



# **Forest Restoration and Fire Prevention in the Lake Tahoe Basin**

**Legislative Committee for the Review and Oversight of the  
Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) and the  
Marlette Lake Water System  
January 30, 2012**

EXHIBIT P - TAHOE  
Document consists of 6 pages.  
Entire Exhibit provided.  
Meeting Date: 01-30-12

**Nevada Division of Forestry**  
**Forest Restoration and Fire Prevention Projects Tahoe Basin 2011**

**RECENT PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENT HIGHLIGHTS**

**Forest Restoration, Hazardous Fuels**

- In 2011, 247 acres in the Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park were treated for forest fuels and restoration, bringing the EIP treatment total to 2,748 acres.
- In 2011, 75.5 acres were treated for fuels and restoration on state-owned urban lots in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI).
- A total of 726 acres are being treated in the defense zone and threat zone adjacent to Incline Village, Glenbrook, the Kingsbury community, and Sand Harbor. These projects are funded by SNPLMA Rounds 8, 9, 10 & 11.
- Projects in North Canyon, Slaughterhouse Canyon and the Sand Harbor area include restoring stream environment zones, aspen and other forest community types across the park landscape to create a sustainable vegetation pattern on a large scale that will be more resilient to wildland fire and the effects of changing climate. In addition to affording more protection to natural resources and park infrastructure, treatments are improving wildlife habitat and establishing a diversity of tree age classes.

**Planning and Implementation**

**Workforce and Equipment**

- Project planning is done by the NDF Forester as a member of Nevada Tahoe Resource Team. The team includes members from Department of Wildlife, Division of State Parks, Division of Forestry, and Division of State Lands, and is responsible for implementing the Environmental Improvement Program at Lake Tahoe for the State of Nevada. Division of Forestry State Headquarters provides support and assistance as needed.
- The NDF Forester serves on various technical advisory groups that work on issues within the Tahoe Basin, including the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team, the SNPLMA Hazardous Fuels Sub Group and the SNPLMA Science Relevancy Review. Both the Division of Forestry and the Division of State Lands are represented in the Tahoe Multi-Agency Coordination (MAC) group, an executive level group that resolves interagency policy and procedural conflicts, prioritizes projects and allocates critical resources for use on projects.
- Nevada Division of Forestry Eastern Sierra Conservation Camp provides inmate crews to complete field work as prescribed by the NDF Forester, who serves as the project manager. While doing project work in the Tahoe Basin, these crews are available to respond to wildland fire incidents. Seasonal Brush Engine crews also conduct project work.
- North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District and Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District hand crews are contracted to do project work which includes burning.
- Private contractors are also used occasionally and are selected from a list of qualified individuals maintained by Nevada State Purchasing.
- Equipment utilized includes Division of Forestry chippers, a dump truck, a skid steer with a Fecon masticating head attachment, a Kohler yarder, and a large truck equipped with bins that can haul biomass.



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### Notifications/Coordination/Funding

- All burning is done under a burn plan approved by the State Forester.
- When burning, prior notification to management agencies is done via email and phone calls, including adjacent Fire Protection Districts and dispatch centers, Lake Tahoe Nevada State Parks, NDF State Headquarters, and the Washoe County Health Department Air Quality Division or the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection Bureau of Air Quality Planning. As needed, the DCNR Public Affairs Officer provides media and press releases for the general public.
- North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District and Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District are both very cooperative with burning projects, providing resources and assistance as needed.
- The primary funding source is the Tahoe Bond Act which is supplemented by SNPLMA funding.



*Logan Creek thinning and CWD reduction project on the north aspect of the drainage, October 2011. SNPLMA Round 9 funded. Piles burned November 2011.*



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**SNPLMA ROUND 8, 9 & 10 PROGRESS & OTHER FUNDED PROJECT REPORT-2011**

**Round 8 Summary**

With hand thinning treatment complete, pile burning of Round 8 parcels was the focus from January to November 2011. Piles remaining were those missed due to heavy snow load the previous season. In November an early snow event allowed the disposal of the remaining piles in Kingsbury which completed the Round 8 project and the project was closed December 31, 2011. Twenty-one parcels contained a total of 147 slash piles that were burned to complete the project. A total of 20.5 acres were prescribed pile burned.

