

**Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act
Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention
Round 19**

U.S. Forest Service, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit



National Forest Resilience Corridors

Amount Requested: \$7,715,630

A. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Forest Service and NV Energy 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 in 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. This project conforms to the 2016 Lake Tahoe Basin Management Units Land Management Plan and implements fuels reduction treatments in priority areas identified in the 2014 Lake Tahoe Basin Multi-Jurisdictional Fuels Reduction and Fire Prevention Strategy.

a. Describe Relationship to prior Approved Phases or Related SNPLMA Projects and Anticipated Future Phases

This project proposal expands forest health and fuels reduction treatments to the Nevada side of the Tahoe Basin, along utility infrastructure owned and operated by NV Energy. Future phases/projects are anticipated, as Round 18 Utility Corridors Resilience – Zone 2 and Zone 3 approved project only funded a portion of the planned treatments on the California side of the Tahoe Basin and this project will fund only a portion of the planned treatments on the Nevada side of the Tahoe Basin.

b. Acknowledgement of Stand-Alone Project and no Guarantee of Funding for Future Phases

We acknowledge that there is no guarantee for future phases to be funded and can confirm that this project is a viable stand-alone project with specific deliverables that will be accomplished.

B. SNPLMA STRATEGIC PLAN VALUES

Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention projects have two goals identified in the Strategic Plan:

- Goal 1: Sustain the quality of the outdoor environment by conserving, preserving, and restoring natural and cultural resources.
- Goal 2: Improve the quality of life for all publics in urban and rural communities by enhancing recreational opportunities that connect people with the outdoor environment.

1. Sustainability:

The project will sustain the quality of the outdoor environment through vegetation management actions that will restore natural and cultural resources. The vegetation management actions will maintain or increase the quality of natural resources and protect their ecological integrity and sustainability. 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.

2. Connectivity:

This project promotes connectivity and sustainability through integration of multiple resource objectives and by connecting projects across the landscape being implemented by multiple agencies and landowners. This project will implement fuels and forest health treatments under the National Forest Resilience Corridors project. This project expands the resilience corridor's concept to the Nevada side of the Tahoe Basin, creating a consistent approach across the Tahoe Region for reducing wildfire risk and improving forest health around utility infrastructure to protect sensitive habitats, cultural resources and the communities that surround Lake Tahoe. These treatments connect treatments from previously completed and ongoing fuels projects on federal and nonfederal lands resulting in a comprehensive and connected network of treatments across multiple land ownerships in the Wildland Urban Interface. This network of treatments has beneficial impacts at the landscape scale and provides effective protection to communities from wildfire, as demonstrated by the recent Caldor Fire in South Lake Tahoe.

3. Community:

This project will improve the quality of life for all publics who live in and visit the Lake Tahoe region by reducing wildfire risk to communities and utility infrastructure and by improving the resilience of Lake Tahoe forests to natural disturbances such as wildfire, drought, insect and disease and climate change. Forests that are resilient to natural disturbance provide sustainable recreational opportunities and reduced risk of wildfire to adjoining communities. 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. The project will also improve forest health through removal of diseased trees and thinning of overly dense forest stands.

C. PURPOSE STATEMENT

The purpose of this project is to implement fuels reduction and forest health treatments that connect past and current projects to create a comprehensive network of treatments that improve the resilience of Tahoe's forests and communities to disturbances such as wildfire, insect and disease, drought and climate change. This project will protect forest habitats, highly valued recreational landscapes, utility infrastructure and Lake Tahoe communities located on the Nevada side of the Tahoe Basin through treatments that are designed to go beyond routine line clearance vegetation actions (pruning and hazard tree felling) to treatments designed reduce stand density, reduce fuel loads and create healthy forests resilient forests.

D. PROJECT DELIVERABLES

1. Primary Deliverables:

Reduce hazardous fuels and improve forest health conditions on 1,800 to 1,930 acres of National Forest System 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 fuels treatments such as mastication or pile burning. 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.

2. Anticipated Deliverables:

- Forest products including biomass and timber.
- Pile burning up to 800 acres. We anticipate that pile burning will be implemented, however, because of the operational complexity and limited burn windows, we do not expect to burn all slash piles created by thinning treatments in this phase of the project.
- Treatment of terrestrial invasive plants within the project units, 10-250 acres may be treated.
- Conservation Education/Community Outreach through 5-30 social media and public notifications, 2-20 community and classroom events.

3. 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.

E. PROJECT LOCATION

Latitude and Longitude:

39.006821 / -119.948364

Identify Congressional District(s):

Nevada's 2nd Congressional District.

F. PROJECT TIMEFRAME

6 years

G. LEVEL OF PROJECT READINESS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Is this a shovel-ready project? ☐ Yes ☒ No

At the time of this grant application submittal, the project is 90% completed with environmental planning. All resource surveys have been completed, specialist reports and Decision Memo have been prepared. The Heritage Resources inventory and report are being finalized and are anticipated to be sent to the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) in the coming weeks. SHPO concurrence is expected in early 2022 and the LTBMU anticipates having signed Decision Memo in March of 2022, at which time this project will be shovel-ready.

Additionally, the LTBMU is partnering with NV Energy through the Stewardship authority for project implementation. A Stewardship Agreement between the LTBMU and NV Energy was finalized in September of 2021 and includes funding commitments from the LTBMU and NV Energy to allow for project implementation to begin in the 2022 field season. Field reconnaissance of treatment units began in October 2021 and project field preparations will begin soon, weather dependent.

H. FUTURE OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

NV Energy is responsible for maintenance and operations of its utility infrastructure located on National Forest System lands, including removing vegetation that can grow into or fall onto utility infrastructure within Zone 1. Routine maintenance of vegetation, including pruning vegetation growing within required clearance zones and removing hazard trees occurs on a regular rotation and is authorized under a Master Special Use Permit. This work is ongoing and will continue indefinitely.

Treatments will occur in 3 specific zones with unique treatment objectives. Zone 1 is in the utility right of way (15' and 21' either side of utility infrastructure, depending on if the line is transmission or distribution) and is solely the responsibility of the Utility company. Zone 2 is up to 175' either side of utility infrastructure and has shared responsibility between NV Energy and the LTBMU, where hazards to powerlines are NV Energy responsibility and management of forest stand, forest health and management of forest fuels is the responsibility of the LTBMU. Zone 2 is located outside the utility right of way. Zone 3 is an area that can be up to 1000' from utility infrastructure and management of forest stands, forest health and fuels is solely the responsibility of the LTBMU. The nomination is solely based on the National Forest's responsibility within Zones 2 and 3.

It is anticipated that in certain circumstances, some stands or isolated portions of stands may require more than one entry to meet residual stand density and/or post treatment fuels objectives. These situations arise in portions of the project area where removal of biomass is limited or restricted, combined with high tree density and/or existing surface fuel loads. Long term, NV

Energy and the LTBMU will continue to monitor forest health and fuels conditions in the resilience corridor's. NV Energy will maintain vegetation clearance and fuel loading in Zone 1 and the LTBMU will partner with NV Energy to implement future fuels and forest health treatments, including prescribed under-burning, to maintain resilient forest conditions and maintain fuel loading in Zones 2 and 3.

I. PROJECT BUDGET

Estimated cost for forest restoration and fuels reduction treatments is:
\$4,137 per acre (based on 1,865 acres being treated)

Contributed Funds

The National Forest Resilience Corridors' project is a partnership project between the LTBMU, the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest and NV Energy.

NV Energy has committed to fund \$3,290,000 in support of project implementation. \$2,360,000 towards project layout, pre-implementation surveys, fuels treatment in Zone 2 and \$930,000 in additional project support costs.

PROJECT BUDGET			
Project Name:	National Forest Resilience Corridors	Date: January 26, 2022	
Project Manager:	Azad Henareh Khalyani	Agency:	USFS-LTBMU
Cost Categories		SNPLMA	Non-Federal Contribution
1. Personnel (labor plus benefits)		\$ 888,225.00	\$ -
2. Travel		\$ 315,000.00	\$ -
3. Training		\$ -	\$ -
4. Equipment		\$ -	\$ -
5. Supplies/Materials		\$ 94,000.00	\$ -
6. Contracts and/or Agreements		\$ 5,790,000.00	\$ 3,285,000.00
7. Vehicle Use		\$ 8,405.00	\$ -
8. Other Necessary Expenses		\$ 620,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
9. TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET		\$ 7,715,630.00	\$ 3,290,000.00

J. KEY CONTACTS

Authorized Officer: Erick Walker, Forest Supervisor
 Email: erick.walker@usda.gov
 Phone Number: 530-543-2641

Project Manager: Azad Henareh Khalyani
 Email: azad.henarehkhalyani@usda.gov
 Phone Number: 530-543-2840

Budget Officer: Gina Salvador
 Email: gina.salvador@usda.gov
 Phone Number: 530-563-7811

K. RANKING CRITERIA

1. Improves the community within and/or adjacent to the project area. Projects are only eligible for Factors A1, A2, or A3; select and answer ONLY ONE, depending on the majority of the landscape in the nomination. Answer Factor B and C as they apply to your nomination.

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

1. Project is within the Defense Zone, generally an area within 0.25 mile of life and property, as depicted by the most current Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) map in the applicable plan.

Answer: Approximately 2450 acres of the National Forest Resilience Corridors' project is located within the Defense Zone as depicted by the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) identified in the 2014 Lake Tahoe Basin Multi-Jurisdictional Fuels Reduction and Fire Prevention Strategy. This represents 70% of the acres planned for treatment within the Tahoe Basin. Approximately 900 acres (26%) are located within the Threat Zone and the remaining acres, approximately 150 acres (4%) are located outside the WUI.

2. Project is within the Threat Zone, generally an area between 0.25 mile and 1.50 miles of life and property, as depicted by the most current WUI map in the applicable plan. (Do not answer if you answered A.1. already).

Answer:

3. Project is within the general forest or other lands beyond the WUI (generally greater than 1.5 miles from life and property), as depicted by the most current map in the applicable plan. (Do not answer if you answered A.1. or A.2. already).

Answer:

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

Answer: This project implements fuels reduction and forest health treatments in areas of the WUI that pose the greatest risk for wildfire. The project transects 16 major watersheds. Stateline Point-First/Second Creek-Wood Creek Frontal, Third Creek, Incline Creek-Mill Creek Frontal, Tunnel Creek-Sand Harbor Frontal, Marlette Creek, Bliss Creek, Secret Harbor Creek-Skunk Harbor, Slaughter House Creek, Glenbrook Frontal, Logan House Frontal, Skyland-Cave Rock-Lincoln Creek Frontal, Zephyr Frontal, McFaul Creek, Burke Creek and Edgewood Creek are located within the project area and drain into the Lake Tahoe. Daggett Creek watershed is located within the project area and drains into the Carson River. 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 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.

Answer: 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. Respond to each of the following. [Answer all applicable.](#)

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

Answer: This project implements fuels reduction and forest health treatments planned under the National Forest Resilience Corridors' project. This project is located adjacent to current and past fuels treatments located on federal and nonfederal lands implemented in coordination with the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team and identified in the 2014 Lake Tahoe Basin Multi-Jurisdictional Fuels Reduction and Fire Prevention Strategy. This project will connect treatments across the landscape, increasing the overall effectiveness of the fuels reduction and forest health efforts.

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

Answer: 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 thinning of dense conifer stands and reduction of forest fuels. The project will thin 1,930 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. 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.

Answer: 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. Respond to each of the following. [Answer all applicable.](#)

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.).

Answer: 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 habitat for sensitive species and threatened and endangered species.
Includes mitigation and/or minimization measures when treatment in sensitive habitat is unavoidable

Answer: 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. Include broadcast prescribed fire for resource management objectives for sustainable landscapes.

Answer: This project does not include prescribed fire as a primary deliverable, including broadcast prescribed fire, however, pile burning is an anticipated deliverable. In addition, 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. The project decision includes prescribed pile burning to remove excess fuels and broadcast fire treatments as post thinning treatment options. 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.

- 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

Answer: 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 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). In 2019, the median sale price for homes in the North Lake Tahoe area was \$745,000 with a density of 532 homes per square mile. The median sale price of a home in the South Lake Tahoe area is \$758,000 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, mastication, biomass removal on both upland and riparian areas, hand thinning on steeper slopes and pile burning. 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. The recent Caldor Fire provides clear evidence of the effectiveness of forest thinning and fuels reduction treatments at modifying fire behavior and providing protection to communities in the path of wildfire.

4. Demonstrates sound project management and quality control measures. [Answer all applicable.](#)

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

Answer: This project is implementing treatments from the Liberty Utilities Resilience Corridors project. The environmental analysis for this project is being conducted under the National Environmental Policy Act to implement hazardous fuels reduction and forest health treatments, with approximately 3,500 acres on NFS lands located in the needing treatment. This project will complete 1,930 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 projects, etc.) and within budget.

Answer: 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 16 years (2005-2021) 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. The LTBMU has also utilized new authorities to enter into long term agreements with partners to increase capacity and implement more projects. For this project, the LTBMU has partnered with NV Energy through a Stewardship Agreement for the implementation of National Forest Resilience Corridors' treatments.

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

Answer: This project of a multi-phased project and will consist of forest thinning and fuels reduction treatments located along powerline utility corridors identified in National Forest Resilience Corridors project. Utility Corridors Resilience – Zone 2 and Zone 3 was included in Round 18 and funds \$7,575,350 of project implementation associated with the Liberty Utilities Resilience Corridor's project on the California side of the Tahoe Basin. We anticipate that future phases/projects may be needed to fully fund the Utility Corridor's projects.

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

Answer: To date, NV Energy has provided funding to conduct NEPA analysis and resource surveys totaling approximately \$500,000. In addition, the LTBMU has provided \$1,159,000 of federally appropriated Lake Tahoe Restoration Act funds to support implementation. In addition, NV Energy is providing \$4,655,000 in support of project implementation. The funding will be implemented through a partnership with the NV Energy through a Stewardship Agreement executed in September of 2021.

L. ORDERS AND PRIORITIES

A. Executive Orders (EO):

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

Answer: 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.

- ***EO No. 14005: Ensuring the Future is Made in All of America by All of America's Workers***

Answer: N/A

B. Secretarial Orders

- ***SO No. 3347: Conservation Stewardship and Outdoor Recreation.***

Answer: N/A

- ***SO No. 3356: Hunting, Fishing, Recreational Shooting, and Wildlife Conservation Opportunities and Coordination with States, Tribes and Territories.***

Answer: N/A

- ***SO No. 3362: Improving Habitat Quality in Western Big-Game Winter Range and Migration Corridors.***

Answer: N/A

- ***SO No. 3366: Increasing Recreational Opportunities on Lands and Waters Managed by the U.S. Department of the Interior***

Answer: N/A

- ***SO No. 3370: Conservation Stewardship and Increasing Public Access to Urban National Wildlife Refuges.***

Answer: N/A

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

Answer: N/A

- ***SO No. 3373: Evaluating Public Access in Bureau of Land Management Public Land Disposal and Exchanges (focus is on Sec. 4.b.(3) Potential increased public recreational access to existing public lands resulting from the proposed land acquired through an exchange (acquisition).***

Answer: N/A

- ***SO No. 3374: Implementation of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management and Recreation Act.***

Answer: N/A

- ***SO No. 3376: Increasing Recreational Opportunities through the use of Electric Bikes.***

Answer: N/A

C. Department of the Interior Priorities:

1. ***Identifying steps to accelerate responsible development of renewable energy on public lands and waters.*** We are investing in climate research and environmental innovation to incentivize the rapid deployment of clean energy solutions, while reviewing existing programs to restore balance on America's public lands and waters to benefit current and future generations.

Answer: N/A

2. ***Strengthening the government-to-government relationship with sovereign Tribal nations.*** We understand that tribal sovereignty and self-governance, as well as honoring the federal trust responsibility to Tribal Nations, must be the cornerstones of federal Indian policy.

Answer: N/A

3. ***Making investments to support the Administration's goal of creating millions of family-supporting and union jobs.*** This includes establishing a new Climate Conservation Corps Initiative to put a new generation of Americans to work conserving and restoring public lands and waters, increasing reforestation, increasing carbon sequestration in the agricultural sector, protecting biodiversity, improving access to recreation, and addressing the changing climate.

Answer: N/A

4. ***Working to conserve at least 30% each of our lands and waters by the year 2030.*** We will work to protect biodiversity, slow extinction rates, and help leverage natural climate solutions by conserving 30% of America's lands and waters by 2030. This relies on support for local, state, private, and tribally led conservation and restoration efforts that are underway across America.

Answer: N/A

5. ***Centering equity and environmental justice.*** The impacts of the multiple crises in the United States are not evenly distributed in our society. Communities of color, low-income families, and rural and indigenous communities have long suffered disproportionate and cumulative harm from air pollution, water pollution, and toxic sites. At every step of the way, Interior will engage diverse stakeholders across the country, as well as conduct formal consultation with Tribes in recognition of the U.S. government's trust responsibilities.

Answer: N/A

D. USDA Forest Service Priorities:

1. *Controlling the COVID-19 pandemic*

Answer: All Federal employees working to support this project are required to be vaccinated against Covid-19. In addition, contractors hired by the Forest Service will be required to provide proof of vaccination against Covid-19.

2. *Providing economic relief*

Answer: This project will provide jobs to the local Tahoe Basin and surrounding communities through employment of local fire crews, arborist, utility crews, foresters and other forest industry contractors needed to implement forest health and fuels reduction treatments. In addition, forest products such as saw timber and biomass will be removed from the project, providing jobs needed to transport, process and sale forest products.

3. *Tackling climate change*

Answer: This project will improve the health of Tahoe's forests and it's resilience to natural disturbances such as wildfire, drought, insect and disease outbreaks and climate change. The project will remove biomass off site for processing and utilization in mechanical treatment units, reducing the amount of prescribed fire pile burning required to meet project objectives and reducing associated greenhouse gas emissions.

4. *Advancing racial equity*

Answer: The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program.

5. *Improving our workforce and work environment*

Answer: The Forest Service is committed to the values of equity, inclusion, and equal opportunity our employees and those we serve. The Forest Service provides equal employment opportunity for all employees and applicants for employment, regardless of race, religion, color, sex (including pregnancy, gender identity and sexual orientation), national origin, age, genetic information, or disability. All employees have the freedom to compete on a fair and level playing field with equal opportunity

for available employment and advancement opportunities. Equal employment opportunity covers all personnel/employment programs, management practices, and decisions, including recruitment/hiring, merit promotion, transfer, reassignments, training and career development, benefits, and separation

