

The Nevada Fire Safe Council

124 Communities choosing to be "Fire Safe"

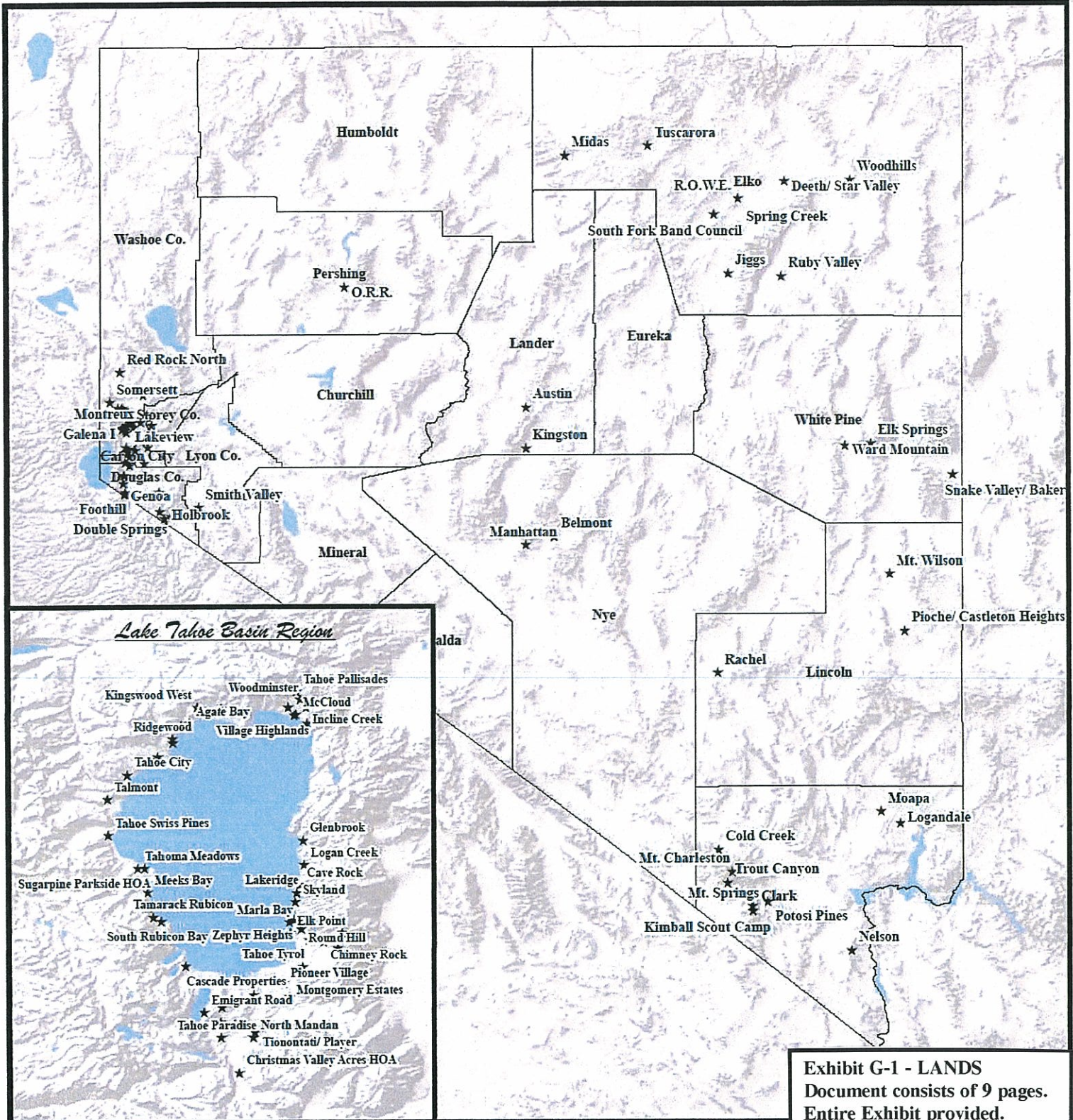


Exhibit G-1 - LANDS
Document consists of 9 pages.
Entire Exhibit provided.
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"WORKING TO MAKE COMMUNITIES FIRE SAFE"

March 18, 2010

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before the Nevada Legislative Committee on Public Lands. The Nevada Fire Safe Council (NVFSC), in existence since 2001, is thankful for the support of the State of Nevada and our other partners, including the United States Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Nevada Division of Forestry, and other public and private contributors.

