ALPINE SPRINGS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

Directors: Albert Clement, Kurt Gooding, Janet S. Grant, Evan Salke, Christine York
General Manager: Joe Mueller

PUBLIC NOTICE

Park, Recreation, and Greenbelt Committee
Alpine Springs County Water District

Date: Monday June 22, 2026
Location: District Office, Board Room
270 Alpine Meadows Road
Time: 4:00 pm

Members:

Christine York, District Director, Chair
Kurt Gooding, District Director
Joe Mueller, General Manager
Ingrid Bourke, Member
Michael Cadra, Member
Felicia Cole, Member
Don Fulda, Member
Ursula Hirsbrunner, Member
Lisa Peck, Member
Janice Ganong, Member

AGENDA

NOTE: IF YOU NEED A DISABILITY-RELATED MODIFICATION OR ACCOMMODATION, INCLUDING AUXILIARY AIDS OR SERVICES, TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS MEETING, PLEASE CONTACT THE DISTRICT OFFICE AT THE TELEPHONE NUMBER AND ADDRESS LISTED BELOW PRIOR TO THE MEETING.

A ZOOM broadcast is provided when available through the following link. No public participation or comment is provided through ZOOM.

ZOOM: At the specified time, 4:00 p.m., connect to ZOOM Mtg. ID: 827 2122 2105; Passcode: 398259. Please mute yourself unless you are speaking. Times listed are approximate.

Join Zoom Meeting:
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82721222105?pwd=HZ4tn5WqZEuoP3kRxjT9iHHRybu8be.1

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

   It is the policy of the Alpine Springs County Water District to give the public the opportunity to address any item of interest, related to the Committee's activities, at this time. No action can be taken on items addressed under Public Comment that are not on the agenda. Individual public participation will be limited to five minutes in duration

   If a member of the public wishes to address the Committee on an agendized item after consideration by the Committee, but prior to a vote, the individual should raise his/her hand to be recognized by the Chair of the Committee.

3. **ITEMS FOR COMMITTEE DISCUSSION & ACTION**

   a. Recap of April 10, 2026, ASCWD Board of Directors presentation on the Nevada and Placer Cooperative Landscape Resilience Project and the Alpine Meadows Forest Health Project which had been presented by April Shackelford, Forest Fuels Manager with NTFPD.

b. Discuss potential long-term strategies and support activities the district can implement to address defensible space needs of the remaining district greenbelt lands not included as part of the current treatment planned areas (specifically greenbelt along Bear creek)

4. MEMBERS' COMMENTS

In accordance with Government Code Section 54954.2(a), Committee members may make brief announcements or brief reports on their own activities. They may ask questions for clarification, make a referral to staff or take action to have staff place a matter of business on a future agenda.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Agenda items may or may not be taken in the order sequence presented above.

I certify that on or before [Thursday, June 18, 2026 at 4:00 pm), I personally posted this agenda as required.

Laurie Axell
Laurie Axell, Office Manager

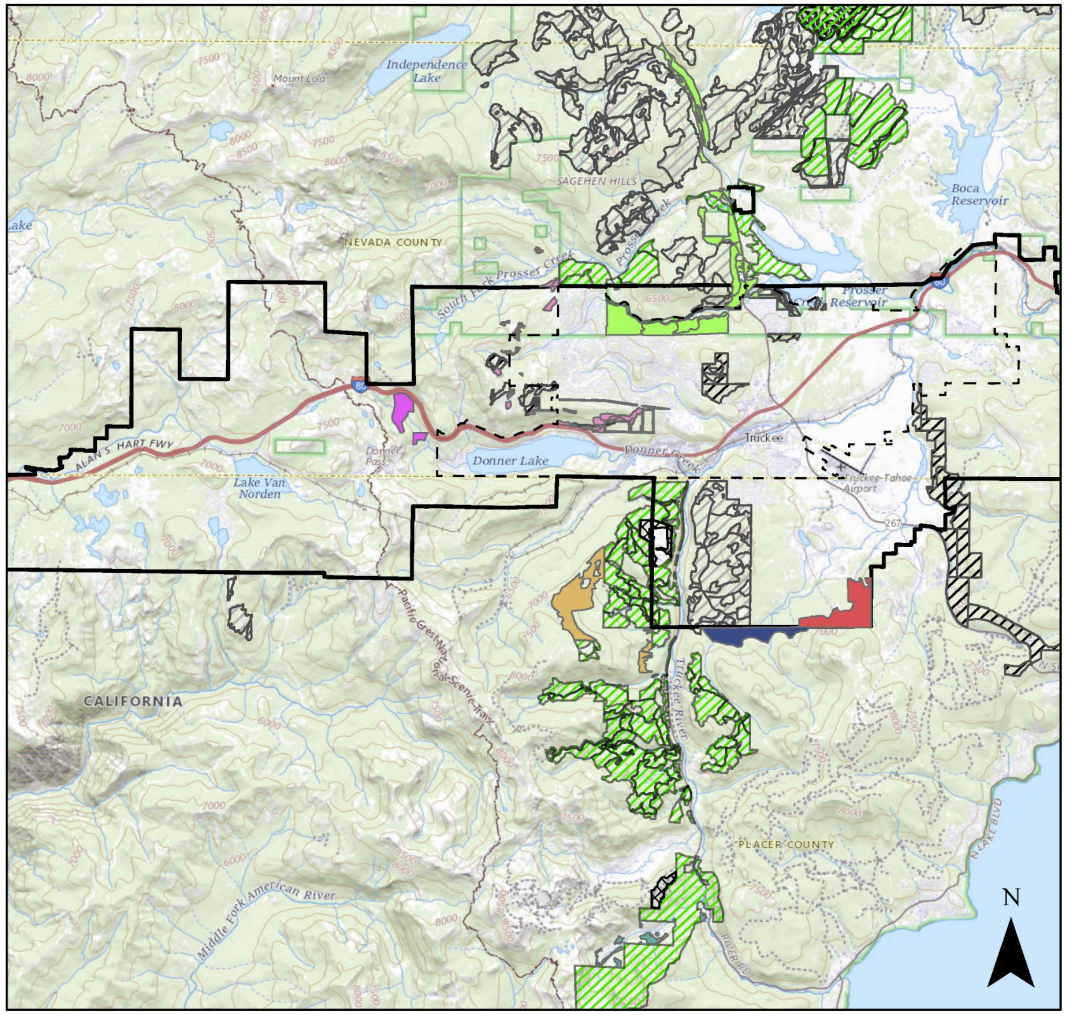
Nevada and Placer County Cooperative Landscape Resilience Project

and the

Alpine Meadows Forest Health Project

- Cal-Fire Forest Health Grant Program
- Initiated by Truckee Fire
- Multi-agency / landowner support
- Eight total partners
- Total project cost ~$8.5 M
- Total requested ~ $7M
- 9.4% for North Tahoe Fire, Alpine Meadows Project

Nevada & Placer County Cooperative Landscape Resilience Project



Alpine Meadows Forest Health
Billy Mack THP
Martis Camp THP
NFF Alder 89
Northstar (Vail) Forest Health
SPI Mastication
Tahoe Donner Fuels Reduction
Tahoe Donner Reforestation

