



Tahoe Basin Forest Health: Progress and Priorities

Kathleen McIntyre, PhD
TRPA Governing Board
June 26, 2024

Overview

Background, History, Context

Priorities and Projects

- Fire Adapted Communities
- Restoring and Maintaining Landscapes
- Response to Wildfire
- Capacity Building
- Technology and Innovation

Coming Up

Questions and Discussion

Forest Health in the Tahoe Basin

What is Forest Health in the Tahoe Basin?

- Less Dense
- Vertical Diversity
- Horizontal Diversity

Treatments for Forest Health can include:

- Mechanical or hand thinning
- Mastication, lop and scatter, or chipping
- Replanting of native species
- Prescribed burning- broadcast and pile burning

Why do we treat our forests:

- Insects and disease
- Drought
- Reduction of fire risk
- Reduction of competition
- Habitat improvements or restoration

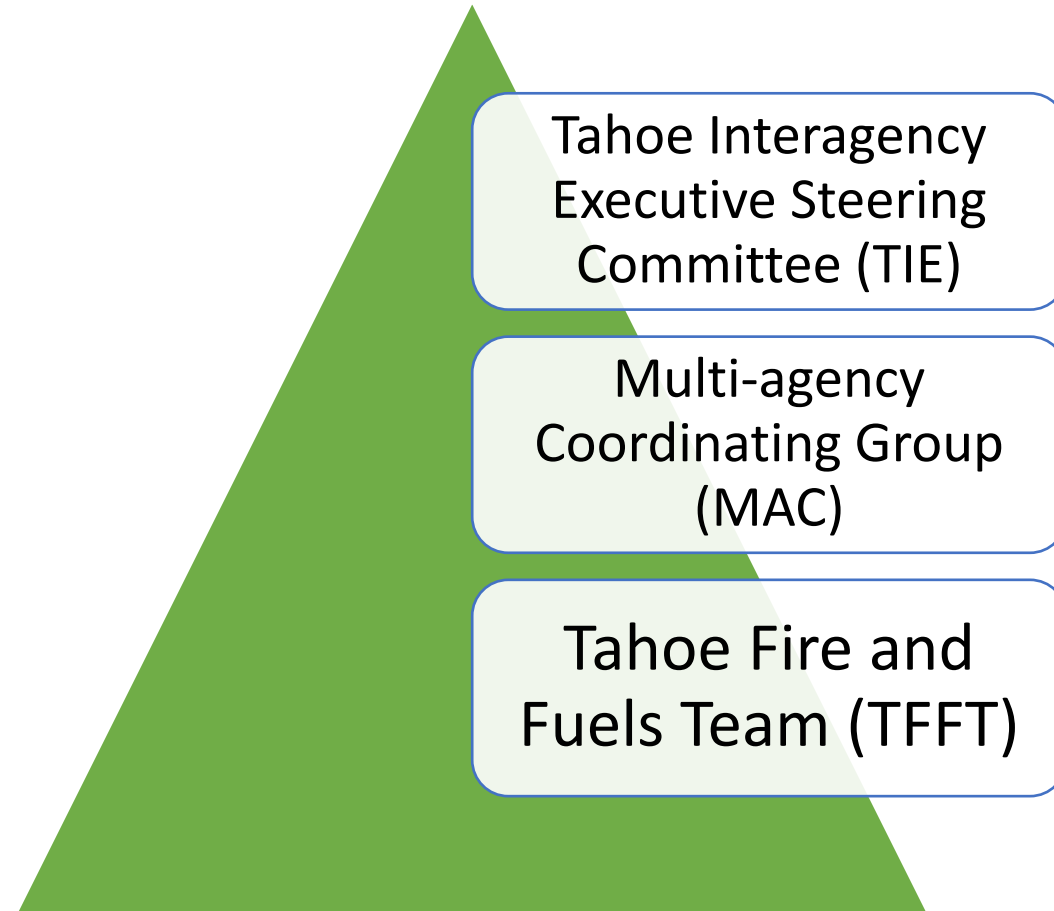


Image: Tahoe Regional Planning Agency

Environmental Improvement Program and Forest Health



Image: Tahoe Regional Planning Agency

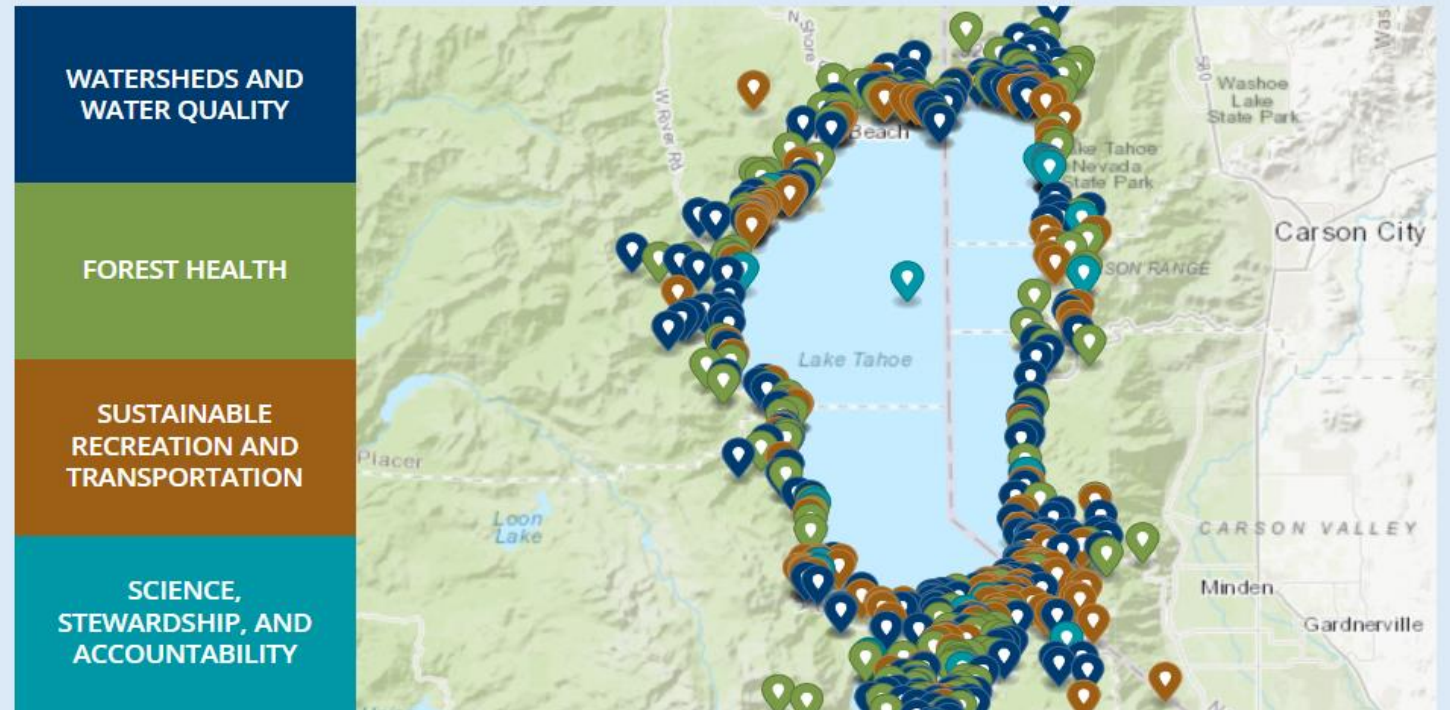


TRPA's Role

- Signatory to Multi-jurisdictional Fuels Strategy
- Code of Ordinances and Thresholds
- Leader and Convener- EIP and TFFT



EIP OVERVIEW | BASIN-WIDE IMPROVEMENTS



Science and Management



Forest Ecology and Management

Volume 427, 1 November 2018, Pages 350-354



Conclusions and caveats from studies of managed forest carbon budgets

Eric D. Vance

The influence of thinning and prescribed burning on future forest fires in fire-prone regions of Europe

To cite this article: S S Rabin *et al* 2022 *Environ. Res. Lett.* **17** 055010

Fuel treatments reduce the severity of wildfire effects in dry mixed conifer forest, Washington, USA

