

**BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
SIERRA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

TUESDAY

10:00 A.M.

JULY 13, 2010

PRESENT:

David Humke, Chairman
Bonnie Weber, Vice Chairperson
Robert Larkin, Commissioner
Kitty Jung, Commissioner
John Breternitz, Commissioner

Amy Harvey, County Clerk
Katy Simon, County Manager
Melanie Foster, Legal Counsel
Michael Greene, Fire Chief

The Board convened at 11:25 a.m. in regular session in the Commission Chambers of the Washoe County Administration Complex, 1001 East Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada, and conducted the following business:

10-47SF AGENDA ITEM 2A

Agenda Subject: “Approval of Agenda for July 13, 2010 Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting.”

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Larkin, seconded by Commissioner Weber, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that Agenda Item 2A be approved.

10-48SF AGENDA ITEM 2B

Agenda Subject: “Chief’s Report on status of projects including recruitments, volunteers and land lease.”

Fire Chief Michael Greene called attention to the annexation of St. Mary’s Urgent Care to the City of Reno that was noted in his report. He said the annexation would have a \$25,000 impact on Sierra Fire Protection District (SFPD) revenues.

Commissioner Jung asked if there was a formal process by which the SFPD was supposed to be notified of annexations. Katy Simon, County Manager, observed a statutory process was followed, but additional notifications could be requested from the City of Reno. Melanie Foster, Legal Counsel, explained the annexations took place under a general ordinance process at the City level. When the SFPD had been part

of the State, she recalled there was an assigned chief who kept track and the boundaries of the District would be amended every two or three years if a significant number of annexations had taken place. She said Chief Greene could ask to be notified of all such matters under the provisions set forth in NRS Chapter 241. Ms. Simon explained the annexation programs that specified which lands might be annexed within a seven-year period were adopted at the Regional Planning Governing Board level. She indicated adoption of the annexation program was the point at which notice was provided to all the jurisdictions. Once the program was adopted, the jurisdictions were permitted to proceed with annexation. Commissioner Jung suggested something formal should come to the SFPD and other agencies that involved public health and safety.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Larkin, seconded by Commissioner Weber, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that Agenda Item 2B be acknowledged.

10-49SF AGENDA ITEM 2C

Agenda Subject: “Review and acceptance of volunteer report for April 2010.”

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Larkin, seconded by Commissioner Weber, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that Agenda Item 2C be acknowledged.

10-50SF AGENDA ITEM 2D

Agenda Subject: “Approval of the 2010 Annual Operating Plan between the Sierra Fire Protection District and the Humboldt Toiyabe National Forest Carson Ranger District; and if approved, authorize Chairman to execute same.”

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Larkin, seconded by Commissioner Weber, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that Agenda Item 2D be approved, authorized and executed.

10-51SF AGENDA ITEM 2E

Agenda Subject: “Approval of the 2010 Annual Operating Plan between the Sierra Fire Protection District and the Nevada Division of Forestry; and if approved, authorize Chairman to execute same.”

Fire Chief Michael Greene noted previous agreements with the Nevada Department of Forestry (NDF) allowed the agencies to provide like services to each other for up to 24 hours. He stated “like services” meant the agencies could exchange fire

engines with each other. Based on statutory authority, he noted the 2010 agreement allowed the NDF to provide a helicopter and hand line crews. He said this was a real benefit to the Sierra Fire Protection District in terms of cost savings and the overall impact of fighting fires.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Larkin, seconded by Commissioner Weber, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that Agenda Item 2E be approved, authorized and executed.

10-52SF AGENDA ITEM 2F

Agenda Subject: “Approval of minutes from January 23 and May 11, 2010 meetings.”

Fire Chief Michael Greene noted there had been a clerical error in the agenda. He clarified January 26, 2010 was the correct date for one set of minutes to be approved, rather than January 23, 2010.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Larkin, seconded by Commissioner Weber, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that the minutes be approved for the January 26 and May 11, 2010 meetings.

10-53SF AGENDA ITEM 3

Agenda Subject: “Discussion and possible acceptance of staff’s recommendations, updates and the draft Action Plan in support of the Fire and Fire Based Emergency Medical Services Master Plan, or other direction to staff. (All Commission Districts)”

Kurt Latipow, Fire Services Coordinator, explained the recommendations in the staff report that were applicable to the Board of County Commissioners and the Board of Fire Commissioners for the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District had already been adopted on June 22, 2010. He noted the Board had been unable to convene as the Board of Fire Commissioners for the Sierra Fire Protection District (SFPD) during that meeting. Since the June meeting, Mr. Latipow indicated written requests had been forwarded asking the District Board of Health to consider items related to Emergency Medical Services (EMS), asking the Reno Fire Chief to consider dispatch-related items, and asking the Reno Fire Chief and the SFPD Fire Chief to consider the fire prevention items that were under their purview. He asked the Board to consider the items in the staff report as they pertained to the SFPD.

There was no public comment on this item.

On motion by Commissioner Weber, seconded by Commissioner Larkin, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that the staff report be accepted for Agenda Item 3.

10-54SF AGENDA ITEM 4

Agenda Subject: “Board direction regarding methodology and facilitation for community and stakeholder input and review of options for the operation of the Arrowcreek Fire Station and alternatives for the long-term future of the District.”

Fire Chief Michael Greene recalled previous Board direction to rework plans for the Arrowcreek Fire Station through the public input process, with forums to be held in the evening or on Saturdays. He noted there was a schedule outlined in the staff report to hold a facilitated series of community forums.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

Commissioner Larkin said he was fine with the proposed meetings related to operation of the Arrowcreek Fire Station. He indicated the long-term priorities for the District were a larger question that needed to be placed very carefully before the Joint Fire Advisory Board (JFAB) alongside other ongoing discussions. He requested delaying any discussion of long-term priorities until Chief Greene could get input from the JFAB and report back to the Board of Fire Commissioners.

Chairman Humke suggested the Board of Fire Commissioners could set some direction in concert with Chief Greene and then go out to the public process with a facilitator.

Commissioner Larkin requested an agenda item at the July 2010 JFAB meeting for Chief Greene to present his concepts on the alternatives for the long-term future of the SFPD, followed by an agenda item at the August 2010 Board of Fire Commissioners meeting for Chief Greene to report back on the JFAB discussion. He noted there was some dialogue going on at the JFAB meetings that might illuminate the issues.

On motion by Commissioner Larkin, seconded by Chairman Humke, which motion duly carried, staff was directed to proceed with the actions outlined in the staff report for seeking community input about options for the operation of the Arrowcreek Fire Station. It was further directed that Board discussion of alternatives for the long-term future of the Sierra Fire Protection District be delayed until August 2010, subject to the Fire Chief getting input from the Joint Fire Advisory Board and reporting back to the Board of Fire Commissioners.

10-55SF AGENDA ITEM 5

Agenda Subject: “Direction to staff regarding recovery of costs for emergency responses from negligent actors and insurance carriers.”

Chief Greene explained the agenda item was an extension of the Board’s action to pursue successful cost recovery after the Hawkens Fire. He indicated there was a national trend among fire service agencies with restricted tax revenues to look at billing for services. For example, insurance carriers could be billed for the cost of extrication from a vehicle after an accident or for costs associated with a back-country rescue operation. Chief Greene said he was looking for broad insights as to whether the Board would like him to further explore such a direction. He noted many of those who might require extrication after an auto accident were not taxpayers of the Sierra Fire Protection District (SFPD) but the SFPD would incur infrastructure costs to provide assistance. He observed many fire agencies in California and several rural fire districts had initiated or were moving toward such programs.

Chairman Humke referenced some of the legal analysis on page 14 of the staff report, which discussed the difference between a fee and a tax. A valid regulatory fee was defined as being designed to cover actual expense whereas a tax raised revenue for a general government purpose. He noted the agenda item referenced the institution of a valid regulatory fee. In the example of the Hawkens Fire, he recalled the Board had gone after a potentially responsible party after absolute liability was determined. He indicated a recently passed false alarm ordinance was designed to achieve greater compliance and reduce false alarms, which was also related to liability. Chairman Humke stated he would have trouble with any standard that singled people out based on out of area vehicle plates. He said he was not sure he wanted to tag people who were already paying taxes with another fee.

Commissioner Larkin observed all local municipalities continued to struggle with their tax bases and look for other revenues. He stated there was no question about extraordinary incidents or incidents where acts of negligence were involved, but thought municipalities would get into difficulty if they started charging for every incident. He said he subscribed to the free public service doctrine except in extraordinary cases like the Hawkens Fire. He agreed cost recovery was appropriate in cases where people engaged in extraordinarily hazardous behavior and had to be rescued. Commissioner Larkin discouraged the Board from going in the direction outlined in the staff report.

Commissioner Breternitz agreed with Commissioner Larkin. He thought the issue under discussion was completely different from the recent false alarm ordinance. He said he did not support the idea of establishing a menu of costs and charging for services performed by fire services personnel.

Chairman Humke pointed out one of the incidents cited on page 13 of the staff report involved arson. He noted such an intentional act was even more egregious

than the facts surrounding the Hawkens Fire. However, he observed there was plenty of law already in place to go after those types of perpetrators. Commissioner Larkin concurred there was already enough policy in place. He stated it was not necessary to bring anything else forward. Chief Greene agreed he would stay with the current policy.

There was no public comment and no action was taken on this item.

10-56SF AGENDA ITEM 6

Agenda Subject: “Award of design contract for the “Sierra Fire Protection District Station 40” Washoe County, Nevada to Smith Design Group [\$146,120], and if approved, authorize the Chairman to execute the contract documents, and authorize the Public Works Department to bid the project.”

