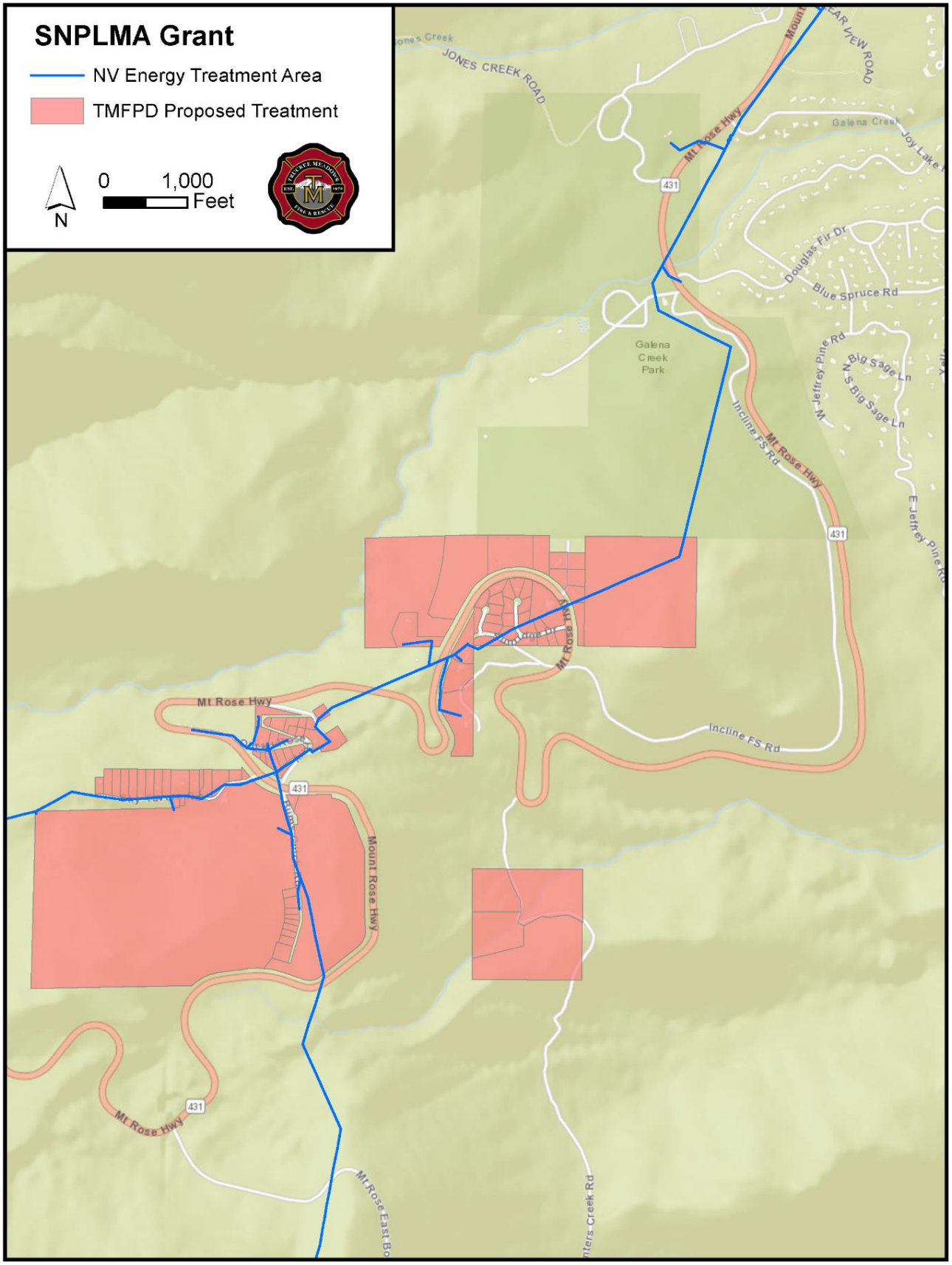

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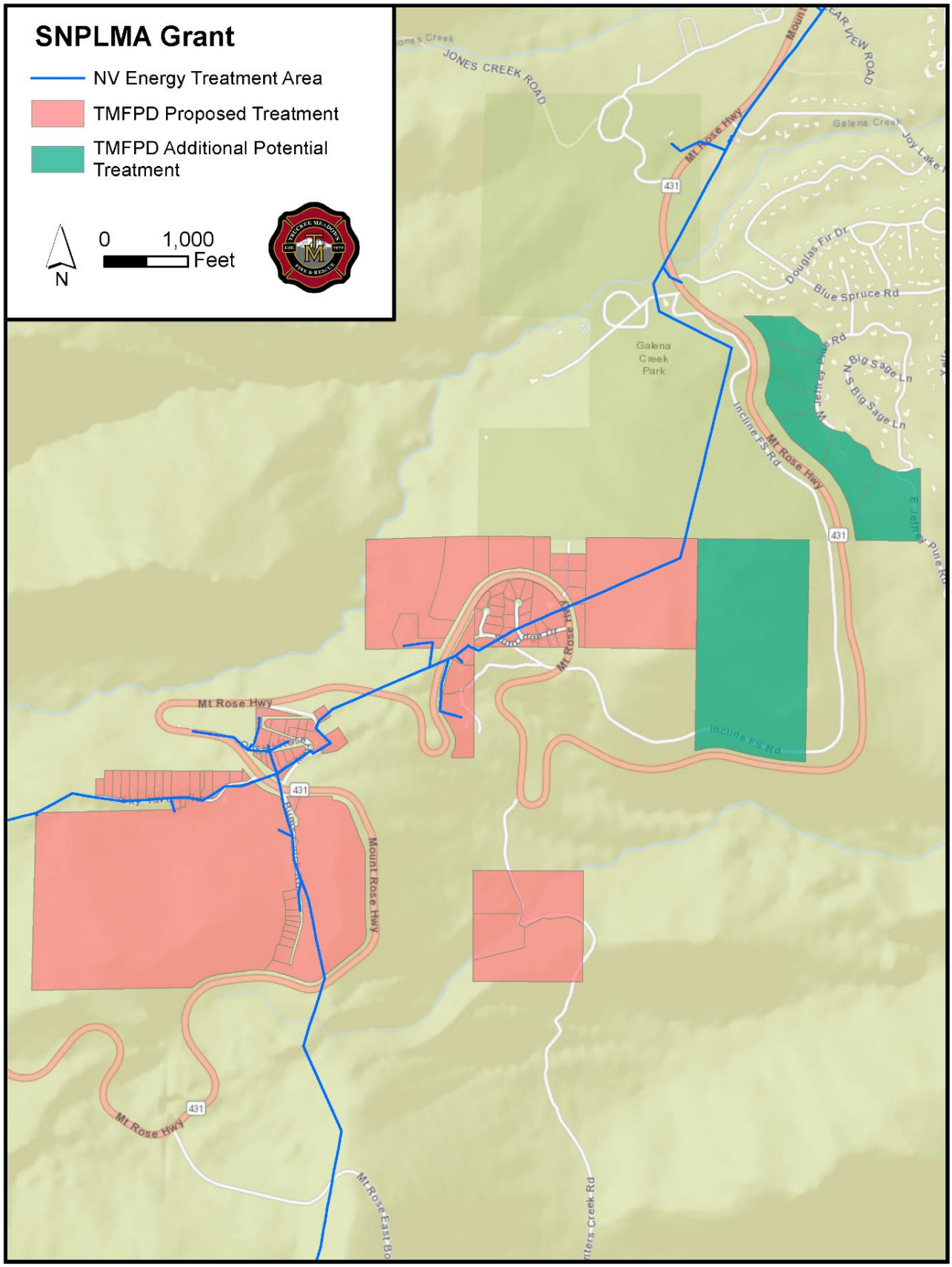

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Letters of Support:

September 9, 2020

Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act Management
Bureau of Land Management
SNPLMA Division
4701 N. Torrey Pines Drive
Las Vegas, Nevada 89130

Attention: Robert Taylor
Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention

Subject: Letter of Commitment for Truckee Meadows Mount Rose Corridor Fuels Project

Mr. Taylor,

This letter is in regards to Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District's (TMFPD) application for SNPLMA grant funding in pursuit of fuels mitigation along the Mount Rose Highway; and in turn, the support of Sierra Pacific Power Company DBA NV Energy.

NV Energy has committed $4,318,999.72 and is in the process of committing an additional $593,145.73 to fuels management projects near NV Energy infrastructure in Washoe County. Roughly $200,000 of this is allocated for work in the area proposed for SNPLMA funding. The collaborative funding of NV Energy and SNPLMA dollars, combined with planned projects on United States Forest Service, University of Nevada Reno, and Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District will make substantial gains in fuels reduction, protecting our infrastructure.

NV Energy fully supports this initiative and hopes to collaboratively fund it with the SNPLMA Program

Please contact me if you have any questions. I can be reached at 775-430-0902, or mregan@nvenergy.com

Sincerely,

Mark Regan
Fire Mitigation Specialist / Fire Chief
NV Energy

P.O. BOX 98910, LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89151-0001 6226 WEST SAHARA AVENUE, LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89146
P.O. BOX 10100, RENO, NEVADA 89520-0024 6100 NEIL ROAD, RENO, NEVADA 89511 nvenergy.com

September 10, 2020

RE: SNPLMA Grant Funding

Dear Committee Members:

Sky Tavern is a community asset outdoor recreation area managed and maintained exclusively by a nonprofit 501c3. With a volunteer base of over five-hundred parents and grandparents Sky Tavern has taught snow sports and summer activities to the youth of Nevada since 1948.

Mission: Sky Tavern is a nonprofit regional center providing exceptional summer & winter outdoor sports training, competitions, recreation & events accessible to all.

Vision: To be a community asset that promotes a child's growth & success through exposure to outdoor sports and recreation, no matter the personal challenges.

Put simply, Sky Tavern gets kids outside that would normally be stuck at home in front of a screen.

The nonprofit is 100% responsible for the grounds, buildings, and lifts but inherited a large amount of forest with choking growth, some bordering homes. Over the last few years, under the guidance of a retired BLM forester, we have thinned several sections, but some areas are too difficult for volunteers to coop with. We are supporting Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District's grant request so that Sky Tavern can continue to put what little financial resources it has where it needs to go, into the kids of Nevada. Please contact me at any time if you have questions about Sky Tavern. It is a fairly unique entity.

Thank you for your consideration and efforts.

Bill Henderson
Executive Director/General Manager
Sky Tavern Inc.
EIN: 88-0275590

Sky Tavern Inc. A 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Corporation

21130 Mt.Rose Highway, Reno, NV 89511
Phone (775) 323-5125
www.skytavern.org info@skytavern.com

David R Cochran
Fire Chief

CITY OF RENO
EST. 1888
FIRE DEPT

Tray Palmer
Fire Marshal

To: **August Isernhagen**
Division Chief – Wildland Fuels
Truckee Meadows Fire and Rescue

From: **Tray Palmer, Fire Marshal**
Reno Fire Department

Date: **09/11/2020**

Subj: **Wildland mitigation at Sky Tavern**

Chief,

The purpose of this memo is to show our support and appreciation for the SNPLMA application for fuel mitigation at Sky Tavern and all of the private grounds around it. This work will help protect the Sky Tavern and properties around it from our increasing threats of wildfire.

Please continue coordinating your operations with Sky Tavern management and Parks and Recreation Director Jaimie Schroeder so we can assist with whatever needs you have. Jaime's contact is:

Jaime Schroeder, MBA, CPRP, AFO
Director
City of Reno | Parks and Recreation
(775) 657-4653
1 E 1st Street - 11th Floor
Reno, NV 89501

Please contact me if you have any further questions. Again, thank you for the hard work and dedication to keeping our community safe.

Sincerely,

Tray Palmer, Fire Marshal
palmert@reno.gov

SNPLMA Round 18
Fuels– Tahoe Resource Conservation District Addendum

Nomination: Tab 4

Entity: Tahoe Resource Conservation District

Project: Fire Adapted Communities – Lake Tahoe Basin

Revision: The Partners Working Group's (PWG) recommendation was to fund 50 percent of this scalable nomination. This would meet a reasonable overall funding level established by the Executive Committee and still recommend the best of the best nominations.

The initial nomination budget request is $8,705,302. Therefore, PWG's recommendation is funding $4,352,651; whereby, the scope of the nomination would be downscaled to reflect the recommended funding amount.

Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act
Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention
Round 18

Tahoe Resource Conservation District

Fire Adapted Communities – Lake Tahoe Basin

Amount Requested: $8,705,302

Timeframe: 6 Years
Location: 39.00.00 / -120.00.00
Congressional District: NV-2, CA-4

Contact: Nicole Shaw
Phone:530-543-1501 x. 129
Fax: 530-543-1660
Email:nshaw@tahoercd.org

Purpose Statement:

The Tahoe Resource Conservation District (Tahoe RCD) will deliver a coordinated Lake Tahoe Basin Fire Adapted Communities Project, including extensive community engagement, outreach, and assistance through the Tahoe Network of Fire Adapted Communities (Tahoe Network) that will result in increased wildfire prevention and preparedness through the completion of fire defensible space treatments reducing hazardous fuels on private parcels across 400 to 2,500 acres through community assistance and implementation of the Tahoe Network. Private parcel fuels reduction will be focused on communities where fuels reduction projects are planned in adjacent community forestry projects. The total project area is within the Lake Tahoe Basin and includes approximately 32,275 parcels (1/4 acre or less in size), with an estimated 4,435 acres (See Project and Connectivity Map on page 20).

Background info to support the need:

The Lake Tahoe Basin Fire Adapted Communities Project (Project) will integrate and connect with other Lake Tahoe Basin projects that cross agency boundaries, span private and public property and landscapes, and expand prior phases of Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention project implementation. This Nomination was developed in coordination with the Tahoe Fire & Fuels Team (TFFT) and the Multi- Agency Coordinating Group (MAC). Through coordinated implementation of the Lake Tahoe Basin Multi-Jurisdictional Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Strategy (Multi-Jurisdictional Strategy), this Project will promote Fire Adapted Communities in areas of high wildfire threat by fostering strong working partnerships between agencies conducting fuels reduction projects and implementation of fire prevention and preparedness in vulnerable communities.

The further development and support of Fire Adapted Communities, in connection with fuels reduction in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI), will improve the safety of residents and the firefighters who respond to fires because restored forest health will serve as a surrogate for historically frequent, low-intensity wildfire while minimizing a potential catastrophic wildfire. Communities will be supported through continued education on wildfire prevention and preparedness, specific and direct resources to achieve fire defensible space and home hardening, and a connection to neighbors and resources through Tahoe Network of Fire Adapted Communities (Tahoe Network) events, workshops, and workdays.

Objectives of this Project will accomplish fire prevention activities in communities across the landscape enhancing vegetation, soils, habitat and watershed resources to ensure near- and long-term benefits. Within the WUI Defense Zone, this Nomination proposes up to 25,000 fire defensible space inspections and up to 15,000 residential chipping services on private properties, correlating to up to 2,500 and 600 acres respectively throughout the Lake Tahoe Basin. To achieve these objectives, community assistance will be offered, a robust education and outreach plan will be expanded and implemented, and comprehensive databases will be maintained and updated to track and streamline reporting and effectiveness of fire prevention activities.

Wildland fire prevention and preparedness programs in the Lake Tahoe Basin are intended to reduce the chances of home ignition by reducing wildland fuels and reducing opportunities for

structure ignition, and then by increasing the resilience of the landscape. The project implements priority actions in the Lake Tahoe Basin Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), and covers the wildland-urban interface for all Lake Tahoe Basin fire protection districts and departments. This plan provides mitigation strategies and community-driven action plans to help create communities where citizens are engaged and active in preparing for and preventing wildfire. It facilitates interagency cooperation and strengthens communication and support between agencies and the public.

The CWPP provides prioritized locations for fuels reduction treatments, enabling land managers to effectively work across jurisdictions and address risks to ecosystems and communities at a landscape scale. With agencies working collaboratively, wildland-urban interface projects completed, defensible space around homes being more diligently pursued, more engaged community involvement, and the expansion of fire adapted communities, there is evidence that the Lake Tahoe Basin has made great progress and continues to gain momentum and dramatically increase our odds of surviving the next wildfire. However, much work remains to be done. The work of fuels reduction, defensible space, wildfire prevention, disaster planning, and public education is still an ongoing process.

Relationship to prior approved phases or related SNPLMA projects and anticipated future phases:

This Nomination will result in a stand-alone, viable project. Tahoe RCD acknowledges that there is neither guarantee nor expectation of funding for future phases. The total cost of all previous phases is $10,844,307 and is described below.

During the mid-1990s a widespread and growing recognition emerged recognizing the threat of wildfire to human life and property was escalating rapidly. Fire services began to speak openly about the number and intensity of wildfires that threatened existing human life and homes in the WUI were pressing their capability to levels previously unexperienced. To address this reality, the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension's Living With Fire program held a statewide conference which resulted in a resolution calling for "the establishment of a statewide fire safe council to provide support throughout Nevada to help make homes, neighborhoods, and communities' fire safe." As a result, the Nevada Fire Safe Council (NVFSC) was formed in August 2000 and served the entire Lake Tahoe Basin. During the ensuing ten years, the NVFSC utilized the formation of affiliated community chapters to establish working partnerships with highly threatened communities based on a foundation of mutually shared responsibilities and commitments. Unfortunately, in November 2012, following a review of fiscal policies and financial management practices the NVFSC was forced to close its doors. Over the intervening years the reaction to the loss of the NVFSC varied from an effort to maintain and expand the wildfire threat mitigation work that was accomplished, to a virtual disappearance of all activity.

While the effective engagement of vulnerable communities faltered, the threat of wildfire to life, property, and natural resources did not. The need to revitalize and reenergize a viable community partnership with the fire service was acknowledged between former community chapter leaders and fire service personnel. The importance of this partnership has also been documented in numerous plans and reports. Specifically, the 2014 Lake Tahoe Community Wildfire Protection

Plan clearly identifies the development of Fire Adapted Communities as one of the fundamental pillars of a workable protection strategy.

The process to create a Basin-wide Fire Adapted Community organization included the recognition that former NVFSC Chapter leaders held a collective treasure of valuable knowledge and experience that could be utilized to set the foundation for the rebuilding process. To capture and categorize this knowledge, personal one-on-one interviews were conducted. Out of the original fifty NVFSC Chapters, twenty-seven former leaders participated in the interviews. Nineteen of the 27 leaders reported that they were still seen by the community they serve as the leader for the effort to reduce the wildfire threat. 19 responded that they are willing to continue in a leadership role or would at least give it consideration. This formed a reservoir of human capacity that was a valuable asset in the work to create a Fire Adapted Community organization.

Previous phases of this Project are characterized by the NVFSC's submission of Nominations to SNPLMA Rounds 8 (2008), 9 (2009), and 10 (2010). By 2010 the NVFSC was supporting 50 Community Chapters in the Lake Tahoe Basin and had processed over $20,354,621 in grant funds to support wildfire threat mitigation projects to the benefit of affiliated chapters and associated fuels reduction projects. These prior phases included fuels reduction work in the WUI, where this Nomination does not directly include that work. Rather, this Project coordinates directly with concurrent Lake Tahoe Basin Nominations for Round 16 for a coordinated Basin-wide implementation strategy.

In SNPLMA Round 16 Tahoe RCD nominated the Tahoe Network of Fire Adapted Communities Project, the most recent phase of this project. At this time Tahoe RCD and project partners are 3 ½ years into implementation and on track to complete all deliverables on time and within budget. The Round 16 Nomination successfully established a Basin-wide Fire Adapted Communities organization, the Tahoe Network of Fire Adapted Communities, with 50 active and committed neighborhood leaders. Further, the organizational, programmatic, and financial foundations have been laid. The Tahoe Network is an integral part of the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team, working Basin-wide to coordinate and facilitate wildfire preparedness and prevention with a focus on hazardous fuels reduction on private parcels to complement hazardous fuels reduction on public parcels in the WUI and as planned in the CWPP.

To achieve objectives for this Round 18 Nomination, Tahoe RCD was identified as the appropriate agency to provide organizational and financial support to project partners to continue to provide fire prevention services Basin-wide while connecting residents to the Tahoe Network in order to establish landscape scale, connected Fire Adapted Communities Basin-wide.

Deliverables:

1. Primary Deliverables
    a. Complete 10,000 to 25,000 fire defensible space inspections on private parcels in the Lake Tahoe Basin WUI Defense Zone to reduce crown fire potential and surface fire behavior, resulting in hazardous fuels reduction across 400 to 2,500 acres.
    b. Achieve compliance across 2,500 to 10,000 private parcels through community assistance and Tahoe Network of Fire Adapted Communities support.

c. Respond to 7,000 to 15,000 chipping requests resulting in 280 to 600 acres chipped.
d. Manage Lake Tahoe Basin hazardous fuels databases including but not limited to the Fire Defensible Space Data Management System and the CWPP Fuels Treatments Database.
e. Implement the Tahoe Network of Fire Adapted Communities including but not limited to a comprehensive education and outreach strategy, development and distribution of web and print based outreach materials, support and tracking of fire prevention services, hosting community workshops and workdays, neighborhood leader recruitment, training, and support including National Fire Protection Association Firewise® certification assistance for stewardship of community wildfire preparedness and prevention.

2. Anticipated Deliverables
   a. Hazardous fuels reduction may be completed on adjacent private property to strengthen the primary treatment and provide increased community protection;
   b. Community leaders and public involvement in defensible space may increase in areas not identified as focus area.
   c. Hazardous fuels reduction may be increased when biomass is removed from private property through community chipping services and/or green waste dumpster community assistance.

3. Standard Deliverables
   a. Developing scopes of work for contracts.
   b. Writing a request for bids.
   c. Submitting and obtaining management approval of Project documents.
   d. Program review and approval by the TFFT.

Project Timeframe:

6 Years

Level of Project Readiness for Implementation:

Tahoe RCD currently has funding through March 2023 to implement the Tahoe Network of Fire Adapted Communities Project supported by SNPLMA Round 16. Given this funding and the associated capacity in place, this Nomination is ready to implement in terms of staffing, resources, contracts, and permits that will allow Tahoe RCD to request funds and begin implementing the Project within one year of funding availability.

<u>Project Implementation Process:</u>

Tahoe RCD will facilitate Basin-wide implementation of the Lake Tahoe Basin Fire Adapted Communities Project. This implementation includes a full suite of program activities to support a comprehensive, coordinated, and effective effort to integrate private wildfire prevention and preparedness with activities that are planned for adjacent state, federal, and local lands through the TFFT Community Forestry Program. The Project and Connectivity Map (page 20) demonstrates the link between focused efforts the Project and the TFFT fuels reduction projects to-date.

The Lake Tahoe Basin Fire Adapted Communities Project includes the following 6 components:

i. Fire Defensible Space Inspections
ii. Community Assistance to Incentivize Fire Defensible Space Compliance
iii. Education and Outreach
iv. Community Chipping Services
v. Fire Defensible Space and CWPP Data Management Systems
vi. Fire Adapted Community Development and Coordination

Fire Defensible Space Inspections

In the Defensible Space Zone, fuels reduction includes three areas: the "Non-combustible Area" within five feet of a structure, the "Lean, Clean and Green Area" from five feet to 30 feet and the "Wildland Fuel Reduction Area" from 30 feet to 100 feet. These three areas within the Defensible Space Zone work together to prevent a wildland fire from directly impinging on and igniting a home. The prescription for the Defensible Space Zone has been negotiated between the TRPA, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension and the Tahoe Basin Fire Chiefs, and is published in the guide, *Living with Fire: Tahoe Basin Edition*. The prescription set in the *Living with Fire: Tahoe Basin Edition* is also compliant with applicable state and district laws[1] requiring homeowners to maintain defensible space around their homes.

Defensible space and use of appropriate building materials and techniques to accomplish home hardening are the most important defenses against loss of structures during a wildfire event. As such, private home and landowners constitute the most important group for limiting loss from wildfire. Each homeowner is responsible to create and maintain defensible space and use non-flammable building construction around their homes. While many homes in the Lake Tahoe Basin do not adhere to the best practices for ignition-resistant construction, adequate defensible space can reduce ignition probability even in these vulnerable structures. Retrofits to reduce wildfire home vulnerabilities are outlined in the Living With Fire publication, *Tahoe Home Retrofit Guide*. Thus, there is great benefit to continuing the current efforts to assisting homeowners in meeting defensible space requirements and including and emphasizing home hardening recommendations.

Fire Defensible Space implementation will be completed by the Fire Protection Districts/Departments. Currently there are 7 Districts/Departments and 2 CAL FIRE Units that work in regions of the Lake Tahoe Basin to ensure Basin-wide delivery of fire prevention services and coordinate the Tahoe Network of Fire Adapted Communities (Tahoe Network). Each Fire District/Department contains numerous neighborhoods and associated neighborhood leaders, all of whom are connected to resources, information, and each other through the Tahoe Network. Fire Districts/Departments will identify annual target hazard areas where they will conduct curbside fire defensible space inspections within communities, revisit to ensure compliance, provide community assistance, and coordinate Tahoe Network education and outreach opportunities. Additionally, Fire Districts/Departments will provide defensible space inspections by request to homeowners outside of annual target hazard areas. These activities will be coordinated through Tahoe RCD to ensure comprehensive and consistent implementation. This Project targets 10,000 to 25,000 residential fire defensible space inspections, and with an anticipated 25% compliance rate, this represents approximately 2,500 to 6,250 private compliant parcels within the Defense

[1] E.g. Carson City Municipal Code, Title 14; California Public Resource Code 4291

Zone. These compliant parcels do not include those that are generated from previous fire defensible space inspections, and therefore the number of compliant parcels is likely to increase. Hazardous fuels treated acres will be the total acres of private parcels that come into defensible space compliance as a result of the Project, 400 to 2,500 acres.

Community Assistance to Incentivize Fire Defensible Space Compliance

Prescriptions for fire defensible space set the costs for treatments. Homeowners with dense trees that form ladder fuels and a continuous canopy leading to the home are facing significant costs to comply with the Living With Fire recommendations or with state or local laws. Recognizing that high treatment costs reduce voluntary compliance and expenses associated with tree removal are one-time costs, this Nomination would fund Community Assistance to provide community workdays, rebates, and green waste dumpsters. Homeowners will be required to match rebates and green waste dumpster costs on a 1:1 basis with cash or in-kind contributions. Homeowner in-kind contributions will be documented for each property that receives assistance during community workdays. Homeowners will be informed that the matching costs are comparable to the periodic maintenance costs required in any vegetation management program. Fire prevention requires ongoing maintenance, and homeowners are required to agree to maintain defensible space at the time of assistance and informed of the annual and periodic maintenance steps that must be taken. Future costs associated with maintenance will be the sole responsibility of homeowners who choose to own homes in fire-prone and dependent ecosystems.

Many homeowners will voluntarily comply without contact through the Project. This Nomination will address those residences through tracking by fire defensible space inspectors who complete curbside inspections. Annually, homes in each fire district or department's designated target hazard areas will receive curbside inspection which is in addition to requested inspections. Additionally, coordinating with insurance companies could help drive compliance by requiring a compliant fire defensible space report signed by fire district/department for policy renewal.

Education and Outreach

Education and outreach activities are essential in any program that encourages participation by community members. Community members, including residents and sometimes visitors, must be engaged and informed to insight action to prevent and prepare for wildfire. This Nomination includes a number of elements designed to create efficient program implementation while also providing comprehensive and user-friendly materials targeting diverse community representation. These elements include, workshops in English and Spanish, continuous updates to the Tahoe Living With Fire website, creation of a Basin-wide online defensible space inspection and chipping request reservation system, outreach at community events, the creation of a monthly Tahoe Network email newsletter, the creation and distribution of new publications and resources, advertising campaigns, and targeted outreach and community workdays in annual fire district designated target hazard areas.

The workshops and publications/resources will be created with support from fire district and public land management agency staff on topics relevant to the community and will be available in English and Spanish. Additionally, general outreach will occur at community events and targeted outreach and block parties/community workdays will occur in fire district designated target hazard areas. Block parties/community workdays will utilize fire crew members to facilitate the removal of

hazardous fuels on private property and will utilize neighborhood leaders to provide education and outreach to their neighborhoods. Advertising campaigns will run during the summer months to encourage residents and visitors to prepare for and prevent wildfires.

The Tahoe Network email newsletter will be designed and distributed monthly with the goal of sharing relevant wildfire preparedness and prevention information year-round. The newsletter along with the advertising campaign, will provide information on upcoming workshops and community events and will empower residents and visitors to engage with the Tahoe Network to prepare for and prevent wildfires at Lake Tahoe.

Community Chipping Services

This component will facilitate fuels reduction activities by providing Basin-wide community residential chipping services. Community chipping provides cost-effective slash disposal for homeowners implementing defensible space, and eliminates a common barrier preventing defensible space compliance. An estimated 7,000 to 15,000 chipping service requests are anticipated. Following the assumption that the average biomass removal for a private lot is 0.04 acres, the chipping requests convert to an estimated 280 to 600 acres treated.

Fire Defensible Space and CWPP Data Management Systems

Analysis of the effectiveness of fire defensible space treatments will be facilitated by the maintenance and build-out of the Fire Defensible Space Inspection Database (FDS Database) and CWPP Data Management systems. Information generated through these databases is used to populate layers in a geographic information system (GIS). The GIS layers can then be used for spatial analysis of the effectiveness of the treatments. The database management system is also used to calculate and track the number of lots in neighborhoods that are in compliance with defensible space standards. The CWPP Data Management system is used to track fuels treatments and calculate acres treated Basin-wide. Both databases provide layers that feed into live online maps on the Tahoe Living With Fire website (https://www.tahoelivingwithfire.com/) including Fire Adapted Communities with committed and active neighborhood leaders and current prescribed fires with metadata and contact information.

A key design element of the FDS Database was to incorporate and update the most recently available Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) parcel data and parcel data from county assessor's offices to facilitate annual updated ownership information including the identification of parcel subdivisions for consolidation or sale. In addition, county parcel geometry data is updated to ensure consistency with TRPA parcel data. The parcel data is an essential foundational data layer and allows for additional analyses of defensible space inspection findings and compliance as well as the parcel acreage calculations necessary for deliverable reporting. Data collected includes, but is not limited to, requests for fire defensible space inspections and chipping services, TRPA tree removal permit information, information related to follow up inspection and associated compliance with state law, calculation of total acreage treated per year, and biomass removed.

Fire Adapted Community Development and Coordination

The Tahoe Network connects fire districts, public land management agencies, and residents. The success of the Tahoe Network has illustrated the need for and effectiveness of neighbor to neighbor

advocacy and empowerment through the coordinated efforts of TFFT partners and neighborhood leader engagement.

Since the Tahoe Network's inception, it is supported by all TFFT partners and is interconnected to nearly all other TFFT workgroups. The Tahoe Network plays a large role in the TFFT's Fire Public Information Team, the Lake Tahoe Regional Fire Chief's Association, the national Fire Adapted Community Learning Network, and the national Firewise© program in the Lake Tahoe Basin. Additionally, the Tahoe Network has recruited and developed a strong base network of neighborhood leaders who are guiding their neighborhoods to prepare for wildfire on a landscape scale and is fulfilling the role of connecting residents to the resources and agencies they need to complete work in their neighborhoods.

The critically important role played by active and effective Fire Adapted Communities is highlighted in each of the following comprehensive plans; 2014 Lake Tahoe Basin Community Wildfire Protection Plan, 2007 Fuel Reduction and Forest Restoration Plan for the Lake Tahoe Basin Wildland Urban Interface, 2007/2014 Multi-Jurisdictional Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Strategy, and the 2008 Bi-State Governor's Blue Ribbon Task Force Report following Angora Fire. The organizational structure and start-up capacity for the Tahoe Network was funded by SNPLMA Round 16. This Nomination seeks resources to fully develop a Basin-wide and active Tahoe Network of Fire Adapted Communities that is indispensable to TFFT partners and community members alike, providing constant and consistent support and connectivity for wildfire prevention and preparedness.

Fire Adapted Community development and coordination includes facilitating all activities associated with this Nomination. Specific activities include, but are not limited to:

- Meeting one-on-one with prospective neighborhood leaders.
- Organizing and attending community events and meetings to spread knowledge of the Tahoe Network and wildfire preparedness activities.
- Making all arrangements for larger community workshops and neighborhood block parties/community workdays to educate residents on preparing for wildfire.
- Distributing information and implementing a communication plan.
- Creating, publishing, and distributing Living With Fire materials to residents throughout Lake Tahoe Basin communities.
- Coordinating and managing all components of this Nomination (Fire Defensible Space Inspections, Community Assistance to incentivize fire defensible space compliance, Education and Outreach, Community Chipping Services, and Fire Defensible Space and CWPP Data Management Systems).

Future Operations and Maintenance:

None.

Partnerships and/or contributed funds:

The Project will be matched by in-kind or cash contributions, through private property contributions to fire defensible space compliance, community chipping, and community assistance

activities. These contributions are included by a written commitment and reflected in Attachment C. Homeowner labor match is valued at $25.43 per hour. Community assistance match includes rebates, community workdays, and green waste removal and is anticipated at $635,750. The rebate program requires a 1:1 match for each rebate offered at up to $1,000. Each property that receives assistance and/or chipping during community workdays assumes 3.8 hours of in-kind labor at $25.43 per hour. Green waste removal will be matched 1:1 in cash or through hours of labor documented at $25.43 per hour. For community chipping match, each chipped pile equals approximately 3.8 hours of homeowner labor at $25.43 per hour. Assuming one chipping request equals one pile, the community chipping match equates to at least $676,438. Total contribution is at least $1,313,100. Agency overhead costs are not included as in-kind contributions.

Funding Requested Budget Detail:

The volume of work proposed in this Nomination provides for critical "economies of scale" through Basin-wide implementation of the Tahoe Network where fire districts, Tahoe RCD staff, and land management agencies coordinate fuels reduction efforts geographically for maximum efficiency of landscape-scale treatments and dissemination of wildfire preparedness and prevention outreach and education within and around communities. Disparate efforts without the level of coordination and communication this Project provides would be more expensive, less achievable, and likely less effective.

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ROUND 18

HAZARDOUS FUELS AND WILDFIRE PREVENTION NOMINATION

ESTIMATED DIRECT COSTS & KEY MILESTONES

Project Name:	**='General project Info'!B3**	**Date prepared:**	**11/9/2020**
		Agency:	**='General project Info'!B10**
Project #	***Assigned by SNPLMA***	**Priority #:**	***Assigned by SNPLMA***
Prepared by:	**='General project Info'!B8**	**Phone #:**	**530-543-1501 ext129**
Title/position:	='General project Info'!B9		

1	**Planning & Environmental Documentation**	$0	0.00%
	Includes labor for surveys/reports for cultural, natural, biological, archaeological, historical resources, etc. and preparation of NEPA documentation and the decision document. Does not include on-going compliance monitoring (see Direct Labor #3)		
2	**FWS Consultation - Endangered Species Act**	$0	0.00%
	Direct expenses for FWS consultation. *Includes all labor, agreements, and costs for Section 7 review and approval.*		
3	**Direct Federal Labor to Implement Project (Payroll)**	$2,272,512	26.10%
	For interagency projects, identify a primary team lead and the lead agency for consultation/coordination and individual agency leads responsible for entering progress and reports into SMART.		
4	**Project Equipment and/or Supplies and Materials**	$310,000	3.56%
	Equipment, supplies or materials necessary to complete the project that are not included in contracts/agreements. Includes lease or rental of equipment/vehicles.		
5	**Travel and Per Diem for Implementation**	$14,280	0.16%
	Includes all necessary travel for training and implementation of the project. Training costs for tuition, materials, etc. are identified in item #7 below		
6	**Official Vehicle Use (vehicles with Federal license only)**	$0	0.00%
	Estimated costs for routine maintenance agency vehicles, leased or rental equipment, oil and gas, tires, etc. Does not include replacement cost		
7	**Training (required to implement the project)**	$0	0.00%
	Includes training essential/necessary for implementation of the project.		
8	**Contracts, Grants, and/or Agreements**	$6,108,510	70.17%
	CESU, IGO, Assistance agreements, Task Orders, and contracts for implementation of the project. Also includes all costs for construction/implementation of the plan. The period of performance for grants or agreements and contracts must not extend pas the approved period of performance in the approved Work Plan. Final invoices and de-obligation of unexpended funds must be paid and sub agreements and contracts closed prior to submitting the request for closeout		
9	**Other Necessary Expenses**	$0	0.00%
	(See Appendix B-11)		
	Total requested/estimated budget	**$8,705,302**	**100.00%**
10	**Estimated agency or partner contribution**	$1,312,188	
	Total Estimated project value	$10,017,490	

General comments and description of milestones
This is a summary of the overall project costs. If approved, eachpartner/entity will be assigned a unique peoject number and is responsible for submitting a separate budget work sheet. ---------- The Tahoe Resource Conservation District (Tahoe RCD) and project partners will deliver a coordinated Lake Tahoe Basin Fire Adapted Communities Project, including extensive community engagement, outreach, and assistance through the Tahoe Network of Fire Adapted Communities (Tahoe Network) Program that will result in increased wildfire prevention and preparedness. Fire defensible space treatments will reduce hazardous fuels on private parcels across 400 to 2,500 acres through community assistance and Tahoe Network implementation. Private parcel fuel reduction will be focused on communities where fuel reduction projects are planned in adjacent community forestry projects. The total project area is within the Lake Tahoe Basin and includes approximately 32,275 parcels (1/4 acre or less in size), with an estimated 4,435 acres.

Performance Measures:

Performance Measure - F2: Acres of Hazardous Fuels Treated – Wildland Urban Interface

***Outcome**: Mitigate risk to lives, property, and the environment within the fire defense zone and intersecting with the wildland-urban interface of the Lake Tahoe Basin. Achieving the following outputs will accomplish this outcome:*

- 10,000 to 25,000 fire defensible space inspection on private parcels
- 2,500 to 10,000 private parcels in fire defensible space compliance
- 400 to 2,500 private acres treated through Tahoe Network support and community assistance
- 7,000 to 15,000 chipping requests fulfilled
- 280 to 500 private acres chipped

Performance Measure - O5: Number of Outreach Contacts Made

***Outcome**: Increase public awareness of wildfire and fuels reduction and how it affects the community. Achieving the following outputs will accomplish this outcome:*

- 100 Tahoe Network neighborhood leaders trained
- 2000 workshop participants
- 1500 Tahoe Network neighborhood block party participants
- 200 Spanish workshop participants
- 3000 residents and visitors contacted at general outreach events
- 2500 individuals contacted through the Tahoe Network email newsletter
- 300,000 individuals reached through the Tahoe Living With Fire website (https://www.tahoelivingwithfire.com/) and social media accounts

Performance Measure – O6: Number of New Interpretive Education Publications/Signs/Kiosks/Displays/etc. Produced

***Outcome**: Increase public awareness of wildfire and fuels reduction and how it affects the community. Achieving the following outputs will accomplish this outcome:*

- Up to 5 advertising campaigns that include social media advertisements, print/online newspaper advertisements, radio advertisements, and campaign materials
- Up to 3 wildfire preparedness publications/resources
- 1 wildfire preparedness children's activity book
- 1 home hardening table-top outreach activity

Performance Measure - O7: Number of Interpretive or Education Presentations Given and/or Community Events Participated In or Hosted

***Outcome**: Increase public awareness of wildfire and fuels reduction and how it affects the community. Achieving the following outputs will accomplish this outcome:*

- 15 workshops
- 30 Tahoe Network neighborhood gatherings/community workdays
- 30 events

Performance Measure - O9: Number of GIS Databases Generated and/or Map Layers Produced

***Outcome:** Create reporting and tracking tool to demonstrate fire defensible space compliance over time and across the landscape. Achieving the following output will accomplish this outcome:*

- 1 Fire Defensible Space compliance map layer
- 1 Lake Tahoe Basin prescribed fire map layer
- 1 Tahoe Network neighborhood leader map layer

Performance Measure - O11: Number of Databases, Reports, and Other Electronic Means of Documenting Activities

***Outcome:** Exportable database for tracking all fire defensible space inspections, compliance, chipping, and outreach. Achieving the following output will accomplish this outcome:*

- 1 Lake Tahoe Basin database for all fire defensible space activities
- 1 Lake Tahoe Basin CWPP database for all hazardous fuels treatments

Executive Committee Strategic Plan Values:

The Nomination **promotes sustainability** by stimulating community stewardship and creating heterogeneity both across the landscape and within the Project, increasing ecosystem resilience to both natural and human-caused disturbance. Through further development and implementation of Fire Adapted Communities, residents are engaged and empowered to ensure fire defensible space and other wildfire mitigation preparedness are accomplished and maintained within their neighborhoods which will compliment fuels reduction projects within the WUI.

The Nomination **promotes connectivity** by using a regional approach to treat priority areas identified in the CWPP and Multi-Jurisdictional Strategy. This Project unites diverse ownerships to connect federal, state, local and private fuels reduction treatments. The new treatment areas will link together previously-treated areas to create continuous areas of reduced fuels and improved forest health surrounding Lake Tahoe Basin communities. The Project builds on the success of the TFFT in delivering collaboratively developed and prioritized wildfire prevention and fuel hazard reduction programs.

The Nomination **promotes community** by connecting the public to health and safety through fire awareness educational opportunities that strengthen communication and support between agencies and the public and within communities. The continued development and expansion of Fire Adapted Communities fosters this connection through a shared goal of implementing defensible space protection designed to withstand a wildfire without loss of life or property.

Compliance with Departmental and Agency Priorities, Strategic Goals, Executive Orders, and Secretarial Orders:

Compliance with Departmental/Agency Priorities and Strategic Goals

The Nomination supports Department of the Interior (DOI) Priority 6 (Protect our people and the border). Specifically, the Nomination advances Goal 3 of Mission Area 5 in the DOI Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2018-2022 (Strategic Plan).

- Mission Area 5 of the Strategic Plan lists goals and strategies that help ensure public safety and advance DOI's priority of protecting our people and the border. Goal 3 is to manage wildland fire to reduce risk and improve ecosystem and community resilience. Additionally, DOI specifies that they will work with the USDA Forest Service (Forest Service), and other state, local, and tribal partners improve operational efficiency, reduce management duplication, and strategically place fuels treatments as informed by a risk assessment and mitigation plan.

1. The activities proposed under this Nomination advance Goal 3 and will directly improve ecosystem and community resilience by reducing the risk of damaging wildfire through strategic hazardous fuels reduction treatments. All activities are identified as a priority in the strategy that federal, state, local, and tribal partners are implementing collaboratively.

The Nomination supports Forest Service Priorities 3 (Promoting shared stewardship by increasing partnerships and volunteerism) and 4 (Improving the condition of forests and grasslands).

- The Chief of the Forest Service's 2018 Leadership Intentions for the Five National Priorities (Leadership Intentions) clarifies the five priorities and sets expectations for the agency and its partners. Priority 3 focuses on the intent to leverage partnerships to increase collective capacity and make a difference on the whole landscape. The work of partners in the Lake Tahoe Basin to implement the Strategy exemplifies the power of shared stewardship to meet collective goals. The activities proposed under this Nomination advance Priority 3 because they complement the defensible space work that residents complete on their property, and connect wildland-urban interface treatments on public and private ownerships to create a continuous area where fuels are reduced, forest health is improved, and communities are better protected from wildfire.

1. Forest Service Priority 4 describes the need to work at larger scales improve the condition of forests. A large portion of America's forests are at risk from insects, diseases, and wildfire. These threats transcend property boundaries, and work must be completed across landscapes to protect federal, state, private, and tribal lands, and the valuable resources they provide. The activities proposed under this Nomination advance Priority 4 by directly improving the condition of forests in the Basin by acting as a surrogate to naturally occurring wildfire and removing fuels that have built up over the last century. This is essential in reducing the risk of damaging wildfire, reducing risk of insect and disease infestation.

Consistency with Executive Orders and Secretarial Orders

This Nomination is consistent with Executive Order No. 13855 Promoting Active Management of America's Forests and Rangelands to Improve Conditions and Reduce Wildfire Risk (Executive Order). The Executive Order prescribes three policies to be implemented by the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture, and each align with the activities proposed in the Nomination.

First, the Executive Order requires DOI and the Forest Service to adopt shared management priorities in partnership with federal land managers, states, tribes, and other landowners. This Nomination implements the Strategy which was developed by federal, state, and local government fire agencies and landowners. The Strategy shares the same three goals as the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy, which are to restore fire resilient landscapes, create fire adapted communities, and enable safe and effective wildfire response.

Second, the Executive Order requires DOI and the Forest Service to coordinate federal, state, tribal, and local assets for wildfire prevention, suppression, and reducing hazardous fuels. By closely coordinating nominations, Basin land managers and fire agencies are closely coordinating with federal agencies to coordinate the deployment of assets and skills to protect communities and natural resources.

Third, the Executive Order requires DOI and the Forest Service to remove hazardous fuels, increase active management, and support rural economies. The Nomination implements prioritized treatments that protect life and property, and support the rural economy of the Basin by providing jobs and utilizing forest restoration byproducts.

Ranking Criteria:

1. Improves the community within and/or adjacent to the project area.

A. Addresses immediate public health and safety and community infrastructure.
The Project is directly within the Defense Zone, comprising the area within 0.25 miles of life and property, as shown in the Multi-Jurisdictional Strategy.

This Project specifically integrates fire prevention efforts conducted across federal, state, and locally owned lands throughout the Lake Tahoe Basin. Collectively, these efforts contribute to a larger regional approach that includes multi-agency fuels reduction projects. This Project will protect communities and safeguard the exceptional natural resources of Lake Tahoe by reducing the probability of ignition to habitable structures. The more actions a community takes, the more fire adapted it becomes, and the more likely homes and property will be protected during a wildfire. Additionally, firefighter safety is increased allowing firefighter to directly attack wildfire in these areas where the fire is less severe.

Additionally, critical services provided to at-risk communities would be protected, and include Barton Health in South Lake Tahoe and Tahoe Forest Hospital in Town of Truckee, Public Utility Districts and other water delivery and storage providers, Southwest Gas, Liberty

Utilities and other electricity and gas providers, and transportation and communication infrastructure. This diverse set of assets-at-risk is threaded through communities such that any catastrophic wildfire would threaten the stability of services these providers deliver. By contributing to a comprehensive prevention strategy, urban lot treatment projects executed in the critical Defense Zone will increase protection to these critical services.

B. Promotes protection of source water (rivers and lakes) or municipal watersheds.
This Nomination promotes protection of source water in each target community. Within each Fire Protection District, County, General Improvement District or Public Utility District exist and include water storage tanks or other water delivery infrastructure. As described above, these systems would benefit from fire prevention activities.

Several communities derive drinking water directly from Lake Tahoe, which is fed by the Upper Truckee River and many other tributaries. These lie within the critical Defense Zone, and are adjacent to many Lake Tahoe communities. Community wildfire prevention protects the Lake by minimizing fine sediment and pollutants runoff in these tributaries associated with a catastrophic wildfire.

C. Project includes education and outreach to the community on Living with Fire or Fire Adapted Communities and/or the importance of fuels reduction on federal, state, and local government land.
The intent of this Nomination is to facilitate and increase Fire Adapted Communities engagement and commitment in the Lake Tahoe Basin. Living With Fire has been and will be an integral part of promoting and educating community members on not only the laws associated with fire defensible space, but also the important role fire defensible space plays in minimizing destruction associated with a catastrophic wildfire. As such, the specific and targeted education and outreach objectives include creating, publishing, and distributing Living With Fire materials to residents in high wildfire threat communities.

2. Improves the connection of fuels reduction activities and wildlife habitat.

A. Project connects previously treated areas to create or increase contiguous blocks of treated land.
This Project specifically integrates fire prevention and fuels reduction efforts conducted across federal, state, and locally owned lands throughout the Lake Tahoe Basin. Collectively, these efforts contribute to a priority planning component addressing larger regional approach to analyzing potential fire behavior and assets at risk within communities. This Project will focus efforts on targeting residential communities that are adjacent to planned fuels reduction projects identified and prioritized in the CWPP and the Multi-Jurisdictional Strategy. This will connect private fire defensible space efforts with larger fuels reduction projects in the WUI, increasing the overall impact to managing fire prevention across the landscape. See Project and Connectivity Map (page 20).

B. Project protects or enhances wildlife habitat and/or resilient vegetative communities.
The Project will complement fuels reduction efforts planned in the WUI intended to create diversity in both wildlife habitat and vegetative composition. These treatments are designed to

mitigate the risk of stand replacing wildfire, which can destroy suitable wildlife habitat and associated vegetative communities. Such mitigation measures include retaining some standing snags and some non-threatening downed material to provide new habitat recruitment. In addition, these treatments will reduce stand densities and alter species composition, therefore reducing the competition for light, nutrients, and water. This will result in a more open and diverse stand that is more resilient to insect and disease outbreak.

C. Project enhances the effectiveness of other treatments in progress or complete.
This Project is specifically designed to integrate fire prevention and fuels reduction efforts conducted across federal, state, and locally owned lands throughout the Lake Tahoe Basin. This intent is to focus fire defensible space efforts in residential communities adjacent to planned and prioritized fuels reduction projects with the Defense Zone of the WUI. It is anticipated that homeowners will have a sense of urgency to comply with fire defensible space regulations when they see state, federal, and local agencies protecting forested lands around their communities.

3. Improves sustainability of the multijurisdictional 10-year plans, environment, and financial resources.

A. The Project will:

1. *Improve the sustainability of the forest health and ecosystem function (e.g. stand density, desired species mix and age, tree health, etc.)*
This Project will be conducted within the built environment of the Lake Tahoe Basin; however, it is intended to complement fuels reduction efforts planned in the WUI. Together across a landscape, these efforts will improve the sustainability of the forest health and ecosystem function by providing opportunities for pine regeneration, diversification of structure, and resiliency to wildfire, insects, and disease. The Multi-Jurisdictional Strategy promotes interagency cooperation and strengthens communication and support between agencies and the public.

2. *Improve the habitat for sensitive species and Threatened and Endangered species. Includes mitigation and/or minimization measures when treatment in sensitive habitat is unavoidable.*
This Project helps improve habitat for sensitive and T&E species by connecting private fire defensible space treatment efforts with large scale fuels reduction projects, thereby improving critical habitat on a landscape scale.

3. *Includes broadcast prescribed fire for resource management objectives for sustainable landscapes.*
This Project does not include the direct implementation of prescribed fire. However, increased implementation of defensible space in at-risk communities will allow prescribed fire to be more safely applied in areas near and adjacent to residential areas.

B. The method of treatment is fiscally responsible for the project area by balancing resource objectives, values at risk, and cost per acre factors or cost-benefit analysis.

The volume of work proposed in this Nomination provides for critical "economies of scale" through Basin-wide implementation of the Tahoe Network where fire districts, Tahoe RCD staff, and land management agencies coordinate fuels reduction efforts geographically for maximum efficiency of landscape-scale treatments and dissemination of wildfire preparedness and prevention outreach and education within and around communities. Disparate efforts without the level of coordination and communication this Project provides would be more expensive, less achievable, and likely less effective for wildfire prevention and hazardous fuels reduction.

The benefit of consistently achieved and maintained fuels reduction on private parcels connected to fuels reduction on surrounding public lands far outweighs the potential cost of catastrophic wildfire in the Lake Tahoe Basin. Homes and businesses in Lake Tahoe represent significant values at risk of loss in the event of a catastrophic wildfire. The activities proposed by this Nomination, including community assistance, defensible space inspections, community chipping, defensible space inspection and fuels treatment databases, will work in concert under the umbrella of the Tahoe Network of Fire Adapted Communities to complete a fiscally responsible Lake Tahoe Basin Fire Adapted Communities Project.

4. Demonstrates sound project management and quality control measures.

A. Project goals and implementation processes are clear, measurable, achievable, and demonstrable.

Through review of the implementation of the Round 16 Tahoe Network of Fire Adapted Communities Project and the Single Audit process, Tahoe RCD staff have identified what has worked well and what needs improvement for an effective and sustainable Fire Adapted Communities program structure. The refinement and further development of both the Fire Defensible Space and CWPP databases are critical for measuring Project accomplishments related to acres treated for hazardous fuels reduction as well as demonstrating the geographic connectivity of treatments across the landscape and across management boundaries. Neighborhood leader recruitment and training and Tahoe Network events, workshops, advertising and social media campaigns, and resources produced are additional clear, measurable, achievable, and demonstrable implementation pieces that represent objectives related to extensive education and outreach and increased community wildfire preparedness.

B. Project proponent has the capacity to implement this project in a timely manner (contractor and staff availability, no backlog of current project, etc.) and within budget.

The Tahoe RCD has extensive experience and an excellent track record administering project related grants from federal, state and private funding sources. Currently, Tahoe RCD manages projects under approximately 40 grant funding sources which total over $19M. These projects generally fall within four Program Areas at Tahoe RCD; Stormwater Management, Aquatic Invasive Species, Conservation Landscaping, and Restoration. Tahoe RCD has the ability to expand capacity as needed to fit the goals of this Nomination. Currently, the Tahoe RCD has program staff funded through SNPLMA Round 16 to establish the financial and programmatic structure for development and management of the Tahoe Network of Fire Adapted Communities, including managing project partner relationships and agreements to deliver

wildfire prevention and preparedness services and activities in support of the Lake Tahoe Basin Fire Adapted Communities Project.

C. Is a phase or related component to a previously funded project.

This Nomination builds upon efforts of the Nevada Fire Safe Council which served the entire Lake Tahoe Basin from 2000 – 2012 and the Round 16 Tahoe Network of Fire Adapted Communities Project. Since 2017, the Tahoe Network has been testing and refining a framework for Fire Adapted Communities development and support Basin-wide. The Tahoe Network is established as a subgroup of the TFFT and is critical to maintaining the connectivity between land management agencies, fire districts/departments, and engaged community members working together on wildfire prevention and preparedness. The Project in this Nomination builds on the established framework and increases the reach and sustainable effectiveness of the Tahoe Network to facilitate hazardous fuels reduction and wildfire prevention on private parcels and connected to publicly managed lands.

D. Has identified committed non-SNPLMA sources of funding or in-kind contribution in the development and/or implementation of the project.

The Project will be matched by in-kind or cash contributions, through private property contributions to fire defensible space compliance, community chipping, and community assistance activities. These contributions are included by a written commitment and reflected in Attachment C. Homeowner labor match is valued at $25.43 per hour. Community assistance match includes rebates, community workdays, and green waste removal and is anticipated at $635,750. The rebate program requires a 1:1 match for each rebate offered at up to $1,000. Each property that receives assistance and/or chipping during community workdays assumes 3.8 hours of labor at $25.43 per hour. Green waste removal will be matched 1:1 in cash or through hours of labor documented at $25.43 per hour. For community chipping match, each chipped pile equals approximately 3.8 hours of homeowner labor at $25.43 per hour. Assuming one chipping request equals one pile, the community chipping match equates to at least $676,438. Total contribution is at least $1,313,100. Agency overhead costs are not included as in-kind contributions.

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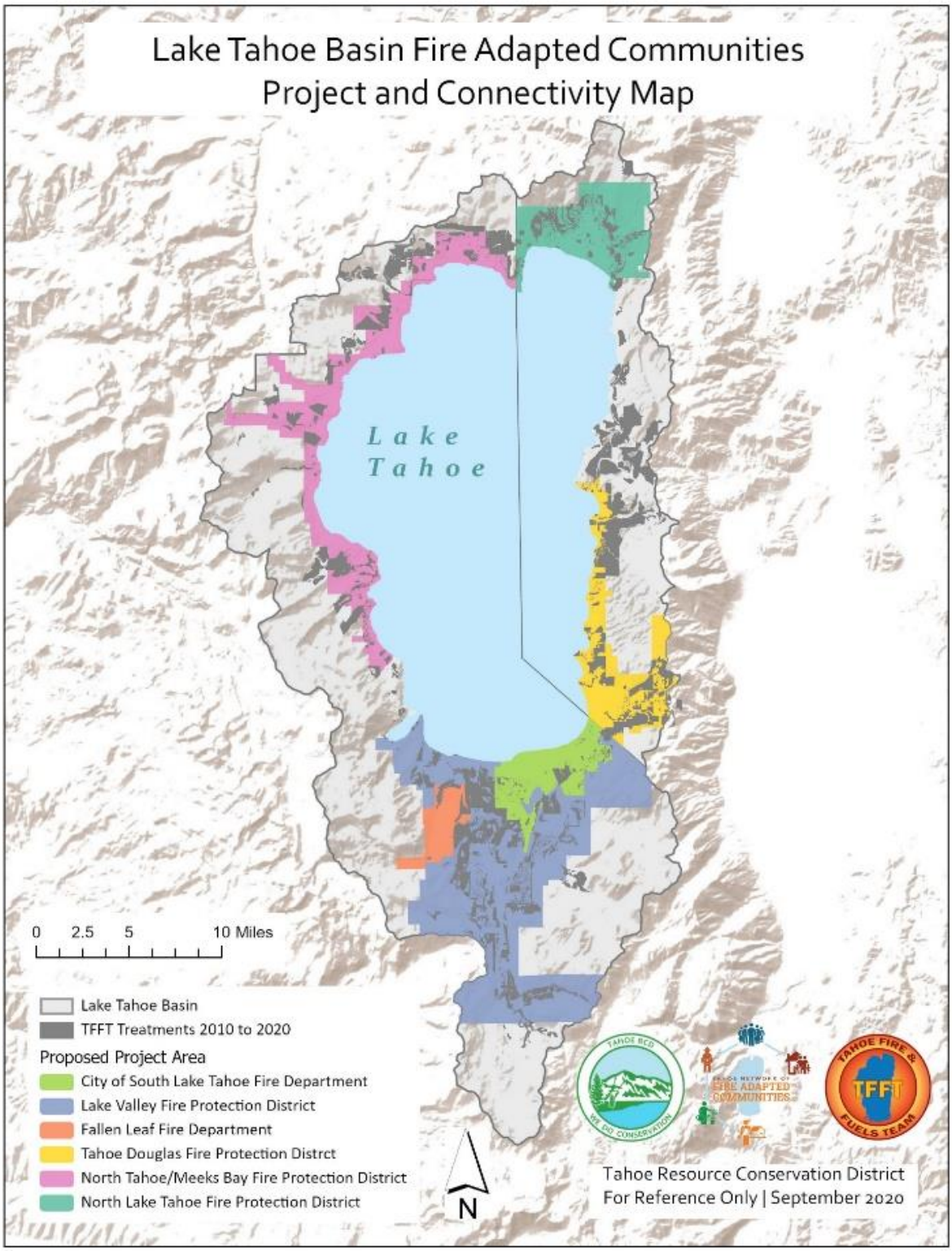
Map:


Lake Tahoe Basin Fire Adapted Communities
Project and Connectivity Map
Lake
Tahoe
0 2.5 5 10 Miles
Lake Tahoe Basin
TFFT Treatments 2010 to 2020
Proposed Project Area
City of South Lake Tahoe Fire Department
Lake Valley Fire Protection District
Fallen Leaf Fire Department
Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection Distrct
North Tahoe/Meeks Bay Fire Protection District
North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District
N
Tahoe Resource Conservation District
For Reference Only | September 2020

Letters of Support:

September 10, 2020

Robert Taylor
Program Manager, SNPLMA Division
Bureau of Land Management
4702 North Torrey Pines Drive
Las Vegas, Nevada 89130

Re: SNPLMA Round 18 Nominations for Hazardous Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention in the Lake Tahoe Basin

Dear Mr. Taylor and other Nomination Reviewers:

Thank you for your consideration of the Lake Tahoe Basin's Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) Round 18 project nominations. The local government, state, and federal implementing agencies have partnered in a coordinated approach to comprehensively and cost-effectively implement the Lake Tahoe Basin Multi-Jurisdictional Strategy for Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention (Strategy).

The Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team (TFFT) formed in 2008 to implement the Strategy, with the twin aims of reducing fuels in the wildland-urban interface (WUI) and preparing communities for wildfire. The 21 partner agencies of the TFFT work within the Lake Tahoe Basin (Basin) to plan, prioritize, and implement fuel reduction and fire prevention projects that protect life, property, and the environment. The TFFT recently collaborated to identify critical need projects and develop ten SNPLMA Round 18 nominations that advance the goals of the Strategy.

Communities across the western United States are currently witnessing the catastrophe of yet another record-breaking wildfire season. A destructive wildfire in the Basin of similar scale to those burning right now elsewhere in the Sierra Nevada would have devastating impacts on our forests, communities, and businesses. Such a fire would also cause severe economic impacts in both California and Nevada.

The Basin's fire agencies are tested every fire season by dozens of wildfire ignitions, which each have the potential to become the Basin's next destructive wildfire. To improve our odds, we work at every level – from helping residents prepare themselves, their families, and their homes

Protecting lives, property, and the environment of the Lake Tahoe Basin from wildfire by implementing prioritized fuel reduction projects and engaging the public in becoming a fire adapted community.

for wildfire, to working within neighborhoods to create defensible space that extends across property lines, to reducing fuels and restoring forests in the WUI and beyond.

This holistic approach of working at every level is ratified in the Strategy, with its three goals of creating fire adapted communities, restoring fire-resilient landscapes, and supporting safe and effective wildfire response. These goals are mirrored by the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy. The goals are manifested in the over 60,000 acres treated in the Basin's WUI by TFFT partners over the last decade, and the thousands of homes inspected for defensible space and brought into compliance.

There are ten Hazardous Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention nominations for SNPLMA Round 18, each implementing a critical component of the Strategy. The nominations are:

1) **Lake Tahoe Basin Fire Adapted Communities**
   Agency: Tahoe Resource Conservation District
   Funding Requested: $8,705,000
2) **Defense Zone Improvement**
   Agency: North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District
   Funding Requested: $1,222,000
3) **Highway 50 Hazardous Fuel Reduction and Restoration**
   Agency: Tahoe-Douglas Fire Protection District
   Funding Requested: $400,000
4) **South Lake Tahoe Fire Rescue Wildland-Urban Interface Hazardous Fuel Reduction**
   Agency: South Lake Tahoe Fire Rescue
   Funding Requested: $852,000
5) **North Tahoe Fire Protection District Wildland-Urban Interface Hazardous Fuel Reduction**
   Agency: North Tahoe Fire Protection District
   Funding Requested: $2,500,000
6) **California Community Forestry**
   Agency: California Tahoe Conservancy
   Funding Requested: $4,159,180
7) **California Tahoe Conservancy Wildland-Urban Interface Hazardous Fuel Reduction**
   Agency: California Tahoe Conservancy
   Funding Requested: $5,994,000
8) **National Forest Priority Wildland-Urban Interface Fuel Reduction**
   Agency: Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit
   Funding Requested: $10,490,000
9) **Utility Corridors Resilience**
   Agency: Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit
   Funding Requested: $8,655,000

Protecting lives, property, and the environment of the Lake Tahoe Basin from wildfire by implementing prioritized fuel reduction projects and engaging the public in becoming a fire adapted community.

10) **Prescribed Fire Implementation**

Agency: Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit

Funding Requested: $5,046,000

Nomination 1 will deliver extensive community engagement and defensible space treatments through the Tahoe Network of Fire Adapted Communities (Tahoe Network). The Tahoe Network is a multi-agency and community collaboration that helps residents take individual action to collectively reduce their neighborhood's risk of wildfire. The preparedness of residents and the defensible space around homes are at the core of the Strategy' approach to preventing catastrophic wildfire.

The defensible space treatments completed through Nomination 1 directly connect to the treatments included in Nominations 2 through 6. These nominations propose treatments on the thousands of small open-space and undeveloped lots surrounding homes that are interspersed throughout neighborhoods, as well as on private and local-government lands near communities. Nominations 7 and 8 connect to neighborhood treatments and involve large-scale wildland-urban interface treatments on state and federal lands. The treatments substantially advance the TFFT's target of completing initial wildland-urban interface treatments identified in the Strategy by 2024.

Nomination 9 reduces wildfire risk and creates healthy forests surrounding powerlines, a significant potential source of wildfire ignitions. The treatments will help protect critical community infrastructure as well as reduce the risk of spread for ignitions originating from powerlines.

Finally, Nomination 10 proposes to strategically use prescribed fire as a tool for both fuel reduction and landscape restoration. In addition to implementing valuable treatments, the project helps to build Basinwide capacity to use prescribed fire across multiple jurisdictions.

The TFFT expresses its strong support for the full suite of projects listed above. The SNPLMA program has been transformative for the Basin by enabling a multitude of fuel reduction and wildfire reduction projects. These projects have helped improve our odds of withstanding wildfire and are an important reason for our success to date. Again, thank you for your consideration of the Basin's SNPLMA Round 18 nominations.

Sincerely,

Scott Baker

Scott Baker
Chair, TFFT Multi-Agency Coordinating Group
Fire Chief, Tahoe-Douglas Fire Protection District

Protecting lives, property, and the environment of the Lake Tahoe Basin from wildfire by implementing prioritized fuel reduction projects and engaging the public in becoming a fire adapted community.

TAHOE
RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

870 Emerald Bay Road Suite 108, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150 • 530.543.1501 PH • 530.543.1660 FAX • TahoeRCD.org

September 8, 2020

Robert Taylor, Program Manager
Bureau of Land Management
SNPLMA Division
4701 N. Torrey Pines Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89130

Subject: SNPLMA Round 18 Nomination – Lake Tahoe Basin Fire Adapted Communities

Dear Mr. Taylor,

Tahoe Resource Conservation District will account for, verify, and document in-kind and cash match contributions from homeowners participating in the community assistance totaling $635,750 and community chipping services totaling at least $676,438 for the Lake Tahoe Basin Fire Adapted Communities project. These costs are captured in Attachment C, tab 10. These in-kind and cash match commitments are calculated at either a dollar to dollar value or based on $25.43 per hour of volunteer labor.

The fire defensible space rebate assumes a dollar to dollar value, though volunteer labor would also be acceptable match. The community chipping program assumes 3.8 hours of labor per pile chipped for a total of at least 26,600 hours at $25.43 per hour. Each property receiving community assistance and/or chipping during a community workday assumes 3.8 hours of labor per property.

If you have any questions, please contact me at ncartwright@tahoercd.org or 530.543.1501 ext. 111.

Sincerely,

Nicole Cartwright
Executive Director
Tahoe RCD

SNPLMA Round 18
Fuels– California Tahoe Conservancy Addendum

Nomination: Tab 5

Entity: California Tahoe Conservancy

Project: Fuels Reduction – California non-Federal WUI

Revision: The Partners Working Group's (PWG) recommendation was to fund 50 percent of this scalable nomination. This would meet a reasonable overall funding level established by the Executive Committee and still recommend the best of the best nominations.

The initial nomination budget request is $5,993,615. Therefore, PWG's recommendation is funding $2,996,808; whereby, the scope of the nomination would be downscaled to reflect the recommended funding amount.

Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act
Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention
Round 18

California Tahoe Conservancy

Wildland-Urban Interface Hazardous Fuel Reduction

Amount Requested: $5,993,615

Timeframe: 6 Years
Location: 39.035º / -120.132º (Center Point)
Congressional District: CA-4

Contact: Milan Yeates
Phone:(530) 208-6338
Fax: (530) 542-5567
Email:milan.yeates@tahoe.ca.gov

Purpose Statement:

The California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy) will reduce hazardous fuels on at least 950 acres and not more than 1,250 acres of the highest priority areas (focus areas) within the defense zone of the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) on the California side of the Lake Tahoe Basin (Basin). The three focus areas are split into geographic regions (North, West, and South) and are composed of Conservancy-owned large (greater than 1 acre) parcels adjacent to communities (see maps). Treatments are designed to reduce the threat of catastrophic wildfire, protect life and property, and improve forest health, resulting in forests that are more resilient to the effects of climate change.

Background info to support the need:

Almost every year over the past decade, the western United States has experienced unprecedented record-setting wildfires, in terms of both size and destruction. The Conservancy and Basin partners have long recognized the threat that wildfires pose to Basin forests and communities. Following the 2007 Angora Fire, which destroyed 254 homes and burned 3,100 acres near the Basin's south shore, Basin fire agencies, land managers, and regulators formed the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team (TFFT). The TFFT has collaboratively developed plans like the Lake Tahoe Basin Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP, 2015), the Lake Tahoe Basin Multi-Jurisdictional Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Strategy (Strategy, 2017), and most recently the Lake Tahoe Basin Forest Action Plan (Forest Action Plan, 2019). Land managers have used these foundational documents to guide hazardous fuels reduction and forest health projects on over 60,0000 acres of the Basin's WUI since 2008.

The California Tahoe Conservancy Wildland-Urban Interface Hazardous Fuel Reduction Round 18 Nomination (Nomination) substantially advances the goals and targets for hazardous fuel reduction identified in the Strategy. The TFFT developed the Strategy in 2007. The TFFT updated it in 2014 to align with the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy and amended it in 2017 to incorporate landscape-scale planning. The Strategy serves as the guiding plan for Basin hazardous fuel reduction and wildfire prevention in the WUI. The Strategy identifies proposed treatments and also facilitates communication and cooperation among agencies. The Strategy aims to provide comprehensive community protection by addressing the connectivity between defensible space around homes, the WUI, and the general forest.

The treatments proposed in this Nomination will reduce hazardous fuels on at least 950 acres of overstocked forests that are at-risk of damaging wildfire, thereby protecting adjacent communities, wildlife habitat, and air, watershed, recreation and scenic resources. All proposed treatments will take place in the focus areas, which are the remaining high priority areas on Conservancy lands identified for treatment in the Strategy and CWPP. The treatments will support the Forest Action Plan's target of completing 17,000 acres of treatments across all ownerships in the next four years.

Relationship to prior approved phases or related SNPLMA projects and anticipated future phases:

The Nomination will result in a stand-alone viable proposal. The Conservancy acknowledges that there is neither guarantee nor expectation of funding for future phases. The treatment areas will be selected from the focus areas based on connectivity and linkage to previously treated areas regardless of ownership, values-at-risk, wildlife habitat value, estimates of potential fire behavior, and cost-effectiveness. The Nomination complements the Conservancy's previous SNPLMA nominations because the focus areas are the highest remaining priorities that were not included in previous nominations.

Deliverables:

The Nomination includes the following Primary, Anticipated, and Standard Deliverables:

Primary Deliverables (Deliverables that must be completed at a minimum in order to accomplish the purpose):

1. Hand thin, pile burn, mechanically treat, and/or broadcast/understory burn 950-1,250 acres of land in within the defense zone of the WUI on the California side of the Basin to reduce crown fire potential and surface fire behavior, as well as improve forest health. Final acres will be determined based on a variety of factors, including terrain accessibility, slope, cost estimates, and environmental review.
2. Host one or more educational/interpretive field trips to the treatment location(s) with local community members and stakeholders to highlight SNPLMA-funded projects and communicate the importance of fuel reduction treatments in reducing the risk of wildfire and promoting forest health.
3. Conduct field surveys and develop a comprehensive database of habitat and occurrence for key sensitive wildlife and plant species on Conservancy lands. The database will support project planning, prioritization, sequencing, and timing of project implementation.

Anticipated Deliverables (Deliverables that are desirable and beneficial, but not minimally necessary to accomplish the purpose):

1. Treatments on Conservancy property may help encourage or provide efficiencies for hazardous fuel reduction on adjacent private property via increased access, collaborative planning, or increased outreach. This will strengthen the primary treatment and provide increased community protection. Coordination with private property owners will be facilitated by the Tahoe Resource Conservation District through its Tahoe Network of Fire Adapted Communities program.
2. Access roads and trails may be improved to prevent environmental degradation and reduce future project costs.
3. Biomass may be removed for utilization at a biomass processing facility where feasible.

Standard Deliverables (Deliverables that are generally accepted by the entity and/or by industry standards as necessary to complete the Primary and Anticipated Deliverables):

- Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) tree removal permits.

- California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documents and/or exemptions.
- California Forest Practice Act permits and/or exemptions.
- Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (LRWQCB)Timber Waiver enrollments.
- Re-evaluations of existing archaeological reviews and/or surveys to identify cultural resources and determine avoidance protocols.
- Prescribed Fire Burn Plans, satisfying National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) interagency requirements.
- Project tracking within the Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) database.
- Project tracking within the TFFT project database.
- Pre and post-treatment photo monitoring.

Project Timeframe:

The project timeframe is six years. The Conservancy will initiate implementation within one year of receiving funds. The standard project timeframe of six years will enable the Conservancy to conduct the majority of work within the first five years and will allow for any remaining prescribed fire treatments to occur in the final year.

Level of Project Readiness for Implementation:

The Conservancy will initiate resource surveys, treatment identification, and project planning upon receiving funds, and will initiate on-the-ground treatment activities within one year of receiving funds. All treatments proposed under the nomination will be subject to CEQA. The Conservancy Board must make an independent determination for any proposed activities to which CEQA applies. Proposed project activities will likely fall within the scope of the Tahoe Program Timberland Environmental Impact Report (PTEIR), which is a programmatic CEQA document that covers all Conservancy, local government, and larger private properties across the California side of the Basin. CAL FIRE and Basin fire districts released the Draft PTEIR in May and are currently preparing the Final PTEIR. The PTEIR analyzes thousands of acres of forest management and fuel reduction projects. Agencies using the PTEIR can rely on its analyses for later projects rather than prepare separate CEQA documents and can use streamlined processes for project review under the California Forest Practice Act and Rules. The Conservancy will complete the PTEIR checklist to determine if the proposed project activities fall within the scope of the PTEIR and file a notice of determination or notice of exemption with the California State Clearinghouse prior to implementing on-the-ground activities. A Registered Professional Forester will file timber harvesting permits or notices in compliance with the California Forest Practice Act and Rules, as some activities are anticipated to generate commercial products.

The Conservancy has a proven record of successfully reducing fuels and managing forests using grant funds. The Conservancy has administered a successful hazardous fuel reduction program on WUI lands in the Basin for over two decades, including management of multiple large-scale fuel reduction grants. In 2013 the Conservancy acted as lead agency for a SNPLMA Round 13 nomination with multiple fire districts, the California Conservation Corps, and California State Parks to complete nearly 200 acres of fuel reduction across multiple state, private, and local

government ownerships. All work was completed on-time and within budget. The Conservancy is currently managing a $6.8 million SNPLMA Round 16 grant to complete at least 1,200 acres of hazardous fuel reduction spanning multiple ownerships. Work is proceeding on-time and within budget, with approximately 600 acres treated to date.

Project Implementation Process

The Conservancy will conduct a process which includes the following five steps to accomplish the purpose of this nomination:

1. Comprehensive Wildlife and Botanical Surveys and Database
The Conservancy will enter into an agreement to conduct field surveys and to create a comprehensive database of habitat and occurrence for key sensitive wildlife and plant species on Conservancy lands. The database will guide decisions regarding project planning, prioritization, sequencing, and timing of project implementation. Project managers will also use the database to identify opportunities for sensitive species habitat protection and enhancement. The Conservancy will initiate surveys and database development upon receiving funds. Surveys and database updates will continue throughout the project timeframe.

2. Treatment Area Identification
The Conservancy and the TFFT will select potential treatment areas from focus areas based upon multiple factors including connectivity to previously completed or planned fuel hazard reduction projects, values-at-risk, wildlife habitat value, estimates of potential fire behavior, and cost-effectiveness. The Conservancy will identify treatments annually during the first two years of the project timeframe.

3. Environmental Compliance and Treatment Preparation
The Conservancy will review and/or survey potential treatment areas for threatened, endangered, and sensitive wildlife and plants species, as well as historic and cultural resources. The Conservancy will also obtain necessary permits, ensure CEQA compliance, and prepare the treatments. Treatment preparation includes identifying and marking treatment boundaries, removal trees, watercourse boundaries, access points, and work limitation areas. The Conservancy will initiate project planning for the first treatments upon receiving funds. The Conservancy will continue planning subsequent treatments during the first three years of the project timeframe.

4. Treatment Implementation
After the treatment area is identified, reviewed for environmental compliance, and prepared for treatment the Conservancy will prepare and administer contracts and/or grants for hazardous fuel reduction treatments. The Conservancy ensures completion of the treatments through contract oversight, site visits, and grant reporting requirements. During this step the Conservancy will also host one or more interpretive field visits to treatment locations with community members and stakeholders. The Conservancy will initiate this step within one year of receiving funds and will continue implementation throughout the performance period.

5. Project Closeout
Following the completion of a contract or grant agreement for a hazardous fuel reduction treatment, Conservancy staff complete a final inspection of the treatment area, pay final agreement invoices, and ensure all necessary documentation is in the project file. The Conservancy will begin closeout in the final year of the project timeframe and will complete closeout prior to termination of the cooperative agreement.

Future Operations and Maintenance:

None.

Partnerships and/or contributed funds:

None.

Funding Requested Budget Detail:

The total budget for the Nomination is $6,353,615. The total includes the requested amount of $5,993,615 and in-kind contribution funding from the Conservancy totaling $360,000. The Conservancy will use the requested SNPLMA funding to reimburse staff labor hours, purchase supplies, and issue contracts, grants and/or agreements as necessary to complete the project deliverables.

Staff labor cost estimates were generated using fully burdened rates. The Nomination proposes to use a mix of hand thinning, pile burning, mechanical treatments, broadcast/understory burning, and biomass removal to maximize cost effectiveness while meeting community protection and resource improvement objectives. During project planning the Conservancy will select the most appropriate and cost-effective treatment method for implementation. The estimated costs per acre for planning and implementation of the treatment areas have been generated using a 10-year average for similar treatments and areas. These costs may be reduced depending on the access and availability of a close biomass processing facility.

Upon Board approval, the Conservancy will provide $360,000 of in-kind contributions using non-federal funding sources to partially fund the treatments proposed in this Nomination. The Conservancy's in-kind funding accounts for approximately 50-75 acres of the 950-1,250 acres of treatments identified in the purpose statement.

ROUND 18

HAZARDOUS FUELS AND WILDFIRE PREVENTION NOMINATION

ESTIMATED DIRECT COSTS & KEY MILESTONES

Project Name:	**California Tahoe Conservancy Wildland-Urban Interface Hazardous Fuel Reduction**	**Date prepared:**	**8/26/2020**
		Agency:	**California Tahoe Conservancy**
Project #	***Assigned by SNPLMA***	**Priority #:**	***Assigned by SNPLMA***
Prepared by:	**Milan Yeates**	**Phone #:**	**(530)543-6058**
Title/position:	Acting Community Forestry Supervisor		

1	**Planning & Environmental Documentation**	$0	0.00%
	Includes labor for surveys/reports for cultural, natural, biological, archaeological, historical resources, etc. and preparation of NEPA documentation and the decision document. Does not include on-going compliance monitoring (see Direct Labor #3)		
2	**FWS Consultation - Endangered Species Act**	$0	0.00%
	Direct expenses for FWS consultation. *Includes all labor, agreements, and costs for Section 7 review and approval.*		
3	**Direct Federal Labor to Implement Project (Payroll)**	$1,734,615	28.94%
	For interagency projects, identify a primary team lead and the lead agency for consultation/coordination and individual agency leads responsible for entering progress and reports into SMART.		
4	**Project Equipment and/or Supplies and Materials**	$15,500	0.26%
	Equipment, supplies or materials necessary to complete the project that are not included in contracts/agreements. Includes lease or rental of equipment/vehicles.		
5	**Travel and Per Diem for Implementation**	$0	0.00%
	Includes all necessary travel for training and implementation of the project. Training costs for tuition, materials, etc. are identified in item #7 below		
6	**Official Vehicle Use (vehicles with Federal license only)**	$0	0.00%
	Estimated costs for routine maintenance agency vehicles, leased or rental equipment, oil and gas, tires, etc. Does not include replacement cost		
7	**Training (required to implement the project)**	$0	0.00%
	Includes training essential/necessary for implementation of the project.		
8	**Contracts, Grants, and/or Agreements**	$4,243,500	70.80%
	CESU, IGO, Assistance agreements, Task Orders, and contracts for implementation of the project. Also includes all costs for construction/implementation of the plan. The period of performance for grants or agreements and contracts must not extend pas the approved period of performance in the approved Work Plan. Final invoices and de-obligation of unexpended funds must be paid and sub agreements and contracts closed prior to submitting the request for closeout		
9	**Other Necessary Expenses**	$0	0.00%
	(See Appendix B-11)		
	Total requested/estimated budget	**$5,993,615**	**100.00%**
10	**Estimated agency or partner contribution**	$360,000	
	Total Estimated project value	$6,353,615	

General comments and description of milestones
This is a summary of the overall project costs. If approved, eachpartner/entity will be assigned a unique project number and is responsible for submitting a separate budget work sheet. ---------- The California Tahoe Conservancy will reduce hazardous fuels on at least 950 acres and not more than 1,250 acres of the highest priority areas (focus areas) within the defense zone of the Wildland-Urban Interface on the California side of the Lake Tahoe Basin. The three focus areas are split into geographic regions (North, West and South) and are composed of Conservancy-owned large (greater than 1 acre) parcels adjacent to communities.

