

# 2011 Lake Tahoe Basin Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Summit Impact Report



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University of Nevada  
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# 2011 Lake Tahoe Basin Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Summit Impact Report

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## Summit Overview

The objective of the 2011 Lake Tahoe Wildfire Summit was to provide information and tools to assist residents to reduce wildfire risks to their homes and communities in the Lake Tahoe Basin and to develop recommendations for each Tahoe Basin fire district on increasing implementation of defensible space in their area. Presentations focused on wildfire issues in the Tahoe Basin and how to reduce risk to homes and communities by creating defensible space, improving building materials and design, and implementing forest fuels reduction projects. The targeted audience for the summit included residents and homeowners in the Lake Tahoe Basin, staff and decision makers with state, local, federal and tribal agencies concerned with defensible space, emergency preparedness and forest management. This report summarizes the results of the 2011 Summit.

The Lake Tahoe Wildfire Summit was held three weeks after Lake Tahoe Wildfire Awareness Week May 28<sup>th</sup> to June 5<sup>th</sup>. California and Nevada traditionally hold their Wildfire Awareness Weeks in early May, but this has proved difficult for Tahoe residents, since many are present only later in the summer. In response, a partnership of fire service professionals, the Nevada Fire Safe Council, University of Nevada and University of California Cooperative Extensions, other interested organizations joined forces to promote wildfire and ember awareness through a coordinated campaign at Lake Tahoe in May and June 2011. Activities provided information and resources to create defensible space around homes. It takes coordinated effort between individuals and local fire and other agencies to prepare a community to survive wildfire. The theme this year was “Get Defensive: We’re Counting on You!” Fire agencies, fire safe chapters and local organizations collaborated to hold community clean up days including offering free chipping and pine needle pick-ups and hosting neighborhood meetings and educational activities. Check the Living with Fire website at [www.livingwithfire.info/tahoe](http://www.livingwithfire.info/tahoe) for a report on events held.

## Summit Partners

Organizations involved in planning Lake Tahoe Basin Wildfire Awareness Week and the Wildfire Summit include:

- Cal Fire
- City of South Lake Tahoe
- Fallen Leaf Lake Fire Protection District
- Lake Tahoe Regional Fire Chiefs Association
- Lake Valley Fire Protection District
- Meeks Bay Fire Protection District
- Nevada Fire Safe Council
- Nevada Tahoe Conservation District
- North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District
- North Tahoe Fire Department
- South Lake Tahoe Fire Department
- Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District
- Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
- Tahoe Resource Conservation District
- US Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit
- University of California Cooperative Extension
- University of Nevada Cooperative Extension

## **Summit Planning Committee**

The following people were part of the planning committee meeting for the summit and wildfire awareness week in winter and spring 2011.

- Jason Arnold, Nevada Fire Safe Council project coordinator
- Beth Brady, Fire prevention, USFS Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit
- Jason Brand, Nevada Tahoe Conservation District,
- Nicole Cartwright, Tahoe Resource Conservation District
- Jeff Cowen, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
- Martin Goldberg, Fuels program, Lake Valley Fire District
- Ann Grant, Fire Safe Council volunteer, Skyland
- Eric Guevin, Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District
- Lisa Herron, USFS Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit
- Lesley Higgins, Nevada Tahoe Conservation District and Fire Safe Council volunteer, Incline Village
- Steve Hook, North Tahoe Fire Protection District
- Mary Huggins, CalFire
- Susie Kocher, University of California Cooperative Extension, South Lake Tahoe
- Steve Lewis, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension
- Candace Lowery, Nevada Fire Safe Council Public Information Officer
- Jess Mahnken, Nevada Fire Safe Council project coordinator
- Ryan McDermott, Nevada Fire Safe Council,
- Stewart McMorrow, North Tahoe Fire Protection District,
- Pete Mulvihill, North Lake Tahoe Fire Department
- Mark Novak, Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District
- John Pickett, Tahoe Douglas Fire Department
- Tia Rancourt, North Lake Tahoe Fire
- Steve Quarles, University of California Cooperative Extension, (attended by web)
- Ed Smith, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension
- Megan Scheeline, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
- Sonya Sistare, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension
- K.T. Smith, Nevada Fire Safe Council volunteer
- Chris Stulik, North Tahoe Fire Protection District
- Valerie Sweetland, US Forest Service
- Doug Taggart, Meeks Bay Fire
- Kris Timberlake, CalFire
- Teri Tucker, Lake Valley Fire Protection District
- Courtney Walker, Tahoe Resource Conservation District
- Brian Walker, North Tahoe Fire Protection District

## **Summit Sponsors**

Thank you to Granlibakken resort in Tahoe City for providing the summit location at their lodge for a nominal fee. And thank you to sponsors who donated funds to host the event:

- CertainTeed Fiber Cement Siding
- Ed Cook Tree & Crane Service
- Ember Deflector Systems Inc.
- Gunter Manufacturing Inc.
- Inteplast Group
- Nevada Division of Forestry
- Nevada Fire Safe council
- Rockwood Tree Service
- Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
- Timbertech

A special thank you to the following for providing raffle prizes:

- Broakway Golf Course
- Cody's Tree Service defensible space treatment
- Holmgren's Tree Service
- Hope Valley Cafe
- Jakes on the Lake Restaurant
- MS Dixie
- Nephele's Restaurant
- Red Hut
- Sugar Pine Foundation
- Summit Outdoor Mall



# Thank You to Our Summit Sponsors

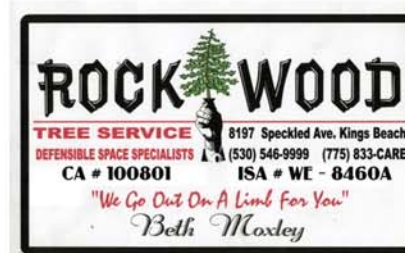


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The Lake Tahoe Basin Wildfire Summit is funded by a grant from the Nevada Division of Forestry and USDA Forest Service in cooperation with University of California and University of Nevada Cooperative Extension.

