



Forest Fuels and Defensible Space

Eric Horntvedt
November 25, 2019

SNPLMA 16 – TNFAC

Chris McMaster is still out in the neighborhoods performing Defensible Space Inspections, giving our community members education on how to make their property ready for fire, education on ember ignition, home hardening, and emergency preparedness. We just finished the Alpine Peaks neighborhood and have moved into the Kingswood/Commonwealth area of Tahoe Vista.

- 2400+ Defensible Space Inspections completed this season
- 800+ Requests for Free Curbside Chipping this Season (chipping closed October 12)
- Community Outreach – Promoting Firewise Communities

FEMA – HFR on CTC lots

Phase II is under contract and will treat 281 parcels for a total of 51.82 acres from Hwy. 267 to Tahoe City. Contractor will implement Phase II in the spring.

SNPLMA 16 - PTEIR

Ascent Environmental, Inc. (Ascent) was selected as the Phase II contractor for the Lake Tahoe PTEIR. We are excited to continue the momentum from Phase I, which generated the PTEIR Strategy Report, into Phase II with Ascent as they develop a draft and final PTEIR. Ascent submitted a draft Admin draft PTEIR to the core team, and the core team will be reviewing and providing comments to be incorporated prior to submitting the admin draft.

- All agencies that conduct vegetation management on the California side of Lake Tahoe will benefit from this Programmatic report as it will streamline environmental planning/permitting on commercial and noncommercial timber harvesting/fuels reduction projects. The project-by-project review process that has been used to comply with NEPA, CEQA, FPA, TRPA, LRWQCB, and other regulatory requirements has led to inefficiencies, delays, excess costs, and inconsistencies in project planning. We are excited to keep our momentum moving forward with this project as completion will allow accelerated implementation of fuels reduction projects by resource managers in the Defense zone of the WUI on the California side of the Basin.

SNPLMA 16 – HFR & Wildfire Prevention

I have been using available geodatabase sets to identify landowners that are at high risk for catastrophic wildfire and will be looking to engage these landowners for implementation of fuel reduction treatments. I have met on site with Tamarack Mutual Water Co. representatives to propose implementing a 700-1000' shaded fuel break along Hwy. 89 uphill of the "Ring Roads". The current approach is to engage CTC, Tamarack, Rubicon, and a few other adjoining property owners in order to implement an all-ownership fuel break that would tie in to previously treated USFS lands.

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SNPLMA 15 - CWPP Implementation

NLTFPD's Rifle Peak hand crew began performing hand thin and pile style treatment in mid-June and has completed 80 acres of initial entry hand thin work. NTPUD's 55-acre Gentry property that is North of Hwy. 267 in Tahoe Vista is completed, and the crew is continuing their hand thin work through the remainder of this season within the North Tahoe Regional Park. The crew was able to cut, drag, and chip an 11-acre portion within the Tahoe Tree Top course area of the Regional park. In doing so, we were able to meet the purpose and prescription of this project: limit impacts to recreation, private business, and park aesthetics, improving the quality of the existing actively used road and trails while reducing the potential for future erosion and sedimentation issues.