Performance Measures:

The Conservancy has identified the following Outcomes and Outputs, and relevant SNPLMA Performance Measures that the Nomination will achieve:

1. Outcome: Mitigate risk to lives, property, and the environment within the defense zone of the WUI on the California side of the Basin. Achieving the following output(s) will accomplish this outcome:
   - Output (Primary Deliverable): Reduce hazardous fuels on 950-1,250 acres in the wildland-urban interface. The SNPLMA Performance Measure is:
     - Performance Measure F2 – Acres of Hazardous Fuels Treated – Wildland Urban Interface

2. Outcome: Increase public awareness of wildfire and fuels reduction and how it affects the community. Achieving the following output(s) will accomplish this outcome:
   - Output (Primary Deliverable): Host one or more field trips of the treatment areas with community members and stakeholders. The SNPLMA Performance Measure is:
     - Performance Measure O7 – Number of Interpretive or Educational Presentations given and/or Community Events participated in or Hosted (each presentation is reported as one unit).

3. Outcome: Increase project planning efficiencies and enhance project design and timing to protect and restore wildlife habitat. Achieving the following output(s) will accomplish this outcome:
   - Output (Primary Deliverable): Field surveys and a comprehensive database of habitat and occurrence for key sensitive wildlife and plant species on Conservancy lands. The SNPLMA Performance Measures are:
     - Performance Measure O9 – Number of GIS Databases Generated and/or Map Layers Produced (each database or map layer is one unit).
     - Performance Measure O11- Number of Databases, Reports, and Other Electronic Means of Documenting Activities (each electronic document or method developed is one unit).

Executive Committee Strategic Plan Values:

In addition to furthering agency and Basin fuel reduction goals, the Nomination also promotes the three Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) Strategic Plan goals:

- The Nomination **promotes sustainability** by implementing cost-effective hazardous fuel reduction treatments that help protect life, property, and the environment from the effects of catastrophic wildfire. The treatments will restore forest health by acting as a surrogate for frequent, low intensity wildfire that burned Basin forests prior to Comstock logging in the late 1800s and a subsequent century of fire suppression. The treatments will promote species diversity, both across the landscape and within the project areas, increasing ecosystem resilience to both natural and human caused disturbance.

- The Nomination **promotes connectivity** by using a regional approach to treat priority areas identified in the CWPP and Strategy. This Nomination unites federal, state, local and private fuels reduction treatments across the landscape. The new treatment areas will connect previously treated areas to create continuous tracts of reduced fuels and improved forest health surrounding Basin communities. The Nomination builds on the success of the TFFT in delivering collaboratively developed and prioritized wildfire prevention and fuel hazard reduction programs.

- The Nomination **promotes community** by protecting public health and safety, and by providing educational opportunities that strengthen communication and support between agencies and the public. The Nomination will help create fire adapted communities that are more resilient and better equipped to withstand a wildfire without loss of life or property.

Compliance with Departmental and Agency Priorities, Strategic Goals, Executive Orders, and Secretarial Orders:

<u>Compliance with Departmental/Agency Priorities and Strategic Goals</u>

The Nomination supports Department of the Interior (DOI) Priority 6 (Protect our people and the border). Specifically, the Nomination advances Goal 3 of Mission Area 5 in the DOI Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2018-2022 (Strategic Plan).

- Mission Area 5 of the Strategic Plan lists goals and strategies that help ensure public safety and advance DOI's priority of protecting our people and the border. Goal 3 is to manage wildland fire to reduce risk and improve ecosystem and community resilience. Additionally, DOI specifies that they will work with the Forest Service, and other state, local, and tribal partners improve operational efficiency, reduce management duplication, and strategically place fuels treatments as informed by a risk assessment and mitigation plan.
- The activities proposed under this Nomination advance Goal 3 and will directly improve ecosystem and community resilience by reducing the risk of damaging wildfire through

strategic hazardous fuel reduction treatments. All activities are identified as a priority in the Strategy that federal, state, local, and tribal partners are implementing collaboratively.

The Nomination supports Forest Service Priorities 3 (Promoting shared stewardship by increasing partnerships and volunteerism) and 4 (Improving the condition of forests and grasslands).

- The Chief of the Forest Service's 2018 Leadership Intentions for the Five National Priorities (Leadership Intentions) clarifies the five priorities and sets expectations for the agency and its partners. Priority 3 focuses on the intent to leverage partnerships to increase collective capacity and make a difference on the whole landscape. The work of partners in the Lake Tahoe Basin to implement the Strategy exemplifies the power of shared stewardship to meet collective goals. The activities proposed under this Nomination advance Priority 3 because they complement the defensible space work that residents complete on their property, and connect wildland-urban interface treatments on public and private ownerships to create a continuous area where fuels are reduced, forest health is improved, and communities are better protected from wildfire.
- Forest Service Priority 4 describes the need to work at larger scales improve the condition of forests. A large portion of America's forests are at risk from insects, diseases, and wildfire. These threats transcend property boundaries and work must be completed across landscapes to protect federal, state, private, and tribal lands, and the valuable resources they provide. The activities proposed under this Nomination advance Priority 4 by directly improving the condition of forests in the Basin by acting as a surrogate to naturally occurring wildfire and removing fuels that have built up over the last century. This is essential in reducing the risk of damaging wildfire and of insect and disease infestation.

<u>Consistency with Executive Orders and Secretarial Orders</u>

This Nomination is consistent with Executive Order No. 13855 Promoting Active Management of America's Forests and Rangelands to Improve Conditions and Reduce Wildfire Risk (Executive Order). The Executive Order prescribes three policies to be implemented by the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture, and each align with the activities proposed in the Nomination.

First, the Executive Order requires DOI and the Forest Service to adopt shared management priorities in partnership with federal land managers, states, tribes, and other landowners. This Nomination implements the Strategy which was developed by federal, state, and local government fire agencies and landowners. The Strategy shares the same three goals as the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy, which are to restore fire resilient landscapes, create fire adapted communities, and enable safe and effective wildfire response.

Second, the Executive Order requires DOI and the Forest Service to coordinate federal, state, tribal, and local assets for wildfire prevention, suppression, and reducing hazardous fuels. By closely coordinating nominations, Basin land managers and fire agencies are closely

coordinating with federal agencies to coordinate the deployment of assets and skills to protect communities and natural resources.

Third, the Executive Order requires DOI and the Forest Service to remove hazardous fuels, increase active management, and support rural economies. The Nomination implements prioritized treatments that protect life and property and support the rural economy of the Basin by providing jobs and utilizing forest restoration byproducts.

Ranking Criteria:

1. Improves the community within and/or adjacent to the project area.

A. Addresses immediate public health and safety and community infrastructure.

The Nomination will protect public health and safety and community infrastructure by implementing treatments that reduce fire behavior in high priority areas. The proposed treatments are all within the WUI and primarily within the defense zone (the area generally within 0.25 miles of homes, businesses, and critical infrastructure, as depicted in the focus area maps). The nomination is designed to protect communities from fires originating in the wildland and moving into the residential areas as well as protecting the wildland from fires originating in communities and moving out toward the general forest.

B. Promotes protection of source water (rivers and lakes) or municipal watersheds.

The Nomination promotes protection of source water and municipal watersheds. Portions of the focus areas are adjacent to water storage and delivery infrastructure for North Tahoe Public Utility District, Tahoe City Public Utility District, and South Tahoe Public Utility District. The proposed treatments will help to protect critical water delivery infrastructure in sensitive watersheds, including pump stations and reservoirs. The Nomination will protect source water quality by preventing the rapid transport of nutrient loaded sediment that occurs after catastrophic wildfire.

C. Project includes education and outreach to the community on Living with Fire or Fire Adapted Communities and/or the importance of fuels reduction on federal, state, and local government land.

The Conservancy collaborates with the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team, the Tahoe Network of Fire Adapted Communities, and the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension's Living With Fire Program to plan projects and support community outreach. The Nomination contains a primary deliverable for one or more interpretive/outreach field tours of SNPLMA funded fuel reduction treatment areas for stakeholders and community members that will be coordinated with the Tahoe Network of Fire Adapted Communities and use Living With Fire materials. These field tours will help facilitate education and outreach to the public and stakeholders regarding the importance of fuel hazard reduction treatments on both public and private land.

2. Improves the connection of fuels reduction activities and wildlife habitat.

A. Project connects previously treated areas to create or increase contiguous blocks of treated land.

The focus areas displayed on the included maps represent the remaining high priority areas on Conservancy lands identified for treatment in the Strategy and CWPP. The Nomination advances the Forest Action Plan's goal of treating 17,000 acres in the WUI in the next four years. Project selection criteria will include opportunities to best link or connect previous or planned treatment areas. The Nomination uses a regional approach to treat priority areas identified in the CWPP and links previously treated areas identified in the Strategy, regardless of ownership. Treatment areas are selected to create a continuous zone where potential fire behavior is reduced surrounding communities.

B. Project protects or enhances wildlife habitat and/or resilient vegetative communities.

The Nomination will protect and enhance wildlife habitat and is designed to build resilient and diverse plant and animal communities. In regard to wildlife, the treatments are designed to mitigate the risk of stand-replacing wildfire, which can destroy suitable wildlife habitat. The implementation process includes conducting comprehensive surveys and building a biological resource database to better design and plan projects to protect and enhance habitat for threatened, endangered, and sensitive species. In regard to resilient vegetative communities, the Nomination will reduce stand densities and alter species composition therefore reducing the competition for light, nutrients, and water. This will result in a more open, diverse stand that is more resilient to insects, disease, and the effects of a changing climate.

C. Project enhances the effectiveness of other treatments in progress or complete.

The Nomination will enhance effectiveness of other adjacent in-progress or complete treatments. The Nomination is designed to not only mitigate wildfire risk on the proposed treatment areas but also to complement and enhance adjacent previous treatments, regardless of ownership. This is accomplished by selecting treatment areas that connect or link previous treatments as identified in the CWPP and Strategy.

3. Improves sustainability of the multijurisdictional 10-year plans, environment, and financial resources.

A. The Project will:

1. Improve the sustainability of the forest health and ecosystem function (e.g. stand density, desired species mix and age, tree health, etc.)

The Nomination will improve the sustainability of the forest health and ecosystem function by selectively thinning forest stands to resemble a historic forest structure. Due to the Comstock logging activities and subsequent 100 years of fire suppression, the forest stands in the Basin are even aged and overstocked, making them more susceptible to insect and disease outbreak, which in turn makes them more susceptible to catastrophic wildfire. The treatments are designed to act as a surrogate for the naturally occurring low intensity wildfires that historically managed the forest stands of

the Basin, resulting in a less dense, diverse stand composition that is similar to pre-Comstock logging conditions.

2. Improve the habitat for sensitive species and Threatened and Endangered species. Includes mitigation and/or minimization measures when treatment in sensitive habitat is unavoidable.

The Nomination will improve the habitat for threatened, endangered, and sensitive species. Treatment designs will include mitigation and/or minimization measures when treatment in sensitive habitat is unavoidable. Biological reviews will be conducted for all proposed treatment areas and will identify known occurrences as well as suitable habitat for threatened, endangered, and other sensitive species. These reviews will inform recommendations for how to design projects to improve habitat, and for avoiding impacts to these species and their habitats.

3. Includes broadcast prescribed fire for resource management objectives for sustainable landscapes.

The Nomination includes broadcast prescribed fire for resource management objectives and for sustainable landscapes. Broadcast burning for resource management is included as a treatment type with this Nomination. All broadcast prescribed fire will be done under the direction of an NWCG certified Type 2 Prescribed Fire Burn Boss and in accordance with an approved NWCG Prescribed Fire Burn Plan.

B. The method of treatment is fiscally responsible for the project area by balancing resource objectives, values at risk, and cost per acre factors or cost-benefit analysis.

The Nomination proposes to use a mix of hand thinning, pile burning, mechanical treatments, broadcast/understory burning, and biomass removal to maximize cost effectiveness while meeting community protection and resource improvement objectives. As the treatment areas are selected, the most appropriate and cost-effective treatment method will be recommended for implementation. The estimated costs per acre for planning and implementation of the treatment areas have been generated using a 10-year average for similar treatments and areas. These costs may be reduced depending on the access and availability of a close biomass processing facility.

4. Demonstrates sound project management and quality control measures.

A. Project goals and implementation processes are clear, measurable, achievable, and demonstrable.

The goal of the proposal is to implement hazardous fuels reduction and forest health treatments on 950-1,250 acres of land within the defense zone of the WUI on the California side of the Basin. Treatment areas will be selected based on factors including values-at-risk, cost-effectiveness, and connectivity to previously treated areas.

B. Project proponent has the capacity to implement this project in a timely manner (contractor and staff availability, no backlog of current project, etc.) and within budget.

The Conservancy has a proven record of successfully implementing fuel reduction and forest management treatments using grant funding. The Conservancy has been awarded

and successfully managed and closed out hazardous fuel reduction grants from past rounds of SNPLMA including Rounds 8, 13, 14. The Conservancy is currently managing a $6.8 million SNPLMA Round 16 grant to complete at least 1,200 acres of hazardous fuel reduction spanning multiple ownerships. Work is proceeding on-time and within budget, with 600 acres completed to date. The Conservancy recently expanded its forestry and grant management staff and has redoubled its efforts to collaboratively lead forest management efforts and increase treatments on state lands.

C. Is a phase or related component to a previously funded project.

The Nomination will result in a viable stand-alone proposal. The Nomination is designed to complement and connect completed or planned treatments identified in the CWPP and the Strategy, many of which have been funded by previous rounds of SNPLMA hazardous fuels reduction grants.

D. Has identified committed non-SNPLMA sources of funding or in-kind contribution in the development and/or implementation of the project.

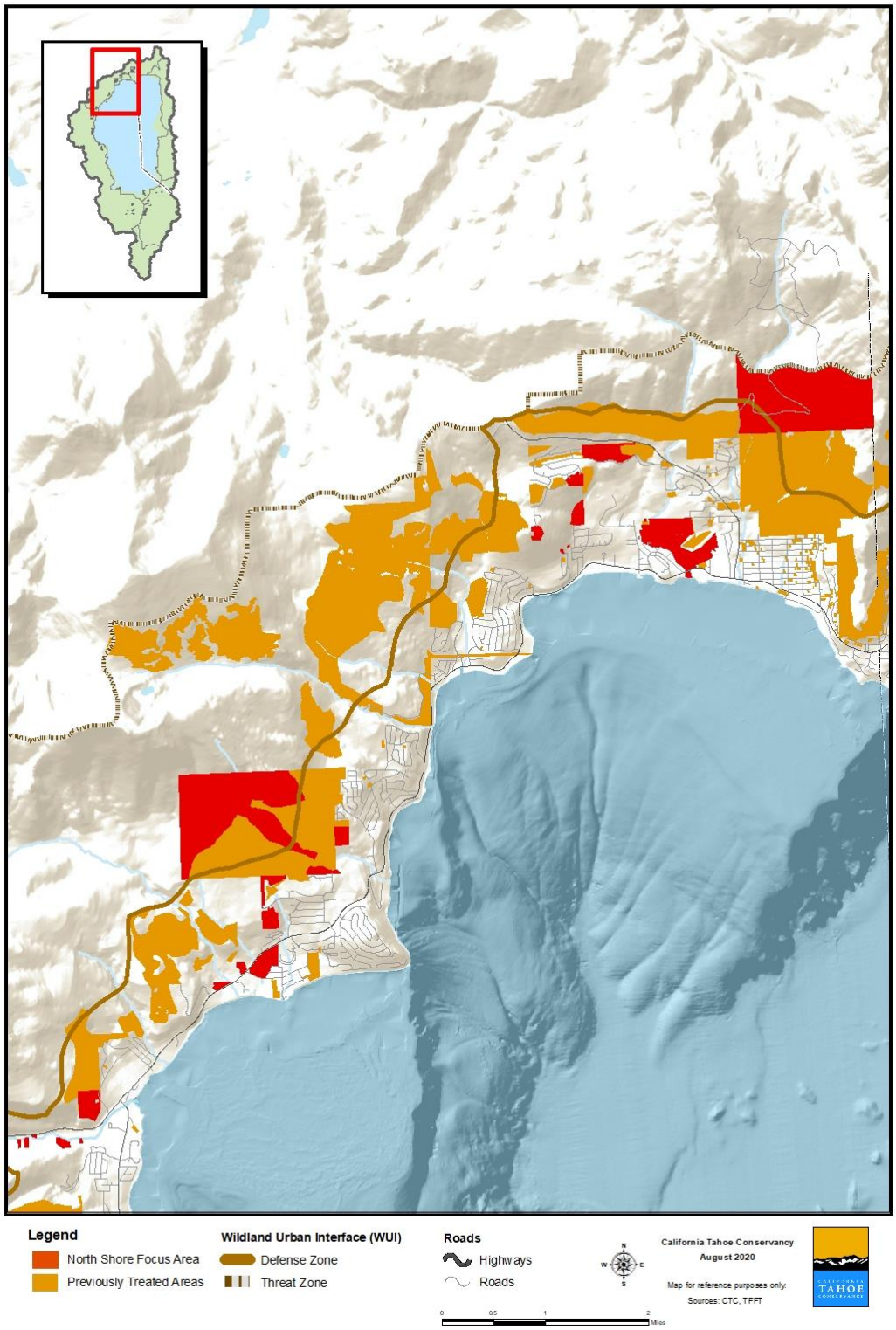
Upon Board approval, the Conservancy will provide $360,000 of in-kind contributions using non-federal funding sources to partially fund the treatments proposed in this Nomination. The Conservancy's in-kind funding accounts for approximately 50-75 acres of the 950-1,250 acres of treatments identified in the purpose statement.

Project Location:

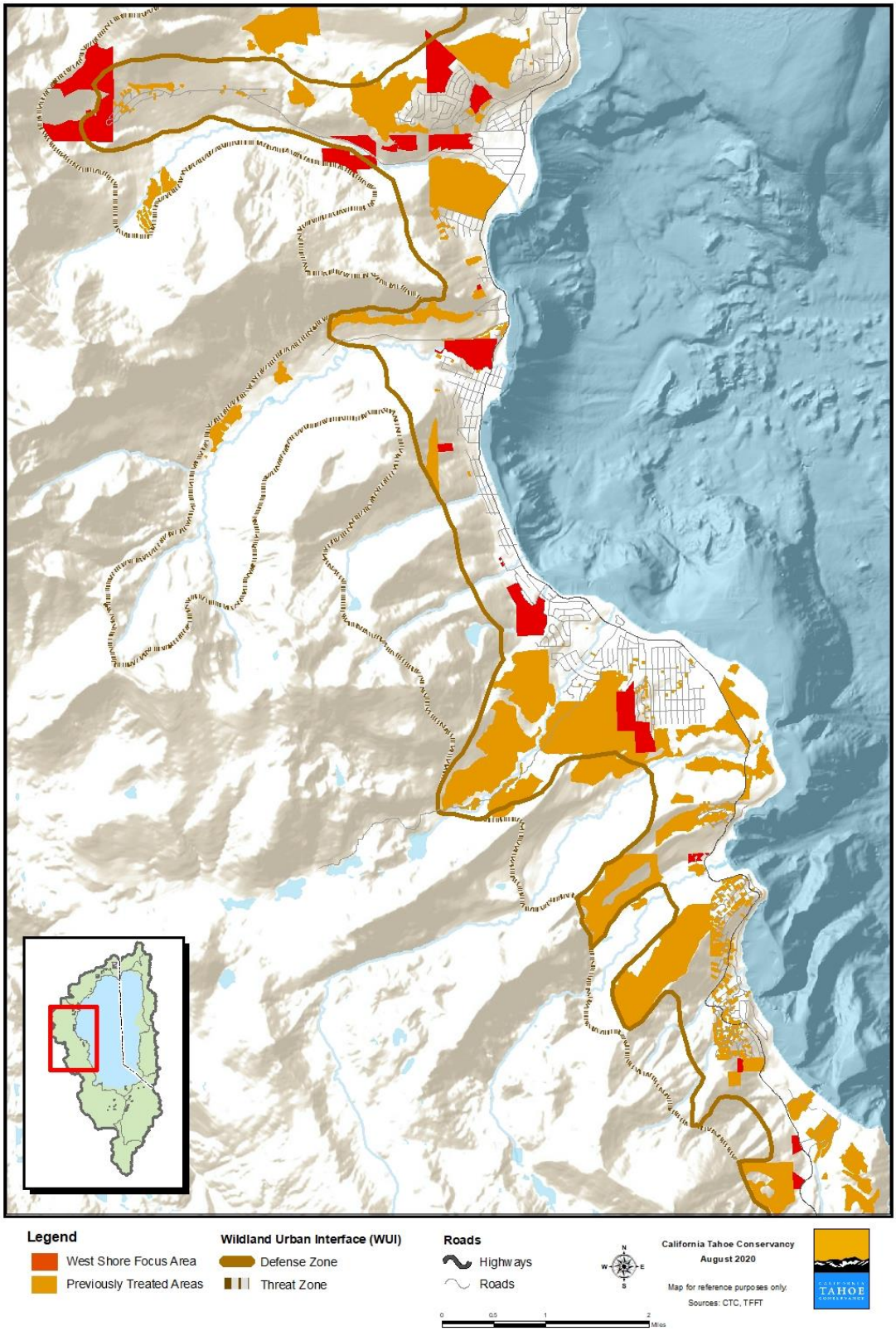
Treatments proposed under this Nomination, will occur on large forested parcels owned and managed by the Conservancy within the defense zone of the WUI on the California side of the Basin. The focus areas indicated on the maps below encompass 2,800 acres and include the remaining high-priority projects identified in the CWPP and Strategy. The focus areas also represent the greatest opportunity for the Conservancy to connect hazardous fuels reduction treatments across the landscape.

Maps:

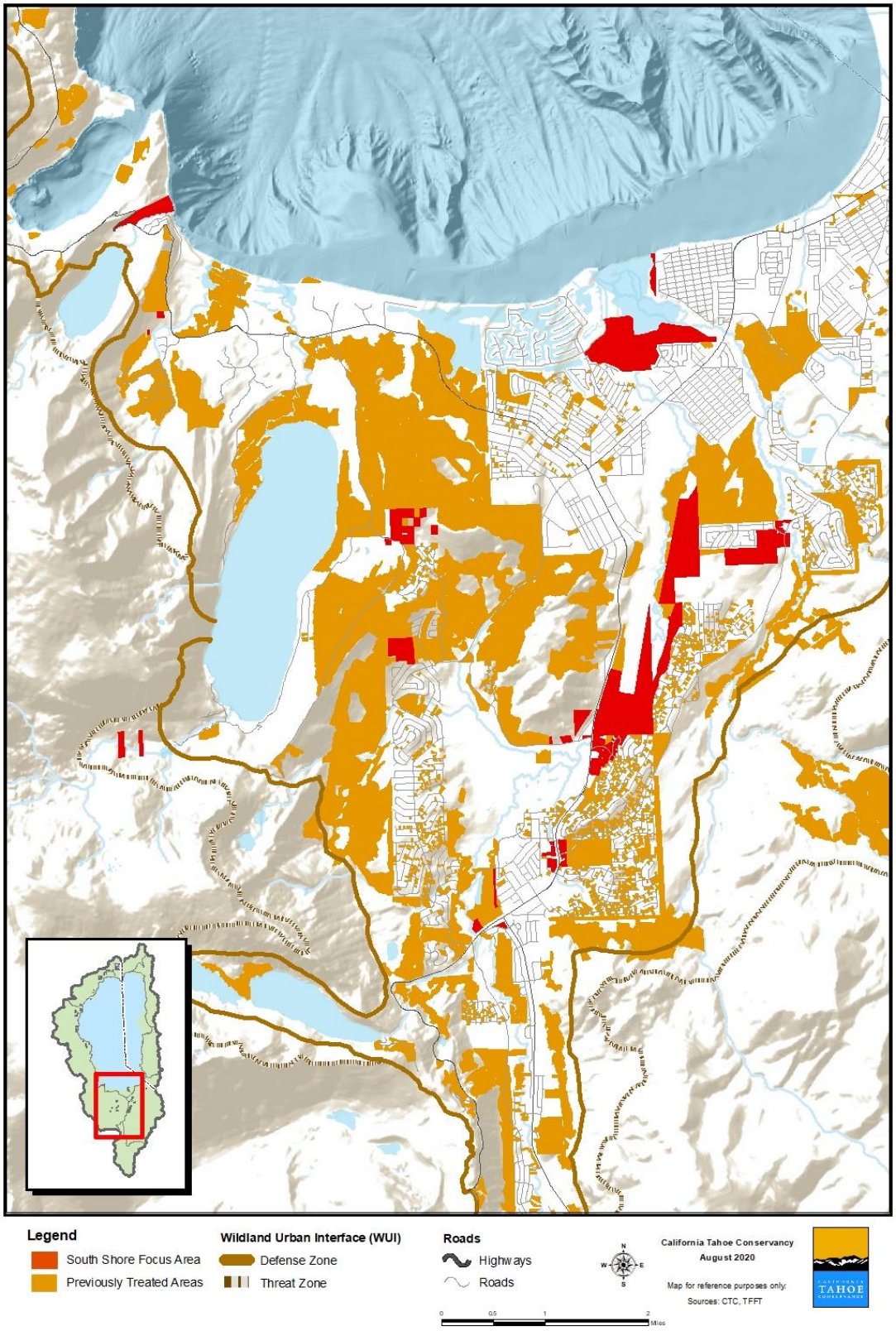
California Tahoe Conservancy WUI Hazardous Fuel Reduction
North Shore Focus Area



California Tahoe Conservancy WUI Hazardous Fuel Reduction
West Shore Focus Area



California Tahoe Conservancy WUI Hazardous Fuel Reduction
South Shore Focus Area



Letters of Support:

September 10, 2020

Robert Taylor
Program Manager, SNPLMA Division
Bureau of Land Management
4702 North Torrey Pines Drive
Las Vegas, Nevada 89130

Re: SNPLMA Round 18 Nominations for Hazardous Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention in the Lake Tahoe Basin

Dear Mr. Taylor and other Nomination Reviewers:

Thank you for your consideration of the Lake Tahoe Basin's Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) Round 18 project nominations. The local government, state, and federal implementing agencies have partnered in a coordinated approach to comprehensively and cost-effectively implement the Lake Tahoe Basin Multi-Jurisdictional Strategy for Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention (Strategy).

The Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team (TFFT) formed in 2008 to implement the Strategy, with the twin aims of reducing fuels in the wildland-urban interface (WUI) and preparing communities for wildfire. The 21 partner agencies of the TFFT work within the Lake Tahoe Basin (Basin) to plan, prioritize, and implement fuel reduction and fire prevention projects that protect life, property, and the environment. The TFFT recently collaborated to identify critical need projects and develop ten SNPLMA Round 18 nominations that advance the goals of the Strategy.

Communities across the western United States are currently witnessing the catastrophe of yet another record-breaking wildfire season. A destructive wildfire in the Basin of similar scale to those burning right now elsewhere in the Sierra Nevada would have devastating impacts on our forests, communities, and businesses. Such a fire would also cause severe economic impacts in both California and Nevada.

The Basin's fire agencies are tested every fire season by dozens of wildfire ignitions, which each have the potential to become the Basin's next destructive wildfire. To improve our odds, we work at every level – from helping residents prepare themselves, their families, and their homes

Protecting lives, property, and the environment of the Lake Tahoe Basin from wildfire by implementing prioritized fuel reduction projects and engaging the public in becoming a fire adapted community.

for wildfire, to working within neighborhoods to create defensible space that extends across property lines, to reducing fuels and restoring forests in the WUI and beyond.

This holistic approach of working at every level is ratified in the Strategy, with its three goals of creating fire adapted communities, restoring fire-resilient landscapes, and supporting safe and effective wildfire response. These goals are mirrored by the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy. The goals are manifested in the over 60,000 acres treated in the Basin's WUI by TFFT partners over the last decade, and the thousands of homes inspected for defensible space and brought into compliance.

There are ten Hazardous Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention nominations for SNPLMA Round 18, each implementing a critical component of the Strategy. The nominations are:

1) **Lake Tahoe Basin Fire Adapted Communities**
   Agency: Tahoe Resource Conservation District
   Funding Requested: $8,705,000
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Nomination 1 will deliver extensive community engagement and defensible space treatments through the Tahoe Network of Fire Adapted Communities (Tahoe Network). The Tahoe Network is a multi-agency and community collaboration that helps residents take individual action to collectively reduce their neighborhood's risk of wildfire. The preparedness of residents and the defensible space around homes are at the core of the Strategy' approach to preventing catastrophic wildfire.

The defensible space treatments completed through Nomination 1 directly connect to the treatments included in Nominations 2 through 6. These nominations propose treatments on the thousands of small open-space and undeveloped lots surrounding homes that are interspersed throughout neighborhoods, as well as on private and local-government lands near communities. Nominations 7 and 8 connect to neighborhood treatments and involve large-scale wildland-urban interface treatments on state and federal lands. The treatments substantially advance the TFFT's target of completing initial wildland-urban interface treatments identified in the Strategy by 2024.

Nomination 9 reduces wildfire risk and creates healthy forests surrounding powerlines, a significant potential source of wildfire ignitions. The treatments will help protect critical community infrastructure as well as reduce the risk of spread for ignitions originating from powerlines.

Finally, Nomination 10 proposes to strategically use prescribed fire as a tool for both fuel reduction and landscape restoration. In addition to implementing valuable treatments, the project helps to build Basinwide capacity to use prescribed fire across multiple jurisdictions.

The TFFT expresses its strong support for the full suite of projects listed above. The SNPLMA program has been transformative for the Basin by enabling a multitude of fuel reduction and wildfire reduction projects. These projects have helped improve our odds of withstanding wildfire and are an important reason for our success to date. Again, thank you for your consideration of the Basin's SNPLMA Round 18 nominations.

Sincerely,

Scott Baker

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Chair, TFFT Multi-Agency Coordinating Group
Fire Chief, Tahoe-Douglas Fire Protection District

Protecting lives, property, and the environment of the Lake Tahoe Basin from wildfire by implementing prioritized fuel reduction projects and engaging the public in becoming a fire adapted community.

Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act
Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention
Round 18

Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District

Fuels Reduction - Hwy 50

Amount Requested: $432,470

Timeframe: 6 Years
Location: 39.083272°/ -119.945587°
39.052842°/ -119.940894°
Congressional District: NV-2

Contact: Keegan Schafer, Fuels Management Officer
Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District
193 Elks Point Road
Zephyr Cove, NB 89449
Phone: (775) 588-3591
Fax: (775)588-3046
Email: KSchafer@tahoefire.com

Purpose Statement

The Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District will treat between 90 to 115 acres of forestland within the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) along the US Highway 50 corridor between Glenbrook and Zephyr Cove, NV. This treatment will help to modify potential fire behavior such that firefighters will be able to safely protect life, property, and the environment from an approaching wildland fire. This project will also drastically increase the sustainability of the ecosystems by returning the environment back to a more "natural" landscape in terms of vegetation/tree density and species composition. Treatment will include thinning and removal of fuels within the project areas and is expected to commence in 2023 and will be completed by 2028.

Background Information to Support the Need:

The Fuels Reduction - Hwy 50 Project is a 90 to 115-acre fuels reduction project located in two distinct areas along the Northern section of US Highway 50 in the Lake Tahoe Basin. These areas are prone to heavy vehicle traffic in the summer months and are forested lands that are in close proximity to homes. These projects areas are within the Defense Zone in the WUI. The project is necessary to prevent impacts to the community and environment from catastrophic wildfire.

The project is composed of two units and are shown on the figures attached herewith. The first unit (Clemens 1496 US Hwy 50) is 63 acres of private property adjacent to a project area funded by US Forest Service completed in 2019. The second project area is an additional 55 acre (Gamba 176 Yellow Jacket Road and Uppaway 23 Lake Front) private property adjacent to US Forest Service property that was last treated in 2018. Completion of the proposed Fuels Reduction - Hwy 50 Project will result a larger area of contiguous treated lands.

Fuels in the Fuels Reduction - Hwy 50 Project primarily consist of dense Jeffrey pine forest with interspersed brush fields that appear to be historic fire scars. The trees on the northern slopes receive much more water and thus form a very dense forest with basal areas in excess of 350-300 feet^2 /acre. The project areas with south facing slopes are quite stunted and basal areas are typically less than 120 feet^2/ acre. In both cases, the primary concern is that the vertical continuity of forest fuels created by suppressed Jeffery Pine in combination with the horizontal continuity of dense brush would fuel a stand replacing crown fire. The continuous brush forms surface fuels and the suppressed trees would readily wick fire into the upper canopy. The fuels, steep topography and winds along the Highway 50 corridor would support catastrophic fire that could defy suppression efforts under 90th percentile fire weather conditions.

The proposed project is to reduce the horizontal and vertical continuity of forest fuels by thinning the suppressed and intermediate trees in the forest stand. The goal will be to reduce basal areas below 150 feet^2 / acre on north facing slopes and below 100 feet^2 /acre on south facing slopes. Suppressed and intermediate trees will be thinned so as to raise crown base heights to over 20 feet. Additionally, continuous areas of brush and dead and down trees will be thinned such that surface fuels will not contribute to the crown fire potential. Completion of the project includes additional benefits beyond fire suppression through the enhancement and protection of the natural environment. The project will result in the decrease of probability of catastrophic fire that has the potential for significant impacts to water quality (project areas are in very close proximity to the waters of Lake Tahoe), sensitive habitats and

public health and safety. Catastrophic fire in these locations could lead to ground destabilization on steep slopes that may result in landslides/erosion as has occurred in recent years. The Highway 50 corridor in this area is the only road/highway in the area to allow for the passage of traffic including emergency vehicles.

The proposed project sites are being selected to provide the residents in both the Uppaway/Glenbrook Estates HOA and residents along the Highway 50 corridor increased community protection. The plan is to reduce the fuels in the forests on the project areas so that fire will tend to burn as a surface fire as opposed to stand replacing crown fire. The proposed project will also protect the communities from a fire originating off the Highway 50 corridor.

The proposed project is located on the east shore of Lake Tahoe in Douglas County NV. The project areas are in Township 14 North, Range 18 East, Sections 15 and 27. Maps of the project areas are attached.

Relationship to prior approved phases or related SNPLA projects and description of anticipated phases:

The treatment areas were selected from TDFPD's high hazard zones and based on connectivity to previously treated areas regardless of ownership. These areas create continuity with treatment areas that have been treated either by the United States Forest Service and/or TDFPD (working with funds from the USFS). TDFPD acknowledges that there is neither guarantee nor expectation of funding for future phases.

Deliverables

Primary Deliverables

a. The fuels reduction deliverable of the proposed project is the successful thinning of brush and trees such that fire will have less than four-foot flame lengths during critical fire weather. This will be accomplished by implementing a standard prescription for forest stands on north, south, and west facing slopes within the Tahoe basin. The project will be implemented in four steps:
    i. The TDFPD will complete all environmental compliance requirements including archaeological surveys and necessary reviews.
    ii. TDFPD's Fuels Management Officer will complete project layout to include delineating property and special protection areas including archaeological sites and stream environment zones. The Fuels Management Officer will also mark hazard trees, trees within stream environment zones and wildlife trees will be marked for removal or retention.
    iii. The TDFPD's Zephyr Fire Crew will cut and pile trees and brush per the forest stand prescription.
    iv. The TDFPD's Zephyr Fire Crew will burn the piles and thus dispose of the slash created during forest thinning operations.

Anticipated Deliverables

a. If the fire district is able to reduce costs and obtain budget savings on primary deliverables then an additional 10 acres of private property is proposed for fuels reduction adjacent to the project. This additional acreage would not only provide protection to the residents in Uppaway HOA (see attached map) but would also provide important room for first responders to suppress a fire running upslope.
b. After treatment is complete, TDFPD will complete defensible space inspections on the entire Uppaway HOA property owners adjacent to project areas.

Standard Deliverables

a. A Forester contracted by TDFPD will write a forest fuels reduction prescription for the project. The prescription will include information about the forest composition, forest structure, soils, slope aspect, vegetation present and plan for thinning the brush and trees on the site.
b. TDFPD project archeologist will perform an online cultural resource record search, perform ground surveys, and subsequently prepare a Cultural Resources Report for the project. Consultation with NV State Historic Preservation Office will occur in an effort to receive concurrence.
c. TDFPD project biologist will review local and state databases for the presence of Threatened or Endangered, Sensitive or Candidate (TESC) species and habitats. project biologist will informally consult with US Fish and Wildlife and prepare a Biological Assessment to determine impacts to TESC species.
d. TDFPD's Fuels Management Officer will complete project layout to include delineating property and special protection areas including archaeological sites, sensitive habitats and stream environment zones if applicable.
e. TDFPD's Fuels Management Officer will consult with the Nevada Stream Variance Committee, Nevada State Historic Preservation Office, Nevada Natural Heritage Program and the Nevada Division of Forestry where applicable. The result of these consultations and reviews will be:
    - Letter of no significant effect from the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office
    - Letter from the Nevada Division of Forestry documenting the findings of the Nevada Stream Variance Committee.
f. TDFPD's Fuels Management Officer will take before and after pictures throughout the project area for photo-documentation of the treatment.
g. After completion of the project TDFPD will complete project closeout documents for SNPLMA and for the TDFPD's Board of Trustees.

Project Timeframe:

6 Years

Level of Readiness for Implementation

Two of the three treatment areas have been advised of the treatment opportunities and have showed support to carry on the plans. The third property owner has allowed TDFPD onto other owned properties and has had successful treatments in the past. TDFPD plans on hearing back from the property owner after this nomination is submitted.

All project archeologists, biologists, and foresters have been contracted in past treatment projects and are available to start reviews of the project areas.

TDFPD's Zephyr Fire Crew has been doing large scale hazardous fuel removal since 2008 and trains yearly on proper procedures for fuel reduction.
The TDFPD is an all risk fire protection district and is responsible for responding to emergencies including structure fires, wildland fires, medical emergencies, vehicle accidents, land and water rescues, and hazardous material incidents.

The TDFPD currently manages an active wildland fire prevention program including a Type II IA hand crew with experience in forest thinning and pile burning. The program is overseen by the Fuels Management Officer who is also the chief officer for the TDFPD's Zephyr Fire Crew. The Zephyr Crew is a wildland firefighting crew and is also responsible for implementing fuels reduction projects in the district. The Zephyr Crew is supervised by a Crew Supervisor and Crew Foreman who are experienced in implementing forest fuels reduction projects and pile burning. The Fuels Management Officer is a qualified Prescribed Fire Burn Boss under National Wildland Coordinating Group standards. The Fuels Management Officer will file all burn plans and air quality permits necessary to complete pile burning operations.

The proposed project includes completing all project permitting and project design. The TDFPD's Fuels Management Officer has implemented fuels reduction projects in the Lake Tahoe Basin since 2008. The Fuels Management Officer is experienced in all aspects of forest thinning including obtaining archaeological clearances, wildlife surveys, TRPA permits, and project design and project management.

Implementation Process

1. Environmental Compliance and Treatment Preparation: TDFPD will review and/or survey the treatment areas for threatened, endangered, and sensitive wildlife species, as well as historic and cultural resources. TDFPD will also obtain necessary permits, certify CEQA compliance, and prepare the treatments for entry. Treatment preparation includes marking treatment boundaries, removal trees, stream environment zones, and exclusion areas.
2. Treatment Implementation: After the treatment area has been reviewed for environmental compliance and prepared for treatment TDFPD's Zephyr Fire Crew will ensure completion of the treatment areas by following the prescription set forth by the Forester
3. Project Closeout: Following the completion of the treatment areas, TDFPD's Fuels Management Officer will complete a final inspection, document before and after pictures, and ensure all necessary documentation is in the project file.

Future Operation and Maintenance:

Not applicable

Partnerships and/or contributed funds:

None.

Funding Requested Budget Detail:

ROUND 18
HAZARDOUS FUELS AND WILDFIRE PREVENTION NOMINATION
ESTIMATED DIRECT COSTS & KEY MILESTONES

Project Name:	**Highway 50 Hazardous Fuels Reduction**	**Date prepared:**	**9/10/2020**
		Agency:	**Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection D**
Project #	***Assigned by SNPLMA***	**Priority #:**	***Assigned by SNPLMA***
Prepared by:	**Keegan Schafer**	**Phone #:**	**775-588-3591**
Title/position:	Fuels Management Officer		

1	**Planning & Environmental Documentation** Includes labor for surveys/reports for cultural, natural, biological, archaeological, historical resources, etc. and preparation of NEPA documentation and the decision document. Does not include on-going compliance monitoring (see Direct Labor #3)	$40,250	9.31%
2	**FWS Consultation - Endangered Species Act** Direct expenses for FWS consultation. *Includes all labor, agreements, and costs for Section 7 review and approval.*	$0	0.00%
3	**Direct Labor to Implement Project (Payroll)** For interagency projects, identify a primary team lead and the lead agency for consultation/coordination and individual agency leads responsible for entering progress and reports into SMART.	$392,220	90.69%
4	**Project Equipment and/or Supplies and Materials** Equipment, supplies or materials necessary to complete the project that are not included in contracts/agreements. Includes lease or rental of equipment/vehicles.	$0	0.00%
5	**Travel and Per Diem for Implementation** Includes all necessary travel for training and implementation of the project. Training costs for tuition, materials, etc. are identified in item #7 below	$0	0.00%
6	**Official Vehicle Use (vehicles with Federal license only)** Estimated costs for routine maintenance agency vehicles, leased or rental equipment, oil and gas, tires, etc. Does not include replacement cost	$0	0.00%
7	**Training (required to implement the project)** Includes training essential/necessary for implementation of the project.	$0	0.00%
8	**Contracts, Grants, and/or Agreements** CESU, IGO, Assistance agreements, Task Orders, and contracts for implementation of the project. Also includes all costs for construction/implementation of the plan. The period of performance for grants or agreements and contracts must not extend pas the approved period of performance in the approved Work Plan. Final invoices and de-obligation of unexpended funds must be paid and sub agreements and contracts closed prior to submitting the request for closeout	$0	0.00%
9	**Other Necessary Expenses** (See Appendix B-11)	$0	0.00%
	Total requested/estimated budget	**$432,470**	**100.00%**
10	**Estimated agency or partner contribution**	$0	
	Total Estimated project value	$432,470	

Performance Measures:

Outcome: Protection of Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District's communities that are at risk of catastrophic loss due to a wildland fire. Achieving the following output will accomplish this outcome:

- Output: Treat 90-115 acres of hazardous fuels in the Wildland Urban Interface within the communities of Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District along US HWY 50.
    - F2 - Acres of Hazardous Fuels Treated – Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)

Executive Committee Strategic Plan Goals:

Fuels Reduction - Hwy 50 Project will **promote sustainability** by restoring the landscape to a natural state and conserving the forested area. This will be accomplished by increasing canopy spacing and reducing surface fuels to encourage species diversification while also creating a safer community from wildfire and reducing indirect impacts to the community that may result from catastrophic wildfire.

This project will **promote connectivity** by connecting previously treated areas to the proposed treatment areas. Federal, state, and private lands have been treated adjacent to the communities within the proposal. Accomplishing the proposed treatment area would unite all treated areas across the landscape.

This project will also **promote community** by creating healthy and sustainable ecosystems. By managing the landscape in the Defense Zone of the WUI, it extends the community out into the wildland giving residents more access and opportunity to recreate. The project area is in an area of known historical importance and therefore implementing the project will allow for protection of historical and cultural resources. Anytime we can provide an example of fuels reduction done right, community members are more likely to mimic the treatments on their own property. TDFPD will complete defensible space inspections for property owners adjacent to project areas thereby educating the surrounding community on fire safe practices.

Compliance with Departmental and Agency Priorities, Strategic Goals, Executive Orders, and Secretarial Orders:

<u>Compliance with Departmental/Agency Priorities and Strategic Goals</u>

<u>Consistency with Executive Orders and Secretarial Orders</u>

Ranking Criteria:

1. <u>Improves the community within and/or adjacent to the project area.</u>
    - **a.** *Addresses immediate public health and safety and community infrastructure.*
        - **i.** All proposed treatment areas are within the defense zone. The proposal is designed to protect communities from fires originating in the wildland and moving into the residential areas as well as protecting the wildland fires originating in the communities and moving into the general forests.
    - **b.** *Promotes protection of source water (rivers and lakes) or municipal watersheds.*

i. The Uppaway project area contains a water storage and delivery infrastructure that services the residents of Uppaway and Glenbrook communities within the unit boundary. This proposed treatment will help to protect critical water delivery infrastructure including the pump station and water tank. The proposal will also protect source water quality by preventing the rapid transport of nutrient loaded sediment that occurs after catastrophic wildfire.

c. *Project includes education and outreach to the community on Living with Fire or Fire Adapted Communities and/or the importance of fuels reduction on federal, state, and local government land.*

i. TDFPD projects always include education and outreach to the community on the importance of fuel reduction across all lands. Fuel reduction projects are overseen and conducted by TDFPD staff. Living with Fire and Fire Adapted Communities education is incorporated heavily in all fuel reduction projects within the district.

2. Improves the connection of fuels reduction activities and wildlife habitat.

a. *Project connects previously treated areas to create or increase contiguous blocks of treated land.*

i. The project areas were selected based on the connected treatments that have been completed in and around the communities. Creating a continuous treatment through and adjacent to the communities has been the focus of TDFPD's fuel reduction program since the inception.

b. *Project protects or enhances wildlife habitat and/or resilient vegetative communities.*

i. Diversity in wildlife habitat and vegetative communities occur when treatment of hazardous fuels are done with attention to detail and done by hand piling and burning. Project biologists will include reviews to identify sensitive species and recommendations to for enhancing wildlife habitat and vegetative composition.

c. *Project enhances the effectiveness of other treatments in progress or complete.*

i. Treatment areas were designed to enhance the effectiveness of treatment areas completed prior. The proposed project will directly affect the past treatments of catastrophic wildfire over the landscape, regardless of the agency that treated the adjacent area.

3. Improves sustainability of the multijurisdictional 10-year plans, environment, and financial resources.

a. *The Project will:*

i. *Improve the sustainability of the forest health and ecosystem function (e.g. stand density, desired species mix and age, tree health, etc.)*

1. Selective tree cutting following a prescription set forth by a forester familiar with the Lake Tahoe Basin greatly improves the forest health resulting in a less dense and diverse tree stand. These treatments generally result in a healthier stand that is more resilient to insect and disease outbreak, especially if paired with a low intensity prescribed ground fire.

ii. *Improve the habitat for sensitive species and Threatened and Endangered species. Includes mitigation and/or minimization measures when treatment in sensitive habitat is unavoidable.*

1. Thorough reviews of the treatment areas will provide recommendations on improving habitat for sensitive and threatened and endangered species. Recommendations will include leaving designated standing snags, and exclusion areas for sensitive species habitat where applicable.

b. *Includes broadcast prescribed fire for resource management objectives for sustainable landscapes.*
   i. All treatment areas proposed include prescribed fire as the primary mechanism to remove the hazardous fuels. Where applicable, a "pile creep" approach has been successful when the desired outcome is to remove more of the ground fuels around a burn pile. TDFPD's Fuels Management Officer is a qualified Type 2 Prescribed Fire Burn Boss and oversees the prescribed burning done in the district under an approved burn plan.

c. *The method of treatment is fiscally responsible for the project area by balancing resource objectives, values at risk, and cost per acre factors or cost-benefit analysis.*
   i. TDFPD's Fuels Management Division has been a successful program removing hazardous fuels in the Lake Tahoe Basin since its inception in 2008. It is critical that TDFPD utilizes the most cost-effective method of removing hazardous fuels while maintaining quality fuel management techniques and outcomes.

4. **Demonstrates sound project management and quality control measures.**

a. *Project goals and implementation processes are clear, measurable, achievable, and demonstrable.*
   i. TDFPD is confident that the treatment areas proposed can be treated to achieve all goals in a clear, measurable, and demonstrable manner. TDFPD has been rewarded with multiple SNPLMA rounds in the past and demonstrated success in goals met.

b. *Project proponent has the capacity to implement this project in a timely manner (contractor and staff availability, no backlog of current project, etc.) and within budget.*
   i. TDFPD's Fuels Management Division has demonstrated that it has capacity to finish projects within budget and in a timely manner in past SNPLMA awards. The Zephyr Fire Crew is a scalable resource that can adapt to situations to meet workloads and deadlines.

c. *Is a phase or related component to a previously funded project.*
   i. This will result in a stand-alone project; however, the treatment areas are designed to complement and connect with the adjacent treatment areas already completed.

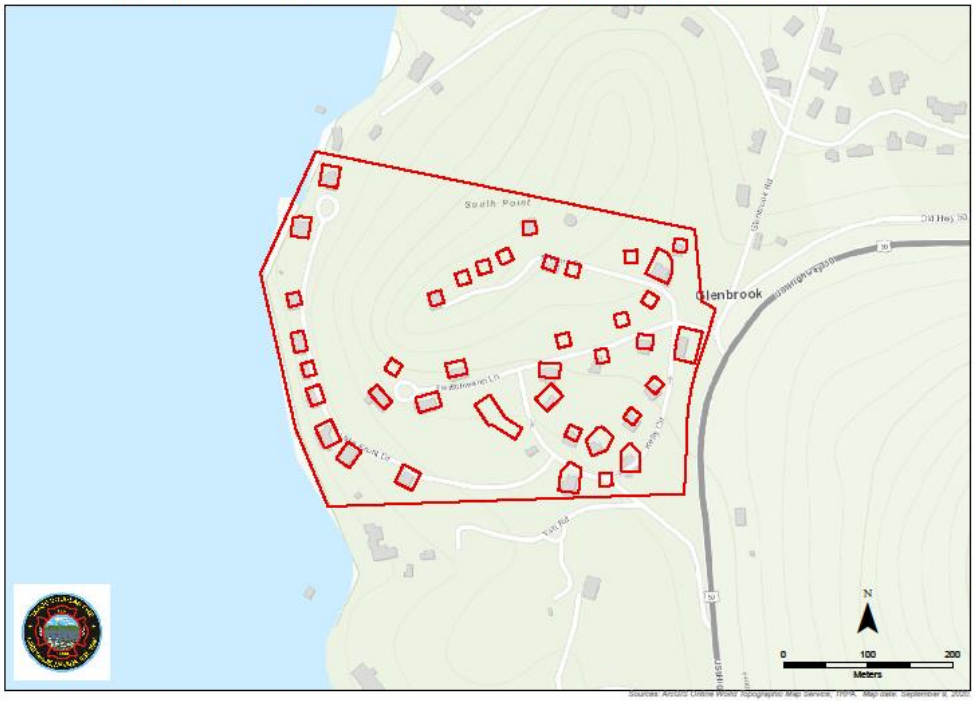
d. *Has identified committed non-SNPLMA sources of funding or in-kind contribution in the development and/or implementation of the project.*
   i. TDFPD will provide in-kind contributions using state and private funding to treat adjacent treatment areas to the proposed project. TDFPD estimates in-kind funding to total $20,000 annually.

Maps:

Gamba and Uppaway Estates treatment areas are considered one project.

GAMBA - 176 Yellow Jacket - ID# 1418-10-801-001

UPPAWAY ESTATES INC - 23 Lake Front - ID# 1418-15-511-024



*

CLEMENS - 1496 Highway 50 - ID# 1418-00-002-004

Letters of Support:

1. Tahoe Fires and Fuels Team (TFFT)

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September 10, 2020

Robert Taylor
Program Manager, SNPLMA Division
Bureau of Land Management
4702 North Torrey Pines Drive
Las Vegas, Nevada 89130

Re: SNPLMA Round 18 Nominations for Hazardous Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention in the Lake Tahoe Basin

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Sincerely,

Scott Baker
Chair, TFFT Multi-Agency Coordinating Group
Fire Chief, Tahoe-Douglas Fire Protection District

Protecting lives, property, and the environment of the Lake Tahoe Basin from wildfire by implementing prioritized fuel reduction projects and engaging the public in becoming a fire adapted community.

SNPLMA Round 18
Fuels– US Forest Service Addendum

Nomination: Tab 7

Entity: Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit

Project: Fuels Reduction – National Forest Priority WUI

Revision: The Partners Working Group's (PWG) recommendation was to fund 50 percent of this scalable nomination. This would meet a reasonable overall funding level established by the Executive Committee and still recommend the best of the best nominations.

The initial nomination budget request is $10,489,750. Therefore, PWG's recommendation is funding $5,244,875; whereby, the scope of the nomination would be downscaled to reflect the recommended funding amount.

Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act
Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention
Round 18

United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit

Fuels Reduction – National Forest Priority WUI

Amount Requested: $10,489,750

Timeframe: 6 Years
Location: 38.94822222 / -120.10805556
38.91076667 / -119.98083333
Congressional District: CA-4

Contact: Rita Mustatia
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Purpose Statement:

The US Forest Service/Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU) will reduce hazardous fuels and improve forest health on approximately 3,100 acres of National Forest System (NFS) land. This project will consist of forest thinning and vegetation treatment units identified in the South Tahoe Fuels Treatment Project, adjacent to South Lake Tahoe communities in El Dorado County, California, and the West Shore Wildland-Urban Interface Fuels Reduction Project, adjacent to west shore communities in El Dorado and Placer Counties, California. The project emphasis is on the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) defense and threat zones and treatments are designed to reduce the wildfire threat to communities, watersheds, and natural resources. This project will implement the treatments that are identified in the 2014 Lake Tahoe Basin Multi-Jurisdictional Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Strategy.

Background info to support the need:

Forest vegetation conditions in the project area have been altered by fire suppression, urban development, and past forest management – most notably – the Comstock logging era of the 1870s. Pre-settlement forest stand structure and tree species composition has shifted over the past 100 years from stands with fewer larger diameter pines and firs to stands with a greater number of smaller diameter pine and competing (shade-tolerant) fir trees, along with an increase in both live and dead surface fuel loading. The current fuel conditions and potential fire behavior in the project area pose an increased risk of a catastrophic wildland fire as compared to historic conditions. The accumulation of surface and ladder fuels, especially the growth of dense, small diameter suppressed trees, contributes to increased potential for crown fires.

The treatments implemented under this project will create forest stands that are fairly open and dominated primarily by larger, fire tolerant trees and will have surface and ladder fuel conditions such that crown fire ignition is highly unlikely to occur. The openness and discontinuity of crown fuels, both horizontally and vertically will result in very low probability of sustained crown fire. These treatments will create resilient, healthy forests that protect and sustain important habitats from wildfire and other disturbances. The treatments will connect to previously treated areas creating resilient conditions across the landscape. Additionally, while protecting critical habitat, these treatments reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire to south and west shore Lake Tahoe communities and protect highly valued recreational landscapes.

Relationship to prior approved phases or related SNPLMA projects and anticipated future phases:

This project is a standalone project that will implement treatments identified in the South Tahoe and West Shore WUI Fuels Treatment and Reduction Project. The LTBMU has secured funding to implement portions of these projects through Forest Service appropriations and through state of California grants. This project will fund an additional 3,100 untreated acres within these project areas. There will be additional acres in each of these project areas that remain untreated and unfunded beyond the request of this nomination. We acknowledge there is no guarantee for funding of future phases and can confirm that this will result in a viable, standalone project.

Deliverables:

Primary Deliverables
The following Primary Deliverables establish the minimum actions that when completed will achieve the purpose of the project, as stated above:

- Reduce hazardous fuels and improve forest health conditions on 3,100 acres of NFS lands. The actual acreage treated may be slightly different and will be determined by the costs for conducting hand thinning, service contracts, and mechanical thinning stewardship contracts at the time of project implementation so as not to exceed the approved budget. This will include the contract rates for hand thinning and piling of slash, mechanical thinning, removal of biomass material, and mastication. The final acres may also change as a result of currently unknown circumstances that may not be discovered until implementation, such as changed information on wildlife species, newly discovered heritage resource sites, etc.

Anticipated Deliverables
The following Anticipated Deliverables are desirable and beneficial:

- Forest products including biomass and timber.

Standard Deliverables

- Project management and SNPLMA reporting.
  - Develop project work plan and budget to support project implementation.
  - Prepare, award, and administer hazardous fuels reduction hand thinning service contracts and timber stewardship sale or service contracts.
  - Prepare, award, and administer hand thin/pile hazardous fuels reduction contracts including all contract inspections, final payment, and contract close-out.
  - Prepare, award and administer mechanical fuels reduction contracts including all contract inspections, final payment and contract closeout.
- Close out all obligations associated with this project. Prepare the project closing letter and final financial record. Conduct site visit and file review with SNPLMA Division and close out the project in the SNPLMA database.

Project Timeframe:

The South Tahoe and West Shore Wildland-Urban Interface Fuels Treatment and Reduction Project timeline is 6 years and 0 months with receipt of the financial instrument expected in December 2021 and close-out with the SNPLMA Division at the end of December 2027.

Level of Project Readiness for Implementation

The areas identified under this proposal are prioritized for treatment and consistent with the 2014 Lake Tahoe Basin Multi-Jurisdictional Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Strategy by addressing critical areas for treatment. This project is supported by The North Tahoe Fire Protection District, The North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District, The City of South Lake Tahoe and the Lake Valley Fire Protection District which have participated in pre-NEPA collaborative meetings. This project is also fully supported by the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team

(TFFT) The strategy is supported for full implementation by the Multi-Agency Coordination (MAC) and (TFFT), the California and Nevada Tahoe Basin Fire Commission (Fire Commission) and their recommendations to the Governors of California and Nevada.

This project has been identified as a high priority project for the LTBMU due to dense forest stands and high fuel loads within proposed treatment areas adjacent to urban core areas. Environmental planning has been completed by the agency. The Decision Memo to implement the South Tahoe Fuels Treatment Project was signed in April 2018. The Decision Memo to implement the West Shore WUI Fuels Reduction Project was signed in April 2017.

This project will be implemented over a period of 6 years and will be accomplished through a variety of implementation tools including Stewardship Integrated Resource Service Contracts, Timber Sale Contracts, Stewardship Agreements, Partnership Agreements and Good Neighbor Authority Agreements. The following is the implementation schedule for the project:

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Year	Task	Est. Acres	Notes
Year 1	Award Mechanical Stewardship Contracts	1000	South Tahoe Fuels - **Prep completed in previous year with non-SNPLMA funds.**
Year 1	Prep Mechanical Stewardship Contracts	450	South Tahoe Fuels Treatments
Year 1	Prep Hand Thin Contracts	550	250 acres in South Tahoe Fuels and 300 in West Shore WUI
Year 1	Contract Admin & Project Management	----------	
Year 1		**1000** **1000**	**Contract Award** **Project Layout**
Year 2	Award Mechanical Stewardship contract	450	South Tahoe Fuels Treatments
Year 2	Award Hand Thin Contracts	550	250 acres in South Tahoe Fuels and 300 in West Shore WUI
Year 2	Prep Hand Thin Contracts	550	250 acres in South Tahoe Fuels and 300 in West Shore WUI
Year 2	Contract Admin & Project Management	----------	
Year 2		**1000** **550**	**Contract Award** **Project Layout**
Year 3	Award Hand Thin Contracts	550	250 acres in South Tahoe Fuels and 300 in West Shore WUI
Year 3	Prep Hand Thin Contracts	550	250 acres in South Tahoe Fuels and 300 in West Shore WUI
Year 3	Contract Admin & Project Management	----------	
Year 3		**550** **550**	**Contract Award** **Project Layout**
Year 4	Award Hand Thin Contracts	**550**	250 acres in South Tahoe Fuels and 300 in West Shore WUI
Year 4	Contract Admin & Project Management	----------	
Year 4		**550**	**Contract Award**
Year 5	Contract Admin & Project Management	----------	
Year 6	Contract Admin & Project Management and Close Out	----------	
	FINAL PROJECT TOTALS	**3100** **2100**	**Contract Award** **Project Layout**

The completion of this project will be determined by the number of acres of completed forest health/hazardous fuels reduction treatments, identified to be 3,100 acres. Treatments will be accomplished through the use of hand thinning and piling, mechanical thinning, and biomass removal on both upland and riparian areas. See Figures 4 through 7, treatment areas, pre-treatment and post-treatment.

Future Operations and Maintenance:

None.

Partnerships and/or contributed:

None

Funding Requested Budget Detail:

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ROUND 18

HAZARDOUS FUELS AND WILDFIRE PREVENTION NOMINATION

0

Project Name:	**Wildland-Urban Interface Fuels Reduction**	**Date prepared:**	**9/11/2020**
		Agency:	**USFS Lake Tahoe Basin Management**
Project #	***Assigned by SNPLMA***	**Priority #:**	***Assigned by SNPLMA***
Prepared by:	**Rita Mustatia**	**Phone #:**	**530-208-8003**
Title/position:			

1	**Planning & Environmental Documentation** Includes labor for surveys/reports for cultural, natural, biological, archaeological, historical resources, etc. and preparation of NEPA documentation and the decision document. Does not include on-going compliance monitoring (see Direct Labor #3)	$0	0.00%
2	**FWS Consultation - Endangered Species Act** Direct expenses for FWS consultation. *Includes all labor, agreements, and costs for Section 7 review and approval.*	$0	0.00%
3	**Direct Federal Labor to Implement Project (Payroll)** For interagency projects, identify a primary team lead and the lead agency for consultation/coordination and individual agency leads responsible for entering progress and reports into SMART.	$1,468,700	14.00%
4	**Project Equipment and/or Supplies and Materials** Equipment, supplies or materials necessary to complete the project that are not included in contracts/agreements. Includes lease or rental of equipment/vehicles.	$131,450	1.25%
5	**Travel and Per Diem for Implementation** Includes all necessary travel for training and implementation of the project. Training costs for tuition, materials, etc. are identified in item #7 below	$45,000	0.43%
6	**Official Vehicle Use (vehicles with Federal license only)** Estimated costs for routine maintenance agency vehicles, leased or rental equipment, oil and gas, tires, etc. Does not include replacement cost	$129,600	1.24%
7	**Training (required to implement the project)** Includes training essential/necessary for implementation of the project.	$40,000	0.38%
8	**Contracts, Grants, and/or Agreements** CESU, IGO, Assistance agreements, Task Orders, and contracts for implementation of the project. Also includes all costs for construction/implementation of the plan. The period of performance for grants or agreements and contracts must not extend pas the approved period of performance in the approved Work Plan. Final invoices and de-obligation of unexpended funds must be paid and sub agreements and contracts closed prior to submitting the request for closeout	$7,820,000	74.55%
9	**Other Necessary Expenses** (See Appendix B-11)	$855,000	8.15%
	Total requested/estimated budget	**$10,489,750**	**100.00%**
10	**Estimated agency or partner contribution**	$0	
	Total Estimated project value	$10,489,750	

Performance Measures:

- SNPLMA Strategic Goal 1: Sustain the quality of the outdoor environment by conserving, preserving, and restoring natural and cultural resources.
- Objective: Conserve and Restore Natural Resources – Maintain or increase the quality of natural resources and protect their ecological integrity and sustainability.
  - Outcome: Increase or improve the resource base, with a focus on landscape-level habitat restoration. Project treatments will decrease stand density levels by thinning trees to appropriate stocking levels resulting in improved tree vigor, forest structure and resiliency to landscape disturbances such as fire, insect outbreaks, and climate change
  - Output: Thin stands of trees on approximately 3,100 acres.
  - Performance Measure (H4) – Acres of Upland Habitat Treated, Enhanced, Restored.
- Objective: Promote Project Connectivity and Sustainability – Integrate and connect projects across agencies, landscapes, and projects that are sustainable.
  - Outcome: Illustrate integration of projects from prior rounds that promote integration at a landscape or regional level. This project will implement fuels treatments under the South Tahoe Fuels Treatment and West Shore WUI Fuels Reduction projects. These treatments connect treatments from previous projects, as well as completed and ongoing fuels treatments on federal and nonfederal lands within the adjacent, affected communities, resulting in a comprehensive and connected network of treatments across multiple land ownerships in the defense zone (community extending into the wildland) and the threat zone.
  - Output: Reduce hazardous fuels on approximately 3,100 acres.
  - Performance Measure: F2 – Acres of hazardous fuels treated – wildland urban interface (WUI). These acres will be the same acres of forest treatments identified above.
- Objective: Protect Communities – Manage resources to improve the safety of communities.
  - Outcome: Reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire by removing hazardous fuels. This project will reduce hazardous fuels by removing ladder fuel and smaller suppressed trees, as well as some overstory trees that contribute to ladder fuels and reduce existing surface and down fuels.
  - Output: Reduce hazardous fuels on approximately 3,100 acres.
  - Performance Measure: F2 – Acres of hazardous fuels treated – wildland urban interface (WUI). These acres will be the same acres of forest treatments identified above.

Executive Committee Strategic Plan Values:

(no response provided)

Compliance with Departmental and Agency Priorities, Strategic Goals, Executive Orders, and Secretarial Orders:

Compliance with Departmental/Agency Priorities and Strategic Goals

The project supports Department of the Interior (DOI) Priority 6 (Protect our people and the border). Specifically, the project advances Goal 3 of Mission Area 5 in the DOI Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2018-2022 (Strategic Plan). Mission Area 5, Goal 3 is to manage wildland fire to reduce risk and improve ecosystem and community resilience. The treatments proposed under this project advance Goal 3 and will directly improve ecosystem and community resilience by reducing the risk of damaging wildfire through strategic hazardous fuel reduction treatments. Fuels reduction projects within the Lake Tahoe Basin, including this project, are being implemented consistent with the 2014 Lake Tahoe Basin Multi-Jurisdictional Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Strategy, which includes federal, state, local, and tribal partners.

The project supports Forest Service Priorities 3 (Promoting shared stewardship by increasing partnerships and volunteerism) and 4 (Improving the condition of forests and grasslands).

The Chief of the Forest Service's 2018 Leadership Intentions for the Five National Priorities (Leadership Intentions) clarifies the five priorities and sets expectations for the agency and its partners. Priority 3 focuses on the intent to leverage partnerships to increase collective capacity and make a difference on the whole landscape. The work of partners in the Lake Tahoe Basin to implement the 2014 Lake Tahoe Basin Multi-Jurisdictional Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Strategy exemplifies the power of shared stewardship to meet collective goals. The activities proposed under this project will advance Priority 3 through ongoing partnerships utilizing Good Neighbor Authority Agreements, Stewardship Agreements, and Partnership Agreements with nonprofit organizations, local government, and state agencies within the Tahoe Basin.

Forest Service Priority 4 describes the need to work at larger scales improve the condition of forests. A large portion of America's forests are at risk from insects, diseases, and wildfire. These threats transcend property boundaries, and work must be completed across landscapes to protect federal, state, private, and tribal lands, and the valuable resources they provide. The treatments proposed under this project advance Priority 4 through implementation of thinning, biomass removal, and fuels reduction actions that improve the health of the National Forest and increase its resiliency to wildfire, insect and disease, and other natural disturbances. The treatments proposed under this project provide connectivity to past treatments on federal and nonfederal lands that increase the resiliency across the Tahoe Basin landscape.

Consistency with Executive Orders and Secretarial Orders

This Nomination is consistent with Executive Order No. 13855 Promoting Active Management of America's Forests and Rangelands to Improve Conditions and Reduce Wildfire Risk (Executive Order). The Executive Order prescribes three policies to be implemented by the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture, and each align with the activities proposed in the Nomination.

First, the Executive Order requires DOI and the Forest Service to adopt shared management priorities in partnership with federal land managers, states, tribes, and other landowners. This Nomination implements the Strategy which was developed by federal, state, and local government fire agencies and landowners. The Strategy shares the same three goals as the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy, which are to restore fire resilient landscapes, create fire adapted communities, and enable safe and effective wildfire response.

Second, the Executive Order requires DOI and the Forest Service to coordinate federal, state, tribal, and local assets for wildfire prevention, suppression, and reducing hazardous fuels. By closely coordinating nominations, Basin land managers and fire agencies are closely coordinating with federal agencies to coordinate the deployment of assets and skills to protect communities and natural resources.

Third, the Executive Order requires DOI and the Forest Service to remove hazardous fuels, increase active management, and support rural economies. The Nomination implements prioritized treatments that protect life and property, and support the rural economy of the Basin by providing jobs and utilizing forest restoration byproducts.

Ranking Criteria:

1. Improves the community within and/or adjacent to the project area.

A. Addresses immediate public health and safety and community infrastructure

This project is a standalone project that continues the progress of fuels reduction and forest health improvement within the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) being conducted under two projects: the South Tahoe Fuels Treatment Project and the West Shore WUI Fuels Reduction Project. The acres proposed for treatment under this proposal are located in both the WUI defense and threat zones that surround Tahoe City, Homewood, and Sunnyside (west shore of Lake Tahoe in the State of California) and the community of South Lake Tahoe on the south shore of Lake Tahoe (State of California). These communities have been listed in the Federal Register as “Communities within the vicinity of Federal Lands that are at risk from wildfire.”

The proposed project addresses public health and safety through implementation of hazardous fuels reduction treatments that have been shown to be effective in reducing the intensity and rate of spread of wildfires (Effects of Fuels Treatment on Wildfire Severity, Omi et al 2002). Existing forest vegetation and heavy fuel loads in many areas of Lake Tahoe pose a heightened risk for high severity wildfire and the loss of lives and property (Lake Tahoe Watershed Assessment, 2000). As identified in the project analysis, large quantities and high continuity of surface fuels, closely spaced vertical fuels, and low crown base heights, represented as condition class 3, raises the potential for fire to spread rapidly within the wildland urban intermix, communities, infrastructure, and other natural resources.

B Promotes protection of source water (rivers and lakes) or municipal watersheds.

This project implements fuels reduction and forest health treatments in areas of the WUI that pose the greatest risk for wildfire. Nine major watersheds, Burton Creek, Middle Truckee River, Ward Creek, Blackwood Creek, Eagle Creek, General Creek, Meeks Creek, Taylor/ Trout Creek,

and the Upper Truckee are located within the project area and drain into the Lake Tahoe. These watersheds support extremely high resource values, including forest and plant communities that protect source headwaters in California and Nevada.

Several creeks within the project area are currently in a degraded condition. A wildfire of any size in this area may potentially lead to excessive sediment and nutrient loading (Figure 8) and an increase in water temperature for streams and the lake. As a consequence, water supply systems and source water for recreation, fishing, and municipal water supply would be impaired. The hazardous fuels and vegetation treatments identified from the project would reduce this risk of a severe wildfire, therefore protecting water supply systems and source water.

C. Project includes education and outreach to the community on Living with Fire or Fire Adapted Communities and/or the importance of fuels reduction on federal, state, and local government land.

This project includes community outreach and education with programs targeting K-12 grade students. Programs are designed to inform students on the importance of conducting fuels reduction and forest health treatments in and adjacent to the community. Programs include education on forest health, the role fire plays in maintaining ecosystem function, and how to maintain a fire safe landscape around homes (defensible space) in accordance with Living with Fire and Fire Adapted Communities.

2. Improves the connection of fuels reduction activities and wildlife habitat.

A. Project connects previously treated areas to create or increase contiguous blocks of treated land.

This project continues fuels reduction and forest health treatments planned under the South Tahoe Fuels Treatment and West Shore WUI Fuels Reduction Projects. These projects are located adjacent to current and past fuels treatments located on federal and nonfederal lands and will continue to connect treatments across the landscape, increasing the overall effectiveness of the fuels reduction and forest health efforts of this project.

B. Project protects or enhances wildlife habitat and/or resilient vegetative communities.

The project promotes a healthy and sustainable landscape that increases the forest's resistance and resilience to disturbances such as wildfire, insect outbreaks, and diseases through landscape level understory thinning of dense conifer stands. The project will thin 3,100 acres of dense conifer stands.

Project completion would provide the following benefit: the ability for fire and fuel managers to use prescribed fire under burns to restore low intensity surface fire back to the landscape and enhance the ecological benefits that are dependent and adapted to frequent low intensity fire (Figure 9). Once prescribed under burns take place it may not be necessary to conduct future large-scale forest thinning when prescribed burning would safely and effectively meet fuel and vegetation objectives in the WUI.

C. Project enhances the effectiveness of other treatments in progress or complete.
The treatments being implemented under this project connect directly to completed and ongoing fuels treatments occurring within the adjacent communities on both federal and nonfederal lands. The completion of these planned activities is a comprehensive and connected network of treatments across multiple land ownerships in the defense zone (community extending into the wildland) and the threat zone.

3. Improves sustainability of the multijurisdictional 10-year plans, environment, and financial resources.

A. The Project will:

1. Improve the sustainability of the forest health and ecosystem function (e.g. stand density, desired species mix and age, tree health, etc.)
The objective of this project is not only to reduce hazardous fuels, but to increase forest health and resiliency to disturbance within treated areas. Proposed vegetation treatments would focus on thinning over story trees, removing shade-tolerant understory trees, and reducing other shrubby vegetation to appropriate stocking. Stands that are overstocked would be thinned to levels that would improve tree vigor, thus reducing the widespread threat of bark beetle outbreaks, dwarf mistletoe, root disease, and other pests and pathogens. Treatments implemented under this project will improve the vegetation condition of forest stands through the creation of a forest stand structure that promotes species richness, pattern, and abundance and that has a high resilience to fire.

2. Improve the habitat for sensitive species and Threatened and Endangered species. Includes mitigation and/or minimization measures when treatment in sensitive habitat is unavoidable.
Included in the project's environmental planning process is the objective to protect or improve habitat for Forest Service Management Indicator Species (MIS) as well as threatened, endangered, or sensitive species. Stands have been identified for reducing high fuel loads within California spotted owl and Northern goshawk Protected Activity Centers (PACs) - areas identified for nesting and foraging habitat. Using an active management approach for treating these PACs, small trees (less than 14" diameter at breast height) would be hand thinned and surface fuel loads treated to a level that would reduce predicted fire behavior so that treated stands would continue to provide optimal nesting and foraging habitat and likely survive a wildfire. In this manner, the risk of a wildfire destroying the nest or habitat surrounding the nest is minimized. Mechanical thinning would occur in stands that are accessible with a modified prescription to meet the PAC requirements.

3. Includes broadcast prescribed fire for resource management objectives for sustainable landscapes.
This project does not include any prescribed fire deliverable, including broadcast prescribed fire, however, an overarching project goal is to move the forest stands to a condition where the use of broadcast prescribed fire is a possible tool for achieving fuels reduction objectives in the future. Both project decisions include broadcast fire treatments as post thinning treatment options. In addition, the long-term goal for the entire project

area is to allow for the use of broadcast burning for the purpose of sustaining landscape level resiliency to a host of possible disturbance mechanisms such as fire, insects, and climate change. Funding to implement prescribed fire treatments is being submitted in a separate Round 18 nomination.

B. The method of treatment is fiscally responsible for the project area by balancing resource objectives, values at risk, and cost per acre factors or cost-benefit analysis.
The WUI projects will consider cost savings approaches to accomplish the planned treatments, including the use of stewardship contracting and service contracts to treat forest vegetation and hazardous fuels, as well as utilize biomass products.

Stewardship contracting authority includes agreements with nonprofit organizations to offer best-value and long-term contracts where costs to implement the project are offset by the value of material that is removed.

Strategies to reduce costs for mechanically treated areas would include the use of competitive bidding among contractors to assure the lowest price available. Recent stewardship contract awards have come in with lower than anticipated government estimates due to increased competition.

As evidenced by treatments completed within and around the community impacted by the Angora Fire (Figure 10) implementing hazardous fuels and vegetation treatments strategically in portions of the forest and the WUI helps ensure that damage to Lake Tahoe values (homes and businesses) are avoided or minimized (http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/angorafuelsassessment/, 2007). As of April 2016, the median sales price of homes in the north Lake Tahoe area was estimated at $ 485,000 with a density of 1,392 homes per square mile. The median sale price of a home in the South Lake Tahoe area is $372,000 with a density of 1,396 homes per square mile. The costs associated with implementing fuel reduction treatments for this project is small when compared to this one estimated value at risk. The proposed project would treat fuel conditions using the best combination of treatments including mechanical thin, machine pile, and mastication, as well as biomass removal on both upland and riparian areas. The proposed project would help to protect and promote water quality, wildlife habitat, heritage and cultural resources, local tourism, the economy, and private property/capital improvements around residential areas and the urban interface.

The cost associated with treating the forest vegetation and hazardous fuels is difficult to quantify when compared to the costs of not having a living forest present after a wildfire, increased sedimentation in lakes and streams, and a loss of fish and wildlife habitat or water supply for drinking and recreation. The Lake Tahoe area has a large amount of historical properties and Native American cultural sites. Once consumed by wildfire these properties and sites are generally irreplaceable. The economy in the Lake Tahoe Basin is also dependent on tourism, scenic visual quality and outdoor recreational activities in the forest both in the summer and the winter. There are several species of wildlife that are at risk for loss of habitat from wildfire. These species include but are not limited to California Spotted Owl, Northern Goshawk, Osprey, Bald Eagle, and Willow Flycatcher. The Angora Fire, for example, destroyed or displaced three Northern Goshawk and one California Spotted Owl Protected Activity Centers. The communities

in the Lake Tahoe area are located in the WUI. These communities are at risk of a wildfire and the risk to the communities is reduced significantly when hazardous fuels and vegetation treatments take place.

4. Demonstrates sound project management and quality control measures.

A. Project goals and implementation processes are clear, measurable, achievable, and demonstrable.
This project is implementing treatments from the South Tahoe Fuels Treatment and West Shore WUI Fuels Reduction projects. The environmental analysis for these projects was conducted under the National Environmental Policy Act to implement hazardous fuels reduction and forest health treatments and identified 8,612 acres on NFS lands needing treatment within the WUI. This project will complete 3,100 acres not yet funded or treated. This project continues a long history of fuels reduction and forest health projects conducted by the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit which began in the late 1990s. Past hazardous fuel reduction and forest health contracts have been successfully completed on more than 32,000 acres from 2005 through 2020. Based on this past performance, implementation of this project would be achievable and demonstrable.

B. Project proponent has the capacity to implement this project in a timely manner (contractor and staff availability, no backlog of current project, etc.) and within budget.
The Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit has demonstrated the capability to implement and complete previous hazardous fuels reduction projects on time and within budget. The LTBMU has completed 50 SNPLMA projects and is actively working on an additional 4 projects.

The Forest Service has demonstrated over the past 15 years (2005-2020) its capacity to successfully implement SNPLMA projects and has increased in staffing, improved contracting processes, and entered into participating agreements with the Tahoe Douglas, Lake Valley and North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection Districts, the Nevada Conservation Corps – Great Basin Institute, and the Denver, Colorado-based Veteran Green Jobs - Veterans Green Corps Program partnered with the California Conservation Corps all in an effort to continue to successfully implement projects in a timely and cost effective manner. In addition, new contract preparation methods have been undertaken. Additionally, through new authorities the Forest Service has entered into long-term Stewardship Agreements with the National Forest Foundation and Great Basin Institute and Good Neighbor Authority Agreements with the California-Tahoe Conservancy and the Nevada Division of Forestry.

C. Is a phase or related component to a previously funded project.
This project is not a phased project, however, planning for the West Shore WUI Fuels Reduction Project was funded in SNPLMA Round 10.

D. Has identified committed non-SNPLMA sources of funding or in-kind contribution in the development and/or implementation of the project.
Implementation of the South Tahoe Fuels Treatment and West Shore WUI Fuels Reduction projects have been funded by a variety of funding sources including Forest Service federal appropriations and California state grants. The 3,100 acres of treatments proposed for funding

under this nomination are currently untreated and unfunded. Additional acres will remain unfunded and the Forest Service will continue to seek funding from a variety of funding sources to complete these projects.

