

Environmental Assessment

Glenbrook Fuels Management Project and Kingsbury Fuels Management Project

Douglas County Emergency Management:
Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District
PDMC-PJ-09-NV-2009-003 and PDMC-PJ-09-NV-2009-004

March 2013



FEMA

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Contract No. HSFEHQ-09-D-1130
Task Order HSFEHQ-11-J-0026

PDMC-PJ-09-NV-2009-003

PDMC-PJ-09-NV-2009-004

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

APE	Area of Potential Effect
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
EA	Environmental Assessment
EO	Executive Order
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FIRM	Flood Insurance Rate Map
GCR	General Conformity Rule
GHG	greenhouse gas
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
NAAQSs	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NDEM	Nevada Division of Emergency Management
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
PA	Programmatic Agreement
PDM Program	Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer
TDFPD	Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District
U.S.C.	U.S. Code
USFS	U.S. Forest Service
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

1. INTRODUCTION

The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) proposes to provide Federal financial assistance (Federal action) to Douglas County Emergency Management, Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District (TDFPD), through the Nevada Division of Emergency Management (NDEM), to implement wildfire mitigation in Douglas County, Nevada. The proposed mitigation consists of two projects, the Glenbrook Fuels Management Project and the Kingsbury Fuels Management Project, which are referred to jointly as the Proposed Project in this document. The project areas are along the eastern shore of Lake Tahoe near Glenbrook and Kingsbury, Nevada (Figure 1). The purpose of the Proposed Project is to reduce wildfire hazards to residents and structures in Douglas County.

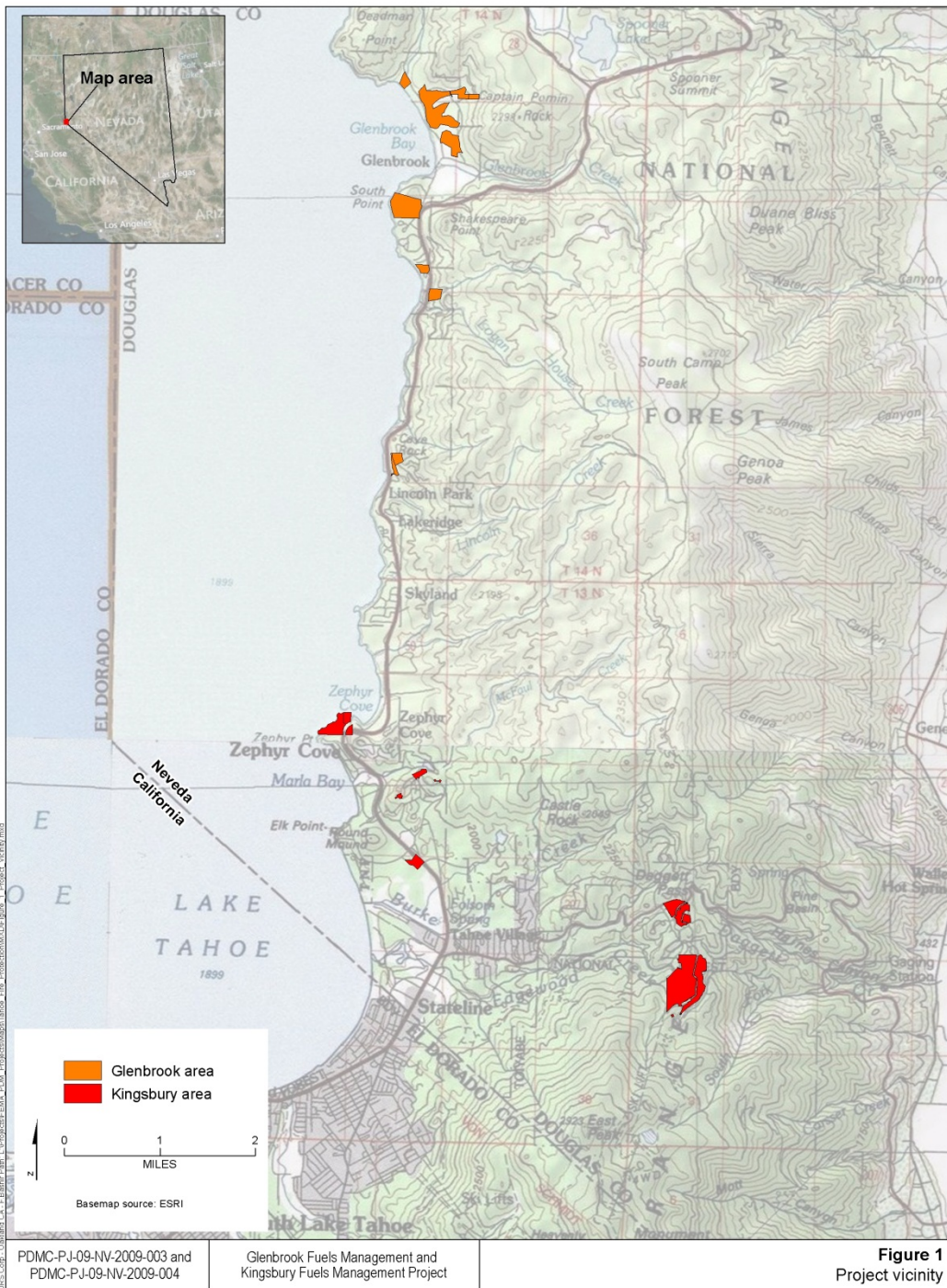
The assistance would be provided through the Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Program. The PDM Program is authorized by Section 203 (42 U.S.C. § 5133) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act of 1988, as amended, and provides funds to States and communities to implement sustained, pre-disaster, natural-hazard mitigation programs. The program is intended to reduce the hazard risk to the population and structures, and to reduce reliance on financial assistance from disaster declarations.

FEMA has prepared this Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the potential impacts of the Proposed Project and identified alternatives of the Proposed Project. The EA has been prepared according to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. §§ 4321–5327), the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ's) regulations implementing NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500–1508), and FEMA's NEPA implementing regulations (44 CFR Part 10).

The EA process provides steps and procedures for evaluating the potential environmental, social, and economic impacts of a proposed action and alternatives. Potential impacts are measured by context and intensity, as defined in the CEQ's regulations (40 CFR § 1508.27).

1.1 PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR ACTION

The project areas are located in the Tahoe Basin and are susceptible to the effects of a catastrophic wildfire. The project areas are close to areas that have been determined by the TDFPD to be at risk of loss of life or damage to property from a catastrophic wildfire. The purpose of the Federal action is to provide PDM Program Federal financial assistance to the TDFPD, through the NDEM, to reduce the risk of loss of life and damage to property from wildfire.



2. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED PROJECT AND ALTERNATIVES

The TDFPD has proposed reducing the risk of loss from wildfire by reducing fuel loads in the project areas. In addition to the No Action Alternative, the TDFPD considered two alternatives to address the risk of loss from wildfire in the project vicinity: supplementing firefighting resources and the Proposed Project.

2.1 ALTERNATIVE CONSIDERED AND DISMISSED

The TDFPD considered and dismissed one action alternative prior to the preparation of this document. The alternative was limited to supplementing the current firefighting resources in the TDFPD. This alternative would require building new facilities, increasing staffing, and purchasing additional equipment. This alternative would also require significant funding both to implement and to maintain staffing levels and equipment readiness. Further, this alternative would not address the fuel loads in the project areas. Therefore, this alternative was determined to be infeasible and was eliminated from further consideration.

