

Lake Tahoe Basin

FOREST ACTION PLAN

2025 UPDATE



The Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team (TFFT) continues to advance the 2019 Lake Tahoe Basin Forest Action Plan, focusing on implementation, innovation, and cross-boundary collaboration. This past year, Basin partners were busy planning for evacuation and community resilience to wildfire, applying innovative technologies to accelerate pace and scale of forest health and wildfire risk reduction projects.

2025 COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN

The Lake Tahoe Basin Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), led by Tahoe Resource Conservation District with support from local, state, Tribal, and federal agencies, was completed in February 2025. Using updated wildfire risk modeling, extensive community feedback, and new spatial prioritization tools, the CWPP refines treatment priorities Basin-wide. This plan ensures that TFFT partners target future fuels reduction and defensible space efforts where they are most urgently needed. The CWPP is a comprehensive plan, capturing needs across jurisdictions to ensure wildfire risk reduction projects are consistent, complementary, and strategically located to

ensure maximum effectiveness in protecting communities.

MOVING FORWARD: LAKE TAHOE WEST RESTORATION PROJECT

The USDA Forest Service released the Lake Tahoe West Restoration Project Draft Environmental Assessment for public scoping, a milestone for this large-scale restoration effort. TFFT partners collaborated for years to assess and develop a resilience strategy, encompassing approximately 60,000 acres on the west shore, to restore forest resilience, improve watershed health, and address wildfire risk at scale. Decades of cross-boundary coordination are culminating in a strategic project design to meet both ecological and community protection goals.

USING INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY

In 2025, TFFT partners significantly expanded the use of technology to improve project efficiency, scalability, and outcomes. These technologies collectively improve decision-making, accelerate implementation, and allow straightforward projects to be completed more quickly, enabling specialists to focus their expertise on more complex work.

- Agencies are using fire modeling tools to prioritize treatments. Modeling also helps identify how a fire may move through a built environment in a given neighborhood.
- Decision support tools show agencies how to apply home hardening and defensible space treatments in the most strategic and effective ways to minimize impacts of fire to specific communities.





- Local fire agencies use defensible space inspection technology to streamline inspections and provide actionable home hardening recommendations to residents.
- BurnBot is providing new opportunities to create wildfire resilience through mastication with unmanned remote precision masticators. These light weight, easily maneuverable machines are a cost-effective alternative to treat a variety of different areas and create defensible space within and around homes.
- In May, led by the Tahoe Fund and North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District, a pilot project leveraged new technology to identify which mitigation measures matter the most. By combining advanced fire modeling to identify the most vulnerable parcels to fire and treatment with a remote-controlled, small-scale masticator to address vegetation concerns directly adjacent to structures, the approach provides a comprehensive approach to wildfire mitigation strategies.



Photo by Jeff Freeman

BASINWIDE CAPACITY DRIVING RESULTS

To increase the pace and scale of fuels reduction projects, TFFT partners are expanding capacity across all aspects of forest management—from workforce development to permitting and implementation. Targeted investments from the State of California, via the California Tahoe Conservancy, are supporting capacity at local fire protection districts, the Tahoe Resource Conservation District and providing career and technical education programs at Lake Tahoe Community College. Enhanced coordination through various agreement types is also bringing in contractors, technical expertise, and private-sector support to accelerate work. This broad, multi-sector commitment is building pipelines for projects and enabling more projects to move forward, faster.

FAST-TRACKING CRITICAL FUELS REDUCTION PROJECTS

TFFT partners welcomed Governor Gavin Newsom's proclamation of a state of emergency to fast-track critical wildfire prevention projects statewide. Multiple partners have begun using the streamlined process under the proclamation to expedite fuels reduction projects that protect public safety and communities on the California side of the Basin.

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 2019. Read the full Forest Action Plan, learn more about the TFFT, and find helpful information about preparing for wildfire at tahoelivingwithfire.com.