The Nevada Fire Safe Council currently works with 124 communities and more than 5000 volunteers in the State of Nevada and the Lake Tahoe Basin to educate citizens about the threats inherent to living in a fire prone environment and mitigate the risk of catastrophic loss due to wildfire. Our operations are divided into four regions: Northeastern/Central, Southern, Sierra Front, and Tahoe Basin.

- In the Sierra Front Region, which includes the Eastern slopes of the Sierra Nevada Mountain range and portions of Douglas, Carson City, Washoe, and Lyon Counties, approximately 1070 acres were treated in 2009. This includes smaller residential properties as well as some parcels 10+ acres in size. Community biomass collection sites in five communities allowed citizens to easily dispose of green waste and provided fuels to the biomass energy facility in Carson City.
- In the Northeastern/Central Region, approximately 156 acres were treated in 2009. Most of this work was done in the ROWE and Rye Patch chapters to do road side clearances in cooperation with the Nevada Department of Transportation. In addition, dry hydrants were installed in the Deeth and Woodhills communities to provide additional suppression resources.
- In the Lake Tahoe Basin Region, working with the Tahoe Fire and Fuels team, 1405 acres of non-federal property identified by the fire protection districts underwent hazardous fuels reduction treatments in an effort to create shaded fuel breaks around communities considered at high or extreme risk due to catastrophic wildfire. The defensible space rebate program, which started in 2008, has helped 1379 properties in the Basin become compliant with defensible space compliance.
- In the Southern Region, which includes Clark and Lincoln and part of Nye Counties, 27 acres were treated in 2009 on 45 residential properties. Biomass in the region was used as part of a plan to rehabilitate agricultural lands of the Moapa Paiute Tribe.

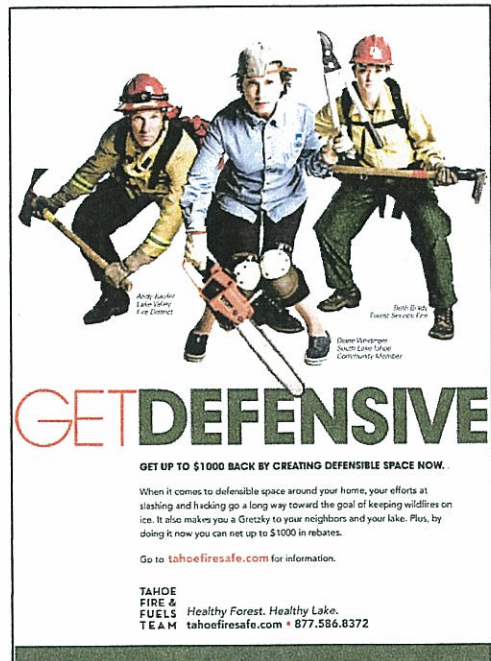
In addition to fuels reduction work, the Nevada Fire Safe Council continued to educate communities through the UNR Cooperative Extension's *Living with Fire* curriculum. Events, including defensible space demonstrations, walking tours, lectures, and evacuation drills, were concentrated during Wildland Fire Awareness Week in May. Nearly half of the NVFSC chapters participated in a fire safe education, demonstration or community cleanup event.

The Nevada Fire Safe Council's budget in 2009 for education and fire mitigation was \$6.2 million. Of this, 86% went directly for fire safe activities and 14% went towards accounting, reporting, and project administration.