Susan J. Prichard, David L. Peterson, and Kyle Jacobson



Forest Ecology and Management

Volume 255, Issue 7, 20 April 2008, Pages 2743-2750



The effects of a thinning treatment on carbon stocks in a northern Arizona ponderosa pine forest

A.J. Finkral^a , A.M. Evans^b

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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foreco.2008.01.041>

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Thinning and Burning in Dry Coniferous Forests of the Western United States: Effectiveness in Altering Diameter Distributions

Andrew Youngblood

Carbon sequestration or water yield? The effect of payments for ecosystem services on forest management decisions in Mediterranean forests

Paola Ovando^{a, *}, Santiago Beguería^b, Pablo Campos^(c)

^a Department of Environmental Social Sciences, Swiss Federal Institute for Aquatic Science and Technology (eawag), Switzerland

^b Estacion Experimental Aula Dei, Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (EEAD-CSIC), Spain

^c Instituto de Políticas y Bienes Públicos, Centro de Ciencias Humanas y Sociales, Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (IPP-CCHS-CSIC), Spain

Restoring forest structure and process stabilizes forest carbon in wildfire-prone southwestern ponderosa pine forests

Matthew D. Hurteau, Shuang Liang, Katherine L. Martin, Malcolm P. North, George W. Koch, Bruce A. Hungate

Ecosystem Science and Management

Research output: Contribution to journal > Article > peer-review



Fire Adapted Communities

Fire Adapted Communities Program

- 75 Fire Adapted Communities.
- 96 Neighborhood Leaders.
- 37 Firewise USA Recognized Sites.
 - 4 pending = 41 sites