## Summit Key Results

107 people attended the Wildfire Summit. 45% of participants were Tahoe Basin home-owners and 68% were full time residents. 88% of attendees said the summit will help their communities work together to reduce wildfire risk and that they personally had a better idea of how to reduce wildfire hazards in their community. All participants said the information presented was informative and comprehensive and at about the right level of detail. All said the summit information helps clarify wildfire issues in the Tahoe Basin.

Barriers to implementation of defensible space identified during the break out sessions with local fire agencies included an attitude of irresponsibility that is deeply embedded in the local culture at Lake Tahoe. Lack of awareness, denial, cost, and ownership patterns at the lake were also cited as factors as was cost, especially during the current recession. Participants prioritized the need for education to address motivation, particularly for inculcating a sense of responsibility. A major goal should be to develop a culture that doing defensible space is just a part of living at Lake Tahoe. We need to help residents understand that defensible space is not only legal, it's required and this will eventually be enforced. Following up with actual enforcement actions is critical to the effort. Education was described as the key way to increase awareness and understanding of the fire issue and improve resident's perception of the aesthetic value of defensible space.

During the evaluation / wrap up session, participants said they particularly liked:

- The scenic location of the summit at Granlibakken resort
- Field trips in the middle of the day with lunch because it breaks up the day
- The home construction talk by Steve Quarles though it needed more time
- The fuels treatment field trip around Granlibakken – it was great to have the pre and post treatment visuals
- The field trip to look at what works with home construction and what doesn't
- Involvement of all the fire chiefs
- Good lunch

Suggestions to improve the summit included:

- Having more homeowners, politicians, and community leaders attend
- Having the assessor's office give us resident emails for outreach

Some suggestions for increasing homeowner participation included:

- *Increase advertising by using* local mass media advertising, mailers and out of area ads
- *Increase recruiting* through local fire safe council chapters:
- *Changing the time* to later in the summer on a Saturday, after the fourth of July

Additional comments about the summit included: *“Great effort!”*, *“Great conference, beautiful facility, great lunch, run on time (field trips) - great, great topics of interest”*, *“Very well organized - like break-up groups and field trips”*

## Summit Participant Demographics

**Total Number of Summit Participants:** 107 (Summary of registration information)

### Summit Participants by Community

- Auburn, CA 4
- Camino, CA 3
- Carlsbad, CA
- Carnelian Bay, CA
- Carson City, NV 5
- Chico, CA 2
- Fallen Leaf Lake, CA
- Gardnerville, NV
- Homewood, CA 3
- Incline Village, NV 9
- Kings Beach CA
- Lake Tahoe, NV
- Loomis, CA 2
- Meeks Bay, CA
- Minden, NV 2
- Moraga, CA
- Pennsylvania, PA
- Placerville, CA
- Reno, NV 4
- Richmond, CA
- Sacramento, CA
- San Anselmo, CA
- Saratoga, CA
- South Lake Tahoe, CA 16
- Stateline, NV 7
- Tahoe City, CA 13
- Tahoma, CA 6
- Truckee, CA 3
- Zephyr Cove, NV 9

### Summit Participants by Affiliation

- California State Parks 2
- California Tahoe Conservancy 1
- CAL FIRE 7
- Fire district director 4
- Fire district staff 23
  - City of South Lake Tahoe 1
  - Fallen Leaf Lake 1
  - Lake Valley 3
  - Meeks 3
  - North Lake Tahoe 4
  - North Tahoe 4
  - Tahoe Douglas 1
- Product vendor 10
- Community member 18
- Local government rep 2
- Nevada Fire Safe Council volunteer 10
- Nevada Fire Safe Council staff 7
- Press 1
- Resource Conservation District staff 1
- Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team 1
- Tahoe Regional Planning Agency 6
- University of California Cooperative Extension 4
- University of Nevada Cooperative Extension 4
- University other – 2
- USFS Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit 4
- USFS other 1



## **Identification of Barriers to Implementation of Defensible Space by Lake Tahoe Basin Residents**

Ed Smith presented 15 reasons why people don't implement defensible space. These were broken down into reasons that are about lack of motivation, means, and opportunity. Having the motivation, means and opportunity are needed to lead to defensible space action.

