

Lake Tahoe Basin Forest Action Plan 2026 UPDATE



The Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team (TFFT) continues to advance the **2019 Lake Tahoe Basin Forest Action Plan**. A healthy forest isn't one that is spared from wildfire, it's one that's prepared for it. We're thinning forests, restoring wildlife habitats, and making neighborhoods more resilient across the Lake Tahoe Basin (Basin). Read on for updates on progress toward the Forest Action Plan's three strategies:

1. **Scaling up** to match the scale of the solution to the scale of the threat.
2. **Building capacity** for all phases of the forest land-scape management cycle.
3. **Leveraging technology** for rapid, large-scale, more efficient implementation.

U.S. Forest Service Improving Wildfire Resilience on South Shore

STRATEGY 1: SCALING UP

Via two separate projects—the South Tahoe Fuels Treatment Project and Liberty Utilities Resilience Corridor Project—the Forest Service anticipates completing a minimum of 500 acres of forest thinning and fuels reduction treatments this summer on the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit around South Lake Tahoe, and numerous acres around the lake. Benefits of these projects include improved wildfire resilience in important powerline corridors, wildfire evacuation corridors, and multiple south shore neighborhoods and communities.

California Fast-Tracking Wildfire Safety Projects

STRATEGY 1: SCALING UP

Five high-priority Basin projects have expedited approval under a California effort to fast-track work to reduce wildfire risk. Following Governor Gavin Newsom's 2025 emergency proclamation on wildfire, the California Natural Resources Agency and California Environmental Protection Agency coordinated to cut



Photo by California Tahoe Conservancy

The Forest Service is reducing wildfire risk in forests in and around south shore communities.

red tape and fast-track critical wildfire safety projects across the state, all while maintaining vital environmental safeguards. Through this streamlined process, projects were approved in as little as 30 days, saving a year or more of review and red tape for more complicated projects. The California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy) completed its first expedited project last fall in South Lake Tahoe, is working on another in El Dorado County, and will begin a third near Tahoe City this fall. The North Tahoe Fire Protection District and City of South Lake Tahoe are also working on expedited projects.

Summer Internship Program for Forestry Students

STRATEGY 2: BUILDING CAPACITY

Lake Tahoe Community College has launched a summer internship program, placing forestry students at five Tahoe organizations and non-profits. These forestry internships add capacity for participating organizations while providing paid work-based learning opportunities that allow students to explore career pathways within the forestry field. Interns gain hands-on experience that prepares them for future employment opportunities. Experiences like these are a critical component of developing the next generation of forestry professionals and building a skilled regional workforce.



Photo by California Tahoe Conservancy

The Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California, in leading implementation of the Mayála Wàfa Restoration Project, is removing conifers from this culturally and ecologically significant meadow habitat.

Mayála Wàfa Restoration Project

STRATEGIES 1 & 2: SCALING UP & BUILDING CAPACITY

The Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California, with the LTBMU, is leading this collaborative meadow restoration on Tahoe's West Shore, with support from the Conservancy and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The implemented project will reduce wildfire risk, improve species of cultural significance to the Washoe Tribe and meadow habitat, foster resilience to climate change, and return cultural burning to the landscape. In 2025 and 2026, the Washoe Tribe has removed 246 acres of conifers encroaching the meadow, with logs being transported to the Washoe Tribe's headquarters.

Local Wildfire Resilience Projects to Protect Communities

STRATEGIES 1 & 2: SCALING UP & BUILDING CAPACITY

Local fire protection districts continue to advance projects to reduce fuels across public and private lands, protecting communities Basinwide. With too many projects to list here, benefits to communities on both the California and Nevada sides of the Basin include im-

proved wildfire resilience around schools and public utilities, along power lines, and along critical evacuation routes.

Creating Fire-Ready Communities

STRATEGY 3: LEVERAGING TECHNOLOGY

The Fire Smart Community Pilot program brings new technologies and resources to local fire districts and residents. The goal is to help identify, prioritize, and implement the wildfire mitigations that matter most. This means finding the most efficient mix of fuels reduction activities in and around neighborhoods, paired with tools to identify the highest priority areas for defensible space and home hardening improvements. Led by the Tahoe Fund, the pilots aim to increase community resilience to wildfire and protect lives, property and natural resources, while also hoping to influence positive insurance outcomes when possible. The Tahoe-Truckee Region now has six participating communities: Tyrolian Village, Incline Pines, Glenbrook, Gardner Mountain, Carnelian Woods, and Martis Camp.

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. TFFT partner projects advance the goals of the Lake Tahoe Environmental Improvement Program (EIP). Learn more about the EIP at restoretahoe.org.