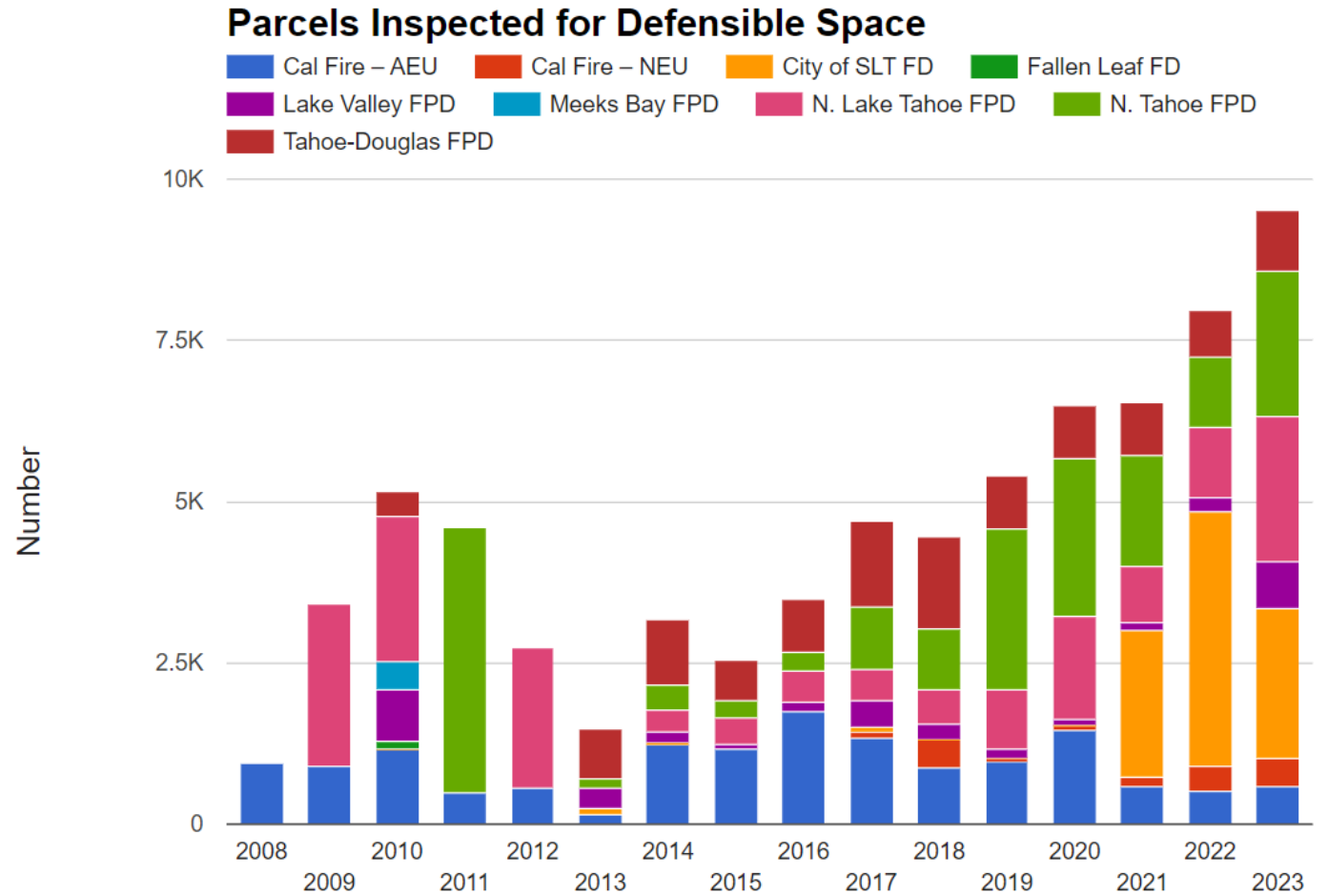
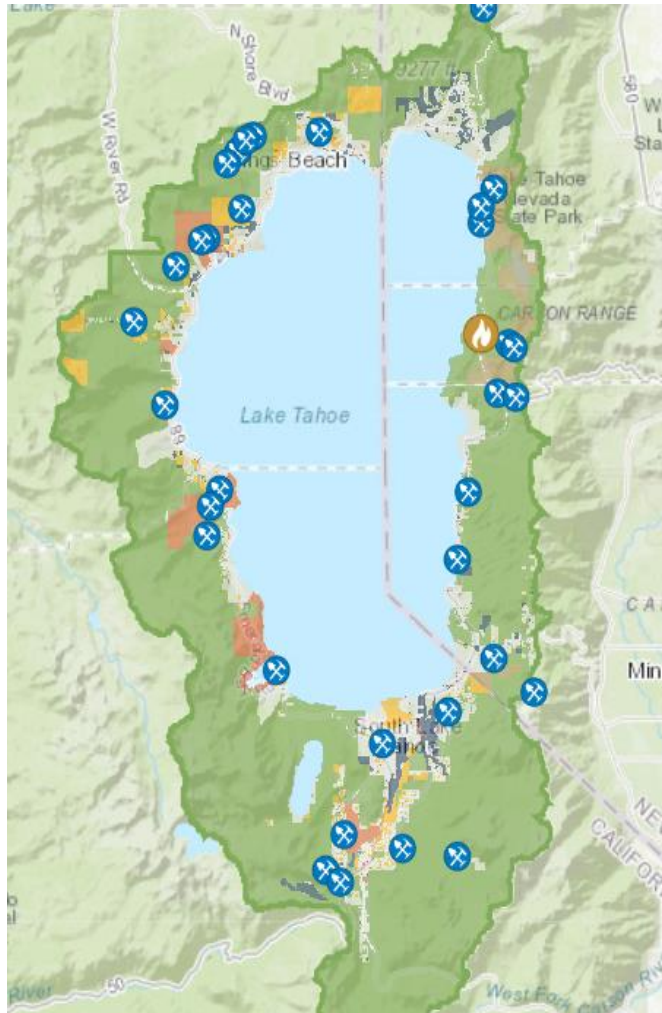


Image: Tahoe Regional Planning Agency

Events and Communication



GET DEFENSIVE
Create Defensible Space

TahoeLivingWithFire.com

Logos for Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, Tahoe Fire & Fuel Team, and other organizations.

A photograph of four people in firefighting gear, including helmets and chainsaws, posing together.

COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PREPARDNESS WORKSHOP

JOIN US TO LEARN MORE ABOUT HOME HARDENING, DEFENSIBLE SPACE, PRESCRIBED FIRE, FIREWISE & MORE! SNACKS WILL BE PROVIDED!

JUNE 1
9:30 AM - 12:30 PM

North Lake Tahoe Event Center
8318 N Lake Blvd.
Kings Beach, CA

REGISTER HERE

This project was funded due to the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act, which authorized the sale of BLM administered federal lands within a designated boundary in the Las Vegas Valley and required proceeds to be used on projects to fund federal, state and local projects that benefit communities and public lands.

Images: Tahoe Regional Planning Agency

Community Wildfire Protection Plans

- Lake Tahoe Basin CWPP was last updated in 2015.
- Goal to ensure the plans remain current, accessible, and reflect changing condition and latest technologies.
 - ArcGIS Hub & ArcGIS StoryMap.
 - Land Tender for Prioritized Projects.
 - Underserved & Vulnerable Communities.
 - Lake Tahoe Basin Water Infrastructure.

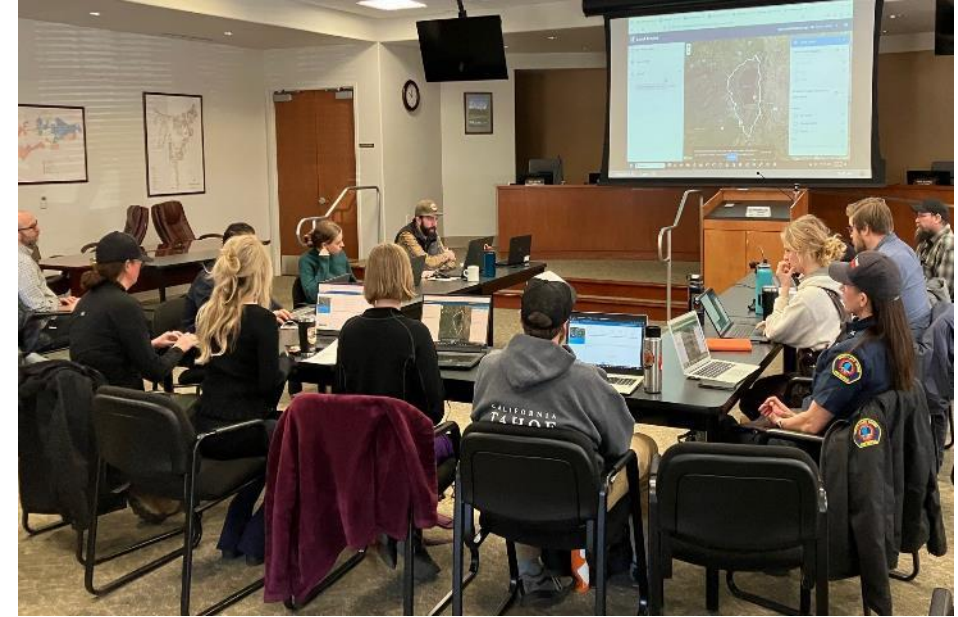


Image: Tahoe Resource Conservation District



HARRISH PENCE / TAHOE DAILY TRIBUNE

Smoke from the Caldor Fire looms over Lake Tahoe.