Project Location:

South Tahoe Fuels Treatment: 38.91076667 / -119.98083333
West Shore WUI Fuels Reduction: 39.11615833 / -120.17555556

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Maps:

Figure 1: South Tahoe Fuels Treatment Project Map

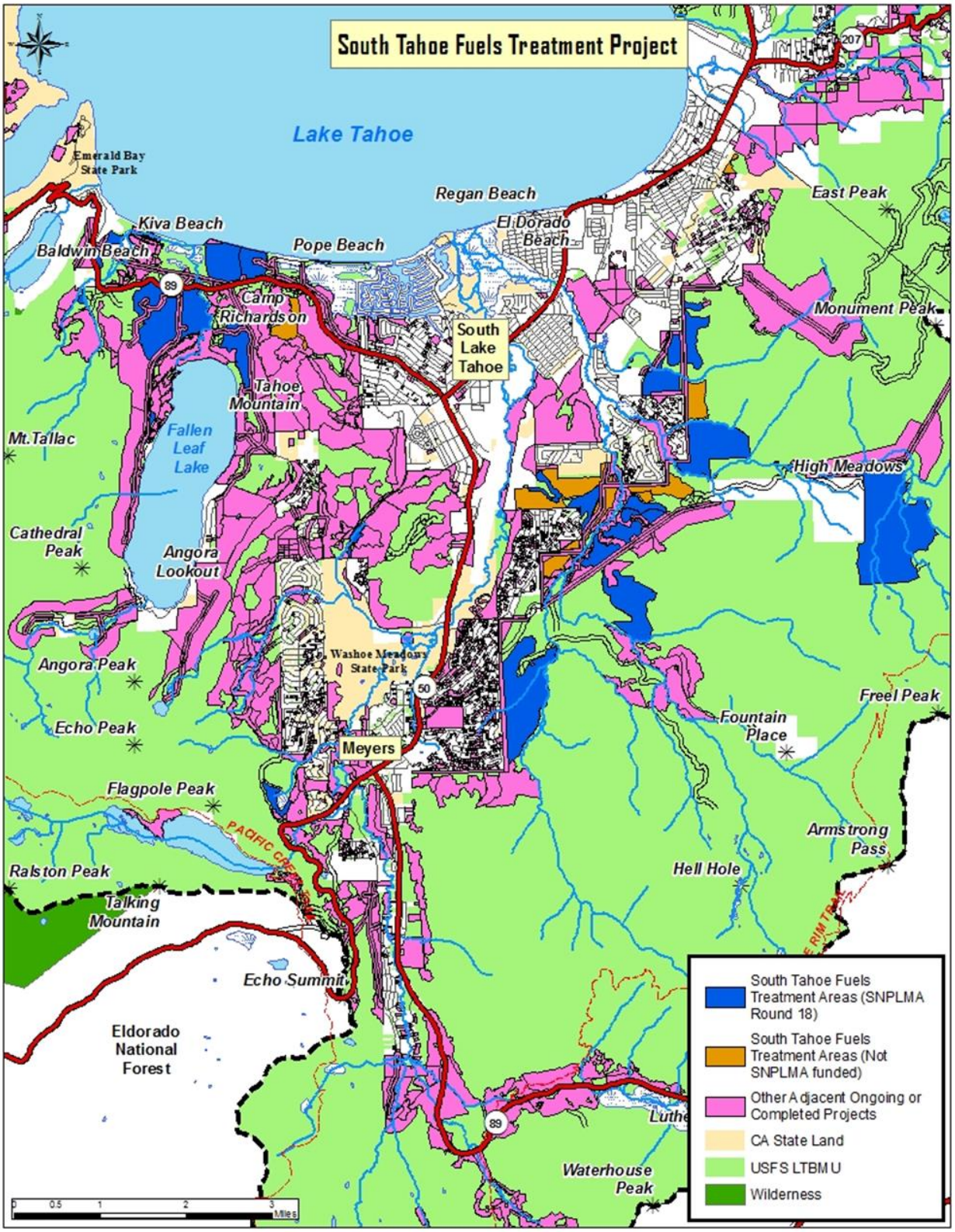


Figure 2: West Shore WUI Fuels Reduction Project Map (North)

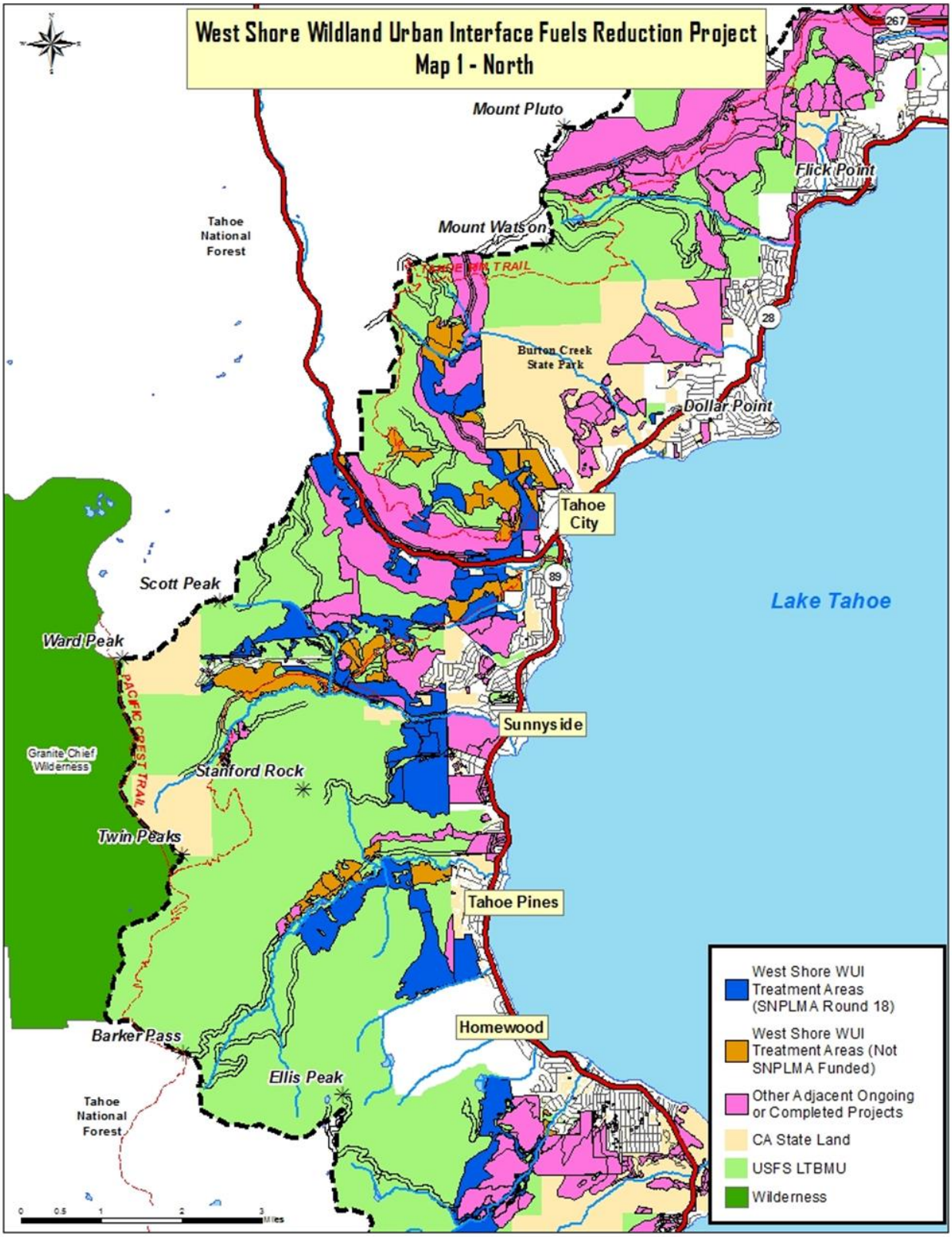
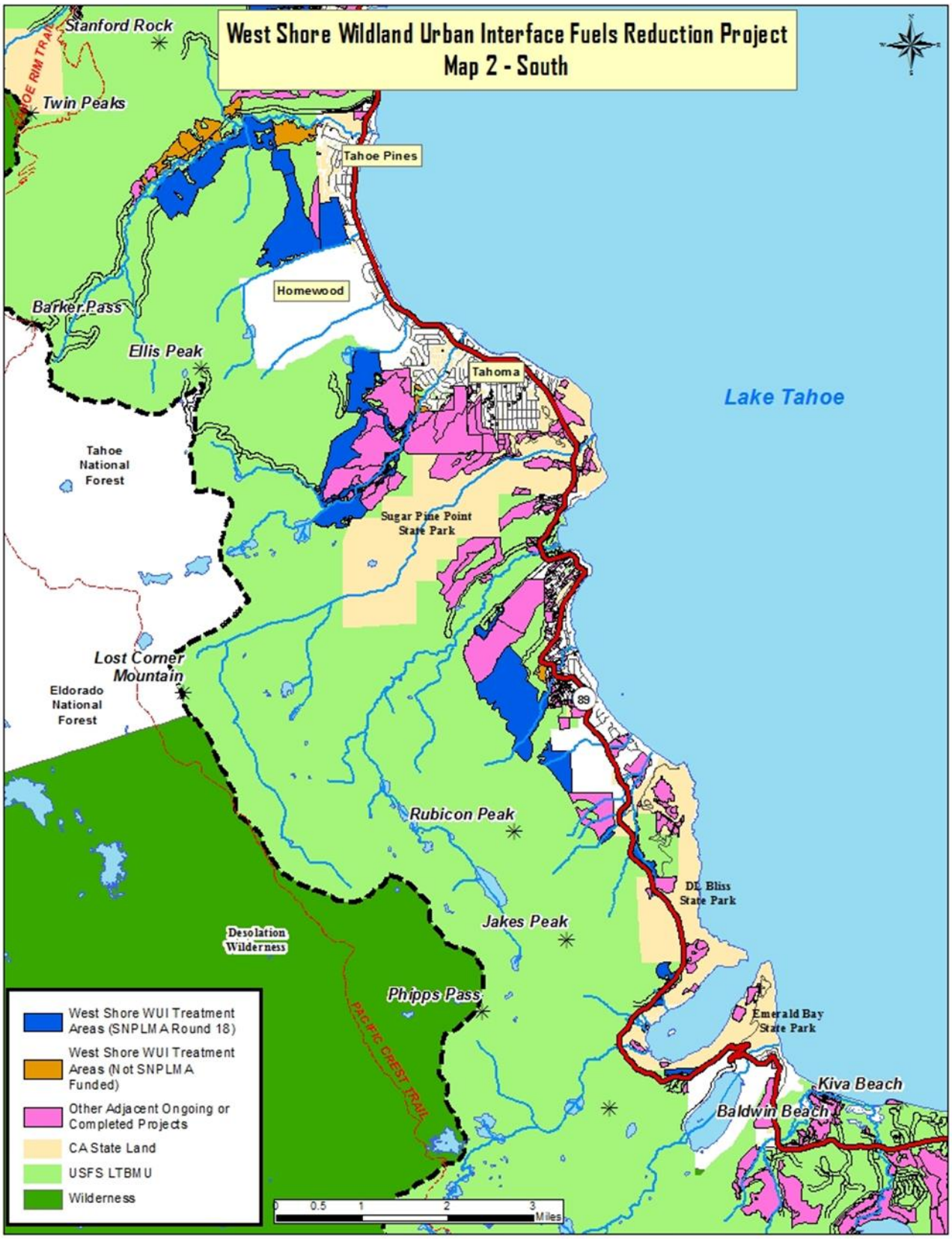


Figure 3: West Shore WUI Fuels Reduction Project Map (South)



Photos:

Figure 4: Incline Hazardous Fuels Project hand thinning treatment area, pre-treatment.

Figure 4: Incline Hazardous Fuels Project hand thinning treatment area, pre-treatment.

Figure 5: Incline Hazardous Fuels Project hand thinning treatment area, post-treatment.

Figure 6: South Shore mechanical cut-to-length treatment area, pre-treatment.

Figure 7: South Shore mechanical cut-to-length treatment area, post-treatment.

Figure 8: Low intensity underburn on National Forest system land post thinning and biomass utilization.

Letters of Support:

September 10, 2020

Robert Taylor
Program Manager, SNPLMA Division
Bureau of Land Management
4701 North Torrey Pines Drive
Las Vegas, Nevada 89130

Re: SNPLMA Round 18 Nominations for Hazardous Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention in the Lake Tahoe Basin

Dear Mr. Taylor and other Nomination Reviewers:

Thank you for your consideration of the Lake Tahoe Basin's Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) Round 18 project nominations. The local government, state, and federal implementing agencies have partnered in a coordinated approach to comprehensively and cost-effectively implement the Lake Tahoe Basin Multi-Jurisdictional Strategy for Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention (Strategy).

The Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team (TFFT) formed in 2008 to implement the Strategy, with the twin aims of reducing fuels in the wildland-urban interface (WUI) and preparing communities for wildfire. The 21 partner agencies of the TFFT work within the Lake Tahoe Basin (Basin) to plan, prioritize, and implement fuel reduction and fire prevention projects that protect life, property, and the environment. The TFFT recently collaborated to identify critical need projects and develop ten SNPLMA Round 18 nominations that advance the goals of the Strategy.

Communities across the western United States are currently witnessing the catastrophe of yet another record-breaking wildfire season. A destructive wildfire in the Basin of similar scale to those burning right now elsewhere in the Sierra Nevada would have devastating impacts on our forests, communities, and businesses. Such a fire would also cause severe economic impacts in both California and Nevada.

The Basin's fire agencies are tested every fire season by dozens of wildfire ignitions, which each have the potential to become the Basin's next destructive wildfire. To improve our odds, we work at every level – from helping residents prepare themselves, their families, and their homes

Protecting lives, property, and the environment of the Lake Tahoe Basin from wildfire by implementing prioritized fuel reduction projects and engaging the public in becoming a fire adapted community

for wildfire, to working within neighborhoods to create defensible space that extends across property lines, to reducing fuels and restoring forests in the WUI and beyond.

This holistic approach of working at every level is ratified in the Strategy, with its three goals of creating fire adapted communities, restoring fire-resilient landscapes, and supporting safe and effective wildfire response. These goals are mirrored by the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy. The goals are manifested in the over 60,000 acres treated in the Basin's WUI by TFFT partners over the last decade, and the thousands of homes inspected for defensible space and brought into compliance.

There are ten Hazardous Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention nominations for SNPLMA Round 18, each implementing a critical component of the Strategy. The nominations are:

1) **Lake Tahoe Basin Fire Adapted Communities**
   Agency: Tahoe Resource Conservation District
   Funding Requested: $8,705,000
2) **Defense Zone Improvement**
   Agency: North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District
   Funding Requested: $1,222,000
3) **Highway 50 Hazardous Fuel Reduction and Restoration**
   Agency: Tahoe-Douglas Fire Protection District
   Funding Requested: $400,000
4) **South Lake Tahoe Fire Rescue Wildland-Urban Interface Hazardous Fuel Reduction**
   Agency: South Lake Tahoe Fire Rescue
   Funding Requested: $857,000
5) **North Tahoe Fire Protection District Wildland-Urban Interface Hazardous Fuel Reduction**
   Agency: North Tahoe Fire Protection District
   Funding Requested: $2,500,000
6) **California Community Forestry**
   Agency: California Tahoe Conservancy
   Funding Requested: $4,159,180
7) **California Tahoe Conservancy Wildland-Urban Interface Hazardous Fuel Reduction**
   Agency: California Tahoe Conservancy
   Funding Requested: $5,994,000
8) **National Forest Priority Wildland-Urban Interface Fuel Reduction**
   Agency: Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit
   Funding Requested: $10,490,000
9) **Utility Corridors Resilience**
   Agency: Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit
   Funding Requested: $8,655,000

Protecting lives, property, and the environment of the Lake Tahoe Basin from wildfire by implementing prioritized fuel reduction projects and engaging the public in becoming a fire adapted community.

10) **Prescribed Fire Implementation**

Agency: Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit

Funding Requested: $5,046,000

Nomination 1 will deliver extensive community engagement and defensible space treatments through the Tahoe Network of Fire Adapted Communities (Tahoe Network). The Tahoe Network is a multi-agency and community collaboration that helps residents take individual action to collectively reduce their neighborhood's risk of wildfire. The preparedness of residents and the defensible space around homes are at the core of the Strategy' approach to preventing catastrophic wildfire.

The defensible space treatments completed through Nomination 1 directly connect to the treatments included in Nominations 2 through 6. These nominations propose treatments on the thousands of small open-space and undeveloped lots surrounding homes that are interspersed throughout neighborhoods, as well as on private and local-government lands near communities. Nominations 7 and 8 connect to neighborhood treatments and involve large-scale wildland-urban interface treatments on state and federal lands. The treatments substantially advance the TFFT's target of completing initial wildland-urban interface treatments identified in the Strategy by 2024.

Nomination 9 reduces wildfire risk and creates healthy forests surrounding powerlines, a significant potential source of wildfire ignitions. The treatments will help protect critical community infrastructure as well as reduce the risk of spread for ignitions originating from powerlines.

Finally, Nomination 10 proposes to strategically use prescribed fire as a tool for both fuel reduction and landscape restoration. In addition to implementing valuable treatments, the project helps to build Basinwide capacity to use prescribed fire across multiple jurisdictions.

The TFFT expresses its strong support for the full suite of projects listed above. The SNPLMA program has been transformative for the Basin by enabling a multitude of fuel reduction and wildfire reduction projects. These projects have helped improve our odds of withstanding wildfire and are an important reason for our success to date. Again, thank you for your consideration of the Basin's SNPLMA Round 18 nominations.

Sincerely,

Scott Baker
Chair, TFFT Multi-Agency Coordinating Group
Fire Chief, Tahoe-Douglas Fire Protection District

Protecting lives, property, and the environment of the Lake Tahoe Basin from wildfire by implementing prioritized fuel reduction projects and engaging the public in becoming a fire adapted community.

Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act
Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention
Round 18

North Tahoe Fire Protection District

Fuels Reduction – North Tahoe WUI

Amount Requested: $2,776,162

Timeframe: 6 Years
Location: 39.167523° / -120.147734°
Congressional District: CA-4

Contact: Eric Horntvedt
Address: 222 Fairway Drive, Tahoe City, CA 96145
Phone:(530) 584-2344
Fax: (530) 583-6909
Email: horntvedt@ntfire.net

Purpose Statement:

North Tahoe Fire Protection District will reduce hazardous fuels on at least 300 acres, but not more than 700 acres of highest priority WUI Defense Zone areas within North Tahoe and Meeks Bay Fire Protection Districts as identified in the Lake Tahoe Basin Community Wildfire Protection Plan. These treatments will improve forest health and reduce the threat of catastrophic wildfire, protecting life, property, and critical infrastructure in the Lake Tahoe Basin.

Background info to support the need:

The NTFPD Wildland Urban Interface Hazardous Fuels Reduction project will focus on continued Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) implementation and will reduce hazardous fuels within the Defense Zone of the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) on the California side of the Lake Tahoe Basin (Basin) within North Tahoe Fire Protection District and Meeks Bay Fire Protection District (NTFPD). Treatment for hazardous fuels reduction will occur on not less than 300 acres and not more than 700 acres (treatment acres). The land identified for treatment includes land owned and managed by the State of California, Counties, local jurisdictions, and both small and large private landowners. The project area was developed using both the Lake Tahoe Basin Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) and the Lake Tahoe Basin Multi-Jurisdictional Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Strategy (Multi-Jurisdictional Strategy). The final treatment areas, selected from the project area, will be the highest priorities as identified in the above-mentioned plans and endorsed through the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team (TFFT), a voluntary association of Basin fire agencies, land managers, and regulators.

In addition to: Furthering Lake Tahoe Basin fuel reduction goals, addressing the serious threat of catastrophic wildfire, and responding to the unprecedented number, size & destruction caused by wildfires; this project also promotes three Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) Strategic Plan goals:

Relationship to prior approved phases or related SNPLMA projects and anticipated future phases:

NTFPD understands that this nomination will result in a stand-alone, viable project. NTFPD acknowledges that there is neither guarantee nor expectation of funding for future phases. The treatment areas will be selected from the project area based on connectivity and linkage to previously treated project areas regardless of ownership. This nomination is meant to continue the momentum of CWPP Implementation projects that were carried out through both the SNPLMA round 15 North Tahoe and Meeks Bay CWPP Implementation project and the SNPLMA round 16 California Regional Fuel Reduction Project. However, future funding rounds could be requested to treat the remaining acreage identified in the CWPP.

The TFFT has developed coordinated Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Round 18 nominations for the Basin. The partners have selected a set of project nominations that, both individually and as a group, enable sharing of resources to effectuate a cooperative, integrated, and science-driven approach towards land management. The proposed projects directly support fuels reduction goals

related to community public health and safety, as well as watershed protection and resilience. These proposals strategically connect fuel treatments with community outreach and education efforts, furthering our shared goals outlined in the Multi-Jurisdictional Strategy. Through combined efforts and geographic linkages, these projects protect neighborhoods and landscapes throughout the Basin in a fiscally responsible manner by enhancing the effectiveness of each jurisdiction's efforts. The applications as a whole also balance on-the-ground implementation activities with project planning, allowing for a "pipeline" of projects ready for implementation in out-years and move planning and implementation to a landscape level, building resilient forests and ecosystems in the face of changing climate and other threats.

Deliverables:

1. Primary Deliverables (Deliverables that must be completed at a minimum in order to accomplish the purpose):
   a. Manually treat, mechanically treat, and/or broadcast understory burn 300-700 acres of land within the defense zone of the WUI on the California side of the Basin, to reduce crown fire potential and surface fire behavior, as well as improve forest health. Final acres will be determined based on a variety of factors, including terrain accessibility, slope, cost estimates and environmental review.
   b. Host one or more educational/interpretive field trip(s) to the treatment location(s) with local community members and stakeholders to highlight SNPLMA-funded projects and communicate the importance of fuel reduction treatments in reducing the risk of wildfire and promoting forest health.

2. Anticipated Deliverables (Deliverables that are desirable and beneficial, but not minimally necessary to accomplish the purpose):
   a. Priority areas chosen for treatment may help facilitate hazardous fuels reduction on adjacent private property to strengthen the primary treatment and provide increased community protection. This would be accomplished through coordination with the TRCD to achieve Fire Adapted Communities.
   b. Access roads and trails may be improved to prevent environmental degradation and reduce future project costs.
   c. Biomass may be removed and utilized at a biomass processing facility where feasible.

3. Standard Deliverables (Deliverables that are generally accepted by the entity and/or by industry standards as necessary to complete the Primary and Anticipated Deliverables):
   a. Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) wildlife review and tree removal permits.
   b. California Environmental Quality Act documents and/or exemptions.
   c. California Forest Practice Act permits and/or exemptions.
   d. Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board Timber Waiver.
   e. Re-evaluations of existing Archaeological reviews and/or surveys to identify cultural resources and determine avoidance protocols.
   f. Vegetation Management Plan, describing the prescription to accomplish the project's goals and objectives, and all necessary measures to mitigate negative impacts to wildlife, water quality, forest health, and cultural resources.

g. Prescribed Fire Burn Plan, satisfying National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) interagency requirements.
h. Project review and approval by the TFFT, a voluntary association of Tahoe Basin fire agencies, and project tracking within the TFFT project database.
i. Pre and post-treatment photo monitoring.

Project Timeframe:

The project timeframe is six years. NTFPD will initiate implementation within one year, conduct the majority of implementation within the first five years, and will finalize implementation in year six for any remaining biomass disposal needs (prescribed burning, transporting biomass).

Level of Project Readiness for Implementation

NTFPD currently has a Forest Fuels Coordinator on staff carrying out a SNPLMA round 15 CWPP implementation project as well as serving as the Project Manager for development of the SNPLMA round 16-funded Program Timberland Environmental Impact Report (PTEIR). The PTEIR provides a streamlined environmental permitting approach to truly allow an increased pace and scale of fuels reduction projects like the one proposed herein to take place. Given that staff capacity is already in place and the PTEIR queued to be completed soon, making projects "shovel ready", NTFPD is confident in their ability to request funds and begin implementation within one year.

Furthermore, Vegetation Management Plans, project permits, CEQA documents, etc., have been prepared and approved for some of the treatment areas. Implementation will be able to begin in these areas within one year of receiving funding. Other proposed project activities will likely fall within the scope of the Tahoe Program Timberland Environmental Impact Report (PTEIR), which is a programmatic CEQA document that covers all Conservancy, local government, and larger private properties across the California side of the Basin. CAL FIRE and Basin fire districts released the Draft PTEIR in May and are currently preparing the Final PTEIR. The PTEIR analyzes forest management and fuel reduction projects within the WUI on the California side of the Lake Tahoe Basin. Agencies using the PTEIR can rely on its analyses for later projects rather than prepare separate CEQA documents, leading to a streamlined process for project review under the California Forest Practice Act and Rules. NTFPD, as a responsible agency, will file a notice of determination or exemption with the California State Clearinghouse prior to implementing on-the-ground activities. A Registered Professional Forester will file timber harvesting permits or notices in compliance with the California Forest Practice Act and Rules, as some activities are anticipated to generate commercial products.

NTFPD will facilitate implementation of the NTFPD Wildland Urban Interface Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project (Project) within the WUI Defense Zone throughout North Tahoe and Meeks Bay Fire Protection Districts by following four primary steps to accomplish the purpose of this nomination:

1. Treatment Area Identification
NTFPD and the TFFT will select potential treatment areas from the CWPP based upon multiple factors including connectivity to previously completed or planned fuel hazard reduction projects, values-at-risk, wildlife habitat value, estimates of potential fire behavior, and cost-effectiveness. NTFPD will identify treatments during the first two years of the project timeframe.

2. Environmental Compliance and Treatment Preparation
NTFPD will review and/or survey potential treatment areas for threatened, endangered, and sensitive wildlife and plants species, as well as historic and cultural resources. NTFPD will also obtain necessary permits, certify CEQA compliance, and perform treatment preparation including: identifying and marking treatment boundaries, marking removal trees, flagging watercourse boundaries, access points, and work limitation areas. NTFPD will initiate project planning for the first treatments upon receiving funds. NTFPD will continue planning subsequent treatments during the first three years of the project timeframe.

3. Treatment Implementation
After the treatment area is identified, reviewed for environmental compliance, and prepared for treatment NTFPD will prepare and administer contracts for hazardous fuel reduction treatments. NTFPD ensures completion of the treatments through contract oversight, site visits, and grant reporting requirements. During this step NTFPD will also host one or more interpretive field visits to treatment locations with community members and stakeholders. NTFPD will initiate this step within one year of receiving funds and will continue implementation throughout the performance period.

4. Project Closeout
Following the completion of a contract or grant agreement for a hazardous fuel reduction treatment, NTFPD staff will complete a final inspection of the treatment area, pay final agreement invoices, and ensure all necessary documentation is in the project file. NTFPD will begin closeout in the final year of the project timeframe and will complete closeout prior to termination of the cooperative agreement.

Future Operations and Maintenance:

None.

Partnerships and/or contributed:

This projected includes $15,000 of in-kind contributions provided by Tahoe City Public Utility District. A supporting commitment letter from Tahoe City Public Utility District is provided as an attachment to this nomination. Tahoe City Public Utility District is completing a critical infrastructure risk assessment that will be used as a guide for fuel reduction activities to reduce hazardous fuel conditions and provide a buffer around critical infrastructure. Tahoe City PUD will provide match in the form of staff support for project coordination, critical infrastructure access, characterization, and GIS mapping.

TAHOE CITY PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
John Pang
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GENERAL MANAGER
Sean Barclay

September 10, 2020

Michael Schwartz, Fire Chief
North Tahoe Fire Protection District
222 Fairway Drive
Tahoe City, CA 96145

Dear Chief Schwartz,

The Tahoe City Public Utility District (TCPUD) is pleased to submit this letter in support of your Wildland Urban Interface Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project (Project) for the Round 18 Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act grant application. Implementing this Project will improve forest health and reduce the threat of catastrophic wildfire, protecting life, property, and critical infrastructure in the Lake Tahoe Basin.

This Project proposes to complete hazard fuel reduction on up to 700 acres of priority WUI Defense Zone areas within the north and west shore of Lake Tahoe. Appropriately, fuel reduction around TCPUD's critical infrastructure (including water tanks, pump stations, and well houses) is included and will establish sufficient buffers to create resilience to wildfire disturbances. Additionally, maintaining access to and protecting critical infrastructure helps to ensure adequate fire suppression capability, such as water delivery and storage, is available to protect structures during a fire event.

We appreciate the opportunity to partner on this important project and can commit $15,000 in match for in-kind staff support for project coordination, critical infrastructure access and characterization, and GIS mapping support.

Sincerely,

Sean Barclay
General Manager

P.O. Box 5249 | 221 Fairway Drive | Tahoe City CA 96145 | 530.583.3796 | www.tcpud.org

Funding Requested Budget Detail:

1) The NTFPD Wildland Urban Interface Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project has a total requested/estimated budget of $2,776,162

Direct Labor costs were generated using fully burdened rates. NTFPD will use SNPLMA funding to reimburse staff labor hours, equipment use, purchase supplies, and issue contracts. This project proposes a mix of manual thinning, mechanical thinning, pile burning, prescribed understory fire, and biomass removal/utilization to maximize cost effectiveness while meeting hazardous fuels reduction objectives. The estimated costs per acre for planning and implementation of the treatment areas have been generated using a 10-year average for similar treatments and areas. These costs may be reduced depending on the access and availability of a close biomass processing facility.

2) This projected includes $15,000 of in-kind contributions provided by Tahoe City Public Utility District

A supporting commitment letter from Tahoe City Public Utility District is provided as an attachment to this nomination. Tahoe City Public Utility District is completing a critical infrastructure risk assessment that will be used as a guide for fuel reduction activities to reduce hazardous fuel conditions and provide a buffer around critical infrastructure. Tahoe City PUD will provide match in the form of staff support for project coordination, critical infrastructure access, characterization, and GIS mapping.

3) This project represents the best value option for a viable project as the cost of <u>not</u> addressing Tahoe's number one threat, catastrophic wildfire, is truly untold. NTFPD is responsible for providing emergency services to the North and West Shores of Lake Tahoe, which surmounts to Billions of dollars of private, state, and local property and infrastructure, not to mention the crown jewel of the Sierra's, Lake Tahoe. Active land management through robust hazardous fuels reduction has and will remain a top priority for the TFFT.

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ROUND 18
HAZARDOUS FUELS AND WILDFIRE PREVENTION NOMINATION
ESTIMATED DIRECT COSTS & KEY MILESTONES

Project Name:	**NTFPD Wildland Urban Interface Hazardous Fuels Reduction**	**Date prepared:**	**9/10/2020**
		Agency:	**North Tahoe Fire Protection District**
Project #	***Assigned by SNPLMA***	**Priority #:**	***Assigned by SNPLMA***
Prepared by:	**Eric Horntvedt**	**Phone #:**	**530-584-2344**
Title/position:	**Forest Fuels Coordinator**		

1	**Planning & Environmental Documentation** Includes labor for surveys/reports for cultural, natural, biological, archaeological, historical resources, etc. and preparation of NEPA documentation and the decision document. Does not include on-going compliance monitoring (see Direct Labor #3)	$0	0.00%
2	**FWS Consultation - Endangered Species Act** Direct expenses for FWS consultation. *Includes all labor, agreements, and costs for Section 7 review and approval.*	$0	0.00%
3	**Direct Labor to Implement Project (Payroll)** Forest Fuels Coordinator and Grants Management Officer will serve as the primary team lead for NTFPD/MBFPD responsible for quarterly performance reporting and subagreement compliance	$634,537	22.86%
4	**Project Equipment and/or Supplies and Materials** Equipment, supplies or materials necessary to complete the project that are not included in contracts/agreements. Includes lease or rental of equipment/vehicles.	$10,500	0.38%
5	**Travel and Per Diem for Implementation** Includes all necessary travel for training and implementation of the project. Training costs for tuition, materials, etc. are identified in item #7 below	$0	0.00%
6	**Official Vehicle Use** Estimated costs for routine maintenance agency vehicles, leased or rental equipment, oil and gas, tires, etc. Does not include replacement cost. Includes Mileage and hourly reimbursement	$118,625	4.27%
7	**Training (required to implement the project)** Includes training essential/necessary for implementation of the project.	$0	0.00%
8	**Contracts, Grants, and/or Agreements** CESU, IGO, Assistance agreements, Task Orders, and contracts for implementation of the project. Also includes all costs for construction/implementation of the plan. Contract Community Curbside Chipping The period of performance for grants or agreements and contracts must not extend pas the approved period of performance in the approved Work Plan. Final invoices and de-obligation of unexpended funds must be paid and sub agreements and contracts closed prior to submitting the request for closeout	$2,012,500	72.49%
9	**Other Necessary Expenses** Community Assistance Funds	$0	0.00%
	Total requested/estimated budget	**$2,776,162**	**100.00%**
10	**Estimated agency or partner contribution**	$15,000	
	Total Estimated project value	$2,791,162	

General comments and description of milestones

This is a summary of the overall project costs. If approved, NTFPD will be responsible to submit a separate budget work sheet, and initiate project implementation within 1-year.

North Tahoe Fire Protection District will reduce hazardous fuels on at least 300 acres, but not more than 700 acres of highest priority WUI Defense Zone areas within North Tahoe and Meeks Bay Fire Protection Districts as identified in the Lake Tahoe Basin Community Wildfire Protection Plan. These treatments will improve forest health and reduce the threat of catastrophic wildfire, protecting life, property, and critical infrastructure in the Lake Tahoe Basin.

Performance Measures:

North Tahoe Fire Protection District has identified the following Outcomes and Outputs, and relevant SNPLMA Performance Measures that the Nomination will achieve:

Performance Measure F2 – Acres of Hazardous Fuels Treated – Wildland Urban Interface.
Outcome: *Mitigate risk to lives, property, and the environment within the defense zone of the WUI on the California side of the Basin. Achieving the following output(s) will accomplish this outcome:*

- Output (Primary Deliverable): Reduce hazardous fuels on 300-700 acres in the wildland-urban interface. The SNPLMA Performance Measure is:

Performance Measure O7 – Number of Interpretive or Educational Presentations given and/or Community Events participated in or Hosted (each presentation is reported as one unit).
Outcome: *Increase public awareness of wildfire and fuels reduction and how it affects the community. Achieving the following output(s) will accomplish this outcome:*

- Output (Primary Deliverable): Host one or more field trips of the treatment areas with community members and stakeholders. The SNPLMA Performance Measure is:

Performance Measure O9 – Number of GIS Databases Generated and/or Map Layers Produced (each database or map layer is one unit).
Performance Measure O11- Number of Databases, Reports, and Other Electronic Means of Documenting Activities (each electronic document or method developed is one unit).
Outcome: *Increase project planning efficiencies and enhance project design and timing to protect and restore wildlife habitat. Achieving the following output(s) will accomplish this outcome:*

- Output (Primary Deliverable): Tracking and mapping treated acreage in order to assist with comprehensive database and occurrence of fuels treatments and wildlife/plant species. The SNPLMA Performance Measures are:

Executive Committee Strategic Plan Values:

The project **promotes sustainability** by implementing cost-effective hazardous fuel reduction treatments that help protect life, property, critical infrastructure and the environment from the effects of catastrophic wildfire. The project will restore forest health by acting as a surrogate for frequent, low intensity wildfire that burned Lake Tahoe Basin forests prior to Comstock logging and fire suppression in the late 1800s. The project will promote species diversity, both across the landscape and within the project areas, increasing ecosystem resilience to both natural and human caused disturbance.

The project **promotes connectivity** by building upon a regional approach to treat priority areas identified in the CWPP and also linking previously treated areas identified in the Multi-Jurisdictional Strategy. Thus, building on the success of the TFFT in delivering collaboratively developed and prioritized wildfire prevention and fuel hazard reduction programs. This project unites diverse ownerships to connect federal, state, local and private fuels reduction treatments,

as well as establishes buffers around critical infrastructure to ensure adequate fire suppression capability, such as watery delivery and storage.

The project **promotes community** by protecting public health and safety, and by providing educational opportunities that strengthen communication and support between agencies and the public. It will help create resilient Fire Adapted Communities that can withstand a wildfire without loss of life or property.

Compliance with Departmental and Agency Priorities, Strategic Goals, Executive Orders, and Secretarial Orders:

Compliance with Departmental/Agency Priorities and Strategic Goals

The Nomination supports Department of the Interior (DOI) Priority 6 (Protect our people and the border). Specifically, the Nomination advances Goal 3 of Mission Area 5 in the DOI Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2018-2022 (Strategic Plan).

- Mission Area 5 of the Strategic Plan lists goals and strategies that help ensure public safety and advance DOI's priority of protecting our people and the border. Goal 3 is to manage wildland fire to reduce risk and improve ecosystem and community resilience. Additionally, DOI specifies that they will work with the Forest Service, and other state, local, and tribal partners improve operational efficiency, reduce management duplication, and strategically place fuels treatments as informed by a risk assessment and mitigation plan.
- The activities proposed under this Nomination advance Goal 3 and will directly improve ecosystem and community resilience by reducing the risk of damaging wildfire through strategic hazardous fuel reduction treatments. All activities are identified as a priority in the Strategy that federal, state, local, and tribal partners are implementing collaboratively.

The Nomination supports Forest Service Priorities 3 (Promoting shared stewardship by increasing partnerships and volunteerism) and 4 (Improving the condition of forests and grasslands).

- The Chief of the Forest Service's 2018 Leadership Intentions for the Five National Priorities (Leadership Intentions) clarifies the five priorities and sets expectations for the agency and its partners. Priority 3 focuses on the intent to leverage partnerships to increase collective capacity and make a difference on the whole landscape. The work of partners in the Lake Tahoe Basin to implement the Strategy exemplifies the power of shared stewardship to meet collective goals. The activities proposed under this Nomination advance Priority 3 because they complement the defensible space work that residents complete on their property, and connect wildland-urban interface treatments on public and private ownerships to create a continuous area where fuels are reduced, forest health is improved, and communities are better protected from wildfire.
- Forest Service Priority 4 describes the need to work at larger scales improve the condition of forests. A large portion of America's forests are at risk from insects, diseases, and wildfire. These threats transcend property boundaries and work must be completed across

landscapes to protect federal, state, private, and tribal lands, and the valuable resources they provide. The activities proposed under this Nomination advance Priority 4 by directly improving the condition of forests in the Basin by acting as a surrogate to naturally occurring wildfire and removing fuels that have built up over the last century. This is essential in reducing the risk of damaging wildfire and of insect and disease infestation.

Consistency with Executive Orders and Secretarial Orders

This Nomination is consistent with Executive Order No. 13855 Promoting Active Management of America's Forests and Rangelands to Improve Conditions and Reduce Wildfire Risk (Executive Order). The Executive Order prescribes three policies to be implemented by the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture, and each align with the activities proposed in the Nomination.

First, the Executive Order requires DOI and the Forest Service to adopt shared management priorities in partnership with federal land managers, states, tribes, and other landowners. This Nomination implements the Strategy which was developed by federal, state, and local government fire agencies and landowners. The Strategy shares the same three goals as the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy, which are to restore fire resilient landscapes, create fire adapted communities, and enable safe and effective wildfire response.

Second, the Executive Order requires DOI and the Forest Service to coordinate federal, state, tribal, and local assets for wildfire prevention, suppression, and reducing hazardous fuels. By closely coordinating nominations, Basin land managers and fire agencies are closely coordinating with federal agencies to coordinate the deployment of assets and skills to protect communities and natural resources.

Third, the Executive Order requires DOI and the Forest Service to remove hazardous fuels, increase active management, and support rural economies. The Nomination implements prioritized treatments that protect life and property, and support the rural economy of the Basin by providing jobs and utilizing forest restoration byproducts.

Ranking Criteria:

1. Improves the community within and/or adjacent to the project area.

A. Addresses immediate public health and safety and community infrastructure

The Nomination will protect public health and safety and community infrastructure by implementing treatments that reduce fire behavior in high priority areas. The proposed treatments are all within the WUI and primarily within the defense zone (the area generally within 0.25 miles of homes, businesses, and critical infrastructure, as depicted in the focus area maps). The nomination is designed to protect communities from fires originating in the wildland and moving into the residential areas as well as protecting the wildland from fires originating in communities and moving out toward the general forest. Furthermore, NTFPD will be partnering with TCPUD in order to carry out fuel reduction around TCPUD critical

infrastructure to ensure adequate fire suppression capability as well as protecting water delivery and storage infrastructure.

B Promotes protection of source water (rivers and lakes) or municipal watersheds.
The Nomination promotes protection of source water and municipal watersheds. Portions of the focus areas are adjacent to water storage and delivery infrastructure for North Tahoe Public Utility District, Tahoe City Public Utility District, and other public and private water purveyors. The proposed treatments will help to protect critical water delivery infrastructure in sensitive watersheds, including storage tanks, pump stations and reservoirs. The Nomination will protect source water quality by preventing the rapid transport of nutrient loaded sediment that occurs after catastrophic wildfire.

C. Project includes education and outreach to the community on Living with Fire or Fire Adapted Communities and/or the importance of fuels reduction on federal, state, and local government land.
NTFPD collaborates with the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team, is highly involved with implementation of the Tahoe Network of Fire Adapted Communities program, and the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension's Living with Fire Program. NTFPD performs 1000-2000 defensible space inspections annually, engages neighborhood leaders and communities through outreach and education and plans projects in order to support Living with Fire and Fir adapted communities' strategic goals. The Nomination contains a primary deliverable for one or more interpretive/outreach field tours of SNPLMA funded fuel reduction treatment areas for stakeholders and community members that will be coordinated with the Tahoe Network of Fire Adapted Communities and use Living with Fire materials. This field tour will likely start within the core of one of our fire adapted communities and move into recently treated WUI defense zone to help facilitate education and outreach to the public and stakeholders regarding the importance of fuel hazard reduction treatments on both public and private land and the relationship between defensible space and fuel reduction treatments.

2. Improves the connection of fuels reduction activities and wildlife habitat.

A. Project connects previously treated areas to create or increase contiguous blocks of treated land.
The focus areas displayed on the included maps represent the remaining high priority areas identified for treatment in the Strategy and CWPP. The Nomination advances the Forest Action Plan's goal of treating 17,000 acres in the WUI in the next four years. Project selection criteria will include opportunities to best link or connect previous or planned treatment areas. The Nomination uses a regional approach to treat priority areas identified in the CWPP and links previously treated areas identified in the Strategy. Treatment areas are selected in order to create a continuous defense zone where potential fire behavior is reduced surrounding communities, setting the battleground where successful suppression can take place.

B. Project protects or enhances wildlife habitat and/or resilient vegetative communities.
The Nomination will protect and enhance wildlife habitat and is designed to build resilient and diverse plant and animal communities. In regard to wildlife, the treatments

are designed to mitigate the risk of stand-replacing wildfire, which can destroy suitable wildlife habitat. The implementation process includes conducting comprehensive surveys. In regard to resilient vegetative communities, the Nomination will reduce stand densities and alter species composition therefore reducing the competition for light, nutrients, and water. This will result in a more open, diverse stand that is more resilient to insects, disease, and the effects of a changing climate.

C. Project enhances the effectiveness of other treatments in progress or complete.
The Nomination will enhance effectiveness of other adjacent in-progress or complete treatments. The Nomination is designed to not only mitigate wildfire risk on the proposed treatment areas but also to complement and enhance adjacent previous treatments, regardless of ownership. This is accomplished by selecting treatment areas that connect or link previous treatments as identified in the CWPP and Strategy.

3. Improves sustainability of the multijurisdictional 10-year plans, environment, and financial resources.

A. The Project will:

1. Improve the sustainability of the forest health and ecosystem function (e.g. stand density, desired species mix and age, tree health, etc.)
The Nomination will improve the sustainability of the forest health and ecosystem function by selectively thinning forest stands to resemble a historic forest structure. Due to the Comstock logging activities and subsequent 100 years of fire suppression, the forest stands in the Basin are even aged and overstocked, making them more susceptible to insect and disease outbreak, which in turn makes them more susceptible to catastrophic wildfire. The treatments are designed to act as a surrogate for the naturally occurring low intensity wildfires that historically managed the forest stands of the Basin, resulting in a less dense, diverse stand composition that is similar to pre-Comstock logging conditions.

2. Improve the habitat for sensitive species and Threatened and Endangered species. Includes mitigation and/or minimization measures when treatment in sensitive habitat is unavoidable.
The Nomination will improve the habitat for threatened, endangered, and sensitive species. Treatment designs will include mitigation and/or minimization measures when treatment in sensitive habitat is unavoidable. Biological reviews will be conducted for all proposed treatment areas and will identify known occurrences as well as suitable habitat for threatened, endangered, and other sensitive species. These reviews will inform recommendations for how to design projects to improve habitat, and for avoiding impacts to these species and their habitats.

3. Includes broadcast prescribed fire for resource management objectives for sustainable landscapes.
The Nomination includes broadcast prescribed fire for resource management objectives and for sustainable landscapes. Broadcast burning for resource management is included as a treatment type with this Nomination. All broadcast prescribed fire will be done under

the direction of an NWCG certified Type 2 Prescribed Fire Burn Boss and in accordance with an approved NWCG Prescribed Fire Burn Plan.

B. *The method of treatment is fiscally responsible for the project area by balancing resource objectives, values at risk, and cost per acre factors or cost-benefit analysis.*
The Nomination proposes to use a mix of hand thinning, pile burning, mechanical treatments, broadcast/understory burning, and biomass removal to maximize cost effectiveness while meeting community protection and resource improvement objectives. As the treatment areas are selected, the most appropriate and cost-effective treatment method will be recommended for implementation. The estimated costs per acre for planning and implementation of the treatment areas have been generated using a 10-year average for similar treatments and areas. These costs may be reduced depending on the access and availability of a close biomass processing facility.

4. Demonstrates sound project management and quality control measures.

A. *Project goals and implementation processes are clear, measurable, achievable, and demonstrable.*
The goal of the proposal is to implement hazardous fuels reduction and forest health treatments on 300-700 acres of land within the defense zone of the WUI on the California side of the Basin. Treatment areas will be selected based on factors including values-at-risk, cost-effectiveness, and connectivity to previously treated areas.

B. *Project proponent has the capacity to implement this project in a timely manner (contractor and staff availability, no backlog of current project, etc.) and within budget.*
NTFPD has a proven record of successfully implementing fuel reduction and forest management treatments using grant funding. NTFPD has been awarded and successfully managed and closed out hazardous fuel reduction grants from past rounds. NTFPD is currently managing a $450,000 SNPLMA Round 15 grant to complete at least 135 acres of hazardous fuel reduction. Work is proceeding on-time and within budget. NTFPD has self-driven and motivated forestry and grant management staff, and is committed to collaboratively lead forest management efforts and increase treatments in order to carry out CWPP projects in the WUI defense zone.

C. *Is a phase or related component to a previously funded project.*
The Nomination will result in a viable stand-alone project. The Nomination is designed to complement and connect completed or planned treatments identified in the CWPP and the Strategy, many of which have been funded by previous rounds of SNPLMA hazardous fuels reduction grants.

D. *Has identified committed non-SNPLMA sources of funding or in-kind contribution in the development and/or implementation of the project.*
Tahoe City Public Utility District will provide $15,000 of in-kind contributions. Tahoe City Public Utility District is completing a critical infrastructure risk assessment that will be used as a guide for fuel reduction activities to reduce hazardous fuel conditions and provide a buffer around critical infrastructure. Tahoe City PUD will provide match in the form of staff

support for project coordination, critical infrastructure access, characterization, and GIS mapping.

Project Location:

Project location: Location: 39.167523° / -120.147734°

Treatments proposed in this project will occur on forested parcels owned and managed by the State of California, Counties, local jurisdictions, and both small and large private landowners. All parcels identified for treatment are of the highest priority WUI Defense Zone treatments as identified in the CWPP and Strategy. See NTFPD and MBFPD CWPP Maps on following pages:

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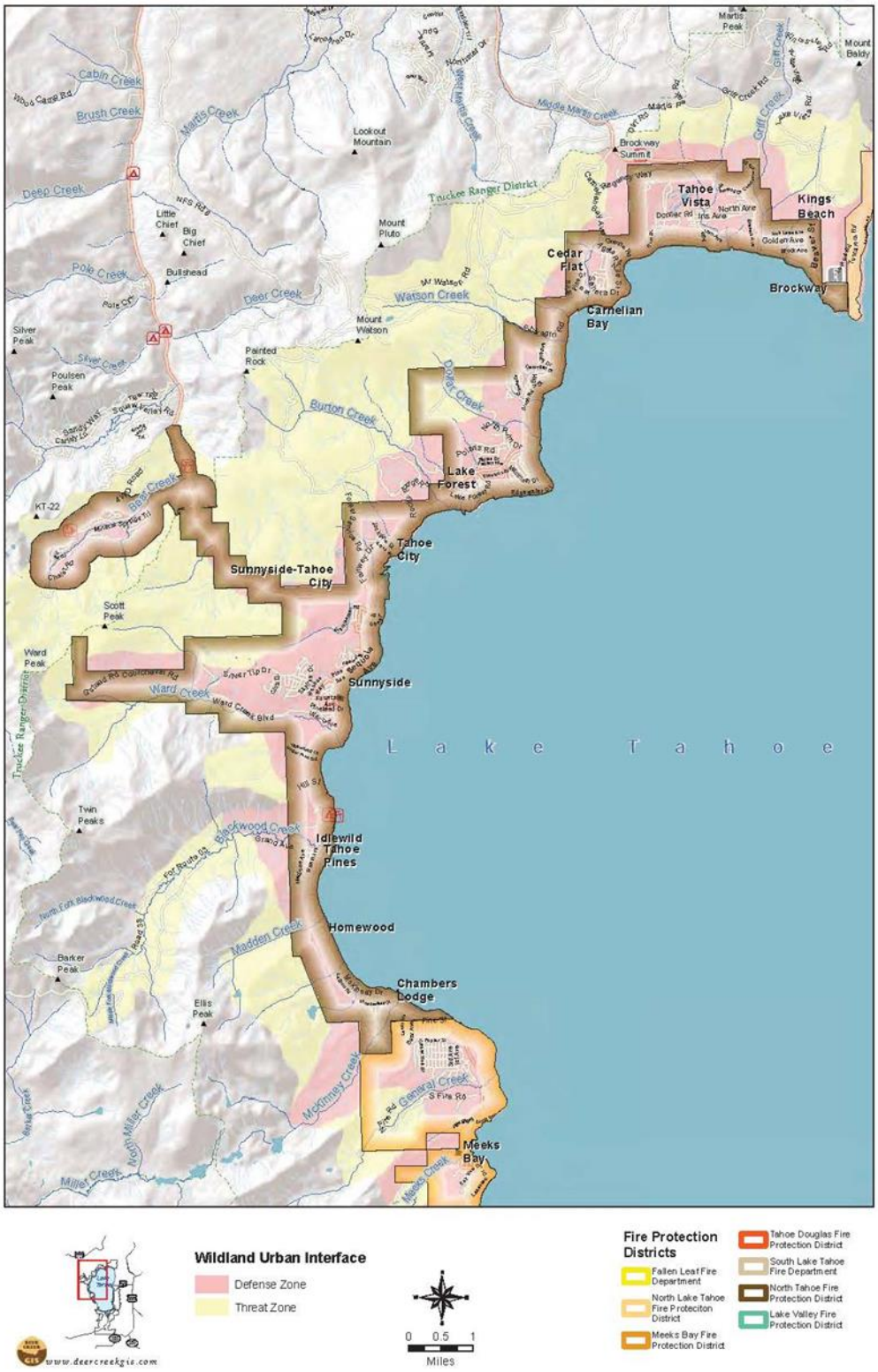
Maps:

Tahoe Basin CWPP

North Tahoe Fire Protection District Wildland Urban Interface

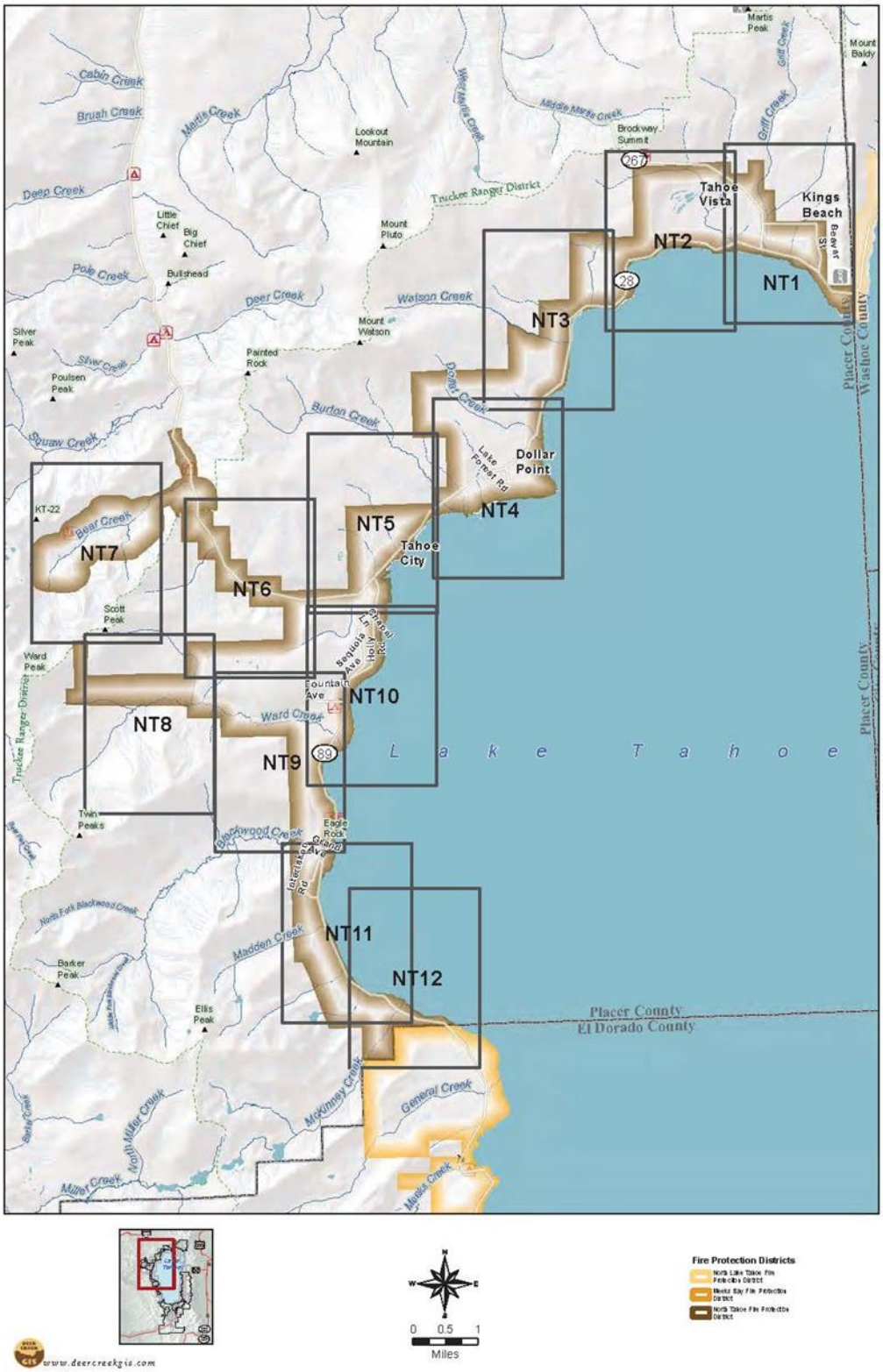


Tahoe Basin CWPP

North Tahoe Fire Protection District Fire Risk Index

Tahoe Basin CWPP

North Tahoe Fire Protection District Fuels Treatments Index Page



Tahoe Basin CWPP *NT Fuels Treatments Page 1*

Tahoe Basin CWPP
NT Fuels Treatments Page 2
SUMMIT
Tahoe Vista
Sewage Disposal
Mobile Home Park
Quarry
Quarries
BM 6232
Flick Point
Rocks
AGATE
Fire Districts and Departments
Wildland Urban Interface
Defense Zone
Threat Zone
Fuels Treatments
Future Private and Local Treatments
Completed USFS Fuels Treatment 2004-2013
Completed State Local & Private Treatments 2004-2013
Future State Treatments
Future USFS Treatments
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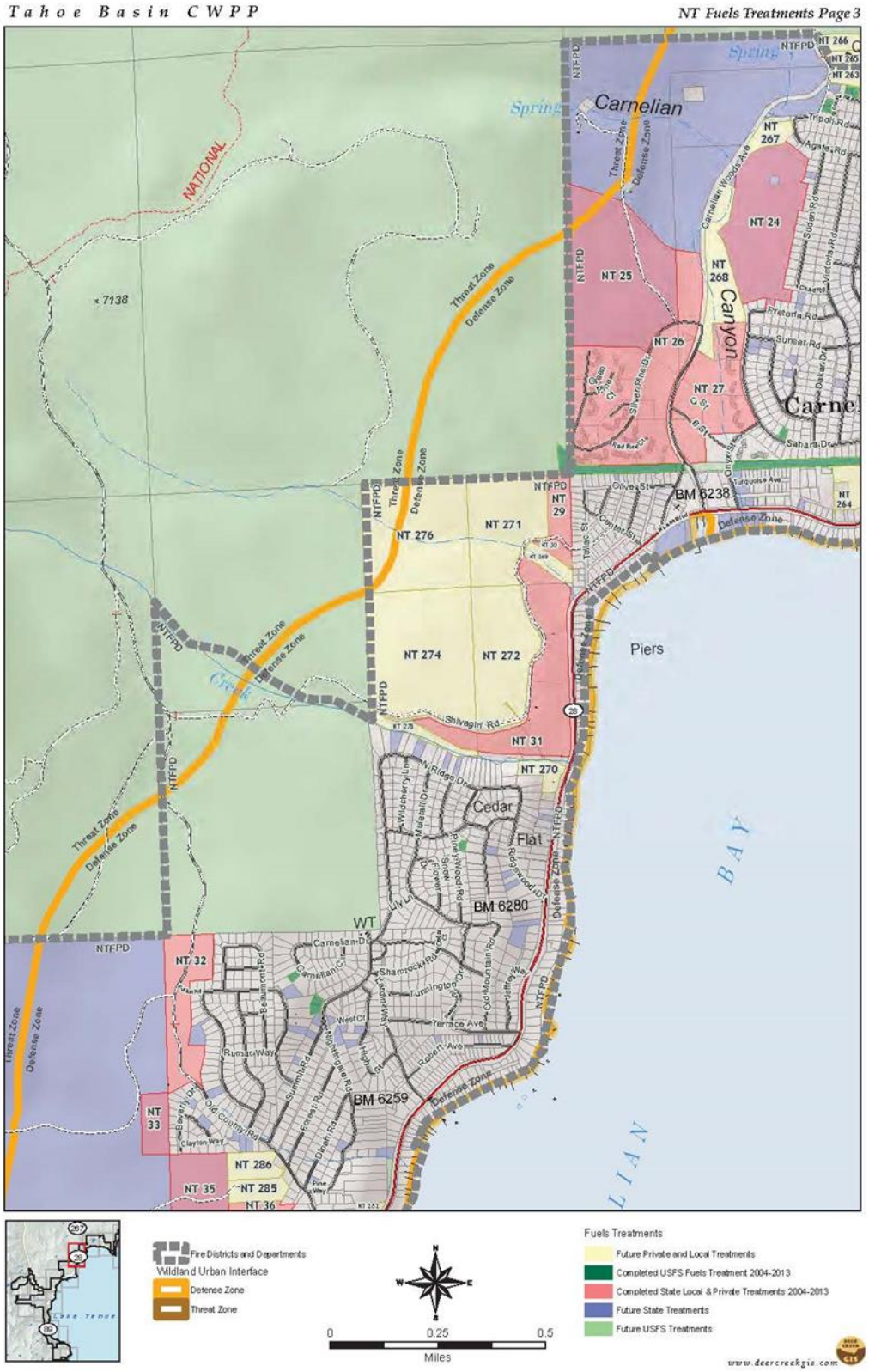
www.deercreekgis.com


Tahoe Basin CWPP
NT Fuels Treatments Page 3
Carnelian
Canyon
Carne
Piers
Cedar
Flat
BM 6238
BM 6280
BM 6259
NT 24
NT 25
NT 26
NT 27
NT 29
NT 31
NT 32
NT 33
NT 35
NT 36
NT 264
NT 267
NT 268
NT 270
NT 271
NT 272
NT 274
NT 276
NT 285
NT 286
NTFPD
Threat Zone
Defense Zone
Shivaglin Rd
Fire Districts and Departments
Wildland Urban Interface
Defense Zone
Threat Zone
Fuels Treatments
Future Private and Local Treatments
Completed USFS Fuels Treatment 2004-2013
Completed State Local & Private Treatments 2004-2013
Future State Treatments
Future USFS Treatments
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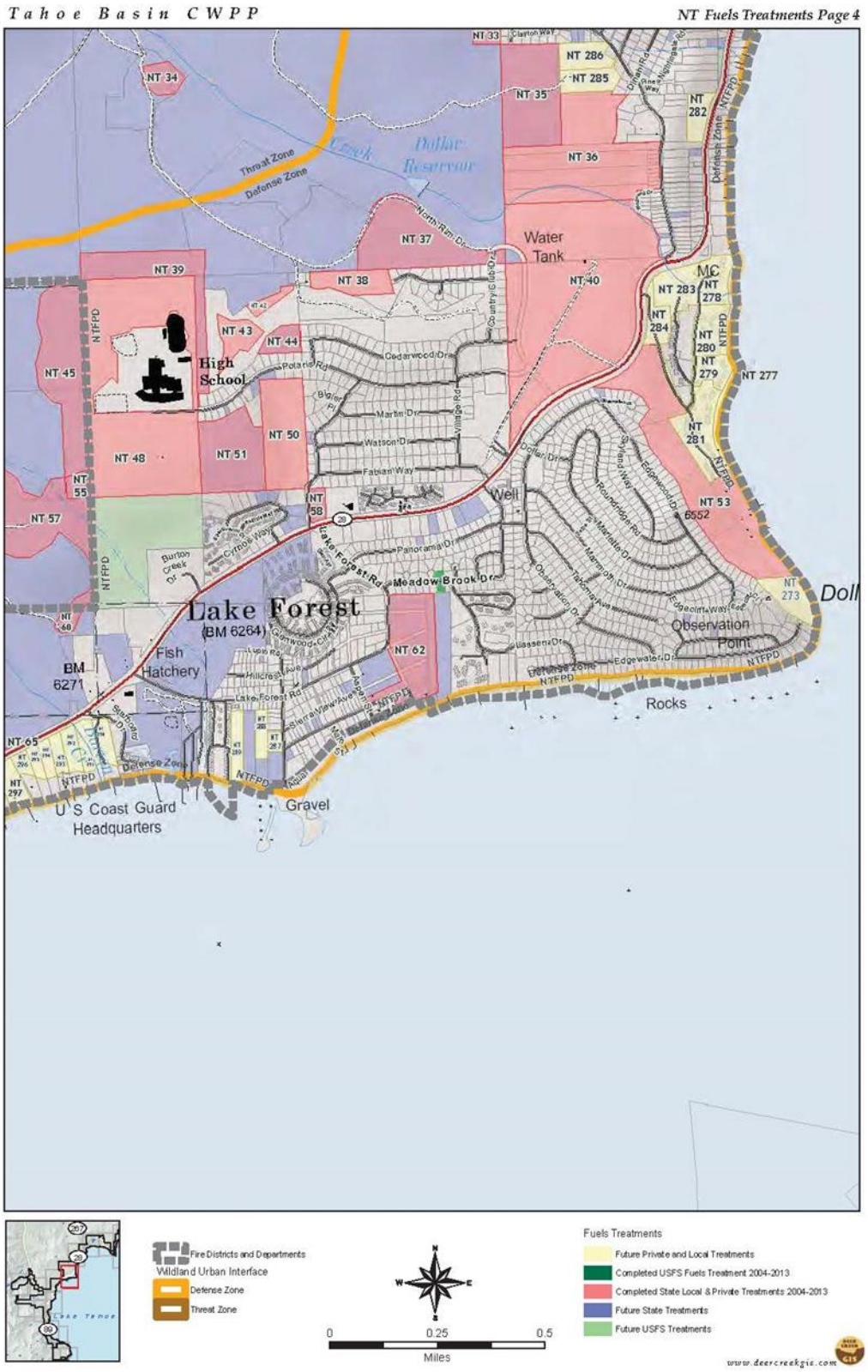
www.deercreekgis.com


Tahoe Basin CWPP
NT Fuels Treatments Page 4
Lake Forest
(BM 6264)
Fish Hatchery
BM 6271
U S Coast Guard Headquarters
Gravel
Rocks
Observation Point
Water Tank
Well
High School
Dollar Reservoir
Threat Zone
Defense Zone
Fire Districts and Departments
Wildland Urban Interface
Defense Zone
Threat Zone
Fuels Treatments
Future Private and Local Treatments
Completed USFS Fuels Treatment 2004-2013
Completed State Local & Private Treatments 2004-2013
Future State Treatments
Future USFS Treatments
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Miles
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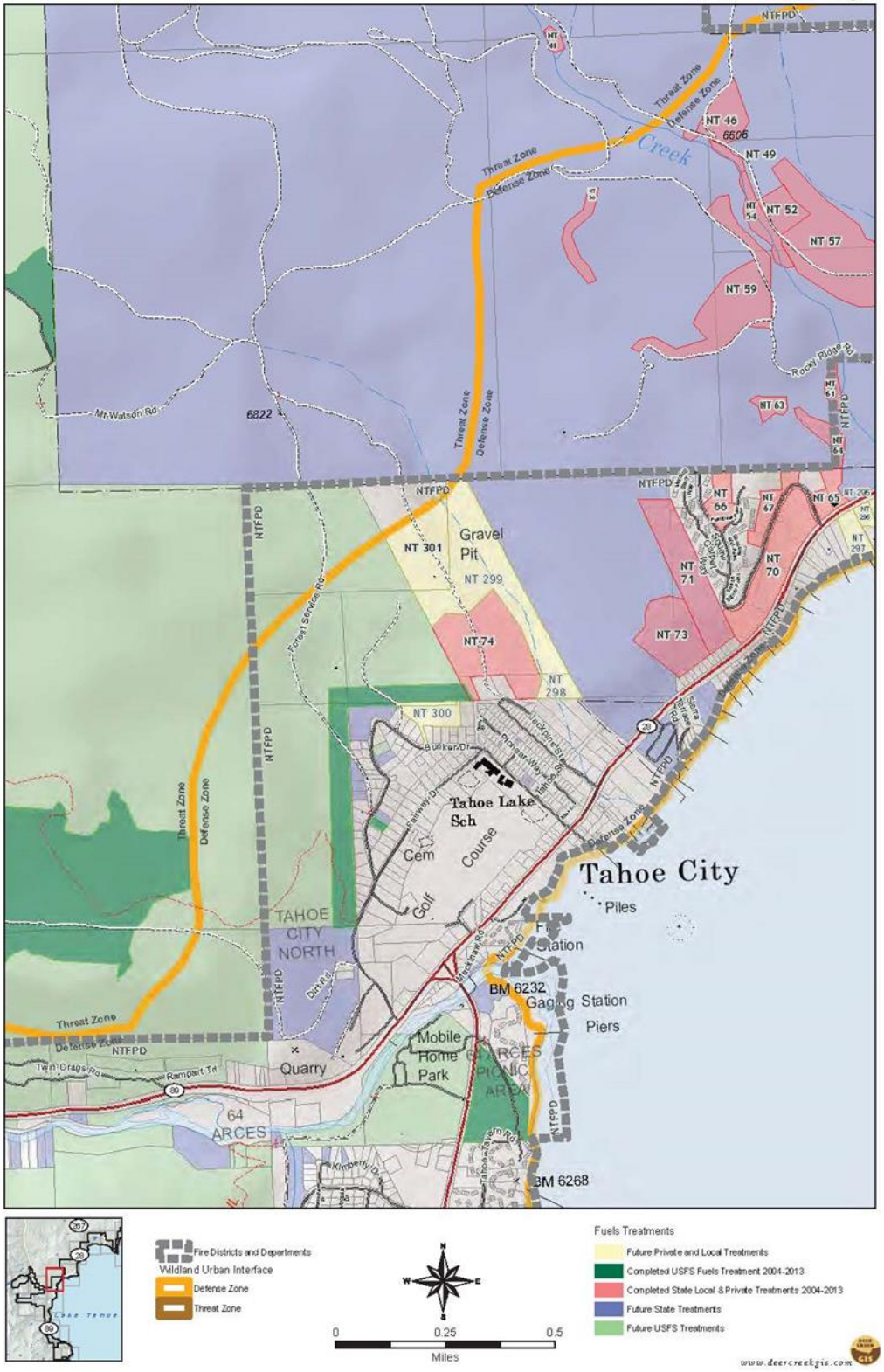
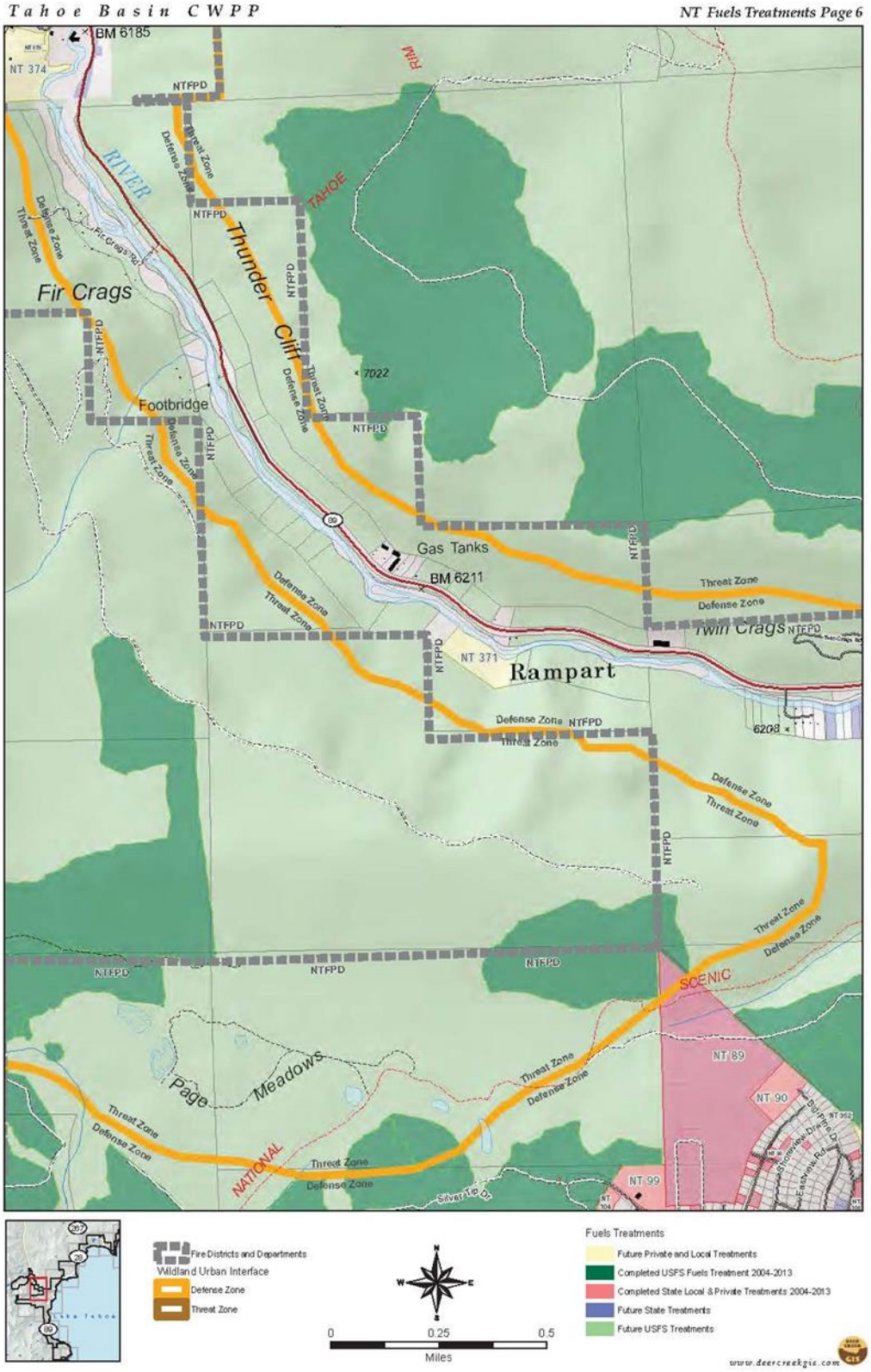
Tahoe Basin CWPP *NT Fuels Treatments Page 5*




Tahoe Basin CWPP
NT Fuels Treatments Page 6
BM 6185
NT 374
NTFPD
RIM
RIVER
TAHOE
Thunder Cliff
Fir Crags
Footbridge
7022
Gas Tanks
BM 6211
Twin Crags
NT 371
Rampart
6208
Page Meadows
NATIONAL
SCENIC
NT 89
NT 90
NT 99
Threat Zone
Defense Zone
Fire Districts and Departments
Wildland Urban Interface
Defense Zone
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Fuels Treatments
Future Private and Local Treatments
Completed USFS Fuels Treatment 2004-2013
Completed State Local & Private Treatments 2004-2013
Future State Treatments
Future USFS Treatments
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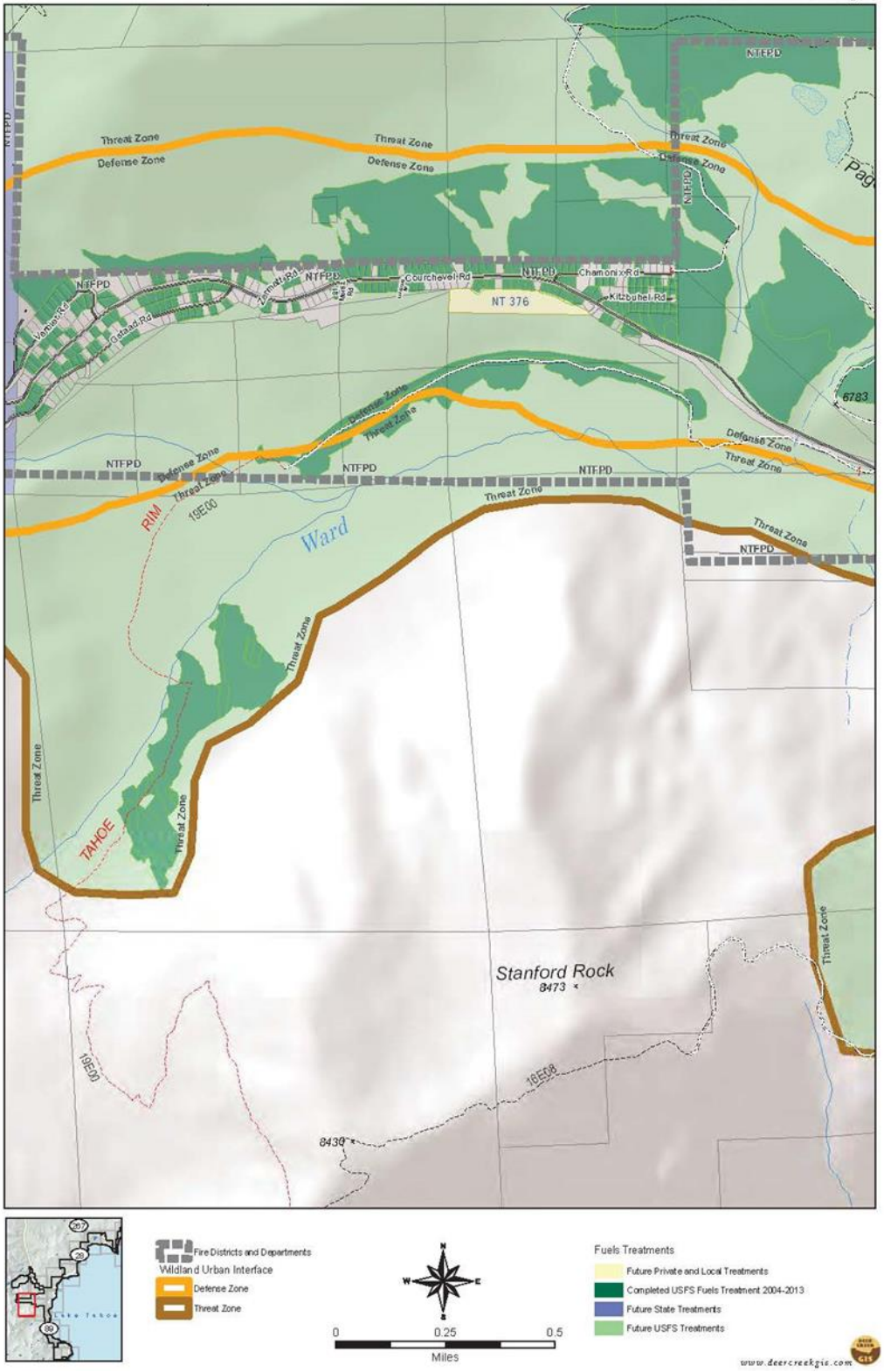
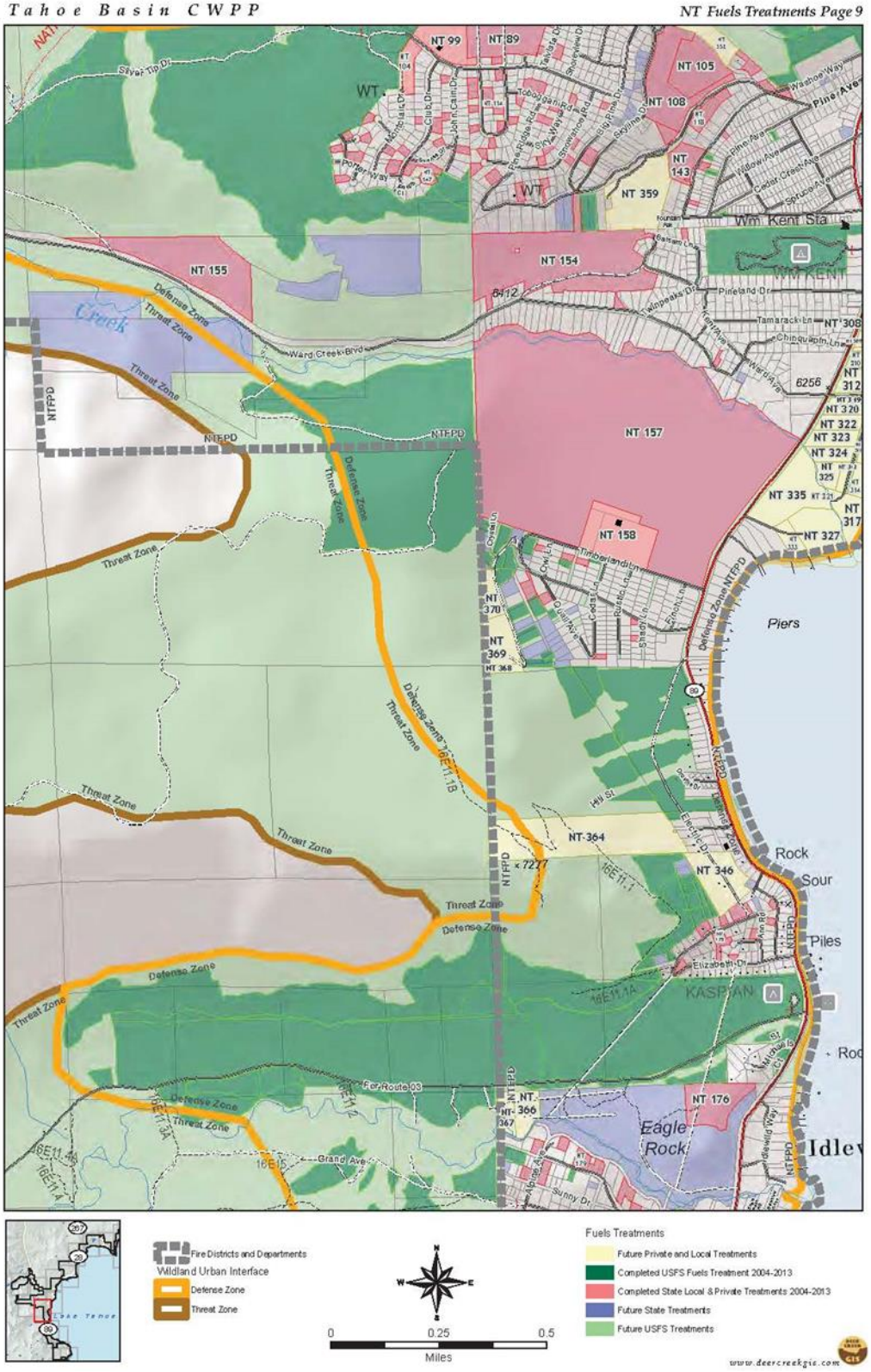
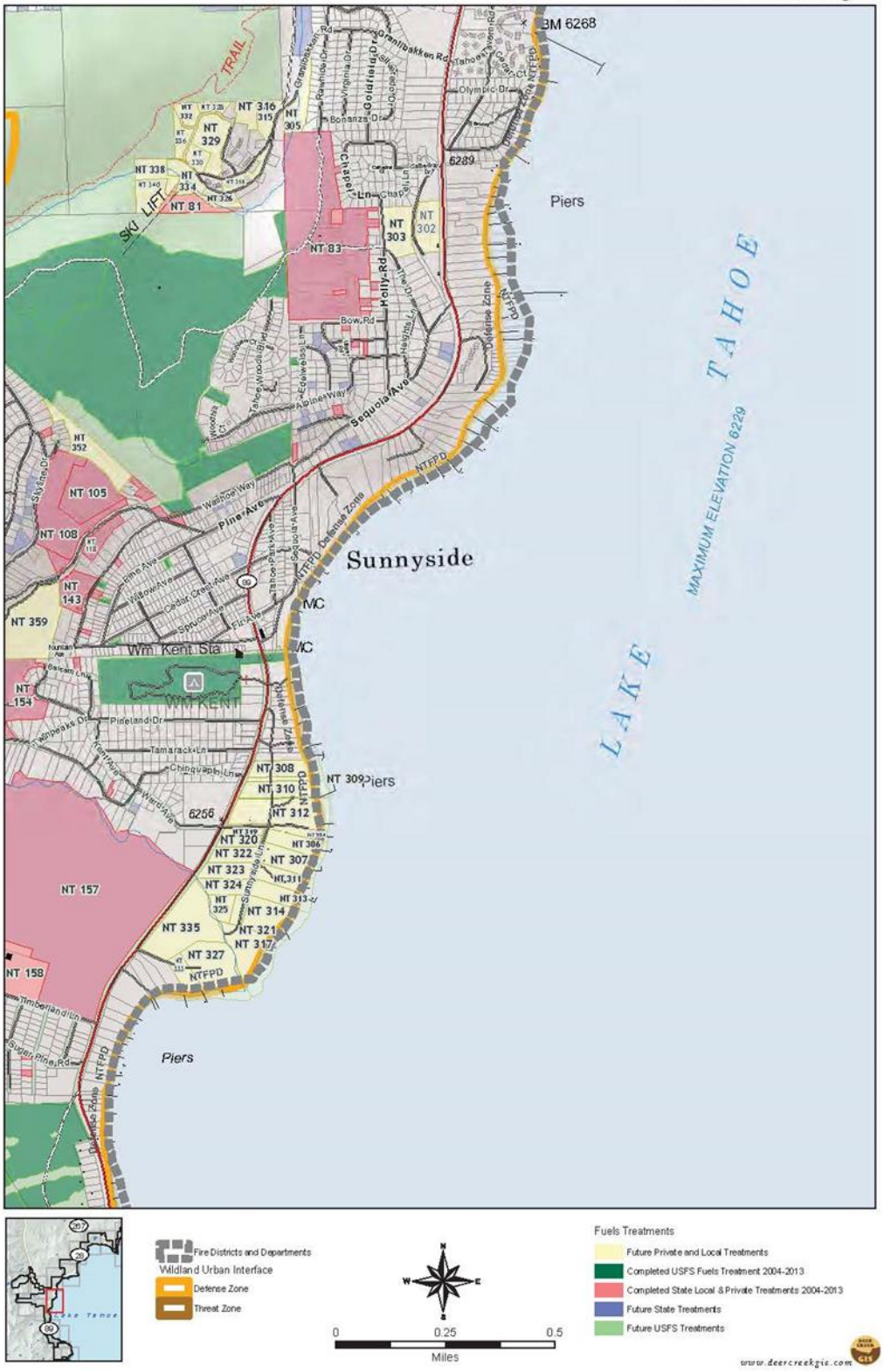
Tahoe Basin CWPP *NT Fuels Treatments Page 8*



