This is the motto of the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team (TFFT). The team was organized in February, 2008 after lengthy discussions that established the following principles:

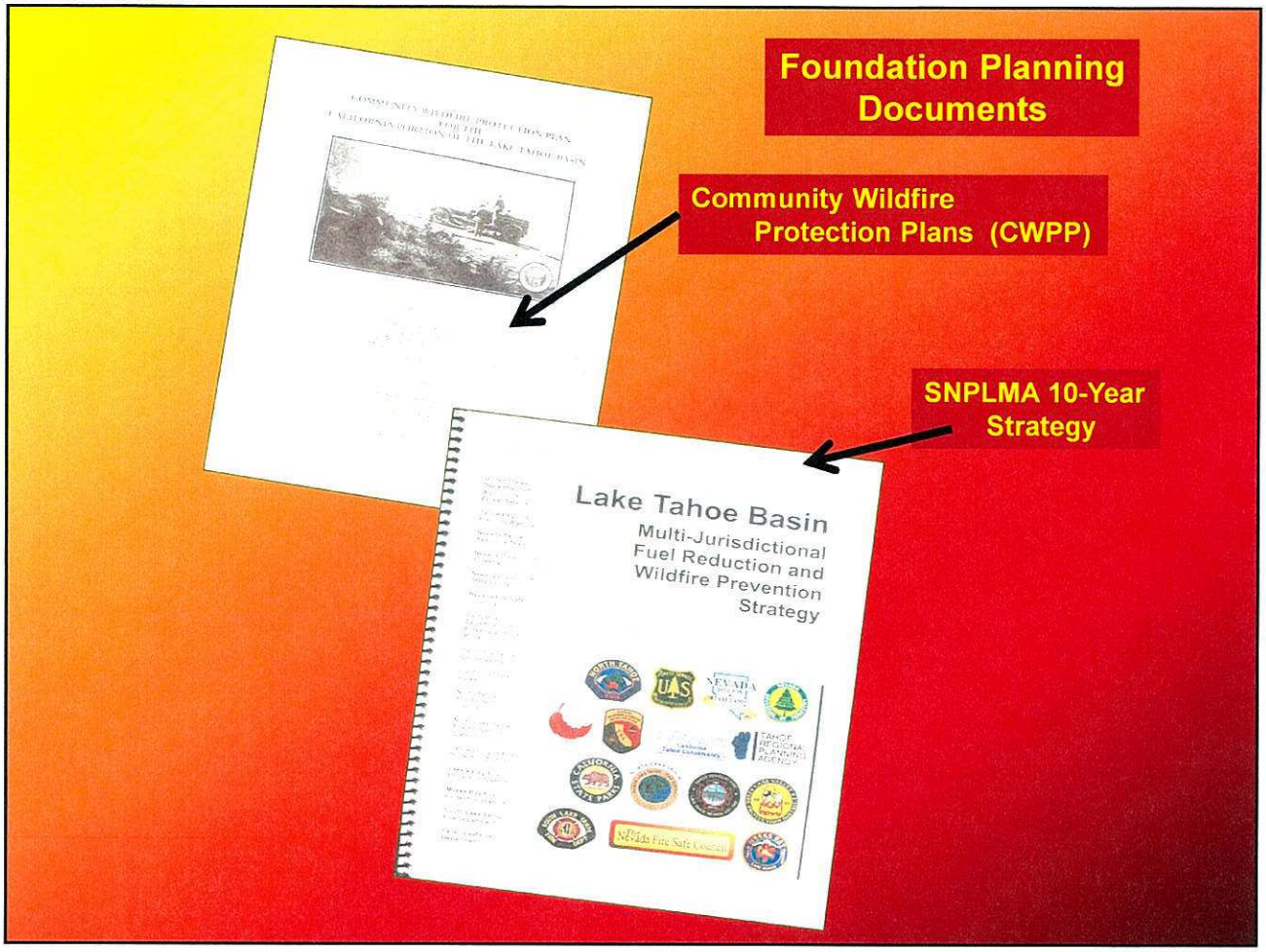
1. The wildfire threat reduction program would be a collaborative Basin-wide partnership, not the simple accumulation of independent fire district or department efforts.