City seeks to be proactive with first defensible space ordinance

Kathryn Walsh
kw@tahoedailytribune.com

SOUTH LAKE TAHOE, Calif. - The City of South Lake Tahoe is working to stay ahead of increasing wildfire concerns. "I personally

feel that the Caldor Fire was a warning," Fire Marshal Kim George said to City Council on June 4 while presenting the city's first defensible space ordinance.

Officially adopted at council on June 18, the ordinance builds on state code defensible

space requirements which guided city defensible space inspections in the past.

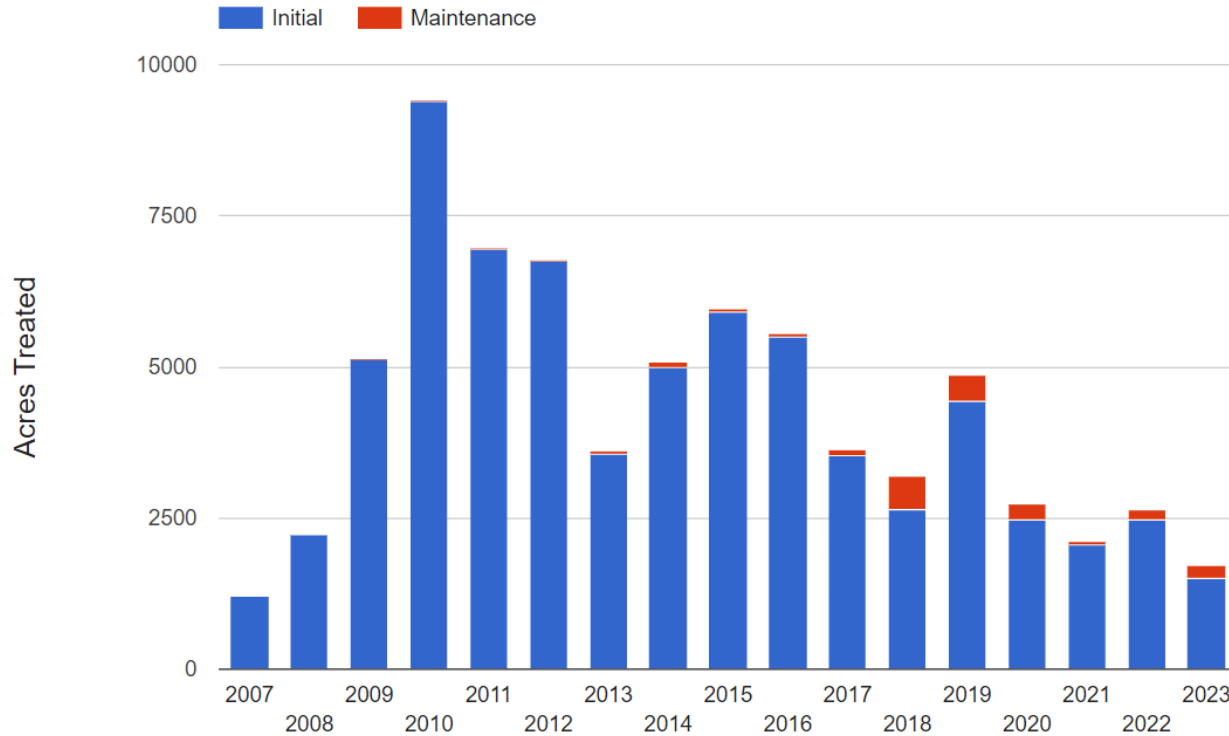
By creating its own defensible space ordinance, the city can expand requirements to business parcels, when in the past, requirements could only be applied to residential



