

Tahoe wildfire plan to be unveiled at enviro summit

An updated Lake Tahoe Basin Community Wildfire Protection Plan will be presented to the public during the Lake Tahoe Environmental Summit on Aug. 24.

This plan was collaboratively developed by the 18 member organizations of the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team and is the culmination of a three-year effort.

At last year's Lake Tahoe Summit, the TFFT presented the updated Lake Tahoe Basin Multi-jurisdictional Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Strategy, which provides a strategic framework for how land managers and the public work together to lessen the risk of loss from wildland fire. Officials say the strategy can be thought of as a business plan and agreement between the public and Tahoe agencies.

The plan is more than 500 pages, including tables and maps. The Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003 created the concept of Community Wildfire Protection Plans. Prior to that time, fire planning was done by federal and state land managers, generally without a partner in the local community, because few community groups addressed fire hazard specifically.

In 2004, the Nevada Fire Safe Council, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, U.S. Forest Service, state agencies and local fire agencies produced Community Wildfire Protection Plans that served as the primary planning tool for fuels reduction projects around the Tahoe basin.

The updated Community Wildfire Protection Plan goals are to:

- Create fire-adapted communities: The plan provides mitigation strategies and community-driven action plans to

help create communities where citizens are engaged and active in preparing for wildfire. It facilitates interagency cooperation and strengthens communication and support between agencies and the public.

- **Restore and maintain fire-resilient landscapes:** The plan provides prioritized locations for fuel reduction treatments to enable land managers to effectively work across jurisdictions and address risks to ecosystems and communities at a landscape scale.

- **Provide effective and efficient wildfire response:** The plan provides strategic treatments on the landscape that will facilitate safer and more successful suppression. This plan provides for tracking, reporting, and sharing of both fuel reduction accomplishments and homeowner/community initiatives.