



Erick Walker, Forest Supervisor
USDA Forest Service
Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit

April 21, 2025

Subject: Letter of Support for the Caldor Fire Restoration Project

Dear Erick Walker,

On behalf of the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team (TFFT), I write to express our support for the proposed Caldor Fire Restoration Project led by the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU). The scope and intent of this project align directly with TFFT's mission to increase the pace and scale of forest health and wildfire mitigation efforts across the Lake Tahoe Basin.

The 2021 Caldor Fire created an urgent need for coordinated restoration extending beyond jurisdictions. The proposed treatments within and adjacent to the fire footprint are essential to protect watersheds and restore forested ecosystems. We support the project's goals to reduce post-fire fuel loading, reestablish ecological function, protect water quality, and increase long-term forest resilience to drought, insects, disease, and future wildfires.

The inclusion of forest thinning, fuels reduction, reforestation, and watershed restoration treatments reflect a strategic and science-based approach. We commend LTBMU's intent to pursue an Emergency Action Determination under Public Law 117-58, recognizing the acute risks posed by delaying action in this high-risk fireshed.

TFFT's multi-jurisdictional partnership is built on collaboration. We will support this project through continued coordination regarding resources, education and outreach, capacity building, and cross-boundary implementation where feasible.

The Caldor Fire Restoration Project represents a vital step toward restoring ecological function and mitigating future risk on a landscape recovering from wildfire. We appreciate the opportunity to support this project, as well as collaborate and contribute where our team's expertise and resources can be most effective.

Sincerely,

Isaac Powning
TFFT Incident Commander



*Protecting lives, property, and the environment of the Lake Tahoe Basin from wildfire
by implementing prioritized fuel reduction projects and engaging the public
in becoming a fire adapted community.*