

Policy Changes and Outcomes from the Angora Fire: A Brief History of Wildfire Prevention Efforts in the Tahoe Basin

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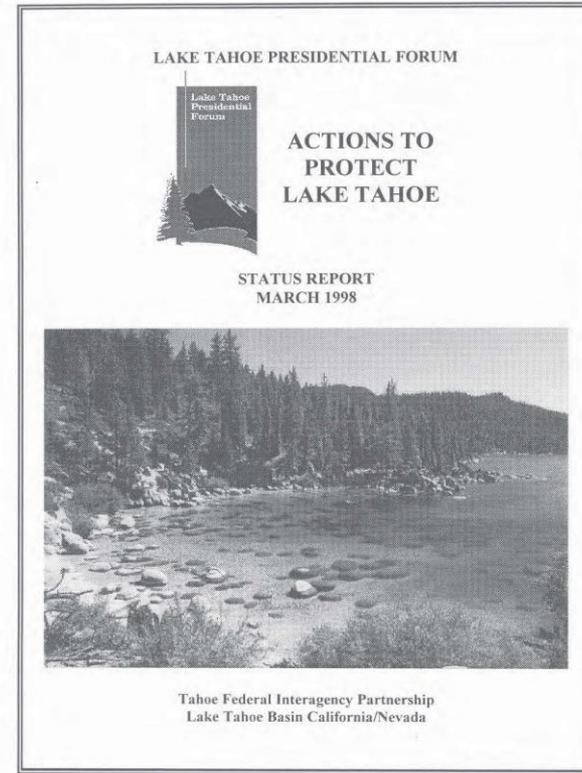
A Lot of Parts



Chapter 1

Building the Foundation (pre-2001)

- 1995 -Tahoe Re-green response to beetle killed trees
- 1997 Lake Tahoe Presidential Forum provided funds for a Fire History Study, mechanical fuels treatment, urban lot management, prescribed burning (LTBMU)