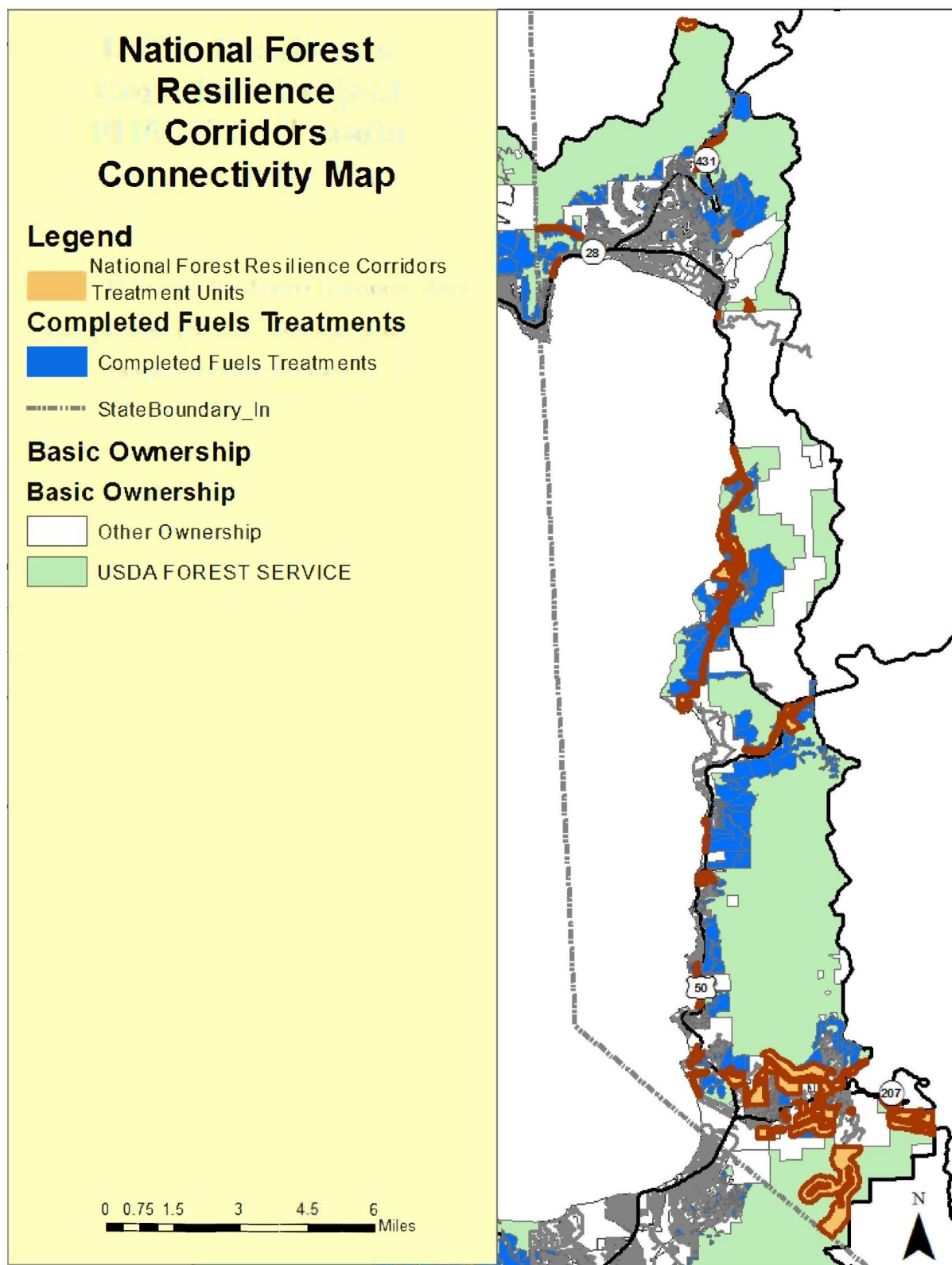


Figure 1: Project Stand

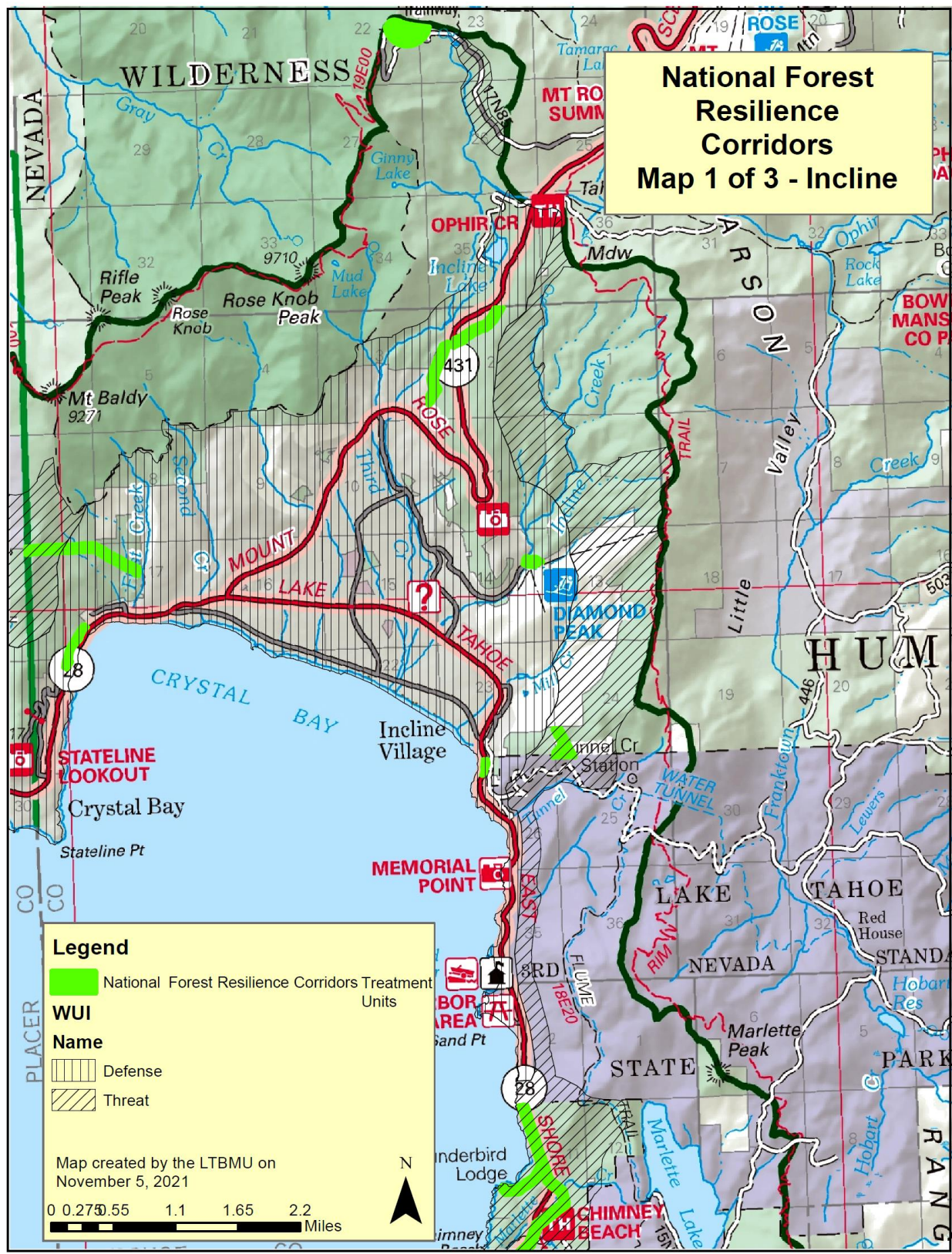


Figure 2: Project location (1 of 3), Defense and Threat Zones

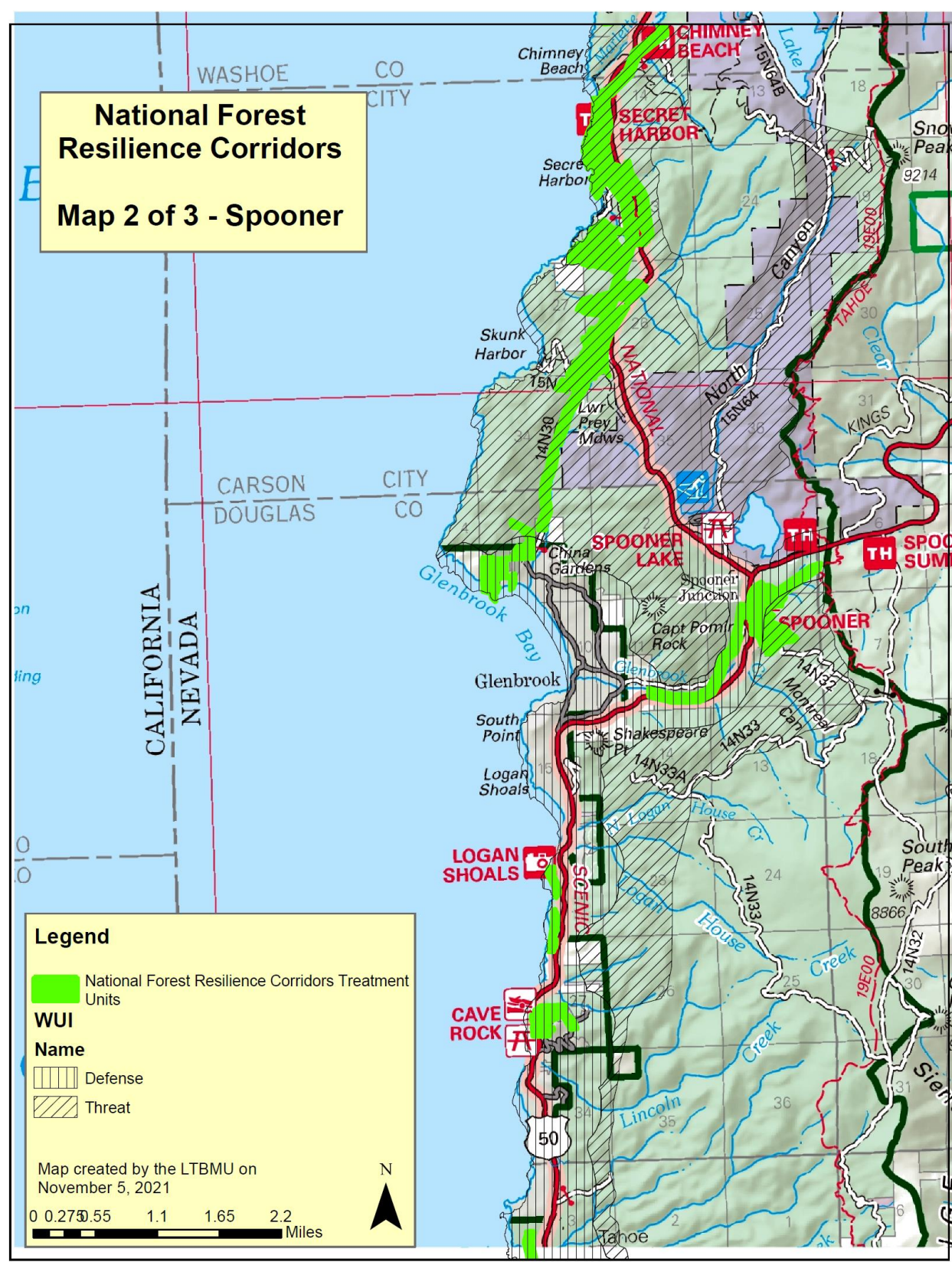


Figure 3: Project location (2 of 3), Defense and Threat Zones

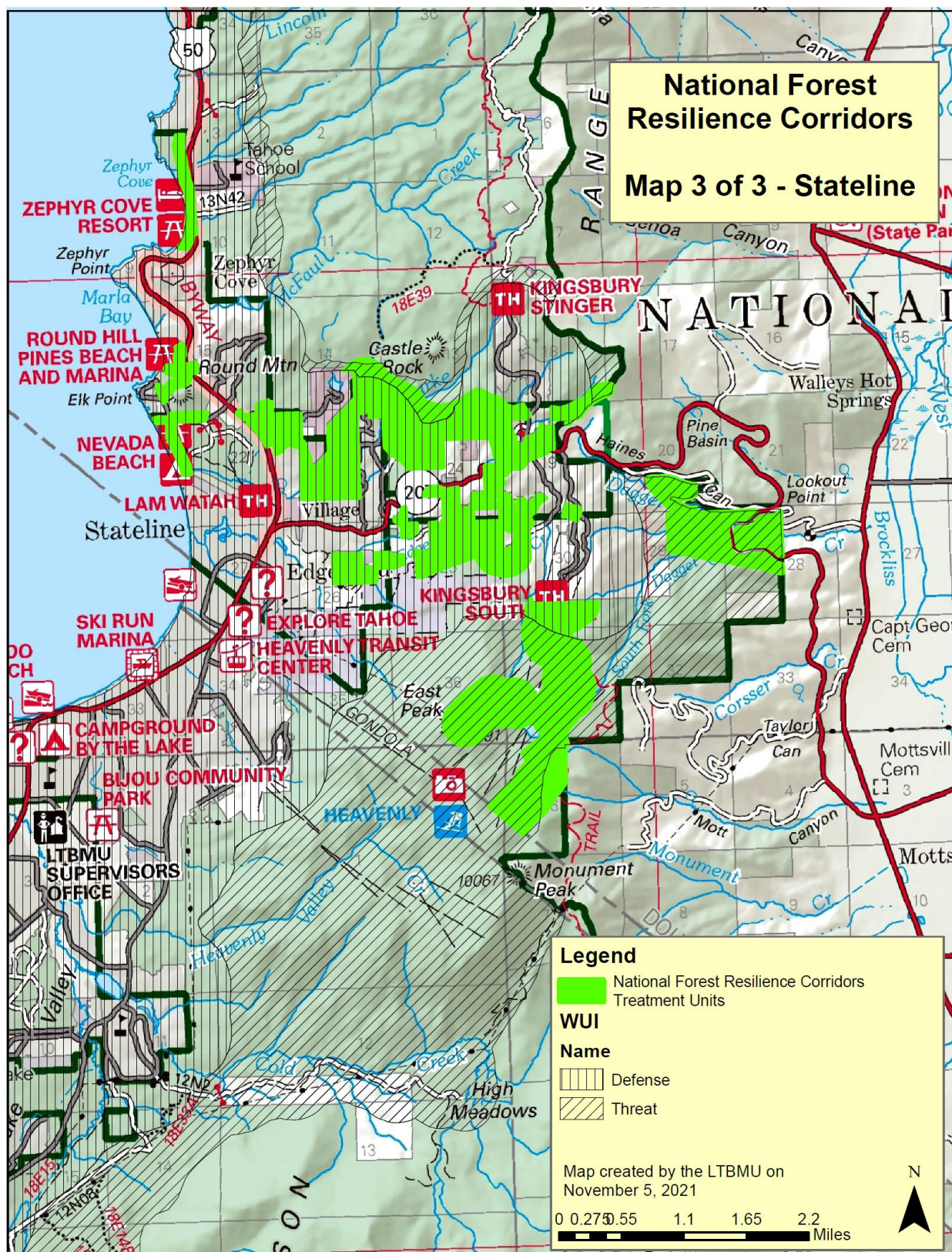


Figure 4: Project location (3 of 3), Defense and Threat Zones

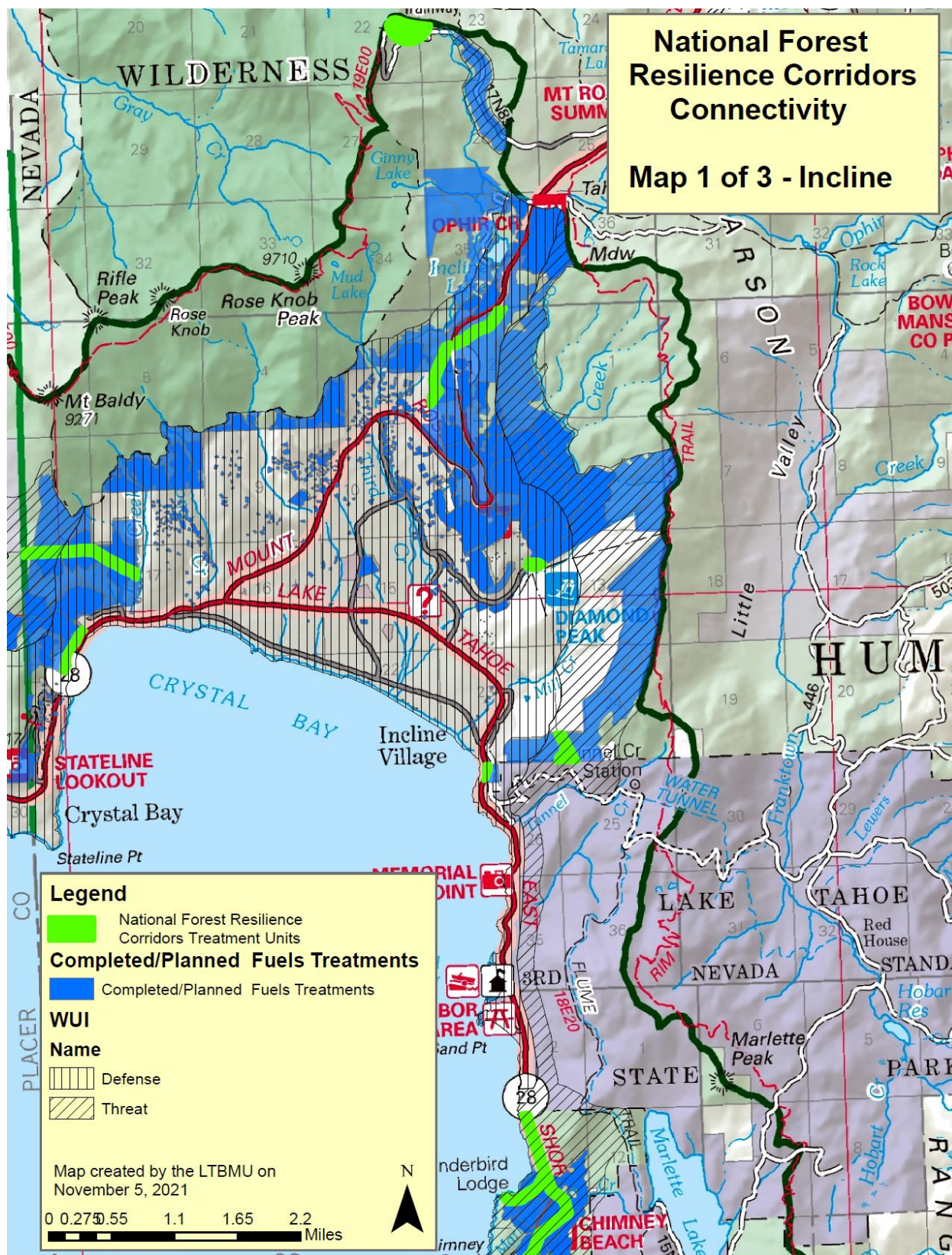


Figure 5: SNPLMA Strategic Value – Connectivity (1 of 3)

Figure 6: SNPLMA Strategic Value – Connectivity (2 of 3)

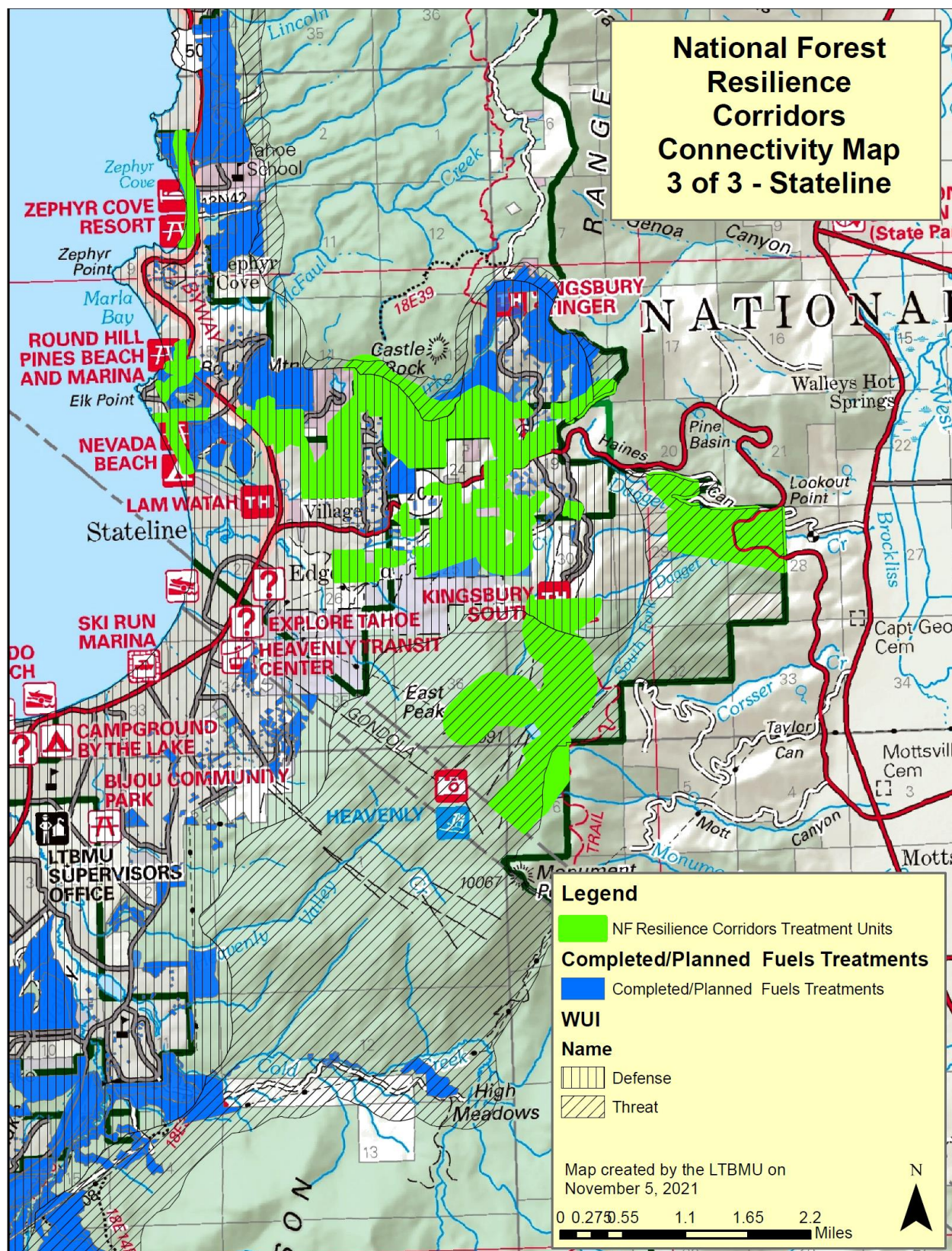


Figure 7: SNPLMA Strategic Value – Connectivity (3 of 3)

N. PERFORMANCE MEASURES

SNPLMA FY2020-FY2024 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL 1: Sustain the Quality of the Outdoor Environment by Conserving, Preserving, and Restoring Natural and Cultural Resources		
Performance Measures for Habitat Enhancement	Definition of Performance Measure	Quantity
H9 - Acres of Invasive Plant Species Treated or Restored	Report the number of acres of weed infestation treated with chemical, mechanical, physical, or biological control agents for the purpose of weed control. Include acres treated by fire when fire is used as a physical control agent for weed control rather than as a hazardous fuels treatment. Each acre treated is counted only once during the life of the project, no matter how many re-treatments occurred during the project.	10 - 250
Performance Measures for Wildland Fire Management	Definition of Performance Measure	Quantity
F1 - Acres of Hazardous Fuels Treated – Non-Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)	Report the total number of acres of hazardous fuels treated, enhanced, or restored to reduce wildland fuels hazards and to restore or maintain ecosystem resiliency outside the WUI. Where multiple treatments are necessary to meet vegetation management objectives, such as hand thinning followed by re-seeding, each treatment is counted individually.	30
F2 - Acres of Hazardous Fuels Treated – Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)	Report the total number of acres of hazardous fuels treated, enhanced, or restored to reduce wildland fuels hazards and to restore or maintain ecosystem resiliency within the WUI. Where multiple treatments are necessary to meet vegetation management objectives, such as hand thinning followed by re-seeding, each treatment is counted individually.	1770 - 1900
SNPLMA FY2020-FY2024 STRATEGIC PLAN: Other Performance Measures that Also Support the Three Values for SNPLMA Implementation of Sustainability, Connectivity, and Community		
Other Performance Measures	Definition of Performance Measure	Quantity
O6 - Number of New Interpretive or Education Publications/Signs/Kiosks/Displays/etc. Produced	Report the number of new interpretive or education publications produced, signs produced and installed, public informational websites or other electronic media presentations designed and implemented, and informational or interpretive kiosk displays produced and installed.	6
O7 - Number of Interpretive or Education Presentations Given and/or Community Events Participated in or Hosted	Report the number of interpretive or educational presentations given.	15

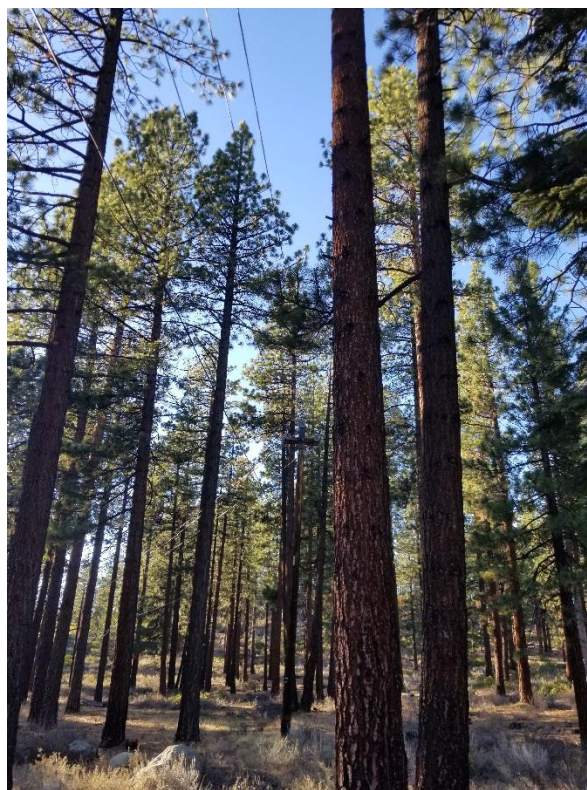
O. PHOTOS

Photo 1: Overly Dense Forest Stands in Zone 2



Photo 2: Recent tree mortality in Zone 2



Photo 3: Dense forest stands in Zone 1 and Zone 2



Photo 4: Dense forest stands in Zone 2

P. SUPPORT LETTERS

- NV Energy



November 3, 2021

Robert Wandel
Assistant District Manager – SNPLMA Division
Bureau of Land Management
4701 N. Torrey Pines Dr.
Las Vegas, NV 89130

Dear Mr. Wandel,

As NV Energy's Wildfire Mitigation Specialist/Fire Chief, I direct NV Energy's hazardous fuels reduction and wildfire prevention activities, including work within the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU). NV Energy unequivocally supports LTBMU and their National Forest Resilience Corridors, Phase 2 (Nevada) grant application.

The USDA Forest Service and NV Energy have long partnered to manage hazard tree threats along power lines in the Lake Tahoe Basin and surrounding areas. 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. The project will also further implementation of NV Energy's Natural Disaster Prevention and Protection Plan, a plan filed with the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada, per Senate Bill 329, that outlines how the company plans to help protect the public from the impacts of natural disasters on its electric infrastructure. Wildfire is a primary threat to the company's infrastructure.

I encourage the selection committee to support the Utility Corridors Resilience Project, Phase 2 as it will enhance forest health, reduce the risk of high severity fire along critical electrical infrastructure, and protect communities within the LTBMU. NV Energy views the LTBMU National Forest Resilience Corridors, Phase 2 as an innovative partnership effort and is in full support of the project.

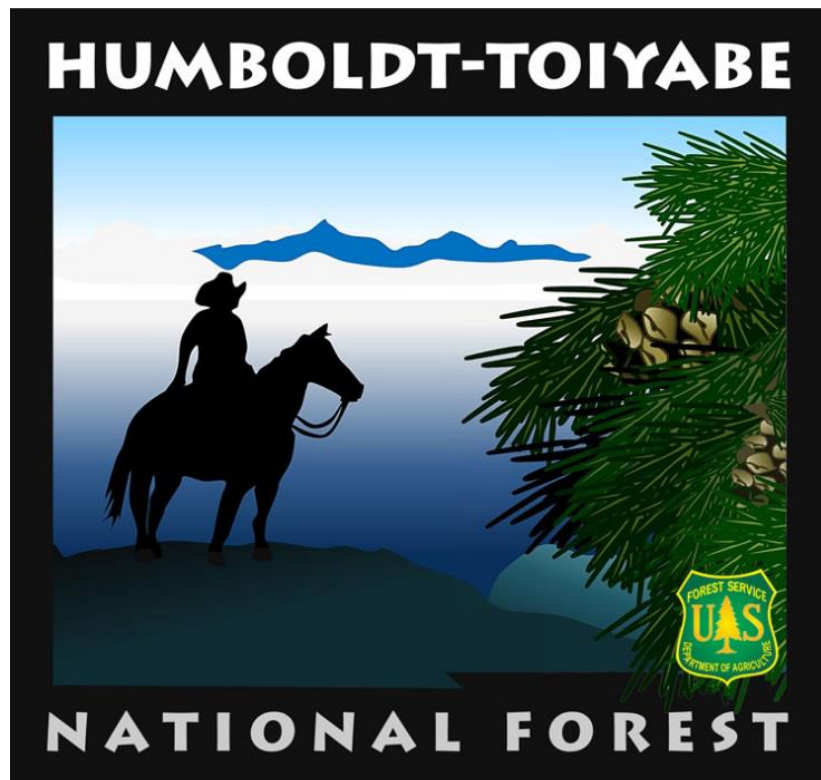
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Regan".

Mark Regan
Wildfire Mitigation Specialist/Fire Chief – NV Energy

**Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act
Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention
Round 19**

USDA Forest Service
Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest
Spring Mountains National Recreation Area



**SMNRA Wildland Urban Interface Prescribed Fire and
Noxious Weeds**

Amount Requested: \$1,548,250

A. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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 Tribal Group, Mount Charleston Fire Protection District, Nevada Energy, Clark County Parks and Recreation Camp Lee, and the communities of Kyle and Lee Canyons. Mountain Springs, Trout canyon, and Cold Creek; all have a great deal of interest in this project. The project is consistent with USDA Forest service priorities and goals, Humboldt-Toiyabe NF Land Management Plan, the Spring Mountains Multijurisdictional Fuel Reduction and prevention Strategy Plan. 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. Another focus will be working with tribes to get them red carded and initiate a cultural burning program, public education on the importance of living with fire, and noxious weed treatments.

a. Describe Relationship to prior Approved Phases or Related SNPLMA Projects and Anticipated Future Phases

This project occurs where many of the past fuel projects have occurred on the Spring Mountains. The project will potentially run simultaneously with a Round 18 Planning Project: SMNRA Eastside Planning Project and is not a phase of that project. The Round 18 project is Phase I consisting of Creating a signed NEPA document. This project proposal will consist of immediately implementing noxious weeds treatments and monitoring. Survey's will be necessary outside the areas being analyzed by Round 18 Eastside Planning Project. Surveys for biological and heritage will be completed (Years 1-2), a Letter of Concurrence from Nevada SHPO, and that documentation attached to the Humboldt-Toiyabe Forest Wide Prescribed Fire NEPA to allow for entry into the WUI areas with prescribed fire (Years 3-6) where surveys occurred.

b. Acknowledgement of Stand-Alone Project and no Guarantee of Funding for Future Phases

The Spring Mountains National Recreation Area recognizes that this is a standalone project with no guarantee of funding for future phases.

B. SNPLMA STRATEGIC PLAN VALUES

Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention projects have two goals identified in the Strategic Plan:

- Goal 1: Sustain the quality of the outdoor environment by conserving, preserving, and restoring natural and cultural resources.
- Goal 2: Improve the quality of life for all publics in urban and rural communities by enhancing recreational opportunities that connect people with the outdoor environment.

1. Sustainability:

By analyzing and implementing the SMNRA Wildland Urban Interface Fuels Reduction Project, the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area will conserve and restore natural resources, preserve cultural resources, promote connectivity and sustainability, protect communities, and promote education.

2. Connectivity:

Because of the location of this project area, connectivity of fuels reduction projects will be increased across jurisdictional boundaries, increasing community and resource protection.

3. Community:

This project design is meant to engage the public on more resilient landscapes with the hopes of educating people on Living With Fire.

C. PURPOSE STATEMENT

The Forest Service, Spring Mountains National Recreation Area (SMNRA), will complete necessary surveys to use the Humboldt-Toiyabe Forestwide Prescribed fire EA of approximately 2,500 acres of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest in Clark County, Nevada, for future treatment of hazardous fuels using prescribed fire on National Forest System lands within the wildland urban interface (WUI) in both the threat and defense zones. This project will accomplish ecosystem enhancement through fuels treatments using prescribed fire and herbicide treatments for fuel reduction and noxious plants by enhancing connectivity of hazardous fuels treatment projects within the SMNRA.

D. PROJECT DELIVERABLES

1. Primary Deliverables:

- Create a resilient landscape in and around the WUI.
- Cultural Prescribed Fire Program with local tribes.
- Understory burning of 400-600 acres in the WUI.
- Noxious weeds treatments and monitoring, using herbicide treatments on 250-500 acres.

2. Anticipated Deliverables:

- Three Interpretive or Education Presentations Given and/or Community Events

3. Standard Deliverables:

- Public outreach for Living with Fire.
- Introduce fire back onto the landscape.
- Creates a more resilient landscape.
- SNPLMA Closeout Package, preparation and submittal.

E. PROJECT LOCATION

Latitude and Longitude:

36.25748 / -115.61530

Identify Congressional District(s):

Nevada's Third and Fourth Congressional Districts

F. PROJECT TIMEFRAME

Six years from project funds initiation.

G. LEVEL OF PROJECT READINESS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Is this a shovel-ready project? ☒ Yes ☐ No

The Spring Mountains National Recreation Area has the capacity and structure to begin implementation as soon as funds are available. First, noxious weed treatments will occur along with biological and archeological clearance being completed for use of prescribed fire as a tool to maintain the landscape into the WUI. Then prescribed fire treatments will occur. The SMNRA and Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest has personnel to successfully complete the surveys for 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.

H. FUTURE OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

This project will allow land managers to use fire to maintain the landscape in the urban interface, educate the public on prescribed fire on the landscape and strengthen relationships with the NUWUVI tribal working group.

I. PROJECT BUDGET

Cost per acre to implement this project is \$1093.86.

Contributed Funds

No non-federal contribution funding.

PROJECT BUDGET			
Project Name:	SMNRA WUI RX/Noxious Weeds	Date:	10/20/2021
Project Manager:	Josh Thalacker	Agency:	USFS
Cost Categories		SNPLMA	Non-Federal Contribution
1. Personnel (labor plus benefits)		\$ 534,250.00	\$ -
2. Travel		\$ 200,000.00	\$ -
3. Training		\$ 40,000.00	\$ -
4. Equipment		\$ 20,000.00	\$ -
5. Supplies/Materials		\$ 1,200.00	\$ -
6. Contracts and/or Agreements		\$ 713,000.00	\$ -
7. Vehicle Use		\$ 39,800.00	\$ -
8. Other Necessary Expenses		\$ -	\$ -
9. TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET		\$ 1,548,250.00	\$ -

J. KEY CONTACTS

Authorized Officer: Deborah MacNeill, SMNRA Area Manager
 Email: deborah.macneill@usda.gov
 Phone Number: 702-305-4954

Project Manager: Josh Thalacker, SMNRA Fuels Specialist
 Email: joshua.thalacker@usda.gov
 Phone Number: 702-515-5441

Budget Officer: Tara Beck, HTF SNPLMA Program Coordinator
 Email: tara.beck@usda.gov
 Phone Number: 385-368-5508

K. RANKING CRITERIA

1. Improves the community within and/or adjacent to the project area. Projects are only eligible for Factors A1, A2, or A3; select and answer ONLY ONE, depending on the majority of the landscape in the nomination. Answer Factor B and C as they apply to your nomination.

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

1. Project is within the Defense Zone, generally an area within 0.25 mile of life and property, as depicted by the most current Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) map in the applicable plan.

Answer: Most 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, and 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 project area where fuels treatments would provide the most efficient and beneficial results, the eventual implementation of this 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.

2. Project is within the Threat Zone, generally an area between 0.25 mile and 1.50 miles of life and property, as depicted by the most current WUI map in the applicable plan. (Do not answer if you answered A.1. already).

Answer:

3. Project is within the general forest or other lands beyond the WUI (generally greater than 1.5 miles from life and property), as depicted by the most current map in the applicable plan. (Do not answer if you answered A.1. or A.2. already).

Answer:

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

Answer: This project will be implemented in many different watersheds that all contribute to the water used in the Las Vegas Valley, Sandy Valley, Pahrump Valley, Amargosa Valley, Indian Springs, and the local communities within the mountain range. 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. Fuel's reduction treatments have the ability to 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 impacting the watersheds 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.

Answer: As a part of the community and partners involvement process for this fuel reduction project, the Forest Service will be conducting public meetings. The communities that will be targeted during the process are the rural communities of Kyle Canyon, Lee Canyons, Mountain Springs, Trout Canyon, and Cold Creek. This project is a part of 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 landowners. The cohesive strategy will include but is not limited to NV Energy, Mount Charleston Fire Protection District, Clark County Fire Department, Nuwuvi Tribal 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 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.

2. Improves the connection of fuels reduction activities and wildlife habitat. Respond to each of the following. [Answer all applicable.](#)

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

Answer: This project is a centerpiece of fuel treatment types that are within the urban interface by creating a more resilient landscape. Directly adjacent to and surrounding many of the units in the SMNRA WUI 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.

Answer: SMNRA WUI Prescribed Fire/Noxious Plants 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. Fuel 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 complete.

Answer: The project area will connect all fuel treatments in the WUI implemented in the past 20. 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 unique sky island. 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 and the core values of Shared Stewardship with partners.

3. Improves sustainability of the multijurisdictional 10-year plans, environment, and financial resources. Respond to each of the following. [Answer all applicable.](#)

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.).

Answer: A tool used for this project will reintroduce fire to the landscape. The 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 fuel loading 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 all of which are highlighted in the Spring Mountains 10 Year Multi-Jurisdictional Plan.

2. Improve habitat for sensitive species and threatened and endangered species. Includes mitigation and/or minimization measures when treatment in sensitive habitat is unavoidable

Answer: This project surveys 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, the Mount Charleston Ant, four bat species, the Palmer's Chipmunk, Northern Goshawk, and the Flammulated Owl. The ongoing threat of stand replacing fire has a very high significant impact on destroying key habitats.

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

Answer: Prescribed fire will be used 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

Answer: The use of prescribed fire on the landscape is most safe and cost-effective treatment. The intent is to bring communities and cooperators together with the use of fire and its ecological benefits. A partnership with local tribes to form a Cultural Burning Network. Treatments will ensure accumulations of under story fuels will reduce the threat of a damaging wildfire protecting all the infrastructure within the SMNRA boundaries. Work will be accomplished through agreements with cooperators and a seasonal work force. The cost to fight a wildland fire in WUI areas would be extremely high because of the proximity to communities and highly valued

recreational properties. The cost to plan and implement 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. [Answer all applicable.](#)

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

Answer: The goal for this project is to reintroduce fire into the landscape to reduce under story fuel loading in critical urban interface areas on the Spring Mountains. To create a Cultural Burning Network with local tribes. To collaborate with local communities and partners on living with fire. These specific objectives for the future conditions and actions of the project area are explicitly expressed in the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area 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 projects, etc.) and within budget.

Answer: Currently the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area has two projects with multiple treatments coming to a close as far as implementing. So far contracts awarded this year consist of 900 acres of hand/thin/pile, 450 acres of mastication, and 500 acres of prescribed fire completed and 400 acres in the near term with force account personnel. All past Fuels Reduction category projects funded by SNPLMA have signed documents and have been closed out. The SMNRA did propose a Round 18 Fuels Landscape level planning project analyzing 12,000 acres surrounding most proposed areas in Round 19 SMNRA WUI/Noxious Weeds Project. 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, fuels specialists, a wildlife biologist, a botanist, an archaeologist, a hydrologist, a recreation staff officer, a fire management officer, multiple CORs and fire staff on District. In addition, plant pathologists and entomologists, fuels specialists, NEPA planners, 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.

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

Answer: This project is one phase only. It will take no more than 18 months to complete necessary surveys in units used for prescribed fire with implementation starting immediately after letter to file. The noxious weed herbicide treatments and monitoring will begin as soon as project initiation. This project is directly related to two Forest planning documents (Forest-wide Noxious Weeds NEPA and Forest-wide Prescribed Fire NEPA) funded by the agency prior to this nomination. Further detail on some of the district's current SNPLMA funded projects on the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area 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 signed decision documents for a fuels 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 14-6 FO28:* 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.

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

Answer: 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.

L. ORDERS AND PRIORITIES

A. Executive Orders (EO):

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

Answer: Yes, the core of this 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.

- ***EO No. 14004: Ensuring the Future is Made in All of America by All of America's Workers***

Answer: Very little supplies are needed by the District to implement this project. Those that are will be procured will be done so by Made In America.

B. Secretarial Orders

- ***SO No. 3347: Conservation Stewardship and Outdoor Recreation.***

Answer: 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.

- ***SO No. 3356: Hunting, Fishing, Recreational Shooting, and Wildlife Conservation Opportunities and Coordination with States, Tribes and Territories.***

Answer: N/A. Department of Interior Specific. The project will engage the public, tribes, state, local, and interested parties.

- ***SO No. 3362: Improving Habitat Quality in Western Big-Game Winter Range and Migration Corridors.***

Answer: N/A. Department of Interior Specific.

- ***SO No. 3366: Increasing Recreational Opportunities on Lands and Waters Managed by the U.S. Department of the Interior***

Answer: N/A. Department of Interior Specific. This project will enhance the safety of the Forest users.

- ***SO No. 3370: Conservation Stewardship and Increasing Public Access to Urban National Wildlife Refuges.***

Answer: N/A. Department of Interior Specific.

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

Answer: 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.

- ***SO No. 3373: Evaluating Public Access in Bureau of land Management Public Land Disposal and Exchanges (focus is on Sec. 4.b.(3) Potential increased public recreational access to existing public lands resulting from the proposed land acquired through an exchange (acquisition).***

Answer N/A. Department of Interior Specific.

- ***SO No. 3374: Implementation of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management and Recreation Act.***

Answer: N/A. Department of Interior Specific.

- ***SO No. 3376: Increasing Recreational Opportunities through the use of Electric Bikes.***

Answer: N/A. Department of Interior Specific.

C. Department of the Interior Priorities:

1. ***Identifying steps to accelerate responsible development of renewable energy on public lands and waters. We are investing in climate research and environmental***

innovation to incentivize the rapid deployment of clean energy solutions, while reviewing existing programs to restore balance on America's public lands and waters to benefit current and future generations.

Answer: N/A. Department of Interior Specific.

2. ***Strengthening the government-to-government relationship with sovereign Tribal nations.*** *We understand that tribal sovereignty and self-governance, as well as honoring the federal trust responsibility to Tribal Nations, must be the cornerstones of federal Indian policy.*

Answer: N/A

3. ***Making investments to support the Administration's goal of creating millions of family-supporting and union jobs.*** *This includes establishing a new Climate Conservation Corps Initiative to put a new generation of Americans to work conserving and restoring public lands and waters, increasing reforestation, increasing carbon sequestration in the agricultural sector, protecting biodiversity, improving access to recreation, and addressing the changing climate.*

Answer: N/A. Department of Interior Specific.

4. ***Working to conserve at least 30% each of our lands and waters by the year 2030.*** *We will work to protect biodiversity, slow extinction rates, and help leverage natural climate solutions by conserving 30% of America's lands and waters by 2030. This relies on support for local, state, private, and tribally led conservation and restoration efforts that are underway across America.*

Answer: N/A. Department of Interior Specific.

5. ***Centering equity and environmental justice.*** *The impacts of the multiple crises in the United States are not evenly distributed in our society. Communities of color, low-income families, and rural and indigenous communities have long suffered disproportionate and cumulative harm from air pollution, water pollution, and toxic sites. At every step of the way, Interior will engage diverse stakeholders across the country, as well as conduct formal consultation with Tribes in recognition of the U.S. government's trust responsibilities.*

Answer: N/A. Department of Interior Specific.

D. USDA Forest Service Priorities:

1. *Controlling the COVID-19 pandemic*

Answer: Take all safety precautions and follow agency guidelines while implementing this project.

2. *Providing economic relief*

Answer: 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. During those extreme wildfire scenarios millions of dollars from recreation has been lost. This project will provide relief and reduce the risk of those fires in the WUI.

3. *Tackling climate change*

Answer: 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.

4. *Advancing racial equity*

Answer: Agency policy and guidelines will be strictly adhered to. The intent of the project is to bring the community together.

5. *Improving our workforce and work environment*

Answer: This project will bring all of the disciplines within the district office to work together to achieve a common goal: completing surveys to determine what best practices are most beneficial to enhancing the resiliency of the landscape. It will involve engagement with partners and the public to unite for a worthy cause for fire protection and ecosystem enhancement.

