



North Tahoe and Meeks Bay Fire Protection Districts



Steve Leighton, Fire Chief

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North Tahoe Fire Receives Funding for Wildfire Prevention Workforce Development

Tahoe City, Calif. Nov. 14, 2022 – North Tahoe Fire received \$175k from the Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation (TTCF) to fund the Wildfire Prevention Workforce Development Project. The pilot project leverages the district's Fire Adapted Communities grant funding for part-time seasonal positions, by filling the financial gap to transition those positions to fully benefited year-round jobs for two years, while providing a career path in Wildfire Prevention.

“Government dollars often stop short of what’s needed to clear evacuation routes and create firebreaks; Forest Futures grants fill gaps between federal appropriations and true project costs,” said TTCF CEO Stacey Caldwell. “Today, 60% of wildfire spending goes to fight fires; we are flipping this to focus on prevention and resiliency. In order to do this, we need to maintain a qualified workforce that is ready to execute these projects.”

TTCF has developed strong relationships with local organizations so that they can quickly deploy funds where they are most needed.

The Forest Futures campaign aims to protect our communities from the devastation of forest fires by aligning local organizations around fire mitigation, and investing in forest infrastructure and innovation. Grant awards have supported defensible space and fuel reduction efforts, scholarships for forestry students, green waste wood fuel processing programs, field equipment and more.

“North Tahoe Fire is grateful for our relationship with TTCF,” said Fire Chief Steve Leighton. “Through this project we were able to retain a quality employee who would otherwise be laid off at the end of the season, and thanks to TTCF this employee now has the stability of benefits and a career path.” The Fire Adapted Communities program, funded by the Department of the Interior, funds part-time seasonal employees. This month, North Tahoe Fire promoted their Defensible Space Inspector, who was due to be laid off, to the position of Inspector. The Inspectors will help with a variety of work in fire prevention and help to expand North Tahoe Fire’s current and future Fire Adapted Communities and Firewise USA® programs, efforts, and outreach. North Tahoe Fire will open a recruitment to fill the second position later this year.

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