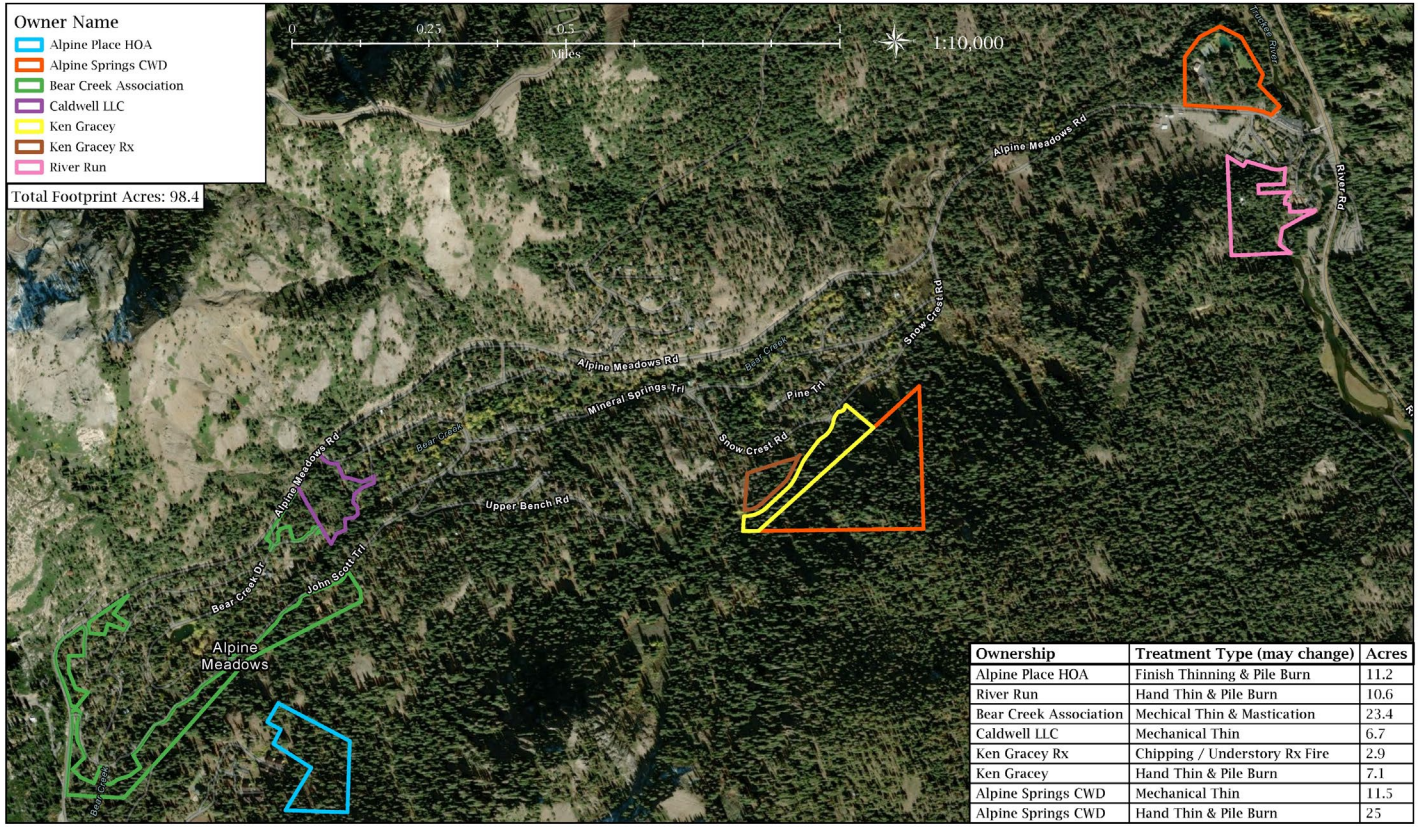
Truckee Fire Protection District
Town of Truckee Boundary
Completed Private land Projects
Completed USFS Project
Planned USFS Project
23-WP-NEU-58368272
23-WP-NEU-58492108

Project Location Map
Forest Health Application #57739728

Scale = 1:170,000

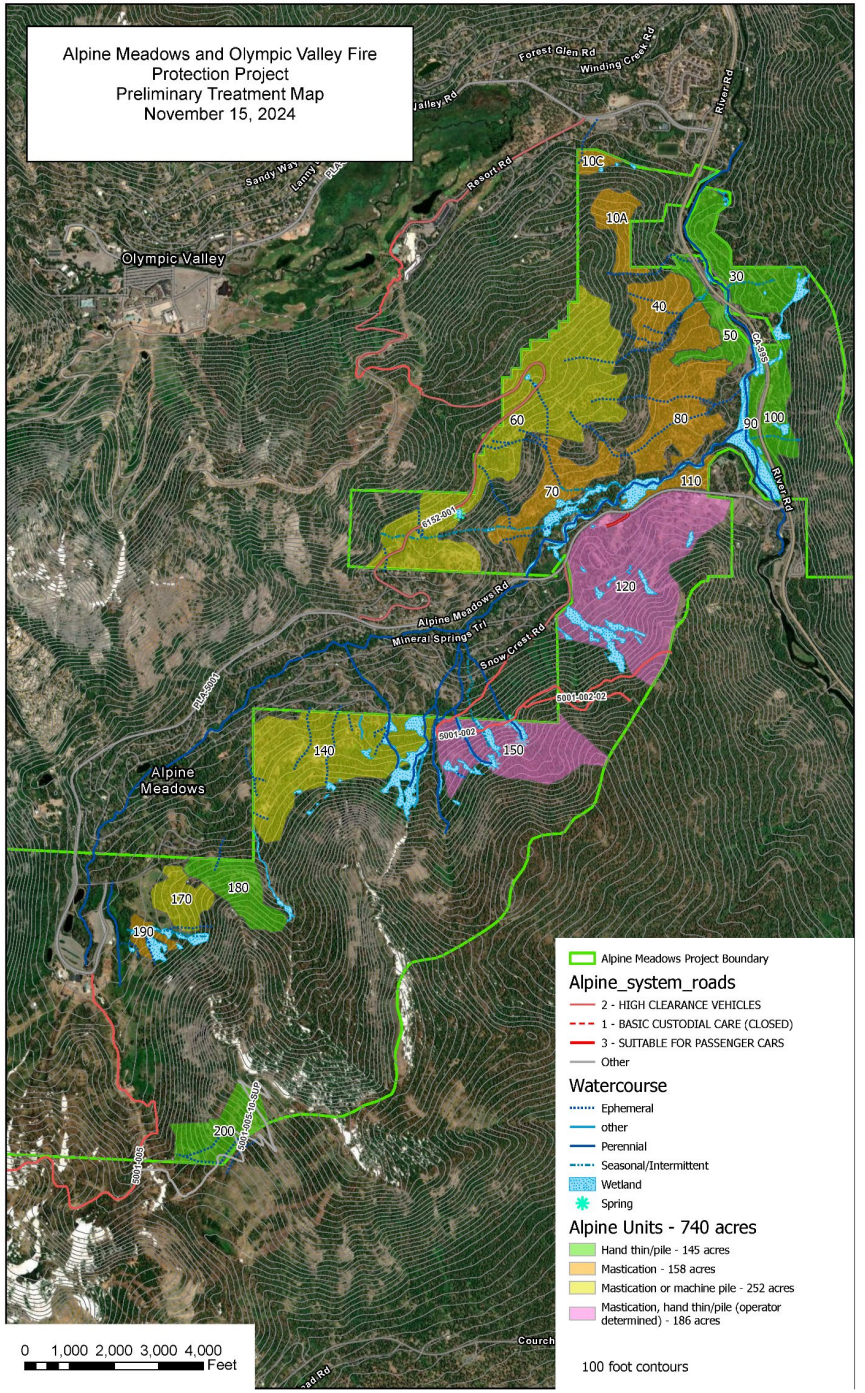
0 2.5 5 10 Miles

Nevada and Placer County Cooperative Landscape Resilience Project
Alpine Meadows Forest Health Project - North Tahoe Fire Protection District

