

Appendix B-8

LAKE TAHOE RESTORATION PROJECTS ESTIMATED NECESSARY EXPENSES & KEY MILESTONE DATES

Project Name: South Shore Ecosystem Restoration & Hazardous Fuel Reduction Agency: USFS – LTBMU
 Prepared by: Scott Parsons Phone: 530-543-2687 EIP #: 10177
 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>0</u>	<u>0</u> %
2. FWS Consultation – Endangered Species Act	\$ <u>0</u>	<u>0</u> %
3. Direct Labor (Payroll) to Perform the Project	\$ <u>174,000</u>	<u>7</u> %
4. Project Equipment (tools, software, specialized equipment, etc.)	\$ <u>8,000</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.)	\$ <u>6,000</u>	<u><1</u> %
6. Official Vehicle Use (pro rata cost for use of Official Vehicles when required to carry out project)	\$ <u>9,000</u>	<u><1</u> %
7. Cost of Contracts, Grants and/or Agreements to Perform the Project	\$ <u>1,746,000</u>	<u>71</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>213,000</u>	<u>9</u> %
9. Other Necessary Expenses (see Appendix B-9)	\$ <u>294,000</u>	<u>12</u> %
TOTAL:	\$ <u>2,450,000</u>	<u>100</u> %

Estimated Key Milestone Dates:

Milestones/Deliverables:	Date:
Prepare & Award Contracts	7/1/2010
Complete Hand Contract Work Including Contract Administration & Inspections	10/31/2011
Complete Pile Burning Work	12/31/2013
Complete Mechanical Contract Work Including Contract Administration & Inspections	12/31/2013
Final Completion Date:	12/31/2013

COMMENTS: Estimate 1,322 acres of hazardous fuels reduction work to accomplish through agency contracts and Fire Safe Council Work.

**APPENDIX K:
SOUTH SHORE ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION & HAZARDOUS FUEL REDUCTION
LAKE TAHOE CAPITAL PROJECT PROPOSAL
ROUND 9**

Consistency with Lake Tahoe nomination criteria:

Project nominations must qualify as an Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) project and be the responsibility of the federal government (federal share responsibility); and have a willing and ready federal sponsor.

Project nominations must be consistent with one of the focus areas in the June 2006 Federal Vision (pp. 8-9) (<http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/ltbmu/documents/ltbec/revised-FV-Final.pdf>) and fit into at least one category.

Capital Focus Area (as described in the 2006 Federal Vision): *Forest Health*

Circle a minimum of one category:

1. Continued emphasis on fuels reduction in coordination with projects funded under the 2006 SNPLMA amendment (the “White Pine” amendment).

2. Continued implementation of projects approved in Rounds 5 through 8 which implement the EIP. Project proposal should clearly describe the phase/product being produced along with the consequence of not completing the project phase proposed for Round 9.

List project(s): Rounds 7 & 8 - South Shore Ecosystem Restoration & Hazardous Fuels Reduction Projects

3. Project is consistent with and contributes toward TMDL pollutant reductions within the four source categories (atmospheric, urban & groundwater, forested uplands, and stream channel).

