



# 2024 Annual Report to the Nevada Legislature

## Fire Prevention and Forest Health in the Nevada portion of the Lake Tahoe Basin



## Background

This Annual Report is produced in accordance with NRS 528.150 and was a recommendation of the California-Nevada Fire Commission following the 2007 Angora Wildfire. This update provides a listing of activities and accomplishments of the State and Federal land management agencies and the two fire protection districts in the Nevada portion of the Lake Tahoe Basin as defined by NRS 528.150.

Forest restoration and wildfire hazard reduction/prevention activities are ongoing activities carried out by several entities within the Lake Tahoe Basin. In the Nevada portion of the Lake Tahoe Basin, those entities are Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF), Nevada Division of State Lands (NDSL), Nevada Division of State Parks (NDSP), USDA Forest Service - Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (USFS/LTBMU), North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District (NLTFPD), Tahoe-Douglas Fire Protection District (TDFPD), and the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA). Following passage of the White Pine County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act of 2006, a 10-year Multi-Jurisdictional Basin-wide plan was developed by the agencies listed above (updated in 2014), along with several California Agencies, to direct fuel reduction planning and implementation. Since then, availability of federal funds through direct Forest Service Grants, the California Grant Clearing house, the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA), and other sources has led to sustained annual accomplishments in wildfire hazard reduction/prevention by responsible agencies. Accomplishments by these agencies and non-profits include coordinated planning for wildfire hazard reduction/prevention, fuel reduction on thousands of acres since 2007, coordinated public information campaigns, electronic tracking of progress, and modifying and streamlining the regulatory environment.

## **Acronyms**

BLM – Bureau of Land Management

EIP – Environmental Improvement Program

HOA – Homeowners Association

LTBMU - Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit

LTNSP – Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park

LTRA – Lake Tahoe Restoration Act

NDF – Nevada Division of Forestry

NDSL – Nevada Division of State Lands

NDSP - Nevada Division of State Parks

NLTFFPD – North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District

NTRT – Nevada Tahoe Resource Team

SNPLMA – Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act

TDFPD – Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District

TFFT – Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team

TRCD – Tahoe Resource Conservation District

TRPA – Tahoe Regional Planning Agency

UNR – University of Nevada, Reno

USFS – United States Forest Service

## 2024 Accomplishments

Many agencies, organizations and individuals contributed to the communication of vital fire safety and natural resource conservation or restoration information, as well as to the planning and implementation of fuel reduction and ecosystem restoration projects in 2024. This report update maintains the format provided by NRS 528.150.

### **NRS 528.150 Report concerning fire prevention and forest health in Lake Tahoe Basin; contents of report.**

1. On or before January 1 of each year, the State Forester Firewarden shall, in coordination and cooperation with the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency and the fire chiefs within the Lake Tahoe Basin, submit a report concerning fire prevention and forest health in the Nevada portion of the Lake Tahoe Basin to:

(a) The Legislative Committee for the Review and Oversight of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency and Marlette Lake Water System created by [NRS 218E.555](#) and to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the Legislature;

(b) The Governor;

(c) The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency; and

(d) Each United States Senator and Representative in Congress who is elected to represent the State of Nevada.

2. The report submitted by the State Forester Firewarden pursuant to subsection 1 must address, without limitation:

**(a) The status of:**

**(1) The implementation of plans for the prevention of fires in the Nevada portion of the Lake Tahoe Basin, including, without limitation, plans relating to the reduction of fuel for fires;**

**(2) Efforts concerning forest restoration in the Nevada portion of the Lake Tahoe Basin; and**

**(3) Efforts concerning rehabilitation of vegetation, if any, as a result of fire in the Nevada portion of the Lake Tahoe Basin.**

**(b) Compliance with:**

**(1) The goals and policies for fire prevention and forest health in the Nevada portion of the Lake Tahoe Basin; and**

**(2) Any recommendations concerning fire prevention or public safety made by any fire department or fire protection district in the Nevada portion of the Lake Tahoe Basin.**