### *Lack of Motivation*

- Unaware - I didn't know there was a wildfire threat in my neighborhood
- Denial – It won't happen to me.
- Destiny – It's all fate when your number is up.
- Futility – It won't make a difference
- Irresponsible – It's not my job
- Insurance – So what, my insurance will build me a new house
- No incentives – If it was really important, my insurance company would give me a break on my premiums
- Unnatural or wrong – It's wrong to cut trees
- Aesthetics and function – It won't look good
- Discomfort – I don't want to because of (pick one) poison oak, lyme disease, hanta virus, etc

### *Lack of Means*

- Cost - I don't have the time or money to do it
- Unknowledgable – I don't know what to do
- Disposal – I don't have an easy way to get rid of all that stuff

### *Lack of Opportunity*

- Illegal – It's against the law
- Lack ownership – I don't own it

After Ed's presentation, the participants were grouped into breakout sessions by Steve Lewis, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, to identify the top reason(s) why people in each fire district don't practice defensible space and the best possible actions to address these challenges.

Participants were asked to discuss the top reasons people don't do defensible space in their area and identify the top three or so and list them on a flip chart page. Then participants were asked to identify ways to overcome the barriers just discussed. Participants were instructed to identify actions they thought would change the behaviors of those not implementing defensible space. Next the group identified the actions that might be the best, give the highest return and/or are easiest to implement. The outcomes of the conversation were then reported back to the whole group.

Notes from the focus groups were typed up and analyzed for content. Generally, the participants did not use the language of the 15 reasons identified by the presentation. The notes have been reorganized to identify the categories of barriers and actions used in the full group presentation. The barriers and actions identified are summarized in Table 1.

Participants identified motivational, means and opportunity factors as barriers to implementation of defensible space in Tahoe. All four groups identified an attitude of irresponsibility as a major factor. They said that people don't care, don't think of natural vegetation as needing maintenance, or would rather recreate than do yard work. Some said that this is actually deeply embedded in the local culture at Lake Tahoe. Three of four focus groups identified lack of awareness, denial, cost, and ownership patterns at the lake as factors. Ownership patterns, including second home ownership and a high percentage of rental properties, reduce the opportunity and ability for some to complete defensible space. Denial that the local forest would burn (some calling it an "asbestos" forest) was also discussed as a major factor. Costs were a factor for residents, especially during the current recession. Two of four focus groups identified futility (why do work when neighboring owners have not?), aesthetics (concerns it would look bad or reduce privacy), or the perception that defensible space actions are illegal or clash with water quality best management practice requirements. One group identified a feeling that cutting trees is wrong and that disposing of materials is too difficult as factors preventing implementation of defensible space.

The actions participants prioritized to overcome these barriers included working residents' motivation, means and opportunities. Education was most identified as the way to address motivation, particularly for inculcating a sense of responsibility. A major goal should be to develop a culture that doing defensible space is just a part of living at Lake Tahoe. Helping residents understand that defensible space is not only legal, it's required and will eventually be enforced was also key. Following up with actual enforcement actions was identified as critical to this effort. Education was also described as the key way to increase awareness and understand of the fire issue and improve resident's perception of the aesthetic value of defensible space.

Methods suggested to outreach include

- Use emergency radio station/message boards/websites/TV stations
- Attend farmers markets/concerts/community events/outside of basin
- Develop a map of recent fires with write-up on each to create a self guided tour
- Get film of Angora Fire out to home owners
- Showing landscaping options/ideas using before/after pictures of other properties
- Use direct mail to out of basin owners
- Use local media to advertise defensible space – upgrade printed message
- Develop Fire Safe Chapters to improve outreach
- Conduct more one-on-one visits from Fire Safe Chapter reps
- Targeting kids with presentations in schools including the science, etc
- Using examples from the real world like recent fire events
- Comparing the cost of defensible space to the cost of home replacement
- Develop a TRPA Best of Best for Chapter projects
- Reaching out to realtors and renters
- Continually repeating the defensible space message

Ways to address means barriers included holding free dump days, developing a program to promote free firewood from defensible space activities, providing high school student labor to those who can't do the work themselves, and seeking more fire district funding for crews and chipping programs.

**Table 1. Summary of barriers to defensible space at Lake Tahoe and recommended actions**

15 Reasons People Don't Do Defensible Space	North Tahoe FPD		Lake Valley FPD/ City of South Lake FD		North Lake Tahoe / Tahoe Douglas FPD		Meeks Bay FPD		Total	
	Reason	Action	Reason	Action	Reason	Action	Reason	Action	R	A
<i>Motivation</i>										
Unaware	X		X	X		X	X	X	3	3
Denial	X		X		X				3	
Destiny										
Futility	X				X				2	
Irresponsible	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	4	4
Insurance						X			0	1
No incentives									0	0
Unnatural					X				1	0
Aesthetics	X			X			X		2	1
Discomfort									0	0
<i>Means</i>										
Cost	X	X			X		X	X	3	2
Unknowledgable									0	0
Disposal	X	X						X	1	2
<i>Opportunity</i>										
Illegal			X		X	X		X	2	2
Lack ownership	X		X				X		3	0

**North Tahoe Fire Protection District (Tahoe City/King's Beach, CA)**

***Reasons for not practicing defensible space:***

*Lack of Motivation*

Unaware

- Not enough education, incomplete

Denial

- There is a long term memory loss
- People don't like change

Futility

- There are no laws for vacant lots – if the neighboring lot isn't treated why should I bother?