2. Implementation of the program would require the organization of a Basin-wide structure or team.

3. The Nevada Fire Safe Council would function as the program's fiscal agent.

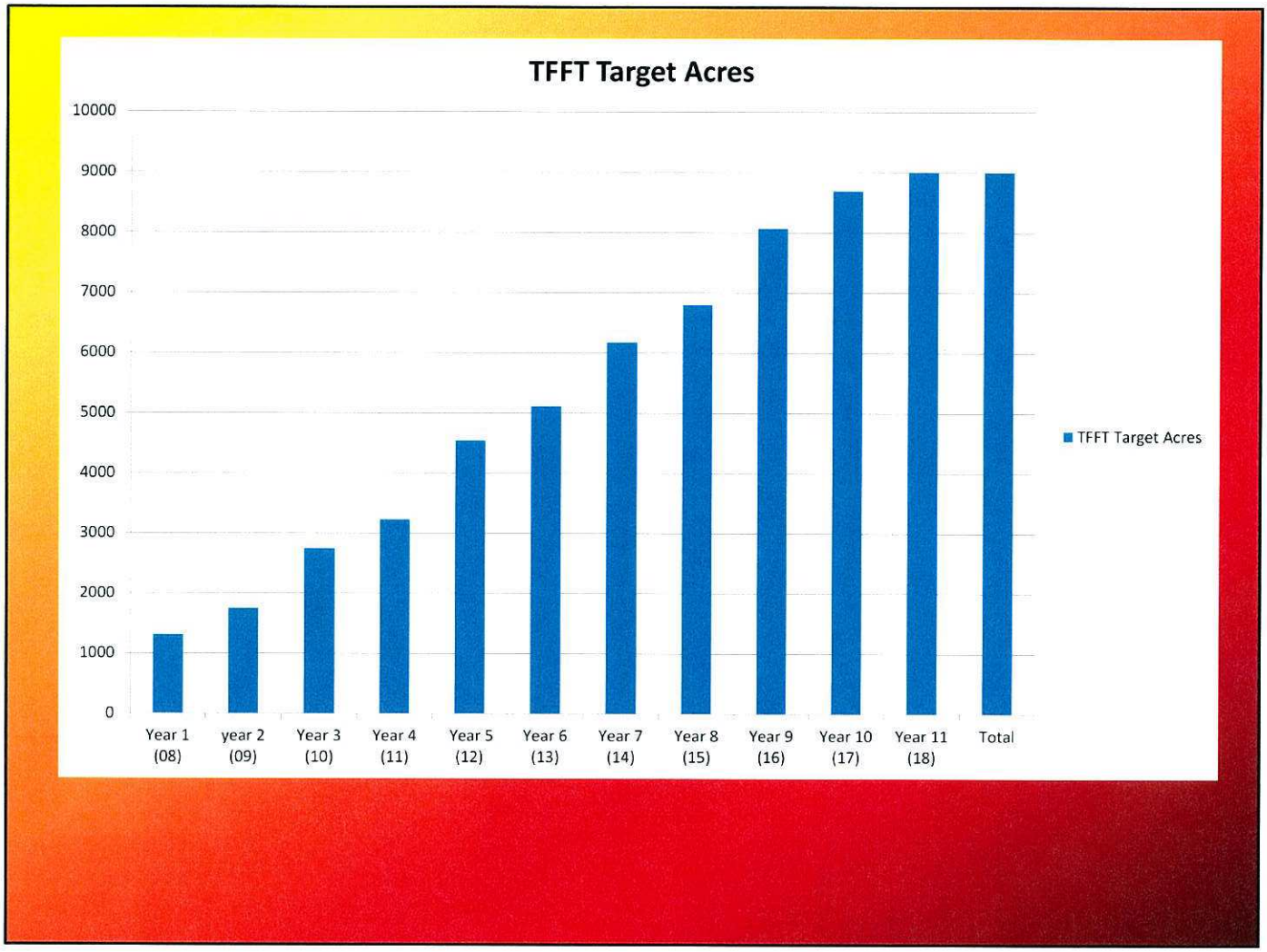
4. Every district or division would share in available resources and be able to address the highest priority needs identified at the local level.

EXHIBIT O - TAHOE
Document consists of 13 slides.
Entire Exhibit provided.
Meeting Date: 01-30-12