The Nevada Fire Safe Council

The Nevada Fire Safe Council Defensible Space Rebate Program

To encourage compliance with California Public Resource Code 4291, Nevada Revised Statutes 472.120 and recommendations in *Living with Fire*, the Nevada Fire Safe Council has offered, since May 2008, a rebate to residents who voluntarily implement defensible space measures on private property. Not only is the creation of defensible space an issue of life and safety, but also a method of wildfire suppression cost containment. This was one conclusion of the Strategic Issues Panel on Fire Suppression Costs, a diverse group of senior level managers and administrators from federal, state, and local governments who studied five years of cost reports and 300 prior cost containment recommendations. In suppression terms, the panel concluded that fewer firefighters are necessary in a WUI that has undergone a hazardous fuels reduction project. Fire suppression resources can then use "point of control" tactics that are shown to more efficiently utilize fire suppression resources. The net result of a hazardous fuels reductions project in the WUI is fires that are less costly to contain and extinguish and may be shorter in duration. (Wildland Fire Leadership Council, Report to the Wildland Fire Leadership Council from the Strategic Issues Panel on Fire Suppression Costs, August 26 2004) The defensible space rebate program was designed to lower future suppression costs and tax-payer dollars by investing in defensible space. As of March 2009, 1379 residents have implemented defensible space recommendations and received a rebate averaging \$815. The average varies from a high of \$969 in the Fallen Leaf Lake area to \$730 in the City of South Lake Tahoe. The \$3 million program has been funded by \$1.1 million in federal funds secured through the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act (37%) and \$1.9 million in non-federal funds provided directly by homeowners (63%). The program will continue in 2010 and beyond if additional grant funding is secured. Demand is expected to increase in 2010 with the release of the "Get Defensive" campaign.



NVFSC Rebate Program as of 2.23.10

FPD	Vouchers Issued	Vouchers Approved	Rebate Total	Non-Federal Share	Total Treatment Cost
North Tahoe	460	310	\$ 259,337.93	\$ 468,772.93	\$ 728,110.86
Meeks Bay	168	122	\$ 94,976.75	\$ 178,719.00	\$ 273,695.75
Lake Valley	449	310	\$ 244,568.83	\$ 355,204.35	\$ 599,773.18
Tahoe Douglas	307	233	\$ 191,037.60	\$ 312,779.10	\$ 503,816.70
N. Lake Tahoe	326	228	\$ 191,709.70	\$ 336,479.02	\$ 528,188.72
City of SLT FPD	229	163	\$ 119,726.50	\$ 175,122.00	\$ 294,848.50
Fallen Leaf FPD	28	13	\$ 12,600.00	\$ 32,843.50	\$ 45,443.50
TOTAL	1967	1379	\$ 1,113,957.31	\$ 1,859,919.90	\$ 2,973,877.21

Average Rebate: \$ 807.80
 Average Private Share: \$ 1,348.75
 Average Total Treatment: \$ 2,156.55



TFFT Project Spotlight

Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District- Slaughterhouse Canyon

Slaughterhouse Canyon bisects a large 6.4 square mile watershed that extends 7 miles from State Route 28 on the north, through the Glenbrook Fire Safe Chapter, to an outflow point on the shore of Lake Tahoe. Seasonal, intermittent water draining from numerous lateral tributaries flows into the main Slaughterhouse channel ultimately being discharged into Lake Tahoe after passing through an extensive meadow. A variety of hazardous forest fuel complexes existed in this watershed ranging from dense, decadent stands of brush on steep, dry southerly facing exposures, to scattered overstory stands of second growth pine with an understory of brush, to overstocked mixed conifer stands existing on north facing slopes and drainage bottoms where more favorable growing conditions occur. In the canyon bottom, several meadows have formed that support grass and sedge cover with dense stands of decadent willows occupying the active channel. Throughout the canyon, high levels of tree mortality resulting from extended periods of drought coupled with insect attacks had resulted in excessive accumulations of dead and down heavy fuels on the forest floor.



Above: The Slaughterhouse Canyon Project area prior to thinning to reduce stand density, remove dead and down materials and thin surface fuels. Below: The same area following treatment. Remaining fuels will no longer support a fast burning crown fire.



The treatment of fuels in Slaughterhouse Canyon represented the final phase of a perimeter fuel break around the Glenbrook Community. Work on the fuel break, recommended by the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), began in 2002 with the Glenbrook Project, a small core of concerned and dedicated residents.