Restoring and Maintaining Landscapes

Basin-wide Overview

Acres of Forest Fuels Reduction Treatment

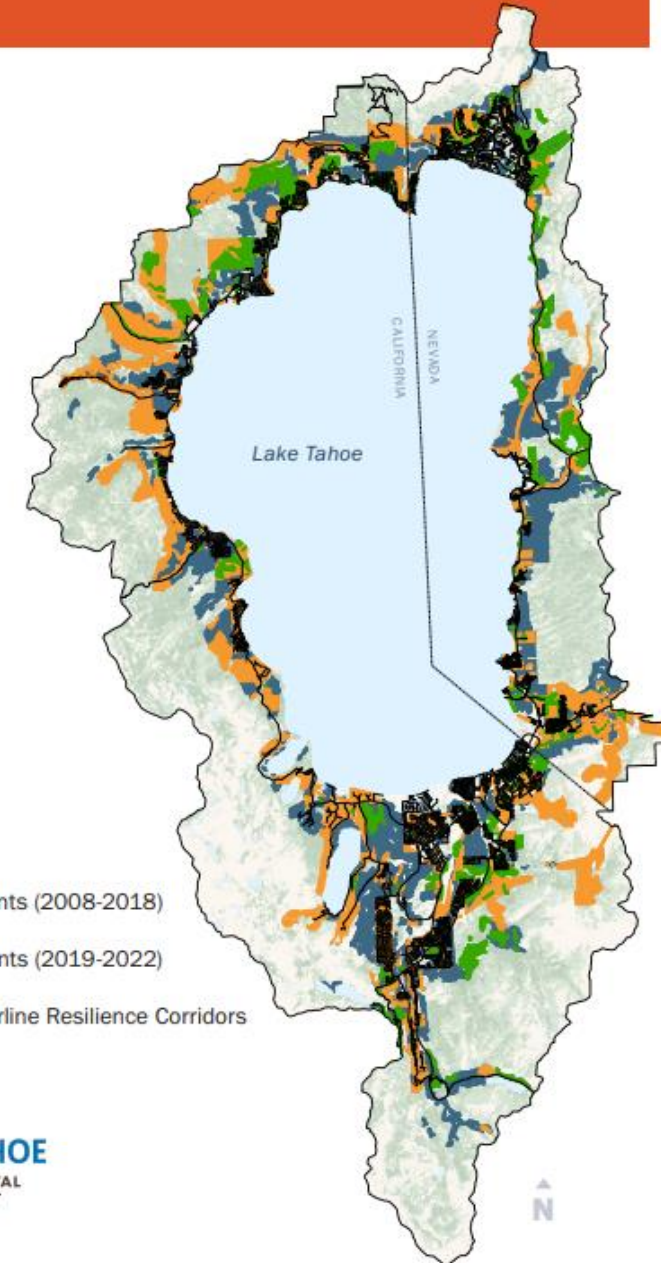


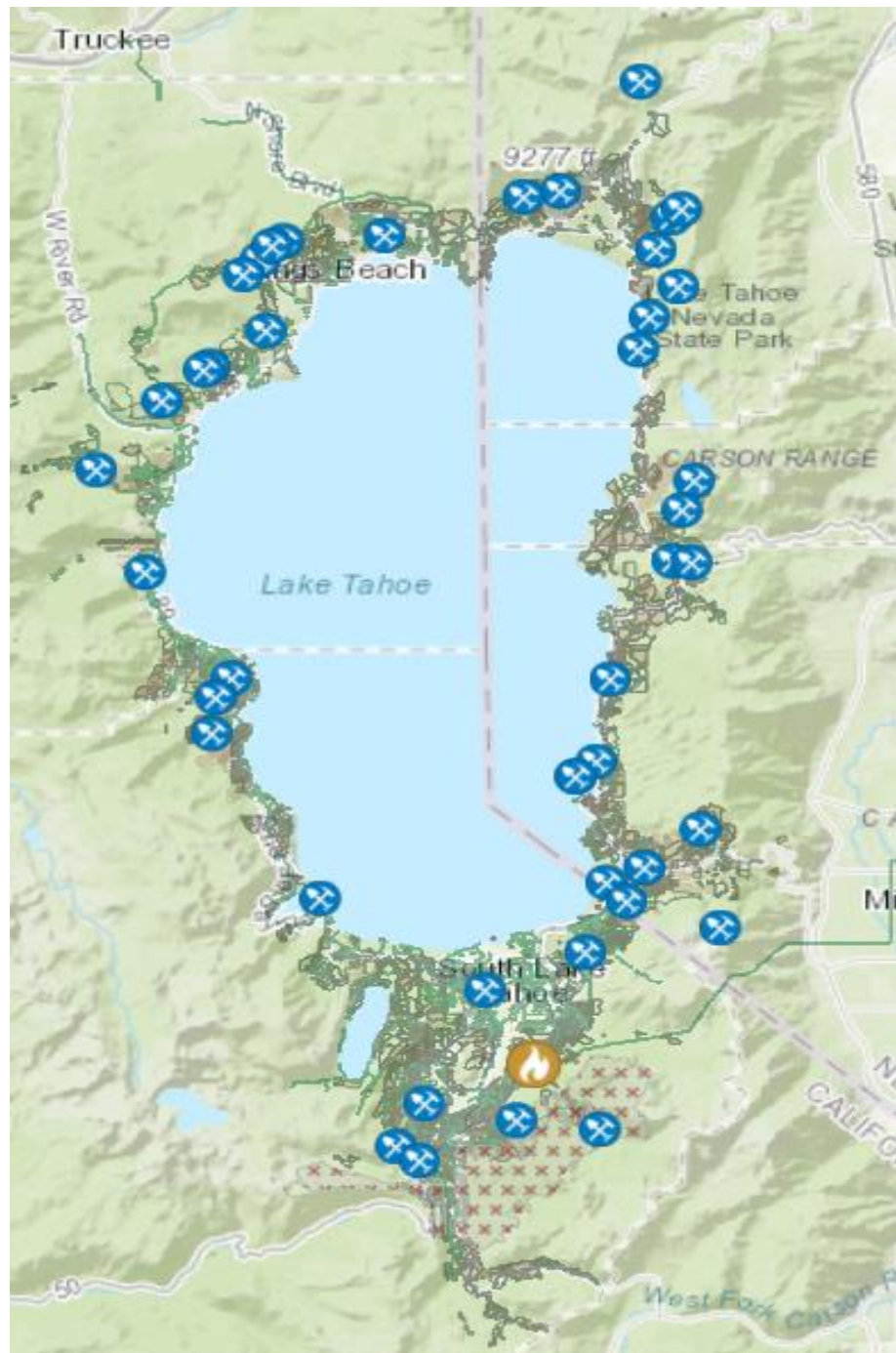
The Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team (TFFT) has made progress toward the goals of the 2019 Lake Tahoe Basin Forest Action Plan. The Forest Action Plan charts a path for collaboration across property boundaries to accelerate landscape restoration and reduce wildfire risk to Tahoe communities.

WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE TREATMENTS

TFFT partners continue to plan and prioritize fuels treatments in the wildland-urban interface (WUI), where neighborhoods meet forests. TFFT partners are more than halfway to their goal of completing 22,000 acres of initial treatments in the WUI by 2025. After finishing all priority WUI treatments identified in the Forest Action Plan, partners will transition to ongoing maintenance.

- 57,000 Acres of Completed Treatments (2008-2018)
- 12,700 Acres of Completed Treatments (2019-2022)
- Planned Treatments, including Powerline Resilience Corridors