**(c) Any efforts to:**

**(1) Increase public awareness in the Nevada portion of the Lake Tahoe Basin regarding fire prevention and public safety; and**

**(2) Coordinate with other federal, state, local and private entities with regard to projects to reduce fire hazards in the Nevada portion of the Lake Tahoe Basin.**

## Accomplishments - Nevada portion of Lake Tahoe

NRS 528.150 requires the Nevada State Forester Firewarden to prepare a report concerning fire prevention and forest health in Lake Tahoe Basin.

### (a) The Status of:

#### **1. The implementation of plans for the prevention of fires in the Nevada portion of the Lake Tahoe Basin, including, without limitation, plans relating to the reduction of fuel for fires**

##### Nevada Division of Forestry

The Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF) representative on the NTRT managed ongoing implementation of fire prevention project plans that are based on the NTRT 5-year plan. NDF also renewed the Nevada Shared Stewardship Agreement (<https://forestry.nv.gov/natural-resource-management/shared-stewardship>) after five years of successful coordination with other state and federal land management agencies. This partnership has resulted in collaborative priority setting, five-year program of work development, and increasing pace and scale of treatments across Nevada landscapes. The Tahoe Basin is a Shared Stewardship priority landscape and in late 2024, the TFFT agreed to represent the Tahoe Basin in the partnership, subscribing to the strategic direction of the agreement and partnership.

2024 was a successful year for pile burning with 260 acres of piles burned in Spooner Lake and Backcountry State Park, funded by the Tahoe EIP and USFS. This allowed NDF to catch up on the backlog of piles in all Nevada State Parks in the Tahoe Basin; some piles had been on the landscape for 15 years. This also completed the 300-acre Spooner Landscape Resiliency Project, begun in 2018.

The North Canyon Road Shaded Fuel Break project (between Spooner Lake and Marlette Lake) continued with 15 acres hand thinned and piled. This fuel break was created over 20 years ago and with the recent aspen dieback the excessive fuel loading has rendered the fuel break ineffective. Over 100 acres are planned for future treatment.

Additional fuel reduction occurred in Sand Harbor State Park through hand thinning (and chipping or pile building) and masticating (10 acres), and 6 acres were hand thinned and chipped as part of the Spooner Frontcountry Project.



*The Spooner Frontcountry Project won Best in the Basin award from TRPA for both Sustainable Recreation and Forest Health. This was a collaborative project between the Nevada Divisions of State Parks, State Lands, and Forestry, the Tahoe Fund, and private businesses.*

### Nevada Division of State Lands

The Nevada Division of State Lands (NDSL) representative on the NTRT has a 5-year plan of work and is pursuing the creation of a time-based rotation plan for the management and treatment of the state-owned parcels within the basin. This plan will call for the treatment of each parcel on a 5-to-10-year frequency. Maintaining healthy vigorous forests that are less susceptible to bark beetle infestation, reducing hazardous fuel loading, preserving suitable wildlife habitat, and managing for erosion control and water quality are the core elements of the agency's forest management strategy for the Urban Lot Program in the Lake Tahoe Basin. Following the 5-year plan, a total of 56 individual state-owned parcels comprising 16 acres were treated by Nevada Division of State Lands (NDSL) using hand thinning and mechanical means to reduce hazardous fuel loading. An additional 105 individual state-owned parcels comprising 53 acres were treated through pile burning of fuels that were cut in 2022 and 2023.

Work was accomplished during 2024 utilizing interlocal contract crews from Tahoe Douglas and North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection Districts, NDF conservation crews, contractors under state master service agreements, and NDSL staff. Funding for project work in the 2024 field season was a combination of state bond funds, SNPLMA Round 15 funds, Lake Tahoe Restoration Act (LTRA) funds, and NV Energy funds under a cooperative agreement with NDSL.

