



Biomass Transport and Utilization Project and Grants

June 25, 2020



Project Description

The Biomass Transport and Utilization Project will transport biomass from Lake Tahoe Basin forest treatments by funding three grants:

- A grant of \$36,000 to the California Department of Parks and Recreation
- A grant of \$280,000 to the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California
- A grant of \$360,000 to the Great Basin Institute

Background

Forest out of balance

- Typical of fire suppressed forests of the Sierra Nevada
- Grown overly dense with small diameter trees
- Vulnerable to stand replacement fires and pest invasions



Background



Small diameter woody biomass is often difficult to remove from fuel reduction efforts with the cost of transport usually exceeding the value of the material

Background

Low value biomass can be used to generate renewable power



And create wood products like particle board

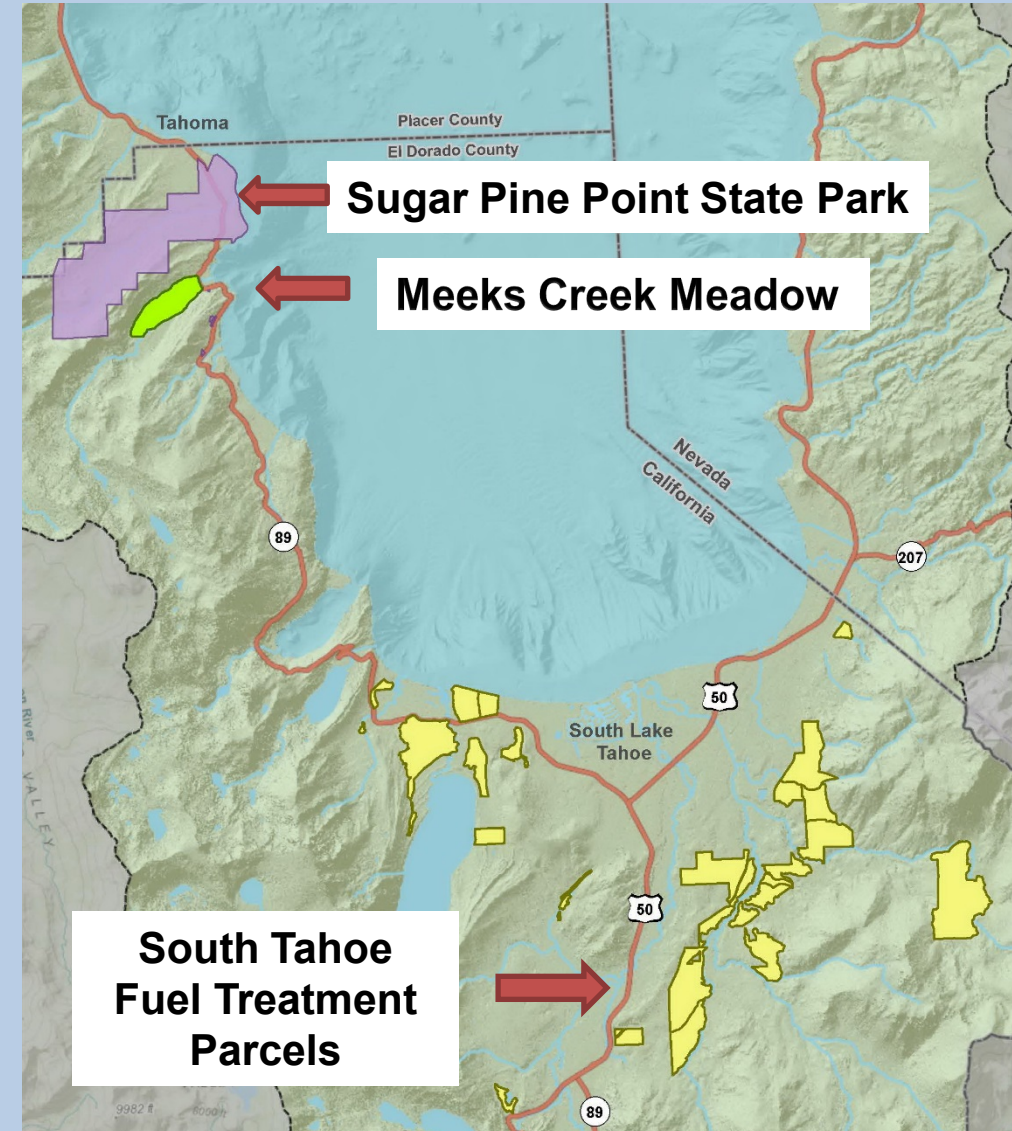


Project Description

Subsidies are needed to balance the biomass equation

- California State Park yearly fuel reduction efforts
- Meeks Creek Meadow Restoration
- South Tahoe Fuel Reduction