Fire Chief Michael Greene indicated the design that was previously used to build stations in Sun Valley and Cold Springs would be used with some minor modifications to build Station 40 at Arrowcreek. He stated Smith Design Group had been the contractor on the two previous projects. He noted there were some design differences between the projects to accommodate the number of apparatus bays and requirements for sleeping quarters.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

Commissioner Breternitz expressed support for getting the design process underway, although he had not previously supported construction of the Station. He said the Smith Design Group was a good firm.

On motion by Commissioner Larkin, seconded by Chairman Humke, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that Agenda Item 6 be approved, authorized and executed.

10-57SF AGENDA ITEM 7

Agenda Subject: “Approve Interlocal Agreement between Washoe County and Sierra Fire Protection District for fuels reduction projects within four Washoe County Regional Parks and Open Space facilities: Crystal Peak Park, Davis Creek Regional Park, Hidden Valley regional Park, and Sun Valley Regional Park; and if approved, authorize Chairman to execute Agreement.”

Fire Chief Michael Greene indicated the fuels reduction projects were made possible by federal stimulus funds received by Washoe County Regional Parks and Open Space.

There was no public comment on this item.

On motion by Commissioner Larkin, seconded by Commissioner Breternitz, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that Agenda Item 7 be approved, authorized and executed. The Interlocal Agreement for same is attached hereto and made a part of the minutes thereof.

10-58SF AGENDA ITEM 8

Agenda Subject: “Authorize the Finance Director, as Acting Risk Manager, to renew the Property and Liability Insurance Policy for the Sierra Fire Protection District with the Nevada Public Agency Insurance Pool, effective July 1, 2010, for an annual premium of 483,159.49.”

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Larkin, seconded by Commissioner Weber, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that Agenda Item 8 be authorized and approved.

10-59SF AGENDA ITEM 9

Agenda Subject: “Recommendation to consider any objections to the adoption of the Resolution to lease a portion of (APN 049-312-22); and if supported; accept the Resolution and authorize the Chair to Execute the Land Lease by and between Washoe County (Lessor) and Sierra Fire Protection District (Lessee) for a ninety-nine (99) year term, to construct and operate a new District Fire Station. No fiscal impact. (Commission District 1)”

Fire Chief Michael Greene stated the new Arrowcreek Fire Station was to be constructed on the land to be leased from the County. He noted the Board of County Commissioners had already taken action to approve the land lease.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Chairman Humke, seconded by Commissioner Breternitz, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that Agenda Item 9 be accepted, authorized, executed, and approved.

10-60SF AGENDA ITEM 10

Agenda Subject: “Board discussion and possible acceptance of a Grant Award from the Department of Homeland Security, Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program in the amount of \$10,350 (\$1,150 match) to the Sierra Fire Protection District UTV Skid Mount Pump Project (Internal Order #19038) FY 10/11; and authorize purchase of the UTV skid mount pump unit from RKO Enterprises Custom Emergency Equipment Company in the amount of \$11,500; and direct the Finance Department to make the appropriate budget adjustments.”

Fire Chief Michael Greene said the Sierra Fire Protection District (SFPD) had a small UTV equipped with treads that allowed it to be used in the winter. Approval of the agenda item would allow the purchase of a small pump and tank that could be used for firefighting in remote areas.

Commissioner Larkin asked about the sole source justification form that was required by the Commissioners. Chief Greene said the SFPD followed the County purchasing process, but he was not sure if the form had been completed. He acknowledged he was aware of the requirement for a justification document and would follow up. Commissioner Larkin requested that justification forms be included with staff reports so the Board would know why a sole source provider was used.

Chairman Humke wondered whether the form was an absolute requirement or was based on a dollar threshold. Katy Simon, County Manager, indicated any amount required a sole source justification. However, she noted there might be sole source items that did not come before the Board because they fell below a certain dollar threshold. She pointed out the Board's action for the agenda item under discussion was also to accept the grant. She stated the purchase of the item would not normally come before the Board because it fell below the threshold amount.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Larkin, seconded by Chairman Humke, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that Agenda Item 10 be accepted, authorized and directed.

10-61SF AGENDA ITEM 11

Agenda Subject: "Board action on an agreement to share the proceeds of the sale of Arrowcreek developer Southwest Pointe Associates LLC donated property, APN No. 152-020-52, that was to have been used for a fire station."

Fire Chief Michael Greene said a developer had originally donated property and transferred the deed to the Sierra Fire Protection District (SFPD). The deed contained a reversion clause in the event that a fire station was not built by 2011. He indicated the proposed agreement was to jointly sell the property to avoid reversion and share the proceeds from the sale. He stated the agreement provided benefits for both parties.

Commissioner Breternitz questioned why the SFPD would accept a one-acre parcel for a fire station if one acre was too small to build a fire station. Chief Greene said he believed the decision to accept the property was made eight or nine years ago by the Nevada Department of Forestry.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Breternitz, seconded by Chairman Humke, which motion duly carried, Agenda Item 11 was approved.

10-62SF AGENDA ITEM 12

Agenda Subject: “Performance evaluation for the Sierra Fire Protection District’s Fire Chief, including (but not limited to) discussion of goals, objectives and results of Fire Chief.”

Chairman Humke disclosed a meeting he attended the previous day with Commissioner Weber, Fire Chief Michael Greene, and Human Resources Director Katey Fox to go over materials related to the performance evaluation. He said it was his understanding all of the materials had been forwarded to Chief Greene by Ms. Fox on Friday, July 9, 2010.

Ms. Fox outlined the evaluation process. With Chief Greene’s cooperation, she indicated 29 raters were invited by email on June 18, 2010 to participate in the performance evaluation survey. The survey closed on June 28th and the results were tabulated and presented to the County Manager and Chairman Humke. She said she shared the evaluation results with the Chief on July 9th and the meeting mentioned by Chairman Humke had taken place on July 12th. She pointed out each of the documents that were attached to the staff report, including a copy of the Chief’s 2006 employment agreement, a list of survey recipients, a summary of the evaluation results, and detailed evaluation results. Ms. Fox read from page 3 of Chief Greene’s employment agreement: “Each year prior to the anniversary date of employee, which shall be February 5, the Board of Directors shall review and evaluate employee’s performance.” She noted Chief Greene contacted Chairman Humke to discuss the process and an email discussion took place between the Chief, Chairman Humke and the County Manager about rating dimensions and those who would be invited to participate as raters in the evaluation survey.

Ms. Fox said the survey recipients included members of the Commission, some volunteer fire chiefs, some peers, some community representatives, some key County administrative staff, and the County Manager. The Chief was evaluated in five categories or rating dimensions, which included: leadership, problem solving and decision making, Board relations, community relations, and professional knowledge. She stated there had been 23 respondents out of the 29 raters who were invited to participate. In each category, raters were asked to evaluate whether the Chief exceeded expectations, met expectations, needed improvement, or whether they could not rate a particular category based on their role or relationship with the Chief. She observed evaluator ratings and comments were summarized in the staff report for each category of the rating dimensions. Ms. Fox noted there had been some confusion on the part of the evaluators about how to fill out a section of the survey related to Chief Greene’s stated goals for the next review period. Chief Greene’s stated goals included: completion of the Arrowcreek Fire Station, assistance with the negotiation of a sustainable labor agreement, effective

communication with the Board of Fire Commissioners, addressing current operational challenges (training, prevention, development of a new fire code, cost reimbursement, expansion of community outreach within existing financial constraints), and the development of long-term strategic goals. She indicated the evaluators were asked to identify strengths and development opportunities for the Chief in his role as the SFPD Fire Chief. Ms. Fox said the detailed survey results were attached to the staff report in addition to the summary, including definitions for the competencies in each of the rating dimensions.

Chairman Humke asked why the Chief's performance evaluation was conducted as a public process. Ms. Fox said the public process was recommended by legal counsel based on the Chief's employment agreement, statutory requirements, and the evaluation process that was in place for the County Manager. Chairman Humke questioned whether the selection of a list of raters and the five rating dimension categories was on par with any other fire chief or with the County Manager. Ms. Fox suggested it was on par with any Board appointees who were evaluated as part of a public process. She stated human resources best practices called for clear descriptions of the competencies required in a leadership position. Chairman Humke wondered if 23 respondents out of 29 raters would be considered a good response. Ms. Fox indicated the response was well above average.

In response to the call for public comment, County Clerk Amy Harvey submitted a letter from Donna Peterson, which was provided to the Board and placed on file with the Clerk.

Thomas Daly identified himself as a leader of the Estates at Mt. Rose Chapter of the Nevada Fire Safe Council. He stated he had worked with the Chief over the last four years on projects such as: fuels reduction for an area of over 200 acres, emergency evacuation drills, identification of emergency access and egress gates, and training of Chapter members to assist during emergencies. He noted he had not seen a fire chief who was more proactive about community outreach during his 40-year professional career. He said the community looked forward to working with Chief Greene in the future and recommended the Board renew his contract.

Sarah Thomas indicated the Arrowcreek residents looked to Chief Greene for leadership in resolving emergency response time problems for fire and medical services. She noted the Chief was accessible and worked diligently to resolve the community's problems. She stated the residents had benefited from fuels management, evacuation drills, CPR classes, and plans for a desperately needed Arrowcreek Fire Station, which would also create jobs. She said Chief Greene had great respect for his talented fire crews, who were very interactive with their neighborhoods. She indicated the Chief had what the community appreciated in its public servants and expected his retention.

Bob Ackerman placed a written copy of his comments on file with the Clerk. He thanked Chief Greene for his professionalism, leadership, and service. He

observed the Chief talked the talk, walked the walk, and made the life safety of the residents and firemen his main concern. He stated Washoe County was most fortunate to have the Chief, and many could learn from his performance.