The overall goals of the proposed fuel treatment were to lower fire intensity and create a defense zone where firefighters can safely but aggressively achieve control of an advancing fire. This was done by reducing fuel volume, disrupting fuel continuity, removing ladder fuels, and altering fuel composition. This will reduce the intensity of an advancing fire, reduce flame lengths, slow rates of spread, and burn the remaining surface fuels rather than spreading through tree crowns. Keeping fire on the surface also reduces the production of airborne embers and firebrands, the major source of spot fires and home ignition. While protecting community homes and lives is the paramount justification for creating the fuel break, the established defense zone also protects the surrounding property and watersheds from fire that may start in and spread from the community. The project was paid in part by grant funds and significant private funding contributions from the Glenbrook Homeowners Association. The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency recognized the project with a "Best in the Basin" award in 2009.



Tahoe Douglas FPD 2009 Projects Map

 TFFT Division  Project Area

0 0.5 1 2 Miles



TFFT
TAHOE FIRE & FUELS TEAM

The TFFT (Tahoe Fire & Fuels Team) provides this data "as is." This information is derived from multiple sources, which may, in part, not be current, is outside the control of the TFFT, and may be of dubious accuracy. The areas depicted by these maps, photos, and data are approximate, and are not necessarily accurate to surveying or engineering standards. The TFFT makes no warranty or guaranty as to the content, accuracy, timeliness, or completeness of any of the data provided, and assumes no legal responsibility for the information contained.



TFFT Project Spotlight: North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District - East Wood Creek

The East Wood Creek project is a 57 acre project near Incline Village, Nevada. The project borders USFS land to the north, residential neighborhoods to the east and south and Wood Creek to the west.

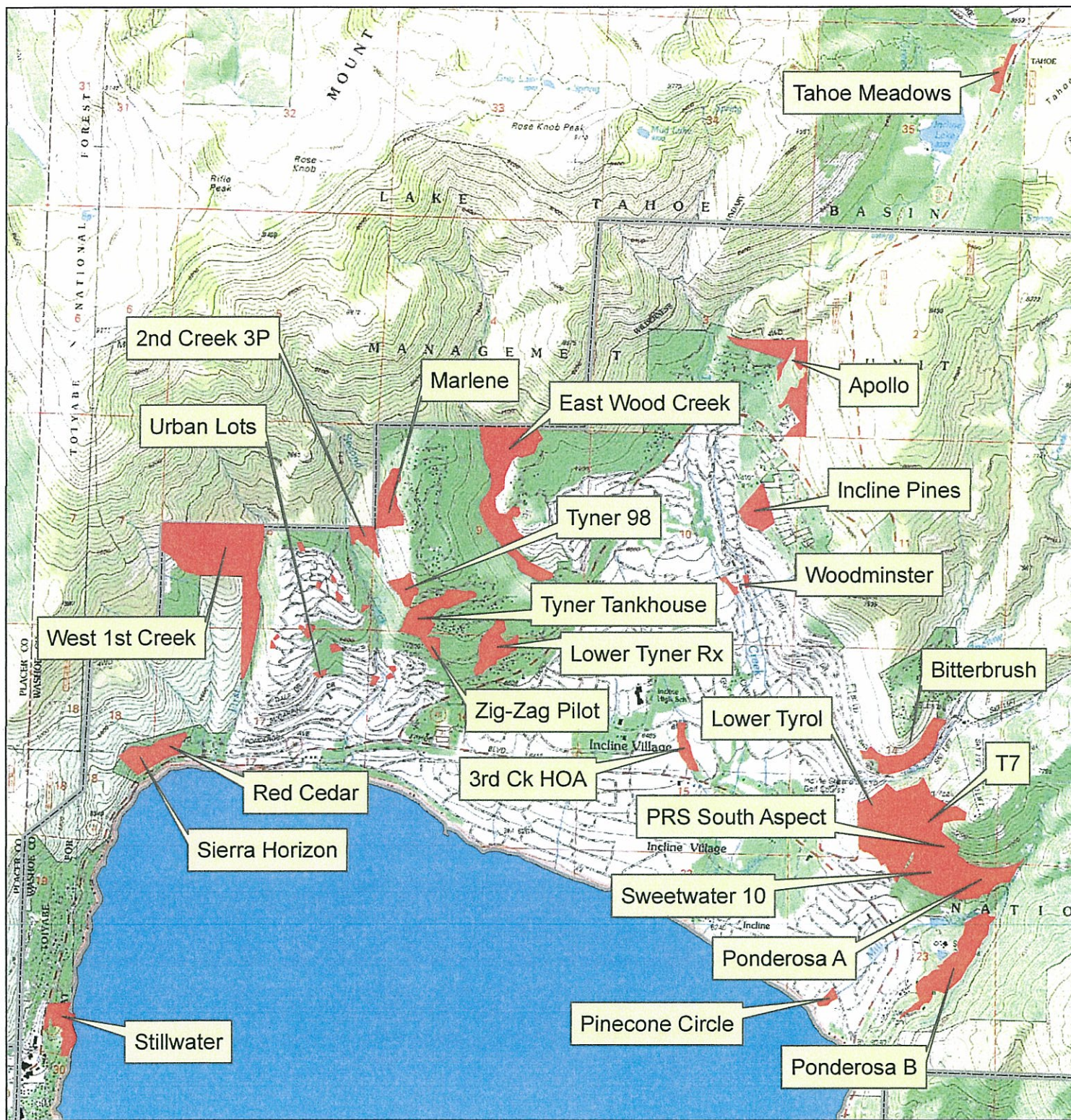
The project area was characterized by a combination of overstocked forests, dense brush and dead fuels. The stand is Sierra mixed conifer with an overstory dominated by Jeffrey pine, ponderosa pine, white fir and red fir. In areas with high canopy cover the understory tree density was very high. Jackpots of dead-and-down fuels along with standing dead snags were common near Wood Creek. Dense patches of fir and pine regeneration had become established in some open, shaded areas on less extreme slopes. The overstory was broken by tall, dense patches of greenleaf manzanita, sierra chinquapin, tobacco brush and huckleberry oak. Average slopes in the area were 40%, but approached 65% in some areas. Wood Creek, categorized as a stream environment zone, occupies 6 acres. These factors contributed to the extreme risk of a catastrophic wildfire.



