

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PURPOSE AND NEED

The Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003 was initiated to give communities the incentive to address local wildfire issues and threats such as fuel hazard conditions and mitigation actions and to identify fuel reduction treatment responsibilities and priorities. The first Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) for the Carson City Municipality was completed in 2004-2005 as part of a statewide effort and was approved by the Carson City Board of Supervisors, the Carson City Fire Department, and the Nevada State Forester (RCI 2005). The 2004 Assessment evaluated four separate communities in the Carson City Municipality that were listed in the 2001 federal register as “communities-at-risk.” These included two tribal communities (Carson Indian Colony and Stewart Community), the Clear Creek community, and the remainder of Carson City as a whole.

Carson City Fire Department (CCFD) identified the need to update the 2005 CWPP and conduct a more detailed analysis of wildfire risks and hazards in the wildland urban interface around Carson City. Funding for the project was provided from a Community Assistance Grant through the Bureau of Land Management. Resource Concepts, Inc (RCI) was retained to conduct a follow-up risk/hazard assessment and update the Carson City Municipality CWPP.

The objectives for the update were to

1. Conduct a structure and fire-safe condition assessment for The Carson City Municipality using methods consistent with the previous statewide assessment project (RCI 2005).
2. Evaluate the fuel hazard condition within a boundary of 0.5 miles around the Carson City Municipality including both public and private land, consistent with the 2004 assessment.
3. Divide the interface area into distinct geographic neighborhoods for analyses and provide recommendations to reduce community wildfire hazards specific to each neighborhood.
4. Prioritize recommended treatments and actions for implementation.
5. Integrate the recommendations from the 2008-2009 update with the existing multi-jurisdictional fuel reduction and wildfire prevention strategy for the Carson Range and with existing plans developed in conjunction with the Nevada Fire Safe Council.
6. Identify fuel reduction projects that can be done in partnership with State and Federal agencies and projects that are suitable for implementation through the Nevada Fire Safe Council or other private funding.

1.2 PROJECT TEAM

RCI specialists in the fields of wildland fire fighting, fuels management, forestry, range management, renewable natural resources, and geographic information systems (GIS) were used to compile and interpret the information for this assessment. RCI worked cooperatively with fire agencies that are responsible for structure protection and wildland fire suppression in the Carson City Consolidated Municipality to gain an understanding of the current wildfire risks and hazards, and to update the current status of completed and proposed fuel reduction projects. The Carson City Fire Department provided technical and regulatory advice, wildfire apparatus data, and facilitated integration of anecdotal information. Agency Fire Management Officers and Fuels Specialists contributed current information on fuels treatments and agency fuel reduction plans. Local chapters of the Nevada Fire Safe Council provided updated records on defensible space and neighborhood programs.