2.2 NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

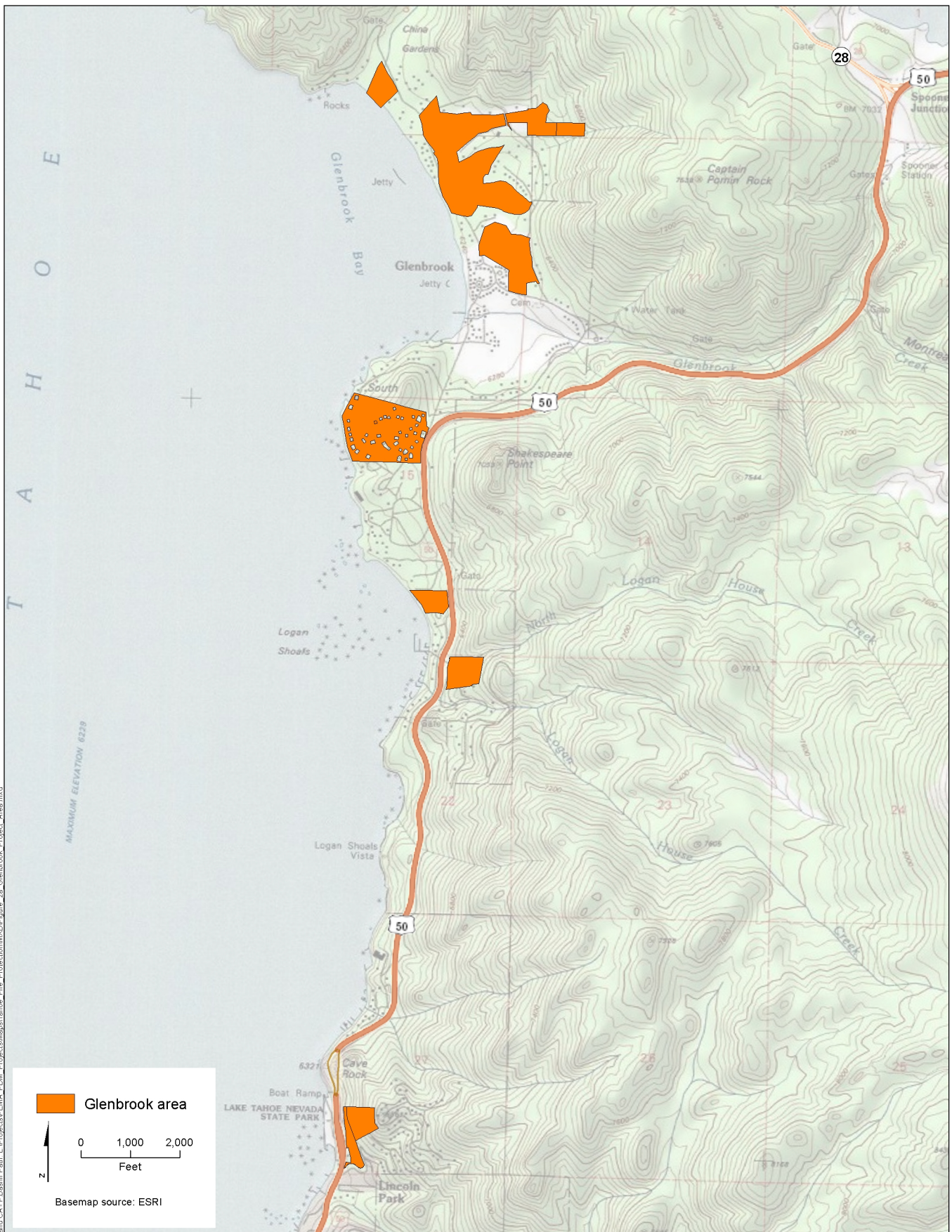
CEQ's regulations require that a No Action Alternative be included in the EA and accompanying documentation. The No Action Alternative is used to evaluate the effects of not providing eligible assistance for the Proposed Project, thus providing a baseline against which action alternatives can be evaluated.

Under the No Action Alternative, Federal financial assistance would not be provided by FEMA and it is assumed that the TDFPD would be unable to mitigate potential wildfires in the project areas. Therefore, under the No Action Alternative, the existing wildfire hazard would continue, and the health and safety risks to people and damage to property from wildfires would not be reduced.

2.3 PROPOSED PROJECT

The TDFPD proposes to conduct vegetation management (treatment) to reduce fuel loads in 11 areas (Figures 2a and 2b). The 11 areas, referred to in this document as treatment areas or project areas, comprise approximately 350.5 acres of privately owned land. The Proposed Project would be implemented over approximately 30 months.

The TDFPD proposes to create shaded fuelbreaks adjacent to and comingled with the constructed environment of at-risk communities. Prior to implementation, the TDFPD would flag treatment areas and sensitive environmental areas such as archaeological sites and stream environment zones. Treatments would vary in the treatment areas, depending on vegetation type and density, the timing of project implementation, and topographic slope.

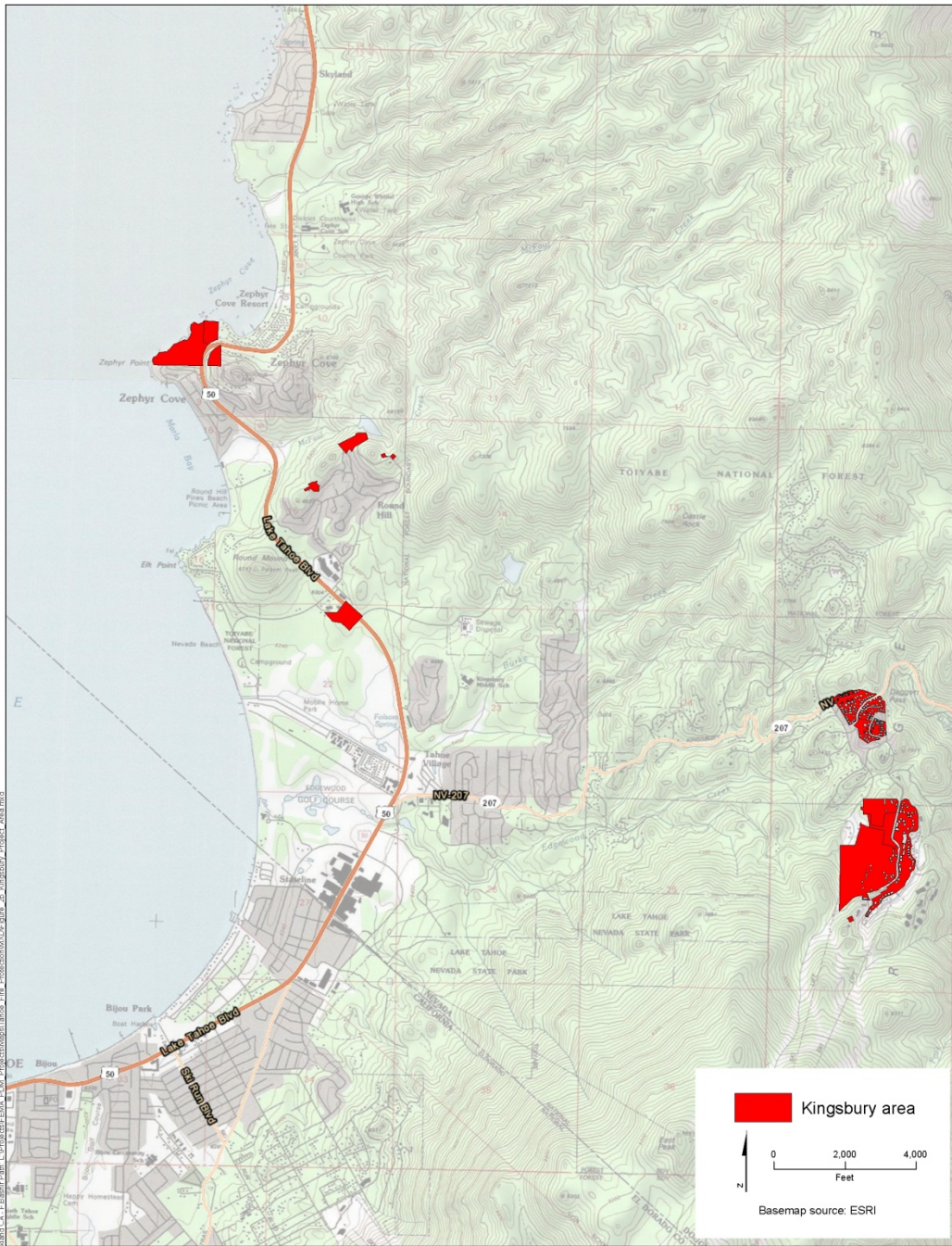


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Glenbrook Fuels Management Project

Figure 2a
Project area - Glenbrook Fuels Management Project



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Kingsbury Fuels Management Project

Figure 2b
Project area - Kingsbury Fuels Management Project

In forested areas, the TDFPD would remove from the understory the suppressed and intermediate tree growth that has the potential to become ladder fuels into the upper canopy. In shrub-dominated areas, crews would remove brush while retaining a mosaic of approximately 50 percent of the shrubs, but on steep slopes, crews may need to remove up to 70 percent of the shrubs to meet the fuel load objectives. The TDFPD would remove excessive downed woody material, leaving three to five of the largest logs per acre for wildlife habitat.

Fuel would be reduced with either mechanical equipment or with hand crews, using the following methods:

- Hand thinning – Crews would remove trees and shrubs according to a prescribed number and description, using hand tools such as chain saws. The material would be masticated or chipped; chips would either be removed or left onsite.
- Mastication – Trees and shrubs would be masticated using either an excavator with a rotary drum masticator head or a rubber-tracked skid steer with attached rotary drum masticator. Masticators would not remove the fuels but would reconfigure fuels into chips that are less volatile and that would decay more rapidly.
- Mechanical thinning – Fuels would be thinned mechanically using low-impact, rubber-tired, tree-harvesting equipment. The equipment would remove trees up to 24 inches in diameter. The equipment would run over the limbs and tips of the thinned trees, and the limbs and tips would then be masticated.