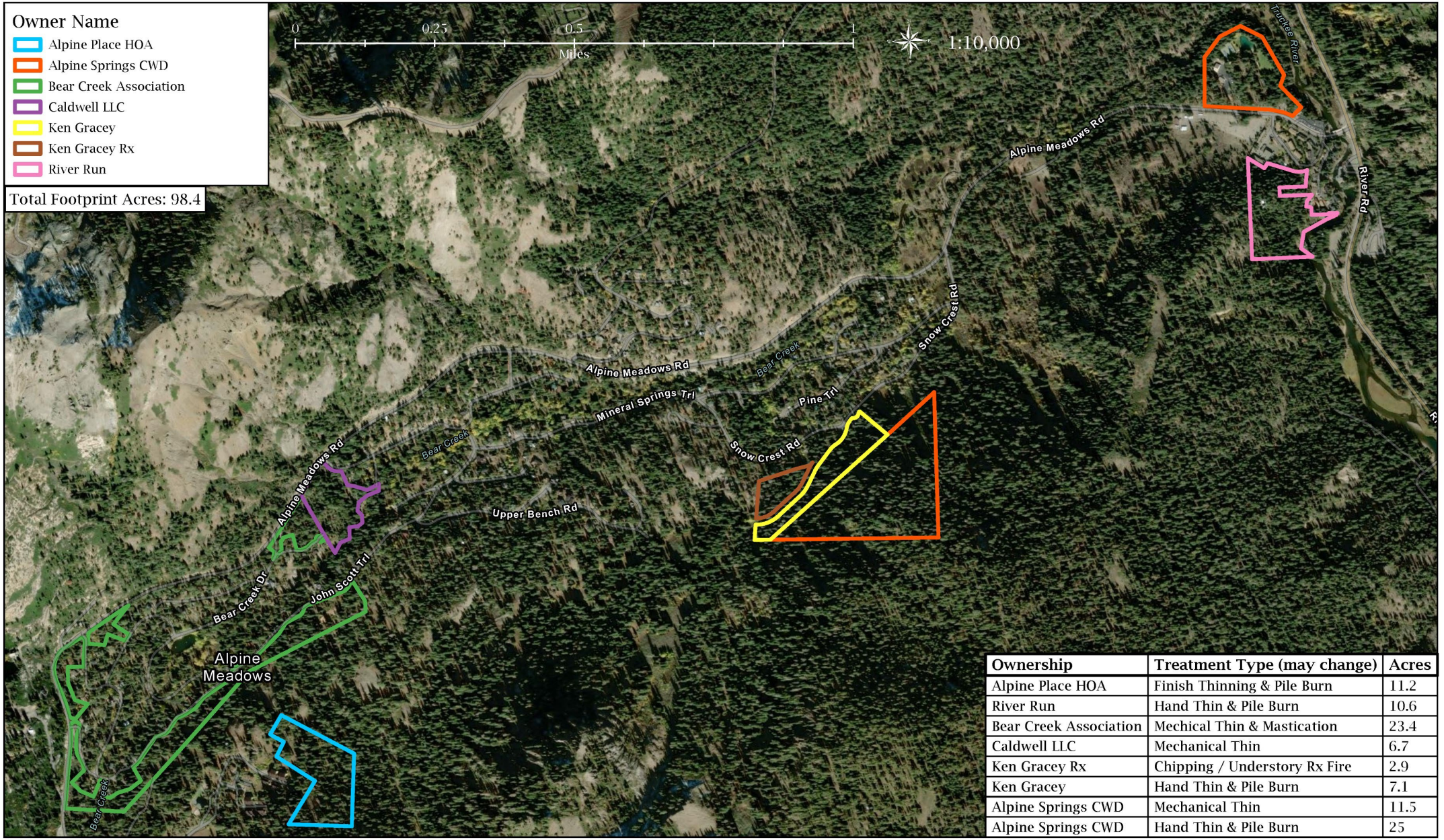


Ownership	Treatment Type (may change)	Acres
Alpine Place HOA	Finish Thinning & Pile Burn	11.2
River Run	Hand Thin & Pile Burn	10.6
Bear Creek Association	Mechical Thin & Mastication	23.4
Caldwell LLC	Mechanical Thin	6.7
Ken Gracey Rx	Chipping / Understory Rx Fire	2.9
Ken Gracey	Hand Thin & Pile Burn	7.1
Alpine Springs CWD	Mechanical Thin	11.5
Alpine Springs CWD	Hand Thin & Pile Burn	25

- Alpine Meadows Forest Health Project $793,548
- Deliverable: Treat 95 Acres
- Partnering with Feather River Forestry and Tahoe Resource Conservation District for planning
- Implementation intended for 2026 and 2027
- Pile Burning intended for 2027 to 2029
- Project compliments the 1,080 acre Alpine Meadows and Olympic Valley Fire Protection Project



Nevada and Placer County Cooperative Landscape Resilience Project
Alpine Meadows Forest Health Project - North Tahoe Fire Protection District



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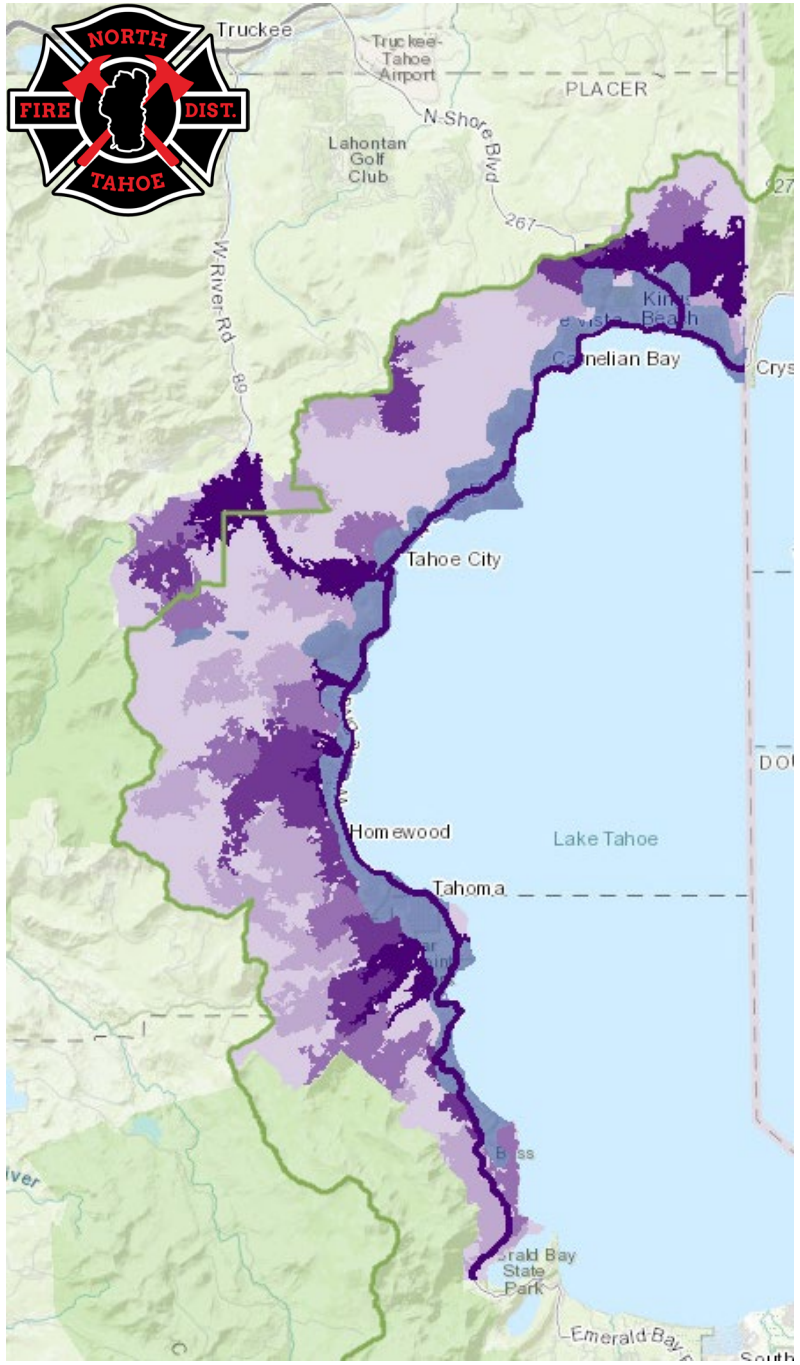
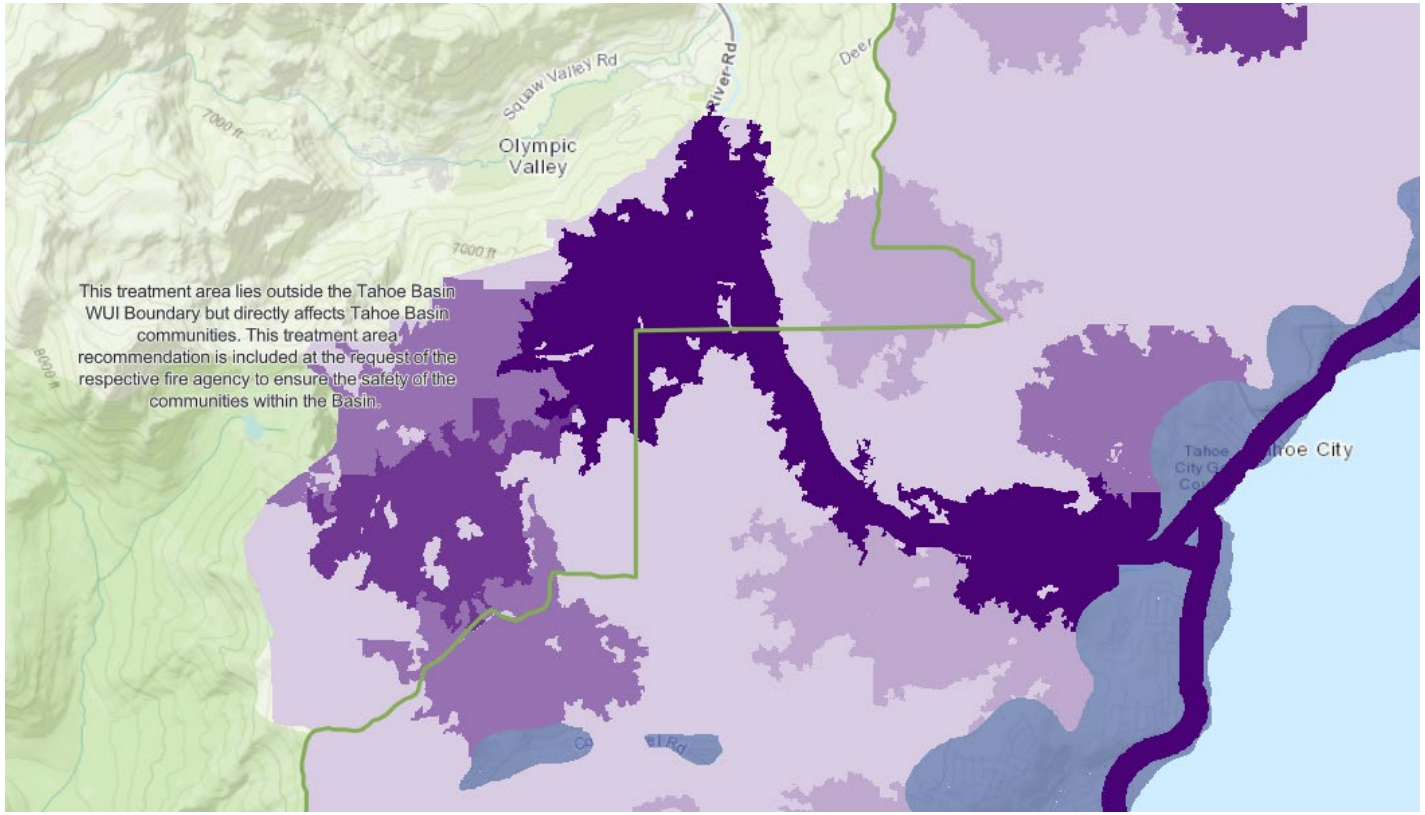