Tahoe Basin CWPP *NT Fuels Treatments Page 9*




BM 6268
TRAIL
SKI LIFT
NT 329
NT 316
NT 305
NT 338
NT 334
NT 81
NT 83
NT 303
NT 302
6289
Piers
TAHOE
LAKE
MAXIMUM ELEVATION 6229
Sunnyside
Wm Kent Sta
WM KENT
NT 352
NT 105
NT 108
NT 143
NT 359
NT 154
NT 157
NT 158
NT 308
NT 309
NT 310
NT 312
6256
NT 320
NT 322
NT 323
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NT 317
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Piers
Fire Districts and Departments
Wildland Urban Interface
Defense Zone
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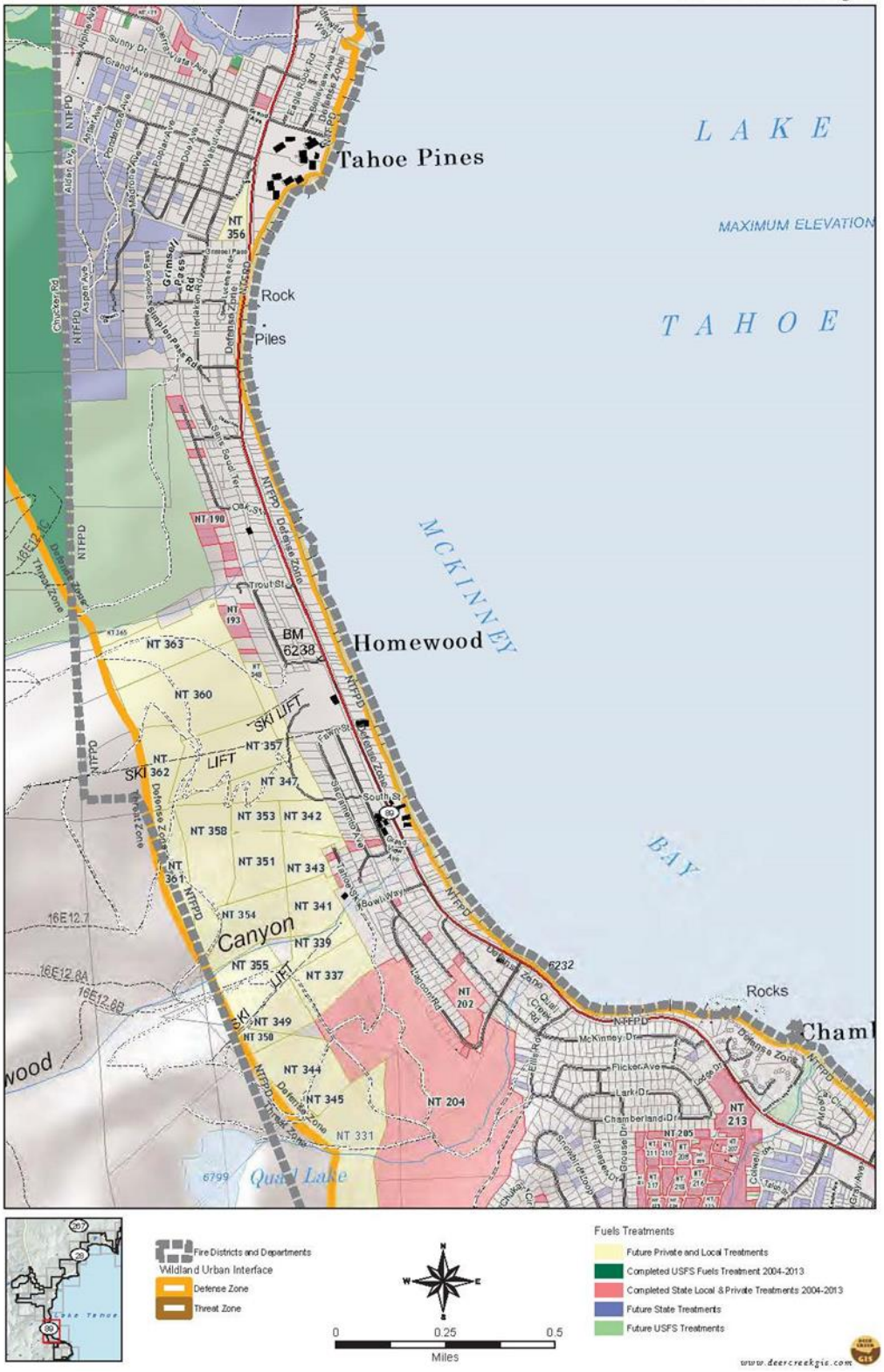
Fuels Treatments
Future Private and Local Treatments
Completed USFS Fuels Treatment 2004-2013
Completed State Local & Private Treatments 2004-2013
Future State Treatments
Future USFS Treatments
www.deercreekgis.com


LAKE
TAHOE
MAXIMUM ELEVATION
MCKINNEY
BAY
Tahoe Pines
Rock
Piles
Homewood
Canyon
Rocks
Quail Lake
SKI LIFT
NT 356
NT 190
NT 193
NT 363
NT 360
NT 357
NT 362
NT 347
NT 353
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NT 341
NT 339
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NT 349
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NT 345
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Fire Districts and Departments
Wildland Urban Interface
Defense Zone
Threat Zone
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Fuels Treatments
Future Private and Local Treatments
Completed USFS Fuels Treatment 2004-2013
Completed State Local & Private Treatments 2004-2013
Future State Treatments
Future USFS Treatments
www.deercreekgis.com

TAHOE
BAY
Rocks
Chambers Lodge
Tahoma
Tahoma
NT 204
NT 205
NT 213
NTFPD
MBFPD
Defense Zone
McKinney Dr
Flicker Ave
Lark Dr
Chamberland Dr
Grouse Dr
Cascade Ct
Cascade Dr
McKinney Ct
Springs Ct
Rubicon Springs Rd
El Dorado St
Pine St
Elm St
Hazel St
Oak St
Alder St
MB 28
MB 215
MB 36
MB 29
MB 73
MB 47
Fire Districts and Departments
Wildland Urban Interface
Defense Zone
Threat Zone
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Fuels Treatments
Future Private and Local Treatments
Completed USFS Fuels Treatment 2004-2013
Completed State Local & Private Treatments 2004-2013
Future State Treatments
Future USFS Treatments
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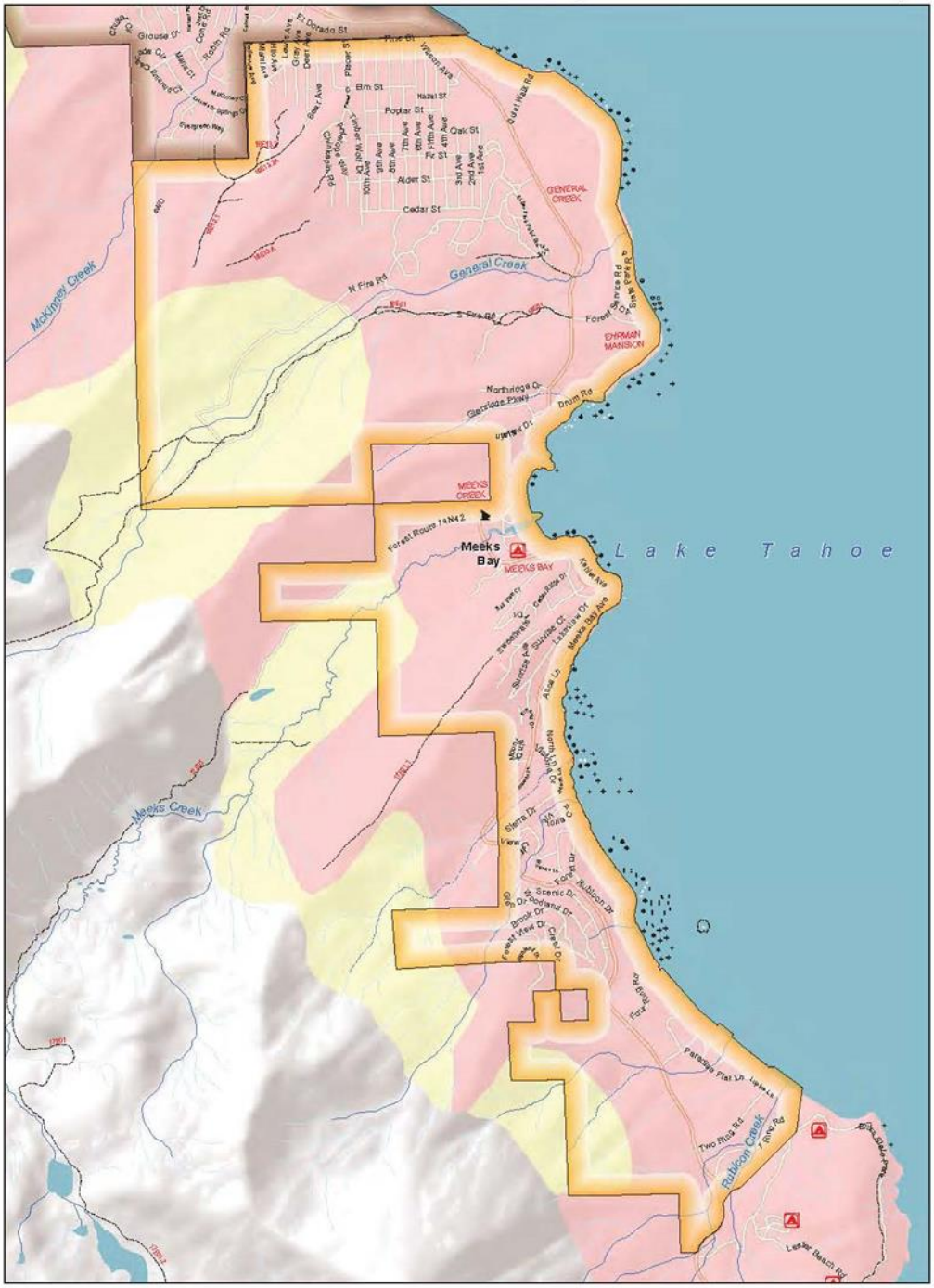
Tahoe Basin CWPP *Meeks Bay Fire Protection District Wildland Urban Interface*



Wildland Urban Interface

- Defense Zone
- Threat Zone

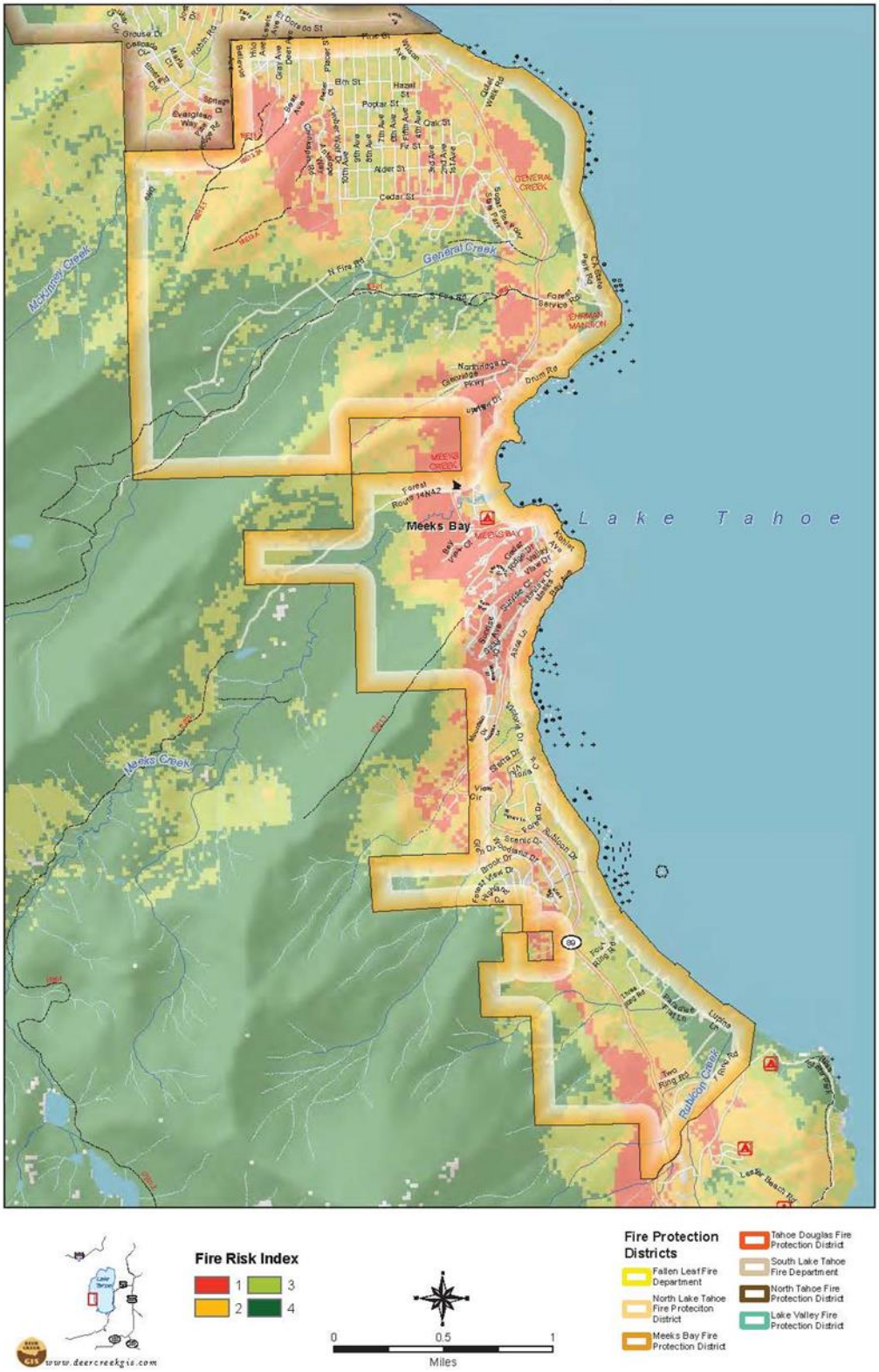
0 0.5 1
Miles

Fire Protection Districts

- Fallen Leaf Fire Department
- North Lake Tahoe Fire Proteciton District
- Meeks Bay Fire Protection District
- Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District
- South Lake Tahoe Fire Department
- North Tahoe Fire Protection District
- Lake Valley Fire Protection District

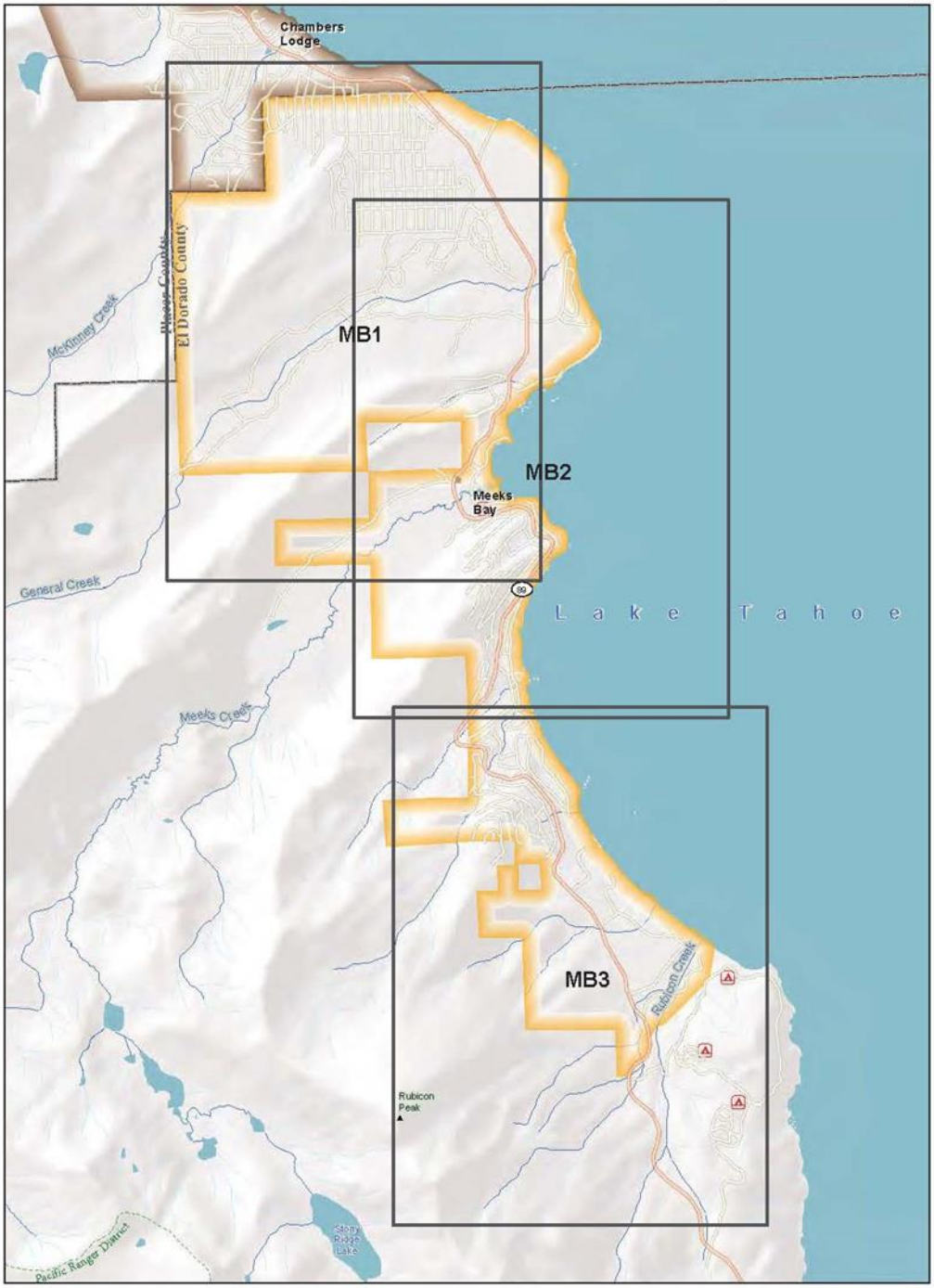
Tahoe Basin CWPP

Meeks Bay Fire Protection District Fire Risk Index



Tahoe Basin CWPP

Meeks Bay Fuels Treatments Index Page



Fire Protection Districts

Meeks Bay Fire Protection District

North Tahoe Fire Protection District

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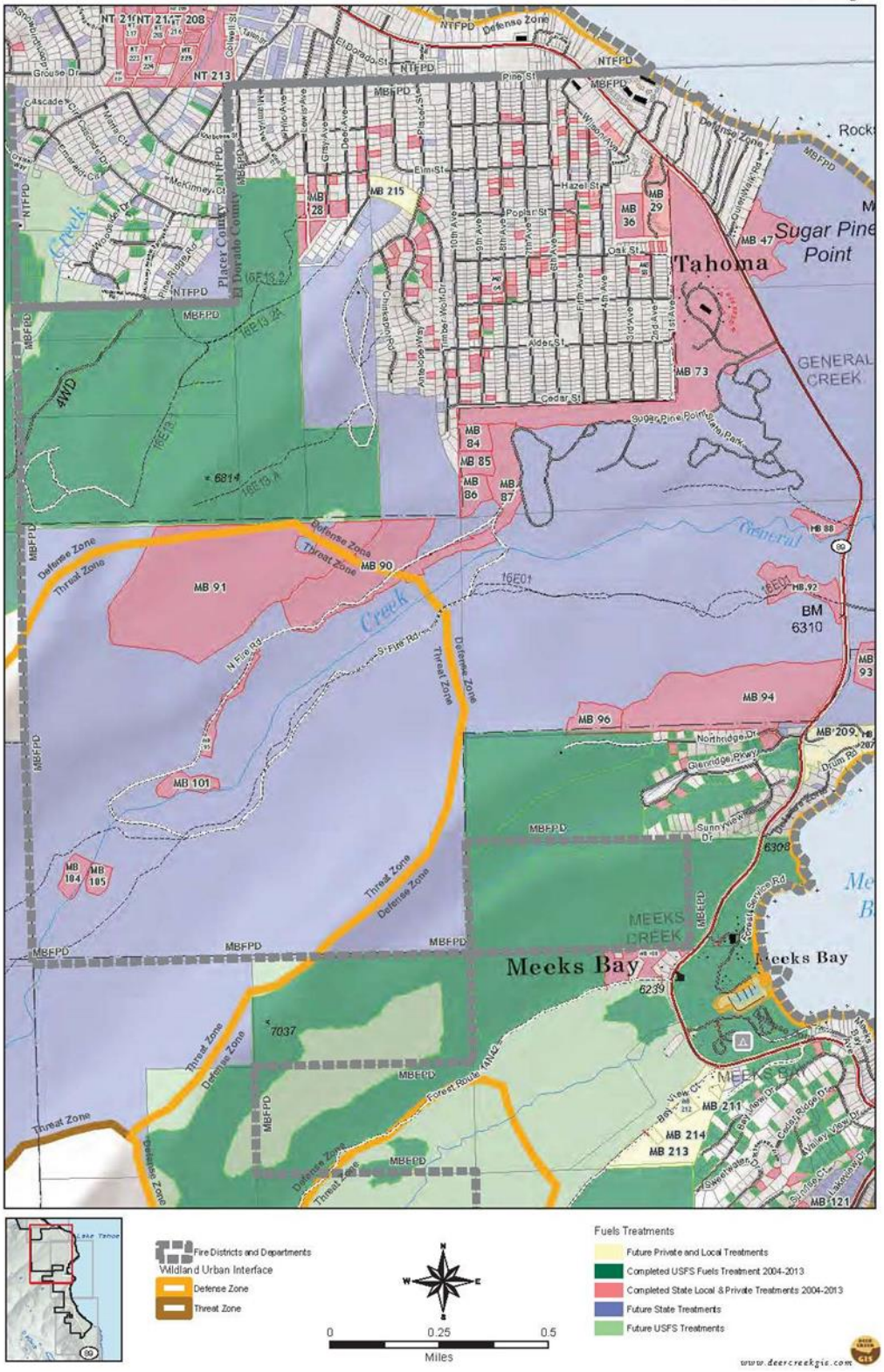
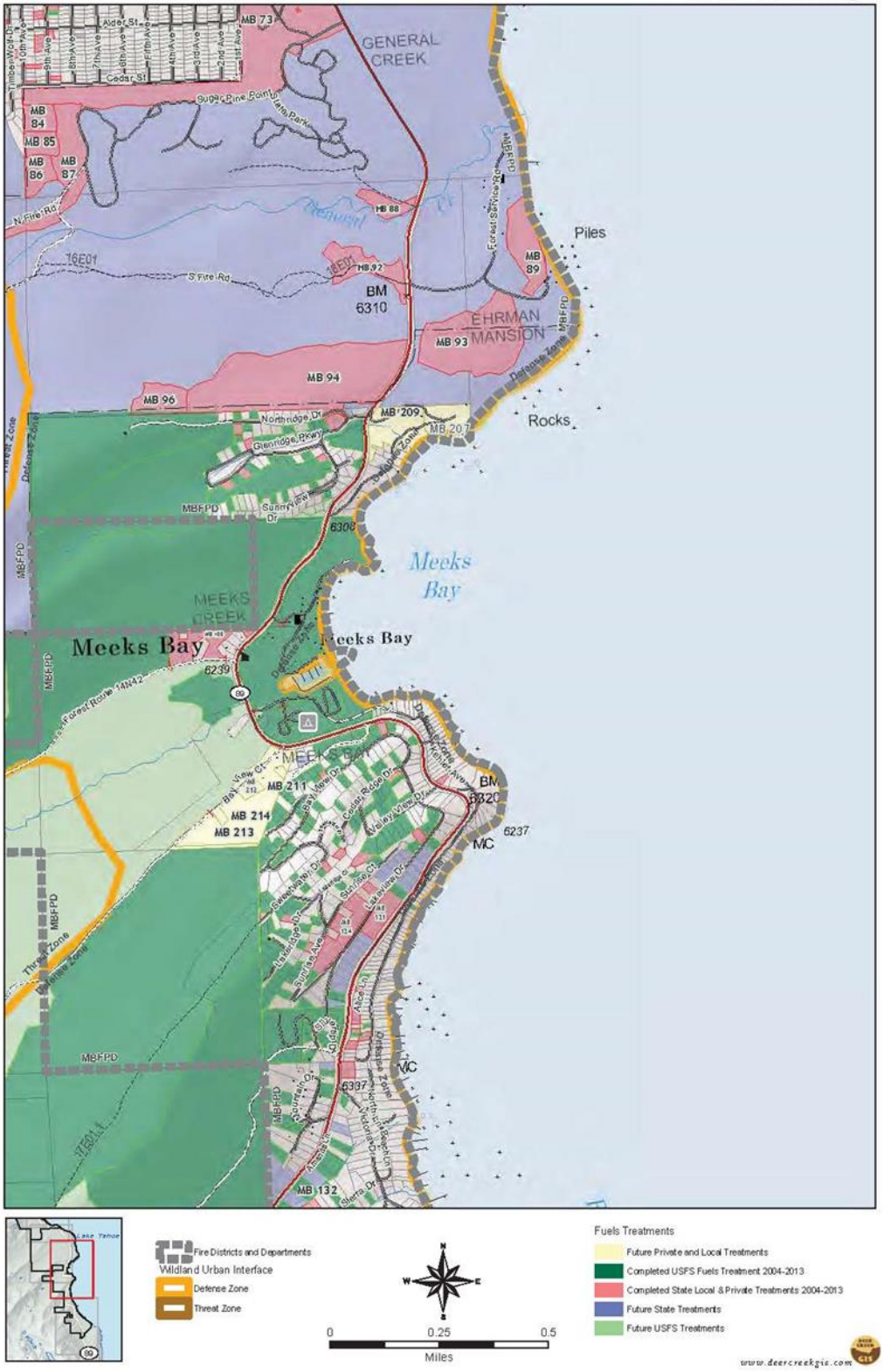
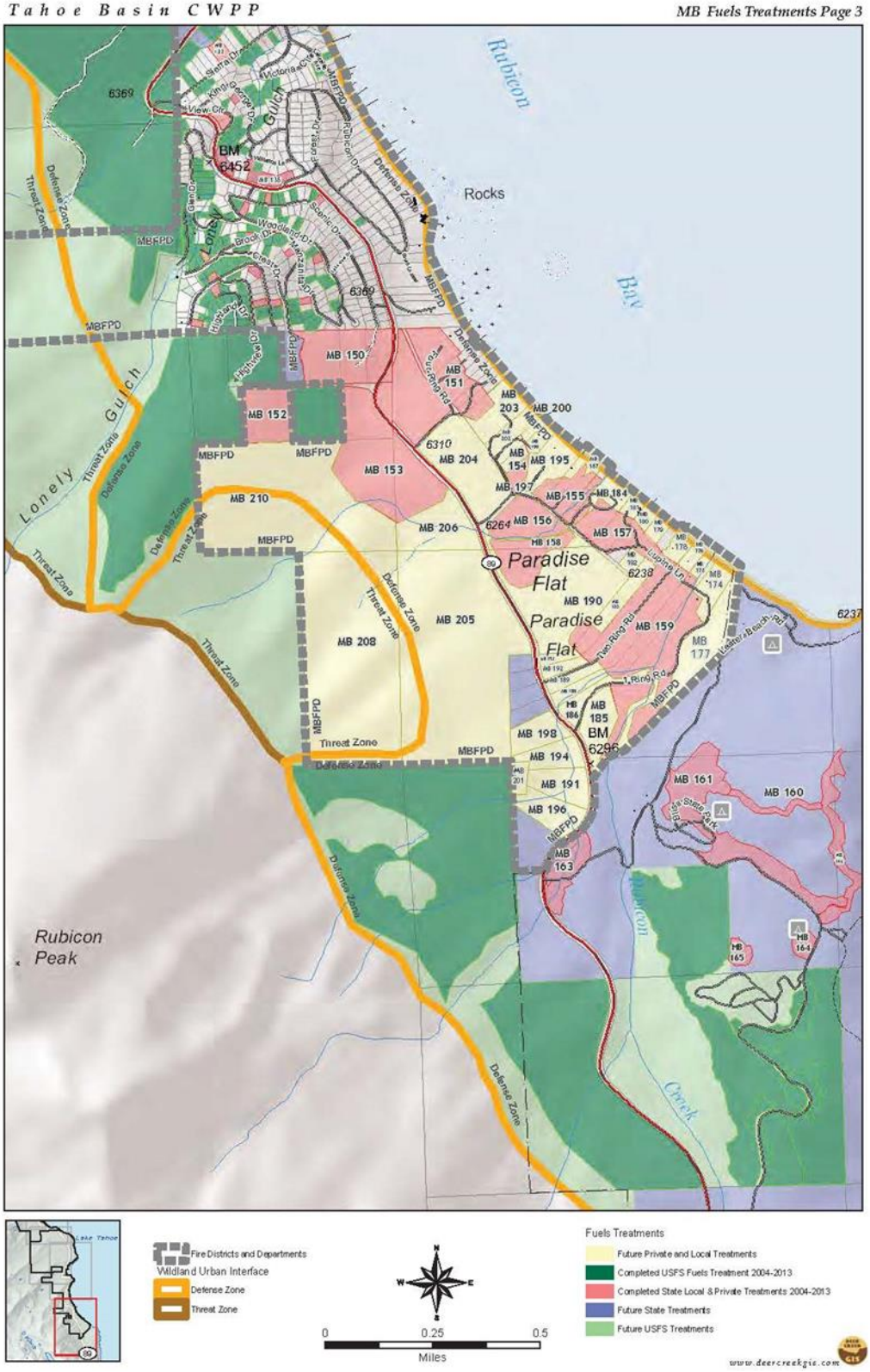
Tahoe Basin CWPP *MB Fuels Treatments Page 1*



Tahoe Basin CWPP *MB Fuels Treatments Page 2*



Tahoe Basin CWPP *MB Fuels Treatments Page 3*



Letters of Support:

September 10, 2020

Robert Taylor
Program Manager, SNPLMA Division
Bureau of Land Management
4702 North Torrey Pines Drive
Las Vegas, Nevada 89130

Re: SNPLMA Round 18 Nominations for Hazardous Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention in the Lake Tahoe Basin

Dear Mr. Taylor and other Nomination Reviewers:

Thank you for your consideration of the Lake Tahoe Basin's Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) Round 18 project nominations. The local government, state, and federal implementing agencies have partnered in a coordinated approach to comprehensively and cost-effectively implement the Lake Tahoe Basin Multi-Jurisdictional Strategy for Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention (Strategy).

The Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team (TFFT) formed in 2008 to implement the Strategy, with the twin aims of reducing fuels in the wildland-urban interface (WUI) and preparing communities for wildfire. The 21 partner agencies of the TFFT work within the Lake Tahoe Basin (Basin) to plan, prioritize, and implement fuel reduction and fire prevention projects that protect life, property, and the environment. The TFFT recently collaborated to identify critical need projects and develop ten SNPLMA Round 18 nominations that advance the goals of the Strategy.

Communities across the western United States are currently witnessing the catastrophe of yet another record-breaking wildfire season. A destructive wildfire in the Basin of similar scale to those burning right now elsewhere in the Sierra Nevada would have devastating impacts on our forests, communities, and businesses. Such a fire would also cause severe economic impacts in both California and Nevada.

The Basin's fire agencies are tested every fire season by dozens of wildfire ignitions, which each have the potential to become the Basin's next destructive wildfire. To improve our odds, we work at every level – from helping residents prepare themselves, their families, and their homes

Protecting lives, property, and the environment of the Lake Tahoe Basin from wildfire by implementing prioritized fuel reduction projects and engaging the public in becoming a fire adapted community.

for wildfire, to working within neighborhoods to create defensible space that extends across property lines, to reducing fuels and restoring forests in the WUI and beyond.

This holistic approach of working at every level is ratified in the Strategy, with its three goals of creating fire adapted communities, restoring fire-resilient landscapes, and supporting safe and effective wildfire response. These goals are mirrored by the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy. The goals are manifested in the over 60,000 acres treated in the Basin's WUI by TFFT partners over the last decade, and the thousands of homes inspected for defensible space and brought into compliance.

There are ten Hazardous Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention nominations for SNPLMA Round 18, each implementing a critical component of the Strategy. The nominations are:

1) **Lake Tahoe Basin Fire Adapted Communities**
   Agency: Tahoe Resource Conservation District
   Funding Requested: $8,705,000
2) **Defense Zone Improvement**
   Agency: North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District
   Funding Requested: $1,222,000
3) **Highway 50 Hazardous Fuel Reduction and Restoration**
   Agency: Tahoe-Douglas Fire Protection District
   Funding Requested: $400,000
4) **South Lake Tahoe Fire Rescue Wildland-Urban Interface Hazardous Fuel Reduction**
   Agency: South Lake Tahoe Fire Rescue
   Funding Requested: $852,000
5) **North Tahoe Fire Protection District Wildland-Urban Interface Hazardous Fuel Reduction**
   Agency: North Tahoe Fire Protection District
   Funding Requested: $2,500,000
6) **California Community Forestry**
   Agency: California Tahoe Conservancy
   Funding Requested: $4,159,180
7) **California Tahoe Conservancy Wildland-Urban Interface Hazardous Fuel Reduction**
   Agency: California Tahoe Conservancy
   Funding Requested: $5,994,000
8) **National Forest Priority Wildland-Urban Interface Fuel Reduction**
   Agency: Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit
   Funding Requested: $10,490,000
9) **Utility Corridors Resilience**
   Agency: Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit
   Funding Requested: $8,655,000

Protecting lives, property, and the environment of the Lake Tahoe Basin from wildfire by implementing prioritized fuel reduction projects and engaging the public in becoming a fire adapted community.

10) **Prescribed Fire Implementation**

Agency: Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit

Funding Requested: $5,046,000

Nomination 1 will deliver extensive community engagement and defensible space treatments through the Tahoe Network of Fire Adapted Communities (Tahoe Network). The Tahoe Network is a multi-agency and community collaboration that helps residents take individual action to collectively reduce their neighborhood's risk of wildfire. The preparedness of residents and the defensible space around homes are at the core of the Strategy' approach to preventing catastrophic wildfire.

The defensible space treatments completed through Nomination 1 directly connect to the treatments included in Nominations 2 through 6. These nominations propose treatments on the thousands of small open-space and undeveloped lots surrounding homes that are interspersed throughout neighborhoods, as well as on private and local-government lands near communities. Nominations 7 and 8 connect to neighborhood treatments and involve large-scale wildland-urban interface treatments on state and federal lands. The treatments substantially advance the TFFT's target of completing initial wildland-urban interface treatments identified in the Strategy by 2024.

Nomination 9 reduces wildfire risk and creates healthy forests surrounding powerlines, a significant potential source of wildfire ignitions. The treatments will help protect critical community infrastructure as well as reduce the risk of spread for ignitions originating from powerlines.

Finally, Nomination 10 proposes to strategically use prescribed fire as a tool for both fuel reduction and landscape restoration. In addition to implementing valuable treatments, the project helps to build Basinwide capacity to use prescribed fire across multiple jurisdictions.

The TFFT expresses its strong support for the full suite of projects listed above. The SNPLMA program has been transformative for the Basin by enabling a multitude of fuel reduction and wildfire reduction projects. These projects have helped improve our odds of withstanding wildfire and are an important reason for our success to date. Again, thank you for your consideration of the Basin's SNPLMA Round 18 nominations.

Sincerely,

Scott Baker

Scott Baker
Chair, TFFT Multi-Agency Coordinating Group
Fire Chief, Tahoe-Douglas Fire Protection District

Protecting lives, property, and the environment of the Lake Tahoe Basin from wildfire by implementing prioritized fuel reduction projects and engaging the public in becoming a fire adapted community.

Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act
Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention
Round 18

South Lake Tahoe Fire Rescue

Fuels Reduction - South Lake Tahoe

Amount Requested: $851,700

Timeframe: 6 Years
Location: 38.9399 / -119.9772
Congressional District: CA-4

Contact: Jay Manning, Battalion Chief
Address: 2101 Lake Tahoe Blvd. South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150
Phone: 530-542-6160
Fax: 530-541-0634
Email: **jmanning@cityofslt.us**

Purpose Statement:

South Lake Tahoe Fire Rescue of the City of South Lake Tahoe will reduce 149.82 acres of hazardous fuels at three City-owned properties to reduce the severity of wildfire behavior, improve defensible space protection to adjoining private lands, and enhance forest ecosystem health. Three locations selected from the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) and endorsed by the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team (TFFT) include: Lake Tahoe Airport, Tahoe Vista Neighborhood, and Campground/Recreation Complex.

Background info to support the need:

These City-owned properties are deemed priority in the *2015 Lake Tahoe Basin Community Wildfire Protection Plan*. This Plan was designed to address the immediate threat environmental conditions pose to public health and safety. The parcels selected reside in/near the airport, schools, critical water sheds, community centers, emergency centers, public safety infrastructure, and water supply wells. Restoring the project sites to healthy forest conditions is an integral component to reduce the effects of fire within the wildland urban interface. Thinning of vegetation will provide benefits of habitat protection by promoting growth of larger trees, reducing resource competition and create larger more resilient forest stands providing long-term carbon sequestration. An added co-benefit of increased tree vigor and forest health is its ability to withstand fire, pests and pathogens as well as climate change. It's imperative that the City of South Lake Tahoe contribute to the protection of the watersheds to Lake Tahoe (the jewel of the Sierras) for its environmental, recreational and economic welfare.

Lake Tahoe Airport Sub-Project Element –

The Lake Tahoe Airport located in South Lake Tahoe, California is the only airport in the Lake Tahoe Basin. With only three primary single lane terrestrial vehicle routes exiting from the City of South Lake Tahoe, the airport has served as the only means of transporting goods and people out of the South shore of Lake Tahoe in the past. Simultaneous mudslides in the early 1980s closed HWY 50, NV 207, and HWY 89 cutting off the city by land making aviation the only transportation mode for fuel, food and supplies during the emergency.

The airport resides in a Fire Risk Tier 2 High Hazard Zone and is surrounded by forested lands on three sides. The airport resides in a City of 22,382 full time residents; however, due to the popularity of Lake Tahoe, populations can swell to over 350,000 during peak travel. It is also noted that South Lake Tahoe's peak visitor months coincide with peak fire danger periods for the Northern Sierra. According to the *2014 Lake Tahoe Basin Multi-Jurisdictional Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Strategy*, 76% of the fuel plots in the Tahoe Basin wild land urban interface were predicted to support a crown fire and 70% of homes/business had inadequate defensible space. The airport is located in a wild land urban interface defense zone as depicted in the *2015 Tahoe Basin Community Wild Fire Protection Plan*. The Airport has a western property border with U.S. Highway 50 which is designated as a primary evacuation route by the 2017 *Lake Tahoe Basin Pre-Attack Fire Plan and 2019 City of South Lake Tahoe Emergency Evacuation Plan*. The Lake Tahoe Airport is also both a designated staging area and designated unified incident command location by the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team (TFFT) and houses the

City of South Lake Tahoe Emergency Operations Center (EOC) with its own emergency standby power capability.

Forested airport property is less than 1,000 feet from Barton Memorial Hospital, and adjacent to the Upper Truckee River (Lake Tahoe's largest watershed and tributary) occupying 56.5 square miles. The airport is home to the area's only air ambulance base, California Shock Trauma Air Rescue 6, and has a total petroleum fuel capacity of 42,500 gallons housed in various above ground storage tanks. The terminal building at the Lake Tahoe Airport was partially converted to City Hall housing the City's administrative offices for the City Manager, City Attorney, City Clerk, Finance, Communications, Risk Management and Human Resources. In addition, the airport is surrounded by residences to the East and South of the property with 335 homes bounded between Pioneer Trail and U.S. Hwy 50. To the West of the property are 31 commercial and residential properties. On the North West corner of the airport is Chris Haven RV Park and Tahoe Valley Campground and RV Park. 95% of all property parcels in the City of South Lake Tahoe are less than one acre in size.

The South Shore of Lake Tahoe is comprised of numerous jurisdictions. Unified Command may consist of various agencies including CAL FIRE, the United States Forest Service, Lake Valley Fire Protection District, Fallen Leaf Lake Fire, and/or the South Lake Tahoe Fire Rescue. Depending on circumstances, the El Dorado County Sheriff's Office may also be a Unified Command partner. The Lake Tahoe Airport has served as the unified command location in previous past emergency events including the Angora Fire and Emerald Bay Fire. The airport is vital during response and recovery fire events in the Tahoe Basin.

South Lake Tahoe Fire Rescue (SLTFR), wishes to protect the Lake Tahoe Airport as a transportation node in the event of a wild land fire on the South Shore of Lake Tahoe. The proposed project is designed to address the immediate threat to public health and safety posed by a heavy brush and ground fuel concentration immediately adjacent to City facilities, the Upper Truckee River Watershed, and South Tahoe Public Utility District (STPUD) properties that include water storage tanks and other water delivery infrastructure.

A hazardous fuel reduction goal will be achieved by reducing the horizontal and vertical continuity of forest fuels, allowing for effective fire suppression activities as well as offer increased protection to life, property and the natural environment. **The total Area requested for hazardous fuel reduction treatment on airport property is 104.22 acres.** Positive impacts to forest health can also be expected through treatment as inter-tree competition will be reduced, supporting increased vigor and growth rates for residual conifers. Fewer trees reduce damage by agents such as insect and disease. With an increase in forest health comes an increase in fire resiliency, as the post-treatment stand will be dominated by larger, more fire tolerant trees capable of surviving a wildfire event.

<u>Tahoe Vista Sub-Project Element</u>

The Tahoe Vista project site is located in South Lake Tahoe, California and consists of a 9.2-acre City owned parcel (APN:022-150-001-000) within the Tahoe Island plan area statement PAS 111. The project site has a southern property boarder to Lake Tahoe Unified School Districts

Tahoe Valley Elementary School, along with Forest Service and California Tahoe Conservancy (CTC) land. Additional CTC property boarders the southwest portion as well as residential homes along the northern perimeter. Royal Avenue, the only egress road for residences on Whitney Drive and Texas Avenue is also located to the north, next to a less-than-one-acre Forest Service parcel. A portion of the Tallac Lagoon runs parallel to the eastern side of the Tahoe Vista site adjacent to residences and an additional less-than-one-acre Forest Service parcel.

Approximately twenty-four residences are directly adjacent to the site within the Tahoe Island and Tahoe Keys area along with Tahoe Valley Elementary School, one of four Elementary Schools located within the south shore of Lake Tahoe. No habitable structures reside on this project area; however, it is located within the wildland urban interface (WUI) with inadequate defensible space.

The land has frequent use from the neighboring community with evident signs of unofficial bike trails and walking paths that connect the Tahoe Island neighborhood to the Tahoe Keys. Among the footpaths and into the densely vegetated area are clear signs of former illegal campfires, tree forts made from fallen tree branches and logs as well as the remains of trash from homeless inhabitants. Due to the proximity of this 9.2-acre site to Tahoe Valley Elementary School, multiple residencies and the public right-of-way of Royal Avenue-the sole evacuation route leading into the Tahoe Island neighborhood; South Lake Tahoe Fire Rescue wishes to protect these assets and reduce the risk of fire within the WUI. Hazard fuel reduction will be achieved by eliminating the vertical and horizontal continuity of vegetative fuels for reduction of fire spread, reduce the intensity of potential fire in the area by thinning of forest fuels including removal of dead/dying trees, dense tree stands, surface and ladder fuels and creating substantial defensible space to public right-of-way and private/public infrastructure. Trees and snags greater than 12" diameter at breast height (DBH) will be marked for removal by a Register Forester Professional (RFP). Trees less than 12" DBH will be designated for removal by description.

Management of forest fuels is essential to safety, health, economic and recreational use of this area with overall forest health of the site as an additional benefit. The removal of surface fuels, increasing the height to live crown, decreasing crown density, and preserving mature sized trees will create a more fire resilient site. If/when a wildfire burns, it will be less severe and can be more easily suppressed. The City of South Lake Tahoe is one of two listed cities for which Cal Fire has made recommendations on Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones within El Dorado County and is included in the Cal Fire Communities at Risk List as of 2001. The project is also in proximity to low-income communities, which comprises the majority of the City's populous. According to the *2016 Unit Strategic Fire Plan Amador-El Dorado Unit*, the City of South Lake Tahoe is identified as a Community at Risk within El Dorado County and is adjacent to federal land-aiding the city to be a federal threat.

The neighboring community and adjacent residences, State owned lands and Tahoe Valley Elementary School will benefit from the reduced risk of wildfire at this proposed project site. The Tahoe Island plan area has a sparse number of fire hydrants to support fire suppression efforts in the event of a wildfire. Among life and property, the project aims to protect multiple municipal water supplies within a little over quarter mile distance. The Tahoe Keys Water

Company Well #2, Lukins Brothers Water Company Well #2 and #5 are the nearest water storage and delivery infrastructures.

An additional asset that will benefit from the Tahoe Vista hazardous fuel reduction project is the South Tahoe Refuse & Recycling Services Center, the only refuse facility in the City. The Center is within a half mile proximity to the site and collects residential and commercial waste products ranging from hazardous materials, E-waste and everyday discarded matter. Finally, Liberty Utilities, the sole electric company that powers South Lake Tahoe is located less than a half mile from the site. Reducing fuel hazards at this project site will aid in protecting these local utilities and facilities from wildfire.

Campground/Recreation Complex Sub-Project Element

The Campground by The Lake and Recreation Complex is located in the center of the City of South Lake Tahoe. This project site shares a northern and western boundary to U.S. Highway 50 that connects the entirety of South Lake Tahoe and is the primary evacuation route for the City as described in the 2019 City Emergency Evacuation Plan.

The Al Tahoe subdivision is located on the opposite side of Highway 50 adjacent to LakeTahoe. Rufus Allen Blvd boarders the eastern side of the Campground/Recreation Complex with Bijou Pines subdivision located on the opposite side of Rufus Allen Blvd. Private residencies known as the American Legion Tract are situated to the south in addition to St. Theresa Catholic Church and food bank. The proposed project site is surrounded by residences on three sides with the fourth surrounded by the City's Parks and Recreation land known as Lake View Commons that convenes on the south shores of Lake Tahoe. The area is a primary tourist destination and gathering area for locals during summer months and special events like the newly installed Champions Plaza honoring local National, World and Olympic Athletes.

The campground resides in a Very High Hazard Severity Zone with a portion of the site located in a Fire Risk Tier 1 High Hazard Zone and the remainder as a Fire Risk Tier 2 High Hazard Zone (also referenced in the degree of risk section C). The project is located in a wild land urban interface defense zone as determined in the *2015 Tahoe Basin Community Wildfire Protection Plan* and comprises 39 acres.

The Recreation Center is within the project boundary and serves as one of three of the City emergency evacuation centers for the community which was utilized during the Angora Fire in 2007. The second emergency evacuation center is the South Tahoe Middle School located less than 800 feet from the Campground/Recreation Complex proposed project site and is also identified as a secondary refuge site within the 2019 City Emergency Evacuation Plan for the Al Tahoe and Bijou subdivision. In total the surrounding Al Tahoe, Bijou Pines, Lake Tahoe Subdivision, Lakeview Pines and American Legion Tract Subdivision house 1,656 developed residences. 229 are classified as multi-family residences and 1,427 are single family residences, all which are within a low-income community.

The Campground/Recreation Complex site include The Campground by the Lake that consist of 178 sites for primitive camping along with six tent cabins and one hard sided cabin, the

population of this site can swell to well over 1,000 campers a night April-October. Due to its central location and connectivity to the surrounding neighborhoods the Campground/Recreation Complex is a viable site for transferring wildfire from one subdivision to the next. The site consists of diseased, dying and dead trees that surround City structures with inadequate defensible space. SLTFR aims to protect the Campground/Recreation Complex as an emergency evacuation facility in the event of a wildfire.

This forested project site directly backs to the American Legion Tract Subdivision residences. Bijou Pines Subdivision is less than 50 feet east of the Campground/Recreation Complex area, just separated by the City right-of-way of Rufus Allen Blvd. U.S. Highway 50 boarders the west and north side of the proposed project site and is the only right-of way fuel break between the Campground/Recreation Complex area and the Al Tahoe Subdivision.

Highway 50 is also the City's primary egress route as identified in the 2019 City Emergency Evacuation Plan. The loss of this public transit corridor by wildfire has the potential to split the City's egress routes and separate emergency resources. It is evident that the strand of trees that parallel these public rights-of-way need to be thinned to create proper fuel breaks. Dead and dying trees are posing an imminent threat to these egress routes as well as the public/private infrastructure within its vicinity.

The Campground/Recreation Complex project site sits within the hub of the community. With its centralized location, it is advantageous to reduce hazardous fuels to protect additional City and County owned assets and infrastructure. South Tahoe Middle School would benefit from this proposed fuel reduction as it is the only Middle School within the City limits and serves the surrounding community. Schools are listed as a high priority asset to protect from wildfire in the Tahoe Basin CWPP plan. The Middle School is also identified as one of the three emergency evacuation centers for the City (the Recreation Center and Airport are the remainder). In addition, the Middle School serves as a secondary refuge site for the Al Tahoe/Bijou subdivision as described within the 2019 City Emergency Evacuation Plan. Wildfire in this area will more than likely render both the Recreation Center and Middle School unusable due to their proximity to each other leaving the Airport as the only viable option for emergency evacuation. The City's sole Senior Center and El Dorado County Library is in direct proximity of the project site and has inadequate defensible space to reduce the effects of wildfire to these structures. Additional City assets within close proximity to the Campground/Recreation Complex site is Fire Station #2 (one of 3 stations within the City) located across Highway 50 from South Tahoe Middle School. The South Tahoe Police Department & El Dorado County Sherriff's Office are directly connected to the south of the Middle School and approximately .25 miles west to the proposed project site.

Community facilities that are not owned by the City or County that would benefit from hazard fuel reduction at the Campground/Recreation Complex area include St. Theresa's Church, which is situated on the opposite side of the American Legion Tract Subdivision and serves the community through its food pantry that distributes food to families, children, seniors and individuals who have difficulty purchasing enough to avoid hunger.

Lake Tahoe Community College which provides higher education to the south shore as well as adjacent City residents is over .50 miles from the proposed project site. In addition to protecting life and property, the project intends to protect multiple municipal water supplies within the Al Tahoe subdivision. South Tahoe Public Utilities District operates a well and pump house located .35 miles from the project site. Groundwater is the primary source of potable water for this portion of the City.

The primary goal is to reduce hazard fuels by the removal of horizontal and vertical fuel loads while retaining the healthiest, most desirable stems. These efforts would allow for effective fire suppression activities as well as protecting the lives and property of those focused in the immediate area. Positive impacts to forest plot health can be expected through decreased competition by the selected stems for available resources establishing healthier trees on site. By way of increasing the health of selected individuals, we can expect an increase in canopy size as well as environmental benefit of carbon sequestration and fire resiliency.

Relationship to prior approved phases or related SNPLMA projects and anticipated future phases:

South Lake Tahoe Fire Rescue, Lake Valley Fire Protection District and Tahoe Fire & Fuel Team have previously embarked on forest fuel load reduction and defensible space initiatives surrounding critical airport assets. In 2017, Lake Valley Fire Protection District executed Cooperative Agreement 15-CA-11051-014 I with the U.S. Forest Service for the purposes of fuel reduction on 39.7 acres of airport property in the amount of $179,951.20. In 2018, the City of South Lake Tahoe funded 46.52 acres of treatment of new growth forest less than 14” diameter breast height; excluding them from endangering critical air navigation aids, the airport navigation beacon and the approach path to Runway 18.

The City of South Lake Tahoe has also worked towards reducing the hazardous fuel loading within the Campground by the Lake boundaries in 2017. During this time dead, dying and trees that posed a threat to human safety from falling branches within a dense section of the campground were removed. Although prior hazard fuel reduction efforts have occurred, there is a vast amount of tree removal that remains in order to obtain the goal of proper defensible space of the Campground/Recreation Complex area to its neighboring community.

While great effort has been made to address hazardous fuel reduction, there are still areas within the city that require hazardous fuel treatment. This nomination will result in a viable project that will complete imminent fuel reduction goals within the city limits. South Lake Tahoe Fire Rescue realizes there is neither guarantee nor expectation of funding for future phases.

Deliverables:

<u>Primary Deliverables</u>

1. Reduce fuel loading in high density forests, removal of ladder fuels, old slash, dead or dying brush, and dry woody materials from the understory; vegetation treatment activities will focus on reducing biomass and density of vegetation through trimming and cutting

trees and excess vegetation for chipping of 149.82 acres of land in the wildland-urban interface within the City of South Lake Tahoe, CA to reduce crown fire potential and surface fire behavior in high density forests that have not been treated, as well as improve forest health. \

2. Create defensible space barriers around city buildings, public infrastructure and critical assets.
3. Monitoring and assessment of pre and post treatment conditions of project areas to ensure consistent assessment methodology and data to demonstrate effectiveness in meeting SNPLMA strategic plan goals.

Anticipated Deliverables

1. Priority areas chosen for treatment may help facilitate hazardous fuels reduction on adjacent private property and provide increased community protection.
2. Reduced biomass and density of vegetation increasing, increasing forest health.
3. Excess vegetation and woody biomass will be chipped and mulched; recycled for use in other areas.

Standard Deliverables

- Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) wildlife review and tree removal permits.
- California Environmental Quality Act and/or California Forest Practice Act permits.
- Stream zone variance from the Nevada Stream Zone Variance committee.
- Avoidance protocols for cultural resources and concurrence with a finding of no adverse effect from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).
- Vegetation Management Plan, describing the prescription to accomplish the project's goals and objectives, and all necessary measures to mitigate negative impacts to wildlife, water quality, forest health, and cultural resources.
- Pre and post-treatment photo monitoring.

Project Timeframe:

6 Years

Level of Project Readiness for Implementation

This nomination includes land owned and managed by the City of South Lake Tahoe. Vegetation Management Plans, project permits, CEQA documents etc. have been prepared for previous phases for some of the treatment areas; and can be readily available. Implementation can begin in the proposed areas within one year of receiving funding.

Project implementation monitoring will be completed by a Registered Professional Forester. The Forester contracted will be a professional with a significant body of knowledge on creating healthy forest environments through fuel reduction.

The Forester will provide permit applications including the completion of a Tahoe Regional Planning (TRPA) Agency, Vegetative Management Plan, TRPA Tree Removal Permit, California Water Resources Control Board Lahontan Region Category 4, Timber Waiver Permit, Cal-Fire Archeological Inventory Survey, and Cal-Fire Coordination on project plan and implementation (no commercial timber product will be realized). Biological surveys will be completed by a Wildlife Biologist, prior to project implementation to ensure protected species are not adversely affected by treatment efforts.

A full inventory of each treatment unit area will be completed before timber operations. The survey will mention species, size and number of trees per acre. For defensible space the Forester will note the distance between vegetation and structures, species and density of species. The Forester will recommend the defensible space setback based on slope, vegetation density and specie types. Sample photos of each unit will be taken, to demonstrate "before treatment" conditions.

The Forester will mark trees greater than 12" dbh for removal in each unit area while also setting the boundary areas for each treatment unit. Trees that are less than 12" dbh will be treated by prescription. Water features will be clearly marked and the type of treatment prescribed will be a component of the contract documents. SLTFR and the Forester will work closely to ensure plans are feasible and implemented.

Removal of ladder fuels, old slash, dead or dying brush, and any other dry woody materials from the understory will be performed by description. Vegetation treatment activities will focus on reducing biomass and density of vegetation through trimming and cutting trees and excess vegetation for chipping. In order to protect habitat, water quality and slope stabilization-hand crews will be used in stream environmental zones during the project. Plant roots will be left in place wherever possible to prevent soil disturbance and erosion issues. Chipped green waste will be dispersed where appropriate to suppress invasive plant and weed growth and help stabilize soil. Slash will be chipped/masticated in certain places to a depth no greater than 2 inches while lop and scatter of slash is permissible inside stream environment zone. Chipping/Mastication will be the preferred method of addressing slash outside of the stream environment.

Post treatment the Forester will reassess the treatment units inventoried and will again look at tree species, size and number of trees per acre. The Forester will make sure that timber operations have left mature trees with correct tree spacing. Each unit will be checked for the correct number of snags in addition to spot measuring stumps to ensure contractor did not cut any tree larger than the diameter limits prescribed in the Vegetative Management Plan/contract documents. The Forester will take "after" sample photos of each treatment unit for comparison purposes. Tree density reductions and photos will be used to demonstrate to the public and elected leaders that proactive forest management was accomplished through this grant funding. Success will be measurable through a comparison of the tree per acre density of each tree species type and size.

Future Operations and Maintenance:

None.

Partnerships and/or contributed:

In Kind Match: SLTFR and CSLT personnel will contribute significant staff time to administer, assist, manage, and inspect the project in the amount of $59,420.

South Lake Tahoe Fire Rescue and City of South Lake Tahoe personnel will provide in-kind contributions throughout the duration of the project by performing the following tasks: project planning and administration, permitting, photo monitoring, project oversight, consultant selection, community outreach and education, and implementation monitoring. The value of the in-kind contribution is $59,420.00 calculated using direct salary and fringe benefit costs.

City of South Lake Tahoe

Local Match Fund Commitment Letter

September 10, 2020

Robert Taylor, Program Manager, SNPLMA
Bureau of Lan Management
4702 North Torrey Pines Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89130

RE: SNPLMA Round 18 Wildland Urban Interface Hazardous Fuels Reduction

Dear Mr. Taylor:

As part of the Bureau of Land Management SNPLMA Round 18 Nomination process, South Lake Tahoe Fire Rescue as well as City personnel will commit in-kind staff match in contribution to the cost of the proposed project nomination. This letter serves as South Lake Tahoe Fire Rescue's commitment to contribute staff time to the project. Should this nomination be approved; a City Council Resolution will be forthcoming to approve all funding requirements with the full application submittal.

Name of Funding Source:	General Fund In- Kind Staff Services
Federal Share Amount Requested:	$ 851,700.00
Local Share Amount Match:	$ 59,420.00

Please contact Lori Marino, Associate Management Analyst at 530-542-7410 or lmarino@cityofslt.us with questions.

Sincerely,

Joe Irvin
City Manager
530-542-6043 (phone)
530- 542- 6173 (fax)
jirvin@cityofslt.us

Finance Department · 1901 Airport Road, Suite 210 · South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150-7048 · (530) 542-6041 FAX

Funding Requested Budget Detail:

South Lake Tahoe Fire Rescue estimates total cost of the project at $911,120.00, broken down as follows:
SNPLMA Federal Funding: $851,700
SLTFR/ CSLT in-kind match: $59,420

Costs incurred with SNPLMA funding will consist of:
Biological Assessment Survey Contract: $15,000
Timber Operations Contract: $ 749,100
Forestry Services: $79,540
Total Current Estimate: $843,640

Rental equipment to assist with clean-up: $8,010
CEQA Permitting: $50

Total SNPLMA Federal Costs: $851,700.00

In Kind Match: SLTFR and CSLT personnel will contribute significant staff time to administer, assist, manage, and inspect the project in the amount of $59,420.

The cost of the project is a small fraction of the cost to suppress a tragic wildfire within the city. In 2007, it cost an estimated $12 million dollars for the wildfire suppression efforts of the Angora Fire which burned 3,100 acres.

With the current spiraling costs of fighting wildfires in California; the cost of fuel reduction and preventative measures are the best value option in combating the most destructive wildfire seasons in history.

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ROUND 18

HAZARDOUS FUELS AND WILDFIRE PREVENTION NOMINATION

ESTIMATED DIRECT COSTS & KEY MILESTONES

Project Name:	**South Lake Tahoe Fire Rescue Wiland Urban Interface Hazardous Fuel Reduction Project**	**Date prepared:**	**9/11/2020**
		Agency:	**South Lake Tahoe Fire Rescue**
Project #	***Assigned by SNPLMA***	**Priority #:**	***Assigned by SNPLMA***
Prepared by:	**Lori Marino**	**Phone #:**	**530-542-7410**
Title/position:	Associated Management Analyst		

1	**Planning & Environmental Documentation** Includes labor for surveys/reports for cultural, natural, biological, archaeological, historical resources, etc. and preparation of NEPA documentation and the decision document. Does not include on-going compliance monitoring (see Direct Labor #3)	$15,050	1.77%
2	**FWS Consultation - Endangered Species Act** Direct expenses for FWS consultation. *Includes all labor, agreements, and costs for Section 7 review and approval.*	$0	0.00%
3	**Direct Federal Labor to Implement Project (Payroll)** For interagency projects, identify a primary team lead and the lead agency for consultation/coordination and individual agency leads responsible for entering progress and reports into SMART.	$0	0.00%
4	**Project Equipment and/or Supplies and Materials** Equipment, supplies or materials necessary to complete the project that are not included in contracts/agreements. Includes lease or rental of equipment/vehicles.	$8,010	0.94%
5	**Travel and Per Diem for Implementation** Includes all necessary travel for training and implementation of the project. Training costs for tuition, materials, etc. are identified in item #7 below	$0	0.00%
6	**Official Vehicle Use (vehicles with Federal license only)** Estimated costs for routine maintenance agency vehicles, leased or rental equipment, oil and gas, tires, etc. Does not include replacement cost	$0	0.00%
7	**Training (required to implement the project)** Includes training essential/necessary for implementation of the project.	$0	0.00%
8	**Contracts, Grants, and/or Agreements** CESU, IGO, Assistance agreements, Task Orders, and contracts for implementation of the project. Also includes all costs for construction/implementation of the plan. The period of performance for grants or agreements and contracts must not extend pas the approved period of performance in the approved Work Plan. Final invoices and de-obligation of unexpended funds must be paid and sub agreements and contracts closed prior to submitting the request for closeout	$828,640	97.29%
9	**Other Necessary Expenses** (See Appendix B-11)	$0	0.00%
	Total requested/estimated budget	**$851,700**	**100.00%**
10	**Estimated agency or partner contribution**	$59,420	
	Total Estimated project value	$911,120	

Performance Measures:

Performance Measure F2 – Acres of Hazardous Fuels Treated – Wildland Urban Interface
Outcome: *Mitigate risk to lives, property, and the environment within the wildland-urban interface of the City of South Lake Tahoe within the Lake Tahoe Basin. Achieving the following output(s) will accomplish this outcome:*

Output (Primary Deliverable): Reduce hazardous fuels on 149.82 acres in the wildland-urban interface. The SNPLMA Performance Measure is:

Performance Measure O9 – Number of GIS Databases Generated and/or Map Layers Produced (each database or map layer is one unit).
Performance Measure O11- Number of Databases, Reports, and Other Electronic Means of Documenting Activities (each electronic document or method developed is one unit).
Outcome: *Analyze potential fire behavior and assets at risk city-wide. Achieving the following output(s) will accomplish this outcome:*

Output (Primary Deliverable): Priority Planning. The SNPLMA Performance Measures are:

Performance Measure O4 – Number of Scientific/Technical Reports Produced (Report each report as one unit)
Outcome: *Scientific/Technical reports addressing the effectiveness of the project in meeting identified SNPLMA strategic goals across the landscape including forest resiliency, habitat connectivity, watershed protection, and carbon sequestration. Achieving the following output(s) will accomplish this outcome:*

Output (Primary Deliverable): Monitoring and assessment of multiple benefits across the landscape. The SNPLMA Performance Measure is:

Executive Committee Strategic Plan Values:

The project in its entirety **promotes sustainability** by fostering mixed conifer forest conditions to enhance forest biodiversity and ecological restoration. Positive impacts to forest plot health can be expected through decreased competition by the selected stems for available resources establishing healthier trees on site. By way of increasing the health of selected individuals, we can expect an increase in canopy size as well as environmental benefit of carbon sequestration and fire resiliency. The project will promote species diversity, both across the landscape and within the project areas, increasing ecosystem resilience to both natural and human caused disturbance.

In addition, efforts to enrich natural resources will be among the following:

- Woody biomass remaining from the Campground/Recreation Complex project site will be chipped and mulched in place to be utilized at the Campground by the Lake
- The Campground has proposed to reuse cut trees as natural barriers between campsites
- which will aid in carbon sequestration
- In order to protect habitat, water quality and slope stabilization-hand crews will be used in stream environmental zones
- Chipped green waste will be dispersed where appropriate to suppress invasive plant and weed growth and help stabilize soil.

- Plant roots will be left in place wherever possible to prevent soil disturbance and erosion issues.
- The Tahoe Vista project site will cut and stack select trees greater that 102 DBH into rounds for free pick up by residents to use as a fuel source to heat their homes

The project **promotes connectivity** by utilization of a city-wide approach to treat priority areas identified in the CWPP and linking previously treated areas to encompass complete treatment. In collaboration with the TFFT, this project aligns with Regional prioritized wildfire prevention and fuel hazard reduction programs connecting federal, state, local, and private fuels reduction treatments.

The project **promotes community** by protecting public health and safety and by creating Fire Adapted Communities that can withstand a wildfire without the loss of life or property. In addition to pubic health, this project protects critical public infrastructure, water supply, recreation facilities, and Lake Tahoe itself; which is heavily relied upon for a thriving economy and quality of life in the City of South Lake Tahoe. Lake Tahoe is a major tourist attraction; home to winter sports, summer outdoor recreation, and unprecedented scenery enjoyed throughout the year.

Compliance with Departmental and Agency Priorities, Strategic Goals, Executive Orders, and Secretarial Orders:

Compliance with Departmental/Agency Priorities and Strategic Goals

Department of the Interior Priorities:

- Create a conservation stewardship legacy second only to Teddy Roosevelt.
- Sustainably develop our energy and natural resources.
- Restore trust and be a good neighbor.
- Ensure the tribal sovereignty means something.
- Increase revenues to support the Department and national interests.
- Protect our people and the border.
- Strike a regulatory balance.
- Modernize our infrastructure.
- Reorganize the Department for the next 100 years.
- Achieve our goals and lead our team forward.

The Nomination supports Department of the Interior (DOI) Priority f (Protect our people and the border). Specifically, the Nomination advances Goal 3 of Mission Area 5 in the DOI Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2018-2022 (Strategic Plan).

- Mission Area 5 of the Strategic Plan lists goals and strategies that help ensure public safety and advance DOI's priority of protecting our people and the border. Goal 3 is to manage wildland fire to reduce risk and improve ecosystem and community resilience. Additionally, DOI specifies that they will work with the USDA Forest Service (Forest Service), and other state, local, and tribal partners improve operational efficiency, reduce management duplication, and strategically place fuels treatments as informed by a risk assessment and mitigation plan.

- The activities proposed under this Nomination advance Goal 3 and will directly improve ecosystem and community resilience by reducing the risk of damaging wildfire through strategic hazardous fuel reduction treatments. All activities are identified as a priority in the strategy that federal, state, local, and tribal partners are implementing collaboratively.

U.S. Forest Service Priorities:

- Uplifting and empowering our employees through a respectful, safe working environment.
- Being good neighbors and providing excellent customer service.
- Promoting shared stewardship by increasing partnerships and volunteerism.
- Improving the condition of forests and grasslands.
- Enhancing recreation opportunities, improving access, and sustain infrastructure.

The Nomination supports Forest Service Priorities "c" (Promoting shared stewardship by increasing partnerships and volunteerism) and "d" (Improving the condition of forests and grasslands).

- The Chief of the Forest Service's 2018 Leadership Intentions for the Five National Priorities (Leadership Intentions) clarifies the five priorities and sets expectations for the agency and its partners. Priority 3 focuses on the intent to leverage partnerships to increase collective capacity and make a difference on the whole landscape. The work of partners in the Lake Tahoe Basin to implement the Strategy exemplifies the power of shared stewardship to meet collective goals. The activities proposed under this Nomination advance Priority 3 because they complement the defensible space work that residents complete on their property and connect wildland-urban interface treatments on public and private ownerships to create a continuous area where fuels are reduced, forest health is improved, and communities are better protected from wildfire.
- Forest Service Priority 4 describes the need to work at larger scales improve the condition of forests. A large portion of America's forests are at risk from insects, diseases, and wildfire. These threats transcend property boundaries, and work must be completed across landscapes to protect federal, state, private, and tribal lands, and the valuable resources they provide. The activities proposed under this Nomination advance Priority 5 by directly improving the condition of forests in the Basin by acting as a surrogate to naturally occurring wildfire and removing fuels that have built up over the last century. This is essential in reducing the risk of damaging wildfire, reducing risk of insect and disease infestation.

Other Departmental/Agency Priorities and Strategic Goals: Describe any other departmental/agency priorities and/or strategic goals that apply to the nomination and are not listed above.

The ***Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team's (TFFT)*** mission statement is "to protect lives, property and the environment within the Lake Tahoe Basin from wildfires by implementing prioritized fuels reduction projects and engaging the public in becoming a Fire Adapted Community."

2017 ***Lake Tahoe Basin Multi-Jurisdictional Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Strategy*** of April 28, 2017, states: "Federal, state, and local leadership recognize and support the mutual benefits of working collaboratively to reduce fuels in order to restore resilient forest landscapes and create fire adapted communities throughout the Lake Tahoe Basin. We reaffirm the wide-ranging benefits of community protection work already completed, while recognizing the needed commitment to landscape-scale planning as the next strategic step forward."

In accordance with the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003, the ***Lake Tahoe Basin Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)*** was collaboratively developed to; "identify and prioritize areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatments, and recommend the types of methods of treatments that will protect at-risk communities and essential infrastructure; and recommends measures that homeowners and communities can take to reduce the ignitability of structures."

Consistency with Executive Orders and Secretarial Orders

EO No. 13855 Promoting Active Management of America's Forests, Range Lands to Improve Conditions and Reduce Wildfire Risk

It is the policy of the United States to protect people, communities, and watersheds, and to promote healthy and resilient forests, rangelands, and other Federal lands by actively managing them through partnerships with States, tribes, communities, non-profit organizations, and the private sector. The Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture each shall implement the following policies in their respective departments:

1. Shared Management Priorities. The goal of Federal fire management policy for forests, rangelands, and other Federal lands shall be to agree on a set of shared priorities with Federal land managers, States, tribes, and other landowners to manage fire risk across landscapes.
2. Coordinating Federal, State, Tribal, and Local Assets. Wildfire prevention and suppression and post-wildfire restoration require a variety of assets and skills across landscapes. Federal, State, tribal, and local governments should coordinate the deployment of appropriate assets and skills to restore our landscapes and communities after damage caused by fires and to help reduce hazardous fuels through active forest management in order to protect communities, critical infrastructure, and natural and cultural resources.
3. Removing Hazardous Fuels, Increasing Active Management, and Supporting Rural Economies. Post-fire assessments show that reducing vegetation through hazardous fuel management and strategic forest health treatments is effective in reducing wildfire severity and loss. Actions must be taken across landscapes to prioritize treatments in order to enhance fuel reduction and forest-restoration projects that protect life and property, and to benefit rural economies through encouraging utilization of the by-products of forest restoration.

DOI AND USDA FS shall:

- Reduce fuel loads
- Protect water quality and mitigate severe flooding and erosion for forest fires.
- Increase forest health treatments
- Implement road maintenance to provide access for emergency service/restoration work

This Nomination is consistent with Executive Order No. 13855 Promoting Active Management of America's Forests and Rangelands to Improve Conditions and Reduce Wildfire Risk (Executive Order). The Executive Order prescribes three policies to be implemented by the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture, and each align with the activities proposed in the Nomination.

First, the Executive Order requires DOI and the Forest Service to adopt shared management priorities in partnership with federal land managers, states, tribes, and other landowners. This Nomination implements the Strategy which was developed by federal, state, and local government fire agencies and landowners. The Strategy shares the same three goals as the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy, which are to restore fire resilient landscapes, create fire adapted communities, and enable safe and effective wildfire response.

Second, the Executive Order requires DOI and the Forest Service to coordinate federal, state, tribal, and local assets for wildfire prevention, suppression, and reducing hazardous fuels. By closely coordinating nominations, Basin land managers and fire agencies are closely coordinating with federal agencies to coordinate the deployment of assets and skills to protect communities and natural resources.

Third, the Executive Order requires DOI and the Forest Service to remove hazardous fuels, increase active management, and support rural economies. The Nomination implements prioritized treatments that protect life and property and support the rural economy of the Basin by providing jobs and utilizing forest restoration byproducts.

Ranking Criteria:

1. Improves the community within and/or adjacent to the project area.

A. Addresses immediate public health and safety and community infrastructure
The project is within the Defense Zone, generally an area within 0.25 miles of life and property, as depicted by the most current Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) map in the applicable plan.

B Promotes protection of source water (rivers and lakes) or municipal watersheds.
Among the most prestigious asset to protect as a driving factor for all proposed project sites is Lake Tahoe itself. The clarity of Lake Tahoe is vital to protect the unique assemblage of native fish, and other aquatic species, as well as essential in attracting millions of visitors to the area each year. It is the picturesque landscape, water- based activities, and world class area resorts that make Lake Tahoe one of the top visitor

destinations in California. The economy of the Lake Tahoe region is inseparable from the natural landscape and environment.

Adjacent to the Airport project area is the Upper Truckee River and stream-meadow; Lake Tahoe's largest watershed and tributary, occupying 56.5 square miles and a habitat for a diverse array of species. This area has been identified as a critical habitat for native fishes, including California's eight native trout species.

The Tahoe Keys Water Company Well #2, and Lukins Brothers Water Company Well #2 and #5 are among the nearest water storage and delivery infrastructures in the Tahoe Vista project area. The Airport project area includes a water well operated by South Tahoe Public Utility District (STPUD). STPUD has properties adjacent to the airport that include water storage tanks or other water delivery infrastructure. Protecting the quality of water supply is of high importance as implications to drinking water supply and treatment can be costly to repair from contamination of chemicals, sedimentation, elevated turbidity and increased nutrient concentrations due to wildfires.

The proposed projects are part of the total protection strategy that includes community water system infrastructure as well as the source watersheds. Proposed treatments will Help protect critical water delivery infrastructure in sensitive watersheds, including pump stations, water storage tanks and wells.

C. *Project includes education and outreach to the community on Living with Fire or Fire Adapted Communities and/or the importance of fuels reduction on federal, state, and local government land.*
South Lake Tahoe Fire Rescue is heavily involved in a variety of public education events including the Wildfire Safety Expo, school visits, our annual Open House, Firefest and fire station visits. Currently, SLTFR is working within the Al Tahoe neighborhood; which is located adjacent to the proposed Campground/Recreation Center project area. Fire staff is assisting them with achieving a Firewise USA status from the National Fire Prevention Association. A large part of the process is education and awareness. Education and outreach will be an important component to this project as well as an added benefit.

2. Improves the connection of fuels reduction activities and wildlife habitat.

A. *Project connects previously treated areas to create or increase contiguous blocks of treated land.*
The proposed project areas use a city-wide approach to treat priority areas identified in the CWPP and connects previously treated areas as identified in the proposal.

B. *Project protects or enhances wildlife habitat and/or resilient vegetative communities.*
The proposal will create diversity in both wildlife habitat and vegetative composition. The treatments are designed to mitigate the risk of stand replacing wildfire, which can destroy suitable wildlife habitat. The prescriptions identified through the Biological Assessment Survey will pinpoint protections for threatened and endangered (T&E) species as well as

recommendations for retaining some standing snags and some non-threatening downed material to provide for new habitat recruitment.

The proposal will reduce stand densities and alter species composition therefore reducing the competition for light, nutrients and water. This will result in a more open, diverse stand that is more resilient to insect and disease outbreak.

C. *Project enhances the effectiveness of other treatments in progress or complete.*
The proposal is designed to not only mitigate wildfire risk on the proposed treatment areas but also to complement and enhance adjacent previous treatments, regardless of ownership. This is accomplished by selecting treatment areas that connect or link previous treatments as identified in the CWPP.

3. Improves sustainability of the multijurisdictional 10-year plans, environment, and financial resources.

A. The Project will:

1. Improve the sustainability of the forest health and ecosystem function (e.g. stand density, desired species mix and age, tree health, etc.)
The project will promote species diversity, both across the landscape and within the project areas, increasing ecosystem resilience to both natural and human caused disturbance. Due to massive logging well over 100 years ago, the forest stands in the Tahoe Basin have become aged and overstocked, making them more susceptible to insect and disease outbreak, which in turn makes them more susceptible to catastrophic wildfire. The treatments proposed are designed to foster mixed conifer forest conditions to enhance forest biodiversity and ecological restoration. Positive impacts can be expected through decreased competition by the selected stems for available resources establishing healthier trees on site. By increasing the health of selected individuals, we can expect an increase in canopy size as well as environmental benefit of carbon sequestration and fire resiliency, resulting in a less dense, diverse, stand composition that is similar to pre-Comstock logging conditions.

2. Improve the habitat for sensitive species and Threatened and Endangered species. Includes mitigation and/or minimization measures when treatment in sensitive habitat is unavoidable. Biological Assessments of the treatment areas will identify known occurrences as well as suitable habitat for T&E and other sensitive species. These reviews will provide recommendations for mitigating the impacts to sensitive species and their habitats.

The unhealthy conditions of the forest stands within the City has the potential to eliminate critical habitat, not only for T&E and sensitive species, but for all species that live in the forest. The proposal is designed to protect and improve this critical habitat.

3. Includes broadcast prescribed fire for resource management objectives for sustainable landscapes.

The project includes thinning, through trimming and cutting trees and excess vegetation for chipping. To protect habitat, water quality and slope stabilization-hand crews will be used in stream environmental zones during the project. Plant roots will be left in place wherever possible to prevent soil disturbance and erosion issues. Chipped green waste will be dispersed where appropriate, slash will be chipped/masticated in certain places to a depth no greater than 2 inches while lop and scatter of slash is permissible inside stream environment zone.

B. *The method of treatment is fiscally responsible for the project area by balancing resource objectives, values at risk, and cost per acre factors or cost-benefit analysis.*
The estimated costs per acre for planning and implementation of the treatment areas was determined using an average cost of current contracts in the area. These costs may see a reduction depending on the access and availability of a biomass processing as well as the fiscal climate during at the time of competitive bid process.

South Lake Tahoe's Angora Fire in 2007 burned 3,071 acres, destroyed 254 homes, and incurred and estimated $150,000,000 in property loss and $12,000,000 in suppression costs. Post treatment fuels conditions will allow firefighters to safely contain ignition within the project area during an initial attack phase and provide containment opportunities for large fires approaching the project area, preventing a disaster similar to Angora.

4. Demonstrates sound project management and quality control measures.

A. *Project goals and implementation processes are clear, measurable, achievable, and demonstrable.*
The goal of the proposal is to implement hazardous fuels reduction and forest health treatments on 149.82 acres of land within the WUI in the City of South Lake Tahoe on the California side of the Lake Tahoe Basin. Treatment areas were selected from critical areas identified in the CWPP.

B. *Project proponent has the capacity to implement this project in a timely manner (contractor and staff availability, no backlog of current project, etc.) and within budget.*
South Lake Tahoe Fire Rescue views fuel reduction in the Tahoe Basin as top priority for public safety, and the environment in preventing the destruction caused by a catastrophic wildfire. Upon approval of funding, SLTFR staff will immediately begin procurement procedures to solicit bids for Consultant and Operation contracts to assist with Biological Assessments, Timber Operations, and Forestry Services ensuring open and fair competition as well as best value to the City and the utilization of Federal funds. SLTFR will work in conjunction with the Airport Manager, Public Works and Parks staff to ensure timely and thorough project implementation.

