2007 ANGORA RECOVERY (NFS lands)

FIRE FACTS:Angora Wildfire
South Lake Tahoe, El Dorado County, California
Started: June 24, 2007; Contained: July 2; Controlled: July 19
Declared Out: November 15, 2007
Size: 3,100 Acres (7% of Upper Truckee River Watershed)
National Forest System lands: 2,736 Acres
Fire Burn Severity (soil): Low: 24% - Moderate: 42% - High: 34%
Vegetation Types: Mixed Conifer, Jeffrey Pine, Lodgepole

Angora Fire Area *Public Closure* Order issued 7/1/07 on National Forest System lands extended through 1/31/08 for *resource protection.* Urban lots in the fire area reopened to public access on 11/30/07.

~~~~~~~~~~ The Three Phases of Rehabilitation ~~~~~~~~~~

Fire Suppression Rehabilitation: During mop-up of fire

A series of immediate post-fire actions were taken to repair damages and minimize environmental impacts resulting from fire suppression activities. Fire suppression rehabilitation was initiated just before the fire was contained. This work rehabilitates the hand and dozer fire lines, roads, safety zones (2 acres), and portions of urban lots used during fire suppression efforts. More than 95% of fire suppression rehab was completed by fire crews in the mop-up stage of firefighting. The remaining road rehab work was completed under a contract in late November.

BAER – Burned Area Emergency Response: Within one year

Emergency stabilization is done to prevent catastrophic post-fire damage to life, property, or critical natural and cultural resources. The Angora Fire BAER assessment was a cooperative effort with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Washoe Tribe of CA/NV and CA state and local agencies. The BAER program prescribes and implements emergency treatments on National Forest System lands as soon as possible before the first major storm.

A variety of treatments for approximately $3 million was approved for implementation. Treatments completed include: noxious weed detection surveys of disturbed areas (24 mi); noxious weed surveys of urban lots (17 lots) and subsequent weed abatement (12 lots); seeding urban lots for erosion control (18.36 acres); hand mulching with wood straw (15 ac) and rice straw (110.2 ac); restoring, installing, and armoring of waterbars (48 total); culvert maintenance, repair, replacement, and removal (5 total); installing silt fencing (200 ft) and log/worm fences (9 of 13 fences) on urban lots. Aerial hydromulching to stabilize highly and moderately burned soils has occurred in 4 locations covering 667 acres. The hydromulch is an

organic mixture of wood mulch, recycled paper, water, and a guar gum-based tackifier that binds the soil and traps moisture.

Long-Term Recovery (measures beyond BAER): Within three years or more

Non-emergency actions are done after fire control to repair or improve fire-damaged lands facilities. This phase is broken into two stages.

Stage 1 began in August and includes hazard tree removal on FS Urban lots, completed through a contractor in late October. Hazard tree removal is being proposed on approximately 260 acres within 150 feet of capital improvements (forest system roads and trails, landline boundaries, other private property structures). Public scoping and public comment on the proposed plan is complete, and a decision is anticipated in January 2008. Other activities include re-establishing property boundaries and site stabilization.

Stage 2 began in August and involves analyzing and proposing ecosystem treatment options within the fire perimeter. Treatment options will consider fuel loading (dead trees); desired vegetation conditions; watershed and stream restoration; noxious weeds; scenic resilience and aesthetic recovery; soil productivity; meadow, wetland, and spring system function; and post-fire monitoring. Treatment options will be shared with the community (agencies and the public) this winter with comments considered in developing and finalizing treatment options that will undergo environmental analysis.

All three phases of rehabilitation/restoration on National Forest System lands have been coordinated with Basin agencies (local, state, federal).

In addition, the Angora Fire Multi-Agency Water Restoration Plan (8/17/07), prepared by the California Tahoe Conservancy and the LTBMU, provides a three phase overview of restoration activities, including the funding contribution for all affected/involved agencies.

The LTBMU helped to facilitate construction of drainage and erosion control improvements by local agencies by issuing permits for work on National Forest System lands. The LTBMU issued two permits to El Dorado County for drainage and erosion control projects in the area of Lake Tahoe Boulevard and Angora Creek. Another permit authorized the City of South Lake Tahoe to build a stormwater detention basin near the high school at Lake Tahoe Boulevard and Viking Way.

For more information: www.fs.fed.us/r5/ltbmu (Angora Wildfire Information & History; BAER, Angora Fire Multi-Agency Water Restoration Plan – August 2007)