- Community Wildfire Protection Plan 2025
- Vibrant Planet modeling to protect safety and assets
- Darker purple indicates highest need for treatment
- Future projects will be in those locations
- Your support is appreciated
- https://tahoe-basin-cwpp-trcd.hub.arcgis.com/

Alpine Meadows Forest Health Project

Vegetation Management Plan

Prepared by David Murray, RPF #3226
Tahoe Resource Conservation District

June 10, 2026

Project Information

Item	Description
Project Name	Alpine Meadows Forest Health Project
Project Location	Alpine Meadows, Placer County, California
Total Project Acreage	98.4 acres
Number of Treatment Units	8
Project Type	Forest health treatment and hazardous fuels reduction
Ownerships	Bear Creek Association; Alpine Place HOA; Caldwell LLC; River Run; Alpine Springs Community Water District (ASCWD); Ken Gracey
APNs	**Bear Creek:** 095-242-001, 095-241-009, 095-242-005, 095-240-001, 095-252-010, 095-252-001, 095-251-001, 095-273-001, 095-273-016, 095-263-001, 095-233-001 **Alpine Place:** 095-280-029, 095-280-028, 095-280-027 **Calwell LLC**: 095-290-017 **River Run:** 095-050-059 **ASCWD**: 095-300-026, 095-040-010 **Ken Gracey:** 095-300-045, 095-300-044
Lead Agency	North Tahoe Fire Protection District
Forestry Planning / Technical Assistance	Tahoe Resource Conservation District
Start Date	TBD
End Date	TBD

Agency Contacts

Name	Title	Organization	Role in Project	Contact
April Shackelford	Forestry and Fuels Manager	North Tahoe Fire Protection District	Lead Agency / Project Oversight	shackelford@ntfire.net 707.362.1378
David Murray, RPF #3226	Forestry Program Manager	Tahoe Resource Conservation District	Forestry Planning / Technical Assistance	dmurray@tahoercd.org 530.412.0028

Project Location

County: Placer County
Township / Range / Section: Northern half of 15N 16E and Southern half of 16N 16E
USGS Quad: Tahoe City
The Alpine Meadows Forest Health Project is located in Alpine Meadows, Placer County, California, within the middle-elevation eastside Sierra Nevada.

Introduction

This Vegetation Management Plan provides unit-specific treatment direction for the Alpine Meadows Forest Health Project, an approximately 98.4-acre, multi-unit forest health and hazardous fuels reduction project located on private parcels in Alpine Meadows, Placer County, California. The project is intended to improve forest health, reduce hazardous fuels, and improve treatment continuity across the community–wildland interface.

Treatment units include a mix of hand thinning, chip and haul, hand pile construction, machine piling, and low ground-pressure mechanical treatment. Treatment methods vary by unit based on access, slope, operability, stand conditions, prior treatment history, infrastructure, resource protection needs, and implementation feasibility.

Project Goals

- Improve overall forest health and increase resilience to wildfire, drought, insects, and disease
- Protect life and property
- Enhance defensible space and improve strategic wildfire suppression opportunities
- Reduce hazardous fuel continuity while retaining important ecological structure, including healthy overstory trees, desirable regeneration, riparian vegetation, wildlife trees where safe to retain, and species and structural diversity that support long-term forest resilience.

Site Characteristics

The Alpine Meadows Forest Health Project area supports mixed conifer forest conditions typical of the middle-elevation eastside Sierra Nevada, with stand conditions varying by ownership, aspect, prior treatment history, and access. Several units contain dense small-diameter conifers, ladder fuels, accumulated surface fuels, and localized overstory mortality

Topography across the project area ranges from relatively flat neighborhood-adjacent treatment areas to steeper slopes approaching 30 to 50 percent in portions of the project area. Mapped soils identified through USDA soil survey information include the Jorge-Waca-Tahoma complex, Tallac-Cryumbrepts wet complex, and Umpa-Cryumbrepts wet complex. Soil mapping is used for planning-level review only, and operations shall be adjusted in the field based on actual slope, soil moisture, wet-area indicators, equipment operability, and the presence of any watercourses or protected hydrologic features.

Project Delineation

- Treatment unit boundaries, access routes, exclusion areas, and resource protection areas shall be identified using project maps, field flagging, and unit-specific direction provided by the project RPF or designee.

- Treatment unit boundaries will be designated with white and black checkered flagging.
- Boundary corners will be designated with double white and black checkered flagging where needed for clarity.
- Exclusion zones, resource buffers, and equipment exclusion areas will be designated with pink flagging, "equipment exclusion zone" flagging, or other clearly identifiable field markings.
- Contractors shall operate only within designated treatment areas and approved access routes. Contractors shall avoid all flagged exclusion zones, resource buffers, protected features, and other areas identified for avoidance.
- Access limitations, protected features, equipment restrictions, landing locations, slash handling requirements, and unit-specific constraints shall be identified in the VMP, project maps, field layout, contract documents, or written direction from the project RPF or designee. These items shall be reviewed during the pre-work meeting before implementation begins.

Treatment Unit Summary

Unit	Ownership	APN	Acres	Treatment Method
1	Bear Creek Association	095-241-009	23.4	Hand thin; chip and haul off site
2	Alpine Place HOA	095-280-029	11.2	Hand thin; machine pile
3	Caldwell LLC	095-290-017	6.7	Ground-based low-pressure mechanical treatment
4	River Run	095-050-059	10.6	Hand thin and pile
5	Alpine Springs Community Water District (1)	095-300-026	25.0	Ground-based low-pressure mechanical treatment
6	Alpine Springs Community Water District (2)	095-040-010	11.5	Hand thin and pile
7	Ken Gracey (1)	095-300-044	3.0	Ground-based low-pressure mechanical treatment
8	Ken Gracey (2)	095-300-045	7.0	Ground-based low-pressure mechanical treatment

Treatment Prescriptions

Unit 1. Bear Creek Association (23.4 acres)

APN: 095-241-009 | Treatment Method: Hand thin; chip and haul off site

Objectives:

- Reduce ladder fuels and vertical fuel continuity.
- Reduce excessive small-tree density and improve residual tree spacing.
- Reduce crown fire potential and improve stand resilience.
- Improve residual stand structure by favoring healthy, vigorous, well-spaced conifers.
- Remove treatment-generated biomass from the unit to reduce persistent surface fuel loading.

Description: Unit 1 is located along the periphery of the Bear Creek Association neighborhood and is accessible from existing roads, making hand thinning, chipping, and off-site hauling an appropriate treatment method. The unit is relatively flat and supports mixed conifer forest conditions with dense small-diameter trees, ladder fuels, accumulated surface fuels, and localized overstory mortality. Bear Creek passes through the southwest corner of the unit, and operations in or near this area shall be adjusted as needed to protect watercourse function, riparian vegetation, soils, and designated protection areas.

Prescription:

- Trees selected for removal will be marked with purple paint by the project RPF or designee during layout.
- Only trees marked for removal shall be cut, except for conifer seedlings and saplings six feet in height and shorter as described below.
- Hand thinning shall be used throughout the unit.
- Remove marked trees to reduce ladder fuels, excessive stem density, and vertical and horizontal fuel continuity.
- Retain healthy, vigorous, well-formed residual conifers with priority given to dominant and codominant trees that improve residual spacing, species diversity, and stand structure.
- Individual tree marking is not required for conifer seedlings and saplings six feet in height and shorter. Within dense patches, crews shall remove approximately 70 to 80 percent of stems and retain the healthiest, best-formed, and best-spaced individuals.
- Treatment-generated biomass shall be chipped and hauled off site.
- Broadcast chipping or redistribution of chipped material within the unit is not authorized unless approved by the project RPF.

