



# National Fire Plan Success Story

## Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest



United States Department of Agriculture  
Web: <http://www.usda.gov>

United States Department of Interior  
Web: <http://www.doi.gov>

## Nevada Community Wildfire Risk/Hazard Assessment Project

**Project Scope:** Includes 17 initial assessments of at-risk communities and present wildfire hazards within *all of Nevada's counties*.

**Collaborators:** This project is funded through National Fire Plan grants from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the US Forest Service (USFS), and the Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF), administered by the Nevada Fire Safe Council, and will be completed by a local contractor.

**Report's Contents:** Each county report focuses on specific at-risk communities and is developed through a collaborative process. This process comprehensively researches community design, construction materials, defensible space, suppression capabilities, other factors affecting fire behavior, fire behavior and worst-case scenarios, and ignition-risk assessment.

**Status:** Churchill, Lyon, and Mineral Counties' assessments have been completed. The remaining 14 assessments will be finalized by December 2004.

**Process:** The contractor interviewed and worked with the local fire department personnel and regional agency Fire Management Officers to obtain information on wildfire training, emergency response time, personnel and equipment availability, evacuation plans, pre-attack plans, and estimates of possible worst-case scenarios.

**Ignition-Risk Ratings:** The contractor assigned ignition-risk ratings of low, moderate, or high for each at-risk community based on:

- historical record interpretation of ignition patterns and fire polygons provided by the National Interagency Fire Center, the BLM, and USFS databases,
- interviews with local fire department personnel and regional Fire Management Officers,
- field visits to each community, and,
- fire specialists' experience with wildland fire ignitions in the state of Nevada.

**Review:** After the assessment is completed, the Nevada Interagency Fuels Committee members are asked to review the plans and provide additional input and comments. Committee members include fuels specialists from the USFS, NDF, BLM, National Park Service, US Fish & Wildlife Service, and the Nevada Fire Safe Council. Each report has local county, state, federal, and city representatives that have and will participate in these plans.

**Potential Outcomes:** Proposed recommendations typically include, but are not limited to the physical removal of flammable vegetation, increased community awareness of how to reduce the risk of fire ignitions and mitigate fire hazards, and coordination among fire suppression agencies to optimize efforts and resources. The contractor met repeatedly to analyze community risk factors, treatment alternatives, and treatment benefits. Treatment recommendations were formulated based upon professional experience, quantitative hazard assessment, and information developed in conjunction with the National Fire Plan, FIREWISE resources, and Nevada Cooperative Extension publications.

**Next Steps:** The second step will require the individual communities to create a more specific plan to address their concerns together with the state and federal agencies.

**Contact:** Elwood Miller, Nevada Fire Safe Council at 775-322-2413