



CHIEF'S REPORT

Date: March 10, 2020

To: Board of Directors

From: Michael S. Schwartz, Fire Chief

March came in like a lamb this year, quite a stark comparison to last year, regardless, it is always great to have some snow during Snowfest. Following one of the driest Februarys on record, our weather partners at NOAA and Predictive Services have indicated that our Northern Pacific ridge of high pressure has weakened leaving an unstable weather pattern, providing some late winter precipitation opportunities. Absent receiving some late season measurable precipitation, we will transition from winter operations into actively preparing for what could be a very long fire season. On a positive note, this winter's December snowfall followed by a dry period has precipitated a very productive pile-burning season. Currently there are 14-active prescribed fire operations within the basin, allowing local, state and federal agencies to burn off many of the piles that have been seasoned following some prior fuels thinning operations. Good smoke in the air should be reassuring to our communities as it's an indication of ongoing community risk reduction.

A large portion of my focus in February, and now continuing into March, has been centered around personnel replacement administration. Specifically, filling vacancies caused by key retirements through active succession planning, and recruitment activities. Following several retirements earlier this year, I made the necessary promotions to support our immediate operational needs and in support of our anticipated fire season. Consistent with these new appointments we evaluate the assigned additional duties and rearranged them to ensure efficiency, increase capacity and provide an equity of workload, you may notice some of these changes in future reports. The two most recent promotions are Engineer Brent Armstrong to Captain and Firefighter Eric Gustafson to Engineer. These promotions have left four vacancies within the Firefighter Paramedic ranks. In order to fill these employment opportunities, the District is conducting a "Lateral" Firefighter Paramedic recruitment. This recruitment will remain open until all vacancies are filled and to date has attracted a number of exceptional candidates from other departments that are extremely interested in joining our fire service family here at Lake Tahoe. In the last month, the Training Division completed its first round of testing and I conducted Chief Interviews, subsequently, I'm in the process of making offers of employment to our most qualified applicants. We anticipate having new recruits oriented and assigned to shifts prior to May 1, 2020; we will continue to accept applications from qualified applicants until all our firefighter vacancies are filled. Additional current recruitments include Fire Inspector and Seasonal Defensible Space Inspector.

Administrative and Fiscal

Expenses and revenue remain within budgetary projections. With the vacancies caused by our attrition and the staffing pilot program, we expect to see a shift within the salaries category from budgeted regular salaries to overtime to meet the same practical staffing effect. It's important to understand that overtime is less costly than full time personnel in meeting mandatory staffing levels. We closed out several prior year FEMA Assistance to Firefighter Grants (AFG) and Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grants (**SAFER**) all without issue. We continue to work with CalPERS and DHCS staff related to those agencies' audits and look forward to those resolutions too.

Fire and Life Safety (Fire Prevention) Fuels Facilities

F&LS remains busy. In addition to our standard inspections they are doing vacation and short-term rental inspections in two-counties. The Placer County CEO's office has taken the lead in the Fireworks/BMP policy rewrite and the Fire Districts has continued to stay engaged as the technical experts and key stakeholder. It appears as though the county has kept this on a fast-track to be able to support the community-based fireworks shows.

We have recently begun getting some information back from the State Board of Forestry related to new regulations included in Title 14. Specifically, in that Title 14 doesn't apply if a parcel was in a pre-1991 subdivision and that we (Fire AHJ's) could do an exception when the parcel is not in a pre-1991 subdivision; more to come on this topic after Buellton Fire-code Camp.

Facilities was recently reassigned to F&LS Division and Chief McNamara has been working closely with our Facilities Coordinator to prioritize projects within our eight facilities, including the two Meeks Bay Fire Stations and one located in Alpine Meadows.

Operations and Fleet

Most notable this month is the Districts' continued increase in call volume, specifically winter-related calls for service. While we did not have the large number of structure fire responses as we did last February, we continue to have an abundance of medical-related and rescue calls, a trend I see going into the future. Chief Leighton has been carefully monitoring the Staffing Pilot Study and the Task Force Model to ensure consistency and to determine the operational efficiency gains to emergency service delivery within our communities. Our fleet service team has done an outstanding job this winter of keeping all our fire engines, medic units and utility vehicles fully operational. This included a significant wiring upgrade to Engine 61, soon to be referred to as Engine 67.

Training and Rescue

Monthly training again focused on winter operations and fundamental firefighting skill, we anticipate transitioning into wildland fire training next month which will include our annual wildfire RT-130 safety refresher, capacity pack-test and CICC qualifications peer-review. We are planning a firefighter recruit training academy in April and an Engineers training academy in May, both to be completed prior to the peak of fire season, at which time we expect to be back at full strength and qualifications.

EMS and UAS

With special recognition and thanks going to EMS Battalion Chief Sedgwick, Truckee Fire EMS Chief Laura Brown, Tahoe Forest Hospital Chief of Operations Judy Newland and Director of Pharmacy Tena Mather, our coalition's partnership was able to resolve critical issues related to the sustainability of our automated narcotic dispensary system (PYXIS) in the wake of new state regulations. A historical reminder, we share our PYXIS with Truckee Fire and our shared unit is collocated at Tahoe Forest Hospital. Otherwise our EMS Division, Operations Chief and PIO have all been focused on COVID-19 and Flu season preparedness. This includes acquiring an adequate supply of proper PPE with donning training, dispatch PPE pre-alerting, best practices for the management of EMS personnel in a pandemic and securing our critical workforce area from undo exposure. Because of our community impact the Fire Districts as EMS providers have been a key forward-facing partner with the County Health Officers and County OES in both Placer and El Dorado. As Fire Based EMS agencies that are embedded within our communities, we have been sharing our information to our partner agencies and the public as appropriate.

Safety/Wellness and IT

The Districts have been continuing to port our phones away from Charter/Spectrum services onto the BCM-One platform. This has been more difficult than anticipated and has caused some intermittent phone outages. Staff has done a good job keeping essential phone lines operational while also keeping our customers and community informed.

