

Grants of \$450K to benefit Lake Tahoe area fire protection efforts

Staff report
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A combination of federal, state and Nevada Fire Safe Council grants that amount to \$450,000 has been awarded to Lake Tahoe community fire protection efforts, the U.S. Forest Service announced today.

The money will be used for fuels reduction projects meant to reduce wildfire risks throughout communities in the basin, according to a U.S. Forest press statement.

"We are happy to see the funding to our local communities that directly supports the Community Wildfire Protection Plans we all worked so hard on to create," said Dave Marlow, a Forest Service official who heads up the Lake Tahoe Basin Management fuels reduction program. "The plans are in place, and the funding helps get the job done on the ground. More communities will have better protection as a result."

Projects include community fuels reduction, defensible space programs, a biomass-to-mulch program and education efforts.

From 2006 to 2007, nearly \$3.7 million has gone to local governments in the Lake Tahoe Basin through the Community Protection Grant program, using federal funds, leveraged with state and local funding, according to the Forest Service.

The Forest Service's Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit helped to review the 2008 applications and provided input. Several of the approved projects will conduct fuels reduction on non-federal lands to correspond to federal lands treatments, improving their overall effectiveness in reducing wildfire behavior, according to the Forest Service statement.

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