

Resources Management

West Slope

The State Forest Practice Act and Forest Practice Rules govern the harvest of timber from private lands in California. The Rules require a landowner who harvests timber for commercial purposes (i.e.: you sell, barter or trade logs or milled lumber to another party) to submit an exemption notice or timber harvesting plan document with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. Some of the notices or plans that are required may require the services of a Registered Professional Forester. Below we have listed the most common documents required by the state and the conditions under which each is appropriate.

1. **Less than 3 acre Conversion Exemption** - For the harvesting of trees which is a single conversion to a non-timber growing use (orchard, house, pasture etc.) on parcels less than 3 acres. The conversion requires that 100% of the slash be removed; these strict slash removal requirements were designed to minimize fuels in and around residences.
2. **Emergency Notice of Operations** - This emergency allows for the harvest of dead and dying trees to capture fire salvage in addition to insect and disease killed trees.
3. **Fuel Hazard Reduction Emergency** – This emergency, adopted in 2004, allows for the immediate harvest of trees where high, very high or extreme fuel hazard conditions, the combination combustible fuel quantity, type, condition, configuration and terrain positioning, pose a significant fire threat on private timberlands. Cutting and removal of hazardous fuels, including trees, shrubs and other woody material, is needed to eliminate the vertical and horizontal continuity of understory fuels and surface fuels for the purpose of reducing the rate of fire spread, fire duration and intensity, fuel ignitability and to achieve a flame length under average severe fire weather conditions that is less than 4 feet in the treated areas.
4. **10% Dead & Dying Exemption** – This exemption allows for the immediate harvest of dead, dying or diseased trees of any size, fuel wood or split wood products, in amounts less than 10% of the average volume per acre
5. **Fire Safe Exemption** - This exemption allows for the removal of ladder fuels and thinning of trees within 150 feet of a permitted

structure. All slash be treated within 45 days. This activity is encouraged to further the intent of Public Resource Code (PRC) 4290.

6. **Modified Timber Harvest Plan** - This plan allows for the harvest of trees on an ownership 100 acres or less.
7. **Timber Harvest Plan (THP)** – A plan addressing the harvest of timber on more than 3 acres that is beyond the scope of a modified THP. An approved THP acts as the functional equivalent of an Environmental Impact Report as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).
8. **Non-industrial Timber Management Plan (NTMP)** - A long-term timber harvesting plan with no termination date for a timberland owner with less than 2500 acres.

Timber Harvesting Plans (THP)

Timber harvest Plans are required to go through a multi-agency environmental review and most require a pre-harvest inspection to determine whether potential environmental impacts are adequately mitigated prior to harvest activities. The potential for creating or reducing fire hazards from timber harvesting is evaluated during the THP review. In Amador-EI Dorado Unit, Area Foresters contact the Battalion Chiefs in the area where the harvesting will occur and solicit their input on THPs that pose potential fire hazards. Any concerns the Battalion Chiefs and Area Foresters have with regard to reducing the fire hazard will be incorporated into the THP as additional mitigations. Foresters preparing a THP must show how the proposed harvest will meet maximum sustained production of wood products. Demonstrating maximum sustained production includes addressing the health and productivity of the residual stand. Fuels treatments are considered in this process, fire resilience is a key component of a healthy and productive stand.

Occupied residences and public and private roads are required to comply with the Forest Practice rules that address hazard reduction. Additionally where logging occurs in and adjacent to subdivisions and residential developments the Area Forester may require that the THP include slash treatments above and beyond the requirements of the Forest Practice Rules.

While logging is active on THP's the Area Forester will make compliance inspections to ensure that the loggers have the required fire fighting tools and equipment on site. Loggers are also required to leave all logging roads passable at the end of each workday.

The Region Office builds and maintains a GIS database of all THP's; this database is provided to the Area Foresters on an annual basis. The THP database is a valuable tool that could be used in identifying recently logged areas that may require different firefighting strategies.