Irresponsibility - there is a lack of consequences and real enforcement:

- There is no follow-up after inspections
- People don't care - apathy sets in

Aesthetics and function – people don't want to reduce the vegetation:

- Homes are too close together
- People want the ‘forest experience’
- People don’t want to see neighbors and their stuff, vegetation provides screening

*Lack of Means*

Cost:

- Some are on a fixed income
- No funding to do the work - big trees are expensive to remove
- No time to get it done or its not enough of a priority
- The recession has reduced people’s ability to pay for work

Disposal– there needs to be a more efficient way of disposing of the material:

- No equipment to haul off material
- Not enough funding for crews to haul out material
- No land for storage of material
- Political resistance to biomass facility
- Biomass facility costs

*Lack of Opportunity*

Lack of community- ownership-demographic changes:

- There are fewer young families with children
- There are multiple family trusts with no one person in charge
- Many properties are rentals

***Actions to overcome barriers to defensible space non-practicers:***

*Motivation*

Improve awareness through education

- Use emergency radio station/message boards/websites/TV stations
- Attend farmers markets/concerts/community events/outside of basin

Develop sense of responsibility:

- Develop neighborhood committees with goals

*Means*

Overcome cost issues - address economic and funding problems:

- Ask tree companies setting aside funding for those in need to advertised
- Develop a letter writing campaign to government reps

Overcome disposal issues:

- Hold free dump days
- Provide incentives for large property owners to use their land for chip dump
- Provide ‘Green bags’ - neighborhood dumpster

**Lake Valley Fire Protection District** (*El Dorado County, CA*)  
**City of South Lake Tahoe Fire Department** (*South Lake Tahoe, CA*)

## ***Top reasons for not practicing defensible space:***

### *Lack of Motivation*

#### Unaware - Lack of understanding, perception of threat

- People are living in a city – do not see it as a “wild land” area
- People see it as an “asbestos” forest – our forest doesn’t burn, “I’ve never seen a fire here in 50 years” because no one ever hears about fires until they are huge
- People don’t think of the “natural” landscape as needing maintenance -forest is natural and doesn’t require landscaping
- People only think of maintaining vegetation that they planted and water (like lawn)

#### Denial

- It won’t happen again/here
- Bad things won’t happen in my fantasyland

#### Irresponsible

- People want to recreate in Tahoe “I don’t come to the Lake to work in my yard”

### *Lack of Opportunity*

#### Illegal – It’s against the law

- TRPA won’t let me do it (old reason)
- Fear of doing something wrong

#### Lack ownership/ ownership patterns

- Many homes are 2<sup>nd</sup> homes
- Many homes are occupied by renters who don’t think they are responsible for the property

## ***Actions to overcome barriers to defensible space non-practicers:***

### *Motivation*

#### Increase awareness through education

- Help people understand that small fires happen all the time, our forests do burn
- Use local media to advertise defensible space – upgrade printed message
- Develop Fire Safe Chapters to improve outreach
- Conduct more one-on-one visits from Fire Safe Chapter reps about fire safety tips for the home

#### Increase responsibility through education

- You must take responsibility for property you bought
- In California, it is the renter’s responsibility to complete defensible space

#### Increase understanding of aesthetics

- Landscaping options/ideas and before/after pictures of other properties

### *Opportunity*

#### It’s legal - Improve agency cooperation to coordinate message

- Agencies give out other agencies’ info
- Get agency reps to go on RSN together

**North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District** (*Incline Village, NV*)  
**Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District** (*Zephyr Cove to Stateline, NV*)

***Top reasons for not practicing defensible space:***

*Lack of Motivation*

Denial

- People still don't believe a fire will happen to them. It's not an immediate threat.

Futility

- Why should a homeowner do anything if neighbors don't?

Irresponsible

- People with second homes are apathetic
- People don't want to do work while they are here at the Lake
- Not part of the Tahoe Culture

Unnatural or wrong- Tree hugging – people don't want to get rid of their vegetation.

- Philosophical differences – Sierra Club versus fuels work

*Lack of Means*

Costs

- There is a high cost to some treatments
- People are upside down in their homes and can't put money into it
- No time or resources for second home owners

*Lack of Opportunity*

Illegal

- There is a perceived conflict between water quality best management practices and defensible space

***Actions to overcome barriers to defensible space non-practicers:***

*Increase Motivation*

Improve Awareness through marketing of the defensible space message

- Targeting kids with presentations in schools including the science, etc
- Using examples from the real world like recent fire events
- Comparing the cost of defensible space to the cost of home replacement
- Developing community pride and increasing community peer pressure
- Develop a TRPA Best of Best for Chapter projects
- Reaching out to realtors
- Taking a project management approach to defensible space including prioritizing areas

Improve Responsibility by targeting 2nd home owners

- Provide positive recognition

- Use direct mail
- Encourage thinking about the threat they pose to their neighbors

Work with insurance companies

*Assure People they have the opportunity*

It's legal and required

- Sooner or later, we'll be using enforcement of defensible space laws

**Meeks Bay Fire Protection District** (*Meeks Bay, CA*)

***Top reasons for not practicing defensible space:***

*Lack of Motivation*

Lack of awareness

- People don't recognize value of home defensible space
- People are in denial about of the degree of risk
- Lack of knowledge

Irresponsible/Apathy

- People don't care
- Owners don't care at all about defensible space

Aesthetics

- People like the heavily wooded landscapes because it is so different from the hardscapes (asphalt jungles) they are escaping

*Lack of Means*

Costs

- There is not enough money
- The recession means fewer resources to implement defensible space

*Lack of Opportunity*

Ownership

- Absentee owners – large number of second homes and owners are only there for a couple weeks/year