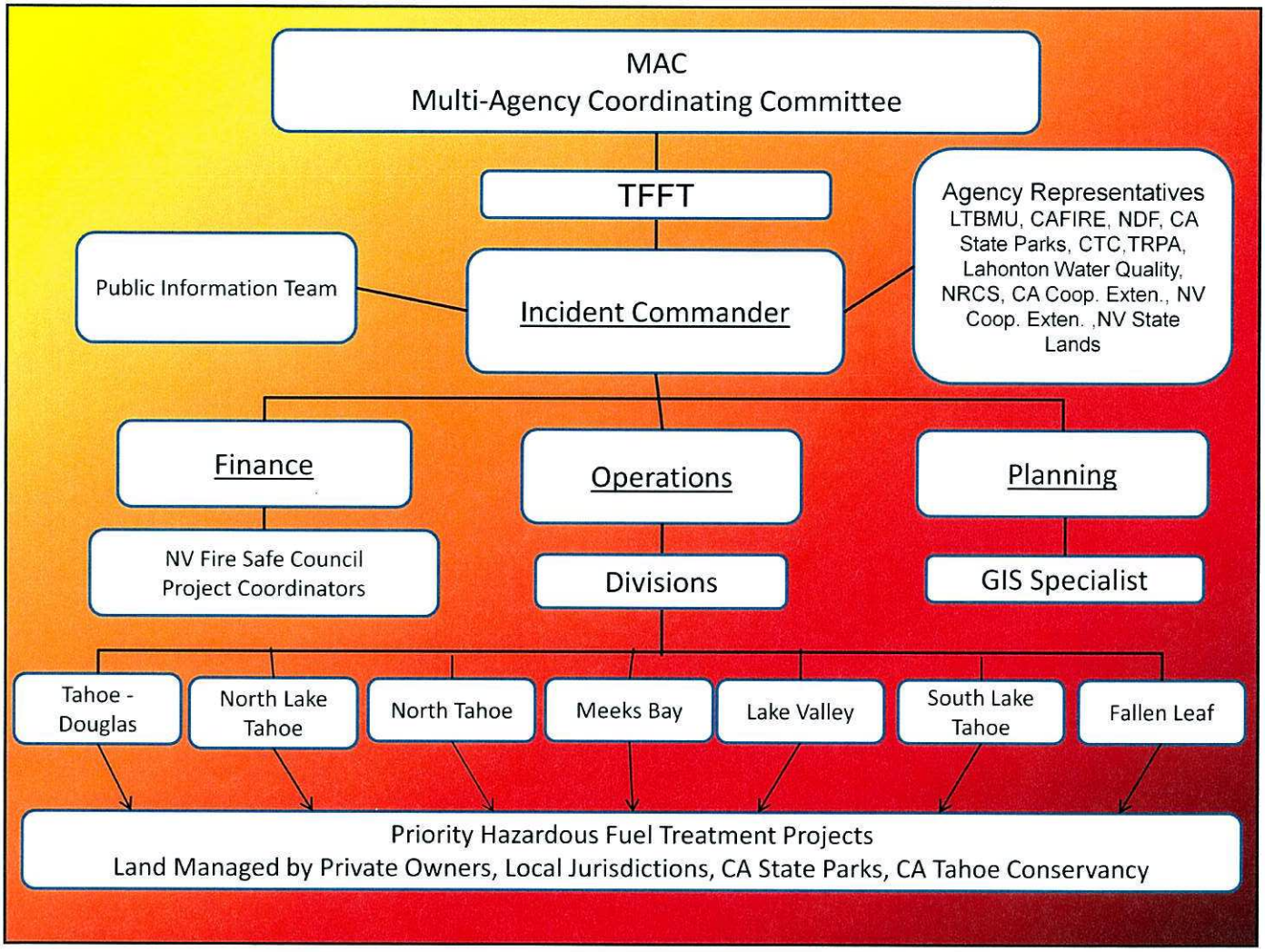


The first steps in developing a comprehensive, Basin-wide wildfire threat reduction program were, 1. The completion of community threat assessments, 2. The identification of priority fuels treatment projects, and 3. The approval of Community Wildfire Protection Plans. These steps were completed in late 2004 using the Basin's five fire protection districts and two fire departments as the planning units.

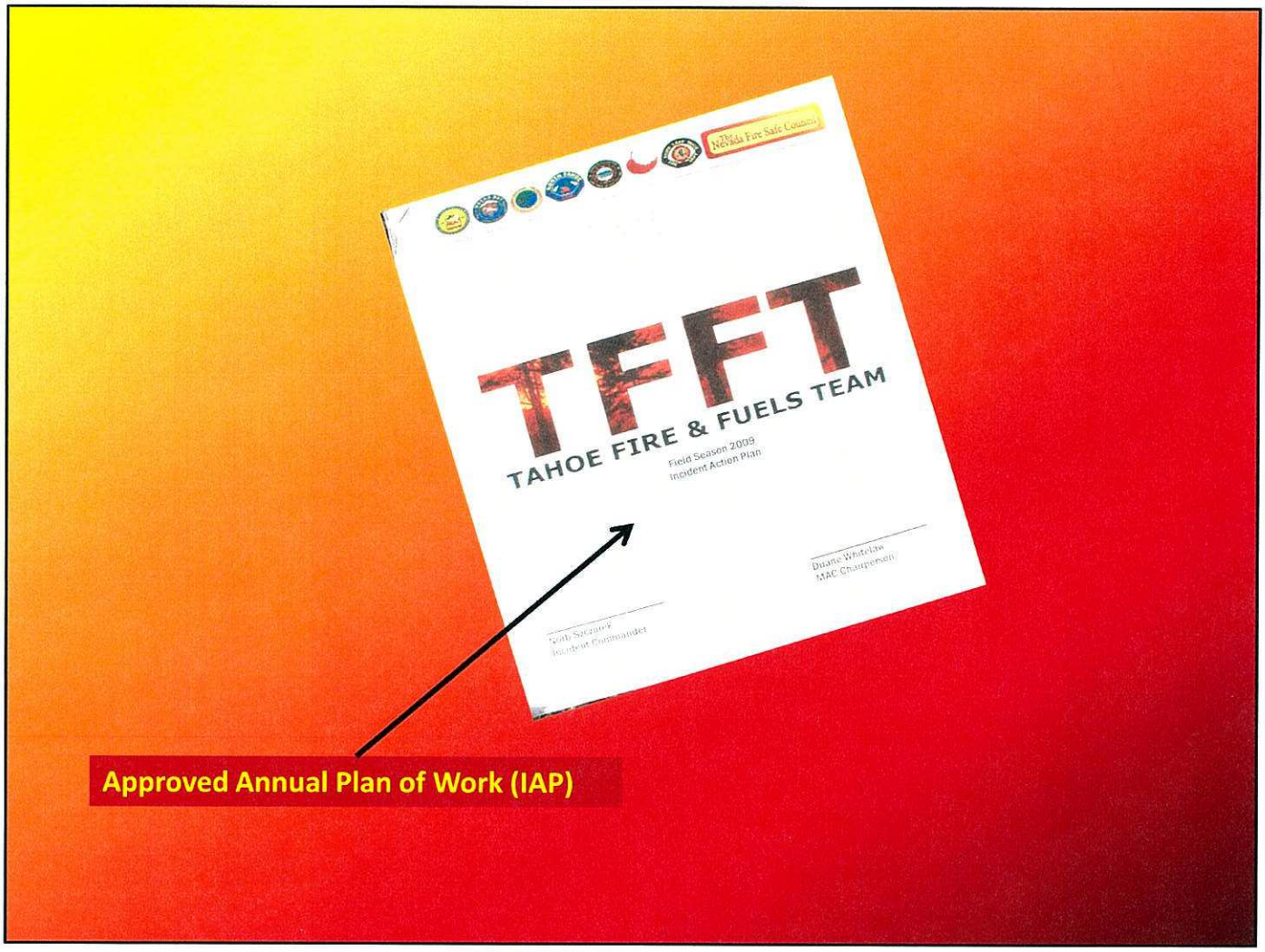
In December of 2006, Congress passed the White Pine County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act. This law contained a provision which allowed local jurisdictions and nonprofit corporations to apply for hazardous fuel reduction funding through the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act grant application process. To qualify, the White Pine Act required the development and approval of a "comprehensive, cost-effective, multijurisdictional, hazardous fuels reduction and wildfire prevention plan." Under the leadership of the US Forest Service, the Tahoe Basin's plan was developed and approved in December of 2007. Entitled the "Lake Tahoe Basin Multi-Jurisdictional Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Strategy," the document presented a schedule of fuel treatment requirements over a ten-year treatment period. Schedules of treatment were designated for land and fuels managed by 1. the US Forest Service, 2. California State Parks, 3. California Tahoe Conservancy, 4. Nevada State Lands, and 5. Private and Local Non-Federal Jurisdictions.



