

**Carson City
Agenda Report**

Date Submitted: January 26, 2010

Agenda Date Requested: February 4, 2010

Time Requested: 15 Minutes

To: Mayor and Supervisors

From: Larry Werner, City Manager

Subject Title: Presentation and report on Nevada Division of Forestry's wildland fire management activities in Carson City. (*Michael Klug*)

Staff Summary: Michael Klug, Fire Management Officer for the Nevada Division of Forestry will discuss the activities of the Sierra Forest Protection District in regards to fuels management, fire prevention and fire suppression.

Type of Action Requested: (check one)

☐ Resolution

☐ Ordinance

☐ Formal Action/Motion

☒ Other (Specify) Presentation only

Does this action require a Business Impact Statement: () Yes (X) No

Recommended Board Action: No Action

Explanation for Recommended Board Action: See staff summary.

Applicable Statute, Code, Policy, Rule or Regulation: N/A

Fiscal Impact: None

Explanation of Impact: N/A

Funding Source: N/A

Alternatives: N/A

Supporting Material: None

Prepared By: Janet Busse, Office Supervisor

Reviewed By: _____

(City Manager)

Date: _____

1/26/10

Melanie Panketta

(District Attorney)

Date: _____

1-26-10

Muel Alomita

(Finance Director)

Date: _____

1/26/10

Board Action Taken:

Motion: _____

1) _____

2) _____

Aye/Nay

(Vote Recorded By)



Nevada Division of Forestry

Western Region

2009 Fire Management Report



Miller Fire - Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area

Forest, Range, Watershed Protection



New engine supporting pile burning in VC Highlands

Preparedness - NDF added a new 400 gallon, type 6 engine to the fleet. This engine, funded by Storey County, is stationed at USA Parkway, where it provides quick initial attack of wildfires in northern Storey County.

Suppression - Snowpack at the end of April was near normal across most of Nevada. However, drought continued to persist across much of Nevada this summer, causing a

decrease in the amount of rangeland grasses. Consequently, Nevada had a below average fire season with only 677 fires, which burned a total of 33,363 acres. NDF responded to only 41 fires in western Nevada. The most significant state fire was the Miller fire, which burned 616 acres on the Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area. Through agreements with the Division of Emergency Management, the NDF helicopter responded on two search and rescue missions.

Vegetation Management - An outbreak of pinyon scale and sawfly have caused large areas of defoliation in the Flowery Range and Pine Nut Mountains. In southern Douglas County, along the 395 corridor, pinyon ips beetles are causing significant mortality of pinyon pines. If the drought continues, many of the defoliated trees may die due to the combined stress of the drought and multiple years of needle loss (as shown in the picture) Throughout the eastern Sierras and Sweetwater Mountains, Jeffrey pine beetles, California flathead borers and pine engravers are killing ponderosa and Jeffrey pines; fir engraver beetle on white fir; and a continued increase in mountain pine beetles is killing lodgepole pine, western white pine, whitebark pine and lodgepole pines.



Defoliation caused by Sawflies

To improve forest health and reduce the wildfire hazard, NDF conservation crews and seasonal firefighters worked on a number of shaded fuel break, timber stand improvement and hazardous fuels reduction projects on state and privately owned lands. NDF hired an additional federally-funded, forester to help oversee these projects.

Carson City – Thinned brush on 5.3 acres of private land in Lakeview Estates, 1.9 acres of city land off of Kingsview Drive and 1 acre of city land along Beaver Lane in Pinyon Hills. Firefighters continued to support the sheep grazing efforts on the western foothills of Carson City.

Hobart/Ash Canyon – Phase one of a 10.2 mile fuel break system in the state park is nearing completion, with over 1700 slash piles burned this fall.



Burning Slash Piles - Hobart

Lake Tahoe State Park – Trees were thinned and down dead material were cleaned up on 197 acres; including 25 acres in Washoe County (Sand Harbor and Highway 28 fuel break), 160 acres in Douglas County (Van Sickle Unit of Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park at Stateline), 12 acres Carson

City located in North Canyon. Approximately 2300 piles were burned on 290 acres; including 135 acres in Carson City (North Canyon) and 155 acres Washoe County (Sand Harbor and Tunnel.

Kingsbury Grade – Brush piles on six lots were burned, as part of an ongoing fuels reduction program on state owned urban lots.

Spooner Summit – Timber stand improvement continued on 158 acres of state park land and 15 acres of private land. Large amounts of dead fall and snags, were cut, piled and burned.

UNR Whittell Forest – Crews constructed a 120 foot shaded fuel break on both sides of the road thorough Little Valley.

Virginia City Highlands – Crews removed dead trees on 11 private lots. Using contract brush masticators, created two shaded fuel breaks, along Highland Road and Dry Gulch, for a total of 67.5 acres were treated.

West Washoe Valley – Crews completed timber stand improvement and brush reduction on 90 acres of private land along Franktown Road.



Tree Thinning at Van Sickle Unit – Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park

Public education – Firefighters visited 546 homes in high risk areas, to talk to the homeowners about defensible space. During these inspections, firefighters provide homeowners information so they can meet their responsibility to prepare their home for wildfire. Firefighters also brought Smokey Bear to 22 fire prevention events; which were attended by over 17,000 people.

The following letter was sent to the seasonal firefighters, from a homeowner in Lakeview Estates.

to your supervisors so that they will know and acknowledge the professionalism that you exhibit in your position with the State of Nevada.

“Thank you for your dedication and expertise. I am sending a copy of this letter

to your supervisors so that they will know and acknowledge the professionalism that you exhibit in your position with the State of Nevada.

You and your crews cleared brush and trees around Lakeview, Carson City, Nevada, that were threatening our safety and our neighbors' safety. If a spark had set off the large area of dense overgrowth, I believe it would have burned down our home and many others.

Regardless of the heat from the hot sun, your crew worked tirelessly in extreme conditions. Everyone I talked to on your crew was hardworking, friendly and cooperative. My wife and I feel that you and your crew deserve recognition for a job well done.

We have a better understanding of the importance of what you and your department does. For example, we noticed some property owners around us trimming pine trees during the summer, however, you educated us on the proper time when trees should be trimmed to avoid beetle infestation. On the basis of what we learned from you, we now know that the pines should only be cut after the first hard freeze.

Everything involving our experience with you was positive. Thank you so much for everything.”



Burning Brush Piles – Lakeview Estates

Prepared by Michael Klug, Fire Management Officer