### U.S. Forest Service - Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit

The U.S. Forest Service, LTBMU completed 143 acres of prescribed fire pile burning on the Nevada side of the Tahoe Basin in 2024. Implementation of the NV Energy Resilience Corridors project continued in partnership with NV Energy resulting in 338 acres of forest health thinning and fuels reduction treatments completed on National Forest System lands. The LTBMU continued implementation of the Urban Forest Defense Zone project, in partnership with Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District and the North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District. Treatments were completed on 32 acres in Douglas County and on 33 acres on National Forest Service urban lots in Washoe County. Contract award and treatment implementation on the Incline Fuels Reduction and Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project were delayed again in 2024 due to the listing of White Bark Pine as threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. Consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is expected to be completed, a contract awarded, and project implementation is expected to occur during the 2025 field season.

### North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District

In 2024, despite an exceptionally active fire season NLTFPD make implementation progress on many project plans within the district. All fuel reduction project work performed by the North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District (NLTFPD) is in accordance with the Lake Tahoe Basin - Multi-Jurisdictional Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Strategy (2014), and the Lake Tahoe Basin Forest Action Plan (2019). NLTFPD is also continuing to implement projects listed in the 2015 Community Wildfire Protection Plan for the Lake Tahoe Basin. Further, they are addressing priority projects regarding the Lake Tahoe Powerline Resilience Corridor Strategy.

Annually an ‘Incident Action Plan’ (IAP) is created internally to guide project work for the year. The IAP for NLTFPD is compiled with IAPs from partner organizations of the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team (TFFT) to create a more comprehensive action plan for fuels reduction in the Lake Tahoe Basin. The IAP for NLTFPD outlines objectives for completing a base level of defensible space inspections and chipping requests for the year. It also outlines where hand thinning, pile burning, and understory burning will take place over the year and how the project work will be funded. Crews work to complete items in the IAP, while remaining available to respond to wildland fire calls.

In 2024, implementation of 508 acres of fuels reduction treatments took place, with 240 acres of state or federal land treated and 269 acres of private or municipal land treated. Several projects that treated non-federal land included:

- Nevada Regional Fuels Reduction Project (SNPLMA 16) – 61 acres pile burning
- Diamond Peak Fuels Reduction Project (Landscape Scale Restoration and Community Protection Grants funded through NDF) – 30 acres hand thinned
- Defense Zone Improvement Project (SNPLMA 18) – 160 acres hand thinned or masticated
- NV Energy Resilience Corridors Project – 80 acres pile burning



*Low impact mastication technology being utilized by NLTFPD to reduce hazardous fuel loading in the forest.*

### Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District

Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District (TDFPD) has several projects in multiple stages of progress. The district is planning on continuing shaded fuel breaks projects around critical infrastructure and neighborhoods. These projects are made possible with a Stewardship Agreement that was started in summer 2023 with the TDFPD and the USFS-LTBMU. This agreement allows TDFPD to construct a 200’ shaded fuel break around critical infrastructure and communities on or bordered by USFS lands. TDFPD was able to make entry on two shaded fuel breaks around communities in the Kingsbury Grade area this summer. The District has another shaded fuel break project in the planning phase for field season 2025 in the Round Hill area of the District.

In addition to the shaded fuel break projects, TDFPD also treated approximately 60 acres on private lands along the Highway 50 corridor. These projects were funded by a cooperative agreement with the BLM-SNPLMA division. Most of these acres with burn piles are on schedule

to be burned this winter. Another 20 acres of private lands were hand thinned in 2024 and are waiting for pile burning, all funded by the landowner.

Fuel reduction also took place on multiple NDSL and USFS urban lots throughout the District.