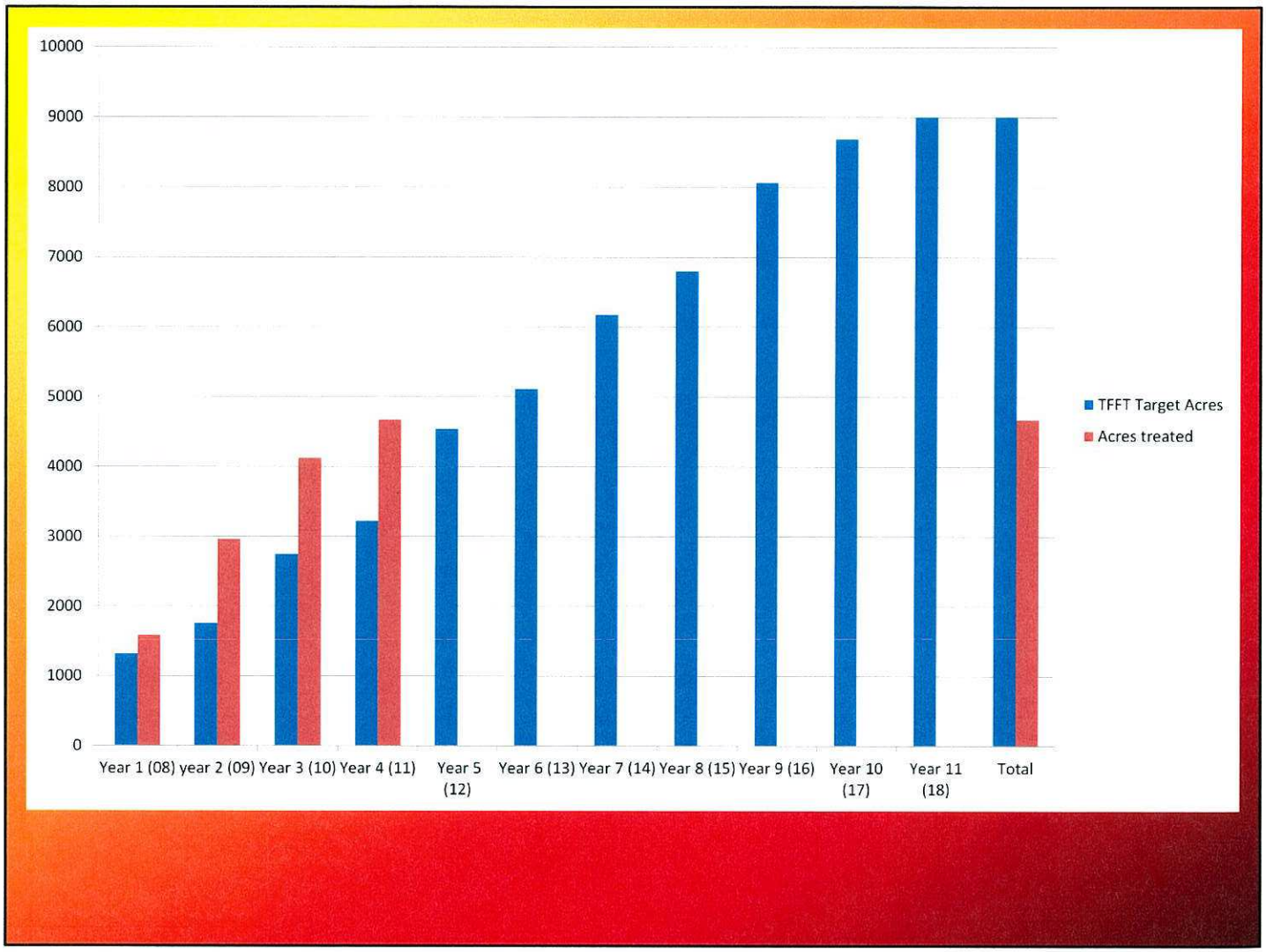
The seven local fire services accepted responsibility for completing the high priority hazardous fuel reduction projects identified in the Community Wildfire Protection Plans and detailed in the 10-year strategy for three land and fuels management jurisdictions; 1. Private and local, non-federal jurisdictions, 2. California State Parks, and 3. California Tahoe Conservancy. The 10-year strategy called for the treatment of 9,000 acres over the ten-year period in these three land and fuels management categories. The schedule identifying the cumulative number of acres to be treated at the conclusion of each year is shown in the bar graph above. For example, by the end of the fourth year (2011) a total of 3,225 acres was to have been treated.



