Nevada Division of Forestry- Biomass Utilization in the Lake Tahoe Basin

Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF) timber stand improvement and fuel reduction programs have led to significant reductions in wildfire hazards and improvements in forest health on State and privately-owned lands at Lake Tahoe. NDF seasonal and conservation crews created shaded fuel breaks along transportation corridors and thinned overstocked stands; leaving healthy, dominant, fire resistant trees behind.

NDF's biomass utilization program involves production and collection of roundwood and chipped material from its projects and those of other state, local governments and private contractors. The biomass program improves air quality and reduces the potential for escaped fires associated with burning forest slash in place. The program also contributes an important source of raw material to the cogeneration plant at the Northern Nevada Correctional Center in Carson City.

Fuel Reduction Projects

Before and after pictures of forested State and private lands in Nevada at Lake Tahoe Basin. The after pictures show a healthier stand which promotes new growth, limits the spread of insects and diseases, and creates a more fire tolerant stand structure.

Before North Canyon Project

Forest After North Canyon Project

Before Slaughterhouse Canyon Project

After Slaughterhouse Canyon Project

Roundhill Biomass Transfer Site

The Nevada Division of Forestry along with other partners are using space at the Douglas County Sewage Treatment Plant in Round Hill to collect biomass. The biomass collected at the site is chipped and then transported to the Northern Nevada Correction Center cogeneration plant.

Traditional disposal measures for biomass in the Lake Tahoe Basin

Biomass Roll Off Bins

The Nevada Division of Forestry purchased a semi truck and roll off bins with grant funding from USDA Forest Service. The truck and bins are used to collect biomass at the Round Hill biomass transfer facility and from other fuel reduction projects in the Lake Tahoe Basin, such as North Canyon, Slaughter House Canyon, Sand Harbor, Sugar Pine California State Park, and Lake Tahoe State Park, and elsewhere in Western Nevada.

Bins are dropped off at project sites where they are filled with chips. They are also filled at transfer stations such as Roundhill, which collect chips from several projects. Finally, the bins can be used to haul logs for chipping later at the Northern Nevada Correctional Center's cogeneration facility.

Northern Nevada Correctional Center's Cogeneration Facility

The Northern Nevada Correctional Center in Carson City is the end user of biomass generated in the Lake Tahoe Basin. 8,900 tons of biomass have already been delivered through this program–reducing wildfire risk, improving air quality, and creating green energy.