Area Foresters encourage consulting Foresters, to utilize Special Prescriptions to reduce stocking to levels lower than that allowed in the general forest in order to create a more open, fire resistant stand of trees. The use of special prescriptions is the primary means by which fuels are modified to create Community Fuelbreaks. Community Fuelbreaks such as the Omo Ranch shaded fuelbreak in El Dorado County cross over Federal lands, industrial timberlands and non-industrial ownership and fuels treatments are consistent over all ownerships. Landowners are encouraged to create Community Fuelbreaks where:

- Residential developments abut industrial timberlands and /or Federally managed lands,
- On ridges in and adjacent to Communities at Risk,
- On a ridge that will provide for wildlife and watershed protection
- Adjacent to major highways, haul routs and evacuation routes
- Around isolated residence surrounded by timberland
- Where the Area Forester and Battalion Chief agree

Community Fuelbreak Implementation through the THP Process

One of these Special Prescriptions is the Fuelbreak/Defensible Space Prescription. The Rules specify it can be applied where; some trees and other vegetation and fuels are removed to create a shaded fuel break or defensible space in an area to reduce the potential for wildfires and the damage they might cause. Additionally the Rules ask the RPF to describe in the plan specific vegetation and fuels treatment, including timing, to reduce fuels to meet the objectives of the Community Fuelbreak area. Area Foresters provide the following guidelines to RPFs to aid them in the application of the Fuelbreak Prescription.

The purpose of a Community Fuelbreak is to create a defensible fuel zone that provides wildfire protection for wildland urban interface communities, watersheds, and firefighters engaged in fire suppression operations. The fuelbreak treatments are intended to protect communities from fires that originate in the wildlands as well as minimizing the spread of fires that originate in urban areas. The fuelbreak is not intended to stop the fire but should be a place where the vegetation has been modified, giving firefighters a safe place to initiate suppression activities. The vegetation will be modified so that the horizontal and vertical continuity of forest fuels are broken up. The extent of vegetation modification will vary depending on topographic features and vegetation condition, slope, aspect, and

urban environment. The seven objectives listed below may be implemented through the THP process if they are included in the pre-harvest inspection recommendations. Depending on the timing and complexity of the project, the objectives may be implemented through the Units VMP or CFIP Program.

1. The optimum width for a defensible zone is at a minimum 500' or wider depending on topography and resources at risk. If the defensible zone is along an existing road or ridge it should extend a minimum of 150 feet from the edge of the road or the center of the ridge. Road passage will be a primary goal, where a well developed private or public road lies within the Fuelbreak, for evacuation, tactical, and operational access.
2. Crowns of the overstory trees should be separated, leaving canopy cover ranging between 30% and 50%.
3. A minimum of 80% of the ladder fuels shall be removed if ladder fuels are left (as in the form of regeneration) the lower branches shall be pruned so that they do not provide continuity between the surface fuels and the canopy. Trees over 6 inches DBH will be pruned to 10 feet above the ground.
4. The residual trees shall meet a minimum of the following criteria:
 - a. The tree must be alive and healthy
 - b. The tree must have at least 1/3 of its length in live crown as a ratio of total tree height.
 - c. The tree must be a commercial species from a local seed source or a seed source, which the registered Professional Forester determines, will produce commercially trees physically suited for the area involved.
 - d. Leave tree species preference is ponderosa pine, sugar pine, Douglas-fir, incense cedar, black oak, and true fir in that order.
5. Tree removal targets understory trees, with primarily healthy dominant and co-dominant trees retained.
6. Surface and ground fuels shall be treated so that they do not function as ladder fuel to the residual stand. A minimum of 80% of the activity generated non-merchantable material (slash) shall be treated, piled and burned, chipped or removed from the site.
7. Regeneration will be allowed for where it does not act as ladder fuel.

Service Forestry

The Area Foresters are also required to provide forestry advice upon request to private landowners. This advice includes, but is not limited to, recommendations for fuels management and fire safe activities that can be applied to residents. Many times service forestry calls are related to bark beetle activity in pine trees. Landowners are encouraged to immediately remove the bark beetle killed trees and treat the slash.

Cost Share Programs

Both federal and state cost share programs exist to assist private timberland owners in the management of their lands; CDF will pay as much as 90% of the cost of the project. The California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP) has recently been funded to aid non-industrial timberland owners in managing their lands. Many of the cost share practices such as site preparation, timber stand thinning, pruning, and chemical release aid in managing and reducing fuel loading on non-industrial timberlands.

Proposition 40 Fuel Reduction Program

The goal of the CDF Prop-40 Fuels Reduction Program is to reduce wildland fuel loadings that pose a threat to watershed resources and water quality. These funds would be for planning, administrative costs, and implementation of forest land and fuels management projects that protect watersheds from catastrophic wildfire, thereby improving water quality, protecting habitat and fisheries, and controlling erosion and sedimentation in the Sierra Nevada region.