Adequate vegetation would be left onsite in all treatment areas to preclude the need for revegetation. In forested areas, suppressed and intermediate trees would be removed, and the codominant and dominant trees would be retained. Shade-intolerant species would also be retained. In brush-dominated areas, gaps would be created; gap size would depend on the topographic characteristics in the treatment area. Brush areas would be expected to resprout, but the new growth would be succulent and would not readily burn. Therefore, no revegetation would be necessary.

Where feasible, biomass from the project area would be used for erosion control or transported to biofuel/compost facilities.

The use of herbicides is not anticipated.

3. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

This section focuses on the resources the alternatives have the potential to affect. Based on the geographic location and setting of the project areas and on data provided by the TDFPD, the following resources have been identified as not having the potential to be affected by either the No Action Alternative or the Proposed Project:

- Agriculture: There is no agricultural land in the project areas.
- Coastal zone: The Proposed Project is outside the coastal zone.
- Hazardous materials: There are no known contaminants in the project areas from current or past uses of the project areas or adjacent properties, and the Proposed Project would not involve the use of hazardous or toxic materials.
- Land use: Vegetation removal would not change land use patterns.
- Geology and seismicity: The Proposed Project would not expose structures to additional risks associated with known earthquake faults, strong seismic ground shaking, or seismic-related ground failure (including liquefaction). There would be no construction of new structures or modification of existing structures.

3.1 SOILS

The project areas lie on the eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada range. According to the TDFPD, soils in the project areas are young soils of granitic origin that are excessively drained and have very low nutrient content. Portions of the project areas are located in steep mountainous topography, particularly in the Kingsbury region, which is dominated by the very steep Edgewood Canyon.

3.1.1 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no fuel reduction and therefore no effects to soils.

3.1.2 Proposed Project

The Proposed Project would involve minimal ground disturbance caused by foot traffic of work crews and the use of equipment. This minor disturbance could increase erosion in the project areas. The potential for loss of topsoil and hazards associated with unstable soils would be minimized by use of low-impact equipment, by chipping materials where feasible on paved surfaces, and by confining mechanical thinning to areas with shallow slopes and areas with low erosion potential.

Therefore, the Proposed Project would result in minor short-term direct effects to soils and no long-term direct or indirect effects to this resource.

3.2 AIR QUALITY

The Clean Air Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. §§ 7401–7661) is a comprehensive Federal law that regulates air emissions from area, stationary, and mobile sources. It authorizes the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to establish National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQSs) to protect public health and the environment. The NAAQSs include standards for six criteria pollutants. Areas where the monitored concentration of a pollutant exceeds the NAAQSs are classified as being in nonattainment for that pollutant. The Clean Air Act requires that State Implementation Plans be developed for nonattainment areas. These plans are to address how compliance with the NAAQSs would be achieved for criteria pollutants. If the monitored concentration is below the NAAQSs, the area is classified as being in attainment.

The Federal General Conformity Rule (GCR) was established by the EPA and the U.S. Department of Transportation. The GCR requires the analysis of all Federal actions for emissions of criteria pollutants, or their precursors, for which an area is designated nonattainment.

Douglas County is classified as being in attainment for all criteria pollutants; therefore, the GCR does not apply.

3.2.1 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, no mechanical equipment would be used, no equipment emissions would occur, and no effects to air quality would occur.

3.2.2 Proposed Project

Implementation of the Proposed Project would result in a temporary deterioration of air quality as a result of exhaust from the use of mechanical equipment, including chain saws, and from the transport of green waste. Impacts to air quality would only occur during treatment. The Proposed Project would therefore have minor short-term and no long-term impacts on air quality.

3.3 CLIMATE CHANGE AND GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

On February 18, 2010, the CEQ released a memorandum, *Draft NEPA Guidance on Consideration of the Effects of Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Emissions* (CEQ 2010), which provides guidance on how Federal agencies should consider climate change in their NEPA decision-making documents. The guidance advises that the consideration of climate change address the GHG emission effects of a proposed action. The CEQ guidance states that “if a proposed action would be reasonably anticipated to cause direct emissions of 25,000 metric tons or more of CO₂ [carbon dioxide]-equivalent GHG emissions on an annual basis, agencies should consider this an indicator that a quantitative and qualitative assessment may be meaningful to decision makers and the public” (CEQ 2010, p. 1).

The guidance also advises that a Federal agency’s consideration of climate change address the effects of climate change on a proposed project. The CEQ advises that the “focus of this analysis

should be on the aspects of the environment that are affected by the proposed action and the significance of climate change for those aspects of the affected environment” (CEQ 2010, p. 7).

3.3.1 No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative would have no impacts on climate change or GHG emissions because no activities resulting in air emissions would occur.

3.3.2 Proposed Project

The Proposed Project would result in minimal direct and indirect GHG emissions. Direct GHG emissions would result from the short-term use of vehicles and mechanical equipment during implementation of the Proposed Project and follow-up maintenance. Direct emissions during project implementation are anticipated to be well below the 25,000 metric ton threshold described by the CEQ.

Indirect emissions would also be considerably lower than the threshold recommended by the CEQ. Accounting for the regrowth and vegetation removal during maintenance in the project areas, indirect GHG emissions would be negligible because young vegetation stands (i.e., regrowth) tend to sequester carbon at a faster rate than older vegetation stands. As treatment areas cycle through regrowth and maintenance, future carbon sequestration rates in the project area may be similar to the current sequestration rate.

The effects of global climate change on the Proposed Project would be negligible. The Proposed Project would be implemented over a relatively short period, and global climate change would not have a dramatic effect on fuel loads in the project area during this period.

The Proposed Project would be implemented in a manner that would have minimal effects on the environment. Because of the adaptive nature of the Proposed Project, global climate change is not expected to have a substantial effect on the resources affected by the Proposed Project.

The Proposed Project would have minor, direct and indirect, short-term impacts on GHG emissions. The Proposed Project would make a negligible contribution to long-term global climate change.

3.4 WATER RESOURCES

The project areas are located in the Lake Tahoe watershed. Although the project areas contain stream environment zones (e.g., near Slaughterhouse Creek), there are no wetlands or water bodies in the project areas. The treatment areas are adjacent to, and east of, the eastern shore of Lake Tahoe and close to other water bodies such as drainages.

Executive Order (EO) 11988, Floodplain Management, requires Federal agencies to take action to minimize occupancy and modification of floodplains. EO 11988 also requires that Federal agencies proposing to fund a project sited in a 100-year floodplain consider alternatives to avoid

adverse effects and incompatible development in the floodplain. FEMA's regulations implementing EO 1988 are codified in 44 CFR Part 9. According to FEMA's Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) for Douglas County, Nevada, the project areas are located in areas designated as unshaded Zone X and unshaded Zone D (Map Numbers 32005C0030 F [effective date November 8, 1999]; 32005C0040 F [effective date November 8, 1999]; 32005C0205 F [effective date November 8, 1999]; and 32005C0210 F [effective date November 8, 1999]). Based on the FIRMs, topography of the project areas, and information from the TDFPD, the project areas are not within a designated 100-year floodplain.

EO 11990, Protection of Wetlands, requires Federal agencies to take action to minimize the destruction or modification of wetlands by considering both direct and indirect impacts to wetlands. Furthermore, EO 11990 requires that Federal agencies proposing to fund a project that could adversely affect wetlands consider alternatives to avoid such effects. FEMA's regulations implementing EO 11990 are codified in 44 CFR Part 9. As stated previously, there are no wetlands within or near the project areas.

3.4.1 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no fuel reduction and therefore no direct effects to water resources, including floodplains and wetlands.

3.4.2 Proposed Project

The temporary surface disturbance of soils caused by the foot traffic of work crews on steep slopes and the loss of vegetative cover in the project area could cause erosion. The eroded soil could be transported downslope during and immediately after rain events, negatively affecting water quality.

The Proposed Project would comply with the requirements set forth in *Water Quality Management Plan for the Lake Tahoe Region* (Tahoe Regional Planning Agency 1988). During implementation, spill containment and absorption materials would be kept onsite at all times in the event of an accidental release of petroleum products or construction waste. Prior to implementation, the TDFPD would flag treatment areas and sensitive environmental areas such as stream environment zones. The Proposed Project would not include any activities that would alter drainage patterns.

The Proposed Project would not result in modifications to, occupation of, or otherwise affect the 100-year floodplain or wetlands. Therefore, the Proposed Project is in compliance with EOs 11988 and 11990 and 44 CFR Part 9 and would have no short- or long-term impact on the 100-year floodplain or wetlands.

Therefore, the Proposed Project is anticipated to have minor, indirect and no direct effects to hydrology and water quality. The Proposed Project would have no long-term effects to water resources.

