

Evaluating alternative fuel treatments in the South Shore wildland urban interface area

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We meet with Lake Tahoe Basin managers on July 8, 2009. We collected stand exam data for several planning projects. We obtained Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU) GIS data which will be used to clip Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) plots within the vicinity of the basin. The additional plot data (FIA) will be used to represent different forest structures in the basin. We discussed the conceptual design of building Fuel Characteristic Classification System (FCCS) fuelbed using stand exam and plant association guidebook. Managers agreed with the conceptual approach, which will use FFE-FVS (Fire and Fuels Extension to the Forest Vegetation Simulator) plant association code, FFE-FVS structural classes code (e.g., stand initiation, stem exclusion, understory reinitiation), and a region 5 plant association guidebook to populate shrubs and nonwoody vegetation for each stand exam plot. Shrub and nonwoody quantity will vary based on the structural class and surface fuel treatments. Managers have agreed to review preliminary products. We also met with FFE-FVS programmers in Fort Collins, CO to discuss programming of FFE-FVS and FCCS. We are building a shrub and nonwoody vegetation database that will be used to develop code to integrate FFE-FVS output with FCCS. Programmers at the Pacific Wildland Fire Science Laboratory are working on designing and testing code to integrate FFE-FVS output into FCCS format.

[†] This document is an intermediate progress report, not a final report; consequently, any results should be considered preliminary and should not be cited. Please contact the principal investigators or the Tahoe SNPLMA Science Program Coordinator if you have questions.