We have been inventorying all District exercise equipment with a goal of getting a standard compliment of weights and equipment at each station. The labor unit purchased a Peloton spin-bike and is working with the District to do a pilot study related to its effectiveness in contributing towards firefighter cardiovascular health and fitness.

Important Memorandums and Attachments

- #20-11 Brent Armstrong - Provisional Captain Appointment
- #20-13 Eric Gustafson – Provisional Engineer Appointment
- #20-22 Extension of 90-day pilot staffing study
- Response reports and graphs.
- Forest Fuels PPT 2019 Summary
- February Training Summary

During the past month the Fire Chief (designee*) represented the Districts at the following external meetings and events:

- 2/7 Areas CEO Meeting
- 2/11 NTFUD Forest Fuels
- 2/13 NTRAC Meeting
- 2/14 ASCWD BOD meeting
- 2/19 MBF Board meeting*
- 2/20 LTRFCA meeting*
- 2/20 NTF Board meeting
- 2/26 El Dorado County Chiefs meeting
- TFH meeting
- 2/28 Fire Legislative Task Force meeting



North Tahoe and Meeks Bay Fire Protection Districts



Memorandum

#20-11

To: All Personnel

From: Michael Schwartz, Fire Chief

Re: Brent Armstrong – Provisional Captain Appointment

Date: February 21, 2020

Congratulations to Brent Armstrong for successful completion of all aspects of the promotional examinations for Captain.

After careful consideration, it is my pleasure to offer Engineer Armstrong a provisional appointment to Captain. Brent began his career with the District in 2009 as a seasonal curbside chipper and continued as a part-time inspector for the Fire Prevention Division. On September 16, 2012, he was hired full-time as a Firefighter Paramedic, promoted to Driver Operator on September 6, 2014, and promoted to Engineer on September 30, 2016. He has been working out of class as Captain since March 4, 2019.

Engineer Armstrong has accepted this new position effective March 1, 2020. Brent will move to B-Shift and will begin his duties and responsibilities of Captain for the District on March 2, 2020.

In accordance with District Rules and Regulations Sections 2.19.e. and 10.D.3., this provisional period will be subject to probation and will count as time in grade with the corresponding promotional anniversary date change. Upon successful completion of the provisional and probationary period, Brent's new anniversary date is expected to be March 1 each year.

Please join me in congratulating Captain Armstrong!



North Tahoe and Meeks Bay Fire Protection Districts



Memorandum

#20-13

To: All Personnel

From: Michael Schwartz, Fire Chief

Re: Erik Gustafson – Provisional Engineer Appointment

Date: February 21, 2020

Congratulations to Erik Gustafson for successful completion of all aspects of the recent promotional examination for Engineer.

After careful consideration, it is my pleasure to offer Firefighter Gustafson a provisional appointment to Engineer. Erik began his career with the District in 2016 having served for REMSA Paramedics for three-years. He has been working out of class as an Engineer since October 21, 2019.

Erik has accepted this new position effective March 1, 2020 and will move to C-Shift and begin his duties and responsibilities as an Engineer for the District on March 4, 2020.

In accordance with District Rules and Regulations, Sections 2.19.e. and 10.D.3, this provisional period will be subject to probation and will count as time in grade with the corresponding promotional anniversary date change. Upon successful completion of the provisional and probationary period, Erik's new anniversary date is expected to be March 1 each year.

Please join me in welcoming and congratulating Engineer Gustafson!



North Tahoe and Meeks Bay Fire Protection Districts



Memorandum

#20-22

To: All Personnel

From: Steve Leighton, Division Chief - Operations

Re: Extension of 90-Day Peak Period Staffing and Response Study

Date: March 6, 2020

We are nearing the end of our three-month trial period pilot staffing program. The program has anecdotally produced positive operational results. With that said, we will be extending the program for another three months until June 26, 2020.

Please use the same rules of engagement as stated in Memorandum #19-81. In addition, use this extension time to continue to evaluate the operational benefits of the program.

NTFPD-MBFPD RESPONSE CALLS
February 2020

Basic Incident Number (FD1)	Basic Incident Date Time	Basic Incident Type (FD1.21)	Basic Apparatus Call Sign List	Basic Primary Action Taken (FD1.48)	Basic Additional Actions Taken 2 (FD1.66)
2020002682	2/1/2020 16:22	Smoke or odor problem	B5, E53, E61, M51	Investigate	
2020002941	2/4/2020 14:41	EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	E52, E61, M52, M53, M53	Refusal of EMS care	
2020003056	2/5/2020 19:21	Alarm system sounded due to malfunction	B5, E53, M61	Shut down system	
2020003643	2/11/2020 16:34	Alarm system sounded due to malfunction	B5, E61, M51, M53	Systems and services, other	
2020003709	2/12/2020 14:22	Dispatched and cancelled en route	B5, E53, E61, M52	Cancelled en route	
2020003771	2/13/2020 9:45	Outside equipment fire	E53	Investigate fire out on arrival	
2020003802	2/13/2020 15:52	CO detector activation due to malfunction	B5, E51, M51, M61	Investigate	
2020003840	2/14/2020 8:08	EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	E61, M53, POV	Provide advanced life support (ALS)	
2020003917	2/14/2020 23:44	EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	E61, M53	Provide advanced life support (ALS)	Transport person
2020004010	2/15/2020 23:47	EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	E61, M53	Provide advanced life support (ALS)	Transport person
2020004379	2/19/2020 23:02	Carbon monoxide incident	B5, E53, M51, M61	Transport person	Investigate
2020004847	2/25/2020 8:08	Smoke detector activation, no fire - unintentional	B5, E61, M53	Investigate	
	Calls = 12				