CDF is using the VMP program, the Community Assistance Grants and CFIP as tools to accomplish the goal of protection of the targeted watersheds, specifically fuels management projects. In order to protect these stands from fire it may be necessary to accomplish more than the standard lopping of fuels generated from hand site preparation, Pre-commercial thinning (PCT), pruning and/or release activities. While there may be an argument that the "rearrangement" of fuels from vertical to horizontal may cause a change in fire behavior, empirical evidence shows that both the trees and soil sustain considerable damage when a fire goes through these types of treated areas.

In 1999, CDF foresaw the need to expand the ability of the program to meet other watershed needs. These measures include thinning, shaded fuel breaks, and other land treatments or forest resource improvement projects consistent with Section 4794.

In selecting projects for approval or for initiating our projects, we are considering the overall objective of CDF's Proposition 40 Fuels Reduction Program.

- On a case-by-case basis, fuels generated by the project activities must be removed or otherwise reduced to levels that will not be detrimental to the soil viability and the survival of the targeted, post-treatment tree cover should wildfire occur in the project.
- This level of fuels treatment is expensive and the present slash disposal cap rate of \$150/ac. is inadequate to accomplish this alone. Until we expand the rate to include a variety of slash disposal intensities, the combination of practices, e.g. PCT and release on the same acre, is allowable.

East Slope/Lake Tahoe

Timber Harvesting Plans and Timber Harvesting Exemption Notices

Forest health is paramount to maintaining the water quality of Lake Tahoe, and efforts to prevent loss by catastrophic wildfire and other pathogens precipitate landowners' decision to plan and prepare harvesting documents in the Tahoe Basin. Field recommendations by CDF staff regarding slash treatment, and silvicultural treatments are thoroughly discussed and recommendations developed, which furthers the goals of the Prefire Management Plan.

In general, most tree removal activities within the Tahoe Basin are conducted on small, developed lots less than 3 acres in size. Such landowners commonly elect not to commercialize the small amount of product generated. Therefore, such non-commercial projects do not require a harvesting document be submitted to CDF for review and approval. On larger, mostly undeveloped ownerships, such as the California Tahoe Conservancy lands, tree removal is commonly elected for commercial use as the higher amount of wood generated from the ownerships is sold as fuelwood to the public, especially in the South Lake Tahoe vicinity where more the highly desirable Lodgepole Pine fuelwood is available.

Very few large (over 10 acres) non-federal ownerships exist within the Tahoe Basin. Consequently, very few Timber Harvesting Plans for areas located within the Tahoe Basin are submitted to CDF and commercial tree removal operations are generally conducted under Timber Harvesting Exemptions. However, regardless of whether or not a landowner elects to engage in a commercial tree removal venture, other agencies within the

Tahoe Basin, such as the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency and the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board, require the landowner to comply with additional and generally more stringent regulations regarding tree removal on non-federal lands. The Lahontan Region Water Quality Control Board and the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency each review very closely all harvesting activities occurring within the Tahoe Basin.

In May 2005, the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection adopted emergency rule language regarding allowing the removal of live trees within Watercourse and Lake Protection Zones (Stream Environment Zones as defined in TRPA ordinance) within the Lake Tahoe Basin non-federal lands by amending Title 14 CCR §1038 and §1038 (f) and is anticipated to become effective by June 2005. The primary emergency nature of the regulation change was to provide regulatory relief for fuels reduction activities for summer 2005 relative to permitting live tree thinning in Watercourse and Lake Protection Zones/Stream Environment Zones for fuel hazard reduction. Due to the discussions resulting from this rule change, the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection now acknowledges and understands the Forest Practice rules inconsistencies and complications related to exemption rules in Lake Tahoe and fully intends on considering Unit suggestions regarding permanent rule change.

California Tahoe Conservancy

The California Tahoe Conservancy (CTC) conducts fuel reduction projects throughout the Lake Tahoe Basin through their Urban Land Management Program. The California Tahoe Conservancy, through contract, funds CDF personnel to perform various professional forestry duties, including those duties required to implement fuel breaks. In addition, the CDF provides professional forestry advice and services, including but not limited to, preparation and implementation of THPs, Exemptions and vegetation management projects on California Tahoe Conservancy properties. The CDF also works with the California Tahoe Conservancy Forest Habitat Enhancement Program on fuel reduction, forest health and wildlife habitat enhancement projects located within the urban interface and general forest areas.

