

USDA – FOREST SERVICE, LAKE TAHOE BASIN MANAGEMENT UNIT
FUELS REDUCTION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

The Fuels Reduction Stewardship Program is designed to work with local home owners whose property is adjacent to National Forest System lands. The program allows adjoining property owners to reduce hazardous fuels to improve defensible space around their home on National Forest System lands. This program is specific to National Forest System lands only and is administered by the U.S. Forest Service.

How it Works:

- Interested home owners need to contact the U.S. Forest Service, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit and request a site assessment. **530-543-2759**
- The Forest Service will make an appointment with interested home owners to meet on site and assess the adjacent NFS lands.
- During this site assessment, the Forest Service will determine the amount and extent of work that is needed. The kinds of fuels reduction activities that may be allowed are:
 - Tree removal – thinning of standing trees to modify potential fire behavior and improve forest health.
 - Tree pruning – pruning trees no higher than 8 feet from ground to reduce ladder fuels.
 - Brush removal – removal of all brush (100%) under the drip line of leave trees and within 5 feet of the property line; and thinning of brush in areas of contiguous brush fields.
 - Clean up of excessive surface fuels – this may include downed logs, tree branches, twigs, pine cones, pine needles and leaf litter. *Surface litter and large woody debris have important ecosystem functions that protect and enhance soils, reduce erosion potential and provide wildlife habitat. Proper implementation of surface fuel clean up will significantly reduce fire risk while maintaining adequate levels of surface debris for healthy ecosystem function.* Home owners will NOT be allowed to remove all downed woody debris from NFS lands.
- The Forest Service will explain the assessment to the home owner and issue a permit authorizing clean up work that is specific to the site. If tree removal is authorized, all trees designated for removal will be marked by the Forest Service. The Forest Service will explain the conditions of the permit, which the property owner will be required to follow. Typical permit conditions include:
 - No work on high fire danger days
 - Fire extinguishing equipment/tools on site if power tools are in use
 - No vehicles on NFS lands, no dragging (skidding) logs
- The permit is FREE and does not obligate the homeowner to do any work on NFS lands, however if the homeowner does choose to do some work, any clean up associated with that work (limbs/wood from cut trees/brush) will be required to be completed.