George Thomas placed a written copy of his comments on file with the Clerk. He agreed with statements made by other Arrowcreek residents. He stated Chief Greene had fought to stabilize fire district funding. He noted the Chief kept paramedics on his first responder teams, which was particularly important in areas where the required ambulance response was either 15 minutes or best effort. He indicated Chief Greene had procured grant funds so that SFPD personnel could carry out fuels management projects adjacent to the Arrowcreek community. He said the community had no clearly defined emergency response plan and had not conducted emergency drills prior to the Chief's involvement.

L. J. Leovic, a Galena Forest resident, placed a written copy of his comments on file with the Clerk. Because of Chief Greene's leadership and example, he said the residents in the forested areas of the community knew their firefighters, had plans for orderly egress during a disaster, were familiar with the services available to them, and had access to classes in CPR, defensible space, fire safety, and the use of life-saving medical equipment. He remarked that the community could not ask for a more professional and dedicated public servant.

Sally Weichert of Galena Forest Estates pointed out the fuels management grant obtained by Chief Greene would help Washoe County to avoid the long-term risk of a wildland fire that could devastate the economy and the area. She observed the entire Country looked to the Chief's example of how a community could stand up and practice its evacuation procedures. Above all, she said the Chief listened to what the community had to say and tried to implement what the community needed. She stated she personally felt much safer knowing that Chief Greene was heading up the SFPD.

Diane Rose, a Galena Forest resident, placed a written copy of her comments on file with the Clerk. She listed many of Chief Greene's community projects, including: an evacuation drill that was being used as a successful national model, the use of citizen volunteers as defensible space inspectors, a grant-funded program to clean up dangerous fuels along the Mt. Rose corridor, and acquisition of a \$2.5 million federal grant to build the Arrowcreek Fire Station. She noted the Chief was currently working with citizens to develop a permanent staffing plan for the fire stations at Arrowcreek and St. James Village. She pointed out the Chief had recently obtained counseling for a family that was first to arrive on the scene of an unfortunate suicide. She expressed sincere thanks for a dedicated, knowledgeable, creative, and caring Fire Chief.

Robert Parker, Chair of the Galena-Steamboat Citizen Advisory Board (CAB), discussed a recent presentation of the Fire Adapted Communities program by the Nevada Cooperative Extension. He pointed out the SFPD was acknowledged as the State's best example of a fire adapted community. He noted the members of his CAB who were covered by the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) had stated:

“our fire department does not do any of that.” He suggested Chief Greene’s dedicated high performance team be used as a template for the rest of the County. He indicated the Chief treated the citizens like customers and the citizens wanted to keep his attitude.

Cliff Low, a resident of the west Washoe Valley area, indicated he lived within the TMFPD but hoped that would change at some point in time. He stated anything other than a positive outcome to the evaluation process would be a true injustice. He said he thought of Chief Greene as a true public servant.

Chief Greene said he appreciated the words of community support. He observed he worked with a great team that included employees, others in the County, and people in the community. He pointed out the Board had provided tools when it stabilized the District. He recalled Commissioner Larkin commenting to a leadership class that a once in a decade opportunity existed to impact the face of fire services in Washoe County. He stated he reported data as the Fire Chief, but it was the Commissioners who made policy by looking at the whole picture and determining the direction for the fire services. Chief Greene indicated the evaluation had been an eye opener for him and had given him an opportunity to reflect, particularly in the area of Board relations. He realized he had been remiss because three years had gone by before the evaluation process moved forward. He noted one of the things to come out of recent meetings was discussion about getting Board direction and translating it into definitive action. He acknowledged there had been conflict with neighborhood against neighborhood, but emphasized he wanted to be part of the team to find solutions rather than to create other problems or to place the Commissioners in uncomfortable spots. He said he was looking for Board direction about what was expected and how he could perform his job better.

Commissioner Larkin asked the Chief what he had done over the last three and a half years to stabilize the District and what he saw as the District’s future. Chief Greene replied the first year had been the most challenging in terms of understanding the law, reviewing and bringing various options to the Board, getting community input, and participating in the legislative changes that allowed conversion from an NRS 473 District to an NRS 474 District. He noted the SFPD was ultimately converted to a 474 District to provide financial stability, which resulted in an increase in the District’s tax rate. He listed other activities such as: identifying a long-term facilities plan, evaluating the condition of capital equipment, bringing some dysfunctional fleet apparatus up to speed, developing a DOT inspection program in cooperation with the County, looking at the relationship between the volunteer fire departments and the SFPD, working to build alternative roles for the volunteers (logistics and support), working on a volunteer contract and volunteer policies and procedures, looking at accountability and compliance, and developing neighborhood relations and partnerships that focused on prevention. Chief Greene indicated he had brought the SFPD to a place where it was a partner at the table and was positioned for the Board to make long-term policy decisions about its future. He stated he had developed training programs, policies and procedures to provide infrastructure within the fire department. In the face of financial challenges, he noted employees were redistributed to prioritize training and prevention programs. In looking back, he said it had been a very steep learning curve.

Commissioner Larkin agreed with the Chief's summation of his activities. He talked about Jack Welch, former CEO of General Electric, who had a controversial policy of cutting the bottom third of his organization every year. He suggested Chief Greene's evaluation placed him in the bottom third. Chief Greene replied his ratings were not what he had wanted to see but he did not see them as placing him in the bottom third. He noted his weakness with Board relations was a primary area that needed work. He said he was looking for the Board to say what they wanted accomplished in a given period of time so he could meet the expectations. He stated he would work with the County Manager to better translate the Board's direction and produce more successful outcomes.

Commissioner Larkin remarked the Chief had been given a daunting task from the beginning, one that was outside the comfort zone of a fire professional used to dealing with a straightforward fire department. He indicated the Chief had been successful in moving the District forward to a point but he was not sure if he was the right person to take it to the next step. He stated his mind was not yet made up and he looked forward to hearing what Chief Greene's development plan would be and how he would take the District to the next step. He observed the SFPD was financially stable in the short term but adjustments would have to be made in the long term. He noted the Joint Fire Advisory Board (JFAB) had been empowered to expand its role as the governing bodies throughout the region worked to stabilize fire services and make them sustainable. He hoped the Chief would have some vision and bring some thoughts forward with respect to that effort. He commented the Legislature had made the performance evaluation a public process and, although it was not fun, it was a very transparent process.

Chief Greene said it was his goal to bring the SFPD to a place where it could be integrated into some other kind of fire service. He used the term geographically challenged to describe the District's three stations being located so far apart and being impacted by the complexities of providing service to other entities. He agreed it was a big puzzle to address staffing, integration, and the revenue stream in order to provide a high level of service and stability. He acknowledged it was his job to bring the problem forward, work to get input from other parties, and recommend solutions so the Board could make policy decisions.

Among the seven or eight pages of survey comments, Chairman Humke stated there were some remarks aimed at the Board's supervision. He said it was difficult to be supervised by a legislative body. He noted one evaluator questioned why the Chief worked for "a Board of five individuals who spent 30 minutes a month on a Sierra Fire agenda." Chairman Humke pointed out he had personally spent several hours with the Chief, as had Commissioner Larkin, Commissioner Weber, County Manager Simon, and probably all of the Commissioners. He indicated he wished to look at the future, build on the strengths, and hear the Chief's remedy for some of the negative comments that turned up on the survey. He referenced the contract provision in which it was clearly the Chief's duty to give notice to the Board and say he was ready for his performance review. He

observed the Chief had not done that because he was busy building a District, fighting fires, and leading firefighters and paramedics. He asked the Chief how he would build for the future and would take care of some of the negative issues. Chief Greene said he would work with the County Manager to compile a list of the Board's expectations and measurement parameters, and would shorten the evaluation period so the Board could measure progress in the specific areas of Board relations and communication issues.

Commissioner Breternitz commented the Fire Chief had a tough job and had to please a lot of constituents as well as the Board. He suggested the Chief bring a written plan to the Board outlining how he would address negative comments in the evaluation to make each item better. He stated the Chief had supporters and detractors, but it was worth moving ahead to improve his performance. He indicated he knew of no better measure than to have the Chief outline what he was going to do so the Board could look back later and see whether he had done it or not.

Commissioner Jung said the three-year lag time in the Chief's review was unfortunate. Although it was not the best performance evaluation she had ever seen, she pointed out the Chief had been hired as a change agent. She noted a change agent's job was to ruffle feathers, create tension, and create the vision for a different direction. She stated the Chief had done a tremendous job in the area of community relations and the community was self reliant because of the Chief's involvement. She recalled the citizens had actually come in asking the Board to raise their taxes, which had made it easier for the Board to get some financial stability for the District. She observed the Chief had sometimes gotten too far ahead of the Board in terms of policy. Commissioner Jung said she had confidence the Board could get the Chief's feedback on how he would acknowledge and address the issues. She stated she had enjoyed working with Chief Greene and would do what she could to help put everyone on the same page.

Commissioner Weber noted the Chief had come a long way and brought other folks a long way. She indicated the survey comments were not as glowing as she would have liked, partially due to the three-year lag. She clarified it was the Chief's responsibility to come to the Board and make sure they went through the evaluation process. She pointed out the SFPD was not located in just one neighborhood or one area, and constituents in her Commission District had raised some issues. Although the Chief had worked through their concerns, the events were still part of the evaluation period. She stated there were areas that needed absolute improvement. She agreed with Commissioners Breternitz and Jung, and suggested a reevaluation should be planned prior to February 2011. She said that should provide some time for the Chief to put together a development plan that would include goals and objectives that were based on input from the County Manager, the Commission, and the Board's Legal Counsel.