Above Left: Wood Creek, located near Incline Village, Washoe County, Nevada, prior to the hazardous fuels reduction project. The area overstocked Jeffrey pine, ponderosa pine, white fir, and red fir. Open areas were overgrown with surface fuels, primarily Manzanita brush. Above Right: A NLTFPD crewmember fells a tree during the project.

All operations were conducted by NLTFPD hand crews using chain saws to cut trees and other fuels. Slash was piled for burning at least 50 feet from watercourses and arranged to minimize scorch of residual trees. All standing dead trees less than 18 inches DBH were felled unless designated for retention for wildlife values. Approximately 75% of existing shrub cover was removed. Limbs of remaining trees were pruned to a minimum height of six feet to prevent a ground fire from spreading into the crown of the tree.

The goal of this project was to protect life, property and the environment by reducing forest fuels and improving forest health. The removal of ladder fuels, reduction of dead-and-down debris, increased crown to base height and trees and brush thinning have reduced potential fire intensity and protected nearby resources from catastrophic wildfire. Environmental, scenic, and recreational values have been enhanced by reducing competition among desired species and altering stand characteristics to more closely resemble a historical stand.



North Lake Tahoe FPD 2009 Projects Map

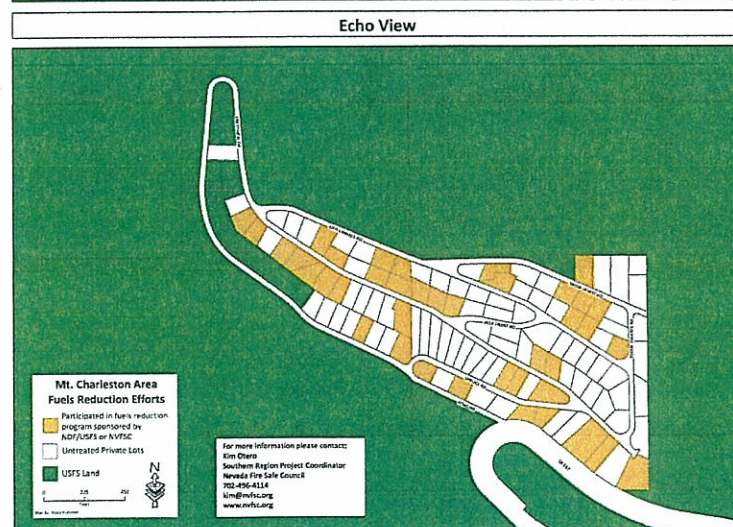
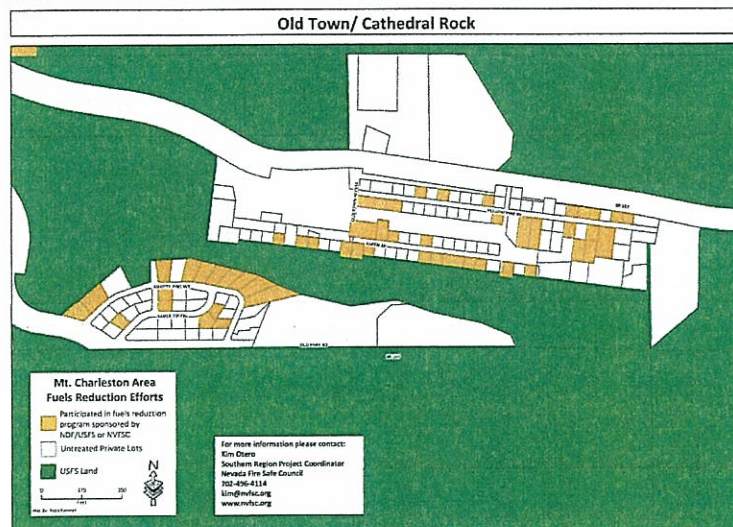