***Actions to overcome barriers to defensible space non-practicers:***

*Increase Motivation*

Increase AwarenessImprove educational outreach

- Develop a map of recent fires with write-up on each to create a self guided tour
- Continually repeat and remind the defensible space message
- Get film of Angora Fire out to home owners

Responsibility - Develop community norms/ peer pressure

- Encourage socialization of home owners
- Work hard and be polite to home owners

*Improve Means*

Cost - Provide labor to those who can't do it themselves

- Have high school kids and minimum wage labor workers clean up lots

Improve disposal options

- Develop signage on the road and fire station instructing people where to take pine cones
- Develop a program promoting free fire wood courtesy of defensible space

*Opportunity – It's legal AND required*

Improve enforcement

- Promise punitive action and follow-thru with non-practicers
- Request inspection from CAL FIRE of problem properties

## Summary of Responses to the Summit Evaluation Form

**Total number of responses: 25**

**Participant demographics:**

***How would you describe your involvement with Lake Tahoe wildfire issues (circle all that apply)***

As a home-owner 45%  
 As a fire fighting professional 10%  
 As a consultant or private company 10%  
 As a government decision maker 25%  
 Other: 20%

***How familiar were you with wildfire issues in Lake Tahoe before this summit?***

Very familiar 75%  
 Somewhat familiar 15%  
 A little familiar 5%  
 Not at all familiar 5%

***What is your utilization of the Tahoe Basin?***

Live here full time 68%  
 Live here part time 21%  
 Visit frequently 5%  
 Visit occasionally 5%  
 First time here 0%

***How did you find out about this summit?***

From a friend or neighbor 25%  
 From a colleague 58%  
 From a mailing 17%  
 From an e-mail 33%  
 From radio/TV 0%  
 From a newspaper article or ad 0%  
 From an agency 25%

- 1. The talks presented today were informative and comprehensive.*** Strongly Agree 60%, Agree 40%
- 2. The level of detail covered today was about right.*** Strongly Agree 48%, Agree 52%
- 3. The agenda made good use of the time allotted.*** Strongly Agree 40%, Agree 44%, Neutral 16%
- 4. This information presented helps clarify wildfire issues in the Tahoe Basin.*** Strongly Agree 48%, Agree 52%



**5. This summit will help our communities work together to reduce wildfire risk.** Strongly Agree 17%, Agree 71%, Neutral 8%, Disagree 4%

**6. After this summit, I have a better idea of how to reduce wildfire hazards in my community.**

Strongly Agree 25%, Agree 63%, Neutral 13%

**7. Overall how would you rate today's presentations?** Excellent 48%, Very good 40%, Good 12%

**8. Please rate the sessions and presentations given at this workshop on a scale of five to one.**

(5 = excellent, 4 = very good, 3 = good, 2 = fair, 1 = poor)

Fire regimes and forest restoration in the Lake Tahoe Basin – <i>Hugh Safford, USFS</i>	4.5
4 Years after the Angora Fire, Lessons Learned – <i>Jeff Michael, Lake Valley FPD</i>	4.0
Indoors concurrent sessions - (please rate only the one you attended)	
A: Reducing the vulnerability of the built environment: <i>Steve Quarles</i>	4.2
B: Local forest fuel treatments and goals: <i>Norb Szczurek</i>	4.7
C: Wildfire behavior and suppression: <i>Kyle Jacobson and John Washington</i>	3.0
Concurrent Field Trips - (please rate only the one you attended)	
A: Walking tour of nearby community to view home construction: <i>Steve Quarles</i>	4.2
B: Walking tour of thinning project at Granlibakken resort: <i>John Pickett /Ron Parson</i>	4.3
C: Driving tour to the Washoe fire: <i>Beth Brady</i>	4.2
15 Reasons People Don't Do Defensible Space— <i>Ed Smith</i>	4.5
Fire District Break-out Sessions	4.3
Wrap up and Evaluation	4.1
Ask an Expert	4.0

**9. What ONE item that stands out as the most helpful thing you learned at the summit today?**

*Presentations:*

- Home ignition/ S.Quarles updated information on home ignition (4)
- The history of fire & vegetation in the Basin (3), S. Africa - don't help homeowners!
- Defensible space/
- Angora fire/ When a forest burns - flooding problems may exist after since trees take much of the water

*Field Trips:*

- Field trips (2) seeing things in real life rather than pictures was great
- Field trip to fire area, Granlibakken treatment

*Interactions*

- Susie K. acknowledged the problem I've had with the Fire Safe Council staff & made me feel safe

*Action:*

- Motivated to go home and clean my gutters!
- Need to get the community educated
- How much of a difference defensible space makes

**10. What other topics or issues would you like to see at a future summit?**

### *Defensible space:*

- Statistics of homes that have / haven't done defensible space
- Enforcement topics
- How to create beautiful defensible landscapes
- Homeowner success stories
- Integration of BMPs w/FDS

### *Homeowners*

- More homeowners
- How to educate 2nd homeowners and get them involved (2)

### *Fire codes*

- Maybe some building codes (fire related)

### *Relationships*

- How can rude macho "snowboarder" attitude of certain helpers (fire safe council mostly) be changed? Also defensible space brush collectors at meeks bay firehouse

### *Media*

- Use of media to provide education

### *Fuels reduction*

- What planning goes into projects planned by the fire districts

## ***11. How could we improve upon the summit for next year?***

### *It's already great*

- It was great
- It's a good format

### *More attendees*

- More homeowners
- Move advertising to get the public here
- Get more people here - publicize, raffle prizes
- Invitation to homeowners stressing value
- More people. NVFSC Chapter recruiting info

### *Timing*

- Hold it on a Saturday (2)
- ½ day

### *Content*

- Stop rehashing what happened at Angora Fire (unless used for real scientific info - getting old to hear the story of the fire and how scary it was)
- Have Steve Quarles back
- Integrate built structures w/landscape FDS. More general on built structures rather than too much detail.