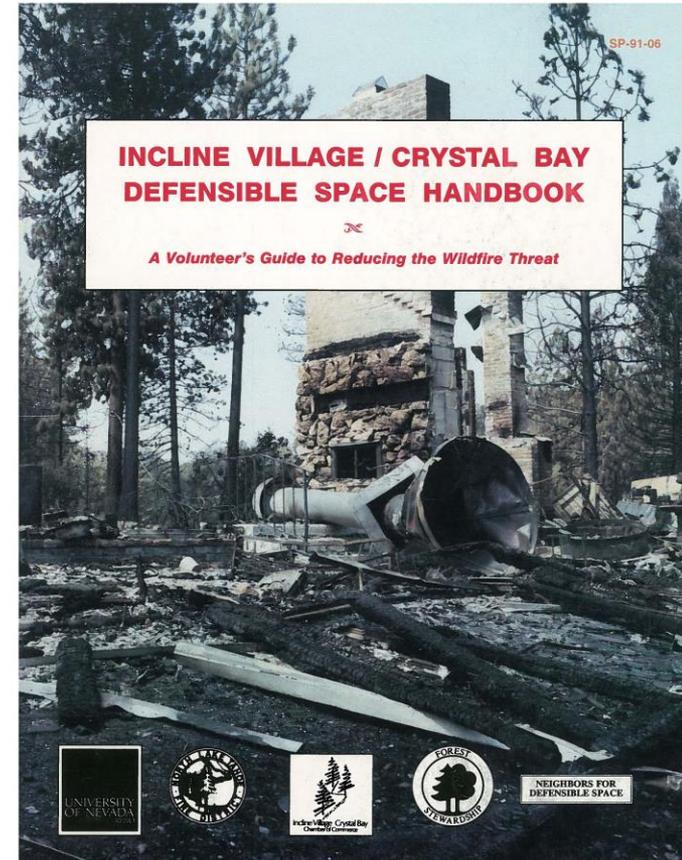


Tahoe Re-Green



Chapter 1 -Continued

- NLTFPD- Defensible space program (1991)
- Forest Health Consensus Group



The New Era of Wildfire Awareness

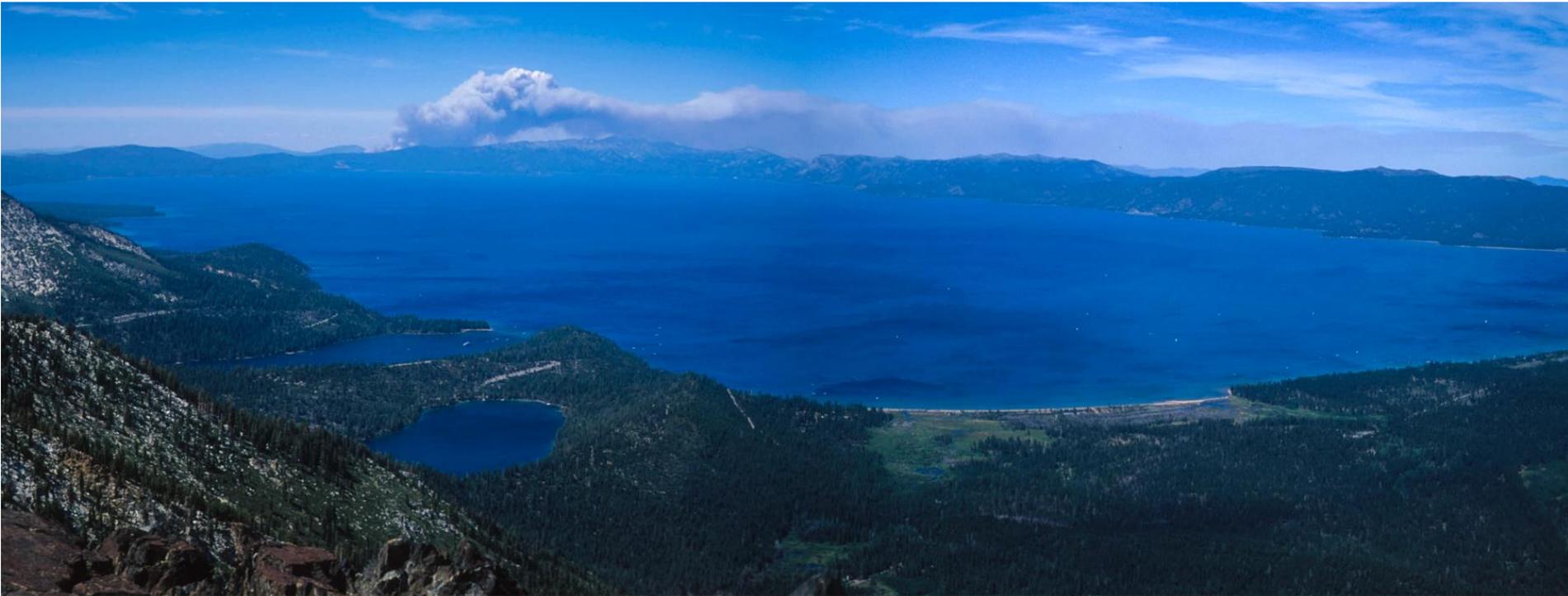
- The Martis Fire, June 17, 2001 and the Gondola Fire – July 2, 2002, raise wildfire awareness to a new level.
- Living with Fire guidelines adopted for defensible space - 2003
- Healthy Forest Restoration Act –Dec. 2003
- TRPA Updated Code of Ordinances & 208 Plan to allow low-impact mechanized equipment in SEZs for fuel reduction work -Jan. 2004
- Nuts and Bolts 2004 Action Plan –March 2004