## **2. Efforts concerning forest restoration in the Nevada portion of the Lake Tahoe Basin**

### Nevada Division of Forestry

Aspen restoration is an annual activity of the Tahoe EIP implemented by the Nevada Tahoe Resource Team (NTRT). At Spooner Lake and Backcountry State Park, extensive overstory aspen mortality continues due to conifer encroachment, past droughts, and non-native satin moth outbreaks. Aspen is adapted to and regenerates following high-intensity, stand-replacing fire, and aspen stands throughout the West are in decline due to a lack of regenerative wildfire occurrence and other biotic and abiotic factors. The dead aspen trees pose a hazard to recreational users and create excessive fuel loading that increases catastrophic wildfire risk to adjacent dry mixed conifer forests that are adapted to low-intensity, surface fires. Aspen suckering is prolific following removal of conifers and pile burning, indicating a recovering stand. Aspen stands in Tunnel Creek, Sand Harbor, and Spooner Lake were treated this year through hand thinning and pile building.



*Aspen suckers sprouting up next to a cut white fir stump at Spooner Lake. New research has shown declining aspen cover over the last 40 years in the Tahoe Basin, reinforcing the need to increase the pace and scale of aspen restoration.*

### North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District

Fuels reduction treatments as performed by NLTFPD are also low-impact, forest restoration treatments. These treatments work to reduce the wildfire threat by creating conditions on the landscape that are representative of historical stand conditions, and this work is done without the use of heavy equipment on the landscape. Within the jurisdiction of NLTFPD natural fire has a return interval of 2-35 years. If fire returned to the landscape this frequently, then conditions on the landscape would be favorable for large diameter trees with an open understory and minimized shrub vegetation and ground fuels to be restored. The fuels reduction treatments first remove the backlog of excessive and unnatural fuel loading that is a result of fire suppression and past forest management activities since the extensive clearcutting of the Comstock era (1860-1880). Reducing shrub cover and removing smaller subdominant 'ladder fuels' improves the health and resilience of the larger, dominant trees and creates forests better able to

withstand more frequent natural fire and remain intact for further carbon sequestration and general ecosystem function.

### **3. Efforts concerning rehabilitation of vegetation, if any, as a result of fire in the Nevada portion of the Lake Tahoe Basin**

Fortunately, there were no large fires on the Nevada side of the Tahoe Basin in 2024 and none from the recent past which required rehabilitation of vegetation.

#### **(B) Compliance with:**

##### **1. The goals and policies for fire prevention and forest health in the Nevada portion of the Lake Tahoe Basin**

All fuel reduction and forest restoration projects in the Nevada portion of the Lake Tahoe Basin comply with Tahoe Basin specific and all general rules and regulations related to fire prevention and forest health. Specifically, the fuel reduction/forest restoration projects address the three tenets of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Strategy to restore and maintain resilient landscapes, create fire adapted communities, and provide safe and effective wildfire response.

The Lake Tahoe Basin has been a model of collaboration through the multi-agency Tahoe Fire and Fuel Team (TFFT). The TFFT agencies, including the agencies in this report, are signatory to the Lake Tahoe Basin Multijurisdictional Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Strategy, the Lake Tahoe Basin Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), and the Lake Tahoe Basin Forest Action Plan. The TFFT is also a recognized priority landscape planning group with the Nevada Shared Stewardship Agreement initiative. The TFFT agencies follow the goals and objectives set forth in these documents and are focused on fire prevention and forest health improvement as core themes. To reach these goals, this multi-agency and stakeholder team works together on development and maintenance of fire-adapted communities, planning and implementing fuel reduction projects, and providing early and aggressive wildfire response across jurisdictional and state lines. The TFFT was formed in 2008.

##### **Nevada Division of Forestry**

The NDF Forester on the NTRT collaborates to oversee the Forest Health portion of Tahoe EIP, managing forests found within the following State Parks: Van Sickle, Cave Rock, Sand Harbor, and Spooner Lake and Backcountry. The Tahoe EIP goals include improving forest health and resiliency, improving wildlife habitat, and reducing the severity of future fires. This program also follows goals of the Lake Tahoe Basin Multijurisdictional Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Strategy, the Lake Tahoe Basin CWPP, and the Lake Tahoe Basin Forest Action Plan while adhering to Nevada state forest practice policies in NRS 472, 527, and 528 as well as the State Forest, Range, and Watershed Action Plan.