To increase community protection and complete hazardous fuel treatment according to the schedule laid out in the 10-year strategy, the seven local fire services committed to organize and support an implementation team. The team utilized the familiar Incident Command Structure (ICS) well known to fire professionals and emergency management personnel. Staffing was provided by reassignment of position responsibilities within the fire services. For example, the Incident Commander responsibilities were assumed by Chief Norb Szczurek from the North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District. Planning Section leadership was provided by TRPA's forester and the Finance Section was headed by the Executive Director of the Nevada Fire Safe Council. The only two externally financed positions were the Operations Section Leader and the GIS Specialist. Oversight of this team was assigned to the Multi-Agency Coordinating Committee composed of the signatories to the 10-year strategy. The self selected name for this team was The **Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team** (TFFT).

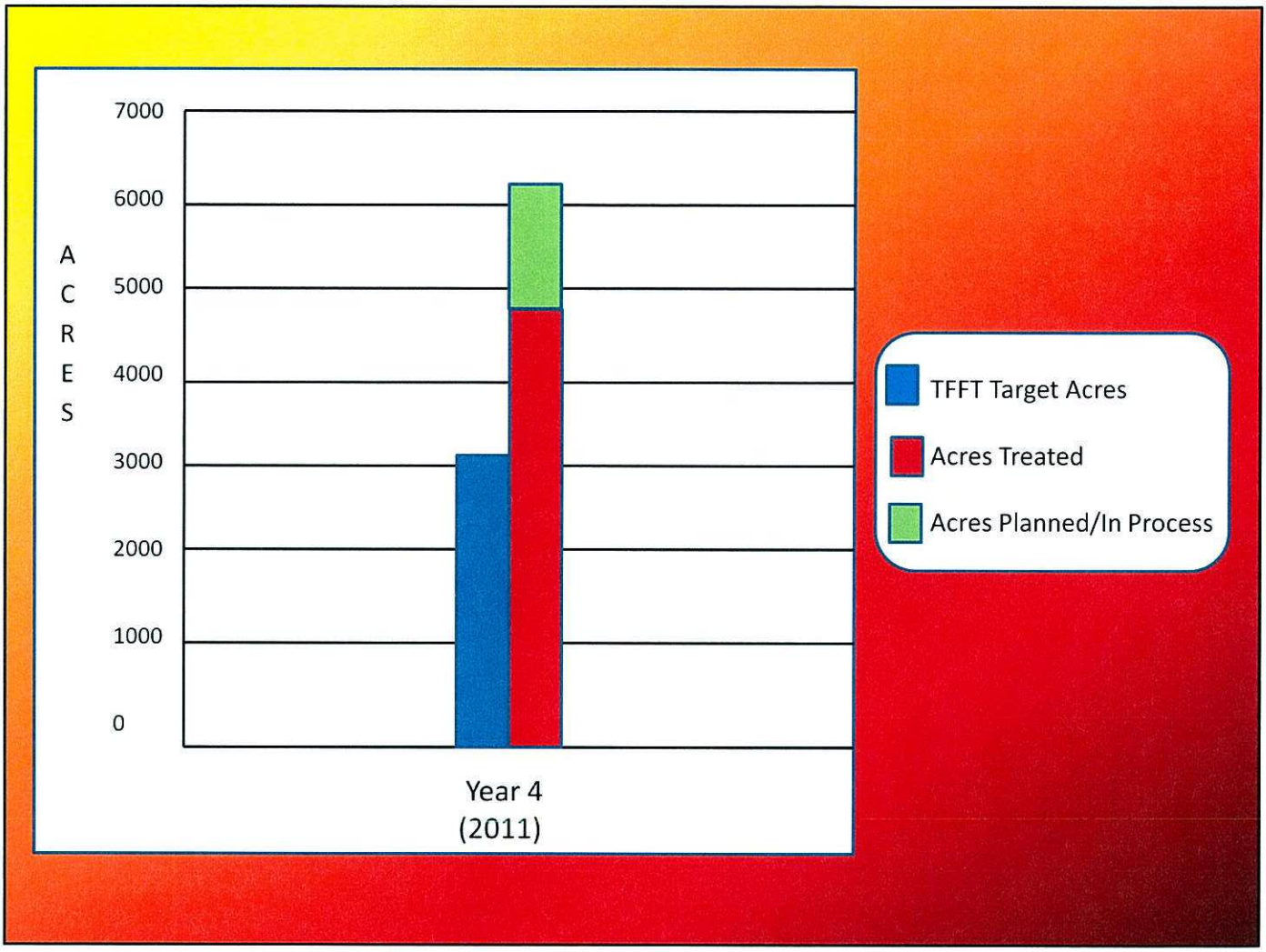


To achieve coordination of hazardous fuel reduction project work, the seven divisions of the TFFT develop an annual plan of work or Incident Action Plan. This plan produces a detailed list of proposed, high priority projects for each division that includes treatment method, size (acres), start date, and an anticipated source of funding. Accompanying the narrative for each project is a map showing project boundaries and unique features that influence treatment alternatives. The plan is reviewed and approved by members of the MAC.