Commissioner Weber made a motion, which was seconded by Chairman Humke for purposes of discussion.

Chairman Humke indicated the Chief's employment agreement had been executed in February 2007. He wondered if the motion needed to include anything

specific about compensation, or whether certain escalators were built in and modified by give backs due to the recession. Melanie Foster, Legal Counsel, advised that the Board was not noticed on the agenda to take action regarding compensation. Ms. Simon explained there were long-term collective bargaining agreements with the SFPD that specified some parity issues. Although Chief Greene was not subject to collective bargaining, she said he had been treated consistent with the battalion chiefs and would receive a raise effective July 1, 2010. She noted others in the County system were not receiving raises. Chairman Humke asked whether the Board should come back to approve an agreement at a subsequent meeting or could delegate authority to the County Manager and Human Resources to negotiate contract terms. Ms. Foster indicated the Board could delegate authority for staff to get the contract in order based on everything that had been discussed and bring it back to the Board for approval.

Commissioner Breternitz remarked this was another example of an extremely narrowly crafted agenda item that did not allow the Board to talk about salary, which was a routine part of any performance evaluation. Chairman Humke remarked that everyone else was taking a 3.5 percent pay cut in order to set an example. Ms. Foster observed it was Chief Greene's agenda and she was sure he would take Commissioner Breternitz's comments to heart.

Commissioner Larkin asked Chief Greene whether he understood and agreed with what was requested in the motion. Chief Greene said it was his understanding an action plan was to be developed and brought forward by August 2010, and used to set the parameters for his reevaluation that would take effect in February 2011. Commissioner Larkin clarified the action plan should be completed by August 1st.

Commissioner Larkin questioned whether the motion included Commissioner Breternitz's request for an action plan to remedy the specific points and comments made in the Chief's evaluation survey. Commissioner Weber said she thought the Chief understood the points that needed to be completed by August 1, 2010. Commissioner Larkin expressed concern about having an incomplete contract come back to the Board for ratification. Ms. Simon suggested she and Chief Greene and Ms. Fox would formulate the development plan together based on the points they read in the evaluation survey and bring it back to the Board for review. She stated it made sense for the Board to review the plan at the same time they reviewed the salary issue and discussed execution of the employment agreement, which was due for renewal on February 5, 2011. She noted completion of the development plan by August 1, 2010 would probably place it on the Board's August 24th agenda. Chief Greene agreed to accept those terms.

Chairman Humke said he would prefer to see each of the survey comments pulled out separately to establish specificity for the areas that Chief Greene needed to work on. He stated he did not want to tell Human Resources how to do their business but thought it would be acceptable to append the action plan to the employment agreement.

Commissioner Larkin indicated it was not appropriate to change horses at the current time and the Chief was on a very short leash. He stated it was not intended to be punitive but the ongoing negotiations with the various fire districts were delicate and went beyond one community to involve the entire Truckee Meadows area. He thanked Chief Greene for his poise and confidence, and for his service.

On motion by Commissioner Weber, seconded by Chairman Humke, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that Chief Greene's employment agreement be renewed until February 5, 2011, subject to the following conditions:

- The Chief was to work with the County Manager and the Human Resources Director to develop an action plan by August 1, 2010 and bring it back to the Board of Fire Commissioners for consideration.
- The action plan was to contain plans, goals and directions based on the specific points and comments in the Chief's 2010 performance evaluation survey.
- The County Manager and Human Resources Manager were authorized to negotiate if there were changes to the terms of the employment agreement.
- The modified employment agreement was to be brought back to the Board for consideration during a public meeting.
- The Chief's performance was to be reevaluated in January 2011.

10-63SF AGENDA ITEM 13

Agenda Subject: "Commissioner's/Managers announcements, requests for information, topics for future agendas and statements relating to items not on the agenda. (No discussion among Commissioners will take place on this item.)"

Commissioner Jung requested information about the Board's direct appointees, their evaluation history, and suggestions to ensure there was never again a three-year lag time in performance evaluations. Katy Simon, County Manager, explained she and Fire Chief Michael Greene were the only two direct reports. She indicated her performance evaluation was underway and had been done annually for each of the 13 years she had been in her position.

10-64SF AGENDA ITEM 14

Agenda Subject: "Public Comment and discussion thereon."

There was no response to the call for public comment.

* * * * *

1:21 p.m. There being no further business to come before the Board, on motion by Commissioner Larkin, seconded by Commissioner Weber, which motion duly carried, the meeting was adjourned.

DAVID E. HUMKE, Chairman
Sierra Fire Protection District

ATTEST:

AMY HARVEY, Washoe County Clerk
and Ex Officio Clerk, Sierra
Fire Protection District

*Minutes Prepared by:
Lisa McNeill, Deputy County Clerk*

RECEIVED

JUL 26 2010

INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN PUBLIC AGENCIES WASHOE COUNTY PARKS
& RECREATION DEPT.

An Agreement Between Washoe County, a Political Subdivision of the State of Nevada,
hereinafter "County",

Acting By and Through Its

Department of Regional Parks and Open Space
2601 Plumas Street
Reno, NV 89509

And, the Sierra Fire Protection District
Hereinafter SFPD

4000 Joy Lake Road
Reno, NV 89511

WHEREAS, it is deemed that the services hereinafter set forth are both necessary and
in the best interests of the parties;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the aforesaid premises, the parties mutually
agree as follows:

CONTRACT TERM. This Contract shall be effective for a period of two years from May 25,
2010 to May 25, 2012, or until this Agreement is terminated pursuant to the terms of this
agreement, whichever date shall first occur.

TERMINATION. This Contract may be terminated by either party prior to the date set forth
above, provided that a termination shall not be effective until 30 days after a party has
served written notice upon the other party. This Contract may be terminated by mutual
consent of both parties or unilaterally by either party without cause.

NOTICE. All notices or other communications required or permitted to be given under this
Contract shall be in writing and shall be deemed to have been duly given if delivered
personally in hand, by telephonic facsimile with simultaneous regular mail, or mailed
certified mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid on the date posted, and addressed
to the other party at the address set forth above.

INCORPORATED DOCUMENTS. The parties agree that the services to be performed shall
be specifically described; this Contract incorporates the following attachments:

ATTACHMENT A: SCOPE OF WORK (See Attachment A)

ATTACHMENT B: STANDARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS (See Attachment B)

BREACH; REMEDIES. Failure of either party to perform any obligation of this Contract
shall be deemed a breach. Except as otherwise provided for by law or this Contract, the
rights and remedies of the parties shall not be exclusive and are in addition to any other

#7

rights and remedies provided by law or equity, including but not limited to actual damages, and to a prevailing party reasonable attorneys' fees and costs.

LIMITED LIABILITY. The parties will not waive and intends to assert available NRS Chapter 41 liability limitations in all cases. Contract liability of both parties shall not be subject to punitive damages. To the extent applicable, actual contract damages for any breach shall be limited by NRS 354.626.

INDEMNIFICATION.

a. Consistent with the Limited Liability provision stated above, each party shall indemnify, hold harmless and defend, not excluding the other's right to participate, the other party from and against all liability, claims, actions, damages, losses, and expenses, including but not limited to reasonable attorneys' fees and costs, arising out of any alleged negligent or willful acts or omissions of the indemnifying party, its officers, employees and agents. Such obligation shall not be construed to negate, abridge, or otherwise exist as to any party or person, described in this paragraph.

FORCE MAJEURE. Neither party shall be deemed to be in violation of this Contract if it is prevented from performing any of its obligations hereunder due to strikes, failure of public transportation, civil or military authority, act of public enemy, accidents, fires, explosions, or acts of God, including, without limitation, earthquakes, floods, winds, or storms. In such an event the intervening cause must not be through the fault of the party asserting such an excuse, and the excused party is obligated to promptly perform in accordance with the terms of the Contract after the intervening cause ceases.

WAIVER OF BREACH. Failure to declare a breach or the actual waiver of any particular breach of the Contract or its material or nonmaterial terms by either party shall not operate as a waiver by such party of any of its rights or remedies as to any other breach.

SEVERABILITY. If any provision contained in this Contract is held to be unenforceable by a court of law or equity, this Contract shall be construed as if such provision did not exist and the nonenforceability of such provision shall not be held to render any other provision or provisions of this Contract unenforceable.

ASSIGNMENT. Neither party shall assign, transfer or delegate any rights, obligations or duties under this Contract without the prior written consent of the other party.

PUBLIC RECORDS. Pursuant to NRS 239.010, information or documents may be open to public inspection and copying. The parties will have the duty to disclose unless a particular record is made confidential by law or a common law balancing of interests.

CONFIDENTIALITY. Each party shall keep confidential all information, in whatever form, produced, prepared, observed or received by that party to the extent that such information is confidential by law or otherwise required by this Contract.

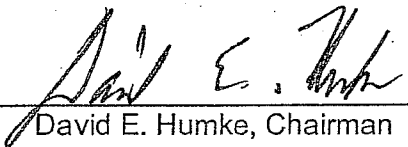
PROPER AUTHORITY. The parties hereto represent and warrant that the person executing this Contract on behalf of each party has full power and authority to enter into this Contract and that the parties are authorized by law to perform the service set forth in this agreement.

GOVERNING LAW; JURISDICTION. This Contract and the rights and obligations of the parties hereto shall be governed by, and construed according to, the laws of the State of Nevada. The parties consent to the jurisdiction of the Washoe County, Nevada district courts for enforcement of this Contract.