C. *Is a phase or related component to a previously funded project.*
This nomination will result in a stand-alone project complimenting and connecting previous treatments.

D. Has identified committed non-SNPLMA sources of funding or in-kind contribution in the development and/or implementation of the project.

South Lake Tahoe Fire Rescue and City of South Lake Tahoe personnel will provide in-kind contributions throughout the duration of the project by performing the following tasks: project planning and administration, permitting, photo monitoring, project oversight, consultant selection, community outreach and education, and implementation monitoring. The value of the in-kind contribution is $59,420.00 calculated using direct salary and fringe benefit costs.

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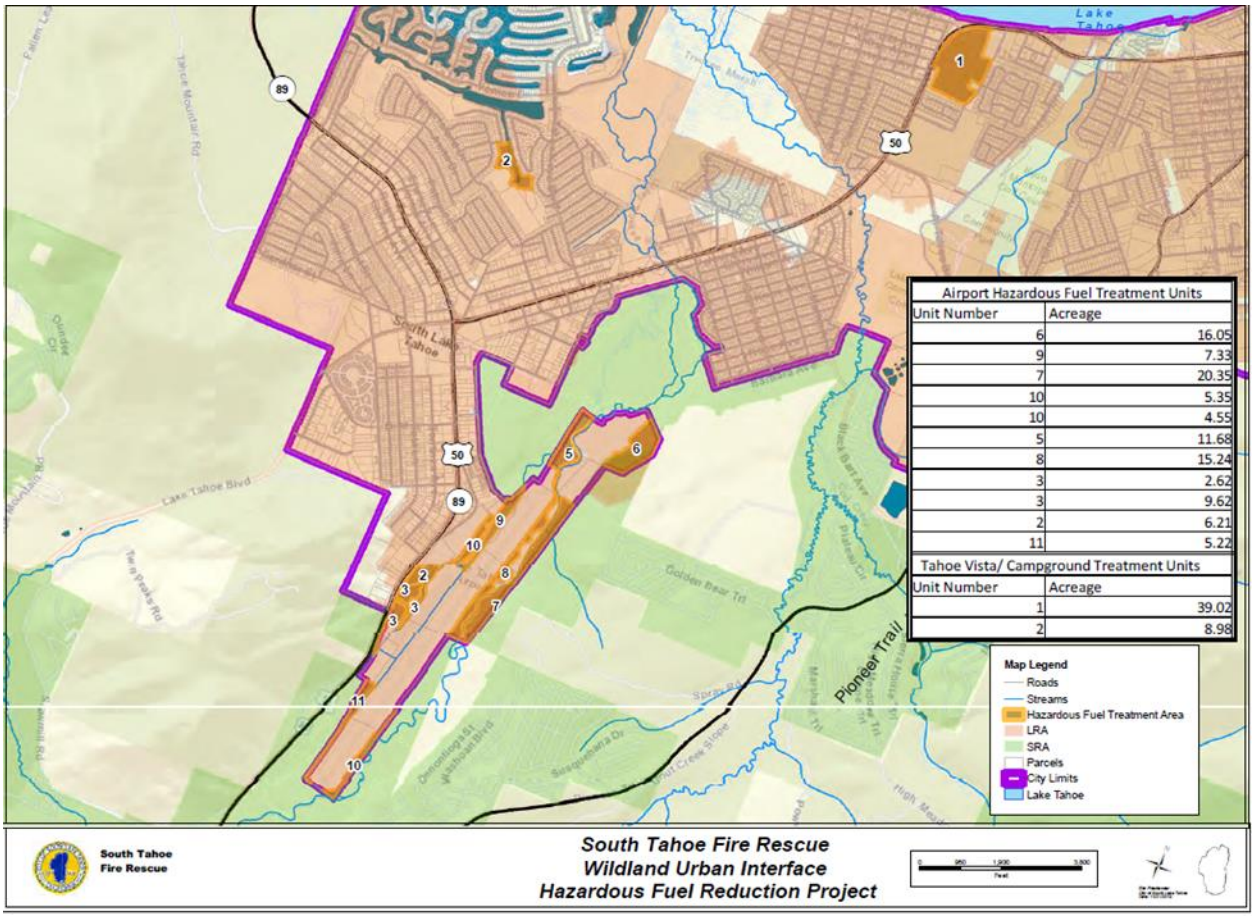
Project Location:

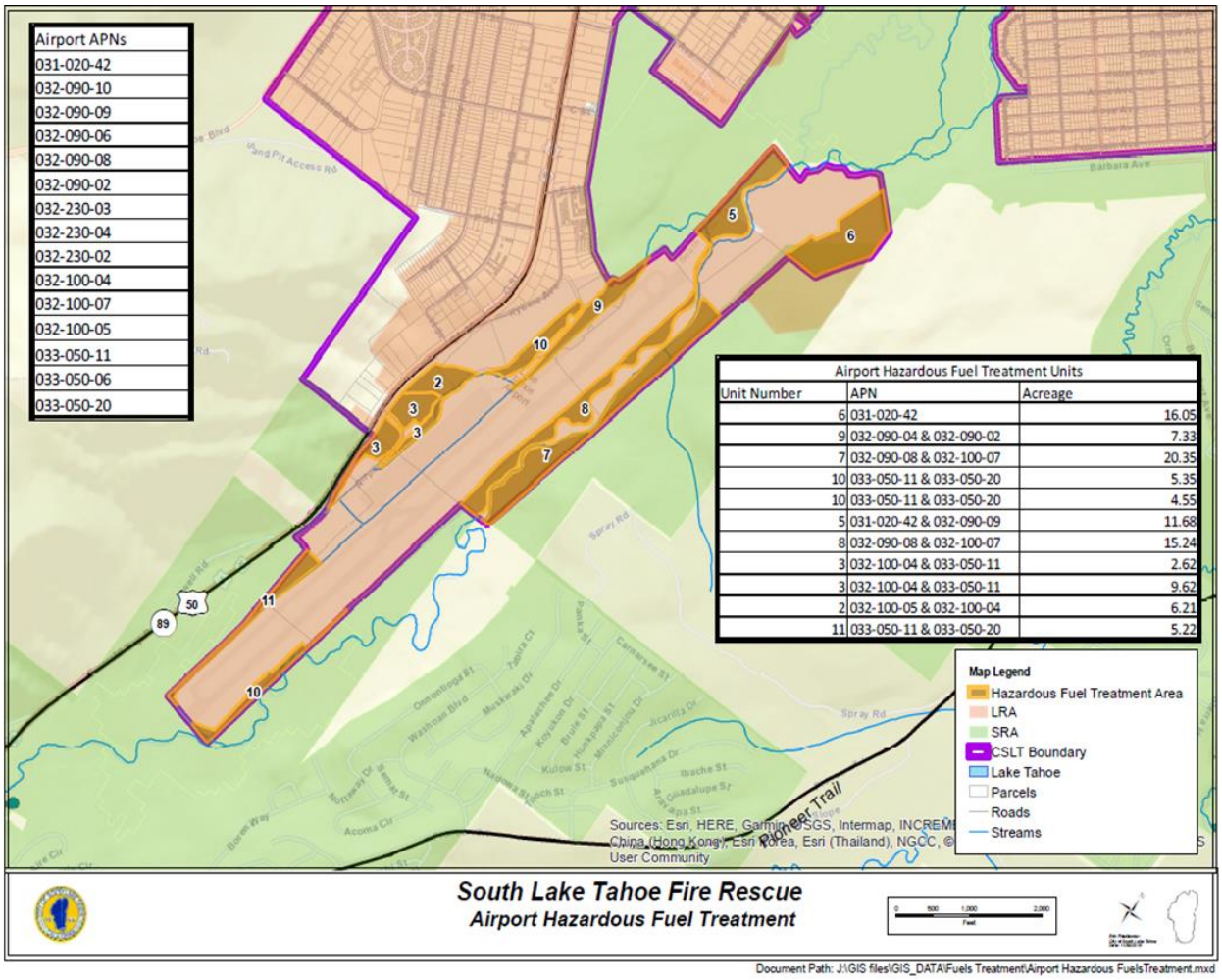
Project location: 38.9399 / -119.9772

Maps:



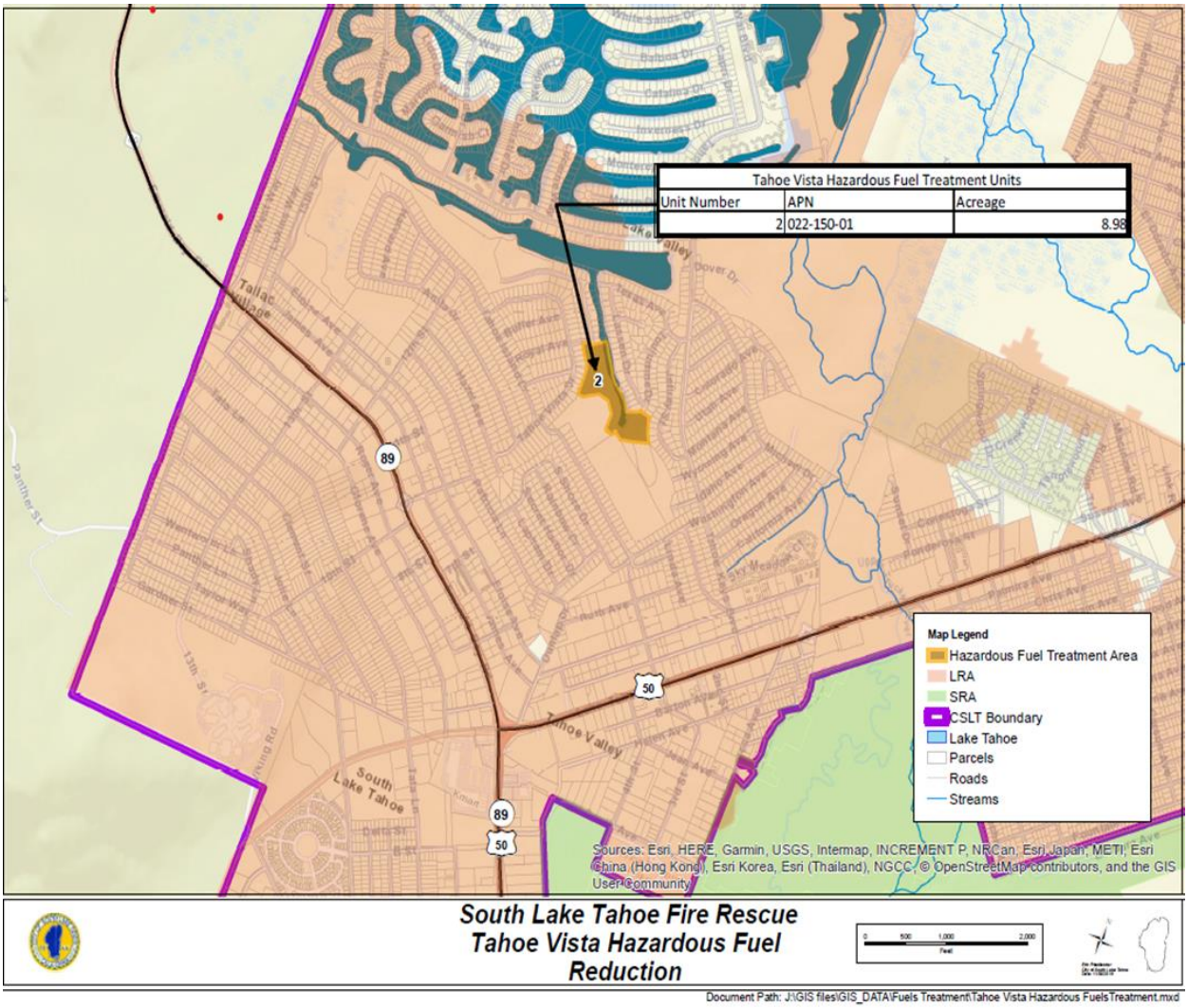
Lake Tahoe Airport Sub-Project Element Area

City of South Lake Airport is a city-owned Airport located three miles southwest of South Lake Tahoe in El Dorado County. The airport is in a wild land urban interface defense zone as depicted in the 2015 Tahoe Basin Community Wild Fire Protection Plan. The Airport has a western property border with U.S. Highway 50 which is designated as a primary evacuation route by the 2019 City of South Lake Tahoe Emergency Evacuation Plan.



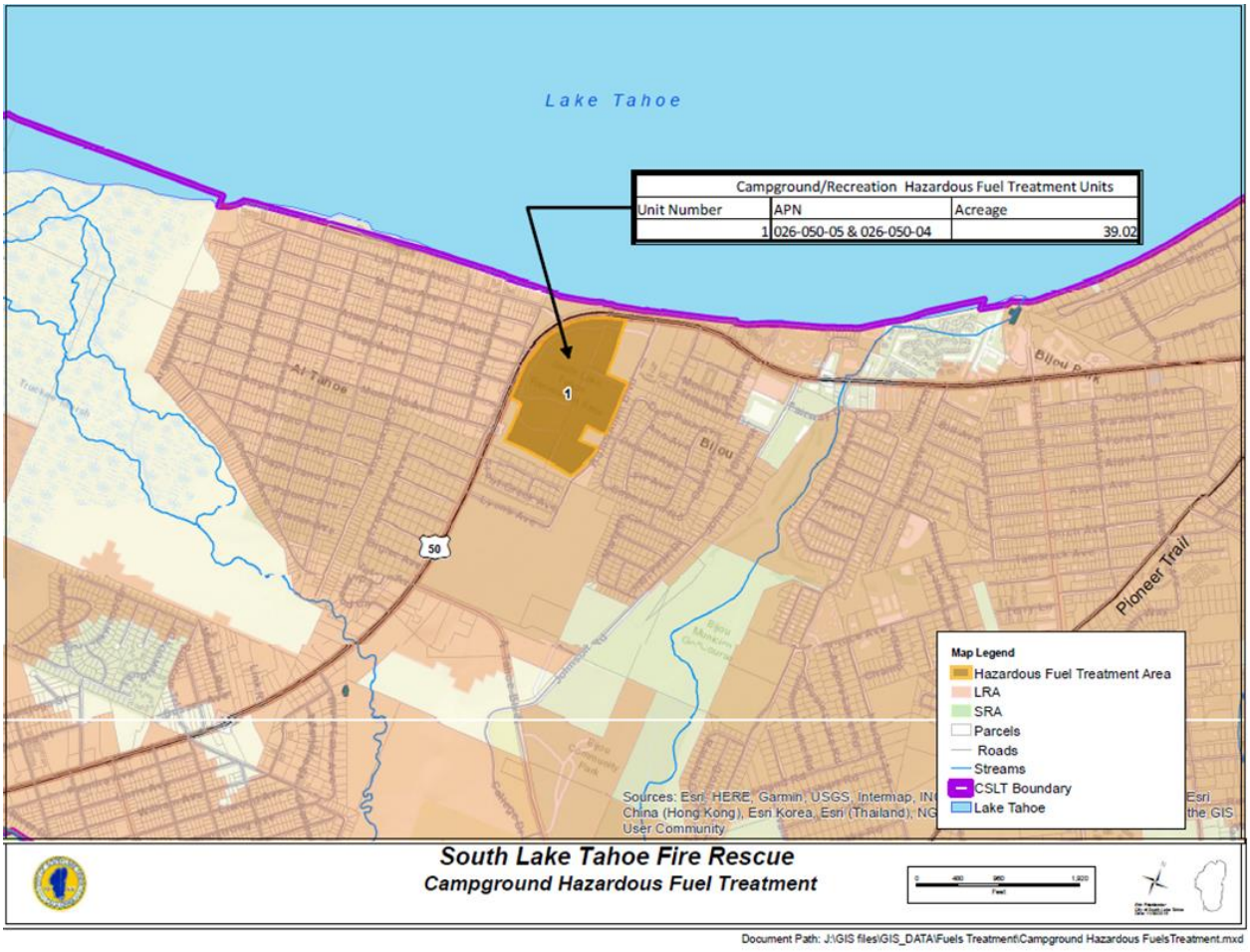
Tahoe Vista Sub-Project Element Area

The Tahoe Vista sub-project is in South Lake Tahoe, California and consists of a 9.2-acre City owned parcel within the Tahoe Island plan area statement PAS 111. The project site has a southern property boarder to Lake Tahoe Unified School District, Tahoe Valley Elementary School along with Forest Service and California Tahoe Conservancy (CTC) land.



<u>Campground/Recreation Complex Sub-Project Element Area</u>

The Campground by The Lake and Recreation Complex is in the center of the City of South Lake Tahoe. This project site shares a northern and western boundary to U.S. Highway 50 that connects the entirety of South Lake Tahoe and is the primary evacuation route for the City as described in the 2019 City Emergency Evacuation Plan.



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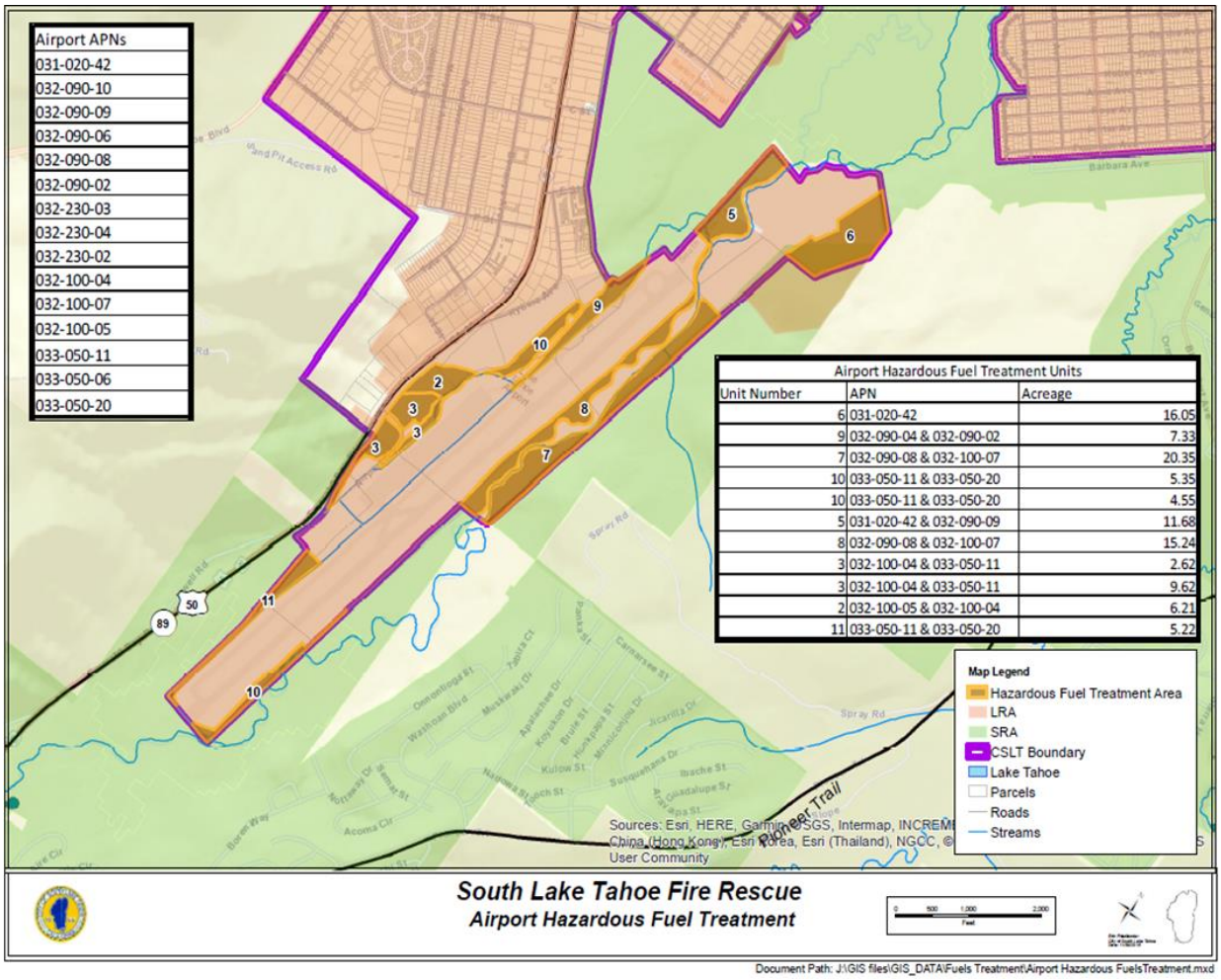

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Photos:

Unhealthy Mono-Culture Forest on Airport Property

Lake Tahoe Airport Area Setting

11.20.2018: Visual representation of Hazard fuel loading (dense dead and dying trees) on Tahoe Vista project site.

Letters of Support:

September 10, 2020

Robert Taylor
Program Manager, SNPLMA Division
Bureau of Land Management
4702 North Torrey Pines Drive
Las Vegas, Nevada 89130

Re: SNPLMA Round 18 Nominations for Hazardous Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention in the Lake Tahoe Basin

Dear Mr. Taylor and other Nomination Reviewers:

Thank you for your consideration of the Lake Tahoe Basin's Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) Round 18 project nominations. The local government, state, and federal implementing agencies have partnered in a coordinated approach to comprehensively and cost-effectively implement the Lake Tahoe Basin Multi-Jurisdictional Strategy for Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention (Strategy).

The Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team (TFFT) formed in 2008 to implement the Strategy, with the twin aims of reducing fuels in the wildland-urban interface (WUI) and preparing communities for wildfire. The 21 partner agencies of the TFFT work within the Lake Tahoe Basin (Basin) to plan, prioritize, and implement fuel reduction and fire prevention projects that protect life, property, and the environment. The TFFT recently collaborated to identify critical need projects and develop ten SNPLMA Round 18 nominations that advance the goals of the Strategy.

Communities across the western United States are currently witnessing the catastrophe of yet another record-breaking wildfire season. A destructive wildfire in the Basin of similar scale to those burning right now elsewhere in the Sierra Nevada would have devastating impacts on our forests, communities, and businesses. Such a fire would also cause severe economic impacts in both California and Nevada.

The Basin's fire agencies are tested every fire season by dozens of wildfire ignitions, which each have the potential to become the Basin's next destructive wildfire. To improve our odds, we work at every level – from helping residents prepare themselves, their families, and their homes

Protecting lives, property, and the environment of the Lake Tahoe Basin from wildfire by implementing prioritized fuel reduction projects and engaging the public in becoming a fire adapted community.

for wildfire, to working within neighborhoods to create defensible space that extends across property lines, to reducing fuels and restoring forests in the WUI and beyond.

This holistic approach of working at every level is ratified in the Strategy, with its three goals of creating fire adapted communities, restoring fire-resilient landscapes, and supporting safe and effective wildfire response. These goals are mirrored by the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy. The goals are manifested in the over 60,000 acres treated in the Basin's WUI by TFFT partners over the last decade, and the thousands of homes inspected for defensible space and brought into compliance.

There are ten Hazardous Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention nominations for SNPLMA Round 18, each implementing a critical component of the Strategy. The nominations are:

1) **Lake Tahoe Basin Fire Adapted Communities**
   Agency: Tahoe Resource Conservation District
   Funding Requested: $8,705,000
2) **Defense Zone Improvement**
   Agency: North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District
   Funding Requested: $1,222,000
3) **Highway 50 Hazardous Fuel Reduction and Restoration**
   Agency: Tahoe-Douglas Fire Protection District
   Funding Requested: $400,000
4) **South Lake Tahoe Fire Rescue Wildland-Urban Interface Hazardous Fuel Reduction**
   Agency: South Lake Tahoe Fire Rescue
   Funding Requested: $852,000
5) **North Tahoe Fire Protection District Wildland-Urban Interface Hazardous Fuel Reduction**
   Agency: North Tahoe Fire Protection District
   Funding Requested: $2,500,000
6) **California Community Forestry**
   Agency: California Tahoe Conservancy
   Funding Requested: $4,159,180
7) **California Tahoe Conservancy Wildland-Urban Interface Hazardous Fuel Reduction**
   Agency: California Tahoe Conservancy
   Funding Requested: $5,994,000
8) **National Forest Priority Wildland-Urban Interface Fuel Reduction**
   Agency: Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit
   Funding Requested: $10,490,000
9) **Utility Corridors Resilience**
   Agency: Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit
   Funding Requested: $8,655,000

Protecting lives, property, and the environment of the Lake Tahoe Basin from wildfire by implementing prioritized fuel reduction projects and engaging the public in becoming a fire adapted community.

10) **Prescribed Fire Implementation**

Agency: Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit

Funding Requested: $5,046,000

Nomination 1 will deliver extensive community engagement and defensible space treatments through the Tahoe Network of Fire Adapted Communities (Tahoe Network). The Tahoe Network is a multi-agency and community collaboration that helps residents take individual action to collectively reduce their neighborhood's risk of wildfire. The preparedness of residents and the defensible space around homes are at the core of the Strategy' approach to preventing catastrophic wildfire.

The defensible space treatments completed through Nomination 1 directly connect to the treatments included in Nominations 2 through 6. These nominations propose treatments on the thousands of small open-space and undeveloped lots surrounding homes that are interspersed throughout neighborhoods, as well as on private and local-government lands near communities. Nominations 7 and 8 connect to neighborhood treatments and involve large-scale wildland-urban interface treatments on state and federal lands. The treatments substantially advance the TFFT's target of completing initial wildland-urban interface treatments identified in the Strategy by 2024.

Nomination 9 reduces wildfire risk and creates healthy forests surrounding powerlines, a significant potential source of wildfire ignitions. The treatments will help protect critical community infrastructure as well as reduce the risk of spread for ignitions originating from powerlines.

Finally, Nomination 10 proposes to strategically use prescribed fire as a tool for both fuel reduction and landscape restoration. In addition to implementing valuable treatments, the project helps to build Basinwide capacity to use prescribed fire across multiple jurisdictions.

The TFFT expresses its strong support for the full suite of projects listed above. The SNPLMA program has been transformative for the Basin by enabling a multitude of fuel reduction and wildfire reduction projects. These projects have helped improve our odds of withstanding wildfire and are an important reason for our success to date. Again, thank you for your consideration of the Basin's SNPLMA Round 18 nominations.

Sincerely,

Scott Baker

Scott Baker
Chair, TFFT Multi-Agency Coordinating Group
Fire Chief, Tahoe-Douglas Fire Protection District

Protecting lives, property, and the environment of the Lake Tahoe Basin from wildfire by implementing prioritized fuel reduction projects and engaging the public in becoming a fire adapted community.

Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act
Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention
Round 18

USDA Forest Service
Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest
Carson Ranger District

Fuels Reduction - Tri-County

Amount Requested: $1,173,190

Timeframe: 6 Years
Location: 39.07250000º / -119.88972222º
39.39250000º / -119.81111111º
39.36305556º / -119.85416667º
39.30194444º / -119.83805556º
39.11500000º / -119.87277778º
Congressional District: NV-2

Contact: Steve Howell
Phone: 775-884-8114
Fax: 775-884-8199
Email: STEVEN.HOWELL@USDA.GOV

Purpose Statement:

The USDA Forest Service, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest (HTNF) Carson Ranger District proposes to treat 1,900 acres of hazardous fuels within Douglas and Washoe Counties to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire and move towards a natural fire regime.

Background info to support the need:

Treatments are located on National Forest System (NFS) lands directly within and adjacent to several different communities located on the Carson Ranger District. Implementation techniques may include hand thinning, hand piling, chipping, weed treatments, prescribed fire, and/or mastication. By focusing on areas that are in need of treatment that weren't addressed during initial entries, as well as secondary treatments to achieve desired outcomes or previously implemented treatments, the hazardous fuels reduction treatments will enhance connectivity, resulting in more effective and resilient defensible spaces for the nearby communities.

Areas identified for treatment currently fall within the project boundaries of completed SNPLMA hazardous fuels reduction projects. SNPLMA deliverables identified within previous and completed projects were met; however, areas in need of initial fuels reduction treatments or maintenance in order to create a comprehensive and effective fuels reduction have since been identified within those project boundaries. Below is a table describing the proposed project areas and treatments for this Round 18 nomination.

General Project Description	Project Location	Potential method of Implementation	Justification for Treatment
Genoa	Douglas County	Hand cut/pile, chip, prescribed fire, mastication	Initial treatment units on the upper portion of the project. RX fire in the lower sections.
Mt. Rose Tracts	Washoe County	Hand cut/pile, chip, prescribed fire, mastication	Several years since original treatment which now has a buildup of fuels needing fuel reduction treatment methods. Some initial areas identified.
North Washoe	Washoe County	Hand cut/pile, chip, prescribed fire, mastication	Reduction in hazardous fuels
Arrowhawk	Washoe County	Hand cut/pile, chip, prescribed fire, mastication	Reduction in hazardous fuels
Clear Creek	Carson City / Douglas County	Hand cut/pile, chip, prescribed fire, mastication	Reduction in hazardous fuels

Figures 1-6 included in this document are maps related to this nomination, identifying proposed treatment areas.

Relationship to prior approved phases or related SNPLMA projects and anticipated future phases:

Tri-County Fuels Reduction Project Phases:

Phase One: Fuels Reduction Implementation – work will be implemented within project boundaries that have had initial fuels reduction treatments accomplished. Appropriate environmental analysis and NEPA documentation, including community involvement, were completed through previous rounds of SNPLMA funding. Previous phases of this project included work accomplished through SNPLMA funding and Forest funding. Not all areas of these projects had treatments completed. The proposal will allow for the treatment of areas with fuels hazardous not already completed. With this proposal it will move these project areas closer to completion and ready for next phase of treatments. Follow up phases of treatments may include but are not limited to prescribed burning, grazing fine fuels and weed treatments.

Deliverables:

Primary Deliverables

1. Implementation of fuels treatments on approximately 700 acres of hazardous fuels will be treated by a variety of methods as determined by the plan.
2. 1,200 acres of noxious weeds and invasive species will be treated within the fuels reduction areas and in adjacent areas, within the project boundaries
3. Focus on cheat grass: Use of herbicides in areas where cheat grass in the dominant species on approximately 1200 acres
4. Treatment monitoring on treated acres throughout the multiple project areas

Anticipated Deliverables

1. Public education through demonstration of hazardous fuels treatment techniques and/or field day for past fuels projects

Standard Deliverables

- Contract preparation and administration
- Supervision of crews

Project Timeframe:

This phase of the project will be completed within the 6-year time frame beginning with the initial

Level of Project Readiness for Implementation

The Carson Ranger District has adequate personnel to successfully complete the oversight needed to implement this project once funds become available. The district has accomplished

several large planning and implementation projects, funded by both SNPLMA and appropriated funds, in the last several years. Currently, the District has completed previous implementation projects. This project builds upon previous projects.

Future Operations and Maintenance:

None.

Partnerships and/or contributed:

Funds would go towards on the ground implementation as planning has already been completed.

Funding Requested Budget Detail:

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ROUND 18

HAZARDOUS FUELS AND WILDFIRE PREVENTION NOMINATION

ESTIMATED DIRECT COSTS & KEY MILESTONES

Project Name:	**Tri-County Fuels Reduction**	**Date prepared:**	**8/4/2020**
		Agency:	**US Forest Service**
Project #	***Assigned by SNPLMA***	**Priority #:**	***Assigned by SNPLMA***
Prepared by:	**Steve Howell**	**Phone #:**	**775-884-8114**
Title/position:	Fuels Specialist		

1	**Planning & Environmental Documentation** Includes labor for surveys/reports for cultural, natural, biological, archaeological, historical resources, etc. and preparation of NEPA documentation and the decision document. Does not include on-going compliance monitoring (see Direct Labor #3)	$0	0.00%
2	**FWS Consultation - Endangered Species Act** Direct expenses for FWS consultation. *Includes all labor, agreements, and costs for Section 7 review and approval.*	$0	0.00%
3	**Direct Federal Labor to Implement Project (Payroll)** For interagency projects, identify a primary team lead and the lead agency for consultation/coordination and individual agency leads responsible for entering progress and reports into SMART.	$520,640	44.38%
4	**Project Equipment and/or Supplies and Materials** Equipment, supplies or materials necessary to complete the project that are not included in contracts/agreements. Includes lease or rental of equipment/vehicles.	$37,300	3.18%
5	**Travel and Per Diem for Implementation** Includes all necessary travel for training and implementation of the project. Training costs for tuition, materials, etc. are identified in item #7 below	$0	0.00%
6	**Official Vehicle Use (vehicles with Federal license only)** Estimated costs for routine maintenance agency vehicles, leased or rental equipment, oil and gas, tires, etc. Does not include replacement cost	$90,000	7.67%
7	**Training (required to implement the project)** Includes training essential/necessary for implementation of the project.	$2,000	0.17%
8	**Contracts, Grants, and/or Agreements** CESU, IGO, Assistance agreements, Task Orders, and contracts for implementation of the project. Also includes all costs for construction/implementation of the plan. The period of performance for grants or agreements and contracts must not extend pas the approved period of performance in the approved Work Plan. Final invoices and de-obligation of unexpended funds must be paid and sub agreements and contracts closed prior to submitting the request for closeout	$523,250	44.60%
9	**Other Necessary Expenses** (See Appendix B-11)	$0	0.00%
	Total requested/estimated budget	**$1,173,190**	**100.00%**
10	**Estimated agency or partner contribution**	$0	
	Total Estimated project value	$1,173,190	

General comments and description of milestones

Hazardous fuels reduction implementation on 1,900 acres on the Carson Front, HTNF. Funds would go towards on the ground implementation as planning has already been completed.

Performance Measures:

Performance Measure: F2 – Acres of hazardous fuels treated – Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)
Performance Measure: H9 – Acres of invasive plant species treated or restored

Outcome: *The Carson Ranger District will reduce hazardous fuels on approximately 1,900 acres of NFS. Achieving the following outputs will accomplish the outcome.*

Output: Implement 1,900 acres of hazardous fuels reduction treatments. The SNPLMA Performance Measures include:

Executive Committee Strategic Plan Values:

This implementation project would encompass multiple areas that are in the Carson Range Multi-Jurisdictional 10-Year Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Strategy. This proposed project was identified in the fuels reduction plan and is a major component of the Carson Ranger District Hazardous Fuels Reduction program. This proposal aligns with the SNPLMA Draft Strategic Plan and the values listed therein.

The Tri-County Fuels Reduction Project will focus on implementing treatments that emphasize sustainability, connectivity, and community by ensuring implementation focuses on creating a resilient, healthy landscape available for various types of community activities and public involvement on forest health and wildfire awareness. Through the process of implementing this fuels reduction project, NFS lands would be treated for hazardous fuels reduction utilizing various treatment options designed to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildland fire, in turn preventing impacts to recreation, public health and safety, and the visual impact on the view shed for several different communities, travel routes, and recreation areas along the Carson Range.

All proposed treatments for this project would provide sustainability of a healthy forest when implemented, continuing to provide benefits through ensuring the functionality of this landscape and enhancing a resiliency to catastrophic wildland fire. By identifying priority treatment areas within these project areas, connectivity between numerous fuels reduction treatments will be increased by continuing treatments along the Sierra Front. With implementation of the proposed treatments in these project areas, the community will benefit through a reduced risk of catastrophic wildland fire affecting health and safety, private property values, recreational areas, and the intrinsic value of a healthy forest throughout the Carson Range.

This proposal supports Goal 1 of the SNPLMA Strategic Plan: Sustain the quality of the outdoor environment by conserving, preserving, and restoring natural and cultural resources. Under the Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention category, this project will accomplish objectives outlines in multijurisdictional fuels plans and focuses on health and safety, landscape restoration, as well as habitat and treatment connectivity.

Compliance with Departmental and Agency Priorities, Strategic Goals, Executive Orders, and Secretarial Orders:

Compliance with Departmental/Agency Priorities and Strategic Goals

(no response provided)

Consistency with Executive Orders and Secretarial Orders

(no response provided)

Ranking Criteria:

1. Improves the community within and/or adjacent to the project area.

A. Addresses immediate public health and safety and community infrastructure
The entirety of this project area falls within the Wildland Urban Interface Defense Zone. Specifically, this project area is directly adjacent to community infrastructure as well as county, state, and private lands. Stand replacing timber and shrub wildland fires have previously occurred in the surrounding areas, threatening homes and private property, and threatening the safety of the public and firefighters. Hazardous fuels reduction treatments will provide beneficial results, as well as significantly decreasing the likelihood that the public will be directly threatened.

By implementing the appropriate treatments, the effectiveness of future fire suppression activities will be increased. Reduced fuel loading will decrease fire intensity therefore increasing the effectiveness of fire suppression, and allow firefighters and equipment to safely access the area.

Factor A2 – Project is within the Threat Zone, generally an area between 0.25 miles and 1.50 miles of life and property, as depicted by the most current WUI map in the applicable plan.

This project area falls within the Threat Zone as defined by the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest Carson Ranger District's Wildland Urban Interface maps.

Factor A3 – Project is within the general forest or other lands beyond the WUI (generally greater than 1.50 miles from life and property), as depicted by the most current map in the applicable plan.

This project area falls within the Threat Zone as defined by the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest Carson Ranger District's Wildland Urban Interface maps.

B Promotes protection of source water (rivers and lakes) or municipal watersheds.
Many watersheds are included in the proposed project area. Ephemeral and perennial streams that contribute to many different types of water sources, both municipal and agricultural, would be protected from the risk of a catastrophic wildland fire.

C. Project includes education and outreach to the community on Living with Fire or Fire Adapted Communities and/or the importance of fuels reduction on federal, state, and local government land.

Prior to treatment implementation, the Carson Ranger District will contact adjacent and interested landowners near the project areas to provide information and education regarding the fuels reduction treatments that will occur. While implementation of this project is occurring, the Forest Service will be available to answer questions regarding hazardous fuels reduction objectives and techniques from the residents and recreationists in the area. Forest Service personnel will be on site during implementation. In addition, signs will be posted near active work areas advising the public of what implementation activities are occurring, the hazards and safety practices for being in that area, and an explanation of why the work is occurring. Forest Service staff are also available by phone for members of the public with concerns or requesting further information. The communities near these previous projects were outreached during the different NEPA processes, and several public meetings were held regarding the different original projects. In addition, there are current brochures available through the University of Nevada, Reno Cooperative Extension regarding "Living With Fire", and different types of fuels reduction techniques and the objectives and benefits of these practices, for both public land managers and private homeowners. Brochures from the cooperative extension are readily available through the Carson Ranger District office for the public.

2. Improves the connection of fuels reduction activities and wildlife habitat.

A. Project connects previously treated areas to create or increase contiguous blocks of treated land.

The proposed project would ensure that areas left untreated in previous projects would be treated to increase the connectivity and effectiveness of fuels reduction treatments. By focusing on areas that were left untreated due to weather issues, accessibility, or time constraints, the fuels reduction treatments will have an increased amount of connectivity, resulting in more effective and better maintained defensible spaces. By performing fuels treatments in these project areas, connected activities will continue to be viable.

B. Project protects or enhances wildlife habitat and/or resilient vegetative communities.

The Carson Ranger District hosts a wide array of different wildlife species. The proposed project would ensure that wildlife habitat would continue to be viable through fuels and vegetation management activities. It would provide connectivity between different types of vegetation communities and wildlife habitat areas by, enhancing, or enlarging previously accomplished fuels treatments.

C. Project enhances the effectiveness of other treatments in progress or completed.

Treatments have a 5-10 year treatment priority in the Carson Range Multi-Jurisdictional Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Strategy (10 Year Plan). This 10-year strategy was updated in 2018, and the identified project areas continue to be a priority focus of fuels reduction within the Carson Range. This project will support ongoing cooperator treatments and past forest treatments. Due to the high amount of WUI on the Carson Ranger District, NFS lands included in this proposed project are directly adjacent to

State, county, and other Federal agency lands including: Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District, East Fork Fire Protection District, Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District, Nevada State Lands, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, Carson City, Douglas County, and Washoe County. Also, there are numerous private landowners who have taken the initiative to complete hazardous fuels reduction work around their residences and out buildings.

3. Improves sustainability of the multijurisdictional 10-year plans, environment, and financial resources.

A. The Project will:

1. Improve the sustainability of the forest health and ecosystem function (e.g. stand density, desired species mix and age, tree health, etc.)
The treatments proposed in this project will be designed to promote ecosystem health and long term sustainability through the challenges of natural climate variability and wildfire occurrence, but also with the expectation that healthier forests and ecosystems will be better prepared to endure adverse effects from environment changes as well.

Beyond fire hazard reduction, this project will provide watershed and wildlife habitat protection, recreational and scenic value protection.

2. Improve the habitat for sensitive species and Threatened and Endangered species. Includes mitigation and/or minimization measures when treatment in sensitive habitat is unavoidable.

3. Includes broadcast prescribed fire for resource management objectives for sustainable landscapes.
During the planning phase, prescribed fire was identified as a possible tool to achieve resource management objectives. Where feasible, understory burning and other types of prescribed fire may be used to meet management objectives and reintroduce fire into the ecosystem. Prescribed fire in the form of pile burning or understory burning will be used where appropriate.

B. The method of treatment is fiscally responsible for the project area by balancing resource objectives, values at risk, and cost per acre factors or cost-benefit analysis.
Implementation will ensure cost effectiveness measures are in place since, work can be performed without waiting for contracts to be assembled and awarded or work may be able to go through contracting phase. By having an option to contract or use Forest Service crews this will lower overall cost to project. The Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest has two current Indefinite Delivery-Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) contracts for mastication, handwork and prescribed burning that are available for use forest wide. Due to the IDIQ contracts already being in place, there is no time consideration for contract work, saving time and costs. Also, agreements are in place with cooperators to accomplish work where needed.

The cost to implement this project is significantly less than the cost to fight large wildland fires or restore the values damaged. The cost to fight a wildland fire in these projects areas would be extremely high because of the proximity to communities and highly valued recreational properties. These project areas contain historic and prehistoric artifacts that will likely be negatively impacted by severe wildland fires, as some of the significant artifacts may be destroyed. Following an intense fire, re-vegetation and recovery of these areas would be slow and occur over decades. Any impacts from prescribed burning should be minimal to none as these will be protected through avoidance measures.

4. Demonstrates sound project management and quality control measures.

A. *Project goals and implementation processes are clear, measurable, achievable, and demonstrable.*
The proposal is to complete approximately 1,900 acres of fuels reduction treatments within previously identified. By utilizing force account crews to accomplish the objectives, the amount of treatment areas will be maximized, both in accomplishments and in possible treatment options. These treatments are designed to bring fire behavior in line with acceptable parameters within the Wildland Urban Interface which include flame lengths of less than four feet in the WUI Threat Zone. These specific objectives for the future condition of the project area are explicitly expressed in the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment of 2004 and guided by the National Forest Management Planning Act and National Environmental Policy Act.

B. *Project proponent has the capacity to implement this project in a timely manner (contractor and staff availability, no backlog of current project, etc.) and within budget.*
The Carson Ranger District began receiving SNPLMA funds for Hazardous Fuels Reduction in Round 8. This was preceded by a PPP nomination in Round 6 to produce the Carson Range Multi-jurisdictional Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Strategy (10 Year Strategy), completed at the end of 2007.

To ensure completion of planning and implementation projects, the district has a professional, skilled work force which has demonstrated the capacity to complete projects in a timely manner. Skills represented on the district include two fuels specialists, a sale preparation forester, a silviculturist/forester, wildlife biologist, botanist, archeologist, hydrologist, a fire management officer, a sale administrator, multiple CORs and fire staff. In addition, plant pathologists and entomologists, logging engineers and fuels specialists, as well as other specialists are on staff at either the Forest Supervisors Office in Sparks, Nevada or the Regional Office in Ogden, Utah. Our staff has extensive experience in completing service, timber sale, and stewardship contracts, as well as administering those contracts on the District level. Our employees also have extensive experience supervising crews in laying out project areas and organizing completion of the project.

Further detail on some of the district's current SNPLMA funded projects on the Carson Ranger District and their status are described below:

Little Valley/Mt. Rose Tracts Fuels Reduction Planning Project: This Round 10 SNPLMA project has been completed. This planning project included the completion of planning and decision documents for a project analysis area of 1,600 acres. An Environmental Assessment was completed for Little Valley and the Decision Notice/Finding of No Significant Impact was signed July of 2013. A Categorical Exclusion was completed for the Mt. Rose Tracts portion of this project.

Ophir Lewer's Fuels Reduction Project: This Round 11 SNPLMA project is currently in the close out stages and currently awaiting the closeout from the Bureau of Land Management. Hand thinning and pile burning were completed on approximately 60 acres. Invasive and noxious weed treatments also were implemented within this project area.

Work was accomplished by Force Account and implementation as completed in March of 2013.

Clear Creek Hazardous Fuels Reduction Planning Project: This SNPLMA Round 8 project has been completed within timeframes and within budget. This planning project included the completion of planning and decision documents for a project analysis area over 7,000 acres in size in which 3,500 acres of treatments were identified for implementation. An Environmental Assessment was completed in December 2008 and the Decision Notice/Finding of No Significant Impact was signed February 23, 2009. Monitoring plots have been installed and the project is closed out.

Upper Washoe Hazardous Fuels Reduction: This Round 8 SNPLMA project is currently closed out. Thinning was completed on 197 acres in the fall of 2009, an additional 85 acres of small diameter tree thinning was completed by the contractor with ARRA funds, a helicopter was used to remove biomass from approximately 200 acres by "whole tree yarding " trees and slash from the steep un-roaded slopes. The contract work was completed in June of 2010. Another 46 acres of hand cutting, piling, and pile burning were completed by Forest Service crews in 2009, followed by 40 acres of thinning and piling completed in the fall of 2010, and 120 acres of pile burning by spring of 2011. This project is complete and closed out.

Jacks Valley Habitat Improvement and Fuels Reduction Project: This SNPLMA Round 8 project is on schedule and will be completed within the initial requested budget and timeframe. A 400 acre brush mastication contract was awarded in September 2008 and the mastication was completed in January 2009. An additional 109 acres was begun in October of 2010; weed control, seeding of native species, and illegal vehicle access prevention work continued through fall 2010. This project is completed and closed out.

Clear Creek Multi-jurisdictional Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project – This Round 9 multi-jurisdictional fuels reduction project includes lands administered by the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Nevada State Parks, and the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California. On NFS lands, implementation is taking place. The planning phase of this project was completed during the Clear Creek Planning Phase project. Brush and small tree mastication on 150 acres was contracted and work completed in January of 2010. Approximately 610 acres of thinning

units have been awarded to a stewardship contract and work is currently underway. Agreements with the Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF) have been completed and work using NDF crews is currently underway with hand cutting and piling. A contract for 190 acres of mastication was awarded under an existing IDIQ and has been implemented.

Jobs Peak Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project: This SNPLMA Round 9 nomination is also in a WUI. The decision memo was signed in February of 2011. A mastication contract has been awarded and completed on 118 acres. Forest Service hand crews have cut and piled small trees and brush on approximately 14 acres. Piles from the hand crew work were burned in the winter of 2013. Agreements with the Nevada Division of Forestry have been completed and work using NDF crews is currently underway with hand cutting and piling.

C. Is a phase or related component to a previously funded project.
This nomination is for phase one, but it would be to accomplish fuels reduction work in previous SNPLMA funded project areas. Prior treatments have occurred within and adjacent to these project areas. The NEPA protocol was accomplished during previous SNPLMA rounds for these project areas.

D. Has identified committed non-SNPLMA sources of funding or in-kind contribution in the development and/or implementation of the project.
Currently, SNPLMA funds are the only funds identified to complete this project. In the future, other funding sources may become available, including timber stand improvement and forest health money, and appropriated funds to be used in the wildland urban interface.

Project Location:

Project location: 39.07250000º / -119.88972222º
39.39250000º / -119.81111111º
39.36305556º / -119.85416667º
39.30194444º / -119.83805556º
39.11500000º / -119.87277778º

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Maps:

Figure 1: Project Vicinity Map

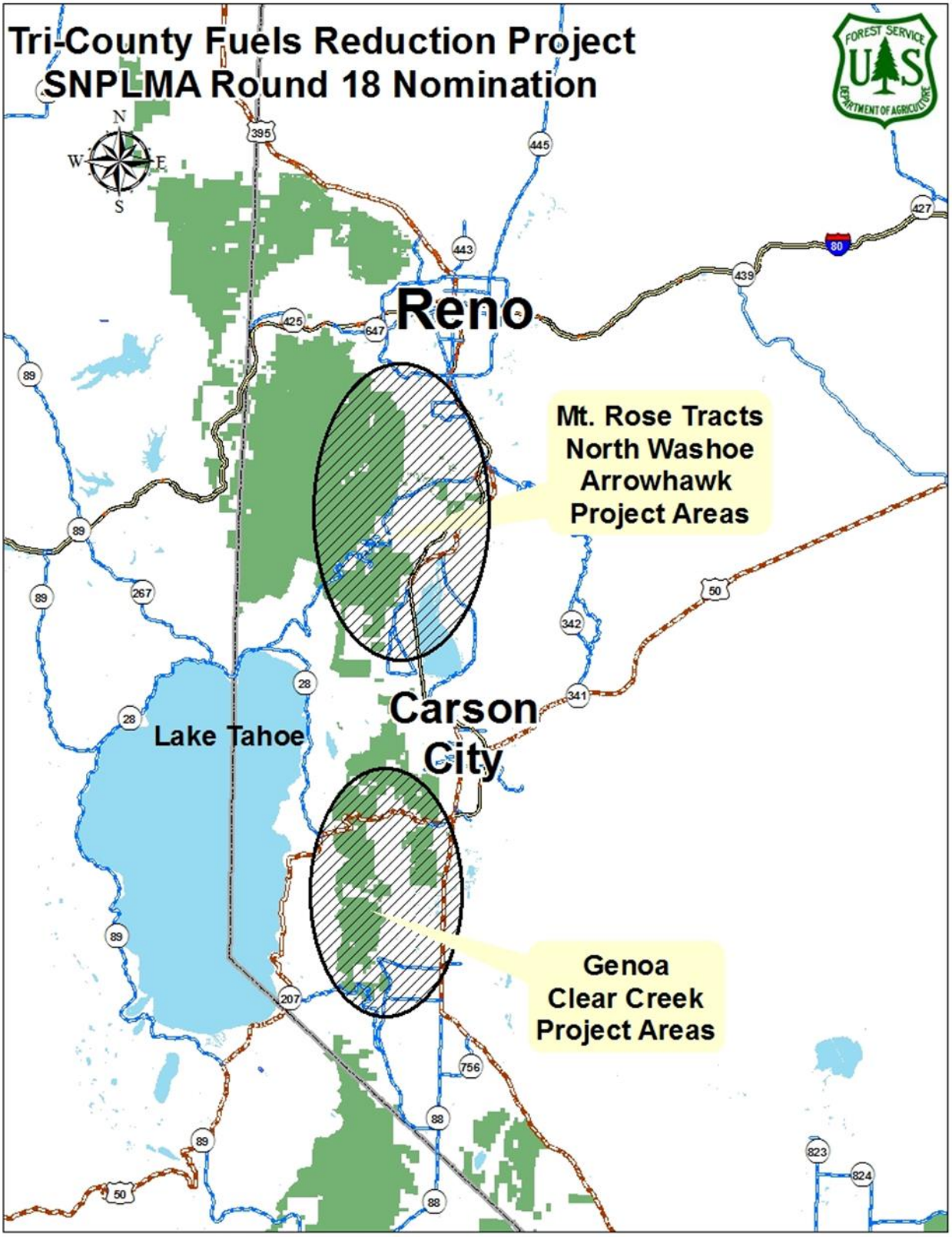


Figure 2: Mt. Rose Tracts Project Area

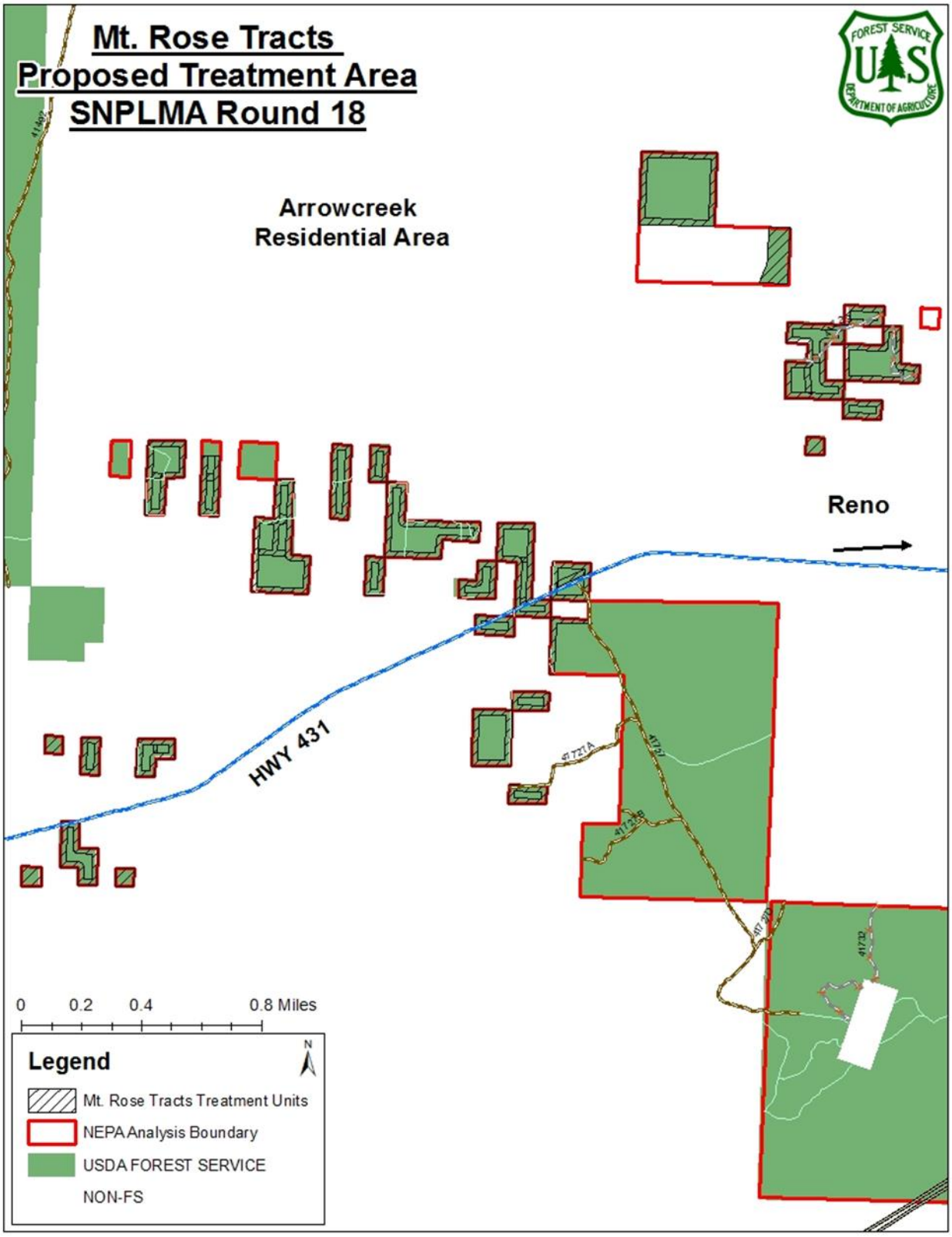


Figure 3: Genoa Project Area

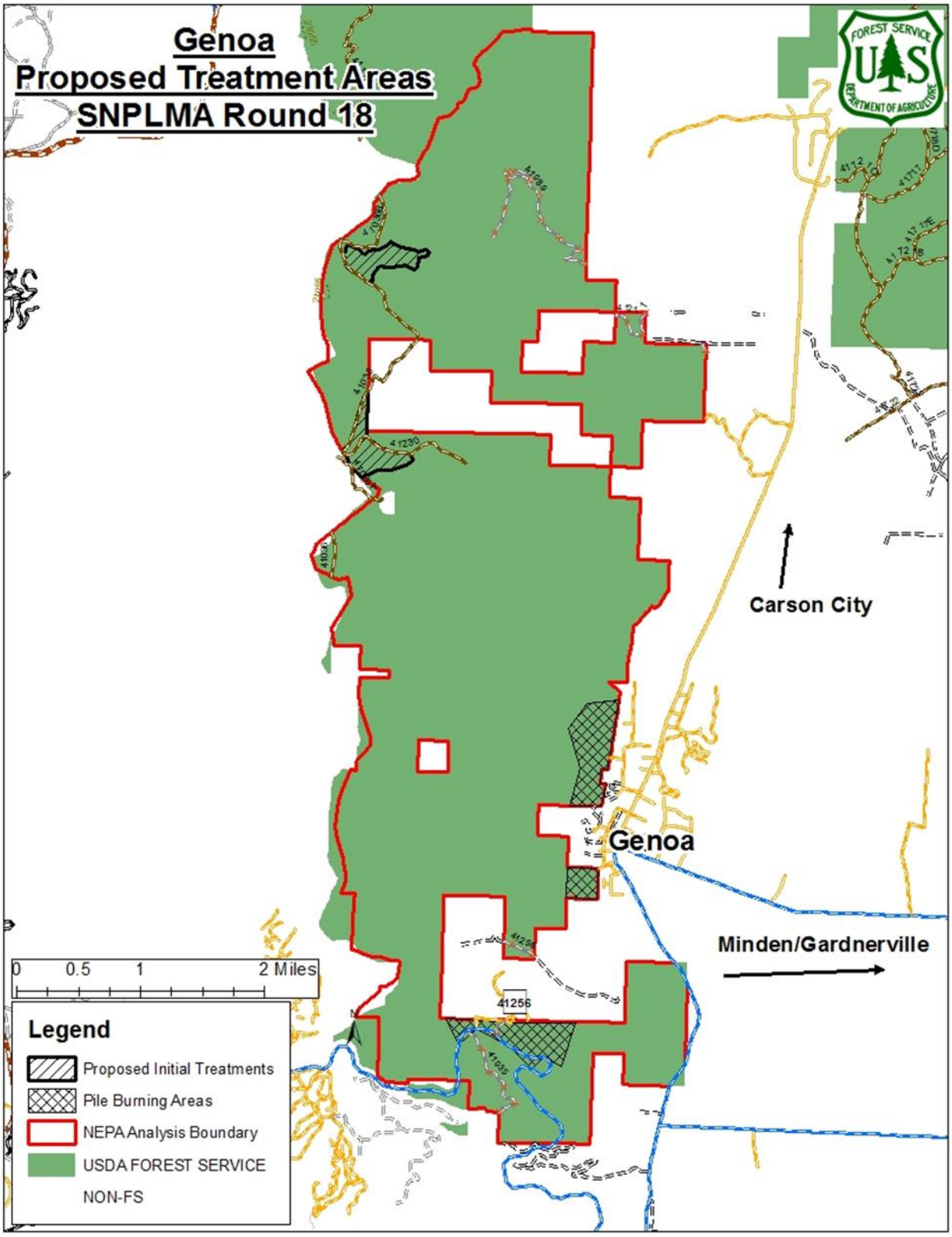


Figure 4: Arrowhawk Project Area, Proposed treatments are within the analysis boundary outlined below

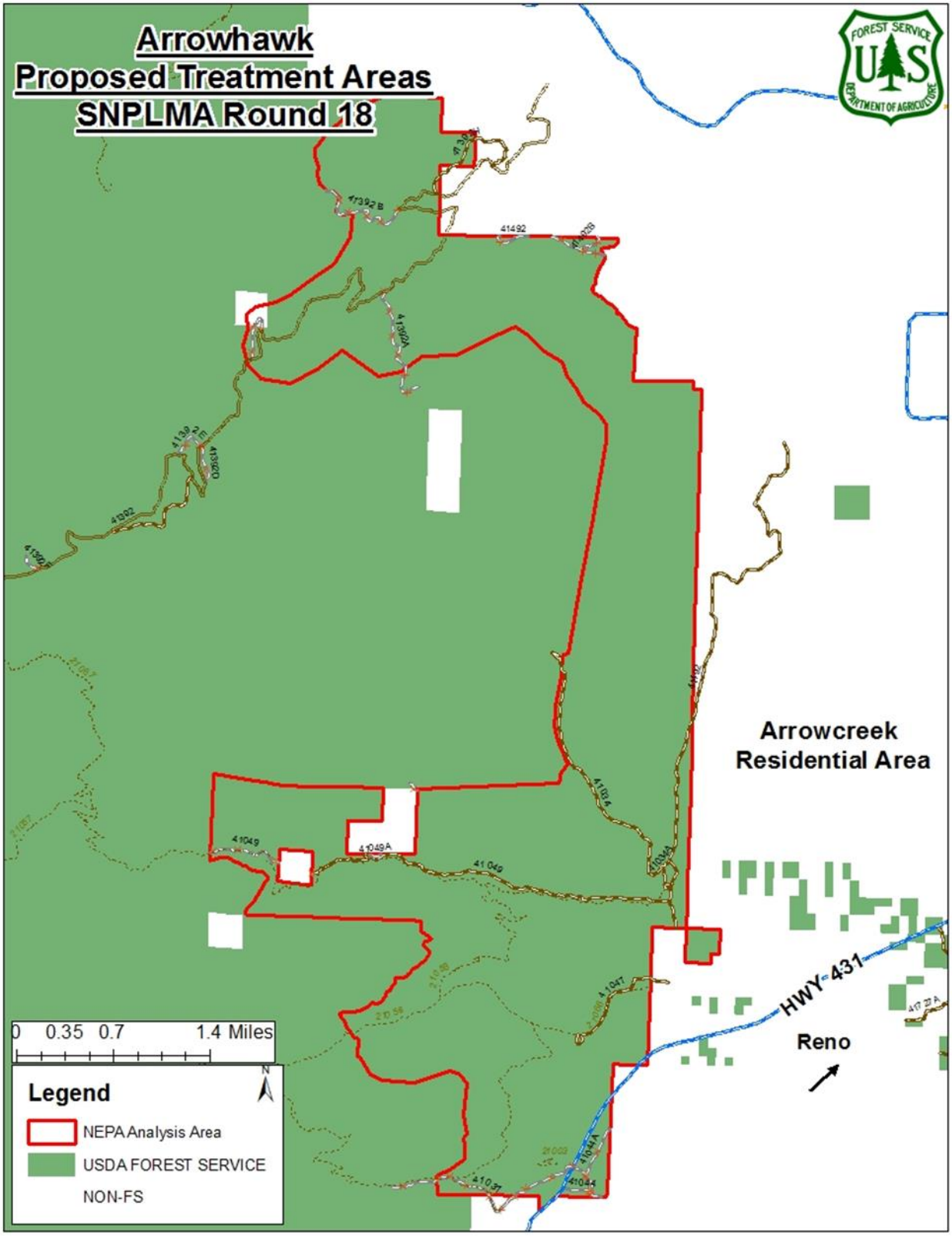


Figure 5: North Washoe Project Area, Proposed treatments are within the analysis boundary outlined below

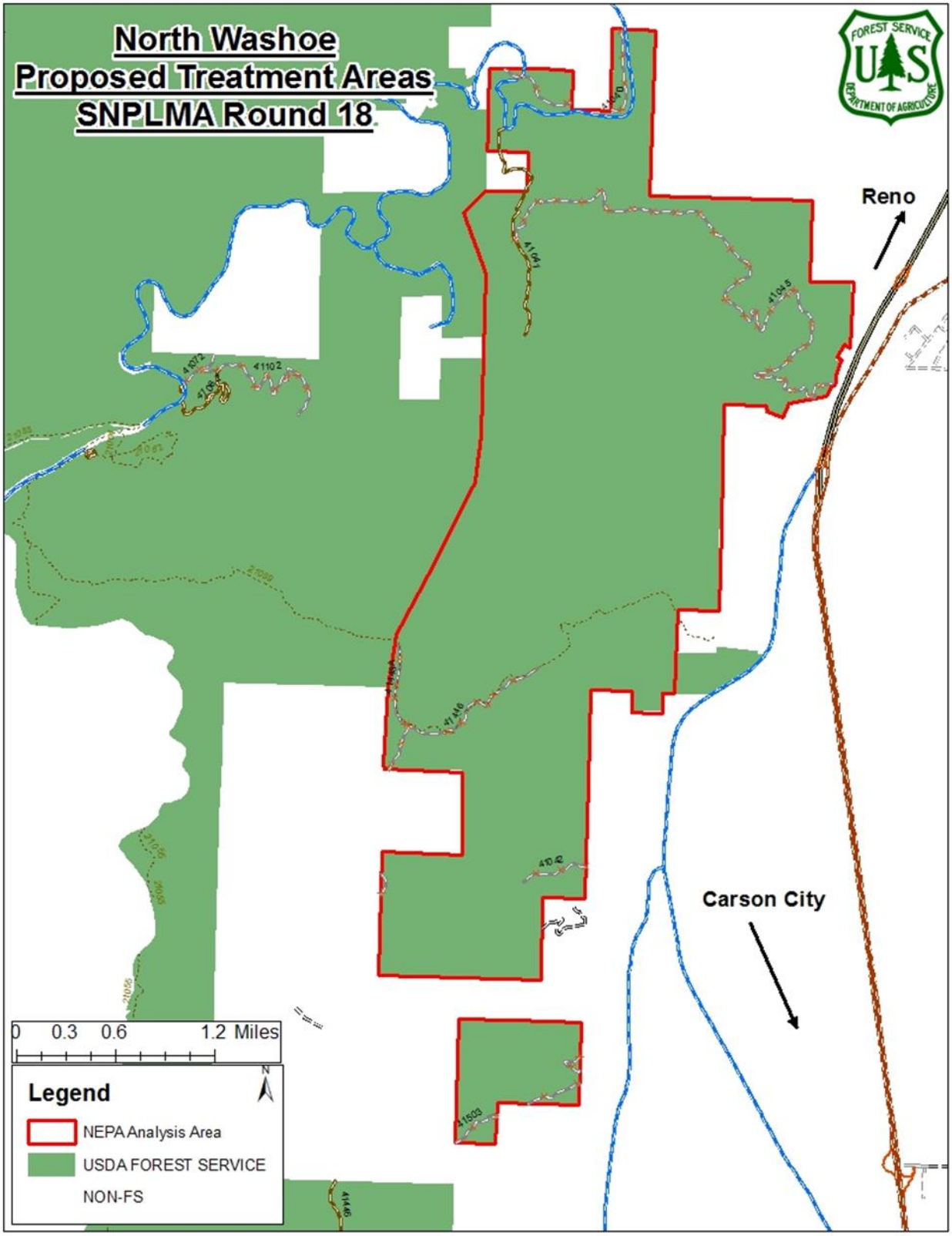
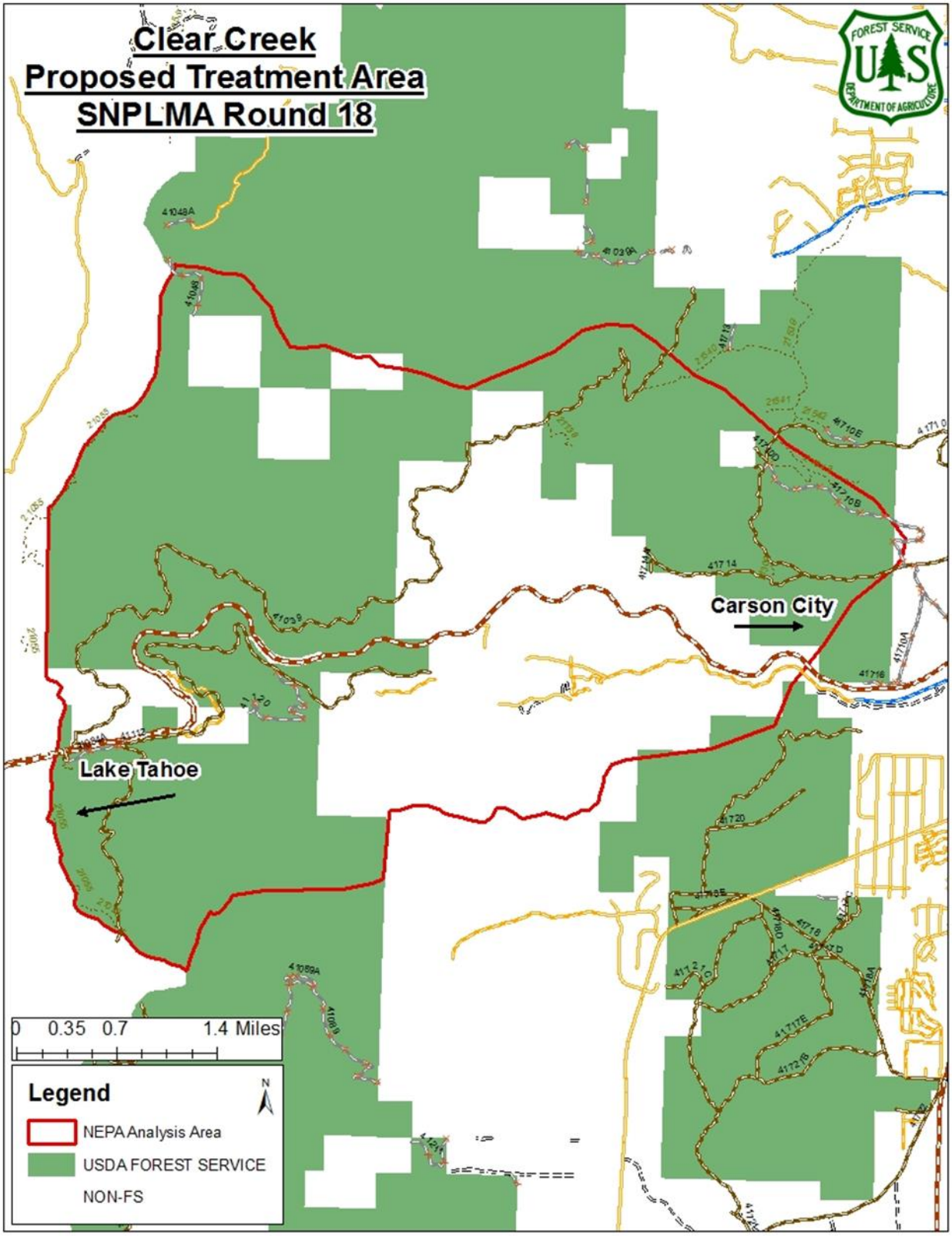


Figure 6: Clear Creek Project Area, Proposed treatments are within the analysis boundary outlined below



Letters of Support:

None

SNPLMA Round 18
Fuels– U.S. Forest Service Addendum

Nomination: Tab 15

Entity: USFS, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit

Project: Prescribed Fire – FS Lake Tahoe Basin

Revision: The Forest Service informed the SNPLMA Division the funding amount of Prescribed Fire – FS Lake Tahoe Basin nomination be revised to $2,444,225.

Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act
Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention
Round 18

US Forest Service
Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit

Prescribed Fire – FS Lake Tahoe Basin

Amount Requested: $5,046,273

Timeframe: 6 Years
Location: 39.22809º/-120.10636º
38.89817º/-120.04402º
39.03358º/-120.13708º
38.79705º/-120.02620º

Congressional District: CA-4

Contact: Tod Flowers
Address: 35 College Dr. South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150
Phone: 530-543-2744
Fax: 530-543-2655
Email: tod.flowers@usda.gov

Purpose Statement:

The USDA Forest Service, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU) will burn approximately 2,500 acres of piles within LTBMU on National Forest System (NFS) lands that fall within the wildland urban interface (WUI) in Eldorado and Placer Counties to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire. The LTBMU will also burn approximately 737 acres of meadows as part of the Fire Adapted Ecosystems and Meeks Meadow Restoration projects located around the LTBMU on NFS lands.

Background info to support the need:

Hazardous Fuels Reduction, Prescribed Fire Implementation, Pile Burning on Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit lands. Currently, there is a backlog of approximately 6,000 acres of piles on LTBMU lands surrounding Lake Tahoe. Approximately 3,237 acres of these piles are located in Eldorado and Placer Counties. These hand piles have been constructed as a result of forest thinning projects that are intended to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildland fire events, improve defensible space around infrastructure and adjoining lands, and to enhance the forest ecosystem health (See figures 10-14). In conjunction with pile burning the proposed funding would allow the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit to acquire equipment needed to reduce fuel loading within the wildland urban interface in Eldorado and Placer Counties during non-favorable burning conditions. This proposal for funding is in alignment with the regional and forest priorities to plan and execute fire management operations in a safe, effective and cost-efficient manner and provide leadership in developing interagency cooperation and partnerships. This funding proposal is also in alignment with regional and forest priorities in that it addresses longer fire seasons and the rising size and severity of wildfires, along with the expanding risk to communities, natural resources, and the safety of firefighters, and that the units that are targeted for implementation are in areas with the highest payoffs to accomplish these goals.

The entity will treat hazardous fuels on 3,237 acres in the wildland-urban interface of the communities of South Lake Tahoe, Tahoe City, Tahoma in California to mitigate wildfire risk to the community and improve forest health.

Prescribed fire projects are designed to reduce wildfire risks to communities and critical resources. Smoke management is part of every prescribed fire burn plan, and efforts will be taken to reduce actual or potential smoke impacts on community areas.

A significant amount of the forested areas surrounding the communities of the Lake Tahoe Basin have been thinned and piled. The piles will be burned in order to reduce the severity of wildfire behavior, improve defensible space around infrastructure and adjoining lands, and to enhance the forest ecosystem health (See figures 10 through 12). Currently, there is a backlog of approximately 3,237 acres of piled project units located in Placer and Eldorado Counties that need to be burned. This backlog has resulted from several factors, including a succession of nearly five years of historically severe fire seasons in California that have limited available burn

days and limited available implementation resources, and constraints due to a lack of funding, a lack of available burn personnel and a lack of high-quality burning conditions.

Entering Participating Agreements with non-federal partners and cooperators will allow the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit to capitalize on quality burn days and help alleviate the issues of longer fire seasons and limited implementation resources. The piled units, once ignitions have been accomplished, will improve the fire resiliency of adjoining private lands, communities, and critical infrastructure which is in alignment with the goals and objectives of the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit as well as local fire protection districts' mission statements.

Entering into a Stewardship Agreement with the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California will allow the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit along with the Washoe Tribe to restore and maintain the ecological and hydrological function of Meeks Meadow to its pre-settlement state. By utilizing a Stewardship Agreement between the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit and the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California the mechanism will be in place to provide for long term maintenance of Meeks Meadow through traditional cultural practices that are acceptable to both parties (See figures 7-9).

Relationship to prior approved phases or related SNPLMA projects and anticipated future phases:

This project is for the implementation of all remaining WUI treatment acres as well as the Fire Adapted Ecosystems and Meeks Meadow Restoration Projects located in Eldorado and Placer Counties, California. All four projects have had SNPLMA projects funded in several phases/rounds. This project is related to those phases, but is a stand-alone project intended to complete the remaining treatments not currently funded or completed to date. The remaining acres included in this project are a combination of acres that 1) have never had funding requested for in previous rounds, or 2) are acres that did not get treated because funding was returned or is planned to be returned because they were not treated during the original time frame. The planning effort for all four of these projects was funded through previous SNPLMA rounds and implementation funds were requested before the planning process was completed.

Also, this project will provide funding and allow sufficient time to complete the prescribed fire acres located on Forest Service lands on the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit in Eldorado and Placer Counties, California. This will be the final phase of the implementation of hazardous fuels reduction and forest health treatments (3,237 acres) proposed under the Urban Forest Restoration and Fuels Reduction Projects. This proposal will result in a stand-alone, viable project. The environmental analysis for this project was funded through SNPLMA Rounds 9, 10, 11 and 12. Thinning of these projects has already occurred.

Additional funding beyond this nomination may be needed to complete project implementation. It is acknowledged that there is no guarantee or expectations of funding for future phases.

Deliverables:

1. Primary Deliverables
    a. Reduce hazardous fuels and improve forest health conditions on approximately 3,237 acres of NFS lands. The actual acreage treated will be determined by costs for conducting prescribed fire activities at the time of project implementation so as not to exceed the approved budget. This will include personnel, equipment, fuel costs, obtaining necessary permits, and Participating as well as Stewardship Agreements.
    b. Reduce hazardous fuels and improve forest health conditions on approximately 737 acres of NFS lands to improve natural and cultural values. The acreage treated will be determined by costs for conducting prescribed fire activities at the time of project implementation as well as agreements that are in place, both Participating and Stewardship in nature.

2. Anticipated Deliverables
    a. Enter into participating agreements with non-federal partners to increase prescribed fire capacity on NFS lands.
    b. Access roads and trails may be improved to prevent environmental degradation and reduce future project costs.
    c. Planning….
    d. Public Education through Fire PIT and TFFT.
    e. Workforce development and training of Washoe Tribe during the implementation of the Meeks Meadow Restoration project.

3. Standard Deliverables
    a. Project management and SNPLMA reporting
    b. Develop project work plan and budget to support project implementation.
    c. Prescribed Fire Burn Plans, satisfying National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) interagency requirements
    d. Prepare and administer prescribed fire agreements.
    e. Close out all obligations associated with this project. Prepare the project closing letter and final financial record. Conduct site visit and file review with SNPLMA Division and close out the project in the SNPLMA database.

Project Timeframe:

The Prescribed Fire Implementation Project timeline is 6 years and 0 months with receipt of the financial instrument expected in December 2020 and close-out with the SNPLMA Division at the end of December 2026.

Level of Project Readiness for Implementation

The areas identified under this proposal are prioritized for treatment and consistent with the 2014 Lake Tahoe Basin Multi-Jurisdictional Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Strategy by addressing critical areas for treatment. This project is supported by the North Tahoe, South Lake

Tahoe, Fallen Leaf, and Lake Valley Fire Protection Districts, which has participated in pre-NEPA collaborative meetings. The strategy is supported for full implementation by the Multi-Agency Coordination (MAC) group and Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team (TFFT), the California and Nevada Tahoe Basin Fire Commission (Fire Commission) and their recommendations to the Governors of California and Nevada.

This project has been identified as a high priority project for the LTBMU, the removal of activity fuels that have been generated by hazardous fuels reduction in treatment areas adjacent to urban core areas. Environmental planning has been completed by agency employees. Fuel reduction activities have already occurred or are occurring and activity fuels are available for prescribed fire treatment on the north, south, and west shores of Lake Tahoe.

All projects listed in this proposal will follow similar implementation processes:

- Burn units will have an NWCG approved burn plan created and approved by LTBMU Fire and Fuels Management. Burn plans will cover any special needs or issues including threatened and endangered species, cultural sites, and unique features. The burn plan will also specify desired fire effects and objectives.
- Prior to ignitions on the selected burn unit all parameters listed in the burn plan will be addressed and met. This includes proper notification to cooperators, meeting weather parameters, and notifying and receiving approval from the appropriate Air Quality districts. Notifications to TFFT (Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team) will also be made to inform and educate the public on current and upcoming prescribed burns and the overall intent of the prescribed burn.
- Post burn monitoring will occur to meet agency standards and provide for public and firefighter safety as well as ensuring management objectives of the prescribed burn are being met.
- Documenting the completion of prescribed burn units will occur in the FACTS database as well as SNPLMA reporting.

Future Operations and Maintenance:

None.

Partnerships and/or contributed:

None.

Funding Requested Budget Detail:

The total cost for this project is $5,046,273 for implementation and completion. This includes equipment purchases and the implementation of grants and agreements to improve the capability and functionality of implementing prescribed burning and hazardous fuels reduction on NFS lands in the Lake Tahoe Basin.

With both Participating and Stewardship agreements in place with various partners it will allow the LTBMU to increase the pace and scale of hazardous fuels reduction on NFS lands while providing workforce development to non-FS parties. This will provide for long term stewardship opportunities for all parties involved.