List category(ies): Forested Uplands

4. Control of aquatic invasive species and prevention of new aquatic invasive species.

Project Name: South Shore Ecosystem Restoration & Hazardous Fuel Reduction

EIP #: 10177

Lead Agency: USFS - LTBMU

Contact: Scott Parsons

Threshold: Vegetation

Phone Number: (530) 543-2687

Threshold Standard: Common Veg/Hazardous Fuels

Email Address: sparsons@fs.fed.us

Funding Requested in this Round: \$2,450,000

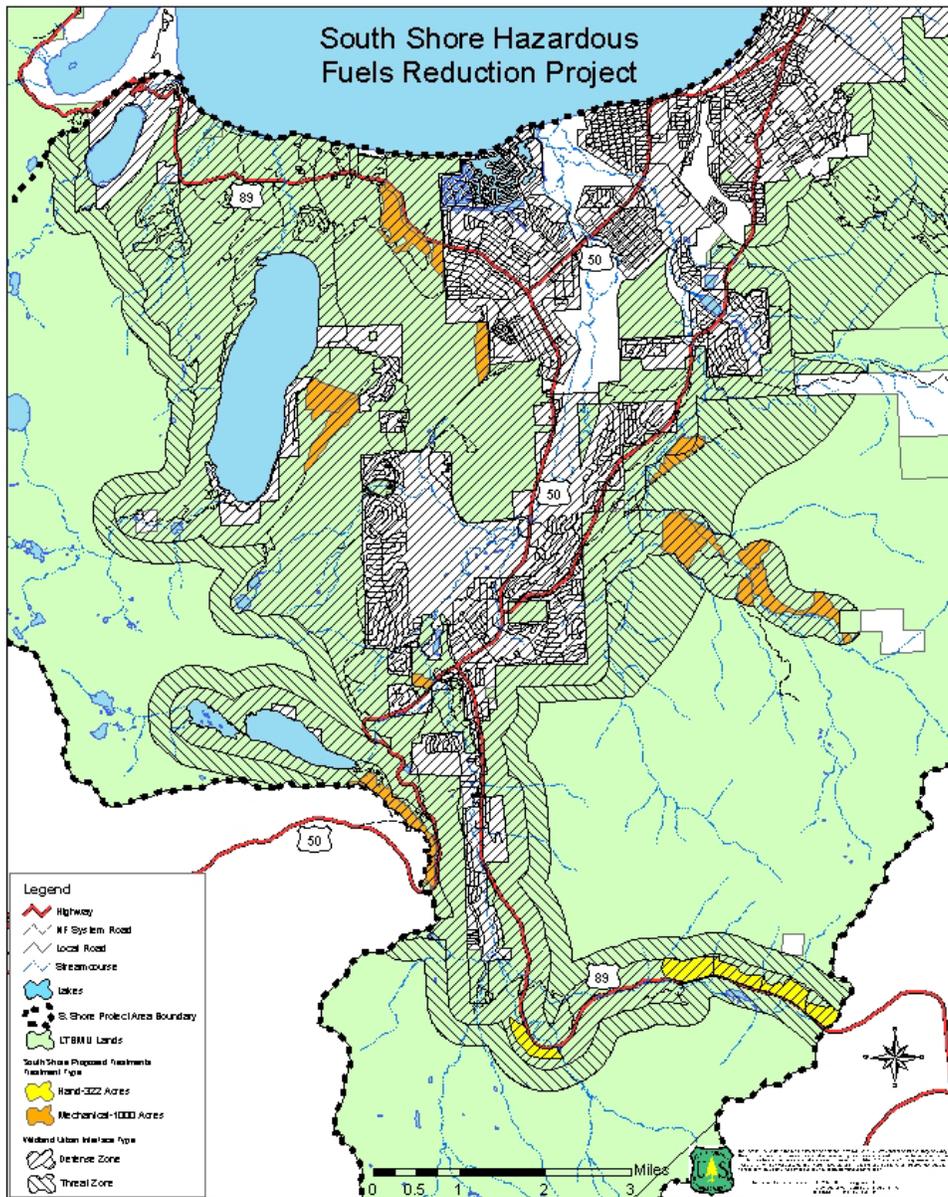
Total Project Cost: \$2,450,000

Is this a multi-year Project? (If “Yes”, describe in the Detailed Project Description below number of years or phases and which year the requested funding will cover): Yes.