ENTIRE AGREEMENT AND MODIFICATION. This Contract and its integrated attachment(s) constitute the entire agreement of the parties and such are intended as a complete and exclusive statement of the promises, representations, negotiations, discussions, and other agreements that may have been made in connection with the subject matter hereof. Unless an integrated attachment to this Contract specifically displays a mutual intent to amend a particular part of this Contract, general conflicts in language between any such attachment and this Contract shall be construed consistent with the terms of this Contract. Unless otherwise expressly authorized by the terms of this Contract, no modification or amendment to this Contract shall be binding upon the parties unless the same is in writing and signed by the respective parties hereto, approved by Washoe County's legal advisor.

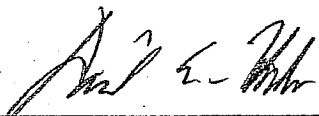
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this agreement to be executed on the day and year first above written.

WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA
Acting by and through its
Board of County Commissioners

By: 
David E. Humke, Chairman

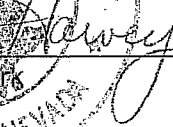
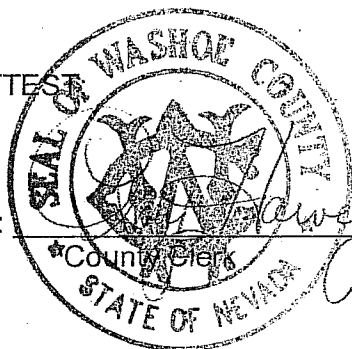
Date: 7/13/10

Sierra Fire Protection District
Acting by and through its
Board of Fire Commissioners

By: 
David E. Humke, Chairman

Date: 7/13/10

ATTEST

By: 

Seal of Washoe County, Nevada
*County Clerk

Date: July 13, 2010

ATTACHMENT A
SCOPE OF WORK

1. Responsibilities of the Parties: In accordance with mutual objectives to reduce the risk of catastrophic loss due to wildfire, the parties to this agreement will:

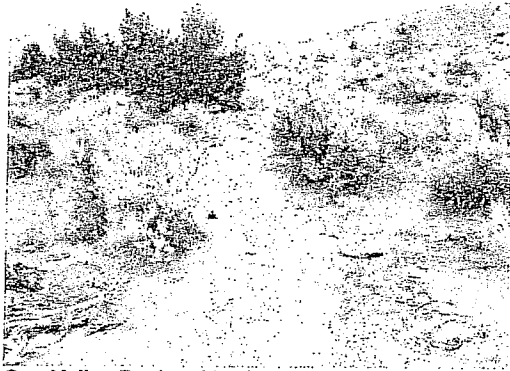
- A. SFPD will conduct fuels reduction projects within four Washoe County Park facilities: Crystal Peak Park, Davis Creek Regional Park, Hidden Valley Regional Park and Sun Valley Regional Park. The primary goal of these projects is employment for the removal of excess brush, ladder fuels and timber in accordance with the *Washoe County Risk Hazard Assessment* (RCI 2005). Properties designated for treatment are delineated in conditions attached hereto as Attachment B to this agreement.
- B. SFPD will advertise for and hire a minimum of 10 employees to be supervised by SFPD, whose duties will include reducing hazardous fuels on each site, aimed at minimizing the fire spread and intensity into or out of the park and reducing the threat to the residents of the community.
- C. SFPD will provide managerial needs including ARRA quarterly reporting, and invoicing, tracking of employee work hours, tracking of acreage treated, and estimates of biomass removed, as measured in tons.
- D. SFPD maintain worker's compensation insurances as well as general liability insurance of at least \$1 million.
- E. SFPD agrees to adhere to the additional standard terms and conditions attached hereto as Attachment B to this agreement.
- F. Washoe County Dept. of Regional Parks & Open Space will provide grant oversight, including reports to the granting source.

2. Funding:

- A. It is understood that the duties and responsibilities outlined above are American Recovery and Reinvestment Act 2009 grant funded through a grant written, submitted, and administered by Washoe County Dept. of Regional Parks & Open Space.
- B. Funding for II(A) above is limited to a maximum of \$211,470.00 allocated as follows: \$6,000.00 Crystal Peak Park, \$128,000.00 Davis Creek Regional Park, \$16,470.00 Hidden Valley Regional Park and \$61,000.00 Sun Valley Regional Park.

Attachment B
Standard Terms & Conditions

Washoe County Open Space Fuels Reduction Project
Project # WFM-0460-14HFE



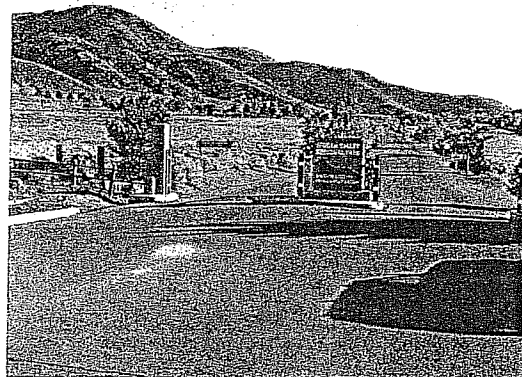
Sun Valley Regional Park



Davis Creek Regional Park

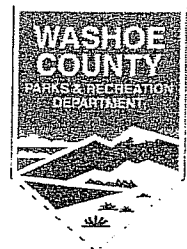
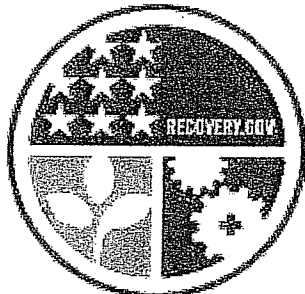


Crystal Peak Park



Hidden Valley Regional Park

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009
USDA Forest Service & Nevada Department of Agriculture



NARRATIVE STATEMENT:

The threat and severity of wildland fires has increased in the Urban Interface regions of Washoe County in large part due to the lack of available funding for fuels reduction work. In the late 1800's the Sierra Front forests were logged to provide lumber for mining operations, new town sites and subsequent heating of those structures. Nevada forests have evolved with fire. The native Indian populations would utilize fire to clean the brush in the understory of the forest, providing an open park like quality.

However, fire suppression along with past forest harvesting have led to the dramatic build up of forest fuel, causing more intense wildfires that are more difficult to manage and prevent. The intensity of wildfires occurring in Washoe County threatens both homes and the environment, degrading watersheds and wildlife habitat.

The trend of increasing fuel loading and fire intensity is occurring in Washoe County at the same time as the population is increasing. With encroaching development, wildland fires have devastated both homes and open space.

These trends taken together indicate an increased risk of severe wildfire to a growing population. There are steps that can be taken to reduce this risk. Fuel treatment techniques for four separate projects within Washoe County will successfully limit the extent and intensity of wildfires.

Hazardous fuel reduction to clear and remove vegetation will both protect residents and improve forest health.

The project will include:

- Crystal Peak Park Fuels Reduction Plan
- Davis Creek Park Fuels Reduction Plan
- Hidden Valley Regional Park & Open Space Fuels Reduction Plan
- Sun Valley Regional Park & Open Space Fuels Reduction Plan

I. DESCRIPTION:

Why Federal Funds?

Federal Stimulus Funds are necessary to assist the local Washoe County government in creating jobs in a region of the country that has sky rocketing unemployment rates (11%) and decreasing tax revenues for county programs including operating and maintenance.

Fire suppression, along with past forest harvesting have led to the dramatic build up of forest fuel, causing more intense wildfires that are more difficult to manage and prevent. The intensity of wildfires occurring in Washoe County

threatens both homes and the environment, degrading watersheds and wildlife habitat.

Hazardous fuel reduction to clear and remove vegetation will both protect residents and improve forest health.

THE FEDERAL FUNDS WILL BE USED TO:

- **Description of the specific activities**

Washoe County will utilize federal funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to implement four fuels reduction plans in:

- Crystal Peak Park
- Davis Creek Regional Park
- Hidden Valley Regional Park
- Sun Valley Regional Park

Crystal Peak Park Fuel Reduction Plan

Project Description:

Crystal Peak Park Fuel Reduction Project involves the removal and thinning of dead and diseased Cottonwood trees along the Truckee River within the community of Verdi. The general treatment will include cutting, chipping and removal of Cottonwood trees and brush using hand crews.

The purpose of this project is to reduce hazardous fuel loading surrounding the community of Verdi. The vegetation type is Cottonwood with understory brush component.

The treatment will focus on removal of dead Cottonwood trees, and improving the stand health by targeting diseased trees. Hand brush removal will also be done.

Project Location and Access

The Project area is located in the Sierra Fire Protection District in Verdi. See map of the project area and access locations.

Purpose of Fuels Reduction Project

1. Increase Firefighter and public safety by reducing the intensity of a wildland interface fire.
2. Reduce hazardous fuels located within the Crystal Peak Park. Fuel reduction on this site is aimed at slowing the movement of wild fire into or out of the open space and reducing the threat to the residents of the community.

3. Improve safety of public by removing dead and hazardous Cottonwood trees.
4. Fuels reduction will reduce wildfire by:
 - Reducing fuel load to increase forest health
 - Reducing brush continuity to reduce wildfire spread
 - Reduce dead Cottonwood stands to minimize fire intensity and spread.

Proposed Activities

- Remove all dead and diseased Cottonwood trees.
- Remove all dead and approximately 75% of the live brush within the project site.
- Brush and slash that is removed by hand shall be piled for burning, masticated and/or chipped back on the slope to reduce erosion.

Fuel Reduction Project Plan

1. Remove Cottonwood trees.
2. Cut only marked trees.
3. Remove all dead trees within treatment area.
4. All cut wood to be removed from site for disposal.
5. Remove all dead brush.
6. Remove approximately 75% of live brush.
7. Remove all brush within 10' of any fence.
8. Hand Crews to remove trees and brush within drainage areas.
9. Stack hand cut material from inaccessible areas for later prescribe pile burn.
10. Prescribe pile burn to meet SFPD Burn Plan and Washoe County Air Quality requirements.
11. Leave grasses, perennial forbs, and ground cover shrubs in place whenever possible.
12. Minimize soil disturbance when using mastication equipment.
13. All service vehicles to stay on existing roads and trails.