Forest Fuels Program Grants Summary

2019 Season Update

North Tahoe Fire Protection District

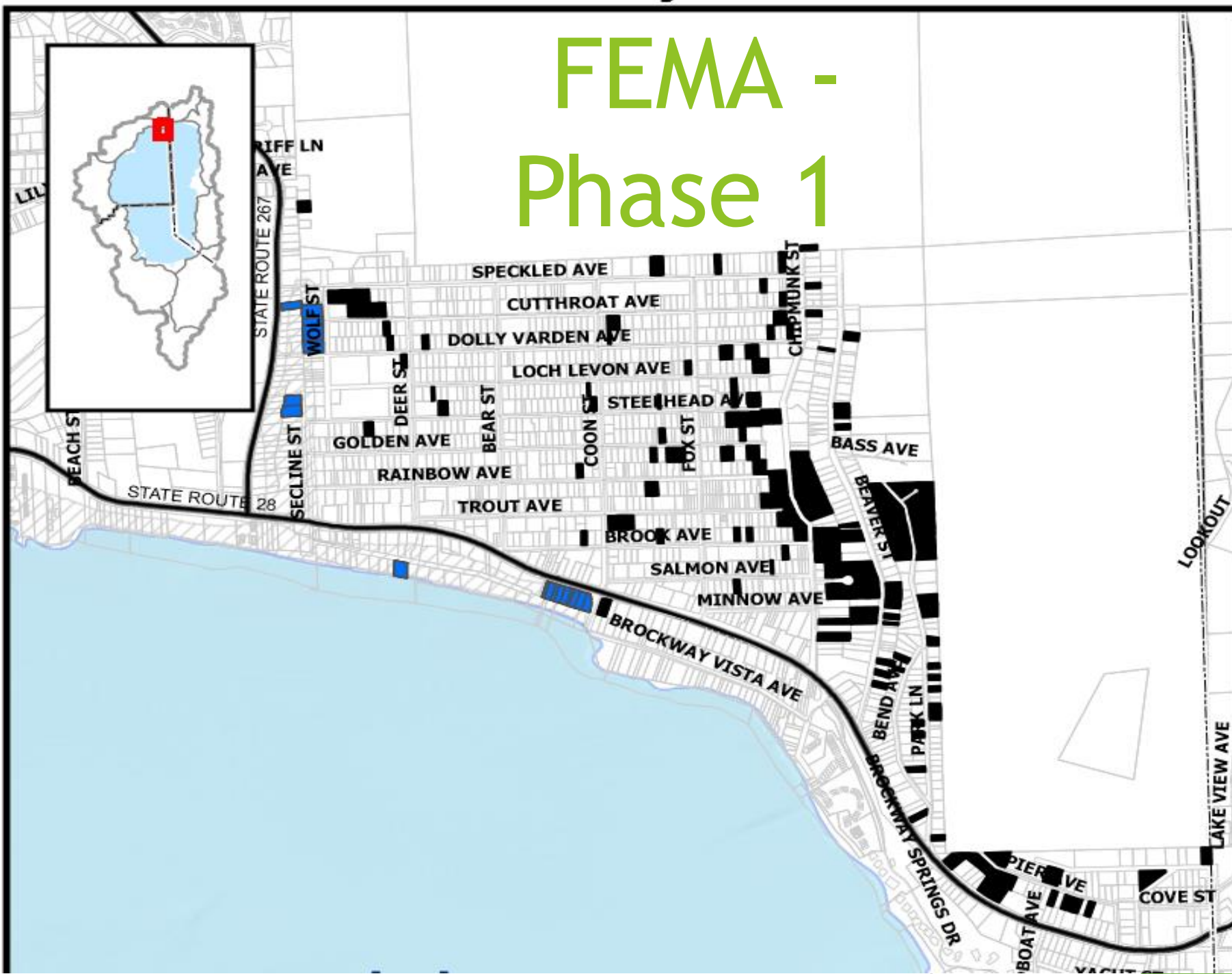
Forest Fuels Coordinator: Eric Horntvedt



North Tahoe Fire Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Defensible Space Project (FEMA-FY10-PDM) - Awarded FEMA Grant

Grantor:	FEMA - Cal OES		
Grantee:	North Tahoe Fire Protection District		
Award Amount:	\$763,155	Award Source:	FEMA - Cal OES
Cumulative Expenditures:	\$98,199	Amount Remaining:	\$664,956
Match Amount	\$254,385	Match Source:	CTC
CTC Match expenditures:	\$283,050	Match remaining:	None – Match is over-met – CTC will continue to spend and track match
Project Area:	881 CTC lots from Kings Beach to Tahoma		
Purpose:	Reduce hazardous fuels on 200 acres of urban CTC lots that are adjacent to private homes to enhance defensible space for residential properties, and reduce the loss of lives and property from catastrophic wildfire		
Deliverables:	Hand thin and chip 881 CTC lots		
Status:	Phase 1 (154 lots/27 acres) in Kings Beach was completed. Phase 2 (281 lots/52 acres) King Beach to Tahoe City went out to bid and a contractor was selected to begin implementation in spring 2020		