In January 2005, CDF was authorized approximately 40 million dollars of Proposition 40 funds over 5 years by the legislature for fuels reduction projects which would result in improvement and protection of watersheds and their water quality and assets at risk. Approximately \$600,000 was allocated to CDF expressly for authorizing its use to the California Conservation Corp for fuels reduction projects on California Tahoe Conservancy lands.

Service Forestry

The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) requires a TRPA Tree Removal Permit to be issued by a TRPA Registered Professional Forester (or their designee through an MOU such as the case with the California Tahoe Conservancy and some Tahoe Basin fire districts), for the removal of any green tree six inches DBH or greater from all ownerships located within the Tahoe Basin. The requirement for this permit applies to both non-federal and federal lands.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the CDF and TRPA was established in the 1980's to better serve the public and facilitate the tree removal process. The CDF Area Foresters, at the request of an individual landowner, inspected, marked, and issued the TRPA Tree Removal Permit. During the time CDF assisted with the program, no permit fee was charged to the landowner for this service.

Due to funding problems and liability concerns, the CDF discontinued their role in the TRPA Tree Removal Program permit process in 2002. The TRPA now requires California residents to pay a \$50.00 fee per site visit to the TRPA to cover the cost of a TRPA forester to provide this service.

Tahoe ReGreen Project

The Tahoe ReGreen Project was organized in 1995 using the Incident Command System structure to address the urgent Basin-wide need to quickly remove the increasing amount of tree mortality due to bark beetle infestation. Thirty-three public and private agencies/organizations from Nevada and California joined the effort to modify the available fuels by facilitating the quick removal of infested trees. The local fire protection districts identified priority areas, and activities were concentrated within these areas by the land management agencies managing them, including the USFS, California Tahoe Conservancy (CTC), Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF), and California Department of Parks and Recreation.

Funding for the Tahoe ReGreen Project was provided by the CDF Forest Resource Improvement Fund. The project lost this funding in 2001, although the program's name and function has been retained by the Department of Finance. Upon the loss of funding, the ReGreen Incident Managers met and agreed to transform the project into a Fire Safe Council function.

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and their water quality and assets at risk. Approximately \$600,000 was allocated to CDF expressly for authorizing its use to the California Conservation Corp for fuels reduction projects on California Tahoe Conservancy lands. This special allocation is referred to as the resurrected ReGreen Project.

Forest Planning Advisory Group

The Forest Health Consensus Group was formed October 1993 to gather input from all segments of the Basin population and advise the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency of any suggested changes to its Regional Plan regarding the forest ecosystem. The mission statement of the group was as follows:

1. Define the desired future conditions of the ecosystem.
2. Develop an ecosystem management strategy that provides guidance for attaining the desired future conditions identified by the Consensus Group.
3. Recommend an on-going system for monitoring and evaluating the condition of the forest ecosystem and the long-term effectiveness of the management strategies and adopting them to new information and changing conditions.

The Basin was organized into management intensity zones with the intent to achieve the mission statement for each of these zones. Progress reportable in the first mission statement is a document referred to as the "Green Sheet," which describes the Desired Future Conditions (DFC) in a general way as "Pre-European Settlement Conditions"; with the understanding that urbanization has irrevocably modified many of these conditions. The general description strongly encourages re-introduction of prescribed fire into as many of these ecosystems as possible and as soon as possible.

In 2001, the group abandoned the consensus concept and became the Forest Planning Advisory Group. This group is made up of forest management professionals from around the lake. The focus of the group is to advise TRPA on issues regarding fire hazard reduction, defensible space, and forest management. This group appears to be once again incarnated into yet another group, the Pathway 2007 group.

PATHWAY 2007

The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) is a bi-state agency created by the states of Nevada and California in order to lead the cooperative effort to preserve, restore, and enhance the unique natural and human

environment of the Lake Tahoe basin. The TRPA regulates land use, rate of growth and impacts to the scenic environment among other things. The TRPA's Regional Plan, adopted in 1987 is due to be updated by 2007.

This document guides all land use decisions in the Basin and is the basis for all of TRPA's ordinances and environmental codes.