ROUND 18
HAZARDOUS FUELS AND WILDFIRE PREVENTION NOMINATION
ESTIMATED DIRECT COSTS & KEY MILESTONES

Project Name:	**LTBMU Prescribed Fire Implementation**	**Date prepared:**	**5/9/2020**
		Agency:	**USFS**
Project #	***Assigned by SNPLMA***	**Priority #:**	***Assigned by SNPLMA***
Prepared by:	**Tod Flowers**	**Phone #:**	**530-543-2744**
Title/position:	Forest Fuels Specialist		

1	**Planning & Environmental Documentation**	$0	0.00%
	Includes labor for surveys/reports for cultural, natural, biological, archaeological, historical resources, etc. and preparation of NEPA documentation and the decision document. Does not include on-going compliance monitoring (see Direct Labor #3)		
2	**FWS Consultation - Endangered Species Act**	$0	0.00%
	Direct expenses for FWS consultation. *Includes all labor, agreements, and costs for Section 7 review and approval.*		
3	**Direct Federal Labor to Implement Project (Payroll)**	$610,550	12.10%
	For interagency projects, identify a primary team lead and the lead agency for consultation/coordination and individual agency leads responsible for entering progress and reports into SMART.		
4	**Project Equipment and/or Supplies and Materials**	$313,398	6.21%
	Equipment, supplies or materials necessary to complete the project that are not included in contracts/agreements. Includes lease or rental of equipment/vehicles.		
5	**Travel and Per Diem for Implementation**	$281,400	5.58%
	Includes all necessary travel for training and implementation of the project. Training costs for tuition, materials, etc. are identified in item #7 below		
6	**Official Vehicle Use (vehicles with Federal license only)**	$0	0.00%
	Estimated costs for routine maintenance agency vehicles, leased or rental equipment, oil and gas, tires, etc. Does not include replacement cost		
7	**Training (required to implement the project)**	$46,500	0.92%
	Includes training essential/necessary for implementation of the project.		
8	**Contracts, Grants, and/or Agreements**	$3,794,425	75.19%
	CESU, IGO, Assistance agreements, Task Orders, and contracts for implementation of the project. Also includes all costs for construction/implementation of the plan. The period of performance for grants or agreements and contracts must not extend pas the approved period of performance in the approved Work Plan. Final invoices and de-obligation of unexpended funds must be paid and sub agreements and contracts closed prior to submitting the request for closeout		
9	**Other Necessary Expenses**	$0	0.00%
	(See Appendix B-11)		
	Total requested/estimated budget	**$5,046,273**	**100.00%**
10	**Estimated agency or partner contribution**	$0	
	Total Estimated project value	$5,046,273	

Performance Measures:

- SNPLMA Strategic Goal 1: Sustain the quality of the outdoor environment by conserving, preserving, and restoring natural and cultural resources.
  - Objective: Restore and protect healthy and resilient landscapes that connect important habitats and protect the integrity of the human and biological communities.
    - Outcome: Increase or improve the resource base, with a focus on landscape-level habitat restoration. Treatments to be completed in this project will dispose of activity fuels generated from activities that decreased stand density levels by thinning stands of trees to appropriate stocking levels resulting in improved tree vigor and forest structure and improved resiliency to landscape level disturbances such as fire, insect outbreaks and climate change.
    - Output: Remove activity fuels on approximately 3,237 acres.
    - Performance Measure (F2) – Acres of Hazardous Fuels Treated – Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)

  - Objective: Incorporate durability, relevancy, and shared support to ensure benefits in the near and long term.
    - Outcome: Focus on meadow restoration projects located around Lake Tahoe as part of the Fire Adapted Ecosystems project and Meeks Meadow Restoration. Treatments in these projects may include the utilization of Participation agreements with non-federal partners. A Stewardship Agreement has been put in place with the Washoe Tribe of California and Nevada to implement the Meeks Meadow Restoration project in order to build a mutually beneficial means of restoring and maintaining the meadow by means of cultural burning. Meeks Meadow also falls within the WUI defense zone for the area of Glenridge and Rubicon Estates and connects several other hazardous fuels projects that have previously been completed.
    - Output: Remove activity fuels on approximately 737 acres and restore meadows to pre-conifer encroachment conditions.
    - Performance Measure: F1 – Acres of hazardous fuels treated – Non-wildland urban interface (WUI).

  - Objective: Protect Communities – Manage resources to improve the safety of communities.
    - Outcome: Reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire by removing hazardous fuels. This project will reduce hazardous fuels by removing activity fuels generated from thinning smaller suppressed trees that contributed to ladder fuels and reduce existing surface and down fuels.
    - Output: Remove activity fuels on approximately 3,237 acres.

- Performance Measure: F2 – Acres of hazardous fuels treated – wildland urban interface (WUI). These acres will be the same acres of forest health improvement treatments identified above.

Executive Committee Strategic Plan Values:

The project **promotes sustainability** by reintroducing fire as a tool for fuels reduction and creating healthy forest ecosystems on the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit. Once the remaining piles are burned there will be a better opportunity to begin larger scale understory burns to further maintain and improve healthy forest stands which will be more resilient to natural disturbances such as fire and insect outbreaks (See figures 13 and 14).

The project **promotes connectivity** by developing a workforce with cooperating partners and the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California. This project will also allow the opportunity for public education and outreach to visitors and users of Lake Tahoe to see the effects of hazardous fuels reduction. This will allow the local population as well as forest visitors and users to have an increased connection to land and natural resources that surround Lake Tahoe. This project will also connect current fuels treatment areas to existing completed units in both Eldorado and Placer Counties in California such as completed burn units surrounding Meeks Meadow (See figure 10).

The project **promotes community** by entering into Participating and Stewardship Agreements with non-federal partners and the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California to help improve the condition of USFS Lands surrounding the Lake Tahoe Basin. The Stewardship Agreement with the Washoe Tribe will also help increase workforce development with the tribe as well as restore natural and cultural resources around Lake Tahoe. This project will improve the unique ecosystems on NFS lands which will in turn allow forest visitors to enjoy their National Forests in both the near and long term and for future generations. The proposed projects will help promote healthy forests as well as water quality in the Lake Tahoe Basin which in turn will provide for enhanced recreational activities to improve the quality of life for the public.

Compliance with Departmental and Agency Priorities, Strategic Goals, Executive Orders, and Secretarial Orders:

<u>Compliance with Departmental/Agency Priorities and Strategic Goals</u>

The project supports Department of the Interior (DOI) Priority 6 (Protect our people and the border). Specifically, the Project advances Goal 3 of Mission Area 5 in the DOI Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2018-2022 (Strategic Plan).

- Mission Area 5, Goal 3 is to manage wildland fire to reduce risk and improve ecosystem and community resilience. The treatments proposed under this Project advance Goal 3 and will directly improve ecosystem and community resilience by reducing the risk of damaging wildfire through strategic hazardous fuel reduction treatments. Fuels reduction projects within the Lake Tahoe Basin, including this project, are being implemented consistent with the 2014 Lake Tahoe Basin Multi-Jurisdictional Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Strategy, which includes federal, state, local, and tribal partners.

The Project supports Forest Service Priorities 3 (Promoting shared stewardship by increasing partnerships and volunteerism) and 4 (Improving the condition of forests and grasslands).

- The Chief of the Forest Service's 2018 Leadership Intentions for the Five National Priorities (Leadership Intentions) clarifies the five priorities and sets expectations for the agency and its partners. Priority 3 focuses on the intent to leverage partnerships to increase collective capacity and make a difference on the whole landscape. The work of partners in the Lake Tahoe Basin to implement the 2014 Lake Tahoe Basin Multi-Jurisdictional Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Strategy exemplifies the power of shared stewardship to meet collective goals. The activities proposed under this project will advance Priority 3 through ongoing partnerships utilizing Good Neighbor Authority Agreements, Stewardship Agreements, and Partnership Agreements with nonprofit organizations, local government, and state agencies within the Tahoe Basin.

- Forest Service Priority 4 describes the need to work at larger scales improve the condition of forests. A large portion of America's forests are at risk from insects, diseases, and wildfire. These threats transcend property boundaries, and work must be completed across landscapes to protect federal, state, private, and tribal lands, and the valuable resources they provide. The treatments proposed under this project advance Priority 4 through implementation of thinning, biomass removal, and fuels reduction actions that improve the health of the National Forest and increase its resiliency to wildfire, insect and disease, and other natural disturbances. The treatments proposed under this project provide connectivity to past treatments on federal and nonfederal lands that increase the resiliency across the Tahoe Basin landscape.

<u>Consistency with Executive Orders and Secretarial Orders</u>

This project is consistent with Executive Order No. 13855 Promoting Active Management of America's Forests and Rangelands to Improve Conditions and Reduce Wildfire Risk (Executive Order). The Executive Order prescribes three policies to be implemented by the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture, and each align with the activities proposed in the Project.

First, the Executive Order requires DOI and the Forest Service to adopt shared management priorities in partnership with federal land managers, states, tribes, and other landowners. This project implements the 2014 Lake Tahoe Basin Multi-Jurisdictional Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Strategy, which was developed by federal, state, and local government fire agencies and landowners. It shares the same three goals as the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy, which are to restore fire resilient landscapes, create fire adapted communities, and enable safe and effective wildfire response.

Second, the Executive Order requires DOI and the Forest Service to coordinate federal, state, tribal, and local assets for wildfire prevention, suppression, and reducing hazardous fuels. By closely coordinating projects, the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit is closely coordinating

with Tahoe Basin land managers and fire agencies to coordinate the deployment of assets and skills to protect communities and natural resources.

Third, the Executive Order requires DOI and the Forest Service to remove hazardous fuels, increase active management, and support rural economies. The project implements prioritized treatments that protect life and property and support the rural economy of the Basin by providing jobs and utilizing forest restoration byproducts.

Ranking Criteria:

1. Improves the community within and/or adjacent to the project area.

A. Addresses immediate public health and safety and community infrastructure

This project is a standalone project that continues the progress of fuels reduction and forest health improvement within the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) being conducted under the Urban Forest Restoration and Fuels Reduction Projects. The acres proposed for treatment under this proposal are located in both the WUI defense and threat zones that surround the South Lake Tahoe, Tahoe City, Meyers, north shore, west shore, and south shore of Lake Tahoe located in California. These communities have been listed in the Federal Register as "Communities within the vicinity of Federal Lands that are at risk from wildfire."

The proposed project addresses public health and safety through the removal of activity fuels that have been and will be generated by implementation of hazardous fuels reduction treatments that have been shown to be effective in reducing the intensity and rate of spread of wildfires (Effects of Fuels Treatment on Wildfire Severity, Omi et al 2002). Existing forest vegetation and heavy fuel loads in many areas of Lake Tahoe pose a heightened risk for high severity wildfire and the loss of lives and property (Lake Tahoe Watershed Assessment, 2000). As identified in the Urban Forest Restoration and Fuels Reduction Projects analysis' large quantities and high continuity of surface fuels, closely spaced vertical fuels, and low crown base heights, represented as condition class 3, raises the potential for fire to spread rapidly within the wildland urban intermix, communities, infrastructure, and other natural resources.

B. Promotes protection of source water (rivers and lakes) or municipal watersheds.

This project continues fuels reduction and forest health treatments in areas of the WUI that pose the greatest risk for wildfire. Seven major watersheds, Watson Creek, Meeks Creek, Cold Creek, Blackwood Creek, Saxon Creek, Trout Creek, and Upper Truckee River located within the project area and drain into Lake Tahoe. These watersheds support extremely high resource values, including forest and plant communities that protect source headwaters in California.

These watersheds are currently in a degraded condition. A wildfire of any size in this area may potentially lead to excessive sediment and nutrient loading (Figure 15, Potential post-wildfire erosion) and an increase in water temperature for streams and the lake. As a consequence, water supply systems and source water for recreation, fishing, and municipal water supply would be impaired. The hazardous fuels and vegetation treatments identified from the project would reduce this risk of a severe wildfire, therefore protecting water supply systems and source water.

C. Project includes education and outreach to the community on Living with Fire or Fire Adapted Communities and/or the importance of fuels reduction on federal, state, and local government land.

This project includes community outreach and education with programs targeting K-12 grade students. Programs are designed to inform students on the importance of conducting fuels reduction and forest health treatments in and adjacent to the community. Programs include education on forest health, the role fire plays in maintaining ecosystem function and how to maintain a fire safe landscape around homes (defensible space) in accordance with Living with Fire and Fire Adapted Communities.

2. Improves the connection of fuels reduction activities and wildlife habitat.

A. Project connects previously treated areas to create or increase contiguous blocks of treated land.

This project continues fuels reduction and forest health treatments planned for under the Urban Forest Restoration and Fuels Reduction Projects as well as the Meeks Meadow Restoration and Fire Adapted Ecosystems projects. Treatments will accomplish approximately 2,500 acres of WUI needing to complete fuels reduction treatments under this project. This would complete treatments that would continue to connect these treatments across the landscape, increasing the overall effectiveness of the fuels reduction and forest health efforts of this project that surround the communities of South Lake Tahoe, Tahoe City, Tahoma, Fallen Leaf, Meyers, and Carnelian Bay.

B. Project protects or enhances wildlife habitat and/or resilient vegetative communities.

The project promotes a healthy and sustainable landscape that increases the forest's resistance and resilience to disturbances such as wildfire, insect outbreaks, and diseases through landscape level application of prescribed fire. This phase of the project will treat approximately 3,237 acres of activity fuels generated by the thinning of dense conifer stands as well as restoring several unique meadows (Fire Adapted Ecosystems projects) to their former state prior to conifer encroachment.

A benefit to the area after project completion would be the ability for fire and fuel managers to use prescribed fire understory burns as a preferred method to restore low intensity surface fire back to the landscape and enhance the ecological benefits that are dependent and adapted to frequent low intensity fire, Figure 12, Low intensity understory burn. Once prescribed understory burns take place it may not be necessary to conduct future large-scale forest thinning when prescribed burning would safely and effectively meet fuel and vegetation objectives in the WUI.

C. Project enhances the effectiveness of other treatments in progress or complete.

This project continues to implement fuels reduction and forest health treatments under the Urban Forest Restoration and Fuels Reduction Projects. This treatment provides direct connectivity to the treatments from the previous phases. In addition, the treatments being implemented under this project also connect directly to completed and ongoing fuels

treatments occurring within the communities South Lake Tahoe, Tahoe City, Meyers, North, West, and South shores of Lake Tahoe on both federal and non-federal lands. The cumulative effects of these efforts is a comprehensive and connected network of treatments across multiple land ownerships in the Defense Zone (community extending into the wildland) and the Threat Zone.

3. Improves sustainability of the multijurisdictional 10-year plans, environment, and financial resources.

A. The Project will:

1. Improve the sustainability of the forest health and ecosystem function (e.g. stand density, desired species mix and age, tree health, etc.)

The objective of this project is not only to reduce hazardous fuels, but to increase forest health and resiliency to disturbance within treated areas. Prescribed fire treatments will focus in areas that have thinned overstory trees, removed shade-tolerant understory trees and reduced other shrubby vegetation to appropriate stocking levels as well as restoring meadows to pre-fire suppression states. Stands that were overstocked have been thinned to levels that would improve tree vigor, thus reducing the widespread threat of bark beetle outbreaks, dwarf mistletoe, root disease, and other pests and pathogens. Treatments implemented under this project will improve the vegetation condition of forest stands and meadows through the creation of a forest stand structure that promotes species richness, pattern and abundance and that has a high resilience to fire. See Figures 6-9, Treatment Area, Before and After for both forest stands and meadows.

2. Improve the habitat for sensitive species and Threatened and Endangered species. Includes mitigation and/or minimization measures when treatment in sensitive habitat is unavoidable.

Included in the Urban Forest Restoration and Fuels Reduction Projects environmental planning process is the objective to protect or improve habitat for Forest Service Management Indicator Species (MIS) as well as threatened, endangered, or sensitive species. Stands have been identified for reducing high fuel loads within California spotted owl and Northern goshawk Protected Activity Centers (PACs) - areas identified for nesting and foraging habitat. Using an active management approach for treating these PACs, small trees (less than 14” diameter at breast height) have been hand thinned and surface fuel loads treated to a level that would reduce predicted fire behavior so that treated stands would continue to provide optimal nesting and foraging habitat and likely survive a wildfire. In this manner, the risk of a wildfire destroying the nest or habitat surrounding the nest is minimized.

3. Includes broadcast prescribed fire for resource management objectives for sustainable landscapes.

This project does not include broadcast prescribed fire as a deliverable; however the overarching project does include the use of broadcast prescribed fire as a possible tool for achieving fuels reduction objectives. In addition, a long term goal for the entire project area is to allow for the use of broadcast burning for the purpose of sustaining landscape

level resiliency to a host of possible disturbance mechanisms such as fire, insects and climate change.

B. *The method of treatment is fiscally responsible for the project area by balancing resource objectives, values at risk, and cost per acre factors or cost-benefit analysis.*
The Prescribed Fire Implementation Project will consider cost savings approaches to accomplish the planned treatments, including the use of local agreements to increase prescribed fire capability.

As evidenced by treatments completed within and around the community impacted by the Angora Fire (http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/angorafuelsassessment/, 2007), implementing hazardous fuels and vegetation treatments strategically in portions of the forest and the WUI helps ensure that damage to north, south, and west shore Lake Tahoe values (homes and businesses) are avoided or minimized. This was also further demonstrated by the fire effects seen on the Emerald Fire which occurred in the vicinity of several fuels reduction units. Fire behavior and severity was significantly reduced in areas that had been treated versus untreated areas. As of September 2020, the median sales price of homes on the west shore of Lake Tahoe area was estimated at $1,600,000 with a density of 1,392 homes per square mile. The costs associated with implementing fuel reduction treatments for this project is small when compared to this one estimated value at risk. The proposed project would help to protect and promote water quality, wildlife habitat, heritage and cultural resources, local tourism, the economy, and private property/capital improvements around residential areas and the urban interface.

The cost associated with implementing prescribed treatment to remove forest vegetation and hazardous fuels reduction is difficult to quantify when compared to the costs of not having a living forest present after a wildfire, increased sedimentation in lakes and streams, and a loss of fish and wildlife habitat or water supply for drinking and recreation. The north and east shore area of Lake Tahoe has a large amount of historical properties and Native American cultural sites. Once consumed by wildfire these properties and sites are generally irreplaceable. The economy in the Lake Tahoe Basin is also dependent on tourism, scenic attractiveness and outdoor recreational activities in the forest both in the summer and the winter. There are several species of wildlife that are at risk for loss of habitat from an unplanned wildfire. These species include but are not limited to California spotted owl, northern goshawk, osprey, bald eagle, and willow flycatcher. The Angora Fire, for example, destroyed or displaced three Northern Goshawk, and one California spotted owl, Protected Activity Centers. The communities in the Lake Tahoe area are located in the WUI. These communities are at risk of a wildfire and the risk to the communities is reduced significantly when hazardous fuels and vegetation treatments take place.

4. Demonstrates sound project management and quality control measures.

A. *Project goals and implementation processes are clear, measurable, achievable, and demonstrable.*
The proposed project is focused on implementing and completing the Urban Forest Restoration and Fuels Reduction Projects, which was conducted under the Healthy Forest Restoration Act to direct hazardous fuels reduction and forest health treatments on

approximately 2,500 acres. Along with this, the Lake Tahoe Basin is focused on treating approximately 737 acres of meadows that fall under Fire Adapted Ecosystems or the Meeks Meadow Restoration projects. The Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit has been actively conducting hazardous fuels reduction and forest health treatments since the late 1990's. Past hazardous fuel reduction and forest health contracts have been successfully completed on more than 29,000 acres from 2005 through 2012. Based on this past performance, implementation of this project would be achievable and demonstrable.

B. *Project proponent has the capacity to implement this project in a timely manner (contractor and staff availability, no backlog of current project, etc.) and within budget.*
The Forest Service has demonstrated the capability to implement and complete previous hazardous fuels reduction projects on time and within budget. The LTBMU has completed 23 SNPLMA projects and is in the process of completing an additional 3 projects.

The Forest Service has demonstrated over the past 15 years (2005-2020) its capacity to successfully implement SNPLMA projects and has maintained staffing, improved contracting processes, and entered into participating agreements with the Tahoe Douglas, Lake Valley and North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection Districts, the Nevada Conservation Corps – Great Basin Institute, and the Denver, Colorado-based Veteran Green Jobs - Veterans Green Corps Program partnered w5,046,ith the California Conservation Corps all in an effort to continue to successfully implement projects in a timely and cost effective manner.

At the current time, the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit is pursuing entering into Participating Agreements with other non-federal partners to further expand the ability to conduct prescribed burning and Hazardous Fuels management on a large scale on NFS lands.

C. *Is a phase or related component to a previously funded project.*
The project a related component is for the Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Forest Health Restoration of the overall Urban Forest Restoration and Fuels Reduction. The planning effort for this project was funded through SNPLMA Hazardous Fuels Round 9, 10, 11 and 12.

D. *Has identified committed non-SNPLMA sources of funding or in-kind contribution in the development and/or implementation of the project.*
The LTBMU will use non-SNPLMA funds for a variety of project administrative and support functions including: reporting and corporate data management protocols, vehicle fixed operating costs and any prescribed fire secondary treatments conducted as a result of this project.

This project implements completing hazardous fuels reduction treatments adjacent to areas that have been treated or are proposed for treatment on private, city, county, and state lands within both Eldorado and Placer Counties, in California. Implementation of portions of this project may be accomplished through partnership agreements between the Forest Service and non-federal partners. Forest health and hazardous fuels reduction treatments will be accomplished across ownership boundaries so that a seamless desired condition will be achieved. Projects implemented on non-federal ownership are expected to be funded through separate SNPLMA and other grant proposals.

Project Location:

Eldorado County Pile Units: 39.22809º/-120.10636º
Placer County Pile Units: 38.89817º/-120.04402º
Meeks Meadow Restoration: 39.03358º/-120.13708º
Fire Adapted Ecosystems: 38.79705º/-120.02620º

Eldorado County Pile Units:

Unit Name:	Acres:	# of Piles:
Angora/Fallen Leaf Units	474	9480
Fountain Units	237	4740
Heavenly/Pioneer Urban Lots	76	1520
Monitor Units	496	9920
Pawnee Unit	9	180
Pumphouse Unit	0.5	10
Rubicon Urban Lots	6.2	124
SS336	19	380
Toads Units	11	220
Twin Peaks Units	254	5080
Upper Truckee Units	46	920
Totals:	**1628.7**	**32574**

Placer County Pile Units:

Unit Name:	Acres:	# of Piles:
Brockway Units	156	3120
Griff Units	197	3940
Kings Beach Urban Lots	30	600
Sherlock Units	437	8740
Totals:	**820**	**16400**

Fire Adapted Ecosystems Rx:

Unit Name:	Acres:	# of Piles:
Benwood Meadow	191	3820
Star Meadow	56	1120
Big Meadow	190	3800
Totals:	**437**	**8740**

Meeks Meadow-Mayala Wata Restoration:

Unit Name:	Acres:
Meeks Meadow	300
Total:	**300**

Maps:

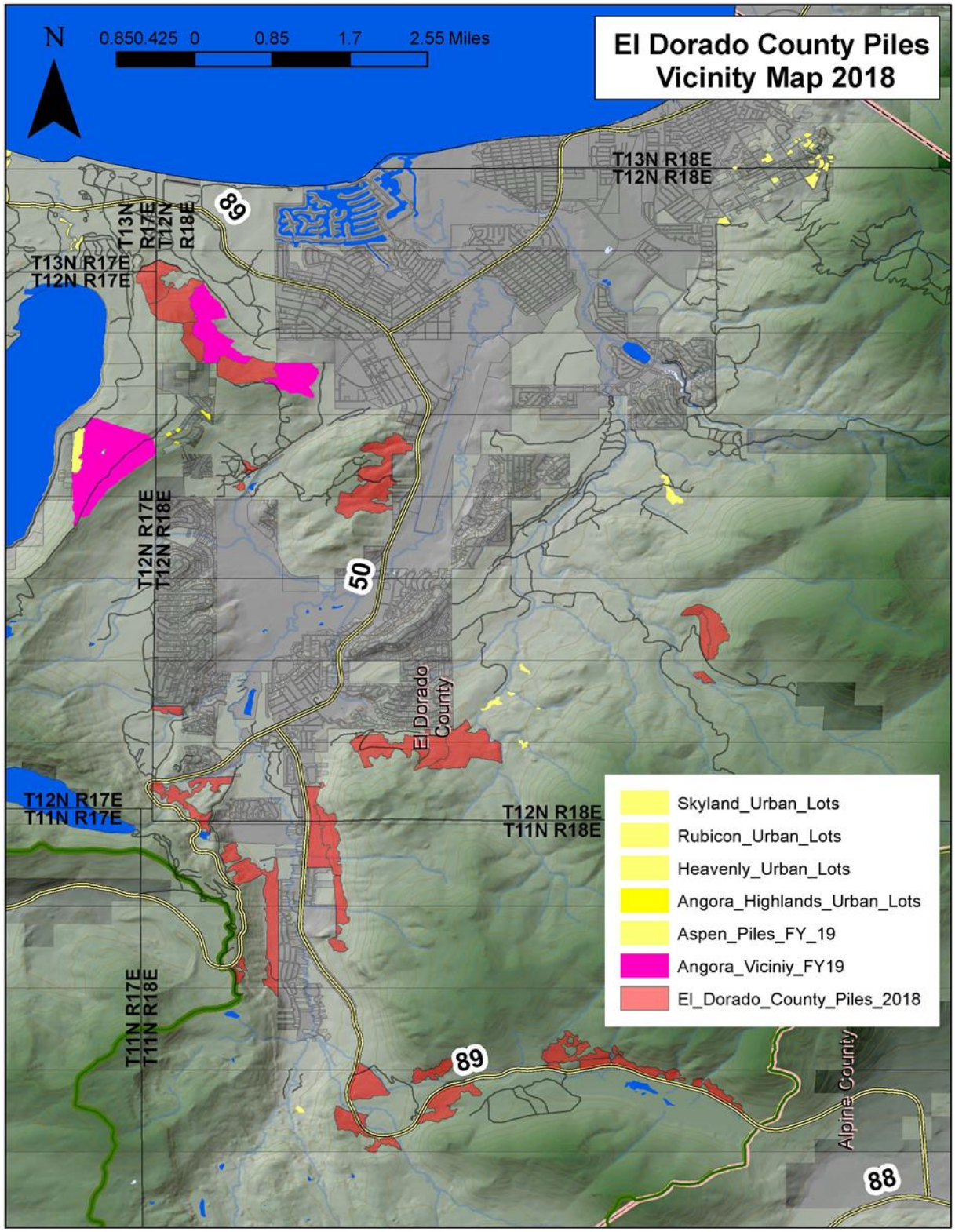


Figure 1: Eldorado County pile units.

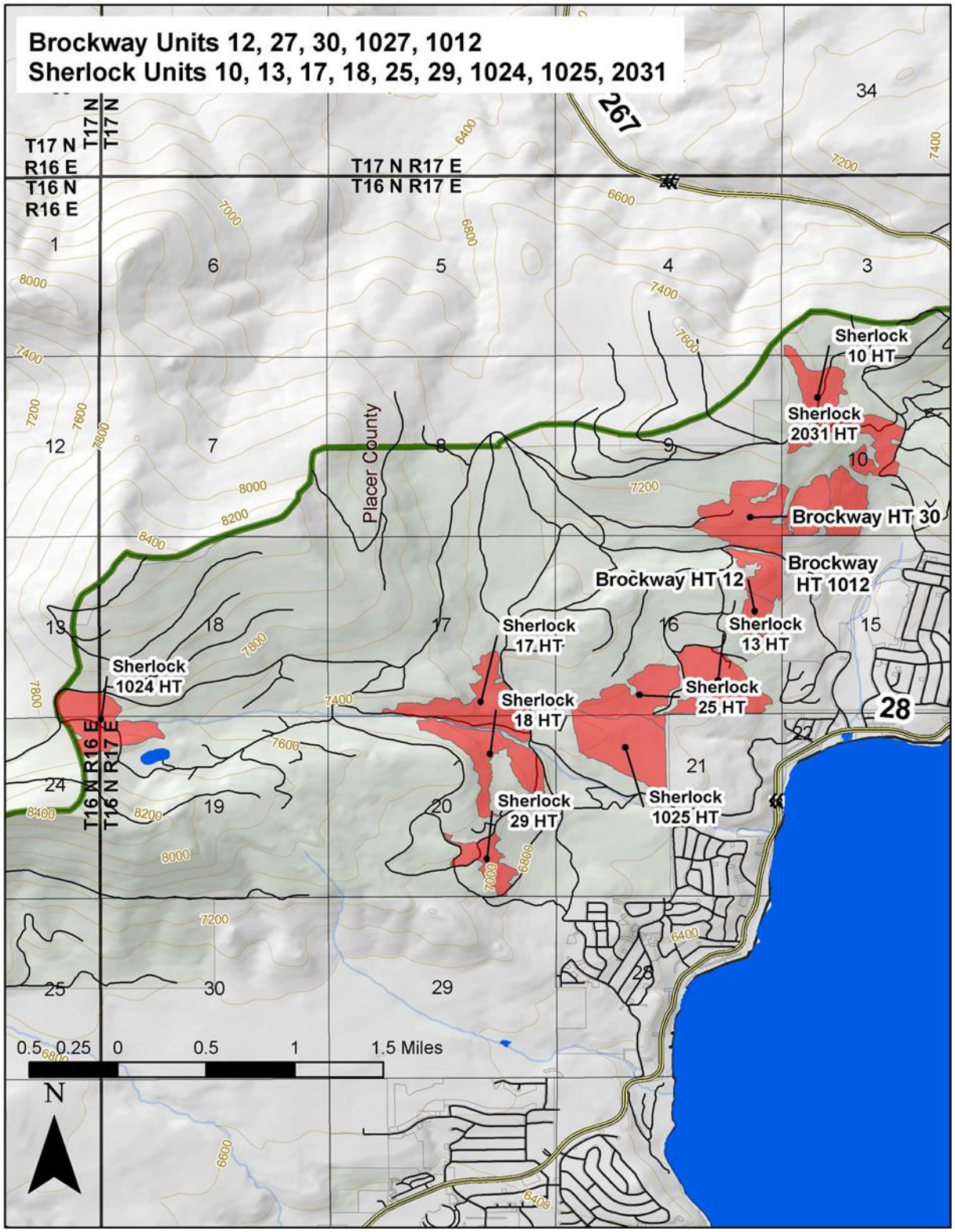


Figure 2: Placer County pile units.

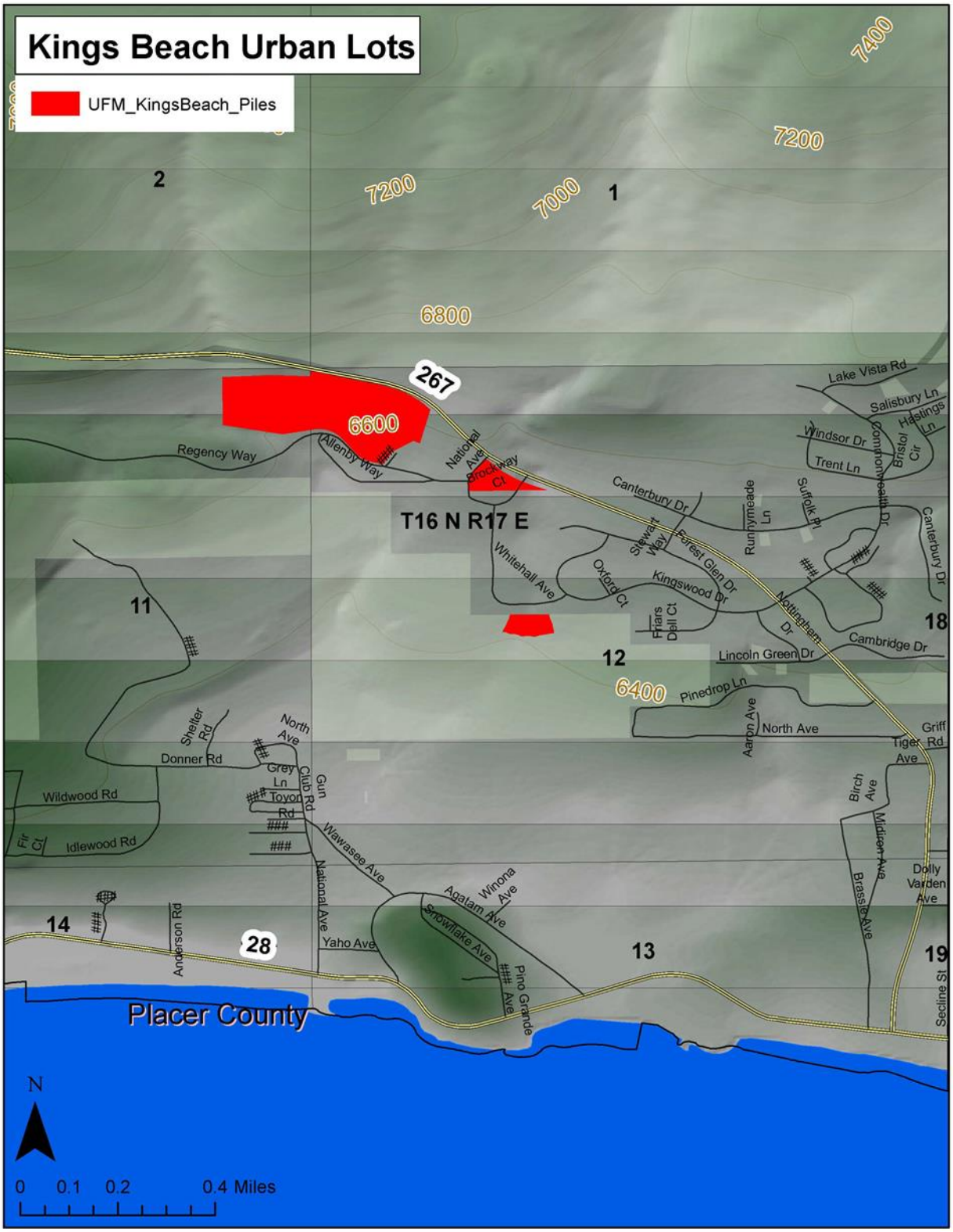


Figure 3: Placer County urban lots

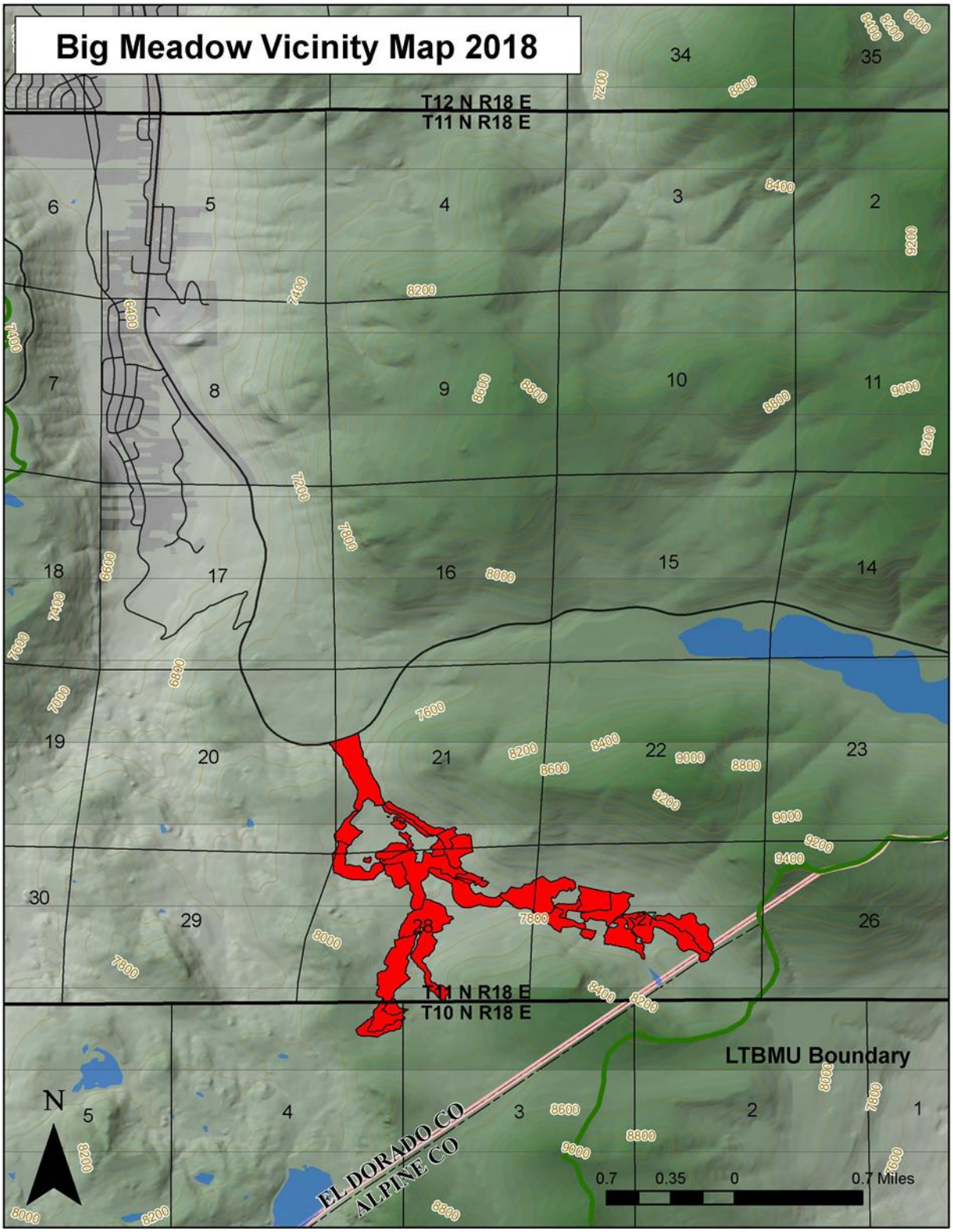


Figure 4: Big Meadow (Fire Adapted Ecosystem) burn units.

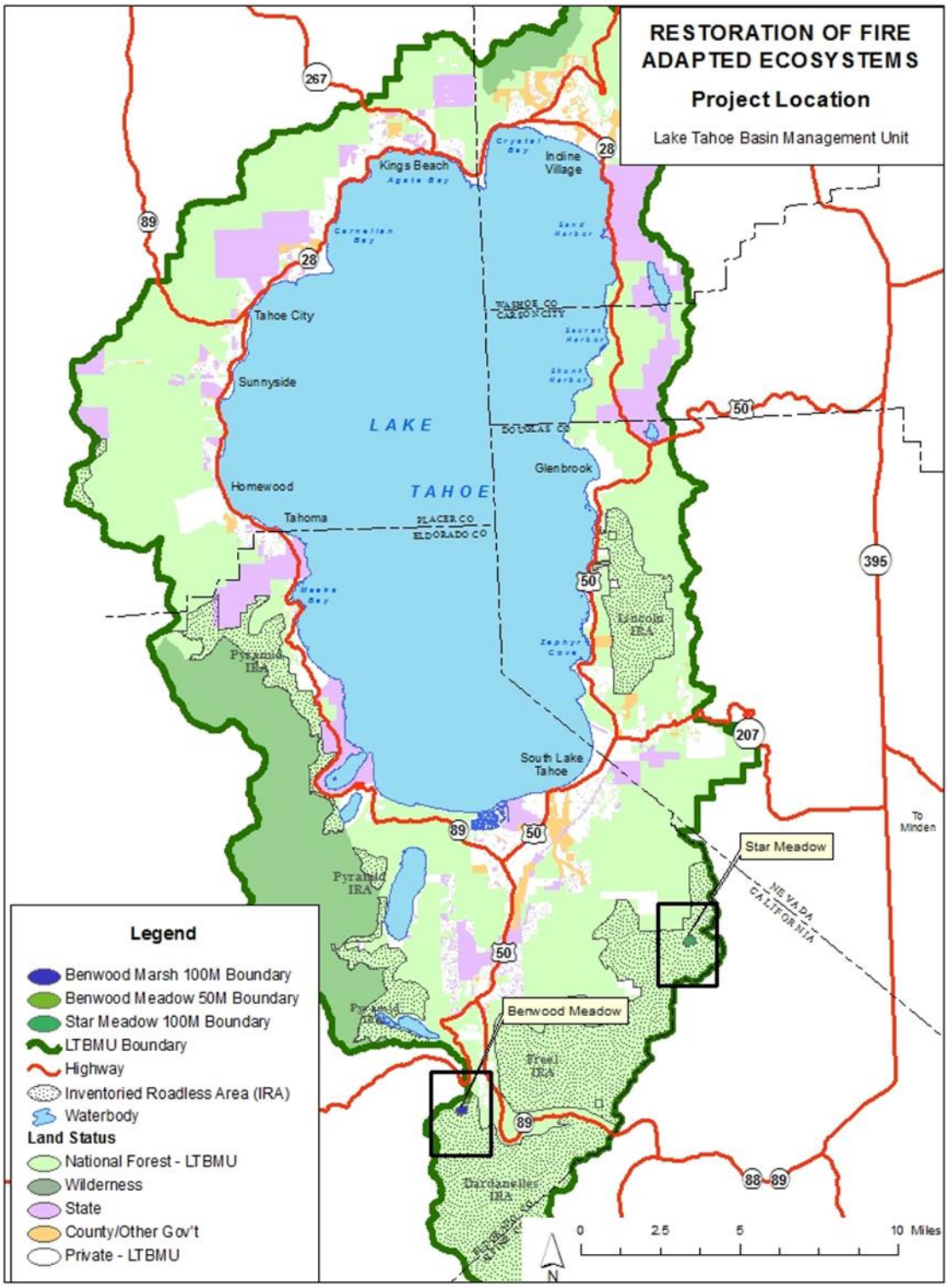


Figure 5: Benwood and Star Meadow (Fire Adapted Ecosystem) burn units.

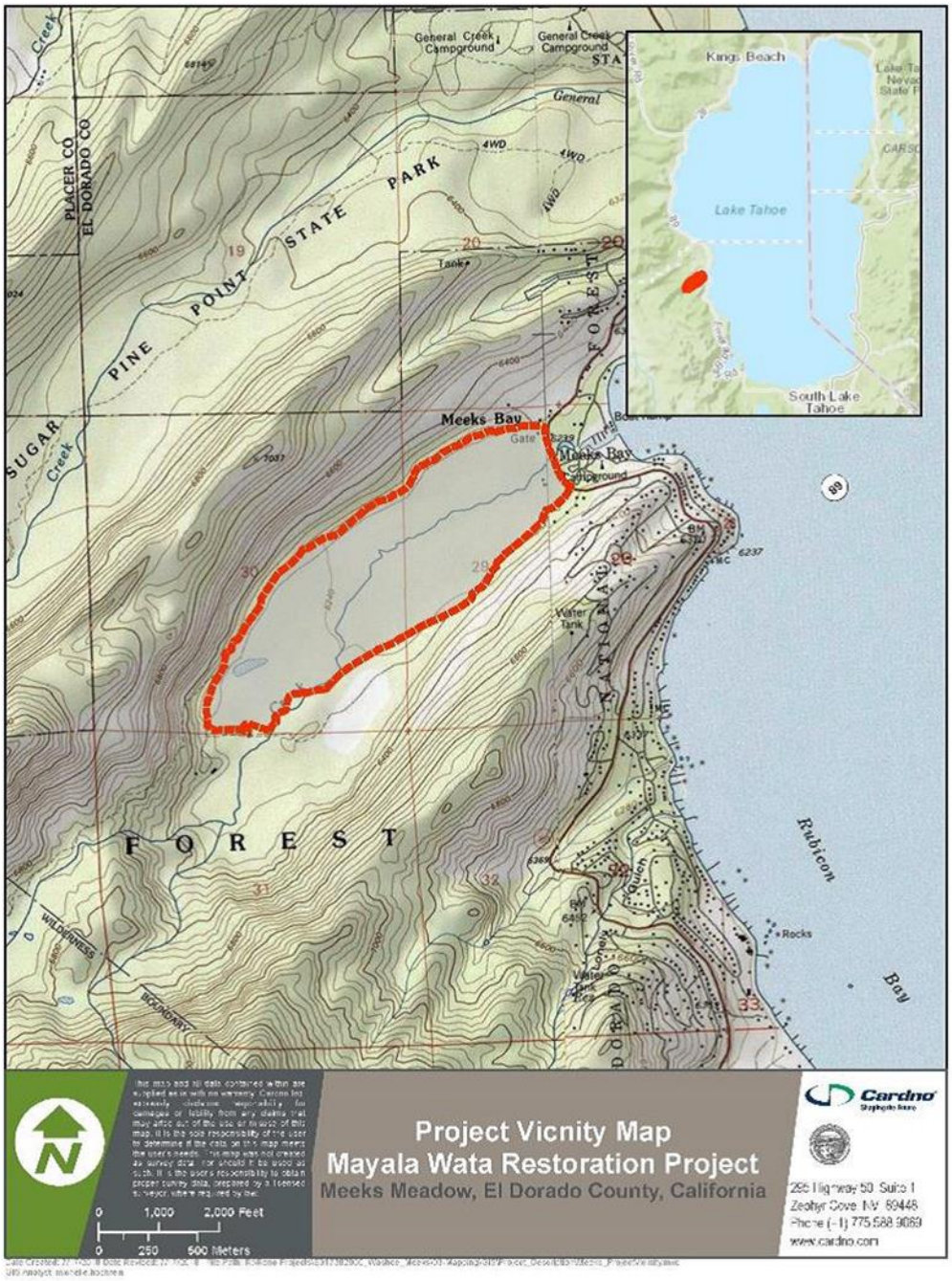


Figure 6: Meeks Meadow Restoration project area.

Photos:

Figure 7. Baldwin Meadow prior to prescribed fire application.

Figure 8. Baldwin Meadow post-prescribed burn and the creation of wildlife trees.

Figure 9. Baldwin Meadow 2 years post-burn. Notice wildlife trees created in the meadow.

Figure 10. Fuels treatment area prior to burning on the West shore.

Figure 11. Same fuels treatment area, post pile-burn.

Figure 12. Low intensity understory burn on forested stands surrounding Meeks Meadow.

Letters of Support:

September 10, 2020

Robert Taylor
Program Manager, SNPLMA Division
Bureau of Land Management
4702 North Torrey Pines Drive
Las Vegas, Nevada 89130

Re: SNPLMA Round 18 Nominations for Hazardous Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention in the Lake Tahoe Basin

Dear Mr. Taylor and other Nomination Reviewers:

Thank you for your consideration of the Lake Tahoe Basin's Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) Round 18 project nominations. The local government, state, and federal implementing agencies have partnered in a coordinated approach to comprehensively and cost-effectively implement the Lake Tahoe Basin Multi-Jurisdictional Strategy for Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention (Strategy).

The Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team (TFFT) formed in 2008 to implement the Strategy, with the twin aims of reducing fuels in the wildland-urban interface (WUI) and preparing communities for wildfire. The 21 partner agencies of the TFFT work within the Lake Tahoe Basin (Basin) to plan, prioritize, and implement fuel reduction and fire prevention projects that protect life, property, and the environment. The TFFT recently collaborated to identify critical need projects and develop ten SNPLMA Round 18 nominations that advance the goals of the Strategy.

Communities across the western United States are currently witnessing the catastrophe of yet another record-breaking wildfire season. A destructive wildfire in the Basin of similar scale to those burning right now elsewhere in the Sierra Nevada would have devastating impacts on our forests, communities, and businesses. Such a fire would also cause severe economic impacts in both California and Nevada.

The Basin's fire agencies are tested every fire season by dozens of wildfire ignitions, which each have the potential to become the Basin's next destructive wildfire. To improve our odds, we work at every level – from helping residents prepare themselves, their families, and their homes

Protecting lives, property, and the environment of the Lake Tahoe Basin from wildfire by implementing prioritized fuel reduction projects and engaging the public in becoming a fire adapted community.

for wildfire, to working within neighborhoods to create defensible space that extends across property lines, to reducing fuels and restoring forests in the WUI and beyond.

This holistic approach of working at every level is ratified in the Strategy, with its three goals of creating fire adapted communities, restoring fire-resilient landscapes, and supporting safe and effective wildfire response. These goals are mirrored by the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy. The goals are manifested in the over 60,000 acres treated in the Basin's WUI by TFFT partners over the last decade, and the thousands of homes inspected for defensible space and brought into compliance.

There are ten Hazardous Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention nominations for SNPLMA Round 18, each implementing a critical component of the Strategy. The nominations are:

1) **Lake Tahoe Basin Fire Adapted Communities**
   Agency: Tahoe Resource Conservation District
   Funding Requested: $8,705,000
2) **Defense Zone Improvement**
   Agency: North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District
   Funding Requested: $1,222,000
3) **Highway 50 Hazardous Fuel Reduction and Restoration**
   Agency: Tahoe-Douglas Fire Protection District
   Funding Requested: $400,000
4) **South Lake Tahoe Fire Rescue Wildland-Urban Interface Hazardous Fuel Reduction**
   Agency: South Lake Tahoe Fire Rescue
   Funding Requested: $852,000
5) **North Tahoe Fire Protection District Wildland-Urban Interface Hazardous Fuel Reduction**
   Agency: North Tahoe Fire Protection District
   Funding Requested: $2,500,000
6) **California Community Forestry**
   Agency: California Tahoe Conservancy
   Funding Requested: $4,159,180
7) **California Tahoe Conservancy Wildland-Urban Interface Hazardous Fuel Reduction**
   Agency: California Tahoe Conservancy
   Funding Requested: $5,994,000
8) **National Forest Priority Wildland-Urban Interface Fuel Reduction**
   Agency: Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit
   Funding Requested: $10,490,000
9) **Utility Corridors Resilience**
   Agency: Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit
   Funding Requested: $8,655,000

Protecting lives, property, and the environment of the Lake Tahoe Basin from wildfire by implementing prioritized fuel reduction projects and engaging the public in becoming a fire adapted community.

10) **Prescribed Fire Implementation**

Agency: Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit

Funding Requested: $5,046,000

Nomination 1 will deliver extensive community engagement and defensible space treatments through the Tahoe Network of Fire Adapted Communities (Tahoe Network). The Tahoe Network is a multi-agency and community collaboration that helps residents take individual action to collectively reduce their neighborhood's risk of wildfire. The preparedness of residents and the defensible space around homes are at the core of the Strategy' approach to preventing catastrophic wildfire.

The defensible space treatments completed through Nomination 1 directly connect to the treatments included in Nominations 2 through 6. These nominations propose treatments on the thousands of small open-space and undeveloped lots surrounding homes that are interspersed throughout neighborhoods, as well as on private and local-government lands near communities. Nominations 7 and 8 connect to neighborhood treatments and involve large-scale wildland-urban interface treatments on state and federal lands. The treatments substantially advance the TFFT's target of completing initial wildland-urban interface treatments identified in the Strategy by 2024.

Nomination 9 reduces wildfire risk and creates healthy forests surrounding powerlines, a significant potential source of wildfire ignitions. The treatments will help protect critical community infrastructure as well as reduce the risk of spread for ignitions originating from powerlines.

Finally, Nomination 10 proposes to strategically use prescribed fire as a tool for both fuel reduction and landscape restoration. In addition to implementing valuable treatments, the project helps to build Basinwide capacity to use prescribed fire across multiple jurisdictions.

The TFFT expresses its strong support for the full suite of projects listed above. The SNPLMA program has been transformative for the Basin by enabling a multitude of fuel reduction and wildfire reduction projects. These projects have helped improve our odds of withstanding wildfire and are an important reason for our success to date. Again, thank you for your consideration of the Basin's SNPLMA Round 18 nominations.

Sincerely,

Scott Baker
Chair, TFFT Multi-Agency Coordinating Group
Fire Chief, Tahoe-Douglas Fire Protection District

Protecting lives, property, and the environment of the Lake Tahoe Basin from wildfire by implementing prioritized fuel reduction projects and engaging the public in becoming a fire adapted community.

SNPLMA Round 18
Fuels– U.S. Forest Service Addendum

Nomination: Tab 16

Entity: USFS, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit

Project: Utility Corridors Resilience -Zone 2 and Zone 3

Revision: The Subgroup's recommendation was to fund only $6,000,000 of the requested budget of $7,575,350; this recommendation would only cover the expenditures of Zone 2. Further recommendation was to fully fund this nomination, if the PWG/EC increases Fuels funding which would allow treatment not only for Zone 2 but also portions of Zone 3.

Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act
Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention
Round 18

US Forest Service
Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit

Utility Corridors Resilience – Zone 2 and Zone 3

Amount Requested: $7,575,350

Timeframe: 6 Years
Location: 39.20058889 / -120.12027778
Congressional District: CA-4

Contact: Rita Mustatia, Project Manager
Address: 35 College Drive South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150
Phone:(530) 543-2677
Fax: (530) 543-2845
Email: rita.mustatia@usda.gov

Purpose Statement:

The US Forest Service/Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU) will reduce hazardous fuels and improve forest health on approximately 2,400 acres of National Forest System (NFS) land located along powerline utility corridors identified as Zone 2 and Zone 3 in the Liberty Utilities Resilience Corridors Project, adjacent to South Lake Tahoe and West Shore communities in El Dorado County and adjacent to West Shore and North Shore communities in Placer County on the California side of the Lake Tahoe Basin.

Background info to support the need:

The Forest Service and Liberty Utilities have long partnered to manage hazard tree threats along powerlines in the Tahoe Basin. This project will build on that partnership by creating healthy forest stands with reduced fuels adjacent to critical infrastructure; reducing the threat of wildfire near powerlines and increasing landscape resilience. There is a present need to reduce the risk of wildland fires that ignite from vegetation contacting utility infrastructure or failures in the infrastructure. Recent destructive fires within California have demonstrated the need to also improve forest health and resilience by reducing fuels and stand density within the forests surrounding the powerline corridors.

The treatments implemented under this project will remove vegetation that has the potential to grow or fall into contact with the utility infrastructure. Forest stands will be thinned and fuels reduced to create openings to restore forest structure, reduce fire risk from powerline contact, and sustain important habitats from wildfire and other disturbances. The treatments will connect to previously treated areas creating resilient conditions across the landscape. Additionally, while protecting critical habitat, these treatments reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire to north, south, and west shore Lake Tahoe communities and protect highly valued recreational landscapes.

This project is Phase 1 of a multi-phased project and will consist of forest thinning and fuels reduction treatments. The next phases of the project will incorporate powerline utility corridors on the Nevada side of the Lake Tahoe Basin. The project emphasis is on reducing fuels and creating healthy forests adjacent to powerline utility corridors to improve the resiliency of adjacent forest to wildfire, mortality from insect and disease outbreaks, and remove hazard trees adjacent to powerlines. This project will implement the treatments that are identified in the 2014 Lake Tahoe Basin Multi-Jurisdictional Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Strategy.

Relationship to prior approved phases or related SNPLMA projects and anticipated future phases:

This is Phase 1 of a multi-phased project. Treatments closest to the utility corridors will be prioritized first (Zone 1 is the responsibility of the utility company and Zone 2 the FS is responsible for 80% of the treatment areas). See Figure 4. Most of the Zone 3 treatment areas will be treated in a future phase. Additionally, the LTBMU is currently working to complete project planning and NEPA for utility corridors located on the Nevada side of the Lake Tahoe Basin, which will be included in a future phase once planning is complete.

Approximate Cost of Project Phases

- Phase 1 (Round 18 Nomination): $ 8,655,350
- Phase 2: $ 10,800,000 (3,000 acres)
- Phase 3: $ 7,500,000 (3,000 acres)
- Phase 4: $ 3,925,000 (1,570 acres)

Deliverables:

The following **Primary Deliverables** establish the minimum actions that when completed will achieve the purpose of the project, as stated above:

- Reduce hazardous fuels and improve forest health conditions on 2,400 acres of NFS lands in Zone 2 and Zone 3 areas. The actual acreage treated may be slightly different and will be determined by the costs for conducting hand thinning, service contracts, and mechanical thinning stewardship contracts at the time of project implementation so as not to exceed the approved budget. This will include the contract rates for hand thinning and piling of slash, mechanical thinning, removal of biomass material, and mastication. The final acres may also change as a result of currently unknown circumstances that may not be discovered until implementation, such as changed information on wildlife species, newly discovered heritage resource sites, etc.

Anticipated Deliverables

The following Anticipated Deliverables are desirable and beneficial:

- Forest products including biomass and timber.

Standard Deliverables

- Project management and SNPLMA reporting.
  - Develop project work plan and budget to support project implementation.
  - Prepare, award, and administer hazardous fuels reduction hand thinning service contracts and timber stewardship sale or service contracts.
  - Prepare, award, and administer hand thin/pile hazardous fuels reduction contracts including all contract inspections, final payment, and contract close-out.
  - Prepare, award and administer mechanical fuels reduction contracts including all contract inspections, final payment and contract closeout.
- Close out all obligations associated with this project. Prepare the project closing letter and final financial record. Conduct site visit and file review with SNPLMA Division and close out the project in the SNPLMA database.

Project Timeframe:

The Liberty Utilities Resilience Corridors Project timeline is 6 years and 0 months with receipt of the financial instrument expected in December 2021 and close-out with the SNPLMA Division at the end of December 2027.

Level of Project Readiness for Implementation

The areas identified under this proposal are prioritized for treatment and consistent with the 2014 Lake Tahoe Basin Multi-Jurisdictional Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Strategy by addressing critical areas for treatment. This project is supported by The North Tahoe Fire Protection District, The North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District, The City of South Lake Tahoe and the Lake Valley Fire Protection District which have participated in pre-NEPA collaborative meetings. This project is also fully supported by the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team (TFFT) The strategy is supported for full implementation by the Multi-Agency Coordination (MAC) and (TFFT), the California and Nevada Tahoe Basin Fire Commission (Fire Commission) and their recommendations to the Governors of California and Nevada.

This project has been identified as a high priority project for the LTBMU due to dense forest stands and high fuel loads within proposed treatment areas adjacent to utility corridors. Environmental planning has been completed by the agency. The Decision Memo to implement the Liberty Utilities Resilience Corridors Project was signed in October 2019.

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Year	Task	Est. Acres	Notes
Year 1	Award Mechanical Stewardship Contracts	300	**Prep completed in previous year with non-SNPLMA funds.**
Year 1	Award Hand Thin Contracts	300	**Prep completed in previous year with non-SNPLMA funds.**
Year 1	Prep Mechanical Stewardship Contracts	300	
Year 1	Prep Hand Thin Contracts	300	
Year 1	Contract Admin & Project Management	----------	
Year 1		**600** **600**	**Contract Award** **Project Layout**
Year 2	Award Mechanical Stewardship Contracts	300	
Year 2	Award Hand Thin Contracts	300	
Year 2	Prep Mechanical Stewardship Contracts	300	
Year 2	Prep Hand Thin Contracts	300	
Year 2	Contract Admin & Project Management	----------	
Year 2		**600** **600**	**Contract Award** **Project Layout**
Year 3	Award Mechanical Stewardship Contracts	300	
Year 3	Award Hand Thin Contracts	300	
Year 3	Prep Mechanical Stewardship Contracts	300	
Year 3	Prep Hand Thin Contracts	300	
Year 3	Contract Admin & Project Management	----------	
Year 3		**600** **600**	**Contract Award** **Project Layout**
Year 4	Award Mechanical Stewardship Contracts	300	
Year 4	Award Hand Thin Contracts	300	
Year 4	Contract Admin & Project Management	----------	
Year 4		**600**	**Contract Award**
Year 5	Contract Admin & Project Management	----------	
Year 6	Contract Admin & Project Management and Close Out	----------	
	FINAL PROJECT TOTALS	**2400** **1800**	**Contract Award** **Project Layout**

The completion of this project will be determined by the number of acres of completed forest health/hazardous fuels reduction treatments, identified to be 2,400 acres. Treatments will be accomplished through the use of hand thinning and piling, mechanical thinning, and biomass removal on both upland and riparian areas. See Figures 5 through 8, treatment areas, pre-treatment and post-treatment.

Future Operations and Maintenance:

None.

Partnerships and/or contributed:

The LTBMU has secured funding to implement approximately 230 acres of the Liberty Utilities Resilience Corridors Project through Forest Service appropriations and matching funds secured by the National Forest Foundation. This project will fund an additional 2,400 untreated acres within the project area. There will be an additional 5,070 acres in the project area that remain untreated and unfunded beyond the request of this nomination. Approximately 2,500 additional acres being planned on the Nevada side of Lake Tahoe will also be unfunded. We acknowledge there is no guarantee for funding of future phases and can confirm that this will result in a viable, standalone project.

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Contribution Letter:

National Forest Foundation

Building 27, Suite 3, Fort Missoula Road
Missoula, Montana 59804
TEL 406.542.2805
nationalforests.org

9/13/2020

National Forest Foundation
Bldg 27, Ste 3, Fort Missoula Rd
Missoula, MT 59804

Robert Taylor
Program Manager
Bureau of Land Management
SNPLMA Division
4701 N. Torrey Pines Dr.
Las Vegas, NV 89130

My name is Matt Millar and I work for the National Forest Foundation (NFF) as the Program Manager for NFF's scope of work in the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit. As a contributing partner to forest health and recreation efforts in the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, NFF unequivocally supports the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit and their Utility Corridor's Resiliency Project grant application.

The NFF, chartered by Congress in 1992, works as the official non-profit partner to the United States Forest Service (USFS). The NFF supports the Forest Service by engaging Americans in community-based and national programs that promote the health and public enjoyment of the 193-million-acre National Forest system. The NFF administers a diversity of funding sources, and private gifts of funds and land for the benefit of the National Forests. The NFF employs five permanent staff members within the Tahoe area, who specifically focus on leading and managing forest health and recreation projects on US Forest Service system lands in the Tahoe area.

In the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU), The NFF strives to support and add capacity by working with local forest staff and leading implementation operations of priority projects. To do this, the NFF has entered directly into a Master Stewardship Agreement with the United States Forest Service, which allows NFF to take direct management responsibility of forest health and recreation projects within the LTBMU. After working closely with LTBMU staff to identify priority projects, the NFF directly solicits, procures, and manages professional logging and forest health contractors to implement projects to USFS specification. The NFF also directly solicits, procures, and manages experienced forestry professionals to provide additional implementation oversight and inspection during project operations and to ensure all project specifications are successfully accomplished.

I encourage the selection committee to support the Utility Corridor's Resiliency Project as it will enhance forest health, reduce the risk of high severity fire along important energy infrastructure, and protect communities within the LTBMU. The NFF views the LTBMU Utility Corridor's Resiliency Project as an innovative partnership effort and is in full support of the project.

Sincerely,

Matt Millar
California Program Manager, Tahoe Area - National Forest Foundation

Funding Requested Budget Detail:

ROUND 18
HAZARDOUS FUELS AND WILDFIRE PREVENTION NOMINATION
ESTIMATED DIRECT COSTS & KEY MILESTONES

Project Name:	**Utility Corridors Resilience Project**	**Date prepared:**	**9/11/2020**
		Agency:	**U.S. Forest Service**
Project #	***Assigned by SNPLMA***	**Priority #:**	***Assigned by SNPLMA***
Prepared by:	**Rita Mustatia**	**Phone #:**	**530-208-8003**
Title/position:	Forest Silviculturalist		

1	**Planning & Environmental Documentation** Includes labor for surveys/reports for cultural, natural, biological, archaeological, historical resources, etc. and preparation of NEPA documentation and the decision document. Does not include on-going compliance monitoring (see Direct Labor #3)	$0	0.00%
2	**FWS Consultation - Endangered Species Act** Direct expenses for FWS consultation. *Includes all labor, agreements, and costs for Section 7 review and approval.*	$0	0.00%
3	**Direct Federal Labor to Implement Project (Payroll)** For interagency projects, identify a primary team lead and the lead agency for consultation/coordination and individual agency leads responsible for entering progress and reports into SMART.	$694,750	9.17%
4	**Project Equipment and/or Supplies and Materials** Equipment, supplies or materials necessary to complete the project that are not included in contracts/agreements. Includes lease or rental of equipment/vehicles.	$85,300	1.13%
5	**Travel and Per Diem for Implementation** Includes all necessary travel for training and implementation of the project. Training costs for tuition, materials, etc. are identified in item #7 below	$0	0.00%
6	**Official Vehicle Use (vehicles with Federal license only)** Estimated costs for routine maintenance agency vehicles, leased or rental equipment, oil and gas, tires, etc. Does not include replacement cost	$64,800	0.86%
7	**Training (required to implement the project)** Includes training essential/necessary for implementation of the project.	$0	0.00%
8	**Contracts, Grants, and/or Agreements** CESU, IGO, Assistance agreements, Task Orders, and contracts for implementation of the project. Also includes all costs for construction/implementation of the plan. The period of performance for grants or agreements and contracts must not extend pas the approved period of performance in the approved Work Plan. Final invoices and de-obligation of unexpended funds must be paid and sub agreements and contracts closed prior to submitting the request for closeout	$6,060,500	80.00%
9	**Other Necessary Expenses** (See Appendix B-11)	$670,000	8.84%
	Total requested/estimated budget	**$7,575,350**	**100.00%**
10	**Estimated agency or partner contribution**	$1,080,000	
	Total Estimated project value	$8,655,350	

Performance Measures:

SNPLMA Strategic Goal 1: Sustain the quality of the outdoor environment by conserving, preserving, and restoring natural and cultural resources.

Objective: Conserve and Restore Natural Resources – Maintain or increase the quality of natural resources and protect their ecological integrity and sustainability.

- Outcome: Increase or improve the resource base, with a focus on landscape-level habitat restoration. Project treatments will decrease stand density levels by thinning trees to appropriate stocking levels resulting in improved tree vigor, forest structure and resiliency to landscape disturbances such as fire, insect outbreaks, and climate change
  - Output: Thin stands of trees on approximately 2,400 acres.
    - Performance Measure (H4) – Acres of Upland Habitat Treated, Enhanced, Restored. Objective: Promote Project Connectivity and Sustainability – Integrate and connect projects across agencies, landscapes, and projects that are sustainable.

- Outcome: Illustrate integration of projects from prior rounds that promote integration at a landscape or regional level. This project will implement fuels treatments under the Liberty Utilities Resilience Corridors Project. These treatments connect treatments from previous projects, as well as completed and ongoing fuels treatments on federal and nonfederal lands within the adjacent, affected communities, resulting in a comprehensive and connected network of treatments across multiple land ownerships in the defense zone (community extending into the wildland) and the threat zone.
  - Output: Reduce hazardous fuels on approximately 2,400 acres.
    - Performance Measure: F2 – Acres of hazardous fuels treated – wildland urban interface (WUI). These acres will be the same acres of forest treatments identified above.

Objective: Protect Communities – Manage resources to improve the safety of communities.

- Outcome: Reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire by removing hazardous fuels. This project will reduce hazardous fuels by removing ladder fuel and smaller suppressed trees, as well as some overstory trees that contribute to ladder fuels and reduce existing surface and down fuels.
  - Output: Reduce hazardous fuels on approximately 2,400 acres.
    - Performance Measure: F2 – Acres of hazardous fuels treated – wildland urban interface (WUI). These acres will be the same acres of forest treatments identified above.

Executive Committee Strategic Plan Values:

Not provided.

Compliance with Departmental and Agency Priorities, Strategic Goals, Executive Orders, and Secretarial Orders:

Compliance with Departmental/Agency Priorities and Strategic Goals

The project supports Department of the Interior (DOI) Priority 6 (Protect our people and the border). Specifically, the project advances Goal 3 of Mission Area 5 in the DOI Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2018-2022 (Strategic Plan).

- Mission Area 5, Goal 3 is to manage wildland fire to reduce risk and improve ecosystem and community resilience. The treatments proposed under this project advance Goal 3 and will directly improve ecosystem and community resilience by reducing the risk of damaging wildfire through strategic hazardous fuel reduction treatments. Fuels reduction projects within the Lake Tahoe Basin, including this project, are being implemented consistent with the 2014 Lake Tahoe Basin Multi-Jurisdictional Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Strategy, which includes federal, state, local, and tribal partners.

The project supports Forest Service Priorities 3 (Promoting shared stewardship by increasing partnerships and volunteerism) and 4 (Improving the condition of forests and grasslands).

- The Chief of the Forest Service's 2018 Leadership Intentions for the Five National Priorities (Leadership Intentions) clarifies the five priorities and sets expectations for the agency and its partners. Priority 3 focuses on the intent to leverage partnerships to increase collective capacity and make a difference on the whole landscape. The work of partners in the Lake Tahoe Basin to implement the 2014 Lake Tahoe Basin Multi-Jurisdictional Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Strategy exemplifies the power of shared stewardship to meet collective goals. The activities proposed under this project will advance Priority 3 through ongoing partnerships utilizing Good Neighbor Authority Agreements, Stewardship Agreements, and Partnership Agreements with nonprofit organizations, local government, and state agencies within the Tahoe Basin.

- Forest Service Priority 4 describes the need to work at larger scales improve the condition of forests. A large portion of America's forests are at risk from insects, diseases, and wildfire. These threats transcend property boundaries, and work must be completed across landscapes to protect federal, state, private, and tribal lands, and the valuable resources they provide. The treatments proposed under this project advance Priority 4 through implementation of thinning, biomass removal, and fuels reduction actions that improve the health of the National Forest and increase its resiliency to wildfire, insect and disease, and other natural disturbances. The treatments proposed under this project provide connectivity to past treatments on federal and nonfederal lands that increase the resiliency across the Tahoe Basin landscape.

Consistency with Executive Orders and Secretarial Orders

This project is consistent with Executive Order No. 13855 Promoting Active Management of America's Forests and Rangelands to Improve Conditions and Reduce Wildfire Risk (Executive Order). The Executive Order prescribes three policies to be implemented by the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture, and each align with the activities proposed in the Project.

First, the Executive Order requires DOI and the Forest Service to adopt shared management priorities in partnership with federal land managers, states, tribes, and other landowners. This project implements the 2014 Lake Tahoe Basin Multi-Jurisdictional Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Strategy, which was developed by federal, state, and local government fire agencies and landowners. It shares the same three goals as the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy, which are to restore fire resilient landscapes, create fire adapted communities, and enable safe and effective wildfire response.

Second, the Executive Order requires DOI and the Forest Service to coordinate federal, state, tribal, and local assets for wildfire prevention, suppression, and reducing hazardous fuels. By closely coordinating projects, the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit is closely coordinating with Tahoe Basin land managers and fire agencies to coordinate the deployment of assets and skills to protect communities and natural resources.

Third, the Executive Order requires DOI and the Forest Service to remove hazardous fuels, increase active management, and support rural economies. The project implements prioritized treatments that protect life and property and support the rural economy of the Basin by providing jobs and utilizing forest restoration byproducts.

Ranking Criteria:

1. Improves the community within and/or adjacent to the project area.

A. Addresses immediate public health and safety and community infrastructure

This project is Phase 1 of 4 that continues the progress of fuels reduction and forest health improvement within the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) being conducted under the Liberty Utilities Resilience Corridors Project. The acres proposed for treatment under this proposal are located in both the WUI defense and threat zones that surround Kings Beach, Tahoe Vista, Tahoe City, Homewood, and Sunnyside (west shore of Lake Tahoe in the State of California) and the community of South Lake Tahoe on the south shore of Lake Tahoe (State of California). These communities have been listed in the Federal Register as "Communities within the vicinity of Federal Lands that are at risk from wildfire."

The proposed project addresses public health and safety through implementation of hazardous fuels reduction treatments that have been shown to be effective in reducing the intensity and rate of spread of wildfires (Effects of Fuels Treatment on Wildfire Severity, Omi et al 2002). Existing forest vegetation and heavy fuel loads in many areas of Lake Tahoe pose a heightened risk for high severity wildfire and the loss of lives and property (Lake

Tahoe Watershed Assessment, 2000). As identified in the project analysis, large quantities and high continuity of surface fuels, closely spaced vertical fuels, and low crown base heights, represented as condition class 3, raises the potential for fire to spread rapidly within the wildland urban intermix, communities, infrastructure, and other natural resources.

B. *Promotes protection of source water (rivers and lakes) or municipal watersheds.*
This project implements fuels reduction and forest health treatments in areas of the WUI that pose the greatest risk for wildfire. Twelve major watersheds, Burton Creek, Middle Truckee River, Ward Creek, Blackwood Creek, Eagle Creek, General Creek, Meeks Creek, Taylor/ Trout Creek, Griff Creek, Watson Creek, Carnelian Creek, and the Upper Truckee are located within the project area and drain into the Lake Tahoe. These watersheds support extremely high resource values, including forest and plant communities that protect source headwaters in California and Nevada.

Several creeks within the project area are currently in a degraded condition. A wildfire of any size in this area may potentially lead to excessive sediment and nutrient loading (Figure 9) and an increase in water temperature for streams and the lake. As a consequence, water supply systems and source water for recreation, fishing, and municipal water supply would be impaired. The hazardous fuels and vegetation treatments identified from the project would reduce this risk of a severe wildfire, therefore protecting water supply systems and source water.

C. *Project includes education and outreach to the community on Living with Fire or Fire Adapted Communities and/or the importance of fuels reduction on federal, state, and local government land.*
This project includes community outreach and education with programs targeting K-12 grade students. Programs are designed to inform students on the importance of conducting fuels reduction and forest health treatments in and adjacent to the community. Programs include education on forest health, the role fire plays in maintaining ecosystem function, and how to maintain a fire safe landscape around homes (defensible space) in accordance with Living with Fire and Fire Adapted Communities.

2. Improves the connection of fuels reduction activities and wildlife habitat.

A. *Project connects previously treated areas to create or increase contiguous blocks of treated land.*
This project implements fuels reduction and forest health treatments planned under the Liberty Utilities Resilience Corridors Project. This project is located adjacent to current and past fuels treatments located on federal and nonfederal lands and will continue to connect treatments across the landscape, increasing the overall effectiveness of the fuels reduction and forest health efforts of this project.

B. *Project protects or enhances wildlife habitat and/or resilient vegetative communities.*
The project promotes a healthy and sustainable landscape that increases the forest's resistance and resilience to disturbances such as wildfire, insect outbreaks, and diseases

through landscape level understory thinning of dense conifer stands. The project will thin 2,400 acres of dense conifer stands.

Project completion would provide the following benefit: the ability for fire and fuel managers to use prescribed fire under burns to restore low intensity surface fire back to the landscape and enhance the ecological benefits that are dependent and adapted to frequent low intensity fire (Figure 10). Once prescribed under burns take place it may not be necessary to conduct future large-scale forest thinning when prescribed burning would safely and effectively meet fuel and vegetation objectives in the WUI.

C. *Project enhances the effectiveness of other treatments in progress or complete.*
The treatments being implemented under this project connect directly to completed and ongoing fuels treatments occurring within the adjacent communities on both federal and nonfederal lands. The completion of these planned activities is a comprehensive and connected network of treatments across multiple land ownerships in the defense zone (community extending into the wildland) and the threat zone.

3. Improves sustainability of the multijurisdictional 10-year plans, environment, and financial resources.

A. The Project will:

1. Improve the sustainability of the forest health and ecosystem function (e.g. stand density, desired species mix and age, tree health, etc.)
The objective of this project is not only to reduce hazardous fuels, but to increase forest health and resiliency to disturbance within treated areas. Proposed vegetation treatments would focus on thinning over story trees, removing shade-tolerant understory trees, and reducing other shrubby vegetation to appropriate stocking. Stands that are overstocked would be thinned to levels that would improve tree vigor, thus reducing the widespread threat of bark beetle outbreaks, dwarf mistletoe, root disease, and other pests and pathogens. Treatments implemented under this project will improve the vegetation condition of forest stands through the creation of a forest stand structure that promotes species richness, pattern, and abundance and that has a high resilience to fire.

2. Improve the habitat for sensitive species and Threatened and Endangered species. Includes mitigation and/or minimization measures when treatment in sensitive habitat is unavoidable.
Included in the project's environmental planning process is the objective to protect or improve habitat for Forest Service Management Indicator Species (MIS) as well as threatened, endangered, or sensitive species. Stands have been identified for reducing high fuel loads within California spotted owl and Northern goshawk Protected Activity Centers (PACs) - areas identified for nesting and foraging habitat. Using an active management approach for treating these PACs, small trees (less than 14" diameter at breast height) would be hand thinned and surface fuel loads treated to a level that would reduce predicted fire behavior so that treated stands would continue to provide optimal nesting and foraging habitat and likely survive a wildfire. In this manner, the risk of a wildfire destroying the nest or habitat surrounding the nest is minimized. Mechanical

thinning would occur in stands that are accessible with a modified prescription to meet the PAC requirements.

3. Includes broadcast prescribed fire for resource management objectives for sustainable landscapes.
This project does not include any prescribed fire deliverable, including broadcast prescribed fire, however, an overarching project goal is to move the forest stands to a condition where the use of broadcast prescribed fire is a possible tool for achieving fuels reduction objectives in the future. Both project decisions include broadcast fire treatments as post thinning treatment options. In addition, the long-term goal for the entire project area is to allow for the use of broadcast burning for the purpose of sustaining landscape level resiliency to a host of possible disturbance mechanisms such as fire, insects, and climate change. Funding to implement prescribed fire treatments is being submitted in a separate Round 18 nomination.

B. The method of treatment is fiscally responsible for the project area by balancing resource objectives, values at risk, and cost per acre factors or cost-benefit analysis.
This WUI project will consider cost savings approaches to accomplish the planned treatments, including the use of stewardship contracting and service contracts to treat forest vegetation and hazardous fuels, as well as utilize biomass products.

Stewardship contracting authority includes agreements with nonprofit organizations to offer best-value and long-term contracts where costs to implement the project are offset by the value of material that is removed.

Strategies to reduce costs for mechanically treated areas would include the use of competitive bidding among contractors to assure the lowest price available. Recent stewardship contract awards have come in with lower than anticipated government estimates due to increased competition.

As evidenced by treatments completed within and around the community impacted by the Angora Fire (Figure 11) implementing hazardous fuels and vegetation treatments strategically in portions of the forest and the WUI helps ensure that damage to Lake Tahoe values (homes and businesses) are avoided or minimized (http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/angorafuelsassessment/, 2007). As of April 2016, the median sales price of homes in the north Lake Tahoe area was estimated at $ 485,000 with a density of 1,392 homes per square mile. The median sale price of a home in the South Lake Tahoe area is $372,000 with a density of 1,396 homes per square mile. The costs associated with implementing fuel reduction treatments for this project is small when compared to this one estimated value at risk. The proposed project would treat fuel conditions using the best combination of treatments including mechanical thin, machine pile, and mastication, as well as biomass removal on both upland and riparian areas. The proposed project would help to protect and promote water quality, wildlife habitat, heritage and cultural resources, local tourism, the economy, and private property/capital improvements around residential areas and the urban interface.

The cost associated with treating the forest vegetation and hazardous fuels is difficult to quantify when compared to the costs of not having a living forest present after a wildfire, increased sedimentation in lakes and streams, and a loss of fish and wildlife habitat or water supply for drinking and recreation. The Lake Tahoe area has a large amount of historical properties and Native American cultural sites. Once consumed by wildfire these properties and sites are generally irreplaceable. The economy in the Lake Tahoe Basin is also dependent on tourism, scenic visual quality and outdoor recreational activities in the forest both in the summer and the winter. There are several species of wildlife that are at risk for loss of habitat from wildfire. These species include but are not limited to California Spotted Owl, Northern Goshawk, Osprey, Bald Eagle, and Willow Flycatcher. The Angora Fire, for example, destroyed or displaced three Northern Goshawk and one California Spotted Owl Protected Activity Centers. The communities in the Lake Tahoe area are located in the WUI. These communities are at risk of a wildfire and the risk to the communities is reduced significantly when hazardous fuels and vegetation treatments take place.

4. Demonstrates sound project management and quality control measures.

A. Project goals and implementation processes are clear, measurable, achievable, and demonstrable.

This project is implementing treatments from the Liberty Utilities Resilience Corridors Project. The environmental analysis for this project was conducted under the National Environmental Policy Act to implement hazardous fuels reduction and forest health treatments and identified 7,600 acres on NFS lands needing treatment within the WUI. This project will complete 2,400 acres not yet funded or treated. This project continues a long history of fuels reduction and forest health projects conducted by the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit which began in the late 1990s. Past hazardous fuel reduction and forest health contracts have been successfully completed on more than 32,000 acres from 2005 through 2020. Based on this past performance, implementation of this project would be achievable and demonstrable.

B. Project proponent has the capacity to implement this project in a timely manner (contractor and staff availability, no backlog of current project, etc.) and within budget.

The Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit has demonstrated the capability to implement and complete previous hazardous fuels reduction projects on time and within budget. The LTBMU has completed 50 SNPLMA projects and is actively working on an additional 4 projects.

The Forest Service has demonstrated over the past 15 years (2005-2020) its capacity to successfully implement SNPLMA projects and has increased in staffing, improved contracting processes, and entered into participating agreements with the Tahoe Douglas, Lake Valley and North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection Districts, the Nevada Conservation Corps – Great Basin Institute, and the Denver, Colorado-based Veteran Green Jobs - Veterans Green Corps Program partnered with the California Conservation Corps all in an effort to continue to successfully implement projects in a timely and cost effective manner. In addition, new contract preparation methods have been undertaken. Additionally, through new authorities the Forest Service has entered into long-term Stewardship Agreements with the

National Forest Foundation and Great Basin Institute and Good Neighbor Authority Agreements with the California-Tahoe Conservancy and the Nevada Division of Forestry.

C. *Is a phase or related component to a previously funded project.*
This project is Phase 1 of a multi-phased project and will consist of forest thinning and fuels reduction treatments located along powerline utility corridors identified in the Liberty Utilities Resilience Corridors Project. The next phases of the project will incorporate powerline utility corridors on the Nevada side of the Lake Tahoe Basin.

D. *Has identified committed non-SNPLMA sources of funding or in-kind contribution in the development and/or implementation of the project.*
To date, implementation of the Liberty Utilities Resilience Corridors Project has been funded with Forest Service appropriated funding for planning and implementation on approximately 230 acres. The implementation is being implemented through a partnership with the National Forest Foundation (NFF) through a Stewardship Agreement with the Forest Service. The NFF is providing 20 percent matching costs for the stewardship project.

This project nomination includes anticipated contributions from the NFF for work anticipated to be implemented under the existing Stewardship Agreement. A letter of support from the NFF is included with this nomination.