### Nevada Division of State Lands

The NDSL forester on the NTRT is revising a treatment schedule for all 492 Urban Lot parcels that are managed by NDSL in the Lake Tahoe Basin. Treatment applications will focus on 1) brush and ladder fuel reduction; 2) forest thinning operations to reduce basal area and increase bark beetle infestation resistance and resilience; 3) maintaining suitable habitat for wildlife; and 4) managing for erosion control and water quality. A more strategic approach to these treatments, their timing and frequency will ensure that the goals of fuel reduction, community protection and forest restoration are achieved on these parcels and within the adjoining forests.

### North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District

The on-going goal for the Fuels Management Division at NLTFPD is described in the 2015 CWPP North Lake Tahoe Chapter. In summary, NLTFPD reduces the community's wildfire risk and improves forest health by effective fuels management practices.

The goal that NLTFPD sets for treating the number of acres for fire prevention and forest health varies annually depending on project needs and staffing capacity. Reaching these goals depends heavily on the fire season and the subsequent availability of their wildland hand crews.

NLTFPD works within the requirements of the TRPA Code of Ordinances, Chapter 61: Vegetation and Forest Health. Each project is assessed using the Initial Environmental Checklist, and a tree removal permit is obtained from the TRPA Forester prior to initiating project work. NLTFPD also works within the requirements of the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office receiving an approval letter prior to initiating project work. Projects meet the requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. Based on 36 CFR 800.13.b.3 and NRS 383.150-383.190 NLTFPD will seek additional consultation should unidentified resources be located. All projects are governed by 2 CFR 200 including Cost Principles 2CFR Part 225 (A-87) and Subpart E; 200.416, 200.417. Audits, if applicable, would be completed using A-133. Quarterly and annual updates are provided to the BLM for projects funded by SNPLMA Rounds 16 and 18, as described in 2 CFR 200.328 and further described in the SNPLMA Implementation Agreement Parts 1 and 2. Project work is governed by NRS 528 where applicable. Controlled burns are conducted in accordance with NRS 527.122-128, adhering to an authority approved burn plan and conducted in compliance with laws related to air pollution. Activities are reported in accordance with Nevada Revised Statute 528.150: Report concerning fire prevention and forest health in Lake Tahoe Basin. NAC provides guidance for various operations during fuels management operations in the field. NLTFPD conforms to the appropriate sections of Nevada Revised Statutes and the compatible Administrative Codes.

### Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District

TDFPD provides several fuel management services focused on modifying wildland fire behavior in and adjacent to communities to help prevent catastrophic wildland fires. Preventing catastrophic outcomes from wildland fire requires (1) the reduction of wildland fuel in the Wildland Urban Interface, and (2) the creation of defensible space around homes. Fuel reduction projects limit fire intensity, while defensible space prevents fire from reaching

buildings in the community. These goals are in conformance with all goals in TFFT supported strategies and plans.

**2. Any recommendations concerning fire prevention or public safety made by a fire department or fire protection district**



**North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District**

As a fire protection district, the NLTFPD is compliant with the Fire Building Code and the Wildland Urban Interface Code as adopted by the fire district. NLTFPD is also actively engaged with fuels reduction on land they manage in the Wildland Urban Interface and the Defense and Threat Zones. Adherence to these codes assists residents in being compelled to reduce fuels, harden homes, and maintain vegetation in safer conditions within communities where NLTFPD seeks to respond to wildfires safely and effectively.

**Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District**

TDFPD's Wildland and Fuels Division and Fire Prevention Bureau have worked with communities within their jurisdiction on the importance of the different defensible space zones needing treatment. The different zones the department encourages residents to follow are: Zone 0 (0-5 Feet) - The Ember Resistant Zone; Zone 1 (5-30 Feet) - The Lean, Clean and Green Zone; and lastly Zone 2 (30-100 Feet) - The Reduced Fuel Zone. TDFPD Prevention Bureau has hosted meetings with different communities and different HOAs within their jurisdiction to get this information out to the public and answer any questions.

**(c) Any Efforts to:**

**1. Increase public awareness regarding fire prevention and public safety**

The Tahoe Resource Conservation District (TRCD), in concert with the TFFT, is leading the process of updating the Lake Tahoe Basin Community Wildfire Protection Plan, to be released in early 2025. Public engagement included press releases, a survey sent to residents of Lake Tahoe, and multiple public workshops in concert with the local fire protection districts. The draft CWPP was released for public comment in November and December and the final review and edits will be done by the CWPP steering committee (a subcommittee of the TFFT) in January of 2025.



Public education is a critical component to reduce the threat of catastrophic wildfire at Lake Tahoe. In recognition of this, the TFFT formed the Fire Public Information Team (Fire PIT) to meet this important need. The Fire PIT is comprised of public education and communications professionals to implement a comprehensive outreach strategy to raise awareness of wildfire issues at Tahoe to increase defensible space practices on private property. Members of the Fire PIT include Tahoe Basin fire agencies, CALFIRE, NDF and related state agencies, University of California and Nevada Cooperative Extensions, the TRPA, the USFS-LTBMU, conservation districts from California and Nevada, California Tahoe Conservancy, and the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board.

The Fire PIT team remains active, and member agencies meet monthly. The team regularly develops and distributes press releases and opinion columns for local and regional newspapers and advertisements in multiple publications. Community events and a host of other activities also spread key messages about fire safety and fuel reduction projects at Lake Tahoe.



## PRESS RELEASE

Tahoe Fire & Fuels Team

For Immediate Release

### Living With Fire Means Living With Smoke

Contact: USDA Forest Service, Lisa Herron 530-721-3898 or [lisa.herron@usda.gov](mailto:lisa.herron@usda.gov)

**LAKE TAHOE, Calif./Nev., Dec. 3, 2024** – The Tahoe Fire & Fuels Team (TFFT) Fall Prescribed Fire Program began in September and is scheduled to continue through the winter months when conditions are favorable. During this period, residents and visitors in the Lake Tahoe Basin and surrounding areas may notice smoke in the air regularly due to residential debris burning and prescribed fire operations. Both activities play an essential role in protecting our communities by reducing excess vegetation (fuels) that can feed wildland fires. However, no matter how positive the benefits are, they come with a side effect that can be more than a minor inconvenience: smoke.

#### Prescribed Fire

While fire has always been a natural part of the Sierra Nevada ecosystem, the structure of our current society presents unique challenges for land managers. Today, there are more people than ever living in or visiting Tahoe Basin forests. For many, smoke is the most likely way they will experience a prescribed fire, which can lead to a lot of negative emotions. No one likes to breathe smoke, and it can pose tangible health risks, especially to vulnerable populations. The good news is that exposure to smoke can be reduced by following a few simple suggestions:

- Close windows, doors, and outside vents when it's smoky to prevent smoke accumulation indoors.
- If you have an air conditioner, run it. Keep the fresh air intake closed and keep the filter clean.
- Ventilate your home and workplace during periods of light smoke.
- Avoid physical activities while smoke is dense.
- View helpful [Smoke Management Tips](#) and share with family and friends.
- Monitor air quality in your area at [AirNow.gov](https://www.airnow.gov).

Depending on the number of acres being burned and fuel loading in the unit, smoke from planned fires is generally present for a much shorter period and can be much less impactful than smoke from unplanned fires. Wildfires tend to be considerably longer in duration than planned fires, sometimes blanketing huge areas with thick, choking smoke for weeks or months.