The TRPA is joining forces with several other Lake Tahoe public agencies, including CDF, in a process called Pathway 2007. It is a collaborative effort between TRPA, the US Forest Service, the Lahontan Regional Quality Control Board, and the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection. These agencies are working together to update each of their respective environmental regional planning documents for the Lake Tahoe Basin. Given three major public agencies in Lake Tahoe (TRPA, US Forest Service, and Lahontan) in the process of updating regional plans, it was thought to make sense to coordinate these efforts. The TRPA will be evaluating all nine of its thresholds, which are the environmental standards outlined in the bi-state Compact that governs TRPA. New research and science will help formulate the Pathway 2007 process over the next few years.

PATHWAY 2007 is an effort to ensure coordination between different public agencies and to share resources and expertise while inviting public participation. Working together, the goal for 2007 is to have each agency's regional plans completed and to be consistent with one another. PATHWAY 2007 is providing the public with an unprecedented opportunity to help create a vision for the Tahoe Basin.

PATHWAY partner agencies include the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, USDA Forest Service, the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board, and the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection. The agencies are working together to update important resource management plans by 2007 for the Lake Tahoe Basin. These regional plan updates will guide land management, resource management, and environmental regulations over the next 20 years.

The plans will address many areas, including the following:

- How much additional development will take place at Lake Tahoe by the year 2027. What kind of growth is on the horizon?
- What will be the state of lake clarity, forest health, water quality, and recreation by 2027?
- How will regional plans address the threat of catastrophic wildfires in the Lake Tahoe Basin?
- How will Lake Tahoe agencies revise their long-range plans to create a unified vision for Tahoe's future?
- How will Lake Tahoe's startling beauty be preserved while maintaining quality of life for those who live and visit here?

Technical Work Groups are managed by the PATHWAY 2007 Steering

Team and staff of the four PATHWAY 2007 agencies: the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board, the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, the US Forest Service, and the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection. AEU staff is participating at both the TAC and Forum (via State Agency Advisory Group) levels regarding forestry and fire issues.

Lake Tahoe Basin

The Lake Tahoe Basin is administered by two CDF units. The north shore vicinity, which includes Placer and Nevada Counties, is administered by the Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit headquartered in Auburn. The El Dorado County area, located on the south and west shores of Lake Tahoe is administered by the Amador-El Dorado Unit. The AEU staff is located in South Lake Tahoe and includes one Division Chief whom also serves as Agency Representative during emergencies, one Forester I, one Forestry Assistant II, and three Forestry Aides. Staffing level changes at the Forestry Assistant and Forestry Aide level may increase in 2006 due to increase workload created by the interagency agreement between the California Conservation Corp (CCC) and CDF for Proposition 40 funding for fuels reduction to be performed by the CCC on California Tahoe Conservancy lands.

Through the statewide Four-Party Agreement, the USFS has been given the authority to act on CDF's behalf as the wildland fire response entity for State Responsibility Area (SRA) lands within the Lake Tahoe Basin. Locally driven, specific terms of this agreement are addressed in an Annual Operating Agreement between the USFS Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit and the CDF Amador-El Dorado Unit. This agreement includes, but is not limited to, information such as tactical frequencies, wildland fire response notification procedures, apparatus and their staffing levels, facilities, prescribed burning procedures, and inspection and enforcement of PRC 4291. Therefore, due to this agreement, CDF does not have engine stations within Lake Tahoe Basin where the USFS has SRA lands within its Direct Protection Area (DPA).

Tahoe Basin Fire Safe Council

In March 2001 AEU, staff in the Tahoe Basin submitted a grant proposal in the amount of \$72,000 to the Community-Based Wildfire Prevention Grant Program and was awarded those funds to establish a Fire Safe Council for the California portion of the Tahoe Basin. The requested grant was awarded and since then the Tahoe Basin Fire Safe Council has become fully functional, including acquiring non-profit corporation status, various grants, and final completion in spring 2005 of the Tahoe Basin Community Wildfire Protection Plan to which AEU staff provided response.

In January 2005, the Tahoe Basin Fire Safe Council merged with the (Northern) Nevada Fire Safe Council based in Carson City, Nevada. However, the Tahoe Basin has retained its original administrator who now acts as the Tahoe Basin Coordinator for the Nevada Fire Safe Council, and continues to retain an office in South Lake Tahoe. The Tahoe Basin Fire Safe Coordinator for the Nevada Fire Safe Council has been active in securing various grants, in addition to conducting routine business of the council.

