

TAHOE REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY

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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEW LEGISLATION TO FUND LAKE TAHOE WILDFIRE PREVENTION PLAN

Lake Tahoe, NV – Legislation recently passed by Congress will bring substantial funding to Lake Tahoe for forest fuels reduction work, which will help protect the area from catastrophic wildfire, according to the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency.

The bill designates wilderness areas in eastern Nevada and allows the auction of nearly 45,000 acres of Nevada's federal land in White Pine County to private bidders. The bill also amends the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act to allow funds generated from similar auctions in Las Vegas to help implement a comprehensive wildfire prevention and hazardous fuels reduction plan for Lake Tahoe. The newly passed legislation also supports biomass and biofuels energy development and production activities in the Tahoe Basin.

The bill, which passed as part of a tax relief and health care act, cleared the House and Senate over the weekend and is awaiting the signature of President Bush. The legislation by Nevada Senators Harry Reid and John Ensign is patterned after land management acts that Congress approved in 1998 for Clark County and in 2004 for Lincoln County – both of which have aided in generating substantial funds for environmental work at Lake Tahoe over the years.

"This bill is extremely important for the implementation of forest fuel reduction programs at Lake Tahoe," stated John Singlaub, TRPA's Executive Director. "TRPA would like to thank Harry Reid, John Ensign and our entire congressional delegation for their efforts in getting this momentous bill passed and for their dedication in protecting Tahoe's forests and our communities."

The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency cooperatively leads the effort to preserve, restore, and enhance the unique natural and human environment of the Lake Tahoe Region now and in the future. For additional information, call Angela Moniot at 775-588-4547 x 235.

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