FEMA - Phase 1



Angora Fire

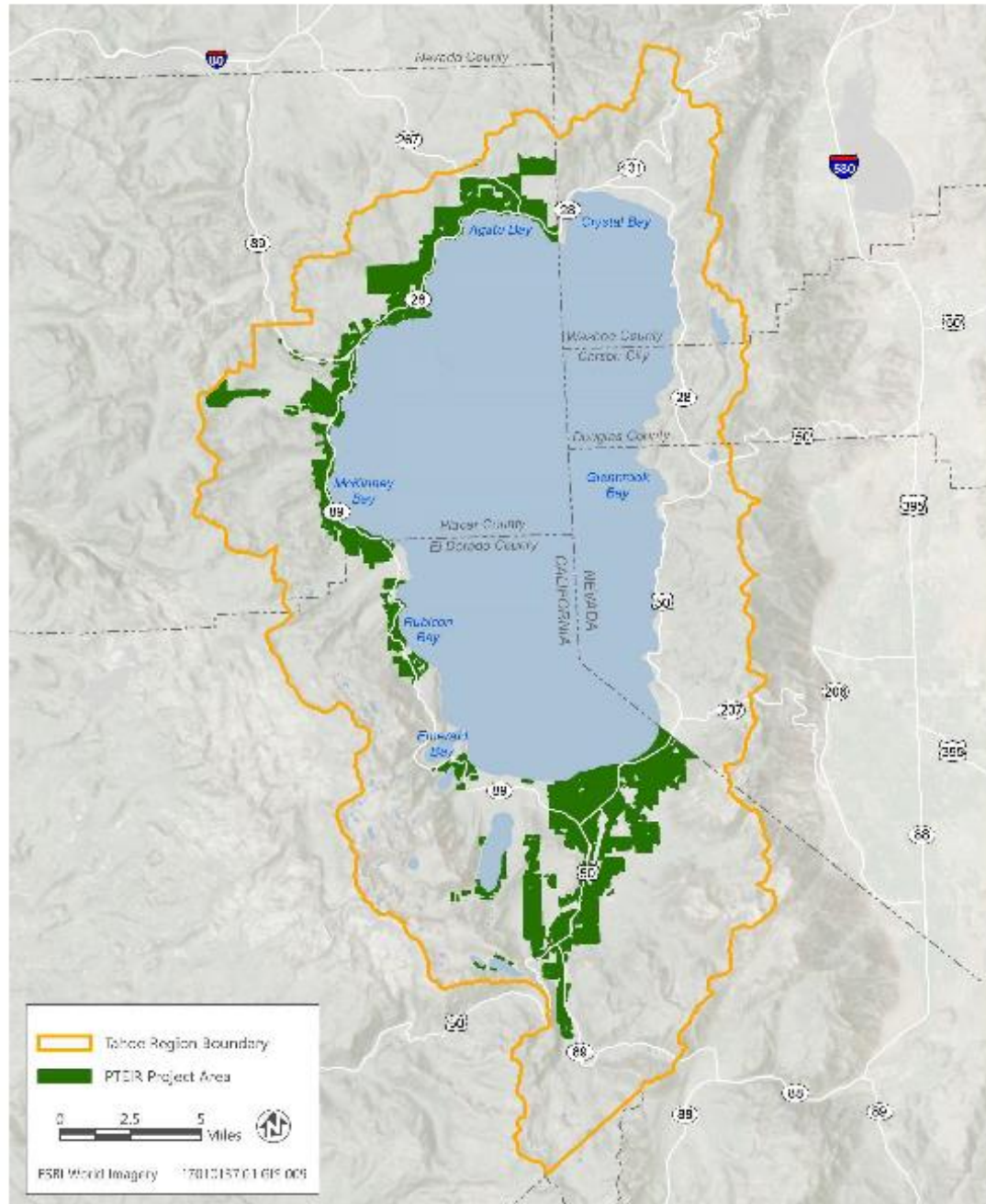


Program Timberland Environmental Impact Report - SNPLMA round16 subaward from LVFPD

Grantor:	Bureau of Land Management		
Grantee:	Lake Valley Fire Protection District		
Subaward Amount:	\$155,162	Award Source:	SNPLMA Round 16 subaward from LVFPD
Cumulative Expenditures:	\$32,888	Amount Remaining:	\$122,275
Project Area:	WUI of the California side of the Lake Tahoe Basin		
Purpose:	Streamline permitting processes for fuel reduction projects. Comprehensive analysis of the cumulative effects of increased forest management activities.		
Deliverables:	\$2Million project: Complete a PTEIR consistent with CEQA, FPA, and TRPA regulations. Empirical evaluation of cumulative effects of planned forest management activities (forest conditions, fuels, fire behavior, smoke, air quality, water yield, wildlife habitat condition & connectivity, recreation and economics). Economic model specific to support the PTEIR planning process. Light Detection and Ranging-LiDAR derived analysis of forest stand conditions, abandoned roads and trails, assessing project effectiveness and ecological succession.		
Status:	NTFPD is the contracted project manager to provide oversight and coordination of this project. Phase-I Complete: Ascent Environmental Inc produced The Strategy Report for The Lake Tahoe PTEIR. Phase-II under contract with Ascent to develop and produce a final PTEIR by late fall 2020.		