### *Field trips*

- Not limit field trip outings - rotate so we can see all

### *Venue*

- Have it a Granlibakken again

### *Food*

- Coffee in the morning (2)

## **12. What could be done to get more homeowners to attend?**

### *Advertise:*

- PSA on cable announcing summit. Get on RSN & Mountain TV to talk about summit
- Marketing & Advertising
- This should be your main concern for next year. How about outside area ads.

### *Timing*

- Later for second homeowners
- Hold it after the homeowners meeting after July 4th
- Weekdays might not work, same locals work Mon-Fri

### *Content*

- Maybe get a keynote speaker that would draw them in or music @ the end of the day to make it a social
- Combine it with something they want to do

### *Incentives*

- Pay them
- Prizes? Drinks? Homeowner Assoc. Groups

### *Persistence*

- Tell them about it (over & over)
- Be persistent/don't give up. This is my first time

### *Location*

- More local areas concentrate in smaller areas so homeowners don't have to drive far for seminar

### *Threats*

- Enforcement threats

## **17. Please share any other comments you might have about today's wildfire summit.**

### *Thanks*

- Great effort! (2)
- Thank you (2)

### *Nicely organized*

- Great conference, beautiful facility, great lunch, run on time (field trips) - great topics of interest
- Very well organized - like break-up groups and field trips

### *Susie*

- Female facilitator (Susie Kocher) was nice to me and understood when I spoke about problems with Firesafe Council people's attitudes
- MC was pretty awkward - Susie would have been better

## Summit Photographs



Registration for the June 24<sup>th</sup> Wildfire Summit - Photo by Lesley Higgins



Mingling at the Summit - Photo by Lesley Higgins



Vendor tables at the Summit - Photo by Lesley Higgins



Introduction and overview by Steve Quarles - Photo by Leslie Higgins



Chief Jeff Michael reviewing changes after the Angora fire – Photo by Susie Kocher



Chief Norb Szscurek gives an overview of the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team – Photo by Susie Kocher

Steve Quarles talks about protecting the build environment from wildfire – Photo by Susie Kocher







Participants enjoy lunch outdoors at Granlibakken - Photos by Susie Kocher







Ron Parson, manager at Granlibakken gives an overview of the fuels treatments done by the resort – Photos by Susie Kocher







Leo Horton and Jason Arnold on the Granlibakken field trip - Photo by Susie Kocher

Snow plants in treated area at Granlibakken - Photo by Susie Kocher

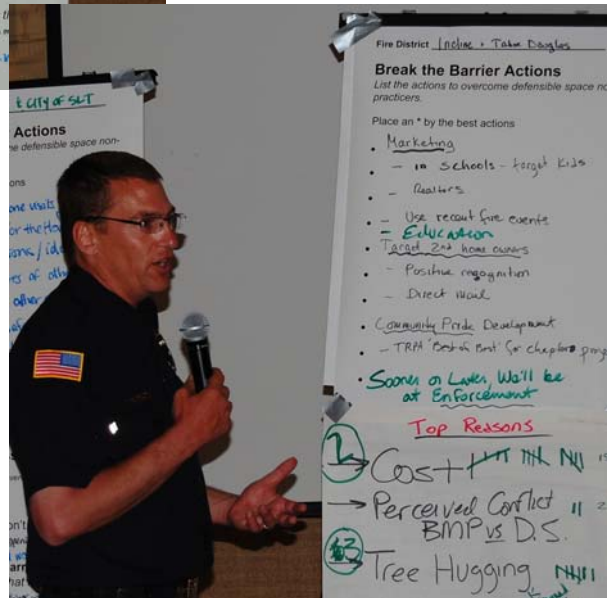
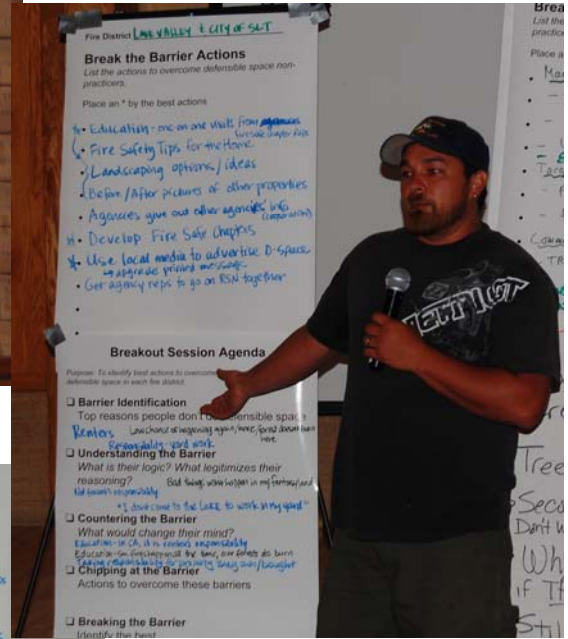
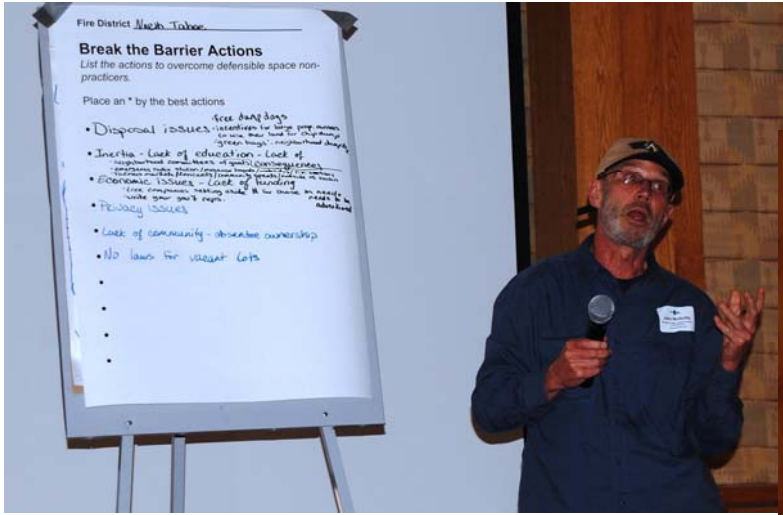


