

**Appendix I-2  
TAHOE PROJECT PROPOSAL**

**Project Name: South Shore Vegetation & Fuels Treatment - EA EIP #: 10177.04**

**Lead Agency: USFS - LTBMU**

**Contact: Scott Parsons**

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**Threshold: Vegetation**

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**Threshold Standard: Common**

**Total Project Cost: \$445,000**

**Veg/Hazardous Fuels**

**Project Description:** Conduct site specific project planning for the completion of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the south shore area of the Lake Tahoe Basin. The NEPA would cover the National Forest areas from Emerald Bay south to Luther Pass and east to the Kingsbury Grade corridor and would focus on the Urban Wildland Interface. The NEPA would identify areas in need of hazardous fuels reduction work, which could include mechanical thinning to reduce tree densities and prescribed burning and mechanical removal to reduce the amount of existing dead and down biomass to reduce fire hazards. This project is one of a multiple number of projects identified from the South Shore Landscape Analysis (2004), an ecosystem level analysis.

**Describe the purpose and need for the project:** Reduce fuel ladders and accumulations by modifying vegetation structure and fuel loads; restore to 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 (Lake Tahoe Basin 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.

**Describe the goals and objective of the project (For Science & Research Projects describe Key Management Questions being addressed):** 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 are to designate defense and threat zones boundaries of the urban wildland intermix zone; modify the existing fuel profile 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 with flame lengths less than 4 feet in defense and 6 feet in threat zones; thin stands of trees so that growth and vigor of residual trees is maintained or increased to favor the development of large tree forest structure.

**Describe the anticipated project accomplishments:** Implement defense and threat zones with reduced fuel load over 5,000 acres of National Forest lands.

**Describe the “readiness” of this project to move forward (Environmental documentation, etc.):** Forest Service Region 5 has a task order contract in place to facilitate the prompt contract award to qualified contractors able to complete environmental analyzes.

SNPLMA Project #: \_\_\_\_\_ (To be assigned by SNPLMA Administration)

**Describe partnerships for this project (Include documentation):** This project will partner with the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) and the south shore area fire chiefs for the implementation of a portion of the Tahoe Basin Wildfire Threat Reduction Program.

**For Science & Research Projects describe how this project will guide future management activities:** N/A

**Include an 8 ½ X 11 map depicting the project, or research/study area.** Attached