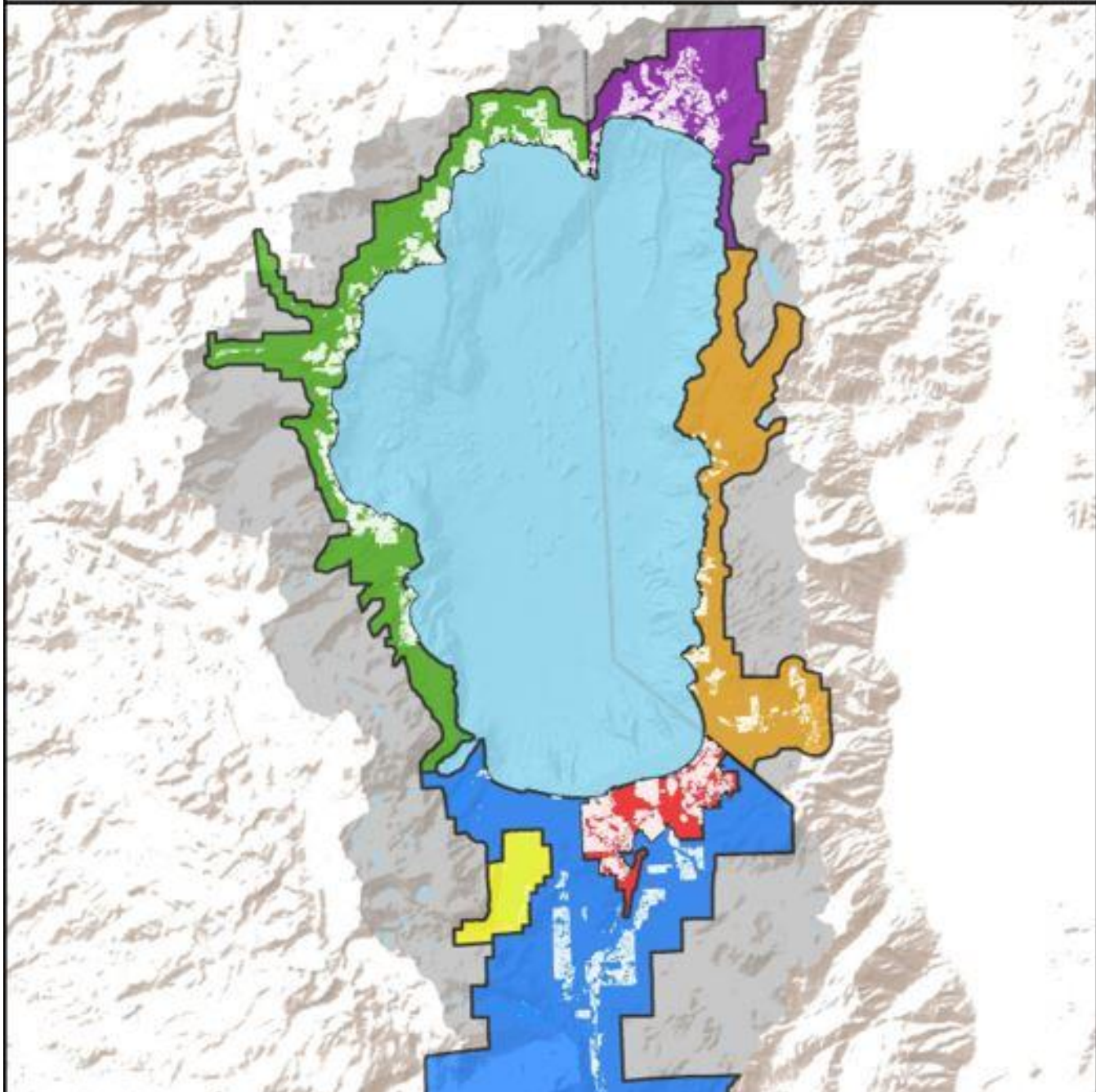


PTEIR MAP



Tahoe Network of Fire Adapted Communities - SNPLMA round16 subaward from TRCD			
Grantor:	Bureau of Land Management		
Grantee:	Tahoe Resource Conservation District		
Subaward Amount:	\$898,164	Award Source:	SNPLMA Round 16 subaward from TRCD
Cumulative Expenditures:	\$471,343	Amount Remaining:	\$426,821
Project Area:	Lake Tahoe Basin Communities: 32,275 parcels over 4,435 acres		
Purpose:	Coordinate a fire adapted communities program including extensive community outreach and assistance that will result in increased wildfire preparedness and community engagement. Deliver these services within NTFPD and MBFPD		
Deliverables:	\$5.8Million dollar project: Complete 8,700 Fire Defensible Space inspections. Implement comprehensive education and outreach. Create efficient reservation and tracking system. Respond to 5,500 chipping requests and remove 8,250 yds ³ of biomass. Develop Fire Defensible Space Date Management System. Train community leaders.		
Status:	Tahoe Basin Fire Districts are obligated funds and are actively involved in the Tahoe Network program. NTFPD Staffs 2 seasonal Defensible Space Inspectors, 50% FTE of the Forest Fuels Coordinator and 25% FTE of the PIO positions to: conduct defensible space inspections, coordinate free chipping, and provide outreach/education. In 2019 over 2400 inspections were completed, 800+ piles chipped and numerous HOA and community meetings were attended in NTFPD/MBFPD/LVFPD		

Tahoe Network of Fire Adapted Communities Project Map



Alpine Meadows Defensible Space and Community Outreach/Education *as of 12/31/2019			
Funding Source:	Alpine Springs County Water District		
Contractor:	NTFPD		
Amount:	\$10,000 annually	Source:	ASCWD (FY 7/1 - 6/30)
Expenditures:	\$9,341	Amount Remaining:	\$659
Project Area:	Alpine Meadows		
Purpose:	<p>Coordinate a fire adapted communities program consistent with the Tahoe Basin, including: community outreach, education and assistance that will result in increased wildfire preparedness and community engagement. Provide free residential curbside chipping services, support AMFSC including chipping their community work day pile, conduct defensible space inspections per CPRC 4291 on developed parcels and per Placer County Ordinance 5603-B on undeveloped parcels, plan for future fuels reduction treatments, leverage and apply for available community assistance opportunities.</p>		
Status:	<p>North Tahoe Fire Staff spent extensive time in 2019 to coordinate and assist Alpine Meadows in becoming an NFPA recognized Firewise Community, represented the AMFSC at Placer Fire Alliance meetings, conducted numerous defensible space inspections with Juniper Mountain as the THA, contracted free chipping for the community and the community work day, attended community meetings, AMFSC meetings, and assisted with the Squaw and Alpine Evacuation Drills.</p>		



California Lake Tahoe Basin Regional Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Project - SNPLMA round16 subaward from CTC

Grantor:	Bureau of Land Management		
Grantee:	California Tahoe Conservancy		
Subaward Amount:	\$49,000	Award Source:	SNPLMA round 16 subaward from CTC
Cumulative Expenditures:	\$4,320	Amount Remaining:	\$44,680
Project Area:	WUI on the California side of The Lake Tahoe Basin		
Purpose:	Reduce hazardous fuels on 1200-1800 acres within the Defense Zone of the WUI to improve forest health and reduce the threat of catastrophic wildfire.		
Deliverables:	\$6.8Million dollar project: Hand thin, pile burn, mechanically treat, and/or broadcast understory burning 1200-1800 acres. Prioritize treatments as identified in CWPP and Multi-jurisdictional Strategy. Monitoring and assessment pre and post treatment conditions.		
Status:	NTFPD and CTC entered into an agreement allocating \$49,000 to cover Forester time spent on: project planning, identification of Private and Local Government lands for treatment, vegetation management plans, identify and acquire required permits, landowner engagement (including Right of Entry/hold harmless agreements), field preparation (layout, tree marking required surveys), and grant management. NTFPD will be sub awarded additional funds on a project by project basis.		