3.5 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The project areas are currently vegetated with a closed canopy Sierra Nevada mixed conifer forest and with shrub species. There are four vegetation communities in the project areas: coniferous forest, mountain shrub, stream environment zones, and urban/developed (e.g., structures, roads). The coniferous forest is the most prevalent vegetation community and contains species such as Jeffrey pine (*Pinus jeffreyi*) and white fir (*Aibes concolor*); the understory of this forest type is composed of mixed forbs, shrubs, and grasses. The mountain shrub habitat occurs in patches throughout the treatment areas and includes species such as green leaf manzanita (*Arctostaphylos patula*) and mountain sagebrush (*Atremesia tridentat ssp. avaseyana*). In the stream environment zones, common overstory trees and/or shrub cover include willow species (*Salix lemonii*) and quaking aspen (*Populus tremuloides*).

Section 7 (16 U.S.C. § 1536) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, requires that Federal agencies determine whether projects they propose to undertake or fund have any potential to affect species listed or proposed for listing as threatened or endangered or their designated critical habitat. To determine the potential for federally listed endangered, threatened, or proposed species or designated critical habitat to occur in the project area, FEMA reviewed the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) list of federally listed species for Douglas County, Nevada; USFWS and Nevada Natural Heritage Program database queries for the project areas; and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Sensitive Species List for the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Area.

Based on the review of the species lists, field observations, and information provided by the USFWS, FEMA determined that one federally listed candidate plant species has the potential to occur in the project area: the Tahoe yellow-cress (*Rorippa subumbellata*). Focused surveys for this species were performed in the project areas on July 19, 2011; no individuals or populations were located within or near the project area. No designated critical habitat exists in the project areas.

EO 13112, Invasive Species, requires Federal agencies to prevent the introduction of invasive species, provide for their control, and minimize the economic, ecological, and human health impacts that invasive species cause. Specifically, EO 13112 requires that Federal agencies not authorize, fund, or implement actions that are likely to introduce or spread invasive species unless the agency has determined that the benefits outweigh the potential harm caused by invasive species and that all feasible and prudent measures to minimize harm have been implemented. No noxious weeds were identified during the 2011 surveys of the Glenbrook and Kingsbury treatment areas.

3.5.1 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no fuel reduction; therefore, no effects to biological resources (including listed, proposed, or candidate species; general wildlife; and invasive species) would occur.

3.5.2 Proposed Project

The Proposed Project could disturb wildlife in the vicinity of the project. Small mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and insects could suffer injury or mortality from equipment, and all species in the vicinity would experience harassment from noise and dust associated with the work crews and use of equipment. However, these impacts would be limited to the implementation period. In addition, adequate habitat would remain onsite after project implementation. Therefore, the Proposed Project is anticipated to result in minor short-term direct and moderate short-term indirect impacts on general wildfire and vegetation.

Although Tahoe yellow-cress was not observed during the 2011 surveys of the project areas, there is potential for this species to occur in the stream environment zones adjacent to the treatment areas. To minimize any potential impact to this species, the following will occur:

- The TDFPD will ensure that a qualified botanist conducts pre-disturbance clearance surveys for the Tahoe yellow-cress.
- Any individuals or populations of Tahoe yellow-cress identified in the project area will be flagged and avoided during project implementation.
- Disturbance of potential habitat for the Tahoe yellow-cress will be avoided.
- To prevent the spread of invasive weeds, mud and plant materials will be removed from construction vehicles and equipment when the vehicles and equipment are mobilized from an area infested with exotic plant species into an area with an intact native plant community.

In a letter dated April 3, 2012, FEMA requested informal consultation on the Proposed Project with the USFWS and requested concurrence that the Proposed Project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect, the Tahoe yellow-cress. USFWS responded by email on May 1, 2012, concurring with FEMA's determination that the Proposed Project is not likely to adversely affect this species (Appendix A).

The TDFPD would need to comply with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 (MBTA) (16 U.S.C. §§ 703–712) for all project-related disturbance and all applicable State or local wildlife and vegetation requirements. To address migratory bird species, if project implementation occurred between April 15 and July 15, a nesting migratory bird survey would be conducted within 2 weeks prior to implementation. A buffer would be established around any nests found in the project area and maintained until young birds had fledged from active nests. Buffer distances would be based on avian species and site-specific landscape features that may act to screen project activities from the nest.

Non-native plants, which include invasive plant species, would be targeted for removal during implementation and maintenance. In addition, measures to reduce the spread of invasive plants, as described above, would be implemented. The Proposed Project would, therefore result in a beneficial effect by reducing invasive plant species in the project areas. Funding of the Proposed Project would comply with EO 13112.

Therefore, the Proposed Project is anticipated to result in direct, minor, short-term effects to wildlife and vegetation. No long-term effects to wildlife and vegetation are anticipated.

3.6 HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Section 106 (16 U.S.C. § 470f) of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (NHPA) requires Federal agencies to consider the effects of their undertakings on historic properties and to afford the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation a reasonable opportunity to comment on such undertakings prior to the approval of the expenditure of Federal funds.

To identify potential historic properties in the Area of Potential Effect (APE) of the Proposed Project, architectural assessments and archaeological inventories were completed for the project areas (Dickey 2012a, 2012b; Research Archaeology 2012a, 2012b). Historic properties were identified in the project areas.

In accordance with Section 106 of the NHPA, on April 12, 2012, FEMA contacted potentially interested Native American tribes to obtain input on potential impacts to historic properties including those of traditional religious and cultural importance. Letters were sent to the Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribe, Paiute-Shoshone Tribe of the Fallon Reservation, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, Walker River Paiute Tribe, Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California, and the Yerington Paiute Tribe (Appendix A). No responses were received.

3.6.1 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, no impacts would occur on historic properties because no activities would occur that could potentially disturb historic properties.

3.6.2 Proposed Project

Prior to implementation of the Proposed Project, qualified personnel from the TDFPD would flag historic properties within the APE, and these areas would be avoided. If an artifact is discovered during project implementation, and in compliance with Stipulation X (Unexpected Discoveries) of the 2009 Programmatic Agreement (PA) between FEMA, the NDEM, and the Nevada State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), TDFPD would cease all activity and notify NDEM immediately. NDEM would notify FEMA and ensure that all reasonable measures are taken to avoid or minimize harm to the resource until FEMA completed additional consultation with the SHPO and the applicable tribe(s).

If human remains are found, TDFPD would contact the Douglas County coroner/Medical Examiner. If the coroner/Medical Examiner determines that the human remains are or could be of Native American origin, the discovery would be treated in accordance with Nevada Revised Statute 383.

FEMA has determined that the Proposed Project would not result in adverse effects to historic properties.

In compliance with the PA, on April 13, 2012, FEMA informed the SHPO of its determination that the Proposed Project would not adversely affect historic properties and transmitted appropriate documentation (Appendix A). In a letter dated July 12, 2012, the SHPO concurred with FEMA's determination that the proposed undertaking would not pose an adverse effect to any historic properties.

3.7 RECREATION

The proposed treatment areas are adjacent to, and in the vicinity of, numerous recreational features including trails, campgrounds, golf courses, Lake Tahoe itself, and lands managed by the Toiyabe National Forest. The forest provides various recreational opportunities.

3.7.1 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, no fuel reduction would occur, and no recreational opportunities or experiences would be affected.

3.7.2 Proposed Project

Individuals using or intending to use recreational areas immediately adjacent to the treatment areas are likely to experience minor disturbances from temporary increases in noise, dust, and unexpected views of work crews and equipment. In addition, temporary slowing of traffic along roadways that provide ingress/egress to the treatment areas may occur as work crews and equipment access the project areas. Public access to other trails, parkland, and open space in the vicinity would not be affected by the Proposed Project. Therefore, there would be minor, short-term direct and indirect impacts to recreational resources.

3.8 NOISE

Noise-sensitive receptors are located at land uses associated with indoor and outdoor activities that may be subject to substantial interference from noise. These land uses often include residential dwellings, hotels, hospitals, nursing homes, educational facilities, libraries, and offices. The noise-sensitive land uses in or near the project areas include adjacent residences. In addition, recreational users such as hikers and campers could be sensitive to noise emanating from the project areas during implementation of the Proposed Project. Existing noise sources include traffic on major roadways such as U.S. 50 along Lake Tahoe and State Route 207 through Kingsbury, as well as local roads that are adjacent to the treatment areas.

3.8.1 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, noise would remain at current levels.

3.8.2 Proposed Project

The Proposed Project would result in temporary increases in noise levels, which would be limited to the duration of project implementation activities. Residents in the immediate vicinity of the project areas and members of the public pursuing recreational activities in the area could be adversely affected by noise created during implementation. The TDFPD would be responsible for implementing the following measures to reduce impacts from noise levels to the extent practicable:

- The TDFPD would post public notices in the project areas and on its website that would notify residents of project implementation.
- All mobile or fixed noise-producing equipment that is regulated for noise output by a Federal, State, or local agency would comply with such regulation.
- Noise-producing signals, including horns, whistles, alarms, and bells would be used for safety purposes only.
- Noise levels resulting from implementation would comply with local noise ordinances.