*A weekly press release is produced and distributed by Fire PIT members to educate area residents and visitors on current prescribed fire operations and the benefits of prescribed fire.*

### North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District

NLTFFPD continues to put a high priority on public outreach and community engagement. In 2024, NLTFFPD facilitated several workshops for the community covering topics such as Wildfire Preparedness, and the Tahoe Basin CWPP. Press releases, social media, email distribution groups and frequent presentations to community stakeholders and agencies are a few of the many ways NLTFFPD continues to keep citizens and visitors informed and updated on seasonally pertinent topics.

NLTFFPD also works on an annual basis, every spring, teaching the principles of Fire Adapted Communities to middle school students at Incline Middle School and Lake Tahoe School. The students learn about the importance of defensible space, evacuation preparedness and how the fire district implements fuels reduction treatments that include manually-implemented treatments, prescribed fire operations, pile burning, and working with new technologies, such as BurnBot, to increase treatment pace and scale.

The Annual Community Pancake Breakfast over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday always brings record number crowds to the main fire station and this opportunity is used to educate citizens about the importance of defensible space, home hardening, and how to become a Fire Adapted Community or neighborhood. NLTFPD is working on an annual field trip showcasing the effectiveness of fuel reduction treatments within the district to community members and interested stakeholders.

### Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District

TDFPD is focusing on providing continuing education and outreach to residents regarding fire safety and defensible space. TDFPD regularly hosts community meetings and workshops to provide homeowners with information on how to create and maintain defensible space around their properties. By working closely with residents, the district aims to create a community-wide approach to wildfire protection and prevention.

## **2. Coordinate with other federal, state, local and private entities with regard to projects to reduce fire hazards in the Nevada portion of the Lake Tahoe Basin.**

### Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team

The TFFT, a diverse collaborative group of forestry and fire management stakeholders, had a productive year with many new developments. A mid-winter retreat provided two days of review and strategizing, leading to recommendations on how to expand the team and its efforts. The need for a TFFT Program Manager was identified, support was gathered from agency administration, and funding secured. The TRCD is soliciting applications for the newly created Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team – Program Manager. This person will increase collaboration amongst a greater number of groups to increase the pace and scale of fuel reduction projects in the Lake Tahoe Basin.

Through the CWPP update efforts a new collaborative software, LandTender, was purchased for the TFFT to inform project priorities across all lands for the next 10 years.

Through its representation as a priority landscape planning group under the Nevada Shared Stewardship Agreement, the TFFT will continue its work to develop five-year programs of work for all landownerships on the Nevada side of the basin, while also tracking and reporting the basin-wide interagency accomplishments as needed.



*Firefighters from NDF's Marlette Peak Fire and Fuels Crew and NLTFPD Slide Mountain and Rifle Peak Fire Crews pose for a photo celebrating a successful pile burning season in the spring of 2024.*

### Nevada Division of Forestry

NDF continues to coordinate projects with federal, state, and local agencies as part of the NTRT and through the TFFT. NDF and NLTFPD crews were used for both pile burning and hand thinning in 2024. Additional private contractors have been recruited and added to the State Fire and Fuels Contract, to increase capacity to accomplish more projects, with several projects going to bid in 2025. Planning with NLTFPD, TDFPD, and NV Energy continued for new projects to begin in 2025.

