



Sierra Forest Legacy

Protecting Sierra Nevada Forests and Communities



We Need a Common Sense Approach to Protect and Restore Lake Tahoe's Forests



What Conservation-Minded Citizens Can Do To Help

- **Protecting Water Clarity means protecting the Basin that feeds into the Lake**

Logging interests want to get large equipment into stream environment zones before the Lahontan Regional Waterboard can evaluate the impacts from heavy equipment. This action will violate the Clean Water Act, the recently renewed Lahontan timber waiver and potentially damage the clarity of Lake Tahoe. **Call Harold Singer at the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Office at 530-542-5400** and tell him to maintain the Stream Environment Zone (SEZ) protections until there is scientific data from the Heavenly Valley Creek Demonstration Project that supports changing the rules. There are currently low-impact methods available to treat fuels in SEZs now.

- **Forest Restoration is not about logging big trees**

The Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (CER Report 2006) and recent research on historic forest conditions (Alan Taylor 2007) clearly suggests that restoring forest health at Lake Tahoe involves thinning small trees (generally 16" diameter and under), yet the Forest Service is proposing to log trees up to 30" diameter in uplands and in stream environment zones in the *South Shore Project*. This proposed action is not about forest restoration. It is about political pressure from the Bush Administration and timber industry front group, the Forest Foundation and their "scientist-for-hire" Tom Bonnicksen. Bonnicksen is an advisory board member of the pro-logging timber industry-funded Forest Foundation and received \$109,000 from the foundation in recent years as an "independent contractor," according to the *Los Angeles Times*. **Call Terri Marceron LTBMU Supervisor at 530-543-2600** and tell her you want a project alternative that limits large tree logging in uplands and SEZs and a project that is consistent with the best science. Go to <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/lbmu/projects/> to find the project information.

- **Restoring the Angora Fire--Salvage Logging does more harm than good**



The most current scientific research (Donato et al. 2006; Shatford et al. 2007; Thompson et al. 2007) suggests that salvage logging burned forests and replanting tree farms needs to be re-examined as a restoration concept. The results of these research papers demonstrate that salvage logging and replanting destroys natural regeneration of trees, increases fire risk and lowers wildlife diversity!

Call Terri Marceron 530-543-2600 and tell her you want a scientifically sound restoration plan for the Angora Fire. Cut hazard trees near homes but otherwise allow natural reforestation to take place and don't clear cut and replant the burned area as the timber industry will demand. Burned forests have incredible value for wildlife and logging equipment will drive sediment into Lake Tahoe--degrading water quality even further.



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What we are doing to help reduce fire risk in the Lake Tahoe Area

- Sierra Forest Legacy is implementing the *FIREWISE COMMUNITIES USA* Program in the Sierra Nevada and has completed the FireWise Assessment for the Alpine Meadows Community. This program helps communities protect themselves at their home with defensible space and community-wide planning. E-mail jenniferq@sierraforestlegacy.org to learn more about what you can do to help your community become *FIREWISE*.
- Sierra Forest Legacy wrote the grant for the South Tahoe High School Biomass Boiler which will replace the school's diesel heating system with a biofuel (woody biomass and natural gas) boiler. The High School was on the perimeter of the Angora Fire. The South Tahoe Boiler will create a destination point for biomass chips in the Basin and help make biomass treatments more cost-effective while also reducing air pollution from burn piles.
- Sierra Forest Legacy has co-authored the new Conservation Community Wildfire Protection Plan for Sierra Nevada Communities...the plan is a "how-to" guide for protecting homes and restoring forested lands near communities. To learn more got to: www.forevergreenforestry.com/SierraConservationCWPP.html

- Sierra Forest Legacy is helping communities understand the need for *defensible space*



And for using Fire Safe building materials...During the Angora Fire, homes burned because communities lacked defensible space and/or homes were ignited by blowing embers (2007 Angora Fire Assessment Report, US Forest Service, LTBMU).

Restoring the forests of the Lake Tahoe Basin means thinning primarily smaller trees, treating brush and surface fuels, and supporting environmentally sustainable, small-scale biomass facilities that will provide a safer end-point for forest thinnings. It is time to end the continuous creation of thousands of highly flammable burn piles throughout the Basin. Finally, land managers need to embrace the scientific consensus regarding the re-introduction of carefully managed prescribed fire and support its use in the restoration plans for Lake Tahoe.

Our political leaders need to hear that investing in Lake Tahoe Restoration—the right way—will provide for a healthy environment and healthy economy.