The Proposed Project would therefore result in moderate, short-term direct impacts on noise levels.

3.9 TRANSPORTATION

Numerous roadways are located near the treatment sites. State highways such as U.S. 50 and State Route 207, as well as local roads, are adjacent to the treatment areas and provide access to facilities in the area.

3.9.1 No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative would result in no activities that would affect transportation.

3.9.2 Proposed Project

Because ingress and egress to the treatment areas would be limited, mobilizing and demobilizing vehicles and equipment to the project areas could slow traffic along local roadways, but the need for detours is not anticipated. The impacts to traffic would be temporary in any one location, with multiple locations being disrupted over the anticipated 30-month implementation period. The TDFPD would provide notification, signs, flaggers, and other measures to minimize disruption to motorists traversing the area during implementation. Therefore, the Proposed Project would have minor, short-term direct and indirect impacts on transportation.

3.10 VISUAL RESOURCES

The visual character of the project areas is dominated by dense conifer forests interspersed with shrubs and grasses. The primary viewers of the project areas are adjacent residents, motorists on

roads in the project vicinity, and individuals engaged in water recreation on Lake Tahoe west of the project areas.

3.10.1 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, fuel reduction would not occur, and the visual character of the project areas would not change. Therefore, no impacts to visual resources would occur.

3.10.2 Proposed Project

The Proposed Project would result in a minor temporary change in the visual character of the project areas because the tree canopy in the project areas would be altered, but not substantially. Although the change in vegetation density would be noticeable from some vantage points, and vegetation patterns would change and would appear more uniform, dominant tones, lines, colors, and textures would not change. Longer views in the project areas would be available because of the reduced density of understory vegetation. No new viewsheds would be created as a result of the Proposed Project.

Short-term impacts to views of the project areas would occur during vegetation clearing when crews were working. Work crews and equipment are not typical components of the viewshed and would be noticeable to viewers. Because the crews would be working among the vegetation, views of the work crews would be minimal and intermittent. Therefore, the Proposed Project would result in minor, direct, short-term impacts to visual resources in the project areas.

3.11 EXECUTIVE ORDER 12898: ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

EO 12898, Environmental Justice, requires Federal agencies to make achieving environmental justice part of their missions by identifying and addressing disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority or low-income populations that result from their programs, policies, or activities. EO 12898 also tasks Federal agencies with ensuring that public notifications regarding environmental issues are concise, understandable, and readily accessible. There are no environmental justice populations in the project areas.

3.11.1 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, no improvements would be made, and no impacts would occur to minority or low-income populations.

3.11.2 Proposed Project

The impacts of the Proposed Project would benefit all residents in the project vicinity. The impacts of the Proposed Project would affect all residents, visitors, motorists, and lodge visitors equally. Thus, the Proposed Project would not result in disproportionately high and adverse

effects on any populations, including minority or low-income populations. As a result, the Proposed Project would comply with EO 12898.

3.12 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

CEQ defines a cumulative impact as “the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions...” (40 CFR § 1508.7). Present and reasonably foreseeable actions were identified based on information obtained from the TDFPD, USFS, the Nevada Department of Transportation, and FEMA.

Because the direct and indirect impacts associated with the Proposed Project would be minimal, primarily short-term and localized, the analysis of cumulative impacts is focused on activities in the project vicinity. Past actions in the area include creation of defensible space around developed facilities in the project vicinity; construction, maintenance, and use of nearby residential and commercial properties and transportation features; recreational activities (e.g., hiking, camping); and past fire events (e.g., Gondola Fire, Autumn Hills Fire). These past actions are assumed to have created the existing affected environment.

Ongoing and current projects include recreational use, and use and maintenance of developed facilities in the project vicinity, including ongoing efforts to create defensible space around private properties adjacent to the project areas.

The USFS is completing fuels reduction on National Forest System Lands in the project vicinity (the Slaughterhouse Project). The USFS is funding three TDFPD fuels reduction projects in the vicinity of the Kingsbury treatment areas. According to the Nevada Department of Transportation’s Annual Work Plan for Douglas County (Douglas County n.d.), proposed roadway improvements are planned on U.S. 50 (storm drain improvements) and along SR 207 (slope stability improvements) near the project areas. The NDEM and FEMA have not identified other reasonably foreseeable future projects in the area associated with their agencies or applicants.

The potential cumulative impacts of the two alternatives to resource areas are discussed below. If an alternative would have no or negligible direct or indirect impacts to a resource, the alternative is assumed to not contribute to any cumulative impact on that resource and is not discussed further in this section.

3.12.1 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, no activities would occur, and there would be no reduction in the risk of loss or damage as a result of wildfire. The implementation of this alternative would not result in direct or indirect effects to social, cultural, or natural resources (refer to Sections 3.1–3.11), and the No Action Alternative would therefore not contribute to cumulative impacts on any resources.

3.12.2 Proposed Project

With the Proposed Project, depending on the timing of the other reasonably foreseeable future actions, the public could experience extended impacts because of overlapping or consecutive construction/implementation periods. When considered with past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, short-term impacts on soils, air quality, water resources, biological resources, recreation, transportation, and visual resources would occur and may be exacerbated. Future work would be consistent with Federal policies and procedures and would be in compliance with local and State environmental regulations and policies. Applicable permits with associated permit conditions would be followed, which would help minimize impacts associated with these other projects. These impacts would be temporary and are not considered substantial.

If projects were implemented concurrently or consecutively, residents, motorists, and members of the public in the project vicinity could experience increased durations of, and slightly more concentrated impacts on, air quality (including dust), noise, recreation, transportation, and aesthetics. However, when assessed with past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, these impacts would be temporary and are not considered significant.

Implementation of the Proposed Project would reduce fuel loads in the project vicinity, as would the completion of the TDFPD's other fuels reduction projects. When considered together with past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, the Proposed Project would cumulatively result in increased protection of property, resources, and life from wildfires.

The GHG emissions and reduction in carbon sinks as a result of the Proposed Project would have a negligible impact on global climate change. Because of the extended period that GHGs remain in the atmosphere, any amount of GHG emissions or reduction in carbon sinks can be reasonably expected to contribute to future climate change impacts. The amount of CO₂ emissions from the Proposed Project would be small but measurable. On a global scale, the Proposed Project is expected to contribute a negligible amount to global cumulative effects to climate change because of the comparatively small amount of vegetation to be treated.

Therefore, the short-term impacts of the Proposed Project, when considered with the impacts from other past, ongoing, or reasonably foreseeable future projects, would not result in a cumulatively substantial effect.

4. MITIGATION, MINIMIZATION, AND AVOIDANCE MEASURES

Mitigation measures are actions that have been identified to minimize the impacts of the alternatives on social, cultural, and natural environmental resources when appropriate. The environmental consequences of the alternatives, as described in this EA, are projected with the assumption that any identified, applicable mitigation measures will be implemented. The TDFPD may also be required to implement additional mitigation measures based on its compliance with local, State, or other general laws or regulations, as applicable. The following measures would be required as a stipulation for receipt of Federal financial assistance from FEMA.

4.1 NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

No mitigation measures would be required for the implementation of the No Action Alternative.

4.2 PROPOSED PROJECT

If the Proposed Project is implemented by TDFPD, the following mitigation measures will be required:

- During implementation, spill containment and absorption materials will be kept onsite at all times in the event of an accidental release of petroleum products or construction waste.
- The TDFPD will ensure that a qualified botanist conducts predisturbance clearance surveys for the Tahoe yellow-cress.
- Any individuals or populations of Tahoe yellow-cress identified in the project areas will be flagged and avoided during project implementation.
- Disturbance of potential habitat for the Tahoe yellow-cress will be avoided.
- To prevent the spread of invasive weeds, mud and plant materials will be removed from construction vehicles and equipment when the vehicles and equipment are mobilized from an area infested with exotic plant species into an area with an intact native plant community.
- Prior to implementation, qualified personnel from the TDFPD will flag historic properties within the APE, and these areas will be avoided.
- If an artifact is discovered during project implementation, and in compliance with Stipulation X (Unexpected Discoveries) of the 2009 PA between FEMA, NDEM, and the SHPO, the TDFPD will cease all activity and notify NDEM immediately. NDEM will notify FEMA and ensure that all reasonable measures are taken to avoid or minimize harm to the resource until FEMA completes additional consultation with the SHPO and the applicable tribe(s). If human remains are found, the TDFPD will contact the Douglas County coroner/Medical Examiner. If the coroner/examiner determines that the human

remains are or may be of Native American origin, the discovery will be treated in accordance with Nevada Revised Statute 383.

- The TDFPD will post public notices in the project areas and on its website that would provide notification of implementation.
- All mobile or fixed noise-producing construction equipment that is regulated for noise output by a Federal, State, or local agency will comply with such regulation.
- Noise-producing signals, including horns, whistles, alarms, and bells will be used for safety purposes only.
- Noise levels resulting from implementation will comply with local noise ordinances.
- The TDFPD will provide notification of implementation, signs, flaggers, and other measures to minimize disruption to motorists traversing the area during implementation.