Answer: N/A

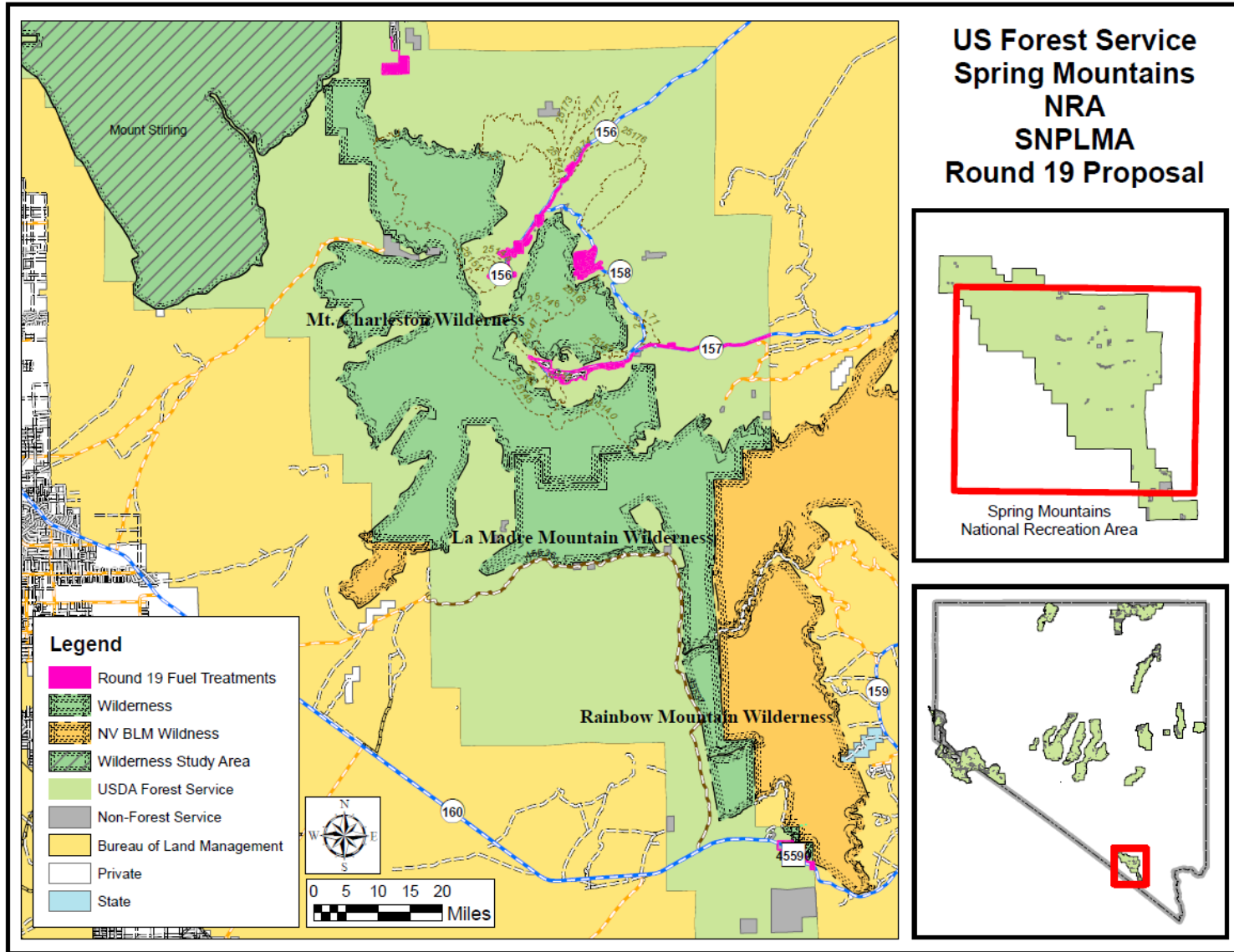


Figure 1: Project Area, Fuel Treatment Proposal

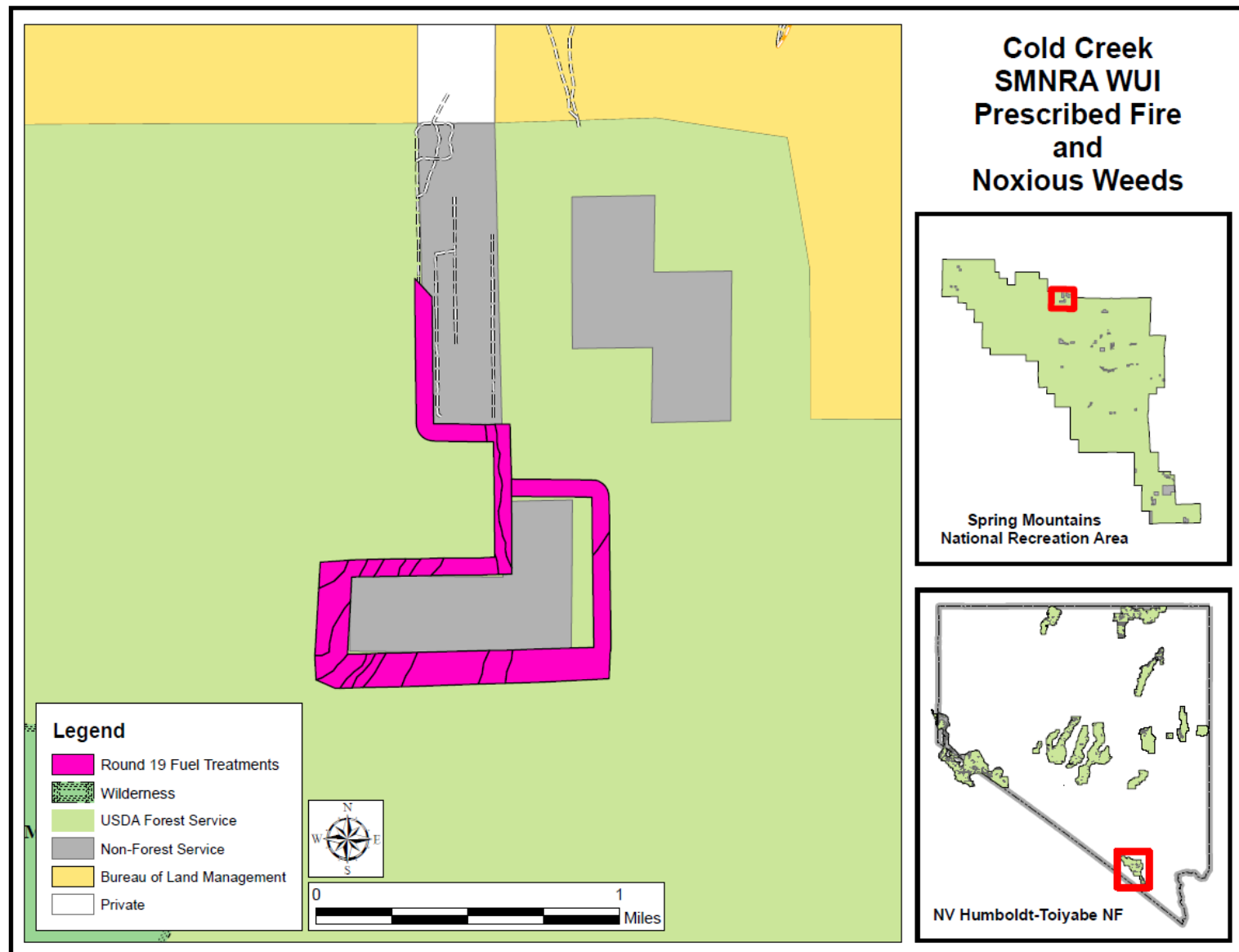


Figure 2: Cold Creek SMNRA

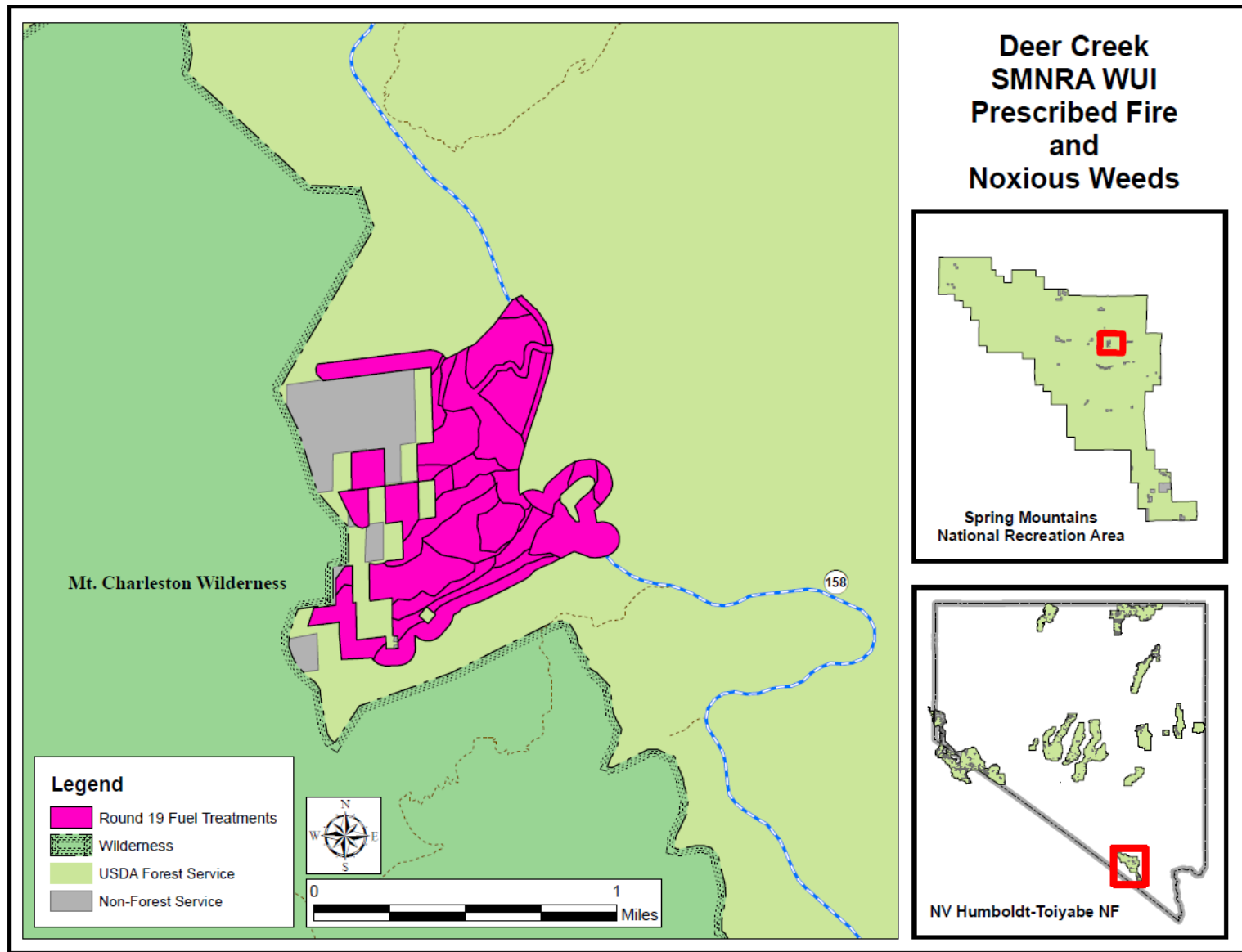


Figure 3: Deer Creek SMNRA

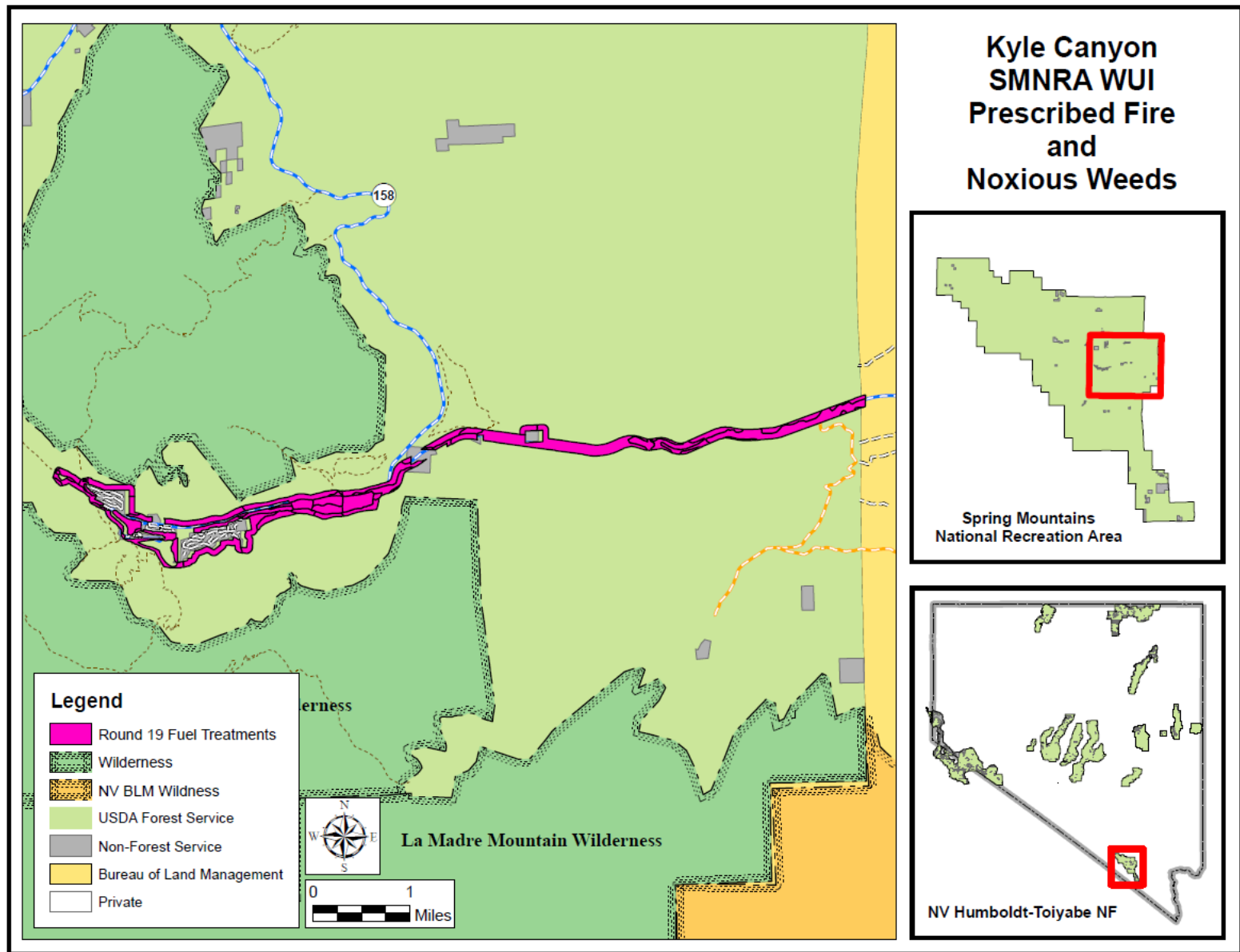


Figure 4: Kyle Canyon SMNRA

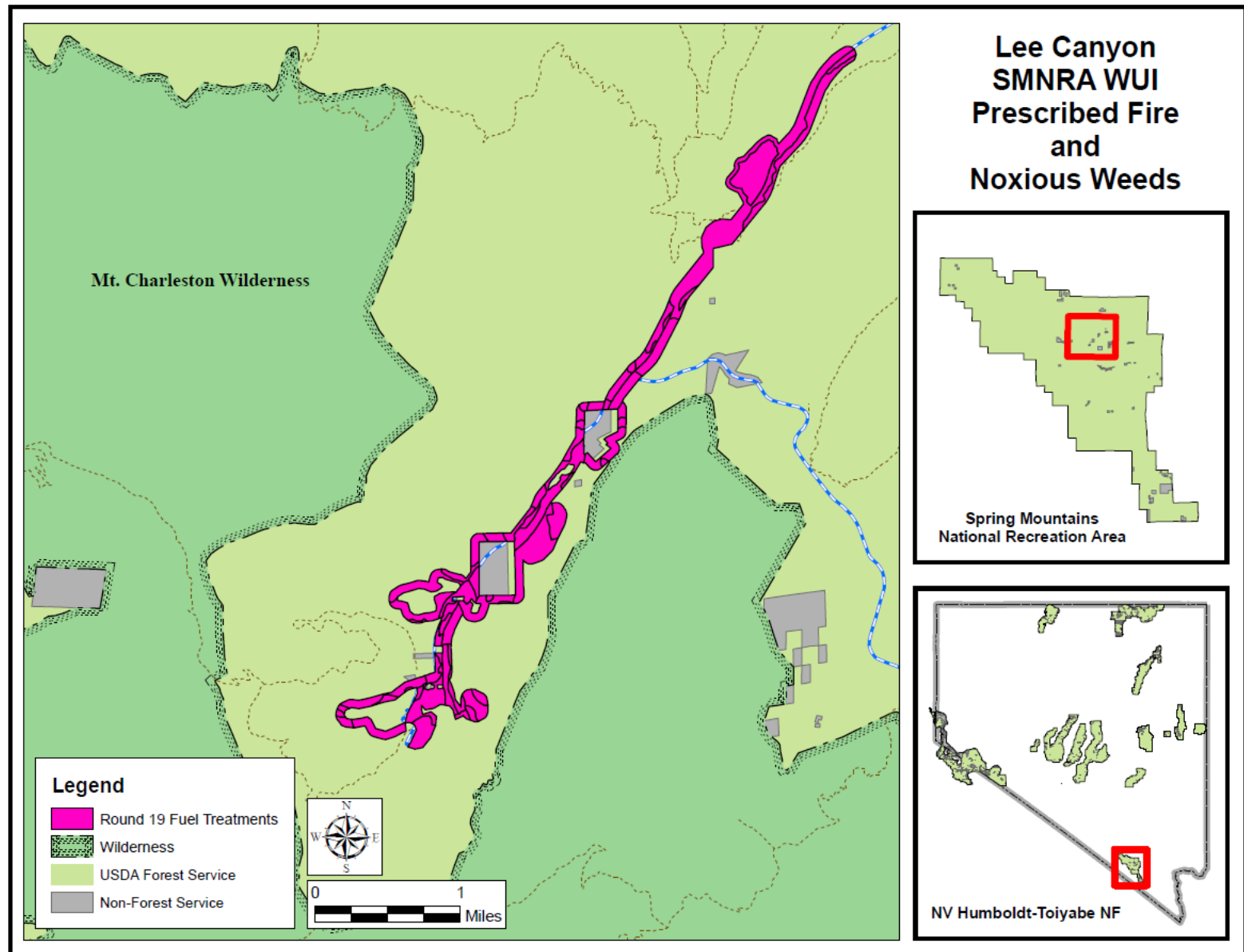


Figure 5: Lee Canyon SMNRA

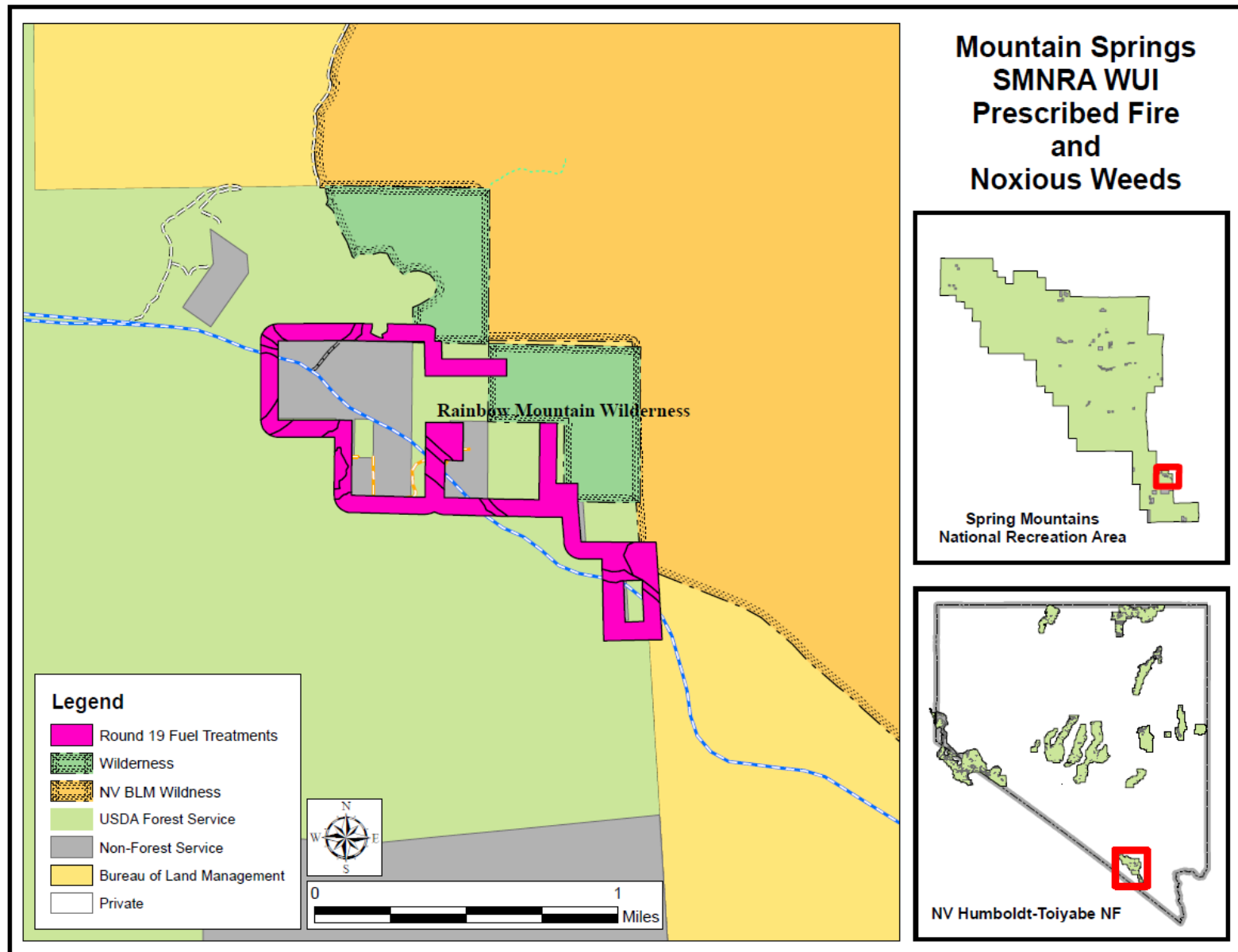


Figure 6: Mountain Springs SMNRA

N. PERFORMANCE MEASURES

SNPLMA FY2020-FY2024 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL 1: Sustain the Quality of the Outdoor Environment by Conserving, Preserving, and Restoring Natural and Cultural Resources		
Performance Measures for Habitat Enhancement	Definition of Performance Measure	Quantity
H9 - Acres of Invasive Plant Species Treated or Restored	Report the number of acres of weed infestation treated with chemical, mechanical, physical, or biological control agents for the purpose of weed control. Include acres treated by fire when fire is used as a physical control agent for weed control rather than as a hazardous fuels treatment. Each acre treated is counted only once during the life of the project, no matter how many re-treatments occurred during the project.	250-500
Performance Measures for Wildland Fire Management	Definition of Performance Measure	Quantity
F2 - Acres of Hazardous Fuels Treated – Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)	Report the total number of acres of hazardous fuels treated, enhanced, or restored to reduce wildland fuels hazards and to restore or maintain ecosystem resiliency within the WUI. Where multiple treatments are necessary to meet vegetation management objectives, such as hand thinning followed by re-seeding, each treatment is counted individually.	400-600
SNPLMA FY2020-FY2024 STRATEGIC PLAN: Other Performance Measures that Also Support the Three Values for SNPLMA Implementation of Sustainability, Connectivity, and Community		
Other Performance Measures	Definition of Performance Measure	Quantity
O7 - Number of Interpretive or Education Presentations Given and/or Community Events Participated in or Hosted	Report the number of interpretive or educational presentations given.	3

O. PHOTOS

None

P. SUPPORT LETTERS

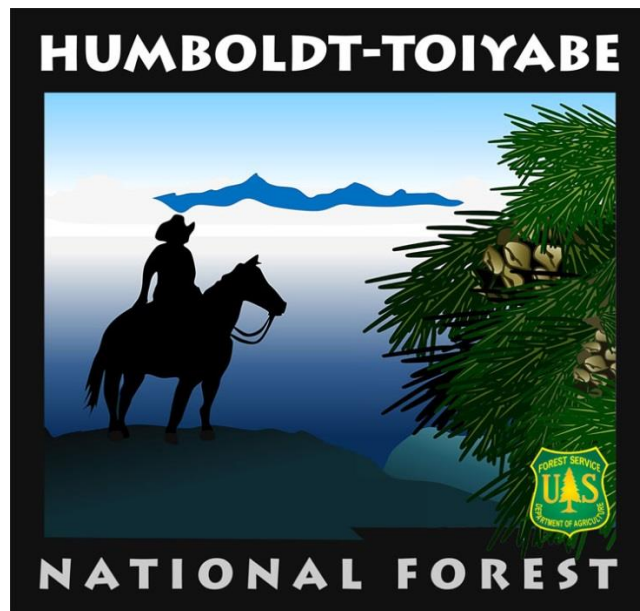
None

**Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act
Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention
Round 19**

USDA Forest Service

Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest

Carson Ranger District



TRI-COUNTY FUELS REDUCTION

Amount Requested: \$1,028,790

A. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

This Round 19 nomination from the Carson Ranger District of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest (HTNF) for Hazardous Fuels Treatments will provide funds for the implementation of 1,000 acres identified as areas requiring further treatment following initial implementation completed through previously awarded SNPLMA projects within the wildland urban interface (WUI).

The treatments are located on National Forest System (NFS) lands directly within and adjacent to the WUI that surrounds several different communities located on the Carson Ranger District. Implementation techniques would consist of hand thinning, hand piling, chipping, weed treatments, prescribed fire, and mastication. By focusing on these areas that are in need of treatment that weren't addressed during initial entries, as well as maintaining 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. The previous SNPLMA projects and current NEPA decisions are as follows. Genoa Hazardous Fuels F031 which is set to close out early 2022 and falls within the Genoa Fuels Reduction decision signed in 2014, Mt Rose Tracts F021 and falls within the Mt Rose Tracts decision signed 2010, Arrowhawk Fuels Reduction F013 and falls within the Arrowhawk Fuels Reduction decision signed 2012 and Clear Creek Fuels F006 and falls within the Clear Creek Fuels Reduction Project decision signed 2008. 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 more comprehensive and effective fuels reduction have since been identified within those project boundaries.

a. Describe Relationship to prior Approved Phases or Related SNPLMA Projects and Anticipated Future Phases

The Carson Ranger 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 all NEPA analysis of the proposed project areas. Currently this phase of treatment should be the final phase to complete work not identified in earlier phases.

b. Acknowledgement of Stand-Alone Project and no Guarantee of Funding for Future Phases

Implementation of the project should be completed with the requested funds and no additional funding will be requested to complete the work in this proposal.

B. SNPLMA STRATEGIC PLAN VALUES

Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention projects have two goals identified in the Strategic Plan:

- Goal 1: Sustain the quality of the outdoor environment by conserving, preserving, and restoring natural and cultural resources.
 - Goal 2: Improve the quality of life for all publics in urban and rural communities by enhancing recreational opportunities that connect people with the outdoor environment.
1. Sustainability:
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. The implementation of this project will help maintain a healthy forest providing for future recreational use by providing a natural and healthier forest system.
 2. Connectivity:
Connectivity between the proposed fuels reduction treatments will be increased by continuing treatments along the Sierra Front. The treatments will continue to connect past treatments from prior SNPLMA and Forest Service appropriated funded projects along with completed treatments created on neighboring lands of the project areas identified.
 3. Community:
With implementation of the proposed treatments in this project area, 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 Mt Rose Corridor. Treatments will provide further steps to help protect infrastructure on and off forest system lands. By implementing the proposed fuels treatments this will help ensure future recreational activities on a healthy landscape.

C. PURPOSE STATEMENT

The USFS will treat up to 1,000 acres of hazardous fuels within the identified project areas to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire and increase protection to the public and help restore and move towards a more natural fire regime in the identified areas. Final acres treated and the specific site of the treatments within the project areas will be determined by each areas completed analysis along with appropriate methods of treatment, and cost determined to carry out the treatment in order to remain within the project budget.

D. PROJECT DELIVERABLES

1. Primary Deliverables:
 - Implementation of fuels treatments on approximately 250 to 325 acres by means of machine mastication or mowing, hand cutting, piling, and other mechanized methods of brush and tree removal within the project area.
 - Implementation of fuels treatments on 250 to 375 acres by means of prescribed fire.
 - 100 to 300 acres of noxious weeds and invasive species will be treated within the fuels reduction areas and in adjacent areas, within the project boundaries.

- Treatment monitoring on treated acres throughout the multiple project areas

2. Anticipated Deliverables:

Public education through demonstration of hazardous fuels treatment techniques and/or field day for past fuels projects approximately 2 to 4 visits may be planned.

3. Standard Deliverables:

- Contract preparation and administration
- Supervision of crews
- SNPLMA Closeout package, preparation, and submittal

E. PROJECT LOCATION

Latitude and Longitude:

*N39°04'21"/W119°53'23" N39°23'33"/W119°48'40" N39°21'47"/W119°51'15"
N39°18'07"/W119°50'17" N39°06'54"/W119°52'22"*

Identify Congressional District(s):

Nevada Congressional District 2

F. PROJECT TIMEFRAME

6 Years

G. LEVEL OF PROJECT READINESS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Is this a shovel-ready project? ☒ Yes ☐ No

All analysis for the proposed treatment areas have been completed.

H. FUTURE OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

After initial treatment the area will need to be monitored for future maintenance needs. Maintenance needs will need to take place within the project and would include activities such as prescribed burning, targeted grazing and weed management. Efforts will be made to secure funding as needed to complete maintenance of treated sites along with the need for any areas not originally treated with this proposal.

I. PROJECT BUDGET

The estimated cost per acre for hazardous fuels reduction treatments for this project is \$1,100.

Contributed Funds:

Opportunities may exist when implementation starts with other partners as such and The Nature Conservancy.

PROJECT BUDGET			
Project Name:	Tri-County Fuels Reduction	Date:	12/8/2021
Project Manager:	Steve Howell	Agency:	USFS
Cost Categories		SNPLMA	Non-Federal Contribution
1. Personnel (labor plus benefits)		\$ 328,990.00	\$ -
2. Travel		\$ -	\$ -
3. Training		\$ -	\$ -
4. Equipment		\$ 29,000.00	\$ -
5. Supplies/Materials		\$ 2,300.00	\$ -
6. Contracts and/or Agreements		\$ 605,000.00	\$ -
7. Vehicle Use		\$ 63,500.00	\$ -
8. Other Necessary Expenses		\$ -	\$ -
9. TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET		\$ 1,028,790.00	\$ -
Notes: Tri-County implementation to conduct implementation on up to 1,000 acres of land within the proposed area. Cost per acre under agreements and contracts is approximate and may change up or down depending on level of difficulty to complete the task.			

J. KEY CONTACTS

Authorized Officer: Matthew Zumstein
 Email: matthew.zumstein@usda.gov
 Phone Number: 775-884-8100

Project Manager: Steven Howell Fuels Specialist
 Email: steven.howell@usda.gov
 Phone Number: 775-884-8114

Budget Officer: Petersam Le
 Email: petersam.le@usda.gov
 Phone Number: 775-352-1251

K. RANKING CRITERIA

The Ranking Criteria are used to evaluate the nomination against the goals for the Conservation Initiatives category. Nominating entities are not to include either the total point value or the point values by criteria in their responses. Nominations will be reviewed and scored by the Hazardous Fuels subgroup.

Provide a narrative response to the following Criteria and Factors that apply to the nomination.

1. Improves the community within and/or adjacent to the project area. Projects are only eligible for Factors A1, A2, or A3; select and answer ONLY ONE, depending on the majority of the landscape in the nomination. Answer Factor B and C as they apply to your nomination.

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

1. Project is within the Defense Zone, generally an area within 0.25 mile of life and property, as depicted by the most current Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) map in the applicable plan.

Answer: The entirety of these project areas fall within the Wildland Urban Interface Defense Zone. Specifically, the project areas are 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 other private property, and also threatening the safety of the public and firefighters. By implementing hazardous fuels reduction treatments within the priority areas in the identified project areas, fuels treatments would provide the most efficient and beneficial results, as well as significantly decreasing the likelihood that the public will be directly threatened.

2. Project is within the Threat Zone, generally an area between 0.25 mile and 1.50 miles of life and property, as depicted by the most current WUI map in the applicable plan. (Do not answer if you answered A.1. already).

Answer: N/A

3. Project is within the general forest or other lands beyond the WUI (generally greater than 1.5 miles from life and property), as depicted by the most current map in the applicable plan. (Do not answer if you answered A.1. or A.2. already).

Answer: N/A

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

Answer: 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.

Answer: 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 NEPA processes, and several public meetings were held regarding projects objectives. 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.** Respond to each of the following. [Answer all applicable.](#)

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

Answer: The proposed project would ensure connectivity with past treatments both on Forest Service and private lands. Coordination with neighboring agencies will also take place to help identify the need for connection and enlargement of treatment zones. Coordination with local wildlife staff will be used to plan and implement the best strategies for wildlife habitat zones before treatments occur.

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

Answer: 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 maintenance activities. It would provide connectivity between different types of vegetation communities and wildlife habitat areas by maintaining, enhancing, or enlarging previously accomplished fuels treatments.