Martis Fire: June 17, 2001

>14,000 acres



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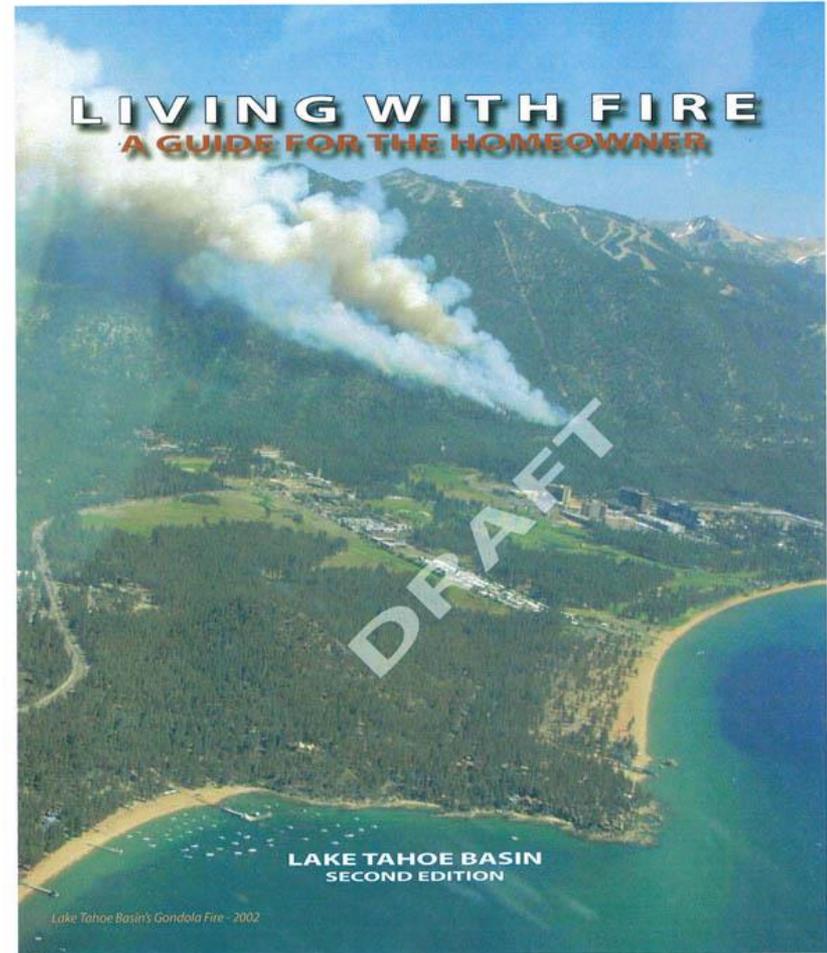
Gondola Fire: July 2, 2002

673 acres



Living with Fire Adopted 2003

- Interagency working group included all agencies and Fire Protection Districts
- A full perimeter 0-5' non-combustible zone will be a universal prescription
- Maintain a Lean, Clean and Green Zone from 5'-30'
- Wildland Fuel Reduction Zone 30-100'



Healthy Forest Restoration Act 2003

- HFRA Kick-off at LTCC March 2003
- Nuts and Bolts Fuel Reduction Plan provided first estimates of acres and costs for WUI treatments
- Nevada and California Legislators challenge Basin agencies to complete CWPPs by the August Tahoe Summit
- CWPPs delivered at the Tahoe Summit

I

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1511

To amend the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 to promote timely emergency rehabilitation and restoration of Federal forest land impacted by catastrophic events, to redirect for a 5-year period funding normally made available for land acquisition to mechanical forest treatment and salvage operations due to catastrophic events, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 11, 2013

Mrs. NOEM introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003
to promote timely emergency rehabilitation and restore



Chapter 2: The Era of Wildfire Awareness Continued

- Waterfall Fire (Carson City) –July 2004
- BOR Funding -July 2004 (>\$660,000)
- TRPA Governing Board makes Wildfire and fuel reduction “#1 Priority” for first time in 2004
- Basin-wide CWPPs – 11/2004
- White Pine Bill (“Fuels SNPLMA”) –Dec 2006
- Fuel Reduction and Forest Restoration Plan for the Lake Tahoe Basin Wildland Urban Interface–Jan. 2007
- USFS Stewardship Fireshed Assessment –April 2007