5. IRREVERSIBLE OR IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES AND SHORT-TERM USES OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND MAINTENANCE AND ENHANCEMENT OF LONG-TERM PRODUCTIVITY

5.1 IRREVERSIBLE OR IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES

For the purposes of this document, irreversible commitment of resources is interpreted to mean that once resources are committed, the production or use of those resources would be lost for other purposes throughout the life of the alternative being implemented. An irretrievable commitment of resources defines the resources that are used, consumed, destroyed, or degraded during the life of the alternative that could not be retrieved or replaced during or after the life of the alternative.

The No Action Alternative would not directly require the use of resources. However, ongoing maintenance of the existing facilities and the current risk of loss of social, natural, and cultural resources as a result of catastrophic fire would continue.

The Proposed Project would require the commitment of human and fiscal resources. The additional expenditure of labor required for this alternative would occur predominately during implementation. However, maintenance would continue throughout the life of the alternative. Funding for the Proposed Project would not be available for other uses and would therefore be irretrievable.

Nonrenewable and irretrievable fossil fuels and construction equipment (e.g., hand tools) would be required. Labor and materials would also be irretrievably committed during the preparation and distribution of materials and equipment. However, the Proposed Project would require only a small amount of these materials, the materials are abundant, and use would not result in a measurable impact to the availability of these resources.

Although the Proposed Project would result in the commitment of resources as described above, the commitment would not be irreversible or irretrievable. This alternative would decrease the risk of loss to critical facilities and residential properties in Douglas County.

5.2 SHORT-TERM USES OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF LONG-TERM PRODUCTIVITY

Implementation of the Proposed Project would result in short-term uses of and short- and long-term impacts on the environment, as documented in Sections 3.1 through 3.12. However, the uses of the environment would be balanced by the long-term reduction in the risk of damage to critical facilities and residential properties as a result of wildfire. The Proposed Project would enhance the long-term productivity of resources by appropriately addressing wildfire risks. Furthermore, implementation of either alternative would not preclude or alter the range of potential uses of the resources in the area.

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND AGENCY COORDINATION

FEMA is the lead Federal agency for conducting the NEPA compliance process for the Proposed Project. The lead Federal agency is responsible for expediting the preparation and review of NEPA documents in a way that is responsive to the needs of Douglas County residents while meeting the spirit and intent of NEPA and complying with all NEPA provisions. Copies of FEMA coordination with applicable agencies are presented in Appendix A.

The Proposed Project is the culmination of work the TDFPD completed with the Nevada Fire Safe Council, preparation of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan, and the Lake Tahoe Basin Multi-jurisdictional Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Strategy. The public has had numerous opportunities to participate in the decision-making process for the Proposed Project through the public involvement associated with these planning efforts. In addition, the public is heavily engaged in fire mitigation through the Nevada Fire Safe Council. The project areas are located in the active chapters of the Nevada Fire Safe Council, which conducts extensive outreach and education regarding fuel reduction projects. Further, the public commitment to wildfire risk reduction was demonstrated by the November 2008 vote to accept additional property tax to fund a long-term hazardous forest fuels management program.

The Proposed Project has been advertised on the TDFPD's website, and a request for comments on the Proposed Project was included on signs posted near the project areas. In addition, the Proposed Project was presented at homeowner's association meetings. Throughout the extensive public involvement and FEMA's coordination and consultation with applicable agencies, no concerns regarding this project have been expressed. This EA will be posted on FEMA's website along with FEMA's determination of a finding (either a Finding of No Significant Impact or a finding that an Environmental Impact Statement must be prepared).

7. REFERENCES

- CEQ (Council on Environmental Quality). 2010. *Draft NEPA Guidance on Consideration of the Effects of Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Emissions*.
- Dickey, E. 2012a. *Architectural Assessment: Glenbrook Wildfire Fuels Reduction*. Douglas County, NV.
- . 2012b. *Architectural Assessment: Kingsbury Wildfire Fuels Reduction*. Douglas County, NV.
- Douglas County. n.d. *Draft Douglas County FY 2012 Annual Work Program, FY 2013 – FY 2014 Short Range Element, and FY 2015 – FY 2021 Long Range Element*. Available at http://www.nevadadot.com/About_NDOT/NDOT_Divisions/Planning/Program_Development/Annual_Work_Program.aspx. Accessed February 25, 2013.
- FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency). 1999. Flood Insurance Rate Maps, Douglas County, Nevada and Incorporated Areas, Map Numbers 32005C0030 F; 32005C0040 F; 32005C0205 F; and 32005C0210 F.
- Nevada Department of Transportation. 2013. Annual Work Plan. Available at http://www.nevadadot.com/About_NDOT/NDOT_Divisions/Planning/Program_Development/Annual_Work_Program.aspx. Accessed February 22, 2013.
- Research Archaeology. 2012a. *A Class III Archaeological Inventory for the Glenbrook Regional Fuels Reduction Project (GRFRP) Douglas County, Nevada*. Research Archaeology, Carson City, NV.
- . 2012b. *A Class III Archaeological Inventory for the Kingsbury Regional Fuels Reduction Project Douglas County, Nevada*. Research Archaeology, Carson City, NV.
- Tahoe Regional Planning Agency. 1988. *Water Quality Management Plan for the Lake Tahoe Region*.

8. LIST OF PREPARERS

Federal Emergency Agency, Region IX

Alessandro Amaglio, Environmental Officer

URS Group, Inc.

Linda Peters, Senior Environmental Planner

Graham Craig, Senior Environmental Planner

Fozia Bashir, GIS Specialist

Diana Burke, Technical Editor

APPENDIX A
PUBLIC / AGENCY CORRESPONDENCE



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Lake Tahoe Basin
Management Unit

35 College Drive
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150
(530) 543-2600
(530) 543-0956 TTY

File Code: 2600

Date: February 23, 2012

Alessandro Amaglio
Environmental Officer
US Department of Homeland Security, FEMA
1111 Broadway, Suite 1200
Oakland, CA 94607-4052

Dear Mr. Amaglio:

This letter is in response to your February 13, 2012 request for documentation pertaining to Section 7 Endangered Species Act consultation for fuels reduction projects in the vicinity of Glenbrook and Kingsbury Grade. This request for documentation is in regards to Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District's application for Federal financial assistance from FEMA to conduct fuels treatments in this area. The information in this letter includes our review of USFS consultation with USFWS for Forest Service fuels reduction projects in this area.

We reviewed our NEPA analysis and documentation from projects in the vicinity of Glenbrook and Kingsbury dating back from 2005 to present day. Our completed and ongoing fuels reduction projects in that area did not require formal consultation with the USFWS because it was determined through our evaluation that project actions would not affect species protected under Section 7 ESA; therefore no Biological Opinion was issued for our projects.

In the Spooner Fuels Reduction and Healthy Forest Restoration Project, our Fisheries biologist informally consulted with the USFWS in Reno, Nevada regarding Lahontan cutthroat trout (LCT) habitat and implications for the LCT recovery strategy. Although LCT did not exist in the project area, they do exist in Marlette Lake, outside of the Spooner project area. This is more than 6 miles north of Glenbrook, Nevada in a separate watershed. It was determined that this project will not affect the Lahontan cutthroat trout or their designated habitat. No formal consultation was required as part of this project.

We do not currently have any new fuels reduction projects planned in the Kingsbury or Glenbrook areas. Ongoing fuels reduction activities on National Forest System Lands will continue and complement those treatments on private lands in order to provide appropriate defensible space near the communities while improving forest health.

Sincerely,

NANCY J. GIBSON
Forest Supervisor



From: Carolyn_Wells@fws.gov [mailto:Carolyn_Wells@fws.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, May 01, 2012 03:16 PM
To: Amaglio, Alessandro
Cc: Chad_Mellison@fws.gov <Chad_Mellison@fws.gov>; Jeremiah_M_Karuzas@fws.gov <Jeremiah_M_Karuzas@fws.gov>; Sarah_Kulpa@fws.gov <Sarah_Kulpa@fws.gov>
Subject: Glenbrook and Kingsbury Fuels Management Projects

Alessandro,

As discussed briefly by phone, we received your request for informal consultation on the subject projects, dated April 3, 2012. The proposed actions consist of funds to be provided to the Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District, for fuels reduction treatments on the east shore of Lake Tahoe in Douglas County, Nevada. You requested concurrence on a may affect, not likely to adversely affect determination for Tahoe yellow-cress (*Rorippa subumbellata*), and a no effect determination for the Carson Valley silverspot butterfly (*Speyeria nokomis carsonensis*) in conjunction with these fuels reduction activities. Neither of these two species is federally listed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as ammended (ESA); however, Tahoe yellow-cress is a candidate for federal listing and the Carson Valley silverspot was formerly listed as a category-2 candidate until our agency adopted a single category of candidate species in 1996, at which time all category-2 species were removed from our candidate list. On October 4, 2011, our agency issued a not warranted finding on a petition to list the Carson Valley silverspot.