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

Answer: Implementation treatments are included within projects that 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 county and city municipalities, Nevada State Lands and Bureau of Land Management. Also, there are numerous private landowners who have taken the initiative to complete hazardous fuels reduction work around their residences and outbuildings.

3. Improves sustainability of the multijurisdictional 10-year plans, environment, and financial resources. Respond to each of the following. [Answer all applicable.](#)

- 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.).

Answer: The treatments proposed in this project will be specifically 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 global warming as well. Beyond fire hazard reduction, this project will provide watershed and wildlife habitat protection, recreational and scenic

value protection as well as support the private property values these features of the National Forest augment.

2. Improve habitat for sensitive species and threatened and endangered species. Includes mitigation and/or minimization measures when treatment in sensitive habitat is unavoidable

Answer: N/A

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

Answer: During the planning the planning phases of this projects, prescribed fire was identified as a possible tool to achieve resource management objectives. Where feasible, understory burning and other types of prescribed fire would be used to maintain past treatments and reintroduce fire into the ecosystem. Approximately 375 acres of prescribed fire in the form of pile burning or understory burning will be used.

- 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

Answer: The Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest has two current Indefinite Delivery-Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) contracts for both mastication and handwork 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 as well. Prescribed fire activities would be conducted and overseen by force account. 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 project 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, restoration of these areas would be slow and occur over decades.

4. **Demonstrates sound project management and quality control measures.** [Answer all applicable.](#)

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

Answer: The proposal is to complete 1,000 acres of fuels reduction treatments within previously identified projects through the use of hand thinning, piling, chipping, mastication, mechanical tree thinning, weed treatments, and prescribed burning. By utilizing force account to oversee agreements and contract will allow for most quality

control on treatments. 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 projects, etc.) and within budget.

Answer: The Carson Ranger District began receiving SNPLMA funds for Hazardous Fuels Reduction in Round 8. This was preceded by a SNPLMA Pre-Proposal Planning 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 with an update in 2018. To ensure completion of planning and implementation projects, the district 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 two fuels specialists, a sale preparation forester, a forester, a wildlife biologist, a botanist, an archeologist, a GIS specialist, a fire management officer, 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.

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

Answer: This nomination is for phase two, to accomplish fuels reduction work in previous SNPLMA funded projects where work was not previously identified or set as a priority. Prior treatments have occurred within and adjacent to the project areas. The NEPA process has been completed for all areas of proposed treatment.

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

Answer: 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 money through partners such as The Nature Conservancy.

L. ORDERS AND PRIORITIES

A. Executive Orders (EO):

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

Answer: The USFS will treat 1,000 acres of hazardous fuels within the identified project areas to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire and increase protection to the public and help restore a natural fire regime in the identified areas. The project will provide actions that will help create a more resilient forest landscape.

- ***EO No. 14004: Ensuring the Future is Made in All of America by All of America's Workers***

Answer: N/A

B. Secretarial Orders

- ***SO No. 3347: Conservation Stewardship and Outdoor Recreation.***

Answer: The project helps to promote Conservation Stewardship by showing work completed on National Forest System lands and helping to promote work on private and other entities lands to carry the treatments onto their property lines. The work completed and planned will help provide a guiding document for future work on both private and public lands.

- ***SO No. 3356: Hunting, Fishing, Recreational Shooting, and Wildlife Conservation Opportunities and Coordination with States, Tribes and Territories.***

Answer: N/A

- ***SO No. 3362: Improving Habitat Quality in Western Big-Game Winter Range and Migration Corridors.***

Answer: The project will help protect and enhance local deer winter range within the eastern side of the Sierras. This project areas are adjacent to areas that has seen catastrophic fire near the boundaries of project areas as well as development of winter range on private side of land boundaries. This project will help protect the remaining deer winter range in the area.

- ***SO No. 3366: Increasing Recreational Opportunities on Lands and Waters Managed by the U.S. Department of the Interior***

Answer: N/A

- ***SO No. 3370: Conservation Stewardship and Increasing Public Access to Urban National Wildlife Refuges.***

Answer: N/A

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

Answer: N/A

- ***SO No. 3373: Evaluating Public Access in Bureau of Land Management Public Land Disposal and Exchanges (focus is on Sec. 4.b.(3) Potential increased public recreational access to existing public lands resulting from the proposed land acquired through an exchange (acquisition).***

Answer: N/A

- ***SO No. 3374: Implementation of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management and Recreation Act.***

Answer: N/A

- ***SO No. 3376: Increasing Recreational Opportunities through the use of Electric Bikes.***

Answer: N/A

C. Department of the Interior Priorities:

1. ***Identifying steps to accelerate responsible development of renewable energy on public lands and waters.*** We are investing in climate research and environmental innovation to incentivize the rapid deployment of clean energy solutions, while reviewing existing programs to restore balance on America's public lands and waters to benefit current and future generations.

Answer: N/A

2. ***Strengthening the government-to-government relationship with sovereign Tribal nations.*** *We understand that tribal sovereignty and self-governance, as well as honoring the federal trust responsibility to Tribal Nations, must be the cornerstones of federal Indian policy.*

Answer: Through the implementation of this project the forest has the ability to conduct some of the work through local tribe Mooretown Rancheria through an agreement already in place. The district has provided work to the tribe in other project areas over the last several years and they have been a valuable asset to complete work on the ground. The district has a strong working relationship with Mooretown Rancheria.

3. ***Making investments to support the Administration's goal of creating millions of family-supporting and union jobs.*** *This includes establishing a new Climate Conservation Corps Initiative to put a new generation of Americans to work conserving and restoring public lands and waters, increasing reforestation, increasing carbon sequestration in the agricultural sector, protecting biodiversity, improving access to recreation, and addressing the changing climate.*

Answer: N/A

4. ***Working to conserve at least 30% each of our lands and waters by the year 2030.*** *We will work to protect biodiversity, slow extinction rates, and help leverage natural climate solutions by conserving 30% of America's lands and waters by 2030. This relies on support for local, state, private, and tribally led conservation and restoration efforts that are underway across America.*

Answer: N/A

5. ***Centering equity and environmental justice.*** *The impacts of the multiple crises in the United States are not evenly distributed in our society. Communities of color, low-income families, and rural and indigenous communities have long suffered disproportionate and cumulative harm from air pollution, water pollution, and toxic sites. At every step of the way, Interior will engage diverse stakeholders across the country, as well as conduct formal consultation with Tribes in recognition of the U.S. government's trust responsibilities.*

Answer: N/A

D. USDA Forest Service Priorities:

1. Controlling the COVID-19 pandemic

Answer: N/A

2. Providing economic relief

Answer: N/A

3. Tackling climate change

Answer: By implementing the work proposed within the Tri-County Fuels Reduction project will help provide an opportunity to help restore and protect the ecosystem of the National Forest. Work throughout the project area will help create a more resilient forest creating a healthier condition and help protect it from catastrophic wildfire.