Tahoe Basin Fire Departments

The Tahoe Basin area fire departments are located within both California and Nevada, and work very closely together regarding fire and EMS service issues. Local Tahoe basin- area fire departments in California include Fallen Leaf, Lake Valley, Meeks Bay, Squaw Valley, Alpine, City of South Lake Tahoe, Northstar, Truckee, and North Tahoe, as well as CDF and the USFS Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit. Local Tahoe basin area fire departments in Nevada include North Lake Tahoe and Tahoe Douglas Fire Departments. In addition, local, state, and federal fire departments from nearby Washoe and Carson Valleys in Nevada and Alpine County in California participate in the Tahoe Regional Chiefs Association. These fire departments include the Reno Fire Department, Sparks Fire Department, Carson City Fire Department, East Fork Fire Department, Markleeville Volunteer Fire Department, Woodsford Volunteer Fire department, Bear Valley Volunteer Fire Department, Kirkwood Volunteer Fire Department, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, and the Nevada Division of Forestry.

Due to recent fires including the 2002 Gondola Fire near Heavenly Valley Ski Resort and the 2004 Waterfall Fire northwest of Carson City, the fire departments within the Tahoe Basin have been working aggressively to perform fuel reduction efforts within their districts and to increase public awareness of the necessity of defensible space clearing. Subsequently, the Amador-El Dorado Unit chose to fund three fuels reduction projects using Proposition 40 grant monies for FY 04-05 and 05-06 to the Tahoe area fire departments. The Lake Valley Fire Department, whose district is located primarily on the south shore of Lake Tahoe, was awarded \$45,180 for a community-wide chipping program as well as \$43,221 for the Christmas Valley 3 Fuels Reduction Project (fuel break construction). The volunteer-based Fallen Leaf Fire Department, under the direction of the Fallen Leaf Community Services District Board, was awarded a Proposition 40 grant monies in the amount of \$42,000 to fund the Fallen Leaf Fire and Homeowners Association fuels reduction project.

Additional fuels reduction efforts include the hiring of fire department-employee crews to perform fuels reduction efforts within the North Lake

Tahoe Fire Protection District located in the Incline Village area, and the North Tahoe Fire Protection District located in California near the Brockway area adjacent to the California-Nevada state line. The Lake Valley Fire Protection District is also hiring crews as fire department employees to perform fuels reduction work, including for the Proposition 40 projects.

Alpine County

Alpine County is located primarily within the CDF Amador-El Dorado Unit and has approximately 4% of its lands designated as State Responsibility Area. The remaining lands are managed by the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest located within Region-4 of the United States Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management. The AEU staff is located in South Lake Tahoe and includes one Division Chief whom also serves as Agency Representative during emergencies, one Forester I, one Forestry Assistant II, and three Forestry Aides.

Through the statewide Four-Party Agreement, the USFS has been given the authority to act on CDF's behalf as the wildland fire response entity for State Responsibility Area (SRA) lands within Alpine County. Locally driven, specific terms of this agreement are addressed in an Annual Operating Agreement between the USFS Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest and the CDF Amador-El Dorado Unit. This agreement includes, but is not limited to, information such as tactical frequencies, wildland fire response notification procedures, apparatus and their staffing levels, facilities, prescribed burning procedures, and inspection and enforcement of PRC 4291. Therefore, due to this agreement, CDF does not have engine stations within Alpine County where the USFS has SRA lands within its Direct Protection Area (DPA).

Alpine County Fire Safe Council

The Alpine County Fire Safe Council was begun in 2001 when Alpine County was awarded a grant through the Community-Based Wildfire Prevention Grant Program to support the development of an Alpine County Fire Safe Council. In 2003, the Alpine County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) allocated funds to the Fire Safe Council in the form of Title II funds to further assist in development of a Fire Safe Council. As a result, in 2003 the Alpine Fire Safe Council was formally established through these two aforementioned cooperative efforts between the County Board of Supervisors and the Alpine County Resource Advisory Committee. The Amador-El Dorado unit has provided technical assistance through the development of the Alpine Fire Safe Council.

The Alpine FSC is now currently in place, pursuing, and obtaining grants,

and is very active in countywide fire protection issues, such as pre-fire development concerns and enforcement and Public Resource Code 4291 compliance. Specific accomplishments of the Alpine Fire Safe Council include creation of educational kiosks located at key county government locations; courtesy fire safe ordinance review of proposed developments; completion of the Manzanita Lane Fuel reduction project in 2004, and facilitation of the creation of the Fire Services Ad-Hoc Committee, which is a collaborative effort with the County Board of Supervisors, public, and fire and EMS personnel to address the issues surrounding county volunteer fire suppression resources.