Fuel Reduction Planning Part I

Working Draft Subject to Revision

3/11/04

Tahoe Basin Fuels Reduction 2004 Action Plan

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Current Process and Plan Development

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Problem
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History of Fuels Reduction
2004 Planned Fuel Reduction Projects and Grant Proposals
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IV. PROGRAM ELEMENTS NEEDED FOR A SUSTAINED EFFORT
Risk Assessment
Local Ordinances and Building Codes
Environmental Documentation
Implementation Capacity Needs
Public Outreach and Education Needs
Geographic Information System (GIS) Capacity Needs
Biomass Utilization
Jobs & Industry Potential
Finance Plan
Program Management

Appendix A Forest Vegetation Types in the Lake Tahoe Basin
Appendix B Lake Tahoe Fire Contacts

DRAFT

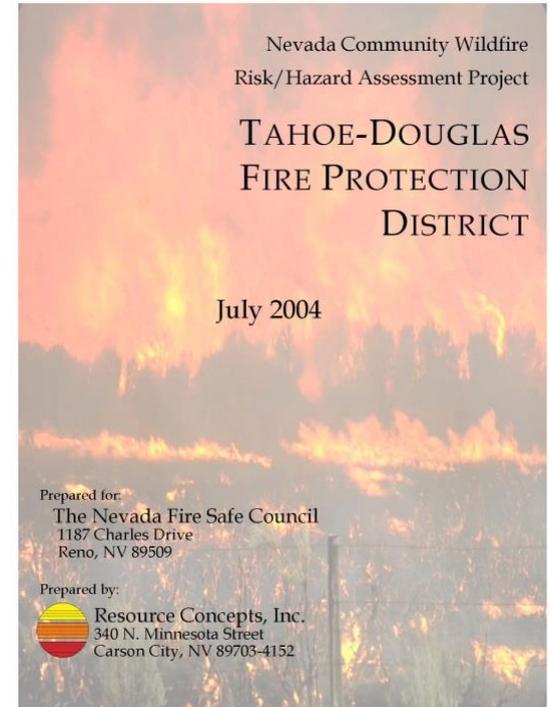
COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN FOR THE CALIFORNIA PORTION OF THE LAKE TAHOE BASIN



Prepared for:
Tahoe Basin Fire Safe Council
Fallen Leaf Fire Department
Lake Valley Fire Protection District
Meeks Bay Fire Protection District
North Tahoe Fire Protection District