4. Advancing racial equity

Answer: N/A

5. Improving our workforce and work environment

Answer: N/A

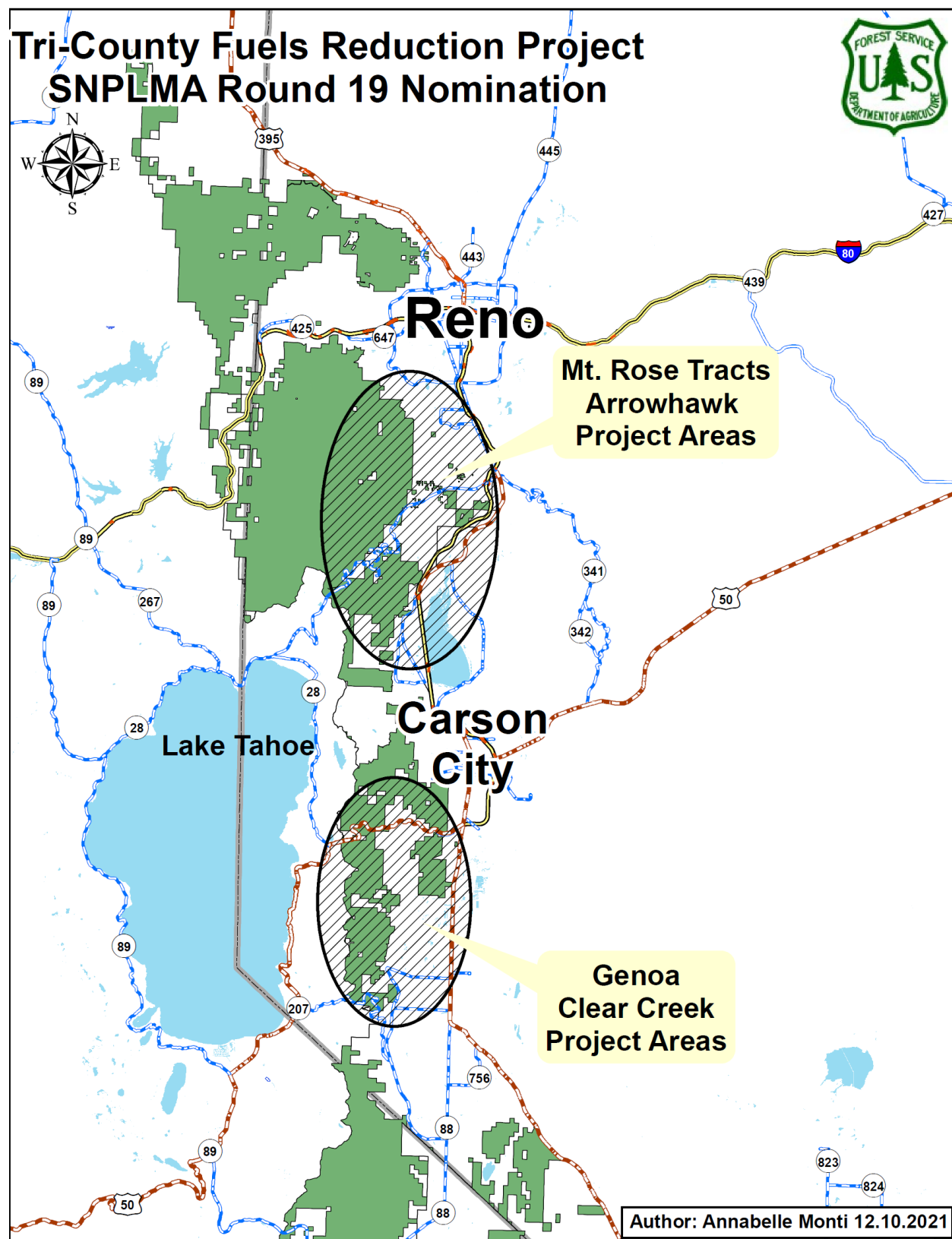


Figure 1: Project Location, Tri-County Fuels Reduction

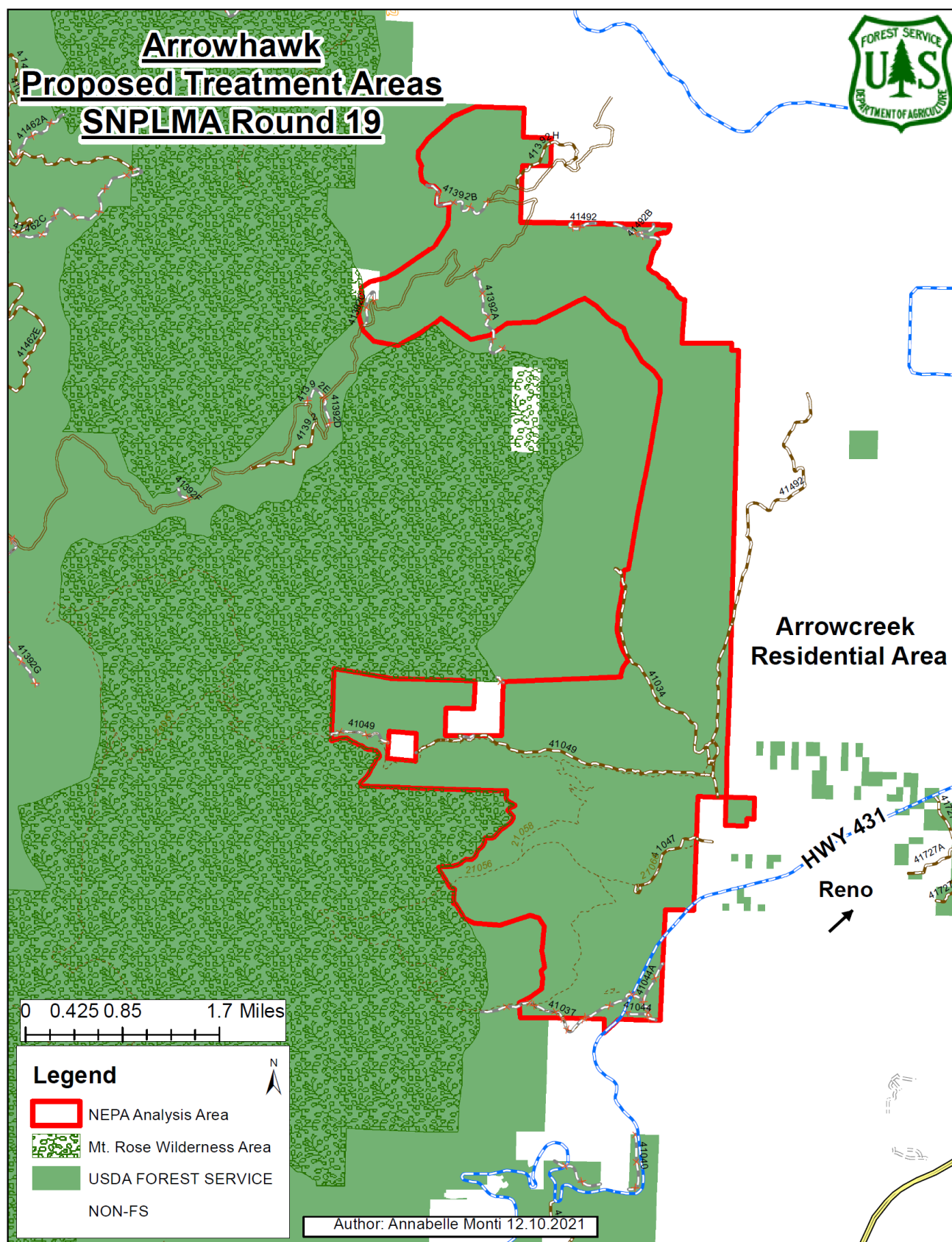


Figure 2: Arrowhawk Project Area

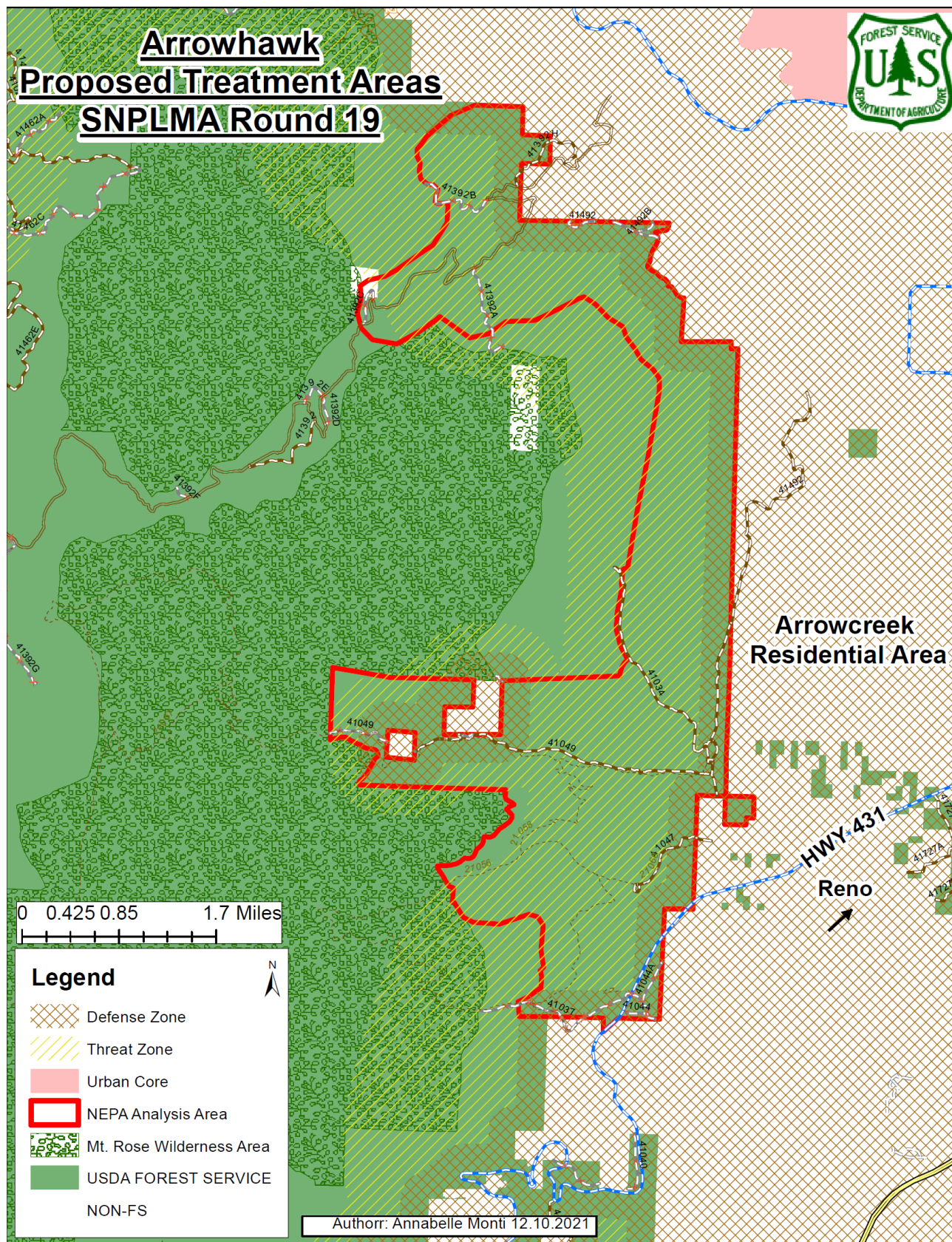


Figure 3: Arrowhawk Project Area, Defense and Threat Zones

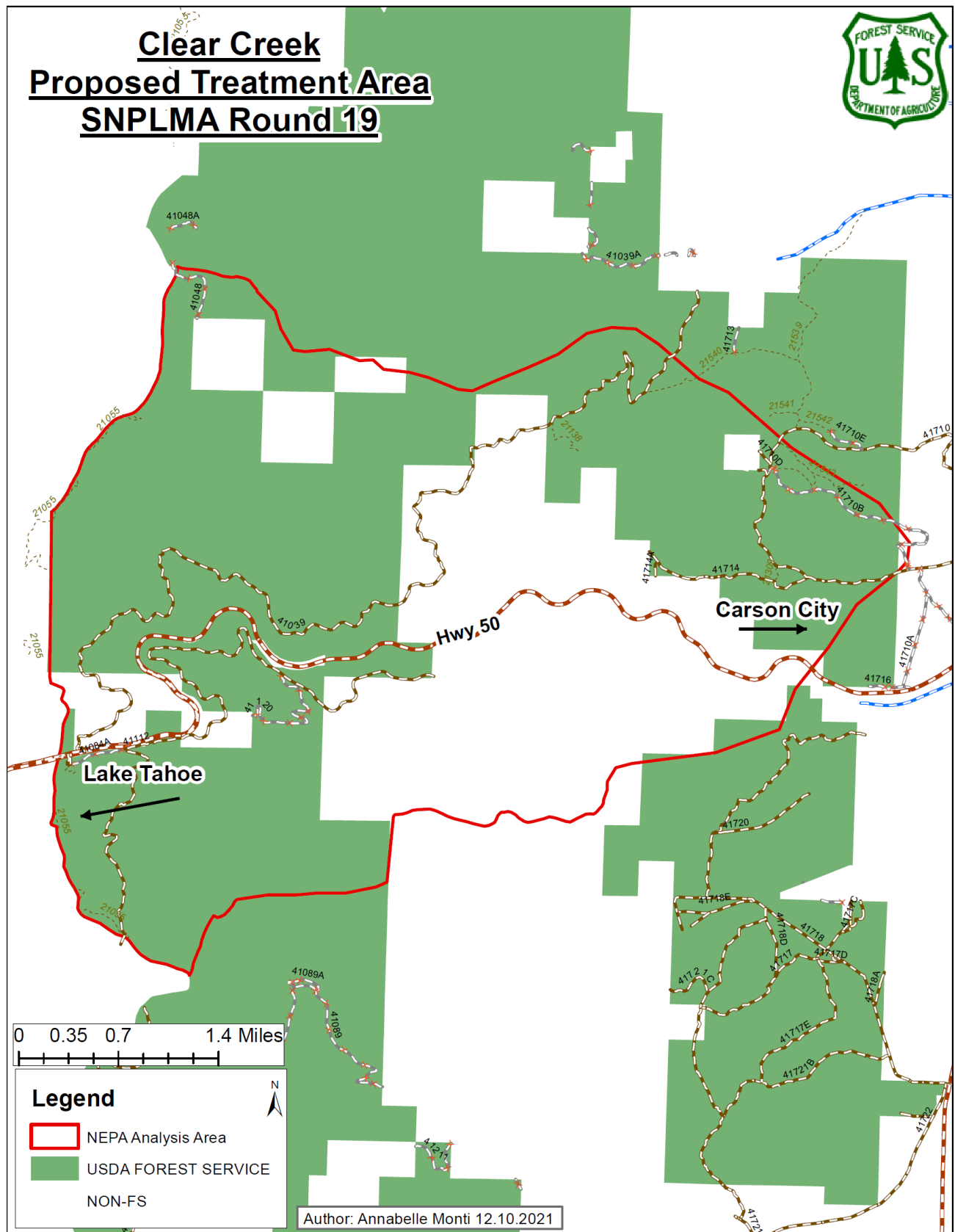


Figure 4: Clear Creek Project Area

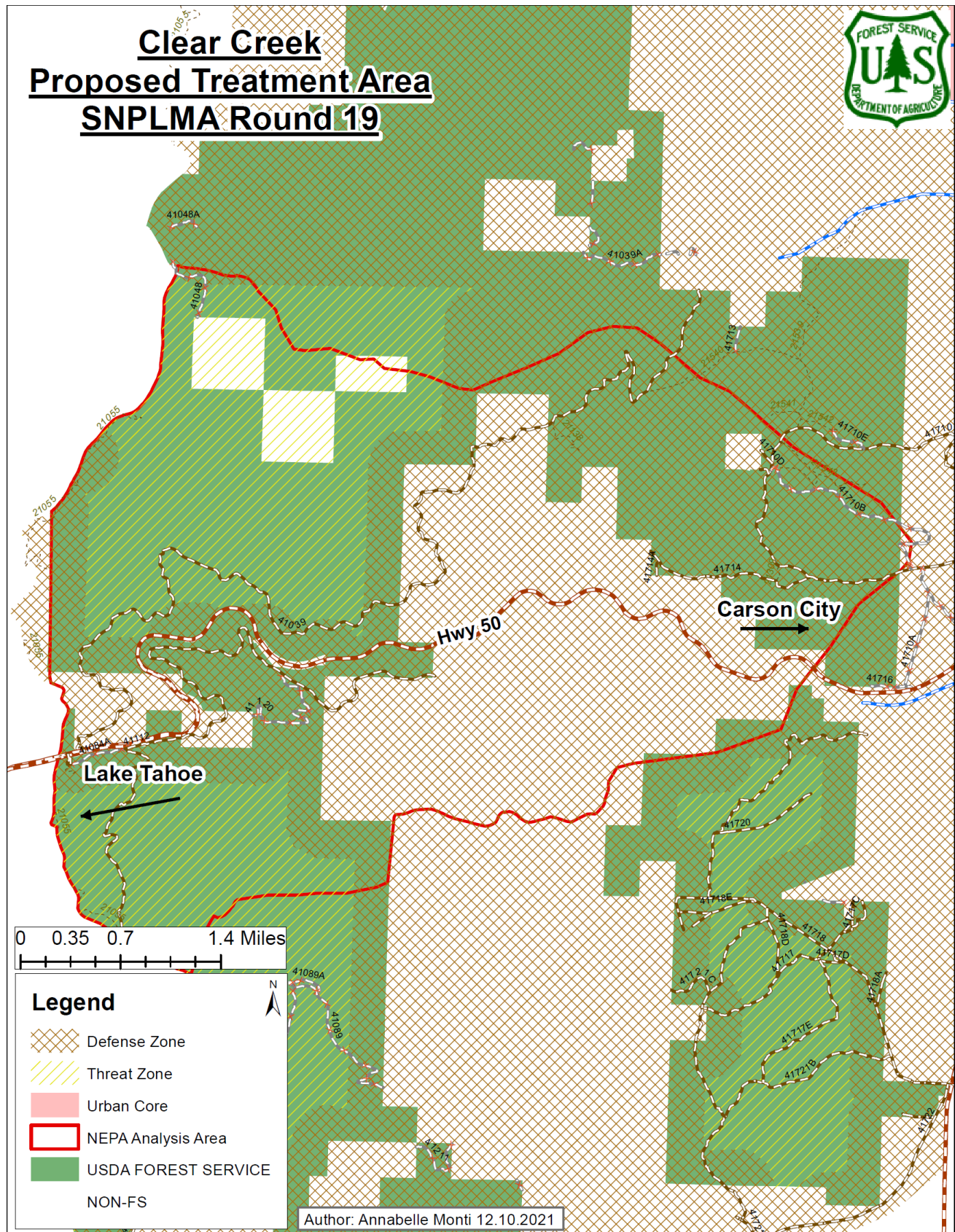


Figure 5: Clear Creek Project Area, Defense and Threat Zones

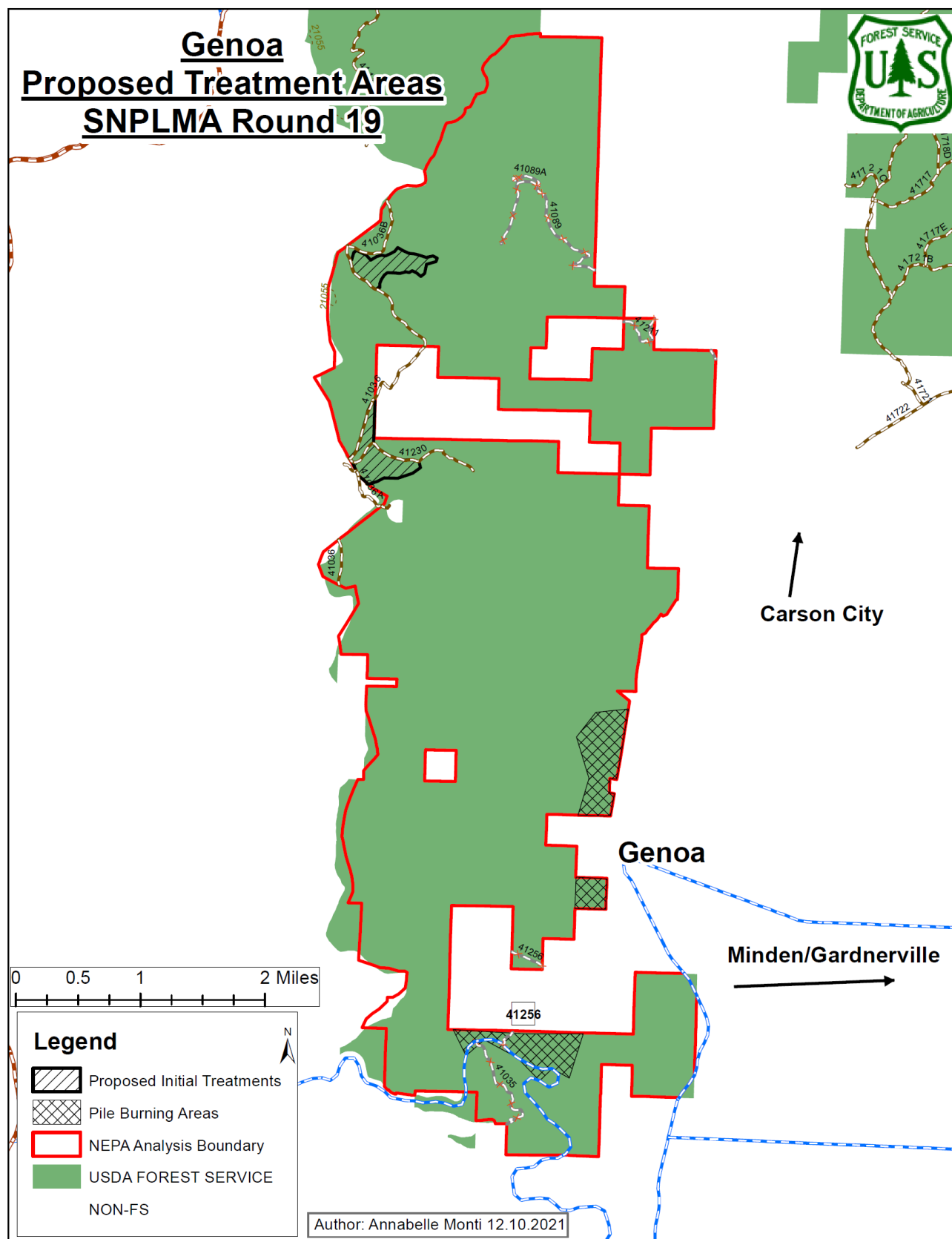


Figure 6: Genoa Project Area

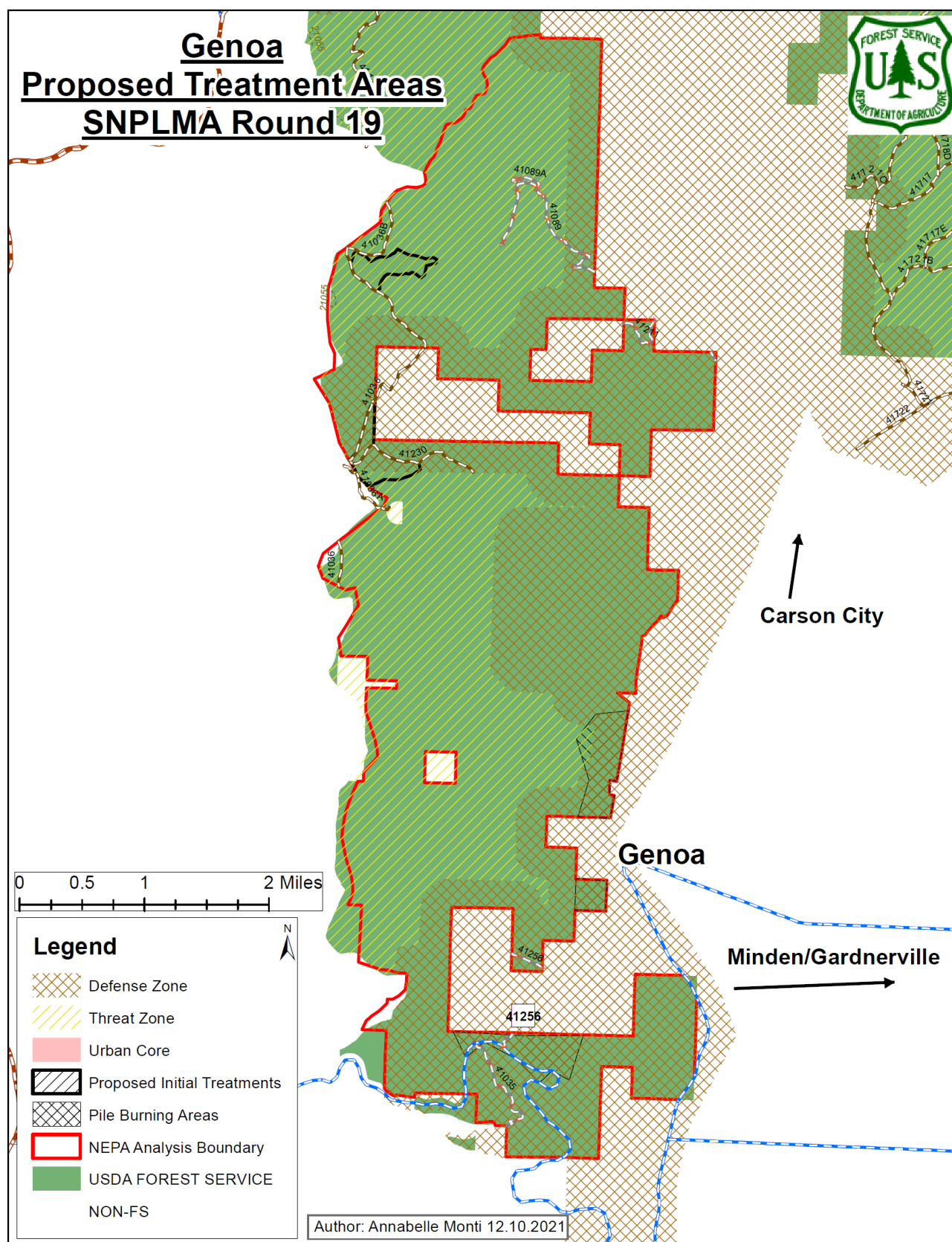


Figure 7: Genoa Project Area, Defense and Threat Zones

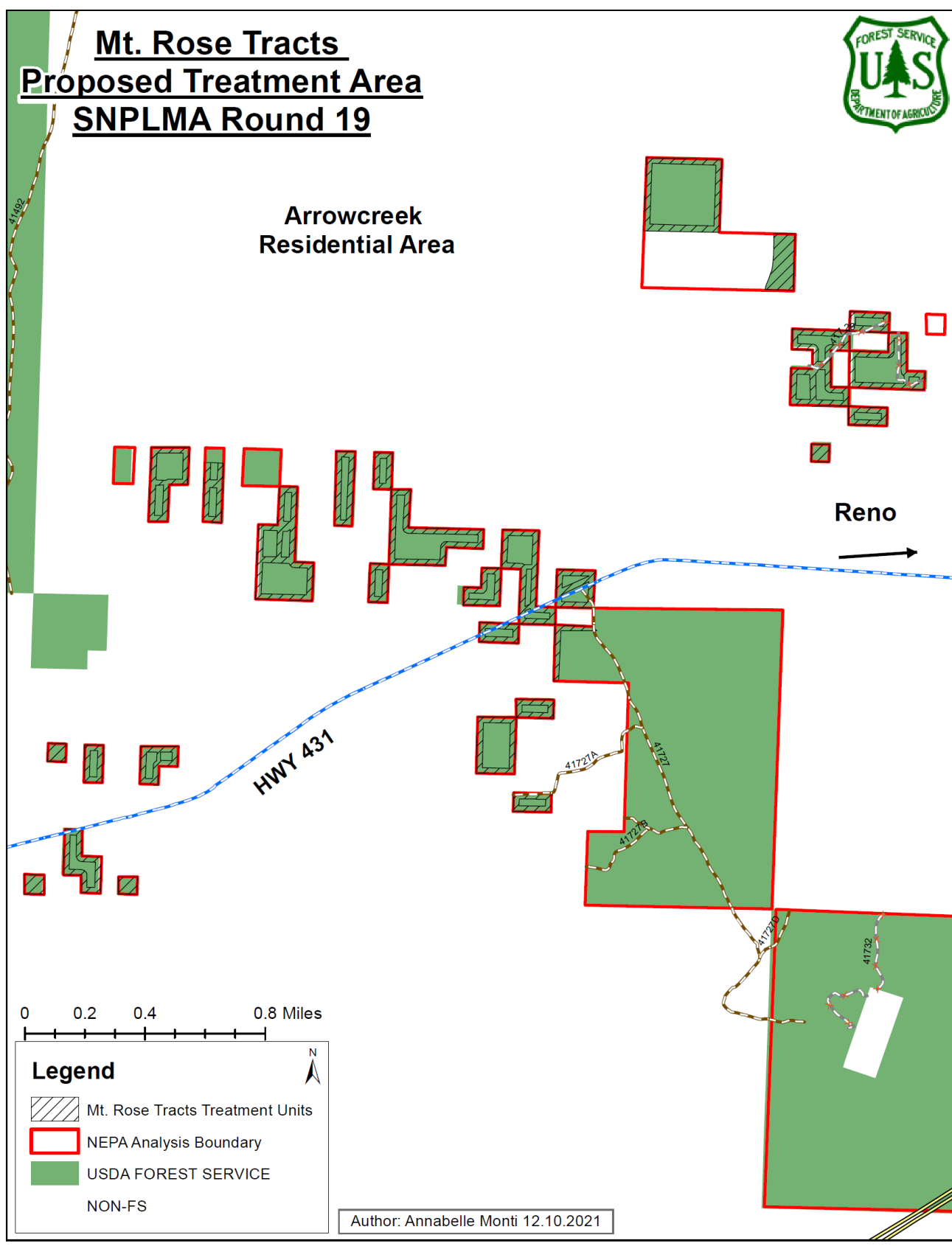


Figure 8: Mt. Rose Tracts Project Area

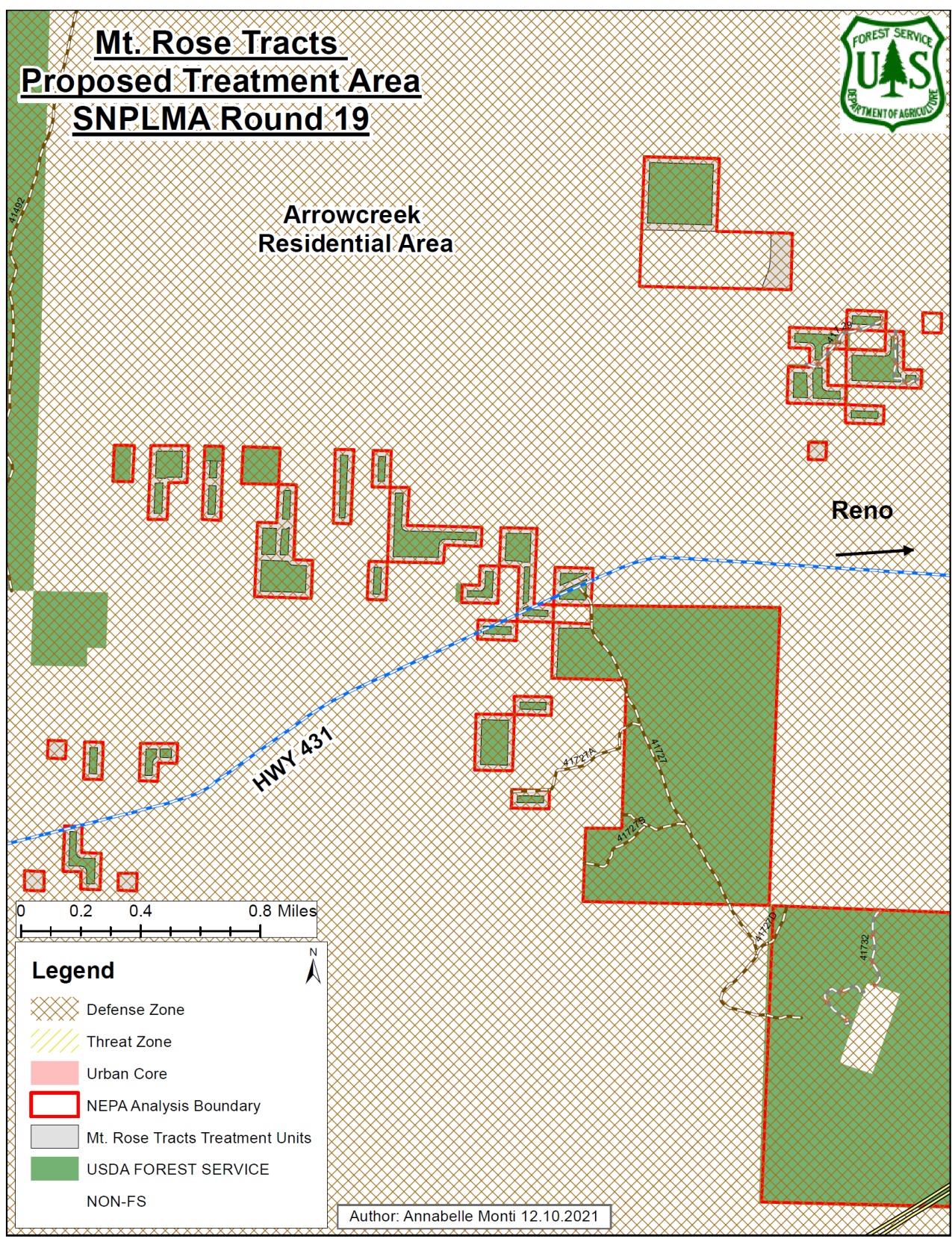


Figure 9: Mt. Rose Tracts Project Area, Defense and Threat Zones

N. PERFORMANCE MEASURES

SNPLMA FY2020-FY2024 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL 1: Sustain the Quality of the Outdoor Environment by Conserving, Preserving, and Restoring Natural and Cultural Resources		
Performance Measures for Habitat Enhancement	Definition of Performance Measure	Quantity
H9 - Acres of Invasive Plant Species Treated or Restored	Report the number of acres of weed infestation treated with chemical, mechanical, physical, or biological control agents for the purpose of weed control. Include acres treated by fire when fire is used as a physical control agent for weed control rather than as a hazardous fuels treatment. Each acre treated is counted only once during the life of the project, no matter how many re-treatments occurred during the project.	100 -300
Performance Measures for Wildland Fire Management	Definition of Performance Measure	Quantity
F2 - Acres of Hazardous Fuels Treated – Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)	Report the total number of acres of hazardous fuels treated, enhanced, or restored to reduce wildland fuels hazards and to restore or maintain ecosystem resiliency within the WUI. Where multiple treatments are necessary to meet vegetation management objectives, such as hand thinning followed by re-seeding, each treatment is counted individually.	500-700
SNPLMA FY2020-FY2024 STRATEGIC PLAN: Other Performance Measures that Also Support the Three Values for SNPLMA Implementation of Sustainability, Connectivity, and Community		
Other Performance Measures	Definition of Performance Measure	Quantity
O7 - Number of Interpretive or Education Presentations Given and/or Community Events Participated in or Hosted	Report the number of interpretive or educational presentations given.	2-4

O. PHOTOS

None

P. SUPPORT LETTERS

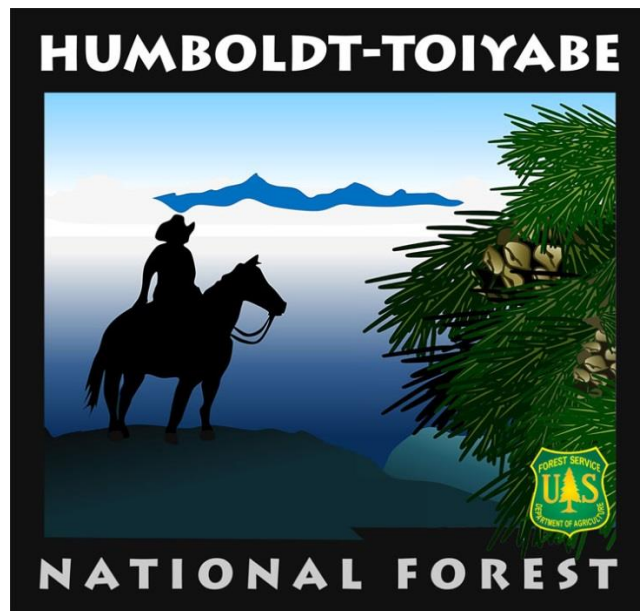
None

**Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act
Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention
Round 19**

USDA Forest Service

Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest

Carson Ranger District



MT. ROSE FUELS REDUCTION

Amount Requested: \$2,011,740

A. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Carson Ranger District of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest (HTNF) will implement hazardous fuels treatments up to 2,000 acres identified through the Mt. Rose decision process within the wildland urban interface (WUI). These treatment areas are located on the Carson Ranger District within Nevada's 2nd Congressional District. Specifically, the project area is directly adjacent to private lands within Washoe County, which include the City of Reno and Incline Village, the project borders the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit boundary as well.

The treatments are located on National Forest System (NFS) lands directly within and adjacent to the WUI that surrounds several different communities located on the Carson Ranger District. Implementation techniques would consist of hand thinning, hand piling, chipping, weed treatments, prescribed fire, mastication and timber harvesting. The areas identified for treatment will be covered under the Mt Rose Fuels Reduction Environmental Assessment decision. The decision will be completed on or before end of March 2022 and is on track with no setbacks to be signed. By focusing identified hazardous fuels reduction treatments it will enhance broader connectivity of past treatments, resulting in more effective and resilient defensible spaces for the nearby communities. Final acres treated and the specific site of the treatments within the project areas will be determined by NEPA, analysis of appropriate methods of treatment, and cost determined to carry out the treatment in order to remain within the project budget.

a. Describe Relationship to prior Approved Phases or Related SNPLMA Projects and Anticipated Future Phases

The Carson Ranger District has accomplished several large planning and implementation projects, funded by both SNPLMA and appropriated funds, in the last several years. Currently, the District is completing a NEPA analysis of this project area. The projected timeframe for the decision is March 2022, work is almost complete and is currently funded through round 16 of SNPLMA.

b. Acknowledgement of Stand-Alone Project and no Guarantee of Funding for Future Phases

Implementation of the project should be completed with the requested funds and no additional funding will be requested to complete the work in this proposal.

B. SNPLMA STRATEGIC PLAN VALUES

Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention projects have two goals identified in the Strategic Plan:

- Goal 1: Sustain the quality of the outdoor environment by conserving, preserving, and restoring natural and cultural resources.

- Goal 2: Improve the quality of life for all publics in urban and rural communities by enhancing recreational opportunities that connect people with the outdoor environment.
1. Sustainability:
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. The implementation of this project will help maintain a healthy forest providing for future recreational use by providing a natural and healthier forest system.
 2. Connectivity:
Connectivity between the proposed fuels reduction treatments will be increased by continuing treatments along the Sierra Front. The treatments will continue to connect past treatments from prior SNPLMA and Forest Service appropriated funded projects along with completed treatments created on neighboring lands such as the LTBMU, Washoe county lands and private lands adjacent to the project boundary.
 3. Community:
With implementation of the proposed treatments in this project area, 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 Mt Rose Corridor. Treatments will provide further steps to help protect infrastructure on and off forest system lands. By implementing the proposed fuels treatments this will help ensure future recreational activities on a healthy landscape.

C. PURPOSE STATEMENT

The USFS will treat up to 2,000 acres of hazardous fuels within the identified project area to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire and increase protection to the public and restore a natural fire regime in the identified areas.

D. PROJECT DELIVERABLES

1. Primary Deliverables:
 - Implementation of fuels treatments on approximately 800 to 1,000 acres by means of machine mastication or mowing, hand cutting, piling, and other mechanized methods of brush and tree removal within the project area.
 - Implementation of fuels treatments on 300 to 400 acres by means of prescribed fire.
 - 400 to 600 acres of noxious weeds and invasive species will be treated within the fuels reduction areas and in adjacent areas, within the project boundaries.
 - Treatment monitoring on treated acres up to 600 acres throughout the multiple project areas.
2. Anticipated Deliverables:
 - Public education through demonstration of hazardous fuels treatment techniques and/or field day for past fuels projects, approximately 4 to 6 events may occur.

3. Standard Deliverables:

- SNPLMA Closeout package, preparation and submittal
- Contract preparation and administration
- Supervision of crews

E. PROJECT LOCATION

Latitude and Longitude:

39.307472000 / -119.9022470000

Identify Congressional District(s):

Nevada Congressional District 2

F. PROJECT TIMEFRAME

6 Years

G. LEVEL OF PROJECT READINESS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Is this a shovel-ready project? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Although the project at this time is not shovel ready, the decision for the project area is expected to be signed by March of 2022.

H. FUTURE OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

After initial treatment the area will need to be monitored for future maintenance needs. Maintenance needs will need to take place within the project and would include activities such as prescribed burning, targeted grazing and weed management. Efforts will be made to secure funding as needed to complete maintenance of treated sites along with the need for any areas not originally treated with this proposal.

I. PROJECT BUDGET

Estimated cost for fuels reduction treatment is \$1,005 per acre.

Contributed Funds

Opportunities may exist when implementation starts with partners such as The Nature Conservancy and or Mt Rose Ski Resort.

PROJECT BUDGET			
Project Name:	Mt. Rose Fuels Reduction	Date:	12/7/2021
Project Manager:	Steven Howell	Agency:	USFS
Cost Categories		SNPLMA	Non-Federal Contribution
1. Personnel (labor plus benefits)		\$ 559,490.00	\$ -
2. Travel		\$ -	\$ -
3. Training		\$ 3,000.00	\$ -
4. Equipment		\$ 52,500.00	\$ -
5. Supplies/Materials		\$ 6,750.00	\$ -
6. Contracts and/or Agreements		\$ 1,300,000.00	\$ -
7. Vehicle Use		\$ 90,000.00	\$ -
8. Other Necessary Expenses		\$ -	\$ -
9. TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET		\$ 2,011,740.00	\$ -
Notes: Mt. Rose Fuels implementation to conduct implementation on up to 2,000 acres of land within the proposed area. Cost per acre under agreements and contracts is approximate and may change up or down depending on level of difficulty to complete the task.			

J. KEY CONTACTS

Authorized Officer: Matthew Zumstein
 Email: matthew.zumstein@usda.gov
 Phone Number: 775-884-8100

Project Manager: Steven Howell Fuels Specialist
 Email: steven.howell@usda.gov
 Phone Number: 775-884-8114

Budget Officer: Petersam Le
 Email: petersam.le@usda.gov
 Phone Number: 775-352-1251

K. RANKING CRITERIA

1. Improves the community within and/or adjacent to the project area. Projects are only eligible for Factors A1, A2, or A3; select and answer ONLY ONE, depending on the majority of the landscape in the nomination. Answer Factor B and C as they apply to your nomination.

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

1. Project is within the Defense Zone, generally an area within 0.25 mile of life and property, as depicted by the most current Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) map in the applicable plan.

Answer: 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 other private property, and also threatening the safety of the public and firefighters. By implementing hazardous fuels reduction treatments within the priority areas in the identified project areas, fuels treatments would provide the most efficient and beneficial results, as well as significantly decreasing the likelihood that the public will be directly threatened.

2. Project is within the Threat Zone, generally an area between 0.25 mile and 1.50 miles of life and property, as depicted by the most current WUI map in the applicable plan. (Do not answer if you answered A.1. already).

Answer: N/A

3. Project is within the general forest or other lands beyond the WUI (generally greater than 1.5 miles from life and property), as depicted by the most current map in the applicable plan. (Do not answer if you answered A.1. or A.2. already).

Answer: N/A

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

Answer: 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.

Answer: 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 NEPA processes, and several public meetings were held regarding projects objectives. 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.** Respond to each of the following. [Answer all applicable.](#)

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

Answer: The proposed project would ensure connectivity with past treatments both on Forest Service and private lands. Coordination with neighboring agencies will also take place to help identify the need for connection and enlargement of treatment zones. Coordination with local wildlife staff will be used to plan and implement the best strategies for wildlife habitat zones before treatments occur.

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

Answer: 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 maintenance activities. It would provide connectivity between different types of vegetation communities and wildlife habitat areas by maintaining, enhancing, or enlarging previously accomplished fuels treatments.

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

Answer: Implementation treatments are included within projects that 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 cooperators 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: Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District, Nevada State Lands, Bureau of Land Management, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District, Carson City and Washoe County. Also, there are numerous private landowners who have taken the initiative to complete hazardous fuels reduction work around their residences and outbuildings.

3. Improves sustainability of the multijurisdictional 10-year plans, environment, and financial resources. Respond to each of the following. [Answer all applicable.](#)

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.).

Answer: The treatments proposed in this project will be specifically 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 global warming as well. Beyond fire hazard reduction, this project will provide watershed and wildlife habitat protection, recreational and scenic value protection as well as support the private property values these features of the National Forest augment.

2. Improve habitat for sensitive species and threatened and endangered species. Includes mitigation and/or minimization measures when treatment in sensitive habitat is unavoidable

Answer: N/A

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

Answer: During the planning the planning phases of this projects, prescribed fire was identified as a possible tool to achieve resource management objectives. Where feasible, understory burning and other types of prescribed fire would be used to maintain past treatments and reintroduce fire into the ecosystem. Approximately 400 acres of prescribed fire in the form of pile burning or understory burning will be used.

- 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

Answer: The Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest has two current Indefinite Delivery-Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) contracts for both mastication and handwork 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 as well. Prescribed fire activities would be conducted and overseen by force account. 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 project 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, restoration of these areas would be slow and occur over decades.

4. Demonstrates sound project management and quality control measures. [Answer all applicable.](#)

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

Answer: The proposal is to complete 2,000 acres of fuels reduction treatments within previously identified projects through the use of hand thinning, piling, chipping, mastication, mechanical tree thinning, weed treatments, and prescribed burning. By utilizing force account to oversee agreements and contract will allow for most quality control on treatments. 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 projects, etc.) and within budget.

Answer: The Carson Ranger District began receiving SNPLMA funds for Hazardous Fuels Reduction in Round 8. This was preceded by a SNPLMA Pre-Proposal Planning 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 with an update in 2018. To ensure completion of planning and implementation projects, the district 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 two fuels specialists, a sale preparation forester, a forester, a wildlife biologist, a botanist, an archeologist, a GIS specialist, a fire management officer, 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.

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

Answer: This nomination is for phase two, to accomplish fuels reduction work in previous SNPLMA funded planning process. Prior treatments have occurred within and adjacent to this project area. The NEPA protocol will be completed March of 2022 with signed decision.

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

Answer: 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 money through partners such as The Nature Conservancy.

L. ORDERS AND PRIORITIES

A. Executive Orders (EO):

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

Answer: The USFS will treat 2,000 acres of hazardous fuels within the identified project area to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire and increase protection to the public and help restore a natural fire regime in the identified areas. The project will provide management to an area that has had little to no past vegetation work or

management and through the proposed actions will help create a more resilient forest landscape.

- ***EO No. 14004: Ensuring the Future is Made in All of America by All of America's Workers***

Answer: N/A

B. Secretarial Orders

- ***SO No. 3347: Conservation Stewardship and Outdoor Recreation.***

Answer: The project helps to promote Conservation Stewardship by showing work completed on National Forest System lands and helping to promote work on private and other entities lands to carry the treatments onto their property lines. The work completed and planned will help provide a guiding document for future work on both private and public lands.

- ***SO No. 3356: Hunting, Fishing, Recreational Shooting, and Wildlife Conservation Opportunities and Coordination with States, Tribes and Territories.***

Answer: N/A

- ***SO No. 3362: Improving Habitat Quality in Western Big-Game Winter Range and Migration Corridors.***

Answer: The project will help protect and enhance local deer winter range within the eastern side of the Sierras. This project is within an area that has seen catastrophic fire near the boundaries of the analysis area as well as development of winter range on private side of land boundaries. This project will help protect the remaining deer winter range in the area.

- ***SO No. 3366: Increasing Recreational Opportunities on Lands and Waters Managed by the U.S. Department of the Interior***

Answer: N/A

- ***SO No. 3370: Conservation Stewardship and Increasing Public Access to Urban National Wildlife Refuges.***

Answer: N/A

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

Answer: N/A

- ***SO No. 3373: Evaluating Public Access in Bureau of Land Management Public Land Disposal and Exchanges (focus is on Sec. 4.b.(3) Potential increased public recreational access to existing public lands resulting from the proposed land acquired through an exchange (acquisition).***

Answer: N/A

- ***SO No. 3374: Implementation of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management and Recreation Act.***

Answer: N/A

- ***SO No. 3376: Increasing Recreational Opportunities through the use of Electric Bikes.***

Answer: N/A

C. Department of the Interior Priorities:

1. ***Identifying steps to accelerate responsible development of renewable energy on public lands and waters.*** We are investing in climate research and environmental innovation to incentivize the rapid deployment of clean energy solutions, while reviewing existing programs to restore balance on America's public lands and waters to benefit current and future generations.

Answer: N/A

2. ***Strengthening the government-to-government relationship with sovereign Tribal nations.*** We understand that tribal sovereignty and self-governance, as well as honoring the federal trust responsibility to Tribal Nations, must be the cornerstones of federal Indian policy.

Answer: Through the implementation of this project the forest has the ability to conduct some of the work through local tribe Mooretown Rancheria through a agreement already in place. The district has provided work to the tribe in other project areas over the last several years and they have been a valuable asset to complete work on the ground. The district has a strong working relationship with Mooretown Rancheria.

3. ***Making investments to support the Administration's goal of creating millions of family-supporting and union jobs.*** This includes establishing a new Climate Conservation Corps Initiative to put a new generation of Americans to work conserving and restoring public lands and waters, increasing reforestation, increasing carbon sequestration in the agricultural sector, protecting biodiversity, improving access to recreation, and addressing the changing climate.

Answer: N/A

4. ***Working to conserve at least 30% each of our lands and waters by the year 2030.*** We will work to protect biodiversity, slow extinction rates, and help leverage natural climate solutions by conserving 30% of America's lands and waters by 2030. This relies on support for local, state, private, and tribally led conservation and restoration efforts that are underway across America.

Answer: N/A

5. ***Centering equity and environmental justice.*** The impacts of the multiple crises in the United States are not evenly distributed in our society. Communities of color, low-income families, and rural and indigenous communities have long suffered disproportionate and cumulative harm from air pollution, water pollution, and toxic sites. At every step of the way, Interior will engage diverse stakeholders across the country, as well as conduct formal consultation with Tribes in recognition of the U.S. government's trust responsibilities.

Answer: N/A

D. USDA Forest Service Priorities:

1. ***Controlling the COVID-19 pandemic***

Answer: N/A

2. ***Providing economic relief***

Answer: N/A

3. ***Tackling climate change***

Answer: By implementing the work proposed within the Mt Rose Fuels Reduction project will provide an opportunity to help restore and protect this ecosystem. Work throughout the project area will create a more resilient forest creating a healthier condition and help protect it from catastrophic wildfire.