Ed Smith describing 15 reasons why people don't do defensible space - Photo by Susie Kocher





Participants reporting back from the fire district break out sessions - Photos by Susie Kocher



## Summit Invitation Letter

<YOUR LETTERHEAD HERE>

May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Dear <Your Jurisdiction/ Organization> Resident:

I am writing to personally invite you to the second Lake Tahoe Basin Wildland Urban Interface Fire Summit to be held on June 24<sup>th</sup> 2011, at Granlibakken Resort in Tahoe City, CA. The purpose of the Wildfire Summit is to discuss opportunities to reduce the wildfire risk to Tahoe Basin communities and to encourage action. We hope you will join us for this free one-day event to learn about wildfire issues in the Tahoe Basin and how to reduce risk to homes and communities by creating defensible space and implementing fuels reduction projects. Please see the enclosed flyer with the summit agenda and registration information. Registration is free, but required and limited to 150. Please register online <http://ucanr.org/2011wildfiresummit/>. For questions on content or registration, please contact Susie Kocher, 530-542-2571, [sdkocher@ucdavis.edu](mailto:sdkocher@ucdavis.edu).

The Summit is being held just after the second annual Lake Tahoe Basin Wildfire Awareness Week from May 28<sup>th</sup> to June 5<sup>th</sup>. All Lake Tahoe Basin homeowners and visitors are welcome to participate in activities during Tahoe Basin Wildfire Awareness Week. The theme this year is: GET DEFENSIVE: WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU! For a complete list and more information on the events, visit <http://www.livingwithfire.info/tahoe>. I hope that you can join me and other community members to work on reducing the fire risk in <Your Jurisdiction>. Your participation can help affect positive change in our community.

Sincerely,  
<Your Name>  
<Your Jurisdiction/Organization>



# Agenda

# Lake Tahoe 2011 Wildfire Summit

June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011 *Granlibakken Resort, Tahoe City, CA*

## Summit Agenda

**9:00— 9:15**                    ***Welcome and logistics***

**9:15— 10:00**                ***History of Fire in the Tahoe Basin:*** Hugh Safford - Vegetation Ecologist for the US Forest Service Pacific Southwest Region

**10:00— 10:30**                ***Four Years after the Angora fire:*** Jeff Michael—Chief, Lake Valley Fire Protection District, South Lake Tahoe CA

**10:30—10:45**                ***Break and Vendor Show***

**10:45— 11:30**                ***Concurrent Sessions (indoors)***

**A:** *Reducing the vulnerability of the built environment:* Steve Quarles—Wood Durability Advisor, University of California Cooperative Extension

**B:** *Local forest fuel treatments and goals:* Norb Szczurek - Fuels Management Division, North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District, Incline Village, NV

**C:** *Wildfire behavior and suppression:* Kyle Jacobson and John Washington—USFS Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit

**11:30— 1:15**                ***Concurrent Field Trips (with lunch outdoors)***

**A:** Walking tour of nearby community to view home construction: Steve Quarles - UC Coop. Extension

**B:** Walking tour of thinning project at Granlibakken resort: John Pickett—Tahoe Douglas FPD, Ron Parson—Granlibakken manager

**C:** Driving tour to the Washoe fire: Beth Brady—USFS Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit

**1:15—1:30**                    ***Return to Granlibakken***

**1:30— 2:15**                    ***15 Reasons People Don't Do Defensible Space***—Ed Smith, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension

**2:15— 3:15**                    ***Fire District Break-out Sessions***

**3:15— 3:45**                    ***Wrap up and Evaluation***

**3:45— 4:30**                    ***Ask an Expert / Vendor Session***

*Social Hour—No Host Bar Open at 4:00, Raffle at 4:30*

**Summit 2011 Partners:** CAL FIRE • California State Parks • City of South Lake Tahoe • Fallen Leaf Lake Fire Department • Heavenly Ski Resort • Lake Tahoe Regional Fire Chiefs Association • Lake Valley Fire Protection District • Meeks Bay Fire Protection District • Nevada Division of Forestry • Nevada Fire Safe Council • Nevada Tahoe Conservation District • North Lake Tahoe Demonstration Garden • North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District • North Tahoe Fire Department • South Lake Tahoe Fire Department • Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District • Tahoe Regional Planning Agency • Tahoe Resource Conservation District • US Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit • University of California Cooperative Extension • University of Nevada Cooperative Extension •

**Summit Objectives:** To provide information and tools that will assist residents to reduce wildfire risks to their homes and communities in the Tahoe Basin and to develop recommendations for each Tahoe Basin fire district on reducing wildfire risk in those communities.