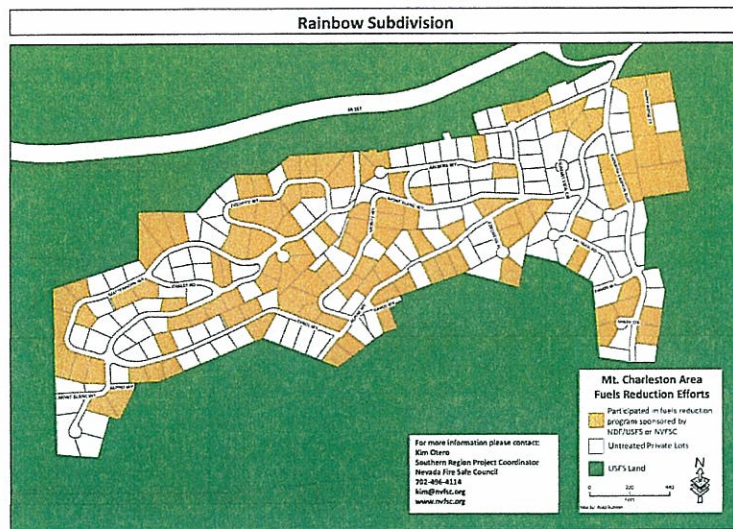


TFFT Division
 Project Area

0 0.375 0.75 1.5 Miles



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Southern Region Spotlight: Mt. Charleston/Kyle Canyon

The Mt. Charleston Chapter has worked towards becoming a fire safe community since its formation in 2002. In 2009, an additional 30 parcels within the Chapter were treated. Each participating property was given a forest health inspection prior to treatment. Work involved a combination of hand crews and mechanical equipment. Hand crews thinned steep sloped properties and properties without large diameter trees in the community. A crane was used to take down large diameter trees deemed fire hazards. Whenever possible, adjacent properties were treated to provide a continuous fuel break. Nearly all vegetation and slash removed through Nevada Fire Safe Council chapters in the Spring Mountain Range is used to supplement soil amendments used to restore farmland at the Moapa Paiute Indian Reservation.

The Spring Mountain National Recreation Area Spring Clean-up Day was held once again to remove litter and debris throughout the developed recreation areas in Kyle and Lee Canyons. Overall event attendance was 500 people, with 88 homes participating in the pine needle pick-up program. Over 36 tons of potential wildfire fuels (pine needles, etc.) were removed from the area. This event was a collaboration of 14 agencies and additional sponsors. In-kind contributions for the one-day event totaled more than \$2,000.

