



## **Statement of Nancy Gibson, Forest Supervisor, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit regarding OIG Fast Report on Nevada Fire Safe Council Grant Administration**

"The U.S. Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU) is working with the Nevada Fire Safe Council (NVFSC) to resolve concerns about the administration of grants the nonprofit organization received to fund projects to reduce wildfire risk on non-federal lands," said LTBMU Forest Supervisor Nancy Gibson. The Forest Service, part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), is responding to recommendations by the USDA's Office of the Inspector General (OIG) in a preliminary report issued Feb. 9, 2012.

In July 2011, OIG launched a review of a hotline complaint alleging that NVSFC was conducting an unfair and non-competitive bidding process when hiring contractors. During the subsequent review, OIG found a number of concerns related to the administration of two Forest Service grants.

"Our goal is to work with our partner, the Nevada Fire Safe Council and ensure proper accounting and full compliance of federal grants is achieved," said Gibson. "Fuels reduction tops our priority list in the Lake Tahoe Basin, and we want to move these projects forward with the ability to assure the public that their funds are being used responsibly and transparently."

The OIG report, along with the Forest Service response, is available online at <http://www.usda.gov/oig/rptsauditsfs.htm>.

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