Davis Creek Park Fuel Reduction Plan

Project Description:

Davis Creek Park Fuel Reduction Project involves the removal and thinning of brush and pine trees to create a shaded fuel break between the County Park and the private development located within the community of West Washoe Valley. The treatment area is approximately 80 acres of Washoe County Open Space which is moderately sloped forest land. The general treatment will include cutting, chipping and removal of Jeffery Pine trees and brush using mechanical mastication equipment, hand crews and prescribed pile burning.

The purpose of this project is to reduce the native fuels surrounding the community of West Washoe Valley. The vegetation type is Jeffery Pine Forest with understory brush component. The treatment will focus on thinning Jeffery Pine trees, removing suppressed trees, and improving the stand health by targeting diseased trees. Mastication will treat the slash, brush fields and the ground fuels.

Project Location and Access

The Project area is located in the Sierra Fire Protection District in West Washoe Valley. See map of the project area and access locations.

Purpose of Fuels Reduction Project

1. Increase Firefighter and public safety by reducing the intensity of a wildland interface fire.
2. Reduce hazardous fuels located within the Davis Creek Park. Fuel reduction on this site is aimed at slowing the movement of wild fire into or out of the open space and reducing the threat to the residents of the community.
3. Improve access for fire apparatus and personnel into and out of the open space.
4. Fuels reduction will reduce wild fire by:
 - Reducing Jeffery Pine tree stands to minimize fire spread and intensity
 - Reducing brush continuity to minimize fire spread and intensity.
 - Reducing fuel load to improve forest health.

Proposed activities

1. Thin Jeffery Pine trees to a maximum of 120 basal area.
2. Remove all dead and approximately 75% of the live brush within the project site.
3. Mechanical equipment to masticate brush and slash.
4. Brush and slash that is removed by hand shall be piled for burning, masticated and/or chipped back on the slope to reduce erosion.

Fuel Reduction Project Plan

1. Thin Jeffery Pine trees to a maximum of 120 basal area.
2. Cut only marked trees.
3. Remove all dead trees within treatment area.
4. All cut wood to be removed from site for disposal.
5. Remove all dead brush.
6. Remove approximately 75% of live brush.
7. Remove all brush within 10' of any fence.
8. Mastication equipment to be use in open space areas with slope less then 30%.

9. Hand Crews to remove trees and brush within drainage areas that are inaccessible with mechanical mastication equipment.
10. Stack hand cut material from inaccessible areas for later prescribe pile burn.
11. Prescribe pile burn to meet SFPD Burn Plan and Washoe County Air Quality requirements.
12. Leave grasses, perennial forbs, and ground cover shrubs in place whenever possible.
13. Minimize soil disturbance when using mastication equipment.
14. All service vehicles to stay on existing roads and trails.

Hidden Valley Regional Park Fuel Reduction Plan

Project Description:

Hidden Valley Regional Park and Open Space Fuels Reduction Project involves the removal and thinning of brush to create a shaded fuel break between the County Open Space and the private development located within the community of Hidden Valley. The treatment area is approximately 27 acres of Washoe County Open Space which is moderately sloped range land. The general treatment will include removal of brush using mechanical mastication equipment.

The purpose of this project is to reduce the native fuels surrounding the community of Hidden Valley. The vegetation type is sage brush.

The treatment will focus removing approximately 75% of the sage brush within the proposed 27 acre treatment area.

Project Location and Access

The Project area is located in the Truckee Meadow Fire Protection District to the east of the community of Hidden Valley within Hidden Valley Regional Park and Open Space. See map of the project area and access locations.

Purpose of Fuels Reduction Project

1. Increase Firefighter and public safety by reducing the intensity of a wildland interface fire.
2. Reduce hazardous fuels located within the Hidden Valley Regional Park and open space. Fuel reduction on this site is aimed at slowing the movement of wild fire into or out of the open space and reducing the threat to the residents of the community.
3. Improve access for fire apparatus and personnel into and out of the open space.
4. Fuels reduction will reduce wild fire by:
 - Reducing brush continuity to minimize fire spread and intensity.
 - Reducing fuel load to improve rangeland health.

Proposed activities

1. Remove all dead and approximately 75% of the live brush within the project site.
2. Mechanical equipment to masticate brush.

Project Plan

Fuel Reduction Project Plan

1. Remove approximately 75% of live brush.
2. Remove all dead brush
3. Remove all brush within 10' of any fence.
4. Mastication equipment to be used in open space areas with slope less than 30%.
5. Leave grasses, perennial forbs, and ground cover shrubs in place whenever possible.
6. Minimize soil disturbance when using mastication equipment.
7. All support vehicles to stay on existing roads and trails.

Sun Valley Regional Park Fuel Reduction Plan

Project Description:

Sun Valley Regional Park and Open Space Fuel Reduction Project involves the removal and thinning of brush and juniper trees to create a shaded fuel break between the County Park and the private development located within the community of Sun Valley. The treatment area is approximately 100 acres of Washoe County Open Space which is moderately sloped forest land. The general treatment will include cutting, chipping and removal of juniper trees and brush using mechanical mastication equipment, hand crews and prescribed pile burning.

The purpose of this project is to reduce the native fuels surrounding the community of Sun Valley. The vegetation type is Utah Juniper Forest with understory brush component.

The treatment will focus on thinning Juniper trees, removing suppressed trees, and improving the stand health by targeting diseased trees. Mastication will treat the slash, brush fields and the ground fuels.

Project Location and Access

The Project area is located in the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District. See map of the project area and access locations.

Purpose of Fuels Reduction Project

1. Increase Firefighter and public safety by reducing the intensity of a wildland interface fire.
2. Reduce hazardous fuels located within the Sun Valley Regional Park. Fuel reduction on this site is aimed at slowing the movement of wild fire into or out of the open space and reducing the threat to the residents.
3. Improve access for fire apparatus and personnel into and out of the open space.
4. Fuels reduction will reduce wild fire by:
 - Reducing juniper tree stands to minimize fire spread and intensity
 - Reducing brush continuity to minimize fire spread and intensity.
 - Reducing fuel load to improve forest health.

Proposed activities

1. Thin Juniper trees to a minimum spacing of 18' to 20' between mature trees.
2. Remove all dead and approximately 75% of the live brush within the project site.
3. Mechanical equipment to masticate brush and slash.
4. Brush and slash that is removed by hand shall be piled for burning, masticated and/or chipped back on the slope to reduce erosion.

Project Plan

Fuel Reduction Project Plan

1. Thin Juniper trees to a minimum spacing of 18' to 20' between mature trees.
2. Cut only marked trees.
3. Remove all dead trees within treatment area.
4. All cut wood to be removed from site for disposal.
5. Remove all dead brush.
6. Remove approximately 75% of live brush.
7. Remove all brush within 10' of any fence.
8. Mastication equipment to be use in open space areas with slope less then 30%.
9. Hand Crews to remove trees and brush within drainage areas that are inaccessible with mechanical mastication equipment.
10. Stack hand cut material from inaccessible areas for later prescribe pile burn.
11. Prescribe pile burn to meet SFPD Burn Plan and Washoe County Air Quality requirements.
12. Leave grasses, perennial forbs, and ground cover shrubs in place whenever possible.
13. Minimize soil disturbance when using mastication equipment.
14. All service vehicles to stay on existing roads and trails.

- **Key personnel:**
 - Janet Valle, U.S. Forest Service, Region One & Four, Weed Grant Coordinator
 - Doug Sorenson, U.S. Forest Service, Region Four
 - Scott Marsh, NV. Department of Agriculture, Noxious Weeds Program Coordinator
 - Sue Donaldson, Water Quality Education Specialist, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension
 - Steve Siegel, Wildlife Staff Specialist, Nevada Department of Wildlife
 - Ginny Wilson, District Ranger, Carson Ranger District, Humboldt Toiyabe National Forest
 - Chris McAlear, District Manager, Carson District, Bureau of Land Management
 - Nevada Mule Deer Foundation
 - Bighorns Unlimited
 - Perry Norris, Executive Director, Truckee-Donner Land Trust
 - Susan Urie, Botanist, Tahoe National Forest

- **Key staff members:**
 - Katy Simon, Washoe County Manager
 - David Childs, Assistant County Manager
 - Kurt Latipow, Fire Services Coordinator, Washoe County
 - Mike Heikka, Battalion Chief, Sierra Fire Protection District
 - Doug Doolittle, Director, Washoe County Regional Parks & Open Space
 - Lynda S. Nelson, Planning Manager, Washoe County Regional Parks & Open Space. Stimulus Funds Project Manager
 - Cheryl S. Surface, Park Planner, Washoe County Regional Parks & Open Space, Stimulus Funds Project Coordinator
 - Rosemarie Entsminger, Fiscal Compliance Officer, Washoe County Regional Parks & Open Space, Stimulus Funds Fiscal Compliance

- **Organization's board members:**
 - Washoe County Board of County Commission
 - Chairman David E. Humke
 - Commissioner Bonnie Weber
 - Commissioner John Breternitz
 - Commissioner Robert M. Larkin
 - Commissioner Kitty Jung

 - Washoe County Open Space & Regional Park Commission
 - Clifton J. Young, Chairman
 - Robert Jacobson, Vice Chair
 - Anne Buckley
 - Sarah Chvilicek
 - Jakki Ford
 - Ed Harney

- Patty Moen
- James Nadeau
- Bill von Phul

- **Government planning office**

- Washoe County Regional Parks & Open Space Department
2601 Plumas St.
Reno, NV 89509
Phone: (775) 823-6511 Fax: (775) 829-8014
Attn: Lynda S. Nelson, Planning Manager

II. FEDERAL ROLE:

STATEMENT OF NEED:

The threat and severity of wildland fires has increased in the Urban Interface regions of Washoe County in large part from a lack of available funding for fuels reduction work. The trend of increasing fuel loading and fire intensity is occurring in Washoe County at the same time as the population is increasing. With encroaching development, wildland fires have devastated both homes and open space.