Project Location:

Utility Corridors Resilience Project: 39.20058889 / -120.12027778

The Liberty Utilities Resilience Corridors Project is located on land within the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit and comprises roughly 55 miles of Liberty Utilities power lines. The project is adjacent to South Lake Tahoe and West Shore communities in El Dorado County and adjacent to West Shore and North Shore communities in Placer County on the California side of the Lake Tahoe Basin. The project is located within California's 4th Congressional District.

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Maps:

Figure 1: Liberty Utilities Resilience Corridors Project Map (North Shore)

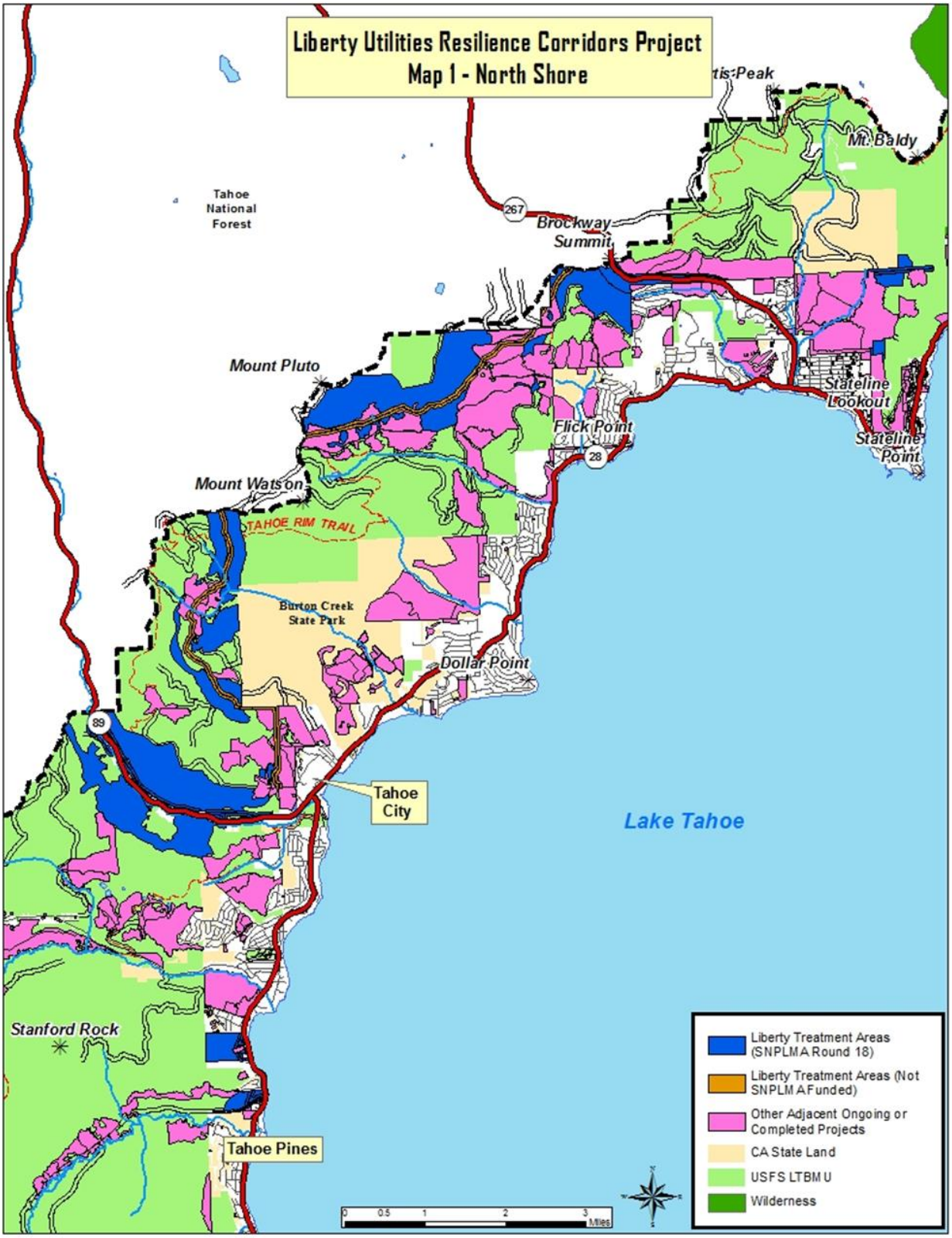

Figure 2: Liberty Utilities Resilience Corridors Project Map (South Shore)

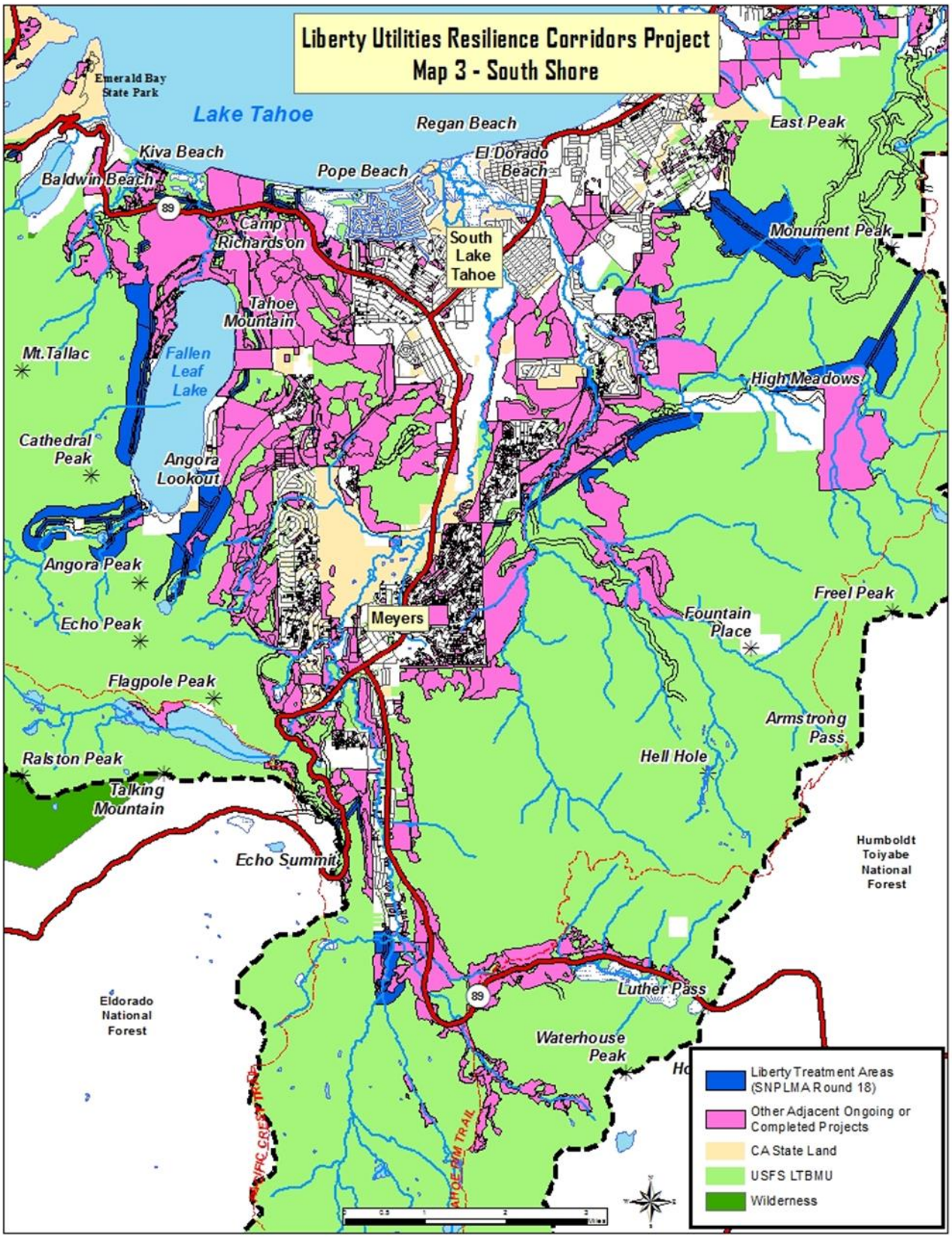

Figure 3: Liberty Utilities Resilience Corridors Project Map (West Shore)

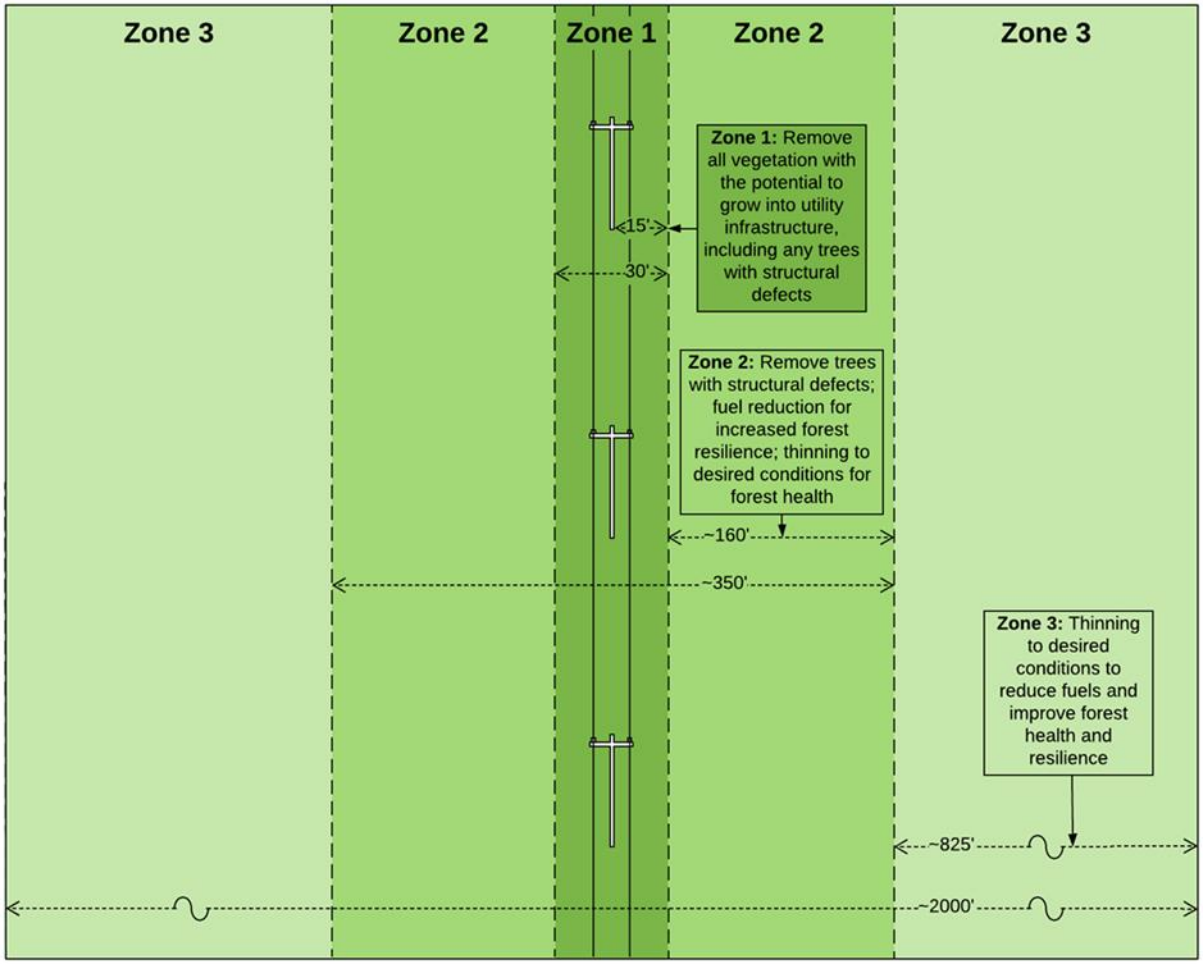

Figure 4: Resilience corridor treatments up to ~1,000' on both sides of powerlines (3 Zones).

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Photos:

Figure 5: Incline Hazardous Fuels Project hand thinning treatment area, pre-treatment.

Figure 6: Incline Hazardous Fuels Project hand thinning treatment area, post-treatment.

Figure 7: South Shore mechanical cut-to-length treatment area, pre-treatment.

Figure 8: South Shore mechanical cut-to-length treatment area, post-treatment.

Figure 9: Potential post-wildfire erosion and sedimentation affects, Gondola Fire, 2002.

Figure 10: Low intensity underburn on National Forest system land post thinning and biomass utilization.

Letters of Support:

September 10, 2020

Robert Taylor
Program Manager, SNPLMA Division
Bureau of Land Management
4701 North Torrey Pines Drive
Las Vegas, Nevada 89130

Re: SNPLMA Round 18 Nominations for Hazardous Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention in the Lake Tahoe Basin

Dear Mr. Taylor and other Nomination Reviewers:

Thank you for your consideration of the Lake Tahoe Basin's Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) Round 18 project nominations. The local government, state, and federal implementing agencies have partnered in a coordinated approach to comprehensively and cost-effectively implement the Lake Tahoe Basin Multi-Jurisdictional Strategy for Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention (Strategy).

The Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team (TFFT) formed in 2008 to implement the Strategy, with the twin aims of reducing fuels in the wildland-urban interface (WUI) and preparing communities for wildfire. The 21 partner agencies of the TFFT work within the Lake Tahoe Basin (Basin) to plan, prioritize, and implement fuel reduction and fire prevention projects that protect life, property, and the environment. The TFFT recently collaborated to identify critical need projects and develop ten SNPLMA Round 18 nominations that advance the goals of the Strategy.

Communities across the western United States are currently witnessing the catastrophe of yet another record-breaking wildfire season. A destructive wildfire in the Basin of similar scale to those burning right now elsewhere in the Sierra Nevada would have devastating impacts on our forests, communities, and businesses. Such a fire would also cause severe economic impacts in both California and Nevada.

The Basin's fire agencies are tested every fire season by dozens of wildfire ignitions, which each have the potential to become the Basin's next destructive wildfire. To improve our odds, we work at every level – from helping residents prepare themselves, their families, and their homes

Protecting lives, property, and the environment of the Lake Tahoe Basin from wildfire by implementing prioritized fuel reduction projects and engaging the public in becoming a fire adapted community

for wildfire, to working within neighborhoods to create defensible space that extends across property lines, to reducing fuels and restoring forests in the WUI and beyond.

This holistic approach of working at every level is ratified in the Strategy, with its three goals of creating fire adapted communities, restoring fire-resilient landscapes, and supporting safe and effective wildfire response. These goals are mirrored by the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy. The goals are manifested in the over 60,000 acres treated in the Basin's WUI by TFFT partners over the last decade, and the thousands of homes inspected for defensible space and brought into compliance.

There are ten Hazardous Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention nominations for SNPLMA Round 18, each implementing a critical component of the Strategy. The nominations are:

1) **Lake Tahoe Basin Fire Adapted Communities**
   Agency: Tahoe Resource Conservation District
   Funding Requested: $8,705,000
2) **Defense Zone Improvement**
   Agency: North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District
   Funding Requested: $1,222,000
3) **Highway 50 Hazardous Fuel Reduction and Restoration**
   Agency: Tahoe-Douglas Fire Protection District
   Funding Requested: $400,000
4) **South Lake Tahoe Fire Rescue Wildland-Urban Interface Hazardous Fuel Reduction**
   Agency: South Lake Tahoe Fire Rescue
   Funding Requested: $857,000
5) **North Tahoe Fire Protection District Wildland-Urban Interface Hazardous Fuel Reduction**
   Agency: North Tahoe Fire Protection District
   Funding Requested: $2,500,000
6) **California Community Forestry**
   Agency: California Tahoe Conservancy
   Funding Requested: $4,159,180
7) **California Tahoe Conservancy Wildland-Urban Interface Hazardous Fuel Reduction**
   Agency: California Tahoe Conservancy
   Funding Requested: $5,994,000
8) **National Forest Priority Wildland-Urban Interface Fuel Reduction**
   Agency: Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit
   Funding Requested: $10,490,000
9) **Utility Corridors Resilience**
   Agency: Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit
   Funding Requested: $8,655,000

Protecting lives, property, and the environment of the Lake Tahoe Basin from wildfire by implementing prioritized fuel reduction projects and engaging the public in becoming a fire adapted community.

10) **Prescribed Fire Implementation**

Agency: Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit

Funding Requested: $5,046,000

Nomination 1 will deliver extensive community engagement and defensible space treatments through the Tahoe Network of Fire Adapted Communities (Tahoe Network). The Tahoe Network is a multi-agency and community collaboration that helps residents take individual action to collectively reduce their neighborhood's risk of wildfire. The preparedness of residents and the defensible space around homes are at the core of the Strategy' approach to preventing catastrophic wildfire.

The defensible space treatments completed through Nomination 1 directly connect to the treatments included in Nominations 2 through 6. These nominations propose treatments on the thousands of small open-space and undeveloped lots surrounding homes that are interspersed throughout neighborhoods, as well as on private and local-government lands near communities. Nominations 7 and 8 connect to neighborhood treatments and involve large-scale wildland-urban interface treatments on state and federal lands. The treatments substantially advance the TFFT's target of completing initial wildland-urban interface treatments identified in the Strategy by 2024.

Nomination 9 reduces wildfire risk and creates healthy forests surrounding powerlines, a significant potential source of wildfire ignitions. The treatments will help protect critical community infrastructure as well as reduce the risk of spread for ignitions originating from powerlines.

Finally, Nomination 10 proposes to strategically use prescribed fire as a tool for both fuel reduction and landscape restoration. In addition to implementing valuable treatments, the project helps to build Basinwide capacity to use prescribed fire across multiple jurisdictions.

The TFFT expresses its strong support for the full suite of projects listed above. The SNPLMA program has been transformative for the Basin by enabling a multitude of fuel reduction and wildfire reduction projects. These projects have helped improve our odds of withstanding wildfire and are an important reason for our success to date. Again, thank you for your consideration of the Basin's SNPLMA Round 18 nominations.

Sincerely,

Scott Baker
Chair, TFFT Multi-Agency Coordinating Group
Fire Chief, Tahoe-Douglas Fire Protection District

Protecting lives, property, and the environment of the Lake Tahoe Basin from wildfire by implementing prioritized fuel reduction projects and engaging the public in becoming a fire adapted community.

SNPLMA Round 18
FUELS – U.S. Forest Service Addendum

Nomination: Tab 11

Entity: U.S. Forest Service Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Spring Mountains National Recreation Area

Project: Fuels Reduction Planning – SMNRA Eastside

Revision: Overall budget request was reduced from $2,235,188 to $2,190,688 due to an adjustment of FS personnel labor expenses for planning and vehicle use.

Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act
Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention
Round 18

USDA Forest Service
Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest
Spring Mountains National Recreation Area

Fuels Reduction Planning - SMNRA Eastside

Amount Requested: $2,190,688

Timeframe: 6 Years
Location: 36.25748° / -115.61530°
Congressional District: NV-4

Contact: Project Manager - Josh Thalacker
Address: 4701 N. Torrey Pines Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89130
Phone:(702) 515-5441
Email: JOSHUA.THALACKER@USDA.GOV

Purpose Statement:

The Forest Service, Spring Mountains National Recreation Area (SMNRA), will complete the planning and environmental analysis of approximately 12,117 acres of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest in Clark County, Nevada, within the developed areas on the eastside of the SMNRA, for future treatment of hazardous fuels on National Forest System lands within the wildland urban interface (WUI).

Background info to support the need:

This project would be Phase I of III. Phase II will consist of implementation and Phase III any follow up and monitoring. The latter phases may be a combination of SNPLMA and Forest funding.

The project planning area is located on National Forest System (NFS) lands, within the developed areas on the eastside of the SMNRA. The project area is within the wildland urban interface (WUI), in both the threat and the defense zones, as well as including general forest areas. This project will accomplish ecosystem enhancement through fuels reduction treatments, which may include thinning, prescribed fire, restoration activities, and mastication. In addition, this project area connects existing projects that are in various phases of implementation, producing increased connectivity of hazardous fuels treatment projects within the SMNRA.

This project is located adjacent to private, county, and state lands, as well as lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management Southern Nevada District. As a result, local residents, the Nevada Division of Forestry, Nevada Division of Wildlife, Nuwuvi Working Group, Mount Charleston Fire Protection District, Nevada Energy, Clark County Parks And Recreation (Camp Lee), the communities of Kyle and Lee Canyons, and many other partners all have a great deal of interest in this project. If funded for this planning project, a significant focus will be coordinating with and outreaching to private, state, and county landowners adjacent to the analysis area to increase connectivity of fuels reduction treatments in this area utilizing a shared stewardship approach.

Relationship to prior approved phases or related SNPLMA projects and anticipated future phases:

This project would be Phase I of III. Phase II will consist of implementation and Phase III any follow up and monitoring. The latter phases may be a combination of SNPLMA and Forest funding.

Deliverables:

<u>Primary Deliverables:</u>

1. Signed NEPA Decision Document.

Anticipated Deliverables:

1. Public education through demonstration of hazardous fuels treatment techniques and/or field day for past fuels projects.
2. Interpretative and educational signs explaining the multi-jurisdictional, cohesive approach to fuels reduction projects on a landscape scale.

Standard Deliverables:

- Public Scoping.
- Field surveys including wildlife surveys, botany surveys, and archaeology surveys.
- Tribal and State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) consultation.

Project Timeframe:

This project of the project will be completed within the 6-year frame that would begin with the initial transfer and end upon the completion of the monitoring results documentation report.

Level of Project Readiness for Implementation

The SMNRA and Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest has personnel to successfully complete the planning for this project once funds become available. The district has accomplished several large planning projects, funded by both SNPLMA and appropriated funds, in the last several years. Currently, the district does not have a hazardous fuels planning project in process or funded. This would be a favorable time to proceed with a hazardous fuels planning projects.

Future Operations and Maintenance:

None.

Partnerships and/or contributed:

None.

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Funding Requested Budget Detail:

ROUND 18

HAZARDOUS FUELS AND WILDFIRE PREVENTION NOMINATION

ESTIMATED DIRECT COSTS & KEY MILESTONES

Project Name:	**SMNRA Eastside P**lanning Project	**Date prepared:**	**12/3/2020**
		Agency:	**USFS**
Project #	***Assigned by SNPLMA***	**Priority #:**	***Assigned by SNPLMA***
Prepared by:	**Joshua Thalacker**	**Phone #:**	**702-515-5441**
Title/position:	District Fuels Specialist		

1	**Planning & Environmental Documentation**	$628,188	28.68%
	Includes labor for surveys/reports for cultural, natural, biological, archaeological, historical resources, etc. and preparation of NEPA documentation and the decision document. Does not include on-going compliance monitoring (see Direct Labor #3)		
2	**FWS Consultation - Endangered Species Act**	$9,000	0.41%
	Direct expenses for FWS consultation. *Includes all labor, agreements, and costs for Section 7 review and approval.*		
3	**Direct Federal Labor to Implement Project (Payroll)**	$115,000	5.25%
	For interagency projects, identify a primary team lead and the lead agency for consultation/coordination and individual agency leads responsible for entering progress and reports into SMART.		
4	**Project Equipment and/or Supplies and Materials**	$40,500	1.85%
	Equipment, supplies or materials necessary to complete the project that are not included in contracts/agreements. Includes lease or rental of equipment/vehicles.		
5	**Travel and Per Diem for Implementation**	$0	0.00%
	Includes all necessary travel for training and implementation of the project. Training costs for tuition, materials, etc. are identified in item #7 below		
6	**Official Vehicle Use (vehicles with Federal license only)**	$248,000	11.32%
	Estimated costs for routine maintenance agency vehicles, leased or rental equipment, oil and gas, tires, etc. Does not include replacement cost		
7	**Training (required to implement the project)**	$0	0.00%
	Includes training essential/necessary for implementation of the project.		
8	**Contracts, Grants, and/or Agreements**	$1,150,000	52.49%
	CESU, IGO, Assistance agreements, Task Orders, and contracts for implementation of the project. Also includes all costs for construction/implementation of the plan. The period of performance for grants or agreements and contracts must not extend pas the approved period of performance in the approved Work Plan. Final invoices and de-obligation of unexpended funds must be paid and sub agreements and contracts closed prior to submitting the request for closeout		
9	**Other Necessary Expenses**	$0	0.00%
	(See Appendix B-11)		
	Total requested/estimated budget	**$2,190,688**	**100.00%**
10	**Estimated agency or partner contribution**	$90,000	
	Total Estimated project value	$2,280,688	

Performance Measures:

OUTCOME: By analyzing the SMNRA Eastside Fuels Reduction Project, the SMNRA will conserve and restore natural resources, preserve cultural resources, promote connectivity and sustainability, protect communities, and promote education. The NEPA process ensures that this project will be designed to protect the ecological integrity of the project area. Through surveys of the area, any cultural resources will be documented for preservation. Because of the location of this project area, connectivity of fuels reduction projects will be increased across jurisdictional boundaries, increasing community and resource protection/

OUTPUT: A signed NEPA decision document. The SNPLMA performance measures include:

- Performance Measure: O12 – Number of management plans/handbooks/manuals/guides for activity on public lands completed.
- Performance Measure: O5 – Number of outreach contacts made. Minimum of 50 public members during scoping
- Performance Measure: O6 – Number of new interpretive or educational publications/signs/kiosks/displays/etc. produced. 150 educational pamphlets describing proposed project.
- Performance Measure: O7 – Number of interpretative or education presentation given and/or community events participated in or hosted. Minimum of 2 meetings with the public and tribal members.

Executive Committee Strategic Plan Values:

This planning project would encompass an area that's defined as a treatment area in the Spring Mountains Multi-Jurisdictional 10-Year Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Strategy. This proposed project area was identified in the fuels reduction plan and is a major component of the SMNRA Hazardous Fuels Reduction program. This proposal aligns with the SNPLMA Draft Strategic Plan and the values listed therein.

The SMNRA Eastside Planning project will focus on designing a project that emphasizes sustainability, connectivity, and community by ensuring implementation focuses on creating a resilient, healthy landscape available for various types of community activities and public involvement on forest health and wildfire awareness. Through the process of planning this fuels reduction project, NFS lands would be analyzed for various types of treatments designed to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildland fire, in turn preventing impacts to recreation, public health and safety, and the visual impact on the viewshed along our scenic byways. Additionally, there are several different types of recreation that take place within and adjacent to this proposed project area that would also benefit from a more resilient and healthy forest.

The project area will be analyzed for various treatment activities, all of which would provide sustainability of a healthy forest when implemented. These treatments would continue to provide benefits through ensuring the functionality of this landscape and creating a resiliency to catastrophic wildland fire. By analyzing this project area and identifying priority treatment areas, connectivity between numerous fuels reduction treatments will be increased by linking several different larger projects together. Planning for the implementation in this project area of the proposed treatments, the community will benefit through a reduced risk of catastrophic wildland fire affecting health and safety, private property values, recreational areas, and the intrinsic value of a healthy forest along the developed canyons on the eastern portion of the SMNRA.

This proposal supports Goal 1 of the SNPLMA Strategic Plan: Sustain the quality of the outdoor environment by conserving, preserving, and restoring natural and cultural resources.

Compliance with Departmental and Agency Priorities, Strategic Goals, Executive Orders, and Secretarial Orders:

Compliance with Departmental/Agency Priorities and Strategic Goals

Forest Service Priorities

1. *Uplifting and empowering our employees through a respectful, safe working environment.*

   This planning project will bring all of the disciplines within the district office to work together to achieve a common goal: completing an environmental analysis to determine what best practices are most beneficial to enhancing the resiliency of the landscape. An Inter-Disciplinary Team (IDT) will meet regularly to discuss the project throughout to project completion.

2. *Being good neighbors and providing excellent customer service.*

   A requirement of an Environmental Analysis is public scoping. The district takes pride in communicating with private landowners, state government officials, local government entities, Tribal partners, utility companies, cooperators, and the general public.

3. *Promoting shared stewardship by increasing partnerships and volunteerism.*

   The SMNRA has taken pride with the federal, state, local, tribal, and private partnerships. There are open lines of communication and dialogue happening on a continuous basis. It is important to the district to get a fresh set of eyes and ideas on projects. Collaboration is an integral part of successful planning.

4. *Improving condition of forests and grasslands.*

   The primary design of this planning project will be to increase the resiliency and overall health of the ecosystem. By doing this the threat of catastrophic, stand replacing wildfire will be a reduction in fuel loading.

5. *Enhancing recreation opportunities, improving access, and sustaining infrastructure.*

This project will enhance the experience of the forest users and improve the safety of that experience. Over the last ten years the communities and prime recreation areas have been on mandatory or voluntarily evacuated. The district has spent large sums of money to upgrade campgrounds, picnic sites, and hiking trails to make the users experience most enjoyable. This project will help protect those areas to maintain the user experience.

General Management Plan for the SMNRA

The proposed planning project will achieve Forest and District level goals, standards, and guidelines. It will provide for the most effective land management decisions. Vegetation manipulations will be analyzed to increase the achieve ecosystem resiliency. The use of prescribed fire will be used as a tool to maintain the landscape. The strengthening of relationships on a Tribal, Federal, State, Local, Utilities, and private constituents will be a priority of the project.

Key Forest-wide Goals

- Provide an effective fire management program.
- Plan prescribed burning to meet management objectives.
- Protect wilderness values and provide quality wilderness experience.
- Recognize and protect threatened, endangered, and sensitive species.
- Identify, evaluate, and protect significant cultural resources.
- Provide a safe and efficient transportation network.
- Minimize epidemic outbreaks of pests and/ or diseases.

Key Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines

- Vegetations manipulation may be required to meet wildland fire protection objectives.
- Use planned, prescribed fire to improve or enhance resource outputs.
- Treatments in pinyon-juniper will not promote invasion of cheatgrass.
- Clearings of pinyon-juniper will generally be limited to fewer than 40 acres.
- Treat pinyon-juniper for, deer and elk, habitat diversity, or sustained yield of pinyon-juniper.
- Manage riparian areas to achieve or maintain medium to high ecological status.
- Manage ten percent of mixed conifer as old growth habitat.
- Manage habitats to achieve recovery of listed species and ensure sensitive species do not become threatened or endangered.
- Provide user safety, convenience and land management efficiency.
- Cooperate with regulatory agencies to prevent deterioration of air quality.

District-wide Emphasis

- The conservation of scenic, scientific, historic, cultural, and other values contributing to public enjoyment.
- The conservation of fish and wildlife populations and habitat, including the use of prescribed fire to improve or maintain habitat.
- The protection of watersheds and the maintenance of free-flowing streams and the quality of ground and surface waters in accordance with applicable law.
- Public outdoor recreation benefits, including but not limited to, hunting, hiking, horseback riding, backpacking, rock climbing, camping, and nature study.
- The management and use of natural resources in a matter compatible with the purpose for which the SMNRA was established.

District-wide Goals

- Conserve the health, diversity, integrity, and beauty of the ecosystem.
- Protect American Indian cultural uses and heritage resources.
- Avoid disruptions to current uses and users of the Spring Mountains.

District-wide Objectives

Conserve the health, diversity integrity and beauty of the ecosystem.

- Maintain or enhance ecosystem health, function, sustainability, and diversity.
- Maintain or restore the health and size of riparian areas at natural water sources, and at human-made water sources where native and desired non-native species have become accustomed to using them.
- Return fire, as a historic ecological process, to the SMNRA. Maintain and improve ecosystem function and health through the management of prescribed fire and prescribed natural fire.
- Continue to provide firewood and meet ecosystem health goals and objectives by allowing dead and down, and green fuelwood collection.
- Maintain air quality at a level that is adequate for the protection and use of resources (Air Quality Related Values) and that meets or exceeds air quality standards as set by Clark County Health District.
- Manage for endemic levels of native insects and diseases within the ecosystem.
- Prevent the destruction or adverse modification of critical TES species habitat, recover populations of TES species, and avoid the listing of additional species as threatened or endangered by maintaining populations and ecological processes necessary to their sustainability.
- Increase populations of threatened, endangered, and sensitive species, and species of concern, and their suitable habitat over the long term.
- Provide sufficient habitat to support the continued existence of all native resident and migratory species throughout the planning area.

- The habitat capability (population size in relation to available resources) to support elk will be based upon 15% of available resources: available water and forage; and animal condition. Elk populations will be maintained at current 1996 populations levels until additional habitat is provided through ecosystem and vegetation management.
- Visual quality objectives are used as guidelines to manage the forest landscape. In general, this should include a predominantly natural appearance, especially as viewed from roads, trails, and other areas of high recreational use.

Avoid disruptions to current uses and users of the Spring Mountains.

- Provide for public safety in management of recreation. Cooperate with and support other agencies to ensure safety.
- Protect lives, private property, and public recreation facilities from wildland fires.
- Increase availability of firefighting and prevention resources.
- Minimize damage to roads and facilities from floods and protect public safety in floodplains.
- Develop new relationships/partnerships and strengthen existing efforts with user groups, including hunters, trappers, rock climbers, cavers, trail users, summer home and special use permittees, and American Indians, to help manage the SMNRA and protect resources.
- Work cooperatively with federal, state, local agencies, tribal governments, and others to increase public education and awareness of resource values and interpretation opportunities throughout the SMNRA.

District-wide Standards and Guidelines

Conserve the health, diversity, Integrity, and beauty of the ecosystem.

- Develop a seed bank of native species produced from seed sources on the SMNRA.
- Use prescribed natural fire throughout the SMNRA, where lives and property can be protected and outside the Creosote and Blackbrush Land Type Associations, to achieve ecosystem health goals and reduce fuels when conditions, fuel, weather, and national/local fire seasons allow.
- Planning for prescribed fires will include community involvement in determining the strategy, timing, and any coordination for fuelwood removal prior to and after the burn.
- Use prescribed fire, silvicultural and mechanical treatments, and shaded fuelbreaks throughout the SMNRA to achieve ecosystem health goals, reduce fuel loads, and protect public safety, developed areas, and private property.
- Reseed/rehabilitate at a minimum all disturbed areas outside Wilderness and Wilderness Study areas.
- Areas disturbed by wildfire, prescribed fire, or other management activities may also be reseeded, based on site specific analysis.
- Use stand management (age and species diversity) to avoid epidemic levels of insects and plant diseases.

- Cooperate with NDOW to identify and provide additional suitable habitat for elk through ecosystem and vegetation management.
- Continue to provide firewood by designating fuelwood collection areas.
- Dead and down fuelwood collection areas may be designated in the Mixed Conifer Land Type Association (outside the Wilderness) when necessary to meet specific ecosystem health goal and objectives. As necessary, minimize impacts to Palmers Chipmunk.

Protect American Indian cultural uses and heritage resources.

- Encourage and maintain cooperative partnerships with American Indian tribes and individuals.

Avoid disruptions to current uses and users of the Spring Mountains.

- Encourage and maintain cooperative partnerships with other fire agencies.
- Develop and maintain a network of shaded fuel breaks to interrupt continuous stands of fuel.
- When possible, use existing human-made and natural barriers as control lines in preference to building new lines when suppressing wildfires and prescribing fires.
- Cooperate with Clark County, Nye County, the BLM, Nevada Highway Patrol, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, and the Nevada Department of Transportation on management of roads and traffic.

Consistency with Executive Orders and Secretarial Orders

E. O. 73855 Promoting Active Management of America's Forests, Range Lands to improve conditions and reduce wildfire risk.
Yes, the core of this planning project is to do just that. The project intent is to reduce fuel loading, protect watersheds from severe erosion, and promote a healthy and resilient forest. This will allow management and private stakeholders to prioritize treatments on the landscape as mentioned in Forest and District Management Plans. Resulting in forest health strategies that protect life and property.

S.O. 3347 Conservation Stewardship and Outdoor Recreation
N/A. Department of Interior Specific. This project will improve the management of species and their habitat as outlined in Forest and District Management Plans.

S.O. 3356: Hunting, Fishing, Recreational Shooting, and Wildlife Conservation Opportunities and Coordination with States, Tribes and Territories.
N/A. Department of Interior Specific. The project will engage the public, tribes, state, local, and interested parties.

S.O. 3362: Improving Habitat Quality in Western Big-Game Winter Range and Migration Corridors
N/A. Department of Interior Specific.

S.O. 3366: Increasing Recreational Opportunities on Lands and Waters Managed by the U.S. Department of the Interior.
N/A. Department of Interior Specific. This project will enhance the safety of the Forest users.

S.O. 3370 Improving Conservation Stewardship and Increasing Public Access to Urban National Wildlife Refuges.
N/A. Department of Interior Specific.

S.O. 3372 Reducing Wildfire Risks on Department of the Interior Land Through Acting Management.
N/A. Department of Interior Specific. The project is intention is to reduce the risk of extreme fire behavior and threat to the public, communities, wildlife habitats, and watersheds which is consistent with the Forest and District Management Plans.

S.O. 3373 Evaluating Public Access in Bureau of Land Management Public Land Disposals and Exchanges.
N/A. Department of Interior Specific.

S.O. 3374 Implementation of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management and Recreation.
N/A. Department of Interior Specific.

S.O. 3376 Increasing Recreational Opportunities through the use of Electric Bikes.
N/A. Department of Interior Specific.

Ranking Criteria:

1. Improves the community within and/or adjacent to the project area.

A. Addresses immediate public health and safety and community infrastructure.
The majority of this project area falls within the Wildland Urban Interface Defense Zone. Specifically, this project area is directly adjacent to community infrastructure as well State and private lands. Stand replacing timber and shrub wildland fires have previously occurred in the surrounding area, threatening homes and other private property, recreation sites, high value communication sites, scenic byways, also threatening the safety of the public and firefighters. During those events the public and infrastructure has been evacuated and/or shutdown. By assessing the priority areas within this planning area where fuels treatments would provide the most efficient and beneficial results, the eventual implementation of this planning project will significantly decrease the likelihood that the public will be directly threatened. By planning the appropriate treatments, the effectiveness of any future fire suppression activities will be increased. The reduced fuel loading once implemented will

decrease fire intensity therefore increasing the effectiveness of fire suppression, and allow firefighters and equipment to safely access the area.

Factor A2 – Project is within the Threat Zone, generally an area between 0.25 miles and 1.50 miles of life and property, as depicted by the most current WUI map in the applicable plan.

This project area falls within the Threat Zone as defined by the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest SMNRA Wildland Urban Interface maps.

Factor A3 – Project is within the general forest or other lands beyond the WUI (generally greater than 1.50 miles from life and property), as depicted by the most current map in the applicable plan.

This project area falls within the Threat Zone as defined by the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest SMNRA Wildland Urban Interface maps.

B. *Promotes protection of source water (rivers and lakes) or municipal watersheds.*
The area to be analyzed lies within the Las Vegas Wash Watershed which in turn flows into the Colorado River. The threat of wildland fire to this area causes severe concerns for water impacts such as erosion, flooding, and other impacts to the downstream communities and infrastructure. Property values have the potential to be negatively impacted in the event of a wildland fire within the watershed and the possible resulting flooding and erosion issues. Fuels reduction treatments can lower the severity of a wildland fire, in turn lowering the possible impacts to stream and water courses by preventing erosion events that would negatively impact the watershed found within this project area.

C. *Project includes education and outreach to the community on Living with Fire or Fire Adapted Communities and/or the importance of fuels reduction on federal, state, and local government land.*
As a part of the NEPA process required for planning this fuels reduction project, the Forest Service will be conducting public scoping and holding public meetings. The communities that will be targeted during the scoping process are the rural communities of Kyle and Lee Canyons. This project is a part of the a cohesive strategy that improves working relationships and project implementation across jurisdictional boundaries, as well as being able to reach a much larger outreach potential by working with several different agencies, state, communities, local entities, and private land owners. The cohesive strategy will include but is not limited to NV Energy, Mount Charleston Fire Protection District, Clark County Fire Department, Nuwuvi Working Group, Clark County Parks and Recreation (Camp Lee), Las Vegas Ski and Snowboard Resort, Century Link, Nevada Division of Wildlife, Nevada Division of Forestry, Nevada Division of Transportation, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, Nevada Highway Patrol, and the Las Vegas Water District. During these public interactions, the purpose of this project will be explained to the surrounding communities and interested public. In addition, the University of Nevada, Reno, Cooperative Extension has extensive literature on “Living with Fire”, as well as different types of fuels reduction techniques and the benefits of practicing fuels reduction. This literature is readily available

to members of the public. Part of this planning project proposes to install interpretive signs or kiosks at interpretative areas, the Spring Mountain Visitor Gateway, Forest Service offices, trails, and trailheads explaining the benefits of fuels reduction. The signage and kiosks will also explain he cohesive effort being put forth by all agencies and cooperators to implement connected fuels reduction projects crossing jurisdictional lines, accomplishing a more comprehensive and efficient community protection strategy. These signs will act as an educational center to explain the use of fuels reduction as a tool for reducing the risk of wildfire.

2. Improves the connection of fuels reduction activities and wildlife habitat.

A. *Project connects previously treated areas to create or increase contiguous blocks of treated land.*
Directly adjacent to the SMNRA Eastside project analysis area, there are three previously treated project areas that were SNPLMA funded on National Forest Lands: SMNRA WUI Phase I, Old Mill, and Deer Creek HFRP's. These were all projects treated for hazardous fuels and future treatments. When the Nevada Fire Safe Council was active, that group was responsible for implementing numerous projects on private lands working with homeowners in the area. Treatments on private lands included handwork to reduce ladder fuels, chipping, and prescribed fire done by the Nevada Division of Forestry through grants, leading to even more connectivity of fuels reduction treatments in the future.

B. *Project protects or enhances wildlife habitat and/or resilient vegetative communities.*
SMNRA Eastside Planning Project area includes important habitat for a number of Forest Service Sensitive and Management Indicator Species (Butterflies, Charleston Ant, Bat Species, Palmer's Chipmunk, and Northern Goshawk). For example, Northern Goshawk, which are a Forest Service Sensitive species, are known to nest in several locations throughout the District. Fuels treatments conducted in this area will help protect this important habitat by reducing the threat of a stand replacing fire from occurring. In addition, treatment prescriptions designed to reduce fuel loading such as thinning dense thickets of conifer in aspen and other areas, also enhances wildlife habitat by promoting aspen growth and reducing overly-dense understory vegetation which limits maneuverability and foraging capability of many wildlife species.

C. *Project enhances the effectiveness of other treatments in progress or completed.*
The planning area will connect all fuels treatments implemented in the past 10 years in the Deer Creek Highway corridor, all of Kyle Canyon, and portions of Lee Canyon. This would enhance the effectiveness and sustainability on the landscape to protect many private structures, powerline corridors, communication infrastructure, campgrounds, picnic areas, popular trails, county infrastructure, the watershed, as well as the ecosystem in a sky island.

3. Improves sustainability of the multijurisdictional 10-year plans, environment, and financial resources.

A. The Project will:

1. Improve the sustainability of the forest health and ecosystem function (e.g. stand density, desired species mix and age, tree health, etc.)

The project area will be analyzed for various types of treatments so the most efficient and beneficial treatment for all resources can be identified and planned for. These treatments will be specifically designed to promote ecosystem health and long-term sustainability through the challenges of natural climate variability and wildland fire occurrence, but also with the expectation that healthier forests and ecosystems will be better prepared to endure adverse effects from both climate changes and wildland fires.

In addition to fuels reduction and the reduced risk of catastrophic wildland fire, this project will provide watershed and wildlife habitat protection, recreational and scenic value protection, and support the property values these features of the National Forest enhance.

2. Improve the habitat for sensitive species and Threatened and Endangered species. Includes mitigation and/or minimization measures when treatment in sensitive habitat is unavoidable.

This project analysis will take a thorough look at the potential effects that could occur on sensitive species and T/E species. There are four sensitive butterfly species, including the endangered Mt. Charleston blue butterfly, the Mount Charleston Ant, four bat species, the Palmer's Chipmunk, Northern Goshawk, and the Flammulated Owl. Analysis of the project area will determine the right tools, in the right place, at the right time to avoid serious ecological impacts to all species. The ongoing threat of stand replacing fire has a very high significant impact on destroying key habitats.

3. Includes broadcast prescribed fire for resource management objectives for sustainable landscapes.

Prescribed fire will be analyzed as a tool to achieve resource management objectives. Broadcast prescribed fire will be analyzed as both an initial treatment and maintenance treatment, designed to ensure the longevity of proposed treatments, where appropriate and feasible. In areas that meet this criteria, prescribed fire will be examined as a mechanism to not only reduce fuels and maintain treatments, but also reintroduce fire into the ecosystem.

B. The method of treatment is fiscally responsible for the project area by balancing resource objectives, values at risk, and cost per acre factors or cost-benefit analysis.

The SMNRA has implemented fuels reduction planning projects, in an efficient and cost-effective manner. While analyzing this project area and the various types of treatments, cost effectiveness would be included as a fundamental part of the analysis. The SMNRA has access to two Indefinite Delivery-Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) contracts for both mastication and handwork. These types of treatments when put to contract ensures that the work can start on a very short timeline, and there's not time lost to the normal service contract process.

Where contracts are not a feasible option, that work can still be accomplished through agreements with cooperators and a seasonal work force.

The cost to fight a wildland fire in this project area would be extremely high because of the proximity to communities and highly valued recreational properties. The cost to analyze this project area for fuels reduction with the intention of implementing proposed treatments as soon as possible is significantly less than the cost to fight large wildland fires or restore values subsequently damaged in a wildland fire. Following a wildland fire, re-vegetation and recovery of this project area would be slow and occur over decades. The most recent Mahogany Wildland fire in the area burned almost 3,000 acres, forced evacuations, and cost over $8 million.

4. Demonstrates sound project management and quality control measures.

A. *Project goals and implementation processes are clear, measurable, achievable, and demonstrable.*
The goal for this planning project is to achieve a signed decision document approving the most effective and efficient fuels reduction treatments within the project area. This analysis will provide priority areas in need of fuels reduction treatments in order to reduce the risk of a catastrophic wildland fire to the adjacent communities. These specific objectives for the future condition of the project area are explicitly expressed in the SMNRA Forest Plan Amendment of 1996 and guided by the National Forest Management Planning Act and National Environmental Policy Act.

B. *Project proponent has the capacity to implement this project in a timely manner (contractor and staff availability, no backlog of current project, etc.) and within budget.*
Currently the SMNRA doesn't have a hazardous fuels reduction planning project in the works. All past planning projects funded by SNPLMA have signed documents and have been closed out.

To ensure completion of planning and implementation projects, the district and Forest has a professional, skilled work force which has previously shown the capacity to complete projects in a timely manner. Skills represented on the District include an Area Manager, a NEPA planner, fuels specialists, a wildlife biologist, a botanist, an archeologist (currently in process of being hired), a hydrologist, a recreation staff officer (currently in process of being hired), a fire management officer, multiple CORs and fire staff. In addition, plant pathologists and entomologists, fuels specialists, as well as other specialists are on staff at either the Forest Supervisor's Office in Sparks, Nevada, or the Regional Office in Ogden, Utah. Funding for the travel and/or detailing of other Forest Service specialists may be necessary should local positions become vacant, in order to complete this critical fuels planning quickly and efficiently.

Further detail on some of the district's current SNPLMA funded projects on the SMNRA and their status are described below:

Spring Mountains HFRP WUI Phase I Planning Project 6-2 FS30: This Round 6 SNPLMA Planning Project has been completed. The project included completion of planning and decision documents for a project analysis area of 2,330 acres in the Wildland Urban Interface on the SMNRA. An Environmental Assessment was completed and the Decision Notice/Finding of No Significant Impact was signed December 20th, 2007. The project is closed out.

Spring Mountain NRA Hazardous Fuels Reduction WUI Phase II Project 11-8 FO20: This Round 11 SNPLMA project has been completed. This planning project included the completion of planning and decision documents for a project analysis area of 1,514 acres. An Environmental Assessment was completed and the Decision Notice/Finding of No Significant Impact was signed June of 2015. The project has been closed out.

Old Mill Implementation Project 13-6 FO25: This Round 13 SNPLMA project has been completed and closed out. Contracted Hand thinning and Mastication were completed on approximately 260 acres. Force account pile burning was completed on 150 acres. Work was accomplished by Force Account and completed in April of 2018. The project was closed out in 2019.

Deer Creek Hazardous Fuels Reduction Implementation Project: This SNPLMA Round 14 project has been completed within timeframes and within budget. The project made use of 143 acres of contracted hand thin and pile. Force account completed the pile burning in December of 2019. The completion letter has been submitted along with request for closeout by the end of summer 2020.

Potosi Fuels Reduction Planning Project 15-13 FO33: This Round 15 SNPLMA project is currently closed out. This planning project included the completion of planning, surveys and a signed decision memo for an analysis area of 694 acres on September of 2019. The project used a Forest Service Enterprise TEAM to create the document. The project has since been implemented through use of Forest fuels budgeted money. A contracted hand/thin/pile was completed February 2020 and Force Account completed 150 acres. Pile burning through Forest dollars is slated to be completed by the end of FY21 along with 250 acres of contracted hand/thin/pile. This project was closed out the spring of 2020.

C. *Is a phase or related component to a previously funded project.*
This project would act as the “Phase One” in order to analyze and obtain a signed NEPA decision document in order to implement treatments as soon as possible. By procuring funding for planning this project, it would enable the district to continue working towards management objectives regarding fuels reduction in the Wildland Urban Interface. This project connects a multitude of existing projects in the area, and works towards the objectives set forth in the National Cohesive Strategy. Please see the attached figures for a map outlining this proposed analysis area and the existing project locations on National Forest System lands.

D. Has identified committed non-SNPLMA sources of funding or in-kind contribution in the development and/or implementation of the project.

Currently, SNPLMA funds are the only funds identified to complete this project. In the future, other funding sources may become available, including timber stand improvement and forest health money, and appropriated funds to be used in the wildland urban interface. Above Base opportunities can be requested on an annual basis that may offset costs if those requests are granted. Appropriated money may also be requested on a year to year basis, if the need to offset costs to the project arise.

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Project Location:

Project location: 36.25748° / -115.61530°

The project planning area is located on NFS lands, the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest in Clark County, Nevada, within the developed areas on the eastside of the SMNRA. The project area is within the WUI, in both the threat and the defense zones, as well as including general forest areas. This project is located adjacent to private, county, and state lands, as well as lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management Southern Nevada District.

Maps:

Figure 1: *SMNRA Eastside Fuels Reduction Planning Project Vicinity Map.*

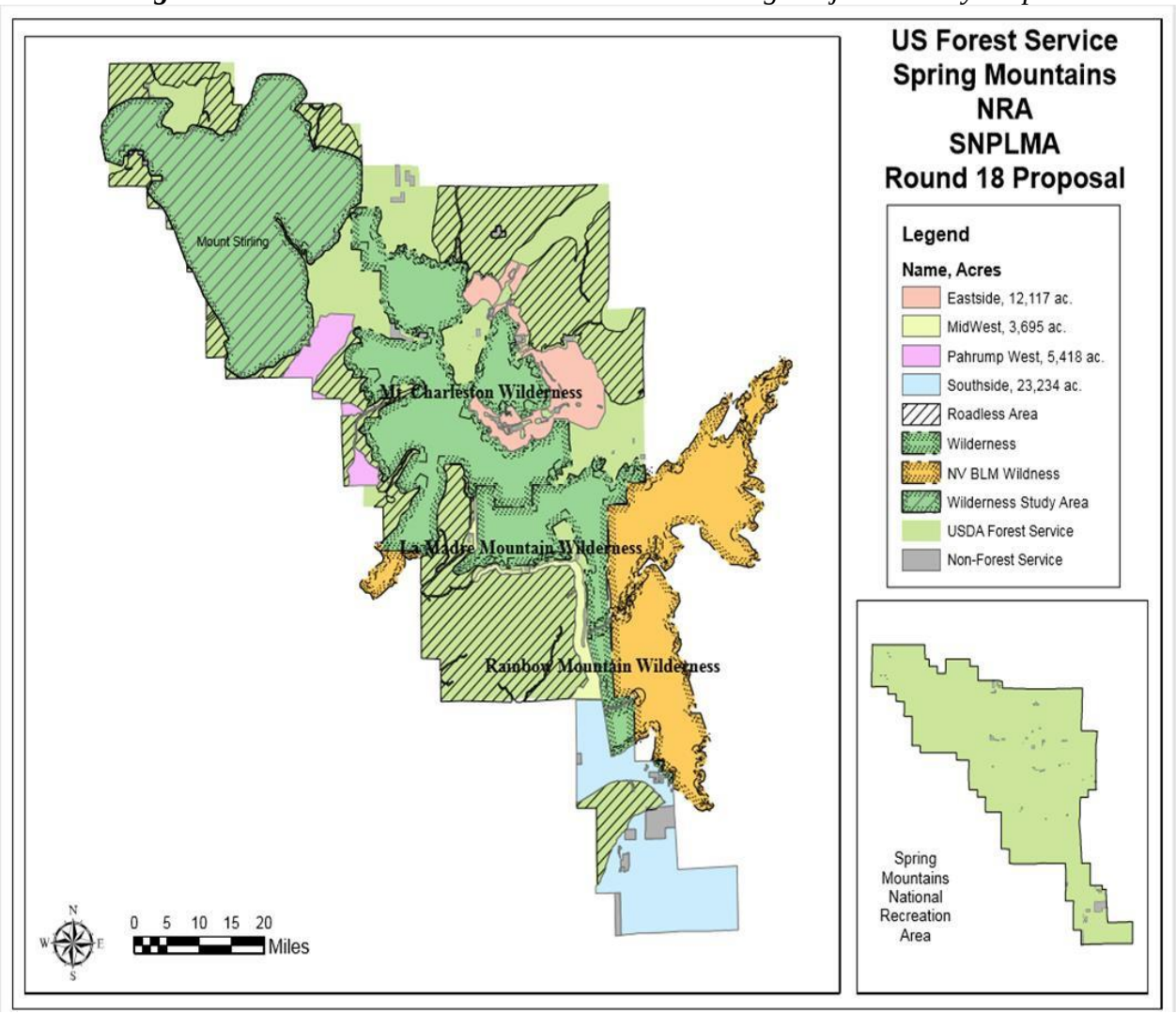
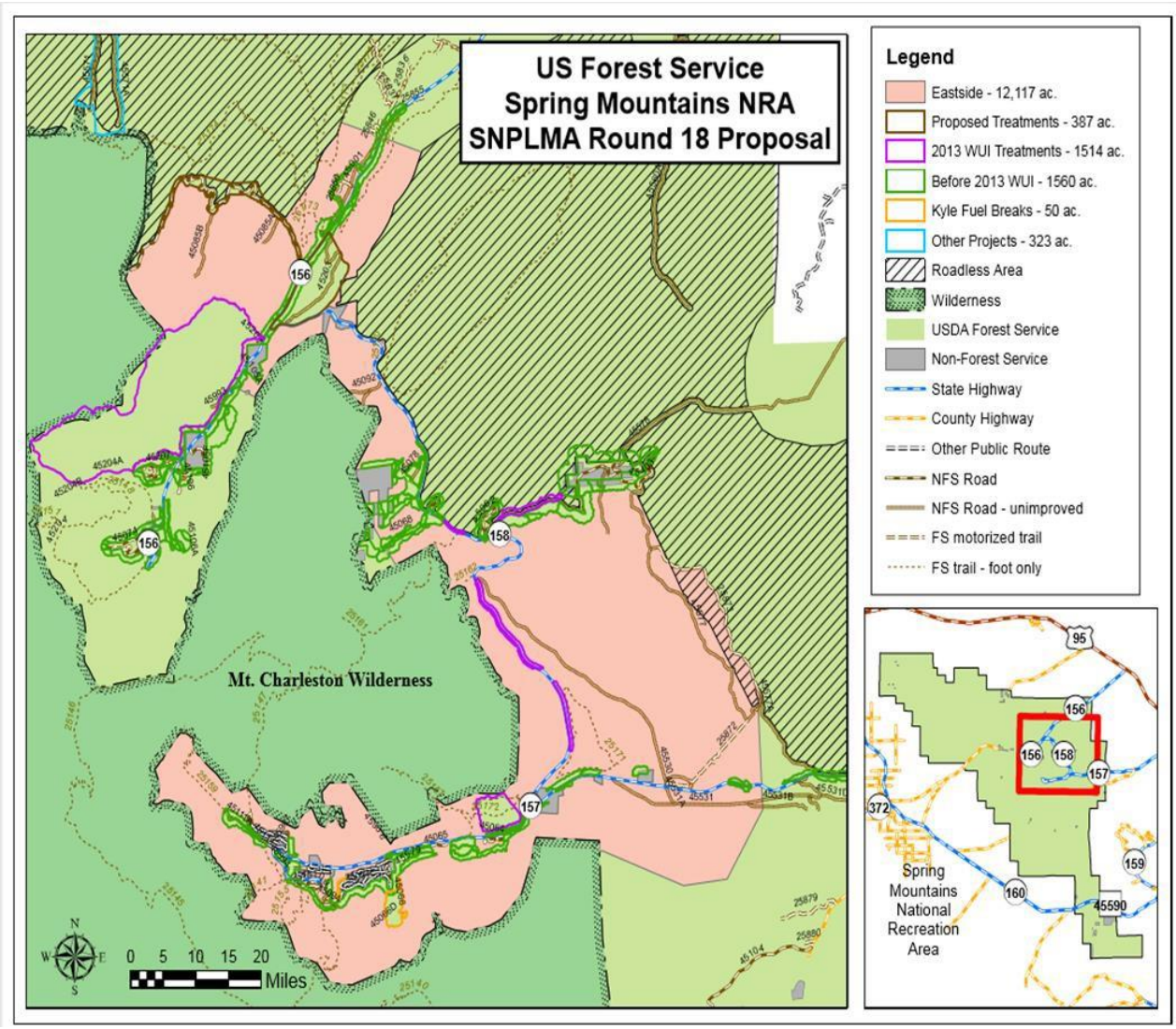


Figure 2: *SMNRA Eastside Fuels Reduction Planning Project Map*



Letters of Support:

None

Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act
Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention
Round 18

Carson City Fire Department

Hazardous Fuels Collection – Carson City

Amount Requested: $147,290

Timeframe: 6 Years
Location: 39.173333°/ -120.799722°
Congressional District: NV-2

Contact: Fire Chief Sean Slamon
Address: 777 S. Stewart Street, Carson City, NV 89506
Phone: 775-887-2210
Fax: 775-887-2209
Email: SSLamon@carson.org

Purpose Statement:

Carson City Fire Dept. will collect an anticipated 1,000 tons of biomass over 6 years from the Defense Zone along the west side of Carson City. Funds will be used to deliver/ pick-up and dump collection bins used by homeowners to create defensible/ survivable space. By reducing the amount of fuel within the communities, we are reducing ignition sources, reducing fire intensities and flame lengths, all while fostering a healthy and resilient ecosystem.

Background info to support the need:

The Fuels Collection Program has been an exemplary program which several other Departments have instituted in nearby jurisdictions. It has been proven that when given the opportunity, homeowners are willing to create defensible/ survival space on their property and recommend that their neighbors do the same.

Within this program we offer trailers (7'x12') and roll off dumpsters (20 cu. Yds.) for homeowners to fill with vegetation removed while completing defensible space around their home. The collection bins are offered free of charge as an incentive for homeowners to have adequate defensible space. Throughout the entire city we delivered over 400 trailers and 150 dumpsters last year. The total vegetation collected was over 325 tons in 2019.

In 2004 Carson City experienced the Waterfall Fire that burned 9,000+ acres, 18 structures and 51 vehicles, including two fire apparatus. It was lessons learned in those few days that drive Carson City Fire Dept. to create a proactive fuels management programs like this. We do not want to see a repeat of that event, and neither do our residents, so they have been aggressive in removing hazardous fuels, ladder fuels, and being ember prepared in order to prevent that from happening.

Relationship to prior approved phases or related SNPLMA projects and anticipated future phases:

Carson City has been fortunate enough to receive SNPLMA Rounds 8 and 16 funding for hazardous Fuels Reduction on open space. As the larger fuels breaks surrounding communities are completed the next step in creating Fire Adapted Communities is to reduce the fuels on the lots that make up the community. This program will enhance the fuels reduction already accomplished by having homeowners take responsibility for their own property.

Deliverables:

<u>Primary Deliverables</u>

1. Collect an anticipated 1000 tons of biomass in 6 years from the west side of Carson City.

<u>Anticipated Deliverables</u>

1. Carson City Fire will deliver a packet of educational material with every collection bin.
    a. *Living with Fire* Information.
    b. Ready! Set! Go! Information.

Standard Deliverables

- Deliver a collection bin (Trailer or Dumpster) so homeowners have a way to dispose of vegetation removed to create defensible/ survivable space.

Project Timeframe:

6 Years

Level of Project Readiness for Implementation

Carson City Fire has been running this program since 2006 with an increase in usage every year. There is an established system in place for signing up for the program, getting the information to the drivers and an efficient schedule for delivery and pickup.

Future Operations and Maintenance:

None.

Partnerships and/or contributed:

Carson City Fire Dept. will document the number of hours each landowner spends cutting and filling the collection bins. As the collection bins are dropped off, each landowner will get a packet of educational information along with a form to fill out to document the in-kind hours they spend completing fuels reduction projects that result in the need for the collection bin. We anticipate a minimum of 10 hours per trailer and 20 hours per dumpster of in-kind match. A low estimate for the number of hours each year would be 2,500 hours, which would be valued at over $50,000 per year.

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CARSON CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

"Service with Pride, Commitment, Compassion"

September 9, 2020

Robert Taylor, Program Manager
BLM Southern Nevada District Office
SNPLMA Division
4701 N. Torrey Pines Dr.
Las Vegas, NV 89130

RE: Carson City Hazardous Fuels Collection

Mr. Taylor:

Carson City Fire Department will document the number of hours each landowner spends cutting and filling the collection bins. A conservative average of 10 hours per trailer and 20 hours per dumpster of in-kind match will be used. A low estimate for the number of in-kind hours would be 10,000 hours, which would be valued at over $250,000 over the six years of the funding.

The fuels collection program is an integral part of supporting our residents in creating defensible space.

We look forward to working with the Bureau of Land Management on this project.

Respectfully,

Sean P. Slamon
Fire Chief
Carson City Fire Department

Funding Requested Budget Detail:

ROUND 18
HAZARDOUS FUELS AND WILDFIRE PREVENTION NOMINATION
ESTIMATED DIRECT COSTS & KEY MILESTONES

Project Name:	='General project Info'!B5	**Date prepared:**	9/9/2020
		Agency:	='General project Info'!B10
Project #	*Assigned by SNPLMA*	**Priority #:**	*Assigned by SNPLMA*
Prepared by:	='General project Info'!B8	**Phone #:**	775-283-7161
Title/position:	='General project Info'!B9		

1	**Planning & Environmental Documentation** Includes labor for surveys/reports for cultural, natural, biological, archaeological, historical resources, etc. and preparation of NEPA documentation and the decision document. Does not include on-going compliance monitoring (see Direct Labor #3)	$0	0.00%
2	**FWS Consultation - Endangered Species Act** Direct expenses for FWS consultation. *Includes all labor, agreements, and costs for Section 7 review and approval.*	$0	0.00%
3	**Direct Federal Labor to Implement Project (Payroll)** For interagency projects, identify a primary team lead and the lead agency for consultation/coordination and individual agency leads responsible for entering progress and reports into SMART.	$0	0.00%
4	**Project Equipment and/or Supplies and Materials** Equipment, supplies or materials necessary to complete the project that are not included in contracts/agreements. Includes lease or rental of equipment/vehicles.	$8,000	5.43%
5	**Travel and Per Diem for Implementation** Includes all necessary travel for training and implementation of the project. Training costs for tuition, materials, etc. are identified in item #7 below	$0	0.00%
6	**Official Vehicle Use (vehicles with Federal license only)** Estimated costs for routine maintenance agency vehicles, leased or rental equipment, oil and gas, tires, etc. Does not include replacement cost	$0	0.00%
7	**Training (required to implement the project)** Includes training essential/necessary for implementation of the project.	$0	0.00%
8	**Contracts, Grants, and/or Agreements** CESU, IGO, Assistance agreements, Task Orders, and contracts for implementation of the project. Also includes all costs for construction/implementation of the plan. The period of performance for grants or agreements and contracts must not extend pas the approved period of performance in the approved Work Plan. Final invoices and de-obligation of unexpended funds must be paid and sub agreements and contracts closed prior to submitting the request for closeout	$0	0.00%
9	**Other Necessary Expenses** (See Appendix B-11)	$139,290	94.57%
	Total requested/estimated budget	**$147,290**	**100.00%**
10	**Estimated agency or partner contribution**	$200,000	
	Total Estimated project value	$347,290	

General comments and description of milestones

Carson City Fire Dept. will collect an anticipated 1,000 tons of biomass over 6 years from the Threat Zone along the west side of Carson City. Funds will be used to deliver/ pick-up and dump collection bins used by homeowners to create defensible/ survivable space. By reducing the amount of fuel within the communities, we are reducing ignition sources, reducing fire intensities and flame lengths, all while fostering a healthy and resilient ecosystem.

Performance Measures:

Outcome: Minimize the loss of life, property, and the environment from catastrophic wildfire within the wildland-urban interface of Carson City, Nevada. Achieving the following output will accomplish this outcome:

Output (Primary Deliverable): Reduce hazardous fuels on 200 acres (5 tons of material equals 1 acre treated) in the wildland-urban interface. The SNPLMA Performance Measure is:

- Performance Measure F2 – Acres of Hazardous Fuels Treated – Wildland Urban Interface

Outcome: Increase public awareness about hazardous fuels reduction and wildfire preparedness. Achieving the following output(s) will accomplish this outcome:

Output (Primary Deliverable): Delivery of educational packets with each collection bin. The SNPLMA Performance Measures include:

- Performance Measure O5 – Number of Outreach Contact Made (each individual is reported as one unit).

Executive Committee Strategic Plan Values:

The project **promotes sustainability** by including homeowners in the process of fuels reduction and educating them on the proper way to create survivable space. This program also creates "invested" owners who are willing to roll up their sleeves and put in the work it takes to prepare a home for wildfire. The face to face meeting on the property owners land creates a great teaching environment where the homeowner has access to experts in fuels reduction and survivable space.

The project **promotes community** through neighbors talking to neighbors. Once a collection bin is placed in a yard, there is a good chance one of the surrounding neighbors will be asking about it. A healthy community is one where neighbors communicate freely and assist each other in times of need. The fuels collection program also puts peer pressure on one's neighbors to keep yards clean, lean and green.

Compliance with Departmental and Agency Priorities, Strategic Goals, Executive Orders, and Secretarial Orders:

<u>Compliance with Departmental/Agency Priorities and Strategic Goals</u>

(no answer provided)

<u>Consistency with Executive Orders and Secretarial Orders</u>

(no answer provided)

Ranking Criteria:

1. Improves the community within and/or adjacent to the project area.

A. *Addresses immediate public health and safety and community infrastructure*
This project is 100% in the Threat Zone because it is in the community itself. The collection of fuels from private lots extends fuel breaks previously constructed into the community and onto private property. This will move these communities that much closer to becoming a Fire Adapted Community, and allows homeowners to take the responsibility for their own defensible space.

B. *Promotes protection of source water (rivers and lakes) or municipal watersheds.*
By giving homeowners an easy way to complete defensible space, we are effectively cleaning up drainages that would not be treated otherwise. Creating defensible/ survivable space, removing dead and downed vegetation, and creating adequate space between brush and trees, stream zones will be returned to a healthy, productive part of the ecosystem. Without this program, drainages and watercourses on private property might not be treated.

C. *Project includes education and outreach to the community on Living with Fire or Fire Adapted Communities and/or the importance of fuels reduction on federal, state, and local government land.*
With the delivery of every collection bin (trailer or dumpster), a packet with educational material will be dropped off as well. These packets could include information from the *Living with Fire* program as well and the Ready! Set! Go! Program from the International Association of Fire Chiefs.

2. Improves the connection of fuels reduction activities and wildlife habitat.

A. *Project connects previously treated areas to create or increase contiguous blocks of treated land.*
Funding from Round 8 and 16 was/ is being used to complete fuel breaks around the outside of communities, and this program will enhance those fuel breaks by removing fuels from within the community itself. Additional funding sources are creating large scale fuel breaks.

B. *Project protects or enhances wildlife habitat and/or resilient vegetative communities.*
All of the communities on the west side of Carson City are critical winter range for mule deer. By effectively lowering the average age of the vegetation, this creates more browse opportunities for mule deer. As sage brush and bitterbrush age, their stem production is reduced and chemical changes within the plants make them almost inedible to mule deer. Since disturbance from fire and grazing has been limited, these types of projects are critical in restoring degraded ecosystems around Carson City.

3. Improves sustainability of the multijurisdictional 10-year plans, environment, and financial resources.

A. The Project will:

1. Improve the sustainability of the forest health and ecosystem function (e.g. stand density, desired species mix and age, tree health, etc.)

There is a large accumulation of fuels within the communities along the west side of Carson City causing hazardous fuel conditions and a degraded ecosystem not functioning at its peak. By creating defensible space and removing dead and downed material, creating space between tree and brush we are trying to mimic the effects of natural disturbance. Natural disturbance creates interspaces between widely spaced brush and trees where grasses and forbs can establish. This increases biodiversity and increases the productivity of the entire ecosystem.

2. Improve the habitat for sensitive species and Threatened and Endangered species. Includes mitigation and/or minimization measures when treatment in sensitive habitat is unavoidable.

There are several species that are of concern that could benefit from this project. None are known to inhabit the project area now, but ongoing monitoring pre and post treatment could identify any of these species. By opening up dense dead and decadent vegetation and exposing the soil to sunlight, we never fully know what could sprout given the right conditions. If any of these species are identified before, during or after implementation, mitigation measures will be put in place to minimize the impact.

The result of no project could be catastrophic wildfire, which would result in bare mineral soil and possible cheat grass infestations. This would not be an environment that could sustain any of the species of concern.

3. Includes broadcast prescribed fire for resource management objectives for sustainable landscapes.

This program doesn't have a prescribed fire component. One of the intents of this program is to reduce homeowner pile burning. By reducing the number of backyard pile burns, we are reducing the changes of an escape that turns into a wildland fire.

B, The method of treatment is fiscally responsible for the project area by balancing resource objectives, values at risk, and cost per acre factors or cost-benefit analysis.

There are tremendous values at risk along the west side of Carson City. Two of our higher end communities, key winter range for mule deer and critical water infrastructure are just some of the vulnerable assets. Through the Round 16 funding we average $160 per ton of material removed.

The aftermath of the 2004 Waterfall fire that swept along the west side of Carson City is still our worst case scenario for a wildfire. This single event destroyed 18 homes, 51 vehicles, including two fire apparatus, and caused an estimated $23,500,000 in damages. These fuel breaks will significantly decrease the impacts of a wildfire in the future.

4. Demonstrates sound project management and quality control measures.

A. *Project goals and implementation processes are clear, measurable, achievable, and demonstrable.*
The goal is to collect 1000 tons of hazardous vegetation and reach as many residents as we can. All vegetation collected ends up at the landfill where it is weighed before it gets ground up into mulch. The mulch is then used in the local landscape industry.

B. *Project proponent has the capacity to implement this project in a timely manner (contractor and staff availability, no backlog of current project, etc.) and within budget.*
All the processes and procedures are currently in place and have been refined over the years, so this project will be carried out seamlessly.

C. *Is a phase or related component to a previously funded project.*
This program has been supported by other grants in the past, creating a phased program as residents are able to make several entry's into their landscape over the years. CCFD received Round 16 funding for this program.

D. *Has identified committed non-SNPLMA sources of funding or in-kind contribution in the development and/or implementation of the project.*
Carson City Fire Dept. will document the number of hours each landowner spends cutting and filling the collection bins. As the collection bins are dropped off, each landowner will get a packet of educational information. We estimate a minimum of 10 hours per trailer and 25 hours per dumpster of in-kind match. A low estimate for the number of hours each year would be 2,250 hours, which would be valued at over $45,000 per year.

Project Location:

Project location: 39.173333°/ -120.799722°
Carson City, Nevada

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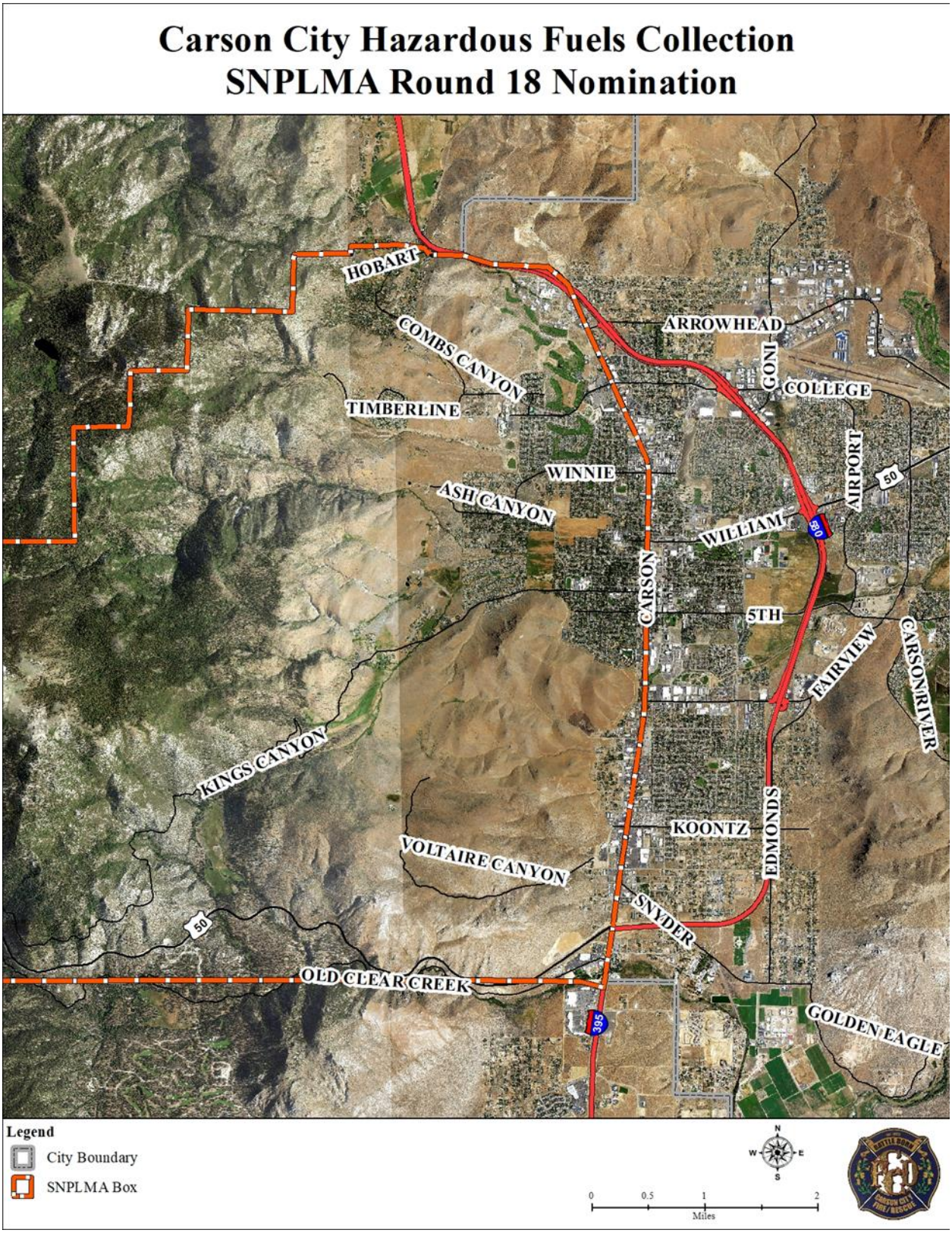
Map:


Carson City Hazardous Fuels Collection
SNPLMA Round 18 Nomination
HOBART
COMBS CANYON
ARROWHEAD
GONI
COLLEGE
TIMBERLINE
WINNIE
ASH CANYON
AIRPORT
50
WILLIAM
580
CARSON
5TH
FAIRVIEW
CARSON RIVER
KINGS CANYON
KOONTZ
EDMONDS
VOLTAIRE CANYON
SNYDER
50
OLD CLEAR CREEK
395
GOLDEN EAGLE
Legend
City Boundary
SNPLMA Box
N
W
E
S
0
0.5
1
2
Miles

Photos:

Photo #1 – 7'x12' Fuels Collection Trailer. Carson City currently has 5 of these trailers which average 1000 lbs. of vegetation per trip.

Photo #2 – Carson City currently has 4, 20 cubic yd. dumpsters allocated to the Fuels Collection Program. These average 1.5 tons per trip.

Letters of Support:

None.

Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act
Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention
Round 18

Bureau of Land Management
Southern Nevada District Office

Hazardous Fuels Planning – Spring Mountains West

Amount Requested: $875,362

Timeframe: 6 Years
Location: 36.157959°/-115.883019°
Congressional Districts: NV-23, NV-4

Contact: Sean McEldery, Agency Contact
Address: 4701 N. Torrey Pines Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89130
Phone:(702) 515-5285
Email: smcelder@blm.gov

Purpose Statement:

The BLM Southern Nevada District Office (SNDO) will evaluate cross-boundary wildfire risk and plan strategic hazardous fuel treatments to protect human communities and critical infrastructure in the Spring Mountains multi-jurisdictional planning area. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will complete environmental planning to increase public and fire fighter safety, protect critical infrastructure, protect natural and cultural resources, and increase ecosystem resilience and sustainability on BLM public lands managed within the Las Vegas, Pahrump Field, and Red Rock/Sloan Field Offices in Blocks 1-4 of the Spring Mountains Multi-jurisdictional Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Strategy 10 Year Plan.

Background info to support the need:

Spring Mountains West Hazardous Fuels Planning Project is located on BLM administered land and is part of the *Spring Mountains Multi-Jurisdictional Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Strategy 10-year plan*. The proposed planning project evaluates wildfire risk at the local community and infrastructure level, plans the strategic connection of hazardous fuel treatments to reduce wildfire risk to protect wildland urban interface (WUI) and natural and cultural resources, and completes an environmental assessment authorizing future treatments on or near boundaries shared with the multi-jurisdictional partners. This plan will evaluate six important WUI areas in Blocks 1-4 of the Spring Mountains Plan for possible fuel treatments. The total amount requested for the project is $760,000.

The Spring Mountains have been subject to large and destructive wildfires over the last decade. The 2005 Goodsprings Fire burned 33,569 acres and the 2013 Carpenter 1 Fire burned 27,883 acres on private and public lands within the Spring Mountains planning area. These fires threatened WUI and valuable natural and cultural resources. The Carpenter 1 Fire post-fire impacts resulted in flooding and debris flows which put communities and natural and cultural resources at further risk.

Reducing wildfire risk in the Spring Mountains remains a top priority for the BLM in Southern Nevada. Cross-boundary planning, project level hazardous fuel risk assessment, and a subsequent environmental assessment will consider a combination of treatment methods to reduce wildfire risk including mechanical, prescribed fire, and chemical herbicide focusing on invasive plant species and hazardous fuel accumulations. Analysis will consider minimization measures to reduce impacts to local communities and natural and cultural resources.

The project purpose is to:

- Reduce wildfire risk to human communities and protect critical infrastructure;
- Promote sustainability and fire adapted communities through education and outreach;
- Reduce wildfire risk to sensitive natural and cultural resources;
- Protect valuable habitat, increase resilience and sustainability in vegetation communities; and
- Connect and improve areas previously treated for hazardous fuels.

This project proposal follows previous fuel projects implemented under the National Fire Plan and Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998 (SNPLMA, Public Law 105-263, as amended) Rounds 10 and 15 for the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area (RRCNCA). The Round 10 Project treated 4,460 acres in RRCNCA and was successfully closed out. The RRCNCA Round 15 planning and treatment projects are underway and are expected to be completed and closed out by May 2022. The Round 15 planning project, RRCNCA Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Project, focuses on lands within the NCA. This project proposal will evaluate six important WUI boundary areas for possible hazardous fuel reduction.

Planned deliverables are:

- Plan to reduce wildfire risk to human communities and adjoining lands;
- Plan fuel treatments that reduce wildfire risk to critical infrastructure;
- Plan fuel treatments to protect sensitive natural and cultural resources;
- Create a strategy to connect fuel treatments across multi-jurisdictional boundaries; and
- Evaluate methods to decrease wildfire risk to human communities and critical infrastructure, promote and maintain habitat diversity, and increase competition with non-native plant species.

Relationship to prior approved phases or related SNPLMA projects and anticipated future phases:

All projects and phases have been developed and designed to be stand-alone and to meet specific measurable objectives as established by the multi-jurisdictional plan. This planning project proposal seeks to cohesively connect individual projects and phases to "provide greater protection to the people, infrastructure, and resources in the planning area" (Spring Mtn. Plan, 2008).

<u>Phase One</u>

Partial funding of Phase One was received from a Round 10 SNPLMA nomination in the amount of $1,000,000. The rest of the project funding was awarded in 2011 through SNPLMA Special Account Reserve in the amount of $553,000 to make the project whole. 4,460 acres were treated for hazardous fuels in RRCNCA. Treatment was completed October 2014 and the Round 10 project has been closed out.