Current Prescribed Fires








Current Forest Fuels Projects



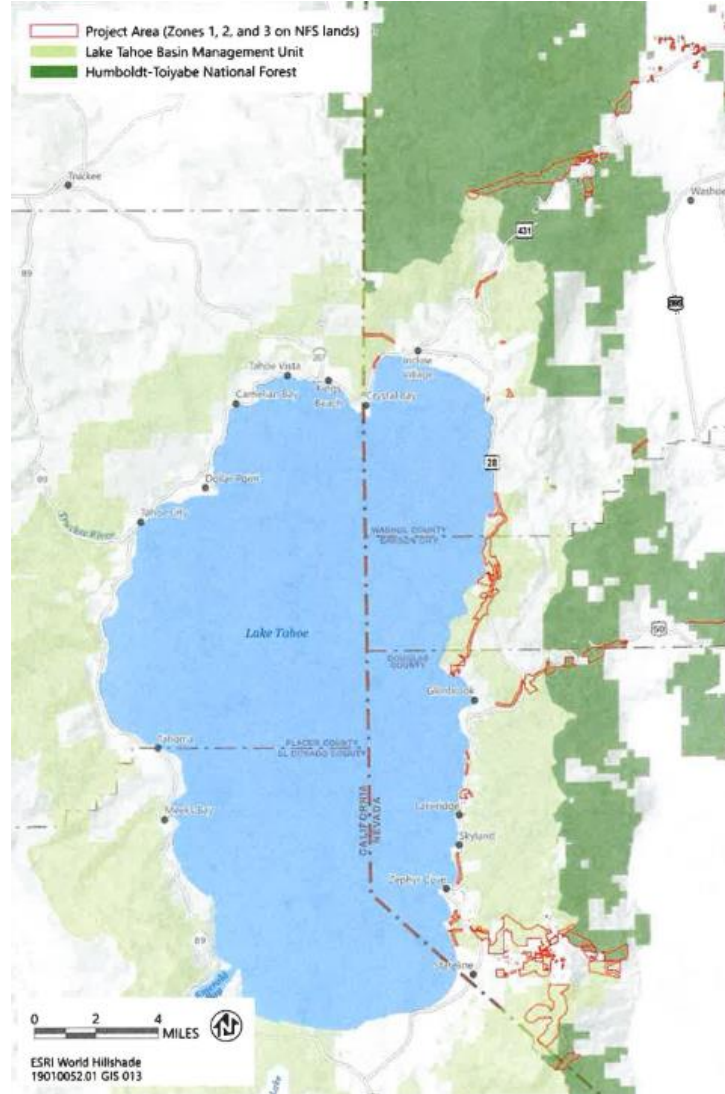
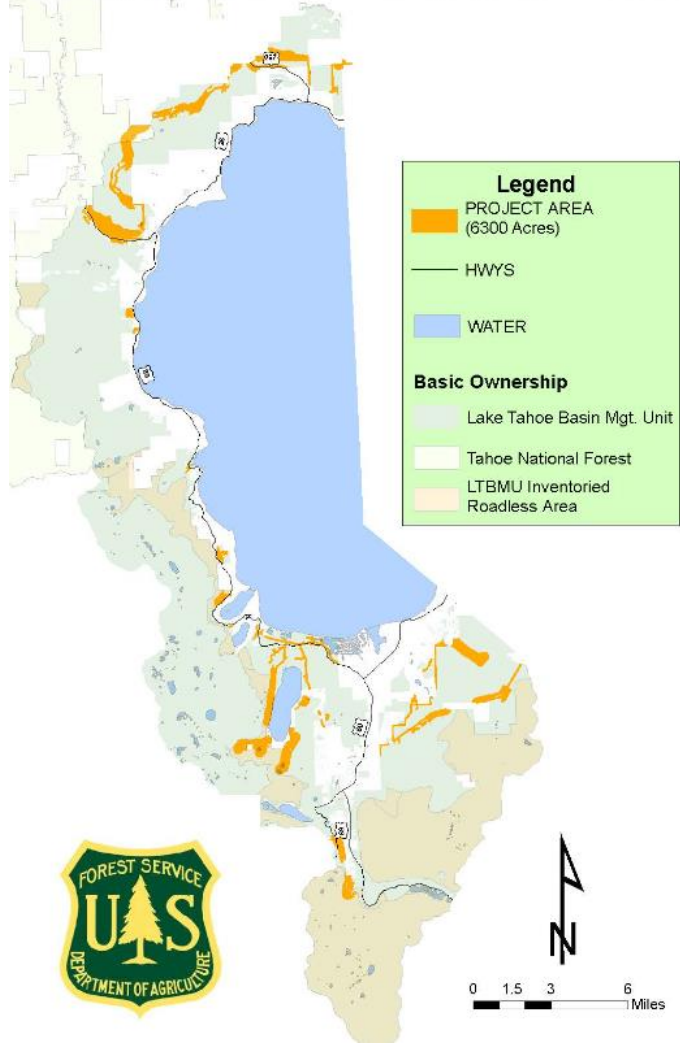
Wildfire



Tahoe Forest Fuels Treatment

-  Biomass Removal
-  Chip or Masticate
-  Thinning
-  Prescribed Burn
-  Other

Liberty Utilities Resilience Corridors Project



Resilience
Corridors

Caldor Fire Restoration

- Public scoping of Proposed Action- Summer 2024
- Decision Notice- Spring 2025
- Implementation- 2025
- Restoration Actions Include:
 - WUI Fuels Reduction
 - Reforestation
 - Stream channel improvements
 - Habitat improvements