Unit 2. Alpine Place HOA (11.2 acres)

APN: 095-280-029 | Treatment Method: Hand thin; machine pile

Objectives:

- Reduce ladder fuels and vertical fuel continuity.
- Reduce excessive small-tree density and improve residual tree spacing.
- Reduce crown fire potential and improve stand resilience.

- Retain healthy, vigorous, well-spaced residual conifers, with preference for pine and other desirable species.
- Consolidate treatment-generated material and residual surface fuels into machine-built piles at approved locations.

Description: Unit 2 consists of forested land within the Alpine Place HOA property where prior fuel reduction operations were initiated but not completed. As a result, the unit contains an elevated accumulation of surface fuels and residual activity material that should be consolidated and treated to complete the intended fuels reduction work. Additional hand thinning is needed to reduce remaining ladder fuels, improve spacing, and release healthy dominant and codominant overstory trees. Machine piling is necessary due to the volume and distribution of existing activity material from prior operations. The northern portion of the unit is relatively flat, while the southerly portion transitions onto a north-facing slope of up to approximately 25 percent.

Prescription:

- Trees selected for removal will be marked with purple paint by the project RPF or designee during layout.
- Only trees marked for removal shall be cut.
- Conduct hand thinning to reduce ladder fuels, excessive stem density, and competition among retained trees.
- Retain a minimum of 10–15 small trees per acre where available and appropriate, based on species preference, available growing space, crown position, tree health, and vigor.
- Dense patches of conifer regeneration, saplings, and seedlings six (6) feet in height and shorter may be treated by prescription without individual marking. Approximately 70–80% of stems shall be removed, retaining the healthiest, best-formed, and best-spaced individuals to reduce ladder fuels and improve future stand structure.
- Prioritize retention in the following order: five-needle pines, including whitebark pine, western white pine, and sugar pine; Jeffrey pine; red fir; white fir; and lodgepole pine.
- Retain all whitebark pine, western white pine, and sugar pine unless removal is specifically approved by the project RPF.
- Remove brush beneath the driplines of residual trees where needed to reduce ladder fuels.
- Remove standing dead trees up to 20 inches DBH and remove larger snags where they pose a hazard to crews, structures, access routes, or project implementation.
- Retain the four largest, hardest, or most decadent snags per acre as wildlife trees, where they do not pose an operational or public safety hazard.
- Retain willow, alder, and aspen.
- Dead riparian vegetation shall be cut and piled where needed to meet fuels reduction objectives and where work can be completed without damaging retained riparian vegetation or protected areas.
- Cut and pile coarse woody debris up to 20 inches in diameter unless the material is embedded in the soil or otherwise directed for retention by the project RPF.
- Material generated by hand felling and residual surface fuels from previous operations shall be consolidated into machine-built piles at approved locations.
- Piles shall be located outside retained tree driplines, away from root collars, and outside designated protection areas.

- Machine piling shall be limited to approved access routes and operating areas to minimize soil disturbance, compaction, and damage to retained vegetation.

Unit 3. Caldwell LLC (6.7 acres)

APN: 095-290-017 | Treatment Method: ground-based low-pressure mechanical treatment

Objectives:

- Reduce ladder fuels and vertical fuel continuity.
- Reduce excessive small-tree density and improve residual tree spacing.
- Reduce localized crown fire potential and improve stand resilience.
- Retain healthy, vigorous, well-spaced residual conifers, with preference for pine and other desirable species.
- Use low ground-pressure mechanical equipment to complete treatment efficiently while minimizing soil disturbance and damage to retained vegetation.

Description: Unit 3 is located downslope of Alpine Meadows Road on relatively flat ground with a southeasterly aspect, providing suitable access for ground-based low ground-pressure mechanical equipment. The unit includes a mix of open areas, dense patches of conifer regeneration, and desirable legacy pines that should be protected and released through treatment. Fuels reduction will focus on removing dense regeneration, reducing ladder fuels, improving spacing around retained overstory trees, and protecting larger legacy pine from competition and potential fire effects. A walking path bisects the unit, and operations shall be planned to maintain public safety, minimize disturbance to the path corridor, and avoid damage to retained trees, soils, and other site resources.

Prescription:

- Trees selected for removal will be marked with purple paint by the project RPF or designee during layout.
- Only trees marked for removal shall be cut.
- Conduct ground-based low ground-pressure mechanical treatment using low ground-pressure equipment rated at less than 10 psi fully loaded.
- Reduce stem density, ladder fuels, and localized crown fire potential while retaining healthy, vigorous, well-spaced residual trees.
- Retain a minimum of 10–15 small trees per acre where available and appropriate, based on species preference, available growing space, crown position, tree health, and vigor.
- Dense patches of conifer regeneration, saplings, and seedlings six (6) feet in height and shorter may be treated by prescription without individual marking. Approximately 70–80% of stems shall be removed, retaining the healthiest, best-formed, and best-spaced individuals to reduce ladder fuels and improve future stand structure.
- Prioritize retention in the following order: five-needle pines, including whitebark pine, western white pine, and sugar pine; Jeffrey pine; red fir; white fir; and lodgepole pine.
- Retain all whitebark pine, western white pine, and sugar pine unless removal is specifically approved by the project RPF.
- Remove brush beneath the driplines of residual trees where needed to reduce ladder fuels.

- Remove standing dead trees up to 20 inches DBH and remove larger snags where they pose a hazard to crews, structures, access routes, or project implementation.
- Retain the four largest, hardest, or most decadent snags per acre as wildlife trees, where they do not pose an operational or public safety hazard.
- Retain willow, alder, and aspen.
- Dead riparian vegetation shall be cut and piled where needed to meet fuels reduction objectives and where work can be completed without damaging retained riparian vegetation or protected areas.
- Operations shall be limited to suitable terrain, approved access routes, and operable ground conditions.
- Travel patterns, work areas, landing locations, and equipment limitations shall be reviewed in the field prior to implementation.
- Treatment-generated material shall be processed, piled, removed, or otherwise managed as part of ground-based low ground-pressure mechanical operations in a manner that avoids excessive surface fuel concentrations.
- Equipment operations shall avoid damage to retained trees, root collars, residual vegetation, soils, watercourses, and designated protection areas.
- Treatment-generated material from ground-based low ground-pressure mechanical operations shall be forwarded to an approved landing or designated processing area where practicable, and may be hauled off site, chipped and removed, loaded for biomass utilization or disposal, or consolidated into slash/cull decks for later burning or other approved disposition.

Unit 4. River Run (10.6 acres)

APN: 095-050-059 | Treatment Method: Hand thin and pile

Objectives:

- Reduce ladder fuels and vertical fuel continuity.
- Reduce excessive small-tree density and improve residual tree spacing.
- Reduce localized wildfire hazard and crown fire potential.
- Retain healthy, vigorous, well-spaced residual conifers, with preference for pine and other desirable species.
- Construct hand piles in stable, approved locations to facilitate future pile burning or disposal.

Description: Unit 4 is located on a steep easterly slope, with portions of the unit occurring on a northeast aspect. The unit supports exceptionally high tree density, with dense small-diameter conifers, ladder fuels, and areas of overstory mortality contributing to elevated localized wildfire hazard. Due to slope, stand density, and access limitations, treatment will rely on hand thinning and hand pile construction to reduce vertical fuel continuity, improve residual stand spacing, and protect retained trees and site resources. Operations shall be adjusted in the field based on slope, soil moisture, access limitations, retained tree condition, and designated protection areas.

Prescription:

- Trees shall be selected for removal in the field using the size limits, species preferences, spacing objectives, and retention criteria described in this unit prescription.
- Prior to implementation, the project RPF or designee will establish a sample mark within the unit to demonstrate desired tree selection, spacing, species preference, and residual stand conditions. The contractor shall follow the sample mark during implementation.
- Hand thinning shall be used throughout the unit.
- Remove live trees 16 inches DBH and smaller that are suppressed, intermediate, poorly formed, diseased, damaged, or contributing to ladder fuel continuity or excessive stand density.
- Retain approximately 10–15 well-spaced small trees per acre where sufficient healthy trees are present. Retained small trees shall be selected based on species preference, crown position, spacing, tree health, and vigor.
- Prioritize retention in the following order: five-needle pines, including whitebark pine, western white pine, and sugar pine; Jeffrey pine; incense cedar; red fir; white fir; and lodgepole pine.
- Retain all whitebark pine, western white pine, and sugar pine unless removal is specifically approved by the project RPF.
- Remove brush beneath the driplines of residual trees where the brush creates ladder fuel continuity into the lower crown or interferes with safe pile construction, access, or implementation.
- Remove standing dead trees up to 20 inches DBH.
- Larger snags may be removed only where they pose a hazard to crews, structures, access routes, or project implementation, as approved by the project RPF or designee.
- Retain the four largest, hardest, or most decadent snags per acre as wildlife trees where they do not pose an operational or public safety hazard.
- Retain willow, alder, and aspen.
- Dead riparian vegetation shall be cut and piled where needed to meet fuels reduction objectives and where work can be completed without damaging retained riparian vegetation, watercourse features, or protected areas.
- Cut and pile coarse woody debris up to 18 inches in diameter unless the material is embedded in the soil or otherwise directed for retention by the project RPF.
- Construct hand piles in stable locations outside retained tree driplines, away from residual stems and root collars, and outside designated protection areas.

