

Fuels Treatment Planning: A Workshop on the Applications of the Tahoe Basin-Specific OptFuels Modeling System

Tuesday, May 17th, 2011*
9 am - 5 pm

Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit Forest Supervisor's Office
Emerald Bay Room
35 College Drive
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

WORKSHOP FACILITATORS

Jody Bramel and Greg Jones of the USDA Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station

BACKGROUND

OptFuels is a modeling system for scheduling fuel treatments and re-treatments spatially and temporally to minimize expected impacts (e.g., ecological and economical) from future wildland fire. A Lake Tahoe Basin-specific OptFuels model was developed under the SNPLMA-funded project, "[Integrated decision support for cost effective fuel treatments under multiple resource goals](#)," to identify where, when, and how to treat fuels to maintain desired fuel reduction, forest restoration, and water quality goals (e.g., reduced sediment yield) at a landscape scale. This decision support system can provide cost-effective fuel treatment locations and methods while meeting ecological concerns and operational constraints. Among alternative solutions (fuel management schedules) evaluated, the solution that maintains the maximum positive effects on fire hazard reduction and ecosystem restoration over time and meets sediment delivery, budget, and operational constraints will be selected. An overview of the OptFuels process may be found on the project website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/human-dimensions/optfuels/promo.shtml>.

WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

The workshop will present the OptFuels decision support system, its applications, limitations, and analysis results of different management strategies for the Lake Tahoe Basin. Specifically, workshop attendees will:

1. View a demonstration of how OptFuels analyzes fuel treatment options using a model for Angora Creek-Upper Truckee as an example
2. Learn what constitutes data inputs and discuss what should be included in default databases for use in modeling other areas of the Lake Tahoe Basin
3. Learn how to construct planning models and conduct trade-off analyses between various fuel management strategies with respect to ecological concerns and operational constraints
4. Be equipped with knowledge of how to best spend funds to achieve specific fuel reduction, forest restoration, and water quality goals
5. Learn how OptFuels can help land managers develop clear, quantitative fuels objectives for the Lake Tahoe Basin

***There will be an informal second session on Wednesday, May 18th for those who would like more hands-on experience using OptFuels for the Lake Tahoe Basin.**

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please RSVP as soon as possible to Jody Bramel (406-329-3414 or jbramel02@fs.fed.us) so that the correct amount of materials may be provided. In your RSVP, **please indicate which days of the workshop you plan to attend (Tuesday only, Wednesday only, or Tuesday and Wednesday).**

For more information about OptFuels or the workshop, please contact Jody Bramel (see contact information above) or Greg Jones (406-329-3396 or jgjones@fs.fed.us). An agenda for the workshop will be forthcoming.