



©Eric Prado



## Forest Management Action Plan

Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team: Creating Resilient Landscapes and Communities



©Rick Cooper



©Don Graham





©Tim Rains, USFS



## The Threat

Years of fire suppression, hazardous fuels accumulation, drought, and a warming climate have made Lake Tahoe's forests extremely vulnerable to wildfire. Fires throughout California and Nevada have become larger and more destructive, and suppression and recovery costs are dramatically increasing. Seven of the ten largest fires ever recorded in the Sierra Nevada burned in the last ten years, and unprecedented tree mortality further threatens forest health.

*Top: Angora fire*

*Bottom: Tree mortality*



## Resilient Landscapes, Resilient Communities

The fate of the Lake Tahoe Basin's landscapes and communities are inextricably linked. Wildfire, drought, changing climatic conditions, and a potential bark beetle epidemic threaten both.

It's not just homes and infrastructure that are at risk. Residents and visitors alike depend on the Lake Tahoe Basin's recreational opportunities (and associated economy), clean water, health benefits, wildlife, and natural beauty.



The partner organizations of the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team have charted a path to work together across jurisdictions to build capacity for forest restoration, to create efficiencies, and to engage communities in solutions. The team's priority actions support state-wide plans and mandates, including Nevada's Cohesive Strategy Implementation Plan, and the California Governor's Executive Order on Forest and Community Resilience.

*Top: Crews at work*

*Bottom: Prescribed fire*

# TFFT CURRENT PRIORITIES

## Plan and Implement Thousands of Acres of Projects

### Milestone 2023

Partners are using new tools to implement scientifically proven community wildfire protection projects. Over 10,000 acres of treatments are planned now, and an additional 10,000 acres will be ready for treatment by 2020. The TFFT is on track to **complete initial treatments in the wildland urban interface defense zone** by 2023.

The Lake Tahoe West Restoration Partnership integrates science and management to restore resilience across 60,000 acres. Over 10,000 acres of multi-benefit landscape treatments will be ready to implement in 2021.

See figures below.

## Prepare Communities for Fire

### Milestone 2019

The Fire Public Information Team and Tahoe Network of Fire Adapted Communities are developing a **central online tool for project and prescribed**

**fire notifications**, and for connecting residents to fire district assistance services and the information they need to prepare. Available in 2019 at <http://tahoe.livingwithfire.info>.

## Cohesively Manage Neighborhood Forests

### Milestone 2020

The Team is implementing a **community forestry and fire protection strategy** to coordinate defensible space across land ownerships. The Tahoe Network of Fire Adapted Communities will implement a pilot in 2020 that connects private and public landowners to improve neighborhoods' odds of surviving wildfire.

## Increase Crew and Contractor Availability

### Milestone 2019 & 2020

The Team is creating processes to leverage resources and train personnel. A **joint crew training program** will be operational in 2020. The Team is also bringing together agency and industry representatives by hosting a **contractor summit** in 2019.

## Increase Biomass and Wood Product Utilization

### Milestone 2020

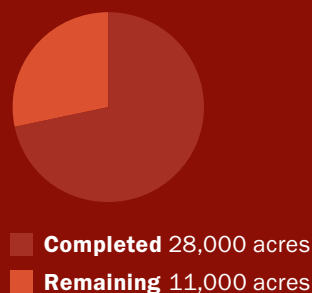
The team is creating **collection sites** for the tens of thousands of tons of forest materials that go unutilized every year due to the lack of infrastructure and outlets. The sites will be operational in 2020.

## Increase Use of Prescribed Fire

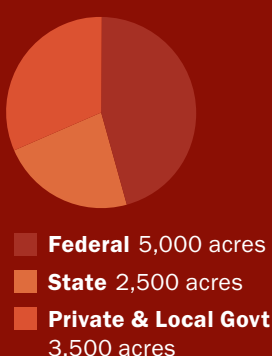
### Milestone 2019

The Team will host a **prescribed fire training exchange** in 2019 to build regional expertise, qualifications, and capacity for ecological burning. The exchange supports local crews as dependable resources for safe prescribed fire implementation.