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**Who Should Attend:** Residents and homeowners in the Tahoe Basin, staff and decision makers with state, local, federal and tribal agencies concerned with defensible space, emergency preparedness and forest management. Anyone interested in learning about wildfire issues in the Tahoe Basin and how to protect homes and communities by improving building materials and performance, implementing defensible space, and conducting community forest fuel reduction projects.

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**For More Information:** For information about this year's Summit, or to RSVP, contact:

*Content*— Susie Kocher, 530-542-2571,

Email: [sdkocher@ucdavis.edu](mailto:sdkocher@ucdavis.edu)

*Registration*— Please call Nancy Starr, 530-621-5503,

E-mail: [njstarr@ucdavis.edu](mailto:njstarr@ucdavis.edu)

Learn more at [www.livingwithfire.info/tahoe](http://www.livingwithfire.info/tahoe)



**Registration:** This event is free to attend, but registration is required. Registration is limited to the first 150 people, so register early at <http://ucanr.org/2011wildfiresummit>.

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Should you need assistance or require accommodations for any physical challenge, please let us know.

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United States Department of Agriculture,  
University of California and El Dorado County Cooperating

University of California  
Agriculture and Natural Resources



University of Nevada  
Cooperative Extension

## Summit Evaluation Form

June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011 Granlibakken Resort, Tahoe City, CA

Please complete this evaluation form and turn it in today at the conclusion of the summit. The information collected will assist us in developing and presenting future events. First, would you give us your overall impressions of the summit? (*Please circle the response that best fits your answer*)

1. The talks presented today were informative and comprehensive.

<i>Strongly Agree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Neutral</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>
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2. The level of detail covered today was about right.

<i>Strongly Agree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Neutral</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>
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3. The agenda made good use of the time allotted.

<i>Strongly Agree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Neutral</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>
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4. This information presented helps clarify wildfire issues in the Tahoe Basin.

<i>Strongly Agree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Neutral</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>
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5. This Summit will help our communities work together to reduce wildfire risk.

<i>Strongly Agree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Neutral</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>
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6. After this Summit, I have a better idea of how to reduce wildfire hazards in my community.

<i>Strongly Agree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Neutral</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>
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7. Overall how would you rate today's presentations?

<i>Excellent</i>	<i>Very good</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Fair</i>	<i>Poor</i>
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8. Next, would you please rate the sessions and presentations given at this workshop on a scale of five to one? (*5 = excellent, 4 = very good, 3 = good, 2 = fair, 1 = poor*)

Fire regimes and forest restoration in the Lake Tahoe Basin – <i>Hugh Safford, USFS Region 5</i>	
4 Years after the Angora Fire, Lessons Learned – <i>Jeff Michael, Lake Valley Fire Protection District</i>	
Indoors concurrent sessions - (please rate only the one you attended)	
A: Reducing the vulnerability of the built environment: <i>Steve Quarles</i>	
B: Local forest fuel treatments and goals: <i>Norb Szczurek</i>	
C: Wildfire behavior and suppression: <i>Kyle Jacobson and John Washington</i>	
Concurrent Field Trips - (please rate only the one you attended)	
A: Walking tour of nearby community to view home construction: <i>Steve Quarles</i>	
B: Walking tour of thinning project at Granlibakken resort: <i>John Pickett and Ron Parson</i>	
C: Driving tour to the Washoe fire: <i>Beth Brady</i>	
15 Reasons People Don't Do Defensible Space— <i>Ed Smith</i>	
Fire District Break-out Sessions	
Wrap up and Evaluation	
Ask an Expert	

9. What ONE item that stands out as the most helpful thing you learned at the summit today?

10. What other topics or issues would you like to see at a future summit?

11. How could we improve upon the summit for next year?

12. What could be done to get more homeowners to attend?

Lastly, please indicate your previous level of involvement with these issues:

13. How did you find out about this summit?  
*(circle all that apply)*

From a friend or neighbor	From a colleague	From a mailing	From an e-mail	From radio/TV	From a newspaper article or ad
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14. How familiar were you with wildfire issues in Lake Tahoe before this summit?

Very familiar	Somewhat familiar	A little familiar	Not at all familiar
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15. How would you describe your involvement with Lake Tahoe wildfire issues?  
*(circle the primary way)*

As a homeowner	As a land or resource manager	As a fire fighting professional	As a consultant or private company	As a government decision maker	Other:
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If other, please describe: \_\_\_\_\_

16. What is your utilization of the Tahoe Basin?

Live here full time	Live here part time	Visit frequently	Visit occasionally	First time here
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17. Please share any other comments you might have about today's wildfire summit.

**Thank You!**