

ANGORA RECOVERY (NFS lands)

FIRE FACTS: Angora Wildfire

South Lake Tahoe, El Dorado County, California

Started: June 24, 2007; Contained: July 2; Controlled: July 19

Declared Out: November 15, 2007

Size: 3,100 Acres (7% of Upper Truckee River Watershed)

National Forest System lands: 2,736 Acres

Fire Burn Severity (soil): Low: 24% - Moderate: 42% - High: 34%

Vegetation Types: Mixed Conifer, Jeffrey Pine, Lodgepole



Angora Fire Area *Public Closure Order* issued 7/1/07 on National Forest System lands for resource protection was terminated on 1/17/08. Urban lots in the fire area reopened to public access on 11/30/07.

~~~~~ The Three Phases of Rehabilitation ~~~~~

Fire Suppression Rehabilitation: During mop-up of fire

A series of immediate post-fire actions were taken to repair damages and minimize environmental impacts resulting from fire suppression activities. Fire suppression rehabilitation was initiated just before the fire was contained. This work rehabilitates the hand and dozer fire lines, roads, safety zones (2 acres), and portions of urban lots used during fire suppression efforts. More than 95% of fire suppression rehab was completed by fire crews in the mop-up stage of firefighting. The remaining road rehab work was completed under a contract in late November 2007.

BAER - Burned Area Emergency Response: Within one year

Emergency stabilization is done to prevent catastrophic post-fire damage to life, property, or critical natural and cultural resources. The Angora Fire BAER assessment was a cooperative effort with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Washoe Tribe of CA/NV and CA state and local agencies. The BAER program prescribes and implements emergency treatments on National Forest System lands as soon as possible before the first major storm.

A variety of treatments for approximately \$3 million was implemented. Treatments completed include: noxious weed detection surveys of disturbed areas; noxious weed surveys of urban lots and subsequent weed abatement; seeding urban lots for erosion control; hand mulching with wood straw and rice straw; restoring, installing, and armoring of waterbars; installing log check dams; culvert maintenance, repair, replacement, and removal; installing silt fencing and log/worm fences on urban lots, and road work in the Sawmill and Tahoe Mountain areas. Aerial hydromulching to stabilize highly and moderately burned soils occurred in 4 locations covering

667 acres. The hydromulch is an organic mixture of wood mulch, recycled paper, water, and a guar gum-based tackifier that binds the soil and traps moisture.

Long-Term Recovery (measures beyond BAER): Within three years or more

Non-emergency actions are done after fire control to repair or improve fire-damaged lands facilities. This phase is broken into two stages.

Stage 1 began in August 2007 and included hazard tree removal on FS Urban lots, completed through a contractor in late October 2007. On March 21, 2008, after addressing public comments, the Forest Supervisor signed a decision memo authorizing hazard tree removal within 150 feet of capital improvements (forest system roads and trails, landline boundaries, other private property structures). This work has been completed on all 248 acres of the project area. Other activities include re-establishing property boundaries, site stabilization and noxious weed monitoring and removal.

Stage 2 began in August 2007 and involved analyzing and proposing ecosystem treatment options within the fire perimeter. After extensive public input, the Forest Service signed a decision in July 2010 that includes thinning dead and some live trees to reduce fuels and restore forest health, improvements to the road and trail system for usability and water quality, restoration of Angora Creek, Seneca Pond and Gardner Mountain Meadow and noxious weed treatments. The Forest Service left more than 40 percent of the burned forest standing to provide wildlife habitat.

Forest thinning, and the road and trail improvements should be complete by the end of the 2012 field season. Noxious weed treatments are ongoing. Work to restore Seneca Pond to a wetland could begin as soon as the 2013 field season, and the Forest Service hopes to begin Angora Creek restoration during the 2014 field season. A separate decision in April 2010 authorized planting of native seedlings on 745 acres, and this work is essentially complete.

All three phases of rehabilitation/restoration on National Forest System lands have been coordinated with Basin agencies (local, state, federal).

The LTBMU helped to facilitate construction of drainage and erosion control improvements by local agencies by issuing permits for work on National Forest System lands. The LTBMU issued two permits to El Dorado County for drainage and erosion control projects in the area of Lake Tahoe Boulevard and Angora Creek. Another permit authorized the City of South Lake Tahoe to build a stormwater detention basin near the high school at Lake Tahoe Boulevard and Viking Way.

For more information: www.fs.fed.us/r5/ltbmu (Links for Angora Restoration and 2007 Wildfire Information & History)