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STAFF REPORT

Date: April 17, 2019
To: TRPA Governing Board
From: TRPA Staff
Subject: TRPA Forest Health Initiative Update

Summary and Staff Recommendation:

Staff will provide an informational update on the Forest Health Initiative. Presentations related to the initiative will also be given by Chris Anthony, Cal Fire Division Chief and Kacey KC, State Forester-Firewarden of the Nevada Division of Forestry. This item is for informational purposes and no action is required.

Background:

Wildfire prevention and hazardous fuel reduction in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) has been a priority for the Tahoe Basin for the last 15+ years. The Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team (TFFT) treats 3,000 – 6,000 acres each year within the WUI to protect human health and safety and prevent catastrophic wildfires. However, as climate change brings a variety of new threats to the basin such as drought, insect infestations, and disease, the TFFT recognizes the need to implement restoration projects not just within the WUI, but at a bigger scale extending into the surrounding forest. Implementing large-scale projects that focus on an entire ecosystem can improve forest health and build resilience to climate change. TRPA's current forest vegetation framework in the Regional Plan needs to be updated to catch up with the latest science, forest practices, and innovative technologies that support the implementation of large landscape projects on the ground. The Tahoe Region's implementation approach should also build upon the goals, policies, and practices of forest restoration across the entire Sierra Nevada. The result from this initiative will be **implementation of contemporary forest health goals, policies, and code that support the next phase of forest management in the Tahoe Basin.**

Contact Information:

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