Prepared by:
C. G. Celso & Sons Co.
Steve Holt Consulting
Wildland Rx

November 20, 2004

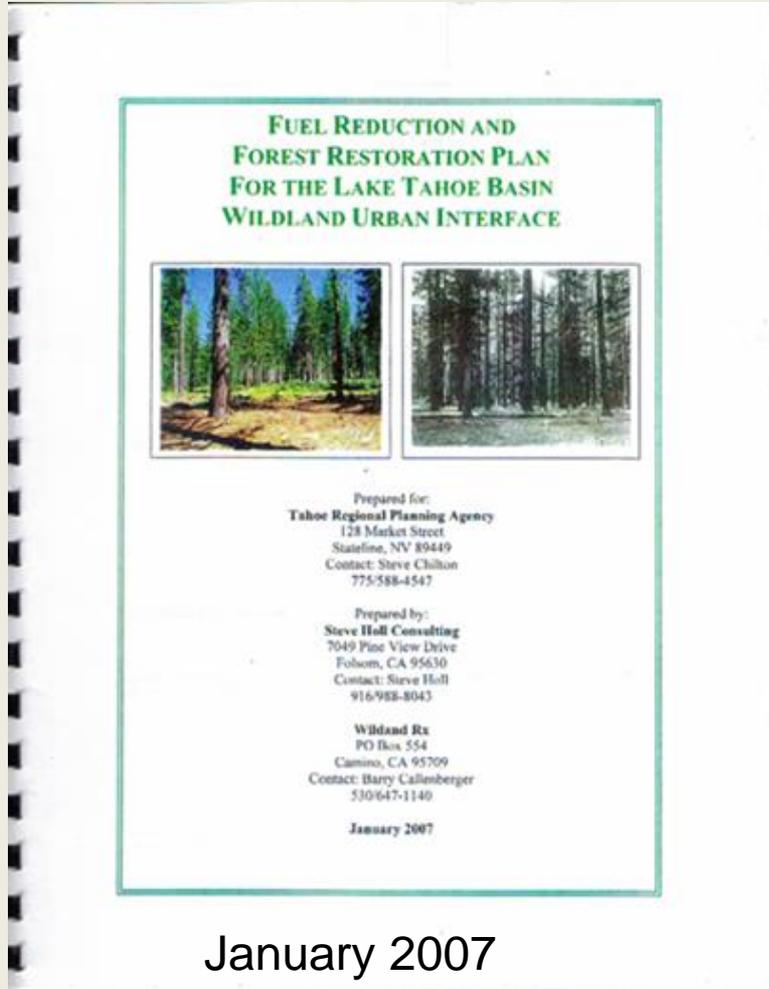


Nuts and Bolts Action Plan
3/2004

Basin-wide CWPPs by November 2004



Got More Plans? Fuel Reduction Planning Part II



January 2007

Stewardship Fireshed Assessment

Lake Tahoe Basin Management
Unit
April 2007

April 2007



Chapter 3

Angora Fire – Awareness to Planning to Action

The Angora Fire, June 24, 2007 changed everything.



The Angora Fire – Overview

- Start Date: Sunday June 24, 2007, 2:25pm
- Ignition Source: Illegal Camp Fire
- Wind Speed: 12-22 mph Gusts: 40 mph
- Burned 3,100 acres
- 254 Residences, 75 Commercial Structures
- Resources: 2,180 firefighters
- Suppression Cost: \$11.7 Million (\$3775/Acre)
- Containment: July 2, 2007