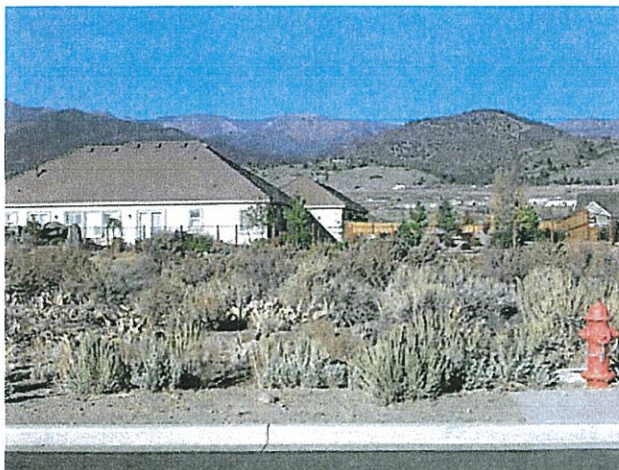
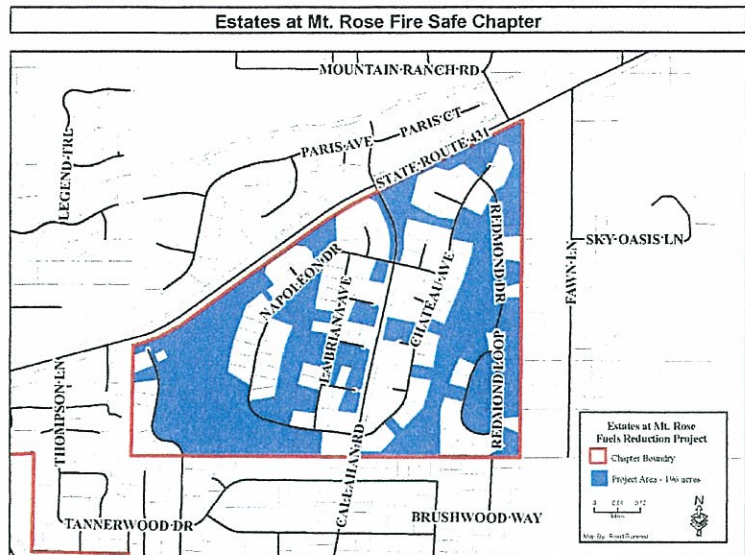
In Fall 2009, the NVFSC worked with the Nevada Division of Forestry to remove fuels on the Lundy Elementary School grounds. The estimated biomass removed was approximately 30 tons. Chips from the project were used as soil amendment and the Mt. Charleston chapter donated the wood to the school's Fall Festival fundraiser/auction.

Sierra Front Project Spotlight

The Estates at Mt. Rose

In 2007, community leaders Sue Chelone and Tom Daly took the initiative to form the Estates at Mt. Rose Chapter. Since its formation, the Nevada Fire Safe Council has been awarded grants to implement recommendations in the Washoe County Community Wildfire Protection Plan. The first phase of the fuels reduction program, funded by a grant through the Nevada Division of Forestry, focused on private properties within the community. To control the spread of cheatgrass, a non native and highly flammable species, the herbicide Plateau was applied to treated areas. To replace vegetation removed during the project, mitigate erosion and control fugitive dust, property owners were given a native and fire-resistant seed mix. The second phase, funded through the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act, focused on homeowner association open space in and around the community. Open space was treated with mastication equipment.

To date, 50% of private residential properties have been treated, making the residential component of this community approximately 85% complete. Homeowners contributed cash and sweat equity to the project. Work on open space in the Estates at Mt. Rose is 100% complete, thanks in part to a 1/3 match provided by the homeowners association. In all, 196 acres have been treated in the community and 1176 tons of material has been removed. Chapter Leader Sue Chelone contributed nearly 250 volunteers towards making her Chapter fire safe, and was recognized with an award from the Nevada Fire Safe Council Board of directors in 2009.



Above Left: Home in Estates at Mt. Rose Chapter prior to treatment. Note overgrowth of sage and bitterbrush. **Above Right:** The same home following implementation of defensible space recommendations. The mosaic pattern of remaining vegetation is designed to break up vegetation continuity and slow the rate of fire spread.