

Appendix B-8

LAKE TAHOE RESTORATION PROJECTS ESTIMATED NECESSARY EXPENSES & KEY MILESTONE DATES

Fuels Reduction Environmental
 Analysis and Hazardous Fuels
 Reduction to support the Fireshed
 Project Name: Assessment Agency: USFS – LTBMU
 Prepared by: Scott Parsons Phone: 530-543-2687 EIP #: 10179.08
 SNPLMA Project #: _____

Identify estimated costs of eligible reimbursement expenses:

1. Planning, Environmental Assessment and Research Costs (specialist surveys, reports, monitoring, data collection, analysis, NEPA, etc.)	\$ <u>501,125</u>	<u>39</u>	%
2. FWS Consultation – Endangered Species Act	\$ _____	_____	%
3. Direct Labor (Payroll) to Perform the Project	\$ _____	_____	%
4. Project Equipment (tools, software, specialized equipment, etc.)	\$ <u>5,000</u>	<u><1</u>	%
5. Travel (including per diem where official travel status required to carry out project, such as serve as COR, experts to review reports, etc.)	\$ _____	_____	%
6. Official Vehicle Use (pro rata cost for use of Official Vehicles when required to carry out project)	\$ <u>22,000</u>	<u>2</u>	%
7. Cost of Contracts, Grants and/or Agreements to Perform the Project	\$ <u>511,875</u>	<u>39</u>	%
8. Other Direct and Contracted Labor: Agency payroll for the Contracting Officer to do project procurement, COR, Project Inspector, Sec. 106 Consultation if required, NEPA Lead, Project Manager, Project Supervisor, and subject experts to review contracted surveys, designs/drawings, plans, reports, etc.; Also covered is the cost to contract for a Project Manager and/or Project Supervisor if contracted separately from other project contracts)	\$ <u>130,000</u>	<u>10</u>	%
9. Other Necessary Expenses (see Appendix B-9)	\$ <u>130,000</u>	<u>10</u>	%
TOTAL:	\$ <u>\$1,300,000</u>	<u>100</u>	%

Estimated Key Milestone Dates:

Milestones/Deliverables:	Date:
Collect Field Data, Conduct Surveys for Environmental Analysis	Summer 2008
Prepare Contract for Environmental Analysis	Winter 2008/09
Start Environmental Analysis	Spring 2009
Finish Environmental Analysis, Sign Decision	Spring 2010
Final Completion Date:	12/31/2011

COMMENTS: NEPA work will be accomplished by Forest Service staff work and private contractors.

APPENDIX I

LAKE TAHOE CAPITAL PROJECT PROPOSAL

Project Name: Fuels Reduction Environmental Analysis and Hazardous Fuels Reduction to support the Fireshed Assessment
Capital Focus Area: Fuels Reduction and Forest Health
EIP #: 10179.08

Lead Agency: USFS - LTBMU

Contact: Scott Parsons

Threshold: Vegetation

Phone Number: (530) 543-2687

Threshold Standard:

Email Address: sparsons@fs.fed.us

Common Veg/Hazardous Fuels

Is this a multi-year Project?

Total Project Cost: \$1,300,000

(If Yes, describe in the Detailed Project Description below

Funding Request in this Round:

number of years or phases and which year the requested funding will cover) Yes

\$1,300,000

Project Summary (maximum 200 words):

Conduct project level resource surveys and environmental analyses (combination of environmental assessments and categorical exclusions) to support a portion of the fuels reduction projects identified through the basin-wide Fireshed Assessment and to support a portion of the fuels reduction projects on National Forest System lands identified through the Lake Tahoe Community Wildfire Protection Plans.

Detailed Project Description: This project is a continuation of approved SNPLMA Rounds 6 and 7 “Fuels Reduction Environmental Analysis and Hazardous Fuels Reduction to support the Fireshed Assessment” projects. Starting in 2008 and continuing through 2011 this project will continue to conduct project level resource surveys and complete environmental analyses for purposes of reducing fuel ladders, standing and down fuel accumulations, and canopy densities through the modification of vegetation structure and fuel loads. Restoration of healthy, diverse, fire resilient forest structure through tree thinning will continue, as well as re-introduction of prescribed fire for fuels reduction purposes to restore fire regimes that were historically part of the ecosystem. Begin on-the-ground project implementation of forest health and hazardous fuels reduction projects in 2008. Existing forest vegetation and fuel accumulations in many areas of the Lake Tahoe Basin pose a heightened risk for high intensity wildfire around private property (Lake Tahoe Watershed Assessment, 2000). The US Forest Service is directed to prioritize areas that have significant wildland fire risk to private property, watershed and wildlife habitat for fuel reduction treatments that will restore them to a healthy, diverse, fire resilient forest structure (National Fire Plan, 2000; Healthy Forest Initiative, 2002; Healthy Forest Restoration Act, 2003; Community Wildfire Protection Plans, 2005; Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit Fireshed Assessment, in works).