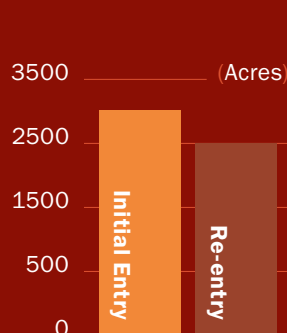
### DEFENSE ZONE INITIAL ENTRY PROJECTS



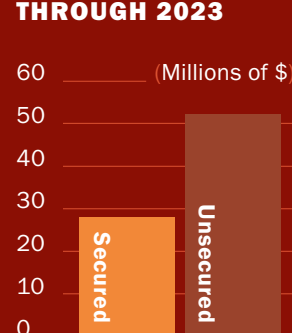
### REMAINING DEFENSE ZONE PROJECTS



### AVERAGE ACRES OF PROJECTS PER YEAR



### FOREST MANAGEMENT FUNDING NEEDS THROUGH 2023



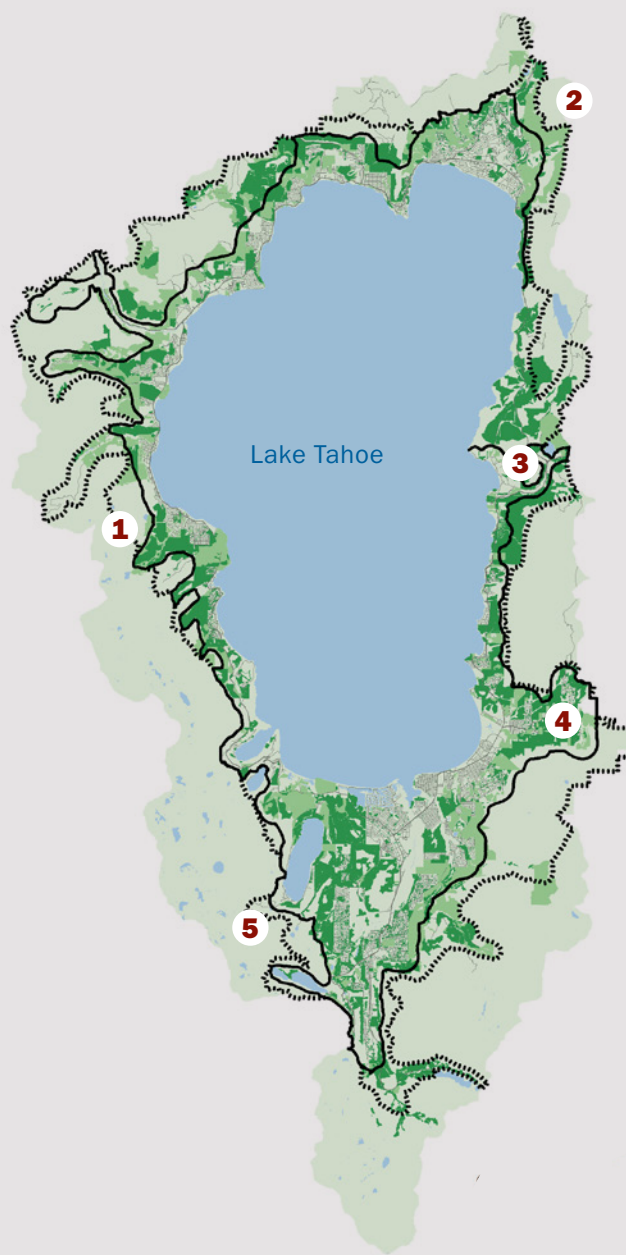
DEFENSE ZONE PROJECTS

ALL WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE PROJECTS  
(Defense & Threat Zones)



## TFFT 2017 Highlights

- 1** The Lake Tahoe West Restoration Partnership completed the Landscape Resilience Assessment, available at: [nationalforests.org/LakeTahoeWest](http://nationalforests.org/LakeTahoeWest).
- 2** The North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District completed a “halo” of fuel reduction treatments around Incline Village, and is using prescribed fire to restore and maintain forest health.
- 3** The Nevada Division of Forestry and US Forest Service used specialized cable yarding equipment to treat forests, reduce environmental impacts, and increase wood products utilization.
- 4** Tahoe-Douglas Fire Protection District hosted 16 community work days where local fire crews worked with residents to create defensible space around their homes.
- 5** The Tahoe Network of Fire Adapted Communities launched a data collection app that tracks defensible space inspections across all fire districts in the Lake Tahoe Basin.



### Legend

- Completed treatments 2008-17
- Planned treatments
- Wildland Urban Interface**
- Defense Zone
- ... Threat Zone

## About the TFFT

The Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team consists of representatives of Tahoe Basin fire agencies, CAL FIRE, Nevada Division of Forestry and related state agencies, University of California and Nevada Cooperative Extensions, the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, the U.S. Forest Service, conservation districts from both states, the California Tahoe Conservancy and the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board. Our mission is to protect lives, property, and the environment within the Lake Tahoe Basin from wildfire by implementing prioritized fuel reduction projects and engaging the public in becoming a fire adapted community.

**For more information visit [tahoefft.org](http://tahoefft.org).**

*This project was made possible through support provided by the United States Forest Service and the California Tahoe Conservancy. In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability.*

## TFFT Partner Organizations