Washoe Fire: August 18, 2007



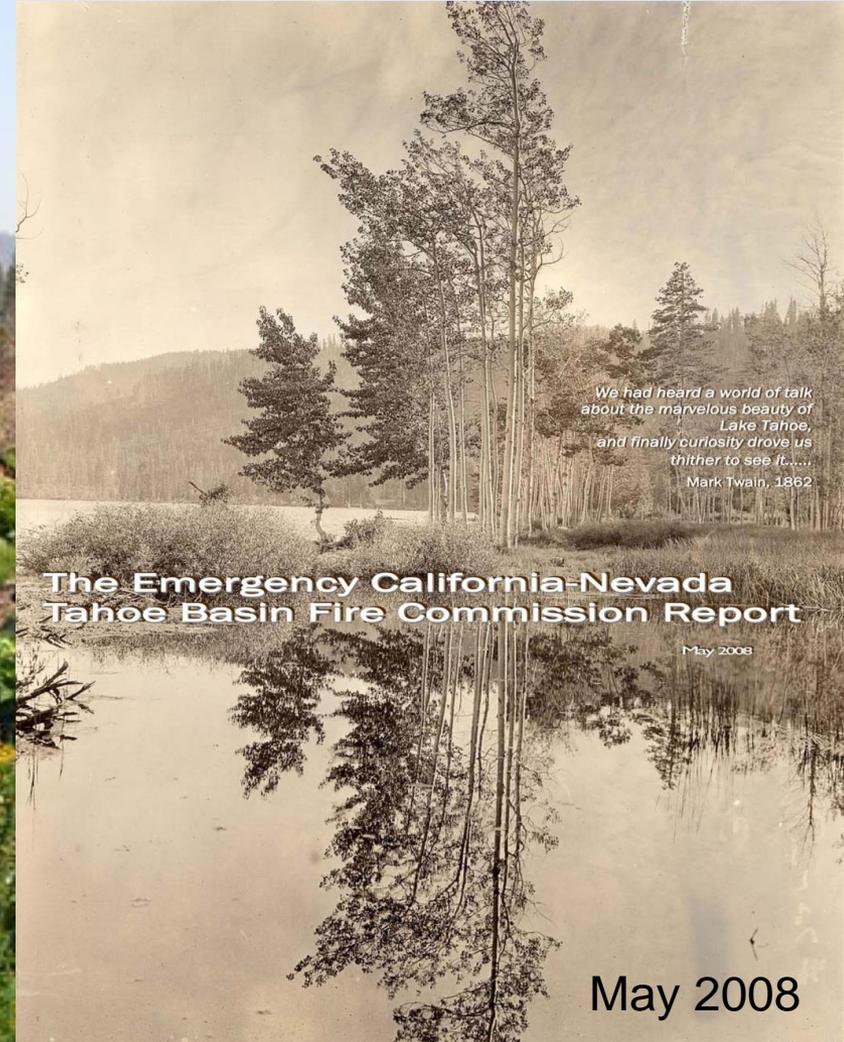
California-Nevada Tahoe Fire Commission

- California-Nevada Tahoe Fire Commission formed -August 2007
- Fire Commission Working Groups
 - Permit streamlining
 - Defensible space/BMP integration
 - Implementation Team
 - Science and Tech



California-Nevada Tahoe Fire Commission

- Final Report & Recommendations
- 90 Recommendations
- Six Categories:
 - Environmental Protection
 - Issues of Governance
 - Community & Homeowner Fire Prevention
 - Forest & Fuels Mgmt
 - Fire Suppression
 - Funding



Post-Angora Outcomes

- TRPA Code changes: Defensible Space Assessor, Diameter limit increase, FPD project review
- Lahontan Water Board updated Timber Waiver
- FPDs performing WUI treatments and running defensible space programs including tree marking and permitting
- CWPPs and 10-Year Fuels Strategy (Including updates)



Post-Angora Outcomes

- TFFT Formed – Feb. 2008
- Fire Commission Report – May 2008
- Media Campaigns
 - Get Defensive, Think First
 - Living with Fire
 - Wildfire Awareness Month
 - Fire Adapted Communities
- WUI treatments accelerate, FPD's build capacity, Defensible Space programs increase awareness



Fuel Reduction Planning Part III & IV to be continued...

United States
Department of
Agriculture
Forest Service

Tahoe Regional
Planning Agency

Nevada Tahoe
Resource Team

Nevada Division of
Forestry

Nevada Division of
State Lands

Nevada Fire Safe
Councils

California
Department of
Forestry and Fire
Protection

California Tahoe
Conservancy

California State
Parks

North Tahoe
Fire Protection
District

North Lake Tahoe
Fire Protection
District

Tahoe-Douglas Fire
Protection District

Lake Valley Fire
Protection District

Meeks Bay Fire
Protection District

South Lake Tahoe
Fire Department

Fallen Leaf Fire
Department

Lake Tahoe Basin Multi-Jurisdictional Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Strategy