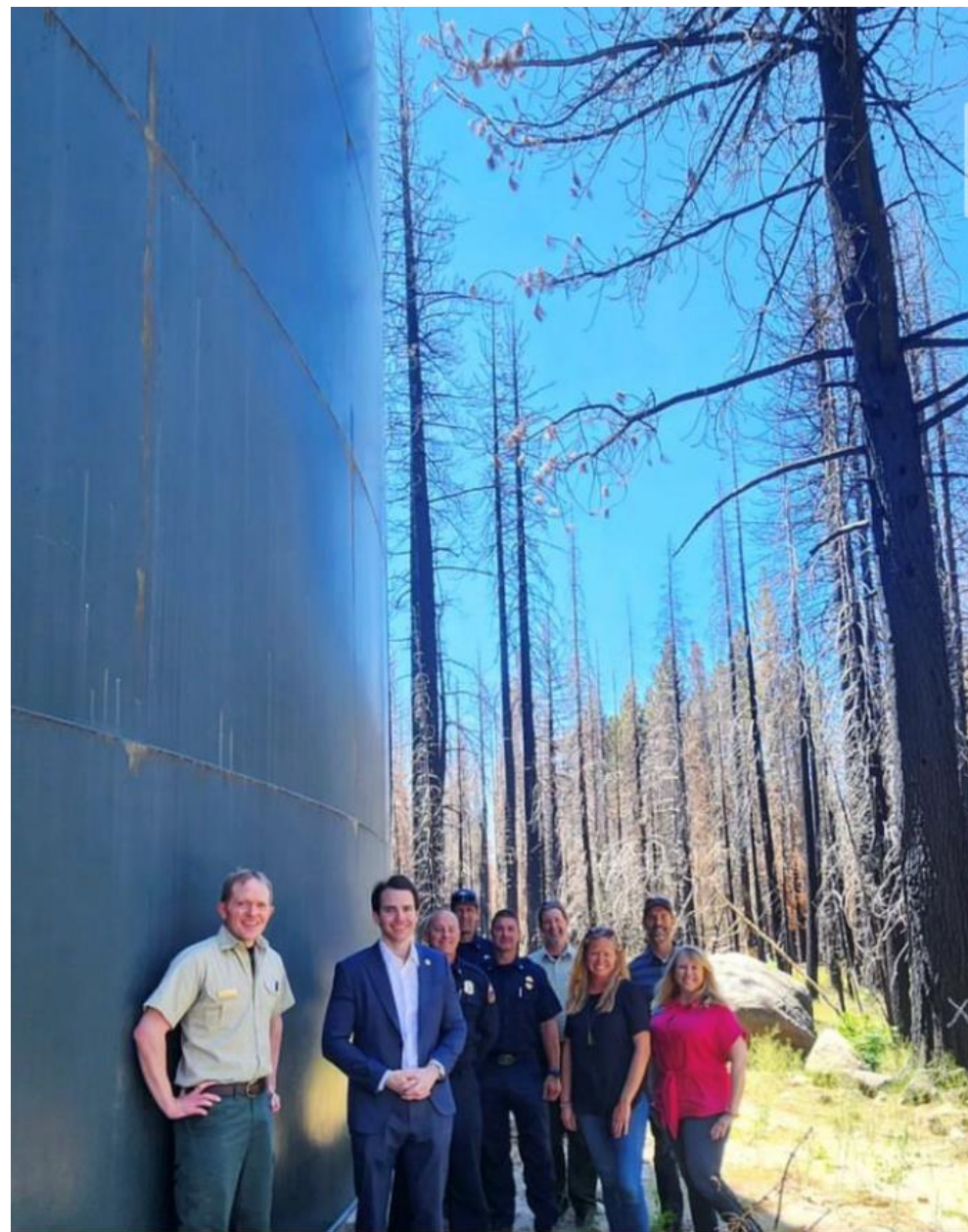


Response to Wildfire



Tahoe Water

FOR FIRE SUPPRESSION PARTNERSHIP

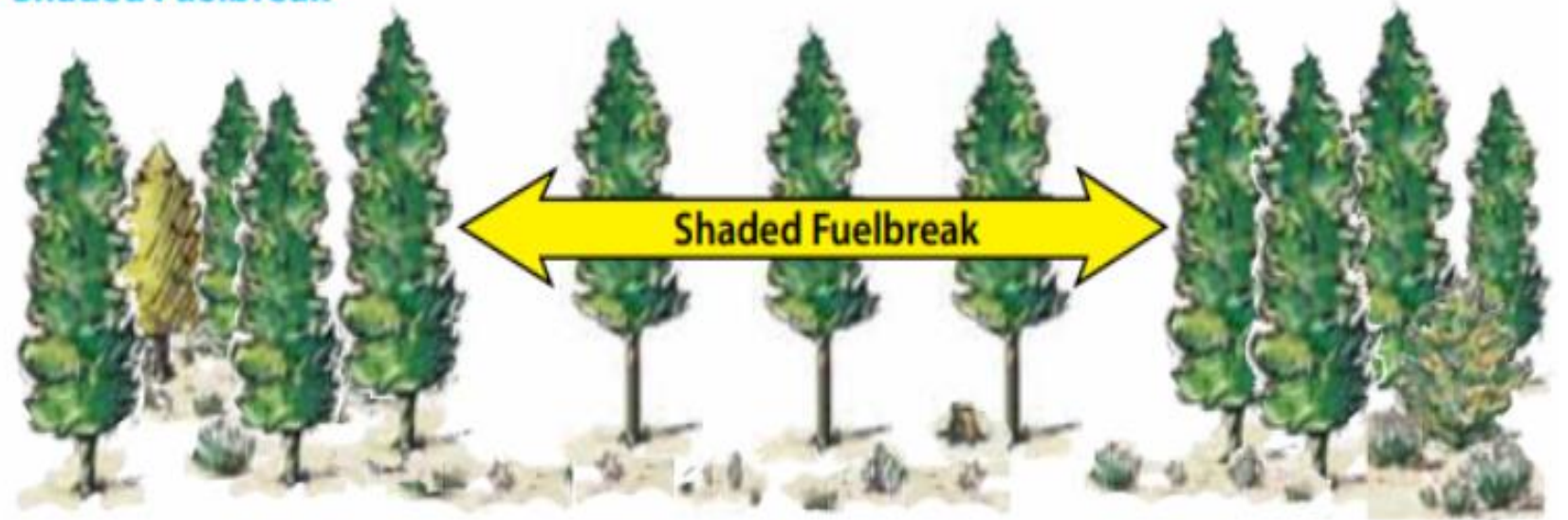


Shaded Fuel Breaks and Evacuation Corridors



Image: Tahoe Regional Planning Agency

Shaded Fuelbreak





Capacity Building



vibrant planet

Technology and Innovation

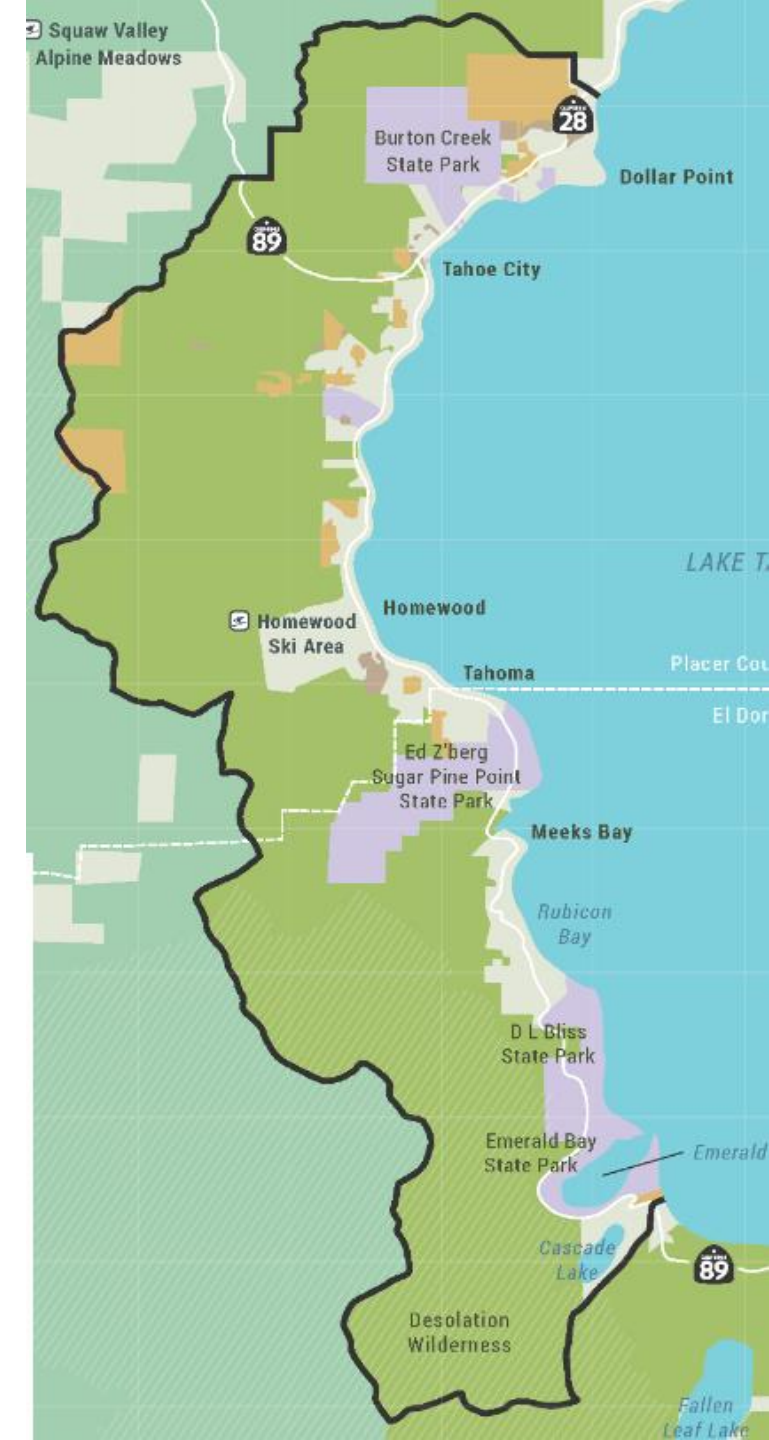
PROTECT Grant

- 1.7 million dollars awarded to the TRPA from the FHWA to collaboratively develop:
 - A Resilience Improvement Plan.
 - A Regional Emergency Communications and Transportation Plan.



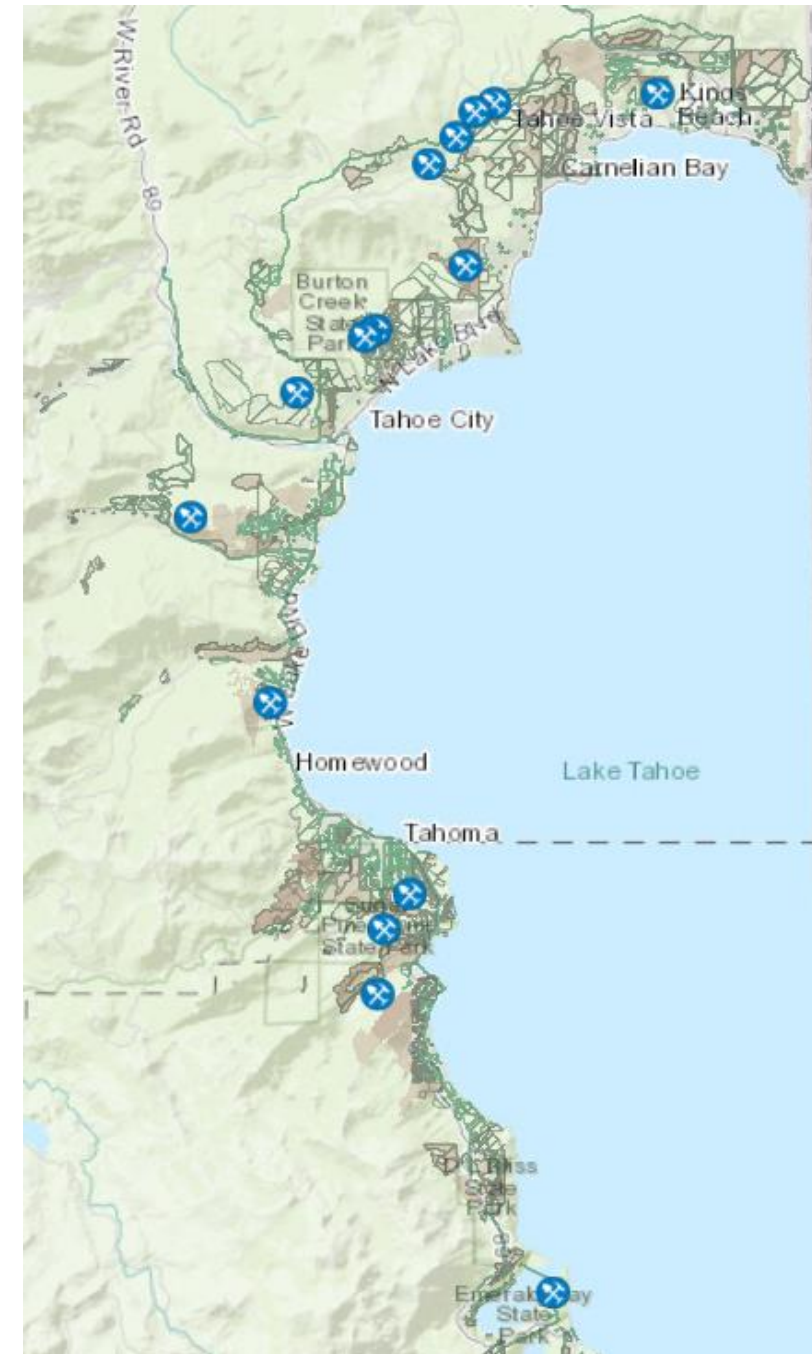
Lake Tahoe West Restoration Project

- Draft EA for public comment in early July.
- Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impacts expected in Fall of 2024.
- Implementation Planned for 2025.
- Project includes:
 - 17,000 acres of forest thinning and fuels reduction
 - Up to 2,500 acres of prescribed fire annually, including understory burning
 - Other restoration actions to restore streams, meadows and aquatic habitat.



West Shore of Lake Tahoe

- West Shore WUI- USFS
- Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Rx Fire- California State Parks
- Liberty Utilities Resilience Corridors- USFS
- Dollar Creek Forest Health Project- Tahoe Conservancy



Questions and Discussion