4. *Advancing racial equity*

Answer: N/A

5. *Improving our workforce and work environment*

Answer: N/A

M. MAPS

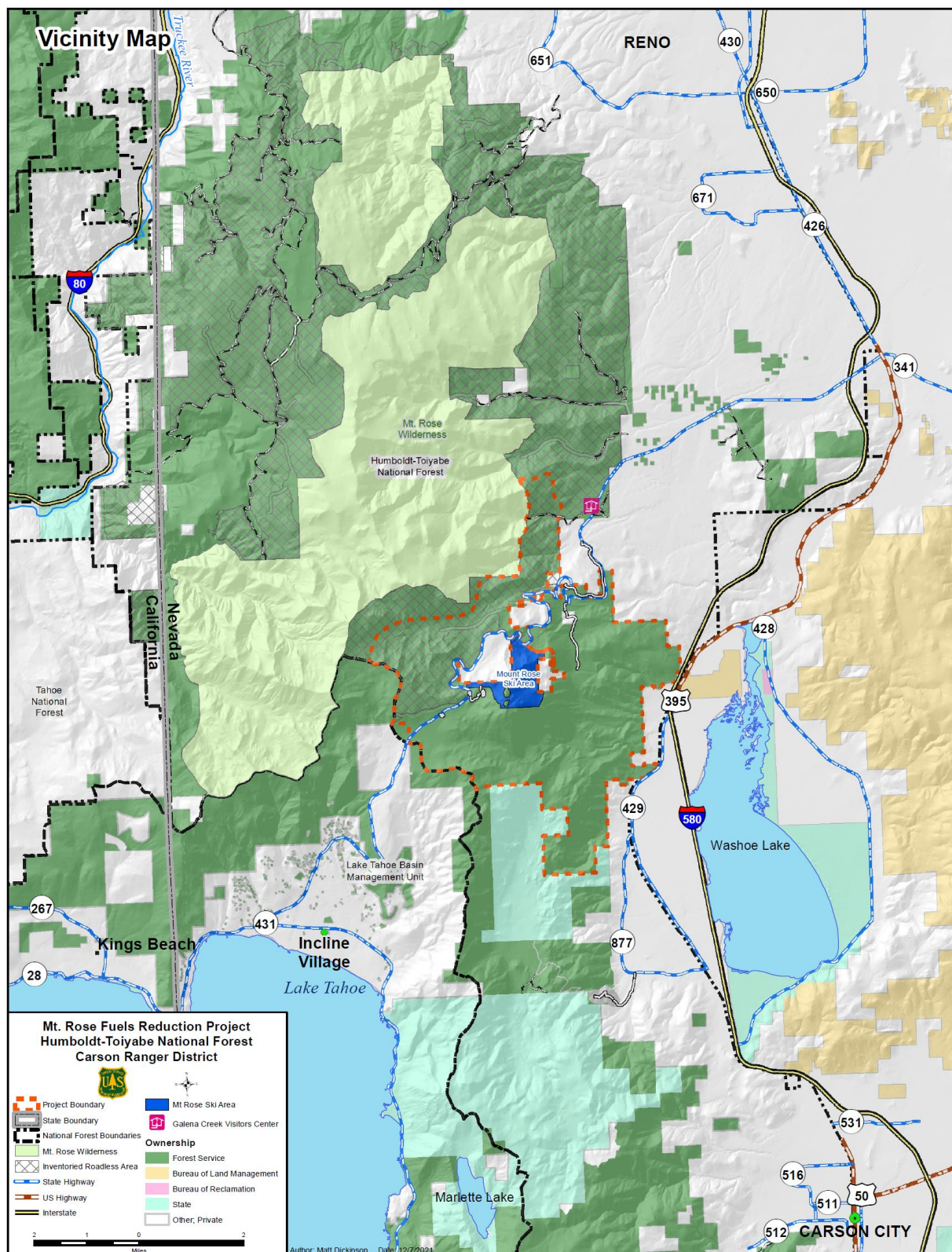


Figure 1: Project Vicinity Map, Mt. Rose Fuels Reduction

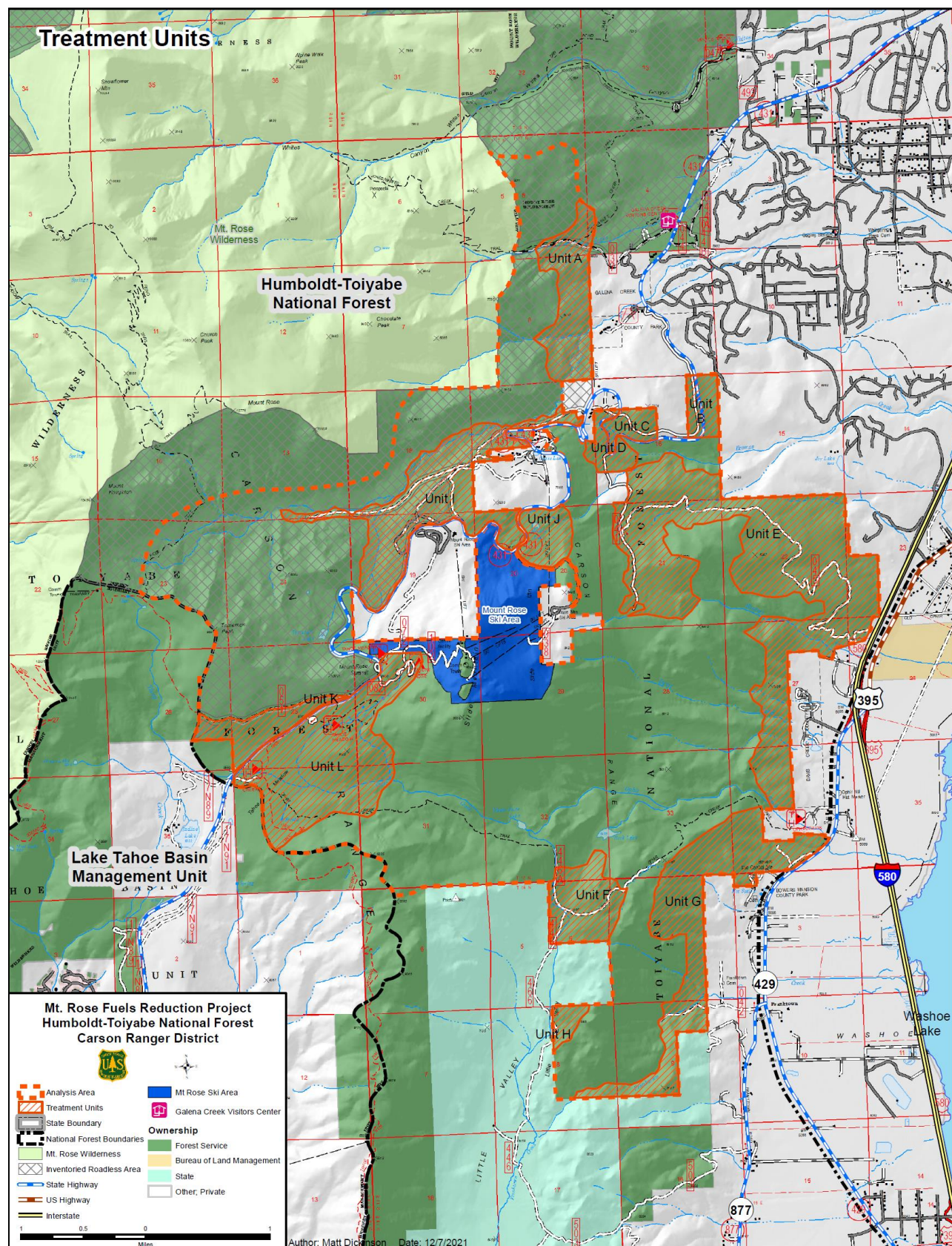


Figure 2: Treatment Units, Mt. Rose Fuels Reduction

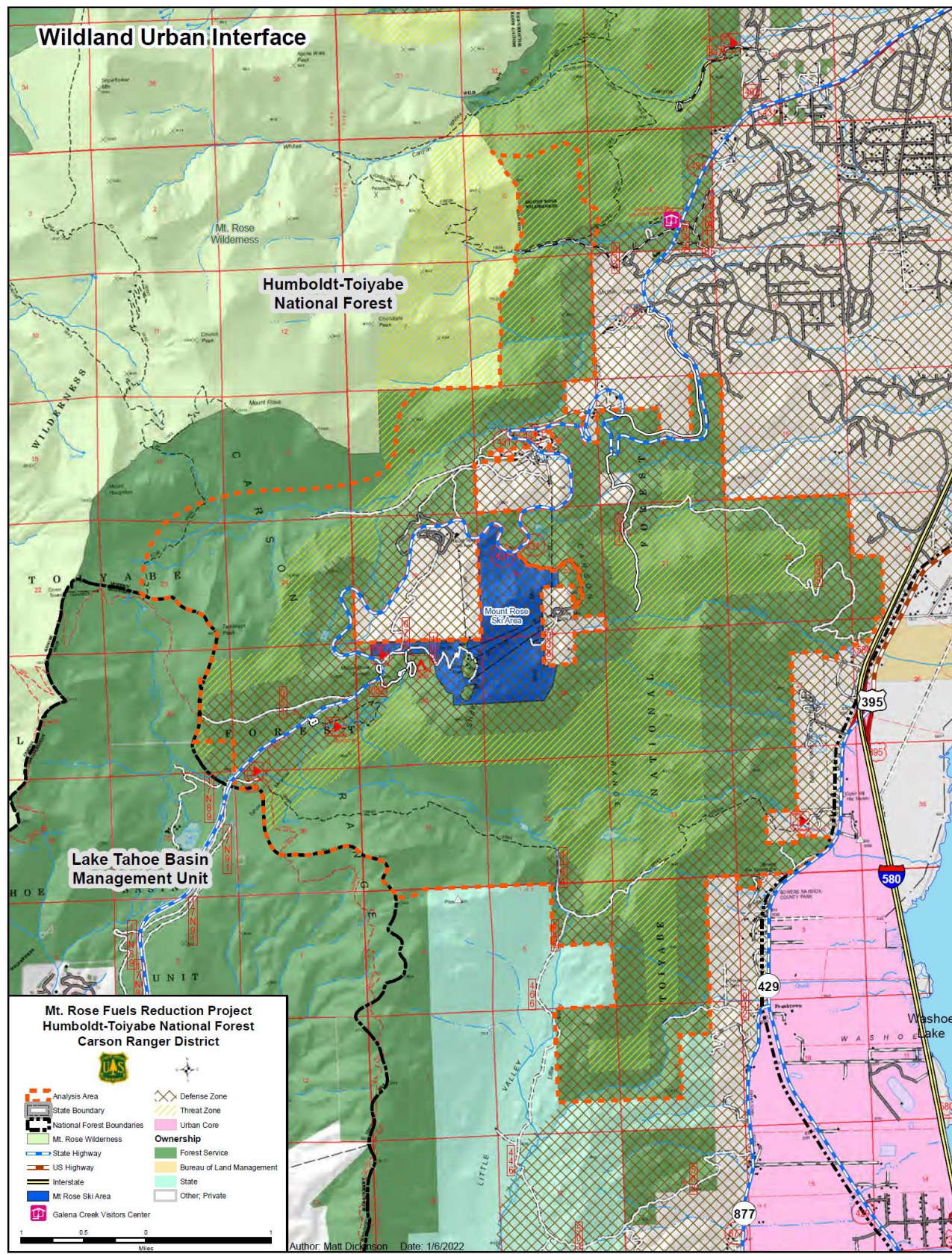


Figure 3: Defense and Threat Zones, Mt. Rose Fuels Reduction

N. PERFORMANCE MEASURES

SNPLMA FY2020-FY2024 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL 1: Sustain the Quality of the Outdoor Environment by Conserving, Preserving, and Restoring Natural and Cultural Resources		
Performance Measures for Habitat Enhancement	Definition of Performance Measure	Quantity
H9 - Acres of Invasive Plant Species Treated or Restored	Report the number of acres of weed infestation treated with chemical, mechanical, physical, or biological control agents for the purpose of weed control. Include acres treated by fire when fire is used as a physical control agent for weed control rather than as a hazardous fuels treatment. Each acre treated is counted only once during the life of the project, no matter how many re-treatments occurred during the project.	400 - 600
Performance Measures for Wildland Fire Management	Definition of Performance Measure	Quantity
F2 - Acres of Hazardous Fuels Treated – Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)	Report the total number of acres of hazardous fuels treated, enhanced, or restored to reduce wildland fuels hazards and to restore or maintain ecosystem resiliency within the WUI. Where multiple treatments are necessary to meet vegetation management objectives, such as hand thinning followed by re-seeding, each treatment is counted individually.	1100 - 1400

SNPLMA FY2020-FY2024 STRATEGIC PLAN: Other Performance Measures that Also Support the Three Values for SNPLMA Implementation of Sustainability, Connectivity, and Community		
Other Performance Measures	Definition of Performance Measure	Quantity
O7 - Number of Interpretive or Education Presentations Given and/or Community Events Participated in or Hosted	Report the number of interpretive or educational presentations given.	4 - 6

O. PHOTOS

None

P. SUPPORT LETTERS

None

**Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act
Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention
Round 19**

U.S. Forest Service, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit



**Lake Tahoe West Forest Restoration
and Fuels Reduction**

Amount Requested: \$3,769,350

A. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Lake Tahoe West Restoration Partnership (Partnership) was formed in 2016 to focus on increasing the social-ecological resilience of forests, watersheds, and communities on the west shore of the Lake Tahoe Basin. Lake Tahoe West partners include government agencies with land management and regulatory responsibilities in the Lake Tahoe Basin, along with stakeholders representing conservation groups, fire protection agencies, the recreation community, homeowners and businesses, scientists, local government, and others with a stake in the resilience of the west shore. The Partnership released a Landscape Resilience Assessment in 2017 and a Landscape Restoration Strategy in 2019 that together provide the foundation for planning the proposed treatments within the Lake Tahoe West Restoration Project.

In 2020, the lead agencies, the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency and the California Tahoe Conservancy began project planning and environmental review.

a. Describe Relationship to prior Approved Phases or Related SNPLMA Projects and Anticipated Future Phases

This project proposal is the first of many potential SNPLMA nominations and will be the Lake Tahoe West Forest Restoration and Fuels Reduction. The Lake Tahoe West planning effort was funded in Round 17 SNPLMA.

b. Acknowledgement of Stand-Alone Project and no Guarantee of Funding for Future Phases

We acknowledge that there is no guarantee for future phases to be funded and can confirm that this project is a viable stand-alone project with specific deliverables that will be accomplished.

B. SNPLMA STRATEGIC PLAN VALUES

Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention projects have two goals identified in the Strategic Plan:

- Goal 1: Sustain the quality of the outdoor environment by conserving, preserving, and restoring natural and cultural resources.
- Goal 2: Improve the quality of life for all publics in urban and rural communities by enhancing recreational opportunities that connect people with the outdoor environment.

1. Sustainability:

Goal 1 of the Lake Tahoe West Landscape Restoration Strategy is that forests recover from fire, drought, and insect and disease outbreaks. The project will sustain the quality of the outdoor environment through vegetation management actions that will restore natural and cultural resources. The vegetation management actions will maintain or increase the quality of natural resources and protect their ecological integrity and sustainability. 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.

2. Connectivity:

This project promotes connectivity and sustainability through integration of multiple resource objectives and by connecting projects across the landscape being implemented by multiple agencies and landowners. This project expands treatments into the general forest to improve resilience across the west shore landscape. The project will improve forest health and facilitate development of mid-seral forests toward late seral forest condition, connecting small patches existing late seral forest patches fragmented across the west shore landscape. The treatments implemented under this project will connect treatments from previously completed and ongoing fuels projects on federal and nonfederal lands within the wildland urban interface, resulting in a comprehensive and connected network of treatments across multiple land ownerships and across the west shore landscape. This project will increase resilience across the west shore landscape and provides increased protection and effectiveness of fuels reduction treatments implemented near west shore communities.

3. Community:

This project will improve the quality of life for all publics who live in and visit the west shore of Lake Tahoe by reducing wildfire risk to communities and would improve tree species composition and forest structural heterogeneity across the landscape. Forests that are resilient to natural disturbance provide sustainable recreational opportunities and reduced risk of wildfire to adjoining communities. 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. The project will also improve forest health through removal of diseased trees, thinning of overly dense forest stands and facilitating growth of mid-seral forest stands towards late seral conditions, while creating and maintaining patches of early seral forest.

C. PURPOSE STATEMENT

The purpose of this project implement forest thinning and fuels reduction treatment designed to restore the structure and species composition of forest ecosystems to promote resilience to natural and human disturbances by reducing overly dense forest stands to improve tree health and vigor and facilitate the growth of mid-seral forests toward late seral conditions. The project will implement fuels reduction and forest health treatments that connect past and current projects being implemented in the Wildland Urban Interface and expand treatments into the general forest to improve resilience across the west shore landscape.

D. PROJECT DELIVERABLES

1. Primary Deliverables:

- Implementation of up to 400-600 acres of forest restoration and fuels reduction treatments. 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 fuels treatments such as mastication or pile burning. 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.

2. Anticipated Deliverables:

- Treatment of 10-50 acres of terrestrial invasive plants within the project units.
- Improvement/upgrading of forest road BMPs and water crossings on 1-2 miles of forest system roads.
- Conservation Education/Community Outreach through 5-30 social media and public notifications, 2-20 community and classroom events.
- Five new Interpretive or Education Publications/Signs/Kiosks/Displays/etc.

3. Standard Deliverables:

- Treatment unit recon, layout and preparation for contracting of forest restoration actions. The project will accomplish layout and contract preparation for approximately 2500-3000 acres of forest restoration in upland forests, meadow and riparian habitats.
- Construction or reconstruction/upgrading of 4-6 miles of forest roads to facilitate forest restoration actions.
- 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.

E. PROJECT LOCATION

Latitude and Longitude:

39.14468 / -120.176249

Identify Congressional District(s):

California's 4th Congressional District.

F. PROJECT TIMEFRAME

6 years, 0 months

G. LEVEL OF PROJECT READINESS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Is this a shovel-ready project? ☐ Yes ☒ No

At the time of this SNPLMA nomination submittal, environmental planning is in progress for the Lake Tahoe West project. Many resource surveys have been completed within the project area in support of specialist reports being prepared for the environmental analysis. The environmental planning effort is expected to be completed in calendar year 2022. If this project proposal is accepted and approved by BLM, the project is anticipated to be shovel ready in FY23.

H. FUTURE OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

This project will implement treatments designed to reduce stand densities, remove dead and diseased trees, and reduce hazardous fuels to meet residual stand density and fuels targets. It is anticipated that in certain circumstances, some stands or isolated portions of stands may require more than one entry to meet residual stand density and/or post treatment fuels objectives. These situations arise in portions of the project area where removal of biomass is limited or restricted, combined with high tree density and/or existing surface fuel loads.

The Landscape Restoration Strategy identifies the need to increase the use of fire on the west shore landscape as tool to restore and maintain resilient conditions. As forest thinning increases across the west shore landscape, there will be more opportunity for the use of fire, both as a post thinning restoration tool, but also as an initial treatment without forest thinning where appropriate. It is anticipated that the use of prescribed fire on the west shore landscape will increase over time and the need for thinning treatments will reduce overtime.

I. PROJECT BUDGET

Estimated cost for forest restoration and fuels reduction treatments is \$3,750 per acre.

Contributed Funds

The Lake Tahoe West Restoration Partnership is a collaborative effort that has invested over \$3,800,000 since 2016 from a combination of state, local and federal funding. This investment has resulted in the 2017 Landscape Resilience Assessment, extensive state of the art science modeling, the 2019 Landscape Restoration Strategy, and multiple peers reviewed science reports. These investments in science and collaboration are being used to inform the current Lake Tahoe West environmental analysis and planning, which is funded by a Round 17 SNPLMA project.

The Lake Tahoe West funding strategy is reliant on a variety of local, state and federal funding sources, including private investment, in order to achieve the scope and scale of treatments needed to achieve Restoration Strategy goals. This project proposal will kick off the initial set of project layout and forest restoration treatments on National Forest System lands. It is anticipated that non-federal funding opportunities will provide contributing funds to award forest restoration contracts and expand the pace and scale for restoration in future years.

PROJECT BUDGET			
Project Name:	Lake Tahoe West Forest Restoration and Fuels Reduction	Date: November 5, 2021	
Project Manager:	Azad Henareh Khalyani	Agency:	USFS-LTBMU
Cost Categories		SNPLMA	Non-Federal Contribution
1. Personnel (labor plus benefits)		\$ 710,385.00	\$ -
2. Travel		\$ 315,000.00	\$ -
3. Training		\$ -	\$ -
4. Equipment		\$ 90,000.00	\$ -
5. Supplies/Materials		\$ 116,500.00	\$ -
6. Contracts and/or Agreements		\$ 2,300,000.00	\$ -
7. Vehicle Use		\$ 12,465.00	\$ -
8. Other Necessary Expenses		\$ 225,000.00	\$ -
9. TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET		\$ 3,769,350.00	\$ -

J. KEY CONTACTS

Authorized Officer: Erick Walker, Forest Supervisor
 Email: erick.walker@usda.gov
 Phone Number: 530-543-2641

Project Manager: Azad Henareh Khalyani
 Email: azad.henarehkhalyani@usda.gov
 Phone Number: 530-543-2840

Budget Officer: Gina Salvador
 Email: gina.salvador@usda.gov
 Phone Number: 530-563-7811

K. RANKING CRITERIA

1. Improves the community within and/or adjacent to the project area. Projects are only eligible for Factors A1, A2, or A3; select and answer ONLY ONE, depending on the majority of the landscape in the nomination. Answer Factor B and C as they apply to your nomination.

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

1. Project is within the Defense Zone, generally an area within 0.25 mile of life and property, as depicted by the most current Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) map in the applicable plan.

Answer:

2. Project is within the Threat Zone, generally an area between 0.25 mile and 1.50 miles of life and property, as depicted by the most current WUI map in the applicable plan. (Do not answer if you answered A.1. already).

Answer:

3. Project is within the general forest or other lands beyond the WUI (generally greater than 1.5 miles from life and property), as depicted by the most current map in the applicable plan. (Do not answer if you answered A.1. or A.2. already).

Answer: The Lake Tahoe West project is planning forest restoration across the 60,000 acre planning area. Within the planning footprint, 16,600 acres of overly dense forest stands at the highest risk from wildfire have been identified for forest thinning treatments on National Forest System lands. Of these acres, 7,260 acres are located in the general forest, beyond the WUI, 6,143 acres are located within the WUI threat zone and 3,197 acres are located within the WUI defense zone.

This project will focus on treatments within the WUI.

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

Answer: This project implements fuels reduction and forest health treatments in areas of the WUI and general forest that overly dense and pose the greatest risk for wildfire. The project transects 11 major watersheds. Burton Creek, Third Creek, Ward Creek, Blackwood Creek, Quail Creek, McKinney Creek, General Creek, Meeks Creek, Lonely Creek, Eagle Creek are located within the project area and drain into Lake Tahoe. Middle-Truckee River watershed is located within the project area and drains into Nevada. 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 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.

Answer: The Lake Tahoe West Partnership Communications Team is actively outreaching to stakeholder groups, including local communities to provide project updates and environmental education. This work will continue through the implementation phases of the Lake Tahoe West project. 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.** Respond to each of the following. [Answer all applicable.](#)

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

Answer: This project implements fuels reduction and forest health treatments planned under the Lake Tahoe West Restoration Project. This project is located adjacent to current and past fuels treatments located on federal and nonfederal lands implemented in coordination with the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team and identified in the 2014 Lake Tahoe Basin Multi-Jurisdictional Fuels Reduction and Fire Prevention Strategy. This project will connect treatments across the landscape, increasing the overall effectiveness of the fuels reduction and forest health efforts.

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

Answer: 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 thinning of dense conifer stands and reduction of forest fuels. The project will thin 1,930 acres of dense conifer stands. This project would enhance the quality, connectivity, and resilience of habitat for species associated with old-growth forest conditions, such as California spotted owls, northern goshawks, and Pacific marten. Forest habitat restoration would focus on maintaining and promoting old-growth forest characteristics that can support nesting, denning, and foraging. 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. 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.

Answer: 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. Respond to each of the following. [Answer all applicable.](#)

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.).

Answer: 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 habitat for sensitive species and threatened and endangered species. Includes mitigation and/or minimization measures when treatment in sensitive habitat is unavoidable.

Answer: 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. Include broadcast prescribed fire for resource management objectives for sustainable landscapes.

Answer: Lake Tahoe West planning includes implementation of up to 2000 acres of prescribed fire treatments annually. The project would involve the use of strategically placed understory burns within the project Area, including wilderness areas, to reduce the risk of catastrophic fire by reducing forest fuel accumulations, maintain reduced fuel loads in thinned areas, establish a more frequent fire interval, restore fire-adapted ecosystem processes and species, and create or maintain forest openings.

Opportunities to use fire as a restoration tool are anticipated to increase over time, as more acres of fuels reduction and forest thinning treatments are successfully implemented across the landscape. Completing and maintaining thinning and fuels reduction treatments within and adjacent to communities will be critical prior to wide-scale use of fire. This project does not include prescribed fire as a primary deliverable but will begin to the work needed to increase the use of fire to meet restoration objectives on the west shore. Future phases of the project will include prescribed fire implementation.

- 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

Answer: This 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 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). In 2019, the median sale price for homes in the North Lake Tahoe area was \$745,000 with a density of 532 homes per square mile. The median sale price of a home in the South Lake Tahoe area is \$758,000 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, mastication, biomass removal on both upland and riparian areas, hand thinning on steeper slopes and pile burning. 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. The recent Caldor Fire provides clear evidence of the effectiveness of forest thinning and fuels reduction treatments at modifying fire behavior and providing protection to communities in the path of wildfire.

4. Demonstrates sound project management and quality control measures. [Answer all applicable.](#)

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

Answer: This project will be implementing treatments from the Lake Tahoe West Restoration Project. The environmental analysis for this project is being conducted under the National Environmental Policy Act to implement forest health restoration, habitat improvement, prescribed fire and hazardous fuels reduction treatments. The

project is planning approximately 16,600 acres of forest restoration and up to 2000 acres of prescribed fire on NFS lands. This project will complete initial project layout and design, road design, approximately 5 miles of road construction/improvements and complete approximately 400 acres of forest restoration thinning treatments. 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 projects, etc.) and within budget.

Answer: 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 16 years (2005-2021) 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. The LTBMU has also utilized new authorities to enter into long term agreements with partners to increase capacity and implement more projects, entering into Good Neighbor Authority agreements with States and Stewardship Agreements with multiple partners.

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

Answer: This project is a multi-phased project and will consist of forest thinning, meadow and habitat restoration, and fuels reduction treatments designed to increase the resilience of the west shore landscape to natural and human disturbances such as wildfire, drought, insect and disease outbreaks and climate change. The Lake Tahoe West project has identified up to 16,600 acres of overly dense forest in need of forest restoration and thinning.

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

Answer: This SNPLMA proposal will implement the initial project layout and design work needed to initiate Lake Tahoe West treatments. The LTBMU intends to work with partners to secure funding from non-federal sources to fund the implementation of the Lake Tahoe West project.

L. ORDERS AND PRIORITIES

A. Executive Orders (EO):

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

Answer: 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.

- ***EO No. 14005: Ensuring the Future is Made in All of America by All of America's Workers***

Answer: N/A

B. Secretarial Orders

- ***SO No. 3347: Conservation Stewardship and Outdoor Recreation.***

Answer: N/A

- ***SO No. 3356: Hunting, Fishing, Recreational Shooting, and Wildlife Conservation Opportunities and Coordination with States, Tribes and Territories.***

Answer: N/A

- ***SO No. 3362: Improving Habitat Quality in Western Big-Game Winter Range and Migration Corridors.***

Answer: N/A

- ***SO No. 3366: Increasing Recreational Opportunities on Lands and Waters Managed by the U.S. Department of the Interior***

Answer: N/A

- ***SO No. 3370: Conservation Stewardship and Increasing Public Access to Urban National Wildlife Refuges.***

Answer: N/A

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

Answer: N/A

- ***SO No. 3373: Evaluating Public Access in Bureau of Land Management Public Land Disposal and Exchanges (focus is on Sec. 4.b.(3) Potential increased public recreational access to existing public lands resulting from the proposed land acquired through an exchange (acquisition).***

Answer: N/A

- ***SO No. 3374: Implementation of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management and Recreation Act.***

Answer: N/A

- ***SO No. 3376: Increasing Recreational Opportunities through the use of Electric Bikes.***

Answer: N/A

C. Department of the Interior Priorities:

1. ***Identifying steps to accelerate responsible development of renewable energy on public lands and waters.*** We are investing in climate research and environmental innovation to incentivize the rapid deployment of clean energy solutions, while reviewing existing programs to restore balance on America's public lands and waters to benefit current and future generations.

Answer: N/A

2. ***Strengthening the government-to-government relationship with sovereign Tribal nations.*** We understand that tribal sovereignty and self-governance, as well as honoring the federal trust responsibility to Tribal Nations, must be the cornerstones of federal Indian policy.

Answer: N/A

3. ***Making investments to support the Administration's goal of creating millions of family-supporting and union jobs.*** This includes establishing a new Climate Conservation Corps Initiative to put a new generation of Americans to work conserving and restoring public lands and waters, increasing reforestation, increasing carbon sequestration in the agricultural sector, protecting biodiversity, improving access to recreation, and addressing the changing climate.

Answer: N/A

4. ***Working to conserve at least 30% each of our lands and waters by the year 2030.*** We will work to protect biodiversity, slow extinction rates, and help leverage natural climate solutions by conserving 30% of America's lands and waters by 2030. This relies on support for local, state, private, and tribally led conservation and restoration efforts that are underway across America.

Answer: N/A

5. ***Centering equity and environmental justice.*** The impacts of the multiple crises in the United States are not evenly distributed in our society. Communities of color, low-income families, and rural and indigenous communities have long suffered disproportionate and cumulative harm from air pollution, water pollution, and toxic sites. At every step of the way, Interior will engage diverse stakeholders across the country, as well as conduct formal consultation with Tribes in recognition of the U.S. government's trust responsibilities.

Answer: N/A

D. USDA Forest Service Priorities:

1. *Controlling the COVID-19 pandemic*

Answer: All Federal employees working to support this project are required to be vaccinated against Covid-19. In addition, contractors hired by the Forest Service will be required to provide proof of vaccination against Covid-19.

2. *Providing economic relief*

Answer: This project will provide jobs to the local Tahoe Basin and surrounding communities through employment of local fire crews, arborist, utility crews, foresters and other forest industry contractors needed to implement forest health and fuels reduction treatments. In addition, forest products such as saw timber and biomass will be removed from the project, providing jobs needed to transport, process and sale forest products.

3. *Tackling climate change*

Answer: This project will improve the health of Tahoe's forests and its resilience to natural disturbances such as wildfire, drought, insect and disease outbreaks and climate change. The project will remove biomass off site for processing and utilization in mechanical treatment units, reducing the amount of prescribed fire pile burning required to meet project objectives and reducing associated greenhouse gas emissions.

4. *Advancing racial equity*

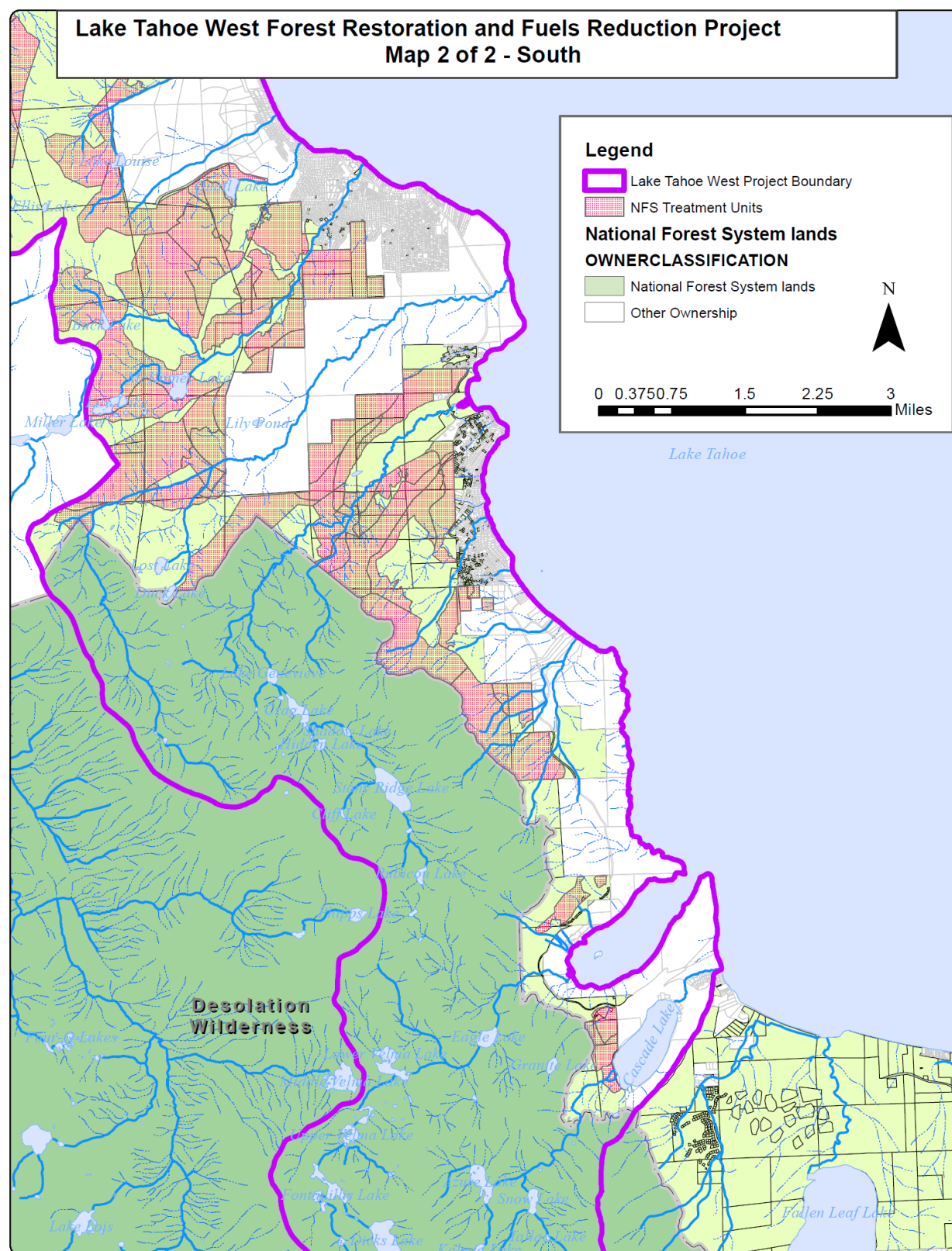
Answer: The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program.

5. *Improving our workforce and work environment*

Answer: The Forest Service is committed to the values of equity, inclusion, and equal opportunity our employees and those we serve. The Forest Service provides equal employment opportunity for all employees and applicants for employment, regardless of race, religion, color, sex (including pregnancy, gender identity and sexual orientation), national origin, age, genetic information, or disability. All employees

have the freedom to compete on a fair and level playing field with equal opportunity for available employment and advancement opportunities. Equal employment opportunity covers all personnel/employment programs, management practices, and decisions, including recruitment/hiring, merit promotion, transfer, reassignments, training and career development, benefits, and separation.