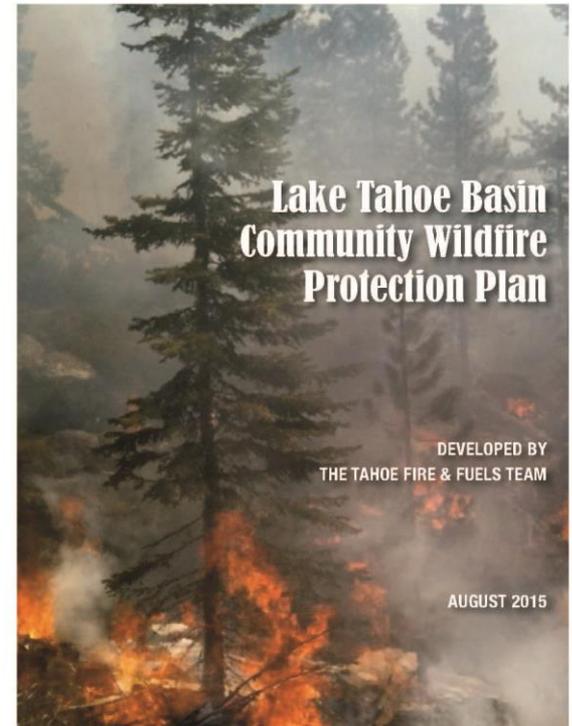


December 2007

- California
Department of
Forestry and Fire
Protection
- California State
Parks
- California Tahoe
Conservancy
- Fallen Leaf Fire
Department
- Lake Valley Fire
Protection District
- Meeks Bay Fire
Protection District
- Nevada Division of
Forestry
- Nevada Division of
State Lands
- Nevada Division of
State Parks
- Nevada Tahoe
Resource Team
- North Lake Tahoe
Fire Protection
District
- North Tahoe Fire
Protection District
- South Lake Tahoe
Fire Department
- Tahoe Douglas Fire
Protection District
- Tahoe Regional
Planning Agency
- United States
Department of
Agriculture Forest
Service

Lake Tahoe Basin Multi-Jurisdictional Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Strategy

August 2014





TFFFT/MAC



Vision Statement

As a dedicated group of professionals, the TFFFT is committed to protecting life, property and the environment at Lake Tahoe through proper management of the forests to reduce the threat of catastrophic wildfire, thereby protecting communities, while safeguarding the exceptional natural resources of Lake Tahoe.

Mission Statement

To protect lives, property and the environment within the Lake Tahoe Basin from wildfire by implementing prioritized fuels reduction projects and educating the public on becoming a Fire Adapted Community



TFFFT/MAC

Accomplishments

- More than 48,000 acres treated since Angora Fire (69,500 acres in past 20 years)
- 27,500 defensible space inspections since 2007
- 50% of the WUI has received at least initial treatment



Outreach and Education Efforts

- TFFT Public Information Team
- Wildfire Awareness Week...
- Wildfire Awareness Month
- Living with Fire Program
- Fire Adapted Communities
- FPD Defensible Space programs
- Wildfire awareness programs



SAVE THE DATE!
May 25, 2013

SAVE THE DATE!
May 25, 2013
Outside Mont Bleu, 8am - 12pm

GET DEFENSIVE
Reduce the fuels, Reduce the risk.



THINK FIRST

KEEP TAHOE FIRE SAFE

Tahoe.LivingWithFire.info

ThinkFirstTahoe.org



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Chapter 4

New Concepts, Continual Learning and Sustaining the Effort

- Fire Adapted Communities
- Sustained funding for WUI treatments
 - LTRA
 - White Pine Bill – still going!
- 2017 Update to the Multi-Jurisdictional Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Strategy Completed to include large landscape management beyond the WUI
- Large landscapes – Lake Tahoe West Partnership