These trends taken together indicate an increased risk of severe wildfire to a growing population. There are steps that can be taken to reduce this risk. Fuel treatment techniques for four separate projects within Washoe County will successfully limit the extent and intensity of wildfires.

Hazardous fuel reduction to clear and remove vegetation will both protect residents and improve forest health.

PROBLEM STATEMENT:

Fire suppression, along with past forest harvesting have led to the dramatic build up of forest fuel, causing more intense wildfires that are more difficult to manage and prevent. The intensity of wildfires occurring in Washoe County threatens both homes and the environment, degrading watersheds and wildlife habitat.

PROGRAM GOALS:

1. Gear fuel reduction methodology to create maximum number of jobs.
2. Increase Firefighter and public safety by reducing the intensity of a wildland interface fire.
3. Reduce hazardous fuels located within four Washoe County Park facilities. Fuel reduction on sites is aimed at slowing the movement of wild fire into or out of the open space and reducing the threat to the residents of the community.

4. Improve access for fire apparatus and personnel into and out of the open space.
5. Increase Ecosystem Functionality and Wildlife Habitat
6. Fuels reduction will reduce wild fire by:
 - a. Reducing Jeffery Pine tree stands to minimize fire spread and intensity
 - b. Reducing brush continuity to minimize fire spread and intensity.
 - c. Reducing fuel load to improve forest health.
 - d. Reducing juniper tree stands to minimize fire spread and intensity

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:

Washoe County proposes to hire Sierra Fire Protection District to develop fuel reduction plans for four project areas within Washoe County Regional Parks and Open Space. Washoe County will target these four areas that fit one of the following categories for restoration efforts:

Main Objectives:

Employ maximum number of people

Develop fuel reduction plans for project areas to include:

- Fuel Reduction
- Defensible Space & Fuel Management Plan
- Increase Firefighter and Public safety.
- Increase Ecosystem Functionality and Wildlife Habitat

III. METHODOLOGY

FUEL REDUCTION PLAN:

Crystal Peak Park:

The treatment area is approximately 1 acre of Washoe County Open Space which is Cottonwood adjacent to the Truckee River. The general treatment will include cutting, chipping and removal of dead and diseased Cottonwood and brush using hand crews.

The purpose of this project is to reduce the fuel loading and hazardous trees surrounding the community of Verdi. The vegetation type is riparian Cottonwood with understory brush component.

The treatment will focus on removal of dead Cottonwood trees, and improving the stand health by health by targeting diseased trees.

Davis Creek Regional Park:

The treatment area is approximately 80 acres of Washoe County Open Space which is moderately sloped forest land. The general treatment will include

cutting, chipping and removal of Jeffery Pine trees and brush using mechanical mastication equipment, hand crews and prescribed pile burning.

The purpose of this project is to reduce the native fuels surrounding the community of West Washoe Valley. The vegetation type is Jeffery Pine Forest with understory brush component.

The treatment will focus on thinning Jeffery Pine trees, removing suppressed trees, and improving the stand health by targeting diseased trees. Mastication will treat the slash, brush fields and the ground fuels.

Hidden Valley Regional Park:

The treatment area is approximately 27 acres of Washoe County Open Space which is moderately sloped range land. The general treatment will include removal of brush using mechanical mastication equipment.

The purpose of this project is to reduce the native fuels surrounding the community of Hidden Valley. The vegetation type is sage brush. The treatment will focus removing approximately 75% of the sage brush within the proposed 27 acre treatment area.

Sun Valley Regional Park:

The treatment area is approximately 100 acres of Washoe County Open Space which is moderately sloped forest land. The general treatment will include cutting, chipping and removal of juniper trees and brush using mechanical mastication equipment, hand crews and prescribed pile burning.

The purpose of this project is to reduce the native fuels surrounding the community of Sun Valley. The vegetation type is Juniper Pine Forest with understory brush component.

The treatment will focus on thinning Juniper trees, removing suppressed trees, and improving the stand health by targeting diseased trees. Mastication will treat the slash, brush fields and the ground fuels.

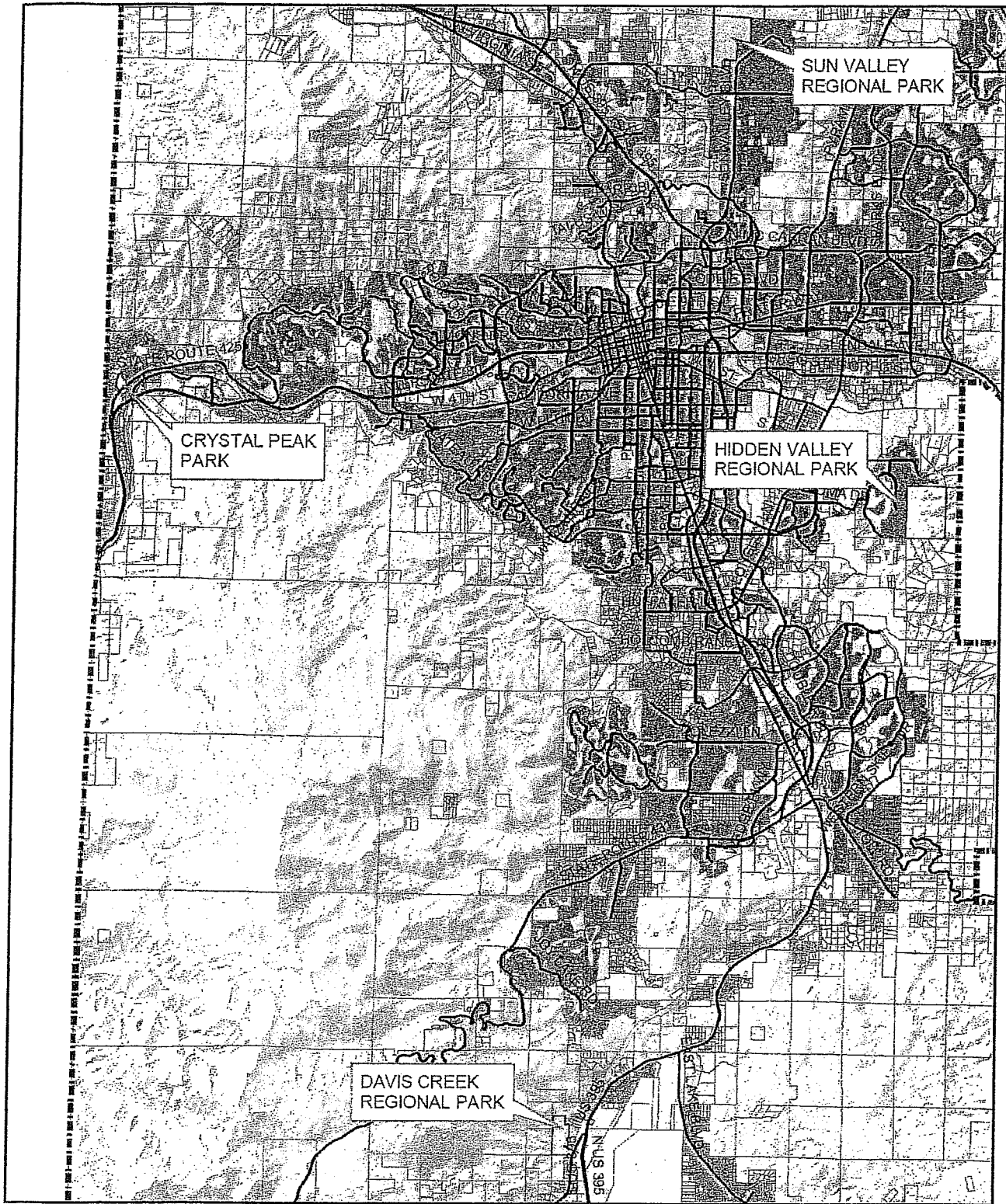
IV. ACCOMPLISHMENT

- The **outcome** or targets to be achieved:

The outcome or targets (success criteria) for the project will be established based on site specific characteristics such as species composition, current vegetation cover and amount of fuels reduction work accomplished to meet desired prescription parameters. Targets will be outlined for each unique site and reported on annually as part of the monitoring plan.

The monitoring plan will address establishing permanent photo points that will be GPS'd for before and after photo documentation of the site.

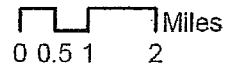
An annual monitoring report will be written based on the results of the annual field monitoring of the site. Based on the results of the current years monitoring effort additional fuel reduction work may be required.