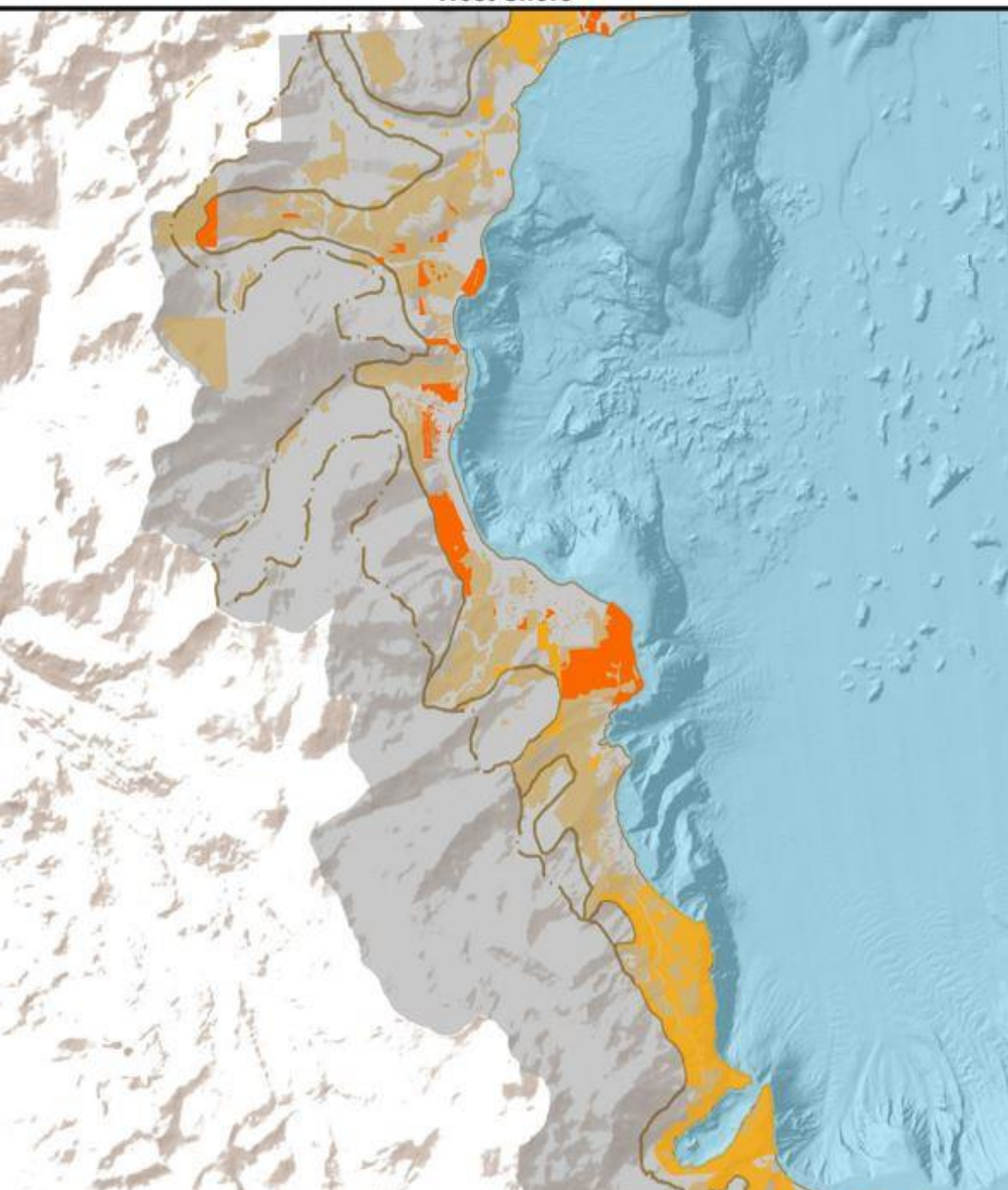
Change in Forest Structure



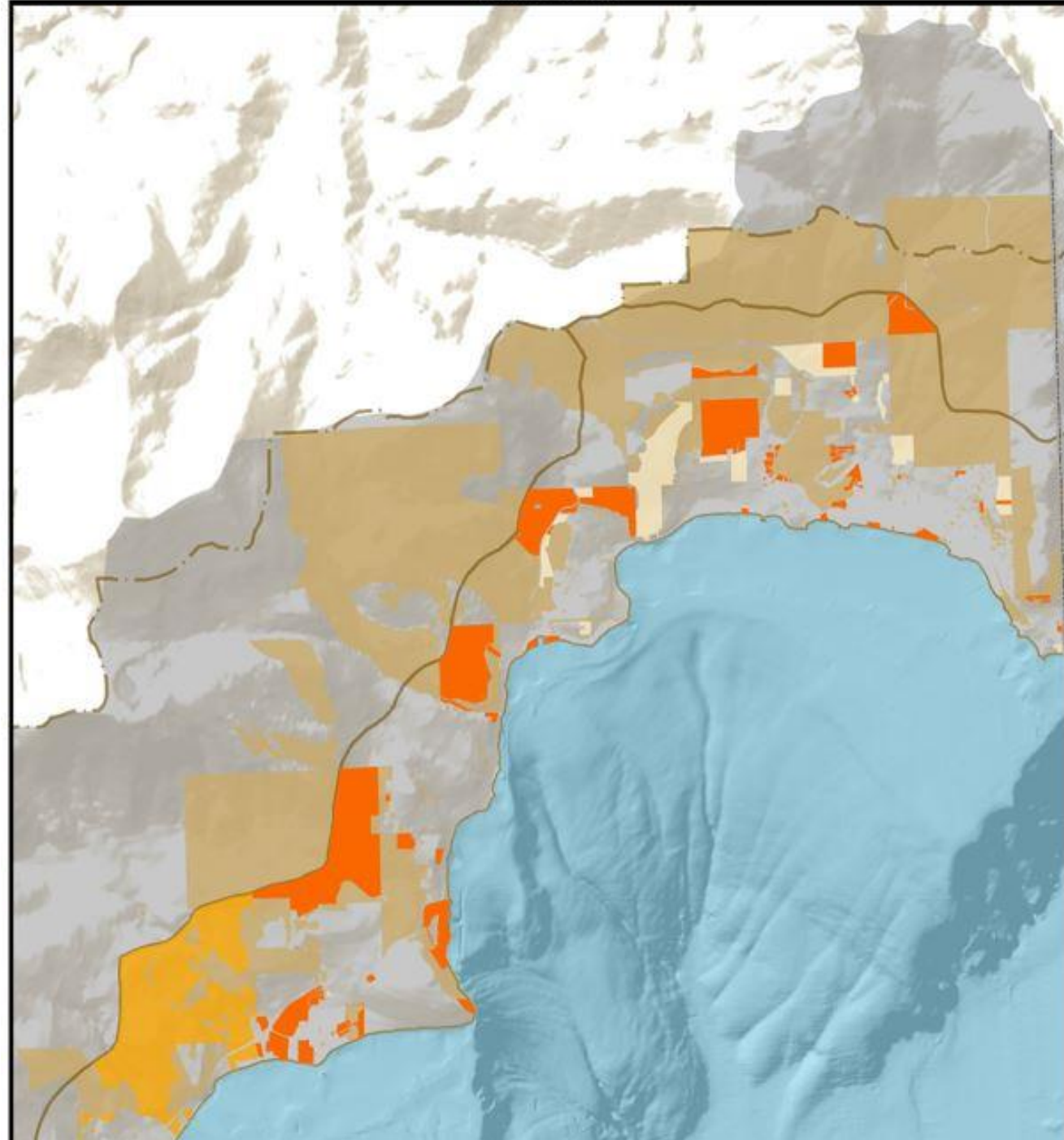
Today's Forests



West Shore



North Shore



North Tahoe CWPP Implementation Project - SNPLMA round15 appropriation

Grantor:	Bureau of Land Management - SNPLMA		
Grantee:	North Tahoe Fire Protection District		
Award Amount:	\$450,000	Award Source:	Federal (SNPLMA Round 15)
Cumulative Expenditures:	\$252,981	Amount Remaining:	\$197,019
Match Amount	\$17,891	Match Source:	NTPUD & Volunteer Hours
Match Expenditures:	\$8,655	Match Remaining:	\$9,236
Project Area:	NTPUD properties (CWPP identified priority areas in North Tahoe)		
Purpose:	Reduce hazardous fuels on at least 135 acres within the WUI		
Deliverables:	Hand thin and pile burn, chip, and/or mechanically treat at least 135 acres, 1 interpretive presentation with community members/stakeholders, 1 educational workshop with local students		
Status:	NTFPD and NLTFPD entered into an MOU for implementation which will treat at least 135 acres of NTPUD lands. 80 acres were thinned and piled during the 2019 season!		

Collaborative Forest Management and Fuels Reduction MOU - provides match for SNPLMA r15

Project

NTPUD:	North Tahoe Public Utility District		
NTFPD:	North Tahoe Fire Protection District		
Obligated Amount:	\$50,000	Source:	NTPUD
Cumulative Expenditures:	\$11,533	Amount Remaining:	\$38,447
Project Area:	NTPUD Properties – Focus on the Gentry Property and the Regional Park		