Unit 5. Alpine Springs Community Water District 1 (25.0 acres)

APN: 095-300-026 | Treatment Method: ground-based low-pressure mechanical treatment

Objectives:

- Reduce ladder fuels and vertical fuel continuity.
- Reduce excessive small-tree density and improve residual tree spacing.
- Reduce localized crown fire potential and improve stand resilience.
- Remove dead, dying, diseased, suppressed, and intermediate trees where needed to improve stand health and reduce fuel continuity.
- Retain healthy, vigorous, well-spaced residual conifers, with preference for pine and incense cedar.

- Coordinate treatment with Unit 8, Ken Gracey (2), to maintain treatment continuity across adjacent ownerships.

Description: Unit 5 is located upslope of Units 7 and 8 on a steep northwesterly aspect. An existing road runs through the unit and provides access for ground-based low-pressure mechanical equipment where terrain and resource conditions are suitable. The unit supports mixed conifer forest conditions with elevated stem density, ladder fuels, and a notable amount of overstory mortality, particularly in white fir. Treatment should be coordinated with the adjacent downslope Ken Gracey 2 unit, so the area functions as a connected fuels reduction treatment. Treatment intensity may vary by slope and operability, with more active density reduction in gentler, operable areas and a stronger focus on small-tree removal, dead and dying tree removal, and retention of stable residual overstory trees in steeper areas.

Prescription:

- Trees shall be selected for removal in the field using the size limits, species preferences, spacing objectives, and retention criteria described in this unit prescription.
- Prior to implementation, the project RPF or designee will establish a sample mark within the unit to demonstrate desired tree selection, spacing, species preference, and residual stand conditions. The contractor shall follow the sample mark during implementation.
- Ground-based mechanical treatment shall be conducted using low-ground-pressure equipment rated at less than 10 psi fully loaded, or other equipment approved by the project RPF that provides equal or greater resource protection.
- Equipment operations shall be limited to approved access routes, suitable terrain, and operable ground conditions.
- Remove live trees 16 inches DBH and smaller that are suppressed, intermediate, poorly formed, diseased, damaged, or contributing to ladder fuel continuity or excessive stand density.
- In gentler, operable portions of the unit, reduce small-tree density and expand existing gaps where doing so improves residual tree spacing, stand structure, and fuel conditions.
- In steeper or less-operable portions of the unit, focus treatment on removal of small-diameter ladder fuels, dead and dying trees, and trees that directly compete with healthy dominant and codominant residual trees.
- Retain approximately 10–15 well-spaced small trees per acre where sufficient healthy trees are present. Retained small trees shall be selected based on species preference, crown position, spacing, tree health, and vigor.
- Prioritize retention in the following order: five-needle pines, including whitebark pine, western white pine, and sugar pine; Jeffrey pine; incense cedar; red fir; white fir; and lodgepole pine.
- Retain all whitebark pine, western white pine, and sugar pine unless removal is specifically approved by the project RPF.
- Remove standing dead trees up to 20 inches DBH.
- Larger snags may be removed only where they pose a hazard to crews, structures, access routes, or project implementation, as approved by the project RPF or designee.
- Retain the four largest, hardest, or most decadent snags per acre as wildlife trees where they do not pose an operational or public safety hazard.
- Retain willow, alder, aspen, and native riparian vegetation.
- Retain patches of native shrub and understory vegetation where retention does not create ladder fuel continuity, interfere with safe operations, or conflict with unit treatment objectives.

- Dead riparian vegetation shall be cut and piled where needed to meet fuels reduction objectives and where work can be completed without damaging retained riparian vegetation, watercourse features, or protected areas.
- Travel patterns, work areas, landing locations, decking areas, and equipment limitations shall be reviewed in the field prior to implementation.
- Treatment-generated material shall be forwarded to an approved landing or designated processing/decking area where practicable, and may be hauled off site, chipped and removed, loaded for biomass utilization or disposal, or consolidated into slash/cull decks for later burning or other approved disposition.
- Equipment operations shall avoid damage to retained trees, root collars, residual vegetation, soils, watercourses, roads, and designated protection areas.

Unit 6. Alpine Springs Community Water District 2 (11.5 acres)

APN: 095-040-010 | Treatment Method: Hand thin and pile; limited mechanical material handling where approved

Objectives:

- Reduce ladder fuels and vertical fuel continuity.
- Reduce excessive small-tree density and improve residual tree spacing.
- Reduce localized crown fire potential and improve stand resilience.
- Maintain and improve defensible spacing around existing infrastructure.
- Reduce fuel loading along unit boundaries and in remaining pockets of dense vegetation.
- Protect developed surfaces, utilities, water features, retained trees, and other site improvements during implementation.

Description: Unit 6 includes the Alpine Springs Community Water District office area, a North Tahoe Fire Protection District auxiliary station, and a park with a substantial portion of the unit consisting of paved, built, or otherwise developed areas. The operable treatment area is relatively flat to gently rolling and includes previously treated forested areas as well as boundary areas with heavier residual surface and ladder fuel loading. Due to existing infrastructure, fencing, developed surfaces, tight operating areas, aesthetic considerations, and scattered wet features, full ground-based mechanical treatment is not the preferred treatment method. Treatment shall focus on hand thinning, hand pile construction, and limited mechanical assistance for material handling only where access, surface conditions, infrastructure protection, and resource protection allow.

Prescription:

- Trees shall be selected for removal in the field using the size limits, species preferences, spacing objectives, and retention criteria described in this unit prescription.

- Prior to implementation, the project RPF or designee will establish a sample mark within the unit to demonstrate desired tree selection, spacing, species preference, and residual stand conditions. The contractor shall follow the sample mark during implementation.
- Hand thinning shall be used throughout the unit.
- Remove live trees 16 inches DBH and smaller that are suppressed, intermediate, poorly formed, diseased, damaged, or contributing to ladder fuel continuity, excessive stand density, or fuel continuity near infrastructure.
- Retain approximately 10–15 well-spaced small trees per acre where sufficient healthy trees are present. Retained small trees shall be selected based on species preference, crown position, spacing, tree health, and vigor.
- Prioritize retention in the following order: five-needle pines, including whitebark pine, western white pine, and sugar pine; Jeffrey pine; incense cedar; red fir; white fir; and lodgepole pine.
- Retain all whitebark pine, western white pine, and sugar pine unless removal is specifically approved by the project RPF.
- Remove brush beneath the driplines of residual trees where the brush creates ladder fuel continuity into the lower crown or interferes with safe pile construction, access, or implementation.
- Remove standing dead trees up to 20 inches DBH.
- Larger snags may be removed only where they pose a hazard to crews, structures, access routes, utilities, or project implementation, as approved by the project RPF or designee.
- Retain the four largest, hardest, or most decadent snags per acre as wildlife trees where they do not pose an operational or public safety hazard.
- Retain willow, alder, aspen, and native riparian vegetation.
- Dead riparian vegetation shall be cut and piled where needed to meet fuels reduction objectives and where work can be completed without damaging retained riparian vegetation, water features, or protected areas.
- Cut and pile coarse woody debris up to 18 inches in diameter unless the material is embedded in the soil or otherwise directed for retention by the project RPF.
- Construct hand piles in stable locations outside retained tree driplines, away from residual stems and root collars, and outside designated protection areas.
- Piles shall not be constructed on paved surfaces, developed use areas, immediately adjacent to structures, near utilities, within wet areas, or in locations where burning or later disposal would create unacceptable risk or access issues.
- Limited mechanical assistance may be used for material handling only where approved by the project RPF or designee and where operations can avoid damage to buildings, paved surfaces, fencing, utilities, water features, retained trees, soils, and other site improvements.

Unit 7. Ken Gracey 1 (2.9 acres)

APN: 095-300-044 | Treatment Method: ground-based low-pressure mechanical treatment

Objectives:

- Reduce ladder fuels and vertical fuel continuity.
- Reduce excessive small-tree density and improve residual tree spacing.
- Reduce localized crown fire potential and improve stand resilience.

- Reduce fuel loading and improve defensible spacing along the neighborhood interface.
- Remove dead, dying, diseased, suppressed, and intermediate trees where needed to improve stand health and reduce fuel continuity.
- Remove treatment-generated material from the unit to avoid persistent surface fuel accumulation near the community edge.