**Round 9 Summary**

Round 9 parcels are located along Highway 50 from Glenbrook to Round Hill in Douglas County. Urban lots in Tahoe communities that have been treated include Glenbrook, Round Hill, Zephyr Heights, Cave Rock Estates, Logan Creek Estates, and Lake Ridge Estates. Round 9 treatments are 88% complete with small parcels requiring minimal work scheduled for 2012. Pile burning began during spring of 2011 and will continue into 2012, weather and conditions dependent. A total of 15.6 acres were hand thinned at Round Hill, Logan Creek, and Glenbrook during the summer field season. The Round Hill project was a high thinning of a pure Jeffrey pine stand to allow residual stems to increase in diameter and height. All slash was chipped and we burned 379 piles on 7 parcels and 14.0 acres. Slash piles were able to cure in the 2011 dry season and when precipitation events return to the Basin, pile burning will resume in 2012.

**Round 10 Summary**

Hand thinning treatments began late in the 2011 field season in Washoe County after SHPO and boundary surveys were completed, followed by treatment prescriptions and tree marking. Seven acres and 19 parcels were treated in 2011. Hand treatment operations will ramp up in spring 2012.

**SNPLMA SUMMARY**

	<u>Hand thinned</u>		<u>Pile Burned</u>		<u>Expense</u>
	<u>Parcels</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Parcels</u>	<u>Acres</u>	
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>22.6</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>34.5</b>	<b>\$54,437</b>

**Non-SNPLMA Funded Forest Health Treatments**

The Burgundy Hills Phase II thinning project in Incline Village removed 55 Jeffrey pine trees on 2.7 acres. Trees were felled and hauled off-site in 8 foot lengths to be bucked for firewood and slash was chipped. This project was funded by a state and private forestry competitive grant and totaled \$9750.

In addition, 31 parcels and 16 acres were treated by the Nevada State Lands urban lot forester and part-time assistant. New mortality, wind throw, and snow load damaged trees were removed from urban lots. Stems were either cut to firewood length or contour felled for erosion control or small mammal habitat.



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**Tunnel Creek Controlled Burn**

The Tunnel Creek project is a 100 acre fuel break located in Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park. This northwest corner of the State Park is an important parcel in the fire protection strategy for Incline Village. The area burned many years ago and the mountain brush community established following the fire is dominated by mature Greenleaf Manzanita, snowbrush, and huckleberry oak. Jeffrey pine saplings/poles are scattered throughout the brush and remnant mature Jeffrey and ponderosa pine are found only on the uppermost ridgeline.

The prescribed fire that was successfully accomplished this field season was possible only after many hours of planning, coordination and necessary pre-treatment. The project is funded by SNPLMA Round 9 and Tahoe Bond Act money. Partner agencies included the



Division of State Parks, Division of State Lands,

Department of Wildlife, DCNR staff, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) and the North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District. Close coordination with Washoe County Health Department Air Quality and public notification

was necessary prior to any ignition. Researchers from the Desert Research Institute monitored smoke emissions and the Public Information Officer for DCNR handled news releases to the public.



Monitoring the burn units to determine if resource and prescribed fire objectives are being met will continue for the next two years. The burn provided an excellent opportunity for training assignments and will be valuable experience for future burning in this fuel type. Remaining acreage to be burned in this area is scheduled for 2012.



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**NDF Cable Yarder— A Future Tool for The Lake Tahoe Basin**

The Nevada Division of Forestry recently acquired a Koller 300 cable yarder which, in its first field year, has already proven very effective at fuels reduction, biomass utilization and slash pile reduction. Three projects have already been completed for a total of 15 acres. A total of 75,000 board feet of material was harvested from Forest Stewardship projects at Hobart Reservoir, Davis Creek County Park, and private property in Washoe Valley. These highly successful projects allowed NDF staff to demonstrate the utility of cable yarding for harvest sites that have limited access due to steep terrain.

Plans are in the works for utilization of biomass generated from cable yarding to be sold as firewood and other products. The remaining slash will be chipped into mulch and sold at the NDF tree nursery. This will help reduce the number of burn piles and generate revenue to help offset project costs.



*The NDF cable yarder allowed logs cut as part of a Forest Stewardship project to be efficiently and quickly harvested from an area with steep terrain.*

NDF expects the cable yarder to be an extremely effective tool for future projects in the Lake Tahoe Basin. It will allow NDF to utilize more biomass on our projects and reduce the amount of burn piles and round wood left behind in the forest. Cable yarding also gives us the advantage of minimizing the impact on environmentally-sensitive areas, especially when complying with Best Management Practices (BMPs) and other forest practices regulations.