Project Summary (maximum 200 words): (applicable ONLY to this Round 9 project):

This project proposal would fund implementation of treatments on approximately 1,322 acres for hazardous fuel reduction and forest health in the south shore area of the Lake Tahoe Basin from Emerald Bay east to Stateline and would focus on the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) (see Figure 1). Proposed treatments would be accomplished in cooperation with fire safe councils and through the use of agency administered hand thin, pile and burn as well as mechanical thin and biomass removal contracts on both upland and riparian areas. This project has also been submitted for approval under Round 9 White Pine SNPLMA. If the White Pine Round 9 proposal is not approved, it is to be considered under Round 9 Lake Tahoe SNPLMA.

Figure 1-Map of Project Area



Description (focuses on what Round 9 is funding; list the number of years or phases the Round 9 requested funding will cover; if phased, briefly describe how this project links into previously phased projects including what remains for Rounds 10 and beyond):

This proposal would provide funding for the fourth of six phases of implementation to complete fuel reduction treatments in the South Shore of Lake Tahoe (see Table 1). The environmental analysis for this project has been funded through Lake Tahoe SNPLMA Rounds 5, 6 and 7. The environmental analysis identified 10,276 acres of National Forest land available for fuels reduction and forest health treatments. Starting in 2009 and continuing through 2013 hazardous fuels reduction contracts would be initiated from approved environmental analysis completed under the earlier rounds of this project. Both hand and mechanical thin contracts would be prepared, awarded, and implemented to reduce fuel ladders and accumulations by modifying vegetation structure and fuel loads. Contracts would also restore a healthy, diverse, fire resilient forest structure through tree thinning, and introduce prescribed fire to restore fire regimes that

were historically part of the ecosystem. Existing forest vegetation and fuel accumulations in the south shore area poses a heightened risk for high intensity wildfire around private property (South Shore Landscape Assessment, 2004). 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 would restore them to a healthy, diverse, fire resilient forest structure.

Table 1: Summary of South Shore Planning and Implementation Acreages

Round	Project	Units Proposed	Units Accomplished
5 Lake Tahoe SNPLMA	Kingsbury	969 Acres	969 Acres
5 Lake Tahoe SNPLMA	Heavenly SEZ	23 Acres	23 Acres
5 Lake Tahoe SNPLMA	South Shore: Planning	Project Proposal	Completed Proposal
6 Lake Tahoe SNPLMA	South Shore Planning	NFMA & Env'tl Analysis	98% Complete
7 Lake Tahoe SNPLMA	South Shore Planning & Implementation (Phase 1)	EIS/ROD & 1,100 Acres	37% Complete. Pending ROD
8 Lake Tahoe SNPLMA	South Shore Implementation (Phase 2)	4,015 Acres	Pending ROD
8 White Pine SNPLMA (pending approval)	South Shore Implementation (Phase 3)	1,310 Acres	Pending ROD
9 White Pine SNPLMA	South Shore Implementation (Phase 4)	1,322 Acres	Pending ROD
9 Lake Tahoe SNPMA	South Shore Implementation (Phase 4)	1,322 Acres	Pending ROD
10 SNPLMA	South Shore Implementation (Phase 5)	*	
11 SNPLMA	South Shore Implementation (Phase 6)	*	

* Beyond this proposal, 2,529 Acres of fuel reduction treatments remain to be programmed.

Describe the goals and objectives of the project (those applicable ONLY to this Round 9 project):

The *goals* of this project are to restore fire dependent healthy forest ecosystems, enhance fire suppression capabilities, and protect life and property. The *objectives* of this project address the Forest Health Focus Area identified in *A Federal Vision for the Environmental Improvement Program at Lake Tahoe* (June 2006). The Forest Health Focus Areas addresses both Vegetation Management and Fuels Management through completion of WUI defense, threat, and general forest zone treatments 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; mechanical, hand thinning and prescribed fire treatment methods 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; where possible, biomass and small diameter forest products will be utilized from the thinning of trees.

Describe the anticipated project accomplishments (i.e. products or identifiable environmental benefits being produced or implemented under this project):

Complete both hand and mechanical hazardous fuels reduction contracts within the WUI defense and threat zones to reduce fuel loads and improve forest health over approximately 1,322 acres of National Forest lands.