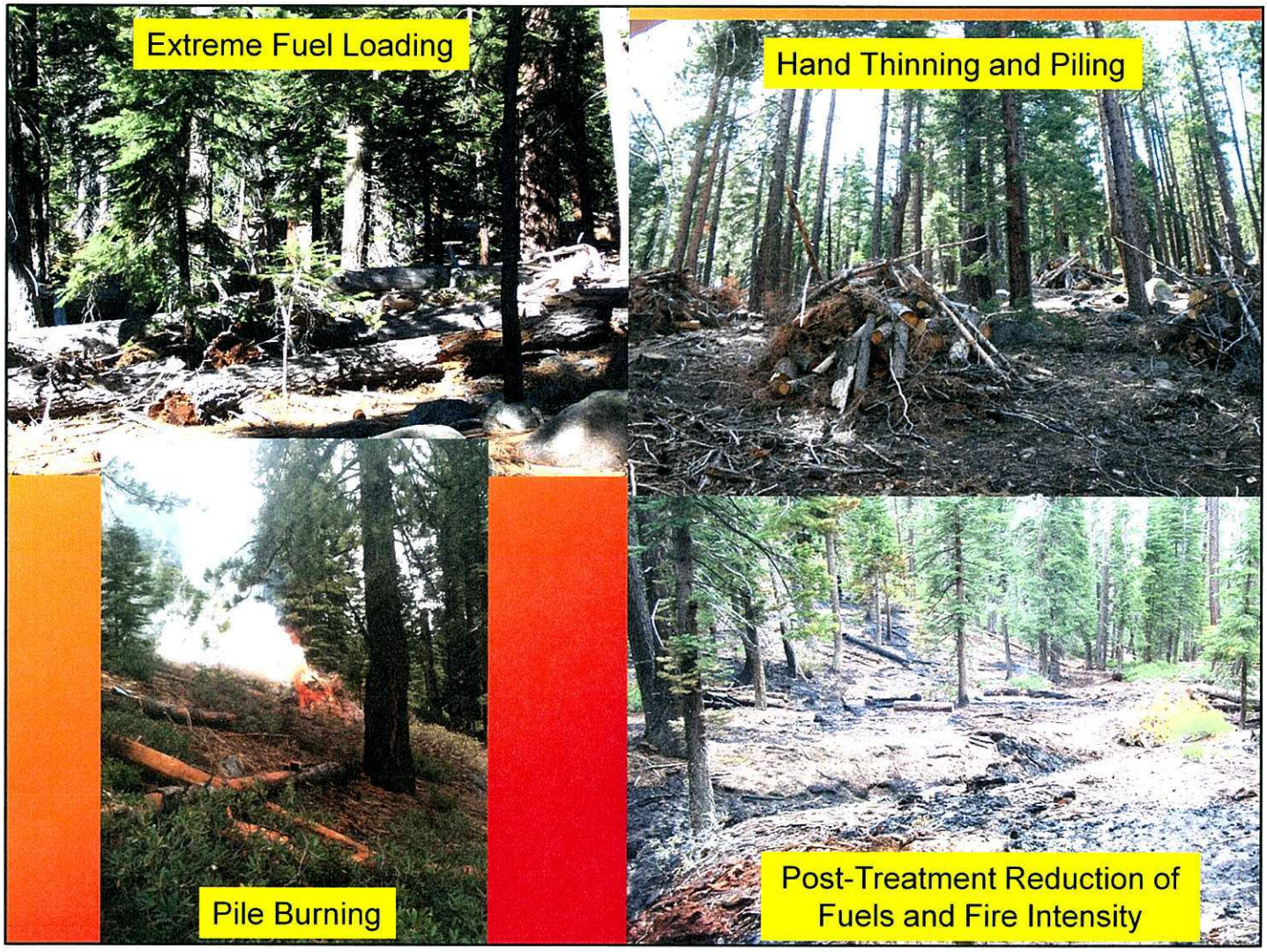


So, how is the TFFT doing?

The red bars in the bar graph above show the number of acres where the prescribed treatment of hazardous fuels has been fully implemented. For example, by the end of the fourth year (December 2011) the 10-year schedule called for the treatment of hazardous fuels on 3,225 acres. In fact, by this date, the TFFT fully implemented prescriptive treatments on 4,679 acres.



Taking a closer look at the bar graph above for the year 2011, we see that the red bar only tells a part of the story. In addition to fully treated acres, numerous projects were initiated and are underway. The acres represented by this project activity are shown by the green colored bar.



The four photographs above show the progression of treatment from the initial assessment of fuel condition through to the final product. While utilization of the accumulated biomass remains an attractive alternative to burning, there are thousands of acres where access is restricted and burning following hand crew treatment is the only viable treatment approach. In addition, putting fire on the ground according to carefully prescribed intervals, utilizing highly trained and skilled personnel is the most economically advantageous treatment alternative over the long term for maintaining fuel conditions that reduce fire intensity.

