

# NATIONAL FIRE PLAN

## Lakeview Hazardous Fuels Reduction

Carson City Fire Department  
Nevada Division of Forestry  
Nevada FireSafe Council  
Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest  
July 2004



The Carson Ranger District of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest sponsored a one-week workshop with all stakeholders along the Sierra Front in the fall of 2001. The workshop's purpose was to identify the most at-risk areas for a potential wildfire. Protection districts, homeowners, city and county managers, and state and federal governments helped identify areas where fuels projects would offer the most protection.

As a result of this workshop, in 2002, the Carson City Fire Department, under the leadership of the Assistant Fire Chief Steve Mehalic, secured funding from the Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF). This NDF grant funding enabled the Department to begin working with local homeowners to remove, chip and burn hazardous fuels on private property.

The Nevada Fire Safe Council, under the leadership of Elwood Miller, helped the Lakeview property owners establish a Fire Safe Council. During 2003 and the spring of 2004, the Carson Ranger District began to implement hazardous fuels reduction on the National Forest adjacent to private homes in the defense zone. With funding by the National Fire Plan, a fuel break was constructed on the National Forest by cutting, piling and prescribed burning understory brush and small trees. Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the Lakeview project was completed by the spring of 2004.

**Waterfall Fire.** The Waterfall fire began on July 14 as an escaped campfire. Given the extreme drought conditions the Sierra Front has experienced over the last five years, there was a high degree of likelihood that this particular fire might reach several subdivisions in one or two days. Fire Danger indices were at all-time record highs.

**Fuels Reduction Work.** The Carson City Fire Department and the NDF have been widening fuel breaks along roads and behind subdivisions over the last two years on private and city property within the city limits of Carson City. Of particular note was the work that was completed in the Lakeview subdivision.

**Fuels Reduction Success.** On the second day of the Waterfall Fire, the fire moved rapidly into the Timberline and Lakeview subdivisions. When the fire reached the Lakeview subdivision, firefighters were able to burn out from behind the homes to prevent a major run into the homes. Due to the fuels reduction work that was completed in this subdivision, the firefighters could safely defend the homes.

Since heavy brush and thick timber had been cleared from the area, the wildfire's intensity was greatly reduced. The combined efforts of multiple firefighting agencies, along with homeowners' proactive fuel reduction actions, are the reasons that Lakeview subdivision's **200** homes remain standing today.