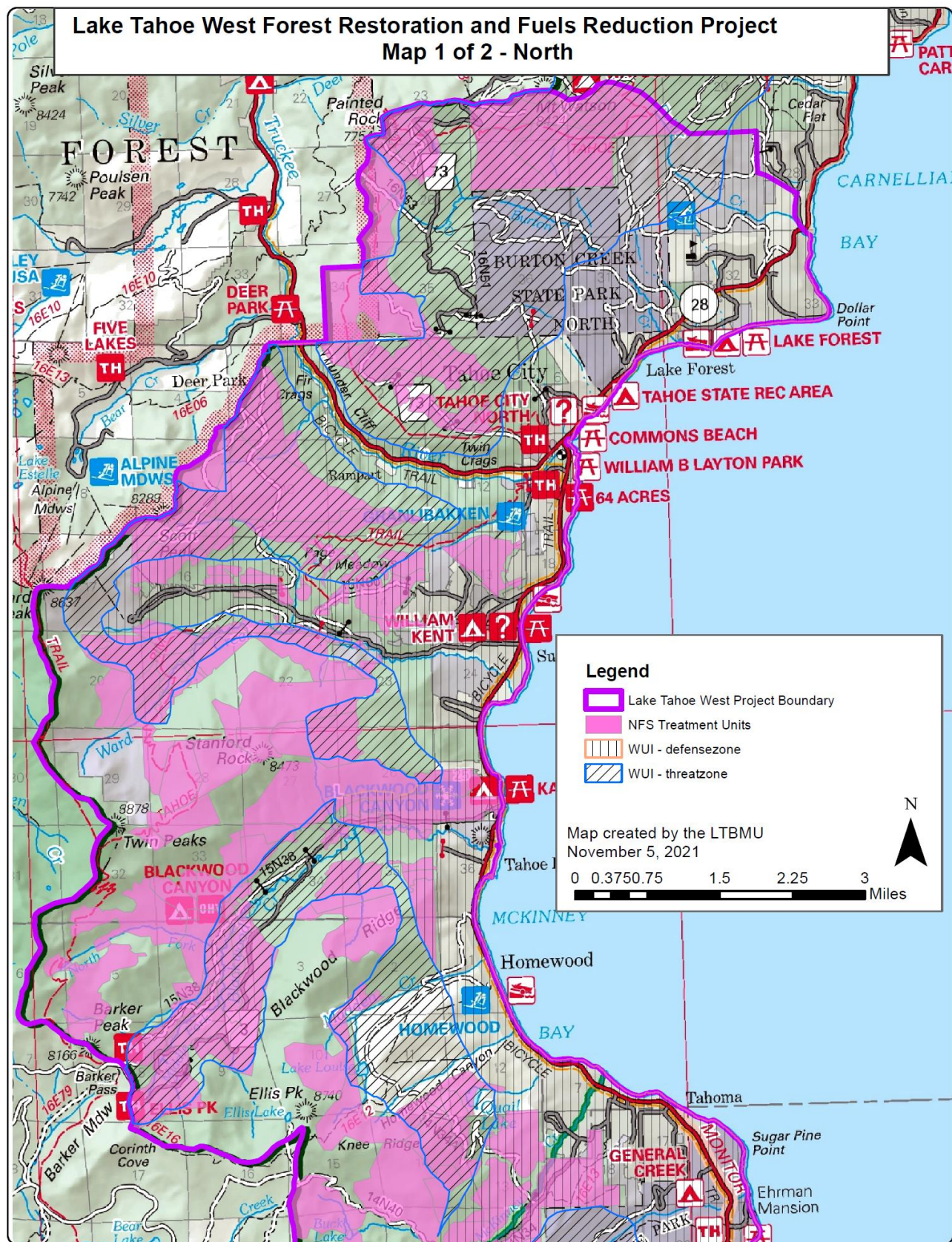


Figure 3: Defense and Threat Zones – north section

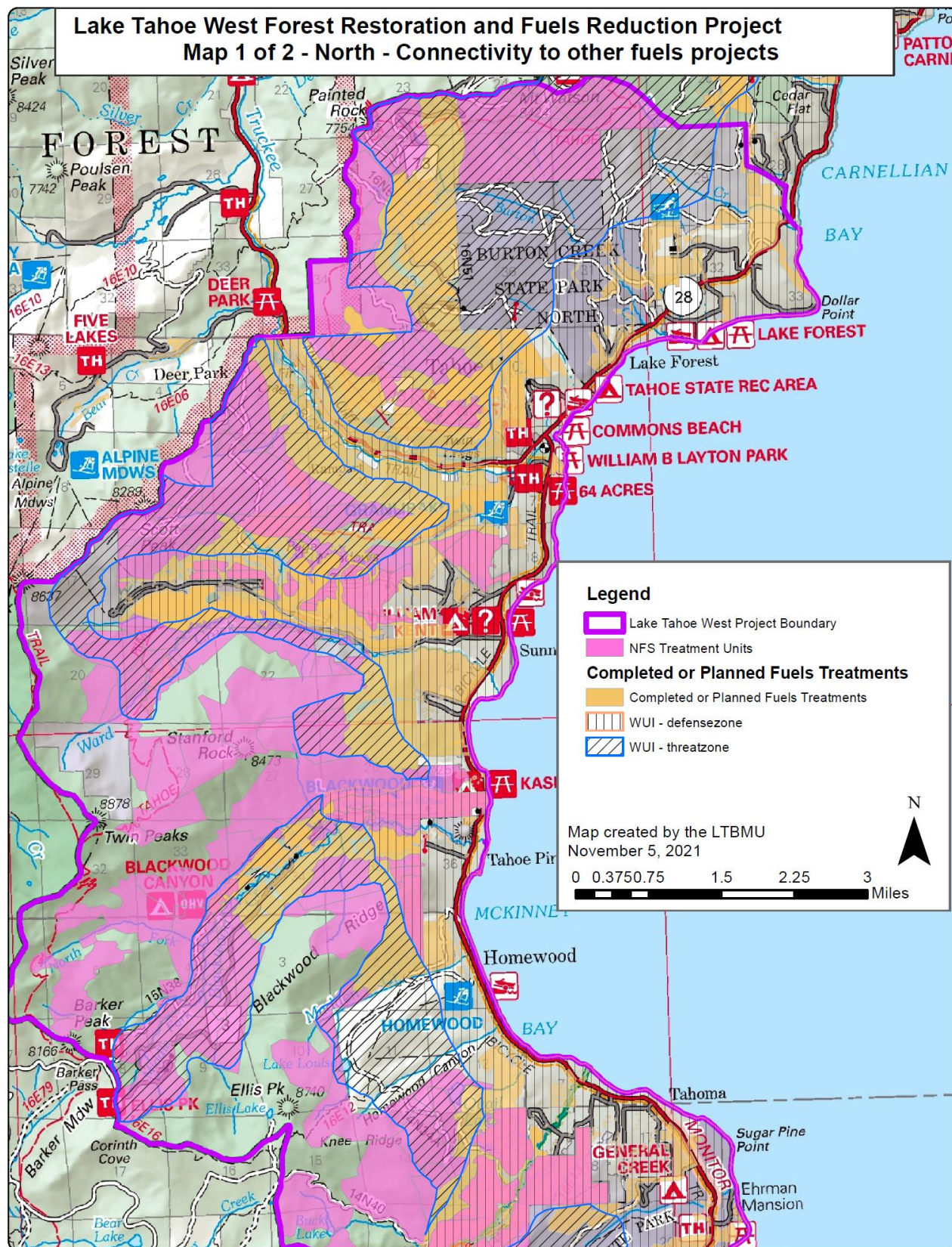


Figure 5: SNPLMA Strategic Value- Connectivity – north section

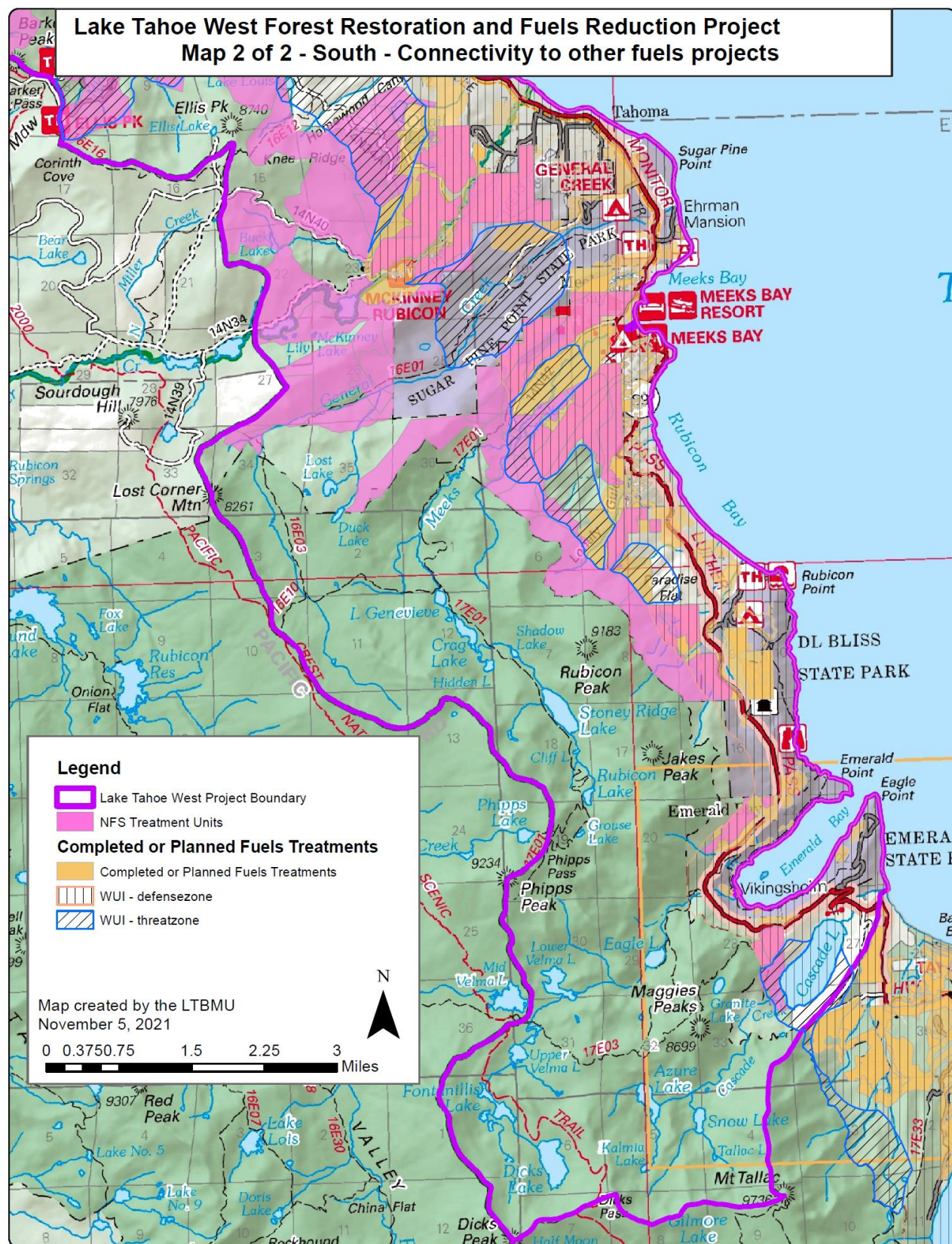


Figure 6: SNPLMA Strategic Value- Connectivity – south section

N. PERFORMANCE MEASURES

SNPLMA FY2020-FY2024 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL 1: Sustain the Quality of the Outdoor Environment by Conserving, Preserving, and Restoring Natural and Cultural Resources		
Performance Measures for Habitat Enhancement	Definition of Performance Measure	Quantity
H9 - Acres of Invasive Plant Species Treated or Restored	Report the number of acres of weed infestation treated with chemical, mechanical, physical, or biological control agents for the purpose of weed control. Include acres treated by fire when fire is used as a physical control agent for weed control rather than as a hazardous fuels treatment. Each acre treated is counted only once during the life of the project, no matter how many re-treatments occurred during the project.	10 - 50
Performance Measures for Wildland Fire Management	Definition of Performance Measure	Quantity
F2 - Acres of Hazardous Fuels Treated – Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)	Report the total number of acres of hazardous fuels treated, enhanced, or restored to reduce wildland fuels hazards and to restore or maintain ecosystem resiliency within the WUI. Where multiple treatments are necessary to meet vegetation management objectives, such as hand thinning followed by re-seeding, each treatment is counted individually.	400 - 600

SNPLMA FY2020-FY2024 STRATEGIC PLAN: Other Performance Measures that Also Support the Three Values for SNPLMA Implementation of Sustainability, Connectivity, and Community		
Other Performance Measures	Definition of Performance Measure	Quantity
O6 - Number of New Interpretive or Education Publications/Signs/Kiosks/Displays/etc. Produced	Report the number of new interpretive or education publications produced, signs produced and installed, public informational websites or other electronic media presentations designed and implemented, and informational or interpretive kiosk displays produced and installed.	5
O7 - Number of Interpretive or Education Presentations Given and/or Community Events Participated in or Hosted	Report the number of interpretive or educational presentations given.	7 - 50

O. PHOTOS



Photo 1: Existing overly dense mid-seral forest conditions and heavy and heavy fuel loading within the Lake Tahoe West project.

Photo 2: Existing overly dense mid-seral forest conditions and heavy fuel loading in Protected Activity Center (PAC) within the Lake Tahoe West project.





Photo 3: Existing overly dense forest conditions with heavy fuel loading in the Lake Tahoe West project area.

P. SUPPORT LETTERS

None

**Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act
Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention
Round 19**

**State of Nevada
Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Nevada Division of State Lands
Nevada Tahoe Resource Team**



Marlette Hazardous Fuels Reduction

Amount Requested: \$1,382,000

A. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Project Info

The desired acreage for treatment is 420-452 acres within Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park (LTNSP) adjacent to USDA Forest Service LTBMU-managed land.

T15N R18E sec. 12 and 13: T15N R18E sec. 24 and 25

Objective is to reduce risk to Marlette Basin from a wildland fire coming upslope from the southwest or west.

Thinning areas of dense conifer, brushing, reducing surface fuels from past logging, hand piling debris and pile burning.

Marlette Lake is a domestic water source for Carson City and Virginia City, it is a brood lake for NDOW (LCT, rainbow, brook trout and hybrids), high use recreation site for mountain biking, hiking, fishing,

Marlette Lake is located in a glaciated bowl that and the source of water is from annual snowmelt. Habitat values include bald eagle nest sites, goshawk and spotted owl nest areas to the east of the lake. The area is part of a historic logging district that dates to the Comstock era. Marlette basin has mature red fir, Jeffrey pine and western white pine stands that are valuable late seral habitat that is rare in largely second growth forest in this area. The project would have minimal potential for encroachment on federal resources. This area was inventoried for cultural resources which are documented in a published report. There are features associated with both Comstock logging and post 1950's logging. These are primarily old roads, broken pieces of bottles and cordwood. USFS boundary markers have been located. No previous federal involvement and no future federal involvement is not known at this time. LTNSP is managed by the Nevada Division of State Parks under the Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park Resource Management Plan (July 2010).

We are estimating 80-85% percent of the total project costs from SNPLMA funding, about \$1,382,000. If the full amount requested is not available for the entire project, the project may be phased by dividing the North and South Zones of the project. Phase 1 would consist of the South Zone at approximately 232 acres for a total of \$812,000. The State of Nevada cash match of \$200,000 would still be used for Phase 1 of the project due to the need to spend the State bond funding in a timely manner. Therefore, the SNPLMA request for only Phase 1 would be lowered to \$612,000. Phase 2 of the project, the North Zone, could be completed at a later time.

Project Description

The Marlette HFR project is approximately 452 acres and is located in T15N R18E sec. 12 and 13: T15N R18E sec. 24 and 25. The objective is to reduce risk to the Marlette basin from a

wildland fire coming upslope from the southwest or west and connect to LTBMU treatments located to the west. The proposal will also connect extensive treated areas within LTNSP. Work will include thinning areas of dense conifer, brushing, reducing surface fuels from past logging, hand piling debris and pile burning. Fuels Reduction treatments in LTNSP are part of the Lake Tahoe Basin Multi-Jurisdictional Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Strategy. An individual Prescribed Fire Plan will be developed for the project area and approved by Nevada Division of Forestry Agency Administrator and State Fire Management Officer prior to any pile burning.

Marlette Lake is a domestic water source for Carson City and Virginia City. It is a brood lake for NDOW (LCT, rainbow, brook trout and hybrids), and is a high use recreation site for mountain biking, hiking, and fishing. Habitat values include bald eagle nest sites, goshawk and spotted owl nest areas to the east of the lake. The area is part of a historic logging district that dates to the Comstock era. Marlette basin has mature red fir, Jeffrey pine and western white pine stands that are valuable late seral habitat that is rare in the largely second growth forest in this area. NDSL is estimating approximately 80-85% percent of the total project cost from SNPLMA in the amount of \$1,382,000.

a. Describe Relationship to prior Approved Phases or Related SNPLMA Projects and Anticipated Future Phases

This proposal will add up to 452 acres of fuel reduction in close proximity to previous SNPLMA projects completed by the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU), as part of the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team (TFFT). The southern portion of the proposal is a critical piece of ground that directly connects with USDA Forest Service treatment areas to the west and southwest resulting in a large contiguous area capable of modifying fire behavior. The project map displays the interrelated TFFT treatments. The northern portion of the proposal is strategically located west of the Marlette basin uphill of LTBMU treatment areas to the west.

b. Acknowledgement of Stand-Alone Project and no Guarantee of Funding for Future Phases

This is a stand – alone project that will complete a critical need in this area with no guarantee of funding for future phases. The project area may be phased into the North and South Zones if the full amount requested in this proposal is not available for this project in Round 19.

B. SNPLMA STRATEGIC PLAN VALUES

Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention projects have two goals identified in the Strategic Plan:

- Goal 1: Sustain the quality of the outdoor environment by conserving, preserving, and restoring natural and cultural resources.

- Goal 2: Improve the quality of life for all publics in urban and rural communities by enhancing recreational opportunities that connect people with the outdoor environment.

1. Sustainability:

- **Future treatments**

Future efforts in the project area will be funded in part by the State of Nevada with state funds creating long-term sustainability. Thus, SNPLMA dollars will be an investment in Lake Tahoe forests that will pay dividends over the long-term by helping to improve forest resilience and the associated wildlife habitat. The initial treatments that have been completed have improved stand density, established a new age class with desired species mix and were planned with the idea of maintaining the treatments with prescribed fire. Future treatments will be instrumental to continuing the trajectory of an improved forest condition that is resilient to a range of natural disturbance events.

- **Prescribed Fire by Pile Burning**

This proposal re-introduces fire into a fire-dependent ecosystem that has not burned in over 100 years. Historical fire suppression following the fires of 1910 has created a forested landscape with high density stands, ladder fuels, and accumulation of coarse woody debris creating a highly flammable forest. When fires do burn, they tend to burn hot and generate a stand-replacing event, as evidenced by recent fires that include the 2013 Rim Fire, the 2014 King Fire, the 2007 Angora Fire, and the 2021 Caldor Fire. The probability of crown fire and stand-replacing fire events is reduced when thinning and pile burning are used in combination to reduce fuels, improve forest resilience, and enhance forest response to changing conditions. This was very evident during the Caldor Fire of Summer 2021 when fire fighters were able to actively engage the fire as it entered treated areas in the populated Christmas Valley located in the southern portion of the Lake Tahoe Basin. The fuel reduction work that had been completed there was a major factor in the way the fire burned and contributed significantly to a favorable outcome by modifying fire behavior.

- **Forest Restoration**

This proposal focuses on reducing stand density to a range of 80-140 square feet per acre to account for different site conditions. The northern project area is a typical red fir/Jeffrey pine cover type with western white pine, lodgepole pine and some white fir. The proposal will maintain the large, mature red fir and Jeffrey pine overstory with a minor amount of the aforementioned associated species within the specified range of basal area. A portion of the northern project area was heavily logged in the 1950's and there is a minor amount of advanced red fir regeneration. It is difficult to establish regeneration on these sites so an important aspect of this proposal is affording protection to the advanced regeneration. The brush treatment in and around these trees will be relatively thorough. Both the northern and southern portions of the proposal have aspen stands that have an increasing conifer component and the aspen condition is trending down as a result of the competition. Conifers will be removed to give the aspen a competitive advantage and free up more water for the overstory and understory vegetation. Maintaining the large tree component is also a priority for nesting bald eagles and osprey near Marlette Lake. They utilize large mature trees as nest and roosting sites.

Minimizing the risk to the young red fir will also help ensure that that different age classes of trees are present to provide this habitat element in the future.

- **Fuels Reduction**

The reduction of fuel loading within forested stands is an ongoing process with additional entries necessary periodically to address accumulated biomass both living and dead. Meeting prescription parameters of 4-foot flame lengths as specified in the Tahoe Basin Multi-Jurisdictional Fuels Reduction and Fire Prevention Strategy requires that the brush component be addressed with more frequency to complement thinning activities designed to reduce stand density. The project area has extensive areas with brush in excess of 4 feet high that provide a continuous fuel bed for an advancing fire. Tree mortality in western white pine due to mountain pine beetle and blister rust, is currently contributing to accelerated levels of down woody debris which when combined with the existing fuel load on this site has the potential to increase not only fire intensity but also fire severity which can be lethal to even the large conifers. Mitigating the effects of a wildland fire in this area with the high recreation use, watershed and wildlife values is an important consideration in the Marlette HFR proposal.

2. Connectivity:

One of the strongest elements of this proposal is the connectivity that it will provide to previously treated areas both inside the state park and the adjacent USDA Forest Service lands to the west. The letter of support that the LTBMU provided for this proposal highlights the many aspects of connectivity provided by this important final piece of an extensive network of treatments that lie within the east shore Highway 28 corridor and the North Canyon corridor. The vegetation communities in these treated areas are noticeably more resilient during the current drought. The forest landscape provides quality habitat for several sensitive and T&E species including northern goshawks, northern spotted owls, bald eagles, ospreys and pine martin. The elevational gain, together with different aspects, as you advance up North Canyon provides a variety of forest types and habitats that have received treatment. The connectivity increases the resilience of the forest in the event of a wildland fire event.

3. Community:

This area being considered in this proposal is classified as “general forest” due to its proximity to development. However, the Spooner Park entrance area (less than two miles to the south) receives 100,000 visitors annually as verified by a counter. Upwards of 70-80,000 visitors travel to Marlette Lake or points further north on a well-maintained trail network that includes the Marlette Flume trail. They get there on bikes, by hiking and riding horses. The trails connect east to Carson City, west to Lake Tahoe and north to Incline Village and the Mount Rose area. The Marlette Creek downhill trail goes through the northern project area and the Marlette foot trail goes through the southern portion of the proposal. The Tahoe Rim Trail is on the ridgeline on the east side of North Canyon. The Park hosts a variety of special events, with the primary draw being the beautiful park setting in the “backcountry”. Marlette Lake is a brood lake for NDOW (LCT, rainbow trout, brook trout, and hybrids) and it is a domestic water source for Carson City and Virginia City. The Clear Creek watershed to the east is a municipal watershed for Carson

City and the Washoe Tribe. Lake Tahoe provides drinking water for locals and downstream users. There is a private inholding north of Marlette Lake with rustic structures and the University of Nevada-Reno field station and forest is three and a half miles to the northeast. Hobart reservoir, which is part of the Carson City water supply distribution system is two miles northeast of Marlette Lake. The North Canyon area is classified as a historic logging district because of the timber cutting that took place during the Comstock era which dates back to the Civil War period. There are many old logging roads, skid trails, campsites, and interpretive signs that provide information to park visitors. Providing an increased level of public safety in the event of a wild land fire in this environment is an important consideration in the treatment strategy that has been implemented within the Nevada Lake Tahoe State Park boundary. This proposal will connect an extensive network of treated areas in the southern portion of the proposal and will provide a strategic buffer to the Marlette Basin and all the resource values associated with that area.

C. PURPOSE STATEMENT

The primary objectives of this nomination by Nevada Division of State Lands, Nevada Tahoe Resource Team, are to: 1) reduce hazardous fuels on approximately 452 acres of forest within Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park (LTNSP) and 2) connect large contiguous areas that were previously treated for fuels reduction. The proposed treatment areas will modify fire behavior for wildland fire progressing from the south and west to the east, upslope in Marlette Basin or further, over the Carson Range.

D. PROJECT DELIVERABLES

1. Primary Deliverables:
 420-452 acres of hand-thinning of trees and brush
 420-452 acres of hand-piling and burning in LTNSP
2. Anticipated Deliverables:
 Access to trails may be enhanced
 Visibility along trails may be improved
 Access for handcrews will be improved for prescribed fire operations and wildland fire suppression
3. Standard Deliverables:
 Environmental documentation and environmental checklist for TRPA
 Section 106 compliance
 Develop Scope of Work for contract
 Biological surveys for spotted owls, bald eagles and goshawks
 SNPLMA close out package

E. PROJECT LOCATION

Latitude and Longitude:

Lat 39.165369, Long -119.908674 AND Lat39.138161, Long -119.906919

Identify Congressional District(s):

Nevada's Second Congressional District, NV-2

F. PROJECT TIMEFRAME

The project duration is expected to last six (6) years due to planned use of pile burning as a treatment method which requires contract crew availability and specific weather parameters to complete.

G. LEVEL OF PROJECT READINESS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Is this a shovel-ready project? ☒ Yes ☐ No

The project will begin to be implemented within one year of notification of funds availability. Project implementation includes conducting biological surveys, completion of the TRPA environmental checklist and marking trees which are estimated for completion within the first six months of funds availability. The Project Manager will direct resources as needed to accomplish the treatment goals. In addition, NDSL plans to utilize contract crews for the work that will not be diverted to other projects or wildfires when they occur.

H. FUTURE OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

The operations and maintenance plan is to maintain the northern section with low intensity prescribed fire done in conjunction with a similar approach in the old growth red fir stand on the west shore of Marlette. The current proposed treatment will need maintenance in about 10-15 years primarily to address growth in the shrub component.

I. PROJECT BUDGET

The total request for funding from SNPLMA is \$1,382,000 with a matching contribution of \$200,000 from the State of Nevada. The estimated cost per acre for hazardous fuels reduction treatments in this project is \$3,500.

Contributed Funds

State of Nevada cash contribution in the amount of \$200,000.

PROJECT BUDGET			
Project Name:	Marlette Hazardous Fuels Reduction	Date:	11/7/2021
Project Manager:	Meredith Gosejohan	Agency:	NDSL
Cost Categories		SNPLMA	Non-Federal Contribution
1. Personnel (labor plus benefits)		\$ -	\$ -
2. Travel		\$ -	\$ -
3. Training		\$ -	\$ -
4. Equipment		\$ -	\$ -
5. Supplies/Materials		\$ -	\$ -
6. Contracts and/or Agreements		\$ 1,582,000.00	\$ 200,000.00
7. Vehicle Use		\$ -	\$ -
8. Other Necessary Expenses		\$ -	\$ -
9. TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET		\$ 1,582,000.00	\$ 200,000.00

J. KEY CONTACTS

Authorized Officer: Charles Donohue, Administrator

Email: cdonohue@lands.nv.gov

Phone Number: 775-684-2736

Project Manager: Meredith Gosejohan, Tahoe Program Manager

Email: mgosejohan@lands.nv.gov

Phone Number: 775-684-2736

Budget Officer: Patrick Smorra, Office Manager

Email: psmorra@lands.nv.gov

Phone Number: 775-684-2751

K. RANKING CRITERIA

1. Improves the community within and/or adjacent to the project area. Projects are only eligible for Factors A1, A2, or A3; select and answer ONLY ONE, depending on the majority of the landscape in the nomination. Answer Factor B and C as they apply to your nomination.

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

1. Project is within the Defense Zone, generally an area within 0.25 mile of life and property, as depicted by the most current Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) map in the applicable plan.

Answer:

2. Project is within the Threat Zone, generally an area between 0.25 mile and 1.50 miles of life and property, as depicted by the most current WUI map in the applicable plan. (Do not answer if you answered A.1. already).

Answer: Approximately 1/3 of the project area is located within the Threat Zone (see map).

3. Project is within the general forest or other lands beyond the WUI (generally greater than 1.5 miles from life and property), as depicted by the most current map in the applicable plan. (Do not answer if you answered A.1. or A.2. already).

Answer: The project is within the general forest although visitor counts at the Spooner Park entrance station 2 miles to the south show 100,000 people visit the park in summer. Park staff estimates that 70-80 thousand people visit the North Canyon/Marlette Lake area each season. They are there to ride mountain bikes, hike, ride horses, fish, and enjoy the extensive trail system that connects to the east side, west to the Lake Tahoe area and north to Incline Village and Mount Rose

area. There is one private inholding immediately northeast of Marlette Lake that has rustic cabins. The popular Tahoe Rim Trail is located on the ridge on the east side of North Canyon. Marlette Lake is a domestic water source for Carson City and Virginia City and a brood lake for NDOW. Administrative traffic is significant with maintenance and monitoring of the earthen Marlette dam and the water delivery system. Park staff maintains facilities that include two campground a couple of restrooms. USGS has long term monitoring equipment at Marlette. The North Canyon Road is maintained for administrative and fire access. Limited access for fire is a concern in the area. Old roadbeds will be cleared in the northern unit on the west side of Marlette to make access for hand crews much easier and quicker. The Marlette downhill trail does traverse from south to north along the bench in the northern unit and could potentially be a fire line. The Marlette/North Canyon area is classified as a historic logging district because of all the features associated with the logging that took place during the Civil War period to support the Virginia City silver mines.

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

Answer: Protection of source water is paramount with any activity in the Lake Tahoe basin. Both North Canyon Creek and Secret Harbor Creek originate in the project area and they deliver water to Lake Tahoe. Tahoe residents get their drinking water from the lake as well as downstream users in the Reno/Sparks community. Marlette Lake is a domestic water source for Carson City and Virginia City. Clear Creek watershed, one mile to the east, is the municipal watershed for Carson City and the Washoe Tribe.

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.

Answer:

2. Improves the connection of fuels reduction activities and wildlife habitat. Respond to each of the following. [Answer all applicable.](#)

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

Answer: The southern unit of this proposal is a critical piece of ground that straddles the ridgetop to the west and extends to the Secret Harbor/North Canyon Creek diversion to the east. Once treated this unit will connect a large area that has been treated by the U.S. Forest Service LTBMU to the west, and previously treated units within the State Park to the south and east. The map shows the extensive area of treatments. The northern unit is located on a bench area west of Marlette that will provide a significant slope break that can help slow a surface fire advancing from the southwest or west. There is considerable ground that has been treated approximately 1300 feet below this unit that extends to the east shore of Lake Tahoe.

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

Answer: This project will protect and enhance wildlife habitat. The NDOW biologist assigned to the Nevada Tahoe Resource Team surveys the project area in advance of treatment and also post treatment. There are 15 acres of aspen in this project area that have competing conifers occupying the sites and these conifers will be cut and removed. This will give the aspen a competitive advantage and allow full development of the grass/forb understory that is typical of aspen sites. North Canyon is a migration route for several species of butterflies because it has water and lots of aspen. Post treatment monitoring of treated sites indicate that species such as flying squirrels, pine martin, osprey, pileated woodpeckers and bats are utilizing these habitats. We are still getting goshawk and spotted owl detections in the park in adjacent habitats which is very encouraging. Buffering the old growth red fir on the west shore of Marlette will afford an increased level of protection for that limited resource. The forest/habitat in the treated areas has weathered the current drought with reduced levels of tree mortality. Tree canopies have higher live crown ratios and greater needle retention which equates to healthier trees and sustainable habitat. Fewer trees per acre on the landscape makes more water available. The large extensive treated areas are making a difference in the Tahoe Basin and preliminary data from the recent Caldor fire indicates that treated areas fared better than untreated.

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

Answer: This project will treat some remaining areas that haven't been treated primarily due to difficult access. They are strategic parcels that will make the surrounding treated areas more effective. Both units are located at the ridgetop where a fire advancing from the west or southwest could get into another large drainage, North Canyon, which is a one-mile-wide forested canyon oriented SW – NE. The southern unit is the last piece tying together a large contiguous area that has been treated. Similarly, the northern unit complements the extensive treatments downslope well and affords an increased level of protection to the resource values at risk. Implementing effective fuel reduction measures in these locations, particularly with the availability of nearby water sources i.e., Lake Tahoe, Marlette Lake, Hobart Reservoir, and Spooner Lake is a positive action

3. **Improves sustainability of the multijurisdictional 10-year plans, environment, and financial resources.** Respond to each of the following. [Answer all applicable.](#)

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.).

Answer: The written prescription for thinning and brush removal will outline what will be cut to ensure that the desired stand attributes will be achieved. The two

units have different forest cover types and different history of activities that have strongly influenced the current state of the vegetation on site. The southern unit approach will establish and maintain Jeffrey pine as the dominant conifer on site while the northern unit is a red fir/Jeffrey pine cover type. Large diameter red fir and Jeffrey pine will remain on the landscape and advanced red fir and Jeffrey pine regeneration will be protected with minor component of western white pine and lodgepole pine. Most cutting to reduce basal area will be intermediate and suppressed trees that are primarily fir and pine. Conifer removal will be done on 15 acres of aspen to reduce competition and improve overall condition of both the overstory and understory vegetation. Stand densities will be variable 80-140 square feet per acre. Post treatment monitoring in units completed over the last 15-20 years has shown improved overall vigor in the conifers, more live crown and increased diameter growth. Annual tree mortality in treated units has remained at endemic levels of 4%-7%. Those indicators along with more available water and improved condition in the understory vegetation shows upward trend in overall condition of forest and habitat quality. Treatments have favored those species that require periodic disturbance of some kind to regenerate and become established.

2. Improve habitat for sensitive species and threatened and endangered species. Includes mitigation and/or minimization measures when treatment in sensitive habitat is unavoidable.

Answer: The NDOW team biologist is very involved with monitoring both pre-treatment and post treatment. The biologist will prescribe and direct implementation of mitigation measures such as LOP's as necessary. Nevada has the lowest number of bald eagle pairs in the continental U.S. There are 7 bald eagle territories in the state right now, which is the most since pre-1970. One of those is at Marlette Lake and was first discovered in 1996 and has been active ever since. That shows how reliable the habitat is there. Buffering the habitat area and doing some light maintenance with fire in that habitat is part of the strategy for long term maintenance of the habitat. Continuous monitoring of nearby spotted owl and goshawk populations will be necessary. Significant habitat burned the past two summers in the region so vigilance for new arrivals is warranted.

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

Answer: Broadcast fire is not included in the proposal but is being considered for the future maintenance of the treated area and the old growth red fir on the west shore of Marlette. It is imperative that fire be in the treatment strategy to fully achieve the objective of modifying fire behavior in these environments.

- 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

Answer: The resource values at risk in this area are high. The historic logging district designation, sensitive and T&E species, brood lake for Lahontan Cutthroat trout, conifer species of limited occurrence as identified in the TRPA Regional Plan, the only bona fide old growth in the State Park, aspen viewing in the fall, recreation just to name a few. The orientation of the forested canyon and the steep forested slope to the west toward Tahoe could definitely be the site of a major fire in the future. Considering the cost to suppress the fires that occurring during the current climate regime, an investment to tie together and enhance all the previous work that has been done is worthwhile.

4. **Demonstrates sound project management and quality control measures.** [Answer all applicable.](#)

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

Answer: The Tahoe team has been implementing projects under an MOU with TRPA since the inception of the Environmental Improvement Program began in 1997. The State of Nevada has a GOS contract with a list of pre-qualified contractors that are available to do work statewide. The State also has fiscal staff to handle that aspect of the implementation. The project goal is to implement an effective hazardous fuel reduction project on 420-452 acres following a written prescription that details the cutting of trees, brush, and the handling and disposal of the activity fuels. A burn plan will be required that must be approved by the State Forester/Fire Warden and burning will be done under the direction of NWCG qualified personnel. Trees and brush will be designated either by marking or description and boundaries will be flagged with orange/pink ribbon. There are currently no limited operating season restrictions that apply but if a detection of a new bird in the area requires that a LOP be imposed that will be done. Access will be controlled and contractor must have a permit in possession and a placard in the window of vehicles traveling in park backcountry.