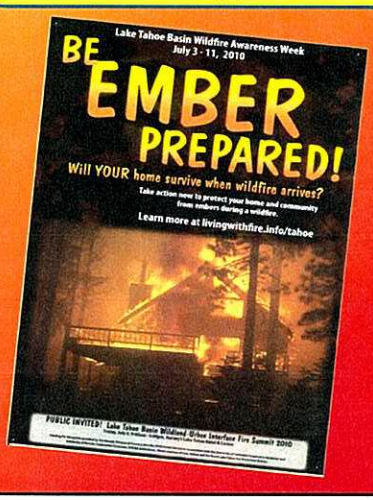
Additional Program Benefits

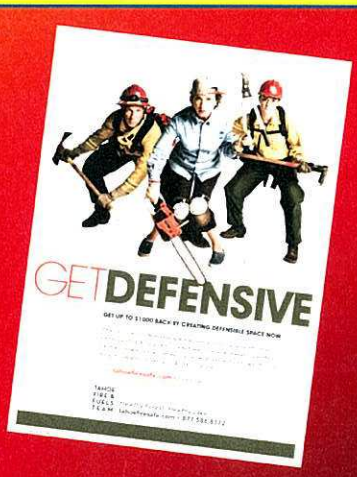
1. Comprehensive, multijurisdictional, hazardous fuel reduction team.
2. Program/Project reporting and integrated data management.
3. Community support and involvement. Fifty four active community level chapters of the Nevada Fire Safe Council.
4. Implementation of defensible space principles including 2,268 residences that have complied with defensible space prescriptions utilizing the cost share rebate program.
5. Removal of hazardous fuels from individual properties. Fire Districts and Departments respond to approximately 3,000 requests for curbside chipping services each year.

The primary mission of the TFFT is to reduce fire intensity by changing the character of hazardous fuels thereby reducing wildfire threat and increasing community protection. However , the organization of the TFFT has many additional benefits as enumerated above.

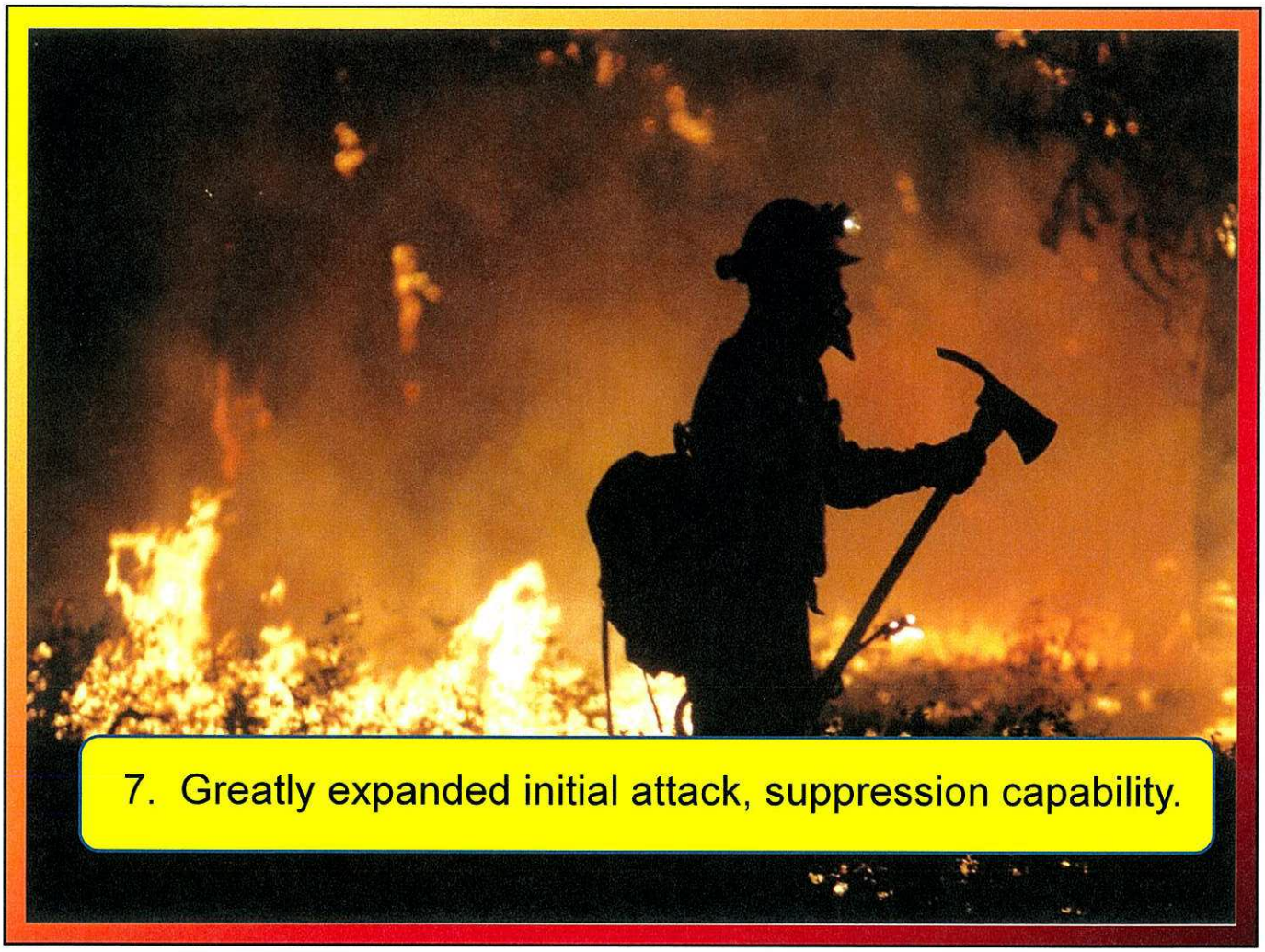
Additional Program Benefits (continued)

6. Increased public awareness and knowledge.
   a. Get Defensive Campaign – Reached 150,000 people.
   b. Wildland Urban Interface Summit – 2010 and 2011 - chapter leaders, fire professionals, and residents interact and share in a learning, action, planning environment.
   c. Wildfire Awareness Week – Chapter members and fire services engage in public education including demonstrations, property clean-up, and field trips.



