

Appendix B-8

LAKE TAHOE RESTORATION PROJECTS ESTIMATED DIRECT COSTS & 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 #: 10179.06
 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>420,000</u>	<u>30</u>	%
2. Direct Labor (Payroll) to Perform the Project	\$ _____		%
3. Project Equipment (tools, software, specialized equipment, etc.)	\$ _____		%
4. Travel (including per diem where official travel status required to carry out project, such as serve as COR, experts to review reports, etc.)	\$ _____		%
5. Official Vehicle Use (pro rata cost for use of Official Vehicles when required to carry out project)	\$ <u>14,000</u>	<u>1</u>	%
6. Cost of Contracts, Grants and/or Agreements to Perform the Project	\$ <u>686,000</u>	<u>49</u>	%
7. Other Direct Costs (direct labor for agency personnel to do project procurements; COR; PI; personnel assigned as NEPA lead; personnel assigned to review contracted surveys, designs/drawings, reports, etc.; project manager and/or project supervisor; and contracted costs for project manager and/or project supervisor if contracted separately)	\$ <u>140,000</u>	<u>10</u>	%
8. Indirect Costs	\$ <u>140,000</u>	<u>10</u>	%
TOTAL:	\$ <u>1,400,000</u>	<u>100</u>	%

Estimated Key Milestone Dates:

Milestones/Deliverables:	Date:
Collect Field Data, Conduct Surveys for Environmental Analysis	Summer 2007
Prepare Contract for Environmental Analysis	1-2008
Start Environmental Analysis	2-2008
Finish Environmental Analysis, Sign Decision	12-2008
Prepare Implementation Contract	1-1-2009
Award Implementation Contract	4-1-2009
Complete Contract Work Including Inspections	10-15-2011
Final Completion Date:	12-31-2011

COMMENTS: Fireshed Assessment will be completed by Forest Service staff. NEPA work will be accomplished of Forest Service staff work and private contractor. Estimate 450 acres of hazardous fuels reduction work to contract

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 #: 10179.06

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

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
Total Project Cost: \$1,400,000
Funding Request in this Round: \$1,400,000

Project Summary (maximum 200 words):

COMPONENT 1 – 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.

COMPONENT 2 - Conduct hazardous fuel reduction and forest ecosystem health treatments throughout the Lake Tahoe Basin. These fuel reduction treatments would cover the National Forest areas and would focus on the Urban Wildland Interface. Proposed treatments would be accomplished through the use of agency administered contracts and through fire safe councils. These treatments would reduce the level of hazardous fuels within the defense and threat zones. This includes the use of mechanical harvesters and chainsaws for thinning to reduce live tree densities and mechanical chipping to reduce the amount of existing dead and down biomass. Included in project implementation is contract administration and project monitoring.

Detailed Project Description: Conduct project level resource surveys and environmental analyses for reduction of fuel ladders, standing and down fuel accumulations, and canopy densities by modifying vegetation structure and fuel loads. Restore healthy, diverse, fire resilient forest structure through tree thinning, and introduce prescribed fire for fuels reduction purposes to restore fire regimes that were historically part of the ecosystem. Begin on-the-ground project implementation 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 ecosystem, enhance fire suppression capabilities, and protect life and property. The objectives of this project focus on the Fuels Reduction and Forest Health identified in the Round 7 Request for Project Proposals. The Focus Areas addressed are: **FFH-1** and **FFH-2**, completion of 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; **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**, to the extent 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 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. Implement defense and threat zones with reduced fuel load over 450 acres of National Forest lands.

Describe the “readiness” of this project to move forward (Environmental documentation, etc.): The fireshed assessment is scheduled to be finished in 2006. This fireshed assessment will prioritize areas where environmental analyses for fuels reduction treatments are most needed. Environment analyses would be scheduled for completion in 2008 and project implementation would begin in 2009.

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

How effective are current fuels reduction treatments at reducing fire risk and intensity?

To what degree are best management practices implemented and effective in protecting soil and water resources?

Are Regional soil quality standards being achieved within vegetation management treatment units.

What are the short and long term effects of fuel reduction treatments on wildlife habitats?

(2) The monitoring approach

An adaptive management monitoring approach will be used to monitor implementation and effectiveness of this 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?

Project level monitoring will be identified as part of the environmental analysis process and will include elements of soil and water quality effects, Best Management Practices (BMP) effectiveness monitoring, and overall effectiveness monitoring of fuels reduction prescriptions. Monitoring will help determine the effectiveness of the treatments in regards to the level of reduction in expected fire behavior, the degree of soil and water quality protection BMP's are

implemented as designed and their effectiveness in protecting water quality, impacts of mechanical treatments on soil quality characteristics, and effects to wildlife habitat. Monitoring will be implemented by both the Fuels and Vegetation staff along with the Adaptive Management Group of the Ecosystem Conservation staff. Site specific monitoring of fuels reduction effectiveness, soil/water quality effects, BMP effectiveness along with landscape level monitoring of wildlife habitat changes will be used. This project proposal has the potential for serving as a basis of larger monitoring projects that are scheduled for the Lake Tahoe Basin. Monitoring will be summarized annually and reported in the LTBMU's Adaptive Management Program Annual Report.

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.

Fireshed Assessment

