

Lake Tahoe Basin

FOREST ACTION PLAN

2021 UPDATE

IN 2019, THE TAHOE FIRE AND FUELS TEAM (TFFT) released the Lake Tahoe Basin Forest Action Plan. The Plan charts a path for collaboration across property boundaries to accelerate landscape restoration and community wildfire protection at Tahoe.

THIS SUPPLEMENT TO THE FOREST ACTION PLAN provides updates on work since 2019 toward the Plan's three strategies:

1. **Scale up to match the scale of the solution to the scale of the threat.**

California-side partners completed the **Tahoe Program Timberland Environmental Impact Report**. This environmental document will help agencies advance forest health projects on 17,480 acres of the wildland-urban interface on the California side of the Basin.

The **Lake Tahoe West Restoration Partnership** completed scoping for the proposed 59,000 acre landscape restoration on the west shore. Partners continue to make plans for implementing the Lake Tahoe West Landscape Restoration Strategy, which will expand treatment from the wildland-urban interface out into the general forest.

Federal and state partners are collaborating with utility companies Basinwide to reduce hazards and improve forest health near powerlines. The USDA Forest Service, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit has completed National Environmental Policy Act planning for 7,600 acres of **powerline resilience corridors**.

2. **Build capacity for all phases of the forest landscape management cycle.**

Lake Tahoe Community College (LTCC) is launching its **Forest Health Training and Job Placement Program**. The Program will train new forestry professionals, accelerating large-scale restoration and reducing wildfire risk for communities. LTCC partnered with the California Conservation Corps for the initial cohort of students.

NV Energy has funded 47 new positions at local fire protection districts on the Nevada side of the Basin to treat forests surrounding powerlines. These personnel are also available for fire suppression.

3. **Leverage technology for rapid, large-scale, more efficient implementation.**

The Tahoe-Central Sierra Initiative (TCSI) developed the **TCSI Framework for Resilience**: a new tool to help land managers assess landscape conditions, set objectives, design projects, and measure progress towards social-ecological resilience.

The University of Nevada, Reno added five cameras to the **ALERTWildfire Tahoe Network**, bringing the total in the Basin to 16, and upgraded the weather resistance and image quality of the remaining cameras.



California Conservation Corpsmember thinning a California Tahoe Conservancy lot in South Lake Tahoe in 2021. Photo: California Tahoe Conservancy.



An image from the ALERTWildfire camera at Heavenly Ski Area showing the Meeks Fire on June 9, 2021.

WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE TREATMENTS

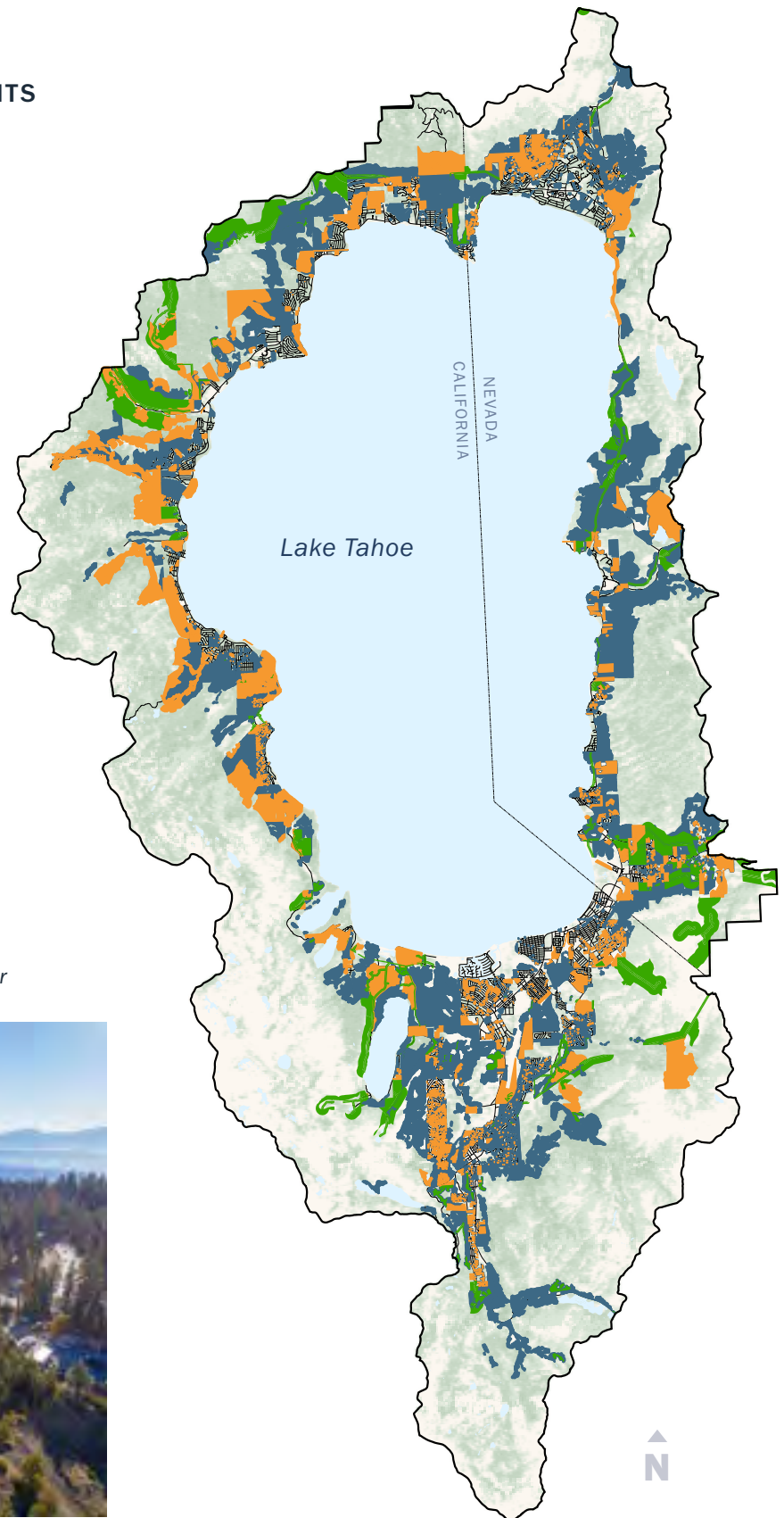
Since 2019, TFFT partners have completed nearly 7,600 acres of wildland-urban interface treatments, and 65,000 acres since 2008.

The TFFT continues to plan and prioritize fuels treatments in the wildland-urban interface and beyond. These include landscape-scale planning efforts such as the Lake Tahoe West Restoration Project and powerline resilience corridors. In powerline resilience corridors, Basin partners manage ignition hazards in conjunction with fuel reduction and forest health.

The TFFT plans to treat approximately 14,000 additional acres in the wildland-urban interface by 2025. This will complete all priority treatments identified in the 2019 Forest Action Plan.

- Completed Treatments (2008-2020)
- Planned Treatments
- Planned Powerline Resilience Corridors

Powerline resilience corridor above Tahoe City planned for treatment. Photo: California Tahoe Conservancy.



The Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team formed in 2008 with the twin aims of reducing fuels in the wildland-urban interface and preparing communities for wildfire. The partnership involves 21 federal, tribal, state, and local conservation, land management, and fire agencies. The TFFT released the original Lake Tahoe Basin Forest Action Plan in August 2019. You can read the full Plan, learn more about the TFFT, and find helpful information about preparing for wildfire at www.tahoelivingwithfire.com.