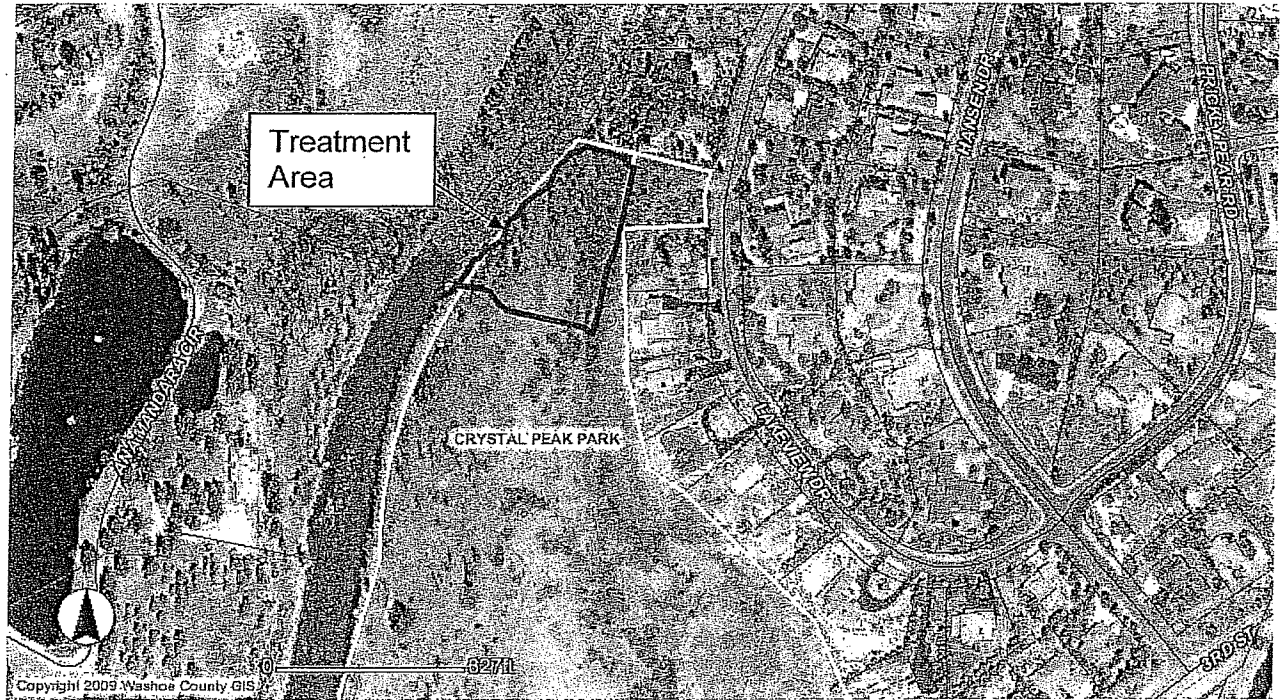
Washoe County Department of
 Regional Parks and Open Space
 2601 Plumas St.
 Reno, NV 89509
 (775) 823-6500



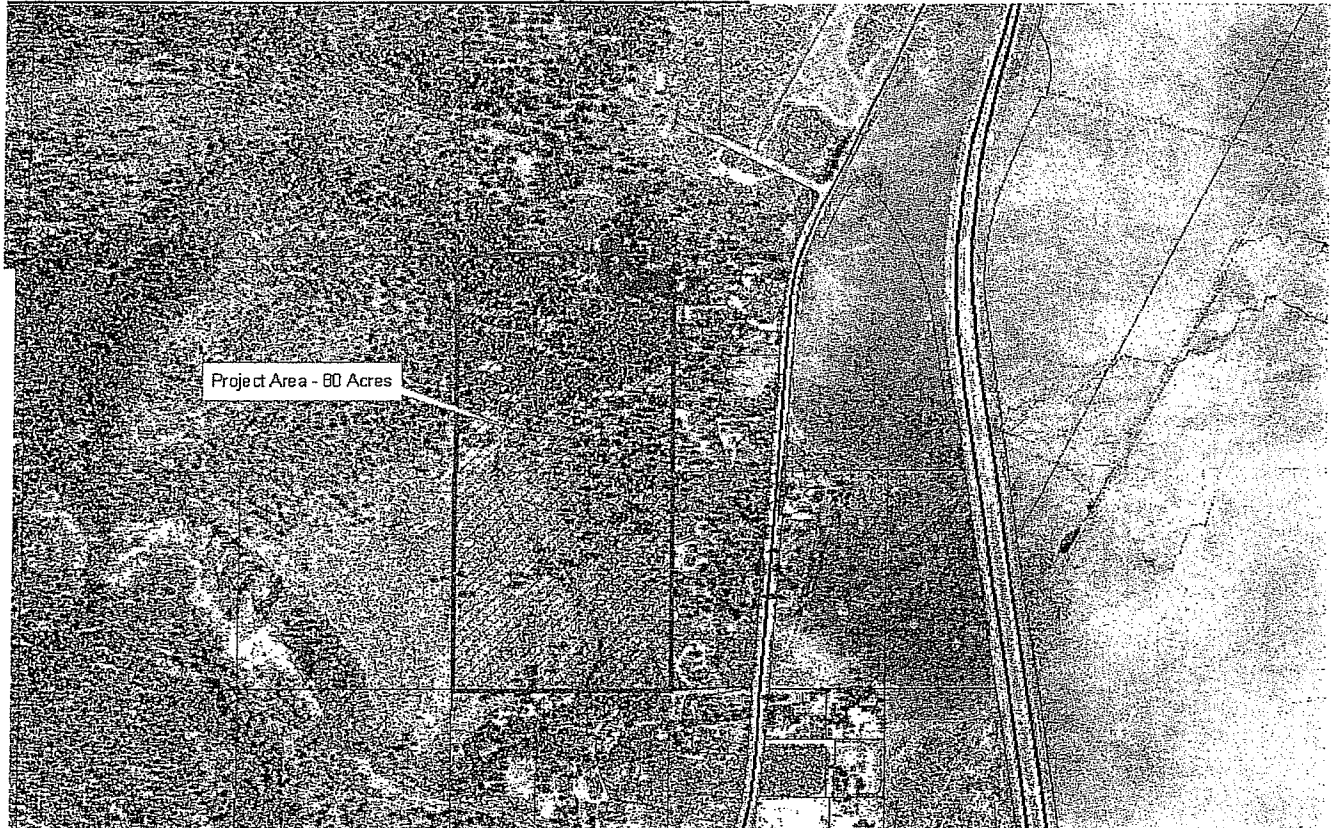
WASHOE COUNTY OPEN SPACE
 FUELS REDUCTION PROJECTS



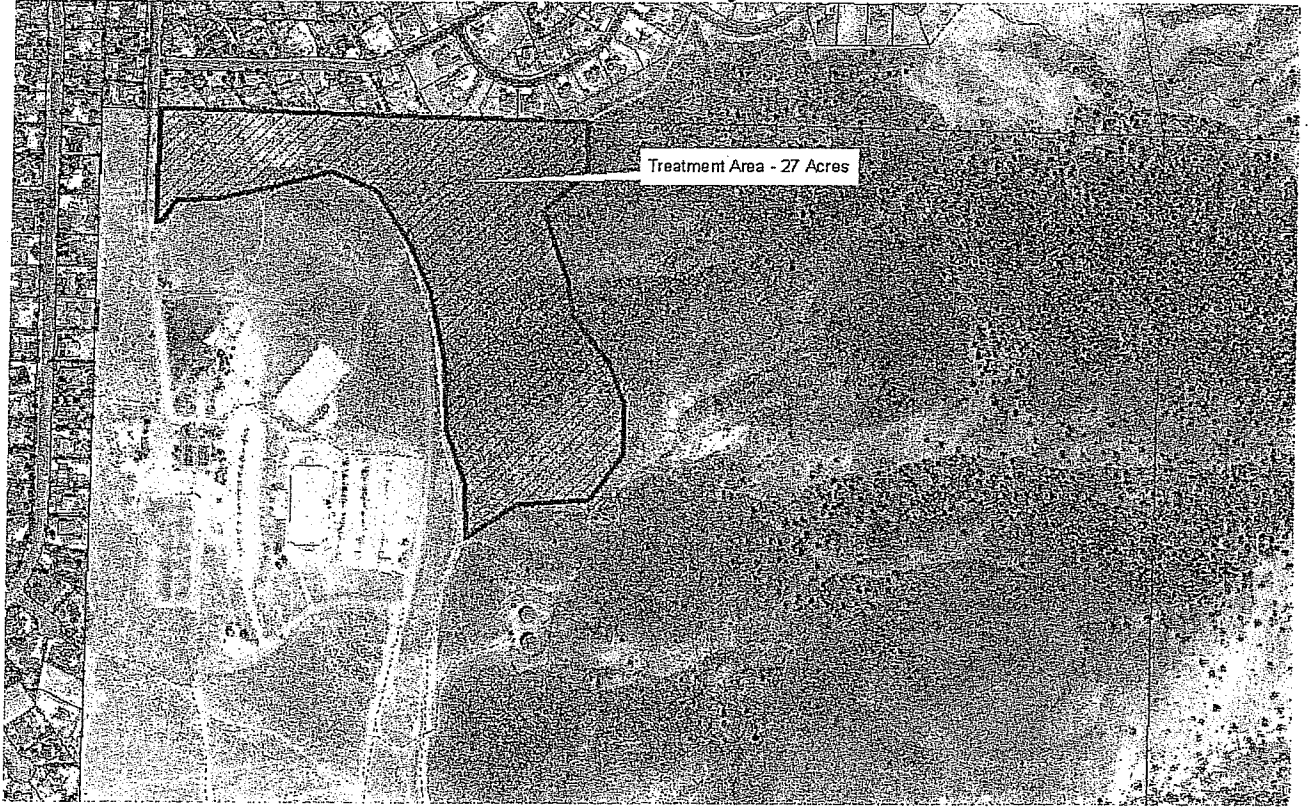
Crystal Peak Park Fuel Reduction Project



Davis Creek Park Fuel Reduction Project Location



Hidden Valley Regional Park Fuel Reduction Project Location



Sun Valley Regional Park Fuel Reduction Project Location