Description: Unit 7 is located adjacent to the neighborhood edge and is bordered by an existing road that separates this unit from Unit 8, Ken Gracey (2). The road provides practical access for ground-based low-pressure mechanical treatment and may function as an important operational anchor for future fire response. The unit has a subtle slope trending to the north and east, with a slope break associated with an unnamed creek. Existing stand conditions indicate that portions of the unit have likely been treated in the past; however, additional sanitation treatment and surface fuel clean up are needed. Clumps of diseased and dead or dying white fir are present, and treatment should emphasize removal of dead, dying, andsuppressed material while reducing ladder fuels and maintaining defensible spacing along the neighborhood interface.

Prescription:

- Trees shall be selected for removal in the field using the size limits, species preferences, spacing objectives, and retention criteria described in this unit prescription.
- Prior to implementation, the project RPF or designee will establish a sample mark within the unit to demonstrate desired tree selection, spacing, species preference, and residual stand conditions. The contractor shall follow the sample mark during implementation.
- Ground-based mechanical treatment shall be conducted using low-ground-pressure equipment rated at less than 10 psi fully loaded, or other equipment approved by the project RPF that provides equal or greater resource protection.
- Equipment operations shall be limited to approved access routes, suitable terrain, and operable ground conditions.
- Remove live trees 16 inches DBH and smaller that are suppressed, intermediate, poorly formed, diseased, damaged, or contributing to ladder fuel continuity or excessive stand density.
- Prioritize removal of dead, dying, diseased, and dead-topped white fir.
- Remove suppressed and intermediate trees where needed to improve spacing around dominant and codominant residual trees.
- Where codominant trees are directly competing, favor retention of the healthiest, best-formed, and best-spaced tree based on species preference, crown condition, vigor, and contribution to residual stand structure.
- Retain approximately 10–15 well-spaced small trees per acre where sufficient healthy trees are present. Retained small trees shall be selected based on species preference, crown position, spacing, tree health, and vigor.
- Prioritize retention in the following order: five-needle pines, including whitebark pine, western white pine, and sugar pine; Jeffrey pine; incense cedar; red fir; white fir; and lodgepole pine.
- Retain all whitebark pine, western white pine, and sugar pine unless removal is specifically approved by the project RPF.
- Remove brush beneath the driplines of designated leave trees where the brush creates ladder fuel continuity into the lower crown or interferes with safe operations, access, or implementation.
- Remove standing dead trees up to 20 inches DBH.
- Larger snags may be removed only where they pose a hazard to crews, structures, access routes, utilities, the neighborhood interface, or project implementation, as approved by the project RPF or designee.

- Retain wildlife snags where they do not pose an operational or public safety hazard and where retention is compatible with the neighborhood interface and treatment objectives.
- Retain willow, alder, aspen, and native riparian vegetation.
- Dead riparian vegetation shall be cut and removed or piled where needed to meet fuels reduction objectives and where work can be completed without damaging retained riparian vegetation, watercourse features, or protected areas.
- Operations near the unnamed creek shall avoid damage to the channel, banks, riparian vegetation, soils, and designated protection areas.
- Travel patterns, work areas, landing locations, decking areas, and equipment limitations shall be reviewed in the field prior to implementation.
- Treatment-generated material shall be forwarded to an approved landing or designated processing/decking area where practicable, and may be hauled off site, chipped and removed, loaded for biomass utilization or disposal, or consolidated into slash/cull decks for later approved disposition.
- Project-generated surface fuel accumulations shall not be left within the unit.
- Equipment operations shall avoid damage to retained trees, root collars, residual vegetation, soils, watercourses, roads, and designated protection areas.

Unit 8. Ken Gracey 2 (7.0 acres)

APN: 095-300-045 | Treatment Method: ground-based low pressure mechanical treatment

Objectives:

- Reduce ladder fuels and vertical fuel continuity.
- Reduce excessive small-tree density and improve residual tree spacing.
- Reduce localized crown fire potential and improve stand resilience.
- Remove dead, dying, diseased, suppressed, and intermediate trees where needed to improve stand health and reduce fuel continuity.
- Improve treatment continuity between Unit 5, Alpine Springs Community Water District 1, and the existing road separating Unit 8 from Unit 7.
- Strengthen the existing road corridor as an operational anchor for future wildfire response.

Description: Unit 8 is located on the uphill side of the existing road that separates it from unit 7, Ken Gracey 1 and directly downslope of unit 6, the Alpine Springs Community Water District 1. The unit supports a similar mixed conifer stand condition to unit 7, including areas of white fir mortality and dense small-diameter material that contribute to ladder fuel continuity and localized wildfire hazard. Slopes within the unit are steeper than unit 7, but generally less steep than the upslope unit 6. Treatment should be coordinated with Unit 5 to maintain a connected fuels reduction treatment from the upslope unit down to the road corridor.

Prescription:

- Trees shall be selected for removal in the field using the size limits, species preferences, spacing objectives, and retention criteria described in this unit prescription.
- Prior to implementation, the project RPF or designee will establish a sample mark within the unit to demonstrate desired tree selection, spacing, species preference, and residual stand conditions. The contractor shall follow the sample mark during implementation.

- Ground-based mechanical treatment shall be conducted using low-ground-pressure equipment rated at less than 10 psi fully loaded, or other equipment approved by the project RPF that provides equal or greater resource protection.
- Equipment operations shall be limited to approved access routes, suitable terrain, and operable ground conditions.
- Remove live trees 16 inches DBH and smaller that are suppressed, intermediate, poorly formed, diseased, damaged, or contributing to ladder fuel continuity or excessive stand density.
- Prioritize removal of dead, dying, diseased, and dead-topped white fir.
- Within approximately 75 feet of the U.S. Forest Service road, remove suppressed and intermediate trees where needed to reduce ladder fuels, improve spacing, and strengthen the road corridor as an operational anchor.
- Remove suppressed and intermediate trees where they directly compete with healthy dominant and codominant residual trees.
- Where codominant trees are directly competing, favor retention of the healthiest, best-formed, and best-spaced tree based on species preference, crown condition, vigor, and contribution to residual stand structure.
- Retain approximately 10–15 well-spaced small trees per acre where sufficient healthy trees are present. Retained small trees shall be selected based on species preference, crown position, spacing, tree health, and vigor.
- Prioritize retention in the following order: five-needle pines, including whitebark pine, western white pine, and sugar pine; Jeffrey pine; incense cedar; red fir; white fir; and lodgepole pine.
- Retain all whitebark pine, western white pine, and sugar pine unless removal is specifically approved by the project RPF.
- Remove brush beneath the driplines of designated leave trees where the brush creates ladder fuel continuity into the lower crown or interferes with safe operations, access, or implementation.
- Remove standing dead trees up to 20 inches DBH.
- Larger snags may be removed only where they pose a hazard to crews, structures, access routes, utilities, the road corridor, or project implementation, as approved by the project RPF or designee.
- Retain the four largest, hardest, or most decadent snags per acre as wildlife trees where they do not pose an operational or public safety hazard.
- Retain willow, alder, aspen, and native riparian vegetation.
- Dead riparian vegetation shall be cut and removed or piled where needed to meet fuels reduction objectives and where work can be completed without damaging retained riparian vegetation, watercourse features, or protected areas.
- Treatment intensity may vary by slope and operability, with more active density reduction in gentler, operable areas and a stronger focus on small-tree removal, dead and dying tree removal, and retention of stable residual overstory trees in steeper areas.
- Travel patterns, work areas, landing locations, decking areas, and equipment limitations shall be reviewed in the field prior to implementation.
- Treatment-generated material shall be forwarded to an approved landing or designated processing/decking area where practicable, and may be hauled off site, chipped and removed, loaded for biomass utilization or disposal, or consolidated into slash/cull decks for later approved disposition.
- Equipment operations shall avoid damage to retained trees, root collars, residual vegetation, soils, watercourses, roads, and designated protection areas.