Purpose:	Supply funding for NTFPD staff to meet (and exceed) the required in-kind match/contributed funds for the SNPLMA appropriation for the following activities: project planning and layout; boundary and work limitation area marking; permitting and vegetation management plan development; pre and post-treatment photo monitoring; project oversight and implementation monitoring. As well as provide funding for project administration and grant compliance.		
Deliverables:	Implement the \$450,000 SNPLMA project on NTPUD lands: Prioritize treatment - Hand thin and pile burn or chip at least 135 acres. Host 1 interpretive presentation with community members/stakeholders, and 1 educational workshop with local students. Develop a maintenance plan for future re-treatments.		
Status:	55 acre Gentry Property has had initial-entry hand thin and pile treatment completed. Regional Park received 13 acres thinned and piled & 12 acres thinned and chipped!		



NTPUD Fuels Reduction Phase 1 - Gentry Property

- Parking
- Parking
- CTC
- SEZ
- SEZ
- FRA
- Phase 1 A & B

Hand Thin & Pile Burn Treatment at the North Tahoe Public Utility District (NTPUD) "Gentry" property.

- Local Fire Crew Performing Treatment
- Fuel Reduction Treatment includes the removal of small diameter trees, shrubs, and surface fuels
- Piles will be left on-site to cure (dry-out) and ignition of piles will be carried out in the subsequent Spring/Fall

If you have questions please contact:



North Tahoe Regional Park

Project Boundary

 North Tahoe Regional Park

USFS

 USFS

Private Land

 Private Land

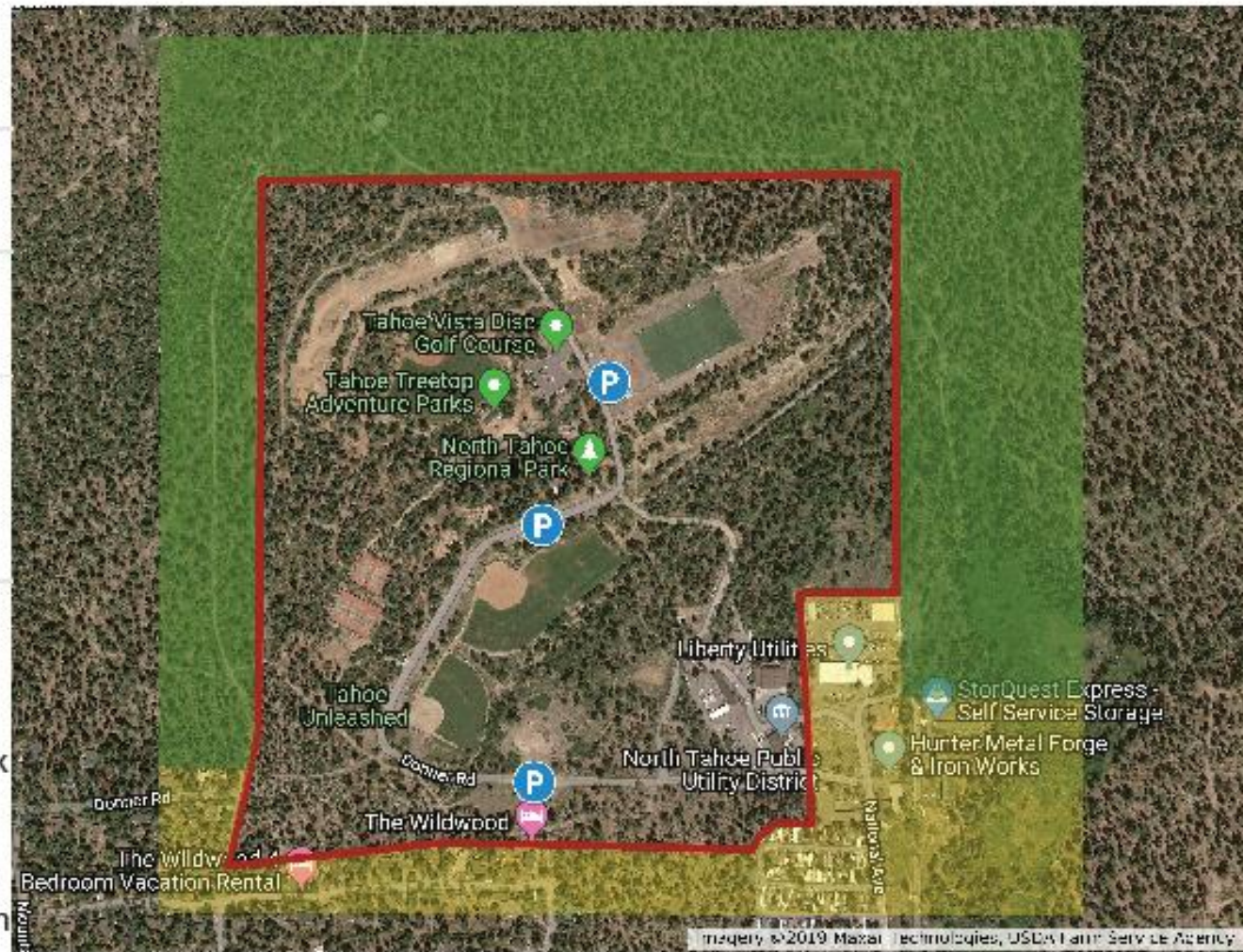
Parking Areas

 Parking
 Parking
 Parking

Access: From HWY 28, turn north on National Ave, and then west on Donner Rd into park

Parking: Multiple areas to park within the project area

Prescription: Hand thin trees up to 14" DBH, reduce shrubs 60-80%, buck and collect down & dead surface and aerial fuels. All slash to be piled within the project area.





Questions?





**North Tahoe Fire Protection District
Training Division**

2-20 (February 27th – April 8th, 2020) Training Assignments

Below is a list of next month's training events. The expectation is for the entire crew to participate in each drill. A minimum of two hours is expected for each training. If you are unable to complete the training, email the Training Chief and your BC with the reason why it wasn't completed.

Additional training can be added in hoses, ladders, task books. Contact the Training Chief with any questions.

Shift	Date	Assignment
C Shift	Feb 27 & 28	Company Inspections – Walk through a target hazard in your first due. Take a 200' search line bag to see where your hose lays will reach. Review set up of search line bag.
A Shift	Feb 29 & March 1	Company Inspections – Walk through a target hazard in your first due. Take a 200' search line bag to see where your hose lays will reach. Review set up of search line bag.
B Shift	March 2 & 3	Company Inspections – Walk through a target hazard in your first due. Take a 200' search line bag to see where your hose lays will reach. Review set up of search line bag.
C Shift	March 4 & 5	Active Shooter – Review SSV Policies, and watch video. Understand where the gear is kept and how it works.
A Shift	March 6 & 7	Active Shooter – Review SSV Policies, and watch video. Understand where the gear is kept and how it works.
B Shift	March 8 & 9	Active Shooter – Review SSV Policies, and watch video. Understand where the gear is kept and how it works.
C Shift	Mach 10 & 11	Ladder Carries – Review and practice different type of ladder carries. See attachments for ideas.
A Shift	March 12 & 13	Ladder Carries – Review and practice different type of ladder carries. See attachments for ideas.
B Shift	March 14 & 15	Ladder Carries – Review and practice different type of ladder carries. See attachments for ideas.
C Shift	March 16 & 17	VEIS Training – Contact Whisler
A Shift	March 18 & 19	VEIS Training – Contact Whisler
B Shift	March 20 & 21	VEIS Training – Contact Whisler

C Shift	March 22 & 23	Captains Choice
A Shift	March 24 & 25	Captains Choice
B Shift	March 26 & 27	Captains Choice
C Shift	March 28 & 29	EMS Training – Gilley to send out
A Shift	March 30 & 31	EMS Training – Gilley to send out
B Shift	April 1 & 2	EMS Training – Gilley to send out
C Shift	April 3 & 4	Swiftwater Training – Contact Wagner, you will be getting in the water
A Shift	April 5 & 6	Swiftwater Training – Contact Wagner, you will be getting in the water
B Shift	April 7 & 8	Swiftwater Training – Contact Wagner, you will be getting in the water

****References are listed in Target Solutions under Monthly Training/2020/ 2-20**