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

Answer: The Nevada Tahoe Resource Team/NDSL implemented a similar project with a comparable level of difficulty with Round 8 and Round 10 SNPLMA projects in the Van Sickle Unit of Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park. That work was done with a contract crew and completed on time with excellent results. The team completed a 300-acre helicopter yarding project in 2018 that treated steep slopes with no access. This was another project that tied together a network of treated units once it was completed.

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

Answer: No

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

Answer: Yes, the State of Nevada will provide \$200,000 cash contribution.

L. ORDERS AND PRIORITIES

A. Executive Orders (EO):

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

Answer: YES. The Nevada Division of State Lands (NDSL), Division of State Parks (NDSP) and the Division of Forestry (NDF) are all signatory to the 10 Year Lake Tahoe Basin Multijurisdictional Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Strategy. As a member of the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team, the State Agencies participate annually with other agencies and partners in strategic planning for fuel reduction projects and collaborate on funding requests. This collaboration addresses the three tenets of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Strategy to restore and maintain fire resilient landscapes, create fire adapted communities, and provide safe and effective wildfire response.

- ***EO No. 14005: Ensuring the Future is Made in All of America by All of America's Workers***

Answer: N/A

B. Secretarial Orders

- ***SO No. 3347: Conservation Stewardship and Outdoor Recreation.***

Answer: N/A

- ***SO No. 3356: Hunting, Fishing, Recreational Shooting, and Wildlife Conservation Opportunities and Coordination with States, Tribes and Territories.***

Answer: N/A

- ***SO No. 3362: Improving Habitat Quality in Western Big-Game Winter Range and Migration Corridors.***

Answer: N/A

- ***SO No. 3366: Increasing Recreational Opportunities on Lands and Waters Managed by the U.S. Department of the Interior***

Answer: N/A

- ***SO No. 3370: Conservation Stewardship and Increasing Public Access to Urban National Wildlife Refuges.***

Answer: N/A

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

Answer: N/A

- ***SO No. 3373: Evaluating Public Access in Bureau of Land Management Public Land Disposal and Exchanges (focus is on Sec. 4.b.(3) Potential increased public recreational access to existing public lands resulting from the proposed land acquired through an exchange (acquisition).***

Answer: N/A

- ***SO No. 3374: Implementation of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management and Recreation Act.***

Answer: N/A

- ***SO No. 3376: Increasing Recreational Opportunities through the use of Electric Bikes.***

Answer: N/A

C. Department of the Interior Priorities:

1. ***Identifying steps to accelerate responsible development of renewable energy on public lands and waters.*** We are investing in climate research and environmental innovation to incentivize the rapid deployment of clean energy solutions, while reviewing existing programs to restore balance on America's public lands and waters to benefit current and future generations.

Answer: N/A

2. ***Strengthening the government-to-government relationship with sovereign Tribal nations.*** *We understand that tribal sovereignty and self-governance, as well as honoring the federal trust responsibility to Tribal Nations, must be the cornerstones of federal Indian policy.*

Answer: Yes. The State of Nevada has made a significant effort to strengthen the government-to-government relationship with sovereign Tribal nations. The recently established Nevada Indian Commission is an integral part of the Governor's Cabinet that works closely with State Agencies to encourage meaningful dialogue with Nevada Tribes on a government-to-government basis. State agencies now are required to annually report on communication with Tribes and there is an increased emphasis on collaborating with Tribes in the project planning process.

3. ***Making investments to support the Administration's goal of creating millions of family-supporting and union jobs.*** *This includes establishing a new Climate Conservation Corps Initiative to put a new generation of Americans to work conserving and restoring public lands and waters, increasing reforestation, increasing carbon sequestration in the agricultural sector, protecting biodiversity, improving access to recreation, and addressing the changing climate.*

Answer: N/A

4. ***Working to conserve at least 30% each of our lands and waters by the year 2030.*** *We will work to protect biodiversity, slow extinction rates, and help leverage natural climate solutions by conserving 30% of America's lands and waters by 2030. This relies on support for local, state, private, and tribally led conservation and restoration efforts that are underway across America.*

Answer: N/A

5. ***Centering equity and environmental justice.*** *The impacts of the multiple crises in the United States are not evenly distributed in our society. Communities of color, low-income families, and rural and indigenous communities have long suffered disproportionate and cumulative harm from air pollution, water pollution, and toxic sites. At every step of the way, Interior will engage diverse stakeholders across the country, as well as conduct formal consultation with Tribes in recognition of the U.S. government's trust responsibilities.*

Answer: N/A

D. USDA Forest Service Priorities:

1. Controlling the COVID-19 pandemic

Answer: N/A

2. Providing economic relief

Answer: N/A

3. Tackling climate change

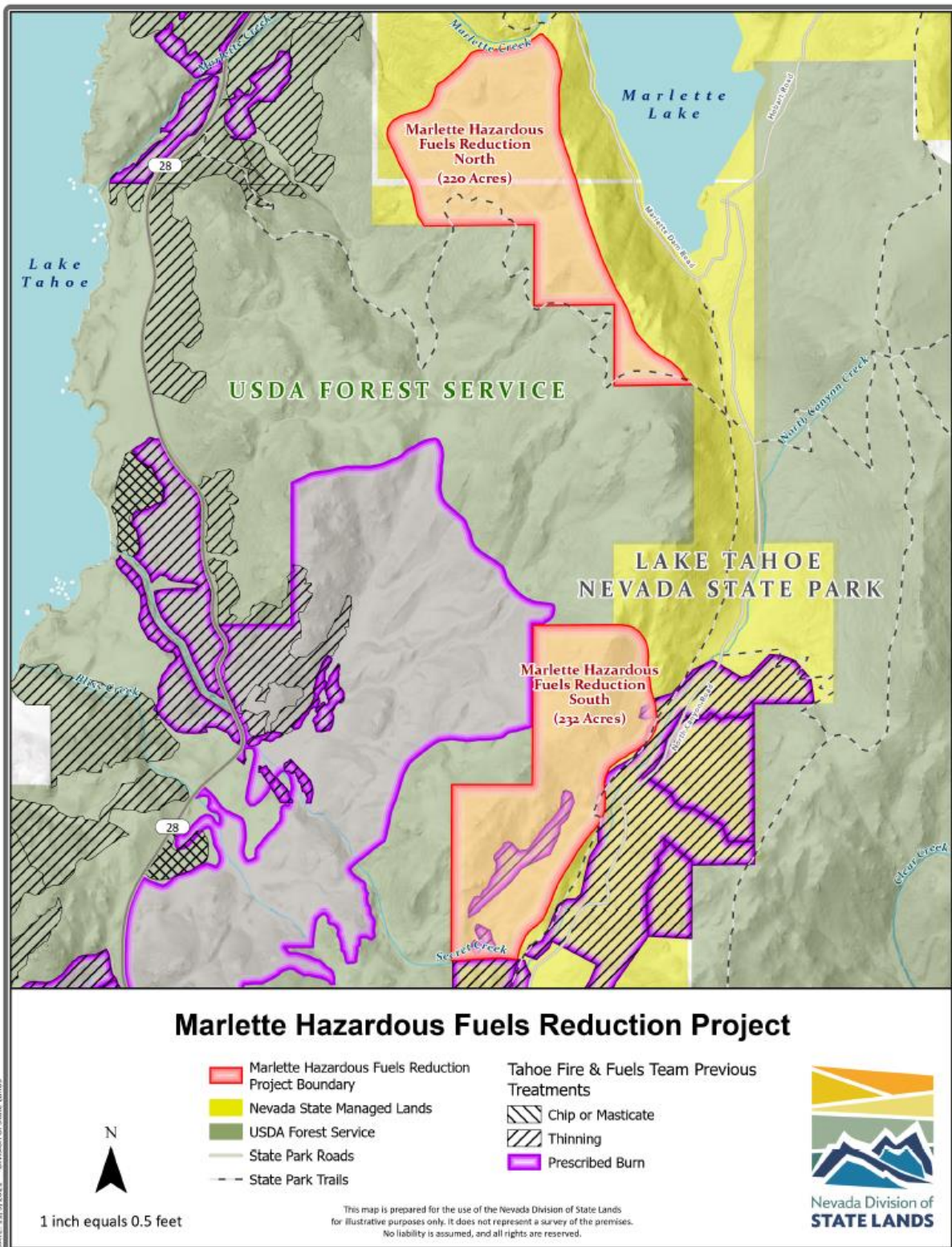
Answer: N/A

4. Advancing racial equity

Answer: N/A

5. Improving our workforce and work environment

Answer: N/A



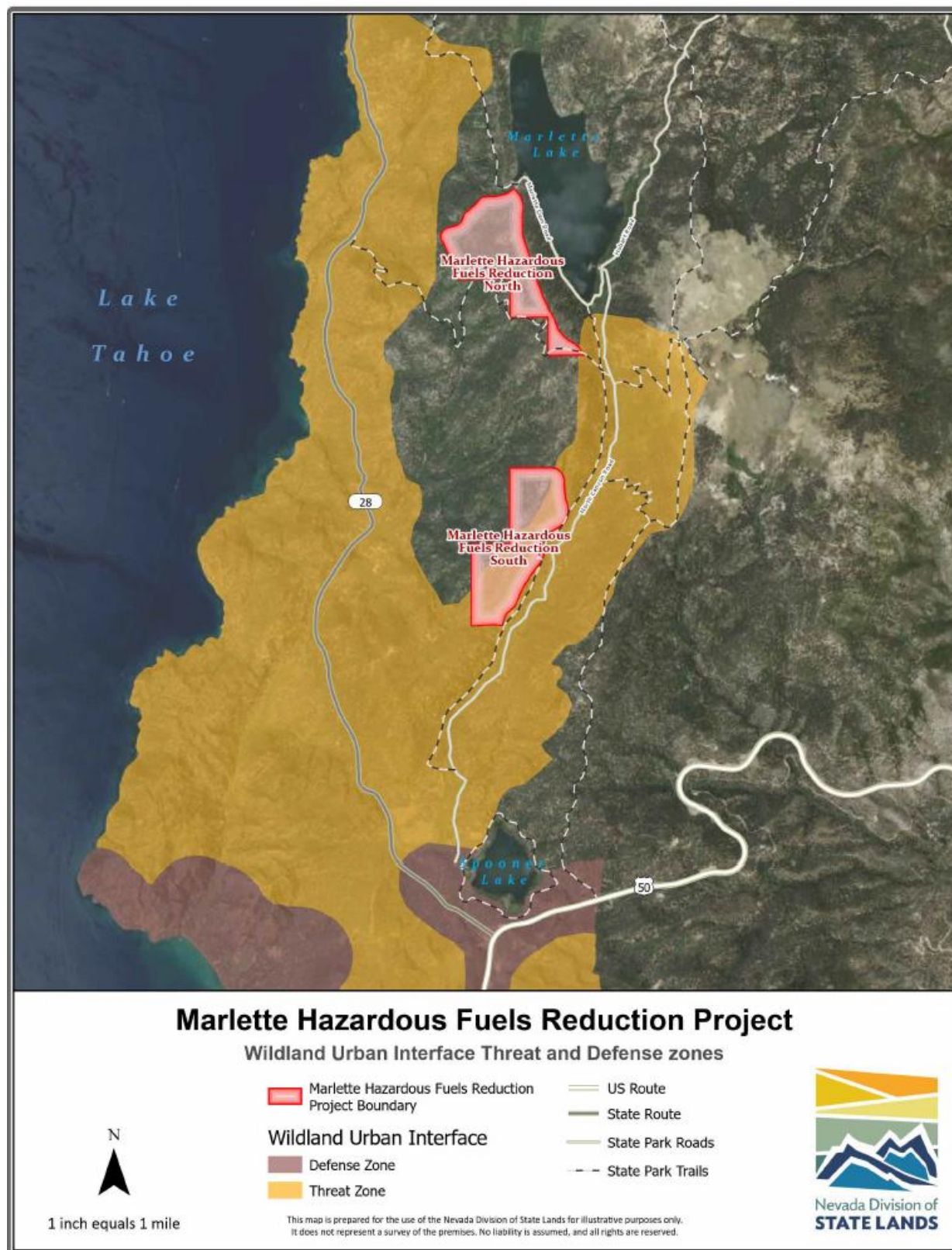


Figure 2: Marlette Hazardous Fuels Reduction, Defense and Threat Zones

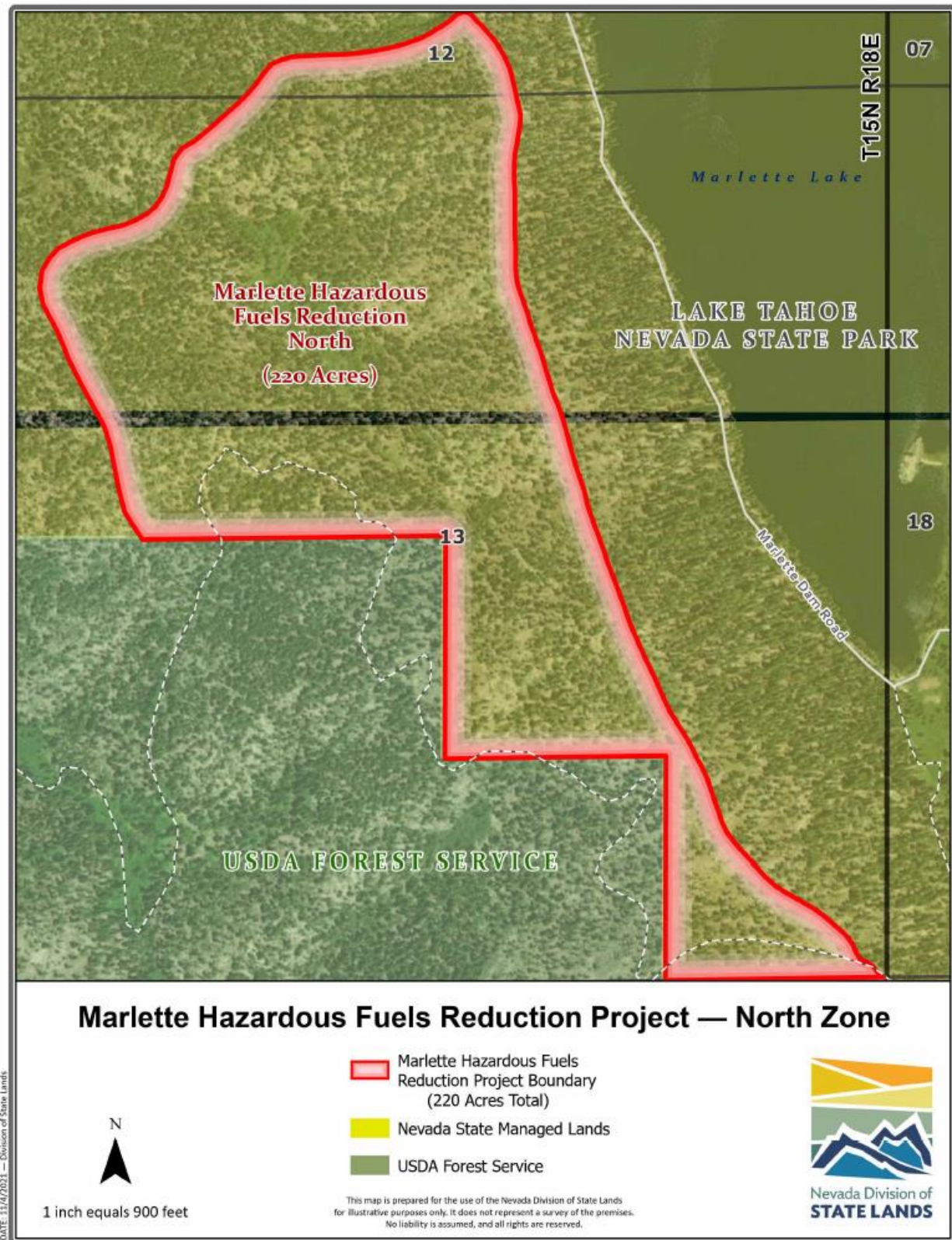


Figure 3: North Zone Map – Orthoimagery

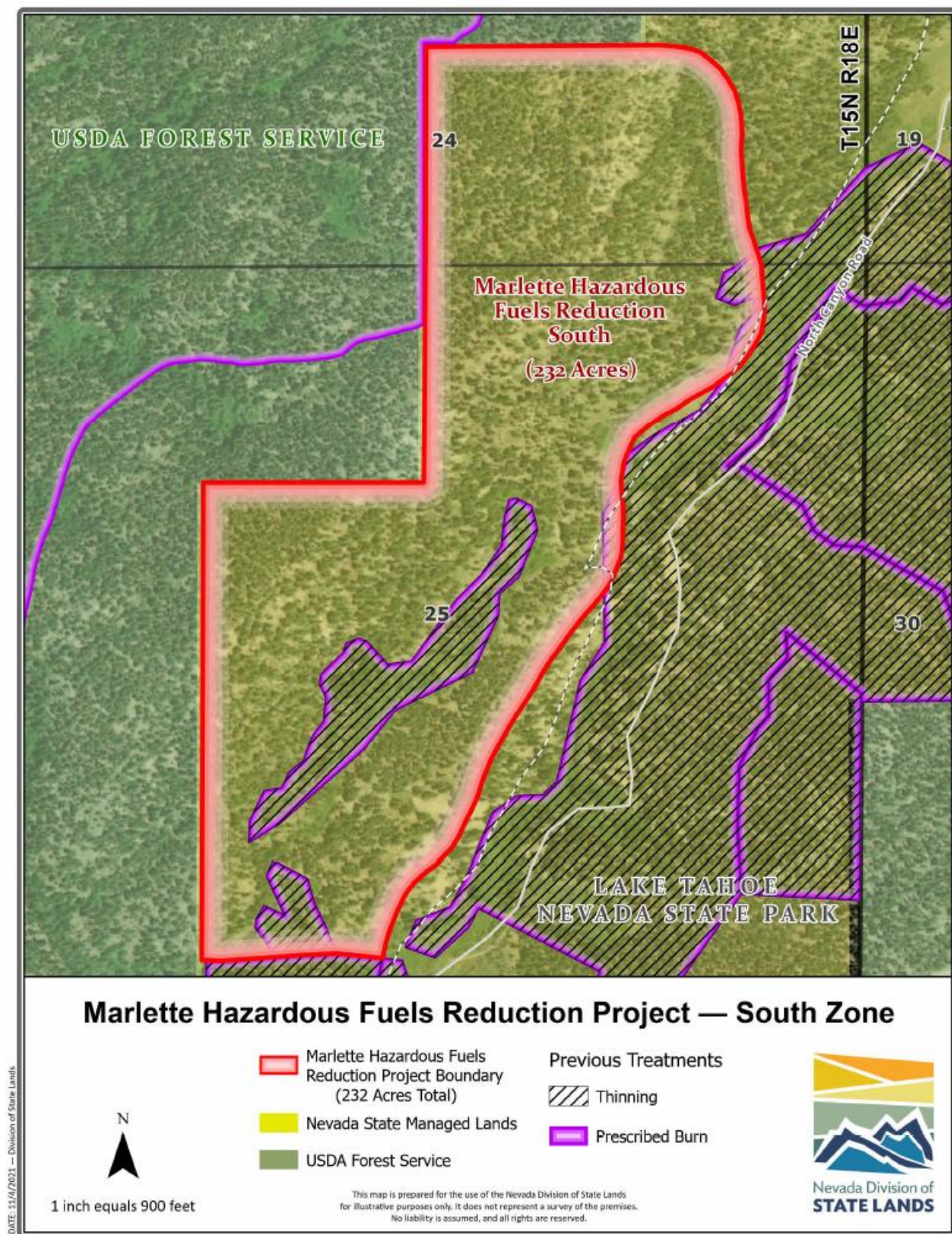


Figure 4: South Zone Map – Orthoimagery

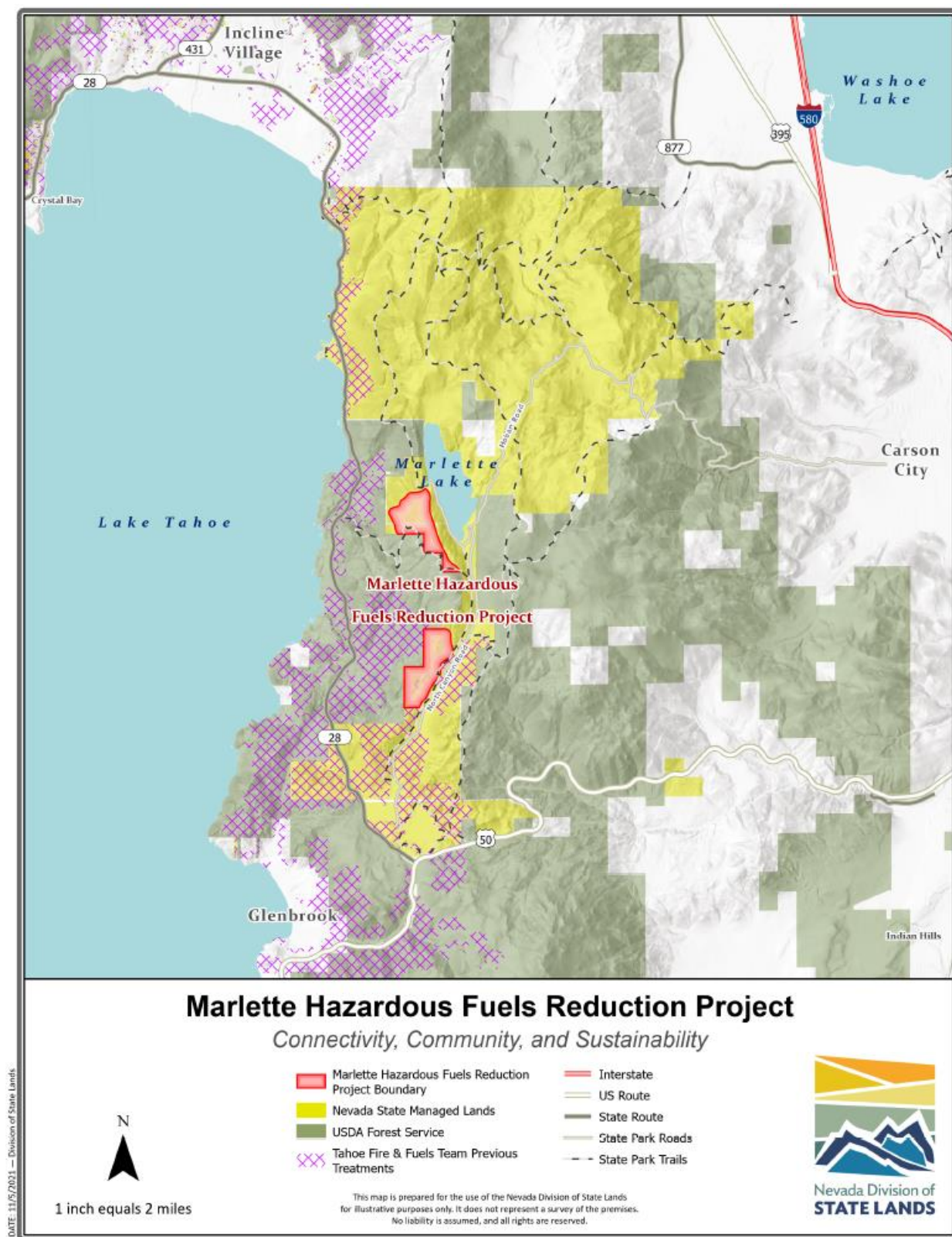


Figure 5: SNPLMA Strategic Values- Connectivity, Community and Sustainability

N. PERFORMANCE MEASURES

SNPLMA FY2020-FY2024 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL 1: Sustain the Quality of the Outdoor Environment by Conserving, Preserving, and Restoring Natural and Cultural Resources		
Performance Measures for Wildland Fire Management	Definition of Performance Measure	Quantity
F1 - Acres of Hazardous Fuels Treated – Non- Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)	Report the total number of acres of hazardous fuels treated, enhanced, or restored to reduce wildland fuels hazards and to restore or maintain ecosystem resiliency outside the WUI. Where multiple treatments are necessary to meet vegetation management objectives, such as hand thinning followed by re-seeding, each treatment is counted individually.	420-452

O. PHOTOS



Photo 1: Old decaying logging debris and fir regeneration in the northern unit, west of Marlette Lake.



Photo 2: Advanced red fir regeneration with pockets of standing and down dead trees, west aspect in northern unit west of Marlette Lake.



Photo 3: Aspen clone west of Marlette Lake showing competing conifers that would be removed to give aspen a competitive advantage.



Photo 4: A view looking southwest down North Canyon; the Secret Harbor unit of the project area is in the right center of the photo.



Photo 5: Aspen clone that would be released by fuels reduction treatments near Secret Harbor Creek in the southern unit.



Photo 6: Marlette Creek connector trail section through a typical mature (5 feet+) tobacco brush stand that would be cut in northern unit west of Marlette Lake.

P. SUPPORT LETTERS

1. Tahoe Fire & Fuels Team
2. Bureau of Land Management, Sierra Front Field Office (Consultation Letter)
3. USDA Forest Service, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (Consultation Letter)
4. Nevada Division of State Lands (Contribution Letter)



November 4, 2021

Robert Wandel
Assistant District Manager, SNPLMA Division
Bureau of Land Management
4702 North Torrey Pines Drive
Las Vegas, Nevada 89130

Re: SNPLMA Round 19 Nominations for Hazardous Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention in the Lake Tahoe Basin

Dear Mr. Wandel and other Nomination Reviewers:

Thank you for your consideration of the Lake Tahoe Basin's (Basin) Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) Round 19 project nominations. The Basin's 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 Basin to plan, prioritize, and implement fuel reduction and fire prevention projects that protect life, property, and the environment. In 2020 the TFFT collaborated to identify critical need projects and develop ten SNPLMA Round 18 nominations that advance the goals of the Strategy. The ten Round 18 nominations were all recommended for funding. With the opening of the Round 19 call for nominations, TFFT partners again collaborated to identify critical needs. The two Round 19 nominations represent essential priority projects that were not included in the Basin's Round 18 nomination package.

Communities across the western United States are currently witnessing the catastrophe of yet another record-breaking wildfire season. This season it hit closer to home with the Caldor Fire, a fire that started well outside of the Basin and burned its way in. The Caldor Fire demonstrated the effectiveness of hazardous fuels reduction treatments in the WUI. While the Caldor Fire burned nearly 1000 structures, not a single home was lost in the Basin. The successful firefight was due in-part to the hazardous fuels reduction treatments that had previously been



*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.*

completed by TFFT partners. Despite this success, the TFFT partners realize there is still much work to do to make our communities more fire resilient.

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 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 65,000 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 two Hazardous Fuel Reduction (HFR) and Wildfire Prevention nominations for SNPLMA Round 19, each representing a critical component of the Strategy. The nominations are:

1) **Marlette HFR Project**

Agency: Nevada Division of State Lands
Funding Requested: \$650,000

2) **Faith-Based Retreats HFR Project**

Agency: Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District
Funding Requested: \$328,210

The Marlette HFR Project will reduce risk to the Marlette Lake basin from wildland fire coming upslope from the southwest or west. It will include the thinning of areas of dense conifers and brush, reducing surface fuels from past logging, hand-piling debris, and pile burning. The project will also connect extensive treatment areas within the Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park. Marlette Lake is a domestic water source for Carson City and Virginia City. It is a brood lake for Nevada Department of Wildlife and is also a high use recreation site for mountain biking, hiking, and fishing.

The Faith-Based Retreats HFR Project will reduce fire risk within the WUI on privately owned property at Camp Galilee in Glenbrook and at Zephyr Point Presbyterian Conference Center in Zephyr Cove, Nevada. The project 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 or a fire start within the property itself. Treatment will include thinning and removal of fuels within the project areas.



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.

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 19 nominations.

Sincerely,



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



Forest Schafer
Incident Commander, Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team
Director of the Natural Resources Division, California Tahoe Conservancy



*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.*



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Sierra Front Field Office
5665 Morgan Mill Road
Carson City, Nevada 89701
Phone: 775-885-6000 Fax: 775-885-6147
<http://www.blm.gov/nevada>



In Reply Refer To:
2710 (NVC02)

OCT 08 2021

Meredith Gosejohan
Tahoe Program Manager
901 South Stewart street, Suite 5003
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Dear Meredith:

This correspondence acknowledges the participation of the Division of State Lands (State) in the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act (SNPLMA) Round 19 Hazardous Fuels Reduction & Wildlife Prevention (Fuels) consultation meeting held on September 29, 2021. I would like to personally thank you and the State for participation in Round 19.

The State has met the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) consultation requirement for the Marlette Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project Round 19 nomination. The nomination is located entirely on State lands and does not include any actions on or impacts to BLM managed lands. The State should consult with its attorneys and follow the State policy regarding application of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) as it relates to actions on State lands. Application of the National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106) is required to receive funding for these projects.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the consultation meeting or the SNPLMA program in general, please contact Colleen Dingman, Project Manager, at (775) 885-6168 or cjdingman@blm.gov.

Sincerely,

MARINA FENNEL
2021.10.07
16:23:51 -07'00'

Marina Fennel
Acting Field Manager
Sierra Front Field Office

12 OCT '21 AM 10:14

INTERIOR REGION 10 • CALIFORNIA-GREAT BASIN
CALIFORNIA*, NEVADA*, OREGON*
* PARTIAL



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: November 3, 2021

Robert Wandel
Assistant District Manager - SNPLMA Division
Bureau of Land Management
4701 N. Torrey Pines Dr.
Las Vegas, NV 89130

Dear Mr. Wandel:

This letter is to document the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit's support for the Nevada Division of State Lands Round 19 SNPLMA project proposal for the Marlette Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project.

The Marlette Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project would implement approximately 400 acres of critical fuels reduction and forest health treatments on Nevada State Parks owned lands. The project would reduce risk to the Marlette basin from a wildland fire coming upslope from the southwest or west.

National Forest System lands located to the west of the project area provide multiple ecosystem services including clean water, critical and rare late seral habitat utilized by the California Spotted Owl and Northern goshawk, and extensive recreational opportunities. The area includes State Highway 28, hiking and biking trails that access Marlette Lake, the Flume Trail and the Tahoe Rim Trail, parking areas and access points to the East shore beaches of Lake Tahoe. The Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit has implemented thousands of acres of forest health and fuels reduction treatments along the Highway 28 corridor from Spooner Summit to Incline Village to protect these valuable resources. The treatments proposed will connect work accomplished on the National Forest to work already completed within the State Park, creating a network of treatments across the landscape that promote healthy forests that are more resilient to natural disturbances such as wildfire, drought, insect and disease outbreaks and climate change.

This project will continue the important forest restoration work being achieved through the Tahoe Basin's Environmental Improvement Program and meets the goals and objectives of the Tahoe Basin Multi-Jurisdictional Fuels Reduction and Fire Prevention Strategy.

Sincerely,

VICKI LANKFORD
Deputy Forest Supervisor

cc: mgosejohan@lands.nv.gov



Caring for the Land and Serving People

Printed on Recycled Paper





Nevada Division of
STATE LANDS

STATE OF NEVADA
Department of Conservation & Natural Resources

Steve Sisolak, *Governor*
Bradley Crowell, *Director*
Charles Donohue, *Administrator*

Robert Wandel
Assistant District Manager – SNPLMA Division
Bureau of Land Management
4701 N. Torrey Pines Dr.
Las Vegas, NV 89130

RE: STATE OF NEVADA MARLETTE HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION PROJECT – MATCH CONTRIBUTION

Dear Mr. Wandel,

As part of NDSL's Round 19 submittal titled "Marlette Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project", matching funds will be contributed for the completion of the nominated project from the State of Nevada in the amount of \$200,000. A general obligation bond sale for the project was approved by the State of Nevada Board of Finance on October 26, 2021. Contractors will be utilized to complete the project work in Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park which includes biological surveys, thinning trees, piling trees and slash, and burning piles. The cash match contribution from the State of Nevada will be used to fund biological surveys and the contractors completing the fuels reduction work at a rate of \$3,500 per acre for a total of \$1,582,000. Therefore, the Round 19 request for the Marlette Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project is \$1,382,000 with a matching contribution of \$200,000 from the State of Nevada.

If SNPLMA funding is not available for this project in the full amount requested above, the project may be phased by splitting the North and South Zones. Phase 1 would consist of the South Zone at 232 acres for a total of \$812,000. In this case, the State of Nevada cash match of \$200,000 would still be used for Phase 1 of the project due to the need to spend the bond funding in a timely manner. Therefore, the SNPLMA request would be lowered to \$612,000. Phase 2 of the project, the North Zone, could be completed at a later time.

If you have any questions or require additional detail on the cash match contribution, please contact me at (775) 684-2738.

Sincerely,

Charlie Donohue
Administrator