In addition, a major accomplishment of the Alpine County Fire Safe Council is the completion of the draft Alpine County Community Fire Plan. The Alpine County Fire Safe Council received a grant from Region 4 of the USFS in 2004 to provide grant funding for completion of a Community Fire Plan. The Alpine Fire Safe Council prepared their Community Wildfire plan in 2004 and distributed the draft for public review in December 2004, to which Unit staff provided response. The Alpine County Fire Safe Council is seeking to finalize the plan during summer 2005. The Community Fire Plan is an important document with which to augment county planning efforts regarding fire protection planning, especially as Alpine County is experiencing a significant increase in large-scale development as nearby Lake Tahoe becomes increasingly populated, difficult, and expensive within which to develop. Therefore, the Alpine County Fire Safe Council, in conjunction with the Alpine County Board of Supervisors, established an Ad-Hoc Committee in 2004 to address fire protection issues within Alpine County. The Ad-Hoc Committee has identified a lack of implementation and enforcement of the State Responsibility Fire Safe Regulation regarding new development. The 2005 Proposition 40-funded AEU Division Chief stationed in South Lake Tahoe is addressing responses to new development regarding the SRA Fire Safe Regulations and is attending Alpine County Board meetings, Alpine County Fire Safe Council meetings, and is on the County Technical Advisory Committee for new development.

The Alpine County Community Fire Plan identifies and prioritizes areas within Alpine County, which are at risk of catastrophic fire. The Shay Creek Subdivision located adjacent to Hot Springs Road near Markleeville is rated "High." Consequently, the Alpine County Community Fire Plan identifies the Hot Springs Road Roadway and Utility Access Fuel Reduction Project as Project #1 for treatment. The Alpine County Fire Safe Council submitted to the FireWise Grants Clearinghouse in January 2005 its proposal to request grant funding to reduce the fuels within the Hot Springs Road Roadway and Public Utility Access Fuels Reduction Project. The Amador-El Dorado Unit chose in March 2005 to award the Alpine Fire Safe Council with Proposition 40 funding in the amount of

\$45,500 for the proposed Hot Springs Roadway and Utility Access Fuels Reduction Project for FY 04-05 and 05-06.

Alpine County Fire Departments

Alpine County is composed of four Planning Areas: Woodsford, Markleeville, Bear Valley, and Kirkwood. These four Planning Areas correspond to not only to watersheds, but to the four local fire protection jurisdictions. All four fire protection entities are volunteer based and are dispatched by the Alpine County Sheriffs Department. Woodsford and Markleeville Volunteer Fire Departments are not within a taxed district and are struggling financially. In May 2005, the Ad-Hoc Committee of the Alpine County Board of Supervisors and the Fire Safe Council recommended to the County Board the consolidation of the Woodsford and Markleeville Fire Departments into the Eastern Alpine County Fire Department. The consolidated fire departments would have one full-time paid chief and would be under the direction of the Alpine County Board of Supervisors. However, each department would retain their unique geographic identities and history through retention of each department's station name and volunteers. The two areas would be referred to as the Markleeville Division and the Woodsford Division. This proposed consolidation, not yet approved by the County Board, would result in the two fire departments becoming stronger financially and therefore more successful in obtaining grants, training, equipment, etc. In addition, the consolidation would result in the fire departments having a stronger, more unified voice in county fire protection and Emergency Medical Services issues.

WOODSFORD

Fire protection is provided by the Woodsford Volunteer Fire Department and has an Insurance Services office (ISO) Rating 10. The Woodsford Volunteer Fire department is not within a district. Currently, volunteer staffing levels are at a critical low. Hydrants do not exist within the response area and the nearest drafting source is the Carson River.

MARKLEEVILLE

Fire protection is provided by the Markleeville Volunteer Fire Department and is not within a district. Markleeville Volunteer Fire Department has one station and has an ISO Rating 6 where hydrants exist and an ISO Rating 8 in areas without hydrants but is located within 5 miles of the Markleeville Fire Station.

BEAR VALLEY

Fire protection for Bear Valley is provided by the Bear Valley Volunteer Fire Protection District, and is funded through assessment fees. The Bear Valley Fire Protection District has an ISO Rating 5.

KIRKWOOD

Fire protection for Kirkwood is provided by the Kirkwood Volunteer Fire Protection District, and is funded through assessment fees. The Kirkwood Volunteer Fire Protection District has an ISO Rating 4.