Best Management Practices / Resource Protection Measures

The following BMPs and resource protection measures shall apply, as applicable, during project implementation:

- Operate only under dry, firm, or otherwise operable conditions sufficient to prevent substantial soil compaction, erosion, rutting, or significant sediment discharge. (14 CCR § 934.7(c)(1))
- Limit equipment use to designated treatment areas, approved travel paths, and the treatment method identified for each unit. Heavy equipment shall not operate on unstable areas unless specifically addressed and justified. (14 CCR § 934.2(d))
- Maintain exclusion zones and protection buffers around watercourses, wet areas, unstable areas, and other protected features identified during layout. Where required, WLPZs and areas of approved heavy equipment use within or adjacent to the WLPZ shall be clearly identified or flagged on the ground prior to operations. (14 CCR §§ 934.2(d), 936.3(c)-(d), 936.4(d)-(e), 936.5(e))
- Keep slash and treatment-generated woody material away from retained trees and out of locations where material could be discharged into a Class I or II watercourse or lake. (14 CCR § 934.2(e))
- Where watercourses or WLPZs are present, required protective measures and any approved heavy equipment use within or adjacent to the WLPZ shall be identified and implemented in accordance with the Forest Practice Rules. (14 CCR §§ 936.4, 936.5)
- Avoid damage to retained trees during felling and other treatment activities. Desirable residual trees and tree seedlings shall not be damaged or destroyed by felling operations except where unavoidable, and operations shall be conducted to prevent unreasonable damage to residual trees. (14 CCR §§ 934, 934.1(b))
- Suspend or modify operations when weather, soil moisture, or site conditions create a risk of erosion, soil compaction, or significant sediment discharge. (14 CCR § 934.7(b), (c)(1))
- Within or adjacent to WLPZs, exposed bare soil shall be stabilized as needed to minimize soil erosion and prevent sediment delivery to watercourses or lakes. (14 CCR § 936.7)
- Maintain equipment in leak-free operating condition and immediately contain and clean up any incidental spill.
- Equipment shall not be serviced in locations where grease, oil, or fuel could pass into lakes or watercourses, and where equipment is operated within a WLPZ or similarly sensitive hydrologic area, appropriate containment measures shall be used as needed to prevent contamination. (14 CCR § 934.5(a))

Wildlife Surveys and Sensitive Species Protection

Prior to implementation, the project proponent shall ensure that appropriate biological review is completed based on implementation timing, treatment methods, known species records, and the presence of suitable habitat. A desktop review may be used as an initial screening tool; however, field verification, nesting bird surveys, or other focused surveys may be required where suitable habitat, riparian features, seasonal timing, or known sensitive species occurrences indicate potential resource concerns. If active nests, den sites, roosts, or other sensitive wildlife features are identified, appropriate buffers, limited operating periods, and other avoidance measures recommended by a qualified biologist shall be implemented. Project activities shall comply with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and other applicable wildlife protection requirements.

Archaeology

The project area will be reviewed for cultural resources as required by the applicable permitting pathway. Prior to implementation, areas identified for protection during cultural resource review will be flagged or otherwise clearly designated in the field by the project RPF, qualified cultural resources specialist, or designee. Contractors shall avoid all designated cultural resource protection areas during implementation.

Inadvertent Discoveries

Cultural Resources. If cultural resources are inadvertently discovered during project activities, work shall halt within 30 feet of the find and a qualified archaeologist shall be retained to assess its potential significance. Work may continue elsewhere but shall not resume in the affected area until appropriate treatment measures are identified and implemented.

Human Remains. If human remains are discovered, the County Coroner shall be immediately notified and no further disturbance shall occur near the discovery until the required legal procedures have been completed.

Permitting and Regulatory Compliance

North Tahoe Fire Protection District will serve as the lead agency for the Alpine Meadows Forest Health Project. Prior to implementation, the lead agency or project proponent shall complete or obtain the applicable environmental review, permits, notifications, approvals, landowner authorizations, and agency clearances required for the treatment activities described in this VMP.

Where applicable, project activities may be implemented under the CAL FIRE Forest Resilience Exemption pursuant to 14 CCR § 1038.3. Applicability of the Forest Resilience Exemption, including any required CAL FIRE notification, Licensed Timber Operator requirements, Registered Professional Forester responsibilities, operational limitations, and Forest Practice Rule compliance measures, shall be confirmed prior to implementation.

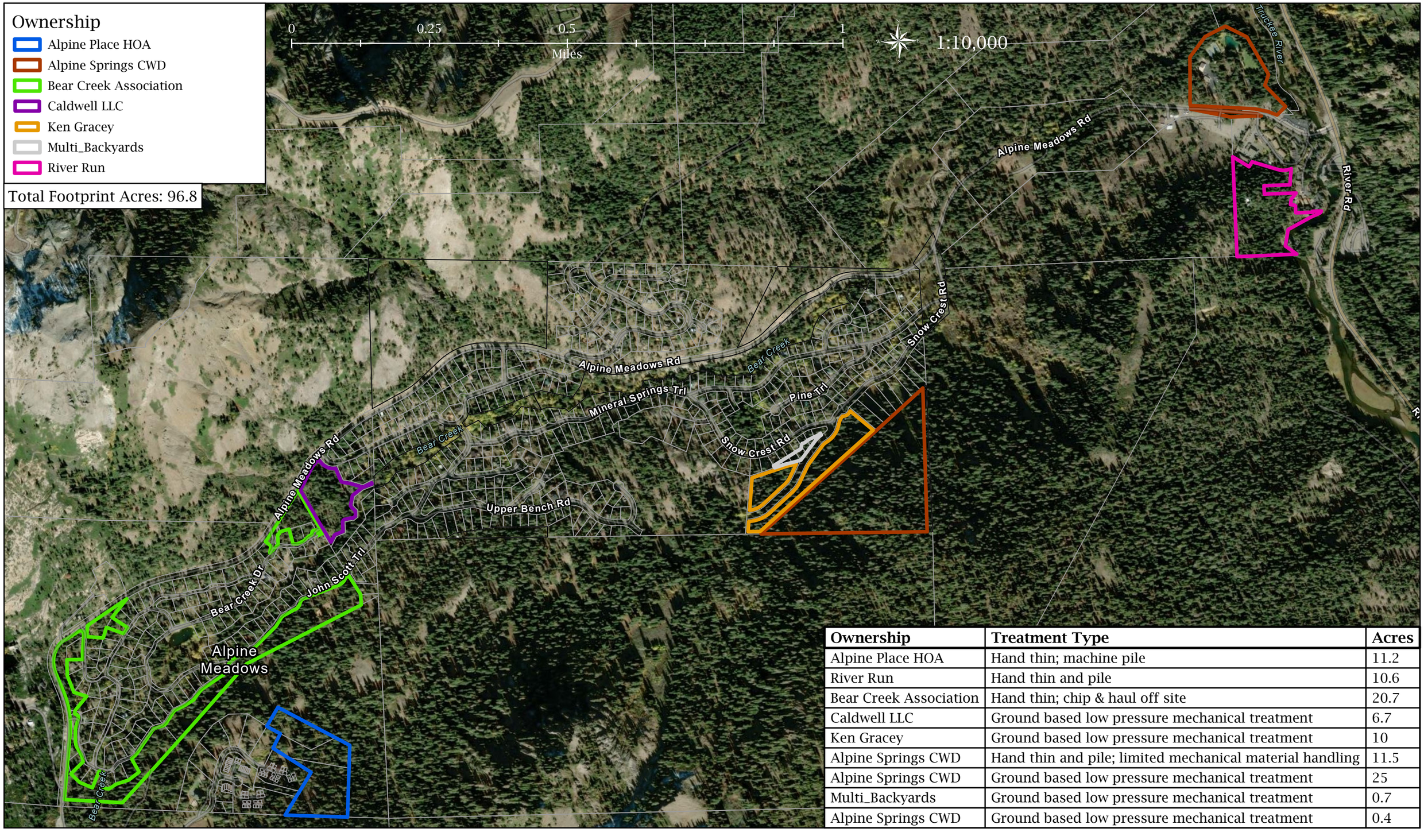
Compliance may include CEQA documentation, CAL FIRE Forest Practice Rule review or notification, cultural resource review, biological resource review, and any permit conditions or agency requirements applicable to project implementation. Contractors shall comply with all applicable permit conditions, resource protection measures, BMPs, and field direction provided by the project RPF or designee.

Any material change to treatment method, work area, equipment use, resource protection measure, or biomass disposition shall be reviewed and approved by the lead agency and project RPF before implementation.

Implementation

- All units will be field reviewed and laid out by the project RPF or designee before treatment begins.
- A pre-work meeting will be held with the contractor, North Tahoe Fire Protection District, and Tahoe Resource Conservation District to review unit boundaries, prescription, access, equipment limitations, slash handling, BMPs, and communication protocols.
- Digital maps and field delineation shall govern contractor operations.
- Field questions and proposed deviations from this VMP shall be resolved with the lead agency and the project RPF before work proceeds.

Nevada and Placer County Cooperative Landscape Resilience Project
Alpine Meadows Forest Health Project - North Tahoe Fire Protection District



Ownership	Treatment Type	Acres
Alpine Place HOA	Hand thin; machine pile	11.2
River Run	Hand thin and pile	10.6
Bear Creek Association	Hand thin; chip & haul off site	20.7
Caldwell LLC	Ground based low pressure mechanical treatment	6.7
Ken Gracey	Ground based low pressure mechanical treatment	10
Alpine Springs CWD	Hand thin and pile; limited mechanical material handling	11.5
Alpine Springs CWD	Ground based low pressure mechanical treatment	25
Multi_Backyards	Ground based low pressure mechanical treatment	0.7
Alpine Springs CWD	Ground based low pressure mechanical treatment	0.4