Our botanist has reviewed the project descriptions that you provided, and agrees that the actions are unlikely to result in adverse effects to Tahoe yellow-cress.

Please contact me or Sarah Kulpa, our botanist, with any questions.

Carolyn

Carolyn L. Wells
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Deputy Assistant Field Supervisor
Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office
1340 Financial Blvd, Suite 234
Reno, NV 89502

phone 775.861.6337
fax 775.861.6301



FEMA

April 13, 2012

Mr. Ronald M. James
State Historic Preservation Officer
Office of Historic Preservation
100 N. Stewart Street
Carson City, NV 89701

Re: PDMC-PJ-NV-2009-003
Glenbrook Fuels Reduction Project

Dear Mr. James:

The Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District (TDFPD) (Subgrantee) has applied through the Nevada Division of Emergency Management (NDEM) to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for financial assistance under the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program (PDM) to reduce the horizontal and vertical continuity of wildland fuels in Douglas County, Nevada. The Subgrantee proposes to remove the suppressed understory and intermediate trees that create fire ladder fuels into the upper canopy. Fuels reduction would be accomplished by TDFPD crews through hand thinning, mastication, and mechanical thinning.

FEMA has determined that the provision of federal financial assistance through its PDM Program is an Undertaking, in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) found at 36 CFR 800.16(y). The Glenbrook project area lies along the east shore of Lake Tahoe, extending from Glenbrook to Cave Rock. FEMA has identified and seeks your concurrence in an Area of Potential Effects (APE) that comprises several privately owned parcels. Specifically the APE includes Lands End, the margins surrounding Glenbrook Golf Course/Gillemot Property, Yellow-Jacket Estates, Uppaway Estates, Camp Galilee, Logan Creek and Cave Rock Estates. An APE for indirect visual effect was also considered for this proposal.

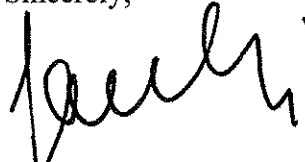
FEMA has sent informational letters to seven (7) interested tribes to apprise them of the proposal and to request information regarding historic properties or any concerns known to the tribes in the project area. FEMA will provide your office copies of any comments received upon receipt.

The Subgrantee has provided to FEMA an Architectural Assessment and a Class III Archaeological Inventory for the Glenbrook Regional Fuels Reduction project for submittal to your office in support

of our findings. FEMA has made a determination that the proposed project would not result in any archaeological properties affected but that there are architectural properties present. The thinning of the understory adheres to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards by protecting historic properties and thus would result in no adverse effect to historic architectural properties.

We request your concurrence with our finding pursuant to Stipulation VII. of the Programmatic Agreement (PA) executed between FEMA, the Nevada Division of Emergency Management, and the NV State Historic Preservation Officer dated July 12, 2005 and 36 CFR Parts 800.4 (d)(1) and 800.5(a)(1). We have provided documentation in accordance with 36 CFR Part 800.11(d) and (e). If you have any questions or require additional information please contact Donna M. Meyer, CEM/HPS, Deputy Regional Environmental Officer, at (510) 627-7728 or donna.meyer@fema.dhs.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alessandro Amaglio', written in a cursive style.

Alessandro Amaglio
Regional Environmental Officer

Enclosures



FEMA

April 13, 2012

Mr. Ronald M. James
State Historic Preservation Officer
Office of Historic Preservation
100 N. Stewart Street
Carson City, NV 89701

Re: PDMC-PJ-NV-2009-004
Kingsbury Fuels Reduction Project

Dear Mr. James:

The Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District (TDFPD) (Subgrantee) has applied through the Nevada Division of Emergency Management (NDEM) to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for financial assistance under the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program (PDM) to reduce the horizontal and vertical continuity of wildland fuels in Douglas County, Nevada. The Subgrantee proposes to remove the suppressed understory and intermediate trees that create fire ladder fuels into the upper canopy. Fuels reduction would be accomplished by TDFPD crews through hand thinning, mastication, and mechanical thinning.

FEMA has determined that the provision of federal financial assistance through its PDM Program is an Undertaking, in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) found at 36 CFR 800.16(y). The Kingsbury project area lies along the east shore of Lake Tahoe, extending from Zephyr Point to the top of Kingsbury Grade. FEMA has identified and seeks your concurrence in an Area of Potential Effects (APE) that comprises several privately owned parcels. Specifically the APE includes Zephyr Point, Round Hill, McCall, and Summit/Tahoe Village. An APE for indirect visual effect was also considered for this proposal.

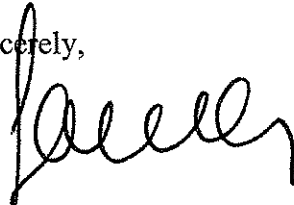
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The Subgrantee has provided to FEMA an Architectural Assessment and a Class III Archaeological Inventory for the Kingsbury Regional Fuels Reduction project for submittal to your office in support

of our findings. FEMA has made a determination that the proposed project would not result in any archaeological properties affected but that there are historic architectural properties present. The thinning of the understory adheres to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards by protecting historic properties and thus would result in no adverse effect to historic architectural properties.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alessandro Amaglio". The signature is written in a cursive style with a vertical line extending downwards from the end of the name.

Alessandro Amaglio
Regional Environmental Officer

Enclosures



FEMA

April 12, 2012

Ms. Genia Williams
Chairperson
Walker River Paiute Tribe
P.O. Box 220
Schurz, NV 89427

Re: PDMC-PJ-NV-2009-003 - Glenbrook Fuels Reduction Project
PDMC-PJ-NV-2009-004 – Kingsbury Fuels Reduction Project

Dear Chairperson Williams:

Section 101(d)(6)(B) of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended requires the Department of Homeland Security – Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to consult with any Indian Tribe that may attach religious and cultural significance to historic properties that may be affected by FEMA's undertaking. FEMA is considering a Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) grant application to provide federal assistance to the Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection Division (TDFPD) through the Nevada Division of Emergency Management for two regions located along the east shore of Lake Tahoe. The grant would allow the TDFPD to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire to protect human life and the built environment within Douglas County, Nevada. The specific locations are identified below:

Glenbrook to Cave Rock: Lands End; small area at the mouth of Slaughterhouse Creek; margins surrounding Glenbrook Golf Course/Gillemot Property; Yellow-Jacket Estates, Uppaway Estates; Camp Galilee; Logan Creek; and, Cave Rock Estates (T14N,R18E, Portions of Sections 03, 10, 15, 22)

Zephyr Point to the top of Kingsbury Grade: Zephyr Point; Round Hill; McCall; and Summit/Tahoe Village (T13N,R18E, Portions of Sections 09, 15, 22 and T13N, R19E, Portions of Sections 09, 30).

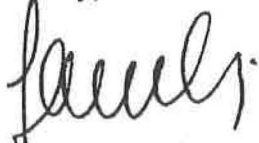
Because potential direct and indirect impacts of the Grantee's proposal may have an effect on historic properties we respectfully request your interest regarding the proposals, any comments regarding historic properties, advise us on the identification and evaluation of any historic properties, including those of traditional religious and cultural importance, articulate your views of the

Ms. Genia Williams
April 12, 2012
Page 2

Grantee's proposal and FEMA's Undertaking of providing grant assistance on such historic properties, and to participate in the resolution of any potential adverse effects.

If you have any questions or require additional information please do not hesitate to contact Donna M. Meyer, CEM/HPS, Deputy Regional Environmental Officer at (510) 627-7728, the letterhead address above or donna.meyer@fema.dhs.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amaglio". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A".

Alessandro Amaglio
Regional Environmental Officer

Enclosures



FEMA

April 12, 2012

Mr. Arlan Melendez
Chairman
Reno-Sparks Indian Colony
98 Colony Road
Reno, NV 89502

Re: PDMC-PJ-NV-2009-003 - Glenbrook Fuels Reduction Project
PDMC-PJ-NV-2009-004 - Kingsbury Fuels Reduction Project

Dear Chairman Melendez:

Section 101(d)(6)(B) of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended requires the Department of Homeland Security – Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to consult with any Indian Tribe that may attach religious and cultural significance to historic properties that may be affected by FEMA’s undertaking. FEMA is considering a Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) grant application to provide federal assistance to the Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection Division (TDFPD) through the Nevada Division of Emergency Management for two regions located along the east shore of Lake Tahoe. The grant would allow the TDFPD to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire to protect human life and the built environment within Douglas County, Nevada. The specific locations are identified below:

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Mr. Arlan Melendez

April 12, 2012

Page 2

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If you have any questions or require additional information please do not hesitate to contact Donna M. Meyer, CEM/HPS, Deputy Regional Environmental Officer at (510) 627-7728, the letterhead address above or donna.meyer@fema.dhs.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alessandro".