The Round 15 Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Project (B002) and BLM Red Rock Canyon NCA Wildfire Risk Analysis and Hazardous Fuel Planning Project (B003) are currently be implemented and are on track to be closed out by May 2022. B002 was funded at $590,000 to treat hazardous fuels and conduct fire prevention activities in RRCNCA. B003 was funded at $266,000 to assess hazardous fuels, plan fuel treatments and complete environmental assessments in RRCNCA.

The focus for this proposal is cross-boundary collaborative hazardous fuel reduction and fire prevention project in six key WUI areas. This project will plan to optimize and connect fuel

treatments across the landscape to protect human communities and natural and cultural resources.

To date, both the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and BLM have been successful in competing for funding and completing projects within their respective jurisdictions under the Spring Mountains Plan. This project will continue to focus on BLM managed public lands but will also consider and evaluate shared boundaries and adjacent lands as a collaborative approach under the Multi-jurisdictional Plan. This project will be planned in conjunction with the USFS proposed Round 18 project, Spring Mountains National Recreation Area Eastside Hazardous Fuels Reduction Planning Project.

The project will include changes since the Plan's inception in 2008. The 2013 Carpenter 1 Fire severely impacted the Spring Mountains and adjoining lands. The Mt. Charleston Fire Protection District was formed in 2015. The Town of Pahrump was officially un-incorporated in 2015 and now is managed under Nye County. The Nye County Emergency Manager is also the fire chief for Pahrump Valley Fire and Rescue.

The Multi-jurisdictional partners have consensus that a more collaborative approach is needed. To meet this need, the BLM has taken the initiative to plan this project. A project goal is to plan treatments on BLM lands that match up with planned or existing fuel treatments on lands adjacent to the BLM. A more inclusive and collaborative approach will benefit our multi-jurisdictional partners as well as better protect BLM managed public lands.

This project proposal will combine planning completed under the Red Rock Hazardous Fuels Project, other existing planning, and new planning to address wildfire risk and fuel hazards at the landscape level. This project proposal was developed by working with the multi-jurisdictional partners to identify key WUI areas.

Phase Two – Planned Future Project

Implementation of treatments planned under the Round 15 BLM Red Rock Canyon NCA Wildfire Risk Analysis and Hazardous Fuel Planning Project will include fuel reduction treatments and prescribed fire where needed to protect WUI, natural and cultural resources and ecosystem services in the RRCNCA Core Area, La Madre Mountain Wilderness Area, and the Harris Springs Area. These proposed treatments are pending completion of a final environmental assessment which will authorize hazardous fuel reduction and fire prevention activities.

This Round 18 planning project will evaluate wildfire risk and plan treatments in six key WUI areas found in Blocks 1-4 of the *Spring Mountains Multi-jurisdictional Plan* as part of a cohesive strategy to manage wildfire risk and reduce potential wildfire impacts to human communities and infrastructure. Wildfire risk and fuels treatment planning will be completed to connect current and future fuel treatments to reduce wildfire risk at a landscape scale where wildfire could threaten public and fire fighter safety, infrastructure or impact wildlife habitat or other natural and cultural resources. The Spring Mountains are an important biodiversity hotspot. The Springs Mountains and Red Rock Canyon are important recreational destinations for over two million people that live in the surrounding communities.

The Spring Mountains are a sky island oasis in the hot and dry Mojave Desert. Water and riparian resources are a scarce and critical commodity in the Mojave Desert, often hosting a

plethora of T&E and endemic species. In addition to protecting human communities and infrastructure, treatments will begin to connect current fuel treatments to reduce wildfire risk at a landscape/watershed scale where wildfire could impact habitat and riparian resources. Biodiversity hotspots, springs, and high value habitat will be treated where existing environmental planning has previously been completed.

Phase Three - Future Planned Project

Phase Three will include new treatments as well as retreatment of previously treated areas. The multi-jurisdictional partners have identified several areas needing retreatment. The exact kind and timing of treatments will not be known until assessments and monitoring has been completed. The completion of this project will help ensure future fuel treatments build upon previous treatments and investments. The future treatment acres identified by this project will improve public and fire fighter safety and protect WUI and related infrastructure. In addition biodiversity hotspots, springs, and high value habitat will be treated where identified in the hazardous fuel treatment plan and EA. Re-treatment may include additional applications of an invasive annual grass pre-emergent herbicide, hand cutting of hazardous trees, application of basal bark herbicide, broadcast burning, hand piling and burning, blading, mastication or mowing.

Deliverables:

Primary Deliverables

1. Wildland Urban Interface and Infrastructure Protection and Sustainability. Wildfire risk and hazard fuel assessments will be completed to evaluate possible fuel treatments on BLM managed public lands in six WUI areas. At least one hazardous fuel treatment plan and one EA will be completed. The treatment plan will evaluate connecting planned and existing fuel treatments to planned or existing fuel treatments on BLM managed public lands within the planning area (see Figures 5, 12, and 13). The six WUI areas to be evaluated are: 1) Mount Charleston Fire Protection District; 2) Pahrump, NV; 3) Blue Diamond, NV and Spring Mountains State Park; 4) Mountain Springs, NV; 5) Trout Canyon, NV; and 6) Cold Creek, NV.

Standard Deliverables

- Contract preparation and administration
- Cooperative agreement preparation and administration
- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Environmental Assessment (EA)
- USFWS T&E species consultation as required by Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (as amended)
- State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 Consultation
- Cadastral survey
- Wildfire risk assessment

- Biological monitoring
- Wilderness Minimum Requirement Analysis
- Visitor outreach and public scoping
- Spatial and database management
- Hazardous fuels analysis and treatment plan

Project Timeframe:

Year 1. Contract preparation and administration. Complete wildfire risk assessment and hazardous fuels inventory. Carry-out field work for landscape analysis.

Year 2. Contract preparation and administration. Complete landscape analysis and fuel treatment planning. Complete fuel treatment plan.

Year 3. Contract preparation and administration. Initiate NEPA process including public outreach, informational meetings, and wilderness minimum requirement analysis. Initiate environmental consultation. Complete cultural resource or biological resource surveys if needed.

Year 4. Contract preparation and administration. Complete NEPA EA draft. Initiate formal public scoping. Complete environmental consultation.

Year 5. Contract preparation and administration. Complete NEPA process. Complete project monitoring and reporting.

Year 6. Close out project.

Level of Project Readiness for Implementation

Preliminary planning has been completed. The Intermountain Region Quantitative Wildfire Risk Assessment (2019) which includes the Spring Mountains Area has been completed. The B003 Wildland Hazardous Fuels Treatment Plan Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area (2019) has been drafted. The Nevada Natural Resources and Fire Information Portal is available online (accessed August 2020). This new proposed project builds upon previous projects and investments including previously completed NEPA, environmental consultation, and land treatments.

Future Operations and Maintenance:

None.

Partnerships and/or contributed:

None.

Funding Requested Budget Detail:

ROUND 18
HAZARDOUS FUELS AND WILDFIRE PREVENTION NOMINATION
ESTIMATED DIRECT COSTS & KEY MILESTONES

Project Name:	**Spring Mountains West Hazardous Fuels Planning Project**	**Date prepared:**	**8/20/2020**
		Agency:	**BLM - SNDO**
Project #	***Assigned by SNPLMA***	**Priority #:**	***Assigned by SNPLMA***
Prepared by:	**Sean McEldery**	**Phone #:**	**702-283-8319**
Title/position:	Supervisory Fire Management Specialist		

1	**Planning & Environmental Documentation** Includes labor for surveys/reports for cultural, natural, biological, archaeological, historical resources, etc. and preparation of NEPA documentation and the decision document. Does not include on-going compliance monitoring (see Direct Labor #3)	$27,692	3.16%
2	**FWS Consultation - Endangered Species Act** Direct expenses for FWS consultation. *Includes all labor, agreements, and costs for Section 7 review and approval.*	$5,920	0.68%
3	**Direct Federal Labor to Implement Project (Payroll)** For interagency projects, identify a primary team lead and the lead agency for consultation/coordination and individual agency leads responsible for entering progress and reports into SMART.	$506,200	57.83%
4	**Project Equipment and/or Supplies and Materials** Equipment, supplies or materials necessary to complete the project that are not included in contracts/agreements. Includes lease or rental of equipment/vehicles.	$7,400	0.85%
5	**Travel and Per Diem for Implementation** Includes all necessary travel for training and implementation of the project. Training costs for tuition, materials, etc. are identified in item #7 below	$4,500	0.51%
6	**Official Vehicle Use (vehicles with Federal license only)** Estimated costs for routine maintenance agency vehicles, leased or rental equipment, oil and gas, tires, etc. Does not include replacement cost	$11,650	1.33%
7	**Training (required to implement the project)** Includes training essential/necessary for implementation of the project.	$4,500	0.51%
8	**Contracts, Grants, and/or Agreements** CESU, IGO, Assistance agreements, Task Orders, and contracts for implementation of the project. Also includes all costs for construction/implementation of the plan. The period of performance for grants or agreements and contracts must not extend pas the approved period of performance in the approved Work Plan. Final invoices and de-obligation of unexpended funds must be paid and sub agreements and contracts closed prior to submitting the request for closeout	$287,500	32.84%
9	**Other Necessary Expenses** (See Appendix B-11)	$20,000	2.28%
	Total requested/estimated budget	**$875,362**	**100.00%**
10	**Estimated agency or partner contribution**	$0	
	Total Estimated project value	$875,362	

Performance Measures:

Outcome:

- Increase public and fire fighter safety.
- Reduce wildfire risk to communities, infrastructure, and watersheds in WUI boundary areas.
- Reduce wildfire risk to T&E, sensitive, and endemic species.
- Reduce wildfire risk to cultural resources.
- Maintain ecosystem services.

Output:

- Primary Deliverables:
  - Complete hazardous fuels and environmental planning to reduce wildfire risk to WUI areas and critical infrastructure. Work to improve public and fire fighter safety, maintain ecosystem services, and protect desert tortoise habitat connectivity. Plan to connect or integrate previous and planned fuel treatments at the landscape level utilizing natural barriers and/or existing disturbances such as roads/trails/routes within the Spring Mountains area where feasible. Evaluate wildfire risk to WUI areas and infrastructure. Prioritize and coordinate treatments with multi-jurisdictional partners. Protect natural and cultural resources. The SNPLMA Performance Measures Include:
    - Performance Measure O12 Number of Management Plans/Handbooks/Manuals/Guides for Activity on Public Lands Completed: Complete a minimum of 1 NEPA EA, 1 hazardous fuel treatment plan, and 1 environmental consultation.

- Anticipated Deliverable:
  - Evaluate wildfire risk and hazardous fuels at the watershed/landscape level and plan to minimize impacts to the public and natural and cultural resources. The SNPLMA Performance Measures Include:
    - Performance Measure O12 Number of Management Plans/Handbooks/Manuals/Guides for Activity on Public Lands Completed: 1 wildfire risk assessment, 1 hazardous fuels inventory, 1 cultural resource survey, 1 cadastral survey, and 1 NEPA EA.

Executive Committee Strategic Plan Values:

The proposed Project supports Sustainability, Connectivity, and Community as identified in the SNPLMA Strategic Plan (2019).

Goal 1: **Sustain the quality of the outdoor environment by conserving, preserving, and restoring natural, cultural, and historical resources.**

- Objective: **Conserve and Restore Natural Resources** -Maintain or increase the quality of natural resources and protect their ecological integrity and sustainability.
    - Protect threatened, endangered, and sensitive species and their habitat.

- Objective: **Preserve Cultural and Historical Resources** - Document, preserve, and interpret cultural resources.
    - Protect the integrity of significant resource values.

- Objective: **Promote Project Connectivity and Sustainability** - Integrate and connect sustainable projects across agencies, landscapes, and previous projects that are sustainable within the outdoor environment.

    - Improve coordination among federal, state, and local agencies to facilitate resource sharing, joint problem solving, and efficient decision-making to enhance connectivity.
    - Connect and integrate projects from previous and new rounds that are sustainable within the regional landscape recreational environment.

- Objective: **Protect Communities** - Manage resources to improve the safety of communities.
    - Reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire by removing hazardous fuels.

Compliance with Departmental and Agency Priorities, Strategic Goals, Executive Orders, and Secretarial Orders:

<u>Compliance with Departmental/Agency Priorities and Strategic Goals</u>

Meets one or more of the Department of the Interior Priorities below:

1. *Create a conservation stewardship legacy second only to Teddy Roosevelt.*
   Yes, this project seeks to promote this stewardship legacy.

2. *Sustainably develop our energy and natural resources.*
   Yes, protecting our energy infrastructure and natural resources from wildfire ensures sustainability.

3. *Restore trust and be a good neighbor.*
   Yes, restoring trust and working together as good neighbors is central to this project.

4. *Ensure that tribal sovereignty means something*
   Yes, this project will comply with all federal and state laws governing cultural, historic and heritage resources.

5. *Increase revenues to support the Department and national interests.*
   Yes, this project seeks to prevent economic loss due to wildfires and supports Departmental and national interests.

6. *Protect our people and the border.*
   Yes, the project protects our people and the border (Mission Area 5) by managing wildland fire to reduce risk and improve ecosystem and community resilience (Goal #3).

7. *Strike a regulatory balance.*
   Yes, the project plans to reduce hazardous fuels and wildfire risk while meeting federal and state environmental compliance standards.

8. *Modernize our infrastructure*
   Yes, the project seeks to use the best available science to evaluate wildfire risk and reduce hazards to protect roads and facilities on federally managed public lands.

9. *Reorganize the Department for the next 100 years.*
   No, the project does not contribute to reorganizing the Department.

10. *Achieve our goals and lead our team forward.*
    Yes, this project will help achieve our goals and lead our team forward.

Meets one or more of the U.S. Forest Service priorities below:

1. *Uplifting and empowering our employees through a respectful, safe working environment.*
   Yes, the project will work to ensure a respectful and safe working environment.

2. *Being good neighbors and providing excellent customer service.*
   Yes, being a good neighbor and providing excellent customer service are goals for this project.

3. *Promoting shared stewardship by increasing partnerships and volunteerism.*
   Yes, this project seeks to increase and improve partnerships under the Spring

Mountains Multi-Jurisdictional Plan.

4. *Improving the condition of forests and grasslands.*
   Yes, this project seeks to improve the condition of forests, grasslands, and desert areas by reducing wildfire risk.

5. *Enhancing recreation opportunities, improving access, and sustain infrastructure.*
   Yes, reducing wildfire impacts and risk by treating hazardous fuels will help ensure recreation opportunities, access, and infrastructure are sustained in the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area and the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area.

<u>Consistency with Executive Orders and Secretarial Orders</u>

- **EO No. 13855 Promoting Active Management of America's Forests, Range Lands to Improve Conditions and Reduce Wildfire Risk**
  - Yes, the project plans to:
    1. Share Management Priorities with Multi-jurisdictional Partners
    2. Coordinate Federal, State, Tribal, and Local Assets
    3. Remove Hazardous Fuels and Increase Active Management
       a. Reduce fuel loads
       b. Protect water quality
       c. Increase forest health treatments
       d. Evaluate access for emergency wildfire response
       e.
- **SO No. 3347: Conservation Stewardship and Outdoor Recreation**
  - Not applicable. While there may be substantial benefits because of this project for conservation stewardship, outdoor recreational opportunities including hunting and fishing for all American, the project's purpose is to evaluate wildfire risk and plan hazardous fuel treatments.

- **SO No. 3356: Hunting, Fishing, Recreational Shooting, and Wildlife Conservation Opportunities and Coordination with States, Tribes and Territories**
  - Not applicable.

- **SO No. 3362: Improving Habitat Quality in Western Big-Game Winter Range and Migration Corridors**
  - Not applicable. A possible outcome could be improved mule deer habitat; however, the purpose of the project is to evaluate wildfire risk and plan fuel treatments.

- **SO No. 3366: Increasing Recreational Opportunities on Lands and Waters Managed by the U.S. Department of the Interior**
  - Not applicable.

- **SO No. 3370 Improving Conservation Stewardship and Increasing Public Access to Urban National Wildlife Refuges**
  - Not applicable.

- **SO No. 3372 Reducing Wildfire Risks on Department of the Interior Land Through Acting Management**
  - Yes, this project seeks to:
    - better protect people, communities, wildlife habitat, and watersheds by actively managing lands to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire
    - promote the sustainable recovery of fire damaged lands.

- **SO No. 3373 Evaluating Public Access in Bureau of Land Management Public Land Disposals and Exchanges**
  - Not applicable.

- **SO No. 3374 Implementation of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management and Recreation Act**
  - Not applicable. While the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management and Recreation Act does address certain aspects of fire and fuels management, SO No. 3374 does not.

- **SO No. 3376 Increasing Recreational Opportunities through the use of Electric Bikes**
  - Not applicable.

Ranking Criteria:

1. Improves the community within and/or adjacent to the project area.

A. Addresses immediate public health and safety and community infrastructure

Yes, the project is within the **Defense Zone** (see Figure 4). This project is based on WUI areas of concern identified by the multi-jurisdictional partners. There are valuable sub-divisions, homes, and other structures immediately adjacent to and within the project area. Catastrophic wildfires have occurred and continue to occur within the Spring Mountains planning area (see Figure 2. Wildfire History Map and Figures 5-11). This project completes planning to protect housing and other structures, infrastructure, and egress routes by reducing fuels and wildfire intensity and improving the ability to control a wildfire prior to reaching valuable private properties and structures.

Much of the low desert and transitional brush areas have been overtaken by non-native, invasive annual grasses. As a result, the much of project area has succumbed to the invasive annual grass/fire cycle. This cycle has resulted in unprecedented, unnatural, frequent fires which have high rates of spread and intensity. Late stage pinyon pine and juniper stands often burn in stand replacing crown fire. Invasive annual grass fuels are expanding across ecotones. As a result, invasive annual grass fuels are connecting desert fuels to timber fuels, allowing fires to move with ease across the landscape.
SMNRA and RRCNCA are important recreational destinations. Both the USFS and BLM report RRCNCA and SMNRA receive over two million visitors annually. Access can be a challenge. Many roads in the planning area are single lane, can sometimes be overgrown, and can become blocked easily. This can delay emergency responder access and increase evacuation times during a wildfire emergency. Evacuation of WUI communities can take time. Fast moving and/or large fires can threaten safety. The BLM and USFS work with the Nevada Department of Transportation and Clark and Nye Counties to ensure road infrastructure is maintained. However, additional work may be needed to manage roadside vegetation and hazardous fuels to protect WUI communities and infrastructure as well as provide emergency ingress and egress in during emergencies.

Direct treatments to WUI areas include BLM managed public lands adjacent to Trout Canyon, Mountain Springs, Cold Creek, Mount Charleston Fire Protection District, Spring Mountains State Park and Blue Diamond, and Pahrump, NV. (See Figure 1 Planning Map).

Yes, the project is within the **Threat Zone** (see Figure 4) due to the immediate adjacency to WUI areas. (See Figures 3 and 4 WUI Maps). This project plans to protect housing and other structures, and egress routes by reducing fuels and wildfire intensity, and improving the ability to control a wildfire prior to reaching valuable private properties and structures.

Yes, the project is within the general forest or other lands beyond the WUI. WUI communities are surrounded and connected by federally managed public lands within the planning area in both Clark and Nye Counties. The current population of Clark County is currently estimated at over 2 million and Nye County at under 50,000. Over 30,000 people live in Pahrump, NV which is in Nye County. At over 360 square miles, Pahrump hosts the largest area of dispersed WUI in the planning area. Large fires like the Carpenter 1 Fire can threaten watersheds, habitat, communities, and infrastructure. A wildfire can produce large amounts of smoke which can impact populated areas. High levels of smoke have the potential to impact public health. Post-fire impacts can include increased flooding and debris flows that can travel miles from a burned area. There is a need to reduce wildfire risk at the landscape level within the planning area. The project evaluates land treatments at the landscape level and plans to connect and improve fuel treatments at the landscape scale.

The project plans to reduce fuels in key areas, reducing fire intensity, and inhibiting spread. Firefighters will utilize planned fuel breaks to contain fire spread. Visitors and the public will utilize the access road fuel breaks to safely exit the area in the event of a wildfire emergency.

B. *Promotes protection of source water (rivers and lakes) or municipal watersheds.*
Yes, this project promotes protection of surface water and municipal watersheds. This project area is within the Spring Mountains watershed. Surface and ground water sources initiate within this watershed and ultimately supplies municipal water for the communities of Las Vegas, North Las Vegas, Henderson, and Pahrump. Large fires such as the Carpenter 1 Fire can result in the loss of vegetation to the watershed which in turn increases runoff, soil erosion, sedimentation to creek channels and water systems, and decreased water infiltration reducing ground water re-charge. High intensity rain events, especially during monsoon season, can result in increased flooding and mass flows post-fire. Mass flows and flooding post-fire can result in direct impacts to the Clark County flood control system, homes, communities, and infrastructure. Water is a scarce resource in the Mojave Desert. Invasive species, through sheer numbers, are likely to use more water than native vegetation. Loss of an already scarce resource is likely to reduce water quality. Reducing wildfire risk and improving fire control opportunities could improve watershed post-fire outcomes. Through hazardous fuels reduction, this project will reduce the potential impacts of high intensity wildfire, thereby reducing detrimental impacts to the watershed and water quality.

C. *Project includes education and outreach to the community on Living with Fire or Fire Adapted Communities and/or the importance of fuels reduction on federal, state, and local government land.*
Yes, this project includes education and outreach to the community on Living with Fire or Fire Adapted Communities and/or the importance of fuels reduction on federal, state, and local government land. Public participation in planning and the NEPA process on previous projects have enhanced project outcomes. RRCNCA and SMNRA can receive millions of visitors annually which provides an amazing opportunity for outreach and education to a wide, diverse, and sometimes international audience. The project will provide increased opportunities to sustain education and outreach, and fire prevention in the Spring Mountains.

2. Improves the connection of fuels reduction activities and wildlife habitat.

A. *Project connects previously treated areas to create or increase contiguous blocks of treated land.*
Yes, the project plans to connect previously treated areas to planned treatment areas and create or increase contiguous blocks of treated land. Current and past fuel projects within the Spring Mountains have focused primarily critical areas like Kyle and Lee Canyons and RRCNCA. The Carpenter 1 Fire highlighted the need to plan and implement treatment projects at a larger scale. Further, improved spatial modeling for desert tortoise habitat has shown that RRCNCA and the west side of the Spring Mountains is one of the last remaining contiguous areas that connect north and south desert tortoise populations. The project plans to evaluate and design treatments to connect existing and future treatments to reduce wildfire risk and increase fire suppression opportunities, minimizing potential future fire impacts.

The project area has experienced catastrophic wildfires due to high accumulations of very dry fuels. The 2005 Goodsprings Fire burned 33,569 acres and the 2013 Carpenter 1 Fire burned 27,883 acres on private and public lands within the Spring Mountains planning area.

These fires threatened WUI and valuable natural and cultural resources. The Carpenter 1 Fire post-fire impacts resulted in flooding and debris flows which put communities and natural and cultural resources at further risk. This planning project will work improve and connect previously completed fuel treatments. This planning project is designed to reduce wildfire risk to human communities and infrastructure and minimize loss of fragile Mojave Desert habitat.

B. Project protects or enhances wildlife habitat and/or resilient vegetative communities.
Yes, the project plans to protect or enhances wildlife habitat and/or resilient vegetative communities. A major resource management concern in the Spring Mountains area is the hazardous abundance of annual invasive grasses combined with natural and frequent human caused fires which could result in catastrophic wildfires. The primary problem with invasive annual grasses is the "annual grass/fire cycle." In years where weather is favorable to annual grass species such as red brome or cheatgrass fill in the natural open spaces between the native plants creating a continuous flammable fuel bed.

Fire in this fuel type starts and spreads rapidly due to continuous flammable fuels. This can result in large, difficult to control fires. Many native plant species in the Mojave Desert recover slowly post-fire. Red brome and cheatgrass is adapted to respond quickly in the post-fire environment where fire creates open spaces and the release of nitrogen and other soil nutrients. Native plant communities that once burned every 75 years 250 or more years are now burning every 5 to 10 years.

Several repeated wildfires can remove all the native species from the plant community depending on the severity of the fire. The resultant invasive plant communities tend to be fire-prone monocultures with fewer resource and habitat values than native plant communities. Currently, the impacts from these annual grasses are more severe in lower elevation ecotones. Mid to low elevation sagebrush, most salt desert shrub, and Mojave Desert plant communities are also susceptible to ecological damage by annual grasses. SNDO fuels and fire management is concerned that invasive species may spread to higher elevations over time through natural and human vectors. Once annual grasses establish themselves, the likelihood of losing higher elevation vegetation and habitat to fire will increase dramatically. Any action which reduces this encroachment is likely to reduce risk to these areas.

In addition to invasive annual grass, many riparian areas including springs have been invaded by tamarisk and Russian olive. Results from recent invasive species surveys indicate that the invasive Russian olive and tamarisk populations are increasing in size, outcompeting native plants for resources, and dramatically increasing the fuel load per acre in these fragile areas. In addition, both species have been found further downstream from the spring source in the watershed, moving toward other dispersal vectors such as State Highway 159 and other sections of the Spring Mountains. While Tamarisk is an established invasive species in riparian areas within the planning area, Russian olive is in the early stages of becoming fire/fuel problem. Fires burning in thickets or stands of Russian olive or tamarisk can result in severe impacts to riparian areas and threaten T & E, endemic, and sensitive species. If

these invaders are left unchecked, potential fire impacts to riparian areas in the Spring Mountain area are likely to be catastrophic.
The Mojave Desert is a very fire intolerant ecosystem, and following a catastrophic wildfire, re-vegetation and recovery of this habitat is extremely slow and occurs over a long period of time. Maintaining habitat for T&E species, especially the Mojave Desert tortoise is critical due to the loss of large amounts of habitat to previous wildfires both within and outside the project area. Due to their inability to escape grass-fueled wildfires, numerous tortoises were killed by the wildfires in 2005 and 2006.

The 2005 Goodsprings Fire burned 33,569 acres and the 2013 Carpenter 1 Fire burned 27,883 acres on private and public lands within the Spring Mountains planning area. These fires threatened WUI and valuable natural and cultural resources. The Carpenter 1 Fire post-fire impacts resulted in flooding and debris flows which put communities and natural and cultural resources at further risk. This project is designed minimize loss of fragile Mojave Desert habitat, reduce, or remove hazardous fuels, and protect desert tortoise habitat connectivity.

C. Project enhances the effectiveness of other treatments in progress or complete.

Yes, the project plans to enhance the effectiveness of other treatments in progress, planned or completed. Fuel treatment planning would utilize data, planning and NEPA documentation from the prior hazardous fuels and weed treatments. B001 was developed to strategically control red brome as a fuel and reduce the probability of destructive fires such as the Goodsprings and Loop Fires (2005) and the Scenic Fire (2006). B001 was reported to control red brome at about 60 percent treatment effectiveness where B002 is now controlling red brome to 80-100 percent treatment effectiveness. Using data from previous projects like B001 or B002 to target areas where treatment was most effective and/or fire prone invaders were most problematic can result improved and optimized future fuel treatment. The project will be planned in coordination with the proposed Round 18 USFS SMNRA Eastside Hazardous Fuels Reduction Planning Project.

The Spring Mountains 10-year plan proposed to treat over 80,000 acres. Only about 12 percent or 11,000 acres have been treated to date. However, those treatment acres proved critical during the 2010 Cathedral Fire and the 2013 Carpenter 1 Fire. Firefighters were able to use these treatments to check or control the advance of the fires into local communities. Many of these treatments need retreatment, but the environmental planning is now out of date and will need to be updated with new plant and animal species listed as threatened or endangered by USFWS.

3. Improves sustainability of the multijurisdictional 10-year plans, environment, and financial resources.

A. The Project will:

1. Improve the sustainability of the forest health and ecosystem function (e.g. stand density, desired species mix and age, tree health, etc.)

Yes, the project plans to improve the sustainability of the forest health and ecosystem function (e.g. stand density, desired species mix and age, tree health, etc.). This project

promotes a healthy and sustainable landscape by removing non-native, invasive plant species from strategic areas in the Mojave Desert ecosystem. The project area is infested with non-native, invasive annual grasses that have resulted in unprecedented wildfire frequency and intensity. In addition, riparian areas have been impacted by tamarisk and Russian olive, and giant reed. In response to the threats of wildfire, invasive vegetation, and noxious weeds this project aims to take action to manage vegetation, and the soil seed bank, in a manner that provides for improved habitat and vegetation conditions for wildlife. Herbicide, mechanical treatments, and prescribed fire treatments will remove hazardous fuels and benefit the health of the Mojave ecosystem. In addition to utilizing good fire management practices to protect habitat and fragile ecosystems, impacts to visual resources in RRCNCA, will also be protected.

2. Improve the habitat for sensitive species and Threatened and Endangered species. Includes mitigation and/or minimization measures when treatment in sensitive habitat is unavoidable.

Yes, the project plans to improve habitat for threatened and endangered species (T&E). T&E species habitat, especially desert tortoise habitat is critical to maintain, due to the loss of large amounts of habitat to previous fires both within and outside the project area. Previous wildfires in the area have also resulted in desert tortoise mortalities, which is a form of take, as defined by Section 7 of the ESA take. The Mojave Desert ecosystem is widely known to be fire intolerant and poorly adapted to frequent fire intervals created by invasive annual grasses. This project aims to minimize the loss of fragile Mojave Desert habitat. Most of the BLM proposed treatment acres in this project are within the occupied zone for the Desert tortoise, a federally listed Threatened Species. The project will evaluate and plan protection measure for desert tortoise habitat continuity. Additionally, riparian treatments will help protect these valuable areas from future destructive wildfire. Without intervention, it is likely that catastrophic wildfires will continue to plague this critical habitat and denude the Spring Mountains, a renowned biodiversity hotspot. There is no designated critical habitat for the Mountain Charleston blue butterfly on BLM managed public lands however, environmental planning will consider any Threatened and Endangered, BLM sensitive or endemic species found within the proposed project areas.

3. Includes broadcast prescribed fire for resource management objectives for sustainable landscapes.

The project will evaluate broadcast prescribed fire for resource management objectives for sustainable landscapes. Broadcast prescribed fire is currently planned for relict ponderosa pine stands in RRCNCA. However, broadcast prescribed fire in Mojave Desert scrub (desert tortoise habitat) is generally not practicable because most Mojave Desert plant species are not fire adapted. Use of broadcast prescribed fire will be considered in the treatment alternatives where it meets resource management goals and objectives. Broadcast prescribed fire can be a useful and a cost-effective method to reduce biomass in highly disturbed areas in preparation for restoration activities. Pile burning will be utilized to reduce activity fuels where appropriate. This phase of the project includes the low elevation Mojave ecosystem, and is within desert tortoise habitat. Use of broadcast prescribed meet objectives of this project to reduce the abundance of

non-native invasive annual grasses is not currently planned and would require further scientific research to determine treatment effectiveness in the Mojave Desert fuel type. However, it can be an effective treatment method in forest type fuels.

B. The method of treatment is fiscally responsible for the project area by balancing resource objectives, values at risk, and cost per acre factors or cost-benefit analysis.

The project builds upon and leverages previous investments. The most important value at risk is firefighter and public safety. The planning effort would likely result in fuel treatments that will significantly improve the ability of the public to safely evacuate and increase suppression success during a wildfire emergency. The fuel treatments will slow fire spread and lower fire intensity which will provide an opportunity for firefighters to establish a fire suppression anchor point and reduce impacts to natural and cultural resources. Fires caught during initial attack typically cost less, burn less area, and impact values at risk less. Beyond safety, the values at risk are also very great and far outweigh the planned cost of this project and all phases when considered in total. The monetary cost alone of fire suppression and the value of structures protected are very significant. In 2005 millions of fire suppression dollars were expended in the project area. The Carpenter 1 Fire cost an estimated $19.9 million not including Burned Area Emergency Response and Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation costs. Days of visitor fees have been lost due to closure of the Red Rock Scenic Drive. The Mojave ecosystem is widely known to be fire intolerant, not fire adapted, and responds poorly to frequent fire intervals created by invasive annual grasses. SMNRA and RRCNCA are highly visited recreation areas, a primary draw for the 2 million residents of the Greater Las Vegas Metropolitan Area and its visitors. The visual impacts of fire in the project area are short term and long term. Usually all vegetation is lost during a fire and what is left is a blackened and barren landscape. Following a catastrophic wildfire, re-vegetation and recovery of wildlife habitat is extremely slow and occurs over a long period of time, if it ever recovers. Non-native species typically invade or re-invade these areas creating a monoculture lacking species diversity. The project area is occupied habitat by the desert tortoise, a federally listed threatened species. Wildfires in the area have documented take of this species. Because habitat is usually degraded, post-fire take may also occur, or a burned area may no longer be utilized by the desert tortoise. The pre-historic Old Spanish National Historic Trail is within the project area as well as numerous pre-historic sites and artifacts. The Brownstone Archaeological District is within the project area. T&E species habitat, especially desert tortoise habitat, is critical to maintain due to the loss of large amounts of habitat to previous wildfires both within and outside the project area. The cost of this project is less than the suppression costs of a large, high intensity wildfire let alone any expenditure to restore structural and habitat values lost. The benefit of the project is increased firefighter and public safety, a reduction in fire costs, reduction in impacts and costs to WUI infrastructure, reduction of habitat loss, reduction of impacts to heritage resources, and reduced visual impacts. A further potential benefit is a reduction in invasive annual grass species and related seed bank. Short and long-term benefits are possible by reduction of competition between non-native and native species which is likely to promote native species. This in turn may improve wildlife habitat, reduce fire frequency, and improve visual resources. Native Mojave vegetation is normally resistant to fire spread. Therefore, the possibility of breaking the annual grass/fire cycle exists. This represents an immeasurable benefit that can only be qualified by the enjoyment of future generations of visitors to

SMNRA and RRCNCA. Cumulatively, the benefit of the project will allow risk-based assessments to optimize funding to treat high value resources at risk, allowing funding and resources to go to the most critical locations.

4. Demonstrates sound project management and quality control measures.

A. *Project goals and implementation processes are clear, measurable, achievable, and demonstrable.*
This project is well delineated and defined using spatial analysis to identify WUI areas. In addition to analysis in the 10-year Plan, Highly Valued Resource or Asset (HVRA) and SILVIS WUI data were used to evaluate the planning area (available online, accessed August 2020). The goal is to create and connect strategic fuel breaks, reduce hazardous fuels, and invasive plant species to provide resource protection and numerous benefits. Implementation of this project will complete the planning for future phases and includes contracting and administration of a hazardous fuel treatment plan and NEPA environmental assessment. The goals and implementation processes are achievable given the Southern Nevada Districts success in hazardous fuel planning and treatments through contracting over the last 10 years. They will be demonstrable and measurable through hazardous fuels inventories pre and post treatment, inside and outside of the fuel break treatment areas.

B. *Project proponent has the capacity to implement this project in a timely manner (contractor and staff availability, no backlog of current project, etc.) and within budget.*
Yes. The Southern Nevada District already hosts expertise with demonstrated success in completing Round 10 RRHFRP (B001) treatment implementation and expected success of the Round 15 Projects (B002 and B003) which are to be completed by May 2022. In addition, BLM Southern Nevada District Office of Fire Management currently manages a large-scale hazardous fuels reduction project on the Virgin River, completing 1400 acres of fuels treatments annually. The Virgin River project was started in 2002 and over the last six years is progressing through the various phases on time and within budgets. The RRHFRP, partially awarded in Round 10 and then fully funded by SNPLMA SAR in 2011, was completed on time and within budget October 2014. The Fire Program is also responsible for completing multiple Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Projects in the Gold Butte National Monument and RRCNCA.

The Southern Nevada District hired a Supervisory Fire Management Specialist in May of 2010. This position is funded through National Fire Plan hazardous fuels program. The previous Project Manager and Fire Planner finished the term appointment and this position remains vacant with no plans to fill the position. A fuels technician position has been filled. The SNDO Fire Management Officer position is vacant but is being a covered by an acting FMO. A Fire Prevention specialist was hired and shares duties with the Ely District. The District hazardous fuels program is currently understaffed however, NFP fuels program funding is expected to receive a substantial increase to Basic funding in FY2021 where additional staff will be hired.

The Supervisory Fire Management Specialist will provide project management until a full-time fire planner can be hired. The District's fuel technician will serve as the Contracting

Officer's Technical Representative (COTR) and the Project Inspector (PI). NEPA and compliance work has been previously completed for several projects and will be utilized in this planning project. Planning and analysis will be contracted. There are two BLM staff members dedicated to the success of this project. The project includes design features that addresses decreased BLM staffing.

C. *Is a phase or related component to a previously funded project.*
This Round 18 SNPLMA nomination is a related component to awarded Round 10 and 15 SNPLMA projects (B001, B002, and B003) wholly within RRCNCA, Block 1 of the 10-year Plan. B001 has been completed and closed out. B002 is nearing completion as is expected to be closed out by May 2022. B003 hazardous fuel plan draft is complete and environmental planning (NEPA) is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2020. B001 and B002 completed planning; a NEPA Environmental Assessment and treated hazardous fuels on BLM administered lands within the analysis area identified in the *Spring Mountains Multi-Jurisdictional Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Strategy 10 Year Plan.* A contractor has completed the hazardous fuel plan for B003 that addresses wildfire risk in the RRCNCA Core Area, La Madre Mountain Wilderness Area, and Harris Springs Area. All projects have been designed to stand alone while synergistically working together work to meet the Spring Mountain Plan goals. This Round 18 proposal is in conjunction with the USFS Round 18 Proposal, SMNRA Eastside Hazardous Fuels Reduction Planning Project.

D. *Has identified committed non-SNPLMA sources of funding or in-kind contribution in the development and/or implementation of the project.*
The Southern Nevada District Integrated Weeds and Fuels Management Program already hosts a very successful vegetation management program treating hazardous fuels in upland and riparian areas such as the Virgin River and have completed treatment on the SNPLMA Round 10 B001 Project. Expertise, permit and license holders from the fuels and weeds program will contribute to this project. In addition, the skills of the employees implementing and maintaining this project were developed and enhanced by other hazardous fuels reduction projects funded through other sources. The Southern Nevada District is partnered with other stakeholders in the Spring Mountains Multi-Jurisdictional Plan. This partnership is driving this project proposal and follows a February 2020 meeting where the areas being considered for treatment were identified. The newly formed Southern Nevada Cooperative Weed Management Area may provide future opportunities for collaboration and cooperation in managing invasive species in Southern Nevada. The National Park Service has been working with SNDO on weeds and fuels management for over 10 years and has been providing quality service in treatment, inventory, and monitoring to the BLM.
SNDO has implemented the Burned Area Recovery Project where thousands of acres are under treatment and evaluation for further treatment. Future funding will be pursued for possible treatments in burned areas, especially where desert tortoise habitat connectivity is a concern. A programmatic Environmental Impact Statement addressing vegetation treatments using herbicides on BLM lands in 17 Western States has been completed and will be utilized. The herbicides planned for this project are analyzed in the western states EIS. Environmental analysis has been completed for most treatment areas. Some treatments may require additional environmental analysis.

Project Location:

Project Area	Latitude	Longitude
1. BLM/Pahrump WUI East	36° 9'28.69"N	115°52'58.61"W
2. Blue Diamond, NV	36° 3'1.91"N	115°24'20.83"W
3. Cold Creek, NV	36°26'16.32"N	115°43'28.76"W
4. Mount Charleston Fire Protection District	36°16'34.79"N	115°30'37.77"W
5. Mountain Springs, NV	36° 1'19.77"N	115°29'55.78"W
6. Trout Creek, NV	36° 8'53.22"N	115°43'38.38"W

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Maps:

Figure 1: Planning Area

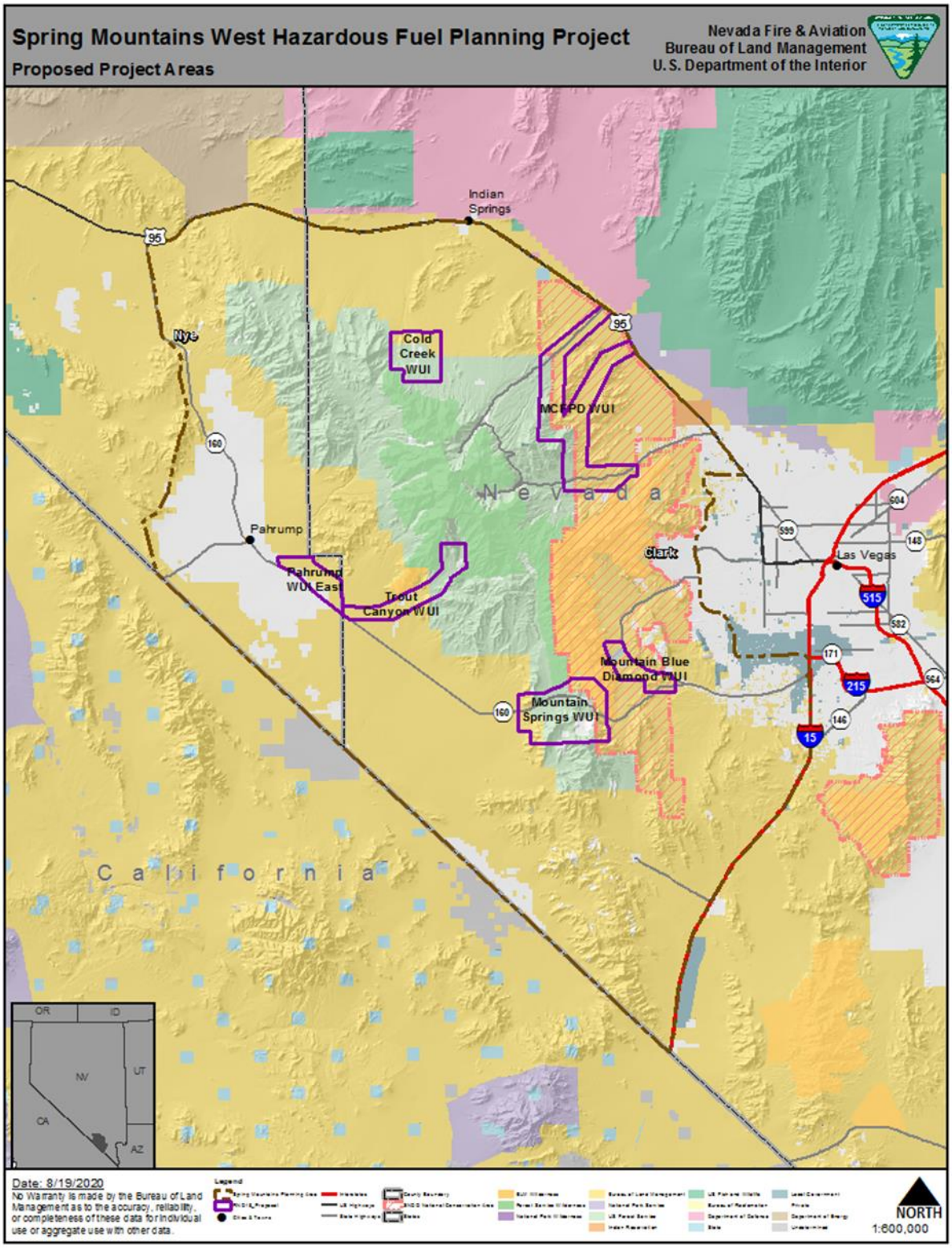


Figure 2: Fire History

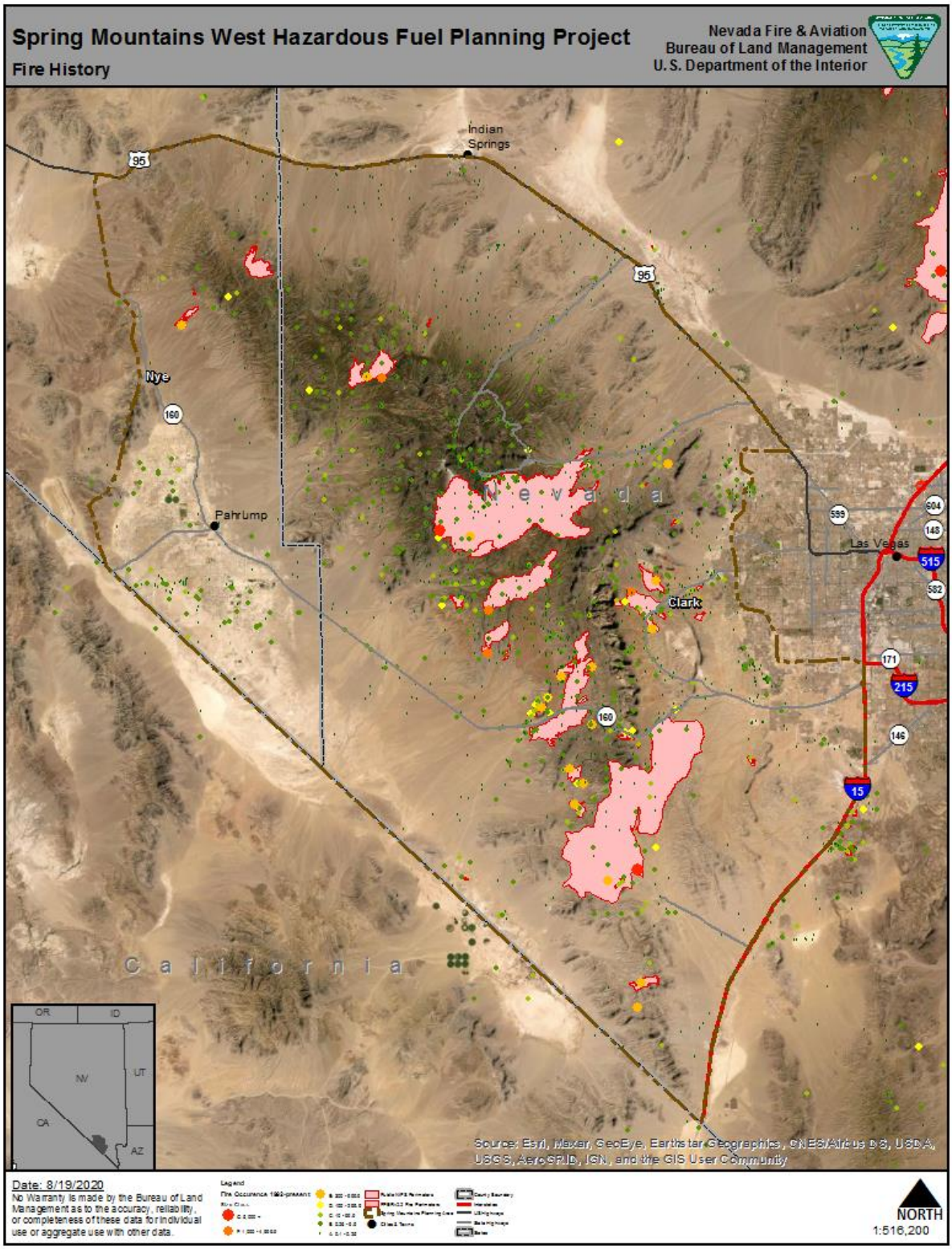


Figure 3: WUI and Infrastructure

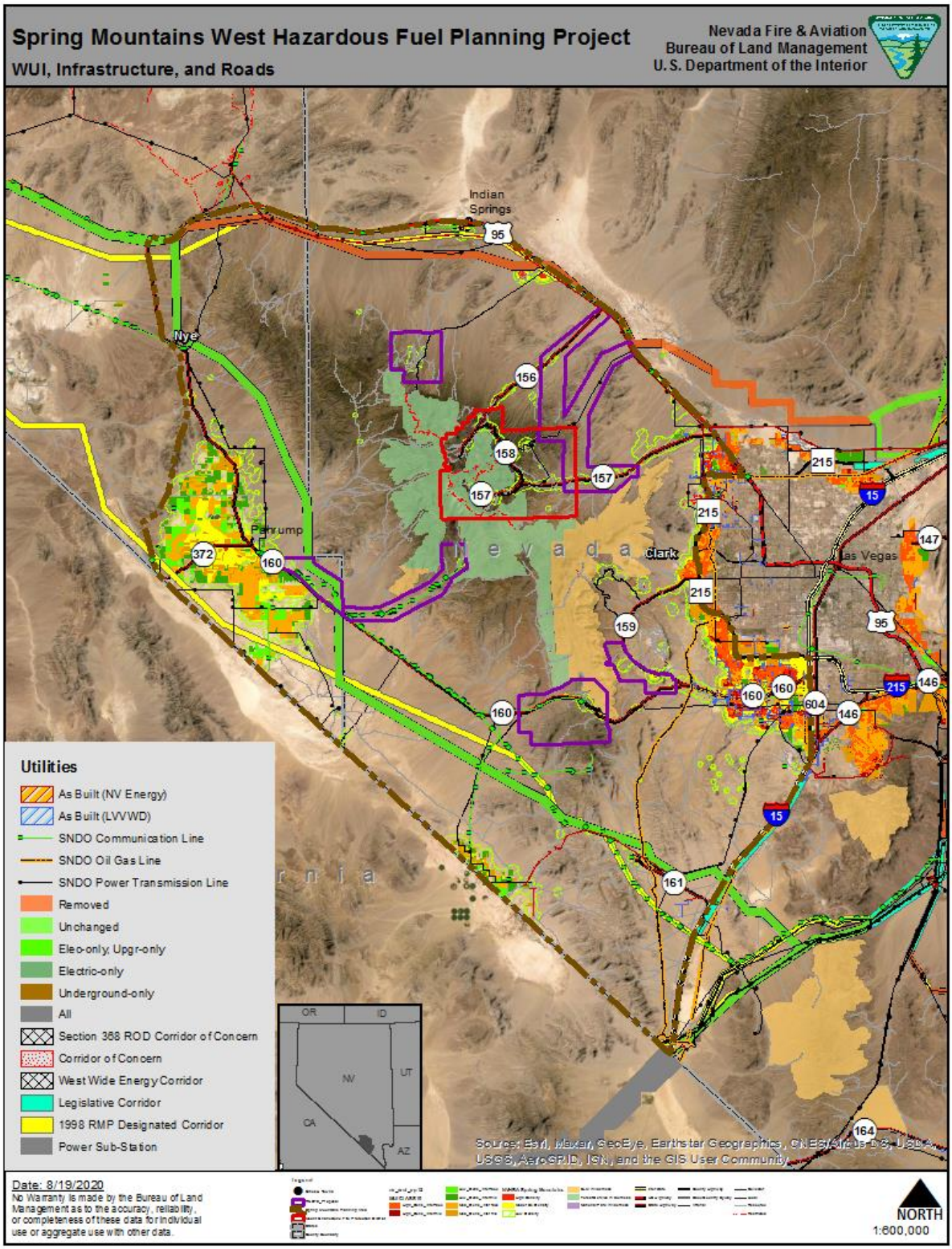


Figure 4: Defense and Threat Zone

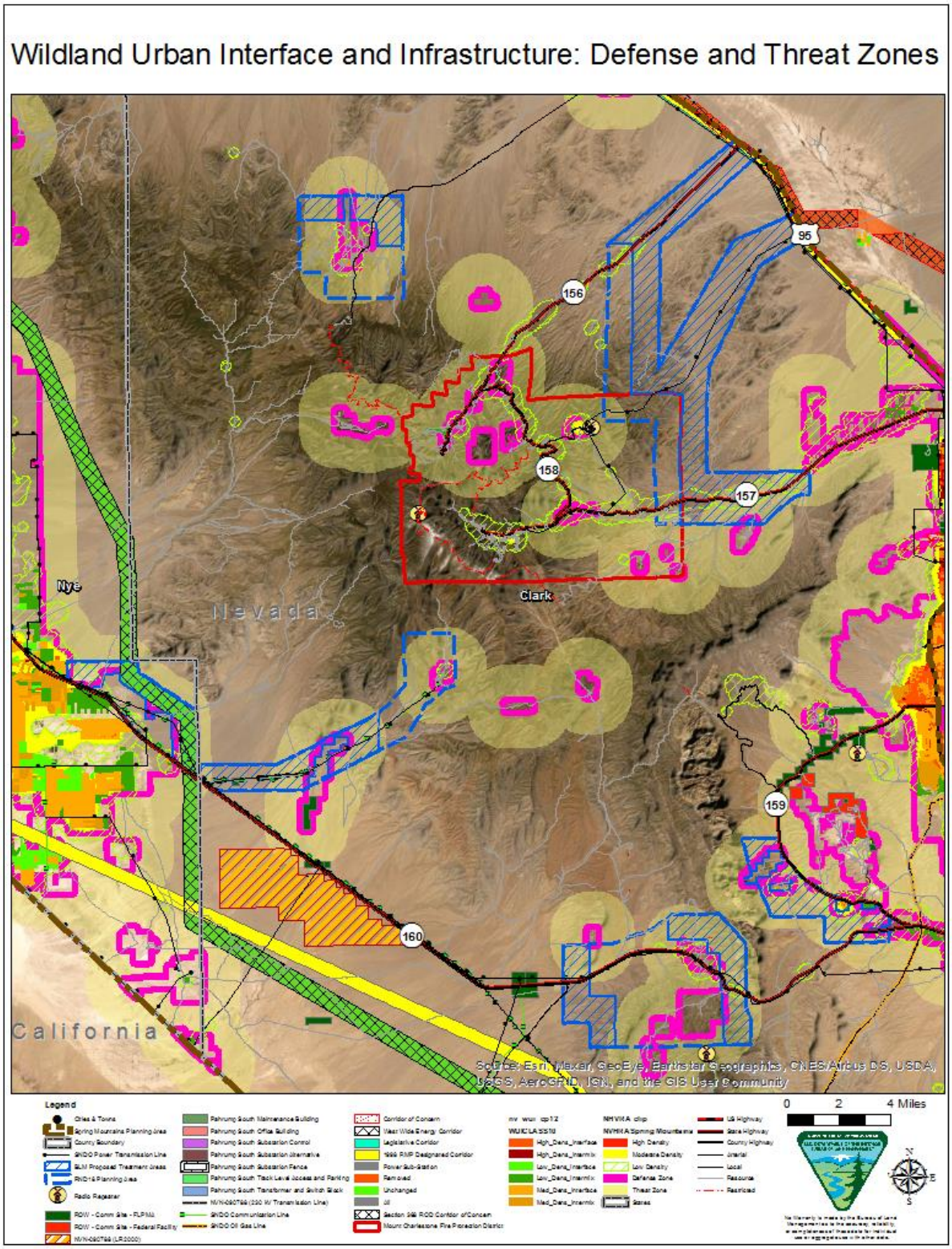
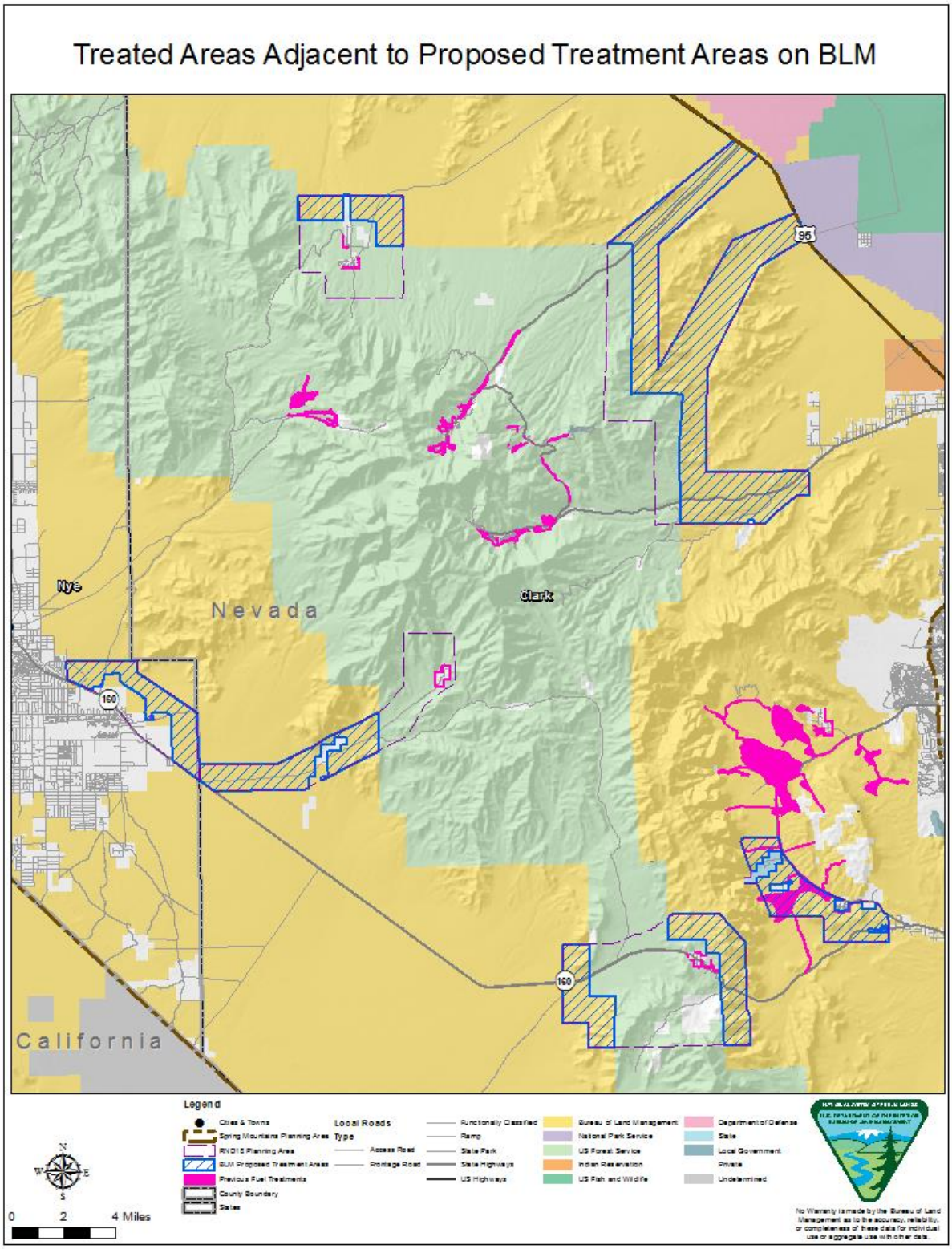


Figure 5: Connecting Past Fuel Treatments



Photos:

Figure 1 Mahogany Fire, July 2020.

Figure 2 Deer Creek, Mahogany Fire, July 2020.

Figure 3 View from Angel Peak, Mahogany Fire, July 2020.

Figure 9 Cottonwood Fire, July 2020

Figure 10 Carpenter 1 Fire, 2012

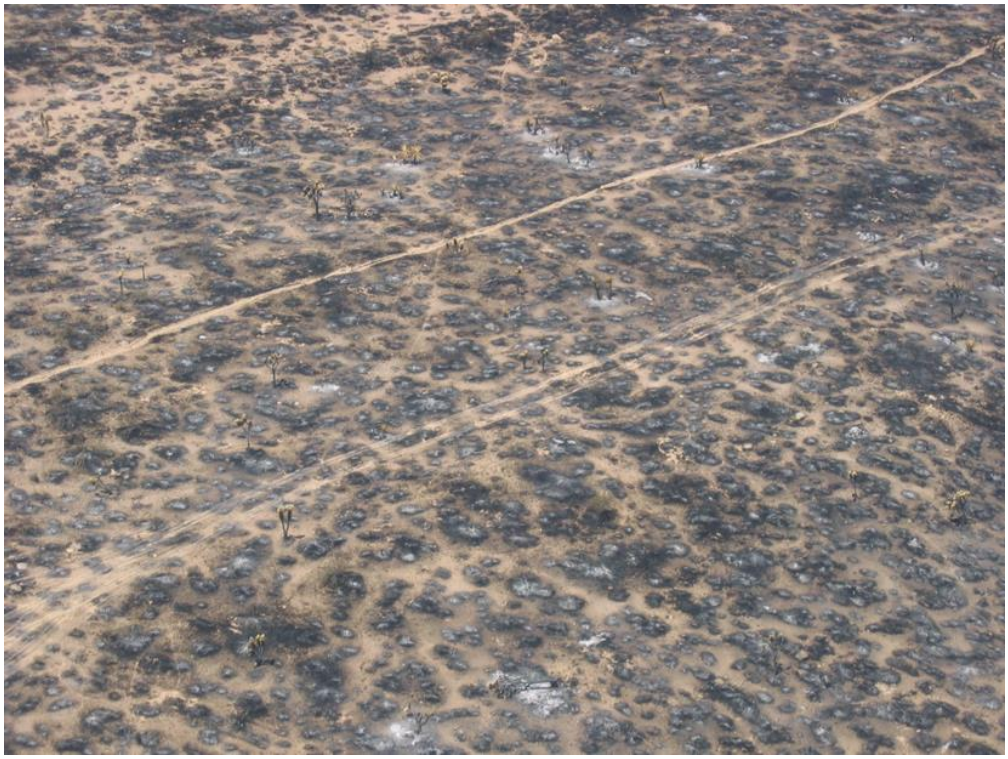


Figure 11 Goodsprings Fire, 2005

Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act
Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention
Round 18

Carson City Fire Department

Hazardous Fuels Reduction – Carson City

Amount Requested: $2,036,493

Timeframe: 6 Years
Location: 39.173333°/ -120.799722°
Congressional District: NV-2

Contact: Fire Chief Sean Slamon
Address: 777 S. Stewart Street, Carson City, NV 89506
Phone:(775) 887-2210
Fax: (775) 887-2209
Email: SSlamon@carson.org

Purpose Statement:

Carson City Fire Dept. will treat 850 acres in the Wildland Urban Interface surrounding Carson City, Nevada to reduce hazardous fuels along the west side of Carson City, to protect communities vulnerable to catastrophic loss in the event of a wildfire.

Background info to support the need:

As Carson City has grown over the years, residents are occupying land further and further up the hills on the west side of town. This has created some inherent hazards within these communities that include ingress/ egress bottlenecks, slope restrictions, and extended response times.

All of these factors increase the need and effectiveness of strategic fuels reduction projects. This project will drastically increase the sustainability of the ecosystems by returning the environment back to a more "natural" landscape in terms of density and species composition. This project also has the ability to extremely increase the vitality of critical Mule Deer winter range. As our communities move further into the hills, we are fragmenting these key winter ranges, and we need to become stewards of the land to maintain biodiversity.

Relationship to prior approved phases or related SNPLMA projects and anticipated future phases:

Carson City has received SNPLMA funding in the past (Rounds 8 and 16). Our intention is to enhance and enlarge most of the projects completed with past funding. We have learned over the years that a 30' fuel break is not always enough, given the environmental conditions present and the weather extremes observed. These larger landscape scale projects are indicative of the move to survivable space and Fire Adapted Communities. Although this nomination enlarges and enhances past projects, this nomination will result in a stand-alone, viable project and Carson City Fire acknowledges that there is neither guarantee nor expectation of funding for future phases.

Deliverables:

1. Primary Deliverables
    a. Hand thin, pile and burn, and/or mechanically treat 850 acres of land in the wildland-urban interface in Carson City, Nevada to reduce the threat and impact of a wildfire. Final acres will be determined based on a variety of factors, including terrain accessibility, slope, cost estimates and environmental review.
    b. A walking tour of the area will be held at the completion of the project. We will invite community members, city leaders, and invested stakeholders.
    c. An updated Community Wildfire Protection Plan will be finalized after all treatments are completed.

2. Anticipated Deliverables
   a. Additional fuels reduction on lands adjacent to project areas. CCFD will identify and target lands adjacent to fuels projects, and work with those landowners to extend the treatments on to private property.
   b. Complete a minimum 200 defensible space inspections adjacent to project areas.

3. Standard Deliverables
   a. Mitigation Plan, describing the prescription to accomplish the project's goals and objectives, and all necessary measures to mitigate negative impacts to wildlife, water quality, forest health, and cultural resources.
   b. Stream zone variance from the Nevada Stream Zone Variance committee where applicable.
   c. Avoidance protocols for cultural resources and concurrence with a finding of no adverse effect from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).
   d. Prescribed Fire Burn Plan, satisfying National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) interagency requirements.
   e. Photo points will be established for post mitigation monitoring.

Project Timeframe:

6 Years

Level of Project Readiness for Implementation

Carson City Fire has procedures in place to handle this project. The status of the Wildland Fuels Management Officer will be extended to ensure all work for this project is completed to the specifications set forth in the Mitigation Plans. We have a seasonal crew in place that will be tasked with the hand cut/ pile and burn portions of the project. If additional resources are required, we can reach out to neighboring jurisdictions or hire a contractor for the work. All of the mechanical treatments will be performed by qualified contractors under the supervision of the Wildland Fuels Management Officer.

Future Operations and Maintenance:

None.

Partnerships and/or contributed:

Carson City Fire Dept. has an ongoing Fuel Reduction Program which includes homeowner lot inspections, new WUI homeowner contact, education on Fire Adapted Communities, and a seasonal wildland firefighting crew. CCFD will continue to offer these programs and document any homeowner match at the current rate. CCFD will include $5,000 in crew time each year for a minimum total of contributed in-kind funds to be $30,000

Funding Requested Budget Detail:

ROUND 18+A1:J29
HAZARDOUS FUELS AND WILDFIRE PREVENTION NOMINATION
ESTIMATED DIRECT COSTS & KEY MILESTONES

Project Name:	**Hazardous Fuels Reduction-Carson City**	**Date prepared:**	**9/9/2020**
		Agency:	**Carson City Fire Department**
Project #	***Assigned by SNPLMA***	**Priority #:**	***Assigned by SNPLMA***
Prepared by:		**Phone #:**	**775-283-7161**
Title/position:			

1	**Planning & Environmental Documentation**	$0	0.00%
	Includes labor for surveys/reports for cultural, natural, biological, archaeological, historical resources, etc. and preparation of NEPA documentation and the decision document. Does not include on-going compliance monitoring (see Direct Labor #3)		
2	**FWS Consultation - Endangered Species Act**	$5,000	0.25%
	Direct expenses for FWS consultation. *Includes all labor, agreements, and costs for Section 7 review and approval.*		
3	**Direct Federal Labor to Implement Project (Payroll)**	$712,993	35.01%
	For interagency projects, identify a primary team lead and the lead agency for consultation/coordination and individual agency leads responsible for entering progress and reports into SMART.		
4	**Project Equipment and/or Supplies and Materials**	$8,000	0.39%
	Equipment, supplies or materials necessary to complete the project that are not included in contracts/agreements. Includes lease or rental of equipment/vehicles.		
5	**Travel and Per Diem for Implementation**	$0	0.00%
	Includes all necessary travel for training and implementation of the project. Training costs for tuition, materials, etc. are identified in item #7 below		
6	**Official Vehicle Use (vehicles with Federal license only)**	$0	0.00%
	Estimated costs for routine maintenance agency vehicles, leased or rental equipment, oil and gas, tires, etc. Does not include replacement cost		
7	**Training (required to implement the project)**	$2,500	0.12%
	Includes training essential/necessary for implementation of the project.		
8	**Contracts, Grants, and/or Agreements**	$483,000	23.72%
	CESU, IGO, Assistance agreements, Task Orders, and contracts for implementation of the project. Also includes all costs for construction/implementation of the plan. The period of performance for grants or agreements and contracts must not extend pas the approved period of performance in the approved Work Plan. Final invoices and de-obligation of unexpended funds must be paid and sub agreements and contracts closed prior to submitting the request for closeout		
9	**Other Necessary Expenses**	$825,000	40.51%
	(See Appendix B-11)		
	Total requested/estimated budget	**$2,036,493**	**100.00%**
10	**Estimated agency or partner contribution**	$30,000	
	Total Estimated project value	$2,066,493	

General comments and description of milestones

Carson City Fire Dept. will treat 850 acres in the Wildland Urban Interface surrounding Carson City, Nevada. We are proposing to cut and pile 250 acres, then burn the piles on the same 250 acres, and masticate 350 acres. This treatment will reduce hazardous fuels along the west side of Carson City, which has a rich history of wildfire. By reducing the fuels in these strategic locations, the potential impact of a wildfire will be greatly reduced.

Performance Measures:

Outcome: Minimize the loss of life, property, and the environment from catastrophic wildfire within the wildland-urban interface of Carson City, Nevada. Achieving the following output will accomplish this outcome:

Output (Primary Deliverable): Reduce hazardous fuels manually and mechanically on 850 acres in the wildland-urban interface. The SNPLMA Performance Measure is:

- Performance Measure F2 – Acres of hazardous fuels treated, enhanced, or restored to reduce wildland fuels hazards and to restore or maintain ecosystem resiliency within the WUI.

Outcome: Increase public awareness about hazardous fuels reduction and wildfire preparedness. Achieving the following output(s) will accomplish this outcome:

Output (Primary Deliverable): Hosted walking tours of the project area will be held at the completion of the project. We will invite community members, city leaders, and invested stakeholders. The SNPLMA Performance Measures include:

- Performance Measure O5 – Number of Outreach Contact Made (each individual is reported as one unit).
- Performance Measure O7 – Number of Interpretive or Educational Presentations Given and/or Community Events Participated In or Hosted (each presentation is reported as one unit).

Executive Committee Strategic Plan Values:

The project **promotes sustainability** by restoring the landscape to a more "natural" state. This will be accomplished by reducing the larger woody stemmed vegetation which will be replaced by early successional grasses and forbs. This vegetation type will be more indicative of historic vegetation. If we are going to continue to aggressively suppress fire in the WUI environment the need to create "disturbance" in the vegetation communities will be imperative.

The project **promotes community** by creating healthy and sustainable ecosystems. By managing the landscape in the WUI, it extends the community out into the wildland giving residents more access and opportunity to recreate. Anytime we can provide an example of fuels reduction done right, community members are more likely to mimic the treatments on their own property.

Compliance with Departmental and Agency Priorities, Strategic Goals, Executive Orders, and Secretarial Orders:

<u>Compliance with Departmental/Agency Priorities and Strategic Goals</u>

<u>Consistency with Executive Orders and Secretarial Orders</u>

Ranking Criteria:

1. Improves the community within and/or adjacent to the project area.

A. Addresses immediate public health and safety and community infrastructure
This project is designed to reduce hazardous fuels in strategic areas located within the Defense Zone of the Wildland Urban Interface. 85% of the 850 acres are located within the Defense Zone, and the acres that fall into the Threat Zone are included in this project because they are protecting critical water infrastructure to the City of Carson City.

B Promotes protection of source water (rivers and lakes) or municipal watersheds.
Included in this project is fuels reduction around critical infrastructure in the form of water tanks and a water treatment facility. If damage were to occur to these facilities, the water supply to Carson City could be reduced or interrupted. If these facilities were lost or damaged during a wildfire event, the interruption of water could minimize the effectiveness of fire suppression efforts, putting life and property in danger.

C. Project includes education and outreach to the community on Living with Fire or Fire Adapted Communities and/or the importance of fuels reduction on federal, state, and local government land.
A key element in any fuels reduction project in the Defense Zone is the education of the residents around that project. During this project we will be informing and interacting with these residents. This will include project narratives and timetables being distributed before implementations starts, along with pertinent educational materials from the *Living With Fire* program. If there is enough interest from the community, a public meeting will be held to address any concerns and questions. A packet full of information on Fire Adapted Communities, Be Ember Aware, fire prevention and available programs is distributed to each landowner during Defensible Space Inspections.

2. Improves the connection of fuels reduction activities and wildlife habitat.

A. Project connects previously treated areas to create or increase contiguous blocks of treated land.
This project will increase or enhance several project areas treated using Round 8 and 16 funding. Carson City has learned a lot since this first projects were implemented. This project will extend and connect some of these old project areas creating large landscape scale fuel breaks. Creating connectivity between projects will greatly increasing the overall effectiveness. Even as the west side of Carson City if highly fragmented, we are trying to create expansive fuel breaks that link communities together. These links from one community to another creates recreation opportunities for our citizens as well as protecting critical winter range for Mule Deer.

B. Project protects or enhances wildlife habitat and/or resilient vegetative communities.
The West side of Carson City is currently a degraded winter range for mule deer. Implementing these projects will decrease the age class of the vegetation as well as increase the amount of forbs within the interspaces in the brush. As sage brush and

bitterbrush age, their stem production is reduced and chemical changes within the plants make them almost inedible to mule deer. Since disturbance from fire and grazing has been limited, these types of projects are critical in restoring degraded ecosystems back to healthy and resilient.

C. Project enhances the effectiveness of other treatments in progress or complete.

Our past fuels treatments have been limited to a halos around at risk communities, and this project will significantly increase the landscape scale as we move to more Fire Adapted Communities. As defensible space evolves to survivable space and with the introduction of Fire Adapted Communities, a simple 30 foot fuel break is not always acceptable anymore due to slope and historical wind patterns. By increasing the size of fuels treatments, we are reducing the risk to our communities and also creating a viable and sustainable ecosystem that can thrive for years to come.

3. Improves sustainability of the multijurisdictional 10-year plans, environment, and financial resources.

A. The Project will:

1. Improve the sustainability of the forest health and ecosystem function (e.g. stand density, desired species mix and age, tree health, etc.)

The project goal is to reduce hazardous fuels in the Threat Zone by targeting dead and dying decadent vegetation that has accumulated over the years. This treatment will act as a natural disturbance within the ecosystem and the resulting growth will increase the forage opportunities, increase the overall number of forb species occupying the site and increase the resiliency of the remaining vegetation.

2. Improve the habitat for sensitive species and Threatened and Endangered species. Includes mitigation and/or minimization measures when treatment in sensitive habitat is unavoidable.

There are several species that are of concern that could benefit from this project. None are known to inhabit the project area now, but ongoing monitoring pre and post treatment will identify any of these species. By opening up dense dead and decadent vegetation and exposing the soil to sunlight, we never fully know what could sprout given the right conditions. If any of these species are identified before, during or after implementation, mitigation measures will be put in place to minimize the impact.

The result of no project could be catastrophic wildfire, which would result in bare mineral soil and possible cheat grass infestations. This would not be an environment that could sustain any of the species of concern.

3. Includes broadcast prescribed fire for resource management objectives for sustainable landscapes.

Although broadcast prescribed burning is not a primary objective of this project, we will evaluate the opportunities available and determine if prescribed fire would be an effective tool for ongoing management. Carson City Fire has used prescribed fire in the

past to reduce fuels and would like explore all opportunities in the future. Pile burning will be utilized to remove the accumulated biomass.

B. The method of treatment is fiscally responsible for the project area by balancing resource objectives, values at risk, and cost per acre factors or cost-benefit analysis.

There are tremendous values at risk along the west side of Carson City. Two of our higher end communities, key winter range for mule deer and critical water infrastructure are just some of the vulnerable assets.

The aftermath of the 2004 Waterfall fire that swept along the west side of Carson City is still our worst case scenario for a wildfire. This single event destroyed 18 homes, 51 vehicles, including two fire apparatus, and caused an estimated $23,500,000 in damages. These fuel breaks will significantly decrease the impacts of a wildfire in the future.

4. Demonstrates sound project management and quality control measures.

A. Project goals and implementation processes are clear, measurable, achievable, and demonstrable.

Carson City Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project has clear and achievable project goals that include the reduction of hazardous fuels on 850 acres. These treatments will result in a more sustainable ecosystem better equipped to withstand wildfire and increased vigor in the remaining vegetation. All mitigation plans will take into account several factors including wildlife, erosion, air quality and residual fuel loading.

B. Project proponent has the capacity to implement this project in a timely manner (contractor and staff availability, no backlog of current project, etc.) and within budget.

Carson City Fire Dept. has an excellent track record of completing fuels reduction projects on time and within budget. The Wildland Fuels Management Officer for CCFD has experience in implementing fuels projects on over 1500 acres in Northern Nevada and over 100 acres in Carson City over the past two years. The infrastructure to all billings and contracts is in place and functioning efficiently.

C. Is a phase or related component to a previously funded project.

This project enhances and extends treatments funded in SNPLMA Rd. 8 and 16. Those projects were good by themselves, but don't take a landscape scale approach at fuels treatments. The purpose of this nomination is to connect the existing treatments, creating landscape scale treatments capable of reducing the effects of wildfire on our at risk communities. By enhancing these treatments we are creating survivable space for both suppression personnel and residents alike. We are moving towards Fire Adapted Communities that will be able to withstand wildfire with little to no outside help.

D. Has identified committed non-SNPLMA sources of funding or in-kind contribution in the development and/or implementation of the project.

The Carson City Fire Department will provide a minimum of $5,000 of work from our seasonal crew in support of the Carson City Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project as explained above. Over the life of the grant this equals $30,000.

Project Location:

Project location: 39.173333°/ -120.799722°

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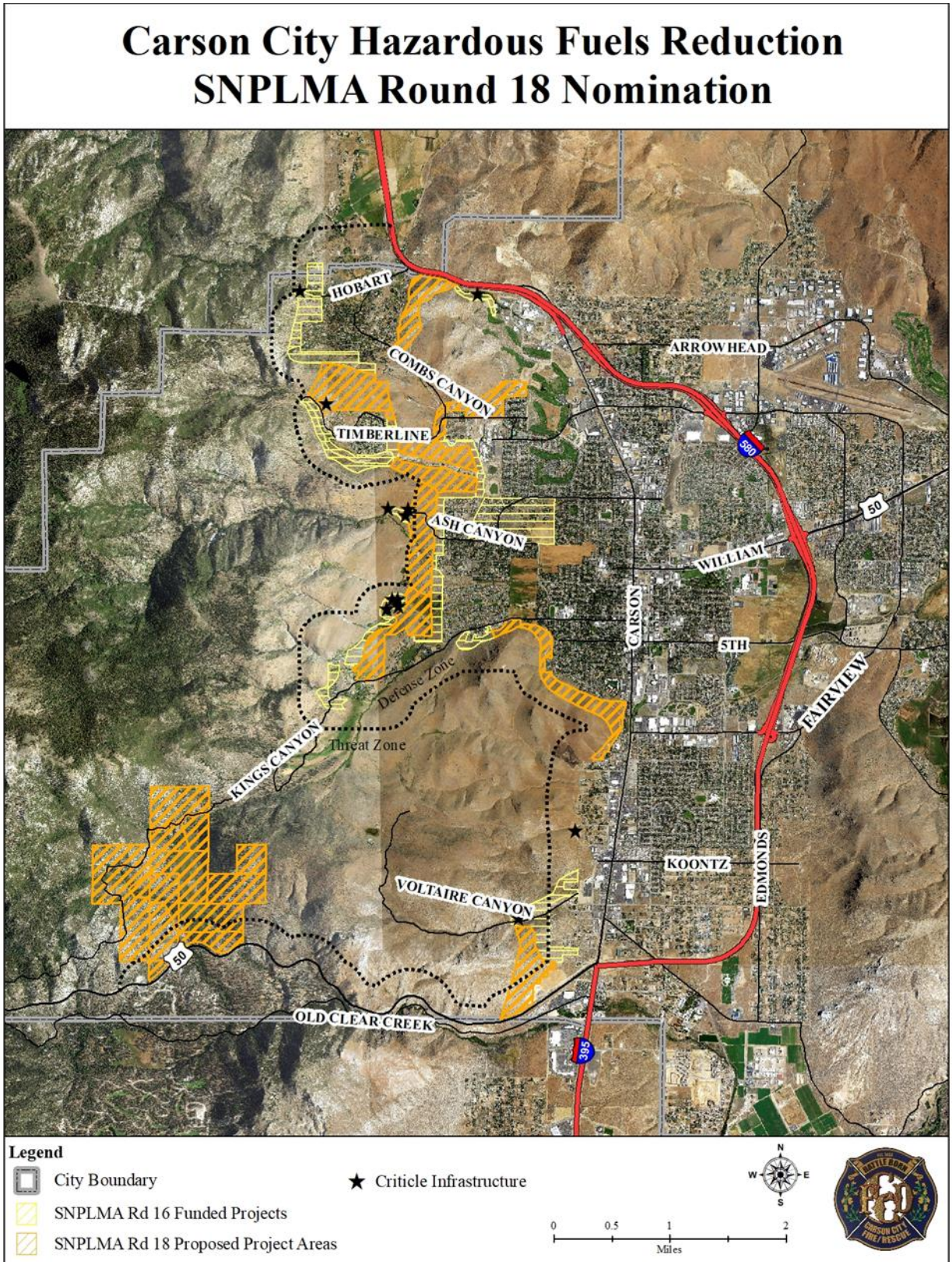
Map:


Carson City Hazardous Fuels Reduction
SNPLMA Round 18 Nomination
HOBART
COMBS CANYON
TIMBERLINE
ASH CANYON
ARROWHEAD
WILLIAM
CARSON
5TH
FAIRVIEW
Defense Zone
Threat Zone
KINGS CANYON
KOONTZ
EDMONDS
VOLTAIRE CANYON
OLD CLEAR CREEK
580
50
395
Legend
City Boundary
SNPLMA Rd 16 Funded Projects
SNPLMA Rd 18 Proposed Project Areas
Criticle Infrastructure
0
0.5
1
2
Miles
N
W
E
S

Photos:

Photo #1 – Good representation of the fuel loading along the west side of Carson City. Large decadent bitterbrush, dense sagebrush with little to no interspaces.

Photo #2 – Represents a dense continuous fuel bed that threatens the communities along the Carson Rage in Carson City.

Letters of Support:

None.