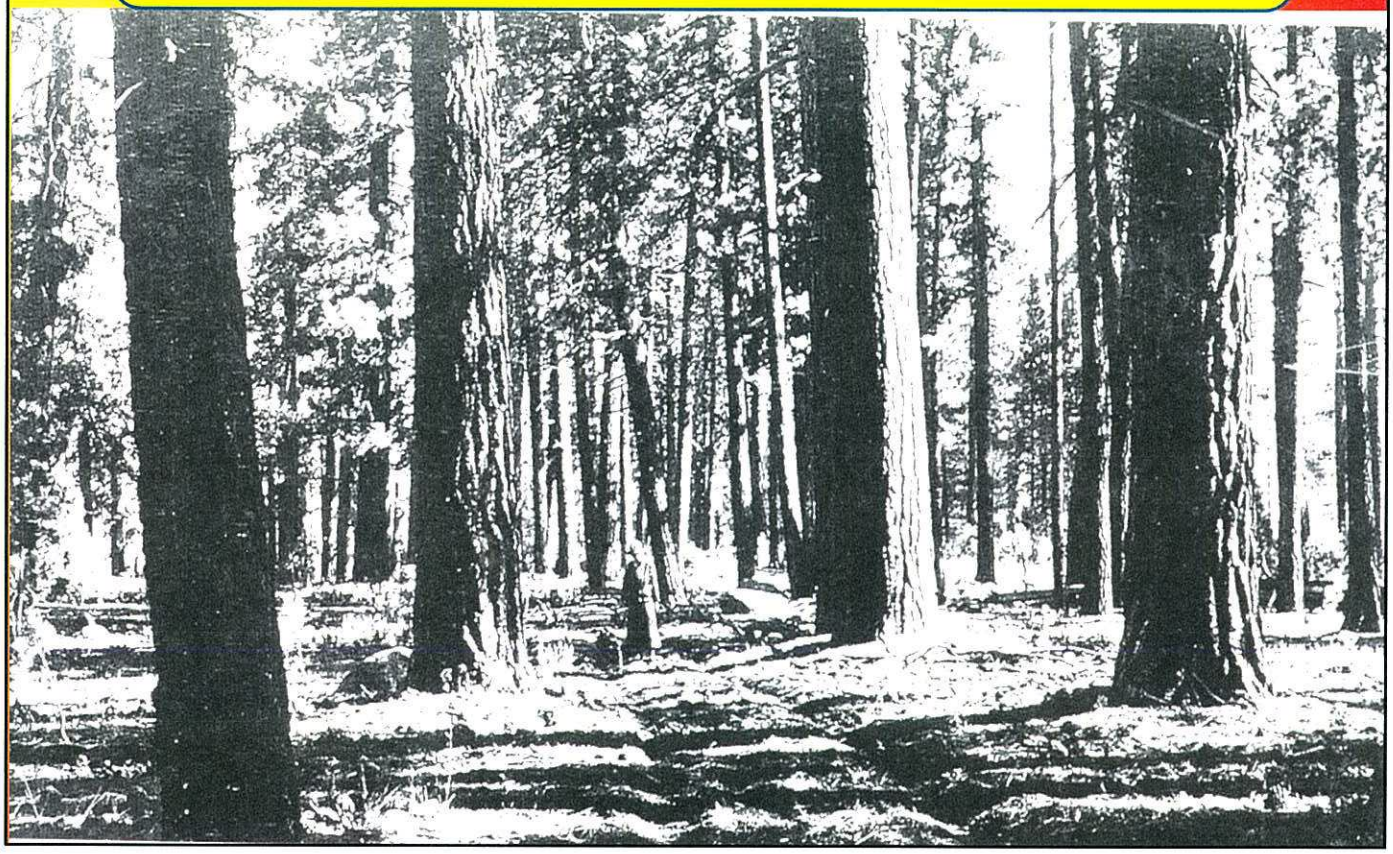


The work of the TFFT could not continue without strong and committed public support. Organized as a unit within the TFFT structure is the Fire Public Information Team (Fire PIT). This group of public information specialists has produced and conducted an effective and aggressive public awareness and education program. The result is continued public acceptance and support for the fuels work completed and planned.



The funding available for hazardous fuel treatment has allowed fire districts to hire and train highly effective hand crews that not only complete fuels treatment projects, but are also available for rapid response to wildfire ignitions. The most effective community protection strategy is rapid and aggressive initial attack by highly trained fire fighters under conditions made safe by preemptive reduction of hazardous fuels.

8. Improved forest health – Reducing forest density and reintroducing fire assists in achieving desired future conditions more closely resembling the natural forest.



Widespread clearcutting to support early mining adventures coupled with a century of fire exclusion has resulted in a vastly overstocked forest with greatly altered species composition prone to extreme fire behavior. The reduction of forest stand density and the reintroduction of fire to reduce fuel volume results in greater community protection while improving forest health and helping achieve a more natural, historic forest condition as shown above.

Thank you for your continued interest and support of the Basin's wildfire threat reduction program!