Describe the goals and objectives of the project: The *goals* of this project are to restore fire dependent ecosystems, enhance fire suppression capabilities, and protect life and property. The *objectives* of this project focus on Fuels Reduction and Forest Health identified in the Round 8 Request for Project Proposals. The Focus Areas addressed are: FFH-1 and FFH-2, completion of environmental analyses and prescriptions, and begin implementation of prescriptions for defense, threat, and general forest zone areas identified through the Stewardship and Fireshed Assessment process and Community Wildfire Protection plans – so that health and vigor of residual trees is maintained or increased to favor the development of large tree forest structure; FFH-4, mechanical, hand thinning and prescribed fire treatment methods will be used to achieve the objectives of returning the forests of the Lake Tahoe Basin to a healthy, fire resistant condition - the existing fuel profile will be modified to reduce fuel ladders, standing and down fuel loads, and vegetation so that treated areas would be able to withstand a wind-driven wildfire event without causing significant damage to residual trees; FFH-5, where possible, biomass and small diameter

forest products will be utilized from the thinning of trees; FFH-6, implementation of this project will include Public Affairs staff conducting outreach and education efforts within the Lake Tahoe Basin to help increase public understanding of fuels reduction projects; FFH-7, implementation of this project will include those treatment areas identified in the Lake Tahoe Basin Region of the Nevada Fire Safe Council and the local Fire Protection Districts Community Wildfire Protection Plans.

Describe the anticipated project accomplishments: Complete project level resource surveys and environmental analyses for a portion of the defense and threat zone fuels reduction treatments within National Forest System lands in the Lake Tahoe Basin.

Describe the “readiness” of this project to move forward (Environmental documentation, etc.): The fire assessment is scheduled to be finished in 2006. This fire assessment will help prioritize areas where environmental analyses for fuels reduction treatments are most needed. Environmental analyses would be scheduled for completion in 2010 and project implementation would begin in 2011.

Describe partnerships for this project. (Include documentation): This project will partner with the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA), Lake Valley Fire Protection District, South Lake Tahoe Fire Department, Fallen Leaf Fire Department, North Tahoe Fire Protection District, North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District, Tahoe-Douglas Fire Protection District, and the Lake Tahoe Basin Region of the Nevada Fire Safe Council, for the implementation of a portion of the Tahoe Basin Community Wildfire Protection Plans.

Describe the project monitoring that will be implemented as part of this project including:

(1) The questions the monitoring program is designed to answer

There is no specific monitoring program identified currently for this project, although it is expected that between 3 to 4% of the total \$\$ requested could be spent on pre-project monitoring. The monitoring program will be developed as a part of upcoming NEPA documents. NEPA documents will identify the implementation and cause and effect monitoring questions that should be answered as part of the project, and recommended monitoring efforts.

(2) The monitoring approach

The monitoring approach will be identified in completed NEPA documents. An adaptive management monitoring approach will be used to monitor implementation and effectiveness of the project. This monitoring will involve data collection before, during and after the project.

(3) Whether this project monitoring fits in to a larger monitoring or research program?

Current examples of the types of monitoring questions addressed and past efforts initiated related to Fuels Reduction Projects can be found in the LTBMU 5 Year Monitoring Plan. This includes forest level BMP implementation and effectiveness monitoring, and project level effects monitoring of changes to soils, vegetation structure and composition, and fuel loading. There have also been a recently completed and one ongoing research project examining the effects of fuels reduction practices and fire on water quality.

Monitoring and research opportunities to augment and complement these existing efforts will be evaluated and determined through the NEPA process. Funding for monitoring identified in the NEPA decision could be come from other sources in addition to dollars available in this project proposal.

Describe how the project results will be communicated and made-available to the public:

Results and accomplishments will be summarized in the Annual Forest Monitoring Program Report, as well as project specific monitoring reports. Project specific monitoring reports will be 1 to 5 years post project implementation, depending on variables being monitored and questions to be answered.

Round 8 SNPLMA Capital Project Supplemental Information:

All projects must have the following minimum criteria to be considered:

1. **Qualify as an Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) project and be the responsibility of the federal government:** Project EIP # 10179.08
2. **Have a willing and ready federal sponsor:** Federal sponsor is the USDA Forest Service

Projects must fit (be consistent with) into one of the focus areas and associated programs from the June 2006 Federal Vision: This project fits into the Fuels and Forest Health Focus Area and is further explained under the “Description of the Goals and Objectives of the Project” section of this proposal.

