

Prescribed Fire Council Fall Meeting Features Inspiring Field Tour of Burning in WUI

Northern California Prescribed Fire Council Nov. 2012

Fire Learning Network Notes from the Field

The Northern California Prescribed Fire Council met in South Lake Tahoe for their fall meeting in early November; with over 100 participants, the Council continues to draw new participants. For more on the workshop itself, which focused on fire ecology, forest restoration and smoke management in the Lake Tahoe Basin, and climate change in the Sierra Nevadas, see www.norcalrxfirecouncil.org/Fall_2012_Meeting.html.

Following a full day of presentations, 50 participants bundled up and embarked on a field tour of the snowy slopes of Incline Village at the north end of Lake Tahoe. “The field trip was stunning,” according to Jeremy Bailey, “the North Lake Tahoe fire department is getting it done! They are working and burning in places that most people avoid. It was inspirational to see prescribed fire being conducted within the city limits, on private land, in between homes. They are taking bold action to protect their community, and they are doing it right.”

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Left: The North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District regularly burns in this WUI area. This smoke plume from Incline Village was visible in—and upwind of—Carson City, Nevada.

Right: The proximity of homes (red arrows) to the burn units (dashed gold line) is apparent in this map inset



Above: Burn unit map of Incline Village. The North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District has been conducting fuel treatments in the steep, forested residential area since 1995. Areas outlined in gold are broadcast burn units. The red indicates the proposed field trip route (which was shortened, due to the snow).

photos © Lenya Quinn-Davidson/NCPFC (pile burn in snow), Norb Szczurek/NLTFPD (others)

The Fire Learning Network is supported by *Promoting Ecosystem Resiliency through Collaboration: Landscapes, Learning and Restoration*, a cooperative agreement between The Nature Conservancy, USDA Forest Service and agencies of the Department of the Interior. For more information, contact Lynn Decker at ldecker@tnc.org or (801) 320-0524.



This pile burn (*below, left*) was conducted primarily as a demonstration for the field tour. The NLTFPD has worked with the community long enough that they are able to rely mainly on broadcast burns (*right*) for fuel treatments; these are conducted over a longer season than is typical in the region.