### Nevada Division of State Lands

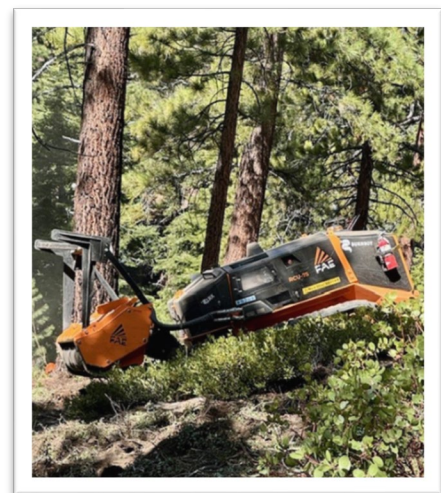
NDSL continued to work closely with federal, state, and local agencies, including the TFFT. A new interlocal agreement signed with NLTFPD in 2024, providing qualified work crews to conduct hazardous fuel reduction work on state owned parcels. A similar agreement was completed between NDSL and TDFPD to provide to complete hazardous fuels reduction projects and forest restoration and improvement projects on state-owned land through March of 2025.

### North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District

NLTFPD remained in partnership with the LTBMU to continue with pile burning operations as part of their Incline Hazardous Fuels and Healthy Forest Restoration Project. In January of 2024, 63 acres of piles were burned. Efforts to coordinate with the LTBMU will continue in future years.

Implementation of the Nevada Regional Fuels Reduction Project (SNPLMA 16) resulted in 299 acres of fuels reduction using various methods. Of the areas intended for treatment, only 87 acres are owned by the local water municipality where NLTFPD is responsible for fuels reduction. All remaining acres are owned by private individuals. In 2024, NLTFPD worked with private landowners on their properties within the jurisdiction of NLTFPD.

NLTFPD remains in good standing with partner agencies and land holders in Nevada and the Lake Tahoe Basin. Future project work and other engagements will be entertained as applicable.



*Hosted by NLTFPD, the Truckee-Tahoe Regional BurnBot Pilot Project Phase 1 was a 3-day demonstration of low impact forest mastication for the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team and other partners. During the three-day event 22 acres of fuels reduction was completed. Technology such as this will allow for increased pace and scale of wildfire mitigation projects.*

Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District

TDFPD continues to work closely with federal, state, and local agencies. The district currently has contracts/agreements with BLM-SNPLMA, NDSL, USFS-LTBMU, NV Energy, and other various private entities to implement fire prevention and forest health improvement projects.

**Summary of Treatment Acres**

The table below shows the cumulative effort of all major jurisdictions in the Tahoe Basin in addressing reduction of wildfire fuel and forest restoration.

YEAR	NDSP	NDSL	NLTFPD	TDFPD	USFS-LTBMU	TOTAL
2000	50	26	151 **	Unk.	677	904 *
2001	55	24	215 **	Unk.	691	985 *
2002	100	23	240 **	Unk.	1,260	1,623 *
2003	270	32	145 **	Unk.	1,254	1,701 *
2004	253	12	178 **	Unk.	1,918	2,361 *
2005	101	17	377 **	Unk.	1,913	2,408 *
2006	171	20	Unk.	Unk.	2,160	2,351 *
2007-09	1,362	149	591	432	3,031	5,565
2010	210	108	305	164	108	895
2011	247	77	367	97	1,572	2,360
2012-13	894	91	207	287	1,714	3,193
2014	407	26	136	204	594	1,367
2015	131	42	90	157	565	985
2016	375	38	59	101	1,273	1,846
2017	52	32	234	183	598	1,099
2018	300	31	175	187	591	1,284
2019	318	22	176	80	293	889
2020	14	3	339	-	228	584
2021	22	6	370	-	522	920
2022	404	58	219	80	151	912
2023	118	65	213	70	452	918
2024	381	69	269	80	546	1,345
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,235</b>	<b>971</b>	<b>5,056</b>	<b>2,122</b>	<b>22,111</b>	<b>36,495</b>

\*Includes lands in Nevada and California

\*\*NLTFPD includes projects on federal lands, which were also reported by the USFS/LTBMU; therefore, the NLTFPD accomplishments were reduced by 42%, the amount of federal land in the fire district. Source: TRPA Fuel Reduction Plan prepared by Steve Holl Consulting (2007), NDSL, USFS/LTBMU