Describe the “readiness” of this project to move forward (urgency, capacity, capability, environmental documentation etc.):

The environmental analysis for this project is scheduled for completion in summer 2008. This project has been identified as a high priority project for the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit. Project implementation is scheduled to begin in late 2008/early 2009 through approved Round 7 funds.

Describe partnerships for this project. (if applicable, project should identify partner funding [committed/secured] and how it is integrated into the project):

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, and the Lake Tahoe Basin Region of the Nevada Fire Safe Council for the implementation of a portion of the Lake Tahoe Basin Multi-Jurisdictional Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Strategy.

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

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

The monitoring program will be developed as a part of the NEPA environmental analysis and is expected that between 3 to 4% of the total dollars requested could be spent on monitoring. The environmental analysis will identify the implementation and cause and effect monitoring questions that should be answered as part of the project, and recommended level of monitoring efforts.

2) The monitoring approach (describe the methods and strategies [i.e. monitoring, research, or both] that will be used to verify whether the project goals and objectives have been met. A detailed monitoring/research plan is not required, but enough detail must be provided to allow someone that is unfamiliar with the project to understand and evaluate the proposed methods and strategies.):

The monitoring approach will be identified in the completed environmental analysis. 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 into a larger monitoring or research program (including how information from the monitoring and research will be used to improve the continued performance of the proposed project or improve future similar projects):

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 Best Management Practices (BMP) implementation and effectiveness monitoring, and project level effects monitoring of changes to soils, vegetation structure and composition, and fuel loading. There has also been a recently completed study of mechanized fuel reduction treatment in riparian vegetation and one ongoing research project examining the effects of fuels reduction practices and fire on water quality. Additional monitoring and research opportunities will be evaluated and determined through the environmental analysis 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 these two items which will be considered along with the above project monitoring information by the Tahoe Science Consortium related to research and monitoring resource areas and the effectiveness of environmental restoration activities:

1) Describe the specific goals and objectives of the project and describe how fulfilling those objectives will contribute to the achievement of one or more environmental thresholds:

The *goals* of this project are to restore fire dependent healthy forest ecosystems, enhance fire suppression capabilities, and protect life and property.

The *objectives* are to reduce standing and down fuel loads and thin dense forest stands through approximately 322 acres of hand thin, pile and burn contracts as well 1,000 acres of mechanical thin, biomass remove and mastication contracts.

Upon completion of this project, the vegetation condition will be improved through the creation of forest stand structure that has the species richness, abundance and pattern identified for the Common Vegetation Threshold. Forest stands will be treated so that older and larger trees are maintained so that the time required for these stands to develop into late seral/ old growth ecosystems will be accelerated for the Late Seral/Old Growth Ecosystems Threshold. Forest Stands within the wildland urban interface that support spotted owl and goshawk habitat will be treated to improve the forest structure (amount of down fuels and stand density) needed to sustain needed habitat over time for the Wildlife Threshold.

Design criteria will be included when contracts are implemented to protect water quality and soil conservation. Project implementation would reduce the risk of water quality and soil degradation should the area be affected by a wildfire. Modeled fire behavior indicates that flame lengths and fire intensity are reduced after stand treatments similar to the ones proposed for this project. This project would help maintain the Water Quality and Soil Conservation Thresholds should a wildfire affect this area.

2) Describe the risk to the environment from failure of the proposed project (i.e. if the project fails what is the environmental consequence):

The risks or environmental consequences should this project not be funded and implemented would be for the identified treatment areas to remain at risk of catastrophic wildfire. These areas would also remain at risk from increased insect and disease due to the overstocked stands with very high fuel loads. Proposed stands could be partially treated by using timber sales to remove only the commercial portion of the treatment units, but the desired condition would not be reached and treatment stands would be left with fuel ladders from small live conifers as well as heavy fuel loads from standing dead and down trees.

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 the variables being monitored.

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