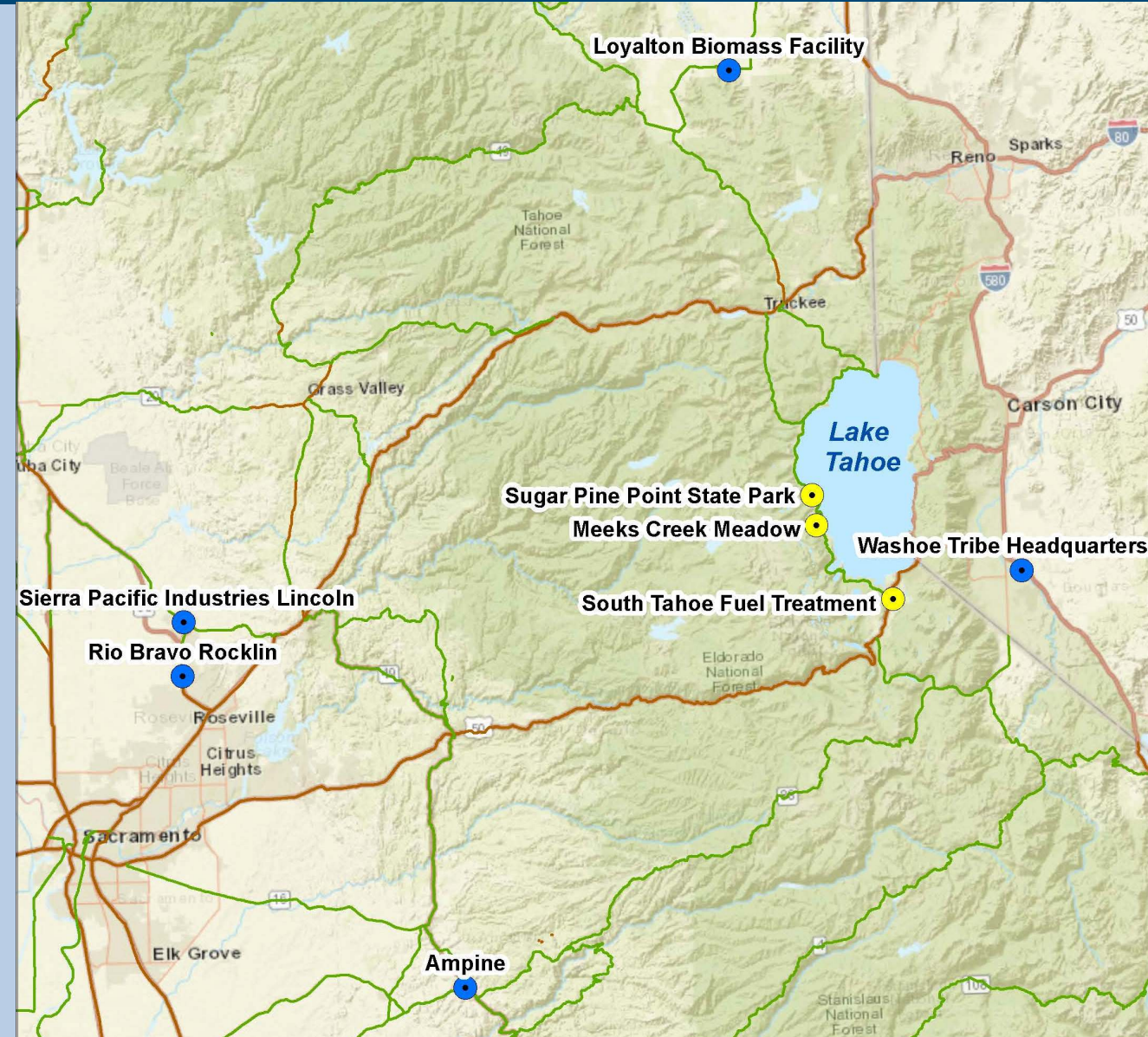
Potential to utilize up to **17,500 tons of biomass!**



Project Description

Biomass utilization:

- Bioenergy
 - Loyalton Cogen
 - SPI-Lincoln
 - Rio Bravo Rocklin
 - Washoe Tribe HQ
- Wood Products
 - Ampine
- Mulch
 - Site Restoration



Project Benefits

Transporting the biomass to the above facilities has multiple benefits

- Hazardous fuels are removed from the landscape
- Greenhouse gas emissions reduced versus open burning
- Smoke impacts from burning avoided
- Reduced reliance on fossil fuels





Project Budget and Schedule

California Department of Parks and Recreation Sugar Pine Point State Park	\$36,000
Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California Meeks Creek Meadow	\$280,000
The Great Basin Institute South Tahoe Fuels Treatment	\$360,000
Total	\$676,000

Funding provided by a CAL FIRE Forest Health Grant

- Staff intends to execute grants in summer 2020.
- Project proponents plan to begin implementation in summer or fall 2020 and the work will continue through 2021.



Recommendation

Staff recommends adoption of Resolution 20-06-04

- Adopt the Biomass Transport and Utilization Project Negative Declaration to comply with CEQA;
- Approve the Project; and
- Provide three grants to implement the Project:
 - 1) a grant of up to \$36,000 to the California Department of Parks and Recreation;
 - 2) a grant of up to \$280,000 to the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California; and
 - 3) a grant of up to \$360,000 to the Great Basin Institute.