

STAFF REPORT

Date: June 18, 2024

To: TRPA Governing Board

From: TRPA Staff

Subject: Briefing on Forest Health Projects and Priorities for the Tahoe Basin

Summary and Staff Recommendation:

Staff will present an overview and update on Forest Health priorities and projects including fire adapted communities, landscape scale projects, wildfire response, capacity, and technology and innovation. This item is for informational purposes and no action is required.

Background:

The Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) is a collaborative partnership of basin-wide stakeholders focused on increasing the pace and scale of restoration and leveraging partnerships and funding to accelerate threshold attainment. The EIP encompasses federal, state, local, and private/non-governmental entities, as well as scientists and the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California that work together on four focus areas including Watersheds and Water Quality, Forest Health, Sustainable Recreation and Transportation, and Science, Stewardship, and Accountability. The Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team (TFFT) and the Multi-agency Coordinating Group (MAC) are collaborative bodies that guide the Forest Health Program for the Tahoe Basin. In 2019, the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team released the Lake Tahoe Forest Action Plan that outlines a three-pronged approach to increasing pace and scale of forest health work through a focus on large landscapes, improved utilization of data and technology, and increased capacity and workforce development.

TRPA staff will provide an informational briefing on forest health and restoration priorities and projects, including progress on the Lake Tahoe Forest Action Plan to date. The presentation will review the importance of increasing forest health and resilience in a changing climate. Staff will highlight a variety of projects in three focus areas including building and maintaining fire adapted communities, restoring and maintaining landscapes, and responding to wildfire. Additionally, the presentation will highlight efforts to build capacity and utilize new innovative technology to increase pace and scale of forest restoration.

Contact Information:

For questions regarding this agenda item, please contact Kat McIntyre, at kmcintyre@trpa.gov. To submit a written public comment, email publiccomment@trpa.gov with the appropriate agenda item in the subject line. Written comments received by 4 p.m. the day before a scheduled public meeting will be distributed and posted to the TRPA website before the meeting begins. TRPA does not guarantee written comments received after 4 p.m. the day before a meeting will be distributed and posted in time for the meeting.