Alessandro Amaglio
Regional Environmental Officer

Enclosures



FEMA

April 12, 2012

Mr. Mervin Wright
Chairman
Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe
P.O. Box 256
Nixon, NV 89424

Re: PDMC-PJ-NV-2009-003 - Glenbrook Fuels Reduction Project
PDMC-PJ-NV-2009-004 – Kingsbury Fuels Reduction Project

Dear Chairman Wright:

Section 101(d)(6)(B) of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended requires the Department of Homeland Security – Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to consult with any Indian Tribe that may attach religious and cultural significance to historic properties that may be affected by FEMA's undertaking. FEMA is considering a Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) grant application to provide federal assistance to the Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection Division (TDFPD) through the Nevada Division of Emergency Management for two regions located along the east shore of Lake Tahoe. The grant would allow the TDFPD to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire to protect human life and the built environment within Douglas County, Nevada. The specific locations are identified below:

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Because potential direct and indirect impacts of the Grantee's proposal may have an effect on historic properties we respectfully request your interest regarding the proposals, any comments regarding historic properties, advise us on the identification and evaluation of any historic properties, including those of traditional religious and cultural importance, articulate your views of the

Mr. Mervin Wright
April 12, 2012
Page 2

Grantee's proposal and FEMA's Undertaking of providing grant assistance on such historic properties, and to participate in the resolution of any potential adverse effects.

If you have any questions or require additional information please do not hesitate to contact Donna M. Meyer, CEM/HPS, Deputy Regional Environmental Officer at (510) 627-7728, the letterhead address above or donna.meyer@fema.dhs.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amaglio". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A".

Alessandro Amaglio
Regional Environmental Officer

Enclosures



FEMA

April 12, 2012

Mr. Alvin Moyle
Chairman
Paiute-Shoshone Tribe of the Fallon Reservation
565 Rio Vista Road
Fallon, NV 89406

Re: PDMC-PJ-NV-2009-003 - Glenbrook Fuels Reduction Project
PDMC-PJ-NV-2009-004 – Kingsbury Fuels Reduction Project

Dear Chairman Moyle:

Section 101(d)(6)(B) of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended requires the Department of Homeland Security – Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to consult with any Indian Tribe that may attach religious and cultural significance to historic properties that may be affected by FEMA's undertaking. FEMA is considering a Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) grant application to provide federal assistance to the Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection Division (TDFPD) through the Nevada Division of Emergency Management for two regions located along the east shore of Lake Tahoe. The grant would allow the TDFPD to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire to protect human life and the built environment within Douglas County, Nevada. The specific locations are identified below:

Glenbrook to Cave Rock: Lands End; small area at the mouth of Slaughterhouse Creek; margins surrounding Glenbrook Golf Course/Gillemot Property; Yellow-Jacket Estates, Uppaway Estates; Camp Galilee; Logan Creek; and, Cave Rock Estates (T14N,R18E, Portions of Sections 03, 10, 15, 22)

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Mr. Alvin Moyle

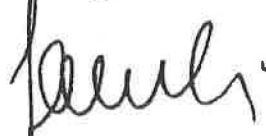
April 12, 2012

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Alessandro Amaglio
Regional Environmental Officer

Enclosures



FEMA

April 12, 2012

Ms. Karen Crutcher
Chairperson
Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribe
P.O. Box 457
McDermitt, NV 89421

Re: PDMC-PJ-NV-2009-003 - Glenbrook Fuels Reduction Project
PDMC-PJ-NV-2009-004 – Kingsbury Fuels Reduction Project

Dear Chairperson Crutcher:

Section 101(d)(6)(B) of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended requires the Department of Homeland Security – Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to consult with any Indian Tribe that may attach religious and cultural significance to historic properties that may be affected by FEMA's undertaking. FEMA is considering a Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) grant application to provide federal assistance to the Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection Division (TDFPD) through the Nevada Division of Emergency Management for two regions located along the east shore of Lake Tahoe. The grant would allow the TDFPD to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire to protect human life and the built environment within Douglas County, Nevada. The specific locations are identified below:

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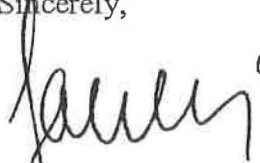
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Ms. Karen Crutcher
April 12, 2012
Page 2

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Sincerely,

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Alessandro Amaglio
Regional Environmental Officer

Enclosures



FEMA

April 12, 2012

Chairperson
Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California
919 Highway 395
South Gardnerville, NV 89410

Re: PDMC-PJ-NV-2009-003 - Glenbrook Fuels Reduction Project
PDMC-PJ-NV-2009-004 – Kingsbury Fuels Reduction Project

Dear Washoe Tribal Chairperson:

Section 101(d)(6)(B) of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended requires the Department of Homeland Security – Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to consult with any Indian Tribe that may attach religious and cultural significance to historic properties that may be affected by FEMA's undertaking. FEMA is considering a Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) grant application to provide federal assistance to the Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection Division (TDFPD) through the Nevada Division of Emergency Management for two regions located along the east shore of Lake Tahoe. The grant would allow the TDFPD to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire to protect human life and the built environment within Douglas County, Nevada. The specific locations are identified below:

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Washoe Tribal Chairman
April 12, 2012
Page 2

If you have any questions or require additional information please do not hesitate to contact Donna M. Meyer, CEM/HPS, Deputy Regional Environmental Officer at (510) 627-7728, the letterhead address above or donna.meyer@fema.dhs.gov.

Sincerely,

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Alessandro Amaglio
Regional Environmental Officer

Enclosures

LEO M. DROZDOFF, P.E.
Director
Department of Conservation and
Natural Resources

RONALD M. JAMES
State Historic Preservation Officer

BRIAN SANDOVAL
Governor
STATE OF NEVADA



Address Reply to:
901 S. Stewart Street, Suite 5004
Carson City, NV 89701-5248
Phone: (775) 684-3448
Fax: (775) 684-3442

www.nvshpo.org

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

July 12, 2012

Donna M. Meyer, CEM/HPS
Deputy Regional Environmental Officer
Non-Disaster Grant Programs
US Department of Homeland Security
Federal Emergency Management Agency
1111 Broadway, Suite 1200
Oakland, CA 94607-4052

RE: *Glenbrook Regional Fuels Reduction Project (GRFRP), Douglas County, Nevada.*
PDMC-PJ-09-NV-2009/ Undertaking #2012-2076.

Dear Ms. Meyer:

The Nevada State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has reviewed the subject undertaking in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended.

According to the online statewide archaeological inventory (NVCRIS), the following cultural resources were previously recorded in the direct area of potential effect (APE) identified for the above-mentioned undertaking:

26OR253

26DO34

26DO451/621.

The literature search associated with *A Class III Archaeological Inventory for the Glenbrook Regional Fuels Reduction Project (GRFRP), Douglas County, Nevada* does not meet the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Identification nor current professional standards for pre-field fieldwork literature research.

The SHPO concurs with the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) determination that the proposed undertaking will not pose an adverse effect to any historic properties based upon the subject documents for the above-mentioned undertaking.

The SHPO notes that consultation with the affected Native American representatives has been initiated. If this consultation results in the identification of properties of religious or cultural significance that could be affected by the undertaking, FEMA must consult with this office concerning the National Register eligibility and possible effects of the undertaking. Regardless of the results of this consultation, the SHPO requests that FEMA submit a summary statement after its completion.

The SHPO reminds FEMA that the agency must consult with affected members of the public and representatives of organizations that have a demonstrated interest in properties of cultural significant

Donna M. Meyer, CEM/HPS

July 12, 2012

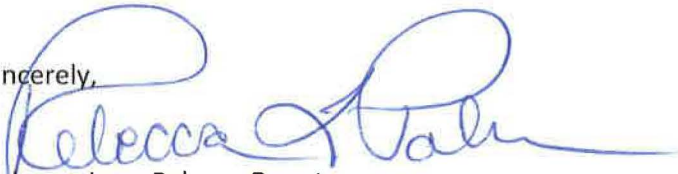
Page 2 of 2

that could be affected by the undertaking (36 CFR Part 800.4.c.5.). What efforts have been made to provide these representatives, such as the National Park Service – National Historic Trails Office with an opportunity to comment on this undertaking?

If any buried and previously unidentified resources are located during the project activities, the SHPO recommends that all work in the vicinity of the find cease and this office be contacted for additional consultation per 36 CFR 800.13.b.3.

If you have any questions concerning this correspondence, please contact Jessica Axsom by phone at (775) 684-3445 or by e-mail at jaxsom@shpo.nv.gov.

Sincerely,



Rebecca Lynn Palmer, Deputy
State Historic Preservation Officer

cc. Darrell Cruz, Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California