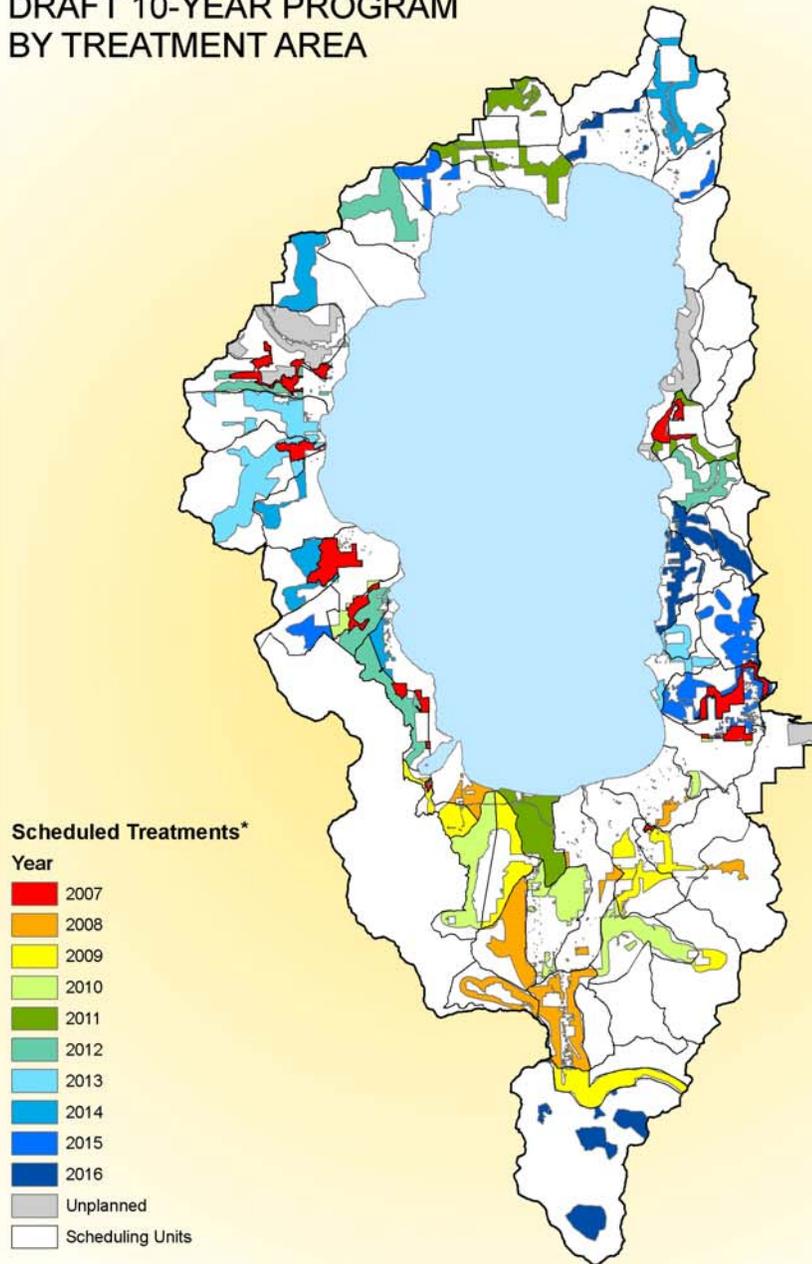
Other Considerations:

Projects that demonstrate a cumulative benefit because they are adjacent to, or enhanced by, other EIP projects: As this project will implement a portion of the Tahoe Basin Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP), there will be cumulative benefits as projects will be proposed and implemented on National Forest land adjacent to work that either will be ongoing or is proposed on adjacent non-federal ownerships. Forest health and hazardous fuels reduction treatments will be accomplished across ownership boundaries so that a seamless desired condition will be implemented.

Projects that include a cost-share component from State, local or private sources: As treatment areas under this project are part of the CWPP, state and local funding obtained from National Fire Plan grants will assist in the treatment of adjacent areas on non-federal lands as described above.

Projects that are continuing phases of previously approved SNPLMA projects: This project is a continuation of both an approved Round 6 project (Fireshed Assessment and Fuels Reduction Environmental Analysis) and a Round 7 project (Fuels Reduction Environmental Analysis and Hazardous Fuels Reduction to support the Fireshed Assessment). Approval of this proposal will enable the implementation of hazardous fuels reduction projects initiated under the Round 6 & 7 projects for the improvement of forest health and the reduction of hazardous fuels conditions around the Lake Tahoe Basin.

**LTBMU STEWARDSHIP AND FIRESHED ASSESSMENT
DRAFT 10-YEAR PROGRAM
BY TREATMENT AREA**



* Planned treatments modeled using Interface 1.8 scheduling program, UCSB Geography Department.