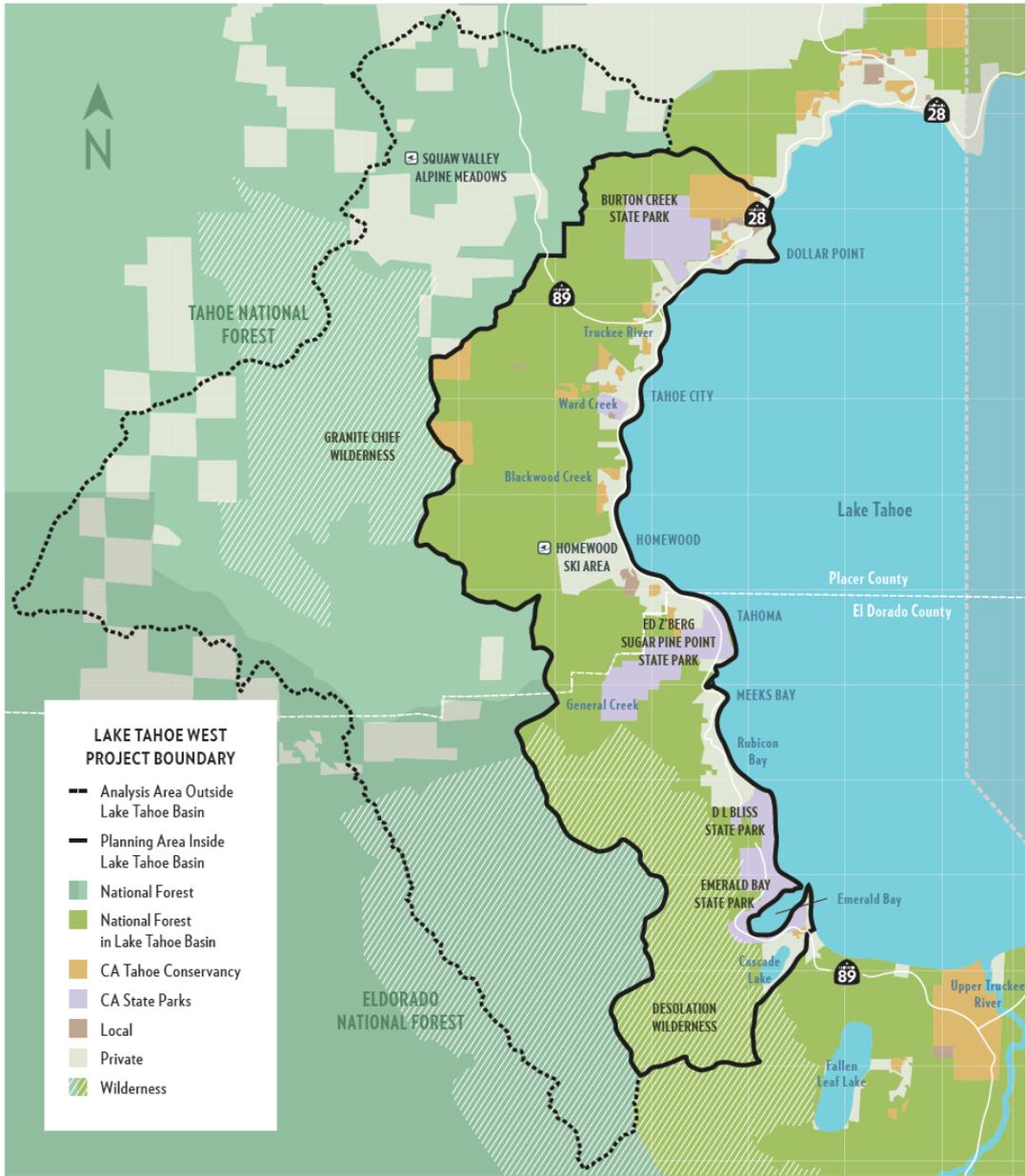
Lake Tahoe West Partnership



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Summary: Post-Angora Outcomes

- TFFT/MAC –Working together
- USFS/LTBMU Contributions to Basin-wide effort
- White Pine Bill and LTRA
- Fire Commission Recommendations
- Successful Education and Outreach Programs
- Fire Adapted Community Development



A photograph of a forest landscape. In the foreground, there are several large, dark tree trunks and a fallen log. The ground is covered with dry leaves and twigs. In the middle ground, there is a large fire burning, with bright orange and yellow flames and thick white smoke rising. The background shows a dense forest of tall, thin trees under a clear blue sky. A semi-transparent white text box is overlaid on the upper half of the image, containing a quote in orange text.

"It's the little details that are vital.
Little things make big things happen."
—John Wooden



Thank you



King Fire

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